THAMES VALLEY

SERVICES

6a Old Mill Way, Shirley, Southampton, Hampshire

Archaeological Evaluation

by Daniel Bray

Site Code: SOU 1640

(SU 3934 1442)

6a Old Mill Way, Shirley, Southampton, Hampshire

An Archaeological Evaluation

for Hamton Homes

by Daniel Bray

Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd

Site Code: SOU 1640

October 2013

Summary

Site name: 6a Old Mill Way, Shirley, Southampton, Hampshire

Grid reference: SU 3934 1442

Site activity: Archaeological Evaluation

Date and duration of project: 18th October 2013

Project manager: Steve Ford

Site supervisor: Daniel Bray

Site code: SOU 1640

Area of site: 515 sq m

Summary of results: A single trench was excavated to reveal a deep stratigraphy of made ground above alluvial deposits. No archaeological features nor artefacts of archaeological interest were found.

Location and reference of archive: The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited at Southampton City Museum in due course.

Report edited/checked by:	Steve Ford✓ 25.10.13
	Steve Preston✓ 22.10.13

Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd, 47–49 De Beauvoir Road, Reading RG1 5NR

Tel. (0118) 926 0552; Fax (0118) 926 0553; email tvas@tvas.co.uk; website: www.tvas.co.uk

6a Old Mill Way, Shirley, Southampton, Hampshire
An Archaeological Evaluation

by Daniel Bray

Report 13/203

Introduction

This report documents the results of an archaeological field evaluation carried out at 6a Old Mill Way, Shirley, Southampton, Hampshire, SO16 6BE (SU 3934 1442) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Mr Max Holmes of Hamton Homes c/o Concept Design and Planning, Office 21-22, Roxan Business Centre, 142 Lodge Road, Southampton, SO14 6QR.

Planning permission (12/01941/OUT) has been gained from Southampton City Council for the redevelopment of the site and for the construction of new housing with associated parking. The consent is subject to two conditions relating to archaeology. These require a programme of archaeological fieldwork, which was to take the form, initially, of field evaluation, based on the results of which a mitigation strategy could be formulated as required.

This is in accordance with the Department for Communities and Local Government's *National Planning Policy Framework* (NPPF 2012), and the City Council's policies on archaeology. The field investigation was carried out to a specification approved by Mr Kevin White, Historic Environment Group Leader for Southampton City Council. The fieldwork was undertaken by Daniel Bray along with Kyle Beaverstock on 18th October 2013 with the site code SOU 1640. The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited at Southampton City Museum in due course.

Location, topography and geology

The site is located on a roughly rectangular parcel of land, on the eastern side of Old Mill Way, Shirley, 2km north of the River Test and 4km north-west of Southampton City centre (Fig. 1). The site is 125m south-west of the extant Shirley church on a hill that slopes sharply down from north-east to south-west (Fig. 2). The underlying geology is mapped as First River Terrace Deposits (BGS 1987). A light blue grey silty clay alluvial deposit was seen throughout the trench above gravel. The site lies at a height of between 13m and 14m above Ordnance Datum.

Archaeological background

The archaeological potential of the site stems from its location within the local area of archaeological potential (LAAP3) of Old Shirley; identified in the Historic Environment Record of Southampton City Council and in the Local Plan of 2006. Area 3 centres on Old Shirley; this village developing at the confluence of Holly Brook and Tanners Brook possibly with origins in the 10th century and is mentioned in Domesday Book of 1086 (Williams and Martin 2002). The area was an important road junction, where routes across the peninsula met routes between Southampton and Romsey. The area includes the Shirley mill and mill ponds and the site of the original Shirley church. A small number of struck flints recorded in the city historic environment record from the environs of Shirley indicate some earlier prehistoric activity in the area.

Objectives and methodology

The purpose of the evaluation was to determine the presence/absence, extent, condition, character, quality and date of any archaeological deposits within the area of development. The specific research aims of this project are:

to determine if archaeologically relevant levels have survived on this site;
to determine if archaeological deposits of any period are present;
to determine if any deposits associated with the medieval settlement of Shirley are present;
to determine if any deposits associated with the mill and water management are present; and
to provide sufficient information to construct an archaeological mitigation strategy if required.

It was proposed to excavate one trench, 1.60m wide and 10.0m long. The trench was positioned to target the footprint of the proposed new houses where they lie beyond the footprint of the previous structure (Fig. 3). The trench was to be excavated using a JCB-type or 360°-type machine equipped with a toothless ditching bucket. Machine excavation was to be supervised at all times by an archaeologist, with the spoil removed being monitored for finds. All potential archaeological deposits were to be hand-cleaned and sufficient of the archaeological features and deposits exposed were excavated or sampled by hand to satisfy the aims of the project.

Results

The trench was dug in the location intended but due to the presence of a live gas and electric mains the trench was split into two segments (Fig. 3).

Trench 1a (Fig. 4 and Pl. 1)

Trench 1a formed the southern part of the trench, aligned NE - SW and was 6.00m long and 1.80m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.20m of topsoil above large thickness of made ground. This included 0.25m of brown /grey silty clay with rubble above 0.45m of yellow brown silty sand which was on top of 0.25m of loose rubble which sloped down gently from west to east. The rubble was above 0.20m of yellow/ brown silty clay above of 0.30m of dark blue/grey silty clay. This layer was above a light blue grey alluvial deposit with some gravel exposed at the bottom. No archaeological features were observed nor finds were recovered.

Trench 1b (Pl. 2)

Trench 1b was aligned NE - SW and was 4.00m long and 2.05m deep. The stratigraphy was consistent with what was seen in Trench 1a. This comprised of 0.20m of topsoil above made ground to a depth of 1.40m. The made ground sat on top of 0.65m of dark blue grey silty clay above the light blue grey alluvium. No archaeological features were observed or finds were recovered.

Conclusion

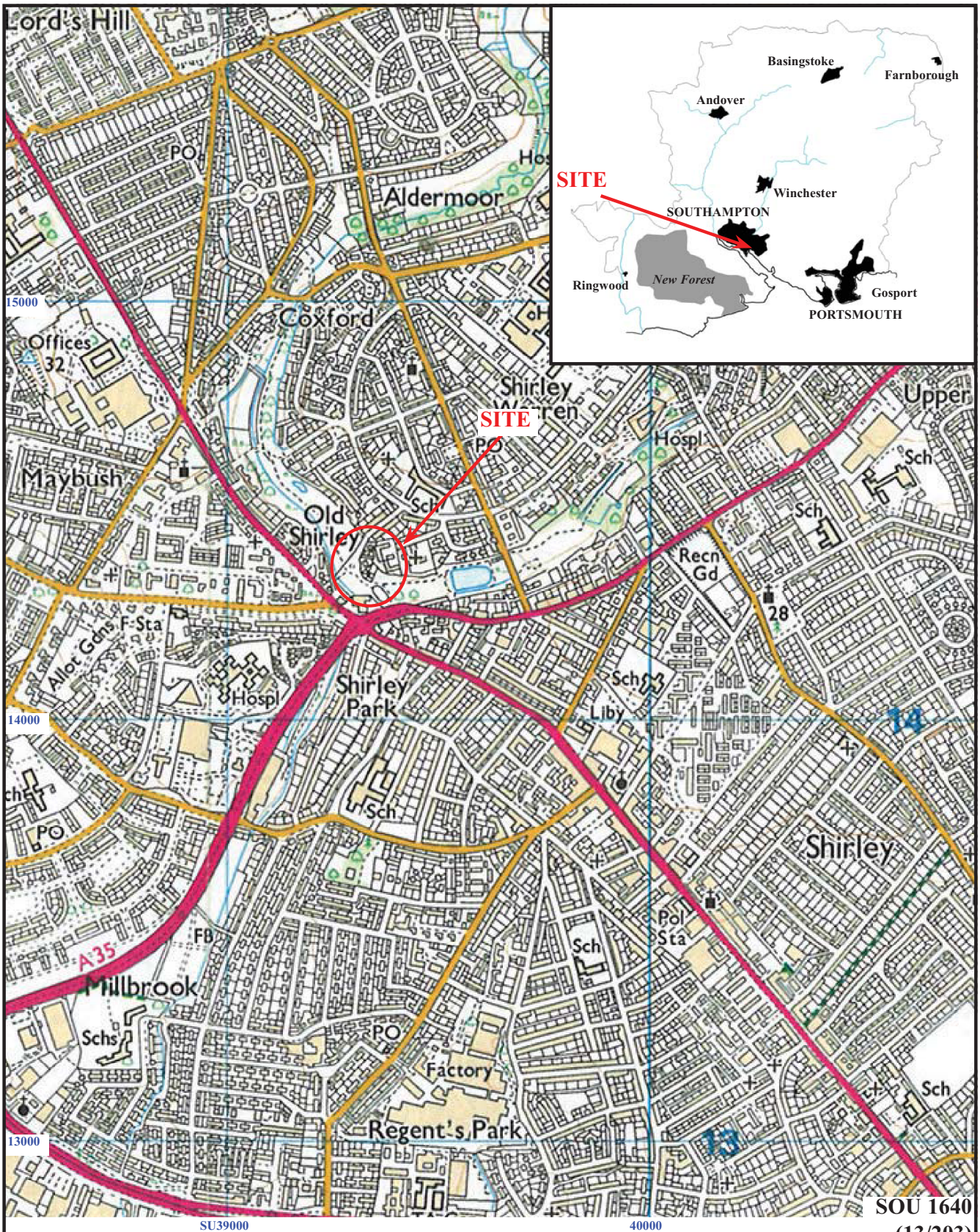
Although the site lies within an area of archaeological potential no archaeological features were identified. A thick deposit of modern made ground lies above the archaeologically relevant levels on the site which were alluvial in origin. These deposits suggests that the area was historically wet and reclaimed for the purpose of building between 1933 and 1953.

References

BGS, 1987, *British Geological Survey*, 1:50000, Sheet 315, Solid and Drift Edition, Keyworth
NPPF, 2012, *National Planning Policy Framework*, Dept Communities and Local Govt, London
Williams, A and Martin, G H, 2002, *Domesday Book, a complete translation,* London

APPENDIX 1: Trench details

Trench	*Length (m)*	*Breadth (m)*	*Depth (m)*	*Comment*
1a	6.00	1.60	1.80	0–0.20m topsoil; 0.20-0.45m brown grey silty clay and rubble; 0.45-0.85m yellow brown silt sand; 0.85-1.00m rubble; 1.10-1.30m yellow brown silty clay; 1.30-1.60m dark blue grey silty clay; 1.60+ light blue alluvial deposit with some gravel at the base. **[Pl. 1]**
1b	4.00	1.60	2.05	0-0.20m topsoil; 0.20-1.40m made ground (see trench 1a); 1.40-2.05m dark blue grey silty clay; 2.05+ light blue grey silty clay. **[Pl. 2]**

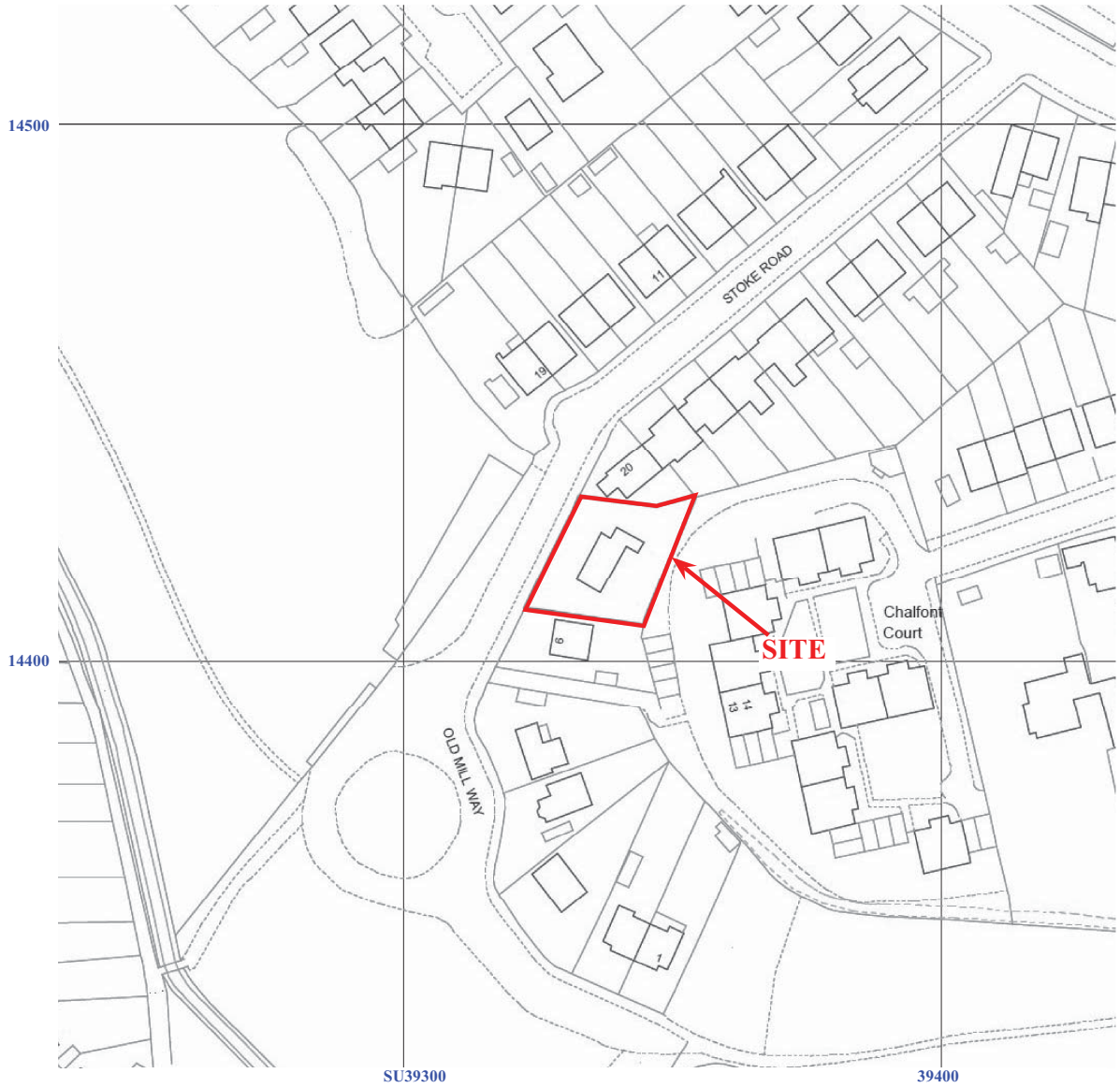


SOU 1640
(13/203)

6a Old Mill Way, Shirley, Southampton, Hampshire, 2013
Archaeological Evaluation

Figure 1. Location of site within Shirley, Southampton and Hampshire.

THAMES VALLEY ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES



SOU 1640
(13/203)

N

6a Old Mill Way, Shirley, Southampton, Hampshire, 2013
Archaeological Evaluation

Figure 2. Detailed location of site off Old Mill Way.

THAMES VALLEY ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES

SOU 1640
(13/203)

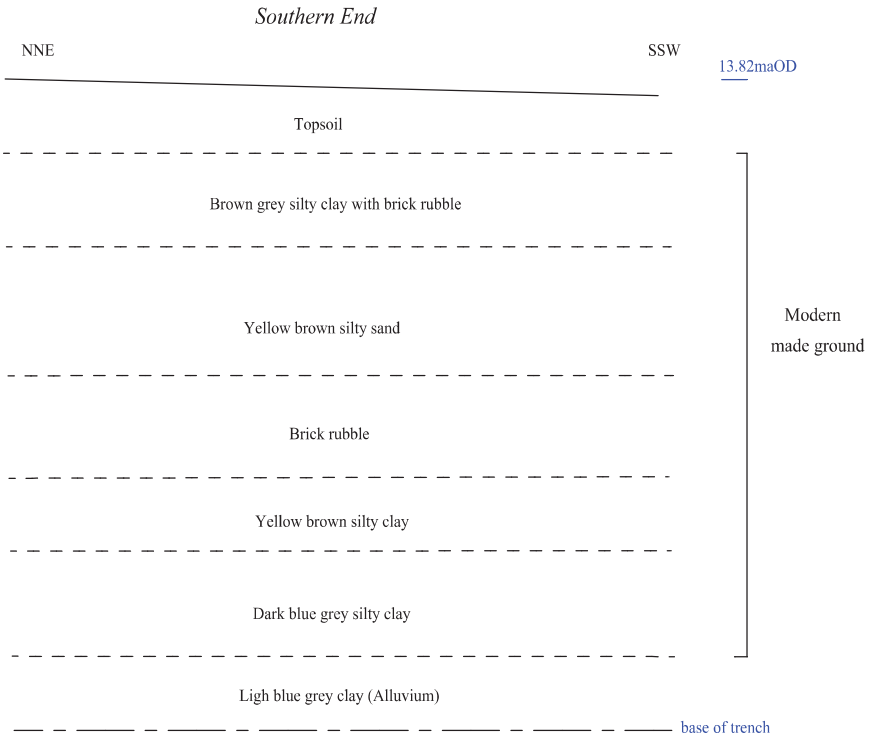
N

6a Old Mill Way, Shirley, Southampton, Hampshire, 2013
Archaeological Evaluation

Figure 3. Location of Trench 1.

0 10m

THAMES VALLEY ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES



SOU 1640
(13/203)

6a Old Mill Way, Shirley, Southampton, Hampshire, 2013
Archaeological Evaluation

Figure 4. Representative section.

0 1m

THAMES VALLEY ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES

Plate 1. Trench section (southern end), looking east, Scales: 2m and 1m.

Plate 2. Trench section (northern end), looking north, Scales: 2m and 1m.

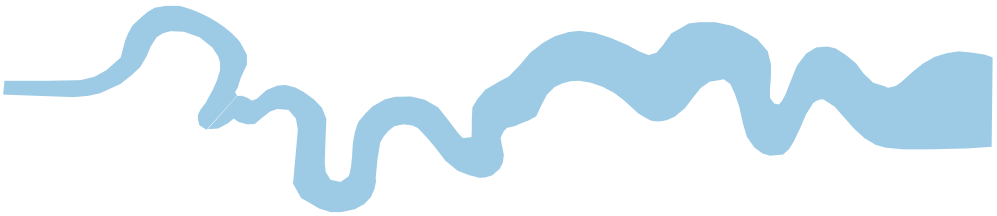
SOU 1640
(13/203)

6a Old Mill Way, Shirley, Southampton,
Hampshire, 2103
Archaeological Evaluation
Plates 1 - 2.

THAMES VALLEY
ARCHAEOLOGICAL
SERVICES

TIME CHART

	Calendar Years
Modern	AD 1901
Victorian	AD 1837
Post Medieval	AD 1500
Medieval	AD 1066
Saxon	AD 410
Roman	AD 43
Iron Age	BC/AD 750 BC
Bronze Age: Late	1300 BC
Bronze Age: Middle	1700 BC
Bronze Age: Early	2100 BC
Neolithic: Late	3300 BC
Neolithic: Early	4300 BC
Mesolithic: Late	6000 BC
Mesolithic: Early	10000 BC
Palaeolithic: Upper	30000 BC
Palaeolithic: Middle	70000 BC
Palaeolithic: Lower	2,000,000 BC



Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd,
47-49 De Beauvoir Road, Reading,
Berkshire, RG1 5NR

Tel: 0118 9260552
Fax: 0118 9260553
Email: tvas@tvas.co.uk
Web: www.tvas.co.uk