

T H A M E S V A L L E Y

ARCHAEOLOGICAL

S E R V I C E S

S O U T H

**The Heritage, Winden Avenue,
Chichester, East Sussex**

Archaeological Evaluation

by Aiji Castle

Site Code: THC13/179

(SU 8687 0475)

The Heritage, Winden Avenue, Chichester, East Sussex

**An Archaeological Evaluation
for Drew Smith Group Limited**

by Aiji Castle

Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd

Site Code THC13/179

January 2014

Summary

Site name: The Heritage, Winden Avenue, Chichester, East Sussex.

Grid reference: SU 8687 0475

Site activity: Archaeological Evaluation

Date and duration of project: 6-7th January 2014

Project manager: Steve Ford

Site supervisor: Aiji Castle

Site code: THC 13/179

Area of site: c. 0.8ha

Summary of results: No artefacts nor deposits of archaeological interest were encountered during fieldwork and the site is considered to have low archaeological potential.

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

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www.tvas.co.uk/reports/reports.asp.*

Report edited/checked by: Steve Ford ✓ 21.01.14

The Heritage, Winden Avenue, Chichester, West Sussex. An Archaeological Evaluation

by Aiji Castle

Report 13/179

Introduction

This report documents the results of an archaeological field evaluation carried out at The Heritage, Winden Avenue, Chichester, West Sussex SU 8687 0475 (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Mr Lloyd Exley, Technical Director at Drew Smith Ltd on behalf of Drew Smith Group, Drew Smith House, Mill Court, The Sawmills, Durley, Southampton, Hampshire SO32 2EJ. Planning permission (CC/10/02034/FUL) has been granted by Chichester District Council to redevelop the site for 92 new dwellings as houses and apartments with associated car parking and landscaping. The consent is subject to a condition (14) relating to archaeology. This is in accordance with the Department for Communities and Local Government's *National Planning Policy Framework* (NPPF 2012), and the District's policies on archaeology. The field investigation was carried out to a specification approved by James Kenny, Archaeology Officer at Chichester District Council. The fieldwork was undertaken by Aiji Castle and Tom Stewart between the 6-7th January 2014 and the site code is THC 13/179. The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited at Chichester Museum in due course.

Location, topography and geology

The site is located on the south side of The Hornet (A259) to the east of the historic core of Chichester (SU 8687 0475) and occupies an area of *c.* 0.8ha (Figs. 1 and 2). It was previously occupied by several large buildings including a former care home, although at the time of investigation this was in a state of demolition with rubble covering a large area of the site. The underlying geology consists of alluvial fan deposits, brickearth and valley gravel (BGS 1957) and these were observed in all trenches excavated. The site lies approximately 14m above Ordnance Datum.

Archaeological background

The archaeological potential of the site stems from its position within the hinterland of historic Chichester (Fig. 1). The site lies beyond the immediate extra-mural zone which is occupied by the Roman amphitheatre and other

occupation deposits (Magilton 1996), with the Iron Age, Roman and Medieval city lying further to the west. However, it does lie within the close hinterland, a zone which will have been intensively exploited to serve the town at various times in the past. Fieldwork a few hundred metres to the north west revealed Roman occupation, and several finds of Bronze Age pottery, including a cremation urn are recorded to the west. Another site on The Hornet revealed Iron Age and Roman deposits. The site also lies on the archaeologically rich Sussex coastal plain with a wealth of sites and finds from earlier prehistoric date (Manley 2008).

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 were:

- to determine if archaeologically relevant levels had survived on this site;
- to determine if archaeological deposits of any period were present;
- to determine if any prehistoric and Roman deposits were present; and
- to determine if any medieval deposits were present.

It was proposed to dig eight trenches, 12m long and 1.6m wide, located to target the footprints of the proposed new structures (Fig. 3). A contingency of 10m of trench was included within the proposal should it have been required to clarify findings made by the initial trenches. Topsoil, Tarmac and overburden was to be removed by a 360° type machine fitted with a toothless ditching bucket to expose archaeologically sensitive levels. This was to be carried out under constant archaeological supervision. The trenches were to be dug to expose the full depth of deposits above the natural geology. Where archaeological features were present, the stripped areas were to be cleaned and excavated using appropriate hand tools and spoil heaps were to be checked for artefacts.

Results

All eight trenches were dug to the intended width and length as stated above, however, trenches 3, 5, 6, 7 and 8 were repositioned slightly (Fig. 3). This was due to large piles of demolition rubble across some of the proposed trenching areas, access issues for the demolition team and car parking areas. A complete list of trenches giving lengths, breadths, depths and a description of sections and geology is given in Appendix 1.

Trench 1

Trench 1 was aligned N-S and was 12.90m long and 0.93m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.17m topsoil under which lay 0.61m of modern made ground. This consisted of grey brown silty-clay and frequent modern brick, tile and plastic inclusions. Below this lay 0.15m of light red brown clay-silt alluvium. The natural light red-brown brickearth geology was reached at a depth of 0.93m and contained frequent gravel inclusions. No finds or features were observed or recovered from this trench.

Trench 2

Trench 2 was aligned NNE-SSW and was 13.90m in length and 0.55m in depth. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.36m of disturbed topsoil and modern made ground with the same makeup as that in Trench 1. Below this lay 0.19m of mid red brown clay-silt alluvium. Natural light red-brown clay-silt brickearth geology was reached at a depth of 0.55m and contained occasional gravel inclusions. A darker area within the trench was investigated as a possible feature, however after machine excavation this turned out to be an area of bioturbation of no archaeological interest.

Trench 3 (Fig. 4, Pl.1)

Trench 3 was moved further to the north than was proposed due to demolition crew access requirements, however was still aligned NE-SW. It measured 13.70m long and 0.60m deep. At the far NE end of the trench the stratigraphy consisted of 0.40m of topsoil above 0.20m of mid yellow brown clay-silt subsoil. The natural geology consisted of red brown brickearth and valley gravel with frequent flint inclusions, and was reached at a depth of 0.60m. This area of the trench displays the only remaining undisturbed stratigraphy in the area of investigation; however no archaeological features were uncovered. Towards the south west the stratigraphy deepens and is similar to that observed in Trenches 1 and 2, with modern made ground deposits possibly overlying truncated natural geology.

Trench 4 (Pl.2)

This trench measured 12.20m in length and 0.67m in depth. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.10m of topsoil above 0.22m of modern made ground with the same characteristics as that in Trench 1. Below this lay 0.12m of a thin dark brown grey silty-clay made ground layer. Under this was 0.20m of a light red brown clayey silt which did not contain any finds or features. The natural geology consisted of red brown brickearth with occasional flints,

and was reached at a depth of 0.67m. The only cut feature in this trench was a modern wall trench running NW-SE.

Trench 5

This trench was realigned NE-SW and so lay partway over a building footprint. It was 12.20m long and 0.55m deep. To the south west, 0.50m of made ground (as trench 1) overlay 0.05m of a light red brown clay-silt deposit. The natural geology of red brown fan deposits and valley gravel were reached at a depth of 0.55m. In the vicinity of a former building to the north east, 0.55m of loose gravel and demolition rubble lay directly over the natural geology. No features were observed during trenching.

Trench 6 (Pl. 3)

Trench 6 was aligned E-W as proposed but was placed further north due to car park and demolition contractors access. It measured 11.70m in length and 0.93m in depth. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.93m of building rubble and modern made ground deposits containing brick, tile and plastic. This lay directly above the natural brickearth and gravel geology. Modern truncations and recently removed building footprints towards the northern side of the trench meant that any archaeological features would have been truncated.

Trench 7

Trench 7 was positioned NE-SW and slightly further east than proposed. It measured 15.0m long and 0.83m deep. In placing the trench slightly over an existing building footprint, three modern walls were encountered. Between these, 0.23m of topsoil lay over 0.30m of made ground. Under this was 0.30m of red brown clay-silt. The natural geology was reached at a depth of 0.83m. No archaeological features or finds were observed.

Trench 8 (Pl.4)

Due to a large pile of demolition rubble, this trench was positioned further to the north and east than intended. . The trench was 12.60m long, 0.70m deep. Although still on a N-S alignment it lay within the footprint of one of the recently demolished buildings. A concrete floor slab, 0.08m thick capped 0.34m of compacted yellow sand and hardcore rubble. The natural brickearth geology was reached at a depth of 0.42m. A modern concrete internal wall foundation truncating the natural was observed and left in place. No archaeological features or finds were observed.

Finds

No finds of any archaeological interest were found during the evaluation.

Conclusion

The evaluation was carried out as intended even though five of the eight trenches had to be repositioned. All trenches were devoid of archaeology and finds, with the only remaining original undisturbed stratigraphy on site observed in the far eastern end of Trench 3. The site is considered to have low archaeological potential.

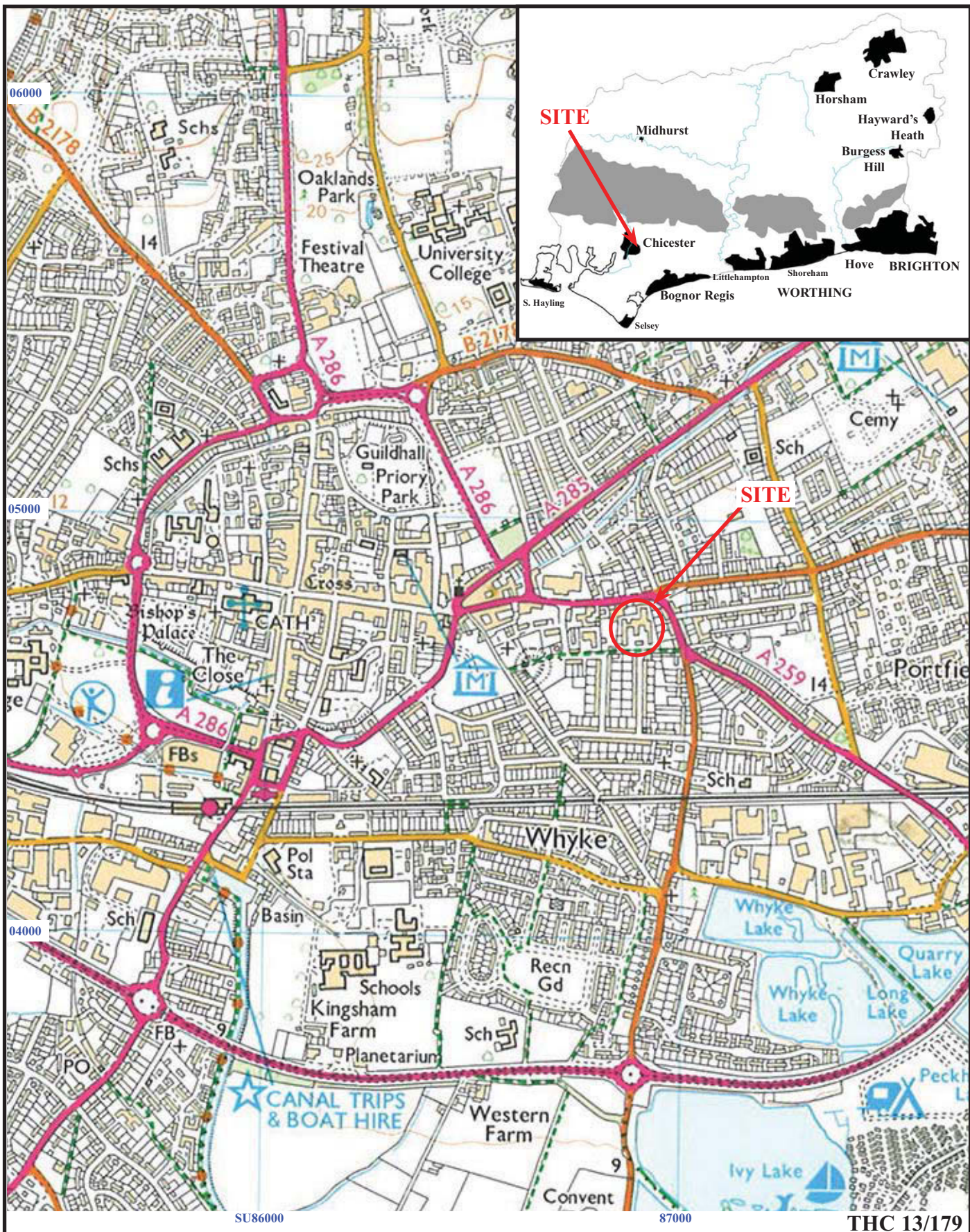
References

- BGS, 1957, *British Geological Survey*, 1:50,000, Sheet 317, Drift Edition, Keyworth
- Magilton, J 1996, Roman Chichester beyond the East Gate- putting it all together, in (ed) S Woodward, *The Archaeology of the Chichester District 1996*, Chichester District Council, 31-6
- Manley, J (ed) 2008, *The archaeology of Fishbourne and Chichester*, a framework for its future, Sussex Archaeological Society, Lewes
- NPPF, 2012, *National Planning Policy Framework*, Dept Communities and Local Govt, London

APPENDIX 1: Trench details

0m at S end

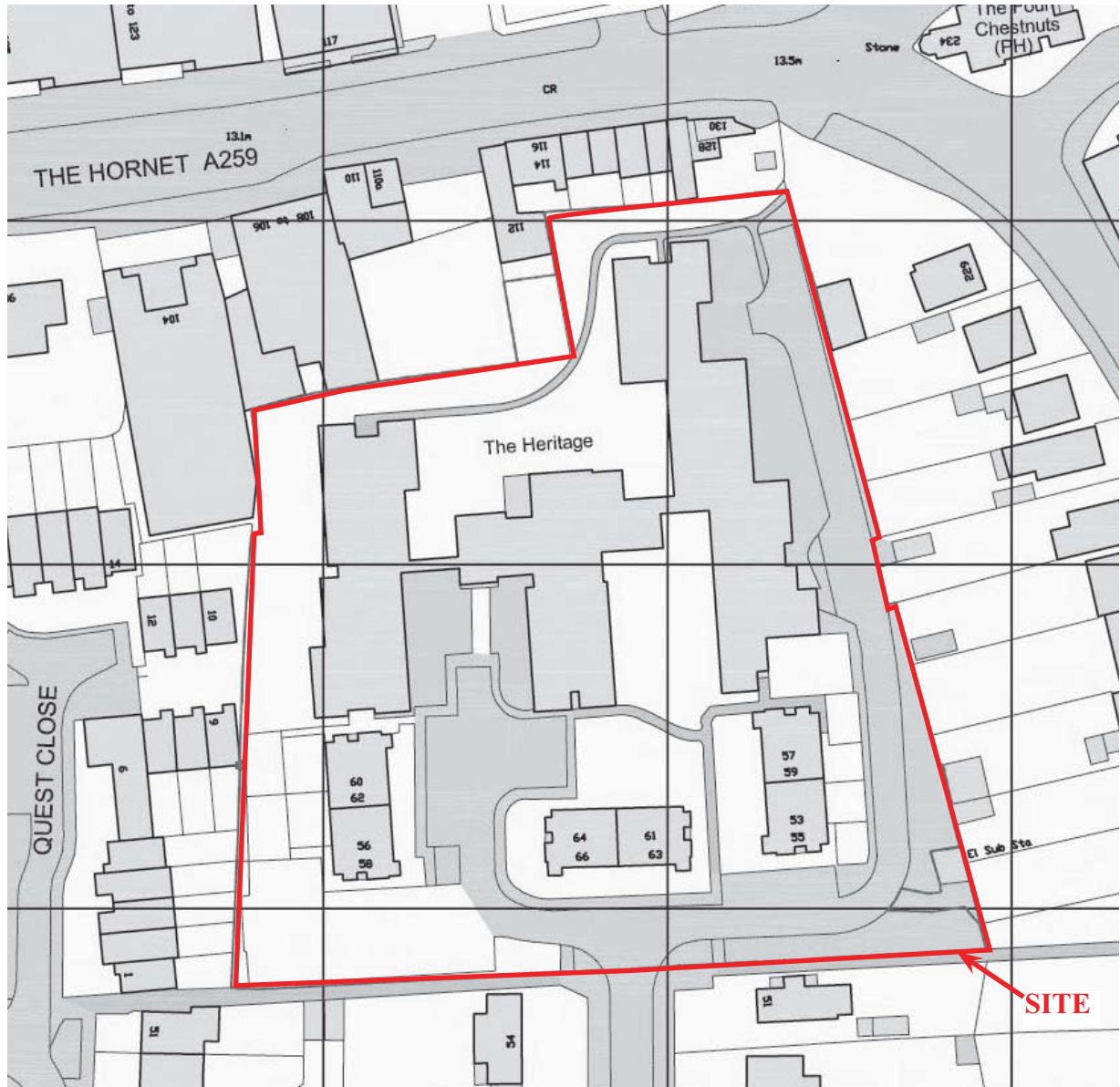
Trench	Length (m)	Breadth (m)	Depth (m)	Comment
1	12.90	1.60	0.93	0-0.17m topsoil; 0.17-0.78m modern made ground (grey brown silty-clay, frequent brick, tile and plastic inclusions); 0.78-0.93m light red brown clay-silt deposit; 0.93m+ light red brown clay-silt natural brickearth geology, with frequent gravel and flint inclusions
2	13.90	1.60	0.55	0-0.36m disturbed topsoil and modern made ground (as tr1); 0.36-0.55m mid red brown clay-silt; 0.55m+ light red brown natural brickearth geology, with occasional gravel inclusions
3	13.70	1.60	0.60	0-0.40m topsoil; 0.40-0.60m mid yellow brown clay-silt subsoil; 0.60m+ natural valley gravel and brickearth geology[PI. 1]
4	12.20	1.60	0.67	0-0.10m topsoil; 0.10-0.32m made ground (as tr1); 0.32-0.47m dark brown grey silty-clay made ground layer; 0.47-0.67m light red brown clay-silt; 0.67m+ natural brickearth geology, occasional flint inclusions [PI. 2]
5	12.20	1.60	0.55	0-0.50m made ground (as tr1); 0.50-0.55m light red brown clay-silt; 0.55m+ natural mid red brown natural alluvial fan deposits and valley gravel geology
6	11.70	1.60	0.93	0-0.93m building rubble and made ground; 0.93m+ natural red brown brickearth and gravel geology [PI. 3]
7	15.00	1.60	0.83	0-0.23m topsoil; 0.23-0.53m made ground (as tr1); 0.53-0.83m light red brown clay-silt; 0.83m+ natural mid red brown brickearth and gravel geology
8	12.60	1.60	0.70	0-0.08m concrete slab; 0.08-0.42m made ground (compacted yellow sand and hardcore); 0.42m+ natural mid red brown brickearth geology, frequent. flint [PI. 4]



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Figure 1. Location of site within Chichester and West Sussex.

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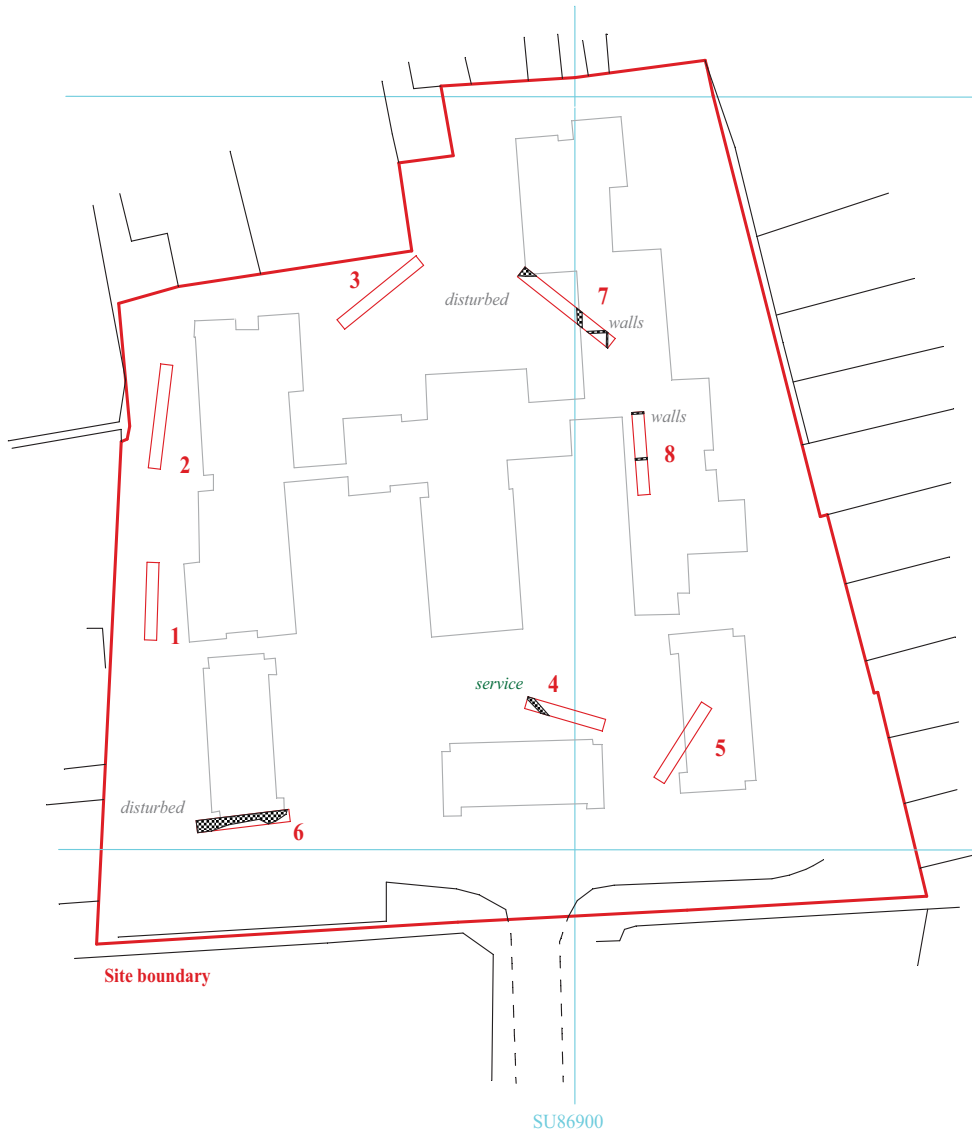
Figure 2. Detailed location of site, showing buildings prior to demolition.

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07500

07400

SU86900



Site boundary

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Figure 3. Location of trenches, showing demolished buildings outlined in grey.



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Trench 3

SW

NE

Topsoil

Dark yellow brown clayey silt (Subsoil)

13.46maOD

Brickearth and gravel (Natural geology)

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Figure 4. Representative section at undisturbed location in Trench 3.





Plate 1. Trench 3, looking east, Scales: horizontal 2m and 1m, vertical 0.5m.



Plate 2. Trench 4, looking south east, Scales: horizontal 2m and 1m, vertical 0.5m.

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Plates 1 - 2.**

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Plate 3. Trench 6, looking east, Scales: horizontal 2m and 1m, vertical 0.5m.



Plate 4. Trench 8, looking north, Scales: horizontal 2m and 1m, vertical 0.5m.

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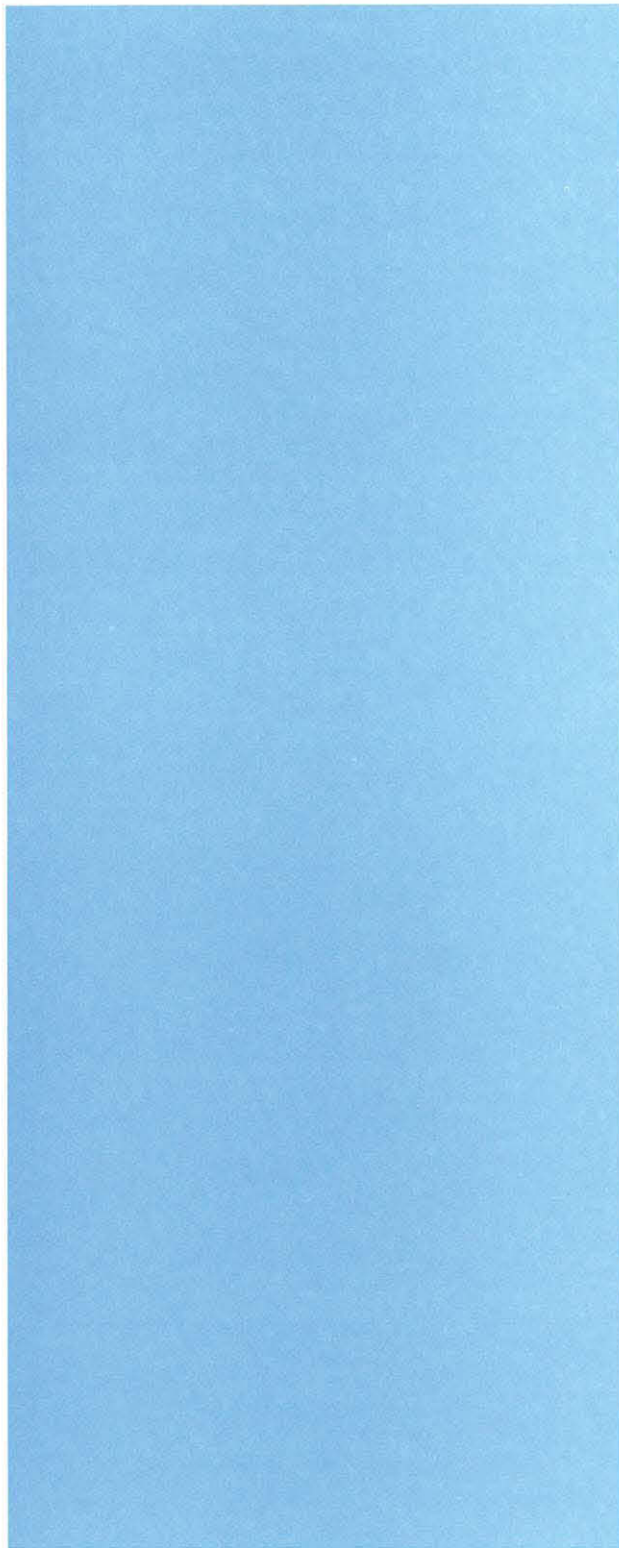
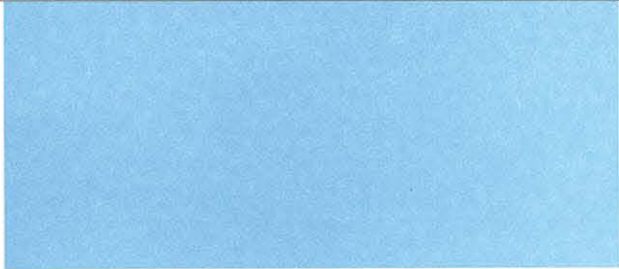
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Plates 3 - 4.**

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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





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