

**10-12 Fishbourne Road East,
Chichester, West Sussex**

**An Archaeological Evaluation
for Croudace Homes Limited**

by Andy Taylor

Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd

Site Code FRC 07/05

January 2007

Summary

Site name: 10-12 Fishbourne Road East, Chichester, West Sussex

Grid reference: SU 8439 0467

Site activity: Evaluation

Date and duration of project: 18th January 2007

Project manager: Steve Ford

Site supervisor: Andy Taylor

Site code: FRC 07/05

Area of site: c. 0.34 hectares

Summary of results: A single ditch was identified dated to the early Roman period

Monuments identified: A single 1st Century Roman ditch was identified

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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Report edited/checked by: Steve Ford✓ 29.01.07 Joanna Pine✓29.01.07
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10-12 Fishbourne Road East, Chichester, West Sussex An Archaeological Evaluation

by Andy Taylor

Report 07/05

Introduction

This report documents the results of an archaeological field evaluation carried out at 10-12 Fishbourne Road East, Chichester, West Sussex (SU 8439 0467) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Mr Wayne Bew, Project Engineer with Croudace Homes Limited, Croudace House, Caterham, Surrey, CR3 6XQ.

Planning permission has been gained from Chichester District Council to construct 17 new dwellings and associated highways and drainage on the site. A field evaluation was required as a condition (4) of the planning permission in order to mitigate the effects of the development on any archaeological deposits present.

This is in accordance with the Department of the Environment's Planning Policy Guidance, Archaeology and Planning (PPG16 1990), and the District Council's policies on archaeology. The field investigation was carried out to a specification approved by Mr James Kenny, District Archaeological Officer with Chichester District Council. The fieldwork was undertaken by Andy Taylor and James McNicholl-Norbury on the 18th January 2007 and the site code is FRC 07/05. 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 northern side of Fishbourne Road East and on the south western margins of Chichester. The River Lavant flows *c.*2km to the south of the site (Fig 2). The site is currently occupied by two domestic properties with associated gardens, one of which (12) is vacant and which was the site of the evaluation. The underlying geology comprised Valley Gravel (BGS 1957), which was observed in all trenches along with clay patches. The site lies at a height of *c.*5.35m above Ordnance Datum.

Archaeological background

The archaeological potential of the site comes from its location being *c.*500m to the east of Fishbourne Palace, one of the most important Roman sites in the country. These remains have been scheduled as an Ancient Monument (SAM 233). The area around the palace has produced other Roman finds and activity sites such as

industrial areas, water supply area (an east-west aqueduct was recorded, with the projected line continuing across the site), buildings which possibly serve the harbour, with remains and dumps of building material, coins and pottery found elsewhere. The site also lies on the route of the Roman Road from Chichester to Bitterne (route 421) (Rudling 2003).

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.

Specific aims of the project were;

To determine if archaeologically relevant have survived on this site.

To determine if archaeological deposits of any period are present.

To determine if Roman remains, related to the hinterland of the Roman town and use of the Fishbourne Palace complex, survive on site.

A total of three trenches were to be dug 20m long and 1.6m wide using a JCB type machine fitted with a toothless ditching bucket. Spoilheaps were monitored for finds.

Results

The three trenches, measuring between 12m and 20.5m in length, were dug using a JCB-type machine fitted with a toothless ditching bucket. These were dug as close as possible to their original intended positions, although the presence of live services resulted in some slight repositioning and shortening of trenches. This was in consultation with the monitor. All spoilheaps were monitored for finds.

A complete list of trenches giving lengths, breadths, depths and a description of sections and geology is given in Appendix 1.

Trench 1 (Figures 4 and 5; Plate 1)

This trench measured 20.50m in length, 0.58m deep and was aligned north west - south east. It consisted of topsoil overlying subsoil overlying gravel and clay natural. A wide but shallow ditch was located at 4.50m through which a slot (1) was dug. This measured 1.00m in length, 0.75m wide and 0.10m deep. 22 sherds of Roman pottery and six pieces of brick and tile were recovered.

Trench 2

This trench measured 16.50m in length, 0.44m deep and was aligned north - south. It consisted of topsoil overlying subsoil overlying gravel and clay natural. No archaeological deposits were discovered.

Trench 3 (Plate 2)

This trench measured 12.00m in length, 0.50m deep and was aligned north west - south east. It consisted of topsoil overlying subsoil overlying gravel and clay natural. No archaeological deposits were discovered.

Finds

Pottery by Malcolm Lyne

Introduction

All of the pottery (22sherds, 289 gm) comes from the fill of ditch 1 and can be dated to c.AD.50-70

Methodology

The assemblage was quantified by numbers of sherds and their weights per fabric. These fabrics were identified using a x8 magnification lens with inbuilt metric graticule for determining the natures, forms, sizes and frequencies of added inclusions (See below).

Fabrics

The codings for the following fabrics are those created for the recent Fishbourne Palace excavations (Lyne 2005) with additions.

C2A. Grey-black handmade fabric with profuse up to 1.50mm crushed calcined-flint filler. Rough but not lumpy.

C10A. Rough grey/black handmade fabric with up to 0.20mm quartz and black ferrous inclusions.

C10C. Coarser version with profuse up to 1.00mm white quartz, pale grog and black ferrous inclusions.

C22. Miscellaneous coarsewares

C23. East Sussex Ware

F6. Soft wheel-turned cream fabric with sparse to moderate up-to 2.00mm irregular soft red and grey ferrous inclusions

F8. Silt tempered wheel-turned grey fabric

F31. Grey fired patchy pink/grey externally with profuse up to 0.10mm quartz filler

A1. Catalan Dressel 2-4 amphora fabric fired pink with up-to 3.00mm protruding white and pink quartz and feldspar grains, rock fragments and gold mica.

The assemblage

This small assemblage is similar in date to the much larger one encountered in the lower fill of the aqueduct immediately in front of the Palace (Ibid), although a couple of both slightly earlier and later sherds are also present.

Brick and Tile by Andy Taylor

Six fragments of ceramic building material were recovered from ditch 1. Two of these most likely were the remains of floor tiles, while one was a fragment of imbrex and another possibly from a tegulae. The remaining two pieces most likely formed part of a large ceramic pipe, possibly from the aqueduct which is considered to be located somewhere near the site.

Conclusion

The evaluation identified a single Roman ditch dated to the early Roman period. This represents a former boundary feature with the presence of the pottery, large tile and pipe fragments indicating the likely presence of structural remains within the vicinity. The presence of further archaeological deposits being present in the development area cannot be ruled out although high concentrations do seem unlikely.

References

- BGS, 1957, *British Geological Survey*, 1:50000, Sheet 317, Drift Edition, Keyworth
PPG16, 1990, *Archaeology and Planning*, Dept of the Environment Planning Policy Guidance 16, HMSO
Lyne, M 2005, 'Pottery' in Manley, J and Rudkin, D, '*Facing the Palace*, Appendix D'.
<http://ads.ac.uk/catalogue/resources.html?sussexac>
Rudling, D, (ed) 2003, *The archaeology of Sussex to AD2000*, Brighton

APPENDIX 1: Trench details

0m at S or W end

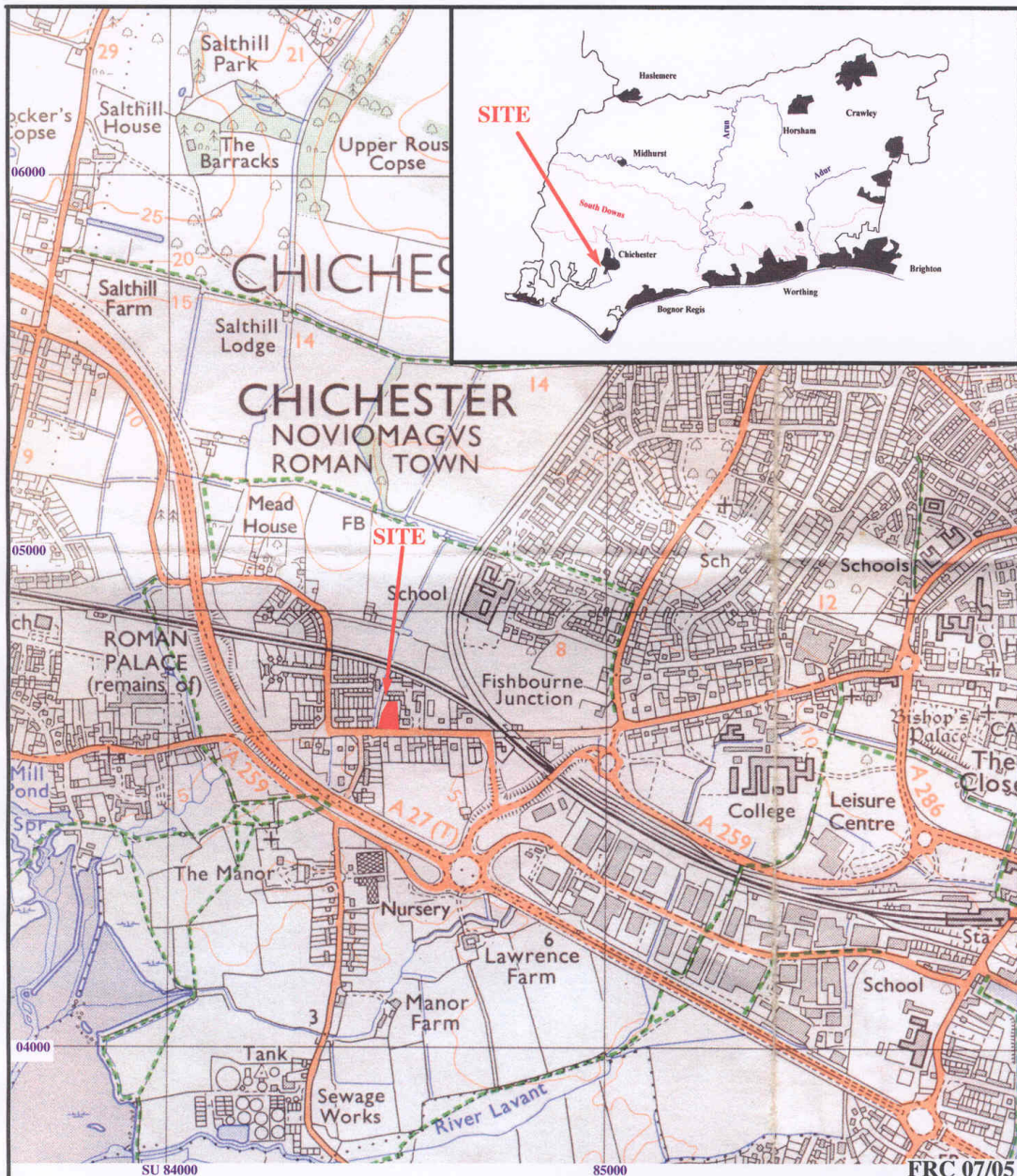
Trench	Length (m)	Breadth (m)	Depth (m)	Comment
1	20.50	1.80	0.58	0-0.33m topsoil; 0.33m-0.58m subsoil; 0.58m+ gravel and clay natural. Ditch 1 [Plate 1]
2	16.50	1.80	0.44	0-0.21m topsoil; 0.21m-0.44m subsoil; 0.44m+ clay and gravel natural.
3	12.00	1.80	0.50	0-0.25m topsoil; 0.25m-0.45m subsoil; 0.45m-0.50m+ gravel and clay natural. [Plate 2]

APPENDIX 2: Feature details

Trench	Cut	Fill (s)	Type	Date	Dating evidence
1	1	52	Ditch	Roman	Pottery

APPENDIX 3: Pottery Catalogue

Context	Fabric	Form	Date-range	No of sherds	Wt (g)
[1] 52 Tr 1	C2A		Late Iron Age	1	4
	C10A	F'bourne type 181.2	c.50-70	2	37
	C10C	Jar	c.50-70	4	95
	C22	F'bourne type 15	c.43-70	1	11
		misc		3	28
	C23	Lid	L.I.A.-100	1	9
	F6	RDBK beaker	c.50-80	1	12
	F8	Beaker	c.50-150	1	6
	F31	Closed forms	c.50-60	4	16
	A1	Dr 2.4	c.50BC-AD.70	1	68
		Tile		3	3
			c.50-70/100	22	289g

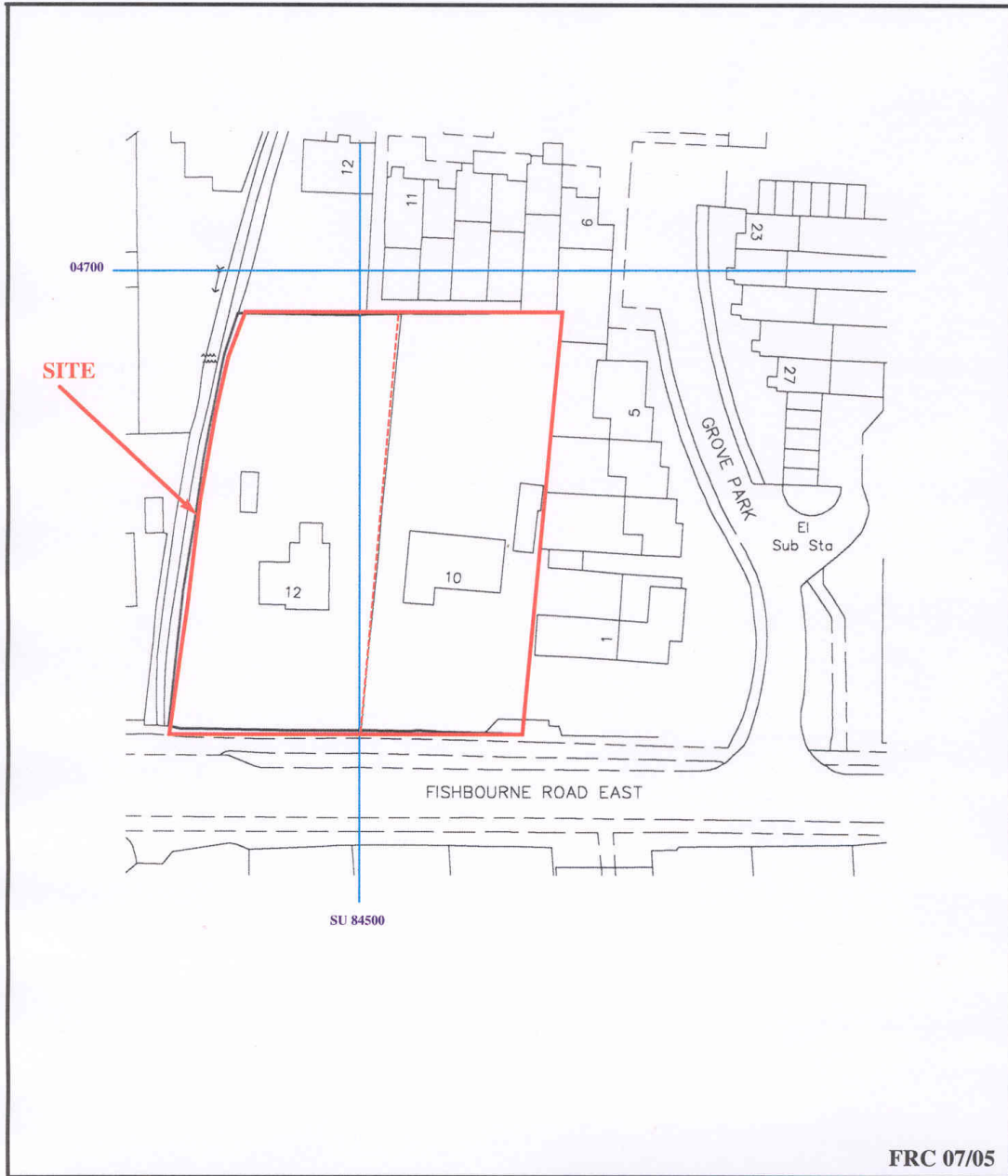


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Figure 1. Location of site within Chichester
and West Sussex.

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Figure 2. Location of site on Fishbourne Road.

Scale: 1:1250

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Figure 3: Trench and Feature Locations

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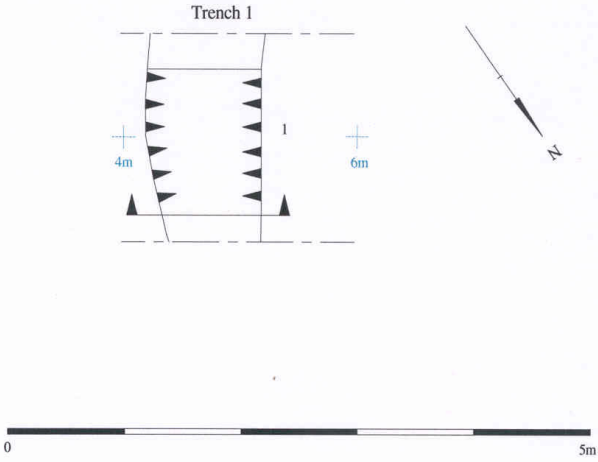


Figure 4: Trench Plan

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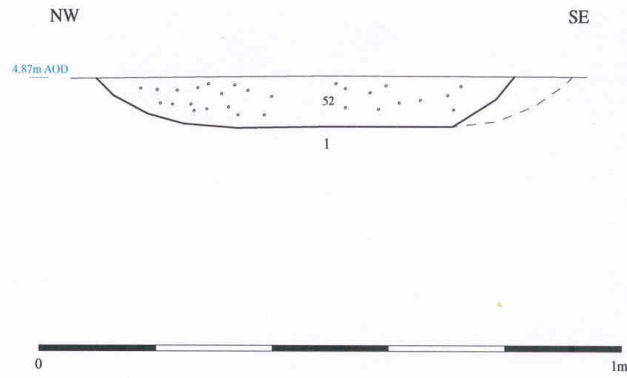


Figure 5: Section

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Plate 1. Trench 1 looking north-west, Scales 1m and 2m.



Plate 2. Trench 3, looking north west, Scales 1m and 2m.