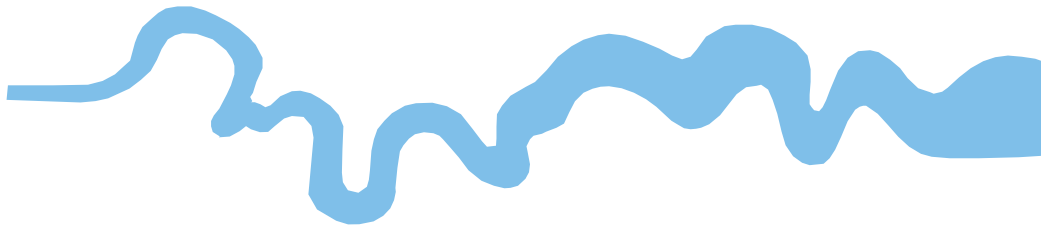


T V A S



SOUTH

**Block NM7, Royal Clarence Yard,
Gosport, Hampshire**

Archaeological Evaluation

by Odile Rouard

Site Code: RCD17/243

(SU 6170 0075)

Block NM7, Royal Clarence Yard, Gosport, Hampshire

**An Archaeological Evaluation
for Berkeley Homes (Southern) Limited**

by Odile Rouard

Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd

Site Code RCD
17/243

March 2018

Summary

Site name: Block NM7, Royal Clarence Yard, Gosport, Hampshire

Grid reference: SU 6170 0075

Site activity: Evaluation

Date and duration of project: 28th February to 1st March 2018

Project manager: Steve Ford

Site supervisor: Odile Rouard

Site code: RCD 17/243

Area of site: c. 0.29ha

Summary of results: The archaeological evaluation successfully investigated those areas which will be most affected by the development of the site. Trenches 1 and 3 were heavily truncated and no archaeological deposits were observed, but walls were identified in Trench 2, possibly associated with earlier port buildings that could correspond to The Ferryman's Cottages recorded on historic maps.

Location and reference of archive: The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Brighton and will be deposited at Hampshire Cultural Trust in due course.

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

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|---|
| Report edited/checked by: Steve Ford ✓ 19.03.18 Steve Preston ✓ 19.03.18 |
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Block NM7, Royal Clarence Yard, Gosport, Hampshire An Archaeological Evaluation

by Odile Rouard

Report 17/243

Introduction

This report documents the results of an archaeological field evaluation carried out Block NM7, Royal Clarence Yard, Gosport, Hampshire (SU 6170 40075) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Mr Mike Paddock of Berkeley Homes (Southern) Limited, Berkeley House, Bay Tree Avenue, Leatherhead, Surrey KT22 7UE.

Planning permission (15/00620/FULL) has been gained from Gosport Borough Council to redevelop the site for housing. The consent is subject to a planning condition relating to archaeology and the historic environment, which requires a programme of archaeological evaluation prior to the commencement of groundworks. The results of this evaluation would be used to inform a mitigation strategy if required.

This is in accordance with the Department for Communities and Local Government's *National Planning Policy Framework* (NPPF 2012), and the County Council's policies on archaeology. The field investigation was carried out to a specification approved by Mr Neil Adam, Archaeological Officer for Hampshire County Council, advisers to the Borough on archaeological matters. The fieldwork was undertaken by Virginia Fuentes, Odile Rouard and Jim Webster between 28th February and 1st March 2018, and the site code is RCD 17/243. The archive is presently held at TVAS, Brighton, and will be deposited at Hampshire Cultural Trust in due course.

Location, topography and geology

The site is located immediately to the east of Weevil Lane, and is centred on NGR SU 6170 0075 (Figs 1 and 2). It consists of an area of undeveloped land within the Royal Clarence Yard. The site is bounded to the south by new developments and to the west, north and east by Weevil Lane. The area is reasonably flat and the height above Ordnance Datum varies between 3.5 and 4.5m. According to the British Geological Survey the underlying geology consists of Wittering Formation - Sand, Silt and Clay (BGS 1981) and the geology recorded in the trenches consisted of mid to light orange brown sandy clay silt with frequent flint inclusions.

Archaeological background

The archaeological potential of the site has been highlighted in an archaeological management plan (Gifford 2005). In summary, the site lies within the historic naval yard. In the early 18th century the environs of the site were known as Weevil Estate and contained a manor house and brewery, the latter providing beer to the navy. In 1761 the Admiralty purchased land from the Weevil Estate and consolidated various supply offices and warehouses to form the Royal Clarence Victualling Yard. The Yard was enlarged to the north in 1828 and by 1831 the earlier buildings on the site had been removed and replaced. Numerous refurbishments and replacements took place in the 19th century and significant damage was caused by Luftwaffe bombing in 1941-2.

The proposal site (Block NM7) overlies the site of a number of historic structures, namely The Ferrymans Cottages built *c.* 1809 which were preceded by an earlier hut. The cottages are depicted on maps of 1829 and 1832 and still by 1952. The ferry operated across Forton Lake between Royal Clarence Yard and Priddy's Hard. Other 20th-century structures existed on the site.

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 the proposed development.

Specific aims of the project were:

- to determine if archaeologically relevant levels have survived on this site;
- to determine if archaeological deposits of any period are present;
- to determine if there are any remains of historic structures depicted on historic maps or referred to in other documents; and
- to inform a strategy for mitigation if required.

Three trenches were intended to be dug, measuring between 19m and 22.30m in length and 1.80m in width. The trenches were largely positioned to target the area that would be most impacted by the new development. They were to be dug using a 360° type machine fitted with a toothless ditching bucket under constant archaeological supervision. Where archaeological features were certainly or probably present, the stripped areas were to be cleaned using appropriate hand tools and sufficient of the features were to be excavated or sampled by hand to satisfy the aims outlined above. All spoilheaps were to be monitored for finds.

Results

The three trenches were dug close to their original planned positions (Fig. 3). They were all 1.80m wide, and measured between 19m and 22.30m in length, and between 0.75m and 1m in depth. A complete list of the trenches giving lengths, breadths, depths and a description of sections and geology is given in Appendix 1. The excavated features are summarized as Appendix 2.

Trench 1 (Fig. 3; Pl. 1)

Trench 1 was orientated approximately SW–NE, and was 19m long and up to 1m deep. The natural geology was observed beneath 0.20m of concrete and 0.30m of made ground at the southern end of the trench. The northern end of the trench was heavily truncated and the natural geology was not visible. No archaeological features were identified within this trench.

Trench 2 (Figs 3 and 4; Pls 2, 3, 5, 6, 7 and 8)

This trench was 22.3m long and up to 0.75m deep, and was orientated close to S–N. In the southern end, the natural geology was observed beneath 0.25m of topsoil (50) and 0.15m of subsoil (51). Several walls and floor surfaces were recorded in this trench. They seemed to belong to a single building, dating to the 19th century which would correspond in date and location to the Ferryman's Cottages that used to occupy the site. Walls 52 and 55 were roughly orientated south-north, while walls 53, 56 and 57 all abutted wall 55 at a right angle. Floor surface 54 was located between walls 53, 55 and 56 while floor surface 60 lay on the other side of wall 56. The function of the building could not be identified with certainty as only parts of the foundation walls and floors have been exposed. It is most probable however that this building corresponds to the Ferryman's Cottages that were built on this site at the beginning of the 19th century and that are visible on maps until the mid-20th century. The finds (bricks, pottery, ironwork) all seem to confirm a 19th-century date (see below).

Trench 3 (Fig.3; Pl. 5)

This trench was 20m long and up to 0.82m deep, and was orientated W-E. The natural geology was observed beneath 0.21m of concrete and 0.40m of made ground. This trench was heavily truncated and no archaeological features were visible.

Finds by Luke Barber

The Post-Roman Pottery

The only pottery recovered during the archaeological work consists of a tiny 2g chip from a cup in blue transfer-printed whiteware (context 52). The sherd is too small to discern the pattern but most probably post-dated c. 1825.

Ceramic Building Material

Brick was only recovered from context 52. All is in the same brick-red fabric tempered with sparse fine quartz and sparse black iron oxides to 2mm. The bricks are well formed and medium/well fired suggesting an 18th- to 19th- century date range. Two pieces are small chips (14g) but there is also a complete brick sample (3484g). The brick, which measures 230 x 105 x 60mm, has notable quantities of a hard light grey fine sandy mortar (with common chalk pellets to 4mm) on all of its faces.

Mortar

Context 54 produced two (66g) fragments of light grey render containing abundant fine/medium sand. Both measure 17mm thick, each with a beige painted face. The pieces would be well placed in the 19th century.

The Ironwork

Just three pieces of ironwork were collected. Context 52 contained two shank fragments (8g) from relatively corroded lightweight nails, while context 54 produced a 60g fragment from a cast iron downpipe with green painted surfaces. All the metalwork is of late post-medieval date.

Conclusion

The evaluation has revealed that most of the site had been truncated and filled by modern deposits, as well as being traversed by disused services. However, the remains of a post-medieval building were identified in Trench 2 and consisted of several brick foundation walls and two separate floor surfaces. The function of the building could not be identified with certainty as only parts of the foundation walls and floors have been exposed but it seems likely these remains correspond to The Ferryman's Cottages that were built on this site at the beginning of the 19th century and that are visible on maps until the mid-20th century. The finds (bricks, pottery, ironwork) all seem to confirm a 19th-century date.

References

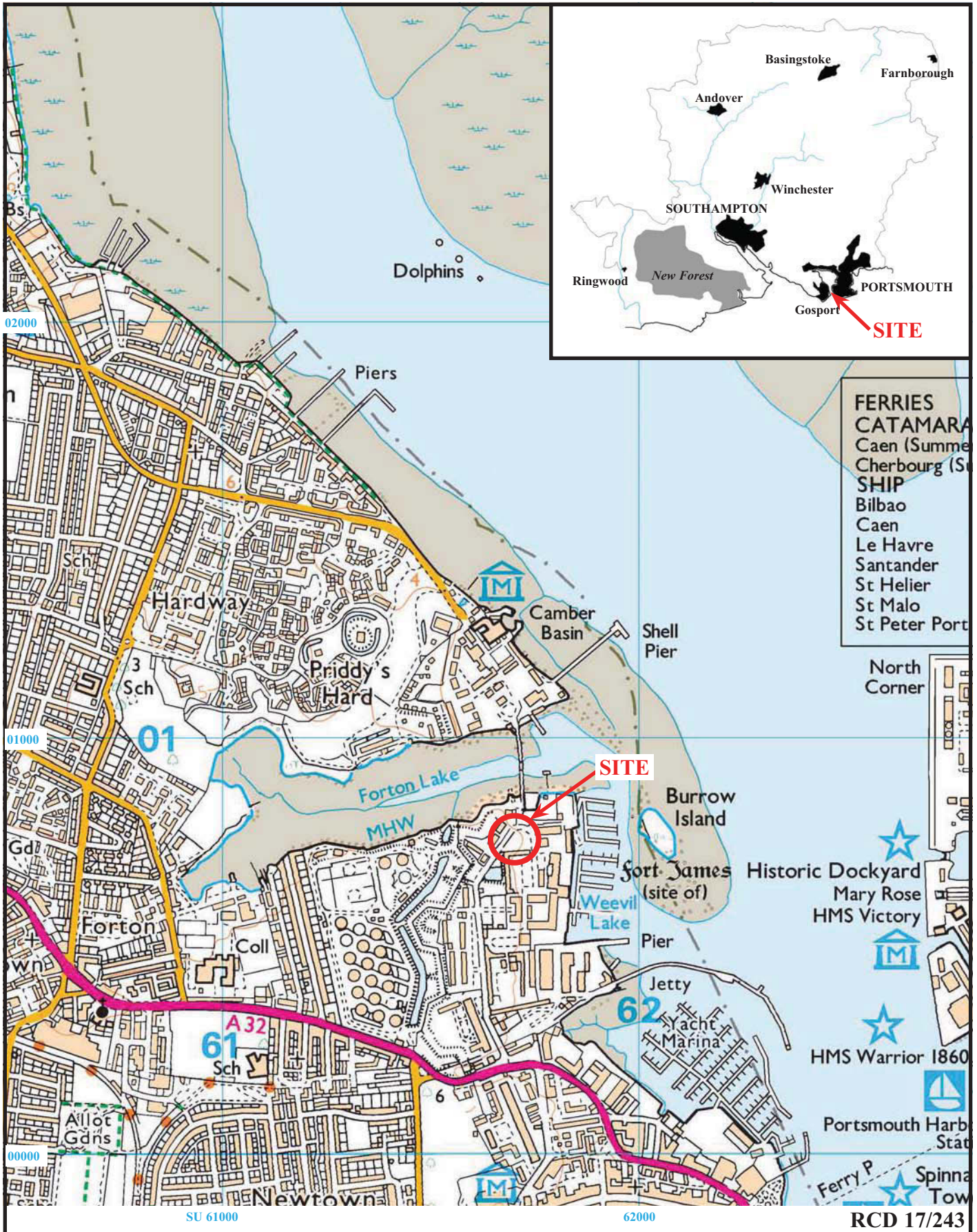
- BGS, 1981, *British Geological Survey*, 1:50000, Sheet 301, Drift Edition, Keyworth
- Gifford, 2005, *Royal Clarence Yard, Archaeological Management Plan, proposed revisions for the new application scheme*. Gifford, report B1790. R38 Rev D, London
- Gifford, 2011, Royal Clarence Yard, Gosport, Hampshire, Block NM7, written scheme of investigation for an archaeological evaluation, Gifford, Report 13966/R126, London
- NPPF, 2012, *National Planning Policy Framework*, Dept Communities and Local Government, London

APPENDIX 1: Trench details

| <i>Trench</i> | <i>Length (m)</i> | <i>Breadth (m)</i> | <i>Depth (m)</i> | <i>Comment</i> |
|---------------|-------------------|--------------------|------------------|---|
| 1 | 19 | 1.80 | 1.00 | S end: 0-0.20m concrete; 0.20-0.50m made ground; 0.50m+ natural geology (Sand, Silt and Clay with Flint inclusions). N end: 0-1m modern truncation [Pl. 1] . |
| 2 | 22.30 | 1.80 | 0.75 | SE end: 0-0.20m topsoil (50); 0.20-0.35m subsoil (51); 0.35-0.75 modern truncation. NW end: 0-0.25 topsoil (50); 0.25-0.43m subsoil (51); 0.43m+ natural geology (Sand, Silt and Clay with Flint inclusions). Walls 52, 53, 55, 56, 57 & 58. Floor surfaces 54 & 60 [Pls. 2, 3, 5, 6, 7 & 8] . |
| 3 | 20 | 1.80 | 0.82 | 0-0.21m concrete; 0.21-0.61m made ground; 0.61m+ natural geology (Sand, Silt and Clay with Flint inclusions) [Pl. 4] . |

APPENDIX 2: Feature details

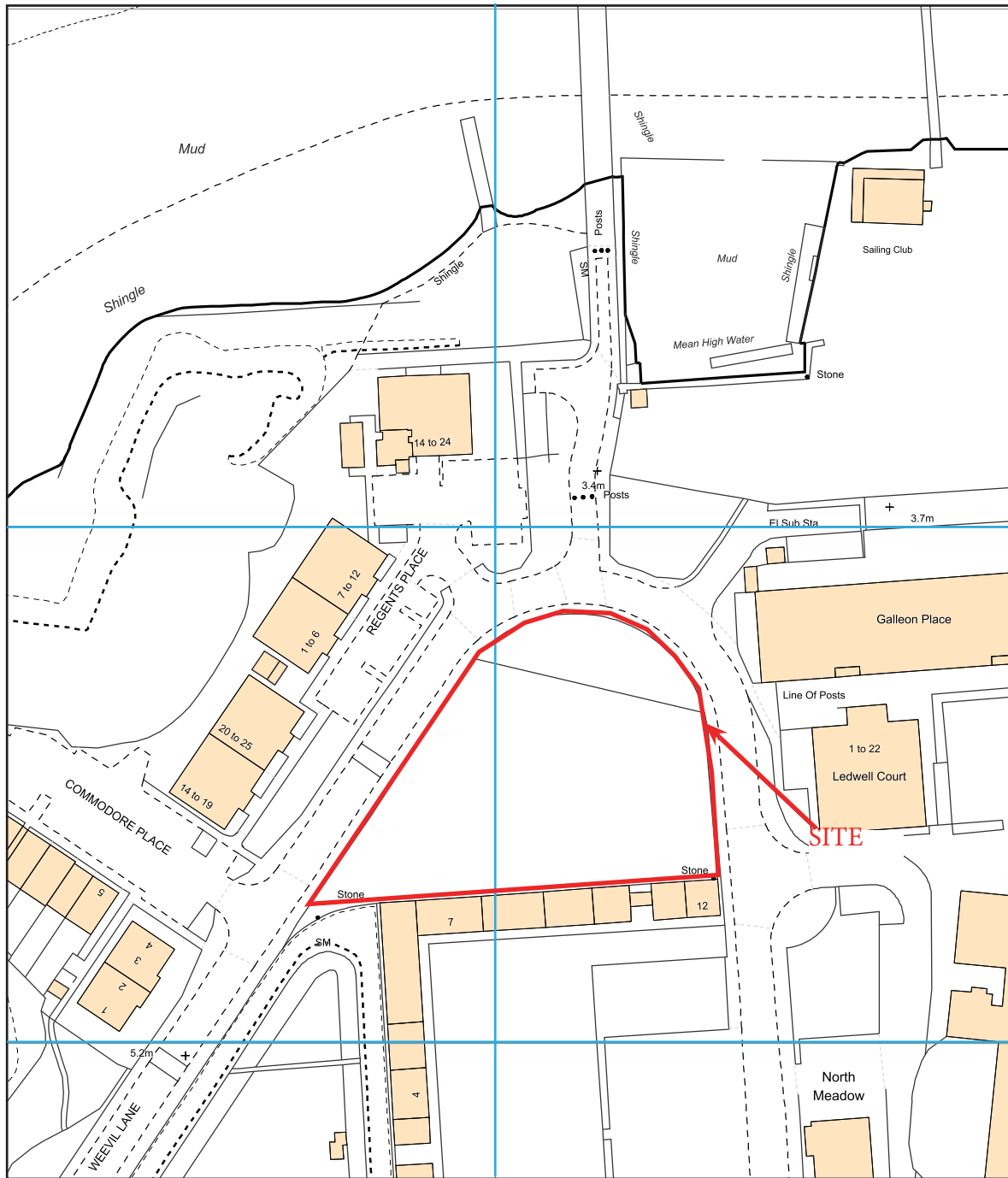
| <i>Cut</i> | <i>Fill (s)</i> | <i>Type</i> | <i>Date</i> | <i>Dating evidence / comments</i> |
|------------|-----------------|---------------|---------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1 | 52 | Wall | Post-medieval | Brick, pottery. |
| 2 | 53 | Wall | Post-medieval | Brick. |
| | 54 | Floor surface | Post-medieval | Slabs. |
| 3 | 55 58 59 | Wall | Post-medieval | Brick. |
| 5 | 56 | Wall | Post-medieval | Brick. |
| 4 | 57 | Wall | Post-medieval | Brick. |
| | 60 | Floor surface | Post-medieval | Concrete. |



**Block NM7, Royal Clarence Yard, Gosport,
 Hampshire, 2018
 Archaeological Evaluation**

Figure 1. Location of site within Gosport and Hampshire

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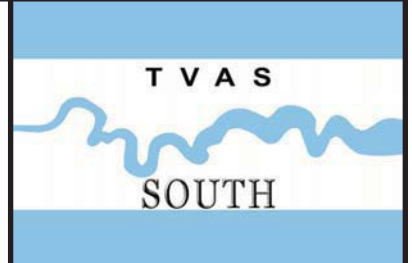
RCD 17/243

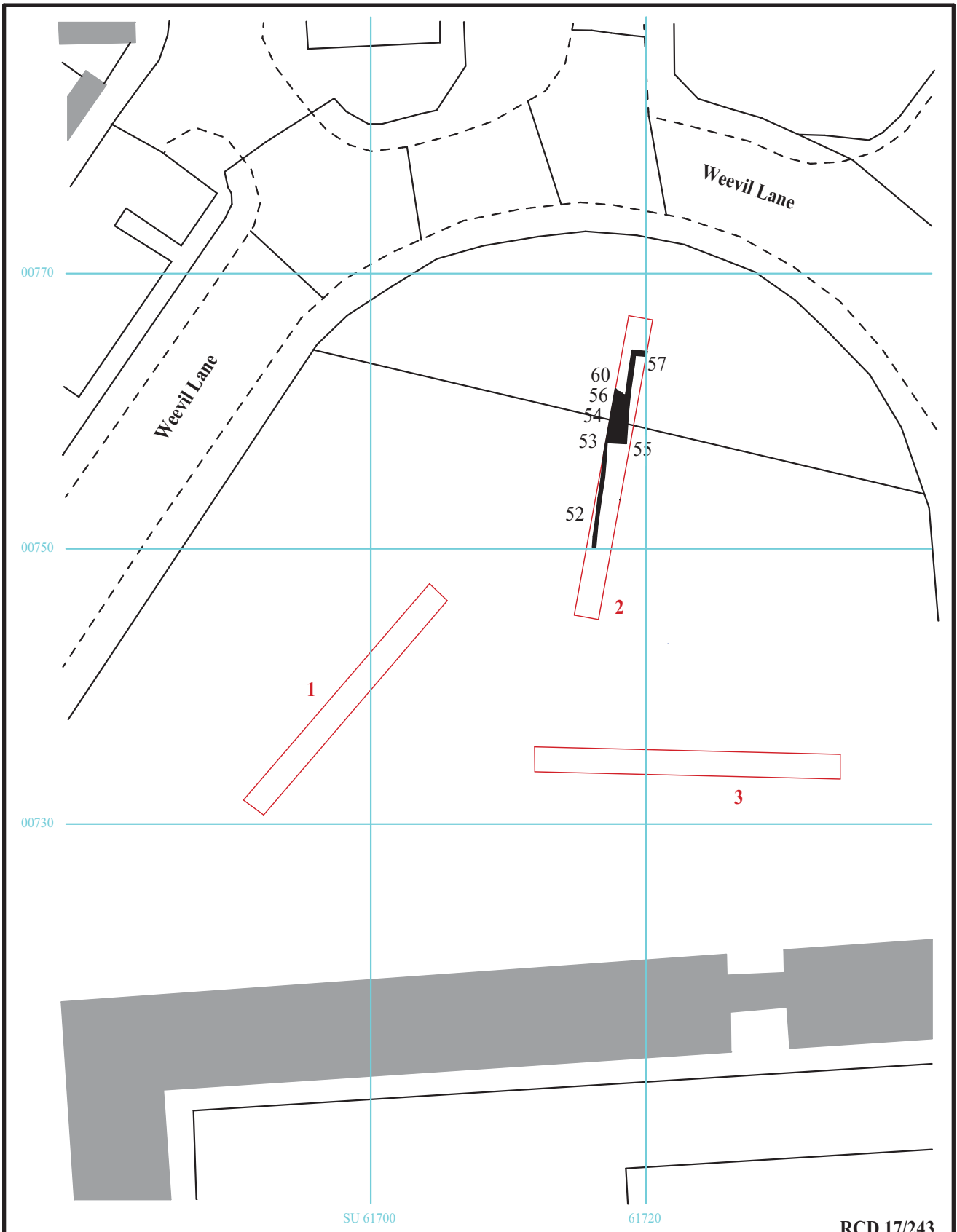


**Block NM7, Royal Clarence Yard,
Gosport, Hampshire, 2018
Archaeological Evaluation**

Figure 2. Detailed location of site

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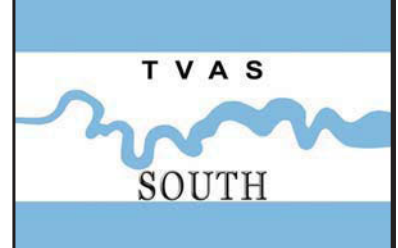


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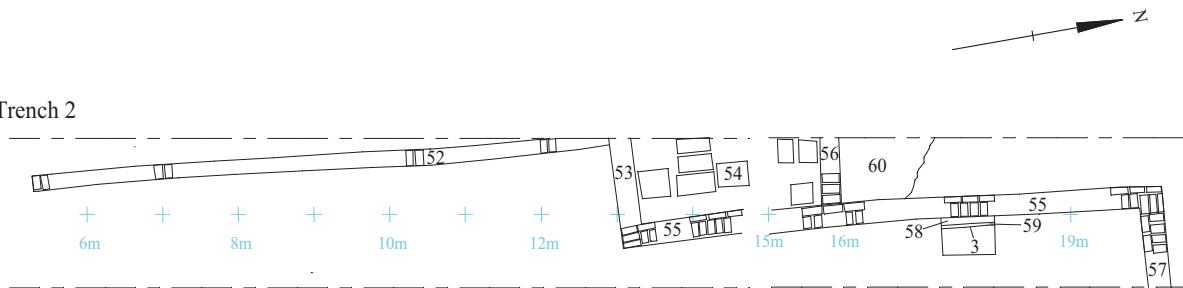


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Gosport, Hampshire, 2018
Archaeological Evaluation**

Figure 3. Site plan showing excavated trenches.



Trench 2



RCD 17/243

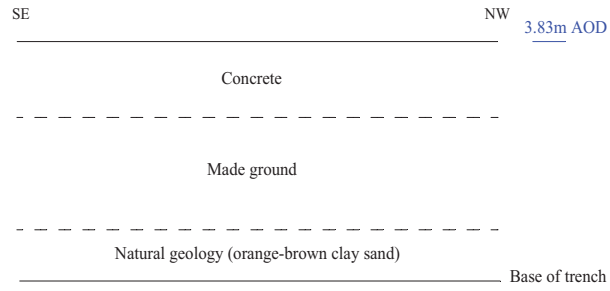
**Block NM7, Royal Clarence Yard,
Gosport, Hampshire, 2018
Archaeological Evaluation**

Figure 4. Plan of trench 2.

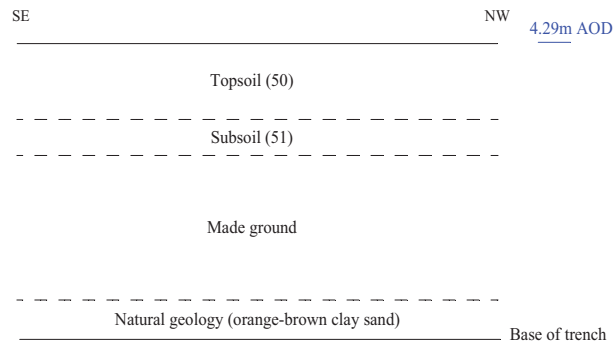


THAMES VALLEY
ARCHAEOLOGICAL
SERVICES
SOUTH

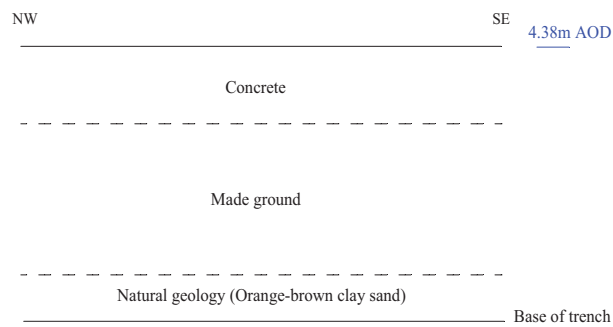
Trench 1



Trench 2



Trench 3



RCD17/243

Block NM7, Royal Clarence Yard, Gosport, Hampshire, 2018 Archaeological Evaluation

Figure 5. Representative sections.

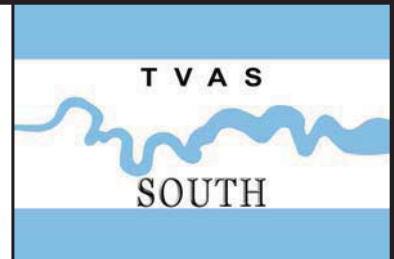




Plate 1. Trench 1, looking north-east.
Scales: 2m, 1m and 0.5m.



Plate 2. Trench 2, looking north-east.
Scales: 2m, 1m and 0.5m.



Plate 3. Trench 2, looking south.
Scales: 2m, 1m and 0.5m.



Plate 4. Trench 3, looking east.
Scales: 2m, 1m and 0.5m.

RCD 17/243

**Block NM7, Royal Clarence Yard,
Gosport, Hampshire, 2018
Archaeological Evaluation
Plates 1 - 4.**





Plate 5. Trench 2, Wall 52.
Scales: 2m and 0.30m.



Plate 6. Trench 2, Walls 53, 55, and Floor 54.
Scales: 2m and 1m.



Plate 7. Trench 2, Walls 55 and 58.
Scales: 0.5m and 0.1m.



Plate 8. Trench 2, Floor 60.
Scales: 1m and 0.3m.

RCD 17/243

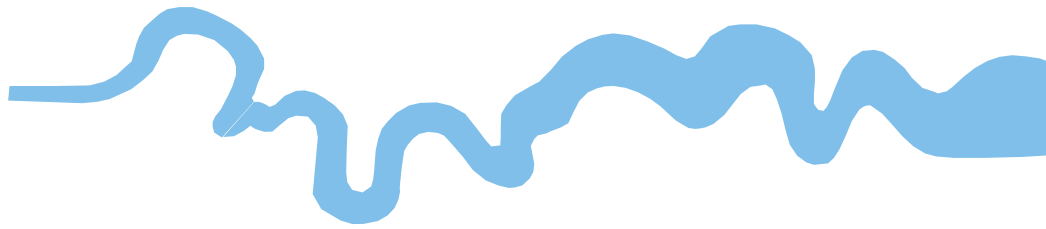
**Block NM7, Royal Clarence Yard,
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Archaeological Evaluation
Plates 5 - 8.**



TIME CHART

| | Calendar Years |
|----------------------------|------------------|
| Modern _____ | AD 1901 |
| Victorian _____ | AD 1837 |
| Post Medieval _____ | AD 1500 |
| Medieval _____ | AD 1066 |
| Saxon _____ | AD 410 |
| Roman _____ | AD 43 AD 0 BC |
| Iron Age _____ | 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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