

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

ARCHAEOLOGICAL

S E R V I C E S

**14 and 15 College Place,
Southampton, Hampshire**

Archaeological Watching Brief

by Will Attard

Site Code: CPS21/257

(SU 4216 1288)

14 and 15 College Place, Southampton

**An Archaeological Watching Brief
for Armour Heritage Limited**

by Will Attard

Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd

Site Code CPS 21/257

**October 2022
rev Jan 2023
rev Jan 2023(2)
rev February 2023 (3)**

Summary

Site name: 14 and 15 College Place, Southampton, Hampshire

Grid reference: SU 4216 1288

Site activity: Watching Brief

Date and duration of project: 21st February to 12th May 2022

Project coordinator: Tim Dawson; Danielle Milbank

Site supervisor: Will Attard; Kyle Beaverstock

Site code: CPS 21/257

Southampton City site code: SOU 1927

Summary of results: Groundworks for front and rear extensions were monitored, but revealed only modern made ground deposits associated with the construction and development of the current standing buildings at the site. The groundworks were relatively shallow and the natural geology was not encountered. No archaeologically significant deposits, horizons or finds were revealed.

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

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

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14 and 15 College Place, Southampton, Hampshire An Archaeological Watching Brief

by Will Attard

Report 21/257

Introduction

This report documents the results of an archaeological watching brief carried out at 14 and 15 College Place, Southampton, Hampshire (SU 4261 1288) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Sue Farr of Armour Heritage Ltd, Foghamshire Timber Yard, Foghamshire Lane, Frome, BA11 5DG.

Planning permission (21/00667/FUL) has been gained from Southampton City Council for a single-storey front extension, two-storey rear extension and mansard roof extension to create a new two-bedroom flat with associated bike store and bin storage area. This permission is subject to two conditions (6 and 7) relating to archaeology, which require that a programme of archaeological work is undertaken.

This is in accordance with the *National Planning Policy Framework* (NPPF 2019) and the City Council's policies on archaeology. The field investigation was carried out to a specification approved by Ms Ingrid Peckham archaeological officer at Southampton City Council. The fieldwork was undertaken by Will Attard and Kyle Beaverstock between 21st February and 12th May 2022 and the site code is CPS 21/257.

The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited with Southampton City Council Museum Service in due course.

Location, topography and geology

The site at College Place is located within the city of Southampton. The river Itchen lies 0.8km to the east, and the river Test lies 1.75km to the south west. College Place lies at a height of 23mOD. The ground slopes away to the south, east and west towards the rivers, and rises to the north-west, levelling off at around 27mOD. The underlying geology at the site is recorded as being terrace gravel overlying Wittering Formation sand, silt and clay (BGS 1987).

Archaeological background

The archaeological potential of the site has been highlighted in comments provided by the Planning Archaeologist at Southampton City Council. In summary, this potential stems from the site's location within Local Area of Archaeological Potential 8 (City Centre and Itchen Ferry) defined in the Southampton Local Plan

and Core Strategy. A wide range of sites, find spots and historic buildings are recorded in the environs of the site, dating from the palaeolithic (MSH235), through the Neolithic & Bronze Age (MSH245; MSH254) to the Iron Age & Roman Periods. The latter consists of significant evidence for Roman occupation to the north-west of College Place (MSH1464-SOU603), along with more recent evaluation trenching revealing limited further Roman activity (OA 2007-SOU1406). The site lies within the bounds of the 18th century (former) Bellevue House (MSH3639), with the extant buildings built in the late 19th century. The notes prepared by the Planning archaeologist record a watching brief carried out ahead of renovation to the rear of 14, College Place in 1997 (SOU835), when no archaeological remains were encountered, although the observed trenches were of limited extent.

The site lies about 40m east of the site of the former Padwell Cross (MSH1898), at the junction of The Avenue and London Road. This has been a major road junction since at least the medieval period if not before. Sometime before 1865, it was reported that many skeletons of unknown date had been found at the foot of Padwell Cross (MSH1467). Roman coins were also found there before 1865 (MSH2291).

Objectives and methodology

The purpose of the watching brief was to excavate and record any archaeological deposits affected by the works. This was to involve permanent monitoring of all areas of intrusive groundworks and include observation of surface stripping, ground reduction to the top of the relevant horizon and the excavating of any associated foundation trenches, service trenches, landscaping works and all other invasive work as necessary.

Results

Monitoring of invasive groundworks for the front and rear extensions was undertaken. All excavation was undertaken by a small 360° type excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket under constant archaeological supervision. There were two areas of groundworks - an area of ground reduction to the rear of 15 College Place and a small trench to the front of 14 and 15 (Fig. 3). The rear extension involved a ground reduction, although the new foundations consisted of piles and relatively shallow ground beams which were not observed. Natural geology was not encountered during groundworks, and inspection of spoil heaps revealed no residual material of archaeological significance. The area of the bin storage area (slab) and bike storage area (Tarmac) listed in the planning application only necessitated very superficial foundations of no archaeologically significant below

ground impacts and were carried out without archaeological monitoring. The only areas of the development of potential archaeological impact, which were monitored, are shown on Figure 3.

Rear (Figs 3 and 4)

The rear area work consisted of a rectangular area measuring 4.1m x 3.6m, and was reduced by 0.50-0.60m. Stratigraphy observed consisted of 0.05m of Tarmac overlying 0.10m of compact brick rubble, in turn overlying two layers of made ground each 0.30m thick and containing construction rubble suggesting a similar date to the construction of the extant buildings on the site.

Front (Pls 3 and 4)

To the front of the site, a small foundation trench (0.50m wide) was excavated to a depth of 0.75m (Figs 3 and 4). Observed stratigraphy in this trench consisted of 0.07m of paving slabs and associated bedding material overlying 0.21m of brick-filled made ground, in turn overlying a similar made ground deposit to that observed at the rear of the building. Several active services were present within this trench.

Finds

No finds of any archaeological interest were recovered.

Conclusion

The watching brief was carried out on groundworks associated with the construction of the front and rear extensions. The relatively shallow depth of the groundworks revealed only modern made ground deposits below the current paved and Tarmac surfaces. No deposits or finds of any archaeological interest were observed during this watching brief.

References

- BGS, 1987, *British Geological Survey*, 1:50000, Sheet 315, Solid and Drift Edition, Keyworth
NPPF, 2019, *National Planning Policy Framework*, Dept Communities and Local Government, London
OA, 2007, 'New College, The Avenue, Southampton, Archaeological Evaluation Report', Oxford Archaeology, SOU1406, Oxford



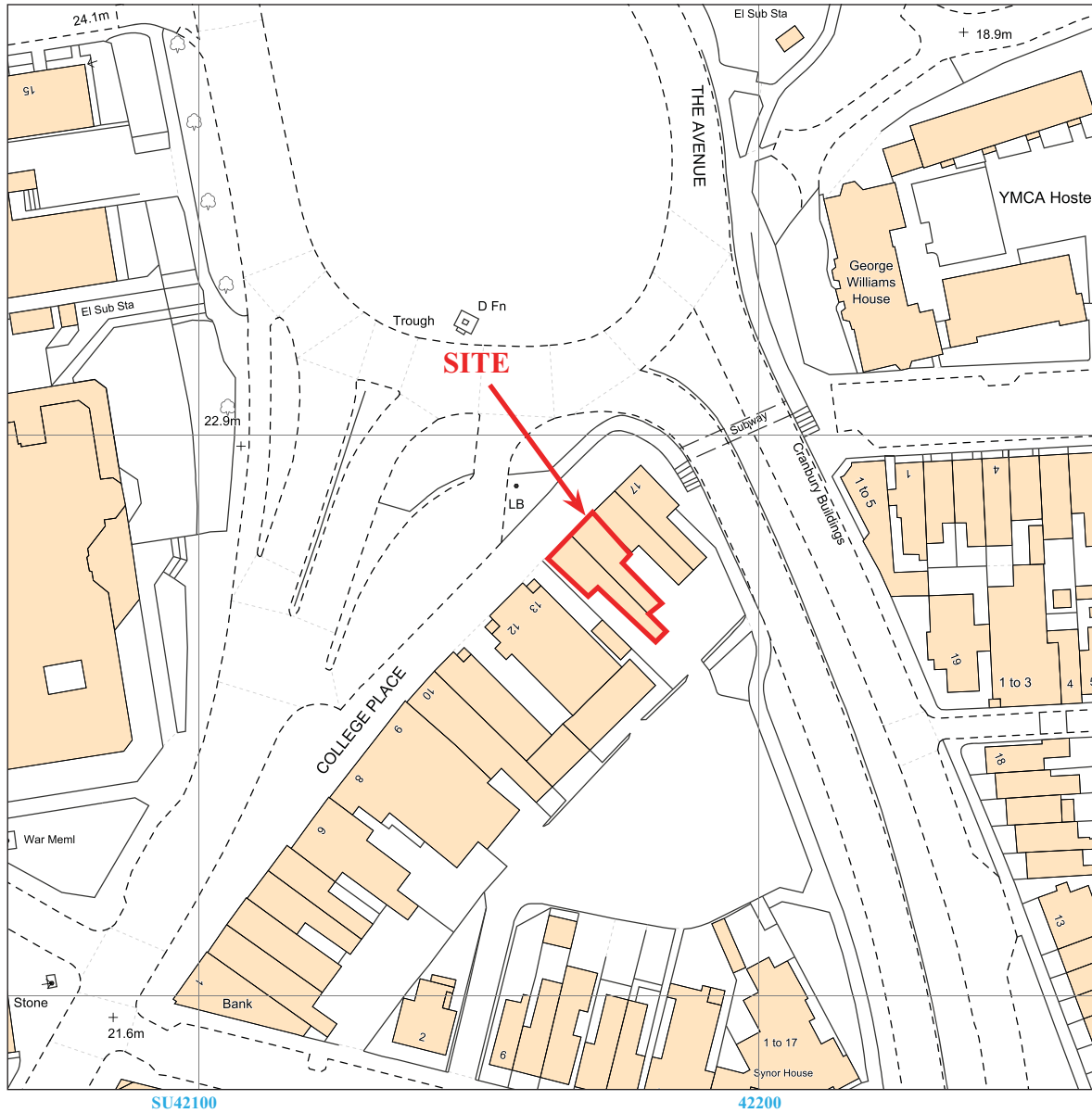
14 and 15 College Place, Southampton,
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Figure 1. Location of site within Southampton and
Hampshire.

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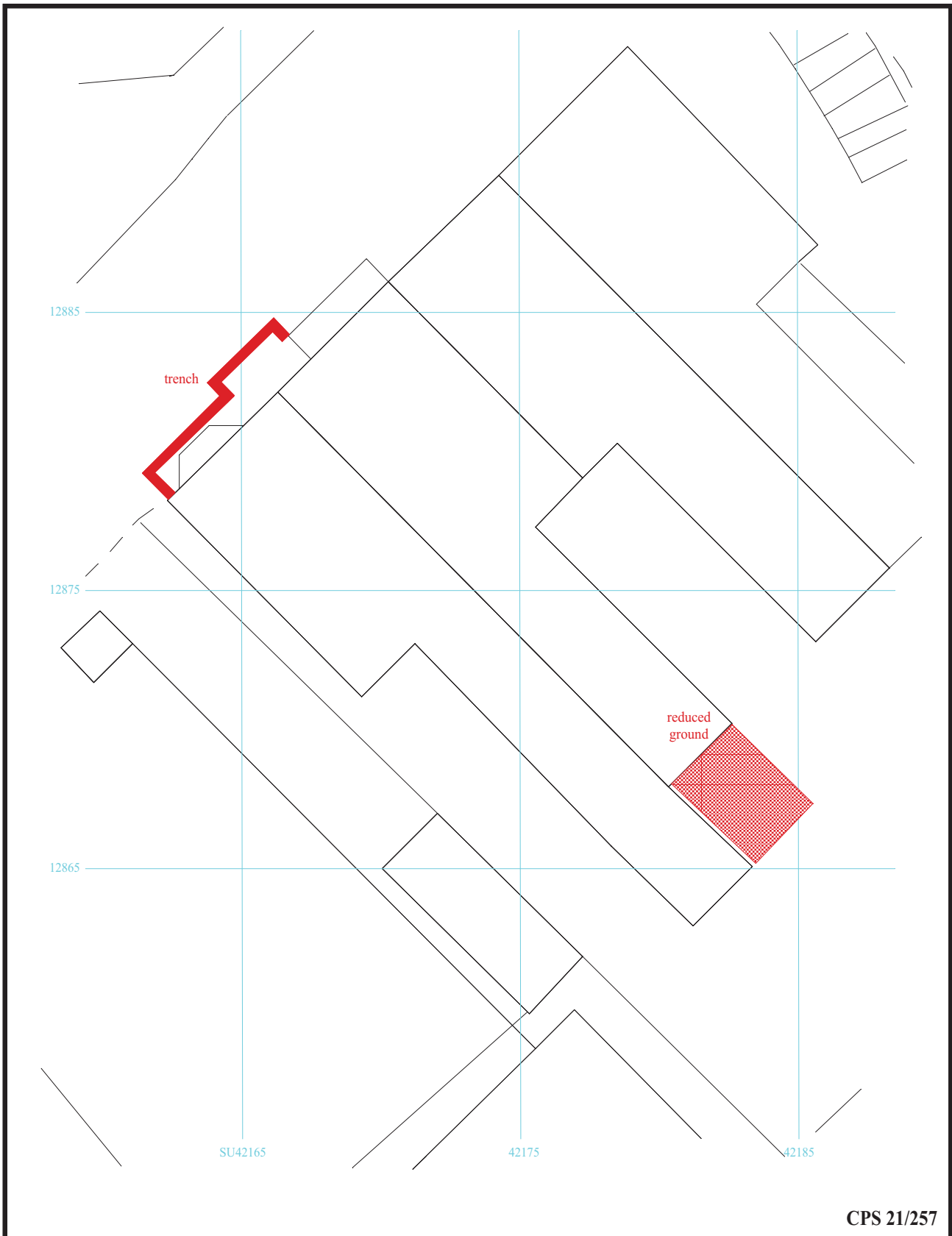
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Figure 2. Detailed location of site off College Place.

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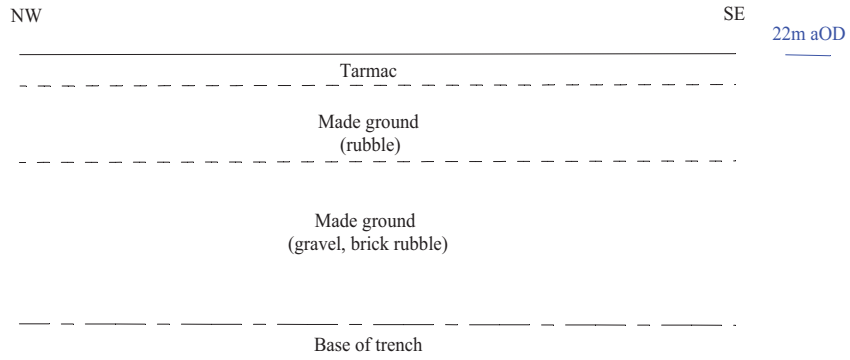
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Figure 3. Location of observed areas



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Figure 4. Representative section.





Plate 1. Ground reduction, looking North, Scale: 2m.



Plate 2. Reduced section, looking North West, Scales: 2m and 0.5m.

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Plates 1 and 2.

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Plate 3. Trench, looking North East, Scale: 0.5m.



Plate 4. Minor ground reduction at front of building, looking North East.

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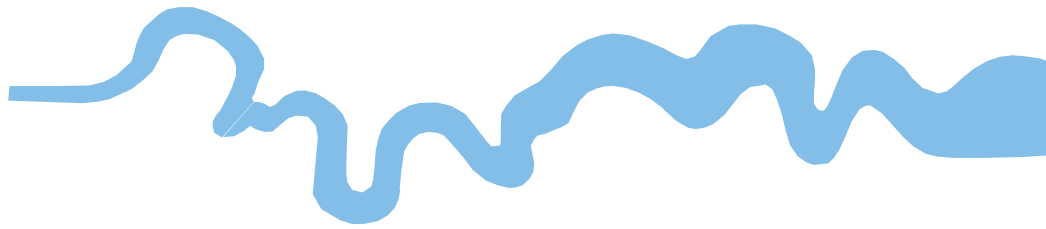
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Plates 3 and 4.

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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 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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