

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF REPORT:

LAND TO THE REAR OF 10 CRANBURY PLACE, SOUTHAMPTON, HAMPSHIRE

Planning Reference: 09/00505/FUL
NGR: SU 4229 1285
AAL Site Code: SOCP 11
SOU Number: 1560
Museum Accession Number: 2011.32
OASIS Reference Number: allenarc1-110750



Report prepared for Chris Edmond Associates
On behalf of Mr John Tarleton

By
Allen Archaeology Limited
Report Number 2011064

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The
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Executive Summary

- Allen Archaeology Limited was commissioned by Chris Edmond Associates, on behalf of Mr John Tarleton to undertake an archaeological watching brief during the groundworks for a new dwelling on land to the rear of 10 Cranbury Place in Southampton, Hampshire.
- The site is situated in an area of some archaeological interest, with low densities of prehistoric and Roman material recorded nearby. The area is beyond the Saxon and medieval town of Southampton and was probably an agricultural zone throughout these periods.
- The watching brief failed to identify any archaeological finds or features of interest, exposing only a sequence of topsoil, subsoil and natural geology.

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 Allen Archaeology Limited (hereafter AAL) was commissioned by Chris Edmond Associates, on behalf of Mr John Tarleton to undertake an archaeological watching brief as a condition of a planning permission for the erection of a new dwelling on land to the rear of 10 Cranbury Place in Southampton, Hampshire.
- 1.2 The archaeological scheme of works conforms to current national guidelines, as set out in the Institute for Archaeologists '*Standard and guidance for archaeological watching briefs*' (IfA 1994, revised 2001 and 2008), as well as a specification prepared by this company (AAL 2011).
- 1.3 The documentary archive will be submitted to Southampton Museum within six months of the completion of the report, and will be stored under the museum accession number 2011.32.

2.0 Site Location and Description

- 2.1 Southampton is situated on the south coast of England, approximately 109km west-south-west of central London and 19km south-south-west of central Winchester. The current site is located c.1.5km to the north of the historic core of the town, and forms an elongated plot of land running between Lyon Street to the south and Cranbury Place to the north. The site is centred on NGR SU 4229 1285.
- 2.2 The local geology comprises bedrock deposits of Wittering Formation sand, silt and clay. The southern half of the site has a coverage of river terrace deposits of sand and gravel, with no superficial deposits recorded to the north (http://maps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyviewer_google/googleviewer.html).

3.0 Planning Background

- 3.1 Full planning permission has been granted (Planning Application 09/00505/FUL) for the construction of a detached dwelling on land to the rear of 10 Cranbury Place. Permission was granted subject to conditions, including the undertaking of a programme of archaeological monitoring and recording by a suitably competent archaeologist. The watching brief comprised the monitoring of all groundworks for the scheme, and the recording of any archaeological remains exposed, effectively 'preserving the archaeology by record'.
- 3.2 This approach is consistent with the guidelines that are set out in Planning Policy Statement 5 (PPS5) (Department of the Environment 2010) and the Institute for Archaeologists '*Standard and guidance for an archaeological watching brief*' (1994, revised 2001 and 2008).

4.0 Archaeological and Historical Background

- 4.1 There is only limited evidence of prehistoric activity in the vicinity of the site. A Palaeolithic hand axe is recorded as being found on Rockstone Place, c.300m to the west-north-west (Southampton Historic Environment Record (hereafter SHER) Reference MSH236). A small group of nine worked flints of Neolithic/Bronze Age date were recovered from residual contexts during trial trenching c.400m to the west-north-west (SHER Reference MSH4068), and a further three flints broadly of prehistoric date were recovered c.120m to the south-west (SHER Reference MSH2328).
- 4.2 Evidence for Romano-British activity is similarly limited. The site lies some distance from the Roman town of Clausentum, centred in the area of Bitterne Manor, on the east side of the River Itchen. Trial trenching at the New College site 400m to the west-north-west exposed a single posthole containing four sherds of Late Iron Age or Roman pottery and one residual Roman sherd in the topsoil (SHER Reference MSH4068). A number of ditches and pits containing a low density of finds of Roman date were excavated c.250m to the west-north-west at the Magistrates Court on London Road (SHER Reference MSH1464). A coin of Constantine II was found at the former Ordnance Survey offices c.250m to the west (SHER Reference MSH237) and further coin finds are reported from the area in 1865, although their location is uncertain (SHER Reference MSH2291). The evidence generally points to a focus of low density settlement activity in this period to the west of the site.
- 4.3 The site is also just over 1km to the north of the Saxon settlement of Hamwic, occupied from at least the 7th century AD, and abandoned around the 10th century in favour of higher ground to the west, which developed as the walled city of Southampton (Platt and Coleman-Smith 1975). Evidence of the Saxon period in the vicinity of the site is sparse, with a single Middle Saxon pit recorded during fieldwork on Belle Vue Road, c.250m to the south-south-west (SHER Reference MSH1897) and a residual Late Saxon sherd found a similar distance to the west-north-west (SHER Reference MSH1887).
- 4.4 The area appears to have persisted as an open agricultural landscape throughout the subsequent medieval period, with several interventions in the vicinity of the site recording the presence of an agricultural soil containing small quantities of abraded medieval and later ceramics (e.g. SHER References MSH2328 and MSH4068).
- 4.5 The area was developed during the early 19th century to cater for the expanding population of Southampton, and the row of terraces forming Cranbury Place was constructed during the 1830s. Numbers 1 – 8 are all Grade II Listed Buildings and Cranbury Place is a Conservation Area (SHER References MSH 1975 – 1982).

5.0 Methodology

- 5.1 The archaeological monitoring was carried out over a period of two days; Thursday 25th and Tuesday 30th August 2011. The foundation trenches were excavated with a tracked mini-excavator fitted with a 600mm wide bucket to a maximum depth of 1.2m.
- 5.2 All exposed plan and section surfaces were inspected for any archaeological features and deposits to determine the stratigraphic sequence. Each context observed was recorded on pro-forma AAL context record sheets, accompanied by section drawings at appropriate scales.

A photographic record was maintained during the watching brief with selected shots included as an appendix to this report (see Appendix 1).

- 5.3 Each layer, deposit or feature was allocated a unique two digit identifier (context number), and accorded a written description, a summary of these are included in Appendix 2.

6.0 Results (Figure 3)

- 6.1 The uppermost deposit throughout the site was a c.0.2m thick topsoil of very dark grey loam, 01, sealing a brown sandy clay subsoil, 02, approximately 0.3m thick. This in turn sealed the natural geology, 03, a yellowish brown sandy clay with frequent gravel.
- 6.2 The western boundary to the site is represented by a buttressed brick built garden wall. The wall varied in height, but was no more than 2.5m high, with a variable thickness that averaged at about 0.55m, and is probably of 19th century date.

7.0 Discussion and Conclusion

- 7.1 The watching brief failed to identify any finds or features of archaeological interest, exposing only a natural sequence of topsoil, subsoil and natural geology. This confirms the results of other archaeological interventions undertaken in the vicinity, suggesting that the site was an agricultural zone during the medieval period until the area was developed for housing in the earlier part of the 19th century. It seems likely that the existing boundary wall represents an original property boundary dating to this period.

8.0 Effectiveness of Methodology

- 8.1 The archaeological watching brief was appropriate to the scale and nature of the development. It has shown that the development has had a negligible impact on the archaeological resource of the area.

9.0 Acknowledgements

- 9.1 Allen Archaeology Limited would like to thank Chris Edmond Associates, and their client Mr John Tarleton for this commission.

10.0 References

AAL, 2011, *Specification for an archaeological watching brief: 10 Cranbury Place, Southampton*, Allen Archaeology Limited, unpublished planning document

Department for Communities and Local Government, 2010, *Planning Policy Statement 5: Planning for the Historic Environment*, Department for Communities and Local Government, London

IfA, 1994 (revised 2001 and 2008), *Standard and guidance for an archaeological watching brief*. Reading, Institute for Archaeologists

Platt, C., and Coleman-Smith, R., 1975, *Excavations in medieval Southampton 1953 – 1969*, Leicester University Press, Leicester

Appendix 1: Colour Plates



Plate 1: West facing representative section, looking east



Plate 2: Western boundary wall of site, looking south-west

Appendix 2: Context Summary List

Context No.	Type	Description	Interpretation
01	Layer	Very dark grey loam, frequent gravel. Seals 01	Topsoil
02	Layer	Greyish brown sandy clay, rare flint gravel and pebbles. Sealed by 01 and seals 03	Subsoil
03	Layer	Yellowish brown sandy clay, rare flint gravel. Sealed by 02	Natural geology

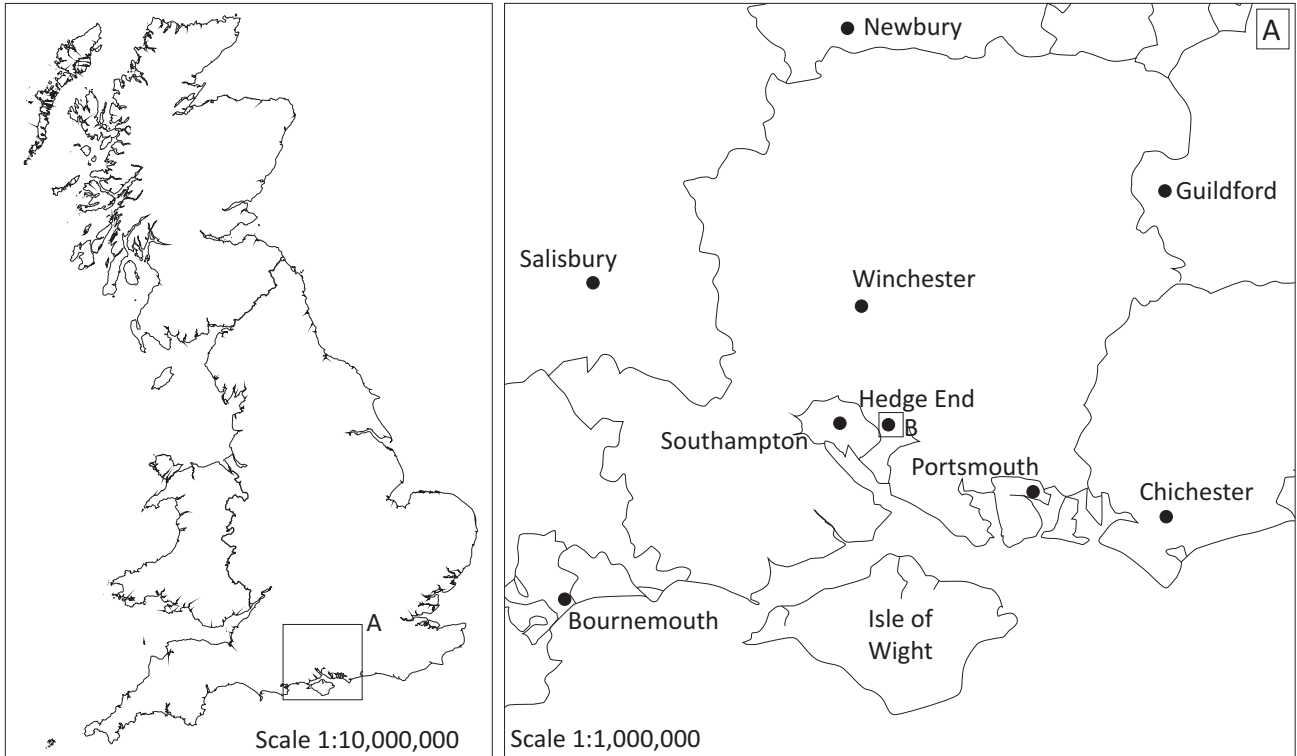
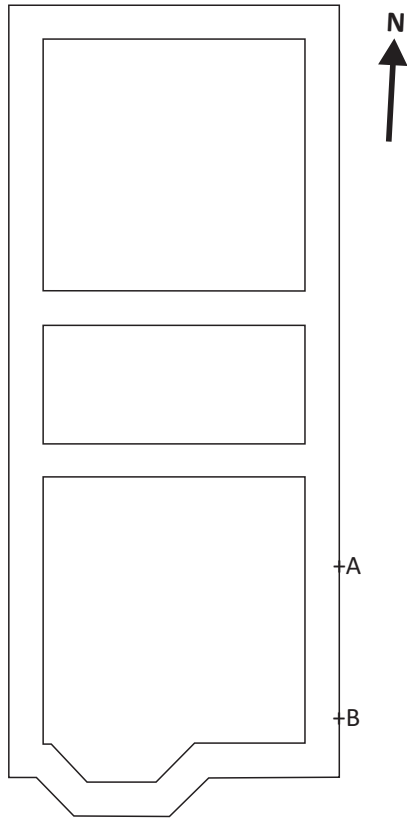


Figure 1: Site location at scale 1:25,000, with the site in red.

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Plan of Foundations



West Facing Section

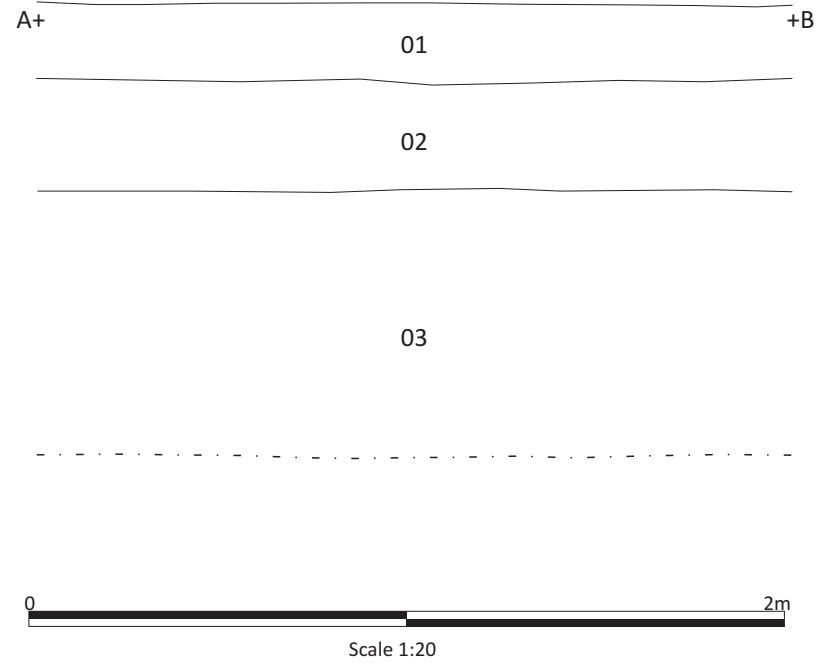


Figure 3: Plan of foundation trenches at scale 1:100 and sample section at scale 1:20



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