

Rear of 90 Portsmouth Road Southampton, Hampshire

Archaeological Watching Brief

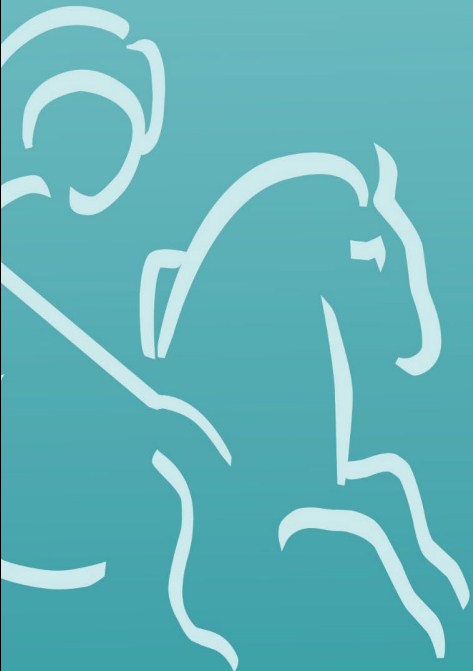


for:
Blaze Construction

CA Project: AN0637
CA Report: AN0637_1

SOU site code: SOU 1953

April 2023



Rear of 90 Portsmouth Road Southampton, Hampshire

Archaeological Watching Brief

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A	7 February 2023	Chris Brown	Derek Evans	Internal review	–	Derek Evans
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Fig. 2 The site, showing monitored area (1:400)

Fig. 3 Photographs of monitored area

SUMMARY

Project name:	Rear of 90 Portsmouth Road
Location:	Southampton, Hampshire
NGR:	444439 110921
Type:	Watching brief
Date:	19 December 2022
Planning reference:	18/01266/OUT
Location of archive:	To be deposited with Southampton City Museums and the Archaeology Data Service (ADS)
CA site code:	PRS22
SOU site code:	SOU 1953

In December 2022, Cotswold Archaeology carried out an archaeological watching brief on land to the rear of 90 Portsmouth Road, Southampton, Hampshire.

No features or deposits of archaeological interest were observed and no artefactual material pre-dating the modern period was recovered.

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1. In December 2022, Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological watching brief on land to the rear of 90 Portsmouth Road, Southampton, Hampshire (centred at NGR: 444439 110921; Fig. 1). This watching brief was undertaken for Blaze Construction.
- 1.2. Southampton City Council has granted outline planning permission for residential development of the site (planning ref: 18/01266/OUT). Conditions 4 and 5 of this planning permission required the implementation of a programme of archaeological work. The scope of this watching brief was defined by Ingrid Peckham (Southampton City Council Planning Archaeologist).
- 1.3. The watching brief was carried out in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) prepared by CA (2022) and approved by Ingrid Peckham. It was also in line with:
- *Brief for an Archaeological Investigation: Watching Brief with Provision for Excavation* (Southampton City Council Planning Archaeologist, n.d.);
 - *Standard and guidance for an archaeological watching brief* (CIfA 2014; updated October 2020);
 - *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE) PPN 3: Archaeological Excavation* (Historic England 2015); and
 - *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment: The MoRPHE Project Managers' Guide* (Historic England 2015).

The site

- 1.4. The application site is approximately 0.2ha in extent. It comprises a residential plot on the southern side of Portsmouth Road (the A3025), in the Woolston suburb of Southampton. The site includes the current residence and its rear garden. The site lies at approximately 25.60m above Ordnance Datum (aOD) in the north-east, sloping downwards to approximately 24.60mOD in the south-west.
- 1.5. The underlying bedrock geology of the site is mapped as Earnley Sand Formation sand, silt and clay, which formed in the Palaeogene Period. This is overlain by River Terrace Deposits of sand and gravel, which formed in the Quaternary Period (BGS 2022).

2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

2.1. The following text is adapted from the WSI (CA 2022). Codes given in parentheses are Southampton Historic Environment Record (HER) references.

2.2. The site is in Local Area of Archaeological Potential (LAAP) 16, as defined in the Southampton Local Plan and Core Strategy (Southampton City Council 2015). LAAP 16 is described as an “area of potential archaeological importance, about which little is known at the moment” (Southampton City Council Historic Environment Record 2010).

Prehistoric (pre-AD 43) and Roman (AD 43–AD 410)

2.3. The application site is located on superficial River Terrace 4 Deposits, which are known to have good potential to contain Palaeolithic worked flint artefacts.

2.4. A prehistoric worked flint and two sherds of very abraded Roman pottery were recovered during an archaeological watching brief undertaken in 2001 at Woolston School, Porchester Road, which lies c. 125m north-east of the application site (SOU 1097). The pottery suggests minor Roman occupation in the area.

Early medieval (AD 410–1066) and medieval (1066–1539)

2.5. The application site is within the former Manor of Woolston (MSH4958), which was recorded by the Domesday Survey (compiled 1086) and presumably had early medieval origins. It is possible that the application site formed part of the agricultural fields associated with early medieval and medieval settlement in the area, although we know very little about the Manor of Woolston (including the exact settlement locations).

2.6. The 2001 archaeological watching brief at Woolston School (SOU 1097) recorded some features of probable medieval date, suggesting that the school site may have been part of the infield system of a small, short-lived medieval settlement.

Post-medieval (1540–1800) and modern (1800–present)

2.7. An archaeological evaluation at the Woolston School site in 2017 (SOU 1748) and an archaeological watching brief at 74 St Anne's Road in 2010 (SOU 1527) found only modern disturbance.

2.8. Historic maps show no evidence of past quarrying or of buildings on the application site.

3. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- 3.1. As defined in the brief (Southampton City Council Planning Archaeologist, n.d.), the principal aims of the project were to determine the presence or absence of past human use of the area, and the date, type, state of preservation, and extent of that use; to recover associated objects; and to record such evidence as does survive. A further aim is to identify and record the nature, dimensions, and relationships of natural deposits exposed by the archaeological investigation, and to assess the potential of those deposits to contain or conceal archaeological evidence.
- 3.2. For the purposes of this project, archaeologically significant remains and contexts ('archaeological features/deposits') were defined as remains and contexts relating to human use of the area prior to 1850.

4. METHODOLOGY

- 4.1. The watching brief comprised the observation by a competent archaeologist of intrusive groundworks associated with the proposed development. These works comprised the machine stripping of overburden from the proposed new build footprint (Fig. 2).
- 4.2. Records were maintained in accordance with *CA Technical Manual 1: Fieldwork Recording Manual*.
- 4.3. Deposits were assessed for their palaeoenvironmental potential in accordance with *CA Technical Manual 2: The Taking and Processing of Environmental and Other Samples from Archaeological Sites*. No deposits were identified that required sampling.
- 4.4. CA will make arrangements with Southampton City Museums for the deposition of the project archive. A digital archive will also be prepared and deposited with the Archaeology Data Service (ADS). The archives (museum and digital) will be prepared and deposited in accordance with *Standards for the Creation, Compilation and Transfer of Archaeological Archives* (Southampton City Council 2016) and *Standard and guidance for the creation, compilation, transfer and deposition of archaeological archives* (ClfA 2014; updated October 2020).
- 4.5. A summary of information from this project, as set out in Appendix B, will be entered onto the OASIS online database of archaeological projects in Britain.

5. RESULTS

- 5.1. This section provides an overview of the watching brief results. Detailed summaries of the recorded contexts are given in Appendix A.
- 5.2. Natural geological substrate 103 was revealed at an average depth of 0.73m below present ground level. It comprised mottled pale orange-brown/grey silty clay with small patches of sandy gravel. There was no evidence that these patches/the mottling represented archaeological features, and no artefacts were present.
- 5.3. The natural substrate was overlain by pale brown-grey silty clay subsoil 102, which averaged 0.13m in thickness. The subsoil was sealed by 0.4m of modern made ground 101, which was covered in turn by 0.2 of modern topsoil 100.
- 5.4. No features or deposits of archaeological interest were observed and no artefactual material pre-dating the modern period was recovered.

6. DISCUSSION

- 6.1. The watching brief identified no archaeological remains within the area of observed groundworks. There was no evidence for extensive previous ground disturbance (which would have impacted any archaeological remains).

7. CA PROJECT TEAM

- 7.1. Fieldwork was undertaken by Chris Brown. This report was written by Chris Brown. The report illustrations were prepared by Ken Lymer. The project archive has been compiled and prepared for deposition by Richard Paxford. The project was managed for CA by Derek Evans.

8. REFERENCES

British Geological Survey 2022 *BGS Geology Viewer*

<https://www.bgs.ac.uk/mapviewers/bgs-geology-viewer/> Accessed 11 October 2022

Cotswold Archaeology 2022 *Rear of 90 Portsmouth Road, Southampton, Hampshire: Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Watching Brief*

Southampton City Council 2015 *Local Development Framework: Core Strategy Development Plan Document – Amended Version incorporating the Core Strategy Partial Review March 2015*

Southampton City Council 2016 *Standards for the Creation, Compilation and Transfer of Archaeological Archives*

Southampton City Council Historic Environment Record 2010 *Local Areas of Archaeological Potential*

Southampton City Council Planning Archaeologist (n.d.) *Brief for an Archaeological Investigation: Watching Brief with Provision for Excavation*

APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

Context No.	Type	Interpretation	Description	Depth/thickness (m)
100	Layer	Topsoil	Dark black grey friable clayey silt, heavily rooted	0.2
101	Layer	Made ground	Mid brown grey black compact clayey silt with CBM, stone, sand and other modern materials	0.4
102	Layer	Subsoil	Light brown grey friable silty clay, 5% sub-rounded stone	0.13
103	Layer	Natural	light red orange brown silty clay with small patches of sandy gravel	–

APPENDIX B: OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS		
Project name	Rear of 90 Portsmouth Road, Southampton, Hampshire	
Short description	In December 2022, Cotswold Archaeology carried out an archaeological watching brief at land to the rear of 90 Portsmouth Road, Southampton, Hampshire. No features or deposits of archaeological interest were observed and no artefactual material pre-dating the modern period was recovered.	
Project dates	19 December 2022	
Project type	Watching brief	
Previous work	None	
Future work	Unknown	
PROJECT LOCATION		
Site location	90 Portsmouth Road, Southampton, Hampshire	
Study area (m ² /ha)	0.2ha	
Site co-ordinates	444439 110921	
PROJECT CREATORS		
Name of organisation	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project brief originator	Southampton City Council	
Project design (WSI) originator	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Manager	Derek Evans	
Project Supervisor	Chris Brown	
MONUMENT TYPE	None	
SIGNIFICANT FINDS	None	
PROJECT ARCHIVES		
	Intended final location of archive	Content
Physical	N/A	N/A
Paper	Southampton City Museums	Site recording forms
Digital	Archaeology Data Service (ADS)	Survey data, digital photos
BIBLIOGRAPHY		
Cotswold Archaeology 2023 <i>Rear of 90 Portsmouth Road, Southampton, Hampshire: Archaeological Watching Brief</i> CA typescript report AN0637_1		



 Site boundary



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PROJECT TITLE
 Rear of 90 Portsmouth Road,
 Southampton, Hampshire

FIGURE TITLE
 Site location plan

DRAWN BY KL	PROJECT NO. AN0637	FIGURE NO.
CHECKED BY DB	DATE 11/01/2023	1
APPROVED BY DE	SCALE@A4 1:25,000	



- Site boundary
- Watching brief area
- Modern feature



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PROJECT TITLE
 Rear of 90 Portsmouth Road,
 Southampton, Hampshire

FIGURE TITLE
 The site, showing monitored area

<small>DRAWN BY</small> KL	<small>PROJECT NO.</small> AN0637	<small>FIGURE NO.</small>
<small>CHECKED BY</small> DB	<small>DATE</small> 10/01/2023	2
<small>APPROVED BY</small> DE	<small>SCALE@A3</small> 1:400	



Watching brief area, looking north-west (1m scales)



Watching brief area, looking north-west (1m scales)



Watching brief area, looking west (1m scales)



Watching brief area, looking north-west (1m scales)


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PROJECT TITLE
**Rear of 90 Portsmouth Road,
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FIGURE TITLE
Photographs of monitored area

DRAWN BY	KL	PROJECT NO.	AN063	FIGURE NO.
CHECKED BY	DB	DATE	10/01/2023	3
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