

# Linden Lodge, Linden Gardens, Romsey, Hampshire

## An Archaeological Watching Brief



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## An Archaeological Watching Brief

for

Hemdean Builders Ltd

by



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**National Grid Reference:** SU 35595 21224

**Southampton and South West Hampshire District Council Planning Reference:**  
09/02680/FULLS

**Hampshire County Council Museums Service Accession Number:** A2011.16

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**Front cover image:** The north boundary of the Site (from west south west). © Context One Archaeological Services 2012

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## Non-technical Summary

*Context One Archaeological Services Ltd (COAS) carried out an archaeological watching brief during groundwork excavations relating to the erection of a detached dwelling at Linden Lodge, Linden Gardens, Romsey, Hampshire (centred on NGR SU 35595 21224). The project was commissioned and funded by Hemdean Builders Ltd and was carried over a single day in September 2011.*

*Previous work by COAS and others confirmed that the Site had significant archaeological potential due to the discovery of Anglo-Saxon and Medieval features, some apparently associated with industrial activity. However, no further remains or finds of these or other periods were discovered during this project.*

## 1. Introduction

1.1 Context One Archaeological Services Ltd (COAS) carried out an archaeological watching brief prior to groundwork excavations relating to the erection of a detached dwelling at Linden Lodge, Linden Gardens, Romsey, Hampshire (centred on NGR SU 35595 21224) (hereafter referred to as the Site). The project was commissioned and funded by Hemdean Builders Ltd. The work was carried on the 5<sup>th</sup> September 2011.

1.2 The investigation was required by the Local Planning Authority (LPA) (Southampton and South West Hampshire District Council) on the advice of Mr David Hopkins (County Archaeologist, Hampshire County Council) as a condition of granting planning permission (planning reference: 09/02680/FULLS; planning appeal: APP/C1760/A/11/2143774). In his response to the consultation request by the LPA, Mr Hopkins stated on 25<sup>th</sup> July 2010:

*“I would refer you to the Heritage Statement submitted with the planning application, which offers a description of the archaeological potential of the site, the impact of the proposed development and recommends some level of archaeological recording associated with the initial phases of development (Strip Map and Record). I have had the opportunity to read and consider the Heritage Statement and I would endorse its discussion and conclusions.*

*I recommend that an archaeological condition (AR01) be attached to any planning permission which might be issued. This should secure the archaeological monitoring of the ground works, the principle phase being addressed by a ‘strip, map and record’ exercise, with minor works being addressed by an archaeological watching brief.*

*The details of the implementation of the archaeological work will need to be set out in the written scheme of Investigation required by the archaeological condition.”*

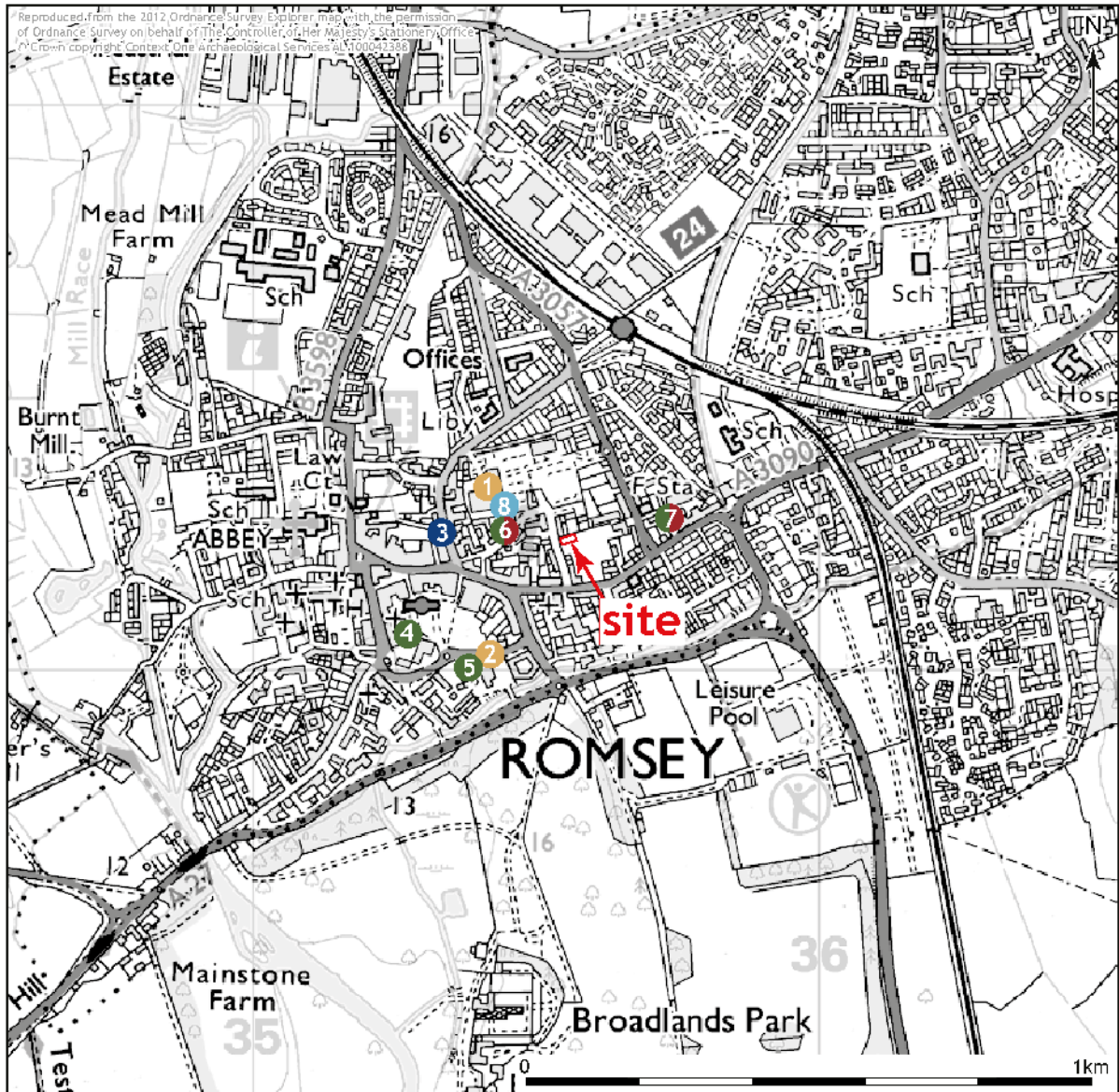
1.3 Given the recorded archaeological and historical data for the environs, particularly that identified in the heritage statement (Milby 2010), it was considered that archaeological features/deposits could be present on the Site, and that these could be damaged or destroyed by development. However, as the nature or presence of such features/deposits was unproven on the basis of currently available information, it was determined that a reasonable archaeological response would be to carry out a watching brief during all ground disturbance associated with the development.

1.4 At the request of Mr Hopkins, COAS issued a *Written Scheme of Investigation for An Archaeological Watching Brief* (Milby 2011), which provided a strategy for the archaeological works. This was submitted to and approved by Mr Hopkins prior to the commencement of the watching brief. Mr Hopkins was kept fully informed during the project. It was not deemed necessary to make a monitoring visit to the Site.

1.5 The request for the archaeological work follows advice given by Central Government as formerly set out in Planning Policy Statement (PPS) 5: Planning for the Historic Environment (2010) and the Local Development Framework Policy on Archaeology.

## 2. Site Location, topography and geology

2.1 The Site (centred on NGR SU 35595 21224) is situated towards the centre of Romsey, ca. 500m to the east of the abbey, in an area of land bounded by Linden Road to the west, The Hundred to the south and by the A3057 - Alma Road - to the east. The local topography is dominated by the River Test, which flows in several channels approximately 1km to the west, with the Site located on a terrace above the floodplain at an altitude of ca. 17.50m above Ordnance Datum (aOD) (Slator and McConnell 2009).



- |  |                                     |
|--|-------------------------------------|
| 1. HER No. 54808 findspot (paleolithic hand axe)                 | 5. HER No. 27340 rammed chalk floor |
| 2. HER No. 27241 findspots (paleolithic hand axes)               | 6. HER No. 27400 2 postholes        |
| 3. HER No. 24987 small enclosures                                | HER No. 54594 Boundary and pits     |
| 4. HER No. 24923 12th, 13th and 14th century domestic occupation | 7. HER No. 50255 ditch              |
|  | 8. HER No. 24984 ditch              |



- Paleolithic
- Iron Age
- Anglo-Saxon
- Medieval
- Post medieval

**PROJECT TITLE**

Linden Lodge, Linden Gardens,  
Romsey, Hampshire

**FIGURE TITLE**

Site setting showing locations of relevant  
archaeological events

**SCALE**

as shown

**PROJECT CODE**

C1/WBF/11/LGR

**FIGURE NO.**

**1**

- 2.2 The underlying geology is on the interface between Eocene London Clay and Barton, Bracklesham and Bagshot Beds of the Palaeogene (BGS 2012). This was confirmed during the archaeological work previously undertaken on the Site. The soils in this area are characterised by freely draining slightly acid but base-rich soils (COAS 2010).

### 3. Archaeological and Historical Background

- 3.1 The archaeological background for the Site has largely been drawn from secondary sources and the results of previous work by COAS, including an evaluation (Slator and McConnell 2006) and two watching briefs (Place 2009; Slator and McConnell 2009), and summarised in a Heritage Statement (Milby 2010; see **Figure 2**). The former comprised a data search of archaeological records held by Hampshire Council as part of the Hampshire Archaeology and Historic Buildings Record (HAHBR; **Figure 1** and **Appendix 1**) and other published and unpublished secondary sources, such as English Heritage's Extensive Urban Survey for Romsey (Edwards 1999).

#### **Prehistoric (- AD43)**

- 3.2 Numerous Palaeolithic flint artefacts have been recovered from the town and its environs, presumably during small scale gravel extraction or development on the underlying Pleistocene river terrace deposits. Palaeolithic hand axes have been located within 250m of the Site at Albany Road and near Palmerstone Street (**Figure 1**, 1 and 2).
- 3.3 Evidence for later prehistoric settlement or activity in or close to the town centre is poorly resolved but indicates the potential for Iron Age settlement to the south of the Abbey - perhaps located on an island or raised area within the floodplain - and also to the east of the town centre in the Orchard Lane car park area. Elsewhere, isolated late prehistoric artefacts indicate activity adjacent to the river channels, although there is insufficient evidence to determine its extent or character.

#### **Iron Age and Romano-British (700BC - AD450)**

- 3.4 Iron Age pottery was recovered from a ditch (**Figure 1**, 8) ca. 100m north west of the Site and a single fragment of Roman tile was found during the watching brief on the Site (Slator and McConnell 2009) but only small quantities of material of this date have been found elsewhere in the town.

#### **Anglo-Saxon (AD451 - AD1065)**

- 3.5 Romsey has Anglo-Saxon origins, with its formative years dominated by the founding and development of the abbey and nunnery, traditionally dated to AD907. It may have developed from a pre-existing collegiate minster, with the nunnery itself founded in the 9th century. In any event, the early 10th-century foundation appears to have lapsed as it was re-founded in AD967 by King Edgar.
- 3.6 The Site lies to the east of the historic core of the town, with the majority of finds of this date located to the west in the Holbrook area or adjacent to the Abbey and probably located, in common with any earlier settlement, on an island or area of high ground within the floodplain. Three ditches containing Saxon pottery were excavated approximately 180m west of the Site in the Orchard House car park (**Figure 1**, 3) and may represent closes or paddocks.
- 3.7 From among several features tentatively dated to the period a circular feature was interpreted as a possible mid-Saxon smelting pit (**Figure 2**) on typological grounds (F. Green pers. comm. in Slator and McConnell 2006). Alternatively, it could have been associated with other industrial activities, such as bronze-casting. A number of other features were also identified, probably representing agricultural activity.



<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><span style="border: 1px solid red; display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 10px; margin-right: 5px;"></span> Site extents</li> <li><span style="display: inline-block; width: 10px; height: 10px; background-color: green; margin-right: 5px;"></span> Profile location</li> <li><span style="display: inline-block; width: 10px; height: 10px; background-color: blue; margin-right: 5px;"></span> Saxo-Norman</li> <li><span style="display: inline-block; width: 10px; height: 10px; background-color: brown; margin-right: 5px;"></span> Mid-Saxon</li> <li><span style="display: inline-block; width: 10px; height: 10px; background-color: orange; margin-right: 5px;"></span> Medieval</li> <li><span style="display: inline-block; width: 10px; height: 10px; background-color: green; margin-right: 5px;"></span> Modern</li> <li><span style="display: inline-block; width: 10px; height: 10px; background-color: lightblue; margin-right: 5px;"></span> Undated</li> </ul>	<b>PROJECT TITLE</b> Linden Lodge, Linden Gardens, Romsey, Hampshire	
	<b>FIGURE TITLE</b> Detailed site setting showing previously identified features	
	<b>SCALE</b> as shown	<b>PROJECT CODE</b> C1/WBF/11/LGR



### **Medieval (AD1066 - AD1547)**

- 3.8 The Site lies to the east of the area occupied by the medieval town, which developed to the east of the abbey precinct around the triangular market and along the principal roads, such as The Hundred and Church Street. That part of the town that lies immediately to the west, i.e. those properties flanking The Hundred, may have developed from the 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> centuries (Edwards 1999), although the earliest development is likely to have been closest to the market place (**Figure 1**, 4). Palmerston Road may be a later, 16<sup>th</sup> century addition; however a rammed chalk floor behind No. 19 may be of medieval date (**Figure 1**, 5). Saxo-Norman and Medieval features, some associated with small amounts of slag and charcoal have been identified during recent investigations on the Site (**Figure 2**; Slator and McConnell 2009)

### **Post-medieval and Modern (AD1548 -)**

- 3.9 Postholes, pits and ditches east and west of the Site have included Medieval with Post-medieval pottery (**Figure 1**, 6 and 7) but do not reflect any great intensification of activity in the area. Indeed, Linden Lane itself may only have been built-up in the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

## **4. Methodology**

### **Groundwork**

- 4.1 A 360 degree tracked machine fitted with a toothless grading bucket was used to remove the topsoil and previously disturbed ground around a manhole was removed by hand. The machine excavation was carried out under archaeological supervision which showed that excavation did not penetrate beyond modern made up layers.

### **Archaeological Methodology**

- 4.2 The archaeological work was carried out in accordance with the codes, standards and guidelines set out by the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA 1985, rev. 2010; 1990, rev. 2008; 1994, rev. 2008) at all times during the course of the investigation. Current Health and Safety legislation and guidelines were followed on site.
- 4.3 All deposits were recorded using standard COAS pro-forma recording sheets. Stratigraphic relationships were recorded using a 'Harris-Winchester matrix' diagram. A digital photographic record comprised images of the excavated profile and working shots to illustrate the nature of the archaeological operation mounted.
- 4.4 The archaeological work comprised entirely of the observation of groundworks and recording. The location, extent and altitude of the archaeological work were mapped using a TopCon GRS-1 Global Positioning System receiving real-time calibrations to produce accuracies of 1-2cm.

## **5. Results**

- 5.1 The deposits encountered during fieldwork are described in the text. Context numbers for layers and deposits appear in standard brackets, e.g. (101).

### **Soil sequence**

- 5.2 Removal of the topsoil exposed a lightly humic topsoil over the north area of the Site (**Plate 1**). A service trench was the main object of the survey (**Plates 2 and 3**) and a soils profile was recorded on its south side. The upper layer (100) incorporated a distinctive building rubble horizon sealed by the tarmac of a garden path (**Plate 4**). Below it was a silt largely free of inclusions.
- 5.3 No other features or archaeological deposits were found and no artefacts were recovered.



Plate 1. North boundary of the Site (from WSW)



Plate 2. Service trench and beyond (from W)



Plate 3. Service trench (from NE)



Plate 4. Profile (from NNW)

## 6. Conclusions

Previous archaeological investigation demonstrated that the Site had significant archaeological potential, and indeed previous work by COAS has identified significant Saxon and Medieval features and finds in adjacent areas (Milby 2010). No further such remains were discovered during this project but this is more likely to reflect the fact that the groundworks did not penetrate below the topsoil which was laid over recently made-up ground. The results are neither a positive nor a negative indication of underlying archaeology.

## 7. Archive

- 7.1 The Site archive is currently held at the offices of Context One Archaeological Services Ltd and consists of 21 digital images in .jpg format, including a profile and various registers. There were no scaled drawings due to the lack of significant archaeological features. The archive will be prepared to comply with guidelines set out in *Environmental Standards for the Permanent Storage of Excavated Material from Archaeological Sites* (UKIC 1984, Conservation Guidelines 3)/ *Guidelines for the Preparation of Excavation Archives for Long-term Storage* (UKIC 1990)/ *Standards in the Museums Care of Archaeological Collections* (Museum and Galleries Commission 1992)/ *Management of Archaeological Projects 2* (English Heritage 1991). Arrangements will be made to deposit the archive with Hampshire County Council Museums Service within 12 months following the submission of this report. Copies of the Watching Brief report will be deposited with:

**Hemdean Builders Ltd**  
Hemdean House  
39 Chapel Road  
West End  
Southampton  
SO30 3FG

**Hampshire County Council Museums Service**  
The Castle  
Winchester  
Hampshire  
SO23 8UJ

## 8. COAS Acknowledgements

- 8.1 Context One Archaeological Services Ltd would like to thank Hemdean Builders Ltd for their assistance during the course of the project. We are also grateful to Mr David Hopkins (County Archaeologist Hampshire County Council) for curatorial advice.

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Appendix 1. Hampshire Archaeology and Historic Buildings Record for archaeological events within the environs of the Site.

SMR No.	Description	NGR	Figure 1 ref.
<b>Prehistoric ( – AD43)</b>			
HAHBR 54808	Hand axe: Paleolithic	SU 35500 21400	1
HAHBR 27241	Hand axes: Paleolithic. Four mid Acheulian hand-axes were reputedly found in this area, three pointed and one ovate. Not verified	SU 35500 21100	2
HAHBR 24984	Ditch: Slightly curved. Contained Iron Age pottery	SU 35450 21280	8
<b>Anglo-Saxon (AD450 - AD1065)</b>			
HAHBR 24987	Small enclosures: Three ditches and pit containing Mid to Late Saxon pottery, and possibly some Early. Possible associated posthole	SU 35420 21320	3
HAHBR 24924	Pottery: Isolated finds from excavation	SU 35360 21140	4
<b>Medieval (AD1066 - AD1547)</b>			
HAHBR 24923	Occupation site: 12 <sup>th</sup> -14 <sup>th</sup> century	SU 35360 21140	4
HAHBR 27340	Floor: Rammed chalk on natural gravel. Possibly Medieval	SU 35470 21080	5
HAHBR 27400	Post hole: Two large post holes	SU 35450 21250	6
HAHBR 50255	Ditch: Curvilinear, possibly Late Medieval continuing into Post Medieval	SU 35740 21270	7
<b>Post Medieval (AD1548 - AD1799)</b>			
HAHBR 54594	Boundary and pits: Contained Medieval and Post Medieval pottery	SU 35454 21267	6