

Archaeological Evaluation Report

SOLENT ROAD HAVANT

For Chancerygate Limited

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L~P:ARCHÆOLOGY

Archaeological Evaluation Report

SOLENT ROAD HAVANT

Client: Chancerygate Limited

Local Authority: Havant Borough Council

NGR: 471 105, 106157

Planning App: APP/21/00601

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Doc Ref: LP3704L-AER-v1.3

Site Code: LP3704L

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Abstract

A programme of archaeological evaluation was carried out on land north of Solent Road, Havant, PO9 1DQ. The programme was implemented in support of the submission of a planning application. The work was carried out by L - P : Archaeology. This report has been prepared by Cornelius Barton, Georgina Moore and Florence Loader of L - P : Archaeology on behalf of Chancerygate Limited.

The objective of the evaluation was to establish the presence or absence of archaeological remains on the site, and to collect enough information on the buried archaeological remains to allow a suitable mitigation strategy to be devised.

The purpose of this document is to describe the fieldwork results. No significant archaeological remains were encountered and therefore it is recommended that no further archaeological fieldwork is required in relation to this planning application.

1. Introduction

- 1.1. This archaeological evaluation report has been prepared by Cornelius Barton, Georgina Moore and Florence Loader of L - P : Archaeology on behalf of Chancerygate Limited. The fieldwork was carried out by Cornelius Barton and Jon Martin of L - P : Archaeology in May 2021. The project manager was Cornelius Barton.
- 1.2. The site is located on land north of Solent Road, Havant, PO9 1DQ hereafter referred to as 'the site'. The site is centred on National Grid Reference 471105, 106157. (FIGURE 1) (FIGURE 2)
- 1.3. The evaluation was targeted on the core area proposed for development within the site which covers an area of approximately 0.95 hectares.
- 1.4. The site code LP3704L has been assigned by L - P : Archaeology.
- 1.5. The work was carried out in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) prepared by L - P : Archaeology (BARTON 2020B).

2. Site Background

2.1.PLANNING

- 2.1.1. A Desk Based Assessment and Heritage Statement (DBA) (BARTON 2020A) and WSI (BARTON 2020B) were prepared prior to the submission of a planning application for the development of the site into a new Portsmouth Water PLC headquarters office building with three commercial units and associated landscaping and hardstanding for access drive and car park.
- 2.1.2. A planning application has since been submitted. The application reference is AP/21/00601.
- 2.1.3. This archaeological evaluation has been completed in support of planning application AP/21/00601. The results of this evaluation will be used to inform the need for any further archaeological works on this site.
- 2.1.4. This document describes work carried out in accordance with the agreed WSI (BARTON 2020B).

2.2.GEOLOGY

- 2.2.1. The British Geological Survey Onshore Geoindex shows the bedrock geology is undifferentiated chalk formation and the superficial geology is alluvium and river terrace deposits (BRITISH GEOLOGICAL SURVEY 2021).
- 2.2.2. A geotechnical assessment of the site provided by the client (NELSON 2019) recorded a variable thickness of topsoil and Made Ground, which is in turn underlain by superficial deposits comprising of Alluvium, Head Deposits and River Terrace Deposits, followed by Chalk bedrock. Monitoring of standpipes identified shallow groundwater at the site.
- 2.2.3. The superficial geology seen during the evaluation consisted of River Terrace Gravel with patches of alluvial silts and clay.

2.3.TOPOGRAPHY

- 2.3.1. The site is located off Solent Road, approximately 0.5km west of Havant town centre, just south of Brockhampton Springs, an area historically known for its

springs. Today the Brockhampton Springs are contained and channelled to water treatment sites at Bedhampton and Farlington. There are many capped spring heads still visible at ground level within the grounds of Portsmouth Water PLC immediately to the north of the site, as well as two ponds, which used to be reservoirs, and are now purely ornamental.

2.3.2. The site currently comprises a vacant parcel of vegetated (grassed) land with a tennis court in the north east of the site area.

2.3.3. It is bounded to the north by Brockhampton springs and soft landscaping with Portsmouth Water Company offices. The northern boundary of the site is formed by an open water course, the Brockhampton Stream. The site is bound to the east by Bosmere Medical Centre, light industrial units ('The Tanneries' industrial estate) and the rear gardens of residential properties along Brockhampton Lane. It is bounded to the west by the rear gardens of residential properties of Brockhampton Road and Manor Court and Brockhampton Stream runs along the west border, beyond the walled boundary of the site. The site is bounded by Solent Road to the south.

2.3.4. The ground is broadly flat. There is a row of trees running east – west along the north border of the site following the course of the Brockhampton Stream and north – south along the east border of the site, as well as along the south border providing screening from the busy Solent Road.

2.4.ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

2.4.1. The combined DBA and Heritage Statement were commissioned by Chancerygate Limited in 2020 (BARTON 2020A). A brief summary of the results follows. Where an item is followed by numbers in brackets, this represents its Hampshire Archaeological and Historic Buildings Record (HAHBR) ID number, as assigned by HCC.

2.4.2. A brief archaeological and historical background summary of the site was also included in the WSI (BARTON 2020B).

PREHISTORIC

2.4.3. The DBA identified four instances of Prehistoric archaeology had been

recorded within a 1km radius of the site.

- 2.4.4. These included a curvilinear ditch containing two sherds of Late Bronze Age (LBA) or Early Iron Age (EIA) pottery and a Bronze Age pit cluster, which were revealed during an evaluation 240m to the west of the site (67964); a Mesolithic core and two scrapers (23386) and a number of Neolithic type utilised flint flakes with Mesolithic tools (23387) revealed during roadworks 540m to the south east of the site; and a findspot 640m to the south east of the site of a scatter of Mesolithic flint cores and flakes (64422).

ROMAN

- 2.4.5. Havant's position on the lower slopes of Portsdown Hill was determined by the supply of fresh water from Homewell and Brockhampton Springs; the route of the Roman road between Chichester and Winchester (23354) (Margary 421) runs from east to west 160m north of the site and crosses the route of the Roman Road between Rowland's Castle and Hayling Island (Margary 425) 610m to the north east of the site. There are twenty records of Roman archaeology within 1km of the site, fourteen of which are clustered within 150m around the crossing point of these Roman Roads at the small Roman town which later became known as 'Hamma's Funta', derived from the latin word 'fontum' meaning 'spring' (70233). These can be summarised as: floor with foundation (uncovered during renovations at St. Faith's Church) (23480); well and pit (64242), occupation layer (23376); well (70232); ditch (25000); a pit and possible ditch (62034); gullies and pits (64075); pottery (found with an undated well (32450)); and isolated findspots of Roman pottery (32457), (23451), (38654) and (35252).

- 2.4.6. The proximity of the site to freshwater sources (Brockhampton Springs), the route of a Roman road and its crossing point with another at central Havant might have made it an ideal location for Roman infrastructure utilising the spring. However no evidence is visible of potential substantial underlying Roman remains in aerial photography of the open-field site.

EARLY MEDIEVAL AND MEDIEVAL

- 2.4.7. There are twenty one archaeological records from these periods within 1km of

the site and five instances of named places at Havant, Brockhampton, and Bedhampton. The main cluster of archaeology from these periods is centred upon the crossroads at Havant, with patterns of activity also evident along the route of the Roman Road towards Bedhampton and at Brockhampton.

2.4.8. Local industries based on agriculture and water developed throughout the Medieval and Post Medieval periods. The land was suitable for growing corn and grazing, and there was an abundant supply of fresh water from over twenty springs in the vicinity.

2.4.9. 235m to the north east of the site and 350m away from the crossroads at Havant there is evidence of Medieval occupation which became more intense during the Tudor period and it has been suggested that this area was used for tanning and possible parchment making. Further away from the site and clustered around the crossroads there is plentiful evidence of Medieval activity including a chalk block well and a 15th century occupation layer. The existing parish church of St Faith at the crossroads was built c. 1150 AD, probably on the site of an earlier one.

POST MEDIEVAL AND MODERN

2.4.10. From around 1600 for 300 years fellmongering, tanning and glove making prospered at Havant and in the early twentieth century West Street was characterised by its large parchment works, tanneries and brewery, all industries that thrived on the copious supplies of fresh water from the local springs. The greater part of the parish of Havant was being used for pasture.

2.4.11. The site probably remained as greenfield throughout the Post Medieval period and was described as adjacent parcels of land 'Boiling Meadow' and 'Little Meadow' in the 1840 tithe map. There was a tannery immediately to the north west of the site by 1867 which was almost certainly established by the time of the 1841 census, and for a time prior to the twentieth century the site may have been used for tanning activities. The site itself was bought by the Portsmouth Water Company by 1909 and was used as a recreation ground for its employees in the late twentieth century.

3. Aims

3.1. The general aim of the evaluation was to determine the character, date, location and preservation of any archaeological remains on the site, and to gather enough information to understand the site and its significance as fully as possible in order to place the site within the wider landscape (BARTON 2020B).

3.2. The specific aims of the evaluation, as specified in the WSI (BARTON 2020B), were:

- ◆ to investigate the presence of any activity on site that may be associated with the proximity to the Brockhampton Springs;
- ◆ to investigate the presence or absence of Roman activity on site.

3.3. The purpose of the evaluation was to collect enough information on the buried archaeological remains to allow a suitable mitigation strategy to be devised. If further mitigation works are required as a result of the evaluation these would be agreed in a separate document (BARTON 2020B).

4. Methodology

- 4.1. For a full description of the archaeological methodology please refer to the WSI (BARTON 2020B)
- 4.2. Seven targeted trenches, measuring 30m by 2m, were located to sample 4% of the total area impacted by the development. Of these, one trench (Trench 1) could not be excavated to the presence of existing services (FIGURE 3).
- 4.3. Given the results from the other trenches it is not considered that the omission of Trench 1 will impact the aims of the evaluation.
- 4.4. The trenches were excavated by means of a mechanical excavator with a 2m wide toothless ditching bucket. All mechanical excavation was conducted under the supervision of a qualified archaeologist.

5. Results

- 5.1. Deposit numbers are given in (parentheses), cut numbers in [square brackets] and masonry numbers are underlined. Depths are supplied in measurements below ground level (m BGL). Trenches are referred to as Tr 1, Tr 2 etc.
- 5.2. The sequence across the site consisted of a dark grey-brown topsoil overlying a paler grey-brown subsoil. Below this was the superficial geology, consisting of mixed alluvial gravel and silts (Head deposits). Natural was generally present at 0.4-0.45m BGL.
- 5.3. Tr 7 contained a shallow, NE-SW aligned linear (**FIGURE 4**). No dating evidence was recovered, but the linear was cut through the subsoil (702) and was clearly of recent origin. A possible irregular feature [705] was also investigated, but proved to be of natural origin. A small circular structure of modern brick was also observed in the NE end of the trench.
- 5.4. Tr 6 contained a shallow linear on a NW-SE alignment (**FIGURE 5**). This was again cut through the subsoil (602), and contained modern tile and pottery fragments.
- 5.5. No other archaeological features were present.

6. Finds

- 6.1. The only artefactual material recovered was of clearly modern origin, and none of the finds were retained.

7. Summary and Conclusions

- 7.1. Planning permission has been submitted for the development of land north of Solent Road, Havant into a new Portsmouth Water PLC headquarters office building with three commercial units and associated landscaping and hardstanding access and car park.
- 7.2. To support the submission of the planning application an archaeological evaluation was undertaken in order to determine the presence or absence of archaeological remains on the site.
- 7.3. No significant archaeological remains were found during this evaluation.
- 7.4. Based on these results, further fieldwork is not considered necessary on the site in order to mitigate the impact of the development.

8. Archive

8.1.The archive consists of:

- ◆ 5 x Scanned Drawing Film
- ◆ 1 x Photographic Register
- ◆ 1 x Folder Containing Digital Images
- ◆ 2 x Scanned Context Sheets
- ◆ 14 x Scanned Trench Sheets

8.2.The archive is to be deposited with an appropriate local museum.

SOURCES CONSULTED

BIBLIOGRAPHIC

BARTON, S., 2020a. *Archaeological Desk Based Assessment - Land North of Solent Road Havant*. London: L - P : Archaeology.

BARTON, S., 2020b. *Written Scheme of Investigation - Solent Road, Havant*. London: L - P : Archaeology.

BRITISH GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, 2021. 'British Geological Survey GeoIndex'. Available at:
<http://www.bgs.ac.uk/geoindex>.

NELSON, A., 2019. *Phase I/II Geo-Environmental Assessment - Solent Road, Havant*. Delta-Simons Environmental Consultants Limited.

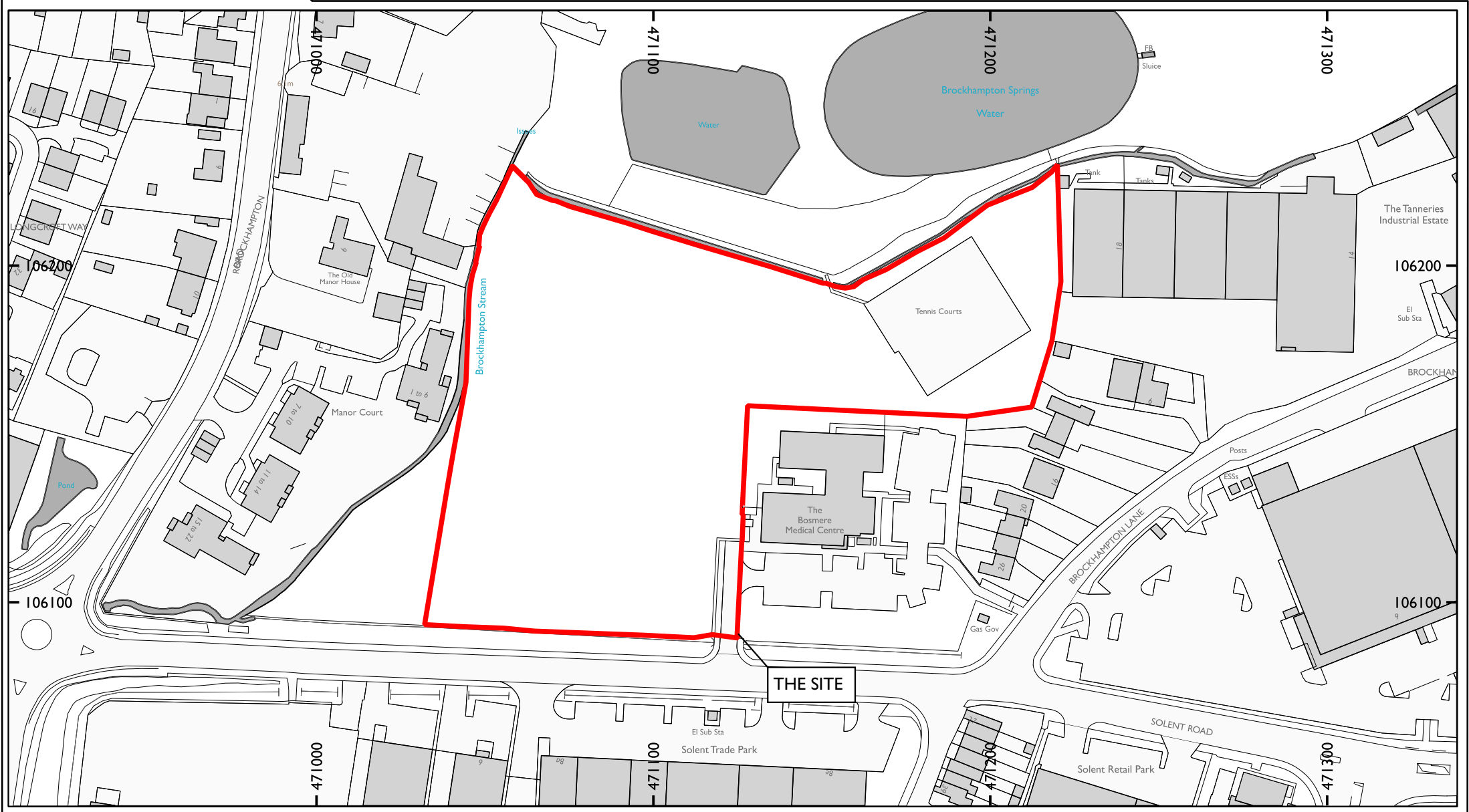
FIGURES

This is a detailed street map of the Havant area. The map shows a dense network of roads, including Ernest Road, Hook's Lane, Woodgreen Avenue, Stockheath Lane, and many others. A red dot marks 'THE SITE' on Solent Road, just north of Brockhampton. The map also shows the locations of 'The Olde Coach House' and 'Langstone'. The map is oriented with North at the top.

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0 500 m

FIGURE 2 // Site Location - Detail



THE SITE

PROJECT // 3704L - Solent Road Havant

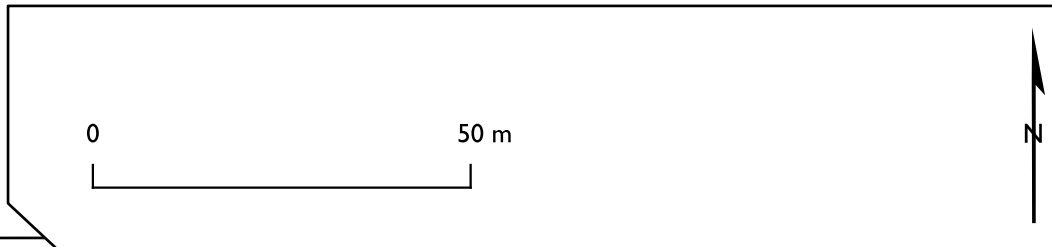
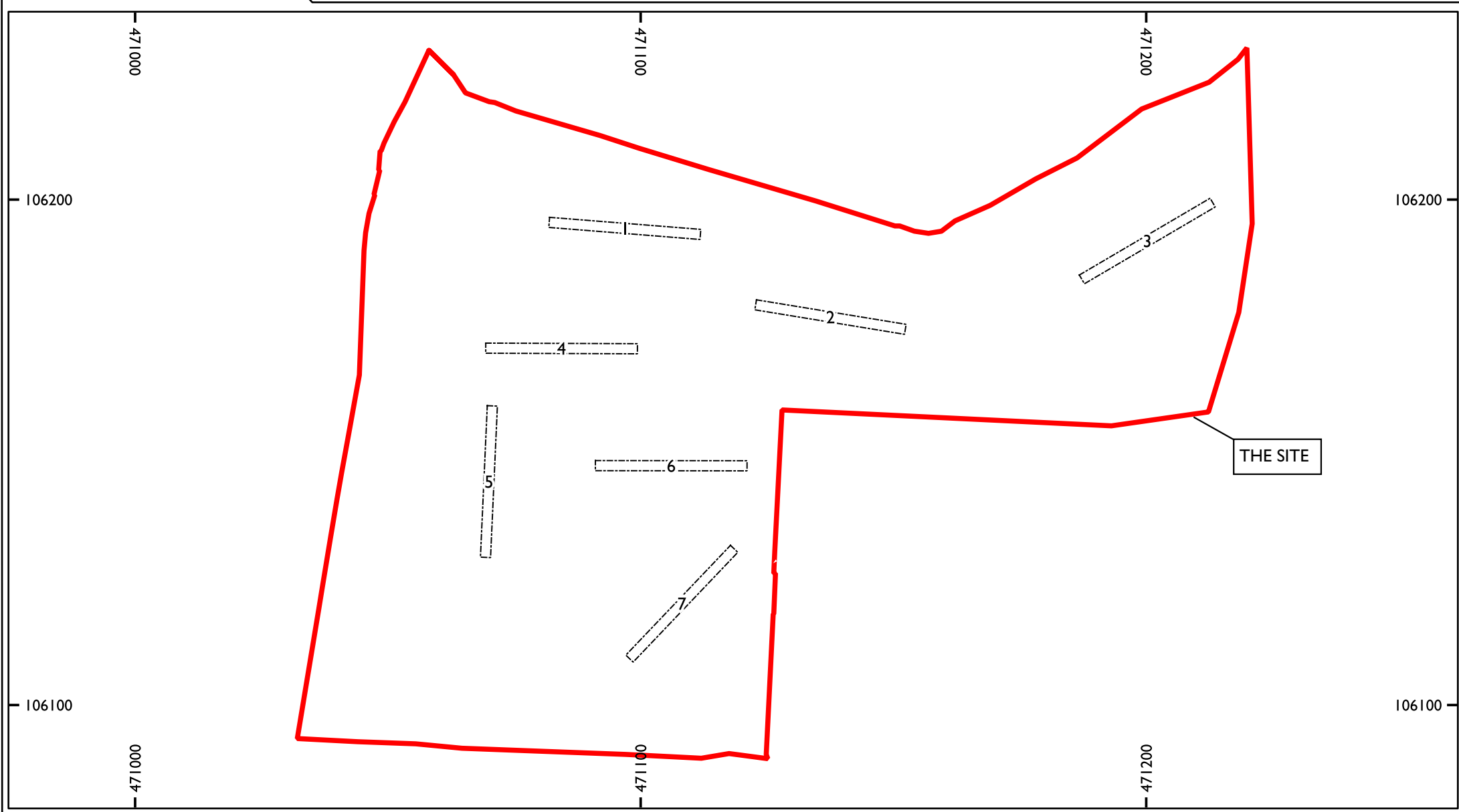
DESCRIPTION // Site Location

Contains OS data © Crown Copyright 2021 Ordnance Survey 100041041

DOC REF: LP3704L-AER-v1

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FIGURE 3 // Trench Locations



PROJECT // 3704L - Solent Road Havant

DESCRIPTION // Trench Locations

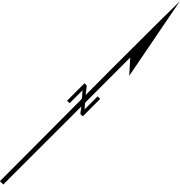
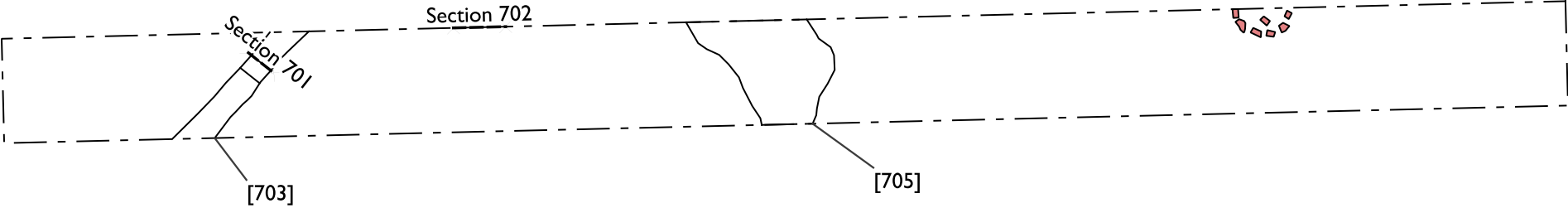
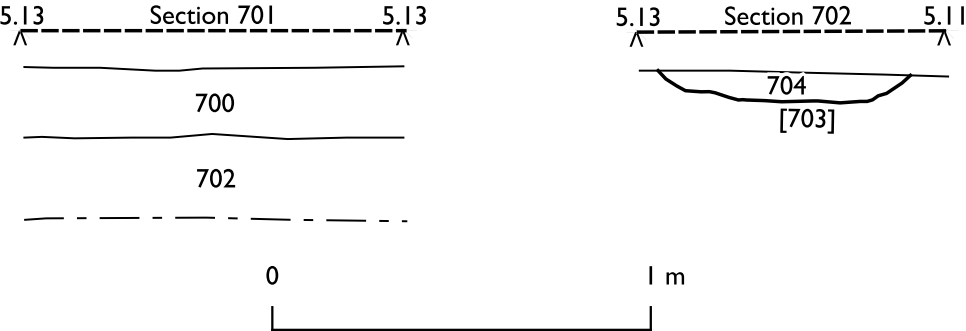
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DOC REF: LP3704L-AER-v1

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FIGURE 4 // Trench 7

Representative Sections 701 and 702



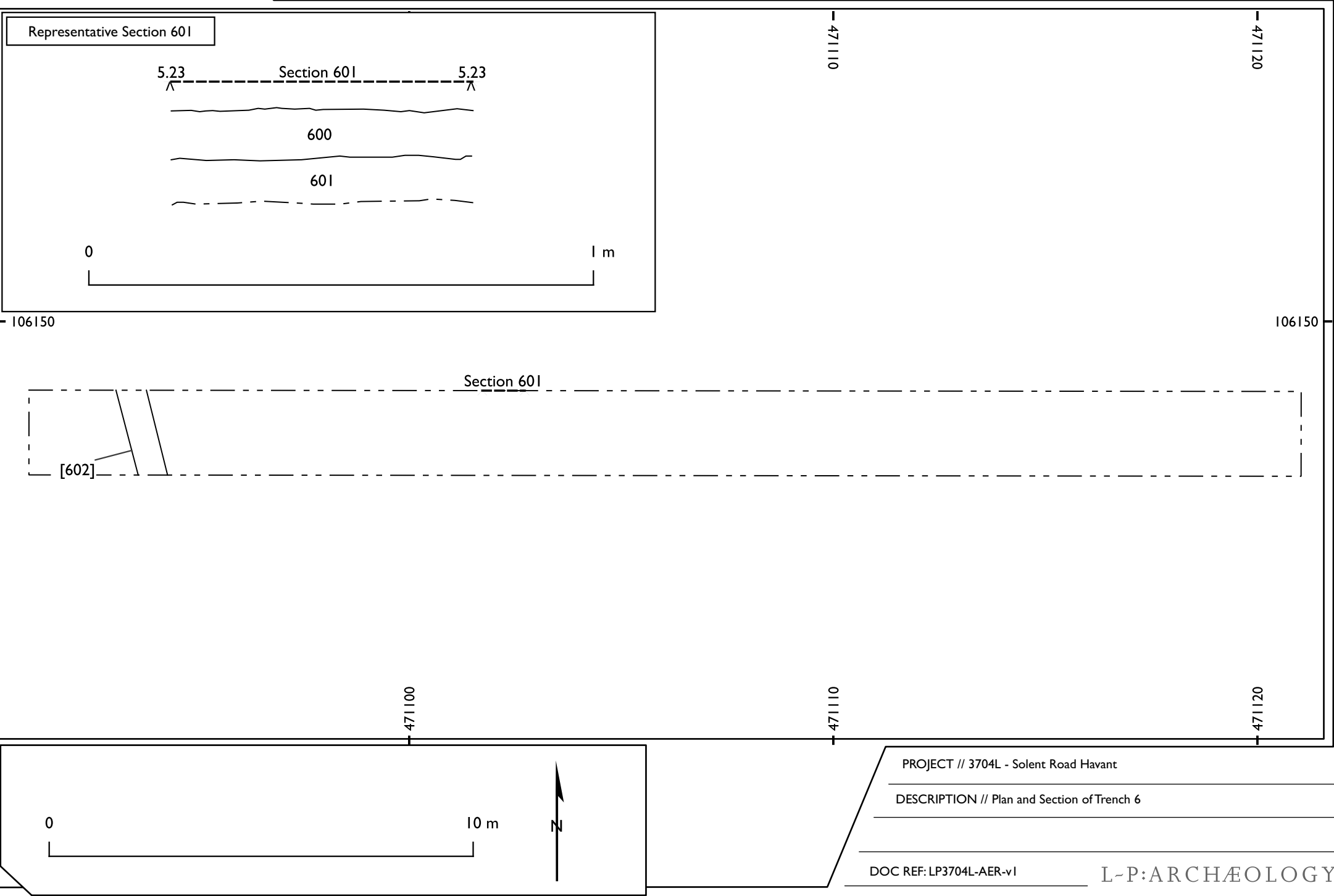
PROJECT // 3704L - Solent Road Havant

DESCRIPTION // Plan and Section of Trench 7

DOC REF: LP3704L-AER-v1

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FIGURE 5 // Trench 6



OASIS FORM

APPENDIX I

Summary for Iparchae1-502200

OASIS ID (UID)	Iparchae1-502200
Project Name	Evaluation at Solent Road Havant
Activity type	Evaluation
Project Identifier(s)	3704L
Planning Id	AP/21/00601
Reason For Investigation	Planning: Between application and determination
Organisation Responsible for work	L - P : Archaeology
Project Dates	05-May-2021 - 07-May-2021
Location	Solent Road Havant NGR : SU 71105 06157 LL : 50.8505706489472, - 0.991298404637533 12 Fig : 471105,106157
Administrative Areas	Country : England County : Hampshire District : Havant Parish : Havant, unparished area
Project Methodology	Archaeological Evaluation for ground works in support of the submission of a planning application.
Project Results	No significant archaeological remains were encountered.
Keywords	
HER	Hampshire Archaeology and Historic Buildings Record (AHBR) - unRev - STANDARD
HER Identifiers	
Archives	DIGITAL - to be deposited with Archaeology Data Service Archive