



Report on Archaeological Works at 29 Bedhampton Road, Havant, Hampshire

May 2014

NON-TECHNICAL SUMMARY

This document sets out the results from archaeological works carried out by West Sussex Archaeology Ltd during development works, on behalf of the owner, at 29 Bedhampton Road, Havant, Hampshire. The site lies immediately adjacent to the presumed course of a Roman road. No archaeological remains were revealed by these works, save for a single modern post-hole.

BACKGROUND

Topographical Background

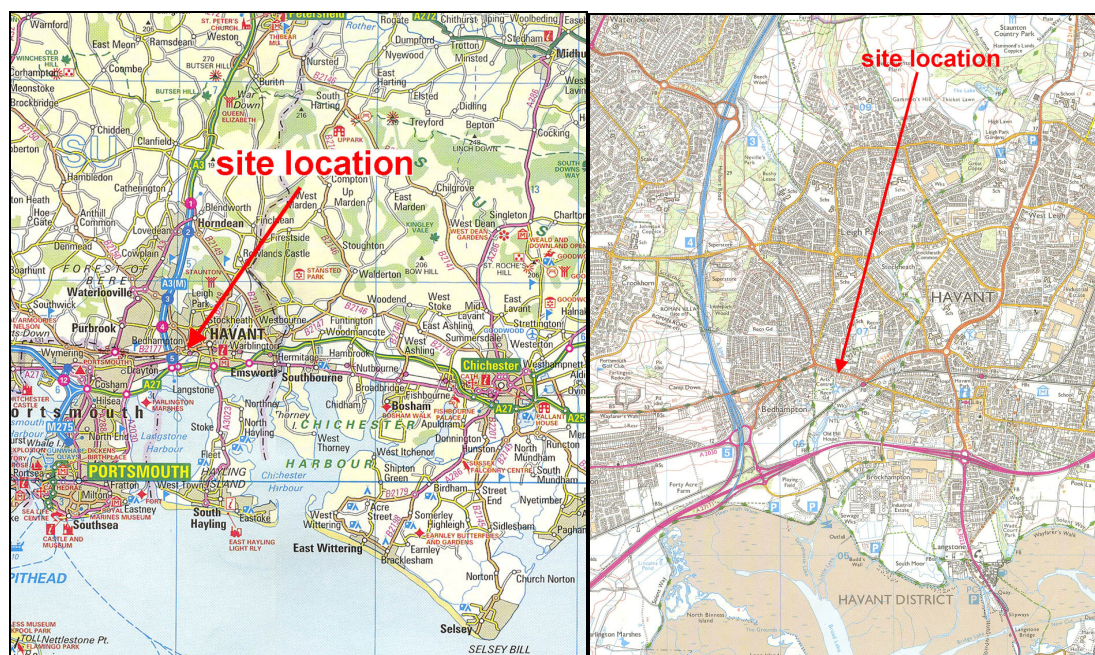


Figure 1 Site location. © Crown copyright. All rights reserved. License number: AL100036068

1. 29 Bedhampton Road lies in the angle between King's Croft Lane and Bedhampton Road (B2177) on the west side of what is now part of the town of Havant in Hampshire (see Fig.1). The site lies at c. 11.5m aOD and is centred at OS grid reference SU 7050 0661. The underlying geology of the site is the clay, silt, sand and gravel of the Lambeth Group.

Planning Background

1. The owner of 29 Bedhampton Road has obtained planning permission (APP/14/00008) from Havant Borough Council for the construction of three terraced houses, incorporating access and parking, in the north-eastern part of the site. Condition 4 of that planning permission states that: "No development which leads to works below existing ground or floor levels shall take place until the applicant has secured the implementation of an archaeological monitoring and recording action (watching brief) in accordance with a specification that has been submitted to and approved in writing by the Planning Authority."
2. West Sussex Archaeology Ltd (WSA) was appointed by the owner of 29 Bedhampton Road to carry out the archaeological works required to meet this condition. A Written Scheme of Investigation, drawn up by

WSA, set out the methodology used in order to fulfil the terms of the condition (WSA 2014).

3. This report details the results of that archaeological work, which was carried out on 9th May 2014 by George Anelay of WSA. The project archive, which consists solely of paperwork, will be deposited with Hampshire County Council's Museum Service.

Historical Background

1. Bedhampton Road is presumed to follow the line of the Roman road that runs between Havant and Clausentum. The historic village of Bedhampton lay to the south of the road, grouped around the 12th century church, and c.300m to the south-west of the development site. Historic mapping indicates that the site itself, in the late 18th century and for much of the 19th century, formed part of a field. Sometime between 1868 and 1897 the current building was erected to serve as a school. There are no known archaeological records relating to the site itself, although the proximity of the Roman road, which passes immediately to the north, makes it possible that remains associated with it may survive on the site.
2. Archaeological works were carried out in the north-western and southern parts of the site by West Sussex Archaeology Ltd in May 2013 during development works associated with the conversion of the school building (see Fig.2). No archaeological remains were revealed by these works, the only features present being associated with the use of the 19th century school building.

RESULTS

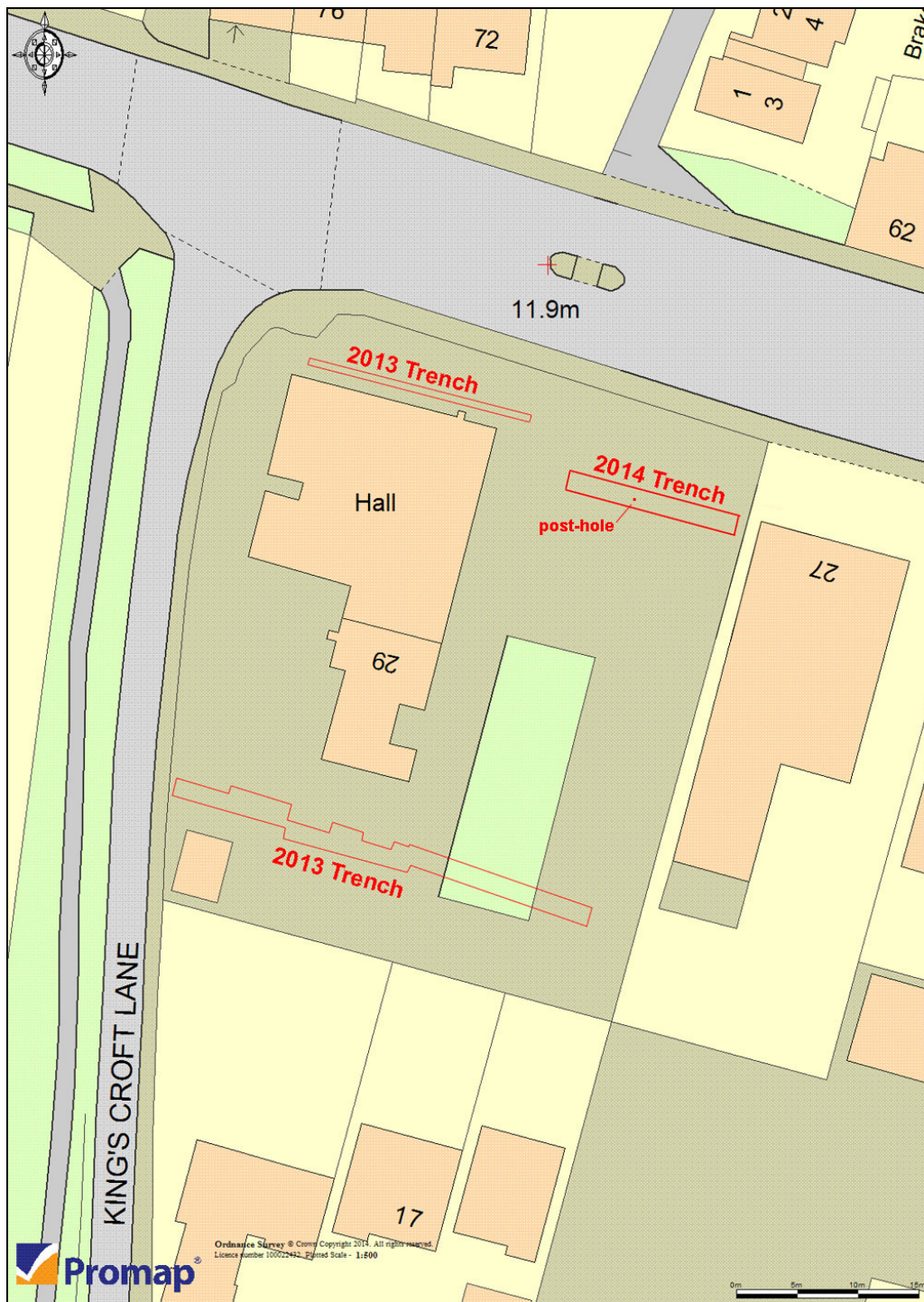


Figure 2 Site plan indicating position of the 2014 investigation trench and the 2013 trenches.

1. A single archaeological investigation trench, 1.5m wide and 14.5m long, was excavated over the site of the proposed terraced houses to ascertain whether any archaeological remains were likely to exist in area to be affected (see Fig.2).



Figure 3 The investigation trench looking east. The scale is 1m.

2. Above the undisturbed geology, which was composed of grey/yellow/orange clay with extensive patches of flint gravel and lay at c.0.6m below the current ground surface, was a layer of mid brown clay silt, 0.25m thick, containing abundant gravel and occasional chalk flecks. This silt layer matches that found in the 2013 trenches to the south and west and is almost certainly the historic ploughsoil of the field within which the 19th century school was built.



Figure 4 Sample sections in the investigation trench at the east end (to the left, looking south) and west end (to the right, looking north). The scale is 1m.

3. Overlying this layer, below the modern tarmac surface and its associated make-up layer (0.2m thick), was a second silt layer of a much darker grey/brown colour than the ploughsoil and up to 0.3m thick. This appears to have truncated the ploughsoil for much of the western end of the trench. It is not clear what this layer represents, but it may be associated with the construction of the school, although no building rubble was noted within it.



Figure 5 The post-hole, looking east. The scale is 0.5m.

4. Lying approximately central to the trench and c.6.m from its western end a single sub-rectangular post-hole, 0.34m deep, was revealed, filled with soil identical to the ploughsoil above and containing a single post-medieval/modern peg-tile fragment and a sherd of 19th century pottery. It is not clear what the purpose of this was, but it may have been linked to the adjacent school.

CONCLUSION

1. No evidence was found during these or the previous 2013 excavations for any Roman activity on the site. It would therefore appear that, for this stretch of the roadside at least, there was no associated settlement. It is possible that the agricultural use of the land, seen on 18th and 19th century mapping and evidenced by the ploughsoil noted in the trenches, extended back in time into medieval and earlier periods.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

West Sussex Archaeology. 2014. ***Written Specification for Archaeological Works at 29 Bedhampton Road, Havant, Hampshire.*** Unpublished.