47A Bevois Valley Road,
Southampton, Hampshire

Archaeological Watching Brief

by David Platt

Site Code: BVR14/33
SOU1653
(SU 4254 1320)
47A Bevois Valley Road, Southampton, Hampshire

An Archaeological Watching Brief
for Radian Group

by David Platt
Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd

Site Code SOU1653

April 2014
Summary

Site name: 47A Bevois Valley Road, Southampton, Hampshire

Grid reference: SU 4254 1320

Site activity: Archaeological Watching Brief

Date and duration of project: 17th – 21st February 2014

Project manager: Steve Ford

Site supervisor: Genni Elliot

Site code: SOU1653

Area of site: c. 100 sq m

Summary of results: A single pit of late post-medieval date was observed in a foundation trench dug on the south west of the site. The groundworks to the south exposed the natural geology whereas those to the north did not. No deposits of archaeological interest were recorded.

Location and reference of archive: The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited at Southampton City Museum in due course.

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Report edited/checked by: Steve Ford 25.04.14
                          Steve Preston 23.04.14
Introduction

This report documents the results of an archaeological watching brief carried out at 47a Bevois Valley Road, Southampton, Hampshire, SO14 OJS (SU 4254 1320) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Mr Chris Edmonds, of Edmonds Associates, 1-3 Lyon Street, Southampton, Hampshire SO14 0LD, on behalf of the Radian Group, Collins House, Bishopstoke Road, Eastleigh, Hampshire, SO50 6AD.

Planning permission (13/00295/FUL) has been gained from Southampton City Council for redevelopment of the site for the construction of six new apartments. The consent is subject to two conditions (16 and 17) which relate to archaeology. As a requirement of the planning consent, a watching brief has been requested as set out in the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF 2012) and the City’s policies on archaeology. This work is to take place during groundworks as a result of the possibility of damage or destruction of archaeological deposits. The field investigation was carried out to a specification approved by Mr Kevin White, Southampton City Archaeologist. The fieldwork was undertaken by Genni Elliot between 17th and 21st February 2014 and the site code is SOU1653. The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited at Southampton City Museum in due course.

Location, topography and geology

The site is located on an irregular parcel of land covering around 460 sq m, bordered to the east by Bevois Valley Road and to the west by Earls Road (Fig. 2). The site is 360m west of the River Itchen and c.3km north of the River Test, at an elevation of c. 5m above Ordnance Datum and the underlying geology is Wittering Formation (BGS, 1987) and this was observed in the southernmost trenches as a yellowish brown sandy gravel.

Archaeological background

The site lies on the boundary of a ‘Local Area of Archaeological Potential’ (zone 7) defined in the City of Southampton Core Strategy (2010). This area includes a range of sites around Bannister’s Park with a number of prehistoric, Roman and medieval sites and finds recorded. To the south-east is Northam Farm, first recorded in
the 9th century. The site generally lies close to the River Itchen and on the opposite bank to the substantial
defended Roman settlement *Clausentum* (Bitterne Manor) (Cotton and Gathercole 1958).

**Objectives and methodology**

The aims of the project were to excavate and record any archaeological deposits affected by the construction of
the new apartments. The work was to involve the examination of all areas of intrusive groundworks, such as
ground reduction, the digging of foundation trenches, deep service trenches and other intrusive structures such as
soakaways. Archaeological deposits which were exposed were to be recorded but not further excavated unless
they were threatened by the groundworks. Foundation trenches were dug using a machine fitted with a toothless
bucket and excavation was temporarily ceased when archaeological deposits were encountered above the
formation level.

**Results**

The foundation trenches were 0.75m wide and c.1.25m deep (Fig. 3 and Pl. 1). The stratigraphy observed in the
foundation trenches (Fig. 4) typically consisted of 0.14m of Tarmac (50) overlying 0.46m of dark greyish brown
sandy clay (51), this in turn overlay 0.23m of dark greyish brown sandy clay (52) which overlay 0.40m of pale
greyish brown sandy clay (54) which in turn overlay the natural gravel geology (53). However, to the north a
thick deposit of brick rubble was encountered and the natural geology was not observed.

A single pit (1) of post medieval date was observed in the westernmost trench (Pl. 2). This was 0.68m in
diameter and 0.50m deep and contained a single fill (55) which consisted of a dark grey brown sandy clay loam
with occasional gravel inclusions. It contained pottery, clay pipe and glazed brick (not retained) and is likely to
be of 18th or 19th century date.

**Pottery** by Genni Elliott

Five sherds from the same English Stoneware vessel weighing 219g were recovered from pit 1 (55) of 18th, 19th
century date.
Clay Pipe by Genni Elliott

Two clay pipe stems weighing 4g were recovered from pit 1(55) of 17th/18th century date.

Brick by Danielle Milbank

One fragment of purple glazed brick weighing 120g was recovered from pit 1(55) of 17th/18th century date.

Conclusion

Only a single post-medieval pit was observed during the groundworks and nothing of archaeological interest was recorded. The natural geology was only exposed for parts of the site.

References

**APPENDIX 1: Feature details**

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<td>55</td>
<td>Pit</td>
<td>Post medieval (18th/19th Century)</td>
<td>Pottery, clay pipe</td>
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Figure 1. Location of site within Southampton and Hampshire.

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Figure 2. Detailed location of site off Bevois Valley Road.

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Figure 3. Location of observed areas.

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Natural geology observed
Natural geology not observed

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Figure 4. Representative section.
Plate 1. Site section against road edge, looking south west, Scales: 1m and 0.5m.

Plate 2. Footing containing cut 1, looking south west, Scales: 1m and 0.5m.

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Plates 1 - 2.
### TIME CHART

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