

DEVELOPMENT ARCHAEOLOGY SERVICES Ltd

SUMMARY REPORT ON THE RESULTS OF
AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION AT;

**THE NEW PARK ROAD CENTRE,
NEW PARK ROAD,
CHICHESTER, WEST SUSSEX**

[Site Centred at National Grid Reference SU 8645 0498]

PREPARED FOR BOXALL SAYER

By

Neville Hall MIFA

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List of Contents:

- Summary**
- 1. Introduction**
- 2. Site Location and Description**
- 3. Planning Background**
- 4. Archaeological and Historical Background**
- 5. Methodology**
- 6. Results**
 - 6.1** Test Pit 1
 - 6.2** Test Pit 2
 - 6.3** Test Pit 3
- 7. Discussion and Conclusions**

List of Figures:

- Figure 1:** Site Location at scale 1:25,000.
- Figure 2:** Site plan at scale 1:800, the site boundary is shown in blue, the existing building on the site in red, and the proposed new build in yellow.
- Figure 3:** Sections 1-3, Test Pits 1-3.
- Appendix 1:** Plates 1-3 showing detail within each test pit
- Appendix 2:** List of Contexts

Summary

A pre-planning determination archaeological evaluation involving the mechanical excavation under archaeological supervision of three test pits was carried out by Development Archaeology Services Ltd [DAS] on the 1st of March 2008 on land at the New Park Road Centre, New Park Road, Chichester, West Sussex.

Below the topsoil horizons, a sequence of made ground and/or levelling deposits that were variously composed of building demolition material or redeposited natural were identified in the northern periphery of the proposed development site. These deposits were laid down on the site during the post-medieval period in order to build up contemporary ground levels perhaps to facilitate the construction of post-medieval buildings on the site. The post-medieval deposits extended to depths beyond 1.30m below ground levels, and in only one of the test pits [Test Pit 2] was the natural brickearth horizon encountered.

No archaeological structures, deposits, features or finds pre-dating the post-medieval period were found at this site.

Due to access constraint, presence of existing buildings and service runs the evaluation was confined to the northern periphery of the site. It is suggested, subject to confirmation of proposed foundation design solution, particularly as regards depth of proposed foundation design for the proposed new build, that an additional phase of investigation, by trial trenching might be undertaken post demolition to more precisely define the archaeological potential of the site area.

1. Introduction

Development Archaeology Services Limited [DAS] was commissioned by Boxall Sayer to undertake a pre-planning determination archaeological evaluation on land at the New Park Road Centre, New Park Road, Chichester, West Sussex, centred at National Grid Reference SU 8645 0498. The archaeological evaluation was carried out at the proposed development site on the 1st of March 2008.

This report documents the results of the archaeological evaluation, which was undertaken in accordance with a Brief and Specification and a test pit layout prepared by DAS. This document was submitted to and approved by Mr James Kenny, the Archaeological Officer of Chichester District Council [in his capacity as archaeological advisor on planning issues to the District Council, the Local Planning Authority [LPA]], prior to the commencement of the on-site works. This approach complies with the principles established in *Archaeology and Planning: Planning Policy Guidance Note 16* [Department of the Environment, 1990], *Management of Archaeological Projects* [English Heritage, 1991] and *Standard and guidance for archaeological evaluations* [IFA, 1999].

Copies of this report will be deposited with Boxall Sayer and their clients, Mr James Kenny of Chichester District Council, the Chichester District Council Sites and Monuments Record, the West Sussex County Sites and Monuments Record [SMR], and the Chichester District Museum, along with an ordered project archive for long term storage and curation.



Figure 1: Site location at scale 1:25,000.
The site is shown in red.

2. Site Location and Description

The proposed development site is situated within the modern City of Chichester, to the immediate east of the City Wall and on the western frontage of New Park Road at a height of approximately 15m AOD and at National Grid Reference SU 8645 0498 [**Figure 1**].

The proposed development site presently serves as a community facility with the present building consisting of lightweight single storey structures with surrounding areas predominantly laid to tarmac. The outline of the existing building is shown on **Figure 2**.

3. Planning Background

It is understood that the planning applicant proposes to redevelop/upgrade the site in order to provide additional community facilities, and that a planning application to facilitate this will be forthcoming.

The proposed new build outline is shown on **Figure 2**. It is understood that the foundation design will not be finalised until the results of this evaluation have been assessed. These results will also be used to inform and support the forthcoming planning application.

Following the commission for this work, a written scheme of investigation and a proposed test pit layout was subsequently submitted to and made available to Mr James Kenny of Chichester District Council prior to the commencement of the on site archaeological works.

The applicant is advised that as a result of this evaluation a further stage of archaeological assessment of the proposed development site may be required [Stage 2] following the demolition of the existing buildings on the site.

The requirement for additional archaeological works may only be determined when the results of the initial evaluation have been fully considered by Mr James Kenny on behalf of the LPA. Any subsequent works will then be subject to a separate 'Brief and Specification' for those additional works.



Figure 2: Site plan at scale 1:800, the site boundary is shown in blue, the existing building on the site in red, and the proposed new build in yellow

4. Archaeological and Historical Background

The proposed development site lies adjacent to the Chichester City Walls [a Scheduled Ancient Monument [County No.101]] with the proposed build area [westernmost extent,] lying c.22m to the east of the line of the City Wall.

The extreme west of the existing and proposed building lies within an area where outlying elements of the town ditch system that run approximately parallel to the City Walls may be predicted to lie [refer to: Chichester District Council Sites and Monuments Record entries E933 and E839].

In addition, to the west of the proposed development site and overlying extra-mural ditch elements; the central and eastern portions of the site may lie in areas where there is evidence for multi-period extra-mural activity and/or occupation [Chichester District Council Sites and Monuments Record entry E933].

5. Methodology

The archaeological evaluation was carried out at the proposed development site on the 1st of March 2008 by Christopher Pine, Patrick Hunter and Neville Hall of Development Archaeology Services Ltd [DAS]. This involved the excavation of three test pits [designated **Test Pits 1-3**] positioned along the northern periphery of the site [**Figure 2**]. All these test pits were excavated by a 1.5 ton rubber tracked 360° mechanical excavator equipped with a 1.0m wide toothless bucket under archaeological supervision.

The location of **Test Pits 1** and **2** were governed by selecting relatively open areas for mechanical excavation that were outside the protuberances of tree root systems and service runs. **Test Pit 3** was repositioned as excavation at the original location exposed a soak-away extending beneath the existing tarmac parking surface [**Figure 2**].

Where necessary, surfaces were hand cleaned for examination and recording, and deposits observed were recorded on standard *pro-forma* context recording sheets. The location of the three test pits are shown on **Figure 2**, whilst sections were compiled of the deposit sequences at a scale of 1:20 [**Figure 3, Sections 1-3**]. A complimentary colour photographic record was also maintained, which are reproduced as **Appendix 1**.

6. Results

6.1 Test Pit 1

Test Pit 1 was positioned to the west and measured 1.70m in length, 1.0m in width and was excavated to a depth of 1.30m [**Figure 2**]. Following the removal of turf and the topsoil [**001**], a made ground deposit composed largely of building demolition material [**002**] was encountered. Underlying this was a layer of redeposited natural [**003**], which comprised a make-up and/or levelling deposit [**Section 1, Figure 3**]. Fragments of post-medieval brick and tile were recovered from the deposits [**002**] and [**003**].

6.2 Test Pit 2

Test Pit 2 was positioned in the central area of the assessment site and measured 1.50m in length, 1.0m in width and was excavated to a depth of 1.30m. Underlying the topsoil horizon [**004**] was a make up deposit [**005**]. This in turn overlay a layer of redeposited natural [**006**]. Fragments of post-medieval brick and tile were recovered from both [**005**] and [**006**]. At the base of this trench, and at a depth of approximately 1.20m below ground levels, the natural horizon of brickearth [**007**] was encountered [**Section 2, Figure 3**].

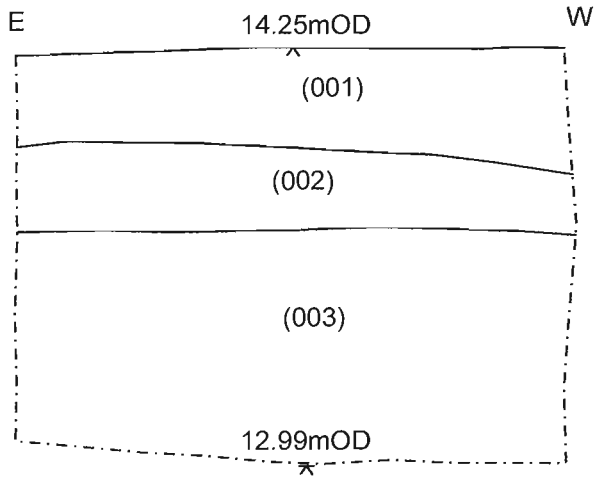
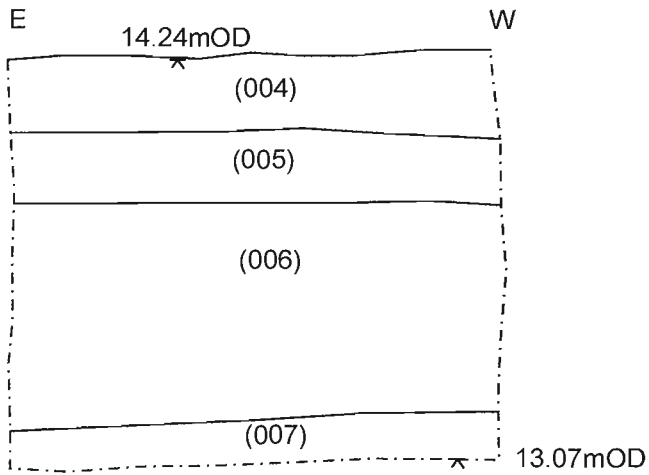


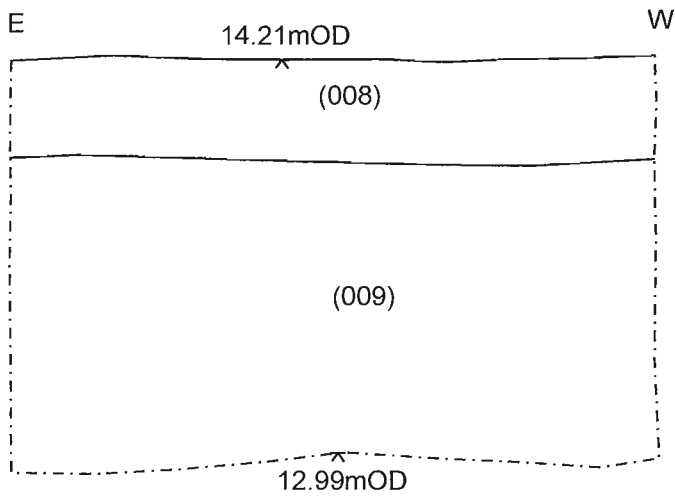
Figure 3: Sections 1-3
Test Pits 1-3

Section 1, Test Pit 1, Scale 1:20



Section 2, Test Pit 2, Scale 1:20

Section 3, Test Pit 3, Scale 1:20



6.3 Test Pit 3

Test Pit 3 was positioned at the eastern end of the assessment site and measured 2.0m in length, 1.0m in width and was excavated to a depth of 1.25m below ground levels. Beneath the topsoil horizon [008] was a substantial made ground and/or levelling deposit [009] from which the occasional fragment of post-medieval brick and tile was observed. This deposit extended to the base of the test pit [Section 3, Figure 3].

7. Discussion and Conclusions

The archaeological test pitting firmly established the sequence of deposits along the northern periphery of and to the north of the existing building at the site, and suggests an absence of significant archaeological features and/or deposits and finds in this area.

No archaeological features, structures, finds or deposits pre-dating the post-medieval period were found here.

The test pitting identified a simple sequence of topsoils, made ground and/or levelling deposits at depth above the natural horizon; although the natural horizon was only encountered at depth within one of the test pits. The deposits below the topsoil horizons, which were variously composed of building demolition material or redeposited natural had been laid down during the post-medieval period in order to build up ground levels, perhaps in order to facilitate the construction of contemporary buildings on the site.

It is suggested, subject to confirmation of proposed foundation design solution for the proposed new build, that an additional phase of investigation, by trial trenching may be undertaken post demolition to more precisely define the archaeological potential of the site area.

Appendix 1: Plates

Plates 1-3 showing detail within each test pit



Plate 1: Test Pit 1 from the east



Plate 2: Test Pit 2 from the east



Plate 3: Test Pit 3 from the east

Appendix 2: List of Contexts

Test Pit 1

- 001** Topsoil horizon, heavily root disturbed, friable dark grey brown sandy silt with frequent small-medium angular stones and occasional small brick/tile fragments. Depth – 0.34m.
- 002** Made ground deposit made up of building demolition material, friable light orange brown sandy silt with small-medium mortar and plaster fragments >60%, moderate small-medium brick/tile fragments. Four fragments of post-medieval [17th-18th century] roof tile and hand-made brick were recovered from this context. Depth – 0.26m.
- 003** Layer of redeposited disturbed natural, make up and/or levelling deposit, friable mid orange grey brown sandy silt with gravel [small-large angular and rounded stones] >50% and pockets of light orange brown silty clay, moderate small chalk fragments. Depth - >0.72m.

Test Pit 2

- 004** Topsoil horizon, heavily root disturbed, friable dark brown sandy silt with moderate small angular stones. Depth – 0.22m.
- 005** Make-up and/or levelling deposit, friable dark grey brown sandy silt with frequent small-large angular stones and moderate small mortar fragments, one fragment of post-medieval roof tile recovered from this deposit. Depth – 0.22m.
- 006** Layer of redeposited disturbed natural, make up and/or levelling deposit, soft mid orange brown sandy clayey silt with gravel [small-medium angular stones and flints] >20%, occasional small brick/tile fragments. Depth – 0.68m.
- 007** Natural horizon, light orange brown silty clay [brickearth] with frequent small-medium angular stones and flints. Depth >0.15m.

Test Pit 3

- 008** Topsoil horizon, heavily root disturbed, friable dark black brown sandy silt, occasional small-large rounded stones and brick/tile fragments. Depth – 0.34m.
- 009** Made ground and/or levelling deposit, soft mid orange brown sandy clayey silt with frequent small-large angular stones and flints, occasional small-large brick/tile fragments. Depth - >0.94m.