

Archaeology in Hampshire - Extracts from Annual Reports

Archaeology in Hampshire - Annual Report for 1978

Romsey, Church Street

A scheme involving the clearance of the area immediately behind Nos. 22-32 Church Street, and its re-development provided the opportunity to excavate the area between Church Street and Church Road. At the rear of the houses fronting on to Church Street there were a number of beehive bread ovens and their associated stoke pits. During the C16 these were cleared and a large building constructed on the site, this house was later owned by Sir William Petty. On the Church Road frontage there was a C16 timber-framed cottage, this was carefully recorded and then dismantled. This cottage had been used as a bronze founder's workshop, a furnace was constructed at the South end and a large casting hearth was located at the North end. There were a number of large cess pits in this area, one of which was square and flint lined, containing much pottery.

Test Valley Archaeological Committee

Archaeology in Hampshire - Annual Report for 1979

Romsey, Narrow Lane

Excavations uncover evidence of 1st and 2nd century timber buildings, some of which may be pre-conquest. In the late 2nd century a large ditch was dug in the area and occupation became less intense from c. 300-370. The final phase of Roman occupation was marked by extensive on-site iron smelting. Medieval remains were sparse but include 11th century pottery.

M Curtis, S Cooper, J Walker Test Valley Archaeological Committee

Archaeology in Hampshire - Annual Report for 1981

Romsey - Bell Street (SU 32 SE 3517 2105)

Recording of the standing buildings 29-312 Bell Street were undertaken prior to demolition and records of 25 and 27 Bell Street were also made prior to refurbishment. 29-31 Bell Street on close examination was found to be a much altered 16th century structure built as a single three bay unit facing onto Bell Street with its main axis being N-S to Newton Lane. The building had undergone major reconstruction in the 17th, 18th and 19th centuries with the insertion of corridors and extra rooms in the roof space. Of the original building only the top three feet at the wall posts, short lengths of tie beams the rafters and purlius survived. All the rafters and the beams were numbered and were in sequence. The building contained at least four distinct types of panelling the earliest being 16th century, none being in original positions. Excavations in 1982 partially financed by Hampshire County Council will examine the archaeology beneath this property. The adjacent property, 27 Bell Street was found to be substantial mill or warehouse constructed in the last half of the 18th century. Number 25 Bell Street had unfortunately been totally remodelled particularly in the early twentieth century and apart from the facade which gives an 18th or even early 19th century appearance the only early features noted were two reused 17th century hinges on an internal door and some early 18th century doors.

Test Valley Archaeological Committee

Archaeology in Hampshire - Annual Report for 1982

ROMSEY — Bell Street (SU 352 210)

Excavations on the site previously occupied by 29-31 Bell Street (reported on in Archaeology in Hampshire 1981) were undertaken on this site and were in part financed by the Hampshire County Council Planning Department Archaeology Fund.

The work revealed over two metres of stratigraphy, the earliest feature being a silted-up water channel or river bed which contained a turfaceous [tufaceous] deposit amongst which late Bronze Age pottery, animal bones and waste flakes were recovered. Preservation conditions were not sufficiently good for other organic materials to have survived. The top of this feature contained Iron Age ceramics. The whole river channel was overlain by about 300 mm of hard, compacted, naturally deposited gravel through which later features had been excavated. Apart from some residual Roman ceramics and building materials the earliest recognisable structure consisted of a six post building. The post pits of this building were some 800mm across and had survived to a depth of 350 mm. This structure which was aligned axially east-west was associated with domestic refuse characterised by Winchester Ware and other late Saxon ceramics. The posts of the structure, from the post mould evidence, were about 300 mm square and these had been packed with waste iron smelting slag. Other structures possibly of 12th/13th century date were located and the site seems to have undergone a major re-development in the 13th or 14th century. The property boundaries have remained static from that date. The below ground structure of the buildings 29-31 Bell Street was also examined and it was found possible to confirm the dating of the building, recorded prior to demolition, as being of 16th century date.

AD Russel

F J Green Test Valley Archaeological Committee

ROMSEY — Tee Court (SU 352 211)

Observation work was undertaken by members of the Lower Test Valley Archaeological Study Group and TVAC on the refurbishment of buildings in this court. Observation of the excavated trenches on this and adjacent Borough Council car park, revealed Iron Age through post medieval ceramics, and large quantities of metal slag. The refurbished building at Tee Court was found to contain a raised cruck of 18th century date. The rear wall of the building, upon which this wooden superstructure was sitting, was an 18th century property boundary or garden wall.

F J Green

Test Valley Archaeological Committee

Archaeology in Hampshire - Annual Report for 1983

Romsey - The Angel Inn

Extensions at the back of this 19th century building which contains the remains of a medieval undercroft in the cellar revealed the line of the medieval stream course known as 'Shit Lake' from the 13th century. Excavations in the bed of the stream revealed a sequence of late Iron Age and Roman siltings and various stages of post-medieval culverting including the final brick and stone culvert constructed as a sewer in the 19th century. Excavations revealed the Western bank of the stream bed. The Eastern bank having been located on an adjacent property during excavations on Bell Street in 1982. The stream bed clearly is the boundary of Iron Age and Roman occupation and clearly formed a major branch of the Test. It is now clear that the earliest Saxon occupation has only be found on this island and that the Saxon Abbey was situated on it. This in itself will mean careful reconsideration of the earliest documentary evidence which has inevitably been misinterpreted in the past due to the lack of topographical information from excavations. This stream clearly lost its importance as mill leets tapped its supply of water further upstream, especially from the 12th century onwards and in particular with the re-organisations of monastic lands in the town at the dissolution. The course of the stream even as a drain being abandoned after the introduction of mains sewage in the 1930's and its use as a storm overflow from Abbey Water coming to an end in 1983.

F J Green

Test Valley Archaeological Committee

Romsey - 29 The Hundred (SU 354 212)

Excavation in advance of office and shop re-development on a piece of land used as gardens and orchard throughout the post-medieval period revealed domestic occupation of 12th-13th century date through to the 14th century. Isolated finds included earlier evidence such as late Saxon ceramics. This along with recent observation on other peripheral sites in the town have indicated that late Saxon and 12th-14th century occupation was much more extensive and intensive than previously considered. It is evident that the area covered with housing as late as the 1850's was not as extensive as Medieval Romsey.

F J Green

Test Valley Archaeological Committee

Romsey - Abbey Gateway, Market Place (SU 352 212)

Observation of a Gas Board pipe trench between the Abbey Gateway and along the edge of Abbey Water revealed a substantial flint rubble wall running east/west towards the Abbey Gateway. Its construction and alignment is consistent with an Abbey Precinct Wall. It has long been considered that the monastic property in Romsey had been enclosed by such a wall in approximately this position. The rest of this trench revealed phases of post-medieval revetting including wooden piles along the edge of this stream.

FJ Green

Test Valley Archaeology Committee

Romsey - Narrow Lane (SU 351 211)

Observation during construction of a car park revealed up to two metres of deposits including finds from the Iron Age onwards. Further evidence for the extensive nature of Iron Age and Roman occupation in Romsey.

F J Green

Archaeology in Hampshire - Annual Report for 1984/85

Romsey - Portersbridge Street (SU 352 214)

An evaluation excavation directed by P Blackman for TVAT in advance of the redevelopment of part of the Whitbread Brewery Site was undertaken and paid for by the Historic Buildings and Monuments Commission. A trench 2m x 20m at right angles to the street frontage, revealed a sequence of deposits from the late Saxon period onwards. The site was unusually (for Romsey) bounded on the south by a boundary ditch running parallel to the street. Work on the Brewery site is continuing and a trench adjacent to the Fishlake Stream should provide dating evidence. Observation work has revealed a substantial boundary ditch at right angles to Church Street a continuation of the Horsefair. It is possible that full scale excavation in 1986 will reveal that this is the northern boundary of the mid-late Saxon settlement.

F J Green

Test Valley Archaeological Trust

Romsey - Church Street (SU 352 210)

Evaluation of part of the Church Street car park was directed by P Blackman for TVAT in advance of full scale excavations which will be required before redevelopment. Previous excavations on part of the site revealed a range of medieval evidence (Medieval Archaeology, 1973, 200). The current work produced evidence from the late Saxon period onwards, including shallow slots for timber buildings. It was possible to excavate the trench across one of the major property boundaries and to establish continuity from at least the 14th century onwards. The site is reasonably well documented having been acquired by Richard the III as part of his endowment of St George's College. The fact that all the building structures and property boundaries located are aligned to the adjacent Holbrook rather than the Church Street frontage has enabled this artificial water channel, the borough, and hundred boundary to be assigned a date pre-late 11th century. The site has produced a useful range of artefactual and environmental data which will be incorporated in the Trust's Medieval Landscape Project. Work funded by Hampshire County Council, Test Valley Archaeological Trust and Manpower Services Commission.

F J Green

Test Valley Archaeological Trust

Romsey - Latimer Street SU354 213)

Observation work revealed that most of the site had been destroyed by the excavation of large rectangular pits containing little domestic refuse. Recent work on this and other sites in this street indicates that the Lortimere which is thought to have existing in this area in the 14th century may simply have existed as a foul drain in the middle of the street, rather than running through the properties to the east or west of the street.

F J Green

Test Valley Archaeological Trust

Archaeology in Hampshire - Annual Report for 1986

Romsey - Abbey (SU 351 213)

Work in advance of a new vicarage, financed by the Winchester Diocesan Parsonage Board has revealed two major phases of water channel on the site, the earliest of 16th century or post dissolution date. The final phase dating from the 1850's when the present vicarage was constructed. These water channels cut through deposits that appeared to have been laid down in a pond or similar environment. Environmental analysis has confirmed that the excavations have located the site of one of the Abbey's medieval fishponds. The location of the Abbey Fishponds was previously unknown. Work will continue across the Abbey green when a new access road is constructed later in the year.

F J Green

Test Valley Archaeological Trust

Romsey - Abbey Water (SU 352 211)

Excavations took place in advance of building work at 10 Abbey Water. Beneath 0.9m of post-medieval features was found a pit being cut by the foundations of a building of trench and post-hole construction. These features contained early medieval and Roman pottery together with iron slag, iron ore, daub and limestone.

Southampton.

Mrs J I Russell

Test Valley Archaeological Trust

Romsey - Market Place (SU 353 211)

Excavations took place in advance of building work. The premises, "Creatures", is on the south side of the Market Place, and just to the east of the Abbey precinct. Phase 1 consisted of deposits and postholes with pottery dated to the second half of the 4th century.

Phase 2 consisted of the dumping of a layer of iron slag, crushed iron ore, burnt and vitrified daub and charcoal some 0.54m thick. This layer contained handmade pottery tempered with vegetable matter and flint and a sherd of Winchester-type ware. In Phase 3 a large feature, possible a water channel associated with the founding of the Abbey (c.907) cut through the slag layer and was in turn filled with slag-rich deposits in Phase 4 marked by chalk-tempered pottery. Phase 5 was marked by the digging of a number of postholes packed the slag, and the construction of two lengths of flint walling in 0.40m deep construction trenches. The walls were bonded with soil containing late Roman pottery. The collapse of the flint walls was associated with a pit containing flint-tempered pottery tentatively ascribed a late Saxon date, and a sealing layer containing much mortar. This in turn was sealed by a layer with scratched ware.

The sequence parallels that found in the Narrow Lane 1979 excavations 100m to the south and recently reinterpreted as being evidence of middle/late Saxon rather than late Roman iron smelting. The smelting is unlikely to have been carried out such a short distance from the Romsey nunnery with its princely inhabitants and is thought to date from between 700 and 900.

Dr A D Russell

Test Valley Archaeological Trust

Archaeology in Hampshire - Annual Report for 1988

Romsey - Presbytery, La Sagesse Convent (SU 3505 2112)

A small scale excavation by staff of the Test Valley Archaeological Trust in advance of the rebuilding of the Presbytery within the grounds of the La Sagesse Convent revealed a prehistoric stream bed now dry and filled with chalk brash. Within the layers of brash, and clearly contemporary with it, was a large quantity of high quality Late Bronze Age/early Iron Age ceramics. The forms present included furrowed, and 'haematite' coated bowls, and shouldered jars. Associated with the pottery was a large quantity of animal bones. There was also some human skeletal material, most obviously skulls. None of the material was eroded, and therefore lies where it was discarded. The deposit has something of the character of a midden, although there is little or no evidence of materials other than bone and ceramics. It would seem that the pottery and bone was the refuse from a site situated to the east on the island of Romsey. The excavation was funded in part by the Roman Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth.

Neil R Campling

Test Valley Archaeological Trust

Romsey - 11 The Hundred (SU 35312115)

Excavations were carried out by staff of the Test Valley Archaeological Trust supervised by Neil Campling in advance of a shop development. The work was funded by the developers Holbeck Properties Limited.

The excavation revealed a 22m section of a Saxon ditch, 14 medieval pits, 5 medieval postholes, a 1.5m section of Tudor ditch, and a series of 18th-19th century gravel layers forming a yard surface for some stables behind a nearby inn. Levelling of the site - probably in the 17th century - had resulted in the loss of as much as 75 per cent of the volume of the Saxon ditch. A large early 19th century pit filled with loose rubble and ceramic fragments effectively cut the site in two.

The Saxon ditch ran due north-south in the southern part of the site, and then slightly east of north in the northern half. This ditch had been recut once. Of the medieval pits, at least two containing cess had been used as latrines, and were possibly timber lined. The medieval postholes were quite large, about 60cms in diameter, and packed with stones or residual slag from Saxon deposits elsewhere in the town. A line of post holes at the north end of the site indicated the presence of a medieval building fronting The Hundred. The Tudor ditch ran east-west across the front of the property and was probably used to close off the area behind. Sometime after this ditch was dug, but before the 18th century, the northern two-thirds of the site was stripped down to the natural gravels, as we have noted. This removed the likely medieval deposits and levelled ditches and pits. A thin residual soil accumulated until a series of cobble and gravel layers were laid down in the 18th century.

Neil Campling

Test Valley Archaeological Trust

Romsey - New Vicarage (SU 3500 2125)

Excavations and a subsequent watching brief in advance of and during the construction of the new Romsey Vicarage, which lies on low ground west of the old Vicarage and of Romsey Abbey located (1) the medieval Abbey fishponds and (2) the west wall and north west corner of the Abbey precinct. The excavations on the fishponds in 1987 were funded by an MSC Community Programme Scheme and took place prior to building work commencing. The fishponds lay on low ground on the flood plain of the River Test to the west of the island of Romsey.

The later watching brief on the new Vicarage driveway, which runs east-west on the south side of the old Vicarage, located the line of the west wall of the Abbey precinct. The wall was possibly built in the twelfth century at the time of the construction of the present Abbey. It was built of flint and mortar, had a slight batter and was stepped on the inside a little above ground level. The wall survived to a height of approximately 1 metre at this point. It seems that it had been topped at some point by tiles, because a layer of broken tiles was found on the old ground surface. However, the tiles found in excavation would have been a later addition.

The wall lay on the western edge of the island of Romsey. Originally the ground dropped away sharply to the west towards the Abbey Fish Ponds. In the 18th century the area occupied by the ponds had been known variously as the 'Delve' or 'Dung Hollow'. Today the ground slopes much more gradually. The discovery of the precinct wall drew attention to the fact that there is slight cracking of window sills on the south elevation of the former Vicarage vertically above the newly discovered wall. It is clear that the rear portion of the old vicarage was built on made ground, and that the precinct wall ran under the vicarage, and that these two facts were responsible for the cracking. Investigation of the beaten earth floor of the cellar in the old vicarage revealed the survival of the return of the wall at the north west corner of the precinct. On the outside corner there was a chamfered limestone quoin stone. The line of the north wall of the precinct if projected would meet the north west corner of the Abbey.

Ian R Scott

Test Valley Archaeological Trust

Archaeology in Hampshire - Annual Report for 1991

Romsey - Corner of Broadwater Road/Middlebridge Street and Middlebridge Street
(SU 352 210)

Observations in 1990 during gas main replacement. At the corner of Middlebridge Street with Broadwater Road, a narrow trench revealed tufa deposits, with overlying gravel layers, which contained mixed artefactual material. The tufa contained some Iron Age pottery. In Middlebridge Street the gas trench cut through gravels to the underlying peat deposits. There were bones in the gravels. From the underlying peat near Nos. 59-61 a piece of leather was recovered. Near No. 75 bone spoon handle was found. By Nos. 63-65 a narrow band of tufaceous material was located. Post Medieval pottery was found in the lower gravels immediately above the peat. The gravels appear to be post-Medieval in date.

Neil R Campling

Test Valley Archaeological Trust

Romsey - Bell Street (SU 352 210)

Observations in 1991 during gas main replacement. A trench opposite the end of Newton Lane revealed at least 7 gravel surfaces beneath the more recent tarmac surfaces. These extended for approximately 0.7m beneath the present road surface. In one section of the trench, the lowest surface rested on white water washed gravels and tufaceous materials.

F J Green

Test Valley Archaeological Trust

Archaeology in Hampshire - Annual Report for 1993

Romsey - Land rear of 29-31 Bell Street

Archaeological deposits were revealed, but observations were limited by site conditions and the narrow footings trenches. Generally sealed beneath the topsoil was a dirty gravel layer containing medieval and Romano-British ceramics. This in turn sealed white grey gravels of an earlier silted stream channel. The latter deposit produced Romano-British and late Iron Age pottery, and a debased silver coin, identified as a Durotrigian stater. Over the southern part of the site, fronting Newton Lane, there was evidence for successive layers, floor deposits, and a small number of cut features sealed beneath topsoil. The cut features may be earlier than the floors. The other main feature, further to the east, was a silted course of the 'Shitlake' cutting through the grey/white gravels. It was itself filled with tufaceous material. This deposit contained twelfth to thirteenth century, and Romano-British pottery, animal bone and other materials.

IR Scott Hampshire Archaeology

Archaeology in Hampshire - Annual Report for 1994/95

La Sagesse Convent

A watching brief was undertaken at the Convent funded by the Daughters of Wisdom in order to observe the digging of foundation trenches for an extension. These trenches were 0.8m wide and up to 1.2m deep. The trenches cut into a former water course, probably connected to Abbey Water. Roman, medieval and post-medieval pottery was found, the earlier material coming from basal stream silts, possibly having been washed into position from elsewhere. C Matthews, Test Valley Archaeological Trust.

29-31 Latimer Street

An archaeological evaluation funded by Worktown plc, was undertaken prior to development on the east side of Latimer Street. Medieval and Saxon features had previously been found in the immediate area. Seven trenches were dug, all of varying size. Several linear features and pits were found, ranging from late Saxon to post-medieval in date according to their associated ceramic contents. These features, together with a lack of stratigraphic build-up and a deep garden soil, would suggest that the Saxon and medieval occupation was not urban in nature. It was noted that No 30 is a timber framed building of 17th century date and that the bulk of the street frontage has in the past been excavated to create cellars.

R Davis, Hampshire Archaeology Ltd.

Archaeology in Hampshire - Annual Report for 1997

Romsey, Church Road, opposite Cherville House
watching brief

A watching brief, funded by Romsey Property Renovation, was undertaken by Hampshire Archaeology in order to observe the foundations of a single dwelling. The remains of an old river bed was seen to run diagonally across the site. The course of the river bed and the stratigraphic sequence appears to match that previously indicated by the excavations on the site of the former print works in Romsey (Scott, 1993). It is almost certainly 'part of the same stream located in 1973, immediately east of the Abbey, and underlying the demolished east end chapels, and in 1988 behind the Midland Bank' (Scott, 1993). These earlier excavations of what is presumably the same stream indicate that it had silted up and shifted its course by the middle to late Saxon period. The archive will be deposited with Hampshire County Museum Service.

R Ault, Hampshire Archaeology
Reference

Scott. I, 1993 'Former Romsey Printing Works, Church Road, Romsey. Archaeological Evaluation'. Hampshire Archaeology Report: 5/93.

Romsey, 31 Latimer Street

Test Valley Archaeological Trust was commissioned by Test Valley Borough Council to investigate this property prior to the proposed construction of a supermarket on the Orchard House car park. It is thought to be originally a 16th/17th century property which has undergone a number of alterations. However, two of the trusses and an upper floor door head survive relatively intact.

S Dean, Test Valley Archaeological Trust

Archaeology in Hampshire - Annual Report for 1999

La Sagesse Convent, Romsey evaluation

David Mansfield Associates on behalf of the Daughters of Wisdom commissioned an archaeological evaluation in connection with a proposed redevelopment in the grounds of La Sagesse Convent, Romsey. Due to the proximity of the proposed redevelopment to important archaeological remains, including a palaeo-channel containing an exceptional quantity and quality of Early Iron Age pottery and bone, an archaeological evaluation of the areas of proposed redevelopment was requested by the Heritage Officer of Test Valley Borough Council. The evaluation comprised three machine-dug trial trenches, which were undertaken in October 1999. A terraced playing field, which currently occupies the western part of the proposed footprint, appears to have truncated any potential archaeological remains in that area. No palaeo-channels or Early Iron Age pottery were found. However, a large part of an unabraded Middle-Late Iron Age pottery vessel was recovered from a silty layer, which has been interpreted as a floodplain deposit. Two medieval features were recorded: a ditch and a possible pit. Both contained 13th-14th century pottery. Two post-medieval features were also excavated.

Wessex Archaeology

Love Lane, Romsey evaluation and watching brief

Windsor Homes plc commissioned a field evaluation and watching brief of land at Love Lane, Romsey. The redevelopment area comprises the site of the former DHSS building and land to the rear.

During phase one of the field evaluation a large medieval pit containing pottery of late 12th-early 14th century date and a small number of post-medieval or modern features were also recorded. The two machine-dug trenches of Phase 2 recorded one modern feature and three possible post-holes containing modern such as pottery, ceramic building material and bottle glass.

The watching brief involved observations during groundworks for the construction of the buildings. A medieval feature, possibly a ditch terminal, containing 12th-13 century pottery, was observed within the foundation trenches for the garage in the western corner of the site. A post-medieval cellar and two undated features, one a robbed out foundation trench, were recorded in the same area with two further cellars in other parts of the site.

Wessex Archaeology

Timsbury Bridge, Timsbury watching brief

An archaeological watching brief was carried out between 5 November and 16 December 1999 during groundworks to construct a new weed-boom and associated pond and tank at Timsbury Bridge, near Romsey. The site lies mostly on the eastern bank of the River Test. It lies at an approximate height of 18m above OD. The natural geology of the site is alluvium, over peat, over gravel. The top of the gravel lay at 12.40m above OD. A large oak beam with several mortises and joints was unearthed on the surface of the peat. It had been redeposited but was either a corner-post for a building or possibly part of a structure such as a bridge. It was not possible to date the wood by dendrochronology or stylistically. Alternating layers of peat and alluvium illustrate different phases of the river's flow. The archaeological was funded by the Environment Agency. Ron Brading, Southern Archaeological Services Ltd.

Archaeology in Hampshire - Annual Report for 2002

3 Bell Street, Romsey (A2001.28)
evaluation and watching brief

Residual Roman pottery was found. Iron smelting and iron working waste, probably Saxon in date, was found below about 2m of made ground. Unusual finds were many fragments from a number of greensand querns and a dump of 19th century beer bottles.

MP Smith, Southampton City Council Archaeology Unit

Mitchell's Garage, Romsey
watching brief

A watching brief was carried out during demolition of the former garage buildings of Mitchell's Garage in Middlebridge Street, Romsey, and the removal of underground fuel tanks, associated contaminated soil and concrete hardstanding.

A desk-based assessment had established that the site lies within an area with the potential for medieval remains, particularly along the Middlebridge Street frontage, but that the foundations of the garage buildings and the fuel tanks may have destroyed some or all of these remains. Geotechnical survey showed that 0.4-1.5m of made ground (concrete, old topsoil, silt/clay with traces of brick etc) overlay 4-5m of alluvium and peat, which in turn overlay gravel Terrace Deposits and Bracklesham Beds. The date of the deposition of the alluvium and the peat is not known but both are likely to be post-glacial and therefore both have the potential to contain archaeological remains.

Observation of the excavation of a water main trench and of the voids following the removal of the tanks and the associated contaminated soil confirmed the stratigraphic sequence, although no archaeological features or remains were observed in these trenches. An undated timber track and a number of 19th and 20th century pits were uncovered following the stripping of contaminated overburden.

Wessex Archaeology

HFC Annual Report for 2006

Linden House, Linden Road (SU 35595 21224) (Site UID: 58076) Evaluation

An archaeological evaluation by Context One Archaeological Services revealed a number of archaeological features comprising a middle Saxon smelting pit and linear ditch, a circular medieval pit, a post-medieval/modern field boundary and several other undated pits, ditches and post-holes. Finds included medieval to modern pottery sherds and glass, a 19th century tobacco pipe, pieces of fired clay, animal bones and a copper alloy vessel handle.

HFC Annual Report for 2014

20 The Hundred, rear of former Mascot bakery (SU 435308 121221) (Site UID: 65146)
Evaluation

An evaluation by The Southampton City Council Archaeology Unit identified a number of features that included a shallow Roman pit, a Medieval ditch and pit, numerous post-medieval post holes and pits plus an early Modern wall and robber trench.

See also: Russel, A 2014 Archaeological Evaluation of land to rear of 20, The Hundred, Romsey, The Southampton City Council Archaeology Unit, unpubl report.

HFC Annual Report for 2016

Portersbridge Mews, land at (SU 435301 121368) (Site UID: 69530) Evaluation

Southampton City Council Archaeology Unit carried out the evaluation. Although residual prehistoric material was found, it was thought likely that intensive use of the site probably began in the high medieval period and extended into the post-medieval period.

See also: Russel, A D 2016 Archaeological Evaluation of Land at Portersbridge Mews, Romsey, unpubl report.

HFC Annual Report for 2017

Romsey, Flood Alleviation Scheme (SU 35217 22359) (Site UID: 118310)
Geoarchaeological watching brief

Wessex Archaeology monitored Ground Investigation boreholes and inspection pits associated with the proposed Romsey Flood Alleviation Scheme. No archaeological remains were recorded in any of the hand-dug pits. A key aim of the works was to obtain suitable samples to allow radiocarbon dating of the peat deposits known to exist across the Romsey hinterlands. The sequence of deposits was typically recorded as bedrock (London Clay Formation in the north and clays and sands of the Wittering Formation in the centre and south) overlain by sands and gravel, peat, and sealed in places by sand, fine-grained clayey alluvium and topsoil. Tuffaceous deposits overlying peats represent phases of low energy channel reactivation and infill.

Plant macrofossils are well-preserved in the peat samples, suggesting good potential for preservation of other palaeoenvironmental remains (e.g. pollen). The peat in one borehole was dated by radiocarbon determination to 8766 to 6473 cal. BC, with the base of the peat in another borehole producing an earlier date of 9655-9298 cal. BC. Together the peats from both boreholes cover the early Mesolithic, contemporary with archaeological evidence for human occupation of the floodplain of the River Test and adjacent dry ground. Peat formation here was both earlier in date and more protracted than peat deposits from the nearby Romsey Sewage Treatment Works site which were previously dated to 8730-7930 cal. BC. These deposits represent an important sedimentary and palaeoenvironmental archive with the potential to produce new and valuable information on past vegetation, climate and human-environment interactions contemporary with archaeological evidence for human occupation of the immediate and surrounding landscape.