

An Archaeological Watching Brief at Grange Infant School, Franklin Road, Gosport, Hampshire

NGR 55833 10141

**Project No: 4221
Site Code: GFG 10**

Hampshire County Council Planning Reference K5322/10

**ASE Report No: 2010113
OASIS ID: archaeol6-80637**

**by
Simon Stevens BA MIFA**

**With contributions by
Elke Raemen and Sarah Porteus**

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Abstract

Archaeology South-East was commissioned by the Architecture and Design Unit, Property Business and Regulatory Services, Hampshire County Council to undertake an archaeological watching brief during groundworks associated with the installation of temporary classrooms at Grange Infant School, Franklin Road, Gosport, Hampshire.

Accordingly, the archaeological watching brief was maintained during groundworks associated with the erection of new temporary classrooms at the site. Mechanical excavations for footings, service trenches, car-parking and access routes were monitored.

No significant archaeological deposits, features or finds were encountered. Natural silty clay was encountered at c. 400mm below ground level in all areas monitored.

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Site Background

1.1.1 Archaeology South-East (ASE), a division of University College London Centre for Applied Archaeology (UCLCAA) was commissioned by the Architecture and Design Unit, Property Business and Regulatory Services, Hampshire County Council to undertake an archaeological watching brief during groundworks associated with the installation of temporary classrooms at Grange Infant School, Franklin Road, Gosport, Hampshire (NGR 55833 10141; Fig. 1).

1.2 Geology and Topography

1.2.1 Grange Infant School lies in the built-up area of Rowner to the north-west of the centre of Gosport. However, the site itself is located in an apparently undeveloped corner of the school's playing field, and is approached via Highwood Road.

1.2.2 According to the British Geological Survey 1: 50 000 map of the area (Sheet 331, *Portsmouth*), the underlying geology at the site consists of River Terrace Deposits. The current course of the River Alver lies c.800m to the west of the current site.

1.3 Planning Background

1.3.1 Planning permission was granted by Hampshire County Council (planning ref. K5322/10) for the installation of temporary classrooms and associated access and parking spaces at the site. Following input from Hannah Fluck, Senior Archaeologist, Landscape, Planning and Heritage, Environment Department, Hampshire County Council, the implementation of an archaeological watching brief at the site was recommended.

1.3.2 A *Written Scheme of Investigation* for the archaeological work was duly produced by ASE. It outlined the methodologies to be used at the site and details of reporting the results and producing a site archive (ASE 2009).

1.4 Aims and Objectives

1.4.1 The aims and objectives given in the ASE *Written Scheme of Investigation* (ASE 2010) were to:

to record, interpret and report on any archaeological and palaeoenvironmental remains exposed during the groundworks (including artefacts or ecofacts of archaeological interest) to appropriate archaeological standards.

The watching brief will also assess the past impacts on the site and pay particular attention to the character, height/depth below ground level, condition, date and significance of the deposits.

Specific aims include:

- *Is there any evidence for prehistoric or Roman activity on the site?*
- *Is there any evidence for the remains of Saxon settlement on the site?*
- *Is there any evidence for remains relating to the possible medieval grange to the south of the site?*

1.5 Scope of Report

1.5.1 The current report provides results of the archaeological monitoring of groundworks at the site carried out during June and July 2010. The work on-site was undertaken by Simon Stevens (Senior Archaeologist). The project was managed by Andy Leonard (Project Manager) and by Jim Stevenson (Post-Excavation Manager).

2.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.1 A review of the Rowner area on the online Archaeology Data Service (ADS) indicates that the area has been settled from at least the Saxon period and there is evidence for earlier activity in the broader area since the prehistoric period. The following information is drawn from the ADS website and from communication with Hannah Fluck, and was originally included in the ASE *Written Scheme of Investigation* (ASE 2010).
- 2.2 An archaeological evaluation undertaken at the Rowner Estate, some 950m to the south of the site, identified a prehistoric linear feature (NMRMIC-6240) although the function of this is not known and no associated features were identified. A shell midden was found in a gravel pit at Chark Common, approximately 1km to the west of the site. Associated flints suggest a Late Neolithic or Early Bronze Age date (ADS NMR_NATINV-234391).
- 2.3 Remains of Roman date are few in the vicinity of the site. However, there has been relatively little investigation in the area as there has been little monitored development, but recent work has uncovered evidence indicating that the peninsula was perhaps more intensively used in antiquity than was previously thought. The remains of a possible Roman kiln were recorded 1km to the west of the site (NMR_NATINV-234425) and recent excavations undertaken in Rowner have identified two ditches dating to the Roman period. These contained low-status pottery, and together with the features themselves are indicative of settlement activity (Fluck, H. *pers. comm.*).
- 2.4 These same excavations also contained the remains of a 9th – 12th century Saxon settlement. When taken with the regionally significant Saxon site at Grange Road, first discovered in the 1970's, the potential for the survival of Saxon remains upon the site must be considered.
- 2.5 The settlement at Grange Road, approximately 900m to the south of the site, included hearths, pits and gullies and some evidence for timber structures. Pottery from the excavations suggests that the site was occupied from the

last quarter of the 8th century to the 10th century (ADS MNR_NATINV-234467).

- 2.6 In addition to the Saxon evidence, later medieval and early post-medieval evidence is also known in the area with Grange Farm, c. 90m to the south of the site. Grange Farm House today dates mostly from the 19th century, however, the Rowner estate is considerably older and the house contains 16th century architectural elements. The existence of a motte and bailey castle (EHSMR no. 24322) situated in grounds to the south of the farm suggest that any estate here was probably founded in Norman times upon an existing Saxon predecessor.
- 2.7 Archaeological evaluation trenching undertaken in 1996 at St Mary's Church, Rowner, 500m to the southwest of the site, revealed deposits possibly related to two 17th century buildings and a medieval drain.

3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY

- 3.1 The mechanical excavation of a new service trench, ground reduction for site access and car-parking and of strip footings were monitored. All sections were examined for the presence of archaeological features, and all spoil was scanned for the presence of archaeological artefacts.
- 3.2 All encountered archaeological deposits, features and finds were recorded to accepted professional standards using standard Archaeology South-East context record forms. Deposit colours were recorded by visual inspection and not by reference to a Munsell Colour chart.
- 3.3 A photographic record of the work was kept and will form part of the site archive. The site archive is currently held by Archaeology South-East at the offices in Portslade, and will be offered to a suitable local museum in due course. The archive consists of the following material:

Number of contexts	7
No. of files/paper record	1
Plan and sections sheets	-
Bulk Samples	-
Photograph	25 digital
Bulk finds	2 bags
Registered finds	-
Environmental flots/residue	-

Table 1: Quantification of site archive

4.0 RESULTS (Fig. 2)

4.1 The Service Trench

- 4.1.1 Initial archaeological monitoring was undertaken during the mechanical excavation of a trench for the provision of services to the new classrooms. This led from St. Nicholas Avenue to the footprint of the new building across an area of flat turfed playing field. A 300mm wide trench was excavated to a maximum depth of 600mm by a Terex TC48 mini excavator fitted with a 1ft. (300mm) wide toothless bucket.
- 4.1.2 The uppermost deposit encountered was context [01], a friable mid-brown clayey silt humic topsoil layer, which had a maximum recorded thickness of 130mm. It overlay context [02], a friable mid-greyish brown clayey silt ploughsoil, which had a maximum thickness of 260mm. It directly overlay the firm orangey brown silty clay 'natural', context [03], which was exposed for a maximum of 210mm in the base of the trench.
- 4.1.3 A small assemblage of mostly late post-medieval artefacts was recovered from ploughsoil context [02]. No significant archaeological features or deposits were encountered.

4.2 The Site Access and Car-Parking Area

- 4.2.1 This part of the site was heavily overgrown and had been used in part for dumping domestic refuse. A larger 15 tonne 360° excavator was used to level this part of the site, and to undertake excavations for the site access and for car-parking. The area was reduced by a maximum of 400mm from the level of the ground surface, in order to expose the underlying 'natural'.
- 4.2.2 The uppermost deposit was context [04], a mid-greyish brown clayey silt, which had a maximum recorded thickness of 400mm. This deposit had been heavily mixed by root action. There was also a high concentration of crushed brick, stone and concrete, as well as pieces of tarmac, suggesting the former presence of a late post-medieval/modern hardstanding and/or routeway. A parchmark to the east suggested that this feature continued in that direction. This deposit directly overlay the orangey brown silty clay 'natural', context [05], which was not disturbed to any great extent, as excavation ceased at its surface.
- 4.2.3 No significant archaeological deposits, features or artefacts were encountered. Hand cleaning of the surface of the 'natural' provided no evidence for the presence of any route/trackway pre-dating the post-medieval deposits.

4.3 The Building Footings

- 4.3.1 The excavation of the foundation trenches for the new building, carried out by the 15 tonne excavator fitted with a 2.5ft (750mm) wide toothless bucket was monitored. The trenches were 750mm wide and up to 2.4m deep. The overburden, context [06] was similar in character to that seen in the *Site Access and Car-Parking* monitoring, but with a higher concentration of brick rubble. It was a maximum of 400mm in thickness and directly overlay the

orangey brown silty clay 'natural', context [07].

- 4.3.2 No significant archaeological deposits or features were observed and no artefacts were recovered from the overburden. A complete brick recovered from a spoil heap may have come from either context [04] or context [06] and was recorded as unstratified.

5.0 THE FINDS

5.1 Introduction

- 5.1.1 A small assemblage of finds was recovered during the archaeological work. An overview can be found in Table 2.

context	Pot	Wt (g)	CB M	Wt (g)	FCF	Wt (g)	Stone	Wt (g)	Glass	Wt (g)	Plastic	Wt (g)
us			1	2650								
02	6	56	7	900	2	34	2	20	2	8	3	94

Table 2: Quantification of finds

5.2 The Pottery by Elke Raemen

- 5.2.1 A small assemblage was recovered from context [02]. The earliest pieces consist of two sherds of unglazed red earthenware dating to the 17th to 18th century. All other pieces are of 19th-to early 20th-century date, including a piece of plain white china, pearlware, a fragment of industrial slipware and a white stoneware preserve jar fragment.

5.3 The Ceramic Building Material by Sarah Porteus

- 5.3.1 A total of eight fragments of ceramic building material (CBM) with a combined weight of 3548g were recovered. Context [02] contained three peg tile fragments in an orange sandy fabric with black sand and cream silt marbling of probable 20th century date. Context [02] contained 2 fragments of machine made brick in an orange chunky silt fabric (B2) of 20th century date with '...STO...' impressed into the stamp. Also contained within [02] were two fragments of brick in a sandy orange fabric with abundant fine to moderate white quartz inclusions and sparse cream silt streaks and red iron rich inclusions (B1) of likely 18th to 19th century date. One fragment in fabric B1 retained evidence of a vitrified header. A complete brick in fabric B1 was recovered unstratified and was unfrogged with dimensions of 223mm by 110mm by 60mm and had a sooted header, the brick is of 18th or 19th century date. The material was recorded on standard pro-forma recording forms and the material was discarded.

5.4 Other Finds by Elke Raemen

- 5.4.1 Two fragments of Welsh slate were recovered from context [02]. The same context also contained a wine bottle fragment dating to the late 19th to mid 20th century. A late 20th-century glass marble as well as various pieces of late 20th-century plastic was also recovered.

6.0 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

- 6.1 The archaeological monitoring of mechanical excavations at the site did not lead to the discovery of any significant archaeological deposits, features or finds. In addition, the small collection of artefacts recovered from the overburden did not suggest the presence of archaeological features of any antiquity in the immediate vicinity.
- 6.2 Clearly a routeway of some kind had existed at the site, but the construction technique of crushed brick, concrete and tarmac suggests a late post-medieval/modern date. There was no discernible evidence for an earlier underlying trackway of any kind.
- 6.3 Hence, it can be concluded with certainty that the monitored groundworks associated with the construction of the new classroom, access and car-parking did not lead to the disturbance of any archaeological deposits.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Archaeology South-East, 2010. *Grange Infant School, Franklin Road, Gosport, Hampshire Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Watching Brief*. Unpub. ASE document

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

ASE would like to thank The Architecture and Design Unit, Property Business and Regulatory Services, Hampshire County Council for commissioning the work and Hannah Fluck of Hampshire County Council for her guidance throughout the project.

SMR Summary Form

Site Code	GFG 10					
Identification Name and Address	Grange Infant School, Franklin Road					
County, District &/or Borough	Gosport Borough, Hampshire					
OS Grid Refs.	55833 10141					
Geology	River Terrace Deposits					
Arch. South-East Project Number	4221					
Type of Fieldwork	Eval.	Excav.	Watching Brief ✓	Standing Structure	Survey	Other
Type of Site	Green Field ✓	Shallow Urban	Deep Urban	Other		
Dates of Fieldwork	Eval.	Excav.	WB. June - July 2010	Other		
Sponsor/Client	Hampshire County Council					
Project Manager	Andy Leonard/Jim Stevenson					
Project Supervisor	Simon Stevens					
Period Summary	Palaeo.	Meso.	Neo.	BA	IA	RB
	AS	MED	PM ✓	Other		
<p>100 Word Summary.</p> <p><i>Archaeology South-East was commissioned by the Architecture and Design Unit, Property Business and Regulatory Services, Hampshire County Council to undertake an archaeological watching brief during groundworks associated with the installation of temporary classrooms at Grange Infant School, Franklin Road, Gosport, Hampshire.</i></p> <p><i>Accordingly, the archaeological watching brief was maintained during groundworks associated with the erection of new temporary classrooms at the site. Mechanical excavations for footings, service trenches, car-parking and access routes were monitored.</i></p> <p><i>No significant archaeological deposits, features or finds were encountered. Natural silty clay was encountered at c. 400mm below ground level in all areas monitored.</i></p>						

OASIS Form

OASIS ID: archaeo16-80637

Project details

Project name	An Archaeological Watching Brief at Grange Infant School, Franklin Road, Gosport, Hampshire
Short description of the project	Archaeology South-East was commissioned by the Architecture and Design Unit, Property Business and Regulatory Services, Hampshire County Council to undertake an archaeological watching brief during groundworks associated with the installation of temporary classrooms at Grange Infant School, Franklin Road, Gosport, Hampshire. Accordingly, the archaeological watching brief was maintained during groundworks associated with the erection of new temporary classrooms at the site. Mechanical excavations for footings, service trenches, car-parking and access routes were monitored. No significant archaeological deposits, features or finds were encountered. Natural silty clay was encountered at c. 400mm below ground level in all areas monitored.
Project dates	Start: 22-06-2010 End: 06-07-2010
Previous/future work	No / No
Any associated project reference codes	GFG 10 - Sitecode
Any associated project reference codes	4221 - Contracting Unit No.
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	None
Current Land use	Other 14 - Recreational usage
Monument type	NONE None
Significant Finds	NONE None
Investigation type	'Watching Brief'
Prompt	Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPG16

Project location

Country	England
Site location	HAMPSHIRE GOSPORT GOSPORT Grange Infant School, Franklin Road, Gosport
Postcode	PO13 9TS
Study area	400.00 Square metres
Site coordinates	SU 5833 0141 50.8087390225 -1.172042086940 50 48 31 N 001 10 19 W Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 0m Max: 10.00m

Project creators

Name of	Archaeology South-East
---------	------------------------

Organisation	
Project brief originator	Hampshire County Council
Project design originator	Archaeology South-East
Project director/manager	Andy Leonard/Jim Stevenson
Project supervisor	Simon Stevens
Type of sponsor/funding body	Client
Name of sponsor/funding body	Hampshire County Council

Project archives

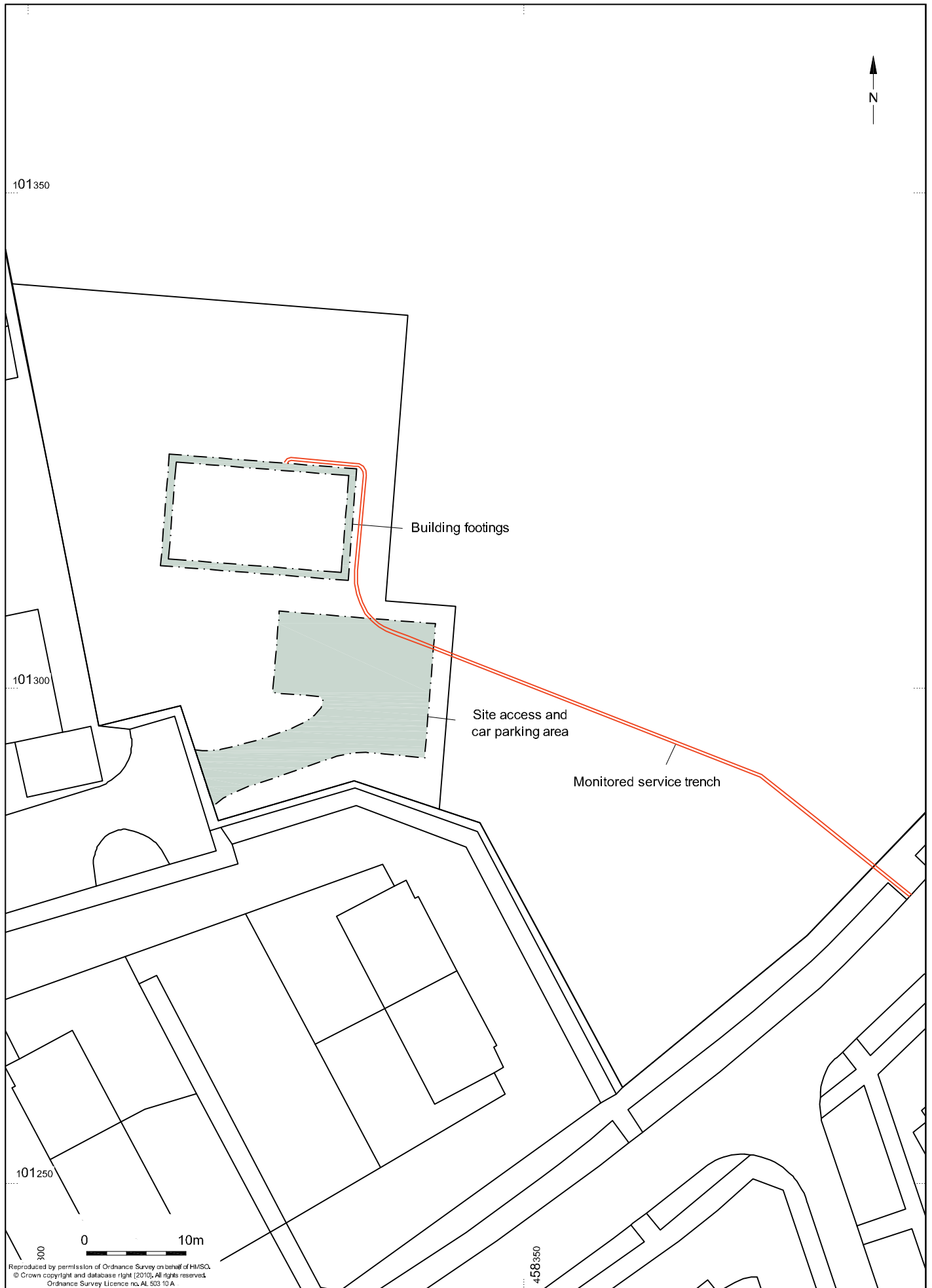
Physical Archive recipient	local museum
Physical Contents	'other', 'Ceramics', 'Worked stone/lithics'
Digital Archive recipient	local museum
Digital Contents	'other'
Digital Media available	'Images raster / digital photography', 'Text'
Paper Archive recipient	local museum
Paper Contents	'other'
Paper Media available	'context sheet', 'Map', 'Miscellaneous Material', 'Photograph', 'Plan', 'Report', 'Unpublished Text'

Project bibliography 1

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© Archaeology South-East		Grange School, Fareham	Fig. 1
Project Ref: 4221	Aug 2010	Site location	
Report Ref: 2010113	Drawn by: JLR		



© Archaeology South-East		Grange School, Fareham	Fig. 2
Project Ref: 4221	Aug 2010	Plan showing monitored areas	
Report Ref: 2010113	Drawn by: JLR		

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