



79, 81 and 91 Spitalfield Lane,
Chichester,
West Sussex

Archaeological Evaluation Report





**79/81 AND 91 SPITALFIELD LANE,
CHICHESTER,
WEST SUSSEX**

Archaeological Evaluation

Prepared on behalf of
Churchill Retirement Living Ltd
Millstream House,
Parkside,
Ringwood,
Hampshire BH24 3SG

by
Wessex Archaeology
Unit 113
The Chandlery
50 Westminster Bridge Road
LONDON
SE1 7QY

Report reference: 65341.02

November 2007

**79/78 AND 91 SPITALFIELD LANE,
CHICHESTER,
WEST SUSSEX**

Archaeological Evaluation

Contents

Summary.....	ii
Acknowledgements.....	iii
1 INTRODUCTION.....	1
1.1 Project Background.....	1
1.2 Site location, description and topography.....	1
2 METHODOLOGY.....	2
2.1 Scope.....	2
2.2 Aims.....	2
2.3 Site Investigation.....	2
3 HISTORICAL BACKGROUND.....	2
3.1 Introduction.....	2
3.2 Archaeological Background.....	3
4 RESULTS.....	3
4.1 Site Evaluation.....	3
4.2 Trench 1.....	3
4.3 Trench 2.....	4
5 CONCLUSIONS.....	4
6 REFERENCES.....	5

List of Figures

Figure 1 Site Location and Evaluation Trenches

List of Plates

Front Cover The site viewed from the west, Trench 2 on the right and Trench 1 in the background.

Plate 1 Trench 1 viewed from the north

Plate 2 Trench 2 viewed from the east

**79/81 AND 91 SPITALFIELD LANE,
CHICHESTER,
WEST SUSSEX****Archaeological Evaluation****Summary**

Churchill Retirement Living Ltd commissioned Wessex Archaeology to undertake an archaeological evaluation at 79/81 and 91 Spitalfield Lane, Chichester, in the County of West Sussex. The Site is located at National Grid Reference 486842 105397.

The evaluation was carried out as part of works requested by Mr James Kenny, the Archaeological Officer for Chichester District Council in order to satisfy a condition of planning consent to develop the Site. These works sought to provide appropriate mitigation, by way of preservation by record, for the impact of the proposed scheme on identified archaeological deposits that might be affected by its construction.

The condition was applied to the planning application following testimony from a builder who stated that during construction on the Site in the 1970s that he had uncovered wall footings. The description given of the wall construction indicated a possible Roman construction.

The evaluation consisted of two trenches measuring c. 25 x 2m (Trench 1) and 22 x 2m (Trench 2) on the Site, which has an area available for evaluation equating to approximately 2,800 sqm, which provided a 4% sample of the Site.

The results from the two trenches provided no archaeological evidence. The layers above the natural brickearth were well worked topsoil, to the rear or north of the Site, and considerably truncated topsoil containing large amounts of modern brick and other construction material to the front of the Site.

Plough marks were observed in the northern end of trench 1, however due to their conformity and post-medieval content these, with agreement with the Archaeological officer, were not recorded.

No further mitigation is proposed due to the results from the evaluation providing no evidence for archaeological remains of the Site.

**79/81 AND 91 SPITALFIELD LANE,
CHICHESTER,
WEST SUSSEX**

Archaeological Evaluation

Acknowledgements

Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Tom Dalliel of Churchill Retirement Living Ltd and would also like to express thanks for the assistance provided by Phillip Johnson and Sean Symonds.

Wessex Archaeology would like to thank, for their help and advice, James Kenny and Ian Scrivener-Lindley of Chichester District Council.

Wessex Archaeology also wish to acknowledge the assistance of Dalton Demolition for providing the plant to excavate and backfill the evaluation trenches.

The site investigation was undertaken by Peter Reeves and Neil Fitzpatrick. This report was compiled by Peter Reeves and the illustrations were prepared by Kitty Brandon. The project was managed for Wessex Archaeology by Peter Reeves.

**79/81 AND 91 SPITALFIELD LANE,
CHICHESTER,
WEST SUSSEX**

Archaeological Evaluation

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project Background

1.1.1 Churchill Retirement Living Ltd (the Client) commissioned Wessex Archaeology to undertake an archaeological evaluation at 79/81 and 91 Spitalfield Lane, Chichester, in the County of West Sussex (hereafter 'the Site'). The Site is located on the north side of Spitalfield Lane. The Site is centred on NGR 486842 105397 (**Figure 1**).

1.1.2 The Site evaluation was carried out as part of works requested by the Chichester District Council in order to satisfy a condition of planning consent to develop the Site. The works sought to provide appropriate mitigation, by way of preservation by record, for the impact of the proposed scheme on identified archaeological deposits that will be affected by its construction.

1.1.3 The condition was applied following reports from a builder that he had uncovered a wall, the construction materials for which implied a Roman date, during construction of the bungalow on the Site in the 1970s.

1.2 Site location, description and topography

1.2.1 The Site is an irregular shaped piece of land located on the north side of Spitalfield Lane, with the back fences of the gardens providing the perimeter of the Site to the north, east and west.

1.2.2 The area of the Site, approximately 0.28ha, at the initial Site inspection was covered by three dwellings with drives and hard standing fronting onto Spitalfield Lane. The rear of all the properties was given over to gardens. Following agreement with the Archaeological Officer, Chichester District Council, the buildings and boundary walls were demolished to provide easier machine access and to allow for extension of the evaluation trenches if required.

1.2.3 The Site at the time of the evaluation was level with topsoil exposed at the front and beneath where the houses had stood. The north east corner of the Site remained laid to grass. The Site is located at a fairly uniform elevation of 17m aOD.

1.2.4 The underlying geology within the Site had been identified as Brickearth deposits overlying Cretaceous Chalk (British Geological Survey, 1997).

2 METHODOLOGY

2.1 Scope

- 2.1.1 The aim of the evaluation was to determine the impact of the proposed scheme on identified archaeological deposits that may be affected by its construction.
- 2.1.2 The evaluation consisted of two trenches measuring c. 25 x 2m and 22 x 2m, on the Site which, for the area available for evaluation, equated to a 3.4% sample of the Site.

2.2 Aims

- 2.2.1 The aims of the archaeological evaluation were to:
- Identify the date, character, condition and depth of any surviving archaeological remains found within the trenches;
 - Produce a report which will present the project information in sufficient detail to allow interpretation without recourse to the project archive.

2.3 Site Investigation

- 2.3.1 The following methodology was undertaken in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation (Wessex Archaeology 2007), which was agreed with Chichester District Council prior to commencement of field evaluation in order to meet the aims and objectives of the evaluation as shown above.
- 2.3.2 The Site evaluation was conducted by a fully qualified archaeologist at all times.
- 2.3.3 The Site evaluation was undertaken using a JCB fitted with a toothless ditching bucket to excavate the trenches.
- 2.3.4 Photographic and written records of the trenches were undertaken using Wessex Archaeology's *pro forma* recording sheets and recording system. A drawn record of a sample area of each trench was recorded in section.
- 2.3.5 The results of the evaluation were photographed and the results are presented in **Plates 1** and **2**. A sketch section was made and the deposits encountered allocated context numbers.

3 HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

3.1 Introduction

- 3.1.1 No archaeological research, either desk based or intrusive had previously been undertaken for this Site. A non-archaeological desk based study using map regression only was carried out by Crossfield Consulting which showed a series of build and rebuild on the Site since 1875.

3.2 Archaeological Background

- 3.2.1 Following discussions with James Kenny, Archaeological Officer for Chichester District Council and Ian Scrivener-Lindley, Historic Environment Record's Officer for Chichester District Council, archaeological sites are known from the vicinity but not within the Site.
- 3.2.2 The Site is located approximately 900m from the centre of the Roman City of *Noviomagus*, however the Site is located 500m outside and to the north east of the Roman City Walls.
- 3.2.3 The Medieval City of Chichester remained focused within the Roman City Walls with no evidence of expansion until late in the medieval period. A former Leper Hospital was located to the east of the Site, approximately 600m away and it is from this that Spitalfield Lane gains its name and origin.
- 3.2.4 The map regression exercise undertaken by Crossfield Consulting (2006), indicates the area to have remained as farmland until the first buildings were constructed in c.1875.

4 RESULTS

4.1 Site Evaluation

- 4.1.1 This section of the report contains the descriptive results of the Site evaluation.

4.2 Trench 1

- 4.2.1 This trench measuring 25m in length was excavated to a depth of 0.80m and was located in the centre of the north part of the Site (**Figure 1** and **Plate 1**). The trench was aligned north south parallel to the former boundary wall located to the rear of and separating 79 and 81 Spitalfield Lane.
- 4.2.2 The trench's northern end was at a height of 16.90m aOD. Toward the rear of the former house the height rose, through previous landscaping of the garden, to a height of 17.42m aOD.
- 4.2.3 Layer **100** was a homogeneous layer of topsoil/garden soil with building debris mixed into the horizon at its southern extent. The soil consisted of mid-dark greyish brown clay loam material which had various small inclusions of broken brick and mortar. Toward the northern extremity, previously laid to garden numerous fine roots were observed throughout the deposit. This was above a firm, mottled, mid orange sandy clay deposit (**101**) of brickearth.
- 4.2.4 Layer **101** consisted of a mid orange brown coloured clay with sparse small pebble inclusions. Some post-medieval plough scars were observed in the surface of the brickearth toward the northern end of the trench.

4.3 Trench 2

- 4.3.1 Aligned east to west and located in the front of the former buildings comprising numbers 79 and 81 Spitalfield Lane, Trench 2 (**Figure 1** and **Plate 2**) measured 22m in length and was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.95m.
- 4.3.2 Over the length of the trench the height varied by less than 0.04m with an average elevation of 16.98m aOD.
- 4.3.3 The evaluation trench produced the same results as for Trench 1 with two deposits (**200** and **201**) of the same type (see 4.2.2 and 4.2.3 for details).

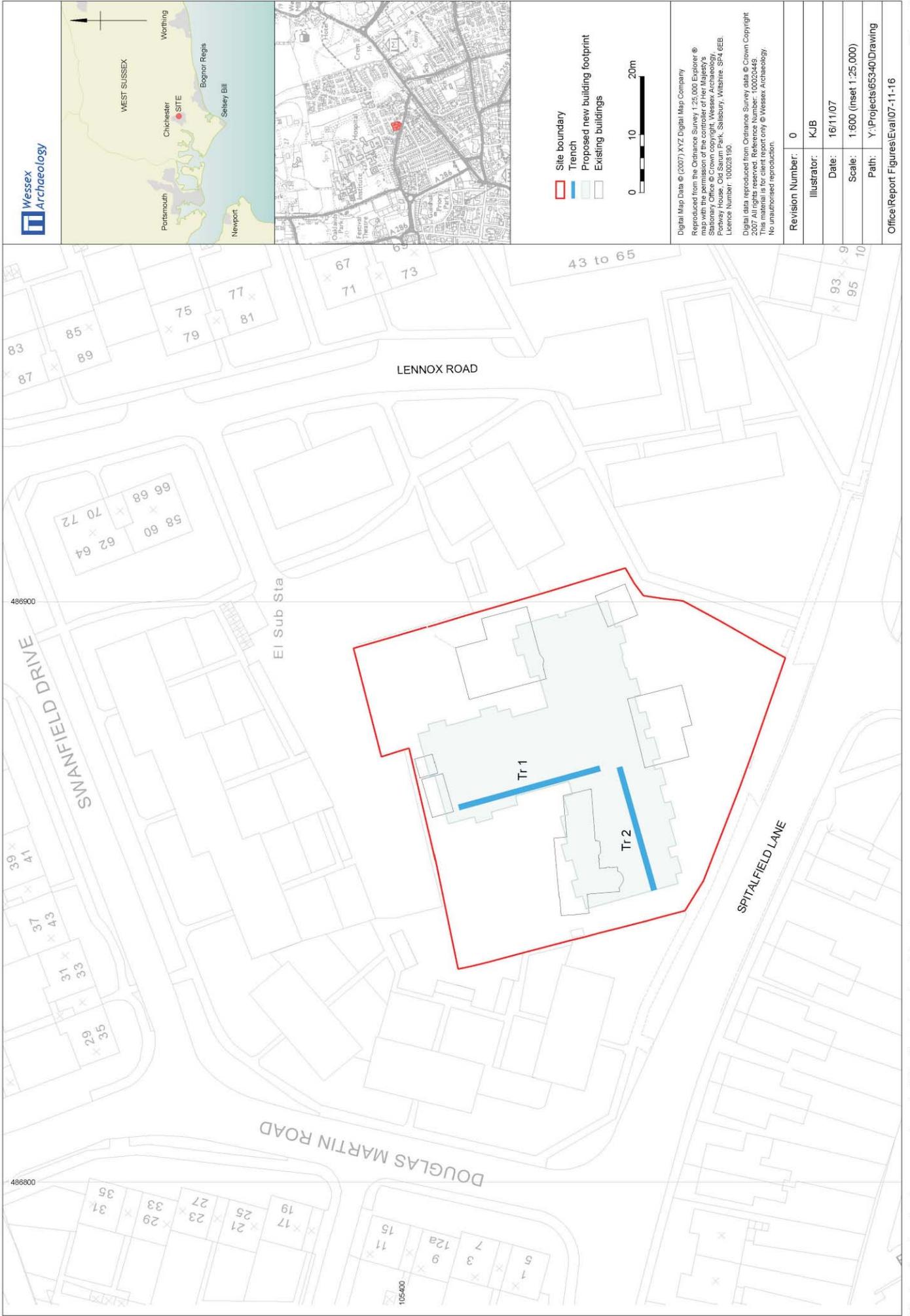
5 CONCLUSIONS

- 5.1.1 The two evaluation trenches demonstrated that the Site had undergone little or no development in the past other than for the construction of the three buildings since demolished. Across the length of the trenches the Site stratigraphy demonstrated a model typical of the previously undeveloped coastal plain surrounding Chichester, an untruncated horizontal sequence of topsoil overlying Brickearth. Neither of these deposits demonstrated evidence of archaeological features or deposition.
- 5.1.2 The surface of the Brickearth, toward the northern end of Trench 1 (**101**), contained plough scars dated to the post-medieval period. This discovery would be consistent with the map regression exercise undertaken by Crossfield Consulting which concluded that the Site had been agricultural land until c. 1875.
- 5.1.3 Dalton Demolition also removed the foundations and underpinning from the three buildings previously present on Site. These foundation trenches demonstrated the same stratigraphy as that observed for the two evaluation trenches.
- 5.1.4 No archaeological cut features or deposition layers were observed throughout the course of the evaluation.
- 5.1.5 Throughout the evaluation no in-situ artefacts or unstratified finds belonging to any archaeological period were retrieved. Ceramic brick and tile material all dating to the nineteenth century and later were discarded at Site.
- 5.1.6 Based on the observations made during the evaluation and the removal of the foundations and underpinning it is concluded that the potential for archaeological remains to exist over the Site is **very low to zero**.
- 5.1.7 The evaluation was monitored by Mr James Kenny, Chichester District Council and following inspection of the evaluation trenches it was concluded and agreed that no further mitigation is proposed. The agreement was agreed due to the results from the evaluation providing evidence of the lack of archaeological remains on the Site.

6 REFERENCES

Crossfield Consulting Ltd 2006, *79,81 and 91 Spitalfield Lane, Chichester. Desk Based Appraisal* Ref CCL01413.BA42

Wessex Archaeology 2007, *79,81 and 91 Spitalfield Lane, Chichester. Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Evaluation Report* Reference 65340.01



Site location plan showing proposed new building footprint and trench locations



Plate 1. Trench 1 viewed from north



Plate 2. Trench 2 viewed from east



WESSEX ARCHAEOLOGY LIMITED.

Head Office: Portway House, Old Sarum Park, Salisbury, Wiltshire SP4 6EB.

Tel: 01722 326867 Fax: 01722 337562 info@wessexarch.co.uk www.wessexarch.co.uk

London Office: Unit 113, The Chandlery, 50 Westminster Bridge Road, London SE1 7QY.

Tel: 020 7953 7494 Fax: 020 7953 7499 london-info@wessexarch.co.uk www.wessexarch.co.uk

