

ROMAYNE CLOSE,
COVE,
FARNBOROUGH,
HAMPSHIRE.

An Archaeological Watching Brief
for Bewley Homes PLC

Romayne Close, Cove, Farnborough, Hampshire
Archaeological Watching Brief

Project 95/61

By Steve Ford

Introduction

This report documents the results of an archaeological watching brief commissioned by Mr. J. Jones of Bewley Homes Limited as a condition on the planning permission to redevelop part of the site for housing. The archaeological fieldwork was required as set out in *'Archaeology and Planning'* (PPG16, 1990), and carried out according to a specification agreed with the Archaeology Section, Hampshire County Council.

The watching brief was carried out on the groundworks by Joanna Pine on 8th December 1995. The site code is RCC96.

Topography and Geology

The site is located to the east of Cove and north of Farnborough (NGR SU 863563) (Fig. 1). The site lies at the end of a cul-de-sac (Romayne Close) on the south side of a school playing field.

The site is flat and it lies at a height of c.60 m. above OD between Cove Brook and the river Blackwater. The area of the site is approximately 0.35 hectares. The solid geology of the site is Bracklesham Beds (BGS 1976), here recorded as a green clayey sand over gravel.

The redevelopment took place to the rear of the plots of the existing structures and necessitated demolition of numbers 13 and 14 for the new access road (Fig. 2).

Archaeological background

There are few finds or sites of archaeological significance within the immediate area but information provided by Mr. G. Hoare of North East Hants Historical and Archaeological Society to the Hampshire Sites and Monuments Record states that a large dump of 17th Century pottery wasters was found in Romayne Close suggesting the presence of a kiln nearby. This might be a part of the Cove pottery industry.

Objectives

The watching brief was to monitor the topsoil stripping and excavation of foundation and service trenches as necessary. Archaeological deposits were to be excavated (if applicable) and recorded by means of drawn sections, plans, photographs and written descriptions. Any finds were to be retained for further study.

Results

The fieldwork consisted of a single visit following demolition, scrub clearance and topsoil stripping. Parts of the lines of the new roads were still in the process of being stripped of topsoil and these were monitored during the visit. The stripped surface was

examined for archaeological finds and deposits but apart from a few sherds of late Post-Medieval pottery nothing else was found. The areas close to the demolished structures was heavily disturbed.

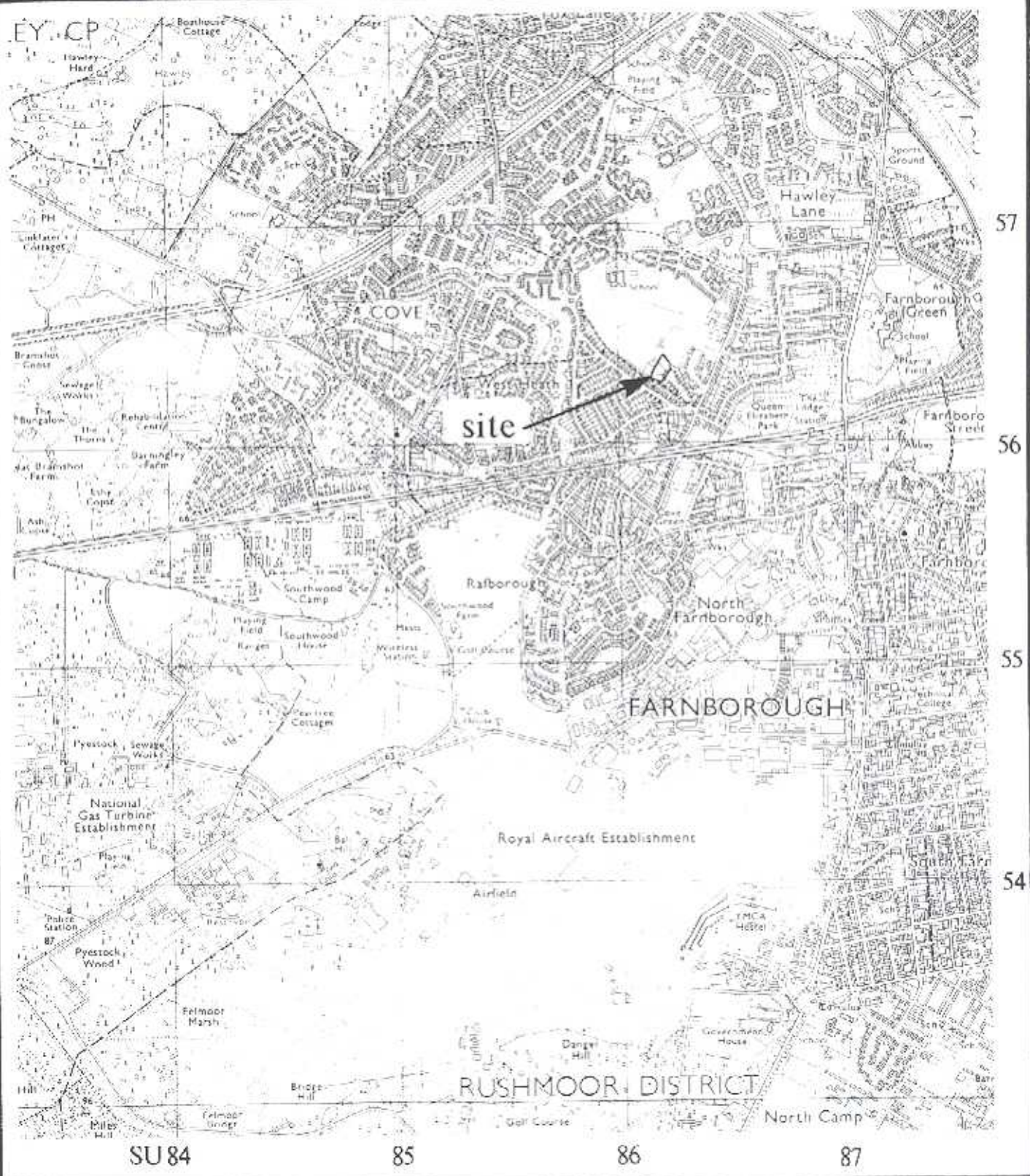
A service trench along the line of the access road 0.7 m. wide and over 1.5 m. deep afforded an opportunity to examine the natural strata on the site and revealed 0.35 m. of topsoil overlying 0.15 m. of sandy subsoil above a green clayey sand. Gravel was present at a depth of 1.5 m. No archaeological deposits were observed in the section.

Conclusions

No archaeological finds or deposits were observed within the redevelopment area.

References

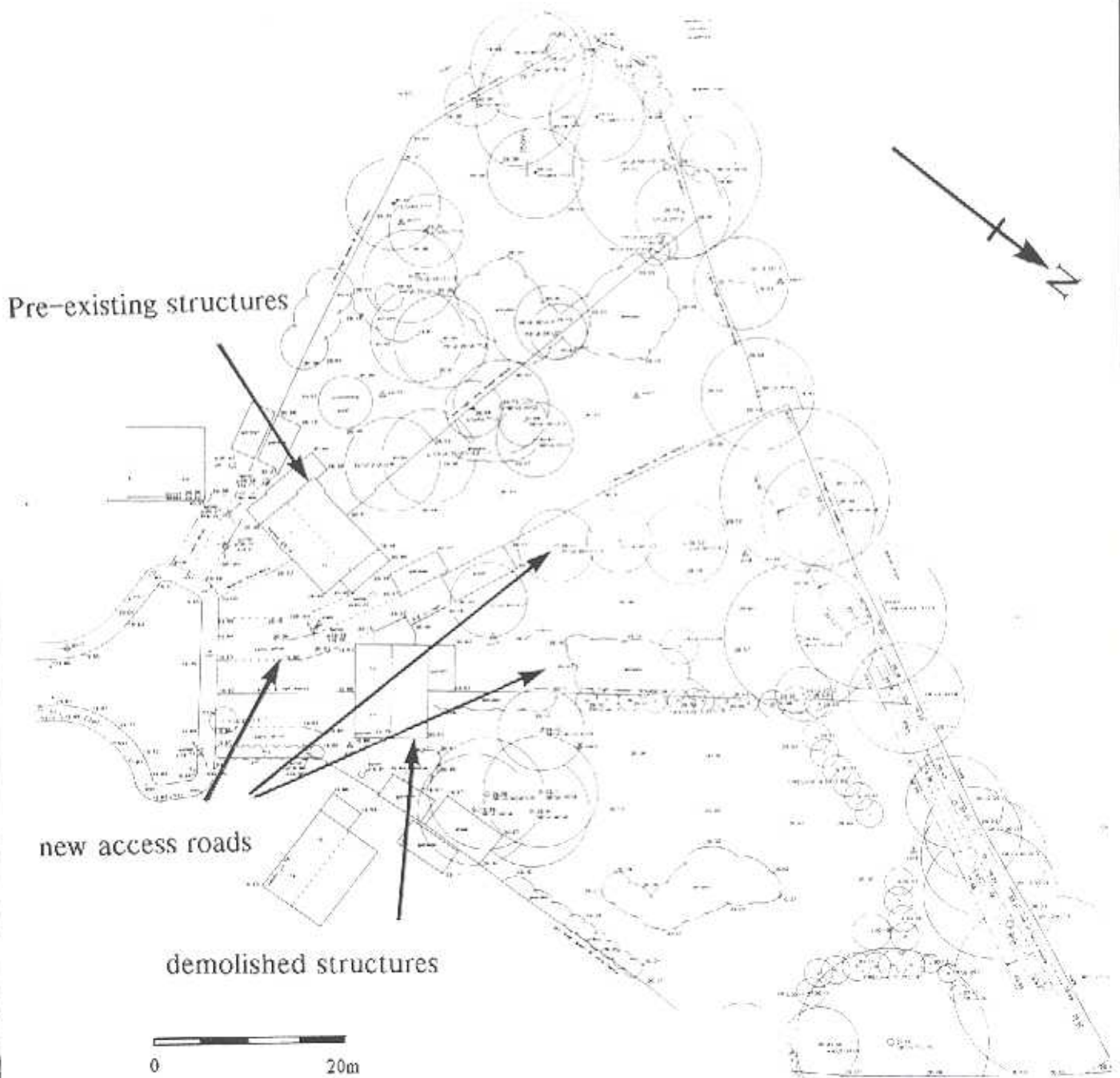
- BGS 1976: British Geological Survey, sheet 285 1:50,000.
(Keyworth).
- PPG16, 1990: Archaeology and Planning. DoE Planning
Policy Guidance note 16. (HMSO).



Romayne Close, Cove

Figure 1.

THAMES VALLEY
 ARCHAEOLOGICAL
 SERVICES



Romaine Close, Cove

Figure 2.

THAMES VALLEY
 ARCHAEOLOGICAL
 SERVICES