



**Stricklands, Chapel Road
Southampton**

**Written Scheme of Investigation
For an Archaeological Excavation and Watching Brief**

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Stricklands, Chapel Road Southampton

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Figure 1 Site location plan

Stricklands, Chapel Road Southampton

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1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project Background

1.1.1 Wessex Archaeology has been commissioned by Highwood Construction (The Client) to undertake an archaeological investigation on land at Stricklands Motor Repairs, Chapel Road, Southampton (hereafter 'the Site'), centred on 442681, 111582 (**Figure 1**).

1.1.2 The Site is located within the known extent of the nationally important mid-Saxon (7th-9th centuries AD) settlement of Hamwic and excavations undertaken by Wessex Archaeology at The Deanery (WA 2008) immediately to the east of the Site have confirmed the continuity of the activity in the form of numerous pits, postholes, gullies, wells and ditches.

1.1.3 Planning permission (Ref 09/00199/FUL) has been granted by Southampton City Council for the redevelopment of the Site to create one three-bed townhouse and three one-bed flats in a single three-storey building subject to two conditions relating to archaeological works being implemented. The conditions state

Archaeological investigation [Pre-Commencement Condition]. No development shall take place within the site until the implementation of a programme of archaeological work has been secured in accordance with a written scheme of investigation which has been submitted to and approved by the Local Planning Authority.

Archaeological work programme [Performance Condition]. The developer will secure the completion of a programme of archaeological work in accordance with a written scheme of investigation which has been submitted to and approved by the Local Planning Authority.

1.1.4 The Heritage Conservation Unit, Southampton City Council (hereafter HCU) has issued a Brief for the principal stages of excavation work and in accordance with its requirements, this document sets out a programme of work for the approval of the HCU prior to the commencement of the work.

2 SITE DESCRIPTION

2.1 Location, topography and geology.

2.1.1 The Site is situated to the south-east of Southampton City centre, in the parish of St Mary's and to the south-east of St Mary's Church and covers an area of approximately 0.35ha. The Site comprises an irregular plot of land to the south of and fronting onto Chapel Road and is bounded on the eastern boundary by the Deanery site (formerly Southampton City College sports hall). The southern and western sides of the Site are bounded by residential developments fronting onto Maryfield.

- 2.1.2 The Site is currently occupied by Stricklands Garage (Motor Vehicle body repair centre).
- 2.1.3 The Site lies on fairly level ground, around 2.5m above Ordnance Datum (aOD). Geological maps indicate that the Site lies on Brickearth, overlying River Terrace Gravels (British Geological Survey, sheet 315). The nature of the drift geology was confirmed by the previous archaeological evaluation.

3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

3.1 Introduction

- 3.1.1 Although the archaeological potential of the Site is dominated by the Saxon settlement of Hamwic, the potential for Saxon and post-conquest burials potentially relating to a monastic enclosure adjacent to St Mary's Church is clearly evident.

3.2 Background

- 3.2.1 The Site lies within the southern extent of the nationally important mid-Saxon settlement of Hamwic. Previous excavations immediately to the south and west of the Site have recorded further evidence of the mid-Saxon and later occupation of the area.
- 3.2.2 The Deanery immediately to the east of the Site has been subject to numerous archaeological investigations, most recently by Wessex Archaeology in 2008 (Wessex Archaeology 2008). Features exposed included pits, wells, ditches, gullies, a possible hearth and postholes. Pits were the most numerous features (112 of the 166 features) present. A small irregular possible structure formed by four postholes and a gully and a short length of late medieval or early post-medieval wall footing formed the only discernible building within the excavation area. Although residual worked flint and pottery were recovered no features of Prehistoric or Romano-British date were recorded at the Deanery and evidence recovered from nearby suggests only small scale occupation of the area prior to the 7th century onwards.
- 3.2.3 Immediately to the north, St Mary's church is of Saxon foundation and in the medieval period was Southampton's mother church. There is the potential for Saxon and post-Conquest burials on the Site, extending from the known burial area around St Mary's Church into the Site itself. Indeed several isolated graves have been recorded in the immediate vicinity and there remains the potential for further burials or a small cemetery to exist within the development area itself.
- 3.2.4 To the west of the Site at Cook Street, an inhumation cemetery dating from the 8th century onwards is recorded by the Hampshire Field Club. To the north of St Mary's, a single inhumation was excavated in 2008. Although undated it is likely to be medieval and may be associated with burials inside the monastic enclosure. Further east along Chapel Road a single burial with disturbed human bone to the south is recorded and to the west of the Site, two Saxon burials are recorded and positioned just outside the present church wall. A third burial recorded to the south of the Site dates to the 9th or 10th century.
- 3.2.5 The area remained part of the St Mary's holding throughout the medieval period and Speed's map of 1611 does not show any significant changes or

features within the Site itself. A possible building in the western half of the Site is evident on Mazell's 1771 map and a further building is evident in the centre of the Site on the Royal Engineers' map of 1846. This map, the first to be surveyed to modern standards, also details trees in the eastern half of the Site. In the late medieval period, the Chantry House lay to the west of the Site

- 3.2.6 Post-medieval and modern interest in the Site lies in features and deposits associated with Chapel Road. It is likely that there was a substantial roadside ditch to the south of Chapel Road.

4 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- 4.1.1 The objective of the fieldwork is to establish within the constraints of the sampling strategy the presence or absence, location, extent, date, character, condition, and depth of any surviving remains within the proposed footprint of the new building.
- 4.1.2 To fieldwork will also aim to enhance the existing archaeological data set from the Deanery immediately east of the Site and provide further information on the nature, extent, character and chronology of the mid Saxon and later occupation at *Hamwic*.

5 METHOD

5.1 Fieldwork

- 5.1.1 The fieldwork will comprise two phases of work. The initial phase of work, provisionally set to start on 24th August 2009, will consist of archaeological excavation of the footprint of the proposed new building (**Figure 1**) covering an area of approximately 125sq m. This will be followed by a watching brief on service trenches and other minor groundworks associated with the development.
- 5.1.2 Excavation will be undertaken by machining (360° excavator) using a toothless grading bucket under the constant supervision of a qualified archaeologist. A toothed bucket may be required to remove the initial hardstanding deposits. Mechanical excavation will proceed until archaeological remains or, in their absence, either the brickearth or formation level is reached. The depth of excavation will vary across the Site but where areas exceed 1.2m deep trench sides will be battered or stepped to ensure safe working conditions. All mechanical excavation will be carried out under constant archaeological supervision.
- 5.1.3 Excavation of archaeological features and deposits will be the minimum necessary to achieve the project objectives and will not be unduly damaging to the integrity of deposits where their preservation *in situ* is desirable. Decisions on the sampling of features and deposits during the course of the excavation will be undertaken in consultation with the HCU.
- 5.1.4 At the satisfactory conclusion of the excavation, subject to a monitoring meeting with the HCU, completed areas will be handed back to the developers.

5.2 Recording

- 5.2.1 All exposed archaeological deposits will be recorded using Wessex Archaeology's *pro forma* recording system.

- 5.2.2 A complete drawn record of excavated archaeological features and deposits will be compiled. This will include both plans and sections, drawn to appropriate scales (1:20 for plans, 1:10 for sections), and with reference to a site grid tied to the Ordnance Survey National Grid. The OD height of all principal features and levels will be calculated and plans/sections will be annotated with OD heights. An overall site plan will be produced using a Total Station/GPS and tied in to the Ordnance Survey.
- 5.2.3 A full photographic record will be maintained using both colour transparencies and black and white negatives (on 35 mm film). The photographic record will illustrate both the detail and the general context of the principal excavated features and finds, and the site as a whole. A digital photographic record of progress may also be maintained.
- 5.2.4 Excavated material will be visually examined for archaeological material and a metal detector may be used to enhance artefact recovery.
- 5.2.5 The fieldwork will be carried out in accordance with the relevant guidance given in the Institute For Archaeologist's *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Excavations* (revised 2008) excepting where they are superseded by statements made below.
- 5.3 Monitoring**
- 5.3.1 An appropriate programme of monitoring visits will be agreed with the HCU in advance of the commencement of fieldwork.
- 5.4 Watching Brief**
- 5.4.1 The programme for the archaeological watching brief will be carried out, subject to prior and adequate notification being given by the Client and will comprise of the following:
- Continual archaeological observation of the excavation for services and any other groundworks.
 - Recording at an appropriate level based on the nature of the archaeological features or deposits revealed.
 - The level of archaeological work to be carried out will be subject to the proposed groundwork programme and in consultation with the groundworks and HCU cause minimal disruption to the development programme.
- 5.4.2 Wessex Archaeology staff will investigate archaeological remains by excavation and recording commensurate with the scale of work and using Wessex Archaeology's *pro forma* recording system. Where practical, and without including unreasonable delay to the groundworks programme, excavation will include sampling of features and deposits in order to recover artefacts, ecofacts and dating evidence, and in order to determine stratigraphic relationships. Recording will include written, drawn, and photographic elements as conditions allow.
- 5.4.3 Areas under archaeological observation may be surveyed using a Total Station/GPS and tied in to the Ordnance Survey.
- 5.4.4 Excavated material will be visually examined for archaeological material and a metal detector may be used to enhance artefact recovery.

- 5.4.5 The watching brief will be carried out in accordance with the relevant guidance given in the Institute of Field Archaeologist's *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs* (revised 2008).
- 5.4.6 Should extensive and well preserved remains be found requiring a contingent excavation it will be necessary to agree with the Client and the HCU a programme for this, extending the scope of archaeological works, whilst ensuring no unreasonable delay is caused to the ground works programme.

6 FINDS AND ENVIRONMENTAL SAMPLING

6.1 Finds

- 6.1.1 Finds will be treated in accordance with the relevant guidance given in the Institute For Archaeologist's *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation* (revised 2008), the UK Institute of Conservators Guidelines *Conservation Guideline No 2*, Museums and Galleries Commissions *Standards in the Museum Care of Archaeological Collections* (1991) and the *Standards for the Creation, Compilation and Transfer of Archaeological Archives* (Southampton City Council 2007) excepting where they are superseded by statements made below.
- 6.1.2 All artefacts from excavated contexts will be retained, except those from features or deposits of obviously modern date. No finds will, however, be discarded without the prior approval of the HCU. In such circumstances, sufficient artefacts will be retained in order to elucidate the date and/or function of the feature or deposit.
- 6.1.3 All retained artefacts will, as a minimum, be washed, weighed, counted and identified. Any artefacts requiring conservation or specific storage conditions will be dealt with immediately in line with *First Aid for Finds* (Watkinson & Neal 1998). Ironwork from stratified contexts will be X-rayed and stored in a stable environment along with other fragile and delicate material. The X-raying of objects and other conservation needs will be undertaken by the staff of the Wiltshire Conservation Consortium, Chippenham, or other appropriate approved conservation centre.

6.2 Environmental Sampling

- 6.2.1 Sampling will follow the English Heritage (EH) guidelines "Environmental Archaeology, a guide to the theory and practice of methods, from sampling and recovery to post-excavation" and the Wessex Archaeology "Guidelines for Environmental Sampling". Any variation to this guidance will be agreed in advance with both the HCU Archaeology Advisor and, if appropriate, with the EH Regional Science Advisor
- 6.2.2 Bulk environmental soil samples for plant macro fossils, small animal bones and other small artefacts will be taken from appropriate well sealed and dated/datable archaeological contexts. Each context will normally be sampled. Samples of between 40-60 litres will be taken or 100% of smaller contexts. Samples will not be taken from the intersection of features.
- 6.2.3 The residues and sieved fractions of the bulk environmental soil samples will be recorded and retained with the project archive.

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- 6.2.4 Samples for charred plant remains (charcoal and charred seeds etc) will be taken from well dated and sealed deposits to define presence and preservation to enable comments on any further sampling strategy to be made.
- 6.2.5 For charred material, bulk samples of up to 60 litres will be taken for processing by flotation (using Wessex Archaeology double tank internal weir flotation system and double processing methods).
- 6.2.6 Where appropriate, mollusc samples of 2 litres each will be taken vertically from sections to investigate the changes of vegetation through time.
- 6.2.7 Where deposits are wet, waterlogged or peaty, monoliths will be taken along cleaned vertical surfaces for the retrieval of pollen, diatoms, ostracods and foraminifera. The numbers to be taken will be agreed with the HCU.
- 6.2.8 For wet, waterlogged or peaty deposits, bulk samples of 20 litres will be taken from visible layers or spits for the retrieval of plant macro-remains and insects.
- 6.2.9 Environmental samples from dry deposits will normally be processed by flotation following the evaluation fieldwork and the residues will be sorted to retrieve small bones, small finds and charcoal that has not floated.
- 6.2.10 If appropriate, the advice of the English Heritage Scientific Advisor will be sought regarding specialist sampling requirements and any scientific applications relevant to the archaeological excavation of the Site.
- 6.2.11 Where appropriate the guidance in the following English Heritage papers will be followed:
- “Guidelines on the recording, sampling, conservation, and curation of waterlogged wood” 1996
 - “Dendrochronology – guidelines on producing and interpreting dendrochronological dates” 1997
 - “Archaeometallurgy” 2001
 - “Environmental Archaeology: A guide to the theory and practice of methods, from sampling and recovery to post-excavation” 2002
 - “Human bones from Archaeological Sites: Guidelines for Producing Assessment Documents and Analytical Reports” 2004
 - “Geoarchaeology” 2004
 - “Wet Wood and Leather”
 - “Archaeomagnetic Dating: Guidelines on producing and interpreting archaeomagnetic dates” 2006
 - “Guidelines on the X-radiography of archaeological metalwork” 2006

6.3 Human Remains

- 6.3.1 In the event of discovery of any human remains, it is proposed that they will initially be left *in situ*, covered and protected. Following discussions with the Client and the HCU acting on behalf of the Local Planning Authority, the need for and appropriateness of their excavation/removal as part of the evaluation will be determined. Where deemed appropriate they will be fully recorded, excavated and removed from the site subject to compliance with

the relevant Ministry of Justice Licence which will be obtained by Wessex Archaeology

- 6.3.2 Should it be necessary to excavate human remains, all excavation and post-excavation will be in accordance with the standards set out in IFA Technical Paper 13 *Excavation and post-excavation treatment of cremated and inhumed remains*. Appropriate specialist guidance/site visits will be undertaken by Jackie McKinley of Wessex Archaeology. The final placing of human remains following analysis will be subject to the requirements of the Ministry of Justice Licence.

6.4 Treasure

- 6.4.1 In the event of discovery of artefacts covered or potentially covered by The Treasure Act, their excavation and removal will be undertaken following notification of the Coroner, Client and HCU.

6.5 Reinstatement

- 6.5.1 Wessex Archaeology will *not* backfill the excavation area unless specifically instructed to do so and upon completion of the archaeological work the excavation area will be left open.

7 POST-EXCAVATION AND REPORTING

7.1 Methodology

- 7.1.1 In accordance with the recommendations of the *Management of Archaeological Projects, Version 2*, the archaeological contractor will ensure that the material archive is assessed as the first stage of the post-excavation process.
- 7.1.2 Wessex Archaeology will enable Southampton City Council's Curator of Archaeological Collections to carry out a collections assessment of the material archive, as stipulated in *Standards for the Creation, Compilation and Transfer of Archaeological Archives*.
- 7.1.3 Wessex Archaeology will ensure that data about complete, identifiable, itemised objects is transferred onto Southampton City Museum's Archaeological Object Record Sheets. The sheets will then be entered in to the computerised Archaeological Collections Object database, and where necessary the archaeological contractor will make allowance for the costs involved in computer entry.
- 7.1.4 The archaeological report will be prepared in accordance with the guidance given in the Institute For Archaeologist's *Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief* (Revised 2001) except where superseded by statements below.
- 7.1.5 Emphasis will be given to placing the results into the context of the archaeology of this part of Southampton.
- 7.1.6 The report may include;
- a non-technical summary
 - plans and sections at an appropriate scale locating the Site, the excavation area, known and projected archaeological deposits and the

extent and nature of colluvial and/or alluvial deposits, including OD heights.

- tabulation of finds data by context and by material type
- a summary by category of the material types recovered during the evaluation
- a summary of the palaeo-environmental evidence
- a consideration of the archaeological evidence from within the Site set in its broader landscape and historic setting

7.1.7 The preparation of the report may involve the following elements:

- the conservation of appropriate material, including the X-raying of ironwork
- the spot-dating of all pottery from excavated contexts. Spot-dating will be corroborated by scanning of other categories of material
- a statement on each category of material, including reference to quantity, provenance, range and variety, condition and existence of other primary sources.
- the selection and prioritisation of bulk soil samples taken for environmental and artefactual data in the light of preliminary phasing. Sieving, processing and scanning of selected soil samples will be undertaken and an assessment statement on charred food and plant remains, including references as for the categories of material
- a statement of potential for each material category and for the data collection as a whole will be prepared, including specific questions that can be answered and the potential value of the data to local, regional and national investigation priorities.

8 ARCHIVE

8.1 Preparation and Deposition

8.1.1 The complete project archive will be prepared in accordance with Wessex Archaeology's Guidelines for Archive Preparation and in accordance with *Guidelines for the preparation of excavation archives for long-term storage (UKIC 1990)*. Information will be obtained from the relevant museum concerning conditions and arrangements for the deposition of the Archive on completion of the project. An accession number has been requested.

9 PROJECT MANAGEMENT AND STAFFING

9.1 Personnel

9.1.1 The fieldwork will be directed and supervised by an experienced archaeologist from Wessex Archaeology's core staff, who will be on site at all times for the length of archaeological work. The overall responsibility for the conduct and management of the project will be held by one of Wessex Archaeology's Project Managers, who will visit the fieldwork as appropriate to monitor progress and to ensure that the scope of works is adhered to. The appointed Project Manager and experienced archaeologist will be involved in all phases of the evaluation through to its completion.

9.1.2 The analysis of the finds and environmental data will be undertaken by Wessex Archaeology core staff or external specialists, using Wessex

Archaeology's standard *pro forma* recording system. The work will be carried out under the supervision of the following departmental managers under the overall direction of the Project Manager. The following staff are proposed:

Sue Farr, BA, MIFA	Project Manager
T.B.C.	Fieldwork Director
Andy Crockett, BTech, AIFA	Finds and Environmental Leader

9.1.3 Information on other specialists can be provided on request.

10 STANDARDS

10.1 Quality and Code of Practice

- 10.1.1 Wessex Archaeology is an archaeological organisation registered with the Institute For Archaeologists
- 10.1.2 Wessex Archaeology endorses the Code of Practice and the Code of Approved Practice for the Regulation of Contractual Arrangements in Field Archaeology of The Institute For Archaeologists
- 10.1.3 All core staff would be of a standard approved by Wessex Archaeology, be employed in line with The Institute For Archaeologists Codes of Practice and be members of the Institute For Archaeologists or be appropriately qualified
- 10.1.4 Wessex Archaeology operates a *Project Management System*. All projects are undertaken under the direction of the Project Manager who is responsible to a Section Head, who ensures the maintenance of quality standards within the organisation. The Chief Executive has ultimate responsibility for all of the Company's work.

11 INSURANCE AND HEALTH AND SAFETY

11.1 Policy and Risk Assessment

- 11.1.1 Health and safety considerations will be of paramount importance in conducting all fieldwork. Safe working practises will override archaeological considerations at all times.
- 11.1.2 All work will be carried out in accordance with the Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974 and the Management of Health and Safety Regulations 1992, and all other relevant Health and Safety legislation, regulations and codes of practice in force at the time.
- 11.1.3 Wessex Archaeology will supply a copy of their Health and Safety Policy and a Risk Assessment to the Client before the commencement of any fieldwork. The Risk Assessment will have been read and understood by all staff attending the Site before any groundwork commences.
- 11.1.4 Wessex Archaeology has both public liability (£10,000,000) and professional indemnity insurance (£5,000,000).

- 11.1.5 Wessex Archaeology will ensure that all work is carried out to within the Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974 and the Management of Health and Safety Regulations 1992.

12 BIBLIOGRAPHY

Morton, A D, 1992 *Excavations at Hamwic: Volume 1* CBA Research Report No 84

Russel, J I, and Leivers, M. 2000 *Archaeological Evaluation of land at The Deanery, Chapel Road, Southampton (SOU 1055)* Southampton City Council Archaeology Unit, unpublished report

Wessex Archaeology, 2008 *The Deanery, Chapel Road, Southampton: Summary of Results and Assessment of Potential for Analysis and Publication reference (SOU1386) 62122.11*



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Site and proposed excavation area

Figure 1

