

THE DEANERY, CHAPEL ROAD, SOUTHAMPTON

**PROGRAMME OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL WORK
FOR AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELD EVALUATION**

Prepared for:

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1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project Background

1.1.1 Wessex Archaeology has been commissioned by Highwood Construction to carry out an archaeological field evaluation on land at The Deanery, Chapel Road, Southampton (NGR 44270 11155, hereafter ‘the Site’, **Figure 1**). The site lies within the known extent of the nationally important mid-Saxon settlement of Hamwic. Therefore in view of the proposed residential development of the site, the Heritage Conservation Unit of Southampton City Council has advised the local planning authority that further information on the archaeological implications of the proposed development is required prior to determination of a planning application for the proposed development.

1.1.2 The Heritage Conservation Unit (hereafter HCU) has issued a Scheme of Investigation for the evaluation and, in accordance with its requirements, this document sets out a programme of work for the evaluation for the approval of the HCU prior to the commencement of the work. This document sets out the archaeological background to the Site and the aims and methods of the evaluation, including a proposed trench location plan.

1.2 The Site, Topography and Geology

1.2.1 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. The site comprises an approximately rectangular plot of land to the south of and fronting Chapel Road. The site is currently occupied by Southampton City College with a gym building, access road and areas of car parking and landscaping.

1.2.2 The site lies on fairly level ground, around 2.5 m OD. Geological maps indicate that the Site lies on Brickearth, overlying River Terrace Gravels (British Geological Survey, sheet 315).

1.3 Archaeological and Historical Background

1.3.1 The archaeological background to the Site is set out in detail in the Scheme of Investigation and subsequent information provided by the HCU. This can be summarised as follows. The site lies within the known extent of the nationally important mid-Saxon settlement of Hamwic. St Mary’s church is of Saxon foundation and in the Middle Ages was Southampton’s mother church. Mid-Saxon occupation has previously been recorded within the site. There is also a potential for Saxon and post-Conquest burials in the north-west of the site, extending from the known burial area around St Mary’s Church.

- 1.3.2 In the late medieval period, the Chantry House lay to the west of the Site, although cartographic and archaeological evidence suggests that later medieval occupation extends into the Site area.
- 1.3.3 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.
- 1.3.4 Parts of the site have been subject to archaeological investigation in the past. In 1973 three trenches (SOU 9 and 17) were excavated in the centre of the site prior to the construction of the Gym building (Morton 1992, 96). In 2000 three evaluation trenches were excavated in the north-west, north and south of the site (SOU 1055) (Russel and Leivers 2000). Borehole and test pit data has also been recovered from the site, although the results are not currently readily available (Wessex Archaeology 2001).

2 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- 2.1 The objective of the evaluation is to establish within the constraints of the evaluation sampling strategy the presence or absence, location, extent, date, character, condition, and depth of any surviving remains within the Site.
- 2.2 The evaluation will also aim to enhance the existing archaeological data for the Site to enable informed decisions to be made on the archaeological potential of the Site, the likely impact of propose development and the mitigation measures required to remove, reduce or ameliorate those impacts, taking account the quality and importance of the archaeology and the engineering requirements of the developer.

3 METHODS

3.1 Field Evaluation

- 3.1.1 In order to enhance existing data, the Scheme of Investigation and supplementary information identifies three areas for evaluation as follows. Proposed trench locations as shown in the attached figure are based on archaeological requirements specified in the Scheme of Investigation. Their final positions may require some minor relocation subject to H&S considerations, information service locations, access and the operational requirements of the occupier.
- 3.1.2 A trench of approximately 8m by 6m is proposed in the north-west corner of the Site to clarify further the nature and extent of mid-Saxon occupation and to recover further information on the nature and importance of medieval structural remains. The trench will be located to intercept the southern end of trench 1 of SOU 1055.
- 3.1.3 A trench of approximately 5m by 5m is proposed in the north of the site to clarify further mid-Saxon occupation and to establish the presence or absence of features and deposits associated with Chapel Road. The trench will be

located as close to Chapel Road as possible subject to H&S considerations, information on service locations, access and the operational requirements of the occupier.

- 3.1.4 A trench of approximately 5m by 5m in the south of the Site to clarify further mid-Saxon occupation, particularly the northern extent of an apparent 'hotspot' of occupation and/or the southern extent of an apparent 'coldspot' of occupation.
- 3.1.5 The final location and extent of all three trenches will be agreed prior to commencement with the HCU, the client and the occupier.
- 3.1.6 Prior to excavation, the trench locations will be electronically scanned for the presence of services. Trench locations and spoil heaps will also be temporarily fenced with Heras fencing. In view of the likely depth of trenches (up to 1.2m) sufficient areas for spoil heaps should be allowed for immediately adjacent to the trenches.
- 3.1.7 All trenches will be excavated by machine (360° excavator) using a wide toothless bucket. A toothed bucket may be required to remove the initial hard standing deposits. Mechanical excavation will proceed until archaeological remains or, in their absence, natural deposits (brickearth or gravel) are revealed. Previous information indicates that the trenches will be up to 1.2m deep and trench sides may need to be battered or stepped to ensure safe working conditions. All mechanical excavation will be carried out under constant archaeological supervision.
- 3.1.8 Trenches will be hand cleaned and archaeological deposits recorded and sample excavated as appropriate. All trenches will be located in relation to the Ordnance Survey national grid, with all archaeological features related to Ordnance Survey Datum and recorded using Wessex Archaeology's pro forma recording system.
- 3.1.9 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 evaluation will be undertaken in consultation with the HCU.
- 3.1.10 Human burials will not, in the first instance, be excavated or otherwise removed, but will be sufficiently exposed and recorded to allow observation of grave cut, burial position and stratigraphic relationships. The HCU and the Client will be informed, and, should excavation of remains be undertaken at this stage, a Home Office licence will be sought. Upon receipt of said licence, Home Office procedures will be strictly followed at all times in regard to removal of burials.
- 3.1.11 The spoil from all trenches will be scanned for artefacts and this may include the use of a metal detector.

- 3.1.12 At the satisfactory conclusion of the evaluation, trenches will be backfilled with arisings, levelled and compacted with a machine bucket. No specialist backfilling will be undertaken.

3.2 Finds and Environmental Sampling

- 3.2.1 Appropriate strategies for the recovery of artefacts and environmental samples will be devised and implemented by the Project Manager in association with Wessex Archaeology's Finds and Environmental Managers.
- 3.2.2 All artefacts from excavated contexts will be retained, except those from features or deposits of obviously modern date. In such circumstances, sufficient artefacts will be retained in order to elucidate the date and/or function of the feature or deposit. Material of undoubtedly modern date observed on the spoil-heap of each excavation area will not be noted or retained.
- 3.2.3 All finds and archive work will be undertaken in accordance with *Standards for the Deposition of Archaeological Archives with Southampton City Council*. All 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 Museums and Library Service Conservation Consortium, Salisbury. Suitable material, primarily the pottery, worked flint and non-ferrous metalwork, will be assessed, the results of which will form part of the assessment report.
- 3.2.4 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 deposits.
- 3.2.5 The residues and sieved fractions of the bulk environmental soil samples will be recorded and retained with the project archive.
- 3.2.6 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.
- 3.2.7 On the advice of Wessex Archaeology's Environmental Manager, sampling for charred material will comprise bulk samples of at least 30 litres, which will be taken for processing by flotation (using Wessex Archaeology double tank internal weir flotation system and double processing methods).
- 3.2.8 Should additional fieldwork be undertaken, samples from the evaluation will be retained by Wessex Archaeology and may be further examined to inform later stages of work.

4 MONITORING

- 4.1 An appropriate programme of monitoring visits will be agreed with the HCU in advance of the commencement of fieldwork.

5 REPORTING

- 5.1 All reporting requirements will be undertaken in accordance with those stipulated in the Scheme of Investigation.

- 5.2 Within one week of the conclusion of the fieldwork, an interim report on the results of the evaluation will be submitted to the Client and to the HCU. The interim report will comprise a summary text description of the archaeological results and a trench plan.

- 5.3 A detailed evaluation report will also be prepared. The report will present the results of the trial trenching, and will contain as a minimum:

a concise non-technical summary of the results

a site and trench location plans at appropriate scales

the date of works

a site-centred grid reference

detailed description of archaeological features and deposits

specialist reporting on finds and environmental samples

a copy of this Programme of Archaeological Works as an appendix

survey and technical illustrations as appropriate

- 5.4 The report will be submitted to the Client and the HCU within six weeks of the conclusion of the fieldwork. Five copies will be supplied to the Client, two copies to the HCU and one copy to the Special Collections section of Southampton Public Library.

Electronic copies of the report will also be disseminated as set out in the Scheme of Investigation.

6 TIMETABLE

- 6.1 The duration of the evaluation will be subject to arrangements over access and the operational needs of the occupier. The timetable, including fieldwork start date will be agreed with HCU prior to commencement.

7 ARCHIVE

7.1 Preparation and deposition

- 7.1.1 The archive will be prepared in accordance with Standards for the Deposition of Archaeological Archives with Southampton City Council and to the standards set out in Management of Archaeological Projects (English Heritage 1991).
- 7.1.2 The Site Archive will be prepared for long-term storage in accordance with Guidelines for the preparation of excavation archives for long term storage (Walker 1990) and Standards in the museum care of archaeological collections (Museums and Galleries Commission 1994). It is proposed that the entire archive, including all finds will be deposited with Southampton City Museum, with whom arrangements who have agreed in advance to accept it.
- 7.1.3 Where necessary, the paper records of the Site archive will be security microfilmed prior to deposition.

8 QUALITY STANDARDS

- 8.1 Wessex Archaeology operates a Project Management system. Projects are assigned to individual managers who monitor their progress and quality, and control budgets from inception to completion, in all aspects including Health and Safety etc. Projects are managed in accordance with English Heritage guidelines outlined in the document *Management of archaeological projects* (English Heritage 1991). At all stages the manager will carefully assess and monitor performance of staff and adherence to objectives, timetables, and budgets. The manager's performance is monitored in turn by the General Development Section Head who will ensure that the project meets Wessex Archaeology's quality standards and is adequately programmed and resourced within Wessex Archaeology's portfolio of project commitments. A formal written report is made to the Senior Management Group once a month by the General Development Section Head.
- 8.2 A Project Officer/Project Supervisor, who will normally be a member of The Institute of Field Archaeologists and a core member of Wessex Archaeology staff, will direct the fieldwork in the field. He/she will normally be assisted by Project Supervisors and Archaeological Assistants. Overall project supervision and monitoring will be undertaken by a Project Manager based in Salisbury who will make monitoring visits. Monitoring visits may also be undertaken by Wessex Archaeology's Health and Safety Co-ordinator.
- 8.3 Wessex Archaeology is registered with The Institute of Field Archaeologists as an archaeological organisation; and fully endorses the *Code of Conduct* and the *Code of Approved Practice for the Regulation of Contractual Arrangements in Field Archaeology* of The Institute of Field Archaeologists. All staff would be of a standard approved by Wessex Archaeology, be

employed in line with The Institute of Field Archaeologists Codes of Practice, and be members of The Institute of Field Archaeologists.

9 PERSONNEL

9.1 In all cases, the project will be supervised and monitored by the following staff, under the overall direction of the Project Manager;

- Peter Reeves BA Project Manager
- Vaughan Birbeck AIFA Senior Project Officer
- Lorraine Mephram, BA Finds Manager
- Dr Michael Allen, BSc, MIFA Environmental Manager

9.2 Wessex Archaeology reserves the right to replace members of the nominated core team at its discretion. In such instances the CVs of substituted staff with comparable qualifications/experience will be provided where appropriate and on request.

10 HEALTH AND SAFETY

10.1 Wessex Archaeology will ensure that all work is carried out in accordance with its Company Health and Safety Policy, to standards defined in *The Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974* and *The Management of Health and Safety Regulations 1992*, and in accordance with the SCAUM (Standing Conference of Archaeological Unit Managers) health and safety manual *Health and Safety in Field Archaeology* (1997). A copy of Wessex Archaeology's Company Health and Safety Policy is available on request.

10.2 Prior to commencement of this phase of fieldwork, a Health and Safety Method Statement and Risk Assessment will be issued by the Project Manager to ensure that potential hazards have been identified and mitigation or control measures will be implemented.

11 COPYRIGHT

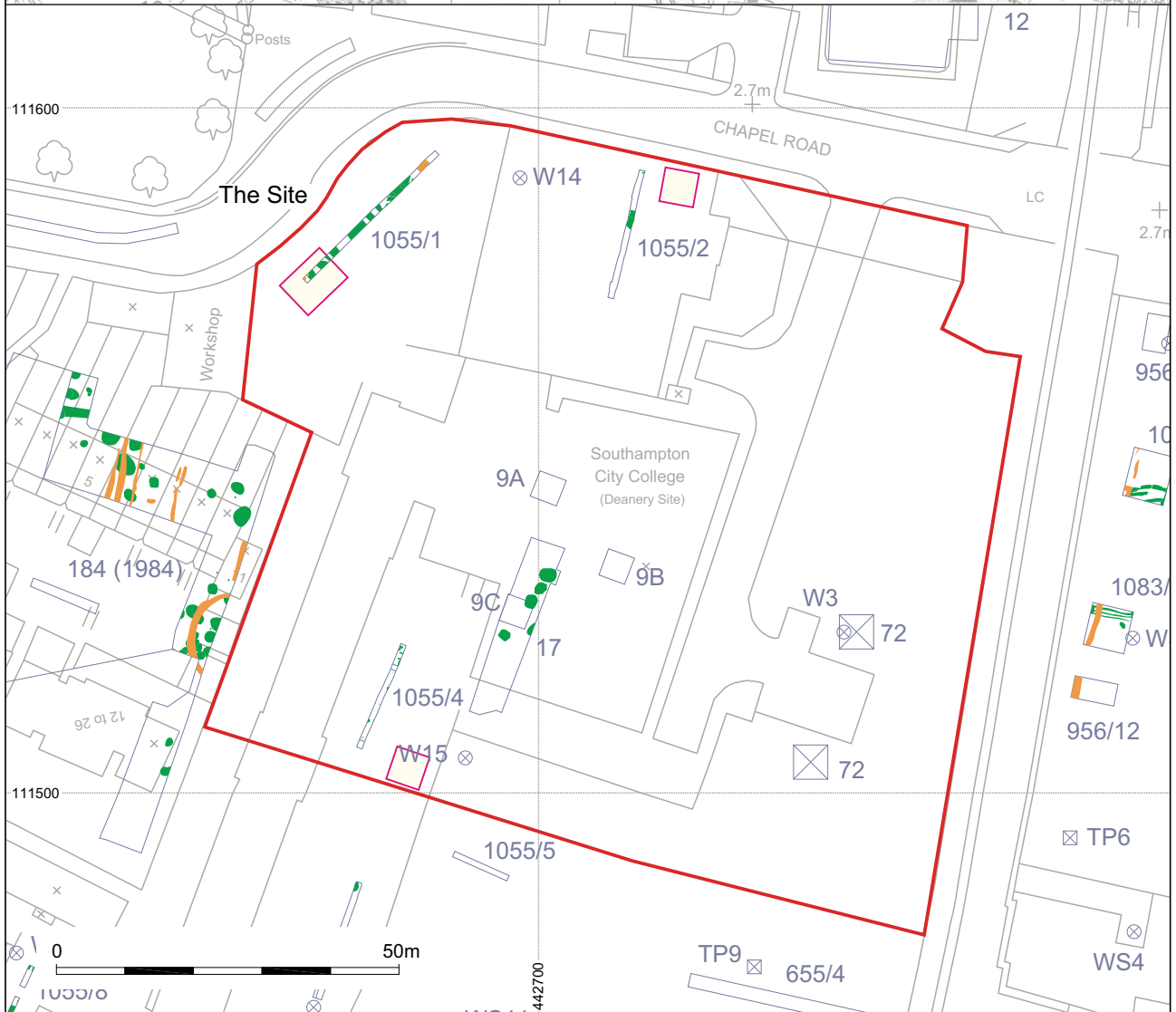
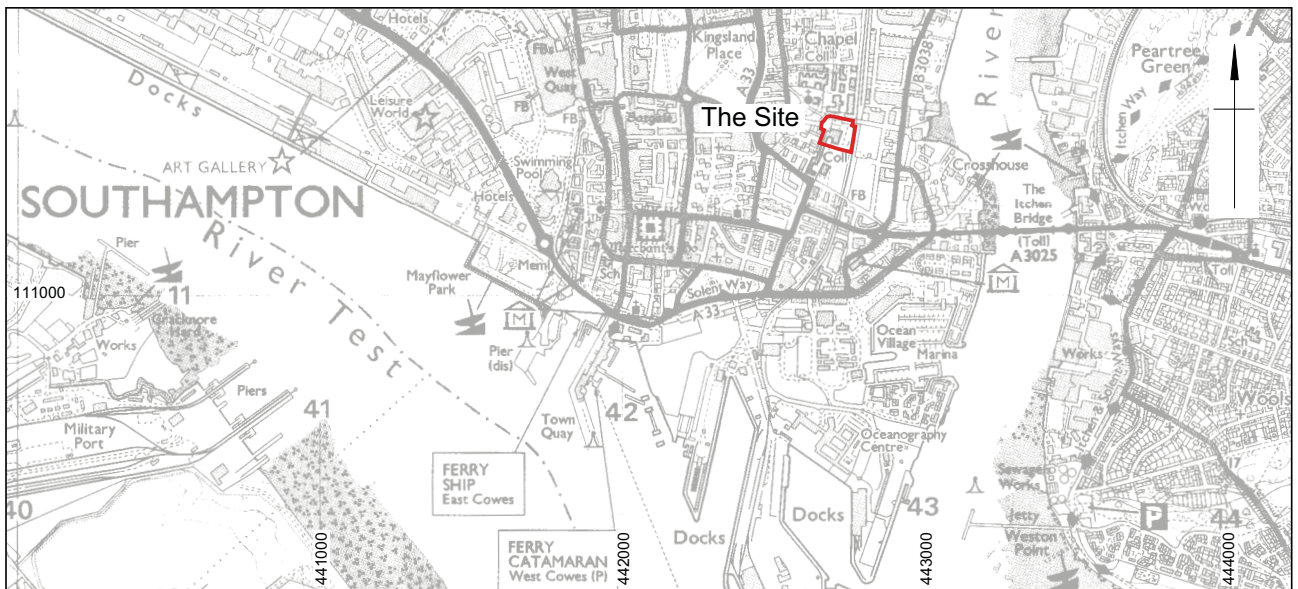
11.1 Wessex Archaeology Ltd shall retain full copyright of any reports under the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988 with all rights reserved; excepting that it hereby provides an exclusive licence to the client for the use of the reports by the client in all matters directly relating to the project as described in this Programme of Work.

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 2001



- Proposed trench
- Previous investigation
- Saxon deposits
- Medieval deposits



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Site and proposed evaluation trench location

Figure 1