

Southampton City Council Archaeology Unit

Programme of Work for an Archaeological Watching Brief with Option to Excavate at Test Park Community Sports Facility, Lower Brownhill Road, Southampton.

09/00191/FUL

1 Summary

1.1 A watching brief will be carried out on groundworks associated with the construction of sports pitches and a changing room. If significant archaeological features are found they will be investigated. Afterwards an illustrated report will be written and submitted to Southampton City Council Historic Environment Team on behalf of the developer, Southampton Solent University.

2 Site Location and Description

2.1 The site lies at to the east side of Lower Brownhill Road and south of Holy Family Catholic Primary School in Mansel Road West, at OS grid reference SU 374148, on the river terrace to the west of the river Test. (Fig 1)



Fig 1 Location of the site

3 Planning Background

3.1. Planning permission has been granted (09/00191/FUL) for the installation of 2 sport pitches, 1 floodlit soccer pitch, 1 full size 3G multi use games area (MUGA) synthetic pitch and the erection of a fully fitted changing room facility plus teaching/social space.

4 Archaeological and Historical Background

4.1 The site lies within Area 16 of the Local Areas of Archaeological Potential (LAAP) as defined in the City of Southampton Core Strategy 2010. Area 16 covers any part of the city not covered by Areas 1–15. In this case the site is adjacent to Area 2 which is described as follows:

A series of streams originate in this area, making it a likely area for prehistoric settlement. Neolithic finds have been discovered here, and evidence of small prehistoric settlements of Bronze Age and Iron Age date, notably an Iron Age settlement at Baron's Mead. The area is adjacent to Adanac Park just outside the city boundary, where a Bronze Age settlement and Iron Age barrow/inhumation cemetery have been found, the latter of potential national importance. At Nursling Plantation, at the east end of the area, is the prehistoric earthwork known as Aldermoor Camp and surrounding land. Nearby is part of an 8th century boundary baulk.

To the west of the site lies the valley of the river Test where numerous prehistoric and Roman finds have been made e.g. some 750m from the site at Franconia Drive, Bronze Age, Romano-British and later activity, was recorded in 1992, with a Wessex Middle Rhine Beaker being recovered (see Beamish and Hearne 1994 in Proc Hampsh Field club Archaeol Soc, **50**, p35-41).

5 Purpose/Aims of Fieldwork

5.1 The aims of the investigation are principally to determine the presence or absence of human use of the area, and the date, type, state of preservation, and extent of that use; to recover associated objects; and to record such evidence as does survive. In addition the nature, dimensions, and relationship of natural deposits will be noted and recorded. If significant archaeological deposits or features are revealed by the groundworks, and the groundworks are going to destroy the archaeology then the archaeology will be removed by hand by archaeologists and will be fully recorded.

6 Field Methodology

6.1 The principal method of investigation will be a watching brief, but if archaeological features are encountered it may be necessary to carry out a certain amount of excavation.

6.2 Archaeologically significant deposits are defined as remains relating to pre-19th century use of the area.

6.3 The watching brief will be recorded using Southampton City Council's Archaeological Recording System, which has been used for many years in the area, and has been approved by the Historic Environment Team. All works will be carried out to fulfil the Scheme of Investigation.

6.4 Project staff will be provided with a copy of the project Programme of Works.

6.5 A site code will be allocated from the Southampton City Council list. This will be used on all site records. The watching brief will have the necessary equipment. The minimum will be stationery, recording forms, cameras, film, photographic scales, tapes, safety equipment, and trowel.

6.6 All archaeological personnel will report to the Site Manager (or equivalent) on arrival at the site. All site regulations will be observed. All statutory and site-specific health and safety regulations will be followed. One archaeologist will attend the site during the excavation of all groundworks subject to paragraph 6.10 below. If more than one area is being excavated at once, and these cannot be adequately observed by one archaeologist, it will be necessary for a second archaeologist to attend.

6.7 If present, and only if possible without risking safety of personnel on site, artefacts will be recovered from machining spoil, and from the exposed sections. A context number will be allocated to all finds, even if this number is simply one allocated to unstratified finds. Unstratified finds from different parts of the site will be separated by issuing a series of 'unstratified' numbers. All pre-AD1800 finds will be retained, and a sample of post-AD1800 will be retained.

6.8 Records will be as full as possible given the constraints of time, access, and safety. The minimum will consist of context sheets with sketch plans and sections, and photographs. Archaeological features will be drawn to scale if necessary; plans at 1:20 and sections and profiles at 1:10. Drawings will be made in pencil on permanent drafting film. Photographs will be taken to show the nature of natural. Overall site photographs will be taken in order to locate trenches and features. The site code will appear in all photographs if practical.

6.9 The position of all drawings will be located on a measured sketch plan that will show the area exposed during groundworks and its relationship with more permanent topographical features such as streets.

6.10 Close liaison will take place between the Site Manager (or equivalent) and the archaeological observer to ensure that all groundworks are observed. Any areas that are considered by the archaeological contractor to be devoid of archaeological interest and therefore needing no further observation will be agreed with the Historic Environment Team before observations cease.

6.11 If a burial is uncovered a Ministry of Justice licence will be obtained before excavation takes place.

7 Post-fieldwork methodologies

7.1 The exact form of the post-excavation process will depend on the nature of the site and the data obtained from it. The post-excavation programme will consist, at minimum, of the following:

7.2 Fair copies will be made of rough site notes and sketches. Photographs will be catalogued and cross-referenced to the recording forms when they have been returned from processing.

7.3 Once the site work is finished the finds will be assessed for conservation, x-raying, and specialist work in accordance with *Standards for the Creation, Compilation and Transfer of Archaeological Archives*, and a programme of archaeological analysis for the post-excavation stages will be drawn up.

7.4 X-radiography and conservation work will be carried out by the Southampton Archaeology Unit's conservator who is UKIC registered.

8 Report preparation and contents

8.1 On completion of the fieldwork a detailed summary report will be written within four weeks of the end of the fieldwork. The report will include the following: summary, contents, introduction, aims and objectives, methodology, conclusions, archive location, appendices, figures, and references.

8.2 Two copies of the report will be provided to the developer, one copy of the report will form part of the site archive, one copy will be sent to the Special Collections Section of the Central Library, and two copies will be sent to Southampton City Council Historic Environment Team.

8.3 The archaeological contractor will supply Southampton City Council's Historic Environment Team with one copy of the report in Adobe Acrobat format (pdf file), on disk, and a trench plan, registered to the National Grid; also a digital copy of trench plans and feature-distribution or phase plans (where phase plans are appropriate). The format will be MapInfo TAB. All report drawings and photographs will be included in the pdf file, and the *selecting of text and graphics* security option will be set at *allowed*.

8.4 At the appropriate time, a short report of the evidence will be sent for inclusion in the summaries compiled by relevant journals (these may include any or all of: *Hampshire Studies*, *Past*, *Britannia*, *Medieval Archaeology*, and *Post-medieval Archaeology*). The summary will be placed on the Hampshire Field Club's web site *Archaeology in Hampshire*

9 Copyright

9.1 Southampton City Council shall retain full copyright of any commissioned reports, tender documents or other project documents, 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 such documents by the client in all matters directly relating to the project.

10 Archive deposition

10.1 "Archive" here means the documentary and material archive as defined in *Standards for the Creation, Compilation and Transfer of*

Archaeological Archives. Southampton City Council will be the depository of the archive, once the period of post-excavation analysis and report-writing is complete; and will assume title to all material recovered from the excavation for inclusion in its collections.

10.2 The site archive, including a microfiche copy of the paperwork and drawings, will be deposited in the Southampton City Council Archaeological Collections. It will be prepared in accordance with *Guidelines for the Preparation of Excavation Archives for long term storage* (Walker 1990) UKIC, and *Standards for the Deposition of Archaeological Archives with Southampton City Council*. A master copy of the microfiche will be deposited with the National Monument record in Swindon.

11 Publication

11.1 One copy of the report will form part of the site archive, two will be sent to the developer, one copy to the Special Collections Section of the Central Library, and two copies will be sent to Southampton City Council Historic Environment Team. A further short report will be sent for inclusion in the annual summaries compiled by relevant journals if applicable.

11.2 One copy of the report in Adobe Acrobat format (pdf file), will be made and forwarded to the Historic Environment Team for inclusion in SMR records. This will either be as an e-mail or on disk. All report drawings and photographs will be included in the Adobe Acrobat file, and the *selecting of text and graphics* security option will be set at *allowed*. This information may be copied for planning and research purposes without recourse to the originator.

12 Staffing

12.1 Work on site will be carried out by experienced archaeologists, working under the supervision of Dr A Russel BA PhD MIFA.

13 Health and Safety

13.1 The Health and Safety Policies of Southampton City Council apply to its entire staff wherever they work. The Safety Manager for the Archaeology Unit is Dr AD Russel BA PhD MIFA who can be contacted on 023 8063 4906.

14 Insurances

14.1 Southampton City Council's insurance, including public liability, covers its entire staff wherever they work.

15 Monitoring procedures

15.1 The project will be monitored internally by the Archaeology Unit Manager, and externally by the Historic Environment Team.

16 Procedures for reporting unexpectedly significant or complex Discoveries

16.1 Should unexpectedly significant or complex discoveries be made such as human skeletons, items of Treasure, or well preserved remains of

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buildings of the medieval period or earlier, the archaeologist on site will contact the Archaeology Unit Manager on 023 8063 4906. The client will then be invited to visit the site, particularly if the timetable or cost of the project is likely to be affected.

17 Disputes

In the event of any dispute arising from the project The Institute of Field Archaeologists' Arbitration system will be used.

ADR 21/12/10