

ARCHAEOLOGICAL STRATEGY DOCUMENT

GOSPORT

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 Historic towns have long been a focus of settlement and community in the landscape. This continuity of urban settlement indicates both the benefits of urban living in terms of quality of life and economic advantage, and that these towns in particular are stable, adaptable and well connected. They are the product of change necessary to meet the needs of successive generations. The archaeological evidence that accumulates within the town illustrates the social, economic, religious, technological and political change through time, not only in that community but locally, regionally and nationally. This archaeological evidence is buried, with artefacts and features such as wall footings, pits, wells and post holes, but is also within the fabric of the historic building and in the patterns of the streets and the layout of the property plots.
- 1.2 Archaeological evidence is important for its potential to increase future knowledge and for its value as a leisure, education and tourism resource. These remains are finite and non-renewable, and are susceptible to destruction both in episodes of development and by cumulative erosion through small scale change. The quality of the urban environment can rely heavily on the historic and cultural attributes of the town. A sustainable future for these settlements and communities must integrate the past with the future.
- 1.3 In addition to the statutory protection afforded by listing and scheduling, the development of government policy for the archaeological and the historic environment has contributed to a change in attitudes towards the preservation, assessment and evaluation of both the buried and standing archaeological resource by local authorities. This is particularly the case in the larger historic towns and cities, like Southampton and Winchester. Government advice in PPG 15 and 16 has highlighted the desirability of preserving historic and archaeological remains, in particular presuming a case for the preservation of nationally important remains (PPG 16 para 8). The advice identifies the important role of local authorities in planning, education and recreation for the protection and management of archaeological sites (PPG 16 para 14). There is a necessity to consider the impact of a development on archaeological remains and PPG 16 emphasises the importance of informed decision making. Where preservation is not merited or justified it is clear that it is reasonable for the planning authority to satisfy itself that the developer has made appropriate and satisfactory provision for the excavation and recording of remains (PPG 16 para 25). During such considerations the Sites and Monuments Record and the Assessment accompanying this strategy have a role, but in some circumstances the planning authority may require additional archaeological information from the applicant prior to the determination of the application (PPG 16 paras 21 and 22).
- 1.4 Although an archaeological survey of Hampshire's smaller market towns was produced in 1976, it has become clear in recent years that there is still a lack of archaeological understanding of the origins and development of the majority of Hampshire's historic towns. This has meant that the protection and management of the archaeological and historical resource in these towns has been insecure. Consequently it has become increasingly important to establish archaeological frameworks and strategies for the smaller historic towns in Hampshire, to protect as appropriate the historic resource, and to ensure it is fully incorporated within the sustainable future of the towns.
- 1.5 Archaeological discoveries have added to the available information on the small-towns of Hampshire creating the subsequent need for management strategies. This in turn has increased the importance of understanding how the basic economic, social and chronological evidence relates to the origins and development of each town. Although the assessment of all available archaeological and historical information will allow the formulation of a set of academically-based research frameworks/priorities (as set out in the Archaeological Assessment Documents), these

- priorities must be considered to inform future development control decisions and should be able to absorb and adapt to future archaeological discoveries.
- 1.6 Consequently, English Heritage have commissioned an Extensive Urban Survey for Hampshire's historic towns. The survey project has been undertaken through an English Heritage-funded post based in the County Planning Department of Hampshire County Council, with the support and assistance of the County Archaeologist and his staff. The survey provides an up-to-date assessment of the readily available archaeological and historical resource of each selected historic town and consists of three phases: data collection, data assessment and the formulation of a strategy. The results of the data collection and data assessment form the contents of the Archaeological Assessment Document. The Assessment Document presents the archaeology and history of each town, an analysis of the existing town plan, an evaluation of the archaeological potential, the research priorities and the identification of areas of archaeological importance. Areas of archaeological importance, as well as additional site information, are presented both in text and key maps.
- 1.7 The strategy phase of the survey utilises the information presented in the Archaeological Assessment Document and combines it with current government policies and guidance, development plan policies and other local non-statutory policies to provide an enhanced understanding of the likely archaeological implications of development proposals and is for use by the planning authority, developers and the public. Recommended responses and guidance regarding the archaeological and historic environment are then outlined. Key maps accompany this strategy. Naturally a survey of this nature will, on the one hand offer up fresh understanding of the town, and on the other hand raise further questions concerning the origins and development of Hampshire's towns.
- 1.8 It is important to recognise the continuing role of the Sites and Monuments Record, specialist archaeological advice and English Heritage. Whilst the strategy anticipates a range of responses, specialist advice from local authority archaeologists and English Heritage in the light of specific development proposals will be needed to interpret the data, to confirm the importance of the archaeological remains, to judge the significance of the impact and to consider the need for and the benefits of pre-determination evaluation. As new data becomes available in the light of the results of observations, excavations and future research so the understanding of the nature and extent of the historic and archaeological component of the town is likely to evolve. It is inevitable that the interpretation of the strategy will evolve with it.
- 1.9 This Strategy document is in two parts, one which is a general introduction to the Extensive Urban Survey whilst the second part deals specifically with Gosport's town strategy. The Appendix includes excerpts from the Hampshire Structure Plan and Local Plans.

2.0 Areas of Potential Archaeological Importance

2.1 Introduction

The primary aim of the data collection and data assessment phases of the Historic Towns Survey Project has been to define areas of varying potential archaeological importance in each town. Four area types have been created, each being ascribed a different grade of archaeological potential. A suite of archaeological responses are then proposed for each of the four areas, from which the most appropriate would be recommended for a particular development. Criteria for the four areas of archaeological importance can be found in the Archaeological Assessment Document. As additional archaeological information becomes available and a greater understanding of the nature and significance of the archaeological resource is achieved, it is possible that some areas will be re-assigned to different levels of importance to reflect our changing understanding of the origins and development of the town. Archaeological evaluation will form a particularly significant tool in defining the desirable archaeological response. The provision by the applicant of the results of an archaeological field evaluation may frequently be requested, as outlined by PPG 16 (paragraphs

21 and 22), reflecting the general recognition of the importance of urban archaeological deposits. The archaeological response to an application in any given urban area will reflect the anticipated archaeological response in this document (section 3) as well as any evaluation results, where such a study is appropriate and the results are available.

2.2 Some nationally important archaeological remains are designated as Scheduled Ancient Monuments and as such are protected by the 1979 Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act. Designation has been primarily directed towards field monuments and built structures. In view of the detailed control afforded by the Act it is not best suited to the management of extensive archaeological remains within populated and evolving urban centres. In the urban context the scheduled element of the archaeological resource is usually discreet and monumental such as a castle, or a town gate. Scheduling has been used in areas of long term open space encompassing well preserved underlying archaeological evidence, or where significant attrition occurs by processes outside planning control. In general, however, there are likely to be nationally important archaeological remains which are not scheduled but rely on recognition of their importance and due weight being given to them within the planning system.

2.3 Areas of Archaeological Importance

(A) *Areas of Nationally Important Archaeological Remains (ANIAR)*

These are areas identified as nationally important archaeological remains, including Scheduled Ancient Monuments, whose location, character and significance have been ably demonstrated. The impact of development on both the setting and the fabric of the monument is a material consideration.

(i) Scheduled Ancient Monuments

Scheduled Ancient Monuments are to be physically preserved *in situ*. The procedures for the management of Scheduled Ancient Monuments are enshrined in the relevant legislation (Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979), along with details appertaining to grant aid to owners. Development affecting a Scheduled Ancient Monument will require Scheduled Monument Consent from the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport. Such consent is independent of the planning determination, and might not be forthcoming. English Heritage are the archaeological advisors to the Secretary of State and the advice and opinion of English Heritage should be sought by the planning authority for any application affecting a Scheduled Ancient Monument, prior to determination.

(ii) Other Nationally Important Archaeological Remains

As stated in the Government's archaeological guidance within the planning system (PPG16), the management of other nationally important archaeological remains are to be considered within the remit given to local planning authorities and the development control process. Consequently serious consideration must be given to the physical preservation *in situ* of nationally important remains. The criteria used to assess "national importance" are set out in Annex 4 of PPG 16.

Although some historic buildings are also Scheduled Ancient Monuments, most are listed rather than scheduled and are often of archaeological importance, a fact recognised by PPG 15 (paragraph 2.15). Important archaeological remains are often incorporated into surviving buildings or structures. The preservation of those remains should be fully considered in the same manner as those nationally important below-ground archaeological remains, as indeed should the archaeological recording of standing remains which cannot be preserved.

(B) *Areas of High Archaeological Importance (AHAI)*

These are areas that have the potential to contain archaeological remains, buried and standing, whose importance, location and character can be inferred through observation, research and interpretation. These remains may merit physical preservation *in situ*. Where preservation is not justified appropriate archaeological investigation and recording would be a requirement in advance of development.

Because of ongoing archaeological and historical research or evaluation results, AHAI's may be re-assessed and consequently considered of national importance or even for scheduling, in which case policies and procedures as laid down for (A) above should be followed. Equally, additional information might demonstrate a lower archaeological importance than currently anticipated.

(C) *Archaeologically Important Areas (AIA)*

These are areas that have the potential to contain archaeological remains which may provide moderate levels of archaeological information. Whilst in some cases physical preservation is possible, it is most likely that the archaeological response would be one of appropriate investigation and recording, unless the developer wishes to achieve the preservation of the site.

(D) *Areas of Limited Archaeological Importance (ALAI)*

Areas considered to have the potential to include archaeological remains of a character unlikely to provide significant information or archaeological remains whose integrity or density has been compromised by previous development. These remains may require appropriate observation and recording if threatened by future development.

3.0 **Archaeological Responses to Development**

3.1 Important archaeological remains in an historic urban environment can be anticipated and consequently current Government policies for the management of archaeological remains within the planning process are set out in PPG 16. In summary, the PPG requires that the most important archaeological remains should be preserved *in situ* and that, when preservation is not possible, or justified, those archaeological remains adversely affected should be adequately investigated and recorded before and/or during development (such archaeological mitigation may include survey, excavation, recording, post excavation research, preparation and publication of a report). It also states that if early discussions with local planning authorities and consultation of the Sites and Monuments Record (SMR) indicate the possible presence of important archaeological remains, it is reasonable for the planning authority to request developers to undertake an archaeological evaluation of the proposed development site, before any decision is made on the planning application (PPG 16 paragraphs 21 and 22). Such an evaluation would aim to provide the additional archaeological evidence necessary to ensure that the full archaeological implications of the development can be properly considered prior to any irreversible decision being made.

3.2 In view of the recognised archaeological importance of complex urban deposits, the need for evaluation might frequently be anticipated. However the assessment of the need for an evaluation can only be taken in the light of the nature of the development and its location and extent, and so no 'Areas of Evaluation' have been incorporated into this document. The results of the evaluation might well clarify that the level of archaeological importance of any given site is different from that anticipated in this document. For this reason the results of evaluation should be available prior to the determination of the application so that the full impact of the development on archaeological remains can be properly considered.

3.3 The advice given in PPG 15 and PPG 16 and subsequently adopted within Hampshire's structure and local plan policies, means that there are a number of archaeological options or responses to development proposals. These include:

- (1) Refusal of planning permission in order to ensure the physical preservation of the remains (which may be above or below ground) and their setting. Where possible the planning authority should consider the longer term management of these resources.
 - (2) A re-design of the development proposal in order to demonstrably secure preservation. Redesign of the proposal may include an engineering solution or amendments to the layout to achieve preservation. If such a response results in the physical preservation of important archaeological remains the local planning authority should ensure the physical management of those remains within the development. This could be achieved, for example, by a management plan sponsored by the local authority, the site owner/developer and local amenity societies.
 - (3) Allowing development to proceed, subject to satisfactory arrangements for archaeological investigation and recording, including standing buildings, before development commences, secured by an archaeological condition.
 - (4) Allowing development to proceed, subject to satisfactory arrangements for archaeological observation and recording, including standing buildings, while development is taking place, secured by an archaeological condition.
 - (5) Allowing development to proceed, with no archaeological requirement.
- 3.4 These responses provide a flexible framework for the consideration of individual development proposals which affect archaeological remains. Within individual developments more than one response might be necessary reflecting variations of archaeology or the nature of development across the site. They will assist both developers and planners in the preparation and determination of planning applications.
- 3.5 In addition to the preservation of the more important archaeological remains, there may be a good case for their promotion and preservation through, for example, interpretation panels or printed leaflets, and their use as an educational resource or as an amenity for the town's inhabitants and visitors. This should provide a better understanding and enjoyment of the town's archaeological and historic heritage and to promote support for the local authority's policies for that heritage. This could be undertaken and sponsored by the site owners, the local authority, schools, local amenity groups or through partnerships between such organisations, and may be particularly welcome where positive policy towards tourism exists.

4.0 **A Strategy for Gosport**

- 4.1 There is one historic town in the Gosport Borough Council area, Gosport itself. The archaeological resource of Gosport is unique. Whilst the town's archaeological and historic significance is already reflected in local plan policies for the management of those resources and is subject to the guidance of advice in PPG 16 and 15, this document provides additional guidance.
- 4.2 Although the Local Plan has been adopted containing policies for the urban historic environment, this strategy may be taken as additional material consideration in the development control process, introducing further guidance for the preservation and management of Gosport's archaeological and historic heritage. It has been compiled in light of the Government's advice considering archaeological remains and the historic environment within the planning process (PPG 15 and 16) and relevant policies in the Hampshire County Structure Plan and the Gosport Borough Local Plan. Consequently this strategy could be considered for adoption by the local planning authority as planning guidance (as defined in PPG 12 3.18-3.19) to supplement the policies of the Borough Local Plan.
- 4.3 The strategy develops the information presented in the Archaeological Assessment Document for Gosport, in particular the identified areas of archaeological importance. Appropriate archaeological responses have been formulated for consideration by the Borough Council in anticipation of development proposals, although detailed advice should be sought in the light of development details. These responses can inform the management of the archaeological resource, and provide the controls and guidance which the Borough Council should use when considering planning applications. The strategy may also promote changes in current and proposed Conservation Area designations, the establishment of town trails as well as other local amenity and/or educational proposals for the interpretation and enhancement of Gosport's historic environment.

5.0 **Historic Gosport**

- 5.1 This section is a summary of the more detailed accounts of the archaeology, history, topography and architecture of Gosport to be found in the Archaeological Assessment Document that accompanies this strategy.
- 5.2 Gosport is situated on the western side of the mouth of Portsmouth Harbour, opposite Portsmouth. It is located between the inlets of Forton Lake and Haslar Lake.
- 5.3 Some prehistoric flint tools have been found on Portsmouth Harbour's shore and three Bronze Age burial mounds have been noted at Alverstoke. In addition evidence of Bronze Age occupation was excavated at Grange Road, about three kilometres west of Gosport.
- 5.4 Some Roman material has been found in Portsmouth Harbour and at the harbour's edge. Although no direct evidence for Roman occupation has been found in Gosport, the place name Cold Harbour, which is noted at the Market Square, is often associated with Roman settlement.
- 5.5 No Saxon material has been found in the area, and Gosport is not mentioned in the Domesday Book. The earliest reference to Gosport by name dates to 1241, but there may be an indirect reference dated 1204. This refers to a 'newly constructed vill adjoining the port on the manor of Alverstoke'. There is little information available regarding early Gosport, and the first indication of borough status comes from 1462.
- 5.6 By the sixteenth century Gosport is described as a small fishing village, however the growth of Portsmouth as a naval base in the sixteenth century seems to have improved Gosport's economic fortunes at the same time. Strong links were created with the dockyards, and trade and industry in Gosport reflected the needs of the navy. Gosport's increasing strategic importance is reflected in

the growth of planned defences associated with the town, both seaward and landward. In 1831 the purpose built victualling station, Royal Clarence Yard, was completed.

- 5.7 Although the grid of streets within the defences may predate the defences, or may be laid out at the same time as the defences, bombing during the last war did significant damage to the built heritage of Gosport.

6.0 **Planning History**

Development Plans

- 6.1 The Gosport Borough Local Plan was adopted in April 1995. The plan guides development in the Borough for the period up to 2001. The plan is currently being reviewed for the period 2001 to 2011. The Borough Council intend to publish the first Deposit Local Plan in 2000/1.
- 6.2 The policies and supporting statements for the management of the archaeological and historical environment in both the Hampshire County Structure Plan (Review) and the Borough Local Plan (as detailed in the Appendix) have the same core understanding that archaeological remains, whether above or below ground, and their settings are a finite and non-renewable resource that should not be needlessly or thoughtlessly destroyed or damaged. Both plans underwrite the fact that whilst a small number of archaeological sites and historic buildings are protected by legislation, the majority rely on Structure Plans, Local Plans and the development control process for their continued protection and management.

Gosport Conservation Area (Map A)

- 6.3 The Gosport High Street conservation Area covers the historic core of the town and was designated in 1979. Government guidance PPG 15 advises that "the definition of an area's (Conservation Area) special interest should derive from an assessment of the elements that contribute to, or detract from it". These elements can include its historical development and archaeological significance, property boundaries, building materials etc. Consequently where it can be shown that significant archaeological remains survive and whose preservation is of paramount importance, this strategy document may assist the Borough Council when considering Conservation Area designation.

Recent and Proposed Development (Map B)

- 6.4 The townscape of Gosport changed considerably after the Second World War when large blocks of buildings, many extensively bomb damaged, were demolished and several new roads have been driven through the previously built up areas. Areas particularly affected by the 1950's and 1960's remodelling are located immediately to the south and north of the high street properties. To the south of the high street the construction of blocks of flats, a shopping precinct and a series of car parks has taken the space of more than two blocks of properties to the south of South Street. The re-alignment of North Street was carried out after the war, which allowed the construction of a series of complexes of flats in the north-west corner of the town.

7.0 **The Management of Gosport's Archaeological Heritage**

- 7.1 The archaeological potential of Gosport lies in its rapid development dependant on the needs of the Royal Navy from the sixteenth century and how this is reflected in the structures and archaeological remains within the town. The obscured origins and early development of the town may well also be clarified. Where evaluation is an appropriate response additional survey may clarify the archaeological potential prior to the determination of the application.

Defences

The location and approximate extent of the defences of the town are shown on map C. The discussion provided is sufficient to describe the impact of the development of the defences on the historic core of the town. Other than those elements that have already been recognised as being of national importance, the archaeological importance and potential of the defences has not been explored as part of this study. Where a proposed development affects an area of the defences it may be necessary to seek specialist advice.

7.2 Areas of Archaeological Importance (Map C)

As defined in Section 2.0 of this Strategy document, the following areas of archaeological importance have been identified in Gosport.

Areas Comprising Nationally Important Archaeological Remains

The areas of national archaeological importance shown on Map D are all monuments related to the defences of Gosport and are therefore outside the scope of this strategy. These monuments are addressed in 'The Defences of Gosport; A Strategy' produced by Wessex Archaeology on behalf of English Heritage.

Areas of High Archaeological Importance

Location: Identified portions of land within the historic core, both north and south of High Street (Area 1).

Potential: Area 1 lies within the historic core of the town and either side of the principle street, High Street. However Area 1 is divided into isolated portions reflecting the impact of bombing and redevelopment on Gosport's heritage. Archaeological evidence in these area will allow some understanding of the date at which the grid of streets was laid out, and may also reveal information relating to the origins of Gosport. Evidence of the trades and industries practised will shed light on the fluctuating fortunes of Gosport, the extent to which its economy was dependant on naval trade, and the lives and health of the inhabitants.

Response: (1) Archaeological evaluation should be undertaken prior to the determination of any planning application that is likely to have a significant impact.

(2) Depending on the results of any evaluation there may be a requirement for the preservation of important above or below ground, remains, possibly through a re-design of the development proposals.

(3) If preservation *in situ* is not possible or justified then there is likely to be a requirement for full excavation and recording prior to development.

Note Response (2) may highlight the value of an additional response, which could include a requirement for:

(a) a management plan/scheme for a particular important archaeological site or historic building to ensure its future preservation;

(b) some form of interpretation e.g. appropriate panels, leaflets or part of a town trail, for an important archaeological site/s or historic building/s.

(c) developing the site or building as an amenity for the town or as an educational resource.

Archaeologically Important Areas

Location: Holy Trinity Church, and the churchyard (Area 2).

Potential: The new chapel of the Holy Trinity was built in 1696 on common land. Although burial may not have taken place on the site, but at Alverstoke, throughout much of Gosport's history, human remains here site may illustrate the health and diet of the population in more recent times. It is also possible that it was built on the site of the original medieval chapel, although its location has never been established. Evidence for the date and character of the earlier chapel might be encountered. Some trades may have been carried out on the common prior to the construction of the chapel. Although there is currently no evidence for this it is possible archaeological remains might be encountered.

Response: (1) Depending on the scale of development and the potential survival of above and below ground archaeological remains, archaeological evaluation might need to be undertaken prior to the determination of any planning application.

Depending on development details and available archaeological information, including the results of any evaluation there may be:

(2) a requirement for their full excavation and recording prior to development.

OR

(3) a requirement for archaeological observation and recording during development.

Areas of Limited Archaeological Importance

Location: The waterfront (Area 3). To the north and south of High Street (Area 4). The rope works (Area 5).

Potential: Area 3 represents the waterfront of Gosport. The area south of Harbour Road might prove to be a focus for early shore line activity, such as the fishing port. The principal focus of the waterfront lies at the eastern end of the town. This area may contain archaeological evidence for the origins and development of the port, and of quayside activity and industry. The development of the port may illustrate the changing fortunes of the economy of Gosport, and the relationship of this to the needs of the military. However to a large extent it is likely that major redevelopment in this area will have compromised the survival of archaeological evidence and that any surviving elements will be fragmentary. There is the potential for deeper deposits to contain organic evidence preserved by waterlogged conditions, including artefacts and structural remains. Should significant survival, particularly in waterlogged conditions, be demonstrated the importance of this area may increase.

There are small dispersed areas to the north and south of High Street, Area 4, which are within the likely medieval core of Gosport, but which may have been significantly compromised by development. Some archaeological evidence may survive regarding the origins and development of the town.

The rope works, Area 5, is shown on the De Gomme map of 1678. It is possible that part of the building survives incorporated into another structure. Archaeological evidence may tell us about this trade and its relation to the towns naval supply role, and the evolution of the trade through time.

- Response:
- (1) Occasionally, an archaeological evaluation may need to be undertaken prior to the determination of any planning application especially where a particularly significant impact is anticipated.
 - (2) Depending on available information or the results of any evaluation there may be a requirement for the some further investigation and recording prior to development, although
 - (3) a requirement for archaeological observation and recording during development is more likely.

8.0 **The Future Strategy**

- 8.1 This Strategy document, in line with Government advice laid out in PPG15 and PPG16, emphasises the role of the planning system conservation policies in the development plan for the protection of the historic environment, including built and buried elements, and the way in which the components of a town compliment each other to form a townscape. Conservation policies should reflect the quality and interest of urban areas as well as individual structures through the designation of Conservation Areas. The historic layout of Gosport and the nature of its component parts reflects its origins, development and character. The designated Conservation Areas throughout the town should reflect the significance of these historic urban elements, as outlined in PPG 15, paragraph 4.2.
- 8.2 It is important to protect this fragile and non-renewable resource for its own sake and for the irreplaceable information about our past which it contains, and its potential for increasing our knowledge and understanding of historic Gosport. It is important to manage and present Gosport's historic environment both to ensure public support for the conservation policies of the Development Plan and to realise the value of the resource to the community for education, recreation and tourism.
- 8.3 The management of the archaeological resource and its presentation to the public must reflect the local nature of the resource, local priorities, the nature of the community and the role of tourism in the local economy. The stewardship of the archaeological resource needs to be seen as a community responsibility, not simply that of central or local Government. Any strategy that might develop should evolve locally. The preservation of the historic resource will rely very heavily on broad support and understanding from the local community. The Assessment and Strategy documents have a clear role in highlighting the potential of Gosport in this regard and should contribute fully to the promotion of the resource.
- 8.4 The surviving heritage of Gosport is largely related to the defences. Although this document does not specifically deal with these defences they are important to the way in which the wider heritage of the town is perceived. The town's rich military heritage reflects the rise of the navy and empire, the evolution of military thinking, technological advance and political thought. Although Gosport's waterfront has been developed this too is intrinsic to the origins and development of the town. The presentation of the historic resource provides an amenity, recreational and educational resource for the community, including local schools.
- 8.5 The presentation of the heritage in Gosport is limited by the results of bomb damage and redevelopment. However the towns defences are an important visible feature of the townscape, and changes to military occupation of some of these defence sites does offer new opportunities. There are elements of Gosport which may form a part of any presentation strategy.
1. The defences of Gosport are prominently visible. They describe the extent of Gosport, and reflect the influence of the military in the development of the town. They tell the story not only of Gosport, but also of military thinking, technological advance and national and international politics, and as such are an invaluable resource.

2. Gosport waterfront, although developed, looks out onto the harbour and to Portsmouth, both of which were important to the origins, development and character of the town. Despite redevelopment the waterfront offers a setting in which to consider the growth of the port and town.
3. The street grid in Gosport is distinctive, if poorly understood, and may offer some opportunity to explore the historic character of the town.
- 8.6 There are a number of recognised approaches that can be considered in evolving the future strategy for Gosport.
 1. Information Leaflet

Cost effective, the content style and format can reflect the principal audience and the quality and print run the available budget. Sponsorship or heritage grants might be available and distribution can be through schools, libraries and tourist offices, and local shops. The leaflet might describe a route or trail, or relate local landmarks to their historic context.
 2. Information Point

Single or multiple information points can graphically and through text highlight the plan of the town. Sponsorship and heritage grants might be available. The effect of a permanent fixture locally and on pedestrian flows as well as the implications of maintenance need to be considered.
 3. Museum Based Display

A display element within an existing local museum incorporating finds, images and text. A resource of this nature would have the advantage of being able to include any locally recovered artefacts within a display
 4. Town Trail

Town trails present information in sequence. The trail might be available by leaflet, information point (or points) and might be associated with a discrete symbol or marker on the pavement or on sign posts. Such trails in towns of particular tourism or education potential might be permanently, temporarily or intermittently associated with guides.
 5. Teachers / Community Packs

Teachers packs including plans, principal locations, interpretations and trails might highlight the availability of the local historic resource for use by local schools and the community.
- 8.7 Raising the profile of Gosport's heritage in this way is likely to generate increased local interest in the archaeology and history of the town. Although any further promotion of Gosport's heritage should be formulated locally, this document may form an important element of that formulation process.

APPENDIX

Hampshire County Structure Plan 1996 - 2011 (Review)

Urban Hampshire

Policy UB1 Policy UB1 outlines the basic objectives of urban regeneration.

Policy UB1 **“Priority will be given in Local Plans to policies and proposals which achieve urban regeneration by:**
inter alia
(iv) improving the condition and/or setting of buildings of architectural or historic interest;”

The Coast

Policy C7 Concerns development involving the reclamation of land from the sea or intertidal areas.

Policy C7 **“Permission will not be granted for development involving the reclamation of land from the sea or the reclamation, excavation or permanent flooding of intertidal areas of conservation value unless the local authority is satisfied that the proposal:**
inter alia
(ii) would not damage the landscape character or sites of historic, archaeological or nature conservation interest;”

Supporting Statement

Paragraph 305. Reclamation will only be permitted if it can be demonstrated that it has no undesirable effect, is well related to the existing built up area, and is consistent with other policies in the Plan.

Archaeology

Policies E14 Policy E14 refers to the treatment of archaeological sites and monuments.

Policy E14 **“Where nationally important archaeological sites and monuments, whether scheduled or not, and their settings are affected by a proposed development, their will be a presumption in favour of their physical preservation insitu. The need for the preservation of unscheduled sites of more local importance will be considered on merit. Where preservation is not possible then before planning permission is granted, it should be demonstrated that appropriate arrangements have been made for a programme of excavation and recording prior to development taking place.”**

Supporting Statement

Paragraph 346. The value, variety and vulnerability of Hampshire’s sites and monuments justify the preservation of those most important to the archaeology, history and character of the county.

Paragraph 347. Archaeological sites and monuments and their settings are a finite and non-renewable resource. Care must be taken to ensure that they are not needlessly or thoughtlessly destroyed. Although at present a number of archaeological sites are protected by national legislation the majority rely on the Structure Plan, local plans and the development control process for their continued protection and management as reflected in PPG 16.

Paragraph 348. When considering proposals for development, the local planning authorities will ensure the availability of accurate information on the condition and significance of archaeological sites affected by development proposals. Such information is essential for the decision-making process on planning and land-use issues and for monitoring the effectiveness of the planning process in protecting archaeological sites.

Paragraph 349. The authorities will promote, where practicable, the appropriate management and enhancement of important archaeological sites and monuments and where resources permit, assist owners to maintain them in good condition and to adopt sympathetic land management regimes.

Built Heritage

Policy E16

This policy relates to the conservation of the character of historic settlements.

Policy E16

“Development in accordance with other policies in this Plan will be permitted in and adjacent to historic towns and villages provided that it is compatible with the character of the area and its setting and will not cause demonstrable harm to interests of acknowledged importance. Particular attention will be paid to:

inter alia

(e) the character and appearance of listed buildings and their settings and Conservation Areas which shall be conserved or enhanced;

Supporting Statement

Paragraph 355. Development can have serious implications for the historic built environment and all proposals which impact upon it should be assessed in accordance with the criteria set out in this policy. Additionally, to assess the degree to which further growth is acceptable, certain historic towns may need to be the subject of environmental capacity studies. These studies will assess development and management issues, the quality and character of the settlement and the pressure upon it and make recommendations for future action. Local plans will identify the historic towns requiring such studies. The County Council will co-ordinate the production of agreed guidelines to ensure a consistent county-wide approach.

Policy E17

Policy E17 relates to conserving the character of historic towns and villages.

Policy E17

“Local planning authorities will encourage development which will enhance the character and setting of historic towns and villages and which will:

inter alia

(a) serve to stimulate economic regeneration through the retention and re-use of historic buildings and sites;”

Supporting Statement

Paragraph 356. Conserving the built heritage is assisted by encouraging private investment in the upkeep of older buildings. Local planning authorities will look favourably on proposals which will help to maintain the economic vitality of areas or regenerate those areas that have been in economic decline. Although listed buildings should, ideally, continue in the use for which they were designed this is not always practicable. If the only realistic means of ensuring their retention or maintenance is to change the use of the building the planning authorities should, subject to the provisions of Policy E16, adopt a flexible approach when considering such proposals.

Policy E18 Policy E18 concerns Conservation Areas.

Policy E18 **“Local planing authorities will ensure the protection of the built heritage by:**
inter alia
(i) reviewing the need for additional Conservation Areas and adjusting existing Conservation Area boundaries.
(ii) preparing supplementary planning guidance and proposals for the preservation and enhancement of Conservation Areas;”

Supporting Statement

Paragraph 357. The inclusion of buildings within the lists of buildings of special architectural and historic interest and the designation of Conservation Areas provides the principal means by which the character of historic buildings can be protected. The lists require regular review and updating to take account of new evidence and changing values.

Paragraph 358. The day to day operation of development control provides an important opportunity to ensure that the character of listed buildings and Conservation Areas is retained. Development of buildings of an appropriate design may act as a catalyst to further improve the quality of an area.

Paragraph 359. By contrast, inappropriate development could, eventually, result in the loss of the special interest which led to the Conservation Area designation. Supplementary guidance in the form of design briefs, for example for shop fronts, has a major role to play in promoting and encouraging appropriate design and development in addition to providing support for planning authority decisions.

Gosport Borough Local Plan

Objectives for the Built Environment

Paragraph 6.4 It is the intention of the Borough Council to preserve and enhance the built environment of the Local Plan area. The Local Plan aims to achieve this through pursuing the following objectives:-
(inter alia)
(iii) providing for the preservation and enhancement of the special architectural and historic character of the Local Plan and its nationally and locally important archaeological heritage.

Development in Conservation Areas

Policy BE9 concerns the impact of development on a Conservation Area.

Policy BE9 **“Favourable consideration will normally be given to proposals for new development, or the addition to, extension, alteration or change of use of a building within a Conservation Area, provided that:-**
(inter alia)

i) their location, form, scale, density, height, layout, external appearance and use preserve or enhance their special architectural or historic character or appearance of the Conservation Area.

Paragraph 6.40 The Borough Council expects development proposals in the Local Plan area to respect their context in responding to site problems and opportunities. The future prosperity of Conservation Areas in particular often lies in their being recognised as

having established land use patterns and visual characteristics. Development proposals should therefore look to reinforce the special identity of each Conservation Area through considering its particular characteristics, such as traditional building form and scale; the historic relationship between buildings and spaces; the existence of an historic street pattern; the architectural detailing of buildings and other structures, particularly where these are characteristic of a specific architectural period; and the pattern of uses which help define the social character of the area.

Curtilage and Setting of a Listed Building

Policy BE11 concerns harm to the setting of Listed Buildings

Policy BE11 “Favourable consideration will not normally be given to development proposals within or outside the curtilage of a Listed Building that would cause demonstrable harm to the character of the setting of the building.”

Paragraph 6.45 The special architectural or historic interest of a Listed Building relies not only on the character of the building itself, but also on that of its setting. Depending on the relationship of the building with surrounding buildings and spaces and the local topography, this setting may extend from the curtilage of the building to a much wider area. Development proposals within this setting, including changes of use, may affect the character of a Listed Building. Only in exceptional circumstances, therefore, will the Borough Council be prepared to support proposals for new development within the curtilage of a listed building on the basis that this usually results in its character as a building of special architectural or historic interest being altered.

Preservation of Listed Buildings

Policy BE12 concerns demolition or alteration of Listed Buildings

Policy BE12 “ In determining proposals affecting Listed Buildings, the Borough Council will presume in favour of their preservation, favourable consideration will therefore not normally be given to proposals to demolish , alter or extend a Listed Building, unless the Borough Council is satisfied that:

Where demolition is proposed

- i) **Special attention has been paid to the architectural or historic interest of that building, in relation to both its importance to the Local Plan area and its intrinsic architectural merit and historic interest.**
- ii) **the building is wholly beyond repair**
- iii) **the building is incapable of reasonably beneficial use**
- iv) **the removal or redevelopment of the building would preserve or enhance the character or appearance of the local area or would maintain or enhance the economic viability of other Listed Buildings and provided that detailed plans for redevelopment have been submitted and approved**

and where an alteration or extension is proposed

- v) **it will cause no harm to the character of the building as one of special architectural or historic interest.**

Paragraph 6.46 The number of buildings of special architectural or historic interest as a proportion of the total building stock in the Local Plan area is relatively small. However, these buildings cover a wide range of historic military, institutional and urban and rural domestic types, albeit with only a few remaining examples of each. The importance of

this heritage is substantial and therefore the Borough Council will only consider favourably the demolition or significant alteration in exceptional circumstances. Similarly, the loss or alteration of architectural or historic features, previous development or works have altered the intrinsic value of the building, will very seldom be considered sufficiently significant to warrant granting consent.

Archaeology and Ancient Monuments

Policy BE15 concerns archaeology and Ancient Monuments

Policy BE15 “Where nationally important archaeological sites and monuments (whether scheduled or not) and their settings are affected by a development proposal, the Borough Council will presume in favour of their physical preservation. Favourable consideration will not normally be given to development proposals on other important archaeological sites, unless:-

i) where archaeological remains may exist but whose extent and importance are unknown, satisfactory arrangements have been made for an archaeological field assessment prior to the determination of the application

ii) where the preservation insitu of an archaeological site or monument is neither possible nor feasible, satisfactory provision can be made for a programme of archaeological investigation and recording prior to the commencement of the development.”

Paragraph 6.54 Development proposals which may affect archaeological sites and monuments that have no statutory protection will normally require the careful application of planning and management policies. The Borough Council considers the desirability of preserving such sites and monuments and their settings of great importance in assessing development proposals, whether they are scheduled or not. Prospective applicants will therefore be encouraged to discuss their proposals at the earliest stage in order that the needs of archaeology and development can be reconciled satisfactorily. The County Archaeologist and the County Sites and Monuments Record (SMR) provide information about the locations where archaeological are known or likely to exist. The Borough Council holds a Constraints Map which contains information for potential applications derived from the SMR. Proposals may then be designed to minimise any adverse affects on these remains.

Paragraph 6.55 If there is evidence that archaeological remains may exist in the Local Plan area, but their extent or importance are unknown, the Borough Council will normally require applications to arrange for an archaeological field assessment to be carried out prior to the application being determined. This will enable a more informed and reasonable planning decision to be made.

Promoting and Interpreting Features of Heritage Interest

Statement BEg “Favourable consideration will normally be given to proposals which promote or interpret features of heritage interest by way of providing information to the public for their appreciation and enjoyment, provided:-

i) the use, design and access requirements of the proposal are appropriate to the feature and its location

ii) it can be adequately demonstrated that the feature of heritage interest is able to sustain additional visitors without prejudicing its intrinsic character.