

Southampton City Council Archaeology Unit

Written Scheme of Investigation for Archaeological Watching Brief with Option to Excavate at 5 Bellevue Road, Southampton.

Revised 05/03/13

1. Summary

1.1 This Written Scheme of Investigation is a revision of one agreed for this site in August 2012.

1.2 A watching brief will be carried out on groundworks associated with redevelopment at 5 Bellevue Road, Southampton. Records will be made and photographs will be taken. Afterwards an illustrated report will be written and submitted to Southampton City Council.

1.3 This project design has been written to the recommended guidelines for archaeological projects laid down by English Heritage in *The Management of Research Projects in the Historic environment* 2006. All work will be carried out in accordance with the Institute for Archaeologists' *Code of Conduct*. The programme of archaeological work will be a watching brief with excavation where necessary. This will be carried out in accordance with the Institute for Archaeologists' *Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Excavations*" (revised edition September 2008). The Southampton Archaeology Unit is an IfA Registered Archaeological Organisation.

1.4 The definition of an archaeological watching brief is a formal programme of observation and investigation conducted during any operation carried out for non-archaeological reasons. This will be within a specified area or site on land, inter-tidal zone or underwater, where there is a possibility that archaeological deposits may be disturbed or destroyed. The programme will result in the preparation of a report and ordered archive. (IfA 2008).

2. Site Location and description

2.1 The development site is located on the south side of Bellevue Road at SU 421127.

3. Planning background

3.1 Planning application No. 12/00471/FUL for redeveloping the site by the erection of 4-storey hostel was conditionally approved in August 2012. One of the conditions was for a programme of archaeological work to be carried out, and it was agreed with the local planning authority that a watching brief on groundworks would be a suitable mitigation procedure. Demolition and site clearance commenced and the archaeological watching brief was carried out under Southampton City Council Archaeological Intervention number SOU 1615 but work ceased and the applicant will be submitting a revised application to build a block of flats.

4. Archaeological and Historical background

4.1 The site lies within area of Local Area of Archaeological Potential 8 as defined in Policy CS 14 of the Southampton City Council Local Development Framework Core Strategy Development Plan document (Adopted 2010). LAAP 8 covers the City Centre and Itchen Ferry. This area includes the peninsula of land defined by the River Itchen and River Test, the adjacent estuarine areas and Itchen Ferry on the east bank of the Itchen. In the area between the Test and Itchen, the main interest lies in the historic towns established from the 8th century onwards (and their complex developments up to the present day), the common fields immediately adjacent to these places, the medieval ribbon suburbs to the north and east, the sites of two medieval chapels (St Andrews and Holy Trinity), a large number of mills (variously driven by wind, horses, or water), public buildings around the stream of Houndwell, the Leper Hospital and its fields, and the different shorelines and quays.

Prehistoric and Roman remains have been found in the vicinity of the site. References to Blackberry Mount, to the east of the site and a concentration of Roman remains lies to the west of the site where Rockstone Lane, an ancient hollow way running east-west crossed London Road, a major north-south route. The Saxon town of Hamwic (AD 650-850) lay to the south of the site and Saxon remains have been found in Bellevue Road.

In the post-medieval period George III's anatomist Nathaniel St Andre built Bellevue House, and the present site lies within the grounds.

The area was developed for housing in the late 19th century.

5. Purpose/aims of the archaeological 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

6. Archaeological methodology

6.1 The principal method of investigation will be a watching brief, but if archaeologically significant remains are exposed then they will be archaeologically excavated.

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

6.3 The watching brief and any excavation work 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.

6.4 Project staff will be provided with a copy of the Written Scheme of investigation.

6.5 The site code SOU 1615 will be used. 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 6.11 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 Should archaeologically significant remains be found in-situ then the archaeologist will carefully excavate and record the remains.

6.8 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.

6.9 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.

6.10 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. The position of all drawings will be located to the National Grid.

6.11 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 human burial is uncovered the remains will be left *in situ*, covered and protected and groundwork halted in the relevant area while the necessary licence and permissions are obtained. The Historic Environment Team will be contacted to decide on the course of action. No human remains will be removed until a Ministry of Justice licence has been obtained.

6.12 Artefacts may be recovered during the watching brief and any excavation. They will be processed according to the standards laid down in *Standards for the Creation, Compilation and Transfer of Archaeological Archives* (Southampton City Council, 2007).

7. Post-fieldwork methodologies

7.1 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 washed and marked and 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 Once the site data and artefacts have been analysed, a 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 One copy of the report will form part of the site archive, one will be sent to the client, 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*).

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 Centre in Swindon.

11. Staffing

11.1 The work will be carried out by experienced archaeologists, under the supervision of Dr AD Russel BA, PhD, MIfA.

12. Health and Safety

12.1 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.

12.2 The archaeologists will liaise closely with the main contractor, in regard to site specific health and safety requirements.

13. Insurances

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

14 Monitoring procedures

14.1 It is expected that the project will be monitored by the Planning Archaeologist of Southampton City Council.

15. Procedures for reporting unexpectedly significant or complex discoveries.

15.1 Should significant or complex discoveries be made such as human remains or well-preserved remains of buildings of the medieval period or earlier, the archaeologists on site will contact the Archaeology Unit Manager on 023 8063 4906. The Planning Archaeologist of Southampton City Council will then be invited to visit the site.

ADR 05/03/13