

Southampton City Council Archaeology Unit

Written Scheme of Investigation for an archaeological watching brief on trial holes for works at Central Station North Quarter, Southampton

4/1/2013

1 Summary

1.1 Improvements to the Central Station North Quarter will be carried out by Southampton City Council. Prior to this work the area will be investigated with a series of trial holes and core-holes. These holes will be subject to a watching brief on behalf of Southampton City Council. After the fieldwork an illustrated report will be written and submitted to the local planning authority and the archive will be deposited with the Southampton City Council Museum section

1.2 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 Southampton Archaeology Unit is an IfA Registered Archaeological Organisation.

1.3 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 site is located to the north of Southampton Central Railway Station and includes parts of Southbrook Road, Blechynden Terrace, Wyndham Place, and Commercial Road. The area is centred on grid reference SU 41407 12276. At present the site is occupied by roads, footpaths, paved areas, grassed areas, and flower beds.

3. Archaeological and Historical background

3.1 The site is in *Local Area of Archaeological Potential* 7 (Bannister's Park) and there have been several archaeological projects and casual finds in the area. Prehistoric evidence has been recorded across much of the area and Roman occupation evidence has been found in London Road and Archers Road. Palaeolithic hand axes were found before 1919 in the Polygon and West Park Road

3.2 In the Middle Ages it was a suburban area used for agriculture with a farm at Bannister's Park and the village of Hill on Hill Lane. Medieval and post-medieval finds have been discovered in the vicinity of the site. The Rollesbrook flows through the area, from the Common to the River Test, but much of its course is culverted. Archard's (or Acorn) Bridge crossed the southern end of Rollesbrook on the medieval road from Southampton to Redbridge. Natural springs in the area were

used for a medieval water-supply system with Conduit Head near Hill Lane and Conduit House (SAM No 187) on the corner of Commercial Road and Water Lane. The conduit supplied water to the friary within the walled medieval town of Southampton (about 700m to the south-east of the site) then became the municipal water supply.

3.3 In the 18th century the Polygon development was started but not completed, a canal was constructed, and a road ('New Road' on the line of Commercial Road) was built. Construction of the Southampton to Salisbury Canal started in 1795 with a route that ran along the north shore of the River Test through Millbrook to the west and Northam to the east. A tunnel under West Marlands connected these two stretches but had many problems. Blechynden Terrace is roughly on the line of the backfilled canal.

3.4 In the 19th century developments included roads, houses, a brewery, railway lines and a station. The *Southampton and Dorchester Railway*, with a tunnel near the present Civic Centre, was constructed in the 1840s. At first there was a temporary station in Blechynden Terrace but this was replaced with a station known as *Southampton West* from 1858. A new station was built and opened in 1895 followed by further additions and it was renamed *Southampton Central* in 1935. An embankment for the *Didcot, Newbury and Southampton Railway* was constructed in the 1880s in the Rollesbrook valley but was not used.

3.5 More terraced houses were built early in the 20th century and Mayflower Theatre was opened in 1928 as the Empire Variety Theatre. The area of the site suffered much bomb damage during the Second World War followed by clearance of the terraced houses and other buildings. Wyndham Court was built in the 1960s and was followed by other large developments.

3.6 Conduit House was investigated in the 1980s and 1990s (SOU 243/269/270/444). A series of features below the north wall of the medieval building possibly indicates a previous structure. Several pipe trenches were excavated on the north and west sides but none of the *in situ* pipes were medieval. Fragments of ceramic pipe possibly were part of the medieval system.

3.7 A watching brief was carried out on the construction of Thornycroft House, Commercial Road (SOU 533). A length of the lead pipe in the north-east corner of the site may have been part of the conduit water supply.

3.8 A prehistoric worked flint and four sherds of post-medieval pottery were found during a watching brief (SOU 832) at 3 Commercial Road.

3.9 A watching brief between West Park Road and Commercial Road (SOU 903) revealed small quantities of residual prehistoric worked flint and medieval ceramics.

3.10 At a watching Brief at 69– 81 Commercial Road (SOU 958) layers of recent deposition comprising disturbed topsoil and made ground were observed. A brick feature associated with a former brewery was also exposed.

3.11 An evaluation excavation (SOU 1481) on land to the south of the Mayflower showed that there had been significant disturbance of much of the site in the 19th

and 20th centuries. The only evidence for human activity related to 19th and 20th century properties.

3.12 A watching brief (SOU 1524) was carried out on pipe trenches in Havelock Road and West Park Road in 2010. A post-medieval soil layer and evidence for 19th century gravel digging were observed.

4 Purpose/aims of the archaeological fieldwork

4.1 The purpose of the fieldwork is to make a record of the deposits that survive beneath the surface. In addition the nature, dimensions, and relationship of natural deposits will be noted and recorded if revealed.

5 Archaeological methodology

5.1 The work will consist of a watching brief on the trial holes, core-holes, and other holes (Figure 1).

5.2 The archaeologist will attend to observe excavation of any holes and drilling of the core-holes. They will be examined and the deposits recorded, and artefacts will be retrieved if present.

5.3 Deposits will be recorded using Southampton City Council's Archaeological Recording System.

5.4 Project staff will be provided with a copy of the Written Scheme of Investigation.

5.5 Records will be as full as possible given the constraints of access and safety. Archaeological features encountered during the works will be drawn to scale: 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 with colour transparency film and monochrome film. Digital pictures will also be taken. Photographs will be taken of all features and to show the nature of natural deposits if revealed. Overall site photographs will be taken in order to locate trenches and features. The site code will appear in all photographs if practical.

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

5.7 The watching brief will have the necessary equipment. The minimum will be stationery, recording forms, cameras, film, photographic scales, tapes, safety equipment, and trowel.

5.8 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-AD1850 finds will be retained, and a sample of post-AD1850 will be retained.

5.9 All archaeological personnel will report to the Site Manager on arrival at the site. All site regulations will be observed. All statutory and site-specific health and safety regulations will be followed.

5.10 Close liaison will take place between the Site Manager (or equivalent) and the archaeological observer to ensure that all groundworks are observed.

5.11 If a human burial is encountered works will cease pending discussions with Southampton City Council's Planning Archaeologist and Environmental Health Department. Human remains will not be removed from the ground until a Ministry of Justice licence has been obtained.

6 Post-fieldwork methodologies

6.1 The post-excavation programme will consist, at minimum, of the following:

6.2 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.

6.3 Once the site work is finished any 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.

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

7 Report preparation and contents

7.1 Once the site data and artefacts have been analysed, a summary report will be written within six 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.

7.2 One copy of the report will form part of the site archive, two copies will be sent to the client, and two copies will be sent to the Southampton City Council Planning Archaeologist.

7.3 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*).

8 Copyright

8.1 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.

9 Archive deposition

9.1 "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.

9.2 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.

10 Staffing

10.1 The work will be carried out by experienced archaeologists, under the supervision of Matt Garner BA MIfA. Dr AD Russel BA, PhD, MIfA will oversee the project.

11 Health and Safety

11.1 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.

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

12 Insurances

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

13 Monitoring procedures

13.1 The project will be monitored for the Southampton City Council Planning Archaeologist.

14 Procedures for reporting unexpectedly significant or complex discoveries.

14.1 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 Archaeology Unit Manager will contact the client and the Southampton City Council Planning Archaeologist.

MF Garner
4/1/13

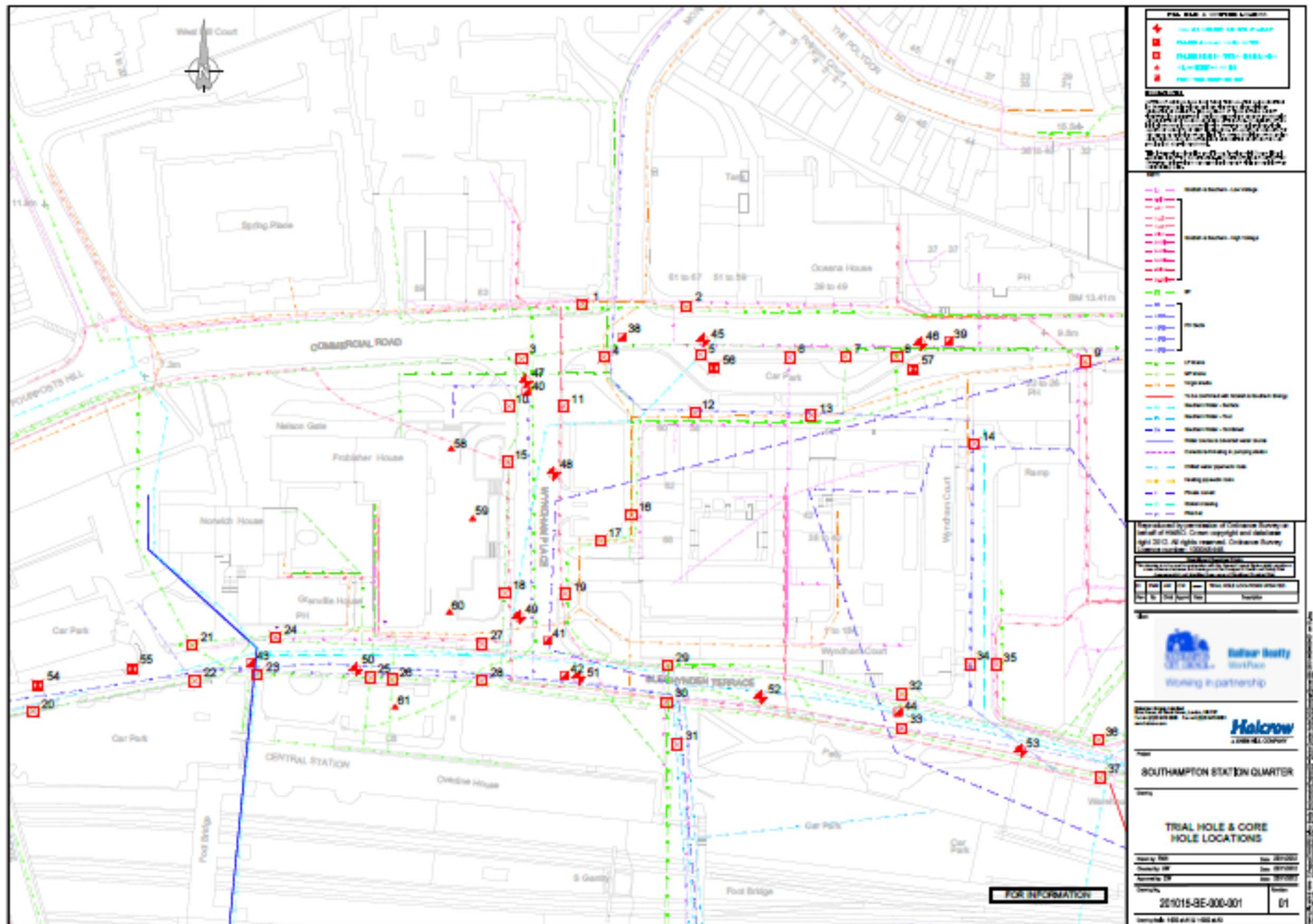


Figure 1 Location of proposed groundworks