

Southampton City Council Archaeology Unit

Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Watching Brief with option to excavate on the construction of a MUGA at St Mary's C of E School, Southampton

Planning reference 11/01698/R3CFL

OS Grid ref SU 427121

1 Summary

A watching brief will be held on the groundworks required to construct a multi-use games area in the grounds of St Mary's School, Ascupart Street, Southampton, by Saints Foundation. A record will be made of the deposits exposed, and should archaeological features be encountered they will be investigated by hand excavation and further recorded. Written records will be made, photographs will be taken, and any artifacts observed will be collected. Afterwards an illustrated report on the works will be written and submitted to Southampton City Council Historic Environment Team.

2 Background

2.1 This programme has been written to the recommended guidelines for archaeological projects laid down by English Heritage in *The Management of Archaeological Projects* (revised edition 1992). All work will be carried out in accordance with the *Code of Conduct* and "*Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs*" (revised edition September 2001) issued by the Institute of Field Archaeologists and the *Code of Conduct* and "*Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Excavation*" (revised edition September 2001) issued by the Institute of Field Archaeologists.

2.2 A watching brief is defined as 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)

2.3 The Southampton Archaeology Unit is an IfA Registered Archaeological Organisation.

3 Site Location, topography and geology

3.1 The site lies at OS grid ref SU 427121 to the northwest of the historic core of Southampton. The site lies to the north of the buildings making up St Mary's School, between St Mary Street and the railway line. At the east side of the site the field surface is at 4.26m OD, at the west side it is 4.93mOD. The Geological Survey map (Ordnance Survey 1973) shows the site to lie on Valley Gravels, but previous work on the site has shown it to lie on brickearth over Valley Gravel.

4. Planning background

4.1 The works are being carried out under the approval given to Planning application 11/01698/R3CFL. As part of the planning process an evaluation has already been carried out on the site by Wessex Archaeology under reference SOU 1565. Three Middle Saxon pits were found in the evaluation and the local planning authority has stipulated a watching brief with option to excavate during the groundworks.

5. Archaeological Background.

5.1 The site lies to the east of Golden Grove, a north-south street which Morton identifies as on the line of one of the two main north-south roads of the Middle Saxon town of Hamwic (Morton 1992, 35-6). A number of excavations have taken place within the school grounds.

5.2 In the centre of the present site, SOU 39 was excavated in 1951 by Maitland Muller and DM Waterman. Three trenches were excavated revealing 13 pits. The pits are recorded as being either circular or rectangular and between 0.6m and 2.4m deep. The trenches were numbered A, C and B from north-west to south-east. Six pits were excavated in trench A, six pits in trench B and one in the central trench C. All the pits produced dating evidence indicating that they had been filled in throughout the Middle Saxon period. One pit in trench B dated from early in the Middle Saxon period while all the others dated from the middle to late period. The upper part of the site had been removed by brickearth digging. (Morton 1992, MF1:J6). In the upper fill of a pit in Trench B a cattle bone with a four character runic inscription was found forming the word KATAE (Addyman and Hill 1969, 86 and 88)

5.3 Observations and excavation at SOU 27 were undertaken when in 1979 British Rail undertook realignment of the railway track running along the north edge of the site. The work was carried out by D Devereux who excavated three trenches in a curve. The trenches were numbered A to C starting at the north-east and curving in a south-west direction. In trenches A and B, 15 pits were revealed. The 6 pits revealed in trench A were not further investigated and no dating evidence was recovered. The 9 pits in Trench B were sampled and produced material of Middle Saxon date. In trench C similar features were observed but not recorded in detail. However a short north-south length of gravelling thought to be a natural outcrop was seen in Trench C (Morton 1992, MF1:F1). This was aligned with Golden Grove (Morton 1992, 6) and could have been a continuation of the north-south Saxon road.

5.4 In 1999 SOU 1013 and SOU 1028 were dug to the south of the MUGA site. They found a Middle Saxon yard surface, two postholes, and five pits. The lack of human bone found on the site indicates that this site lies outside the graveyard previously found in the area and indicates that the site was of a domestic nature. The pottery and other finds indicate that four of the five pits were filled in the mid-Middle Saxon period, perhaps 750-850AD. The fifth pit produced no dateable finds but was stratigraphically dated to the Middle Saxon period. Evidence of bone-working and metalworking industries was recovered.

6 Purpose/aims of the fieldwork

6.1 To record the nature of the archaeology and, if exposed, the natural deposits. Should archaeology be encountered and is to be destroyed by the groundworks enough will be excavated and recorded to ascertain the nature and date of the deposits.

7 Field methodology

7.1 The groundworks will consist of the stripping of soils, the excavation of foundations and the excavation of service trenches. A watching brief will be kept on this work. Should archaeological features be revealed enough will be hand excavated to ascertain the date and nature of the feature.

7.2 The archaeological 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.

7.3 The archaeological contractor will inform the Historic Environment Team when the specified fieldwork has begun, and when it has been completed.

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

7.5 A site code will be allocated to the site 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, context record forms, cameras, film, photographic scales, tapes, safety equipment, and excavation equipment.

7.6 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. Normally one archaeologist will attend the site during the excavation of the groundworks, but if groundworks are taking place in more than one area, or archaeological features need to be dealt with at the same time as the watching brief is continuing then further staff will attend as necessary.

7.7 If present, artifacts will be recovered from 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.

7.8 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 archaeological features and the nature of the natural. Overall site photographs will be taken in order to locate trenches and features. The site code will appear in all photographs if practical.

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

watching brief may be restricted to certain groundworks, or may cease, following consultation with the Historic Environment Team.

7.10 If burials are encountered by groundworks they will be cleaned and recorded and left *in situ* and the Historic Environment Team will be contacted. No exhumation of remains will take place until a Ministry of Justice licence has been obtained.

8 Post-fieldwork methodologies

8.1 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.

8.2 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.

8.3 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.

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

9 Report preparation and contents

9.1 Within four weeks of the end of the fieldwork a report of an appropriate standard will be written. The report will include the following: summary, introduction, aims and objectives, methodology, results, conclusions, archive location, appendices, figures, and references.

10 Copyright

10.1 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.

11 Archive deposition

11.1 On completion of the report the site archive including the retained artifacts and a fiche copy of the paperwork and drawings will be deposited with Southampton City Council for curation in the City Council Museum Collection. The Museum will charge a fee to cover the deposition costs of the archive and its curation in perpetuity.

12 Publication

12.1 Two copies of the full report will be provided to the Client, 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 the Southampton City Council Historic Environment Team.

12.2 The Archaeology Unit will supply Southampton City Council's Historic Environment Team with one copy of the full 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*.

12.3 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*). The summary will be placed on the Hampshire Field Club's web site *Archaeology in Hampshire*.

13 Staffing

13.1 Work on site will be carried out by experienced archaeologists. The team will be supervised by an Archaeological Officer with a minimum of 10 years experience of the area. The project will be managed by MF Garner BA MIfA.

14 Health and Safety

14.1 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.

15 Insurances

15.1 Southampton City Council's insurances, including public liability and professional indemnity, covers its entire staff wherever they work.

16 Monitoring procedures

16.1 The project will be monitored internally by the Archaeology Unit Manager, and for the City Council by the Historic Environment Team.

17 Procedures for reporting unexpectedly significant or complex discoveries

17.1 Should unexpectedly significant or complex discoveries be made such as well preserved remains of buildings of the medieval period or earlier, the archaeologist on site will contact the Archaeology Unit Manager on 023 8063 4906. The Historic Environment Team will then be invited to visit the site and the Client will be informed of the findings.

AD Russel
Archaeology Unit Manager
Southampton City Council
23/7/2013