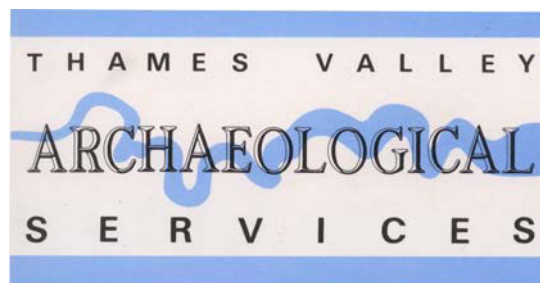


**468–484 Portswood Road,  
Southampton, Hampshire**

**Project specification for archaeological evaluation**

**27th August 2013**



13e207ev

## **468–480 Portswood Road, Southampton, Hampshire Proposal for an archaeological evaluation**

### **1.0 Background**

1.1 The site, which occupies an area of c.1224 sq m, lies on the eastern side of Portswood Road, to the north of its junction with Belgrave Road, Southampton (SU 4343 1503).

1.2 Planning permission (09/00409) has been gained from Southampton City Council for redevelopment of the site for the construction of new housing. The consent is subject to two conditions which relate to archaeology.

1.3 The archaeological potential of the site stems from its location within the local area of archaeological potential (LAAP10) of Portswood, Highfield and northern St Denys; identified in the Historic Environment Record of Southampton City Council and included in the Local Plan of 2006. Area 10 includes medieval Portswood Village. Roman and prehistoric features and findspots have been found within the area.

### **2.0 Requirement for Work**

2.1 As a condition on the granting of the planning consent a field evaluation is required, as set out in PPG16 (1990) and the Council policies on archaeology. It is acknowledged that the *National Planning Policy Framework* (NPPF 2012, para 141) has superseded PPG16 and PPS5

2.2 A single component of work is proposed at this stage, a field evaluation by means of machine trenching. Further fieldwork may be required if archaeological deposits are encountered which cannot be preserved in-situ by amendments to the development layout or foundation design, governed by a new written scheme of investigation.

### **3.0 Aims and Objectives**

3.1 The aims of the evaluation will be to determine the presence/ absence, extent, condition, character, quality and date of any archaeological or palaeoenvironmental deposits within the area of development.

3.2 This work will be carried out in a manner which will not compromise the integrity of archaeological features or deposits which warrant preservation in-situ, or might better be excavated under conditions pertaining to full excavation.

3.3 The specific research aims of this project are;

a) To determine if archaeologically relevant levels have survived on this part of the site.

b) To determine if archaeological deposits of any period are present.

c) To provide sufficient information to construct an archaeological mitigation strategy.

d) The potential and significance of any such deposits located will be assessed according to the research priorities such as set out in English Heritage Research Agenda (English Heritage 2005) or any more local or thematic research priorities such as the Solent Thames research agenda as necessary.

### **4.0 Methodology**

#### **4.2 Trench Layout**

4.2.1 We propose to dig five trenches; four 8m long by 1.6m wide and one 16m long by 1.6m wide. This will be targeted predominantly at the footprint of the proposed new houses with one to investigate the Portswood Road street frontage and one to investigate the central landscaped area (Fig. 1).

### **4.3 Excavation Methodology**

4.3.1 Topsoil and any other overburden will be removed by a JCB-type or 360<sup>0</sup>-type machine. A ditching bucket will be used to expose archaeologically sensitive levels.

4.3.2 Where archaeological features are certainly or probably present, the stripped areas will be cleaned using appropriate hand tools.

4.3.3 Sufficient of the archaeological features and deposits exposed will be excavated or sampled by hand to satisfy the aims of the brief, without compromising the objective set out in 3.2. This will be in agreement with Kevin White, Historic Environment Group Leader for Southampton City Council.

4.3.4 At the post-excavation stage the collection policy of the recipient museum will be followed and which may involve the discarding of some classes of building material, such as brick and tile or flint nodules after recording with only a representative sample being retained.

4.3.5 Conservation on site will follow guidelines in First Aid For Finds with any other specialist conservation work subcontracted to our conservation advisor (see below).

4.3.6 Discovery of any human remains will be reported to the coroner but no further action will be taken as part of the evaluation exercise, unless requested as additional work by the client in consultation with the City Planning Archaeological Officer. Any disarticulated human remains will be recovered.

4.3.7 A programme of environmental sampling will take place should sufficient well stratified subsoil deposits be located. Typically this involves samples of 40 L depending on the size of the feature examined. A programme of environmental sampling will take place, if any significant deposits are encountered. These will be sampled in consultation with our environmental consultants and the City Planning Archaeological Officer. Sampling will take place according to English Heritage guidance (English Heritage 2011).

4.3.8 Metal detectors will be used to enhance the recovery of metal finds. No title will be assumed by the finder of any gold, silver or prehistoric base metal objects and the provisions of the Treasure Act (1996) and its subsequent amendments, will be implemented where appropriate.

4.3.9 Spoilheaps will be searched for finds.

4.3.10 Following completion of all excavation and recording, the trench will be efficiently backfilled with topsoil replaced last, but not resurfaced, returfed or reseeded.

### **5.0 Recording Methodology**

5.1 A single context recording system will be used in accordance with the TVAS Field Recording Manual (7th edition 2011). Descriptions of individual deposits and features will be recorded on pro-forma context recording sheets. Munsell soil colours will be recorded. A Southampton site code will be obtained prior to a start of work.

5.2 All archaeological deposits exposed will be planned at a scale of 1:20 and sections drawn at a scale of 1:10. All site drawings will be by pencil on drafting film.

5.3 Heights above OD will be taken and recorded on plans and sections.

5.4 The locations of the trenches and of all plans and sections will be tied into the National Grid.

5.5 A full photographic record will be made of the evaluation project, consisting of digital image, colour print, and b/w print (contact sheet) should archaeological deposits be encountered. It will record the principal features and finds discovered, both in detail and in their general context.

### **6.0 Post-fieldwork**

6.1 Finds processing and analysis will commence immediately following the completion of the fieldwork. Post-fieldwork will be completed according to TVAS post-fieldwork manual (5th edition 2011).

6.2 Artefacts/ecofacts will be cleaned, conserved, X-rayed (metal) and prepared for long term museum storage following 'Standards for the Creation, Completion and Transfer of Archaeological Archives (Southampton City Council 2007).

6.3 Specialist reports will be prepared on the artefacts recovered. Particular attention will be paid to correlating the pottery recovered with local or regional fabric type sequences for the Southampton area.

6.4 Specialist analysis and reporting will be carried out by the following specialist staff or consultants as appropriate:-

pottery -	Dr Jane Timby, Dr Malcolm Lyne, Mr Paul Blinkhorn or Mr. Duncan Brown (consultants)
stone -	Dr David Williams (Southampton University)
metalwork -	Ms Sue Porter (TVAS) or Dr Robin Taylor (consultant)
coins-	Ms Sue Porter (TVAS)
iron slag-	Professor J R L Allen (Reading University)
bone -	Sheila Hamilton-Dyer or Dr. Matilda Holmes (consultants) or Ceri Falys (TVAS)
botanical remains/environment -	Professor M. Robinson, (Oxford University) or Ms Rosalind McKenna (consultant)
struck flint -	Dr. Steve Ford (TVAS)
human bone-	Dr Ceri Falys (TVAS)
Pollen/environment-	Mr Dan Young (Reading University- Quest)
Radiocarbon dating-	Queens University, Belfast, or Keil Univesity, Germany
Conservation-	Wiltshire Conservation Centre

## 7.0 Report and Dissemination

7.1 A report on the results of the fieldwork should be available within three weeks following completion of the fieldwork (trenching phase). It is intended to produce separate reports for the different phases of work.

7.2 The report will follow our established format, comprising a descriptive text, illustrations and catalogues in appendices as appropriate.

7.3 The text will address the aims and objectives of the project, the methodology employed, describe the basic nature of the archaeological deposits discovered, and report on the artefacts recovered. It will then attempt to place the significance of the findings in their local, regional and national setting if appropriate.

7.4 The report will include a frontsheet providing the following information:

- \*Site name
- \*Grid reference
- \*Site activity (evaluation trenching, geophysical survey, fieldwalking, watching brief, excavation, etc.)
- \*Date and duration of project
- \*Site code
- \*Area of site
- \*Summary of results
- \*Monuments identified (referenced to the RCHME Thesaurus of Monument Types)
- \*Location and reference of archive

7.5 The illustrations will include:

- a site location plan
- a plan of the distribution of archaeological finds by material, type and date generated from the fieldwalking
- a plan of archaeological deposits
- profiles/sections of excavated features
- photographs of significant/representative features

7.6 Any findings of national or special local significance will be published as a dedicated report in an appropriate journal such as *Proceedings of the Hampshire Field Club*. Otherwise a summary will be produced for publication in 'round up' sections in publications such as period specific national journals.

7.7 Copies of the results will be supplied to the developer, one bound copy to the Historic Environment Team; and one bound copy to the Special Collections of Southampton Public Library. The Historic Environment Team will also be sent a copy of the report in Adobe Acrobat format (pdf file) and digital files of trench locations and any features found within them tied to the British National Grid in dxf format. Non-published report(s) will be made available for inspection or download on the TVAS web site.

7.8 A digital version of the report will be provided to the OASIS project.

7.9 Copies of digital images will be supplied to the Historic Environment Team (if requested).

## **8.0 Archive Deposition**

8.1 The finds and site archive will be prepared in accordance with guidelines in Management of Archaeological Projects 2 and after consultation with the recipient museum.

8.2 The site archive will be deposited with Southampton City Museum in accordance with the standards laid down in *Standards for the Creation, Completion and Transfer of Archaeological Archives* (Southampton City Council 2007).

8.3 The site finds will be deposited with Southampton City Museum with the agreement of the landowner.

8.4 The records will be copied onto microfiche and a copy sent to the National Archaeological Record.

## **9.0 General Items**

9.1 The project will be managed on a regular basis by a Member of the Institute of Field Archaeologists with an appropriate area of competence (S. Ford or J. Pine).

9.2 The project will be carried out in accordance with the IFA Code of Conduct and Code of Practice and Standards and Guidance. The quality control mechanisms set out in the TVAS fieldwork and post-fieldwork manuals. The fieldwork will be carried out as defined by IFA standards and guidance.

9.3 Safe working practices will be adopted as set out in the TVAS health and safety manual and current health and safety standards will be adhered to.

9.4 Our insurance cover comprises £10 million for public liability, £10 million for employee liability, cover for any hired-in plant, and professional indemnity cover of £5m.

9.5 Regular monitoring of the project for the Planning Authority will be carried out by the City Planning Archaeological Officer and all reasonable access will be provided to the works.

## **10.0 References**

English Heritage 2005, *Research Agenda*, English Heritage, London.

English Heritage 2011, *Environmental Archaeology*. Centre for Archaeology Guidelines 1, English Heritage, Portsmouth. (2nd edn)

NPPF, 2012, *National Planning Policy Framework*, Dept Communities and Local Government, London

PPG16, 1990, *Archaeology and Planning*, Dept Environment Planning Policy Guidance 16, HMSO

Southampton City Council, 2007, *Standards for the Creation, Completion and Transfer of Archaeological Archives*



468-480 Portswood Road, Southampton, Hampshire

Fig. 1 Proposal for archaeological evaluation

Location of trenches



THAMES VALLEY  
 ARCHAEOLOGICAL  
 SERVICES