

**47A Bevois Valley Road,  
Southampton, Hampshire**

**Specification for an archaeological watching brief**

**11th June 2013**



Ref:13e146wb

## **47A Bevois Valley Road, Southampton, Hampshire Proposal for an archaeological watching brief**

### **1.0 Background**

1.1 The site lies on the west side of Bevois Valley Road at its junction with Earls Road, Bevois Valley, Southampton (SU 4252 1320). The site comprises a rectangular parcel of land (c.600 sq).

1.2 Planning permission (13/00295/FUL) has been gained from Southampton City Council for redevelopment of the site for the construction of six new apartments. The consent is subject to two conditions (16 and 17) which relate to archaeology.

1.3 The site lies on the boundary of a 'Local Area of Archaeological Potential' (zone 7) defined in the City of Southampton Core Strategy (2010). This area includes a range of sites around Bannister's Park with a number of prehistoric, Roman and medieval sites and finds recorded. To the south east is Northam Farm, first recorded in the 9th century. The site generally lies close to the River Itchen and lies on the opposite bank to the substantial defended Roman settlement *Clausentum* (Bitterne Manor) (Cotton and Gathercole 1958).

### **2.0 Requirement for Work**

2.1 As a requirement of the planning consent, a watching brief has been requested as set out in the *National Planning Policy Framework* (NPPF 2012) and the City policies on archaeology. This work is to take place during groundworks as a result of the possibility of damage or destruction of archaeological deposits.

2.2 This is to take place according to a written scheme of investigation approved by the Southampton City Planning Archaeological Officer.

### **3.0 Aims and Objectives**

3.1 The aims of the project are to excavate and record any archaeological deposits affected by the construction of the new apartments (Fig. 1). The works will involve examination of all these areas of intrusive groundworks, such as ground reduction, the digging of foundation /groundbeam trenches, deep service trenches and other intrusive structures such as soakaways.

### **4.0 Methodology**

4.1 Archaeological deposits which are exposed by the groundworks will be recorded but will not be further excavated unless threatened by the groundworks. Sufficient time will be allowed to carry this out within the groundworker's schedules. Foundation trenches (if used) will be dug using a machine fitted with a toothless bucket and excavation will (temporarily) cease if archaeological deposits are encountered above the formation level. Local widening of the foundation trenches will take place if discrete features are encountered which cannot fully be understood or excavated within the confines of the initial foundation trench.

4.2.1 In general, all finds and artefacts will be retained, though all but a sample of some classes of building material will be discarded after recording. The categories of artefacts to be discarded will be discussed with the recipient museum.

4.2.2 Conservation on site will follow guidelines in First Aid for Finds with any other specialist conservation work subcontracted to our project conservator (see below).

4.2.3 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. These will be sampled in consultation with our environmental consultants and the City Archaeological Officer if necessary. Sampling will take place according to English Heritage guidance (English Heritage 2011).

4.2.4 Discovery of any human remains will be reported to the coroner and will be excavated following guidelines issued by the Ministry of Justice. Recovery and recording methodologies for human remains follow standard

procedures identified by McKinley and Roberts (1993), Brickley and McKinley (2004) and TVAS Field Recording Manual (7th edition 2011). Any human bone recovered of archaeological significance will be deposited with Southampton Museum and will not be reinterred.

4.2.5 A metal detector will be used to enhance recovery of any metal finds. All gold, silver, prehistoric base metal and any associated objects will be removed to a safe place and reported to the local coroner according to the procedures relating to the Treasure Act (1996) and its subsequent amendments. Where removal cannot be effected on the same working day as the discovery suitable security measures will be taken to protect the finds from theft. No title will be assumed by the finder of any items of value.

### 4.3 Recording Methodology

4.3.1 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.

4.3.2 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.

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

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

4.3.5 A full photographic record will be made of the watching brief project, consisting of digital image, colour print, and b/w print (contact sheet). It will record the principal features and finds discovered, both in detail and in their general context. A Southampton site code will be put on the photographic identification boards.

### 4.4 Post-fieldwork

4.4.1 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).

4.4.2 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).

4.4.3 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.

4.4.4 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 – Mr Steve Crabb (TVAS) or Dr Robin Taylor (consultant)

iron slag- Mr. Steve Crabb (TVAS) or Professor J R L Allen (Reading University)

bone - Ms Sheila Hamilton-Dyer, Dr. Matilda Holmes, Ms Claire Ingrem (consultants) or Dr. 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)

archaeomagnetic dating- (Bradford University)

conservation- Wiltshire County Council Conservation Centre

## 5.0 Report and Dissemination

5.1 A report on the results of the fieldwork should be available within two-three weeks following completion of the fieldwork.

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

5.3 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, as outlined in the emerging Solent-Thames Research Agenda.

5.4 The illustrations will include:

a site location plan

a plan of archaeological deposits

profiles/sections of excavated features

a selection of photographs of the site as appropriate

5.5 The findings even if negative will be published as a note in a round up section in an appropriate journal such as *Proceedings of the Hampshire Field Club* or period journals such as *Medieval Archaeology* or *Post-medieval Archaeology*. Non-published report(s) will be made available for inspection or download on the TVAS web site.

5.6 Bound paper copies of the results will be supplied to the Historic Environment Team; and Special Collections of Southampton Public Library. The Historic Environment Team will also be sent a digital (pdf) copy and digital files of trench locations and any features found within them tied to the British National Grid in any appropriate format. Non-published report(s) will be made available for inspection or download on the TVAS web site.

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

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

## **6.0 Archive Deposition**

6.1 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.

6.2 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).

6.3 With the agreement of the landowner, the finds will be deposited with Southampton Museum.

6.4 The records will be copied onto microfiche for the National Archaeological Record.

## **7.0 General Items**

7.1 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). The fieldwork will be supervised and carried out by staff of other categories of membership of the IFA.

7.2 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 watching brief fieldwork will be carried out as defined by the IFA standards and guidance on watching briefs.

7.3 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.

7.4 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.

## 8.0 References

Brickley, M and McKinley, J (eds), 2004, *Guidelines to the Standards for Recording Human Remains*, IFA Pap  
7

Cotton, M A and Gathercole, P, 1958, *Excavations at Clausentum, Southampton, 1951-54*, London  
English Heritage 2011, *Environmental Archaeology*. Centre for Archaeology Guidelines 1, English Heritage,  
Portsmouth (2nd edn)

McKinley, J I and Roberts, C, 1993, *Excavation and post-excavation treatment of cremated and inhumed human  
remains*, Institute of Field Archaeologists Techn Pap **13**, Reading

NPPF 2012, *National Planning Policy Framework*, Department of Communities and Local Government, London  
(TSO)

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