

## **Southampton City Council Archaeology Unit**

### **Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Evaluation of land at Atherfield Road, Millbrook, Southampton**

**16/01/15**

#### **1 Aims of the Project**

1.1 It is proposed to construct an area of car parking off Atherfield Road, in the Millbrook area of Southampton. The site lies in an area of known archaeology and to ascertain if archaeology is present on the site some 14% of the site will be evaluated to check for the survival of archaeological deposits and if present to define their date and nature. An ordered archive will be produced which will allow for a written report to be created. The report will consider the archaeology and its significance and the likely impact of the development and will inform a decision to be made as to the need for further work.

#### **2 Introduction**

2.1. The archaeological evaluation has been commissioned by the Neighbourhoods Division of Southampton City Council.

2.2 The HET reference is 7582.

#### **3 Site Location, description, and geology**

3.1 The site, at present forming an area of amenity grassland (fig 1) is located to the north of Atherfield Road where it runs east west, to the northeast of its junction with Windbury Road, and west of Tetney Close, at OS Grid reference 438190 115050.

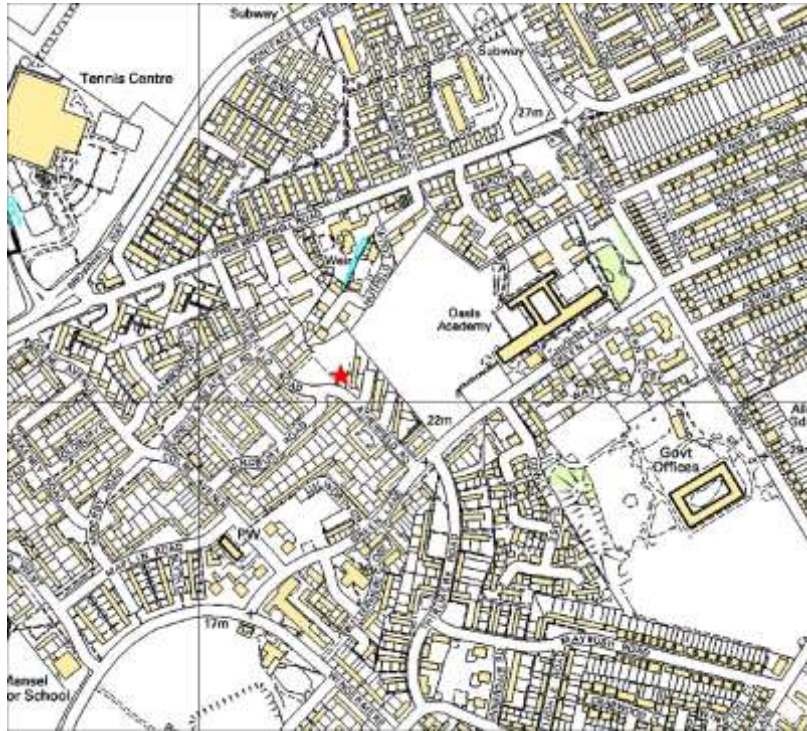
3.2 The natural topography of the site is fairly level but the area slopes up gently towards the northeast. The nearest spot height shown on the OS map is 21.6m OD on Green Lane some 170m to the southeast of the site.

3.3 The British Geological Survey shows that the site to lie on the sands, silts and clays of the Wittering Formation.

<http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html>.

#### **4 Historical Background**

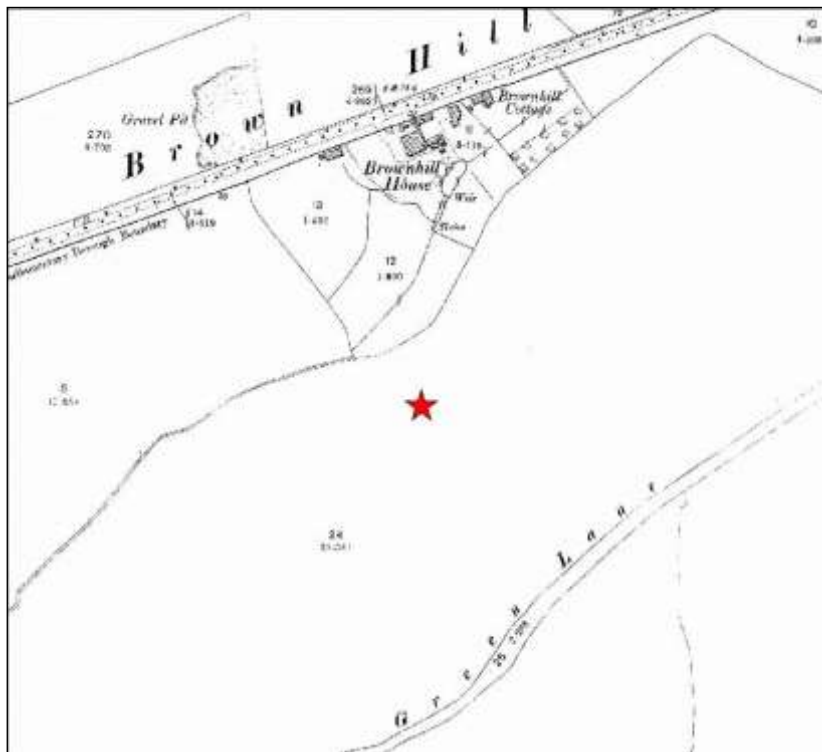
4.1 The site lies in the Wimpson area in the north part of Millbrook parish. The village of Wimpson probably began in the Saxon period. Wimpson (Wynesmannestone) is mentioned in a quit claim in the Winchester Cartulary in 1320: 'by John Wyeld of Wynesmannestone and Aubrey his wife for 20 years from the beginning of AD 1320 to 1340 to Nicholas Braysfield of two quarters of flour and two quarters barley'. A manor roll of Nursling (Nutschullyng) of 1406–23 mentions 'Redbridge (where a chapel is mentioned), Wimpson (Wynmanston) and Millbrook, and it is sometimes stated that the places are in Millbrook or Nursling' (Crawford 1946, 17). In 1422 the Nursling roll mentions includes '1 messuage and 22 acres of land in Wynmanston in Mulbrouk' (Drew 1946, 43).



**Figure 1. The location of the site.**

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4.2 In the late 19<sup>th</sup> century the site was still fields, lying between Brown Hill Road and Green Lane (fig 2). The area was developed for housing in the post-war period.



**Figure 2. The area around the site, marked as a red star, in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century, as depicted on the 1896 OS map.**

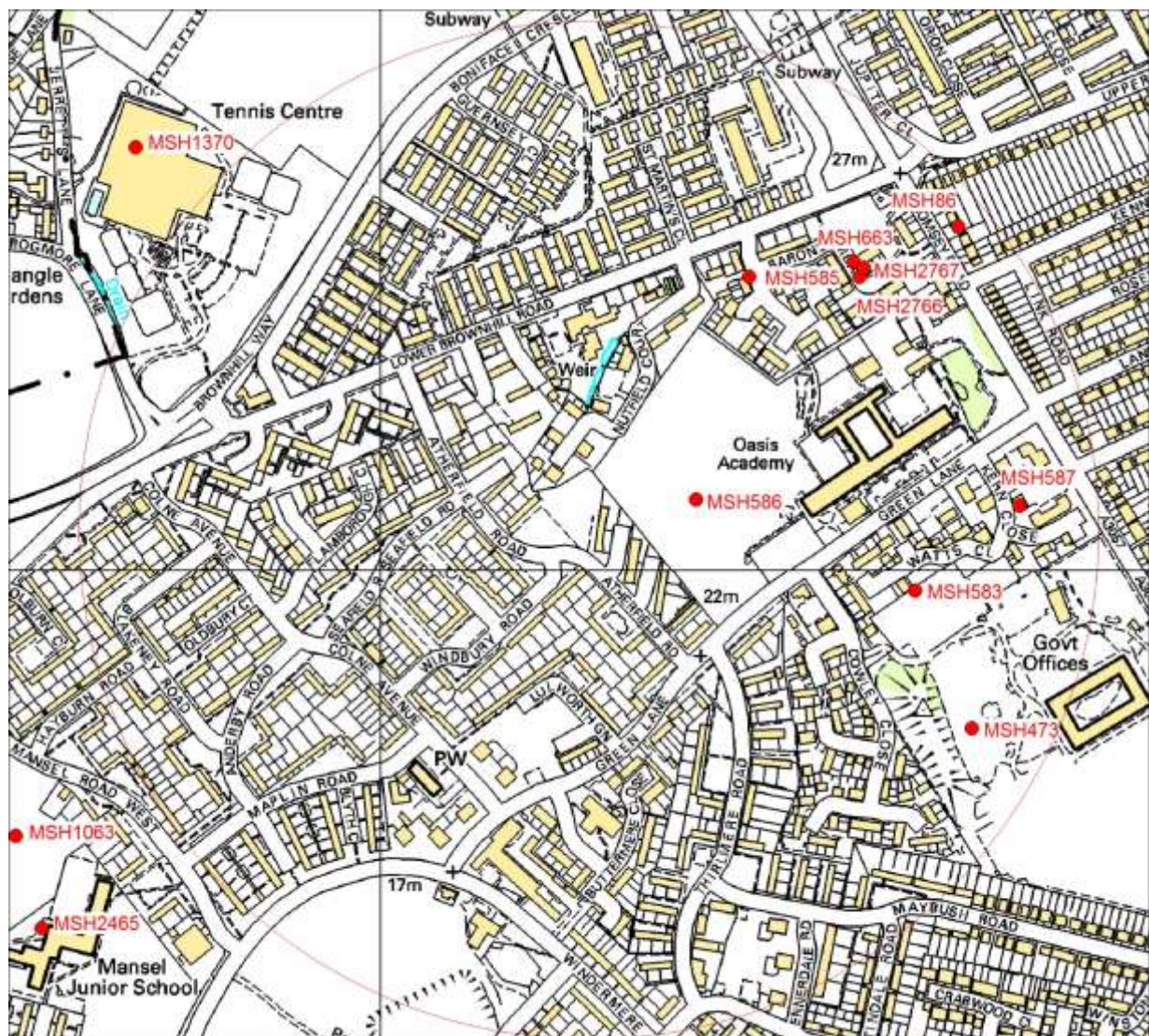
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## 5. Archaeological Background

5.1 The site lies in Area 2 of the Local Areas of Archaeological Potential (LAAP) as defined in the City of Southampton Core Strategy 2010. Area 2 covers **Nursling Plantation and Lower Brownhill Road** and is described as follows:

A series of streams originate in this area, making it a likely area for prehistoric settlement. Neolithic finds have been discovered here, and evidence of small prehistoric settlements of Bronze Age and Iron Age date, notably an Iron Age settlement at Baron's Mead. The area is adjacent to Adanac Park just outside the city boundary, where a Bronze Age settlement and Iron Age barrow/inhumation cemetery have been found, the latter of potential national importance. At Nursling Plantation, at the east end of the area, is the prehistoric earthwork known as Alder Moor Camp and surrounding land. Nearby is part of an 8th century boundary baulk.

5.2 Archaeological sites within 500m of the site as recorded on the Southampton City Council Historic Environment Record are as follows. The locations are shown on Figure 3.



**Figure 3. Archaeological sites within 500m of the site.**

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**MSH86**

Site Name: 5 Upper Brownhill Road - Flint Finds

A layer of flints which included a Neolithic scraper and pot boilers (burnt flints).

NGR: Centred SU 3858 1534 (13m by 13m)

**MSH473**

Site Name: Maybush - Flint Spearhead Find

A large well-chipped flat oval spearhead in grey flint, probably Bronze Age, was found in the Maybush area. Exact findspot unknown.

NGR: SU 38582 14840 (point)

**MSH583**

Site Name: Watts Close - All Deposits/Finds

An unstratified sherd of prehistoric pottery.

NGR: Centred SU 38522 14986 (178m by 145m)

**MSH585**

Site Name: Baron's Mead, off Lower Brownhill Road - Boundary Ditch or Stream

Field ditches shown on a 17<sup>th</sup> century estate map.

NGR: Centred SU 38367 15299 (79m by 61m)

**MSH586**

Site Name: South corner of Romsey Road and Lower Brownhill Road - Medieval/Post-Medieval Field System

Field ditches shown on a 17<sup>th</sup> century estate map, with documentary evidence of them in the 14<sup>th</sup> century.

NGR: Centred SU 38316 15074 (548m by 513m)

**MSH587**

Site Name: Kern Close (South Junction of Green Lane/Romsey Road) - Undated Evidence

Three undated features

NGR: Centred SU 38630 15067 (158m by 151m)

**MSH663**

Site Name: Baron's Mead, off Lower Brownhill Road - Iron Age, Possible Iron Age and Undated Deposits

Remains of an Iron Age settlement. Some features contained Iron Age pottery dating to the 4<sup>th</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> centuries BC. Other features are thought to date to the Iron Age, although this was uncertain; these included twelve hearths which could be of Iron Age or later date. The hearths could be domestic hearths or industrial hearths used for iron smithing. No definite remains of structures were found, although some are suggested. Many other features were undated and could date to any time between the Iron Age (or perhaps before) and the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, some probably being associated with agricultural activity from the medieval period until the mid-20<sup>th</sup> century (field boundary ditches relating to this activity were found).

NGR: Centred SU 38460 15303 (195m by 134m)

**MSH1063**

Site Name: Mansel Infant and Junior Schools, Porlock Road – Finds

All of the deposits excavated were modern but they contained pre-modern material. Prehistoric burnt flint and flint flakes, Roman brick, and medieval pottery were present in small quantities. Post-medieval material was a little more numerous. No patterning was obvious in the distribution of the pre-1750 material. The medieval and post-medieval ceramics may have been spread on the fields with organic refuse. Larger quantities of early modern and modern finds were present. A similar range of finds, including building material and domestic equipment, was found in most trenches.  
NGR: Centred SU 37647 14743 (218m by 191m)

### **MSH1370**

Site Name: The Matchpoint Tennis Centre in Frogmore Lane - Bronze Age Evidence  
A small remnant of undisturbed ground that survived in the northern part of the site produced 50 sherds of Bronze Age pottery from a brickearth subsoil, and one sherd from a shallow oval feature containing burnt material that was cut into the subsoil. Environmental samples recovered evidence of former vegetation and land-use patterns.  
NGR: SU 37768 15419 (point)

### **MSH2465**

Site Name: Mansel Infant and Junior Schools, Porlock Road - Former Fields  
Field boundary ditches and a stream shown on 19th century maps were visible as shallow negative features with enhanced vegetation growth  
NGR: Centred SU 37675 14652 (218m by 191m)

### **MSH2766**

Site Name: Baron's Mead, off Lower Brownhill Road - Boundary Ditch  
One of two large boundary on land formerly part of Millbrook School, Lower Brownhill Road. The ditch coincides with a field boundary shown on 19th century maps and dating back to at least 1615.  
NGR: Centred SU 38478 15292 (109m by 55m)

### **MSH2767**

Site Name: Baron's Mead, off Lower Brownhill Road - Prehistoric Flint Finds  
Prehistoric worked flints were found in stratified deposits and unstratified deposits. Some of the stratified deposits were of Iron Age or possible Iron Age date, others were undated or later. The flints were not closely dated. They include cores, flakes and some tools.  
NGR: Centred SU 38460 15303 (195m by 134m)

## **6 Aims of the Investigation**

6.1 The evaluation aims to determine the extent, condition, nature, character, quality, and date of any archaeological remains encountered, as dictated by current best practice.

6.2 For the purposes of this project, archaeologically significant remains and contexts are defined as remains and contexts relating to pre-19th-century human use of the area.

6.3 An additional aim is to identify and record the nature, dimensions, and relationship of natural deposits on the site.

## 7 Archaeological Methodology

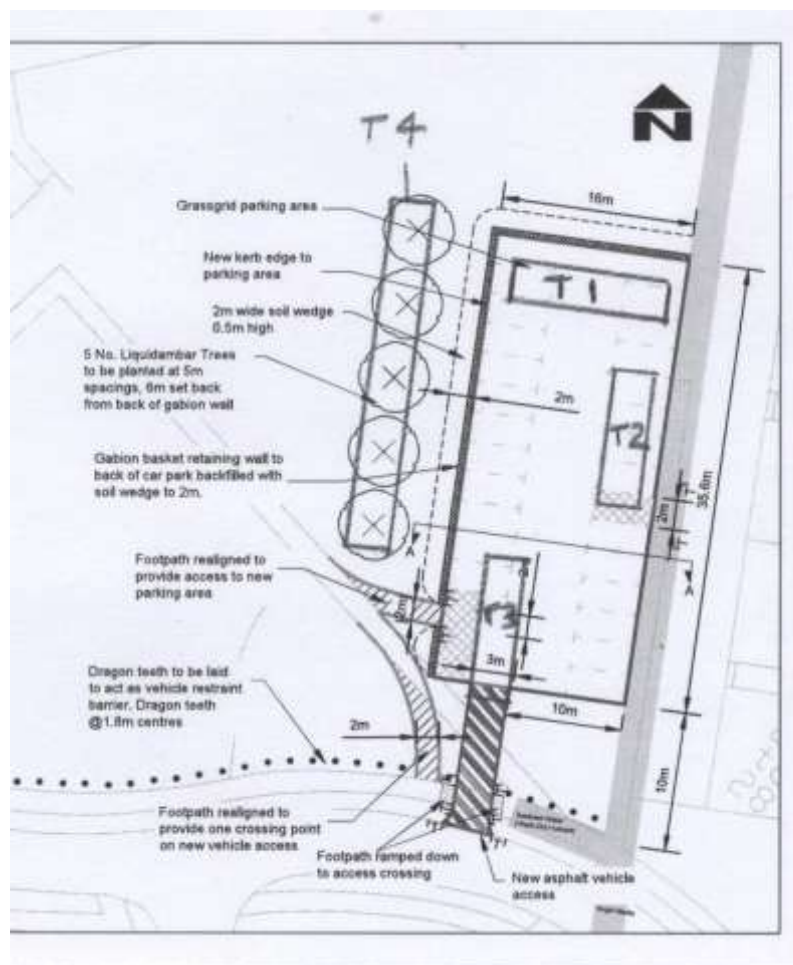
7.1 When the start date for the fieldwork is known, and before the start of the fieldwork, the contractor will obtain a Southampton site code from the HET.

7.2 The contractor will inform the HET when the specified fieldwork has begun, and when it has been completed.

7.3 Archaeological supervisory staff will be issued with a copy of this Brief and the approved WSI for the site.

### 7.4 Location of the Evaluation Trenches

7.4.1 The evaluation trench will be set out as shown in Figure 4. The Trenches will be 10m or 20m long and 1.8m wide. Trenches 1, 2, and 3 will be placed to examine the area to be disturbed by the car park, trench 4 will be placed to evaluate the area to be subject to tree pits.



**Figure 4. The site showing the proposed trenches.**

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### 7.5 Excavation Methodology

7.5.1 Modern surfaces and topsoil will be removed by machine, using an 8 or 13 ton, 360 degree, tracked machine with a wide toothless bucket, under constant

archaeological supervision. Machining will cease when natural or archaeology is revealed, and further investigation will be by hand.

7.5.2 Topsoil or other thick deposits (except for cellars and modern disturbance), will be removed in spits of no more than 200mm, and the top of each spit cleaned and inspected for archaeologically significant features.

7.5.3 All features will be mapped to a grid based on the National Grid and established by Total Station or GPS.

7.5.4 The excavated spoil will be examined for any archaeological finds. A metal detector will be used.

7.5.5 Archaeological features will be identified by changes in colour and texture of the soil.

7.5.6 Enough of the archaeological features will be excavated in order to ascertain their extent, date, and nature.

7.5.7 Any finds of human remains will be left *in situ*, covered and protected, while the client, the coroner, and the Local Planning Authority are informed. If removal of human remains is undertaken it will be in accordance with the latest advice from the Ministry of Justice and under a further WSI.

7.5.8 All finds of gold and silver will be moved to a safe place and reported to the coroner's office according to the procedures relating to the Treasure Act 1996. Where removal cannot be effected on the same working day as the discovery, suitable security measures will be taken to protect the artefacts from theft or damage.

7.5.9 On completion of the work the trenches will be backfilled. The trenches will be roughly compacted by machine.

## 7.6 Personnel

### *7.6.1 Excavation Personnel*

The excavation team will consist of experienced archaeologists under the supervision of Dr Andrew Russel BA PhD MCIfA.

### *7.6.2 Specialist personnel and methodology*

Retained specialists will consist of the following:

Animal bones	S Hamilton-Dyer
Dating	Radiocarbon dating by Beta-Analytic.
Geoarchaeology	M Allen
Glass	Rose Broadley
Human Remains	J McKinley of Wessex Archaeology
Lithics	M Garner
Macrofossils	R Scaife
Metalwork	Professor David Hinton
Metalworking residues	P Andrews

Mollusca	M Allen
Pollen	R Scaife
Prehistoric Pottery	E Morris
Roman and later Pottery and Ceramics	A Russel
Stone	A Russel

## 7.7 Recording Systems

7.7.1 The Southampton Archaeology Unit recording system (a single context system) will be used. Proforma context sheets will include all relevant stratigraphic relationships. For complex stratigraphy a separate matrix diagram will be employed. Plans and sections will be made as follows;

- Site location plan: general plan (eg OS 1:2500) showing investigation area and development site in relation to surrounding locality and street pattern;
- Site plan: the opened area in relation to investigation area and OS grid (eg 1:100 or 1:200). This will incorporate the extent of any significant features;
- Archaeological plans: a record of the full extent in plan of all archaeological deposits. All significant deposits will be planned in relation to the trench and OS grid;
- Typical sections of trench edges will be drawn. All sections through features will be drawn to the full extent of the feature except where this is in conflict with health and safety considerations or with the explicit agreement of the SCC HET. All section drawings will include heights related to the Ordnance Datum;
- All archaeological plans and sections will be drawn on gridded film, and will usually be at a scale of 1:10 or 1:20 and will include context numbers and OD spot heights for all principal strata and features
- An adequate photographic record of all significant archaeological remains will be made, in both plan and section. General photographs will also be taken to show the general context and relationship between features, any significant finds, and the site as a whole. Black and white film and colour slide will be used. Digital photography will also be used.

## **8 Finds Methodology**

8.1 All finds from features and layers of archaeological interest will be retained. They will be bagged up by context, with two context labels giving site code and context. Some finds may be washed on site to give immediate feedback to the site programme. Other finds will be taken to the Southampton office, washed, weighed, counted and identified, and this information will be entered into an Access Database. If required by SCC the finds will be made available at monitoring meetings.

8.2 All finds and samples will be treated in a proper manner to prevent deterioration. Finds will be treated in accordance with *First Aid for Finds* (Leigh 1998) UKIC.

8.3 Finds will be stored in appropriate containers; bulk finds in acid-free cardboard boxes, metal finds in air-tight plastic boxes with dry silica gel.



## **9 Environmental and other Samples**

9.1 Samples of soils and archaeological deposits will be taken in order to achieve the aims and objectives of the investigation. Generally samples will be taken from discrete well-dated and well-sealed features or deposits to assess the presence of environmental or industrial material. Sampling will conform to the relevant sections of *Environmental Archaeology; a guide to the theory and practice of methods, from sampling and recovery to post-excavation*, (English Heritage 2011).

9.2 If suitable materials are present samples will be taken for absolute dating and examination of structural materials. The most likely dating technique to be used will be radiocarbon dating. It is likely to be used on human or animal bones or on charcoal.

9.3 Discussions will take place with Southampton Museums to ensure that finds are marked, bagged and boxed according their requirements. A Finds Assessment will be held with Southampton Museums during the post-excavations stage to discuss sampling and retention of finds and samples.

## **10 Monitoring**

10.1 SCC will be welcome to inspect the archaeological works to ensure that they are being conducted to the proper professional standards and in accordance with the specification.

## **11 Health and Safety**

11.1 The archaeological contractor will make available the Safety Policy, Risk Assessments, and Safe Working Procedures. The archaeological contractor will liaise with the Client to ensure that all potential risks are minimised.

11.2 All staff will wear safety boots, hi-vis jacket or vest and hard hat while on site, except in designated safe areas. Copies of the Southampton Archaeology Unit Risk Assessments will be kept on site.

11.3 All relevant health and safety regulations will be followed.

11.4 The developer will be responsible for the site security. Public access will not be allowed.

11.5 The developer will provide plans of services. Trench locations will be checked using a CAT and Genny prior to excavation.

11.6 Spoil will be kept at a safe distance from the trench edge.

11.7 Southampton City Council has Employers Insurance, Public Liability Insurance, and Professional Indemnity Insurance.

## **12 Post-Excavation Methodology**

12.1 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. The site records will be entered into an Access database. A Harris Matrix will be drawn up to show the relationships recorded on site. The matrix and finds data will be used to phase the site sequence.

12.2 All metal finds other than those made of gold and lead (and those exemptions set out in "Standards for the Creation, Compilation and Transfer of Archaeological Archives") will be x-radiographed as part of the recording process and in advance of the Collections Assessment described below.

12.3 At an early stage of the post-excavation process, Southampton City Council's Curator of Archaeological Collections will carry out a Collections Assessment of the material archive, as stipulated in "Standards for the Creation, Compilation and Transfer of Archaeological Archives". (Contact [gill.woolrich@southampton.gov.uk](mailto:gill.woolrich@southampton.gov.uk).)

12.4 To ensure the long-term stability of the finds and their availability for future study, all conservation work will be carried out as necessary; full records (which will form a part of the archive) will be kept of any treatment given.

12.5 The assessment of conservation needs and subsequent necessary work will be carried out by a qualified archaeological conservator, or in a recognised conservation laboratory which has been approved by the Curator of Archaeological Collections.

12.6 All finds and other items of archaeological interest removed from the site will be analysed and recorded by specialists, subject to the approval of the HET. All specialist work will be carried out as necessary, to agreed standards, and with the approval of the HET, based on the results of assessments of the material which will be carried out as the first stage of the post-excavation process. Specialist work may need to be carried out on all metalwork; all bone, including worked bone and human remains and other organic remains; industrial waste; ceramic material; glass; and lithic material. The pottery and stone type series housed by Southampton City Council's Archaeology Collections will be used as reference material.

12.7 Data about complete, identifiable, itemised objects will be transferred onto Southampton City Museum's Archaeological Object Record Sheets. The sheets will then be entered into the computerised Archaeological Collections Object Database.

12.8 Any soil samples taken on site will be processed as appropriate.

### **13 Report**

13.1 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 be structured as in Appendix A. The report will include a summary sheet (see Appendix B).

13.2 The contractor will send a copy of the report in PDF format to the HET for approval. Once it has been approved, the contractor will send a full-colour paper copy of the report to the developer, the HET (for the Historic Environment Record (HER)), and the Special Collections section of Southampton Public Library.

13.3 A full-colour paper copy of the report will be deposited as part of the archive (see below).

13.4 The contractor will supply the HET with one copy of the approved report in PDF format (for the HER), either by email or on disk as appropriate. The PDF should be text searchable with good quality figures and images. All report drawings and photographs are to be included in the PDF file, and the selecting of text and graphics

security option must be set at "allowed". At the same time, the contractor will supply the HER Officer (her@southampton.gov.uk) with 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 or Auto CAD DWG/DXF.

13.5 At the same time, the contractor will supply the HER Officer with digital copies of the photographs used in the report, for general use by the HET and HER. These will be supplied in TIFF format at least 600 dpi resolution.

13.6 The contractor will retain full copyright of the report 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 the report by the Client in all matters directly relating to the project as described in the specification. The contractor in addition gives permission for the HET to freely copy the report and photographs for the purposes of archaeological research or development control within the planning process, without reference to the contractor.

13.7 At the appropriate time, the contractor will send a short report of the evidence for inclusion in the summaries compiled by relevant journals (these are defined as any or all of: "Past", "Britannia", "Medieval Archaeology", "Post-medieval Archaeology").

13.8 On completion of the fieldwork the HET will decide if the results require a wider publication than the limited-distribution report allowed for above. If so, the contractor will prepare a report of an appropriate standard to an agreed timescale and arrange its publication in an appropriate form.

#### **14 Further Work**

14.1 The evaluation report will be submitted to the SCC Planning Archaeologist, Historic Environment Team, Southampton City Council, who will review the report and make a decision as to the need for further mitigation work. Should mitigation work be required in association with the development another Written Scheme of Investigation will be produced by Southampton Archaeology for agreement by Southampton City Council.

#### **15 Copyright**

15.1 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. All documents produced to meet planning requirements can be copied for planning purposes or for bona-fide research by Southampton City Council.

#### **16 Publication of Results**

16.1 Where the results justify it the results will be disseminated in a suitable publication.

#### **17 Archive**

17.1 "Archive" here means the documentary and material archive as defined in *Standards for the Creation, Compilation and Transfer of Archaeological Archives*

(SCC 2007). 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 fieldwork for inclusion in its collections. A timescale for the handing over of the archive will be included in the post-excavation programme.

17.2 The contractor will prepare, compile, and present the archive in accordance with the standards laid down in "Standards for the Creation, Compilation and Transfer of Archaeological Archives" (Southampton City Council, 2007).

17.3 The contractor will deposit the archive, making allowance for the long-term archive-storage costs that will be incurred by Southampton City Council, including the costs of deposition of the digital archive with the Archaeology Data Service (see Appendix 11 of "Standards for the Creation, Compilation and Transfer of Archaeological Archives").

17.4 The contractor will copy the written and drawn archive onto microfiche which satisfies the criteria set out by English Heritage. The microfiche will itself form part of the archive.

17.5 Where part of the archive is defined as treasure, the developer accepts responsibility for any compensation eventually awarded to the landowner.

17.6 A master copy of the microfiche will be deposited with the English Heritage Record Centre in Swindon.

*Dr AD Russel*  
*Archaeology Unit Manager*

Bibliography

**Bibliography**

Crawford, OGS, 1946, *A Short History of Nursling*, Southampton.

Drew, JS, 1946, The Manor of Nursling, Hants; notes on a document in the Herriard Collection (1405–1423), in Crawford 1946.

## APPENDIX A REPORT CONTENTS

<b>CONTENTS LIST</b>
<b>PRESENT LANDUSE, GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY.</b> The geology as recorded by the Geological Survey will be discussed with reference to the actual site geology found during fieldwork.
<b>HISTORICAL BACKGROUND</b> Including a map regression and summary of information in secondary/published sources.
<b>ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND</b> Known archaeological sites or findspots in the vicinity, with location plan.
<b>REASON FOR PROJECT, PROJECT AIMS</b>
<b>METHODOLOGY</b> Amended from the WSI as appropriate to include trench dimensions and any restrictions on fieldwork.
<b>DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF RESULTS</b> For all areas/trenches with significant archaeology (with interpretation and dating)
<b>CONCLUSION</b> To include all periods present on the site, including those represented only by residual finds in later stratigraphy. The results will be discussed with reference to the documentary evidence, and the significance of the site in its broader archaeological, historical and landscape setting.
<b>BIBLIOGRAPHY</b>
<b>LOCATION PLANS</b> Site and trench location plans based on 1:1250 OS mapping, indicating areas surveyed by different methods.
<b>OTHER PLANS</b> Detailed plans of all areas/trenches with significant archaeology at an appropriate scale. All plans will be correctly related to the national grid All drawings will include levels related to ordnance datum
<b>PHOTOGRAPHS</b> To illustrate specific points in the text.
<b>APPENDICES</b>
Appendix 1 <b>CONTEXT LIST</b> with soil descriptions, phases, etc
Appendix 2 <b>FINDS REPORT</b> Table of all artefacts recorded, listed by context and material type, with an assessment (check artefact types and dating included).

## APPENDIX B: SUMMARY SHEET CONTENT

The report will include a summary sheet giving the information in the table below.

Site name/address
SOU site code (this should also be included on the front cover)
Contractor site code
HET consultation number
Planning application number (if relevant)
Grid reference of centre of site - 8 figures, including prefix (eg SU).
Fieldwork dates (full start and end dates in form day/month/year)
Type of fieldwork
Name of contracting unit
Report author
Name of client
Non-technical summary to include <u>all</u> periods represented on the site, including those present only as residual finds in later contexts.)