

Southampton City Council Archaeology Unit

Written Scheme of Investigation for an archaeological watching brief
at rear of 269 Wimpson Lane, Southampton.

1. Summary.

An archaeological watching brief will be carried out for Mr Mark Breen of 17 Saxon Road Freemantle, Southampton, SO15 1JJ on groundworks at 269 Wimpson Lane, Southampton for the construction of a house under application 15/02255/FUL. On completion of the site work a report will be prepared and sent to the Southampton City Council Historic Environment Team. Once approved by the HET the report will be sent to the client for submission to Southampton City Council. The records will be deposited with Southampton City Council Collections on completion of the project.

2. Site location, geology and topography.

2.1. The property lies to the south of Wimpson Gardens at grid ref SU 438605 114366 (fig 1). The site lies at 13.77m OD. According to the geology map the site lies on an area of Wittering formation, with Gravel Terrace 3 to the south and Gravel Terrace 4 to the north (<http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html>). Topographically the site lies on the east side of a valley in which flows 'the Wimpson stream' (Burgess 1982, 4).



Fig 1: Site location map. Proposed dwelling marked in green.

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3. Planning background.

3.1. Southampton City Council have given permission for the construction of a 4 bed house under planning application reference 15/02255/FUL. A number of conditions have been placed on the works including conditions 19 and 20:

19. Archaeological watching brief with provision for excavation [Pre-Commencement Condition]

No development shall take place within the site until the implementation of a programme of archaeological work has been secured in accordance with a written scheme of investigation which has been submitted to and approved by the Local Planning Authority.

Reason: To ensure that the archaeological investigation is initiated at an appropriate point in development procedure.

20. Archaeological watching brief with provision for excavation work programme [Performance Condition]

The developer will secure the completion of a programme of archaeological work in accordance with a written scheme of investigation which has been submitted to and approved by the Local Planning Authority.

Reason: To ensure that the archaeological investigation is completed.

3.2 The HET number is 7896.

4. Historical Background

4.1 The site lies within Area 16 of the Local Areas of Archaeological Potential (LAAP) as defined in the City of Southampton Core Strategy 2010. Area 16 covers any part of the city not covered by Areas 1–15. In this case the site is to the south of Area 2 which 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 Aldermoor Camp and surrounding land. Nearby is part of an 8th century boundary baulk.

4.2 To the west of the site lies the valley of the River Test where numerous prehistoric and Roman finds have been made eg about 1km from the site at Franconia Drive, Bronze Age, Romano-British and later activity was recorded in 1992, with a Wessex Middle Rhine Beaker being recovered (see Beamish and Hearne 1994 in Proc Hants Field Club & Archaeol Soc, **50**, 35–41). A watching brief at Test Park Community Sports Facility (SOU 1547) recorded prehistoric ditches with Bronze Age and Iron Age dating evidence. Closer to the site a new school building with associated works was

constructed at Newlands Primary School, Ullswater Road, Southampton (SOU 1564) (Grid Ref SU 383143) in 2011. Iron Age, Saxon, medieval and post-medieval features were recorded. The Iron Age activity was marked by ditches, pits, post-holes, stake-holes and a hearth. A curved line of post-holes was probably a circular building. A second building was of less regular form. Fragments of prehistoric pottery, burnt flints and worked flint were recovered. A radiocarbon date of 390-410BC was obtained from charcoal in one feature. Saxon activity was marked by three shallow features containing charcoal and burnt flint, and a ditch. Three radiocarbon dates spanned the period AD 420 to AD 770.

4.3 Late 19th century maps show that the site lay in an area of woodland called Pickles Copse (fig 2). Further research and a map regression will be done on the plot to place it in its historical context should important archaeology be found.

4.4 If the results of the watching brief are positive, the archaeological contractor will obtain current HER data for use in the report.

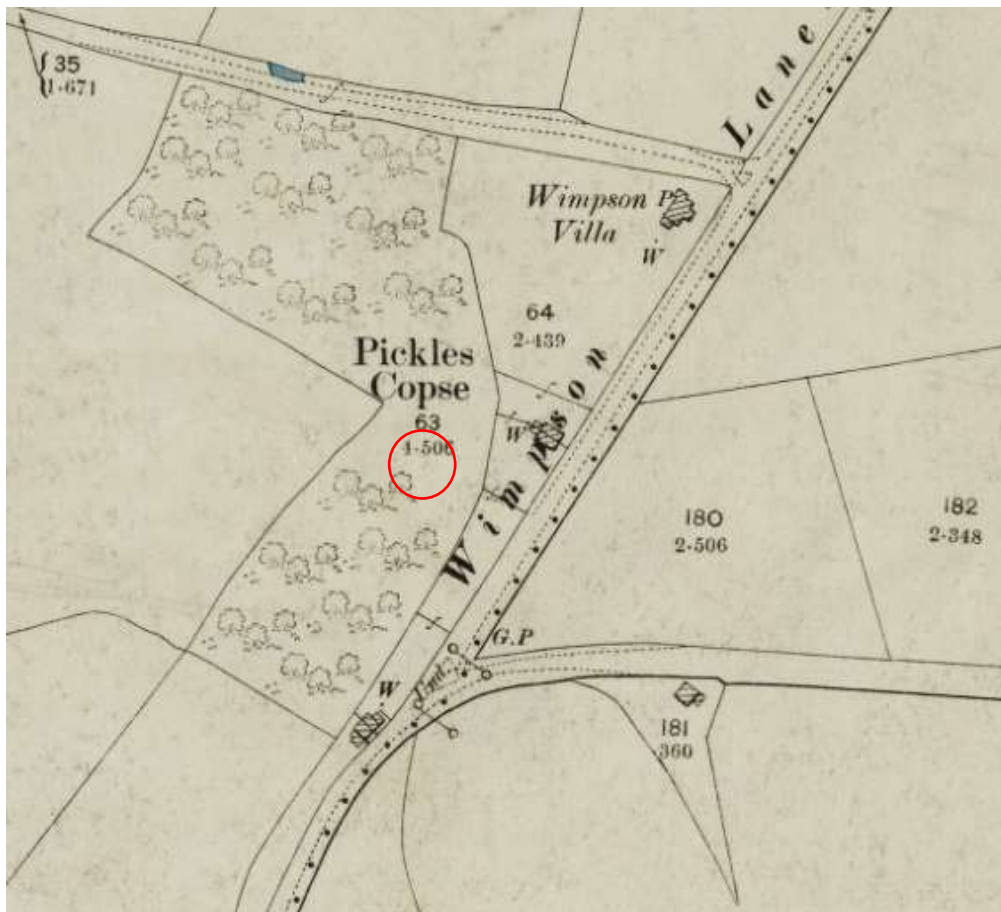


Fig 2. The 1895 (published 1897) Ordnance Survey map showing the approximate position of the site. Sheet LXV.1

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5. Purpose/aims of the work.

5.1 The watching brief aims to make a record of any archaeology disturbed by the works and to determine the extent, condition, nature, character, quality, and date of any archaeological remains encountered, as dictated by current best practice. For the

purposes of this project archaeology will be deemed to be significant if it dates from before 1850.

5.2 An additional aim is to identify and record the nature, dimensions, and relationship of natural deposits on the site, and to assess the potential of the natural deposits to contain or conceal archaeology.

6. Methodology.

6.1 An archaeologist will be present on site during all groundworks including foundations, service trenches and soakaways. They will observe the deposits, make records and collect any artifacts revealed.

6.2 A Southampton site code will be obtained from the Historic Environment Team (HET) of Southampton City Council and will be used throughout the project to identify the site records and artifacts.

6.3 The site records will be as full as possible given the constraints of access and safety. If features are revealed they will be drawn and photographed. Plans will be 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 the cores. Overall site photographs will be taken in order to locate the investigation positions. The site code will appear in all photographs if practical.

6.4 The Soil Survey Field Handbook (Soil Survey of England and Wales) and Munsell colour chart will be used to describe soils.

6.5 Soil samples will be taken as appropriate.

6.6 Any finds recovered will be retained and processed according to the standards laid down in "Standards for the Creation, Compilation and Transfer of Archaeological Archives" (Southampton City Council, 2016).

6.7 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.

6.8 Disturbance of human remains in a disused burial ground is illegal unless sanctioned by a Ministry of Justice licence. If human skeletal remains are uncovered, the archaeological contractor will apply to the MoJ for a licence to remove them and their removal will involve archaeological excavation of the remains. The excavation and post-excavation work on the human remains are not dealt with by this project brief and such work must be agreed with the HET.

6.9 If, once the fieldwork has begun, it is found that the aims of the watching brief can be fulfilled with an observation of selected groundworks, the contractor may restrict the scope of the watching brief, provided that agreement to this course of action has been obtained from the Historic Environment Team.

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

6.11 A context number will be allocated to all finds, even if this number is simply one allocated to unstratified finds. All pre-AD1850 finds will be retained, and a sample of post-AD1850 will be retained.

6.12 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.

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

6.14 If a human burial is encountered works discussions will be held with Southampton City Council's Planning Archaeologist and Environmental Health Department. It will be necessary to enter into a separate archaeological agreement if human skeletal remains need to be excavated.

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

7 Post-excavation methodology

7.1 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 phases the site sequence.

7.2 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.

7.3 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" (2016).

7.4 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.

7.5 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.

7.6 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.

7.7 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.

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

8. Report preparation and contents

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

8.2 The archaeological contractor will send a copy of the report in PDF format to the HET for approval. Once it has been approved, the archaeological 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.

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

8.4 The archaeological 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 archaeological 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.

8.5 At the same time, the archaeological 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.

8.6 The archaeological 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 archaeological 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 archaeological contractor.

8.7 At the appropriate time, the archaeological 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").

8.8 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, this will be the subject of a separate agreement with the client, after which the archaeological contractor will prepare a report of an appropriate standard to an agreed timescale and arrange its publication in an appropriate form.

9 Copyright

9.1 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.

10 Archive deposition

10.1 "Archive" here means the documentary and material archive as defined in *Standards for the Creation, Compilation and Transfer of Archaeological Archives* (SCC 2016). 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.

10.2 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, 2016).

10.3 The archaeological 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").

10.4 The archaeological 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.

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

11 Staffing

11.1 The work will be carried out by experienced archaeologists, under the supervision of Dr AD Russel BA, PhD, CIfA.

12 Health and Safety

12.1 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 CIfA who can be contacted on 023 8063 4906.

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

13 Insurances

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

14 Monitoring procedures

14.1 The project will be monitored for Southampton City Council by the Planning Archaeologist or other member of the HET.

15 Procedures for reporting unexpectedly significant or complex discoveries.

15.1 Should significant or complex discoveries be made, the archaeologist 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.

Dr AD Russel
6/4/2016

Bibliography

Beamish HF, and Hearne CM, 1994 Watching brief observations at Franconia Drive, Nursling, 1992 in *Proc Hants Field Club & Archaeol Soc*, **50**, 35–41.

Burgess, L., 1982 *Streams and Watercourses of Southampton* (revised edition).

Southampton City Council, 2016 *Standards for the Creation, Compilation and Transfer of Archaeological Archives*.

APPENDIX A

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| CONTENTS LIST |
| PRESENT LANDUSE, GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY. The geology as recorded by the Geological Survey will be discussed with reference to the actual site geology found during fieldwork. |
| HISTORICAL BACKGROUND Including a map regression and summary of information in secondary/published sources. |
| ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND Known archaeological sites or findspots in the vicinity, with location plan. When referring to previous archaeological fieldwork or recording in Southampton, the “SOU” site code will be given (SOU xxxx). For findspots, buildings or other sites, the HER monument record number (MSHxxxx) will be used, if known. |
| REASON FOR PROJECT, PROJECT AIMS |
| METHODOLOGY Amended from the WSI as appropriate to include trench dimensions and any restrictions on fieldwork. |
| DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF RESULTS For all areas/trenches with significant archaeology (with interpretation and dating) |
| CONCLUSION 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. |
| BIBLIOGRAPHY |
| LOCATION PLANS Site and trench location plans based on 1:1250 OS mapping, indicating areas surveyed by different methods. |
| OTHER PLANS 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 |
| PHOTOGRAPHS To illustrate specific points in the text. |
| APPENDICES |
| Appendix 1 CONTEXT LIST with soil descriptions, phases, etc |
| Appendix 2 FINDS REPORT 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.

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| 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.) |