

Southampton City Council Archaeology Unit

Written Scheme of Investigation for an archaeological watching brief on land at the rear of 501 Bursledon Road, Southampton, SO19 8NJ.

26/00583/PREAP1

04/08/2026

1. Summary.

An archaeological watching brief will be carried out on groundworks at the rear of 501 Bursledon Road, Southampton. On completion of the site work a report will be prepared and sent to the Southampton City Council Planning Archaeologist. The records will be deposited with Southampton City Council Collections on completion of the project.

2. Introduction

2.1. Permission is being sought for the erection of a 2-storey residential care home for young adults (Class C2) on land to the rear of 501 Bursledon Road, Southampton, SO19 8NJ. This would include associated access, parking, and landscaping, following demolition of existing buildings.

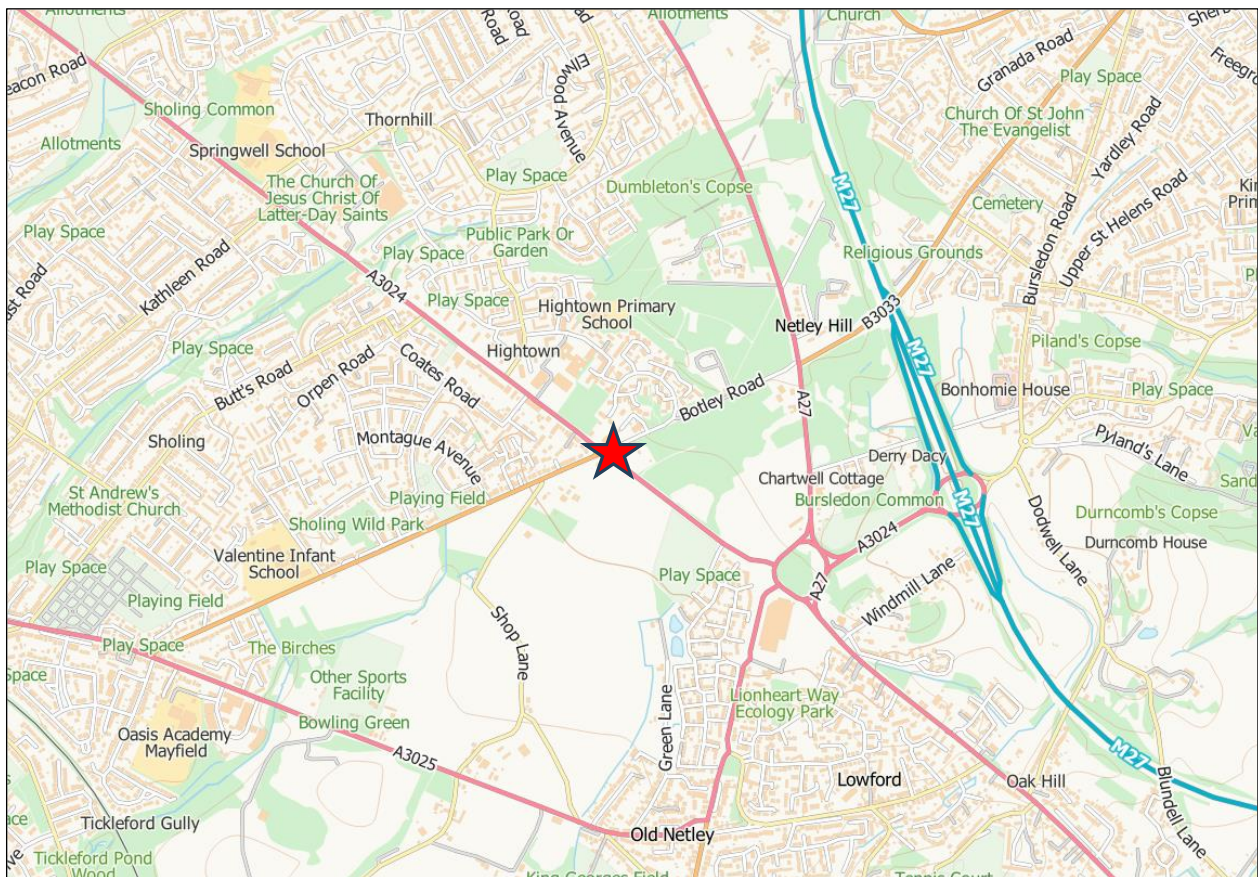


Figure 1. Location of 501 Bursledon Road, Southampton

© Crown Copyright. All rights reserved Southampton City Council. LA 1000 19679 2026.

2.2 Preapplication advice from Southampton City Council made the following comment on the archaeological impact of the development:

The site lies within Local Area of Archaeological Potential 15: Netley Common, which includes part of a Bronze Age barrow cemetery and is crossed by the wider route of the Roman road between Bitterne Manor and Chichester. Although a 2025 watching brief at

501 Bursledon Road found no significant archaeological deposits, the proposed development may affect relatively undisturbed ground and could still impact potential archaeological remains, including remains associated with the nearby barrow cemetery.

Any archaeological remains would be treated as non-designated heritage assets. A formal application should therefore include appropriate archaeological mitigation, likely to be secured by condition as a watching brief during groundworks, with provision for further excavation, recording and reporting if remains are found.

2.3 This project design has been written to cover the watching brief on all groundworks associate with the development.

2.4 This project design has been written to meet the recommended guidelines for archaeological projects laid down by English Heritage in *The Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment* 2006. All work will be carried out in accordance with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' *Code of Conduct*.

2.5 The definition of an archaeological watching brief is *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 an ordered archive.* (Chartered Institute for Archaeologists 2020).

2.6 The SCCPA ref number is 10823.

3. Site location, geology, and topography.

3.1. The site lies to the southeast of Botley Road and northeast of Bursledon Road, at grid ref 447440,111365.

3.2 Generally the ground in the area slopes gently down to the southwest. The height of the modern ground surface is about 57.9m OD to the northeast of the site down to 57.2m OD to the southwest.

3.3 According to the British Geological Survey the site lies on the sands, silts, and clays of the Wittering formation, with superficial deposits of sand a gravel of River Terrace 8 (<http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html>).

4. Historical Background

4.1 The site was formerly within the parish of Hound, part of Mansbridge Hundred. The manor of Hound does not appear in the Domesday Survey in Mansbridge Hundred, but is included in Meonstoke Hundred as belonging to Hugh de Port's manor of Warnford, not, however, paying geld with Warnford, but with the lands in Mansbridge Hundred. In 1242 Robert de St. John, heir of the de Ports, granted land to the abbey of Netley, founded by Henry III three years earlier. From then until the dissolution of the smaller monasteries in 1536 Hound remained in the possession of the abbey. Hound manor was then granted by the crown to Sir William Paulet, first marquis of Winchester (Page 1908, 472–478).

4.2 Netley Common was used by the military during the French Revolutionary Wars (1793–1802) and the Napoleonic Wars (1803–1815) for training and transit camps (Temple Patterson 1966, 96, 99). Soldiers from the Netley Camp were called for by the

magistrates of Southampton in 1796 to disperse a mob demonstrating against high bread prices (Temple Patterson 1966, 110). Netley Common was then larger than its present extent and it is not certain whether any of the camps were in the area of the present site.



Figure 2. Ordnance Survey 1866-68 6 inch to the mile map. Site location in red.
© Crown Copyright. All rights reserved Southampton City Council. LA 1000 19679 2026.

4.3 With the exception of Netley Lodge on the opposite side of Botley Road, the 6 inch Ordnance Survey map from 1866-68 (fig. 2) shows the area as open heath or scrub, suggesting it was poor quality land unsuitable for cultivation. The 1938/42 edition (fig. 3) shows a house matching the footprint of the house that currently stands adjacent to the site, identified as Netley Lodge. An aerial photograph dated April 1949 (fig. 4) shows that most of the surrounding area was cultivated. This had probably occurred during or after the Second World War.

4.4 Canadian soldiers were quartered on Netley Common during the Second World War during the preparations for D-Day. Evidence in the form of concrete foundations and brick-lined holes still survives on the open ground of the Common to the north of the present site.

4.5 In 1954 the boundaries of Southampton were extended to include the Thornhill area. The area surrounding the site remained as cultivated fields until residential development during the 1960s.

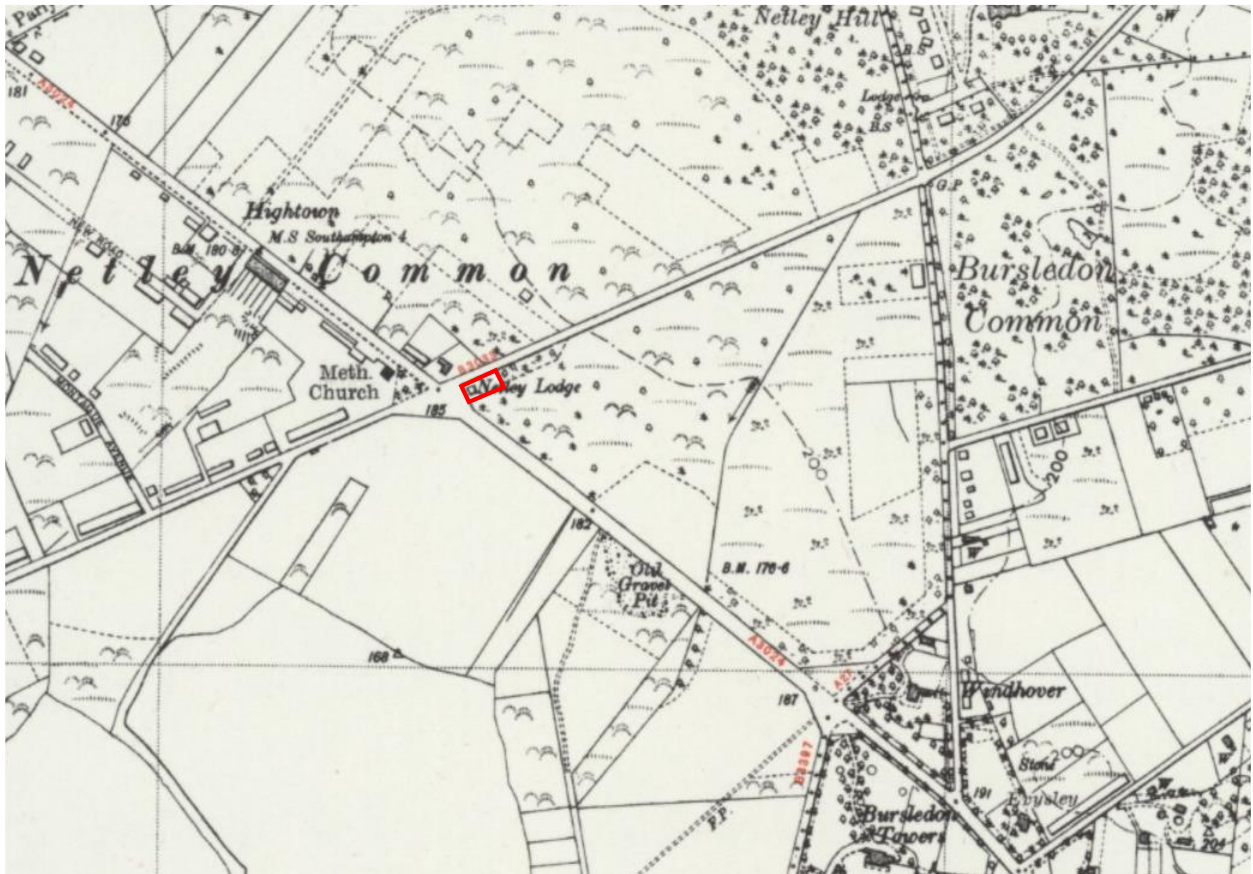


Figure 3. 1938-42 Ordnance survey 6 inch to the mile map. Site location in red.
© Crown Copyright. All rights reserved Southampton City Council. LA 1000 19679 2026.



Figure 4. Ordnance Survey aerial photograph of the site from April 1949. Site location in red.
© Crown Copyright. All rights reserved Southampton City Council. LA 1000 19679 2026.

5 Archaeological Background

5.1 The site lies in Area 15 (Netley Common) of the Local Areas of Archaeological Potential (LAAP) as defined in the City of Southampton Core Strategy 2010. 'This area is part of a Bronze Age barrow cemetery that extends beyond the city boundary. There are three known barrow sites inside the city boundary. The Roman road between Bitterne Manor and Chichester crosses the area' (LAAP).

5.2 A desk-based assessment of the Eastpoint Centre site, 250m to the northwest, was carried out by the Southampton City Council Archaeology Unit in 2009 (Cottrell 2009). This including an assessment of the surrounding area and showed the current site lying within an area of scattered prehistoric finds and was immediately adjacent to the Bronze Age barrow cemetery. The route of the Roman road from Chichester to the Roman settlement of Clausentum at Bitterne Manor, Southampton could be seen to pass close to the north of the site. The report demonstrated the potential for important archaeological remains to be present, and an evaluation and watching brief (SOU 1521) took place in the in the west half of the site when the Eastpoint Centre was built. This work revealed nine probable prehistoric features, marked by charcoal, burnt flints, and flint flakes. One feature was dated by the radiocarbon method to 160BC to 60AD at 95% probability (Garner and Elliott 2011).

5.3 Further evaluation was carried out immediately to the east of SOU 1521 in 2014 (SOU 1652) The only definite prehistoric feature was a 3m length of ditch, but spreads of burnt flint and charcoal were found, suggesting some sort of prehistoric activity at perhaps the same period as that found on SOU 1521. The presence of burnt flint and charcoal in the top of a tree disturbance suggested the prehistoric activity was taking place after, or perhaps during, the removal of tree cover (Anderson *et al.* 2014).

5.4 In January of 2025, a watching brief was carried out on an extension to 501 Bursledon Road (SOU 2014). The upper part of the natural clay showed signs of erosion and colour alteration from the layers above. The colour variation is due to groundwater washing out humic acid from the existing topsoil. None of the deposits observed are thought to be of archaeological significance. It is not thought that the natural deposits contain or conceal archaeology. The presence of the late 19th or early 20th century land drain suggests early modern use of the site (Wood and Vasileiadou 2025).

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

6. Purpose/aims of the work.

6.1 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.

6.2 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.

6.3 In general, archaeological significance is defined as dating to before AD 1850. Evidence of military use of the site/Netley Common including World War 2 is also deemed significant.

7. Methodology.

7.1 An archaeologist will be present on site during all groundworks (fig. 2). They will observe the deposits, make records, and collect any artifacts revealed. If safe to do so, the sides and base of the excavated trenches will be cleaned.



Figure 5. The plan of the proposed works, showing the new building on the right.

7.2 Should important archaeological remains be uncovered the client and the groundworks contractor will allow time for their hand excavation and recording. The hand excavation will stop once the groundworks have reached the required size for the contractor's purposes.

7.3 A Southampton site code will be obtained from the SCC Planning Archaeologist and will be used throughout the project to identify the site records and artifacts.

7.4 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. Overall site photographs will be taken in order to locate the investigation positions. The site code will appear in all photographs if practical.

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

7.6 Soil samples will be taken as appropriate.

7.7 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).

7.8 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.

7.9 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, works will stop and the SCC Planning Archaeologist will be consulted. Should the remains need to be removed 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 SCC Planning Archaeologist.

7.10 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 SCC Planning Archaeologist.

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

7.12 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-AD1800 will be retained. Finds that can be related to the military activity on the site will be retained.

7.13 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.

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

7.15 The archaeological contractor will give the SCC Planning Archaeologist notice of when the specified fieldwork is to begin, and when it has been completed.

8. Post-excavation methodology

8.1 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.

8.2 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.

8.3 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).

8.4 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.

8.5 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.

8.6 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 SCC Planning Archaeologist. All specialist work will be carried out as necessary, to agreed standards, and with the approval of the SCC Planning Archaeologist, 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.

8.7 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.

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

9. Report preparation and contents

9.1 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).

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

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

9.4 The archaeological contractor will supply the SCC Planning Archaeologist 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 or Auto CAD DWG/DXF.

9.5 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 SCC Planning Archaeologist and HER. These will be supplied in TIFF format at least 600 dpi resolution.

9.6 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 SCC Planning Archaeologist 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.

9.7 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").

9.8 On completion of the fieldwork the SCC Planning Archaeologist 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.

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; 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.

11 Archive deposition

11.1 "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.

11.2 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).

11.3 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").

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

12. Staffing

12.1 The work will be carried out by experienced archaeologists, under the supervision of Emma Anderson BA, MA, MCIfA.

13. Health and Safety

13.1 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 Emma Anderson BA MA MCIfA who can be contacted on 023 8083 2022 or 07787518130.

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

14. Insurances

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

15. Monitoring procedures

15.1 The project will be monitored for Southampton City Council by the Planning Archaeologist.

16. Procedures for reporting unexpectedly significant or complex discoveries.

16.1 Should significant or complex discoveries be made, the archaeologist on site will contact the Archaeology Unit Manager. The Archaeology Unit Manager will contact the client and the Southampton City Council Planning Archaeologist.

17. Public Archaeology

17.1 Should the site merit it the archaeological contractor will arrange for appropriate public access and/or publicity in the local media, to be agreed with the client and the SCC Planning Archaeologist and allowing for health and safety and site security considerations. This will be proportionate to the size of the project and results of the fieldwork.

17.2 Acknowledgement will be made to the role of Southampton City Council's Planning Archaeologist in facilitating the work.

17.3 The contractor will keep the Southampton Archaeology Society informed on the progress of the investigation (martyndowell@yahoo.co.uk).

Peter Girdwood-Carroll
04/08/2026

18. Bibliography

Anderson, EL, Garner, MF, and Russel, AD, 2014 *Archaeological Evaluation of land adjacent to the Eastpoint Centre, Bursledon Road, Southampton, SOU 1652*. Southampton Archaeology Unit Report 1162

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

Cottrell, P, 2009 *Desk-Based assessment of land adjacent to the Eastpoint Centre, Bursledon Road, Southampton*. Southampton Archaeology Unit Report 939.

Fox, CF, 1932 Tumuli on Netley Hill, Bursledon. *Proc Hants Field Club Archaeol Soc* Vol XII Part 1, 1932, 72-74.

Garner, MF, and Elliott, GL 2011 *Archaeological Investigations at The Eastpoint Centre, Burgoyne Road, Thornhill, Southampton, SOU 1521*. Southampton Archaeology Unit Report 979.

Johnston, DE and Reed, R, 1968 'The Roman Road (Route 421) to Bitterne' *Proc Hants Field Club Archaeol Soc* **25**, 19–26.

Johnston D, and Soffe G, 1974 Route 421 and other Roman Roads in South Hampshire. *Rescue Archaeology in Hampshire, No 2, 1974*. 101-3.

Page, W, (ed), 1908 *Victoria County History of Hampshire & the Isle of Wight*, Vol 3

Margary, ID, 1955 *Roman Roads in Britain*, Vol 1.

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

Temple Patterson, A, 1966, *A History of Southampton 1700–1914*, Vol 1.

Williams-Freeman, JP 1914, 'Notes on Roman roads in the south of Hants.' *Proc Hampshire Fld Club Archaeol Soc*, VII, 34 – 42.

Wood, A and Vasileiadou, A 2025 *Archaeological Watching Brief on extension at 501 Bursledon Rd, Southampton, SOU 2014*. Southampton Archaeology Unit Report 1583.

APPENDIX A

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.

Site name/address
SOU site code (this should also be included on the front cover)
Contractor site code
SCC Planning Archaeologist consultation number
Planning application number (if relevant)
Grid reference of centre of site - 8 figures, including prefix (e.g., 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.)