

# **Land at Horndean Road, Emsworth, Hampshire**

**Project specification for an archaeological evaluation**

**Planning reference : APP/19/00768**

**24th November 2020**



Ref: 20e137ev

## **Land at Horndean Road, Emsworth, Hampshire Project specification for archaeological evaluation**

### **1.0 Background**

1.1 The site is located to the west of Horndean Road, Emsworth, Hampshire (SU 7450 0680) (Fig. 1), and consists of an irregular shaped field (Fig. 2).

1.2 Thames Valley Archaeological Services has been commissioned to carry out the necessary archaeological work in respect of the site.

1.3 Planning permission (APP/19/00768) has been sought from Havant District Council to redevelopment the site for residential housing. It is likely that any consent granted will be subject to a planning condition relating to archaeology and the historic environment.

1.4 The site lies about 800m north of the historic core of Emsworth. The archaeological potential of the site has been gleaned from the Hampshire Historic Environment Record, and largely stems from the fact that evidence of Roman activity has been found nearby. Recent archaeological investigations to the north of the proposed site revealed a number of Roman features, including two enclosures and a possible roundhouse.

### **2.0 Requirement for Work**

2.1 As a consequence of the possibility of archaeological deposits on the site which may be damaged or destroyed by proposed re-development of the site, it is proposed to carry out a field evaluation, as detailed in the *National Planning Policy Framework* (NPPF 2019), and the Council's policies on archaeology, to determine the archaeological potential of the site and to help formulate a mitigation strategy as necessary.

2.2 One component of work is proposed at this stage; namely field investigation by means of machine trenching. Dependent on the findings of this evaluation, further archaeological work may be requested, as will be determined through consultation with the Hampshire County Council Archaeological Officer. This document is concerned with the trial trenching phase of archaeological works, and any additional work will be governed by a separate written scheme of investigation.

2.3 This is to take place according to a written scheme of investigation approved by the District Council, as advised by the Hampshire County Council archaeological officer.

### **3.0 Aims and Objectives**

3.1 The aims of the investigation will be to determine the presence/absence, extent, condition, character, quality and date of any archaeological or palaeo-environmental deposits within the proposed 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.

3.3 The specific research aims of this project are;

- a) To determine if archaeologically relevant levels have survived on this site.
- b) To determine if archaeological deposits of any period are present.
- c) To determine if archaeological deposits dating from the Roman period are present.
- d) To inform a strategy for mitigation if required

e) The potential and significance of any such deposits located will be assessed according to the research priorities such as set out in *Historic England Research Agenda* (HE 2017) or any more local or thematic research priorities such as the Solent Thames Research Agenda (Hey and Hind 2014) as necessary.

## 4.0 Methodology

### 4.1 Trench Layout

4.1.1 We propose to dig 6 trenches, each 26m long and 1.6m wide, as close as possible to the positions shown on Figure 2. If the trenches cannot be excavated as intended for any reason, such as the presence of trees or services, it may be required to sub-divide or re-position the trenches.

4.2 A contingency for the equivalent of an additional 15m length of trenching is included within the proposal should this be required to clarify any deposits found in the initial trenching.

### 4.3 Excavation Methodology

4.3.1 Topsoil and any other overburden will be removed by a JCB- or 360°- type machine. A toothless ditching bucket will be used to expose archaeologically sensitive levels. The excavation will be carried out under constant archaeological supervision. TVAS staff will be particularly alert to the presence of worked flints within the soil horizons, as these could indicate the presence of Mesolithic occupation sites.

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. Excepting any archaeological features that may warrant preservation in-situ, all features and deposits revealed in the trenches will be fully recorded. A minimum of 2 pits will be half-sectioned and one ditch will be sampled (with a minimum 1m wide section) per trench, if present. If large numbers of features are encountered, the scale of the investigation necessary, and the use of the contingency to achieve the aims of the proposal, will be determined in consultation with Hampshire County Council Archaeological Officer.

4.3.4 In general, all finds and artefacts will be retained on-site. At the post-excavation stage (see 4.5 below) 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 A programme of environmental sampling will take place should sufficient well stratified subsoil deposits be located. Typically this involves samples of up to 40L depending on the size of the feature examined. Smaller features, such as post-holes, may have to be 100% sampled. 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 Hampshire County Council Archaeological Officer. Sampling will take place according to Historic England guidance (HE 2015b).

4.3.7 It is not envisaged that unusual or important deposits (such as peat or waterlogged deposits) will be encountered. However, should these be present, a programme of sampling under the guidance of our specialists will take place in consultation with the Hampshire County Archaeological Officer.

4.3.8 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 they are too fragile to survive reburial, or if requested as additional work by the client in consultation with the Hampshire County Council Archaeological Officer. Any subsequent excavation of human remains will be carried out following receipt of the appropriate Ministry of Justice license. Recovery and recording methodologies for human remains will follow standard procedures identified by McKinley and Roberts (1993), Brickley and McKinley (2004), and the TVAS Field Recording Manual (7th edition 2011). Any human bone recovered of archaeological significance will be deposited with the appropriate museum in due course, and will not be re-interred in earth.

4.3.9 Spoilheaps will be searched for finds, and a metal detector will be used to enhance the recovery of material if appropriate. TVAS staff will be particularly alert to the presence of worked flints in the spoil, as these could indicate the presence of Mesolithic occupation sites.

4.3.10 Metal detectors will be used by in-house staff to enhance the recovery of metal finds as the overlying layers are removed. Any finds falling under the Statutory definition of Treasure (as defined by the Treasure Act of 1996 and its revision of 2002) will be removed to a safe place, and reported to the local Coroner's Office, the Hampshire Finds Liaison Officer, the Hampshire County Council Archaeological Officer, and the landowner. 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. Metal detectors will primarily be used to search hand excavated spoil, although site surveys may also be undertaken, with a log kept of any features surveyed and the results.

4.3.11 Following completion of all excavation and recording, the trenches will be efficiently backfilled but will not be resurfaced or re-turfed. No liability is accepted for damage to any services unless a plan of these is provided by the client.

#### **4.4 Recording Methodology**

4.4.1 A single context recording system will be used in accordance with the TVAS Field Recording Manual (8th edition 2018). Descriptions of individual deposits and features will be recorded on pro-forma context recording sheets.

4.4.2 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.

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

4.4.4 Where appropriate, significant finds will be recorded in 3D.

4.4.5 The location of the trenches, and of all plans and sections will be tied into the National Grid using a GPS system

4.4.6 A photographic record will be made of the evaluation project, consisting of digital image. It will record the principal features and finds discovered, both in detail and in their general context. The photographic record will also include working shots to illustrate more generally the nature of the archaeological operation mounted. Digital working shots will also be taken during the evaluation, which will be forwarded to Hampshire County Council for training and outreach purposes if requested.

#### **4.5 Post-fieldwork**

4.5.1 Finds processing, environmental sample processing and analysis will commence immediately following the completion of the fieldwork in accordance with guidelines in MoRPHE (HE 2015a), CIfA guidance (CIfA 2020a) and TVAS post-excavation procedures (6th edition 2013) with the results included within the report.

4.5.2 Artefacts/ecofacts will be cleaned, conserved and prepared for long term museum storage.

4.5.3 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 that have already been established for this area.

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

pottery - Dr J Timby, Ms A Lyons, Ms S Anderson or Mr. L Barber (consultants) or Dr. R Tabor (TVAS)  
 stone - Dr J Williams (Southampton University)  
 bone - Ms S Hamilton-Dyer, Dr M Holmes, (consultants) or Ms C Falys (TVAS)  
 later struck flint - Dr S Ford (TVAS)  
 charred plant remains/environment - Professor M Robinson (Oxford University) or Ms R McKenna (consultant)  
 metalwork - Dr R Taylor (consultant)  
 brick and tile – Ms D Milbank (TVAS)  
 slag - Dr. D Dungworth (consultant)  
 pollen - Mr Dan Young or Mr C Green (Quest, Reading University)  
 dendrochronology – Sheffield University  
 radiocarbon - Queens University, Belfast  
 conservation - Wiltshire County Council Conservation Centre

## 5.0 Report and Dissemination

5.1 A full report on the results of the evaluation should be available within 2-3 weeks of completion of the fieldwork.

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

5.3 The text will address the aims and objectives of the evaluation, 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.

5.4 The reports will include a front sheet providing the following information:

- \*Site name
- \*District and Parish
- \*Planning reference
- \*Grid reference
- \*Site activity (eg. 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

5.5 The illustrations will include:

- a site location plan
- a trench layout plan
- trench plans and sections
- profiles/sections of a selection of excavated features
- a selection of colour photos of significant findings

5.6 Catalogues giving descriptions of trenches, archaeological features, and artefacts will be contained in a series of appendices.

5.7 Any findings of academic merit will be published as a note in an appropriate journal such as *Hampshire Studies*. Non-published report(s) will be made available for inspection or download on the TVAS web site.

5.8 Copies of the results will be supplied to the Hampshire HER in both digital (.pdf) and paper copy as necessary. A copy of the report will also be forwarded to the local planning authority in due course. A selection of digital images documenting the project will also be supplied to the HER if requested.

5.9 Details will be supplied to the OASIS project.

5.10 A summary report of c. 150-300 words will be sent to the Hampshire County Council archaeological officer on completion of the fieldwork, which will contain a brief description of the results of the project, with particular emphasis on the distribution of archaeological features found across the site.

5.11 Information will be made available to interested local historical or archaeological societies, along with members of the local community, including the opportunity to visit the fieldwork should this be requested. This is in keeping with the requirements of the recent *National Planning Policy Framework*, although due to health and safety considerations, and the possible issue of commercial confidentiality, any dissemination of information or arranging of site visits will only take place following consultation with the client and the Hampshire County Archaeological Officer.

## **6.0 Archive Deposition**

6.1 The finds and site archive will be prepared in consultation with the recipient museum.

6.2 The site and finds archive will be deposited with Hampshire Cultural Trust. The Trust will be informed prior to the commencement of fieldwork on the site.

6.3 With the consent of the landowner, the site finds will be deposited with Hampshire Cultural Trust.

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 Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (S. Ford, J. Pine, A Taylor or S. Wallis) with an appropriate area of competence.

7.2 The project will be carried out in accordance with the CIFA Standard and Guidance for archaeological evaluation (2020b) and Code of Conduct (2019) and the quality control mechanisms set out in the TVAS fieldwork and post-fieldwork manuals.

7.3 Safe working practices as set out in TVAS health and safety manual will be adopted and current health and safety regulations will be adhered to. If the site is accessible to the public, the trenches will be fenced with barrier mesh/bunting and road pins or heras fencing as necessary.

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.

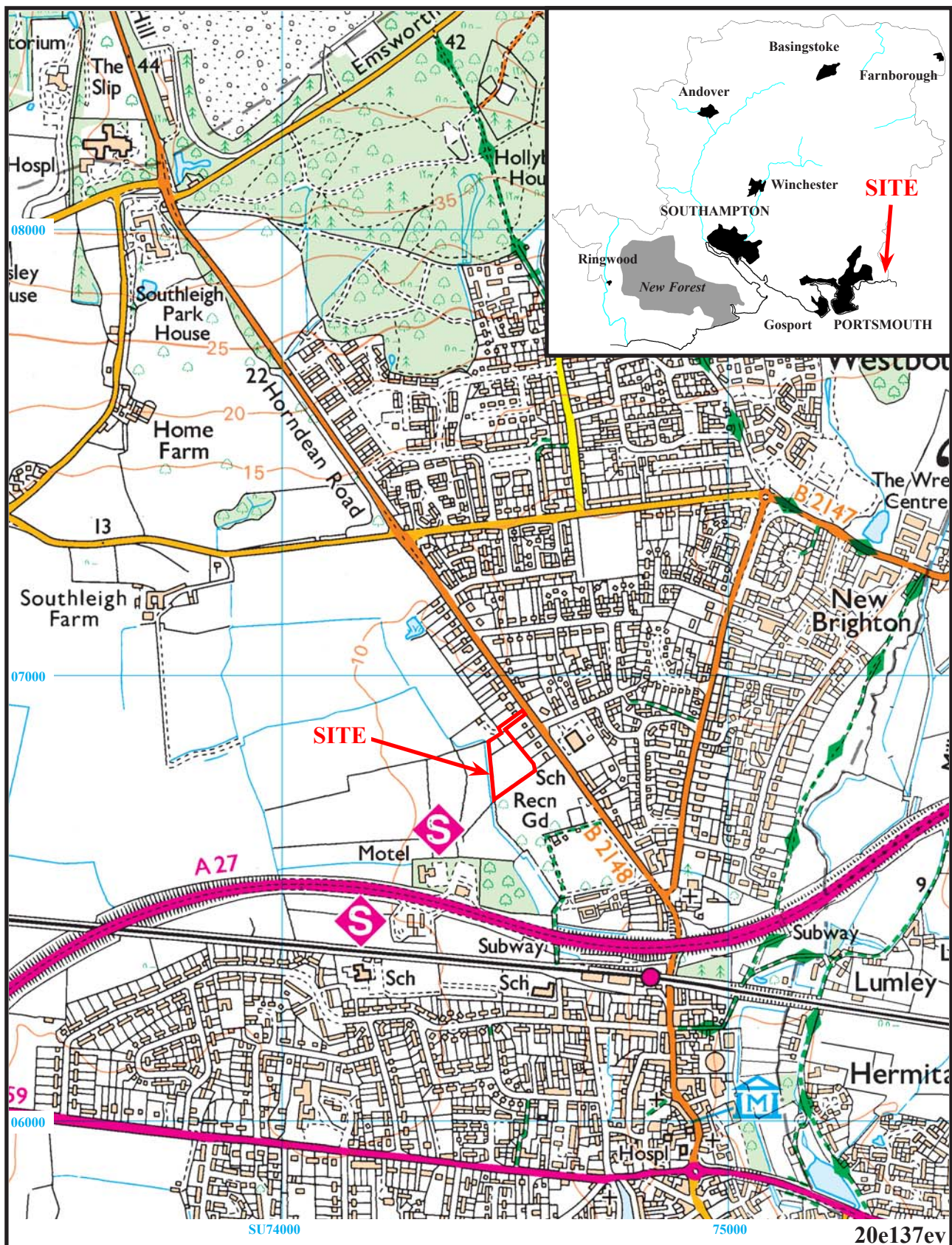
7.5 The fieldwork and post-fieldwork will be monitored by the Hampshire County Council Archaeological Officer and all reasonable access will be provided to the works. Any changes in the agreed project design will be discussed and agreed with the Hampshire County Council Archaeological Officer before implementation.

## **8.0 Resources**

It is anticipated that 8-14 man/days will be required on site with a similar number for post-fieldwork.

## 9.0 References

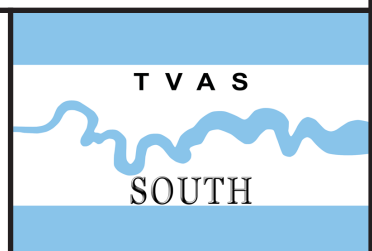
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**Land at Horndean Road, Emsworth,  
Hampshire, 2020  
Archaeological Evaluation**

Figure 1. Location of site within Emsworth and Hampshire.

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Figure 2. Plan of site showing proposed development  
and evaluation trenches.

