

## **Archaeology Statement**

Modular Classroom, Riverside Community Special School, Scratchface Ln, Widley, Waterlooville PO7 5QD

Date: 27.05.20

Riverside School is located in an area where the archaeology of Roman occupation and industrial activity have been investigated. To the east at South Downs College is an extensive Roman villa, westwards of the Villa (and east of the school) is a Roman cemetery and west of the cemetery, and south of and within the school grounds evidence of a Roman tilery. This suggests an extensive complex.

To the south of the school grounds a building, enclosure, corn drier and clay pit were excavated ahead of housing. At the same time, within the school grounds but marginally east of the proposed location of the classroom, a tile kiln was excavated. The site of the proposed classroom has a high archaeological potential, that is the potential to encounter as yet unrecorded archaeological remains.

The foundations of the building will be a series of pits of increasing shallow depth as the array come south down the slope. The deeper pits on the north edge will be nearly .5M deep and are likely to be deep enough to encounter archaeology. The shallower pits on the south edge will be little over 10cm deep and much less likely to be deep enough to encounter archaeology. Each individual pit will only reveal a small snap shot with no extensive exposed areas.

It is recommended that an archaeological watching brief is maintained during these groundworks, that is an archaeologist should be present to inspect the excavated pits in order to recognise, record and report any archaeological remains encountered. It should be recognised that as the pits become shallower the archaeologist may identify a stage at which archaeological monitoring is no longer effective as the pits are too shallow to encounter archaeology. The archaeological watching brief would be suspended at that point.

The pits should be subject to inspection by a suitably qualified archaeologist and reasonable opportunity given to record what is revealed, but without unreasonably delaying the projects overall progress.

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