

Land at Horndean Road, Emsworth, Hampshire

Project specification for an archaeological excavation

19th May 2021



HRE20-120exc

Land at Horndean Road, Emsworth, Hampshire

Project specification for an archaeological excavation

1.0 Background

1.1 Planning permission (APP/19/00768) has been gained from Havant District Council for the erection of new housing on land at Horndean Road, Emsworth, Hampshire (SU 7450 0680). The consent is subject to conditions (3-5) concerning archaeology as set out in the *National Planning Policy Framework* (NPPF 2018) and the Council policies on archaeology.

1.2 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 proposal site revealed a number of Roman features, including two enclosures and a possible roundhouse. Evaluation of the site itself revealed a modest volume of archaeology comprising a length of gully of LBA/EIA date (Taylor 2021). It is thought that the gully might be a ring gully house site reflecting the presence of a small short-lived occupation site.

2.0 Aims and Objectives of the Excavation

2.1 Background

A number of countrywide policy documents for archaeological research such as Historic English Research Agendas (2015b) consider the full range of deposits that might be encountered on the site. More specific aims are presented in the Solent Thames Research Agenda (Hey and Hind 2014). The archaeology of the environs of the site in general is moderately well known, lying at the western margin of the south coastal plain. The coastal plain and coastline are considered to be archaeologically rich (Taylor et al 2014; Wallis and Ford 2014; Wallis 2019) and a number of sites and finds are recorded for the environs (eg Allen and Gardiner 2000; Hall and Ford 1994; Wallis 2017). It is thought that much of Bronze Age and Iron Age settlement comprises hard to find small short lived occupation sites.

2.2 General objectives

2.2.1 A single component of work is proposed.: Excavation by means of machine trenching,

2.2.2 The general objectives of the project are to:

Excavate and record all archaeological deposits and features within the areas threatened by the proposed development.

Produce relative and absolute dating and phasing for deposits and features recorded on the site.

Establish the character of these deposits in attempt to define functional areas on the site such as industrial, domestic, etc.

Produce information on the economy and local environment and compare and contrast this with the results of other excavations in the region.

2.3 Specific research objectives

- a) What is the date and nature of the Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age activity on the site?
- b) Does this represent an enclosed or unenclosed occupation site, or is the gully found part of an organised landscape?
- c) Is the gully found part of a ring gully house site?

3.0 Methodology

3.1 Site clearance and topsoil removal

3.1.1 We proposed to dig one area totalling c. 400 sq m as shown on Figure 1. The area shown here corresponds with features found during the evaluation and as set out in the council's archaeological advice for the project.

3.1.2 A contingency arrangement for additional stripping (c. 100 sq m) is included if archaeological deposits are found to continue beyond the margins of all or some of the stripped areas. The extra stripping will continue locally until a zone without discrete archaeological features for 10m has been determined, in consultation with the Hampshire Archaeological Officer..

3.1.3 Topsoil and other overburden will be removed under continuous archaeological supervision by a machine fitted with a ditching bucket.

3.1.4 Where appropriate and necessary, hand cleaning of the stripped surface will take place.

3.2 Excavation methodology

3.2.1 The area will be stripped of topsoil and subsoil to fully expose any archaeological deposits.

3.2.2 All archaeological features will be planned and sectioned as a minimum objective.

3.2.3 Isolated, discrete features such as pits and posthole under 2 sq m in area and up to 1m deep not belonging to structures or activities discussed in para 3.2 7 (below) will be fully dug.

3.2.4 Tree holes will be mapped and up to 25% investigated to confirm their identity. Any containing artefacts will be treated as pits.

3.2.5 Isolated, discrete features over 2 sq m in area and/or over 1m deep will be half sectioned as a minimum. Half-sectioning of features significantly deeper than this in a single vertical face may not be safely possible, but a combination of working methods such as cumulative section drawing, stepping and the digging of access trenches will allow the full profile of the vast majority of deeper features to be fully explored. A separate methodology to explore deep wells will need to be drawn up in consultation with the client and county archaeological officer.

3.2.6 Ring ditches up to 15m in diameter will be fully dug in 1-5m segments. Ring ditches over 15m in diameter will be dug by hand to c. 90% of the circumference in 1-5m segments.

3.2.7 Linear features will be excavated in 1-3 m. wide slots, with a minimum of 4m of any less than 20m long. In addition all termini and intersections will be examined. Linear features, such as those defining settlement enclosures, will be sampled at a minimum of 20% of their length. Linear features unambiguously of late post-medieval date will be sampled at 1% of their length.

3.2.8 Any deposits relating to funerary/ritual activities such as burials and cremation deposits and domestic/industrial activity such as walls, postholes floors, middens, walls, hearths, ring gullies) will be fully excavated. Discrete features such as cremation deposits will be 100% sampled for subsequent analysis.

3.2.9 Extensive area deposits such as buried soils will be hand excavated to a minimum of 10%. Subsequent excavation by machine will be considered in consultation with the Hampshire Archaeology officer.

3.2.10 Extensive area deposits such as large, artefact-rich, prehistoric middens or burnt mounds will be hand excavated to a minimum of 50%. Subsequent excavation by machine will be considered in consultation with the Hampshire Archaeology officer.

3.2.11 Discovery of any human remains will be reported to the coroner and excavated following receipt of the appropriate Ministry of Justice licence. Any human bone recovered of archaeological significance will be deposited with Hampshire Cultural Trust and will not be reinterred.

3.3 Recording Methodology

3.3.1 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.

3.3.2 Plans and sections will be drawn in pencil on drafting film, normally at scales of 1:100, 1:20 and 1:10 respectively. Digital planning (GPS) will be employed for isolated or uncomplicated archaeological deposits and features. Information such as the limits of excavation will also be recorded either using total station or hand held Korec GPS. Where appropriate, eg for the recording of inhumations, more detailed plans will be drawn at a scale of 1:10. Plans and sections will be accurately located in relation to the National Grid either using a total station or hand held GPS machines accurate to 0.1m. Overall plans at 1:100 may also be used.

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

3.3.4 A Harris matrix stratification diagram will be employed to record all stratigraphic relationships.

3.3.5 The photographic record will consist 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' and, where applicable, aerial photographs to illustrate the nature of the archaeological fieldwork programme. All feature shots will include appropriate scales and a photo board, the latter positioned in such a way that the writing is legible and including the context number and site code. Digital images are taken on Canon EOS 4000D cameras with APS-C sensors taking 16-megapixel images. Images for archiving purposes are taken using high quality settings in TIFF format.

3.3.6 Recovery and recording methodologies for human remains follow standard procedures identified by Mitchell and Brickley (2017) and the TVAS Field Recording Manual (8th edition 2018).

3.4 Finds Retrieval

3.4.1 In general, all identified finds and artefacts pre-dating 1750 will be retained. Samples of later material may be retained if of intrinsic interest or significant for dating purposes (which may be particularly relevant for this project). All but a sample of most classes of building material will be discarded after recording but the specific guidance of the recipient museum collecting policy will be followed.

3.4.2 Metal detectors will be used to enhance the recovery of metal finds. It is proposed that this work will either be carried out by in-house staff and with no removal of finds without reference to contextual information. No title will be assumed by the finder. Gold, silver, prehistoric base metal or related finds will be reported to the Coroner and kept in a secure place as required by the Treasure Act (1996) and its subsequent amendments.

3.4.3 Finds recovered from fills of cut features will be recorded under the appropriate context number.

3.4.4 All finds discovered in layers and surfaces will be recorded in two horizontal dimensions. This spatial distribution will generally be within a 1m grid square but for particularly sensitive areas a grid of 0.1m will be used. Three-dimensional recording will be used for significant finds such as chronologically distinctive metalwork.

3.4.5 According to our standard practice, features will be spot-dated by their finds on-site, so that any appropriate adjustment can be made to excavation or retrieval strategies in order to maximise the information available to answer the research aims of the project.

3.4.6 Conservation on site will follow guidelines in First Aid for Finds with any other specialist conservation work sub-contracted to the project conservator (see below).

3.5 Environmental sampling and scientific dating

3.5.1 Well-defined, closely-dated contexts will be bulk sampled for the recovery of carbonised botanical remains and sampled according to Historic England guidelines (HE 2015b).

3.5.2 Sieving will take place to enhance the recovery of small bones and artefacts as advised by our faunal remains specialist. Provision is made for sampling 5-10 deposits. Up to 40 litres of their fill will be wet-sieved using a 2mm mesh. Charred plant remains will be recovered using floatation and a 0.25mm sieve. In addition, unusual and rich contexts will be sieved in a similar manner. Variations to sample volumes and collection strategies will be discussed on site with our palaeobotanical specialist and the Hampshire Archaeology officer as necessary.

3.5.3 The presence of waterlogged deposits with good preservation is only likely to be present in any deep or large features. Bulk waterlogged samples will be of the order of 10-20 Litres should these be encountered the sampling strategy will be discussed with our environmental specialists and the Hampshire Archaeology officer as necessary.

3.5.4 Samples for pollen analysis and micromorphology will be taken under the guidance of the appropriate specialists on-site if appropriate. As a routine, this usually involves the taking of column samples or as guided by Historic England (HE 2015b).

3.5.5 Where appropriate to achieve the chronological objectives (above), samples will be taken for radiocarbon dating, dendrochronology, thermoluminescence, archaeomagnetic dating or for any other less common scientific analyses as necessary.

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

pottery - Dr J Timby, Ms A Lyons, Mr. L. Barber (consultants) or Dr. R Tabor (TVAS)

bone - Ms S Hamilton-Dyer, Dr M Holmes, (consultants) or Dr C Falys (TVAS)

struck flint - Dr S Ford (TVAS)

charred plant remains/environment - Professor M Robinson (Oxford University), Ms R McKenna (consultant) or Elspeth St John Brookes (TVAS)

metalwork- Mr A Colyer (TVAS), Dr D. Dungworth (Consultant) or Dr R Taylor (consultant)

coins- Dr P-D Manisse (TVAS)

conservation- Wiltshire County Council Heritage Centre

human Remains- Dr Ceri Falys (TVAS)

pollen Remains- Dan Young or Chris Green (Quest, Reading University)

soil Micromorphology- Quest, (Reading University)

radiocarbon dating - Queens University Belfast

archaeomagnetic dating-Bradford University

conservation-Wiltshire County Council Heritage Centre

4.0 Post-Excavation Analysis and Archive Preparation

4.1 Post-fieldwork will be completed according to TVAS post-fieldwork manual (6th edition 2013).

4.2 The aims of the post-fieldwork phase of the project are to:

4.3 Prepare an orderly archive of the records of the fieldwork.

4.4 Clean, conserve and prepare artefacts/ecofacts for long term museum storage.

4.5 Prepare specialist reports on the artefacts recovered. Particular attention will be paid to tying in the pottery recovered to the local or regional fabric sequences that are available. Metal finds will be x-rayed where appropriate to aid identification.

4.6 Prepare specialist reports on environmental studies.

4.7 Prepare a post-excavation assessment report describing the basic nature of the archaeological deposits discovered.

4.8 Draw together the information in sections 4.3-4.7 to place the site in its local, regional and national setting as appropriate.

4.9 The finds and site archive will be prepared in accordance with guidelines in MoRPHE (HE 2015a), ClfA guidance (ClfA 2014a) and after consultation with the recipient museum. Guidance produced by the Museum and Galleries Commission's Standards in the Museum Care of Archaeological Collections (1992), the Society of Museum Archaeologist's Selection, Retention and Dispersal of Archaeological Collections (1993) and the United Kingdom Institute for Conservation Guidelines for the preparation of excavation archives for long term storage (1990) will be followed.

4.10 An electronic security copy of the field records will be made shortly after completion of the fieldwork.

4.11 A selection of digital images showing the site location and principal features will be provided to the Hampshire Archaeological officer for educational and planning purposes if requested.

5.0 Report and Dissemination

5.1 A post-excavation assessment report on the results of the fieldwork should be available within two-three months following completion of the fieldwork. However, the scale of the findings may not merit such a complicated report and, as advised by MoRPHE (HE 2015a), a draft publication report may be appropriate.

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

5.3 The text will address the aims and objectives of the project, 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 report will include a frontsheet providing the following information:

- *Site name
- *Grid reference
- *Site activity (evaluation trenching, geophysical survey, fieldwalking, watching brief, excavation, etc.)
- *Date and duration of project
- *Site code
- *Area of site
- *Summary of results
- *Location and reference of archive

5.5 The illustrations will include:

- a site location plan
- a plan of archaeological deposits
- profiles/sections of excavated features
- photographs of the fieldwork

5.6 The findings will be published in a journal such as *Hampshire Studies* or the TVAS monograph series if appropriate.

5.7 Both digital and paper copy of the results will be supplied to the Hampshire HER. Non-published report(s) will be made available for inspection or download on the TVAS web site.

5.8 A digital version of the report will be provided to the OASIS project.

6.0 Archive Deposition

6.1 The site and finds archive will be deposited in with Hampshire Cultural Trust.

6.2 With the consent of the landowner, the site finds will be deposited with Hampshire Cultural Trust. The finds and site archive will be prepared in accordance with guidelines in MoRPHE (HE 2015a), CIfA guidance (CIfA 2014a) and after consultation with the recipient museum.

6.3 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 with an appropriate area of competence (S. Ford, J. Pine, A. Taylor). The fieldwork will be directed by (from) Pierre Manisse, Anne Huvig, Andy Taylor, David Sanchez, Kyle Beaverstock, Maisie Foster, Will Attard or Steve Ford.

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

7.3 Safe working practices will be adopted as set out in the TVAS health and safety manual and current health and safety standards will be adhered to.

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.

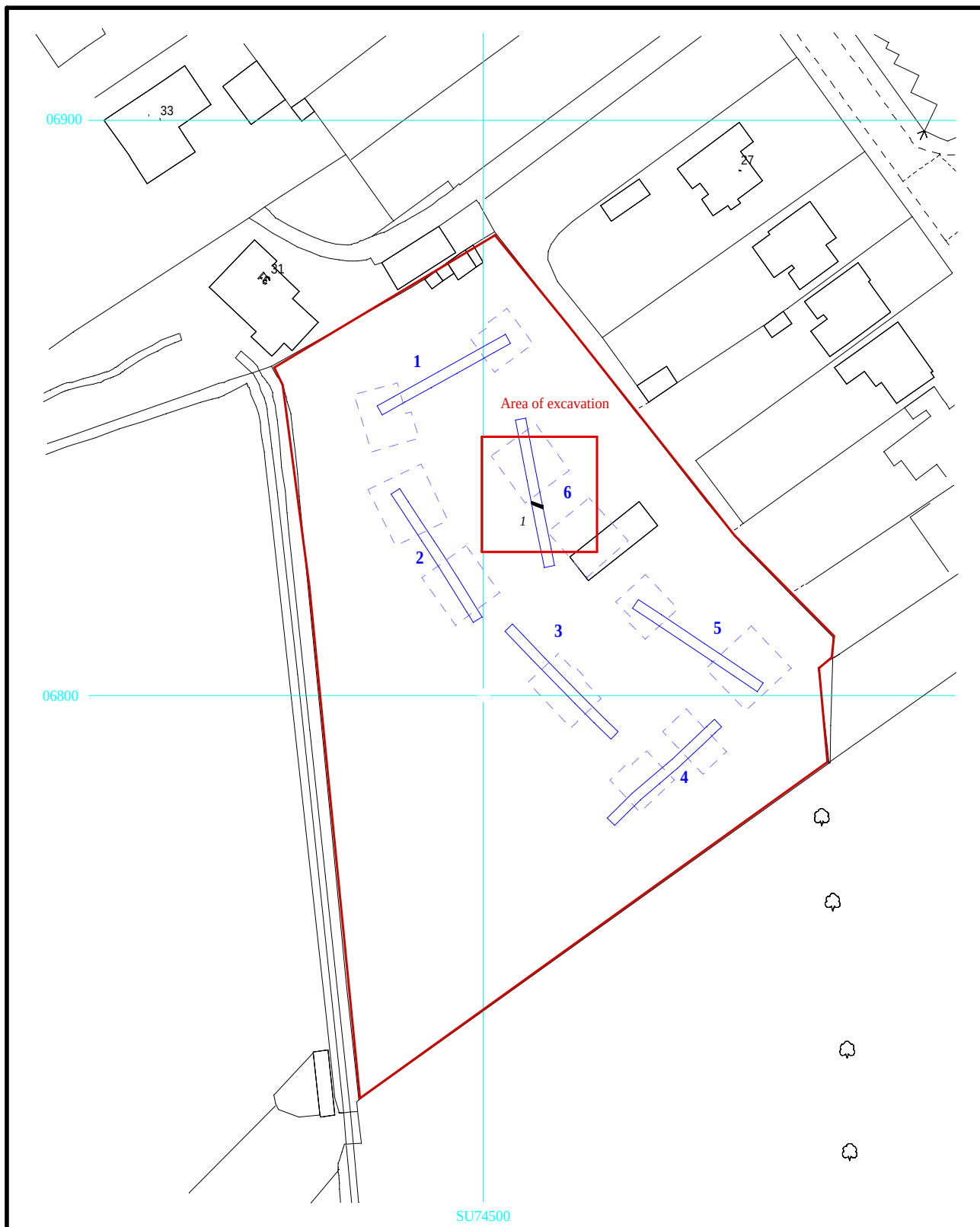
7.5 The fieldwork and post-fieldwork will be monitored by the archaeological advisor to the Council and all reasonable access will be provided to the works. The archaeological advisor to the Council will be contacted both prior to work commencing on site, and during the fieldwork itself, to arrange a site monitoring visit.

7.6 The fieldwork will be carried out by a team of c.2-5 for c. 2 weeks concurrent with the overburden stripping, with a smaller number of staff for post-fieldwork

8.0 References

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HRE 20/190

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Hampshire, 2021
Proposal for an Archaeological Excavation**

Figure 1. Location of proposed trench

0 50m

