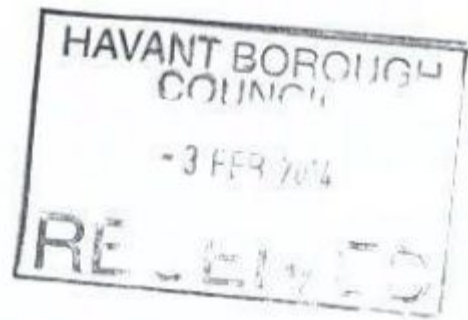




Land at Scratchface Lane, Bedhampton, Havant, Hampshire

Project specification for an archaeological excavation

24th January 2014



Ref: SLB13/09exc

Land at Scratchface Lane, Bedhampton, Havant, Hampshire

Project specification for archaeological excavation

CONTENTS

- 1.0 Background
- 2.0 Aims and Objectives of the Excavation
- 3.0 Methodology
- 4.0 Treatment of Finds and Samples
- 5.0 Post-Fieldwork Assessment
- 6.0 Post-Excavation Analysis and Archive Preparation
- 7.0 Publication and Dissemination
- 8.0 Project Team
- 9.0 General Items
- 10.0 Project Resources
- 11.0 References

Land at Scratchface Lane, Bedhampton, Havant, Hampshire

Project specification for archaeological excavation

1.0 BACKGROUND

1.1 The site is located to the south of Scratchface Lane on the western edge of Bedhampton, a suburb of Havant in Hampshire (SU 6951 0674). It consists of two parcels of farmland, divided by a drain (Fig. 1). The northern field is the larger of the two, and was previously used as a paddock, whilst the southern field was left overgrown. The site is bounded by late 20th century housing to the east, Littlepark Wood and Scratchface Lane to the north, and an (M) to the west.

[REDACTED] (13/00103) has been gained from Havant Borough Council to development the site for [REDACTED] was subject to three conditions (23, 24 and 25) relating to archaeology, which required [REDACTED] programme of archaeological work. Following recent archaeological evaluations of the site by geophysical survey (Dawson 2013) and trial trenching (Bray 2014), a further phase of archaeological work has been requested by Dr Hannah Fluck, Senior Archaeologist with Hampshire County Council, who acts as archaeological advisor to the Borough Council.

1.3 The archaeological potential of the site was considered in a desk-based assessment (Smith 2009), and has been confirmed by a recent geophysical survey (Dawson 2013) and trial trench evaluation (Bray 2014). It had been speculated that the *Wessex* (or *Wessex*) to Bitterne (*Clausentum*) may cross the north-eastern part of the site, recorded during the recent evaluation, in the north-east corner of the site. Unfortunately this feature could not be investigated in detail due to the presence of level ditches in the north-western corner of the site dating from the medieval period. A trackway. A small number of features were identified in the southern field, including a burnt flint. In the wider area, Bronze Age pottery and flintwork were recorded in the 1970s, along with an Iron Age pit. Slightly further afield, the Neolithic long barrow known as Bevis' Grave is located on Portsdown Hill, about 300m west of the site. This feature is a Scheduled Ancient Monument, and a sizeable early Saxon cemetery was recorded in its vicinity. Littlepark Roman villa is another Scheduled Ancient Monument, situated approximately 300m north-west of the site. Roman finds have also been noted to the north and east of the site.

1.4 It is proposed to carry out an archaeological investigation in those parts of the site where archaeological features are most likely to be affected by the new development (Fig. 1). Area A will target the various linear features which were recorded during the evaluation at the northern end of the site, whilst Area B will focus on the possible prehistoric pit which was observed in the southern field.

1.5 The proposal will follow the methodology set out in *Management of Archaeological Projects 2*, and the work will comply with the *National Planning Policy Framework* (NPPF, 2012). A detailed cost of the excavation and for all post-excavation work up to and including publication is included.

2.0 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES OF THE EXCAVATIONS

2.1 Background

A number of countrywide policy documents for archaeological research have considered the timespan that the deposits represent (eg. English Heritage 2005). There is a high level of continuity in settlement and landuse in Iron Age and Roman times, and by implication, social and economic organisation is an important area of study, as is the diversity of regional variation. English Heritage Research Agenda (English Heritage, 1997, 44-5) section PC4 considers that the increasing awareness of the complexity of this transitional period allows for detailed study of the nature of this change concerning issues such as ethnicity and social and economic dislocation.

2.2 General objectives

The general objectives of the project are to:

Excavate and record all archaeological deposits and features within the areas affected 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 objectives

2.3.1 The excavation and post-excavation project will:

Set out the archaeological background to the site, drawing together the results of previous archaeological work in the vicinity of the site.

Complete a site archive of all project records, artefacts, ecofacts, any other sample residues and summaries of the context, artefact and environmental records.

Complete an assessment report on the site archive and its potential to answer the research questions and for further analysis.

2.3.2 The project will address the following research questions:

What is the nature of the prehistoric activity on the site and what is its date and extent?

What is the nature and extent of activity during the Roman period ?

What is the relationship between the occupation evidence for the late Iron Age and Roman periods, and does it suggest any level of continuation ?

What use was made of floral and faunal resources and can these be identified and assessed from a programme of environmental sampling?

What is the palaeoenvironmental setting of the various episodes of activity on the site?

3.0 METHODOLOGY

3.1 The core excavation areas of the project will comprise a total of c. 3700 sq m (Fig. 1). Area A will target the various linear features recorded at the northern end of the site during the evaluation, and will cover an area of approximately 3500 sq m. Area B will be positioned around the probable prehistoric pit in the southern field, and will be about 200 sq m. It may be necessary to extend these areas to clarify the nature of archaeological features revealed. However, any decision to do this will be made following discussions with the client and the Hampshire County Council Archaeologist.

3.2 Topsoil and subsoil deposits will be removed using a 360° type mechanical excavator, fitted with a toothless ditching bucket, under constant archaeological supervision. Spoil will either be stored on site or removed, as necessary.

3.3 The area will be stripped to fully expose any archaeological deposits. Machines will not be allowed to track over the stripped areas until the fieldwork has been completed in these areas.

3.4 Following machine clearance, all investigation of archaeological levels will be by hand, with cleaning, examination and recording both in plan and in section.

3.5 Archaeological excavation

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

3.5.2 Full excavation of isolated, discrete features such as pits and postholes (less than 2 sq m in area) not belonging to structures or activities discussed in para 3.4.4 (below) will take place following half-sectioning and recording.

3.5.3 Sampling of linear features such as ditches and gullies relating to settlement activity (ie rich deposits) will be a minimum of 25%. Other linear features such as field boundaries will be sampled at a minimum of 10%. The linear features will be excavated in 1-3 m. wide slots. All termini and intersections will be examined. Sampling of large features such as quarry pits will be by machine but will be carried out in consultation with the Hampshire County Council Archaeologist.

3.5.4 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.

3.5.5 All finds of human remains will be reported to the coroner, and excavated following receipt of the appropriate Ministry of Justice license. Human remains will be deposited with Havant Museum, and will not be re-interred.

3.6 A metal detector will be used by TVAS staff to increase the recovery of metal objects as the site is known to be of Bronze Age or later date. All gold and silver, along with any prehistoric base metal, will be removed to a safe place and reported to the local coroner 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 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 be undertaken. Provision for the assistance of volunteer metal detectorists will also be made and is welcomed under the same non retention of title to finds condition.

3.7 Recording system

3.7.1 The recording system adopted during the investigations will be as detailed in the TVAS recording manual (7th edition 2011). Descriptions of individual deposits and features will be recorded on pro-forma context recording sheets.

3.7.2 Within the site grid all features will be recorded at a scale of 1:50 or 1:100. These plans will either be produced electronically (simple stratigraphy) or on polyester based drawing film, related to the site grid and at a scale of 1:10 or 1:20 (complex stratigraphy). The information will be digitised for eventual CAD application. Sections will be drawn at a scale of 1:10. The site grid will be tied in to the National Grid using a Total Station and Terramodel.

3.7.3 Finds from cut features will be recovered and recorded by cut and fill. Unstratified finds from generalised contexts and finds from floors or other specific contexts will be recorded in 3D using a Total Station.

3.7.4 The OD height of all principal strata and features will be calculated and indicated on the appropriate plans and sections.

3.7.5 If the site complexity is such as to justify its use, a Harris Matrix stratification diagram will be used to record stratigraphic relationships. This record will be compiled and fully checked during the course of the excavations.

3.7.6 A photographic record of the investigations will be prepared. This will include black and white print (contact sheet) and digital images, illustrating in both detail and general context the principal features and finds discovered. Digital working shots will also be taken during the excavation, to illustrate more generally the nature of the archaeological operation mounted. These will be forwarded to Hampshire County Council for training and outreach purposes, if requested.

4.0 TREATMENT OF FINDS AND SAMPLES

4.1 Different sampling strategies may be employed according to the perceived importance of the deposit or feature under investigation. Close attention will be given to sampling for date, structure and environment. Sample size will take into account the frequency with which material is likely to occur. Bulk sieving of samples for small finds will take place. Post-fieldwork will be completed according to the TVAS post-fieldwork manual (5th edition 2011).

4.2 The strategy for sampling archaeological and environmental deposits and structures (which can include soils, timbers, animal bone and human burials) will be developed in consultation with our environmental consultants, the English Heritage regional scientific advisor and as guided by English Heritage (English Heritage 2011). In general bulk samples will be taken from the majority of contexts of prehistoric through to early post-medieval date as a part of a programme to retrieve small artefacts and ecofacts. These samples will be assessed by our environmental consultants at the post-fieldwork stage for their palaeoenvironmental potential and the most suitable samples selected for examination in detail. Typically bulk samples of dry deposits for charred plant remains will be 40 L, and waterlogged samples with preserved organic remains will be 15 L. For spatially extensive deposits, samples will be taken on a grid basis. The bulk of any environmental processing will be carried out at the post-fieldwork stage of the project but provision will be made for the processing of sub-samples on-site so that the potential of deposits can be assessed and sampling strategies modified accordingly. Our environmental specialists will be on call to visit the site at short notice (24 hrs). Sieving for faunal remains will utilise a 2mm sieve. Sub-samples will be taken for assessment of metalworking residues. Column samples with selective bulk samples of alluvial deposits will also be taken for palaeoenvironmental analysis (pollen, molluscs, soil) as guided by our environmental consultants.

4.3 Arrangements are in place for on-site conservation advice and facilities with the project conservator (see below).

4.4 Provision is made for micromorphological analysis of soil samples of any suitable contexts if appropriate.

4.5 The finds retrieval policies of Havant Museum will be adopted and all identified finds and artefacts will be retained unless the Museum policy states otherwise.

4.6 All finds will be treated in a proper manner and will be exposed, lifted, cleaned, conserved, marked, bagged and boxed in accordance with the guidelines set out in the United Kingdom Institute for Conservation Guidelines No.2 and the requirements of Havant Museum. Metal (iron) objects which cannot be identified from manual inspection will be x-rayed and important objects selected for conservation.

4.7 Pottery finds will be spot-dated on site by excavation staff in consultation with our pottery specialists.

4.8 Provision is made for radiocarbon dating of suitable contexts if appropriate. Up to 2 dates have been allowed for.

4.9 Where appropriate, samples will be taken for dendrochronology, thermoluminescence, archaeomagnetic dating, metallurgy or for any other less common scientific analyses as necessary.

4.10 A weekly summary of the excavation results, including spot-dates for pottery on a context by context basis, will be provided to the Hampshire County Council Archaeologist.

5.0 POST-FIELDWORK ASSESSMENT

5.1 Should the fieldwork be carried out in phases, a short interim report accompanied by a plan will be prepared within two months of the end of the fieldwork to inform the next stage of fieldwork.

5.2 Following the ordering of the site archive, a short summary will be prepared giving a preliminary account of the excavation findings and brief outlines of the artefactual and environmental data collected, as set out in MAP2.

5.3 Discussion will take place between all specialist members of the Project Team to assess the quality, character, and significance of the various data collected, and the degree to which it will enable the research aims to be addressed.

5.4 At this stage it may be possible to identify classes of material which will not fulfil their potential for information retrieval and allow resources to be re-allocated where they will be most beneficial.

5.5 A post excavation assessment document will be produced within twelve months following completion of fieldwork. An interim report will be produced following the completion of fieldwork, for publicity purposes.

5.6 The post excavation assessment document will be forwarded to and following discussion, will be agreed with the Hampshire County Council Archaeologist.

5.7 The further programme of post-excavation analysis and archive preparation will be agreed with the Hampshire County Council Archaeologist.

6.0 POST-EXCAVATION ANALYSIS AND ARCHIVE PREPARATION

6.1 Post-fieldwork will be completed according to TVAS post-fieldwork manual (5th edition 2011).

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

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

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

6.5 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. The programme of ceramic dating will be undertaken in consultation with any national or local type series.

6.6 Prepare specialist reports on environmental studies.

6.7 Prepare a report describing the basic nature of the archaeological deposits discovered.

6.8 Draw together the information in sections 5.3-5.7 to place the site in its local, regional and national setting as appropriate.

6.9 The finds and site archive will be prepared in accordance with guidelines in Management of Archaeological Projects 2 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. The records and report will be copied onto microfiche and a copy sent to the National Archaeological Record.

6.10 The site archive will be deposited with Havant Museum and an accession number will be obtained prior to a commencement on site, if appropriate.

6.11 The site finds will be deposited with Havant Museum with the agreement of the landowner.

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

6.13 A digital version of the report will be provided to the OASIS project as necessary.

6.13 Copies of the post-excavation assessment and draft publication report will be supplied to the Hampshire Historic Environment Record in paper format as well as digital format along with digital images suitable for presentation or publicity purposes to illustrate the project.

7.0 PUBLICATION AND DISSEMINATION

7.1 Within 12 months of the completion of fieldwork a comprehensive report to publication standard will be produced. This will comprise a descriptive text and illustrations of the stratigraphic sequence with its interpretation, catalogues, specialist reports, distribution plans of the finds, and any available environmental information followed by a discussion and interpretation of the results.

7.2 The findings will be published in an appropriate journal such as *Hampshire Studies*.

7.3 A sufficient sum will be allocated within the resourcing of the project as a full contribution towards editing and publication costs.

8.0 PROJECT TEAM

Project Management	Dr. Steve Ford, Ms Joanna Pine, or Mr Sean Wallis
Fieldwork Supervisor	(one of) Mr Sean Wallis, Mr Andrew Taylor, Mr. Dan Bray, Mr. David Platt, Ms Sue Porter, or Mr. James McNicoll-Norbury
Post excavation and finds coordination	Mr Aiden Colyer
Pottery Specialist	(from) Dr. Malcolm Lyne, Mr. Paul Blinkhorn, Mr. Luke Barber, Dr. Jane Timby, Ms Frances Raymond (consultants)
Faunal remains	Ms Sheila Hamilton-Dyer, Dr Matilda Holmes, Ms Claire Ingreem (consultants) or Dr Ceri Falys, Ms Genni Elliott or Ms Danielle Milbank (TVAS)
Later struck flint	Dr Steve Ford (TVAS)
Charred plant remains	Professor Mark Robinson (Oxford University) or Ms Rossy McKenna (consultant)
Metalwork	Mr Steve Crabb (TVAS) or Dr Robin Taylor (consultant)
Metallurgy	Professor John Allen (Reading University) or Mr Steve Crabb (TVAS)
Human remains	Dr Ceri Falys (TVAS)
Pollen	Mr Dan Young or Mr Chris Green (Quest, University of Reading)
Wood	Ms Maisie Taylor (Fenland Archaeological Trust) or Ms Rossy McKenna (consultant)
Archaeomagnetism	Bradford University
Radiocarbon dating	Kiel (Germany) University or Queens University, Belfast
Conservation	Wiltshire County Council Heritage Centre

Other specialists will be appointed as appropriate.

9.0 GENERAL ITEMS

9.1 Health and Safety

All site operations will be carried out in a safe manner in accordance with TVAS health and safety policy and current Health and Safety legislation and the client's requirements. Deep sections such as those across ditches or pits will be shored, stepped, or battered back as necessary. A risk assessment will be prepared before commencement on site.

9.2 Timetable

Following initial machine stripping of the site, the fieldwork is expected to take a team of c. 4-6 staff about 2-3 weeks to complete.

9.3 Professional standards

All work will be carried out to the highest professional standards and according to the Institute For Archaeologists Code of Conduct, Standards and Guidance.

9.4 Insurance Cover

Insurance cover comprises £10m for public liability, £10m for employee liability, cover for any hired-in plant and professional indemnity cover for £5m.

9.5 Reinstatement

Not applicable.

9.6 Press Release

Should any significant archaeological deposits be located, a press release will be prepared in consultation with the Hampshire County Council Archaeologist and the client.

9.7 Monitoring

Regular monitoring of the project for the Planning Authority will be carried out by the Hampshire County Council Archaeologist. Access to the excavation and post-excavation work will be available at all reasonable times.

9.8 Use of volunteers and local societies

Provision is made to allow the use of volunteers from any local archaeological societies to work on the site if requested. This work will take place under TVAS staff supervision. Arrangements will be put in place for weekend working to facilitate this activity. It is anticipated that the vast majority of the fieldwork will take place by TVAS staff and volunteers will only be used to increase the amount of archaeology dug. 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.

10. PROJECT RESOURCES

FIELDWORK (post site strip)

Site Supervisor	5-15 days
Archaeologists	10-45 days

ARCHIVE AND ASSESSMENT

Site Supervisor	5-10 days
Archaeologists	5-15 days
Specialists	2-10 days

PUBLICATION

Site Supervisor	2 days
Archaeologists	4 days
Specialists	2 days

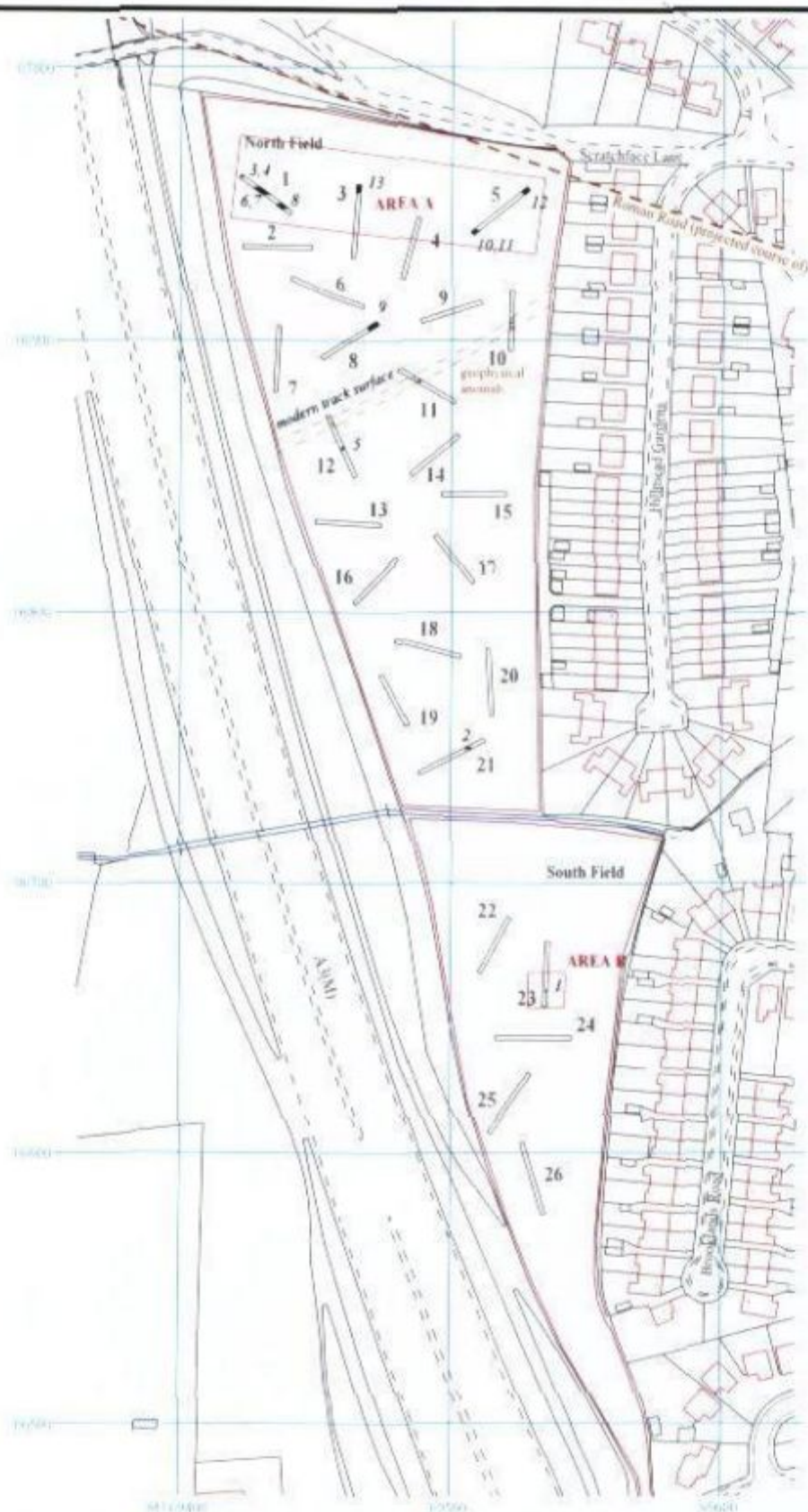
Post-excavation: Key tasks and responsibilities

Preparation of post-excavation timetable (assessment and publication stages)	Mr. Steve Preston
Finds processing (wash, mark, bag, conserve, etc)	TVAS
Finds coordination with specialists	site supervisor/ Mr Aiden Colyer
Preparation of archive report	site supervisor/Mr Steve Preston
Preparation of archive	Dr Ceri Falys
Charred plant remains (sieving)	TVAS
Preparation of publication report	site supervisor/Mr. Steve Preston

Editing/submission of publication Mr. Steve Preston
report

11.0 REFERENCES

- Bray, D, 2014, 'Land at Scratchface Lane, Bedhampton, Havant, Hampshire – an archaeological evaluation', Thames Valley Archaeological Services report 13/09b, Brighton.
- Dawson, T, 2013, 'Land at Scratchface Lane, Bedhampton, Havant, Hampshire – a geophysical survey', Thames Valley Archaeological Services report 13/09, Brighton.
- English Heritage 1997, *Research Agenda* (Draft, 8th April), Archaeology Division, English Heritage, London.
- English Heritage 2011, *Environmental Archaeology (2nd Edition)*. Centre for Archaeology Guidelines 1, English Heritage, Portsmouth.
- English Heritage, 2005, *Research Agenda*, English Heritage, London.
- NPPF, 2012, *National Planning Policy Framework*, Department of Communities and Local Government, London (TSO).
- Smith, M, 2009, 'Land at Scratchface Lane, Bedhampton, Havant, Hampshire – an archaeological desk-based assessment', CgMs unpublished report, London.



SLB 13/09

**Land at Scratchface Lane, Bedhampton,
Havant, Hampshire, 2014
Proposal for an Archaeological Excavation**

Figure 1. Plan showing the proposed excavation areas.

THAMES VALLEY
ARCHAEOLOGICAL
SERVICES
SOUTH