

Southampton City Council Archaeology Unit
Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Watching Brief on
groundworks associated with new fencing at Portsmouth Golf Driving Range,
Burrfields Road, Portsmouth.

21/9/2020

Version 1

1. Summary

The Portsmouth Golf Centre wishes to modify the fencing around the driving range. The driving range lies in an area of historic salterns and an archaeological watching brief will be carried out on the groundworks in order to make a record of any archaeological deposits disturbed by the new fence. Afterwards an illustrated report will be written and submitted to Portsmouth City Council on behalf of Portsmouth Golf Centre. After completion of the project the archive will be deposited with Portsmouth City Museum and Records Office.

2. Introduction

2.1 The Portsmouth Golf Centre is preparing a planning application to modify the fencing around the driving range.

2.2 The driving range lies in an area of historic salterns and previous fencing work under application 08/00480/FUL required an archaeological watching brief on the postholes for the new fence.

2.3 This Written Scheme of Investigation has been drawn up in case a similar condition is placed on the new application.

2.4 This project design has been written to 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 ordered archive. (Chartered Institute for Archaeologists 2020).

3. Site Location, geology and topography

3.1 The site is located on the east side of Portsea Island in Portsmouth. It is located to the south of Burrfields Road at NGR 467392 101995 (fig 1).

3.2 The underlying geology is recorded as the London Clay, overlain by *Raised Marine Deposits - Sand And Gravel*. These are defined as 'Superficial Deposits formed up to 3 million years ago in the Quaternary Period.'
<https://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html>

3.3 Earlier geological maps recorded the superficial deposits as being Valley Brickearth above Plateau Gravel (GSGB 1976).

3.4 Immediately to the west of the site is Great Salterns Lake, which flows into Langstone Harbour to the east in a channel to the south of the present site. The area is

protected from the sea on the east by an embankment and Eastern Road runs along the landward side of the embankment.

3.5 The area is low lying and Historic maps gave a spot height on Eastern Road of 1.2m OD. A spot height on Burrfields Road is given as 0.3m OD and the ground slopes down to the west.

3.6 The underlying geology is recorded as the London Clay, overlain by *Raised Marine Deposits - Sand And Gravel*. These are defined as 'Superficial Deposits formed up to 3 million years ago in the Quaternary Period.'
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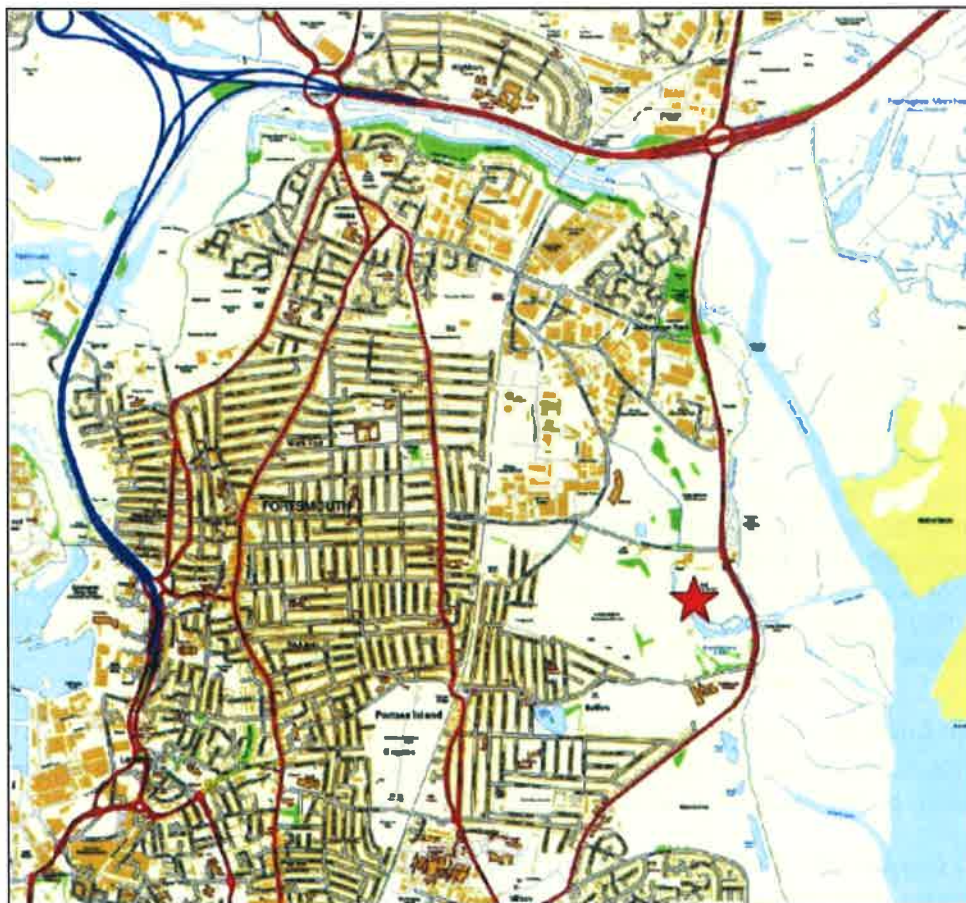


Figure 1: Site location map. Site marked by red star.

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4. Historical and Archaeological background

4.1 The site is located in the southern part of Local Area of Archaeological Importance 12 (PCC 2006, 13). This area 'covers the northern part of the shore of Langstone Harbour. Work in the harbour itself has revealed extensive prehistoric activity likely to extend into this area. Later it includes the northern part of the extensive salterns on the

shore of Langstone Harbour. In the 16th century there were 40 acres of salterns at “Portsey”, extended to 100 acres by the late 17th century. The salterns are shown on a map of 1678. The area was used for salt production from the prehistoric period onwards’ (*idem*).

4.2 The shoreline has been used for food collection, settlement, and salt production for millennia. Surveys along the shoreline around Langstone Harbour have recorded flint of Mesolithic and Neolithic date and scatters of prehistoric pottery (Allen and Gardiner 2000).

4.3 The area of the driving range was part of an extensive saltern shown on Edward’s map of Portsea dated 1716 and Milne’s of 1791 (Fig 2).

4.4 In 10th and 20th centuries the low-lying land on the east side of Portsea Island was used to dispose of domestic refuse from the City of Portsmouth to the east.

4.5 An archaeological watching brief on fencing post-holes along the west side of the site in 2008 found 0.86m of moderately stony, very dark greyish brown silt loam that produced glass bottles and jars including *BOVRIL* (patented 1886) and *MILK OF MAGNESIA* (patented 1871), together with sherds of domestic china. The deposit was overlain by 0.14m of topsoil, so in total there was 1.03m of recent deposits.



Figure 1 Extract from Milne’s map of 1791, showing the salterns on the east side of Portsea Island. Location of present site shown by red outline.

5. Purpose/aims of the work.

5.1 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.

5.2 A secondary aim is to identify and record the nature, dimensions, and relationship of natural deposits on the site and assess the potential of the natural deposits to contain or conceal archaeological remains, particularly from the prehistoric periods.

6. Methodology.

6.1 The archaeological contractor will agree a start date for the specified fieldwork with the PCC planning team or their archaeological adviser, will inform them when work has started and when it has been completed. A Portsmouth Museum accession number will be used as the site code and will be used throughout the project to identify the site records and artifacts.

6.2 An archaeologist will be present on site during the excavation of the new post-holes. The archaeologist will observe the deposits, make records and collect any artifacts revealed.

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

6.4 A context number will be allocated to all finds, even if this number is simply one allocated to unstratified finds. All pre-AD1860 finds will be retained, and a sample of post-AD1860 will be retained.

6.5 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 if possible. 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 monochrome film, and a digital camera. Overall site photographs will be taken in order to locate the investigation positions. The site code will appear in all photographs if practical.

6.6 Soils will be described using the Soil Survey Field Handbook (Soil Survey of England and Wales) and Munsell soil colour chart (hard copy not digital printouts). The edition of the Munsell chart will be recorded in the site report and archive.

6.7 Should it become clear that the groundworks in an area will not disturb archaeology the watching brief in that area may be stood down, but only with the agreement of the PCC planning team or their archaeological adviser.

6.8 Should salterns deposits be encountered soil samples will be taken.

6.9 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).

6.10 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.

6.11 If a human burial is encountered discussions will be held with Portsmouth Planning Team or their archaeological advisor and the PCC Environmental Health Department. 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, the archaeological contractor will apply to the MoJ for a licence to remove them.

6.12 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.

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

7. Post-excavation methodology

7.1 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.

7.2 All metal finds of archaeological significance will be x-radiographed as part of the recording process.

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

8. Report preparation and contents

8.1 Once the site data and artefacts have been analysed, a report will be written within three weeks of the end of the fieldwork. The report will be structured as in Appendix A.

8.2 The archaeological contractor will send a copy of the report in PDF format to the PCC Planning Team or their archaeological adviser. Once it has been approved, the archaeological contractor will send a full-colour paper copy of the report to the developer, and the PCC Planning Archaeologist or their adviser.

8.3 A full-colour paper copy of the report will be deposited as part of the archive.

8.4 The archaeological contractor will supply the PCC Museum and Record Office with one copy of the approved report in PDF format (for the HER). The PDF will be text searchable with good quality figures and images. All report drawings and photographs will be included in the PDF file, and the selecting of text and graphics security option will be set at "allowed".

8.5 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 PCC Museum and Record Office to freely copy the report without reference to the archaeological contractor.

8.7 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. Copyright

9.1 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.

10. Archive deposition

10.1 "Archive" here means the documentary and material archive as defined in *Standards for the Creation, Compilation and Transfer of Archaeological Archives* (PCC 2016). Portsmouth Museum and Record Office 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.

10.2 The archaeological 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).

10.3 The archaeological contractor will deposit the archive, making allowance for the long-term archive-storage costs that will be incurred by Portsmouth City Council.

10.4 A digital copy of the archive will be deposited with the Historic England archive at Swindon.

11. Staffing

11.1 The work will be carried out by experienced archaeologists, under the supervision of Dr AD Russel BA, PhD, MCIfA.

12 Health and Safety

12.1 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 Dr AD Russel BA PhD MCIfA who can be contacted on 023 8083 2022.

12.2 The Southampton City Council Archaeology Unit will make available their Safety Policy, Risk Assessments, and Safe Working Procedures. The Southampton City Council Archaeology Unit will liaise with the Client to ensure that all potential risks are minimised.

12.3 All staff will wear hard hat, safety boots, and hi-vis jacket or vest while on site, except in designated safe areas. Copies of the Southampton Archaeology Unit Risk Assessments will be kept on site.

12.4 All relevant health and safety regulations will be followed, and the archaeologists will liaise closely with the main contractor in regard to site specific health and safety requirements.

13. Insurances

13.1 Southampton City Council has Employers Insurance, Public Liability Insurance, and Professional Indemnity Insurance. These cover its entire staff wherever they work.

14. Monitoring procedures

14.1 The project will be monitored for Portsmouth City Council by the Planning team of their archaeological advisor.

15. Procedures for reporting unexpectedly significant or complex discoveries.

15.1 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 Portsmouth City Council Planning team.

Dr AD Russel
21/9/2020

17. Bibliography

Allen, MJ and Gardiner, J, 2000, *Our Changing Coast: A survey of the intertidal archaeology of Langstone Harbour, Hampshire*. CBA Research Report **124**. Council for British Archaeology

British Geological Survey (BGS), 1994, *Portsmouth*, England and Wales, sheet 331, 1:50000

PCC Portsmouth City Council, 2006, *Local Areas of Archaeological Importance in the City of Portsmouth*

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

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).