

# Southampton City Council

## Heritage Statements and Archaeology – Local Guidance

### ***National Planning Policy Framework paragraph 194:***

***... Where a site on which development is proposed includes, or has the potential to include, heritage assets with archaeological interest, local planning authorities should require developers to submit an appropriate desk-based assessment and, where necessary, a field evaluation.***

Most planning applications for sites of archaeological potential need to be accompanied by a Heritage Statement. You will be advised on this if you submit a formal pre-application enquiry.

In the following cases, planning applications involving ground disturbance must be submitted with a Heritage Statement:

- development affecting any site identified as being of archaeological interest (during the pre-application or application process), where ground disturbance is proposed, particularly in Local Areas of Archaeological Potential (LAAPs) 1 to 15.
- Major development sites over 0.25 hectares in the rest of the city (LAAP 16).
- Significant infrastructure works.
- Works to scheduled monuments (which will also require Scheduled Monument Consent).

Ground disturbance includes, for example, removing existing foundations, new foundations, ground reduction / levelling, installation of services and contamination remediation. For more information about Local Areas of Archaeological Potential, see the Archaeology and Planning web page (link below).

A Heritage Statement must also be submitted with a planning application for works to a locally listed building, or any other building identified as a non-designated heritage asset. A Heritage Statement is also required for works to listed buildings and buildings in conservation areas (contact [conservation.officer@southampton.gov.uk](mailto:conservation.officer@southampton.gov.uk) for separate guidance on this).

Failure to meet these requirements may mean that the planning application will not be considered until such information is provided. This could mean additional work in rewriting and may involve you in additional expense.

### **Required information**

We must have enough information to fully understand the archaeological implications of the proposal. The scope and degree of detail necessary in a Heritage Statement will vary according to the circumstances of each application. An applicant may need to commission a desk-based assessment of existing archaeological information, and possibly an archaeological evaluation, and submit the results as part of the Heritage Statement. Applicants are advised to discuss this with the planning archaeologist as part of a pre-application enquiry.

Please ensure that all the items on the list below are considered in your Heritage Statement and where necessary cross referenced with your Design and Access Statement.

- Introduction: Address of site and any current designations, local or national.
- An assessment of the history and character of the site or building.
- An assessment of the nature, extent and significance of the heritage asset.
- As much detail as possible about the nature and extent of ground disturbance proposed as part of the development, and the impact this will have on the heritage asset/archaeological remains. It is in the interests of the developer to discuss the nature of all groundworks with the planning archaeologist as soon as possible. In certain cases it might be necessary, advisable or desirable to amend the ground plan and design of the

development to avoid highly important archaeological deposits and hence reduce the amount of archaeological work required; for instance, if it is possible that human remains or underground structures survive in one part of the site but not elsewhere.

### **Who should prepare the heritage statement?**

For sites of high potential archaeological significance requiring a desk-based assessment, the heritage statement should be prepared by a recognised archaeological contractor with the necessary expertise to properly assess the heritage asset and its significance. This is also recommended for sites of lesser significance where a desk-based assessment is not required

Guidance on desk-based assessments and field evaluations is available on the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists web site (link below).

### **Sources of information**

As a minimum, applicants should consult the **Southampton Historic Environment Record** for information on the archaeology and history of the area, the site or the building.

The following should also be consulted:

- historic maps
- relevant Local Plan policies (see Archaeology and Planning web page, link below)
- other readily available sources as appropriate, such as Conservation Area Character Appraisals.

If you have any questions about the level of information required please contact the planning archaeologist ([planning.archaeology@southampton.gov.uk](mailto:planning.archaeology@southampton.gov.uk)).

## **FURTHER INFORMATION**

### **Southampton City Council web pages**

Archaeology and Planning

<https://www.southampton.gov.uk/planning/heritage/archaeology-planning.aspx>

Southampton Historic Environment Record

<http://www.southampton.gov.uk/her>

### **Other web pages**

Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (guidance)

<http://www.archaeologists.net/codes/ifa>