Southampton Historic Environment Record on Heritage Gateway

Important Guidance for Users
16 May 2016

The Southampton Historic Environment Record (HER) is the main source of information on all aspects of the historic environment of the modern city of Southampton. The HER includes archaeological sites, find spots, monuments and historic buildings. It also includes national and local designations such as listed buildings, locally listed buildings, scheduled monuments, conservation areas and historic parks and gardens.

The HER contains some data about finds and artefacts, however the main source of information about finds from archaeological investigations in Southampton is the city council's museums service. The museums service maintains various finds databases including the online Archaeology Object Database (see below).

The HER database is supplemented by a library of archaeological reports, books, journals, historic maps and photographs.

See below for guidance on how to find Southampton records on Heritage Gateway, the mapping facility, limitations of the Southampton data, copyright, and other issues.

Please note that data derived from Heritage Gateway will not be acceptable for use in heritage statements and desk-based studies associated with development proposals and other planning matters.

New in May 2016. Over 100 new records have been added to Heritage Gateway, and many existing records modified. **As of 16 May 2016 the Southampton HER data on Heritage Gateway is a live dataset, updated daily as required.**

New in March 2015. Over 80 new records added to Heritage Gateway, and many existing records modified. These are mainly records for the results of archaeological fieldwork and buildings surveys.

New in March 2014. 32 new records added to Heritage Gateway, and many existing records modified. These are a mix of records including findspots, buildings and the results of archaeological fieldwork.

New in September 2013. 169 new records added to Heritage Gateway, and many existing records modified. These are a mix of records including findspots, buildings and the results of archaeological fieldwork.

New in May 2012. Search results for the Southampton HER can now be viewed against Ordnance Survey mapping. Eleven new records have been added to Heritage Gateway since February.

New in February 2012. 170 new records and many modified records. The new records include the results of recent archaeological investigations, as well as buildings and historic ships.

New in March 2011. About 250 new records and many modified records. The new records include many archaeological investigations from the past decade, not previously entered into the database.

New in July 2010. Over 500 new records - for Southampton's locally listed buildings (the Local List), for many other buildings of interest, and for parks and gardens - have now been added to the HER and to Heritage Gateway.

New in February 2010. All records for Southampton's listed buildings, scheduled monuments, castle and town defences have now been added to Heritage Gateway. Photos of the town walls have also been added.

How to use Heritage Gateway

See the "Help and FAQs" section of Heritage Gateway for guidance on how to use the site. Below are a few tips that relate specifically to the Southampton HER data.

Some guidance on finding Southampton records on Heritage Gateway using the More Detailed Search "Where" tab

Southampton is currently listed as "City of Southampton" in the Administrative Location field. The Southampton records can also be found by typing "Southampton" into the "Place/Site Name/Street Name" fields. Please note that areas of Southampton such as Shirley or Portswood are not systematically recorded in location fields in the Southampton database, so searches on those place names will give incomplete results. Searches of specific geographical areas are best done using the map search.

Heritage Gateway Mapping

Southampton HER records are now available on the Heritage Gateway mapping facility, which uses Ordnance Survey mapping as a base. The entire Southampton dataset can be searched via the "Where" and "Map" tabs; this is the best way to do geographical searches. For all searches, the results can be viewed using the **View Resource Results on a Map** tab. The records are mapped as points, lines or polygons. A few records are not displayed on the map. Symbols such as dotted lines, used in the original mapping to express uncertainty, are not displayed as such on Heritage Gateway.

The detailed mapping can't be accessed from individual records. Most individual records have a link to Streetmap where each record can be viewed as a point derived from the grid reference for the record. This grid reference usually falls within the geographical extent of the site, although please note that no indication of extent is given – the site could be very large. For irregularly shaped and dispersed sites, the grid reference and resulting Streetmap display may fall outside the actual extent of the site.

Limitations of the Southampton HER and Heritage Gateway data

As of 16 May 2016, the HER data on Heritage Gateway is a live dataset, updated daily as required. However the HER is not complete and a significant backlog of data awaits entry onto the database. Some individual HER records are incomplete and are not published on Heritage Gateway (for instance, on 16 May 2016 over 570 records were not published).

The HER includes records for below-ground archaeological evidence derived from the many archaeological investigations (excavations and watching briefs) that have taken place in the city. However some records may give incomplete information. The records for archaeological investigations have usually been compiled from published sources (including "grey-literature" reports) but many pre-1992 sites are either inadequately published or not published. In such cases the site archives have sometimes been

consulted, but the HER records are often based only on brief journal reports. For investigations prior to 1992, users may need to consult the site archives.

The HER contains different categories of records – monument records, event records, finds records, source records. Heritage Gateway only publishes monument records in full, with associated event, finds and source records listed but not detailed. Further information about other categories of records is available from the HER. In particular, event records include background information about archaeological excavations, watching briefs, building surveys and other types of work; this information may be useful to some users. Only the results of such work are entered on the monument records.

The above limitations mean that some users will need to contact the HER for the most up-to-date and complete information and advice. Data is usually supplied by email although the supporting paper archive can be consulted by prior appointment. See below for contact details. Data derived from Heritage Gateway will not be acceptable for use in heritage statements and desk-based studies associated with development proposals and other planning matters.

Copyright and Intellectual Property Rights

The information in the database is subject to Intellectual Property Rights. Information accessed via the Heritage Gateway should not be reproduced elsewhere, in any format, without the written permission of Southampton City Council HER Officer.

Southampton HER Numbering Systems

Two numbering systems are used by the Southampton HER:

1. Unique identifiers (UIDs) generated by the database software:
Monument records (MSH)
Event records (ESH)
Source records (SSH)
Find records (FSH)
Designation records (DSH)
Originally all categories of records were prefixed "SH", and some older summaries and descriptions on Heritage Gateway may refer to records as Monument SH, Event SH, etc..

2. All archaeological investigations and building surveys carried out in Southampton are allocated a "SOU" number. This may or may not be the same as the Event (ESH) number allocated by the database software. Where relevant, please make a note of any SOU numbers mentioned in the record as these will be needed to find archaeological reports and site archives. (**New desk-based assessments and archaeological reports should give the name and SOU number of all other archaeological sites referred to in the text.**)

[The 'Old Southampton SMR No/Backup file' reference displayed under 'Other References/Statuses' refers to the numbering system used prior to digitisation (the old Sites and Monuments Record cards). This numbering system is no longer used, although the numbers have been retained for reference.]

HER Backup Files

Paper and digital backup files numbers are shown as 'HER backup file (new series)' under 'Other References/Statuses'. The backup files are numbered using either the MSH, ESH or SOU numbers. Some backup files will be given as 'HER Buildings Files'. If you wish to consult a backup file, please note down the reference number. [If there is no backup file, other sources may be available in the HER.]

Contacts and further information

All enquiries and comments about Southampton HER data on Heritage Gateway, or requests for up-to-date and complete datasets and advice, should be sent to the HER Officer at her@southampton.gov.uk. Please also contact the HER Officer if you wish to make an appointment to consult the HER paper library.

Archaeological site archives are kept by Southampton City Council's museums service. However in the first instance please contact the HER Officer for advice.

For further information about the HER, visit the webpage at www.southampton.gov.uk/her.

For detailed information about finds in Southampton's archaeological collections, contact museums@southampton.gov.uk. The online Archaeology Object Database is available at http://www.southampton.gov.uk/archaeology.

Other historical information about Southampton is available on PortCities Southampton http://www.plimsoll.org/. The web site includes many images. These can be found using the Search box at top right.

Two historic maps of Southampton are available online on the Southampton City Council web site – the 1846 and 1870 maps. Further information about these maps can be found here http://www.southampton.gov.uk/libraries-museums/local-family-history/historic-maps.aspx The interactive versions of these two maps are currently offline, but it is hoped that they will be available online again in the near future.