



Southampton Historic Environment Record: [her@southampton.gov.uk](mailto:her@southampton.gov.uk)

This document gives the sixteen Local Areas of Archaeological Potential (LAAP) as defined in the City of Southampton Core Strategy 2010. These replace Local Areas of Archaeological Importance (LAAI) defined in the Local Plan 2006. The descriptions given here are intended as a very general guide to the archaeological potential of each area and don't include all known archaeological sites and findspots. Please contact the Historic Environment Record Officer ([her@southampton.gov.uk](mailto:her@southampton.gov.uk)) for further details. A map showing the LAAPs is available on the MapSouthampton web site: <http://map.southampton.gov.uk>

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### LAAP 1 Redbridge

The area around Redbridge causeway has long been a crossing point. It is first mentioned in the early 8th century. A bridge was in existence by the end of the 10th century. There was a small medieval village alongside which seems to have been a deliberate plantation. In the post-medieval period a shipbuilding industry developed there.

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### LAAP 2 Nursling Plantation and Lower Brownhill Road

A series of streams originate in this area, making it a likely area for prehistoric settlement. Neolithic finds have been discovered here, and evidence of small prehistoric settlements of Bronze Age and Iron Age date, notably an Iron Age settlement at Baron's Mead. The area is adjacent to Adanac Park just outside the city boundary, where a Bronze Age settlement and Iron Age barrow/inhumation cemetery have been found, the latter of potential national importance. At Nursling Plantation, at the east end of the area, is the prehistoric earthwork known as Aldermoor Camp and surrounding land. Nearby is part of an 8th century boundary baulk.

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### LAAP 3 Old Shirley

The village of Shirley developed at the confluence of Holly Brook and Tanners Brook, probably by the end of the 10th century. The area was an important road junction, where routes across the peninsula met routes between Southampton and Romsey. The area of Old Shirley includes Shirley Mill and the millponds, and the site of Shirley Church.

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### LAAP 4 Millbrook

The medieval village of Millbrook was centred on St Nicholas' Church, rebuilt in 1824 and demolished in 1939. The village developed on the main road between Southampton and Redbridge. The area includes the church and cemetery.

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### LAAP 5 Chilworth Common (adjacent)

This area is adjacent to two prehistoric earthworks that lie just outside the city boundary - Chilworth Ring and Castle Hill. Many prehistoric stray finds have been made around here, including Neolithic and Mesolithic finds, and a settlement of some sort was probably in the area. Also of interest are boundary baulks set up in the 8th-11th centuries.

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### LAAP 6 Southampton Common

The main body of the Common is included here, with some small extensions to ensure that nearby features (boundary markers and roads) are also picked up. It is one of the largest relatively undisturbed areas left in the City, and prehistoric stray finds have been made here including a Bronze Age hoard of celts. Among the attractions of the area are a scheduled monument (Cutthorn Mound), roads that date back at least to the early 11th century (Hill Lane and Burgess Road), a medieval route (the Avenue) which may have Anglo-Saxon origins, several boundary stones and crosses, burials at the foot of one of these (Padwell Cross), the enclosure banks and ditches, evidence for the production of bricks in the 16th century and later, and a gallows site.

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### LAAP 7 Bannister's Park

Prehistoric occupation evidence has been found across much of the area. Roman occupation evidence has been found around the Magistrates Court development in London Road/Inner Avenue and in Archers Road. In the Middle Ages this was a suburban area used for agriculture. Of interest in this respect are the farm of Bannister's Park and the village of Hill. Also included are Conduit Head, Conduit House, the medieval route and clay mine of Rockstone Lane, the medieval marker at Blackberry Mount and the site of the unfinished 18th century Polygon. The rest of Hill Lane appears in this area, as well as parts of the Avenue and all of the Inner Avenue. The Rollesbrook flows through the area, draining southwards from the Common to the Test Estuary. Near the south end of Rollesbrook is the site of Archard's or Acorn Bridge, perhaps the bridge on the road between medieval Southampton and Redbridge.

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**LAAP 8 City Centre and Itchen Ferry**

This area includes the peninsula of land defined by the River Itchen and River Test, the adjacent estuarine areas and Itchen Ferry on the east bank of the Itchen.

In the area between the Test and Itchen, the main interest lies in the historic towns established from the 8th century onwards (and their complex developments up to the present day), the common fields immediately adjacent to these places, the medieval ribbon suburbs to the north and east, the sites of two medieval chapels (St Andrews and Holy Trinity), a large number of mills (variously driven by wind, horses, or water), public buildings around the stream of Houndwell, the Leper Hospital and its fields, and the different shorelines and quays. Also of interest are the places where there were later industries, an example of which is the 19th century cannon foundry in Chapel Road. Evidence of Prehistoric and Roman settlement has also been found in this area.

The ferry crossing on the River Itchen was in existence by the end of the Middle Ages, and probably existed much earlier. On the west bank, Cross House was built in the medieval period as a ferry passenger shelter. On the east bank the crossing point was the village of 'Itchyng' (now Itchen Ferry), which is medieval.

The area includes the Old Docks, built on reclaimed land from the mid-19th century onwards, and the New Docks, reclaimed and constructed in the early 20th century.

The drowned lower valleys of the River Itchen and River Test preserve river terrace and peat deposits - the remains of prehistoric landscapes. These deposits and the overlying estuarine muds may contain the remains of maritime vessels of all periods.

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**LAAP 9 Swaythling**

The area includes the western part of the Lower Itchen Conservation Area. The River Itchen and Monks Brook flow through the area. It also includes the valley of an unnamed stream, now largely culverted, that flows through the Burgess Road Recreation Ground (Daisy Dip) to Monks Brook. In this valley has been found the possible site of a prehistoric burnt mound.

Notable finds within the area are a ritual pit containing the heads of 200 horses and a hoard of Roman coins. A Roman road (perhaps two) run through the area, and evidence for such a road was found on a site in Wessex Lane. On the same site prehistoric, Roman, Saxon and medieval occupation evidence was found site. Nearby to the south, St Mary's Church, South Stoneham dates from the 12th century although may be on the site of a 10th or 11th century chapel.

Also within the area are Woodmill and its watercourses, and several fisheries. These are certainly all medieval in date, and may have existed as early as the 11th century.

In the late 17th century, the River Itchen here was adapted to form part of the Itchen Navigation canal.

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**LAAP 10 Portswood, Highfield and northern St Denys**

The area includes the valley of an unnamed stream which drains southeastwards from Common, to the north of Highfield Lane. There are several prehistoric findspots along this valley. There is an important Mesolithic site on the shore of the Itchen at Priory Avenue, St Denys. The area includes part of the Roman settlement at St Denys and a Roman road from Winchester may run through the area. The area includes Portswood village, St Denys' Priory, and artificial watercourses to the north of the priory, all of which are medieval features. The area includes part of the River Itchen. Deposits in the river preserve the remains of prehistoric landscapes and may contain the remains of maritime vessels of all periods.

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**LAAP 11 Bitterne Manor and southern St Denys**

This includes the Bitterne Manor peninsula on the east shore of the River Itchen, the south part of St Denys on the west shore, together with the adjacent river between.

At Bitterne Manor, there is evidence of prehistoric occupation, including a Bronze Age cremation burial.

Bitterne Manor was the site of a Roman town, with defences and quaysides. A possible Roman cremation cemetery has been found to the east of the defences. The Roman road from Chichester terminates here, and a possible route from Winchester. A Roman settlement has been found across the river at St Denys, including evidence of waterfront structures in the intertidal zone. This was perhaps at the end of another road from Winchester.

There is a Saxon inhumation cemetery at Bitterne Manor, and it was probably a Late Saxon fort. It was the site of a medieval bishop's palace.

The hulks of 19th and 20th century maritime craft can be seen in the intertidal mud of the Itchen Estuary. The remains of vessels from prehistoric, Roman and later times may be present.

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**LAAP 12 Northam**

This area includes the shores of the Northam peninsular and adjacent parts of the River Itchen. Prehistoric finds discovered in the area include a Bronze Age rapier. Roman finds have also been made. There may have been a river crossing here. The area is referred to in 842 AD as North Hamwic. The Hegestone was a medieval boundary stone. Burials were found near the stone in the 19th century. From the 17th century onwards, the waterfront was developed for shipbuilding and other industries. The River Itchen deposits preserve the remains of prehistoric landscapes and may contain the remains of maritime vessels of all periods.

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**LAAP 13 Northam Farm**

Northam may have been in existence by the 9th century, and there were farm buildings here by the 13th century. This area centres on the place most likely to provide evidence of Northam farm - the Old Farmhouse, which itself is probably late medieval in date.

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**LAAP 14 Weston Shore**

Evidence of prehistoric landscapes and occupation has been found in the intertidal zone off Weston Shore and eroding from the low cliff on the shoreline. Some of this evidence is of Mesolithic date. The inland area was formerly marsh and woodland. At the east end of the area are Westwood and Tickleford Gully. A hoard of Roman coins has been found in Westwood. The area includes part of Weston, first recorded in the 10th/11th century and a thriving fishing village by the late 16th century.

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**LAAP 15 Netley Common**

This area is part of a Bronze Age barrow cemetery that extends beyond the city boundary. There are three known barrow sites inside the city boundary. The Roman road between Bitterne Manor and Chichester crosses the area.

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**LAAP 16 The Rest of Southampton - Area of Potential Archaeological Importance**

Area 16 has not been formally marked on the map, but it encompasses the parts of the city not marked as areas 1 to 15. Anywhere within the city boundary is an area of potential archaeological importance, about which little is known at the moment. An example is any stretch of land between two designated areas. Other, more specific, examples are the many small sites that are too small to show on the accompanying maps: industrial works such as brick manufactories, isolated buildings such as farms and country houses, and the immediate surroundings of such places.