

**Specification for Archaeological Monitoring
on Land off Jekil's Bank,
Holbeach St Johns,
Lincolnshire.**

Prepared for Tawny Builders Ltd.

National Grid Reference: TF 3462 1819

Site Code: JHBO17

Accession No: LCNCC: 2017.82

Planning reference: H09-0540-16

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Consultant**

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S Non-technical summary

- S1 A scheme of works comprising archaeological monitoring and recording is required during the groundworks pertaining to the construction of a new residential development on land off Jekil's Bank, Holbeach St Johns, Lincolnshire.*
- S2 The development site lies within an area of known high archaeological potential, to the south the cropmarks of Roman settlement activity and salterns sites along with associated finds have been made. Further Roman settlement activity and finds have been made to the north-west. To the south are the earthworks of a medieval field system. The specific objectives of the project will be to record any archaeological features, deposits, structures and finds associated with this Roman and medieval settlement activity.*
- S3 The archaeological monitoring will be undertaken during the groundworks stage of development, which will comprise the mechanical excavation of foundations and services for the new residential development along with ground reduction associated with the new access. Any archaeological features, structures and/or deposits will be recorded in writing, graphically and photographically.*
- S4 On the completion of the monitoring, a report will be produced detailing the results of the archaeological investigation. The report will consist of a narrative supported by illustrations and photographs.*

1. Site location and description [Figures 1 and 2]

- 1.1 The development site is situated within the core of the modern settlement of Holbeach St. John and on land which is set back and to the south of the southern frontage of Jekil's Bank, at National Grid Reference TF 3462 1819, and at a height of approximately 2mAOD. The settlement of Holbeach St Johns is situated within the modern civil parish of Holbeach, administrative district of South Holland, county of Lincolnshire.
- 1.2 The settlement of Holbeach is located within the flat and low-lying Lincolnshire Fens. The development site is situated on deep stoneless clayey soils, which have developed on deposits of marine alluvium. These deposits in turn overlie Oxford Clays and Kellaway Beds of the Upper Jurassic.

2. Planning background [Figure 3]

- 2.1 This document comprises a Specification or a written scheme of works for archaeological monitoring and recording which is to be maintained during the groundworks pertaining to the construction of a new residential development on land off Jekil's Bank, Holbeach St Johns, Lincolnshire (Planning reference: H09-0540-16).

3. Historical and Archaeological Background

- 3.1 Background research sources were consulted at the Lincolnshire Archives, the Lincoln Local Studies Library and the Lincolnshire County Council Historic Environment Record (HER). A search of the Lincolnshire HER was conducted within a 0.5km radius of the development site.
- 3.2 Roman pottery scatters of mid 2nd-3rd century AD date have been found over raised areas of dark soil to the north-east of this development site (HER 22199). The site is within an area of known cropmark activity. At this location is the site of a possible Roman settlement (HER 22200). This is an area of extensive Romano-British cropmark activity including possible settlement features, field system, drove roads and possible hut circles.

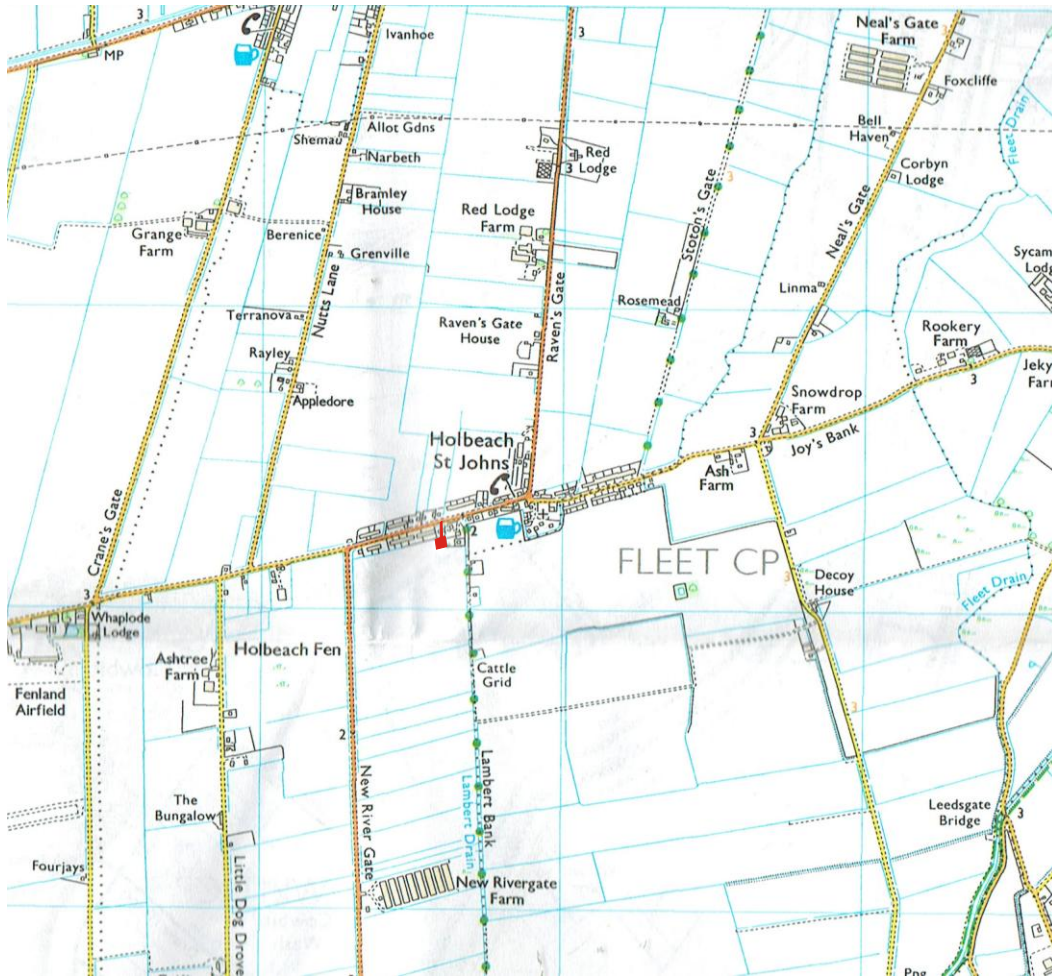


Figure 1: Site location at scale 1:12,500. The site is shown in red. (O.S. copyright licence number 100048723)

- 3.3 The cropmarks of small rectangular ditched enclosures observed on aerial photographs to the south of this development site were investigated in 1952 (HER 22205). A scatter of backed clay powder and vessel fragments including a group of six late 1st-4th century AD domestic sites were observed here. These finds suggest Roman settlement and salt working sites at this location. Nearby to this are further Romano-British cropmarks (HER 22247). These cropmarks indicate a compact settlement with a field system and drove roads with industrial sites.
- 3.4 The cropmarks of Romano-British fields and enclosures are situated to the south-east of Holbeach St Johns (HER 222540). These include rectilinear enclosures situated to the west of Lambert Bank.
- 3.5 The cropmarks of undated linear features including former watercourses are situated in a field to the south-east of this development site (HER 20452). These have been plotted from aerial photographic sources. Earthworks in the field at this location are of medieval date and probably represent the remains of a dyling field system (HER 22248).

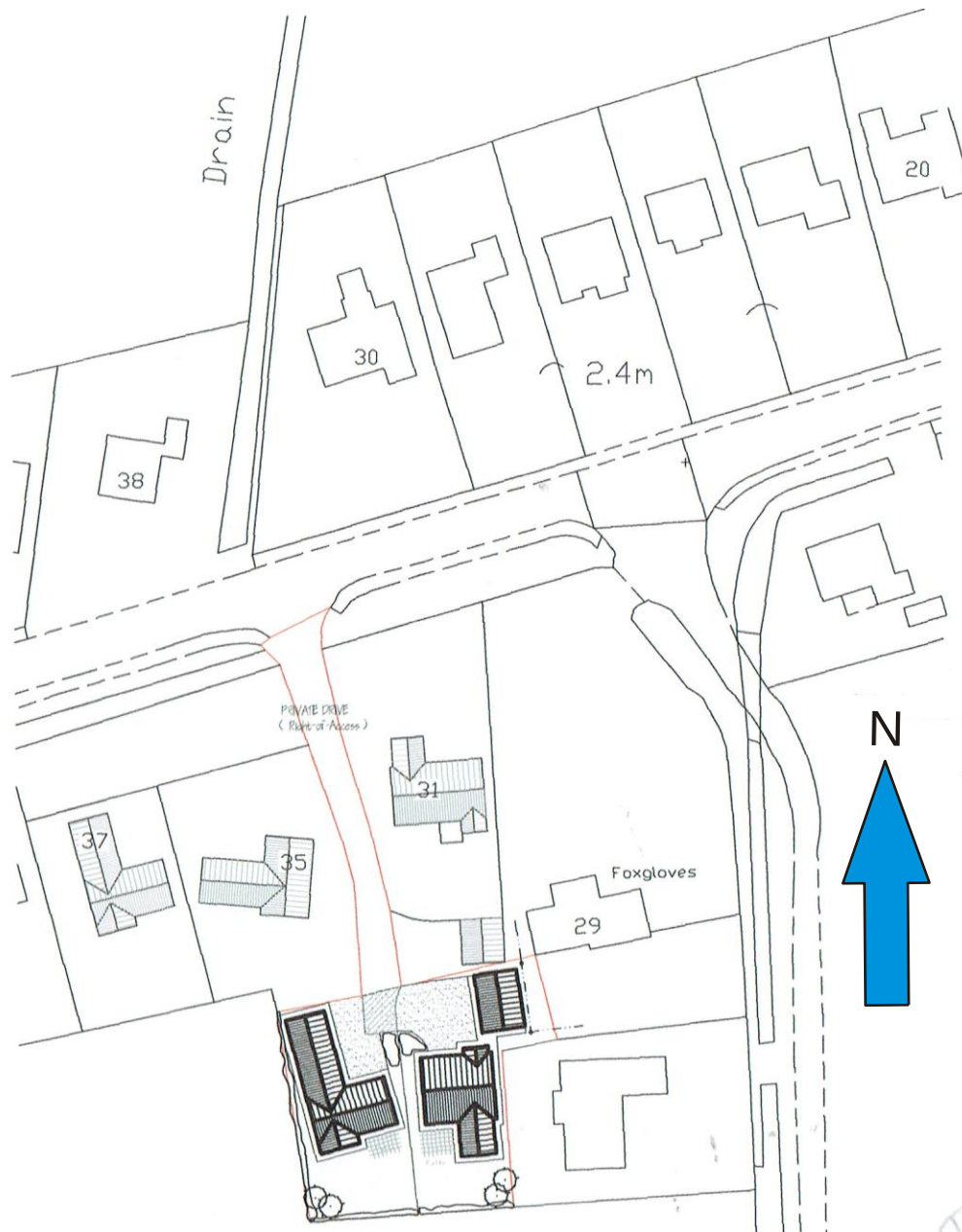


Figure 2: Site location at an original scale 1:500, (not to scale), (extract from Architects plan)

- 3.6 The post-medieval settlement of Holbeach St Johns (HER 20241) has a Victorian church which is dedicated to St John the Baptist. The church was constructed between 1839-1840 and comprises a nave with a short chancel, a shallow porch and a bellcote.
- 3.7 Foxgloves is a 19th century farmstead which is situated to the immediate east of this development site (HER 26655). This was arranged around a regular courtyard with multiple regular yards. The farmhouse was attached to a range of working buildings. The farmhouse is now the only surviving structure of this farmstead.

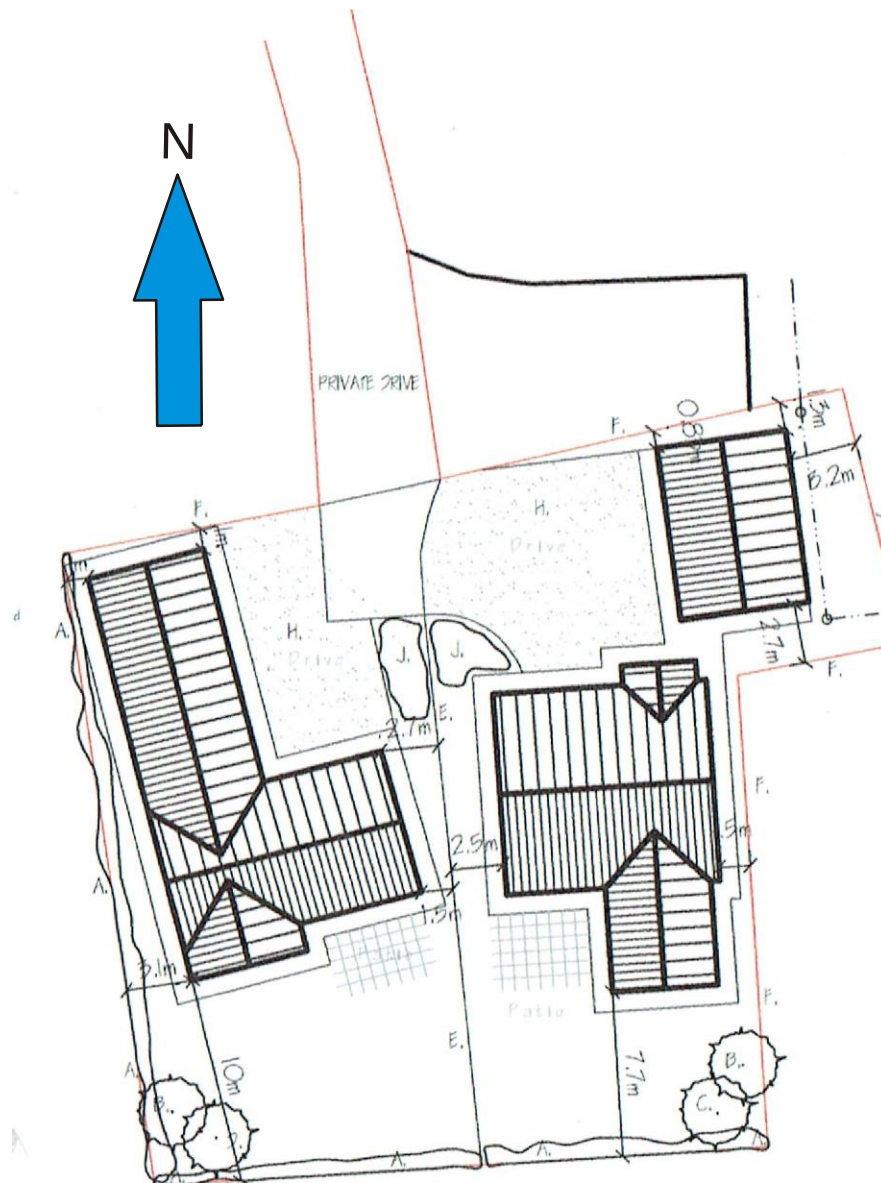


Figure 3: Block plan showing the proposed layout of the development at an original scale of 1:250, (not to scale), (extract from Architects plan)

- 3.8 The site of Chestnut Farm to the north of Holbeach St Johns, is a demolished 19th century farmstead (HER 26656). This was arranged around a regular courtyard with an 'L' plan range with detached buildings to the third side of this yard. The farmhouse was attached to a range of working buildings. The farmstead was in an isolated location.
- 3.9 Lambert Farm, a 19th century farmstead is situated to the south of this development site (HER 26738). This was arranged around a regular courtyard in a 'Z' plan. The farmhouse was attached to a range of working buildings. The farmhouse is the only surviving structure. The farmstead was in an isolated location.
- 3.10 Copies of published Ordnance Survey maps were obtained from the Lincolnshire Archives and from the local studies collections at the Lincoln Central Library. The extract

from the First Edition 25 inch to one mile scale O.S. map of 1888 shows the development site as lying within the curtilage of Lamberts Farm with the farmhouse to the immediate east. A north-south orientated linear outbuilding associated with this farmstead is situated within the area of the development site itself. The site in turn lies within the north-eastern corner of a large enclosure. A pond is shown to the north within an adjacent enclosure to the immediate west of the current site access.

- 3.11 The same layout to the area of the development site and of its environs are featured on the subsequent Second Edition 25 inch to one mile scale O.S. map of 1904 and on the Provisional Edition six inch to one mile scale O.S. map of 1950.
- 3.12 The 1:10,560 scale O.S. map of 1956 shows a second east-west orientated farm outbuilding tacked onto the northern end of the first. This probably lay across the line of the current access to the site.
- 3.13 The 1:2,500 scale O.S. map of 1975 shows that the two aforementioned outbuildings have gone by this time and the current access to the site is in place. The farmhouse to the immediate east remains and is designated here as Lambert House. The same layout to the area of the development site and of its environs are featured on the subsequent 1:10,000 scale O.S. map of 1979.

4. Aims and objectives of the project

- 4.1 The aims of the project are the continual archaeological monitoring of all site groundworks during the construction stage of development, which will comprise the mechanical excavation of foundations and services for the new residential dwellings along with ground reduction associated with the new access.
- 4.2 The objectives of the project are:
 - To establish the presence/absence of archaeological remains within the area of the development site.
 - To determine the extent, condition, nature, character, quality and date of any archaeological remains encountered.
 - To allow the preservation by record of archaeological deposits.
- 4.3 The development site lies within an area of known high archaeological potential, to the south the cropmarks of Roman settlement activity and salterns sites along with associated finds have been made. Further Roman settlement activity and finds have been made to the north-west. To the south are the earthworks of a medieval field system. The specific objectives of the project will be to record any archaeological features, deposits, structures and finds associated with this Roman and medieval settlement activity.

5. Methodology

- 5.1 The archaeological monitoring will be undertaken during the groundworks phase of development, and will include the **continual monitoring** of any topsoil stripping, of the excavations of foundations and service trenches, and of any other ground disturbances. The mechanical excavation will undertaken using a toothless bucket.
- 5.2 All work will be carried out according to the Chartered Institute of Field Archaeologists (CHIfA) standards.

- 5.3 All work will be undertaken following all statutory Health and Safety requirements and legislation in operation at the time of the monitoring.
- 5.4 A Risk Assessment will be prepared for the site.
- 5.5 Stripped areas and trench sections will be continually observed to identify any archaeological features and/or deposits which may be exposed.
- 5.6 Section drawings at a scale of 1:10 will be made of any archaeological features identified in the course of the groundworks, including representative sections of trenches at appropriate intervals. These will be related to a site plan drawing at a scale of 1:50, which may also record archaeological features and/or deposits identified. Any significant archaeological features in plan will also be recorded at a scale of 1:20.
- 5.7 Written descriptions detailing the nature of archaeological features and/or deposits encountered will be compiled on pro-forma context record sheets.
- 5.8 Any finds recovered will be bagged and labelled for further analysis. All relevant finds will be ordered into an archive. Most modern material will not be retained, although notes will be made of the appropriate context. An appropriate sample of materials such as ceramic building materials will be made.
- 5.9 Any and all artefacts found during the monitoring and thought to come under the provisions of the *Treasure Act* (1996), will be removed from the site to a secure location, and will be promptly reported to the appropriate coroner's office.
- 5.10 Throughout the monitoring a digital photographic record will be compiled, and will comprise an overview of the site prior to work starting, and during as well as after completion of the work, and will include any excavated features, sections and other relevant details that aid interpretation.
- 5.11 Should human remains be encountered, they will be left *in situ*, and only excavated if absolutely necessary. Proper respect will be accorded to these remains, which will be cleaned to allow positive identification. Should removal be required, the appropriate Ministry of Justice Licence will be obtained prior to the removal of the remains. In addition, any remains will be reported to the local Environmental Health Department, coroner and the police will be informed, where appropriate.
- 5.12 The fieldwork will be undertaken by Neville Hall. Additional personnel may be appointed if required.

6. Post-fieldwork methodology

- 6.1 On the completion of the fieldwork, all of the written, drawn and photographic records produced by the archaeological monitoring will be checked, ordered, labelled (where appropriate) and catalogued to compile a distinctive site archive.
- 6.2 All finds recovered during the fieldwork will be washed, marked and packaged according to the deposit from which there were recovered. They will also be ordered into (and form part of) the site archive.
- 6.3 An assessment of significant finds will be made in light of general site information.
- 6.4 Any finds requiring specialist treatment and/or conservation will be sent to the Conservation Laboratory at The Collection, Lincoln, and in consultation with the relevant curator.

- 6.5 The site archive will be examined to enable the determination of various phases of activity on the site (if appropriate).
- 6.6 Relevant finds will be sent to specialists for identification and dating.

7. Monitoring arrangements

- 7.1 Provision will be made for the Lincolnshire County Council Historic Environment Team on behalf of South Holland District Council, the Local Planning Authority) to monitor the works during the fieldwork stage and any other aspect of the archaeological project as required including the post fieldwork analysis and report preparation stages of the project.
- 7.2 A minimum notification period of not less than fourteen days of the start date of works on the site will be given to the Lincolnshire County Council Historic Environment Team.
- 7.3 All aspects of the archaeological programme will be undertaken in accordance with this project specification.
- 7.4 Any variation to the project programme in terms of works or recording on or off site will be fully discussed and agreed with the Lincolnshire County Council Historic Environment Team.
- 7.5 Arrangements will be made for the Lincolnshire County Council Historic Environment Team for access to the site to undertake monitoring visits, and such visits will be accounted for in the final report preparation.
- 7.6 The Lincolnshire County Council Historic Environment Team shall be kept fully informed of any unexpected or unforeseen discoveries made during the course of the archaeological monitoring and recording programme.

8. Archive preparation and deposition

- 8.1 The documentation and records generated by the archaeological monitoring will be sorted and ordered in the format acceptable to The Collection, Lincoln, and to the standards and requirements as laid out in their Guide Book.
- 8.2 A unique accession number will be obtained from The Collection for the site archive.
- 8.3 The archive will be deposited at The Collection, Lincoln by December 2017.

9. Reporting procedures

- 9.1 A report detailing the findings of the archaeological monitoring will be completed within two months after the finalisation of the fieldwork. Any delays will be related to the relevant authorities.
- 9.2 The report will consist of:

A title page, with project name and location, national grid reference, planning reference, site code, accession number, client name, author and date;

A contents page listing report sections, illustrations and appendices;

A non-technical summary of the results of the monitoring;

An introduction, site description and location;

Planning background to the project;

A section on the archaeological and historical background to the project;

A description of the methodology used in the project;

A section describing the results of the monitoring;

A section on the discussion and results of the project including a consideration of the findings of the project in a local and regional context;

A consideration of the effectiveness of the project methodology and a confidence rating of the results;

Illustrations including plans showing monitored areas, all archaeological features and sections thereof (including trench sections); and

Appendices comprising appropriate photographs of the site and of specific and significant archaeological features and representative sections, a list of contexts, any specialist reports on finds from the site, a list of the site archive, a photographic register and a copy of this document.

An electronic copy of the report will be deposited with the OASIS project (On-line Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations) <http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/oasis/index.cfm>.

10. Publication and dissemination

- 10.1 Copies of the final report will be deposited with the clients, the local curator (on behalf of the local planning authority), South Holland District Council and with the Lincolnshire Heritage Environment Record (including a digital copy in a .pdf format).
- 10.2 A note will be placed in 'Lincolnshire History and Archaeology' describing the results.
- 10.3 The deposition of the site archive will be in accordance with guidelines outlined in the Lincolnshire Archaeological Handbook (LCC, 2017).
- 10.4 Should the results of the archaeological investigation merit it, a note will also be placed in appropriate national journals e.g. *Medieval Archaeology*.

11. Other factors (including contingency)

- 11.1 In the event of the discovery of any unexpected remains of archaeological importance, or of any changed circumstances, it is the responsibility of the archaeological contractor to inform the Lincolnshire County Council Historic Environment Team.
- 11.2 Where important archaeological remains are discovered and deemed to merit further investigation, additional financial resources may be required to provide an appropriate level of investigation, recording and analysis.
- 11.3 Any additional financial contingency requirement for additional fieldwork or post-excavation analysis outside the scope of the proposed scheme of works will only be activated following full consultation with the Lincolnshire County Council Historic Environment Team and the client.

12. Variations to the proposed scheme

- 12.1 Variations to the proposed scheme will only be made following written confirmation with the archaeological curator.

13. Resources

- 13.1 The monitoring will be undertaken by Neville Hall using standard archaeological field techniques.

- 13.2 Post-excavation analysis will be undertaken by Neville Hall and where available specialist analysis from:-

Jane Young	Medieval and Post-medieval Ceramics
Ian Rowlandson	Iron Age and Roman Ceramics
Val Fryer	Environmental
Carol Allen	Neolithic and Bronze Age
Malin Holst	Osteoarchaeology
Jane Cowgill	Metallurgy

- 13.3 Small finds requiring conservation will be conserved by the City and County Museum Laboratory.

- 13.4 Recognised specialists will be sought in the event that other data are retrieved in the course of the monitoring.

14. Insurance statement

- 14.1 Public indemnity of £2,000,000 and private indemnity insurance of £250,000 with Towergate Insurance.

15. Copyright

- 15.1 Copyright will remain that of the author. Licence will be given to the client to present any reports, copyright of the author, to the planning authority in good faith of satisfactory settlement of account.

16. Ownership

- 16.1 It will be asked of the client, at the outset, that the ownership of any portable objects discovered in the course of the monitoring be donated along with the archive.