

WITHAM ARCHAEOLOGY

WRITTEN SCHEME OF INVESTIGATION FOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING AND RECORDING AT

8 HIGH STREET, HOLBEACH, LINCOLNSHIRE

Planning Ref.: H09-1150-20

NGR: TF 35948 24780

Site Code: **HOHS22**

The Collection Accession Code: **LCNCC: 2022.155**

SUMMARY

This document details methodologies to be employed during a scheme of Archaeological Monitoring and Recording to be undertaken in conjunction with groundworks and landscaping associated with the construction of a pair of semi-detached houses on land to the rear of 8 High Street, Holbeach Lincolnshire, PE12 7DU. The project has been commissioned by G R Merchant Ltd on behalf of Roffe's Transport Ltd to comply with a condition of planning permission.

The site, which is located in the historic core of medieval and post medieval settlement in Holbeach, immediately east of the medieval parish church of All Saints, fronts onto the east side of Church Walk and lies to the rear of properties on the south side of the High Street. Any prehistoric and Roman deposits in the area are likely to have been buried beneath thick deposits of marine clay and silt.

A single trial trench excavated in advance of development revealed marine silts at the base of the trench, overlain by remains of post medieval activity presumed to have been related to use of buildings depicted on early OS maps. The trench revealed a high level of disturbance by modern services associated with the existing buildings on High Street.

Since completion of the evaluation, the archaeological adviser to South Holland District Council has recommended the implementation of a programme of archaeological monitoring and recording to be maintained during groundworks.

The project will culminate in the production of a report describing and interpreting the findings. After this, the complete project archive will be deposited with The Collection, Danes Terrace, Lincoln.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1. This document has been prepared by Witham Archaeology Ltd for G. R. Merchant Ltd on behalf of Roffe's Transport Ltd. It sets out details of a programme of

Archaeological Monitoring and Recording to be carried out during groundworks relating to the erection of a pair of semi-detached houses on land to the rear of 8 High Street, Holbeach, Lincolnshire, PE12 7DU.

1.2. The specification is designed to comply with the usual requirements of the local planning authority and with guidelines set out in the Lincolnshire Archaeological Handbook. Prior to the commencement of development groundworks it should be submitted for approval by the archaeological adviser to South Holland District Council.

2. SITE LOCATION AND DESCRIPTION

2.1. The town of Holbeach is located approximately 10km east of Spalding in the administrative district of South Holland District Council, in the county of Lincolnshire.

2.2. The site is located to the rear of the former Barclays Bank at 8 High Street, fronting onto Church Walk to the west, bounded by residential property at 3 Church Walk to the south and by commercial property to the east. The site is centred at NGR TF 35948 24780.

2.3. The geology of the area is West Walton Formation mudstone and siltstone, a sedimentary bedrock formed in the Jurassic Period, overlain by drift geology of Quaternary Period clay and silt (<https://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain>).

3. PROJECT BACKGROUND

3.1. Planning permission for the construction of a pair of semi-detached house (H09-1150-20) was granted by South Holland District Council (SHDC), subject to conditions including a requirement for a programme of archaeological work.

3.2. An initial phase of investigation in the form of trial trench evaluation was undertaken in advance of the development.

3.3. On the basis of the results of trial trenching, the archaeological adviser to SHDC District Council has recommended that groundworks undertaken as part of the development should be subject to a programme of archaeological monitoring and recording.

3.4. The parameters of the archaeological work are to be set out in a written scheme of investigation (the current document) to be submitted to the local planning authority as part of the application for planning permission, and approved in writing by the local planning authority prior to any works on the site.

4. ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

4.1. An archaeological desk-based assessment relating to the current proposal for development was completed in February 2021 (Hall 2021). The assessment noted a high potential for medieval and post medieval remains and a low potential for remains of earlier periods. The study noted the proximity of All Saints church (see below) and the possibility that Church Walk had cut across an area formerly included in the churchyard. It was therefore concluded that medieval inhumations could occur in the area covered by the current proposal.

4.2. Holbeach lies in an area of marine alluvium. Any prehistoric remains are therefore likely to have been buried beneath thick deposits of silt and clay. Roman remains in the wider area around Holbeach have been found beneath alluvium.

4.3. The Lincolnshire HER (LHER) includes the current site as part of the zone of medieval settlement at Holbeach (LHER 20227). The Domesday Book of 1086 records manors held by the king, St Guthlac, Guy of Craon and Count Alan. The placename is Old English and probably references the settlement's topography, with 'hol' denoting a hollow and 'baec' for back (Holbeach being on a raised area).

4.4. The medieval All Saints church (LHER 22838), a Grade I listed building is located directly opposite the application area, west of Church Walk. A church was in existence in 1177 but the existing building was largely built in the 1340s by the Bishop of Lincoln. A gold coin of Richard III is reported to have been found in the churchyard in 1833 (LHER 22221).

4.5. All Saints Hospital (LHER 22232), founded in 1351 and in existence until around 1545, is believed to have been located near the church, probably on the north side of the High Street on the site now occupied by the Chequers Inn, according to the antiquarian William Stukeley.

4.6. Holbeach prospered in the post medieval period (LHER 20557).

4.7. A trial evaluation on land to the east of the site and west of Albert Street (LHER 23819) located Victorian walls and evidence of post medieval truncation/deposition. Marine silts were located at around 0.55m below existing ground level in less disturbed parts of the site.

4.8. A trial trench evaluation north of the current site, on the north side of High Street at numbers 27 - 29, revealed an 18th century pit under the floor of a brick lined cellar (LHER 23663). A watching brief on the same site revealed further evidence of post medieval brick structures and an undated surface (LHER 23664).

4.9. The 1888 and 1904 1:2500 County maps show the current site occupied by a north to south structure (or structures) lining the east side of Church Walk. The building (or buildings) was still standing in 1931 but had been cleared by 1969.

5. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

5.1. The purpose of the programme of monitoring and recording is designed to:

- Ensure an appropriate level of archaeological supervision and recording during construction and landscaping.
- Allow the preservation by record of any surviving archaeological deposits and artefacts exposed by the development groundwork within the constraints imposed by the contractor's working methods, programme and development design.
- Produce a project archive for deposition with The Collection museum.
- Provide information for accession to the Lincolnshire County Historic Environment Record.

6. METHODOLOGY

6.1. Witham Archaeology will monitor all excavations where there is a potential for disturbance to archaeologically significant deposits.

6.2. An archaeological record will be made of any remains revealed by the excavations. This will comprise written context descriptions, scale plans and sections as necessary, together with a photographic record in RAW format. The latter will include general views detailing site circumstances as well as specific views of individual archaeological deposits and/or features. Representative section drawings will be produced to show the general stratigraphic sequence.

6.3. Our quotation assumes that archaeological recording will take place within the parameters of the contractor's original ground-works programme. If the supervision and recording results in the discovery of extensive and/or significant remains, which cannot be dealt with adequately within the resources available, Witham Archaeology will notify the client and the relevant archaeological curator so that an appropriate course of action might be agreed (see also item 5.0 above).

6.4. A toothless ditching bucket will be used during all excavations where there is a potential for areas of archaeological interest.

6.5. Pauses to the work may be necessary for the adequate recording of archaeological remains revealed during the excavations.

6.6. Within the terms of the above, any interruptions to the main contractor's programme of ground-works will be kept to the minimum consistent with achieving the project aims and objectives, and will only be carried out after consultation with the main contractor and in strict accordance with the current Witham Archaeology Health and Safety Policy and any specific requirements dictated by site conditions.

6.7. Witham Archaeology will report to the principal contractor and will conform to any requirements for notification of entering and leaving the site.

6.8. The archaeological record will comprise:

- Notes detailing site circumstances at the time of each visit
- Individual descriptions for archaeological contexts, made on pro forma recording sheets.
- Section drawings showing specific archaeological contexts as well as general stratigraphic sequences, produced at scales of 1:10 or 1:20 as appropriate.
- Plans of archaeological contexts (individually and/or multiply) at scale 1:20 or 1:50 as appropriate.
- Digital photographs in RAW format, showing individual archaeological features and overall site circumstances.

6.9. The structure and media of the site record will be in accordance with the archive guidelines issued by The Collection, Lincoln.

6.10. Any human remains encountered during groundworks will be left in situ, covered and protected. The landowner and/or developer, Historic England the Planning Archaeologist and the local coroner will be informed immediately of the discovery. The remains will only be removed in accordance with a Ministry of Justice licence and in compliance with relevant environmental health regulations. Please note that our quotation does not provide for the processing or analysis of skeletal remains.

6.11. In accordance with the Treasure Act 1996 and Code of Practice finds of gold and silver will be archaeologically removed to a safe place and reported to the Coroner and Portable Antiquities Scheme Officer immediately. Where it is not possible to remove finds on the same day as discovery, appropriate security arrangements will be put in place.

6.12. All fieldwork will be carried out in accordance with Lincolnshire County Council's Archaeological Handbook.

7. POST FIELDWORK METHODOLOGY

7.1. Post-fieldwork tasks will be as follows:

- Checking and ordering of the site record to ensure a consistent archive
- Production of a stratigraphic matrix
- Cataloguing of photographic and other records
- Processing and dating of finds (together with any necessary x-ray and conservation treatment to stabilize fragile items)
- Compilation of a client report
- Accession of information to the County Historic Environment Record
- Preparation of the complete project archive for museum deposition

7.2. All such work shall be carried out in accordance with the standards of the United Kingdom Institute for Conservation (UKIC 2002), with standards and guidance published by the Society for Museum Archaeology (Boyle and Rawden 2020).

7.3. Conservation work on finds will be carried out by the conservation team of the Norfolk Museums Service.

8. REPORTING PROCEDURES

8.1. A client report will be produced in A4 format. The report will conform to the requirements of the Lincolnshire Archaeological Handbook and the provisions of 'Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment' (English Heritage 2015).

8.2. The report will contain:

- A non-technical summary
- A summary account of archaeological and historical background

- A description of the data gathering process
- An account of the findings of archaeological fieldwork together with an interpretation of any remains
- Site location plans
- A plan(s) of the site showing locations examined
- Section drawings showing the general stratigraphic sequence as well as particular features/contexts, together with plans as necessary
- A selection of photographs depicting the main phases of fieldwork and any significant archaeological features or finds

8.3. Subject to the availability of specialists, the report will be made available within 3 months from completion of fieldwork for distribution as follows:

Recipient	Copies
Client requested	digital copy + hard copy if requested
Local Authority Archaeological Officer	digital copy
County Historic Environment Record	digital copy
The Collection, Lincoln (as part of archive)	2 hard copies + digital copy

9. ARCHIVE PREPARATION AND DEPOSITION

9.1. In English law all material collected from a site through archaeological fieldwork (except Treasure Trove) is the property of the landowner. Upon completion of the project, Witham Archaeology will seek to secure Transfer of Title of the project archive including finds to The Collection, Danes Terrace, Lincoln. Accession number LCNCC: 2022.155 has been allocated for deposition of the archive by The Collection. The site code is HOHS22. The archive will be deposited in April 2023 subject to the completion of groundworks in accordance with the contractor's existing programme.

9.2. The archive will be prepared for long term storage in accordance with requirements set out in the Lincolnshire Archaeology Handbook.

10. PUBLICATION AND DISSEMINATION

10.1. A summary of the results will be published in an appropriate local journal. The scope of such publication will be dependent upon the results of the investigations.

10.2. An OASIS online form will be initiated at the ADS internet site (ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/oasis), in advance of the commencement of fieldwork. A digital copy of the report (pdf format) will be uploaded to OASIS on completion of the project (subject to any provisions regarding confidentiality).

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11. MONITORING ARRANGEMENTS

11.1. This specification will form the basis for monitoring by the archaeological adviser to South Holland District Council.

11.2. Witham Archaeology undertakes to provide timely notice of the commencement of groundworks, so that appropriate monitoring arrangements can be made.

12. RESOURCES & PROGRAMMING

12.1. Witham Archaeology will supply all necessary recording materials and tools, as well as arranging transport to and from site.

12.2. Witham Archaeology undertakes to comply with all statutory Health and Safety requirements pertaining to the work and the conditions under which it is being carried out. Witham Archaeology will also adhere to the particular instructions of the client and/or the main contractor or site manager). A copy of the Witham Archaeology Health and Safety Policy can be provided upon request.

12.3. The client, developer or main contractor will provide:

- Details of the groundwork programme
- A plan(s) showing the scope of the groundwork, i.e., foundations, buried services, landscaping, etc.
- Any information regarding possible contamination on the site
- All necessary measures to allow safe access to trenches where this might be required by the archaeologist.
- The free use of shelter and other general facilities as might be available on the site.

12.4. The actual timing and duration of archaeological attendance will be determined by the contractor's groundwork programme and by the quantity and significance of any archaeological remains which might be encountered.

12.5. Fieldwork will be carried out by an experienced field archaeologist. The same archaeologist will undertake the majority of post-fieldwork tasks: ordering of the site archive, finds management/liaison with specialists, stratigraphic analysis, and report production.

12.6. All work, relating to artefactual/palaeoenvironmental material from the site will be carried out by suitably qualified and experienced specialists and will be strictly limited in scope to meet the primary objectives set out in this document. The principal specialists likely to be employed on this project are:

Finds Category

Animal Bone

Prehistoric pottery

Specialist

Environmental Archaeology
Consultancy

Sarah Percival

Environmental Analysis	Environmental Archaeology Consultancy
Human skeletal remains	Sue Anderson
Lithics	Tom Lane
Post Roman Pottery and Ceramic Building Materials	Anne Irving
Registered/Other Finds	Gary Taylor
Roman Pottery	Alex Beeby

12.7. Resources allocated to the project will be as follows:

Fieldwork - 1 archaeologist to attend upon all excavations

Post-fieldwork management, analysis & report – to be completed within four weeks of the completion of fieldwork – approximately 1 day for each day of fieldwork

12.8. Provision has been made for the processing and analysis of a moderate assemblage of medieval material (post, building materials and other finds) and post-medieval material as well as occasional finds from other periods.

13. INSURANCE STATEMENT

13.1. Witham Archaeology maintains Public Liability with indemnity to the value of £5,000,000 and Employers Liability insurance with indemnity to the value of £10,000,000.

13.2. Witham Archaeology also maintains Professional Indemnity Insurance to the value of £2,000,000.

14. STANDARDS

14.1. All work shall be undertaken to professional standards and in accordance with best current practice, the Code of Conduct of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (2014) and the relevant CIfA Standards and Guidance for archaeological investigation.

14.2. The project will be carried out in compliance with all relevant guidance contained in the document *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment. The MoRPHE Project Managers Guide, Version 1.2* (English Heritage 2015).

Witham Archaeology

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