WITHAM ARCHAEOLOGY

WRITTEN SCHEME OF INVESTIGATION FOR AN

HISTORIC BUILDING RECORDING ON

MILLFIELD NURSERY, SPALDING COMMON, SPALDING, LINCOLNSHIRE

PLANNING APPLICATION NO.: H16-0668-16

MUSEUM ACCESSION CODE: LCNCC:2021.39

SITE CODE: SCSP21

SUMMARY

This specification details a programme of Historic Building Recording to be carried out prior to the demolition of an early 19th century mill as part of the redevelopment of the existing Millfield Nursery site on land off Spalding Common, Spalding, for residential development of up to 135 dwellings.

Undated cropmarks of possible enclosures and field boundaries were identified in the immediate vicinity, some possibly extend into the site. From the end of the Roman period until it was drained in the late 17th century the site was located within an area of freshwater fen, known as Deeping Fen.

Planning permission has been granted by South Holland District Council for the demolition of the building. As the proposed demolition will lead to the loss of information on the history of the building, the South Holland Planning Archaeologist has recommended that a programme of Historic Building Recording is carried out on in advance of any alterations to the structures. The recording is required as a condition of planning permission granted by South Holland District Council.

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

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1. This specification has been prepared by Witham Archaeology for Seagate Homes. It sets out details of a programme of historic building recording to be carried out prior to the demolition of an early 19th century mill on land at Millfield Nursery, Spalding Common, Spalding, Lincolnshire. The demolition will precede redevelopment of the existing nursery for a residential development of 135 dwellings.

1.2. The specification is designed to comply with the usual requirements of the local planning authority and with the guidelines set out in the *Lincolnshire Archaeology Handbook* (Lincolnshire County Council 2017). All recording

work will also be undertaken in accordance with the document *Standard and Guidance for the Archaeological Investigation and Recording of Standing Buildings or Structures* (Chartered Institute for Archaeologists 2014). Prior to the commencement of any work on the site it should be submitted for approval by the South Holland District Council Planning Archaeologist.

2. SITE LOCATION AND DESCRIPTION

2.1. The town of Spalding in the parish of the same name is located in the administrative district of South Holland, approximately 25km north north-east of Peterborough and 30km south-east of Sleaford.

2.2. The site at NGR TF 2344 2004 at the southern edge of Spalding, approximately 2.5km from the centre of town. The site, in use as a nursery, is sub-rectangular in plan, covering an area of approximately 4.62ha, and is located between Spalding Common and Cradge Bank.

3. PROJECT BACKGROUND

3.1. The proposed scheme of development provides for the construction of 135 new dwellings.

3.2. Planning permission for the development (SHDC Planning Ref. H-16-0668-16) has been granted by South Holland District Council subject to the approval of a Written Scheme of Archaeological Investigation (Condition 21) and the completion of any archaeological works detailed in the scheme. In accordance with advice from the archaeological adviser to SKDC, initial investigations will be two-fold, involving historic building recording of the early 19th century remains of the windmill prior to its demolition, and a trial trench evaluation, designed to assess the potential for significant archaeological remains and, if necessary, to inform a strategy for mitigation of impact. This WSI will only address the historic building recording.

3.3. The Planning Archaeologist for South Holland District Council has advised that a programme of Level II building recording, as defined in the document, *Understanding Historic Buildings, a Guide to Good Recording Practice* (Historic England 2016), should be undertaken as a condition of planning and in advance of the start of works for the development.

4. ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

4.1. A Heritage Impact Assessment of the site, carried out in 2016, indicates that the site is located in the vicinity of undated cropmarks, located to the west and south. These cropmarks, considered typical of the Late Iron Age and Roman periods, appear to represent enclosures, trackways and field boundaries, possibly extending into the proposed area of development (Cope-Faulkner 2016).

4.2. The earliest mention of Spalding dates to the 7th century. The place-name derives from the Old English and means ‘the people of Spalde’ (Key to English

Place-Names website), a tribe mentioned in the *Tribal Hideage*, a document dating from the 7th to the 9th centuries that lists thirty-five tribes present to the south of the River Humber. Despite this there are no Saxon remains in the vicinity of the site, probably due to the development of freshwater fen that later became Deeping Fen (op cit.).

4.3. The 1086 Domesday Book mentions 91 households at Spalding, divided between three holdings held by Guy of Craon, Ivo Tallboys and by the abbey of Crownland. The Domesday Book also mentions six fisheries and two salthouses (Open Domesday website).

4.4. During the medieval period the site was probably within developing freshwater fen, and would therefore be a significant location of resources such as wildfowl and thatch. This might explain its development as common land as indicated in the placename.

4.5. The area around the site was drained in the late 17th century. A mid-18th century map based on a 1670 map show the site clear of development and adjacent to a thoroughfare. The neighbouring fields are possibly shown as pasture fields.

4.6. The historic building recording will be carried out on the earliest surviving structure on site, the Common Mill, built originally around 1816, to a height of five stories.

4.7. Cartographic evidence shows the site for the most part clear of development until the mid-20th century when the Millfield Nursery came about. By the 1980s most of the site was occupied by greenhouses.

5. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

5.1. The purpose of the project is to:

- Produce a photographic archive record of the building prior to its demolition.
- Produce a project archive for deposition with the appropriate museum together with a client report.
- Provide information for accession to the county Historic Environment Record.

6. DATA GATHERING

6.1. A set of plans has been provided by the client. Copies of the plans will be annotated to show the positions and orientations of photographs taken as part of the survey.

6.2. A full photographic record will be made internally and externally, including roof structures and any original and historic features. The primary record will be compiled with SLR digital camera of more 20-megapixel resolution. The digital photographs will be converted to TIFF format for archive storage. The photographic record will comprise:

- General views showing the building and its setting
- A series of oblique views showing the exterior of the building
- Where appropriate, views taken at right angles to the elevation
- Internal views showing the various spaces, circulation areas and roof structures where accessible
- Specific views of any internal and external detail which might not be apparent on the more general photographs

6.3. The photographic survey will be linked to floor plans as described in item 6.1.

6.4. The site record will be compiled in accordance with archive guidelines issued by The Collection, Lincoln.

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

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
- Cataloguing of photographic and other records
- 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. The archive will conform to UKIC, ADS and The Collection's guidelines for long term storage for archaeological archives, and to the "*Archaeological Archives: A Guide to Best Practice in Creation, Compilation, Transfer and Curation*" (AAF 2007).

8. REPORTING PROCEDURES

8.1. The report will be produced in accordance with the requirements of documents referenced in items 1.2 and 3.2 (see above).

8.2. The report will contain:

- A non-technical summary
- A description of the data gathering process
- A summary discussion of the evidence, referring to form, function, date and sequence of development of the building
- A consideration of the architectural and historic significance of the buildings
- Site location plans
- A plan of showing the locations and orientations of photographs
- Reproductions of a comprehensive selection of photographs taken as part of the survey

- Appendices containing summary information as appropriate

8.3. The report will be made available within 3 weeks of the completion of fieldwork for distribution as follows:

Recipient	Copies
Client	Digital copy + hard copies as required
Lincolnshire County Council HER	Digital copy (.pdf format)
The Collection	1 hard copy + digital copy

9. ARCHIVE PREPARATION AND DEPOSITION

9.1. The Project Archive shall be deposited with the The Collection, Danes Terrance, Lincoln under accession number **LCNCC:2021.39** and Site Code **SCSP21**.

9.2. The archive will be prepared for long term storage in accordance with guidelines issued by The Collection, Lincoln. The archive will be presented accession after approximately 6 months from the completion of fieldwork.

9.3. A museum accession number will be obtained in advance of any fieldwork.

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 reflecting 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).

10.3. Copyright – Witham Archaeology Ltd retains full copyright of any commissioned reports and associated project material, excepting that exclusive licence is provided to the client for use of such material in all matters directly relating to the project.

11. MONITORING ARRANGEMENTS

11.1. This specification will form the basis for monitoring by the Planning Archaeologist for South Holland District Council.

11.2. Witham Archaeology Ltd undertakes to notify the Planning Archaeologist at least one week prior to the commencement of fieldwork so that appropriate monitoring arrangements can be made.

12. RESOURCES & PROGRAMMING

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

12.2. Witham Archaeology Ltd 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 Ltd will also adhere to particular instructions of the client and/or the main contractor or site manager. A copy of the Witham Archaeology Ltd Health and Safety Policy can be provided upon request.

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

- Any existing ground plans and elevations showing the buildings scheduled for alteration or conversion
- All necessary consents and permits to allow access to the site for the purposes of the survey
- Any information regarding possible contamination or other potential hazards

12.4. Fieldwork and all aspects of report production will be undertaken by Russell Trimble, an archaeologist with more than 20 years' experience in the management and execution of all types of archaeological fieldwork, including the recording of historic farm buildings.

12.5. The provisional timetable for completion of the project will be as follows:

Finalise project design and mobilisation	within *c*. 2 weeks from commissioning
Fieldwork	1 days
Completion of report	*c*. 3 weeks from completion of fieldwork
Archive deposition	6 months from completion of report

13. INSURANCE STATEMENT

13.1. Witham Archaeology Ltd maintains Public Liability Insurance with indemnity to the value of £10,000,000 and 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 Institute of Archaeologists and the appropriate IFA Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Investigation.

15. BIBLIOGRAPHY

Cope-Faulkener, P. (2016). *Heritage Impact Assessment: Proposed Development on Land at Millfield Nurseries, Spalding Common, Spalding, Lincolnshire.* Archaeological Project Services HS Report No. HS/034.

Open Domesday Book website.
https://opendomesday.org/place/TF2422/spalding/ [accessed 7th March 2021]

The University of Nottingham Key to English Place-Names website.
http://kepn.nottingham.ac.uk/map/place/Lincolnshire/Spalding [accessed 7th March 2021]

Witham Archaeology

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7th March 2021