

**Specification for Archaeological Monitoring and
Recording at 109, Albion Street,
Spalding, Lincolnshire.**

Prepared for Mr. Andrew Bristow

National Grid Reference: TF 2533 2336

Site Code: ASSP15

Accession No: LCNCC: 2014.64

**Planning Reference: H16-0402-15 (resubmission of
H16--0813-13)**

**Prepared by Neville Hall MIFA, Freelance Field
Archaeologist & Consultant**

August 2015

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 dwelling at 109, Albion Street, Spalding, Lincolnshire.*
- S2 *The development site is situated within an area of high archaeological potential. Several inhumation burials have been found both to the west and to the east, which may be part of a possible large Roman cemetery site in the area. The site of a possible Roman farmstead is also situated to the west. Further finds of Roman pottery have been made to the south-east and west. Several previous archaeological investigations in the area have also identified various undated pits and ditches which may possibly be Roman or medieval in date. The specific objectives of the project are to record any archaeological features, deposits, structures and finds associated with this settlement activity and inhumation cemetery site.*
- S3 *The archaeological monitoring will be undertaken during the groundworks stage of development, which will comprise the mechanical excavation of the foundations and services for the new residential dwelling. 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 built up urban area of Spalding and on the north-western frontage of Albion Street at its intersection with Willesby Road, at National Grid Reference TF 2533 2336, and at a height of approximately 4mAOD. The town of Spalding is situated within the parish of the same name, and in the administrative district of South Holland, county of Lincolnshire.
- 1.2 The development site is located in a flat and low-lying area within the south Lincolnshire Fens. The development site is situated on deep stoneless calcareous coarse silty soils of the Wisbech Series. These soils overlie deposits of marine alluvium, which 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 dwelling at 109, Albion Street, Spalding, Lincolnshire (Planning Reference: H16-0402-15, resubmission of H16-0813-13).

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 the vicinity of the development site.
- 3.2 The prehistoric coastline in the area of Spalding was considerably further inland than at present. The area of Spalding was a frequently submerged island which was uninhabitable for long periods. Both prior to and during the Romano-British periods, salt production was a significant local economic activity. The Wash creeks may have been

used for river traffic and for fishing. Settlement in the area increased greatly by the 2nd century AD, probably as the result of a widespread local drainage programme.



Figure 1: Site location at scale 1:25.000. The site is shown in red. (o.s. copyright licence number 100048723)

- 3.3 There are no known archaeological sites or finds predating the Romano-British period within the search area.
- 3.4 Sherds of Roman pottery comprising a scatter have been found in a garden to the immediate west of the development site (HER 22365). A Roman occupation level with much contemporary pottery was also found at this location in the 1960s (HER 23598). This was interpreted as the as a farmstead site with an artefact scatter.
- 3.5 A quantity of Roman pottery was recovered from a contemporary occupation deposit in the garden of 26, Oakley Drive in 1964 (HER 23646). This site was situated to the south-east of the development site.
- 3.6 By the Anglo-Saxon period, falling sea levels had rendered Spalding as a coastal settlement rather than an island; although the line of the local coastline still varied greatly with the seasons and tides. Spalding may have been a royal estate in the 7th and 8th centuries AD.

- 3.7 Anglo-Saxon and medieval development in the area was strongly influenced by monasticism. Crowland Abbey received numerous land grants in this area in the 9th century AD.



Figure 2: Site location at an original scale of scale 1:1,250, (not to scale), (extract from Architects plan). The site is shown outlined in red and the location of the proposed development in blue.

- 3.8 At the Domesday Survey of AD1086, the lands in Spalding or *Spallinge* in the Wapentake of Elloe were variously held by Crowland Abbey, Ivo Tallboys and Guy of Craon. There are references in the Domesday entries to a market valued at forty shillings, six fisheries and to various salthouses in the contemporary settlement. It is clear that the settlement of Spalding would appear to have had late Anglo-Saxon origins. The earliest documentary reference to this settlement dates from AD1074 as *Spaldingis*. The place name itself is derived from an Old English group name - 'the people of the Spalde'. This refers to the name of a tribe which was first recorded in the 7th-8th centuries AD tribute list known as the Tribal Hidage. This tribal name is in turn derived from the Old English *Spald* or 'slit or opening', which in this case would have been a local topographical feature. Later medieval documentary sources variously refer to the settlement of Spalding as *Spaldi* (c.AD1115); *Spaldinges* (AD1135-54), *Spalingas* (AD1100-13) and as *Spallinges* (AD1194) (HER 26303).
- 3.9 Crowland Abbey established a Benedictine priory at Spalding; the charter granting the land for its foundations was dated to AD1051; but it may not have been built until after the Norman Conquest of AD1066. The priory itself is well documented, though little of it survives. Ivo Tallboys was made the Lord of Spalding and all Holland in AD1073 and subsequently built a castle in the town. However, its earthworks are no longer extant. The medieval port town was to the north-east of the priory between the River Welland and the Westlode. The Westlode was primarily a drain and may have originally been a part of the Roman drainage system., but was also used to transport goods inland (HER 26303).

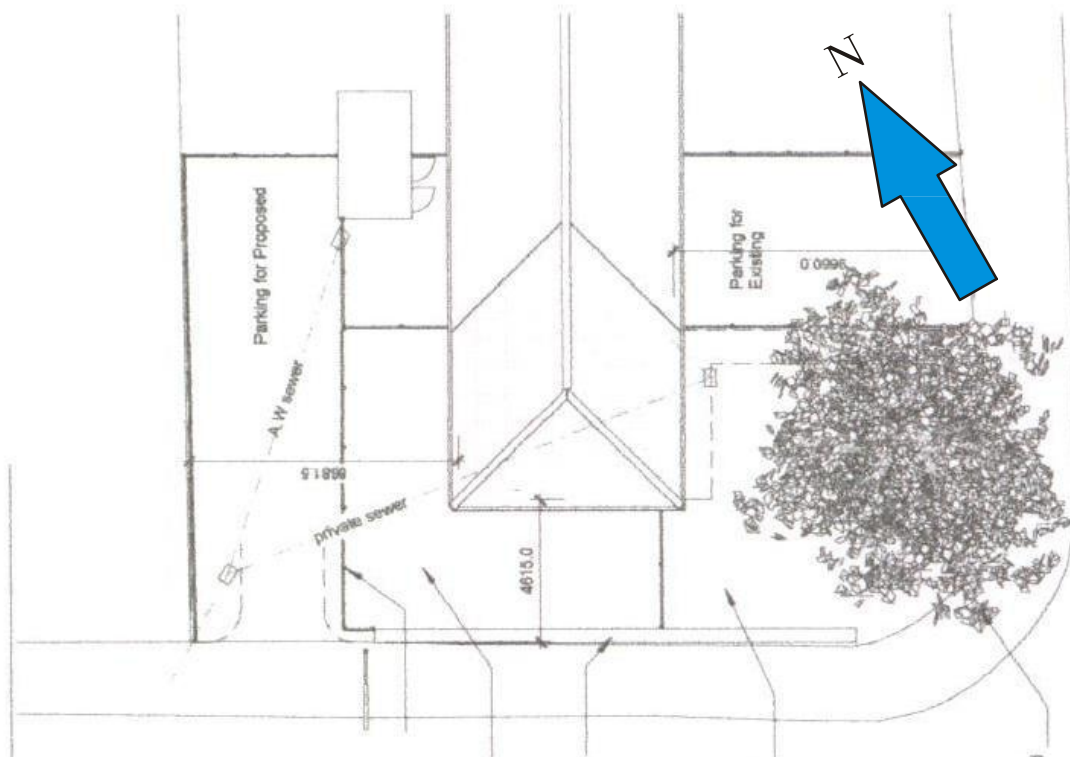


Figure 3: Block Plan Showing the Proposed Layout of the Development Site at an original scale of scale 1:200, (not to scale), (extract from Architects plan).

- 3.10 In 1921, four undated skeletons were found during the course of the digging of a well on a council house site near to the local gasworks (HER 23062). This possible undated inhumation cemetery site is situated to the immediate west of the development site. The burials comprised one male and one female along with two others in close proximity. They were all buried feet to feet and were in a good state of preservation. They also appear to have been buried without coffins.
- 3.11 The importance of Spalding as a port declined as Bicker Haven gradually silted up during the 15th and 16th centuries. During the 17th and 18th centuries, Spalding was still a significant centre, located at the lowest bridging point over the River Welland. The river was still navigable at this time as far as Stamford and Spalding became a centre for river traffic. This significance meant that the Welland also had to be maintained and in 1743 the river was canalised (HER 23603).
- 3.12 Both the town of Spalding and the district were radically altered by the massive enclosure and drainage projects which were carried out in the fens in the 18th and 19th centuries when large areas of the previously unexploited wetlands came under cultivation with Spalding becoming a prosperous port in the first half of the 19th century.
- 3.13 There several Grade II listed buildings situated within the search area. These comprise: 69 and 71 Albion Street, a pair of late 18th century cottages (HER 25138) and Willesby, Albion Street, an early 17th century house (HER 25139).

- 3.14 The site of the former Spalding Gasworks were situated to the south-west of the development site (HER 25058). The works were erected in 1832 and consisted of two gasometers. In 1862, the works were sold to local Improvement Commissioners and in 1892, they made many improvements to the site. The local Urban District Council took over the works in 1894.
- 3.15 There have been a number of previous archaeological investigations within the search area. An archaeological watching brief took place to the east of the development site in 2003 during the groundworks for a new residential development at Barge Close (HER 23853, ELI4300, Site code: BCS03). However, due to the shallow of the excavated foundation trenches, the bulk of the deposits exposed were of modern origin, comprising a mixture of refuse deposits and made ground deposits. The watching brief did identify a single large north-south orientated linear feature. This was interpreted as an undated former drainage dyke, which was later piped and backfilled in modern times. The base of the dyke was not observed.
- 3.16 An archaeological evaluation took place to the south-west of the development site in 2001 at Plot 3, Albion Street (HER ELI2658, Site code: ASS01). This site was situated adjacent to the site of a former gasworks. The majority of the site was covered by a layer of cinders and ash comprising the remains of a former bowling green. This layer of cinders and ash had been sealed by a layer of topsoil. The construction of this former bowling green was likely to have disturbed and removed any earlier underlying archaeological deposits as the site had been stripped of topsoil and subsoil prior to its construction. No archaeological features, deposits or finds were identified on this site.
- 3.17 An archaeological watching brief took place to the east of the development site in 1999 and on the excavation of a pipeline trench at the Geest Foods site, West Marsh Road (Site code: SWM98). This watching brief was undertaken following the discovery of human remains in the pipeline trench excavation. The watching brief identified a single north east-south west orientated grave from which these remains had originated along with an undated refuse pit and an undated animal burial. The grave was identified below a buried soil. Several iron nails, possibly from a coffin and the alignment of the burial suggested a possible Roman date for this burial.
- 3.18 An archaeological watching brief took place to the north-west of the development site in 2004 on land off Ladywood Road (Site code: LWRS04). The watching brief took place on the groundworks for four new chalet bungalows and yielded negative results.
- 3.19 An archaeological watching brief took place to the west of the development site at West Elloe Avenue in 2010 (Site code: SPWE10). This watching brief was carried out on the groundworks for a new extension to the Munroe Medical Centre. This watching brief identified a sequence of undated flood deposits which were overlain by a recent topsoil that had in turn been buried beneath levelling deposits associated with the construction of the Medical Centre. No archaeological features, deposits or finds were found here.
- 3.20 An archaeological watching brief took place to the west of the development site at The Garth School, Pinchbeck Road in 2012 (Site code: STGS11). This watching brief took place on the groundworks for a new extension. Only modern deposits associated with former construction phases of the School were identified. However, the groundworks were not deep enough to penetrate the modern levelling layers on which the School stands.
- 3.21 An archaeological evaluation took place to the south-west of the development site in 2002 on land at the Ivo Day Centre, Albion Street (Site code: SPCH02). This located a single undated linear feature, a large undated ditch along with substantial 19th century brick foundations.

- 3.22 An archaeological watching brief took place to the south-west of the development site in 2000 on land at Albion Street in an area thought to contain Roman and medieval archaeological remains (Site code: SAS00). The watching brief identified an undated pit and ditch along with post-medieval pits and a ditch, brick wells, a brick wall and floor along with two modern pits, demolition layers and levelling deposits related to previous structures on the site. These were all overlain by a modern topsoil. No archaeological deposits, features or finds associated with the Roman or medieval periods were found.
- 3.23 A map regression exercise was undertaken using published Ordnance Survey (O.S.) maps from the Lincolnshire Archives and the local studies collections of Lincoln Central Library. An extract from the First Edition six inch to one mile scale Ordnance Survey (O.S.) map of 1889 shows the area of the development site lying within an open field on the north-western frontage of the modern Albion Street. A house termed Albion Place is also situated within this same field and on the same frontage. The municipal gasworks site is shown to the immediate south-west.
- 3.24 An extract from the Second Edition six inch to one mile scale Ordnance Survey (O.S.) map of 1906 shows the same layout to the area of the development site and that of its environs. An extract from the 1932 Edition six inch to one mile scale Ordnance Survey (O.S.) map shows the same layout to the area of the development site, though by this time there is a large orchard to the immediate north-west. An extract from the Provisional Edition six inch to one mile scale Ordnance Survey (O.S.) map of 1950 shows the Willesby Road laid out with new residential dwellings on either frontage. The area of the development site is occupied by one of these houses on the north-western frontage of Albion Street.

4. Aims and objectives of the project

- 4.1 The aims of the project are the continual archaeological monitoring and recording of all site groundworks during the construction stage of development, which will comprise the mechanical excavation of foundations and services for the new residential dwelling.
- 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 is situated within an area of high archaeological potential. Several inhumation burials have been found both to the west and to the east, which may be part of a possible large Roman cemetery site in the area. The site of a possible Roman farmstead is also situated to the west. Further finds of Roman pottery have been made to the south-east and west. Several previous archaeological investigations in the area have also identified various undated pits and ditches which may possibly be Roman or medieval in date. The specific objectives of the project are to record any archaeological features, deposits, structures and finds associated with this settlement activity and inhumation cemetery site.

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.
- 5.2 All work will be carried out according to the Institute of Field Archaeologists (IFA) standards, and will be under the management of a Member of the IFA (MIFA).
- 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. The local Portable Antiquities Scheme Officer will also be notified.
- 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 MIFA. 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.
- 6.6 Relevant finds will be sent to specialists for identification and dating.

7. Monitoring arrangements

- 7.1 Provision will be made for Louise Jennings (of 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 representative of the Lincolnshire County Council Historic Environment Team (Ms Louise Jennings) 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 April 2016.

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, 2015).
- 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
James Rackham	Environmental
Carol Allen	Neolithic and Bronze Age
Laura Keal	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.