WITHAM ARCHAEOLOGY

WRITTEN SCHEME OF INVESTIGATION FOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING AND RECORDING ON LAND ADJACENT TO NO. 6 ABBEY PATH, SPALDING, LINCOLNSHIRE, PE11 1AY

Planning Refs.: South Holland District Council H16-0008-20

NGR: TF 24642 22629

Site Code: **SPAP20**

The Collection Accession Code: **LCNCC:.2020.138**

SUMMARY

This document details methodologies to be employed during a scheme of Archaeological Monitoring and Recording to be undertaken in conjunction with groundworks related to the construction of a block of five flats on land adjacent to No. 6 Abbey Walk, Spalding, Lincolnshire. The project has been commissioned by JC Architectural Consultant on behalf of their client Mr S. Kandola, to fulfil the requirements of a condition attached to planning permission granted by South Holland District Council. Planning permission has also been granted for a block of six flats located on adjacent land to the east (H16-0651-19). Although the six and five flat blocks are subject to separate planning applications and separate WSIs, the scheme will go ahead as a single development.

The site lies within the parameters of the medieval and post medieval settlement of Spalding as defined by the Lincolnshire and within the precinct of the Benedictine priory of St Mary. The priory was founded in 1052 and dissolved in 1540. The main complex of buildings may have lain to the south-east in the vicinity of Abbey Buildings, while burials found on Bridge Street were probably interred in the associated cemetery. From map evidence it seems that the are scheduled for development was occupied by a row of there buildings in 1888. The buildings were still standing in 1931-32 but had been demolished by 1968.

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 document has been prepared by Witham Archaeology Ltd for JC Architectural Consultant on behalf of their client, Mr S. Kandola. It sets out details of a programme of Archaeological Monitoring and Recording to be carried out during groundworks associated with the construction of a block of 5 new flats on land adjacent to No. 6 Abbey Path, Spalding, Lincolnshire. The flats will form part of a single development with 6 flats immediately to the east. Planning permission for the 6 flats was under granted under a separate application (H16-0651-22634) and the site is the subject of a separate WSI.

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 Historic Environment Officer, Lincolnshire County Council.

2. SITE LOCATION AND DESCRIPTION

2.1. The site is located in the historic core of Spalding, west of the River Welland and 450m north-west of the medieval parish church of St Nicholas, at NGR TF 24651 22634.

2.2. Extending north from Abbey Path and located west of No. 6, on the western side of an area currently used as a car park, the site is rectangular in plan, covering an area of just under 300 square metres.

2.3. The solid geology of the area is Kellaways Formation and Oxford Clay Formation Mudstone, Siltstone and Sandstone, formed in the Jurassic period (https://www.bgs.ac.uk/discoveringGeology/geologyOfBritain/viewer.html). The bedrock is overlain by superficial deposits of Quaternary Period alluvium.

3. PROJECT BACKGROUND

3.1. Full planning permission (H16-0008-20) has been granted for the construction of the block of 5 new flats.

3.2. Planning permission is conditional upon the submission of a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) and approved by the adviser to the local planning authority, The Historic Environment Officer, Lincolnshire County Council.

3.3. The Historic Environment Officer has determined that investigations should be in the form of a programme of monitoring and recording during development groundworks.

3.4. Notice must be provided to the Historic Environment Officer 14 days in advance of the commencement of groundwork so that appropriate monitoring arrangements can be put in place.

4. ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

4.1. The site is in the historic core of the Saxon and medieval settlement at Spalding as defined in the Lincolnshire HER (HER Ref. 23603 and 23602). Consequently, there is a high potential for evidence of occupation on the adjacent street frontage.

4.2. Spalding is recorded in Domesday as a large and prosperous settlement in the Wapentake of Elloe. A market, saltpans, a wood of alders and ten fisheries are mentioned. The place-name may have derived from the Old English for a narrow opening or slit, probably referencing the local topography (HER Ref. 23603).

4.3. The site is situated within the projected limits of the precinct of the Benedictine priory of St Mary (HER Ref. 22355), lying close to its northern edge. The priory was founded in 1052 as a dependency of the abbey of Crowland and was dissolved in 1540. The exact location of the main complex priory buildings is uncertain but they may be focussed to the south-east of the site, in the vicinity of Abbey Buildings.

4.4. Human remains found during building works to the east of Bridge Street were probably from the priory cemetery (HER Ref. 22348). Further burials were found in the same area during an evaluation in 2000.

4.5. The medieval church of Holy Cross (HER Ref. 22354) probably stood near the Town Hall. It was in ruins in 1284.

4.6. On the Ordnance Survey 1:500 map of 1888, the northern part of the area scheduled for development is occupied by a terrace of three rectangular structures aligned at right to Abbey Path. With identical outbuildings to the rear and open spaces (probably gardens) in front, these

are most likely to have been residential properties. The buildings are still present on the 1:2500 map of 1931-32 but had been demolished by 1968, the area being shown as a vacant plot on the Ordnance Survey map of that year.

5. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

5.1. The purpose of the archaeological supervision and recording is to:

- Ensure an appropriate level of archaeological supervision and recording during construction groundworks.
- 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 skeletal analysis.

6.11. In accordance with the Treasure Act 1997 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 of Conservation and the Museums and Galleries Commission.

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.

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	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 Archaeological will seek to secure Transfer of Title of the project archive including finds to The Collection, Danes Terrace, Lincoln. Accession number LCNCC: 220.138 has been allocated for deposition of the archive by The Collection. The site code will be SPAP20.

9.2. The archive will be prepared for long term storage in accordance with requirements set out in the Lincolnshire Archaeology Handbook. Deposition will be made within three months of completing the report.

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).

10.3. Copyright – Witham Archaeology 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 Historic Environment Officer, Lincolnshire County 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 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 carried out by an experience 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	**Specialist**
Animal Bone	Environmental Archaeology Consultancy
Prehistoric pottery	Sarah Percival

Environmental Analysis	Environmental Archaeology Consultancy
Human skeletal remains	Sue Anderson. Independent Specialist
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 very small moderate assemblages of medieval and post-medieval pottery.

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 Institute of Field Archaeologists and the appropriate IFA Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Investigation.

Witham Archaeology

08/09/2020