Specification for Archaeological Monitoring on Land Adjacent to The Conifers, Washway Road, Saracens Head, Lincolnshire.

Prepared for Mr. Bob Merchant of G. R. Merchant Ltd. on behalf of their client - Mr. D. Clark

National Grid Reference: TF 3403 2715
Site Code: WRSA18
Accession No: LCNCC: 2018.86
Planning reference: H23-1019-17

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May 2018

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 adjacent to The Conifers, Washway Road, Saracens Head, Lincolnshire.*

S2 *This development site lies within an area of high archaeological potential. It lies to the immediate south of the Roman Bank, a medieval sea defensive earthwork. To the south of this have been identified the cropmarks of medieval enclosures and evidence for medieval salt making has also been made in the vicinity. It is considered highly likely that similar such activity (including the line of the sea bank) may be encountered on this site. The specific objectives of this project will be to record any archaeological activity and finds associated with this 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. 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 1-2]

1.1 The development site is situated on land adjacent to The Conifers, which is also located off the north- eastern frontage of the Washway Road at National Grid Reference TF 3403 2715, and at a height of approximately 4mAOD. The modern settlement of Saracens head is located 4km to the north-west of Holbeach and 15km to the north-east of Spalding and is situated within the modern civil parish of Holbeach, administrative district of South Holland, county of Lincolnshire.

1.2 The development site is located within the flat and low-lying area of the Lincolnshire Fens. The development site is situated on deep stoneless calcareous silty soils of the Wisbech Series, which have developed on deposits of marine alluvium. The underlying solid geology comprises 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 adjacent to The Conifers, Washway Road, Saracens Head, Lincolnshire (Planning reference: H23-1019-17).

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 A sea bank known as the Roman Bank is located in fields to the north of Saracens Head (HER 24025). This flood defensive earthwork bank and dike was constructed for land reclamation in the 14th century. A portion of this earthwork is situated to the west of this development site (HER 24068).

3.3 A distinctive double ditched linear feature which has been plotted from aerial photographic sources is situated to the north of Saracens Head (HER 24066). This forms

an enclosure that abuts the Roman Bank sea defences. Two further double ditched features are connected to the north and north-east of this enclosure. Ploughing activity in the 20th century may have removed much of these features, which still appears as faint features on a recent LIDAR survey.



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

3.4 Other possible medieval sea bank defences occur to the east of Saracens Head (HER 24057). These are featured as faint irregular and interrupted linear features on a recent LIDAR survey.

3.5 The remains of a former medieval saltern are located at Glebe Farm and along the Roman Bank (HER 20349).

3.6 The remains of medieval salterns occur at Saracens Head and to the south-west of this development site (HER 20379).

3.7 The site of a Primitive Methodist Chapel was situated at Saracens Head (HER 25774). This was constructed in 1825 and was enlarged in the 1860s. It closed in 1971 and was demolished by 1980.

3.8 The site of a further Methodist Chapel that was known as the Hill Chapel or Little Chapel was located on Pipewell Gate (HER 25775). This was constructed in 1866 and was closed in 1946. It was then used as a house and farm store until its demolition in 1978.

3.9 Pipewell Manor House on the Washway Road is a Grade II listed farmhouse dating from the late 18th century (HER 25199, NHL 1064481). It is also the location of a partially extant 19th century farmstead which is arranged around a regular courtyard with an 'L'-plan range along with further detached buildings to the fourth side of the yard. The

farmhouse is detached from the main working complex. There has been a significant loss of traditional buildings here. The farmstead was within a village location.

3.10 Crowhill Farm at Whaplode is a 19th century farmstead (HER 25885). This is arranged around a regular courtyard in a 'U'-plan. The farmhouse is detached from the main working complex and is the only surviving farmstead structure. The farmstead was within a village location.

3.11 South Field Farm at Whaplode is a partially extant 19th century farmstead which is arranged around a regular courtyard with an 'L'-plan range along with further detached buildings to the fourth side of the yard. The farmhouse is detached from the main working complex. There has been a partial loss of traditional buildings here. The farmstead was within an isolated location.

3.12 An undated earthwork to the south of Hill House is a saltern (HER 20015).The site had been partially levelled. The earthwork is a natural sand hill with amorphous disturbances indicating adoption for salt manufacture.

3.13 There have been other previous archaeological investigations within the vicinity of this development site. An archaeological watching brief at Roman Bank and to the east of this development site from 2000-2001 was undertaken on the groundworks for a new residential development (HER ELI1971, 23688, Site code: RBSA00). This located four sherds of 11th-16th century pottery. Three of the sherds were dated to the 11th-14th centuries and suggested a lack of occupation in the vicinity from the 14th century onwards. A scatter of 19th-20th century pottery was also found during the course of this watching brief (HER 23689).

3.14 In 2002 an archaeological watching brief was undertaken on land to the rear of the new Saracens Head public house to the south of this development site (HER ELI3339, Site code: NSHS02). This was carried out on the groundworks for three new residential dwellings. This did not identify any archaeological activity or finds.

3.15 In 2002, an archaeological watching brief was undertaken on the groundworks for a new residential development on land adjacent to the old A17 to the west of this development site (HER 23795, ELI3556, Site code: SCO02). This identified four undated pits and a dumped layer. Some of these features may have related to a post-medieval Methodist Chapel that had stood on this site. One wall of this was also recorded. Finds consisted of a single sherd of 19th century pottery.

3.16 In 2001, an archaeological watching brief was undertaken on development at Roman Bank to the east of this development site (Site code: RBSA00). This identified a sequence of topsoils and ploughsoils. This did not reveal any archaeological activity. The finds comprised sherds of 14th-16th century and of 19th-20th century pottery. Other finds comprised two pits, one of which produced 19th century pottery, and the second brick and roof slate fragments (HER 23796).

3.17 In 1999, an archaeological watching brief was carried on the groundworks for four new residential dwellings to the east of this development site and alongside the Roman Bank (HER ELI2701, Site code: RBS99). Although this sea bank itself was not identified, flood deposits that represented a breach in the bank were recorded. An undated ditch was recorded that ran parallel to the present day road and which was probably associated with the Bank was also identified. Two pits were also recorded, which contained fragments of burnt clay. These were probably the remains of hearth linings which suggested nearby settlement (HER 23723).

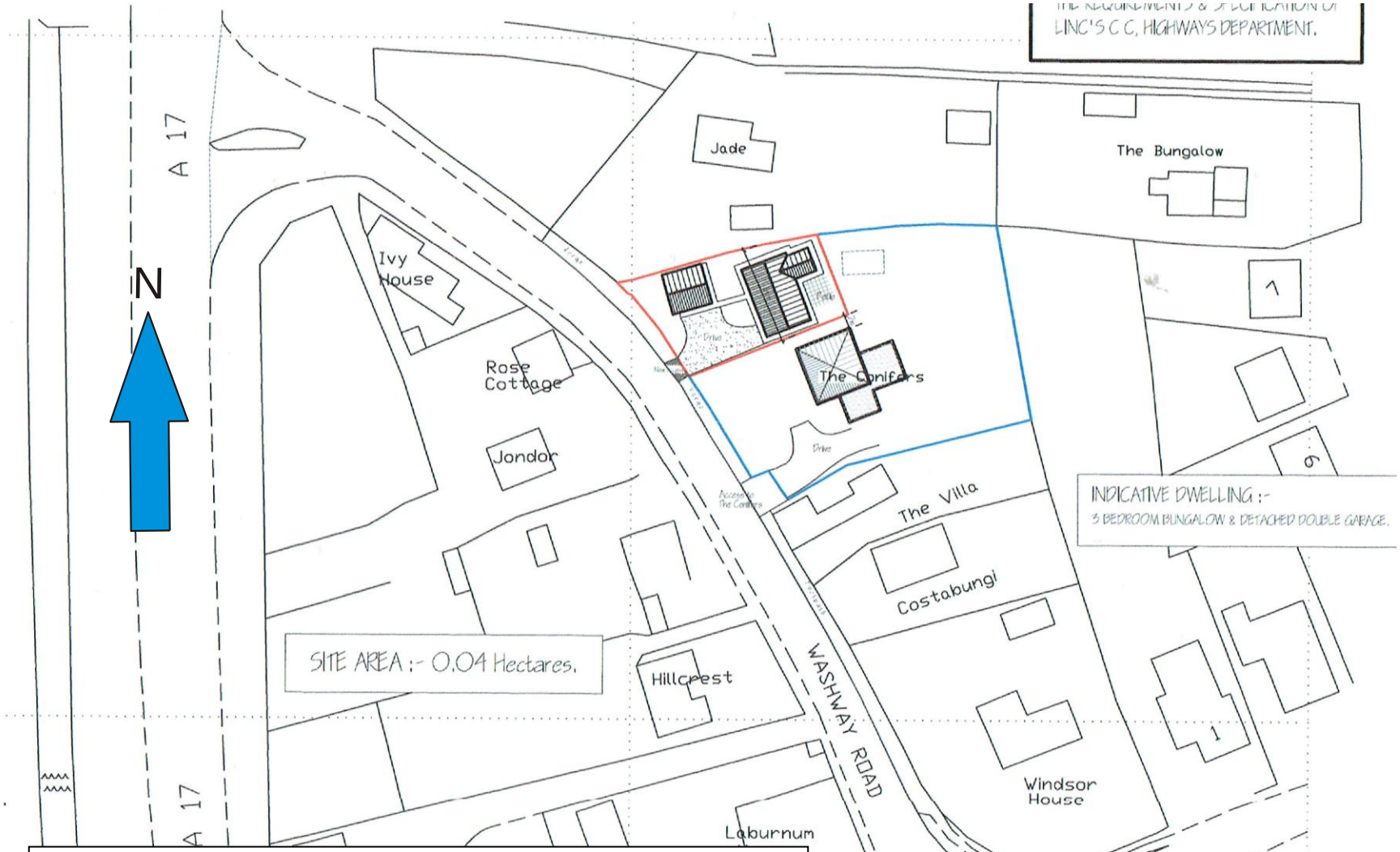


Figure 2: Site location at an original scale of 1:500, (not to scale), (extract from Architects plan)

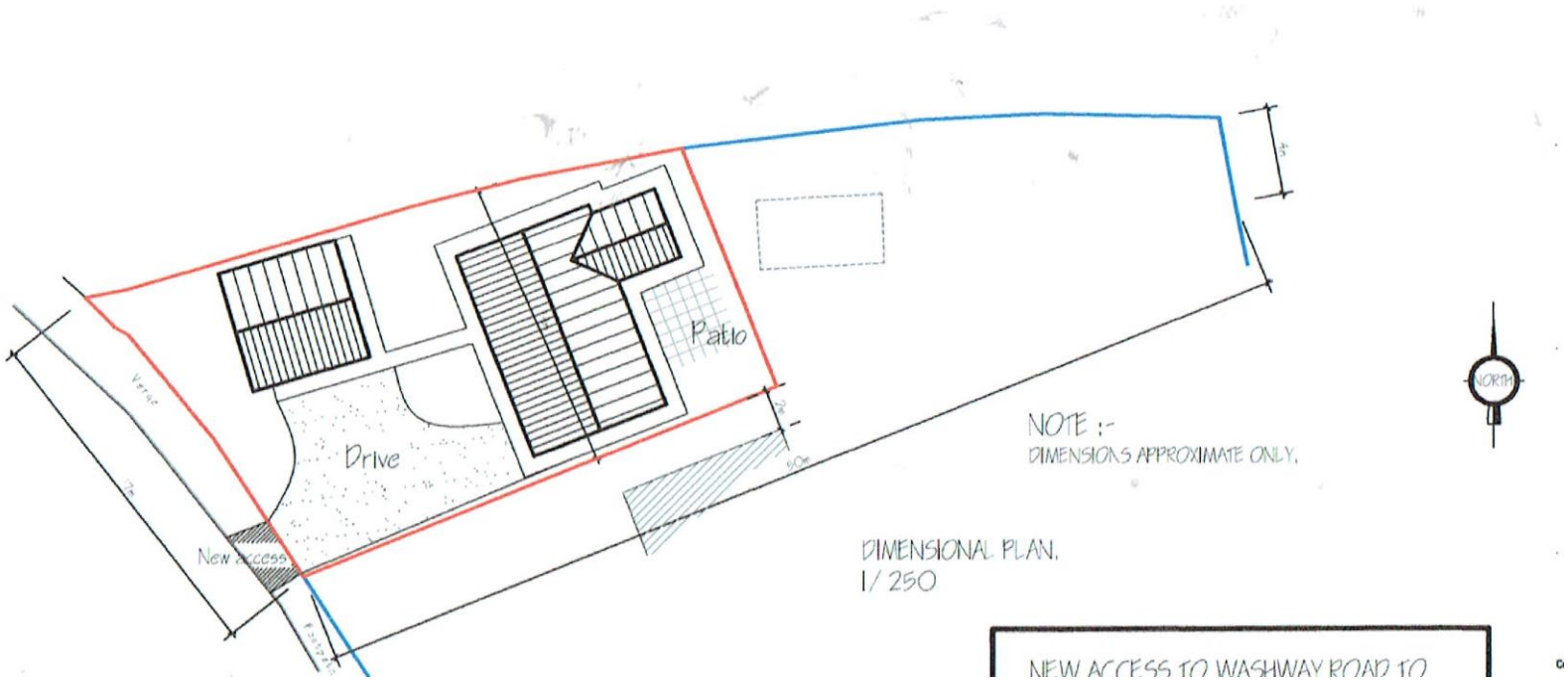


Figure 3: Block plan showing the proposed layout of the development at an original scale of 1:250, (not to scale), (extract from Architects plan)

3.18 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. The extract from the First Edition 25 inch to one mile scale O.S. map of 1888 shows the development site as occupying a portion of a larger enclosure off the north-eastern frontage of the Washway Road. The development site also lies to the immediate south of the line of the Roman Bank.

3.19 The extract from the Second Edition 25 inch to one mile scale O.S. map of 1904 shows the same layout to the assessment site as do the subsequent Third Edition 25 inch to one mile scale O.S. map of 1931 and the 1:2,500 scale O.S. map of 1975.

3.20 Figure 2 features the current layout of the development site.

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 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 This development site lies within an area of high archaeological potential. It lies to the immediate south of the Roman Bank, a medieval sea defensive earthwork. To the south of this have been identified the cropmarks of medieval enclosures and evidence for medieval salt making has also been made in the vicinity. It is considered highly likely that similar such activity (including the line of the sea bank) may be encountered on this site. The specific objectives of this project will be to record any archaeological activity and finds associated with this 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 2018.

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, 2018).

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
Archaeological Solutions Ltd.	Environmental
Malin Holst	Osteoarchaeology

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.