

WITHAM ARCHAEOLOGY

WRITTEN SCHEME OF INVESTIGATION FOR AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF AT THE BLUE BELL INN, LOW STREET, EAST DRAYTON, NOTTINGHAMSHIRE.

PLANNING REFERENCE: 15/04/0008

SUMMARY

This document outlines details of a scheme of archaeological monitoring and recording to be carried out in conjunction with groundworks associated with residential development on land at the Blue Bell Inn, Low Street, East Drayton.

The site lies to the rear of the 18th century inn and post office and to the south of Low Street in the historic core of the village. Cartographic evidence shows that a smithy dating from the late 19th century or earlier was demolished in recent times. The medieval 12th century parish church is located approximately 55m to the north-west.

Planning permission has been granted by Bassetlaw District Council for the construction of five dwellings, a car park for the Blue Bell Inn and access infrastructure.

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 an appropriate recipient store.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1. This document has been prepared by Witham Archaeology for AM2 Architects on behalf of McMill Homes Ltd. It sets out details of a programme of monitoring and recording to be carried out during groundworks associated with residential development and construction car parks on land at the Blue Bell Inn, Low Street, East Drayton, Nottinghamshire.

1.2. The specification is designed to comply with the usual requirements of the local planning authority. Prior to the commencement of development groundworks it should be submitted for approval by the Bassetlaw District Council Planning Department.

2. SITE LOCATION AND DESCRIPTION

2.1. East Drayton is a village located within the district of Bassetlaw in Nottinghamshire. The village is approximately 9km to the south-east of Retford and 20km to the west north-west of Lincoln. The site is located to the rear of the Blue Bell Inn, in the southern part of the village, and is centred on NGR 477640 375217. The proposed area of development comprises the Blue Bell Inn car park and tree covered land parcels located south of the car park.

2.2. The site lies on solid geology of Triassic Mercia Mudstone formation. Although there are no records of superficial deposits within the site, alluvial material comprised

of clays, silts, sand and gravels was recorded to the north of the site (British Geological Survey website).

3. PROJECT BACKGROUND

3.1. The development has received full planning permission for the demolition of a two-storey house and function room, construction of five dwellings, a new car park and altering the access.

3.2. A scheme of archaeological investigation comprising an archaeological watching brief is required under a condition of planning permission imposed by Bassetlaw District Council (Application 15/04/0008).

4. ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

4.1. The place-name East Drayton derives from Old English and means ‘portage farm/settlement’ or ‘dragging-place farm/settlement’ (Key to English Place-Names website). The 1086 Domesday Book mentions the land at Drayton with 33 household and a 20 acre meadow. By 1086 the land at Drayton was held by King William, and before the Norman conquest the land where was held by King Edward the Confessor (Open Domesday website).

4.2. The earliest surviving building in the village is the Grade I Church of St Peter (HER ref.: M4675; National Heritage List no.: 1212946), located approximately 55m to the north-west of the site. The earliest elements of the church date from the late 12th century, but it was altered in the 13th and 15th centuries and had restoration works in 1857, 1873 and 1982 (Historic England website).

4.3. A 2014 programme of monitoring and recording, carried out during the installation of new drains in the churchyard, found eight human inhumations, as well disarticulated human bone. Only two of the graves had sherds of medieval pottery, the remaining contexts were undatable (Moore 2014).

4.4. To the north of the Church of St Peter is the site of an undated semi-circular earthwork (HER L6776), identified on the 1900 Second Edition Ordnance Survey 25-inch County Map, and the site of a large circular enclosure (HER L4684), possibly truncated by a ditch, identified on aerial photographs (Old-maps website).

4.5. Ridge and furrow (HER L6972) in fields to the north-east of the village, an enclosure south of Low Street (HER L6969) and a field system north of the village (HER L9988) have been identified on aerial photographs.

4.6. There are six listed buildings, including the Church of St Peter. The nearest is the Grade II Cottage (HER M11457; 1045687), an early 19th century house, extended in the late 19th century, built in red brick with a pantile roof (Op cit.). The Cottage fronts Low Street and lies to the west of the site, adjacent to the Blue Bell Inn and Post Office (HER M11466), a building extant on the proposed area of development, which was built in the 18th century.

4.7. The 1885 First Edition Ordnance Survey 25-inch County Map show the site occupying several sub-rectangular land parcels. Adjacent to the rear of the Blue Bell Inn is a smithy (HER M6777) and together the buildings formed a L shape complex. The smithy was recently demolished. The southern part of the site is shown occupied by trees (Old-maps website).

4.8. In 2009 a watching brief took place during ground works at the Blue Bell Inn, but no archaeologically significant contexts were found (<https://archaeologydataservice.ac.uk/archsearch/record.xhtml>).

5. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

5.1. The purpose of the investigation is to:

- 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 and development design.
- Produce a project archive for deposition with the appropriate museum together with a client report.
- Provide information for accession to the Nottinghamshire Historic Environment Record.

6. METHODOLOGY

6.1. Witham Archaeology will monitor all groundworks including landscaping and excavations for foundations and services. The supervision of all works will be undertaken by an experienced archaeologist.

6.2. If archaeological deposits are identified during the monitoring of groundworks the area it may be necessary to expand the area of investigation to fully reveal the character of the remains.

6.3. A smooth ditching bucket will be used to remove topsoil and overburden down to the level of natural or archaeological deposits, whichever comes first.

6.4. The contractor will allow sufficient time for the excavation and recording of all archaeological remains.

6.5. 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 monochrome print and colour digital photographs. These will include overall views detailing general 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.

6.6. Our quotation assumes that archaeological recording will take place within the parameters of the contractor's original ground-works programme. If monitoring 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.

6.7. Within the terms of the above, any interruptions to the 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.

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

6.9. 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.
- Monochrome print and colour digital photographs showing individual archaeological features and overall site circumstances.

6.10. The structure and media of the site record will be in accordance with the archive guidelines issued by the recipient body agreeing to the accession of the site archive..

6.11. Any human remains encountered during groundworks will be left in situ, covered and protected. The landowner and/or developer, 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.

6.12. 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 immediately. Where it is not possible to remove finds on the same day as discovery, appropriate security arrangements will be put in place.

6.13. 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 stabilise fragile items)
- Compilation of a client report
- Accession of information to the County Sites and Monuments 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 Laboratory of Norwich Museum.

8. REPORTING PROCEDURES

8.1. A client report will be produced in A4 format..

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	2
Local Authority Archaeological Officer	1
County Historic Environment Record	1 + digital copy

9. ARCHIVE PREPARATION AND DEPOSITION

9.1. The Project Archive, preferably including all finds, shall be deposited with an accession number issued by an appropriate recipient store who agrees to the deposition of the archive. In English law all material collected from a site through archaeological fieldwork (except Treasure Trove) is the property of the landowner. In advance of the project Witham Archaeology will therefore seek to obtain agreement in principle to the transfer of ownership of the finds archive from the applicant/landowner to The Collection.

9.2. The archive will be prepared for long term storage in accordance with requirements of the recipient store.

** other than human remains subject to conditions of any Ministry of Justice licence (under the Burials Act 1857), and any finds reported in accordance with the Treasure Act 1996.

10. PUBLICATION AND DISSEMINATION

10.1. 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 relevant Planning Archaeologist.

11.2. Witham Archaeology undertakes to notify the Planning Archaeologist at least two weeks prior to the commencement of groundwork 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 be carried out by an experienced field archaeologist with AIFA or MIFA membership. The same Project Officer 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
Conservation	Conservation Laboratory, City & County Museum, Lincoln
Environmental Analysis	Environmental Archaeology Consultancy
Human skeletal remains	Anthea Boylston (Bradford)
Post Roman Pottery and Ceramic Building Materials	Jane Young or Anne Boyle (Independent specialists)
Radio-Carbon dating	Beta-Analytical, Miami
Registered/Other Finds	Jane Cowgill
Roman Pottery	Alex Beeby

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

Fieldwork - 1 archaeologist to attend upon all excavations, contingency for assistant if significant archaeological remains identified

Post-fieldwork management, analysis & report – to be completed within 8 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 multi period pottery and other finds. In addition there is provision for occasional finds of other periods including flint and metal objects. Provision has been

made for the processing and analysis of environmental samples if suitable deposits are located.

13. INSURANCE STATEMENT

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

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 Field Archaeologists and the appropriate CIFA Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Investigation.

15. BIBLIOGRAPHY

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Witham Archaeology

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