

# **WITHAM ARCHAEOLOGY**

## WRITTEN SCHEME OF INVESTIGATION FOR A PROGRAMME OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONTROL AND SUPERVISION

### EXTENSION TO STABLE BLOCK, LEAN-TO STORE AND ALL- WEATHER EXERCISE ARENA AT FIELD HOUSE, HILL ROAD, ORSTON, NOTTINGHAMSHIRE, NG13 9ND

Planning Ref.: 21/01925/FUL

NGR: SK 7703040729

Museum Accession No.: TBC

Site Code: TBC

#### ***SUMMARY***

*This document sets out details of a programme of archaeological control and supervision to be carried out during groundworks relating to the construction of an extension to an existing stable block, a lean-to store and a new all-weather exercise arena at Field House, Hill Road, Orston Nottinghamshire, NG13 9ND.*

*The site is located at the southern edge of the village, within medieval ridge and furrow earthworks and close to the findspot of prehistoric, Roman and medieval pottery.*

*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 a receiving museum or store recognised by the local planning authority as advised by the Archaeology Officer, Nottinghamshire County Council.*

#### **1. INTRODUCTION**

1.1. This written scheme of investigation (WSI), prepared by Witham Archaeology for Landyke Ltd on behalf of Mrs Ann McNeeney, sets out details of a programme of monitoring and recording to be carried out during groundworks associated with the construction of an extension to an existing stable block, lean-to store and all-weather exercise arena at Field House, Hill Road, Orston, Nottinghamshire, NG13 9ND. The document is designed to comply with the usual requirements of the local planning authority.

1.2. A draft copy of this document will be submitted to the Archaeological, Nottingham County Council, adviser to Rushcliffe Borough Council. Once approved by the Archaeology Officer it can be included in a formal application to the local planning authority, seeking discharge of the relevant archaeological pre-

commencement condition. No development should take place until confirmation of discharge is received from the local planning authority.

## **2. SITE LOCATION AND DESCRIPTION**

2.1. The village and civil parish of Orston is located in the administrative district of Rushcliffe Borough Council, with the village situated 10km east of Nottingham city centre, 10km south of the centre of Newark and 10km west north-west of Grantham. The site, centred at National Grid Reference SK 77030 40729 is in fields bounded by residential properties fronting onto Lombard Street on the north-west side and properties fronting onto Hill Road on the north-east side, with arable land adjoining to the south-west. The village lies in the north-western part of the borough of Rushcliffe, at the edge of Vale of Belvoir, with the River Smite passing to the west. The site is located on a south facing slope.

2.2. Bedrock geology is the Branscombe Mudstone Formation formed in the Triassic period in a hot desert environment. There are no records of superficial deposits in the area (British Geological Survey website).

## **3. PROJECT BACKGROUND**

3.1. Full planning permission (Rushcliffe Borough Council Ref. 21/01925/FUL) has been granted for the construction of an extension to an existing stable block, lean-to store and all-weather exercise arena.

3.2. In line with advice provided by the Archaeology Officer, Nottinghamshire County Council (adviser to the local planning authority), planning permission is conditional upon the commissioning of a programme of archaeological control and supervision to be carried out during demolition, construction and excavation on the site.

3.3. Details of the archaeological works must be set out in a written scheme of investigation (WSI), to be submitted to and approved by Rushcliffe Borough Council in advance the commencement of development on the site.

## **4. ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND**

4.1. Two sherds of prehistoric pottery (probably from the Neolithic to Late Bronze Age) were recovered from an allotment, at around 100m west of the current site (NHER L1598). Prehistoric pottery was also recovered from areas further to the west during excavations for a pipeline running between Orston and Aslockton. Finds included a fragment of prehistoric pottery (NHER L11391) from the Chapel Street area. Further finds from the area between Chapel Street and the River Smite included a large fragment of Iron Age scored ware (NHER L11400), a fragment of Bronze Age pottery and two sherds identified only as prehistoric (NHER 11402).

4.2. The artefact scatter found on allotments 100m west of the site included six fragments of Roman pottery (NHER L9650). Roman pottery was also recovered during pipeline works (see above) on Chapel Street (NHER L11390 and L11394) and further to the south between Chapel Street and the River Smite (NHER L11396).

4.3. A scatter of 8<sup>th</sup> century sceattas (NHER L7354) was located by metal detecting on land at Orston. The Nottinghamshire HER places the coins at a location c. 250m west of the current site.

4.4. Medieval pottery was recovered during work on the pipeline on Church Street (NHER L11389 and L11395). The current site is situated in an area of earthworks (NHER L7835) including medieval (to post medieval?) ridge and furrow. Two ponds and a field boundary (undated) are present at the northern end of the area and probable house platforms have been observed north of Lombard Street. The current site appears to lie within the area of ridge and furrow.

4.5. Named as *Oschintone* (<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Orston>) in the Domesday Book of 1086, the place-name Orston probably derives from the Old English for a farm or settlement connected with Osica, a personal name (Key to English Place-Names website). At the time of the Domesday survey the settlement, in the hundred of Bingham, was held by King William, with an estimated 35 households (Open Domesday website)

4.6. The oldest building in the parish is the Grade I listed (List No. 1272710) church of St Mary. The building is described as late 12<sup>th</sup> century and later in the Nottinghamshire HER (NHER M1597), while in details accompanying the listing it is said to comprise 13<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> century elements, with the tower being built in 1766 and restorations taking place in 1889. The current site lies approximately 450m south south-east of the church.

4.7. The Second Edition Ordnance Survey County map (published 1900, revised 1899) shows the site as part of a large field occupying all of the area between Lombard Street and Hill Road, except for Hill Farm on the south-west side of Hill Road and what is probably Hamilton's farmhouse, a late 17<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> century building (NHER M10133) situated west of the current site, on the south-east side of Lombard Street.

## **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 (NHER).

## **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.

6.3. Representative section drawings will be produced to show the general stratigraphic sequence.

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. Where practical, any human remains encountered during groundworks will be left in situ, covered and protected. 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.

6.7. Our quotation assumes that archaeological recording will take place within the parameters of the contractor's original 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.

6.8. Within the terms of the above, any interruptions to the contractor's programme of groundworks 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.

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

6.10. 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.

6.11. The structure and media of the site record will be in accordance with the archive guidelines issued by the receiving archive repository.

6.12. In accordance with the Treasure Act 1997 and Code of Practice finds deemed to be treasure will be archaeologically removed to a safe place and reported immediately, to the Coroner and to the Archaeology Officer Nottinghamshire County Council. Where it is not possible to remove finds on the same day as discovery, appropriate security arrangements will be put in place.

## **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 Historic Environment Record
- Preparation of the complete project archive for museum deposition

7.2. Conservation work on finds will be carried out by Norfolk Museums Service.

## **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:

<b>Recipient</b>	<b>Copies</b>
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 a repository recognised by the local planning authority advised by the Archaeological Officer, Nottinghamshire County Council. 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 receiving museum or store.

9.2. In advance of the commencement of fieldwork, the receiving museum or store will be contacted to request an archive accession number and confirm a site code.

9.3. The archive will be prepared for long term storage in accordance with requirements set out in guidance issued by the receiving museum or store.

## **10. PUBLICATION AND DISSEMINATION**

10.1. An OASIS online form will be initiated at the ADS internet site ([ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/oasis](http://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).

10.2. 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 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. 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:

<b>Finds Category</b>	<b>Specialist</b>
Animal Bone	Environmental Archaeology Consultancy
Prehistoric pottery	Sarah Percival
Conservation	Norfolk Museums Service
Environmental Analysis	Environmental Archaeology Consultancy
Human skeletal remains	Sue Anderson (Spoilheap Archaeology)
Post Roman Pottery and Ceramic Building Materials	Sue Anderson (Spoilheap Archaeology)
Radio-Carbon dating	Beta-Analytical, Miami
Registered/Other Finds	Gary Taylor (Archaeological Project Services)
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 4 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 assemblages of multi-period finds, including pottery, lithics, bone and metalwork. Provision has also 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 with indemnity to the value of £2,000,000

### **14. STANDARDS**

All work shall be undertaken to professional standards and in accordance with best current practice, the Code of Conduct of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (2014) and the CifA Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief (revised 2020).

### **15. BIBLIOGRAPHY**

British Geological Survey website.

[https://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html?&\\_ga=2.171027424.1369860917.1617535874-1217089618.1617535874](https://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html?&_ga=2.171027424.1369860917.1617535874-1217089618.1617535874) [accessed 9<sup>th</sup> April 2022]

Open Domesday website.

<https://opendomesday.org/place/SK7641/orston/> [accessed 9<sup>th</sup> April 2022]

The University of Nottingham Key to English Place-Names website.

<http://kepn.nottingham.ac.uk/map/place/Nottinghamshire/Orston> [accessed 9<sup>th</sup> April 2022]

9<sup>th</sup> April 2022