

WITHAM ARCHAEOLOGY

WRITTEN SCHEME OF INVESTIGATION

ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING AND RECORDING AT THE FORMER CHURCH OF ST NICHOLAS, SPANBY LANE, SPANBY, LINCOLNSHIRE,

Planning Ref.: North Kesteven 21/0596/FUL

NGR: TF 09554 38177

Site Code: SPSL21

The Collection Accession Code: **LCNCC:.2021.124**

SUMMARY

This document details a programme of Archaeological Monitoring and Recording to be undertaken in conjunction with groundworks associated with the conversion to residential use of the former parish church of St Nicholas, Spanby Lane, Spanby, Lincolnshire.

The project has been commissioned by Alice Sumner to fulfil the requirements of a condition attached to planning permission granted by North Kesteven District Council. The condition requires the submission of a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) detailing a programme of archaeological works. The archaeological adviser to the local planning authority has recommended that these works take the form of Archaeological Monitoring and Recording during groundworks. In advance of any work on the site, the WSI must be submitted to the local planning authority as part of an application for discharge of the relevant planning condition. Following submission of the application, the WSI must be approved in writing by NKDC.

The church is located at the eastern edge of the present day village, north of Spanby Lane and opposite a medieval moated site and probable site of the medieval manor house.

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 Miss Alice Sumner. It sets out details of a programme of Archaeological Monitoring and Recording to be carried out during groundworks associated with conversion to residential use of the former St Nicholas Church, Spanby, including the excavation of services following the line of the existing footpath.

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 Planning Archaeologist, South Kesteven District Council.

2. SITE LOCATION AND DESCRIPTION

2.1. Spanby, in the civil parish of Threekingham and the administrative district of North Kesteven, is located approximately 8 km south of Sleaford. The former St Nicholas parish church is located on the east side of the village, north of Spanby Lane. The site, at NGR TF

09554 38177 is flanked by converted farm buildings to the east and farmland to the north and west.

2.2. The site is located on solid geology of Peterborough Member Mudstone, a sedimentary bedrock formed approximately 164 to 166 million years ago in the Jurassic Period. Superficial deposits do not appear to be present in the immediate area of the site, but (<https://www.bgs.ac.uk/discoveringGeology/geologyOfBritain/viewer.html>). Superficial deposits have not been recorded in the area.

3. PROJECT BACKGROUND

3.1. Full planning permission (21/0596/FUL) has been granted by North Kesteven District Council subject to Conditions including the submission of a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) detailing a programme of Archaeological Monitoring and Recording covering all groundworks and with provision to stop and allow the full recording of archaeological features where necessary. The WSI is to be approved by the Planning Archaeologist, NKDC before any work is carried out at the site.

3.2. The development will be undertaken in accordance with the WSI.

4. ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

4.1. Archaeological remains dating from the prehistoric period to the present day have been identified in Spanby and surrounding areas.

4.2. Iron Age and Romano-British pottery has been recovered from a field east of Mareham Lane and around 500m south-west of the current site. Mareham Lane is known to have been in existence in the Roman period, connecting Bourne, Sleaford and possibly Lincoln (Margary 1973, 234).

4.3. Spanby is mentioned in the Domesday Survey of 1086, as Spanesbi, a placename which was probably derived from the Old Norse or Swedish for shingles, combined with the Danish *by* to denote a 'homestead with a shingled roof' (Ekwall 1974, 433). At the time of the Domesday Survey, the land was held by Colsuain and Oger the Breton (Foster and Longley 1976).

4.4. A moated site south of Spanby Lane and directly opposite the church is believed to have been the site of the medieval manor house at Spanby. The manor house was probably constructed in the 12th century by John Filiot, and in the early 16th century may have been the principal residence of Arthur Spanby. It is not clear when the site was deserted but the earthwork remains were scheduled in 1970 and a survey of 1979 recorded a central platform measuring 22m by 26m and raised 1m above the general ground level. The earthwork, together with associated fishponds other village remains, and areas of ridge and furrow, was levelled in 1980. The site was descheduled in 2001 (LHER MLI160040; Roffe <http://www.roffe.co.uk/earthworks/moats/spanby.htm>).

4.5. St Nicholas parish church (LHER MLI90566) was built in 1882 by a Mr Howitt of Swaton. The Heritage Statement submitted in support of the current planning application records that "Whilst it originally came under the jurisdiction of Swaton, in 1931 it became part of the civil parish of Threkingham. The church superseded an earlier 14th century stone structure and has retained some of the original features, including the font and vestry door. There are registers of burials, baptisms and marriages dating from the 1680s, with the last recorded burial in 1965. The Church was then declared redundant in 1973 and came into private ownership in 1977. Although it was not listed until 1990, no changes to the fabric of the building have occurred since the purchase date" (Sumner 2021).

4.6. The Grade II listed farmhouse at Manor Farm is a stone building erected c. 1700 (LHER MLI190564). The farmstead includes some of the traditional working buildings located away from the farmstead.

4.7. The Ordnance Survey 1:2500 County map of 1889 shows the church and graveyard within its current boundaries with the moated site to the south.

5. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

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

- Ensure an appropriate level of archaeological supervision and recording during the conversion and installation of associated services.
- 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. As far as possible, human remains encountered during groundworks will be left in situ, covered and protected. If previously undisturbed human remains are encountered, the client and Planning Archaeologist will be informed immediately of the discovery so that an appropriate course of action can be agreed. If removal becomes unavoidable, Witham Archaeology will obtain a Ministry of Justice licence and all work will be carried out in accordance with the terms of the licence and in compliance with relevant environmental health regulations. Please note that our quotation does not provide for the processing or analysis of skeletal remains and any requirement for such work would require a variation in costs. Any disarticulated human bone displaced by the excavations will be recorded and collected for burial in another part of the graveyard.

6.11. In accordance with the Treasure Act 1996 and accompanying 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 (Jennings 2019).

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. 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: 2021.124 has been allocated for deposition of the archive by The Collection. The site code will be SPSL21.

9.2. The archive will be prepared for long term storage in accordance with requirements set out in the Lincolnshire Archaeology Handbook.

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 Planning Archaeologist, North Kesteven District 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 the 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 archaeologist will undertake the majority of post-fieldwork tasks: ordering of the site archive, finds management/liason 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 a moderate assemblage of medieval material (post, building materials and other finds) and post-medieval material as well as occasional finds from other periods.

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 Chartered Institute for Archaeologists and the relevant CIfA Standards and Guidance for archaeological investigation.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Ekwall, E., 1974, *The Concise Oxford Dictionary of English Place Names* (4th Edition)

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Margary, I.D., 1973, *Roman Roads in Britain (Third Edition)* London John Baker

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