# Archaeological monitoring and recording at Anglian Water SEW-10281 South Witham, Lincolnshire



#### For Anglian Water

Prepared by Joe Groarke

Report Number: 116/2015

**TPA Project Code: SWTP 15** 

Accession Number: LCNCC:2015.179

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Date		15th October 2015	
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Date		15th October 2015	
Approved by		Dr Howard Jones, Regional Director	

19th October 2015

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Signed

# Summary

- Trent & Peak Archaeology (TPA) was commissioned by Anglian Water to carry out archaeological monitoring and recording during intrusive ground works associated with the installation of a sand filtration unit at South Witham Sewage Treatment Works (SEW-10281).
- The work was carried out on 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2015 and comprised one attendance during groundworks.
- Alluvial deposits were found to be overlying the natural substrate which was encountered at a depth of around 1m from the existing ground surface.
- No archaeological remains or artefacts were encountered during the course of the investigation.

## Contents

Disclaimer Summary	
Contents	4
1. Introduction	5
2. Topography and Geology	5
3. Historical and Archaeological Background	5
4. Aims and Objectives	6
5. Methodology	6
6. Results	7
7. Conclusion	
8. Bibliography	7
List of Plates	4
List of Figures	4
List of Appendices	4

### **List of Plates**

Plate 1: North facing section, looking south	8
Plate 2: West facing section, looking east	8
Plate 3: South facing section, looking north	9
Plate 4: View of east facing section with access ramp, looking west	9
Plate 5: General view, looking south	10

# List of Figures

Figure 1: Location map	11
Figure 2: North facing section	12

# List of Appendices

Appendix 1: Archive and Museum Deposition	13
Appendix 2: Summary Context List	
Appendix 3: Photographic Record	13
Appendix 4: OASIS Data Collection Form	14
Appendix 5: Lincolnshire County Council Brief	

# **1** Introduction

- 1.1 Trent & Peak Archaeology was commissioned by Anglian Water to carry out a watching brief, consisting of archaeological monitoring and recording during groundworks associated with the installation of a sand filtration unit at South Witham Sewage Treatment Works.
- 1.2 The work was undertaken in response to a request for archaeological attendance made by Lincolnshire County Council's Historic Environment Officer in line with the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF 2012). The work followed an approved Written Scheme of Investigation (Taylor 2015) and adhered to the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' *Standards and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief* (CIfA 2014).

# 2 Topography and Geology

- 2.1 The development area, hereafter 'the Site', comprised a 6.5m x 6.5m square plot of land within an existing sewage treatment works, to the east of existing filtration structures and sluices at South Witham (NGR SK 9286 1972). The site is surrounded on all sides by grassland and is bounded to the east by the River Witham The sewage works lies approximately 106m to the west of North Witham Rd, a residential street towards the north of South Witham.
- 2.2 The ground slopes very gradually down from east to west, having been previously levelled by the construction of the sewage works.
- 2.3 The Site's geology is part of the Lower Lincolnshire Limestone Member, part of the wider Lincolnshire Limestone Formation. This Bedrock formed approximately 165 million years ago in the Bajocian Period, or middle Jurassic, in a shallow, warm sea on the edge of the London-Brabant massif. (http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html).

# 3 Historical and Archaeological Background

3.1 No designated or non designated heritage assets are recorded on the Lincolnshire HER within the bounds of the site. However, the site lies in an environment of considerable archaeological interest.

#### Prehistoric and Roman

- 3.2 Within a kilometre radius of the site, find spots of an early Bronze Age axe (HER 33698) and a polished flint axe (HER 33696) attest to prehistoric human activity in the vicinity of the site. Flint tools including a flint flake and blade were uncovered during a previous watching brief in Twyford Meadows, 377m to the west of the site. A small assemblage of residual and unstratified flint artefacts were recovered during excavations at 8 Church Lane in 1992.
- 3.3 During a watching brief at Church Lane (780m to the south-west of the site), a single sherd of Iron Age pottery was recovered along with numerous sherds of Romano-British pottery from a pit and several adjacent gullies (HER 36108). A watching brief carried out at Sycamore House (780m to the south of the site) produced sherds of Romano-British and Early Saxon pottery, all of which were thought to be residual in nature (HER 36114, 36115).
- 3.4 In 1967, a limestone coffin with lead lining and lid containing a human skeleton was discovered by workmen laying pipes 230m to the south-west of the site. The coffin was

broken up but its form was suggestive of a Romano-British date (HER 33692). Further to the south-west, approximately 1.2km away, a Romano-British inhumation cemetery was discovered during quarrying between 1920 and 1922. There were a total of 24 burials along with a well and other structural remains (HER 33686).

#### Saxon and Medieval

3.5 The Scheduled Monument of the site of the Knights Templar preceptory, with associated outbuildings, watermill and fishpond survive as a series of earthworks 780m to the north of the site (HER 33691). Excavations took place here in the 1960's and in April 2002, and revealed a chapel, kitchens, brewhouse, kilns and industrial areas as well as the waterlogged remains of the watermill sluice gates and water wheel. The preceptory was one of the smallest in England, established before 1164 and dissolved 1308-1312, when the land passed to the Knights Hospitaller, who left it uninhabited (Platt, 2005: 58).

# 4 Aims and Objectives

- 4.1 In order to examine the archaeological resource within the development area, the objectives of the investigation were to:
- Identify, investigate and record all archaeological deposits, exposed during all groundworks associated with the development, via continuous archaeological monitoring;
- Determine and record the date, extent, character, state of preservation and depth of burial of any archaeological deposits;
- Where practical, establish the relationship of any archaeological deposits within the wider contemporary landscape, recording and sampling any features of palaeoenvironmental or geoarchaeological significance.
- Create a permanent archive and record of the archaeological information collected during the course of the fieldwork and analysis.
- 4.2 The results of the evaluation will enable reasoned and informed recommendations to be made to the local planning authority, and a suitable mitigation strategy for any future development in the area to be formulated.

# 5 Methodology

- 5.1 A square shaped area, 6.5m x 6.5m (42.25m<sup>2</sup>) was stripped of subsoil and underlying deposits in even spits, under constant archaeological supervision using a 360° tracked excavator fitted with a toothless bucket. Topsoil had been removed prior to archaeological attendance.
- 5.2 All deposits were recorded on pro forma sheets and a photographic record comprising high quality digital images was maintained throughout.
- 5.3 The area of archaeological observation was located on an accurate plan.
- 5.4 The stripped surface and all spoil heaps were scanned with a metal detector to maximise finds retrieval.

5.5 All works were carried out in accordance with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief (CIfA 2014).

# 6 Results

- 6.1 The natural substrate, (004), which comprised yellow-brown sandy clay was encountered at around 1m below current ground level.
- 6.2 Overlying the natural there was a layer of alluvium, (003), which was 0.42m thick and comprised blue-grey silty clay. This was overlain by a second alluvial deposit, (003), which was 0.40m thick and comprised yellow/brown silty clay.
- 6.3 The overlying subsoil (0001) comprised a loose light brown soil which was up to 0.11m thick. No inclusions were present in the layer, and no organic evidence was present.
- 6.4 No archaeological remains or artefacts were encountered during the course of the watching brief.

# 7 Conclusion

- 7.1 Undisturbed alluvial deposits, presumably associated with over-bank flooding of the River Witham which bounds the existing sewage works to the east, were found to overly the natural substrate.
- 7.2 The results suggest that the area which was subject to archaeological monitoring had not been disturbed by the construction of the existing sewage treatment works.
- 7.3 No archaeological features were observed and no finds were recovered during the course of the investigation.

# 8 Bibliography

Platt, L. 2005. *Medieval England: A Social History and Archaeology from the Conquest to 1600AD.* Routledge.

Taylor, E. 2015. Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Watching Brief at Anglian Water SEW 10281, South Witham, Lincolnshire. Trent & Peak Archaeology 103/2015.

# **Plates and Figures**



Plate 1: North facing section, looking south



Plate 2: West facing section, looking east



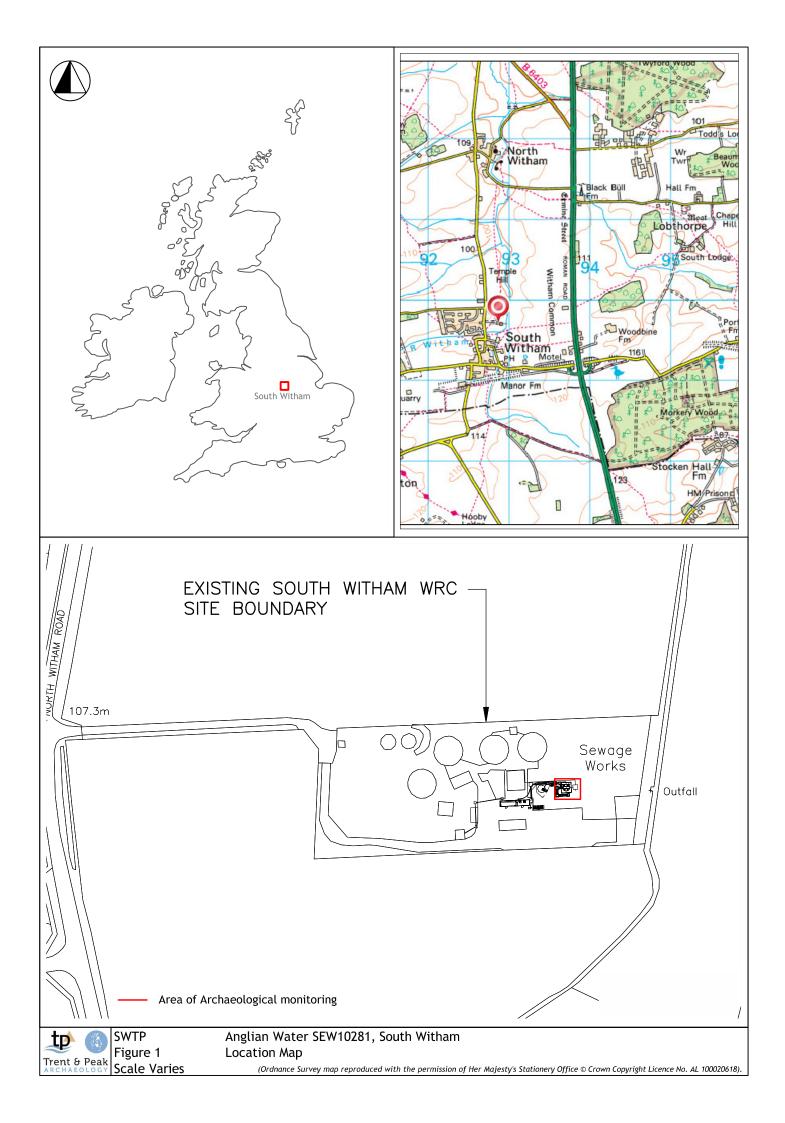
Plate 3: South facing section, looking north

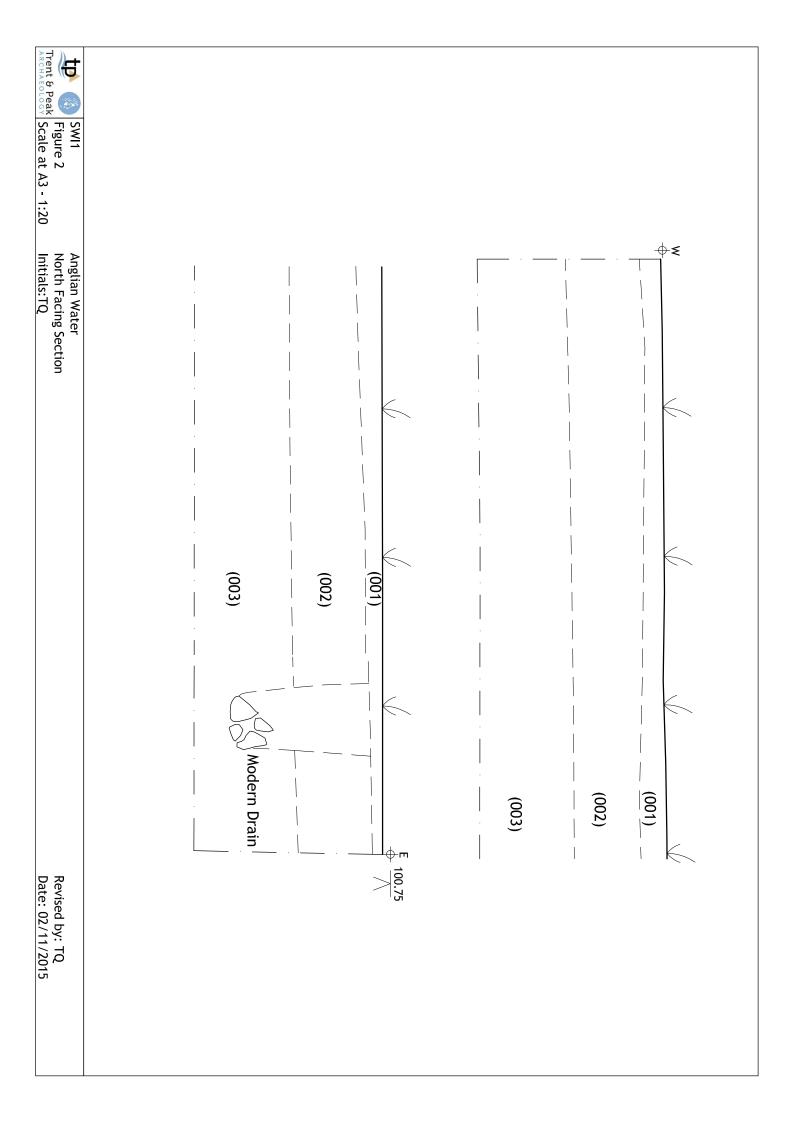


Plate 4: View of the east facing section with access ramp, looking west



Plate 5: General view, looking south





# Appendix 1: Archive and Museum Deposition

The investigation has produced a small archive comprising: Written records (4 pro forma sheets) Section drawings (1 A3 sheet) Photographic record (32digital photographs on 1 contact sheet) Digital records (1 CD)

The archive is currently stored at the Trent  $\vartheta$  Peak's offices and will be deposited with The Collection Museum, Lincoln under the Accession Number LCNCC: 2015.179. The anticipated date of deposition is April 2016.

Context Number	Туре	Description	
0001	Layer	Subsoil	
0002	Layer	Yellow-brown colluvium	
0003	Layer	Blue-grey colluvium	
0004	Layer	Natural Substrate	

# **Appendix 2: Summary Context List**

# **Appendix 3: Photographic Record**

Site code	Sheet	DI no	Subject	Direction	Date	Dr No's
SWTP 15	1	1-13	Working shots of excavation	All angles	22/09/15	01
SWTP 15	1	14-15	N facing section of excavated area	S	22/09/15	01
SWTP 15	1	16-18	W facing section of excavated area	E	22/09/15	01
SWTP 15	1	19-20	S facing section of excavated area	N	22/09/15	01
SWTP 15	1	21	S facing section oblique	NE	22/09/15	01
SWTP 15	1	22-24	E facing section of excavated area	W	22/09/15	01
SWTP 15	1	25-28	Plan shot of area	S	22/09/15	01
SWTP 15	1	29-32	Plan shot of area	N	22/09/15	01

# **Appendix 4: OASIS Data Collection Form**

# OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM: England

List of Projects | Manage Projects | Search Projects | New project | Change your details | HER coverage | Change country | Log out

**Printable version** 

#### OASIS ID: trentpea1-226003

#### Project details

Project name	Anglian Water SEW10281
Short description of the project	Trent and Peak Archaeology (TPA) was commissioned by Anglian Water to carry out archaeological monitoring and recording during intrusive ground works associated with the installation of a sand filtration unit at South Witham Sewage Treatment Works (SEW-10281). The work was carried out on 22nd September 2015 and comprised one attendance during groundworks. Colluvial deposits were found to be overlying the natural substrate which was encountered at a depth of around 0.95m from the existing ground surface. No archaeological remains or artefacts were encountered during the course of the investigation.
Project dates	Start: 22-09-2015 End: 22-09-2015
Previous/future work	No / No
Any associated project reference codes	LCNCC:2015.179 - Museum accession ID
Any associated project reference codes	None - Museum accession ID
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Transport and Utilities 3 - Utilities
Monument type	NONE None
Monument type	NONE None
Significant Finds	NONE None
Significant Finds	NONE None
Methods & techniques	"Visual Inspection"
Development type	Service infrastructure (e.g. sewage works, reservoir, pumping station, etc.)
Prompt	National Planning Policy Framework - NPPF
Position in the planning process	After full determination (eg. As a condition)

#### **Project location**

Country	England
Site location	LINCOLNSHIRE SOUTH KESTEVEN SOUTH WITHAM Anglian Water SEW10281
Postcode	NG33 5RA
Study area	0 Square metres
Site coordinates	SK 9286 1972 52.76674446133 -0.623546819615 52 46 00 N 000 37 24 W Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 99m Max: 99m

#### **Project creators**

Name of Organisation	Trent and Peak Archaeology
Project brief originator	Local Planning Archaeologist
Project design originator	Edmund Taylor
Project director/manager	Edmund Taylor
Project supervisor	Joe Groarke
Type of sponsor/funding body	Anglian Water
Name of sponsor/funding body	Anglian Water

#### **Project archives**

Physical Archive Exists?	No
Digital Archive recipient	The Collection: Art and Archaeology in Lincolnshire, Lincoln
Digital Archive ID	LCNCC:2015.14
Digital Contents	"other"
Digital Media available	"Database", "Images vector", "Text"
Paper Archive recipient	The Collection: Art and Archaeology in Lincolnshire, Lincoln
Paper Archive ID	LCNCC:2015.14
Paper Contents	"other"
Paper Media available	"Context sheet", "Drawing", "Plan", "Report", "Section"
Project bibliography 1	
5 IF ( )	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)

Publication type		(

Title Anglian Water SEW10281

Archaeological Monitoring and Recording at SEW-10281, South Witham, Lincolnshire

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Description	Ring bound paper copy
Entered by	Ed Taylor (etaylor@yorkat.co.uk)
Entered on	8 October 2015

# **OASIS**:

Please e-mail Historic England for OASIS help and advice © ADS 1996-2012 Created by Jo Gilham and Jen Mitcham, email Last modified Wednesday 9 May 2012 Cite only: http://www.oasis.ac.uk/form/print.cfm for this page

# Appendix 5: Lincolnshire County Council Brief

Lincolnshire County Council Historic Environment Team Archaeological Brief for Scheme of Monitoring and Recording

South Witham WRC Planning Authority Ref:10281 Grid Reference: SK 9286 1972 Issued: 23/7/2015 Issued by: Louise Jennings Historic Environment Officer

Issued by Lincolnshire County Council

This archaeological brief is only valid for a period of six months from issue. Any specification or project design resulting from this brief shall only be considered valid for a period of six months from its issue.

### 1.1 Notes for the applicant

This document sets out the brief for a scheme of monitoring and recording. A full report shall be prepared, and it is in the developer's interest to ensure the report is to an adequate standard.

This brief should be sent to archaeological contractors as the basis for the preparation of a detailed archaeological project specification. In response to this brief contractors will be expected to provide details of the proposed working methods, timescales and staffing levels necessary to complete the work.

Detailed specifications should be submitted by the applicant for approval by the planning archaeologist. Unless the specification is approved no groundworks should commence.

A phased approach to fieldwork may be adopted, with one stage leading on to another (if necessary) after each phase is reported upon and reviewed.

Employing an archaeologist is similar to employing any professional undertaking work on your behalf; you are free to get several quotations before making your final decision. Details of archaeological contractors may be found on <u>www.archaeologists.net</u>, <u>www.bajr.org</u> or the yellow pages.

The planning archaeologist will require at least ten working days' notice prior to the commencement of the work.

### **1.2** Notes for the contractor

The contractor's specification should be prepared according to requirements of this brief and the Lincolnshire Archaeological Handbook's section 'Standard Briefs for Archaeological Projects in Lincolnshire' (August 1997, revised 2012).

The professional archaeological contractors invited to tender for the work must be able to demonstrate, within their specification or project design, that they can provide sufficient staffing, relevant expertise and the appropriate experience in dealing with technology of the type and nature required in this brief.

Contractors will operate in line with professional Institute for Archaeologists (IfA) guidelines and standards and the IfA Code of Conduct.

The scheme of archaeological works will include, as appropriate, background research, fieldwork, assessment, analysis, preparation of report, publication and deposition of the project archive. Specifications will be rejected if it is determined that they

- are insufficiently documented,
- do not meet the requirements specified in the brief, or
- the specification fails to demonstrate the archaeological contractor's competence and ability to undertake the project in accordance with the Lincolnshire Archaeological Handbook.

The relevant experience of the project team must be articulated within the specifications. In particular the person leading the project in the field must have significant experience of current archaeological methods, theory and safe practice.

The full report including all specialist assessments of artefact assemblages shall be submitted within three months of completion of the fieldwork phase. If this is not possible then the planning archaeologist must be consulted at the earliest possible opportunity.

A copy of the final report can be sent to the planning archaeologist for approval prior to its submission to the Local Planning Authority, but please be advised that Lincolnshire County Council Historic Environment Team is not responsible for writing, proof-reading or copyediting draft reports.

It should be noted that the planning archaeologist will not recommend the discharge of any planning conditions until they have approved the report and the archive has been deposited.

An additional copy of the report should be submitted to the curator in a single PDF format.

### 1.3 Summary of brief

Anglian Water has proposed an installation scheme consisting of final effluent pumping station, ferric dosing unit, sand filters, inlet screens, balancing tank and associated pipework. As this scheme is in an area of archaeological interest, archaeological monitoring and recording of these works has been recommended By Lincolnshire County Council, Historic Environment Team to preserve any archaeology that may be disturbed by record.

### 1.4 Site location and description

The site is located in South Kesteven district in the parish of South Witham. The site grid reference is SK 9286 1972.

The specification should include details of the area's geology, land use, vegetation and current land use.

### 1.5 Archaeological and historical background

This site is very close to the Medieval settlement of South Witham and as well as earlier finds dating from the prehistoric period onwards including a Roman burial only a few metres from the sewage works.

### **1.6** Requirement for work

The archaeological research aims and objectives of the project will be clearly stated, and the method statement or specification will demonstrate how these will be met. Appropriate reference will be made to the East Midlands Research Frameworks and strategies or any national period-specific research frameworks.

Archaeological monitoring is required during all groundworks. The archaeologist should have the ability to stop works and record any features that are revealed, if appropriate.

This should be followed by a written report supported by any specialist reports as appropriate and the submission of the complete archive to the museum.

## 1.7 Methodology

In consideration of methodology the following details should be given in the contractor's specification:

- 1.7.1 An agreed projected timetable for the various stages of work (fieldwork and production of report and archive).
- 1.7.2 Details of the staff structure and numbers.
- 1.7.3 Compliance with the relevant Health and Safety legislation and due consideration of site security.
- 1.7.4 A full description of the recovery and recording strategies to be used.
- 1.7.5 A programme of investigation that provides a sound basis for developing the archaeological scientific component within the specification for any subsequent mitigation strategy.
- 1.7.6 An estimate of time and resources allocated for the post excavation work and report production. This should include lists of specialists and their role in the project. It is expected that finds will be encountered and therefore adequate provision should be made for specialists in these areas. If the specialists to be used are not IfA registered and are not locally recognised, a CV or other form of reference should be provided

with the specification. There should be no change to any of the specialists listed in the specification unless previously discussed with the planning archaeologist.

- 1.7.7 The normal preferred policy for the scale of archaeological site plans is 1:20 and sections at 1:10, unless circumstances indicate that other scales would be more appropriate.
- 1.7.8 The site grid will be tied to the national grid.
- 1.7.9 Finds of potential Treasure must be reported to the local Coroner within fourteen days in accordance with the Treasure Act 1996. The Finds Liaison Officer can be contacted for advice in the first instance.
- 1.7.10 If human remains are encountered the contractor must comply with current legislation.
- 1.7.11 The use of an appropriate machine with a toothless ditching blade should be used during any monitored excavation. **All** groundworks should be monitored by an experienced archaeologist during machining.

### **1.8 Monitoring arrangements**

The planning archaeologist, Louise Jennings, will be responsible for monitoring progress and standards throughout the project and will require at least ten working days' notice prior to the commencement of the work. The planning archaeologist should be kept informed of any unexpected discoveries and regularly updated on the project's progress. Any variations to the specification shall be agreed with the planning archaeologist in writing prior to them being carried out.

### 1.9 Health and Safety

All work should be carried out in a way that complies fully with the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974.

### 1.10 Finds

All finds will be exposed, lifted, cleaned, conserved, marked, bagged and boxed in accordance with the United Kingdom Institute for Conservation (UKIC) *First Aid For Finds*, 1998 (new edition).

### 1.11 Standards

Archaeological contractors should note that the Lincolnshire Archaeological Handbook stipulates basic *methodological* standards. It is considered axiomatic that all contractors will strive to achieve the highest possible *qualitative* standards, with the application of the most advanced and appropriate techniques possible within a context of continuous improvement aimed at maximising the recovery of archaeological data and contributing to the development of a greater understanding of Lincolnshire's historic environment. Monitoring officers will seek and expect clear evidence of commitment to the historic resource of Lincolnshire, with specifications being drawn up within a context of added value.

## 1.12 Reporting Requirements

The report content should conform to the minimum standards as defined in Section 14.6 of the Lincolnshire Archaeological Handbook, including:

- 1.12.1 Location plans of the proposed development area at a minimum scale of 1:10 000.
- 1.12.2 Location plans of the area/s which have been investigated and the position of any trenches.
- 1.12.3 Tables summarising features and artefacts together with a full description and brief interpretation.
- 1.12.4 Specialist descriptions of artefacts and ecofacts.
- 1.12.5 Accurate section and plan drawings, with ground level, Ordnance Datum, vertical and horizontal scales as appropriate.
- 1.12.6 Photographs of the site scanned at a high resolution in colour. Photocopies are not acceptable.
- 1.12.7 The archaeological potential of the proposed development site and its immediate surrounding area.
- 1.12.8 A consideration of the significance of the findings on a local, regional and national basis.
- 1.12.9 A critical review of the effectiveness of the methodology.
- 1.12.10 A complete bibliography of all reference material including sources consulted but not referred to in the text.
- 1.12.11 The online OASIS form <u>http://ads.ac.uk/projects/oasis</u> must be completed and the cover sheet included in the report.
- 1.12.12 The following appendices:
  - All specialist reports or assessments.
  - Context register with brief descriptions.
  - Photographic register.
  - Summary of archive contents, location and date of deposition.
  - Archaeological brief.

Any recommendations for further work are the responsibility of the planning archaeologist. The report produced by the contractor, therefore, should not include any written recommendations concerning further works. Should the contractor wish to make recommendations to the planning archaeologist, this may be done in writing, separately from the submitted report (IfA standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation, paragraph 3.2.8).

## 1.13 Archive deposition

The integrity of the site archive should be maintained. All finds and records should preferably be properly curated by a single organisation, and be available for public consultation. The archive should be deposited within six months of the completed project or prior to the request for discharge of any relevant planning condition. The National Planning Policy Framework, section 12 para. 141 advise that planning

conditions should not normally be discharged until archiving is complete.

The archive consists of all written records and materials recovered, drawn and photographic records, including a single copy of the final report. It will be quantified, ordered, indexed and internally consistent. It should also contain site matrices, a site summary and brief written observations on the artefactual and environmental data. An accession number must be drawn prior to the commencement of archaeological works. An expected archive deposition date should also be included; this should be applied for at the same time as the museum accession code and site code. This is a compulsory requirement for the specification.

If the receiving museum is to be The Collection, Lincoln then the archive should be produced in the form outlined in that museum's document '<u>Conditions for the Acceptance of Project Archive</u>s', Chapter 17 in the Lincolnshire Archaeological Handbook.

### 1.14 Public Dissemination

The deposition of a copy of the report with the Lincolnshire Historic Environment Record and with the planning archaeologist will be deemed to put all information into the public domain, unless a special request is made for confidentiality.

See Chapter 16 of the Lincolnshire Archaeological Handbook for further details.

## 1.15 Other factors (including contingency)

The specification should make adequate provision in contingency to allow for unexpected finds. The archaeological contractor should provide details of adequate insurance policies. Contingency for unexpected costs e.g. due to more artefacts or ecofacts recovered than expected. This should only be activated after discussion with the planning archaeologist and the client.

## 1.16 Useful contact details

Louise Jennings Lincolnshire County Council Planning Archaeologist Development Directorate Historic Environment Team Unit 16 Witham Park House Waterside South Lincoln LN5 7JN 01522 554823 Louise.jennings@lincolnshire.gov.uk Adam Daubney Lincolnshire County Council Finds Liaison Officer Address as above. 01522 552361 Adam.Daubney@lincolnshire.gov.uk

Museum/Archives The Collection 1 Danes Terrace Lincoln LN2 1LP 01522 550961 www.thecollection.lincoln.museum

South Holland District Council 01775 761161 www.sholland.gov.uk

West Lindsey District Council 01427676076 customer.services@west-lindsey.gov.uk

Historic England – East Midlands Region 01604 735460 www.HistoricEngland.org.uk

# 1.17 Planning and The Historic Environment

There is a presumption in favour of preservation in situ of all important archaeological remains, whether they are designated or not. The National Planning Policy Framework, section 12 para. 141 states 'Local planning authorities should make information about the significance of the historic environment gathered as part of the planmaking or development management publically accessible. They should also require developers to record and advance understanding of the significance of any heritage assets to be lost (wholly or in part) in a manner proportionate to their importance and the impact and top make this evidence (and any archive generated) publically accessible. However the ability to record evidence of our past should not be a factor in deciding whether such loss should be permitted.'