

**GREEN WASTE COMPOSTING FACILITY, HUTTON HALL  
HUTTON CONYERS, RIPON, NORTH YORKSHIRE**

**WRITTEN SCHEME OF INVESTIGATION FOR  
AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL STRIP, MAP AND SAMPLE EXCAVATION**

**1.0 INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1 This document presents a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for an archaeological Recording Brief on the topsoil strip and ground works for the re-development of part of a former munitions store near Hutton Hall to the north-east of Ripon, North Yorkshire (NGR SE3302 7468), Planning Application Ref. NY/2010/0023/FUL.
- 1.2 The works requiring archaeological supervision are approximately 400m of access road approaching from the south-east along with the ground works in the vicinity of the building. It is currently anticipated that the ground works for the access road will be up to 400mm deep and between 3.5 and 4m wide. In the area of the existing building it is anticipated that work on the southern end and western side will be up to a depth of 1.5m whilst on the northern end and eastern side the ground disturbance will be minimal. The differences in the depths of ground disturbances are due to the building being partially cut into the slope of the ground.
- 1.3 This WSI has been produced JB Archaeological Services (JBAS) on behalf of W Dale and Son Ltd.

**2.0 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES**

- 2.1 The objective of the Recording Brief is to identify, map, record and sample excavate any features of archaeological interest revealed or damaged during the topsoil strip of the site and ground works associated with the re-development of the above site. The specific aims are to:
- Archaeologically record (written, graphic and photographic records) any archaeological features revealed by the ground works
  - Recover any archaeological artefacts and environmental material exposed by the ground works
- 2.2 All archaeological works will be carried out in accordance with the Institute of Field Archaeologists Code of Conduct for an Archaeological Recording Brief (1999).

**3.0 METHODOLOGY**

- 3.1 The stripping of turf, topsoil and any overburden (e.g. demolition rubble, loose stone, concrete, hardcore etc. from the remains around the building) will be carried out by contractors using mechanical excavator with a toothless bucket

under direct archaeological supervision. A toothed bucket may be used where ground conditions dictate – e.g. concrete.

- 3.2 During the ground-works the exposed ground surfaces will be inspected for archaeological features and the resulting topsoil stockpiles will be monitored for archaeological artefacts. In the event of encountering archaeological deposits (structures, finds or soil features) the archaeologist will be provided with the opportunity to observe, clean, assess, excavate where appropriate, sample, excavate and record the deposits. Metal detecting will only be undertaken under archaeological supervision and with due regard to the Treasure Act 1996 and its Code of Practice.
- 3.3 Should any material culture (e.g. artefacts, evidence of ancient technology or environmental material) relating to the archaeology of the site be encountered it will be recorded and excavated. It will also be sampled for potential dating of the deposits and the assessment of their potential for the scientific analysis of soils, sediments, biological remains, ceramics and stone. All specialists (both those employed in-house and those sub-contracted) will be named in the project documentation where appropriate. Scientific investigations should be undertaken in a manner consistent with the English Heritage best-practice guidelines (2003). Any material will be retrieved in a suitable manner to allow the optimum methods for storage and any potential conservation that may be required.
- 3.4 All artefacts and environmental material encountered during the Recording Brief will be collected and processed, unless substantial amounts of material are encountered. In this case a sampling policy will be agreed with the Development Control Archaeologist, North Yorkshire County Council.
- 3.5 Any artefacts will be appropriately packaged and stored under optimum conditions, as detailed in First Aid for Finds (Watkinson & Neal, 1998). In accordance with the procedures of MAP2 (English Heritage, 1991), all iron objects, a selection of non-ferrous artefacts (including all coins) and a sample of any industrial debris relating to metallurgy will be X-radiographed before assessment. The guidance of Jones (ed. 2006) will be followed. Where there is evidence for industrial activity, large technological residues will be collected by hand, with separate samples (0.2 litre) collected for micro-slugs, hammer-scale and spherical droplets. Workshop floors will be sampled throughout at 0.2-0.5m intervals. In these instances, the guidance of English Heritage (2001) will be followed.
- 3.6 Should suitable deposits be encountered samples will be taken for scientific dating, principally radiocarbon (C14) and possibly archaeomagnetic dating.
- 3.7 Any buried soil horizons and sediment sequences will be inspected and recorded on site and samples for laboratory assessment collected where appropriate, where possible in collaboration with a recognised geo-archaeologist. The guidance of Canti (1996) will be followed.

- 3.8 All securely stratified deposits will be examined for the potential for the analysis of biological remains. If suitable they will be sampled and stored pending any post excavation analysis programme. Sampling methods will follow the guidance of the Association for Environmental Archaeology (1995) and English Heritage (2002). Coarse sieved samples for the recovery of animal bones and other artefact or environmental material categories will be 100 litres plus, if enough material is present. Samples for dry sieving may be processed at the time of fieldwork if possible. Flotation samples, for the recovery of charred plant remains, charcoal, small animal bones and mineralised plant remains, will be between 40 and 60 litres in size, if enough material is present. Entire contexts will be sampled if the volume is low. Samples for General Biological Analysis (GBA) will normally be 20 litres in size. The English Heritage guidance will be consulted for details of sample size for other specialist samples which may be required. Where possible within the time constraints of the Recording Brief allowance will be made for a site visit from an environmental specialist/consultant.
- 3.9 If contractors or plant operators encounter any possible archaeological deposits they should notify the appointed archaeologist straight away.
- 3.10 No work on areas containing archaeological deposits will be undertaken until approved by the appointed archaeologist.
- 3.11 Any significant archaeological deposits will be recorded as follows:
- Drawings will be produced of the archaeological features encountered, for sections these will normally be at a scale of 1:10, and plans at a scale of 1:20 unless other scales would be more suitable. An appropriate height above sea level derived from an Ordnance Survey datum will be given on all drawings.
  - Photographically the deposits will be recorded on 35mm colour slide (if appropriate) and black and white print film and digitally at 5m pixel resolution. 1m and 2m bi-coloured poles were used as scales and a north pointer for orientation. For the detailed photography smaller bi-coloured scales will be used.
  - A written record of any deposits will be made using a series of pre-printed pro formas.
  - The site was levelled using the nearest suitable Ordnance Survey datum.
- 3.12 Upon completion of all fieldwork any samples will be processed and evaluated, all finds will be cleaned, identified, spot-dated, assessed for conservation and stored appropriately. Depending upon the amount and significance of any material recovered further study and reporting may be required. Any further programme of work will be as a result of discussions between the site archaeologist, the developer and the Development Control Officer for NYCC. The post-excavation assessment of material should be undertaken in accordance with the guidance of MAP2 (English Heritage, 1991).

- 3.13 In the event of unexpected or complex archaeological deposits being encountered the Development Control Archaeologist from the Heritage Unit of NYCC will be informed immediately and any revision of strategy be agreed by all parties.
- 3.15 If human remains are encountered they will be excavated under the guideline of the Human Tissue Act 2004 and the appropriate licence from the Home Office.

#### **4.0 ARCHIVE**

- 4.1 An archive comprising all of the primary site records will be compiled and suitably cross referenced. This will contain the completed recording *pro formas* and other written documents, all drawings and photographs along with their appropriate indices. Catalogues of contexts, finds, soil samples, plans, sections and photographs will be produced and cross-referenced. The archive will then be prepared ready for deposition with reference to the appropriate museum guidelines and standards, to Walker (1990), the Society of Museum Archaeologists (1993) and the County Council's Guidelines on the Transfer and Deposition of Archaeological Archives. This archive will then be made available for deposition to the appropriate receiving museum.
- 4.2 The archaeological contractor will liaise with an appropriate museum to establish the detailed requirements of the museum and discuss archive transfer. The relevant museum curator should be afforded access to visit the site and discuss the project results.
- 4.3 The archiving of any digital data arising from the project will be undertaken in a manner consistent with professional standards and guidance (Richards & Robinson 2000). If appropriate the archaeological contractor will liaise with an appropriate digital archive repository to establish their detailed requirements and discuss the transfer of the digital archive.
- 4.4 The archaeological contractor will also liaise with the HER Officer, North Yorkshire County Council, to make arrangements for digital information arising from the project to be submitted to the North Yorkshire Historic Environment Record for HER enhancement purposes.

#### **5.0 REPORT**

- 5.1 A report on the results of the Recording Brief will be produced which will cover the following broad headings:

- Introduction
- Background
  - Location
  - Geology and Soils
  - Topography and Land Use
  - Historical Background
- Aims and Objectives

Methodology  
Results  
Finds  
Discussion and Conclusions  
References

- 5.2 Within this structure the report will set out the aims of the work and the results achieved. Figures will be included to show the location and depth of any archaeological deposits encountered in relation to existing ground levels. The report will also discuss the archaeological potential of the site and present an assessment of the site within its wider context. This will lead to an interpretation of its significance, if any. The report will also include a listing of contexts, finds, plans and sections, and photographs. All excavated areas will be accurately mapped with respect to nearby buildings and roads, and levels related to Ordnance Datum.
- 5.3 In the event of the discovery of significant archaeological remains then a programme of post excavation analysis will be devised in agreement between the developer and the Heritage Unit of NYCC. The results of any analysis may justify the need for publication in a relevant academic journal (e.g. Yorkshire Archaeological Journal) or similar.
- 5.4 In addition to the client a copy of this report will be supplied to the Planning Archaeologist at North Yorkshire County Council and will also accompany the field archive and any finds for deposition at the receiving museum.

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