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SNY	18618
ENY	5910
CNY	8969
Parish	8067
Rec'd	28/08/2011

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HEADWELL LANE, SAXTON,

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**METHOD STATEMENT FOR A PROGRAMME  
OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL RECORDING**

May 2011

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**OSA**

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Arch Info

CM 8969  
8067 parish  
S18618 65910

Fircroft, Headwell Lane, Saxton

Written Scheme of Investigation for a Programme of Archaeological Recording

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**OSA Method Statement.**

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**SITE LOCATION:** Fircroft, Headwell Lane, Saxton.

**PLANNING REFERENCE NUMBER:** 2008/0752/OUT and 8/67/5H/PA 2009/1054/REM.

**HET TEAM REF. NUMBER:** 8067 NB CNY8969

**LANDUSE:** Garden

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## 1.0 Summary.

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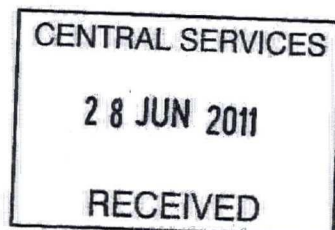
- 1.1 This Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) is a method statement for a programme of archaeological observation, investigation and recording, to be carried out during groundworks associated with the construction of a dwelling, garage and associated services and infrastructure.
- 1.2 This WSI has been prepared by *On-Site Archaeology Ltd* to detail the mitigation programme to be employed.

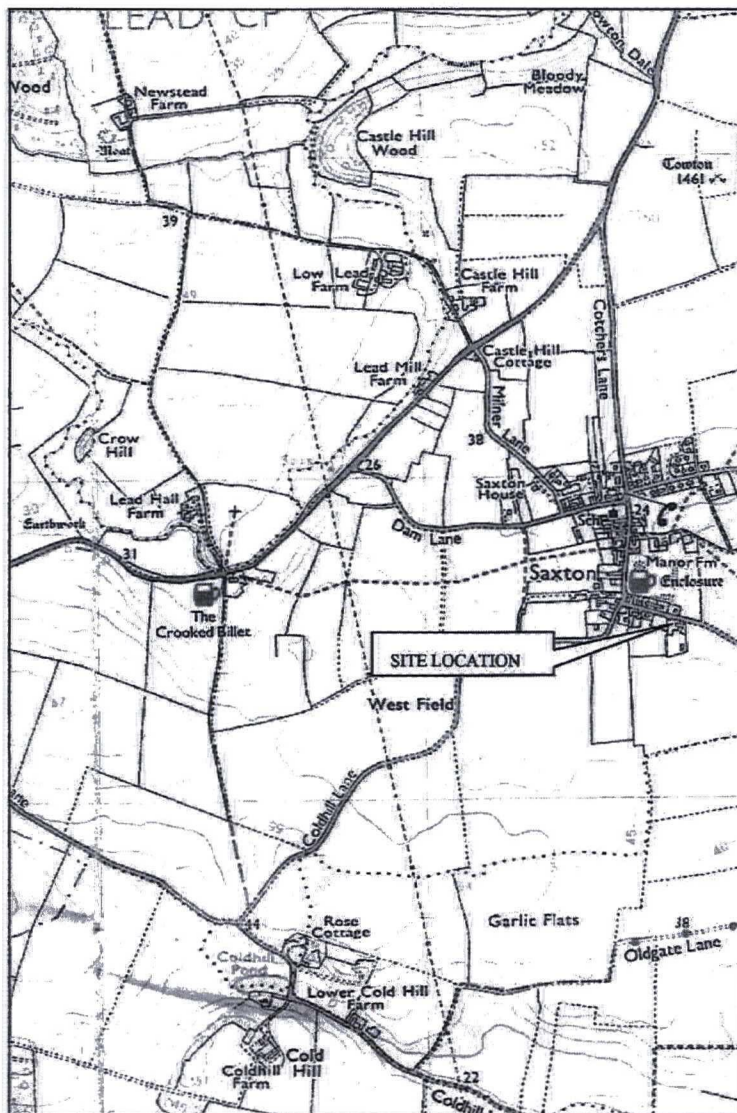
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## 2.0 Site Location.

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- 2.1 The village of Saxton lies to the immediate south of the village of Towton, and to the immediate west of the village of Barkston Ash. The proposed development site lies on the eastern edge of Saxton. It is bounded to the south by Headwell Lane, to the east by agricultural land, to the north by grazing land, and to the west by a residential property (Figure 1).
- 2.2 The current land use of the site is residential. The area comprises a detached, single storey dwelling and garden with various out buildings. The garden itself is turfed, with several fruit trees and a vegetable patch. The application site currently comprises a garden/orchard of approximately 0.25ha. adjacent to the existing dwelling (Fircroft)..





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Figure 1. Site Location (NGR SE 477 367)

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### 3.0 Planning Background

- 3.1 Planning permission has been granted for the erection of a detached dwelling and garage, subject to archaeological conditions to secure a programme of archaeological work. Condition 4 states that:
- 3.2 “No development shall take place within the application area until the applicant has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological work in accordance with a written scheme of investigation which has been submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority.
- 3.3 Reason: In accordance with Policy ENV28 of the Local Plan.”

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#### 4.0 Archaeological Interest.

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- 4.1 The proposed development site lies within an area of archaeological interest, with the potential for the survival of remains of the prehistoric and later periods.
- 4.2 The site is adjacent to a Scheduled Monument comprising a medieval Motte and Bailey castle (Scheduled Monument No 20518). The motte is forty metres in diameter at the base and about two metres high. A slight eight metre wide ditch surrounds the mound and there is a hollow area at the top which marks the site of the tower which was originally located here. The Manor House, formerly the residence of the Hungate family, was demolished in the early nineteenth century but its foundations survive immediately to the south of Manor Farm. The monument was altered by the building of a later medieval manor house in the north east corner of the bailey and also by the creation of small enclosures, a hollow way and a pond beside the motte.
- 4.3 In addition the Ordnance Survey map of 1849 shows earthworks aligned northwest to southeast to the south of the motte which may form the outer bailey ditch. This feature may extend into the application area.
- 4.4 An archaeological evaluation was carried out by *On-Site Archaeology Ltd.* in July 2008. The evaluation comprised two trenches, each 5m x 2m in size.
- 4.5 Trench 1 was found to contain two postholes and two linear features. One linear feature was cut into the limestone bedrock, the other features were cut into the deep B-horizon of the soil profile. The postholes possibly belong to a small scale structure such as a fence or animal pen. The uppermost linear feature could be evidence of a robbed out structure, or an old hedgerow. The linear feature cutting through bedrock was a north-south aligned ditch, also seen in trench 2. No dating evidence was found in this trench. It is possible that the deeper ditch is the same as the ditch shown on the 1849 OS map.
- 4.6 Trench 2 was found to contain an L-shaped feature cutting the deep B-horizon and a linear feature cutting limestone bedrock. The L-shaped feature may be the remains of a small scale structure such as an animal pen. The dimensions of the feature suggest that the structure would have been small and quite insubstantial. The linear feature was a continuation of the ditch found in trench 1. No dating evidence was found in this trench.

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#### 5.0 Objectives.

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- 5.1 The objective of the mitigation strategy is to ensure that any archaeological deposits that might be uncovered can be fully recorded.
- 5.2 The results of the watching brief will be made public.



## 6.0 Methodology.

- 6.1 The watching brief shall comprise the archaeological monitoring of all groundworks required for the development (Figure 2). The excavations will be undertaken under archaeological supervision. This is to enable the identification and recording of any archaeological material that might be uncovered.
- 6.2 During the course of the groundworks, sufficient time and opportunity will be given to the archaeologist to investigate and record any archaeological remains. Although the attending archaeologist will endeavour to work efficiently and with minimum disruption to the construction programme, there may be occasions when a slight delay is unavoidable. The groundworks contractor should be forewarned of this possibility.

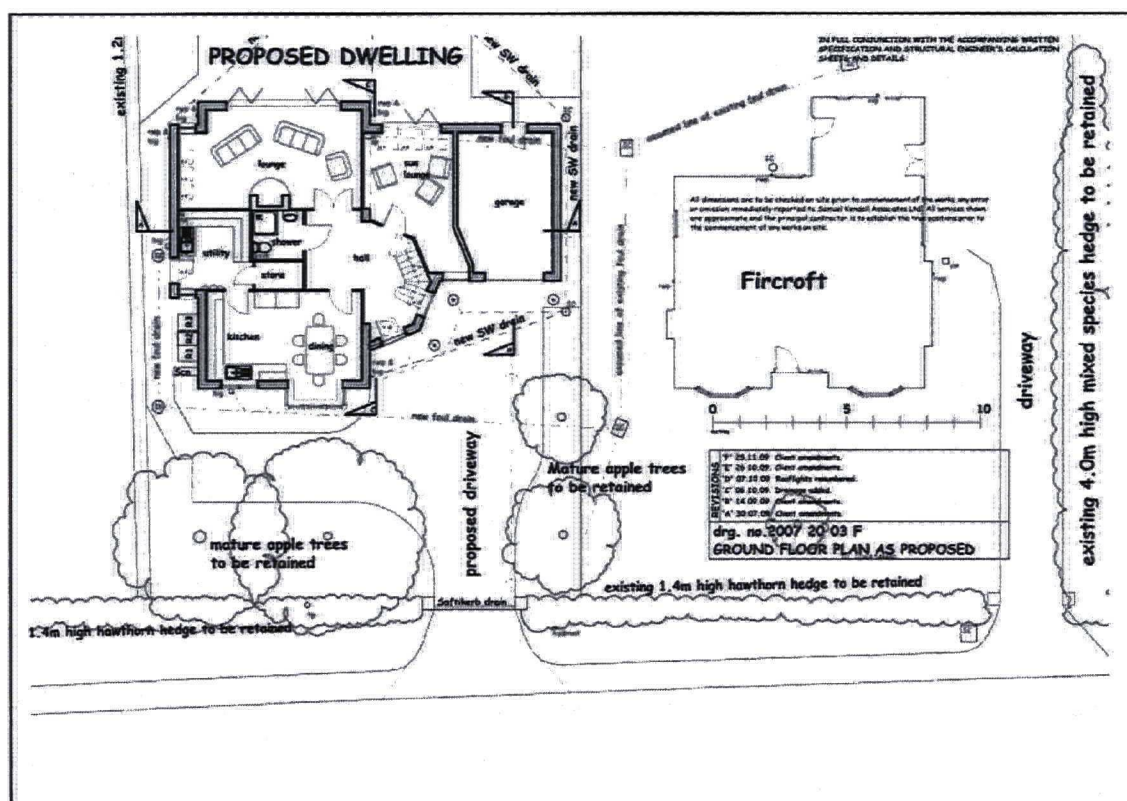


Figure 2. Proposed site plan (Samuel Kendal Associates)

- 6.3 Archaeological recording will comprise the production of written, drawn (to appropriate scales) and photographic records.
- 6.4 Non-modern stratified and unstratified artefacts will be collected to assist in the interpretation and analysis of the chronological sequence. All recording, marking and storage material will be of archive quality and recording systems will be compatible with the recipient museum. Allowance will be made for preliminary conservation and stabilisation of all objects and an assessment of long-term conservation and storage needs. Finds will be appropriately packaged and stored under optimum conditions, as detailed in

the RESCUE/UKIC publication *First Aid for Finds*. 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.

- 6.5 On completion of the fieldwork an ordered archive will be prepared and deposited with the appropriate museum service.
- 6.6 With the exception of human remains and finds of treasure (as defined under the 1996 Treasure Act), which should be reported to the coroner, all finds are the property of the landowner. However, it is expected that the finds will be deposited with the archive, together with the material generated during the evaluation of the site.

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## 7.0 Report Preparation, Contents & Distribution.

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- 7.1 Within six weeks of the completion of the work a report will be produced and submitted to the developer, the Local Planning Authority and the Historic Environment Office.
- 7.2 A report shall be prepared to include the following:
- a) A non-technical summary of the results of the work.
  - b) An introduction page to include the site code, planning reference number, dates when the fieldwork and post-excavation analyses took place, and a National Grid Reference.
  - c) An account of the methods and results of the fieldwork in the context of the known archaeology of the area. This shall be supported by an overall plan of the site accurately identifying the location of trenches; individual trench plans as excavated indicating the location of archaeological features, with at least one section detailing the stratigraphic sequence of deposits within each trench; and photographs.
  - d) A specialist assessment of the artefacts recovered with a view to their potential for further study.
  - e) A specialist assessment of environmental samples taken, with a view to their potential for subsequent study.
- 7.3 Copies of the report will be submitted to the commissioning body, the Local Planning Authority, and the Historic Environment Record, within an agreed timetable and subject to any contractual requirements on confidentiality.

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## 8.0 Copyright, Confidentiality & Publicity.

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- 8.1 Unless the organisation commissioning the project wishes to state otherwise, the copyright of any written, graphic or photographic records and reports rests with On-

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*Site Archaeology Ltd.* Agreements on copyright should be agreed with the commissioning body at the outset of the project.

- 8.2 The circumstances under which the report or records can be used by other parties should be identified at the commencement of the project, as should the proposals for distribution of the report (see 7 above). *On-Site Archaeology Ltd* will respect the commissioning body's requirements over confidentiality, but will endeavour to emphasise their professional obligation to make the results of archaeological work available to the wider archaeological community within a reasonable time (normally 6 months).
- 8.3 *On-Site Archaeology Ltd* has a duty of confidence to the client commissioning the work. All aspects of publicity must be agreed at the outset of the project between the commissioning body and *On-Site Archaeology Ltd*.

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## 9.0 Monitoring, Health And Safety, Staffing & Insurance.

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- 9.1 Health and safety will take priority over archaeological matters. All archaeologists undertaking fieldwork will comply with all Health and Safety Legislation.
- 9.2 *On-Site Archaeology Ltd* will ensure that they are adequately insured, to cover all eventualities, including risks to third parties.

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## 10.0 Personnel.

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All work will be under the overall supervision of Mr. N Pearson MIFA (Member of the Institute of Field Archaeologists). Other project staff include: -

<i>Project Officer</i>	James Stanley (provisional)
<i>Palaeo-environmental advisor</i>	Sheffield Archaeobotanical Consultancy, Department of Archaeology University of Sheffield, Northgate House, West Street, Sheffield. S1 4ET.
<i> Finds Analysis</i>	Dr Chris Cumberpatch John Tibbles Ruth Leary
<i>Conservation</i>	York Archaeological Trust

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