CHANGE OF USE OF FARM BUILDINGS TO RURAL CRAFT CENTRE AT SPITAL FARM,
STAXTON, NORTH YORKSHIRE

WRITTEN SCHEME OF INVESTIGATION FOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

1. Summary

1.1 A change of use of farm buildings to a Rural Craft centre is proposed at Spital Farm, Staxton, North Yorkshire. This will comprise the conversion of existing farm buildings, and landscaping and creation of carparking to the north of the site. The site lies within an area of potential archaeological significance with high archaeological potential for the survival of remains dating from the prehistoric to Medieval periods. Of particular significance to the application site are the remains of the medieval hospital of St Mary, an area to the west of the present farm designated as a Scheduled Ancient Monument.

1.2 Accordingly, the Heritage Unit has advised the Local Planning Authority that a scheme of archaeological evaluation is undertaken on the site. The aim of this work is to establish the nature, location, extent and state of preservation of archaeological remains within the development area. This results of this work will enable the archaeological impact of the development to be fully appreciated and any appropriate design mitigation and/or further archaeological work agreed to preserve archaeological deposits either *in situ*, or by record.

2. Purpose

2.1 This written scheme of investigation represents a summary of the broad archaeological requirements to enable an assessment of the impact of development proposals upon the archaeological resource. This is in accordance with Policy C13 of the Ryedale Local Plan (March 2002) and the guidance of Planning Policy Guidance note 16 on *Archaeology and Planning*, 1990.

3. Location and Description (centred at NGR TA 0230 7960)

3.1 A full planning application (ref. 03/00426/FUL) was submitted to Ryedale District Council by Dennis Hitch Architect on behalf of Mr Hunnybell in June 2003 for the proposed change of use of farm buildings to a Rural Craft centre at Spittal Farm, Staxton, North Yorkshire.

3.2 The site lies in the parish of Willerby, on the edge of the village of Staxton TA 0230 7960 and bounded by the A64 to the south and east of the site.

4. Historical and Archaeological Background

4.1 The proposed development site lies within an area of potential archaeological significance with high archaeological potential for the survival of remains dating from the prehistoric to medieval periods. Of particular significance to the application site are

the remains of the medieval hospital of St Mary, an area to the west of the present farm designated as a Scheduled Ancient Monument, SAM NY558. The hospital belonged to the Priory of Bridlington the date of its foundation is unknown but it was in existence in the 13th Century.

Work was undertaken by T.C Brewster in the 1950's when he located structures associated with the hospital. Recent works to the south of the farm for the creation of a pond disturbed a number of human burials, believed to have been part of the cemetery associated with the hospital. Earlier burials from the Anglian and prehistoric periods are also known from the area.

There is potential, therefore, for the redevelopment of the present farm and farmyard to encounter remains associated with medieval and potentially earlier settlement.

4.2 Archaeological information for the area is held by the North Yorkshire Sites and Monuments Record (SMR). The SMR can be consulted by prior appointment by contacting the SMR Officer, North Yorkshire County Council, Heritage Unit, County Hall, Northallerton, North Yorkshire, DL7 8AH; Tel. 01609 532331, Fax. 01609 779838.

5. Objectives

5.1 The objectives of the archaeological evaluation work within the proposed development area are:

1. to determine by means of trial trenching, the nature, depth, extent and state of preservation of any archaeological deposits to be affected by the development proposals. Trial trenches of sufficient size and depth to provide this information will need to be excavated, and archaeological deposits will need to be explicitly related to depths below existing surface and actual heights in relation to Ordnance Datum.

2. to prepare a report summarising the results of the work and assessing the archaeological implications of proposed development,

.3 to prepare and submit a suitable archive to the appropriate museum.

6. Variations to Work

6.1 An allowance of time, or a contingent sum for bad weather, should be agreed as part of any contract. Variations to work arising from the presence of structures or archaeological remains not anticipated by the written scheme of investigation or the archaeological contractor should be subject to consultation with the Archaeologist, NYCC and the commissioning body, and put into effect as appropriate with the written agreement of the parties involved.

7. Access, Safety and Monitoring

7.1 Access to the site should be arranged through the commissioning body.

7.2 It is the archaeological contractor's responsibility to ensure that Health and Safety requirements are fulfilled.

7.3 The project will be monitored by the Archaeologist, North Yorkshire County Council, to whom written documentation should be sent before the start of the trial trenching confirming: a) the date of commencement, b) the names of all finds and archaeological science specialists likely to be used in the evaluation, and c) notification to the proposed archive repository of the nature of the works and opportunity to monitor the works.

7.4 Where appropriate, the advice of the Regional Advisor for Archaeological Science (Yorkshire) at English Heritage will be called upon.

7.5 It is the archaeological contractor's responsibility to ensure that monitoring takes place by arranging monitoring points as follows:

.1 a preliminary meeting or discussion at the commencement of the contract to agree the locations of the proposed trial trenches.

.2 progress meeting(s) during the fieldwork phase at appropriate points in the work schedule, to be agreed.

.3 a meeting during the post-fieldwork phase to discuss the draft report and archive before completion.

7.6 It is the responsibility of the archaeological contractor to ensure that any significant results are brought to the attention of the Archaeologist, North Yorkshire County Council and the commissioning body as soon as is practically possible. This is particularly important where there is any likelihood of the contingency arrangements being required.

8. Brief

8.1 It is suggested that a maximum of four areas of trial trenching should be excavated within the application site, placed to sample different locations and topography and determine the nature, depth, extent and state of preservation of archaeological deposits. The trenches size will be 5m x 2m. and in the locations specified on Fig 2. The project should be undertaken in a manner consistent with the guidance of MAP2 (English Heritage, 1991) and professional standards and guidance (IFA, 1999).

8.2 Archaeological investigation should be carried out over the full area of each trench, either by area excavation or sectioning of features in order to fulfil Objective 5.1.1 above. Sondages or slit trenches should be used only to facilitate the recording of the trench; they should not be used to provide a representative sample of the trench. Where excavation below a safe working depth constrains investigation, consideration should be given to stepping back or shoring the excavation. In case of query as to the extent of

investigation, a site meeting shall be convened with the Archaeologist, North Yorkshire County Council.

8.3 All deposits should be fully recorded on standard context sheets, photographs and conventionally-scaled plans and sections. Each trench area should be recorded to show the horizontal and vertical distribution of contexts. Normally, all four sides of a trench should be recorded in section. Fewer sections can be recorded only if there is a substantial similarity of stratification across the trench. The elevation of the underlying natural subsoil where encountered should be recorded. The limits of excavation should be shown in all plans and sections, including where these limits are coterminous with context boundaries.

8.4 Overburden such as turf, topsoil, made ground, rubble or other superficial fill materials may be removed by machine using a mini-digger fitted with a toothless or ditching bucket. Mechanical excavation equipment shall be used judiciously, under archaeological supervision down to the top of archaeological deposits, or the natural subsoil (C Horizon or soil parent material), whichever appears first. Bulldozers or wheeled scraper buckets should not be used to remove overburden above archaeological deposits. Topsoil should be kept separate from subsoil or fill materials. Thereafter, hand-excavation of archaeological deposits should be carried out. The need for, and any methods of, reinstatement should be agreed with the commissioning body in advance of submission of tenders.

8.5 Metal detecting, including the scanning of topsoil and spoil heaps, should only be permitted subject to archaeological supervision and recording so that metal finds are properly located, identified, and conserved. All metal detection should be carried out following the Treasure Act 1996 Code of Practice.

8.6 Due attention should be paid to artefact retrieval and conservation, ancient technology, dating of deposits and the assessment of potential for the scientific analysis of soil, sediments, biological remains, ceramics and stone. All specialists (both those employed in-house and those sub-contracted) should be named in project documentation, their prior agreement obtained before the fieldwork commences and opportunity afforded for them to visit the fieldwork in progress.

8.7 All artefacts and ecofacts visible during excavation should be collected and processed, unless variations in this principle are agreed with the Archaeologist, North Yorkshire County Council. In some cases, sampling may be most appropriate.

8.8 Finds should 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 should be X-radiographed before assessment. Where there is evidence for industrial activity, large technological residues should be collected by hand, with separate samples collected for micro-slags. In these instances, the guidance of English Heritage/Historical Metallurgy Society (1995) should be followed.

8.9 Samples should be taken for scientific dating, principally radiocarbon dating, where dating by artefacts is insecure and where dating is a significant issue for the development of subsequent mitigation strategies.

8.10 Buried soils and sediment sequences should be inspected and recorded on site and samples for laboratory assessment collected where appropriate, in collaboration with a recognised geoarchaeologist. The guidance of Canti, 1996 should be followed.

8.11 A strategy for the sampling of deposits for the retrieval and assessment of the preservation conditions and potential for analysis of all biological remains should be devised. This should include a reasoned justification for the selection of deposits for sampling and should be developed in collaboration with a recognised bioarchaeologist. Sampling methods should follow the guidance of the Association for Environmental Archaeology (1995). Bulk samples and samples taken for coarse-sieving from dry deposits should be processed at the time of fieldwork wherever possible.

8.12 Upon completion of archaeological field recording work, a full and appropriate programme of analysis and publication of the results of the evaluation should be completed, in the event that no further excavation takes place. The post-excavation assessment of material should be undertaken in accordance with the guidance of MAP2 (English Heritage, 1991).

9. Archive

9.1 Archive deposition should be undertaken with reference to the County Council's *Guidelines on the Transfer and Deposition of Archaeological Archives*. A field archive should be compiled consisting of all primary written documents, plans, sections and photographs. Catalogues of contexts, finds, soil samples, plans, sections and photographs should be produced and cross-referenced.

9.2 The archaeological contractor should liaise with an appropriate museum to establish the detailed requirements of the museum and discuss archive transfer in advance of fieldwork commencing. In this instance the Malton Museum is suggested. The relevant museum curator should be afforded access to visit the site and discuss the project results.

10. Copyright

10.1 Copyright in the documentation prepared by the archaeological contractor and specialist sub-contractors should be the subject of an additional licence in favour of the museum accepting the archive to use such documentation for their statutory educational and museum service functions, and to provide copies to third parties as an incidental to such functions.

11. Report

11.1 An evaluation report should be prepared following County Council's guidance on reporting: *Reporting Check-List.* The report should set out the aims of the work and the results as achieved. Diagrams should be included to illustrate the location and depth of archaeological deposits in relation to existing ground levels, and projected depths of disturbance associated with the development proposals, where these are known. The report should identify the archaeological potential of the site, the research

questions applicable to the site, and the deposits, finds or areas needing further investigation. The report should also include a listing of contexts, finds, plans and sections, and photographs.

11.2 All excavated areas should be accurately mapped with respect to nearby buildings and roads.

11.3 At least six copies of the report should be produced and submitted to the commissioning body, North Yorkshire County Council Heritage Unit, the museum accepting the archive, and the National Monuments Record, Swindon.

12. Further Information

12.1 Specialists

Prehistoric Pottery	Manby		01430 873147
Roman Pottery	Vivien Swan		01904 468335
	Jeremy Evans		0121 778 4024
	Paula Ware	MAP	
Pre-conquest Pottery	Mark Stephens	MAP	
Medieval pottery	Mark Stephens	MAP	
Post Medieval Pottery	Mark Stephens	MAP	
	Paula Ware	MAP	
Clay pipe	Mark Stephens	MAP	
	Paula Ware	MAP	
CBM	John Tibbles	JT	
Environmental Sampling		PRS	01388 772167
Animal Bone		PRS	01388 772167
		PRS	01388 772167
Small Finds	Hilary Cool		0116 981 9065
	Patrick Ottaway	YAT	01904 663000
Ferrous Objects	Ian Goodall		01904 663000
Copper Alloy Objects	Alison Goodall		01904 424608
Leather	Ian Carlisle	YAT	01904 663000
Slag/Hearths	Jerry McDonnell	ford University	01274 3835131
Flint	Pete Makey		01377 253695
Conservation	Erica Patterson	YAT	01904 612529
	Jim Spriggs	YAT	01904 612529
C14 dating		SURRC	01355 270136

12.2 Timetable

Commence work on 15th September 2003, opening trenches on site work completed on 29th September 2003.

Interim Report 6th October 2003

Evaluation Report 13th October 2003.

On site Team Leader – Nick Finch Tel: 07790 611160

12.3 References

Association for Environmental Archaeology, Environmental Archaeology Evaluations in England. 1995 Environmental Archaeology and Archaeological Recommendations Concerning the Archaeology Component of Archaeological Evaluations. *Working Papers of the Association for Environmental Archaeology, Number 2.*

Canti, M 1996 Guidelines for carrying out Assessments in Geoarchaeology, *Ancient Monuments Laboratory Report 34/96*, English Heritage

English Heritage 1991 Management of Archaeological Projects

English Heritage/ Historical Metallurgy Society 1995 Archaeometallurgy in Archaeological Projects

Institute of Field Archaeologists 1999 Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluations http://www.archaeologists.net/docs/codes/fldeval2.pdf

Watkinson, D & Neal, V 1998 First Aid for Finds (3rd edition), RESCUE & the Archaeological Section of the United Kingdom Institute for Conservation.

Appendix 2

Context Listing

Context	Description
1000	Topsoil (Trench 1)
2000	Topsoil (Trench 2)
3000	Topsoil (Trench 3)
3001	Fill, 10YR 3/3, fill of pit 3002
3002	Cut, Filled by 3001
3003	Fill, 10YR 3/3, fill of pit 3004
3004	Cut, Filled by 3003
4000	Topsoil (Trench 4)

Appendix 3

Archive Listing

Drawing No.	Scale	Description
1	1:10	North Facing Section of Pits 3002 and 3004
2	1:20	Plan of Pits 3002 and 3004
3	1:10	East Facing Section of Pit 3004

Appendix 4

Photographic Record

No.	Context	Scale	Facing	Description
1	Trench 1	1m	East	General Shot of Trench 1
2	Trench 1	1m	East	General Shot of Trench 1
3	Trench 2	1m	East	General Shot of Trench 2
4	Trench 2	1m	East	General Shot of Trench 2
5	Trench 4	1m	South	General Shot of Trench 4
6	Trench 4	1m	South	General Shot of Trench 4
7	Trench 3	1m	South	Pits 3002 and 3004
8	Trench 3	1m	South	Pits 3002 and 3004
9	Trench 3	0.5m	South	Section of Pits 3002 and 3004
10	Trench 3	0.5m	South	Section of Pits 3002 and 3004