# NEVILLE HALL FREELANCE ARCHAEOLOGIST & CONSULTANT

ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING & RECORDING AT THE METHODIST CHURCH, HIGH STREET, NETTLEHAM, LINCOLNSHIRE.

National Grid Reference: TF 0062 7524

Site Code: HSNE20

Accession No: LCNCC: 2020.140 Planning Reference: 141060

PREPARED FOR MR. DAVID PERKINS

Ву

Neville Hall

November 2021

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### Summary

The archaeological monitoring and recording of the groundworks pertaining to the construction of new extensions to the Methodist Church, High Street, Nettleham, Lincolnshire, was carried out by Neville Hall on the 15th-17th and the 20th of September and on the 29th of October and the 1st and 2nd of November 2021.

The monitored groundworks for this development, which consisted of the mechanical excavation of the foundations for the new rear and front extensions were the subject of continual archaeological monitoring and recording.

It was clear at a very early stage of the archaeological monitoring of the groundworks for the new rear extension that the rear of the present church along with a modern 20th century rear extension here had been constructed within a man-made terrace, which had been cut into a naturally and downwards sloping (to the north) hillside here, presumably when the present church was constructed on the site in 1899. This very late 19th century terracing had appeared to have already removed any archaeological activity that may have been here because of the considerable difference in ground levels (up to 1.50m). The cutting of this terrace had necessitated the erection of a modern brick retaining wall at the southern back end of the site. One possible feature was identified during the course of the excavation of the foundations for the rear extension. Though this is now considered to be highly ephemeral given these considerable differences in ground levels noted earlier and resultant severe truncation, which had taken place. No finds were made within this area of the site.

A modern 20th century frontal toilet block had been added to the northern part of the east elevation of the Church and also to the north elevation of the adjoining Sunday School building. This modern toilet block had been demolished prior to the second phase of site groundworks, which thus exposed this north elevation. The archaeological monitoring of the excavation of the foundations for the new front extension identified a buried soil horizon, which was found to be homogeneous, clean, deep and substantial. This horizon was also found to come down directly onto an underlying natural horizon of silt.

However, a small section of in situ medieval stone wall foundation was identified adjoining the Sunday School building of 1899 and at the western end of the first foundation trench excavated. This foundation was probably truncated and consisted of two courses of worked, shaped and faced limestone blocks with no evidence of any bonding material. The foundation was cut into the buried soil horizon and was also sealed by it. There was also no evidence for any associated construction trench as this foundation was excavated to shallower depths for fear of undermining the foundations of the adjoining Sunday School building.

It was to have been expected that the line of this medieval stone wall foundation would have continued northwards to the western end of the third excavated foundation trench. It is considered that the construction of this modern frontal toilet extension had disturbed the medieval wall foundation here since several displaced worked, shaped and faced limestone blocks were found at the western end of the third foundation trench, and where this foundation would have been expected to have been situated. There were no finds from this second phase of monitored site groundworks.

It is also considered that the spoil generated from the cutting of the terrace at the rear of the site may have been deposited at the frontal area of the new front extension. This may have presumably been laid down here in order to build up ground levels here to create a level build platform for the erection of the Church and Sunday School in 1899.

#### 1. Introduction

- 1.1 Neville Hall was commissioned by Mr. David Perkins to undertake the archaeological monitoring and recording of the groundworks pertaining to the construction of new extensions to the Methodist Church, High Street, Nettleham, Lincolnshire, centred at National Grid Reference: TF 0062 7524. The archaeological monitoring was carried out at the development site on the 15th-17th and the 20th of September and on the 29th of October and the 1st and 2nd of November 2021.
- 1.2 The work was carried out according to the requirements of various archaeological conditions, which were attached to the granting of planning consent for this development by West Lindsey District Council, the Local Planning Authority and acting on the advice of the Mr. Ian Marshman of the Lincolnshire County Council Historic Environment Team, in his capacity as archaeological advisor on planning issues to the District Council. This is in accordance with the principles established in NPPF: Planning for the Historic Environment: Historic Environment Planning Practice Guide (Department of Culture, Media and Sport, 2010), and Standard and guidance for archaeological watching briefs (CHIfA, 2014).
- 1.3 Copies of the final report will be deposited with the clients, Mr. Ian Marshman of the Lincolnshire County Council Historic Environment Team, the Planning Department of West Lindsey District Council, the Lincolnshire Heritage Environment Record (HER) and The Collection, Lincoln, along with an ordered project archive for long term storage and curation.

# 2. Site Location and Description

- 2.1 The development site at the Nettleham Methodist Church is situated on the southern frontage of the High Street at National Grid Reference TF 0062 7524 and at a height of approximately 25mAOD. The settlement of Nettleham is located within the modern civil parish of the same name and in the administrative district of West Lindsey, county of Lincolnshire [Figures 1 and 2].
- The development site is situated within a slightly undulating upland area. The area of the development site is situated on shallow well drained brashy fine loamy soils of the Elmton 1 Series, which have developed on an underlying solid geology of Oolitic limestones of the Middle Jurassic [BGS, 1973; Soil Survey, 1983].

### 3. Planning Background

- An application for planning permission (Planning Reference: 141060) for the proposed construction of new extensions to the existing Methodist Church, High Street, Nettleham, Lincolnshire has been submitted to and granted consent by West Lindsey District Council, the Local Planning Authority [Figure 3]. However, as the proposed development site was situated within a perceived archaeologically sensitive area, various archaeological conditions (Nos. 2-3 and 8-10) were attached to this planning consent.
- 3.2 It was established that the requirement for the archaeological programme of works on this site would comprise the archaeological monitoring of the groundworks during the construction stage of development at the site.
- 3.3 A specification or a written scheme of works for the archaeological monitoring was subsequently submitted to and approved by Mr. Ian Marshman of the Lincolnshire County

Council Historic Environment Team on behalf of the Local Planning Authority as required by Condition 2 of this planning consent.



**Figure 1:** Site location at scale 1:25,000. The site is shown in red. (O.S. copyright licence number 100048723)

- 3.4 Notification was given of the start date of the site groundworks programme to Mr. Ian Marshman of the Lincolnshire County Council Historic Environment Team (on behalf of the local planning authority) prior to the commencement of the on-site archaeological works as required by Condition 3 of this planning consent.
- 3.5 All of the archaeological monitoring and recording which was carried out on this site was undertaken in accordance with the agreed written scheme of works as required by Condition 8 of this planning consent.
- 3.5 This report documents the results of this programme of site archaeological monitoring and recording and will be submitted to the Lincolnshire County Council Historic Environment Team and to the Local Planning Authority as required by Condition 9 of this planning consent

#### 4. Aims and objectives of the project

- 4.1 The aims of the project were the continual archaeological monitoring of the site groundworks during the construction stage of development, which comprised the mechanical excavation of the foundations for the new front and rear church extensions.
- 4.2 The objectives of the project were:

To establish the presence/absence of archaeological remains within the area of the development site.

To determine the extent, condition, nature, character, quality and date of any archaeological remains encountered.

To allow the preservation by record of archaeological deposits.

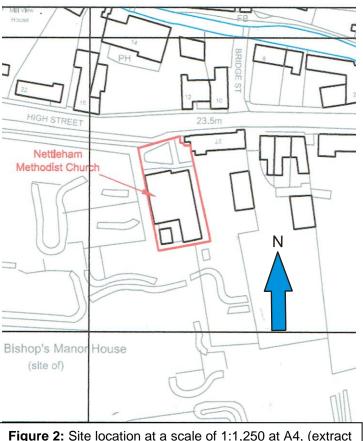
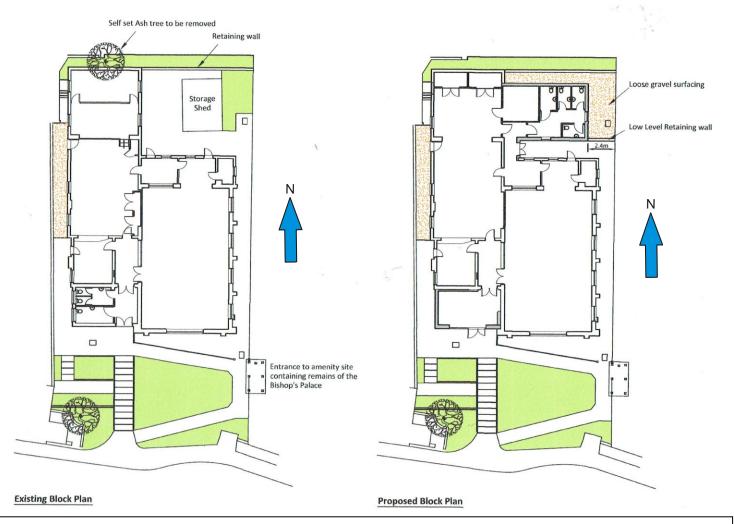


Figure 2: Site location at a scale of 1:1,250 at A4, (extract from Architects plan)

4.3 The development site is situated within an area of high archaeological potential and immediately adjacent to the scheduled area of the medieval Bishop's Palace complex, which lies to the immediate west and south. The map regression has established that the north-south orientated line of a linear earthwork, which is associated with this medieval complex, may lie along and below the eastern boundary of this development site, so the development site will lie within the area of this complex. So it was considered that there would be a very high probability that archaeological remains and finds associated with this medieval complex may be found on this site. There is evidence that this would be the case, by the finds of architectural stonework that were found during construction work on this site in 1899 and by further such finds that were made during building alterations of the 1960s. The specific objectives of the project were to record any archaeological features, deposits. structures or finds associated with this medieval scheduled complex.

#### 5. Archaeological and Historical Background

5.1 Background research sources were consulted at the online National Library of Scotland and the Lincolnshire County Council Historic Environment Record (HER). A search of the Lincolnshire HER was conducted within a 0.25km radius of the centre of the development site. The National Heritage List of Historic England was also consulted.



**Figure 3:** Block plan showing the existing and proposed layouts of the development site at an original scale of 1:200 at A3, (extract from Architects plan)

- 5.2 A polished stone axe of Early-Late Neolithic date was found in 1968 in the garden of a cottage at Nettleham (HER 52383).
- 5.3 A struck flint of Neolithic origin was found in 1977 to the south of this development site (HER 52397).
- An arrowhead, a scraper and other worked flints of Bronze Age date have been found to the south-west of this development site in 1963 (HER 52375).
- 5.5 Sherds of 2nd century AD Roman pottery were found in 1935 to the west of this development site (HER 52380).
- 5.6 Sherds of Roman pottery, a bronze finger ring and a pennanular brooch have been found to the south-west of this development site in 1963 (HER 52376).
- 5.7 Finds of Anglo-Saxon beads have been made at Nettleham in 1963 (HER 52377).
- At the Domesday Survey of AD1086, lands in the parish of *Netelham* were held by the King as a royal estate and also by Gilbert of Ghent. The settlement undoubtedly has late Anglo-Saxon origins from place name evidence. The place name itself is derived from the Old English *netel(e)* and the Old English *ham*, hence 'the homestead or enclosure where the nettles grow'. *Netelham* is also documented in the Lindsey Survey of c.AD1115. The Bishop of Lincoln is documented as holding 12 carucates of land and Walter, son of Ragemer holding 2 bovates of land here [Morris, 1986; Cameron, 1998; Mills, 1991; Ekwall, 1991; Foster & Longley, 1976].
- The medieval settlement of Nettleham has a large and rectangular or irregular green to the north-east of the parish church, though by now mostly infilled by development, most of which was present by 1777 with roads exiting from corners. It is possible that this green is a secondary development, intruded into or placed alongside a regular two-street plan of which North Street and Crescent Close form the surviving west and east terminals (HER 52405).
- 5.10 The settlement of Nettleham was an important centre in the medieval period, as a manorial holding and as the location of one of the palaces of the medieval Bishops of Lincoln. This site is located to the immediate west and south of this development site as a complex of earthworks on the south side of the High Street. Part of this complex has been identified as a 14<sup>th</sup> century formal garden (HER 52405).
- 5.11 The boundaries of the scheduled remains of the site of the medieval Bishop Palace at Nettleham lie to the immediate west and south of this development site (HER 54198, NHL 1019987). These remains survive as a series of substantial earthworks. The scheduled monument includes the earthwork and buried remains of the bishop's palace complex and its associated features, together with the remains of the early medieval manor house that preceded it. The bishop's palace was established at Nettleham at the start of the 12th century AD. The remains of the palace overlie those of a manor house in royal ownership, which was granted to Bishop Bloet by Henry I in AD1101.
- 3.12 In AD1336, Bishop Burghersh was granted a licence to crenellate the house and to surround it with a stone wall, The house was damaged in 1536, but was not finally deserted until the late 16th century. The buildings were partly dismantled in the early 17th century and by the later 18th century, no buildings were standing.
- 5.13 The remains of the palace complex take the form of a series of substantial earthworks. The remains of the principal buildings of the palace are located in the north-eastern portion of the scheduled monument, where the remains of stone walls represent a series

of ranges, which include private chambers, a chapel, offices, a kitchen and stables. The private chambers are believed to be situated within the western portion of the palace, with the service buildings located to the east. The buildings were constructed upon a series of levelled terraces, which are matched by those of the palace gardens to the west. The gardens, which are bounded by the remains of a stone wall are thought to have been laid out in the mid 14th century, following the licence to crenellate. Referred to in a document of AD1432, they will include the remains of pathways and flower beds arranged in rectangular shaped blocks. Archaeological excavations which took place within the garden area in 1959 demonstrated the survival of underlying building remains that comprised wall foundations and a well, that were thought to represent the remains of the earlier manor house that had stood on the site prior to the 12th century.

- The central portion of the monument takes the form of a broad terrace, bounded to the north by the main palace buildings and garden wall and to the south by a series of building platforms arranged along the inside of a linear bank. This bank represents the remains of a stone wall which formed the southern boundary of the palace complex; the building remains at its centre representing the principal gatehouse of the palace. The courtyard thus created houses the agricultural and service buildings of the palace, including to either side of the gatehouse, the remains of a large rectangular shaped barn. Further building remains on the eastern side of the courtyard may represent service buildings such as a brewhouse or stables with an enclosed yard to the east. In the western part of the courtyard is a deep limestone quarry extraction pit of post-medieval date adjacent to a mound, which is thought to be a former lime kiln.
- 5.15 In the southern part of the monument, and extending southwards from the remains of the gatehouse are two parallel linear banks. These represent a walled trackway, which served as the principal approach from the south to the palace complex.
- 5.16 Other finds which have been made within this scheduled area include a Saxon hearth and a late Anglo-Saxon loomweight of c.8th-c11th century AD date that was found in 1955 (HER 52379) along with sherds of 12th century AD pottery, which were found here in 1969 (HER 54198).
- 5.17 The parish church of All Saints on the High Street is an early and mid 13th century parish Church, which is Grade I listed (HER 53292, NHL 1064111). The church consists of an Early English west tower, a clerestoried nave, north and south aisles, a chancel, a south porch and a north vestry. The stained glass in the church dates from the 14th century. The church was restored in 1889.
- 5.18 Within the parish churchyard are the remains of a medieval stone cross base with a socket (HER 50625). Adjacent to the base is a 14th century stone coffin.
- 5.19 A 15th century open stone coffin, which is Grade II listed, is situated on the south side of the parish church and close to the south porch (HER 55830, NHL 1064112).
- 5.20 A medieval jetton has been found to the south of the Bishop's Manor House at Nettleham by a metal detector in 1992 (HER 51648). A small medieval pottery figurine has been found to the immediate south-west of this development site in 1968 (HER 52384).
- 5.21 A sherd of medieval pottery of 14th century origin was found to the south of this development site in 1962 (HER 52378).
- 5.22 The Cottage, High Street is a Grade II listed early 17th century house which is located adjacent and to the immediate east of this development site (HER 55835, NHL 1064117). The building has 18th and 20th century alterations.

- 5.23 No 19, High Street is a Grade II listed 17th century house with 19th and 20th century alterations (HER 56208, NHL 1359474). This is situated to the east of this development site.
- 5.24 The Plough Inn at 1, The Green is a Grade II listed late 17th century public house that underwent alterations and refronting in the 18th century (HER 55832, NHL 1064414).
- 5.25 No. 1, Church Street is a Grade II listed late 18th century house, which is now an office (HER 55865, NHL 1064153). The building underwent alterations in the late 18th and 19th centuries.
- 5.26 Situated to the south-west of the parish church is a Grade II listed gravestone, which is dated to 1732 (HER 56205, NHL 1359471).
- 5.27 The White Hart Inn on the High Street is a Grade II listed former court house, which is now a public house, which was built in c.1730 (HER 55953, NHL 1165885). The building has 20th century alterations.
- 5.28 No. 2, The Green is a Grade II listed late 18th century house with 20th century alterations (HER 55833, NHL 1064115).
- 5.29 Hilstead at 11, Church Street is a Grade II listed late 18th century house, which was formerly two houses (HER 55829, NHL 1064110). The building has late 19th and 20th century alterations.
- 5.30 No. 5, Beckside comprises a pair of Grade II listed late 18th century cottages, which is now a single cottage (HER 55946, NHL 1165760). The building has late 18th and 20th century alterations.
- 5.31 Ash Tree Farmhouse is a Grade II listed late 18th century farmhouse with 19th and 20th century alterations (HER 56137, NHL 1309167).
- 5.32 A barn, waggon hovel and a pigeoncote at Ash Tree Farm, High Street are of late 18th century date and are all Grade II listed. The barn and hovel have 20th century alterations (HER 56209, NHL 1359475).
- 5.33 The first Methodist Chapel in Nettleham was constructed in 1815. This chapel on the High Street within the area of this development site was constructed in 1899 as a replacement for the chapel of 1815 (HER 55164). The adjacent Sunday School was also built in 1899. When the chapel was first constructed in 1899, the foundations were cut into the earthworks of the medieval Bishops Palace. Contemporary newspaper reports detail the finding of a number of architectural stonework fragments that included a fragment of window tracery and part of a doorway. Subsequent works on the site have also identified further archaeological remains with finds of medieval pottery recovered during building alterations of 1969. In the early 2000s, it was noted that fragments of medieval architectural stonework were mounted on the wall of the chapel kitchen.
- 5.34 No. 10, Church Street is a Grade II listed early 19th century house, which has 20th century alterations (HER 56204, NHL 1359470).
- 5.35 An early 19th century former washhouse at No. 11, North Street is Grade II listed (HER 56174, NHL 1359436).
- 5.36 A former school and school house on the High Street are Grade II listed and were constructed in 1856 (HER 55836, NHL 1064118). The buildings are now in use for the local community.

- 5.37 The site of a former windmill is shown on the First Edition Ordnance Survey map of the late 1880s (HER 52415). It was situated to the immediate south-east of this development site and is designated on this map as a' flour mill'.
- 5.38 The Nettleham War Memorial stands on the village green (HER 58196). The memorial was unveiled in 1920.
- 5.39 There have been a number of previous archaeological investigations within the vicinity of this development site. In 1995, an archaeological watching brief was mounted on trenching for a new water main along part of the High Street and to the immediate north of the site of the medieval Bishop's Palace (HER ELI6964, Site code: NMR95). The archaeological monitoring here did not identify any evidence of medieval archaeological activity. The results of this monitoring here were also inconclusive. The findings here consisted of an undated former stream course. It was considered that this feature had been either excavated a part of the Bishop's Palace complex or had been utilised in the medieval period. The modern road skirted around the boundary of the complex. The absence of recognisable medieval archaeological features suggested that the line of this new pipe trench excavation was outside of the Palace grounds.
- 5.40 In 1998, an archaeological watching brief was undertaken on the groundworks for the construction of a new extension, for a new warden's bungalow and access roads to an elderly care home at Church View, All Saints Lane (HER ELI3517, Site code: NAS98). The watching brief identified a probable ploughsoil horizon of medieval and/or post-medieval date over which lay a topsoil horizon. No significant archaeological features or finds were identified. A modern pit was found to the east of the extension plot.
- In 2003, an archaeological watching brief took place on the groundworks for a new residential development at Manor Court (HER 54974, Site code MCN03). The watching brief was targeted on an area of raised ground on the southern side of the development. Some deposits, including a buried topsoil horizon, which were of potential archaeological significance were identified including alluvial deposits, which were interpreted as occupying the base of a pool, which was considered to be of possible Anglo-Saxon origin.
- 5.42 In 2007, an archaeological evaluation of two trenches took place at 15, Greetwell Lane in advance of proposed development (Site code: NGWL07). The evaluation identified the line of a north east-south west orientated ditch, which was interpreted as a possible continuation of the western boundary ditch of the medieval Bishop's Palace, which also had a southern terminal. This termination was to allow an entrance to the palace site. The southern limit of this entrance was defined by a group of postholes to the south of the southern ditch terminus. Two sherds of Anglo-Saxon pottery were also recovered from this evaluation (HER 55409).
- In 2008, an geophysical survey was undertaken within the scheduled area of the medieval Bishops Palace (HER ELI9372). Two areas to the west and south of the development site were surveyed, where the ground was flatter, outside the area of standing extant earthworks, which were more conducive to the conduct of the survey. The lines of the walls of buildings were clearly visible on the ground. The site also has the presence of a lime kiln of post-medieval date. This appeared to be associated within a sheer sided quarry working, which this survey avoided. The survey picked up the lines of the walls and of earthwork banks on the site as was anticipated. However, the clarity of the results of these added little to the actual plan of the site earthworks themselves. In the area of the Palace garden, there was a suggestion of features, which do not appear on the ground as earthworks. These were thought to represent either part of the garden layout or features pertaining to a different phase of the site. To the south of the earthworks, anomalies were identified that suggested that the site was once more

extensive than that represented by the area of the extant site earthworks. To the west of the entrance way, anomalies identified here suggested possible structures belonging to a different phase than that represented by the earthworks. It was considered that there could well be evidence for other phases of the site than that which were represented by the extant earthworks. The survey also suggested that the area of the site extended further to the south of the earthworks.

- 5.44 In 2012 and 2014, two archaeological watching briefs were carried out on the groundworks for new extensions to the rear of 2, Parkside (Site code: PANE12 and PANE14). These did not identify any archaeological activity or finds.
- 5.45 In 2011, an archaeological evaluation took place on land to the rear of 19, High Street prior to the proposed construction of a new dwelling and garage (Site code: NHSE10). One trench was excavated, but no archaeological features were identified here. Finds included a small number of sherds of Saxo-Norman pottery, but these were associated with post-medieval or modern material. The evaluation was situated to the east of this development site and adjacent to the scheduled area of the medieval Bishops Palace.
- 5.46 Copies of published O.S. maps were obtained from the online National Library of Scotland. An extract from the First Edition 25 inch to one mile scale O.S. map of 1887 shows the area of this development site as occupying the north-eastern portion of a much larger enclosure that includes the earthworks of the site of the former medieval Bishops Palace, with the earthworks being featured on this map.
- 5.46 An extract from the Second Edition 25 inch to one mile scale O.S. map of 1907 shows the present chapel and the Sunday School within the present boundaries of the development site. The north-south aligned linear earthwork, which was shown on the map of 1887, is no longer present, except for a remnant to the south of the development site, which is on the same alignment.
- 5.47 An extract from the 1:2,500 scale map of 1983 shows that the chapel buildings have enlarged in extent as the result of 20th century alterations, but that the development site lies within its current boundaries.
- 5.48 **Figure 2** features the current layout of this development site.

#### 6. Methodology

- 6.1 The archaeological monitoring and recording was undertaken by Neville Hall at the development site on the 15th-17th and the 20th of September and on 29th of October and the 1st and 2nd of November 2021. This comprised the continual archaeological monitoring and recording of the mechanical excavation of the foundations for the new rear extension along with the foundations for the new front extension. These mechanical excavations were carried out by a 1.5-ton 360° mechanical excavator that was fitted with a 0.50m and a 0.70m wide toothed buckets and a 1-ton 360° mini digger that was fitted with a 0.60m wide toothed bucket.
- Where necessary, surfaces were hand cleaned for examination and recording and the archaeological features and the site deposit sequences observed were recorded on standard *pro-forma* context recording sheets. A plan at a scale of 1:50 was compiled on site of the monitored foundation trench excavations for the new rear extension. This plan is reproduced at this same scale as **Figure 4**. A second plan at a scale of 1:100 was also compiled on site of the monitored foundation trench excavations for the new front extension. This plan is reproduced at this same scale as **Figure 5**. A total of eleven sections of the observed site deposit sequences and archaeological features here

[designated as **Sections 1-11**] were also compiled on site at a scale of 1:20 and are similarly reproduced at this same scale on **Figures 4 and 5**. A complimentary digital colour photographic record was also maintained, which is reproduced in **Appendix 1**, **Plates 1-133**. A list of contexts recorded is reproduced in **Appendix 2**.

6.3 All work was carried out according to the approved Specification and to the Chartered Institute of Field Archaeologists (CHIfA) standards and guidance for archaeological watching briefs.

#### 7. Results [Figures 4-5; Appendix 1, Plates 1-133]

#### 7.1 The Rear Extension

- 7.1.1 The site had been cleared of vegetation and modern concrete paving slabs at the rear of the church, which had been removed prior to arrival [Plates 1 and 2]. The first phase of the monitored site groundworks programme consisted of the mechanical reduction of a bank that extended along the western boundary of the site. This was adjacent to the eastern boundary of the scheduled medieval bishops palace site. This mechanical ground reduction extended through a topsoil horizon (001) and into the upper layers of an underlying natural horizon (002) to depths of between 1.0m-1.10m [Plates 3-10 and 12-13]. The deposit sequence here was recorded within Representative Section 1 [Plate 11].
- 7.1.2 It was clear even at this very early stage of the site monitored site groundworks programme that the rear of this church along with the modern extension to the east had been constructed within a man made terrace that had been cut onto a naturally downwards sloping hillside to the south and at the rear of church, presumably in 1899, when the present church was built on this site. It was considered that this late 19th century terracing had already removed any archaeological activity that may have been here. The very marked difference in ground levels between the rear of the church and of the scheduled site to the immediate south site was around 1.50m and to the west of between 1.0m-1.40m. The cutting of this terrace had necessitated the construction of a modern brick retaining wall along the southern boundary of the site at the time of the erection of the modern extension to the east in the 20th century.
- 7.1.3 This was followed by the monitored mechanical ground reduction of an area that was slightly larger than the build footprint of the new rear extension [Plates 14-26]. This rear area of the church had been occupied by a modern concrete paved surface, which had already been removed. Underlying this was a modern made ground horizon (003). The monitored mechanical ground reduction here extended to depths of between 0.20m-0.40m below site levels such that the underlying natural horizon was exposed in most places. All newly exposed surfaces were walked over and were scanned for any surface finds, of which there were none.
- 7.1.4 The next phase of the monitored groundworks programme here consisted of the mechanical excavation of the foundations for the new rear extension. These excavations took place from the interface of the modern made ground horizon (003) and the underlying natural horizon (002). These foundation trenches were excavated to varying lengths, to widths of between 0.50m-0.70m and to uniform depths of between 0.70m below the reduced site levels [Plates 27, 29-34, 36-40, 42-50, 52-57 and 59-73]. These mechanical excavations extended through remnants of the topsoil horizon (001) (around the margins of the site area), remnants of the modern made ground horizon (003), the natural horizon (002) and into the upper levels of the underlying limestone bedrock (004). The deposit sequences here were recorded within Representative Sections 2 and 4-6 [Plates 28, 41, 51 and 58].

7.1.5 No finds were made within this rear area of the site. The cut of a possible, though highly ephemeral feature [005] with fill (006) was recorded in the foundation trench against the southern margins of the site area. Given the large difference in ground levels between the terrace within this site and the ground levels to the immediate south, it is considered highly likely that this may have been the remains of a shrub bedding excavation and was not an archaeological feature. The profile of this was recorded within Section 3 [Plate 35]. No finds were retrieved from the fill (006). It is also considered very unlikely that any archaeological features would have survived the potentially very severe truncation that the cutting of this terrace would have had only any below ground archaeological remains when the church was constructed here in 1899.

#### 7.2 The Front Extension

- 7.2.1 A former modern toilet bock within the church interior had been demolished and the site cleared prior to arrival. The modern concrete foundations for this block had been left in place [Plates 74-76 and 78-79]. This demolished block had also exposed the original external north elevation of the Sunday School building to the church, which was erected in 1899 [Plate 77]. This demolition process had also revealed an underlying buried topsoil horizon (007) within the build area of the former toilet block.
- 7.2.2 The first foundation trench for the new front extension was excavated alongside the base of the exposed north elevation of the Sunday School building [Plates 80-87]. This entailed the initial mechanical removal of the concrete foundation of the former toilet block. This foundation trench was excavated through the buried soil horizon (007) to a width of 0.70m and to a depth of 0.80m below the internal site levels. The length of this first trench is featured on Figure 5.. The topsoil horizon (007) here was relatively clean and homogeneous, deep and substantial. This excavation was confined to this horizon, which also exposed the stepped offset brick foundations of the adjoining Sunday School building of 1899. These foundations were of three courses in height. These excavations also revealed a small portion of a medieval stone wall foundation (008) at the western end of this first foundation trench. This foundation was in situ and was composed of two courses of worked, shaped and faced limestone blocks. There appeared to be no evidence of any mortar bonding material. This wall foundation (008) was cut into the buried soil horizon (007) and there appeared to be no associated construction trench. The brick wall foundations and the buried topsoil horizon below these foundations were recorded within Representative Section 7 [Plates 88-89]. The deposit sequence in the south facing section of this first foundation trench was recorded within Representative Section 8 [Plate 90]. The stone wall foundation (008) was recorded in detail within Section 9 [Plates 91-93].
- 7.2.3 This was followed by the mechanical excavation under archaeological supervision of the second and third foundation trenches for this new front extension [Plates 94-100 and 102-114]. This entailed the initial mechanical removal of the concrete foundation of the former toilet block. These two trenches were excavated to varying lengths, to a uniform width of 0.80m and to depths of between 1.30m-1.50m below ground levels and 1.10m-1.20m below internal site levels. These monitored mechanical excavations extended through the deep and substantial buried soil horizon (007) and into the upper levels of the underlying natural horizon (009), which was encountered at the base of these excavations. This deposit sequence was recorded within Representative Section 10 [Plate 101]. No corresponding in situ medieval stone wall foundations were identified at the western end of the third trench. However, several displaced worked, shaped and faced stone blocks from the former foundation here, which appeared to have been disturbed by the construction of the modern toilet block, were recorded here.
- 7.2.4 This was followed by the monitored mechanical excavation of the fourth and final foundation trench of the new front extension. This was excavated alongside the northern

portion of the east elevation of the standing church building [Plates 115-122]. This fourth trench was excavated to a length of 1.80m, to a width of 0.70m and to depths of 1.30m below the levels of an adjoining former modern internal floor. These excavations extended through this concrete floor surface and associated hardcore along with a second lower former concrete floor surface and associated hardcore base. This second hardcore layer came down directly onto the buried soil horizon (007). This horizon was also found to be deep and substantial here. These excavations then encountered the upper levels of the underlying natural horizon (009), at which point the trench excavations ceased. The deposit sequence here was recorded within Representative Section 11 [Plate 123]. These excavations also exposed the stepped offset brick foundations of the adjoining Church building of 1899. These foundations were of three courses in height. The stepped and brick offset foundations of five courses in height of an adjoining buttress at the north-eastern corner of the church building were also exposed.

7.2.5 The final monitored element of this site groundworks programme consisted of a final phase of foundation trench excavation to link the third and fourth foundation trenches [Plates 124-133]. This involved the mechanical breaking out of the two concrete floor surfaces and their associated hardcore bases. The hardcore base of the second concrete floor came down directly onto the buried soil horizon (007). The trench excavation continued until the upper levels of the underlying natural horizon (009) were reached at the base of this excavation, which attained a depth of 1.60m below ground levels.

#### 8. Discussion and Conclusions

- 8.1 The monitored groundworks for this development, which consisted of the mechanical excavation of the foundations for the new rear and front extensions were the subject of continual archaeological monitoring and recording.
- 8.2 It was clear at a very early stage of the archaeological monitoring of the groundworks for the new rear extension that the rear of the present church along with a modern 20th century rear extension here had been constructed within a man-made terrace, which had been cut into a naturally and downwards sloping (to the north) hillside here, presumably when the present church was constructed on the site in 1899. This very late 19th century terracing had appeared to have already removed any archaeological activity that may have been here because of the considerable difference in ground levels (up to 1.50m). The cutting of this terrace had necessitated the erection of a modern brick retaining wall at the southern back end of the site. One possible feature was identified during the course of the excavation of the foundations for the rear extension. Though this is now considered to be highly ephemeral given these considerable differences in ground levels noted earlier and resultant severe truncation, which had taken place. No finds were made within this area of the site.
- 8.3 A modern 20th century frontal toilet block had been added to the northern part of the east elevation of the Church and also to the north elevation of the adjoining Sunday School building. This modern toilet block had been demolished prior to the second phase of site groundworks, which thus exposed this north elevation. The archaeological monitoring of the excavation of the foundations for the new front extension identified a buried soil horizon, which was found to be homogeneous, clean, deep and substantial. This horizon was also found to come down directly onto an underlying natural horizon of silt.
- 8.4 However, a small section of *in situ* medieval stone wall foundation was identified adjoining the Sunday School building of 1899 and at the western end of the first foundation trench excavated. This foundation was probably truncated and consisted of two courses of worked, shaped and faced limestone blocks with no evidence of any bonding material. The foundation was cut into the buried soil horizon and was also sealed

- by it. There was also no evidence for any associated construction trench as this foundation was excavated to shallower depths for fear of undermining the foundations of the adjoining Sunday School building.
- 8.5 It was to have been expected that the line of this medieval stone wall foundation would have continued northwards to the western end of the third excavated foundation trench. It is considered that the construction of this modern frontal toilet extension had disturbed the medieval wall foundation here since several displaced worked, shaped and faced limestone blocks were found at the western end of the third foundation trench, and where this foundation would have been expected to have been situated. There were no finds from this second phase of monitored site groundworks.
- 8.6 It is also considered that the spoil generated from the cutting of the terrace at the rear of the site may have been deposited at the frontal area of the new front extension. This may have presumably been laid down here in order to build up ground levels here to create a level build platform for the erection of the Church and Sunday School in 1899.

#### 9. Effectiveness of Methodology and Confidence Rating

9.1 The chosen methodology comprising a programme of archaeological monitoring and recording clearly demonstrated the nature of the archaeological activity, the lack of finds and the nature of the deposit sequences present on this site; while providing sufficient time to record the archaeological activity, the dearth of finds and the identified deposit sequences therein. It is considered that the implemented methodology was sufficient to record both the nature of the archaeological activity and finds and the nature of the deposit sequences present within the area of the development site with a high degree of confidence.

## 10. Acknowledgements

10.1 Thanks are gratefully extended to Mr. David Perkins for commissioning this work. Thanks are also extended to Mr. Ian Marshman of the Lincolnshire County Council Historic Environment Team and to the staff of the Lincolnshire Heritage Environment Record for their kind assistance.

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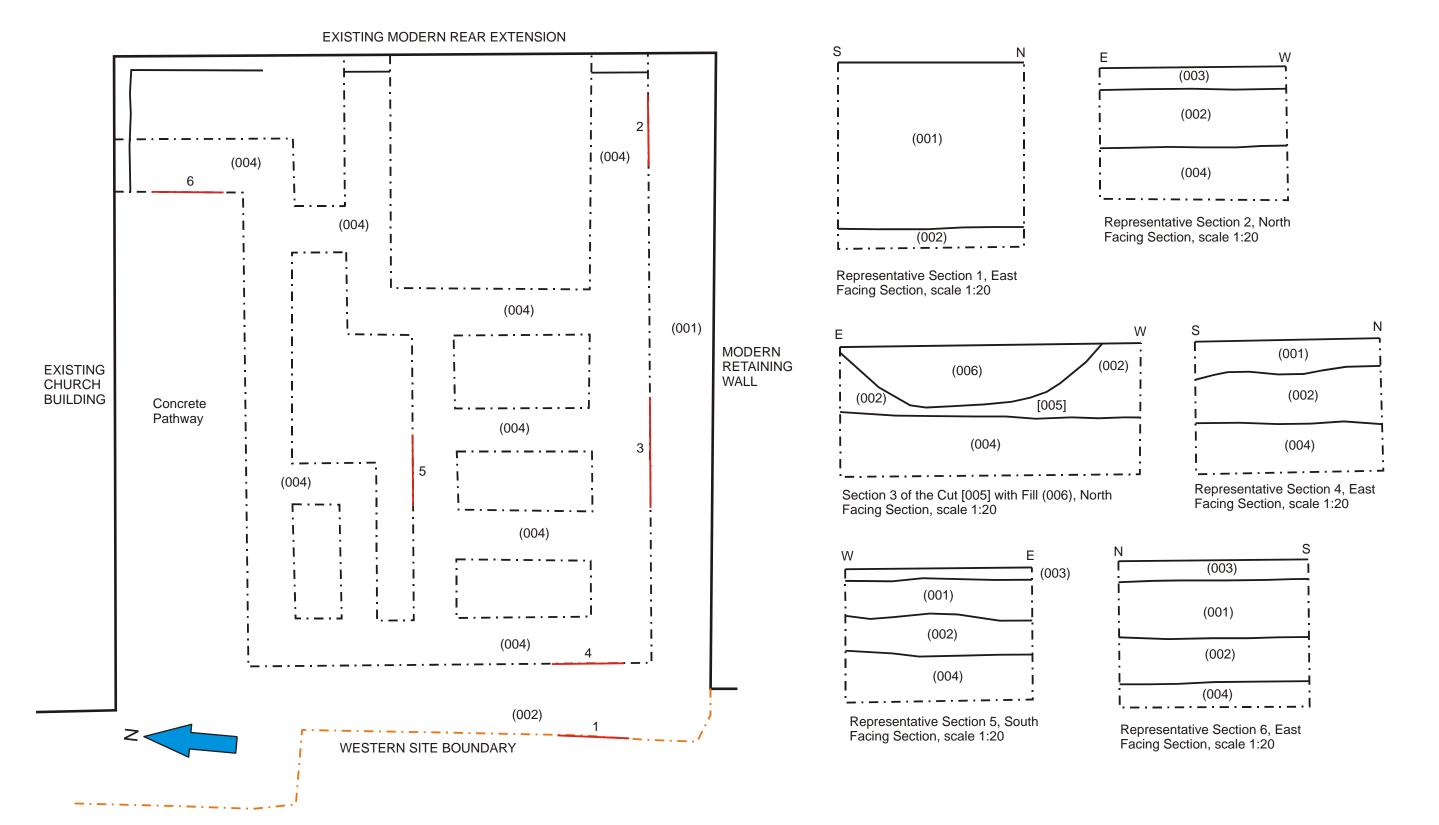
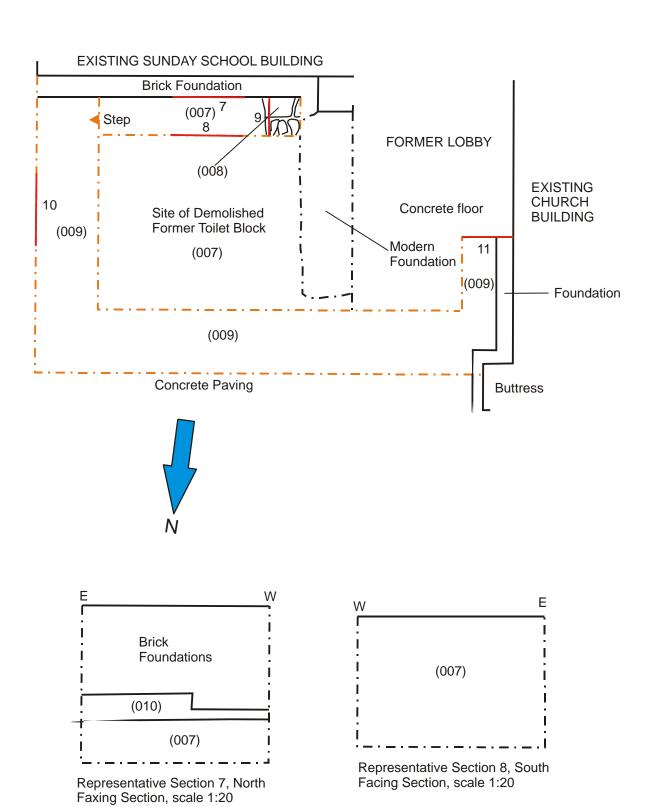
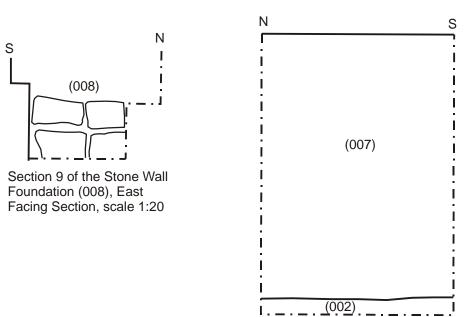


Figure 4: Plan of the Monitored Groundworks of the Rear Extension at a scale of 1:50 and Sections 1-6 at a scale of 1:20





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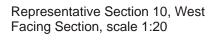
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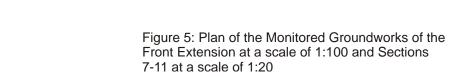
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Representative Section 11, North Facing Section, scale 1:20

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# Appendix 1: Plates

# The Rear Extension



Plate 1: Pre-groundworks, from the west



Plate 2: Pre-groundworks, from the northwest



Plate 3: Initial ground reduction, from the east



Plate 4: Initial ground reduction, from the north



Plate 5: Initial ground reduction, from the north



**Plate 6:** Initial ground reduction, from the north



Plate 7: Initial ground reduction, from the north



**Plate 10:** Initial ground reduction, from the east



Plate 8: Initial ground reduction, from the east



Plate 11: Representative Section 1, from the east



**Plate 9:** Initial ground reduction, from the north



Plate 12: Initial ground reduction, from the east



**Plate 13:** Initial ground reduction, from the east



Plate 14: Initial ground reduction, from the south



**Plate 15:** Initial ground reduction, from the south



Plate 16: Initial ground reduction, from the south



Plate 17: Initial ground reduction, from the north



Plate 18: Initial ground reduction, from the north



Plate 19: Initial ground reduction, from the north-west



**Plate 20:** Initial ground reduction, from the north-west



Plate 21: Initial ground reduction, from the west



Plate 22: Initial ground reduction, from the north-west



**Plate 23:** Initial ground reduction, from the north-west



Plate 24: Initial ground reduction, from the north-west



**Plate 25:** Initial ground reduction, from the -west



Plate 28: Representative Section 2, from the north



**Plate 26:** Initial ground reduction, from the north-west



**Plate 29:** Excavation of the foundations, from the north-west



**Plate 27:** Excavation of the foundations, from the north



**Plate 30:** Excavation of the foundations, from the north



**Plate 31:** Excavation of the foundations, from the north



**Plate 34:** Excavation of the foundations, from the north-east



**Plate 32:** Excavation of the foundations, from the north-west



Plate 35: Section 3 of the possible cut [003] with fill (004), from the north



**Plate 33:** Excavation of the foundations, from the north-west



**Plate 36:** Excavation of the foundations, from the north-west



**Plate 37:** Excavation of the foundations, from the north



**Plate 40:** Excavation of the foundations, from the north



**Plate 38:** Excavation of the foundations, from the north



Plate 41: Representative Section 4, from the east



**Plate 39:** Excavation of the foundations, from the east



**Plate 42:** Excavation of the foundations, from the east



**Plate 43:** Excavation of the foundations, from the east



**Plate 46:** Excavation of the foundations, from the south



**Plate 44:** Excavation of the foundations, from the south



**Plate 47:** Excavation of the foundations, from the north-west



**Plate 45:** Excavation of the foundations, from the north



**Plate 48:** Excavation of the foundations, from the east



**Plate 49:** Excavation of the foundations, from the south-west



**Plate 50:** Excavation of the foundations, from the south-east



Plate 51: Representative Section 5, from the south



**Plate 52:** Excavation of the foundations, from the south-west



**Plate 53:** Excavation of the foundations, from the north-east



**Plate 54:** Excavation of the foundations, from the west



**Plate 55:** Further ground reduction, from the west



Plate 58: Representative Section 6, from the east



**Plate 56:** Excavation of the foundations, from the west



**Plate 59:** Excavation of the foundations, from the south



**Plate 57:** Excavation of the foundations, from the west



**Plate 60:** Excavation of the foundations, from the west



**Plate 61:** Excavation of the foundations, from the south-west



**Plate 64:** Excavation of the foundations, from the north-west



**Plate 62:** Excavation of the foundations, from the south



**Plate 65:** Excavation of the foundations, from the west



**Plate 63:** Excavation of the foundations, from the north-west



**Plate 66:** Excavation of the foundations, from the west



**Plate 67:** Excavation of the foundations, from the east



**Plate 70:** Excavation of the foundations, from the east



**Plate 68:** Excavation of the foundations, from the east



**Plate 71:** Excavation of the foundations, from the south



**Plate 69:** Excavation of the foundations, from the east



**Plate 72:** Excavation of the foundations, from the east



**Plate 73:** Excavation of the foundations, from the east



**Plate 76:** Pre-groundworks, from the southeast

# **The Front Extension**



Plate 74: Pre-groundworks, from the northeast



**Plate 75:** Pre-groundworks, from the northeast



**Plate 77:** View of the exposed external face or north elevation of the former Sunday School building of 1899, from the north



Plate 78: Pre-groundworks, from the west



Plate 79: Pre-groundworks, from the west



**Plate 80:** Excavation of the foundations, from the north-west



**Plate 81:** Excavation of the foundations, from the north



**Plate 82:** Excavation of the foundations, from the west



**Plate 83:** Excavation of the foundations, from the west



**Plate 84:** Excavation of the foundations, from the north



**Plate 85:** Excavation of the foundations, from the north-west



**Plate 86:** Excavation of the foundations, from the west



**Plate 87:** Excavation of the foundations, from the west



Plate 88: Representative Section 7, from the north



Plate 89: Representative Section 7, from the north-west



Plate 90: Representative Section 8, from the south



Plate 91: Section 9 of the foundation (008), from the east



Plate 92: Section 9 of the foundation (008), from the east



Plate 93: Section 9 of the foundation (007), from the east



**Plate 94:** Excavation of the foundations, from the west



**Plate 95:** Excavation of the foundations, from the east



**Plate 96:** Excavation of the foundations, from the north



**Plate 97:** Excavation of the foundations, from the east



**Plate 98:** Excavation of the foundations, from the east



**Plate 99:** Excavation of the foundations, from the east



**Plate 100:** Excavation of the foundations, from the north



Plate 101: Representative Section 10, from the west



**Plate 102:** Excavation of the foundations, from the east



**Plate 103:** Excavation of the foundations, from the east



**Plate 104:** Excavation of the foundations, from the east



**Plate 107:** Excavation of the foundations, from the north-east



**Plate 105:** Excavation of the foundations, from the north-east



**Plate 108:** Excavation of the foundations, from the north-east



**Plate 106:** Excavation of the foundations, from the east



**Plate 109:** Excavation of the foundations, from the north-east



**Plate 110:** Excavation of the foundations, from the east



**Plate 113:** Excavation of the foundations, from the east



**Plate 111:** Excavation of the foundations, from the east



**Plate 114:** Excavation of the foundations, from the east



**Plate 112:** Excavation of the foundations, from the east



**Plate 115:** Excavation of the foundations, from the north



**Plate 116:** Excavation of the foundations, from the north



**Plate 117:** Excavation of the foundations, from the north



**Plate 118:** Excavation of the foundations, from the north



**Plate 119:** Excavation of the foundations, from the north



**Plate 120:** Excavation of the foundations, from the east



**Plate 121:** Excavation of the foundations, from the south



**Plate 122:** Excavation of the foundations, from the north



Plate 123: Representative Section 11, from the north



**Plate 124:** Excavation of the foundations, from the east



**Plate 127:** Excavation of the foundations, from the east



**Plate 125:** Excavation of the foundations, from the east



**Plate 128:** Excavation of the foundations, from the east



**Plate 126:** Excavation of the foundations, from the east



**Plate 129:** Excavation of the foundations, from the east



**Plate 130:** Excavation of the foundations, from the east



**Plate 133:** Excavation of the foundations, from the east



**Plate 131:** Excavation of the foundations, from the east



**Plate 132:** Excavation of the foundations, from the east

#### **Appendix 2: List of Contexts**

#### The Front Extension

- Topsoil horizon. Friable, dark orange brown sandy silt with small angular stones 5%, and small angular limestone fragments 5% and occasional small brick fragments. Above (002). Recorded within Representative Sections 1 and 4-6. Depth 0.89m.
- Natural horizon. Friable, mid orange brown sandy silt with moderate small limestone fragments. Below (001) and (003). Above (004). Recorded within Representative Sections 1-6. Depth 0.30m.
- Modern made ground horizon. Heterogeneous deposit. Friable, mid-dark brown sandy silt matrix with small angular stones and flint fragments 10% and small-medium concrete fragments 2%. Below (002). Recorded within Representative Sections 2 and 6. Depth 0.20m-0.30m.
- Limestone bedrock. Composed of a friable, light buff sandy silt matrix with small-medium angular limestone bedded fragments 80%. Recorded within **Representative Sections 2-6.** Depth >0.33m.
- Out of a possible though highly ephemeral feature or a probable shrubbery bedding hole. Moderate breaks of slope at top, convex sides with rounded breaks of slope at base and flattish and slightly rounded base. Profile recorded within **Section 3**. Cut into (002) and (004). Length not known, width 1.60m, depth 0.31m.
- Fill of the possible cut [005]. Friable, light orange brown sandy silt with occasional small angular limestone fragments. Above (002). Recorded within Section 3. Depth 0.31m.

#### **The Front Extension**

- Buried topsoil horizon within the build area of the former demolished modern toilet block. Friable, mid orange brown sandy silt with small-medium brick fragments 2%, small concrete fragments 1% and spreads of dark orange brown sand. Above (008). Recorded within Representative Sections 7-8 and 10-11. Depth 1.49m.
- Medieval stone wall foundation exposed *in situ*. Cut into (007) and sealed by (007). Composed of two courses of worked, shaped and faced limestone bocks with no evidence of any mortar bonding material. Recorded within **Section 9**. Length >0.95m, width >0.90m, depth >0.32m.
- Natural horizon. Friable, light orange brown sandy silt with frequent small angular limestone fragments. Below (007). Recorded within Representative Sections 10-11. Depth 0.32m.

#### **Appendix 3: The Archive**

The archive consists of:

Nine context records

One site plan of the monitored groundworks of the Rear Extension at a scale of 1:50 and six section drawings at a scale of 1:20 on one sheet of drawing film

One site plan of the monitored groundworks of the Front Extension at a scale of 1:100 and five section drawings at a scale of 1:20 on one sheet of drawing film

One context register

One photographic register

All records are currently held at: 38 Finningley Road Lincoln LN6 0UP

And will be deposited in due course at:

The Collection Danes Terrace Lincoln LN2 1LP

Under the accession number LCNCC: 2020.140 and the site code HSNE20

# Appendix 4: Photographic Register

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# **Appendix 5: OASIS Summary Sheet**

# Appendix 6: Specification for Archaeological Monitoring

# Specification for Archaeological Monitoring at the Methodist Church, High Street, Nettleham, Lincolnshire.

# **Prepared for Mr. David Perkins**

National Grid Reference: TF 0062 7524

Site Code: HSNE20

Accession No: LCNCC: 2020.140

Planning Reference: 141060

# Prepared by Neville Hall, Freelance Field Archaeologist & Consultant

September 2020

#### S Non-technical summary

- A scheme of works comprising archaeological monitoring and recording is required during the groundworks pertaining to the construction of a new extension to the Methodist Church, High Street, Nettleham, Lincolnshire.
- The development site is situated within an area of high archaeological potential and immediately adjacent to the scheduled area of the medieval Bishop's Palace complex, which lies to the immediate west and south. The map regression has established that the north-south orientated line of a linear earthwork, which is associated with this medieval complex, may lie along and below the eastern boundary of this development site, so the development site will lie within the area of this complex. So it is considered that there will be a very high probability that archaeological remains and finds associated with this medieval complex may be found on this site. There is evidence that this will be the case, by the finds of architectural stonework that were found during construction work on this site in 1899 and by further such finds that were made during building alterations of the 1960s. The specific objectives of the project will be to record any archaeological features, deposits. structures or finds associated with this medieval scheduled complex.
- S3 The archaeological monitoring will be undertaken during the groundworks stage of development, which will comprise the removal of former building foundations along with the mechanical excavation of the foundations for the new extension. Any archaeological features, structures and/or deposits will be recorded in writing, graphically and photographically.
- On the completion of the monitoring, a report will be produced detailing the results of the archaeological investigation. The report will consist of a narrative supported by illustrations and photographs.

# 1. Site location and description [Figures 1 and 2]

- 1.1 The development site at the Nettleham Methodist Church is situated on the southern frontage of the High Street at National Grid Reference TF 0062 7524 and at a height of approximately 25mAOD. The settlement of Nettleham is located within the modern civil parish of the same name and in the administrative district of West Lindsey, county of Lincolnshire.
- 1.2 The development site is situated within a slightly undulating upland area. The area of the development site is situated on shallow well drained brashy fine loamy soils of the Elmton 1 Series, which have developed on an underlying solid geology of Oolitic limestones of the Middle Jurassic.

#### 2. Planning background

2.1 This document comprises a Specification or a written scheme of works for archaeological monitoring and recording, which is to be maintained during the groundworks pertaining to the construction of a new extension to the Nettleham Methodist Church, High Street, Nettleham, Lincolnshire, (Planning Reference: 141060) [Figure 3].

# 3. Historical and Archaeological Background

- 3.1 Background research sources were consulted at the online National Library of Scotland and the Lincolnshire County Council Historic Environment Record (HER). A search of the Lincolnshire HER was conducted within a 0.25km radius of the centre of the development site. The National Heritage List of Historic England was also consulted.
- 3.2 A polished stone axe of Early-Late Neolithic date was found in 1968 in the garden of a cottage at Nettleham (HER 52383).

- 3.3 A struck flint of Neolithic origin was found in 1977 to the south of this development site (HER 52397).
- An arrowhead, a scraper and other worked flints of Bronze Age date have been found to the south-west of this development site in 1963 (HER 52375).

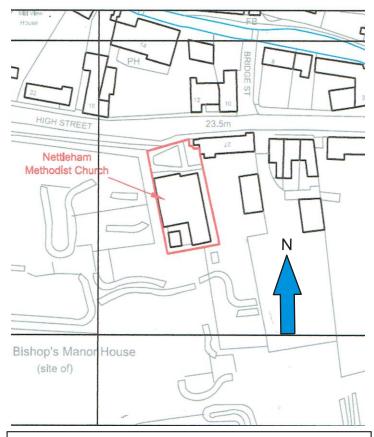


**Figure 1:** Site location at scale 1:25,000. The site is shown in red. (O.S. copyright licence number 100048723)

- 3.5 Sherds of 2nd century AD Roman pottery were found in 1935 to the west of this development site (HER 52380).
- 3.6 Sherds of Roman pottery, a bronze finger ring and a pennanular brooch have been found to the south-west of this development site in 1963 (HER 52376).
- Finds of Anglo-Saxon beads have been made at Nettleham in 1963 (HER 52377).
- At the Domesday Survey of AD1086, lands in the parish of *Netelham* were held by the King as a royal estate and also by Gilbert of Ghent. The settlement undoubtedly has late Anglo-Saxon origins from place name evidence. The place name itself is derived from the Old English *netel(e)* and the Old English *ham*, hence 'the homestead or enclosure where the nettles grow'. *Netelham* is also documented in the Lindsey Survey of c.AD1115. The Bishop of Lincoln is documented as holding 12 carucates of land and Walter, son of Ragemer holding 2 bovates of land here.
- 3.9 The medieval settlement of Nettleham has a large and rectangular or irregular green to the north-east of the parish church, though by now mostly infilled by development, most of which was present by 1777 with roads exiting from corners. It is possible that this green is a secondary development, intruded into or placed alongside a regular two-street

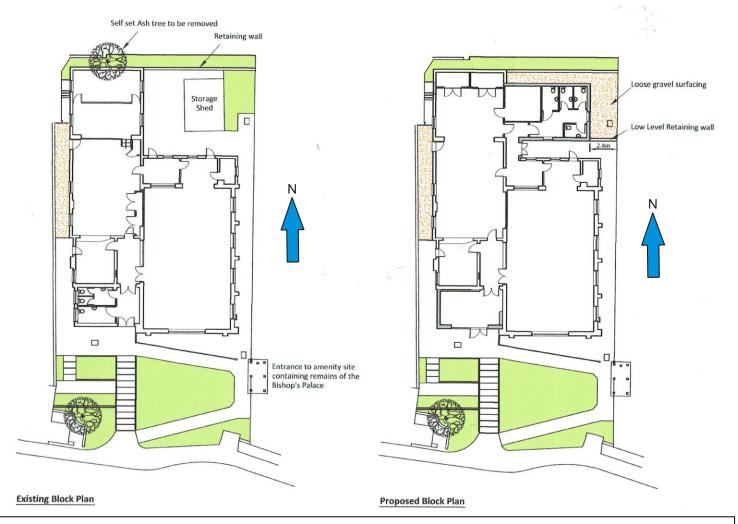
plan of which North Street and Crescent Close form the surviving west and east terminals (HER 52405).

3.10 The settlement of Nettleham was an important centre in the medieval period, as a manorial holding and as the location of one of the palaces of the medieval Bishops of Lincoln. This site is located to the immediate west and south of this development site as a complex of earthworks on the south side of the High Street. Part of this complex has been identified as a 14<sup>th</sup> century formal garden (HER 52405).



**Figure 2:** Site location at a scale of 1:1,250 at A4, (extract from Architects plan)

- 3.11 The boundaries of the scheduled remains of the site of the medieval Bishop Palace at Nettleham lie to the immediate west and south of this development site (HER 54198, NHL 1019987). These remains survive as a series of substantial earthworks. The scheduled monument includes the earthwork and buried remains of the bishop's palace complex and its associated features, together with the remains of the early medieval manor house that preceded it. The bishop's palace was established at Nettleham at the start of the 12th century AD. The remains of the palace overlie those of a manor house in royal ownership, which was granted to Bishop Bloet by Henry I in AD1101.
- 3.12 In AD1336, Bishop Burghersh was granted a licence to crenellate the house and to surround it with a stone wall, The house was damaged in 1536, but was not finally deserted until the late 16th century. The buildings were partly dismantled in the early 17th century and by the later 18th century, no buildings were standing.



**Figure 3:** Block plan showing the existing & proposed layouts of the development site at an original scale of 1:200 at A3, (extract from Architects plan)

- 3.13 The remains of the palace complex take the form of a series of substantial earthworks. The remains of the principal buildings of the palace are located in the north-eastern portion of the scheduled monument, where the remains of stone walls represent a series of ranges, which include private chambers, a chapel, offices, a kitchen and stables. The private chambers are believed to be situated within the western portion of the palace, with the service buildings located to the east. The buildings were constructed upon a series of levelled terraces, which are matched by those of the palace gardens to the west. The gardens, which are bounded by the remains of a stone wall are thought to have been laid out in the mid 14th century, following the licence to crenellate. Referred to in a document of AD1432, they will include the remains of pathways and flower beds arranged in rectangular shaped blocks. Archaeological excavations which took place within the garden area in 1959 demonstrated the survival of underlying building remains that comprised wall foundations and a well, that were thought to represent the remains of the earlier manor house that had stood on the site prior to the 12th century.
- 3.14 The central portion of the monument takes the form of a broad terrace, bounded to the north by the main palace buildings and garden wall and to the south by a series of building platforms arranged along the inside of a linear bank. This bank represents the remains of a stone wall which formed the southern boundary of the palace complex; the building remains at its centre representing the principal gatehouse of the palace. The courtyard thus created houses the agricultural and service buildings of the palace, including to either side of the gatehouse, the remains of a large rectangular shaped barn. Further building remains on the eastern side of the courtyard may represent service buildings such as a brewhouse or stables with an enclosed yard to the east. In the western part of the courtyard is a deep limestone quarry extraction pit of post-medieval date adjacent to a mound, which is thought to be a former lime kiln.
- 3.15 In the southern part of the monument, and extending southwards from the remains of the gatehouse are two parallel linear banks. These represent a walled trackway, which served as the principal approach from the south to the palace complex.
- 3.16 Other finds which have been made within this scheduled area include a Saxon hearth and a late Anglo-Saxon loomweight of c.8th-c11th century AD date that was found in 1955 (HER 52379) along with sherds of 12th century AD pottery, which were found here in 1969 (HER 54198).
- 3.17 The parish church of All Saints on the High Street is an early and mid 13th century parish Church, which is Grade I listed (HER 53292, NHL 1064111). The church consists of an Early English west tower, a clerestoried nave, north and south aisles, a chancel, south porch and a north vestry. The stained glass in the church dates from the 14th century. The church was restored in 1889.
- 3.18 Within the parish churchyard are the remains of a medieval stone cross base with a socket (HER 50625). Adjacent to the base is a 14th century stone coffin.
- 3.19 A 15th century open stone coffin, which is Grade II listed, is situated on the south side of the parish church and close to the south porch (HER 55830, NHL 1064112).
- 3.20 A medieval jetton has been found to the south of the Bishop's Manor House at Nettleham by a metal detector in 1992 (HER 51648). A small medieval pottery figurine has been found to the immediate south-west of this development site in 1968 (HER 52384).
- 3.21 A sherd of medieval pottery of 14th century origin was found to the south of this development site in 1962 (HER 52378).

- 3.22 The Cottage, High Street is a Grade II listed early 17th century house which is located adjacent and to the immediate east of this development site (HER 55835, NHL 1064117). The building has 18th and 20th century alterations.
- 3.23 No 19, High Street is a Grade II listed 17th century house with 19th and 20th century alterations (HER 56208, NHL 1359474). This is situated to the east of this development site.
- 3.24 The Plough Inn at 1, The Green is a Grade II listed late 17th century public house that underwent alterations and refronting in the 18th century (HER 55832, NHL 1064414).
- 3.25 No. 1, Church Street is a Grade II listed late 18th century house, which is now an office (HER 55865, NHL 1064153). The building underwent alterations in the late 18th and 19th centuries.
- 3.26 Situated to the south-west of the parish church is a Grade II listed gravestone, which is dated to 1732 (HER 56205, NHL 1359471).
- 3.27 The White Hart Inn on the High Street is a Grade II listed former court house, which is now a public house, which was built in c.1730 (HER 55953, NHL 1165885). The building has 20th century alterations.
- 3.28 No. 2, The Green is a Grade II listed late 18th century house with 20th century alterations (HER 55833, NHL 1064115).
- 3.29 Hilstead at 11, Church Street is a Grade II listed late 18th century house, which was formerly two houses (HER 55829, NHL 1064110). The building has late 19th and 20th century alterations.
- 3.30 No. 5, Beckside comprises a pair of Grade II listed late 18th century cottages, which is now a single cottage (HER 55946, NHL 1165760). The building has late 18th and 20th century alterations.
- 3.31 Ash Tree Farmhouse is a Grade II listed late 18th century farmhouse with 19th and 20th century alterations (HER 56137, NHL 1309167).
- 3.32 A barn, waggon hovel and a pigeoncote at Ash Tree Farm, High Street are of late 18th century date and are all Grade II listed. The barn and hovel have 20th century alterations (HER 56209, NHL 1359475).
- 3.33 The first Methodist Chapel in Nettleham was constructed in 1815. This chapel on the High Street within the area of this development site was constructed in 1899 as a replacement for the chapel of 1815 (HER 55164). The adjacent Sunday School was also built in 1899. When the chapel was first constructed in 1899, the foundations were cut into the earthworks of the medieval Bishops Palace. Contemporary newspaper reports detail the finding of a number of architectural stonework fragments that included a fragment of window tracery and part of a doorway. Subsequent works on the site have also identified further archaeological remains with finds of medieval pottery recovered during building alterations of 1969. In the early 2000s, it was noted that fragments of medieval architectural stonework were mounted on the wall of the chapel kitchen.
- 3.34 No. 10, Church Street is a Grade II listed early 19th century house, which has 20th century alterations (HER 56204, NHL 1359470).
- 3.35 An early 19th century former washhouse at No. 11, North Street is Grade II listed (HER 56174, NHL 1359436).

- 3.36 A former school and school house on the High Street are Grade II listed and were constructed in 1856 (HER 55836, NHL 1064118). The buildings are now in use for the local community.
- 3.37 The site of a former windmill is shown on the First Edition Ordnance Survey map of the late 1880s (HER 52415). It was situated to the immediate south-east of this development site and is designated on this map as a' flour mill'.
- 3.38 The Nettleham War Memorial stands on the village green (HER 58196). The memorial was unveiled in 1920.
- 3.39 There have been a number of previous archaeological investigations within the vicinity of this development site. In 1995, an archaeological watching brief was mounted on trenching for a new water main along part of the High Street and to the immediate north of the site of the medieval Bishop's Palace (HER ELI6964, Site code: NMR95). The archaeological monitoring here did not identify any evidence of medieval archaeological activity. The results of this monitoring here were also inconclusive. The findings here consisted of an undated former stream course. It was considered that this feature had been either excavated a part of the Bishop's Palace complex or had been utilised in the medieval period. The modern road skirted around the boundary of the complex. The absence of recognisable medieval archaeological features suggested that the line of this new pipe trench excavation was outside of the Palace grounds.
- 3.40 In 1998, an archaeological watching brief was undertaken on the groundworks for the construction of a new extension, for a new warden's bungalow and access roads to an elderly care home at Church View, All Saints Lane (HER ELI3517, Site code: NAS98). The watching brief identified a probable ploughsoil horizon of medieval and/or post-medieval date over which lay a topsoil horizon. No significant archaeological features or finds were identified. A modern pit was found to the east of the extension plot.
- 3.41 In 2003, an archaeological watching brief took place on the groundworks for a new residential development at Manor Court (HER 54974, Site code MCN03). The watching brief was targeted on an area of raised ground on the southern side of the development. Some deposits, including a buried topsoil horizon, which were of potential archaeological significance were identified including alluvial deposits, which were interpreted as occupying the base of a pool, which was considered to be of possible Anglo-Saxon origin.
- 3.42 In 2007, an archaeological evaluation of two trenches took place at 15, Greetwell Lane in advance of proposed development (Site code: NGWL07). The evaluation identified the line of a north east-south west orientated ditch, which was interpreted as a possible continuation of the western boundary ditch of the medieval Bishop's Palace, which also had a southern terminal. This termination was to allow an entrance to the palace site. The southern limit of this entrance was defined by a group of postholes to the south of the southern ditch terminus. Two sherds of Anglo-Saxon pottery were also recovered from this evaluation (HER 55409).
- 3.43 In 2008, an geophysical survey was undertaken within the scheduled area of the medieval Bishops Palace (HER ELI9372). Two areas to the west and south of the development site were surveyed, where the ground was flatter, outside the area of standing extant earthworks, which were more conducive to the conduct of the survey. The lines of the walls of buildings were clearly visible on the ground. The site also has the presence of a lime kiln of post-medieval date. This appeared to be associated within a sheer sided quarry working, which this survey avoided. The survey picked up the lines of the walls and of earthwork banks on the site as was anticipated. However, the clarity of the results of these added little to the actual plan of the site earthworks themselves. In the

area of the Palace garden, there was a suggestion of features, which do not appear on the ground as earthworks. These were thought to represent either part of the garden layout or features pertaining to a different phase of the site. To the south of the earthworks, anomalies were identified that suggested that the site was once more extensive than that represented by the area of the extant site earthworks. To the west of the entrance way, anomalies identified here suggested possible structures belonging to a different phase than that represented by the earthworks. It was considered that there could well be evidence for other phases of the site than that which were represented by the extant earthworks. The survey also suggested that the area of the site extended further to the south of the earthworks.

- 3.44 In 2012 and 2014, two archaeological watching briefs were carried out on the groundworks for new extensions to the rear of 2, Parkside (Site code: PANE 12 and PANE 14). These did not identify any archaeological activity or finds.
- In 2011, an archaeological evaluation took place on land to the rear of 19, High Street prior to the proposed construction of a new dwelling and garage (Site code: NHSE10). One trench was excavated, but no archaeological features were identified here. Finds included a small number of sherds of Saxo-Norman pottery, but these were associated with post-medieval or modern material. The evaluation was situated to the east of this development site and adjacent to the scheduled area of the medieval Bishops Palace.
- 3.46 Copies of published O.S. maps were obtained from the online National Library of Scotland. An extract from the First Edition 25 inch to one mile scale O.S. map of 1887 shows the area of this development site as occupying the north-eastern portion of a much larger enclosure that includes the earthworks of the site of the former medieval Bishops Palace, with the earthworks being featured on this map.
- 3.46 An extract from the Second Edition 25 inch to one mile scale O.S. map of 1907 shows the present chapel and the Sunday School within the present boundaries of the development site. The north-south aligned linear earthwork, which was shown on the map of 1887, is no longer present, except for a remnant to the south of the development site, which is on the same alignment.
- 3.47 An extract from the 1:2,500 scale map of 1983 shows that the chapel buildings have enlarged in extent as the result of 20th century alterations, but that the development site lies within its current boundaries.
- 3.48 **Figure 2** features the current layout of this development site.

# 4. Aims and objectives of the project

- 4.1 The aims of the project are the continual archaeological monitoring of the site groundworks during the construction stage of development, which will comprise the removal of former building foundations along with the mechanical excavation of the foundations for the new church extension.
- 4.2 The objectives of the project are:

To establish the presence/absence of archaeological remains within the area of the development site.

To determine the extent, condition, nature, character, quality and date of any archaeological remains encountered.

To allow the preservation by record of archaeological deposits.

4.3 The development site is situated within an area of high archaeological potential and immediately adjacent to the scheduled area of the medieval Bishop's Palace complex, which lies to the immediate west and south. The map regression has established that the north-south orientated line of a linear earthwork, which is associated with this medieval complex, may lie along and below the eastern boundary of this development site, so the development site will lie within the area of this complex. So it is considered that there will be a very high probability that archaeological remains and finds associated with this medieval complex may be found on this site. There is evidence that this will be the case, by the finds of architectural stonework that were found during construction work on this site in 1899 and by further such finds that were made during building alterations of the 1960s. The specific objectives of the project will be to record any archaeological features, deposits. structures or finds associated with this medieval scheduled complex.

# 5. Methodology

- 5.1 The archaeological monitoring will be undertaken during the groundworks phase of development, and will include the continual monitoring of the removal of former building foundations along with the mechanical excavation of the foundations for the new extension and of any other ground disturbance. The mechanical excavations will be undertaken using a toothless bucket.
- 5.2 All work will be carried out according to the Chartered Institute of Field Archaeologists (CHIfA) standards.
- 5.3 All work will be undertaken following all statutory Health and Safety requirements and legislation in operation at the time of the monitoring.
- 5.4 A Risk Assessment will be prepared for the site.
- All mechanical excavations will be undertaken under archaeological supervision, utilising a machine of sufficient power and using a toothless bucket.
- 5.6 Stripped areas and trench sections will be continually observed to identify any archaeological features and/or deposits which may be exposed.
- 5.7 Section drawings at a scale of 1:10 will be made of any archaeological features identified in the course of the groundworks, including representative sections of trenches at appropriate intervals. These will be related to a site plan drawing at a scale of 1:50, which may also record archaeological features and/or deposits identified. Any significant archaeological features in plan will also be recorded at a scale of 1:20.
- 5.8 Written descriptions detailing the nature of archaeological features and/or deposits encountered will be compiled on pro-forma context record sheets.
- 5.9 Any finds recovered will be bagged and labelled for further analysis. All relevant finds will be ordered into an archive. Most modern material will not be retained, although notes will be made of the appropriate context. An appropriate sample of materials such as ceramic building materials will be made.
- 5.10 Any and all artefacts found during the monitoring and thought to come under the provisions of the *Treasure Act* (1996), will be removed from the site to a secure location, and will be promptly reported to the appropriate local coroner's office and to Lincolnshire Portable Antiquities Scheme.
- 5.11 Throughout the monitoring a digital photographic record will be compiled, and will comprise an overview of the site prior to work starting, and during as well as after

- completion of the work, and will include any excavated features, sections and other relevant details that aid interpretation.
- 5.12 Should human remains be encountered, they will be left *in situ*, and only excavated if absolutely necessary. Proper respect will be accorded to these remains, which will be cleaned to allow positive identification. Should removal be required, the appropriate Ministry of Justice Licence will be obtained prior to the removal of the remains. In addition, any remains will be reported to the local Environmental Health Department, coroner and the police will be informed, where appropriate.
- 5.13 The fieldwork will be undertaken by Neville Hall. Additional personnel may be appointed if required.

# 6. Post-fieldwork methodology

- On the completion of the fieldwork, all of the written, drawn and photographic records produced by the archaeological monitoring will be checked, ordered, labelled (where appropriate) and catalogued to compile a distinctive site archive.
- 6.2 All finds recovered during the fieldwork will be washed, marked and packaged according to the deposit from which there were recovered. They will also be ordered into (and form part of) the site archive.
- 6.3 An assessment of significant finds will be made in light of general site information.
- 6.4 Any finds requiring specialist treatment and/or conservation will be sent to the Conservation Laboratory at The Collection, Lincoln, and in consultation with the relevant curator.
- 6.5 The site archive will be examined to enable the determination of various phases of activity on the site.
- 6.6 Relevant finds will be sent to specialists for identification and dating.

#### 7. Monitoring arrangements

- 7.1 Provision will be made for the Lincolnshire County Council Historic Environment Team (on behalf of West Lindsey District Council, the Local Planning Authority) to monitor the works during the fieldwork stage and any other aspect of the archaeological project as required including the post fieldwork analysis and report preparation stages of the project.
- 7.2 It is understood that the groundworks programme and hence the archaeological monitoring will begin as soon as possible following the agreement of this document with the Lincolnshire County Council Historic Environment Team. A period of not less than fourteen days notice will be given to the Lincolnshire County Council Historic Environment Team of the start date of this groundworks programme.
- 7.3 All aspects of the archaeological programme will be undertaken in accordance with this project specification.
- 7.4 Any variation to the project programme in terms of works or recording on or off site will be fully discussed and agreed with the Lincolnshire County Council Historic Environment Team.
- 7.5 Arrangements will be made for the representative of the Lincolnshire County Council Historic Environment Team for access to the site to undertake monitoring visits, and such visits will be accounted for in the final report preparation.

7.6 The Lincolnshire County Council Historic Environment Team shall be kept fully informed of any unexpected or unforeseen discoveries made during the course of the archaeological monitoring and recording programme.

# 8. Archive preparation and deposition

- 8.1 The documentation and records generated by the archaeological monitoring will be sorted and ordered in the format acceptable to The Collection, Lincoln, and to the standards and requirements as laid out in their Guide Book.
- 8.2 A unique accession number will be obtained from The Collection for the site archive.
- 8.3 It is anticipated that the archive will be deposited at The Collection, Lincoln by June 2021.

# 9. Reporting procedures

- 9.1 A report detailing the findings of the archaeological monitoring will be completed within three months after the finalisation of the fieldwork. Any delays will be related to the relevant authorities.
- 9.2 The report will consist of:

A title page, with project name and location, national grid reference, planning reference, site code, accession number, client name, author and date;

A contents page listing report sections, illustrations and appendices;

A non-technical summary of the results of the monitoring;

An introduction, site description and location;

Planning background to the project;

A section on the archaeological and historical background to the project;

A description of the methodology used in the project;

A section describing the results of the monitoring;

A section on the discussion and results of the project including a consideration of the findings of the project in a local and regional context;

A consideration of the effectiveness of the project methodology and a confidence rating of the results;

Illustrations including plans showing monitored areas, all archaeological features and sections thereof (including trench sections); and

Appendices comprising appropriate photographs of the site and of specific and significant archaeological features and representative sections and a list of contexts, and any specialist reports on finds from the site.

An electronic copy of the report will be deposited with the OASIS project (On-line Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations) http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/oasis/index.cfm.

#### 10. Publication and dissemination

- 10.1 Copies of the final report will be deposited with the clients, the local curator (on behalf of the local planning authority), West Lindsey District Council and with the Lincolnshire Heritage Environment Record (including a digital copy in a .pdf format).
- 10.2 A note will be placed in 'Lincolnshire History and Archaeology' describing the results.
- 10.3 The deposition of the site archive will be in accordance with guidelines outlined in the Lincolnshire Archaeological Handbook (LCC, 2020).
- 10.4 Should the results of the archaeological investigation merit it, a note will also be placed in appropriate national journals e.g. *Medieval Archaeology*.

# 11. Other factors (including contingency)

- 11.1 In the event of the discovery of any unexpected remains of archaeological importance, or of any changed circumstances, it is the responsibility of the archaeological contractor to inform the Lincolnshire County Council Historic Environment Team.
- 11.2 Where important archaeological remains are discovered and deemed to merit further investigation, additional financial resources may be required to provide an appropriate level of investigation, recording and analysis.
- 11.3 Any additional financial contingency requirement for additional fieldwork or postexcavation analysis outside the scope of the proposed scheme of works will only be activated following full consultation with the Lincolnshire County Council Historic Environment Team and the client.

#### 12. Variations to the proposed scheme

12.1 Variations to the proposed scheme will only be made following written confirmation with the archaeological curator.

#### 13. Resources

- 13.1 The monitoring will be undertaken by Neville Hall using standard archaeological field techniques.
- 13.2 Should additional personnel be required, prior approval of the personnel will be sought from the local planning authority archaeologist prior to appointment.
- 13.3 Post-excavation analysis will be undertaken by Neville Hall and where available specialist analysis from:-

Jane Young Medieval and Post-medieval Ceramics

Ian Rowlandson Iron Age and Roman Ceramics

Archaeological Solutions Ltd Environmental

Carol Allen Neolithic and Bronze Age

Malin Holst Osteoarchaeology

Jane Cowgill Metallurgy
Paul Cope-Faulkner Stonework

13.4 Small finds requiring conservation will be conserved by the City and County Museum Laboratory.

13.5 Recognised specialists will be sought in the event that other data are retrieved in the course of the monitoring.

# 14. Insurance statement

14.1 Public indemnity of £2,000,000 and private indemnity insurance of £250.000 with Towergate Insurance.

# 15. Copyright

15.1 Copyright will remain that of the author. Licence will be given to the client to present any reports, copyright of the author, to the planning authority in good faith of satisfactory settlement of account.

# 16. Ownership

16.1 It will be asked of the client, at the outset, that the ownership of any portable objects discovered in the course of the monitoring be donated along with the archive.