



# Corn Exchange, North Square, Dorchester

Written Scheme of Investigation for  
Archaeological Building Investigation  
and Recording of Cellars beneath Car  
Park

Document No. 3552/0/1

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<b>Site Name</b>	Corn Exchange Car Park, North Square, Dorchester, Dorset DT1 1HF
<b>OS NGR</b>	SY 6927 9079
<b>Planning Application No.</b>	WD/D/20/002160
<b>Local Planning Authority</b>	Dorset Council
<b>Agent</b>	Crickmay Stark Architects
<b>Client</b>	Dorchester Town Council

<b>Version</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Prepared By</b>	<b>Approved By</b>	<b>Date</b>
1	Draft	P Bellamy		15/06/2021
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# Corn Exchange, North Square, Dorchester, Dorset

## Written Scheme of Investigation for Archaeological Building Investigation and Recording of Cellars beneath Car Park

### 1. Introduction

#### 1.1 Project Introduction

Terrain Archaeology has been commissioned by Dorchester Town Council, through their agent Crickmay Stark Architects, to undertake archaeological building investigation and recording of the cellars beneath the car park behind the Corn Exchange on North Square, Dorchester.

This document sets out the specification for the proposed building recording and Terrain Archaeology's methods for achieving this specification.

### 2. Site

#### 2.1 Location

The site lies in the centre of the historic core of Dorchester at the convergence of High East Street, High West Street, Cornhill and North Square, adjacent to St Peter's Church, centred on SY 6928 9076, at a height of about 65.8 m aOD (Figure 1). The site is largely occupied by the Town Hall and Corn Exchange buildings, with a car park to the north (Plate 1). The car park is accessed off North Square and the surface is level with an approximate 2.5 m drop down to the rear of the King's Arms property to the east (Plate 4). The north side of the site is formed by the Victory Court.

The location of the cellars lies beneath the car park at the rear of the Corn Exchange along the edge of North Square centred on SY 6927 9079.

#### 2.2 Geology

The underlying solid geology is mapped as Chalk of the Portsdown Chalk Formation, which is shallow-marine in origin, formed in an environment of warm chalk seas, formed approximately 72 to 84 million years ago in the Cretaceous Period. No overlying Superficial Deposits are mapped on the site (<http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html>).

#### 2.3 Designations

**Conservation Areas:** The site lies within the Dorchester Conservation Area (WDDC 2003).

**Designated Heritage Assets:** The *Municipal buildings* (Corn Exchange) are Grade II\* Listed (NHL Entry No. 1110585).

**Scheduled Monuments:** There are no Scheduled Monuments on or adjacent to the Site.

**Registered Historic Parks and Gardens:** There are no Registered Historic Parks and Gardens on or adjacent to the Site.

## 2.4 Non-designated Heritage Assets

No non-designated heritage assets are recorded on the site in the Dorset Council Historic Environment Record (HER).

## 3. Historical Background

### 3.1 Historical Background

North Square was a wide street to accommodate the market that spread out from the central crossroads in the town, with butchers' shops or stalls recorded from the medieval period onwards. In the 18th century, North Square was known as Bull Stake.

It is likely that the street frontage was developed from the medieval period. The 17th and 18th century maps of Dorchester suggest that the east side of North Square was lined with buildings, and the first detailed map of Dorchester (1810) shows the whole of this east side filled with houses. The area of the Corn Exchange car park in 1810 had a large house occupied by George Squibb, with a large outbuilding behind. The 1848 plan of Dorchester shows the area of that house taken over by the Borough, and that same year a large Market House was built on the site, at the back of the new Town Hall. The 1888 Ordnance Survey 1:500 map shows the large Market House on the site. By 1964, the Ordnance Survey map shows that the Market house had been demolished, and most of the shops had gone. The site was turned into a car park. The cellars are likely to pre-date the Market House and are probably related to the large house on the site depicted on the 1810 map.

### 3.2 Previous Fieldwork

A rapid inspection of the cellars was undertaken by Terrain Archaeology in 2004 (Terrain Archaeology 2004).

## 4. Brief

### 4.1 The Brief for Archaeological Works

No written brief was issued on behalf of Dorset Council for the works.

### 4.2 Scope of Works

This Written Scheme of Investigation sets out the programme of Archaeological Building Investigation and Recording Works and Terrain Archaeology's proposed methods for achieving this programme.

## 5. Definitions, Standards and Guidance

### 5.1 Definition and Purpose of Archaeological Building Investigation and Recording

The Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) definition of archaeological building investigation and recording (ABIR) is "a programme of work intended to establish the character, history, dating, form and archaeological development of a specified building, structure, or complex and its setting, including buried components, on land, inter-tidal zone or underwater." (CIfA 2014a).

The purpose of Archaeological Building Investigation and Recording as set out by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists is to examine a specified building, structure or complex, and its setting, in order to inform:

- a. the formulation of a strategy for the conservation, alteration, demolition, repair or management of a building, or structure, or complex and its setting
- or
- b. to seek a better understanding, compile a lasting record, analyse the findings/record, and then disseminate the results (CIfA 2014a).

## 5.2 Standards and Guidance

Terrain Archaeology will abide by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' *Regulations for professional conduct* (CIfA 2014b).

This document was prepared and the proposed programme of archaeological works referred to herein will be undertaken in accordance with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists *Code of Conduct*, and *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Building Investigation and Recording* (CIfA 2014a).

## 6. Aims and Objectives

### 6.1 Aims

- The principal aim of the Archaeological Building Investigation and Recording is create a record of the of the cellars.

### 6.2 Objectives

- To understand the structural form and chronological development of the building.
- To record significant details of the structure.
- To present the results in a report to the appropriate standard.

## 7. Methods

### 7.1 Fieldwork

#### 7.1.1 Investigation and Recording of Cellars

All elements of the building recording will be undertaken to the standards and methods specified in CIfA (2014a) and Historic England (2016).

The cellars will be examined and recorded internally by a combination of measured drawing and written field notes.

The existing sketch plan of the cellars will be checked and amended as required and additional internal details added to the plan, where necessary. Internal elevations of the cellars will be drawn, particularly where necessary to record information relating to any changes and alterations to the structure and any other significant details, in order to produce analytical drawings of the structure to aid understanding of its development and use.

The drawings will be produced at an appropriate scale, typically 1:100 for the plans and elevations. Detail drawings will be produced at an appropriate scale, typically 1:50, 1:20 or 1:10. The drawings will be produced using Historic England Architectural Drawing Conventions (Historic England 2016). All drawings will be recorded in the field in pencil on dimensionally stable drawing film. All dimensions will be by taped or electronic distance measurements.

The written record will use elements of Terrain Archaeology's recording system and will include a register and description of all drawings and photographs.

A photographic record including the setting, general and specific technical detail of the buildings will be produced in digital format. All photographs will be taken by a digital SLR camera set to an image size of 4,288 x 2,848 pixels (which equates to a size of 36.31 x 24.11 cm at 300 dpi), using a tripod, where necessary. Photographs will include a metric scale of appropriate length, where applicable. All photographic images will be saved in TIFF format and will form part of a fully indexed photographic record recording the date, site, subject, and direction of view.

The drawings, photographs and written notes will be used to produce a report outlining the major elements of the building, its development and significance.

## 7.2 Report Preparation and Publication

### 7.2.1 Report Contents

On completion of the fieldwork, a report will be prepared detailing the Archaeological Building Investigation and Recording works carried out and the results of these works. The report will assess the nature and significance of the results of the archaeological works and place them in their wider local and regional setting, where appropriate.

As a minimum, each report will contain the following: —

- Title Page and non-technical summary
- Introductory statements
- Aims and objectives
- Methodology
- Structural description
- Documentary research
- Analysis
- Conclusion
- Supporting drawings, photographs etc.
- Supporting data
- Index to/location of archive
- References

The report will contain a location plan at an appropriate scale and sufficient plans and elevation drawings, at appropriate scales, to present the results of the survey work and its analysis.

### 7.2.2 Dissemination

An electronic copy of the report in PDF format will be supplied to The Client, their Agent and Dorset Council for inclusion in the Dorset County Historic Environment Record. Additional hard copies of the report can be made available on request.

An online OASIS (Online Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations) form will be completed for the archaeological work. A digital PDF version of the report(s) will eventually be attached to the form for inclusion in the Archaeological Data Service Grey Literature Library.

## 7.3 Archiving

Upon completion of the project, a digital archive consisting of the digitised plans, photographs, descriptive notes and report will be prepared for submission with the Archaeology Data Service (ADS) using ADS-easy (<https://archaeologydataservice.ac.uk/easy/home>). The archive will be prepared for deposition in accordance with the ADS *Guidelines for Depositors* (v3.0 Sept 2015) (<https://archaeologydataservice.ac.uk/advice/DepositingData.xhtml>).

## 8. Personnel

### 8.1 Management

The project will be managed by Peter Bellamy BSc (Hons) MCIfA, Principal Archaeologist of Terrain Archaeology.

### 8.2 Fieldwork

The fieldwork will be directed and undertaken by Peter Bellamy with Mike Trevarthen BA (Hons) ACIfA, Senior Project Officer with Terrain Archaeology.

### 8.3 Reporting

The report will be compiled by Peter Bellamy.

## 9. Timetable

### 9.1 Fieldwork

The fieldwork is planned for the week beginning 28 June 2021.

### 9.2 Reporting

The report will normally be completed within three months of the completion of the fieldwork.

## 10. Monitoring

Terrain Archaeology will inform the Dorset County Senior Archaeologist of the intended start date and duration of project. Access to the site and the archaeological works will be given to enable all required monitoring to take place.

## 11. Insurances

Terrain Archaeology maintains Employers Liability Insurance to £10,000,000, Public Liability to £5,000,000 and Professional Indemnity to £1,000,000. Full details of insurance cover can be supplied upon request.

## 12. Health and Safety

Terrain Archaeology would be responsible for ensuring that all works were carried out in accordance with The Health and Safety at Work Act 1974, The Construction (Health, Safety and Welfare) Regulations 1996, and The Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1992.

Copies of Terrain Archaeology's General statement of Health and Safety Policy and site-specific Risk Assessment would be displayed at the Site and would be communicated verbally to all affected persons prior to commencement of site works.

Terrain Archaeology will abide by the Health and Safety policies of The Client. The Client will notify Terrain Archaeology prior to the start of works of any site-specific Health and Safety training or requirements or stipulations (beyond use of basic PPE), including the necessity for formal site inductions.

Terrain Archaeology staff will not drive or take charge of any vehicle or item of plant or equipment that they are not insured to operate by prior arrangement.

Terrain Archaeology staff will not perform any role, or operate any item of plant or equipment for which they are not formally trained to an appropriate standard.

Terrain Archaeology staff will not enter any unshored deep excavation, or work in any potentially hazardous confined space without formal assessment and preparation of a specific method statement for safe working.

Terrain Archaeology's designated Site Manager reserves the right to delay, defer or re-prioritise elements of the archaeological programme in situations where site safety, welfare or general working conditions are inappropriate, or safe working practices cannot be observed.

Lone working will not be undertaken at any time.

## 13. Copyright

Terrain Archaeology will retain full copyright of any commissioned reports or other project documents under the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988 with all rights reserved; excepting that an exclusive license is hereby provided to the client for the use of such documents by the client in all matters directly relating to the project described in this document.

License is also given to the client, Historic England and Dorset County Council to use the documentary archive for educational, public and research purposes. This license does not cover commercial use of the material by the client or a third party.

In the case of non-satisfactory settlement of account then copyright will remain fully and exclusively with Terrain Archaeology. In these circumstances it will be an infringement under the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988 for the client to pass any report, partial report, or copy of the same, to any third party. Reports submitted in good faith by Terrain Archaeology to any Planning Authority or local government Historic Environment Service will be removed from said Planning Authority and/or Historic Environment Service. The Planning Authority and/or Historic Environment Service will be notified by Terrain Archaeology that the use of any such information previously supplied constitutes an infringement under the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988 and may result in legal action.

## 14. Confidentiality

Terrain Archaeology will respect the requirements of the client concerning confidentiality, excepting where this conflicts with statutory duties for disclosure or reporting. All documents intended for limited circulation and use will only be used for their specified purpose. Terrain Archaeology will, in the short term, respect any reasonable request by the Client to maintain confidentiality or sensitivity over the project results, and the purpose and location of fieldwork, excepting where this conflicts with professional or statutory requirements for disclosure.

No member of staff or person subcontracted by Terrain Archaeology will knowingly speak to the press with regard to the project, its conduct or outcomes, or produce any form of publicity relating to the project without the prior consent of the Client.

Terrain Archaeology and its staff are bound by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists Code of Conduct (as amended), and have a professional obligation to make the results of the archaeological work available to the wider archaeological community and the public within a reasonable period of time (normally six months). This obligation is entirely consistent with the terms of the NPPF, which is clear that the results of archaeological investigation – i.e. the information and interpretations arising from archaeological work – are gathered for the public benefit to offset the physical loss of heritage assets, and cannot legitimately be withheld indefinitely.

It must be noted that after report completion, a copy will be sent to the Dorset Council Historic Environment Record, at which point it will become a publicly accessible document.

## 15. References

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| ClfA,               | 2014a | <i>Standard and guidance for the archaeological investigation and recording of standing buildings or structures</i> . December 2014. Chartered Institute for Archaeologists. |
| ClfA,               | 2014b | <i>Regulations for professional conduct</i> . December 2014. Chartered Institute for Archaeologists.   |
| Historic England    | 2016  | <i>Understanding Historic Buildings. A Guide to Good Recording Practice</i> . Historic England   |
| Terrain Archaeology | 2004  | New Wall, Victory Court, North Square, Dorchester, Dorset Archaeological Watching Brief, March 2004. Terrain Archaeology Report No. 53149.1, March 2004.                     |