

**SPECIFICATION FOR A PROGRAMME OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL OBSERVATION, INVESTIGATION, RECORDING,
ANALYSIS AND PUBLICATION OF WORKS: UNIT 26-28, THE BELL PLANTATION, WATLING STREET,
TOWCESTER, NORTHAMPTONSHIRE**

Planning Reference:	S/2019/2416/FUL
Client:	Bell Plantation Garden Centre
National Grid Reference:	468756 249834
AAL Site Code:	TOPB 20
Date:	12th May 2020
Event Number:	ENN109893

1.0 Summary

This document is the specification for a programme of archaeological observation, investigation, recording, analysis and publication of works at Unit 26-28, The Bell Plantation, Watling Street, Towcester, Northamptonshire, which has been prepared following planning consent being granted for installation of a ground source heat pump. The site works and reporting will conform to current national guidelines, as set out in the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists 'Standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluations' (CIfA 2014), the Historic England document 'Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment' (Historic England 2015), and a brief for the works (NCC 2020).

2.0 Site Location and Description

The proposed development site (hereafter referred to as 'the site') is located 1.6km to the north-northwest of Towcester centre, c.12km southwest of Northampton. The site is approximately 100m east-northeast – west-southwest and 60m north-northwest to south-southeast, and is at the north end of the garden centre, with Watling Street 0.09km to the west-southwest. The site is centred at National Grid Reference 468756 249834.

The bedrock geology comprises Northampton Sand Formation – Sandstone, Limestone and Ironstone, with superficial geology deposits of oadby Member - Diamicton (<http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html>).

3.0 Planning Background

Planning permission has been approved for 'Installation of 174kW ground source heat pump system comprising of 2 x Stiebel Eltron WPE-I 400 H 87kW heat pumps and associated ground collector at Unit 26-28 The Bell Plantation Watling Street, Towcester, Northamptonshire, NN12 6GX' (S/2019/2416/FUL) subject to conditions including no. 3 which states that:

No development shall take place until the applicant (or their agents or successors in title) have submitted to and had approved in writing by the local planning authority a programme of archaeological work consisting of a written scheme of investigation and a timetable for that work:

i) *fieldwork in accordance with the agreed written scheme of investigation;*

- ii) *post-excavation assessment (to be submitted within six months of the completion of fieldwork, unless otherwise agreed in advance with the Planning Authority);*
- iii) *completion of post-excavation analysis, preparation of site archive ready for deposition at a store (Northamptonshire ARC) approved by the Planning Authority, completion of an archive report, and submission of a publication report to be completed within two years of the completion of fieldwork, unless otherwise agreed in advance with the Planning Authority.*

The development shall thereafter proceed in accordance with the approved written scheme of investigation and timetable.

Reason: To secure the provision of archaeological investigation and the subsequent recording of the remains, to comply with Government advice in the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) (Section 16). This information is required prior to commencement of the development as it is fundamental to the acceptability of the scheme.

4.0 Archaeological and Historical Background

The site lies less than 100m to the east of Watling Street and to the north of Towcester (Roman town of Lactodorum).

Immediately to the west of the site there is a probable Roman roadside settlement (Northamptonshire Historic Environment Record (NHER) reference MNN171299), that may date back to the late Iron Age and continued to the mid to late Roman period (Wolfram-Murray and Douthwaite 2019). The site comprised boundary ditches, a mid Roman double-ditched trackway, mid – late Roman enclosure and an undated inhumation burial.

Also, from the Bell Plantation, and recorded as 130m to the southwest of the site (NHER reference MNN37001), a number of sherds of middle Iron Age pottery and Roman pottery has been recovered.

5.0 Aims and Objectives

In general the purpose of an archaeological investigation is to determine and understand the nature, function and character of the site in its cultural and environmental setting and to mitigate the effects of the development upon the archaeological resource and to create a permanent record of the features and deposits exposed.

The aims of the investigation will include:

- establishing the date, nature and extent of activity or occupation in the development site;
- establishing the relationship of any remains found to the surrounding contemporary landscapes;
- recovering artefacts to assist in the development of type series within the region;
- recovering palaeo-environmental remains to determine local environmental conditions as an intrinsic part of the investigation.

Evidence shall be gathered to establish the presence/absence, nature, date, depth, quality of survival and importance of any archaeological deposits across the areas affected by development.

6.0 Methodology

A programme of controlled archaeological investigation and recording will be undertaken during the development groundworks. The works will comprise the continuous observation of removal of overburden followed by the investigation and recording of any archaeological features that are revealed in order to determine their date, extent, level of preservation, form and where possible, function. As per the brief for the works (NCC 2020), provision for extension of the stripped area to allow investigation and recording of any remains present will be required.

Topsoil, subsoil and underlying non-archaeological deposits will be removed by mechanical excavator with a toothless ditching bucket in spits no greater than 0.1m in depth. The process will be repeated until the first archaeologically significant or natural horizon is exposed. All further excavation will then be by hand.

It is not anticipated that the complete excavation of features will be necessary, although, where archaeologically relevant, some individual features will be excavated in their entirety. Where significant features or deposits that may merit preservation *in situ* are exposed all excavation by hand and by machine will be limited to what is necessary to understand the date and context of the features.

A full written record of the archaeological deposits will be made on standard Allen Archaeology Limited context recording sheets. Archaeological deposits will be drawn to scale, in plan and section (at scale 1:20 or 1:50), with Ordnance Datum heights being displayed on each class of drawing. Photography (monochrome and colour slide, supported by digital images at a minimum of 12 mega pixels) will form an integral part of the recording strategy, and all photographs will incorporate scales, an identification board and directional arrow.

Should human remains be encountered the appropriate Department for Constitutional Affairs and environmental health regulations followed and they will be left *in situ* and only removed if absolutely necessary, with excavation being limited to the identification and recording of such remains. The Assistant Archaeological Advisor and the local Coroner will be informed immediately upon discovery of human remains.

Any artefacts found during the investigation that are deemed to be 'treasure' (as defined by the Treasure Act 1996) will be removed from site to a secure store and reported to the appropriate coroner's office.

All finds of all classes will be collected, processed, analysed and published as appropriate. The spoil from the excavated area will be examined for further artefact recovery. Finds collected during the fieldwork will be bagged and labelled with the appropriate deposit context number, while registered finds will be 3D located and bagged individually with the deposit context number and small find number. Key specialists will be requested to visit the site during fieldwork to advice on the artefact collection and retention strategies. All finds will be processed (cleaned, marked and labelled as appropriate) at the offices of Allen Archaeology Limited. These will then be submitted for specialist assessment as to their potential and significance for further analysis and study to the following organisations/persons (depending on their availability):

Sarah Percival	Early prehistoric pottery
Ian Rowlandson	Later prehistoric and Romano-British pottery
Sarah Bates	Worked lithic materials
Paul Blinkhorn	Post-Roman pottery and ceramic building material
Hannah Russ	Animal bone
Natasha Powers	Human bone
Dr Elizabeth Foulds	Other artefacts
Val Fryer	Environmental analysis
University of Lincoln	Conservation

Any changes to the above-named specialists will only be made in agreement with the Assistant Archaeological Advisor at Northamptonshire County Council.

If the archaeological works results in the recovery of unstable artefactual remains (e.g. metallic objects or preserved wood/leather), Allen Archaeology Limited will commission the services of the University of Lincoln to advise and implement conservation of unstable artefacts; to undertake x-ray analysis and to provide an assessment of potential summary, which will then be attached to the main report.

7.0 Environmental Works

Val Fryer is the named primary environmental consultant, who will be responsible for liaising with other specialists. Samples will be taken from deposits that have the potential to provide information on the preservation conditions and potential of analysis of all biological remains. Specialist advice will be sought from the environmental archaeologist on any buried soils or palaeosols and their potential for soil micromorphological analysis, should such deposits be identified.

Samples may include bulk samples, waterlogged samples, radiocarbon samples, dendrochronology, archaeomagnetic, pollen samples and column or monolith samples as appropriate. Bulk samples will be taken from a selection of stratified contexts that have produced good dating evidence, and sufficient in number to establish the range and quality of the environmental evidence. Samples will also be taken from undated contexts that have the potential to yield important palaeoenvironmental evidence and provide material for scientific dating to enhance the results of the assessment.

Animal bone will be hand collected from all excavated features, and from processed samples. This will be identified and assessed by the named specialist (Hannah Russ), with any recommendations for future archaeological work on the site.

8.0 Post-Excavation and Reporting

On completion of site operations, the records produced during the programme of archaeological observation, investigation and recording will be checked and ordered and a stratigraphic matrix of all archaeological features and deposits prepared.

A fully illustrated text will then be prepared that will contain the following information:

- A non technical summary of the results;
- A description of the archaeological setting of the site;
- Description of the topography and geology of the investigation area;
- Description of the methodologies used during the investigation and discussion of their effectiveness in the light of the results;
- A text describing the results of the investigation;
- Overall plan of the site showing excavated areas, accurately located to the national grid, and in relation to the results of the geophysical survey;
- Plans of each of the individual trenches showing the archaeological features exposed;
- Sections of the archaeological features;
- Interpretation of the archaeological features exposed and their context within the surrounding landscape;
- Specialist reports on the finds from the site;
- Appropriate photographs of the site and specific archaeological features or groups of features;

- A consideration of the significance of the remains found, in local, regional, national and international terms, using recognised evaluation criteria; and
- The report will also include an assessment of the development impact.

The timescale for completion of the post-excavation works is 4-8 weeks. If required, specialists will propose their own timescales during the post-fieldwork stage.

9.0 Archive

The documentation and records generated by the evaluation will be assembled in accordance with the national guidelines in *Archaeological Archives: A guide to best practice in creation, compilation, transfer and curation* (AAF 2011), and the local guidelines in *'Northamptonshire Archaeological Resource Centre. Archaeological Archives Standard'* (NARC 2020). At present no repository is available for deposition of the archive, so this will be retained at the head offices of Allen Archaeology until such time as facilities become available. The Event UID number for the scheme is ENN109893.

10.0 Report Dissemination

The report will be completed within two months of the completion of the fieldwork, and a digital copy will be sent to the client, and to the Local Planning Authority, and a digital copy will be sent to the Northamptonshire HER. A summary account on the results of the evaluation in the form of an OASIS form will be forwarded to the ADS in York following the completion of the works and the OASIS reference ID will be clearly indicated on any reports and the summary form included.

11.0 Curatorial Monitoring

Curatorial responsibility rests with the Assistant Archaeological Advisor at Northamptonshire County Council. A programme of monitoring visits will be arranged with them prior to the start of the works if required.

Internal monitoring will be by the author of this specification.

12.0 Variations to the Proposed Scheme of Works

Variations to the proposed scheme will only be made following written confirmation from the Assistant Archaeological Advisor at Northamptonshire County Council.

Should any further investigation be required beyond the scope of the brief for works, or this specification, then the cost and duration of those supplementary examinations will be negotiated between the client and the contractor.

13.0 Health and Safety

All work will be carried out in a way that complies with the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974 and its related regulations and codes of practice. Employees of Allen Archaeology Limited will perform their duties in accordance with company safety policy, with senior staff responsible for monitoring compliance with health and safety requirements and legislation.

The archaeological site supervisor will be responsible for ensuring that all on-site archaeological work is carried out in a safety-conscious, sensible and responsible manner with due regard for the relevant health

and safety requirements and legislation. All staff involved in the scheme will be provided with a Risk Assessment document prior to commencement of site operations.

14.0 Insurance

Allen Archaeology Limited maintains Employers Liability Insurance to £10,000,000.00, Public Liability Insurance to £5,000,000.00 and Professional Indemnity Insurance to £2,000,000.00. Copies of insurance documentation can be supplied upon request.

15.0 Copyright

Allen Archaeology shall retain full copyright of any commissioned reports 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 archaeological curator to use the documentary archive for educational, public and research purposes. This license does not cover commercial use of the material by the Leicestershire Historic Environment Record or a third party.

In the case of non-satisfactory settlement of account then copyright will remain fully and exclusively with Allen 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 same, to any third party. Reports submitted in good faith by Allen Archaeology to any Planning Authority or archaeological curator will be removed from said Planning Authority and/or archaeological curator. The Planning Authority and/or archaeological curator will be notified by Allen 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.

The author of any specialist contribution to a report shall retain intellectual copyright of their work and may make use of their work for educational or research purposes for further publication.

16.0 References

AAF, 2011, *Archaeological Archives: A guide to best practice in creation, compilation, transfer and curation*, Archaeological Archives Forum

CIfA, 2014, *Standard and guidance for archaeological watching briefs*, Institute for Archaeologists, Reading

Department for Communities and Local Government, 2012, *National Planning Policy Framework*. London, Department for Communities and Local Government

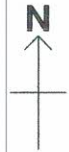
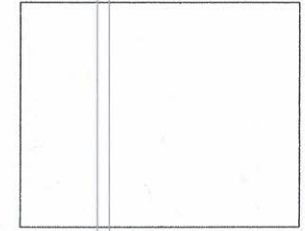
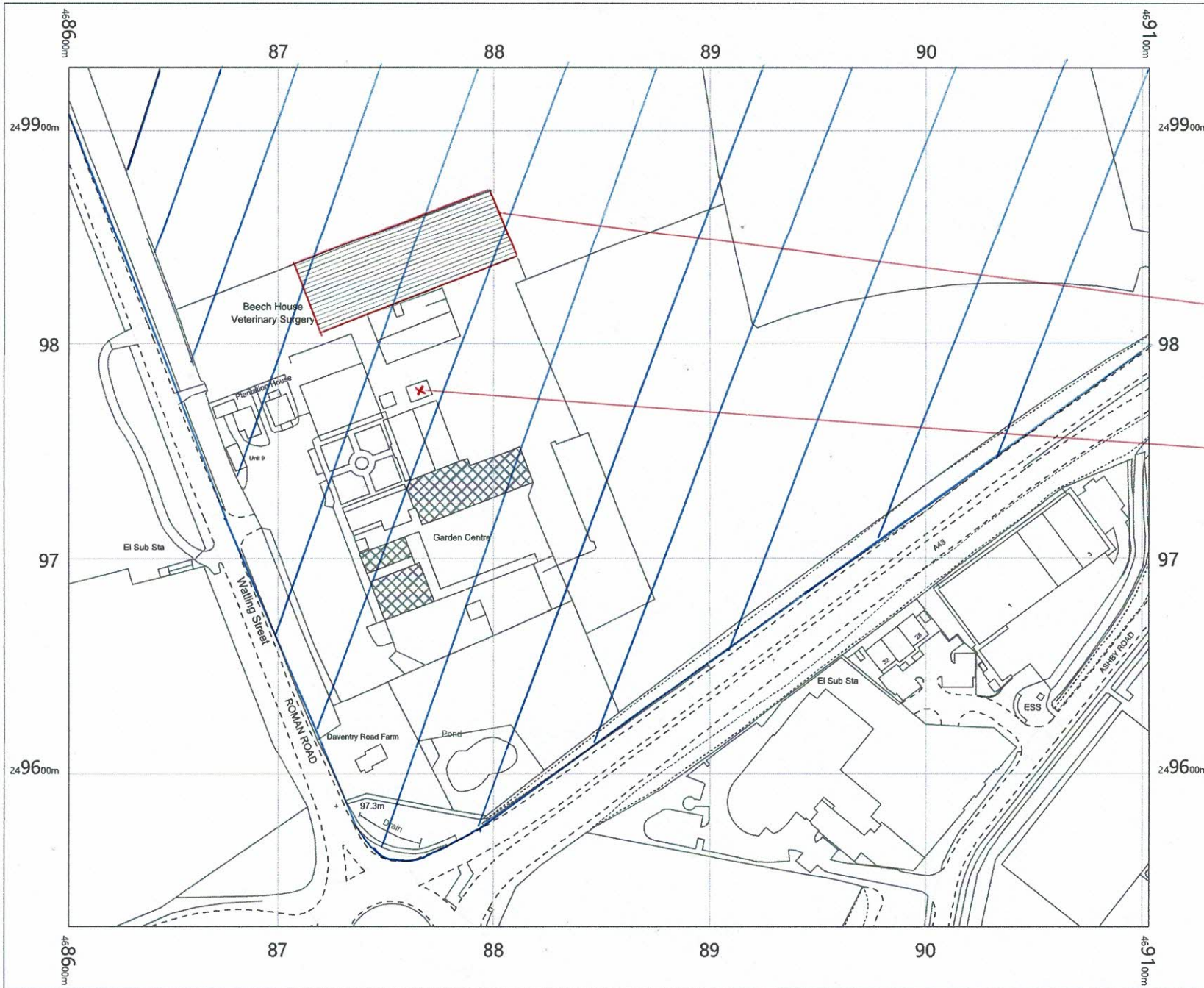
NARC, 2020, *Northamptonshire Archaeological Archives Standard*. Standards Working Party of Northamptonshire Archaeological Archives Working Group. Northamptonshire Archaeological Resource Centre

NCC, 2020, *Brief for a programme of archaeological observation, investigation, recording, analysis and publication of works at Unit 26-28, The Bell Plantation, Watling Street, Towcester, Northamptonshire*. Northamptonshire County Council

Wolframm-Murray Y and Douthwaite A, *Archaeological excavation, recording and analysis at Bell Plantation, Towcester, Northamptonshire, April 2019*. MOLA Northampton

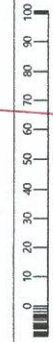
Specification prepared by Mark Allen
Allen Archaeology Limited
12th May 2020

The Bell Plantation



PROPOSED GROUND
COLLECTOR LAYOUT

PROPOSED HEAT PUMP
SYSTEM LOCATION



OS MasterMap 1250/2500/10000
scale
Wednesday, December 4, 2019, ID:
BLJT-00845691
www.planningapplicationmaps.co.uk

1:2500 scale print at A4, Centre:
468853 E, 249729 N

© Crown Copyright Ordnance
Survey. Licence no. 100051661



The Bell Plantation, NN12 6GX
Ground Collector Trench Layout Plan



Details:

- Black lines indicate centre line of trench
- 18 x 100m trenches
- 2m between trenches



Allen Archaeology Limited
www.allenarchaeology.co.uk

Company Registered in England and Wales No: 6935529

Lincoln
Whisby Lodge
Hillcroft Business Park
Whisby Road
Lincoln
LN6 3QL
T: +44 (0) 1522 685356
E: info@allenarchaeology.co.uk

West
Arion Business Centre
Harriet House
118 High Street
Birmingham
B23 6BG
T: +44 (0) 800 610 2545
E: birmingham@allenarchaeology.co.uk

Northeast
1 Heathfield
Chester-le-Street
County Durham
DH2 2XN
T: +44 (0) 7710 099045
E: northeast@allenarchaeology.co.uk

East
Wellington House
East Road
Cambridge
CB1 1BH
T: +44 (0) 800 610 2550
E: cambridge@allenarchaeology.co.uk

Northwest
44 Little Lane
Longridge
Preston
PR3 3WS
T: +44 (0) 7710 099052
E: northwest@allenarchaeology.co.uk

South
International House
Southampton International Business Park
George Curl Way
Southampton
SO18 2RZ
T: +44 (0) 800 610 2555
E: southampton@allenarchaeology.co.uk