

Appendix 1

Brief For Archaeological Assessment And Evaluation

Location: Rear of 44 Fore Street, Totnes, Devon. TQ9 5RP.

NGR: SX80386033

Parish: Totnes

District: South Hams

County: Devon

Proposal: Erection of two-storey cottage and detached garage, r/o 44 Fore Street, Totnes. TQ9 5RP

Planning Application: 56/1244/05/F

1. Planning Background

A planning application (56/1244/05/F) has been submitted to South Hams District Council for a proposed erection of a two-storey cottage and detached garage at the rear of 44 Fore Street, Totnes.

In accordance with PPG16 (1990) Archaeology and Planning, and South Hams Local Plan policies on archaeology, consent has been granted, conditional upon a programme of archaeological work being undertaken. This condition requires that:

No development shall take place until the applicant has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological work in accordance with a written scheme of investigation which has been submitted by the applicant and approved by the Planning Authority.

The principal objectives of the archaeological evaluation will be to gather sufficient information to establish the presence or absence, character, extent, state of preservation and date of any archaeological deposits within the area affected by the proposed development. The results of these investigations will inform any further archaeological work that will be required for all or part of this site.

This brief forms the scope of a Written Scheme of Investigation, which will be drawn up by the archaeological contractor, and approved by the County Archaeological Service.

2. Site Location & Archaeological Background

The proposal site lies at approx. NGR SX80386033, to the rear of 44 Fore Street, Totnes.

The site of this application lies just outside the medieval town walls, in an area which was established in the 14th century to accommodate the expansion of the town, and as such is within an area of archaeological significance. The back of Medieval burgage plots running north-south from Fore Street may be evident on the site.

The site is also close to the eastern edge of the earlier Saxon burgh of Totnes. Although most of the development in this area is thought to be Medieval, it is possible that earlier archaeological features may be evident outside the limits of the Saxon burgh.

The site, therefore has the potential to discover deposits relating to the medieval and possibly Saxon development of this part of Totnes, as well as possible later development or disturbance.

3. Stages of Work and Techniques

3.1. Rapid assessment of documentary and cartographic sources.

A rapid examination will be made of relevant cartographic and documentary sources - to include Historic Environment Records for the area, examination of historic mapping, including the Tithe Map and Apportionment as well as any other sources deemed relevant to the site. A site inspection should be undertaken in advance of any fieldwork. A summary of the results of the assessment will be made available to the County Archaeological Service to facilitate discussion and agreement on the location of the evaluative trenches.

3.2. Excavation of evaluative trenches.

A series of evaluative trenches will be excavated to target areas identified by the cartographic assessment as well as to sample 5% of the total area potentially affected by the proposed development. The location of trenches will be agreed with the County Archaeological Service in advance of fieldwork. These may respect any foundation trenches that will be excavated as part of the development.

Trenches will be excavated by machine, fitted with a toothless grading bucket, under the direct control of the site archaeologist.

Excavations will be undertaken to expose the upper surface of in situ weathered subsoil or archaeological deposits, whichever is the highest. The sides and base of each trench should be cleaned for the identification of archaeological deposits. Should any such deposits be exposed then machining should cease, in that area, to allow hand cleaning and investigation. Unless exposed features are of a substantial nature, excavation of their fill should be undertaken by hand.

If archaeological features are exposed, then as a minimum:

- small discrete features will be fully excavated
- larger discrete features will be half-sectioned (50% excavated)
- long linear features will be excavated to sample 20% of their length - with investigative excavations distributed along the exposed length of any such feature.

The full depth of archaeological deposits will be assessed. This need not require excavation to in situ subsoil if it is clear that complex and deep stratigraphy will be encountered.

Should suitable deposits be exposed then consideration should be made for scientific assessment/analysis/dating techniques that could be applied to further understand their nature/date and to establish appropriate sampling procedures. The project will be organised so that specialist consultants who might be required to conserve or report on other aspects of the investigations can be called upon.

Topsoil should be examined for the recovery of artefacts.

Artefacts should be labelled and bagged on site.

All features shall be recorded in plan and section at a minimum scale of 1:20, larger where necessary.

The overall and relative position of trenches should be located in relation to the site boundary. The County Archaeological Service shall be informed as to the commencement of and progress of the fieldwork and may wish to inspect site during the course of the investigations.

3.3. Report

An illustrated full report on the investigation shall be prepared. The report shall include location plans of the trenches in relation to the site boundary, as well as reports of all specialist, documentary and other research, and details of trench stratigraphy, section and plan drawings, and artefacts together with their interpretation.

The report shall summarise the archaeological potential of the site and the impact upon it of the proposed development. It may make suggestions as to appropriate mitigation of the archaeological impact of the proposal, but these will be subject to review by the County

Archaeological Service, who will make final recommendations to the Local Planning Authority. A copy of the report should be deposited by the archaeological contractor, with the County Archaeological Service (Devon County Council, Environment Directorate, Topsham Road, Exeter, EX2 4QW), on the understanding that it will become a public document after an appropriate period (a maximum of 6 months after the completion of the fieldwork unless another date is agreed in writing with the County Archaeological Service).

An ordered and integrated site archive will be prepared in accordance with The Management of Archaeological Projects (English Heritage, 1991 2nd edition) upon completion of the entire project.

The archaeological contractor shall complete an online OASIS (Online Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations) form in respect of the archaeological work.

4. Further Work

The results of the assessment and evaluative trenches will inform as to the nature of any further archaeological work that will be required for all or part of this site. Any further work will require a revised Written Scheme of Investigation, which will be drawn up by the archaeological contractor, and approved by the County Archaeological Service.

5. Personnel And Monitoring

Staff must be suitably qualified and experienced for their project roles. All work should be carried out under the control of a Member of the Institute of Field Archaeologists, or by a person of similar standing.

Health and Safety matters, including site security, are matters for the contractor. However, adherence to all relevant regulations will be required.

The work shall be carried out in accordance with IFA Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluations (1994), as amended (1999).

6. Deposition Of Archive And Finds

An ordered and integrated site archive will be prepared in accordance with The Management of Archaeological Projects (English Heritage, 1991 2nd edition) upon completion of the entire project. This will be deposited with Plymouth City Museum in consultation with the relevant curator.

The archaeological archive resulting from the work should be deposited in a format to be agreed with the museum, and within a timetable to be agreed with the County Archaeological Service. The Guidelines for the Preparation of Excavation Archives for long-term Storage, published by the UK Institute for Conservation, should be adhered to.

Archaeological finds resulting from the investigation (which are the property of the landowner), should be deposited with the appropriate museum. The proposed museum should be contacted at the beginning of the project. If ownership of all or any of the finds is to remain with the landowner, provision and agreement must be made for the time-limited retention of the material and its full analysis and recording, by appropriate specialists.

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3rd November 2005

Devon County Council references;

Reference: Arch/DC/SH/9211

File: R:\DCH\Archaeology\GT\Planning and DC\South Hams DC (03/11/2005)