

Appendix 2

WRITTEN SCHEME OF INVESTIGATION FOR THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL RECORDING ON THE SITE AT 44 FORE STREET, TOTNES, DEVON

THIS IS STAGE I OF A PROCESS OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATION OF THE SITE, THE RESULTS OF WHICH WILL ADVISE WHETHER FURTHER ARCHAEOLOGICAL INTERVENTION WILL BE NEEDED.

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1.1 This document has been produced by South West Archaeology at the request of Mr. L. Marston (the Client) and sets out the methodology for the excavation and recording of archaeological evaluation trenches to be excavated prior to the start of the development of the site. The proposed application area subject to this work lies to the rear of 44, Fore Street, Totnes, Devon. It is proposed to excavate a series of evaluation trenches to investigate whether the site contains any archaeology that will be affected by the above development. Investigations will concentrate on the site of the proposed house behind the buildings that front Fore Street and the site of the proposed garage to the south of the site (see attached plan).

1.2 The site is in the narrow garden plot to the south of 44, Fore Street, the subdivision of a wider burgage plot.

2.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 This part of Totnes is contained within a large ovoid defended enclosure which may be of later Anglo-Saxon date and associated with the 10th century burh 200 metres to the west of the proposal site (Waterhouse, R. 2002: *'An Archaeological Appraisal of Totnes Conservation Area'* South Hams District Council). Archaeological deposits from this period may be expected to survive within the proposal site, lying just outside the burh, the southern boundary of which follows the line of present day Victoria Street, a short distance to the south.

2.2 The properties fronting Fore Street are part of a suburb of the earlier defended burh, laid out on the river side of the burh between the late 11th and early 13th century when it became part of the Borough of Totnes. Deposits of midden material, garden soil and boundary walls dating from this period are expected to survive across the proposal site.

2.3 Other archaeologically investigations in the immediate vicinity of the proposal site have yielded rich assemblages of imported pottery from the 16th-18th centuries and it is possible that such assemblages will be recovered from excavations within this site. This part of Totnes was occupied by its wealthiest merchants during this period.

3. AIMS

3.1 The aim of this work is to investigate the site to determine the character and extent of any surviving archaeological deposits within the proposed development site. The results of these investigations will be used to determine the nature and scope of any further archaeological works required as mitigation for the proposed development.

4.0 METHOD

- 4.1 Should earthworks be present the site will be surveyed using appropriate methods.
 - 4.2 Archaeological evaluation trenches will be excavated in locations agreed with DCAS and will be positioned to enable a representative sample of the development area to be examined.
 - 4.3 The position of the trenches can be moved in light of site conditions (services etc.) and in consultation with DCAS.
 - 4.4 The archaeological work will be carried out in accordance with the Institute of Field Archaeologists' Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Excavation (revised 1995).
 - 4.4.1 The trenches are to be excavated using a machine with a toothless, grading bucket to the surface of archaeological deposits, the surface of *in situ* weathered subsoil or to a depth that will not be affected by the development whichever is the most shallow.
 - 4.4.2 Spoil will be examined for the recovery of artefacts.
 - 4.4.3 The machining will be undertaken under the direct control of the site archaeologist. Upon completion of the machining to the appropriate level the trench sides and base will be examined by the site archaeologist for the identification of features and soil marks and the recovery of artefacts. Where necessary to clarify features and soil marks the base and/or sides of the trench will be cleaned by hand. The examination will be undertaken before the exposed level is affected by weathering and before plant and machinery is driven over it. Any features will then be cleaned, excavated by hand and recorded to IFA guidelines and as per paragraph 5.5 below.
 - 4.4.4 If complex or extensive archaeological deposits are exposed then only the extent and character of such deposits will be determined by these investigations and the DCAS will be consulted as to the appropriate archaeological mitigation required by this development.
 - 4.5 Health and Safety requirements will be observed at all times by any archaeological staff working on site, particularly when working with machinery. As a minimum: high-visibility jackets, safety helmets and protective footwear will be worn. The site archaeologist will undertake any site safety induction course provided by the Client.
 - 4.6 Should the sides of trenches be deemed unstable, by virtue of depth or instability of the trench side, trenches will be adequately shored or stepped to allow safe access.
 - 4.7 The Devon County Council Archaeological Service will be informed of the start of the fieldwork, will monitor the project throughout and may wish to inspect the works in progress.
- #### 5.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL RECORDING
- This will be based on IFA guidelines and those advised by DCAS and will consist of:
- 5.1 Standardised single context recording sheets, survey drawings in plan, section and profile at 1:10, 1:20, 1: 50 and 1:100 as appropriate, and B/W, colour and digital photography.
 - 5.2 Survey and location of features.
 - 5.3 Labelling and bagging of finds on site, post-1800 unstratified pottery may be discarded on site after a representative sample has been retained.

- 5.4 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.
- 5.5 If archaeological features are exposed, then *as a minimum*:
- i) small discrete features will be fully excavated
 - ii) larger discrete features will be half-sectioned (50% excavated)
 - iii) 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.

6.0 MITIGATION

- 6.1 This brief covers Stage I of the archaeological investigation of the site however, further archaeological intervention may be required. The need for any such further works will be determined by the results of these investigations and in consultation with the DCAS. Further mitigation work may take the form of:
- 6.1.1 Archaeological excavation of the whole of the development area.
- 6.1.2 An archaeological watching brief to be undertaken during any intrusive groundworks associated with the development work. It would be a requirement of a watching brief that sufficient time should be allowed in the construction programme for the adequate investigation and recording of archaeological features exposed.
- 6.2 If no archaeological deposits are exposed by the evaluation it may be decided by DCAS that no further archaeological works will be required.
- 6.3 The need for further works will be determined in consultation with the archaeological contractor, DCAS and the Client once the result of the evaluation is known; a separate Written Scheme of Investigation will be prepared to detail the scope of any further archaeological works required.
- 6.4 The development shall not proceed until the requirement for further archaeological intervention has been established by the DCAS.

7.0 ARCHIVE AND REPORT

- 7.1 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 include relevant correspondence together with context sheets, field drawings, and environmental, artefactual and photographic records. The archive and finds will be deposited with an appropriate museum.
- 7.2 An illustrated summary report will be produced as soon as possible following completion of fieldwork, specialist reports allowing, and submitted to Devon County Archaeology Service and the Client.
- 7.3 A report will be produced. This will include the following elements:

- 7.3.1 A location plan and overall site plan showing the location of the evaluative trenches as well as the distribution of any archaeological features;
- 7.3.2 Plans and sections of exposed features or deposits at a relevant scale;
- 7.3.3 A description of any remains and deposits identified including an interpretation of their character and significance;
- 7.3.4 An assessment of significant artefacts, environmental and scientific samples together with recommendations for further analysis;
- 7.3.5 Any specialist reports commissioned;
- 7.3.6 Discussion of the archaeological deposits encountered and their context.
- 7.4 Should they merit it; the results of these excavations will be published in an appropriate academic journal. If required, after the production of a summary report, a programme and timetable for this will be submitted to Devon County Archaeology Services and the Client for approval.
- 7.5 In the case that no further archaeological mitigation is required by this development a copy of the report detailing the results of these investigations will be submitted to the OASIS (Online Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations) database.

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