

ERECTION OF THREE DWELLINGS,  
LAND EAST OF 23 HOLME ROAD,  
MARKET WEIGHTON, EAST YORKSHIRE

ARCHAEOLOGICAL OBSERVATION,  
INVESTIGATION AND RECORDING

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On behalf of

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**ARCHAEOLOGICAL OBSERVATION, INVESTIGATION AND RECORDING,  
ERECTION OF THREE DWELLINGS, LAND EAST OF 23 HOLME ROAD,  
MARKET WEIGHTON, EAST YORKSHIRE**

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## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

In November 2011, Ed Dennison Archaeological Services Ltd (EDAS) were commissioned by Mr Charles Ward to undertake a programme of archaeological observation, investigation and recording (a watching brief) during groundworks associated with the erection of three new dwellings on land to the east of no. 23 Holme Road, Market Weighton, East Yorkshire (NGR SE 87529 41724 centred). The archaeological work was made a condition of full planning permission (application DC/11/00025/PLF/WESTWW).

Despite the area in question having some potential, the watching brief carried out during the groundworks for the three new dwellings produced nothing of archaeological interest. Only three archaeological features (a gully and two pits) were identified along with a small assemblage of clay pipe and pottery, but all were identified as being late 19th century or later in date.

## **1 INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1 In November 2011, Ed Dennison Archaeological Services Ltd (EDAS) were commissioned by Mr Charles Ward to undertake a programme of archaeological observation, investigation and recording (a watching brief) during groundworks associated with the erection of three new dwellings on land to the east of no. 23 Holme Road, Market Weighton, East Yorkshire (NGR SE 87529 41724 centred).
- 1.2 The archaeological work was made a condition of full planning permission, granted by East Riding of Yorkshire Council on 7th June 2011 (application DC/11/00025/PLF/WESTWW). The condition (number 5) stated that: "No development shall take place on the site until the applicant, or their agents or successors in title, 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 Local Planning Authority. The development shall then be carried out in accordance with that agreed scheme". A 'Written Scheme of Investigation' was subsequently produced by EDAS (see Appendix 2); this was subsequently approved by East Riding of Yorkshire Council (application 12/30130/CONDET) following advice from the Humber Archaeology Partnership (ref SMR/PA/CONS/16841).

## **2 SITE LOCATION AND DESCRIPTION**

- 2.1 The development site lies within the built-up area of Market Weighton, just beyond the south-west extent of the historic core. The site lies immediately to the east of 23 Holme Road, just to the west of the junction of Holme Road and Glenfield Avenue, on the south side of Holme Road (see figure 1).
- 2.2 Prior to development, the site was a well-established garden formerly belonging to no. 23, and comprised areas of grass lawn and flower beds, a rockery and paving, and two fishponds; the largest measured c.6m by c.3m by 1.5m deep and the other c.4m by c.2m by 1m deep. The site lies at a general level of 24.45m AOD.

## **3 METHODOLOGY**

- 3.1 The watching brief was defined by the 'Written Scheme of Investigation' (see Appendix 2). More general advice produced by the Institute of Field Archaeologists in relation to watching briefs (IFA 1999) was also considered. The aim of the work was to monitor the groundworks (topsoil stripping and excavation of foundation and service trenches), in order to record and recover information relating to the nature, date, depth and significance of any archaeological features which might be present and which might be damaged by the development.
- 3.2 The watching brief was carried out over three visits, on 14th, 15th and 16th March 2012. A tracked mechanical excavator with a toothless bucket was used to remove the remains of the former garden and strip off the topsoil on the 14th April, and then excavate the foundation trenches for the new houses on 16th April (see plates 1 and 2). The area of topsoil strip measured 22m square and the foundation trenches were 1.0m wide by 0.8m deep. Given that little of archaeological interest was observed in the topsoil strip, and the fact that large parts of the site had already been disturbed by hard landscaping for the former garden, the watching brief was terminated before all the foundation trenches were dug. The excavated material, where possible, was visually checked for archaeological finds.

- 3.3 Following standard archaeological procedures, each discrete stratigraphic entity (e.g. a cut, fill or layer) was assigned an individual three digit context number and detailed information was recorded on *pro forma* context sheets. A total of 10 archaeological contexts were recorded (see Appendix 1). In-house recording and quality control procedures ensured that all recorded information was cross-referenced as appropriate. The positions of the monitored groundworks were marked on a general site plan at 1:100 scale, and three detailed section drawings were produced at 1:10 scale. A photographic record was maintained using a digital camera.
- 3.4 In view of the absence of significant archaeological results or finds, and in accordance with current East Riding of Yorkshire Museum policy, no archive for the project was deposited with the museum, although site notes, plans and photographs have been retained by EDAS (site code HMW 12).

#### **4 SUMMARY ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND**

- 4.1 Information from the Humber Archaeology Partnership states that the site of the proposed development lies on the edge of the historic market town of Market Weighton, which is itself set within a pre-existing archaeological landscape of prehistoric and Romano-British settlement. Groundworks associated with the development may therefore encounter previously unrecorded heritage assets dating to the prehistoric and later periods.

#### **5 RESULTS FROM THE WATCHING BRIEF (see figure 2)**

- 5.1 The area of the proposed development site was stripped by machine down to the underlying natural deposit, a heavily brown mottled orange sand (106), which appeared at a depth of c.0.20m below the existing ground level. The black sandy-loam garden topsoil (101) was generally 0.20m thick, although it extended to 0.30m thick in places. The deeper excavations for the house foundations for the buildings showed that the heavily brown mottled orange sand (106) was c.0.4m thick and overlay a combination of chalky gravel and wet silvery sand (see plates 1 and 2).
- 5.2 A shallow north-south aligned steep-sided gully (107), 0.45m wide by 0.15m deep, ran for a distance of 7.00m from undisturbed ground along the north side of the site, parallel to the eastern boundary of the site (see plate 3). The fill of gully 107 comprised a black/orange-brown sand (103) from which a small assemblage of 19th century pottery and a clay pipe stem was recovered. The pottery comprised three sherds of 'Spongeware' dating to the early/mid 19th century and nine sherds of machine-made white ware dating to the 19th century; the 12 sherds had a combined weight of 156gm.
- 5.3 A shallow sub-circular pit (109) measuring 1.36m north-south by 2.10m east-west and 0.20m deep, truncated the southern end of gully 107. It had a gentle north sloping side and a steeper southern side leading to a relatively flat base (see plate 4). Its fill, a dark grey sand (105), contained frequent fragments of charcoal and a fragment of clay pipe stem. The function of the pit was unclear but it was of relatively recent date.
- 5.4 Cutting into the southern end of gully 107 and the northern side of pit 109 was a further shallow circular pit (108), c.0.05m deep by 0.50m in diameter. Its backfill (104) was a modern industrial residue of a ferrous nature with fragments of modern wire suggesting a late 19th-20th century date.

- 5.5 The grey-black sandy loam topsoil (102) along the north, east and south boundaries of the site showed considerable root disturbance due to the substantial *Leylandii* trees that formerly bounded the site. There was a further large area of disturbance in the centre of the site (110), measuring c.15m east-west by c.7m north-south, caused by the excavation of deep fish ponds which had previously occupied this part of the garden - any archaeological deposits which might have been present will have been destroyed by these earlier excavations. No archaeological features were seen within the c.28m length of excavated foundation trenches monitored by the watching brief.

## **6 CONCLUSIONS**

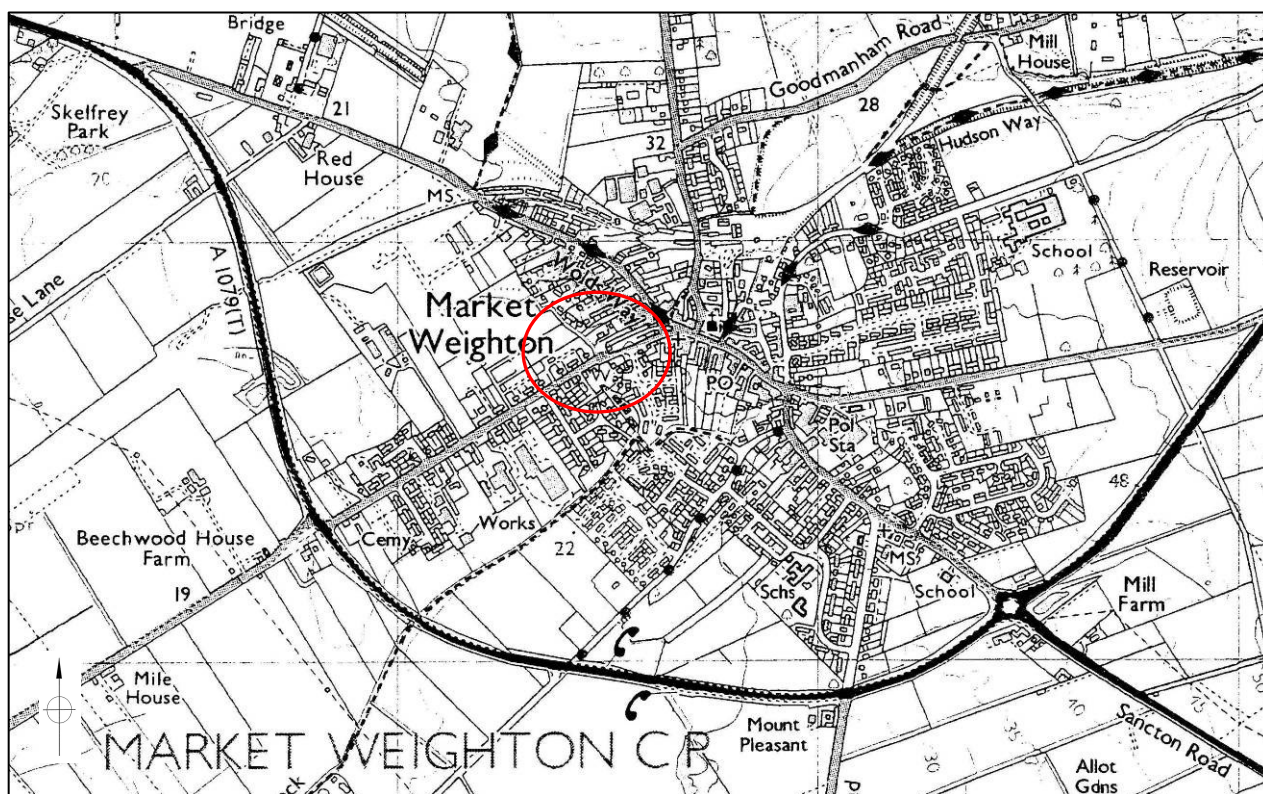
- 6.1 Despite the area in question having some potential, the watching brief carried out during the groundworks for the three new dwellings produced nothing of archaeological interest. Only three archaeological features (a gully and two pits) were identified along with a small assemblage of clay pipe and pottery, but all were identified as being late 19th century or later in date.

## **7 BIBLIOGRAPHY**

IFA (Institute of Field Archaeologists) 1999 *Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief* (and subsequent revisions)

## **8 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

- 8.1 The archaeological watching brief was commissioned and funded by Mr Charles Ward, and EDAS would like to thank him and the site contractors for their co-operation in carrying out the work.
- 8.2 The site recording was undertaken by John Tibbles of East Riding Archaeology on behalf of EDAS, who also produced the fieldwork records. Ed Dennison produced the final report and drawings, and the responsibility for any errors or inconsistencies remains with him.

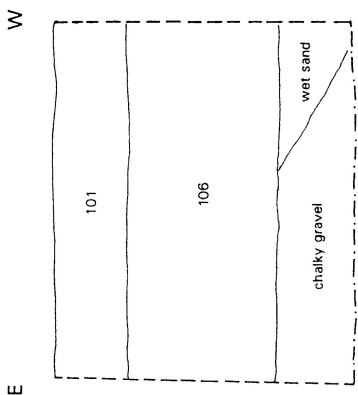


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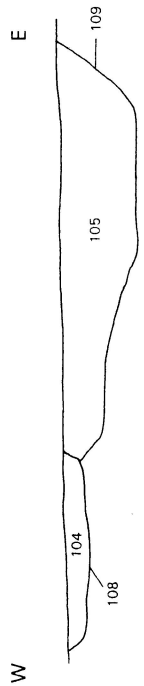
Bottom: Reproduced from the 1:2,500 scale map by permission of Ordnance Survey® on behalf of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationary Office, © Crown copyright 2012. All rights reserved. Licence AL100013825.

PROJECT HOLME ROAD, MARKET WEIGHTON	
TITLE GENERAL LOCATION	
SCALE NTS	DATE MAY 2012
EDAS	FIGURE 1

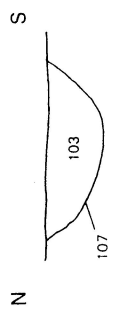




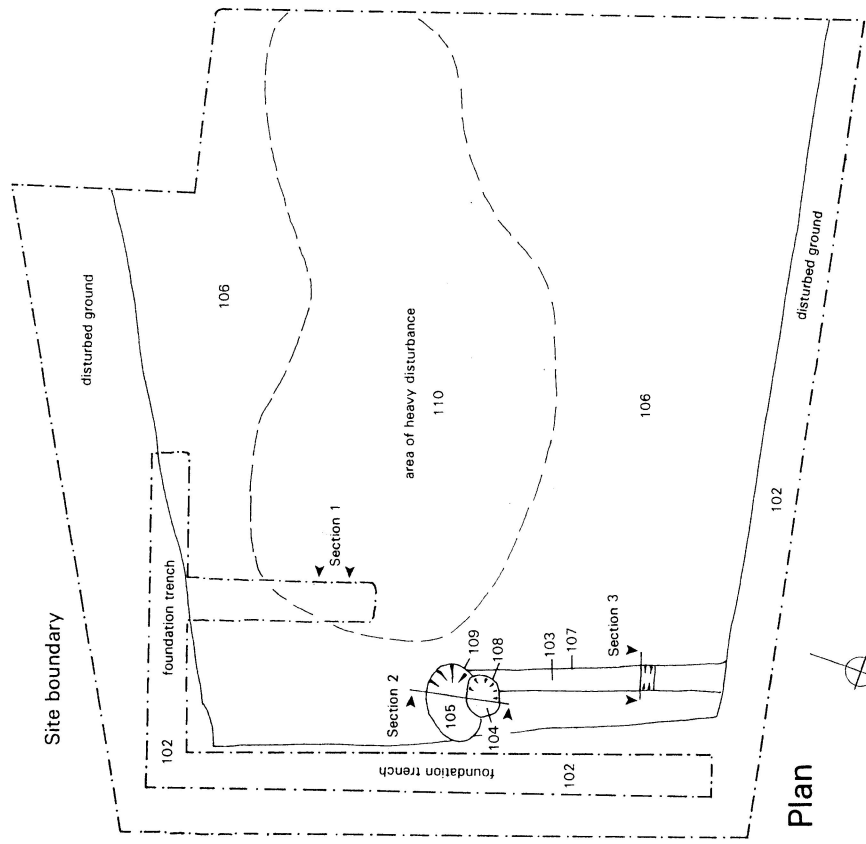
Section 1



Section 2



Section 3



Plan



PROJECT	HOLME ROAD, MARKET WEIGHTON		
TITLE	WATCHING BRIEF RESULTS		
SCALE	AS SHOWN	DATE	MAY 2012
	EDAS	FIGURE	2



Plate 1: Site clearance work in progress, looking S.



Plate 2: Excavated footings, looking NW.





Plate 3: Gully 107 and pit 109, looking S.

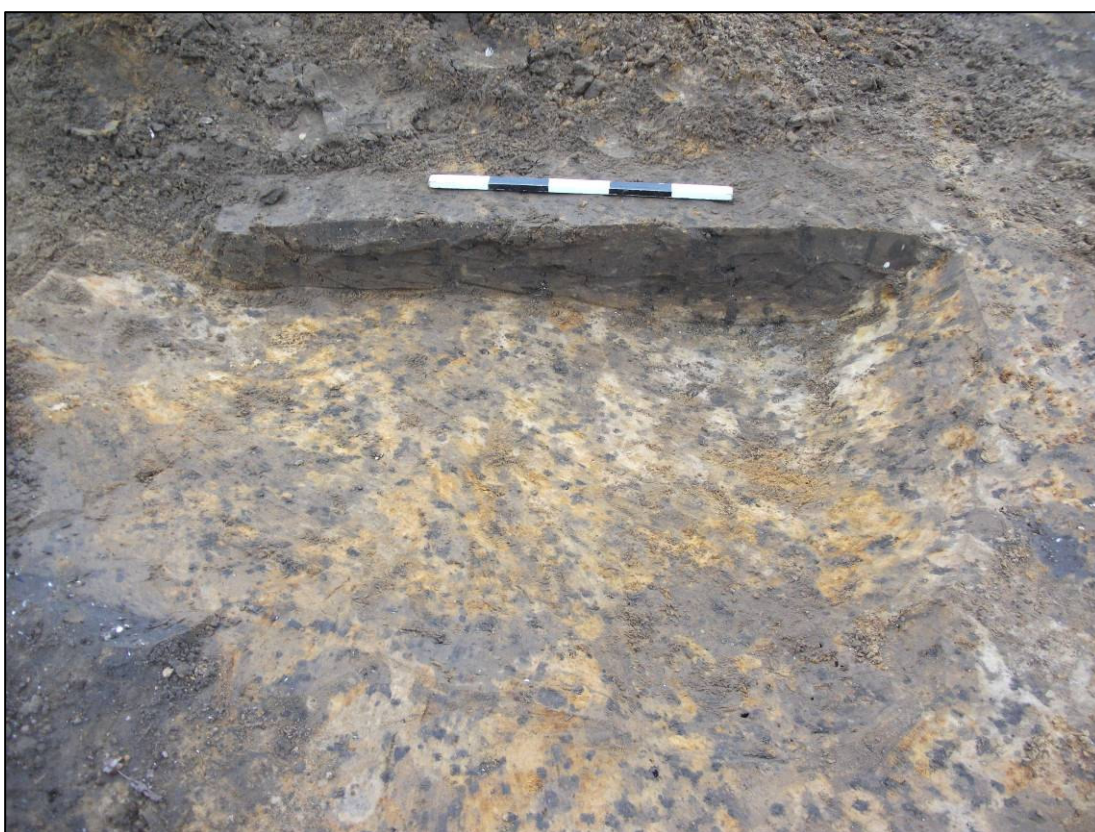


Plate 4: Section through Pit 109, looking E.

## **APPENDIX 1**

## APPENDIX 1: LIST OF CONTEXTS

<i>Context</i>	<i>Description</i>
101	Grey-black sandy loam, 0.20m-0.30m thick - garden topsoil.
102	Grey-black sandy loam, 0.15m thick - garden topsoil heavily disturbed by former trees.
103	Fill of 107 - black/orange-brown sand containing 19th century pottery and a clay pipe stem.
104	Fill of 108 - ferrous industrial ash/residue with modern wire.
105	Fill of 109 - dark grey sand with frequent charcoal fragments and a clay pipe stem.
106	Heavily mottled brown-orange sand, typically 0.4m thick - natural.
107	Cut - shallow N/S gully, 7.0m long, 0.45m wide and 0.15m deep, step sided.
108	Cut - shallow circular pit/depression c.0.05m deep by 0.50m diameter.
109	Cut - sub-circular pit with flat base and varying sides, 1.36m N/S by 2.10m E/W, 0.20m deep.
110	Area of heavy disturbance, 15m E/W by 7m N/S, due to previous ponds.

## **APPENDIX 2**

## **APPENDIX 2: EDAS WRITTEN SCHEME OF INVESTIGATION**

### **WRITTEN SCHEME OF INVESTIGATION FOR A PROGRAMME OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL OBSERVATION, INVESTIGATION AND RECORDING (WATCHING BRIEF) DURING THE ERECTION OF THREE DWELLINGS, LAND EAST OF 23 HOLME ROAD, MARKET WEIGHTON, EAST YORKSHIRE**

#### **1 INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1 This Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) details the work required to undertake a programme of archaeological observation, investigation and recording (a watching brief), to be carried out during groundworks associated with the erection of three new dwellings on land to the east of 23 Holme Road, Market Weighton, East Yorkshire (NGR SE 8777 4136). This written scheme has been produced by Ed Dennison Archaeological Services Ltd (EDAS), at the request of the developer of the site, Mr Charles Ward.
- 1.2 This document forms the 'Written Scheme of Investigation' stipulated in condition 5 of the planning permission (application DC/11/00025/PLF/WESTWW), approved by East Riding of Yorkshire Council on 7th June 2011. Its content has been discussed and agreed with the Humber Archaeology Partnership, who act as archaeological advisors to East Riding of Yorkshire Council.

#### **2 SITE LOCATION AND DESCRIPTION**

- 2.1 The development site lies within the built-up area of Market Weighton, just beyond the south-west extent of the historic core. The site lies immediately to the east of 23 Holme Road, just to the west of the junction of Holme Road and Glenfield Avenue, on the south side of Holme Road (see figure 1). The area of the proposed development is currently a well-established garden formerly belonging to no. 23, and comprises areas of grass lawn and flower beds, a rockery and associated paving, and two fishponds; the largest measures c.6m by c.3m by 1.5m deep and the other c.4m by c.2m by 1m deep.

#### **3 PLANNING BACKGROUND**

- 3.1 Full planning permission for the development was approved by East Riding of Yorkshire Council on 7th June 2011. Condition 5, which relates to archaeology, states: *"No development shall take place on the site until the applicant, or their agents or successors in title, 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 Local Planning Authority. The development shall be carried out in accordance with that agreed scheme"*.

#### **4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL INTEREST**

- 4.1 Information from the Humber Archaeology Partnership, as a consultee to the Local Planning Authority, states that the site of the proposed development lies on the edge of the historic market town of Market Weighton, which is itself set within a pre-existing archaeological landscape of prehistoric and Romano-British settlement. Groundworks associated with the development may therefore encounter previously unrecorded heritage assets dating to the prehistoric and later periods.

#### **5 NATURE OF THE DEVELOPMENT**

- 5.1 The proposals involve the construction of two two-storey three bedroom dwellings and one two-storey two bedroom dwelling, linked together as a short terrace built along the east side of the development plot (see figure 2). To the west of the terrace will be small gardens and car parking spaces, with an access from Holme Road. The existing garden features will need to be removed and the site stripped prior to construction, and it is assumed that the buildings will require standard strip foundations (c.0.75m-1.00m

deep by 0.45m wide). There will also be a number of as yet unspecified drainage and other service trenches.

## **6 FIELDWORK METHODOLOGY**

- 6.1 The aim of the archaeological recording is to record and recover information relating to the nature, date, depth, and significance of any archaeological features and deposits which might be affected by the proposed development. In addition to the methodology set out below, EDAS will also adhere to more general advice produced by the Humber Archaeology Partnership and the Institute of Archaeologists in relation to watching briefs (IFA 1999).
- 6.2 The topsoil strip and the excavation of any foundation and/or drainage trenches etc will be subject to archaeological monitoring as they are being dug, so that any archaeological deposits that might be uncovered can be immediately identified and recorded. Where mechanical equipment is to be used for the groundworks (e.g. JCB or mini-digger), the contractor will use a toothless bucket, to facilitate the archaeological recording.
- 6.3 If it becomes clear during the monitoring work that little of archaeological interest is likely to survive in the site, the recording work may be halted, in consultation with the Curatorial Officer of the Humber Archaeology Partnership (HAP). However, if structures, features, finds or deposits of archaeological interest are exposed or disturbed, EDAS will be allowed time to clean, assess, and hand excavate, sample and record the archaeological remains, as necessary and appropriate according to the nature of the remains, to allow the archaeological material to be sufficiently characterised (see 6.7 below). Excavators will not be operated in the immediate vicinity of any archaeological remains until those remains have been recorded, and EDAS has given explicit permission for operations to recommence at that location.
- 6.4 The archaeological recording work should not cause undue delay to the overall programme of site works, and much can be achieved through liaison and co-operation with the main contractor. However, the main contractor and client will ensure that the EDAS has sufficient time and resources to ensure compliance with all elements of this WSI. It is likely that the archaeological recording will be accomplished through a number of separate site visits, the number and duration of which will be determined by the speed of the development and/or excavations. Access to the site will therefore be afforded to EDAS at all reasonable times.
- 6.5 Reasonable prior notice (minimum one week) of the commencement of development should be given to EDAS, who will then inform the HAP, so that they may attend or monitor the recording work if they so wish.
- 6.6 The actual areas of ground disturbance, and any features of archaeological interest, will be accurately located on a site plan and recorded by photographs (35mm black and white/colour prints and digital shots), scale drawings (plans and sections at 1:50, 1:20 and 1:10 scales as appropriate), and written descriptions as judged adequate by EDAS, using appropriate proforma record sheets and standard archaeological recording systems.
- 6.7 If, in the professional judgement of the archaeologist on site, unexpectedly significant or complex discoveries are made that warrant more recording than is covered by this WSI, immediate contact will be made with the developer and the Curatorial Officer of the HAP. This will allow appropriate amendments to be made to the scope of the recording work, in agreement with all parties concerned; these amendments might, for example, include the requirement to sample archaeological and/or environmental deposits, and/or detailed excavation of specific structures. The possibility of temporarily halting work for unexpected discoveries will be discussed with the developer in advance of the development, and sufficient time and resources will be made available to ensure that proper recording is made prior to any removal.



- 6.8 If human remains are encountered during the course of the groundworks, they will be removed under the conditions of a Ministry of Justice burial licence, to ensure that they are treated with due dignity. The preferred option would be for them to be adequately recorded before lifting, and then carefully removed for scientific study, and long-term storage with an appropriate museum; however, the burial licence may specify reburial or cremation as a requirement.
- 6.9 The terms of the Treasure Act (1996) will be followed with regard to any finds which might fall within its purview. Any such finds will be removed to a safe place, and reported to the local coroner as required by the procedures laid down in the Code of Practice. Where removal cannot be effected on the same working day as the discovery, suitable security measures will be taken to protect the finds from theft. A finds recovery and conservation strategy will also be discussed and agreed with the developer in advance of the project commencing.

## **7 REPORTING AND ARCHIVING**

- 7.1 On completion of the archaeological fieldwork, any samples taken will be processed and any finds will be cleaned, identified, assessed, spot dated, marked (if appropriate) and properly packaged and stored in accordance with the requirements of national guidelines. The level of post-excavation analysis will be appropriate to the quality and quantity of the finds recovered, and specialists would be consulted as necessary.
- 7.2 A fully indexed and ordered field archive will be prepared, following the guidelines produced by English Heritage and the Institute for Archaeologists. The archive will comprise primary written documents, plans, sections and photographs, and an index to the archive should also be prepared. Subject to the agreement of the landowner, and depending on whether significant artefacts are recovered, the site archive may be deposited with the East Riding of Yorkshire Museum Service. The museum will be contacted at the beginning of the project. A copy of the Archive Index and the name of the recipient museum will be sent to the HAP. EDAS will make an allowance for a minimum of one box in calculating estimates for the museum's storage grant.
- 7.3 With the exception of human remains, and finds of treasure (as defined under the 1996 Treasure Act - see above), all finds are the property of the landowner. However, it is generally expected that the finds will be deposited with the site archive. A finds recovery and conservation strategy will be agreed with the developer in advance of the project commencing, and this will include contingency arrangements for artefacts of special significance. Any recording, marking and storage materials will be of archival quality, and recording systems will be compatible with the recipient museum. Copies of all recording forms and manuals will be submitted to the HAP prior to the commencement of site works, if these have not been submitted previously.
- 7.4 Within six weeks of the completion of the site work, a report will be produced by EDAS. This report will include the following (as appropriate):
- A non-technical summary;
  - Site code/project number;
  - Planning reference number and SMR casework number;
  - Dates for fieldwork visits;
  - Grid reference;
  - A location plan, with scale;
  - A copy of the developer's plan showing the areas monitored;
  - Sections and plan drawings with ground level, Ordnance Datum and vertical and horizontal scales;
  - General site photographs, as well as photographs of any significant archaeological deposits or artefacts that are encountered;
  - A written description and analysis of the methods and results of the watching brief, in the context of the known archaeology of the area;
  - Specialist artefact and environmental reports, as necessary.

- 7.5 Three copies of the final report will be supplied, for distribution to the developer, the Local Planning Authority and the HAP SMR. A copy of the final report will also be included within the site archive. The HAP SMR will also receive an electronic version of the report in line with their current guidance, namely as a pdf file.
- 7.6 Where a significant discovery is made, allowance will be made for the preparation of a short note for inclusion in a local journal.

## **8 MONITORING**

- 8.1 The archaeological recording work may be monitored by the HAP, and appropriate site meetings and liaison will be arranged as necessary.

## **9 HEALTH AND SAFETY, AND INSURANCE**

- 9.1 EDAS will comply with the Health and Safety at Work Act of 1974 while undertaking the archaeological recording work, and Health and Safety issues will take priority over archaeological matters. EDAS are appropriately for all eventualities, including risks to third parties.

## **10 REFERENCES**

IFA (Institute for Archaeologists) 1999 *Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief* (and subsequent revisions)

E Dennison, EDAS  
28th February 2012



**FIGURE 1: SITE LOCATION**  
(not to scale - plan supplied by Building Design Architects)

