

# ST MARY'S CHURCH, CHURCH LANE, FRIDAYTHORPE, EAST YORKSHIRE

# ARCHAEOLOGICAL OBSERVATION, INVESTIGATION AND RECORDING

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East Yorkshire HU17 8NU

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# ARCHAEOLOGICAL OBSERVATION, INVESTIGATION AND RECORDING, ST MARY'S CHURCH, FRIDAYTHORPE, EAST YORKSHIRE

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## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

In July 2008, Ed Dennison Archaeological Services Ltd (EDAS) were commissioned by St Mary's Church Parochial Church Council (PCC) to undertake a programme of archaeological observation, investigation and recording (a watching brief) during groundworks associated with the installation of an oil tank and associated pipework at St Mary's Church in Fridaythorpe, East Yorkshire (NGR SE87485926). The archaeological work was made a condition of planning permission (application DC/07/06526/PLF/WESTWW).

The watching brief did not uncover any *in situ* burials or any significant archaeological deposits within the excavated trenches. The deposits that were encountered were a topsoil (001) and a sub-soil (002); the latter contained only small quantities of *ex situ* or residual human bone fragments, as might be expected in a churchyard setting.

#### 1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 In July 2008, Ed Dennison Archaeological Services Ltd (EDAS) were commissioned by St Mary's Church Parochial Church Council (PCC) to undertake a programme of archaeological observation, investigation and recording (watching brief) during groundworks associated with the installation of an oil tank and associated pipework at St Mary's Church in Fridaythorpe, East Yorkshire (NGR SE87485926).
- 1.2 The archaeological work was made a condition of planning permission, granted by the East Riding of Yorkshire Council on 15th February 2008 (application DC/07/06526/PLF/WESTWW). A methods statement for the archaeological observation, investigation and recording was produced by EDAS at the request of the PCC in advance of the project (see Appendix 3). The contents of this methods statement were discussed and agreed with the Humber Archaeology Partnership, and it formed the "written scheme of [archaeological] investigation" stipulated in condition 3 of the planning permission.
- 1.3 A Diocesan Faculty for the development was also obtained from the Diocese of York, dated 9th April 2008, but there were no conditions requiring any archaeological investigation or recording.

# 2 SITE LOCATION AND OUTLINE HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.1 St Mary's Church lies on the east side of Church Lane, on the northern edge of the historic village of Fridaythorpe in an elevated position on the eastern dip slope of the Yorkshire Wolds (NGR SE87485926) (see figure 1). The archaeological investigations took place within the churchyard of St Mary's Church, to north, west and south-west of the church (see figure 2 and below). The ground surface of the grassed churchyard rises gradually towards the south-west corner (from 172.42m to 173.55m AOD), and the groundworks were sited so as to avoid marked graves.
- 2.2 The church, which is built of local sandstone and chalk, is a Grade I Listed Building and comprises a three bay nave, a two stage west tower and two bay east chancel with a north vestry, a south porch, and a north aisle and clerestory (see Appendix 1) (see plate 1). It began as a simple two-cell structure of nave and chancel, probably built in the early 12th century. The south doorway, the chancel arch, a small round-headed window with splayed sides in the north wall of the chancel, and the font are of this date. The ornate south doorway is of three orders with a chevron decoration of Anglo-Scandinavian character. Towards the end of the 12th century, a squat tower was added at the west end, with a pointed arch from the nave. The north aisle was built in the 13th century, when the nave was heightened and the chancel enlarged.
- 2.3 The church was out of repair in the later 17th century and the chancel was described as being "very ruinous and in decay". It may have been during restoration at this time that the north aisle was demolished, the square-headed clerestory windows inserted above the blocked arcade, and the east window put in the chancel. The top of the tower, with its small pinnacles, was added in 1771, according to an inscription near the top of the south face of the tower.
- 2.4 The church was said to be in need of further restoration throughout the later 19th century, but only minor works appear to have been carried out. The roof was repaired following a storm in 1886, new seating was provided for the chancel in 1888, and the altar was brought from Sledmere church in 1894. The building was then restored for Sir Tatton Sykes II of Sledmere by C Hodgson-Fowler in 1902-03.

He built a new north aisle, with a vestry adjoining the east end, and rebuilt the brick south porch in stone. Structural faults in these works led to the rebuilding of the north aisle in 1999-2000, and the south porch is currently in need of attention (Anon und.; Pevsner & Neave 1995, 426-427; Neave & Neave 2008, 103-104).

2.5 For the purposes of description, the church is considered to be aligned east-west, although the actual alignment is very slightly north-east/south-west.

#### 3 METHODOLOGY

- 3.1 The archaeological work followed the EDAS methods statement (see Appendix 3), and more general advice produced by the Institute of Field Archaeologists in relation to watching briefs (IFA 1999) was also considered. The aim of the watching brief was to monitor the groundworks associated with the installation of the oil tank and associated pipework, to recover information relating to any archaeological features or deposits which might be uncovered or disturbed.
- 3.2 The watching brief took place on the 16th October 2008. A pipe trench 0.30m wide and between 0.30m and 0.40m deep was excavated in one phase from the northeast corner of the north aisle, along the north side of the church, and then across to the south-west corner of the churchyard to where the oil tank was to be sited. The trench was excavated using a tracked mini-digger fitted with a 0.30m wide scraper bucket, and the excavations were observed in their entirety. Heights AOD were taken from an Ordnance Survey bench mark located on the tower of the church (173.54m AOD).
- 3.3 Following standard archaeological procedures, each discrete stratigraphic entity (e.g. a cut, fill or layer) was assigned an individual context number and detailed information was recorded on *pro forma* context sheets. Only two archaeological contexts were recorded; these are all described in the following descriptive text as three digit numbers (e.g. 002) (see also Appendix 2). Obviously modern service pipes and associated cuts were not numbered, but are noted in the text below. Inhouse recording and quality control procedures ensured that all recorded information was cross-referenced as appropriate. The positions of all the monitored groundworks were marked on a general site plan, and more detailed drawings were made of each area as necessary; a photographic record was also maintained using 35mm colour prints.
- 3.4 With the agreement of the PCC, the project archive, comprising written and photographic elements, will be deposited with the East Riding of Yorkshire Museum Service (site code SMF 08; accession number 2009/006). No artefacts were retained from the watching brief.

# 4 RESULTS FROM THE WATCHING BRIEF (see figure 2)

- 4.1 The pipe trench had a total length of 37.47m and was excavated to the same dimensions throughout its whole length, 0.30m in width and between 0.30m to 0.40m below ground level (BGL); at the lowest point of the run, adjacent to the northeast corner of the north aisle, the base of the trench was set at 171.06m AOD.
- 4.2 The trench commenced adjacent to the north-east corner of the north aisle, being set 2.10m to the north of the aisle's north wall. It then ran west for 16.57m, to a point adjacent to the north-west corner of the north aisle (see plate 2). The trench angled to the south-west for 8.0m, before resuming a southerly course to run for 7.50m parallel to the west face of the tower. It then turned to the south-west once

more for a length of 9.00m, before angling very slightly to the south and entering the 4.40m long final section. This continued to within 2.40m of the southern boundary of the churchyard here, close to a brick/chalk outbuilding located in the south-west corner of the churchyard. The area levelled for the tank base measured 2.50m long (east-west) by 1.50m wide (north-south). The preparation of the ground for the tank base required only a minimal reduction in ground level, being 0.15m BGL or less (173.40m AOD) (see plate 3).

- 4.3 The same deposits were exposed throughout the whole length of the trench. The dark brown/black clayey silt topsoil (001) extended on average to a depth of 0.20m BGL. Beneath this topsoil, a mid-brown silty clay (002) was exposed, which contained very frequent inclusions of angular chalk rubble pieces, up to 0.10m across. The chalk rubble varied in compaction; in some areas, it was only hard packed in the base of the trench, whereas in others, it became very compacted immediately beneath the topsoil (001). However, this varying compaction was random, and did not reflect the presence of any recognisable features such as grave cuts. The silty clay (002) also contained the occasional piece of abraded pantile/tile or handmade red brick, and a very few fragments of *ex situ* human bone. The silty clay continued below the base of the trench and therefore had a maximum exposed depth of 0.20m.
- 4.4 A number of modern intrusions were also logged as part of the watching brief. Two ceramic drainage pipes, serving downpipes situated on the north aisle, were noted in the north section of the trench running parallel to the north aisle; the surface of the pipes was set at 0.40m BGL. In the angled section of the trench between the north aisle and the tower, a concentration of pantile fragments was present in the base of the trench, but these did not form any clearly discernable feature, such as the infill of a cut. Finally, an electric cable (without warning tape) was uncovered running southwest from the direction of the church tower.

# 5 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

5.1 The watching brief did not uncover any *in situ* burials or any significant archaeological deposits within the trenches excavated for the installation of the oil tank and associated pipework. The deposits that were encountered were a topsoil (001) and a sub-soil (002); the latter contained only small quantities of *ex situ* or residual human bone fragments, as might be expected in a churchyard setting.

#### **6 BIBLIOGRAPHY**

Anon (no date) St Mary's Parish Church, Fridaythorpe: A Brief History and Guide (pamphlet available in the church)

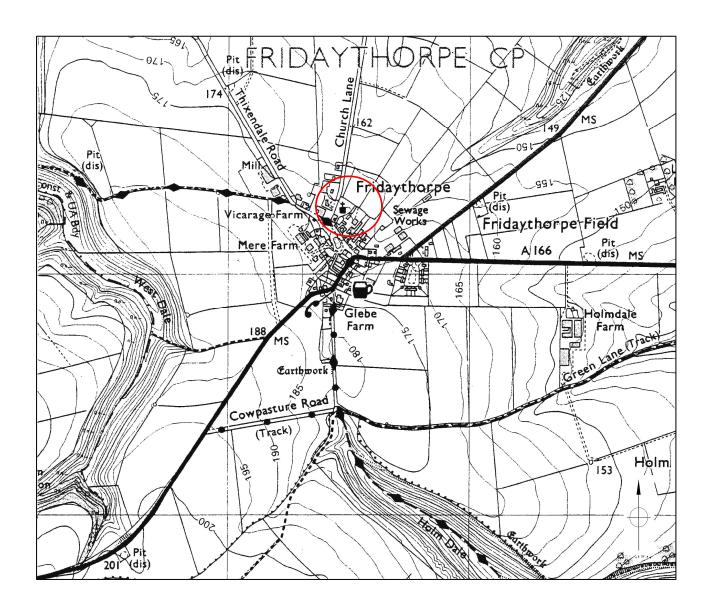
IFA (Institute of Field Archaeologists) 1999 Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief (and subsequent revisions)

Neave D & Neave, S 2008 A History of the County of York: East Riding Vol 8: East Buckrose: Sledmere and the Northern Wolds

Pevsner, N & Neave, D 1995 The Buildings of England: Yorkshire York and the East Riding

# 7 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- 7.1 The archaeological watching brief at St Mary's Church was commissioned by the PCC, through the Revd. Ian MacKarill. EDAS would like to thank Revd. MacKarrill and the PCC, as well as the site contractors, for their co-operation in carrying out the archaeological recording.
- 7.2 The on-site recording was undertaken by Shaun Richardson of EDAS, who also produced the site archive. The final report was produced by Ed Dennison of EDAS, with whom the responsibility for any errors remains.



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ST MARY'S CHURCH, FRIDAYTHORPE		
GENERAL LOCATION		
NTS	JAN 2009	
EDAS	FIGURE 1	

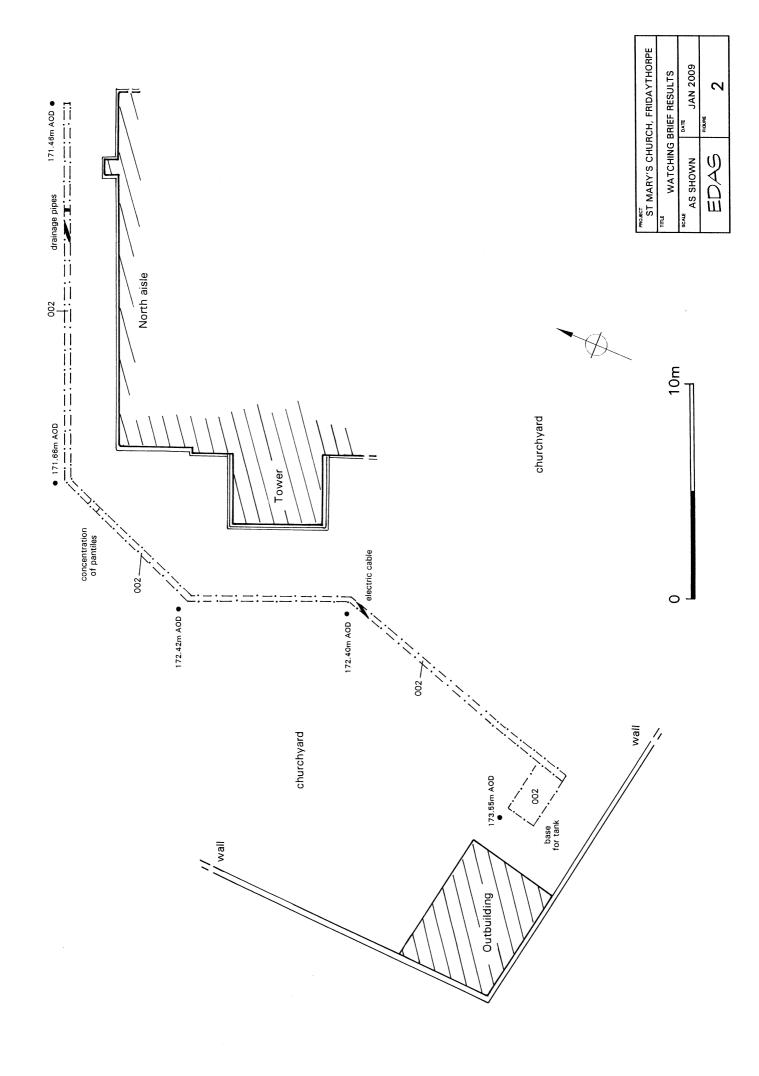




Plate 1: General view of St Mary's church, looking north-east.





# **APPENDIX 1**

# LISTED BUILDING DESCRIPTION

IoE Number: 167820

Location: Church of St Mary, Church Lane (east side), Fridaythorpe, East Riding of Yorkshire

Date listed: 20 September 1966

Date of last amendment: 20 September 1966

Grade: I

Church, C12 origins including south door and chancel arch of c1140 and tower of c1190, with C13 additions including north arcade, later additions and alterations of C17, 1771 and of 1902-3 by C Hodgson Fowler for Sir Tatton Sykes, 5th Baronet of Sledmere, including rebuilding of north aisle and south porch. Limestone ashlar with concealed roof. 2-stage west tower, 3-bay nave with south porch and with aisle and clerestory to north, 2-bay chancel with north vestry. Tower: chamfered plinth. To west side, first stage, a round-arched window with chamfered jambs; above to second stage a wooden clock inscribed 'ANO DOM / 1903 / Time is short: Eternity / is long'; to other sides, second stage, are rectangular bell openings. Eaves band with C20 rainwater heads to east. Low parapet with pyramidal finials to corners. Entrance to south porch a pointed arch with shafts supporting rollmoulding under hoodmould flanked by shields. Eaves band. Parapet with moulded copings. Ridge cross. Within a C19 studded door in round-arched Norman surround of 3 orders: the inner order has scallop capital to right and fleuron capital to left, central order with similar capitals, outer order with scallop capital to left and zigzag capital to right. Chevron moulded arches to all orders, that to centre with ball motif to antis. The abaci are decorated with interlacing bands, foliage and zigzags, the whole under partly eroded hoodmould. Nave, south side: chamfered plinth. To east of porch a rectangular light with chamfered surround and 2-light mullion window in chamfered surround. To upper right-hand area a small square light in chamfered surround. Low parapet with moulded copings. North side: aisle has plinth and buttresses with off-sets to east. Entrance to right, a studded plank door within pointed moulded surround under hoodmould with label stops. 2 and 3-cinquefoil-light straight-headed windows within cavetto-moulded surrounds. West end has similar 3-light window. Modillion corbel table. Clerestory has 3 rectangular windows within chamfered surrounds. Chancel, south side. Chamfered, round-arched priest's door with lancet window to either side in chamfered surrounds. Low parapet surmounted by roll-moulded copings. North side: vestry, a continuation of north aisle, has studded plank door within cavetto-moulded, 4-centred surround, and to east a 3-lancet-light, straight-headed window within cavetto-moulded surround. To east end of chancel, a blocked 3-light mullion window in double-chamfered surround. Cross at apex. Interior. Pointed, double-chamfered tower arch on chamfered responds with abaci and some star mouldings. Nave has 4-bay arcade to north: double-chamfered, pointed arches on cylindrical piers with moulded bases and capitals, the easternmost pier inscribed 'This 713 found hear' (sic). Round, chancel arch has outer order of chevron moulding on shaft with scallop capitals to left, roll-moulded inner order and carved abaci, otherwise mainly re-cut. North aisle: shoulder-arched opening to vestry with studded plank door. Chancel, north side, has lancet and round-arched window, the latter is easternmost and blocked, the other lights vestry. Early C17 oak altar rails with rod-on-vase balusters. Font, Norman, has arcading to top on plinth and tapering octagonal base, partly recut. Fragments of wall painting with parts of the 10 Commandments to east end of nave to right of chancel arch. To chancel a priest's grave slab c1350 with incised cross. Bust of Sir Tatton Sykes 1826-1913 by Bryan Charles. C18 carved altar brought from Sledmere Church in 1895. Reredos of 1902. Pevsner N, Yorkshire, York and the East Riding, 1978, p 233.

Source: Images of England website (www.imagesofengland.org.uk)

# **APPENDIX 2**

# LIST OF RECORDED CONTEXTS

# Context Description Compact dark brown/black clayey silt, max 0.20m thick - topsoil. Compacted mid-brown silty clay, with very frequent angular chalk rubble and occasional pantile/red brick fragments, at least 0.20m thick - subsoil.

# METHODS STATEMENT FOR A PROGRAMME OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL OBSERVATION, INVESTIGATION AND RECORDING, ST MARY'S CHURCH, CHURCH LANE, FRIDAYTHORPE, EAST YORKSHIRE

#### 1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 This methods statement 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 installation of an oil tank and associated pipework, at St Mary's Church, Church Lane, Fridaythorpe, East Yorkshire. This methods statement has been produced by Ed Dennison Archaeological Services Ltd (EDAS), at the request of the Parochial Church Council.
- 1.2 The contents of this methods statement have been discussed and agreed with the Humber Archaeology Partnership, and it forms the "written scheme of [archaeological] investigation" stipulated in condition 3 of the full planning permission (application DC/07/06526/PLF/WESTWW) approved by East Riding of Yorkshire Council on 15th February 2008.
- 1.3 A Diocesan Faculty for the development has also been obtained from the Diocese of York, dated 9th April 2008, but there is no requirement for any archaeological investigation or recording.

#### 2 SITE LOCATION

2.1 St Mary's Church lies on the east side of Church Lane, on the northern edge of the historic village (NGR SE87485926) (see attached figure).

#### 3 PLANNING BACKGROUND

- 3.1 Full planning permission for the installation of a 2,500 litre bunded oil tank and associated pipework was granted by the East Riding of Yorkshire Council in 15th February 2008, with one condition which is relevant to the archaeological investigations (application DC/07/06526/PLF/WESTWW).
- 3.2 The condition (number 3) states 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 Local Planning Authority. Development shall be carried out in accordance with the approved details".

## 4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

4.1 St Mary's Church is a Grade I Listed Building, and dates to at least the 1140s which is the date of the earliest fabric. It comprises a three bay nave, a two stage west tower and two bay east chancel with a north vestry, a south porch, and a north aisle and clerestory. The Norman stonework is visible in the tower and the ornate south doorway, and in the chancel arch and two of the chancel windows. The north arcade is 13th century in date and there have been additions and alterations in the 17th century and in 1771, and the north aisle was rebuilt in 1902-03 by C Hodgson Fowler for Sir Tatton Sykes.

# 5 NATURE OF THE DEVELOPMENT

- 5.1 The proposals involve the installation of a new 2,500 litre bunded oil tank in the south-west corner of the churchyard, adjacent to a brick outhouse. The tank, which measures 2.6m long by 1.4m wide and 1.6m high, will be placed on a new base which will probably be levelled into the existing ground surface.
- 5.2 A pipe will then connect the tank with the north-east corner of the north aisle of the church. This pipe will be buried in a trench, estimated to be 0.45m deep by c.0.3m wide, which will

dug through the churchyard and alongside existing paths; the precise alignment of this trench will be determined on site. Care will be taken to avoid all marked graves within the churchyard, but it is possible that the works will disturb unmarked graves of medieval and earlier date. However, it is also possible that the ground level in the south-west part of the churchyard has been raised in recent years (Revd. Ian MacKarill, *pers. comm.*).

## 6 FIELDWORK METHODOLOGY

- The aim of the archaeological work 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 installation of the new oil tank and associated pipeworks.
- 6.2 The proposed scheme of works will be as follows. Any trenches/pits etc excavated for the new facility will be subject to direct archaeological monitoring as they are being dug, so that any archaeological deposits that might be uncovered can be immediately identified and recorded. It is presumed that all excavations within the churchyard will be hand dug, in accordance with Diocesan guidelines.
- 6.3 If it becomes clear during the monitoring work that little of archaeological interest is likely to survive in specific parts of the site, the recording work may be halted in that part of the site, in consultation with the Curatorial Officer of the Humber Archaeology Partnership. However, if structures, features or finds of archaeological interest are exposed or disturbed, the archaeological contractor will be allowed time to clean, assess, and quickly hand excavate, sample and record the archaeological remains, as necessary and appropriate to allow the archaeological material to be sufficiently characterised. Work will not be allowed to continue in the immediate vicinity of any archaeological remains until those remains have been recorded and the archaeological contractor has given explicit permission for operations to recommence at that location.
- The archaeological recording work should not cause undue delay 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 should ensure that the archaeological contractor has sufficient time and resources to ensure compliance with all elements of this methods statement. 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/excavations. Access to the site will therefore be afforded to archaeological contractor at all reasonable times.
- As the works will involve excavation within the churchyard, it is possible that human remains will be encountered during the course of the watching brief. Any human remains that are uncovered will be treated with due dignity. The following policy will be adopted should burials be disturbed by the works, in accordance with current guidance (Association of Diocesan and Cathedral Archaeologists 2004 *Guidance Note 1: Archaeological Requirements for Works on Churches and Churchyards*). Small disarticulated and/or disturbed bones will be re-interred as soon as possible in a place near to where they were exposed. Complete or partial skeletons will, if at all possible, be left *in situ* but if this is not possible they will be recorded, lifted, bagged (separate burials kept separate) and removed for safe storage until such time as reburial can be arranged by the church authorities in an alternative location within the churchyard.
- The archaeological contractor must also be acceptable to the Local Planning Authority, after consultation with the Curatorial Officer of the Humber Archaeology Partnership.
- 6.7 Reasonable prior notice (minimum one week) of the commencement of development should be given to the archaeological contractor, who will then inform the Humber Sites and Monuments Record, so that they may attend or monitor the recording work if they so wish.
- 6.8 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 colour slides), scale drawings (plans and sections at 1:50, 1:20 and 1:10 scales as

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appropriate), and written descriptions as judged adequate by the archaeological contractor, using appropriate proforma record sheets and standard archaeological recording systems.

#### 7 UNEXPECTED SIGNIFICANT OR COMPLEX DISCOVERIES

- 7.1 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 methods statement, immediate contact will be made with the developer and the Curatorial Officer of the Humber Archaeology Partnership. This will allow appropriate amendments to be made to the scope of the recording work, in agreement with all parties concerned. The possibility of temporarily halting work for unexpected discoveries has already been discussed with the developer.
- 7.2 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.

## 8 REPORTING AND ARCHIVING

- 8.1 On completion of the 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.
- 8.2 A fully indexed and ordered field archive should be prepared, following the guidance produced by English Heritage. The archive will comprise primary written documents, plans, sections and photographs, and an index to the archive would also be prepared. Subject to the agreement of the landowner, the site archive will be deposited with any finds in the appropriate registered museum (East Riding of Museum Service). The proposed recipient museum must be contacted at the beginning of the project. A copy of the Archive Index and the name of the recipient museum should be sent to the Humber SMR. The archaeological contractor will make an allowance for a minimum of one box in calculating estimates for the museum's storage grant.
- 8.3 With the exception of human remains, and finds of treasure (as defined under the 1996 Treasure Act), which should be reported to the coroner, 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 should be agreed with the developer in advance of the project commencing, and this should include contingency arrangements for artefacts of special significance. Any recording, marking and storage materials should be of archival quality, and recording systems must be compatible with the recipient museum. Copies of all recording forms and manuals should be submitted to the Humber SMR prior to the commencement of site works, if these have not been submitted previously.
- 8.4 Within six weeks of the completion of the site work, a report will be produced by the archaeological contractor. This report should include the following (as appropriate):
  - A non-technical summary;
  - Site code/project number:
  - Planning reference number and SMR casework number;
  - · Dates for fieldwork visits;
  - National grid reference;
  - A location plan, with scale;
  - A plan 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.
- 8.5 Three copies of the final report will be supplied, for distribution to the developer, the Local Planning Authority and the Humber SMR. A copy of the final report will also be included within the site archive. The Humber SMR will also receive an electronic version of the report in line with their current guidance, namely as a pdf file.
- 8.6 Where a significant discovery is made, consideration will be given to the preparation of a short note for inclusion in a local journal.

#### 9 MONITORING

9.1 The archaeological recording work may be monitored by the Humber Archaeology Partnership, and appropriate site meetings and liaison will be arranged as necessary.

# 10 HEALTH AND SAFETY

- 10.1 All archaeological work on site will be carried out with due regard for all Health and Safety considerations, and Health and Safety will take priority over archaeological matters.
- 10.2 The archaeological contractor must 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. The archaeological contractor undertaking the work must ensure that they are adequately insured, to cover all eventualities, including risks to third parties.

Ed Dennison, EDAS 12th May 2008