



**ARCHAEOLOGICAL MITIGATION STRATEGY:**

**LAND OFF TORKSEY STREET, KIRTON LINDSEY, NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE**

Planning Reference: PA/2021/891  
AAL Site Code: KLTS 23  
Client: TAS Building Design  
National Grid Reference: SK 9337 9869  
Date: 15<sup>th</sup> September 2023  
North Lincolnshire Museum Site Code: KLCB

**Document Control**

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## **1.0 Introduction**

This document is an archaeological mitigation strategy that has been prepared by Allen Archaeology Limited for TAS Building Design, in support of a planning application for a residential development on land off Torksey Street, Kirton Lindsey, North Lincolnshire. The fieldwork, recording and reporting will be carried out in a manner consistent with current national guidelines, as set out in the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists '*Standards and guidance for archaeological excavation*' (CIfA 2020a), '*Standards and guidance for an archaeological watching brief*' (CIfA 2020b) and the Historic England document '*Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment*' (Historic England 2015). All Historic England guidelines on archaeological best practice will also be followed ([www.helm.org/server/show/nav.7740](http://www.helm.org/server/show/nav.7740)).

## **2.0 Site Location and Description**

The proposed development site is located in Kirton in Lindsey, in the administrative district of North Lincolnshire Council. It is situated c.11km south-southeast of Scunthorpe, and c.14km northeast of Gainsborough. The site is approximately 0.13 hectares and presently occupied by a range of storage buildings, vehicles, and debris, alongside a range of mid-19<sup>th</sup> century labourers' cottages along its northern perimeter fronting on to Turner Street. The site is centred at National Grid Reference (NGR) SK 9337 9869 and is c.26m above Ordnance Datum.

The bedrock geology comprises Marlstone Rock formation – Ferruginous limestone, indicative of shallow seas, with no overlying superficial geology deposits recorded on the site (<http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html>).

## **3.0 Planning Background**

An application has been submitted for '*Planning permission to erect 9 dwellings with landscaping & access*' (Reference PA/2021/891). A desk-based assessment has previously been prepared for the site (AAL 2021) and submitted in support of the application. This was followed by a report on a programme of historic building survey and trial trenching (AAL 2022).

The approach adopted is consistent with the recommendations of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), with the particular sections of relevance being Paragraphs 187 and 189 of '*Section 16. Conserving and enhancing the historic environment*' (Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government 2021), and with local planning policy, as set out in the Core Strategy Document adopted by North Lincolnshire in June 2011 as part of the Local Development Framework (North Lincolnshire Council 2011).

#### **4.0 Archaeological and Historical Background**

A detailed archaeological background was included in the preceding desk-based assessment of the site (AAL 2021), and the information presented below is a summary of this data.

Prehistoric evidence in the area is limited, although a substantial Iron Age settlement is recorded c.500m to the north-northeast, and a Bronze Age barrow 840m to the southwest.

Roman period activity is better represented, with settlement evidence recorded within 20m of the current site, with scatters of pottery, building material and coins recorded in several other locations in the surrounding area.

Early medieval pottery has also been recorded c.40m south of the site, in Roman ditches, recut in the early medieval period, with further evidence recorded to the south of the village.

Kirton appears in the Domesday Book and was a sizeable settlement at the time, with 117 households recorded. The manor was acquired by the king after the Conquest.

The town remained a fairly prosperous market centre during the medieval period, and retains much of its medieval street pattern, centred on the 12<sup>th</sup> century church of St. Andrew, c.85m to the south. There is a former medieval moated manor c.230m to the northwest. Archaeological works c.60m to the south-southwest and 35m to the east exposed medieval and post-medieval finds and features. Ridge and furrow were also recorded in the former open fields surrounding the town.

Much of the existing fabric of the town is 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> century brick dwellings, agricultural buildings, shops, chapels, and pubs. A row of workers cottages of a probable 19<sup>th</sup> century date is contained within the site, fronting onto Turner Street

#### **5.0 Previous Archaeological Investigations**

A programme of historic building recording and trial trenching was undertaken on the site in 2022 (AAL 2022). The building recording focussed on the 18<sup>th</sup>/19<sup>th</sup> century cottages on the northern frontage of the site. They were originally a row of five cottages, with a sixth added to the northeast in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Two cottages were later merged into a single dwelling. Later modifications were added in the 20<sup>th</sup> century and outbuildings and the southwest end of the range were demolished.

The trial trenching entailed the excavation of four trenches of varying dimensions. A possible Roman or earlier land surface was identified in the western part of the site cut by later features. To the east, features of a Roman date were sealed by a later build up of soil. Roman high status finewares and building materials suggest the presence of a building or settlement in the immediate vicinity.

#### **6.0 Aims and Objectives**

The previous investigations have shown that archaeological remains of a probable Roman to medieval date are present across the site, some cutting a buried topsoil or ground surface, and all sealed by later made ground. The trenching was focussed in the southern part of the site due to limited access to the north. The objectives of the project are as follows:

- To identify and record all archaeological features and artefacts exposed in advance of construction work in the agreed areas
- To determine the form and function of the archaeological features encountered
- To determine the spatial arrangement of the archaeological features encountered
- To recover dating evidence from the archaeological features wherever possible
- To establish the sequence of the archaeological remains present on the site

- To retrieve the environmental evidence relating to environment and economy of the site
- To retrieve environmental and technological evidence relating to any industrial activity on the site
- To identify any spatial distribution of activity
- To interpret the archaeological features and finds within the context of the known archaeology of the site and surrounding area
- to recover data that will provide information relating to the social character of the site, if possible, its status, function and economy and environment
- to provide data to enhance the regional chronological framework, through analysis of the material culture and selective scientific dating if applicable

## 7.0 Methodology

An area of strip, map and record has been proposed, as well as an area of archaeological monitoring, as shown on the attached plan.

**Strip, Map and Record** - Modern overburden, demolition horizons and other non-archaeological deposits will be removed by mechanical excavator in spits not exceeding 0.1m in thickness down to the first archaeological horizon. The machine excavation will be monitored at all times by an experienced field archaeologist. No machinery will track across stripped areas at any time during the archaeological works. Where complex archaeological deposits, structures or groups of features are exposed, these will be hand cleaned using hoes and trowels. The excavation area will be photographed and planned at an appropriate scale and located using a Leica GS08 Net rover GPS receiving RTK corrections.

**Watching Brief** – One experienced field archaeologist will be present during all intrusive groundworks for the plots that have been agreed for archaeological monitoring. In addition, monitoring of the contaminated soil strip across the site as a whole, will be undertaken. The monitoring archaeologist will act strictly in accordance with the contents of this document and will be familiar with national and local guidelines regarding agreed best practice for archaeological monitoring and recording projects (Cifa 2020b).

During groundworks the attending archaeologist will have the ability to halt groundworks if archaeological remains are encountered, to allow for the excavation of remains under archaeological conditions. Where this will entail a larger team of archaeologists to undertake the work sufficient resources will be put in place.

Machine excavation will be undertaken with a toothless bucket, except for where removal of concrete or tarmac surfaces or other solid obstructions necessitates the use of a hydraulic breaker or toothed bucket, at the discretion of the supervising archaeologist.

All exposed archaeological deposits will be subject to sample excavation where they can be safely accessed. Decisions will then be taken regarding the sampling methodology, which will be based on the following provisional methodology: -

- 50% sample of all postholes and pits up to 1.5m in diameter
- 25% minimum sample of pits with a diameter greater than 1.5m (including at least one full profile across the feature). Where pits contain multiple layers (4 or more), and/or have interesting or significant assemblages (e.g. collections of bones, pot sherds, flints, environmental evidence), 100% of the feature will be excavated to maximise finds recovery and information retrieval.
- Junctions, butt-ends and a clear section of all linears to be excavated, with all significant relationships to be defined and investigated. Approximately 20% of each linear feature, or a minimum of a 1m long section (whichever is greater) will be excavated to determine its character and composition. If specialised deposits such as localised refuse dumping or industrial waste are

encountered then further excavation will be undertaken to maximise artefact retrieval.

- Structures (e.g. wall foundations) and any specialised activity areas (e.g. kilns, hearths or ovens) will be fully or extensively excavated and all relationships recorded.
- Working hollows, quarry pits, etc. will be investigated to define their extent, date and function, with all relationships defined.

During the fieldwork, a full written record of the archaeological deposits will be made on standard AAL context recording sheets. Sections to be excavated will be marked with string and nails and allocated an individual drawing number with a comprehensive register of all drawings to be maintained, with the location of every section drawing plotted onto the site master plan using a Leica GS08 Net rover GPS receiving RTK corrections. All excavated sections will then be drawn at an appropriate scale (1:10, 1:20 or 1:50), with Ordnance Datum heights being displayed on each drawing.

Photography will form an integral part of the recording strategy, and all photographs will incorporate scales, an identification board and north arrow.

Based on the evidence from the preceding trial trenching, it is not anticipated that human remains will be encountered. However, if such remains are identified, AAL will apply to the Ministry of Justice for a licence authorising the removal of all burials within the footprint of the development area, in accordance with the Burial Act of 1857. Any excavation of human remains will be in accordance with the requirements of Civil Law and all relevant ClfA and Historic England guidance, including *'Guidance for Best Practice for Treatment of Human Remains Excavated from Christian Burial Grounds in England'* (English Heritage 2005). Following excavation and initial processing at the offices of AAL all human remains will then be sent to the named specialist, Tania Kausmally. All assessment and analysis will be in accordance with all relevant ClfA and Historic England guidance, including *'Human Bones from Archaeological Sites: Guidance for Producing Assessment Documents and Analytical Reports'* (English Heritage 2004). At the end of the post-excavation phase of the works any human remains will be incorporated into the archive and submitted to North Lincolnshire Museum.

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, other than obviously modern finds from topsoil and subsoil contexts. The spoil from the excavated trenches 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. If necessary, the relevant specialist will visit the site during fieldwork to advise on the artefact collection and retention strategies. All finds will be processed (cleaned, marked and labelled as appropriate) at the offices of AAL. 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  
Alice Beasley  
Dr Joshua Hogue  
Anne Irving  
Bryn Leadbetter  
Tania Kausmally  
Adam Daubney  
Bryn Leadbetter  
York Archaeological Trust

Early prehistoric pottery  
Later prehistoric and Romano-British pottery  
Worked lithic materials  
Post-Roman pottery and ceramic building material  
Animal bone  
Human bone  
Other artefacts  
Environmental analysis  
Conservation

Any changes to the above-named specialists will only be made in agreement with the North Lincolnshire Historic Environment Officer.

If the fieldwork results in the recovery of unstable artefactual remains (e.g. metallic objects, preserved wood/leather), AAL will commission the services of York Archaeological Trust 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.

## **8.0 Environmental Works**

Bryn Leadbetter is the named primary environmental consultant, who will be responsible for liaising with other specialists. Specialist advice will be sought if necessary from the environmental archaeologist, including a site visit to develop the sampling strategy and advise on any buried soils or palaeosols and their potential for soil micromorphological analysis, should such deposits be identified.

Bulk samples of approximately 40 litres in volume (or, where appropriate, entire feature fills) will be taken from a selection of dated and sealed contexts where appropriate. All sampling, assessment and analysis will be undertaken in accordance with Historic England guidelines (English Heritage 2011).

Waterlogged plant macrofossil samples (of approximately 10 litres in volume) and samples for dendrochronological identification, soil micromorphology, pollen, insect remains and mollusc analysis will also be taken where it is deemed appropriate to do so and as directed by the relevant specialists. Column samples may also be taken through ditch sections/palaeochannels, etc. if necessary.

Radiocarbon, dendrochronology, archaeomagnetic, pollen and monolith samples will be collected where such sampling is necessary to inform the proposals for further stages of archaeological investigation.

Should industrial activity be noted during the works, large technological residues will be collected by hand, with separate samples (c.10ml) collected for micro-slugs (i.e. hammerscale and spherical droplets), with reference made to the documents '*Archaeometallurgy: Guidelines for best practice*' (Historic England 2015).

Animal bone, fish bone and small mammal/amphibian bones will be collected from all excavated features and from processed samples. These will be identified and assessed by the named specialist.

Where dating of features is otherwise absent and where suitable material is available, appropriate samples will be submitted for scientific dating, principally radiocarbon dating, as is necessary to achieve the aims and objectives of the mitigation programme, and to inform the specialist assessments and recommendations for any further analyses that may be required.

## **9.0 Post-fieldwork Methodology**

Following the completion of the fieldwork, the records produced during the works will be checked and ordered and a stratigraphic matrix of all archaeological features and deposits prepared. A fully illustrated report text will then be prepared that will contain the following information:

- A non-technical summary of the results
- Description of the topography and geology of the investigation area
- Description of the methodologies used during the investigation

- Detailed description of the historical and archaeological background of the site
- A text describing the results of the investigation
- Overall plan of the site showing investigated areas, accurately located to the national grid
- Plans of each of the individual house plots and areas monitored showing the archaeological features exposed
- Sections of the excavated areas and archaeological features
- Interpretation of the archaeological features exposed and their context within the surrounding landscape
- Specialist assessment reports on artefacts and ecofacts from the site. Should the results of these assessments merit further analysis, an updated project design will be prepared to agree the scope of further reporting and analysis in agreement with the client, the local planning authority and the Historic Environment Record
- Appropriate photographs of the site and specific archaeological features or groups of features
- A consideration of the significance of the results in local, regional, national and international terms

### **10.0 Curatorial Monitoring**

Curatorial responsibility for the investigation on the site rests with the Historic Environment Officer at North Lincolnshire Council. As much notice as possible will be given prior to the commencement of the project to enable them to make appropriate monitoring arrangements.

### **11.0 Archive**

The documentation and records generated by the works 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). The receiving museum will be North Lincolnshire Museum where it will be stored under the museum accession code KLCB.

### **12.0 Report Dissemination**

The report will be completed within six months of the completion of all fieldwork on the site. Digital copies will be sent to the client, to the Local Planning Authority and the North Lincolnshire Historic Environment Officer. An OASIS record providing a summary account of the results of the works will be forwarded to the ADS in York following completion. Should the results warrant it, a short article will be submitted for publication in an appropriate local or period specific journal.

### **13.0 Variations to the Proposed Scheme**

Variations to the proposed scheme will only be made following written confirmation from the Historic Environment Officer at North Lincolnshire 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.

#### **14.0 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.

#### **15.0 Insurances**

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.

#### **16.0 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 North Lincolnshire HER 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.

## 17.0 References

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

AAL, 2021, *Archaeological desk-based assessment: Land at Torksey Street, Kirton in Lindsey, North Lincolnshire*, Allen Archaeology Limited report number 2021091

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Historic England, 2015, *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment: The MoRPHE Project Managers' Guide*, Swindon: Historic England

Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government, 2021, *National Planning Policy Framework*, London: Department for Communities and Local Government



**Figure 1:** Proposed development layout with area of strip, map and record in orange, watching brief in green, with previous trenching superimposed

Site Code	KLTS 23
Scale	1:250 @A4
Drawn by	Chris Clay
Date	07/09/23

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