Archaeological Mitigation Strategy:
Archaeological Excavation & Monitoring and Recording

Land south of Church Street, Elsham, North Lincolnshire, DN20 0RQ

NGR:	TA 03487 12448
Planning Authority:	North Lincolnshire Council
Planning Reference:	tbc
PCAS job number:	2852
PCAS Sitecode:	ECSX 23
NLM sitecode:	ELCB

Prepared for

Keystone Architecture Ltd.

By

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Non-Technical Summary

- *This document is a detailed methodology prepared for Keystone Architecture Ltd. for a scheme of archaeological mitigation combining excavation and monitoring to be undertaken in association with planned development of land south of Church Street, Esham.*

- *Elsham lies on the prehistoric trackway known today as Middlegate Lane, which is flanked by evidence of its use since the Mesolithic period. The site occupies a historically prominent position close to a plateau partway up a chalk escarpment, with views to the south and access to what was a natural spring, now culverted, that runs through the site.*

- *Elsham has a rich history with scatters of Roman and Saxon artefacts indicating its origins. The site lies close to the parish Church of All Saints, built in the 12th century, and there are documentary records of a hospital / priory at Elsham, the location of which is undetermined although burials found on an adjacent plot to the site were interpreted as being part of the lost institution.*

- *The evaluation identified evidence of previously unknown late Roman occupation in the immediate area, with Mid Saxon and Saxo-Norman activity also represented. A palaeochannel, probably the relic of the now culverted spring, was also seen.*

- *This document details the methodology to be employed during the archaeological fieldwork and post-excavation reporting and archiving procedures.*

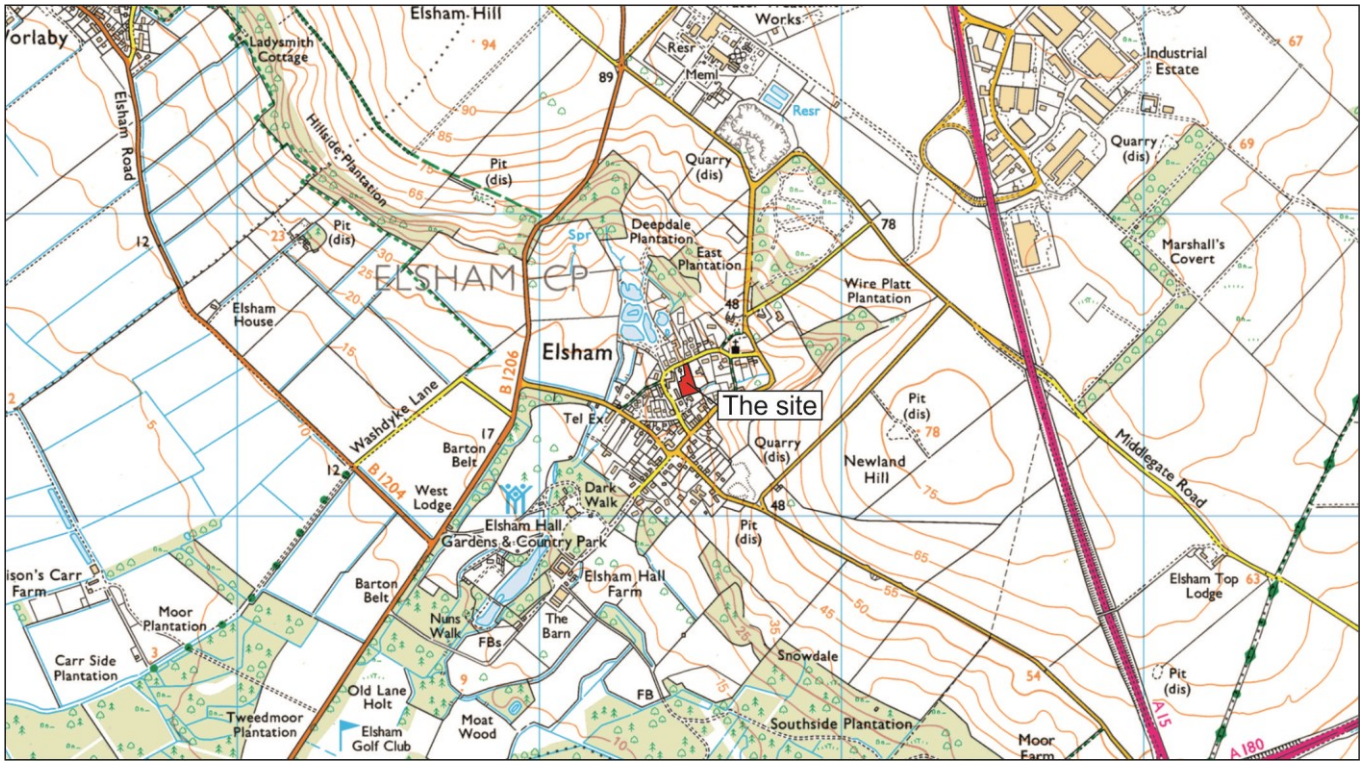

Figure 1: Site location map at scale 1:25,000 OS Explorer map sheet 281 Ancholme Valley. Site location is shown in red. (OS mapping © Crown copyright. All rights reserved. PCAS licence no. 100049278).

1.0 Introduction

PCAS Archaeology Ltd. (PCAS) was requested by Keystone Architecture Ltd. to prepare a mitigation strategy in association with the development of land to the south of Church Street, Elsham, where two new detached dwellings are planned.

The site lies in the historic core of the village, close to the Grade II* Listed Church of All Saints. Investigation in the surrounding area revealed multiple medieval dated inhumations, while evaluation of the site itself has identified phases of features cut into a buried soil layer, recovered dating ranging from the later Roman period through to early modern.

The North Lincolnshire Historic Officer has recommended an archaeological mitigation strategy that combines excavation of the areas of highest impact with monitoring of all other development groundworks. This document details the methodology to be employed during the fieldwork, and the post-excavation reporting and archiving procedures. It follows current best practice and appropriate national guidance including:

- NPPF, National Planning Policy Framework (2023)
- CIfA Code of Conduct (2022)
- CIfA Standards and Guidance for an Archaeological Excavation (2014)
- CIfA Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Brief (2020)
- Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE)

This strategy is subject to the approval of the Historic Environment Officer for North Lincolnshire Council.

2.0 Site location and description (Fig. 1)

Elsham is a village in a civil parish of the same name in North Lincolnshire. It lies on the northern edge of the Lincolnshire Wolds, north of the M180 and close to the junction to the northern stretch of the A15 duel carriageway as it extends towards Barton and the Humber Bridge. The village lies c.5km northeast of Brigg, a cluster og houses around the cross roads of New Street / Barnetby Lane and Hall Lane / Front Street, to the northeast of Elsham Hall.

The site lies in the centre of the village, on land accessed from Church Street and defined by the gardens of properties fronting onto Church Street, Maltkiln Lane and Dunns Paddock. It comprises approximately 0.83 acres of previouslyundeveloped land with a partially culverted watercourse running through the southern part of the site flanked by a handful of trees. The new properties will lie on the north side of the culvert.

The approximate central NGR of the site is TA 03487 12448.

3.0 Topography and geology

The solid geology for Elsham is Kimmeridge Clay Formation Mudstone, with Welton Chalk to the east. Overlying this in the area of the site is windblown sand pale brown and fine-grained uncemented deposits (https://www.bgs.ac.uk/map-viewers/bgs-geology-viewer/). The geology was described in the evaluation as a mottled yellowish brown / greyish brown and bright orange sand, encountered at a depth exceeding 1m below the existing ground level (Vecchi, 2023).

Elsham lies at the base of the chalk ridge that forms the edge of the Lincolnshire Wolds, with levels rising from southwest to northeast. The site itself les just where levels start to rise, giving the site a slightly sloped topography. Generally the site slopes slightly towards the culvert in the southern half, with ground levels falling from just above 30mOD. The

archaeology was encountered beneath modern layers and above/below an accumulated soil varying between 0.25<0.55m thick.

4.0 Planning Background

The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) came into force in March 2012 (updated December 2023). This places the responsibility for dealing with heritage assets affected by development proposals with the developer. Developers are required to 'record and advance understanding of the significance of any heritage assets to be lost (wholly or in part) in a manner proportionate to their importance and the impact, and to make this evidence (and any archive generated) publicly accessible' (NPPF, p205). Developers are obligated to produce a definitive method of archaeological mitigation to fulfil this requirement.

A planning application for the erection of two new detached dwellings with associated garages and access on land to the south of Church Street, Elsham is being prepared for submission to North Lincolnshire Council. A previous application for development here has reference PA/2023/1146.

Based on the results of an evaluation, the Historic Environment Officer for North Lincolnshire has recommended a program of archaeological mitigation that targets the areas which will incur the highest impacts of the development with open area excavation, with monitoring of all other development groundworks. This will ensure the preservation by record of any encountered buried remains.

This document details the methodology of the archaeological mitigation. It details both the fieldwork methodology and the post-excavation reporting and archiving procedures and timetable. This project design is subject to the approval of the North Lincolnshire Historic Environment Officer.

5.0 Archaeological and Historical Background

A Heritage Assessment (Field, 2020) and the reports for both phases of evaluation at the site (Serrano, 2020; Vecchi, 2023) will be made available to all those undertaking the fieldwork and post-excavation assessment and reporting.

Along the top of the chalk escarpment to the east of the site runs the route of a trackway now called Middlegate Lane, thought to be prehistoric in origin and potentially in use since the Mesolithic period given the range of worked flints that have been recovered along its length. This routeway is also flanked by multiple prehistoric and Roman monuments, including a possible Bronze Age barrow in the grounds of Elsham Hall, one of several possible similar monuments in the vicinity.

A little over 2 km north of the site on the outskirts of neighbouring Worlaby is the Scheduled remains of a Roman villa (SAM 1005233). This monument was partially excavated in the 1960's, at which time a 6th century Saxon cemetery was found cut into the top of the robbed out substantial walls of a large structure, with backfill containing box flue tile, tesserae and painted plaster all indicative of a villa. Detail about the dating of this structure is limited due to the curtailed excavations, however the dating of the later burials suggests a mid Roman date. Closer to Elsham, mid Roman pottery and building materials similar to those at the Worlaby villa, such as box flue tile and tegula, have been recovered from the flatter ground to the east and southeast of modern Elsham, suggesting the presence of another higher status building in this area.

Prior to the work on this site (see below, evaluation results) settlement at Elsham has been generally understood as established in the Saxon period. From the field to the north of New Street a large collection of Saxon and Viking pottery and metalwork has been recovered, while across the village further scatters of Saxon pottery have been recovered. Excavations

on the line of the A15 exposed an extensive Saxon cemetery with more than 600 cremations, many containing the remains of more than 1 individual, and 4 inhumations. Grave goods included personal items such as tweezers, shears bone combs and jewellery, with dating of the items concluding the cemetery was in use between the early 5th – late 6th century. Despite this evidence of what must have been a relatively substantial settlement, the historic settlement associated with this cemetery has yet to be identified.

The site lies less than 180m southwest of the Grade II* Listed Church of All Saints, which occupies an elevated position above the east end of Church Street. The original elements of the church date from the 12th century, making it contemporary with a recorded hospital for the poor founded by Augustinian canons, the lost Elsham Priory. The priory was dissolved in 1536 and its location has since been forgotten, although it has been suggested that it lay on the flat land to the southwest of the village, now occupied by Elsham Hall; some of the fishing lakes there are believed to be of 14th century date (https://www.elshamhall.co.uk/visit-gardens-park) and such features were typical of a religious complex in this period. Archaeological work at No. 14a Church Street (50m east of the site) identified 8 east-west aligned graves containing the remains of 11 individuals as well as a possible charnel pit. These features were cut into a buried soil and sealed by a late medieval plough soil, and thus were interpreted as being associated with the lost priory (Trott, 2009). Monitoring at 24 Church Street revealed two small postholes of probable medieval date (Clay, 2010). Certainly the positioning of the church on a plateau would have been a focus of activity for the medieval village, with the structure occupying a prominent position on the edge of the escarpment.

Elsham was part of a private estate throughout the post-medieval period, with Elsham Hall built to the west of the village in the 17th century, replacing an earlier building (a possible relic of the lost priory?), and surrounded by extensive parkland. The village has remained a small, remote settlement arranged around the church and along the historic trunk roads of the flatter ground to the south, but has experienced significant growth in the 20th century as demand for housing outside of the rapidly growing surrounding towns grew. Historic mapping does not record any development within the site from the later 19th century onwards.

The site has been investigated through two phases of trenching. The first two trenches lay in the north of the site (Serrano, 2020, Figure 2); Trench 1 revealed three pits and two almost parallel northeast-southwest ditches cut into the natural sand, both yielded dating; the southern ditch contained what was believed to be a residual sherd of 1st – early 3rd century Roman pottery and a sherd of a 18th – 19th century pearlware plate, along with late medieval – early modern handmade brick fragments. The northern ditch of the pair produced six sherds of pottery ranging from the mid 15th – early 19th century and a flake of medieval roof tile. Of the three pits, one was cut by the northernmost ditch, one contained medieval / early post-medieval pottery and the other was discrete and undated. Trench 2 of this evaluation revealed two features, an undated discrete posthole and a ditch on a north northeast- south southeast alignment, producing four sherds of 3rd century Roman pottery, a fragment from a Saxo-Norman jar, two sherds from a 13th – 14th century jug and a final mid 15th – mid 16th century sherd of a Toynton type vessel.

These features were all sealed beneath a sequence of levelling layer, buried topsoil and modern topsoil, the same sequence as recorded above the burials at nearby 14a Church Street, suggesting that although the cemetery did not extend this far, that the parcels of land were connected and therefore the features may relate to the medieval period and the lost priory.

Ahead of the second phase of evaluation a geophysical survey of the site was completed (Bunn, 2023, Figure 2). The results identified limited magnetic variation interpreted as indicating features of potential archaeological origin, perhaps screen by soil conditions within the site.

The second part of the evaluation was completed in July 2023 (Vecchi, 2023, Figure 2). This phase of fieldwork found features in all but one of the trenches; Trench 6 which was positioned to the north of and almost parallel to the water culvert crossing the southern part of the site found evidence of a palaeochannel, presumably the relic of the natural spring which is not channelled by the modern culvert. Domestic animal bone fragments from the deposits in this area suggest human habitation in the vicinity, with a fragment of beehive quern stone supplying tentative dating. This natural spring on the hillside would have been an attractive resource in the early landscape. An accumulated soil yielding a mixed assemblage of pottery, animal bone and other artefacts was recorded below the modern garden soil in all these trenches, probably developing over the later centuries of activity in this area in the historic core of the village.

Trench 3 towards the north end of the site contained three ditches and two pits; ditch [314] contained two fragments from 11th – 12th century jars alongside a large assemblage of forty Roman pottery sherds. These have been identified as dating from the later 4th century, and include sherds of both Nene Valley and Oxford red-slip wares, both of which would have been the result of a national trade system and therefore rare in this area in the later Roman period. This ditch also yielded butchered red deer antler and domesticated animal bones, and equal amounts of spelt and bread wheat grains from an environmental sample. From an adjacent ditch [311] further Roman pottery sherds (12 count) also dating from the later 4th – 5th century were found in conjunction with spelt and bread wheats and another large and varied animal bone assemblage, including a wild boar tusk and further red deer with butchery marks, indicating hunting. Slag and lead waste from this ditch is also considered contemporary. Together, this suggests late Roman activity, and probably high status given the traded pottery and quantity and variety of meat, with a potential industrial element to the character of this occupation. The remaining ditch in this trench was of probable Saxo-Norman date, with 5th – 8th century and 11th – 12th century pottery recovered from here. A pit containing a mixed assemblage of Roman and Saxo-Norman pottery may have incorporated residual material. All were covered by a reworked soil into which a modern pit had been dug.

In Trench 4 a buried soil similar to that in Trench 3 covered the geology, into which two ditches were cut. One is tentatively dated to the 13th – 14th century based on a single sherd of pottery, but this feature also contained two very abraded late Roman greyware sherds, while the other contained two pottery sherds, one Saxon and the other 11th – 12th century. Both these ditches contained animal bone, but generally too small / degraded to be identified as anything other than mammal.

Dating of features in Trench 5 was sparse; the ditches which formed the southern corner of a possible enclosure [508]/[512] were both undated, as were the pits they intersected, although it was clear that at least one of these pits [[510] was stratigraphically later that the enclosure. Ditch [519] had modern brick towards the top, suggesting it was of early modern origin, while small quantities of post-medieval pottery were recovered from ditch [516] and posthole [506]. Gully [504] towards the east end of the trench contained a single sherd of late 4th century greyware, tentatively suggesting this gully is part of the late Roman landscape glimpsed in Trenches 3&4.

In Trench 7 the edge of an area of compacted chalk rubble with stone fragments was interpreted as a possible building platform, although perhaps consolidation of softer ground in the lower part of the site should also be considered. It was unclear in an adjacent pit was of contemporary date, but an assemblage of domestic animal bone and fourteen sherds of 4th – 5th century pottery were recovered from the area, including the neck of a flagon produced in the Swanpool area of Lincoln, featuring a face plaque from a mould that was then finished by hand, another example of a high status late Roman pottery found at the site. The pit also contained a small assemblage of late Roman pottery and animal bone, with the presence of spelt wheat in the environmental sample again indicative of a late Roman (or early Saxon, as both pottery and spelt wheat would have had a crossover period) high status activity.

The evaluation of the site identified a previously unknown late Roman phase of activity and probable high status occupation in the immediate area, and mid Saxon and Saxo-Norman activity. Thre was limited evidence of later medieval activity, in particular there was little to suggest the presence of the lost priory or associated features at the site, indeed the available record suggests a decline in activity here after the 12th century which is when All Saints Church was built, however undated features may yet be further investigated and determined to date from this phase of Elsham's history and evolution.

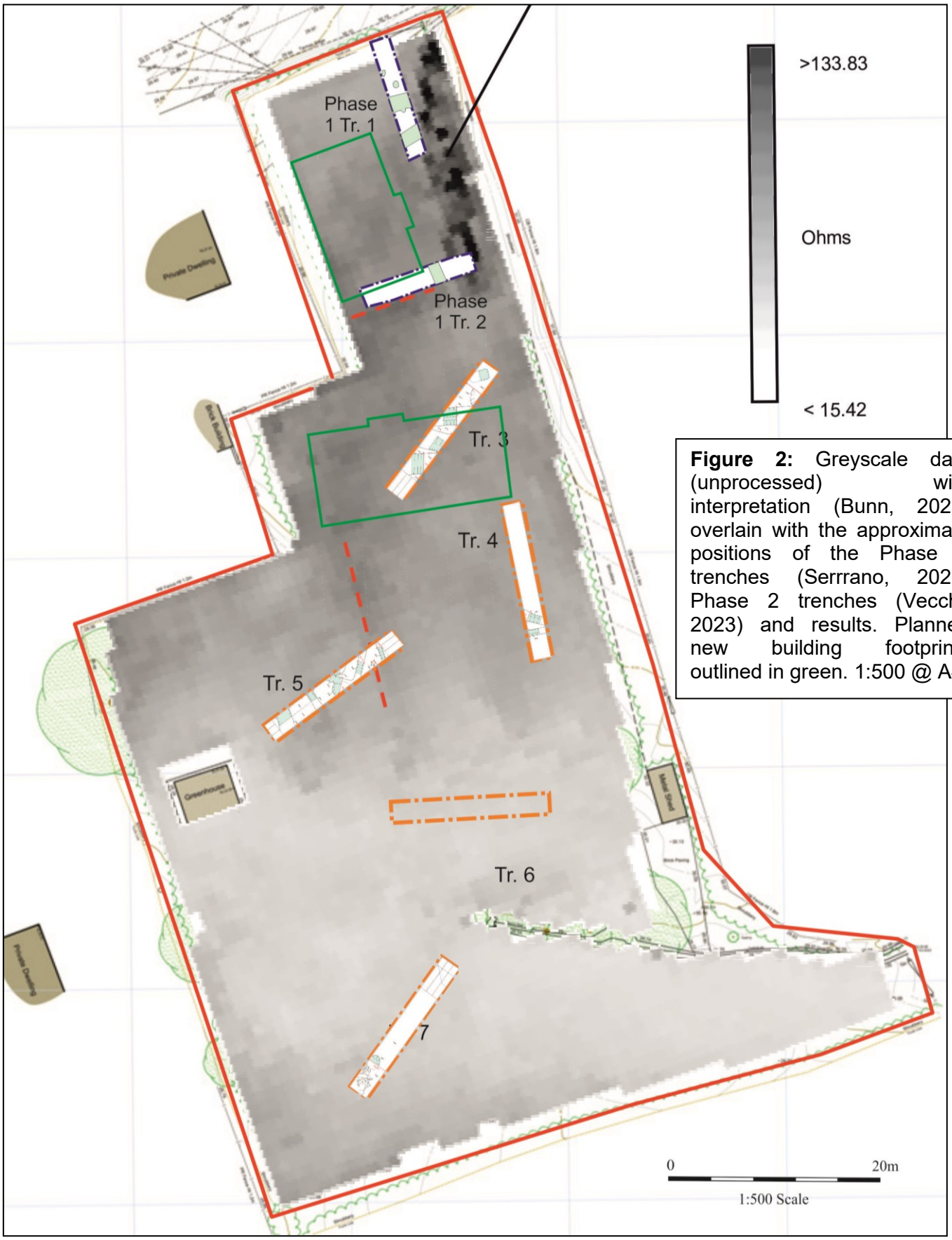

Figure 2: Greyscale data (unprocessed) with interpretation (Bunn, 2023) overlain with the approximate positions of the Phase 1 trenches (Serrrano, 2020) Phase 2 trenches (Vecchi, 2023) and results. Planned new building footprints outlined in green. 1:500 @ A4

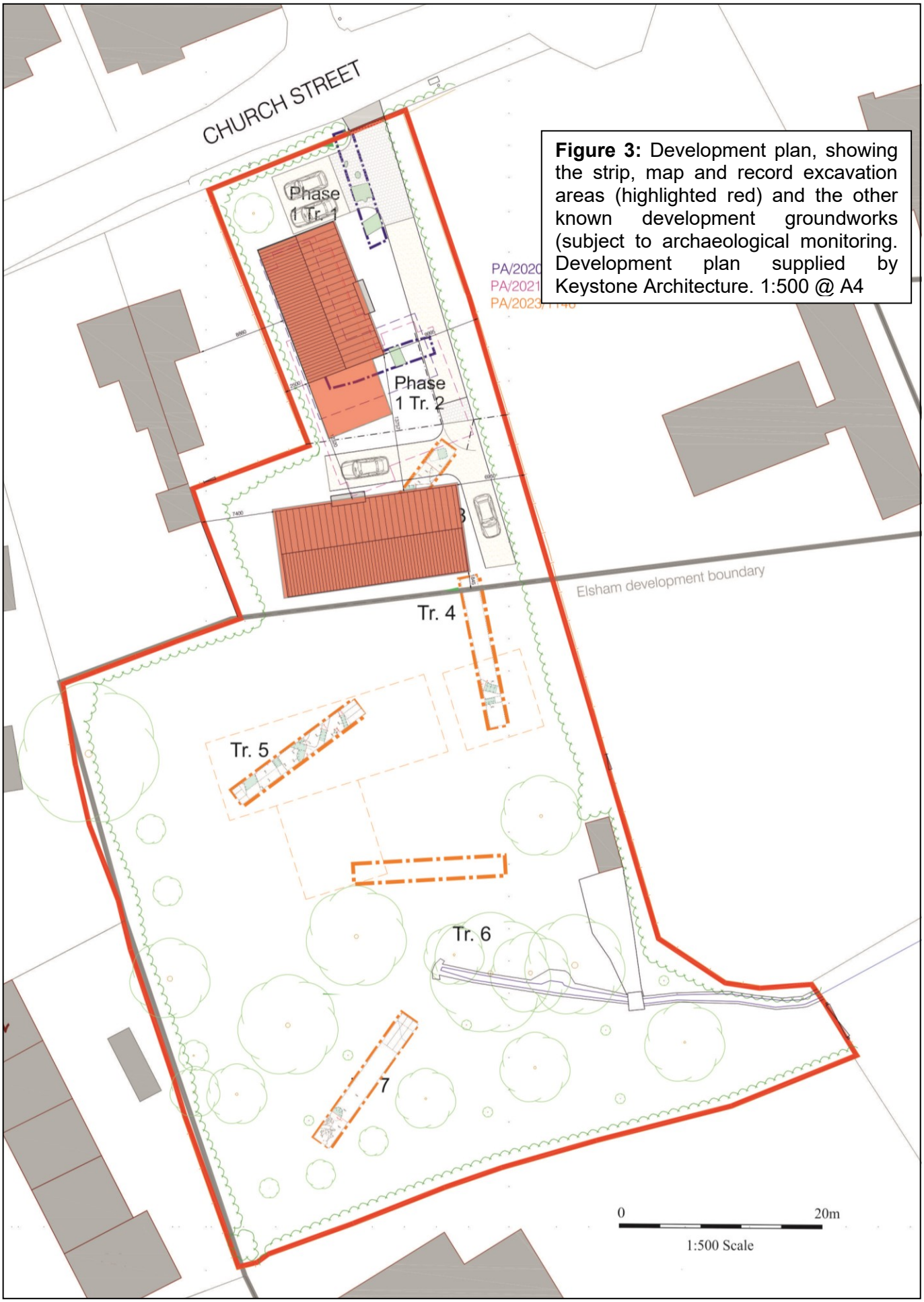

Figure 3: Development plan, showing the strip, map and record excavation areas (highlighted red) and the other known development groundworks (subject to archaeological monitoring. Development plan supplied by Keystone Architecture. 1:500 @ A4

6.0 Archaeological Requirement

The evaluation has identified evidence of several phases of activity, dating from the Roman, Saxon, early medieval and post-medieval periods. To better understand this palimpsest of archaeology and to preserve by record the evidence thereof, the North Lincolnshire Historic Environment Officer has recommended (advice note dated 14/11/23) a program of archaeological mitigation that combines strip, map and record excavation of the footprint of both dwellings ahead of any development impacts in these areas, and any other areas of significant ground reduction or disturbance with monitoring and recording of all other development groundworks.

The excavation areas encompass the footprints of the new dwellings and associated garages (highlighted red on Figure 3), and any other significant development groundworks which might include attenuation tanks (not shown on the available plans – to be confirmed by the client and the Historic Environment Officer notified ahead of the start of development groundworks). Work in these areas must be undertaken ahead of any development impacts, and the two areas may be excavated concurrently or consecutively. Should the footprints or positions of the attenuation tanks be adjusted, the excavation areas must be altered accordingly and approved by the Historic Environment Officer.

As fieldwork nears completion, the North Lincolnshire Historic Environment Officer will be invited to review the programme; the excavation phase of the mitigation will not be considered complete until the Historic Environment Officer has formally signed off the excavation area(s).

The monitoring will take place during **all** development groundworks outside of these excavation areas. This may include (not exhaustively):

- Deep excavations for removal of existing trees;
- Landscaping for new access / driveways*;
- Landscaping / excavations for new patio areas;
- Excavations for drainage and services including water, gas etc.

*The planned driveway excavations are anticipated to require excavations of around 150mm below existing ground level. In Trench 1&2 of the evaluation the archaeologically significant horizons were found at a depth exceeding 1m below the existing ground level, therefore it is anticipated that buried remains will be preserved in situ here; should monitored groundworks here exceed 1m in depth they should be paused to allow for a reassessment of the strategy for the driveway which may require revision, to be determined in discussion with the client and the Historic Environment Officer.

The development layout with the footprints of the new dwellings (shaded red) and other known development groundworks is shown on Figure 3. The excavation areas will be defined according to the development layout plan, identified and marked out prior by the development contractors with, where necessary, the assistance of the attending archaeologist.

This combined mitigation aims to:

- To preserve by record the archaeological remains in the zones identified as having the highest archaeological significance that will be impacted by the development groundworks;
- To recover stratified dating evidence and establish the chronology of the archaeological remains at the site;
- To establish the relationships between features within the site, establishing phasing and character of the encountered remains;

- To interpret the archaeological remains in the context of historical accounts and known archaeological remains in the vicinity;

- To add to the current understanding of the archaeology and historical development of the wider area.

The project has the potential to add to the East Midlands Historic Environment Research Framework (Knight et al, 2012, https://researchframeworks.org/emherf/). Based on the results of the evaluation, it is anticipated the sections of the Framework relating to the Romano-British, Early Medieval and High Medieval (Research Framework sections 5, 6 and 7) archaeology of the area will be most relevant. These might include:

- 5.4.5 What patterns can be discerned in the location of settlements in the landscape?
- 5.5.1 How is the upland-lowland divide manifested in the regional agricultural economy and other aspects of the archaeological record?
- 5.6.1 What resources moved in and out of the region during this period?
- 5.6.2 How can we add to the understanding of the nationally important iron and lead industries?
- 6.4.1 What impact may Germanic or Scandinavian immigration have had upon established rural settlement patterns, and how may place name evidence contribute to studies of settlement evolution?
- 6.4.3 Can spatial and temporal variations in the morphology, functions and status of settlements be defined more precisely?
- 6.6.5 How may we enhance our understanding of the lead industry, the extraction and smelting of iron ore and the environmental impact of these activities?
- 6.7.1 Is there evidence for new crops and other agricultural changes during the Roman / Saxon transition?
- 6.7.2 Is the evidence for a hiatus in cultivation in the mid 6th century and for later arable expansion?
- 6.7.4 How may animal husbandry practices have developed and how were wild food resources such as fish and wild fowl used?
- 7.2.1 How can we elucidate further the development of nucleated villages, and in particular the contribution of the Danelaw to changes in village morphology?
- 7.2.3 How can we improve our understanding of the form, evolution and functions of buildings within rural settlements and establish the extent of surviving medieval fabrics?
- 7.5.3 Can we elucidate further the development of hospitals and colleges?
- 7.7.4 What can environmental remains teach us about diet and living conditions in urban, rural and coastal communities?

The site should not be treated in isolation, and reference should be made to relevant historical sources and previous archaeological work in the area when interpreting the results.

An online record of the project data will be initiated with the Archaeological Data Service (OASIS database). This online record shall be updated and completed as the project progresses, and will include an uploaded digital copy of the final report of the results of the monitoring.

The archaeological fieldwork will be completed in accordance with the methodology detailed below. The attending archaeologist will have a copy of this WSI available at all times during the project groundworks.

7.0 Fieldwork methodology

All archaeological monitoring and recording will be undertaken by suitably qualified/experienced professional archaeologists/ PCAS Project or Field Officers.

Unless ground conditions dictate otherwise, all machine excavation subject to archaeological monitoring will be undertaken using a mechanical excavator fitted with a flat toothless blade. If a toothed blade is required to remove tarmac etc, the excavator will revert to using a smooth blade as soon as possible to allow for archaeological features to be identified.

7.1 Strip, Map and Record Excavation

To prevent any accidental impacts to, or public incursion to, the excavation areas prior to and during the archaeological excavation, it may be necessary to identify, define and protect the excavation areas by erecting temporary fencing. Any such measures will be discussed with the client.

The Strip, Map and Record excavation (SMR) will comprise the archaeological monitoring of the topsoil and subsoil (overburden) strip by machine, followed by the manual cleaning and excavation of all archaeological features exposed, the recovery of artefactual or ecofactual remains and detailed recording.

No vehicles will be driven onto the stripped area without the consent of the monitoring archaeologist. The SMR area will be clearly fenced off to prevent any accidental incursions into the area.

The overburden strip will be undertaken under archaeological supervision. The evaluation identified modern hardcore layers in the north of the site, therefore in these areas a toothed bucket may be required to remove them. Where this is required, the machine will revert to the use of a flat, toothless bucket at the earliest opportunity.

All machine excavation will be undertaken in spits no more than 200mm thick, ceasing at the first archaeologically significant horizon or the surface of the natural geology, whichever is encountered first.

The topsoil and subsoil will be removed as separate horizons and taken on dumper trucks from the excavation area to pre-designated storage areas away from the archaeological excavation area(s). The dumpers will not at any time drive / track across the exposed archaeological surface, ensuring there are no accidental impacts to buried archaeological remains. The spoil generated by the site strip is anticipated to be used in landscaping or similar as part of the development groundworks but may be removed from site entirely.

This methodology will ensure a clean, even surface to allow for the initial identification of archaeological remains. Where a potential archaeological horizon is encountered, machining will cease and the exposed surface cleaned by hand ensuring that all features and deposits are identified and investigated. Should modern features be encountered (as in Trench 4 of the evaluation) such features may require a pause in machining to allow for investigation and recording before the machining recommences.

The archaeological excavation areas will be manually cleaned and features then plotted on a pre-excavation plan. This will be followed by the controlled sample excavation of archaeological features, to record their form, depth, character, date, state of preservation and extent, recovering any artefactual/ecofactual remains for further study and detailed recording.

Excavation percentages will be based on the following:

- Pits/postholes less than 2m diameter to be a minimum of 50% sample excavated. Pits larger than 2m diameter to be a minimum of 25% sample excavated. (Pits may

have opposing quadrants to ensure the recovery of full profiles, and some pits may be up to 100% sampled for biological remains.)

- Any areas of discrete industrial activity, structural remains, burials, and exceptional features to be 100% sample excavated (if necessary in quadrants or segments to allow for cross sections to be recorded).
- Linear features associated with domestic occupation (i.e. drip gullies, beam slots etc.) to be 50% sample excavated; all other linear features 20% sample excavated (1m slot approximately every 5m). All apparent ditch terminals to be sample excavated and intersections investigated to establish stratigraphic relationships. Representative slots should be cut at the midpoint of any ditch segments less than 10m in length.
- Other features such as working hollows or quarry pits will be investigated to define their extent, date and function.
- All relationships will be defined.

In certain cases, the use of mechanical excavation equipment may also be appropriate for putting sections through major features after partial excavation and recording or through deposits to check that they are of natural origin. No such large features were encountered during the evaluation.

7.2 Monitoring
Plans of the excavation areas will be made available to those undertaking the monitoring phase of the archaeological mitigation, to inform and advise the identification, investigation and assessment of any encountered remains.

Unless ground conditions dictate otherwise, all machine excavation subject to archaeological monitoring will be undertaken using a mechanical excavator fitted with a flat toothless blade. If a toothed blade is required to remove modern hardcore layers the excavator will revert to using a smooth blade as soon as possible to allow for archaeological features to be identified. Where significant archaeological remains are encountered hand excavation may be necessary.

The archaeologist monitoring the groundworks will cause the least possible disruption to the development programme, but at any time may request a pause in groundworks to assess any potential features or deposits; and to allow for the careful cleaning, excavation and recording of any features that have been identified. The archaeologist will keep the groundworkers informed of developments and progress.

Subject to Health & Safety regulations, all archaeological deposits and features manually cleaned and examined sufficiently to determine their date, character and survival condition.

7.3 Recording
The archive produced by the mitigation will be collated with and archived alongside the archive from the phase 2 evaluation, therefore it is necessary to ensure there are no duplications in the numbering used for recording. It is recommended that the context numbering is started at #1000, drawings at #10 and samples at #5 to ensure this.

All features and sections will be mapped and tied into the National Grid using GPS utilising full RTK GPS co-ordinates, accurate to 0.03m. Where required, plans of individual features or groups of features will be hand drawn (1:50 or 1:20), the location of these plans recorded using the GPS for later integration into a final site plan. Section drawings through features will be hand drawn (1:10 or 1:20) and plotted using the GPS.

A written record of each significant stratigraphic unit, including features, deposits, structures etc. will be made on standard PCAS Context Record Sheets to include, where necessary, masonry, timber / worked wood, brickwork. This documentary record will include sketch

plans noting the approximate location of any recorded archaeological features and sections in relation to surrounding features, and hachures, to supplement the measured plans.

Recording will follow on consecutively from the excavation to the monitoring phase of the mitigation; blocks of numbers may be assigned to ensure there is no duplication of numbering within the recording system.

Structured written records will be supplemented by a narrative account in the form of a site diary, recording progress, initial interpretations, site visitors, weather conditions, disputes etc.

The supervising archaeologist will pay due attention to the landscape aspect of any exposed remains – both the cultural and the natural landscapes – which may require a basic assessment to be made of neighbouring conditions (e.g., visible earthworks in adjacent areas, surface observation, standing buildings, vegetation cover etc).

A digital and colour slide (a requirement for the Sites and Monuments Record Archive) photographic record will be maintained during the course of the archaeological intervention. The photographic record will include:

- general site shots;
- specific stages of fieldwork;
- individual features and, where appropriate, their sections;
- groups of features, where relationships are important.

Photography from height will be considered should significant remains be exposed. In the past PCAS Archaeology Ltd. has engaged the services of Aeroscape, a Lincoln based aerial photography company using drones fitted with high resolution cameras, to undertake aerial photographic survey. Such measures, if considered appropriate, will be discussed with the client as required.

Artefacts

The evaluation recovered pottery spanning all periods between the Roman – post-medieval periods, animal bone, metalwork and worked stone. These and other find types are anticipated from the mitigation fieldwork.

Due to the potential for metalwork within the current project the excavation areas will be scanned with a metal detector both before and after the area strip, all spoil heaps shall also be checked. Metal detecting will be undertaken by suitably qualified personnel. The metal-detector model PCAS Archaeology Ltd currently has available is the Fisher M-scope 1236-X2, which will be set to a high sensitivity setting for maximum depth, and a relatively low discrimination to pick up a wide range of objects; there will be no discrimination against iron objects during the surveys.

See Selection Strategy (Appendix 2) for more information on the selection of the material archive resulting from the fieldwork.

All artefacts will be treated in accordance with UKIC guidelines, First Aid for Finds (Watkinson & Neale 1998). All finds will be bagged and labelled according to the individual deposit from which they were recovered, ready for later cleaning, marking and analysis. A specialist assessment will be made of the artefacts recovered with a view to their potential for further study. Allowance will be made for preliminary conservation and stabilisation of all objects and an assessment of long-term conservation and storage needs.

All finds that qualify as ‘treasure’ under the 1996 Treasure Act (Treasure Act Code of Practice – 2023 revision) will be treated in accordance with the Act; HM Coroner will be informed and the finds will be safely stored. The local Finds Liaison Officer (martin.foreman@northlincs.gov.uk) may be contacted for advice in the first instance.

Human Remains

The evaluation did not reveal any human remains, however the site lies close to the medieval parish church and burials have been found in the immediate area.

If human remains are encountered, the Historic Environment Officer will be notified, and in accordance with current legislation (Church of England (Miscellaneous Provisions) Measure 2014, No. 1 Section 2), an Exhumation Licence will be requested from the Secretary of State and the local Environmental Health Officer advised.

Excavators should be aware of current legislation regarding human remains and pay due attention to Health and Safety. All work involving human remains will be carried out according to the standards and guidelines recommended by the British Association of Biological Anthropologists and Osteologists in conjunction with the CIfA guidelines.

All reasonable requests of interested parties concerning the methods of removal, re-interral or disposal of the remains and associated items will be complied with, and attempts will be made at all times not to cause offence to interested parties.

Environmental Sampling

The environmental samples taken during the evaluation yielded predominantly charred / desiccated plant macrofossils, with both cereal remains and weed species identified in the flots thus providing information about crop husbandry and the natural landscape around the sampled features. There is the potential for further environmental information to be gleaned from additional samples from across the site, with a recommendation for further sampling and assessment from the appointed specialist.

Any securely stratified dated or undated archaeological deposits considered suitable will be sampled for the retrieval and assessment of the preservation conditions and potential for analysis of biological and environmental remains. Industrial residues and waste from craft and manufacturing processes are also routinely sampled.

Where possible, deposits will be sampled in 40l quantities, less if necessary, and returned to PCAS offices prior to dispatch to the appointed specialist for processing and assessment. Sampling techniques and methods will be undertaken in accordance with the English Heritage (now Historic England) guidance as set out in *Environmental Archaeology: A Guide to the Theory and Practice of Methods, from Sampling and Recovery to Post-Excavation* (Campbell *et al*, 2011, 2nd edition).

8.0 Post-fieldwork methodology - reporting

Following completion site investigation all archaeological records, environmental samples and finds will be taken to the offices of PCAS prior to processing, dispatch and/or analysis. See Data Management Plan (Appendix 1) and Selection Strategy (Appendix 2) for details of the selection and storage of the contents of the working archive.

Stable finds (e.g. pottery, bone) will be washed, marked and packaged at PCAS prior to dispatch. Unstable finds will be dispatched for remedial conservation as a prelude to assessment, and bulk samples will be dispatched for processing.

PCAS have used the services of a variety of specialists in the past; a full list of specialists is included in Section 10 below.

A Post-Excavation Assessment (PXA) will take place within six months of completing the excavation, or longer if the results of the excavation are significant to allow for adequate assessment; any extension of the six months allocated to this phase will be agreed in writing with the North Lincolnshire Historic Environment Officer. During the PXA the specialist assessments of the research potential of the artefact assemblage and environmental

samples will be compiled and based on this the methods for detailed analysis and a spatial representation of the results will be identified, resulting in the production of an illustrated site narrative. The results of the evaluation will also be included in this stage of the assessment, to provide a robust assessment of the cumulative body of date from both phases of intrusive fieldworks at the site; The North Lincolnshire Museum has been contacted regarding the contents of the deposited archive from the evaluation with a view to reviewing and including the results of the evaluation within the PXA and final report for this project.

The PXA will lead to a review of the post-excavation reporting program, held in conjunction with the appointed specialists, to determine a timetable for the reporting and the aims of the specialist research and spatial analyses will be determined, including the conservation / discard requirements for eventual archiving. This reviewed program with incorporated and proposals for the appropriate publication of the results for wider public dissemination and associated timescales will be submitted to the North Lincolnshire Historic Environment Officer as part of an updated Project Design alongside the PXA.

If the results of the archaeological mitigation are considered of a lesser complexity or significance, then this staged post-excavation assessment and updated project design may not be necessary, and in discussion with the Historic environment Officer, it may be possible to continue straight onto a full excavation report.

Subject to the receipt of any specialist accounts/archive reports, within two years of the completion of fieldwork / within eighteen months of submission of the PXA and updated project design (unless a different timescale is agreed with the Historic Environment Officer), a draft report will be prepared in accordance with current guidelines and sent to the Historic Environment Officer for NLC for approval. All electronic submissions will be in single .PDF format. The final report will include the following minimum information:

- A non-technical summary
- Museum accession number (where available) or reference, site code and project number
- Planning reference number
- Grid reference, site location, topography and geology
- Archaeological and historical background
- A statement of aims and objectives of the project
- A description and analysis of the fieldwork undertaken
- A geo-referenced location plan at a minimum scale of 1:10,000
- Scaled section and plan drawings of archaeological features encountered within the excavated area with integral levels (AOD).
- Where applicable, a matrix will be produced to determine the phasing of recorded features / deposits, with dating applied where possible
- Discussion and conclusions collating the results of the evaluation, including the importance of the findings in local, regional and national basis and a critical review of the effectiveness of methodology
- Tables summarising features and artefacts with full descriptions and brief interpretation
- Specialist artefact and environmental reports, as necessary, with reference made to appropriate published type-series
- Colour photographs, including general views and appropriate detail
- Acknowledgements

- Bibliography of sources used
- Archive deposition location and agreed deposition date
- A summary of the report's presence and location on the OASIS online database

9.0 Dissemination

Copies of the approved report shall be sent to the HER officer, the client and the North Lincolnshire HER. The data from the project, along with a digital copy of the report, will be uploaded to the Archaeology Data Service OASIS (Online AccesS to the Index of archaeological investigationS) database for public consultation.

Deposition of the report with the HER, where it will be incorporated into their database for public consultation, and uploading the project data to OASIS will be considered as placing the results of the project in the public domain. However, wider publication of the results will be considered, although the content and place of publication will be dependent on what is found, and be subject to discussion with the archaeological advisor to the planning authority. For example, where a significant discovery is made, consideration will be given to the preparation of a short note for inclusion in a local journal.

Working under the terms of the Copyright, Design and Patents Act 1988, PCAS shall retain full copyright with regard to written, digital and graphic material. However, following project completion, both the commissioning body, the North Lincolnshire HER and the Archaeology Data Service may, in the interest of informing and advancing the profession, make responsible use of the data, provided that any material copied or cited in reports is duly acknowledged and all copyright conditions observed.

Following acceptance of the report, an inventoried project archive (documentary and material) will be prepared in accordance with the guidelines contained in *Guidelines for the Preparation of Excavation Archives for Long Term Storage* (UKIC 1990) and *Standards in the Museum Care of Archaeological Collections* (Museums and Galleries Commission 1992). The entire archive collating both the (Phase 2) evaluation and mitigation will be prepared and stored at the offices of PCAS until deposition with North Lincolnshire Museums can be arranged. A unique museum sitecode ELCB has been allocated by the North Lincolnshire Museums to be used throughout both the evaluation and mitigation phases of the project; an accession number will be assigned by the museum at the time of deposition. No variation of this arrangement will take place without the prior written consent of the NLPA.

10.0 Timescale and personnel

The project is anticipated to commence in late 2023 / early 2024, pending approval of the planning application. This methodology requires the areas of strip, map and record excavation are completed ahead of any development groundworks within said defined areas (Figure 3); development groundworks outside of these areas are subject to archaeological monitoring and will take place according to the development timetable. The archaeological mitigation is reliant on the client informing the archaeological contractor of the timetable and allowing suitable time (to be agreed with the PCAS Project Manager) for the implementation of the excavation phase of the mitigation. The timetable will be submitted to the Historic Environment Officer and planning authority for their written approval prior to commencement of excavations.

The North Lincolnshire Historic Environment Officer will be given a minimum of 7 working days notice of the intention to commence fieldwork. Notification will be from the archaeological contractor upon instruction from the client.

The site team will include an experienced Project Officer as a minimum, with personnel to be determined based on availability at the time of fieldwork. Details of the site team and CVs can be provided on request at the time of notification.

The Historic Environment Officer will be regularly updated regarding progress and will be welcome to visit the site following prior arrangement with the archaeological contractor. As the excavation phase of the fieldwork nears completion, the Historic Environment Officer will be invited to review the programme, which will not be considered complete until the Historic Environment Officer has formally signed off the excavation area

Post-fieldwork collated archive will be stored at the offices of PCAS Archaeology. The project will be assigned to a Project Officer or equivalent for post-excavation assessment and reporting; personnel to be appointed depending on availability and suitability at the time. They will work alongside the PCAS Finds and Archiving Officer who will oversee and co-ordinate the processing and dispatch of finds and environmental samples to the relevel appointed specialists and conservators for their identification and assessments. Post-excavation works will be internally monitored by C Palmer-Brown (Director) and L Brocklehurst (Project Manager).

PCAS have used the services of a variety of specialists in the past and may use any/all of the following depending on suitability/availability etc:

Archaeological Contractors:

- York Archaeological Trust (YAT) – identification and assessment of registered special finds; X-Ray analysis and Conservation Services.
- Scottish Universities Environmental Research Centre (SUERC) – radiocarbon dating laboratories

Other Freelance Specialists:

- S Percival – specialising in the identification and assessment of prehistoric pottery and ceramics.
- D Fernandes - specialising in the identification and assessment of prehistoric pottery and ceramics.
- I. Rowlandson / H. G. Fiske* – specialising in the identification and assessment of Iron Age and Roman pottery.
- R. Leary – specialising in the identification and assessment of Iron Age and Roman pottery
- A. Irving - specialising in the identification and assessment of post-Roman pottery and ceramic building material.
- J. Young* – specialising in the identification and assessment of post-Roman pottery and ceramic building material in Lincolnshire, Yorkshire, Nottinghamshire, Rutland and Cambridgeshire.
- J. Curl* – specialising in the identification and assessment of animal bone worked bone/antler.
- S. Tipper - – specialising in the identification and assessment of human remains
- Z. Tomlinson - specialising in the identification and assessment of CBM and fired clay, small and other finds
- T. Lane – specialising in the identification and assessment of lithic materials and tools.
- A. Daubney* - specialising in the identification and assessment of small finds and coins

- M. Wood* – specialising in the identification and assessment of metal finds and waste metalworking residues.
- Q. Mould – specialising in the identification and assessment of leather artefacts.
- M. Taylor/M. Bamforth – specialising in the identification and assessment of waterlogged wood.
- R. Tyson – specialising in the identification and assessment of glass.
- S. Cottam– specialising in the identification and assessment of glass.
- C. Simpson* - specialising in the identification and assessment of environmental samples and worked stone

Those marked * undertook assessment and identification in the evaluation stage. In line with best practice these specialists will be approached first in relation to the mitigation stage of the project to collate both stages of the fieldwork.

A full report on the results of the project will be submitted within 6 months of the completion of the onsite groundworks. Should specialist reports not be available in this timeframe an interim report may be issued with a full report issued with integrated specialist reports when they become available.

Archiving will take place within 6 months of the acceptance of the final report. The North Lincolnshire Museum have been contacted regarding allocation of a Museum sitecode for the project; an accession number is assigned by the museum at the time of deposition.

11.0 Health and Safety

All work will be carried out in compliance with the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974 and its related regulations and codes of practice.

Employees and sub-contractors of PCAS Archaeology Ltd will perform their duties in accordance with company safety policy (revised 2023). Where PCAS employees are temporarily engaged at other workplaces, they are to respect relevant local regulations, both statutory and as imposed by other employers within the Health and Safety at Work Act (1974).

In furtherance of the duty of care imposed by the Health & Safety at Work Act, the Employer shall make available to his employees whatever reasonable facilities are required by particular circumstances, e.g. appropriate protective clothing, safety equipment, rest breaks for specialised tasks, etc. Appropriate amenities will be provided i.e. cabin and/or toilets if such facilities are not available within the development, and any temporary structures that are employed for the welfare of the site team will be carefully positioned so as to be accessible while not hindering the progress of the archaeological investigation.

There are no known services in the site but all staff should remain aware of possibility of services at all times.

A site risk assessment will be prepared prior to any site works taking place. All site staff will be required to read and sign to confirm understanding and adherence to the measures recommended in the risk assessment. The risk assessment will be continuous and updated throughout the course of the fieldwork should conditions change.

12.0 Monitoring arrangements

Internal monitoring will be the responsibility of PCAS Project Manager Leigh Brocklehurst / PCAS Director Colin Palmer-Brown. The North Lincolnshire Historic Environment Officer will be informed of the start of the archaeological intervention. They will be kept informed of any

unexpected discoveries and regularly updated on the project's progress and will be free to visit the site by prior arrangement with the site director.

All phases of fieldwork shall be carried out in accordance with the approved WSI, with any variations to the specification being agreed in writing with the Historic Environment Officer.

13.0 Contacts

Alison Williams, Historic Environment Officer for North Lincolnshire Council	(01724) 297 471
Leigh Brocklehurst, Project Manager, PCAS Archaeology Ltd	(01522) 703 800

14.0 Insurance

PCAS Archaeology Ltd. has the following insurance cover:

Employers' Liability:	£10,000,000
Public Liability:	£5,000,000
Professional Indemnity:	£5,000,000

15.0 References

Bunn, forthcoming, *Archaeological Gradiometer Survey: Church Street, Elsham*. Grey literature report by Pre-Construct Geophysics.

Clay, C, 2010, *Archaeological Watching Brief Report: 24 Church Street, Elsham, North Lincs*. Grey literature report by Allen Archaeology Ltd ref 2010006

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Ordnance Survey, 2015, *Ancholme Valley: Barton-upon-Humber, Brigg, Scunthorpe & Kirton in Lindsey Explorer Series map 281 1:25,000 edition*, The Ordnance Survey, Southampton

Savage, RD, 2023, Land To Rear Of The Black Swan Inn, Wetwang, East Riding Of Yorkshire: Specification For A Scheme Of Archaeological Evaluation. Working Document By PCAS Archaeology Ltd.

Serrano, L, 2020, *Archaeological Evaluation Report: Trial Trenching on Land Off Church Street, Elsham, North Lincolnshire*. Grey literature report by Allen Archaeology Ltd. Ref 2020083

Trott, K, 2009, *Archaeological Watching Brief Report: 16 Church Street, Elsham, North Lincs*. Grey literature report by Allen Archaeology Ltd ref 2016161

United Kingdom Institute for Conservation, 1990 *Guidelines for the preparation of Excavation Archives for long–term storage*

Watkinson, D. And Neal, V., 1998 *First Aid for Finds*

https://www.bgs.ac.uk/map-viewers/bgs-geology-viewer/

https://www.elshamhall.co.uk/visit-gardens-park

http://list.historicengland.org.uk/mapsearch.aspx

https://apps.northlincs.gov.uk/application/pa-2023-1146

Land south of Church Street, Elsham, North Lincolnshire, DN20 0RQ

Data Management Plan

NGR: TA 03487 12448
Planning Authority: North Lincolnshire Council
Planning ref: PA/2023/1146
PCAS Job No.: 2852
PCAS Site Code: ECSX 23
NLM sitecode: ELCB

Prepared by
A. Lane

For
Keystone Architecture Ltd.

November 2023

PCAS Archaeology Ltd
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Saxilby
Lincoln
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Tel. (01522) 703 800
e-mail: info@pcas-archaeology.co.uk

Project Manager	Leigh Brocklehurst
Project Name	Land south of Church Street, Elsham, DN20 0RQ
PCAS Job Number	2852
Site Code	ECSX 23
Author (s)	Alison Lane
Date:	November 2023
Project Stages covered	Fieldwork and Post-Excavation
Status	Pre-commencement
File Name/Location	2852 Land south of Church Street, Elsham DMP / Stored in the Project Specifications file on the PCAS server.

Data Collection/Creation

Data to be Collected/Created

Paper recording on standard PCAS Archaeology Ltd recording sheets forms the basis for the site archive. Drawings will be created by hand using permatrace drawing film, using a suitable pencil (6H Staedler Mars Lumograph are issued by the company). The paper archive will be digitised upon completion of project as a context summary and associated drawings. In addition to the physical archive, the digital archive will include GIS data, site photography, and databases.

The documentary archive will consist of:
Text: Various Word Documents; including Written Scheme of Investigation, Assessment Reports, Specialist Reports, Full Excavation Report(s). This will also include context sheets, registers (context, drawing, photograph), and site diaries. Additional documents may include (where necessary) human remains registers and recording sheets, small finds register, masonry sheets, timber recording sheets.
Databases: These will include context databases, finds lists, GIS database, etc. All data generated will be held on the PCAS Archaeology Ltd servers and will be stored within its own project file on the server.
Images: Hard copy permatrace drawings, colour slides, digital images; to include site photography, scanned permatrace drawings, and site plans produced for the report.

Data formats used are standardised and openly documented, ensuring that data is shareable.

Expected Data to be used		
Type	**Format**	**Estimated Volume**
Spreadsheets	Excel (.xlsx). To be deposited in preservation format (.csv)	Up to 10 objects (less than 2MB total) (Context Register, Finds and Samples Register, Drawing Register, Specialist Finds Tables)
Text/ Documents	Word (.docx) PDF (.pdf/a)	Up to 25 objects (less than 100MB total) (Project Brief, Written Scheme of Investigation, Assessment Report, Final Grey Literature Reports, Specialist Reports)
Vector Graphics	CorelDraw (.svg) QGIS (.shp)	Site Plans (average size 5MB), Report Images (averages size 2MB)
Images	Intended deposition format (.tiff / .jpg)	Archive shots - Between 100 and 150 (average size 5MB)

	GIS	ESRI Shapegile (.shp & .shx & .dbf, plus associated files)	Up to 20 overall GIS files (less than 20MB
How Data will be Collected/Created	The data will be collected and created according the methodology set out in the Archaeological Mitigation Strategy: Strip, Map and Record excavation and Monitoring and Recording: Land south of Church Street, Elsham, North Lincolnshire, DN20 0RQ (Lane, 2023) (available to all site staff). GIS data will be collected and created according to the PCAS Archaeology Ltd Survey Manual (Version 1 2018). This is available for all site staff, however the data collection, creation and storage is the responsibility of the PCAS appointed surveyor. These standards conform to CIFA Code of Conduct (2019 Revision), Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment and ADS Guidelines for Deposition, Instruments used in the collection of data are calibrated yearly and are routinely checked to ensure they are in full working order. The digital project archive will be stored in a project specific folder on the internal PCAS Archaeology Ltd server. Project folders are to be named following established organisation procedures (Job Number and Site Name). All files included as part of this project archive will include the organisational identifier (job number - 2852), the Site Name (Land south of Church Street, Elsham), the file descriptor (e.g. WSI) and the version number (e.g. V2). All site records and data collected will be reviewed by the Project Officer throughout the project to ensure the data is accurate and secure. Whilst project folders are reviewed internally on a regular basis by the Project Manager to ensure that organisational data management standards are being met.		
Relations	N/A		
Documentation and Metadata			
Metadata	Metadata will be created as listed above to PCAS Archaeology Ltd standards which adheres to ADS guidelines for deposition (see https://archaeologydataservice.ac.uk/advice/guidelinesForDepositors.xhtml).		
Documentation	An archive catalogue documenting both physical and digital archive products will be maintained throughout the project. Site archive documentation will be included alongside the data in order for secondary users to understand and reuse it. This will include documents such as photo registers, context summaries, drawing records. These will include descriptions of the data collected, who collected it and the date of collection.		
Ethical and Legal Compliance			
Data Security Issues	None		
Intellectual Property Rights	All Data created by PCAS Archaeology Ltd employees are the intellectual property rights of PCAS Archaeology Ltd.		
Data Storage			
Storage and Backup	All digital data collected and born during the excavation will be stored and backed-up on the PCAS Archaeology Ltd servers. These are backed-up daily in order to prevent loss of Data. Initial recovery of site Data may be from site to company laptops, however the data will be transferred to the company's server at the earliest opportunity. Prior to it being on the server, the Project Officer will back-up data on laptops through use of external hard drives/memory sticks.		

	PCAS Archaeology Ltd's IT is managed by an external data management provider, who is also responsible for the management and verification of our daily back-ups and who supports access to security copies as needed.
Access and Security	Data will be freely available to all members of the team throughout the project. There are no security issues.
Selection and Preservation	
Preservation Plan	The physical archive, documentary and material, will be transferred to North Lincolnshire Museums as part of an ordered and indexed project archive. The documentary archive will contain any hard copy data reports the repository wish to receive. The archive, including the Data from the project, will be archived with the ADS. Digital photographs born of the project and any other digital content considered suitable for long term storage will be deposited with North Lincolnshire Museums as part of an ordered archive, and with ADS Easy or similar dependant on the size of the final digital archive. A complete set of the digital data does not need to be retained in full. A Selection Strategy has been developed in association with this project, considering the likely contents of the archive and the requirements of North Lincolnshire Museums archaeological archive deposition guidelines (2021). This selection strategy will be under constant review by all stakeholders (project team, project management and intended repository) to determine the final archive for retention and deposition. Advice on the selection strategy can be found in the CIFA's Selection Toolkit for Archaeological Archives 2018.
Data Sharing	
Data Sharing Plan	A copy of the final reports will be supplied to the North Lincolnshire Historic Environment Officer, the North Lincolnshire HER and the landowner / client. A summary of the project will be included on the OASIS Index of Archaeological Investigation and will be updated as the project progresses. A final version of the project reports will be supplied to the Historic Environment Record via OASIS, and any data which they request can also be provided directly. Awareness of the work will be raised through publication, and documentation with the HER, in addition to suitable photos being shared via PCAS' social media platforms.
Data Sharing Restrictions	There are no restrictions on the use of this data after project completion.
Responsibilities and Resources	
Responsibilities	The Project Manager, Leigh Brocklehurst, and the site's Project Officer (tbc) are responsible for ensuring the data management plan is followed. Data capture, metadata production and data quality is the responsibility of the Project Team, overseen by the Project Officer. Storage and backup of data in the filed is the responsibility of the Project Officer. Once data is incorporated into the organisations project server, storage and backup is managed by an external company. Data archiving is undertaken is undertaken by the PCAS Finds and Archives Officer, who is responsible for the transfer of the project archive to the agreed repository.
Resources	Resources required to deliver this project are provided for by the developer.

Land south of Church Street, Elsham, North Lincolnshire, DN20 0RQ

Selection Strategy

NGR:	TA 03487 12448
Planning Authority:	North Lincolnshire Council
Planning app.:	PA/2023/1146
PCAS Job No.:	2852
PCAS Site Code:	ECSX 23
NLM sitecode:	ELCB

Prepared by

A. Lane

For

Keystone Architecture Ltd.

November 2023

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Project details	
Project Manager	Leigh Brocklehurst
Project Name	Land south of Church Street, Elsham, DN20 0RQ
PCAS Job Number	2852
Site Code	ECSX 23
Author (s)	Alison Lane
Date:	November 2023
Project Stages covered	Fieldwork and Post-Excavation
Status	Pre-commencement
File Name/Location	2852 Land south of Church Street, Elsham DMP/Stored in the Project Specifications file on the server.

Stakeholders		Date contacted
Collecting Institution(s):	North Lincolnshire Museums, Rose Nicholson, Heritage Manager	27/11/23
Landowner/Developer:	Keystone Architecture Ltd	
Other:	PCAS Project Finds and Archive Officer (in house); Project Specialists may include: Environmental Services; Prehistoric and Roman pottery specialist; post-Roman ceramics specialist(s), Animal Bone; Human Bone; worked stone; metalwork and metal working debris etc. List and named specialists to be reviewed during fieldwork and post-fieldwork assessment stages of the project.	27/11/23
RESOURCES REQUIRED	PCAS staff time c.30days Specialist staff time to be determined during post-ex phase.	

Context
The archaeological mitigation of the site is informed by a heritage assessment and two phases of evaluation (Field, 2020; Serrano, 2020; Vecchi, 2023). The site lies just off Church Street, Elsham, in the historic core of the village. Elsham lies close to Middlegate Lane, a prehistoric trackway along the chalk escarpment overlooking the east side of the Ancholme valley. Recovered artefacts suggest it was in use since the Mesolithic period, with multiple Bronze Age, Iron Age and Roman monuments along its length. Around the periphery of Elsham scatters of Roman pottery and building materials have suggested the presence of a high status building in the area, but no features dating to this period were found before the evaluation undertaken at the site. Here, several ditches and a possible building platform have been identified with dating recovered indicating they are from the later 4th – early 5th century, the crossover period towards the end of Roman governance of the province. Pottery and animal remains suggest both high status

occupation and occupation in the immediate area. evidence of a freshwater spring running through the site may have made this area attractive for early occupation.

Saxon occupation of Elsham is similarly represented in the archaeological record, scatters of pottery from around the modern village, but again the evaluation recovered pottery dating from the 5th – 8th century indicating domestic occupation in this period in the immediate area.

Three manors and sokeland of another in Elsham are recorded in the Domesday Book, perhaps indicative of a more dispersed or bi-focal settlement pattern in this period. The building of the Church of All Saints in the 12th century on the plateau just north of the site would have established a focal point in the village, although the flatter ground to the south and east may have also been attractive for easier building.

There are documentary records of a hospital turned priory in Elsham, the location of which has yet to be determined. It had been postulated it lay to the south of the church, in the area of the site, with a series of burials recorded to the east interpreted as evidence of this, however the site of what is now Elsham Hall has also been proposed as a possibility. The evaluation of the current site recorded little evidence of activity from the 12th – 16th centuries, although some undated features may of course date to this period. Certainly some post-medieval – early modern pits and ditches were recorded within the site.

The archaeological mitigation strategy combines strip, map and record excavation areas targeted on the areas of the most significant development impacts (footprints of the new buildings and associated areas of attenuation tanks) with monitoring of all other development groundworks.

The aim of the combined archaeological mitigation is to better understand the evolution and development of activity and occupation in Elsham, and to preserve by record the buried archaeological remains that would otherwise be destroyed by the development groundworks.

The objective is to characterise and date the encountered remains, providing clarification on the chronology of activity at the site. The information gathered during this project will add to the understanding of early occupation and activity along Middlegate Lane and in Elsham.

This work has the potential to contribute to local and national research as outlined in the East Midlands Historic Environment Research Framework (Knight et al, 2012), particularly those of the Romano-British, Early and High Medieval periods which relate to the chronology and evolution, layout and character of the early settlement at Elsham as indicted by features revealed in the evaluation.

The North Lincolnshire Historic Environment Officer has recommended the elements of the mitigation strategy. The designed mitigation strategy is subject to the approval of the Historic Environment Officer.

The Heritage Manager at North Lincolnshire Museums has been contacted regarding this project and made aware of the staged intervention and proposed deposition of the combined project archive according to the Guidelines for deposition of Archaeological Archive with North Lincolnshire Museums (April, 2021).

The PCAS Finds and Archiving Officer has been consulted in the course of preparing the WSI, this Selection Strategy and the Data Management Plan for this project. They have

consulted with external specialists and selection strategies for the recovered material archive will be discussed and implemented in the post-excavation phase of the project.

Digital Data	
Stakeholders	PCAS Project Manager, PCAS Project Archives Officer, Digital Repository (ADS)
Selection	
Data Management Plan	The project specific Data Management Plan has been prepared and will be submitted as an appendix to the WSI. It includes both analogue and digital data.

Digital data for the archive will be selected by PCAS Finds and Archiving Officer following the completion of all phases of post-fieldwork reporting, once the entire archive from all phases of site work have been completed. The Selection Strategy will follow guidance issued in the Guidelines for deposition of Archaeological Archive with North Lincolnshire Museums (April, 2021). The selected archive for preservation may include:

- GIS databases and digitised plans of the results of the fieldwork;
- Digital images of the fieldwork;
- Excavation and Finds data, including databases, text documents and drawings born during the post-excavation reporting, including context summaries, specialist archives etc.;
- Images, digital photographs, colour slides and drawings both from the phased fieldwork, assessment report and any final report for the project. Any X-ray images resulting from post-excavation specialist assessment and conservation, digital tables and graphs including where appropriate a site matrix;
- Text documents, including copies of the approved WSI, assessment reports, specialist reports.

A review of the archive will be made at the post-excavation assessment reporting stage and again at the post-reporting archive preparation stages of the project.

Digital data will be managed and stored according to PCAS procedures outlines in the Data Management Plan.

Digital data not considered suitable for inclusion in the final project archive may be kept by PCAS Archaeology for business purposes.

Documents	
Stakeholders	PCAS Archaeology Ltd (Project Archives Officer, Project Manager)
Selection	

The Data Management Plan covers both analogue data, and is included as a appendix to the archaeological mitigation strategy.

Selection of documents for the archive will be undertaken by PCAS Archives Officer at the post-excavation stage of the project, as part of the preparation of the archive. The Selection Strategy will follow guidance issued in the Guidelines for deposition of Archaeological Archive with North Lincolnshire Museums (April, 2021). The selected archive is anticipated to include:

- Fieldwork paperwork, including context summaries and recording sheets, photograph registers, drawings registers and A3 sized permatrace sheets with drawings (made using 6H pencils), annotated developers drawings showing archaeological recording or revealed features. Possibly small finds registers;

- Post excavation documents, including copies of the assessment reports and the final analysis report (if considered necessary) with integral specialist reports.

Analogue data not considered suitable for inclusion in the final archive is likely to include any invoices for equipment hire, the risk assessment, copies of the WSI (a digital copy will be included in the archive), unannotated developer drawings, colour slides which have failed. This data may be retained for business purposes; after a final review the discarded documents will be destroyed.

Analogue data will be managed and stored according to PCAS procedures outlines in the Data Management Plan.

Materials – Bulk finds	
Stake Holders	Project Manager, Finds and Archives Officer, Developer – Keystone Architecture Ltd.

Selection Strategy

The WSI identifies the possible artefact types that may be recovered and the potential specialists to be engaged should any of those artefact types be recovered during fieldwork. The evaluation did not identify any artefact type that was likely to be recovered in such large quantities so as to require the design and implementation of a retention/discard policy to be employed during the fieldwork phase.

PCAS policies usually discourage the recovery of the following artefact types:

- Pottery and metalwork of a clearly 20th century date;
- Unstratified and unworked animal bone recovered from modern top- / sub-soil contexts (any worked bone from any context should be returned to PCAS for processing and dispatch to specialist);
- Small quantities of shell (where a significant quantity is recovered the artefacts should be returned to PCAS for further analysis);
- Heat affected stone, unworked stone and unworked flint.

Any bulk finds identified and discarded during the fieldwork phase will be identified and quantified on the context recording sheets.

All other bulk finds will be returned with the project archive to PCAS offices for processing and dispatch to specialists.

Contents of the final project archive for deposition at North Lincolnshire Museums will include bulk finds as per the recommendations of the appointed specialists and with referral to the Guidelines for deposition of Archaeological Archive with North Lincolnshire Museums (April, 2021). Final selection of the bulk finds will take place as part of the preparation of the project archive for deposition, and will be undertaken by PCAS Finds and Archive Officer.

Standards and guidance: Recording will follow standard technological and typological classifications', and will be published within the Project Design. Assessment will follow English Heritage's MoRPHE Project Planning Note 3: Archaeological Excavation (English Heritage 2008) and the CIfA's Standard and Guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials (Institute for Archaeologists 2020).

Materials – Materials from Samples

Stake Holders	PCAS Project Manager, Finds and Archive Officer, Developer – Keystone Architecture Ltd.

Selection

It is anticipated that environmental samples will be taken from dateable, stratified contexts where additional information may provide insight into the character of activity associated with that context. A more intensive sampling strategy from the lower horizons of the enclosure ditch where anaerobic conditions have resulted in good organic preservation is included.

Samples will be assessed at post-excavation collation of the archive, and any considered unsuitable for processing (should sample size be unsuitable, sample considered unnecessary etc.). Deselected samples will be discarded at PCAS Offices.

Selected samples will be processed and analysed by the appointed specialist.

It is anticipated that all material from samples (flots, extracted plant material, animal bones) will be selected for inclusion in the working archive.

Following assessment by the specialist it is probable that unsorted residues will be discarded, but this decision will take place at that stage in consultation with the responsible individuals, and should not be assumed. Flots containing no archaeological material could also be considered for discard following consultation with the relevant individuals but should also not be assumed.

Standards and guidance: Recording will follow standard technological and typological classifications', and will be published within the Project Design. Assessment will follow English Heritage's MoRPHE Project Planning Note 3: Archaeological Excavation (English Heritage 2008) and the CIfA's Standard and Guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials (Institute for Archaeologists 2020).