



PHOENIX CONSULTING
Archaeology Limited

WRITTEN SCHEME OF INVESTIGATION
FOR A PROGRAMME
OF
ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING DURING SOIL STRIPPING

Barton Seagrave Cricket Club
Ground Improvements
Northamptonshire

PC435a

on behalf of:



by:

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For presentation to curatorial authority

28th March 2015

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Phoenix Consulting Archaeology Ltd

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 The commission

- 1.1.1 Phoenix Consulting Archaeology Ltd has been approached by Gough Planning & Development Ltd, on behalf of the Barton Seagrave Cricket Club, to prepare a Written Scheme of Investigation for a programme of archaeological monitoring during ground improvement works (NGR SP 89030 77150). The archaeological works have been requested by the archaeological advisor to the planning authority as the cricket pitch is in an area believed to be of some archaeological interest.
- 1.1.2 This document constitutes the Written Scheme prepared in response to the Council Archaeological Officer's request for archaeological monitoring.

1.2 Reasons and circumstances of the project

- 1.2.1 The Council Archaeological Office consider that archaeological monitoring during earth moving operations is necessary because the cricket pitch is within an area where a Roman road is believed to exist.
- 1.2.2 Due to this archaeological interest, the archaeological office has requested that archaeological monitoring during soil stripping takes place at those times that the development has the capacity to encounter buried archaeological remains. These works have been requested in accordance with government guidance as set out in NPPF (2012).
- 1.2.3 This Written Scheme is submitted to the County Council Archaeological Office for validation prior to conducting a formal programme of archaeological observation and investigation during any operations on site which may disturb or destroy archaeological deposits.

1.3 The site

- 1.3.1 Barton Seagrave Cricket Club occupies a slightly sloping site to the immediate south of the A6003 Barton Road. The modern Castle Way housing estate lies to the west of the site, with pasture fields being to the east. The Latimer Arts College and Barton Seagrave Primary School border to the south.

1.4 Archaeological background

- 1.4.1 The archaeological character of the settlement of Barton Seagrave and its surrounds is well recorded. The earliest archaeology recorded within the vicinity is of Iron Age/Romano-British date, and comprises of settlement evidence which is particularly concentrated to the west of

Polwell Lane. Finds of Iron Age and Roman date have been found in this part of the settlement dating back to the early 1920's, whilst a Roman road is suspected as traversing the area of the cricket pitch.

- 1.4.2 Our understanding of the post-Roman Anglo-Saxon period is far from clear. Within the vicinity of the site there are a number of records of Saxon activity, and it is possible that many of the existing villages of the area had their origins during the Saxon period. The manor of Barton, which was afterwards divided into the manors of Barton Hanred and Barton Seagrave, was held at the time of Edward the Confessor by Burred. He granted it to the Abbey of Peterborough, although it was not listed amongst the abbey lands in the Domesday Survey of 1086.
- 1.4.3 In contrast to the earlier periods, there is much more evidence that the area was settled and exploited in the Medieval period. Occupying overgrown plots to the west of Polwell Lane, beyond the allotment gardens, are the earthwork remains of Barton Seagrave moats, fishponds and a shrunken Medieval village. The significance of this site has led to its inclusion on the National Schedule of Ancient Monuments (SM 13630). The monument includes two moated enclosures linked by a water channel and associated fishponds and further water channels. One of the moats is the location of a prestigious residence, whilst the other appears to have had a more ornamental function.
- 1.4.4 To the north-east of one of the moats lies part of the remains of the shrunken Medieval village of Barton Seagrave where house platforms and enclosures are recorded. During road widening during the 1960's a considerable amount of Medieval pottery and masonry was uncovered just to the north of this area where further house platforms are recorded. The components of the scheduled area form part of a wider settlement which was deserted as the village either shrank or shifted focus further eastwards.
- 1.4.5 To the east of the earthwork moats lies St Botolph's Church which is believed to have early 12th century origins, but with later additions. The chancel, nave and central tower are probably Norman in date, but the south aisle was enlarged in the 19th century and incorporated a number of burials formerly outside of the church. Barton Seagrave Rectory lies nearby which is Listed Grade II*. It is late Medieval in origin, of ironstone construction with ashlar front and a hipped Welsh slated roof.

2.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING

2.1 Aims and Objectives

- 2.1.1 The objective of the archaeological monitoring is to carry out a formal programme of archaeological observation and investigation during any operations on site that may disturb or destroy archaeological deposits or

features of historical interest. The investigations will be carried out with reference to national and local research agendas. They will provide a visual and written record of any features of archaeological interest uncovered during the ground improvement works. This is to be supplemented by a written report.

2.2 Methodology

- 2.2.1 An archaeological monitoring exercise involves the monitoring by an experienced archaeologist of ground disturbance (service trenches, reduction of levels, landscaping, etc.) during development. This involves visits when groundworks are under way, and requires close co-operation and communication between contractor and archaeologist.
- 2.2.2 Monitoring will need to be tailored so that visits take place at those times that the development is perceived to represent an impact on buried archaeological remains. In the event that archaeology is encountered monitoring visits may need to be increased. Conversely, in the absence of archaeology, monitoring visits may be reduced to an intermittent cover.
- 2.2.3 Monitoring will take place when the area of investigation is removed of its soils to the upper-most level of any identified archaeological features by a 360° tracked excavator fitted with an appropriate toothless ditching bucket. This will be done in strips until the area has been opened up. An archaeological presence will be maintained at these times and any archaeology identified planned and appropriately dealt with following a review meeting utilising the methodology detailed below. No machinery will cross stripped areas until they have been given the ‘all-clear’ by the on-site archaeologist.
- 2.2.4 Particular attention will be paid to any evidence which casts light on the history and development of the site and its immediate surrounds. Where appropriate, measured drawings and a photographic record will be undertaken. Drawings will most likely be taken of archaeological features exposed during intrusive ground improvement works. They would be drawn to scale and plotted on copies of scaled site plans.
- 2.2.5 Archival stable black and white print film would be used for any photographs undertaken. Digital photographs will also be taken.
- 2.2.6 All photographs would be numbered and labelled with subjects, orientation, date, recorder and cross referenced to film and negative numbers.
- 2.2.7 If required, documentary research would be undertaken in the County Record Office and the library of relevant secondary sources to inform the recording work and to allow the evidence derived to be set in context.

- 2.2.8 In the event that features are revealed, for which the current recording is considered inadequate, a satisfactory treatment would be agreed in consultation with the curatorial authority and the client.

2.3 Archaeological Excavation (if required)

- 2.3.1 Excavation of archaeological deposits and features will be carried out by hand. Maximum depths of excavation will conform to current Health & Safety regulations. If features are identified then sufficient work should be done to date, characterise and record the remains in accordance with the project objectives.
- 2.3.2 At the start of fieldwork temporary bench marks will be established, to be tied in to an appropriate Ordnance Survey bench mark. All plans and section drawings will be annotated with relative heights derived from these benchmarks. A site grid will be established where required, and all plans will be related to the OS National Grid. Overall site plans will normally be drawn to a scale of 1:100 or 1:50: detailed plans of specific areas or features may be drawn to 1:20 or 1:10. Sections will be drawn at 1:20 or 1:10, depending upon size and complexity.
- 2.3.3 A detailed record of all archaeological contexts will be maintained on *Context Record Sheets*, designed to meet current professional standards. Each context will be individually numbered in a single sequence, and will be described in terms of dimensions, shape, fill type and inclusions, artefact content, samples and interpretation. A register of contexts will be maintained, and context records will be cross-referenced to all other records.
- 2.3.4 All finds relating to the archaeological record of the site will be collected with reference to context and location. Finds of particular significance (small finds) will be recorded three-dimensionally on site. A register will be kept of all finds. Finds processing may take place during or after fieldwork, and will entail cleaning, marking, packaging, quantification and initial classification.
- 2.3.5 Sampling for environmental data will normally be carried out in accordance with current English Heritage guidelines (English Heritage 1999 & 2011). All samples will be recorded on a *Sample Record Sheet*, and a register of samples will be maintained. Specialists will be required to submit copies of the base data from environmental analysis for inclusion in the site archive.
- 2.3.6 Any human remains encountered will be recorded and left *in situ*, unless specific requirements have been made to the contrary. The removal of human remains requires a Ministry of Justice licence, and investigation or removal of remains must be agreed between the archaeological contractor, the client, the CAO and other appropriate authorities.

- 2.3.7 Any finds that are considered to be treasure under the definitions of The Treasure Act 1996 will be treated in accordance with the Act's guidelines, which will include appropriate reporting to the local coroner and Finds Liaison Officer for Northamptonshire, within the timeframe outlined in the Act's provisions.
- 2.3.8 Due concern will be given to the physical security of all archaeological/historical features, deposits, artefacts and records, both on and off site. All reasonable measures will be taken to secure their protection before, during and after investigations.

3.0 MONITORING, REPORTING AND ARCHIVING

3.1 Monitoring

- 3.1.1 The on-site archaeological works will be monitored by the archaeological curatorial authority on behalf of the local planning authority. The Archaeological Officer of the County Council will be invited to make regular site inspections.
- 3.1.2 The aim of the monitoring process is to ensure the use of appropriate methods and standards by the field contractor. It will also ensure adherence to the requirements of this specification.

3.2 Reporting

- 3.2.1 A fully illustrated report summarising the findings of the archaeological monitoring together with any relevant background information, will be presented to the local curatorial authority archaeological officer upon completion of the works. The report will also detail specialist descriptions of any artifacts recovered and an indication of those deposits not disturbed by the investigations.
- 3.2.2 The report will be produced in the archaeological contractor's house style, and will typically include:
- a concise non-technical summary of the results;
 - information relating to the circumstances of the project;
 - background information about the site, including any desk-based studies;
 - a summary of the aims of the project and the methods used;
 - a description of the results, supported by appropriate illustrative material;
 - a conclusion, summarising the results and examining their significance;
 - the contents and location of the archive;

- appendices (copies of record sheets, specialist reports, reference works etc.);
- an SMR/HER summary sheet, if required.

3.2.3 The paper record of the archaeological works will be deposited with the recognised depository for the archaeological material for Northamptonshire¹. The archaeological contractor will ensure they are aware of any Museum's conditions of acceptance which will be adhered to. Information will also be deposited in digital format. After agreement with the landowner, any artifacts recovered from the investigations will be stored with the paper archive.

3.2.4 Copies of the report in paper and digital format will be presented to the client, the Archaeological Office of Northamptonshire County Council and the Historic Environment Record. An additional copy will remain with the archive. It is anticipated that the report will be presented within 8 weeks of leaving the field.

3.2.5 The report will state the location of the archive and will acknowledge the role played by the curatorial authority.

3.2.6 If appropriate the results will be published in a local journal. Details of the work will be entered on the OASIS database at <http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/projects/oasis>.

3.3 Resources and timetable

3.3.1 The project will be under the direction of **Gary Coates** BA MCI/A and/or **Andy Richmond** BA PhD MCI/A FSA.

3.3.2 Suitably qualified staff will be employed to carry out all the above detailed tasks.

3.3.3 No formal timetable for commencement of works is available at the time of writing.

3.3.4 Potential relevant specialists are as follows:

Prehistoric Ceramics	Dr Elaine Morris/ Emily Edwards
Flintwork	Dr Hugo Anderson Whymark
Roman Ceramics:	Ruth Leary
Saxon & Medieval pottery	Paul Blinkhorn/Jane Young
Environmental Archaeology	<i>Environmental Archaeological Consultancy</i>
	James Rackham

If any of the services of the above are to be used their appropriateness will first be checked with the County Archaeological Officer.

¹ We are aware that there is currently no available museum store for the deposition of archives in Northamptonshire. In the interim the archive will be stored at the offices of the field contractor.

3.4 **Other Requirements**

Health & Safety

- 3.4.1 All work will conform to the Phoenix Archaeology's *Health & Safety Manual*, and will be carried out according to the relevant Health and Safety legislation. This includes, in particular, the following regulations (the list is not intended to be exhaustive):
- *Health and Safety at Work 1974*
 - *Construction (Design and Management) Regulations 1994*
 - *The Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1992*
 - *Personal Protective Equipment at Work Regulations 1992*
 - *Work Equipment Regulations 1992*
 - *Manual Handling Operations Regulations 1992*
 - *Workplace (Health, Safety and Welfare) Regulations 1992*
- 3.4.2 A copy of our *Health and Safety Policy* will be supplied if requested. The policy makes particular reference to the FAME (Federation of Archaeological Managers and Employers) Health and Safety Manual. A full Risk Assessment will be carried out prior to the commencement of works.