Tyne and Wear Archaeology Service

Specification for Archaeological Monitoring at Caesars Den Restaurant and Bar, 97 Newcastle Road, South Shields

Planning reference: ST/0218/23/FUL and Appeal Ref: APP/A4520/W/24/3340346

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Introduction

The principles of this specification apply to archaeological fieldwork in Tyne and Wear including evaluation by trial trenching, excavation and archaeological monitoring (watching brief).

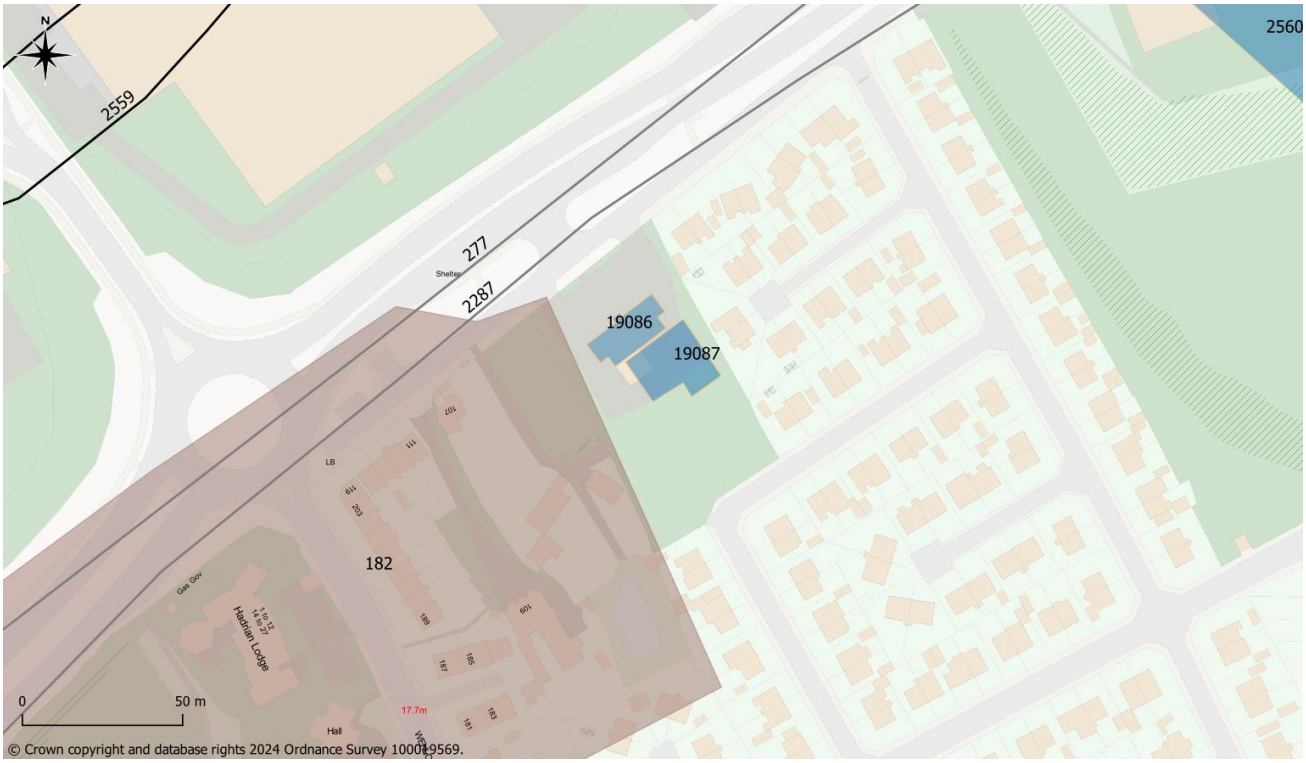
A Written Scheme of Investigation is not required for this work.

All fieldwork should be carried out to the relevant standards and guidance produced by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, and with reference to the wide range of specialist guidance produced by Historic England, in particular guidance on Archaeological Science and Surveying and Recording Heritage. An A-Z of Historic England guidance was published in 2018. Projects likely to involve the potential for environmental sampling and other scientific investigation should be discussed with the Historic England science advisor for the North East. If you are unsure which guidance applies, please contact the Tyne and Wear Archaeology Officer.

In addition, all fieldwork should be carried out in accordance with *Yorkshire, the Humber & the North East: a Regional Statement of Good Practice for Archaeology in the Development Process* (2019, available on request).

This specification is for the archaeological monitoring of groundworks at Caesars Den Restaurant and Bar, 97 Newcastle Road, South Shields located at NZ 35038 64446.

Archaeological monitoring is required to comply with condition 7 of Appeal Decision APP/A4520/W/24/3340346, and in accordance with paragraph 211 of the National Planning Policy Framework.



The site is located on the south side of the route of the Wrekendyke Roman Road (HER277). It shown on historic Ordnance Survey maps as a field in the mid 19th century, adjacent to the probable site of Simonside medieval village (HER182). In the later 19th century and early 20th century it was occupied by St Mary's Vicarage / Simonside House (HER19087). This was replaced by the existing public house the Simonside Arms (HER19086) in 1939.



Previous archaeological work at the site comprises an Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment carried out by Rocket Heritage & Archaeology in 2023 (HER event 5453 report 2023/30) which was companied by photographic recording of the exterior of the Simonside Arms (HER event 5454). The appointed contractor must review this report before commencing.

Aims

The overall aim of the project is to record and advance understanding of the significance of the archaeology to be lost as a result of the development of the site. The project should investigate the extent, character and chronology of the archaeological features present on the site, in order to understand and interpret them with reference to comparable sites.

The project should be carried out with reference to the relevant research agendas of the revised North-East Regional Research Framework for the Historic Environment (NERRF) (2023). Other relevant research frameworks can be found at the Research Frameworks Network. The Roman research agenda of the published NERRF includes key research priority R2: What can archaeology tell us about Roman roads and communication routes in NE England?, and the Medieval research agenda includes key research priorities MD7: How can we better understand communication routes in the north-east of England? and MD17: How can we better understand changing settlement patterns in north-east England?, which may be addressed by this project.

Monitoring by Tyne and Wear Archaeology Service

The fieldwork will be monitored by the Tyne and Wear Archaeology Officer. The Archaeological Contractor must give as much written notice as possible of the start of

fieldwork, and keep the Tyne and Wear Archaeology Officer informed of progress, so that a site visit can be arranged if required.

Health and Safety

The appointed contractor must produce a risk assessment, or RAMS (Risk Assessment and Method Statement) if required by a main contractor, in line with legislative requirements and industry best practice. Health and Safety will always take priority over archaeological requirements. If any elements of the fieldwork cannot be completed due to health and safety issues, this should be clearly stated in the report.

Methodology

The archaeological fieldwork must be undertaken by professional archaeologists with proven experience of undertaking similar projects, and with appropriate skills and experience to undertake work to the highest professional standards.

Removal of topsoil or overburden by machine to the level of archaeological deposits or natural subsoil must be carried out using a toothless ditching bucket, except when ground conditions make a toothed bucket necessary. Machine work must be supervised by an archaeologist. Exposed archaeological deposits and structures must be cleaned by hand.

All ground disturbing work, including site preparation, foundation trenching and service trenching, must be monitored by an archaeologist to observe and record the presence or absence of any archaeological remains. If archaeological remains are identified the construction must stop to allow the excavation and recording of the archaeological remains. All archaeological features within the construction area should be fully excavated. This excepts Hadrian's Wall, where any remains must remain *in situ* and the construction methods varied to accommodate this.

Sampling

All fills and deposits should be assessed for their potential for environmental sampling and scientific dating, and samples taken accordingly. Archaeological deposits may have the potential for the preservation of a wide range of environmental evidence, as discussed in the Historic England guidance, and specialist advice should be sought prior to and during all projects. Consideration should be given to the nature of the site and the potential for preservation by factors such as waterlogging. Scientific dating is particularly important for sites with little or no artefactual evidence.

Recording

The written record of archaeological features, stratigraphy, finds and samples should be undertaken using *pro forma* indices and record sheets, according to industry standards. Drawings (plans, sections and elevations) should be produced at standard scales as appropriate (1:10, 1:20, 1:50, 1:100 etc.). References to cardinal directions should use the standard 16 point system with no further subdivision. All site survey and the site location

should be tied in to the British National Grid, and heights recorded relative to ordnance datum.

Digital photographs should be taken using a high-resolution DSLR camera with sensors exceeding 10 Mega Pixels, producing either TIFF files or RAW files which must be converted to TIFF before archive deposition. The photographs should be recorded in an index recording the image number, subject, any scales used, direction facing, date the picture was taken and who took it.

All photographs should be in focus, with an appropriate use of depth of field; they should be adequately exposed in good natural light, or where necessary well-lit by artificial means (not by camera-triggered electronic flash). The use of a tripod is recommended, particularly for the interior of buildings.

Finds

Bulk finds (pottery, animal bone etc.) should be collected by context. Small finds (metal objects, worked pottery sherds, worked bone etc.) should be recorded and located individually. Finds should be packed and stored to ensure minimal deterioration before their removal from site, according to the guidance in *First Aid for Finds* (D Watkinson and V Neal, third edition 2001, RESCUE/UKIC). A new edition of *First Aid for Finds* is expected in summer 2022.

For sites where large assemblages are anticipated, a selection strategy should be developed prior to fieldwork starting. The Chartered Institute for Archaeologists has produced a Toolkit to assist in the production of a strategy.

Human Remains

Human remains must be treated with dignity and respect by all parties on site including non-archaeological contractors, and in accordance with Historic England advice. Excavation areas should be shielded from public view where necessary. Where human remains are known to be present, an osteoarchaeologist should be involved in the project from the outset.

The excavation of human remains requires a licence from the Ministry of Justice. Where human remains are found unexpectedly, a licence must be obtained before proceeding with excavation. If human remains are known to be present a licence should be obtained in advance of fieldwork.

In Christian burial grounds under Church of England jurisdiction a faculty is required rather than a licence, and reburial is generally carried out following any scientific investigation. The guidance issued by the Advisory Panel on the Archaeology of Burials in England (APABE) regarding best practice should be followed.

Treasure

Any finds which might fall under the Treasure Act 1996 must be reported to the Coroner in whose district they were found within 14 days of discovery and to the regional Finds Liaison Officer.

Post-fieldwork assessment, analysis and reporting

Post-fieldwork assessment, analysis and reporting must be carried out to the relevant standards and guidance produced by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, and with reference to the wide range of specialist guidance produced by Historic England. All site records must be ordered, checked for internal consistency, quantified and indexed. All classes of artefacts and ecofacts must be assessed by suitably qualified and experienced specialists and consideration given to the potential for further analysis.

The report must contain the following sections as a minimum:

1. Non-technical summary
2. Introduction
3. Aims and objectives
4. Methodology
5. Results
6. Conclusions
7. Archive location
8. Appendices, including a copy of this specification
9. Illustrations
10. References and bibliography

The report must be submitted digitally as a pdf and as a bound paper report to the Tyne and Wear HER.

Publication

Significant archaeological sites will require publication in a regional or national journal (such as Archaeologia Aeliana, the Durham Archaeological Journal, the Arbeia Journal, or Industrial Archaeology Review) as appropriate. Other forms of public engagement and dissemination such as site open days, popular publications and interpretation panels may also be required for some sites.

Archive

Following assessment and reporting, the physical archive including all site records and retained artefacts and ecofacts must be prepared in accordance with the CIfA Standard and guidance for the creation, compilation, transfer and deposition of archaeological archives, and with the requirements of the receiving body. For Tyne and Wear these are:

- Great North Museum: Hancock for Hadrian's Wall and the medieval town of Newcastle (contact Keeper of Archaeology andrew.parkin@newcastle.ac.uk).

- Tyne and Wear Archives and Museums for the rest of Tyne and Wear (Gateshead, outer Newcastle, North Tyneside, South Tyneside and Sunderland) (contact Alex Croom at Arbeia Roman Fort 0191 277 1410).

The Great North Museum: Hancock charges a fee for archive deposition as described in the Archaeological Archive Deposition Policy.

The physical archive should be deposited with a second copy of the bound paper report.

The digital archive including all photographs, CAD files etc. must be submitted to the Tyne and Wear HER on an archive quality CD, and archived with the Archaeology Data Service (ADS). The likely cost of archiving with the ADS and their requirements for archived material should be established before tendering for the project. Proof of archiving with the ADS will be required by the Tyne and Wear HER. The Chartered Institute for Archaeologists has produced a Toolkit to help support those managing digital data.

The project must be registered with OASIS in order to signpost the project nationally, and the reference number included in the report.

If you have any queries about this specification, require full website links or notice any broken links, please contact the officer named above.