

SSD06

**Seton Sands, East Lothian:
Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological
Evaluation in advance of development.**

Headland Archaeology Ltd

Client: Bourne Leisure

25 February 2008

1 INTRODUCTION

This Written Scheme of Investigation is presented for an archaeological field evaluation in advance of development by Bourne Leisure at Seton Sands, East Lothian (area shown on attached plan). The evaluation is intended to provide further information concerning the archaeological potential of the area in response to a planning condition placed by East Lothian Council.

The development involves the extensions of an existing caravan park for 58 caravan bases.

The site lies within a larger area of proposed development, which has had some previous work addressing its archaeological potential; namely a desk based assessment and targeted evaluation (Headland Archaeology Client Reports 2006). This previous work concentrated on a Scheduled Ancient Monument: a substantial cropmark enclosure adjacent to Seton Mains that lies some 240 m to the southeast of the proposed development. Another Scheduled cropmark is located immediately to the east of Seton Mains (outside the wider development site). Two other non-scheduled areas of archaeological cropmarks within the wider development site were subject to targeted archaeological evaluation prior to planning application. Immediately outside the site to the south-west lies Seton Collegiate Church (Scheduled and Listed: Category A) and next to this is Seton House within its Inventory-listed Designed Landscape.

This document is a Written Scheme of Investigation for an evaluation of the development area. The scope of this work has been recommended by the East Lothian Council's Heritage Officer. It allows for an archaeological evaluation of a 5% sample of the Phase 1 development by machine trial trenching. The need or otherwise for any further stages of work, including post-excavation works, will be decided on the basis of the results of this evaluation and discussions with the East Lothian Council Heritage Officer. Any such works are not covered by this document.

2 PROJECT DESIGN

2.1 OBJECTIVES

The objectives are:

- to determine the presence or absence of archaeological remains within the development area
- if present to determine the nature, extent and significance of any remains in order to inform an appropriate mitigation strategy

2.2 METHODOLOGY

Field Evaluation

It is proposed that trial trenches will be machine-excavated and will cover 5% of the development area. This sample covers a total of 1423 m², equivalent to approximately 712 m of linear trench using a 2m wide bucket. The trenches will be targeted to provide even coverage of the development area. The location of the trenches will be broadly as indicated on the attached plan, although they may vary slightly because of on-site factors.

An excavator equipped with a flat-bladed ditching bucket will be used to remove topsoil under direct archaeological control. Excavation will continue until either subsoil or significant archaeological deposits are encountered. The resulting surfaces will be hand cleaned where necessary and investigated for archaeological features. A representative sample of any identified features will be investigated by hand and all identified features will be recorded. The stratigraphy of the trench will be recorded in full. Features not suited to excavation in narrow trenches will only be investigated in plan.

The trenches will be backfilled but not resurfaced as part of this contract.

The trial trenching shall be undertaken by two archaeologists over a three day period.

2.3 RECORDING

All recording will be by Headland Archaeology Ltd standard method on *pro forma* record cards. All contexts, small finds and environmental samples will be given unique numbers. Bulk finds will be collected by context. Colour transparency and print photographs will be taken. An overall site plan will be recorded at 1:1250 relative to the National Grid with 1:20 plans of individual features. Sections and elevations will be drawn at 1:10 and levels will be tied into the Ordnance Datum. Small finds will be 3D plotted where appropriate. All recording will be undertaken

2.4 MONITORING

Access will be afforded to representatives from East Lothian Council to monitor the progress of the works. Any significant discoveries or unexpected conditions shall be communicated immediately to the client and East Lothian Council.

It is proposed to hold a site meeting with East Lothian Heritage Officer toward the end of the trenching in order to discuss whether any further work is appropriate.

2.5 SAMPLES AND ARTEFACTS

Archaeological deposits will be sampled systematically in accordance with Headland Archaeology Ltd standard environmental sampling practice. Bulk samples, a minimum of 10 litres but up to 30 litres if possible, will be taken for wet sieving and flotation. These will be

processed and assessed as part of the contract. Bulk samples will be taken from any waterlogged deposits present for assessment of organic remains.

2.6 REPORTING AND ARCHIVE

The results of the investigation will be presented in a report within one month of the completion of fieldwork. It will conform to ELCAS reporting requirements. The results can be supplied to East Lothian Council in a digital format suitable for inclusion in their database.

The complete project archive will be deposited with the National Monuments Record of Scotland (NMRS) within six months of the completion of the project. A summary report will be prepared for submission to *Discovery & Excavation in Scotland* and the online OASIS database.

Any artefacts from the site will be declared for Treasure Trove procedures within 6 months of the completion of fieldwork. A copy of the site archive will be kept with the finds.

2.7 PROJECT TEAM

The fieldwork will be managed for Headland Archaeology by Simon Stronach and supervised on-site by a suitably qualified Project Officer.

Headland Archaeology Ltd is a Registered Archaeological Organisation of the *Institute of Field Archaeologists* and abides by its Codes of Conduct. The company has all the necessary technical and personnel resources for the satisfactory completion of the investigation.

2.8 ACCESS & SERVICES

This Written Scheme of Investigation is submitted on the understanding that there will be unhindered access (including machine-access) to all areas of the site and no livestock will be present in the area. The client or his agents will also provide a plan of any services within the proposed development area.

2.9 INSURANCE

Headland Archaeology Ltd is fully indemnified and all necessary insurances can be presented on request.

2.10 HEALTH & SAFETY

All of Headland's work is undertaken in accordance with current H&S legislation. A risk assessment will be prepared prior to the commencement of fieldwork.