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WRITTEN SCHEME OF INVESTIGATION for ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING AND RECORDING

ON LAND AT BACKGATE, COWBIT, LINCOLNSHIRE

Planning Application No: H01-0776-14
Grid Ref: TF 2650 1785
Accession No: LCNCC: 2016.154

PREPARED FOR
Ashwood Homes

SEPTEMBER 2016



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1 SUMMARY

1.1 *A programme of archaeological monitoring and recording is required during development groundwork on land at Backgate, Cowbit, Lincolnshire.*

1.2 *The site lies in an area of known archaeological significance, close to the historic core of Cowbit and in an area where archaeological remains of late Iron Age and Roman date have been identified. Previous investigations revealed Iron Age-Roman remains at the southwestern and northeastern corners of the site.*

1.3 *The investigation will involve monitoring and recording of development groundwork in two areas, at Plots 1-3 and 34-37. Deposits exposed will be recorded in writing, graphically and photographically.*

1.4 *On completion of the fieldwork a report will be prepared detailing the results of the investigation. The report will consist of a narrative supported by illustrations and photographs.*

2 INTRODUCTION

2.1 This document comprises a written scheme of investigation for archaeological monitoring and recording of development on land off Backgate, Cowbit, Lincolnshire.

2.2 This document contains the following parts:

2.2.1 Overview.

2.2.2 Stages of work and methodologies.

2.2.3 List of specialists.

2.2.4 Programme of works and staffing structure of the project

3 SITE LOCATION

3.1 Cowbit is situated 5km southeast of Spalding in the administrative district of South Holland, Lincolnshire.

3.2 The development site is located 0.5km southeast of the village centre, as defined by the parish church of St. Mary, on the west side of Backgate, centred on National Grid Reference TF 2650 1785.

4 PLANNING BACKGROUND

4.1 Planning permission (Ref: H01-0776-14) for residential development has been granted by South Holland District Council with a condition for archaeological investigation. The Lincolnshire County Council Historic Environment advisor on behalf of the Local Planning Authority has advised that a scheme of archaeological monitoring and recording is required during development work, and has prepared a brief of requirements. Specifically, monitoring will be required on Plots 1-3 and 34-

37.

5 SOILS AND TOPOGRAPHY

5.1 The site lies at a height of *c*. 3m OD. The landscape is generally level but some very low undulations indicating the lines of former creek systems are visible in the general area (Hayes and Lane 1992, fig. 107). Local soils are of the Stockwith Series, silty over clayey calcareous alluvial gley soils. (Robson 1991, 28). These soils are developed on a sequence of freshwater and marine alluvium and peat (Shennan and Alderton 1994, 268).

6 ARCHAEOLOGICAL OVERVIEW

6.1 Cowbit village developed during the 13th century along the New Fendyke, now Stone Gate. The church of St Mary which dates from c. 1400 is likely to mark the centre of the historic village and is located approximately 0.5km to the northwest of the development site.

6.2 This area of the Fenland has been examined during two major archaeological surveys, those undertaken by Hallam as part of a study of the Roman Fenland (Hallam 1970) and more recently by Hayes and Lane (1992) as part of the Fenland Survey. Therefore, a well-defined picture of the changing settlement patterns, environmental change and local topography has been established.

6.3 Cowbit parish is located at the junction of the silty clays of Deeping Fen and the so called Wash silts. It lies on the wide levees of a prehistoric course of the river Welland. During the Late Saxon period the course of the river was canalised to pass through the gravel island of Crowland.

6.4 The western part of the parish lies in Cowbit Wash, an area of Washland formed during deliberate repositioning of the river Welland in the mid 17th century. Numerous Iron Age and Roman pottery scatters were found in the Wash during the Fenland Survey. Roman settlements and salterns are known to the southeast of the development site (Hayes and Lane 1992, fig. 107).

6.5 A number of archaeological investigations in the vicinity have revealed evidence of Iron Age, Roman, medieval and post-medieval remains. Various investigations on land to the north of the development site identified Roman settlement evidence (Rayner 2003) and recovered pottery dating to the Roman, medieval and post-medieval periods (Malone 2002).

6.6 Previous investigations at the site identified remains of Iron Age to Roman, medieval and post-medieval date. The Iron Age-Roman deposits were in two localised foci in the northeast and southwestern parts of the site. These remains related to domestic or agricultural use associated with nearby settlement. Medieval and post-medieval deposits included features which probably formed part of a wider system of land division comprising closely spaced west to east aligned ditches (Mellor and Trimble 2011).

6.6 To the south of the site archaeological monitoring revealed a sequence of naturally-deposited silts, associated with a roddon and identified evidence for domestic occupation and industrial activity in the immediate vicinity in the late 1st to 2nd centuries AD (Mellor 2009). Investigations along the route of the A1073 (A16) to the east identified a Late Iron Age and Romano-British settlement together with evidence of salt making in the form of briquetage fragments (Peachey, 2011).

7 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

7.1 The aim of the work will be to record and interpret the deposits and any archaeological features exposed during the development groundwork.

7.2 The objectives of the investigation will be to:

- Determine the form and function of the archaeological features encountered;
- Determine the spatial arrangement of the archaeological features encountered;
- As far as practicable, recover dating evidence from the archaeological features, and
- Establish the sequence of the archaeological remains present on the site.

8 SITE OPERATIONS

8.1 General considerations

8.1.1 All work will be undertaken following statutory Health and Safety requirements in operation at the time of the investigation. A Risk Assessment will be prepared.

8.1.2 All work will be carried out in accordance with the *Lincolnshire Archaeological Handbook* (Lincolnshire County Council 2016) and any revisions of such received up to the acceptance of this specification. Additionally, the work will be undertaken in consideration of, and with reference to, the regional research agenda (Knight *et al.* 2012).

8.1.2 The work will be undertaken according to the relevant codes of practise issued by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA), under the management of a Member of the institute (MCIfA). Archaeological Project Services is CIfA registered organisation No. 21.

8.1.3 Any and all artefacts found during the investigation and thought to be 'treasure', as defined by the Treasure Act 1996, will be removed from site to a secure store and promptly reported to the appropriate coroner's office and the Portable Antiquities'/Finds Liaison Officer. The archaeological curator will also be informed.

8.2 Methodology

8.2.1 The archaeological monitoring will be undertaken during the groundworks phase of development, and includes the archaeological monitoring of all phases of soil movement in Plots 1-3 and 34-37.

8.2.2 Stripped areas and trench sections will be observed to identify and record archaeological features that are exposed and to record changes in the geological conditions. The section drawings of the trenches will be recorded at a scale of 1:10. Should features be recorded in plan these will be drawn at a scale of 1:20. Written descriptions detailing the nature of the deposits, features and fills encountered will be compiled on Archaeological Project Services pro-forma record sheets.

8.2.3 Finds recovered will be bagged and labelled for later analysis.

8.2.4 Throughout the investigation a photographic record will be compiled. The photographic record will consist of:

- the site during the investigation to show specific stages of work, and the layout of the archaeology within the area.
- individual features and, where appropriate, their sections.
- groups of features where their relationship is important.

8.2.5 Should human remains be located they will be left *in situ* and only excavated if absolutely necessary. Should removal be required the appropriate Ministry of Justice licence will be obtained before the exhumation of the remains. In addition, the Local Environmental Health Department, coroner and the police will be informed, where appropriate.

9 POST-EXCAVATION

9.1 Stage 1

9.1.1 On completion of site operations, the records and schedules produced during the investigation will be checked and ordered to ensure that they form a uniform sequence forming a level II archive. A stratigraphic matrix of the archaeological deposits and features present on the site will be prepared. All photographic material will be catalogued and labelled, the labelling referring to schedules identifying the subject/s photographed.

9.1.2 All finds recovered during the fieldwork will be washed, marked and packaged according to the deposit from which they were recovered. Any finds requiring specialist treatment and conservation will be sent to the Conservation Laboratory at Lincoln.

9.2 Stage 2

9.2.1 Detailed examination of the stratigraphic matrix to enable the determination of the various phases of activity on the site.

9.2.2 Finds will be sent to specialists for identification and dating.

9.3 Stage 3

9.3.1 On completion of stage 2, a report detailing the findings of the investigation will be prepared.

9.3.2 This will consist of:

9.3.2.1 A non-technical summary of the results of the investigation.

9.3.2.2 A description of the archaeological setting of the investigation.

9.3.2.3 Description of the topography of the site.

9.3.2.4 Description of the methodologies used during the investigation.

9.3.2.5 A text describing the findings of the investigation.

9.3.2.6 A consideration of the local, regional and national context of the investigation findings.

9.3.2.7 Plans of the archaeological features exposed. If a sequence of archaeological deposits is encountered, separate plans for each phase will be produced.

9.3.2.8 Sections of the trenches and archaeological features.

9.3.2.9 Interpretation of the archaeological features exposed, and their chronology and setting within the surrounding landscape.

9.3.2.10 Specialist reports on the finds from the site.

9.3.2.11 Appropriate photographs of the site and specific archaeological features.

10 REPORT DEPOSITION

10.1 Copies of the report will be sent to: the client and to Lincolnshire County Council Historic Environment Record.

11 ARCHIVE

11.1 The documentation and records generated during the investigation will be sorted and ordered into format acceptable to The Collection, Lincoln. This will be

undertaken following the requirements of the document titled *Conditions for the Acceptance of Project Archives* for long-term storage and curation.

11.2 The documentation and records generated during the investigation will be sorted and ordered into the format acceptable to The Collection, Lincoln. This will be undertaken following the requirements of the document titled *Conditions for the Acceptance of Project Archives* for long-term storage and curation. Site code: COBE16; Accession No: 2016.154; Deposition date: December 2017.

12 PUBLICATION

12.1 Details of the investigation will be input to the Online Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations (OASIS).

12.2 If appropriate, notes on the findings will be submitted to the appropriate national journals: *Britannia* for discoveries of Roman date, and *Medieval Archaeology* for findings of medieval or later date. In addition, a note will be submitted to the local journal, *Lincolnshire History and Archaeology*.

13 CURATORIAL RESPONSIBILITY

13.1 Curatorial responsibility for the archaeological work undertaken on the site lies with the Historic Environment Service, Lincolnshire County Council. They will be given 10 days written notice of the commencement of the project.

14 VARIATIONS AND CONTINGENCIES

14.1 Variations to the proposed scheme of works will only be made following written confirmation of acceptance from the archaeological curator.

14.2 In the event of the discovery of any unexpected remains of archaeological importance, or of any changed circumstances, it is the responsibility of the archaeological contractor to inform the archaeological curator.

14.3 Where important archaeological remains are discovered and deemed to merit further investigation additional resources may be required to provide an appropriate level of investigation, recording and analysis.

14.4 Any contingency requirement for additional fieldwork or post-excavation analysis outside the scope of the proposed scheme of works will only be activated following full consultation with the archaeological curator and the client.

15 PROGRAMME OF WORKS AND STAFFING LEVELS

15.1 The investigation will be integrated with the programme of construction and is dependent on the developers' work programme, and also on the quantity and complexity of archaeological remains encountered. It is therefore not possible to specify the person-hours for the archaeological site. Post-excavation work is likewise dependent on the quantity and complexity of archaeological remains encountered.

15.2 An archaeological supervisor with experience of investigations of this type will undertake the work.

15.3 Post-excavation analysis and report production will be undertaken by the archaeological supervisor, or a post-excavation analyst as appropriate, with assistance from a finds supervisor, illustrator and external specialists.

16 SPECIALISTS TO BE USED DURING THE PROJECT

16.1 The following organisations/persons will, in principle and if necessary, be used as subcontractors to provide the relevant specialist work and reports in respect of any objects or material recovered during the investigation that require their expert knowledge and input. Engagement of any particular specialist subcontractor is also dependent on their availability and ability to meet programming requirements.

Task	Body to be undertaking the work
Conservation	Conservation Laboratory, Lincoln
Pottery Analysis	Prehistoric – A Beeby, APS Roman – A Beeby, APS Post-Roman -A Beeby, APS
Non-pottery Artefacts	J Cowgill, Independent Specialist/G Taylor, APS
Animal Bones	P Cope-Faulkner, APS
Environmental Analysis	J Rackham, Independent Specialist
Human Remains Analysis	Dr R Gowland, Independent Specialist

17 INSURANCES

17.1 Archaeological Project Services, as part of the Heritage Trust of Lincolnshire, maintains Employers Liability Insurance of £10,000,000, together with Public and Products Liability insurances, each with indemnity of £5,000,000. Copies of insurance documentation can be supplied on request.

18 COPYRIGHT

18.1 Archaeological Project Services shall retain full copyright of any commissioned reports under the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988 with all rights reserved; excepting that it hereby provides an exclusive licence to the client for the use of such documents by the client in all matters directly relating to the project as described in the Project Specification.

18.2 Licence will also be given to the archaeological curators to use the documentary archive for educational, public and research purposes.

18.3 In the case of non-satisfactory settlement of account then copyright will remain fully

and exclusively with Archaeological Project Services. In these circumstances it will be an infringement under the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988 for the client to pass any report, partial report, or copy of same, to any third party. Reports submitted in good faith by Archaeological Project Services to any Planning Authority or archaeological curator will be removed from said planning Authority and/or archaeological curator. The Planning Authority and/or archaeological curator will be notified by Archaeological Project Services that the use of any such information previously supplied constitutes an infringement under the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988 and may result in legal action.

18.4 The author of any report or specialist contribution to a report shall retain intellectual copyright of their work and may make use of their work for educational or research purposes or for further publication.

19 BIBLIOGRAPHY

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Specification: Version 1, 22-09-2016



Notes

1. No Dimensions are to be scaled from this drawing.
2. Contractors must verify all figured dimensions at site before commencing any work or making any Shop draings.
3. This drawing is the sole copyright of Savills and no part may be reproduced without the written consent of the above.
4. Site Location Plans are prepared from the Ordnance Survey Map with the sanction of the Controller of H.M. Stationary Office. Crown Copyright Reserved.
5. Boxed text denotes proposed work.

No.	Revisions	By	Date

Plot No.	House type	No. of Beds	No. of Parking spaces
1	C	3	2
2	B	2	2
3	B	2	2
4	B	2	2
5	A	1	1
6	A	1	1
7	B	2	1
8	B	2	1
9	B	2	1
10	B	2	1
11	C	3	1
12	D	3	2
13	D	3	2
14	D	3	2
15	D	3	2
16	D	3	2
17	D	3	2
18	F	4	2
19	E	3	2
20	F	4	2
21	C1	3	2
22	B	2	2
23	B	2	2
24	B	2	2
25	C1	3	2
26	G	2	2
27	E	3	2
28	E	3	2
29	F	4	2
30	C2	3	2
31	C2	3	2
32	E	3	2
33	E	3	2
34	E	3	2
35	C2	3	2
36	C2	3	2
37	F	4	2

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Client
Ashley King (Developments) Ltd

Job
Land west off Backgate
Cowbit
Lincolnshire

Drawing Title
Proposed site layout plan

Scale	Date
1:500 @A1	August 2014
Drawn By: JR	Approved By: AH

Drawing No.	Rev.	Job No.
229 / 564 / 002		CAUD 229564