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WRITTEN SCHEME OF INVESTIGATION FOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING AND RECORDING AT 22 BACKGATE COWBIT LINCOLNSHIRE



Planning Application No: H01-0292-19
Grid Ref: TF 26646 17807
Accession No: LCNCC:2020.151

PREPARED FOR
AC BUILDING (PETERBOROUGH) LTD
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OCTOBER 2020

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REGISTERED ORGANISATION CIfA
Chartered Institute for Archaeologists
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1 SUMMARY

1.1 *A programme of archaeological monitoring and recording is required during development groundwork on land at 22 Backgate, Cowbit, Lincolnshire.*

1.2 *The site is archaeologically sensitive, located within an area dominated by Iron Age and Roman settlement and salt-making centres. The village was established in the medieval period and founded on a fen bank, constructed to reclaim the low-lying fen. The course of the fen bank is fossilised in Moulton Chapel Road to the north of the proposed development.*

1.3 *The investigation will involve monitoring of development groundwork. 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 specification for archaeological monitoring and recording of development on land at 22 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 located 5km southeast of Spalding and 8km northeast of Crowland in the administrative district of South Holland, Lincolnshire. The site is located 700m southeast of the centre of the village as defined by the parish church of St Mary at National Grid Reference TF 26646 17807.

4 PLANNING BACKGROUND

4.1 A planning application (H01- 0292-19) has been submitted and approved for the demolition of an existing dwelling and workshop and the erection of up to five detached dwellings including hardstanding and access from backgate, Cowbit, Lincolnshire. Permission is subject to a condition requiring the implementation of an archaeological programme of works fully detailed in a Written Scheme of Investigation, during groundworks associated with the development.

5 SOILS AND TOPOGRAPHY

5.1 Situated on the south east side of Backgate the site lies at a height of *c.* 4m AOD on generally level ground. Local soils are of the Agney Series, typically calcareous alluvial gley soils (Robson 1990, 9). These overlie a drift geology of marine alluvium which in turn seals a solid geology of Jurassic Oxford Clay (BGS 1992).

6 ARCHAEOLOGICAL OVERVIEW

6.1 Cowbit is located in an area of known archaeological remains dating from the Iron Age to the present day. Evidence for Middle to Late Iron Age settlement and salt-making has been found to the north, west and south of the site. The salt-making sites appear to have been established on levees of the Welland to the north and northwest of the site (Hayes and Lane 1992, 177).

6.2 The later Iron Age settlement and industrial practices continued to develop into the Roman period with settlement identified to the east, along the route of the A16 (Peachey 2011), and to the south where it was dated to the 1st to 2nd century (Mellor 2009). The densest concentration of Roman settlement and associated agricultural activities appear to be focussed along Backgate (Malone 2002; Rayner 2003; Mellor and Trimble 2011).

6.3 Cowbit is first mentioned in the mid-13th century. Referred to as *Coubith* and *Coubiht*, the name is derived from the Old English and means 'the cow's (*cū*) bend (*byht*)', the bend referring to a change in course of the Welland (Cameron 1998, 34). The village sits astride the New Fendyke (now marked by Moulton Chapel Road), constructed to reclaim the low-lying fen and in existence by the late-12th century (Hallam 1965, 24).

6.4 The only extant remains of the medieval period is the church of St Mary which was constructed by Prior de Moulton of Spalding Abbey about 1400, although much of the present fabric is later in date (Pevsner and Harris 1989).

6.5 Previous archaeological evaluation to the north of the site on the south side of Moulton Chapel Road revealed a sequence of natural, undated, Roman and medieval deposits. A Roman pit and ditch were the earliest dated features from the site and contribute to the known settlement in the vicinity. A tree throw was dated to the medieval period, though two ditches and another tree throw remain undated due to a lack of dateable artefacts. The largest category of finds retrieved from the evaluation comprise pottery of 2nd to 3rd century date with a few sherds of medieval pottery also retrieved.

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.

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).

8.1.3 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.

8.1.4 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.

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 York Archaeological Trust.

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:

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

- A description of the archaeological setting of the investigation.
- Description of the topography of the site.
- Description of the methodologies used during the investigation.
- A text describing the findings of the investigation.
- A consideration of the local, regional and national context of the investigation findings.
- Plans of the archaeological features exposed. If a sequence of archaeological deposits is encountered, separate plans for each phase will be produced.
- Sections of the trenches and archaeological features.
- Interpretation of the archaeological features exposed, and their chronology and setting within the surrounding landscape.
- Specialist reports on the finds from the site.
- 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. The archive will be deposited by August 2020.

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 Planning Archaeologist, Lincolnshire County Council. They will be given 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	York Archaeological Trust

Pottery Analysis	Roman – I Rowlandson, independent specialist Post-Roman -A Irving, independent specialist
Non-pottery Artefacts	J Cowgill/G Taylor, Independent Specialists
Metalurgical Analysis	A. Frasca
Animal Bones	P Cope-Faulkner, APS
Environmental Analysis	J Rackham, Independent Specialist
Human Remains Analysis	Dr R Kendall, 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.

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