

**Specification for Archaeological Monitoring
on Land at the Rear of 83, Backgate,
Cowbit, Lincolnshire.**

Prepared for Mr. & Mrs. Blair

National Grid Reference: TF 2650 1731

Site Code: BGCO16

Accession No: LCNCC: 2016.201

Planning reference: H01-0748-15

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Non-technical summary

- S1 *A scheme of works comprising archaeological monitoring and recording is required during the groundworks pertaining to the construction of a new residential dwelling on land to the rear of 83, Backgate, Cowbit, Lincolnshire.*
- S2 *The development site is situated within an archaeologically sensitive area and within an area of high archaeological potential. There is much evidence for Iron Age and Roman, medieval and post-medieval settlement activity in the vicinity of this development site. It is considered highly likely that archaeological features, deposits, structures and finds associated with this multi-period period settlement activity may be encountered on this site. The specific objectives of this archaeological will therefore be to record any archaeological features, deposits, structures or finds associated with this multi-period settlement activity.*
- S3 *The archaeological monitoring will be undertaken during the groundworks stage of development, which will comprise the mechanical excavation of the foundations and services for the new residential dwelling. Any archaeological features, structures and/or deposits will be recorded in writing, graphically and photographically.*
- S3 *On the completion of the monitoring, a report will be produced detailing the results of the archaeological investigation. The report will consist of a narrative supported by illustrations and photographs.*

1. Site location and description [Figures 1 and 2]

- 1.1 The development site is situated on land to the rear of an existing residential dwelling at 83, Backgate, which is in turn located off the western frontage of Backgate at National Grid Reference TF 2650 1731 and at a height of approximately 2mAOD. The village of Cowbit is located approximately 5km to the south of Spalding and some 10km to the north east of the town of Market Deeping. The village of Cowbit is within the modern civil parish of the same name, and in the administrative district of South Holland, county of Lincolnshire.
- 1.2 The development site is located in a flat and low-lying area within the Lincolnshire Fens. The development site is situated on deep calcareous clayey and silty soils of the Wallasea 2 Series, which have developed on marine alluvial deposits known as Terrington Beds. These deposits in turn overlie the solid geology, which comprises Oxford Clays and Kellaway Beds of the Upper Jurassic.

2. Planning background [Figure 3]

- 2.1 This document comprises a Specification or a written scheme of works for archaeological monitoring and recording which is to be maintained during the groundworks pertaining to the construction of a new residential dwelling on land to the rear of 83, Backgate, Cowbit, Lincolnshire (Planning reference: H01-0748-15).

3. Historical and Archaeological Background

- 3.1 Background research sources were consulted at the Lincolnshire Archives, the Lincoln Local Studies Library and the Lincolnshire County Council Historic Environment Record (HER). A search of the Lincolnshire HER was conducted within a 0.5km radius that was centred on the development site.
- 3.2 Throughout early prehistory, the area around Cowbit probably consisted of coastal reed swamps and a salt marsh environment through which flowed creeks and the prehistoric River Welland, and was probably uninhabited. There is thus little evidence for earlier

prehistoric activity in the Cowbit area, as that former contemporary land surface is now buried beneath substantial and deep later alluvial deposits.

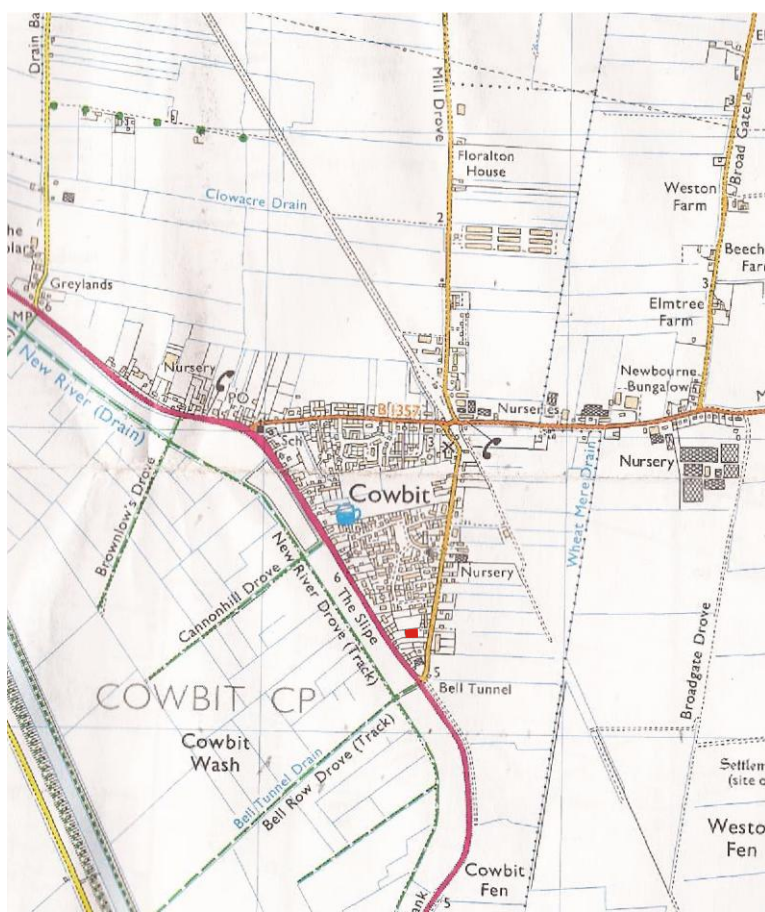


Figure 1: Site location at scale 1:12,500. The site is shown in red. (O.S. copyright licence number 100048723)

- 3.3 Throughout early prehistory, the area around Cowbit probably consisted of coastal reed swamps and a salt marsh environment through which flowed creeks and the prehistoric River Welland, and was probably uninhabited. There is thus little evidence for earlier prehistoric activity in the Cowbit area, as that former contemporary land surface is now buried beneath substantial and deep later alluvial deposits.
- 3.4 By the Iron Age, the local environment with ready access to both fresh and salt water with readily available local peat resources for fuel was conducive to the manufacture of salt. Salterns thus flourished on the wide levees of the contemporary River Welland and on other major creeks or roddons.
- 3.5 Iron Age settlement activity in this area is suggested by scatters of contemporary pottery and briquetage and dark or black soilmarks or areas of burning and are sometimes located in close proximity to roddons. This might suggest saltern sites, with which such settlement activity was usually associated. There are a number of known Iron Age settlement sites including salterns or salt making sites within the search area. One of these occurs to the east of Cowbit and was marked by finds of a small quantity of briquetage on a silty roddon (HER 23133).



Figure 2: Site location at an original scale of scale 1:1,250, (not to scale), (extract from Architects plan). The site is shown outlined in red.

- 3.6 An Iron Age saltern site is situated in Cowbit Wash to the south of Cowbit and is marked on the ground by a contemporary artefact scatter (HER 23116). A further Iron Age saltern site has been found to the south-east of this development site and to the south-east of Cowbit (HER 23142). This site produced finds of briquetage and a quern stone fragment. Four sherds of Romano-British pottery were also found on this site (HER 23143).
- 3.7 A further Iron Age saltern site is located to the west of Cowbit (HER 23146). This site was denoted on the ground by finds of contemporary pottery and abundant quantities of briquetage within an area of dark soil stain. The pottery was thought to be mid Iron Age in date.
- 3.8 Other Iron Age settlement activity is also suggested by other scatters of contemporary pottery and other dark soilmarks with close proximity to roddons. This might suggest further saltern sites, with which such settlement activity was usually associated. One of these potential Iron Age settlement sites and salterns are to be found to the south-west of Cowbit at Tyrell's Farm (HER 23131). This site was marked by a diffuse scatter of pottery and animal bones located on a roddon along with areas of dark soilmarks. There are also the cropmarks and soilmarks of vague ditches on aerial photographs at this location.



Figure 3: Block Plan Showing the Proposed Layout of the Proposed Development at an original scale of scale 1:500, (not to scale), (extract from Architects plan).

- 3.9 An Iron Age saltern and settlement site is situated to the north-east of the development site (HER 23135). This was denoted by a scatter of contemporary pottery within a dark soil stain which also produced finds of briquetage. The finds were made to either side of a depression which was aligned from north east-south west. The pottery was thought to be mid Iron Age in date.
- 3.10 A further Iron Age settlement site is located to the east of this development site (HER 23138). This consisted of a scatter of contemporary pottery on a roddon which continued

into a field to the south. A further Iron Age settlement site is situated to the south-east of Cowbit (HER 23144). This site was marked on the ground by a scatter of pottery and animal bone within a darkened soil stained area alongside a silty roddon.

- 3.11 A single sherd of Iron Age pottery was found on a Romano-British site to the south of Cowbit (HER 20319).
- 3.12 During the Roman period, salt production tended to drift eastwards due to encroachment of peat from the south west. Roman salterns were established on the wide levees on former courses of the River Welland utilising the same resources as noted earlier. Roman settlement also tended to congregate around these saltern sites. These sites are similarly denoted by close proximity to roddons, and to areas of dark soilmarks, pottery and briquetage scatters and of saltern hearths typified by areas of intense burning activity and red soil stains and areas of darker soil. One of these contemporary saltern sites occurs to the south-west of Cowbit at Cowbit Wash, around a slight roddon. There is the probable site of a Roman saltern and associated settlement activity at this location (HER 23117). This has been denoted on the ground by abundant finds of briquetage and animal bone as well as pottery and roof tile. At this location, a dark area of soil was also noted which yielded further finds of pottery, roof tile, animal bone and a small fragment of glass. Yet further finds comprising scatters of pottery and animal bone were also found here in 1965 (HER 23117). These finds lie within an area of known soilmarks and cropmarks.
- 3.13 The location of the known Roman settlement sites in the area is also typified by the same factors, i.e. they are denoted by pottery scatters, areas of darker soil or soilmarks, by their close proximity to roddons, and also by domestic surface debris such as building material, animal bone etc. One such settlement site occurs to the north-west of the development site. A scatter of Roman pottery was found here in 1964-5. Other finds from this area have included animal bone, two quern stone fragments and abundant oyster, cockle and mussel shells. Deeper ploughing activity at this location has identified occupation soils and freshly broken sherds of further Roman pottery. This may mark the site of a possible Roman farmstead here (HER 22098). Further evidence for Roman settlement activity is situated to the south-west of Cowbit at Cowbit Wash. Fieldwalking here in 1976 located sherds of Roman pottery. A small group of tiny enclosures of Roman date visible on cropmarks on aerial photographs are also situated at this location (HER 22099).
- 3.14 The site of a Romano-British saltern and settlement site occurs to the east of this development site (HER 23137). This was marked on the ground by abundant finds of briquetage from an area of dark soil stain. Other finds were of domestic pottery. Isolated saltern hearths were denoted by areas of intense finds of briquetage and red soil stains scattered over the site area. Others finds of pottery and animal bone were found in a further dark soil stain nearby indicating settlement on the edge of a large roddon. The site continued into a field to the north. Yet further finds of a pottery scatter on a roddon were also found nearby at this location.
- 3.15 The site of a further Romano-British settlement site is located to the south-east of Cowbit (HER 23145). This site was marked on the ground by a scatter of contemporary pottery and animal bone on a long silty roddon.
- 3.16 Finds of Roman pottery and animal bone have been found to the south-east of this development site within an isolated area of dark soil stain (HER 23140).
- 3.17 In the Roman period, the Welland maintained a similar course to that in the Iron Age, but during the late Saxon period, the River Welland was probably realigned and canalised by the monks of Crowland Abbey to pass through the gravel island on which sits the

settlement of Crowland. This connected the Welland with the River Nene by means of a channel to the south east and thus created a network of fenland waterways.

- 3.18 To the south-west of Cowbit in Cowbit Wash, cropmarks were first noted in 1952 as an area of peaty clay soil with raised silt, peaty and clayey patches. At Cowbit Bell Tunnel nearby, occur the cropmarks of a loose group of enclosures and fields on a grid layout, two with concentric internal enclosures, which are believed to be of Romano-British date. There are also the cropmarks of multiple parallel ditches here, which may be either prehistoric or Roman linear features such as drove roads or the remains of medieval/post-medieval dykes (HER 22081).
- 3.19 The reclamation of the local low-lying fenland probably began in the late 12th century with the construction of the New Fen Dyke around AD1186-9. By AD1205, a second fen dyke – the Goldyke had been constructed to the south. A further early fen dyke was Stone Gate. The Wheat Mere Drain was also constructed as part of this process, and was first documented in the mid 13th century, when it was referred to as *Wykemere Drain*. These features protected the surrounding low lying and reclaimed lands from periodic winter flooding.
- 3.20 The settlement of Cowbit itself was founded in the late 13th century as an outlying hamlet of Spalding along Stone Gate and the New Fen Dyke (HER 23106). Cowbit at that time was a remote part of the parish of Spalding. The earliest documentary reference to Cowbit or *Conbith*, *Conbiht* dates from AD1267. Later medieval documentary references variously detail: *Kinbuth* (c.AD1331), *Conbyth* (AD1332) and *Conbight* (AD1361). Cowbit is derived from *cor* from the Old English 'cow' and *byht* – a bight or bend. Thus it would appear that the place name has a topographical derivation denoting a bend in the River Welland with nearby pasture for cows. Settlements like Cowbit remained small and clustered around higher embanked ground. The lands to the north of the New Fen Dyke were largely arable in the medieval period. This has been evidenced by widespread finds of contemporary pottery as the result of associated manuring activity.
- 3.21 An embankment was also constructed at this time – the Marsh Bank – to the east of the Welland. This was a forerunner of the present Barrier Bank and afforded Cowbit some protection against the waters of the Deeping Fen. The Welland at this time was a sluggish tidal creek prone to silting up and hence periodic flooding. Spalding Priory established a grange in this vicinity soon after AD1294 – Goll Grange or *Grange of Golewilw* (HER 22093). Its location is probably to the east of the Wheat Mere Drain and is marked by two large mounds, which probably represent the main buildings of the grange. Finds of medieval pottery, building material, stone, brick and tile have been found at this location.
- 3.22 The River Welland was repositioned in the mid 17th century. This formed the Cowbit Wash, an area of washland in the western part of the parish. This was created to contain the overflow of the River Welland during periods of flooding. Cowbit Wash is up to 1km wide and lies between the eastern and former medieval course of the Welland and its present course. The Cowbit Wash remained unploughed until the 1950s, but is now under arable cultivation. Initially these lands provided both summer grazing and a hay crop but in winter was still liable to flooding. During the past 30 years this area of the Lincolnshire fens has been the subject of intensive arable farming, which has in turn desiccated the peat and has led to a general lowering of ground levels.
- 3.23 The remains of possible extraction pits of possible post-medieval date for the construction of the nearby river flood defensive bank are situated to the west of Cowbit (HER 20326).

- 3.24 An area of prehistoric activity which is visible as cropmarks on aerial photographs are situated to the east of the development site (HER 20314). These cropmarks denote a possible salting and settlement though undated.
- 3.25 The cropmarks of various undated linear features and undated enclosures are visible as cropmarks on aerial photographs to the south-east of Cowbit (HER 20315). Undated cropmarks including linear features and enclosures near the Wheat Mere Drain to the south-east of Cowbit probably include the lines of former watercourses (HER 20338).
- 3.26 A number of previous archaeological investigations have taken place within the search area. An archaeological watching brief was undertaken during the groundworks for two new residential dwellings and a garage on land adjacent to Highgate House, Backgate to the south-east of this development site in 2009 (HER 25752, ELI1368; Site code: CBHH09). This revealed a sequence of naturally deposited silts associated with a roddon. Small quantities of charcoal within the upper levels of this site indicated archaeological activity in the vicinity during this deposition. This also identified evidence for domestic occupation and industrial activity in the immediate vicinity dated to the 1st-2nd centuries AD. A gully was located which contained evidence of Roman industrial activity including iron smithing slag, hammerscale and fired clay along with sherds of 1st-2nd century AD pottery. Other finds from the watching brief comprised a number of undated archaeological features which included a linear feature, seven archaeological features, occupation deposits, a possible ditch and animal bone. Although these were all undated, they were thought to be contemporary with the identified Roman remains found here. This watching brief also found silt deposits which were associated with episodes of water inundation which persisted during this period. Other finds that comprised features of 16th-18th century date were also identified across the site, including a sub-circular shaped feature and two other features that contained 16th-18th century brick. Some of these features may have been associated with a recently demolished garage.
- 3.27 An archaeological watching brief at Plot 2, Barrier Bank took place in 2010 to the south of this development site (Site code: BGCO09). The archaeological monitoring identified four pits, one of which one yielded four sherds of 10th–12th century pottery, all parts of a single vessel. All four of these pit cuts were encountered during the excavation of the foundations for the new build. The monitored excavation of a service trench did not yield any further finds of features or of pottery. Two of the four pits were intercutting, all were sealed by the topsoil/ploughsoil horizon and were cut into the underlying natural horizon of alluvial silts. All four pits similarly had the same wide and open profiles of steeply sloping sides with flattish bases. Although only one of the pits yielded pottery from the Saxo-Norman to early medieval periods, it is possible that all four pits could be contemporaneous and thus part of the same distinctive cluster or grouping. This grouping may in turn hint at nearby and contemporary settlement activity which pre-dates the founding of the settlement of Cowbit in the late 13th century. The archaeological monitoring also identified a simple deposit sequence of a topsoil/ploughsoil horizon overlying at least two natural horizons of alluvial silts, the product of natural flooding episodes from the nearby River Welland.
- 3.28 A further archaeological watching brief took place on the groundworks pertaining to the construction of a new residential dwelling at Plot 1, Backgate between 2009-2010 also to the south of this development site (HER ELI10967; Site code: BCCO09). Although the foundations for Plot 1 had already been excavated prior to the first site visit, an opportunity was provided to fully record the open foundation trenches. This archaeological recording identified a deposit sequence which comprised a modern topsoil which in turn overlay a deep sequence of natural fluvial alluvial deposition deposits. These were all the product of natural flooding episodes associated with the nearby River Welland. Interspersed within this deposit sequence was a thin horizontal band of peat, which probably represented a short-lived episode of a marshy environment. A single

residual sherd of mid 15th–16th century pottery was recovered from the modern topsoil horizon. The archaeological recording within the build footprint of Plot 1 also identified four pits. These were all sealed by the modern topsoil horizon and were in turn cut into the natural fluvial alluvial deposition deposits. Three of the four pits yielded finds of 20th century pottery and fragments of modern bottle glass; whilst the fourth did not produce any finds. All four pits had thus been cut from a relatively high level and from the finds could be of relatively recent – 19th or 20th century origin. These latter finds could in turn be associated with the post-medieval settlement of Cowbit; other elements of which have been found in the immediate vicinity of this development site. The archaeological monitoring of the excavation of the service trenches and soakaways revealed identical results, the modern topsoil overlying a sequence of two further natural alluvial deposition deposits.

- 3.29 An archaeological evaluation involving the excavation of twelve trenches took place in 2011 on land off Backgate (HER 23686, ELI11956; Site code: COBG11). This identified archaeological remains of the Iron Age, Roman, medieval and post-medieval periods. The Roman deposits related to domestic or agricultural usage and were associated with nearby settlement of 2nd-3rd century AD date. Several Roman ditches and pits were recorded. Finds were made consisting of pottery, animal bone, a triangular loomweight of Iron Age and Roman date along with possible Roman wall plaster. The finds of Roman pottery close to the Backgate frontage was characteristic of high status dining. It was considered that if the wall plaster was Roman, this would indicate that a building of some stature was likely to have been the source of this. At the south-western corner of the site, Roman deposits likely to be associated with a small Roman settlement in the adjacent field to the south were also made. This settlement had first been identified from fieldwalking undertaken here in 2001. The medieval and post-medieval deposits included features which probably formed part of a wider system of land division that comprised closely spaced west-east aligned ditches.
- 3.30 An archaeological watching brief took place in 2006 at 66, Backgate and to the immediate east of this development site on the groundworks associated with a new office extension (HER ELI7398; Site code: COBG06). No archaeological finds, features or deposits were encountered.
- 3.31 In 2002, an archaeological evaluation took place on the reputed site of Goll Grange (Site code: CGG02). Two mounds, which were thought to be the site of the Grange, turned out to be natural landscape features probably formed from upcast generated from the scouring out of the nearby Wheat Mere Drain. The mounds were in turn truncated by post-medieval pits and a posthole and undated ditches. The Fenland Survey suggested that the probable site of Goll Grange was possibly to the east in the adjacent parish of Weston.
- 3.32 In 2008, an archaeological evaluation took place on land at 78, Backgate to the north of this development site (HER ELI9183; Site code: BGC08). A single trench was excavated located adjacent to a newly constructed extension. This extension was located over a backfilled and undated former land drain, which had been deliberately backfilled in the modern era.
- 3.33 In 2016, an archaeological watching brief took place at 55, Backgate on the groundworks for two new residential dwellings (Site code: COBG16). This revealed five ditches and four pits. One of the pits was modern and the remainder were undated. However, four of the ditches shared the orientation of adjacent boundaries and so were probably part of the same post-medieval field system, No finds were recovered from this site.
- 3.34 An archaeological watching brief took place on land at 43, Backgate to the north of this development site between 2014-2015 on the groundworks pertaining to the construction

of a new detached bungalow (Site code: BGCO13). An initial phase of ground reduction and the mechanical excavation of the foundations for the new build identified a deposit sequence which consisted of a topsoil horizon, an undated ploughsoil or buried soil horizon, a natural horizon and in places where the excavations went deepest, an underlying natural horizon of humic peat. One sherd of 13th-14th century pottery and three brick fragments of 14th-15th century date were recovered from the basal peat deposit. It was thus considered that this peat deposit was the product of a period of waterlogging from the medieval period. The overlying natural horizon also included within its make-up small pockets of peat. This natural deposit is interpreted as a possible flood deposit of alluvial silts, representing the product of a past episode of flooding from the nearby River Welland, a deposition interspersed with small areas of temporary waterlogging. The mechanical excavation of two new soakaways and the new service trench also identified the same deposit sequence of the topsoil horizon, an undated ploughsoil or buried soil horizon and the natural horizon.

- 3.35 The largest fieldwork project in the vicinity of the development site was a geophysical survey which took place in 2002 along the line of the proposed A1073 road improvement scheme. The line of this proposed route was to have passed some 250m to the east of the development site. In two fields in this area, the results were inconclusive, revealing several aligned anomalies, which were possibly archaeological in origin. This was followed by trial trenching at various points along the line of this proposal in 2004 (Site code: LNEYSD 03). To the east of Cowbit, this included finds of a number of undated ditches (HER 23900, 23904, 23907); a post-medieval dyke, two post-medieval ditches and a post-medieval pond (HER 23901, 23905-6); two Saxo-Norman ditches and a pit (HER 23902 and a medieval ditch (HER 23903). Trial trenching also took place to the north and north east of the village, which identified six undated ditches and a ditch terminal (HER 23897, 23899) and a modern ditch (HER 23898).
- 3.36 In 2001, a geophysical survey was carried out on land off Curlew Drive (HER ELI1717). This survey identified a few anomalies of probable archaeological nature. Two of these extended the line of anomalies that were noted in a prior such survey undertaken in 2001 to the immediate north. The other two identified anomalies were large and discrete. Agricultural features and areas of modern disturbance were also located.
- 3.37 This prior geophysical survey which took place on a block of land off Backgate in 2001 also included a fieldwalking survey on this site (HER 23686-7, ELI1935-1937; Site code: BGC01). The geophysical surveys identified a number of anomalies which may probably respect buried field ditches and pits possibly of Roman date. The accompanying fieldwalking survey identified a concentration of Roman pottery from the mid 2nd-4th centuries AD that indicated the presence of a small Roman settlement site probably for habitation rather than for industrial use. A slight concentration of medieval finds were also located at the western limits of the survey area. Other finds from this survey comprised a scatter of 11th-15th century pottery and a scatter of post-medieval-modern pottery.
- 3.38 This was followed by an archaeological excavation and archaeological watching brief during a housing development on this site later in 2001 (HER 23867-70, ELI4452-3, Site code: CBG00, CBG01). This watching brief and excavation identified a number of Romano-British archaeological features within the central area of the development site. This concentration appeared to form a nucleated settlement site consisting of ditches, enclosures, buildings, pits and associated industrial activity. This settlement site was located on a slightly elevated bank of silt that were probably levees of a salt marsh creek. Several of the ditches were fed by this creek and may have formed a series of channels associated with salt production. The ditches could also have drainage and/or a boundary function and also for possible refuse disposal. Gullies that formed two enclosures were located within the central part of the site, though no associated internal features were recorded, so a possible agricultural or pastoral function was surmised. Structural standing

building remains and features were also found with postholes and external drip gullies. A large kiln or oven was found in close association with the buildings. Finds of briquetage around the kiln/oven suggested salt production had occurred here. The combined evidence from the site work suggested the site of a small farmstead.

- 3.39 This watching brief and excavation also identified a number of medieval archaeological features dating to the 12th-14th centuries mainly comprising linear boundary or drainage ditches and sub-circular shaped pits. The features and in particular, the pits indicated that this area may have been gardens and/or back plots associated with dwellings fronting onto the River Welland.
- 3.40 This watching brief and excavation also identified a number of post-medieval archaeological features within the south-western portion of the development site. Although there was no evidence for any structural remains, a number of linear ditches were recorded. The ditches had a similar orientation to that of the earlier recorded medieval ditches on the site and may have had a similar function as field or property boundaries. A number of semi-circular shaped pits were also found here. The finds mostly consisted of early-mid medieval pottery along with handmade brick and tile. The absence of any finds later than the 18th century suggested that there was a cessation of activity on the site at that time.
- 3.41 This watching brief and excavation identified a number of undated archaeological features throughout the development area. A number of natural features such as former watercourses and creeks were found. Although no sequential chronological order could be deduced for this undated archaeological features, they tended to fall into two distinctive categories, linear and sub-circular. The linear features, which were interpreted as ditches appeared to have formed field boundaries utilised for drainage; whilst the sub-circular shaped archaeological features probably functioned as pits. These undated features may have had associations with adjacent dated archaeological features. In spite of the lack of dating material from this site, several of these undated archaeological features were truncated by post-medieval remains and so were no later than this period.
- 3.42 Nearby, a geophysical survey and an evaluation took place in 2001-2 on land at Curlew Drive (HER 23686-7, ELI3104, Site Code: CCB02) in advance of a residential development. The identified geophysical anomalies that turned out to be post-medieval drainage ditches. A less well defined area of magnetic enhancement was found to coincide with an area of deeper flood silts. The evaluation identified several ditches and pits across the site with finds of Roman pottery, animal bone, a loomweight and possible wall plaster. Some of the pottery and the wall plaster suggested the location of a nearby settlement of high status. Large quantities of post-medieval pottery and brick wasters were also recovered from this site suggesting the site of a possible nearby brick clamp were also located.
- 3.43 A map regression exercise was undertaken using published Ordnance Survey (O.S.) maps from the Lincolnshire Archives and the local studies collections of Lincoln Central Library. An extract from the First Edition 25 inch to one mile scale O.S. map of 1888 shows the development site as occupying a small enclosure to the west of Backgate. To the east is a bisecting north-south orientated ditch and two small outbuildings also to the east, which are situated within a second smaller enclosure also to the east.
- 3.44 An extract from the Second Edition 25 inch to one mile scale O.S. map of 1904 shows that by this time the bisecting boundary ditch and the two small outbuildings to east have gone, such that the area is now occupied by one larger enclosure with the development site occupying the western portion of this larger enclosure. Two new additional outbuildings are situated to the east.

- 3.45 An extract from the Provisional Edition six inch to one mile scale O.S. map of 1950 shows that by this time, the two additional outbuildings featured on the map of 1904 had gone from the site, leaving the larger enclosure in place.
- 3.46 The extract from the subsequent 1:10,560 scale O.S map of 1956 and the 1:2,500 scale O.S. map of 1976 both show the same layout to the area of the development site and that no change took place to this between 1950 and 1976.

4. Aims and objectives of the project

- 4.1 The aims of the project are the continual archaeological monitoring of all site groundworks during the construction stage of development, which will comprise the mechanical excavation of foundations and services for the new residential dwelling.

- 4.2 The objectives of the project are:

To establish the presence/absence of archaeological remains within the area of the development site.

To determine the extent, condition, nature, character, quality and date of any archaeological remains encountered.

To allow the preservation by record of archaeological deposits.

- 4.3 The development site is situated within an archaeologically sensitive area and within an area of high archaeological potential. There is much evidence for Iron Age and Roman, medieval and post-medieval settlement activity in the vicinity of this development site. It is considered highly likely that archaeological features, deposits, structures and finds associated with this multi-period period settlement activity may be encountered on this site. The specific objectives of this archaeological will therefore be to record any archaeological features, deposits, structures or finds associated with this multi-period settlement activity.

5. Methodology

- 5.1 The archaeological monitoring will be undertaken during the groundworks phase of development, and will include the **continual monitoring** of any topsoil stripping, of the excavations of foundations and service trenches, and of any other ground disturbances. The mechanical excavations will be undertaken using a toothless bucket.
- 5.2 All work will be carried out according to the Chartered Institute of Field Archaeologists (CHIfA) standards.
- 5.3 All work will be undertaken following all statutory Health and Safety requirements and legislation in operation at the time of the monitoring.
- 5.4 A Risk Assessment will be prepared for the site.
- 5.5 Stripped areas and trench sections will be continually observed to identify any archaeological features and/or deposits which may be exposed.
- 5.6 Section drawings at a scale of 1:10 will be made of any archaeological features identified in the course of the groundworks, including representative sections of trenches at appropriate intervals. These will be related to a site plan drawing at a scale of 1:50, which may also record archaeological features and/or deposits identified. Any significant archaeological features in plan will also be recorded at a scale of 1:20.

- 5.7 Written descriptions detailing the nature of archaeological features and/or deposits encountered will be compiled on pro-forma context record sheets.
- 5.8 Any finds recovered will be bagged and labelled for further analysis. All relevant finds will be ordered into an archive. Most modern material will not be retained, although notes will be made of the appropriate context. An appropriate sample of materials such as ceramic building materials will be made.
- 5.9 Any and all artefacts found during the monitoring and thought to come under the provisions of the *Treasure Act* (1996), will be removed from the site to a secure location, and will be promptly reported to the appropriate coroner's office.
- 5.10 Throughout the monitoring a digital photographic record will be compiled, and will comprise an overview of the site prior to work starting, and during as well as after completion of the work, and will include any excavated features, sections and other relevant details that aid interpretation.
- 5.11 Should human remains be encountered, they will be left *in situ*, and only excavated if absolutely necessary. Proper respect will be accorded to these remains, which will be cleaned to allow positive identification. Should removal be required, the appropriate Ministry of Justice Licence will be obtained prior to the removal of the remains. In addition, any remains will be reported to the local Environmental Health Department, coroner and the police will be informed, where appropriate.
- 5.12 The fieldwork will be undertaken by Neville Hall. Additional personnel may be appointed if required.

6. Post-fieldwork methodology

- 6.1 On the completion of the fieldwork, all of the written, drawn and photographic records produced by the archaeological monitoring will be checked, ordered, labelled (where appropriate) and catalogued to compile a distinctive site archive.
- 6.2 All finds recovered during the fieldwork will be washed, marked and packaged according to the deposit from which there were recovered. They will also be ordered into (and form part of) the site archive.
- 6.3 An assessment of significant finds will be made in light of general site information.
- 6.4 Any finds requiring specialist treatment and/or conservation will be sent to the Conservation Laboratory at The Collection, Lincoln, and in consultation with the relevant curator.
- 6.5 The site archive will be examined to enable the determination of various phases of activity on the site (if appropriate).
- 6.6 Relevant finds will be sent to specialists for identification and dating.

7. Monitoring arrangements

- 7.1 Provision will be made for the Lincolnshire County Council Historic Environment Team on behalf of South Holland District Council, (the Local Planning Authority) to monitor the works during the fieldwork stage and any other aspect of the archaeological project as required including the post fieldwork analysis and report preparation stages of the project.
- 7.2 A minimum notification period of not less than fourteen days of the start date of works on the site will be given to the Lincolnshire County Council Historic Environment Team.

- 7.3 All aspects of the archaeological programme will be undertaken in accordance with this project specification.
- 7.4 Any variation to the project programme in terms of works or recording on or off site will be fully discussed and agreed with the Lincolnshire County Council Historic Environment Team.
- 7.5 Arrangements will be made for the representative of the Lincolnshire County Council Historic Environment Team for access to the site to undertake monitoring visits, and such visits will be accounted for in the final report preparation.
- 7.6 The Lincolnshire County Council Historic Environment Team shall be kept fully informed of any unexpected or unforeseen discoveries made during the course of the archaeological monitoring and recording programme.

8. Archive preparation and deposition

- 8.1 The documentation and records generated by the archaeological monitoring will be sorted and ordered in the format acceptable to The Collection, Lincoln, and to the standards and requirements as laid out in their Guide Book.
- 8.2 A unique accession number will be obtained from The Collection for the site archive.
- 8.3 The archive will be deposited at The Collection, Lincoln by June 2017.

9. Reporting procedures

- 9.1 A report detailing the findings of the archaeological monitoring will be completed within two months after the finalisation of the fieldwork. Any delays will be related to the relevant authorities.
- 9.2 The report will consist of:
- A title page, with project name and location, national grid reference, planning reference, site code, accession number, client name, author and date;
 - A contents page listing report sections, illustrations and appendices;
 - A non-technical summary of the results of the monitoring;
 - An introduction, site description and location;
 - Planning background to the project;
 - A section on the archaeological and historical background to the project;
 - A description of the methodology used in the project;
 - A section describing the results of the monitoring;
 - A section on the discussion and results of the project including a consideration of the findings of the project in a local and regional context;
 - A consideration of the effectiveness of the project methodology and a confidence rating of the results;

Illustrations including plans showing monitored areas, all archaeological features and sections thereof (including trench sections); and

Appendices comprising appropriate photographs of the site and of specific and significant archaeological features and representative sections, a list of contexts, any specialist reports on finds from the site, a list of the site archive, a photographic register and a copy of this document.

An electronic copy of the report will be deposited with the OASIS project (On-line Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations) <http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/oasis/index.cfm>.

10. Publication and dissemination

- 10.1 Copies of the final report will be deposited with the clients, the local curator (on behalf of the local planning authority), South Holland District Council and with the Lincolnshire Heritage Environment Record (including a digital copy in a .pdf format).
- 10.2 A note will be placed in 'Lincolnshire History and Archaeology' describing the results.
- 10.3 The deposition of the site archive will be in accordance with guidelines outlined in the Lincolnshire Archaeological Handbook (LCC, 2016).
- 10.4 Should the results of the archaeological investigation merit it, a note will also be placed in appropriate national journals e.g. *Medieval Archaeology*.

11. Other factors (including contingency)

- 11.1 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 Lincolnshire County Council Historic Environment Team.
- 11.2 Where important archaeological remains are discovered and deemed to merit further investigation, additional financial resources may be required to provide an appropriate level of investigation, recording and analysis.
- 11.3 Any additional financial 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 Lincolnshire County Council Historic Environment Team and the client.

12. Variations to the proposed scheme

- 12.1 Variations to the proposed scheme will only be made following written confirmation with the archaeological curator.

13. Resources

- 13.1 The monitoring will be undertaken by Neville Hall using standard archaeological field techniques.
- 13.2 Post-excavation analysis will be undertaken by Neville Hall and where available specialist analysis from:-

Jane Young
Ian Rowlandson
Val Fryer

Medieval and Post-medieval Ceramics
Iron Age and Roman Ceramics
Environmental

Carol Allen
Malin Holst
Jane Cowgill

Neolithic and Bronze Age
Osteoarchaeology
Metallurgy

13.3 Small finds requiring conservation will be conserved by the City and County Museum Laboratory.

13.4 Recognised specialists will be sought in the event that other data are retrieved in the course of the monitoring.

14. Insurance statement

14.1 Public indemnity of £2,000,000 and private indemnity insurance of £250,000 with Towergate Insurance.

15. Copyright

15.1 Copyright will remain that of the author. Licence will be given to the client to present any reports, copyright of the author, to the planning authority in good faith of satisfactory settlement of account.

16. Ownership

16.1 It will be asked of the client, at the outset, that the ownership of any portable objects discovered in the course of the monitoring be donated along with the archive.