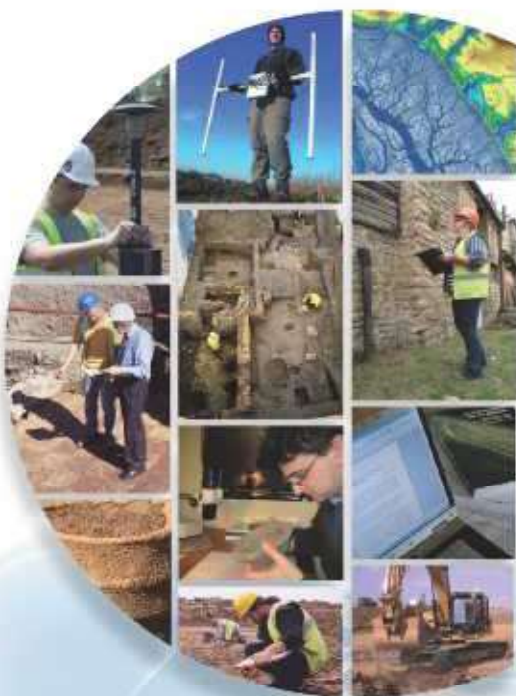


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**WRITTEN SCHEME OF INVESTIGATION FOR
ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION
ON LAND OFF
LITTLEWORTH DROVE
DEEPING ST NICHOLAS
LINCOLNSHIRE**

**Planning Application No: H03-0161-17
Grid Ref: TF 21484 15725
Accession No: LCNCC:2021.130**

PREPARED FOR



JULY 2021

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

1	SUMMARY	1
2	INTRODUCTION	1
3	SITE LOCATION	1
4	PLANNING BACKGROUND	1
5	SOILS AND TOPOGRAPHY	1
6	ARCHAEOLOGICAL OVERVIEW	2
7	AIMS AND OBJECTIVES.....	2
8	LIAISON WITH THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL CURATOR	3
9	TRIAL TRENCHING.....	3
10	ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT	5
11	POST-EXCAVATION AND REPORT	5
12	ARCHIVE	7
13	REPORT DEPOSITION	7
14	PUBLICATION	7
15	CURATORIAL MONITORING.....	7
16	VARIATIONS TO THE PROPOSED SCHEME OF WORKS.....	8
17	STAFF TO BE USED DURING THE PROJECT	8
18	PROGRAMME OF WORKS AND STAFFING LEVELS	8
19	INSURANCES	9
20	COPYRIGHT	9
21	BIBLIOGRAPHY	9

List of Figures

Figure 1 Proposed trench array

1 SUMMARY

- 1.1 *This document comprises a written scheme of investigation for the archaeological field evaluation by trial trenching at Littleworth Drove, Deeping St. Nicholas, Lincolnshire.*
- 1.2 *The area is archaeologically sensitive, lying close to Iron Age and Romano-British salt-making activity and settlement activity of this date.*
- 1.3 *On completion of the fieldwork a report will be prepared detailing the findings of the investigation. The report will consist of a text describing the nature of the archaeological deposits located and will be supported by illustrations and photographs.*

2 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 This document comprises a written scheme of investigation for archaeological field evaluation by trial trench of land at Littleworth Drove, Deeping St Nicholas, Lincolnshire.
- 2.2 The document contains the following parts:
 - 2.2.1 Overview
 - 2.2.2 The archaeological and natural setting
 - 2.2.3 Stages of work and methodologies to be used
 - 2.2.4 List of specialists
 - 2.2.5 Programme of works and staffing structure of the project

3 SITE LOCATION

- 3.1 Deeping St Nicholas is a village and civil parish in the South Holland District of Lincolnshire lying 7km northeast of Market Deeping and 7km southwest of Spalding. The site lies some 480m southwest of the parish church of St Nicholas on the south side of Littleworth Drove at National Grid Reference TF 21484 15725.

4 PLANNING BACKGROUND

- 4.1 A planning application (H03-0161-17) has been submitted for the erection of up to 120 dwellings, a village hall and ancillary buildings at Home Farm, Littleworth Drove, Deeping St Nicholas. The Historic Environment Officer for the South Holland District has advised that not enough information is known about the archaeological resources on the site and as such archaeological trial trench evaluation should be undertaken to assess the archaeological potential of the site in accordance with an approved written scheme of investigation which this document provides.

5 SOILS AND TOPOGRAPHY

- 5.1 Local soils are of the Wallasea association, typically pelo-alluvial gley soils (Robson 1990, 26). These soils are developed upon a drift geology of younger marine alluvium which in turn seal a solid geology of Jurassic Oxford Clay (BGS 1992).
- 5.2 The site is on generally level ground within the fenland of south Lincolnshire. Heights are in the region of 3m AOD.

6 ARCHAEOLOGICAL OVERVIEW

- 6.1 Approximately 450m north of the site, salt-making activity dating to the late Iron Age has been identified and handmade pottery, briquetage and bone fragments recovered (Lincolnshire Historic Environment Register Number MLI23258). Salt production and settlement continued here into the Romano-British period with further evidence of pottery and bone of this date present (LHER MLI23231). A series of straight droves and ditches with variously sized enclosures have also been identified here as crop marks (LHER MLI22075). Further enclosures have been identified a little to the north of this at Caulton Farm (LHER MLI 22074) and at Willow Farm approximately 1km to the north (LHER MLI22064). This spread of known pre-historic and Romano-British activity has potential to be present within the proposed development area.
- 6.2 Deeping St Nicholas is a relatively new village probably created around the drainage of the fens. The Grade II Listed Church of St Nicholas (List Entry 1359260) was built in 1845 by Charles Kirk of Sleaford.
- 6.3 Some 400m to the west of the site two post-medieval boundary ditches were recorded (LHER MLI25590). Some handmade brick was recovered during trial trenching (PCAS 2019). Immediately to the north of the site on land at the former Plough Inn, four trial trenches were excavated and no archaeological features were uncovered (Hall 2019).

7 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- 7.1 The aim of the work will be to gather sufficient information for the archaeological curator to be able to formulate a policy for the management of the archaeological resources present on the site.
- 7.2 The objectives of the work will be to:
- Establish the type of archaeological activity that may be present within the site.
 - Determine the likely extent of archaeological activity present within the site.
 - Determine the date and function of the archaeological features present on the site.
 - Determine the state of preservation of the archaeological features present on the site.

- Determine the spatial arrangement of the archaeological features present within the site.
- Determine the extent to which the surrounding archaeological features extend into the application area.
- Establish the way in which the archaeological features identified fit into the pattern of occupation and land-use in the surrounding landscape.

8 LIAISON WITH THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL CURATOR

- 8.1 Close contact will be maintained with the archaeological curator throughout the investigation to ensure that the scheme of works fulfils their requirements.

9 TRIAL TRENCHING

9.1 Reasoning for this technique

- 9.1.1 Trial trenching enables the *in situ* determination of the sequence, date, nature, depth, environmental potential and density of archaeological features present on the site.
- 9.1.2 The trial trenching arrangement has been specified as twenty-two [22No.] trenches each 30m x 1.8m. The trenches have been placed to provide sample coverage of the site. The attached figure shows the proposed location of trenches.

9.2 General Considerations

- 9.2.1 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.
- 9.2.2 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). 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.
- 9.2.2 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.

- 9.2.3 Excavation of the archaeological features exposed will only be undertaken as far as is required to determine their date, sequence, density and nature. Not all archaeological features exposed will necessarily be excavated. However, the investigation will, as far as is reasonably practicable, determine the level of the natural deposits to ensure that the depth of the archaeological sequence present on the site is established.
- 9.2.4 Open trenches will be marked by orange mesh fencing attached to road irons or similar poles. Subject to the consent of the archaeological curator, and following the appropriate recording, the trenches, particularly those of excessive depth, will be backfilled as soon as possible to minimise any health and safety risks.

9.3 Methodology

- 9.3.1 Removal of the topsoil and any other overburden will be undertaken by mechanical excavator using a 1.8m wide toothless ditching bucket. To ensure that the correct amount of material is removed and that no archaeological deposits are damaged, this work will be supervised by Archaeological Project Services. On completion of the removal of the overburden, the nature of the underlying deposits will be assessed by hand excavation before any further mechanical excavation that may be required. Thereafter, the trenches will be cleaned by hand to enable the identification and analysis of the archaeological features exposed.
- 9.3.2 Investigation of the features will be undertaken only as far as required to determine their date, form and function. The work will consist of half- or quarter-sectioning of features as required and, where appropriate, the removal of layers. Should features be located which may be worthy of preservation *in situ*, excavation will be limited to the absolute minimum, (*ie* the minimum disturbance) necessary to interpret the form, function and date of the features.
- 9.3.3 The archaeological features encountered will be recorded on Archaeological Project Services pro-forma context record sheets. The system used is the single context method by which individual archaeological units of stratigraphy are assigned a unique record number and are individually described and drawn.
- 9.3.4 Plans of features will be drawn at a scale of 1:20 and sections at a scale of 1:10. Should individual features merit it, they will be drawn at a larger scale.
- 9.3.5 Throughout the duration of the trial trenching a photographic record consisting of black and white prints (reproduced as contact sheets) and digital images will be compiled. The photographic record will consist of:
- the site before the commencement of field operations.
 - the site during work to show specific stages of work, and the layout of the archaeology within individual trenches.

- individual features and, where appropriate, their sections.
- groups of features where their relationship is important.
- the site on completion of fieldwork

9.3.6 Should human remains be encountered, they will be left *in situ* with excavation being limited to the identification and recording of such remains. If removal of the remains is deemed necessary the appropriate Ministry of Justice licences will be obtained and the local environmental health department informed. If relevant, the coroner and the police will be notified. The Historic Environment Service will also be informed,

9.3.7 Finds collected during the fieldwork will be bagged and labelled according to the individual deposit from which they were recovered ready for later washing and analysis.

9.3.8 The spoil generated during the investigation will be mounded along the edges of the trial trenches with the topsoil being kept separate from the other material excavated for subsequent backfilling.

9.3.9 The precise location of the trenches within the site and the location of site recording grid will be established by a GPS survey.

10 ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

10.1 If appropriate, during the investigation specialist advice will be obtained from an environmental archaeologist. The specialist will visit the site and will prepare a report detailing the nature of the environmental material present on the site and its potential for additional analysis should further stages of archaeological work be required. The results of the specialist's assessment will be incorporated into the final report.

10.2 Deposits with the potential to provide environmental information will be bulk sampled. If possible these should be from a range of feature types distributed across the site and from well preserved and dated contexts.

10.2 Samples retrieved from the site will be sieved in a flotation tank, with the residues and flots scanned for the presence of environmental and ecofactual material.

10.3 Sampling and the subsequent processing will be undertaken in accordance with published guidelines (eg English Heritage 2011).

11 POST-EXCAVATION AND REPORT

11.1 Stage 1

11.1.1 On completion of site operations, the records and schedules produced

during the trial trenching will be checked and ordered to ensure that they form a uniform sequence constituting 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 will refer to schedules identifying the subject/s photographed.

- 11.1.2 All finds recovered during the trial trenching will be washed, marked, bagged and labelled according to the individual deposit from which they were recovered and in accordance with established guidelines (UKIC 1998). Any finds requiring specialist treatment and conservation will be sent to the Conservation Laboratory at Lincoln.

11.2 Stage 2

- 11.2.1 Detailed examination of the stratigraphic matrix to enable the determination of the various phases of activity on the site.
- 11.2.2 Finds will be sent to specialists for identification and dating.
- 11.2.3 Any environmental samples taken will be sent to specialists for processing and assessment.

11.3 Stage 3

- 11.3.1 On completion of stage 2, a report detailing the findings of the investigation will be prepared. This will consist of:
- A non-technical summary of the results of the investigation.
 - A description of the archaeological setting of the site.
 - Description of the topography and geology of the investigation area.
 - Description of the methodologies used during the investigation and discussion of their effectiveness in the light of the results.
 - A text describing the findings of the investigation.
 - Plans of the trenches showing 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 context within the surrounding landscape.
 - Specialist reports on the finds (artefacts, environmental, economic and industrial evidence) from the site.

- Appropriate photographs of the site and specific archaeological features or groups of features.
- A consideration of the significance of the remains found, in local, regional, national and international terms, using recognised evaluation criteria.

12 ARCHIVE

12.1 The documentation, finds, photographs and other records and materials generated during the investigation will be sorted and ordered into the format acceptable to the appropriate local museum. This sorting will be undertaken according to the guidelines and conditions stipulated by the museum as outlined in the document entitled '*Conditions for the Acceptance of Project Archives*' (LCC 2012, Chapter 17), and appropriate national guidelines, for long-term storage and curation.

- Site code DNLD21
- Accession number LCNCC:2021.
- Deposition date December 2022

12.2 Upon completion and submission of the evaluation report, the landowner will be contacted to arrange legal transfer of title to the archaeological objects retained during the investigation from themselves to the receiving museum. The transfer of title will be effected by a standard letter supplied to the landowner for signature.

13 REPORT DEPOSITION

13.1 Copies of the investigation report will be sent to: the client; the Historic Environment Officer, Lincolnshire County Council and the Lincolnshire County Council Historic Environment Record.

14 PUBLICATION

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

14.2 Notes or articles describing the results of the investigation will also be submitted for publication in the appropriate national journals: *Medieval Archaeology* for medieval and later remains, and *Britannia* for discoveries of Roman date. A note will also be submitted for inclusion in the local journal *Lincolnshire History and Archaeology*.

15 CURATORIAL MONITORING

15.1 Curatorial responsibility for the archaeological work undertaken on the site lies with the Historic Environment Officer for Lincolnshire County Council. They will be given 10 working days' written notice of the commencement of the project to enable them to make monitoring arrangements.

16 VARIATIONS TO THE PROPOSED SCHEME OF WORKS

- 16.1 Variations to the proposed scheme of works will only be made following written confirmation of acceptance from the archaeological curator.
- 16.2 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.
- 16.3 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.
- 16.4 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.

17 STAFF TO BE USED DURING THE PROJECT

- 17.1 The work will be directed by Paul Cope-Faulkner MCIfA, Senior Manager (Archaeology), Archaeological Project Services. The on-site works will be supervised by an Archaeological Supervisor with knowledge of archaeological evaluations of this type. Archaeological excavation will be carried out by Archaeological Technicians, experienced in projects of this type.
- 17.2 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.

<u>Task</u>	<u>Body to be undertaking the work</u>
Conservation	Conservation Laboratory, York Archaeological Trust
Pottery Analysis	Prehistoric: S Percival, independent specialist Roman: I Rowlandson, independent specialist Post-Roman: Anne Irving, independent specialist
Other Artefacts	J Cowgill, independent specialist/D Buckley, APS
Human Remains Analysis	R Kendall, Durham University
Animal Remains Analysis	N Sleaford/M Holmes, independent specialists
Environmental Analysis	Environmental Archaeology Consultancy, independent specialist

18 PROGRAMME OF WORKS AND STAFFING LEVELS

- 18.1 Fieldwork is expected to be undertaken by appropriate staff, including supervisors and assistants, and to take about seven days.
- 18.2 Post-excavation analysis and report production will take about five weeks. A project officer or supervisor will undertake most of the analysis, with assistance from the finds officer, CAD illustrator and external specialists.

19 INSURANCES

- 19.1 Archaeological Project Services, as part of the Heritage Trust of Lincolnshire, maintains Employers Liability insurance to £10,000,000. Additionally, the company maintains Public and Products Liability insurances, each with indemnity of £5,000,000. Copies of insurance documentation are enclosed.

20 COPYRIGHT

- 20.1 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.
- 20.2 Licence will also be given to the archaeological curators to use the documentary archive for educational, public and research purposes.
- 20.3 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.
- 20.4 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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