Specification for Archaeological Monitoring & Recording on Lots 1 & 2, Millfield Nurseries, Mill Lane, Gedney Hill, Lincolnshire.

Prepared for G. R. Merchant Ltd.

National Grid Reference: TF 3360 1156
Site Code: MLGH21
Accession No: LCNCC: 2021.206
Planning Reference: H07-0921-21

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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 development on Lots 1 and 2, Millfield Nurseries, Mill Lane, Gedney Hill, Lincolnshire.*

S2 *The development site is situated within an archaeologically sensitive area and within an area of high archaeological potential. Roman cropmark settlement activity has been identified to the west. Further undated cropmark settlement activity has been found to the north of this site. An archaeological watching brief at 4, Lincolns Avenue in 2009 recorded four undated pits, a medieval boundary ditch and a post-medieval boundary ditch. In 2008, an archaeological evaluation on land off West Drove South identified two undated pits and an archaeological watching brief in 2019 on land off West Drove South located a further undated ditch. The specific objectives of this archaeological monitoring will be to record any archaeological features, deposits, structures or finds associated with this Romano-British, undated, medieval and post-medieval 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 development. 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 off the northern frontage of Mill Lane at National Grid Reference TF 3360 1156 and at a height of approximately 2mAOD. The settlement of Gedney Hill is located within the modern civil parish of the same name, 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 stoneless calcareous coarse silty soils of the Wisbech Series, which have developed on marine alluvial deposits. These deposits in turn overlie the solid geology, which comprises Oxford Clays and Kellaway Beds of the Upper Jurassic.

2. Planning background

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 development on Lots 1 and 2, Millfield Nurseries, Mill Lane, Gedney Hill, Lincolnshire (Planning Reference: H07-0921-21).

3. Historical and Archaeological Background

3.1 Online background research sources were consulted at the National Library of Scotland. A search of the Lincolnshire County Council Historic Environment Record (HER) was conducted within a 0.25km radius that was centred on the development site. The online National Heritage List of Historic England was also consulted.

3.2 An extensive Roman cropmark complex including possible settlement activity, drove roads, enclosures and field systems have been plotted from aerial photographic sources to the west of this development site (HER MLI22255).

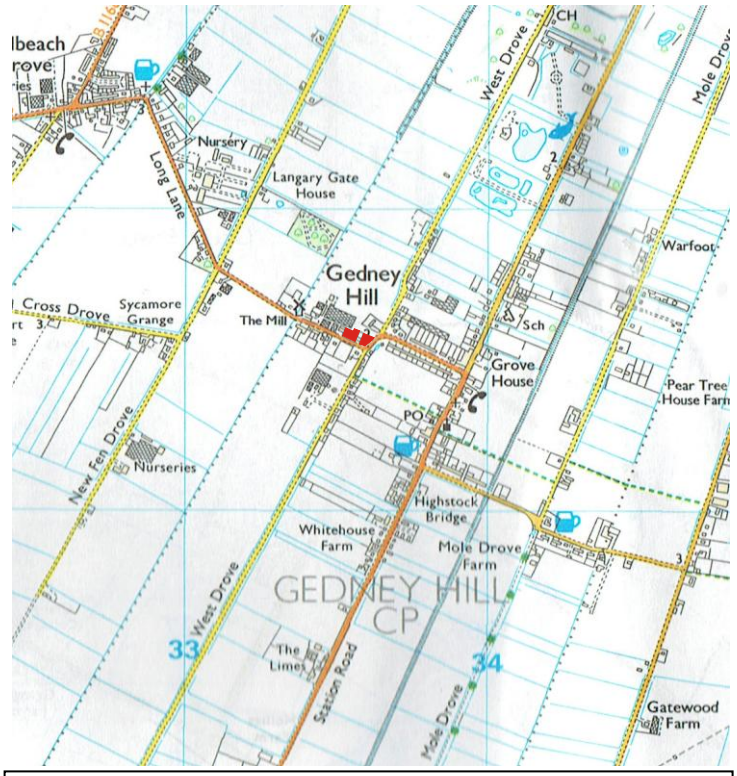


Figure 1: Site location at scale 1:25,000. The site is shown in red. (O.S. copyright licence number 100048723)

3.3 A tower windmill on Mill Lane at Gedney Hill is Grade II listed (HER MLI22284, NHL 1146795). The mill was standing by 1824 and was worked by wind until the late 1920s when the sails were removed. It subsequently worked by engine until at least the late 1940s, although the cap and the top storey had also been removed by this time. It is now converted into a residential dwelling and has lost its machinery.

3.4 The site of an unnamed farmstead at Gedney Hill is a demolished 19th century farmstead (HER MLI123545). This was arranged around a regular courtyard with an 'L'-plan range with further detached outbuildings to the third side of the yard. The farmhouse was detached from the main working complex. The farmstead was located within a loose cluster of such sites.

3.5 Half Acre or Peacock House at Gedney Hill is a redeveloped 19th century farmstead (HER MLI123625). This was arranged around a regular courtyard in an 'L'-plan. The farmhouse was detached from the main working complex. The farmstead was within an isolated location.

3.6 Various undated cropmark linear features and enclosures including a possible drove road, which have been plotted from aerial photographic sources are situated to the north of this development site (HER MLI20454).

3.7 There have been several other previous archaeological investigations in the vicinity of this development site. An archaeological watching brief took place in 2009 at 4, Lincolns Avenue, Gedney Hill to the east of this development site (HER MLI97566, Site code: GHLA08). This identified four undated pits. Other findings from this watching brief comprised a possible boundary ditch, the fill of which produced one sherd of 13th-15th

century pottery. A second boundary ditch of possible post-medieval date was also found here.



Figure 2: Site location (not to scale)

3.8 In 2008, an archaeological evaluation took place on land off West Drove South and to the south of this development site (HER MLI91525, ELI8534, Site code: GHWD08). This archaeological evaluation identified two undated ditches, which were interpreted as probable drainage and/or boundary ditches.

3.9 In 2019, an archaeological watching brief was mounted on the groundworks for a new residential dwelling on Plot 1, also on West Drove South. This did not identify any archaeological activity or finds (HER ELI13248, Site code: WDGH18).

3.10 Later in 2019, an archaeological watching brief on the groundworks for Plot 3 on West Drove South, identified the line of an undated linear ditch (HER MLI125731, ELI13408, Site code: WDGH19). This extended on a north-south alignment across the new build area with a return to the east at the southern portion of the build area of the new garage. Two fills were recorded within the ditch, which were consistent throughout its length. The basal fill was waterlogged with a high organic content. This suggested a drainage function for this landscape feature, which also probably functioned as a boundary. The upper fill probably represented a later phase of the gradual silting up of this feature. However, no datable finds were recovered from either of these fills, despite the considerable exposure of this feature during the course of the archaeological monitoring of these groundworks.

3.11 Copies of published Ordnance Survey maps were obtained from the online National Library of Scotland. The earliest map consulted comprised an extract from the First

Edition six inch to one mile scale O.S. map of 1891. This map shows the two proposed development sites as lying at the south-eastern end of a larger and roughly rectangular shaped enclosure that is in turn situated off the north-eastern frontage of Mill Lane.

3.12 This same site layout is repeated on the subsequent Second Edition six inch to one mile scale O.S. map of 1905, on the Provisional Edition six inch to one mile scale O.S. map of 1950 and on the 1:10,000 scale O.S. map of 1959.

3.13 **Figure 2** features the current layout of these development sites.

4. Aims and objectives of the project

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

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. Roman cropmark settlement activity has been identified to the west. Further undated cropmark settlement activity has been found to the north of this site. An archaeological watching brief at 4, Lincolns Avenue in 2009 recorded four undated pits, a medieval boundary ditch and a post-medieval boundary ditch. In 2008, an archaeological evaluation on land off West Drove South identified two undated pits and an archaeological watching brief in 2019 on land off West Drove South located a further undated ditch. The specific objectives of this archaeological monitoring will be to record any archaeological features, deposits, structures or finds associated with this Romano-British, undated, medieval and post-medieval 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 December 2022.

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, 2021).

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	Medieval and Post-medieval Ceramics
Ian Rowlandson	Iron Age and Roman Ceramics
Archaeological Solutions Ltd.	Environmental
Carol Allen	Neolithic and Bronze Age
Malin Holst	Osteoarchaeology

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.