Specification for Archaeological Monitoring & Recording on Plot 6, West Drove South, Gedney Hill, Lincolnshire.

Prepared for Mr. Bob Merchant of G. R. Merchant Ltd. on behalf of his client - Mr. N. Shortland

National Grid Reference: TF 3333 1111
Site Code: WDGH20
Accession No: 2020.54
Planning References: APP/2525/W/18/3205429 & (H07-0037-18)

Prepared by Neville Hall, Freelance Field Archaeologist & Consultant

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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 with detached garaging and access at Plot 6, West Drove South, Gedney Hill, Lincolnshire.*

S2 *The development site is situated within an archaeologically sensitive area and within an area of high archaeological potential. Although an archaeological evaluation in 2008 in close proximity to this development site identified two undated ditches, there is much evidence for known Romano-British settlement activity in the area along with evidence for medieval and post-medieval activity and finds, both from other previous archaeological investigations and from other currently known archaeological data. An archaeological watching brief which took place also on Plot 1, West Drove South to the north of this site in 2019 located an undated ditch, the line of which may well extend into the area of Plot 6. The specific objectives of this archaeological monitoring will be to record any archaeological features, deposits, structures or finds associated with this Romano-British and possible 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 dwelling with detached garaging. 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 western frontage of West Drove South at National Grid Reference TF 3333 1111 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 [Figures 3 and 4]

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 with detached garaging and access at Plot 6, West Drove South, Gedney Hill, Lincolnshire (Planning References: APP/2525/W/18/3205429 & (H07-0037-18)).

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 0.5km radius that was centred on the development site. The online National Heritage List of Historic England was also consulted

3.2 The possible site of a Romano-British settlement is located at Gedney Hill (HER 22295). Ditched droves that are orientated from the north east and south-east from Gedney Hill

are apparently aligned on the parish church. This suggests that this church may be constructed on a Roman site. The wider than normal double ditched drove from the south-east extends beyond the church. The drove running north-east connects with further droves to the south-west and north-east of Ivy Cottage.

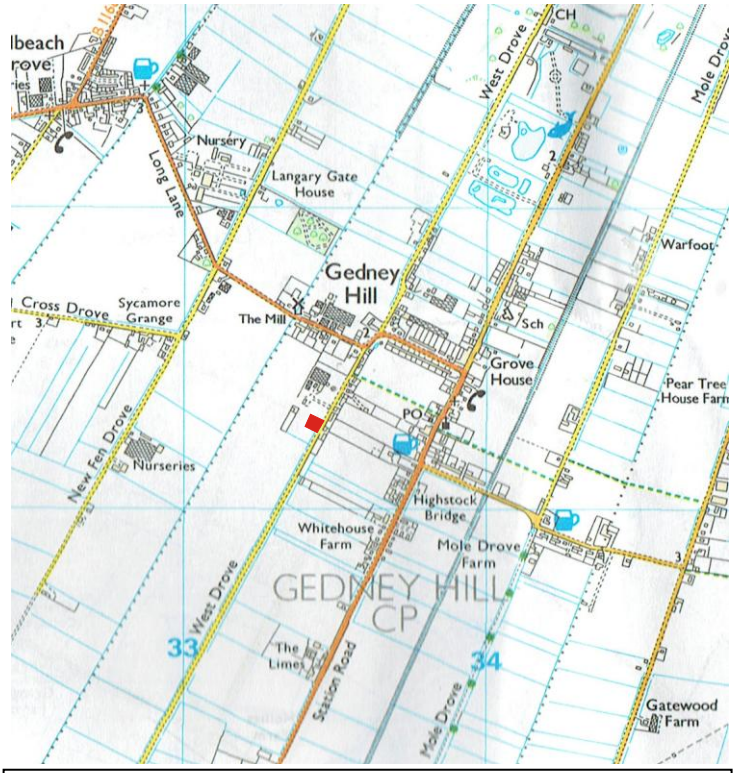


Figure 1: Site location at scale 1:25,000. The site is shown in red. (O.S. copyright licence number 100048723)

3.3 A bronze sestertius of Marcus Aurelius was found in the village of Gedney Hill in the late 1960s (HER 22291).

3.4 The establishment of a medieval settlement at Gedney Hill was indicated by the presence of the parish church of the Holy Trinity (HER 20527). This settlement was linked to the 'mother' settlement of Gedney by a drove road. The parish church at Holy Trinity, Gedney Hill is Grade II* listed and dates from the late 14th century (HER 22297, NHL 1146771). The church underwent alterations in the mid 15th century and was mostly rebuilt in 1875. The west tower is Perpendicular. The chancel was rebuilt in 1897. The church consists of a west tower, a nave with north and south aisles and a chancel with a south vestry.

3.5 A Grade II listed churchyard cross is located to the immediate south of the parish church of Holy Trinity (HER 22290, NHL 1064525). This is of 15th century date which underwent restoration in 1918. It consists of a high base, a plinth and a cross shaft. and is located on the south side of the church. It was restored for use as a war memorial.

3.6 The Red Lion public house in Hillgate at Gedney Hill is a Grade II listed public house dating from the late 17th century which has mid 19th and 20th century alterations (HER 25441, NHL 1359240).

3.7 A tower windmill on Mill Lane at Gedney Hill is Grade Ii listed (HER 22284, 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.

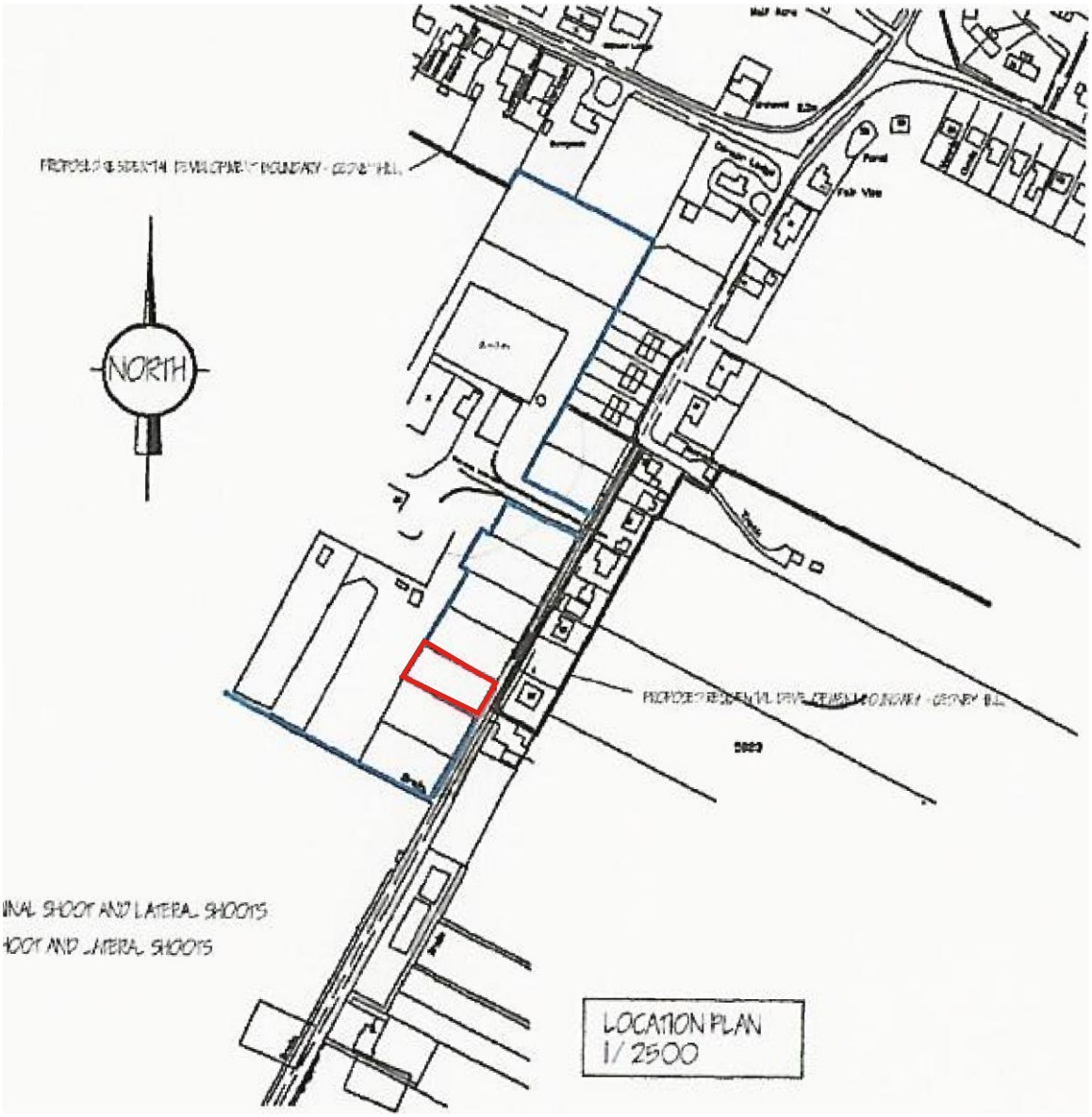


Figure 2: Site location at an original scale of scale 1:2,500, (not to scale), (extract from Architects plan).

3.8 The Limes Cottage at Gedney Hill was formerly a listed building, but is now delisted (HER 25296). This originally comprised three Grade III listed cottages dating from the late 18th century with mid 19th century alterations.

3.9 The former Baptist Chapel at Gedney Hill is featured on the O.S. map of 1904 (HER 25674). The first general Baptist Chapel was constructed at around 1810-11. It was rebuilt in 1883. By 2010, the chapel was disused and was for sale.

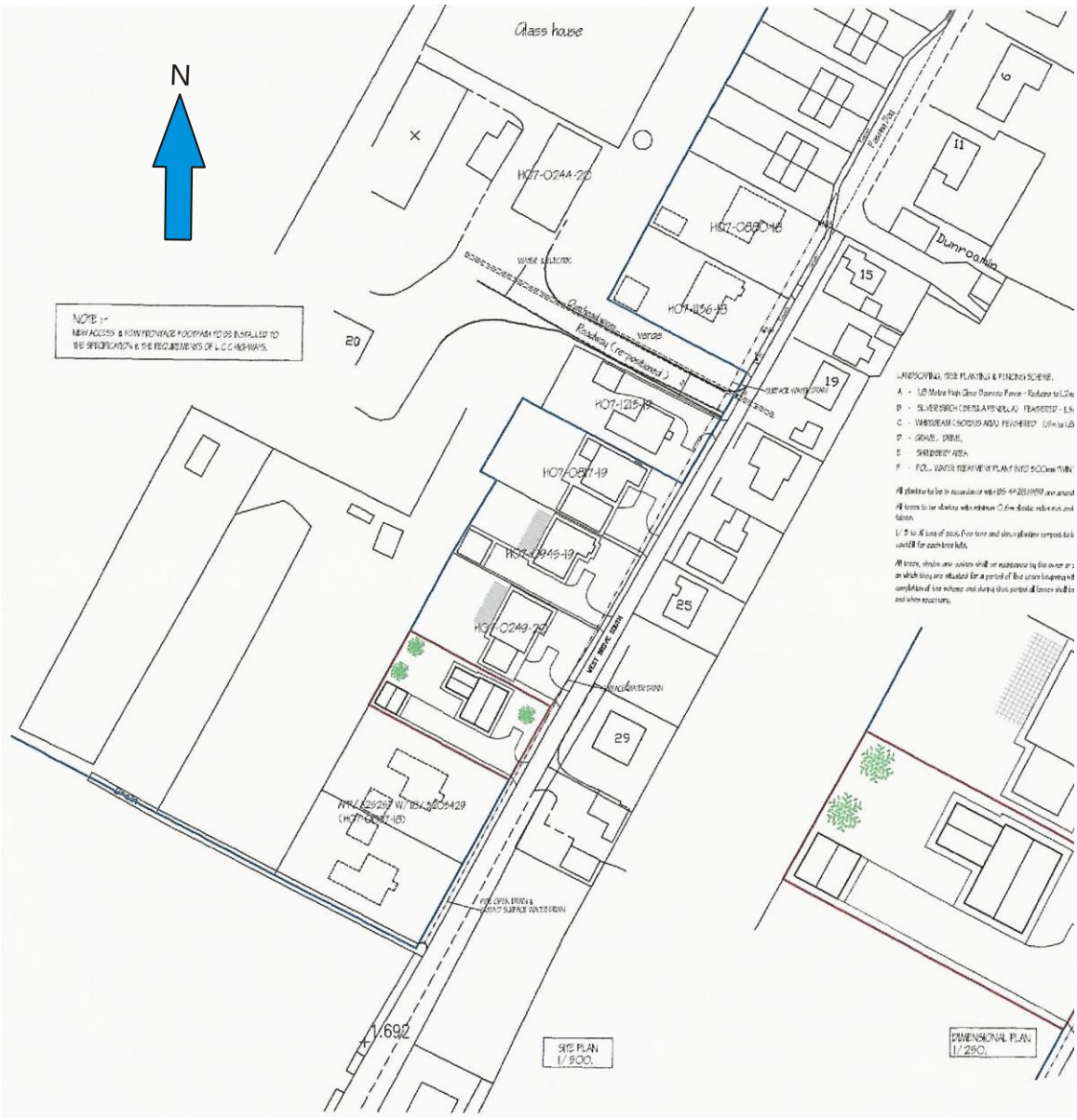


Figure 3: Block plan showing the proposed layout of the Development Site at an original scale of scale 1:500, (not to scale), (extract from Architects plan).

3.10 Whitehouse Farm at Gedney Hill is a partially extant 19th century farmstead (HER 26841). This is arranged around a regular courtyard in an 'F'-plan. The farmhouse is detached with the long axis facing onto the yard. There has been a partial loss of traditional buildings. The farmstead is in an isolated location. This site was the subject of a programme of historic building recording in 2016 (HER 27253, Site code: GHSR16). This was undertaken prior to the conversion of buildings here to residential use. The complex contains two adjoining ranges of mid-late 19th century construction.

3.11 Half Acre or Peacock House at Gedney Hill is a redeveloped 19th century farmstead (HER 26834). This is arranged around a regular courtyard in an 'L'-plan. The farmhouse was detached from the main working complex. The farmstead was in an isolated location.

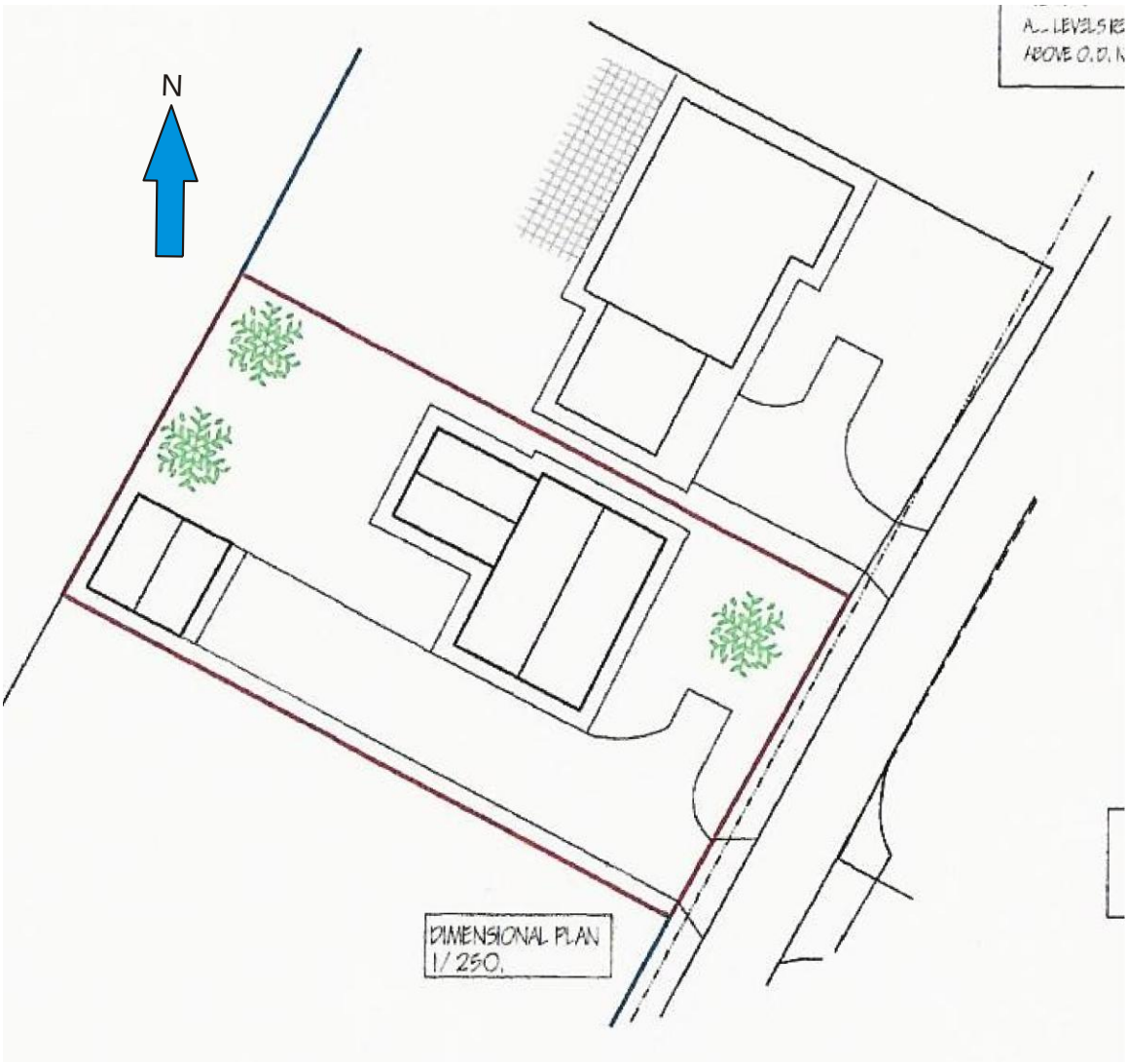


Figure 4: Block plan showing the proposed layout of the Development Site at an original scale of scale 1:250, (not to scale), (extract from Architects plan).

3.12 An unnamed farmstead at Gedney Hill is a demolished 19th century farmstead (HER 26754). This was arranged around a regular courtyard with an 'L'-plan range with additional detached outbuildings to the side of the yard. The farmhouse was detached from the main working complex. The farmstead was located within a loose cluster.

3.13 The site of an unnamed farmstead at Gedney Hill is a demolished 18th century farmstead (HER 26835). This was arranged around a regular courtyard in an 'L'-plan. The farmhouse was attached to a range of working buildings. The farmstead was within a village location.

3.14 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 (HER 25644-6, 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.

3.15 A single storey pre-fabricated bungalow that probably dated to the 1950s at 4, Lincolns Avenue, Gedney Hill was the subject of a programme of historic building recording in 2009 (HER 25710, Site code: GHLA08). The building was demolished in 2009.

3.16 In 2008, an archaeological evaluation took place on land off West Drove South and in close proximity to this development site (HER 24079, Site code: GHWD08). This archaeological evaluation identified two undated ditches.

3.17 In 2009, an archaeological evaluation as undertaken at Station Road, Gedney Hill (HER 25616-7, Site code: GHSR09). The evaluation identified potentially medieval archaeological features on the northern side of the site in the form of a curvilinear feature or a possible hedge line that produced a single sherd of pottery of late 13th or 15th century date. Other findings comprised a large sub square pit that contained mid 15th-16th century pottery and an undated linear feature or a possible further hedge line. The second possible hedge line yielded a single sherd of late 13th-15th century pottery and was itself truncated by an undated pit. Four further sherds of medieval pottery were also found on the site. These were wasters, but there was no evidence to suggest associated kiln activity on the site. Post-medieval activity was evident on the western side of the site where pits were found, which produced sherds of mid 16th-17th century pottery. Further late 17th or 18th century pottery was found in association with another pit, which had been cut by a ditch or possible pit, the fill of which also produced later post-medieval pottery.

3.18 Undated earthworks have been identified from aerial photographic sources in a field to the south of Gedney Hill Primary School (HER 23690). These include ditches and a small mound. The aerial photographs featured linears on varying alignments and circular features, one of which relates to the aforementioned mound.

3.19 Several intersecting circular cropmarks or soil marks at Gedney Hill have been identified from aerial photographic sources (HER 22294). No finds have been made in this area.

3.20 Earlier in 2019, an archaeological watching brief was mounted on the groundworks for a new residential dwelling to the north, also on West Drove South. This did not identify any archaeological activity or finds (Site code: WDGH18).

3.21 Later in 2019, an archaeological watching brief on the groundworks for Plot 1, to the north of this site identified the line of an undated linear ditch (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.

3.22 Copies of published Ordnance Survey maps were obtained from the Lincolnshire Archives and from the local studies collections at the Lincoln Central Library. The earliest map consulted comprised an extract from the First Edition 25 inch to one mile scale O.S. map of 1888. This map shows the development site within the area of a much larger enclosure, which is situated off the western frontage of West Drove South.

3.23 This same site layout is repeated on the subsequent Second Edition 25 inch to one mile scale O.S. map of 1904.

3.24 The Provisional Edition six inch to one mile scale O.S. map of 1950 shows a field boundary to the south-west having been removed by this time, so as to create a much larger enclosure off the western frontage of West Drove South.

3.25 This same site layout is repeated on the subsequent 1:10,560 scale O.S. map of 1956, on the 1:2,500 scale O.S. map of 1976 and on the 1:10,000 scale O.S. map of 1982.

3.26 **Figure 2** shows the current location of the proposed development site.

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 dwelling with detached garaging.

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. Although an archaeological evaluation in 2008 in close proximity to this development site identified two undated ditches, there is much evidence for known Romano-British settlement activity in the area along with evidence for medieval and post-medieval activity and finds, both from other previous archaeological investigations and from other currently known archaeological data. An archaeological watching brief which took place also on Plot 1, West Drove South to the north of this site in 2019 located an undated ditch, the line of which may well extend into the area of Plot 6. The specific objectives of this archaeological monitoring will be to record any archaeological features, deposits, structures or finds associated with this Romano-British and possible 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 April 2021.

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, 2020).

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.