

LAND AT BATTLEFIELDS LANE HOLBEACH LINCOLNSHIRE

ARCHAEOLOGY STATEMENT

Introduction

The site off Battlefields Lane on the edge of Holbeach has been under consideration for residential development for some time. The site was allocated for development in the 1998 Local Plan and this was reiterated in the 2005 re-Deposit Local Plan. An Outline application was lodged in 2012 (H09/0534/12) and planning consent granted in January 2018.

Archaeological works were undertaken in 2006, in relation to a previous planning application (H09/1325/06). These works were carried out following discussion with the Archaeology Service at Lincolnshire County Council, as advisors to South Holland District Council.

The 2006 Archaeological investigations

The investigations undertaken in 2006 comprised Archaeological Fieldwalking (Archaeological Project Services November 2006 - APS Report No. 168/06) and Geophysical Survey (Richard Smalley November 2006 – Stratascan Report J2250).

The fieldwalking survey entailed the identification and collection of archaeological artefacts from the surface of the field. The survey was conducted on a 10m grid allowing for the location of artefacts to be mapped across the site. The survey results can be summarised as:

- 2 sherds of Roman period pottery found in the southwestern corner of the site;
- A general background of medieval pottery across the site, with slight linear trends identified in two locations;
and
- An abundance of post-medieval pottery, ceramic building material (brick and tile), clay pipes and coins across the site, with two clusters of clay pipe stems.

The geophysical survey employed two techniques, magnetic susceptibility across the whole site and magnetometer survey on targeted locations of potential interest. Three areas across the site were identified as of some potential interest with anomalies (possible pits) that may be of archaeological origin.

Further Work

Following on from the surveys the County Archaeology Service confirmed that further limited investigation would be required and that this would be achieved through the imposition of an appropriate condition on any planning consent granted. The 2018 consent included conditions 15, 16 and 17 which covered the archaeological mitigation requirements.

Recent correspondence (November 2020) with the County Archaeology Service has confirmed that *'.....the results [of the 2006 surveys] weren't sufficiently interesting to require any further evaluation, but there remained some area of interest. So it was decided to just monitor groundworks in selected areas of the site identified from the geophysics and fieldwalking.'*

They envisage that the same or similar conditions would be attached to any new planning consent granted. The details of the monitoring works will be agreed through the submission of a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) to be submitted and agreed with the County Archaeology Service prior to any development works taking place on the site.

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