Heritage Statement

Site: Nursery Site, Holbeach Drove, South Holland, PE12 0PS

Prepared by James Roberts of Groundworks Archaeology, April 2017

The proposed development site is located on the western edge of the Post Medieval settlement of Holbeach Drove, centred on grid reference TF 32508 12359. The site is situated within a network of silt filled creeks, laid in marine alluvium during the Flandrian period (Wyatt, 1992). This extensive roddon network covers most of the Fenland, with riverine Terrace Gravels being found along its edge.

For much of prehistory, the area of the proposed development was subject to repeated marine transgression and regression, making it largely unsuitable for human occupation. The first continual settlement in the Fenland began in the Roman period, when falling sea levels, combined with a large-scale programme of land reorganization and drainage, allowed a greater control of the landscape. The region was then characterized by numerous small low-status nucleated farmsteads, operating at little above subsistence level. The Lincolnshire Heritage Environment Record shows that the site falls within the general area of a Romano-Brtish cropmark complex (MLI20236). Phillips (1970) shows crop marks and drove roads surrounding the site, although not visible within the site it is likely that these features continue across the area. This supposition is supported by the results of a Watching Brief undertaken at Applejack Lodge (80m southeast of the site) which identified a series of undated ditches (probably Roman) Coupled with the evidence of stray finds of Roman coins within the wider area it is clear that there was substantial economic activity during the Romano-British Period.

Increased flooding due to rising sea levels towards the end of the 4th century AD led to an almost complete abandonment of the Fenland at the end of the Roman period (Whitwell 1992). In the Anglo-Saxon era, the coastline was marked by a series of villages running eastwards along a low ridge from Spalding, and including Moulton, Whaplode and Holbeach (British Geological Survey, 1992). The low ridge would have provided slightly higher and drier ground more suitable to occupation, and the existence of these communities in the Anglo-Saxon period is confirmed by numerous land grants to Crowland Abbey, suggesting that the region was a relatively stable agricultural environment (Sawyer 1998). There is no indication of Anglo-Saxon activity within the proposed development area; it may have been an agricultural zone, subject to periodic seasonal flooding. Further land reclamation during the medieval period controlled inland flooding and pushed the coastline further northwards, as defined by a series of sea banks. The current site is likely to have been in an agricultural zone at this time, a character which has continued into the present day as evidenced by the presence of Post Medieval farmsteads located on the HER within the local area.

Although the site is within an area of known archaeological potential, there are no obvious archaeological impediments to the development.

References

Phillips C.W. (ed), 1970, The Fenland in Roman times. Studies of a major area of peasant colonization with a Gazetteer covering all known sites and finds. Royal Geographical Society Research Series no. 5, Royal Geographical Society, London

Sawyer P., 1998, Anglo-Saxon Lincolnshire, History of Lincolnshire III, History of Lincolnshire Committee, Lincoln

Whitwell J.B, 1992, Roman Lincolnshire, History of Lincolnshire Committee, Lincoln

Wyatt, R J (1992) British Geological Survey: Peterborough Sheet 158 Solid and Drift Edition, 1:50k Series. Natural Environment Research Council.

From:	Louise Jennings
To:	Matrix Planning Ltd
Subject:	RE: Nursery Site, Holbeach Drove, South Holland District, PE12 0PS
Date:	20 March 2017 09:27:55

Dear Gordon,

A full desk based assessment is not necessary to support this application however the application should contain a heritage assessment as per 128 of the National Planning Policy Framework.

This site does lie within an area of Roman settlement and it is likely, dependant on the details of any planning application submitted to South Holland district council, that I would make a recommendation for an archaeological scheme of monitoring and recording to be secured by condition on any forthcoming planning consent.

Kind Regards

Louise Jennings
Historic Environment Officer
Lincolnshire County Council
01522 554823

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From: Matrix Planning Ltd [mailto:gordon@matrixplanning.co.uk]
Sent: 10 March 2017 10:23
To: Louise Jennings
Subject: Nursery Site, Holbeach Drove, South Holland District, PE12 0PS

Prospective applicant Mr S Harris, , Nursery Site, Main Road, Holbeach Drove, South Holland District, PE12 0PS

Dear Louise

The attached site will be the subject of a planning application for 4 houses. Will a DBA be necessary?

Gordon

Gordon Smith, MRTPI
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