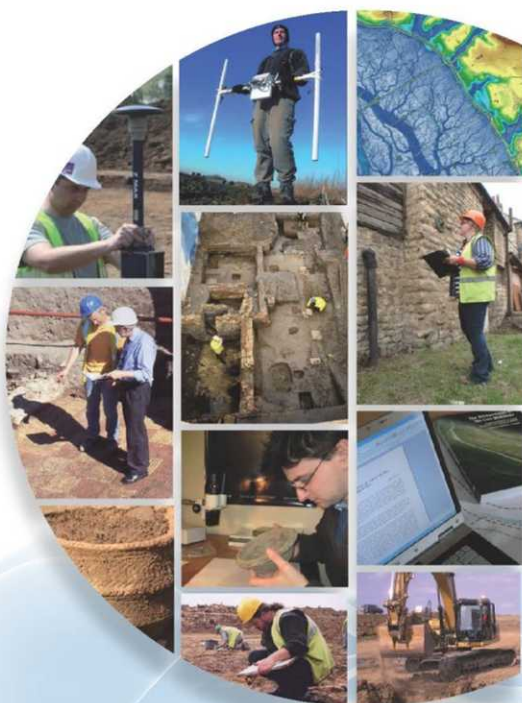




**WRITTEN SCHEME OF INVESTIGATION FOR
ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING AND
RECORDING ON LAND OFF
FEN ROAD
HOLBEACH
LINCOLNSHIRE**

Planning Application No:H09-0784-21
Grid Ref: TF 3572 2384
Accession No: LCNCC:2022.4

PREPARED FOR



APS provides a comprehensive range of archaeological services

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 - Finds analysis

DECEMBER 2022

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1 SUMMARY

- 1.1 *A programme of archaeological monitoring and recording is required during development groundwork on land AT Fen Road, Holbeach, Lincolnshire.*
- 1.2 *The area is archaeologically sensitive, lying south of the settlement of Holbeach and adjacent to the site of medieval salt-making activity. Roman remains are also known in the vicinity, though these lie at depth below later flood silts. Previous evaluation had revealed early medieval features across the site, comprising a boundary ditch, gully and a pit.*
- 1.3 *The investigation will involve monitoring of development groundwork. Deposits exposed will be recorded in writing, graphically and photographically.*
- 1.4 *On completion of the fieldwork a report will be prepared detailing the results of the investigation. The report will consist of a narrative supported by illustrations and photographs.*

2 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 This document comprises a specification for archaeological monitoring and recording of development on land at Fen Road, Holbeach, Lincolnshire.
- 2.2 This document contains the following parts:
 - 2.2.1 Overview.
 - 2.2.2 Stages of work and methodologies.
 - 2.2.3 List of specialists.
 - 2.2.4 Programme of works and staffing structure of the project

3 SITE LOCATION

- 3.1 Holbeach is located 11km east of Spalding and 20km southwest of Boston in the South Holland district of Lincolnshire. The site is in the southern edge of the village, about 900m from the Market Place on the north side of Fen Road, at National Grid Reference TF 3572 2384, 890m south of the parish church of All Saints. The Old River forms the western boundary of the Site and Fen Road the eastern boundary.

4 PLANNING BACKGROUND

- 4.1 The site is the subject of an application (H09-1027-22) for residential development comprising 38 dwellings with a new access road is in place for the site. As a condition of the Planning Permission, SHDC has included the condition that a programme of archaeological work in accordance with a written scheme of investigation (WSI) that should be submitted to and approved by the local planning authority (under discharge condition H09-0784-21). In the first instance this was to

be a strip, sample and record exercise but has, with the consent of the Archaeological Advisor to SHDC, been reduced to Monitoring and Recording. This document constitutes such a WSI for archaeological monitoring and recording during development works.

5 SOILS AND TOPOGRAPHY

- 5.1 Local soils are of the Wisbech Series, typically coarse silty alluvial gley soils, with coarse silty gleyic brown calcareous alluvial soils of the Romney Series in the northeast corner of the site (Robson 1990, 26, 36). These soils are developed upon a drift geology of younger marine alluvium which in turn seal a solid geology of Jurassic West Walton Formation mudstones (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 A significant quantity of Roman pottery, perhaps suggestive of settlement, has been found some 200m to the east of the Site adjacent to the east side of Fen Road. This material was recovered from depth suggesting that sites of this period may lie beneath later alluvial deposits.
- 6.2 Holbeach is thought to have been founded in the Saxon period, although settlement would have been focused towards the current parish church. Late A recent open area excavation revealed what is thought to be the edge of a late Saxon Farmstead, 80m north of the Site. Human remains were encountered within some of the features, although they did not appear to be part of a formal burial. Analysis has not yet been completed (M. Peachey, *pers comm*). An archaeological trenching evaluation took place in the 80m that separates the Site from the Saxon settlement and did not reveal any evidence of it extending south towards the Site (Peachy 2019).
- 6.3 Fieldwalking revealed a concentration of late Saxon material around Manor Farm, 300m northwest of the Site. This tentatively suggest a Saxon building, perhaps a manor house in this area (see below). A thin scatter of pottery suggestive of manuring practice extends from Manor Farm to directly east of the site. No finds of this date were recovered from the Site itself (Lane 2014). An archaeological evaluation which targeted the concertation of Saxon pottery concluded rather than a manorial complex it was a small enclosed settlement associated with salt-making and agriculture (Failes 2016)
- 6.4 Holbeach is first mentioned in the Domesday Survey of c. 1086. Referred to as *Holobec*, *Holobech* and *Holebech*, the name is derived from the Old English and means the 'hollow (*hol*) back (*bæc*)', derived from the local topographic position of the town on raised ground (Cameron 1998, 64).
- 6.5 The Domesday Survey records that Holbeach was held by the King, Crowland Abbey, Count Alan and Guy of Craon and contained extensive arable and pasture (Foster and Longley 1976). The holdings of Crowland abbey and of the Craon's were

manorial and their descent can be traced into the later post-medieval period.

- 6.6 Some 400m to the north of the Site, during the levelling of a mound, 130 burials were revealed in 1867. Medieval pottery and metalwork was associated with these and they have been interpreted as being associated with the Chapel of St Peter. St Peter's chapel is recorded only once in a document dating to the reign of King John (1199-1216). Recent archaeological interventions in the vicinity of the presumed chapel site have identified medieval features and pottery, though none that can be closely associated with a chapel.
- 6.7 Fieldwalking also recovered medieval pottery from the areas that were walked. A particular concentration was noted to the east of Manor Farmhouse which was associated with a raised area of ground (Lane 2014). A single ditch containing pottery of 11th-13th century date was revealed on the northern part of the Site during an archaeological evaluation (Peachey 2019).
- 6.8 Manor Farm was built in the 19th century. However, the name is thought to preserve the location of a manor house mention in the 17th century. Although it is only documented in the post-medieval period, a concentration of late Saxon and medieval pottery suggests it may have been present since the Saxon period (Lane 2014). Further, geophysical evidence suggests the presence of rubble, indicating buildings, in this area (Jefferson 2014).
- 6.9 The Tithe Apportionment map of 1838 shows the site as having the same layout as is currently present, as do extracts from subsequent historic mapping.
- 6.10 An evaluation of the site revealed a boundary ditch, a shallow gully and a pit of early medieval date (Peachey 2022).

7 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- 7.1 The aim of the work will be to record and interpret the deposits and any archaeological features exposed during the development groundwork.
- 7.2 The objectives of the investigation will be to:
- Determine the form and function of the archaeological features encountered;
 - Determine the spatial arrangement of the archaeological features encountered;
 - As far as practicable, recover dating evidence from the archaeological features, and
 - Establish the sequence of the archaeological remains present on the site.

8 SITE OPERATIONS

8.1 General considerations

- 8.1.1 All work will be undertaken following statutory Health and Safety requirements in operation at the time of the investigation.
- 8.1.2 All work will be carried out in accordance with the *Lincolnshire Archaeological Handbook* (Lincolnshire County Council 2019) 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).
- 8.1.3 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.
- 8.1.4 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.

8.2 Methodology

- 8.2.1 The archaeological monitoring will be undertaken during the groundworks phase of development within the area highlighted on the following figure (Plots 14-18), and includes the archaeological monitoring of all phases of soil movement with the opportunity to stop and record archaeological deposits as needed.



- 8.2.2 Stripped areas and trench sections will be observed to identify and record archaeological features that are exposed and to record changes in the geological conditions. The section drawings of the trenches will be recorded at a scale of 1:10. Should features be recorded in plan these will be drawn at a scale of 1:20. Written descriptions detailing the nature of the deposits, features and fills encountered will be compiled on Archaeological Project Services pro-forma record sheets.
- 8.2.3 Finds recovered will be bagged and labelled for later analysis.
- 8.2.4 Throughout the investigation a photographic record will be compiled. The photographic record will consist of:
- the site during the investigation to show specific stages of work, and the layout of the archaeology within the area.
 - individual features and, where appropriate, their sections.
 - groups of features where their relationship is important.
- 8.2.5 Should human remains be located they will be left *in situ* and only excavated if absolutely necessary. Should removal be required the appropriate Ministry of Justice licence will be obtained before the exhumation of the remains. In addition, the Local Environmental Health Department, coroner and the police will be informed, where appropriate.

9 POST-EXCAVATION

9.1 Stage 1

- 9.1.1 On completion of site operations, the records and schedules produced during the investigation will be checked and ordered to ensure that they form a uniform sequence forming 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 referring to schedules identifying the subject/s photographed.
- 9.1.2 All finds recovered during the fieldwork will be washed, marked and packaged according to the deposit from which they were recovered. Any finds requiring specialist treatment and conservation will be sent to York Archaeological Trust.

9.2 Stage 2

- 9.2.1 Detailed examination of the stratigraphic matrix to enable the determination of the various phases of activity on the site.
- 9.2.2 Finds will be sent to specialists for identification and dating.

9.3 Stage 3

9.3.1 On completion of stage 2, a report detailing the findings of the investigation will be prepared.

9.3.2 This will consist of:

- A non-technical summary of the results of the investigation.
- A description of the archaeological setting of the investigation.
- Description of the topography of the site.
- Description of the methodologies used during the investigation.
- A text describing the findings of the investigation.
- A consideration of the local, regional and national context of the investigation findings.
- Plans of 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 chronology and setting within the surrounding landscape.
- Specialist reports on the finds from the site.
- Appropriate photographs of the site and specific archaeological features.

10 **REPORT DEPOSITION**

10.1 Copies of the report will be sent to: the client; the South Holland Planning Archaeologist; and to Lincolnshire County Council Historic Environment Record.

11 **ARCHIVE**

11.1 The documentation and records generated during the investigation will be sorted and ordered into format acceptable to The Collection, Lincoln. This will be undertaken following the requirements of the document titled *Conditions for the Acceptance of Project Archives* for long-term storage and curation.

- Site code HBFR22
- Accession number LCNCC:2022.4
- Deposition date December 2023

12 PUBLICATION

- 12.1 Details of the investigation will be input to the Online Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations (OASIS).
- 12.2 If appropriate, notes on the findings will be submitted to the appropriate national journals: *Britannia* for discoveries of Roman date, and *Medieval Archaeology* for findings of medieval or later date. In addition, a note will be submitted to the local journal, *Lincolnshire History and Archaeology*.

13 CURATORIAL RESPONSIBILITY

- 13.1 Curatorial responsibility for the archaeological work undertaken on the site lies with the South Holland Planning Archaeologist. They will be given written notice of the commencement of the project.

14 VARIATIONS AND CONTINGENCIES

- 14.1 Variations to the proposed scheme of works will only be made following written confirmation of acceptance from the archaeological curator.
- 14.2 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.
- 14.3 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.
- 14.4 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.

15 PROGRAMME OF WORKS AND STAFFING LEVELS

- 15.1 The investigation will be integrated with the programme of construction and is dependent on the developers' work programme, and also on the quantity and complexity of archaeological remains encountered. It is therefore not possible to specify the person-hours for the archaeological site. Post-excavation work is likewise dependent on the quantity and complexity of archaeological remains encountered.
- 15.2 An archaeological supervisor with experience of investigations of this type will undertake the work.
- 15.3 Post-excavation analysis and report production will be undertaken by the archaeological supervisor, or a post-excavation analyst as appropriate, with assistance from a finds supervisor, illustrator and external specialists.

16 SPECIALISTS TO BE USED DURING THE PROJECT

- 16.1 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.

Task		Body undertaking the work
Conservation		York Archaeological Trust
Pottery Analysis	Bronze Age	Dr P Chowne, Independent specialist
	Iron Age	D Trimble, Independent specialist
	Roman	I Rowlandson, Independent specialist
	Post-Roman	J Young/A Irving, Independent specialists
Non-ceramic artefacts		D Buckley APS/J Cowgill, Independent specialist
Lithics (Flints)		T Lane, Independent specialist
Stonework		P Cope-Faulkner APS
Metalworking		A Frasca/J Cowgill, Independent specialists
Metal Detecting		L Gerassimov, APS
Faunal Remains		M Holmes/N Sleaford, Independent specialists
Human Remains Analysis	Skeletal	Maria Leroi, APS/R Kendall, Independent specialist
	Cremations	L Keal, Independent specialist
Environmental Analysis		Environmental Archaeology Consultancy
Waterlogged wood		M Bamforth, Independent specialist
Scientific Dating	C ₁₄	SUERC
	Dendro	University of Sheffield Dendrochronology Lab
Artefact Illustration		Dave Watt

17 INSURANCES

- 17.1 Archaeological Project Services, as part of the Heritage Trust of Lincolnshire, maintains Employers Liability Insurance of £10,000,000, together with Public and Products Liability insurances, each with indemnity of £5,000,000. Copies of insurance documentation can be supplied on request.

18 COPYRIGHT

- 18.1 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.

- 18.2 Licence will also be given to the archaeological curators to use the documentary archive for educational, public and research purposes.
- 18.3 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.
- 18.4 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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