

archaeological
project services

**'THE MEADOWS'
HALL GATE
HOLBEACH
LINCOLNSHIRE**

**PREPARED FOR
ASHWOOD HOMES**

AUGUST 2018

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1 SUMMARY

- 1.1 *This document comprises a specification for a programme of archaeological investigations at Hall Gate, Holbeach, Lincolnshire. The works will comprise a mixture of excavation along with strip, map and record type investigations.*
- 1.2 *The site is archaeologically significant. Previous evaluation of the site has identified remains of Late Saxon to early medieval date suggesting small scale enclosed settlement associated with salt making.*
- 1.3 *A programme of archaeological investigation is now required to preserve by record, and in some instances preserved in situ, the archaeological remains directly impacted by the development. Archaeological remains exposed will be recorded in writing, graphically and photographically.*
- 1.4 *On completion of the fieldwork an assessment report will be prepared detailing the results of the investigation. The report will consist of a text describing and interpreting the archaeological deposits and artefacts located. The text will be supported by illustrations and photographs. In addition, an updated project design will also be prepared.*

2 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 This document comprises a specification for a programme of archaeological work at Hall Gate, Holbeach, Lincolnshire.
- 2.2 The document contains the following parts:
 - 2.2.1 Overview
 - 2.2.2 The archaeological and natural setting
 - 2.2.3 Stages of work and methodologies to be used
 - 2.2.4 List of specialists
 - 2.2.5 Programme of works and staffing structure of the project

3 SITE LOCATION

- 3.1 Holbeach is situated 11km east of Spalding and 20km south of Boston, in the administrative district of South Holland, Lincolnshire.
- 3.2 Hall Farm, immediately adjacent to the site, lies approximately 900m south of the centre of Holbeach. The proposed excavation is to take place on land to the south of Hall Gate and west of Fen Road at National Grid Reference TF 3561

2413.

4 PLANNING BACKGROUND

- 4.1 Permission has been granted by South Holland District Council (Planning Application No. H09-0331-17) for the construction of 330 residential properties (Phases 1B and 2), associated highway infrastructure (Phase 1A) and a development plan for the phased construction for the rest of the site. Outline permission (H09-0521-14) called for a written scheme of investigation for archaeological investigations to be prepared for submission to the Lincolnshire County Council Historic Environment Team. This present document provides such a Written Scheme of Investigation for the initial phase of works.

5 SOILS AND TOPOGRAPHY

- 5.1 The site stands at c. 2.7m OD on the generally flat landscape of the fens of South Lincolnshire.
- 5.2 Soils at the site are of the Wisbech Series, typically coarse silty calcareous 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 seals a solid geology of Upper Jurassic West Walton Formation mudstones (BGS 1992).

6 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

- 6.1 Hall Gate lies in an area of known archaeological remains dating from the Romano-British period to the present day. Substantial amounts of Romano-British pottery was found to the east of the site which may indicate a settlement of the period in this vicinity.
- 6.2 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). The Domesday Survey records that Holbeach was held by the King (as sokeland of Gedney), by Crowland Abbey (as a manor), Count Alan (as sokeland and a berewic) and Guy of Craon (also manorial) and contained c. 5210 acres of arable land and 182 acres of meadow, though the acreage was shared with Whaplode (Foster and Longley 1976, 1/32-3; 11/1; 12/83-4; 57/50).
- 6.3 Geophysical survey was undertaken at the site which revealed an area of probable archaeological anomalies comprising a possible enclosure and pits to the east of Manor Farm. Former field boundaries were also revealed along with traces of relict creeks (Jefferson 2014).

- 6.4 Subsequent fieldwalking identified a concentration of Late Saxon and medieval finds overlying the geophysical enclosure to the east of Manor Farm (Lane 2014, 4).
- 6.5 A subsequent evaluation identified a sequence of natural, undated, Late Saxon to early medieval and post-medieval deposits. Undated features include elements of an extensive creek system. Although undated, one creek matched the position of a post-medieval field boundary. Late Saxon and early medieval deposits were concentrated in the northeast corner of the site mirroring the fieldwalking results. Results suggested a small enclosed settlement associated with salt-making and agriculture, both pastoral and arable. Salt-making appears to have been concentrated on the eastern side of the former Holbeach river where extensive dumps of silt waste were recorded. No hearths or settling tanks were identified though fired clay/briquetage supports and oven material imply they are located in close proximity.

7 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- 7.1 The general aim of the work is to ensure that any archaeological remains are identified and to mitigate the impact of the construction of the new development by making a record of them in order to recover as much information as possible on the origins, date, development, phasing, spatial organisation, character, function, status, significance and nature of social, economic and industrial activities on the site;
- 7.2 The objectives of the work will be to:
 - 7.2.1 Determine the stratigraphic sequence and date of the archaeological remains present on the site.
 - 7.2.2 Determine the extent and spatial arrangement of archaeological remains present within the site.
 - 7.2.3 Establish the character of archaeological remains present within the site.
 - 7.2.4 Determine the extent to which surrounding archaeological remains extend into the site.
 - 7.2.5 Identify the way in which the archaeological remains identified fit into the pattern of occupation and land-use in the surrounding landscape.
 - 7.2.6 To disseminate the results through deposition of an ordered archive at The Collection, Lincoln, the deposition of a detailed report at the Lincolnshire Historic Environment Record and publication at a level of detail appropriate to the significance of the results.

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. A Risk Assessment will be prepared prior to the investigation, and updated throughout its duration.
- 8.1.2 The work will be undertaken according to the relevant codes of practice issued by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA). Archaeological Project Services is a CIfA registered archaeological organisation (no. 21) managed by a Member (MCIfA) of the institute.
- 8.1.3 All work will be carried out in accordance with the *Lincolnshire Archaeological Handbook* (Lincolnshire County Council 2016) and any revisions of such received up to the acceptance of this Written Scheme of Investigation. The investigation, and its analysis, will be undertaken with consideration for the regional archaeological research agenda (Knight *et al.* 2012).
- 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 the discovery promptly reported to the appropriate coroner's office. The Finds Liaison/Portable Antiquities Officer will also be notified.

8.2 Methodology

- 8.2.1 Before any earth moving activities are undertaken in the area of archaeological interest, the site for future archaeological works and other areas set aside for preservation *in situ*, will be fenced off to protect the buried remains until they can be examined archaeologically.
- 8.2.2 Stripping of topsoil and other overburden will be undertaken by a suitable mechanical excavator using a flat-bladed ditching bucket, operated under the continuous supervision and control of APS archaeologists. The location/method of topsoil disposal will be agreed with the plant contractor and client, subject to it not compromising the archaeological works. The full depth of topsoil, including any other overburden as defined by the archaeologist present on site, shall be stripped. Mechanical excavation shall cease at the top of the first archaeologically significant horizon. No plant will be allowed to run on stripped surfaces.
- 8.2.3 During and after completion of mechanical excavation, the stripped

surface will be cleaned by hand and inspected for the presence of features and deposits of archaeological interest.

8.2.4 An overall plan shall be prepared by survey grade GPS. The survey data shall be accurately tied into the Ordnance Survey National Grid and Ordnance Datum.

8.2.5 All exposed features revealed within the excavated area will be hand-excavated in accordance with the following strategy:

- Discrete negative features (less than 1m diameter): at least 50% by area in addition to all stratigraphic relationships;
- Discrete negative features (more than 1m in diameter): at least 50% in area in addition to all stratigraphic relationships;
- Discrete negative features containing good assemblages: 100%
- Non-structural linear negative features: at least 10% by area in addition to all stratigraphic relationships and termini;
- Structural negative features: 100%, unless otherwise agreed with the Archaeological Curator;
- Other features: 100% unless otherwise agreed with the Archaeological Curator.

8.2.6 The above strategy may be reduced in those areas identified for strip, map and record investigations, particularly if they are likely to extend into adjacent excavated areas. However, all features that do not extend beyond the strip, map and record areas will be sampled.

8.2.7 Some areas, particularly open spaces/gardens, will not be subjected to archaeological investigations in order to preserve the archaeological resource *in situ*. These areas will be kept clear of all earth-moving activities, compounds and soil storage. Temporary fencing will be used to highlight the presence of these areas in order that sub-surface deposits will remain undisturbed.

8.2.8 All archaeological features and deposits will be fully recorded on APS pro-forma context record sheets. The system used is the single context method by which individual archaeological units of stratigraphy are assigned a unique record number and are individually described and drawn.

8.2.9 Plans of all excavated features and, where possible, all deposits will be

recorded on at least one hand drawn plan at a scale of 1:20 and at least one section drawing, at a scale of 1:10. Should individual features merit it, they will be drawn at a larger scale. The overall site plan will be updated regularly to show all excavated features and all excavated sections. All hand-drawn plans and sections will show at least two reference points which shall be tied-in by instrument survey and whose coordinates shall be marked on the drawing. All hand-drawn plans and sections shall show spot-heights related to the Ordnance Survey datum and accurate to two decimal points.

8.2.10 Throughout the duration of the excavation a photographic record consisting of black and white prints (reproduced as contact sheets) and colour digital images will be compiled. The photographic record will consist of:

- the site before the commencement of field operations
- 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.
- the site on completion of fieldwork

8.2.11 All unexcavated archaeological features and deposits will be recorded to the extent possible by the above methods.

8.2.12 Finds collected during the fieldwork will be bagged and labelled according to the individual deposit from which they were recovered, ready for later washing and analysis. Individually significant finds ("special finds") shall be recorded three-dimensionally using a sequence of unique numbers.

8.2.13 All finds work will be carried out to accepted professional standards and in accordance with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists *Standard and Guidance for the Collection, Documentation, Conservation and Research of Archaeological Material* (2014) and the City and County Museum's *Conditions for the acceptance of archaeological archives*.

8.2.14 Conservation of artefacts will be carried out by York Archaeological Trust. The resources available for conservation is dependent on the quantity and type of artefacts recovered from the site but as a guiding principle, only artefacts of 'displayable' quality would warrant full conservation.

- 8.2.15 The trenches, all exposed surfaces, excavation horizons, and spoil, will be regularly and repeatedly metal-detected to ensure optimum recovery of artefacts. Any identified artefacts will be excavated from its parent context in normal stratigraphic sequence.
- 8.2.16 Prior to commencement of site operations, Archaeological Project Services will liaise with the Lincolnshire HER to ensure that the Site Code and Context Numbering system is compatible with the Lincolnshire HER.
- 8.2.17 The collection of soil samples and other appropriate materials for scientific dating and the recovery of palaeoenvironmental evidence shall be undertaken as necessary to fulfil the aims of the excavation. Samples will be taken from all waterlogged feature fills. Otherwise, samples will be taken from primary and secondary fills of ditches and pits, the level of sampling being appropriate to the content of the individual feature. Samples will be retained from approximately 50% of half-sectioned postholes where they form parts of recognizable structures. All sampling will follow the procedures in *Centre for Archaeology Guidelines - Environmental Archaeology* (English Heritage 2011).
- 8.2.18 If any human remains are encountered, the Archaeological Curator, the Coroner and the local police shall be notified and the appropriate procedures shall be adhered to. Before disturbing the remains, APS will obtain the appropriate Ministry of Justice licence. APS will then ensure that the process of exhumation complies with the statutory provisions of the Burial Act 1857 and any other Ministry of Justice and environmental health regulations.

9 POST-EXCAVATION AND REPORT

- 9.1 Post-excavation assessment and analysis will be undertaken in accordance with Historic England's *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment* 2015. An assessment report will be produced outlining the significance of the findings and outlining proposals, where relevant, for full analysis and reporting. Should this assessment determine that full analysis and publication is merited for part or whole of the archaeological remains at the site, a detailed account of all the work carried out and the results obtained will be presented in a final report on completion of all fieldwork and analysis.

9.2 Stage 1: Initial processing of site archive

- 9.2.1 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.

9.2.2 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.

9.2.3 Detailed examination of the stratigraphic matrix to enable the determination of the various phases of activity on the site. ENVIRO

9.3 Stage 2: Preparation of Assessment Report to include:

9.3.1 Introduction detailing the scope of the project, circumstances and date of the fieldwork and previous work undertaken on the site, comments on the organisation of the report.

9.3.2 A discussion of the original research aims and summary of the documented history of the site.

9.3.3 An interim statement on the results of the fieldwork.

9.3.4 Summary of the site archive and work carried out for the assessment with reference to:

- Site records: the quantity of material and outline of work done in initial post-excavation phase.
- Finds: factual summary of the material and records and assessment of quantity, range, variety and preservation of material.
- Environmental material: factual summary of material recovered and each type of sample; assessment of quantity, range, variety and preservation of the material.
- Documentary records: list of relevant sources and discussion of quantity, variety and intensity of study of sources used.

9.3.5 Discussion of the potential of the data and extent to which the site archive might meet the research aims of the project and statement of the potential of the data in developing new research aims.

- 9.3.6 A summary of the potential of the data in terms of local, regional, national and international significance.

9.4 Stage 3: Updated project design and report

- 9.4.1 An Updated Project Design will be prepared setting out a programme for completing the analytical research, publishing the results and depositing the archive in an approved museum. A timetable, including a Critical Path Analysis and the aims of the specialist research will be identified and agreed.
- 9.4.2 Processing and primary research will include the analysis and investigative conservation of material directly relevant to the chronology, economy, organisation and environment of the site, and the ordering of other classes of data. A comprehensive stratigraphic analysis will be completed, a site narrative prepared and specialist reports on artefacts and environmental data obtained and incorporated into the report synthesis.

10 ARCHIVE

- 10.1 Archive consolidation shall be completed immediately after the conclusion of fieldwork but is regarded as part of the fieldwork process, to ensure that the site record has been checked, cross-referenced and indexed as necessary and that all retained finds have been cleaned, conserved, marked and packaged as appropriate.
- 10.2 The documentation, finds, photographs and other records and materials generated during the investigation will be sorted and ordered in accordance with the procedures in the Society of Museum Archaeologists' document *Transfer of Archaeological Archives to Museums* (1994), and any additional local requirements, for long-term storage and curation. This work will be undertaken by the Finds Supervisor, an Archaeological Assistant and the Conservator (if relevant). The archive will be deposited with the receiving museum as soon as possible after completion of the project, and within 12 months of completion.
- 10.3 Prior to the project commencing, The Collection, Lincoln, will be contacted to obtain their agreement to receipt of the project archive and to establish their requirements with regards to labelling, ordering, storage, conservation and organisation of the archive.
- 10.4 Upon completion and submission of the investigation report, the landowner will be contacted to arrange legal transfer of title to the archaeological objects retained during the investigation from themselves to the receiving museum. The transfer of title will be effected by a standard letter supplied to the landowner for signature.

11 REPORT DEPOSITION

- 11.1 Copies of the investigation report will be sent to: the client; Lincolnshire Historic Environment Record,. Another copy of the report will be sent to the English Heritage Regional Advisor for Archaeological Science.

12 PUBLICATION

- 12.1 A report of the findings of the investigation will be submitted for inclusion in the local journal *Lincolnshire History and Archaeology*. Notes or articles describing the results of the investigation will also be submitted for publication in the appropriate national journals: *Post-medieval Archaeology* and *Medieval Archaeology* for medieval and later remains, and *Britannia* for discoveries of Roman date.
- 12.2 Details of the investigation will also be input to the Online Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations (OASIS).

13 CURATORIAL MONITORING

- 13.1 Curatorial responsibility for the project lies with the Lincolnshire Historic Environment Service. As much notice as possible, ideally fourteen days, will be given in writing to the curator prior to the commencement of the project to enable them to make appropriate monitoring arrangements.
- 13.2 A meeting will also be requested at the beginning of the post-fieldwork assessment stage to discuss the aims, resources and timetable for the assessment report. Other meetings may be arranged to assess progress throughout the duration of the project.

14 VARIATIONS TO THE PROPOSED SCHEME OF WORKS

- 14.1 Variations to the scheme of works will only be made following written confirmation of acceptability from the archaeological curator.
- 14.2 Should the archaeological curator require any additional investigation beyond the scope of the brief for works, or this specification, then the cost and duration of those supplementary examinations will be negotiated between the client and the contractor.

15 STAFF TO BE USED DURING THE PROJECT

- 15.1 The work will be directed by Paul Cope-Faulkner MCIfA, Senior Manager (Archaeology), Archaeological Project Services. The on-site works will be

supervised by an Archaeological Supervisor with knowledge of archaeological investigations of this type. Archaeological excavation will be carried out by Archaeological Technicians, experienced in projects of this type.

- 15.2 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, archivist, illustrators and external specialists.
- 15.3 The following organisations/persons will, in principal 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.

<u>Task</u>	<u>Body to be undertaking the work</u>
Conservation	York Archaeological Trust
Pottery Analysis	Prehistoric: S Percival, independent specialist Roman: I Rowlandson, independent specialist Anglo-Saxon and later: A Irving, independent specialist
Briquetage	Tom Lane, independent specialist
Other Artefacts	J Cowgill, independent specialist/D Buckley, APS
Human Remains Analysis	R Kendall, independent specialist
Animal Remains Analysis	Environmental Archaeology Consultancy
Environmental Analysis	Environmental Archaeology Consultancy
Soil Assessment	Dr Charly French, independent specialist
Pollen Assessment	Pat Wiltshire, independent specialist
Wood Assessment	Maisie Taylor, Soke Archaeological Services Ltd
Masonry/dressed stone	P Cope-Faulkner, APS
Radiocarbon dating	SUERC
Dendrochronology dating	University of Sheffield Dendrochronology Laboratory

16 PROGRAMME OF WORKS

- 16.1 The investigations will be integrated with the programme of construction and is dependent on the developers' work programme/construction phasing and also on the quantity and complexity of the archaeological remains encountered. It is, therefore, not possible to specify a strict timetable for the investigations.
- 16.2 Likewise, post-excavation work is also dependent on the quantity and complexity of the archaeological remains encountered.

17 INSURANCES

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

18 COPYRIGHT

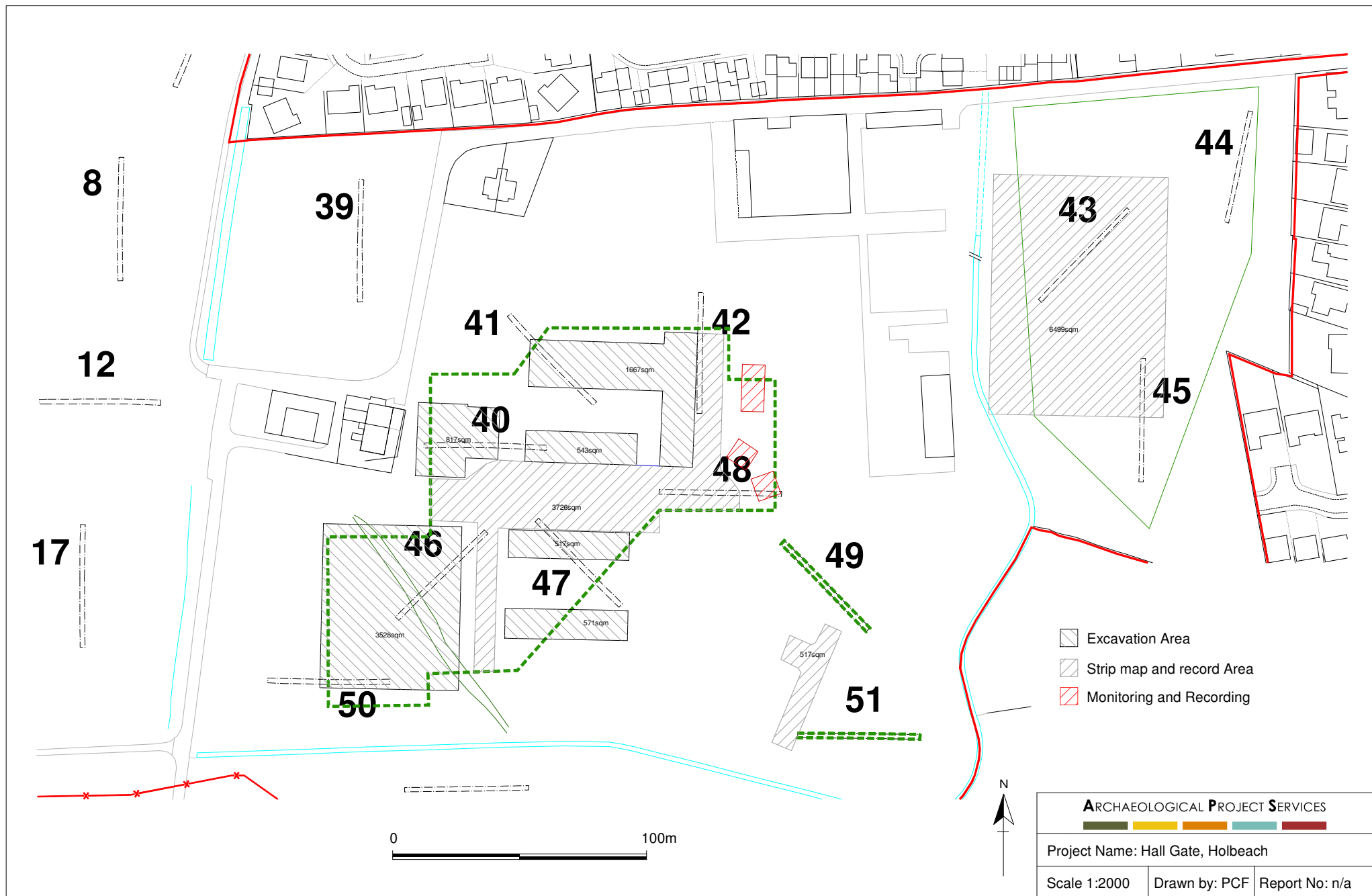
- 18.1 Archaeological Project Services shall retain full copyright of any commissioned reports under the *Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988* with all rights reserved; excepting that it hereby provides an exclusive licence to the client for the use of such documents by the client in all matters 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.

19 BIBLIOGRAPHY

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Specification: Version 2, 26/09/2018



Proposed Investigation Areas