GROUNDWORKS ARCHAEOLOGY

# Specification for a Programme of Archaeological Observation, Investigation and Recording, On Land off Roman Road Moulton Chapel Lincolnshire

**Prepared for Matrix Planning**

**National Grid Reference: TF 29569 18124**
**Planning Reference: H13-0370-19**
**Museum Accession Number: LCNCC:2020.37**
**Site Code MCR20**

**February 2020**

**Version 2**

**Non-technical Summary**

*S1* Planning consent has been granted (reference H13-0370-19) for the "Proposed development of up to 58 houses with vehicular access (garages to be removed) (resubmission of H13-1280-16)" on land south of Roman Road, Moulton Chapel, Spalding, Lincolnshire.

*S2* *A pre-planning determination archaeological field evaluation comprising the mechanical excavation of twenty-eight archaeological trial trenches was undertaken between the 25th-31st of October 2017. The vast bulk of the archaeological features that were identified by this field evaluation comprised elements of a Roman field system, with their various land boundary division and drainage functions.*

*S3* *Conditions 5-7 require the implementation of a programme of archaeological mitigation which in this case comprises of archaeological observation, investigation and recording.*

*S4* *On completion of the field work a report will be produced detailing the results of the archaeological investigation consisting of a narrative supported by illustrations and photographs.*

## 1. Site location and description

1.1 The proposed development site currently comprises an enclosed field that is situated on land to the south of Roman Road and to the west of Woodgate Road. Modern residential developments are situated to the immediate north, east and west of the proposal site with further enclosed fields located to the south-east and south. The proposal site is located on land off the southern and eastern outskirts of the village of Moulton Chapel, which is in turn located some 6km to the south-east of Spalding. The proposal site is situated within the modern civil parish of Moulton, administrative district of South Holland, County of Lincolnshire (see figure 1).

1.2 Topographically, the site is situated in a flat, low-lying area of the Lincolnshire fens at a height of approximately 3m AOD. It is located on deep stoneless calcareous coarse silty soils of the Wisbech Series, which in turn overlie deposits of marine alluvium known as Terrington Beds and a solid geology of Oxford Clays and Kellaway Beds of the Middle Jurassic.

## 2. Planning background

2.1 Planning consent has been granted (reference H13-0370-19) for the "Proposed development of up to 58 houses with vehicular access (garages to be removed) (resubmission of H13-1280-16)" on land south of Roman Road, Moulton Chapel, Spalding, Lincolnshire (see figure 2 for proposed layout with evaluation trench locations overlaid).

2.2 Condition 5 states that "No development shall take place until a written scheme of archaeological investigation has been submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority. This scheme should include the following and should be in accordance with the archaeological brief supplied by the Lincolnshire County Council Historic Environment advisor on behalf of the Local Planning Authority:"

1. An assessment of significance and proposed mitigation strategy (i.e. preservation by record, preservation in situ or a mix of these elements).
2. A methodology and timetable of site investigation and recording.
3. Provision for site analysis
4. Provision for publication and dissemination of analysis and records.
5. Provision for archive deposition.
6. Nomination of a competent person/organisation to undertake the work.
7. The scheme to be in accordance with the Lincolnshire Archaeological Handbook. The archaeological site work shall only be undertaken in accordance with the approved written scheme.

**Reason:** "To ensure the preparation and implementation of an appropriate scheme of archaeological mitigation in accordance with national guidance contained in Section 16 of the National Planning Policy Framework, 2018. This issue is integral to the development and therefore full details need to be finalised prior to the commencement of works."

2.3 Condition 6 states that "The applicant shall notify the Lincolnshire County Council Historic Environment Department in writing of the intention to commence at least fourteen days before the start of archaeological work required in connection with Condition 5 above in order to facilitate adequate monitoring arrangements."

**Reason:** "To ensure satisfactory archaeological investigation and retrieval of archaeological finds in accordance with national guidance contained in Section 16 of the National Planning Policy Framework, 2018."

2.4 Condition 7 requires that "A copy of the final report required in connection with Condition 5 above shall be submitted within three months of the work being carried out to the Local Planning Authority and the Lincolnshire Historic Environment Record. The material and paper archive required as part of the written scheme of investigation shall be deposited with an appropriate archive in accordance with guidelines published in The Lincolnshire Archaeological Handbook."

**Reason:** "To ensure satisfactory arrangements are made for the recording of possible archaeological remains in accordance with national guidance contained in Section 16 of the National Planning Policy Framework, 2018."

## 3. Historical and Archaeological Background

3.1 A prior archaeological desk based study of the proposal site was undertaken by Groundworks Archaeology earlier in 2017.

3.2 This assessment highlighted that the site was of overall **low-moderate** archaeological potential for features of **low** significance for all periods except the Romano-British period where the potential is **high** for features of **moderate** significance. Finds or features relating to Romano-British date may be considered *de facto* to be of **moderate-high** significance, while agricultural remains dating from the Medieval to Post-medieval periods may be considered to be of generally **low** or **low-moderate** significance.

3.3 A pre-planning determination archaeological field evaluation comprising the mechanical excavation of twenty-eight archaeological trial trenches was undertaken between the 25th-31st of October 2017.

3.4 The vast bulk of the archaeological features that were identified by this field evaluation comprised elements of field systems, with their various land boundary division and drainage functions. These field system elements can in turn be sub-divided into two distinctive periods of land use.

3.5 The earliest of these two periods of land use may be attributed to the Romano-British period. This reinforced one of the conclusions of the prior archaeological desk based assessment study, which had identified a high potential for archaeological activity from the Romano-British Period to be made on this site. Here, various elements of a contemporary field system of land division and of drainage function were identified within Trenches 1; 2; 4; 5; 19; 6; 25; 7; 9 and 14. Although sections were excavated through these various linear ditch cuts, most of these did not produce any finds. It was only from the sections excavated through these features within Trenches 1, 2 and 4, exclusively at the western end of this survey area that yielded pottery finds of mid 1st -3rd century AD date. Despite this, and based on likely stratagraphical relationships and the process of elimination, it is possible to conclude that the linear ditch cuts identified within Trenches 1; 2; 4; 5; 19; 6; 25; 7; 9 and 14 may represent fragmented elements of a Romano-British agricultural landscape denoted by land division and drainage functions.

3.6 One of the ditches which make up this Romano-British field system and located within Trench 28, yielded six fragments of fired clay (including two co-joined) of Roman date from one of its fills. All of these finds were in an unabraded and therefore in a 'fresh' condition. The finds report which accompanies this document, concludes that these pieces could be items of pottery kiln furniture or alternatively and more likely, that these were fragments of oven furniture, perhaps intended for use within a industrial oven and may have been used in the process of salt manufacture. The fragments from this oven, were subsequently dumped into this pit following its disuse.

3.7 Outside the various elements of field systems, which as noted earlier made up the vast bulk of the archaeological features identified on this site, only two other discrete archaeological features were identified. The first of these was the cut of an isolated pit, which was recorded and hand excavated within Trench 7. One fill of this ditch produced finds of pottery from the late 2nd to the mid 3rd centuries AD, thus identifying this pit as being of Romano-British origin, though its original function and purpose remain uncertain. The finds report notes that the pottery finds from this pit were likely to be primary deposition material.

3.8 The second such discrete archaeological feature was the cut of a curvilinear feature that was recorded within Trench 17. Although two

sections were hand excavated through this feature, no finds were produced and so this feature remains undated. However, its shape, form and its location within the overall archaeological context of a Romano-British agricultural landscape may tentatively suggest a late Iron Age or early Roman attribution to this feature. It is possible that this may represent the remains of a drip gully to a late Iron Age or early Roman round house, which may in turn suggest evidence, albeit tentative, for transitional settlement activity on this site from the late Iron Age through to the Romano-British period.

3.9 The latest phase of this land usage was identified by the line of an east-west orientated land boundary/ drainage dyke that was located in Trenches 28, 4; 20; 10; 24 and 16. This feature extended along the southern margins of the survey area, and although several sections were excavated within it, these did not produce any finds. However, based on the initial assessment made from the prior desk based study for the site, this landscape linear feature is interpreted as being a parliamentary enclosure ditch, and therefore of Post-medieval origin.

3.10 To the north of this, and extending parallel to this Post-medieval enclosure ditch, the line of a second east-west orientated linear ditch cut was recorded within Trenches 18; 6; 22; 12 and 26. A number of further sections were excavated through this feature, which produced a number of finds of modern origin. Consequently, this linear landscape feature is interpreted as being of modern 20th century origin.

## 4. Aims and objectives of the project

4.1 The aims of the project are the archaeological monitoring of all excavation and ground reduction activity during the groundworks phase of the project.

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 For the purposes of this project, archaeologically significant remains and contexts are defined as remains and contexts relating to pre 19th century human use of the area.

## 5. Methodology

5.1 At the start of work (immediately before fieldwork commences) an OASIS online record http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/oasis/ will be initiated and key fields completed on Details, Location and Creators forms. Upon completion of the fieldwork, the online OASIS form will be completed. Once any reports have become public documents following their incorporation into the HER, they will be uploaded to the Archaeological Data Service website.

5.2 The archaeological monitoring will be undertaken during the groundworks phase of development and will cover all ground reduction, foundation excavation and service excavation within the development site.

5.3 All work will be carried out according to the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) Codes of Conduct and Standards and Guidance documents (specifically *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs,* 2014).

5.4 A risk assessment will be prepared for the site and all work will be undertaken following statutory health and safety requirements and legislation in operation at the time of the fieldwork.

5.5 Stripped areas and trench sections will be continually observed to identify any archaeological features and/or deposits which may be exposed. Where significant features are encountered then a wider investigation may be necessary.

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 an appropriate scale 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 Archaeological features will be measured into the site boundaries and thus into the National Grid.

5.9 Where practicable, the contractor will scan the spoil from the developer's groundworks for objects relating to human exploitation of the area and will record their existence or will recover them.

5.10 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 and the Finds Liaison Officer.

5.11 Throughout the monitoring a digital photographic record will be compiled. This 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.

5.12 Should human remains be encountered, they will be left in situ, and will only be 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. Any excavation of human remains will require an addendum to the WSI.

5.13 Any finds recovered will be bagged and labelled according to the individual context from which they were recovered for later washing and further analysis. All relevant finds will be ordered into an archive with appropriate conservation and analysis e.g. X radiography for appropriate items. 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. Appropriate provision will be made for the application of scientific dating techniques such as radiocarbon, dendrochronology, archaeomagnetic, OSL and thermoluminescence. The advice of the Historic England Regional Scientific Advisor will be sought in advance of the application of these techniques.

5.14 Environmental sampling will be undertaken (where appropriate) of the fills of relevant archaeological features and/or significant archaeological deposits as well as to allow the characterisation of soil profiles, plant remains, molluscs, faunal remains and pollen sequences. Where deposits are dry, bulk samples for the recovery of charred plant remains, small bones and finds, will be taken from sealed and datable features such as pits, ditches, hearths and floors. Each context will normally be sampled. The size of the sample is expected to be in the range of 40-60 litres per context or 100% of smaller contexts. Samples will not be taken from the intersection of features. Where deposits are wet, waterlogged or peaty, monoliths will be taken along cleaned vertical surfaces for the retrieval of pollen, diatoms, ostracods and foraminifera. For wet, waterlogged or peaty deposits, bulk samples of 20 litres will be taken from visible layers or spits for the retrieval of plant macro-remains and insects. Environmental samples from dry deposits will normally be processed by flotation following the excavation fieldwork and the residues will be sorted to retrieve small bones, small finds and charcoal that have not floated. The samples will be

extracted and recorded in accordance with Environmental Archaeology (Historic England) and in consultation with the appointed specialist and Historic England).

## 6. Post-fieldwork methodology

6.1 On the completion of the fieldwork, all of the written, drawn and photographic records produced during the project will be checked, ordered, labelled (where appropriate) and catalogued to compile a distinctive site archive. A stratagraphical matrix of the archaeological features and/or deposits present on the site will be compiled.

6.2 All finds recovered during the fieldwork will be washed, marked and packaged according to the individual context from which they were recovered. They will also be ordered into (and form part of) the site archive. An assessment of significant finds will be made in light of general site information. 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.

6.3 Provision will be made for the post-excavation processing and analysis of environmental samples taken (if any) during the course of the on-site fieldwork.

6.4 The site archive will be examined to enable the determination of various phases of activity on the site (if appropriate).

6.5 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 notice period of fourteen days will be given to the Lincolnshire County Council Historic Environment Team of the start date of works on the site.

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 planning archaeologist.

7.5 Should the Lincolnshire County Council Historic Environment team require any additional investigation which is beyond the scope of this document, then the cost and duration of these supplementary works will be negotiated between the client and the contractor.

7.6 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.

7.7 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 investigations.

## 8. Reporting Procedures

8.1 A report detailing the findings of the archaeological observation, investigation and recording exercise will be completed within three months after the finalisation of the fieldwork. Any delays will be related to the relevant authorities.

8.2 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 project;

A section on the discussion and results of the project including a consideration of the findings of the project within the local, regional and national context;

A consideration of the effectiveness of the project methodology and a confidence rating of the results;

Illustrations including plans and sections of all archaeological features;

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 and a photographic register.

## 9. Archive and Deposition

9.1 The documentation and records generated by the archaeological evaluation including all written records, drawings, photographic images and the project report will be sorted and ordered in the format acceptable to The Collection, Lincoln, and to the standards and requirements as laid out in their *Conditions for the Acceptance of Project Archives*.

9.2 The archive will be deposited at The Collection, Lincoln.

9.3 A unique accession number will be obtained from The Collection for the site archive.

9.4 It is anticipated that the preparation of the project archive for deposition will take one working day.

9.5 It is anticipated that the project archive will be deposited with The Collection, Lincoln by March 2021.

## 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, 2017).

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 Post-excavation analysis will be undertaken by James Roberts and where available specialist analysis from:-

| | |
|---|---|
| Paul Blinkhorn | Medieval and Post-medieval Ceramics |
| Andrew Peachy | Prehistoric and Roman ceramics |
| Greg Priestly Bell | Flint implements |
| Chris Pine | Environmental |
| Laura Keal | Osteoarchaeology |

13.2 Small finds requiring conservation will be conserved by the City and County Museum Laboratory, Lincoln.

13.3 Recognised specialists will be sought in the event that other data is retrieved in the course of the monitoring.

## 14. Copyright

14.1 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.

## 15. Ownership

15.1 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.

## 16. Insurance

16.1 Public indemnity of £2,000,000 with Towergate Insurance.

16.2 Groundworks Archaeology will not be liable to indemnify the applicant/owner/developer against any compensation or damages for or with respect to:

damage to crops / plants being on the Area or Areas of Work (save in so far as possession has not been given to the Archaeological Contractor)

the use or occupation of land (which has been provided by the owner/applicant) by the project or for the purposes of completing the project or interference whether temporary or permanent with any right of way light air or other easement or quasi easement which are the unavoidable result of the project in accordance with the Agreement

any other damage which is the unavoidable result of the project in accordance with the Agreement.

damage to buried services or utilities being on the Area or Areas of Work.

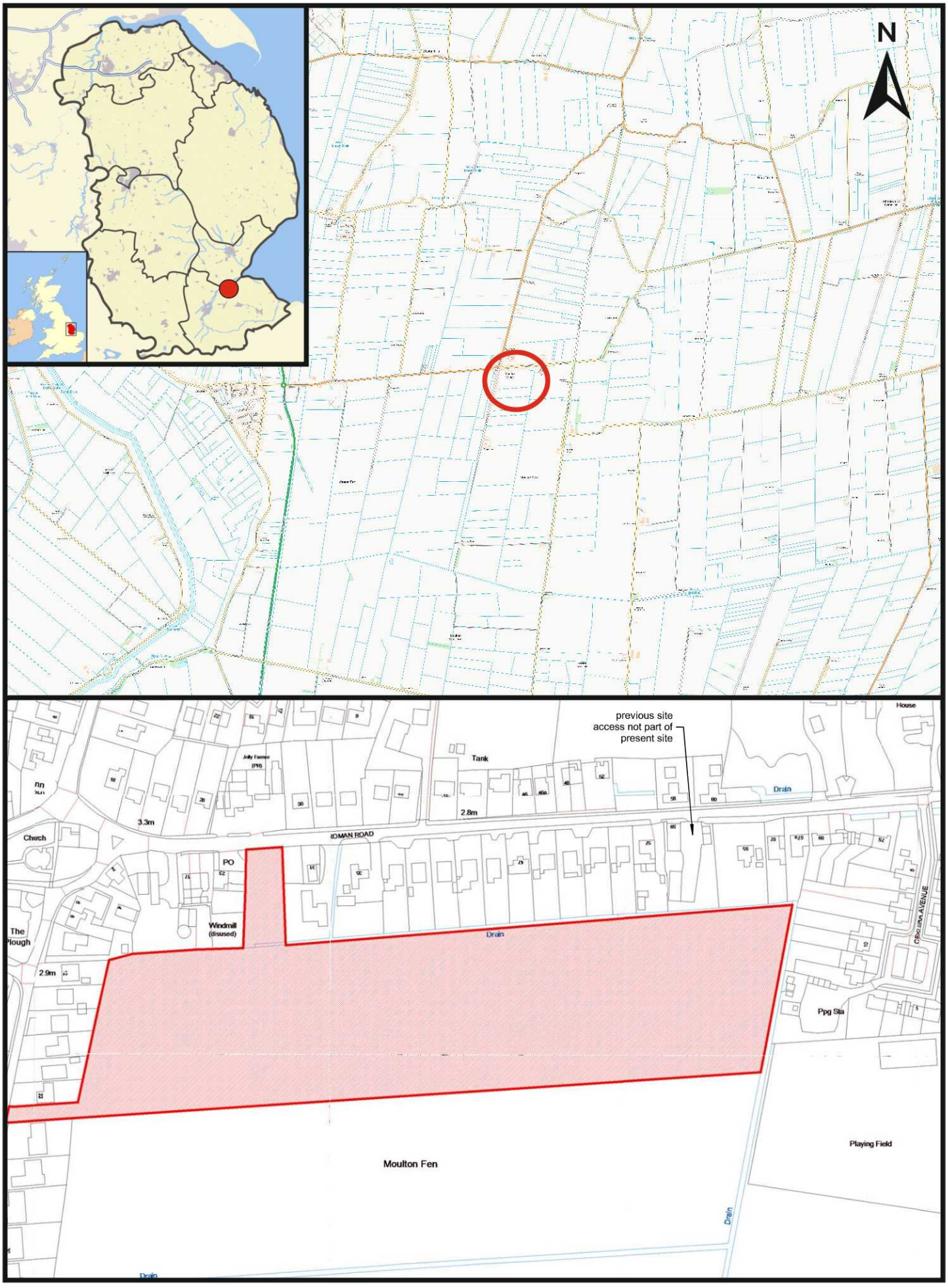
injuries or damage to persons or property resulting from any act or neglect or breach of statutory duty done or committed by the applicant or his agents, servants or their contractors (not being employed by Groundworks Archaeology) or in respect of any claims, demands proceedings, damages, costs, charges and expenses in respect thereof or in relation thereto.

## 17. General

17.1 The requirements of the WSI will be met in full where reasonably practicable. The scope of fieldwork detailed in the main part of the WSI is aimed at meeting the objectives of the project in a cost-effective manner.

17.2 Any significant variations to the proposed methodology will be discussed and agreed with the archaeological curator in advance of implementation.

17.3 Groundworks Archaeology attempts to foresee all possible site-specific problems and make allowances for these. However, there may on occasions be unusual circumstances which have not been included in the programme and costing, which will entail additional costs for the Planning Applicant/Developer. These can include: unavoidable delays due to bad weather, vandalism etc; trenches requiring shoring or stepping, ground contamination, unknown services, poor ground conditions, extensions to specified trenches or feature excavation sample sizes requested by the AAA, complex structures or objects, including those in waterlogged conditions, requiring specialist removal.




Not to scale, illustrative only

Figure 1: Site Location




Figure 2: Proposed site layout with evaluation trench overlay