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**WRITTEN SCHEME OF INVESTIGATION FOR
ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION
OF LAND AT
SPALDING ROAD
PINCHBECK
LINCOLNSHIRE**

**Planning Application No: Pre-Planning
Grid Ref: TF 2415 2455
Accession No: LCNCC:2020.164**

**PREPARED FOR
ASHWOOD HOMES**



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Figure 1 Proposed trench array

1 SUMMARY

- 1.1 *This document comprises a specification for the archaeological field evaluation [Trial Trenching] of land at Spalding Road, Pinchbeck, Lincolnshire.*
- 1.2 *The area is archaeologically sensitive, lying in an area of known archaeological activity dating from the Roman to the post-medieval period.*
- 1.3 *Trial trenching along the proposed western relief road revealed Roman, Late Saxon and medieval features concentrated towards the Spalding Road. It is probable that these features extend into the proposed area of development.*
- 1.4 *On completion of the fieldwork a report will be prepared detailing the findings of the investigation. The report will consist of a text describing the nature of the archaeological deposits located and will be supported by illustrations and photographs.*

2 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 This document comprises a written scheme of investigation for the archaeological field evaluation of land at Spalding Road, Pinchbeck, 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 Pinchbeck is located 2.5km north of Spalding and 20km southwest of Boston in the South Holland district of Lincolnshire. The site is located 1.7km south of the centre of Pinchbeck as defined by St Mary's Church. The proposed development area is to the west of Spalding Road at National Grid Reference TF 2415 2455.

4 PLANNING BACKGROUND

- 4.1 The evaluation results will form part of a planning application for residential development of the site.

5 SOILS AND TOPOGRAPHY

- 5.1 Local soils are of the Wisbech Series, typically coarse silty calcareous alluvial gley soils (Robson 1990, 36). These are developed upon a drift geology of alluvial tidal flat

deposits. (BGS 1992).

- 5.2 The local topography describes the Site lying at a height of c. 4m AOD on generally level ground of the south Lincolnshire Fens. The Site encompasses 1.98 hectares to the south of Otway House and north of Blue Gowt Bridge.

6 ARCHAEOLOGICAL OVERVIEW

- 6.1 Records exist of various heritage resources and assets in close proximity to the Site, including archaeological investigations, sites, finds and extant structures.
- 6.2 Roman features are known from Pinchbeck but are concentrated along the higher ground of a roddon, an infilled channel.
- 6.3 Pinchbeck is first reliably mentioned in the Domesday Survey of c. 1086. Referred to as *Pincebec*, the name is derived from the Old English *pinc* and the Old Norse *bekkr*, meaning the 'minnow stream' (Cameron 1998, 97). No Saxon remains have been identified within the immediate vicinity of the Site. The church is said to have had a Saxon precursor, though during restoration works only a Norman nave was revealed beneath the floor.
- 6.4 The Domesday Survey records that Pinchbeck was held by Ivo Taillebois, as sokeland of his manor of Spalding, and Guy de Craon, as sokeland of his manor of Holbeach (Foster and Longley 1976, 14/98; 57/52). Little else is recorded apart from extensive arable lands and four fisheries.
- 6.5 The principal medieval entry is the church of St Mary with its associated churchyard cross. The church is believed to date from c. 1150, replacing an earlier Norman church, although some elements including the tower, chancel and chapel date from the 14th century. The church is a Grade I Listed Building.
- 6.6 Previous archaeological evaluation along the route of the proposed western relief road revealed pits and ditches of 2nd to 3rd century date, along with Late Saxon ditches and dyings of the medieval field system. The Roman and Late Saxon features were concentrated to the eastern side of the evaluated area, adjacent to Pinchbeck Road (PCA 2019).

7 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- 7.1 The aim of the work will be to gather sufficient information for the archaeological curator to be able to formulate a policy for the management of the archaeological resources present on the site.
- 7.2 The objectives of the work will be to:
- Establish the type of archaeological activity that may be present within the site.
 - Determine the likely extent of archaeological activity present within the site.
 - Determine the date and function of the archaeological features present on the

site.

- Determine the state of preservation of the archaeological features present on the site.
- Determine the spatial arrangement of the archaeological features present within the site.
- Determine the extent to which the surrounding archaeological features extend into the application area.
- Establish the way in which the archaeological features identified fit into the pattern of occupation and land-use in the surrounding landscape.

8 LIAISON WITH THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL CURATOR

- 8.1 Close contact will be maintained with the archaeological curator throughout the investigation to ensure that the scheme of works fulfils their requirements.

9 TRIAL TRENCHING

9.1 Reasoning for this technique

- 9.1.1 Trial trenching enables the *in situ* determination of the sequence, date, nature, depth, environmental potential and density of archaeological features present on the site.
- 9.1.2 The trial trenching arrangement has been specified as thirty five [35No.] trenches each 30m x 2m. The trenches have been placed to provide both sample coverage of the site. The attached figure show the proposed location of trenches.

9.2 General Considerations

- 9.2.1 All work will be undertaken following statutory Health and Safety requirements in operation at the time of the investigation.
- 9.2.2 All works will be undertaken in accordance with the *Lincolnshire Archaeology Handbook* (2016). The work will also be undertaken according to the relevant codes of practice issued by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA). *Archaeological Project Services* is CIfA Registered Archaeological Organisation (No. 21), managed by a member (MCIfA) of the institute.
- 9.2.2 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.
- 9.2.3 Excavation of the archaeological features exposed will only be undertaken as

far as is required to determine their date, sequence, density and nature. Not all archaeological features exposed will necessarily be excavated. However, the investigation will, as far as is reasonably practicable, determine the level of the natural deposits to ensure that the depth of the archaeological sequence present on the site is established.

- 9.2.4 Open trenches will be marked by orange mesh fencing attached to road irons or similar poles. Subject to the consent of the archaeological curator, and following the appropriate recording, the trenches, particularly those of excessive depth, will be backfilled as soon as possible to minimise any health and safety risks.

9.3 Methodology

- 9.3.1 Removal of the topsoil and any other overburden will be undertaken by mechanical excavator using a 2m wide toothless ditching bucket. To ensure that the correct amount of material is removed and that no archaeological deposits are damaged, this work will be supervised by Archaeological Project Services. On completion of the removal of the overburden, the nature of the underlying deposits will be assessed by hand excavation before any further mechanical excavation that may be required. Thereafter, the trenches will be cleaned by hand to enable the identification and analysis of the archaeological features exposed.
- 9.3.2 Investigation of the features will be undertaken only as far as required to determine their date, form and function. The work will consist of half- or quarter-sectioning of features as required and, where appropriate, the removal of layers. Should features be located which may be worthy of preservation *in situ*, excavation will be limited to the absolute minimum, (ie the minimum disturbance) necessary to interpret the form, function and date of the features.
- 9.3.3 The archaeological features encountered will be recorded on Archaeological Project Services 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.
- 9.3.4 Plans of features will be drawn at a scale of 1:20 and sections at a scale of 1:10. Should individual features merit it, they will be drawn at a larger scale.
- 9.3.5 Throughout the duration of the trial trenching a photographic record consisting of black and white prints (reproduced as contact sheets) and digital images will be compiled. The photographic record will consist of:
- the site before the commencement of field operations.
 - the site during work to show specific stages of work, and the layout of the archaeology within individual trenches.

- individual features and, where appropriate, their sections.
- groups of features where their relationship is important.
- the site on completion of fieldwork

9.3.6 Should human remains be encountered, they will be left *in situ* with excavation being limited to the identification and recording of such remains. If removal of the remains is deemed necessary the appropriate Ministry of Justice licences will be obtained and the local environmental health department informed. If relevant, the coroner and the police will be notified. The Historic Environment Service will also be informed,

9.3.7 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.

9.3.8 The spoil generated during the investigation will be mounded along the edges of the trial trenches with the topsoil being kept separate from the other material excavated for subsequent backfilling.

9.3.9 The precise location of the trenches within the site and the location of site recording grid will be established by a GPS survey.

10 ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

10.1 If appropriate, during the investigation specialist advice will be obtained from an environmental archaeologist. The specialist will visit the site and will prepare a report detailing the nature of the environmental material present on the site and its potential for additional analysis should further stages of archaeological work be required. The results of the specialist's assessment will be incorporated into the final report.

10.2 Deposits with the potential to provide environmental information will be bulk sampled. If possible these should be from a range of feature types distributed across the site and from well preserved and dated contexts.

10.2 Samples retrieved from the site will be sieved in a flotation tank, with the residues and flots scanned for the presence of environmental and ecofactual material.

10.3 Sampling and the subsequent processing will be undertaken in accordance with published guidelines (eg English Heritage 2011).

11 POST-EXCAVATION AND REPORT

11.1 Stage 1

11.1.1 On completion of site operations, the records and schedules produced during the trial trenching will be checked and ordered to ensure that they

form a uniform sequence constituting 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 will refer to schedules identifying the subject/s photographed.

- 11.1.2 All finds recovered during the trial trenching will be washed, marked, bagged and labelled according to the individual deposit from which they were recovered and in accordance with established guidelines (UKIC 1998). Any finds requiring specialist treatment and conservation will be sent to the Conservation Laboratory at Lincoln.

11.2 Stage 2

- 11.2.1 Detailed examination of the stratigraphic matrix to enable the determination of the various phases of activity on the site.
- 11.2.2 Finds will be sent to specialists for identification and dating.
- 11.2.3 Any environmental samples taken will be sent to specialists for processing and assessment.

11.3 Stage 3

- 11.3.1 On completion of stage 2, a report detailing the findings of the investigation will be prepared. This will consist of:
- A non-technical summary of the results of the investigation.
 - A description of the archaeological setting of the site.
 - Description of the topography and geology of the investigation area.
 - Description of the methodologies used during the investigation and discussion of their effectiveness in the light of the results.
 - A text describing the findings of the investigation.
 - Plans of the trenches showing 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 context within the surrounding landscape.
 - Specialist reports on the finds (artefacts, environmental, economic and industrial evidence) from the site.

- Appropriate photographs of the site and specific archaeological features or groups of features.
- A consideration of the significance of the remains found, in local, regional, national and international terms, using recognised evaluation criteria.

12 ARCHIVE

12.1 The documentation, finds, photographs and other records and materials generated during the investigation will be sorted and ordered into the format acceptable to the appropriate local museum. This sorting will be undertaken according to the guidelines and conditions stipulated by the museum as outlined in the document entitled '*Conditions for the Acceptance of Project Archives*' (LCC 2012, Chapter 17), and appropriate national guidelines, for long-term storage and curation.

- Site code PISR 20
- Accession number LCNCC: 2020.164
- Deposition date December 2021

12.2 Upon completion and submission of the evaluation 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.

13 REPORT DEPOSITION

13.1 Copies of the investigation report will be sent to: the client; the Historic Environment Officer, Lincolnshire County Council and the Lincolnshire County Council Historic Environment Record.

14 PUBLICATION

14.1 Details of the investigation will be input to the Online Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations (OASIS).

14.2 Notes or articles describing the results of the investigation will also be submitted for publication in the appropriate national journals: *Medieval Archaeology* for medieval and later remains, and *Britannia* for discoveries of Roman date. A note will also be submitted for inclusion in the local journal *Lincolnshire History and Archaeology*.

15 CURATORIAL MONITORING

15.1 Curatorial responsibility for the archaeological work undertaken on the site lies with the Historic Environment Officer for Lincolnshire County Council. They will be given 10 working days' written notice of the commencement of the project to enable them to make monitoring arrangements.

16 VARIATIONS TO THE PROPOSED SCHEME OF WORKS

- 16.1 Variations to the proposed scheme of works will only be made following written confirmation of acceptance from the archaeological curator.
- 16.2 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.
- 16.3 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.
- 16.4 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.

17 STAFF TO BE USED DURING THE PROJECT

- 17.1 The work will be directed by Neil Parker, Senior Project Officer (Senior Grade) Archaeological Project Services. The on-site works will be supervised by an Archaeological Supervisor with knowledge of archaeological evaluations of this type. Archaeological excavation will be carried out by Archaeological Technicians, experienced in projects of this type.
- 17.2 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.

<u>Task</u>	<u>Body to be undertaking the work</u>
Conservation	Conservation Laboratory, York Archaeological Trust
Pottery Analysis	Prehistoric: S Percival, independent specialist Iron Age: D Trimble, independent specialist Roman: I Rowlandson, independent specialist Post-Roman: A Irving, independent specialist
Other Artefacts	J Cowgill, independent specialist/D Buckley, APS
Human Remains Analysis	R Kendall, Durham University
Animal Remains Analysis	M Holmes, independent specialist
Environmental Analysis	Environmental Archaeology Consultancy/V Fryer, independent specialist
Waterlogged wood	Michael Bamforth, independent specialist

Radiocarbon dating SUERC

Dendrochronology dating University of Sheffield Dendrochronology Laboratory

18 PROGRAMME OF WORKS AND STAFFING LEVELS

18.1 Fieldwork is expected to be undertaken by appropriate staff, including supervisors and assistants, and to take about seven days.

18.2 Post-excavation analysis and report production will take about five weeks. A project officer or supervisor will undertake most of the analysis, with assistance from the finds officer, CAD illustrator and external specialists.

19 INSURANCES

19.1 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 are enclosed.

20 COPYRIGHT

20.1 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.

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

20.3 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.

20.4 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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