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LAND AT
HOLLAND PARK
SPALDING
LINCOLNSHIRE



WRITTEN SCHEME OF INVESTIGATION FOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

National Grid Reference TF 2315 2108
Planning Application Ref: H16-0116-22
Accession No: 2022.66

PREPARED FOR
BROADGATE HOMES

MAY 2022

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

1 SUMMARY 2

2 INTRODUCTION 2

3 SITE LOCATION 2

4 PLANNING BACKGROUND 2

5 SOILS AND TOPOGRAPHY 3

6 ARCHAEOLOGICAL OVERVIEW 3

7 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES 4

8 TRIAL TRENCHING 4

9 ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT 7

10 POST-EXCAVATION AND REPORT 7

11 ARCHIVE 8

12 REPORT DEPOSITION 9

13 PUBLICATION 9

14 CURATORIAL MONITORING 9

15 VARIATIONS TO THE PROPOSED SCHEME OF WORKS 9

16 SPECIALISTS TO BE USED DURING THE PROJECT 9

17 PROGRAMME OF WORKS AND STAFFING LEVELS 10

18 INSURANCES 10

19 COPYRIGHT 11

20 BIBLIOGRAPHY 11

Figure 1 Trench Location Plan

1 SUMMARY

1.1 *An archaeological evaluation comprising a programme of trial trenching is required in support of a planning application for residential development at Holland Park Bank, Spalding, Lincolnshire.*

1.2 *Previous investigations at, or in the vicinity of, the site comprise an Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment, geophysical survey, trial trenching and excavation. These indicate that the site has potential for the preservation of archaeological remains of late Iron Age/Early Roman, medieval and post-medieval date.*

1.3 *Twenty three trenches, each measuring 40m x 2m, will be excavated. These will be located to achieve overall coverage of the site or to target areas where archaeological remains have previously been identified in adjacent areas.*

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 Written Scheme of Investigation for an archaeological evaluation comprising a programme of archaeological trial trenching at Holland Park, Spalding, Lincolnshire. The site is located at National Grid Reference TF2315 2108.

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 The proposed development site is located approximately 2.2km southwest of the centre of Spalding, as defined by the Market Place and is centred at National Grid Reference TF2315 2108. To the south the site is bounded by the The Raceground.

4 PLANNING BACKGROUND

4.1 Planning permission (Application H16-0116-22) for development of the site, comprising 150 new dwellings with associated infrastructure, is subject to a condition requiring the implementation of a programme of archaeological works. In the first instance this will comprise a programme of archaeological trenching.

4.2 This document forms the Written Scheme of Investigation for the programme of trial trenching. In discussion with the Planning Archaeologist of Lincolnshire County Council a programme of archaeological trial trenching comprising the excavation of 23 forty metre long by 2m wide trenches has been agreed.

5 SOILS AND TOPOGRAPHY

5.1 Local soils are of the Wisbech Series, typically coarse silty calcareous alluvial gley soil (Robson 1990, 36). These soils are developed on a drift geology of younger overlying older marine alluvium which in turn seals a solid geology of Jurassic Oxford Clay (BGS 1992).The site lies on generally level ground at a height of c. 3m.

6 ARCHAEOLOGICAL OVERVIEW

6.1 A number of archaeological investigations over the past two decades have done much to elucidate the history of occupation in the areas surrounding the proposed development. The work of the Fenland Project provides a thorough background for occupation of the Fenland set against a post glacial history of dramatic environmental change (Hayes and Lane, 1992) (Peachey and Failes, 2011). The Desk-Based assessment undertaken for the wider development of the Holland Park site contains a detailed history of the various archaeological interventions undertaken in the immediate area of the site (Gajos, 2008).

6.2 Prehistoric

6.2.1 Any deposits relating to early prehistoric occupation in the area are deeply buried beneath a thick sequence of various peats, silts and clays associated with various episodes of freshwater and marine inundation which has characterised the Fenland from around the fifth millennium BC.

6.3 Iron Age

6.3.1 Towards the close of the 1st millennium BC occupation of the Fens became viable as the marine creek system matured, resulting in the opening up of large areas of silt laden soils, often in the form of raised levees of silted creeks known as roddons. In the first instance this pioneering occupation of the silt fen was associated with salt making and several sites ranging from middle Iron Age through to the Roman period have now been excavated.

The earliest of these was located in Cowbit Wash, approximately 5km to the south where a saltmaking hearth associated with middle Iron pottery was recorded on an excavation undertaken as part of the Fenland Project (Lane, 2005).

6.4 Late Iron Age\Roman

6.4.1 To the north of the proposed development site a number of saltern sites have been excavated over the past two decades. Among these is Wygate Park, approximately 4km to the north, where a multi-phase saltern was recorded which is thought to have commenced production during the latest stages of the Iron Age. However, salt making continued and probably expanded during the early Roman period as testified by the great number of sites from which pottery of the period has been recovered (Trimble and Wood, forthcoming).

Approximately 1km to the north an excavation during 1998 recovered briquetage (salt making debris) associated with a rectangular ditched enclosure (JSAC 1998) Probably the most significant site in relation to this development is a ditched enclosure identified

approximately 500m to the northeast of the proposed development. An evaluation trench excavated across this feature also recovered briquetage and the form of the enclosure strongly suggests that a saltern is represented (JSAC 2000). This saltern was preserved *in situ* as part of the archaeological mitigation strategy for development of that area.

Evaluation trenches that fell within the boundary of this application recorded 2 ditches of possible former field boundaries along with two palaeochannels, one of which was considered to be pre-Saxon in date.

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:

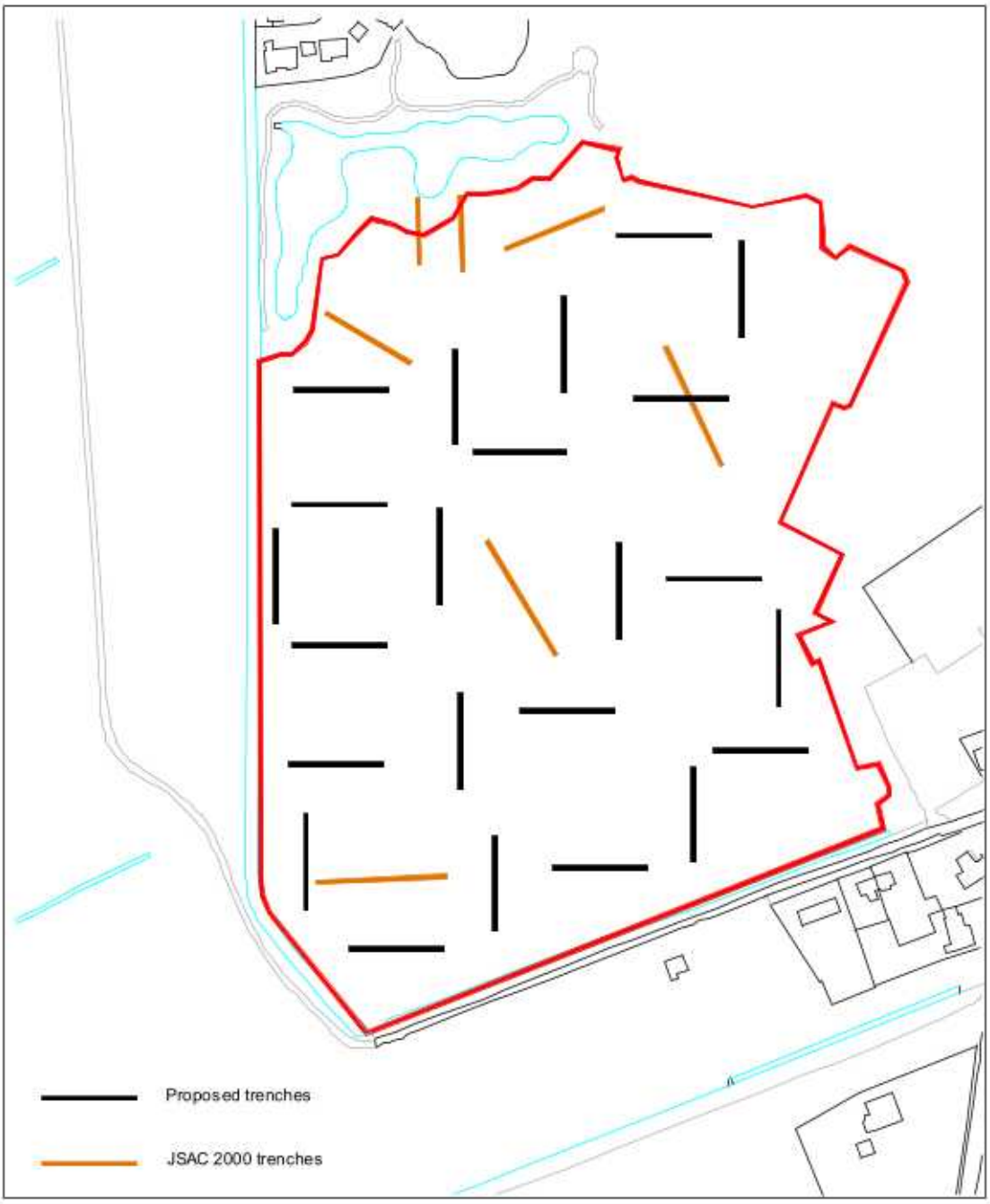
- Establish the type of archaeological activity that may be present within the site.
- Determine the likely extent of archaeological activity present within the site.
- Determine the date and function of the archaeological features present on the site.
- Determine the state of preservation of the archaeological 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 TRIAL TRENCHING

8.1 Reasoning for this technique

8.1.1 Trial trenching enables the *in situ* determination of the sequence, date, nature, depth, environmental potential and density of archaeological features present on the site. The results of the geophysical survey will be used to determine the distribution of the trial trenches.

8.1.2 The trial trenching will comprise the excavation of 23 forty metre long trenches across the area of investigation. The distribution of these is shown on Figure 1.



8.2 General Considerations

8.2.1 All work will be undertaken following statutory Health and Safety requirements in operation at the time of the investigation.

8.2.2 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 managed by a member of the institute (MCIfA).

8.2.3 The work will also be undertaken in accordance with the *Lincolnshire Archaeological Handbook* (2019).

8.2.4 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.

8.2.5 Excavation of the archaeological features exposed will only be undertaken as far as is required to determine their date, sequence, density and nature. All archaeological features exposed will be excavated and recorded unless otherwise agreed with the Historic Environment Manager of Lincolnshire County Council. 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.

8.2.6 Open trenches will be marked by hazard tape 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.

8.3 Methodology

8.3.1 Removal of the topsoil and any other overburden will be undertaken by mechanical excavator using a 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.

8.3.2 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.

8.3.3 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.

8.3.4 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.

8.3.5 Throughout the duration of the trial trenching a photographic record consisting of black and white prints (reproduced as contact sheets) and colour slides 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 field work

8.4 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 necessary the appropriate Home Office licences will be obtained and the local environmental health department informed. If relevant, the coroner and the police will be notified.

8.5 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.

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

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

9 ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

9.1 Environmental sampling will aim to establish:

9.1.1 the state of preservation of any environmental remains which may be contained within archaeological deposits on the site

9.1.2 the broad character of these deposits e.g. the presence of material indicating domestic occupation, non settlement related deposits which might indicate broad environmental changes such as mollusc communities within field ditches. To this end a variety of feature types should be samples as appropriate.

9.1.3 the distribution of environmental remains across the site through sampling features from distributed within different trenches from across the site.

9.1.4 the presence of archaeological remains within features of separate periods through sampling features separated stratigraphically or by datable artefactual material.

9.2 All environmental sampling will be undertaken in accordance with English Heritage guidance on environmental sampling (Campbell 2011).

9.3 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 POST-EXCAVATION AND REPORT

10.1 <u>Stage 1</u>

10.1.1 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: the colour slides will be labelled and mounted on appropriate hangers and the black and white contact prints will be labelled, in both cases the labelling will refer to schedules identifying the subject/s photographed.

10.1.2 All finds recovered during the trial trenching will be washed, marked, bagged and labelled according to the individual deposit from which they were recovered. Any finds requiring specialist treatment and conservation will be sent to the Conservation Laboratory at the City and County Museum, Lincoln.

10.2 Stage 2

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

10.2.2 Finds will be sent to specialists for identification and dating.

10.3 Stage 3

10.3.1 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 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.

11 ARCHIVE

11.1 The documentation and records generated during the investigation will be sorted and ordered into the format acceptable to the 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. Accession number LCNCC: 2022.66 has been obtained from The Collection, Lincoln for deposition of the archive. The Site Code will be SHPH22 It is intended that the archive will be deposited in June 2023.

11.2 Upon completion and submission of the 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.

12 REPORT DEPOSITION

12.1 Copies of the report will be sent to the Client; and to Lincolnshire County Council Historic Environment Service.

13 PUBLICATION

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

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

14 CURATORIAL MONITORING

14.1 Curatorial responsibility for the project lies with the Historic Environment Service of Lincolnshire County Council. At least 7 days' written notice will be given to the curator prior to the commencement of the project to enable them to make appropriate monitoring arrangements.

15 VARIATIONS TO THE PROPOSED SCHEME OF WORKS

15.1 Variations to the scheme of works will only be made following written confirmation from the archaeological curator.

15.2 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.

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

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)		J Martin-Jones APS/T Lane, Independent specialist
Stonework		P Cope-Faulkner APS
Metalworking		A Frasca/J Cowgill, Independent specialists
Briquetage/salt-making residue		T Lane, Independent Specialist
Faunal Remains		M Holmes/J Rackham, 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 PROGRAMME OF WORKS AND STAFFING LEVELS

17.1 The Archaeology Team Leader, Archaeological Project Services, Denise Drury, will have overall responsibility and control of all aspects of the work.

17.2 Site work will be undertaken by a Project Officer with experience of archaeological excavations of this type, assisted by three appropriately experienced archaeological technicians. The archaeological works are programmed to take 10 days.

17.3 Post-excavation report production is expected to take up to 4 working weeks. Post-excavation analysis will be undertaken by the Project Officer, or post-excavation analyst as appropriate, with assistance from a finds supervisor, illustrator and external specialists.

18 INSURANCES

18.1 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.

19 COPYRIGHT

19.1 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.

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

19.3 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

19.4 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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