Specification for Archaeological Monitoring at Horseshoe Road, Spalding, Lincolnshire.

Prepared for Mr. Brett Maddison

National Grid Reference: TF 2269 2151
Site Code: HRSP17
Accession No: LCNCC: 2017.187
Planning Reference: H16-0715-16

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S Non-technical summary

S1 *A scheme of works comprising archaeological monitoring and recording is required during the groundworks pertaining to the construction of a new residential development at Horseshoe Road, Spalding, Lincolnshire.*

S2 *The development site is considered to be situated within an area of high archaeological potential. Finds from the Iron Age, along with much evidence of Roman settlement activity from cropmarks including settlement sites, salterns and the line of the Boston Outgang Roman road along with previous archaeological investigations in the vicinity of this development site have confirmed the nature of this settlement activity. The specific objectives of this project will therefore be to record any archaeological features, structures, deposits and finds associated with this Iron Age and Roman settlement activity.*

S3 *The archaeological monitoring will be undertaken during the groundworks stage of development, which will comprise the mechanical excavation of the foundations and services for the new residential development. Any archaeological features, structures and/or deposits will be recorded in writing, graphically and photographically.*

S4 *On the completion of the monitoring, a report will be produced detailing the results of the archaeological investigation. The report will consist of a narrative supported by illustrations and photographs.*

1. Site location and description [Figures 1 and 2]

1.1 The development site is situated on the southern frontage of Horseshoe Road and to the south-west of the south-western outskirts of the town of Spalding. The development site is situated at National Grid Reference TF 2269 2151, and at a height of approximately 4mAOD. The town of Spalding is situated within the parish of the same name, and in the administrative district of South Holland, county of Lincolnshire.

1.2 The development site is located in a flat and low-lying area within the south Lincolnshire Fens. The development site is situated on deep stoneless calcareous silty soils of the Wisbech Series, which have developed on deposits of marine alluvium. These deposits in turn overlie Oxford Clays and Kellaway Beds of the Upper Jurassic.

2. Planning background

2.1 This document comprises a Specification or a written scheme of works for archaeological monitoring and recording which is to be maintained during the groundworks pertaining to the construction of a new residential development at Horseshoe Road, Spalding, Lincolnshire (Planning Reference: H16-0715-17).

3. Historical and Archaeological Background

3.1 Background research sources were consulted at the Lincolnshire Archives, the Lincoln Local Studies Library and the Lincolnshire County Council Historic Environment Record (HER). A search of the Lincolnshire HER was conducted within a 0.5km radius of the development site.

3.2 A cropmark complex of a Roman settlement site consisting of possible enclosures has been plotted from aerial photographic sources and is situated on Spalding Common to the south of the development site (HER 22345). A scatter of Roman pottery and animal bone has also been found at this location.

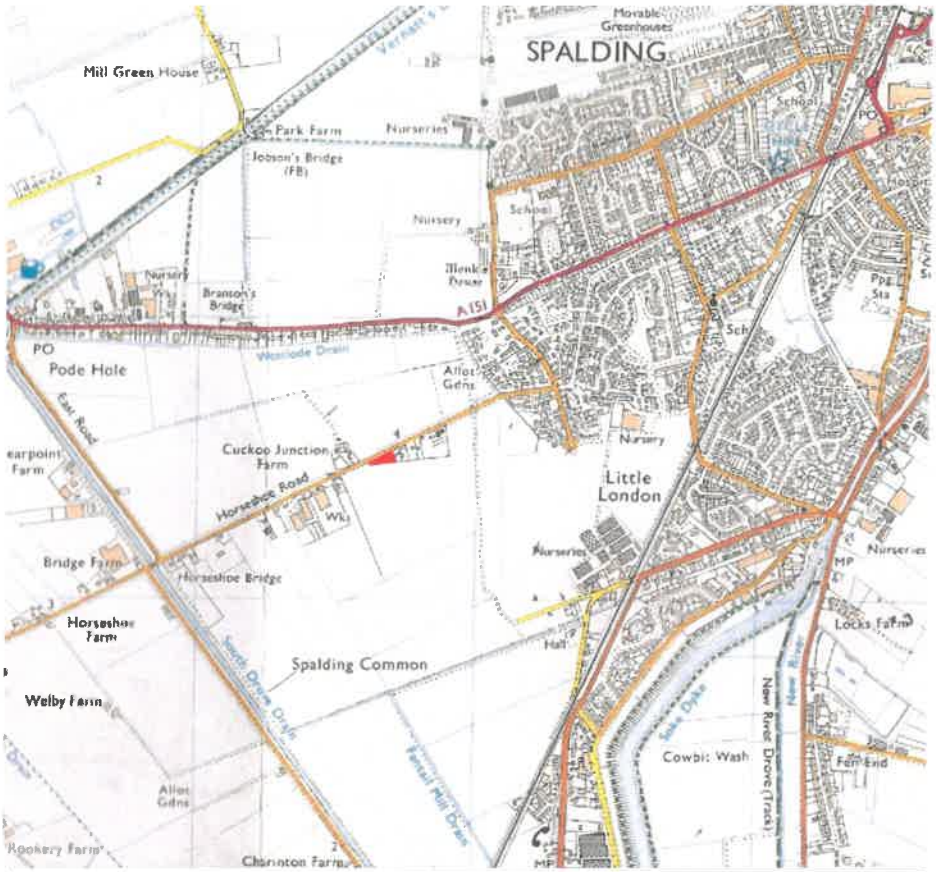

Figure 1: Site location at scale 1:25,000. The site is shown in red. (O.S. copyright licence number 100048723)

Figure 2: Site location at an original scale of 1:500, (not to scale), (extract from Architects plan)

3.3 Sherds of Roman pottery were found in a field to the north of the development site in 1992. Further such pottery and cropmarks were also identified at this location in the

1960s. Further cropmarks were identified at this location from aerial photographic sources in 1998. A small ditched enclosure was identified in 2011 during the course of a geophysical survey which took place along the line of the proposed Western Spalding Relief Road. The enclosure was square shaped with a number of internal divisions and was thought to represent the remains of an Iron Age or Roman saltern site. A subsequent archaeological fieldwalking survey here later in 2011 and also in association with this proposed Relief Road identified a small concentration of Roman pottery within the area of this enclosure (HER 23204).

3.4 The linear cropmarks of a possible field system of Roman date are situated to the north of the development site (HER 23613). An archaeological watching brief took place at this location in 1996 during the course of improvements to a section of the Pennygate Drain. A significant number of undated ditches and gullies were observed. Two of the ditches yielded large quantities of Roman pottery, slag and animal bone suggesting the presence of a nearby contemporary settlement site.

3.5 The cropmarks of a Roman settlement site along with an associated field system have been detected to the south of the development site (HER 23614). These have been plotted from aerial photographic sources. An enclosure visible on the ground surface as a parchmark was also found at this location in 2003.

3.6 The line of the Roman road known as the Boston Outgang Road is visible as a cropmark in the fields to the south of the Horseshoe Road and if projected may pass to the immediate south of the development site (HER 22343).

3.7 An hexagonal shaped concrete pillbox is situated approximately 200 yards to the south of Horseshore Road and to the south-east of the development site (HER 23510). This was built as part of the defensive system around Spalding from the Second World War. The pillbox is disused.

3.8 There have been several previous archaeological investigations within the search area. An archaeological watching brief was undertaken on the groundworks for a new residential development at Broadway, Holland Park in 2010 (HER ELI10519, Site code: SPBW08). This identified natural alluvial deposits and three creek channels along with an undated archaeological feature which probably related to a nearby saltern site.

3.9 A programme of archaeological fieldwalking was carried out on land off Bourne Road and to the south-west of the development site in 2011 (HER ELI12153). A small concentration of Roman pottery was identified at the northern end of the survey area.

3.10 The line of the Midland and Great Northern Joint Railway passed to the immediate south of the development site and the Horseshoe Road (HER 20288). This line was operational by 1866 and was finally closed to traffic in 1965 and was subsequently dismantled.

3.11 An archaeological evaluation in advance of a new residential development on land to the south of Bourne Road was carried out in 1997 (HER ELI2918, Site code: SBR97). This identified several palaeochannels which criss-crossed the site. Finds from the deposits therein yielded finds of late Iron Age and early Roman date which indicated that these channels had been active at that time, Other findings comprised a small amount of briquetage, which had been derived from a nearby, though undetected Roman saltern site. No other clear archaeological remains were revealed on this site.

3.12 In 2003, a geophysical survey took place at Holland Park to the east of the development site (HER 25630, ELI4208). This identified an undated broad curving and ditch-like anomaly of potential archaeological significance, though this was also considered to be of

natural or of modern agricultural origin. This survey also identified inconclusive evidence for a ditch to the east along with a few pit-like anomalies.

3.13 An archaeological evaluation took place at Holland Park to the east of the development site in 2000 and in advance of a proposed residential development (HER ELI2690, Site code: HPS99). This identified a small rectilinear enclosure, the finds from which indicated that this was an early Roman saltern site. Also identified were several undated palaeochannels which were restricted in extent and which were confined to the area of this enclosure.

3.14 Nine geotechnical test pits were excavated to the north of the development site at Bourne Road/Horseshoe Road in 1997 (HER ELI9041). Although geological contexts were identified here, fragments of fired clay probably of briquetage was also recovered.

3.15 A geophysical survey was undertaken along the line of one of the proposed Spalding Western Relief Road routes to the west and south-west of the development site in 2011 (HER ELI12149). This survey identified a small ditched enclosure to the Immediate north of the assessment site (Plot 145) along with the remains of an Iron Age or Roman saltern site to the south-west (Plot 8). This was followed by an archaeological watching brief which took place on the excavation of a series of geotechnical trial pits along both the eastern and western Spalding Western Relief Road routes. Sequences of natural alluvial marine deposits were identified within all of the test pits. Two of the test pits contained deposits which were suggestive of a former land surface of Roman date, which was in turn sealed by later Roman flood deposits. A layer of ballast associated with the former railway line was also found adjacent to Horseshoe Road (HER ELI10987, Site code: SPRW11).

3.16 A map regression exercise was undertaken using published Ordnance Survey (O.S.) maps from the Lincolnshire Archives and the local studies collections of the Lincoln Central Library. The extract from the First Edition six inch to one mile scale O.S. map of 1891 shows this development site as being situated within an enclosure which fronts onto the southern side of the Horseshoe Road. The line of the Midland and Great Northern Joint Railway lies to the immediate south. An extract from the Second Edition six inch to one mile scale O.S. map of 1906 shows the same layout to the area of the development site. This is repeated on the subsequent 1932 Edition six inch to one mile scale O.S. map. By 1968, the 1:10,000 scale map of this date shows the same layout to the area of the development site with the railway line to the south having been dismantled by this time.

4. Aims and objectives of the project

4.1 The aims of the project are the continual archaeological monitoring of all site groundworks during the construction stage of development, which will comprise the mechanical excavation of the foundations and services for the new residential dwelling and garage.

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 The development site is considered to be situated within an area of high archaeological potential. Finds from the Iron Age, along with much evidence of Roman settlement activity from cropmarks including settlement sites, salterns and the line of the Boston Outgang Roman road along with previous archaeological investigations in the vicinity of this development site have confirmed the nature of this settlement activity. The specific objectives of this project will therefore be to record any archaeological features, structures, deposits and finds associated with this Iron Age and Roman settlement activity.

5. Methodology

5.1 The archaeological monitoring will be undertaken during the groundworks phase of development, and will include the **continual monitoring** of any topsoil stripping, of the excavations of foundations and service trenches, and of any other ground disturbances.

5.2 All work will be carried out according to the Chartered Institute of Field Archaeologists (CHIf) standards.

5.3 All work will be undertaken following all statutory Health and Safety requirements and legislation in operation at the time of the monitoring.

5.4 A Risk Assessment will be prepared for the site.

5.5 Stripped areas and trench sections will be continually observed to identify any archaeological features and/or deposits which may be exposed.

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 a scale of 1:50, 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 Any finds recovered will be bagged and labelled for further analysis. All relevant finds will be ordered into an archive. 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.

5.9 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. The local Portable Antiquities Scheme Officer will also be notified.

5.10 Throughout the monitoring a digital photographic record will be compiled, and 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.

5.11 Should human remains be encountered, they will be left *in situ*, and only 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.

5.12 The fieldwork will be undertaken by Neville Hall. Additional personnel may be appointed if required.

6. Post-fieldwork methodology

6.1 On the completion of the fieldwork, all of the written, drawn and photographic records produced by the archaeological monitoring will be checked, ordered, labelled (where appropriate) and catalogued to compile a distinctive site archive.

6.2 All finds recovered during the fieldwork will be washed, marked and packaged according to the deposit from which there were recovered. They will also be ordered into (and form part of) the site archive.

6.3 An assessment of significant finds will be made in light of general site information.

6.4 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.

6.5 The site archive will be examined to enable the determination of various phases of activity on the site.

6.6 Relevant finds will be sent to specialists for identification and dating.

7. Monitoring arrangements

7.1 Provision will be made for Louise Jennings (of 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 notification period of not less than fourteen days of the start date of works on the site will be given to the Lincolnshire County Council Historic Environment Team.

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 Lincolnshire County Council Historic Environment Team.

7.5 Arrangements will be made for the representative of the Lincolnshire County Council Historic Environment Team (Ms Louise Jennings) for access to the site to undertake monitoring visits, and such visits will be accounted for in the final report preparation.

7.6 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 monitoring and recording programme.

8. Archive preparation and deposition

8.1 The documentation and records generated by the archaeological monitoring will be sorted and ordered in the format acceptable to The Collection, Lincoln, and to the standards and requirements as laid out in their Guide Book.

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

8.3 The archive will be deposited at The Collection, Lincoln by April 2018.

9. Reporting procedures

9.1 A report detailing the findings of the archaeological monitoring will be completed within two months after the finalisation of the fieldwork. Any delays will be related to the relevant authorities.

9.2 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 monitoring;

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

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

Illustrations including plans showing monitored areas, all archaeological features and sections thereof (including trench sections); and

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, a list of the site archive, a photographic register and a copy of this document.

An electronic copy of the report will be deposited with the OASIS project (On-line Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations) http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/oasis/index.cfm.

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 The monitoring will be undertaken by Neville Hall using standard archaeological field techniques.

13.2 Post-excavation analysis will be undertaken by Neville Hall and where available specialist analysis from:-

Jane Young	Medieval and Post-medieval Ceramics
Ian Rowlandson	Iron Age and Roman Ceramics
Val Fryer	Environmental
Carol Allen	Neolithic and Bronze Age
Malin Holst	Osteoarchaeology
Jane Cowgill	Metallurgy

13.3 Small finds requiring conservation will be conserved by the City and County Museum Laboratory.

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

14. Insurance statement

14.1 Public indemnity of £2,000,000 and private indemnity insurance of £250.000 with Towergate Insurance.

15. Copyright

15.1 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.

16. Ownership

16.1 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.