Allen Archaeology Limited

SPECIFICATION FOR A PROGRAMME OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION BY TRIAL TRENCHING AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING: LAND OFF MONKS HOUSE LANE, SPALDING, LINCOLNSHIRE

Planning Reference:	**H16-0136-23**
Client:	**Seagate Homes**
National Grid Reference:	**TF 2322 2279**
Date:	**15th March 2024**
AAL Site Code:	**SMHL 24**
Accession Number:	**LCNCC:2024.68**

1.0 Summary

This document is the specification for an archaeological evaluation by trial trenching and archaeological monitoring, on land off Monks House Lane, Spalding, Lincolnshire, which is required prior to determination of planning consent for a residential development. The fieldwork, recording and reporting will be carried out in a manner consistent with current national guidelines, as set out in the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists *'Standard for archaeological field evaluation'* (CIfA 2020a) '*Universal guidance for archaeological field evaluation*' (CIfA 2023b), *'Standard for archaeological monitoring and recording*' (CIfA 2020c) '*Universal guidance for archaeological monitoring and recording*' (CIfA 2023d), and the English Heritage document '*Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment'* (English Heritage 2006) as well as local guidance in the *'Lincolnshire Archaeological Handbook'* (LCC 2019).

2.0 Site Location and Description

Spalding is located in the administrative district of South Holland, approximately 56km southeast of central Lincoln. The proposed development area is at the western edge of the town, east of Monks House Lane and is currently occupied by disused greenhouses in the western half of the site and open waste ground to the east. It is centred at National Grid Reference (NGR) TF 2322 2279 and is at a height of approximately 6m above Ordnance Datum.

The bedrock geology comprises Oxford Clay formation mudstone, overlain by superficial tidal flats deposits of clay and silt (www.mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html).

3.0 Planning Background

A planning application has been submitted for *'Proposed residential development of 76 dwellings, including demolition of existing glass houses & auxiliary buildings with the retention of Ivanda House'* (Reference H16-0136-23). Prior to determination of the application, the Historic Environment Officer at Lincolnshire County Council, advising South Holland District Council has recommended a programme of archaeological evaluation by trial trenching, to provide information to allow the planning authority to make a reasoned decision as to whether any further intrusive investigations will be required to mitigate the effects of the proposed development upon the archaeological resource, either prior to or following determination of the application.

The approach adopted is consistent with the recommendations of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), with the chapter of relevance being *'Chapter 12: Conserving and enhancing the historic environment'* (Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities 2023).

4.0 Archaeological and Historical Background

The site lies in an area of significant archaeological interest. Archaeological investigations for the Wygate Park development, immediately to the north of the site, exposed evidence for Iron Age to Roman settlement and salt making, sealed beneath layers of post-Roman marine silts. The earliest activity comprised a series of palaeochannels, running broadly east – west (LHER Reference MLI84973). Evidence for saltmaking taking place on the edge of these creeks in the later Iron Age was recorded, near to the west end of the current site, as well as domestic finds scatters, a ring ditch of a probable roundhouse, and droveways and animal pens (LHER Reference MLI84933). Further Late Iron Age activity was recorded around 200m to the north (LHER Reference MLI86580).

The salt making activity continued into the Roman period, apparently ceasing in the 2nd to 3rd century AD, when the creeks changed from brackish to fresh water (LHER Reference MLI84934). A Roman saltern excavated at the site revealed numerous hearths and around 190kg of briquetage. Settlement evidence, agricultural enclosures, and iron and copper working evidence of a similar date were recorded around 100m to the northwest of this (LHER References MLI84938, MLI891898).

Further Iron Age to Roman saltmaking evidence and settlement was recorded off Bourne Road, c.900m south of the site (LHER Reference MLI20553), with Roman finds and features also recovered c.600m to the west-southwest (LHER Reference MLI23623) and 500m to the east (LHER Reference MLI89826).

There is no evidence for any early medieval activity in the vicinity of the site. Spalding is believed to have been a Royal Estate in the Saxon period and the placename, first mentioned in c.1074, is an Old English group-name, *Spaldingas*, meaning 'the people of the Spalde' (Cameron 1998). The tribal name Spalde is recorded in the 7th/8th century tribute list called the Tribal Hidage (ibid.). At the time of the Domesday Book in 1086, the principal landowner was Ivo Tallboys, with smaller estates owned by Crowland Abbey and 8 Guy of Craon. In total, Spalding was populated by 91 villagers and their dependents, and included a market, fisheries, and salt houses (Morgan and Thorn 1986). The site lies some distance to the west of the historic core of the settlement.

Spalding Castle was built shortly after the Conquest by Ivo Tallboys and was said to have been located around 1.5km east of the site (LHER Reference MLI22358). The moat was still visible in 1746 but no physical evidence has been recorded and nothing is visible above ground.

Approximately 600m to the south of the site is Monk's House, a 16th century ashlar house on the site of a former medieval moated site and monastic grange, the moat is now much denuded (LHER Reference MLI22356, MLI94282).

The Wygate Park excavations immediately north of the site also revealed medieval to post-medieval boundary ditches, mostly running east – west (LHER References MLI84944, MLI84948). Circular features and postholes recorded on the site were interpreted as stack stands (ie for haystacks) (LHER Reference MLI87269).

5.0 Aims and Objectives

The purpose of the trial trench evaluation and monitoring 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.

Evidence shall be gathered to establish the presence/absence, nature, date, depth, quality of survival and importance of any archaeological deposits to enable an assessment of the potential and significance of the archaeological remains, and to assess the impact of the development upon the archaeology.

6.0 Methodology

Archaeological Monitoring – Following demolition of the existing greenhouses on the site to slab level, a programme of archaeological monitoring will be undertaken during removal of the slab and grubbing out of foundations. The monitoring archaeologist will act strictly in accordance with the contents of this document and will be familiar with national and local guidelines regarding agreed best practice for archaeological monitoring and recording projects (CIfA 2023c, d).

The attending archaeologist will have the ability to halt groundworks if archaeological remains are encountered, to allow for the excavation of remains under archaeological conditions. Where this will entail a larger team of archaeologists to undertake the work sufficient resources will be put in place. Machine excavation will be undertaken with a toothless bucket, except for where removal of concrete or tarmac surfaces or other solid obstructions necessitates the use of a hydraulic breaker or toothed bucket, at the discretion of the supervising archaeologist.

Evaluation Trenching – Following completion of the monitoring of the removal of the slab, a programme of trial trenching will be undertaken, comprising 11no 30m x 1.8m trench as set out on the attached plan or as near as possible as site conditions will allow (Figure 1). Additional contingency trenching, up to a further 1% will be used, in agreement with the advising Historic Environment Officer for further investigation or clarification of initial results. In each trench, topsoil, subsoil, and underlying non-archaeological deposits will be removed by mechanical excavator with a toothless ditching bucket in spits no greater than 10cm in thickness. The process will be repeated until the first archaeologically significant or natural horizon is exposed. It is anticipated that machine excavated sondages will be excavated at the end of each trench to confirm the full stratigraphic sequence and to identify any deeply buried former land surfaces.

All further excavation will then be by hand. The trenches will be in the positions specified, or as near as site conditions allow. It is anticipated that a team of three archaeologists, led by a project supervisor will complete the fieldwork in four days, at a date yet to be agreed.

In the event of positive results in each or any of the excavated trenches or monitored areas, a sufficient sample of all archaeological features and deposits revealed will be excavated to determine their date, extent, level of preservation, form and where possible, function. It is not anticipated that the complete excavation of features will be necessary at this stage, although, where archaeologically relevant, some individual features may be excavated in their entirety.

A full written record of the archaeological deposits will be made on standard Allen Archaeology Limited context recording sheets. Archaeological deposits will be drawn to scale, in plan and section (at scale 1:20 or 1:50), with Ordnance Datum heights being displayed on each class of drawing. Hand drawn plans may be supplemented with survey data gathered using a survey grade GPS or a total station theodolite. Colour and monochrome photography (black and white film and colour slide) will

form an integral part of the recording strategy, and photographs will incorporate scales, an identification board and directional arrow where appropriate.

Should human remains be encountered, the coroner will be notified, and they will be left in situ, with excavation being limited to the identification and recording of such remains.

Any artefacts found during the investigation that are deemed to be 'treasure' (as defined by The Treasure (Designation) (Amendment) Order 2023) will be removed from site to a secure store and reported to the appropriate coroner's office.

All finds of all classes will be collected, processed, analysed, and published as appropriate. The spoil from the excavated trenches will be examined for further artefact recovery. Finds collected during the fieldwork will be bagged and labelled with the appropriate deposit context number, while registered finds will be 3D located and bagged individually with the deposit context number and small find number. Key specialists may be requested to visit the site during fieldwork to advise on the artefact collection and retention strategies. All finds will be processed (cleaned, marked, and labelled as appropriate) at the offices of Allen Archaeology Limited. These will then be submitted for specialist assessment as to their potential and significance for further analysis and study to the following organisations/persons (depending on their availability):

Sarah Percival	Early prehistoric pottery
Alice Beasley	Later prehistoric and Romano-British pottery
Dr Joshua Hogue	Worked lithic materials
Paul Blinkhorn	Post-Roman pottery and ceramic building material
Bryn Leadbetter	Animal bone
Tania Kausmally	Human bone
Adam Daubney	Other artefacts
Bryn Leadbetter	Environmental analysis
York Archaeological Trust	Conservation

Any changes to the above-named specialists will only be made in agreement with the Historic Environment Officer at Lincolnshire County Council.

If the evaluation results in the recovery of unstable artefactual remains (e.g., metallic objects or preserved wood/leather), Allen Archaeology Limited will commission the services of York Archaeological Trust to advise and implement conservation of unstable artefacts; to undertake x-ray analysis and to provide an assessment of potential summary, which will then be attached to the main report.

7.0 Environmental Works

Bryn Leadbetter is the named primary environmental consultant, who will be responsible for liaising with other specialists. Specialist advice will be sought, if necessary, from the environmental archaeologist, including a site visit to develop the sampling strategy and advise on any buried soils or palaeosols and their potential for soil micromorphological analysis, should such deposits be identified.

Bulk samples of approximately 40 litres in volume (or, where appropriate, entire feature fills) will be taken from a selection of dated and sealed contexts where appropriate. All sampling, assessment and analysis will be undertaken in accordance with English Heritage guidelines (English Heritage 2011).

Waterlogged plant macrofossil samples (of approximately 10 litres in volume) and samples for dendrochronological identification, soil micromorphology, pollen, insect remains, and mollusc analysis will also be taken where it is deemed appropriate to do so and as directed by the relevant specialists. Column samples may also be taken through ditch sections/palaeochannels, etc if necessary.

Radiocarbon, dendrochronology, archaeomagnetic, pollen and monolith samples will be collected where such sampling is necessary to inform the proposals for further stages of archaeological investigation.

Should industrial activity be noted during the works, large technological residues will be collected by hand, with separate samples (c.10ml) collected for micro-slags (i.e., hammerscale and spherical droplets), with reference made to the documents '*Archaeometallurgy: Guidelines for best practice'* (Historic England 2015).

Animal bone, fish bone and small mammal/amphibian bones will be collected from all excavated features and from processed samples. These will be identified and assessed by the named specialist (Bryn Leadbetter).

8.0 Post-Excavation and Reporting

On completion of site operations, the records produced during the trial trenching and monitoring will be checked and ordered and a stratigraphic matrix of all archaeological features and deposits prepared.

A fully illustrated assessment report text will then be prepared that will contain the following information:

- A non-technical summary of the results.
- Description of the topography and geology of the investigation area.
- Description of the methodologies used during the investigation.
- Detailed description of the historical and archaeological background of the site.
- A text describing the results of the investigation.
- Overall plan of the site showing monitored areas and evaluation trench locations, accurately located to the national grid.
- Plans of each of the individual trenches showing the archaeological features exposed.
- Sections of the trenches and archaeological features.
- Interpretation of the archaeological features exposed and their context within the surrounding landscape.
- Specialist reports on artefacts and ecofacts from the site.
- Appropriate photographs of the site and specific archaeological features or groups of features.
- A consideration of the significance of the results in local, regional, national, and international terms, including a review of the East Midlands Historic Environment Research Framework once artefact dating has been achieved and an understanding of the archaeological deposits has been achieved.
- A copy of the OASIS form will be included as an appendix.

The post-excavation reporting will be completed within six weeks of the completion of the fieldwork. If required, specialists will propose their own timescales during the post-fieldwork stage.

9.0 Archive

The documentation and records generated by the investigation will be assembled in accordance with the national guidelines in '*Archaeological Archives: A guide to best practice in creation, compilation, transfer and curation'* (AAF 2011) and the local guidelines in *'Lincolnshire Archaeological Handbook'* (LCC 2019). The archive will be deposited with Lincoln Museum, where it will be stored under the museum accession code LCNCC:2024.68. The agreed date of deposition is December 2024.

10.0 Report Dissemination

The report will be completed within six weeks of the completion of the fieldwork, and a copy will be sent to the client, to the Local Planning Authority, the Historic Environment Officer at Lincolnshire County Council, and the Lincolnshire Historic Environment Record. A summary account on the results of the investigation in the form of an OASIS form will be forwarded to the ADS in York following the completion of the works.

11.0 Curatorial Monitoring

Curatorial responsibility for the investigation on the site rests with the Historic Environment Officer at Lincolnshire County Council, who will be given at least two weeks' notice of the commencement of the fieldwork.

12.0 Variations to the Proposed Scheme of Works

Variations to the proposed scheme will only be made following written confirmation from the Historic Environment Officer at Lincolnshire County Council.

Should any further investigation be required 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.

13.0 Health and Safety

All work will be carried out in a way that complies with the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974 and its related regulations and codes of practice. Employees of Allen Archaeology Limited will perform their duties in accordance with company safety policy, with senior staff responsible for monitoring compliance with health and safety requirements and legislation.

The archaeological site supervisor will be responsible for ensuring that all on-site archaeological work is carried out in a safety-conscious, sensible, and responsible manner with due regard for the relevant health and safety requirements and legislation. All staff involved in the scheme will be provided with a Risk Assessment document prior to commencement of site operations.

14.0 Insurance

Allen Archaeology Limited maintains Employers Liability Insurance to £10,000,000.00, Public Liability Insurance to £5,000,000.00 and Professional Indemnity Insurance to £2,000,000.00. Copies of insurance documentation can be supplied upon request.

15.0 Copyright

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License is also given to the archaeological curator to use the documentary archive for educational, public and research purposes. This license does not cover commercial use of the material by the Lincolnshire HER, South Holland District Council or a third party.

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The author of any specialist contribution to a report shall retain intellectual copyright of their work and may make use of their work for educational or research purposes for further publication.

16.0 References

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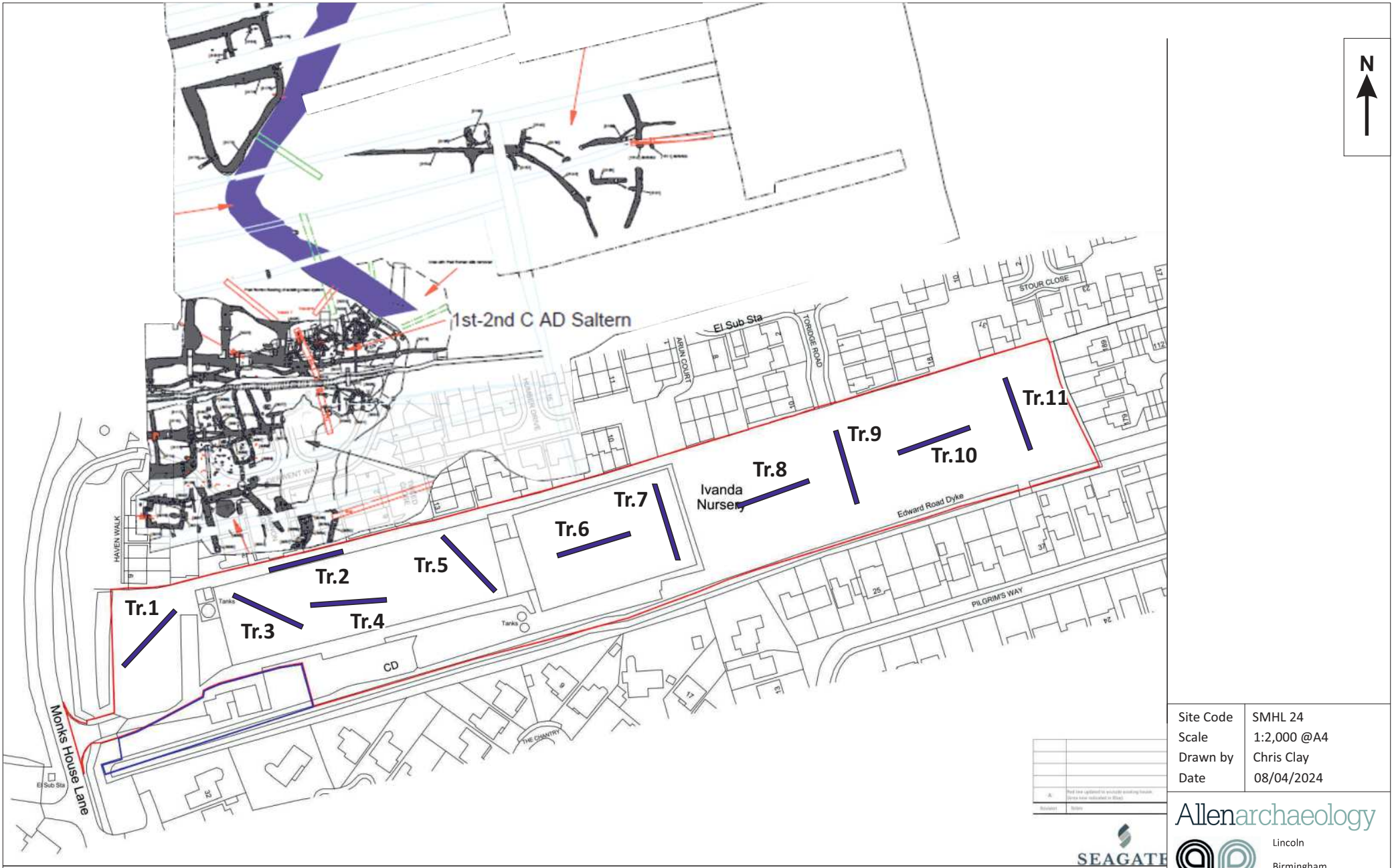
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15th March 2024



Site Code	SMHL 24
Scale	1:2,000 @A4
Drawn by	Chris Clay
Date	08/04/2024

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Figure 1: Proposed trenching in blue, with results of excavation to the north shown