



Land to the Southwest of the A151 & A16 Fulney Lane North Spalding, Lincolnshire

Written Scheme of Investigation – Archaeological Evaluation Trial Trenching

Client: Roadside Real Estate (Maldon) Ltd

Local Planning Authority: South Holland District Council

Planning Reference: H16-0079-25

NGR: TF 26499, 23769

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1.0 Introduction

1.1 Roadside Real Estate (Maldon) Ltd have received planning permission for the erection of two single storey drive thru units with associated car parking, cycle parking, landscaping and access at Land to the Southwest of the A151 & A16 Fulney Lane, North Spalding (H16-0079-25). A consultation with the Lincolnshire County Council Historic Environment Team (HET) who act as archaeological advisors to South Holland District Council (SHDC) has identified that trial trenching and geoarchaeological assessment is required in order that an archaeological mitigation strategy can be devised and implemented prior to development commencing.

1.2 This Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) has been prepared by Prospect Archaeology Ltd and details the staffing, methodology and timetable of the programme of works for trial trenching. It complies with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' (CIfA) *Standard for Archaeological Field Evaluation* (CIFA 2023a), *Universal Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation* (CIfA 2023b), the *Lincolnshire Archaeological Handbook* (LCC 2024), and *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment: The MoRPHE Projects Managers' Guide* (Historic England 2015c).

1.3 The planning permission is subject to several conditions. Condition 4 states:

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 measures for trial trenching in addition to the following:

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.

The written scheme of archaeological investigation should be prepared in accordance with the archaeological brief supplied by the Lincolnshire County Council Historic Environment advisor on behalf of the Local Planning Authority. Reason: To ensure the preparation and implementation of an appropriate scheme of archaeological mitigation in accordance with Section 16 of the National Planning Policy Framework, December 2024. This issue is integral to the development and therefore full details need to be finalised prior to the commencement of works. This Condition is imposed in accordance with Policy 29 of the South East Lincolnshire Local Plan, 2019.

Condition 5 states:

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 4 above in order to facilitate adequate monitoring arrangements.

Reason: To ensure satisfactory archaeological investigation and retrieval of archaeological finds in accordance with Section 16 of the National Planning Policy Framework, December 2024.

This Condition is imposed in accordance with Policy 29 of the South East Lincolnshire Local Plan, 2019.

Condition 6 states:

A copy of the final report required in connection with Condition 4 above shall be submitted to the Local Planning Authority and the Lincolnshire Historic Environment Record, within three months of the work being carried out. 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 Section 16 of the National Planning Policy Framework, December 2024. This Condition is imposed in accordance with Policy 29 of the South East Lincolnshire Local Plan, 2019.

- 1.4 Following the completion and reporting of the works defined in this document, the HET will make a decision on the need for further investigation and recording of any archaeological remains prior to the commencement of development. Future stages of work/mitigation will be the subject of a separate written scheme of investigation which will require approval by SHDC prior to commencement of development.

2.0 Site Location and Description

- 2.1 The Site (Figures 1 and 2) is located southwest of the roundabout at the junction of the A151/A16, Fulney Lane, about 2km northeast of the centre of Spalding, Lincolnshire, at NGR TF 26499, 23769. The Site is roughly triangular and covers 0.73 ha of tarmacked road and an overgrown soft landscaped area containing a soil heap. To the south the Site is bounded by industrial development and to the north by a ditch and the Bush Tyres premises. The A16 runs to the east of the Site and Fulney Lane to the west (Figure 1).
- 2.2 The Site is locally uneven and sits at about 4m aOD. The solid geology is Oxford Clay Formation mudstone overlain by Holocene silt and clay tidal flat deposits (<https://geologyviewer.bgs.ac.uk>). Geotechnical investigations (Enzygo 2018) show that the open ground of the Site is covered by

between 0.3m and 2.5m of 'made ground'. This reflects the undulating nature of the ground, almost certainly derived from excess spoil dumped from neighbouring development but also suggests areas of truncation and deep disturbance. Below the made ground is a variable sequence of sandy silts, sands and clays, sometimes laminated.

3.0 Previous Archaeological Work

- 3.1 A desk-based archaeological assessment was undertaken in support of the application (Bonnor 2025). The assessment identified no evidence for early prehistoric remains. Any remains of this period are likely to be buried by a significant depth of alluvial deposits.
- 3.2 There is some possible evidence for Iron Age activity in the area and for Roman period archaeology in the form of artefact scatters and buried remains. Notably there is evidence indicative of salt making activity associated with a ditch just east of the Site and.
- 3.3 Archaeological work in the immediate area has identified evidence for potentially both salt making and settlement/agriculture taking place in the vicinity during the medieval period. The potential for post-medieval remains is limited to roads, drainage and agricultural features of no more than Local importance.
- 3.4 Geotechnical investigations indicate made ground across the Site, extending to a depth of 2.5m bgl (Enzygo 2018). In general the base of made ground occurs in the region of 3m aOD to 4m aOD and comparison with ground levels 4-5m aOD east of the A16 (Williams 2011) suggests that some truncation may have occurred, but also some localised deeper disturbance to a depth of up to 1.1m aOD.

4.0 Scope of Works

- 4.1 The evaluation comprises the excavation of three 30m trenches of 2m width which represents a c.4% sample of the Site area to be developed. Sondages will be excavated in each trench to record the sequence of deposits at depth and trenches will be stepped if required. The proposed trench locations are shown in Figure 2.
- 4.2 Additional contingency trenching, up to a further 1% (45m²) will be used, in agreement with the advising Historic Environment Officer for further investigation or clarification of initial results, for instance to extend trenches over whole features, to enable safe excavation where deposits are deep and to check orientations or extents of significant remains should this prove necessary. Further trenching or deposit testing may be a requirement of the site monitoring visit if unclear archaeological remains or geomorphological features present difficulties in interpretation, or to assist with the formulation of a mitigation strategy. No contingency will be enacted without the express permission of the client.
- 4.3 In addition, the geoarchaeological assessment of borehole information will be made to further clarify the depositional sequence across the Site and presented in the final report.

5.0 Aims and Objectives

- 5.1 The purpose of the intrusive evaluation will be to gather sufficient information for the HET to be able to formulate a policy for the management of the archaeological resources present on the Site and to establish whether further archaeological investigation/mitigation is warranted.
- 5.2 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 allow for the determination of any appropriate strategies to mitigate the effect of the proposed development upon the archaeological resource.

6.0 Method

- 6.1 Fieldwork will be undertaken by a team from PCAS Archaeology Ltd (PCAS). All groundworks will be supervised by an appropriately experienced archaeologist. All features encountered will be plotted and then excavated according to the sampling strategy. Any contingency requirements will be discussed with the HET and implemented only with the express instruction of the client.
- 6.2 The trenches will be excavated by a tracked excavator or similar using a toothless ditching bucket under continuous archaeological supervision. Overburden will be removed to the first significant archaeological horizon or to natural, whichever is encountered soonest. The trenches will be excavated to a maximum safe working depth. Beyond this safe working depth or when required, provision following the current H&S regulations will be made for safe excavation (shoring/stepping) as well as water management. This is in order to expose the first archaeologically significant or natural horizon.
- 6.3 All features encountered will be plotted and then excavated according to the sampling strategy. Machine assistance may be required (with the approval of the LCC HEO) for the excavation of very large/deep features.

7.0 Excavation and Recording

- 7.1 Following the identification of archaeological deposits, all further excavation will be by hand, by experienced/qualified archaeologists to natural undisturbed deposits. Sufficient of each feature will be excavated to determine its date and function.
- 7.2 Linear features will be sampled a minimum of 10% along their length (each sample section to be not less than 1m), or a minimum of a 1m sample section, if the feature is less than 5m long. Junctions and terminals will be targeted with regard to the objectives in Section 5.2.
- 7.3 All small discrete features (postholes, stakeholes) will be fully excavated, or a sample if large numbers are encountered, larger features will half-sectioned.
- 7.4 All structures and zones of specialised activity (e.g. industrial, agricultural processing, ceremonial, funerary) will be recorded and excavated to the extent necessary to meet the objectives in Section

5.2 and to provide sufficient evidence as defined in, unless otherwise agreed with the Curator in writing.

- 7.5 A metal detector will be used on Site to scan spoil heaps and stripped surfaces for ferrous and other metal objects. Finds from the spoil heap will be treated as unstratified finds.
- 7.6 A drawn record will be maintained, comprising a site plan showing the locations of the area excavation within the Site, an overall site plan, feature plans and section drawings as appropriate. These will be produced at appropriate scales, normally 1:100, 1:50, 1:20 and/or 1:10, as the complexity of the drawing requires. Detailed plans will be made of key features and section or elevation drawings provided of cut features and upstanding structures as appropriate. All drawings will be referenced to the overall site plan.
- 7.7 A photographic record of the project and of each feature will be made and photographs illustrating the relationships between groups of features and general progress will also be taken. Digital archival record shots will be of resolution of 10 megapixels; RAW format may be used to capture images on site but these must be archived as .tiff. Digital photography should follow the guidance given by Historic England in Digital Image Capture and File Storage: Guidelines for Best Practice, July 2015. The contractor must include metadata embedded in the image file. This metadata must include the following: the commonly used name for the site being photographed, the relevant centred OS grid coordinates for the site to at least six figures, the relevant township name, the date of photograph, the subject of the photograph, the direction of shot and the name of the organisation taking the photograph.
- 7.8 All context, drawing and photographic registers will be cross-referenced.
- 7.9 Finds will be bagged and labelled according to their context of origin. All finds will be treated in accordance with the recommendations contained in First Aid for Finds (Watkinson & Neale 1998, 3rd edition). Advice will be taken on any finds requiring immediate specialist treatment.

Soil Sampling

- 7.10 An appropriate level of soil samples will be taken from deposits that can be securely dated and/or placed in the Site's stratigraphic sequence and in accordance with the Historic England 2011. Samples taken for environmental purposes will be no less than 40 litres (where possible) and will be taken from a representative range of features across site. If samples are required from discrete features that are not proposed for 100% excavation they will be taken from the unexcavated 50%. Sampling of stake-holes or small features will require the excavation of 100% of the feature. Slag, coal, fired clay etc will be collected for examination. All soil samples will be screened for micro-slugs (hammer-scale and spherical droplets) or separately collected, if appropriate, in accordance with the guidelines set out in Historic England's *Archaeometallurgy* (2015a).

7.11 Sampling will focus on deposits that have the potential to assist with the project objectives. The potential for scientific dating of industrial residues or structures will be considered as a contingency item.

7.12 Should waterlogged remains be encountered they will be treated in accordance with *Waterlogged Wood. Guidelines on the recording, sampling, conservation and curation of waterlogged wood, 3rd edition*, Historic England 2010.

Scientific Dating

7.13 Opportunities for scientific dating will be identified as appropriate and discussed with the curator and/or the Regional Science Advisor.

Human Remains

7.1 Any human remains (inhumations, cremation and ritualised or selected deposits) that are discovered must initially be left in-situ, covered and protected. Prospect Archaeology and the curator should be informed at the earliest opportunity and an application made for a Ministry of Justice licence. Beyond establishing the number, extent and state of preservation of human remains, no excavation should take place until a valid licence has been received and a strategy for their removal agreed with the curator.

7.2 All human remains will be excavated archaeologically in accordance with the latest best practice guidance, including but not limited to ClfA Paper No. 7 *Guidelines to the Standards for Recording Human Remains* (Brickley & McKinley 2004), *Guidance for Best Practice for Treatment of Human Remains Excavated from Christian Burial Grounds in England* (Advisory Panel on the Archaeology of Burials in England 2017), and any local environmental health regulations.

Treasure

7.3 The possibility of encountering items of treasure, as defined in the Treasure Act (2023 revised), is noted and provision will be made for informing the necessary authorities, and providing appropriate security measures, should the need arise.

8.0 Post-excavation processing

8.1 Finds and records will be returned to the contracted unit for processing. Records will be checked and entered into a computerised database. All finds will be treated in accordance with current HE best practice, including 'Investigative Conservation'. Finds will be cleaned (where appropriate) and marked and boxed for transfer to the relevant specialists according to accepted principles and in line with appropriate period/ material guidelines. Environmental samples will be washed, and assessed by an environmental archaeologist.

8.2 Where material suitable for scientific dating is recovered, sufficient dating will be undertaken to meet the aims of the project.

- 8.3 For all categories of material recovered, including finds, palaeo-environmental, industrial and other specialist samples, an assessment by an appropriately experienced specialist will be undertaken.
- 8.4 Environmental samples will be processed and sorted, and any artefacts recovered provided to the appropriate specialist(s) to be considered alongside the hand-recovered material. Basic stratigraphic information will be supplied to the project specialists.
- 8.5 In combination with the information from the sondages, available geotechnical data will be examined to establish the depositional sequence and the results incorporated into the report.
- 8.6 Where assessment has identified the need for further analysis, this will be the subject of a separate project design.
- 8.7 All ferrous objects and a selection of non-ferrous objects (including all coins), will be x-radiographed.

9.0 Reporting

- 9.1 A report will be produced within 4-6 weeks of the completion of fieldwork. A digital copy of the report will be supplied to Prospect Archaeology for distribution to the client and a copy will be submitted to Lincolnshire HER as appropriate. A digital copy of the report will also be sent to the Heritage Science Advisor for the region.
- 9.2 The report will contain the following sections:
- Executive Summary, brief summary of the reasons for the work, methods used and results.
 - Introduction, describing the scope and circumstances of the work, archaeological background and structure of the report
 - Methodology
 - descriptive account of the recording methods used and the results, together with an assessment of their archaeological importance, their possible relationship to relevant known features adjacent to the Development Site, the relevant regional research framework and estimated reliability of the results
 - a phased interpretation of the features
 - Geoarchaeological assessment
 - Discussion of the results and their significance in relation to local, regional and national sites, as appropriate
 - Conclusions
 - specialists' reports on all categories of artefacts recovered (except modern items). Full archive lists will accompany the specialists' finds reports.
 - specialists' reports on environmental samples taken (if taken)
 - a complete context list with short description
 - a stratigraphic (Harris) matrix, excepting where trenches are blank
 - Illustrations and plates as appropriate. Illustrations to be included are: a detailed location map, a detailed site plan showing all trenches, all trench plans and sections and detailed plans and

sections of features, select artefact illustrations and a selection of scanned photographs; an overall site plan showing all (phased) archaeological features will also be included.

- References
- OASIS summary

9.3 A summary report of an appropriate length, accompanied by illustrations (at 300dpi resolution), will be prepared and submitted in digital format, for publication in the appropriate volume of the Lincolnshire History and Archaeology Journal.

9.4 A contingency will be made for the preparation and publication of the results of the investigations in a local, regional or national journal.

10.0 Monitoring

10.1 The HET will be informed of the proposed start date at least 10 working days prior to commencement and will be kept informed of progress throughout the field and post-excavation work. A member of Prospect Archaeology staff will monitor the excavation and post-excavation work on behalf of the client. Site monitoring visits will be co-ordinated by Prospect Archaeology. LHET will have free access to the site (subject to Health and Safety considerations) and all records to ensure the works are being carried out in accordance with this WSI and all other relevant standards.

10.2 No mechanical excavators, earthmoving or other vehicles travelled within any excavated trench until it had been signed off by the Historic Environment Officer. Unless safety considerations require otherwise, no backfilling of trenches will take place until the Historic Environment Officer has visited the site and confirmed that the evaluation has been carried out to an acceptable standard.

11.0 Health and Safety

11.1 All Site work will be carried out in accordance with the relevant current Health and Safety legislation. A copy of the Health and Safety Document is available on request and a Risk Assessment will be prepared prior to commencement of work on Site.

12.0 Insurance

12.1 PA and its sub-contractors are fully covered by Employers and Public Liability and Professional Indemnity insurances, copies of which are available for inspection on request.

13.0 Archiving

13.1 The Site archive will be prepared in accordance with the UKIC's document *Guidelines for the Preparation of Excavation Archives for Long Term Storage* and the ClfA's *Standard and Guidance for the creation, compilation, transfer and deposition of archaeological archives 2014*.

13.2 Ultimately the ordered and checked archive, along with artefacts, ecofacts and relevant documents will be deposited with The Collection, Lincoln in accordance with the *Lincolnshire*

Archaeology Handbook. Until such time the archive will reside with the archaeological contractor, who will be responsible for its appropriate deposition. This excludes finds that are subject to the Treasure Act 2023 (and later amendments), the deposition of which will be determined separately. A budget to cover the museum's deposition charge has been allowed for in the project costs to the client. The Collection accession number is LCNCC : 2025.175.

- 13.3 An electronic copy of the archive will be deposited with ADS

14.0 Programme & Staffing

- 14.1 Fieldwork will be undertaken by PCAS Archaeology Ltd. It is anticipated that this will take up to 2 weeks depending upon the quantity of archaeological remains revealed. This will be followed by 4-6 weeks for reporting depending on the need for specialist assessments.

Specialists

Rebecca Devany	Flint
Zoe Tomlinson	Painted Plaster
Giselle Kiraly	Human Osteology
Julie Curl	Animal Bone
Elizabeth Foulds Rachel Tyson	Glass
Ruth Leary Ian Rowlandson Sue Anderson	Roman and Iron Age Pottery
Gwladys Monteil	Samian
Chas Simpson	Environmental and Stone
Sarah Percival	Prehistoric Pottery
Paul Blinkhorn Jane Young	Post-Roman Pottery
Denise Wilding	Metal
Chris Smith	Metal and Small Finds
Mike Wood	Slag

15.0 References

Bonnor, J, 2025, Land to the Southwest of the A151 & A16 Fulney Lane North Spalding, Lincolnshire Desk-based Heritage Assessment. Prospect Archaeology Ltd unpublished report ref: RRE01.01

CIfA 2023a *Standard for Archaeological Field Evaluation*, Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, Reading

CIfA 2023b *Universal Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation*, Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, Reading

English Heritage 2004 *Human Bones from Archaeological Sites: Guidelines for Producing Assessment Documents and Analytical Reports*

English Heritage 2011 (Second Edition) *Environmental Archaeology: a guide to the theory and practice of methods, from sampling and recovery to post-excavation*

Enzygo, 2018, *Land at A151/A6, Spalding PE12 6EP Geo-Environmental Report*, Enzygo geo environmental unpublished report ref: C RM.252.001.GE.R.001.C

Historic England 2015a *Archaeometallurgy. Guidelines for Best Practice*

Historic England 2015b *Geoarchaeology. Using earth sciences to understand the archaeological record*

Historic England 2015c *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment: The MoRPHE Projects Managers' Guide.*

Historic England 2017 *Guidance for Best Practice for Treatment of Human Remains Excavated from Christian Burial Grounds in England*

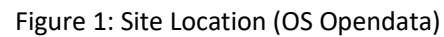
Historic England, 2018 *The Role of the Human Osteologist in an Archaeological Fieldwork Project*

LCC, 2016, *Lincolnshire Archaeological Handbook: a manual of archaeological practice.* Lincoln, Lincolnshire County Council, Built Environment Department

Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government 2018 *Revised National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)*

Williams, S, 2011, *A Programme of Monitoring and Recording of Geotechnical Trial Pits at Holbeach Road, Spalding, A16/A151 Junction (South East Quadrant)*, Midland Archaeological Services unpublished report, Site Code: HRSH 10

16.0 Figures



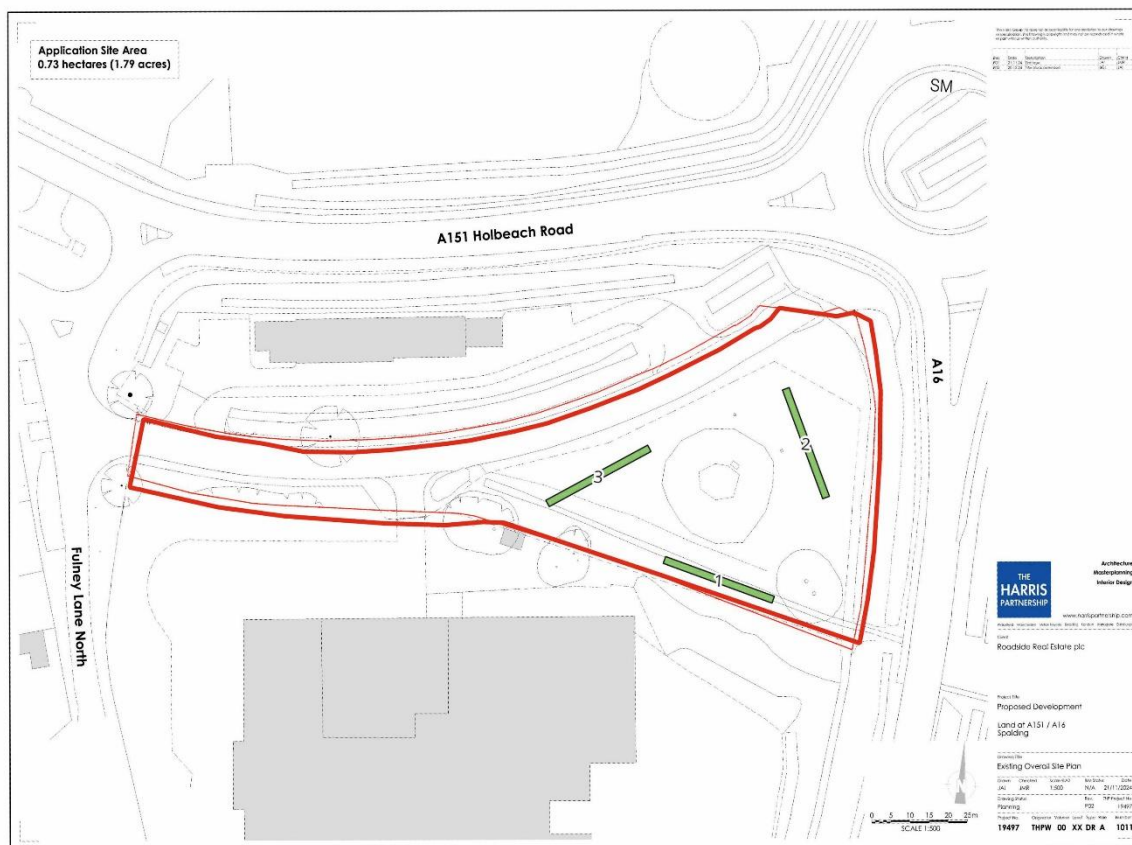


Figure 2: Trench layout