

**LAND AT
SUNNYDALE CLOSE
SURFLEET
LINCOLNSHIRE**

**WRITTEN SCHEME OF INVESTIGATION
FOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL MITIGATION**

**Planning Application No:
H17-1187-21
Grid Ref: TF 2520 2794
Accession No: LCNCC: 2022.1**

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1 SUMMARY

- 1.1 *Archaeological mitigation comprising a strip, map and sample excavation, is required on land at Sunnydale Close, Surfleet, Lincolnshire.*
- 1.2 *The site lies in an archaeologically sensitive area. Previous archaeological evaluation revealed a series of ditches and a watercourse with extensive dumped deposits derived from salt-making activities.*
- 1.3 *The archaeological work will consist of strip, map and sample recording over much of the area highlighted as of interest. Archaeological remains revealed will be sample excavated and recorded.*
- 1.4 *On completion of the fieldwork a report will be prepared detailing the results of the scheme of works. 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 archaeological mitigation in advance of development on land at Sunnydale Close, Surfleet, Lincolnshire.
- 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 Surfleet is located 5.5km north of Spalding and 17.5km southwest of Boston in the South Holland district of Lincolnshire. The site lies south of Surfleet and the River Glen, at National Grid Reference TF 2520 2794.

4 PLANNING BACKGROUND

- 4.1 A planning application (H17-1187-21) has been submitted to South Holland District Council for outline permission for a residential development on land east of Sunnydale Close, Surfleet. A programme of mitigation, prior to development, focused on known medieval salt-making remains identified during previous evaluation, focused on the northern part of the site is required. All mitigation measures are to be taken in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation approved by the Archaeological Advisor to South Holland District Council. This document represents such a written scheme.

5 SOILS AND TOPOGRAPHY

- 0.1 Local soils are of the Romney Series, typically coarse silty gleyic brown calcareous alluvial soils (Robson 1990, 26).
- 5.2 The site is on generally level ground within the fenland of south Lincolnshire. Heights are in the region of 5m OD.

6 ARCHAEOLOGICAL OVERVIEW

- 0.1 A settlement at Surfleet has been recorded since at least the times of the Domesday Survey of c. 1086. At this time the land was held by Heppo the Arblester and mention is also made of two salt-production sites. Lidar images show pockets of higher ground towards the northern end of the site, which are comparable to the waste mounds associated with medieval salt-production sites.
- 6.2 Geophysical survey identified a possible enclosure and a ditch. An area of magnetic anomalies may possibly be associated with salt-making activities and a dendritic pattern of anomalies suggest the presence of an infilled creek (Archaeological Project Services 2015).
- 6.3 A subsequent evaluation revealed a series of dumped deposits, typically associated with salt-making waster were revealed in the northern part of the site. Two pits and a former watercourse were also revealed during this investigation. Pottery recovered suggests the site was active between the 11th and 14th centuries along with burnt silt and fuel ash slag (Archaeological Project Services 2016).
- 6.4 Another evaluation, immediately east of the current site, revealed a dump of burnt clay, probably associated with 14th-15th century salt-making towards the north of the Site. Several ditches, probably related to water management for the salt making, were also revealed. A large quantity of 11th-12th century pottery indicated that late Saxon and early Medieval activity was present on the site. Several sherds of later pottery, burnt clay, animal bones and slag were also recovered (Archaeological Project Services 2021).

7 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- 7.1 The aims of the investigation will be:
 - 7.1.1 To supervise the stripping of the site and plan and archaeologically excavate and record features revealed.
- 7.2 The objectives of the scheme of works will be to:
 - 7.2.1 Determine the form and function of the archaeological features encountered;
 - 7.2.2 Determine the spatial arrangement of the archaeological features encountered;

- 7.2.3 As far as practicable, recover dating evidence from the archaeological features, and
- 7.2.4 Establish the sequence of the archaeological remains present on the site.
- 7.2.5 Determine how the site can contribute to the East Midlands Research Agenda (Knight *et al.* 2012) and any updates to the agenda.
 - 6.6.3: (early medieval) Can we elucidate the production and distribution of Early Medieval salt and glass,
 - 7.6.2: (high medieval) By what means were the extractive mineral industries controlled or organised by royal, monastic or lay lords?
 - 7.6.3 (high medieval) Can we identify, investigate and date sites associated with the region's key extractive industries?

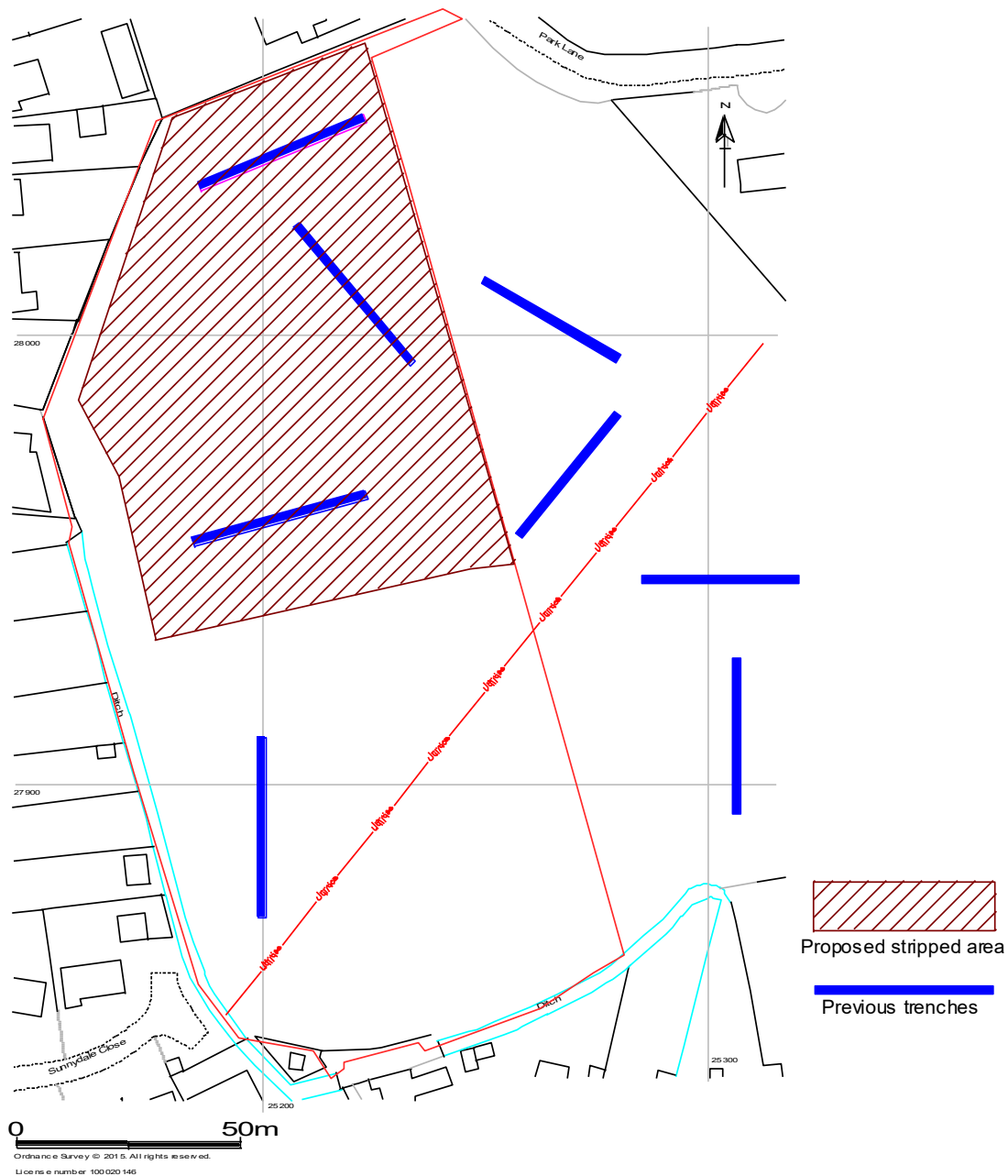
8 SITE OPERATIONS

8.1 General considerations

- 8.1.1 All work will be undertaken following statutory Health and Safety requirements in operation at the time of the scheme of works. A Risk Assessment will be prepared prior to the commencement of the investigation and will be constantly updated through the duration of the project.
- 8.1.2 All work will be carried out in accordance with the *Lincolnshire Archaeological Handbook* (Lincolnshire County Council 2019) and any revisions of such received up to the acceptance of this Written Scheme of Investigation. Additionally, the work will be undertaken in consideration of, and with reference to, the regional research agendas (Knight *et al.* 2012).
- 8.1.3 The work will be undertaken according to the relevant codes of practise issued by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA). Archaeological Project Services is CIfA registered organisation no. 21, managed by a Member of the institute (MCIfA).
- 8.1.4 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. They will also be reported to the local Finds Liaison/Portable Antiquities Officer. The archaeological curator will also be notified.

8.2 Methodology

- 8.2.1 Stripping of topsoil and overburden will be under constant archaeological supervision within the area highlighted as of archaeological significance. The stripped areas will focus on the northern part of the site (see below).



- 8.2.2 No enabling works or construction groundworks will take place within the areas highlighted for archaeological investigation until the archaeological excavations have been completed. No tracking of plant will occur within marked off zones in order to preserve the integrity of buried remains.
- 8.2.3 A toothless ditching bucket fitted to a mechanical excavator will be used for all ground reduction works and will allow for suitable recording of features of archaeological significance. Upon completion of the stripping the site will be cleaned, if necessary, and a plan produced by survey grade GPS.

- 8.2.4 All exposed features revealed within the excavated area will be hand-excavated in accordance with the following strategy:
- Discrete negative features (less than 1m diameter): at least 50% by area in addition to all stratigraphic relationships;
 - Discrete negative features (more than 1m in diameter): at least 50% in area in addition to all stratigraphic relationships;
 - Discrete negative features containing good assemblages unless otherwise agreed with the Archaeological Curator: 100%
 - Non-structural linear negative features: at least 10% by area in addition to all stratigraphic relationships and termini;
 - Structural negative features: 100%, unless otherwise agreed with the Archaeological Curator;
 - Other features: 100% unless otherwise agreed with the Archaeological Curator.
- 8.2.5 Section drawings will be recorded at a scale of 1:10. Features recorded in plan will be drawn at a scale of 1:20. Written descriptions detailing the nature of the deposits, features and fills encountered will be compiled on Archaeological Project Services pro-forma record sheets.
- 8.2.6 Any finds recovered will be bagged and labelled for later analysis.
- 8.2.7 The collection of soil samples and other appropriate materials for scientific dating and the recovery of palaeo-environmental evidence shall be undertaken as necessary to fulfil the aims of the excavation. Samples will be taken from all waterlogged feature fills. Otherwise, samples will be taken from primary and secondary fills of ditches and pits, the level of sampling being appropriate to the content of the individual feature but with a view to a minimum of 30l to 40l to maximise the research potential. Samples will be retained from approximately 50% of half-sectioned postholes where they form parts of recognizable structures. All sampling will follow the procedures in Centre for Archaeology Guidelines - Environmental Archaeology (English Heritage 2011).
- 8.2.8 Throughout the scheme of works a photographic record will be compiled. The photographic record will consist of:
- the site during work to show specific stages, and the layout of any archaeology within the stripped area.
 - individual features and, where appropriate, their sections.
 - groups of features where their relationship is important

- 8.2.9 Should human remains be located they will be left *in situ* until a Ministry of Justice licence is obtained to facilitate the removal of the remains. In addition, the Local Environmental Health Department and the police will be informed, if necessary. The archaeological curator will also be notified.

9 POST-EXCAVATION

9.1 Stage 1

- 9.1.1 On completion of site operations, the records and schedules produced during the scheme of works will be checked and ordered to ensure that they form a uniform sequence forming 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 referring to schedules identifying the subject/s photographed.
- 9.1.2 All finds recovered during the field work will be washed, marked and packaged according to the deposit from which they were recovered. Any finds requiring specialist treatment and conservation will be sent to York Archaeological Trust.

9.2 Stage 2

- 9.2.1 Detailed examination of the stratigraphic matrix to enable the determination of the various phases of activity on the site.
- 9.2.2 Finds will be sent to specialists for identification and dating.
- 9.2.3 If significant archaeological remains are revealed, it will be agreed at this stage with the Archaeological Curator, that an assessment report and Updated Project Design may be required. If so, a further addendum to this written scheme will be produced..

9.3 Stage 3

- 9.3.1 On completion of stage 2, a report detailing the findings of the scheme of works will be prepared.
- 9.3.2 This will consist of:
- A non-technical summary of the results of the investigation.
 - A description of the archaeological setting of the scheme of works.
 - Description of the topography of the site.
 - Description of the methodologies used during the scheme of works.
 - A text describing the findings of the scheme of works.

- A consideration of the local, regional and national context of the scheme of works findings.
- Plans of the site and archaeological features exposed. If a sequence of archaeological deposits is encountered, separate plans for each phase will be produced.
- Sections of the archaeological features.
- Interpretation of the archaeological features exposed, and their chronology and setting within the surrounding landscape.
- Specialist reports on the finds from the site.
- Appropriate photographs of the site and specific archaeological features.

10 REPORT DEPOSITION

- 10.1 Copies of the report will be sent to: the client; the Archaeological Advisor to South Holland District Council and to Lincolnshire County Council Historic Environment Record.

11 ARCHIVE

- 11.1 The documentation and records generated during the investigation will be sorted and ordered into the format acceptable to The Collection: Art and Archaeology in Lincolnshire. This will be undertaken following the requirements of the document titled *Conditions for the Acceptance of Project Archives* for long-term storage and curation.

- Site code: SUSC22
- Accession No: LCNCC: 2022.13
- Deposition date: June 2023.

12 PUBLICATION

- 12.1 Details of the investigation will be input to the Online Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations (OASIS).
- 12.2 Notes on the investigation will be submitted to the journal *Lincolnshire History and Archaeology*.
- 12.3 If appropriate, notes on the findings will be submitted to the appropriate national journals: *Britannia* for discoveries of Roman date, and *Medieval Archaeology* for findings of medieval or later date.
- 12.4 There is a requirement to report the findings of an archaeological project beyond the normal planning audience. This may range from the publicising of a small project amongst the local community to mass media publicity for finds of national interest.

13 CURATORIAL RESPONSIBILITY

- 13.1 Curatorial responsibility for the archaeological work undertaken on the site lies with the Archaeological Advisor, South Holland District Council. They will be given written notice of the commencement of the project.
- 13.2 Given the phasing of the Site, the Archaeological Advisor will be kept informed of all developments throughout the project in order to determine the extent of further archaeological mitigation measures as required.

14 VARIATIONS AND CONTINGENCIES

- 14.1 Variations to the proposed written scheme of investigation will only be made following written confirmation of acceptance from the archaeological curator.
- 14.2 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.
- 14.3 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 and may require an initial assessment report and updated project design.
- 14.4 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.

15 PROGRAMME OF WORKS AND STAFFING LEVELS

- 15.1 Archaeological work is expected to take a total of five to six weeks and will be staffed by a Project Officer experienced in similar types of work. Additional staff will be allocated, the number dependant on the results of the initial site stripping.
- 15.2 Post-excavation analysis and report production will be undertaken by the supervisor, or a post-excavation analyst as appropriate, with assistance from a finds supervisor, illustrator and external specialists.

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
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 INSURANCES

17.1 Archaeological Project Services, as part of the Heritage Trust of Lincolnshire, maintains Employers Liability Insurance of £10,000,000, together with Public and Products Liability insurances, each with indemnity of £5,000,000. Copies of insurance documentation can be supplied on request.

18 COPYRIGHT

18.1 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.

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

- 18.3 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.
- 18.4 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.

19 BIBLIOGRAPHY

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