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WRITTEN SCHEME OF INVESTIGATION FOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING AND RECORDING AT STONE GATE WESTON LINCOLNSHIRE



Planning Application No: H22-0349-23
Grid Ref: TF 2926 2539
Accession No: LCNCC:2024.113

PREPARED FOR
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REGISTERED ORGANISATION CIfA
Chartered Institute for Archaeologists
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1 SUMMARY

1.1 *A programme of archaeological work is required during development on land adjacent to Stone Gate, Weston, Lincolnshire.*

1.2 *The site is archaeologically sensitive, lying close to Iron Age and Roman salterns (salt-production sites) with Roman settlement having also been identified in the parish. Late Saxon and medieval features were recorded immediately adjacent to the site during the construction of the Weston bypass and the site is located adjacent to the site of the 17th century Wimberley Hall.*

1.3 *The investigation will involve monitoring of development groundwork. Deposits exposed will be recorded in writing, graphically and photographically.*

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 archaeological monitoring and recording of development on land adjacent to Stone Gate, Weston, 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 Weston is located 5km east of Spalding in the district of South Holland, Lincolnshire. The site is located north of the main village nucleus at National Grid Reference TF 2926 2539.

4 PLANNING BACKGROUND

4.1 A planning application (H22-0349-24) has been submitted and approved for the construction of three sunken bays and the relocation of offices and plant room. Permission is subject to a condition requiring the implementation of an archaeological programme of works fully detailed in a Written Scheme of Investigation, during groundworks associated with the development.

5 SOILS AND TOPOGRAPHY

5.1 The development site lies in the South Lincolnshire Fenland at approximately 3m AOD. Local soils are of the Wallasea 2 Association composed of pelo-alluvial gley soils developed on reclaimed marine alluvium (Hodge et al 1984).

6 ARCHAEOLOGICAL OVERVIEW

6.1 The site is in an area of late Iron Age and Roman remains, principally associated with saltmaking. Evidence of possible late Iron Age saltmaking has been found at Weston after large calcite-gritted briquetage objects were discovered in the early twentieth century. In addition, find spots of 2nd-1st century BC briquetage have been recovered from the parish (Lane and Morris 2001) and Roman settlement and saltmaking is also known from the parish.

6.2 Weston appears to have originated in the later Saxon period and it is first mentioned in the Domesday Survey of c. 1086. Referred to as *Westune*, the name is derived from the Old English *west* and *tūn*, simply meaning the west farmstead or village, probably in relation to Moulton (Cameron 1998, 137). The area is described as soakland of the manors of Holbeach and Whaplode held by Guy de Craon and of Spalding held by Ivo Tallebois (Foster & Longley, 1976) .

6.3 Archaeological works undertaken prior to the construction of the Weston bypass revealed Late Saxon and medieval features to the south of the site (Archaeological Project Services 2008).

6.4 The site lies north of St Mary's church which dates to the late 12th – 13th century built in the Early English style with a Perpendicular tower (Pevsner & Harris, 1989). The medieval settlement has been identified as lying south of the church and east of the site. Its extent is unknown, although artefacts recovered during bypass work suggest it may extend further than the modern village core. Medieval and later pottery has also been found in close proximity to the site.

6.5 To the east of the site is the former location of Wimberley Hall, a 17th century building constructed in the Artisan Mannerist style and later converted to a farm house.

7 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

7.1 The aim of the work will be to record and interpret the deposits and any archaeological features exposed during the development groundwork.

7.2 The objectives of the investigation will be to:

- Determine the form and function of the archaeological features encountered;
- Determine the spatial arrangement of the archaeological features encountered;
- As far as practicable, recover dating evidence from the archaeological

features.

- Establish the sequence of the archaeological remains present on the site, and

- Consideration of the results in relation to the East Midlands Research Strategy and Agenda (Knight *et al.* 2012) and to artefactual agendas.

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 investigation.

8.1.2 All work will be carried out in accordance with the *Lincolnshire Archaeological Handbook* (Lincolnshire County Council 20169) and any revisions of such received up to the acceptance of this specification. Additionally, the work will be undertaken in consideration of, and with reference to, the regional research agenda (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 (ClfA), under the management of a Member of the institute (MClfA).

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 and the Portable Antiquities'/Finds Liaison Officer. The archaeological curator will also be informed.

8.2 Methodology

8.2.1 The archaeological monitoring will be undertaken during the groundworks phase of development, and includes the archaeological monitoring of all phases of soil movement. However, some work has already commenced, though remains open for archaeological observations.

8.2.2 Stripped areas and trench sections will be observed to identify and record archaeological features that are exposed and to record changes in the geological conditions. The section drawings of the trenches will be recorded at a scale of 1:10. Should features be recorded in plan these 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.

8.2.3 Finds recovered will be bagged and labelled for later analysis.

8.2.4 Throughout the investigation a photographic record will be compiled. The photographic record will consist of high-quality digital uninterpolated

images of at least 10 megapixels taken using a camera with an APS-C or larger sensor. The photographic record will consist of:

- the site during the investigation to show specific stages of work, and the layout of the archaeology within the area.
- individual features and, where appropriate, their sections.
- groups of features where their relationship is important.

8.2.5 Should human remains be located they will be left *in situ* and only excavated if absolutely necessary. Should removal be required the appropriate Ministry of Justice licence will be obtained before the exhumation of the remains. In addition, the Local Environmental Health Department, coroner and the police will be informed, where appropriate.

9 POST-EXCAVATION

9.1 Stage 1

9.1.1 On completion of site operations, the records and schedules produced during the investigation 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 fieldwork 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.

9.3 Stage 3

9.3.1 On completion of stage 2, a report detailing the findings of the investigation 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 investigation.
- Description of the topography of the site.
- Description of the methodologies used during the investigation.
- A text describing the findings of the investigation.
- A consideration of the local, regional and national context of the investigation findings.
- Plans of 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 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 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 format acceptable to 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.

- Site code: WESG24
- Accession No: LCNCC:2024.113
- Deposition date: February 2025

12 PUBLICATION

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

12.2 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. In addition, a note will be submitted to the local

journal, *Lincolnshire History and Archaeology*.

13 CURATORIAL RESPONSIBILITY

13.1 Curatorial responsibility for the archaeological work undertaken on the site lies with the Planning Archaeologist, Lincolnshire County Council. They will be given written notice of the commencement of the project.

14 VARIATIONS AND CONTINGENCIES

14.1 Variations to the proposed scheme of works 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.

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 The investigation will be integrated with the programme of construction and is dependent on the developers' work programme, and also on the quantity and complexity of archaeological remains encountered. It is therefore not possible to specify the person-hours for the archaeological site. Post-excavation work is likewise dependent on the quantity and complexity of archaeological remains encountered.

15.2 An archaeological supervisor with experience of investigations of this type will undertake the work.

15.3 Post-excavation analysis and report production will be undertaken by the archaeological 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)		T Lane, Independent specialist
Stonework		P Cope-Faulkner APS
Metalworking		A Frasca/J Cowgill, Independent specialists
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.

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