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**LAND AT
HIGH ROAD
WESTON
LINCOLNSHIRE**

**SPECIFICATION FOR
STRIP, PLAN AND SAMPLE RECORDING**

**Planning Application No:
H22-0101-16**

Grid Ref: TF 2885 2495

Accession No: LCNCC: 2017.29

**PREPARED FOR
PERSIMMON HOMES**

MARCH 2020

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Location map and development plan at back of document

1 SUMMARY

- 1.1 *An archaeological investigation comprising a strip, map and sample excavation is required on land at High Road, Weston, Lincolnshire.*
- 1.2 *The site lies in an archaeologically sensitive area. Previous archaeological evaluation revealed a series of ditches and pits towards the frontage of the site producing evidence of high status domestic activity in the vicinity dating from the eleventh to early thirteenth century.*
- 1.3 *The archaeological work will consist of strip, map and sample recording. 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 strip, map and sample in advance of development on land High Road, 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

- 0.1 Weston is located 5km east of Spalding in the District of South Holland, Lincolnshire.
- 3.2 The Site lies on the northwest edge of the village approximately 375m southwest of the parish church of St. Mary on the west side of Pinfold Lane by its junction with High Road, centred on National Grid Reference TF2885 2495

4 PLANNING BACKGROUND

- 4.1 A planning application (H22-0101-16) has been submitted and approved by South Holland District Council for outline permission for a large residential development at High Road, Weston. A request for a new revised planning permission also for residential development has been submitted. A programme of archaeological strip, map and record excavation, prior to development, focused on early medieval remains identified during previous evaluation near the High Road frontage is required.

5 SOILS AND TOPOGRAPHY

- 5.1 Local soils are of the Wallasea 2 Association composed of pelo-alluvial gley soils developed on reclaimed marine alluvium (Hodge et al. 1984, 166). The site is on generally level ground at a height of c. 2.5m AOD.

6 ARCHAEOLOGICAL OVERVIEW

- 6.1 During the prehistoric period Weston and the surrounding area was subject to frequent periods of marine incursion and as a consequence there was little human use of the landscape during that time. A drop in sea level in the Romano-British period (50 – 410AD) saw extensive settlement in the wider area but later marine incursions caused these sites to be abandoned (Hayes and Lane 1992). Romano-British salt-making sites have been recorded within the southern part of the parish, but no evidence has been seen in the immediate vicinity of the Site (Albone 2000). Deposits and finds dating from the Saxon Period have been identified along the route of the Weston Bypass during the initial fieldwalking stages and later trial trench and excavation phases of archaeological work along the route. These deposits lie to the northwest and west of the proposed development site (Wood 2008).
- 6.2 Weston 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 survey records that Weston was assessed with Moulton and was held by Ivo Taillebois and Guy de Craon and contained extensive arable lands (Foster and Longley 1976, 14/99; 57/53). Both Weston and Moulton was sokeland of Ivo's manor of Spalding or Guy's manor of Holbeach.
- 6.3 The Site lies to the southwest of the parish church of St. Mary, built in the Early English style with a Perpendicular tower. The medieval settlement of Weston has been identified to the south of the church and the east of the Site. The extent of the settlement is unknown, although artefacts recovered during the phases of work associated with the bypass suggest that it may extend further than the current village core. Fieldwalking identified a significant scatter of pottery of this date to the west of Pinfold lane (Trimble 2000).
- 6.4 An evaluation undertaken on the east side of Pinfold Lane revealed an east-west aligned palaeochannel which had been reduced to two defunct creeks by the early medieval period. Three ditches of 11th – 12th century date were also recorded along with contemporary and Roman pottery (Snee 2016).
- 6.5 Previous evaluation of the site revealed a series of ditches and pits towards the frontage of the site producing evidence of high status domestic activity in the vicinity dating from the eleventh to early thirteenth century. Finds included ceramics, animal bone and marine shell. One environmental sample was analysed, demonstrating that the fills of features are relatively rich particularly in marine mollusc and fish remains with the potential to inform the character of Weston's palaeoenvironment and food economy during the early medieval period.

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.

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 2016) 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. In particular reference may be made to topics 6.4 and 6.7 for early medieval rural settlement patterns and the agricultural economy and rural landscape. Evidence from previous environmental samples suggest the site may have potential to contribute to topic 6.7.4 "how may animal husbandry practices have developed and how were wild food resources such as freshwater fish, marine fish/mammals and wild fowl utilised?" (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 archaeologically-monitored and supervised for the footprint of each of the new dwellings. A toothless ditching bucket fitted to a mechanical excavator will be used for all ground reduction.
- 8.2.2 Upon completion of the stripping the site will be cleaned, if necessary, and a plan produced by survey grade GPS.
- 8.2.3 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.
- 8.2.4 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.
- 8.2.5 Any finds recovered will be bagged and labelled for later analysis.
- 8.2.6 The collection of soil samples and other appropriate materials for scientific dating and the recovery of palaeoenvironmental 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).

8.2.7 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

8.2.8 Should human remains be located they will be left *in situ* and only removed if absolutely necessary. Should excavation be required the appropriate Ministry of Justice licence will be obtained before 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.

9.3 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; 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: WEHR20
- Accession No: LCNCC: 2017.29
- Deposition date: October 2021.

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 for 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 Archaeological work is expected to take up to four 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 An archaeological project office or supervisor with experience of such monitoring will undertake the work.
- 15.3 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.

<u>Task</u>	<u>Body to be undertaking the work</u>
Conservation	York Archaeological Trust
Pottery Analysis	Prehistoric – S Percival, Independent Specialist
	Roman – I Rowlandson, Independent Specialist
	Post-Roman – A Irving, Independent Specialist
Non-pottery Artefacts	D Buckley APS or J Cowgill, Independent Specialist
Animal Bones	J Rackham/M Holmes, independent specialists
Environmental Analysis	J Rackham or V Fryer, Independent Specialists
Human Remains Analysis	R Kendall, Independent Specialist
Metallurgical Analysis	A Frasca, APS

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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Specification: Version 1, 23rd March 2020



Area requiring strip, map and record excavation



Approximate location of trench containing early medieval archaeology

ARCHAEOLOGICAL PROJECT SERVICES



Project Name: High Road, Weston

Scale 1:3000

Drawn by: JS

Report No: WSI

Location map and development plan