



global environmental solutions

**Cambridge Court, formerly The Hollies,  
Ellesmere, Shropshire  
Method Statement for an Archaeological Watching Brief**

SLR Ref: 406.04362.00001

February 2013



## CONTENTS

<b>1.0 INTRODUCTION</b> .....	<b>1</b>
<b>2.0 SITE LOCATION</b> .....	<b>1</b>
<b>3.0 BRIEF CONTEXTUAL HISTORY OF THE MOATED SITE</b> ERROR! BOOKMARK NOT DEFINED.	
<b>4.0 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES</b> .....	<b>2</b>
4.1 Aims.....	4
4.2 Timetable for archaeological work .....	4
4.3 Objectives .....	4
<b>5.0 METHODOLOGY</b> .....	<b>4</b>
5.1 Professional Standards .....	4
5.2 Sources of information.....	4
5.3 Methods (fieldwork).....	4
<b>6.0 RESOURCES AND ORGANISATION</b> .....	<b>7</b>
6.1 Staff and Roles.....	7
6.2 Timing.....	7
6.3 Insurance.....	7
<b>7.0 CLOSURE</b> .....	<b>7</b>

## 1.0 INTRODUCTION

This Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) has been prepared by SLR Consulting on behalf of Gordon Mytton Developments Ltd (The Client). The client has planning permission (21<sup>st</sup> May 2012 Application No.11/04521/FUL) for “*Erection of 7 dwellings; formation of vehicular access; demolition of existing ruined garden structures; boundary treatments, associated landscaping to include tree removal*”.

The monitoring authority for this project is Shropshire Council and their Archaeological Advisor has asked for a programme of archaeological work. The Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) and its implementation will discharge Condition 4 to the planning permission, in accordance with National Planning Policy Frameworks 2012 (NPPF) paragraph 141.

## 2.0 SITE LOCATION

Cambridge Court (previously The Hollies) is located on the western side of Scotland Street, Ellesmere, SY12 0ED, NGR SJ3964 3464 (339558 334668) (Figure 1). The Hollies is a listed building which lies within the western part of the permitted development area. The main road to Whittington and Oswestry (the A495) kinks around the property and thus forms the eastern and southern boundaries of the site.

**Figure 1**  
**Location map of the site**



Reproduced by permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of HMSO. Crown Copyright. All rights reserved OS Licence Number 100012293

### 3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

As part of the planning application an archaeological appraisal was undertaken by Castlering Archaeology in 2011 (Frost 2011). This study identified the fact that the house is first recorded on historical mapping in 1835 which also shows a formal garden laid out around it.

Documentary evidence identifies the owner of The Hollies during the early 19<sup>th</sup> century as being John Stanton, who was a local businessman involved with the Ellesmere canal and a lime merchant.

### 4.0 SCHEME DESIGN AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL IMPACT

Construction will involve ground reduction over much of the available area for house foundations, roadways and service trenches, and landscaping (Figure 2). The roadways will go to a depth greater than 700mm, and the foundation design for the houses has yet to be finalized. Therefore significant change to the existing conditions will result from the development.

**Figure 2**  
**Scheme design: footprint of main construction and landscaping**



The recommendations from the archaeological appraisal highlighted two features of heritage significance (both shown in Figure 10 of the report): the sunken garden and the retaining wall that extends east from this (Figure 3). The design has included another recommendation which was to demarcate the location of the circular feature so that the sunken garden had a “memory” incorporated into the new layout.

The following method statement will focus on recording these two features of heritage significance before damage is caused to them by the construction programme.

**Figure 3**  
**Air Photograph showing sunken garden in 1960s**



## **5.0 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES**

### **5.1 Aims**

The aims of the Recording Brief are:

- To provide a record of the historic garden features within the development
- To facilitate discharge of planning condition no. 4

### **5.2 Timetable for archaeological work**

- Recording brief: to be implemented once vegetation has been removed from sunken garden and related structures, and prior to demolition and construction.

### **5.3 Objectives**

The specific objectives of this programme of work include:

- To make a photographic, drawn and textual record of the sunken garden and related retaining wall
- Produce a short report containing the information gathered during fieldwork
- To submit an ordered archive to a suitable local repository.

## **6.0 METHODOLOGY**

### **6.1 Professional Standards**

SLR Consulting is a Registered Organisation with the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA). SLR's work is undertaken to the highest professional standards: this document has been prepared with reference to English Heritage's *Understanding Historic Buildings: a guide to good recording practice 2006*, and the Institute for Archaeologist's *Standard and Guidance for the archaeological investigation and recording of standing buildings or structures 2008*.

### **6.2 Sources of information**

Sources consulted in the preparation of this document include Castlering Archaeology's Archaeological Appraisal (Frost 2011).

### **6.3 Methods (fieldwork)**

- SLR will be informed in advance of the commencement of site works.
- SLR will conform to the Client's arrangements concerning access to site.
- The recording will be undertaken by a qualified and competent field archaeologist (NPPF 128 refers to "appropriate expertise") and will conform to EH's Level 1 standards (English Heritage 2006).
- Shropshire Council's Archaeological Advisor will be informed if any significant archaeological remains are exposed.

- Any variations to the archaeological programme will only be undertaken after consultation with, and the approval of the Client and Shropshire Council. Any variations will be fully recorded and circulated to parties beforehand.
- The drawn record will comprise hand-drawn plans of the standing features at a suitable scale, typically plans at 1:50, elevations at 1:20 and more detailed sections (if required) at scale 1:10. A photographic record will be maintained comprising high-resolution digital images with a supporting index, archived in accordance with IfA guidelines for long term storage of digital media. Textual records will consist of recording sheets and annotations to plans and sections.

### **6.3.1 Methods (Site Investigation Report)**

After the completion of the fieldwork a formal report will be prepared. The report will contain the following elements:

- A non-technical summary, including the NGR, planning application number and dates of fieldwork.
- A table of contents.
- An introduction with acknowledgements, including a list of all those involved in the project and the location and description of the observed trenching;
- A statement of the project aims;
- An account of the project methodology undertaken, with an assessment of the same;
- A brief summary of the archaeological/historical background of the area, indicating past and present land use, accompanied by relevant maps;
- A description of the archaeological works and standing structure recording
- Digital colour images of work in progress and significant features;
- Plans and section drawings at appropriate scales;
- Other maps, plans, drawings and photographs as appropriate;
- An interpretation of the results;
- A bibliography of sources consulted and a supplementary bibliography of any sources identified, but not available for consultation; and
- An index to the project archive and a statement of its location/proposed repository.

Bound paper copies of the report and digital copies in PDF format will be provided to the Client, and Shropshire's HER.

### **6.3.2 Methods (Archive)**

As appropriate SLR Consulting will complete the online OASIS form at <http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/oasis/> on completion of the project.

No material culture is expected as part of this project, so the archive will consist of a simple digital and hard copy series of field records. The archive will be deposited within five years of the completion of the site works, with the agreement of the Client.

The archive will be prepared according to procedures for the transfer of archaeological archives in Shropshire. Temporary storage pending deposition will be with SLR Consulting in Shrewsbury office for a period of up to five years after which responsibility for its maintenance will cease; if by this time no repository has accepted to take the material, then it will be returned to the client or some alternative option applied.

### **6.3.3 Methods (Copyright)**

SLR will retain full copyright of any commissioned reports, tender documents or other project documents, under the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act of 1988 with all rights reserved; the contractor will provide 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 this Project Design.

### **6.3.4 Methods (Health and Safety)**

SLR will operate in accordance with the health and safety procedures as set out in:-

- The Health and Safety Work Act (1974) and related legislation.
- CDM regulations 2007 (CDM is not required for archaeological works but we will follow the general principles)
- Manual of Health and Safety for Archaeological Fieldwork Federation of Archaeological Managers and Employers 2010.
- The Council for British Archaeology Handbook no. 6, Safety in Archaeological Fieldwork (1989).

The Client will provide SLR with any information regarding hazardous contaminants present in the surface materials and sub-surface strata at the site, and all information on location and type of utility services within, or in proximity to, the site. Appropriate measures will then be taken to ensure the health and safety of staff who might come into contact with such contaminants. A health and safety plan will be produced by SLR, to be read and acknowledged by all staff on site.

All necessary protective clothing and equipment will be used. The archaeologists on site will wear hard hats, gloves, reflective jackets and protective footwear.

A First-Aid kit and Accident Book will be kept on site at all times.

### **6.3.5 Methods (Project Monitoring)**

SLR understands that the project will be monitored by Shropshire Council.



## **7.0 RESOURCES AND ORGANISATION**

This section outlines key staff, specialists and aspects of the organisation of the fieldwork.

### **7.1 Staff and Roles**

#### **7.1.1 Quality Assurance**

Tim Malim (SLR) to undertake periodic QA reviews and sign-off on key documents.

#### **7.1.2 Site Staff:**

George Nash (SLR) or tbc

#### **7.1.3 Archaeological Illustrator:**

Caroline Malim (SLR). Supervision of site drawings

### **7.2 Timing**

It is estimated that the initial groundworks will take one day to complete. This is the expected duration of the watching brief exercise. However, if significant and extensive remains are exposed, the works are likely to require additional time to adequately record any additional deposits, features and/or structures.

### **7.3 Insurance**

The activities of the SLR employees on site are covered by the SLR insurance. Details of these can be provided if necessary

## **8.0 CLOSURE**

This report has been prepared by SLR Consulting Limited with all reasonable skill, care and diligence, and taking account of the manpower and resources devoted to it by agreement with the client. Information reported herein is based on the interpretation of data collected and has been accepted in good faith as being accurate and valid.

This report is for the exclusive use of Gordon Mytton Developments Ltd; no warranties or guarantees are expressed or should be inferred by any third parties. This report may not be relied upon by other parties without written consent from SLR.

SLR disclaims any responsibility to the client and others in respect of any matters outside the agreed scope of the work.

## **9.0 BIBLIOGRAPHY**

- |                  |      |   |
|------------------|------|---|
| English Heritage | 2006 | <i>Understanding Historic Buildings: a guide to good recording practice</i>   |
| Frost P.         | 2011 | <i>Land Adjoining The Hollies, Scotland Street, Ellesmere, Shropshire SJ 3964 3464: Archaeological Appraisal</i><br>Castlering Archaeology Report No. 363 |