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A PRE-DETERMINATION ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION
ON LAND ADJACENT TO 128, BARRIER BANK,
COWBIT, LINCOLNSHIRE.

National Grid Reference: TF 2608 1790
Site Code: BBCO22
Accession No: LCNCC: 2022.35
Planning Reference: H01-0597-21

PREPARED FOR MR. DARREN WILSON

By

Neville Hall

March 2022

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Summary

- *A pre-planning determination archaeological field evaluation comprising the mechanical excavation of two trial trenches prior to the proposed construction of five new residential dwellings with associated access on land adjacent to 128, Barrier Bank, Cowbit, Lincolnshire was undertaken by Neville Hall and James Roberts on the 21st of March 2022.*
- *Both of the archaeological trial trenches were excavated under archaeological supervision. No archaeological activity was identified on this site and there were no finds.*
- *Within Trench 1, a modern topsoil horizon overlay two alluvial silt horizons. At the south-eastern end of the trench, the cut and fill of a silted up former and naturally occurring palaeochannel was recorded.*
- *Within Trench 2, modern yard surfaces and/overburden along with a modern make horizon overlay an alluvial horizon. A further alluvial horizon was found to occupy a natural topographical hollow or depression within the central and part of the north-eastern portion of this final trench.*

1. Introduction

- 1.1 Neville Hall was commissioned by Mr. Darren Wilson to undertake a pre-planning determination archaeological field evaluation prior to the proposed construction of five new residential dwellings with associated access on land adjacent to 128, Barrier Bank, Cowbit, Lincolnshire, centred at National Grid Reference TF 2608 1790. The archaeological evaluation was carried out at the development site on the 21st of March 2022.
- 1.2 The work was carried out in order to inform and accompany a current planning application for Reserved Matters consent for a proposed new residential development on this site. The requirement for the pre-determination archaeological assessment of this proposal site through trial trenching was requested by Mr. Ian Marshman of the Lincolnshire County Council Historic Environment Team, in his capacity as archaeological advisor on planning issues to South Holland District Council, the Local Planning Authority (LPA). This report documents the results of this pre-planning determination archaeological evaluation, which was undertaken in accordance with a Specification prepared by Neville Hall. This document was submitted to and approved by Mr. Ian Marshman, prior to the commencement of the on-site works. This is in accordance with the principles established in *NPPF: Planning for the Historic Environment: Historic Environment Planning Practice Guide* (Department of Culture, Media and Sport, 2012), *Management of Archaeological Projects* (English Heritage, 1991) and *Standard and guidance for archaeological evaluations* (CHIfA, 2014).
- 1.3 Copies of the final report will be deposited with the client, Mr. Ian Marshman (on behalf of the local planning authority), the Planning Department of South Holland District Council, the Lincolnshire Heritage Environment Record (HER) and The Collection, Lincoln, along with an ordered project archive for long term storage and curation.

2. Site Location and Description

- 2.1 The proposed development site currently comprises the grounds of No. 128, Barrier Bank and on a plot of land that is situated off the north-eastern frontage of Barrier Bank. The modern settlement of Cowbit is located within the modern civil parish of the same name, administrative district of South Holland, County of Lincolnshire [**Figures 1 and 2**].
- 2.2 Topographically, the development site is situated on a slightly elevated level, which is in turn surrounded by the flat, low-lying area of the Lincolnshire Fens at a height of approximately 4mAOD. The development site is located on deep calcareous clayey and silty soils of the Wallasea 2 Series, which have developed on marine alluvial deposits known as Terrington Beds. These deposits in turn overlie the solid geology, which comprises Oxford Clays and Kellaway Beds of the Upper Jurassic [BGS, 1984; Soil Survey, 1983].

3. Planning Background

- 3.1 An application for Reserved Matters consent for the proposed construction of five new residential dwellings with associated access on land adjacent to No. 128, Barrier Bank, Cowbit, Lincolnshire will be submitted to South Holland District Council (the Local Planning Authority).
- 3.2 A previous application for outline planning consent for a proposed new residential development at this location (Planning Reference H01-0597-21) has already been

submitted to and has been granted consent by South Holland District Council (the Local Planning Authority) [Figure 3].

3.3 Condition No. 5 of this outline planning consent states that:

When application is made to the Local Planning Authority for approval of reserved matters, that application should be accompanied by an archaeological evaluation. This evaluation should consist of trial excavations and provide the Local Planning Authority with sufficient information to enable it to make a reasoned decision on the application.

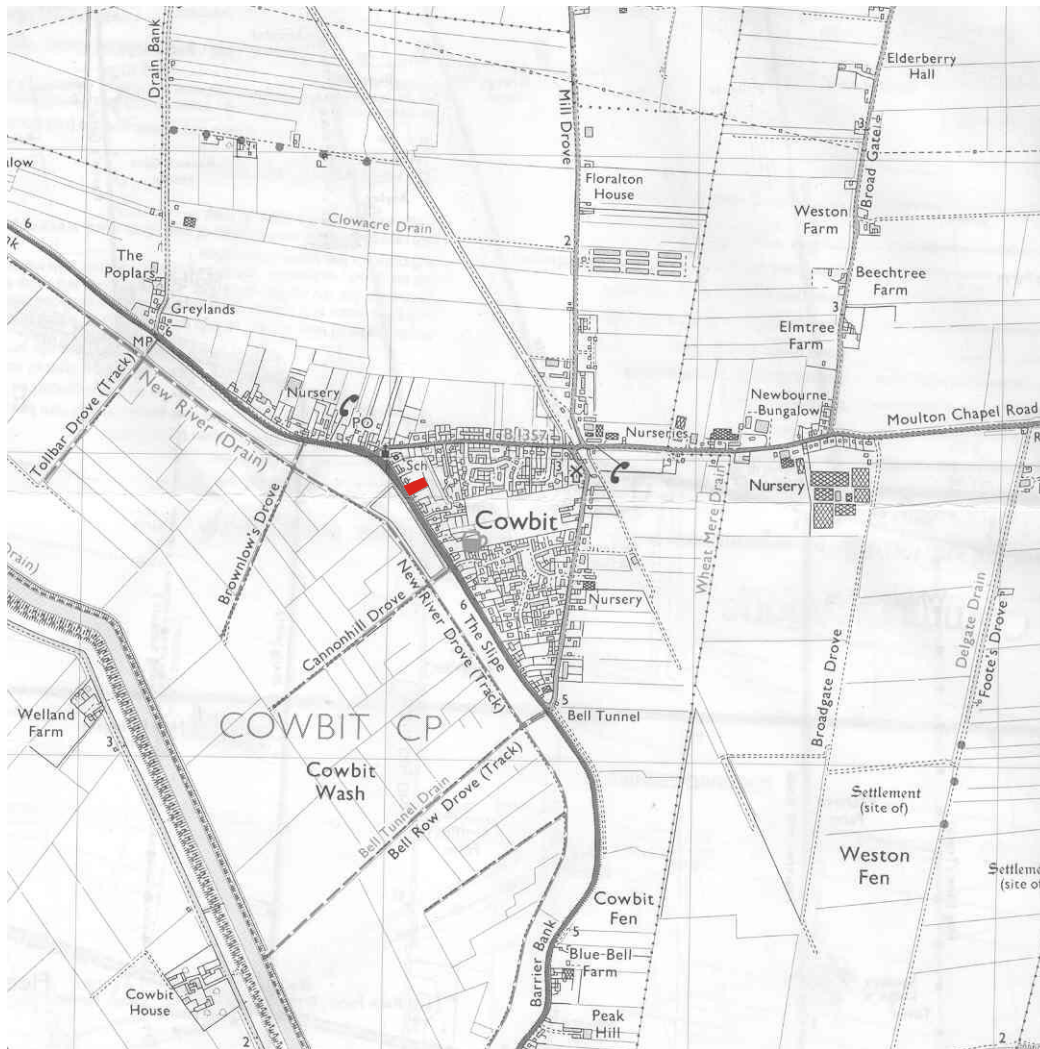


Figure 1: Site location at scale 1:25,000. The site is shown in red. (O.S. copyright licence number 100048723)

3.4 A specification or a written scheme of works that included a trial trench plan layout proposal for a pre-planning determination archaeological evaluation was subsequently submitted to and approved by Mr. Ian Marshman of the Lincolnshire County Council Historic Environment Team (on behalf of the LPA) prior to the commencement of the on-site works as required by this planning condition.



Figure 2: Plan showing the existing layout of the development site at an original scale of 1:250, (extract from Architects plan)



Figure 3: Block plan showing the proposed layout of the development site at an original scale of 1:250, (extract from Architects plan)

- 3.5 Notification was subsequently given to Mr. Ian Marshman of the Lincolnshire County Council Historic Environment Team of the date for the undertaking of the site archaeological field evaluation.
- 3.6 This report documents the results of this pre-determination archaeological field evaluation and will be submitted to Mr. Ian Marshman of the Lincolnshire County Council Historic Environment Team and to the Local Planning Authority in order to accompany, to inform and to be in support of the current planning application for Reserved Matters Consent.

4. Aims and objectives of the Archaeological Evaluation

- 4.1 The general aim of the archaeological evaluation of this site will be to ensure that sufficient information is generated from the results of this work, which will enable the Lincolnshire County Council Historic Environment Team, (on behalf of South Holland District Council), to formulate a policy for the management of the archaeological resource (if any) on the site in the event that further archaeological work may be required, either pre- or post determination.
- 4.2 The objectives of the project were to:
- To establish the presence/absence of archaeological remains within the area of the development site.
 - To determine the type, extent, condition, nature, character, quality, function, and date, of any archaeological remains encountered.
 - To allow the preservation by record of archaeological deposits.
 - To gain information about heritage assets identified within the area of the proposed development site.
 - To mitigate potential threats.
 - To inform proposals for further archaeological investigations, if necessary.
 - To interpret the archaeology of the site within its local, regional and national context.
- 4.3 The proposed development site lies in an area of high archaeological potential and within the area of the medieval and post-medieval settlements of Cowbit. The medieval parish church lies to the north-west nearby. It was considered that archaeological remains and finds associated with these settlements would be encountered on this development site. The specific objectives of the archaeological evaluation were therefore be to record any archaeological features, structures, deposits or finds associated with these medieval and post-medieval settlements within the context of local and regional archaeological research frameworks in terms of medieval and post-medieval settlement activity as detailed in *The Archaeology of the East Midlands, An Archaeological Resource Assessment and Research Agenda* (2006).

5. Archaeological and Historical Background

- 5.1 Background research sources were consulted at the online National Library of Scotland and the Lincolnshire County Council Historic Environment Record (HER). A search of the Lincolnshire HER was conducted within a 0.25km radius of the development site. The National Heritage List of Historic England was also consulted.

- 5.2 The cropmarks of possible settlement and of salterns have been plotted from aerial photographic sources to the south-west of Cowbit (HER MLI20325).
- 5.3 The settlement of Cowbit itself was founded in the late 13th century as an outlying hamlet of Spalding along Stone Gate and the New Fen Dyke (HER MLI23106). Cowbit at that time was a remote part of the parish of Spalding. The earliest documentary reference to Cowbit or *Conbith*, *Conbiht* dates from AD1267. Later medieval documentary references variously detail: *Kinbuth* (c.AD1331), *Conbyth* (AD1332) and *Conbight* (AD1361). Cowbit is derived from *cor* from the Old English 'cow' and *byht* – a bight or bend. Thus it would appear that the place name has a topographical derivation denoting a bend in the River Welland with nearby pasture for cows. The development site lies within the area of the medieval and post-medieval settlements of Cowbit (HER MLI23106) [Morris, 1986; Cameron, 1998; Mills, 1991; Ekwall, 1991].
- 5.4 The Grade I listed church in Cowbit, dedicated to St. Mary on Barrier Bank (HER MLI22168, NHL 1064482) is reputed to have been built around AD1380 soon after the founding of the medieval settlement itself as a chapel in the parish of Spalding. The chancel and tower were added in AD1487, and the nave extended in AD1480-6. The church was restored in 1882.
- 5.5 The remains of possible post-medieval extraction pits for material for the construction of the nearby barrier bank are visible on aerial photographs (HER MLI20326). The bank is a flood defence which extends along the southern and south-western frontages of Barrier Bank.
- 5.6 A former United Free Methodist Church is located at No. 142, Barrier Bank (HER MLI97685). The first chapel in Cowbit was constructed in 1842. The local congregation subsequently joined the Free Methodists, but continued to use the first chapel. In 1861, there was either a new building or a conveyance for the Free Methodists, In 1922, the new chapel was built alongside. It closed in 1983 and is now a private dwelling,.
- 5.7 A number of previous archaeological investigations have taken place within the search area. An undated pit and two ditches, one of which was a former field boundary were identified during the archaeological monitoring of groundworks at No. 18, Stonegate in 2011 (HER MLI23106, ELI1039, Site code: COST11). Finds of medieval and post-medieval pottery were also recovered from the topsoil horizon.
- 5.8 Archaeological monitoring and recording of the groundworks on land adjacent to No. 5, Stonegate was carried out in 2019 on the groundworks for a new dwelling and detached garage (HER ELI13260). No archaeological features, deposits or finds were encountered.
- 5.9 In 2002, an archaeological watching brief was carried out on the groundworks for a new classroom extension at St Mary's Primary School, Barrier Bank (HER MLI83877, ELI3796). During the course of this investigation, a series of dumped deposits relating to previous construction and demolition on the site were identified. Finds included a single sherd of 16th-17th century pottery and finds of further post-medieval pottery and glass were made.
- 5.10 Copies of published Ordnance Survey maps were obtained from the online National Library of Scotland. The earliest map consulted comprised an extract from the First Edition six inch to one mile scale Ordnance Survey map of 1888. This map shows the area of this development site as occupying two enclosures off the north-eastern frontage of Barrier Bank. The two enclosures are divided and bisected in turn by a north east-south west aligned field boundary. A north-south aligned drainage dyke forms the eastern boundary to the site. A residential dwelling with outbuildings occupies the northern

enclosure (the precursor of the present dwelling on the site) with further outbuildings occupying the second southern enclosure. All of the buildings on the site are at the frontal areas of both enclosures.

- 5.11 This same layout to the area of this development site is repeated on the subsequent Second Edition six inch to one mile scale Ordnance Survey map of 1906, on the Provisional Edition six inch to one mile scale Ordnance Survey map of 1951 and on the 1:10,560 scale Ordnance Survey map of 1956.

6. Methodology

- 6.1 This pre-planning determination archaeological evaluation was undertaken on the proposed development site by Neville Hall and James Roberts on the 21st of March 2022. This comprised the mechanical excavation under archaeological supervision of two archaeological trial trenches [designated as **Trenches 1-2**] within the area of the proposed development site. **Figure 4** shows the original and agreed trial trench layout which accompanied the agreed Specification for this project. **Trench 1** was positioned at the north-eastern end of the site and was orientated from north-west to south-east. However, due to a mature tree at the north-western end of the trench, it was necessary to move **Trench 1** some 2.0m to the south-east. **Trench 2** was positioned at its agreed location and at the south-western end of the assessment site. The trenches were excavated by a 7-ton 360° mechanical excavator that was fitted with a 1.60m wide toothless bucket.
- 6.2 The onsite archaeological trial trenches were surveyed in using measuring tapes and offsets utilising an architect's plan at an original scale of 1:250. This plan is reproduced as **Figure 4** in this report.
- 6.3 Where necessary, surfaces were hand cleaned for examination and recording and the identified deposit sequences were recorded on standard *pro-forma* context recording sheets. Plans of each of the archaeological trial trenches were compiled on site at a scale of 1:50. These plans are reproduced at this same scale as **Figure 5**. A total of four sections of the identified deposit sequences [designated as **Representative Sections 1-4**] were also compiled on site at a scale of 1:20. These are also reproduced in this report at this same scale of 1:20 on **Figure 5**. A complimentary digital colour photographic record was also maintained, which are reproduced as **Plates 1-17, Appendix 1**.
- 6.4 All deposits were levelled in from a site TBM, which was in turn plotted from a spot height detailed on an Architects plan of the existing layout of the site, which also included a topographical survey. This had a value of 3.27mAOD.
- 6.5 A monitoring visit to the site was made by Mr. Ian Marshman of the Lincolnshire County Council Historic Environment Team on the 21st of March. Following this site meeting, the two trial trenches were backfilled with the consent of same.
- 6.6 All work was carried out according to the approved Specification and to the Chartered Institute of Field Archaeologists (CHIfA) standards and guidance for archaeological evaluations.

7. Results [Figure 4-5; Appendix 1, Plates 1-17]

7.1 Trench 1

- 7.1.1 **Trench 1** was positioned at the north-eastern end of the site and was orientated from north west-south east. **Trench 1** was excavated to a length of 21.0m, to a width of 1.60m and to depths of between 1.08m-1.52m below ground levels [**Plates 6-9**]. This monitored mechanical excavation extended through a modern top-soil horizon (**101**), an upper alluvial horizon (**102**) and a lower alluvial horizon (**103**), which was encountered at the base of this excavation over much of the area of this trench. This deposit sequence was recorded within **Representative Section 1 [Plate 10]**.
- 7.1.2 Towards the south-eastern end of **Trench 1**, the cut [**104**] and the fill (**105**) of a naturally occurring former and infilled palaeochannel were recorded. The fill (**105**) was sealed by the upper alluvial horizon (**102**). The deposit sequence here was recorded within **Representative Section 2 [Plate 11]**.
- 7.1.3 No archaeological activity was identified within **Trench 1** and no finds were made from any of the deposit horizons recorded.

7.2 Trench 2

- 7.2.1 **Trench 2** was situated to the south-west of **Trench 1** and was aligned from north east-south west. **Trench 2** was excavated to a length of 21.0m, to a width of 1.60m and to depths of between 1.19m-1.36m below ground levels [**Plates 12-15**]. This further monitored mechanical excavation extended through a modern yard/overburden (**201**), (which incorporated within its make-up a modern brick surface composed of a single course of brick stretchers laid on bed (**202**)), a modern make-up horizon (**203**) and an underlying alluvial horizon (**204**), which extended to the base of this excavation. This deposit sequence was identified at either ends of this trench and was recorded within **Representative Section 3 [Plate 16]**. A portion of the upper levels of the alluvial horizon (**204**) were stained darker by hydrocarbons.
- 7.2.2 Occupying the central and part of the north-eastern end of **Trench 2** was a naturally occurring hollow or depression, which was infilled with a further alluvial horizon (**205**). This was sealed by the modern make-up layer (**203**). The deposit sequence here was recorded within **Representative Section 4 [Plate 17]**.
- 7.2.3 No archaeological activity was identified within this second trench and no finds were recovered from any of the deposits within **Trench 2**.

8. Discussion and Conclusions

- 8.1 Both of the archaeological trial trenches were excavated under archaeological supervision. No archaeological activity was identified on this site and there were no finds.
- 8.2 Within Trench 1, a modern topsoil horizon overlay two alluvial silt horizons. At the south-eastern end of the trench, the cut and fill of a silted up former and naturally occurring palaeochannel was recorded.
- 8.3 Within Trench 2, modern yard surfaces and/overburden along with a modern make horizon overlay an alluvial horizon. A further alluvial horizon was found to occupy a natural topographical hollow or depression within the central and part of the north-eastern portion of this final trench.

9. Effectiveness of Methodology and Confidence Rating

- 9.1 The methodology chosen clearly demonstrated the lack of archaeological activity and finds on this site; while providing sufficient time to record the deposit sequences observed. A more detailed level of archaeological investigation clearly would not have been necessary. It is considered that the implemented methodology was sufficient to record the dearth of archaeological activity and finds and the nature of the deposit sequences present within the area of the proposed development site with a high degree of confidence.

10. Acknowledgements

- 10.1 Thanks are gratefully extended to Mr. Darren Wilson and Mr Jason Wilson of Remway Design Ltd. for commissioning this work. Thanks are also extended to Mr. Ian Marshman of the Lincolnshire County Council Historic Environment Team and to the staff of the Lincolnshire Heritage Environment Record and the Lincolnshire Archives for their kind assistance.

11. Bibliography

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Extract from the First Edition six inch to one mile scale Ordnance Survey (O.S.) map of 1887, map sheet no. Lincolnshire 142 SW.

Extract from the Second Edition six inch to one mile scale Ordnance Survey (O.S.) map of 1906, map sheet no. Lincolnshire 142 SW.

Extract from the Provisional Edition six inch to one mile scale Ordnance Survey (O.S.) map of 1951, map sheet no. Lincolnshire 142 SW.

Extract from the 1:10,560 scale Ordnance Survey (O.S.) map of 1956, map sheet no. TF 21 NE.

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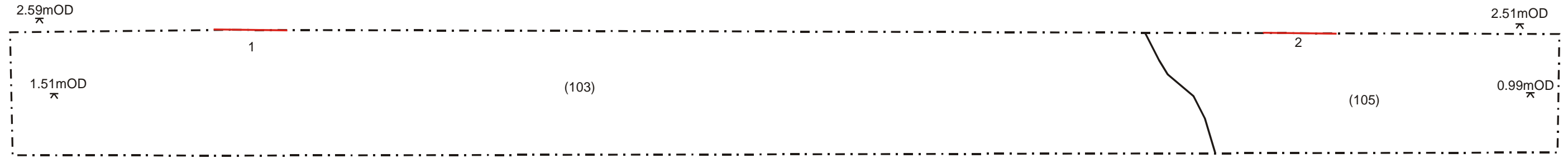
Ordnance Survey, 1:25,000 scale Explorer Map Sheet No. 235, *Wisbech & Peterborough North, Market Deeping & Crowland*, (2010).

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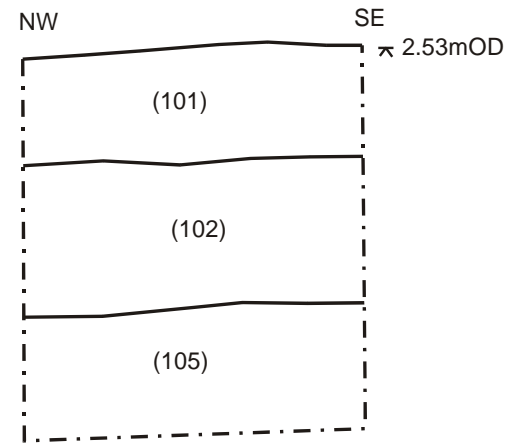
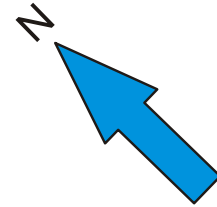
Soil Survey of England & Wales, (1983), *Soils of Eastern England*, Sheet 4.



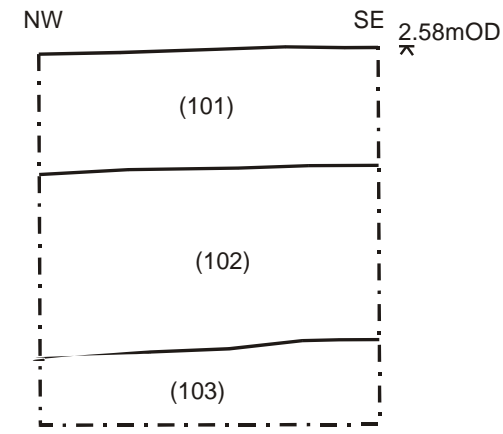
Figure 4: Plan showing the positions of the archaeological trial trenches at a scale of 1:250 at A3.



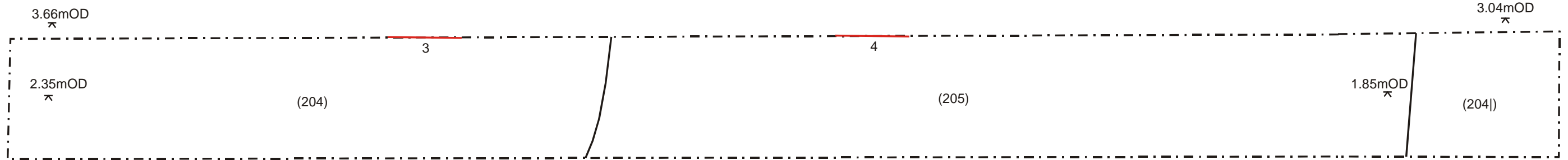
TRENCH 1



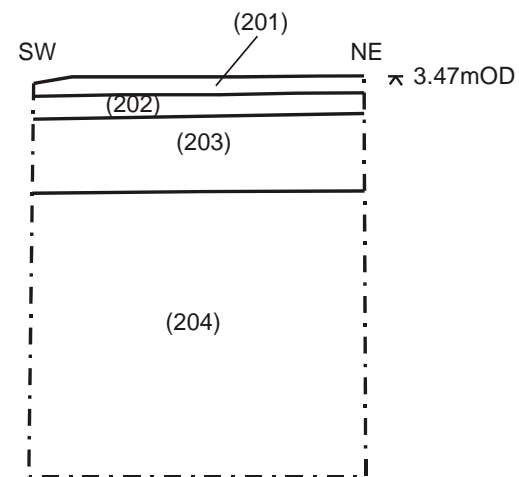
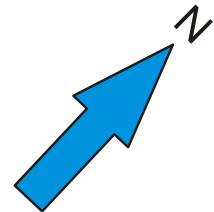
Trench 1, Representative Section 2, South West Facing Section, scale 1:20



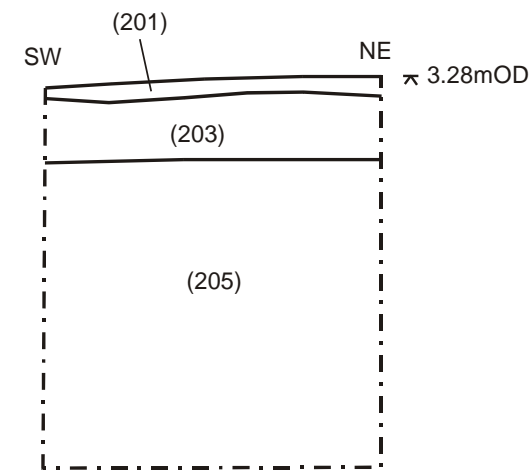
Trench 1, Representative Section 1, South West Facing Section, scale 1:20



TRENCH 2



Trench 2, Representative Section 3, South East Facing Section, scale 1:20



Trench 2, Representative Section 4, South East Facing Section, scale 1:20

Figure 5: Plans of Trenches 1 and 2 at a scale of 1:50 and Representative Sections 1-4 at a scale of 1:20

Appendix 1: Plates



Plate 1: Pre-assessment, from the north-west



Plate 2: Pre-assessment, from the south-west



Plate 3: Pre-assessment, from the south-west



Plate 4: Pre-assessment, from the south



Plate 5: Pre-assessment, from the south-east



Plate 6: Trench 1, from the north-west



Plate 7: Trench 1, from the north-west



Plate 9: Trench 1, from the south-east



Plate 8: Trench 1, from the south-east



Plate 10: Trench 1, Representative Section 1, from the south-west



Plate 11: Trench 1, Representative Section 2, from the south-west



Plate 13: Trench 2, from the north-east



Plate 12: Trench 2, from the north-east



Plate 14: Trench 2, from the south-west



Plate 15: Trench 2, from the south-west



Plate 17: Trench 2, Representative Section 4, from the south-east



Plate 16: Trench 2, Representative Section 3, from the south-east

Appendix 2: List of Contexts

Trench 1

- 101** Modern topsoil horizon. Friable, dark brown clayey silt with no inclusions. Above **(102)**. Recorded within **Representative Sections 1 and 2**. Depth - 0.26m.
- 102** Upper alluvial horizon. Friable, mid orange brown silty clay with no inclusions. Below **(101)** and above **(103)** and **(105)**. Recorded within **Representative Sections 1 and 2**. Depth - 0.42m.
- 103** Lower alluvial horizon. Friable, light grey/light buff sand with mid orange brown mottling. Below **(102)**. Recorded within **Representative Section 1**. Depth - >0.24m.
- 104** Cut of a naturally occurring palaeochannel. Irregular profile not exposed as occurred at depth. Cut into **(103)**. Width - >2.30m. Depth not determined
- 105** Fill of the palaeochannel [**104**]. Soft, dark grey brown silty clay with mid orange brown mottling. No inclusions. Below **(102)**. Recorded within **Representative Section 2**. Depth - >0.37m.

Trench 2

- 201** Modern yard surface/overburden. Composed of hardcore gravel. Above **(202)**. Recorded within **Representative Sections 3 and 4**. Depth - 0.08m.
- 202** Modern brick yard surface composed of one course of modern brick stretchers laid on bed. Below **(201)** and above **(203)**. Recorded within **Representative Sections 3 and 4**. Thickness - 0.09m.
- 203** Modern make-up horizon. Soft, dark orange brown clayey silt with frequent small-medium brick fragments and small angular stones. Below **(202)** and above **(204)** and **(205)**. Recorded within **Representative Sections 3 and 4**. Depth - 0.22m.
- 204** Alluvial horizon. Fine light grey/mid orange brown silty sand (upper levels stained darker by hydrocarbons) with no inclusions. Below **(203)** and **(205)**. Recorded within **Representative Section 3**. Depth - >0.85m.
- 205** Alluvial horizon occupying natural topographical hollow or depression. Friable, dark grey slightly clayey silty sand. Below **(203)** and above **(204)**. Recorded within **Representative Section 4**. Depth - >0.89m.

Appendix 3: The Archive

The archive consists of:

Ten context records

Plans of the two trial trenches at a scale of 1:50 and four section drawings at a scale of 1:20 on one sheet of drawing film

One context register

One photographic register

All records are currently held at:

38 Finningley Road

Lincoln

LN6 0UP

And will be deposited in due course at:

The Collection

Danes Terrace

Lincoln

LN2 1LP

Under the accession number **LCNCC: 2022.35** and the site code **BBCO22**

Appendix 4: Photographic Register

Appendix 5: OASIS Summary Sheet

Appendix 6: Specification for Archaeological Monitoring

**Specification for a Pre-Determination Archaeological
Evaluation on Land Adjacent to No. 128, Barrier Bank,
Cowbit, Lincolnshire.**

Prepared for Mr. Darren Wilson

National Grid Reference: TF 2608 1790

Site Code: BBCO22

Accession No: LCNCC: 2022.35

Planning Reference: H01-0597-21

**Prepared by Neville Hall, Freelance Field Archaeologist &
Consultant**

February 2022

S Non-technical summary

- S1 *This document comprises a specification or a written scheme of investigation for a pre-determination archaeological field evaluation of land adjacent to No. 128, Barrier Bank, Cowbit, Lincolnshire.*
- S2 *The proposed development site lies in an area of high archaeological potential and within the area of the medieval and post-medieval settlements of Cowbit. The medieval parish church lies to the north-west nearby. It is considered that archaeological remains and finds associated with these settlements will be encountered on this development site. The specific objectives of the archaeological evaluation will therefore be to record any archaeological features, structures, deposits or finds associated with these medieval and [post-medieval settlements.*
- S3 *On the completion of the evaluation, a report will be produced detailing the results of the archaeological investigation. The report will consist of a narrative supported by illustrations and photographs.*

1. Introduction

- 1.1 This document comprises a specification or a written scheme of investigation for an archaeological field evaluation of land adjacent to No. 128, Barrier Bank, Cowbit, Lincolnshire. The site is located at National Grid Reference TF 2608 1790.

2. Site location [Figures 1 and 2]

- 2.1 The proposed development site currently comprises the grounds of No., 128, Barrier Bank and on a plot of land that is situated off the north-eastern frontage of Barrier Bank. The modern settlement of Cowbit is located within the modern civil parish of the same name, administrative district of South Holland, County of Lincolnshire.

3. Planning background

- 3.1 An application for Reserved Matters consent for the proposed construction of five new residential dwellings with associated access on land adjacent to No. 128, Barrier Bank, Cowbit, Lincolnshire will be submitted to South Holland District Council (the Local Planning Authority)
- 3.2 A previous application for outline planning consent for a proposed new residential development at this location (Planning Reference H01-0597-21) has already been submitted to and has been granted consent by South Holland District Council (the Local Planning Authority) [**Figure 3**].
- 3.3 Condition No. 5 of this outline planning consent states that:
- When application is made to the Local Planning Authority for approval of reserved matters, that application should be accompanied by an archaeological evaluation. This evaluation should consist of trial excavations and provide the Local Planning Authority with sufficient information to enable it to make a reasoned decision on the application.*
- 3.4 This information has been requested by the Lincolnshire County Council Historic Environment Team (on behalf of the Local Planning Authority) for sufficient supporting information to be made available by the applicant in order to inform and determine the granting of reserved matters planning consent for this proposed development. This requirement will comprise a programme of pre-planning determination archaeological site assessment of the archaeological potential of the proposal site through trial trenching.

4. Soils and Topography

- 4.1 Topographically, the development site is situated on a slightly elevated level, which is in turn surrounded by the flat, low-lying area of the Lincolnshire Fens at a height of approximately 4mAOD. The development site is located on deep calcareous clayey and silty soils of the Wallasea 2 Series, which have developed on marine alluvial deposits known as Terrington Beds. These deposits in turn overlie the solid geology, which comprises Oxford Clays and Kellaway Beds of the Upper Jurassic.

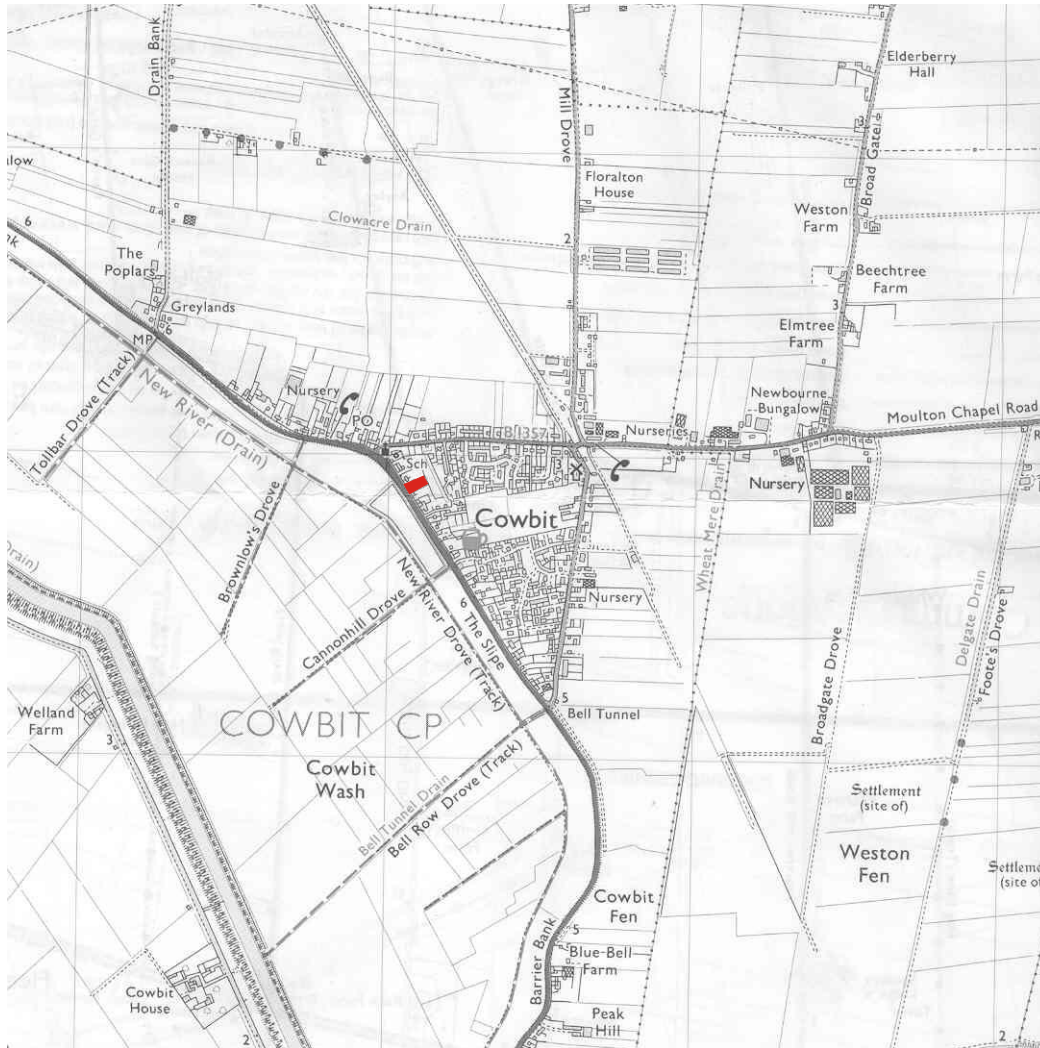


Figure 1: Site location at scale of 1:25,000. The site is shown in red. (O.S. copyright licence no. 100048723)

5. Historical and Archaeological Background

- 5.1 Background research sources were consulted at the online National Library of Scotland and the Lincolnshire County Council Historic Environment Record (HER). A search of the Lincolnshire HER was conducted within a 0.25km radius of the development site. The National heritage List of Historic England was also consulted.
- 5.2 The cropmarks of possible settlement and of salterns have been plotted from aerial photographic sources to the south-west of Cowbit (HER MLI20325).



Figure 2: Site location and block plan showing the proposed layout of the development site, (no scale), (extract from Architects plan)

- 5.3 The settlement of Cowbit itself was founded in the late 13th century as an outlying hamlet of Spalding along Stone Gate and the New Fen Dyke (HER MLI23106). Cowbit at that time was a remote part of the parish of Spalding. The earliest documentary reference to Cowbit or *Conbith*, *Conbiht* dates from AD1267. Later medieval documentary references variously detail: *Kinbuth* (c.AD1331), *Conbyth* (AD1332) and *Conbight* (AD1361). Cowbit is derived from *cor* from the Old English 'cow' and *byht* – a bight or bend. Thus it would appear that the place name has a topographical derivation denoting a bend in the River Welland with nearby pasture for cows. The development site lies within the area of the medieval and post-medieval settlements of Cowbit (HER MLI23106).
- 5.4 The Grade I listed church in Cowbit, dedicated to St. Mary on Barrier Bank (HER MLI22168, NHL 1064482) is reputed to have been built around AD1380 soon after the founding of the medieval settlement itself as a chapel in the parish of Spalding. The chancel and tower were added in AD1487, and the nave extended in AD1480-6. The church was restored in 1882.
- 5.5 The remains of possible post-medieval extraction pits for material for the construction of the nearby barrier bank are visible on aerial photographs (HER MLI20326). The bank is a flood defence which extends along the southern and south-western frontages of Barrier Bank.
- 5.6 A former United Free Methodist Church is located at No. 142, Barrier Bank (HER MLI97685). The first chapel in Cowbit was constructed in 1842. The local congregation subsequently joined the Free Methodists, but continued to use the first chapel. In 1861, there was either a new building or a conveyance for the Free Methodists, In 1922, the new chapel was built alongside. It closed in 1983 and is now a private dwelling,.
- 5.7 A number of previous archaeological investigations have taken place within the search area. An undated pit and two ditches, one of which was a former field boundary were identified during the archaeological monitoring of groundworks at No. 18, Stonegate in 2011 (HER MLI23106, ELI1039, Site code: COST11). Finds of medieval and post-medieval pottery were also recovered from the topsoil horizon.
- 5.8 Archaeological monitoring and recording of the groundworks on land adjacent to No. 5, Stonegate was carried out in 2019 on the groundworks for a new dwelling and detached garage (HER ELI13260). No archaeological features, deposits or finds were encountered.
- 5.9 In 2002, an archaeological watching brief was carried out on the groundworks for a new classroom extension at St Mary's Primary School, Barrier Bank (HER MLI83877, ELI3796). During the course of this investigation, a series of dumped deposits relating to previous construction and demolition on the site were identified. Finds included a single sherd of 16th-17th century pottery and finds of further post-medieval pottery and glass were made.
- 5.10 Copies of published Ordnance Survey maps were obtained from the online National Library of Scotland. The earliest map consulted comprised an extract from the First Edition six inch to one mile scale Ordnance Survey map of 1888. This map shows the area of this development site as occupying two enclosures off the north-eastern frontage of Barrier Bank. The two enclosures are divided and bisected in turn by a north east-south west aligned field boundary. A north-south aligned drainage dyke forms the eastern boundary to the site. A residential dwelling with outbuildings occupies the northern enclosure (the precursor of the present dwelling on the site) with further outbuildings occupying the second southern enclosure. All of the buildings on the site are at the frontal areas of both enclosures.

- 5.11 This same layout to the area of this development site is repeated on the subsequent Second Edition six inch to one mile scale Ordnance Survey map of 1906, on the Provisional Edition six inch to one mile scale Ordnance Survey map of 1951 and on the 1:10,560 scale Ordnance Survey map of 1956.

6. Aims and objectives of the project

- 6.1 The general aim of the archaeological evaluation of this site will be to ensure that sufficient information is generated from the results of this work, which will enable the Lincolnshire County Council Historic Environment Team, (on behalf of South Holland District Council), to formulate a policy for the management of the archaeological resource (if any) on the site in the event that further archaeological work may be required, either pre- or post determination.

- 6.2 The objectives of the project will be to:

To establish the presence/absence of archaeological remains within the area of the development site.

To determine the type, extent, condition, nature, character, quality, function, and date, of any archaeological remains encountered.

To allow the preservation by record of archaeological deposits.

To gain information about heritage assets identified within the area of the proposed development site.

To mitigate potential threats.

To inform proposals for further archaeological investigations, if necessary.

To interpret the archaeology of the site within its local, regional and national context.

- 6.3 The proposed development site lies in an area of high archaeological potential and within the area of the medieval and post-medieval settlements of Cowbit. The medieval parish church lies to the north-west nearby. It is considered that archaeological remains and finds associated with these settlements will be encountered on this development site. The specific objectives of the archaeological evaluation will therefore be to record any archaeological features, structures, deposits or finds associated with these medieval and post-medieval settlements within the context of local and regional archaeological research frameworks in terms of medieval and post-medieval settlement activity as detailed in *The Archaeology of the East Midlands, An Archaeological Resource Assessment and Research Agenda* (2006).

7. Methodology [Figure 4]

- 7.1 Prior to the commencement of the archaeological evaluation, the proposed layout of the trial trenching shall be submitted to and agreed with the Lincolnshire County Council Historic Environment Team (on behalf of the Local Planning Authority) to ensure that this proposed scheme of archaeological works fulfils their requirements.

- 7.2 The trial trenching will consist of the excavation of two trenches; each measuring 20.0m in length by 1.60m in width. These proposed layout of these trenches have been agreed in consultation with the applicant and are based on current site conditions. The trenches will be excavated to a maximum safe working depth of up to 1.20m.

- 7.3 All work will be carried out according to the Chartered Institute of Field Archaeologists (CHIFA) standards.
- 7.4 All work will be undertaken following all statutory Health and Safety requirements and legislation in operation at the time of the investigation including the *Health and Safety at Work Act* (1974). Due consideration shall be given to keeping the assessment site secure at all times particularly if the field assessment is to continue overnight into a second day.
- 7.5 A Risk Assessment will be prepared for the site.
- 7.6 Any and all artefacts found during the investigation and thought to come under the provisions of the *Treasure Act* (1996), will be removed from the site to a secure location, and will be promptly reported to the appropriate coroner's office. The local Finds Liaison Officer will also be contacted in the first instance for advice.
- 7.7 The excavation of the archaeological features and/or deposits exposed will be undertaken as far as is required to determine their date, sequence, density and nature. The investigation will also determine, as far as is reasonably practicable, the level of the natural and undisturbed subsoil deposits to ensure that the depth of the archaeological sequence present on the site is established.
- 7.8 The removal of the topsoil and/or of any other overburden will be undertaken by a tracked 360° mechanical excavator of sufficient power using a toothless ditching bucket. This will be carried out under constant archaeological supervision. Following the removal of topsoil and/or other overburden, the nature of the exposed and underlying deposits will be assessed by hand excavation. The trenches will then be cleaned by hand to enable the identification and analysis of any archaeological features and/or deposits exposed.
- 7.9 The spoil generated during the investigations will be mounded at a minimum distance of 1.0m from the edges of each trench with the topsoil being retained separately from other excavated material for subsequent backfilling.
- 7.11 Archaeological excavation may sometimes require the use of manual work by mattock and shovel, or by the occasional further use of a mechanical excavator. This will only be employed to remove homogenous and/or non archaeological layers.
- 7.12 The hand excavation of any exposed archaeological features and/or deposits will be undertaken to determine their date, form and function etc. This work will consist of the half sectioning of discrete individual archaeological features, the hand excavation of at least 10% by length of discrete linear features and the sectioning of discrete individual archaeological layers as required. Should archaeological features be located, which are deemed to be worthy of preservation *in situ*, then hand excavation will be limited to the absolute minimum necessary to interpret the form, function, date etc. of the features.
- 7.13 All archaeological features and/or deposits will be recorded on *pro-forma* context recording sheets.
- 7.14 All archaeological features and/or deposits and the trial trenches themselves will be drawn at a scale of 1:20, and sections (including representative sections of deposit sequences within each trench) at a scale of 1:10.
- 7.15 Throughout the investigations, a digital photographic record will be maintained, and will comprise an overview of the site prior to work starting and during as well as after completion of the work, and will include any excavated features, sections and other relevant details that aid interpretation.

- 7.16 All archaeological features and/or deposits, as well as sections will be levelled in, in relation to a Temporary Site Benchmark (TBM), which will be turned to be surveyed in from a nearby Ordnance Survey benchmark. The site grid will be tied into the National Grid.
- 7.17 The precise location of each trial trench will be set out by the applicant prior to arrival on site.
- 7.18 Should human remains be encountered, they will be left *in situ*, and will only be excavated if absolutely necessary. Proper respect will be accorded to these remains, which will be cleaned to allow positive identification. Should removal be required, the appropriate Department for Constitutional Affairs Licence will be obtained prior to the removal of the remains. In addition, any remains will be reported to the local Environmental Health Department, coroner and the police will be informed, where appropriate.
- 7.19 Any finds recovered will be bagged and labelled according to the individual context from which they were recovered for later washing and further analysis. All relevant finds will be ordered into an archive. Most modern material will not be retained, although notes will be made of the appropriate context. An appropriate sample of materials such as ceramic building materials will be made.
- 7.20 All finds shall be exposed, lifted, cleaned, conserved, marked, bagged and boxed in accordance with the United Kingdom Institute for Conservation *First Aid for Finds* (1998).
- 7.21 Environmental sampling will be undertaken (where appropriate) of the fills of relevant archaeological features and/or significant archaeological deposits. Sample sizes of not less than 40 litres will be taken from each fill/deposit or a 100% sample from smaller features.
- 7.22 If appropriate, during the investigation, specialist advice will be obtained from an environmental archaeologist, who will prepare a report detailing the nature of the environmental material present on the site and its potential for additional analysis should further stages of archaeological work be required. The results of this specialist assessment will be incorporated into the final evaluation report. A site visit by the nominated environmental specialist (Archaeological Solutions Ltd) may be required. Where appropriate, further advice may be sought from the English Heritage Regional Scientific Advisor.
- 7.23 The fieldwork will be undertaken by Neville Hall. Additional personnel may be appointed if required.

8. Post-fieldwork methodology

- 8.1 On the completion of the fieldwork, all of the written, drawn and photographic records produced by the archaeological evaluation will be checked, ordered, labelled (where appropriate) and catalogued to compile a distinctive site archive, whose integrity shall be maintained. A stratigraphical matrix of the archaeological features and/or deposits present on the site will be compiled.
- 8.2 All finds recovered during the fieldwork will be washed, marked and packaged according to the individual context from which they were recovered. They will also be ordered into (and form part of) the site archive. An assessment of significant finds will be made in light of general site information. Any finds requiring specialist treatment and/or conservation will be sent to the Conservation Laboratory at The Collection, Lincoln, and in consultation with the relevant curator.

8.3 The site archive will be examined to enable the determination of various phases of activity on the site (if appropriate).

8.4 Relevant finds will be sent to specialists for identification and dating.

9. Monitoring arrangements

9.1 Provision will be made for the Lincolnshire County Council Historic Environment Team (on behalf of South Holland District Council, the Local Planning Authority) to monitor the works during the fieldwork stage and any other aspect of the archaeological project as required including the post fieldwork analysis and report preparation stages of the project.

9.2 A minimum notice period of fourteen days will be given to the Lincolnshire County Council Historic Environment Team of the start date of works on the site.

9.3 All aspects of the archaeological programme will be undertaken in accordance with this project specification.

9.4 Any variation to the project programme in terms of works or recording on or off site will be fully discussed and agreed with the Lincolnshire County Council Historic Environment Team.

9.5 Should the Lincolnshire County Council Historic Environment team require any additional investigation which is beyond the scope of this document, then the cost and duration of these supplementary works will be negotiated between the client and the contractor.

9.6 Arrangements will be made for the representative of the Lincolnshire County Council Historic Environment Team for access to the site to undertake monitoring visits, and such visits will be accounted for in the final report preparation.

9.7 The Lincolnshire County Council Historic Environment Team shall be kept fully informed of any unexpected or unforeseen discoveries made during the course of the archaeological investigations.

10. Archive preparation and deposition

10.1 The documentation and records generated by the archaeological evaluation including all written records, drawings, photographic images and the project report will be sorted and ordered in the format acceptable to The Collection, Lincoln, and to the standards and requirements as laid out in their *Conditions for the Acceptance of Project Archives*.

10.2 The archive will be deposited at The Collection, Lincoln.

10.3 A unique accession number will be obtained from The Collection for the site archive.

10.4 It is anticipated that the preparation of the project archive for deposition will take one working day.

10.5 It is anticipated that the project archive will be deposited with The Collection, Lincoln by December 2022.

11. Reporting procedures

11.1 A report detailing the findings of the archaeological evaluation will be completed within two months after the finalisation of the fieldwork. Any delays will be related to the relevant authorities.

11.2 It is anticipated that the report preparation will take 1-2 working days to compile.

11.3 The report will consist of:

A title page with project name and location, national grid reference, planning reference, site code, accession number, client name, author and date;

A contents page listing report sections, illustrations and appendices;

A non-technical summary of the results of the evaluation;

An introduction, site description and location;

Planning background to the project;

A section on the archaeological and historical background to the project;

A description of the methodology used in the project;

A section describing the results of the evaluation;

A section on the discussion and results of the project including a consideration of the archaeological potential of the assessment site and its environs and a consideration of these findings of the project in a local and regional context;

A consideration of the effectiveness of the project methodology and a confidence rating of the results;

A full bibliography of all published references and other references consulted;

Illustrations including site location plans, plans of the areas which have been investigated including the position of the trial trenches, individual trench plans, plans of all archaeological features and sections thereof (including trench representative sections) with levels and horizontal and vertical scales, as appropriate; and

Appendices comprising appropriate photographs of the site including pre-site works, working shots and of specific and significant archaeological features and representative sections, a list of contexts and of any artefacts recovered from them, a summary of archive contents, their location and the date of deposition, a photographic register and any specialist reports on finds from the site and a copy of the approved specification.

An electronic copy of the report will be deposited with the OASIS project (On-line Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations) <http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/oasis/index.cfm>.

12. Publication and dissemination

12.1 Copies of the final report will be deposited with the clients, the local curator (on behalf of the local planning authority), South Holland District Council and with the Lincolnshire Heritage Environment Record (including a digital copy in a .pdf format).

12.2 A note will be placed in 'Lincolnshire History and Archaeology' describing the results.

12.3 The deposition of the site archive will be in accordance with guidelines outlined in the Lincolnshire Archaeological Handbook (LCC, 2022).

- 12.4 Should the results of the archaeological investigation merit it, a note will also be placed in appropriate national journals e.g. *Medieval Archaeology*.

13. Other factors (including contingency)

- 13.1 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 Lincolnshire County Council Historic Environment Team.

- 13.2 Where important archaeological remains are discovered and deemed to merit further investigation, additional financial resources may be required to provide an appropriate level of investigation, recording and analysis.

- 13.3 Any additional financial 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 Lincolnshire County Council Historic Environment Team and the client.

14. Variations to the proposed scheme

- 14.1 Variations to the proposed scheme will only be made following written confirmation with the archaeological curator.

15. Resources

- 15.1 The fieldwork is expected to take between 1-2 working days, and will be undertaken by Neville Hall and James Roberts using standard archaeological field techniques.

- 15.2 Post-excavation analysis will be undertaken by Neville Hall and is expected to take up to two working days. Where available specialist analysis will be carried out by:-

Jane Young	Anglo-Saxon, Medieval and Post-medieval Ceramics
Ian Rowlandson	Iron Age and Roman Ceramics
Environmental Solutions Ltd.	Environmental
Carol Allen	Neolithic and Bronze Age
Malin Holst	Osteoarchaeology
Jane Cowgill	Metallurgy

- 15.2 Small finds requiring conservation will be conserved by the City and County Museum Laboratory.

- 15.3 Recognised specialists will be sought in the event that other data are retrieved in the course of the investigations.

16. Insurance statement

- 16.1 Public indemnity of £2,000,000 and private indemnity insurance of £200,000 with Towergate Insurance.

17. Copyright

- 17.1 Copyright will remain that of the author. Licence will be given to the client to present any reports, copyright of the author, to the planning authority in good faith of satisfactory settlement of account.

18. Ownership

- 18.1 It will be asked of the client, at the outset, that the ownership of any portable objects discovered in the course of the evaluation be donated along with the archive.



Figure 4: Plan showing the proposed layout of the archaeological trial trenches at a scale of 1:250, (extract from Architects plan)