

**WRITTEN SCHEME OF INVESTIGATION FOR AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EARTHWORK SURVEY:  
LAND OFF DODDINGTON LANE, STUBTON, LINCOLNSHIRE**

|                                 |                         |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------|
| <b>Planning Application:</b>    | <b>S25/1033</b>         |
| <b>Appeal Reference:</b>        | <b>6001313</b>          |
| <b>Client:</b>                  | <b>Hilltopp Limited</b> |
| <b>National Grid Reference:</b> | <b>SK 8725 4864</b>     |
| <b>Museum Accession Number:</b> | <b>LCNCC:2026.77</b>    |
| <b>AAL Site Code:</b>           | <b>STDL 26</b>          |

## **1.0 Summary**

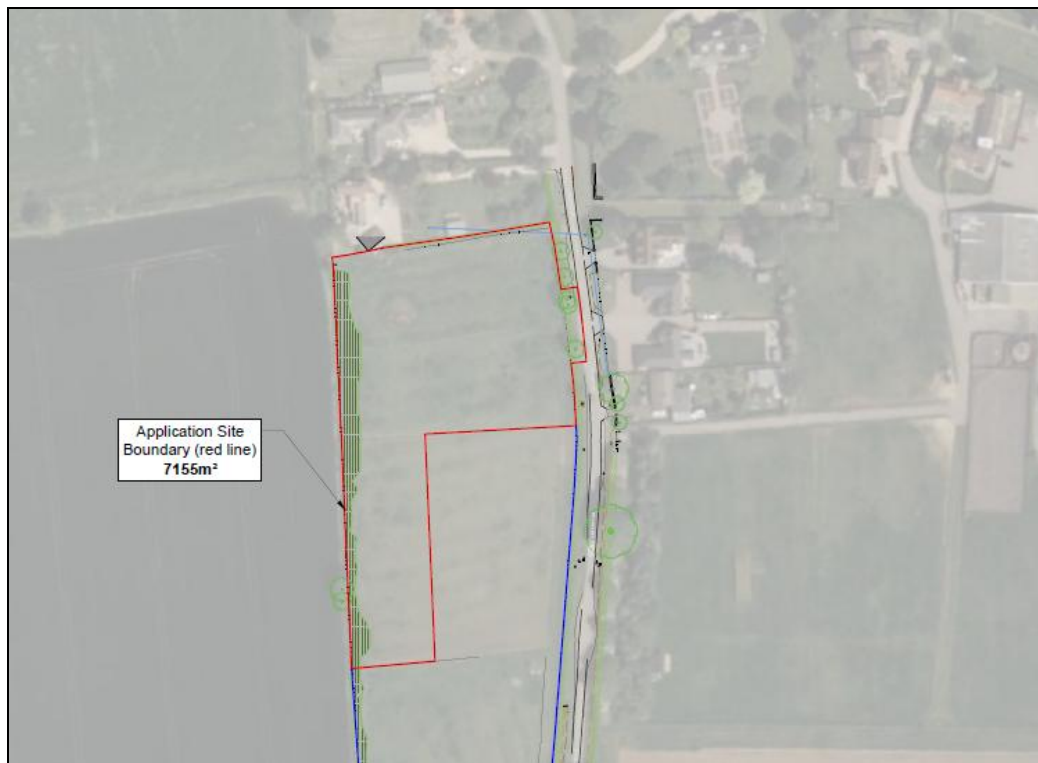
This document is the written scheme of investigation that has been prepared for Hilltopp Limited for an archaeological earthwork survey to be undertaken on land off Doddington Lane, Stubton, Lincolnshire, as a condition of planning consent for a new stable block.

The fieldwork and reporting will conform to current national guidelines, as set out in the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists '*Standard for archaeological field evaluation* (CIfA 2023a) and Universal guidance for archaeological field evaluation (CIfA 2023b), and the Historic England documents '*Understanding the Archaeology of Landscapes. A guide to good recording practice*' (Historic England 2017) and '*Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment*' (Historic England 2015) and the local guidelines in '*The Lincolnshire Archaeological Handbook*' (LCC 2024). All relevant Historic England guidelines on archaeological best practice will also be followed.

## **2.0 Site Location and Description**

Stubton is situated in the district of South Kesteven in Lincolnshire, approximately 8.5km southeast of central Newark and 25km south south-east of central Lincoln (Figure 1). The proposed development area comprises a roughly L-shaped block of pasture of approximately 0.7ha, immediately to the west of Doddington Lane, centred on NGR SK 8725 4864 (Figure 2). The site lies at a height of approximately 29m above Ordnance Datum.

The local bedrock geology comprises Stubton Limestone, with no superficial geology recorded on the site (<http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html>).



*Figure 1: Site location in red*

### **3.0 Planning Background**

An outline application was submitted to South Kesteven District Council for up to 4 detached dwellings (Reference S25/1033). The application was initially refused and was subsequently granted on appeal (Reference 6001313). Planning permission was granted with conditions, including for a programme of archaeological earthwork survey in advance of development.

The approach adopted is consistent with the recommendations of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), with the chapter of relevance being '*Section 16: Conserving and enhancing the historic environment*' (Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government 2021).

### **4.0 Archaeological and Historical Background**

The earliest activity recorded nearby is a cropmark of potential prehistoric date recorded in aerial photos c.350m to the west-southwest (Lincolnshire Historic Environment Record (hereafter LHER) Reference MLI35090).

The place name derives from Old English elements, meaning either 'Stubba's farmstead' or 'tree-stump farmstead' (Cameron 1998). At the time of the Domesday Book, land in Stubton was owned by Norman of Arcy and Geoffrey Alselin, and was populated by 29 households. A church and a priest are also listed (Morgan and Thorn 1986).

A pit containing medieval pottery and a small assemblage of unstratified medieval pottery was recovered during archaeological works c.200m north of the site (LHER Reference MLI91293). Ridge and furrow is recorded within the proposed development area running east west, with further ridge and furrow to the west of the village on several different alignments (LHER Reference MLI99366).

The existing parish church was built in 1800 towards the east end of the village, to replace an earlier church

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'beside the hall' which was said to be ruinous. This presumably refers to Stubton Hall at the northeast edge of the village (LHER Reference MLI30226).

## **5.0 Aims and Objectives**

The purpose of the earthwork survey will be to allow a permanent record to be made of any surviving archaeological earthworks at the site prior to their loss as part of the proposed development works.

## **6.0 Methodology**

The survey will be based on a Level 2 record of the earthworks (Historic England 2017). The earthwork survey will be undertaken by an experienced archaeological surveyor over a single working day, on a date yet to be agreed. The survey will be undertaken using a survey grade GPS unit receiving RTK corrections, to produce an accuracy of c.+/- 20mm. Earthworks will be surveyed to allow an interpretative plan to be produced which will be illustrated as a hachure plan. Ridge and furrow earthworks will be depicted using a line convention to show the orientation and length of each of the furrows (Historic England 2017, 34). Spot heights will be recorded to define the average difference in height between the top of ridges and the base of furrows. Two long profiles will be recorded across the site, perpendicular to the earthworks (north to south).

A full photographic record will be made of the site, capturing images of both the earthworks themselves and of ground conditions at the time of the earthwork survey. The location of all photographic views will be recorded.

## **7.0 Post-Fieldwork Methodology**

Once the fieldwork element is completed, a fully illustrated report will be compiled. This will be an unbiased account of the results of the surveys and will contain the following information:

- A non-technical summary of the results.
- Description of the site location including site NGR.
- Planning background, including details of the proposed development.
- Description of the methodologies used during the site investigations, sources consulted and discussion of the methodologies' effectiveness in the light of the results.
- Date of commencement and duration of fieldwork, and field staff involved.
- A text describing the results of the earthwork survey.
- Overall scaled plan of the furrows showing the earthworks in their landscape setting, using agreed drawing conventions.
- A wider area plan showing the earthworks in relation to LiDAR mapping of the area.
- Interpretation of the earthworks exposed and their context within the surrounding landscape.
- Appropriate photographs of the site.
- A complete bibliography of all reference materials including those consulted but not referenced in the text.

The timescale for completion of the report is within 6 weeks of the completion of the fieldwork.

## **8.0 Curatorial Monitoring**

The Historic Environment Officer at Heritage Lincolnshire will be notified at least two weeks in advance of the commencement of the works. They will be kept informed of developments during the scheme by AAL. It is recognised that they may visit the site during the fieldwork element to monitor the archaeological work and confirm that the survey is being done to an appropriate standard.

Internal monitoring will be by the author of this written scheme of investigation.

## **9.0 Archive**

The documentation and records generated by the investigation will be assembled in accordance with the national guidelines in *'Archaeological Archives: A guide to best practice in creation, compilation, transfer and curation'* (AAF 2011). The archive will be stored at Lincoln Museum where it will be stored under the museum accession code LCNCC:2026.77. The agreed date of deposition is June 2027.

## **10.0 Report Dissemination**

The report will be completed within six weeks of the completion of the fieldwork, and a digital copy will be sent to the client, the Local Planning Authority, the Historic Environment Officer at Heritage Lincolnshire and the Lincolnshire Historic Environment Record. A summary account on the results of the investigation in the form of an OASIS form will be forwarded to the ADS in York following the completion of the works.

## **11.0 Publication**

A digital copy of the report will be submitted to the OASIS Project held at the Archaeological Data Service at York. If the results warrant it, a short article may be included in the local journal *Lincolnshire History and Archaeology*.

## **12.0 Variations to the Proposed Scheme**

Should significant archaeological remains be identified during the survey then further mitigation works may be required. Variations to the proposed scheme will only be made following written confirmation from the Historic Environment Officer at Heritage Lincolnshire.

Should any further investigation be required beyond the scope of the brief for works, or this specification, then the cost and duration of those supplementary examinations will be negotiated between the client and the contractor.

## **13.0 Health and Safety**

All work will be carried out in a way that complies with the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974 and its related regulations and codes of practice. Employees of AAL will perform their duties in accordance with company safety policy, with senior staff responsible for monitoring compliance with health and safety requirements and legislation.

A site Risk Assessment will be carried out in advance of any archaeological fieldwork.

## **14.0 Insurances**

AAL maintains Employers Liability Insurance to £10,000,000.00, Public Liability Insurance to £5,000,000.00 and Professional Indemnity Insurance to £2,000,000.00. Copies of insurance documentation can be

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supplied upon request.

### **15.0 Copyright**

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The author of any specialist contribution to a report shall retain intellectual copyright of their work and may make use of their work for educational or research purposes for further publication.

## 16.0 Bibliography

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