

## WRITTEN SCHEME OF INVESTIGATION (WSI)

### Written Scheme of Investigation for a ‘Strip and Record’ Programme of Archaeological Works Required by a Planning Proposal

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**Location:** Great Ecclestone, Lancashire

**Proposal:** Planning Application 2/2021/01448/FUL: Erection of a dormer bungalow with detached double garage, courtyard and associated landscaping works Ivy Cottage, High Street, Great Ecclestone, Preston.

## 1. Introduction

Planning permission was granted for the erection of a dormer bungalow with a detached double garage, courtyard and associated landscaping works. (Planning reference 2/2021/01448/FUL).

Because the site lies within an area of known medieval activity along what appears to be a medieval Back Lane (with entries in the Lancashire Historic Environment Record), the Local Planning Authority has recommended that: prior to development a method statement should be submitted to the Local Planning Authority detailing measures to be taken to ensure that historical and archaeological interests are properly recorded and protected.

Peter Iles, Lancashire Historic Environment Team (LHET) has recommended that a ‘strip and record’ programme of archaeological works should be undertaken within the development area to: “*examine the archaeological resource within a given area or site within a framework of defined research objectives, to seek better understanding of and compile a lasting record of that resource, to analyse and interpret the results, and disseminate them*” (CIFA 2015 revised). This written scheme of investigation has been prepared by Stephen John Baldwin, Land Use & Heritage Consultant to help the applicant fulfil a planning condition required by Wyre Borough Council.

This recommendation follows the advice given by central government as set out in *the National Planning Policy Framework rev 2018*

## 2. Site Location and Description

2.1 The development site is located on land at Ivy Cottage, High Street, Great Ecclestone, Preston, Lancashire . The development area is shown edged in red on the map appended as **Fig.1**.

### 3. Planning Background

3.1 A planning condition requires the developer to provide a method statement specifying the measures to be taken to ensure that any archaeological or historical interests are properly recorded and protected in accordance with Local Planning Authority requirements.

### 4. Archaeological Background

4.1 Eccleston is first documented in the Domesday Book as 'Eglestun' which indicates the likely presence of a pre-Conquest church, although no trace has been found. The modern village has a typical medieval plan with evidence of a former large medieval village green on the south side of High Street seemingly bounded by Leckonby and Chapel Streets, with its southern extent defined by either South Street or Chesham Street. The proposed development site lies within a pair of plots that run north from High Street to a putative Back Lane. A small building in an L-shaped enclosure is shown on the historic Ordnance survey mapping (Peter Iles, written comm 2022).

4.2 The site is shown on the 1<sup>st</sup> edition 6 inch OS map of 1847 and on later OS mapping.

### 5. Aims

5.1 The aim of the fieldwork is to determine as far as possible the significance and quantity of any surviving archaeological remains within the development area and to mitigate the impact of the proposed development on the archaeological resource by ensuring its preservation by record.

5.2 More specifically the project would aim to:

1) locate, define, characterise and date any surviving remains of the medieval and post-medieval buildings if present

*2) determine if any medieval structures and features have survived post-medieval and modern development.*

*truncation and...*

*3) define, characterise and date any surviving medieval post-medieval remains.*

### 6. Method Statement

6.1 Prior to fieldwork the contractor will undertake a rapid desktop assessment of available historical documents and mapping which might be available online.

6.2 Given the medieval and late-medieval potential of the land, the site of the new build, garage and landscaping may overlie either medieval or early post-medieval deposits or structural remains (if uncellared), WBC have recommended that a 'strip and record' methodology be followed, whereby the development area as edged in red on the appended plan (**Fig 1**) is cleared by machine of modern overburden (concrete and brick rubble), down to the first archaeological horizon – in this

instance structures shown on the mid to late 19<sup>th</sup> century OS mapping. At that point hand excavation and sampling of any archaeological features would commence, along the lines of a formal open-area archaeological excavation. The client has advised that the eastern side of the excavation area will be excavated to a maximum depth of 500mm. The remaining area is to be excavated into natural clay.

In the 'area to be taken down to 500mm' it will be ascertained that this will be the finished level and that

- (i) any allowance for blinding layers, etc. is included;
- (ii) if any 'hard' lines such as buried walls, will need to be taken down deeper to avoid slabs, etc, breaking across them – further recording will be necessary;
- (iii) if any block or post foundations, services, etc. need to be inserted below this level, then these areas also need to be taken down and recorded properly, particularly where a block foundation might impinge on buried walls and thus need to be made bigger than standard to get a 'clean' footing.

6.3 The excavation will use a variety of techniques, from rapid cleaning to delicate excavation, to suit differing conditions. The aim of this work will be to explore all features stratigraphically and to produce a clear plan of the complex. Detailed excavation will be targeted in areas of identified archaeological features and deposits encountered will be sampled according to the appropriate professional standards to enable palaeoenvironmental analysis. A sample of at least 10% of each feature under 10 metres in length will be excavated (20% for linear features over 20m). A sample of 50% will be made of discrete features such as pits and postholes.

Complete excavation of structural remains and areas of archaeological interest (if present) will be undertaken. Layers and features will be cleaned and excavated by an appropriate technique. Context Recording: the features will be recorded using *pro-forma* sheets which are in accordance with those used by Museum of London Archaeological Service (MOLA). Similar object record and photographic record *pro-formas* will be used. All written recording of survey data, contexts, artefacts and ecofacts will be cross-referenced on *pro-forma* record sheets using sequential numbering.

6.4 Sampling could recover remains which indicate structures and artefacts associated with the medieval and late-medieval building (4.1 above). A sampling strategy will be formulated in order to recover sufficient material (if present) relevant to dating features relating to the medieval and later medieval periods.

6.5 A full and detailed photographic record of individual contexts will be maintained and similarly general views from standard view points of the overall site at all stages of the excavation will be generated. Photography will be undertaken using digital cameras capturing images in RAW format. Photograph records will be maintained on special photographic *pro-forma* sheets.

6.6 Human remains, if present, will be left *in situ*, covered and protected if discovered. No further investigation should normally be permitted beyond that necessary to establish the date and character of the burial, and the Council Archaeology Service

and the local Coroner will be informed immediately. If removal is essential, it can only take place under appropriate Government and environmental health regulations.

- 6.7 All structures and archaeological deposits (if present) will be recorded to a site grid related to the Ordnance Survey and levelled to Ordnance Datum by means of a temporary bench mark transferred from an Ordnance Survey bench mark.
- 6.8 **Metal detecting:** Spoil heaps will be scanned for non-ferrous metal artefacts using a metal detector capable of making this discrimination, operated by an experienced metal detector user (if necessary, operating under the supervision of the contracting archaeologist). Modern artefacts are to be noted but not retained (19th-century material and earlier should be retained). If a non-professional archaeologist is to be used to carry out the metal-detecting, a formal agreement of their position as a sub-contractor working under direction would be agreed in advance of their use on site. This formal agreement will apply whether they are paid or not. In this project the archaeological contractor would have in-house metal detecting. All metal finds would be in the ownership of the registered land owner subject to the Treasure Act of 1996 and revisions.
- 6.9 Conservation strategy: A conservation strategy would be developed in collaboration with a recognised laboratory. All finds would be assessed in order to recover information that will contribute to an understanding of their deterioration and hence preservation potential, as well as identifying potential for further investigation. Furthermore, all finds would be stabilised and packaged in accordance with the requirements of the receiving museum. LCCHEM as a guiding principle recommend that only artefacts of “displayable” quality would warrant full conservation, but metalwork and coinage from stratified contexts would be expected to be X-rayed if necessary, and conservation costs would also be provided for as a contingency.
- 6.9 **Location of utility services:** This is the responsibility of the client and plant operator. Utility plans would be consulted prior to a PAS128 survey of the site. The archaeological contractor, staff and plant operator will note any drainage pipes, service pipes, cables etc. which may cross any of the trench lines, and take the necessary measures to avoid disturbing such services.

## 7. Archive Preparation

- 7.1 The results of the evaluation will form the basis of a full archive to professional standards, in accordance with current ClfA guidelines (“The Standard and Guidance for the creation, compilation, transportation and deposition of archaeological archives”, 2020), the “Guidelines for the Preparation of Excavation Archives for Long Term Storage” (UKIC 1990), and current ClfA “standards and guidance for the creation, compilation, transportation and deposition of archaeological archive” (published 2020). The project archive represents the collation and indexing of all the data and material gathered during the course of the project. The deposition of a properly ordered and indexed project archive in an appropriate repository is considered an essential and integral element of all archaeological projects by the ClfA in that organisation’s code of conduct.
- 7.2 The written, drawn and photographic archive will be offered to Lancashire Archive depository within a reasonable time of completion of the project. This shall comprise a PDF copy, and the photographs saved as TIFF files on DVD ROM. A copy of the final report will also be deposited with the Lancashire Historic Environment Record as a PDF. A digital copy of the report and photographs shall be deposited with ADS

through the OASIS database. Should the results warrant it, a summary report, or detailed article on the work shall be submitted for publication in a regional or national journal, appropriate to the significance of the results and findings of the project.

## **8. Report**

**8.1** The actual areas of excavation and any features of possible archaeological concern noted within the trenching area, would be accurately located on a site plan and recorded by photographs (24mp RAW), summary scale drawings and written descriptions sufficient to permit the preparation of a report on the material. The site grid is to be accurately tied into the National Grid and located on the largest scale map available of the area (either 1:2500 or 1:1250). Survey location would be maintained by use of a survey-grade GPS to a tolerance of c. 1-2 cms, where possible.

**8.2** On completion of the fieldwork, any samples taken would be processed and any finds cleaned, identified, assessed, dated (if possible), marked (if appropriate) and properly packed and stored in accordance with the requirements of national guidelines. A fully indexed field archive would be compiled consisting of all primary written documents, plans, sections, and where appropriate, photographic negatives and a complete set of labelled photographic prints. The original archive is to accompany the deposition of any finds, providing the landowner agrees to the deposition of finds in a publicly accessible archive. In the absence of this agreement the field archive (less finds) is to be temporarily deposited with Bluestone Archaeology.

**8.3** A report would be produced, which would include background information on the need for the project, a description of the methodology employed, and a full description and interpretation of results produced. It is not envisaged that the report is likely to be published, but it would be produced with sufficient care and attention to detail to be of academic use to future researchers. Location plans would be produced at a scale which enables easy site identification and which depicts the full extent of the site investigated. Site plans would be at an appropriate scale showing the trench layout (as dug), features located and, where possible, predicted archaeological deposits. On completion of the strip & record trench all sections containing archaeological features will be drawn. Section drawings (at a minimum scale of 1:20) would include heights O.D. Plans (at a minimum scale of 1:50) would include O.D. spot heights for all principal strata and any features. Where no archaeological deposits are encountered at least one long section of the trench would be drawn. Artefact assessment is to include the production of a descriptive catalogue with finds critical for dating and interpretation illustrated. Details of the style and format of the report are to be determined by the archaeological contractor, but would include a full bibliography, a quantified index to the site archive, and as an appendix, a copy of this approved WSI.

**8.4** The archaeological contractor will complete the *Online Access to Index of Archaeological Investigations* (OASIS) form. Once a report has become a public document by submission into the *Lancashire Historic Environment Record* (HER).

## **9. Staffing**

**9.1** The excavation project will be directed and managed by Stephen Baldwin. He will be joined on site by experienced excavators: Paul Hickman, George Luke, Pascal-Eloy and Steven Price. The finds specialist (Prehistoric) will be Ron Cowell of Liverpool Museum, or another qualified specialist. The ceramic and metal finds specialist (Roman, Medieval and Post-Medieval) will be Dr Rob Philpott. Paleoenvironmental advice and consultancy will be provided by Dr Tudur Davies.

**10. Timetable:** It is anticipated that the strip & record excavation would take around 1-week to complete. Where possible a report will be produced within 3-months of completion.

**11. Mitigation strategy:** The report will give a judgement on whether preservation or further investigation is considered appropriate, and would provide an interpretation of results, placing them in a local and regional, and if appropriate, national context. However, the client may wish to separately commission the contractor's view as to an appropriate treatment of the resource identified.

Sources consulted:

Barrowclough, D., 2008, Prehistoric Lancashire, Gloucestershire: The History Press

CIfA Technical Paper 13 (1993) and the CIFA 2004 update.

CifA 2020, The Standard and Guidance for the creation, compilation, transportation and deposition of archaeological archives

Chartered Institute of Archaeologists: Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Evaluation 2014

Ekwall, E., 1960, 4th ed. The Concise Oxford Dictionary of English Place-Names, Oxford: The Clarendon Press

Farrer, W., & Brownbill, J., 1912, A History of the County of Lancashire, Volume 7,

LCMS Guidelines for the Deposition of Archaeological Archives 2020-21

National Planning Policy Framework, revised July 2018

Porter, J., 1876, History of the Fylde of Lancashire, W Porter & Sons

Historic England, The Management of Archaeological Projects , MoRPHE 2020

The Church of England's Guidance for best practice for treatment of human remains excavated from Christian burial grounds in England (2005)

Tooley, M. J., 1978, Sea-Level Changes in North-West England during the Flandrian Stage, Oxford: Oxford University Press



Fig 1. Location plan ↑N

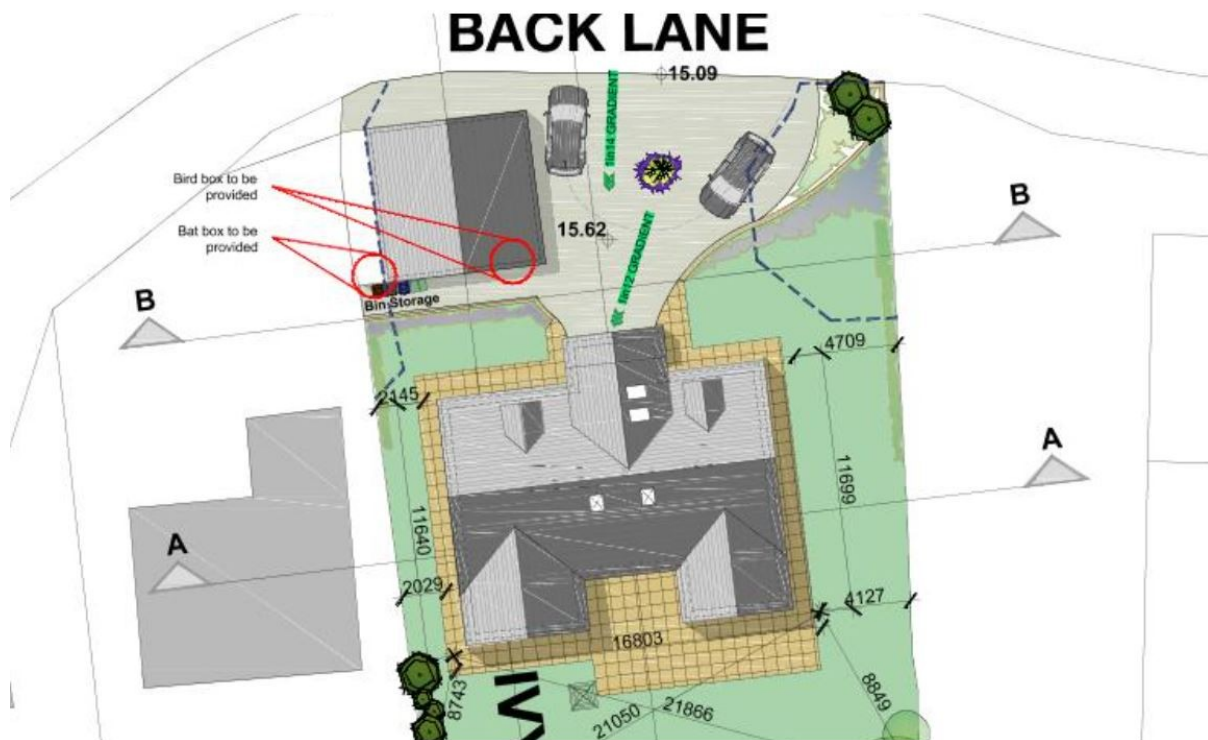


Fig 2. proposed site plan ↑N