



Consultant's Brief

The Salt Fields: Investigating the salt production landscape in Northwich.

1. Aim

1.1. The Saltscape Landscape Partnership wishes to appoint an Archaeological Consultant to design, manage and deliver the Salt Fields community archaeology project.

1.2. The aim of this work is to investigate, using archaeological methods, the salt production landscape in north-east Northwich, at two main sites in Wincham and Marston, in the context of the wider historic salt production area.

1.3. The project seeks to re-associate the local community with the post-industrial landscape and engage the wider public in mid-Cheshire's unique industrial heritage through a high level of involvement and a variety of training opportunities.

2. Background and Essential Guidance

2.1 Wincham and Marston lie in the heart of mid-Cheshire's historic salt production area in north-east Northwich. This area contains the tourist nodes of the Lion Salt Works and the Anderton Boat Lift. Now, these represent the only significant industrial structures from the 19th and early 20th century in an essentially post-industrial landscape. Subsidence has had a significant effect on transforming the area into the landscape of today.

2.2. An archaeological assessment¹ was undertaken in the early 1990s as part of the reclamation schemes (Cheshire (Weaver Valley) Rolling Programme). This influenced the landscape development of the Northwich Woodlands and identified a number of archaeological sites associated with the areas later post medieval salt industry. Subsequent archaeological survey and evaluation² further highlighted the quality of the archaeological remains, earthwork and below ground, in the Marston area.

2.3. The Saltscape Landscape Partnership Project and specifically the Salt Fields Programme will contribute directly to achieving the aims and objectives of many cross-cutting policies and strategies. In particular the Project will support several of the Agenda Initiatives identified in the Regional Research Frameworks for the North West³:

- *Agenda Initiative 7.10*: Opportunities need to be taken for the use of paleo environmental and geochemical analyses of the historic environmental impacts of specific industries and industrialisation in general⁴.

¹ Lancaster University Archaeological Unit, 1992, Cheshire (Weaver Valley) Rolling Programme, An Archaeological Assessment.

² Ironbridge Gorge Museum Trust Archaeological Unit, 1993, Cheshire (Weaver Valley) Rolling Programme: Archaeological Site Investigation

³Brennand M (ed), 2007, Research and Archaeology in North West England. An Archaeological Research Framework for North West England: Volume 2 Research Agenda and Strategy

⁴ Brennand M (ed), 2007, p.141-142

- *Agenda Initiative 7.35*: Industry specific studies are needed for those industries that have received little archaeological attention. This is especially needed for those industries that grew in importance in the early 20th century such as chemicals, automobile and early aircraft engineering...⁵

2.4. Historic England's Thematic Research Strategy for the Historic Industrial Environment⁶ identifies the following under the theme of The Impact of Industrialisation to which the project contributes:

- *Industrial Landscapes*⁷
- *Understanding Industrial Sites and Buildings*⁸
- *Achieving a better public understanding of the resource and the enhancement of HERs and other databases*⁹

2.5. The Saltscape Landscape Conservation Action Plan (LCAP) will be provided on appointment.

3. Brief

3.1. The consultant's role is:

(i) To provide expert archaeological skills and knowledge to ensure the Salt Fields project is delivered successfully, meeting all funder requirements and outcomes and leaving a sustainable legacy.

(ii) To prepare, agree, and implement a project design for a programme of community fieldwork and assessment consisting of:

- A programme of paleo-environmental investigation into the impact of the areas salt industry on the wider environment and landscape which provides the opportunity for community participation events.
- A programme of training for volunteers (c. 15-20 volunteers) in archaeological assessment, metric survey and/or excavation, and post-fieldwork analysis techniques and the delivery of community archaeology events (c. 40-50 participants) with the potential for intrusive excavation or test-pitting or other appropriate survey techniques at one, or all of the following sites:
 - (i) Adelaide Works - adjacent to Trent and Mersey Canal and Ollershaw Lane (SJ 670 756). c. 15 acres (6 hectares), 16,600 sq metres.
 - (ii) Ollershaw Lane Works - adjacent to Trent and Mersey Canal and Ollershaw Lane (SJ 672 755). c. 17 acres (7 hectares), 51, 000 sq metres.
- To prepare a document/s detailing the results and assessing the potential for further analysis. In particular:
 - (i) The environmental impact of the salt industry.

⁵ Brennan M (ed), 2007, p.154

⁶ English Heritage, 2010, English Heritage Thematic Research Strategies: A Thematic Research Strategy for the Historic Industrial Environment.

⁷ English Heritage, 2010, p.16-17

⁸ English Heritage, 2010, p.17

⁹ English Heritage, 2010, p.18

(ii) Describe changes in condition of the structures, earthworks and below ground archaeological remains associated with the Adelaide Works and/or Ollershaw Lane Works.

(ii) Recommendations for the future management and interpretation or presentation of archaeological and historic sites. This should be presented in a discrete section of the report and should be clearly distinguished from sections containing factual data.

(iii) The reports should include: a concise, non-technical summary of the project results, a summary of the methodology, a copy of the brief and of the agreed project design and an indication of any departure from the agreed project design.

- Complete and deposit any associated fieldwork archives at Cheshire West and Chester Museums. A copy of the digital archive will be deposited with the Cheshire Historic Environment Record.
- Communicate and interpret the results of the project to a diverse audience through talks, open days, workshops, exhibitions, booklets, walking trails and/or interpretation boards.

3.2. The consultant will maintain regular contact with Saltscape Manager and provide update reports, as required. To work closely with Saltscape Manager to ensure project activity is co-ordinated with the work of the partnership and keep within specified project budget.

4. Project Design

4.1 Project designs should detail the following:

- The names of the project director, specialists and any sub-contractors to be employed on the project (including details of qualifications & experience of the key project personnel).
- The proposed timetable.
- A separate itemised estimate of costs (core/project staff, specialist fees, travel/subsistence, site works, equipment/materials, archive preparation and copying, report preparation, overheads, contingency, specified other costs).
- How you propose to work with us and help us to achieve
 - (i) Research outcomes
 - (ii) Community engagement/training outcome
 - (iii) Interpretation outcomes.
- The approach and methodology proposed.
- A work plan including a schedule of tasks, timetable and milestones.
- Evidence of experience in undertaking similar work.
- What systems you have in place to ensure that you can meet the deadlines – e.g. who you will collaborate with in case of illness or other delays.
- CVs (2 pages max) for the consultants who will work on the project.
- Contact details of two referees who can be contacted to confirm the consultants' expertise, experience and track record.
- Risk assessment

4.2 Contractors, sub-contractors and specialists are expected to conform to the requirements set out in Cheshire Archaeology Planning Advisory Service's Guidance and General Conditions for Selected

Archaeological Contractors and Consultants¹⁰ and relevant Chartered Institute for Archaeologists standards and guidance.

4.3 It is the contractor's responsibility to ensure that all third party costs, such as specialist, archive and storage fees, are included. The Cheshire Historic Environment Record will not make a charge for data for this project.

4.4 Contractors may wish to discuss their draft project design with the Saltscape Manager before formal submission.

5. Price and Payment Schedule

5.1. The total cost for delivery of this work is to be no more than £26,000 (excluding VAT).

5.2. There is a separate budget available for printing of interpretive materials.

5.2. The schedule for payment will be agreed at the inception meeting. Phased payments are anticipated in 2015, 2016 and 2017.

6. Deadlines and Timetable

6.1. The contract is to begin in August 2015 and to be complete by August 2017. A timetable is given below:

| | |
|--|----------------------------|
| Deadline for submission | 12 noon on 23 July |
| Contract awarded | w/c 27 July |
| Inception & planning meeting | 12 August TBC |
| Specification of works | By October 2015 |
| Specific programme days/ excavation (stage 1) | By September 2016 |
| Specific programme days/ excavation (stage 2) including production of post field-work report | By August 2017 |
| Presentations, talks at open days | TBC in 2015, 2016 and 2017 |

6.2. The successful consultants should initially discuss the scope of the work with the client to agree a detailed timetable for the work.

7. Project Management

7.1. The consultant will report to the client immediately if there are any un-foreseen delays which may limit the ability to complete the work to schedule.

7.2. As part of the contract, the consultant is required to attend meetings with the client, in Northwich, as detailed below.

(i) Inception meeting with the client [and other appropriate stakeholders e.g. Focus Group] for an initial briefing to agree the scope of the project and identify any operational difficulties that might be encountered.

(ii) progress meetings, during 2015, 2016 and 2017.

¹⁰ See http://www.cheshirearchaeology.org.uk/?page_id=148

7.3. Consultants are always required to submit draft reports for comments before any report is finalised.

7.4. The client requires 1 hard copy and a digital copy (in MS Word and PDF format) of the final report which should be fully proof-read. A copy of any presentation materials used in the final report or meetings or seminars (slides, overhead projection transparencies, etc.) will be required by the client for retention.

7.5. The client will hold the copyright on the work and its publication (including copyright on the brand and design). The report or the information from this research cannot be quoted from or used in any other project work without the written permission of the client.

7.6. Any information supplied by the client to the consultant during the project must be returned no later than one month after the end of the contract period.

8. Work proposals and submission

8.1. Submissions should be sent by email to Alison Lomax Alison.lomax@groundwork.org.uk and will be acknowledged. These should arrive by date shown on the timetable. Late submissions will not be accepted.

8.2. Anticipated competencies of the chosen consultant team are:

- Qualified archaeologists with significant relevant professional experience
- Background in industrial archaeology or pre-industrial salt archaeology and paleo-ecology
- Proven delivery of community archaeology projects
- Experience of training, working with students/volunteers/community groups
- Effective interpretation of projects.

8.3. The client will require consultants to include proof of public liability & professional indemnity insurance cover in the sum of at least £2million.

8.4. Submissions will be judged according to a number of criteria:

- Value for money: based on daily rates
- Specific skills: in relation to the brief [i.e. mining heritage, post-industrial archaeology, paleo-ecology].
- Generic skills: community projects, training [as appropriate].

9. Contract manager

9.1. The contract manager is Alison Lomax, Saltscap Project Manager. Their contact details are Yarwoods Arm, Navigation Road, Northwich, Cheshire, CW8 1BE, 01606 723160 / 07788340957.

9.2. Technical advice and background information can be obtained from Cheshire West and Chester Historic Environment Team – contacts will be provided at inception meeting.

10. Appendix

Appendix 1 – Saltscap Site Assessment Report for The Salt Fields Project (2015)

Appendix 2 – Saltscap LCAP Executive summary