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**SOUTH WITHAM QUARRY, SOUTH WITHAM,  
LINCOLNSHIRE**

**AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION**



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**ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOLUTIONS LIMITED  
REPORT NO. 1393**

**SOUTH WITHAM QUARRY, SOUTH WITHAM,  
LINCOLNSHIRE**

**AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION**

NGR: SK 9210 1875  
Parish: South Witham  
Site Code: AS722

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## **SOUTH WITHAM QUARRY, SOUTH WITHAM, LINCOLNSHIRE**

### **AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION**

#### **SUMMARY**

*During August 2003 Archaeological Solutions (AS) carried out an evaluation on land at South Witham Quarry (Field 1276), South Witham, Lincolnshire (NGR SK 9210 1875). The evaluation was conducted in advance of mineral extraction.*

*The evaluation revealed a single undated archaeological feature. A small pit or post-hole, F1003, was completely excavated to facilitate finds recovery but it contained only a small quantity of burnt and unburnt animal bone.*

*No evidence for the late prehistoric or Romano-British occupation recorded on adjacent sites was revealed.*

#### **1 INTRODUCTION**

1.1 During August 2003 Archaeological Solutions (AS) carried out an archaeological evaluation at South Witham Quarry (Field 1276), South Witham, Lincolnshire (NGR SK 9210 1875: Figure 1). The assessment was commissioned by R.J.D Limited. It is proposed to extend the existing quarry westwards onto the assessment site. The archaeological evaluation was undertaken as part of a planning condition required by Lincolnshire County Council (LCC).

1.2 The evaluation was conducted in accordance with a brief issued by the Conservation Service, Lincolnshire County Council (J. Bonnor, dated 24/03/03) and a specification compiled by AS (dated 16/04/03). The project followed the procedures outlined in the Institute of Field Archaeologists' *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Evaluations* (revised 1999).

1.3 The aims of the evaluation are to determine, as far as is reasonably possible, the location, extent, date, character, conditions, significance and quantity of any surviving archaeological remains liable to be threatened by the proposed development.

#### **2 DESCRIPTION OF THE SITE GEOLOGY, SOILS AND TOPOGRAPHY**

2.1 South Witham lies between Stamford and Grantham in the south-western corner of Lincolnshire, adjacent to the border with Rutland. The site, known as Field 1276, is located south of Mill Lane, 0.5km west of the village and 0.5km north-east of Thistleton, Rutland. It

is bounded to the east and south by open fields and by the quarry workings to the west and a disused railway line to the north. At the time of this study the field had been

2.2 The proposed development site covers an area of c.5 hectares. The ground lies at a maximum elevation of c.119m AOD, sloping gently down to the south-west corner at c.115m AOD. At the time of the evaluation the land was under stubble after the harvesting of a crop of Oil Seed Rape.

2.3 The site lies on an outcrop of limestone in a broad band of clayey mudstone. Soils locally are those of the Elmton 1 association, described as shallow, well drained brashy calcareous fine loamy soils (SSEW 1983). Underlying the topsoil is a thick (c.1.5m) layer of frost-shattered limestone (Cornbrash), which in turn overlies a solid geology of Jurassic limestone.

### 3 BACKGROUND

3.1 The discovery of artefacts such as a Neolithic flint axe (SMR 33696) near manor Farm, c.0.5km east of the site, provides further indication for a prehistoric presence in the area. South Witham also lies close to the Sewstern Lane prehistoric trackway that runs for over 40 km between Great Casterton and Long Bennington (Hardwick 1999). Excavations to the west of the assessment site revealed two parallel ditches, pits and post-holes dating to the Late Bronze Age-Iron Age period (Britchfield 2002). This, and Hewlett's (1935) discovery of fossilised red deer antlers at South Witham quarry, indicated the potential for prehistoric remains at the site (Hardwick 1999).

3.2 Evidence for a Romano-British (RB) presence in the area is well recorded, principally comprising inhumation burials. These were found to the east of the village in 1746 (SMR 33690), and to the west, between the railway and Mill lane, in 1920 and 1922 (SMR 33686), an area immediately north of the assessment site. The latter comprised 24 burials and one cremation. In addition a well was uncovered in association with a building foundation. Also found were a bronze ornament and a drinking cup. More recently, in 1967, a lead-lined limestone coffin and associated RB pottery was discovered overlying the Sewstern Lane prehistoric trackway (SMR 33692). To the south, Thistleton was once the site of a substantial RB settlement, while the line of Roman Ermine Street lies 1.5km to the east along the present A1 (*ibid.*).

3.3 Despite the earlier occupation mentioned above, the village names of South Witham and Thistleton are Saxon in origin. There is, however, little archaeological evidence in the area relating to this period (*ibid.*).

3.7 Domesday Book records South Witham as having consisted of 1200 acres under cultivation and 250 acres of woodland. The area of the parish has changed little since, although much of the woodland has been cleared (*ibid.*).

3.8 The most documented site associated with South Witham is on Temple Hill, c.2km north-east of the proposed extraction area. Temple Hill is the site of a 12<sup>th</sup> century preceptory of the Knights Templar, excavated in 1966-7 (SMR 22611). In c. 1312 it was

passed to the Knights Hospitallers, though a 1332 survey described that site as a ruin, which was supported by that archaeological evidence (*ibid.*).

3.9 In the 17<sup>th</sup> century the town became a significant thoroughfare on the London-Berwick post road, before being replaced on the route by Colsterworth in 1752. The parish of South Witham was subject to an Enclosure Act in 1794, creating the pattern of fields which we see today (*ibid.*).

3.10 The railway associated with the site was constructed in 1894, the limestone mine opening in 1907, under the control of the Holwell Iron Company. The quarry was opened at right angles to the railway, utilising a pre-existing pit of uncertain function that adjoined the highway. The station closed to passengers in 1960 (*ibid.*).

### 3.11 Research Priorities

3.11.1 The principal objectives of the project are to characterise any remains of prehistoric or Roman occupation, though it will be important to identify any remains of other periods, if present. It will be particularly important to identify any evidence of Roman settlement or burials relating to the villa to the south. Regional research aims have been set out in the East Midlands Regional Archaeology Frameworks.

## 4 METHODOLOGY

4.1 A total of 39 trenches were opened using a 360° tracked mechanical excavator in locations agreed with the client, AS and LCC. The overburden was mechanically excavated under close archaeological supervision using a smooth-bladed ditching bucket until the underlying archaeological horizon/natural deposits were visible. Thereafter all further investigation was undertaken by hand. The exposed surfaces were cleaned and examined for archaeological features. Deposits were recorded using *pro forma* recording sheets, drawn to scale and photographed, as appropriate. In addition the spoil derived from the trenches and the trench bases were scanned using a metal detector.

4.2 The evaluation was conducted in accordance with the brief and specification, and conformed to the guidelines of the IFA.

## 5 DESCRIPTION OF RESULTS (Fig.3)

Individual descriptions of trenches are presented below. All the trenches were 30m x 2.2m, excepting Trenches 30 and 37 which were 50m x 2.2m and 55m x 2.2m long, respectively

### 5.1 Trench 1 (30m x 2.2m)

#### Sample sections

E End (0.00 = 120.43m AOD)

0.00 – 0.35m L1000 Topsoil. Mid brown silty loam with frequent Cornbrash fragments.

0.35 – 0.60m L1001 Subsoil. Slightly brown mid pink/red clayey silt with frequent Cornbrash fragments.

0.60m+ L1002 Natural drift. Off-white angular frost-shattered Cornbrash in a clayey silt matrix

W End (0.00 = 120.87m AOD)

0.00 – 0.30m L1000 Topsoil

0.30 – 0.83m L1001 Subsoil

0.83m+ L1002 Natural drift

*Description* No archaeological features were revealed or finds recovered.

### 5.2 Trench 2 (30m x 2.2m)

#### Sample sections

E End (0.00 = 119.74m AOD)

0.00 – 0.37m L1000 Topsoil

0.37m+ L1002 Natural drift

W End (0.00 = 120.17m AOD)

0.00 – 0.40m L1000 Topsoil

0.40m+ L1002 Natural drift

*Description* No archaeological features were revealed or finds recovered.

### 5.3 Trench 3 (30m x 2.2m)

#### Sample sections

E End (0.00 = 120.57m AOD)

0.00 – 0.28m L1000 Topsoil

0.28 – 0.51m L1001 Subsoil

0.51m+ L1002 Natural drift

W End (0.00 = 121.14m AOD)

0.00 – 0.29m L1000 Topsoil – Mid brown loose silty loam with frequent Cornbrash

0.29 – 0.56m L1001 Subsoil

0.56m+ L1002 Natural drift

*Description* No archaeological features were revealed or finds recovered.

#### 5.4 Trench 4 (30m x 2.2m)

##### Sample sections

E End (0.00 = 119.89m AOD)

0.00 – 0.44m L1000 Topsoil

0.44m+ L1002 Natural drift

W End (0.00 = 120.16m AOD)

0.00 – 0.41m L1000 Topsoil

0.41m+ L1002 Natural drift

*Description* No archaeological features were revealed or finds recovered.

#### 5.5 Trench 5 (30m x 2.2m) Fig.3

##### Sample sections

E End (0.00 = 119.44m AOD)

0.00 – 0.38m L1000 Topsoil

0.38m+ L1002 Natural drift

W End (0.00 = 119.79m AOD)

0.00 – 0.43m L1000 Topsoil

0.43m+ L1002 Natural drift

*Description* Two natural peri-glacial features were investigated at the eastern end of the trench.

Pit/linear F1006 was aligned N-S and continued beyond the trench edge to the south (dimensions 1.1m+ x 1.0m x 0.18m deep). With uneven moderate sides and an uneven base it was filled with natural subsoil (L1001) and yielded no finds.

Linear F1007 was irregular in plan and traversed the trench on a NW-SE alignment (dimensions 2.9m+ x 1.0m x 0.22m deep). With uneven moderate and slightly concave sides and an uneven base it was also filled with natural subsoil (L1001) and yielded no finds.

No archaeological features were revealed or finds recovered.

### 5.6 Trench 6 (30m x 2.2m)

#### Sample sections

E End (0.00 = 119.85m AOD)  
0.00 – 0.35m L1000 Topsoil  
0.35m+ L1002 Natural drift

W End (0.00 = 120.07m AOD)  
0.00 – 0.37m L1000 Topsoil  
0.37m+ L1002 Natural drift

*Description* No archaeological features were revealed or finds recovered.

### 5.7 Trench 7 (30m x 2.2m)

#### Sample sections

E End (0.00 = 119.53m AOD)  
0.00 – 0.35m L1000 Topsoil  
0.35m+ L1002 Natural drift

W End (0.00 = 119.76m AOD)  
0.00 – 0.32m L1000 Topsoil  
0.32m+ L1002 Natural drift

*Description* No archaeological features were revealed or finds recovered.

### 5.8 Trench 8 (30m x 2.2m)

#### Sample sections

E End (0.00 = 120.03m AOD)  
0.00 – 0.42m L1000 Topsoil  
0.42 m+ L1002 Natural drift

W End (0.00 = 120.42m AOD)  
0.00 – 0.39 m L1000 Topsoil  
0.39m+ L1002 Natural drift

*Description* No archaeological features were revealed or finds recovered.



### 5.9 Trench 9 (30m x 2.2m)

#### Sample sections

N End (0.00 = 119.77m AOD)

0.00 – 0.42m L1000 Topsoil

0.42m+ L1002 Natural drift

S End (0.00 = 119.43m AOD)

0.00–0.37 m L1000 Topsoil

0.37m+ L1002 Natural drift

*Description* No archaeological features were revealed or finds recovered.

### 5.10 Trench 10 (30m x 2.2m)

#### Sample sections

N End (0.00 = 119.45m AOD)

0.00 – 0.33m L1000 Topsoil

0.33m+ L1002 Natural drift

S End (0.00 = 119.26m AOD)

0.00 – 0.38m L1000 Topsoil

0.38m+ L1002 Natural drift

*Description* No archaeological features were revealed or finds recovered.

### 5.11 Trench 11 (30m x 2.2m)

#### Sample sections

N End (0.00 = 120.05m AOD)

0.00 – 0.47m L1000 Topsoil

0.47m+ L1002 Natural drift

S End (0.00 = 119.85m AOD)

0.00 – 0.45m L1000 Topsoil

0.45m+ L1002 Natural drift

*Description* No archaeological features were revealed or finds recovered.

### 5.12 Trench 12 (30m x 2.2m)

#### Sample sections

E End (0.00 = 119.68m AOD)  
0.00 – 0.28m L1000 Topsoil  
0.28m+ L1002 Natural drift

W End (0.00 = 119.84m AOD)  
0.00 – 0.32m L1000 Topsoil  
0.32m+ L1002 Natural drift

*Description* No archaeological features were revealed or finds recovered.

### 5.13 Trench 13 (30m x 2.2m)

#### Sample sections

N End (0.00 = 119.48m AOD)  
0.00 – 0.46m L1000 Topsoil  
0.46m+ L1002 Natural drift

S End (0.00 = 119.23m AOD)  
0.00 – 0.42m L1000 Topsoil  
0.42m+ L1002 Natural drift

*Description* No archaeological features were revealed or finds recovered.

### 5.14 Trench 14 (30m x 2.2m)

#### Sample sections

E End (0.00 = 118.99m AOD)  
0.00 – 0.42m L1000 Topsoil  
0.42m+ L1002 Natural drift

W End (0.00 = 119.24m AOD)  
0.00 – 0.45m L1000 Topsoil  
0.45m+ L1002 Natural drift

*Description* No archaeological features were revealed or finds recovered.

### 5.15 Trench 15 (30m x 2.2m)

#### Sample sections

N End (0.00 = 120.03m AOD)  
0.00 – 0.34m L1000 Topsoil  
0.34m+ L1002 Natural drift

S End (0.00 = 119.79m AOD)  
0.00 – 0.37m L1000 Topsoil  
0.37m+ L1002 Natural drift

*Description* No archaeological features were revealed or finds recovered.

### 5.16 Trench 16 (30m x 2.2m)

#### Sample sections

E End (0.00 = 119.49m AOD)  
0.00 – 0.40m L1000 Topsoil  
0.40m+ L1002 Natural drift

W End (0.00 = 119.68m AOD)  
0.00 – 0.43m L1000 Topsoil  
0.43m+ L1002 Natural drift

*Description* No archaeological features were revealed or finds recovered.

### 5.17 Trench 17 (30m x 2.2m)

#### Sample sections

N End (0.00 = 119.47m AOD)  
0.00 – 0.38m L1000 Topsoil  
0.38m+ L1002 Natural drift

S End (0.00 = 119.08m AOD)  
0.00 – 0.41m L1000 Topsoil  
0.41m+ L1002 Natural drift

*Description* No archaeological features were revealed or finds recovered.

### 5.18 Trench 18 (30m x 2.2m)

#### Sample sections

E End (0.00 = 118.82m AOD)  
0.00 – 0.40m L1000 Topsoil  
0.40m+ L1002 Natural drift

W End (0.00 = 119.19m AOD)  
0.00 – 0.35m L1000 Topsoil  
0.35m+ L1002 Natural drift

*Description* No archaeological features were revealed or finds recovered.

### 5.19 Trench 19 (30m x 2.2m)

#### Sample sections

N End (0.00 = 119.95m AOD)  
0.00 – 0.36m L1000 Topsoil  
0.36m+ L1002 Natural drift

S End (0.00 = 118.16m AOD)  
0.00 – 0.42m L1000 Topsoil  
0.42m+ L1002 Natural drift

*Description* No archaeological features were revealed or finds recovered.

### 5.20 Trench 20 (30m x 2.2m)

#### Sample sections

E End (0.00 = 119.10m AOD)  
0.00 – 0.42m L1000 Topsoil  
0.42m+ L1002 Natural drift

W End (0.00 = 119.32m AOD)  
0.00 – 0.39m L1000 Topsoil  
0.39m+ L1002 Natural drift

*Description* No archaeological features were revealed or finds recovered.

5.21 **Trench 21** (30m x 2.2m)

Sample sections

N End (0.00 = 119.22m AOD)

0.00 – 0.41m L1000 Topsoil

0.41m+ L1002 Natural drift

S End (0.00 = 18.59m AOD)

0.00 – 0.37m L1000 Topsoil

0.37m+ L1002 Natural drift

*Description* No archaeological features were revealed or finds recovered.

5.22 **Trench 22** (30m x 2.2m)

Sample sections

E End (0.00 = 118.37m AOD)

0.00 – 0.35m L1000 Topsoil

0.35m+ L1002 Natural drift

W End (0.00 = 118.77m AOD)

0.00 – 0.33m L1000 Topsoil

0.33m+ L1002 Natural drift

*Description* No archaeological features were revealed or finds recovered.

5.23 **Trench 23** (30m x 2.2m)

Sample sections

N End (0.00 = 118.61m AOD)

0.00 – 0.38m L1000 Topsoil

0.38m+ L1002 Natural drift

S End (0.00 = 117.92m AOD)

0.00 – 0.32m L1000 Topsoil

0.32m+ L1002 Natural drift

*Description* No archaeological features were revealed or finds recovered.

5.24 **Trench 24** (30m x 2.2m)

Sample sections

E End (0.00 = 117.61m AOD)  
0.00 – 0.45m L1000 Topsoil  
0.45m+ L1002 Natural drift

W End (0.00 = 117.98m AOD)  
0.00 – 0.43m L1000 Topsoil  
0.43m+ L1002 Natural drift

*Description* No archaeological features were revealed or finds recovered.

5.25 **Trench 25** (30m x 2.2m)

Sample sections

N End (0.00 = 118.95m AOD)  
0.00 – 0.27m L1000 Topsoil  
0.27m+ L1002 Natural drift

S End (0.00 = 118.42m AOD)  
0.00 – 0.25m L1000 Topsoil  
0.25m+ L1002 Natural drift

*Description* No archaeological features were revealed or finds recovered.

5.26 **Trench 26** (30m x 2.2m)

Sample sections

E End (0.00 = 117.97m AOD)  
0.00 – 0.32m L1000 Topsoil  
0.32m+ L1002 Natural drift

W End (0.00 = 118.46m AOD)  
0.00 – 0.28m L1000 Topsoil  
0.28m+ L1002 Natural drift

*Description* No archaeological features were revealed or finds recovered.

**5.27 Trench 27 (30m x 2.2m)**

Sample sections

N End (0.00 = 118.12m AOD)  
0.00 – 0.40m L1000 Topsoil  
0.40m+ L1002 Natural drift

S End (0.00 = 117.55m AOD)  
0.00 – 0.42m L1000 Topsoil  
0.42m+ L1002 Natural drift

*Description* No archaeological features were revealed or finds recovered.

**5.28 Trench 28 (30m x 2.2m)**

Sample sections

E End (0.00 = 117.11m AOD)  
0.00 – 0.26m L1000 Topsoil  
0.26m+ L1002 Natural drift

W End (0.00 = 117.57m AOD)  
0.00 – 0.28m L1000 Topsoil  
0.28m+ L1002 Natural drift

*Description* No archaeological features were revealed or finds recovered.

**5.29 Trench 29 (30m x 2.2m)**

Sample sections

N End (0.00 = 16.98m AOD)  
0.00 – 0.33m L1000 Topsoil  
0.33m+ L1002 Natural drift

S End (0.00 = 116.52m AOD)  
0.00 – 0.32m L1000 Topsoil  
0.32m+ L1002 Natural

*Description* No archaeological features were revealed or finds recovered.

### 5.30 Trench 30 (50m x 2.2m)

#### Sample sections

N End (0.00 = 117.78m AOD)  
0.00 – 0.33m L1000 Topsoil  
0.33m+ L1002 Natural drift

E End (0.00 = 117.90m AOD)  
0.00 – 0.29m L1000 Topsoil  
0.29m+ L1002 Natural drift

*Description* No archaeological features were revealed or finds recovered.

### 5.31 Trench 31 (30m x 2.2m)

#### Sample sections

N End (0.00 = 118.02m AOD)  
0.00 – 0.35m L1000 Topsoil  
0.35m+ L1002 Natural drift

S End (0.00 = 117.40m AOD)  
0.00 – 0.36m L1000 Topsoil  
0.36m+ L1002 Natural drift

*Description* No archaeological features were revealed or finds recovered.

### 5.32 Trench 32 (30m x 2.2m) Fig.3

#### Sample sections

E End (0.00 = 116.85m AOD)  
0.00 – 0.34m L1000 Topsoil  
0.34m+ L1002 Natural drift

W End (0.00 = 117.16m AOD)  
0.00 – 0.31m L1000 Topsoil  
0.31m+ L1002 Natural drift

*Description* A single archaeological feature was investigated in the eastern end of the trench.

Pit or Post Hole F1003 was ovoid in plan with slight root disturbance on its western side (dimensions 0.8m x 0.6 m x 0.32m deep). It had vertical to near vertical sides which broke sharply onto an uneven slightly rounded base. It contained a single fill which was completely



excavated. It comprised a mid to light slightly reddish brown slightly clayey silt with frequent Cornbrash fragments and occasional daub flecks (L1004). It contained animal (70g) and human bone (3g).

### 5.33 Trench 33 (30m x 2.2m)

#### Sample sections

N End (0.00 = 116.97m AOD)  
0.00 – 0.31m L1000 Topsoil  
0.31m+ L1002 Natural drift

S End (0.00 = 116.33m AOD)  
0.00 – 0.29m L1000 Topsoil  
0.29m+ L1002 Natural drift

*Description* No archaeological features were revealed or finds recovered.

### 5.34 Trench 34 (30m x 2.2m)

#### Sample sections

E End (0.00 = 115.89m AOD)  
0.00 – 0.27m L1000 Topsoil  
0.27m+ L1002 Natural drift

W End (0.00 = 116.50m AOD)  
0.00 – 0.30m L1000 Topsoil  
0.30m+ L1002 Natural drift

*Description* No archaeological features were revealed or finds recovered.

### 5.35 Trench 35 (30m x 2.2m)

#### Sample sections

N-End (0.00 = 118.00m AOD)  
0.00 – 0.26m L1000 Topsoil  
0.26m+ L1002 Natural drift

S-End (0.00 = 117.55m AOD)  
0.00 – 0.50m L1000 Topsoil  
0.50m+ L1002 Natural drift

*Description* No archaeological features were revealed or finds recovered.

**5.36 Trench 36 (30m x 2.2m)**

Sample sections

E-End (0.00 = 117.02m AOD)

0.00 – 0.30m L1000 Topsoil – Mid brown loose silty loam with frequent Cornbrash

0.30m+ L1002 Natural drift – Off-white angular frost-shattered Cornbrash in a subsoil

W-End (0.00 = 117.61m AOD)

0.00 – 0.35m L1000 Topsoil – Mid brown loose silty loam with frequent Cornbrash

0.35m+ L1002 Natural drift – Off-white angular frost-shattered Cornbrash in a subsoil

*Description* No archaeological features were revealed or finds recovered.

**5.37 Trench 37 (55m x 2.2m)**

Sample sections

N End (0.00 = 117.53m AOD)

0.00 – 0.34m L1000 Topsoil

0.34m+ L1002 Natural drift

S-End (0.00 = 116.33m AOD)

0.00 – 0.31m L1000 Topsoil

0.31m+ L1002 Natural drift

*Description* No archaeological features were revealed or finds recovered.

**5.38 Trench 38 (30m x 2.2m)**

Sample sections

E-End (0.00 = 116.08m AOD)

0.00 – 0.31m L1000 Topsoil

0.31m+ L1002 Natural drift

W-End (0.00 = 116.35m AOD)

0.00 – 0.33m L1000 Topsoil

0.33m+ L1002 Natural drift

*Description* No archaeological features were revealed or finds recovered.

### 5.39 Trench 39 (30m x 2.2m) Fig. 3

#### Sample sections

N End (0.00 = 116.67m AOD)  
0.00 – 0.34m L1000 Topsoil  
0.34m+ L1002 Natural drift

S End (0.00 = 115.45m AOD)  
0.00 – 0.36m L1000 Topsoil  
0.36m+ L1002 Natural drift

*Description* A single natural peri-glacial feature was investigated at the southern end of the trench.

Pit F1005 was sub-semicircular in plan and continued beyond the trench edge to the west (dimensions 2.1m x 1.0m+ x 0.2m deep). It had uneven moderate sides breaking onto a very uneven base. It was filled with natural subsoil (L1001) and yielded no finds.

No archaeological features were revealed or finds recovered.

## 6 DEPOSIT MODEL

6.1 Generally across the site the natural Cornbrash (L1002) was sealed by between 0.25m and 0.50m of topsoil. In Trenches 1 and 3 however, a subsoil layer (L1001) was present to a maximum depth of 0.83m sealing the Cornbrash and below the topsoil. This subsoil was machined out carefully to ensure that it was not cut by any archaeological features. Peri-glacial activity in the form of subsoil filled 'features' in the Cornbrash was noted in some of the trenches and these 'features' were sampled to confirm this interpretation (Trenches 32 and 39).

6.2 A single undated archaeological feature was revealed. Small pit or Post Hole F1003 in Trench 32, it cut the natural Cornbrash (L1002) and was sealed by the topsoil (L1000).

## 7 CONFIDENCE RATING

7.1 It is not felt that any factors hindered the identification of archaeological features/layers.

## 8 DISCUSSION

8.1 The evaluation revealed a single undated archaeological feature. Small pit or post-hole F1003 was completely excavated to facilitate finds recovery but contained only a small quantity of animal (70g) and human (3g) bone. It is possible that the very small quantity of human bone is derived from the Roman inhumation cemetery to the north of the site, though

Trench 32 is just about as far from the northern boundary as it could be, so the association is tentative

8.2 No evidence for the late prehistoric or Romano-British occupation recorded on adjacent sites was revealed.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

AS is grateful to R.J.D Limited for their co-operation and funding the evaluation.

AS is pleased to thank Mr Robert Jackson for his assistance during the execution of the project

AS also wishes to acknowledge the input and advice of Jim Bonnor of Lincolnshire County Council.

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Concordance of finds by feature

Feature	Context	Trench	Description	Spot Date	Human Bone	Animal Bone	Struck Flint
1003	1004	32	Pit/Posthole Fill		3g	70g	1g

**Human and Animal Bone from South Witham Quarry,  
Lincolnshire, (AS722)**  
By Carina Phillips BA MA

**Introduction**

A total of 24 bone fragments were recovered from a single context (1004) at South Witham Quarry, both human and animal bone have been identified. The bone was very fragmented, with surface erosion on a majority of fragments. The fragmented nature of the bone and the preservation has limited identification and analysis of the assemblage.

**Method**

All bone was identified to skeletal element when possible. The animal bone was recorded to species if possible, or categorised as cattle sized or sheep sized. Unidentifiable bone fragments were recorded as so. Due to the fragmented nature of the bone assemblage measurements could not be taken. Any evidence of chop, cut, gnawing or burning of the bone was recorded.

**Human Bone**

Three bone fragments were identified to human. A maxillary molar, fully developed and in wear, along with part of a phalanx and a carpal bone. The few fragments of human bone recovered here are possibly part of the Roman inhumation burials discovered adjacent to this site.

**Animal Bone**

The burnt distal end of a cattle femur, along with the shaft fragments from three sheep/goat metapodials were the only bones to be identified positively to species. Four bone fragments were recorded as cattle sized, one of which was burnt and eleven as sheep sized, two were burnt. Two bone fragments were unidentifiable. Butchery or gnawing was not present on any of the fragments. Further discussion is limited by the size of the assemblage.

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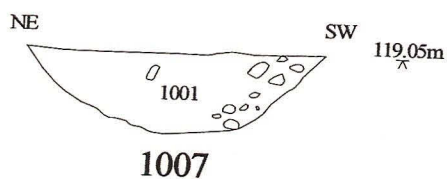
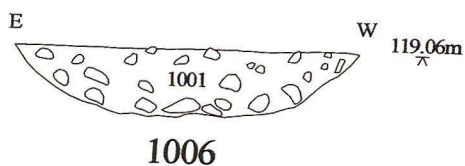
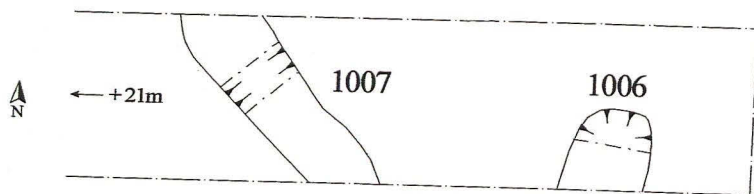
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**Fig. 1 Site Location**  
Scale: 1:25000



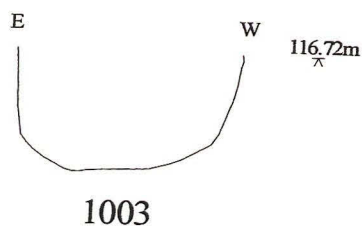
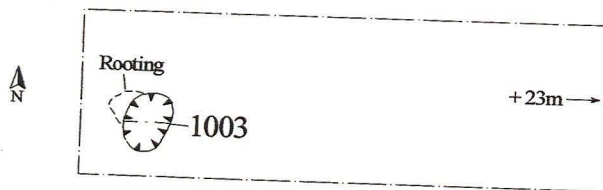
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**Fig. 2 Trench Location Plan**  
 Scale: 1:3000



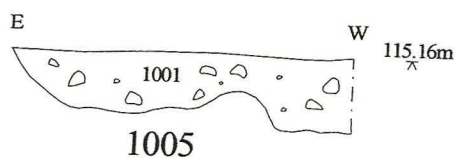
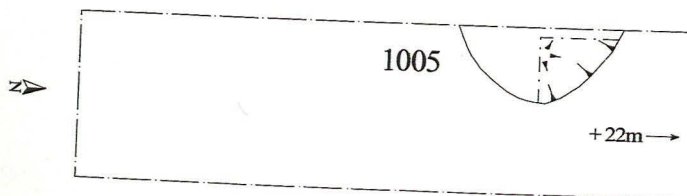
### Trench 5



### Trench 32



### Trench 39



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**Fig. 3 Trench Plans & Sections**

Scale: Plans 1:100 Sections 1:20