

HORNCastle INDUSTRIAL ESTATE:
ARCHAEOLOGICAL DESKTOP STUDY
Lincolnshire County Council
Archaeology Section

November 1993

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STUDY

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27/2461

1. INTRODUCTION

This document is a desktop study of the archaeological implications of the development of land at Horncastle Industrial Estate commissioned from Lincolnshire County Council Archaeology Section by Posford Duvivier Limited on behalf of their clients East Lindsey District Council (Job No.7276/B2).

The study includes: a search of the Lincolnshire Sites and Monuments Record (SMR); an archive search of the Lincolnshire Local History Library; a document search of the Lincolnshire Archives Office (LAO); searches of the National Library of Air Photographs held at Swindon by the Royal Commission on Historical Monuments of England and the Cambridge University Committee for Aerial Photography Library. The Lincolnshire County Council "Hunting Survey" air photographic collection was also consulted.

2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL IMPORTANCE AND POTENTIAL OF THE HORNCASTLE AREA

PREHISTORIC: Early Prehistoric flintwork (of the Mesolithic and Early Neolithic periods) has been found during excavations in 1978 on the south side of the Market Place, in 1984 on the west side of Bridge Street, and in 1993 to the south of Conging Street. In addition a Neolithic polished stone axe was found to the northeast of Bridge Street, a Bronze Age stone hammer near The Wong and unlocated finds of a Neolithic stone axe and a Bronze Age flanged axe have been recorded. The 1984 excavations also revealed evidence of Prehistoric plough marks. This seems to point to Prehistoric activity in the area although it is possible that the earliest settlement was located further away, above the river valley.

The settlement at Horncastle seems to have originated in the Iron Age. Finds of this period have come from a wide area to the south of the modern town centre and a large cropmark complex between the River Bain and Boston Road possibly also dates from the Iron Age.

ROMAN: There was a large area of settlement (at least 54 hectares) at Horncastle throughout the Roman period. Possibly centred on the banks of the Bain and Waring rivers, the settlement and associated cemeteries also extended quite a way to the south into the area now occupied by the Boston and Mareham Roads.

In the late 3rd or early 4th century AD a small part of the settlement area was fortified by the building of a substantial stone wall (enclosing about 2 hectares) with gateways and corner bastions - a feature common to a number of the Roman towns in Britain at this period.

EARLY MEDIEVAL: Early Saxon finds known from Horncastle include a 6th century small-long brooch found during excavation in 1978 and two pagan burials, found in 1980. Another pagan burial was discovered in 1918, but from an unknown location. A few sherds of Early Saxon pottery were excavated in 1993 at Conging Street.

Mid to Late Saxon occupation within the modern town centre is confirmed by 8th/9th century and later pottery and metalwork found during excavations. There are no recorded Saxon finds from the area of the undefended settlement to the south of the town and it seems likely that there was a break in settlement here after the Roman period.

MEDIEVAL TO POST MEDIEVAL: Medieval settlement seems to have been largely focused on the modern town centre and its immediate area with expansion outwards from this core only occurring in the 19th century.

Although small, Horncastle was an important market town with a major annual horse fair and a number of manufacturing industries based on agricultural products, such as tanning and shoe-making, malting and brewing.

3. ARCHAEOLOGICAL IMPORTANCE AND POTENTIAL OF THE STUDY AREA (Appendix 1 and Map)

PREHISTORIC: Neolithic and Iron Age material has been found from the area of the cropmark enclosure (SMR No.41865) just across Mareham Road to the north of the proposed development. At present it seems likely to represent a small Iron Age settlement or farmstead with remains of its fields, also some traces of earlier, Neolithic, activity at the site. Other Iron Age material from the general area includes pottery (SMR No.42726, 42741) and a coin (SMR No. 42733). A large area of settlement and field system cropmarks (SMR No.42763) to the west are undated, but perhaps are Prehistoric, continuing into the Roman period.

ROMAN: Roman finds date from the 1st to the 4th centuries AD, and include coins, pottery, metalwork, and a coin hoard (SMR Nos.41860, 42204, 42211, 42213, 42739, 42740) all fairly well scattered to the west and northwest and found during house building, mainly in the 1960s. Also known from this area are a cremation in a Roman cinerary urn, and an undated (but possibly Roman) inhumation burial (SMR Nos.42737, 42738).

MEDIEVAL TO RECENT: The area lay well outside the Medieval settlement and comprised part of Horncastle's "South Field". A survey of old enclosures by the Enclosure Commissioners for Horncastle in 1803-4, reported that over 261 acres of the South Field belonged to the vicar of Horncastle. A Tithe Award Map of 1851 shows the vicar's holdings to have included the whole of the proposed development area.

The area continued as farmland (although with further hedged subdivision) until the early C20 when the two northern fields fronting Mareham Road are shown on a 1906 25" map (LAO) as Allotments on land still belonging to the church (copy appended).

The municipal cemetery on the eastern side of Boston Road was established after 1887, and housing estates only began to be built between Mareham Road and Boston Road after 1951. The proposed development area has remained as farmland and allotments.

Photocopies of aerial photographs taken in July 1983 and April 1987 have been received from the libraries of the Cambridge University and Royal Commission collections. A copy of the Lincolnshire County Council "Hunting Survey" AP of the area taken in June 1971 is appended. The APs appear to show rather indistinct oval soilmarks and cropmarks across the area of the proposed development but it is uncertain if these are archaeological in origin.

Although the desktop study has been unable to identify anything of known archaeological significance from the area of the proposed development, the known finds and cropmark complexes in the surrounding area indicates that the site is at the fringes of the Roman (and possibly Prehistoric) settlements south of Horncastle. The full extent of settlement has not been defined and there is fairly high potential for archaeological material to be found on the development site.

4. ARCHAEOLOGICAL IMPLICATIONS OF THE PROPOSED WORKS

Section 3 above suggests a high potential for disturbance to archaeological deposits on this site. In order to minimise damage to such remains an archaeological evaluation would seem appropriate. This will enable the characterisation and identification of such deposits to be made and should aid in the production of a mitigation strategy. Such a strategy will provide for preservation in-situ of the majority of remains and for preservation by record of those to which destruction cannot be avoided.

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APPENDIX 1: SUMMARY OF LINCOLNSHIRE SITES AND MONUMENTS RECORDS
FOR THE STUDY AREA

SMR No:Grid Reference:Brief Description:

41860	TF26366895	C3-C4 Roman pottery found, 1962
41865	TF268690	Cropmarks of enclosures and field boundaries
42204	TF262688	Roman pottery found
42211	TF26486893	C1 Roman coin found, 1979
42213	TF26206835	C3-C4 Roman coins, copper dish and pottery found
42726	TF26366895	Iron Age pottery found, 1962
42733	TF2616068935	Late Iron Age coin found, 1960s
42737	TF2613568925	Human burial found
42738	TF2605468895	Roman cremation and urn found, 1960s
42739	TF26176883	Roman pottery and coin found, 1960s
42740	TF2638068775	C3-C4 Roman pottery and coin hoard found, 1960s
42741	TF263689	Late Iron Age pottery found, 1960s
42763	TF258689	Large area of settlement and field system cropmarks

APPENDIX 2: SOURCES

- Beastall, T W 1978 "Agricultural Revolution in Lincolnshire"
Cambridge University Committee for Aerial Photography: Ref RC8 JH
212 (1987)
- Dixon Papers: 1722 Plan of Horncastle (LAO 21/4/2/19)
- Field, N and Hurst, H 1983 "Roman Horncastle" Lincolnshire
History and Archaeology Vol 18 pp 47-88
- Field, N 1985 "3-5 Bridge Street, Horncastle" Lincolnshire
History and Archaeology Vol 20 p69
- Horncastle Enclosure Commissioners 1803-4 "Survey and Valuation
of Old Enclosures" (LAO CHAT 5/15)
- Lincolnshire County Council Archives Office Parish Deposit:
1851 Tithe Award and Plan (LAO Horncastle PAR 17)
- Lincolnshire County Council "Hunting Survey" Run 27 Frames 2460-
2462 (1971)
- Lincolnshire County Council Sites and Monuments Record
- Mills, D R (ed) 1989 "20th Century Lincolnshire"
- Olney, R J 1979 "Rural Society and County Government in 19th
Century Lincolnshire"
- Ordnance Survey 1824 1" Map 1st Edition Lincoln
1890 6" Map 1st Edition (LAO)
1907 6" Map 2nd Edition (LAO)
1906 25" Map (LAO)
1956 6" Map TF26NE
- Royal Commission on the Historical Monuments of England: National
Library of Air Photographs: Ref No 2146/1181 (1983)
- Weir, G 1820 "Historical and Descriptive Sketches of the Town
and Soke of Horncastle, in the County of Lincoln"
- White, A J 1981 "Horncastle, Anglo-Saxon Burial" Lincolnshire
History and Archaeology Vol 16 pp71-72
- Whitwell, J B 1992 "Roman Lincolnshire"
- Wright, N J 1982 "Lincolnshire Towns and Industry 1700-1914"

+42733
42737

41860
42726
42741

+42738

42204
42739



42740

HORNCASTLE
TOWN CENTRE

42763

HOUSING

CEMETERY

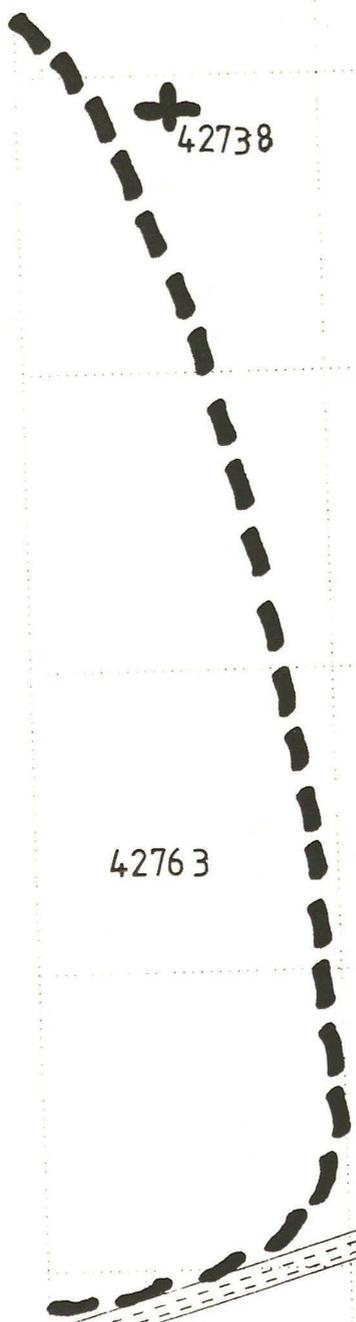
JET
PETROL
STATION

GYMPHLEX
FACTORY

42213

Existing wat

INDUS
E



41865 ↑

Footpath to be extended to emergency access

Combined footway/cycleway and emergency access

MAREHAM ROAD

LINPAC FACTORY

Relocated Allotments

Existing hedges retained

4 metres high bund planted with trees

Existing ditch retained

5 metres wide trees/shrubs planting

Possible site for lorry park

Existing ditch

10m wide forest on low earth

to River Bain

KEY:



Archaeological Find/Site

Area of Proposed Development

12345 SMR Number

NG



349
8.532

340
4.364

339
4.301

348
4.804

338
4.147

337
6.317

336
3.939

469

355
5.142

Allotments

356
4.426

466

Spillins

357
5.244

358
2.142

364
5.571

Spillins

362
4.219

360
2.967

359
2.922

Stonehill Farm

361
7.761

363
16.283

468

378
6.139

379
7.308

593.

377
5.414

382
6.020

380
6.671

383
6.116

*B.3 boxes for 2
+ 2. by ...
B.3 boxes ...*

381
12.618

2461

RUN 27

6,000' 6"

18 JUNE 71

HSL'UK 71 96

