

M & M ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES

The Old Coach House, Church End, Donington, Lincolnshire PE11 4SQ

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**RESULTS OF AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF:
SHEPEAU STOW COUNTY PRIMARY SCHOOL, SHEPEAU STOW, CROWLAND
LINCOLNSHIRE**



PLANNING APPLICATION REFERENCE: H02/0818/02

NGR: TF 3060 1225

H22

Site Code: **SSPS 04**

Accession No.: **LCNCC 2004.26**

COMMISSIONED BY:

**HBS
MILL HOUSE
BRAYFORD WHARF NORTH
LINCOLN
LN1 1YT**

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Conservation
Services

19 MAR 2004

Highways & Planning
Directorate

Event: 415641

INTERVENTION : 419813

CON: 418133

negative

EXCAVATION : 419814

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SUMMARY

- 1.1 Lincolnshire County Council granted planning permission for the construction of a new car park on land adjacent to Shepeau Stow County Primary School, Lincolnshire (Planning Application H02/0818/02).*
- 1.2 As a condition of the Planning Permission, an archaeological watching brief was required. This report has been prepared based on the field work results.*
- 1.3 The archaeological watching brief recorded no archaeological features although a series of shallow depressions in the silts appear to have been caused by flooding of the dykes. These were very shallow and filled with top-soil.*

2.0 SITE LOCATION AND DESCRIPTION

- 2.1 Shepeau Stow is located 11km southeast of Spalding in the administrative district of South Holland. The site is located on the southern side of Hull's Drove to the northwest of Shepeau Stow County Primary School (see Figure 1 & Plate 1). The development area covers 0.4ha and is centred on NGR TF 3060 1225 at an altitude of 1m OD.

3.0 PLANNING BACKGROUND

- 3.1 South Holland District Council granted planning permission for the construction of a car park on the site (Planning Application H02/0818/02). A condition of the Planning Permission requires an archaeological watching brief to be maintained during ground works. A specification detailing the methodology to be maintained during the watching brief was prepared and approved, in accordance with current best archaeological practices and the appropriate national standards and guidance including:

Management of Archaeological Projects (English Heritage 1991);
Code of Conduct (Institute of Field Archaeologists 1999);
Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs (Institute of Field Archaeologists 1999).
Lincolnshire Archaeological Handbook (LCC 1998).

- 3.2 The watching brief was undertaken by Martin Griffiths BA (Hons), AIFA between the 2nd - 3rd February 2004.

4.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 4.1 The earliest remains recorded close to the site date from the Roman period and comprise pottery recorded as chance finds to the southeast of the site (SMR 22141). Settlement evidence of this date is indicated by crop marks also in this approximate location (SMR 20417). The enclosures are in a curvilinear layout and represent a possibly settlement and field system. A watching brief undertaken at Matheson House recorded the continuation of one of the ditches shown on aerial photographs. One sherd of pottery was retrieved from the ditch and conclusions suggest that the focus of occupation was some distance away.

4.2 Medieval artefacts comprising pottery (SMR 20244) have been recorded in the parish during field-walking. There is documentary evidence for medieval Shepeau with the name dating back to the mid 12th century if not as early as the 10th century. The village lies close to old watercourses and was likely to have been given over to sheep or cattle during this time (SMR 20244).

4.3 To the east of the site, lies a post-medieval mill thought to date from the 18th century (SMR 22078). It was in use until the 1920's and possibly later.

5.0 AIMS

The aims of the watching brief were to:

- a) To monitor ground disturbance during the course of development
- b) to ensure the recording of the extent, condition, character, quality and date of any archaeological deposits and features where they may not be left in-situ;
- c) to report on the results of the watching brief and place them within their Local, Regional or National context

6.0 METHODOLOGY & RESULTS

6.1 An archaeological watching brief was undertaken during ground works associated with the construction of the new car park and associated driveway (Plate 1). The watching brief was undertaken on a comprehensive/intensive basis. The method of construction was the removal of top-soil and the excavation for a ramp across the dyke into the car park.

6.2 The earliest deposit exposed was the natural underlying geology, comprising a yellow orange sandy clay silt (102). The watching brief revealed the presence of a system of possible channels running across the north-eastern part of the site (Plate 2 & 3). These were amorphous in plan and on excavation were found to be no more than 0.08m in depth. The fill of these features was of topsoil and it may be that they represent natural depressions in the underlying deposits. No dating material was recovered from these features other than a single piece of blue and white glazed pottery of modern date.

6.3 Once topsoil had been removed, a series of ridges were recorded in section which would suggest that the area had been subject to ridge and furrow agricultural practices. The site has been extensively cross ploughed in recent times in line with modern agriculture.

6.4 The top soil comprised of a rich black brown silty clay loam (101) which varied in depth from 0.4m to 0.7m. The greater depth being present along a line running parallel with the dykes along the roadside and on the southern side of the site. This can be attributed to removal of material from the dyke during clearing operations.

6.5 A trench was excavated through the field dyke for an entrance into the new car park (Plate 4). This trench was excavated to a depth of 2.6m through the sandy silt. An old oil container of plastic was found at a depth of 0.6m and was probably buried during recent clearing of the dykes.

7.0 DISCUSSION & CONCLUSIONS

7.1 The watching brief recorded the presence of shallow channels filled with topsoil.

Examination of the channels revealed a depth of 0.08m. These are considered to be natural in origin and may have been caused by flooding of the dykes through undulations in the silts. They contained no material of an archaeological nature although a small piece of modern blue and white glazed pottery was found. The earliest deposit recorded was a yellow orange sandy clay silt which was considered to be natural geology.

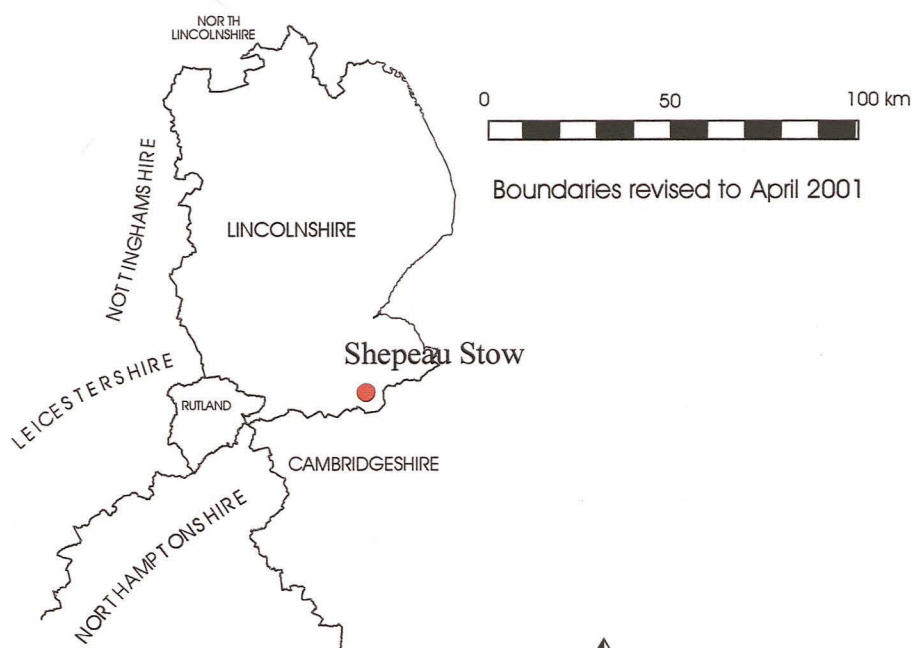
7.2 There were no features of archaeological significance found and it is considered likely that past usage of the land was limited to agricultural activity since the draining of the fens for land reclamation.

8.0 FIGURES

Figure 1. Site location plan.

Figure 2. Development plan.

Figure 3. Plan of car park.



Map based on Ordnance Survey with the sanction of the
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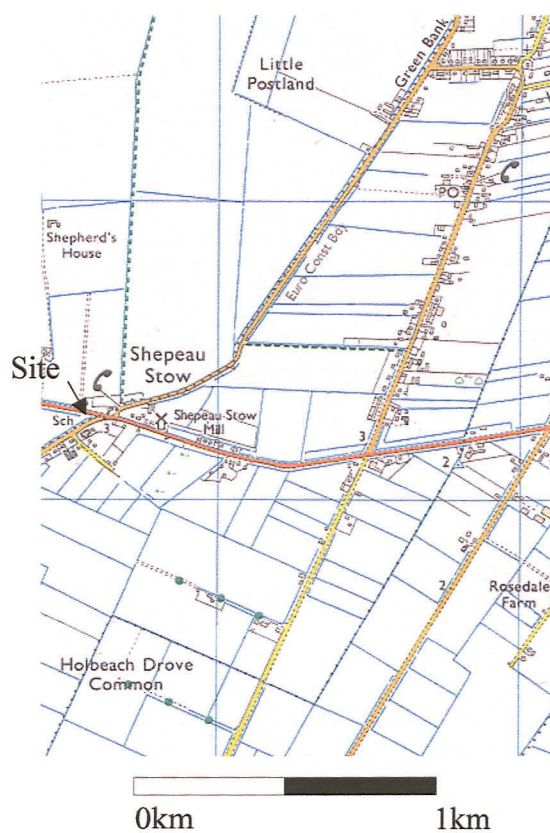
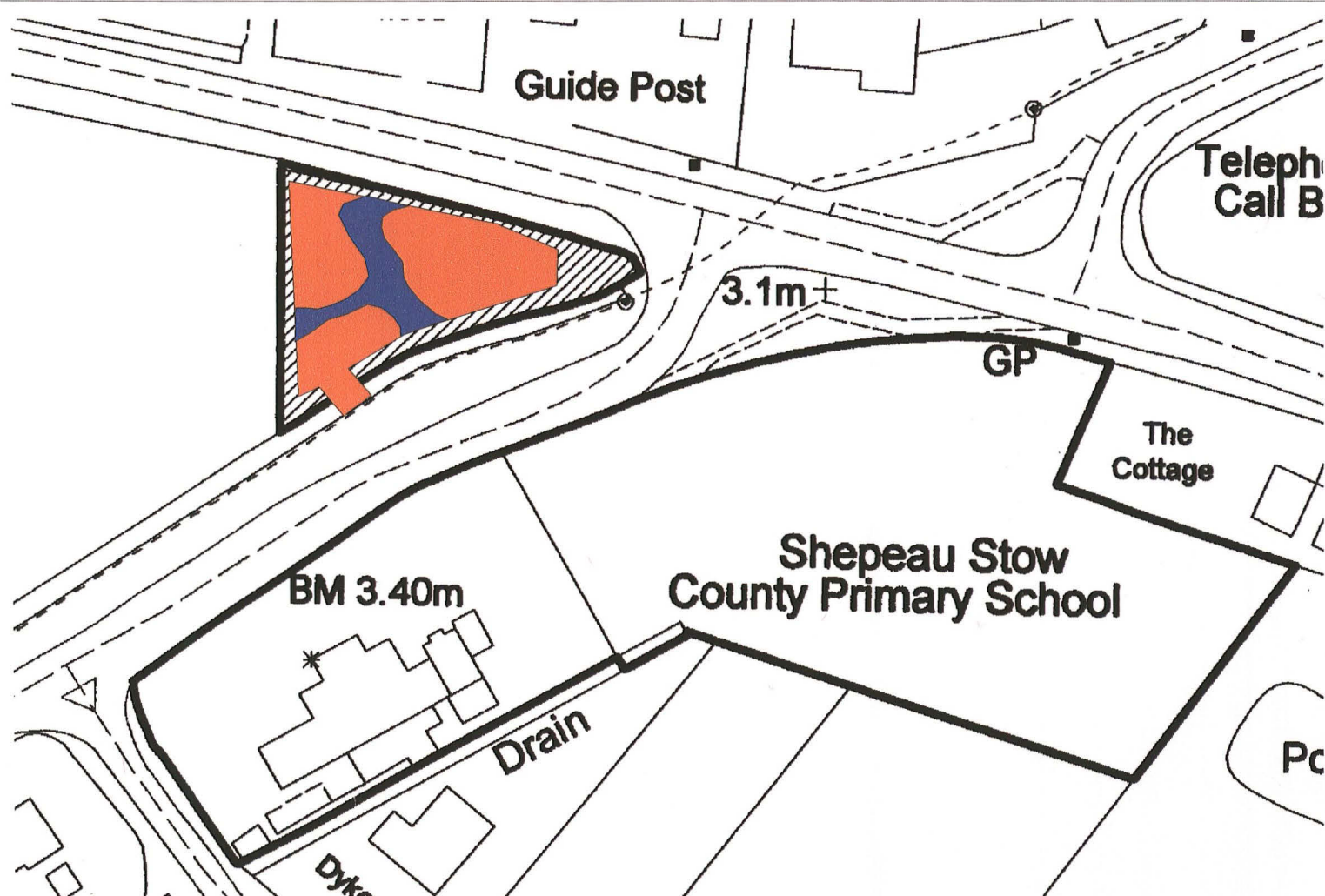


Figure 1. Site location



Figure 2. Development site Scale 1: 1250



- = natural geology
- = channels

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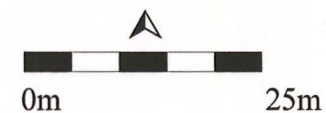


Figure 3. Site plan showing channels

9.0 PLATES

Plate 1. Site prior to excavation looking west.

Plate 2. Site following excavation looking north west.

Plate 3. showing depth of soil removal and shallow channels.

Plate 4. Showing depth of dyke removed for new entrance to car park.



Plate 1. Site prior to excavation looking west.



Plate 2. Site following excavation looking north west.



Plate 3. Showing depth of soil removal and shallow channels.



Plate 4. Showing depth of dyke removed for new entrance to car park.

APPENDIX A: CONTEXT SUMMARY

Context	Location	Description	Interpretation
101	O/A	Dark brown black silty clay loam	Top-soil
102	O/A	Yellow Orange sandy clay silt	Natural geology