

**DRAFT*****John Samuels Archaeological Consultants***

***6, Old North Road  
Cromwell  
Newark  
Nottinghamshire NG23 6JE***

*Telephone 01636 821727  
Fax 01636 822080  
Mobile Phone 0831 163822*

A WATCHING BRIEF  
AT GAINSBOROUGH GOLF CLUB,  
THONOCK HALL, LINCOLNSHIRE

for

Karsten (UK) Ltd  
Corringham Road  
Gainsborough

September 1995

Contents:

SUMMARY

- 1.0 INTRODUCTION
- 2.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND
- 3.0 RESULTS OF THE WATCHING BRIEF
- 4.0 CONCLUSIONS
- 5.0 FIGURES
- 6.0 PHOTOGRAPHS

Appendix A : County Archaeologist's Brief

Appendix B : Specification and Method Statement



# DRAFT

## SUMMARY

*Karsten (UK) Ltd commissioned John Samuels Archaeological Consultants to undertake a watching brief during machine excavation of a foundation trench for a top dressing store at Gainsborough Golf Club Golf Course, Thonock, Lincolnshire.*

*The excavations revealed that the uneven ground surface into which the foundation was excavated, consisted of made-up ground. Much of it was probably the remnants of demolition material from buildings associated with the former Thonock Hall.*

*Modern artefacts retrieved suggest a recent date for human activity on the site. No evidence was found for activity associated with the Romano-British settlement excavated c. 175m to the south, or for garden layouts associated with the former hall.*

# DRAFT

## 1.0 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Michael Gerry Associates submitted a planning application (No. W/109/0323/95) to the Local Planning Authority, West Lindsey District Council for the erection of a building for the storage of topsoil at Gainsborough Golf Club Golf course. The store's proposed location is at NGR SK 830910, c.175m north of a Romano-British settlement excavated by John Samuels Archaeological Consultants, May 1993.
- 1.2 West Lindsey District Council approved the application subject to a condition of a recommendation by the County Archaeologist for Lincolnshire, for an archaeological watching brief to be carried out during groundworks. An archaeological brief was issued by the County Archaeologist, and may be found in Appendix A. The objectives of the watching brief were to ensure that any archaeological features exposed by the groundworks were recorded and interpreted.
- 1.3 The developers retained *John Samuels Archaeological Consultants* to implement the watching brief in fulfilment of the planning condition.
- 1.4 A specification and method statement for the watching brief was issued by John Samuels Archaeological Consultants and subsequently approved by the County Archaeologist. The specification and method statement may be found in Appendix B of this report.
- 1.5 The watching brief was undertaken according to current archaeological best practice and selected elements from the *Standard & Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs* (Institute of Field Archaeologists, 1993).

# DRAFT

## 2.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The proposed development site is in the grounds of Thonock Hall which was demolished in recent times (see Figure 1).
- 2.2 During the course of the archaeological evaluation for the newly constructed golf course a Roman settlement was located approximately 175 metres to the southeast of the proposed development.
- 2.3 Documentary references are made to the deserted Medieval villages of Thonock and Havercroft. However, these would seem to have been located to the north and west of the proposed development site.
- 2.4 It was a possibility that either remains of gardens related to Thonock Hall or a northern extension of the Roman settlement site might have existed within the area of proposed development.



# DRAFT

## 3.0 RESULTS OF THE WATCHING BRIEF

- 3.1 A rectangular area 9m x 15m was excavated for use as a foundation trench to a maximum depth of 0.75m at the southern end of the excavation, and 1.3m at the northern end. This was due to the uneven nature of the ground surface. The base of excavation was level.
- 3.2 The soils exposed by the excavation work were silty sands, mixed with large amounts of brick flecks and fragments up to 5cm<sup>3</sup>, and charcoal flecks and fragments up to 2cm<sup>3</sup>. Each section was cleaned by hand and photographed.
- 3.3 On all four sections the brick fragments were present at the lowest levels, and clearly extended beyond the limit of excavation. Due to the nature of the machine excavation very little was visible in plan, however, as each section was cleaned by hand, the base of excavation was cleaned in plan to a width of c. 1m. The surface was invariably formed of loosely compacted silty sand with brick and charcoal fragment inclusions. No discrete archaeological features were discernible.
- 3.4 A fragment of clay pipe stem and a golf ball were retrieved during excavation. They could not be accurately located within a stratigraphic sequence, but both came from the final machine cleaning of the base of excavation.

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## 4.0 CONCLUSIONS

- 4.1 The excavations did not intrude beyond made up ground, which consisted partly of demolition material from buildings associated with the former hall.
- 4.2 No evidence of archaeological activity was discovered.

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## 5.0 FIGURES

List of Figures :

Figure 1 : Location of Top Dressing Store

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