

Assessment of Non-Ceramic Finds from Linwood Road, Market Rasen (LRM05)

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Archaeological fieldwork on land to the east of Linwood Road, Market Rasen, undertaken under the direction of Will Munford for Pre-Construct Archaeology (Lincoln) Ltd produced a small quantity of metal and stone finds.

Description

Glass

A small fragment of light green window glass was recovered from context 66, the fill of ditch F2. Glass of this type is usually of late medieval to early post-medieval date (i.e. 14th to mid 17th century) and would have been uncommon on rural settlements before the late 16th century.

Iron

A completed corroded lump of iron was recovered from the fill of Pit 237 (context 291). It is possible that radiography would reveal the shape of the object, which now is represented by a void surrounded by corrosion products.

Stone

Three lumps of flint, all of them probably casts of fossil sea urchins, were recovered from the fill of Furrow F1 (context 429), Furrow 472 (context 469) and Ditch 390 (context 389). There is no evidence that they were selected by man rather than being present in the underlying gravels. However, the finding of three such fossils is remarkable.

Assessment

Only one of the finds can be independently dated, the window glass. It probably came onto the site with manure, either dung from the farm or night soil from the town's middens. In either case, a window of this type was probably leaded with diamond panes and could have survived for decades before being broken or replaced. The complete corrosion of the iron suggests that it is of Roman date, as does its presence in a pit. The remaining finds are probably not artefacts, and two of the three come from furrows where redeposited natural gravel might be expected.

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Further study

The iron object could be x-rayed in the hope that the form of the object survives as a void. None of the remaining items require further study.

Retention

The glass and the iron should be retained. Since the flint nodules are unmodified there is little to be gained from retaining them, even if they did arrive on the site as a result of human agency.

Appendix 1

<i>REFNO</i>	<i>Context</i>	<i>class</i>	<i>Cname</i>	<i>Subfabric</i>	<i>Form</i>	<i>Part</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Nosh</i>	<i>NoV</i>	<i>Weight</i>
	291	IRON	IRON		OBJECT	BS		4	4	10
SF1	066	PMGL	PMGL	LTGR	WIND	BS		1	1	1
SF5	429	STONE	STONE	FLINT	GEO	BS	FOSSIL SEA URCHIN	1	1	149
	469	STONE	STONE	FLINT	GEO	BS	FOSSIL SEA URCHIN	1	1	106
SF4	389	STONE	STONE	FLINT	GEO	BS	FOSSIL SEA URCHIN	1	1	115