

Assessment of the Metal Finds from Nettleham Road, Lincoln (NERL-06)

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A small group of metal finds from an excavation at Nettleham Road, Lincoln, conducted by Pre-Construct Archaeology (Lincoln) Ltd was submitted for identification and assessment.

The finds come from the surface of a rutted road, context 10. The road was thought initially to be of Roman date but appears in its final phase of use to be 18th century, although it could well have Roman origins.

Description

Copper Alloy

Seven copper alloy objects were recorded.

1. A strand of wire twisted around to produce a loop at one end. It may have been part of a hook and eye fastening.
2. A broken fragment of cast buckle.
3. A fragment of a cast buckle pin.
4. A strip of sheet metal, 10mm by 6mm, with two punched holes.
5. A dome-headed tack.
6. A fragment of the side of a thimble of bell-shaped form. The impressions are simple dots.
7. A fragment of wire, 2mm diameter.

All of these objects appear to be of post-medieval character, although none can be precisely dated.

Iron

Three horse shoes were recorded. Two are complete, 120mm front to back and 115mm across and 115mm front to back and 120mm across. The third shoe fragment appears to have been of similar size. The shoes vary between 16mm and 30mm wide and are probably all of post-medieval date.

Lead

A single fragment of lead shot was recorded. It is 9mm diameter and weighs 1gm.

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<http://www.postex.demon.co.uk/index.html>

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Assessment

Date and Interpretation

The metal finds are consistent with the pottery in suggesting a post-medieval date for the road surface.

Retention

The finds come from a stratified deposit and should therefore be retained for future study.

Further work

If the finds are to be retained, then a conservation assessment is required. X-ray photography would also reveal the number and character of the nail holes in the horse shoes and confirm/test the identification of the lead shot.

Appendix 1

Context	class	Description	Form	Part	Nosh	NoV	Weight	Condition
010	COPP		BUCKLE	FRAG	1	1	1	
010	COPP	SPHERE 9 DIA	SHOT	BS	1	1	1	
010	COPP	TRIMMED STRIP 10 BY 6 WITH 2 HOLES 2 ACROSS PUNCHED THROUGH	FITTING	BS	1	1	1	
010	COPP	15 TALL, TRACES OF VERTICAL ROWS OF INDENTATIONS	THIMBLE	BS	1	1	1	SQUASHED FLAT
010	COPP	FINE TWISTED WIRE WITH LOOP	?	BS	1	1	1	
010	COPP	PIECE OF WIRE, JUST UNDER 2 DIA	WIRE	BS	1	1	2	CRUMPLED
010	COPP	OVAL HEADED	TACK	BS	1	1	1	
010	COPP	CAST SOLID	BUCKLE PIN	BS	1	1	1	SQUASHED
010	IRON	115 LONG	PMED HORSESHOE	BS	1	1	183	SLIGHTLY TWISTED
010	IRON	120 LONG	PMED HORSESHOE	BS	1	1	258	TWISTED

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010	IRON	PART OF A HORSESHOE	PMED HORSESHOE	BS	1	1	141
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