ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF
OF DEVELOPMENT ON LAND AT
WEST END,
WALCOTT,
LINCOLNSHIRE
(WEW98)



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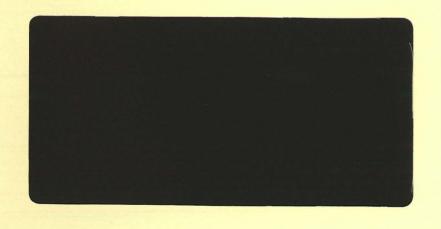
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ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF
OF DEVELOPMENT ON LAND AT
WEST END,
WALCOTT,
LINCOLNSHIRE
(WEW98)

Work Undertaken For Mr and Mrs M.H. Walker

December 1998

Report Compiled by Neil Herbert BA (Hons), AIFA

Planning Application No: N/70/673/98
National Grid Reference: TF 12840 56340 TF 12907 56480
City and County Museum Accession No: 267.98

A.P.S. Report No. 71/98

Archaeological Project Services is an IFA Registered Archaeological Organisation (No. 21)

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1. SUMMARY

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken during development on land at West End, Walcott, Lincolnshire. The work was undertaken because the site lies in proximity to prehistoric, Romano-British and medieval archaeological remains.

Ditches, probably post-medieval field boundaries, were the earliest remains revealed. No evidence of medieval or earlier activity was identified at the site. A possible gravel surface and a recent tree-planting pit were also recorded.

2. INTRODUCTION

2.1 Definition of a Watching Brief

An archaeological watching brief is defined as 'a formal programme of observation and investigation conducted during any operation carried out for non-archaeological reasons within a specified area or site ..., where there is a possibility that archaeological deposits may be disturbed or destroyed.' (IFA 1997).

2.2 Planning Background

Outline planning permission consent was granted by North Kesteven District Council for the erection of a bungalow at West End, Walcott, Lincolnshire (Planning Application No. N/70/673/98). The consent was subject to a requirement for an archaeological watching brief during the groundworks.

Archaeological Project Services was commissioned by Mr and Mrs M.H. Walker to undertake the archaeological investigation, in accordance with a brief set by the North Kesteven Heritage Officer (Appendix 1). The watching brief was carried out on 2nd October 1998.

2.3 Topography, Geology and Soils

Walcott village is approximately 20km southeast of Lincoln and 13km northeast from Sleaford, on the western edge of the River Witham valley (Fig. 1).

Lying at a height of c. 10m OD on a slight slope westwards down to the partially canalised stream, New Cut, the investigation area is located approximately 300m southwest of the village centre, as defined by the parish church of St. Oswald (Fig. 2). Centred on National Grid Reference TF 1284 5634, the development covers an area of around 840 square metres just south of Dene Lane (Fig. 3).

Local soils are the Beccles 1 Association stagnogley soils containing quartz or flint stones. These are generally found on level or sloping land on chalky till (Hodge *et al.* 1984, 117).

Natural deposits exposed during groundworks comprised orange sandy gravels [008].

2.4 Archaeological Setting

Aerial photography has recorded a possible Neolithic longbarrow approximately 1.4km southwest of the development (Fig. 2; No.1). Greenstone axes of similar date have been recovered east of this feature (Fig. 2; Nos.2-3).

Numerous Bronze Age roundbarrows constituting a cemetery are recorded in the same area as the Neolithic burial mound (Fig. 2; Nos.4-7). A bronze axe has also been found just to the north of the Neolithic longbarrow (Fig. 2; No.8).

A Romano-British cemetery is known to lie within 700m of the development, mid-way between the modern settlements of Walcott and Billinghay (Fig. 2; No.9). The cemetery

was discovered in the early 20th century when human bones and pottery urns were exposed. Further Romano-British remains are represented by the Car Dyke waterway which bypasses Walcott on its east side.

The village is referred to as *Walecote* in the 11th century, the place-name meaning 'cottage of the serfs or of the Welsh' (Ekwall 1974, 491). Although the reference is medieval in date, the form of the place-name stems from Old English, suggesting the settlement originated during the Anglo-Saxon period.

At the time of the Domesday Survey, written 1086, Walcott belonged to the Wapentake of Langoe and was the property of the Archbishop of York and Walter de Aincurt (Foster and Longley 1979, 145).

A group of earthworks 1.4km southwest of the development represent the site of a former Gilbertine Priory and fishponds (Fig. 2; No.10). This was established sometime in the 12th century and was known as Catley Abbey. The abbey was described in the charter of grant as 'the site of the grange between Walcot and the marsh, with its enclosures and ditches, and two cultures of arable land' (Owen 1971, 57). This setting, amongst undrained land, fitted with the frugal nature of the Gilbertine order and their liking for remote and wild situations (ibid., 49). On the southeast side of the abbey precinct traces have been found of a kiln producing glazed floor-tiles for the church, presumably the work of itinerant tile-makers (Pevsner and Harris 1989, 779).

The parish church of St. Oswald, central to the modern village, was built in 1852, while farther south is the Methodist Chapel, built in 1869 (*ibid.*).

3. AIMS

The aim of the watching brief, as set out by the Brief for Archaeological Work, was to record and interpret any archaeological features exposed during the groundworks (Appendix 1).

4. METHODS

Excavation of the foundation trenches was completed by machine. Following excavation, the sides and bases of the trenches were manually cleaned and inspected for archaeological features.

Sections depicting profiles of features and the natural stratigraphy were drawn at a scale of 1:10. These sections were referenced to a site plan drawn at 1:200 scale. Plans of features revealed in the trench base were recorded at a scale of 1:10.

A photographic record was also compiled depicting deposits encountered and the site setting.

5. RESULTS

Records of deposits and features identified during the watching brief were examined. Phasing was assigned based on the nature of the deposits and recognisable relationships between them, supplemented by artefact dating where relevant. A list of all contexts with interpretations appears as Appendix 2. Three phases were identified:

Phase 1: Natural deposits

Phase 2: Undated archaeological deposits

Phase 3: Recent (18th-20th century) deposits

Archaeological contexts are listed below and described. The numbers in square brackets are the context numbers assigned in the field.

Phase 1: Natural deposits

Orange sandy gravels with moderate clayey patches [008] formed the lowest deposit revealed in the foundation trenches. This deposit varied between 0.4m and 0.7m below the modern ground surface, south to north across the site, and was at least 0.6m thick. This is a natural glacio-fluvial deposit.

Phase 2: Undated archaeological deposits

Deposits of grey-brown silty or clayey sand [014, 015, 018 and 19] overlay the natural gravels over most of the area (Fig. 5, Sections 1-3). These are considered to be subsoils, perhaps originating through agricultural processes.

At the southeast corner of the site part of a restricted area of compacted pebbles in clayey sand was identified (Fig. 5, Sections 2 and 3). Although only minimally revealed, this may be a metalled surface.

Above this possible surface was a layer of dark browny-grey fine sandy clay [016]. This is considered to be a former soil layer.

Phase 3: Recent (18th-20th century) deposits

At the western edge of the site was a north-south linear cut [022], at least 1.6m long and over 0.7m deep and explained as a ditch (Fig. 4; Fig. 5, Section 4). In the lower part of the ditch was a brown-grey clayey sand [021], above which was a brown-grey silty sand [020] that contained ceramic tile and pottery of late 18th-19th century date.

A further north-south linear cut [006], interpreted as a ditch, was observed at the northwest corner of the site (Plate 1). This ditch measured at least 2.5m wide by 0.7m deep, though was only partially revealed

(Fig. 5, Section 1). A sequence of silty clays and sand [003, 005, 007] which were devoid of artefacts filled this ditch. This feature and ditch [022] are in very close proximity and it is probable that there is a stratigraphic and physical relationship between them, though this could not be established during the investigation.

On the northern edge of the site, approximately 1m east of ditch [006], was a 0.6m wide steep-sided cut [013]. Interpreted as a pit (Fig. 5, Section 1; Plate 2), the lower part of this feature contained very dark grey silty sandy clay [010]. This was truncated on the east side by a 0.3m wide, 0.5m deep cut [012], interpreted as a posthole, that contained mottled grey and orange clayey sand [011]. The upper parts of both this posthole and pit [013] were filled with dark brown-grey silty sandy clay [009].

All of the remains were covered by a 0.2m thick layer of dark grey-brown sandy silt [001]. This is the modern topsoil and contained pottery of 18th-20th century date.

6. DISCUSSION

Natural deposits of orange gravel (Phase 1) were the lowest levels encountered at the site. These are glacio-fluvial in origin, deposited in the last Ice Age.

Above the natural gravels were undated layers of grey-brown sandy subsoils (Phase 2). These may be natural soils though are more likely to have been formed through agricultural processes such as ploughing.

An undated pebble surface at the southeast corner of the site was only minimally observed and, as a result, is of uncertain function. However, it may be a dump, perhaps to improve passage at a field entrance, or it could be part of a trackway. Whatever its function, any use of the surface

for passage or movement ceased and a soil [016] developed over it.

Two ditches (Phase 3) were recorded at the western edge of the site. The alignments of these two features are so close that it is almost certain that one crosses the other, though the relationship between them was not elucidated during the investigation. Moreover, there was no dating evidence to indicate when the ditches were first established, though one of them [022] was being finally infilled in the late 18th-19th century.

The two ditches probably represent the establishment and subsequent recutting of a field or property boundary. Slumping or erosion of the natural gravels had occurred in the lower parts of both ditches, after which natural silting and soil development gradually infilled the features.

A pit [013] and a posthole [012] were also dug into the Phase 2 undated subsoil/agricultural layer. A contractor at the site noted that these features were located where a fruit tree had been until a few weeks before the investigation. Therefore, these features most probably represent a hollow for tree planting and a posthole for a timber support.

Topsoil formed the present site surface and contained artefacts of 18th-20th century date, representing occasional discard or scatter, probably from nearby properties, during this period. No artefacts earlier than the 18th century were recovered during the investigation, suggesting that this area of Walcott was not inhabited until the postmedieval period.

7. CONCLUSIONS

Archaeological investigations were undertaken at West End, Walcott, because

the site lies in proximity to various archaeological remains of prehistoric to medieval date and there was the possibility that related remains could be disturbed by the development.

However, few archaeological remains were encountered during the investigation. Moreover, the revealed remains were apparently all post-medieval in date and predominantly agricultural in nature, suggesting the site has remained unoccupied until the present.

8. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeological Project Services wish to acknowledge the assistance of Mr and Mrs M. H. Walker who commissioned the fieldwork and post-excavation analysis. Gary Taylor and Tom Lane MIFA edited this report. Gary Taylor co-ordinated the work. Kate Orr, the North Kesteven Heritage Officer, kindly allowed access to the relevant parish archaeological files.

9. PERSONNEL

Site Supervisor: Gary Taylor Finds Processing: Denise Buckley

Illustration: Neil Herbert

Post-excavation Analyst: Neil Herbert

10. BIBLIOGRAPHY

Ekwall, E., 1974 The Concise Oxford Dictionary of English Place-Names (4th edition)

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Hodge, C.A.H., Burton, R.G.O., Corbett, W.M., Evans, R. and Seale, R.S., 1984 *Soils*

and Their Use in Eastern England, Soil Survey of England and Wales Bulletin No. 13

Pevsner, N. and Harris, J., 1989 *Lincolnshire*, The Buildings of England, (2nd edition, rev. N. Antram)

11. ABBREVIATIONS

Numbers prefixed by the letter 'NK' are the reference codes used by the North Kesteven Heritage Officer to identify archaeological sites and finds.

APS refers to Archaeological Project Services.



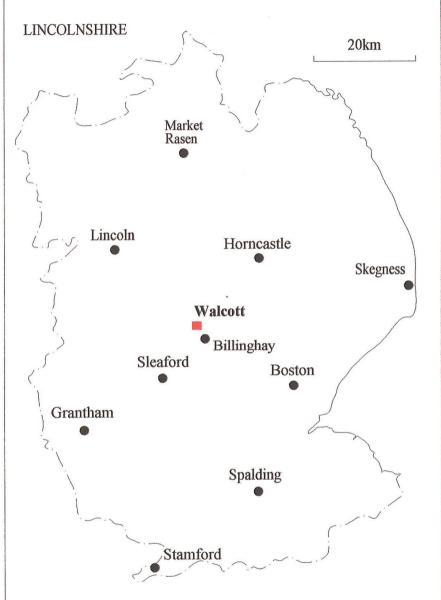


Figure 1 : General Location Plan

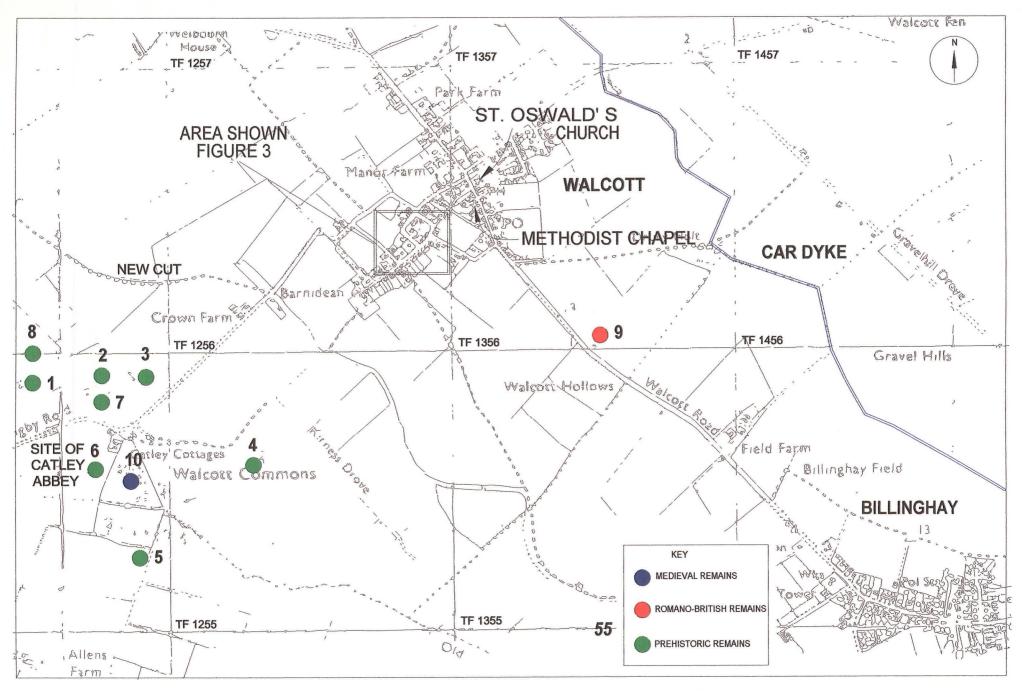
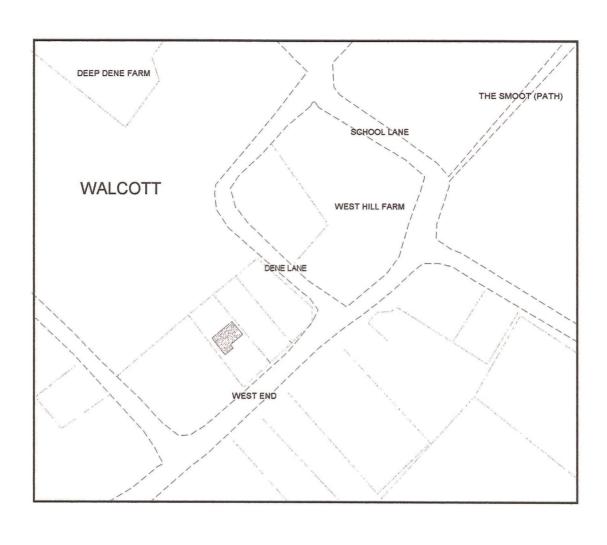


Figure 2: Site Location Plan. showing archaeological remains in area





AREA OF DEVELOPMENT

PROPERTY BOUNDARY

ROUTEWAY (ROAD OR PATH)

0

150M

Figure 3 : Detailed Site Location Plan

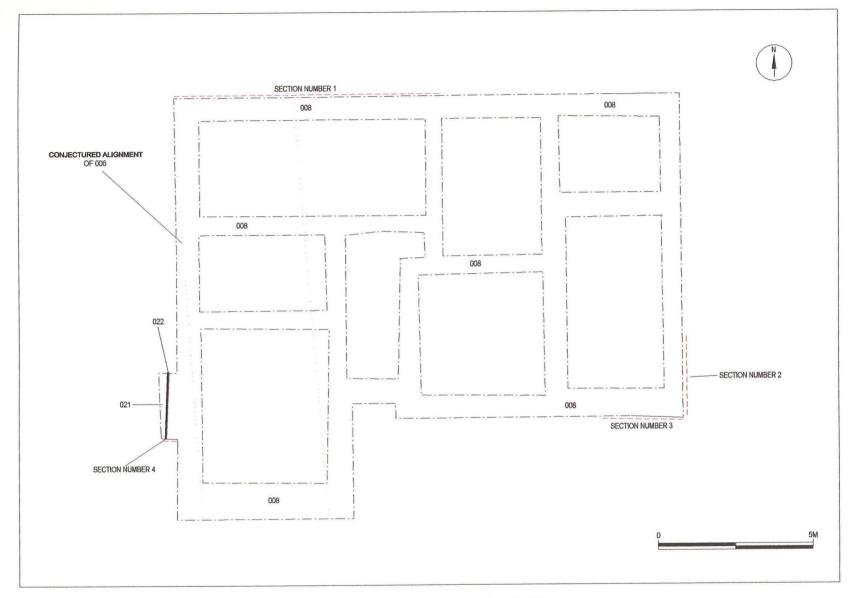


Figure 4: Foundation Trench Plan and section locations

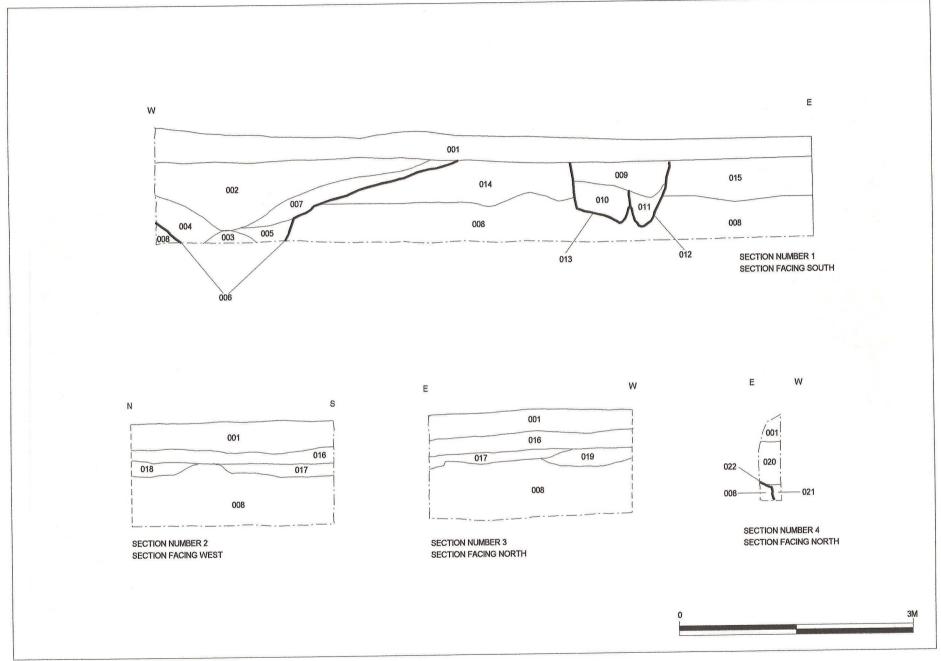


Figure 5: Sections 1, 2, 3 and 4



✓ Plate 1: Ditch (006)

✓ Plate 2: Pit (013) and posthole (012)



BRIEF FOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL OBSERVATION AND RECORDING (WATCHING BRIEF)

PLOT 1, WEST END, WALCOTT, LINCS

Planning Application Number: N /70/673/98 NGR: 5

NGR: 512840 356340

Agent: Micheal Harry Walker

Applicant: Micheal Harry Walker

1. Summary

- 1.1 This brief should be sent to archaeological contractors as the basis for the preparation of a detailed archaeological project specification. In response to this brief contractors will include the anticipated working methods, timescales and staffing levels.
- 1.2 These detailed specifications will be submitted by the client for approval by the North Kesteven Heritage Officer. The client will be free to choose between those specifications which are considered to adequately satisfy the brief

2. Site Location and Description

2.1 Walcott village is approximately 22km south east of Lincoln and 13km north-east of Sleaford. The development site is located between Pinfold and Butt Lanes on the west side of the village.

3. Planning Background

Full planning permission has been given to erect one bungalow on this plot. The outline planning permission was given with a condition for a watching brief (983/94). Previous permissions for other plots on West End have received permission with a watching brief condition (1098/97 & 82/98).

4. Archaeological Background

- 4.1 The site lies on the fen edge in a prehistoric landscape overlooking an extensive Bronze Age barrow cemetery 600 to the south west. Axes belonging to a similar period found in the vicinity point to a prehistoric settlement somewhere in the area.
- 4.2 A Roman cemetery had been found 600m to the south east of the development site.
- 4.3 The site of the Medieval Gilbertine Priory of Catley is situated 1.3km to the south west and the street name 'Grange Street' may indicate may indicate a monastic grange (outlying farm) in the immediate area.

5. Requirements for Work

- 5.1 The objective of the watching brief should be to ensure that any archaeological features exposed by the groundworks are recorded and interpreted.
- 5.2 Any adjustments to the brief for the watching brief project should only be made after consultation with the Heritage Officer for North Kesteven.

- 5.3 The following details should be given in the contractor's specification:
 - 5.3.1 A projected timetable for the various stages of work.
 - 5.3.2 Details of the staff structure and numbers <u>including person hours for on-site work.</u>
 - 5.3.3 It is expected that all on-site work will be carried out in a way that complies with the relevant Health and Safety legislation and that due consideration will be given to site security.
 - 5.3.4 A full description of the recovery and recording strategies to be used.
 - 5.3.5 An estimate of time and resources allocated for the post-excavation work and report production in the form of 'person' hours. This should include lists of specialists and their role in the project. Neolithic, Bronze Age, Roman and Medieval finds may be encountered and therefore adequate provision should be made for specialists in these areas.
 - 5.3.6 <u>Contingency costs should only be used in the event of unexpected costs and should only be activated after discussion with the Heritage Officer and the client.</u>

6. Methods

- 6.1 The project should be carried out by a recognised archaeological body in accordance with the code of conduct of The Institute of Field Archaeologists.
- 6.2 The watching brief should involve:
 - 6.2.1 archaeological supervision of topsoil stripping;
 - 6.2.2 inspection of subsoil for archaeological features;
 - 6.2.3 recording of archaeological features in plan;
 - 6.2.4 rapid excavation of features if necessary;
 - 6.2.5 archaeological supervision of subsoil stripping
 - 6.2.6 inspection of natural for archaeological features and recording them.
- 6.2.7 any human remains encountered must be left *in situ* and only removed if absolutely necessary. The contractor must comply with all statutory consents and licences regarding the exhumation and interment of human remains. It will also be necessary to comply with all reasonable requests of interested parties as to the remains or associated items. Attempt must be made at all times not to cause offence to any interested parties.
- 6.2.8 Under the new Treasure Act, all gold and silver artefacts found during the watching brief, thought to be 'treasure' should be reported to the appropriate coroner's office in Lincoln or Sleaford within fourteen days.

7. Monitoring Arrangements

7.1 The Heritage Officer for North Kesteven will be responsible for monitoring progress and standards throughout the project and will require preferably fourteen days notice but at least five working days prior to the commencement of the work. The Heritage Officer should be kept informed of any unexpected discoveries and should be regularly updated on the project's progress. They should be allowed access to the site at their convenience and will comply with any health and safety requirements associated with the site.

8. Reporting Requirements

8.1 A full report should be produced and deposited with the planning department of North Kesteven

District Council, the Heritage Officer, the client and the County Sites and Monuments Record. The report should include:

- 8.1.1 location plan of the trenches;
- 8.1.2 section and plan drawings, with ground level, Ordnance Datum, vertical and horizontal scales as appropriate;
 - 8.1.3 specialist descriptions of artefacts and ecofacts;
 - 8.1.4 an indication of potential archaeological deposits not disturbed by the present development;
- 8.2 After agreement with the landowner, arrangements are to be made for long term storage of all artefacts and paper archive in an appropriate museum.
- 8.3 If the receiving museum is to be the City and County Museum, Lincoln then the archive should be produced in the form outlined in the museum's document 'Conditions for the Acceptance of Project Archives', see address below.

9. Publication and Dissemination

9.1 The deposition of a copy of the report with the Lincolnshire Sites and Monuments Record will be deemed to put all information into the public domain, unless a special request is made for confidentiality. If material is to be held in confidence a timescale must be agreed with the North Kesteven Heritage Officer but is expected this will not exceed six months. Consideration must be given to a summary of the results being published in 'Lincolnshire History and Archaeology' in due course.

10. Additional Information

- 10.1 This document attempts to define the best practice expected of an archaeological watching brief but cannot fully anticipate the conditions that will be encountered as work progresses. However, changes to the programme are only to be made with the prior written approval of the Heritage Officer.
- 10.2 Further contact addresses:

Kate Orr North Kesteven Heritage Officer Heritage Lincolnshire The Old School Cameron Street Heckington Lincolnshire NG34 9RW

Mr S. Catney Archaeological Officer Highways and Planning Directorate Lincolnshire County Council 4th Floor City Hall Lincoln LN1 1DN Mr T. Page City and County Museum 12 Friars Lane Lincoln LN2 5AL

Department of Planning North Kesteven District Council Offices Kesteven Street Sleaford Lincolnshire NG34 7EF

Brief set by Heritage Officer, North Kesteven 26/8/1998

Brief valid for up to one year from this date

CONTEXT SUMMARY

No.	Phase	Description	Interpretation
001	3	Very dark grey-brown fine sandy clayey silt with abundant roots	Topsoil
002	3	Medium brown-grey clayey silty sand	Fill of 006
003	3	Light grey-brown sandy silty clay with frequent small limey pebbles/grits	Fill of 006
004	3	Medium-dark brown-grey silt sand	Fill of 006
005	3	Orange mottled grey-brown silty sand	Fill of 006
006	3	N-S linear cut, >0.8m deep, >2m wide	Ditch
007	3	Dark grey-brown silty sand	Fill of 006
008	1	Orange sandy gravel	Natural deposit
009	3	Dark brown-grey silty sandy clay	Fill of 012/013
010	3	Very dark grey silty sandy clay	Fill of 013
011	3	Mottled grey-brown and orange-brown clayey sand	Fill of 012
012	3	Cut, 0.3m wide by 0.5m deep (seen in section only)	Posthole
013	3	Cut, 0.6m wide, 0.35m deep (seen in section only)	Pit- tree planting hollow
014	2	Mottled grey-brown silty sand	Subsoil
015	2	Mottled grey-brown silty sand	Subsoil
016	2	Dark brown-grey fine sandy clay	?Buried soil
017	2	Moderately compact pebbles in dark brown-grey clayey coarse sand, up to 0.12m thick, restricted in area	Metalled surface
018	2	Medium grey clayey sand	Subsoil
019	2	Dark browny grey sandy clay	Subsoil
020	3	Mid-dark brown-grey silty sand	Fill of 022
021	3	Mid-dark brown-grey clayey sand	Fill of 022
022	3	N-S linear cut, >0.3m wide by >0.25m deep, >1.8m long	Ditch

THE FINDS, By Hilary Healey MPhil and Gary Taylor MA

Provenance

All of the artefacts were recovered from just two separate deposits, the topsoil (001) and the fill (020) of a ditch. The topsoil collection was random in distribution.

It is probable that all of the post-medieval pottery derives from production centres in the Midlands, probably Staffordshire. It is likely that the tile fragment is a relatively local Lincolnshire product.

Range

The range of material is detailed in the table.

The earliest artefacts are fragments of pottery of probable late 18th-19th century date, though the tile fragment could be a little earlier. Pottery dominates the small assemblage which also includes ceramic tile. No animal bone was recovered during the investigation.

Table: The Pottery and Tile

CONTEXT	DESCRIPTION	DATE
001	2x blue and white transfer printed tableware	19th-early 20th century
	1x creamware moulded plate/saucer	late 18th-19th century
	1x black glazed earthenware, ?pancheon rim	late 18th-19th century
020	3x black-glazed earthenware, linked sherds, ?pancheon base	late 18th-19th century
	1x tile	

Condition

All of the material is in good condition and presents no long-term storage problems. The assemblage should be archived by material class.

Documentation

There has been limited formal archaeological investigation in Walcott, though records of sites and finds are maintained in the files of the North Kesteven Heritage Officer and the County Sites and Monuments Record. Artefact assemblages of such late post-medieval date, as found in the present investigation, are generally dealt with in a cursory fashion.

Potential

The assemblage has limited potential. It seems likely that the topsoil assemblage could have entered the area as manuring scatter. The artefacts from the ditch indicate that the feature was infilling in the 18th-19th century and also imply a human presence, perhaps occupation, in the vicinity at that time.

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

Anglo-Saxon Pertaining to the early part of the Saxon period and dating from approximately AD 450-650.

Part of the prehistoric era (q.v.) characterised by the introduction and use of bronze for Bronze Age

tools and weapons. In Britain this period dates from approximately 2000-700 BC.

Context An archaeological context represents a distinct archaeological event or process. For example, the action of digging a pit creates a context (the cut) as does the process of its

subsequent backfill (the fill). Each context encountered during an archaeological investigation is allocated a unique number by the archaeologist and a record sheet detailing the description and interpretation of the context (the context sheet) is created and placed in the site archive. Context numbers are identified within the report text by

brackets, e.g. [004].

Cut A cut refers to the physical action of digging a posthole, pit, ditch, foundation trench, etc.

Once the fills of these features are removed during an archaeological investigation the

original 'cut' is therefore exposed and subsequently recorded.

Glaciofluvial drift Natural deposits formed and laid down as a result of the action of both glaciers (during

the Ice Age) and rivers.

Medieval The Middle Ages, dating from approximately AD 1066-1500.

Natural Undisturbed deposit(s) of soil or rock which have accumulated without the influence of

human activity.

Neolithic Part of the prehistoric era (q.v.), also known as the New Stone Age. Characterised by the

> introduction of farming and permanent settlement and the production and use of polished stone axes and other tools. In Britain this period dates from approximately 4000-2000

BC.

Old English The language of the early part of the Anglo-Saxon period, used from approximately AD

450-650.

Post-medieval The period following the Middle Ages, dating from approximately AD 1500-1800.

Prehistoric The period of human history prior to the introduction of writing. In Britain the

prehistoric period lasts from the first evidence of human occupation about 500,000 BC,

until the Roman invasion in the middle of the 1st century AD.

Romano-British Pertaining to the period from AD43 to AD410, when Britain was part of the Roman

Empire.

THE ARCHIVE

The archive consists of:

- 22 Context records
- 1 Photographic record sheet
- 8 Scale drawings
- 1 Bag of finds
- 1 Stratigraphic matrix

All primary records and finds are currently kept at:

Archaeological Project Services The Old School Cameron Street Heckington Sleaford Lincolnshire NG34 9RW

The ultimate destination of the project archive is:

Lincolnshire City and County Museum 12 Friars Lane Lincoln LN2 1HQ

The archive will be deposited in accordance with the document titled *Conditions for the Acceptance of Project Archives*, produced by the Lincolnshire City and County Museum.

Lincolnshire City and County Council Museum Accession Number:

267.98

Archaeological Project Services Site Code:

WEW98

The discussion and comments provided in this report are based on the archaeology revealed during the site investigations. Other archaeological finds and features may exist on the development site but away from the areas exposed during the course of this fieldwork. *Archaeological Project Services* cannot confirm that those areas unexposed are free from archaeology nor that any archaeology present there is of a similar character to that revealed during the current investigation.

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