ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION AND WATCHING BRIEF AT 27 - 29 HIGH STREET, HOLBEACH, LINCOLNSHIRE (HLH98)

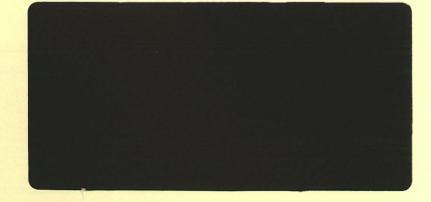


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Lincolnshire County Council Archaeology Section

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ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION AND WATCHING BRIEF AT 27 - 29 HIGH STREET, HOLBEACH, LINCOLNSHIRE (HLH98)

Work Undertaken For Le Sage Associates & The Standen House Companies

December 1998

Report Compiled by Mark Dymond HND

Planning Application No: H09/0842/98 National Grid Reference: TF 360 248 3597 2482 City and County Museum Accession No: 278.98

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

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1. SUMMARY

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken prior to proposed development at 27-29 High Street, Holbeach, Lincolnshire.

The development site lies within the core of the medieval (c. 1066-1500) town of Holbeach, almost opposite the parish church. Additionally, a hospital, built in 1351, is known to have been located in close proximity to the investigation site.

The evaluation identified post-medieval deposits, dating from the 16th-17th century and later, associated with landscaping and cellar construction. These extended to a depth of approximately 2m below the present ground surface. No medieval or earlier remains were identified.

2. INTRODUCTION

2.1 Planning Background

Between the 3rd and 11th December 1998, an archaeological evaluation was undertaken at 27-29 High Street, Holbeach, Lincolnshire. The evaluation was carried out as a pre-determination of an outline application for the construction of a commercial unit (ref. H09/0842/98). Additionally, assessment was made of a trial borehole, located at the rear of the premises, on 9th November 1998.

The archaeological investigation was commissioned by Le Sage Associates and The Standen House Companies. Archaeological Project Services carried out the work in accordance with a specification approved by the Assistant Archaeological Officer, Lincolnshire County Council.

An archaeological evaluation is defined as *'a limited programme of non-intrusive* and/or intrusive fieldwork which determines the presence or absence of archaeological features, structures, deposits, artefacts or ecofacts within a specified area or site. If such archaeological remains are present Field Evaluation defines their character and extent, and relative quality; and it enables an assessment of their worth in a local, regional, national or international context as appropriate.' (IFA 1997).

2.2 Topography and Geology

Holbeach is situated 11km east of Spalding and 20km south of Boston, in the civil parish of Holbeach, South Holland District, Lincolnshire (Fig. 1). The proposed development is located within the town centre on the north side of High Street, almost opposite the parish church of All Saints, at National Grid Reference TF 360248 (Fig. 2).

The local topography describes a linear band of high ground aligned east to west along the High Street and West End. The crest of this bank is at a height of c. 4m OD, dropping away to the south and north of this line. A watercourse, the Holbeach river, ran alongside Church Street and Park Road (Fig. 2) and was navigable to the town centre until the mid 18th century but was later passed through a culvert (Cope-Faulkner 1997a, 4).

The town is located on soils of the Romney series, generally coarse silty gleyic brown calcareous soils developed on roddons and reclaimed marshland (Robson 1990, 26). South of the town are Wisbech Series, calcareous alluvial gley soils (*ibid.* 28). These soils overlie a drift geology of marine alluvium (generally sandy silt, sand and clay) which in turn seals a solid geology of Upper Jurassic clays (BGS 1992).

2.3 Archaeological Setting

Evidence for prehistoric activity in the Holbeach region is likely to be scarce as the contemporary land surface lay several metres below subsequent flood deposits.

During the Romano-British period the former marshland stabilized, enabling settlement, agricultural and salt making activities. Finds of Romano-British pottery are known from two locations c. 1km south of the development. These finds have been made at depth (c. 1m below the ground surface), and indicate that the Roman land surface is buried.

Holbeach is first mentioned in the Domesday Survey of 1086 and is referred to variably as *Holebech, Holeben, Holobech* and *Holobec*, derived from the Old English and meaning 'hollow or deep brook' (Ekwall 1974, 244). At the time of the Domesday Survey the town was divided between the King, Crowland Abbey, Count Alan and Guy of Craon (Foster and Longley 1976).

The town was a prosperous market centre in the medieval period. This wealth was partly derived from nearby salt-making that took place north of Holbeach between the 12th and 15th centuries.

The only extant structural feature of the medieval period is All Saints' parish church which was largely built in the 14th century by the then Bishop of Lincoln. This replaced an earlier church, first referred to in AD 1177 (Macdonald 1890, 19). Besides the church, Holbeach also had a number of chapels, the location of which are unknown, although the Chapel of St. Peter is believed to lie in the vicinity of the former railway station.

Adjacent to the investigation area is the site of All Saints' Hospital, founded by Sir John de Kirton in 1351. This is now occupied by the Chequers Hotel (Cope-Faulkner 1997a, 4).

3. AIMS

The aims of the archaeological evaluation, as outlined in the specification (Appendix 1), were to locate archaeological deposits and determine, if present, their nature, date, extent and state of preservation.

The purpose of this identification and assessment of deposits was to establish their significance, in order to facilitate recommendations for an appropriate strategy that could be integrated with the proposed development.

4. METHODS

The first stage of archaeological investigation of the site involved the monitoring of a borehole in the yard at the rear of the property. Subsequently, three trenches were excavated within the premises (Fig. 3). Two of the trenches were excavated through the ground floor in the front (Trench A: 2m by 2m and 2.5m deep) and rear (Trench B: 1.5m by 1m and 2m deep) of the building, and the third was excavated through the basement floor (Trench C: 1.5m by 1m and 1.3m deep). Additionally, a 1.2m wide section of the north facing basement wall was demolished to expose deposits behind it.

After excavation, auger samples were taken through the deposits exposed in the base of Trenches A and B, and the base of the section exposed behind the basement wall to a depth of 2m and 1m respectively, to help determine the presence of earlier historic or prehistoric stratigraphy.

The soil exposed behind the basement wall and sides of each trench were cleaned and rendered vertical. The depth and thickness of each deposit was measured from the ground surface. Each deposit or feature revealed within an opened area was allocated a unique reference number (context number) with an individual written description. One side of each trench was drawn at a scale of 1:10, and plans were drawn at a scale of 1:20. A photographic record was also compiled.

Visual inspection of the deposits exposed in the core samples taken from the trial borehole, and auger samples was made and written descriptions compiled.

5. DESCRIPTION OF THE EVALUATION

Records of the deposits and features identified during the evaluation were examined. Artefacts recovered from the deposits identified were examined and a date assigned where possible. Phasing was assigned based on the nature of the deposits and recognisable relationships between them. A list of all contexts with interpretations appears as Appendix 2. Three phases of activity were recognised:

Phase 1 Natural deposits Phase 2 Post-medieval deposits Phase 3 Modern deposits

The numbers in brackets are the context numbers assigned in the field.

Phase 1 Natural deposits

Natural deposits identified in the trial borehole to the rear of the site comprised brown sands and silts (B004 -B015). These deposits extended from c. 1.6m to 12m below the present ground surface.

Natural deposits identified during the evaluation comprised layers of brown silt

in Trench A (012 and 055 - 058), Trench B (061) and Trench C (004) and behind the basement wall (026 - 032, and 062 - 063). The top of these layers occurs at 3.97m OD and the water table was encountered at 2.22m OD. Lamination of the silts was only evident in deposits (026 and 27).

Phase 2 Post-medieval deposits

Borehole

Sealing the natural deposits in the trial borehole was a layer of dark brown silty clay (B003), situated c. 1.5m below present ground level, that may represent a buried soil.

Trench A

Overlying the phase 1 deposit (012) in Trench A was a dumped deposit of brown silt (008) containing brick fragments. Above this was a partially exposed brick floor (007) 0.79m by 0.43m and 6cm thick (Fig. 4). This brick floor, which was 1.5m below the present shopfloor level, was laid directly on the silt and was not bonded.

Sealing the brick floor were two layers of redeposited brown silt (006, 014) containing 17th century pottery, claypipe and brick. Cutting through these deposits was an irregular feature (064) filled with dark brown silt (016) which extended beyond the most distinct limits of the cut (Fig. 5). Pottery of the 16th-17th century, an iron spike/nail and animal bone were recovered from this deposit.

Trench C

Cutting through the Phase 1 deposit in Trench C was a pit (052), 1.2m wide by 0.78m deep, filled by a grey brown silt (002) containing bone, shell and pottery dated to the 18^{th} century (Fig. 6).

Basement Wall

South of Trench C, sealing the Phase 1 deposits exposed behind the basement wall, was a layer of redeposited brown silt (025).

Cutting through (025) was a posthole (054), 0.28m wide by 0.46m deep (Fig. 7), filled with grey-brown silt (053).

Sealing the posthole were three layers of dumped soil comprising greyish brown and yellowish brown silts (022 - 024). Sherds of 18^{th} and 19^{th} century pottery, bone and metal were recovered from these deposits. The surface of these layers occurred at 4.65m OD.

Trench B

North of Trench C, in Trench B at the rear of the building, a north-south brick wall (036) was identified (Fig. 8). This was 1.15m long by 0.26m wide and 1.26m high, extending south beyond the trench limit, with a stretcher bond and flush pointing.

Incorporated in the wall was an arched doorway 0.9m high and 0.5m wide, the arch comprising bricks laid on edge with a central 'key' brick. The doorway had been blocked (037) using the same brick type as that used for wall (036).

Located north of, and abutting wall (036) was wall (038), 0.4m long by 0.36m wide and 0.66m high. This was only partially exposed in the northeast corner of the trench and it is not certain if it represents the single face or corner of a wall.

Four layers of redeposited blackish brown silt, grey silt, grey clayey silt and brown fine sand (060, 035, 034 and 019 respectively) were identified in the base of Trench B (Fig. 8). The base of (060) occurred at 1.36m OD and this deposit, together with (035) which contained 17th-18th century artefacts, may be infilling an otherwise unrecognised deep feature. Deposit (035), and also (034) and (019) which are both dated by pottery to the 18th century, were dumped up against the west face of wall (036).

Cutting through the eastern extent of (019), alongside the wall, was a north-south linear feature (018) 1.2m long by 0.24m wide and 0.2m deep, filled by a deposit of grey silt (017) that contained 18th-19th century pottery, brick, tile and glass (Figs. 4 and 8).

Overlying (017) was a redeposited grey silt layer (049) that contained late 17th-18th century pottery. This deposit was in turn sealed by a thin layer of fine brown sand (048). This was overlaid by a mixed dumped deposit comprising brown sand and grey silt (047).

Sealing (047) was a layer of black silt mixed with coal dust (046) that in turn was sealed by a possible floor or bedding layer of brown fine sand (045).

Cutting through this possible floor layer (045) alongside wall (036) was a northsouth linear feature (051), 0.25m wide by 0.13m deep, containing a deposit of grey silt (033) that extended beyond the western extent of the feature (Fig. 8).

Above (033) was a layer of redeposited grey clayey silt (011) that contained 18th-19th century pottery and glass.

Phase 3 Modern deposits

Borehole

Overlying the Phase 2 deposits in the trial borehole were two layers of brown clay loam (B001) and (B002), that represent build-up from occupation of the site.

Trench A

Sealing Phase 2 deposit (016) in Trench A was a dumped layer of brown silt (015) containing 18th-19th century pottery. This was overlaid by a make-up layer (005) of brown silt that contained redeposited 17th-18th century artefacts and animal bone. This deposit (Fig. 5) served to provide a level surface on which two recent linear brick foundations were established, and which provide support for the present ground floor (013).

Trench C

Overlying the Phase 2 deposits in Trench C was a layer of redeposited soil (001) serving as a make-up layer for the emplacement of the brick floor in the present basement.

Trench B

The redeposited Phase 2 silt (011) in Trench B was cut through at its eastern extent, alongside wall (036), by a northsouth linear feature (010), 1.2m long by 0.3m wide and 0.2m deep (Fig. 8). This was filled by a deposit of grey silt (009) that contained pottery dated to the 19th century, animal bone and oyster shell.

Above (009) was a sequence of dumped grey and brown silts (040 - 044). The latest of these (040) was cut through at its eastern extent by an indeterminate, possibly north-south linear feature (050), 1.2m long by 0.36m wide and 0.41m deep, containing a deposit of grey sandy silt (039). These have been dated to the 19th century.

Deposit (039) was covered by a modern frogged brick floor, over which had been suspended the present ground floor.

6. **DISCUSSION**

Natural alluvial silts (Phase 1) were encountered across the investigation area at a depth of about 1.6m-2m below the present ground surface. There was limited evidence for lamination of these deposits. This may indicate that the fine layers of silt deposited in estuarine conditions have been removed by truncation or transformed by plant growth or other natural processes. Some of the silting may be freshwater in origin and related to the nearby Holbeach river.

A possible buried soil (B003), identified in the borehole at the rear of the premises, may represent a former land surface. Although undated, this is thought to be post-medieval (Phase 2) as elsewhere across the site deposits of this period were established directly on to the natural silts and no medieval remains were identified.

The absence of medieval remains would suggest that during this period the site was not inhabited, perhaps due to potential flooding problems associated with the proximity of the Holbeach river.

It is also possible that post-medieval activity has removed earlier remains from the area, though it is unlikely to have been so thorough that medieval material is absent. An alternative possibility is that the site lay within the grounds of the documented medieval hospital of All Saints. Founded in 1351, this is believed to have been located in the vicinity of the Chequers Inn, just west of the present investigation site (Cope-Faulkner 1997a, 7). It is probable that any such hospital grounds or precinct were kept clear of habitation. The hospital had ceased to exist by 1545, though the structure was at least partially standing in the late 17th century (ibid., 3, 10).

A brick structure, represented by walls (036 and 038), was identified at the rear of the property. This may be a cellar. A doorway through the wall had been blocked up before the room began to be infilled, this action perhaps commencing in the 17th-18th century. It is possible that the process of raising the ground surface was undertaken to counteract the threat of flooding from the nearby river.

The room was periodically re-floored, indicated by several fine sand bedding layers (019, 048, 045) and possibly (011). These bedding layers were cut by linear gullies (018, 051, 010) which ran alongside the standing wall (036) and are interpreted as robbing trenches to extract the joists or other supports for the floors. Therefore, in each instance, the flooring was removed before further ground make-up. One of the make-up deposits (046), dating to the 18^{th} - 19^{th} century, contained coal dust. suggesting that the room served as a coal shed or cellar at that time.

Further post-medieval ground make-up was identified elsewhere across the site and an 18th century refuse pit (052) containing probable domestic waste was identified beneath the cellar floor. An undated but probably post-medieval posthole (054) was also identified and suggests structural timberwork at the site.

Modern deposits (Phase 3) relate to further landscaping by raising the ground level and construction of the floors and basement of the premises.

7. EFFECTIVENESS OF TECHNIQUES

The techniques employed during the archaeological investigation at High Street, Holbeach, were successful and have allowed the achievement of the aims set by Appendix 1.

Manual excavation successfully established that post-medieval deposits are extensive and that earlier medieval deposits are absent from the site.

8. ASSESSMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

For assessment of significance the Secretary of State's criteria for scheduling ancient monuments has been used (DoE 1990, Annex 4; See Appendix 4).

Period

Only post-medieval and modern remains were identified. These comprised dumped and construction deposits which are not period-specific.

Rarity

Post-medieval and modern dumped and construction deposits are commonplace.

Documentation

There has been limited previous archaeological investigation in Holbeach, though such surveys have been reported (Cope-Faulkner 1997b). Records of sites and finds in Holbeach are maintained in the County Sites and Monuments Record. A synthesis of the history of, and previous archaeological discoveries in, Holbeach has been produced (Cope-Faulkner 1997a).

Group Value

Only post-medieval and modern occupation remains have been identified, therefore the group value is low. However, this is enhanced by the proximity of contemporary domestic, mercantile and ecclesiastical remains.

Survival/Condition

Post-medieval and modern structural and general occupation remains survive in good condition at the site. There is no evidence for the survival of medieval or earlier archaeological remains at the site.

Fragility/Vulnerability

Well-preserved post-medieval remains occur to a depth of approximately 2m below the ground surface and are vulnerable to any invasive development. However, no earlier, vulnerable, archaeological remains were identified at the site.

Diversity

General occupation remains, incorporating structural features and dumped deposits, were identified at the site. Therefore, there is low functional diversity. Also, as only post-medieval and modern remains were encountered there is low period diversity.

Potential

Potential is very high that archaeological remains associated with post-medieval construction and occupation occur elsewhere on the site. There is also moderate to high potential for the survival of contemporary environmental remains. However, there is low potential for remains of medieval date to occur at the site.

9. CONCLUSIONS

Archaeological investigations at 27-29 High Street, Holbeach, were undertaken because the site lay within the medieval core of the town.

However, no medieval remains were identified and it appeared that the site was first occupied in the post-medieval period, perhaps the 17th century, though it may be that any medieval remains have been removed by subsequent development. A brick structure was built at the rear of the property but its primary use was altered, or terminated, by successive raising of the ground surface and re-flooring of the structure through the 17th to 19th century.

Further post-medieval ground raising was

identified elsewhere across the site and the deposits were well-preserved to a depth of c. 2m. Recent cellaring was limited to the existing basement in the property.

10. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeological Project Services wish to acknowledge the assistance of S. Le Sage, of Le Sage Associates, and P. Morris of The Standen House Companies for commissioning the fieldwork and postexcavation analysis. Thanks are also due to R. Frisbee of Hix and Co. for access to the site. Gary Taylor coordinated the work and Tom Lane edited this report. Access to the County Sites and Monuments Record was kindly provided by Mark Bennet of the Archaeology Section, Lincolnshire County Council. Hilary Healey kindly commented upon the pottery and Paul Cope-Faulkner identified the bone found during this investigation.

11. PERSONNEL

Project Coordinator: Gary Taylor Site Supervisors: Denise Drury, Mark Dymond Site Assistants: Denise Buckley, Neil Herbert and Fiona Walker Finds Processing: Denise Buckley Illustration: Phil Mills Post-excavation Analyst: Mark Dymond

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13. ABBREVIATIONS

APS Archaeological Project Services

BGS British Geological Survey

IFA Institute of Field Archaeologists

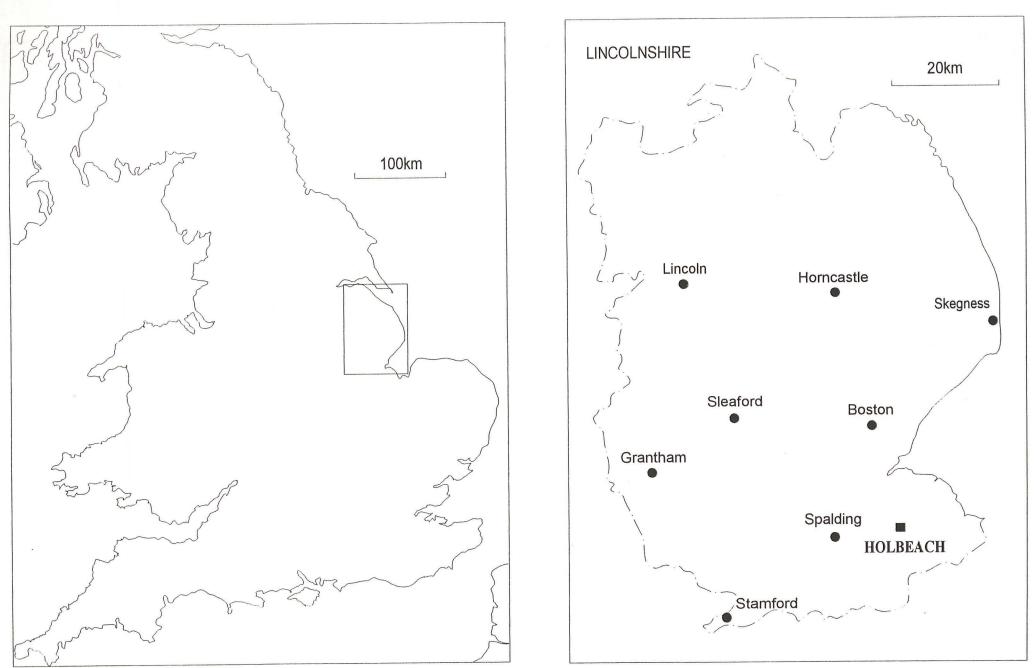


Fig 1 : General Location Plan

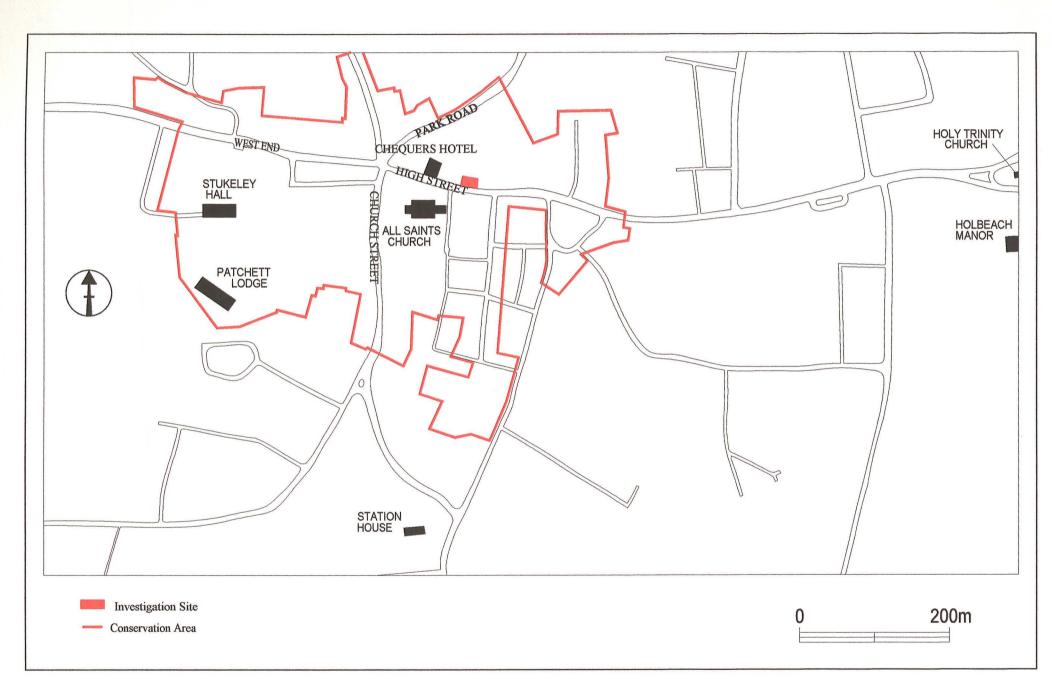


Figure 2 - Site Location Plan

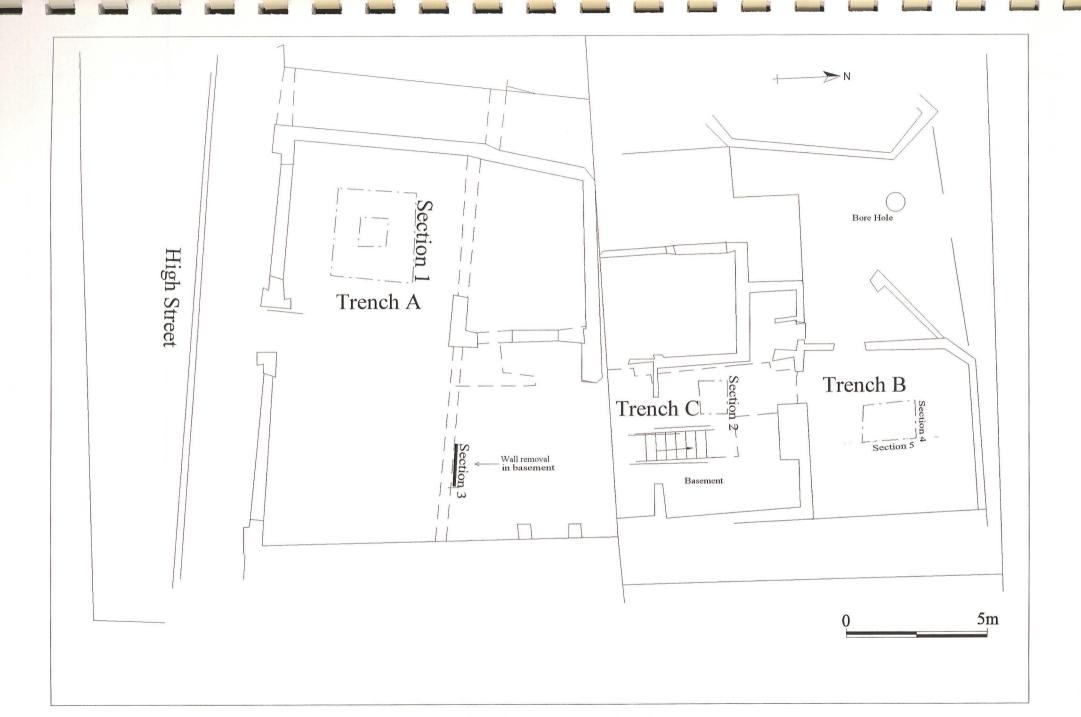
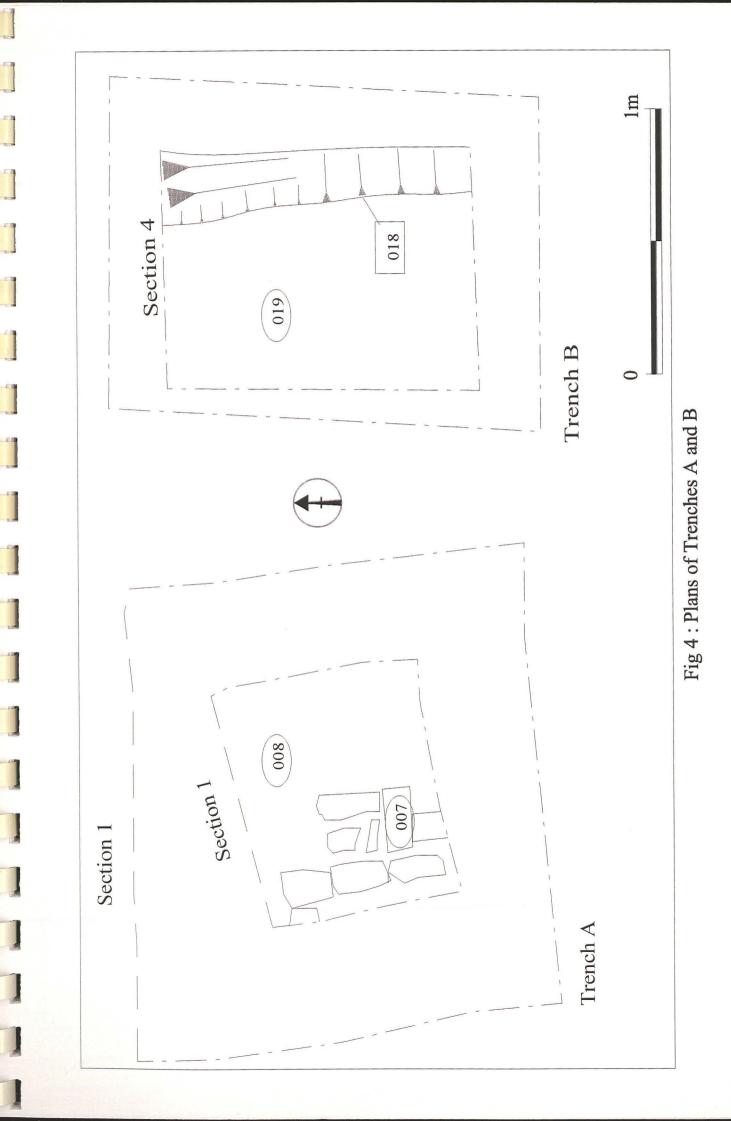


Fig 3 : Trench Location Plan



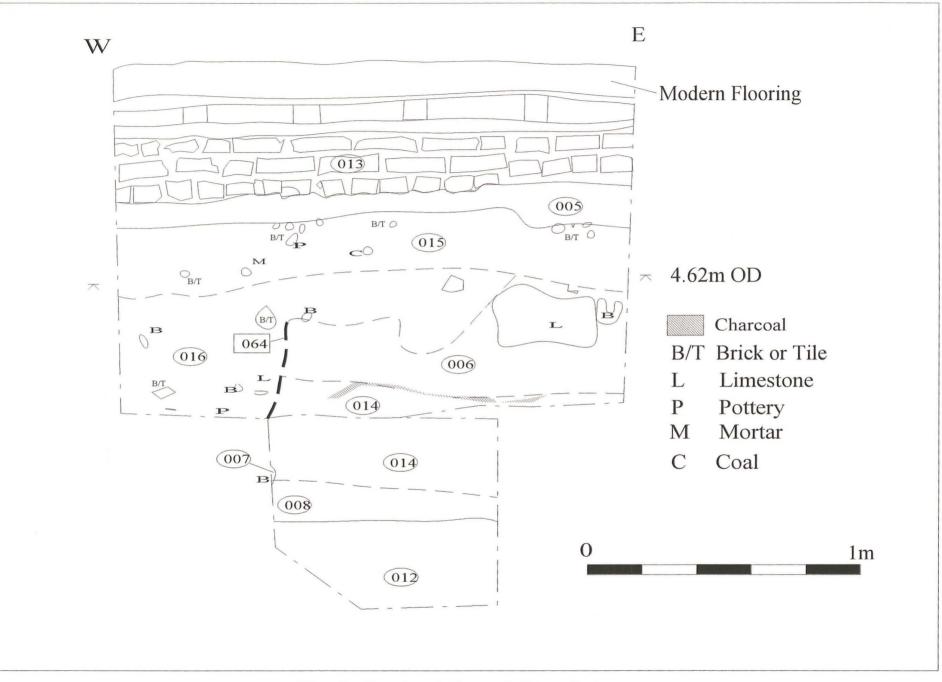


Fig. 5 : Section 1 through Trench A

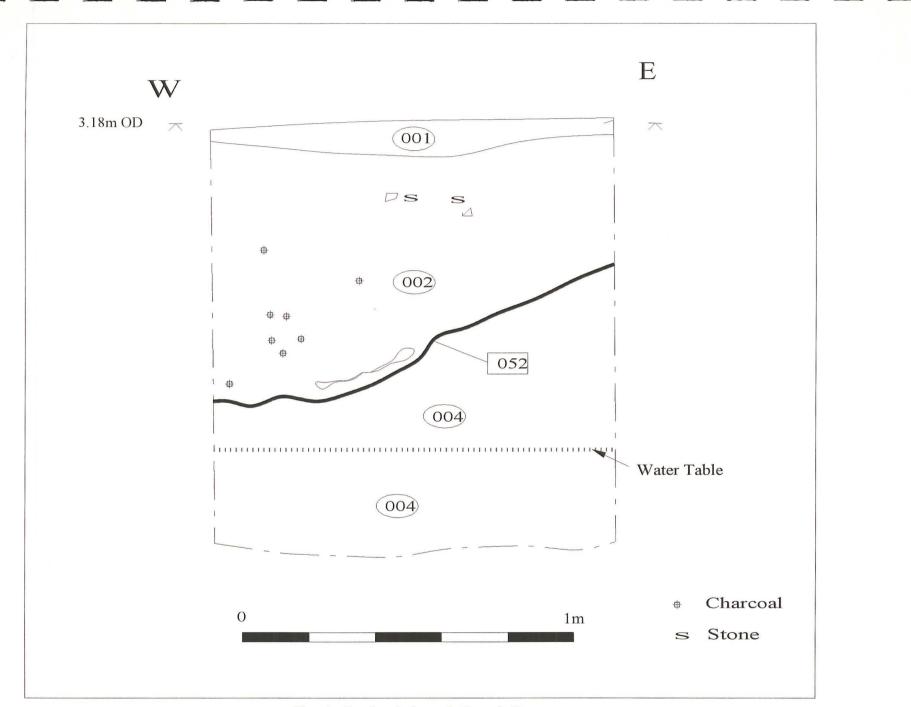


Fig. 6 : Section 2 through Trench C

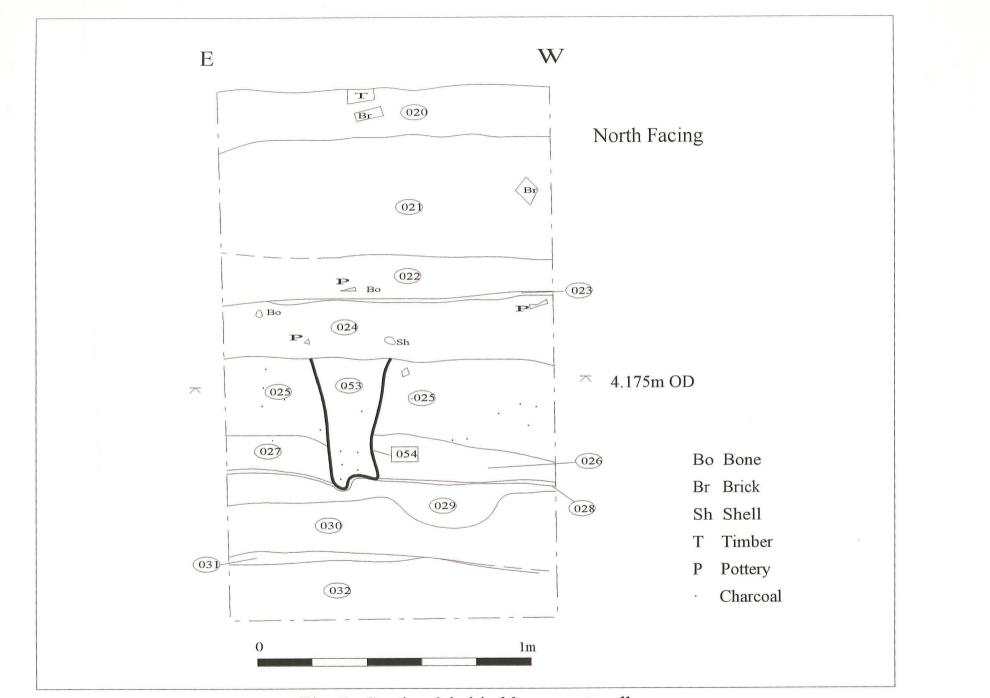


Fig. 7 : Section 3 behind basement wall

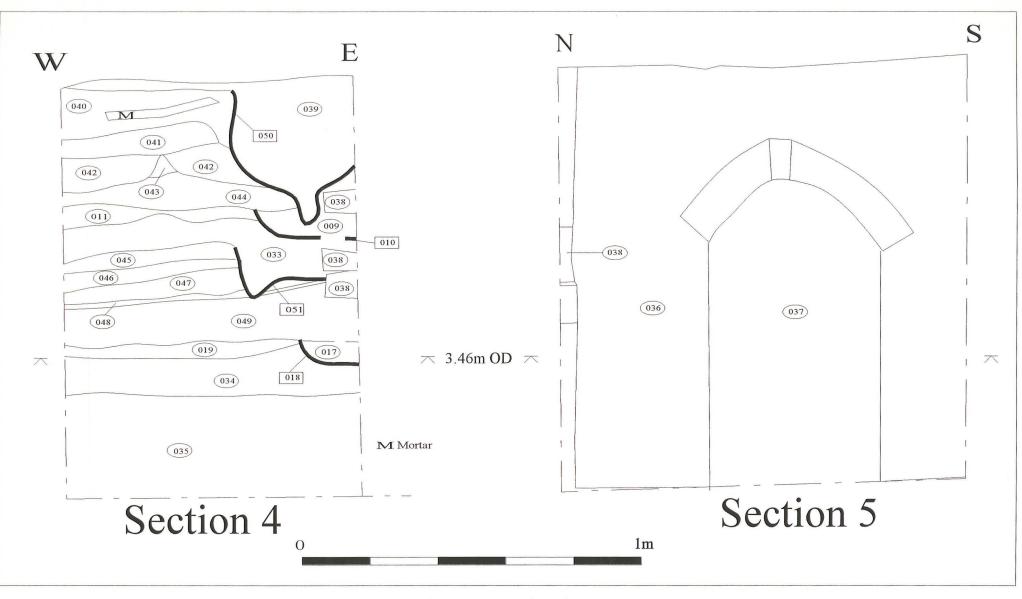


Fig. 8 : Sections 4 and 5 in Trench B

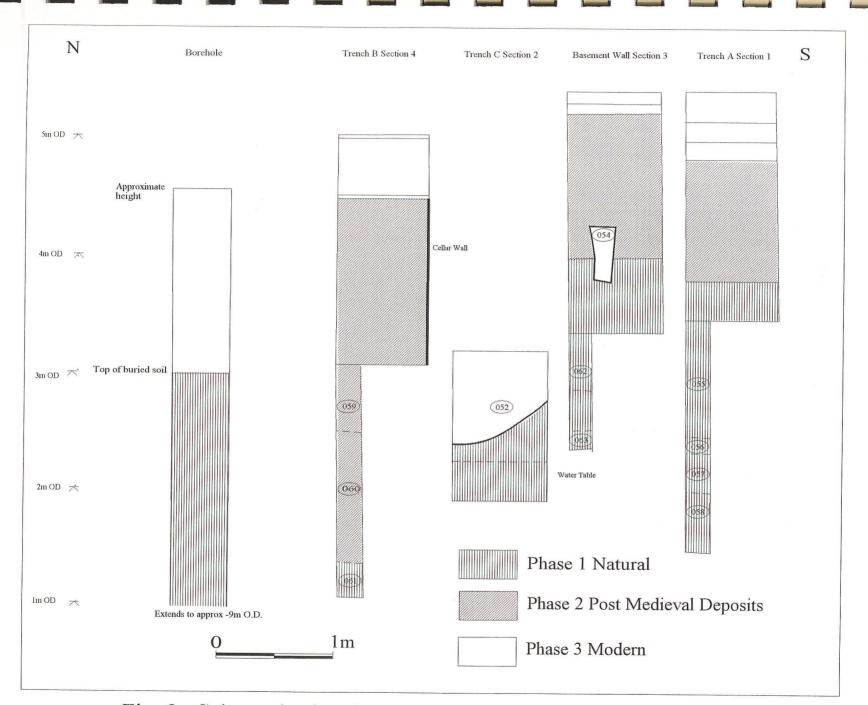


Fig. 9 : Schematic showing relative heights of drawn sections



Plate 1 Section Behind Basement Wall



Plate 2 Brick Floor (007) in Trench A



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Plate 3 Cellar Wall and Blocked Doorway in Trench B



Plate 4 South Facing section in Trench B

APPENDIX 1

SPECIFICATION FOR THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION OF LAND OFF HIGH STREET, HOLBEACH

PREPARED FOR LE SAGE ASSOCIATES

BY ARCHAEOLOGICAL PROJECT SERVICES (IFA Registered Archaeological Organisation No. 21)

NOVEMBER 1998

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1 SUMMARY

- 1.1 This document comprises a specification for the archaeological evaluation of land off High Street, Holbeach.
- 1.2 The site is in the medieval core of the village, in the immediate proximity of a 14th century hospital. Previous examinations of a borehole at the site revealed post-medieval and perhaps medieval deposits to a depth of 2m below the present ground surface.
- 1.3 A planning application will be made for development of the area. The archaeological works are being undertaking to provide supporting information for the application.
- *1.4 The archaeological work will consist of a programme of trial trenching of the site.*
- 1.5 On completion of the fieldwork a report will be prepared detailing the results of the investigation. The report will consist of a text describing the nature of the archaeological deposits located and will be supported by illustrations and photographs.

2 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 This document comprises a specification for the field evaluation of land at High Street, Holbeach, Lincolnshire, national grid reference TF 359 248.
- 2.2 The document contains the following parts:
 - 2.2.1 Overview
 - 2.2.2 The archaeological and natural setting
 - 2.2.3 Stages of work and methodologies to be used
 - 2.2.4 List of specialists
 - 2.2.5 Programme of works and staffing structure of the project

3 SITE DESCRIPTION

3.1 Holbeach is situated 20km south of Boston in the administrative district of South Holland. The site is located on the north side of High Street, almost

LAND OFF HIGH STREET, HOLBEACH: SPECIFICATION FOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

opposite All Saints' parish church in the centre of the town, at national grid reference TF 359 248.

3.2 The site is a roughly rectangular block of land, mostly occupied by a building, with a small yard to the rear.

4 PLANNING BACKGROUND

4.1 Planning permission will be sought for redevelopment of the site. The archaeological evaluation is being undertaken to assist the application.

5 SOILS AND TOPOGRAPHY

5.1 The site and surrounding area is on a very slight slope down to the east and lies at approximately 4m OD. Holbeach is located on soils of the Romney series, generally coarse silty gleyic brown calcareous soils, developed on roddons and reclaimed marshland (Robson 1990, 26). South of the town are the Wisbech Series, calcareous alluvial gley soils (*ibid.* 28). These soils overlie a drift geology of marine alluvium (generally sandy silt, sand and clay) which in turn seals a solid geology of Upper Jurassic clays (BGS 1992).

6 THE ARCHAEOLOGY

- 6.1 Evidence for prehistoric activity in the Holbeach region is scarce. The prehistoric land surface lies several metres below a series of later flood deposits.
- 6.2 The marshland stabilised during the Romano-British period, allowing agricultural and salt making activities to commence. Finds of Romano-British pottery are recorded from two locations south of Holbeach town centre. These finds were made at a depth of c. 1m and indicates that the Roman land surface is buried.
- 6.3 Holbeach is first mentioned in the Domesday Book of 1086, where it is referred to variably as *Holebech, Holeben, Holobech* and *Holobec*. At the time of the Domesday Book the town was divided between the King, Crowland Abbey, Count Alan and Guy of Craon. The site is located near the medieval core of the village.
- 6.4 A church is first mentioned at Holbeach in AD 1177. This was rebuilt in the 14th century as the present All Saints' parish church, immediately opposite the investigation site. A number of chapels, the locations of which are unknown, are also recorded at Holbeach. A hospital, founded in 1351, is believed to be

located in the immediate vicinity of the present investigation site (Archaeological Project Services 1997).

6.5 Previous examination of a borehole at the rear of the site recorded archaeological deposits of post-medieval and perhaps medieval date to a depth of *c*. 2m below the present ground surface.

7 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- 7.1 The aim of the work will be to gather sufficient information for the archaeological curator to be able to formulate appropriate policies for the management of the archaeological resource of the site.
- 7.2 The objectives of the work will be to:
 - 7.2.1 Establish the type of archaeological remains that may be present within the site.
 - 7.2.2 Determine the likely extent of archaeological remains present within the site.
 - 7.2.3 Determine the spatial arrangement of the archaeological remains present within the site.
 - 7.2.4 Identify the extent to which the surrounding archaeological remains extend into the application area.
 - 7.2.5 Determine the way in which the archaeological remains identified fit into the pattern of occupation and land-use in the surrounding landscape.
 - 7.2.6 Determine the date and function of the archaeological remains present within the site.

8 LIAISON WITH THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL CURATOR

8.1 Prior to the commencement of the evaluation the trench arrangement will be agreed with the archaeological curator to ensure that the proposed scheme of works fulfils their requirements.

9 TRIAL TRENCHING

- 9.1 <u>Reasoning for this technique</u>
 - 9.1.1 Trial trenching enables the *in situ* determination of the sequence, date, nature, depth, environmental potential and density of archaeological features present on the site.
 - 9.1.2 The evaluation will consist of the excavation of trenches beneath the floors in various parts of the building. Additionally, a vertical strip of cellar wall be removed to permit examination of a section of deposits cut through by the cellar. Should archaeological deposits extend below 1.2m depth then the trench sides may be stepped in, or shored, as appropriate. Augering may be used to determine the depth of the sequence of deposits present.

9.2 <u>General Considerations</u>

- 9.2.1 All work will be undertaken following statutory Health and Safety requirements in operation at the time of the evaluation.
- 9.2.2 The work will be undertaken according to the relevant codes of practice issued by the Institute of Field Archaeologists (IFA), under the management of a Member of the Institute (MIFA). *Archaeological Project Services* is an IFA Registered Archaeological Organisation (no. 21).
- 9.2.3 Any and all artefacts found during the investigation and thought to be 'treasure', as defined by the Treasure Act 1996, will be removed from site to a secure store and promptly reported to the appropriate coroner's office.
- 9.2.4 Excavation of the archaeological features exposed will only be undertaken as far as is required to determine their date, sequence, density and nature. Not all archaeological features exposed will be excavated. However, the evaluation will, as far as is reasonably practicable, determine the level of the natural deposits to ensure that the depth of the archaeological sequence present on the site is established.
- 9.2.5 Open trenches will be safely demarcated appropriately. Subject to the consent of the archaeological curator, and following the appropriate recording, the trenches, particularly those of excessive depth, will be

backfilled as soon as possible to minimise any health and safety risks.

9.3 Methodology

- 9.3.1 Removal of overburden will be undertaken by manually by Archaeological Project Services. Thereafter, the trenches will be cleaned by hand to enable the identification and analysis of the archaeological remains exposed.
- 9.3.2 Investigation of the remains will be undertaken only as far as required to determine their date, form and function. The work will consist of half- or quarter-sectioning of features as required and, where appropriate, the removal of layers. Should features be located which may be worthy of preservation *in situ*, excavation will be limited to the absolute minimum, (*ie* the minimum disturbance) necessary to interpret the form, function and date of the remains.
- 9.3.3 The archaeological features encountered will be recorded on Archaeological Project Services pro-forma context record sheets. The system used is the single context method by which individual archaeological units of stratigraphy are assigned a unique record number and are individually described and drawn.
- 9.3.4 Plans of features will be drawn at a scale of 1:20 and sections at a scale of 1:10. Should individual features merit it, they will be drawn at a larger scale.
- 9.3.5 Throughout the duration of the trial trenching a photographic record consisting of black and white prints (reproduced as contact sheets) and colour slides will be compiled. The photographic record will consist of:
 - 9.3.5.1 the site before the commencement of field operations.
 - 9.3.5.2 the site during work to show specific stages of work, and the layout of the archaeology within individual trenches.
 - 9.3.5.3 individual features and, where appropriate, their sections.
 - 9.3.5.4 groups of features where their relationship is important.

- 9.3.5.5 the site on completion of field work
- 9.3.6 Should human remains be encountered, they will be left *in situ* with excavation being limited to the identification and recording of such remains. The appropriate Home Office licences will be obtained and the local environmental health department and the police informed.
- 9.3.7 Finds collected during the fieldwork will be bagged and labelled according to the individual deposit from which they were recovered ready for later washing and analysis.
- 9.3.8 The spoil generated during the evaluation will be mounded along the edges of the trial trenches for subsequent backfilling.
- 9.3.9 The precise location of the trenches within the site and the location of site recording grid will be established by appropriate survey methods.

10 ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

10.1 If appropriate, during the evaluation specialist advice will be obtained from an environmental archaeologist. The specialist may visit the site and prepare a report detailing the nature of the environmental material present and its potential for additional analysis should further stages of archaeological work be required. The results of any such specialist's assessment will be incorporated into the final report

11 POST-EXCAVATION AND REPORT

- 11.1 Stage 1
 - 11.1.1 On completion of site operations, the records and schedules produced during the trial trenching will be checked and ordered to ensure that they form a uniform sequence constituting a level II archive. A stratigraphic matrix of the archaeological deposits and features present on the site will be prepared. All photographic material will be catalogued and labelled, the labelling referring to schedules identifying the subject/s photographed.
 - 11.1.2 All finds recovered during the trial trenching will be washed, marked, bagged and labelled according to the individual deposit from which they were recovered. Any finds requiring specialist treatment and conservation will be sent to the Conservation Laboratory at the City and County Museum, Lincoln.

11.2 <u>Stage 2</u>

- 11.2.1 Detailed examination of the stratigraphic matrix to enable the determination of the various phases of activity on the site.
- 11.2.2 Finds will be sent to specialists for identification and dating.
- 11.3 <u>Stage 3</u>

- 11.3.1 On completion of stage 2, a report detailing the findings of the evaluation will be prepared. This will consist of:
 - 11.3.1.1 A non-technical summary of the findings of the investigation.
 - 11.3.1.2 A description of the archaeological setting of the site.
 - 11.3.1.3 Description of the topography and geology of the investigation area
 - 11.3.1.4 Description of the methodologies used during the investigation and discussion of their effectiveness in the light of the results.
 - 11.3.1.5 A text describing the findings of the investigation.
 - 11.3.1.6 Plans of the trench showing the archaeological remains exposed. If a sequence of archaeological deposits is encountered, separate plans for each phase will be produced.
 - 11.3.1.7 Sections of the archaeological remains.
 - 11.3.1.8 Interpretation of the archaeological remains exposed and their context within the surrounding landscape.
 - 11.3.1.9 Specialist reports on the finds from the site.
 - 11.3.1.10 Appropriate photographs of the site and specific archaeological features.
 - 11.3.1.11 A consideration of the significance of the archaeological remains encountered in local, regional and national

terms, using nationally recognised criteria.

12 ARCHIVE

12.1 The documentation, finds, photographs and other records and materials generated during the evaluation will be sorted and ordered into the format acceptable to the City and County Museum, Lincoln. This sorting will be undertaken according to the document titled *Conditions for the Acceptance of Project Archives* for long term storage and curation.

13 **REPORT DEPOSITION**

13.1 Copies of the evaluation report will be sent to: the client, Le Sage Associates Ltd; South Holland District Council Planning Department; and the Lincolnshire County Sites and Monuments Record.

14 **PUBLICATION**

14.1 A report of the findings of the evaluation will be published in Heritage Lincolnshire's annual report and an article of appropriate content will be submitted for inclusion in the journal *Lincolnshire History and Archaeology*. Notes or articles describing the results of the investigation will also be submitted for publication in the appropriate national journals: *Medieval Archaeology* and *Journal of the Medieval Settlement Research Group* for medieval and later remains, and *Britannia* for discoveries of Roman date.

15 CURATORIAL MONITORING

15.1 Curatorial responsibility for the project lies with Assistant Archaeological Officer, Lincolnshire County Council. Seven days written notice of project commencement will be given to the archaeological curator to enable them to make appropriate monitoring arrangements.

16 VARIATIONS TO THE PROPOSED SCHEME OF WORKS

- 16.1 Variations to the scheme of works will only be made following written confirmation from the archaeological curator.
- 16.2 Should the archaeological curator require any additional investigation beyond the scope of the brief for works, or this specification, then the cost and duration of those supplementary examinations will be negotiated between the client and the contractor.

LAND OFF HIGH STREET, HOLBEACH: SPECIFICATION FOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

17 SPECIALISTS TO BE USED DURING THE PROJECT

17.1 The following organisations/persons will, in principal and if necessary, be used as subcontractors to provide the relevant specialist work and reports in respect of any objects or material recovered during the investigation that require their expert knowledge and input. Engagement of any particular specialist subcontractor is also dependent on their availability and ability to meet programming requirements.

| Task | Body to be undertaking the work |
|-------------------------|---|
| Conservation | Conservation Laboratory, City and County Museum, Lincoln. |
| Pottery Analysis | Prehistoric: Dr D Knight, Trent and Peak Archaeological Trust |
| | Roman: B Precious, independent specialist (formerly City of Lincoln Archaeological Unit). |
| | Anglo-Saxon: J Young, City of Lincoln Archaeological Unit, Lincoln. |
| | Medieval and later: H Healey, independent archaeologist |
| Other Artefacts | J Cowgill, independent specialist (formerly City of Lincoln Archaeology Unit). |
| Human Remains Analysis | R Gowland, independent specialist, University of Durham. |
| Animal Remains Analysis | Environmental Archaeology Consultancy |
| Environmental Analysis | Environmental Archaeology Consultancy |
| Radiocarbon dating | Beta Analytic Inc., Florida, USA |
| Dendrochronology dating | University of Sheffield Dendrochronology Laboratory |

18 **PROGRAMME OF WORKS**

18.1 Refer to enclosure.

19 **BIBLIOGRAPHY**

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Second and

Archaeological Project Services, 1997 Archaeological Implications of the Reappraisal of Holbeach Conservation Area, Holbeach, Lincolnshire (HCA97), APS Report No: 23/97

BGS, 1992 Spalding, Solid and Drift Geology, 1:50,000 map sheet 144

Robson, JD, 1990 Soils of the Boston and Spalding District (Sheet 131), Memoirs of the Soil Survey of Great Britain

CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

BOREHOLE

| No | Description | Interpretation |
|------|--|------------------------------------|
| B001 | Light brown clay loam with gravel lime and mortar | Make-up layer |
| B002 | Dark brown clay loam with black lenses and gravel and brick and cinder fragments | Make-up layer |
| B003 | Dark brown silty clay | Possible buried soil c. 3m O.D. |
| B004 | Light brown silt | Natural |
| B005 | Light yellowish brown silt | Natural |
| B006 | Light brown silt | Natural |
| B007 | Light brown silt | Natural |
| B008 | Light brown silt and fine sand | Natural |
| B009 | Wet silt and sand | Natural |
| B010 | Light yellowish brown fine sandy silt | Natural |
| B011 | Light brownish yellow silty sand | Natural |
| B012 | Light brownish yellow sand | Natural |
| B013 | Light brownish yellow sand | Natural |
| B014 | Light brownish yellow sand with shell fragments | Natural |
| B015 | Light brownish yellow sand | Natural |

EVALUATION

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| No | Trench | Description | Date | Interpretation |
|-----|--------|---|-----------------------------|--|
| 001 | С | Dark brown/black gravel, mortar coal and silt. 0.1m thick | 18 th Century | Make-up layer for basement floor |
| 002 | C | Dark grey brown silt with charcoal. 0.79m thick | 18 th Century | Primary fill of pit 052 |
| 003 | В | Grey deposits removed during initial opening of trench - equates to 039 - 044 | 19 th Century | Last phase of back-filling of cellar |
| 004 | С | Mid yellowish brown silt. 0.42m thick | | Natural |
| 005 | A | Dark brown silt with coal, charcoal, brick and tile flecks. 0.14m thick | 17-18 th Century | Make-up for ground floor |

| No | Trench | Description | Date | Interpretation |
|-------|-------------------|---|-----------------------------|---|
| 006 | A | Yellowish brown silt with coal, brick and oyster shell fragments and roughly hewn limestone fragment. 0.35m thick | 17 th Century | Dumped deposit |
| 007 | A | Single course brick structure. 0.79 by 0.43 and 0.06m thick | | Floor |
| 008 | А | Yellowish brown silt with brick fragments. 0.14m thick | | Dumped deposit |
| 009 | В | Dark grey silt with shell fragments. 0.2m thick | 18-19 th Century | Primary fill of indeterminate feature 010 |
| 010 | В | Linear cut, aligned N-S, irregular base. 1.2 by 0.3 by 0.2m deep | | Indeterminate |
| 011 | В | Light grey clayey silt with shell and brick & tile fragments. 0.04m thick | 18-19 th Century | Temporary floor? |
| 012 | А | Yellowish brown silt with charcoal flecks. Same as 055. 0.32m thick | | Natural |
| 013 | A | Modern brick foundation | | Support for ground floor |
| 014 | A | Brown silt with charcoal, coal, brick and shell fragments. 0.38m thick | | Dumped deposit |
| 015 | A | Yellowish brown silt with brick, coal and mortar fragments. 0.24m thick | 18-19 th Century | Dumped deposit |
| 016 | А | Dark brown silt with coal, charcoal, brick and tile fragments. 0.5m thick | 16-17 th Century | Dumped deposit, infills 064 |
| 017 B | | Dark grey silt with mortar and coal fragments. 0.2m thick | 18-19 th Century | Primary fill of indeterminate feature 018 |
| 018 | В | Linear cut, aligned N-S, irregular base. 1.2 by 0.24 and 0.2m deep | | Indeterminate |
| 019 | В | Light yellowish brown fine sand with shell flecks. 0.18m thick | 17-8 th Century | Possible floor |
| 020 | Cellar Section | Dark yellowish brown silt with brick, mortar, wood and concrete fragments. 0.23m thick | | Make-up for ground floor |
| 021 | Cellar Section | Greyish brown silt with brick and coal fragments. 0.45m thick | 20 th Century | Dumped deposit |
| 022 | Cellar Section | Greyish brown silt with brick and charcoal fragments. 0.18m thick | 18-19 th Century | Dumped deposit |
| 023 | Cellar Section | Yellowish brown silt. 0.02m thick | | Dumped deposit |
| 024 | Cellar Section | Dark greyish brown silt with shell, coal and brick fragments. 0.25m thick | 18-19 th Century | Dumped deposit |

| No | Trench | Description | Date | Interpretation | |
|-----|-------------------|---|--------------------------------------|---|--|
| 025 | Cellar Section | Dark greyish brown silt with charcoal and brick fragments. 0.36m thick | | Dumped deposit | |
| 026 | Cellar Section | Grey and yellow brown laminated silt. Same as 027. 0.15m thick | | Natural | |
| 027 | Cellar Section | Grey and yellow brown laminated silt. Same as 026. 0.12m thick | | Natural | |
| 028 | Cellar Section | Dark greyish brown silt. 0.01m thick | | Natural | |
| 029 | Cellar Section | Light yellowish brown silt. 0.16m thick | | Natural | |
| 030 | Cellar Section | Yellowish brown silt. 0.29m thick | | Natural | |
| 031 | Cellar Section | Dark greyish brown silt. 0.03m thick | | Natural | |
| 032 | Cellar Section | Dark yellowish brown silt. Same as 062. 0.22m thick | | Natural | |
| 033 | В | Dark grey silt with oyster and flint fragments. 0.21m thick I8-early 19 th Century | | Dumped primary fill of indeterminate feature 051 | |
| 034 | В | Dark grey clayey silt with shell fragments. 0.15m thick | 18-early 19 th Century | Dumped deposit | |
| 035 | В | Dark grey silt with oyster shell fragments and rootlets. Same as 059. 0.3m thick | 17-18 th Century | Dumped deposit | |
| 036 | В | 17 course brick structure, stretcher bond, flush pointing, aligned N-S. Incorporated arched doorway 0.9m high by 0.51m wide. Abuts wall 038. 1.26m high by 1.15m long and 0.26m thick | | Cellar wall | |
| 037 | В | 11 course brick structure, stretcher bond, flush pointing. 0.9m high by 0.51m wide | | Blocking of doorway in wall 036 | |
| 038 | В | 8 course brick structure. Abuts wall 036. 0.66m high by 0.4m long and 0.36m wide | | Wall | |
| 039 | В | Dark grey sandy silt with mortar, limestone, brick and tile fragments. 0.41m thick | | Primary fill of indeterminate feature 050 | |
| 040 | В | Dark grey brown silt with shell,, charcoal, brick and tile fragments. 0.16m thick | | Dumped deposit | |

| No | Trench Description | | Date | Interpretation |
|-----|--------------------|--|------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 041 | В | Dark silt and limestone fragments with brick, tile, coal and mortar fragments. 0.08m thick | | Dumped deposit |
| 042 | В | Dark grey silt with burnt bone, mortar, shell, brick and tile fragments. 0.12m thick | | Dumped deposit |
| 043 | В | Dark grey silt with mortar, brick and tile fragments. 0.08m thick | | Animal burrow? |
| 044 | В | Dark brown silt with mortar, shell, brick and tile fragments. 0.12m thick | | Dumped deposit |
| 045 | В | Light brown fine sand with brick and tile fragments. 0.05m thick | | Possible floor |
| 046 | В | Dark grey and black silt and coal. 0.03m thick | | Dumped deposit |
| 047 | В | Light yellowish brown and dark grey fine sand and silt with brick and tile fragments. 0.09m thick | | Dumped deposit |
| 048 | В | Light yellowish brown fine sand with decayed mortar fragments. 0.01m thick | | |
| 049 | В | Dark grey silt with brick and tile late 17-18 th fragments and clay inclusions. 0.17m Century thick | | Dumped deposit |
| 050 | В | Cut feature, possibly aligned N-S, flat base. 1.2 by 0.36 and 0.41m deep | | Indeterminate |
| 051 | В | Cut feature, possibly aligned N-S, irregular base. 0.25 by 0.13m deep | | Indeterminate |
| 052 | С | Cut feature, concave base, top of feature possibly removed when basement constructed. 1.2m by 0.78m deep | | Pit |
| 053 | Cellar Section | Dark grey brown silt with charcoal, brick and tile fragments. 0.46m thick | | Primary fill of posthole 054 |
| 054 | Cellar Section | Cut feature, steep sides, irregular base. 0.28 by 0.46m deep | | Posthole |
| 055 | A (auger) | Brown silt. Same as 012. 1m thick | | Natural |
| 056 | A (auger) | Yellowish brown silt. 0.12m thick | | Natural |
| 057 | A (auger) | Dark brown silt. 0.33m thick | Dark brown silt. 0.33m thick | |
| 058 | A (auger) | Light yellowish brown fines and silt. 0.54m thick | | Natural |
| 059 | B (auger) | Greyish brown fine silt with brick and tile fragments. Same as 035. 0.57m thick | | Dumped deposit |
| 060 | B (auger) | Dark brown/black silt. 1.12m thick | | Dumped deposit |

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| No | Trench | Description Date Inter | | Interpretation |
|-----|------------------------------|--|--|----------------|
| 061 | B (auger) | Light greyish brown fine silty sand. 0.3m thick | | Natural |
| 062 | Cellar Section (auger) | Light yellowish brown fine sandy silt. Natur Same as 032. 0.84m thick | | Natural |
| 063 | Cellar Section (auger) | Light brownish yellow fine sand and silt. Natu 0.16m thick | | Natural |
| 064 | А | Cut, at least 0.65m wide by 0.35m deep Indeterm | | Indeterminate |

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THE FINDS

Paul Cope-Faulkner BA, AIFA, Hilary Healey MPhil and Gary Taylor MA

Provenance

The material was mostly recovered from dumped deposits in all parts of the site. Additionally, some of the material was retrieved from a number of features of indeterminate function.

Much of the pottery in the assemblage is probably derived from sources in the Midlands, particularly Staffordshire. However, some of the earlier ceramics are Lincolnshire products made in Bourne, approximately 25km west of Holbeach, and Toynton All Saints, 40km to the north of Holbeach. Additionally, there are a number of imported pieces, earthenwares and stonewares, from Holland and Germany. Some of the tin glazed earthenwares may also be Dutch imports. The claypipes and tile are likely to be Lincolnshire products, probably made locally in the Holbeach area.

Range

The range of material is detailed in the tables.

Table 1: The Artefacts

| CONTEXT NO. | DESCRIPTION | DATE | CONTEXT DATE |
|----------------|--|------------------------------|-------------------|
| 001 | 1x saltglazed white stoneware | 18th century | 18th century |
| | 1x Bourne D ware | 16th-17th century | |
| 002 | 5x Bourne D ware | 16th-17th century | 18th century |
| | 1x black glazed earthenware | 18th century | |
| | 1x claypipe stem/heel | 18th century | |
| | 1x gilded copper alloy number '1' | ?18th-19th century | |
| 003 | 003 2x yellow glazed earthenware | | 19th century |
| | 1x white glazed earthenware | 19th century | |
| | 1x iron ?chisel, clinker/slag attached and tile stuck to clinker | | |
| | 1x clinker/slag | | |
| 005 | 2x Boston ware | 17th century | 17th-18th century |
| | 1x Dutch red earthenware | 17th century | |
| | 1x Midlands Purple/black glazed earthenware | 17th century | |
| 1 | 1x black glazed earthenware | 17th-18th century | |
| | 1x claypipe bowl | late 17th-early 18th century | |
| | 7x claypipe stems | 17th century | |
| | 1x glass bottle | 17th-18th century | |
| | 1x copper alloy strip | | |

| 006 | 5x Bourne D ware | 16th-17th century | 17th century | |
|-----|---|-------------------------------------|----------------------------|--|
| | 1x Midlands Purple | 17th century | | |
| | 1x claypipe stem | 17th century | | |
| 009 | 1x Midlands Purple/black glazed earthenware | 17th-18th century | 18th-19th century | |
| | 1x black glazed earthenware | 18th century | | |
| | 2x creamware | 18th-early 19th century | | |
| | 1x handpainted white stoneware lid | 18th century | | |
| | 2 glass bottles | 18th-19th century | | |
| | 1x brick | | | |
| 011 | 1x black glazed earthenware | 18th-early 19th century | 18th-19th century | |
| | 1x bottle glass | 18th-19th century | | |
| 014 | 2x handmade brick | | | |
| 015 | 1x black glazed tableware | 18th-19th century | 18th-19th century | |
| | 1x daub/brick/tile | 1x daub/brick/tile | | |
| 016 | 6x Bourne D ware | 16th-17th century | 16th-17th century | |
| | 1x Toynton All Saints ware | 14th-16th century | | |
| | 1x iron square-sectioned spike/nail | 1x iron square-sectioned spike/nail | | |
| 017 | 2x mottled ware | mid-late 18th century | 18th-19th century | |
| | 2x black glazed earthenware | 18th-19th century | | |
| | 1x pantile | 17th-20th century | | |
| | 4x handmade brick | | | |
| | 1x bottle glass | 18th-19th century | | |
| | 1x ?vessel glass | 18th-19th century | | |
| | 1x window glass | | | |
| | 1x square-sectioned nail/spike | | | |
| 019 | 1x tin glazed earthenware | 17th-18th century | 17th-18th century | |
| | 1x handmade brick | | | |
| 021 | 1x Queen Victoria half-penny | 1900 | 20th century | |
| 022 | 1x white glazed tableware | 18th-19th century | 18th-19th century | |
| 024 | 1x black glazed earthenware | 18th century | 18th-19th century | |
| | 1x white glazed tableware | | | |
| 033 | 1x Staffordshire slipware | late 17th-18th century | 18th-early 19th century | |

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| | 3x mottled ware | mid-late 18th century | |
|-----|---|-----------------------------|-------------------------|
| | 5x black glazed earthenware | 18th-19th century | |
| | 1x Bourne D ware | | |
| | 3x white salt glazed stoneware | mid 18th-early 19th century | |
| | 1x blue and white transfer printed tableware | 18th-early 19th century | |
| | 1x claypipe stem | 18th century | |
| | 1x handmade brick | | |
| | 1x stabbed tile?, black glazed - oven plate? | | |
| | 2x bottle glass | 18th-19th century | |
| 034 | 2x creamware | 18th-early 19th century | 18th-early 19th century |
| | 1x ?tin glazed earthenware | 18th-early 19th century | |
| | 1x black glazed earthenware | 18th-19th century | |
| | 1x Toynton All Saints ware | 14th-16th century | |
| | 1x handmade brick | | |
| 035 | 13x black glazed earthenware | 17th-18th century | 17th-18th century |
| | 6x Midlands Purple/black glazed earthenware | 17th-18th century | |
| | 3x brown glazed earthenware | 17th-18th century | |
| | 3x Dutch red earthenware | 17th century | |
| | 2x Staffordshire slipware | late 17th-18th century | |
| | 2x tin glazed ware | 17th-18th century | |
| | 1x Westerwald stoneware | 17th-early 18th century | |
| | 1x Frechen stoneware medallion bottle | 17th century | c. |
| | 1x mottled purple tableware, burnt | ?18th century | |
| | 1x creamware | 18th century | |
| | 1x jug, unidentified late med-early post-med ware | 15th-16th century | |
| | 4x Midland Yellow-type ware | 17th century | |
| | 1x pantile | 17th20th century | |
| | 2x handmade brick | | |
| | 1x brick/daub | | |

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| 100 | 4x bottle glass | ?18th century | |
|-----|---|------------------------|----------------|
| | 1x clinker/burnt stone | | |
| 049 | 1x Staffordshire slipware | late 17th-18th century | late 17th-18th |
| | 1x white saltglazed stoneware, in 3 linked pieces | 17th-18th century | century |

Table 2: Faunal Remains

| CONTEXT NO. | SPECIES | BONE | DESCRIPTION |
|-------------|---|--|-------------------------------------|
| 001 | Cattle sized | rib | sawn |
| 002 | Cattle Cattle Cattle sized Sheep sized Sheep sized Pig Chicken Unknown Oyster | molar (7) phalange skull (15) scapula mandible rib maxilla with molar limb bones (5) unidentified 3x shells | |
| 003 | Oyster | 1x shell | |
| 005 | Cattle Cattle Cattle sized Cattle sized Cattle sized Cattle sized Sheep | metatarsus ulna ribs (2) skull humerus unidentified (2) metacarpus | unfused deep butchery marks |
| 006 | Cattle Cattle sized Cattle sized Sheep sized Chicken | phalange rib unidentified (2) humerus femur | sawn and snapped |
| 009 | Cattle Cattle sized Cattle sized Oyster | scapula tibia unidentified 1x shell | sawn twice at 90 degrees unfused |
| 014 | Cattle sized | vertebra | |
| 016 | Cattle sized Cattle sized | skull mandible | |
| 022 | Cattle sized | skull | |
| 024 | Cattle | tibia | some gnawing evident |
| 033 | Cattle Unknown | phalange skull | diseased, mature individual |
| 034 | Horse | scapula | parallel knife marks |

| 035 | Cattle sized Sheep Horse Unknown | rib mandible ulna unidentified (3) | |
|-----|---|---|--|
|-----|---|---|--|

Cattle is the most dominant species represented. Most seem to be large individuals typical of 'improved' animal husbandry dating to the post-medieval period. In Northamptonshire, improved livestock are introduced during the 16th and 17th centuries (Albarella and Davis 1994, 30). Mature, adult and juvenile specimens are all represented indicating that meat was not the main purpose of the cattle resource. Sheep, pig, horse and chicken are also present but in relatively low numbers and to few to warrant further comment. The entire animal bone assemblage may be regarded as butcher's waste and food refuse.

Condition

All the material is in good condition with the exception of the oyster shell which is very fragile. However, it should present no long-term storage problems. The assemblage is archived by material class.

Documentation

There has been limited previous archaeological investigation in Holbeach (Cope-Faulkner 1997b), though the town has been subject to archaeological and historical research (Cope-Faulkner 1997a). Due to the limited nature of previous investigations in the village there is no local comparabilia for the finds made in the present investigation. However, similar material has been found elsewhere and reported (eg, Jennings 1981).

Potential

The assemblage has moderate significance and provides an indication of the markets and products available to the post-medieval inhabitants of Holbeach, together with an illustration of the status and nature of the site occupants at this period.

Perhaps more significant is the overall composition of the assemblage. Located in the centre of the village, it was considered likely that medieval artefacts would be recovered from the site. However, such material is virtually absent (only 3 sherds of late medieval to early post-medieval pottery in the large assemblage) and these rare pieces could be old, residual vessels in use in the early post-medieval period. The composition of the assemblage, in particular, the dearth of medieval material, has high potential to provide evidence for the site formation processes and/or the nature of the site in the medieval period.

References

Albarella, U. and Davis, S.J.M., 1994 The Saxon and Medieval Animal Bones excavated 1985-1989 from West Cotton, Northamptonshire, Ancient Monuments Laboratory Report 17/94

Cope-Faulkner, P., 1997a Archaeological Implications of the Reappraisal of Holbeach Conservation Area, Holbeach, Lincolnshire (HCA97), unpublished Archaeological Project Services Report 23/97

Cope-Faulkner, P., 1997b Archaeological Watching Brief on land adjacent to Fishpond Lane, Holbeach, Lincolnshire (HFL97), unpublished Archaeological Project Services Report 48/97

Jennings, S., 1981 Eighteen centuries of pottery from Norwich, East Anglian Archaeology 13

Secretary of State's criteria for scheduling Ancient Monuments - Extract from Archaeology and Planning DoE Planning Policy Guidance note 16, November 1990

The following criteria (which are not in any order of ranking), are used for assessing the national importance of an ancient monument and considering whether scheduling is appropriate. The criteria should not however be regarded as definitive; rather they are indicators which contribute to a wider judgement based on the individual circumstances of a case.

i *Period*: all types of monuments that characterise a category or period should be considered for preservation.

ii *Rarity*: there are some monument categories which in certain periods are so scarce that all surviving examples which retain some archaeological potential should be preserved. In general, however, a selection must be made which portrays the typical and commonplace as well as the rare. This process should take account of all aspects of the distribution of a particular class of monument, both in a national and regional context.

iii *Documentation*: the significance of a monument may be enhanced by the existence of records of previous investigation or, in the case of more recent monuments, by the supporting evidence of contemporary written records.

iv *Group value*: the value of a single monument (such as a field system) may be greatly enhanced by its association with related contemporary monuments (such as a settlement or cemetery) or with monuments of different periods. In some cases, it is preferable to protect the complete group of monuments, including associated and adjacent land, rather than to protect isolated monuments within the group.

v *Survival/Condition*: the survival of a monument's archaeological potential both above and below ground is a particularly important consideration and should be assessed in relation to its present condition and surviving features.

vi *Fragility/Vulnerability*: highly important archaeological evidence from some field monuments can be destroyed by a single ploughing or unsympathetic treatment; vulnerable monuments of this nature would particularly benefit from the statutory protection that scheduling confers. There are also existing standing structures of particular form or complexity whose value can again be severely reduced by neglect or careless treatment and which are similarly well suited by scheduled monument protection, even if these structures are already listed buildings.

vii *Diversity*: some monuments may be selected for scheduling because they possess a combination of high quality features, others because of a single important attribute.

viii *Potential*: on occasion, the nature of the evidence cannot be specified precisely but it may still be possible to document reasons anticipating its existence and importance and so to demonstrate the justification for scheduling. This is usually confined to sites rather than upstanding monuments.

Glossary

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| Alluvium | Soil or other deposits laid down by water. Marine alluvium is laid down by the sea, freshwater alluvium by streams, rivers or in lakes. |
|----------------|---|
| Anglo-Saxon | Period dating between AD 410-1066, when Britain was invaded and settled by Germanic and Scandinavian peoples. |
| 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. |
| Old English | The language use by the early Anglo-Saxon peoples in England. |
| 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 c . AD 43-410, when Britain was occupied as part of the Roman Empire. |

The Archive

The archive consists of:

- 79 Context records
- 13 Sheets of scale drawings
- 2 Photographic record sheets
- 1 Stratigraphic matrix
- 2 Boxes of finds

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 entitled *Conditions for the Acceptance of Project Archives*, produced by the Lincolnshire City and County Museum.

Archaeological Project Services project code:HLH98City and County Museum, Lincoln Accession Number:278.98

Note: project codes used during the investigations, appearing on the site records and finds, were HBH98 for the borehole examination and HHS98 for the evaluation. However, due to the same code being used by another investigation, the project code has been changed by the City and County Museum, Lincoln, to HLH98, as detailed above.

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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