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**ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF REPORT  
PART OF FIELD 3200 ADJACENT TO THE A153  
(EAST RD) AND THE A17 (SLEAFORD BYPASS),  
SLEAFORD**

Site Code : ERSB99  
LCNCC : 7.99  
NGR : TF 0810 4735



Lincolnshire County Council  
Archaeology Section  
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Report Prepared for D.B Lawrence and Associates  
by James Snee BSc.  
February 1999

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**Fig. 1** General site location (1:10,000)

**Fig. 2** Plan of the north-west corner of the development site, showing the layout of buildings and facilities monitored (1:500)

## Summary

- \* *A watching brief was carried out during groundworks for the construction of a pavilion, car park and two netball courts for the new premises of the Sleaford Sports Partnership, East Road, Sleaford, Lincolnshire.*
- \* *Despite the significant amount of important archaeology in the area around the development site, an extensive program of monitoring produced no finds or features of any period.*
- \* *After consultation with the Heritage Officer for North Kesteven District Council the watching brief was terminated.*

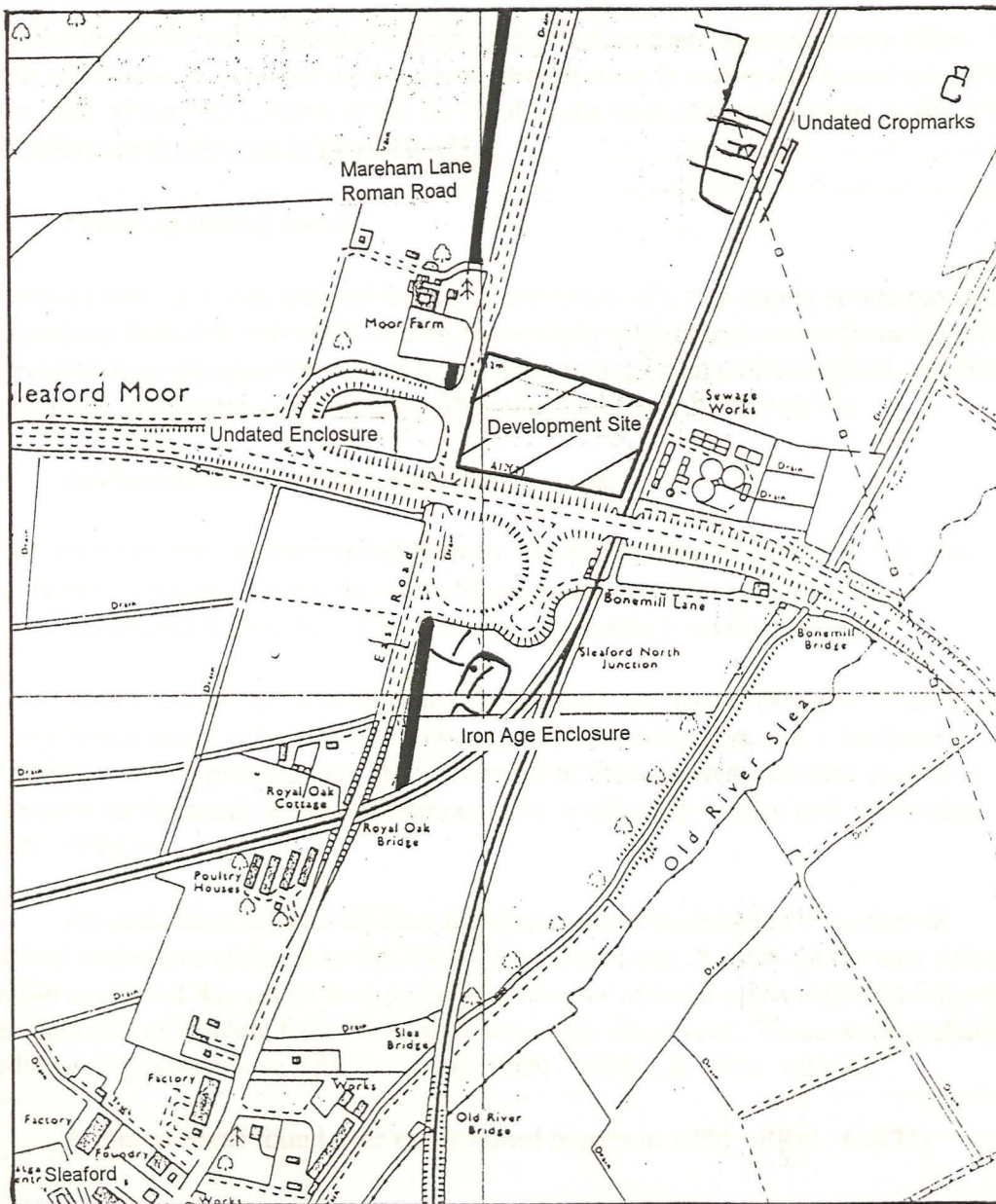


Fig. 1 1: 10,000 map showing the location of the Development Site.  
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## 1.0 Introduction

An archaeological watching brief was commissioned by D.B Lawrence and Associates on behalf the Sleaford Sports Partnership to fulfil a planning requirement associated with the construction of a pavilion, a car park and two netball courts.

The brief was carried out in accordance with the guidelines set out in the Lincolnshire County Council Archaeology Section publication *Lincolnshire Archaeological Handbook; A manual of archaeological practice*, and it followed the recommendations of a formal project brief issued by the Heritage Officer for North Kesteven District Council.

## 2.0 Location and description

Sleaford lies in the administrative district of North Kesteven, approximately 27km south of Lincoln. The site of the proposed development is on the north-east side of the town, east of the A153, north of the A17 and to the west of the sewerage works. The grid reference for the site is TF 0810 4735.

## 3.0 Planning background

Planning permission was granted for the construction of a two-storey sports pavilion and parking facilities, two netball courts, three rugby pitches and access from the A153. The permission was granted subject to the undertaking of an archaeological watching brief during associated groundworks. (Planning Reference N/57/240/98).

## 4.0 Archaeological and historical background

There are no known archaeological finds or cropmarks from the actual development site. However a search of the Sites and Monuments Records and other related documents revealed a number of archaeological remains bordering the site:

1. Mareham Lane follows the line of a Roman road from Sleaford to Lincoln. In some places it exists as a trackway; adjacent to the development site it has been identified on aerial photographs. Some remains of the lane were revealed during an evaluation to the south of the development site, confirming its date and orientation. (PRN : 60813)
2. An evaluation on land off East Road uncovered evidence of a number of undated enclosures adjacent to the line of Mareham Lane. A ditch on the east side of the site contained Roman or later pottery. A number of small pits and gullies following the alignment of existing field boundaries were also discovered. These were probably medieval or post-medieval. (PRN : 60766, PRN : 60767, & PRN : 60768)
3. A flint axe was found near the Sleaford bypass in 1984. (PRN : 60473)
4. An evaluation on land to the south of the A17, immediately south of the development site, identified an enclosure which had previously been recorded on aerial photographs. Also identified were a number of timber structures. The enclosure and its

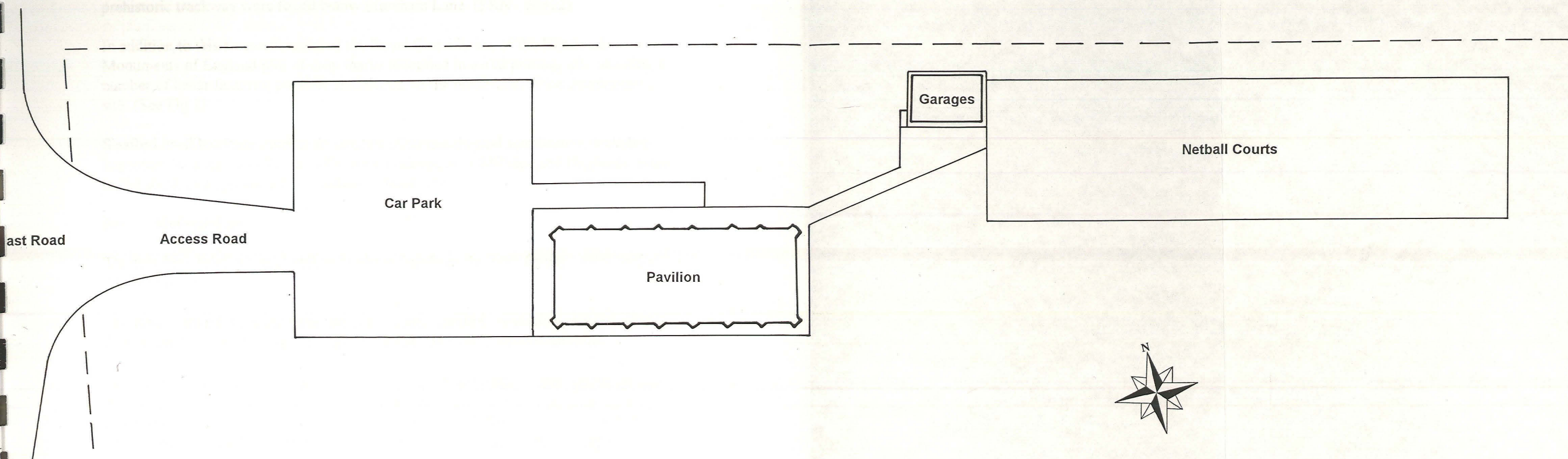


Fig. 2 Plan of the north-west corner of the Development Site showing the layout of buildings and facilities monitored. Scale 1:500.

structures were dated to the mid to late Iron Age. In addition the remains of a prehistoric trackway were found below Mareham Lane. (PRN : 60812)

In addition to this an examination of the Royal Commission of the Historical Monuments of England plot of crop marks identified in aerial photographs showing a number of linear features, possibly enclosures, to the north-east of the development site. (See Fig.1)

Sleaford itself has large number of remains of archaeological significance, including important Iron Age and Romano-British remains in the Old Place and Hoplands areas to the south and south-west of the development site.

## **5.0 Methodology**

The watching brief was undertaken by the writer from the 12th January 1999 to the 4th February 1999.

The topsoil strip for the car park, the topsoil strip and the excavation of the footings for the pavilion, and the topsoil strip for two netball courts were monitored.

The fieldwork element of the project consisted of archaeological observation during a number excavations and a thorough inspection of all plan and section surfaces exposed as a result of the groundworks. A record was made of all the soil horizons exposed. That record included scale drawing (where appropriate), colour photography, and written descriptions.

After consultation with the Heritage Officer for North Kesteven District Council, the monitoring of the service trenches for the netball courts was waved.

## **6.0 Results**

Only natural soil horizons, disturbed by ploughing and modern land drains, were exposed during the groundworks. The uppermost horizon was a layer of mid grey-brown sandy silt, approximately 30cm deep. This was a modern topsoil and the turf layer. No finds of any date were recovered from this layer. Below the topsoil was a layer of orange-brown silty sand and gravel which was approximately 130cm thick in the deepest excavation. This layer was interpreted as a natural horizon. Its upper surface was disturbed by modern plough lines oriented north to south and it was cut by a pattern of ceramic land drains oriented both north to south and east to west. No other layers were exposed.

## **7.0 Conclusions**

No archaeological remains of any period were disturbed by the groundworks. It is concluded, therefore, on the basis of the selective areas investigated, that the site is archaeologically sterile.

## **8.0 Acknowledgements**



Pre-Construct Archaeology (Lincoln) would like to express their thanks to D.B Lawrence and Associates for this commission. Thanks are also extended to all the staff of the County SMR, and to Mr B.B Simmons for his role as the Archaeological Consultant in advance of the fieldwork.

#### 9.0 Site Archive

The site archive (paper only) has been transferred to Lincoln City and County Museum. Access may be granted by quoting the site accession number, 219.98.

#### 10.0 References

- |                   |   |
|-------------------|---|
| Herbert, N        | 1998 : APS Report ; Land adjacent to North Junction.  |
| Herbert, N        | 1997 : APS Report ; Land off East Road.   |
| Orr, K            | 1998 : Brief For Archaeological Observation and Recording (Watching Brief) ; Part of field 3200 adjacent to the A153 (East Road) and the A17 (Sleaford Bypass), Sleaford, Lincolnshire. |
| Palmer-Brown, CPH | 1998 : Specification for an Archaeological Watching Brief ; Part of field 3200 adjacent to the A153 (East Road) and the A17 (Sleaford Bypass), Sleaford, Lincolnshire.                  |

**Appendix 1.**



**P.1** General view of topsoil strip for the pavilion, looking north-east.



**P.2** General view of incomplete pavilion footings, looking east.