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**ARCHAEOLOGICAL RECORDING BRIEF REPORT
PROPOSED VILLAGE GREEN SITE, THORESWAY.**

Site Code: TVG98
LCNCC Acc No. 28.98
NGR TF 1680 9664
Planning Ref. 08/T/0006

Lincolnshire County Council
Archaeology Section

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Report prepared for Lincolnshire County Council.
by James Albone BSc., PIFA.
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Pre-Construct Archaeology (Lincoln)
61 High Street
Newton on Trent
Lincoln
LN1 2JP
Tel. & Fax. 01777 228155

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Summary

- * *An archaeological recording brief was commissioned by Lincolnshire County Council to record a 40m section face prior to its burial during the development of a Village Green site at Thoresway, Lincolnshire. (TF1680 9664).*
- * *The remains of an undated stone lime kiln were exposed in the section.*
- * *Undulations in the base of the subsoil were recorded, but it was not possible to establish whether or not these represented real archaeological features. A small quantity of medieval pottery was recovered from the upper part of the subsoil.*

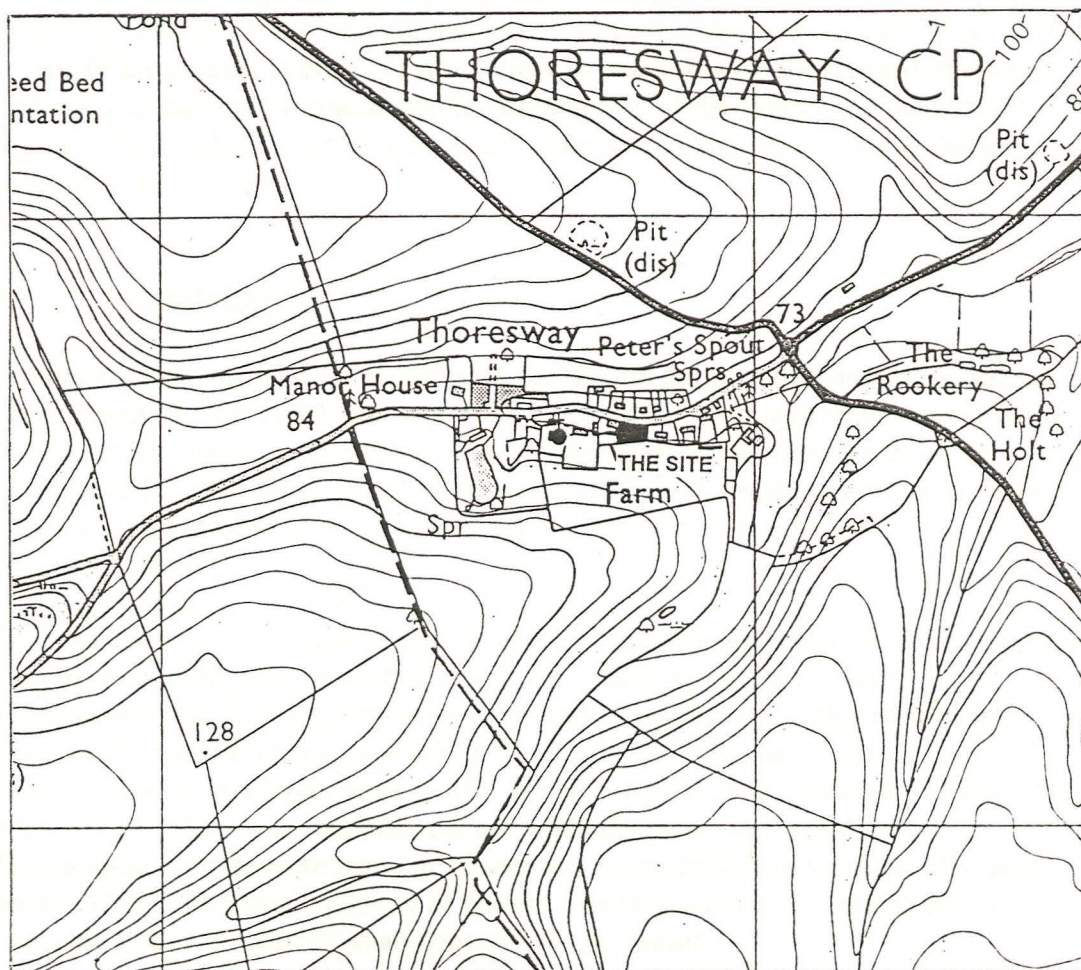


Fig. 1: Site location (1:12,500)
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1.0 Introduction

Archaeological recording was carried out by Pre-Construct Archaeology (Lincoln) at the request of Lincolnshire County Council Archaeology Section at the proposed village green site at Thoresway, Lincolnshire (Fig. 1). Unquantified archaeological remains had been observed in an exposed soil face which would be buried as part of the green development.

A copy of this report will be deposited at the County SMR, and a short text will be submitted to the editor of the county journal, *Lincolnshire History and Archaeology*; effectively placing the information in the public domain. Reports will be deposited at the City and County Museum, Lincoln, accompanied with an ordered project archive.

2.0 Location and Description

Thoresway is situated in the Lincolnshire Wolds in the administrative district of West Lindsey. It lies 17 km. south west of Grimsby and 9.5 km. north east of Market Rasen. The underlying geology consists of chalk and marl, and the village lies at c.76 m. above OD. The proposed village green site is situated in the centre of the village, 120 m. east of the church, at NGR TF 1680 9664. It was formerly a farm yard, the south side of which had been terraced into the sloping side of the valley. The face of this terrace, which had been cut back in recent years formed the section that is the subject of this report.

3.0 Methodology

Archaeological remains were identified in the section during a preliminary inspection by the Assistant County Archaeologist for Lincolnshire. Although these remains were under no direct threat, material will be dumped against the section as part of the landscaping for the village green and the opportunity was sought to record them prior to burial. The location of the section, in relation to existing buildings and features, is shown in figure 2.

The whole section face exposed was cleaned to clarify the extent of the archaeological remains. Recording was undertaken using standard context record sheets (incorporating physical descriptions, interpretations, and stratigraphic relationships). The main face of the section was drawn to scale (1:20) with the structural feature drawn separately at a larger scale (1:10). No archaeological features were identified in either of the smaller side sections, and consequently these were not drawn. Photographic records were made of all sections (some prints are reproduced in this report). Only a very small quantity of pottery was recovered and a brief specialist comment on this is included as an appendix to this report.

The recording was carried out by the writer assisted by another experienced field archaeologist on the 18th and 19th February 1999.

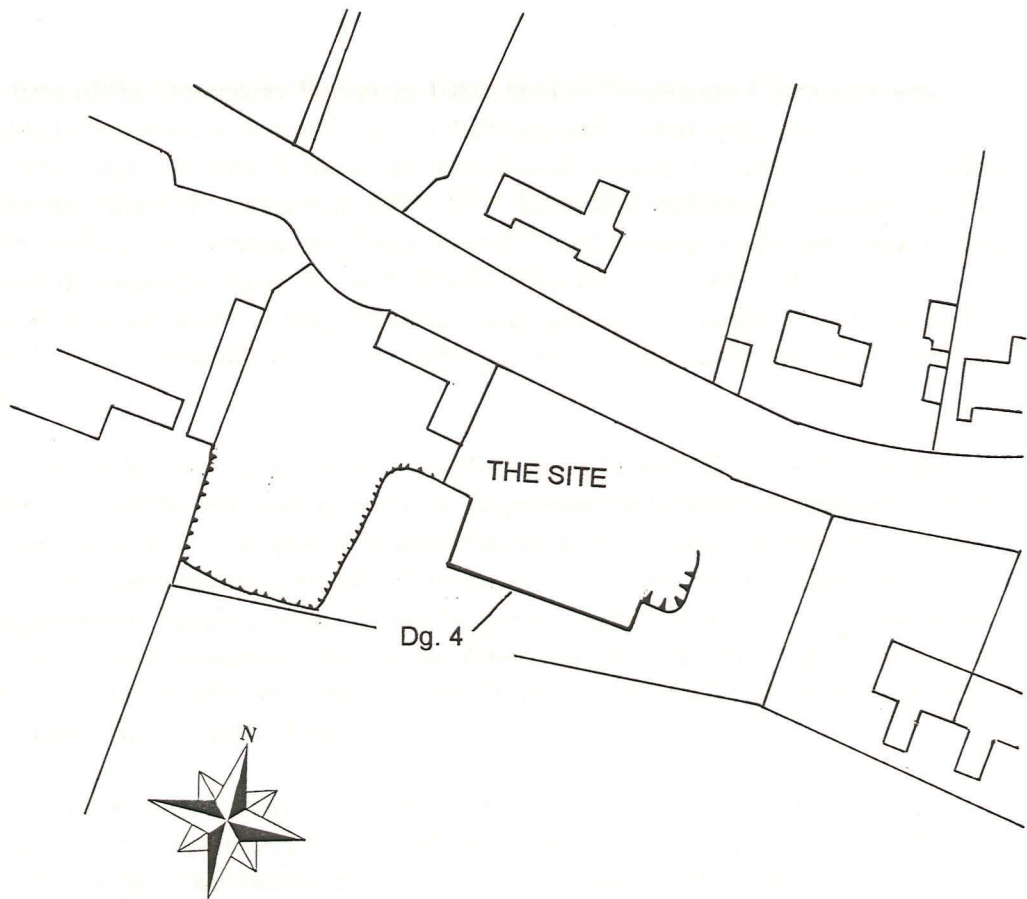


Fig. 2: Site plan showing the location of the drawn section (1:1000).

4.0 Archaeological and Historical Background

The earliest archaeological remains from the parish are prehistoric worked flints and stone axes, a number of which have been found within 400m. of the site. A Bronze Age barrow cemetery has also been identified to the east of the present village. Excavations carried out at this site in 1967 produced pottery, a flint scraper and a bronze ear-ring (May 1976, 71). Two Roman sites have been located in the parish, and Roman pottery has been found to the south of the present settlement.

Some uncertainty exists as to the exact etymology of the place-name Thoresway. It is generally accepted as Anglo-Danish in origin, meaning 'Thori's Road'. However, it may also be Old Danish, referring to 'the shrine dedicated to Thor' (Cameron 1998, 125).

At the time of the Domesday Survey in 1086, land at Thoresway (*Toreswe*) was divided between two manors held by Ivo Tallboys and Alfred of Lincoln (Morris 1986). The history of these manors can be followed through to the 15th century when they become joined (Everson et al 1991, 194). Extensive earthwork remains associated with the medieval settlement have been recorded surrounding the present village, and have been discussed in detail by the RCHME (Everson et al 1991, 194-196). Immediately to the south of the proposed village green site a range of earthworks were observed prior to their destruction ploughing in 1962. These have been described as follows;

'To the SE of the church an area of earthworks, now destroyed, contained a well-marked E-W hollow-way, parallel to the present street with occupation on both sides. Closes on its N side appear to have had buildings lining the hollow-way and are therefore likely to have extended N down to the stream. On its S there was certainly a major building complex, with large embanked closes arranged along the slope. The form, size and proximity to the church of the complex suggest a manorial site. It is certainly in this area that Lord Culpeper's post-medieval residence formerly stood.' (Everson et al 1991, 195).

The parish church, dedicated to St. Mary, was rebuilt in 1879-80 by Fowler of Louth, although part of the east arch of the Norman tower remains (Pevsner et al 1995, 756). The parish was enclosed between 1815 and 1817 (Russell & Russell 1983, 100-102).

The area of the site had formerly been part of a farmyard attached to Glebe Farm, which lay immediately to the west. The second edition Ordnance Survey map of 1905 shows a range of buildings along the road frontage which have since been demolished. To the south of these, and covering the main area of the site, were two yards.

5.0 Results

The principal archaeological feature observed was a stone structure [113], which has been interpreted as a lime kiln. In addition to this, a number of possible undated features and modern pits and service trenches were identified.

5.1 Lime Kiln [113]

The kiln lay within a broad, shallow depression [112] cut into the surface of the natural chalky brash (120). The kiln structure itself showed two clear phases of development.

The first phase was built directly into the base of the depression. The walls of the kiln were formed from rough chalk blocks. The western wall [127] survived to a height of four courses and was c.0.70 m. thick. The eastern wall [128] had been substantially robbed, with only a few disturbed stones remaining to mark its position. The width across the kiln was 3.3 m., although this may not represent a true section across the structure. Inside the structure was a foundation of flint cobbles set in a pink - grey clay matrix (126). These were sealed by a dark grey baked clay surface (125) which was the original floor of the kiln.

Overlying (125) was another layer of flints, again set in a grey clay matrix (124). These provided the foundation for the purple - dark red baked clay floor of the second phase. Immediately above this later floor was a thin layer of lime (122), presumably the remains of the last load to be processed in the kiln. The floor of the second phase was above the height to which the walls survived so it is impossible to be sure how it related to them. It is likely that the second floor was contained by the already existing walls from the first phase.

The kiln structure lay sealed beneath a layer of mixed chalky rubble with a dark grey brown silty clay matrix (121) which formed during the demolition of the structure. The apparent robbing out of the east wall prior to its burial suggested that the kiln had been deliberately demolished when no longer required (rather than being allowed to collapse). The subsoil layer sealing the demolition rubble (119) contained a single sherd of pottery which possibly dates to the thirteenth to fourteenth centuries. As this sherd could be residual it could not be used to provide a date for the structure.

5.2 Other Features

Immediately beneath the topsoil (100) was a layer of small chalk rubble (101). This layer was put down to form a stable and free draining surface when the area was used as a stackyard associated with the adjacent farmyard (local resident pers. comm.). A small modern pit [106] and service trench containing a plastic pipe [102] had been cut through this layer. A further hand-dug service trench containing a lead pipe [104] and an undated pit [108] were sealed below the stackyard surface. Although pit 108 produced no finds, the similarity between its fill and that of the lead pipe trench suggested that they were probably broadly contemporary.

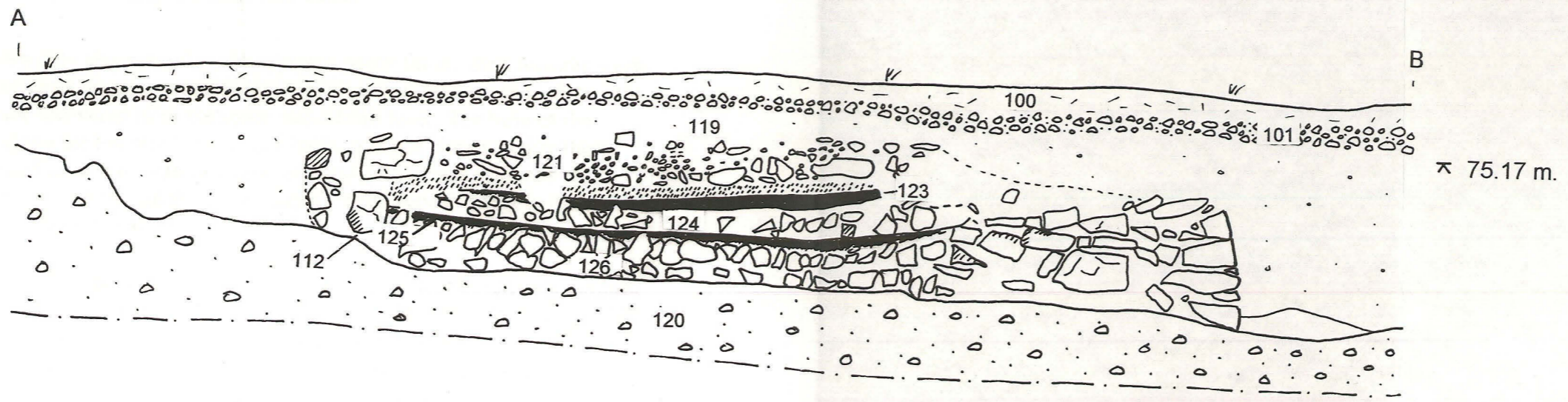


Fig. 3: Section of the lime kiln (1:20).

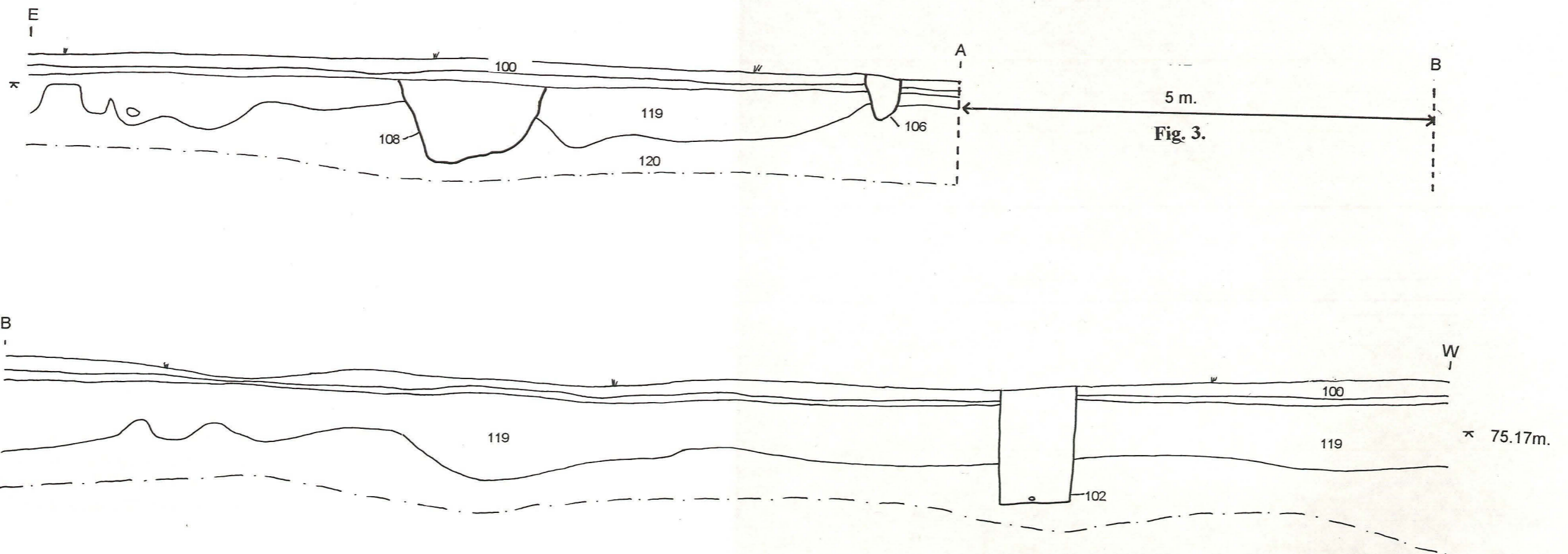


Fig. 4: Main section showing the location of Fig. 3. (1:40).

The dark grey brown silty clay subsoil (119), through which the modern features were cut, contained small chalk fragments and flints. Four sherds of fourteenth to sixteenth century pottery were recovered from the upper part of this layer. The base of the subsoil undulated along the length of the section and it was not clear whether these variations represented natural or anthropogenic features. There was evidence of relatively recent animal activity and the mixed nature of the deposit suggested that it may have been extensively disturbed.

The absence of any finds in the lower part of the subsoil made it impossible to confirm whether these features were really of archaeological origin. Only the depression [112] containing the kiln could confidently be interpreted as being man made. Consequently any interpretation of the other features would have been purely speculative. All of the possible archaeological features are all shown on the main section drawing (Fig. 4).

6.0 Discussion and Conclusions

The identification of the lime kiln was particularly interesting. These structures would have been common in the landscape from at least the medieval period until the nineteenth century. Lime was an important commodity and was used in the manufacture of mortar and to improve poor agricultural land.

Early kilns were often about 3 m. in diameter with walls of up to 1.2 m. with draught tunnels at the base. Alternate layers of brushwood fuel and broken limestone were placed in the kiln and heaped up. The whole kiln was then covered with sods and left to burn itself out (Raistrick 1979, 70).

Kilns of this type remained in use until the nineteenth century and the lack of finds meant that it was not possible to date the structure. Examination of the structure wholly in section meant that it was impossible to establish how much remained in situ, and how much had already been destroyed. However, if the kiln was of a similar size to those described by Raistrick, it would seem that approximately half of it remains.

Although other possible archaeological features were identified the status of these could not be clarified. However, the small quantity of artefactual evidence present in the subsoil and around the kiln structure, suggests that the site was not close to any domestic activity

7.0 Acknowledgements

Pre-Construct Archaeology (Lincoln) express their sincere thanks to Lincolnshire County Council Archaeology section for this commission, Mark Bennet and Sarah Grundy of the County SMR Office, Jane Young for the comment on the pottery and to the site team; Jim Snee and Wayne Livesey.

8.0 Appendices:

8.1 References

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- Everson, P.L., Taylor, 1991 *Change and Continuity. Rural Settlement in North-West Lincolnshire.*
C.C. & Dunn, C.J.
- May, J. 1976 *Prehistoric Lincolnshire.*
- Morris, J. (gen. ed.) 1986 *'Lincolnshire' Domesday Book.*
- Pevsner, N., Harris, J 1995 *The Buildings of England: Lincolnshire.*
& Antram, N.
- Raistrick, A. 1979 *Industrial Archaeology*
- Russell, E. & Russell, 1983 *Making New Landscapes in Lincolnshire.*
R.C.

8.2 Post-Roman Pottery Archive by Jane Young

Context 119

- | | | |
|----|------|------------------------|
| x3 | HUM | 14-16th C. |
| x1 | ?LKT | 10th C shell-tempered. |
| x1 | HUMB | 14-16th C. |

Context 119 (above structure 113)

- | | | |
|----|------|--|
| x1 | HUMB | Fine, similar Toynton poss. 13-14th C. |
|----|------|--|

8.3 List of Contexts

Context	Description
100	Dark brown clay silt topsoil.
101	White chalk rubble yard surface.
102/103	Pipe trench and fill.
104/105	Pipe trench and fill.
106/107	Small modern pit and fill.
108/109	Modern pit and fill.
110/111	Possible cut feature and fill (same as 119).
112	Construction cut for lime kiln
113	Lime kiln structure.
114/115	East side construction cut for kiln and fill (same as 119).
116	Same as 119.
117/118	Possible cut feature and fill (same as 119).
119	Dark grey brown silty clay subsoil
120	Orange brown clay silt / sand and gravel brash (Natural).
121	White lime layer within kiln structure.
122	Purple/dark red burnt clay floor of kiln.
123	Flint cobble foundation with reddish grey matrix
124	Dark grey burnt clay kiln floor.
125	Flint cobble foundation in reddish grey clay

8.4 Colour Photographs



P.1 General view of the site showing the lime kiln, looking south.



P.2 The lime kiln [113], looking south.