ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELD EVALUATION REPORT AND WEST OF HIGH STREET, SWINESHEAD, LINCOLNSHIRE

Site Code:	SWH99	
LCNCC Acc No.	29.99	
NGR	TF 2350 4062	

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SWH99 29.99 TF 2350 4062

Report prepared for Chanceoption Homes Ltd. by James Albone May 1999

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Summary

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An archaeological field evaluation was undertaken on land to the west of High Street, Swineshead, Lincolnshire, where nine trenches were excavated to establish the archaeological potential of the site on behalf of Chanceoption Homes Ltd. (Fig. 1)

- A small number of mid to late Saxon ditches were identified in the northern part of the site. It is possible that these were agricultural boundaries associated with a possible settlement focus previously recorded in the North End area of the village.
- Two large enclosures were dated to the thirteenth century environmental and artefactual evidence suggests that these related to drainage and the management of a primarily pastoral agricultural landscape.
- An east-west palaeochannel dating to at least the thirteenth century was identified, and a watching brief on the High Street frontage identified a post-medieval boundary ditch - surprisingly, the only feature exposed in this part of the site.



Fig. 1: Site location (1:10,000) (OS Copyright Licence No: AL 515 21 A0001)

1.0 Introduction

An archaeological field evaluation (trial trenching) and watching brief were carried out on the site of a proposed housing development to the west of the High Street in Swineshead, Lincolnshire (Fig. 1). The watching brief was undertaken during the construction of four show homes along the High Street frontage. The remainder of the site was subject to trial trenching, based on the results of a geophysical (fluxgate gradiometer) survey (Lyall 1999). The work was commissioned by Chanceoption Homes Ltd. in accordance with a requirement of the planning permission (Ref. B19/0587/98).

The results contained in this report will enable the client and local planning authority to assess the archaeological significance of the site and the potential impacts which may be imposed by 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

Swineshead is in the administrative district of Boston Borough and is approximately 10 km west-south-west of the town. The site lies to the west of the High Street and is centred on NGR TF 2350 4062. It covers an area of approximately 5.6 acres and lies at c.3 m. OD. Until recently it was used for arable cultivation and had formerly been the site of a number of glasshouses.

The underlying geology consists of alluvial silts.

3.0 Archaeological and Historical Background

The earliest archaeological evidence from Swineshead consists of two prehistoric stone axes, one of which can be dated to the Bronze Age. The presence of these artefacts is surprising as the contemporary ground surface lies buried at depth beneath peat and alluvium.

Roman pottery scatters and salt-making sites have been identified at a number of locations in the parish. These include Broad Ings which is c.1.2km to the south south west of the development (Southworth 1996, 1). Evidence from dated samples of peat from the parish and elsewhere seem to suggest a marine transgression of at least local significance at some time around the fourth to sixth centuries AD (Lane 1993, 88).

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It is recorded in the Anglo-Saxon Chronicle, that in 675 AD King Æthelred gave land at Swineshead to the monastery at *Medehamstede* (Peterborough) (Garmonsway ed. 1992, 37). The place-name *Swineshæfed* is Old English and refers to 'the source of the creek' (Cameron 1998, 122). The Saxon origins of the settlement are supported by archaeological evidence. Late Saxon pottery and a strap-end have been found in the village.

Swineshead itself is not referred to in the Domesday Survey of 1086. although its omission may be more due to accident or loss rather than intention. However, two smaller settlement within the parish, Drayton and Estevening, were mentioned. The settlement of Estevening, which lay c.1.5km to the south west of the development was abandoned in the fourteenth century.

To the north-east of the village is an earthwork site called the Manwarings. This is a ringwork associated with a medieval (possibly manorial) site. Swineshead Abbey, located to the east of the village, was founded by the Cistercian Order in 1135 (Southworth 1996, 15). The parish church, dedicated to St. Mary, is in the Decorated and Perpendicular architectural styles (Pevsner, Harris and Antram 1995, 736). The village was a market town during the medieval period with charters for two annual fairs (Platts 1985, 303). The remains of two fourteenth century crosses survive in the centre of the village.

4.0 Methodology

The Boston Community Archaeologist issued an archaeological project brief requiring that nine trenches should be excavated to investigate anomalies detected by the geophysical survey. The purpose of these trenches was to determine the nature of the archaeological resource (its character, date, depth, state of preservation, extent and significance). Only by sampling a percentage of the site could the actual archaeological potential be fully addressed. The overall objective of this phase of work, therefore, was to present the client and the planning authority with a set of data from which reasoned decisions may be taken regarding future management of the archaeological resource.

The trench locations were as follows, and are shown in relation to the geophysical survey results on Figure 2;

- **Trench 1** (10m x 1.6m) was located across linear geophysical anomalies 16 and 17.
- Trench 2 (40m x 1.6 m) was placed to investigate four linear geophysical anomalies (numbers 2, 8, 10 and 17) and part of a group of anomalies (number 7).
- **Trench 3** (30m x 5m) was located to investigate a large geophysical anomaly (number 3) and its relationship with anomalies 8 and 10. This trench also aimed to identify an enclosure ditch (anomaly 20) and part of a group of anomalies (number 5).
- Trench 4 (40m x 3m) was located across four linear geophysical anomalies (10, 11, 14 and 18) and a large sub-circular anomaly (number 15).



Fig. 2: Site plan showing the location of the geophysical anomalies (after Lyall 1999) and the evaluation trenches (1:1000).

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Trench 5 (5m x 5m) was placed at the intersection of three linear geophysical anomalies (numbers 14, 19 and 20) to establish their stratigraphic relationship.

Trench 6 (50m x 1.6m) was located across part of the L-shaped geophysical anomaly (number 21) and a group of linear anomalies (number 12).

Trench 7 (20m x 1.6m) was placed across the narrowest part of the L-shaped geophysical anomaly (number 21).

Trench 8 (30m x 1.6m) was located to identify a group of three linear geophysical anomalies (number 13).

Trench 9 (10m x 1.6m) was located in an area of the site which the geophysical survey results had suggested did not contain any archaeological features to test the effectiveness of the survey results.

Recording was undertaken using standard context record sheets (incorporating physical descriptions, interpretations, and stratigraphic relationships). Features were planned and drawn to scale in section, and photographic recording was undertaken (some prints are reproduced in this report). The drawings, and the rest of the paper record, will form the basis for a long-term project archive. A quantity of pottery and two small finds were recovered; specialist reports on these are included in the appendices. Samples were taken from deposits which were considered to have potential for environmental remains and a further report on these is also included in the appendices. The evaluation was supervised by the writer assisted by three experienced field archaeologists and was carried out between the 8th and 22nd of March 1999.

5.0 The Evaluation Results

A mid grey-brown sandy silt ploughsoil extended over the whole of the site. Beneath this was pale orange-brown silt which was present in all of the trenches and appeared to be a subsoil. Some features were clearly cut through this layer, whereas others appeared to be sealed by it. This 'subsoil' produced only one dateable artefact; the base of a seventeenth century tyg was from (201) in Trench 2.

Substantial flooding events would have been required for this quantity of silt (up to 0.4m) to have been deposited and there is no record of this happening during the post-medieval period. It is more likely that the apparent subsoil layer is a result of the seasonal variation in the level of the water table. This action results in the loss of any visible changes in the soil between the high and low water levels, making archaeological features almost invisible. Consequently it is possible that the ground level on the site has remained more or less the same throughout the medieval period and that most of the archaeological features were cut from this level (Rackham pers comm.).

5.1 Trench 1

Four linear features were exposed in this trench, only of which had been identified by the geophysical survey.



Ditch [111] was aligned east to west and corresponded with geophysical anomaly 16 (Fig. 2). No artefacts were recovered from its fill. **Ditch [114]** was also aligned east to west but had not been identified by the geophysical survey. Two sherds of tenth century pottery were recovered from its lower fill (113).

Ditch [105] corresponded to geophysical anomaly 17 (Fig. 2) and was also on an east to west alignment. It had been recut [103], and sherds of eighth to mid ninth century pottery were recovered from both the primary fill (102) and that of the recut (104). Adjacent to this feature was a north east to south west aligned ditch [109] which was not identified by the geophysical survey. It contained three fills, one of which (107) contained two sherds of eighth to mid ninth century pottery. It was not possible to determine the relationship between ditches [109] and [105], however their similarity of fills (104) and (107) may indicate that both originally filled at the same time (although only ditch 105 was recut).

5.2 Trench 2

The only feature which appeared to cut through the subsoil (201) was a large former creek or **palaeochannel** [225 & 231]. This was aligned west to east and corresponded with geophysical anomaly 10 (Fig. 2). This feature consisted of braided channels which contained eleven silt and clay-silt fills. Only one of these (232) contained dateable artefacts; two sherds of thirteenth century pottery. The west to east aligned geophysical anomaly 8 (Fig. 2) could not be identified, and was presumably of an earlier date than the palaeochannel.

Three other linear features were identified in the trench. One of these, ditch [216], corresponded with geophysical anomaly 17, and was a continuation of the west to east aligned ditch [105] in trench 1. Ditch [218] was aligned north west to south east and was cut by ditch [216]. A body sherd from an eighth to mid ninth century Ipswich Ware jug was recovered from the fill of this feature, (219). The third linear feature, ditch [203], was aligned south west to north east. It contained three fills but no artefacts were recovered. Four undated pits [208, 214, 220 & 222] were identified in the trench. These contained silt and silt-clay fills and were sealed below the subsoil. It is possible that these features may correspond with group number 7 of geophysical anomalies (Fig. 2). The linear geophysical anomaly 2 was not identified, and it is possible that it lay just to the north of the trench.

5.3 Trench 3

A large **pit** [303], which corresponded with geophysical anomaly 3 (Fig. 2), was identified at the northern end of the trench. The fill of this feature, (304), contained modern bricks, pottery and the remains of a metal bucket. It was cut into the upper fill of **palaeochannel** [305] (Geophysical anomaly 10 on Fig. 2). Three undated post holes [311, 313 & 315], arranged in an L-shape, were also identified at this end of the trench. Two of these were also cut into the top of the palaeochannel, which suggested that they were of post-medieval or modern date.

Two pits [307 & 309] which could be tentatively associated with the group of geophysical anomalies number 5 (Fig. 2) were identified. Modern pottery was







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recovered from the fills of both features. Two **ditches** [317 & 319] were identified in the trench sections. These were both aligned north east to south west and no artefacts were recovered from the fills of either. A single sherd of mid twelfth to mid thirteenth century pottery was recovered from the flood deposit (321) immediately below layer (301).

Geophysical anomaly 20, a continuation of ditch [507] in trench 5, was not identified in the trench. It is possible that it was sealed beneath deposits in the base of the trench.

5.4 Trench 4

Three features were located at the southern end of the trench. **Ditch [405]** had a U-shaped profile and was aligned east north east to west south west. This feature corresponded with geophysical anomaly 5, and modern pottery was recovered from its fill (406). Just to the north was a small **pit [403]** which contained no artefacts. Both features were cut into the upper fills of a large **linear feature [407]** which had not been identified by the geophysical survey. The full extent of this was not established, but six different fills were identified in the excavated portion. Dateable artefacts consisting of sherds of late fifteenth to late sixteenth century pottery were recovered from one of the fills (412).

Three linear features were identified at the northern end of the trench. These were all apparently below layer (401) and it is likely that they related to the **palaeochannel** identified by the geophysical survey (anomaly 10 on Fig. 2). The most northerly **channel [416]** contained a sequence of five fills representing at least two erosional events. **Channels [414] & [415]** had broad shallow profiles and contained single fills. Two adjoining sherds of eighth to mid ninth century pottery were recovered from the fill (417) of channel [414], with these being the only artefacts recovered from the three linear features.

The large geophysical anomaly (number 15) and the linear anomalies 11 and 18 were not identified during the excavation of this trench.

5.5 Trench 5

Trench 5 was located to establish the relationship between three linear anomalies that had been identified by the geophysical survey. All three of these features were located during excavation.

Ditch [507] was aligned north north west and corresponded to geophysical anomaly 20 (Fig. 2). The geophysical survey had showed this feature as the western boundary of a large rectangular enclosure. It had a broad steep sided profile, which was not fully excavated due to groundwater flooding. A **bank (509)** was present to the east side of the ditch (i.e. on the inside of the enclosure). The lowest fill exposed in the feature (513) contained sherds of thirteenth century pottery and a whetstone. Following the deposition of a coarse flood silt (512) the feature had been recut. One of the two subsequent fills (511) extended to the west of the ditch, which suggested that the flooding which deposited it had been retained by the bank [509] to the east. Sherds of thirteenth century pottery were also recovered from these upper fills. This feature and



its associated bank were sealed by a silt layer (506) which contained sherds of thirteenth to eighteenth century pottery.

Both of the other two linear features in the trench cut through layer (506). Ditch [502] corresponded to the east-north-east to west-south-west geophysical anomaly 5 (Fig. 2). As such, it was a continuation of ditch [405], and further modern artefacts were recovered from its fill (503). It was cut into the upper fill of a north east to south west aligned ditch [504], which corresponded to geophysical anomaly 19 (Fig. 2). This feature appeared to have a broad U-shaped profile, although it partly lay beyond the limits of the trench and was not fully excavated due to groundwater flooding. Sherds of late seventeenth to early eighteenth century pottery were recovered from the upper fill (505).

5.6 Trench 6

A pair of east-north-east to west-south-west aligned parallel **ditches** [603] & [607] which corresponded to part of the L-shaped geophysical anomaly (Number 21 on fig. 2) were identified in the northern part of this trench. Neither were fully excavated, as their complete profiles had already been established in trench 7 (see 5.7 below). Both ditches were cut through layer (601) and had broad profiles with gently sloping sides. Sequences of fills were identified in both features, but no artefacts were recovered.

A steep-sided ditch [617] corresponding to the middle of three geophysical anomalies number 12 (Fig. 2). This was aligned east-north-east to west-south-west and had a steep profile. It was sealed by the subsoil (601), which made it stratigraphically earlier than ditches [603 & 607]. A single sherd of nineteenth century pottery was recovered from an upper fill (618).

A modern land drain, which may have corresponded with the northernmost part of geophysical anomaly 12 (Fig. 2), was also identified in this trench.

5.7 Trench 7

Two pairs of ditches were identified. Due to severe groundwater flooding and section collapse, however, it was not possible to establish the exact alignment of these features. Two of them, **ditches [701 & 702]**, corresponded with part of geophysical anomaly 21 (Fig. 2). They were both cut through layer (706) and had fairly steep-sided and broad profiles. A large number of fills were identified in both, and sherds of eleventh to thirteenth century pottery were found in two of the lower fills (712 & 713) of ditch [701]. However the stratigraphic evidence from trench 6 (see 5.6 above) would suggest that these features were of a considerably more recent date.

Flanking the above was a further two **ditches** [703 & 704] that were below layer (706). Both of these features had fairly steep sided profiles, although neither was fully excavated due to the groundwater flooding. Sequences of fills were identified in both ditches, but no artefacts were recovered.



5.8 Trench 8

Two north east to south west aligned linear features were identified in this trench, neither of which had been identified by geophysical survey. **Ditch [802]** contained a sequence of fills, one of which (807) contained a large number of sherds from an early twelfth to mid thirteenth century jar. The feature was below layer (801) and terminated within the trench.

Ditch [809] was also sealed below (801) and contained a large number of fills. The edges of this feature were difficult to determine due to poor conditions at the time of excavation. The alignment of the feature suggested that it may have been a continuation of ditch [704] in trench 7. No artefacts were recovered.

Only one of the three linear geophysical anomalies (Number 13 on fig. 2) was identified in the trench. The middle of the three anomalies corresponded with a land drain, possibly the same one that had been identified in trench 6.

5.9 Trench 9

No archaeological features were identified in this trench; only a sequence of natural flood deposited silts and clays.

6.6 The Walkheir Bright



Fig. 25: Plan of watching brief area (1:500).

6.0 The Watching Brief

6.1 Introduction

An archaeological watching brief was carried out during the construction of plots 1 - 4 along the High Street frontage (Fig. 25). It was anticipated that a number of the archaeological features identified during the evaluation phases would continue into this area and that structural remains associated with the High Street frontage may have existed. Surprisingly, only one feature was identified.

The watching brief was carried on the 6th and 7th of April 1999 by Tom McCarthy.

6.2 Results

Ditch [1002] was exposed in plot 3. It had a steep U-shaped profile and was aligned east to west. The fill (1003) contained sherds of late seventeenth to late eighteenth century pottery. This feature may have been a continuation of Ditch 405/503 (evaluation Trench 4).



Fig. 26: Section of ditch 1002 (1:20).

7.0 Discussion and Conclusion

The evaluation identified a range of features which date between the eighth and twentieth centuries. The results correspond reasonably well with the geophysical survey, and archaeological features relating to almost all of the magnetic anomalies were identified. A small number of archaeological features had not shown up as a result of magnetic survey.

Five features produced pottery of mid to late Saxon date: ditches [113, 105, 109 & 218], and part of the palaeochannel [414]. The pottery in [414] may have been residual, or it is possible that the feature exposed was in fact separate from the channel. The archaeology of this date was located in the northern part of the site. This corresponds well with the previous finds of late Saxon pottery, and suggests that there was a settlement focus in the North End area of the village. As the features and artefact quantities do not suggest that settlement activity was taking place on the site itself, it is likely that the ditch systems on this site represent enclosures associated with contemporary agriculture.

The distribution of medieval features was more widespread. The large rectangular and L-shaped enclosures identified by the geophysical survey (anomaly 20 & 21 on Fig. 2) were both dated to around the thirteenth century. The small quantity of finds from these features suggests that dense settlement was not taking place in the immediate vicinity. This conclusion is supported by evidence from environmental samples which suggest a damp grassland landscape adjacent to the ditches. It is likely that both of these features from part of the agrarian landscape around the medieval settlement of Swineshead. The form, and function, of geophysical anomaly 21, however, is difficult to explain: it probably formed part of a larger and more complex land or water management scheme. The other ditches identified in Trench 7 [703 & 704] and those in Trench 8 may have formed part of an earlier system. These medieval features were probably all contemporary with the palaeochannel, which also produced thirteenth century pottery.

Post-medieval archaeological activity is reflected by a number of large ditches; probably land divisions and drains.

An almost complete absence of archaeological features on the frontage (plots 1-4) may indicate that no structures had previously been erected in this area. Alternatively, the evidence of any earlier settlement or activity on this part of the site may, perhaps have been unrecognisable at the level of the foundations trenches due to the changes in the soil structure discussed at the start of section 5 above.

8.0 Acknowledgements

Pre-Construct Archaeology (Lincoln) would like to express their thanks to Chanceoption Homes Ltd. for this commission. Thanks are also expressed to the specialist contributors to this report, Jane Cowgill, James Rackham, Jane Young; to Mark Bennett and Sarah Grundy of the County SMR, and to the site team; Tom McCarthy, Jeremy Mordue, Miles Ridsdale and Wayne Livesey.

9.0 Appendices:

9.1 Pottery Analysis by J. Young

1. Introduction

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A small but important assemblage (86 sherds) of pottery, ranging in date from the mid-Saxon to the postmedieval periods was recovered from the site. There are twenty-five different ware types present amongst the material found, indicating a wide range of trading links.

2. Condition

Some of the material is in a worn state probably due to a mixture of water action and plough damage.

3. Overall Chronology and Source

Two hand made vessels recorded as MISC in the archive are in quartz-tempered fabrics and are basically uneatable. They may belong to anywhere between the Roman and the Saxo-Norman periods.

The most important pottery found on the site is of mid-Saxon date. There are six vessels in four different ware types. One jar sherd is definitely an Ipswich ware product, two further vessels in a similar fabric (a small jar and a pitcher), may also be from Ipswich if they are not local copies. Three other mid-Saxon vessels are in Maxey-type fabrics, two Southern -type and one Northern-type. The mid-Saxon sherds are relatively large and fresh indicating middle Saxon settlement of mid 8th to mid 9th century date in the near vicinity. Middle Saxon material from this part of Lincolnshire is extremely rare- the presence of three vessels in Ipswich-type fabrics makes this group even more unusual.

Two sherds from Lincoln-produced shell-tempered jars indicate activity between the late 9th and the late 10th centuries. A tiny jar rim in an unglazed greensand fabric may also date to this period.

Several vessels date to between the late 12th and the late 13th/ early 14th centuries. The material comes from a wide range of sources including; Nottingham, Bourne, Lincoln and Toynton All Saints, as well as several unidentified Lincolnshire productions sites (EMHM, SLST and MEDLOC). The presence of 14 sherds from a single EMHM globular jar and the size of some of the other sherds argue against this material arriving on the site simply as the result of field manuring.

No pottery is identifiable as dating to between the mid 14th and mid 15th centuries.

A number of vessels (at least 16) date to between the mid 15th and mid 17th centuries. This pottery is almost entirely comprised of local wares produced in Boston and Bourne. The remaining post-medieval pottery dates to the later 17th and 18th centuries and includes both local and regionally imported material.

pottery archive swh99

context	cname	form	nosh	nov dec	part	description
0102		landen so het auf de lande einen oor en ste de lande het de fan de ste en ste ste de lande het en de ste	hand Hard Hard Man Man and San Dara			
	IPS	jar	1	1 burnished surfs	BS	
0104						
	RMAX	jar	1	1	rim	drawable;leached surfaces-
0107						
	MAX	?	1	1	BS	odd fabric;? Local;soot
	RMAX	?	1	1	BS	soot
0113						
	LSH	jar?	1	1	base	? ID;soot
	LSH	jar?	1	1	BS	? ID;soot;leached
0201						
	BL	tall drinking vess	1	1	base	GRE type;e-m17th
0219						
	IPST	pitcher	1	1	BS with lhj	large frag
0233						
	BOUA	jug	1	1 neck cordon	BS	? ID;well glazed
	BOUA	jar?	1	1	BS	?ID;fabric incl. SST;soot
0304						
	MISC	?	1	1	BS	reduced quartz orange brown surfs;R-MED
0308						

context	cname	form	nosh	nov dec	part	description
	BOU	bowl	1	1	rim	burnt
	CRMWARE	oval dish	1	1	rim to base	
0310						
	GRE	bowl	1	1	BS	18th
	GRE	?	1	1	BS	16-18th
	BL	drink vess	1	1	BS	17/18th
	BS	bowl	1	1	BS	machine dec
0321						
	LEMS	bowl	1	1	rim	? ID;soot;hard fabric
0406						
	BS	mug/jug	1	1	BS	17/18th
	CRMWARE	mug/jug	1	1	BS	
0412						
	ТВ	handled jar?	1	1	BS	well worn
	BOU	jug?	1	1	base	? ID;cracked during firing;low fired;worn
	BOU	jug?	1	1	base	frilled
	BOU	jar/jug	1	1	BS	
0417						
	IPST	small jar	2	1	base	heavy soot
)501						
	RGRE	bowl?	1	1	BS	
	EMHM	globular jar	1	1	BS	? ID;or ESAX
	BOU	iar/iug	1	1	BS	

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context	cname	form	nosh	nov dec	part	description
0503		1949 - 1949 -	a providente de la construction d'Arrado		un andre ans end eine alfers ster die besondert der in daer schie einer alle einer alferen vereinen.	
	BL	jug?	1	1	BS	18th
	CRMWARE	dish	1	1	base	
	CRMWARE	dish	1	1	rim	
	CRMWARE	bowl	1	1	rim	
	BL	tall cylindrical jar	1	1	BS	vitr;17/18th
	BL	bowl	1	1	rim	18/19th
	BS	bowl	1	1	rim	18th
	BS	bowl?	1	1	base	18th
	CRMWARE	small bowl	1	1	rim	
0505						
	BOU	bowl?	1	1	BS	
	GRE	?	1	1	BS	cu bichrome;odd fabric
	BOU	bowl	1	1	rim	nasty fabric
	ТВ	bowl?	1	1	BS	worn;int glaze
	тв	bowl?	1	1	base	int glaze
	BL	bowl	1	1	BS	staffs;17/18th
	BL	jug/mug	1	1	BS	17/18th
	SLIP	bowl	1	1	base	
	BOU	jar/jug	1	1	base	×.
	BOU	bowl	1	1	rim	
0506						
	MEDLOC	jug	1	1	rim	could be low fired TOY;upright rounded rim
	TOY	iua?	1	1	BS	or TOYII

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context	cname	form	nosh	nov dec	part	description
	LSW2	jug	1	1	BS	int dep
	BOUA	jar	1	1	BS	? ID
	MEDLOC	bowl?	1	1	BS	int glaze;? BOUA;soot
	BOUA	jug	1	1	handle	? ID;grooved oval
	MEDLOC	jar/jug	1	1	BS	small crack during firing;hard quartz + occ ca
	STMO	mug	1	1	BS	
	MISC	?	1	1	BS	reduced quartz;? H-M?;thin walled;any date;R
0508/511						
	MISC	??	1	1	BS	quartz fabric;? Tile;surface missing
	BOUA	jar?	1	1	base	
	ΤΟΥ	jug?	1	1	BS	
	LSWA	curfew	1	1	base	
	MEDLOC	jar	1	1	rim	pale grey light orange surfs;incl. Greensand
	SLST	?	1	1	base	thick base
	MEDLOC	jar	1	1	rim	quartz + shell fabric
	SLST	?	1	1	base	burnt;? ID
0513						
	NOTG	jug	1	1	BS	? ID;worn;cream/grey fabric
0712						
	UNGS	tiny jar	1	1	rim	
0713						
	NOTG	iug	1	1	BS	? ID;worn;pale grey fabbric
0807						

context	cname	form	nosh	nov dec	part	description	ale a fan a fan se fan se fan a fan an fan a
	EMHM	globular jar	14	1 pressed rim edge	rim & BS	drawable;heavy soot	
1002							
	BOU	jar/jug	1	1	BS	? ID	
	MEDLOC	jug	1	1	base	thumbed	
	BL	tall cylindrical jar	1	1	rim	greenish glaze	
1005							
	BOU	jar/jug	1	1	BS	reduced	

tile archive swh99

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context	cname	no frags description	
1005			an a
	MISC	1 fired clay	
	MISC	1 probably pantile	

09 May 1999

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pottery dating swh99

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context	earliest horizon	latest horizon	date range
0102			
	ash4	ash6	8th to mid 9th
0104			
	ash4	ash6	8th to mid 9th
0107			
	ash4	ash6	8th to mid 9th
0113			
	ash7	ash11	10th
0201			
	pmh4	pmh6	early to mid 17th
0219			
	ash4	ash6	8th to mid 9th
0233			
	mh5	mh6	13th
0304			
	R	pmh3	Roman to post-med
0308			
	pmh9	pmh10	mid to late 18th
0310			
	pmh8	pmh9	18th
0321			
	mh2	mh4	mid 12th to early/mid 13th
0406			
	pmh9	pmh10	mid to late 18th
0412			
	mh10	pmh3	late 15th to late 16th
0417			
	ash4	ash6	8th to mid 9th
0501	20.00		
	pmh3	pmh5	16th to 17th
0503			
0505	pmh9	pmh10	mid to late 18th
0505			
	pmh7	pmh9	late 17th to early 18th

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context	Loviner	earliest horizon	latest horizon	date range
0506				
		mh4 or pmh7	mh6 or pmh8	13th or 18th
0508/511				
		mh4	mh5	early/mid to mid 13th
0513				
		mh4	mh6	13th
0712				
		ash11	mh5	11th to 13th
0713				
		mh4	mh6	13th
0807				1.
		mh1	mh5	early 12th to mid 13th
1002				
		pmh5	pmh9	mid 17th to late 18th
1005				
		mh10	pmh5	late 15th to mid 17th

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9.2 Environmental Archaeology Assessment by J. Rackham

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77-43

SwineShead, SWH99

Environmental Archaeology Assessment

Introduction

Excavations conducted by Pre-Construct Archaeology at Swinehead uncovered a number of ditches of medieval and post-medieval date. During the excavation five samples were collected for environmental assessment (Table 1) and a sample of 41 fragments of animal bone was collected by hand during the excavation.

Table 1: Samples taken for environmental analysis

site	sample	context	volume in l.	description	date
SWH99	1	511	9	ditch fill	medieval
SWH99	2	714	18	lower ditch fill	medieval?
SWH99	3	725	20	lower ditch fill	med/post-med
SWH99	4	810	16	lower ditch fill	10-12th C.
SWH99	5	233	8	palaeochannel fill	late med/early post-med

Methods

The soil samples were processed in the following manner. Sample volume and weight was measured prior to processing. The samples were washed in a 'Siraf tank (Williams 1973) using a flotation sieve with a 0.5mm mesh and an internal wet-sieve of 1mm mesh for the residue. Both residue and float were dried, and the residues subsequently re-floated to ensure the efficient recovery of charred material. The dry volume of the flots was measured, and the volume and weight of the residue recorded. A total of 71 litres of soil was processed in this way.

The residue was sorted by eye, and environmental and archaeological finds picked out, noted on the assessment sheet and bagged independently. A magnet was run through each residue in order to recover magnetised material such as hammerscale and prill. The residue was then discarded. The float of each sample was studied under a low power binocular microscope. The presence of environmental finds (*ie* snails, charcoal, carbonised seeds, bones *etc*) was noted and their abundance and species diversity recorded on the assessment sheet. The float was then bagged. The float and finds from the sorted residue constitute the material archive of the samples.

The individual components of the samples were then preliminarily identified and the results are summarised below in Tables 2 - 4.

Results

Sample 1, context 511- medieval ditch fill. This sample with a fine silt matrix produced very little residue, a little iron rich sediment and some calcareous concretions, with occasional small stones. Archaeological finds were limited to a single sherd of pottery, a few small pieces of fired clay/brick, a few small fragments of coal and cinder (see Table 2) and some bone and marine shell fragments. It is possible that the clay/brick and coal/cinder fragments could have moved down through the soil from higher levels.

The environmental evidence for contemporary human activity is limited. A few fragments of animal bone, including a sheep/goat sesamoid, edible marine shell, bird eggshell, a few charred

cereal grains and some charcoal indicate debris from nearby human occupation but this material is at a relatively low density in the sediments of the ditch.

The palaeoenvironmental evidence is largely restricted to mollusc shells and a few bones (Table 3 and 4). The molluscan evidence suggests a local grassland environment with a wetland and aquatic element living in the ditch. The occurrence of both *Vallonia pulchella* and *V. excentrica*, but the absence of *V. costata* suggests that the grassland is damp with a relatively high humidity (Evans 1972). A brackish water environment in the ditch is suggested by the estuarine and salt marsh species, *Hydrobia ulvae*, and the presence of bones of the three spined stickleback, *Gasterosteus aculeata*, supports this interpretation. It is however possible that the *Hydrobia* shells derive from the marine silts from which the soils and sediments on the site derive.

Sample 2, context 714 - lower fill of a possible medieval ditch. After washing little was retained by the residue sieve except a few iron concreted sediment lumps and root pseudomorphs with occasional small flint and limestone. The archaeological finds recovered from the residue include a few tiny pieces of fired clay/brick, coal and cinder and glass. All these are sufficiently small to have moved down through the deposits above as a result of soil processes, root voids and worm action, and may not be contemporary with the deposits. A few fragments of bone, including a cat maxilla, and shells of mussel and cockle, too large to have moved through the soil, indicate contemporary occupation nearby, although charred plant remains are limited with only very small quantities of charcoal, a few cereal grains and a possible charred pea.

The palaeoenvironmental evidence presents a similar picture to sample 1, except that the salt marsh species *Hydrobia ulvae* is no longer present and the aquatic element is dominated by *Valvata cristata*, a species common in soft water where there is plenty of mud and running water.

Samp.	cont	vol	residue wt in g.	pot *	glass no.	brick/ tile	fired clay	coal & clinker	hammer- scale	bone in g.	marine shell g.
			_		sherds	g.	g.	g.	(no flakes)		
1	511	9	75	1/2			1	1		1	6
2	714	18	230		13		1	2		2	3
3	725	20	340		1	<1		<1		1	2
4	810	16	15				1	1		<1	<1
5	233	8	380	1/2			1	2	1	177	9

Table 2: Finds from the samples

(*- sherd no/weight in g.)

Sample 3, context 725 - lower fill of a medieval/post-medieval ditch. This sample produced a very similar archaeological and palaeoenvironmental assemblage to the ditch fill 714 (Tables 2-4). The only additional finds include bones of wood mouse and common shrew and two small fish vertebrae. the latter may derive from domestic rubbish.

Sample 4, context 810 - lower fill of 10-12th century ditch. This sample produced an extremely low density of archaeological material and much of it, coal, fired clay, bone and shell is of sufficiently small fragments that may have been introduced into the deposits by post-depositional processes. The very low density of charcoal and charred grain suggests that domestic occupation is not located particularly close by at the time the fills were forming and even the snail fauna is limited in size and restricted in species although it shows a similar picture of grassland and wet ground/aquatic environments.

	-		-	11	1.1		112	1.041 161	21 11 1			
Sam	cont	vol	flot	snail */#	ch'rd grain	chaff *	ch'rd seed	Char	egg-	fish *	small mam	comment
P					*		*	*	*		-mal *	
1	511	9	7	4/3	1			2	2	1	2	barley, wheat, mussel, cockle, sheep, water vole, frog/toad, stickleback
2	714	18	15	5/3	1		1	1	2	1	2	barley?, pea?, mussel, cockle, cat, mole, frog/toad, stickleback
3	725	20	20	5/2	1	1?	1	1	1	1	2	wheat?, pea?, mussel, cockle, wood mouse, common shrew, frog/toad, stickleback, small fish, ostracods
4	810	16	3	2/2	1			1	1		1	mussel, cockle
5	233	8	15	3/3	1			1	1	1	3	oyster, mussel, cockle, cattle, wood mouse, frog/toad, stickleback, other fish

Table 3: Environmental finds from the samples

* frequency of items: 1=1-10; 2= 11-100; 3=101-250; 4=251-500; 5=>500

diversity of molluscs as follows: 1=1-3; 2=4-10; 3=11-25; 4=26-50 taxa.

Sample 5, context 233 - late medieval - early post-medieval palaeochannel. The residue of this sample suggests that an iron pan may have been forming in this layer, probably as a result of fluctuating water levels within the soil. Archaeological finds are again very limited with all bar a sherd of pottery possibly being intrusive. The environmental finds indicating occupation are greater in this sample than the other four with a large fragment of cattle radius, a number of fragments of oyster, mussel and cockle and a fragment of fish bone from a species much larger than the sticklebacks and small fish present in samples 1-3, suggesting some rubbish is being thrown into the channel, however there is still very little charcoal and charred seed remains.

A slightly greater diversity of shells, including *Helix aspersa* a synanthropic species (Evans 1972), suggests a more varied habitat and a greater proximity to human occupation may be suggested for this feature.

Animal bone

The small sample of animal bone recovered during the excavation was in good condition with only one or two bones showing evidence of erosion. A cattle tibia from context 417 showed the poorest state of preservation and carried iron rich concretions on its surface. The bulk of the excavated material derives from cattle, with sheep (or goat) next in frequency, and single finds of pig, horse and dog. 22% of the bone fragments show evidence of butchery and a similar proportion have been gnawed by dogs. Some of the cattle and sheep bones are large and suggest improved post-medieval stock.

Discussion

None of the samples show any great density of occupation debris and apart from the pottery sherds from two of the samples, 511 and 233, many of the archaeological finds could have moved down through the soil. Reasonably large fragments of bone and marine shell, particularly in

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context 233, testify to some rubbish getting into the deposits but not in the quantities that would normally be associated with ditches adjacent to occupation. The low density of charcoal, and in most samples charred seeds, similarly suggests a low level of domestic waste entering the ditches.

The ditches clearly carry fresh to brackish water, probably flowing at least seasonally, offering a suitable habitat for the sticklebacks, aquatic snails and, in context 725, the ostracods, a group of freshwater crustaceans. The snail fauna suggests that the areas adjacent to these ditches carry a damp grassland with very little evidence for shaded environments. The few shells of *Hydrobia ulvae* which were recorded in context 511 may derive from the original marine silts on the site rather than living in the brackish conditions of the ditches.

There is little evidence for any change in the palaeoenvironment of the site, although the palaeochannel, 233, fauna does show a slightly greater diversity and may suggest some anthropogenic infulence.

 Table 4: SWH99: Mollusc taxa from the samples

context	511	714	725	810	233
sample no.	1	2	3	4	5
abundance*	4	5	5	2	3
date	med	med?	med/pmed	10-12th	lmed-e pmed
				с	
Open country taxa					
Cecilioides acicula	+	+		+	+
Vertigo sp.	+	+			+
Vallonia sp.					+
Vallonia pulchella	+	+	+		-
Vallonia excentrica	+	+	+	+	
Catholic taxa					
Cochlicopa sp.	+	+			+
Helix aspersa					+
Helix sp.			+		
Hygromia hispida					+
Woodland/shaded taxa					
Oxychilus sp.					+
Carychium sp.					+
Marsh/wet ground taxa					
Vitrea sp.	+				
Vertigo angustior		+	+		
Succinea sp.	+	+++	+++	+	+
Aquatic taxa					
Hydrobia ulvae	+				
Valvata cristata	+	+++	+++	+	+
Planorbis planorbis					+
Planorbis leucostoma	+			+	+
Lymnaea palustris	+				
Lymnaea truncatula	+				

+ = present; ++ = common; +++ = very common

Broad ecological groups are based upon Evans 1972, Macan 1977 and Cameron and Redfern 1976 * abundance as in Table 3.

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Recommendations

On the basis of the samples submitted for assessment there is some, but not substantial, evidence for settlement on the site, although the finds from the ditches are perhaps more characteristic of field ditches rather than occupation enclosures. The deposits have preserved bone, charred plant remains and marine shells in very good condition but not in sufficient abundance to warrant any significant further investigation. The palaeoenvironmental evidence is limited to small bones and mollusc shells, although pollen may have survived in the lower fills of some of the ditches, and the shells at least afford an indication of the palaeoenvironment of the site.

Under these circumstances it is difficult to see that further work will significantly enhance our understanding of the archaeology of the site and unless more substantial archaeological features are uncovered or more direct evidence for occupation on the site is found further environmental work is not recommended.

Acknowledgments

I should like to thank Alison Foster for the sample processing.

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10 May 1999

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SWH99.	Swinehead.	Archive	catalogue	of	animal	bone
NII AAP / A	C TTALEVALUELE.	A AL CLART C	cucuronuo	~	CULTER FREEL	00110

site	L cont	species	bone	1 10	side	fusion	Zone	butchery	gnawing	toothwear	measurement	comment	preserv-
Site	com.	species	UOIIC	no.	side	Tusion	Zone	butchery	gnawing	toourwear	measurement		ation
SWH99	102	CAN	MAN	1	R		235678					PERIPHERAL DAMAGE-MOST TOOTH ROW INTACT	3
SWH99	102	CSZ	LBF	1	F	and the second discourse in the second						SHAFT FRAGMENT	3
SWH99	104	CSZ	LBF	1	F	1						SHAFT FRAG	4
SWH99	104	OVCA	MTC	1	F				DG			SHAFT FRAG-CHEWED	3
SWH99	104	OVCA	RAD	1	R	1	3					MIDSHAFT	4
SWH99	107	BOS	CAL	1	L		23		DG			PROX END CHEWED OFF	4
SWH99	107	BOS	MAX	1	L		9			H13I16		AVEOLI FOR M2 AND 3	4
SWH99	107	BOS	TIB	1	L							MIDSHAFT FRAGMENT	4
SWH99	107	CSZ	RIB	1	F							SHAFT FRAG	4
SWH99	219	BOS	DUP4	1	W					h17		POSSIBLY JUST SHED	4
SWH99	219	BOS	LI	2	L		1					WELL WORN-SAME MANDIBLE	4
SWH99	219	BOS	MAN	1	L		1		DG			ANT FRAGMENT SYMPHYSIS	4
SWH99	219	OVCA	LM3	1	R					K9	LM3-20.2	COMPLETE	4
SWH99	219	OVCA	MAN	1	R		23			FGH10		ANT HALF RAMUS	4
SWH99	233	BOS	TIB	1	R	DF	567		DG		SD-33.8	DISTAL THIRD- DISTAL END GNAWED	4
SWH99	310	OVCA	SCP	1	L	DF	2	СН				GLENOID-TUBEROSITY CHOPPED OFF AXIALLY	4
SWH99	406	BOS	CAL	1	L		23	СН				VERY LARGE-CHOPPED AXIALLY THROUGH ANTERIOR	4
SWH99	406	BOS	CAL	1	R			СН	-			ANT FRAG SHAFT-CHOPPED ANT AXIALLY	4
SWH99	406	EQU	PH2	1	F	PF	1	СН				DISTAL END CHOPPED	4
SWH99	412	EQU	RAD	1	R	PNDN	36					SHAFT-JUVENILE-LENGTH WITHOUT EPIS 246MM	4
SWH99	412	EQU	SKL	1	F		1122					OCCIPITAL CONDYLES	4
SWH99	417	BOS	TIB	1	L		4					SHAFT-BOTH ENDS BROKEN-HEAVILY IRON ENRICHED	2
SWH99	503	BOS	MAN	1	L		23	СН				DIASTEMAL FRAG-ANT CHOPPED	4
SWH99	503	BOS	MTC	1	R		12				Bp-52.7	PROXIMAL HALF	4
SWH99	503	BOS	MTT	1	L		5	СН				DISTAL HALF SHAFT-VERY LARGE-MEDIAL MTT SWOLLEN ON ANT SURFACE	4
SWH99	503	BOS	MTT	1	L	DF	345				Bd-60.2 Dd-35.6	DISTAL THIRD- FUSION LINE STILL VISIBLE- LARGE SPECIMEN	4
SWH99	503	SUS	MAN	1	L		23		DG	FGH13I18 J16		M3 LOST-LARGE AND DEEP MANDIBLE	4
SWH99	505	BOS	MAN	1	L		5					CONDYLE	4
SWH99	505	BOS	MAX	1	R					K16		FRAGMENT WITH M3- 2 PIECES	4
SWH99	505	EQU	HUM	1	L	DF	67890				SD-31.5 BT-72 HT-48.8	DISTAL HALF	4
SWH99	505	OVCA	FEM	1	L	DF	457	СН	DG			DISTAL END-CHOPPED AND GNAWED-VERY LARGE ANIMAL	4

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site	cont.	species	bone	no.	side	fusion	zone	butchery	gnawing	toothwear	measurement	comment	preserv- ation
SWH99	505	OVCA	HUM	1	L	DF	67890				BT-32.1 HT-19.8	DISTAL HALF	4
SWH99	505	OVCA	MAN	1	R		45678			K		ASCENDING RAMUS WITH PART HOR RAMUS-M3 UP BUT ALL TEETH LOST- 2 PIECES- LARGE	4
SWH99	506	BOS	MTP	1	F							POSTERIOR SHAFT FRAGMENT- 2 PIECES	4
SWH99	506	CSZ	CEV	1	F							FRAGMENT OF NEURAL ARCH WITH ZYGAPOPHYSIS	4
SWH99	508	BOS	INN	1	R	EF	59	СН	DG			ACETABULUM-ANT GNAWED-ISCHIUM CHOPPED	4
SWH99	508	BOS	MAN	1	R		13					SYMPHYSEAL FRAG-INCISOR JUST ERUPTING-LARGE	4
SWH99	508	BOS	MTT	1	L			СН	DG			PROX AND MIDSHAFT FRAGMENT-PROX END GNAWED OFF-SHAFT CHOPPED	4
SWH99	712	CSZ	LBF	1	F							SHAFT FRAGMENT	3
SWH99	807	BOS	FEM	1	R				DG			PROXIMAL SHAFT-PROXIMAL END GNAWED OFF	4

9.3 Small Finds Analysis by J. Cowgill

THE FINDS FROM THE EXCAVATION AT HIGH STREET, SWINESHEAD, BOSTON (SWH 99)

Jane Cowgill© April 1999

Context 513, RF 1. STONE HONE.

Part of a large hone made from a light-grey sandstone; only slight wear mainly on the sides. Maximum width 44mm; maximum thickness 28mm.

Context 'topsoil', RF 2. COPPER ALLOY STRAPEND, MEDIEVAL. Simply constructed from a rectangular plate folded over and slightly notched at one end. It is decorated with a double line of opposed punched triangles around the perimeter of the upper surface. There are holes for five dome-headed rivets for securing the strap in position, of which two survive. Maximum width 25mm, length of upper side 28mm. Date 1250 – 1450 probably earlier within this range rather than later. Condition reasonable but some mechanical damage. The object is not a buckle plate because there is no slot for a pin.

The object is not a buckle plate because there is no slot for

No further work is required on these finds.

9.4 Site Archive

Primary records are currently with PCA (Lincoln). An ordered archive of both paper and object elements is in preparation and will be deposited at the City and County Museum, Lincoln, within six months.

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P.1 General view of the site looking south east with trench 1 in the foreground.



P.2 General view of Trench 1 showing the ditches, looking north east.



P.3 General view of trench 2, looking north east.



P.4 General view of trench 3, looking south east.



P.5 General view of trench 4, looking north north east.



P.6 Ditch 507, looking south.



P.7 Ditch 701, looking south.



P.8 Ditch 702, looking south.



P.9 Ditch 802, looking west.



P.10 Ditch 809, looking west.