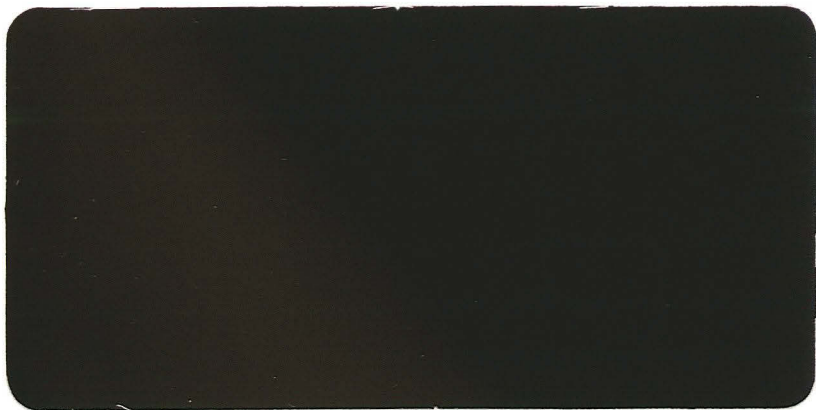


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**ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF REPORT
RIVER WITHAM FLOOD DEFENCE WORKS, BARDNEY**

Site Code : WFDB99
LCNCC Acc No. : 31.99
NGR : TF 105 698



Lincolnshire County Council
Archaeology Section
30. MAR 99
ack 30/3/99

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Report Prepared for Bullen Consultants Ltd.
by James Snee BSc.
March 1999

Pre-Construct Archaeology (Lincoln)
61 High Street
Newton on Trent
Lincoln
LN1 2JP
Tel. & Fax. 01777 228155

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Illustrations

Fig.1 1:25,000 map showing the location of the development.

Summery

- * *A watching brief was carried out during groundworks for the stabilisation of the flood defences of the river Witham close to Bardney lock.*
- * *The groundworks for this project were concentrated on late 20th century flood defences and no buried soil horizons of any earlier periods were exposed.*
- * *No finds or features of any period were recovered.*

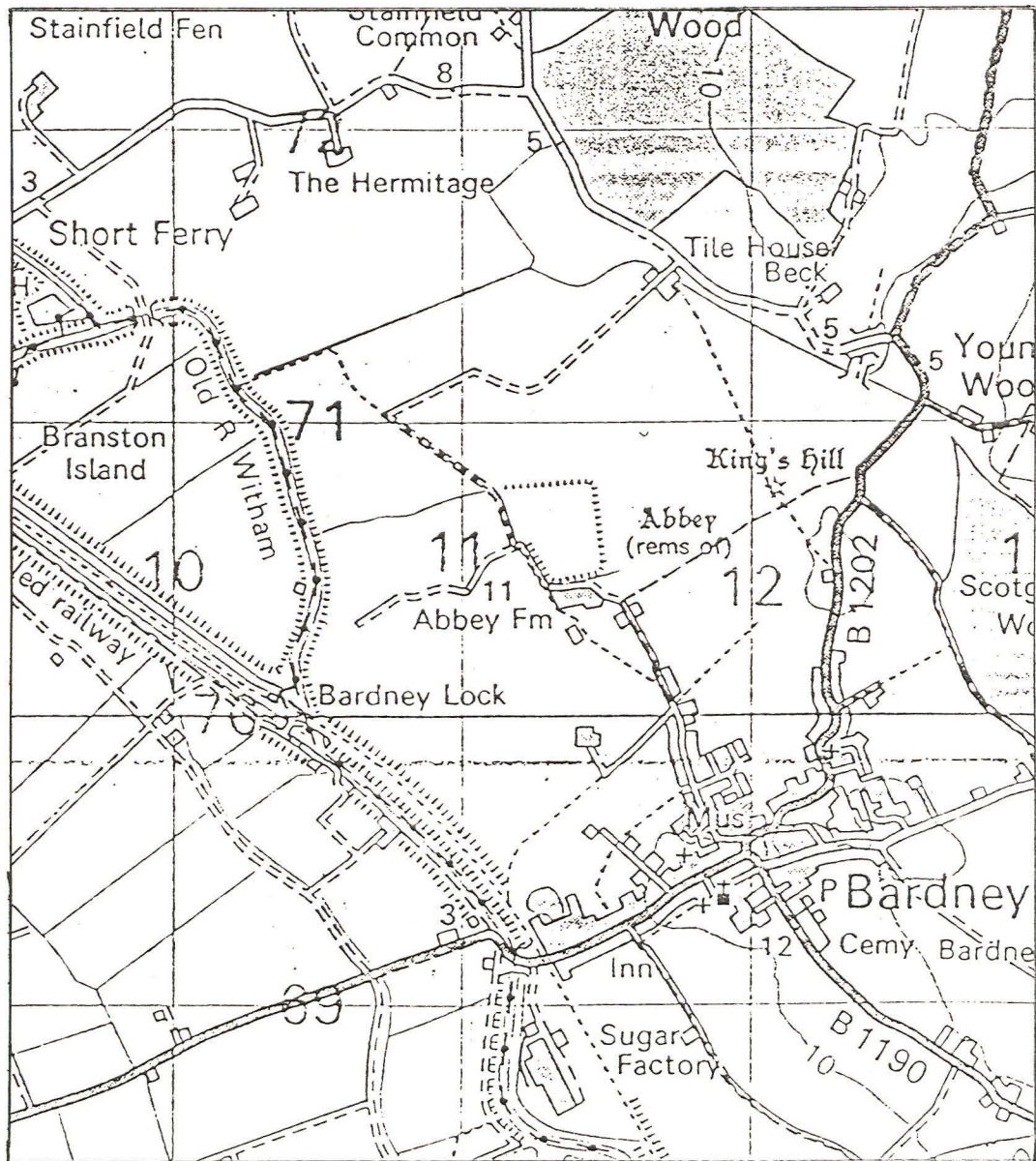


Fig. 1 1: 25,000 map showing the location of the development.
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1.0 Introduction

An archaeological watching brief was commissioned by Bullen Consultants Ltd (acting on behalf of the Environment Agency) to monitor the groundworks associated with a programme of stabilisation to the flood defences along a section of the river Witham close to Bardney Lock. The work was carried out in accordance with a formal project brief issued by Lincolnshire County Council Archaeology Section, and the guidelines set out in the Lincolnshire County Council Archaeology Section publication '*Lincolnshire Archaeological Handbook: A Manual of Archaeological Practice*', 1998.

2.0 Location and description

The site is located close to Bardney Lock, approximately 1km upstream of the B1190 where this crosses the Witham at NGR TF 105 698 on the south-west side of the river. The site falls within the Branston Fen and lies at an altitude between 1.5 and 2.5m OD.

3.0 The Environment Agency project

The Environment Agency project centres on stabilising the Witham flood defences along the navigable length of the (canalised) river. The area monitored as part of this project involved the laying down of approximately 200m of stone protection along the river edge, the installation of 80m of 4.5m deep interlocking sheet piles behind the flood bank, and the reprofiling of 150m of embankment. This involved excavations into the upper portions of the existing embankment, limited topsoil stripping at the back of the embankment and the deposition of a large amount of imported clay and topsoil.

4.0 Archaeological and historical background

A search of the Sites and Monuments record for Lincolnshire produced eight references to archaeological finds from the Witham at Bardney, four from the area of Bardney Lock itself:

- (i) Early Medieval and Medieval artefacts recovered from the Witham near Bardney (PRN: 51150 & 51151).
- (ii) An undated dug-out boat found south-east of the sugar beet factory (PRN: 51154).
- (iii) Iron Age swords from the Witham near Bardney Abbey (PRN: 51149).
- (iv) Medieval fishery on the Witham at Bardney (PRN: 51210).
- (v) A Viking axehead found near Horsley Deeps (Bardney Lock) in 1815 (PRN: 51163).
- (vi) An undated dug-out boat found near Horsley Deeps (Bardney Lock) in circa 1815 (PRN: 51162).

- (vii) An undated dug-out boat found at Bardney Lock in circa 1829 (PRN: 51142).
- (viii) A brass sheep or cow bell found at Bardney Lock (PRN: 51171)

In broad terms, these records indicate that there has been human activity in the area around the Witham at Bardney since the prehistoric period. Nineteenth century excavations for the construction of Bardney lock uncovered a significant quantity of archaeological remains.

5.0 Methodology

The watching brief was undertaken by the writer and Mr C Palmer-Brown, on an intermittent basis, from the 24th February to the 15th March 1999.

The topsoil strip for the reprofiling of the bank was monitored. The bulk of the groundworks involved the deposition of new material to the riverbank to replace material that had eroded away, or new material added to the back of the bank as flood defence.

The fieldwork element of the project consisted of archaeological observation during excavation 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.

6.0 Results

The excavations carried out for the Environment Agency consisted of sections cut into the upper portion of the existing flood bank which was composed of imported grey clay covered with topsoil; believed to be spoil from the sugar beet factory. The topsoil strip at the back of the flood bank was very shallow and only exposed patches of modern building debris that had been tipped against the bank. No buried soil horizons dating to before the 20th century were disturbed.

7.0 Conclusions

No archaeological remains of any period were disturbed by the groundworks. The ground disturbance was restricted to the modern flood banks on which the work was centred.

8.0 Acknowledgements

Pre-Construct Archaeology (Lincoln) would like to express their thanks to Bullen Consultants Ltd. for this commission. Thanks are also extended to Judy O'Niel of the County SMR.

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, 31.99.

10.0 References

Everson, P.L. 1991 Archive Notes : 3 Bardney

Palmer-Brown, C.P.H. 1999 Specification for an Archaeological Watching Brief, River Witham Flood Defence works upstream of Bardney, Lincolnshire.

LCC Archaeology Section 1999 Project brief for Archaeological Watching Brief, River Witham Flood Defence works upstream of Bardney, Lincolnshire.

Appendix 1.



P.1 General view of the stabilisation of the Witham bank and the excavations into the upper portion of the embankment, looking north-east.



P.2 General view of the topsoil strip for the reprofiling of the embankment, looking west.