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**AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF
OF DEVELOPMENT ON LAND ADJACENT TO
LAUNDON ROAD,
THREEKINGHAM,
LINCOLNSHIRE
(TLR 99)**



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**AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF
OF DEVELOPMENT ON LAND ADJACENT TO
LAUNDON ROAD,
THREEKINGHAM,
LINCOLNSHIRE
(TLR 99)**

Work Undertaken For
Private Collection Homes

Report Compiled By
Paul Cope-Faulkner BA AIFA

August 1999

Planning Application No: N/65/22/99
National Grid Reference: TF 0903 3616
City and County Museum Accession No: 110.99

A.P.S. Report No: **74/98**

*Archaeological Project Services is an IFA Registered Archaeological
Organisation (Number 21)*

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1. SUMMARY

An Archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Archaeological Project Services at Laundon Road, Threkingham, Lincolnshire to monitor the excavation of foundation trenches for a new outbuilding.

The watching brief condition was imposed because the site lay within an area of significant archaeological interest. Threkingham lies at the junction of two Romano-British (AD 50-410) thoroughfares, Mareham Lane and Salter's Way, and a few finds of the period are also known from the vicinity. Medieval (1066-1500 AD) remains include St. Peter's church and remnants of ridge and furrow around the village.

A watching brief carried out on a house and garage adjacent to the site revealed a number of human burials, believed also to be medieval.

Natural, subsoil and topsoil deposits were the only layers revealed during the investigation and no archaeological remains were encountered.

2. INTRODUCTION

2.1 Definition of a Watching Brief

An archaeological watching brief is defined as 'a formal programme of observation and investigation conducted during any operation carried out for non-archaeological reasons within a specified area or site, where there is a possibility that archaeological deposits may be disturbed or destroyed,' (IFA 1997).

2.2 Background

Archaeological Project Services was commissioned by Private Collection Homes

to undertake an archaeological watching brief of development on land at 10 Laundon Road, Threkingham, Lincolnshire. Approval for the development was sought through the submission of planning application N/65/22/99. Permission was granted by North Kesteven District Council subject to a standard condition for archaeological recording. The watching brief was carried out on the 17th May 1999 in accordance with a brief prepared by the North Kesteven Heritage Officer (Appendix

2.3 Topography and Geology

The village of Threkingham is situated approximately 18km east of Grantham and 10km south of Sleaford in the civil parish of Threkingham, North Kesteven District, Lincolnshire (Fig. 1).

The development site is located 50m east of the village centre as defined by the parish church of St. Peter and is centred on National Grid Reference TF 0903 3616 (Fig. 2). The village lies on land sloping east towards the fens of south Lincolnshire and overlooks a small stream valley.

Local soils are of the Aswarby Association, typically fine loamy gleyic brown calcareous earths (Hodge *et al.* 1984, 99). These soils overlie a solid geology of Great Oolite Cornbrash although drift deposits of alluvium are recorded east of the investigation area (GSGB 1972).

2.4 Archaeological Setting

Threkingham is located in an area of archaeological remains dating from the Romano-British period through to the present day. The routes of two Roman thoroughfares, Mareham Lane and the Salter's Way, intersect immediately east of the village. The crossing of these two roads might be expected to provide a focus for

Romano-British settlement. Although coins, pottery and a burial urn have been found in the area (Whitwell 1970, 76), no evidence for a settlement at the crossroads has been found.

Threekingham is believed to be the site of a battle between the English and the Danes in 870 AD. However, the only mention of this battle comes from a spurious history of Crowland Abbey written in the 14th century. Numerous skeletons have been found to the south of the village and have been associated with the battle, although this has yet to be proven.

Threekingham is first mentioned in the Domesday Survey of 1086. Referred to as *Trichingeham* the name is derived from the Old English settlement of *Bræc's* people or the Old Norse *Prekkr*, meaning mud (Ekwall 1974, 470). The Domesday Survey records that Threekingham was owned by the Bishop of Durham, Ramsey Abbey, Gilbert de Gand, Colsuain, Odo the Arblaster and Guy of Craon and contained two churches (Foster and Longley 1976).

The only extant remains of the medieval period is the parish church of St. Peter (DoE 1990, 64). Dating to the 12th century, this church replaced one of the two churches referred to in the Domesday Survey. Additionally, ridge and furrow earthworks survive to the west and southwest of the village.

Garden remains of the post-medieval period are found adjacent to Manor Farm and include a prospect mound, which is a Scheduled Ancient Monument (County No. 140).

A watching brief was undertaken during the construction of a house and garage adjacent to the site. This revealed a number of burials aligned east-west, one of which had

coffin fittings (*Pers. comm.*, Hilary Healey). It is possible that these represent the cemetery of a second medieval church, that of St. Mary, known from documentary sources.

3. AIMS

The aim of the watching brief, as outlined in the brief (Appendix 1), was to locate surviving archaeological deposits and, if present, record them in detail to enable their date, function and origin to be determined.

4. METHODS

Trenches were excavated to a depth of 1.3m as required by the development. Following excavation by mechanical excavator, the sides of the trenches were cleaned and rendered vertical. Selected deposits were partially or fully excavated by hand to determine their nature and to retrieve artefactual material. The depth and thickness of each deposit were measured from the ground surface. Each archaeological deposit or feature revealed within the trench was allocated a unique reference number (context number) with an individual written description. A photographic record was compiled and sections were drawn at a scale of 1:10. Recording of deposits encountered was undertaken according to standard Archaeological Project Services practise.

Records of the deposits and features recognised during the watching brief were examined. A list of all contexts and interpretations appears as Appendix 1. Phasing was assigned based on the nature of the deposits and recognisable relationships between them.

5. RESULTS

A deposit of mid yellowish brown silt (003) was encountered at the base of all foundation trenches. Thicknesses of 0.9m were recorded, although this exceeded the depth of the foundation trenches. Identified as the underlying natural geology.

Overlying the natural was a mid yellowish brown silt (002) identified as the subsoil and measured up to 0.2m thick. This was sealed by the present topsoil, comprising dark brown silt (001). This measured between 0.3m to 0.5m thick across the site. Isolated concentrations of brick fragments were also recorded within this layer. These may represent the position of former walls associated with a barn demolished prior to the present development.

6. DISCUSSION

Natural geology was the earliest layer recorded during this investigation. This may have derived from the weathered surface of the Cornbrash, or through alluvial deposition.

Subsoil had developed above the natural deposits. A layer of topsoil sealed the subsoil. Small localised concentrations of bricks fragments are thought to indicate former walls of a barn demolished prior to this development.

It is unusual for such a lack of archaeological features to be located in a position close to the village core. It is possible that any medieval settlement was located west of the church. No human remains were revealed indicating that the cemetery beneath the adjacent house and garage did not extend into the development area.

7. CONCLUSIONS

Archaeological investigations on land adjacent to Laundon Road, Threekingham were undertaken because the site fell within the core of the medieval village and adjacent to an area where human burials had been uncovered.

However, no archaeological remains were revealed and only natural geology, subsoil and topsoil deposits were encountered, although traces of former walls may exist within the latter. The nature of the local site conditions would suggest that few environmental indicators (seeds, wood, shells *etc.*) would survive, other than through charring.

8. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeological Project Services would like to acknowledge the assistance of Mr R. Gilmour of Private Collection Homes who commissioned the fieldwork and post-excavation analysis. The work was coordinated by Denise Drury and this report was edited by Tom Lane. Kate Orr, the Heritage Officer for North Kesteven District Council, kindly permitted access to the relevant parish files.

9. PERSONNEL

Project Coordinator: Denise Drury
Site Supervisor: Denise Buckley
Illustration: Paul Cope-Faulkner
Post-excavation Analyst: Paul Cope-Faulkner

10. BIBLIOGRAPHY

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11. ABBREVIATIONS

APS Archaeological Project Services

DoE Department of the Environment

NK Numbers prefixed thus are the reference numbers used by the North Kesteven Heritage Officer.

GSGB Geological Survey of Great Britain

IFA Institute of Field Archaeologists



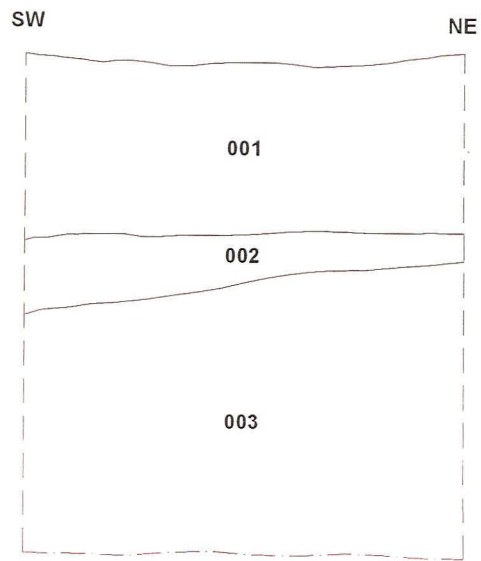
Figure 1 - General Location Plan



Figure 2 - Site Location Plan



Figure 3 - Development Plan, showing section location



Section 1



Figure 4 - Section 1



Plate 1 General view of the development, looking north



Plate 2 Section 1, showing
the general
sequence of
deposits

Appendix 1

BRIEF FOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL OBSERVATION AND RECORDING (WATCHING BRIEF)

LAND BETWEEN 2 & 10 LAUNDON ROAD, THREEKINGHAM, LINCS

Planning Application Number: N /65/22/99

NGR: 509030 336160

Applicant: Mr A Gilbert

Agent: Cooper Architectural Design

1. Summary

- 1.1 This brief should be sent to archaeological contractors as the basis for the preparation of a detailed archaeological project specification. In response to this brief contractors will include the anticipated working methods, timescales and staffing levels. (The Heritage Officer does not maintain a list of archaeological contractors but names of local units can be found in the Yellow Pages or from the Institute of Field Archaeologists.
- 1.2 These detailed specifications will be submitted by the client for approval by the North Kesteven Heritage Officer. The client will be free to choose between those specifications which are considered to adequately satisfy the brief.

2. Site Location and Description

- 2.1 Threekingham is a village situated approximately 10km south of Sleaford. The area of investigation lies in the centre of the village, off Laundon Way (see enclosed map).

3. Planning Background

- 3.1 Full planning permission for a domestic outbuilding has been given. Planning permission was given for the same site (N/65/750/96) with an archaeological watching brief condition. A plot next door to the west (N/65/120/98) was also given permission with a watching brief condition.

4. Archaeological Background

- 4.1 The site lies in the centre of what was once the medieval village of Threekingham and is 50m east of the Norman Church of St Peter. The two Roman roads - Salters Way and Mareham Lane - intersect to the north east of the site. Buried remains of medieval or possibly Roman date are therefore likely to exist in the development area and should be recorded before they are destroyed
- 4.2 The watching brief on the house and garage produced archaeology including human burials, probably from the medieval period. There are documentary references to a second medieval church in Threekingham - St Mary's and it is believed that the application area may be within its churchyard.
- 4.3 Despite the outbuilding being built on the site of an existing building there is still a chance of survival of archaeological remains.

5. Requirements for Work

- 5.1 The objective of the watching brief should be to ensure that any archaeological features exposed by the groundworks are recorded and interpreted.
- 5.2 Any adjustments to the brief for the watching brief project should only be made after consultation with the Heritage Officer for North Kesteven.

5.3 The contractor's specification should be prepared according to requirements of this brief and the Lincolnshire Archaeological Handbook's section 'Standard Briefs for Archaeological Projects in Lincolnshire' (August 1997) and should include the following:

- 5.3.1 A projected timetable for the various stages of work.
- 5.3.2 Details of the staff structure and numbers including person hours for on-site work.
- 5.3.3 It is expected that all on-site work will be carried out in a way that complies with the relevant Health and Safety legislation and that due consideration will be given to site security.
- 5.3.4 A full description of the recovery and recording strategies to be used.
- 5.3.5 An estimate of time and resources allocated for the post-excavation work and report production in the form of 'person' hours. This should include lists of specialists and their role in the project. It is expected that Roman and medieval finds will be encountered and therefore adequate provision should be made for specialists in these areas.
- 5.3.6 Contingency costs should only be used in the event of unexpected costs and should only be activated after discussion with the Heritage Officer and the client.

6. **Methods**

6.1 The project should be carried out by a recognised archaeological body in accordance with the code of conduct of The Institute of Field Archaeologists. If the specialists to be used by the body are not members of The Institute of Field Archaeologists and are not locally recognised, a CV or some other form of reference should be provided with the specification.

6.2 The watching brief should involve:

- 6.2.1 archaeological supervision of topsoil stripping;
- 6.2.2 inspection of subsoil for archaeological features;
- 6.2.3 recording of archaeological features in plan;
- 6.2.4 rapid excavation of features if necessary;
- 6.2.5 archaeological supervision of subsoil stripping
- 6.2.6 inspection of natural for archaeological features and recording them.
- 6.2.7 any human remains encountered must be left in situ and only removed if absolutely necessary. The contractor must comply with all statutory consents and licences regarding the exhumation and interment of human remains. It will also be necessary to comply with all reasonable requests of interested parties as to the remains or associated items. Attempt must be made at all times not to cause offence to any interested parties.
- 6.2.8 Under the new Treasure Act, all gold and silver artefacts found during the watching brief, thought to be 'treasure' should be reported to the appropriate coroner's office in Lincoln or Sleaford within fourteen days.

7. **Monitoring Arrangements**

7.1 The Heritage Officer for North Kesteven will be responsible for monitoring progress and standards throughout the project and will require preferably fourteen days notice but at least five working days prior to the commencement of the work. The Heritage Officer should be kept informed of any unexpected discoveries and should be regularly updated on the project's progress. They should be allowed access to

the site at their convenience and will comply with any health and safety requirements associated with the site.

8. **Reporting Requirements**

8.1 A full report should be produced and deposited with the planning department of North Kesteven District Council, the Heritage Officer, the client and the County Sites and Monuments Record. The report should include:

8.1.1 location plan of the trenches;

8.1.2 section and plan drawings, with ground level, Ordnance Datum, vertical and horizontal scales as appropriate;

8.1.3 specialist descriptions of artefacts and ecofacts;

8.1.4 an indication of potential archaeological deposits not disturbed by the present development;

8.2 After agreement with the landowner, arrangements are to be made for long term storage of all artefacts and paper archive in an appropriate museum.

8.3 If the receiving museum is to be the City and County Museum, Lincoln then the archive should be produced in the form outlined in the museum's document 'Conditions for the Acceptance of Project Archives', see address below.

9. **Publication and Dissemination**

9.1 The deposition of a copy of the report with the Lincolnshire Sites and Monuments Record will be deemed to put all information into the public domain, unless a special request is made for confidentiality. If material is to be held in confidence a timescale must be agreed with the North Kesteven Heritage Officer but is expected this will not exceed six months. A summary of the results must be published in 'Lincolnshire History and Archaeology' in due course.

9.2 Should the watching brief reveal finds of national or regional importance, provision should be made of publication within the appropriate regional or national journal.

10. **Additional Information**

10.1 This document attempts to define the best practice expected of an archaeological watching brief but cannot fully anticipate the conditions that will be encountered as work progresses. However, changes to the programme are only to be made with the prior written approval of the Heritage Officer.

Brief set by Heritage Officer, North Kesteven 31/3/1999

Appendix 2

CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

No.	Description	Interpretation
001	Loose dark brown/black silt, 0.3m to 0.5m thickness	Topsoil
002	Firm mid yellowish brown silt, 70mm to 0.2m thick	Subsoil
003	Firm mid orange brown clayey silt, >0.92m thick	Natural deposit

Appendix 3

THE ARCHIVE

The archive consists of:

3	Context records
2	Scale drawings
1	Photographic record sheet
1	Stratigraphic matrix

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

Lincolnshire City and County Council Museum Accession Number: 110.99

Archaeological Project Services Site Code: TLR99

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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Appendix 4

GLOSSARY

Context	An archaeological context represents a distinct archaeological event or process. For example, the action of digging a pit creates a context (the cut) as does the process of its subsequent backfill (the fill). Each context encountered during an archaeological investigation is allocated a unique number by the archaeologist and a record sheet detailing the description and interpretations of the context (the context sheet) is created and placed in the site archive. Context numbers are identified within the report text by brackets, <i>e.g.</i> (004).
Cut	A cut refers to the physical action of digging a posthole, pit, ditch, foundation trench, <i>etc.</i> Once the fills of these features are removed during an archaeological investigation the original 'cut' is therefore exposed and subsequently recorded.
Fill	Once a feature has been dug it begins to silt up (either slowly or rapidly) or it can be back-filled manually. The soil(s) which become contained by the 'cut' are referred to as its fill(s).
Layer	A layer is a term to describe an accumulation of soil or other material that is not contained within a cut.
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.
Post-medieval	The period following the Middle Ages, dating from approximately AD 1500-1800.
Romano-British	Pertaining to the period dating from AD 43-410 when the Romans occupied Britain.
Saxon	Pertaining to the period dating from AD 410-1066 when England was largely settled by tribes from northern Germany