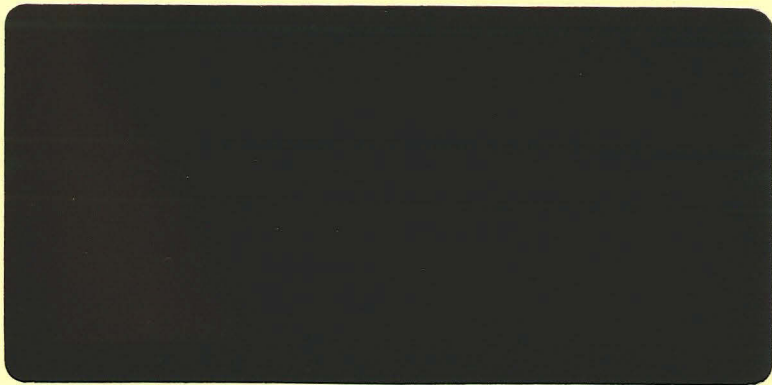


99/16

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF
ON LAND ADJACENT TO
HALL LANE,
WEST KEAL,
LINCOLNSHIRE
(WKH 98)**



A P S
ARCHAEOLOGICAL
PROJECT
SERVICES



Lincolnshire County Council
Archaeology Section
03 SEPT 99
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EVENT L13135
SOURCES L17851 L17852
L182974 44472 MED
L182975 44473 PMED

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF
ON LAND ADJACENT TO
HALL LANE,
WEST KEAL,
LINCOLNSHIRE
(WKH 98)**

Work Undertaken For
West Ashby Construction

Report Compiled by
Paul Cope-Faulkner BA (Hons) AIFA

August 1999

Planning Application No: S/204/0409/98
National Grid Reference: ~~TF 3660 6244~~ TF 3661 6343
City and County Museum Accession No: 166.98

A.P.S. Report No: 86/98

Archaeological Project Services is an IFA Registered Archaeological Organisation (No. 21)

CONTENTS

List of Figures

Plates

1.	Summary	1
2.	Introduction	1
	2.1 Planning Background	1
	2.2 Topography, Geology and Soils	1
	2.3 Archaeological Background	1
3.	Aims	2
4.	Methods	2
5.	Results	2
6.	Discussion	3
7.	Conclusions	4
8.	Acknowledgements	4
9.	Personnel	4
10.	Bibliography	4
11.	Abbreviations	5

Appendices

1	Specification for Archaeological watching brief
2	Context Summary
3	The Finds By <i>Paul Cope-Faulkner, Hilary Healey and Gary Taylor</i>
4	The Archive
5	The Glossary

List of Figures

- Figure 1 General Location Plan
- Figure 2 Proposed development area
- Figure 3 Development plan, showing location of drawn sections
- Figure 4 Sections 1, 2 and 3

List of Plates

- Plate 1 General view of the development
- Plate 2 Section 1

1. SUMMARY

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken during development on land adjacent to Hall Lane, West Keal, Lincolnshire.

The development site lies within the core of the medieval (AD 1066-1500) village, although there is evidence of continued activity from the Mesolithic period (8,200-4,200 BC) to the present day within the vicinity.

A medieval feature, possibly a hollow, and a 16th or 17th century ditch were the only archaeological features identified during the watching brief. Artefacts comprised locally made medieval pottery, including some fragments that may indicate the presence of a kiln in the vicinity.

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 Planning Background

Between the 2nd July and 29th September 1998, an archaeological watching brief was undertaken during excavation of house footings on land at Hall Lane, West Keal, Lincolnshire. Approval for the development was sought through the submission of planning application S/204/0409/98 to East Lindsey District Council. Permission was granted subject to a standard condition for

archaeological recording. Archaeological Project Services was commissioned by West Ashby Construction and the watching brief was carried out in accordance with a specification designed by Archaeological Project Services (Appendix 1).

2.3 Topography, Geology and Soils

West Keal is located approximately 20km northeast of Boston and 4km south of Spilsby in the administrative district of East Lindsey (Fig. 1).

The site is located to the north of the village centre, and south of the church. The site and surrounding area lie on a south facing slope at a height of 40m OD and at National Grid Reference TF 3660 6244 (Fig. 2).

Local soils are Wickham 2 Association, typical clayey stagnogley soils (Hodge *et al.* 1984, 351). These soils overlie drift deposits of sand rich head which in turn overlie a solid geology of Jurassic Amphill clays (BGS 1995).

2.4 Archaeological Background

The proposed development site is located in an area of known archaeological remains dating from the Mesolithic period to the present day.

Located 800m to the east and 1.8km to the north are two concentrations of Mesolithic flints identified during an intensive survey of this region (Lane 1993, 39). These two concentrations are related to a Mesolithic site at Hall Hill, first identified in 1887, and a focus for prehistoric and later activity (May 1976, 34). A number of Neolithic flints are also known from the area and West Keal was also a focus for Bronze Age funerary activity (Lane 1993, 39 and 43).

Romano-British sites are also known from

West Keal, and several have been located within the neighbouring village of East Keal (*ibid.* 53). Southwest of West Keal is a Romano-British building as evidenced by finds of masonry, tile, pottery and a quern and coin (*ibid.* Gazetteer).

Saxon settlement of West Keal has been located adjacent to the village church and an Anglo-Saxon cemetery has been identified at Hall Hill (*ibid.*).

West Keal is first mentioned in the Domesday Survey of 1086. Referred to as *Westrecale* the name derives from the Old Norse *kjolr* meaning 'ridge' with the prefix *vestri* meaning the 'more westerly' (Fellows Jensen 1978, 151). The Domesday Survey records that the land was owned principally by Ivo Taillebois and Eudo and contained 156 acres of meadow, a church and a mill (Foster and Longley 1976).

The only extant building of the medieval period is the parish church of St. Helen, dating to the 12th century (Pevsner and Harris 1989, 792). There is no trace of the church referred to in the Domesday Survey. The development area lies in an area of open ground where aerial photographs indicate the presence of long earthwork ditches aligned north to south.

Survey work in West Keal also identified a dense pottery scatter and associated pits which was interpreted as a possible kiln site to the south of the development area (Lane 1993, Gazetteer).

3. AIMS

The requirements of the watching brief, as outlined in the specification (Appendix 1), were to locate and record archaeological deposits, if present, and to determine their date, function and origin.

4. METHODS

Prior to the trench excavations, topsoil was stripped from the site. At the most northern end of the site the topsoil extended to a depth of 0.55m below the present ground surface and to the south was 0.15m deep. Trenches were then excavated to the depths 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 of each deposit was measured from the ground surface. Each archaeological deposit or feature 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 during the watching brief was undertaken according to standard Archaeological Project Services practice.

Finds recovered during excavations were examined and a date was assigned where possible (Appendix 3). Records of deposits exposed by groundworks were also examined. A list of all contexts and interpretations appears as Appendix 2. Phasing was assigned based on artefact dating and the nature of the deposits and recognisable relationships between them. A stratigraphic matrix of all identified deposits was produced.

5. RESULTS

Three phases were identified:

- Phase 1 Natural deposits
- Phase 2 Medieval and post-medieval deposits
- Phase 3 Recent deposits

Archaeological contexts are described below. The numbers in brackets are the context numbers assigned in the field.

Phase 1 Natural Deposits

A mottled blue and yellow silty clay (012) deposit was exposed in the base of the foundation trenches in Plot 1.

The earliest recorded deposit in Plot 2 was a light bluish grey silty clay (004) which was overlain by a mid brownish yellow clay and silt (003). These were exposed at a depth of 0.4m below the ground surface.

Above the natural deposits was a subsoil of mid brownish yellow clayey silt (007), measuring 0.2m thick.

Phase 2 Medieval and post-medieval Deposits

Plot 1 revealed a subsoil of light greyish brown silty clay (011). Measuring 0.2m thick, this deposit contained 14th century pottery.

In Plot 2, a possible linear feature (009), cutting through subsoil (007), was identified in Section 1 (Fig. 4). No alignment was ascertained and a minimum width of 1.3m and a depth of 0.64m was recorded. A deposit of mid yellowish brown silt (006) containing a single sherd of 13th - 14th century pottery filled this feature.

Truncating (009) was a linear ditch aligned north to south (008). Measuring at least 2.6m wide and 0.66m deep, the ditch contained a fill of mid yellowish brown clayey silt (006). Locally derived pottery of 16th - 17th century date was retrieved.

Phase 3 Recent Deposits

Cutting through deposit (005) in Plot 2, was a land drain aligned north-south. This was sealed by a layer of mid yellowish brown silt (002). This deposit represents a recently formed layer of subsoil which extended to a depth of 0.2m below the topsoil.

All deposits were sealed by a topsoil of mid brown silt (001) or mid greyish brown clayey silt (010), measuring between 0.15m and 0.5m thick.

6. DISCUSSION

Natural deposits (Phase 1) of silts and clays were the earliest deposits encountered during this investigation. These deposits are unlikely to be the drift deposit of glacially derived head and may be a localised area of hill-wash activity.

An unidentified feature, possibly a hollow, and a ditch were identified. The hollow is medieval in origin. The ditch is dated to either the 16th or 17th century and probably represents parcelling of the land. Such field boundaries are apparent on aerial photographs of the village and they define long toft-like plots of land.

Artefacts retrieved from the investigation include a number of Toynton All Saints type pottery sherds and Boston or Bolingbroke pottery, locally made from the 14th to the 17th century. Some of the Toynton types display characteristics of being wasters from a kiln. Such wasters tend not to travel far from where they were made and therefore, the possibility exists that there is an unidentified kiln in the vicinity. A possible kiln site was identified during field survey and lay south of the development area (Lane 1993, 61).

A single sherd of Potterhanworth pottery

was also retrieved, as was a number of roof tile fragments and animal bones. Several finds were unstratified or found within the topsoil and subsoil layers across the site. Such finds may indicate no more than discarded rubbish incorporated into midden heaps and later spread on the land to improve fertility of the soil.

7. CONCLUSIONS

Archaeological investigations were undertaken at Hall Lane, West Keal, because the site fell within an area of archaeological remains, notably the core of the medieval village.

A few features were revealed and these may represent land boundaries of medieval and post-medieval date. Artefacts recovered during the investigation suggest that medieval and later habitation sites were located in the proximity. Moreover, some of the medieval pottery fragments may be wasters, indicating that kilns may occur in the vicinity.

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 West Ashby Construction who commissioned the watching brief. The work was coordinated by Gary Taylor and this report was edited by Tom Lane. Hilary Healey kindly commented on the pottery and advised as to its significance. Further information was obtained from the library maintained by Heritage Lincolnshire.

9. PERSONNEL

Project Coordinator: Gary Taylor
Site Supervisor: Neil Herbert, Fiona Walker
Finds Processing: Denise Buckley
Illustration: Paul Cope-Faulkner, Phil Mills
Post-Excavation Analysis: Paul Cope-Faulkner

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11. ABBREVIATIONS

BGS British Geological Survey

IFA Institute of Field Archaeologists

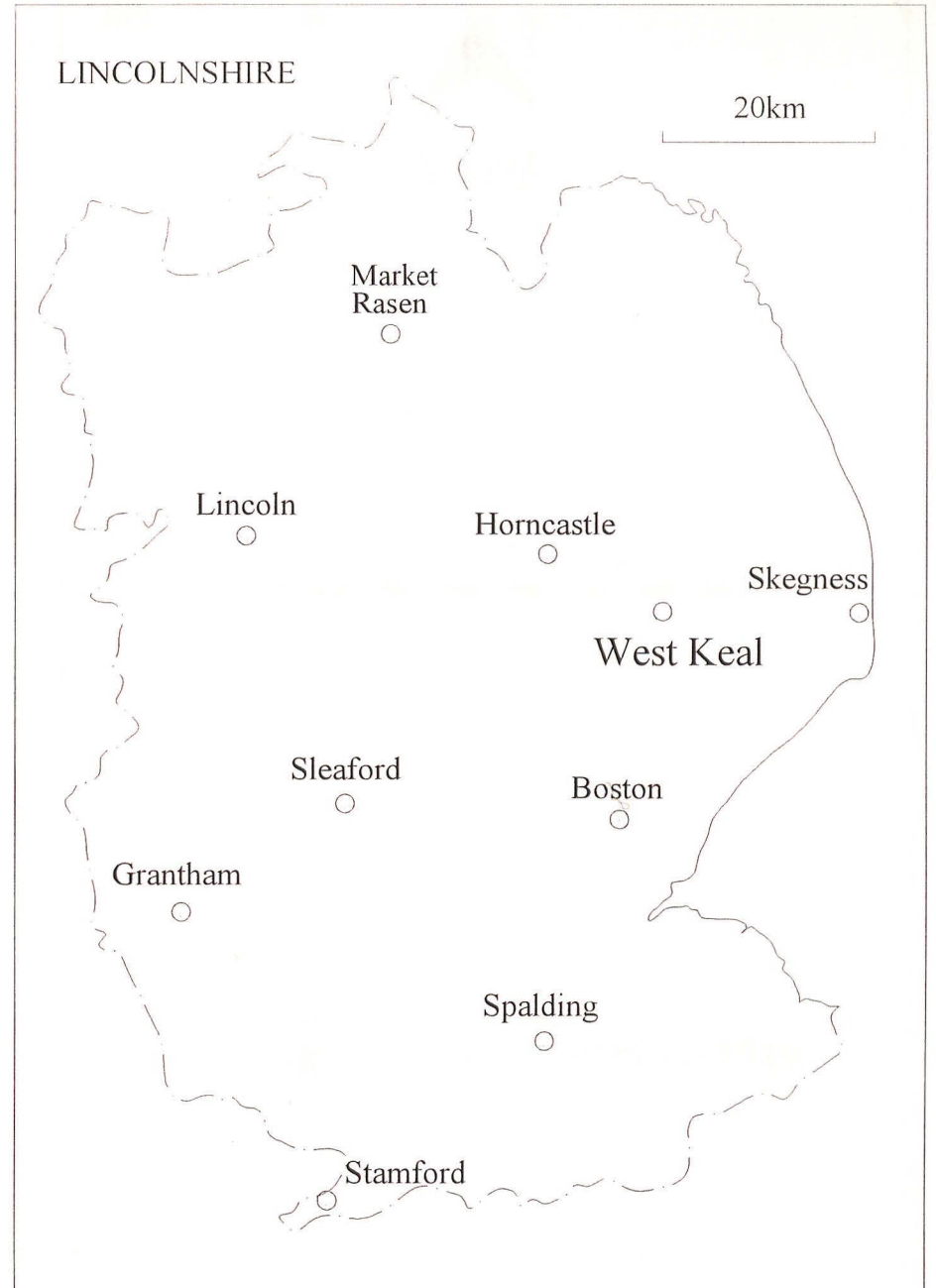


Figure 1 General Location Plan

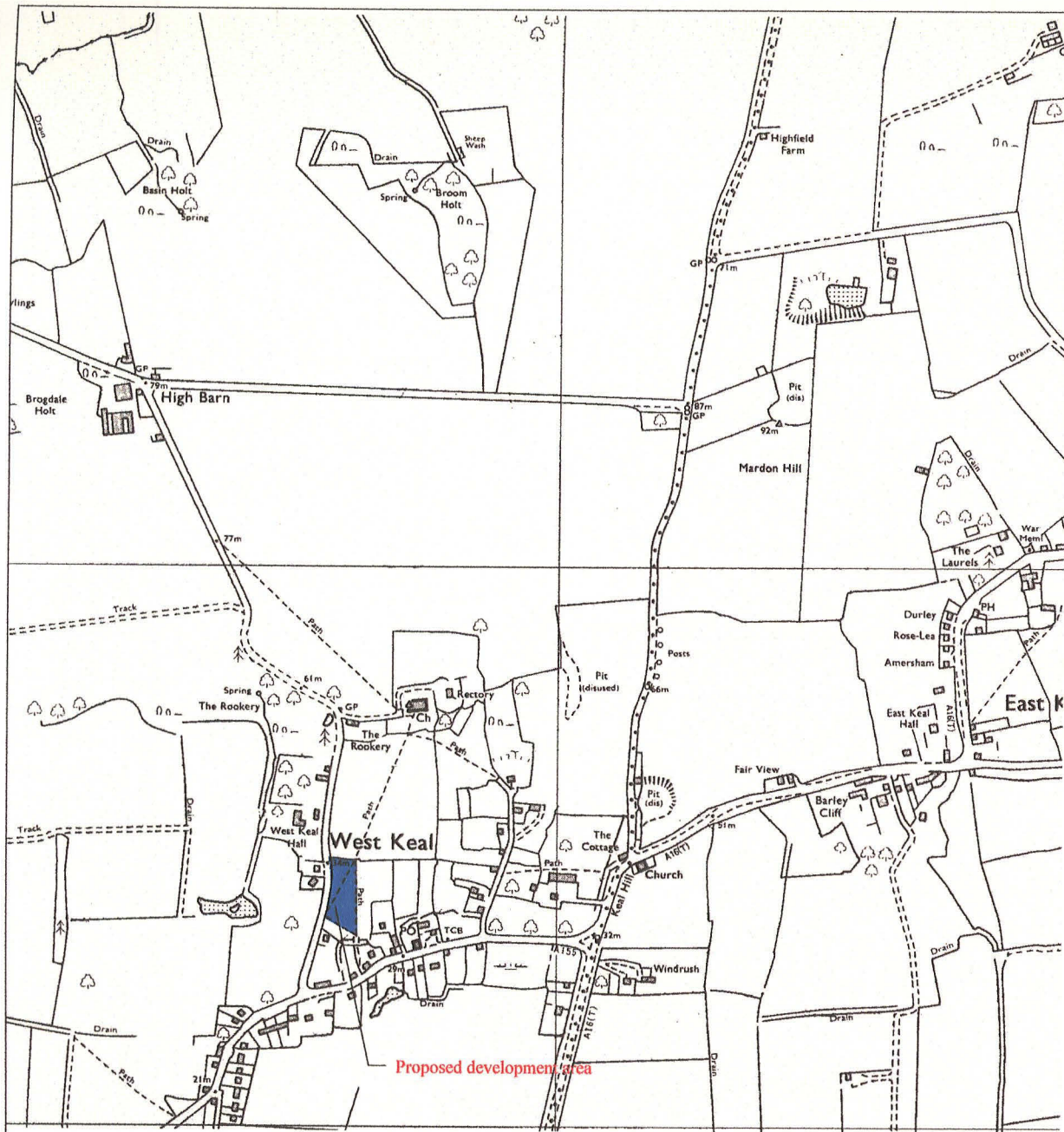


Figure 2 - Site Location Plan



Figure 3 - Development Plan, showing location of drawn sections

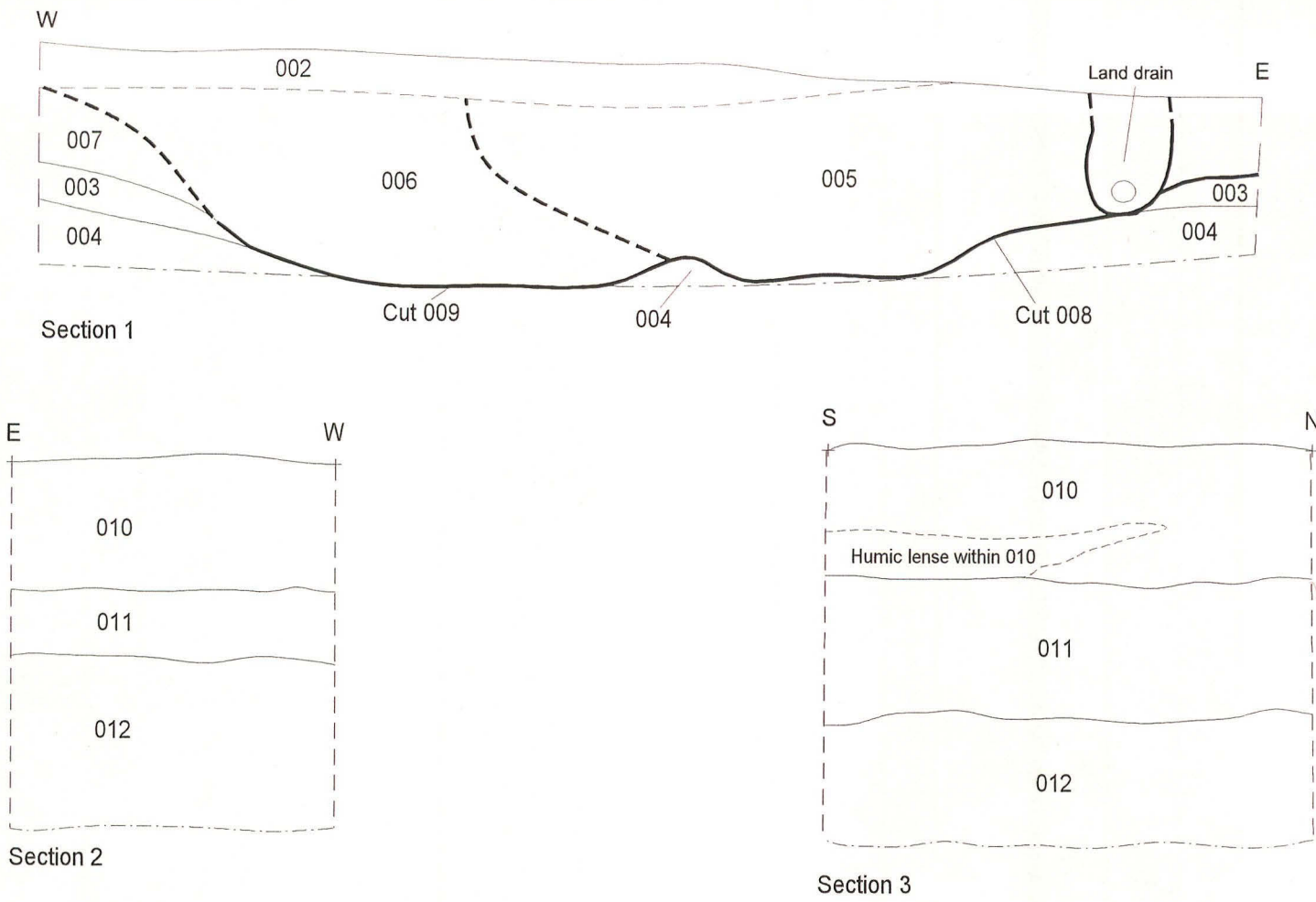


Figure 4 - Sections 1, 2 and 3



Plate 1 - General view of the development site, looking east



Plate 2 - Section 1, showing cuts 008 and 009

Appendix 1

PLOTS 1 AND 2, HALL LANE, WEST KEAL, SPILSBY, LINCOLNSHIRE SPECIFICATION FOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

1. SUMMARY

- a. *A watching brief is required during the construction of two dwellings on land at Hall Lane, West Keal, near Spilsby, Lincolnshire.*
- b. *Evidence from aerial photographs suggest the potential for medieval settlement remains at the site. In addition finds of prehistoric and medieval date have been recovered at West Keal.*
- c. *The watching brief will be undertaken during groundworks associated with the development. The archaeological features exposed will be recorded in writing, graphically and photographically.*
- d. *On completion of the fieldwork a report will be prepared detailing the findings of the work. The report will consist of a narrative supported by illustrations and photographs.*

2. INTRODUCTION

- a. This document comprises a specification for an archaeological watching brief during construction of two dwellings at Hall Lane, West Keal.
- b. This document contains the following parts:
 - i. Overview.
 - ii. Stages of work and methodologies.
 - iii. List of specialists.
 - iv. Programme of works and staffing structure of the project.

3. SITE LOCATION

- a. West Keal is located approximately 20km north of Boston and 4km south west of Spilsby in the administrative district of East Lindsey. The site, at Hall Lane, is located to the north of the present village and to the south of the church at national grid reference TF 36606244.

4. PLANNING BACKGROUND

- a. Planning permission (application number S/204/0409/98) for residential development has been granted by East Lindsey District Council, subject to a condition requiring the implementation of an archaeological watching brief.

5. SOILS AND TOPOGRAPHY

- a. West Keal is situated at the southern edge of the Lincolnshire Wolds. The site and surrounding area lie on a south-facing slope at approximately 40m OD. Soils of the area are Wickham 2 Association, clayey typical stagnogley soils over Jurassic and Cretaceous clay shales (Hodge *et al.* 1984, 361; 152).

6. THE ARCHAEOLOGY

- a. Aerial photographs suggest that medieval settlement remains may lie within the development site. The Fenland Project survey of the northern fen-edge included West Keal and identified prehistoric finds, including mesolithic flints, Bronze Age finds and sites, and evidence of Saxon occupation around West

Keal. There is also evidence of medieval occupation and field systems in and around the village (Lane 1993, 24-68).

7. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- a. The aims of the watching brief will be:
 - i. To record and interpret the archaeological features exposed during ground disturbance.
- b. The objectives of the watching brief will be to:
 - i. Determine the form and function of the archaeological features encountered;
 - ii. Determine the spatial arrangement of the archaeological features encountered;
 - iii. As far as practicable, recover dating evidence from the archaeological features, and
 - iv. Establish the sequence of the archaeological remains present on the site.

8. SITE OPERATIONS

- a. General considerations
 - i. All work will be undertaken following statutory Health and Safety requirements in operation at the time of the watching brief.
 - ii. The work will be undertaken according to the relevant codes of practise issued by the Institute of Field Archaeologists.
- b. Methodology
 - i. The watching brief will be undertaken during the ground works phase of development, and includes the archaeological monitoring of all phases of soil movement.
 - ii. The sections of the trenches will be observed regularly to identify and record archaeological features that are exposed and to record changes in the geological conditions. The plans of the trench and features will be drawn at a scale of 1:20. Section drawings of the trenches and features will be recorded at a scale of 1:10. Written descriptions detailing the nature of the deposits, features and fills encountered will be compiled on Archaeological Project Services pro-forma record sheets.
 - iii. Any finds recovered will be bagged and labelled for later analysis.
 - iv. Throughout the watching brief a photographic record consisting of colour prints will be compiled. The photographic record will consist of:
 - (1) The site during work to show specific stages, and the layout of the archaeology within the trench.
 - (2) groups of features where their relationship is important
 - v. Should human remains be located the appropriate Home Office licence will be obtained before their removal. In addition, the Local Environmental Health Department and the police will be informed.

9. POST-EXCAVATION

- a. Stage 1

- i. On completion of site operations, the records and schedules produced during the watching brief will be checked and ordered to ensure that they form a uniform sequence forming a level II archive. A stratigraphic matrix of the archaeological deposits and features present on the site will be prepared. All photographic material will be catalogued: the colour prints will be labelled, the labelling referring to schedules identifying the subject/s photographed.
 - ii. All finds recovered during the field work will be washed, marked and packaged according to the deposit from which they were recovered. Any finds requiring specialist treatment and conservation will be sent to the Conservation Laboratory at the City and County Museum, Lincoln.
- b. Stage 2
- i. Detailed examination of the stratigraphic matrix to enable the determination of the various phases of activity on the site.
 - ii. Finds will be sent to specialists for identification and dating.
- c. Stage 3
- i. On completion of stage 2, a report detailing the findings of the watching brief will be prepared.
 - ii. This will consist of:
 - (1) A non-technical summary of the results of the investigation.
 - (2) A description of the archaeological setting of the watching brief.
 - (3) Description of the topography of the site.
 - (4) Description of the methodologies used during the watching brief.
 - (5) A text describing the findings of the watching brief.
 - (6) A consideration of the local, regional and national context of the watching brief findings.
 - (7) Plans of the archaeological features exposed. If a sequence of archaeological deposits is encountered, separate plans for each phase will be produced.
 - (8) Sections of the archaeological features.
 - (9) Interpretation of the archaeological features exposed, and their chronology and setting within the surrounding landscape.
 - (10) Specialist reports on the finds from the site.
 - (11) Appropriate photographs of specific archaeological features.

10. REPORT DEPOSITION

- a. Copies of the report will be sent to the client; the County Council Archaeological Sites and Monuments Record; and to East Lindsey District Council Planning Department.

11. ARCHIVE

- a. The documentation and records generated during the watching brief will be sorted and ordered into the

format acceptable to the City and County Museum, Lincoln. This will be undertaken following the requirements of the document titled *Conditions for the Acceptance of Project Archives* for long term storage and curation.

12. PUBLICATION

- a. A report of the findings of the watching brief will be published in Heritage Lincolnshire's Annual Report and a note presented to the editor of the journal of the Society for Lincolnshire History and Archaeology. If appropriate, notes on the findings will be submitted to the appropriate national journals: *Britannia* for discoveries of Roman date, and *Medieval Archaeology* and the journal of the *Medieval Settlement Research Group* for findings of medieval or later date.

13. CURATORIAL RESPONSIBILITY

- a. Curatorial responsibility for the archaeological work undertaken on the site lies with the Archaeology Officer, Lincolnshire County Council. They will be given seven days notice in writing before the commencement of the project.

14. VARIATIONS

- a. Variations to the proposed scheme of works will only be made following written confirmation of acceptance from the Archaeology Officer, Lincolnshire County Council.

15. PROGRAMME OF WORKS AND STAFFING LEVELS

- a. The watching brief will be integrated with the programme of construction.
- b. An archaeological supervisor with experience of watching briefs will undertake the work.
- c. Post-excavation analysis and report production will be undertaken by the archaeological supervisor, or a post-excavation analyst as appropriate, with assistance from a finds supervisor, illustrator and external specialists. It is expected that each fieldwork day (equal to one man-day) will require a post-excavation day (equal to one-and-a-half man-days) for completion of the analysis and report, unless particularly dense and complicated remains are revealed. If the fieldwork exceeds 5 days then there is likely to be an economy of scale with the analysis and reporting, unless particularly dense and complicated archaeological remains are revealed.

16. SPECIALISTS TO BE USED DURING THE PROJECT

- a. The following organisations/persons will, in principal and if necessary, be used as subcontractors to provide the relevant specialist work and reports in respect of any objects or material recovered during the investigation that require their expert knowledge and input. Engagement of any particular specialist subcontractor is also dependent on their availability and ability to meet programming requirements.

<u>Task</u>	<u>Body to be undertaking the work</u>
Conservation	Conservation Laboratory, City and County Museum, Lincoln
Pottery Analysis	Prehistoric - Trent & Peak Archaeological Trust Roman - B Precious, Independent Specialist Anglo-Saxon - J Young, City of Lincoln Archaeology Unit Medieval and later - H Healey, Independent Archaeologist
Non-pottery Artefacts	J Cowgill, Independent Specialist

Animal Bones

Environmental Archaeology Consultancy

Environmental Analysis

J Rackham, Independent Specialist

Human Remains Analysis

R Gowland, Independent Specialist

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Appendix 2

CONTEXT SUMMARY

No.	Plot	Description	Interpretation
001	2	Moderate, mid brown silt.	Topsoil.
002	2	Moderate, mid yellowish brown silt.	Subsoil.
003	2	Moderate, light to mid brownish yellow clay and silt.	Natural.
004	2	Moderate, light bluish grey silty clay.	Natural.
005	2	Moderate, mid to dark brown clayey silt with grey and red brown mottling containing occasional grit and medium rounded stones.	Fill of (008).
006	2	Moderate, mid yellowish brown clayey silt containing some grit.	Fill of (009).
007	2	Moderate, light to mid brownish yellow clayey silt containing grit.	Subsoil.
008	2	Linear cut, with concave sides and base.	Ditch.
009	2	Cut, with concave sides and base.	?Hollow/Channel.
010	1	Friable mid greyish brown silty clay, 0.5m thick	Topsoil
011	1	Soft light greyish brown silty clay, 0.2m thick	Subsoil
012	1	Soft mottled blue and dark yellow silty clay >0.6m thick	Natural

Appendix 3

FINDS SUMMARY

By Paul Cope-Faulkner, Hilary Healey and Gary Taylor

Provenance

All the pottery is locally made Lincolnshire products, with Toynton All Saints-type fabrics, Boston-Bolingbroke vessels and Potterhanworth wares present. Toynton All Saints is less than 3km to the east of West Keal, while Bolingbroke is about 2km to the northwest. Boston lies 20km to the south and Potterhanworth is *c.* 30km west of West Keal. Some of the ceramic building material (brick/tile) is in the same fabric as the Toynton All Saints-type ware and, therefore, was probably made in the vicinity.

Range

Pottery dominates the moderate assemblage, with most of the material being in Toynton All Saints-type fabric, though this could have been made at various sites around the southern end of the Lincolnshire Wolds. Of possible significance in respect of this, a few of the sherds may be wasters, which would suggest the possibility of ceramic production at, or closer to, West Keal itself. Some of the brick and tile is in the same fabric.

Pottery of the 13th -14th century is the earliest material found, though the majority of the pottery assemblage is a little later, dating from the 14th -15th century. Animal bone and marine shell was also retrieved. The range of material is listed in the tables.

Table 1: The artefacts

Context	Description	Date
unstratified	2x Toynton All Saints-type, including 1 pancheon, 14 th -15 th century. 1 abraded	14 th -15 th century
001	3x Toynton All Saints-type ware, including 1 jug with irregular glaze on base, 14 th -15 th century. 2 abraded	16 th -17 th century
	3x Boston/Bolingbroke pancheon, linked sherds, 16 th -17 th century. Unabraded	
002	1x Toynton All Saints-type pancheon, burnt or near-waster, 14 th -15 th century. Slightly abraded	20 th century
	1x machine made ceramic field drain, 20 th century. Unabraded	
	2x ?tile, 19 th -20 th century. Unabraded	
005	6x Toynton All Saints-type, one with severe indentation in base from other vessel, 14 th -15 th century. 1 abraded, 4 moderately abraded	16 th -17 th century
	2x Boston/Bolingbroke ware, 1 sooted externally, 16 th -17 th century. Unabraded	
	1x roof tile in Toynton All Saints-type fabric, with peg hole, irregular firing. Abraded	
	1x brick in Toynton All Saints-type fabric, abraded	
006	1x Potterhanworth bowl, 13 th -14 th century. Slightly abraded	13 th -14 th century
011	6x Toynton All Saints-type ware, including 1 jug 14 th -15 th century, 1 bowl 13 th -14 th century. 4 abraded	?14 th century

Table 2: *The Animal Bone*

Context	Description
001	1 x cattle sized vertebrae fragment
005	1 x unidentified fragment
011	1 x cattle humerus fragment, diseased, butchery marks 3 x cattle sized skull fragments 1 x cattle tibia fragment 3 x dog lower jawbone fragments 1 x pig molar 1 x pig lower jaw 26 x unidentified fragments

Condition

Although there is differential abrasion on the material, the assemblage is in good condition and presents no long-term storage problems. The assemblage will be stored in archive by material class.

Documentation

There has been limited previous archaeological investigation in West Keal, though details of sites and finds in the area are maintained in the Lincolnshire County Sites and Monuments Record.

Potential

As a consolidated assemblage of predominantly late medieval to early post-medieval date, the collection has moderate potential and indicates the probability of occupation of this period on, or in the immediate vicinity of, the site. Moreover, the potential is enhanced by the possibility that some of the pottery could be wasters, and there are bricks and tile in the same fabric, suggesting that there may be otherwise unknown ceramic production in the late medieval period in West Keal or its immediate environs.

Appendix 4

THE ARCHIVE

The archive consists of:

12	Context records
3	Scale drawings
1	Photographic record sheet
1	Bag of finds
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: 166.98

Archaeological Project Services Site Code: WKH98

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.

Archaeological Project Services shall retain full copyright of any commissioned reports under the *Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988* with all rights reserved; excepting that it hereby provides an exclusive licence to the client for the use of such documents by the client in all matters directly relating to the project as described in the Project Specification.

Appendix 5

GLOSSARY

Bronze Age	A period characterised by the introduction of bronze into the country for tools, between 2250 and 800 BC.
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).
Cropmark	A mark that is produced by the effect of underlying archaeological features influencing the growth of a particular crop.
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).
Head	Earth rich geological deposit containing angular stones formed during alternate freezing and thawing during glaciation and creating a scree type deposit.
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.
Mesolithic	The 'Middle Stone Age' period, part of the prehistoric era, dating from approximately 8600-4200 BC.
Natural	Undisturbed deposit(s) of soil or rock which have accumulated without the influence of human activity.
Neolithic	The 'New Stone Age' period, part of the prehistoric era, dating from approximately 4500-2250 BC.
Post-medieval	The period following the Middle Ages, dating from approximately AD 1500-1800.
Prehistoric	The period of human history prior to the introduction of writing. In Britain the prehistoric period lasts from the first evidence of human occupation about 500,000 BC, until the Roman invasion in the middle of the 1st century AD.
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