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**ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELD EVALUATION REPORT  
LAND OFF ST PETER'S CLOSE, HOLTON-LE-CLAY,  
LINCOLNSHIRE.**

Site Code: SPCH99  
LCNCC Acc. No:197.99  
NGR: TA 2873 0628



Event LI911

43806 - early med - modern  
43807 - undated

99/20

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Report prepared for East Lindsey Partnership Housing.  
by James Albone BSc. PIFA

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October 1999

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### Summary

- \* *An archaeological field evaluation was undertaken on land adjacent to St. Peter's Close, Holton le Clay, Lincolnshire (Fig. 1).*
- \* *Three trenches were excavated to investigate the archaeological potential of the site, which had formerly supported a number of commercial glasshouses.*
- \* *A ditch and pit containing small quantities of late Saxon pottery, animal bone and shell were the only dateable features exposed. The pit was associated with several others, but in the absence of any finds, their date and function remains uncertain.*

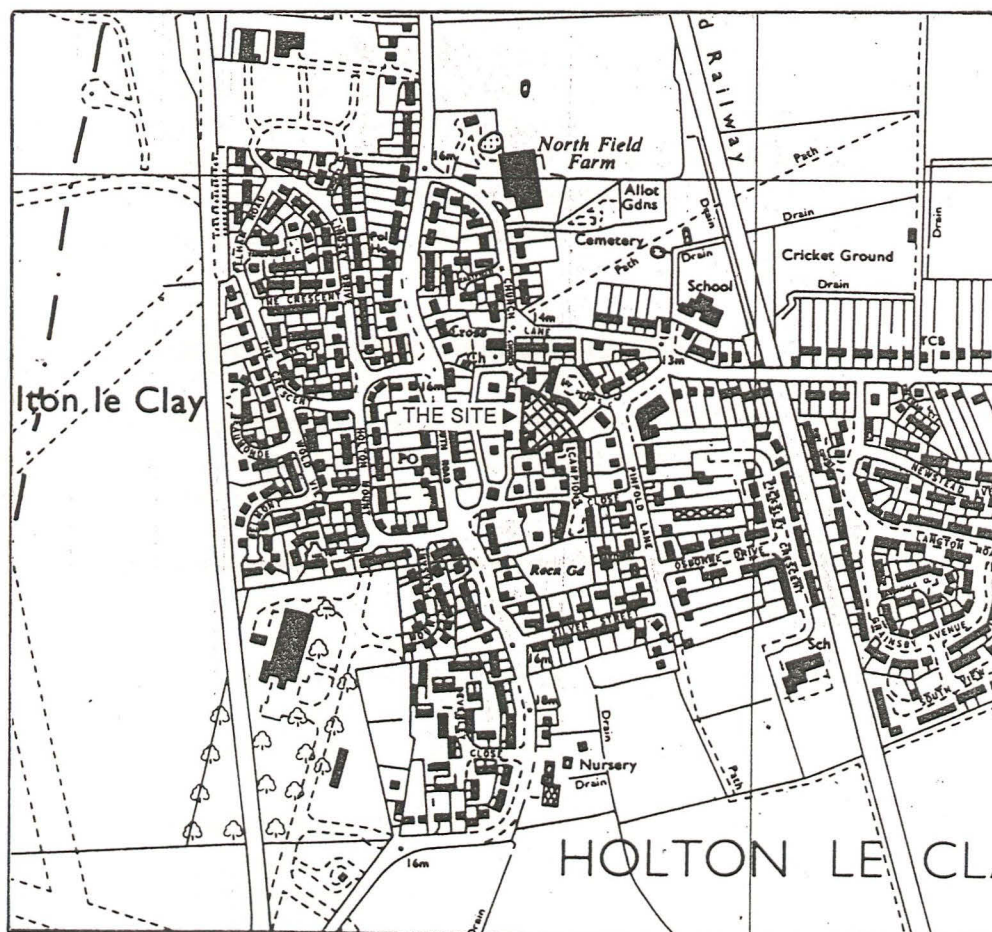


Fig. 1: Site location (1:10,000)  
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## 1.0 Introduction

A two day programme of archaeological trial excavation was carried out on a site adjacent to St. Peter's Close, Holton le Clay, Lincolnshire (Fig. 1). The evaluation was commissioned by the East Lindsey Partnership Housing to fulfil a condition attached to planning permission for a residential development (Ref. N/085/0776/99).

The results of this report will assist the local planning authority and the client to further assess the archaeological significance of the site, the potential impacts which may be imposed by development and the requirement / non-requirement for further archaeological investigation in advance of or during 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

The village of Holton le Clay is situated at the northern boundary of the administrative district of East Lindsey, approximately 6 km. south of Grimsby. The site is located in the centre of the settlement at NGR TA 2873 0268 and lies at c.14 m. OD. It consists of a roughly triangular unit of land situated to the southwest of St. Peters Close with access from Campions Close to the south. The site had previously supported a number of commercial glasshouses.

## 3.0 Archaeological and Historical Background

The earliest archaeological evidence from the vicinity of Holton le Clay is of prehistoric date. A worked flint of uncertain type was found at a depth of 3 feet in the clay on the northern side of the village.

The majority of the archaeological information for Holton le Clay was derived from excavations at the church in 1973 and 1975 (Sills 1982). The church of St. Peter was substantially rebuilt in 1850 although it retains eleventh century elements including the tower (Pevsner, Harris and Antram 1995, 389). A fourteenth century cross shaft and base are located in the churchyard and are a Scheduled Ancient Monument. It is situated on a large mound in the centre of the settlement.

A small amount of Roman pottery and tile was recovered during the excavations. These finds suggested some activity on the mound during this period although there was no evidence of any settlement.

A quantity of mid to late Saxon pottery was recovered during the excavations. Some of this pottery was sealed by a chalk surface that was cut by fourteen late Saxon graves. A number of small finds, including bronze pins and a strap end, were recovered during the excavations (Sills 1982).

At the time of the Domesday Survey of 1086, land at Holton le Clay held by Count Alan, Ivo Tallboys and Rainer of Brimeux (Morris 1986). The place-name Holton le Clay is first recorded as *Holtun* and *Holtone* at that time. It is Old English in origin and refers to the village on a heel or spur of land. The 'le Clay' element of the name is first recorded in 1615 when it was referred to as 'Howlton in le Clay' (Cameron 1998, 65).

#### 4.0 Methodology

Information held at the County Sites and Monuments Record (SMR) suggested that a potential existed for archaeological remains within the area of the proposed development (as outlined above). The Assistant County Archaeologist for Lincolnshire issued a project brief requiring the excavation of three archaeological trenches located to investigate the potential of the site. The location of the trenches was partly restricted by the remains of some of the glasshouses on the site. All of the trenches were 10m in length and were located as follows;

Trench 1 was originally proposed for the northern corner of the site. However access difficulties made this location unfeasible. The remains of the glasshouses in the central area of the site were much less substantial than had been thought. Trench one was repositioned to investigate the central southern part of the site and was aligned north to south in this area.

Trench 2 was situated parallel to the northeastern boundary of the site. Because trench one had been moved to the southern part of the site this trench was excavated further to the west than had originally been proposed.

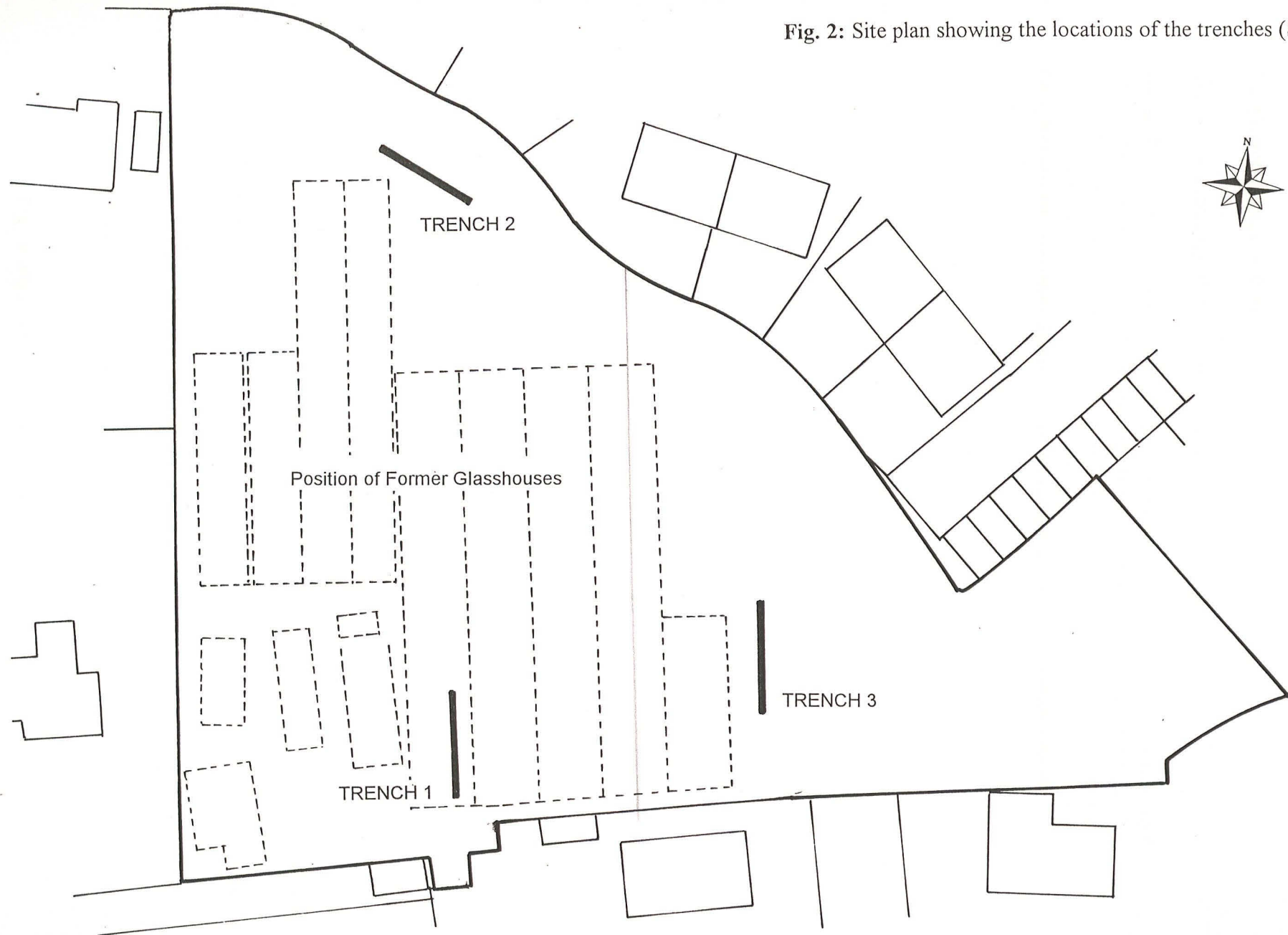
Trench 3 was aligned north to south and located in the western part of the site, close to the access from Campions Close.

The locations of the excavated trenches are shown on Fig. 2. The aim of these trenches was to determine the nature of the archaeology (its character, date, depth, state of preservation, extent and significance). The overall objective of this phase of work, therefore, was to present the client and the District Planning Authority with a set of data from which reasoned decisions may be taken regarding future management of the archaeological resource.

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 small quantity of pottery, and animal bone was recovered; specialist reports on these are included in the appendices.

The evaluation was supervised by the writer assisted by two experienced field archaeologists and was carried out on the 13th and 14th of September 1999.

Fig. 2: Site plan showing the locations of the trenches (Scale 1:500)



## 5.0 Results

### 5.1 Trench 1 (Figs. 3 & 4)

Only one archaeological feature was identified in this trench.

**Ditch 101** was aligned east to west at the southern end of the trench. This feature had an asymmetrical profile and contained medium brown silty clay with sparse small flint and chalk fragments. Several sherds of tenth to twelfth century pottery, animal bones and mussel and oyster shells were recovered from the fill of this feature. The ditch was cut into the natural pinkish brown boulder clay (102) and sealed by the clayey silt topsoil (100).

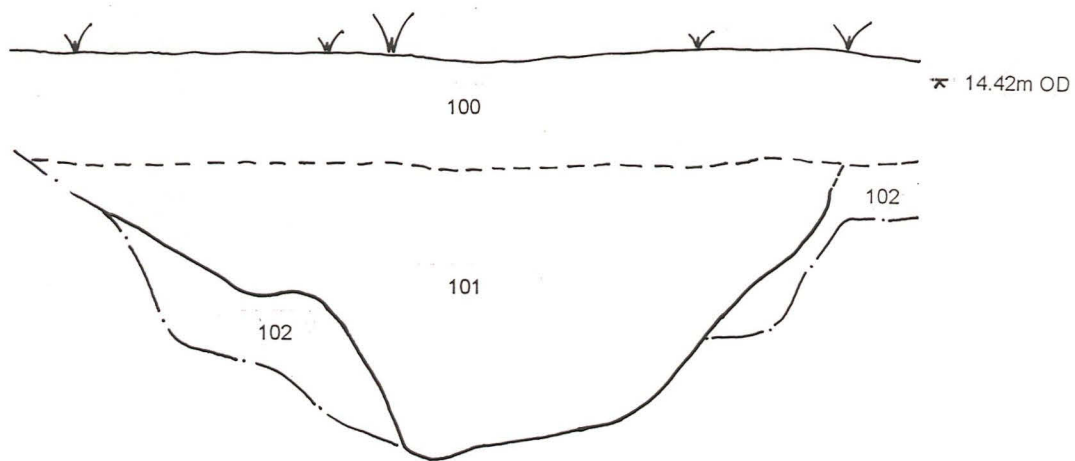


Fig. 3: Section of Ditch 101 (Scale 1:20)

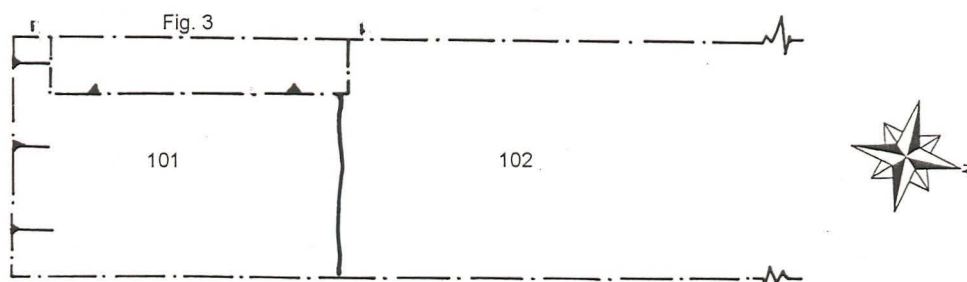


Fig. 4: Plan of the southern end of Trench 1 (Scale 1:50)

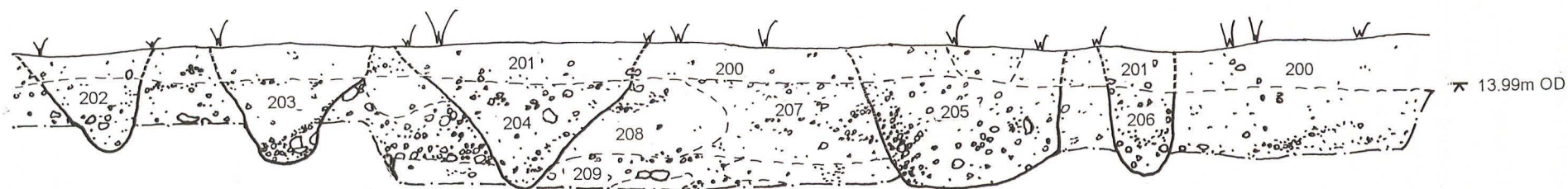


Fig. 5: Section of Trench 2 (Scale 1:40)

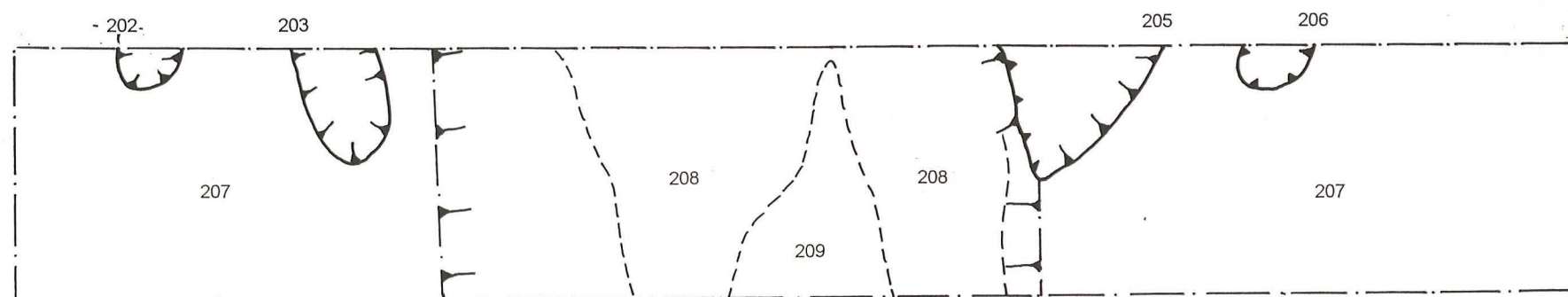


Fig. 6: Plan of Trench 2 (Scale 1:40)

### 5.2 Trench 2 (Figs. 5 & 6)

A group of pits (202 – 206) were identified along the northeastern side of this trench. The grey brown clayey silt topsoil (200) contained a small quantity of gravel and appeared to form a continuous layer. However over to pits the soil was darker and contained less gravel (201). This gave the impression that the pits were of relatively modern date and had been cut through the topsoil. However the evenness of topsoil layer and the absence of any mixing of the pit fills with this layer did not support this interpretation. It seems likely that the differences in the topsoil were a result of the disturbance of the upper parts of the features by root action.

All of these features had steep sided profiles and contained dark orangey brown silty clay. Only one of these features produced any artefacts. Two sherds of late ninth to eleventh century pottery and animal bone were recovered from the fill of pit 203. All of the pits were cut into natural gravely silty clay (207 & 208) that overlay boulder clay (209) and silty sand (210).

### 5.3 Trench 3 (Figs. 7 & 8)

No archaeological features were identified in this trench. A thin layer of re-deposited boulder clay (300) was present on the ground surface and sealed the medium grey clayey silt topsoil (301). Beneath this layer was natural medium brown silty clay (302 & 303).

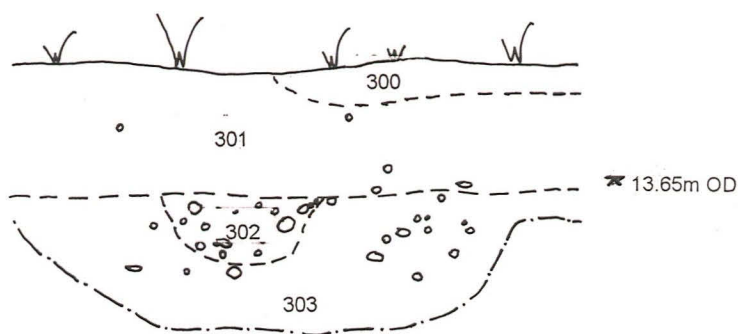


Fig. 7: Representative section of Trench 3 (Scale 1:20)

## 6.0 Discussion and Conclusion

The evaluation produced only sparse evidence of any previous land-use. The small numbers of archaeological features, some of which can be dated to the late Saxon period, do not appear to suggest a high level of archaeological activity. The quantity of finds was too low to suggest any occupation or intensive land-use and it is likely that the site lay close to, but was not actually part of, the Saxon and medieval settlement of Holton.

## 7.0 Acknowledgements

Pre-Construct Archaeology (Lincoln) would like to express their thanks to East Lindsey Partnership Housing for this commission. Thanks are also expressed to; the specialist contributors to this report, James Rackham and Jane Young; Mark Bennet and Sarah Grundy of the County SMR; and to the site team, Andrew Kirkham and Paul Welsby.

## 8.0 Appendices:

## 8.1 Post-Roman Pottery Analysis and Archive by J. Young

## Notes on Pottery from the SPCH99 site at Holton Le Clay

A total of seven, mainly worn sherds of pottery were recovered from the site. One handmade sherd, tempered with basic igneous inclusions, from context 101 cannot be positively identified. Similar fabrics are known to be used for both prehistoric and Anglo-Saxon vessels. Three sherds are of 10<sup>th</sup> to 11<sup>th</sup> century date and are all of Lincoln Manufacture. Two sherds in an unglazed fabric with greensand quartz and chalk inclusions (CHGS) cannot be closer dated than to the period between the 10<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> centuries as this fabric type, common in north Lincolnshire has not yet been classified. The single glazed sherd in the assemblage (context 301) dates to the 12<sup>th</sup> or 13<sup>th</sup> centuries.

*pottery archive spch99*

<i>context</i>	<i>cname</i>	<i>form</i>	<i>nosh</i>	<i>nov</i>	<i>part</i>	<i>description</i>	<i>date</i>
101							
	MISC	jar	1	1	rim	fabric incl. Basic igneous + ? Glauconite; sim to fabric from Tetney	Preh or E Saxon
	CHGS	jar	2	1	BS		10-12th?
	LSH	?	1	1	BS	tiny scrap	10th
203							
	LS/SNLS	jar	1	1	base	? ID	late 9/early 10th or late 10/11th
	LS/SNLS	jar	1	1	BS	? ID	late 9/early 10th or late 10/11th
301							
	HUMB	jug/jar	1	1	BS	spots of glaze; oxid gritty fabric	12/13th

## 8.2 Animal Bone Archive by J. Rackham

20/09/99

The Environmental Archaeology Consultancy

### St Peter's Close, Hinton Le Clay Animal Bone Archive

site	context	species	bone	number	weight	side	fusion	zone	butchery	grawing	patholo gical	comment	preserv ation
SPCH99	101	CSZ	HUM	1	0	R						FRAGMENT DISTAL CONDYLE- 4 PIECES	4
SPCH99	101	SSZ	FEM	1	0	F						MIDSHAFT FRAGMENT	4
SPCH99	101	SSZ	RIB	1	0	F						SHAFT FRAGMENT- 2 PIECES	4
SPCH99	101	SUS	FEM	1	0	L		4		DG		DISTAL SHAFT FRAGMENT-DISTAL CHEWED	4
SPCH99	203	BOS	MTT	1	0	L						SHAFT-SOFT WITH EXTENSIVE SURFACE EROSION	2
SPCH99	203	CSZ	LBF	1	0	F						EXTENSIVE SURFACE EROSION	2

The two bones from context 203 show substantial erosion and unless the soil conditions in this context were markedly different from those in context 101, from which the remainder of the bone was recovered, there may be a significant time difference between the two contexts. Context 203 being potentially much older than 101. However local burial conditions, soils or a cess pit environment could account for the substantially greater erosion.

### 8.3 References

- Cameron, K. 1998 *A Dictionary of Lincolnshire Place-names*
- Morris, J. (gen. ed.) 1986 *'Lincolnshire' Domesday Book*.
- Pevsner, N., Harris, J. 1995 *The Buildings of England: Lincolnshire*  
& Antram, N.
- Sills, J 1982 St. Peter's Church, Holton-le- Clay, Lincolnshire in  
*Lincolnshire History and Archaeology Vol 17 pp29-42*

### 8.4 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. The archive can be obtained by quoting its unique Accession Number: LCNCC 197.99

The site archive consists of:

X1 A4 file containing;

X8 Context Record Sheets

X1 Sheet of Site Drawings

X2 Development Plans

X1 Project Specification

X2 bags containing medieval pottery and animal bone

## 8.5 Colour Photographs



Pl. 1: General view of the site looking north, with Trench 1 in the foreground.



Pl. 2: Ditch 101 looking west.



Pl. 3: General view of Trench 2, looking northwest.



Pl. 4: Pit 203, looking northeast.