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**ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELD EVALUATION REPORT
WOODLANDS FARM, FERRY ROAD, FISKERTON,
LINCOLNSHIRE.**

Site Code: WFF99
LCNCC Acc. No: 151.99
NGR: TF 0637 7184



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Report prepared for Cirque Energy (UK) Ltd.
by James Albone BSc. PIFA

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Summary

- * *An archaeological field evaluation took place on land adjacent to Woodlands Farm, Ferry Road, Fiskerton, Lincolnshire (Fig. 1).*
- * *Three trenches were excavated to establish the archaeological potential of the site.*
- * *No archaeological features were encountered although the remains of brick and concrete structures associated with the Second World War airfield at Fiskerton were identified.*
- * *Two worked flint waste flakes were recovered from subsoil deposits.*

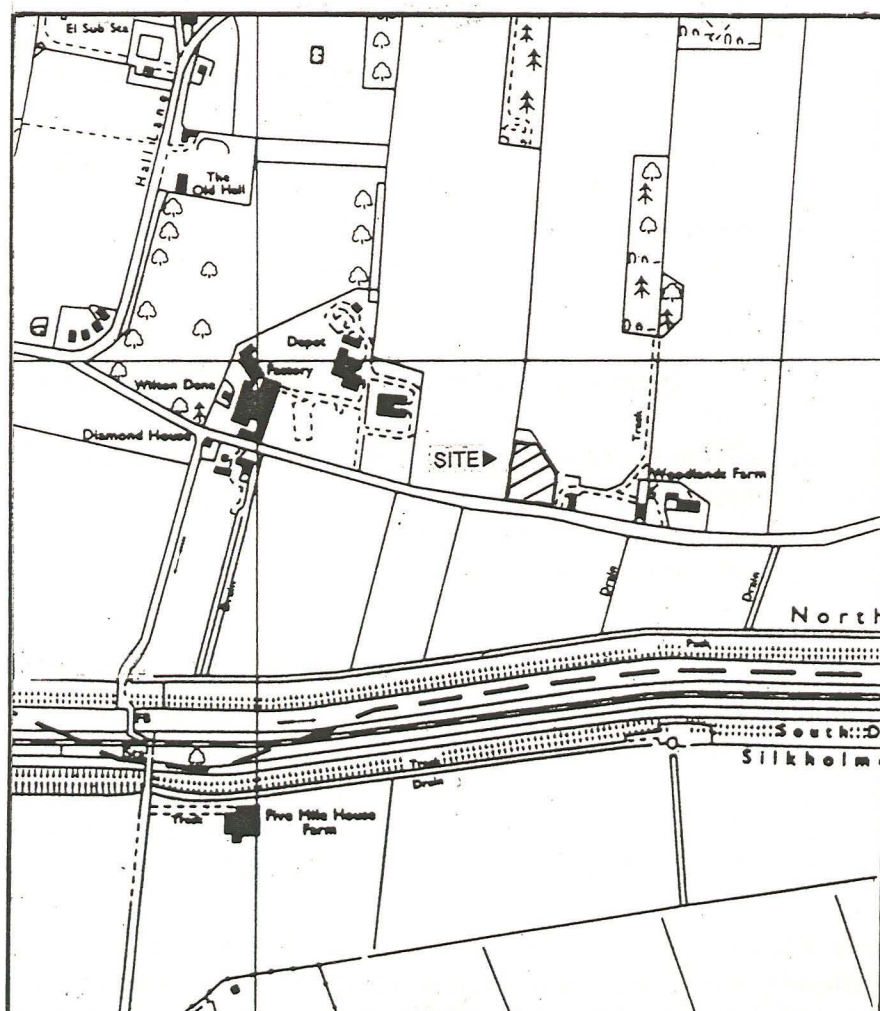


Fig. 1: Site location (1:10,000)
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1.0 Introduction

A four-day programme of archaeological trial excavation was carried out on a site adjacent to Woodlands Farm, Ferry Road, Fiskerton, Lincolnshire (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Cirque Energy (UK) Ltd. to fulfil a planning requirement issued by Lincolnshire County Council Highways and Planning Directorate.

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

Reports will be deposited at the County SMR and the City and County Museum, Lincoln, accompanied with an ordered project archive. A short text will also be submitted to the editor of the county journal, *Lincolnshire History and Archaeology*; effectively placing the information in the public domain.

2.0 Location and Description

The site is located to the west of Woodlands Farm, Ferry Road, Fiskerton. Its centre lies approximately 1.4km to the east of the village and 150m to the north of the modern (canalised) course of the River Witham. Prior to the evaluation the site was covered with small trees and scrub vegetation.

3.0 Archaeological and Historical Background

The Witham Fen is an area of high archaeological significance. The County Sites and Monuments Record (SMR) contains a significant amount of information relating to sites in and around Fiskerton. These include an early Iron Age causeway/jetty discovered in 1981, a Bronze Age hoard and two Bronze Age round barrows (burial mounds) to the south west of the village.

There have been other significant finds in the vicinity of the proposed development, including Neolithic (New Stone Age) stone axe heads, Romano-British artefacts and (from the River itself) a collection of later prehistoric metalwork of national significance. A rubble hard standing of Romano-British date was also identified to the west of the site during an evaluation in 1994. A Viking sword was found approximately 800m to the south west of the site in 1954.

The proposed development area had formerly been an ancillary site of RAF Fiskerton and the remains of a number of structures were present on the site. The airfield was opened in November 1942 and closed at the end of 1945 (Blake, Hodgson and Taylor 1984, 82-84)

4.0 Methodology

In view of the high archaeological potential of the Witham Valley, a condition requiring an archaeological evaluation was attached to the planning permission for the proposed development. A Project Specification for the excavation of three archaeological trenches was prepared by Pre-Construct Archaeology (Lincoln) (Albone 1999).

The purpose of these trenches was to establish the nature of the archaeology (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 planning authority and the client with a set of data from which reasoned decisions may be taken regarding future management of the site. The location of the trenches is shown in (Fig. 2). Recording was undertaken using standard context record sheets (incorporating physical descriptions, interpretations, and stratigraphic relationships). Representative sections of the trenches were drawn to scale, 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.

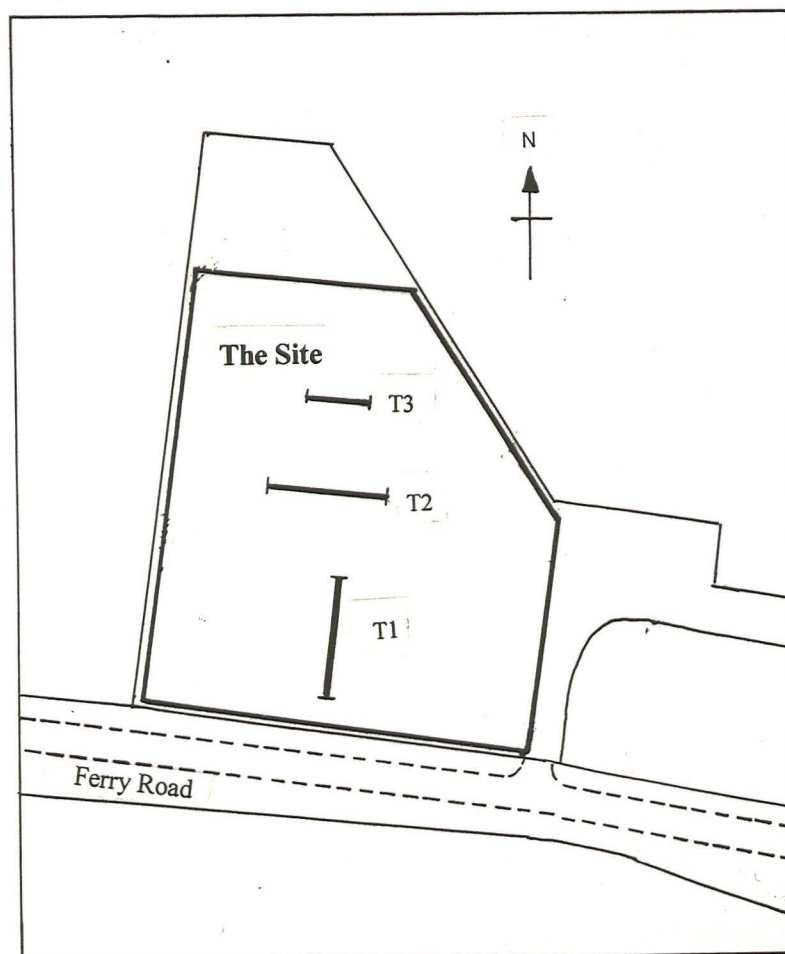


Fig. 2: Site plan showing the location of the trenches (1:1250).

Two worked flints were recovered during the excavation, and a specialist report on these artefacts is included in the appendices at the back of this report. Deposits with a potential for the recovery of environmental remains were not encountered and therefore no sampling took place during the investigation.

The evaluation was supervised by the writer assisted by an experienced field archaeologist and was carried out between the 9th and 12th of August 1999.

5.0 Results

5.1 Trench 1

The whole of the area of trench 1 was covered by a thick deposit of dumped soil and rubble (100). This was a clayey silt layer which contained brick and concrete fragments. A single sherd of Roman pottery and two sherds of late medieval / early post-medieval pottery were recovered from this deposit. As the origin of this deposit was not established these finds can not be positively be associated with the site. The remains of concrete bases building foundations and pipes, associated with Second World War airfield buildings, were also observed in this trench.

Immediately below the dumped deposit was a silty clay buried topsoil (102). Sealed below this layer was an orange - brown slightly silty clay (104) and mid grey brown silty clay. Both of these layers dipped downwards at the southern end of the trench and were probably deposited on the first terrace of the river valley. This slope was observed, continuing parallel to the river, in the fields between the site and Fiskerton village. On the site, the presence of this slope was masked by an overlying deposit of silty clay (105). A single waste flint flake was recovered from this layer. Boulder clay (107) containing patches of orange sand (108) was exposed in the base of the trench.

5.2 Trench 2

The concrete and brick remains of several Second World War structures were exposed in this trench but no archaeological features were identified. The topsoil was a dark grey clayey sandy silt (200). Beneath this layer was a pale grey brown silty clay (201) from which a waste flint flake was recovered. Sealed beneath this layer was an orange - clay (202) and a mid brown clay (203). Underlying these deposits was blue grey boulder clay (204) containing patches of orange sand (205).

5.3 Trench 3

No archaeological features were identified in this trench. Sealed below the dark brownish grey clayey silt topsoil (301) was a light orange - brown silty clay subsoil (302). Beneath these deposits was natural boulder clay (303) containing patches of sand (304).

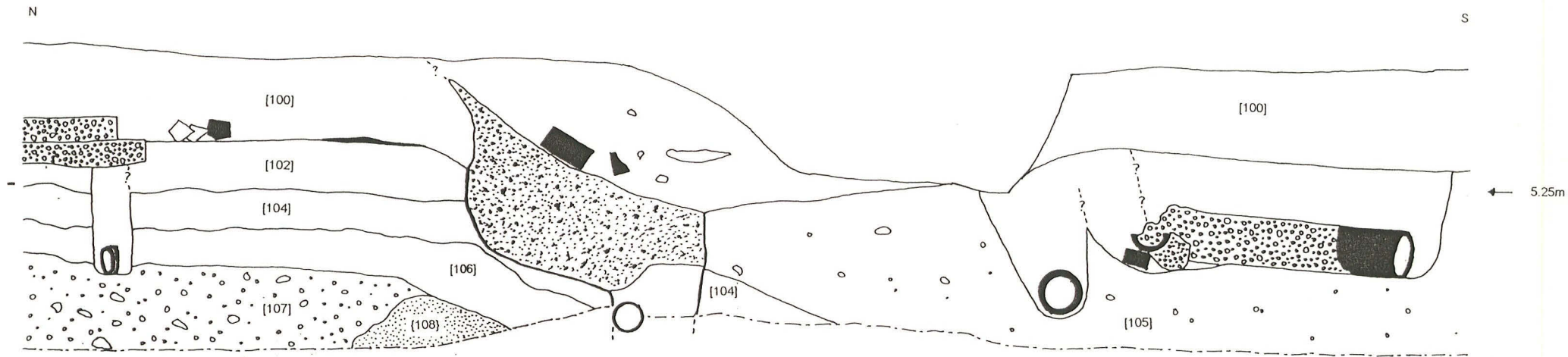


Fig. 3: Representative section of Trench 1 (1:25)

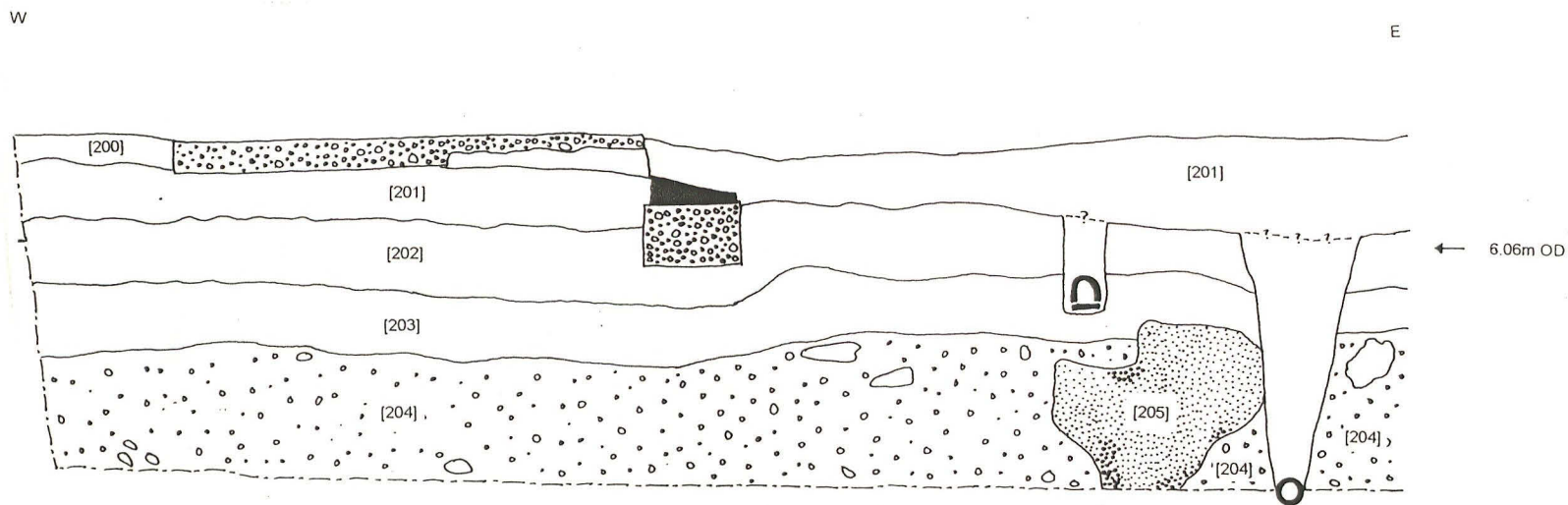


Fig. 4: Representative section of Trench 2 (1:25)

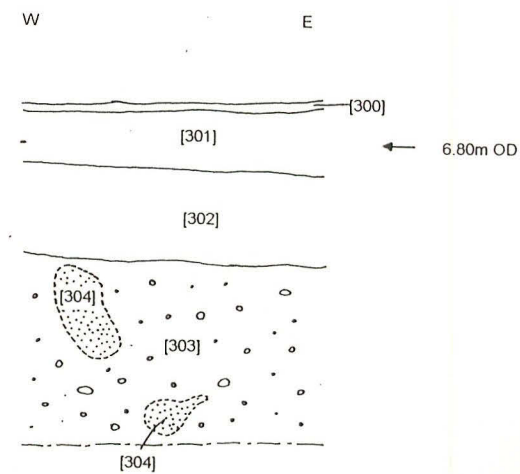


Fig. 5: Representative section of Trench 3 (1:25)

6.0 Discussion and Conclusion

Despite the archaeological potential of the surrounding area, no archaeological features were identified during the evaluation. The lack of archaeological remains may have been due partly to the removal of soil during the construction of the Second World War airfield buildings. The presence of the two waste flint flakes, which are not of diagnostic date, is perhaps not surprising given the high level of activity in the Witham Fen area during the prehistoric period. The pottery recovered from the dumped deposit in Trench 1 can not be associated with the site. The origin of the rubble is not known and it is possible that it was brought into the site. The results of the evaluation suggest that the site has a limited archaeological potential.

7.0 Acknowledgements

Pre-Construct Archaeology (Lincoln) express their thanks to Cirque Energy (UK) Ltd. for this commission and in particular, Mr S Bushell. Thanks are also expressed to Mark Bennet and Sarah Grundy (County SMR) and the project assistant; Jim Rylatt.

8.0 References

- | | | |
|------------------------------------|------|---|
| Albone, J. | 1999 | Specification for a programme of archaeological trial excavation. Proposed oil and gas exploration site at Woodlands Farm, Ferry Road, Fiskerton. |
| Blake R., Hodgson M. and Taylor B. | 1984 | <i>The Airfields of Lincolnshire since 1912.</i> |

Appendix 1.

Ferry Road, Fiskerton
WFF99
Lithic Materials: Catalogue and Assessment
Report by Jim Rylatt – August, 1999

Catalogue

Two pieces of worked flint were recovered during excavation:

Context

- | | | |
|-----|--------------------------|--|
| 105 | Complete secondary flake | Core removal flake, scars indicate single platform working. Retouch at the proximal end of one lateral edge. Brown translucent flint. 33 x 27mm. |
| 201 | Complete secondary flake | Pale grey opaque flint with chalky inclusions, latter responsible for hinge fracture. 22 x 33mm. |

NB: Measurements were taken at right angles to the platform; the first figure relates to length, the second to breadth.

Discussion

This is an extremely small assemblage, making it impossible to establish its character and chronology. It is probable that both flakes have been re-deposited by any one of a variety of taphonomic processes. Neither is chronologically diagnostic, only one being utilised.

It is probable that there is a very low density of lithic material across the site, but insufficient diagnostic pieces to provide a date for activity, other than to say prehistoric. It is likely that this represents nothing more than a background scatter of material, suggesting that there was no activity foci in the immediate vicinity of the site.

Appendix 2.



P.1 General view of the site, looking west.



P.2 General view of Trench 1, looking north east, showing deposits dipping towards the south.



P.3 General view of Trench 2, looking north west.



P.4 General view of Trench 3, looking north west.