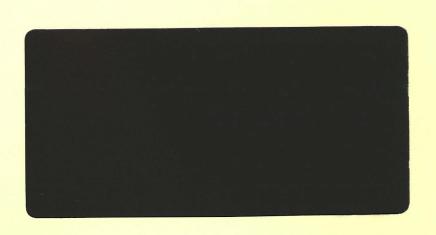
ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF
OF DEVELOPMENT ADJACENT TO,
XANADU,
BACK LANE
LITTLE CAWTHORPE,
LINCOLNSHIRE
(LCB 99)



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ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF
OF DEVELOPMENT ADJACENT TO,
XANADU,
BACK LANE
LITTLE CAWTHORPE,
LINCOLNSHIRE
(LCB 99)

Work Undertaken For Mr I. Fixter

Report Compiled by P. Cope-Faulkner BA (Hons) AIFA

February 2000

Planning Application No: N/102/1707/96. National Grid Reference: TF 3579 8383. City and County Museum Accession No: 264.99

A.P.S. Report No: 21/00



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1. SUMMARY

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken during the construction of a house at Back Lane, Little Cawthorpe, Lincolnshire. The watching brief monitored the excavation of the groundworks associated with the development.

Little Cawthorpe is first mentioned in the 13th century, although a priory founded in AD 1150 lies in close proximity to the village. Medieval (AD 1066-1500) ridge and furrow is known from the development site and adjacent fields.

The investigations revealed a medieval gully and two pits. Finds retrieved from the investigation include 10^{th} - 12^{th} century pottery, from as far as Stamford in the south of the county, as well as animal bone and a glass bottle.

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, where there is a possibility that archaeological deposits may be disturbed or destroyed.' (IFA 1997).

2.2 Planning Background

Archaeological Project Services was commissioned by Mr I. Fixter to undertake an archaeological watching brief during construction of a new house on land adjacent to Back Lane, Little Cawthorpe, Lincolnshire. Approval for the development was sought through the submission of planning application N/102/1707/96. The

watching brief was carried out in accordance with a specification designed by Archaeological Project Services (Appendix 1).

2.3 Topography and Geology

Little Cawthorpe is located 4.25km southeast of Louth in the administrative district of East Lindsey, Lincolnshire (Fig. 1).

The site is located 170m northeast of the village centre as defined by the parish church of St. Helen (Fig. 2). The development site is situated at a height of c. 37m OD on land that slopes down to the northeast at National Grid Reference TF 3579 8383.

Local soils are of the Salop Association, typically loamy over clayey stagnogley soils (Hodge *et al.* 1984, 305). The village lies on a drift geology of Boulder Clay which in turn overlie a solid geology of Cretaceous chalk (BGS 1980).

2.4 Archaeological Setting

Little Cawthorpe is first mentioned in 1205. Referred to as *Carletorp*, the name is derived from the personal Scandinavian name '*Karli*' and '*Porp*' meaning a subsidiary settlement (Ekwall 1974, 92). No mention is made of Little Cawthorpe in the Domesday Survey of *c*. 1086.

Situated 400m to the north of the development area is the site of the Cistercian priory of Legbourne. This was founded by Robert FitzGilbert around 1150 (Page 1906, 153). Earthworks of the priory are still evident and are a Scheduled Ancient Monument (County No. 22617).

No extant medieval remains are known from Little Cawthorpe. However, the present church of St. Helen is known to have replaced an earlier, possibly medieval, building (White 1856, 499). Ridge and furrow earthworks of the medieval field system were evident at the development site and medieval pottery has been retrieved 50m to the north.

The Manor House, located southwest of the church, is a T-shaped brick house of the 17th century (Pevsner and Harris 1989, 530).

3. AIMS

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

4. METHODS

Trenches were opened by a mechanical excavator to depths of c.1m as required by the development. Following excavation, 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 was allocated a unique reference number (context number) with an individual written description. A list of all contexts and interpretations appears as Appendix 2. 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 from excavated deposits were examined and a period date assigned where possible (Appendix 3). Records of the deposits and features recognised during the watching brief were examined. Phasing was assigned based on artefact dating and the nature of the deposits and recognisable relationships between them.

5. RESULTS

Following specialist descriptions, four phases of activity were identified:

Phase 1 Natural deposits
Phase 2 Medieval deposits
Phase 3 Modern deposits

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

Phase 1 Natural deposits

The earliest deposit encountered was a greyish brown, becoming reddish brown with depth, silty clay (005). This deposit was identified as the underlying boulder clay.

Phase 2 Medieval deposits

Cut into the underlying natural deposits was a feature (007), possibly a pit, measuring 0.8m wide by 0.2m deep (Fig. 4, Section 1). This was filled with dark grey silty clay (006).

West of pit (007) was a northwest-southeast aligned linear feature (013), identified as a gully (Fig. 5). This was 0.4m wide by 0.3m deep and visible for a length of c. 1.4m. A single fill of brownish grey silty clay (012) filled the gully. Pottery from this feature is of 10^{th} - 12^{th} century date and includes a single sherd of Stamford ware.

Located along the easternmost foundation trench was a feature (015), possibly also a

pit. Measuring 1.5m wide and 0.3m deep it contained a single fill of brownish grey clayey silt (014).

Sealing the pits and gully was a subsoil of greyish brown silty clay (004) measuring 0.1m thick that contained a single sherd of 10^{th} - 12^{th} century pottery.

Phase 3 Modern deposits

Overlying the subsoil was a former topsoil of grey clayey silt (003) which was 0.15m thick.

A 0.2m thick dumped layer of greyish brown silt and gravel (002) had then been deposited and an imported topsoil of brownish grey silty clay (001) sealed the site.

Two field drains were also recorded (009 and 011) crossing the development area. The first (009) had been inserted as a mole drain and had left no visible cut mark. The second drain (011) had been cut through the overlying layers although was not visible above the subsoil (004).

6. DISCUSSION

Deposits of natural brown silty clay (Phase 1), were the earliest deposits encountered during the watching brief. Identified as the underlying boulder clay, this deposit is of glacial origin.

Two probable medieval pits and a gully (Phase 2) were the only archaeological features identified during the watching brief. The gully represents land division and drainage and also limits the northern extent of known ridge and furrow in the vicinity. The function of the two pits was not ascertained from the investigation.

Several finds were recorded from the site

and comprise a number of 10th - 12th century pottery sherds. This indicates possible settlement at Little Cawthorpe prior to the first mention of the village in the 13th century. Moreover, the presence of Stamford ware indicates trade with the southwest corner of Lincolnshire.

7. CONCLUSIONS

Archaeological investigations were carried out on land at Little Cawthorpe because the site lies within an area of medieval settlement.

A gully represent the earliest feature recorded on the site and is dated to the 10th - 12th centuries and also indicate the existence of settlement at this date. A further two pits were found, also of probable medieval date.

Pottery includes Stamford ware and more locally produced shelly and quartz tempered pottery. No waterlogged features were found which indicates that few environmental indicators (snails, seeds, pollen *etc.*) will survive other than through charring.

This represents the first archaeological intervention in Little Cawthorpe and indicates that there is potential for survival of archaeological features in the area.

8. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeological Project Services would like to acknowledge the assistance of Mr I. Fixter who commissioned the fieldwork and post excavation analysis. The work was coordinated by Denise Drury and this report was edited by Tom Lane. Sarah Grundy kindly provided information from the County Sites and Monuments Record maintained by the Archaeology Section, Lincolnshire County Council. Hilary Healey

commented upon the pottery.

9. PERSONNEL

Project Coordinator: Denise Drury

Supervisor: Gary Taylor

Finds Processing: Denise Buckley Illustration: Paul Cope-Faulkner

Post-excavation Analyst: Paul Cope-

Faulkner

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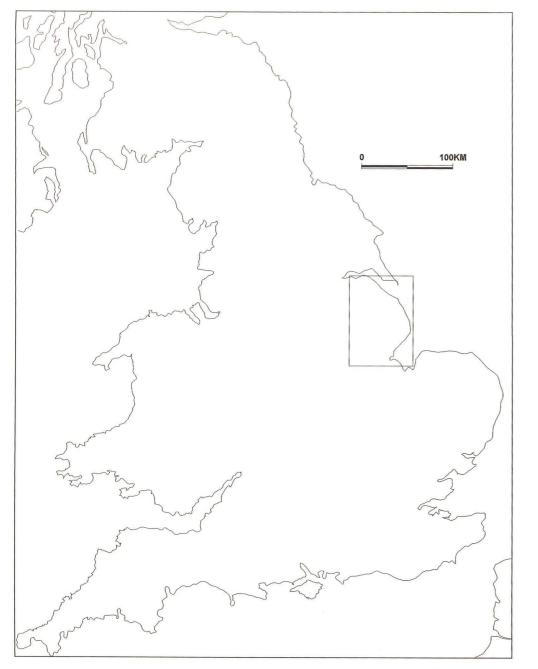
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11. ABBREVIATIONS

BGS British Geological Survey

IFA Institute of Field Archaeologists



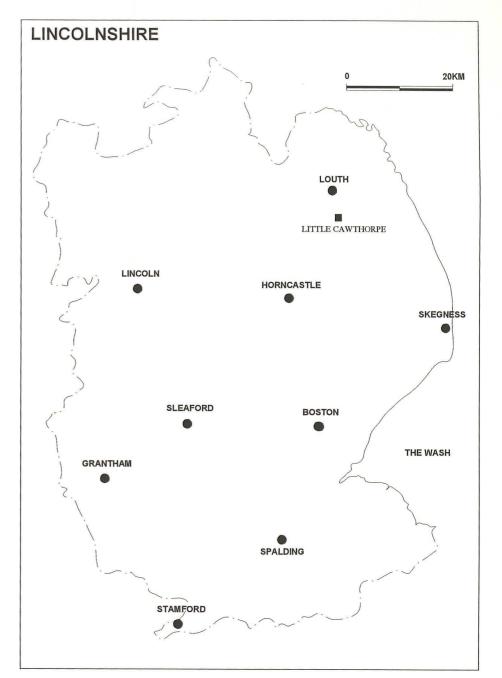


Figure 1 - General location map

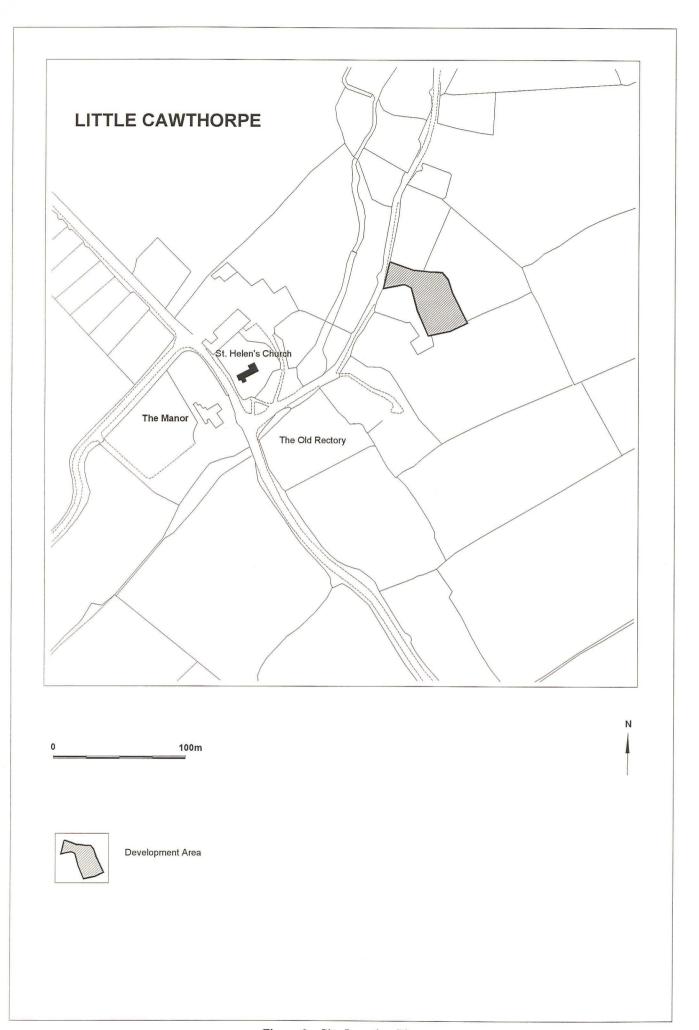


Figure 2 - Site Location Plan

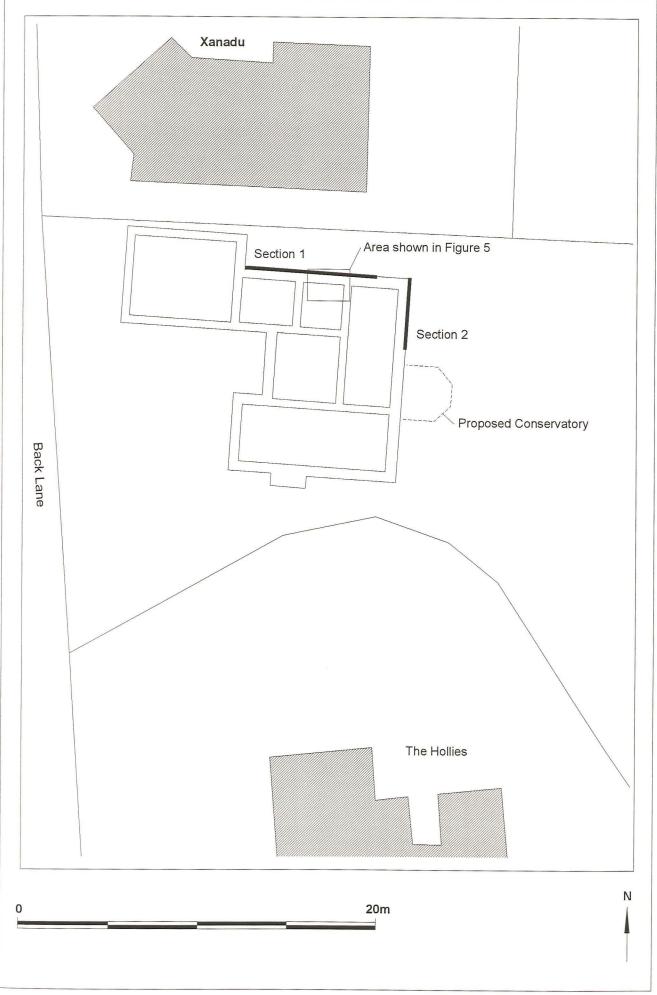


Figure 3 - Plan of the development showing Section locations

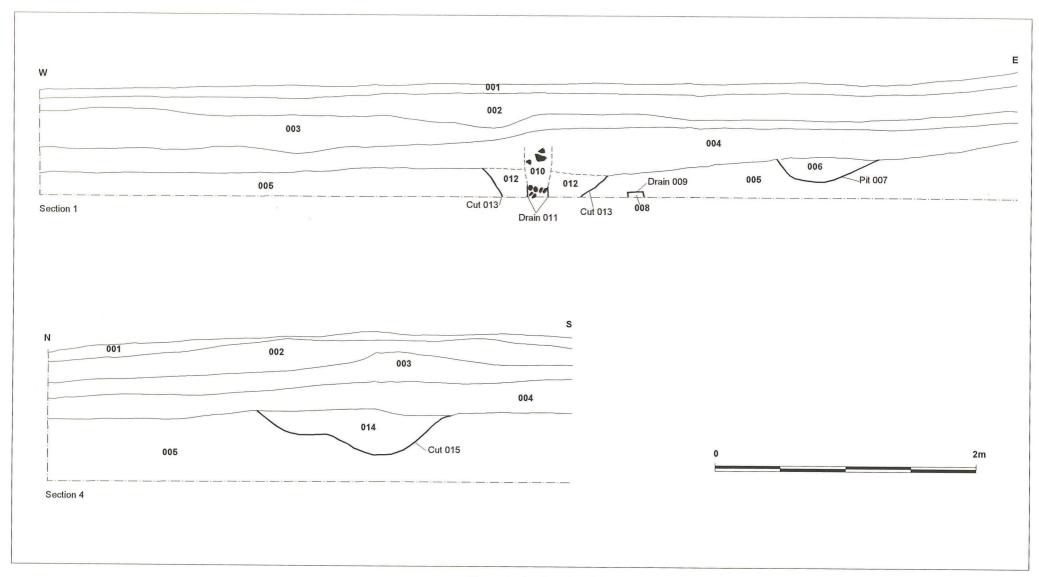


Figure 4 - Sections 1 and 4

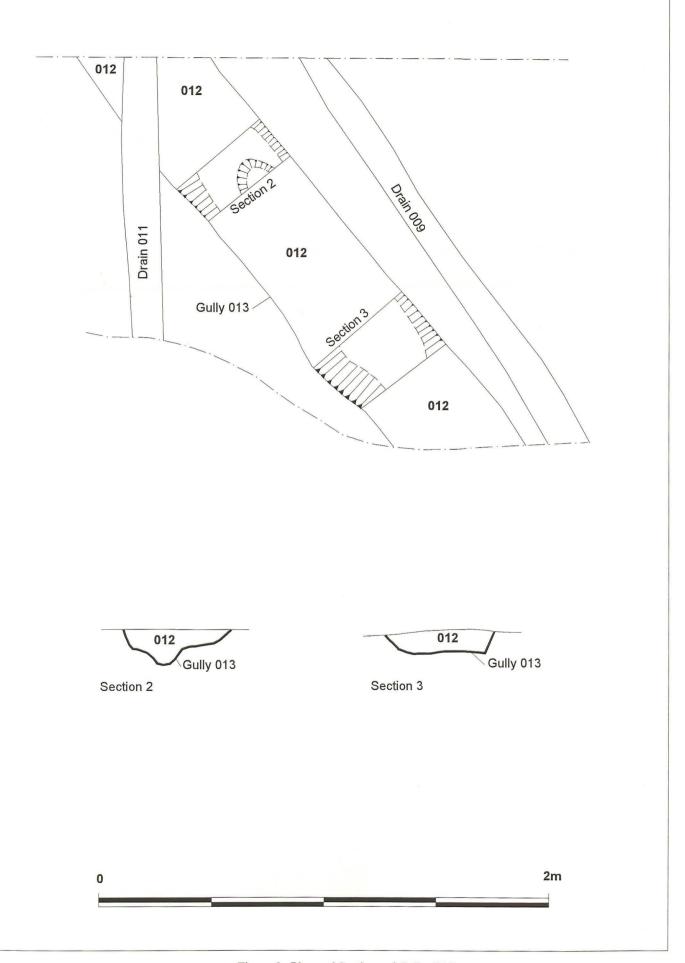


Figure 5 - Plan and Sections of Gully (013)





♠ Plate 1 - Partial view of Section 1, looking north

✓ Plate 2 - Gully (013), looking northwest

LAND ADJACENT TO XANADU, BACK LANE, LITTLE CAWTHORPE, LINCOLNSHIRE - SPECIFICATION FOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

1. SUMMARY

- a. A watching brief is required during development at Back Lane, Little Cawthorpe, Lincolnshire.
- b. The development site lies in the village of Little Cawthorpe close to the site of the Cistercian priory of Legbourne. Remains associated with the priory or the medieval occupation of the area may survive on the development site.
- 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 results of the investigation. 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 development on land at Back Lane, Little Cawthorpe, Lincolnshire. The site is located at national grid reference TF 3579 8383.
- 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. Little Cawthorpe lies on the eastern side of the Lincolnshire Wolds approximately 4.5km southeast of Louth and 1.2km southwest of Legbourne in the administrative district of East Lindsey. The site is located in the village, approximately 130m northeast of the church, at national grid reference TF 3579 8383.

4. PLANNING BACKGROUND

a. A planning application (N/102/1707/96) was submitted to East Lindsey District Council for construction of a dwelling. The application is subject to a condition requiring the implementation of an archaeological watching brief during the development.

5. SOILS AND TOPOGRAPHY

a. The site lies in the village, 130m northeast of the church, at approximately 37m OD on a gentle slope down to the east. Local soils are the Salop Association, consisting mainly of fine loamy over clayey typical stagnogley soils with slowly permeable subsoils (Hodge *et al.* 1984, 305).

6. THE ARCHAEOLOGY

a. The village of Little Cawthorpe lies a short distance to the southwest of Legbourne, with the site of the Cistercian priory of Legbourne lying between the two villages. The priory was founded by Robert FitzGilbert of Tathwell in about 1150. The house adjacent to the priory site, known as Legbourne Abbey, was built in the 1840s.

- b. The development site lies to northeast of Little Cawthorpe Manor House, built in the 1670s, and the village church which was built in 1860.
- c. The proximity of the development site to the former Legbourne priory means that remains associated with the religious establishment or medieval settlement in the area may be disturbed by the groundworks.

7. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- a. The aims of the watching brief will be:
 - i. To record and interpret the archaeological features exposed during the excavation of the foundation trenches and other areas of 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 (IFA), under the management of a Member of the institute (MIFA). *Archaeological Project Services* is IFA registered organisation no. 21.
- iii. Any and all artefacts found during the investigation and thought to be 'treasure', as defined by the Treasure Act 1996, will be removed from site to a secure store and promptly reported to the appropriate coroner's office.

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. Stripped areas and trench sections will be observed regularly to identify and record archaeological features that are exposed and to record changes in the geological conditions. The section drawings of the trenches will be recorded at a scale of 1:10. Should features be recorded in plan these will be drawn at a scale of 1:20. 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 and 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 the site and specific archaeological features.

10. REPORT DEPOSITION

a. Copies of the report will be sent to the client; the Archaeology Officer, Lincolnshire County Council; East Lindsey District Council Planning Department; and to the County Council Archaeological Sites and

Monuments Record.

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 *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 archaeological curator.

15. PROGRAMME OF WORKS AND STAFFING LEVELS

- a. The watching brief will be integrated with the programme of construction and is dependent on the developers' work programme. It is therefore not possible to specify the person-hours for the archaeological site work.
- 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 person-day) will require a post-excavation day (equal to one-and-a-half person-days) for completion of the analysis and report. If the fieldwork lasts longer than about four days then there will be an economy of scale with the post-excavation analysis.

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.

Task Body to be undertaking the work

Conservation Conservation Laboratory, City and County Museum, Lincoln

Pottery Analysis Prehistoric - Trent & Peak Archaeological Trust

Roman - B Precious, Independent Specialist

Anglo-Saxon - J Young, Independent Specialist

Medieval and later - H Healey, Independent Archaeologist; or G Taylor, Archaeological Project Services

Non-pottery Artefacts J Cowgill, Independent Specialist; or G Taylor, Archaeological Project

Services

Animal Bones Environmental Archaeology Consultancy

Environmental Analysis J Rackham, Independent Specialist; or P Cope-Faulkner, Archaeological

Project Services

Human Remains Analysis R Gowland, Independent Specialist

17. INSURANCES

a. Archaeological Project Services, as part of the Heritage Trust of Lincolnshire, maintains Employers Liability Insurance of £10,000,000, together with Public and Products Liability insurances, each with indemnity of £5,000,000. Copies of insurance documentation can be supplied on request.

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Specification: 11/10/1999

CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

No.	Sect.	Description	Interpretation
001	1,4	Firm dark brownish grey silty clay, with occasional brick/tile fragments, c. 50mm thick	Topsoil (imported)
002	1,4	Firm mid greyish brown silty gravel, with moderate limestone fragments and pebbles, 0.2m thick	Dumped deposit
003	1,4	Compact dark grey clayey silt, 0.15m thick	Former topsoil
004	1,4	Compact mid greyish brown silty clay, with occasional charcoal flecks, 0.1m thick	Subsoil
005	1,4	Compact greyish brown to reddish brown silty clay, >0.45m thick	Natural deposit
006	1,4	Compact dark grey silty clay, with occasional charcoal flecks	Fill of (007)
007	1,4	Feature, 0.8m wide by 0.2m deep, concave sides rounded base	Possible ditch/pit
008	1,4	Firm dark grey clayey silt, with field drain fragments	Fill of (009)
009	1	Linear feature, >2m long by 100mm wide and deep, circular	Intrusive mole drain cut
010	1	Loose near white limestone fragments, up to 70mm across	Fill of (011)
011	1	Linear feature, >1.5m long by 0.15m wide by 100mm deep, vertical sides, aligned east-west	Drain trench
012	1,2,3	Compact dark brownish grey silty clay, with moderate charcoal flecks and subrounded limestone fragments	Fill of (013)
013	1,2,3	Linear feature, 0.4m wide by 0.3m deep, rounded sides with moderately flat base, aligned northwest-southeast	Gully
014	4	Compact dark brownish grey clayey silt, with occasional charcoal flecks	Fill of (015)
015	4	Feature, 1.5m wide by 0.3m deep, rounded sides concave base	Possible pit

THE FINDS

by Paul Cope-Faulkner, Hilary Healey and Gary Taylor

Provenance

Most of the material was recovered from a gully at the site, though a relatively recent glass bottle was retrieved from the topsoil. One of the pottery fragments is probably a product of kilns at Stamford, 85km to the southwest. The other pottery fragments are of uncertain source but likely to have been made in northeastern Lincolnshire or Humberside.

Range

The range of material is detailed in the table.

Pottery of probably 10th-12th century dates is the earliest material recovered. and dominates the small assemblage. In addition to the pottery, a relatively recent glass bottle and animal bone were retrieved.

Context	Description	Context Date
001	1x glass bottle	late19 th -20 th century
004	1x shelly ware, decalcified	10 th -12 th century
012	1x Stamford ware, 10 th -12 th century, heavily sooted on exterior	10 th -12 th century
	2x shelly ware, 1 very decalcified; 1 sooted, 10 th -12 th century	
	2x unidentified quartz-tempered ware, medieval	
	1x possible Stamford ware, clear glaze on a pink sandy fabric	
	2x cattle sized fragments	

The glass bottle has mould lines and an alpha-numeric punt mark: ${}^{5}_{U}{}^{6}_{G}{}^{6}_{B}{}^{8}$. Virtually complete, broken only at the lip, it is probably a small spirit bottle.

Although the shelly wares are of uncertain source they include an inturned-rim bowl from (004) of probable 10th -12th century date. Only one of the shelly ware sherds retain significant amounts of temper, the others being very or completely decalcified, resulting in a vesicular appearance. The acidic soil conditions responsible for this decalcification may also have caused destruction of bone or mollusc shell at the site.

A minimum of five separate vessels is represented by the sherds and it is possible that each of the seven sherds is from an individual vessel.

Condition

Although the pottery is abraded the assemblage is in good condition and presents no long-term storage problems. Archiving of the collection is by material class.

Documentation

There have been no previous archaeological investigations at Little Cawthorpe though details of archaeological sites and discoveries in the area are maintained in the Lincolnshire County Council Sites and Monuments Record.

Potential

The assemblage has moderate potential in that much of it seems to be of Saxo-Norman date and probably signifies the relative proximity of habitation of the period.

GLOSSARY

Boulder Clay

A deposit formed after the retreat of a glacier. Also known as till, this material is generally unsorted and can comprise of rock flour to boulders to rocks of quite substantial size.

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, *e.g.* (004).

Cut

A cut refers to the physical action of digging a posthole, pit, ditch, foundation trench, *etc*. 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.

THE ARCHIVE

The archive consists of:

- 15 Context records
- 5 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: 264.99

Archaeological Project Services Site Code: LCB99

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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