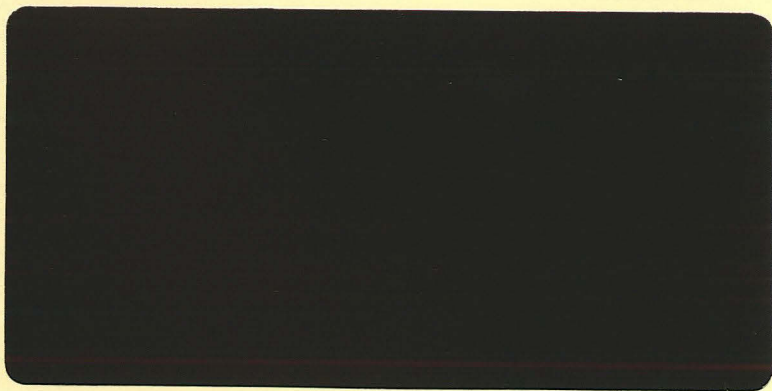


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**ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF
AT
HORSESHOE LANE,
SPALDING,
LINCOLNSHIRE
(SHR 98)**



A P S
ARCHAEOLOGICAL
PROJECT
SERVICES



Innocentia County Council
Archaeology Section
27. MAR 00

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF
AT
HORSESHOE LANE,
SPALDING,
LINCOLNSHIRE
(SHR 98)**

Work Undertaken For
Mr David Wilson
on behalf of
Brian Harding Homes

Report Compiled by
Neil Herbert BA (Hons)

June 1998

Planning Application Number: H16/0144/97
National Grid Reference: TF 2337 2211
City and County Museum Accession No: 57.98

A.P.S. Report No: **23/98**

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

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1. SUMMARY

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken on test pits adjacent to a recently built dwelling at Horseshoe Lane, Spalding, Lincolnshire. The site lies in close proximity to Late Iron Age (100 BC-AD 43) and Romano-British (AD 43-410) remains.

The watching brief revealed natural silts and recent subsoil and topsoil deposits containing artefacts of nineteenth and twentieth century date. No archaeological remains were encountered.

Organic deposits, within the natural silts, indicate that ancient environmental evidence survives in the area. These organic deposits were undated and reflect periods of plant growth, between past phases of flooding.

2 INTRODUCTION

An archaeological watching brief is defined as 'a formal programme of observation and investigation conducted during any operation carried out for non-archaeological purposes within a specified area, where there is a possibility that archaeological deposits may be disturbed or destroyed' (IFA 1994, 1).

2.1 Planning Background

Archaeological Project Services was commissioned by Mr David Wilson, on behalf of Brian Harding Homes, to undertake an archaeological watching brief at Horseshoe Lane, Spalding, Lincolnshire. The work was required by the Assistant Archaeological Officer, Lincolnshire County Council, as a watching brief required during the original development

had not been carried out. Investigation were carried out on the 12th February 1998, in accordance with a verbal brief and a sketch plan showing the areas of work.

2.2 Topography, Geology and Soils

Spalding is situated 23km southwest of Boston and 30km southeast of Sleaford, in the Fenland of south Lincolnshire (Fig.1).

The site is located c. 2km west of Spalding town centre as defined by the Market Place, on the west side of Horseshoe Lane (Fig.2). The site is situated at a height of c. 3.5m OD at National Grid Reference TF 2337 2211). The site is approximately 77m² in extent.

Local soils are the Wisbech Association, coarse silty calcareous alluvial gley soils developed in stoneless marine alluvium (Robson 1990, 36-37). These soils are developed on young marine alluvium or former estuarine deposits and overlie a solid geology of Oxford Clay (B.G.S. 1992).

2.3 Archaeological Background

Spalding is situated in an area of known archaeological activity from the late Iron Age onwards. Earlier prehistoric activity has not been identified in the vicinity. It is likely that most of Spalding was typically salt marsh or submerged during the prehistoric period, though the course of the River Welland may have run through this area at this time (Shennan & Alderton 1994; Hallam 1970).

A number of late Iron Age and early Roman sites, including a probable salt-making site (c.100BC -150AD) have been recorded c.300m to the southwest of the present site (Herbert 1997, fig 2). Similar evidence has also been identified 150m to the southwest of the site (Tann 1997, fig.

2). Extensive cropmarks, interpreted as remains of Romano-British settlement and field systems have been recorded further to the west (fig 2; SMR 23612). Investigation of some of these sites has confirmed their Romano-British date (Herbert 1996).

A Roman road, the Baston Outgang, is known from cropmark evidence, c.1km to the west of the site (Hallam 1970, 30). Projection of the alignment would take the road a little north of the present site. The road probably crossed the Westlade Drain, which may be a Roman canalization of a former river (Hallam 1970, 4). It is possible that this river crossing was a focus for settlement during the Roman period.

No Anglo-Saxon remains have been identified in Spalding, although the Tribal Hideage, a document dating to the seventh century, refers to the *Spaldas*, from which the town takes its name (Ekwall 1974, 432).

The Domesday Book, of 1086, records fisheries, salt-pans and an alder wood (Foster and Longley 1976). Monks House, a former grange of Spalding Priory, lies approximately 200m northwest of the present site. Monks House is recorded as early as the thirteenth century (Hallam 1965, 177) and was formerly surrounded by moats. The present house dates to the sixteenth or seventeenth centuries.

3. AIMS

The aim of the watching brief was to locate and record archaeological deposits, if present, and to determine their date, function and origin.

4. METHODS

Two archaeological trenches were opened and excavated by hand to a depth of c 1m

to the north and west of the built foundations. All deposits exposed during the watching brief were recorded according to standard Archaeological Project Services practice. Sections of the trenches were recorded at a scale of 1:10 and their locations plotted on a measured plan. Photographs were taken during the archaeological work, depicting the setting of the site and recording the deposits encountered.

5. RESULTS

5.1 The Stratigraphic Sequence

Finds recovered during the investigation were examined and a date was assigned where possible. Records of the deposits exposed were also examined. A list of all contexts and interpretations appears as Appendix 1. Groups were assigned based on the nature of the deposits and recognisable relationships between them, supplemented by artefact dating. A stratigraphic matrix of all identified deposits was produced. Two groups were identified:

Group 1: Alluvial deposits

Group 2: Topsoil/subsoil deposits

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

5.2 Group 1: Alluvial deposits

The earliest recorded deposits comprised light yellow and light orange fine silts (004/008), exposed at the base of the trenches. Both contained lenses of black organic rich clays.

These were sealed by a 0.3m thick deposit of greyish silt (003/007) which contained a degree of root disturbance. No finds were

recovered and these deposits are likely to be the result of alluvial activity.

5.3 Phase 2: Topsoil/subsoil deposits

The alluvial deposits were sealed by light brown silts (002/006) containing small fragments of coal, charcoal and nineteenth century pottery sherds. This was overlain by a topsoil of mid brown silt (001/005) containing a higher percentage of clay within the area of Trench 2. Fragments of glass, pottery, clinker and animal bone dating from the nineteenth to the twentieth centuries were recovered from these layers.

6. DISCUSSION

Investigations within the area of the development recorded undated alluvial deposits, sealed by subsoil and topsoil containing domestic refuse of nineteenth to twentieth century date.

Two distinct phases of alluvial deposits were recognised. These may relate to known periods of silting during prehistory and the late and post Roman periods (Shennan and Alderton 1994, 81; Hallam 1970, 47). Neither of the silts was dated and although the upper silt was probably formed by post-Roman flooding, the lower layer is not necessarily prehistoric.

The lower silt contains lenses of organic clay. This material derived from periods of growth, interrupted by periods of flooding and silt deposition. They signify that the area was a marginal environment. The survival of the organic matter indicates that the deposits incorporating it have probably remained damp since formation.

The alluvium was sealed by subsoil. This may have been formed through agricultural or other processes, or be alluvial in origin. Artefacts within the

subsoil indicate that the subsoil developed during the nineteenth century. The site was sealed by topsoil containing a quantity of butchered cattle bone, perhaps originating from a butchers or slaughterhouse.

No evidence for the late Iron Age or Romano British activity, previously located nearby, was revealed during the investigation.

7. CONCLUSIONS

Archaeological investigation was carried out, in lieu of a previous watching brief condition, to ascertain the presence or absence of archaeological remains within the area of development.

Excavations revealed a sequence of undated alluvial deposits, sealed by subsoil and topsoil, containing domestic pottery and butchered animal bone, dating from the nineteenth to the twentieth centuries.

There is no evidence for early occupation of the site. Artefacts found during the investigation suggest that from the nineteenth century the ground was subject to occasional refuse disposal, chiefly comprising domestic and commercial waste.

The early alluvial deposits, containing organic clay material, suggest that environmental evidence is well preserved at depth.

8. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeological Project Services would like to acknowledge the assistance of Mr David Wilson who commissioned the watching brief on behalf of Brian Harding Homes. The work was coordinated and this report was edited by Gary Taylor. Mark Bennet and Sarah Grundy of Lincolnshire County

Council Archaeology Section kindly provided information on archaeological sites in the area.

9. PERSONNEL

Project Coordinator: Gary Taylor
Site Supervisor: Neil Herbert
Finds Processing: Denise Buckley
Computer Drafting: Neil Herbert
Post-Excavation Analysis: Neil Herbert

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11. ABBREVIATIONS

APS	Archaeological Project Services
IFA	Institute of Field Archaeologists
LAS	Lindsey Archaeological Services
MOLAS	Museum of London Archaeological Service
LoE	Limit of Excavation

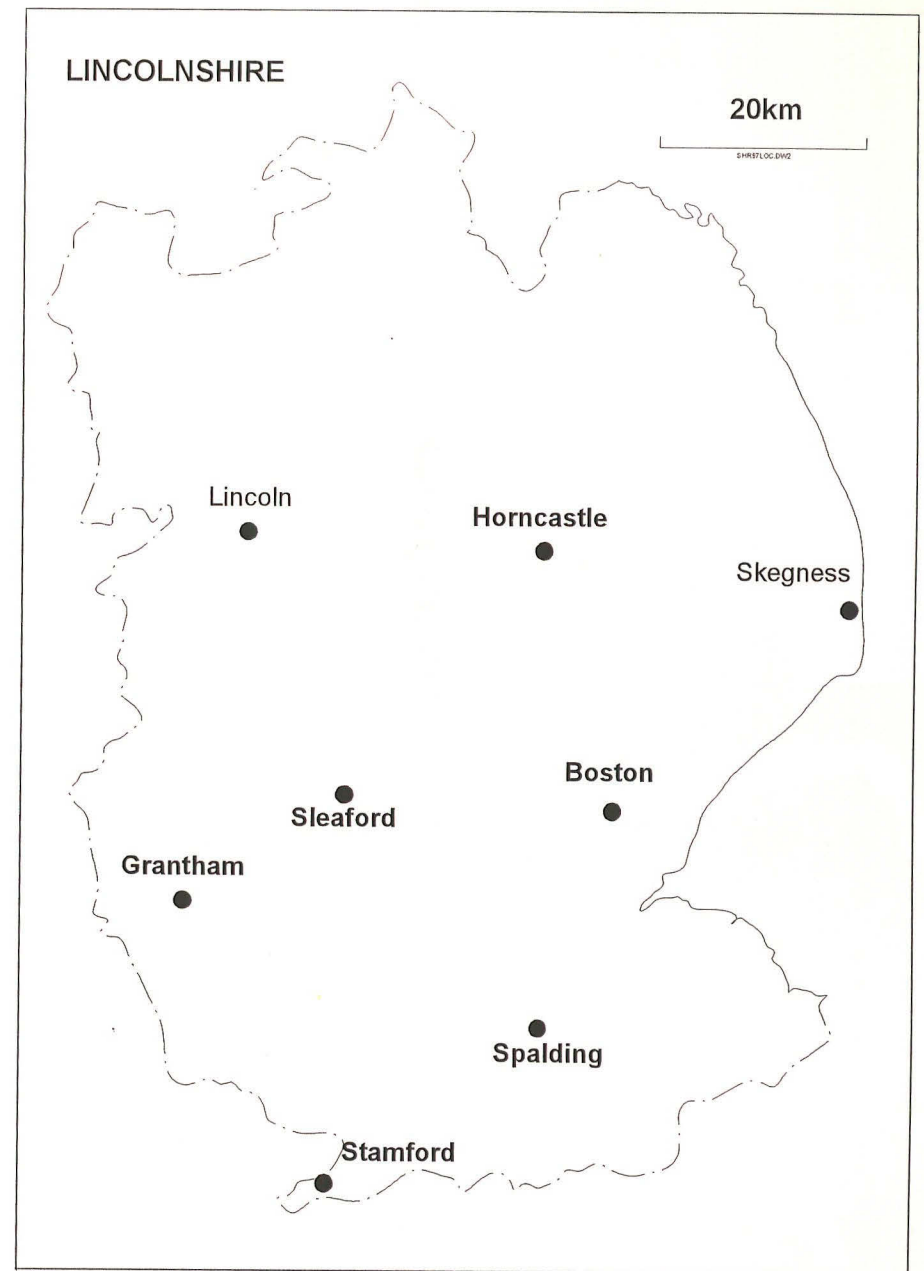
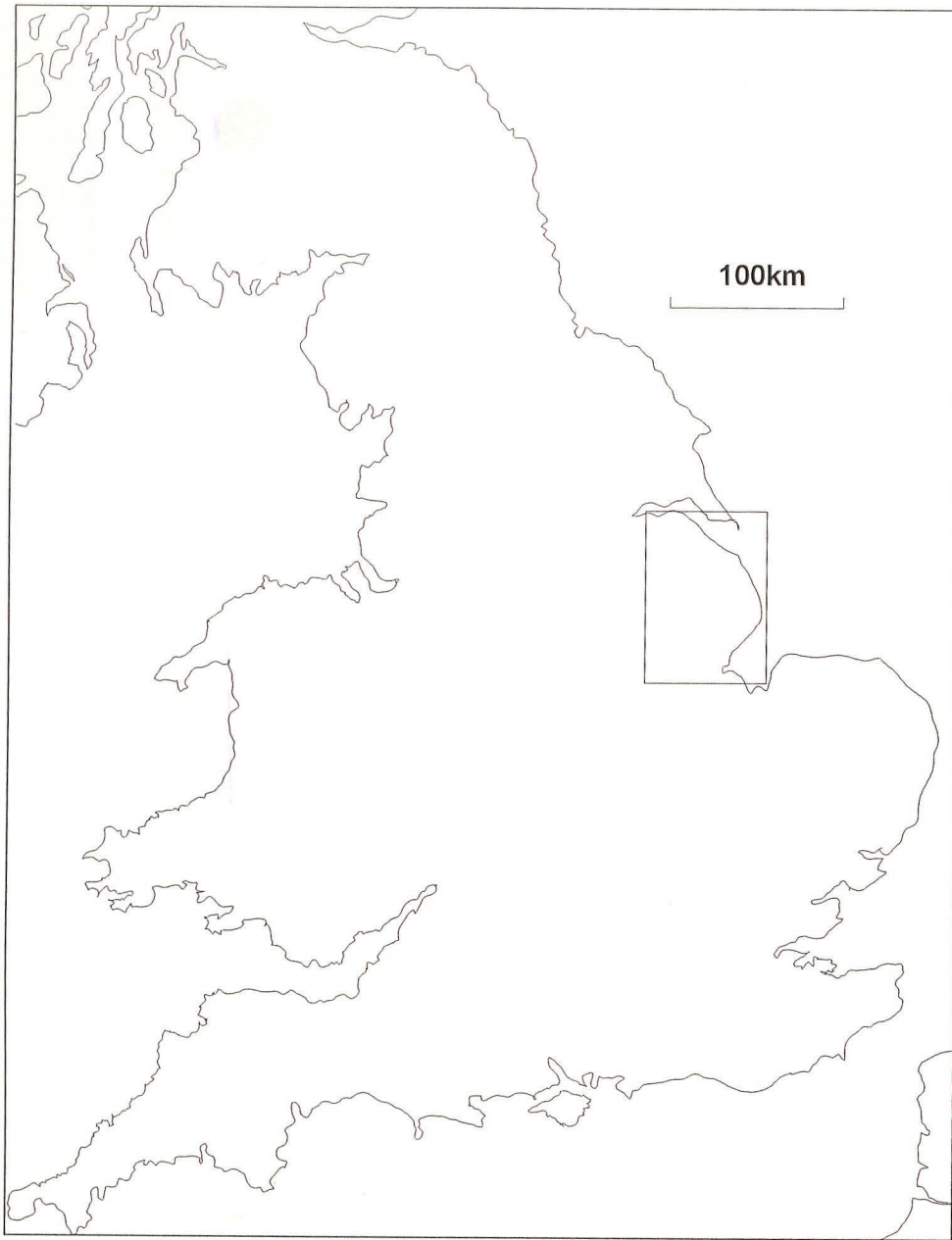
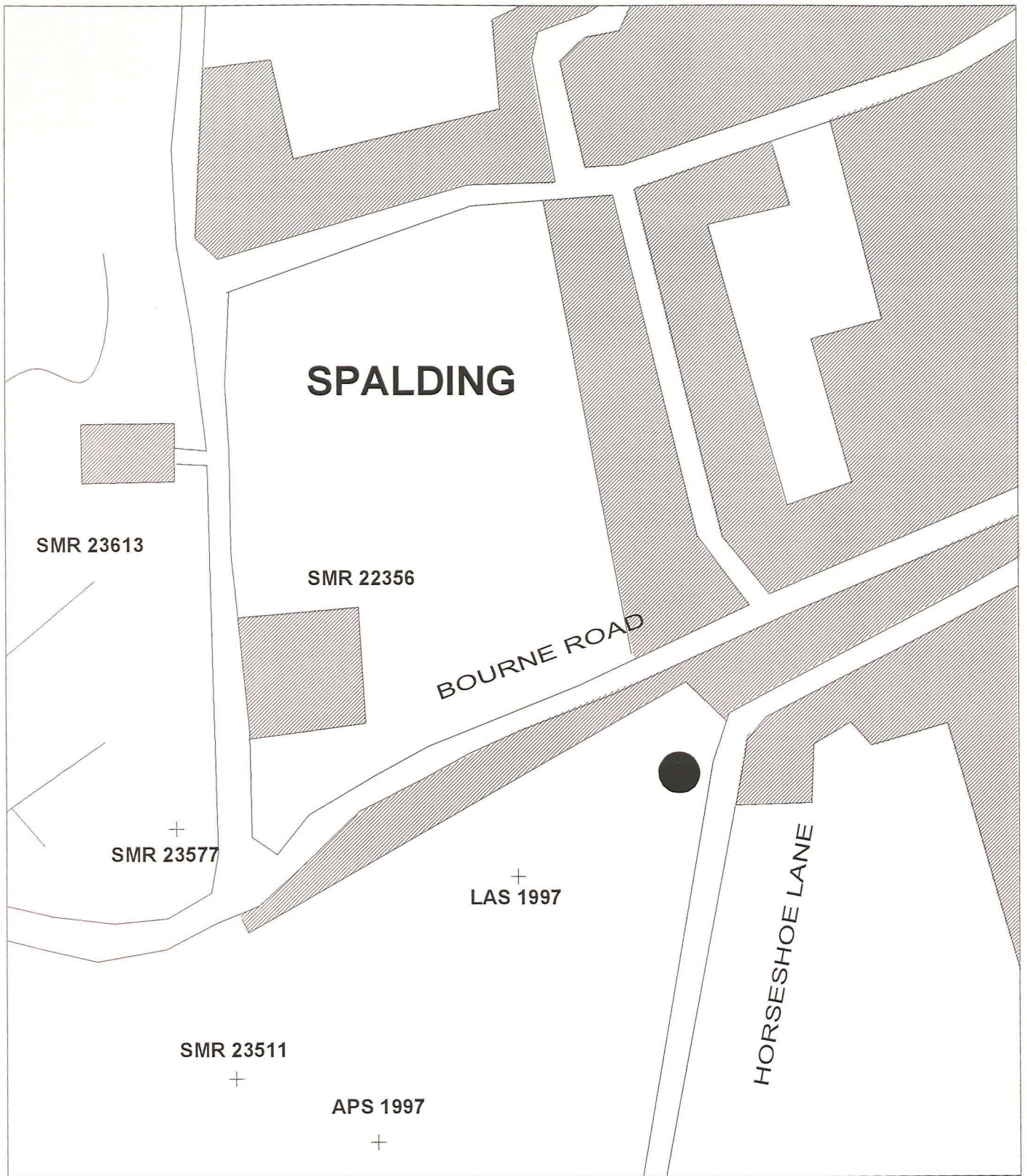


Figure 1: General location map



KEY




-  AREA OF DEVELOPMENT
-  ARCHAEOLOGICAL REMAINS
-  CROPMARKS



Figure 2: Location of development and known archaeological remains

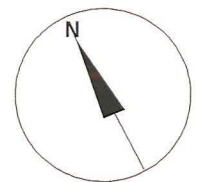
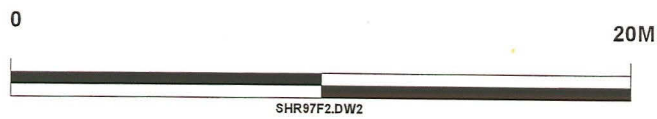
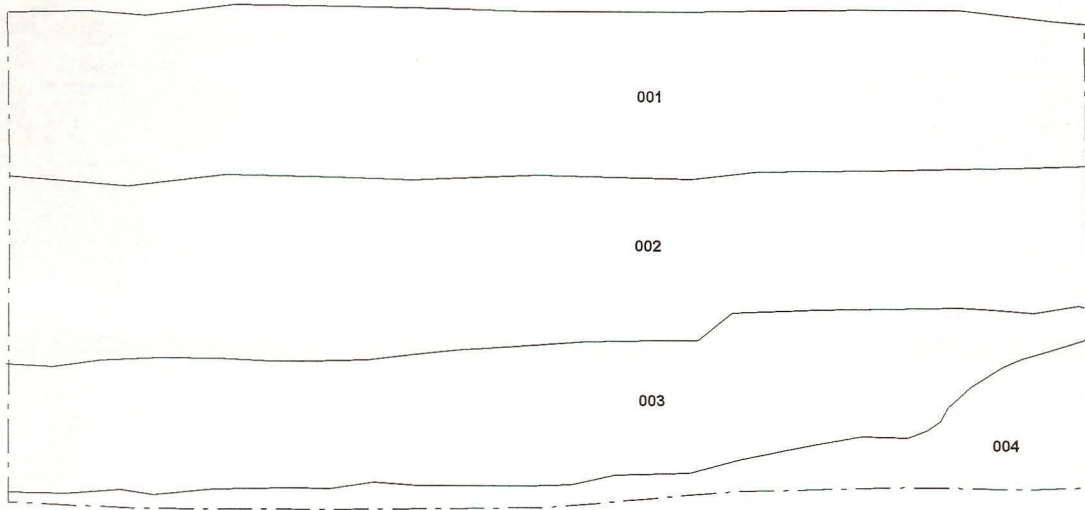


Figure 3: Area of development showing location of trial trenches

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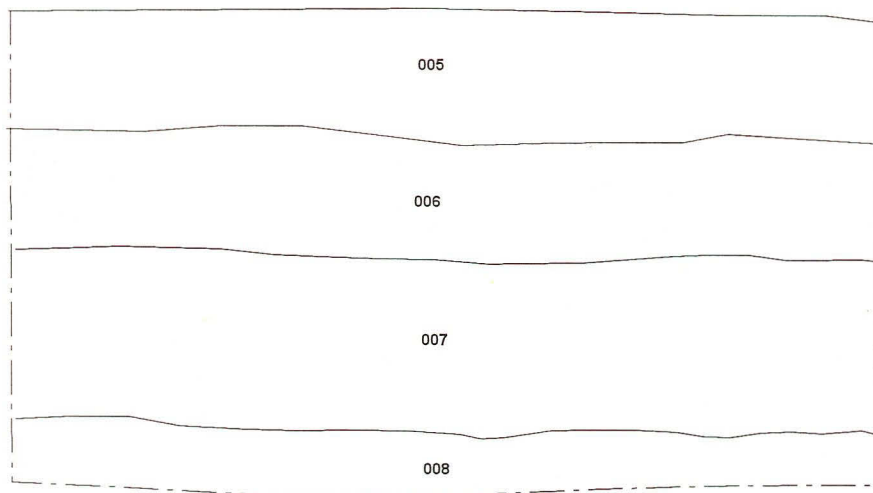
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SECTION 1 FACING SOUTH

S +

+ N



SECTION 2 FACING EAST

0

1M



SHR97F3.DW2

Figure 4: Sections 1 and 2



Plate 1 General site view, looking northeast.



Plate 2 Trench 2, looking southwest.

Appendix 1

Context Summary

Context Number	Description	Phase	Interpretation
001	Loose, mid brown fine silt. Contains mod. small roots and occ. charcoal flecks.	2	Topsoil
002	Loose, light brown fine silt. Contains occ. charcoal flecks, coal and roots.	2	Subsoil
003	Loose, light brownish-grey fine silt. Contains occ. roots.	1	Alluvial deposit
004	Loose, light orange-yellow fine silt. Contains occ. lenses of mid brown-grey clay, black clay and roots.	1	Alluvial deposit
005	Friable, mid brown silty clay. Contains occ. roots and charcoal flecks.	2	Topsoil
006	Friable, light brown clayey silt. Contains occ. roots and charcoal flecks.	2	Subsoil
007	Loose, light greyish-yellow fine silt. Contains occ. roots.	1	Alluvial deposit
008	Loose, light yellow-orange fine silt. Contains occ. lenses of light green-grey and black clay.	1	Alluvial deposit

Appendix 2

The Finds,

By Hilary Healey, Paul Cope-Faulkner and Gary Taylor

Provenance

All of the material was recovered from subsoil and topsoil and was random in distribution.

Range

The range of material is detailed in the table.

All of the artefacts are relatively modern, of 19th-20th century date, and the assemblage comprises pottery, glass, animal bone and clinker. All of the animal remains, except the bird bone, are sawn and all the identifiable fragments are cattle. This may imply that a slaughterhouse was located in the vicinity of the site.

CONTEXT	DESCRIPTION	DATE
001	1x plantpot; 1x clinker; 1x cattle astragalus, right hand sawn; 1x cattle vertebra, sawn twice; 1 cattle clavicle, sawn twice; 1x bone fragment, unidentified, sawn	20th century
005	1x white-glazed tableware; 4x plantpot (at least two separate vessels); 1x vessel glass; 1x clinker; 1x cattle vertebra, sawn; 1x cattle rib, sawn; 1x unidentified bird bone	20th century
006	1x black-glazed earthenware; 1x stoneware; 1x white-glazed earthenware; 1x glass rod; 2x clinker	19th century

Condition

With the exception of the clinker, all the material is in good condition and presents no long-term storage problems. The assemblage should be archived by material class.

Documentation

Post-medieval artefact assemblages from throughout the county have previously been examined and reported. Several previous investigations in the vicinity of the site have been undertaken and reported (Cope-Faulkner 1997; Herbert 1997; Tann 1997), though these have mainly encountered Iron Age and Roman remains.

Potential

Due to the small quantity of material recovered, and its entirely modern date, the assemblage has limited potential.

References

Cope-Faulkner, P, 1997 *Archaeological Watching Brief at Bridge Farm, Horseshoe Road, Spalding, Lincolnshire (SHR97)*, unpublished Archaeological Project Services Report No. 64/97

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Tann, G, 1997 *Spalding, Horseshoe Road: Archaeological Watching Brief at Plots ** Horse Fayre Fields*, unpublished Lindsey Archaeological Services draft report

Appendix 3

The Archive

The archive consists of:

8	Context records
1	Sheet of scale drawings
1	Photographic Record Sheet
1	Stratigraphic Matrix
1	Box of finds

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

Archaeological Project Services project code:	SHR 98
City and County Museum Accession Number:	57.98

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 proposed development site but away from those 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 of Terms

Alluvium	Sediments deposited as a result of marine or freshwater flooding, typically peats, clays, gravels or silts.
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 interpretation 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).
Iron Age	The period dating between 600 BC and AD 43, characterised by the introduction of iron tools and weapons.
Layer	A layer is a term used 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 from AD 43-410 when Britain formed part of the Roman Empire.