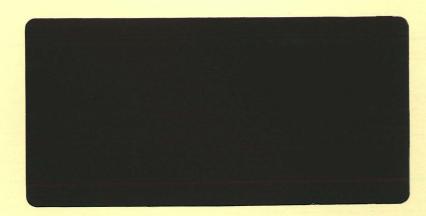
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## ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF OF DEVELOPMENT ON LAND OFF ABBEY WALK, CROWLAND, LINCOLNSHIRE (CAW98)



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## ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF OF DEVELOPMENT ON LAND OFF ABBEY WALK, CROWLAND, LINCOLNSHIRE (CAW98)

Work Undertaken For J.B. Eastwood (Builders) Ltd

October 1998

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

Planning Application No: H02/0248/98 National Grid Reference: TF 2408 1025 City and County Museum Accession No: 216.98

## A.P.S. Report No. 74/98

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

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## 1. SUMMARY

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken during development on land adjacent to Abbey Walk, Crowland, Lincolnshire.

The earliest archaeological remains date to the Neolithic period (4200 - 2250 BC) and are represented by stone axes and flint tools. In the Early Bronze Age (2250 - 1600 BC), Crowland became a focus for a barrow cemetery. Crowland is also noted for its Abbey, which had its origins as a cell founded by St. Guthlac in the 8<sup>th</sup> century. The monastery grew in prosperity and by the medieval period (1066 - 1500 AD) controlled much of south Lincolnshire, until its dissolution in 1539.

The watching brief identified natural deposits overlain by a series of limestone layers which may represent the former location of structures associated with Crowland Abbey. Finds include Late Saxon pottery, medieval roof tile and a collection of animal bone.

## 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 nonarchaeological 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

Archaeological Project Services was commissioned by J.B. Eastwood (Builders) Ltd to undertake an archaeological watching brief during development on land adjacent to Abbey Walk, Crowland, Lincolnshire. Approval for the development was sought through the submission of planning application H02/0248/98. The watching brief was carried out on the 21<sup>st</sup> September1998.

## 2.3 Topography and Geology

Crowland is situated 12km south of Spalding and 22km east of Stamford in the Welland Valley, near the southern boundary of Lincolnshire (Fig. 1).

The site is located 100m southwest of the town centre as defined by the parish church of Our Lady, St. Bartholomew and St. Guthlac. The site lies on generally level ground at c. 4m OD, south of West Street, centred on National Grid Reference TF 2408 1025 (Fig. 2).

Local soils are of the Swanwick Series, typically coarse loamy argillic gley soils (Robson 1990, 29). Beneath the soils is a drift geology of marine or estuarine sand and gravel (also known as the Abbey Gravels) which are formed along a southwest to northeast line creating a peninsula of higher ground extending from the fen-edge to the west. These gravels in turn overlie a solid geology of Jurassic Oxford clays (BGS 1984).

### 2.4 Archaeological Setting

The proposed development site lies in an area of known archaeological remains dating from the prehistoric period onwards. The earliest evidence of occupation is during the Neolithic period and stone axes have been found to the west and a collection of flints have been retrieved to the south and north of the site (Hayes and Lane 1992, 197).

During the Early Bronze Age, the gravel ridge that Crowland is situated on was the focus for a sizeable barrow cemetery. This was part of a system of such cemeteries extending from Borough Fen to the south, to Deeping St. Nicholas west of Crowland and continuing to the north (Lane 1994, 6). Most of the barrows are only known from their destruction in the last two centuries and the nearest to the site is located less than 300m to the south (Hayes and Lane 1992, 197). Little contemporary settlement associated with the barrows has yet been identified in Crowland. However, pottery sherds of the period are known from the vicinity of the abbey (*ibid.*).

Later Bronze Age remains are unknown from the Crowland peninsula though an Iron Age site, possibly a saltern (salt-producing site), has been identified to the north of the town (*ibid.*, 198). Evidence for Romano-British remains is also scarce and comprises a few scattered sherds of pottery, found 150m south of the development (*ibid.*).

Crowland is first mentioned in the mid 8<sup>th</sup> century by Felix, the biographer of St. Guthlac. Referred to as *Crugland*, *Cruuulond* and *Cruwland*, the name is derived from the word *crûw*, possibly from the Old Norse *krûwila* meaning bend (Ekwall 1974, 133). Felix was writing about the life of St. Guthlac who founded a cell here, with two followers, in *c*. 700 AD (Page 1988, 105).

A Benedictine monastery dedicated to St. Guthlac was in existence in Crowland by 1051 and was subject to Peterborough Abbey. It is not known when the monastery was first built, although it is believed to be in the mid-late 10<sup>th</sup> century, as a documentary reference noting an earlier foundation is now believed to be a forgery (Hayes and Lane 1992, 202). The present standing remains of the abbey date to 1156 AD (Pevsner and Harris 1989, 238).

Crowland is not specifically referred to in the Domesday Survey of 1086, although details of its holdings at Holbeach, Whaplode, Spalding, Langtoft, Baston, Dowdyke, Drayton, Algarkirk, Burtoft and Bucknall are listed (Foster and Longley 1976, 60). Land was also held in the surrounding counties of Northamptonshire and Cambridgeshire (Page 1988, 106).

The investigation site is believed to lie within the former precincts of the abbey, possibly adjacent to the Abbot's lodgings. The former gatehouse was situated some 30m west of the present gate and the west boundary of the development site is aligned on the former limits of the monastery (Cope-Faulkner, *forthcoming*).

Following the dissolution in 1539, the abbey buildings gradually fell into decay, a process that was accelerated during the English Civil War (1642-46) when a Royalist garrison constructed a fort surrounding the church (Pevsner and Harris 1989, 240).

#### 3. AIMS

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

## 4. METHODS

The proposed development required the excavation of trenches to accommodate the footings for the new building (Fig. 3). These were excavated by machine to a depth of c. 1.8m. Due to the depth of the foundation trenches, which exceeded maximum depths permissible for entry, under the Health and Safety legislation, it was impossible to draw sections. This has severely affected the potential for interpreting the archaeology clearly present on the site. However, sketch sections and a photographic record were compiled and where safe, the depth and thickness of each deposit measured from the ground surface. Each deposit or feature revealed within an opened area was allocated a unique reference number (context number) with an individual written description. Natural geological deposits were also recorded where exposed. Recording of the deposits encountered during the watching brief was undertaken according to standard Archaeological Project Services' practice.

Finds recovered from the investigation were examined and a period date assigned where possible. Records of the deposits and features identified during the watching brief were also examined. Phasing was assigned based on the nature of the deposits and recognisable relationships between them. A list of all contexts with interpretations appears as Appendix 2.

## 5. **RESULTS**

Three phases were identified:

Phase 1: Natural deposits Phase 2: Undated deposits Phase 3: Recent deposits

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

## Phase 1: Natural deposits

A layer of friable light greyish yellow clayey sand with gravel (003) was encountered at the base of the foundation trenches. This was identified as the natural sand and silts of the underlying drift geology.

The sand and gravel was overlain by a loose blackish brown clayey silt (004) which appears to have once been desiccated peat and may have been the lower horizon of a former ground surface.

## Phase 2: Undated deposits

Above (004) soil was a spread of mixed yellow and brown limestone rubble, plaster and soil (002). Measuring 1.3m thick, this layer was interpreted as constructional dumping and was restricted to the westernmost foundation trenches. A fragment of a medieval roof tile was retrieved from this layer, but was deemed insufficient to date the context.

To the east of (002) was a similar deposit containing much more mortar and plaster (007). The quantity of limestone rubble was not sufficient to interpret this layer as a construction dumping, as in the case of (002), and it has been identified as made ground.

Visible within the rubble spread was a band of light yellowish brown limestone (005) that was 1.5m wide and 1.5m deep (Plate 3). This linear band was aligned north to south and was visible in each of the foundation trenches (Fig. 3). Although no access was possible to clarify the function of the remains, one probable interpretation of this deposit is a backfilled robber trench.

A second area of brownish yellow limestone was observed to the east (006) of the possible robber trench (Plate 4). This deposit was also 1.5m thick but was 2.8m long. Considered to be a limestone dump, this deposit may also represent the position of a former wall.

At the east end of the trench were a number of what appeared to be plaster floors (Plate 2). However, due to the depths of the trenches these could not be examined in detail.

#### Phase 3: Recent deposits

Sealing all deposits was a topsoil of loose dark

brownish black sandy silt (001) that was between 0.4m and 0.5m thick.

## 6. **DISCUSSION**

Natural deposits (Phase 1) of clayey sand with gravel were encountered in the base of the foundation trenches. This is probably a river terrace deposit derived from the former course of the River Welland and is part of the pre-Flandrian Abbey Gravel sequence (Horton 1989, 21).

Undated deposits include a layer of limestone, the nature of which suggests an association with a construction episode, possibly of part of Crowland Abbey. A probable robbed wall and a limestone dump were also revealed and may indicate the position of structures, possibly associated with the nearby abbey. It is believed that the site lay within the former precincts of Crowland abbey, along the western boundary with the main gatehouse north of the site on East Street (Cope-Faulkner *forthcoming*).

A few artefacts were recovered from the investigation, generally from the topsoil and the excavator bucket. These include a single sherd of pottery of 19<sup>th</sup> century date. Five sherds were also found of a Late Saxon (950 - 1150 AD) vessel. These were unstratified but confirm activity in the vicinity at this time. Medieval roof tile was also collected and include stone and ceramic examples. Animal remains comprised cattle, sheep and a fish vertebrae.

## 7. CONCLUSIONS

Archaeological investigations at Abbey Walk, Crowland, were undertaken because the site fell within the Abbey precinct and in an area of known archaeological remains dating from the prehistoric period. Above natural deposits were construction dumping and made ground, through which possible walls had been inserted. All features were undated and could not examined in detail due to the site conditions. These deposits suggest the presence of structural remains possibly associated with Crowland Abbey. A small collection of finds were obtained from mainly unstratified contexts and include Late Saxon pottery, medieval roof tile and a quantity of animal bone.

## 8. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeological Project Services wish to acknowledge the assistance of Mrs Ann Eastwood who commissioned the fieldwork and post-excavation analysis on behalf of J.B. Eastwood (Builders) Ltd. David Fell coordinated the work and Tom Lane edited this report. Background information was kindly provided by Dave Start, who allowed access to the parish files maintained by Heritage Lincolnshire. Hilary Healey examined the pottery finds.

#### 9. PERSONNEL

Project Coordinator: David Fell Site Supervisor: Neil Herbert Finds Processing: Denise Buckley Illustration: Paul Cope-Faulkner, Phil Mills Post-excavation Analyst: Paul Cope-Faulkner

## 10. **BIBLIOGRAPHY**

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## 11. ABBREVIATIONS

APS Archaeological Project Services

BGS British Geological Survey

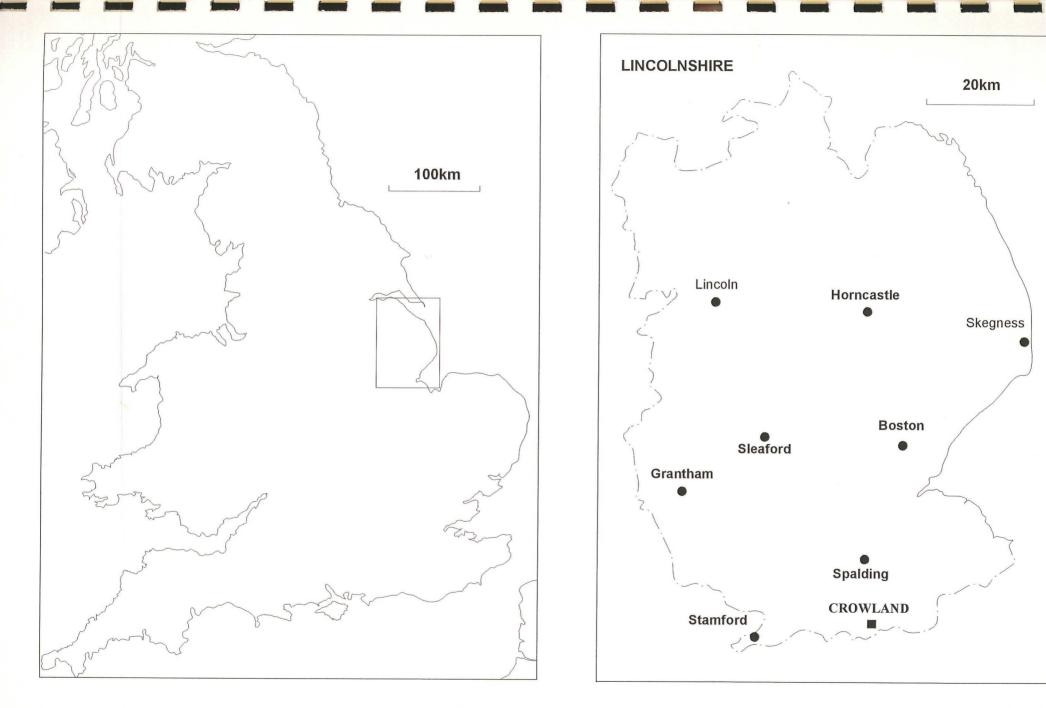


Figure 1 - General Location Plan

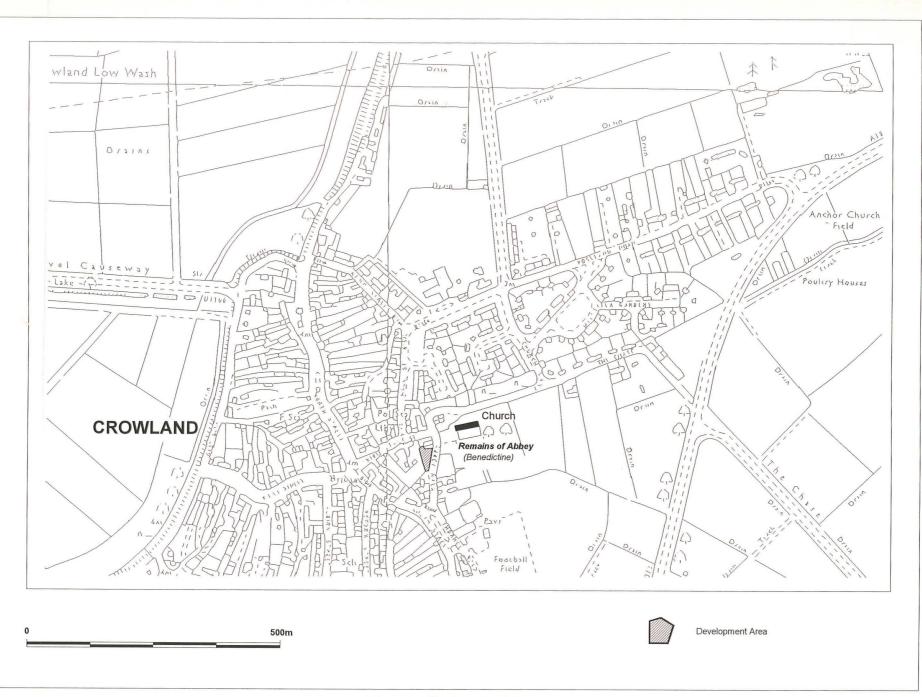


Figure 2 - Site Location Plan



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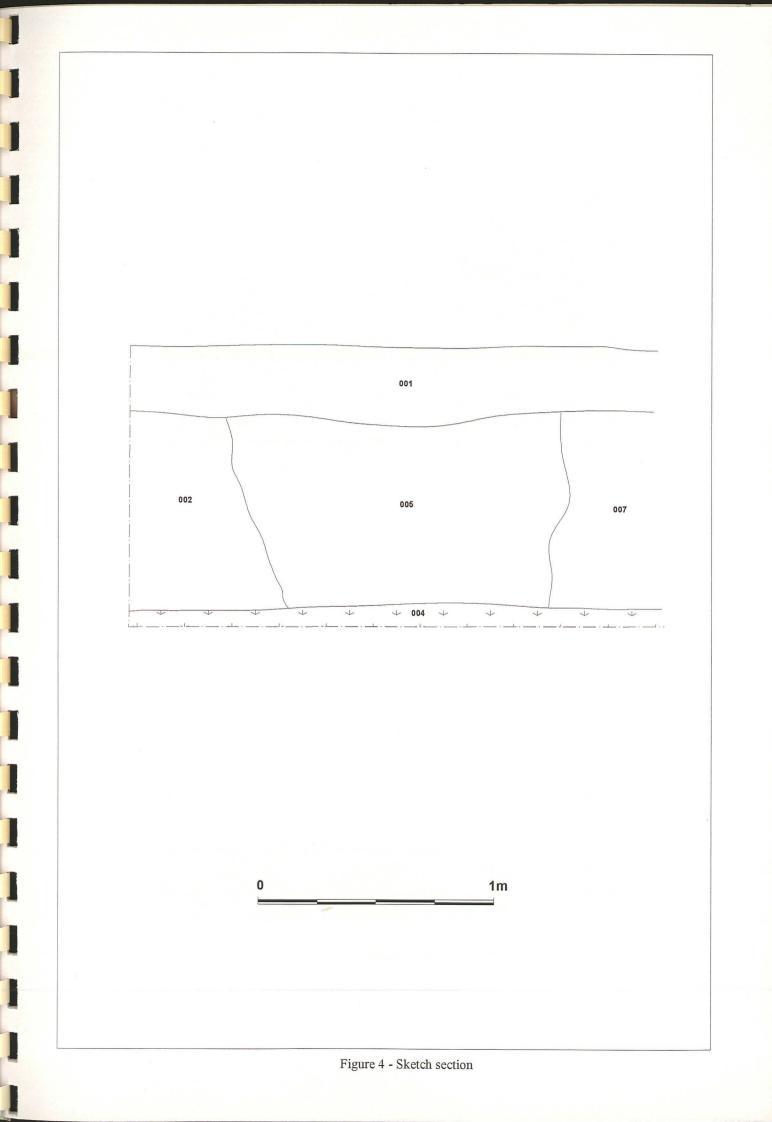




Plate 1 - General view across the development area, looking northeast towards Crowland Abbey



Plate 2 - View of made ground, looking east



Plate 3 - Robber trench (005), looking southeast



Plate 4 - Rubble spread (006), looking northeast

### SPECIFICATION FOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

#### SUMMARY

1

- 1.1 *A watching brief is required during development at Plot 5, Abbey Walk, Crowland, Lincolnshire.*
- 1.2 Crowland is an area of considerable archaeological interest. A number of prehistoric barrows occur in the area and Roman pottery has been found in the vicinity. Crowland has been an ecclesiastical centre since the eighth century and a major Benedictine Abbey was founded during the twelfth century.
- 1.3 The watching brief will be undertaken during groundworks associated with the development. The archaeological features exposed will be recorded in writing, graphically and photographically.
- 1.4 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

- 2.1 This document comprises a specification for an archaeological watching brief during development at Plot 5, Abbey Walk, Crowland, Lincolnshire.
- 2.2 This document contains the following parts
  - 2.2.1 Overview
  - 2.2.2 The archaeological and natural setting
  - 2.2.3 Stages of work and methodologies to be used
  - 2.2.4 List of specialists

#### 3 SITE LOCATION

3.1 Crowland is located approximately 12km south of Spalding in the administrative district of South Holland, Lincolnshire. The site is situated on the east side of the medieval centre of the village, west of the abbey, at NGR TF 24080 10250.

#### 4 PLANNING BACKGROUND

4.1 A planning application has been made (application number H02/0248/98) for the construction of a private dwelling at Abbey Walk, Crowland. Planning permission has been granted by South Holland District Council, subject to a condition requiring the implementation of an archaeological watching brief. This document contains the specification for the watching brief.

#### 5 SOILS AND TOPOGRAPHY

5.1 Crowland is situated on a gravel island in the fens of south Lincolnshire. The site is essentially flat and lies at an elevation of approximately 5m OD. Soils at the site are of the Ireton Association, loamy over sandy soils formed in glacio-fluvial deposits (Hodge *et al* 1984, 229).

#### 6 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

6.1 Crowland is an area of considerable archaeological interest, although little modern systematic archaeological work has been carried out in the area.

- 6.2 Crowland lies on a gravel ridge and several prehistoric burial mounds have been identified in the vicinity of the village. Roman pottery has also been found, although there is no clear evidence for a Roman period settlement at Crowland.
- 6.3 Crowland came to prominence during the early medieval period. Crowland Abbey was founded in 716AD, by King Ethelbald, in honour of St. Guthlac. The medieval Benedictine Abbey, dedicated to St. Bartholomew, St. Guthlac and St.. Mary was founded during the thirteenth century. The abbey was dissolved in 1539, although part of the building remains in use as the parish church. The application area is situated adjacent to the abbey.

#### 7 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- 7.1 The aims of the watching brief will be:
  - 7.1.1 To locate, record and interpret any archaeological features exposed during ground disturbance.
- 7.2 The objectives of the watching brief will be:
  - 7.2.1 To determine the form and function of any archaeological features encountered.
  - 7.2.2 To determine the spatial arrangement of any archaeological features encountered.
  - 7.2.3 To recover dating evidence from any archaeological features.
  - 7.2.4 To establish the sequence of any archaeological remains.

#### 8 METHODOLOGY

#### 8.1 General considerations

- 8.1.1 All work will be undertaken following statutory Health and Safety requirements in operation at the time of the watching brief.
- 8.1.2 The work will be undertaken according to the relevant codes of practice issued by the Institute of Field Archaeologists.

#### 8.2 Methodology

- 8.2.1 The watching brief will be undertaken during the groundworks phase of development and includes the archaeological monitoring of all phases of soil movement.
- 8.2.2 The trench sections will be observed regularly to identify and record archaeological features that are exposed and to record changes in geological conditions. Plans will be drawn at a scale of 1:20 and sections at 1:10. Larger scale illustrations may be made, if necessary. Written descriptions detailing the nature of the deposits, features and fills encountered will be compiled on Archaeological Project Services pro-forma context record sheets.
- 8.2.3 Any finds will be bagged and labelled for later analysis.
- 8.2.4 A photographic record will be compiled throughout the watching brief. The photographic record will consist of colour slides and black and white prints. The photographic record will record the following information:
  - 8.2.4.1 The site during the works, showing specific stages of the watching brief and the layout of archaeological features within each trench or area.
  - 8.2.4.2 Groups of features where their relationship is important.

#### 9 POST-EXCAVATION

#### 9.1 <u>Stage 1</u>

- 9.1.1 On completion of site operations, the records and schedules produced during the excavation will be checked and ordered to ensure that they form a uniform sequence constituting 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 slides will be labelled, the labelling referring to schedules identifying the subject/s photographed.
- 9.1.2 All finds recovered during the fieldwork will be washed, marked, bagged and labelled according to the individual 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.

#### 9.2 Stage 2

- 9.2.1 Detailed examination of the stratigraphic matrix to determine the various phases of activity on the site.
- 9.2.2 Finds will be sent to specialists for identification and dating (see section 16, below).

#### 9.3 <u>Stage 3</u>

- 9.3.1 On completion of stage 2, a report detailing the findings of the evaluation will be prepared.
- 9.3.2 The report will contain:
  - 9.3.2.1 A description of the archaeological setting of the watching brief.
  - 9.3.2.2 A description of the topography of the site.
  - 9.3.2.3 A description of the methodologies used during the watching brief.
  - 9.3.2.4 A text describing the findings of the watching brief.
  - 9.3.2.5 A consideration of the local, regional and national context of the findings of the watching brief.
  - 9.3.2.6 Plans of the archaeological features exposed. If a sequence of archaeological deposits is encountered, separate plans for each phase will be produced.
  - 9.3.2.7 Sections of the archaeological features will be produced.
  - 9.3.2.8 An interpretation of the archaeological features exposed, and their chronology and setting within the surrounding landscape.
  - 9.3.2.9 Specialist reports on finds from the site.
  - 9.3.2.10 Appropriate photographs of specific archaeological features.

#### 10 ARCHIVE

10.1 The documentation, finds, photographs and other records and materials generated during the evaluation will be sorted and ordered into the format acceptable to the City and County Museum, Lincoln. This sorting will be undertaken according to the document titled *Conditions for the Acceptance of Project Archives* for long term storage and curation.

#### 11 REPORT DEPOSITION

11.1 A report on 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

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Archaeology. If appropriate, notes on the findings will be submitted to 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.

#### 12 CURATORIAL RESPONSIBILITY

12.1 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 commencement of the project.

#### 13 VARIATIONS TO THE PROPOSED SCHEME OF WORKS

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

### 14 PROGRAMME OF WORKS AND STAFFING LEVELS

- 14.1 The watching brief will be integrated with the programme of construction.
- 14.2 An archaeological supervisor with experience of watching briefs will undertake the work.

#### 15 SPECIALISTS TO BE USED DURING THE PROJECT

15.1 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: Dr D Knight, Trent and Peak Archaeological Trust.
	Roman: B Precious, independent specialist.
	Anglo-Saxon: J Young, City of Lincoln Archaeological Unit, Lincoln.
	Medieval and later: H Healey, independent archaeologist.
Flints	Dr I Brooks, Engineering Archaeological Services.
Other Artefacts	J Cowgill, independent specialist.
Human Remains Analysis	R Gowland, Independent specialist.
Animal Remains Analysis	Environmental Archaeology Consultancy.
Environmental Analysis	Environmental Archaeology Consultancy.
Radiocarbon dating	Beta Analytic Inc., Florida, USA.
Dendrochronological dating	University of Sheffield Dendrochronology Laboratory.

## 16 BIBLIOGRAPHY

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## CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

1

No.	Description	Interpretation
001	Loose dark brownish black sandy silt, 0.4-0.5m thick	Garden soil
002	Friable mixed yellow and brown limestone rubble, plaster and soil, 1.3m thick	Dumped mason's waste
003	Friable light greyish yellow clayey sand with gravel	Natural deposit
004	Loose blackish brown clayey silt, 0.3m thick	Buried soil
005	Loose light brownish yellow limestone	Possible robber trench backfill
006	Loose brownish yellow limestone	Limestone dump
007	Mixed rubble with mortar and plaster	Made ground

## THE FINDS

## Paul Cope-Faulkner, Hilary Healey and Gary Taylor

#### Provenance

The material is largely unstratified with the exception of a medieval roof tile from the dumped layer beneath the topsoil.

Except for the 19<sup>th</sup> century glazed sherd, which is perhaps a Staffordshire product, most other finds may be of local origin

#### Range

The range of material is detailed in the table.

Pottery, roof tile, both stone and ceramic, and animal bone constitute most of the assemblage. The glazed rood tile fragment is probably a ridge tile. Ridge tiles were placed along the apex ridges of both tiled and thatched roofs.

Context	Description	Latest Date
+	<ul> <li>5 sherds of Late Saxon shelly ware</li> <li>1 sherd white glazed earthenware, 19<sup>th</sup> century</li> <li>1 glazed roof tile fragment, 13<sup>th</sup> - 14<sup>th</sup> century</li> <li>1 stone roof tile, ?medieval</li> <li>1 smithing slag, post-medieval</li> <li>1 lime mortar fragment</li> <li>1 cattle humerus</li> <li>1 cattle mandible fragment</li> <li>1 sheep humerus</li> <li>1 juvenile sheep humerus</li> <li>3 unidentified bone fragments</li> <li>1 fish vertebra, possibly Ling</li> </ul>	19 <sup>th</sup> century
002	1 roof tile fragment, medieval	Medieval

#### Condition

All the material is in good condition and presents no long term storage problems. The assemblage should be archived by material class.

#### Documentation

Several archaeological investigations, mostly of small scale, have previously been undertaken and reported in Crowland and the parish has been subject to extensive field survey (Hayes and Lane 1992). Records of archaeological sites and finds are maintained in the Lincolnshire Sites and Monuments Record and the files of Heritage Lincolnshire. Brief historical summaries of the the town, specifically the abbey, have also been published.

#### Potential

Although as largely unstratified the potential of the assemblage is reduced, the presence of Late Saxon and medieval material is significant. The Late Saxon pottery is abundant enough to indicate activity of the period in the vicinity, though this was otherwise unrecognised. Additionally, the roof tiles suggest the proximity of a medieval building, and one of higher status possessing a roof of tiles, rather than thatch or turf.

#### References

Hayes, P.P. and Lane, T.W., 1992, *The Fenland Project, Number 5: Lincolnshire Survey, The southwest Fens*, East Anglian Archaeology **55** 

#### THE ARCHIVE

The archive consists of:

- 7 Context records
- 1 Photographic record sheet
- 1 Scale drawings
- 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:	216.98
Archaeological Project Services Site Code:	CAW98

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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# GLOSSARY

Cropmark	A mark that is produced by the effect of underlying archaeological features influencing the growth of a particular crop.
Medieval	The Middle Ages, dating from approximately AD 1066-1500.
Post-medieval	The period following the Middle Ages, dating from approximately AD 1500-1800.
Pre-Flandrian	A geological period relating to the last Ice Age, approximately 40,000 - 10,000 years before present.
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