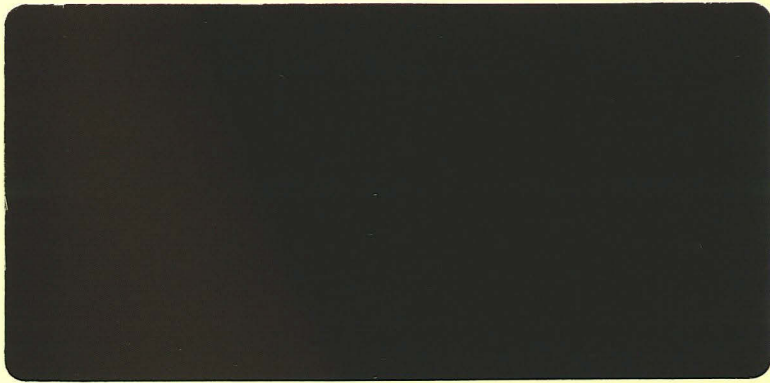


00/9

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF
OF DEVELOPMENT ON LAND
AT PLOT 3, CALEB HILL LANE,
OLD LEAKE COMMONSIDE,
BOSTON,
LINCOLNSHIRE
(OLP2 99)**



A P S
ARCHAEOLOGICAL
PROJECT
SERVICES



Lincolnshire County Council
Archaeology Section
20. APR 00
ed 20/1/02

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF
OF DEVELOPMENT ON LAND
AT PLOT 3, CALEB HILL LANE,
OLD LEAKE COMMONSIDE,
BOSTON,
LINCOLNSHIRE
(OLP2 99)**

Work Undertaken For
Mr P.J. Sims

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

April 2000

Planning Application No: B99/0520/FULL
National Grid Reference: TF 399 524
City and County Museum Accession No: 2000.13

A.P.S. Report No: 50/00



CONTENTS

List of Figures

List of Plates

1.	Summary	1
2.	Introduction	1
	2.1 Definition of a Watching Brief	1
	2.2 Planning Background	1
	2.3 Topography and Geology	1
	2.4 Archaeological Setting	1
3.	Aims	2
4.	Methods	2
5.	Results	2
6.	Discussion	3
7.	Conclusions	3
8.	Acknowledgements	4
9.	Personnel	4
10.	Bibliography	4
11.	Abbreviations	4

Appendices

1	Archaeological Project Brief
2	Context Descriptions
3	The Finds by <i>Hilary Healey, Tom Lane and Gary Taylor</i>
4	Glossary
5	The Archive

List of Figures

Figure 1 General Location Plan

Figure 2 Site Location Plan

Figure 3 Plan of development showing section locations

Figure 4 Sections 1, 2 and 3

List of Plates

Plate 1 General view across the development area, looking northeast

Plate 2 Medieval pit 008, looking southeast

1. SUMMARY

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken during development on land at Caleb Hill Lane, Old Leake Commonside, Boston, Lincolnshire. The watching brief monitored the excavation of the foundation trenches for a new dwelling and detached garage.

Old Leake Commonside is situated in an area of salt production dating from the Romano-British (AD 50 - 410) to the medieval (AD 1066 - 1500) period. A possible Late Saxon (AD 850 1066) saltern (salt producing site) lies to the northwest and clay lined brine tanks and pits of an undated saltern were located in the adjacent plot to the southeast. Leake Commonside is believed to have existed as a hamlet since the 12th century.

The investigation identified a single undated brine tank and a medieval pit that contained saltern refuse. A sherd of medieval pottery, burnt clay and a modern brick fragment were retrieved during the investigation.

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 P.J. Sims to undertake an archaeological watching brief during

construction of a new bungalow at Plot 3, Caleb Hill Lane, Old Leake Commonside, Lincolnshire. Approval for the development was sought through the submission of planning application B99/0520/FULL. The watching brief was carried out in accordance with a brief prepared by the Boston District Community Archaeologist (Appendix 1).

2.3 Topography and Geology

Old Leake Commonside is situated approximately 7km from the Lincolnshire coast and 12km northeast of Boston, in the district of Boston, Lincolnshire (Fig. 1).

The development site is located along Caleb Hill Lane, to the east of Old Leake Commonside at National Grid Reference TF 399 524. The site lies on generally level ground at heights of c. 3m OD. There is a drop in height northwards as the fens are approached.

The local soils are of the Romney Series, typically gleyic brown calcareous alluvial soils (Robson 1985, 53). These soils are developed on younger marine alluvium which in turn overlies a solid geology of Jurassic Kimmeridge Clay (BGS 1995).

2.4 Archaeological Setting

The development site lies within an area of known archaeological remains dating from the Romano-British period to the present day. A spread of Romano-British pottery and briquetage is situated 800m to the east (Lane 1993, Gazetteer). Briquetage is generally associated with salt-making sites.

Located 200m to the northwest a watching brief identified the possible remains of a saltern with limited preservation of timbers (HTL parish file). A number of other salterns that date from the Late Saxon period to the 13th century have been identified in

the area and follow a former creek that once marked the parish boundary between Wrangle and Old Leake (Lane 1993, 77).

Leake is first mentioned in the Domesday Survey of c. 1086. Referred to as *Leche*, the name is derived from the Old English *lecan* meaning 'to drip or leak', a name possibly given to a local stream (Ekwall, 1974, 292). The Domesday Survey records that Leake was owned by Count Alan and contained 26 salterns and 34 acres of meadow (Foster and Longley 1976, 68). Leake Commonsides is believed to have existed as a hamlet since the 12th century and possibly earlier (Hallam 1965, 87).

Medieval and post-medieval pottery has been found 300m to the north of the site and included a range of locally produced pottery dating from the 14th - 16th centuries.

A watching brief carried out on an adjacent plot identified four clay lined features, a large pit and a low mound of burnt debris, which together comprise a saltern (Cope-Faulkner 2000, 4). These are undated but are similar to medieval examples elsewhere and are therefore thought to be of this period.

3. AIMS

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

4. METHODS

Foundation trenches for the new development were opened by mechanical excavator to a maximum depth of 0.8m below the ground level, as required by the development. Following excavation, the

sides of all 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 was 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 1. 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.

Records of the deposits and features recognised during the watching brief were examined and a stratigraphic matrix produced. Phasing was assigned based on the nature of the deposits and recognisable relationships between them and supplemented by artefact dating.

5. RESULTS

Following post-excavation analysis, three phases were identified;

Phase 1	Undated 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 Undated deposits

The earliest deposit encountered was a light yellowish brown silt (002), measuring 0.7m thick. This deposit is of probable alluvial origin.

Cut into the alluvium was a feature (005) measuring 1.65m wide by 2.4m long and 0.24m deep. This was lined with brown clay (004) and subsequently filled with a yellowish brown silt (003). This feature was interpreted as a brine tank.

Phase 2 Medieval deposits

Also cut into the alluvial deposit (002) was a circular feature (008), possibly a pit. This was 4m in diameter and 0.5m deep and contained two fills. At the base of the feature was a mixed silt and clay deposit (007) containing charcoal and burnt clay overlain by a greyish brown silt (006). A single sherd of Potterhanworth type pottery, dating to the 13th - 14th centuries, was retrieved from the lower fill.

Phase 3 Modern deposits

Sealing all archaeological deposits was a 0.26m thick topsoil of greyish brown clayey silt (001).

6. DISCUSSION

Undated deposits (Phase 1) comprise an alluvial deposit and a brine tank. The brine tank is a feature associated with the production of salt and corresponds with the findings from the adjacent plot. These features are similar to, although more basic than, a 15th - 16th century saltern excavated at Wainfleet St. Mary, 12km to the northeast (McAvoy 1994, 140).

A circular pit (Phase 2) is dated to the 13th - 14th century by a single sherd of pottery. The upper fill of the pit contained burnt clay and charcoal and as such is also characteristic of salt production. If all the features are of this date, including those identified from the neighbouring plot, the saltern would date towards the very end of salt production

along the former Wrangle Haven. The foundation trenches are insufficient to enable the full layout of the saltern to be established.

7. CONCLUSIONS

Archaeological investigations were undertaken at Old Leake Commonsides as the site lay within an area of known archaeological remains, notably medieval salt production.

An undated clay lined brine tank and a medieval refuse pit were encountered and indicate that the site was once a saltern. The extent and layout of the saltern could not be determined due to the limited size of the foundation trenches.

A single sherd of medieval pottery, burnt clay and a modern brick fragment were retrieved. The nature of the local site conditions would suggest that few environmental indicators (seeds, wood, shells *etc.*) would survive, other than through charring. However, deposits from the neighbouring plot indicate that waterlogged environmental data may survive at depth.

8. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeological Project Services would like to acknowledge the assistance of Mr P.J. Sims who commissioned the fieldwork and post excavation. The work was coordinated by Dale Trimble and this report was edited by Tom Lane. Susan Smith, the Boston District Community archaeologist kindly provided information from the relevant parish files maintained by Heritage Lincolnshire.

9. PERSONNEL

Project Coordinator: Dale Trimble
Supervisor: James Albone
Illustration: Paul Cope-Faulkner
Photographic Reproduction: Sue Unsworth
Post-excavation Analyst: Paul Cope-Faulkner

10. BIBLIOGRAPHY

Cope-Faulkner, P., 2000, *Archaeological Watching Brief on land at Plot 2, Caleb Hill Lane, Old Leake Commonside, Boston, Lincolnshire (OLC99)*, unpublished APS report **49/00**

BGS., 1995, *Boston, Solid and Drift Edition*, 1:50,000 sheet **128**

Ekwall, E., 1974, *The Concise Oxford Dictionary of English Place-Names* (4th edition)

Foster, C.W. and Longley, T. (eds), 1976, *The Lincolnshire Domesday and the Lindsey Survey*, The Lincoln Record Society **19**

Hallam, H.E., 1965, *Settlement and Society. A study of the early agrarian history of South Lincolnshire*

IFA, 1997, *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs*

Lane, T.W., 1993, *The Fenland Project Number 8: Lincolnshire Survey, The Northern Fen-Edge*, East Anglian Archaeology **66**

McAvoy, F., 1994, 'Marine Salt Extraction: The excavation of salterns at Wainfleet St. Mary, Lincolnshire', *Medieval Archaeology* **XXXVIII**

Robson, J.D., 1985, *Soils in Lincolnshire*

IV: Sheet TF45 (Friskney), Soil Survey Record No. **88**

11. ABBREVIATIONS

APS Archaeological Project Services
BGS British Geological Survey
IFA Institute of Field Archaeologists

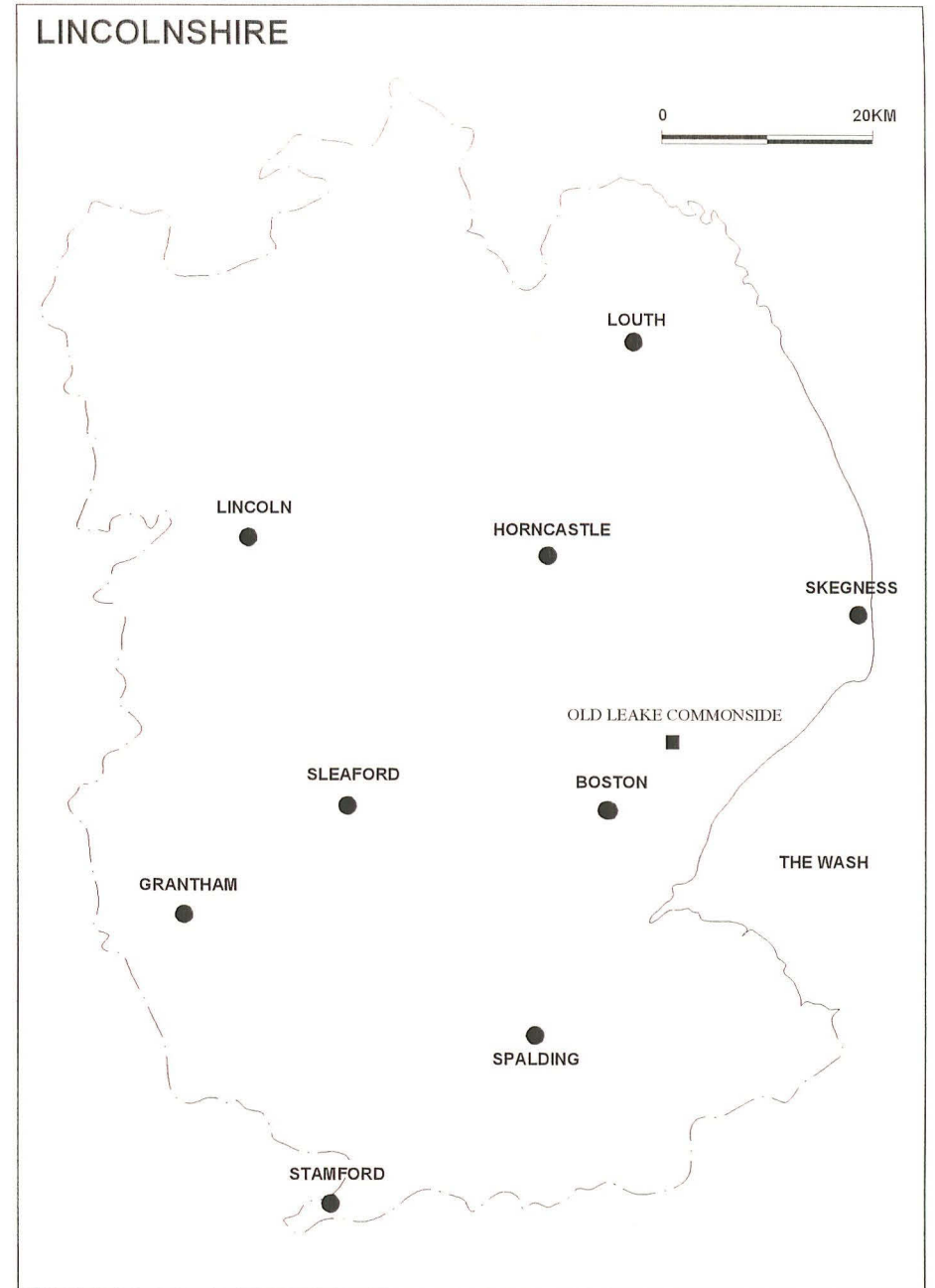


Figure 1 - General location map



Figure 2 - Site Location Plan

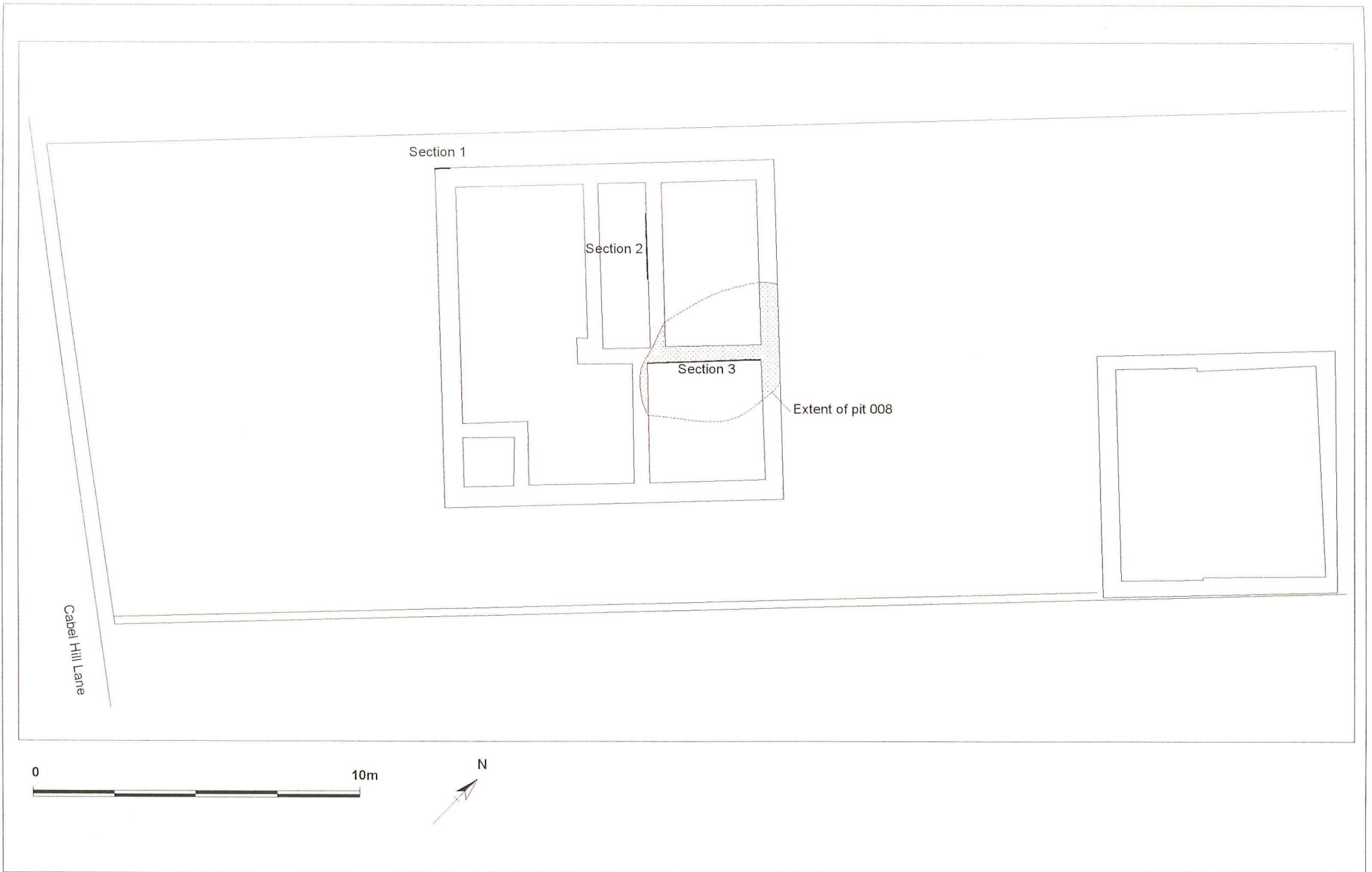
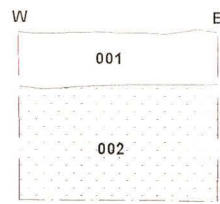
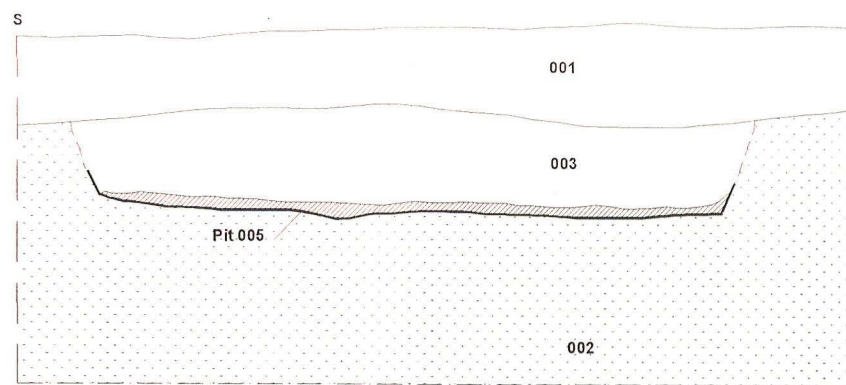


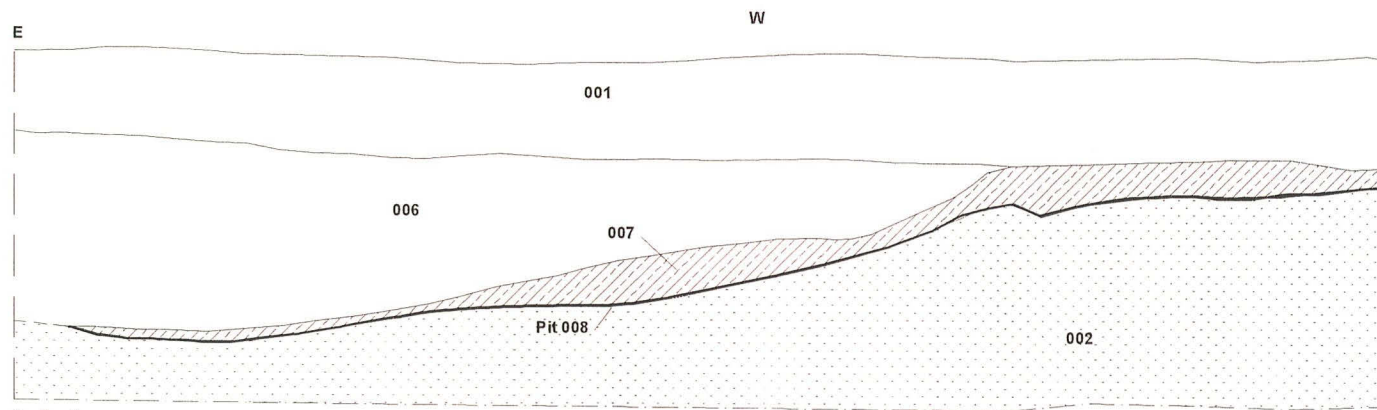
Figure 3 - Plan of development showing section locations



Section 1



Section 2



Section 3



Figure 4 - Sections 1, 2 and 3



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



Plate 2 - Medieval pit 008, looking southeast

Appendix 1

ARCHAEOLOGICAL PROJECT BRIEF - ENHANCED OBSERVATION AND RECORDING

Plot 3, Caleb Hill Lane, Old Leake Commonsides

1. Summary

- 1.1 This document is the brief for an archaeological Enhanced Observation and Recording brief to be carried out during the construction of a dwelling and a detached double garage.
- 1.2 This brief should be used by archaeological contractors as the basis for the preparation of a detailed archaeological project specification. In response to this brief contractors will be expected to provide details of the proposed scheme of work, to include the anticipated working methods, timescales and staffing levels. This brief is supplementary to the Lincolnshire Archaeological Handbook, which can be provided by Lincolnshire County Council Archaeology Office, or at <http://WWW.lincsc.u-net.com/archhome.htm>.
- 1.3 All of the detailed specifications will be submitted for approval to the Boston Community Archaeologist. The client will be free to choose between those specifications, which are considered to satisfy adequately this brief.
- 1.4 **All contractors supplying specifications should refer to SCAUM Principles of Competitive Tendering (SCAUM Guidelines and Notes on Competitive Tendering for Archaeological Services 1996).**
- 1.5 The enhanced nature of this brief requires that full investigation of archaeology take place. Therefore pauses in groundworking may be appropriate to ensure complete understanding through excavation, recording and sampling of material of any exposed archaeologically sensitive areas.
- 1.6 This brief should not be used after May 2000. After this time the Community Archaeologist should be contacted.

2. Site Location and Description

- 2.1 Boston is situated in the south Lincolnshire Fens, approximately 45km southeast of Lincoln and 7km from the northwest coast of the Wash.
- 2.2 Old Leake is situated approximately 8km northeast of Boston, with Commonsides lying 300m to the north of the village.

3. Planning Background

- 3.1 A planning application was submitted to Boston Borough Council (B99/0520/FULL) and granted permission subject to a condition requiring a Scheme of Works defined as an archaeological Enhanced Observation and Recording brief.

4. Archaeological Background

- 4.1 Although no Prehistoric or Romano-British artefacts have been recovered from within the parish, in the neighbouring parish of Wrangle there are large numbers of probable salt-making sites from these periods.
- 4.2 Late Saxon material has been recovered from Old Leake. Recent archaeological fieldwork ahead of extensions at the St Giles School has found archaeological remains relating to the late Saxon and medieval periods. Further archaeological fieldwork Church Lane revealed a complex of archaeological features, dating from the late Saxon period through to the post-medieval. A saltern provisionally dated to the late Saxon period has been recorded less than 100m north of the application site.
- 4.3 Old Leake is recorded in the Domesday Survey of 1086 as Leake or *Leche*, meaning 'the place at the stream'.

Parts of St Mary's church building dates back to the early Medieval but will almost have certainly replaced and Saxon structure.

5. Requirement for Work

- 5.1 The objective of the Enhanced Observation should be to ensure that any archaeological features exposed by the groundworks are recorded and interpreted and that any remains disturbed are recovered. To this end archaeological deposits or features are to be systematically examined, therefore extra time must be given to fully excavate and record archaeologically sensitive areas.
- 5.2 Any adjustments to the brief for the Enhanced Observation and Recording Brief project should only be made after discussion with the Boston Community Archaeologist.
- 5.3 The following details should be given in the contractor's specification:
 - 5.3.1 A projected timetable must be agreed for the various stages of work.
 - 5.3.2 The staff structure and numbers must be detailed. **This should include lists of specialists and their role in the project.**
 - 5.3.3 It is expected that all on-site work will be carried out in a way that complies with the relevant Health and Safety Legislation and that due consideration will be given to site security.
 - 5.3.4 The recovery and recording strategies to be used must be described in full.
 - 5.3.5 An estimate of time and resources allocated for post excavation work and report production.
 - 5.3.6 The contingencies for extended excavation/recording/sampling required for this brief.

6. Methods

- 6.1 The investigation should be carried out by a recognised archaeological body in accordance with the code of conduct of The Institute of Field Archaeologists.
- 6.2 The Enhanced Observation and Recording brief should involve:
 - 6.2.1 archaeological supervision of soil stripping;
 - 6.2.2 inspection of subsoil for archaeological features;
 - 6.2.3 recording of archaeological features in plan;
 - 6.2.4 full excavation of features;
 - 6.2.5 archaeological supervision of subsoil stripping;
 - 6.2.6 inspection of natural for archaeological features and excavation, recording of them;
 - 6.2.7 sampling of deposits which warrant further investigations
 - 6.2.8 any human remains encountered must be left in situ and only removed if absolutely necessary. The contractor must comply with all statutory consents and licences under the Disused Burial Grounds (Amendment) Act, 1981 or other Burial Acts regarding the exhumation and interment of human remains. It will also be necessary to comply with all reasonable requests of interested parties as to the method of removal, reinterment or disposal of the remains or associated items. Attempt must be made at all times not to cause offence to any interested parties;
 - 6.2.9 If discovered during excavation finds of gold and silver must be archaeologically removed to a

safe place and reported to the local Coroner immediately (within 14 days) in accordance with the procedures of Treasure Act 1997 and Code of Practice. If removal of such finds is not possible on the same day then adequate security arrangements must be made.

7. **Monitoring Arrangements**

- 7.1 **The Boston Community Archaeologist will be responsible for monitoring progress and standards throughout the project and will require at least seven days notice prior to the commencement of the work.** The Community Archaeologist should be kept informed of any unexpected discoveries and regularly updated on the project's progress. They should be allowed access to the site at their convenience and will comply with any health and safety requirements associated with the site.

8. **Reporting Requirements**

- 8.1 A full report should be produced and deposited with the Boston Community Archaeologist, Boston Council Planning Department, the Developer and the County Sites and Monuments Record. The report should include:
- 8.1.1 location plan of the trenches;
 - 8.1.2 section and plan drawing, with ground level, Ordnance Datum, vertical and horizontal scales as appropriate;
 - 8.1.3 specialist descriptions and discussions of artefacts and ecofacts;
 - 8.1.4 an indication of potential archaeological deposits not disturbed by the present development;
 - 8.1.5 colour photographs should be utilised to illustrate specific points or for general views;
- 8.2 After agreement with the landowner, arrangements should be made for long term storage of all artefacts in the City and County Museum, Lincoln, as outlined in that Museum's document 'Conditions for the acceptance of Project Archives'. The City and County Museum should be contacted at the earliest possible opportunity so that the full cost implications of the archive deposition can be taken into account.
- 8.3 A site archive should be produced and deposited with the artefacts as detailed in 8.2.

9. **Additional Information**

- 9.1 This document attempts to define the best practice expected of an enhanced archaeological Observation and Recording brief but cannot fully anticipate the conditions that will be encountered as work progresses. However, changes to the approved programme of excavation are only to be made with the prior written approval of the Community Archaeologist.

9.2 **Bibliography**

Cope-Faulkner, P and Drury, D (1997) **An Archaeological Watching Brief at the Giles School, Old Leake, Lincolnshire**, unpublished report, Archaeological Project Services Report No: 70/90

Healey, H (1994) **An archaeological Watching Brief at Old Leake, Lincolnshire**, unpublished.

Palmer-Brown, C (1996) **Church Road, Old Leake: Archaeological Evaluation Report**, unpublished report by Pre-Construct Archaeology, LCCM Accession No: 59.96

Tann, G (1995) **Old Leake: The Giles School Archaeological Monitoring of Building Works**, unpublished report. Lindsey Archaeological Services

Brief set by Boston Community Archaeologist November 1999

Appendix 2

CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

No	Section	Description	Interpretation
001	1	Dark greyish brown clayey silt, 0.26m thick	Topsoil
002	1, 2, 3	Light yellowish brown silt, 0.7m thick	Alluvial deposit
003	2	Light yellowish brown silt	Fill of 005
004	2	Mid brown clay, 50mm thick	Lining of 005
005	2	Rectangular feature, 1.65m wide, 2.4m long by 0.24m deep, steep sides and flat base	Brine tank
006	3	Light greyish brown silt	Fill of 008
007	3	Mixed reddish yellow, reddish brown and black silt and clay with charcoal	Fill of 008
008	3	Circular feature, 4m diameter by 0.5m deep, concave sides and flat base	Pit

Appendix 3

THE FINDS

Hilary Healey, Tom Lane and Gary Taylor

Provenance

The material was recovered from the topsoil (001) and the primary fill of a pit (007).

The single pottery fragment is a product of kilns at Potterhanworth, 38km to the northwest.

Range

The range of material is detailed in the table.

Pottery of 13th-14th century date is the earliest datable material recovered, the probable machine made brick from (001) being highly fired and clearly late post-medieval. No animal bone was retrieved.

Context	Description	Context Date
001	1x brick ?machine made, 19 th -20 th century	19 th -20 th century
	1x burnt clay/silt	
007	1x Potterhanworth ware, 13 th -14 th century	13 th -14 th century

Condition

All the material is in good condition, and presents no long-term storage problems. Archive storage of the collection is by material class.

Documentation

There have been several previous archaeological investigations at Old Leake, including immediately adjacent to the present site, which are the subjects of reports (eg. Cope-Faulkner 2000). Details of archaeological sites and discoveries in the area are maintained in the Lincolnshire County Council Sites and Monuments Record and the files of the Boston Community Archaeologist.

Potential

The assemblage has limited potential though the baked silt could relate to salt-making. This is enhanced by the earlier discovery of a probable medieval saltern on an adjacent site.

References

Cope-Faulkner, P., 2000, *Archaeological Watching Brief of development of land at Plot 2, Caleb Hill Lane, Old Leake Commonside, Boston, Lincolnshire (OLP99)*, unpublished APS report No. 49/00

Appendix 4

GLOSSARY

Brine tank	An open tank or pool where brine was collected and allowed to settle before use. May be lined with puddled clay, wood or lead sheet.
Briquetage	A term given to fragments of ceramic equipment and hearth/oven remains from the processing of salt.
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, <i>e.g.</i> (004).
Cut	A cut refers to the physical action of digging a posthole, pit, ditch, foundation trench, <i>etc.</i> 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.
Message	A dwelling and the land surrounding it.
Romano-British	Pertaining to the period dating from AD 43-410 when the Romans occupied Britain.
Saltern	Salt producing site typified by ash, derived from fuel needed to evaporate sea water, and briquetage.
Saxon	Pertaining to the period dating from AD 410-1066 when England was largely settled by tribes from northern Germany.

Appendix 5

THE ARCHIVE

The archive consists of:

8	Context records
2	Scale drawings
1	Photographic record sheets
1	Stratigraphic matrix
1	Bag 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

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: 2000.13

Archaeological Project Services Site Code: OLC299

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.

Archaeological Project Services shall retain full copyright of any commissioned reports under the *Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988* with all rights reserved; excepting that it hereby provides an exclusive licence to the client for the use of such documents by the client in all matters directly relating to the project as described in the Project Specification.