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**A Report to
Mr M Chew & Ms L Wright**

June 2000



LINCOLN
archaeology

**WILLOW TREE FARM,
MIDDLE FEN LANE,
WASHINGBOROUGH, LINCS**

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

Report No.: 421

LINCOLN
archaeology

Lincoln County Council
Fleetwood, Lancashire
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**WILLOW TREE FARM,
MIDDLE FEN LANE,
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ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

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ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

NON-TECHNICAL SUMMARY

On 30th and 31st May 2000, a representative from the City of Lincoln Archaeology Unit undertook a watching brief on behalf of Mr M Chew & Ms L Wright, during the construction of a private dwelling, Garage and its associated car-parking on the above site.

The watching brief revealed no archaeological features or deposits. However, whilst negative, this information could be of value in future decision making with regard to the management of the archaeological resource in this area of North Kesteven.

WILLOW TREE FARM, MIDDLE FEN LANE, WASHINGBOROUGH, LINCS

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

1.0 INTRODUCTION

On 30th and 31st May 2000, a representative from the City of Lincoln Archaeology Unit (CLAU) undertook a watching brief on behalf of Mr M Chew & Ms L Wright, during the construction of a dwelling on the above site. The watching brief was carried out as a response to a brief set out by the Heritage Officer to North Kesteven District Council. The brief required the implementation of a watching brief to be carried out during groundworks associated with the development in accordance with a condition of planning consent (Planning Application N/32/286/99).

The site lies in the Parish of Washingborough, 2 miles south-east of the village, and approximately 7 miles southeast of Lincoln, adjacent to the B1190 Bardney road (see Fig. 1). Topographically, the site lies at c. 2m OD with an underlying geology consisting of fen gravels over Kellaways sand and clay.

1.1 Summary Archaeological Background

Little in the way of archaeological excavation has previously been carried out in close proximity to the site. An archaeological evaluation carried out at a water pumping station 500m to the southeast revealed a quantity of Late Mesolithic flintwork. The site borders the Roman canal or drain, the Car Dyke, which survives as a ditch on the opposite side of the Bardney Road. This artificial waterway believed to have been constructed during the Roman period, runs for approximately 56 miles and joins the River Nene east of Peterborough with the River Witham just east of Lincoln. Many Roman sites lie on either side of the canal. Those in close proximity to the site include: a Roman tile kiln (approximately 250m to the south-west) and a surface scatter of Roman pottery thought to indicate an area of unspecified Roman occupation, 300m to the southwest (possibly associated with the kiln?).

2.0 AIMS & METHODOLOGY

The aims of the watching brief were:

- A. to produce an archive record of deposits and remains generally within the constraints of the groundwork contractors' working methods and programme as related to the project design, with due regard to current Health and Safety legislation.
- B. to produce a report on the potential archaeological importance of the discoveries.
- C. to produce a project archive from which the potential for further study and academic research could be assessed.
- D. to provide information for accession to the County Sites and Monuments Record (SMR).

The archaeological record was secured by means of trench side notes. A photographic record of the groundworks was also compiled.

3.0 ANALYSIS & CONCLUSIONS

This watching brief revealed no evidence to suggest that archaeological deposits pre-dating the 20th century exist on the site.

3.1 ANALYSIS (Fig. 2 & Plate 1)

a) House Plot

Excavation of the foundation trenches for the new house plot failed to reveal archaeological features and/or deposits pre-dating the 20th century. Deposits of sands and gravels (context [002] and [003]) occurred 300mm-400mm below the level of topsoil (context [001] - c. 2m OD).



Plate 1: General view, looking north, of the foundation trenches for the new dwelling. Note the minimal topsoil coverage above the pale brown natural sand.

b) Vehicular access and hardstanding

Groundwork associated with the construction of the site's access and carparking/turning was monitored as part of the watching brief, and revealed no features which could be associated with activity dating before the 20th century. A spread of building debris lay to the north of the new plot and is attributed to the outbuildings demolished to make way for the new dwelling.

c) Soakaway

A small soakaway (c. 1.5m²) was excavated c. 3m to the south-east of the new garage. The stratigraphic sequence revealed here was the same as seen in the foundation trench. Excavated to a depth in excess of 1.5m, this trench revealed the water table to lie 1.30m below existing ground level.

No further features or deposits were recorded during the archaeological monitoring programme.

d) Septic Tank and Drainage

After discussions with the Archaeological Advisor to North Kesteven District Council, it was decided to discontinue monitoring groundwork associated with the installation of the septic tank and drainage trenching, given the negative results of the watching brief obtained during previous elements of the development (a-c).

3.2 CONCLUSIONS

In conclusion, the monitoring of the groundwork has failed to reveal archaeological deposits. And although negative, this information could be of value in future decision making with regard to the management of the archaeological resource in this area of North Kesteven.

4.0 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The City of Lincoln Archaeology Unit would like to thank Mr M Chew & Ms L Wright for funding the fieldwork and post-fieldwork analysis. Thanks are also extended to Mr Philip Jackson (builder) and Mr David Start (Director, Heritage Trust for Lincolnshire, acting on behalf of North Kesteven District Council).

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Figure One is based upon Ryland Design Architectural Planning and Design Service drawing No. 2827/01B.

Project Team

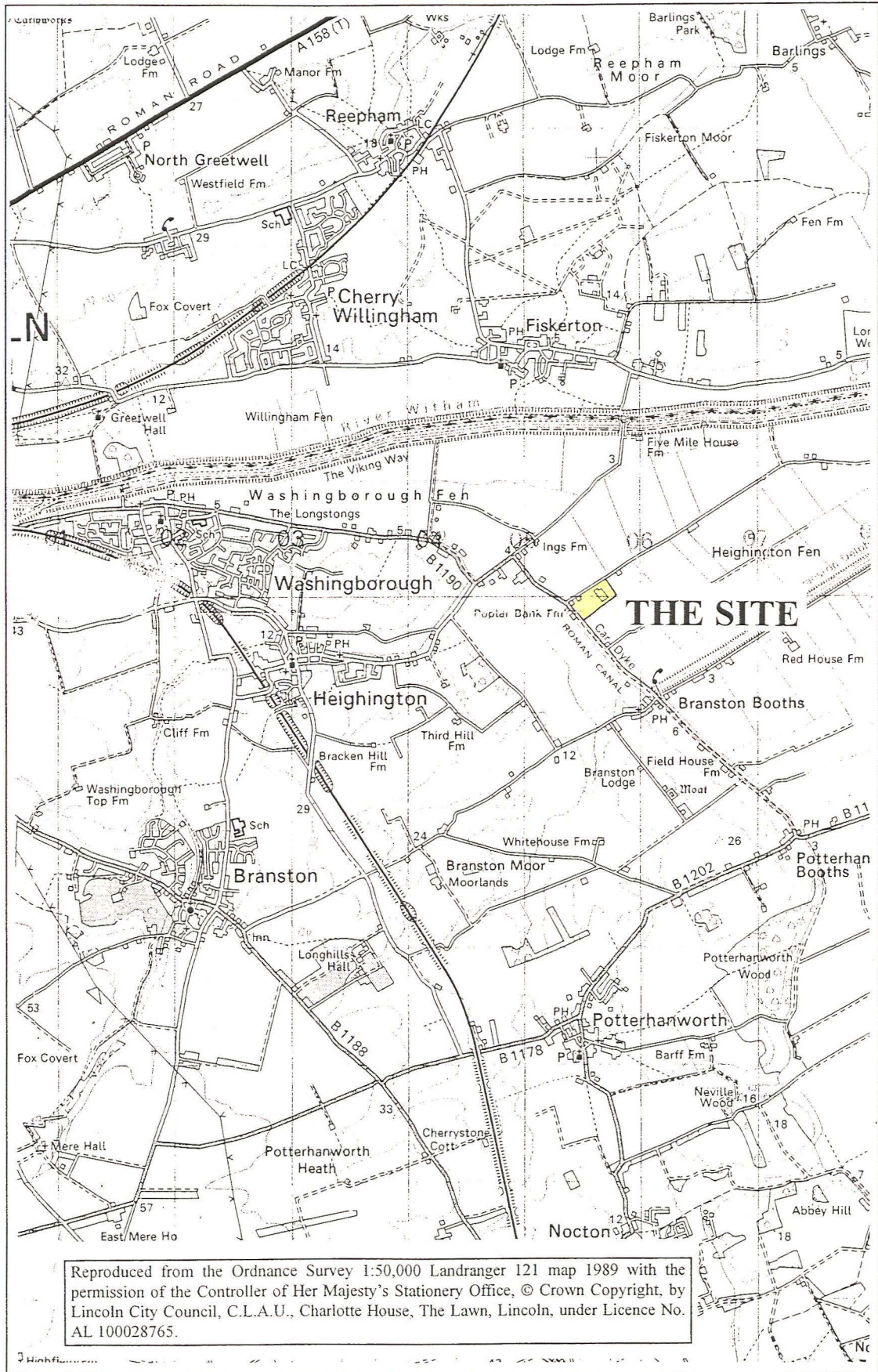
Michael Jarvis	Project Officer (Field/Post-excavation)
John Hockley	Project Manager
Mick Jones	Editor

5.0 BIBLIOGRAPHY

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NOTE

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Fig. 1: Site location plan.

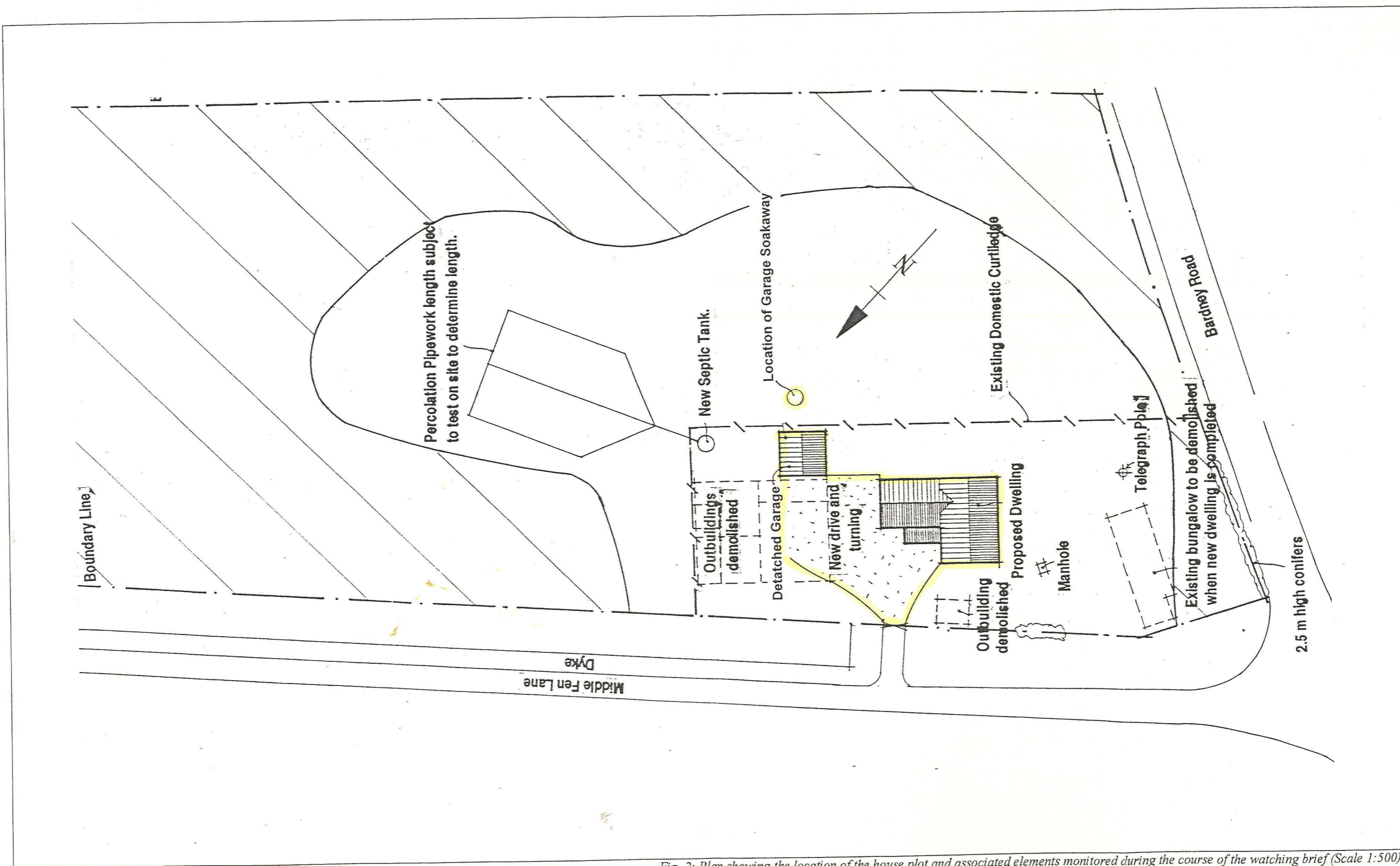


Fig. 2: Plan showing the location of the house plot and associated elements monitored during the course of the watching brief (Scale 1:500).

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ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

APPENDIX 1 - LHA NOTE & ARCHIVE DETAILS

LHA NOTE DETAILS

CLAU CODE: WAS00

CLAU REPORT No.: 421

PLANNING APPLICATION NO.: N/32/286/99

FIELD OFFICER: Michael Jarvis

NGR: TF 05400 69930

CIVIL PARISH: Washingborough

SMR No.: -

DATE OF INTERVENTION: 30th -31st May 2000

TYPE OF INTERVENTION: Archaeological Watching Brief

UNDERTAKEN FOR: Mr M Chew & Ms L Wright, Willow Tree Farm, Middle Fen Lane,
Washingborough, Lincolnshire

ARCHIVE DETAILS

PRESENT LOCATION: City of Lincoln Archaeology Unit, Charlotte House, The Lawn, Union Road,
Lincoln, LN1 3BL

FINAL LOCATION: The City and County Museum, Friars Lane, Lincoln

MUSEUM ACCESSION No.: 2000.125

ACCESSION DATE: -