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**ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF
DURING EXCAVATIONS FOR A POND
EXTENSION ON LAND OFF
HIGH LANE, CROFT
LINCOLNSHIRE
(CHL 00)**

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ARCHAEOLOGICAL
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SERVICES

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**ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF
DURING EXCAVATIONS FOR A POND
EXTENSION ON LAND OFF
HIGH LANE, CROFT
LINCOLNSHIRE
(CHL 00)**

Work Undertaken For
JE Spence and Son

May 2000

Report Compiled by
Joanna Hambly

National Grid Reference: TF 49735 63017

Planning Ref: S103910631/99

City and County Museum Accession Number: 2000.93

A.P.S. Report No. 70/00



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

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1. SUMMARY

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken during excavations for an extension to an existing pond on land off High Lane, Croft, Lincolnshire.

The site was located within 100m of prehistoric and medieval remains and within an area known to contain evidence of Iron Age and Roman salt production.

Removal of the topsoil and subsoil and excavations of two test pits revealed a sequence of natural and modern deposits.

No evidence of archaeological remains were observed, however, the recording of the natural deposits has added detail to our understanding of the depositional environment in this area.

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 Background

A full planning application (S/039/0631/99) was submitted to East Lindsey District Council for an extension to an existing pond on land off High Lane, Croft. Planning permission was granted, subject to a condition requiring the implementation of an archaeological watching brief during all stages of the development involving ground disturbance. Between the 20th -23rd March

2000, an archaeological watching brief was carried out to fulfill the condition. The work was commissioned by JE Spence and Son and was carried out by Archaeological Project Services (APS), in accordance with a specification produced by APS (Appendix 1).

2.3 Topography, Geology and Soils

Croft End lies roughly half way between Burgh le Marsh to the north and Croft village to the south, approximately 6km west of Skegness and 52km east of Lincoln, in the administrative district of East Lindsey, Lincolnshire (Fig. 1). The site is located 200m west of The Hollies, off High Lane.

The site lies between 2 and 3 metres OD, on level ground at National Grid Reference TF 49735 63017.

Local soils are of the Wallsea 2 Association, pelo-alluvial gleys overlying reclaimed marine alluvium (Hodge *et al.* 1984, 338).

2.4 Archaeological Setting

The site lies in an area of known archaeological activity dating from the prehistoric to the medieval periods.

Approximately 100m northeast of the area of excavation a prehistoric flint scraper, medieval pottery (13th century) and an undated skull have been recovered (Fig. 2).

The site is also within an area where the remains of Iron Age and Roman salt production have been identified.

3. AIMS

The aim of the watching brief was to ensure that any archaeological remains exposed during excavations were recorded and analysed in order to determine their date, function and origin.

4. METHODS

A bulldozer was used to remove topsoil and subsoil from the area of extension to the north of the existing pond. The extended area covered approximately 15.36 hectares. All excavations were carried out under archaeological supervision. Subsequently, as no archaeological remains were identified, it was agreed with the County Archaeological Officer, that a sample of two test pits would be excavated in order to look for evidence of a buried ground surface and to examine all deposits below the subsoil. The testpits were mechanically excavated under archaeological supervision. The stripped area and the sides of the test pits were examined for archaeological remains. Each deposit exposed was allocated a unique reference number, called a context number, (written in brackets in the text) and a written description was made on an APS *pro forma* record sheet. A list of contexts found and their descriptions appear in Appendix 2. The test pits and surrounding areas were photographed and representative sections were drawn at a scale of 1:10.

5. RESULTS

Records of all deposits identified during the watching brief were examined. Phasing was assigned based on the nature of the deposits and recognisable relationships between them. Two phases were identified:

Phase 1 Natural deposits.

Phase 2 Modern deposits.

Phase 1 Natural deposits

The earliest deposit encountered in the test pits was a loose yellowish brown clean sand [006]. The top of the deposit occurred at 0.70m below the present ground surface and was exposed to a depth of 0.35m, though continued beyond the lower limit of excavation. This was overlain by a very similar layer [003], containing flint gravel. The layer measured up to 0.25m thick. A 0.35m thick, firm orangey brown, clayey silt [002], containing occasional flint fragments overlay the above deposits (Fig. 3).

Phase 2 Modern deposits

An oval pit [004], measuring 1.2m long and 0.8m wide was exposed during the bulldozing of the top soil. The pit was filled with firm, mid greyish brown silty clay [005] and contained very modern rubbish, including plastic (not retained).

A 0.25m thick layer of friable mid greyish brown clayey silt topsoil [001] was the final deposit recorded in the sequence.

6 DISCUSSION

The sands and gravels encountered at depth are probably the result of marine deposition. Although the general description of the underlying natural deposits for this area is of reclaimed marine alluvium, a localised higher energy depositional environment would result in the laying down of larger particled sand and gravel.

The subsoil that overlies the sands and gravels is made up almost entirely of silt with some clay. The origin of the silts and clays is very likely to be marine alluvium, that has subsequently undergone soil formation processes.

The topsoil is also composed of a high percentage of silt mixed with a little clay and is the result of natural soil processes that have mixed the underlying sub soil with organic matter. The pit represents modern rubbish disposal.

7 CONCLUSIONS

An archaeological watching brief was carried out at land off High Lane, Croft because of the proximity of a findspot containing evidence of prehistoric and medieval activity and because of its location within an area of Iron Age and Roman salt production.

No archaeological features or artefacts were encountered during the investigation.

In this area, archaeological deposits are generally found well below the subsoil and may be covered with a significant depth of silt. The lack of archaeological remains may perhaps be explained, by the very limited area of the deeper test pit excavations, although no evidence of a buried ground surface, or any indication of archaeological deposits were observed.

The natural sands and gravels recorded, however, have added detail to our knowledge of the localised depositional environment in the area investigated.

8 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeological Project Services wish to acknowledge Mr. A. Spence for commissioning the field work and report. Denise Drury co-ordinated the work and Denise Drury and Tom Lane edited this report. Mark Bennet of Lincolnshire Sites and Monuments Records Office provided access to the relevant files.

9 PERSONNEL

Project Co-ordinator: Denise Drury
Supervisors: James Snee

Illustration: Phil Mills
Joanna Hambly

Post-excavation
analysis: Joanna Hambly

10 BIBLIOGRAPHY

Hodge, C.A.H., Burton, R.G.O., Corbett, W.M., Evans, R. and Seale R.S., 1984 *Soils and Their Use in Eastern England*, Soil Survey of England and Wales 13.

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

11 ABBREVIATIONS

IFA Institute of Field Archaeologists.

OD Ordnance Datum

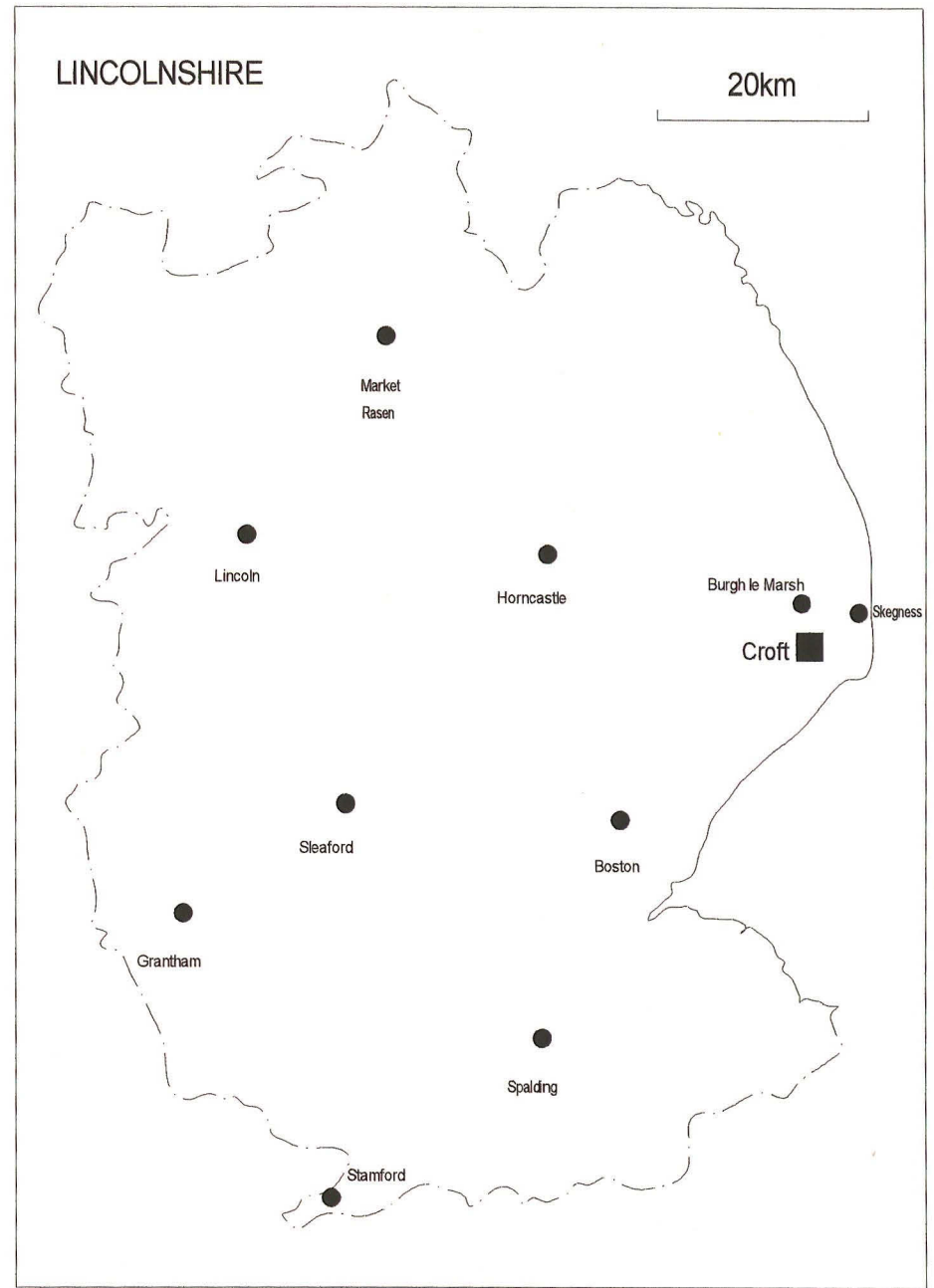


Figure 1 General Location Plan

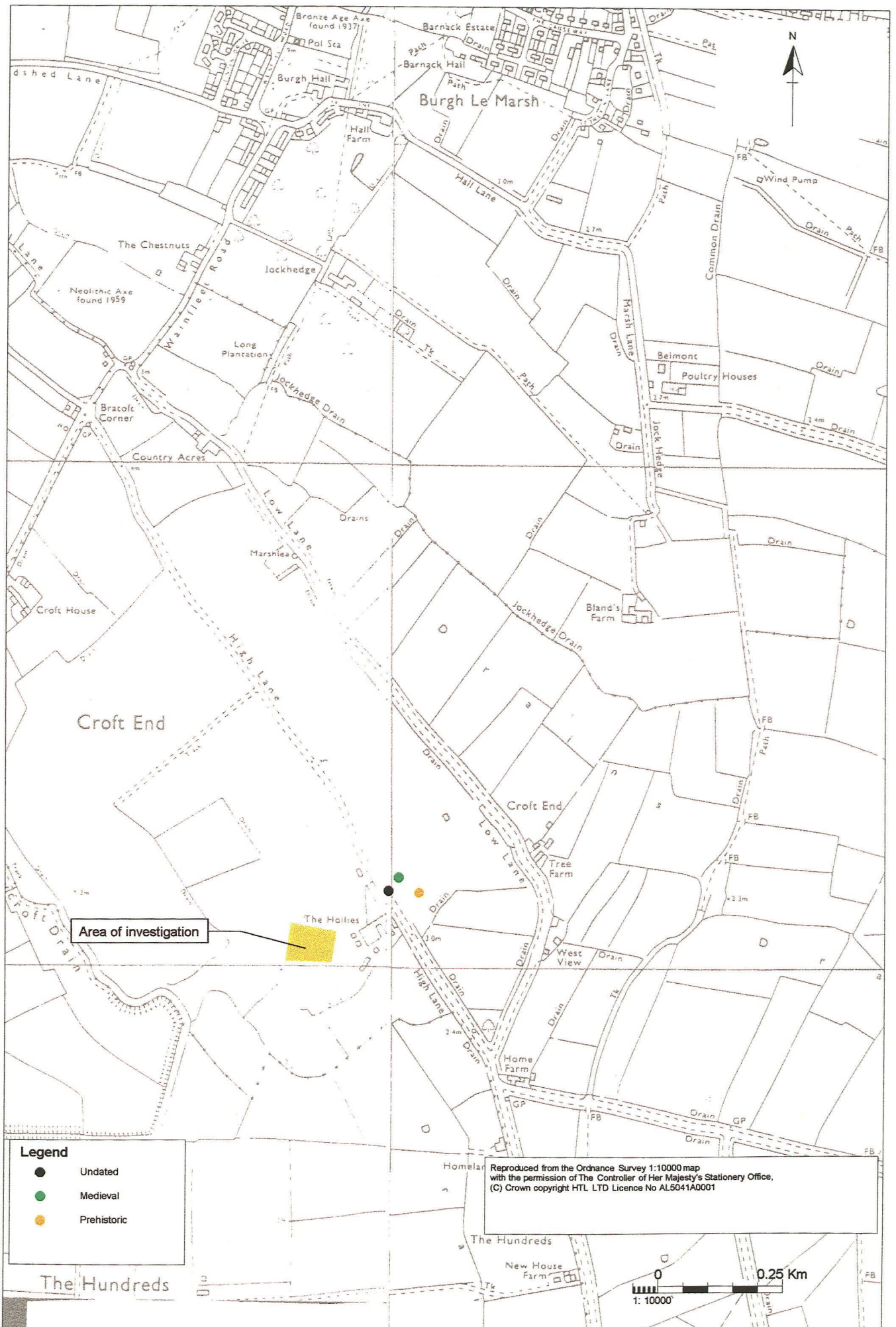


Figure 2 Site location plan and archaeological setting

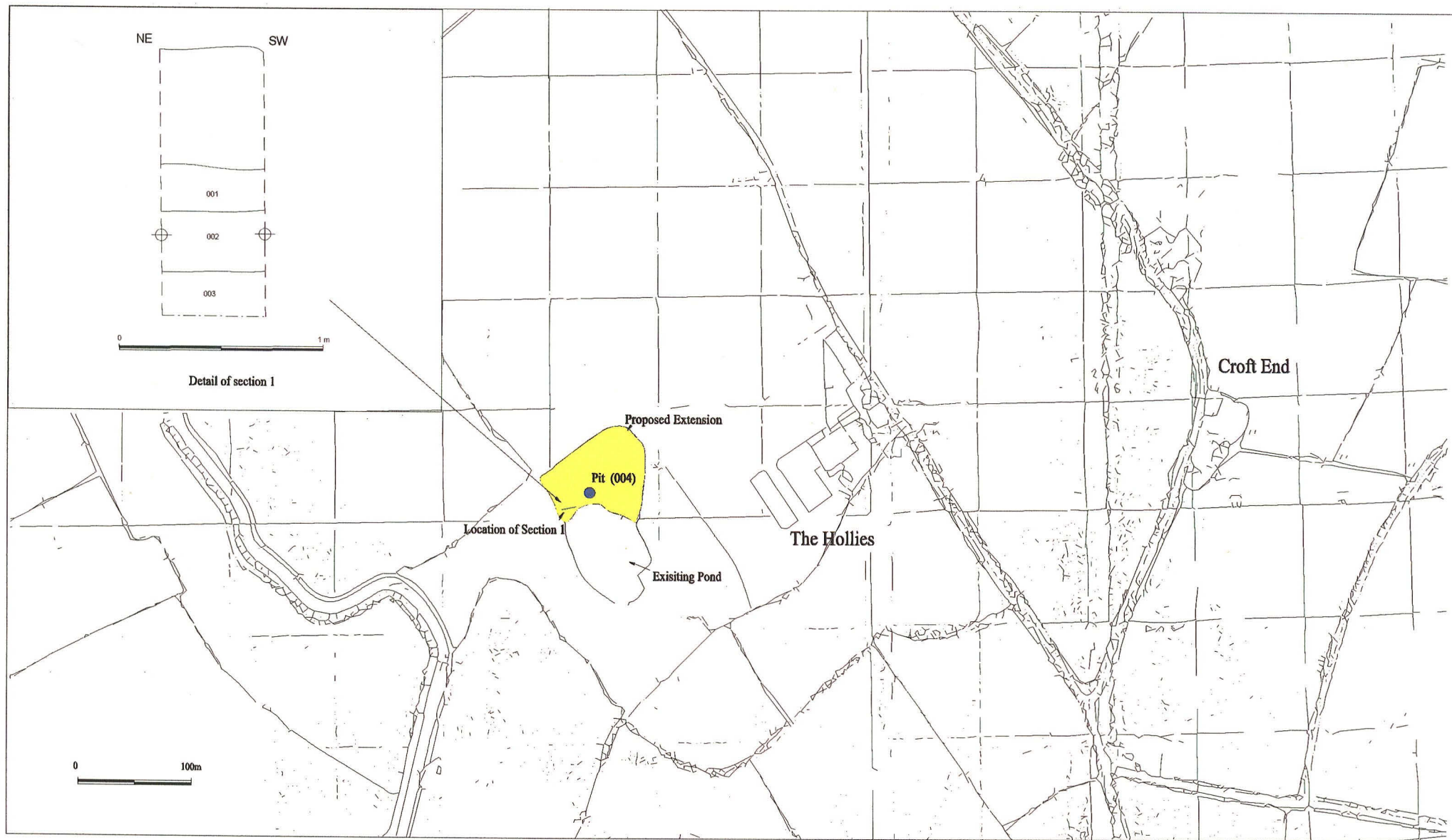


Figure 3. Site location and detail of section 1



▲ Plate 1 General view of site looking west



◀ Plate 2 View of section detail in test pit, looking south

Plate 3 View of section detail in test pit, looking south ➤



Appendix 1

SPECIFICATION FOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

LAND AT
HIGH LANE
CROFT
LINCOLNSHIRE

SPECIFICATION FOR
ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

PREPARED FOR
JE SPENCE AND SON

BY
ARCHAEOLOGICAL PROJECT SERVICES
Institute of Field Archaeologists'
Registered Organisation No. 21

MARCH 2000

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1 SUMMARY

- 1.1 *A watching brief is required during an extension to a pond on land off High Lane, Croft, Skegness, Lincolnshire.*
- 1.2 *The development lies in an area where prehistoric and medieval pottery has been found and medieval earthworks have been identified. In addition undated human remains have been recorded in the area.*
- 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 results of the investigation. 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 on land off High Lane, Croft, Skegness, national grid reference TF 49735 63017.
- 2.2 This document contains the following parts:
 - 2.2.1 Overview.
 - 2.2.2 Stages of work and methodologies.
 - 2.2.3 List of specialists.
 - 2.2.4 Programme of works and staffing structure of the project.

3 SITE LOCATION

- 3.1 Skegness lies on the east coast of Lincolnshire, approximately 58km east of Lincoln, in the administrative district of East Lindsey. The site is located approximately 6km west of Skegness, at Croft End, lying roughly half way between Burgh le Marsh, to the north, and Croft village, to the south. The site is situated about 200m to the west of The Hollies, off High Lane, at national grid reference TF 49735 63017.

4 PLANNING BACKGROUND

- 4.1 A planning application (S/039/0631/99) was submitted to East Lindsey District

Council for an extension to an existing pond. Full planning permission was granted subject to a condition requiring the implementation of an archaeological watching brief during all stages of the development involving ground disturbance.

5 SOILS AND TOPOGRAPHY

- 5.1 The site is on fairly level land at approximately 2m OD. Local soils of the area are of the Wallasea 2 Association, pelo-alluvial gleys on reclaimed marine alluvium (Hodge *et al.* 1984, 338).

6 THE ARCHAEOLOGY

- 6.1 The development site lies close to areas where prehistoric and medieval artefacts have been found and earthworks dating from the medieval period have been identified. In addition undated human remains have been recorded in the area.
- 6.2 Prehistoric and Roman salt making sites have been identified in the general area.

7 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- 7.1 The aims of the watching brief will be:
- 7.1.1 To record and interpret the archaeological features exposed during all phases of the groundworks.
- 7.2 The objectives of the watching brief will be to:
- 7.2.1 Determine the form and function of the archaeological features encountered;
- 7.2.2 Determine the spatial arrangement of the archaeological features encountered;
- 7.2.3 As far as practicable, recover dating evidence from the archaeological features, and
- 7.2.4 Establish the sequence of the archaeological remains present on the site.

8 SITE OPERATIONS

- 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 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.

8.1.3 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.

8.2 Methodology

8.2.1 The watching brief will be undertaken during the ground works phase of development, and includes the archaeological monitoring of all phases of soil movement.

8.2.2 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.

8.2.3 Any finds recovered will be bagged and labelled for later analysis.

8.2.4 Throughout the watching brief a photographic record will be compiled. The photographic record will consist of:

8.2.4.1 The site during work to show specific stages, and the layout of the archaeology within the trench.

8.2.4.2 groups of features where their relationship is important

8.2.5 Should human remains be located the appropriate Home Office licence will be obtained before their removal. In addition, the archaeological curator, Local Environmental Health Department, coroner and the police will be informed, as appropriate.

9 **POST-EXCAVATION**

9.1 Stage 1

9.1.1 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.

9.1.2 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.

9.2 Stage 2

9.2.1 Detailed examination of the stratigraphic matrix to enable the determination of the various phases of activity on the site.

9.2.2 Finds will be sent to specialists for identification and dating.

9.3 Stage 3

9.3.1 On completion of stage 2, a report detailing the findings of the watching brief will be prepared.

9.3.2 This will consist of:

9.3.2.1 A non-technical summary of the results of the investigation.

9.3.2.2 A description of the archaeological setting of the watching brief.

9.3.2.3 Description of the topography of the site.

9.3.2.4 Description of the methodologies used during the watching brief.

9.3.2.5 A text describing the findings of the watching brief.

9.3.2.6 A consideration of the local, regional and national context of the watching brief findings.

9.3.2.7 Plans of the archaeological features exposed. If a sequence of archaeological deposits is encountered, separate plans for each phase will be produced.

9.3.2.8 Sections of the archaeological features.

9.3.2.9 Interpretation of the archaeological features exposed, and their chronology and setting within the surrounding landscape.

9.3.2.10 Specialist reports on the finds from the site.

9.3.2.11 Appropriate photographs of the site and specific archaeological features.

10 REPORT DEPOSITION

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

11 ARCHIVE

11.1 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

12.1 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

13.1 Curatorial responsibility for the archaeological work undertaken on the site lies with the County Archaeological Officer. They will be given seven days notice in writing before the commencement of the project.

14 VARIATIONS

14.1 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

- 15.1 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.
- 15.2 An archaeological supervisor with experience of watching briefs will undertake the work.
- 15.3 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 three days or longer then there will be an economy of scale with the post-excavation analysis.

16 SPECIALISTS TO BE USED DURING THE PROJECT

- 16.1 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.

<u>Task</u>	<u>Body to be undertaking the work</u>
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 with G Taylor, APS
Briquetage	T Lane
Non-pottery Artefacts	J Cowgill, Independent Specialist
Animal Bones	Environmental Archaeology Consultancy

Environmental Analysis J Rackham, Independent Specialist

Human Remains Analysis R Gowland, Independent Specialist

17 INSURANCES

17.1 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.

18 COPYRIGHT

18.1 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.

18.2 Licence will also be given to the archaeological curators to use the documentary archive for educational, public and research purposes.

18.3 In the case of non-satisfactory settlement of account then copyright will remain fully and exclusively with Archaeological Project Services. In these circumstances it will be an infringement under the *Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988* for the client to pass any report, partial report, or copy of same, to any third party. Reports submitted in good faith by Archaeological Project Services to any Planning Authority or archaeological curator will be removed from said planning Authority and/or archaeological curator. The Planning Authority and/or archaeological curator will be notified by Archaeological Project Services that the use of any such information previously supplied constitutes an infringement under the *Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988* and may result in legal action.

18.4 The author of any report or specialist contribution to a report shall retain intellectual copyright of their work and may make use of their work for educational or research purposes or for further publication.

19 BIBLIOGRAPHY

Hodge, CAH, Burton, RGO, Corbett, WM, Evans, R, and Seale, RS, 1984 *Soils and their use in Eastern England*, Soil Survey of England and Wales 13

Specification: Version 1, 15/03/2000

Appendix 2

CONTEXT SUMMARY

Context number	Description	Interpretation
001	Friable, mid-greyish brown, clayey silt containing occasional flint pebbles	Topsoil
002	Firm, orangey brown, clayey silt containing occasional flint fragments	Subsoil
003	Loose, orangey brown, sand and flint gravel	Natural sands and gravels
004	Oval cut, 1.2m long, 0.8m wide, oriented e-w	Modern pit
005	Firm, mid-greyish brown, silty clay	Fill of modern pit [004]
006	Loose, yellowish brown, sand	Natural alluvial sand

Appendix 3

GLOSSARY

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 between 700BC and 43AD (in Britain)
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 period dating from 1066 to 1500.
Natural	Deposit(s) of soil or rock which have accumulated without the influence of human activity.
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.
Roman	The period dating from AD 43-410 when the Romans occupied Britain.

Appendix 4

THE ARCHIVE

The archive consists of:

- 1 context register sheet
- 6 context sheets
- 1 photographic record sheet for colour slides
- 1 section record sheet
- 1 plan record sheet
- 1 sketch plan
- 1 1:10 scale section drawings
- This document

The digital archive consists of:

- Copies of illustrations used in this report in CAD format
- Copies of the photos used in this report in JPEG format
- Copies of this report in Word Perfect 5.1 format
- All digital archives are stored at APS.

All primary records 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 Museum Accession Number: **2000.93**

Archaeological Project Services Site Code: **CHL00**

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.