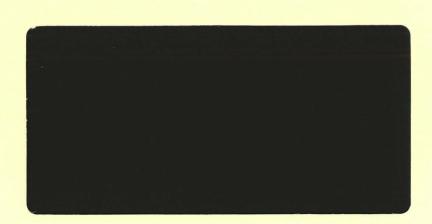
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# ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF OF DEVELOPMENT ON LAND ADJACENT TO THE ABACUS, MARKET PLACE, SWINESHEAD, LINCOLNSHIRE (SMP 99)

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ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF OF DEVELOPMENT ON LAND ADJACENT TO THE ABACUS, MARKET PLACE, SWINESHEAD, LINCOLNSHIRE (SMP 99)

> Work Undertaken For Mr and Mrs Hughes

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

May 2000

Planning Application No: B/99/0491/FULL National Grid Reference: TF 2387 4023 City and County Museum Accession No: 2000.14

A.P.S. Report No: 69/00



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# 1. SUMMARY

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken during development on land adjacent to the Market Place, Swineshead, Lincolnshire. The watching brief monitored the excavation of the foundation trenches for a new extension to existing buildings.

The Market Place lies at the core of the medieval (AD1066-1500) village, although the village is first mentioned in a charter dating to the 7<sup>th</sup> century. Within the Market place are the remains of a 14<sup>th</sup> century market cross.

The investigation identified two features, both of which were associated with brick surfaces. No function could be determined for these features and they may have been part of the garden or served an industrial use. A quantity of pottery, including medieval and post-medieval wares, glass, clay pipes and animal bone were retrieved during this 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 nonarchaeological 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 and Mrs Hughes to undertake an archaeological watching brief during construction of a kitchen extension at 'The Abacus', Market Place, Swineshead, Lincolnshire. Approval for the development was sought through the submission of planning application B/99/0491/FULL. The watching brief was carried out between the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> January 2000 in accordance with a brief set by the Boston Community Archaeologist (Appendix 1).

#### 2.3 Topography and Geology

Swineshead is situated 40km southeast of Lincoln, 10km southwest of Boston and 7km from the coast of the Wash in Boston District, Lincolnshire (Fig. 1).

The development site is situated 100m east of the centre of the village as defined by the parish church of St. Mary (Fig. 2). Located at TF 2387 4023 the site is in an area of relatively level ground at a height of c. 5m OD.

Local soils are of the Romney Series, typically coarse silty gleyic brown calcareous alluvial soils (Robson 1990, 26). These soils overlie a drift geology of younger marine alluvium which seals a solid geology of Jurassic Ampthill Clay (BGS 1995).

# 2.4 Archaeological Setting

The development site lies within an area of known archaeological remains dating from the Saxon period to the present day. Prehistoric and Romano-British material is known from the parish but not in the vicinity of the site. A Saxon strap-end and a buckle have both been retrieved from the village.

Swineshead is first mentioned in 675 AD in the Anglo-Saxon Chronicles. Referred to as *Swines hæfed*, the name is derived from the Old English *swin* meaning creek or a channel (Ekwall 1974, 457). The Anglo-Saxon Chronicles relates how land in Swineshead was given for the foundation of Peterborough Abbey (Swanton 1997, 37). A charter also mentioning Swineshead, dating from 664 AD is believed to be a forgery (Hart 1966, 97). Swineshead is not mentioned in the Domesday Survey of c. 1086.

Medieval finds are relatively common in the village and also include extant monuments of this period. St. Mary's church dates to *c*. 1300 with later 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> century additions (DoE 1988, 45). Standing in the Market Place is a 14<sup>th</sup> century market cross, one of two crosses within the village. Located 1km to the northeast of Swineshead are the earthworks known as the Manwar Ings, a motte and bailey castle. Earthworks also survive of the Cistercian abbey, situated 1.8km to the east, which was founded in the 12<sup>th</sup> century.

# 3. AIMS

The requirements of the watching brief, as detailed 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.

# 5. **RESULTS**

Following post-excavation analysis, only a single phase, that of recent deposits, was recognised. Archaeological contexts are listed below and described. The numbers in brackets are the context numbers assigned in the field.

The earliest deposit encountered throughout the trenches was a greyish brown silt (002). This was greater than 0.75m thick and contained pottery dating from the  $13^{\text{th}}$  century to the  $18^{\text{th}}/19^{\text{th}}$  centuries.

Cut into the silt at the northern end of the development was a circular brick lined well (010). This was 0.76m in diameter and was associated with a length of lead pipe aligned northeast-southwest (Fig. 4). Across the well was a modern sewer pipe.

Cut into the silt (002) at the southern end of the development was a semi-circular feature (004), possibly a refuse pit (Fig. 5, Section 2). This was 0.6m wide and 0.35m deep. Deposit (002) rose in height west of this feature where a brick surface had been laid (005). The pit was filled with black and greyish brown sandy silt (001) which also sealed the brick surface. Pottery retrieved from (001) was of 16<sup>th</sup> to early 20<sup>th</sup> century date.

Located north of this brick surface and cut into (001) was a 1.65m long feature (009). This was 0.45m deep and contained a second brick surface (008). Overlying this surface was greyish white mortar (007) and black sandy silt (006).

A topsoil of black and greyish brown sandy silt (003) sealed all the deposits.

# 6. DISCUSSION

The earliest deposit encountered was possibly of alluvial origin although has since been heavily disturbed as indicated by the inclusion of 13<sup>th</sup> century to 19<sup>th</sup> century pottery.

Two unusual features were encountered. A pit associated with a brick surface and a stratigraphically later brick surface set within a feature and covered with mortar. No function can be easily determined for either feature. However, they may have served as garden features or possibly had an industrial function A well, associated with a lead pipe, was also recorded.

A quantity of pottery, glass, clay pipe and animal bone was retrieved from the investigation. The earliest pottery is medieval in date and includes Lincoln ware and Toynton type wares. Post-medieval pottery includes locally made Boston/Bolingbroke types as well as examples from Norfolk and Germany.

# 7. CONCLUSIONS

Archaeological investigations were undertaken at the Market Place, Swineshead as the site lay within an area of known archaeological remains, notably the medieval core of the village.

Above a disturbed alluvial deposit were two brick surfaces set within cuts. Both of these may have served an industrial function or were simple garden features.

Residual medieval pottery was retrieved along with post-medieval types as well as glass, clay pipes and animal bone. The nature of the local site conditions would suggest that few environmental indicators (seeds, wood, shells *etc.*) would survive, other than through charring.

# 8. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeological Project Services would like to acknowledge the assistance of Mr and Mrs Hughes who commissioned the fieldwork and post excavation analysis. 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: Tobin Rayner Illustration: Paul Cope-Faulkner Photographic Reproduction: Sue Unsworth Post-excavation Analyst: Paul Cope-Faulkner

#### 10. **BIBLIOGRAPHY**

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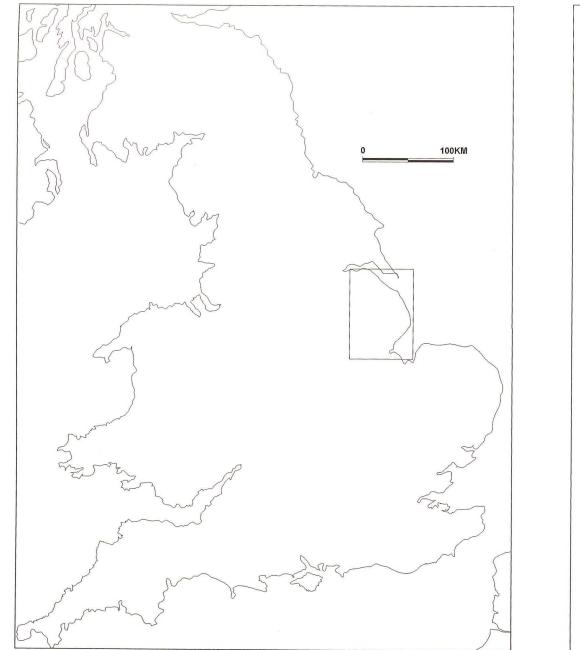
#### 11. ABBREVIATIONS

APS Archaeological Project Services

BGS British Geological Survey

DoE Department of the Environment

IFA Institute of Field Archaeologists



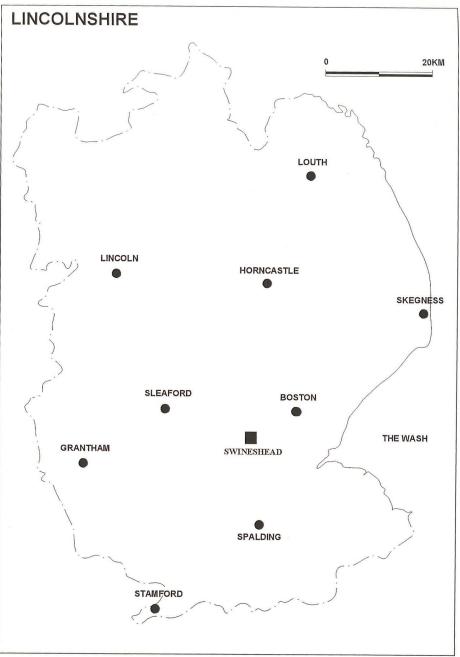


Figure 1 - General location map

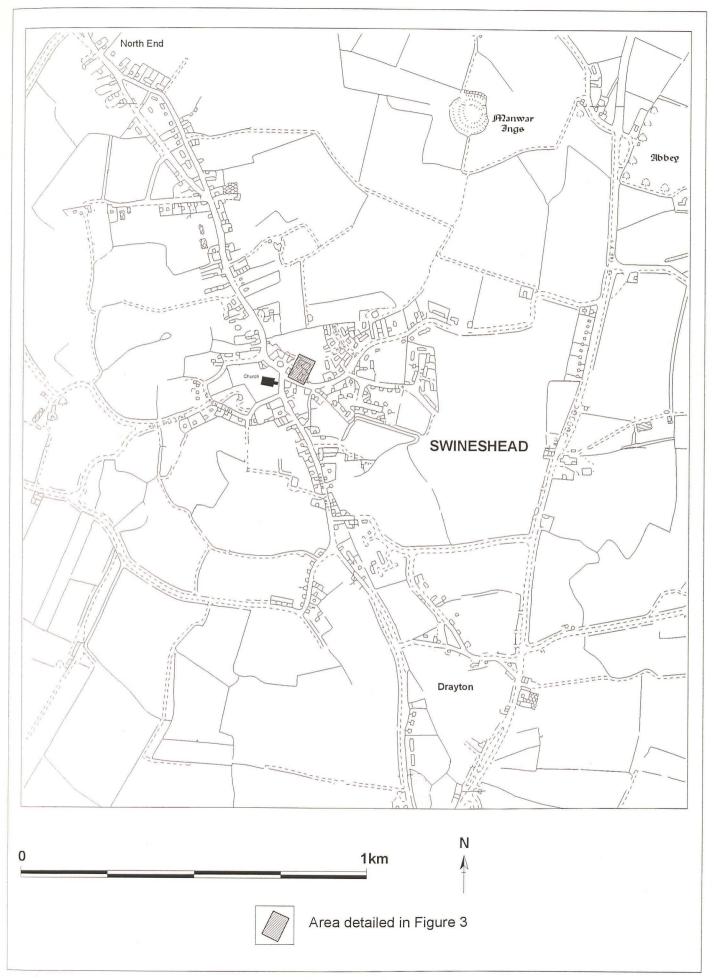


Figure 2 - Site Location Plan



Figure 3 - Plan showing location of new extension

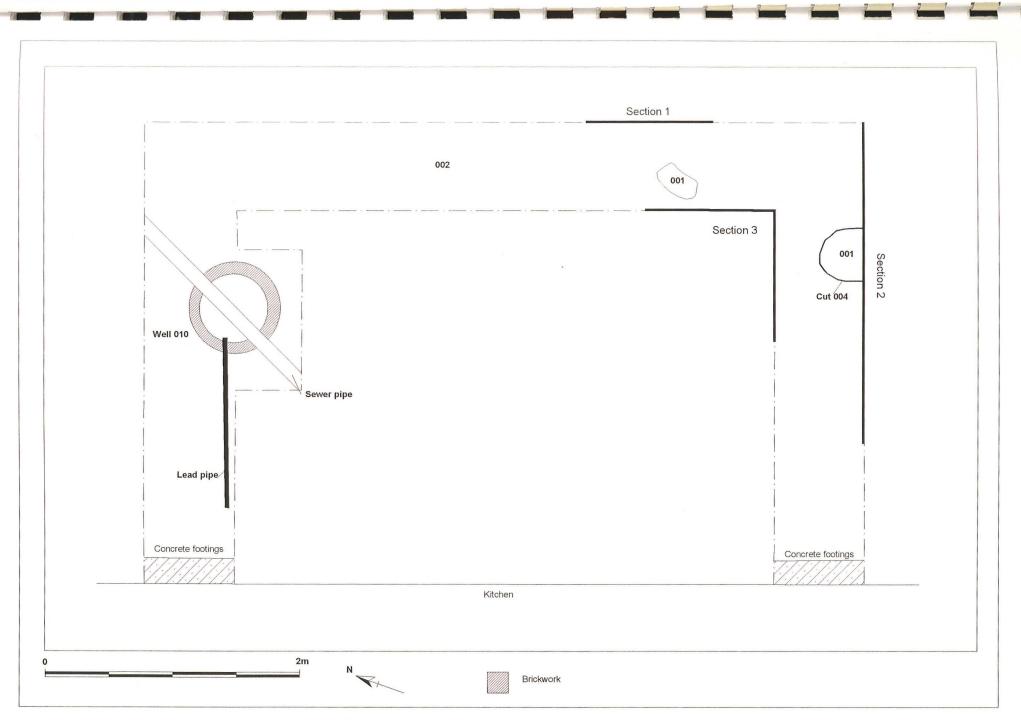


Figure 4 - Plan of the foundation trench, showing section locations and major features

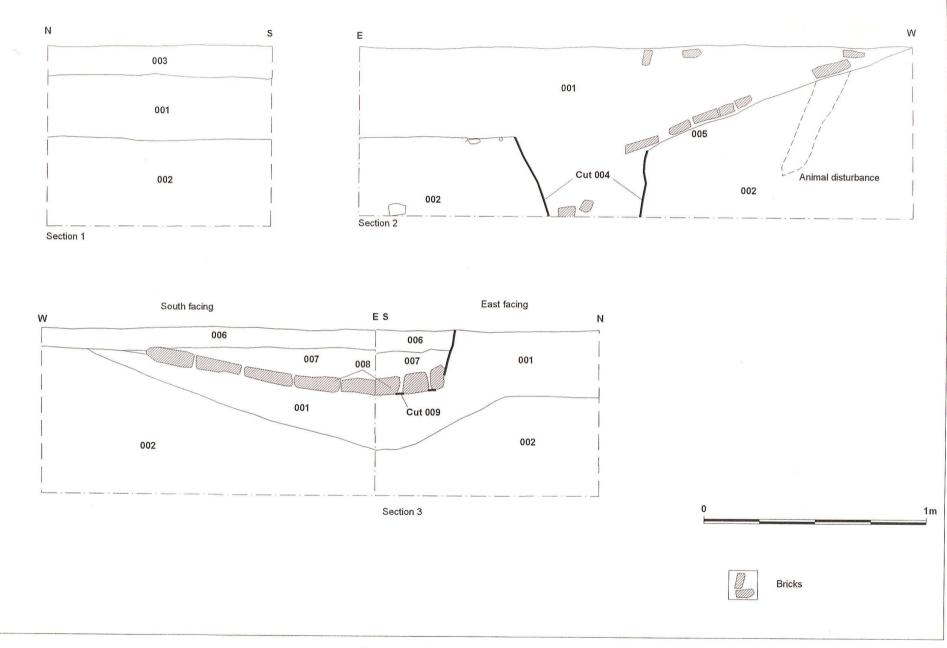


Figure 5 - Sections 1, 2 and 3



Plate 1 - General view of the development area, looking southwest



Plate 2 - Section 3, looking northwest



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Plate 3 - Well 010

# ARCHAEOLOGICAL PROJECT BRIEF - ENHANCED OBSERVATION AND RECORDING

# 'The Abacus', The Market Place, Swineshead

#### 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 kitchen extension, at the Abacus, The Market Place, Swineshead.
- 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.lincscc.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 that 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 the date March 2000. After this 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. Swineshead is approximately 1.9km to the south west.

#### 3. Planning Background

3.1 A planning application was submitted to Boston Borough Council (B99/0491FULL) 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 Two prehistoric stone axes have been recovered from Swineshead. The prehistoric land surface, however, is known to deeply buried under later peat and alluvial silt.
- 4.2 Romano-British pottery has been recorded from the area around Swineshead.
- 4.3 A late Saxon strap-end has been found near the centre of the village. The earliest historical reference to Swineshead dates approximately to 650 A.D. (the Anglo-Saxon Chronical refers to 'Swineshaefed').
- 4.4 Medieval pottery finds are common in the village, and evidence from chance finds and previous fieldwork suggests that occupation from this period is widespread. The surrounding landscape has several standing monuments from this period including St Mary's church and Manwar Ings Castle.
- 4.5 Swineshead was a market town during the medieval period with charters for two annual fairs. There is a stone market cross in the centre of the village which provided a focus for trading activities during the medieval

period and later. The Abacus is located in the historic core of Swineshead, approximately 120 metres northeast of St Mary's Church. The church has a medieval foundation and would have been a focal point for the village.

4.6 Swineshead was also an important port during in the medieval period. Many medieval artefacts, including pottery, coins and copper alloy objects (including a buckle identified as Saxon) have been recovered north of Bullens Lane.

#### 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.
  - 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 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 of 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.

Brief set by Boston Community Archaeologist October 1999

# CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

No.	Description	Interpretation
001	Soft black and greyish brown sandy silt, with brick and limestone fragments, 0.75m maximum thickness	Dumped deposit
002	Soft mid greyish brown silt, with charcoal flecks, >0.75m thick	Disturbed deposit
003	Loose black sandy silt, 0.14m thick	Topsoil
004	Semi-circular feature, 0.6m wide by 0.35m deep	Refuse pit
005	Brick structure, flat laid bricks with 1.08m extent	Brick surface
006	Loose black sandy silt, with frequent brick and tile, 0.1m thick	Dumped deposit
007	Loose greyish white mortar, 0.12m thick	Fill of 009
008	Brick structure (as 005), 1.3m length	Brick surface
009	Feature, 1.65m long by 0.45m deep, rounded base	Cut for 008
010	Brick circular structure, 0.76m diameter	Well
011	Circular feature, containing 010	Cut for well

# THE FINDS

# Paul Cope-Faulkner BA (Hons), Rachael Hall BA (Hons), Hilary Healey MPhil and Gary Taylor MA

#### Provenance

The material was evenly distributed from a disturbed subsoil (002) and a widespread dumped deposit (001).

Most all the pottery is relatively local, derived from kilns at Boston/Bolingbroke and Toynton All Saints, between 10km and 22km to the northeast of Swineshead. Much of the later pottery was probably made in Staffordshire, though there are pieces from Nottingham. Additionally, there are fragments from Germany and Norfolk.

#### Range

The range of material is detailed in the following tables;

Table 1: The Pottery

Context	Description	Latest Date
001	1x Boston/Bolingroke-type ware, pancheon?, 16 <sup>th</sup> -17 <sup>th</sup> century 1x Boston type ware, copying Dutch red earthenware, 17 <sup>th</sup> -18 <sup>th</sup> century 1x red painted earthenware, black glazed, late 18 <sup>th</sup> -19 <sup>th</sup> century 1x Midlands Purple-type, black glazed ware, 17 <sup>th</sup> -18 <sup>th</sup> century 2x creamware, 18 <sup>th</sup> -early 19 <sup>th</sup> century 5x blue and white transfer printed tableware, 2 linked, 19 <sup>th</sup> century 2x soft-paste porcelain, blue and white transfer printed tableware, 19 <sup>th</sup> century 3x yellow glazed earthenware, 19 <sup>th</sup> -early 20 <sup>th</sup> century 1x underglaze blue (cobalt) tableware, cup, 19 <sup>th</sup> century 1x saltglazed stoneware, ?Frechen, 17 <sup>th</sup> century 1x black and white transfer printed tableware, jar lid, 19 <sup>th</sup> -early 20 <sup>th</sup> century 1x white glazed tableware, eggcup, 19 <sup>th</sup> -early 20 <sup>th</sup> century 1x vellow and brown transfer printed tableware, 19 <sup>th</sup> -early 20 <sup>th</sup> century 1x Nottingham saltglazed stoneware, including 3 linked sherds from mug/posset, 18 <sup>th</sup> -early 19 <sup>th</sup> century	19 <sup>th</sup> -early 20 <sup>th</sup> century
002	1x pearlware, hand painted, ?19 <sup>th</sup> century 1x red painted earthenware, black glazed, 18 <sup>th</sup> -19 <sup>th</sup> century 1x Lincoln ware, jug, 13 <sup>th</sup> century 2x Boston/Bolingbroke-type ware, including ?cistern, copying Dutch red earthenware, 17 <sup>th</sup> -18 <sup>th</sup> century 4x Toynton All Saints-type ware, 14 <sup>th</sup> -15 <sup>th</sup> century 2x Boston/Bolingroke-type ware, tripod cooking pot, sooted externally; not linked but probably same vessel, 16 <sup>th</sup> -17 <sup>th</sup> century 1x West Norfolk bichrome, 17 <sup>th</sup> century 1x nib tile, burnt	Loth Loth
	3x brick/tile/field drain	18 <sup>th</sup> -19 <sup>th</sup> century

The black and white transfer printed jar lid from (001) bears the legend 'CREAM'.

Although most of the pottery is fairly local, there is a regional import of Norfolk bichrome ware. This pottery type is probably from West Norfolk (Jennings 1981, 148). Additionally, there is a probable German import, the piece of apparent Frechen stoneware.

Table 2: Clay Pipe

Context	Description	Latest Date
001	4x clay pipe stems; 3x 4/64" bore; 1x 5/64" bore 1x clay pipe bowl fragment, bore 4/64"; mid 19 <sup>th</sup> century	19 <sup>th</sup> century
002	1x clay pipe stem, bore 5/64"	18 <sup>th</sup> -early 19 <sup>th</sup> century

The pipe bowl fragment from (001) is fluted and with a thin, spiky spur. It is similar to Mann forms 186-8, *c*. 1840-80, though too little survives to be certain (Mann 1977, 27-9).

#### Table 3: The Glass

Context	Description	Latest Date
001	2x body sherds, dark green wine bottle glass 1x body sherd, light green rectangular bottle	
	1x body sherd of colourless mould decorated glass, ?jug	19 <sup>th</sup> - 20 <sup>th</sup> century

#### Table 4: The Animal Bone

Context	Description
001	1x cattle sized unidentifiable fragment 1x sheep sized metacarpus/metatarsus fragment, dog gnawed, butchery marks
002	1x cattle sized pelvis fragment, butchery marks

#### Condition

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

#### Documentation

Numerous archaeological investigations in Swineshead have previously been undertaken and reported. Records of archaeological remains and finds are maintained in the files of the Boston Community Archaeologist and the County Sites and Monuments Record.

#### Potential

In general, the assemblage has moderate potential and suggests the presence of posst-medieval occupation on, or in close proximity to, the site. Additionally, although recovered as residual artefacts, several medieval pottery fragments indicate activity of this period in the vicinity.

#### References

Mann, J. E., 1977 Clay Tobacco Pipes from Excavations in Lincoln 1970-74, Lincoln Archaeological Trust Monograph Series Vol XV-1

Jennings, S. 1981 Eighteen Centuries of Pottery from Norwich, East Anglian Archaeology 13

# 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 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, $e.g.(004)$ .
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.
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.
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

#### THE ARCHIVE

The archive consists of:

- 11 Context records
- 4 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:	2000.14
Archaeological Project Services Site Code:	SMP 99

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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