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ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF OF LAND AT JEKIL'S BANK AND FOX HEADINGS LANE HOLBEACH ST JOHN SPALDING, LINCOLNSHIRE (HWL00)

in WHAPLODE

Work Undertaken For East Midlands Electricity

June 2000

Report Compiled by Tobin Rayner BSc (Hons)

Planning Application No: H23/1285/99 National Grid Reference: TF 3325 1795 City and County Museum Accession No: 2000.92



A.P.S. Report No. 82/00

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#### 1. SUMMARY

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken during cabling work by East Midlands Electricity alongside Jekil's Bank and Fox Headings Lane close to Whaplode Lodge, Holbeach St Johns, Lincolnshire.

The development site lies in an area containing extensive remains of the Romano-British landscape. A settlement site is recorded in the field immediately opposite Whaplode Lodge and Romano-British artefacts have previously been found in the vicinity.

This investigation identified a sequence of natural silt cut by a poorly defined ditch or hollow and overlain with subsoils.

Briquetage was recovered from the subsoil and reaffirms the data previously obtained from fieldwalking, that salt making was taking place during the Late Iron Age or Early Roman period within the area. The discovery of a ditch or hollow, dated to the same period through inference, probably suggests that the recorded settlement site to the north may have extended further south, probably in the form of field systems.

The archaeological remains were buried by up to 0.27m of modern topsoil or a tarmac road surface.

#### 2. INTRODUCTION

#### 2.1 Definition of a Watching Brief

An archaeological watching brief is 'defined as a formal program 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 maybe disturbed or destroyed. ' (IFA 1997).

#### 2.2 Planning Background

Between the 12<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> April 2000 an archaeological watching brief was undertaken during ground work alongside Jekil's Bank and Fox Headings Lane, Holbeach St Johns, Lincolnshire. A planning application (H23/1285/99) was submitted to South Holland District Council by East Midlands Electricity for cabling work, including overhead and underground lines. Approval was subject to a condition requiring the implementation of an archaeological watching brief during groundworks.

#### 2.2 Topography and Geology

Holbeach St Johns lies approximately 6km south of Holbeach and 10km southeast of Spalding in the administrative district of South Holland, Lincolnshire (Fig. 1).

The cabling work was undertaken between Whaplode Lodge and Kingsways Cottage along Jekil's Bank and Fox Headings to the west of the village. Centred on National Grid Reference TF 3325 1795 the site lies at approximately 3m OD on relatively level land (Fig. 2, Plate 1).

Local soils are the Wallasea 2 Association, pelo-alluvial gley soils developed on reclaimed marine alluvium (Hodge *et al.* 1984, 338). This alluvium in turn seals a solid geology of Upper Jurassic clays (BGS 1992).

#### 2.3 Archaeological Setting

Holbeach St Johns is situated in an area of known archaeological remains dating from the Iron Age to the present day. A Roman settlement is recorded in the field opposite Whaplode Lodge and took the form of an extensive scatter of pottery, quern fragments, animal bones, shell and, rarely for the Fenland, a human skeleton. Most of the pottery was dated to the third-fourth century AD (Hallam 1970, 308). Numerous other Roman sites are recorded in the area, one of the best known being the Bees Farm site c. 1km to the northwest, where abundant briquetage was associated with pottery of both Roman and Iron Age date. The site was the first of Iron Age date recognised in that part of the Fenland, although many more were recorded during the Fenland Survey.

Less than 3km to the southeast lies the site of Shell Bridge where excavations took place in the 1960s and again in 1983. These excavations yielded extensive finds of briquetage (ceramic equipment used in processing sea salt) and Roman pottery of second-third century date (Gurney 1999; Bell 1999).

No Saxon finds have been made in this area, although the villages of Fleet, Holbeach and Gedney are believed to have started at this time. The area of Holbeach St Johns remained as unoccupied fen until the succession of fen banks were built in medieval period. The Watching Brief was conducted along the site of one such bank, known as Hassock Dyke or Jiggles Bank. There is little evidence now of the bank, which was constructed around 1190-95, and it may have been broken down and carted away when the next bank, Lord's Dyke, was made. Arable land is recorded north of Hassock Dyke by 1218-36 (Hallam 1954 21), and much of the area was given over to arable agriculture at an early date.

The current hamlet of Holbeach St John grew up around a chapel built along the drove route on which cattle were driven to the fen.

#### 3. AIMS

The aim of the watching brief, as outlined in the project specification (Appendix 1), was to record and interpret archaeological features exposed during the ground disturbance. The objectives were to determine the form, function, spatial arrangement, date and sequence of any archaeological remains revealed.

#### 4. METHODS

Cable trenches were excavated by machine with a 0.35m wide toothed bucket to a maximum depth of approximately 0.70m. Following excavation, selected portions of the trenches were rendered vertical. Archaeological 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 deposit or feature revealed was allocated a unique reference number (context number) with an individual written description. 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 identified during the watching brief were 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 recognised:

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

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

#### Phase 1 Natural deposits

Sections 1 and 2: (Fig. 3 and 4, Plate 2) The earliest deposits encountered were a light to mid yellowish brown clay and silt (003) and a light to mid reddish brown and grey clayey silt (007). Recorded to a thickness of at least 0.32m these deposits have been interpreted as natural.

#### Phase 2 Undated deposits

Section 1: (Fig. 3 and 4, Plate 2) Overlying the natural (003) was a 0.16m thick mottled light greenish grey/yellowish brown clay and silt subsoil (002).

Section 2, 3 and 4: (Fig. 3 and 4, Plate 3) Recorded cutting the natural (007), within Sections 2 and 4, was a poorly defined shallow feature (010), interpreted as a ditch or hollow. Recorded within all three sections, the ditch or hollow ran east-west along the length of the cabling trench and measured at least 75m long. The width of the ditch or hollow was not ascertainable due to its position within the trench. Contained by the ditch or hollow, and recorded within all three Sections, was a 0.30m<sup>+</sup> thick light grey silt fill (006).

Section 5: (Fig. 3 and 4) Two subsoil deposits were recorded within this section of the trench. Consisting of a light to mid

yellowish brown silt, subsoil (011) measured at least 0.35m thick and contained fragments of briquetage. Overlying the deposit was a 0.15m thick mottled silt deposit (012). Interpreted as a made ground or subsoil this deposit contained occasional stones, brick and tile fragments.

#### Phase 3 Modern deposits

Section 1: (Fig. 3 and 4, Plate 2) Sealing the subsoil (002) was a mid brown silt (001). Measuring 0.22m and forming the ground surface at this location, this deposit is topsoil.

Section 2, 3 and 4: (Fig. 3 and 4, Plate 3) Overlying ditch or hollow fill (006) in Sections 3 and 4 was a 0.18m thick mid blackish brown subsoil (008) containing stones and brick fragments. Overlying this subsoil, within all three sections, was a crushed stone hardcore (005), sealed by a 0.12m thick layer of tarmac (004).

**Section 5:** (Fig. 3 and 4) Above deposit (012) was a 0.10m thick mid brown silt topsoil (013)

#### 6. **DISCUSSION**

Natural deposits comprising alluvial silts and clays were the earliest layers recorded. Although these deposits were sterile of archaeological artefacts, it was not ascertained if they represent a late flooding episode, possibly sealing earlier archaeological remains.

The poorly defined ditch or hollow recorded within Sections 2, 3 and 4, although undated, is probably associated with the Romano-British settlement site recorded immediately north of Whaplode Lodge and possibly functioned as field boundary ditch, as part of a field system.

The recovery of Late Iron Age or Early Roman briquetage from the subsoil suggests that sea salt processing was carried out within the immediate vicinity during the period and reaffirms the data previously recovered from fieldwalking.

Deposits of undated subsoil, containing brick and tile fragments, possibly spread by agricultural processes from metalling of the road, were recorded along the length of the cabling works.

A modern deposit of topsoil and a tarmac road surface was recorded along the route of the cabling works.

#### 7. CONCLUSIONS

Archaeological investigations during cabling work alongside Jekil's (Jiggles) Bank and Fox Headings Lane close to Whaplode Lodge, Holbeach St Johns, Lincolnshire were undertaken because of the proximity of a Romano-British settlement site. Archaeological artefacts and deposits of Late Iron Age or Early Roman period and modern dates were recorded.

Natural alluvial silts were recorded at the base of the cabling trench cut by a poorly defined ditch or hollow, overlain by undated subsoils and sealed by modern deposits of topsoil and a tarmac road surface.

The recovery of briquetage and the position of the ditch or hollow confirm that this area of the landscape was being utilised during the Late Iron Age or Early Roman period. The ditch or hollow is probably a field boundary ditch associated with the adjacent settlement site, and the recorded briquetage confirms the production of salt during the period.

The nature of the local site conditions would suggest that few environmental indicators (seeds, wood, shells *etc.*) would survive at the depth of excavation, other than through charring.

#### 8. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeological Project Services wish to acknowledge the assistance of East Midlands Electricity for commissioning the fieldwork and post-excavation analysis. The work was coordinated by Steve Malone and this report was edited by Gary Taylor and Tom Lane. Access to the County Sites and Monuments Record was kindly provided by Mark Bennet of the Archaeology Section, Lincolnshire County Council.

#### 9. PERSONNEL

Project Coordinator: Steve Malone Site Supervisor: Fiona Walker Finds Processing: Denise Buckley Photographic Reproduction: Sue Unsworth Illustration: Tobin Rayner Post-excavation Analyst: Tobin Rayner

#### 10. BIBLIOGRAPHY

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

Hallam, H.E., 1965, Settlement and Society. A study of the early agrarian history of South Lincolnshire (Cambridge University Press)

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 Bulletin No. 13

IFA, 1997, Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Evaluations

#### 11. ABBREVIATIONS

APS Archaeological Project Services

BGS British Geological Survey

IFA Institute of Field Archaeologists



Figure 1 General Location Plan

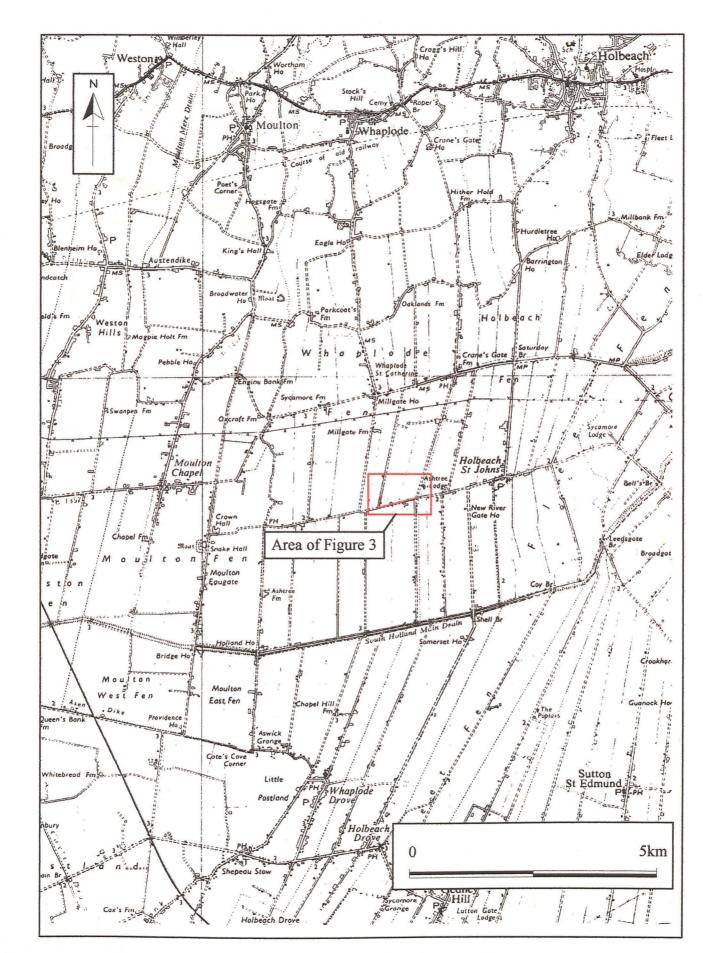


Figure 2: Site Location Plan

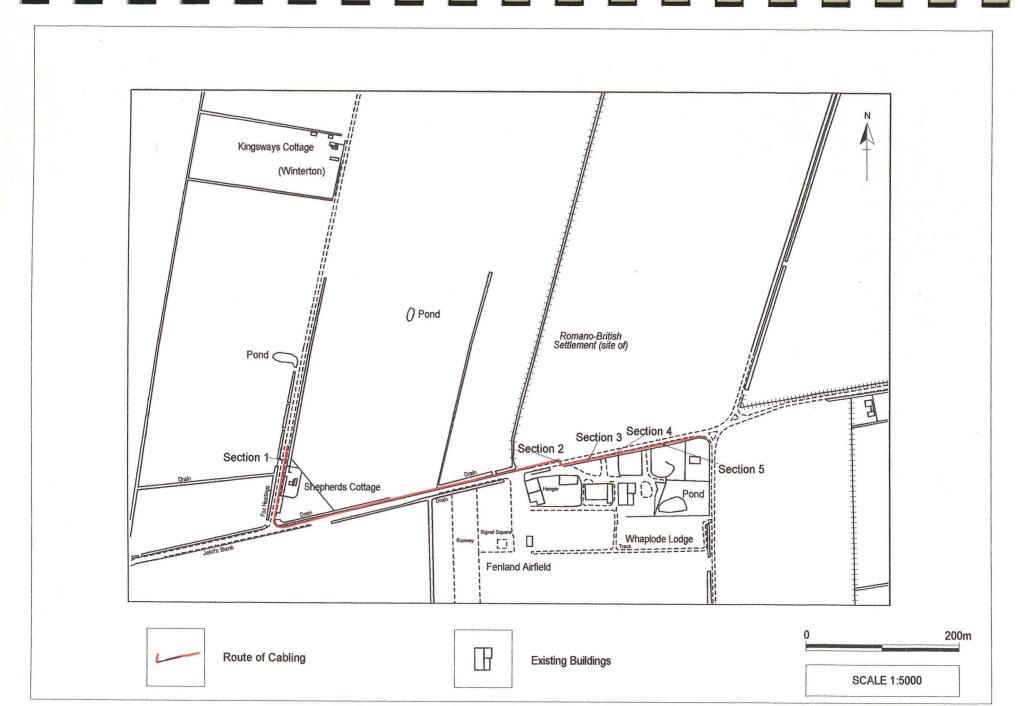


Figure 3: Location of Underground Cable and Sections

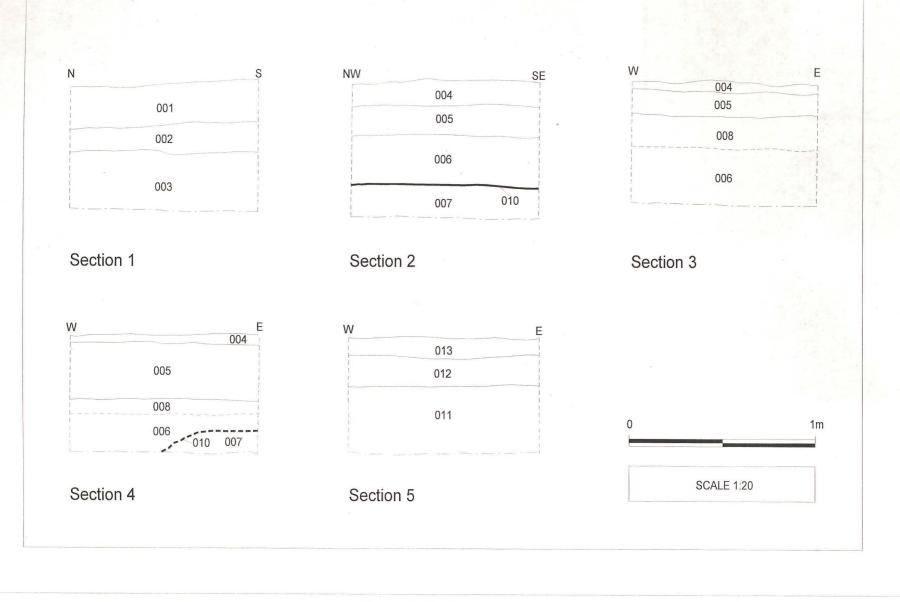


Figure 4: Sections 1 - 5



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Plate 1 General view of the development area, looking south down Fox Headings



Plate 2 Section 1, showing a sequence of topsoil, subsoil and natural, looking east



Plate 3 Section 4, north facing view of ditch (010)

#### Specification for a watching brief at Whaplode Lodge, Holbeach St John

#### SUMMARY

- 1.1 A watching brief is required during underground cabling at Whaplode Lodge, Jekil's Lane, Holbeach St Johns, Lincs.
- 1.2 The line of the proposed cabling passes close to a Romano-British settlement site and may disturb archaeological deposits.
- 1.3 Watching brief will be undertaken during groundworks associated with the cable laying. Any 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 cabling work by East Midlands Electricity alongside Jekil's Bank and Fox Headings Lane close to Whaplode Lodge, Holbeach St Johns. The site is located at national grid reference TF 3325 1795.
- 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 Holbeach St John lies approximately 6km south of Holbeach and 10km southeast of Spalding in the administrative district of South Holland. The cabling is being undertaken between Whaplode Lodge and Kingsways Cottage along Jekil's Bank and Fox Headings to the west of the village. The main area of interest, where the cabling is to be underground, is centred at national grid reference TF 3325 1795.

#### 4 PLANNING BACKGROUND

4.1 A planning application (H23/1285/99) was submitted to South Holland District Council by East Midlands Electricity for cabling work, including overhead and underground lines. Approval is subject to a condition requiring the implementation of an archaeological watching brief during the site operations.

#### 5 SOILS AND TOPOGRAPHY

5.1 The site lies in the fenland at approximately 3m OD. Local soils are the Wallasea 2 Association, pelo-alluvial gley soils developed on reclaimed marine alluvium (Hodge *et al.* 1984, 338).

#### THE ARCHAEOLOGY

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6.1 The area contains extensive remains of the Romano-British landscape. A settlement site is recorded in the field immediately opposite Whaplode Lodge and Romano-British pottery has previously been found near to the road junction, so that features of that date might extend beneath the present line of the road.

#### 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 the excavation of the foundation trenches and other areas of ground disturbance.
- 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.

#### SITE OPERATIONS

- 8.1 <u>General considerations</u>
  - 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 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 Local Environmental Health Department and the police will be informed.

#### **POST-EXCAVATION**

- 9.1 Stage 1
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- 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 <u>Stage 2</u>

- 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; the Lincolnshire County Archaeologist; South Holland District Council Planning Department; 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 Lincolnshire County Archaeologist. 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 personday) 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 longer than about four days 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.

Task

Conservation

Pottery Analysis

Non-pottery Artefacts

Environmental Analysis

Human Remains Analysis

Animal Bones

Concernation Laboratomy City and County

Conservation Laboratory, City and County Museum, Lincoln

Prehistoric - Trent & Peak Archaeological Trust

Roman - B Precious, Independent Specialist

Anglo-Saxon - J Young, Independent Specialist

Medieval and later - H Healey, Independent Archaeologist

J Cowgill, Independent Specialist

Body to be undertaking the work

Environmental Archaeology Consultancy

J Rackham, Independent Specialist

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 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

## **Context Summary**

No.	Туре	Description	Depth (m)	Interpretation	Fill of
001	Deposit	Moderate mid brown silt with occ. pea grit	0.22	Topsoil	
002	Deposit	Moderate mottled light greenish grey/yellowish brown clayey silt	0.16	Subsoil	
003	Deposit	Moderate to firm light to mid yellowish brown clay and silt	0.32+	Natural	
004	Deposit	Indurate black tarmac	0.12	Road surface	
005	Deposit	Firm light yellow crushed stone	0.15	Hardcore	
006	Deposit	Moderate light grey silt	0.97	Ditch or hollow fill	010
007	Deposit	Moderate mottled light to mid reddish brown and grey clayey silt	0.16+	Natural	
008	Deposit	Moderate mid blackish brown silt with occ. stones and brick fragments	0.18	Subsoil	
009	Void				
010	Cut	Ill-defined shallow sided feature	0.30	Ditch or hollow	
011	Deposit	Moderate light to mid yellowish brown silt and clay	0.35	Subsoil	
012	Deposit	Moderate mottled mid brown/light yellowish brown silt with occ. stones, brick and tile fragments	0.15	Subsoil/made ground	
013	Deposit	Moderate mid brown silt	0.10	Turf/topsoil	

# Briquetage by Tom Lane

Five pieces of briquetage (ceramic debris from salt making)were recovered from context 011.

Two pieces appear to be from a hearth or oven structure. Both are hard fired with a sandy fabric. One is buff coloured but with a distinct purple outer edge, common on material from heating structures.

One piece is a fragment of a support or clip. It has a pronounced lip which could be part of a vertical support used to hold ceramic containers in position during the salt boiling/crystallisation phase or part of a horizontal clip used to join together and stabilise adjacent containers (eg Lane 1992, fig.130, nos 7 and 12). The fabric is buff coloured and organic tempered.

Two further fragmentary pieces were retrieved. Again both were buff coloured and organic-tempered.

All of the pieces are identifiable as briquetage used in the processing of sea salt. The pieces are dated to the Late Iron Age or Early Roman period. Material such as this is not usually found away from saltmaking sites.

Immediately to the north of the road lies a known site which from fieldwalking has yielded pottery of Roman date extending from the first to fourth centuries(Hallam 1970, 308). Although no briquetage is known from the site north of the road, a nearby site, situated one kilometre to the northwest, has abundant briquetage and some pottery of Iron Age, as well as Roman date. This date would fit well with briquetage from the Watching Brief

#### Bibliography

Hallam, S, 1970, 'Settlement around the Wash', in Phillips, C.W. (ed) *The Fenland in Roman Times*. Royal Geog. Res. Series **5** 

Lane, T.W., 1992 'Iron Age and Roman Salterns in the South-Western Fens' in Hayes, P.P. and Lane, T.W., *The Fenland Project, Number 5: Lincolnshire Survey, The South-West Fens*, E. Anglian Archaeol. **55**, 218-229

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# 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, <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.
Natural	Undisturbed 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.
Romano-British	Pertaining to the period dating from AD 43-410 when the Romans occupied Britain.
Medieval	The Middle Ages, dating from approximately AD 1066-1500.
Post-medieval	The period following the Middle Ages, dating from approximately AD 1500-1800.

#### The Archive

The archive consists of:

13 Context records

2 Scale drawings

1 Context record sheets

1 Section record sheet

1 Photographic record sheets

4 Daily record sheets

1 Box 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: 2000.92

Archaeological Project Services Site Code: HWL00

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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