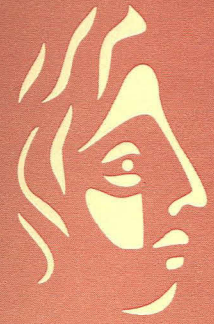


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ARCHAEOLOGICAL  
T R U S T

VODAFONE SITE 10957,  
LINCOLN ROAD,  
WELTON LE WOLD,  
LOUTH,  
LINCOLNSHIRE

LCNCC 2000.143  
WWL00

REPORT ON AN  
ARCHAEOLOGICAL  
WATCHING BRIEF



2000 FIELD REPORT  
NUMBER 36

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VODAFONE SITE 10957,

WELTON LE WOLD, LOUTH,

LINCOLNSHIRE

## REPORT ON AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL

## WATCHING BRIEF

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## **ABSTRACT**

*York Archaeological Trust carried out an archaeological watching brief on the stripping of ground adjacent to Lincoln Road, Welton le Wold, Lincolnshire in advance of the construction of a Vodafone mast. Despite the presence of a prehistoric or Romano-British settlement on the north side of Lincoln Road (SAM268), no trace of archaeological remains were found on this site.*

## **1. INTRODUCTION**

On 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> of June 2000 York Archaeological Trust carried out an archaeological watching brief at Welton Le Wold, Louth, Lincolnshire, (NGR TF 2774 8694) on behalf of Shepherd Construction for Vodafone. The work was carried out on land to the south of the A157 (Lincoln Road) as part of a planning condition (Planning Reference N/200/00001/00) on the erection of a new Vodafone Cell site. The machine excavation of the area for a reinforced concrete base to support a Vodafone telecommunications lattice mast and associated equipment and cabins was monitored for evidence of archaeological deposits such as archaeological features or stratigraphy, that may have survived in the area.

### **1.1 Methodology**

The trench was excavated under archaeological supervision by a 3-tonne Kubota mini mechanical excavator using a toothless ditching bucket. The deposits revealed in section were cleaned, measured, drawn and recorded. Recording followed procedures laid down in the York Archaeological Trust *Context Recording Manual* (1996).

Site Records are currently stored with York Archaeological Trust under the Lincoln City and County Museum accession code LCNCC 2000.143.WWL00

### **1.2 Geology and Topography**

The development area lies on Cretaceous chalk solid geology, on the eastern side of the Lincolnshire Wolds escarpment (Ellis 1998, 9). The site is situated within a plantation of trees on the south facing slope of a hill that overlooks a deep valley, to the south-east of Welton Le Wold, at c.110m Above Ordnance Datum (AOD).

### **1.3 Archaeological and Historical Background**

The site is adjacent to a Scheduled Ancient Monument (SAM - 268) which is situated c.300m to the north-east. The SAM comprises a prehistoric or Romano-British settlement known from cropmarks and some early Iron Age to Roman pottery finds (YAT 2000). It was not known whether this particular site extended into the watching brief area.



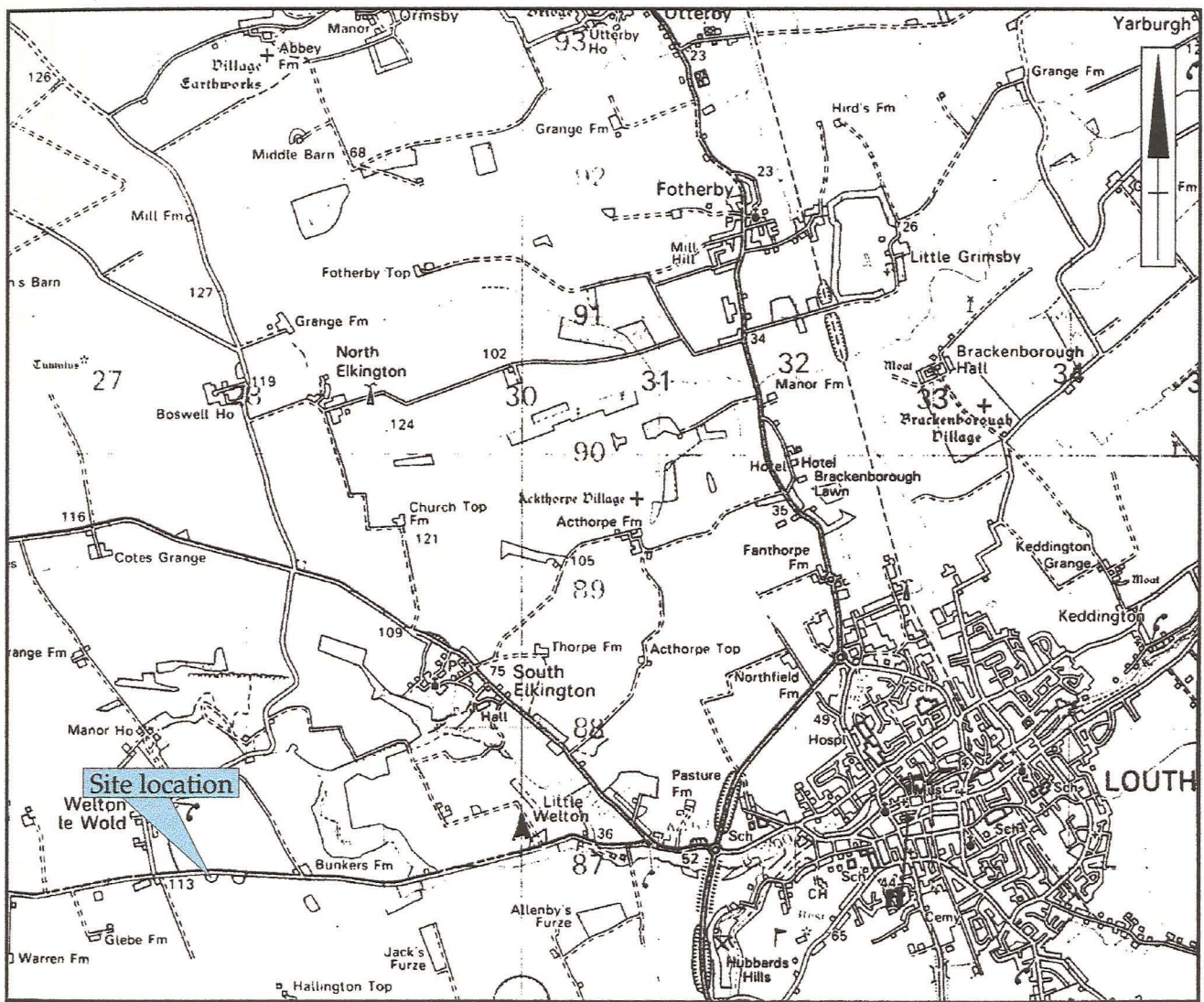


Figure 1 Site location  
(see figure 2 for details)

BASED UPON THE 1994 ORDNANCE SURVEY LANDRANGER SERIES  
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Figure 2 Trench location

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## **2. RESULTS**

An area some 5.6m long by 5.5m wide was excavated to a depth of between 0.95m and 1m below the present ground surface. Within the area stripped the contexts are considered in chronological order from the bottom up.

The earliest deposit, situated from 0.95m below the present ground surface was chalk bedrock (1004). This appeared to have been cracked in the south-eastern corner of the excavation area, either by glacial action or by frost cracking. The crack/scar was aligned north-east to south-west and was subsequently filled with creamy orange fine silt (1003). Overlying bedrock, was a thick layer of loose small to large chalk fragments (1002), with occasional flint nodules, which appeared to be loosely stratified in fractured bedding planes, the top of which was situated at 0.50m below the present ground surface. A further 0.17m thick layer of loose small to medium chalk fragments (95% of the deposit) in a matrix of mid brown silty clay (5% of the deposit) (1001) sealed the earlier deposit. This may have been formed by frost shattering and tree root disturbance. All of the above deposits were of natural origin. Sealing these deposits was a 0.28m thick layer of mid to dark brown silty clay (1000), with occasional to moderate small chalk fragments and frequent tree roots. This is interpreted as top-soil. Several pieces of modern pottery and glass were recovered from this deposit (which were later discarded).

## **3. DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS**

Natural deposits appeared in the excavation area at 0.28m below the present ground surface, bedrock was situated at between 0.95m to 1m below the present ground surface. The natural deposits appeared to have been subjected to glacial action and post-glacial frost-shattering, as well as tree root disturbance. These were sealed by a thin top-soil. It would appear that the area has never been used either for agriculture or for human settlement and may have been wooded through-out the pre-historic and historic periods.

## **4. ARCHAEOLOGICAL IMPLICATIONS**

The archaeological watching brief produced no evidence for archaeological deposits being present or preserved in the vicinity. It is thought likely that the area has been wooded through-out the pre-historic and historic periods. There are no recommendations for further work.

*E.S.E*

*W.N.W*

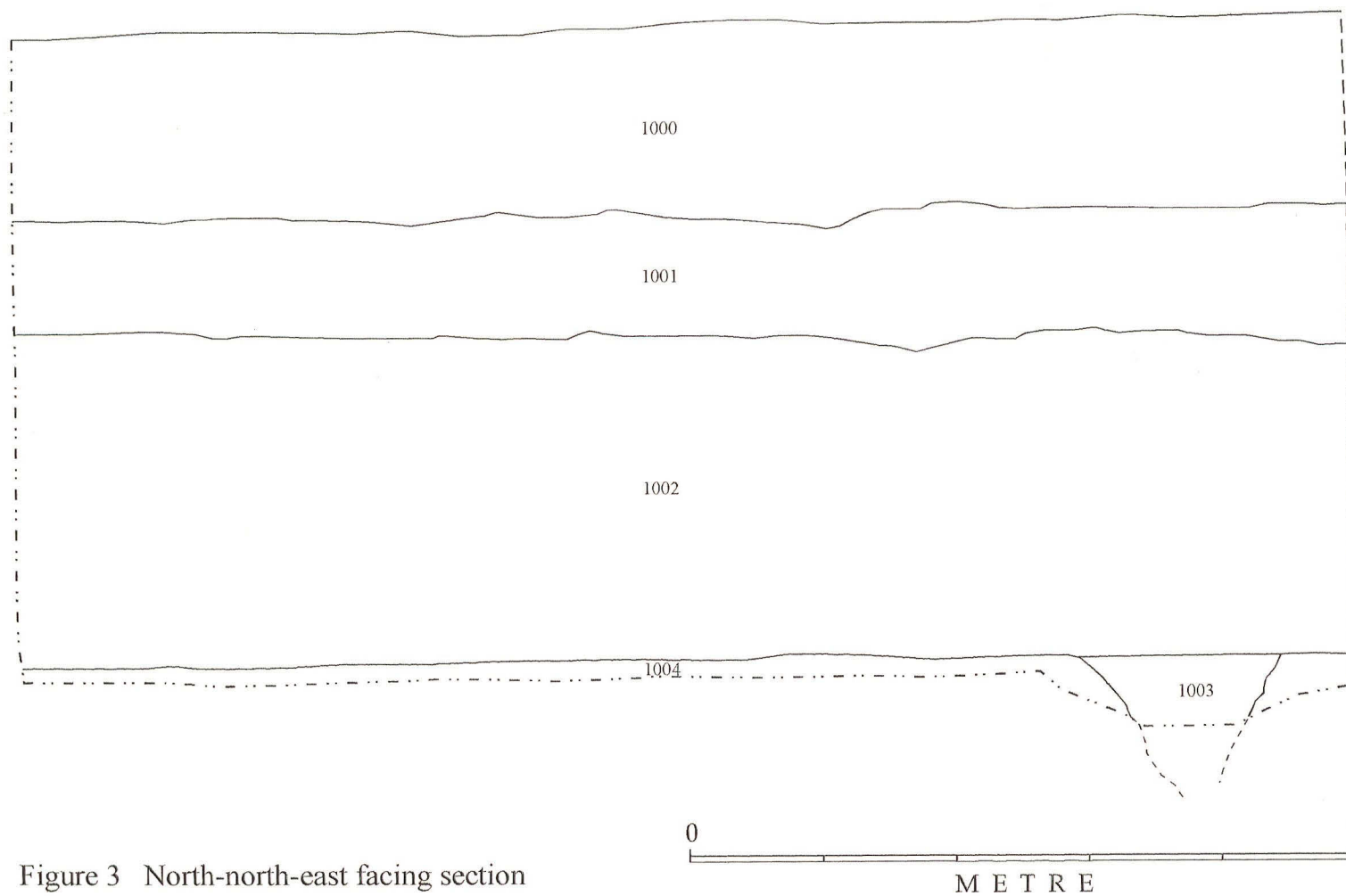


Figure 3 North-north-east facing section



## 5. LIST OF SOURCES

Ellis, S. (1998) Physical Background to the Ancholme and lower Trent valleys, in *Van de Noort, R. V. and Ellis, S. (ed.) Wetland Heritage of the Ancholme and Lower trent Valleys.*

YAT (2000) *Specification for an Archaeological Watching Brief at Land Off Lincoln Road, Welton Le Wold, Lincolnshire.*

York Archaeological Trust (1996) *Context Recording Manual*

## 6. LIST OF CONTRIBUTORS

Watching Brief and Report

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