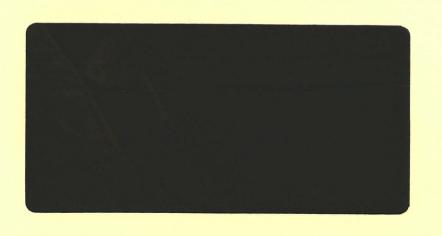
ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF
OF DEVELOPMENT AT
IVY HOUSE,
CHURCH WALK,
METHERINGHAM, North Kast
LINCOLNSHIRE
(MTHC 00)



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ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF
OF DEVELOPMENT AT
IVY HOUSE,
CHURCH WALK,
METHERINGHAM, North Cast
LINCOLNSHIRE
(MTHC 00)

Work Undertaken For Car Dyke Construction Co.

June 2000

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

Planning Application No: N/39/0063/98 National Grid Reference: TF 0698 6126 City and County Museum Accession No: 2000.138

A.P.S. Report No. 87/00



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1. SUMMARY

A watching brief was undertaken during the construction of a new dwelling and attached garage at Church Walk, Metheringham, Lincolnshire.

The site lies close to an area from which coins and pottery of the Romano-British (AD 50-410) period have been recovered. Located immediately east of the development site is the medieval (AD 1066-1500) church of St. Wilfrid which may indicate the close proximity of the medieval village core.

An undated pit and posthole were identified during the watching brief, overlain by a subsoil containing post-medieval finds. A quantity of finds was retrieved and include post-medieval and modern pottery and fragments of brick and tile.

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 Planning Background

On the 9th June 2000 a watching brief was undertaken during the excavations of footings for a new house and garage at Church Walk, Metheringham, Lincolnshire. Approval for the development was sought through the submission of planning application N/39/0063/98. Permission was granted subject to a standard condition for archaeological recording. Archaeological

Project Services was commissioned by Car Dyke Construction Co. to undertake the watching brief.

2.3 Topography and Geology

Metheringham is situated 14km southeast of Lincoln and 15km north of Sleaford in North Kesteven District, Lincolnshire (Fig. 1).

The development site is located 50m southeast of the centre of the village as defined by St. Wilfrid's parish church (Fig. 2). The site is centred on National Grid Reference TF 0698 6126 at heights of c. 17m OD. The land slopes down to the east, towards the lower lying land of the Witham valley.

Local soils are of the Elmton 1 Association, typically permeable brown stony clay loam or sandy loam (Hodge *et al.* 1984, 179). These soils overlie a solid geology of Jurassic Upper Lincolnshire Limestone (IGS 1973).

2.4 Archaeological Setting

Metheringham is located in an area of known archaeological remains dating from the Romano-British period to the present day. Romano-British coins and pottery have been found to the south and west and within 400m of the site.

Metheringham is first mentioned in the Domesday Survey of c. 1086. Referred to as *Medricesham*, the name is Old English and could mean the settlement of '*Medric's*' people or derived from '*mæd-ric*' meaning a meadow stream (Ekwall 1974, 323). The Domesday Survey records that the land was owned by Earl Hugh, Walter de Aincurt, Robert of Stafford and Sortebrand and contained three mills and a church as well as 470 acres of meadow and 191 acres of

underwood (Foster and Longley 1976).

Extant remains of the medieval period are restricted to the church and a cross. St. Wilfrid's church dates to the 12th century, presumably replacing the church mentioned in Domesday, although is heavily restored after a fire in 1599 (DoE 1985, 10). The cross dates to the 14th century and was moved here from its original position (Pevsner and Harris 1989, 562). The cross is also a Scheduled Ancient Monument (County No. 94).

Located 300m east of the development area is the site of a former moated enclosure, now levelled and built over. This possibly represents one of the former manors of Metheringham.

3. AIMS

The aim of the archaeological investigation, as detailed in the specification (Appendix 1), was to ensure that any archaeological features exposed during the repairs should be recorded and, if present, to determine their date, function and origin.

4. METHODS

Trenches for the new dwelling and garage were marked out and excavated by machine to the surface of the underlying solid geology (Fig. 3). Exposed portions of the trenches were cleaned and rendered vertical. Selected deposits were partially excavated to determine their nature. The depth and thickness of each deposit was measured from the present ground surface. Each archaeological deposit or feature revealed within the trench was allocated a unique reference number (context number) with an individual written description. A list of all contexts and interpretations appears as

Appendix 2. A photographic record was compiled and sections were drawn at a scale of 1:10 and 1:20. Recording of the deposits encountered during the watching brief was undertaken according to standard Archaeological Project Services practice.

Finds recovered from the deposits identified in the watching brief were examined and a date was assigned where possible (Appendix 3). Records of the deposits and features recognised during the investigation were also examined. Phasing was assigned based on the nature of the deposits and recognisable relationships between them, supplemented by artefact dating where relevant. A stratigraphic matrix of all identified deposits was produced.

5. RESULTS

Following post-excavation analysis, four phases were identified;

Phase 1	Natural deposits
Phase 2	Undated deposits
Phase 3	Post-medieval deposits
Phase 4	Modern deposits

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

Phase 1 Natural deposits

Encountered throughout all of the trenches was reddish yellow limestone set within a sandy clay matrix (005). This was identified as the underlying solid geology.

Overlying the limestone was an 80mm thick deposit of yellowish red sand (009), possibly representing the upper weathered surface of the geology.

Phase 2 Undated deposits

Cut into the natural geology along the westernmost trench was a pit (006), measuring c. 4m wide, longer than 2m and 2.2m deep (Fig. 4, Section 2). A single fill of brown silt with limestone fragments (007) was recorded.

Located in the northeast corner of the trenches was a sub-circular posthole (010) and was cut into the underlying limestone. Identified as a posthole, this had a diameter of c. 0.27m and was 90mm deep (Fig. 5). The upper portion of this feature, and its relationship to other deposits, was truncated by the machine excavation of this trench. The posthole contained reddish brown silt (011).

Phase 3 Post-medieval deposits

Overlying the undated features was a subsoil varying between greyish brown silt (004) and sandy silt (008) measuring between 0.34m and 0.48m thick. 18th century pottery and brick and tile was retrieved from this deposit.

Along the northernmost trench, this subsoil was partly overlain by 40mm thick deposit of black coal (003).

Phase 4 Modern deposits

Sealing the coal and subsoil was a dumped deposit of brownish yellow clayey silt that contained limestone fragments (002). This was 0.33m thick and was confined to the northern trench.

Sealing all deposits was a topsoil of dark brown silt (001), measuring 0.27m thick.

6. DISCUSSION

Natural deposits (Phase 1) of limestone and sand are the weathered surface of the Upper Lincolnshire Limestone (IGS 1973).

Two undated features, a pit and a posthole, were recorded. Although these produced no dateable artefacts, they do pre-date the subsoil which contained post-medieval finds. Modern deposits are restricted to a single dumped deposit and the present topsoil.

Finds retrieved from the investigation include 18th -20th century pottery and brick or tile. Such finds indicate nothing more than discarded refuse.

7. CONCLUSIONS

Archaeological investigations were undertaken at Church Walk, Metheringham because the site lay within the medieval core of the village and in close proximity to 12th century church.

Cut into the underlying limestone was a large pit and a posthole, both of which are undated. These were sealed by a subsoil that had developed during the post-medieval period.

A number of finds were retrieved and include post-medieval and 19th-20th century pottery and fragments of brick and tile. The nature of the local site conditions would suggest that few environmental indicators (eg, seeds, pollen, plant macrofossils) would survive other than through charring, although other environmental indicators (snail shells, insect remains, bone) may be preserved.

8. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeological Project Services wish to acknowledge the assistance of Mr R. Renfrew of Car Dyke Construction Co. who commissioned the fieldwork and post-excavation analysis. The work was coordinated by Steve Malone and this report was edited by Tom Lane. Hilary Healey, the acting North Kesteven Community Archaeologist, kindly permitted examination of the relevant parish archaeological files.

9. PERSONNEL

Project Coordinator: Steve Malone

Supervisor: Rachael Hall

Finds Processing: Denise Buckley

Photographic reproduction: Sue Unsworth

Illustration: Paul Cope-Faulkner

Post-excavation Analyst: Paul Cope-

Faulkner

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11. ABBREVIATIONS

DoE Department of the Environment

IFA Institute of Field Archaeologists

IGS Institute of Geological Sciences



Figure 1 - General Location Plan



Figure 2 - Site location plan

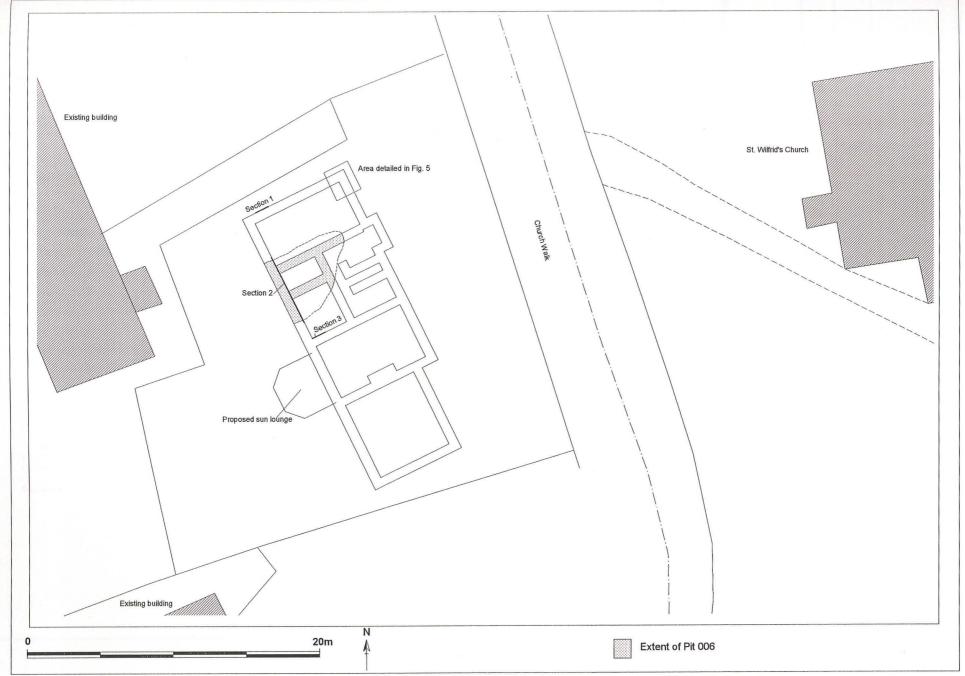


Figure 3 - Plan of the development showing section locations

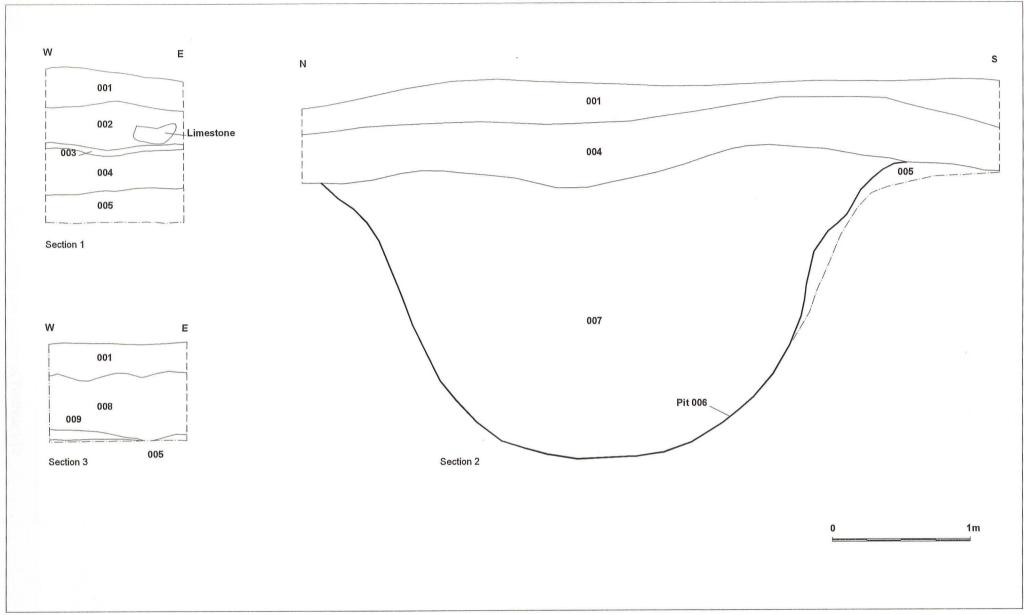


Figure 4 - Sections 1, 2 and 3

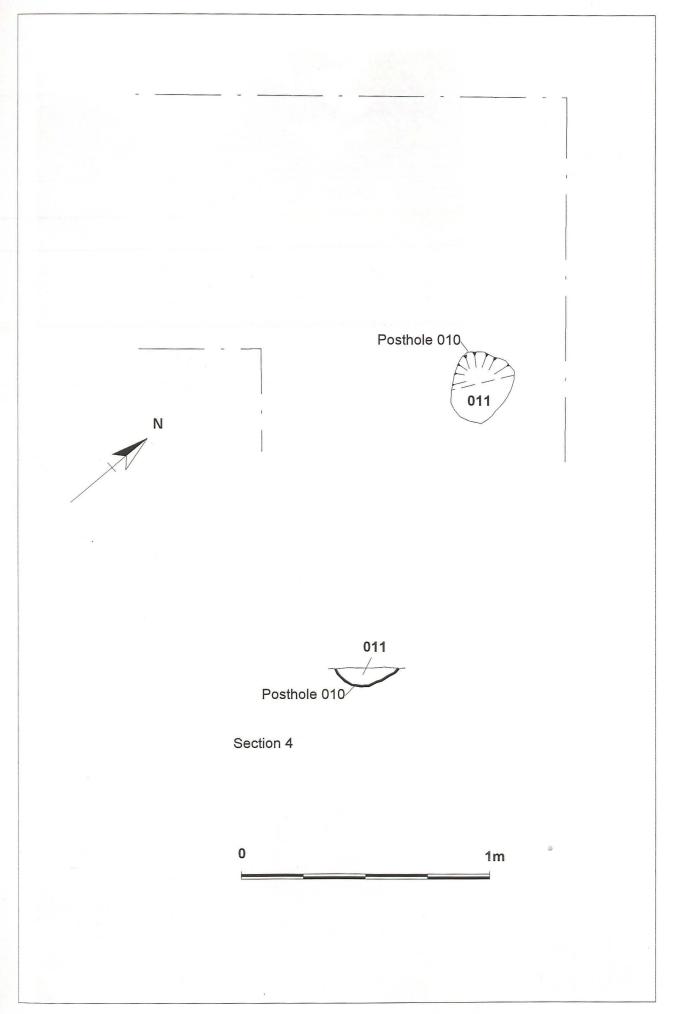


Figure 5 - Plan and Section of Posthole 010



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



Plate 2 - Section 1, showing sequence of deposits, looking north



Plate 3 - View of the pit 006, looking east

LAND AT CHURCH WALK, METHERINGHAM, LINCS - SPECIFICATION FOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

1 SUMMARY

- .1 A watching brief is required during construction of a detached house at Church Walk, Metheringham, Lincolnshire.
- 1.2 The area is archaeologically sensitive, lying in the centre of the medieval village, close to the Church.
- 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 groundworks connected with construction of a dwelling at Church Walk, Metheringham, Lincs. The site is located at National Grid Reference TF 070 612.
- 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 Metheringham is located 14km southeast of Lincoln in the North Kesteven district of Lincolnshire. The proposed building plot lies on the south side of the village, close to the church at National Grid Reference TF 070 612.

4 PLANNING BACKGROUND

4.1 Planning permission (Application No. N/39/0063/98) has been granted by North Kesteven District Council subject to a condition requiring the implementation of an archaeological watching brief during groundworks associated with the development.

5 SOILS AND TOPOGRAPHY

5.1 The site lies on fairly level ground at c. 15m OD. Local soils are the Elmton 1 Association permeable brown, slightly or moderately stony clay loam or sandy clay loam overlying Lincolnshire Limestone (Hodge et al. 1984, 179).

6 HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

6.1 Metheringham is recorded in the Domesday book and the settlement presumably dates from the late Saxon period or earlier. The church of St Wilfrid incorporates many later additions, especially after the fire of 1599 but retains earlier elements dating to the 13th century and possibly before. A moated site, perhaps the site of an early manor house, formerly stood on the southeast of the village.

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 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.

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 Local Environmental Health Department and the police will be informed.

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 bFinds 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 North Kesteven Heritage Officer; North Kesteven 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 North Kesteven Heritage 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 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 principle 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 Body to be undertaking the work

Conservation Conservation Laboratory, City and County Museum, Lincoln

Pottery Analysis Prehistoric - Trent & Peak Archaeological Unit

Roman - B Precious, Independent Specialist

Anglo-Saxon - J Young, Independent Specialist

Medieval and later - Gary Taylor APS in consultation with H Healey,

Independent Archaeologist

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 ú10,000,000, together with Public and Products Liability insurances, each with indemnity of ú5,000,000. 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

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CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

No.	Description	Interpretation
001	Friable dark brown silt, 0.27m thick	Topsoil
002	Loose light brownish yellow clayey silt with frequent limestone fragments, 0.33m thick	Dumped deposit
003	Loose black coal, 40mm thick	Dumped deposit
004	Loose mid greyish brown silt, 0.34m thick	Subsoil
005	Firm light reddish yellow limestone in a sandy clay matrix, >0.26m thick	Natural deposit
006	Feature, 4m wide by >5m long by 2m deep, unclear sides with concave base	Pit
007	Friable dark brown silt with frequent angular limestone frags	Fill of 006
008	Soft light greyish brown sandy silt, 0.48m thick	Subsoil
009	Loose mid yellowish red sand, 80mm thick	Natural deposit
010	Sub-circular feature, 0.26m by 0.28m by 90mm deep, smooth sides and concave base	Posthole
011	Soft mid reddish brown silt	Fill of 010

THE FINDS by Gary Taylor MA

Provenance

The material was recovered from topsoil (001) and subsoil (004 and 008) layers. Most of the pottery was probably made in Staffordshire in the Midlands, though there is a Nottingham product and some of the red painted earthenware from (008) may be Lincolnshire products. It is likely that the brick/tile was manufactured in Lincolnshire.

Range

The range of material is detailed in the tables. Pottery, brick/tile and asbestos (discarded) was recovered during the investigation. Sherds of 18th century date are the earliest artefacts recovered though the collection dates through to the 20th century. No faunal remains were retrieved.

Table 1

Context	Description	Date
001	2x blue and white transfer printed tableware, 19 th -early 20 th century 1x Nottingham saltglazed stoneware, 18 th century 1x lead-glazed stoneware marmalade jar, 19 th -early 20 th century 1x pressed asbestos (discarded), 19 th -20 th century 1x brick/tile	19 th -20 th century
004	2x ceramic tile 1x brick, handmade, post-medieval	Post-medieval
008	4x red painted earthenware, black glazed, 18 th century 1x Staffordshire mottled ware, early 18 th century 4x brick/tile	18 th century

Several separate vessels are represented by the sherds of red painted earthenware from (008), with one of them in a distinct Staffordshire fabric. The other sherds of this ware may also be Staffordshire products, or possibly made locally in Lincolnshire.

Condition

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

Documentation

Details of archaeological sites and finds in then Metheringham area are maintained in the files of the North Kesteven Heritage Officer and the Lincolnshire County Sites and Monuments Record. Post-medieval pottery assemblages, similar to this, have been studied and reported previously.

Potential

As a small and entirely post-medieval group the assemblage has limited potential though the earlier artefacts suggest occupation or other use of the site in the 18^{th} century.

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,

etc. 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.

Romano-British Pertaining to the period dating from AD 43-410 when the Romans occupied Britain.

THE ARCHIVE

The archive consists of:

- 11 Context records
- 1 Photographic record sheet
- 2 Drawing sheets
- 1 Bag of finds
- 1 Stratigraphic matrix

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:

2000.138

Archaeological Project Services Site Code:

MTHC 00

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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