

00/21

**EARTHWORK SURVEY  
ON LAND AT  
SHARP'S LANE,  
LEVERTON,  
LINCOLNSHIRE  
(LSL00)**



**A P S**  
ARCHAEOLOGICAL  
PROJECT  
SERVICES



Lancashire County Council  
Archaeology Section  
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**EARTHWORK SURVEY  
ON LAND AT  
SHARP'S LANE,  
LEVERTON,  
LINCOLNSHIRE  
(LSL00)**

Work Undertaken For  
Molsom and Partners

June 2000

Report Compiled by  
Mark Dymond

Planning Application No: B/00/0049/FULL  
National Grid Reference: TF 4065 4735



A.P.S. Report No.91/00

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## 1. SUMMARY

*An earthwork survey was undertaken on land at Sharp's Lane, Leverton, Lincolnshire as part of an archaeological scheme of works required as a condition of planning in advance of the planning condition for the construction of a proposed joinery workshop.*

*Previous desk-based assessment has identified archaeological evidence dating from the medieval and post-medieval periods within 750m of the proposed development site. Undated earthworks, have been identified from the survey area itself.*

*Sharp's Lane lies to the southeast of the present village of Leverton. A possible medieval moat earthwork has been recorded at Leverton Grange, close to the survey area. The Grange dates from the late 19<sup>th</sup> century and it is possible that the earthwork is a ha-ha (a garden boundary), separating it from surrounding parkland.*

*Well-preserved earthworks of dyings, a type of Fenland ridge and furrow in use from the medieval period onwards, survive in the parkland immediately northeast of the site.*

*The survey recorded a linear bank, a hollow and irregular earthworks.*

*A modern feature was also recorded within the development area, and took the form of a backfilled pit.*

## 2. INTRODUCTION

### 2.1 Background

On the 21<sup>st</sup> June 2000, an earthwork survey was undertaken on land at Sharp's Lane, Leverton, Lincolnshire. A planning application (B/00/0049/FULL) was

submitted to Boston Borough Council for the construction of a workshop. Permission is subject to conditions requiring a topographic survey before development and the implementation of an archaeological watching brief during groundworks.

The earthwork survey was commissioned by Molsom and Partners. Archaeological Project Services undertook the work in accordance with a specification designed by Archaeological Project Services (Appendix 1), and approved by the Boston Community Archaeologist, Susan Smith.

### 2.2 Topography and Geology

Leverton village is situated in the Boston district of Lincolnshire, approximately 8km northeast of Boston (Fig. 1). The site is located to the southeast of the village on the northeast side of Sharp's Lane. It is centred on NGR TF 4065 4735 and lies at a height of c.3m above OD.

The site lies on calcareous alluvial gley soils of the Wisbech Series developed on marine alluvium (Robson 1990, 36).

### 2.3 Archaeological Setting

The following is taken from the desk-based assessment produced for this site (Albone 2000)

Leverton is first recorded as *Levretune* in the Domesday Survey in 1086. The place-name is Old English in origin and refers to 'the farmstead or village where the reeds grow' (Cameron 1998, 80).

At the time of the Domesday Survey land at Leverton was in the jurisdiction of Drayton manor and held by Count Alan. He had 12 carucates of taxable land and there were 25

freeman, 15 villagers and 24 smallholders. A priest, church and 60 acres of meadow are also recorded (Morris 1986, 12;65).

Leverton church is dedicated to St. Helen. The tower and chancel arch are in the Perpendicular style that was copied during early 18<sup>th</sup> and late 19<sup>th</sup> century restorations. (Pevsner 1989, 434).

Two rectories were recorded at Leverton from at least the early 14<sup>th</sup> century. The rectories were joined in 1800 and the parish was made tithe free in 1816 (Thompson 1856, 557). Tradition also states there were two churches, one of which was, '*swallowed up by the sea*'.

Though no evidence for medieval salt production exists within the parish, it is likely that it took place in one form or another, especially when noted that the Domesday survey records the adjacent parish of Leake held a total of 41 salterns. An area of 'made-ground' is shown to the southwest of the site on geological maps, and it has been suggested that it is a saltern mound of medieval date (Fig. 2, N<sup>o</sup> 3). However, no field investigations have been carried out to confirm this.

Leverton Grange, which lies to the east of the site (Fig. 2, N<sup>o</sup> 1), is first referred to in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century. The earliest reference is dated to 1882 when it was owned by Charles Frederick Swain, a landowner and farmer (White 1882, 476). It is not mentioned in the *Post Office Directory* of 1876 (Kelly 1876) or any earlier directories.

An earthwork moat at Leverton Grange is recorded as possibly being of medieval date. However, no artefacts were found on the site, and no other recorded evidence to confirm its age. The moat is recorded from an aerial photograph and it is not clear whether it has ever been properly examined

on the ground.

A small linear earthwork, probably part of the moat, is shown on the 1903 6" to 1 mile OS map, along the rear boundary of the Grange grounds, to the east of the site.

A further linear depression was noted along the northeast boundary of the Grange garden. This earthwork sloped down towards the boundary, which appeared to lie at its lowest point. It seems unlikely that the present Grange boundary would be found along the base of a former moat earthwork as this would probably have been wet ground. It seems more reasonable to assume that the present boundary, and any earlier ones, would have been positioned within the moated area. In view of this, it is suggested that the earthworks previously described as a moat could be a ha-ha created along the Grange boundary to separate it from the surrounding parkland.

Medieval pottery and other finds, including knife handles and an iron spur, have been found at Leverton Highgate (Fig. 2, N<sup>o</sup> 2). The quality of these finds may indicate that this was a manor site. Pottery of post-medieval date has been found at the possible manor site at Leverton Highgate associated with traces of earthworks (Fig. 2, N<sup>o</sup> 4).

Northeast of the proposed development area, clear, well-preserved earthworks were observed. These consisted of a series of dylings which were aligned northwest to southeast. These had previously been identified by the Boston Community Archaeologist and were detailed in the project brief (Appendix 1, 4.3).

Dylings are a broad type of ridge and furrow characteristic of the fens (Healey 1997, 11). They were separated by shallow ditches, the soil from which was used to raise the adjacent strips. Although they are first

recorded in the 14<sup>th</sup> century, they continued to be created during the 19<sup>th</sup> century, even in new enclosures. Early examples have a S-shaped plan with post-enclosure strips being straight (*ibid.*).

The dylings at the site were in straight lines and on the same alignment as the present field boundaries. They also appeared to continue into the present grounds of the Grange. This would suggest that they date to the 19<sup>th</sup> century, between the enclosure of the parish and the construction of the Grange.

### 3. AIMS

The aim of the survey was to make a record of the earthworks, before the groundworks were started.

### 4. METHODS

A total station surveying instrument and data logger was used to establish the location and extent of the earthworks. The survey area was covered by short grass, the land currently being used for grazing. Visibility and definition of the earthworks was therefore good.

### 5. RESULTS

The survey recorded a number of earthworks within an approximately rectangular area measuring *c.* 45m x 35m, occupying the southwest corner of a pasture field, east of Sharp's Lane (Fig. 3).

The most substantial earthwork recorded was a low, *c.* 3m wide, NW-SE aligned tree lined linear bank, located along the western edge of the survey area. East of the bank an 18m by 16m crescent shaped area sloped gently down from northwest to southeast. A

linear 2m long shallow hollow located in the south end of the survey area was oriented at 45° to the bank. Recorded in the southwest corner of the survey area were a number of small irregular earthworks within an area approximately 12m by 5m.

Situated near the northwestern corner of the site was a modern backfilled pit *c.* 12m by 9m.

### 6. DISCUSSION

The low tree lined bank, recorded along the eastern edge of the survey area may represent the remnants of a bank thrown up when the parallel and adjacent roadside ditch was constructed. Alternatively, it is possible that it represents a headland. A headland is usually created when a plough is turned at the edge of a field and soil adhering to the share drops to the ground. This type of feature is normally associated with medieval and post-medieval ridge and furrow agriculture.

The linear hollow, aligned at 45° to the bank, is unlikely to be the remains of dylings. These would be oriented at right angles to the bank and would be accompanied by similar linear features sharing the same alignment. The hollow may represent the remains of an access that has survived in soft ground.

Southeast of the hollow was an area containing small irregular earthworks. These have no characteristic form and may only represent surface disturbance possibly caused by animals trampling the ground.

The slope recorded near the north of the survey area may be natural.

The modern backfilled pit identified near the northwest corner of the site, was presumably

used for rubbish disposal.

## 7. CONCLUSIONS

The survey has measured the extent and dimensions of earthworks, identified by the desk-based assessment (Albone 2000), within the proposed development area. The NW-SE bank is probably upcast from the adjacent roadside ditch but could represent a headland. The linear hollow could be the remnant of an access route. The indeterminate small irregular earthworks are unlikely to represent archaeological features. A probable natural slope and a modern backfilled pit were the only other features recorded.

If the bank does represent a headland, this would suggest that the area was probably under arable land management during the medieval and/or post-medieval periods.

## 8. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeological Project Services would like to acknowledge the assistance of Molsom and Partners who commissioned the fieldwork and report. The survey project was coordinated by Steve Malone and this report was edited by Dale Trimble and Tom Lane. David Start permitted access to the library and parish files maintained by the Heritage Trust of Lincolnshire.

## 9. PERSONNEL

Project Coordinator: Gary Taylor  
Survey supervisor: Mark Dymond  
Site Assistant: Steve Thomson  
Illustration: Mark Dymond  
Post-excavation Analyst: Mark Dymond

## 10. BIBLIOGRAPHY

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11. **ABBREVIATIONS**

APS Archaeological Project Services

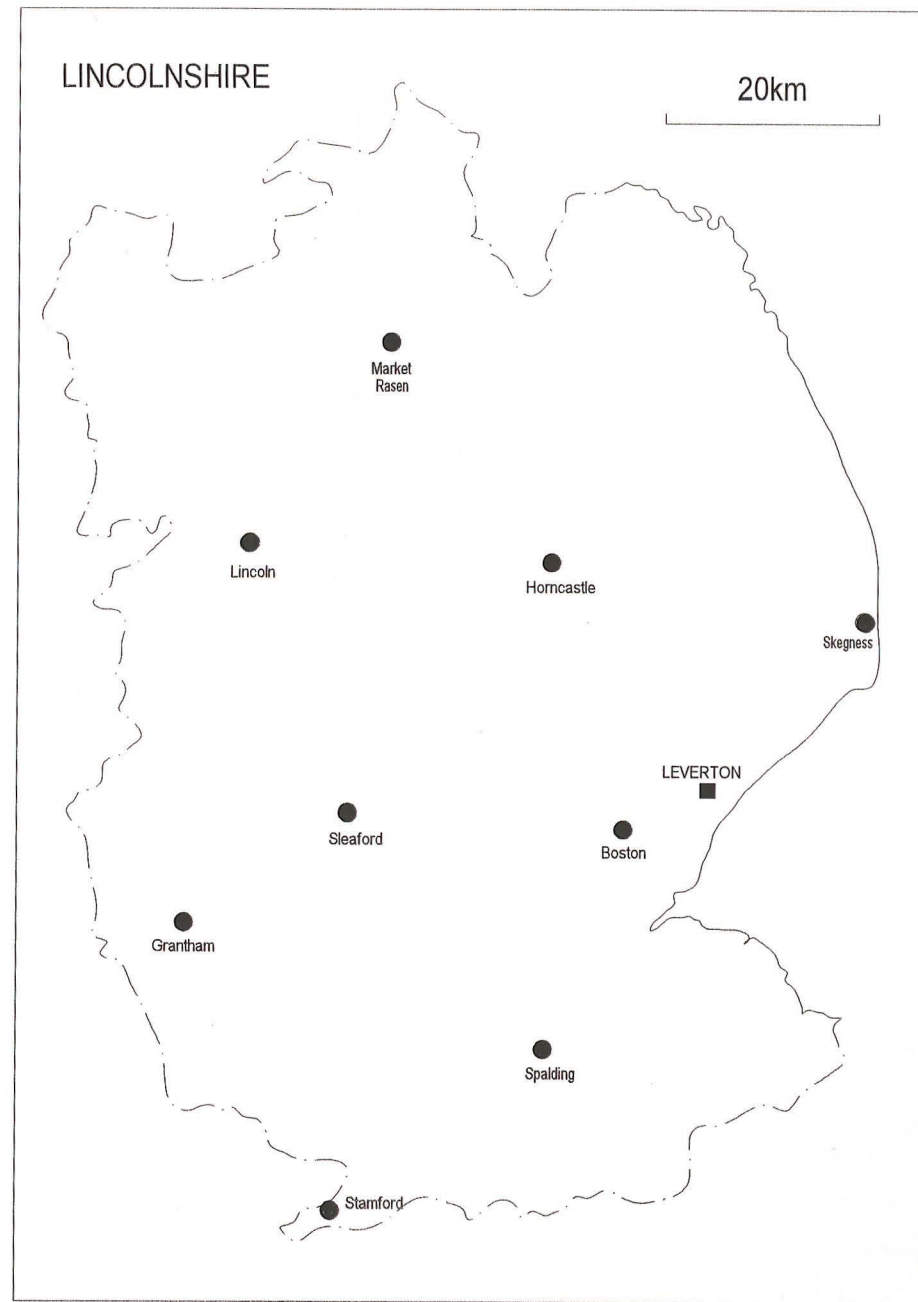


Figure 1 General Location Plan



Figure 2 Site location plan, showing archaeological remains in the vicinity

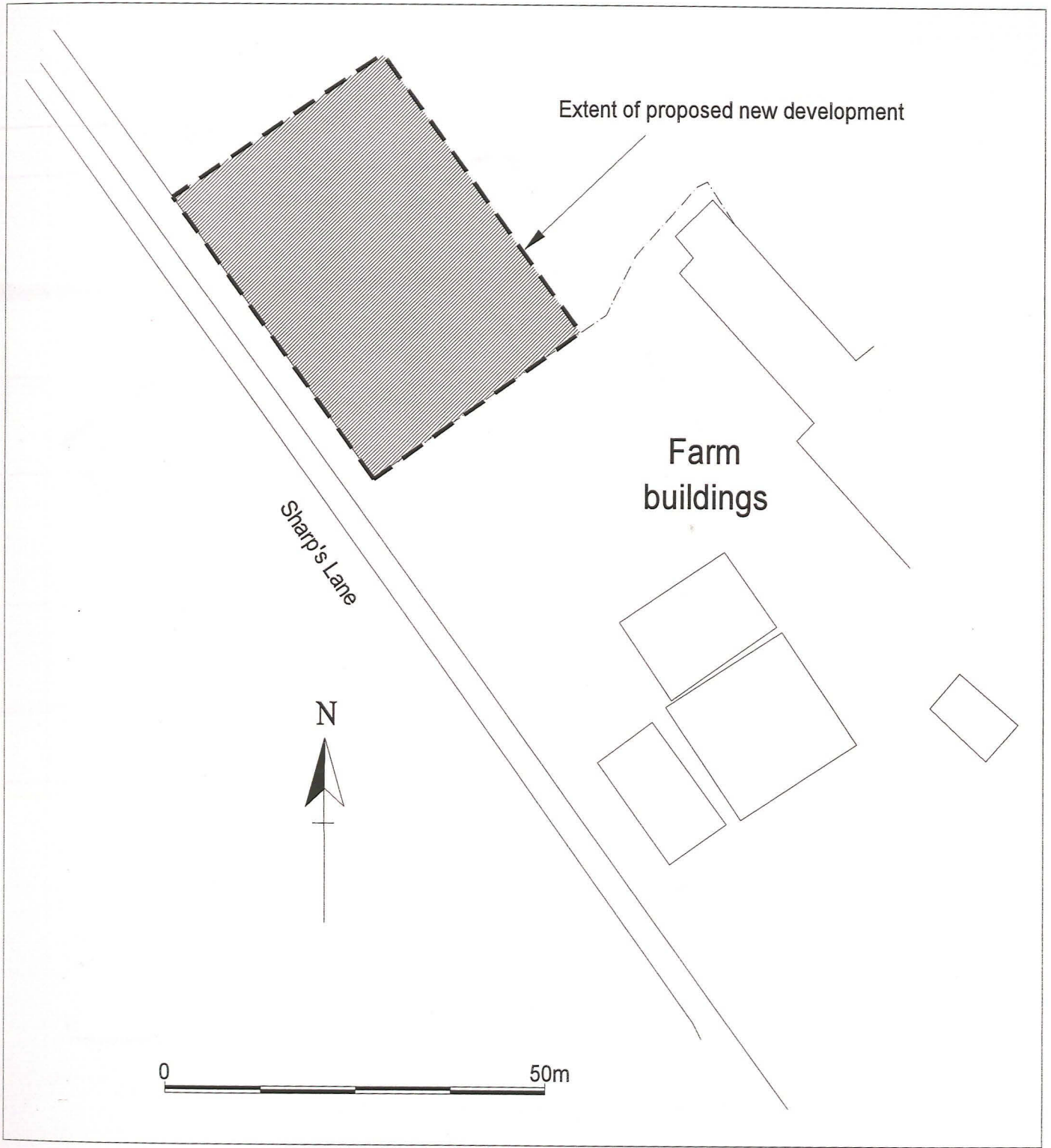


Figure 3 Location of development area

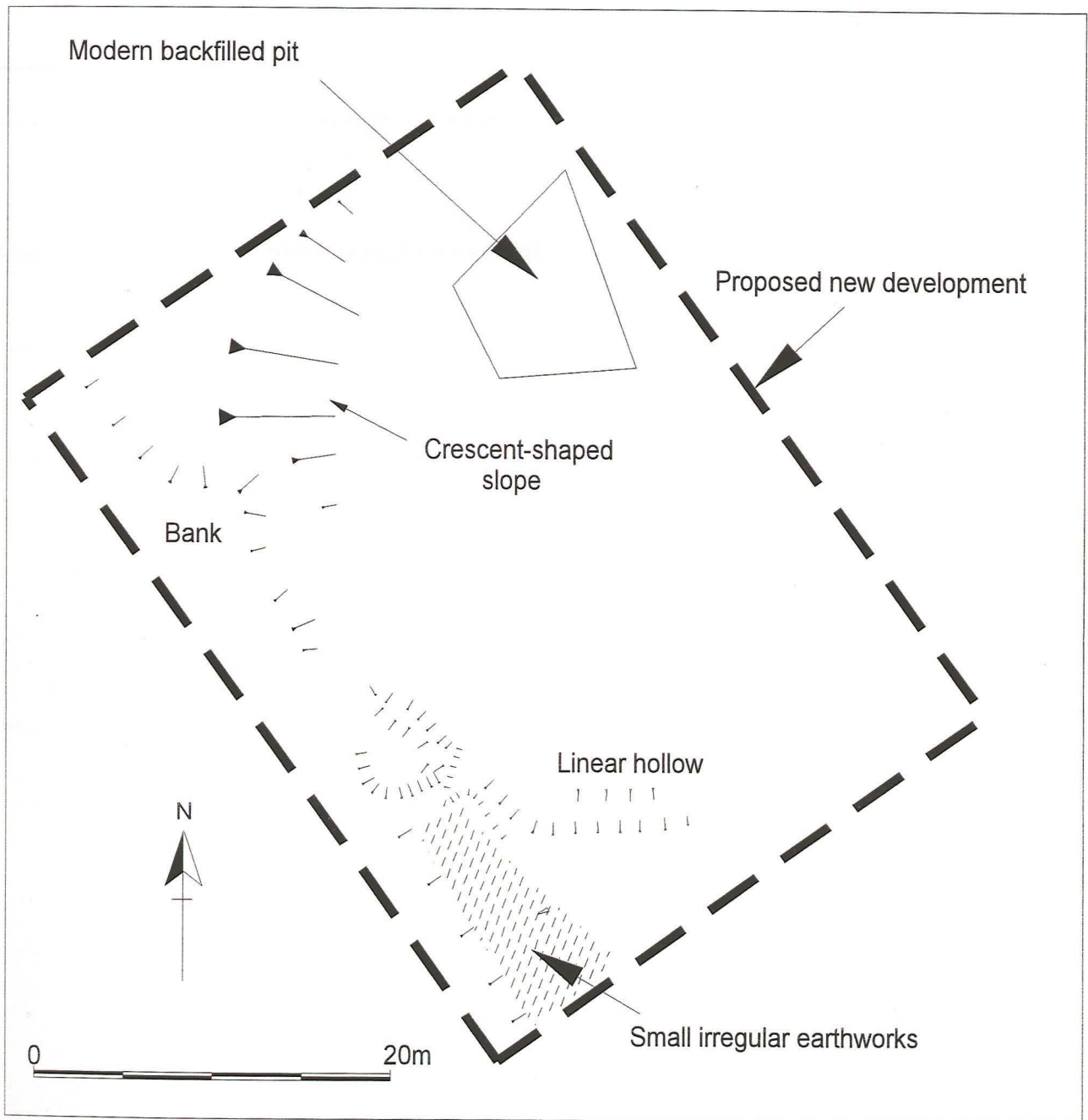


Figure 4 Plan showing earthworks

**Appendix 1**

**LAND AT  
SHARP'S LANE,  
LEVERTON,  
LINCOLNSHIRE**

**SPECIFICATION FOR  
ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY**

**PREPARED FOR  
MOLSOM & PARTNERS**

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

**JUNE 2000**

1 **SUMMARY**

- 1.1 *A watching brief is required during construction of a joinery workshop at Sharp's Lane, Leverton, Lincs.*
- 1.2 *The area is archaeologically sensitive. Earthworks were observed during walkover survey within part of the proposed development area.*
- 1.3 *The archaeological work will consist of archaeological field survey in advance of development of and subsequent watching-brief during development works on the site*
- 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 the archaeological field survey of land at Sharp's Lane, Leverton, Lincs. The site is located at National Grid Reference TF 4065 4735.
- 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 Leverton is located in the Boston district of Lincolnshire, approximately 8km northeast of the town of Boston. The site lies to the southeast of the village centre in an area of former parkland on the northeast side of Sharp's Lane. It is centred on National Grid Reference TF 4065 4735.

4 **PLANNING BACKGROUND**

- 4.1 A planning application (B/00/0049/FULL) was submitted to Boston Borough Council for the construction of the workshop. Permission is subject to a condition requiring the undertaking of an earthwork survey prior to construction work at the application site.

5 **SOILS AND TOPOGRAPHY**

- 5.1 The site is low-lying at approximately 3m OD. Local soils are the Wisbech Association

calcareous alluvial gleys (Hodge *et al.* 1984 319; 361). The soils are developed in marine alluvium which in turn overlies Oxford Clays (Robson 1990, 36).

## 6 ARCHAEOLOGICAL OVERVIEW

- 6.1 Unidentified buried prehistoric and Romano-British remains may exist at the proposed development site. However, it is likely that any such remains are buried beneath later alluvial deposits and the potential for their disturbance is uncertain
- 6.2 Leverton Highgate has been suggested as a Anglo-Saxon sea bank. Any subsequent salt-making activity would have been carried out on its seaward side, away from the proposed development site. Leverton is itself recorded in the Domesday Book indicating settlement in the area from the late Saxon period at the latest.
- 6.3 Low and indistinct earthworks within part of the proposed development area were observed during walkover survey (Albone 2000). It is not clear to what these remains relate although it is possible that they were originally dyings, well-preserved examples of which survive in the parkland adjacent to the site. No artefactual remains were observed during the walkover survey.

## 7 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- 7.1 The aims of the topographic survey will be to provide a record of earthwork features within the development area which will be disturbed by the development groundworks.
- 7.2 The objectives of the survey will be to:
  - 7.2.1 Record the form and extent of the earthworks within the site;
  - 7.2.2 Determine the spatial arrangement of the archaeological earthworks encountered;
  - 7.2.3 Establish the sequence, if any, of the features surviving as earthworks on the site.

## 8 TOPOGRAPHIC SURVEY

- 8.1 A topographic survey of earthwork features will be undertaken within the development area. The survey will be carried out to Level 3 as specified in *Recording Archaeological Monuments: A Descriptive Specification* (RCHME 1999). Providing measured drawings representing the form and complexity of the site, at an appropriate scale, together with a written account.
- 8.2 Reasoning for this technique
  - 8.2.1 Topographical survey allows an accurate, measured record to be made of earthwork remains, aiding the understanding and interpretation of the features.
- 8.3 General Considerations
  - 8.3.1 All work will be undertaken following statutory Health and Safety requirements



in operation at the time of the evaluation.

- 8.3.2 The work will be undertaken according to the relevant codes of practice issued by the Institute of Field Archaeologists (IFA). *Archaeological Project Services* is an IFA Registered Archaeological Organisation (No. 21).

#### 8.4 Methodology

- 8.4.1 The survey will be undertaken using a Geodolite Total Station EDM with a Psion datalogger using NSS datalogging software. The NSS datalogger allows definition of a range of codes and symbols to represent various types of surveyed features.
- 8.4.2 The survey will be located with reference to features identified on current Ordnance Survey maps. All recorded levels within the survey will be related to Ordnance Survey datum heights. Survey accuracy will be maintained throughout the project by measurement against established control points.
- 8.4.3 Data will be captured in a manner consistent with the output of scaled 1:1250 drawing (Level 3 RCHME). Ridge and furrow earthworks will be surveyed by plotting the crests of ridges and bases of furrows and represented in standard format. Other earthworks will be represented by hachures created during the manipulation of the DesignCad drawings.
- 8.4.4 A photographic record of the earthwork remains will be compiled consisting of black and white prints (reproduced as contact sheets) and colour slides.
- 8.4.5 The data will be downloaded to a PC using a Survpro package, DesignCad drawings will then be created from the raw data. Manipulation of the drawings in DesignCad allows the production of the final, scaled drawings. The features will be represented in a standard format on the final drawings (RCHME 1999). DesignCad allows the creation of standard digital drawings if required.
- 8.4.6 Drawings will be reproduced in the final report at a suitable scale and will be referenced to the National Grid (eight figure grid reference). Drawings will include relevant heights OD, metric scale bars and appropriate annotations.
- 8.4.7 The report will include:
- A non-technical summary of the results of the investigation
  - A description of the archaeological setting of the survey.
  - Description of the topography of the site.
  - Description of the methodologies used during the survey.
  - A text describing the findings of the survey.
  - A consideration of the local, regional and national context of the survey

findings.

- Plans of the archaeological features as described above
- Interpretation of the archaeological features surveyed, and their chronology and setting within the surrounding landscape.

9 **REPORT DEPOSITION**

9.1 Copies of the report will be sent to the client; the Community Archaeologist, Boston Borough Council; Boston Borough Council Planning Department; and to the County Council Archaeological Sites and Monuments Record.

10 **ARCHIVE**

10.1 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.

11 **PUBLICATION**

11.1 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.

12 **CURATORIAL RESPONSIBILITY**

12.1 Curatorial responsibility for the archaeological work undertaken on the site lies with the Community Archaeologist, Boston Borough Council. They will be given seven days notice in writing before the commencement of the project.

13 **VARIATIONS**

13.1 Variations to the proposed scheme of works will only be made following written confirmation of acceptance from the archaeological curator.

14 **PROGRAMME OF WORKS AND STAFFING LEVELS**

14.1 Survey will be undertaken by an archaeological supervisor with experience of such earthwork surveys together with one assistant. Field survey will take one day.

14.2 Post-survey processing and report production will be undertaken by the archaeological supervisor with assistance from an illustrator/CAD specialist. Reporting is timetabled to take five days.

15     **INSURANCES**

- 15.1    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.

16     **COPYRIGHT**

- 16.1    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.
- 16.2    Licence will also be given to the archaeological curators to use the documentary archive for educational, public and research purposes.
- 16.3    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.
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17     **BIBLIOGRAPHY**

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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

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Specification: Version 1, 13-06-00

## Appendix 2

### GLOSSARY

<b>Carucate</b>	A unit of land, originally based on the amount that could be ploughed annually by a team of eight oxen.
<b>Domesday Survey</b>	A survey of property ownership in England compiled on the instruction of William I for taxation purposes in 1086 AD.
<b>Dylings</b>	A form of broad ridge and furrow (q.v.) found in the fenland. The strips were separated by wide shallow ditches the soil from which was used to raise the ridges. They are first recorded in the 14 <sup>th</sup> century and continue in use until the 19 <sup>th</sup> century.
<b>Ha-ha</b>	A wall and ditch placed around a garden to prevent access by livestock. The wall stopped at ground level to allow an unimpeded view from the house and garden into the surrounding park or countryside. They were first constructed in the 18 <sup>th</sup> century.
<b>Medieval</b>	The Middle Ages, dating from approximately AD 1066-1500.
<b>Perpendicular</b>	Division of English Gothic architecture in use from c.1350 - c.1530.
<b>Post-medieval</b>	The period following the Middle Ages, dating from approximately AD 1500-1800.
<b>Prehistoric</b>	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.
<b>Ridge and Furrow</b>	The remains of arable cultivation consisting of raised rounded strips separated by furrows. It is characteristic of open field agriculture.

## Appendix 3

### THE ARCHIVE

The archive consists of:

- 1 Sketch plan
- 6 Digital survey files
- 2 Digital drawing files

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: 2000.167

Archaeological Project Services Site Code: LSL00

The discussion and comments provided in this report are based on the archaeology revealed during the site investigations. Other archaeological finds and features may exist on the development site but away from the areas exposed during the course of this fieldwork. *Archaeological Project Services* cannot confirm that those areas unexposed are free from archaeology nor that any archaeology present there is of a similar character to that revealed during the current investigation.

Archaeological Project Services shall retain full copyright of any commissioned reports under the *Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988* with all rights reserved; excepting that it hereby provides an exclusive licence to the client for the use of such documents by the client in all matters directly relating to the project as described in the Project Specification.