AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF ON LAND OFF WALCOT ROAD, FOLKINGHAM, LINCOLNSHIRE (FWR97)



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ARCHAEOLOGICAL
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AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF ON LAND OFF WALCOT ROAD, FOLKINGHAM, LINCOLNSHIRE (FWR97)

Work Undertaken For Francis Jackson Estates Ltd.

Report compiled by Tobin Rayner BSc (Hons)

September 2000

Planning Application No: SK97/0368/32/16 National Grid Reference: TF 069 337 City and County Museum Accession No: 125.97



A.P.S. Report No: 92/00

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### 1. SUMMARY

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken during a programme of housing development on land off Walcot Road, Folkingham, Lincolnshire. A geophysical survey undertaken on the site in March 1997 had detected several anomalies thought to represent modern disturbance, tipping and a probable quarry.

The watching brief was undertaken as the site lay within an area of known archaeological presence dating from the Prehistoric period to the present day.

A sequence of natural sand, silt and clay deposits sealed by sand, silt and clay subsoils were revealed, cut by two undated ditches, two pits and a furrow.

The recovery of a worked flint dated to the Prehistoric period and a Roman tile during topsoil stripping reaffirms the presence of activity dated to those periods within the vicinity of the site.

Abraded sherds of locally made medieval and post-medieval pottery were recovered from topsoil stripping and from one of the ditches. The abraded nature of the pottery sherds probably indicates they entered the area during manuring. The discovery of a furrow also suggests the area was being ploughed during the medieval and/or post-medieval period.

Other finds retrieved from the investigation included modern earthenware, brick, tile, glass and slag.

#### 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 purposes within a specified area,..., where there is a possibility that archaeological deposits may be disturbed or destroyed,' (IFA 1997).

# 2.2 Planning Background

Archaeological Project Services was commissioned by Francis Jackson Estates Ltd. to undertake an archaeological watching brief during a programme of housing development on land off Walcot Road, Folkingham, Lincolnshire. Approval for the development was sought through the submission of planning application SK97/0368/32/16. Permission was granted subject to a standard condition for archaeological recording. The watching brief was carried out between the 27th May 1997 and the 20th December 1999, and included a total of 18 visits.

During the initial stripping of the topsoil a recently backfilled quarry, previously recorded during the geophysical survey, was exposed in the northwest corner of the site. The Community Archaeologist for South Kesteven therefore dispensed with the condition for further archaeological recording within that area.

# 2.3 Topography and Geology

Folkingham is situated 12km south of Sleaford and 16km west of Grantham in the administrative district of South Kesteven, Lincolnshire (Fig. 1).

The site is to the northwest of the village centre on land off Walcot Road (Fig. 2). Located at National Grid Reference TF 069 337 the site lies at a height of c. 40m OD on the northeast-facing slope of a ridge.

The site lies at the boundary of two soil regimes. On the west are Ragdale Association pelo-stagnogleys while, to the east, are Aswarby loamy gleyic brown calcareous earths. These soils occur at the boundary of the inter-bedded Jurassic limestone, clays and chalky till (Hodge *et al.* 1984, 293: 99).

# 2.4 Archaeological Setting

Folkingham is situated in an area of known archaeological remains dating from the Prehistoric period to the present day. Bronze Age barrows have been recorded 800m north of the development site (Fig. 2, SK32.13). Aerial photographs taken by the Royal Air Force in 1974 revealed the probable route of a Roman road (Fig 2, SK32.03), running northwest-southeast, 250m west of the site. Roman coins have also been recorded 1km to the southeast (Fig. 2, SK3204).

Saxon occupation of the area is represented by pottery found at two locations. Early Saxon pottery was recorded during cleaning of the castle moat, 600m east of the site, suggesting the probable site of a Saxon settlement (Fig. 2, SK32.14). Late Saxon and medieval pottery and a whetstone was found at the second find spot, 300m northeast of the development site (Fig. 2, SK32.09).

Folkingham is first mentioned in the Domesday Survey of 1086 and is referred to as *Fulchingeham* derived from the Old English 'The village (*ham*) of *Folca*'s people (Ekwall 1974, 183).

At the time of the Domesday Survey Folkingham is recorded as principally owned by Gilbert De Gand, and contained a church, a mill rendering 10 shillings and 8 pence and 100 acres of meadow (Foster and Longley 1976).

Henry de Beaumont received a licence to crenellate in 1311-12 and is credited with building the Castle (Fig. 2, SK32.10) which occupies a gently sloping site to the east of the village (Baggs 1974).

The medieval parish church of St. Andrew, in the village, has 13<sup>th</sup> century features and buildings lining the exceptionally spacious village square have 17<sup>th</sup> century origins. The remains of the former House of Correction, dated 1825, was built in and on the ruins of the inner bailey of the Castle (Pevsner and Harris 1989, 282).

A geophysical survey undertaken in March 1997 detected no clear archaeological features within the development area (Appendix 5). Anomalies were attributed to modern debris, although an area in the northwest corner was interpreted as a recently backfilled quarry site.

#### 3. AIMS

The requirements of the watching brief, as detailed in the specification for works (Appendix 1), were to record and interpret archaeological deposits, if present, and to determine their date, form, function, spatial arrangement and sequence.

#### 4. METHODS

The development area was initially stripped using a mechanical excavator to the level of the subsoil/natural interface before sewer drains were laid. Foundation trenches for the houses were then machined to a maximum depth of *c*. 1.20m (Fig. 3, Plate 1 and 2). Following mechanical excavation, the sides of the trenches were cleaned and rendered vertical. Selected deposits were partially or fully excavated by hand to determine their nature and to retrieve artefactual material.

The depth and thickness of each deposit was measured from the ground surface. Each archaeological deposit or feature revealed within the trench 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.

Finds recovered from those deposits excavated were examined and a period date assigned where possible. Records of the deposits and features recognised during the watching brief were also examined. A list of all contexts and interpretations appears as Appendix 2. Phasing was assigned based on artefact dating (Appendix 3 and 4) and the nature of the deposits and recognisable relationships between them.

# 5. RESULTS

Three phases of activity were identified:

Phase 1 Natural deposits

Phase 2 Undated archaeological

deposits

Phase 3 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** (Fig. 5 and 6, Plate 3 and 4)

The earliest deposits encountered during the investigation were a series of mottled light yellowish brown/grey sandy silt and clay (006) and (024), light to mid yellow grey/bluish grey clay (009), mid reddish yellow sandy silty clay (010), light to mid

reddish yellow silt (015), mottled mid brown/purple clayey sand (019), light yellow sand (021), mid greyish brown clay (021), light to mid grey clay (025) and mid yellowish reddish brown silty clay (026). Measuring at least 1.02m<sup>+</sup> thick these deposits represent the underlying geology.

A succession of deposits of light yellowish brown sandy silt (007), mottled reddish yellow/yellowish brown sandy silt (008), mid yellowish reddish brown clayey silt (014), mid brownish red sandy clayey silt (017), light brownish yellow silty clay (018), mid brown clayey sand (020) and light to mid yellowish brown sandy silt and clay (023) was encountered above the natural deposits across the site. Identified as a subsoil these deposit measured a maximum thickness of 0.60m and did not contain any artefacts.

# Phase 2 Undated archaeological deposits (Fig. 3, 5 and 6)

Recorded in the southwest corner of the site, during stripping of the topsoil, were two probable ditches (027) and (028), a potential pit (029) and a possible furrow (030). Retrieved from the mid to dark greyish brown silt fill (002), of feature (027), was a residual sherd of Bourne D ware pottery, dated to the 16<sup>th</sup> - 17<sup>th</sup> century. No artefacts were retrieved from the other three features.

Cutting subsoil (014), within the footing trench of Plot 42, was an oval/circular pit (013). Measuring 0.58m in depth, and filled by a mid brown silt (012), this deposit contained no archaeological artefacts.

Recorded within Plot 49, cutting subsoil (008), was an ill-defined pit (031). Contained within the feature was a 0.30m thick light brownish pinkish red sandy silt (011).

# Phase 3 Modern deposits (Fig. 5, Plate 3)

A deposit of mottled light yellow brown/grey clay and silt (016) was recorded overlying subsoil (016) within Plot 35. Measuring 0.21m thick this has been interpreted as a made ground used as a temporary surface during the development.

Overlying the subsoil, made ground and sealing all archaeological features was a 0.05m thick mid brown silt (001) topsoil. Prehistoric flint, a Roman tile, medieval, post-medieval and modern pottery, brick, glass and slag was retrieved during stripping of this topsoil.

#### 6. DISCUSSION

Natural deposits comprising sands, silts and clays, encountered within the development area, are characteristic of the underlying geology.

The overlying subsoil is probably a colluvial deposit formed by the process of soils being washed down from further up the slope and, the transformation of the underlying natural deposits during agricultural cultivation.

Archaeological artefacts recovered during stripping included Prehistoric flint and a Roman tile, however, the major component of the finds assemblage were medieval to post-medieval in date. Although no dateable features were recorded during the watching brief, the recovery of the flint and tile confirms both Prehistoric and Roman activity within the vicinity of the site. Also, the discovery of features within the development area does confirm that the site had been utilised in the past, although the date is uncertain.

The abraded nature of the pottery sherds

suggests that they probably entered the area during manuring, probably during the medieval and post-medieval period, as attested by furrow (030), recorded within the development area.

#### 7. CONCLUSIONS

Archaeological investigations on land off Walcot Road, Folkingham, Lincolnshire were undertaken because the site lay within an area of known archaeological remains dating from the Prehistoric period to the present day.

No positively dated archaeological features were recorded and only a sequence of natural, subsoil, undated ditches, pits, a furrow, made ground and a modern topsoil was recorded.

Several sherds of pottery, flint, brick, tile, glass and slag were recovered during topsoil stripping of the site. The collection ranges in date from the Prehistoric period through to the 20<sup>th</sup> century and is generally typical of this part of Lincolnshire, and reaffirms a continuation of use of the land within close proximity of the site during those periods.

The nature of the local site conditions would suggest that few environmental indicators would survive, other than through charring.

# 8. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeological Project Services would like to acknowledge the assistance of Francis Jackson Estates Ltd. who commissioned the fieldwork and post-excavation analysis. The work was coordinated by Gary Taylor and this report was edited by Gary Taylor and Tom Lane. Jo Simpson, the South Kesteven Community Archaeologist, permitted access to the files maintained by Heritage Trust of

Lincolnshire.

# 9. PERSONNEL

Project Coordinator: Gary Taylor

Supervisors: Mark Dymond and Fiona

Walker

Finds Processing: Denise Buckley

Photographic Reproduction: Sue Unsworth Illustration: Phil Mills and Tobin Rayner Post-excavation Analyst: Tobin Rayner

### 10. BIBLIOGRAPHY

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# 11. ABBREVIATIONS

IFA Institute of Field Archaeologists



Figure 1: General Location Plan

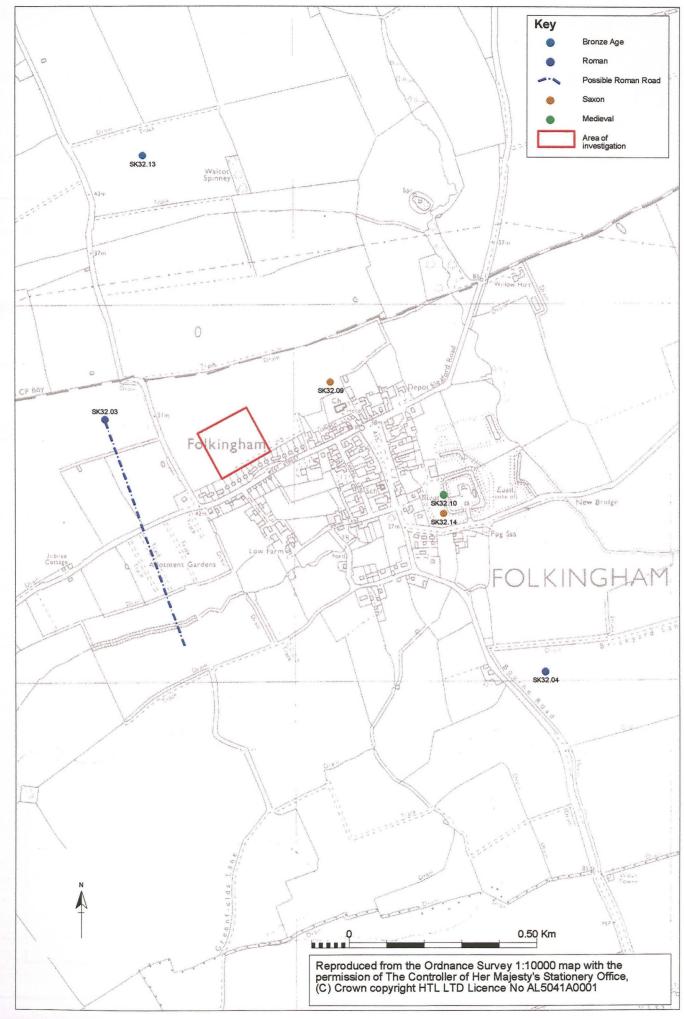


Figure 2 Site location and archaeological setting

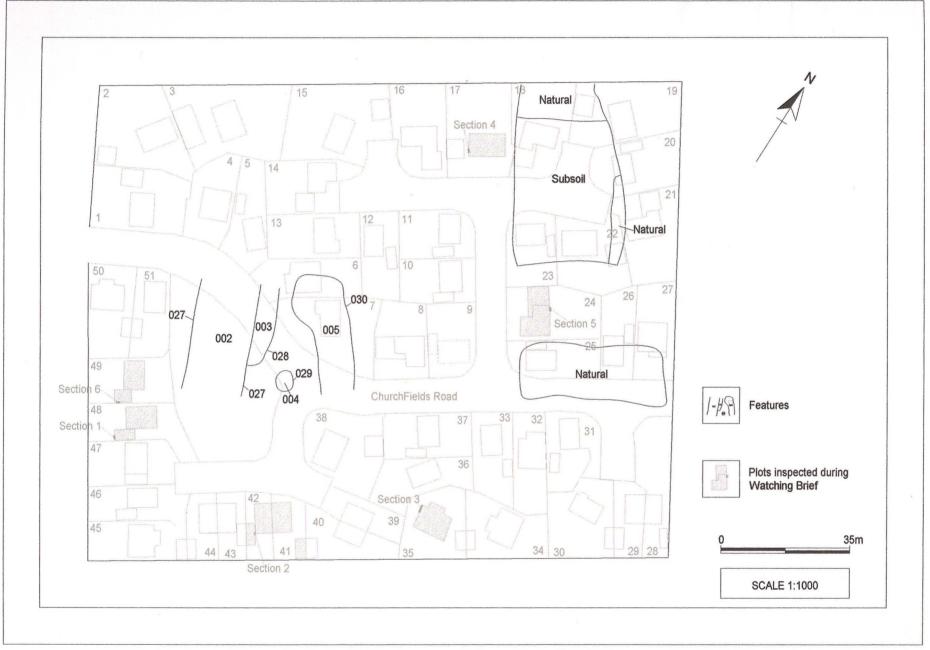


Figure 3: Features recorded during topsoil stripping



Figure 4: Plan of development area showing section locations

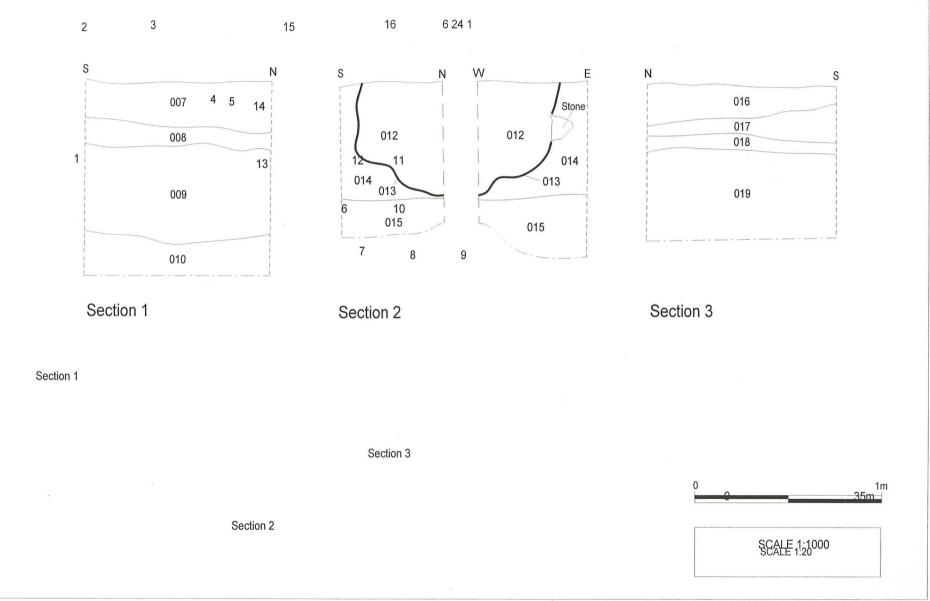


Figure 5: Sections 1 - 3

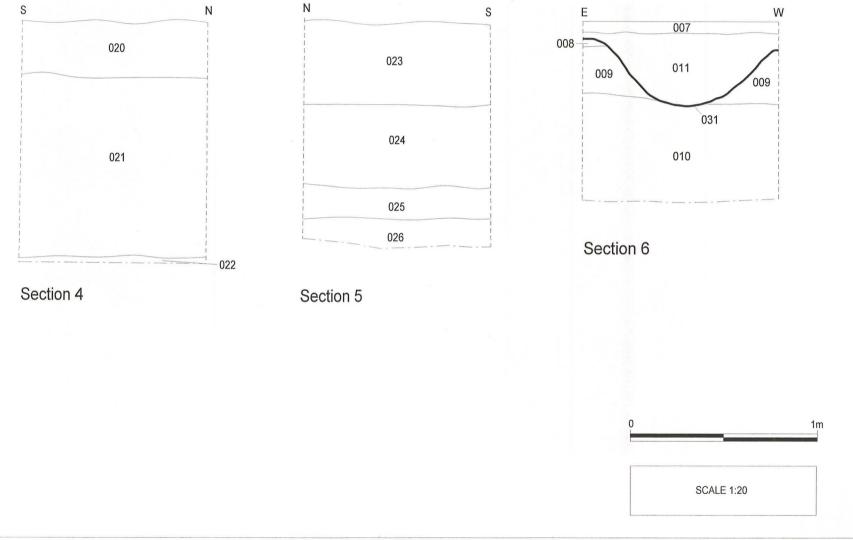


Figure 6: Sections 4 - 6



Plate 1 General view of the development area with machining in progress, looking southeast



Plate 2 View of Plot 48 footing trench, showing general site conditions, looking south



Plate 3 Section 3, showing made ground (016), subsoils (017 and 018) and natural (019), looking east



Plate 4 Section 5, showing the sequence of deposits, subsoil (023) and natural (024, 025 and 026), looking east

# Specification for Archaeological Watching Brief on Land off Walcot Road, Folkingham, Lincolnshire

#### **SUMMARY**

A watching brief is required during a programme of housing development on land off Walcot Road, Folkingham, Lincolnshire.

Saxon and medieval artefacts have been found close to the site which is located near the graveyard of the medieval parish church. Consequently, it is possible that evidence of the earliest occupation of Folkingham may be located in the development area. Aerial photographs show cropmarks of possible buried archaeological remains in the northern part of the site.

The watching brief will be undertaken during groundworks associated with the development. The archaeological features exposed will be recorded in writing, graphically and photographically.

On completion of the fieldwork a report will be prepared detailing the findings of the investigation. The report will consist of a narrative supported by illustrations and photographs.

#### INTRODUCTION

- 1. This document comprises a specification for an archaeological watching brief during a programme of residential development on land off Walcot Road, Folkingham. The site is located at national grid reference TF 069 337, and is shown on Figures 1 and 2.
- 2. This document contains the following parts:
- 3. Overview.
- 4. Stages of work and methodologies.
- 5. List of specialists.
- 6. Programme of works and staffing structure of the project.

# 7. SITE LOCATION

8. Folkingham village is situated 12km south of Sleaford and 16km west of Grantham in the administrative district of South Kesteven. The site, which is centred on National Grid Reference TF 069 337, is located to the northwest of the village centre, off Walcott Road.

#### 9. PLANNING BACKGROUND

10. A proposal for a residential development of 51 houses, with accompanying gardens, garages and access roads, has been made. Planning permission has been granted by South Kesteven District Council, subject to a condition for an archaeological scheme of works. The developers propose to spread the development over about three years, probably undertaking phases of about 10 houses at a time.

#### 11. SOILS AND TOPOGRAPHY

12. The site and surrounding area is on the northeast-facing slope of a ridge and lies at approximately 40m OD. The site is at the boundary of two soil regimes. On the west are Ragdale Association pelo-stagnogleys while, on the east, are Aswarby fine loamy gleyic brown calcareous earths. These soils occur at the boundary of the interbedded Jurassic limestone and clays and chalky till (Hodge *et al.* 1984, 293; 99).

#### 13. THE ARCHAEOLOGY

- 14. The development site is situated near the medieval parish church of St. Andrew. Saxon and medieval artefacts, including pottery, have been recorded in the fields to the west of the church, and therefore in very close proximity to the development area. It is therefore possible that the development area may contain evidence of Saxon and medieval occupation.
- 15. Aerial photographs reveal cropmarks of possible buried archaeolpogical remains in the northern part of the development area.

#### 16. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- 17. The aims of the watching brief will be:
- 18. To record and interpret any archaeological features exposed during the excavation of the foundation trenches and other areas of ground disturbance.
- 19. The objectives of the watching brief will be to:
- 20. Determine the form and function of the archaeological features encountered;
- 21. Determine the spatial arrangement of the archaeological features encountered;
- 22. As far as practicable, recover dating evidence from the archaeological features, and
- 23. Establish the sequence of the archaeological remains present on the site.

#### 24. SITE OPERATIONS

- 25. <u>General considerations</u>
- 26. All work will be undertaken following statutory Health and Safety requirements in operation at the time of the watching brief.
- 27. The work will be undertaken according to the relevant codes of practise issued by the Institute of Field Archaeologists.

#### 28. Methodology

- 29. The watching brief will be undertaken during the ground works phase of development, and includes the archaeological monitoring of all phases of soil movement, as required by the South Kesteven Community Archaeologist.
- 30. The section of the trenches 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.
- 31. Any finds recovered will be bagged and labelled for later analysis.
- 32. Throughout the watching brief a photographic record consisting of colour prints will be compiled. The photographic record will consist of:
- 33. The site during work to show specific stages, and the layout of the archaeology within the trench.

- 34. Groups of features where their relationship is important
- 35. 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.

#### 36. POST-EXCAVATION

- 37. Stage 1
- 38. 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: the colour prints will be labelled, the labelling referring to schedules identifying the subject/s photographed.
- 39. 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.
- 40. Stage 2
- 41. Detailed examination of the stratigraphic matrix to enable the determination of the various phases of activity on the site.
- 42. Finds will be sent to specialists for identification and dating.
- 43. Stage 3
- 44. On completion of stage 2, a report detailing the findings of the watching brief will be prepared.
- 45. This will consist of:
- 46. A non-technical summary of the findings of the investigation.
- 47. A description of the archaeological setting of the watching brief.
- 48. Description of the topography of the site.
- 49. Description of the methodologies used during the watching brief.
- 50. A text describing the findings of the watching brief.
- 51. A consideration of the local, regional and national context of the watching brief findings.
- 52. Plans of the archaeological features exposed. If a sequence of archaeological deposits is encountered, separate plans for each phase will be produced.
- 53. Sections of the archaeological features.
- 54. Interpretation of the archaeological features exposed, and their chronology and setting within the surrounding landscape.
- 55. Specialist reports on the finds from the site.
- 56. Appropriate photographs of specific archaeological features.
- 57. REPORT DEPOSITION

58. Copies of the report will be sent to the client, Francis Jackson Estates Ltd; the South Kesteven Community Archaeologist; the South Kesteven District Council Planning Department; and to the County Sites and Monuments Record.

#### 59. ARCHIVE

60. 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.

#### 61. PUBLICATION

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 of the Society for 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.

#### 63. CURATORIAL RESPONSIBILITY

64. Curatorial responsibility for the archaeological work undertaken on the site lies with the South Kesteven Community Archaeologist. They will be given seven days notice in writing before the commencement of the project.

#### 65. VARIATIONS

66. Variations to the proposed scheme of works will only be made following written confirmation of acceptance from the South Kesteven Community Archaeologist.

#### 67. PROGRAMME OF WORKS AND STAFFING LEVELS

- 68. The watching brief will be integrated with the programme of construction.
- 69. An archaeological supervisor with experience of watching briefs will undertake the work.
- 70. Post-excavation analysis and report production will be undertaken by an archaeological supervisor, with assistance provided by an illustrator and archaeological finds supervisor. Additionally, an archives assistant will prepare the project documentation and materials in the appropriate manner and condition.
- 71. The programme for the post-excavation work and report production is dependent on the amount of time, and density of archaeological remains, on site. It is estimated that for every day, up to about 10-12 days, spent on site the post-excavation work will require an equivalent number of days for analysis and report production. For site work exceeding 13-15 days, each day of fieldwork will need two-third's of a day for the interpretation and reporting.

# 72. SPECIALISTS TO BE USED DURING THE PROJECT

73. 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.

<u>Task</u>

Body to be undertaking the work

Conservation

Conservation Laboratory, City and County Museum, Lincoln

Pottery Analysis Earlier Prehistoric Pottery - Dr C Allen, freelance specialist

Later Prehistoric Pottery - Dr D Knight, Trent & Peak Archaeological Trust

Roman Pottery - City of Lincoln Archaeology Unit Saxon Pottery - City of Lincoln Archaeology Unit

Medieval and later Pottery - H Healey, independent archaeologist

Non-pottery Artefacts

City of Lincoln Archaeology Unit

Animal Bones

Environmental Archaeology Consultancy

Human Remains Analysis

In principal, S Ensor, Trent & Peak Archaeological Trust.

### 74. **BIBLIOGRAPHY**

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# **Context Summary**

No	Type/ Section	Description	Depth (m)	Interpretation	Fill of/ by
001	Deposit	Moderate, mid brown silt with occ. stones and occ charcoal	0.05	Topsoil and subsoil	
002	Deposit	Moderate, mid to dark greyish brown silt		Probable ditch fill	027
003	Deposit	Moderate, mid to dark greyish brown silt with sand and clay inclusions		Probable ditch fill	028
004	Deposit	Moderate, light to mid brownish grey clayey silt with freq charcoal		Probable pit fill	029
005	Deposit	Moderate, mid to dark greyish brown silt		Probable furrow fill	030
006	Deposit	Moderate mottled light yellowish brown/grey sandy silt and clay with flint inclusions		Natural	
007	Deposit/1, 6	Moderate light yellowish brown sandy silt with clay inclusions	0.28	Subsoil	
800	Deposit/1,6	Moderate mottled mid reddish yellow/yellowish brown sandy silt	0.14	Subsoil	
009	Deposit/1, 6	Firm light to mid yellow grey/bluish grey clay	0.44	Natural	
010	Deposit/1, 6	Moderate mid reddish yellow sandy silty clay	0.24+	Natural	
011	Deposit/6	Moderate light brownish pinkish red sandy silt	0.30	Pit fill?	031
012	Deposit/2	Moderate mid brown silt with occ sub-angular limestone, sandstone and charcoal	0.58	Pit fill	013
013	Cut/2	Oval/circular cut with stepped vertical sides and a concave base	0.58	Pit	012
014	Deposit/2	Moderate mid yellowish reddish brown clayey silt with occ small to medium limestone	0.60	Subsoil	
015	Deposit/2	Moderate light to mid reddish yellow silt	0.50+	Natural	
016	Deposit/3	Moderate mottled light yellow brown/ grey clay and silt	0.21	Made ground	
017	Deposit/3	Moderate mid brownish red sandy clayey silt	0.20	Subsoil	
018	Deposit/3	Moderate light brownish yellow silty clay	0.08	Subsoil	
019	Deposit/3	Loose mottled mid brown/purple clayey sand with stone inclusions	0.48+	Natural	
020	Deposit/4	Firm mid brown clayey sand	0.30	Subsoil	
021	Deposit/4	Soft light yellow sand with lenses of grey sand	0.98	Natural	
022	Deposit/4	Firm mid greyish brown clay	0.04+	Natural.	
023	Deposit/5	Moderate light to mid yellowish brown sandy silt and clay	0.44	Subsoil	
024	Deposit/5	Moderate mottled light to mid yellowish brown/brownish grey sandy silt and clay	0.44	Natural	
025	Deposit/5	Firm light to mid grey clay	0.16	Natural	

No	Type/ Section	Description	Depth (m)	Interpretation	Fill of/ by
026	Deposit/5	Moderate mid yellowish reddish brown silty clay	0.14+	Natural	
027	Cut	Ill-defined linear feature		Probable ditch	002
028	Cut	Ill-defined linear feature		Probable ditch	003
029	Cut	Ill-defined feature		Probable pit	004
030	Cut	Ill-defined linear feature		Probable furrow	005
031	Cut/6	Ill-defined feature	0.30	Probable pit	011

#### The Finds

by Rachael Hall, Hilary Healey, Tom Lane and Gary Taylor

#### Provenance

The material was mostly recovered as unstratified finds though pottery was retrieved from the fill of a probable ditch (002). The medieval and early post-medieval pottery was made at Bourne, about 12km to the southeast of Folkingham. Otherwise, the late post-medieval and recent pottery was probably made in Staffordshire in the Midlands.

#### Range

The range of material is detailed in the tables. Pottery, glass, ceramic tile, stone, both tools and architectural fragments, and industrial residue were recovered during the investigation. Prehistoric flints are the earliest artefacts recovered though the major component of the assemblage is medieval to early post-medieval, 13<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup> century, date.

Table 1

Context	Description	Date
unstrat, stripping	1x red painted earthenware, brown glazed, 18th century 1x red painted earthenware, brown and cream glazed, 19th century 1x creamware, 18th-early 19th century 1x Bourne D ware, 16th-17th century 1x Bourne A Ware, 12th-14th century 1x ?Lincoln-type ware, 13th-14th century 2x ?pitch, linked, 19th-20th century 1x off-white decorated wall tile, 20th century 1x olive bottle glass, 20th century 1x slate, architectural fragment 1x glassy slag 1x worked flint	20 <sup>th</sup> century
unstrat	3x Bourne D ware, 16th-17th century 1x off-white decorated wall tile, 20th century	20th century
002	1x Bourne D ware, 16th-17th century	16th-17th century

An architectural fragment was recovered as an unstratified find during topsoil stripping. The piece is probably in Swithland slate, derived from quarries in Leicestershire, 55km to the southwest of Folkingham, and appears to be a small engaged column. It may have derived from a building or possibly a composite tomb structure and is likely to be of post-medieval date.

Most of the medieval to early post-medieval pottery sherds are abraded and may have entered the area as manuring scatter, rather than as occupation debris.

#### Condition

Although some of the pottery is abraded, 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 the Folkingham area are maintained in the files of the South Kesteven Community Archaeologist and the Lincolsnhire County Sites and Monuments Record. There have been few previous

archaeological investigations in the area, though a geohpysical survey of the site has been undertaken. Medieval and post-medieval pottery types, as found during this investigation, have been studied and reported both as kiln evidence and site assemblages.

#### **Potential**

In general, the small assemblage has limited potential. It is likely that the medieval and early post-medieval artefacts were introduced to the site in manuring scatter in these periods, and therefore reflect a predominantly agricultural usage of the area during the 13th-17th centuries. The flint scraper is of limited potential as an isolated find, but does indicate a human presence in the area during the Bronze Age.

# The Ceramic Building Material

by Phil Mills BSc (Hons) AIFA

#### Methodology

The fragments of ceramic building material recovered from the site were examined under a 20 x binocular microscope. Their fabrics were described and compared with the fabric type series retained at Archaeological Project Services.

#### Condition of the material

There were six fragments weighing a total of 530 grams recovered from the site, and representative of three separate fragments. All the pieces were unstratified, having been recovered during topsoil stripping. Most of the material was modern, but a single piece of Roman imbrex dating to the 2<sup>nd</sup> - 3<sup>rd</sup> century AD was identified. Most of the pieces were small, the piece of imbrex represented possibly 25 % of the original form. This would suggest that the modern material was from redeposited rubble, whilst the Roman material may suggest the proximity of a Roman building, although the absence of other Roman material would imply that this is a stray find.

#### Statement of Potential

It is recommended that the pieces be retained for future information about the spread of tile fabric types over the region, therefore helping to map out the changing development of the medieval brick and tile industry.

#### **Fabrics**

#### FWR2

A red (Munsell: 10R4/8) hard sandy feel fine fracture, with inclusions of sparse poorly-sorted fine subangular quartz.. This was a modern fabric.

#### FWR3

A dusky red (Munsell: 10R3/2) very hard granular feel irregular fracture, with inclusions of abundant poorly-sorted medium subangular quartz and abundant moderately-sorted medium subrounded voids. This was a modern fabric.

#### SPS1

A red buff (Munsell: 2.5YR6/8) medium rough feel hackley fracture, with inclusions of sparse poorly-sorted medium rounded grog and abundant poorly-sorted medium sub-rounded quartzite. This fabric has been identified at Sleaford (Mills 1998) and a number of other sites in Lincoln, Heydour, Ruskington and Market Deeping. It is similar to the fabric being produced during the second century by the Heckington tile kiln, and has been found with material dated to the second and third centuries AD.

#### The Forms

### Imbrex

One fragment of imbrex was identified in fabric SPS1. It was sanded on the underside, and probably c. 25% of it was surviving.

#### Tiles

The other material was all identified as tile, but was too small to allow further analysis. The edge of one tile (in fabric FWR3)exhibited a double ribbed form which may have been decorative, or allowed overlapping with tiles in the next row.

#### Markings

Three tiles, all in fabric FWR3 had evidence of a maker's stamp. The most complete example had the letters ..SAN?... identifiable.

# Bibliography

Herbert N. A., 1999, *Archaeological Investigations at the New Police Station, Sleaford, Lincolnshire*; Unpublished APS report no. **30/98** 

Mills P.J.E., 1998, The CBM from Sleaford Police Station, in Herbert 1998

	Fabric	Weight (g)	No.	Mean Thickness (mm)	Mortar
B/T	FWR3	135	3	12.6	No
fragment of mark possibly SAM3 different tiles					
Imbrex	SPS1	325	1	19.7	No
sanded underside					
Tile	FWR3	65	1	13.35	No
possible ridge tile faceted edge					
Tile	FWR2	5	1	9.1	No

# **Geophysical Survey**

by Engineering Archaeological Services Ltd.

#### Introduction

#### Location And Topography

The area surveyed lies to the west of the church and to the north of West Street. The land is gently undulating but locally disturbed with some surface tipping.

#### Archaeological Background

The area is close to the village centre and thus may have been occupied during the medieval period.

#### Aims Of Survey

It was hoped that the magnetometer survey would help define the nature of the surface features and detect and locate any possible features and activity areas and thus clarify the archaeological significance of the site.

#### **Summary of Results**

No clear evidence of archaeological features were detected.

#### Survey Results

#### Area

An area approximately 150m by 120m was scanned.

#### Results

Scanning detected a fair amount of noise particularly in the central and western parts of the site. Some of this is no doubt due to the incorporation of agricultural debris in the top soil e.g. horse shoes, nuts and bolts etc. but some is also due to disturbance and recent tipping.

The eastern half the site was significantly quieter with less evidence of tipping however no archaeological features were detected.

In the north-west corner of the site is a large shallow depression. This is a supposed quarry. While the area is in general fairly noisy this can only be attributed to surface tipping, there is no evidence that the area has been subject to recent landfall which normally gives rise to a very noisy magnetic response.

One badly abraded sherd of medieval pottery was observed at the eastern end of the site.

#### Conclusions

It is a fundamental axiom of archaeological geophysics that the absence of features in the survey data does not mean that there is no archaeology present in the survey area only that the techniques used have not detected it.

No archaeology however was detected across the area.

The noise caused by recent disturbance and tipping makes the site unsuitable for further investigation by detailed geophysical survey.

# **Techniques Of Geophysical Survey**

#### Magnetometry

This relies on variations in soil magnetic susceptibility and magnetic remenance which often result from past human activities. Using a Fluxgate Gradiometer these variations can be mapped, or a rapid evaluation of archaeological potential can be made by scanning.

#### Resistivity

This relies on variations in the electrical conductivity of the soil and subsoil which in general is related to soil moisture levels. As such, results can be seasonally dependant. Slower than Magnetometry this technique is best suited to locating positive features such as buried walls that give rise to high resistance anomalies.

# Magnetic Susceptibility

Variations in soil magnetic susceptibility occur naturally but can be greatly enhanced by human activity. Information on the enhancement of magnetic susceptibility can be used to ascertain the suitability of a site for magnetic survey and for targeting areas of potential archaeological activity when extensive sites need to be investigated. Very large areas can be rapidly evaluated and specific areas identified for detailed survey by gradiometer.

#### Instrumentation

- Fluxgate Gradiometer Geoscan Fm36
- 2. Resistance Meter Geoscan Rm4/Dl10
- 3. Magnetic Susceptibility Meter Bartington Ms2

#### Methodology

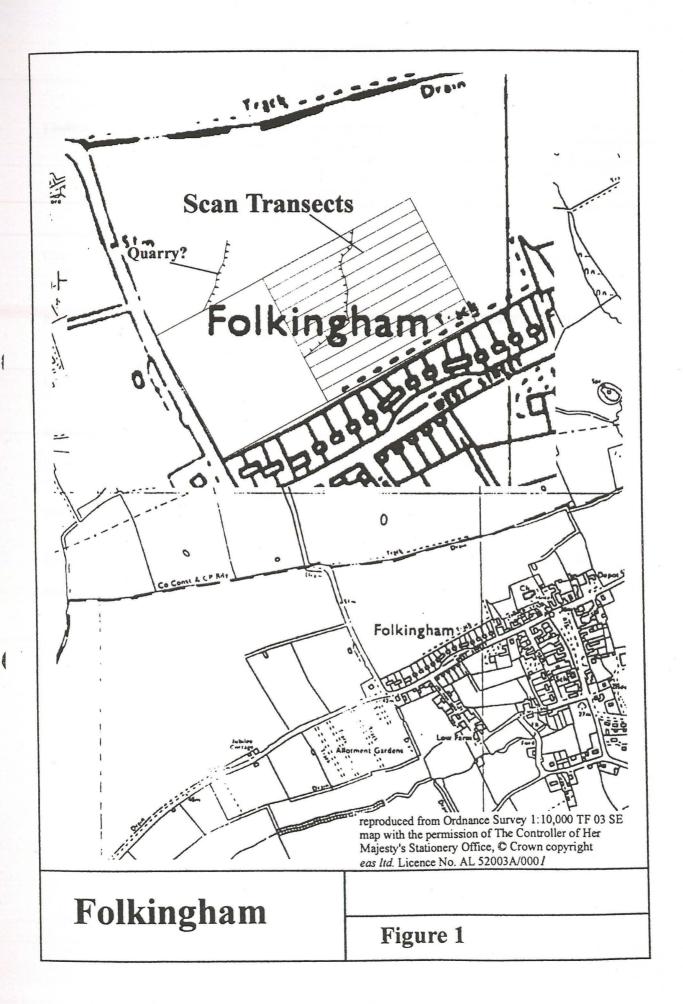
For Gradiometer and Resistivity Survey 20m x 20m or 30m x 30m grids are laid out over the survey area. Gradiometer readings are logged at either 0.5m or 1m intervals along traverses 1m apart. Resistance meter readings are logged at 1m intervals. Data is down-loaded to a laptop computer in the field for initial configuration and analysis. Final analysis is carried out back at base.

For scanning transects are laid out at 10m intervals. Any anomalies noticed are where possible traced and recorded on the location plan.

For Magnetic Susceptibility Survey a large grid is laid out and readings logged at 10m intervals along traverses 10m apart, data is again configured and analysed on a laptop computer.

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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

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.

Old English The language that developed from the composite dialects of Germanic-speaking tribes

of Angles, Saxons and Jutes who settled in Britain from the mid-fifth century

Post-medieval The period following the Middle Ages, dating from approximately AD 1500-1800.

Prehistoric The period of human history prior to the introduction of writing. In Britain the

prehistoric period lasts from the first evidence of human occupation about 500,000 BC,

until the Roman invasion in the middle of the 1st century AD.

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

Saxon Pertaining to the period dating from AD 410-1066 when England was largely settled by

tribes from northern Germany

#### The Archive

The archive consists of:

30 Context records

5 Scale drawings

2 Context record sheets

1 Section record sheet

4 Daily record sheets

1 Field record sheet

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: 125.97

Archaeological Project Services Site Code: FWR97

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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