ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF AT HIGH BRIDGE, SWINESHEAD, LINCOLNSHIRE (SHB 00)



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ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF AT HIGH BRIDGE, SWINESHEAD, LINCOLNSHIRE (SHB 00)

Work Undertaken For Mrs C. A. Wright

September 2000

Report Compiled by James Albone MA, PIFA

National Grid Reference: TF 2260 4174 Planning Reference: B/00/021/FULL LCNCC Accession No: 2000.169



A.P.S. Report No. 119/00

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1. SUMMARY

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Archaeological Project Services at High Bridge, Swineshead, Lincolnshire during the excavation of foundation trenches for an extension to a detached bungalow.

The watching brief was imposed as medieval, and possibly late Saxon, features and artefacts had been found adjacent to the site.

Deposits probably relating construction and demolition of 19th century cottages were exposed. These extended beyond the depth of the foundation No earlier deposits were trenches. encountered. The absence of any residual, pre-19th century, artefacts suggests that any earlier activity at the site may have been limited. A small fragment of human skull was also recovered and is of uncertain significance, though may imply the proximity of an undated but possibly post-medieval, burial.

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 or site on land or underwater, where there is a possibility that archaeological deposits may be disturbed or destroyed' (IFA, 1999).

2.2 Planning background

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken on 26th June 2000 during the excavation of foundation trenches for an

extension to a bungalow at High Bridge, Swineshead, Lincolnshire (Planning Application B/00/021/FULL). A programme of archaeological monitoring was recommended by the Boston District Community Archaeologist, in order to determine the presence of any archaeological remains.

Archaeological Project Services was commissioned by Mrs C. A. Wright, to undertake the archaeological watching brief.

2.3 Topography and Geology

Swineshead is situated 9km southwest of Boston in the administrative district of Boston Borough. High Bridge lies 1.9km northwest of the historic core of Swineshead village. The site is located at NGR TF 2260 4174 and lies at a height of *c*.3m OD. Soils at the site are silty calcareous alluvial gley soils of the Wisbech Series developed on marine alluvium (Robson 1990, 36).

The development was located in area of garden and lawn adjacent to the existing dwelling.

2.4 Archaeological Setting

The earliest archaeological evidence from Swineshead consists of two prehistoric stone axes. One of these, Neolithic date (2250 - 1000 BC), was found c.500m east of the development site.

Romano-British (43 - 410 AD) pottery has been found at a number of locations to the north and northeast of the development site. Soilmarks of rectangular enclosures and linear features, possibly of Romano-British date, have been identified *c*.500m southwest of the site.

The earliest reference to Swineshead is in

the Anglo-Saxon Chronicle in *c*.675 AD when King Aethelred gave land at Swineshead to the monastery at Peterborough (Garmonsway ed. 1992, 37). The place-name *Swineshaefed* is Old English in origin and refers to, 'the source of the creek' (Cameron 1998, 122).

A number of previous archaeological investigations have identified mid to Late Saxon (650 - 1066 AD) evidence representing a possible settlement focus in the North End part of the village (Moulis 1996, 4; Albone 1999, 10). Possible Late Saxon pottery has been found adjacent to the development site.

Swineshead is not mentioned in the Domesday Survey of 1086, although the settlements of Drayton and Estevening which lay in the parish are recorded (Morris 1986).

During the medieval period (1066 - 1500), Swineshead was an important market town with charters for two annual fairs. The remains of two medieval crosses survive in the centre of the village. The church is dedicated to St Mary and constructed in the Decorated and Perpendicular styles (Pevsner 1995, 736).

Although it is situated away from the main area of the medieval village, evidence of this period has been located close to the development site. A pit containing medieval pottery was found adjacent to the site. Undated ditches, possibly representing part of a medieval field and drainage system, have been identified *c*.200m to the northwest (Schofield 1997).

Local information suggested that a number of cottages previously stood at the development site. Structures are shown at the site on the 1956 6" to the mile Ordnance Survey map, suggesting that they were still standing at that time.

3. AIMS

The aim of the watching brief was to ensure that any archaeological features exposed by the groundworks were recorded and that any remains disturbed were recovered.

4. METHODS

The foundation trenches were excavated by mechanical excavator to a maximum depth of approximately 0.8m. This element of the groundworks was monitored by Archaeological Projects Services.

Each deposit identified was allocated a unique reference number (Context number) with an individual written description. Sections of archaeological features were drawn at a scale of 1:10 and their location recorded on a plan of the foundation trenches. Photographic recording, depicting the setting of the site and the archaeological features, was undertaken.

5. RESULTS

Records of deposits excavated during the development were examined. A list of contexts and interpretations appears as Appendix 2.

5.1 Modern Deposits

The earliest deposit encountered during the watching brief was a layer of light yellowish brown silt (003) which was greater than 0.3m in thickness. Tile fragments, a single sherd of 19th century pottery and a small piece of a human skull were recovered from this deposit.

Cutting through the earliest layer on the west side of the foundations was a steep-sided pit (005). This feature contained a

compact reddish brown silt (004) with frequent brick/tile fragments and redeposited topsoil. Sherds of 19th to 20th century pottery were also present in this deposit (Figs. 3 and 4). Sealing this feature was a dumped dark grey silt subsoil deposit (002) containing late 19th to early 20th century pottery sherds.

A second pit (007), on the south side of the foundations, cut through the subsoil (002). This feature was filled with a mixed dark grey and light brown silt (006) containing sherds of early to mid 20th century pottery (Figs. 3 and 4).

A medium to dark grey silt topsoil (001), containing further late 19th to early 20th century pottery, was present across the whole of the development area. This represented the garden soil of the existing dwelling.

6. DISCUSSION

A series of deposits, containing 19th or 20th century pottery, was exposed during the watching brief. It is likely that these relate to the construction and demolition of the cottages which are known to have previously existed at the site. The date range of the finds suggest that these had been constructed during the mid to late 19th century.

No earlier deposits or artefacts were revealed. If any such archaeological deposits had existed it appears that they had been destroyed by the modern disturbance. However, the absence of any residual pre-18th century artefacts suggests little or no earlier activity at the site. The discovery of an isolated, small human skull fragment may indicate the proximity of an undated though, in the absence of any earlier artefacts, possibly post-medieval, burial.

7. CONCLUSION

Archaeological investigations at High Bridge, Swineshead, were undertaken as the site lay adjacent to medieval, and possibly late Saxon, finds.

Deposits relating the construction and demolition of 19th century cottages were exposed.

This modern disturbance extended beyond the depth of the foundation trenches and accounted for the lack of any earlier deposits. The absence of any pre-18th century residual artefacts in these deposits suggested only limited previous activity at the site, if any at all. A human skull fragment perhaps suggests the existence of a burial in the vicinity.

8. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeological Project Services would like to acknowledge the assistance of Mrs C.A. Wright who commissioned the watching brief. The work was coordinated by Gary Taylor and this report was edited by Tom Lane. Susan Smith, the Boston Community Archaeologist, allowed access to the relevant parish files held by Heritage Lincolnshire.

9. PERSONNEL

Project Coordinator: Gary Taylor Site Supervisor: Steve Thomson Finds Processing: Denise Buckley CAD Illustration: James Albone

Post-Excavation Analysis: James Albone

10. BIBLIOGRAPHY

Albone, J., 1999 Archaeological Field Evaluation Report, Land West of High Street Swineshead, Lincolnshire. Unpublished PCA report.

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Pevsner, N. and Harris, J., 1989 Lincolnshire. The Buildings of England (2nd revised edition)

Robson, J.D., 1990 Soils of the Boston and Spalding District.

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11. ABBREVIATIONS

APS Archaeological Project Services

IFA Institute of Field Archaeologists

PCA Pre-Construct Archaeology



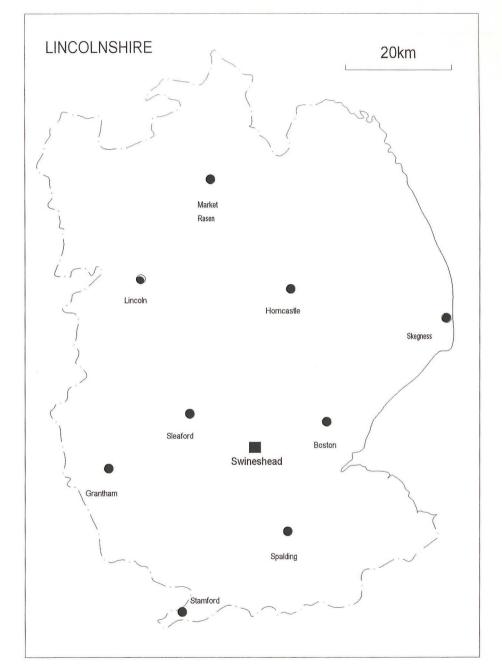


Figure 1 General Location Plan

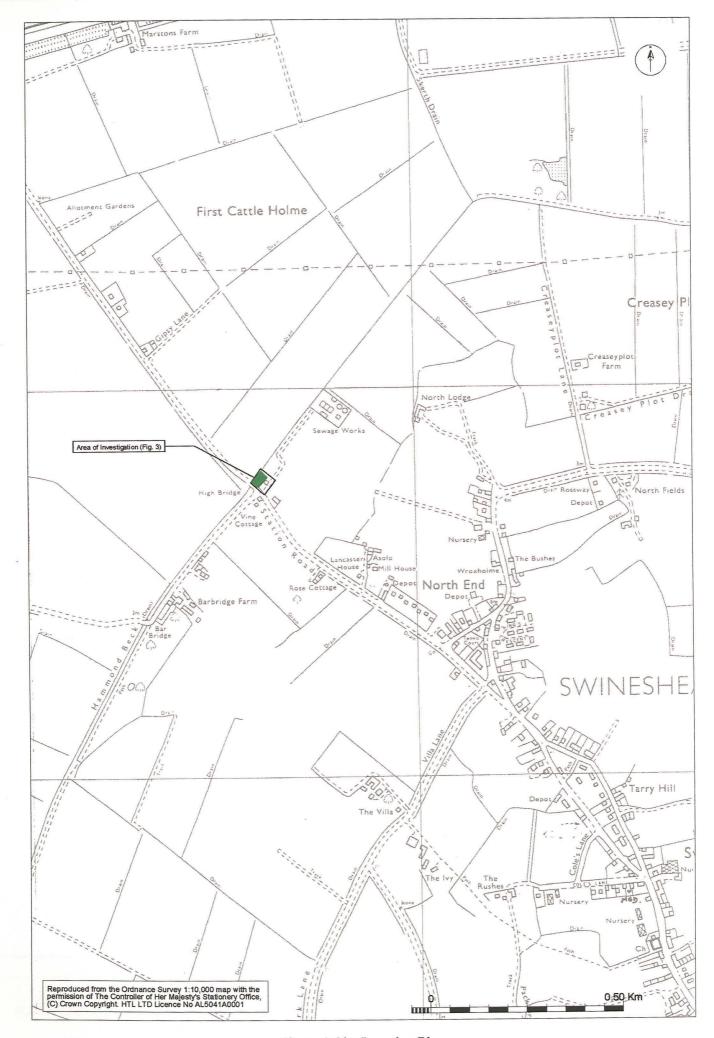


Figure 2 Site Location Plan

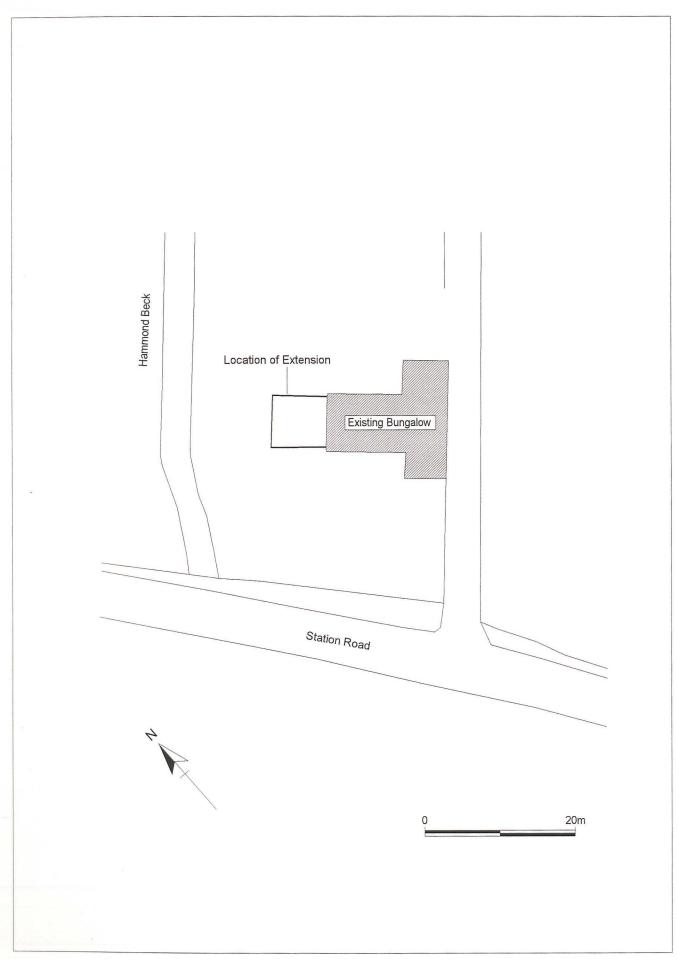


Figure 3 Site plan showing location of extension

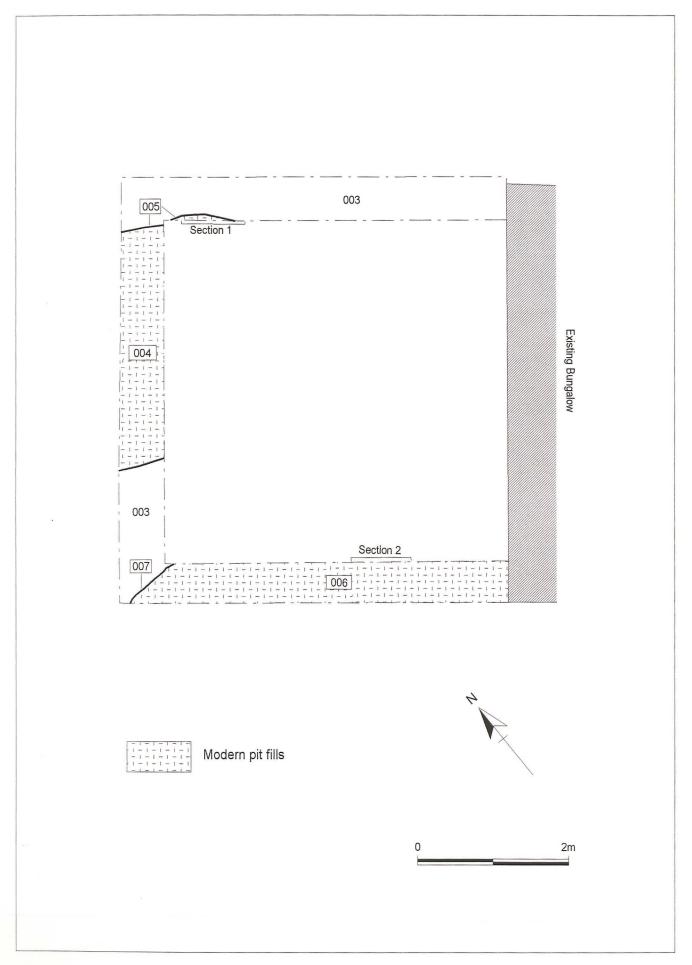


Figure 4 Plan of the foundation trenches showing section locations

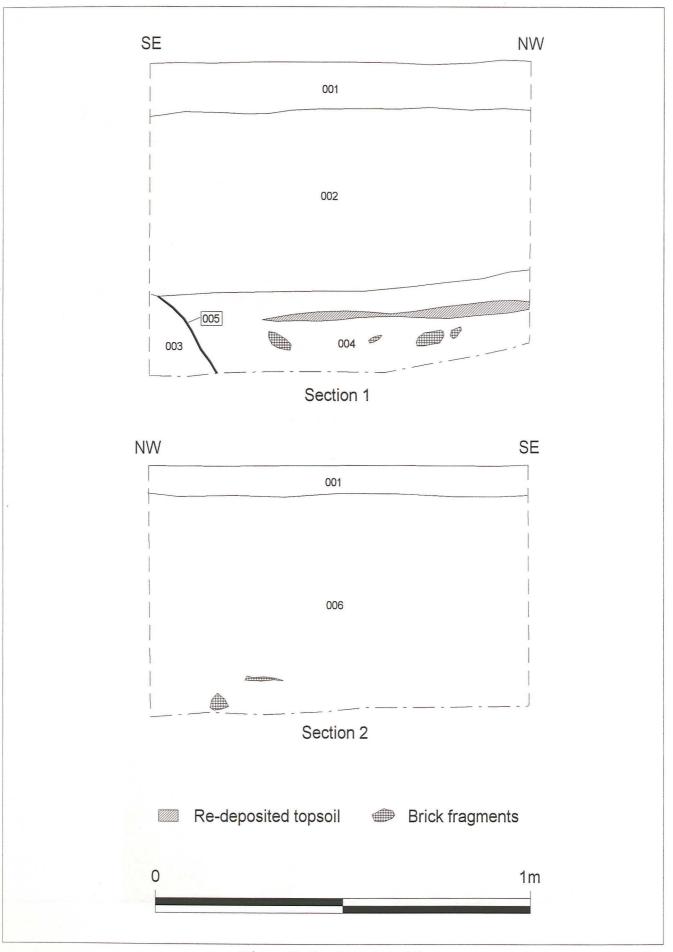


Figure 5 Sections 1 and 2



✓ Plate 1 General view of the foundation trenches looking southwest

▼ Plate 2 Section 2



ARCHAEOLOGICAL PROJECT BRIEF ENHANCED OBSERVATION AND RECORDING (WATCHING BRIEF)

High Bridge, Swineshead

THIS BRIEF SHOULD BE SENT TO RECOGNISED ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONTRACTORS. PLEASE ENCLOSE COPIES OF ANY RELEVANT SITE PLANS AND THE LOCATION MAP.

1. Summary

- 1.1 This document is the brief for an archaeological Enhanced Observation and Recording brief to be carried out during the construction of lounge and bedroom extensions, double garage and resiting of a septic tank and any other associated groundworks at High Bridge, Swineshead.
- 1.2 This brief should be used by archaeological contractors as the basis for the preparation of a detailed archaeological project specification. In response to this brief contractors will be expected to provide details of the proposed scheme of work, to include the anticipated working methods, timescales and staffing levels. This brief is supplementary to the Lincolnshire Archaeological Handbook, which can be provided by Lincolnshire County Council Archaeology Office, or at http://www.lincscc.u-net.com/archhome.htm.
- 1.3 All of the detailed specifications will be submitted for approval to the Boston Community Archaeologist. Failure to seek approval at an early stage may result in delay later on. To avoid any such delay archaeological contractors are strongly advised to seek approval of the detailed specification as soon as possible. The client will be free to choose between those specifications, which are considered to satisfy adequately this brief.
- 1.4 All contractors supplying specifications should refer to SCAUM Principles of Competitive Tendering (SCAUM Guidelines and Notes on Competitive Tendering for Archaeological Services 1996).
- 1.5 The enhanced nature of this brief requires that full investigation of archaeology take place. Therefore pauses in groundworking may be appropriate to ensure complete understanding through excavation, recording and sampling of material of any exposed archaeologically sensitive areas.
- 1.6 This brief should not be used after March 2001 after which the Community Archaeologist should be contacted.

2. Site Location

2.1 Boston is situated in the south Lincolnshire Fens, approximately 45km southeast of Lincoln and 7km from the northwest coast of the Wash. Swineshead is approximately

1.9km to the south west.

3. Planning Background

3.1 A planning application was submitted to Boston Borough Council (B/00/0021/FULL) and granted permission subject to a condition requiring a Scheme of Works defined as an archaeological Enhanced Observation and Recording brief.

4. Archaeological Background

4.1 A watching brief carried out at the adjacent dwelling located a pit-like feature containing medieval and possible Saxon pottery. The feature also contained animal bone and burnt deposits. This area, therefore, appears to have been used for domestic activities in the late Saxon/early medieval period.

5. Requirement for Work

- 5.1 The objective of the Enhanced Observation should be to ensure that any archaeological features exposed by the groundworks are recorded and interpreted and that any remains disturbed are recovered. To this end archaeological deposits or features are to be systematically examined, therefore extra time must be given to fully excavate and record archaeologically sensitive areas.
- 5.2 Any adjustments to the brief for the Enhanced Observation and Recording Brief project should only be made after discussion with the Boston Community Archaeologist.
 - 5.3 The following details should be given in the contractor's specification:
 - 5.3.1 A projected timetable must be agreed for the various stages of work.
 - 5.3.2 The staff structure and numbers must be detailed. This should include lists of specialists and their role in the project. There should be no change to any of the specialists listed in the specification without prior discussion with the Community Archaeologist.
 - 5.3.3 It is expected that all on-site work will be carried out in a way that complies with the relevant Health and Safety Legislation and that due consideration will be given to site security.
 - 5.3.4 The recovery and recording strategies to be used must be described in full.
 - 5.3.5 An estimate of time and resources allocated for post excavation work and report production.
 - 5.3.6 The contingencies for extended excavation/recording/sampling required for this brief.

6. Methods

- 6.1 The investigation should be carried out by a recognised archaeological body in accordance with the code of conduct of The Institute of Field Archaeologists.
- 6.2 Where appropriate, the Enhanced Observation and Recording brief should involve:
 - 6.2.1 archaeological supervision of soil stripping;
 - 6.2.2 inspection of subsoil for archaeological features;
 - 6.2.3 recording of archaeological features in plan;
 - 6.2.4 full excavation of features;
 - 6.2.5 archaeological supervision of subsoil stripping;
 - 6.2.6 inspection of natural for archaeological features and excavation, recording of them;
 - 6.2.7 sampling of deposits which warrant further investigations
 - any human remains encountered must be left in situ and only removed if absolutely necessary. The contractor must comply with all statutory consents and licences under the Disused Burial Grounds (Amendment) Act, 1981 or other Burial Acts regarding the exhumation and interment of human remains. It will also be necessary to comply with all reasonable requests of interested parties as to the method of removal, reinterment or disposal of the remains or associated items. Attempt must be made at all times not to cause offence to any interested parties;
 - 6.2.9 If discovered during excavation finds of gold and silver must be archaeologically removed to a safe place and reported to the local Coroner immediately (within 14 days) in accordance with the procedures of Treasure Act 1997 and Code of Practice. If removal of such finds is not possible on the same day then adequate security arrangements must be made.
 - 6.2.10 Where possible, a metal detector should be used to scan spoil heaps and exposed areas.

7. Monitoring Arrangements

7.1 The Boston Community Archaeologist of will be responsible for monitoring progress and standards throughout the project and will require at least seven days notice prior to the commencement of the work. The Community Archaeologist should be kept informed of any unexpected discoveries and regularly updated on the project's progress. They should be allowed access to the site at their convenience and will comply with any health and safety requirements associated with the site.

8. Reporting Requirements

- 8.1 A full report should be produced and deposited with the Boston Community Archaeologist, Boston Council Planning Department, the Developer and the County Sites and Monuments Record. The report should include:
 - 8.1.1 location plan of the trenches;
 - 8.1.2 section and plan drawing, with ground level, Ordnance Datum, vertical and horizontal scales as appropriate;
 - 8.1.3 specialist descriptions and discussions of artefacts and ecofacts;
 - 8.1.4 an indication of potential archaeological deposits not disturbed by the present development;
 - 8.1.5 colour photographs should be utilised to illustrate specific points or for general views;
- 8.2 After agreement with the landowner, arrangements should be made for long term storage of all artefacts in the City and County Museum, Lincoln, as outlined in that Museum's document 'Conditions for the acceptance of Project Archives'. The City and County Museum should be contacted at the earliest possible opportunity so that the full cost implications of the archive deposition can be taken into account.
- 8.3 A site archive should be produced and deposited with the artefacts as detailed in 8.2.
- 8.4 Should archaeological deposits be encountered, a summary of the results must be published in 'Lincolnshire History and Archaeology' in due course.
- 8.5 Should nationally important archaeology be discovered during the watching brief, the results should be published in the relevant national journal.

9. Additional Information

9.1 This document attempts to define the best practice expected of an enhanced archaeological Observation and Recording brief but cannot fully anticipate the conditions that will be encountered as work progresses. However, changes to the approved programme of excavation are only to be made with the prior written approval of the Community Archaeologist.

9.2 Further contact addresses:

Susan Smith
Boston Community Archaeologist
Heritage Lincolnshire
The Old School
Cameron Street
Heckington
Sleaford

Lincolnshire NG34 9RW

Mr J Bonner
Senior Built Environment Officer
Conservation Services
Highways and Planning Directorate
Lincolnshire County Council
3rd Floor
City Hall
Lincoln
LN1 1DN

Mr T Page City and County Museum 12 Friars Lane Lincoln LN2 5AL

Brief set by Boston Community Archaeologist March 2000

THE FINDS Hilary Healey, James Rackham and Gary Taylor

Provenance

The material was recovered from topsoil (001), subsoil (002) and dumped and demolition deposits (003 - 006).

Most of the pottery was probably made in Staffordshire in the Midlands, though the brick and tile is likely to be more local and made in the general Swineshead/Boston area.

Range

The range of material is detailed in the table.

Fragments of pottery of probable 18th century date is the earliest material recovered, though most of the material is slightly later, dating from the 19th to early 20th century. In addition to the pottery, brick and tile, bone and flint was also retrieved.

Context	Description	Context Date	
001	2x blue and white transfer printed tableware, cups, separate vessels, 19 th century	19 th -early 20 th century	
	2x white glazed tablewares, 19th-early 20th century		
	1x iron squared sectioned rod, handle?		
002	2x blue and white transfer printed tableware, cups, separate vessels, 19th century	19 th -early 20 th century	
	1x green and white transfer printed cup, 19th century		
	2x white glazed tablewares, 19th-early 20th century		
003	1x gold on black transfer printed tableware, 19th-early 20th century	19th-early 20th	
	1x pantile, 18th-20th century	century	
	1x brick, mortar adhering		
	1x flint flake, natural		
	1x human skull fragment		
004	3x blue and white transfer printed tableware, 2x linked, plates/saucers, 2 separate vessels, 1 trade-marked, 19th century	19 th -early 20 th century	
	1x white glazed earthenware, 19th-early 20th century		
	1x lead glazed stoneware marmalade jar, 19th-early 20th century 2x red painted earthenware, black glazed pancheons, separate vessels, 18th-early 19th century		
	1x handmade brick, mortar adhering, 52mm thick, 1002mm wide, ?18 th century		
006	1x blue and white transfer printed tableware, 19th century	mid 20th century	
	1x ?Cornish ware, mid 20 th century		
	1x plant pot, ?19th-20th century		

One of the blue and white transfer printed tablewares from (004) bears the partial trademark]K L^{TD} [, though this is too little to enable identification of the maker.

The earliest pottery recovered was fragments of earthenware pancheons, probably made in the 18th century. However, these vessels were large and durable and it is probable that they were in use alongside the later material, perhaps in to the 20th century.

Although the human skull fragment from (003) is small (maximum dimension 35mm) the piece is unworn and in good condition.

Condition

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

Documentation

There have been numerous previous archaeological investigations at Swineshead, including within 0.5km of the present investigation site, which are the subjects of reports. Details of archaeological sites and discoveries in the area are maintained in the files of the Boston Community Archaeologist and the Lincolnshire County Council Sites and Monuments Record.

Potential

As an entirely late post-medieval group, the assemblage has limited potential. However, the absence of any earlier material is informative and suggests that archaeological deposits dating from the 17th century and before, were either not disturbed by the development or are absent from the area. The total lack of earlier material, not even present as redeposited items, supports the latter suggestion and thereby indicates that this area was probably not occupied until the 18th century. The lack of associated early artefacts, and its good condition, adds significance to the skull fragment and suggests the possibility of a relatively late, post-medieval, burial in the proximity.

Context Summary

No	Plan	Section	Description	Interpretation
001		1+2	Friable grey silt	Topsoil
002		1	Friable dark grey silt	Sub soil
003		1	Friable light yellowish brown silt	Layer
004	1		Compact reddish brown CBM and silt	Fill of 005/Demolition debris backfill
005	1		Cut	Pit cut for demolition debris backfill?
006	1	2	Friable grey mottled light brown silt	Dumped deposit. Fill of 007
007	1		Cut	Pit cut for demolition debris backfill?

GLOSSARY

Bronze Age A period characterised by the introduction of bronze into the country for tools, between 2250 and 800 BC.

2250 and 800 BC

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.

Decorated Division of English Gothic architecture in use from c. 1290 - c. 1350.

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.

Perpendicular Division of English Gothic architecture in use from c. 1350 - c. 1530.

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 The period dating from AD 410-1066 when England was largely settled by tribes from

northern Germany

THE ARCHIVE

The archive consists of:

- 7 Context records
- 2 Sheets of drawings
- 1 Context record sheet
- 1 Section record sheet
- 1 Plan record sheet
- 1 Photographic record sheet
- 1 Daily record sheets
- 1 Bag of pottery

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:

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 Museum Accession Number:

2000.169

Archaeological Project Services Site Code:

SHB00

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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