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**ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF
OF DEVELOPMENT ON LAND TO
THE SOUTH OF BURGH ROAD,
SKEGNESS,
LINCOLNSHIRE
(SBR00)**



A P S
ARCHAEOLOGICAL
PROJECT
SERVICES

EUGAT L1544
SOURCES L16341 L16342
PRN 43915 L18174

19 OCT 00

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF
OF DEVELOPMENT ON LAND TO
THE SOUTH OF BURGH ROAD,
SKEGNESS,
LINCOLNSHIRE
(SBR00)**

Work Undertaken For
Weaver Construction Ltd

Report Compiled by
James Albone MA, PIFA

October 2000

National Grid Reference: TF ^{5523 6443}~~5330 6440~~
LCNCC Accession Number: 2000.51

A.P.S. Report No. 137/00



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1. SUMMARY

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken during residential development south of Burgh Road, Skegness, Lincolnshire. Investigations were undertaken because the site lay close to prehistoric remains, including salterns, and medieval pottery had been found nearby.

Only one archaeological feature was revealed during the watching brief. A shallow pit was identified on the west side of the site containing a small quantity of 16th to 17th century pottery, brick and a fragment of lead.

A possible earthwork platform was identified on the east side of the site during the early stages of the watching brief. However, this feature was found not to be associated with any sub-surface archaeological features or artefacts.

No evidence of prehistoric salt-making activity was identified. However, 'natural' deposits recorded at the site, may have been laid down during this period.

2. INTRODUCTION

2.1 Definition of a Watching Brief

An archaeological watching brief is defined as, 'a formal program of observation and investigation conducted during any operation carried out for non-archaeological reasons. This will be within a specified area or site on land, inter-tidal zone or underwater, where there is a possibility that archaeological deposits may be disturbed or destroyed' (IFA 1999).

2.2 Planning Background

Planning permission for residential

development to the south of Burgh Road, Skegness was granted by East Lindsey District Council (Ref. S/153/1120/99). As the site lay close to remains of prehistoric salterns and medieval enclosures, the planning permission was subject to an archaeological watching brief condition during the groundworks of the development.

Archaeological Project Services was commissioned by Weaver Construction Limited to undertake an archaeological watching brief during groundworks at the site. The work was undertaken between 16th February and 26th May 2000.

Due to the relative absence of archaeological remains, the Archaeology Section of Lincolnshire County Council gave permission for the watching brief to be relaxed and then terminated.

2.3 Topography and Geology

Skegness is situated in the East Lindsey district of Lincolnshire, approximately 58km east of Lincoln (Fig. 1). The site is located in the northwest part of the town at the junction of Burgh Road and Lincoln Road. It is centred on NGR TF 5330 6440 and lies at a height of c.2.5m OF on level ground.

TF5523 6443

Local soils are peilo-alluvial gleys of the Wallasea 2 Association formed on reclaimed marine alluvium (Hodge *et al.* 1984, 338).

2.4 Archaeological Setting

The earliest archaeological evidence from Skegness is of Neolithic date. Several stone axes have been found within the town and along the foreshore.

Cropmarks of possible round and long barrows have been recorded on early aerial photographs, immediately to the north of the development site. However, all of these sites

have since been covered by development and it is impossible to confirm the presence of these features.

Iron Age salt-making evidence has been recorded to the north and west of the town. Pottery and briquetage of this date was found c.250m north of the site in 1934 and undated 'hand bricks' were found in a clay pit in the same area in 1967.

A presence of a Roman fort at Skegness has long been postulated (Whitwell 1992, 52). This speculation is fuelled by the writings of John Leland in the 16th century, who referred to a walled town and castle that had been completely lost to the sea (Chandler 1993, 300).

Skegness is not recorded by name in the Domesday survey of 1086 AD. However a settlement called '*Tric*', which is not mentioned after this time is generally taken to be its predecessor (Foster and Longley 1921, lxx). At that time land at *Tric* was held by Count Alan, Gilbert of Ghent and Robert the Steward (Foster and Longley 1921, 12/77; 29/21; 38/9).

The town was first recorded as '*Shegnesse*' in 1166 AD. This place-name is Old Norse in origin and probably refers to 'Skeggi's headland' (Ekwall 1974, 424).

Medieval pottery has been found just to the northeast of the development site. Cropmarks and earthworks have been recorded to the south of the site and are now crossed by Lincoln Road. These appeared to represent medieval boundaries and enclosures. Limited excavation to the south of the road produced medieval pottery dating to between the 12th and 16th centuries.

Skegness remained as a small settlement until it was developed into a seaside resort in the 19th century. This mainly occurred after the

railway reached the town in 1876 and was planned by the Earl of Scarborough.

3. AIMS

The aim of the watching brief was to record and interpret archaeological features exposed during the excavation of foundation trenches and other groundworks of the development. The objectives were to determine the form, function, spatial arrangement, date and sequence of any archaeological remains encountered.

4. METHODS

Prior to the development the site was an area of pasture. Possible earthworks, including a 'platform' on the eastern side of the site were identified. The topsoil was stripped from the development area using a mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless bucket. Raft foundations for the houses were excavated to a depth of c.0.3m below the stripped surface.

During the watching brief the depth and thickness of each deposit was recorded. Each deposit or feature revealed was allocated a unique reference number (context number) with an individual written description. Due to the nature of the development works, most of the archaeological recording was by observation of deposits in plan. Where, possible, sections were drawn at a recorded scale and the location of these were marked on a plan of the foundation trenches. A photographic record was also compiled. Recording of deposits encountered during the watching brief was undertaken according to standard Archaeological Project Services practice.

Records of the deposits and features identified during the watching brief were

examined. Phasing was assigned based on the nature of the deposits and recognisable relationships between them. A list of all contexts with interpretations appears as Appendix 2.

5. RESULTS

5.1 Description of the results

Three phases were recognised:

Phase 1: Natural deposits

Phase 2: Post-medieval feature

Phase 3: Modern deposits

Stripping of the topsoil from the development area established that the possible earthworks and platform identified at the start of the watching brief were not associated with any archaeological features or artefacts.

5.2 Phase 1: Natural deposits

The earliest natural deposit exposed was compact light yellow brown clay (008). This deposit was greater than 0.9m thick on the northern part of the site (Fig.4). Sealing this deposit were mid brown silty clay (007) and clayey silt (006) layers.

Elsewhere on the site, a mid reddish brown clayey silt subsoil layer (003) overlay natural mid reddish brown silty clay (004).

5.2 Post-medieval feature

The only archaeological feature observed during the watching brief was a small hollow located on the west side of the site (Fig. 3). This feature was filled with mid to dark brownish grey clayey silt (002). A small quantity of artefacts including 16th to 17th century pottery, brick, a fragment of lead and cinder were recovered from this deposit.

5.3 Modern deposits

All earlier features and deposits were sealed by mid to dark brown clayey silt topsoil (001), which was present across the whole of the development area.

At the northern boundary of the site, a light yellowish brown sand deposit (005) was recorded. this layer formed the make-up and foundation for a modern pavement (Fig. 4).

6. DISCUSSION

The earliest deposits encountered during the watching brief were a sequence of natural clay, silty clay and clayey silt layers. It is likely that these were naturally deposited, probably during the last four millennia. However, no artefacts were recovered to substantiate this.

Only one archaeological feature was identified during the watching brief. This was probably a shallow pit of 16th to 17th century date.

A modern topsoil deposit was present across the whole of the development area.

7. CONCLUSIONS

Archaeological investigations at Burgh Road Skegness were undertaken because the site lay close to known areas of prehistoric salt-making and medieval enclosures. No archaeological evidence of prehistoric or Romano-British date were identified. However, 'natural' deposits recorded at the site may have been laid down at that time.

The only archaeological feature recorded was a shallow 16th to 17th century pit of unknown function.

Possible earthworks identified at the start of the watching brief were found not to be associated with any archaeological deposits or artefacts.

8. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeological Project Services wish to acknowledge the assistance of Mr C. Hyde and Mr. A. Rowe of Weaver Construction Ltd for commissioning the fieldwork and post-excavation analysis. The project was coordinated by Gary Taylor and this report was edited by Tom Lane.

9. PERSONNEL

Project Coordinator: Gary Taylor
Site Supervisors: Joanna Hambly, Tobin Raynor, James Snee, Steve Thomson and Fiona Walker
Photographic reproduction: Sue Unsworth
Finds Processing: Denise Buckley
CAD Illustration and Post-excavation Analysis: James Albone

10. BIBLIOGRAPHY

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Whitwell, J.B., 1992 *Roman Lincolnshire.* History of Lincolnshire **II**

11. ABBREVIATIONS

- APS Archaeological Project Services
- IFA Institute of Field Archaeologists
- SMR Sites and Monuments Record

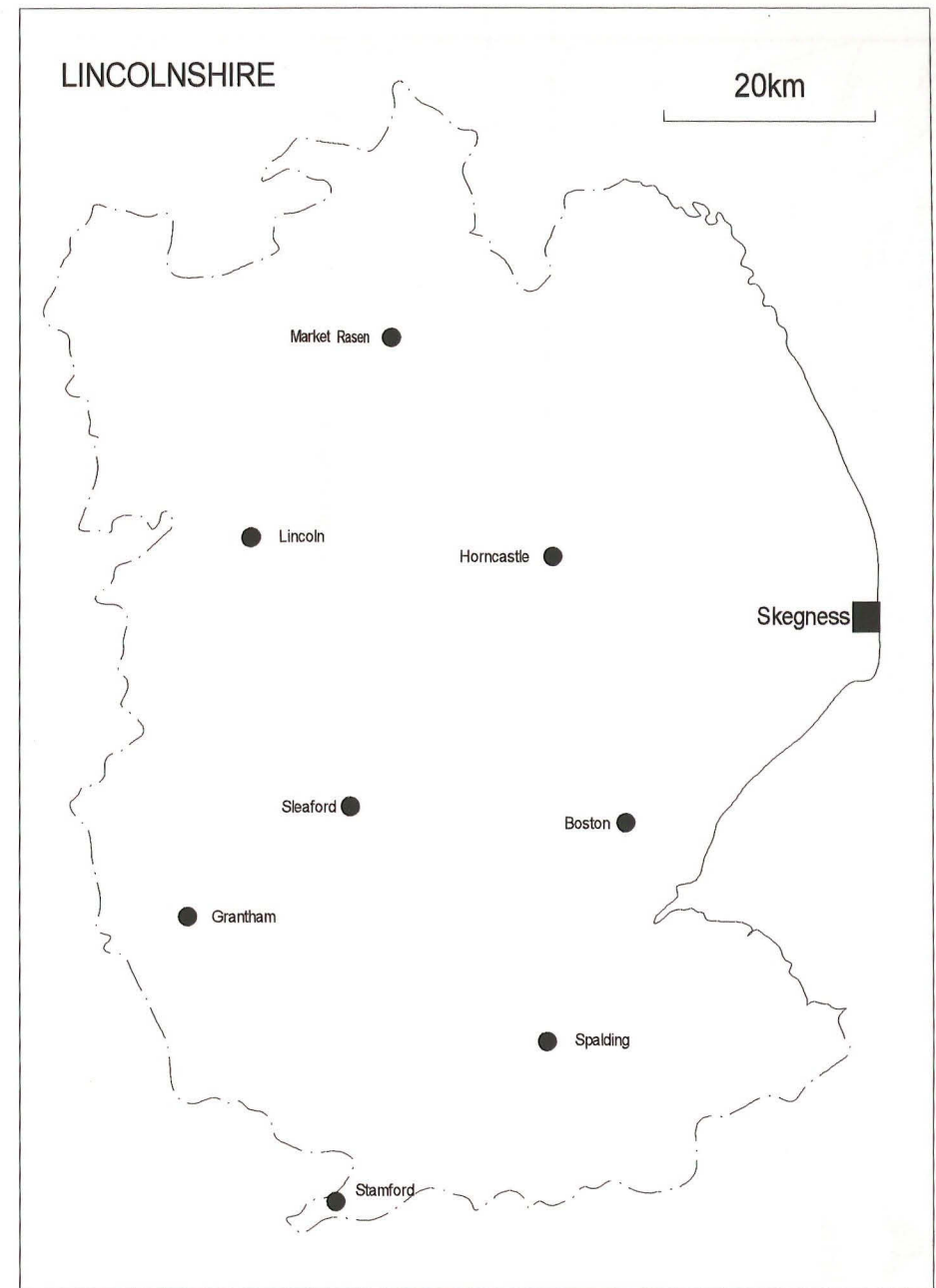


Fig. 1 General Location Plan



Figure 2 Site location plan

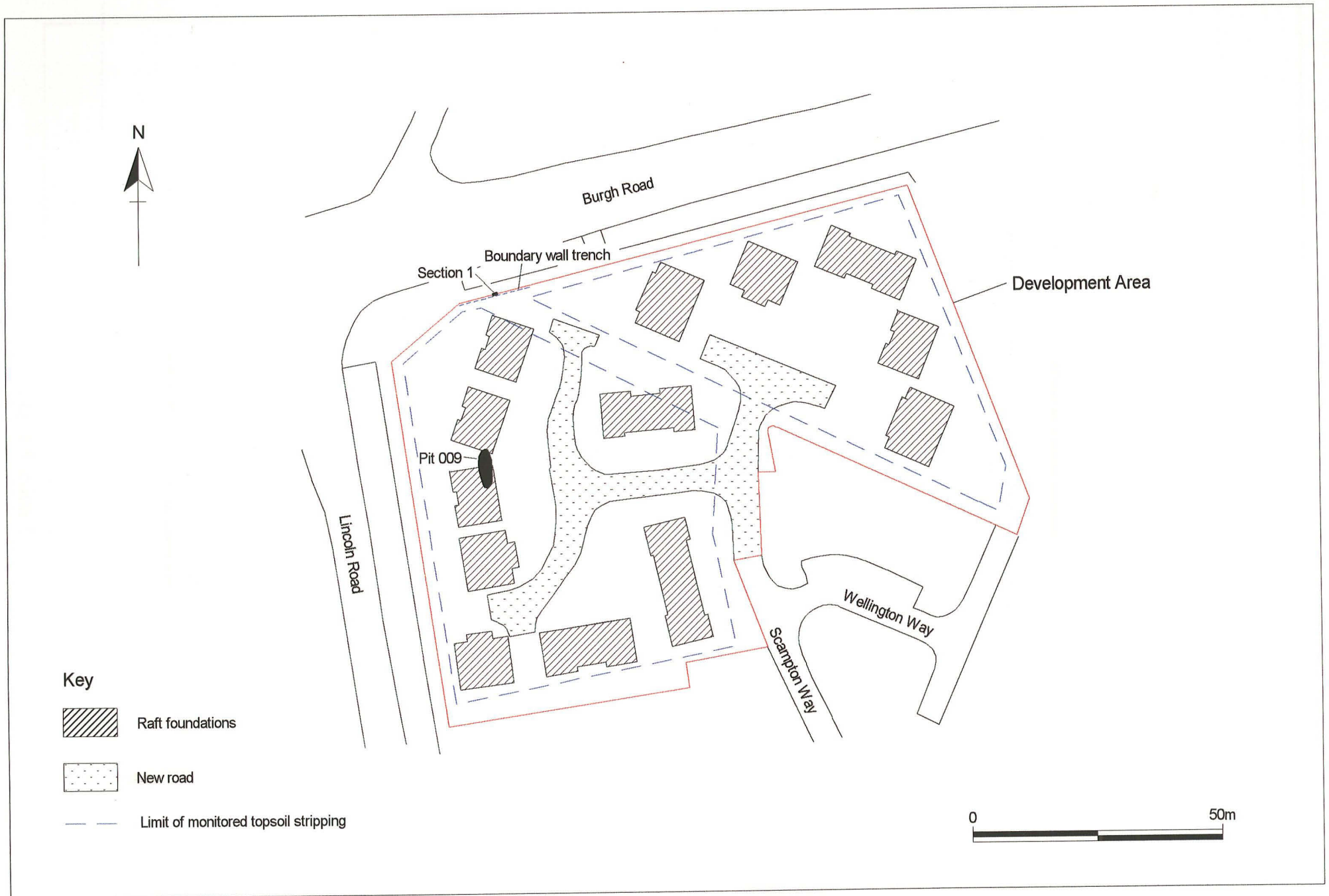


Fig.3 Site plan showing the location of the monitored areas

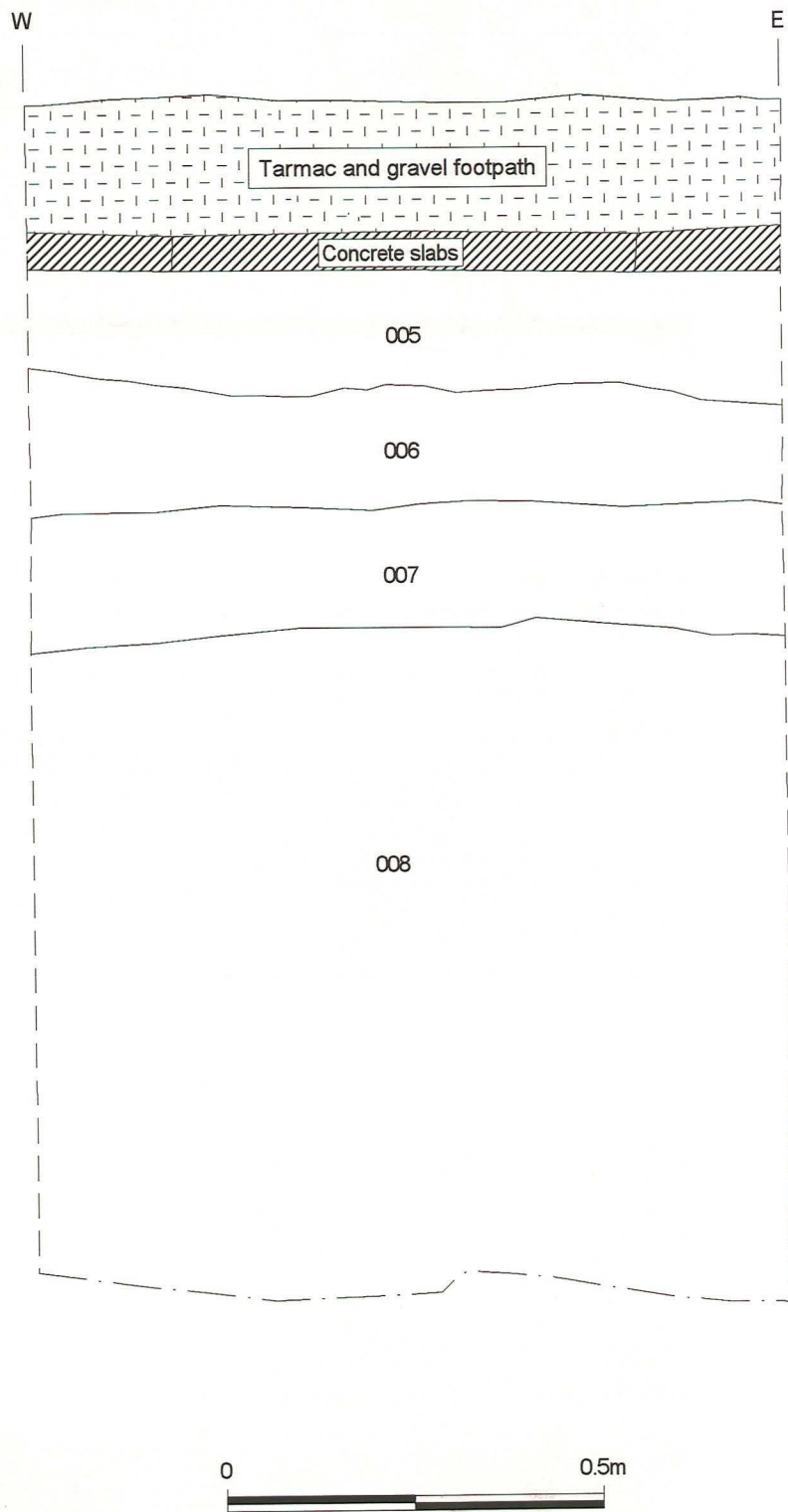


Fig. 4 Section 1



Plate 1 General view of the development area looking northwest, showing an excavated raft foundation



Plate 2 General view of the road stripping in progress, looking southeast



Plate 3 Section 1, looking north

Appendix 1

**LAND AT
SUNDIAL ESTATE,
BURGH ROAD,
SKEGNESS,
LINCOLNSHIRE**

**SPECIFICATION FOR
ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF**

**PREPARED FOR
WEAVER CONSTRUCTION LTD**

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

JANUARY 2000

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1 **SUMMARY**

- 1.1 *A watching brief is required during development at Burgh Road, Skegness, Lincolnshire.*
- 1.2 *The development lies close to the areas of prehistoric and Roman sites, including salt-making remains of both periods.*
- 1.3 *The watching brief will be undertaken during groundworks associated with the development. The archaeological features exposed will be recorded in writing, graphically and photographically.*
- 1.4 *On completion of the fieldwork a report will be prepared detailing the results of the investigation. The report will consist of a narrative supported by illustrations and photographs.*

2 **INTRODUCTION**

- 2.1 This document comprises a specification for an archaeological watching brief during development on land at Burgh Road, Skegness, national grid reference TF 553 644.
- 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 Skegness lies on the east coast of Lincolnshire, approximately 58km east of Lincoln in the administrative district of East Lindsey. The site is at the northwestern corner of the town at the junction of Burgh Road and Lincoln Road at national grid reference TF 533 644.

4 **PLANNING BACKGROUND**

- 4.1 A planning application (S/153/1120/99) was submitted to East Lindsey District Council for residential development. Permission was granted subject to a condition requiring the implementation of an archaeological watching brief during the development.

5 **SOILS AND TOPOGRAPHY**

5.1 The site is on fairly flat and level land at approximately 3m OD. Local soils are the Wallasea 2 Association, pelo-alluvial gleys on reclaimed marine alluvium (Hodge *et al.* 1984, 338).

6 **THE ARCHAEOLOGY**

6.1 Prehistoric and Roman salt making sites are known to be located in the vicinity. In addition, several prehistoric stone tools have been found in the general area.

7 **AIMS AND OBJECTIVES**

7.1 The aims of the watching brief will be:

7.1.1 To record and interpret the archaeological features exposed during the excavation of the foundation trenches and other areas of ground disturbance.

7.2 The objectives of the watching brief will be to:

7.2.1 Determine the form and function of the archaeological features encountered;

7.2.2 Determine the spatial arrangement of the archaeological features encountered;

7.2.3 As far as practicable, recover dating evidence from the archaeological features, and

7.2.4 Establish the sequence of the archaeological remains present on the site.

8 **SITE OPERATIONS**

8.1 General considerations

8.1.1 All work will be undertaken following statutory Health and Safety requirements in operation at the time of the watching brief.

8.1.2 The work will be undertaken according to the relevant codes of practise issued by the Institute of Field Archaeologists (IFA), under the management of a Member of the institute (MIFA). *Archaeological Project Services* is IFA registered organisation no. 21.

8.1.3 Any and all artefacts found during the investigation and thought to be

'treasure', as defined by the Treasure Act 1996, will be removed from site to a secure store and promptly reported to the appropriate coroner's office.

8.2 Methodology

8.2.1 The watching brief will be undertaken during the ground works phase of development, and includes the archaeological monitoring of all phases of soil movement.

8.2.2 Stripped areas and trench sections will be observed regularly to identify and record archaeological features that are exposed and to record changes in the geological conditions. The section drawings of the trenches will be recorded at a scale of 1:10. Should features be recorded in plan these will be drawn at a scale of 1:20. Written descriptions detailing the nature of the deposits, features and fills encountered will be compiled on Archaeological Project Services pro-forma record sheets.

8.2.3 Any finds recovered will be bagged and labelled for later analysis.

8.2.4 Throughout the watching brief a photographic record will be compiled. The photographic record will consist of:

8.2.4.1 The site during work to show specific stages, and the layout of the archaeology within the trench.

8.2.4.2 groups of features where their relationship is important

8.2.5 Should human remains be located the appropriate Home Office licence will be obtained before their removal. In addition, the archaeological curator, Local Environmental Health Department, coroner and the police will be informed, as appropriate.

9 POST-EXCAVATION

9.1 Stage 1

9.1.1 On completion of site operations, the records and schedules produced during the watching brief will be checked and ordered to ensure that they form a uniform sequence forming a level II archive. A stratigraphic matrix of the archaeological deposits and features present on the site will be prepared. All photographic material will be catalogued and labelled, the labelling referring to schedules identifying the subject/s photographed.

9.1.2 All finds recovered during the field work will be washed, marked and packaged according to the deposit from which they were recovered. Any finds requiring specialist treatment and conservation will be sent to the Conservation Laboratory at the City and County Museum, Lincoln.

9.2 Stage 2

9.2.1 Detailed examination of the stratigraphic matrix to enable the determination of the various phases of activity on the site.

9.2.2 Finds will be sent to specialists for identification and dating.

9.3 Stage 3

9.3.1 On completion of stage 2, a report detailing the findings of the watching brief will be prepared.

9.3.2 This will consist of:

9.3.2.1 A non-technical summary of the results of the investigation.

9.3.2.2 A description of the archaeological setting of the watching brief.

9.3.2.3 Description of the topography of the site.

9.3.2.4 Description of the methodologies used during the watching brief.

9.3.2.5 A text describing the findings of the watching brief.

9.3.2.6 A consideration of the local, regional and national context of the watching brief findings.

9.3.2.7 Plans of the archaeological features exposed. If a sequence of archaeological deposits is encountered, separate plans for each phase will be produced.

9.3.2.8 Sections of the archaeological features.

9.3.2.9 Interpretation of the archaeological features exposed, and their chronology and setting within the surrounding landscape.

9.3.2.10 Specialist reports on the finds from the site.

9.3.2.11 Appropriate photographs of the site and specific archaeological features.

10 REPORT DEPOSITION

10.1 Copies of the report will be sent to the client; East Lindsey District Council Planning Department; and to the County Council Archaeological Sites and Monuments Record.

11 ARCHIVE

11.1 The documentation and records generated during the watching brief will be sorted and ordered into the format acceptable to the City and County Museum, Lincoln. This will be undertaken following the requirements of the document titled *Conditions for the Acceptance of Project Archives* for long term storage and curation.

12 PUBLICATION

12.1 A report of the findings of the watching brief will be published in Heritage Lincolnshire's Annual Report and a note presented to the editor of the journal *Lincolnshire History and Archaeology*. If appropriate, notes on the findings will be submitted to the appropriate national journals: *Britannia* for discoveries of Roman date, and *Medieval Archaeology* and the journal of the *Medieval Settlement Research Group* for findings of medieval or later date.

13 CURATORIAL RESPONSIBILITY

13.1 Curatorial responsibility for the archaeological work undertaken on the site lies with the County Archaeological Officer. They will be given seven days notice in writing before the commencement of the project.

14 VARIATIONS

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

15 PROGRAMME OF WORKS AND STAFFING LEVELS

15.1 The watching brief will be integrated with the programme of construction and is dependent on the developers' work programme. It is therefore not possible to specify the person-hours for the archaeological site work.

- 15.2 An archaeological supervisor with experience of watching briefs will undertake the work.
- 15.3 Post-excavation analysis and report production will be undertaken by the archaeological supervisor, or a post-excavation analyst as appropriate, with assistance from a finds supervisor, illustrator and external specialists. It is expected that each fieldwork day (equal to one person-day) will require a post-excavation day (equal to one-and-a-half person-days) for completion of the analysis and report. If the fieldwork lasts three days or longer then there will be an economy of scale with the post-excavation analysis.

16 **SPECIALISTS TO BE USED DURING THE PROJECT**

- 16.1 The following organisations/persons will, in 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>	<u>Body to be undertaking the work</u>
Conservation	Conservation Laboratory, City and County Museum, Lincoln
Pottery Analysis	Prehistoric - Trent & Peak Archaeological Trust Roman - B Precious, Independent Specialist Anglo-Saxon - J Young, Independent Specialist Medieval and later - H Healey, Independent Archaeologist
Briquetage	T Lane
Non-pottery Artefacts	J Cowgill, Independent Specialist
Animal Bones	Environmental Archaeology Consultancy
Environmental Analysis	J Rackham, Independent Specialist
Human Remains Analysis	R Gowland, Independent Specialist

17 **INSURANCES**

- 17.1 Archaeological Project Services, as part of the Heritage Trust of Lincolnshire, maintains Employers Liability Insurance of £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.

18 COPYRIGHT

- 18.1 Archaeological Project Services shall retain full copyright of any commissioned reports under the *Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988* with all rights reserved; excepting that it hereby provides an exclusive licence to the client for the use of such documents by the client in all matters directly relating to the project as described in the Project Specification.
- 18.2 Licence will also be given to the archaeological curators to use the documentary archive for educational, public and research purposes.
- 18.3 In the case of non-satisfactory settlement of account then copyright will remain fully and exclusively with Archaeological Project Services. In these circumstances it will be an infringement under the *Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988* for the client to pass any report, partial report, or copy of same, to any third party. Reports submitted in good faith by Archaeological Project Services to any Planning Authority or archaeological curator will be removed from said planning Authority and/or archaeological curator. The Planning Authority and/or archaeological curator will be notified by Archaeological Project Services that the use of any such information previously supplied constitutes an infringement under the *Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988* and may result in legal action.
- 18.4 The author of any report or specialist contribution to a report shall retain intellectual copyright of their work and may make use of their work for educational or research purposes or for further publication.

19 BIBLIOGRAPHY

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**

Specification: Version 1, 26th January 2000

Appendix 2

CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

Context No.	Section	Description	Interpretation
001	-	Mid to dark brown clayey silt	Topsoil
002	-	Mid to dark brownish grey clayey silt	Fill of possible pit feature 009
003	-	Mid reddish brown clayey silt	Subsoil
004	-	Mid reddish brown silty clay	Natural
005	1	Loose light yellowish brown sand	Foundation/ make-up for footpath
006	1	Loose mid brown clayey silt	Subsoil
007	1	Compact mid brown silty clay	Natural
008	1	Compact light yellow brown clay	Natural
009	-	Cut of possible pit feature	16th/17th Century ?pit

Appendix 3

FINDS SUMMARY

By Hilary Healey and Gary Taylor

Provenance

All of the pottery was produced relatively locally in the Boston, Bolingbroke and Toynton areas, about 25km south or west of Skegness. The tile is also likely to be relatively locally made in the Skegness area.

Range

Pottery fragments of probably 14th-17th century date are the earliest items recovered and provide the most numerous objects in the small assemblage. In addition to the pottery, tile, coal and metal was retrieved. No faunal remains were recovered.

Context	Description	Date
002	2x Boston/Bolingbroke-type wares (separate vessels), 16th-17th century 1x Toynton All Saints-type ware, 14th-16th century 3x handmade brick, post-medieval 1x lead sheet, with knife cut marks 2x coal 2x clinker	16th-17th century

Each of the pottery sherds represents a separate vessel. The handmade bricks from the same context emphasise the post-medieval date of the deposit.

Condition

The material is in good condition and presents no long-term storage problems.

Documentation

A number of archaeological investigations in Skegness, including in close proximity to the present site, have previously been undertaken and reported. Details of archaeological sites and remains in the area are maintained in the Lincolnshire County Sites and Monuments Record.

Potential

The assemblage has moderate potential and indicates the presence or proximity of post-medieval activity of indeterminate nature at the site. However, the small quantity of material recovered, and its isolation in a single context, suggests that the use of the site during the early post-medieval period was for non-occupation purposes, and was probably transitory or ephemeral. The absence of any earlier material suggests that, if present in the area, medieval or earlier remains were neither revealed nor disturbed by the development.

Appendix 4

GLOSSARY

Briquetage	Ceramic debris of vessels, supports and hearth/oven fragments associated with prehistoric and Romano-British saltmaking.
Context	An archaeological context represents a distinct archaeological event or process. For example, the action of digging a pit creates a context (the cut) as does the process of its subsequent backfill (the fill). Each context encountered during an archaeological investigation is allocated a unique number by the archaeologist and a record sheet detailing the description and interpretation of the context (the context sheet) is created and placed in the site archive. Context numbers are identified within the report text by brackets, <i>e.g.</i> [004].
Cut	A cut refers to the physical action of digging a posthole, pit, ditch, foundation trench, <i>etc.</i> Once the fills of these features are removed during an archaeological investigation the original 'cut' is therefore exposed and subsequently recorded.
Domesday Survey	A survey of property ownership in England compiled on the instruction of William I for taxation purposes in 1086 AD.
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) that become contained by the 'cut' are referred to as its fill(s).
Layer	A layer is a term used to describe an accumulation of soil or other material that is not contained within a cut.
Medieval	The Middle Ages, dating from approximately AD 1066-1500.
Natural	Undisturbed deposit(s) of soil or rock which have accumulated without the influence of human activity
Post-medieval	The period following the Middle Ages, dating from approximately AD 1500-1800.
Romano-British	Pertaining to the period dating from AD 43-410 when the Romans occupied Britain.
Saltern	Site used for the production of salt.
Saxon	Pertaining to the period dating from AD 410-1066 when England was largely settled by tribes from northern Germany

Appendix 5

SITE ARCHIVE

The archive consists of:

x6	-	Daily site record sheet
x9	-	Context records
x1	-	Photographic record sheet
x1	-	Drawing record sheet
x2	-	Sheets of site drawings
x1	-	Bag 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 Museum Accession Number: LCNCC : 2000.51

Archaeological Project Services Site Code: SBR00

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.