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# ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION AT ASHCOURT, DONINGTON, LINCOLNSHIRE (DAC01)



A P S ARCHAEOLOGICAL P R O J E C T S E R V I C E S



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# ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION AT ASHCOURT, DONINGTON, LINCOLNSHIRE (DAC01)

Work Undertaken For Status Design

March 2001

Report compiled by Rachael Hall BA(Hons)

National Grid Reference: TF 2078 3560 Planning Application No: H04/0990/00 LCNCC Accession Number: 2001.3

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## 1. SUMMARY

An archaeological evaluation comprising a programme of trial trenching was undertaken to determine the implications of proposed development on land at Ashcourt, Donington, Lincolnshire. Four trenches were excavated across the site to examine potential archaeological deposits.

The site lies close to the core of the medieval (AD 1066-1500) village, adjacent to the market place. Additionally, the investigation area lies between a 17th century inn and the site of an 18<sup>th</sup> century house.

The evaluation identified a medieval pond at the western edge of the site. Two pits, perhaps also medieval in date, were cut in to the fill of the pond. However, no other medieval remains were encountered elsewhere at the site. Post-medieval ditches and pits occurred extensively throughout the area. One of the pit/ditches contained probable butchery waste and was waterlogged. The ditches probably served as land boundaries and one was recorded on 19<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup> century maps. Recent dumped deposits were also distributed across the site.

## 2. INTRODUCTION

## 2.1 Definition of a Evaluation

An archaeological evaluation is defined as 'a limited programme of non-intrusive and/or intrusive fieldwork which determines the presence or absence of archaeological features, structure, deposits, artefacts or ecofacts within a specified area or site. If such archaeological remains are present Field Evaluation defines their character and extent, quality and preservation, and it enables an assessment of their worth in a local, regional, national or international context as appropriate' (IFA 1997).

## 2.2 Background

Archaeological Project Services (APS) was commissioned by Status Design to undertake an archaeological evaluation of land off Ash Court, to the south of Station Street, Donington, Lincolnshire. This was in order to determine the archaeological implications of the construction of new dwellings as outlined in planning application No. H04/0990/00. The fieldwork was carried out between 30<sup>th</sup> January and 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2001, in accordance with a specification produced by APS and approved by the Lincolnshire County Archaeological Officer.

## 2.3 Topography and Geology

Donington is situated 13km north of Spalding and 13km southwest of Boston, in the civil parish of Donington, South Holland District, Lincolnshire (Fig. 1).

The site is located 80m south of the town centre as defined by the Market Place (Figs. 2 and 3) and is centred on National Grid Reference TF 2078 3560. Approximately 0.4 hectares in extent, the site lies at a height of c. 5m OD. The surrounding land is fairly level with a slight drop in height to the southwest.

The village is located on soils of the Romney Series, coarse silty gleyic brown calcareous alluvial soils (Robson 1990, 26). Beneath these soils is a drift geology of marine silts and clays (BGS 1995). These in turn overlie a solid geology of Jurassic Oxford Clay (*ibid.*).

## 2.4 Archaeological Setting (Fig. 3)

Donington lies at the eastern end of the Romano-British (AD 50-410) thoroughfare, Salter's Way, although no settlement has been found associated with the terminus of this road. Donington is first mentioned in the Domesday Survey of 1086. Referred to as *Donninctune* or *Duninctune*, the name is derived from the Old English meaning the 'homestead  $(t\hat{u}n)$  of Dunn(a)'s people' (Cameron 1998, 38).

At the time of the Domesday Survey the land was owned by the Abbot of Peterborough and Count Alan and contained c. 22 saltpans and 54 acres of meadow (Foster and Longley 1976). Domesday also records that the abbot of Peterborough held a manor in Gosberton (Hallam 1965, 199). The entry for this manor is under the record for Donington as that town lay partly in the Danelaw Hundred of Surfleet and Gosberton and partly in the hundred of Quadring in Donington.

In the 12<sup>th</sup> century land in Donington was held by the abbeys of Croxton Kerrial and Owston in Leicestershire, Swineshead Abbey and the Honour of Richmond (Hallam 1960, 100). Most of these holdings included salterns.

It was during the 13<sup>th</sup> century that the parish church was built (DoE 1988, 35). The dedication to St. Mary and the Holy Rood indicates that the church housed a holy relic (Pevsner and Harris 1989, 56).

Medieval pottery and animal bone has previously been recovered directly adjacent to the site. In the mid 13<sup>th</sup> century John de Ry was granted the rights to a market every Monday and a fair in late May or early June (Platts 1985, Appendix 1). A second market was granted to Peter de Savoy to be held every Saturday (*ibid*.). The market place is located immediately north of the investigation site.

Donington is dominated by the former charity school founded by Thomas Cowley in the 18<sup>th</sup> century (White 1856, 801). The estate that funded the school represents the former Earl of Richmond's estates in the parish. Other post-medieval buildings are located throughout Donington, including the Black Bull public house of the mid 17<sup>th</sup> century, which is situated just east of the investigation area.

Adjacent to the proposed development area is the site of the birthplace of Matthew Flinders, renowned for his exploration of Australia (Ketteringham 1995, 35). This indicates that buildings were located in this vicinity by at least 1774, the date of Flinders' birth.

Dating from 1834, the Survey and Plan of Part of the Town of Donington (LAO MCD 1004/2) depicts buildings fronting the street with little or no development in the rear of the properties. In particular, a building is shown on the street frontage of the proposed development area with further, small structures near the east side of the site (Cope-Faulkner 2000).

## 3. AIMS

The requirements of the evaluation were to gather information to establish the presence or absence, extent, condition, character, quality and date of any archaeological deposits to enable the archaeological curator to formulate a policy for the management of the archaeological resources present on the site.

## 4. METHODS

The trial trenching consisted of the excavation of a 2% sample of the site, as requested by the County Archaeological Officer. This was achieved by the excavation of 4 trenches, each measuring 10m x 1.6m (Fig. 4).

Topsoil and subsoil was stripped from the trenches by mechanical excavator to the level of the archaeological deposits or the undisturbed natural (Plate 1). The exposed surfaces of the trenches were then cleaned by hand and inspected for archaeological remains. A metal detector survey was undertaken of all the trenches and spoil. Where present, features were excavated by hand in order to retrieve dateable artefacts and other remains.

Due to sewage contamination of Trench 4 no further excavation was permitted within the trench.

Each deposit exposed during the excavation 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 and plans at a scale of 1:20. Recording of deposits encountered during the evaluation was undertaken according to standard Archaeological Project Services' practice.

The site was visited by the project environmentalist, James Rackham, who advised on the sampling strategy.

## 5. **RESULTS**

## 5.1 The Stratigraphic Sequence

Finds recovered from the deposits identified during the evaluation were examined and a date assigned where possible (Appendix 4 and 5). Records of the deposits encountered were also examined. A list of all contexts and interpretations appears as Appendix 3. Phasing was based on the nature of the deposits and recognisable relationships between them, supplemented by artefact dating where relevant. Four phases were identified: Phase 1: Natural deposits Phase 2: Medieval deposits Phase 3: Post-medieval deposits Phase 4: Modern deposits

Context numbers appear in brackets, and these refer to the individual cut and deposit description recorded during excavation.

## 5.2 Phase 1: Natural deposits

The earliest recorded layers comprised a firm reddish brown silt with varying mottles of grey and yellow silt. This was recorded in Trench 1 at 0.98m beneath the present ground surface, 2.94m OD (105) and (127) and Trench 2 at 0.58m beneath present ground level, 3.02m OD (222). In Trench 3 natural deposits were 0.44m beneath present ground level, 3.35m OD (318). Natural silt (405) was also seen approximately 1.1m below ground level in Trench 4. These natural geological deposits were recorded to a maximum depth of 0.5m, though augering revealed natural red-brown or grey sandy silts (119, 120, 123, 125, 237, 303) at greater depth. Sealing these deposits were natural subsoils layers (111), (112), (203), (316) and (404) comprising mid brownish grey silt recorded to a maximum depth of 0.2m.

A natural subsoil hollow [320] filled with brown silt (319) was recorded in Trench 3.

## 5.3 Phase 2: Medieval deposits

Trench 1 (Figure 5; Plate 2):

Recorded at the northern end of Trench 1 was a pond or possible natural hollow [115]. Over 4m wide and 0.75m deep, this contained firm brownish grey clayey silts (116), (114), (126), (104) and (103). Medieval pottery was recovered from (116), (114) and (104).

Cutting into the pond [115] was a pit or

gully [110] that measured 1.28m wide and 0.4m deep and contained a soft mid brown clayey silt (109). The medieval pond [115] was also truncated to the south by the steepsided pit [113] 3.5m wide and 0.5m deep. Within [113] were yellowish brown silts (108), (107) and (106), with a single fragment of 13th-14th century pottery recovered from (106). Augering revealed grey silts (118), (122) and red-brown silt (121) which may also be fills of pit [113].

## 5.4 Phase 3: Post-medieval deposits

Trench 2 (Figure 6; Plate 3):

A large cut feature [204] with dimensions of at least 3.8m wide and 1.65m depth was identified. It appeared to be aligned northwest-southeast, suggesting that it was probably a ditch rather than a pit. It contained soft greyish brown silts (238), (237), (236), (232), (226), (230), (228),(227), (231), (220), (219), (218), (217), (216), (213), (212), (211), (210) and (205). Of these, fills (227) and (226) contained large quantities of bone, mainly cattle horn cores from probable butchery. Pottery of the 16th-17th century was also recovered from these two deposits, and a redeposited sherd of pottery dating from the 10-12th century was retrieved from (228). There was a small amount of domestic refuse in (236) and some of the lower fills of the feature (236, 226, 230) were dark and organic, occasionally containing wood fragments. A sample from one of the deposits (236) indicated that the feature had held water at least part of the time, as indicated by waterfleas and waterlogged plant and insect remains. Truncating the feature to the north was a shallow flat-based cut [215] containing mid brownish grey silt (214).

Probable ditch [204] was further truncated to the south by [206], a pit at least 2.55m wide and 1.08m deep. Filling the pit was a sequence of dark silts (235, 234, 229, 221, 225). A fragment of redeposited medieval pottery was recovered from (229). Pit [206] was truncated, or defined, to the north by a vertical-sided, 0.2m wide by 0.5m deep cut [239]. This contained a wooden post or plank (224) and dark grey silt (223) and may be a posthole or structural slot.

## Trench 3 (Figure 7):

A possible ditch or pit 5.15m+ wide and 1.75m deep [317] was recorded in the eastern half of the trench. The feature was filled by several deposits of reddish brown and grey silt (301), (302), (305), (309), (310), (313), (314), and (315). Of these, deposits (314) and (315) contained bricks of the late post-medieval period. Apparently cutting (313) and sealed by (310) within the feature was a small hollow [312], 0.44m wide and 0.12m deep, filled with grey-brown silt containing brick flecks (311). This may be a naturally formed hollow, rather than an actual cut feature.

## Trench 4 (Figure 8):

Recorded in the western half of the trench was a pit of at least 3.5m width and 0.5m depth [407], filled by a blackish brown silt (403) containing frequent ceramic building material rubble. Late post-medieval artefacts and fractured millstone fragments (406) with a diameter at least 1.12m (Plate 4), were seen though not retrieved due to sewage contamination *(see Section 4. Methods)*.

## 5.5 Phase 4: Modern deposits

Trench 2 (Figure 6):

Post-medieval pit [206] was truncated to the south by a service trench [209], 0.52m deep, that contained a ceramic land drain (208) and backfill (207).

## Trench 3 (Figure 7):

The remains of a north-south concrete wall foundation (321), 0.4m thick, was recorded 0.12m beneath the present ground surface in

Trench 3. Built up over this foundation, and overlying the post-medieval features elsewhere in the trench, was a dark brown silt (308). Containing frequent brick rubble and 18<sup>th</sup> century artefacts, this is considered to be a former topsoil layer.

Above the medieval pits and post-medieval deposits in Trenches 1 and 4 respectively, layers of firm brown clays and silts (101), (102) and (402) were recorded to a thickness of 0.5m. These represent levelling deposits. A thin layer of brick rubble (307), perhaps forming a rough surface was recorded in Trench 3. Overlying this and the levelling layer (402) in Trench 4, and elsewhere above the post-medieval deposits, were layers of dark brown silt (202, 306, 401) up to 0.2m thick. Containing occasional ceramic building material, this is the modern topsoil. A dumped layer containing building debris (201) overlay the topsoil in Trench 2.

## 6. **DISCUSSION**

Archaeological evaluation at Ashcourt, Donington, has revealed a sequence of natural geology, medieval and post-medieval features sealed by modern deposits.

## 6.1 Phase 1: Natural deposits

The earliest recorded deposits, found within all of the trenches, were natural alluvial silts. In this area of the Lincolnshire fens, the dating of natural alluvial deposits is uncertain. The silts may have been laid down in the prehistoric period c. 5000-3000 BC (Shennan and Alderton 1994, 281) or possibly in the late or post-Roman period c. 350 AD or later (Hallam 1970, 47). Subsoils, probably naturally formed soil layers, subsequently developed on the alluvium.

## 6.2 Phase 2: Medieval deposits

Cutting the natural silts in Trench 1 at the western edge of the site was a pond [115]. This is likely to have been deliberately created, though could possibly be natural in origin. The pond was filled by dumped materials which contained artefacts of 13th-14th century date.

Cutting into the pond were two features, a pit [115] and a gully or pit [110]. A single sherd of 13th-14th century pottery was recovered from pit [115], though no artefacts were retrieved from the latter feature. However, both features were cut from the same level and are considered to be broadly of the same date as each other. The functions of these two features are unclear and, moreover, the single medieval fragment could be redeposited, with these features actually being of post-medieval date.

## 6.3 Phase 3: Post-medieval deposits

Ditches and pits of post-medieval date were identified in Trenches 2-4. A possible ditch [204] aligned northwest-southeast was recorded in Trench 2 and had apparently been filled in by the 16th-17th century. Cartographic evidence lends some support to this interpretation as no maps or plans dating from as early as 1834 show any boundaries, or other features, on this orientation in this area. Examination of an environmental sample from one of the lowest fills indicated that the feature had held water, at least periodically, and had refuse, perhaps butchery and other waste, dumped in to it. A large quantity of cattle horn cores suggest the possibility that the butchery might have been supplying material to a horn worker (Appendix 5). The ditch was truncated by a shallow cut, probably a gully, and a large sub-rectangular pit. This pit [206] appears to have been lined at the top with planking. Although of indeterminate function, this feature may have served as a cess pit. It had probably been filled in by the mid 19<sup>th</sup> century, as it is not shown on the 1834 plan or later maps of the area, and the survival of wooden planking well above the watertable, suggests that the feature is not particularly ancient.

A wide cut feature, probably a north-south aligned ditch, was revealed in Trench 3. This ditch appears to correspond to a boundary depicted on maps of 1891 and 1906 but not shown on earlier and later plans of 1834 and 1955. In consequence, it seems likely that this ditch was created in the 19<sup>th</sup> century and infilled in the first half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

A large pit [407] was also observed but not investigated in Trench 4. However, late postmedieval artefacts, including millstone fragments, were observed within the feature, indicating that it probably served for refuse disposal. In spite of the presence of the millstone fragments in the pit, there is no evidence of a post-medieval mill at the investigation site or immediately adjacent However, a windmill for grinding corn was located about 350m to the west of the site and is shown on maps dating from 1891 to 1955.

## 6.4 Phase 4: Modern deposits

The wall foundation identified in Trench 3 is likely to be from one of the former buildings that existed on the site, identified previously (Cope-Faulkner 2000). The size of the foundation suggests that this was not a major structure, and cartographic evidence would suggest the building was short-lived, as it does not appear on maps and plans of 1834, 1891, 1906, 1955 or 1977.

A relatively modern service (drain) trench was recorded in Trench 2 and recent dumped or levelling layers were identified in Trenches 1 and 4. A modern deposit of topsoil formed the present ground surface across the investigation site.

## 6.5 Overview

Medieval remains were only encountered on the west side of the site and only the pond is conclusively of that date; the two features that cut the pond could be post-medieval. Moreover, the presence of the pond suggests that this area was not one of urban habitation in the medieval period and is more typical of a rural or agricultural situation. The relatively limited quantity of artefacts of the period further suggest that the site was either semi-rural or peripheral to habitation in the medieval period.

Post-medieval remains, ditches and pits, were much more extensive though occupation debris was still not abundant. Several of the post-medieval features appear to be boundary ditches, suggesting the area was divided up in to small land parcels. One of the ditches corresponds with a boundary mapped in the 19th-20th century. A possible cess pit, perhaps within a timber shed, was also identified. These aspects, together with the lack of any distinct structural remains and limited quantity of artefacts, suggests that the site was not occupied as such but perhaps formed the gardens or back-plots of houses located nearby, probably on the street frontage.

## 7. A S S E S S M E N T O F SIGNIFICANCE

For assessment of significance the Secretary of State's criteria for scheduling ancient monuments has been used (DoE 1990, Annex 4; See Appendix 1).

## Period

A pond and possible pits of medieval date were encountered, and post-medieval ditches and pits were also recognized. None of these features are period-specific.

## Rarity

A medieval pond and pits of possibly the same period were recorded. Such features are not rare but may have rare attributes. Similarly, post-medieval ditches and pits are not scarce but may have unusual characteristics.

## Documentation

Records of archaeological sites and finds made in the Donington area are held in the Lincolnshire Sites and Monuments Record and the files are maintained by Lincoln SMR. A desk-top assessment of the archaeological and historical aspects of the area has previously been produced (Cope-Faulkner 2000).

## Group value

A medieval pond, and two pits that may of the same period, are the only remains of medieval date encountered. This limited evidence therefore has low group value. A dearth of structural or other features of the period in the village means that the group value of the medieval remains is only minimally enhanced.

Post-medieval ditches and pits were also identified. These have moderate group value which is enhanced by the presence of contemporary buildings and other remains in the proximity.

## Survival/Condition

Archaeological remains of medieval and postmedieval date survived in generally good condition at the site. Recent ground raising by dumping had occurred at the site and this ameliorated the disturbance to archaeological remains caused by recent buildings and services.

## Fragility/Vulnerability

Although there has been dumping at the site, which may serve to protect buried archaeological remains, groundwork associated with development may impact in to natural deposits. In consequence, any and all archaeological deposits present at the site are vulnerable to disturbance.

## Diversity

Ditches, pits and a pond of medieval and post-medieval date were revealed, together with dumped deposits. The features seem to be related to land parcelling and back-plot activity associated with nearby occupation. As such, the diversity is low.

## Potential

On the basis of excavated evidence, there appears to be low potential for medieval remains occurring in the area other than on the western side of the site, where the potential is very high. Moreover, the nature of the remains of this period suggest that there is low potential for evidence of medieval habitation to be encountered in the area. Conversely, however, there is some potential for the pond to contain refuse and environmental evidence of the period.

There is high potential for further postmedieval remains to occur in the area. However, it is likely that further remains would also be in the form of boundary ditches, refuse and cess pits as encountered in the present investigation. Potential for habitation remains of the period to be revealed is low.

There was some limited evidence for organic preservation by waterlogging, though the potential for the survival of environmental remains, other than through charring, is low.

## 8. EFFECTIVENESS OF TECHNIQUES

The technique of using trial trenches to evaluate archaeological deposits was successful. Removal of overburden deposits by mechanical excavator allowed a rapid appraisal indicating archaeological deposits were present across the development area, although the larger density of features was confined to the northern part of the site.

Furthermore, manual excavation of the remains established that the archaeological deposits were well-preserved with different phases of activity, from the medieval period to the present. Additionally, the investigations also indicated the majority of the functions of the remains.

## 9. CONCLUSIONS

Archaeological evaluation on land adjacent to Ashcourt, Donington, Lincolnshire, was undertaken as the site lies close to the core of the medieval village.

The investigations revealed a medieval pond, and pits of possible medieval date, by the western edge of the site. However, medieval remains were not revealed elsewhere, though post-medieval ditches and pits were recorded throughout the remainder of the site. One of the ditches could be correlated with cartographic evidence and is likely to be 19thearly 20th century in date. However, most of the other post-medieval features are likely to be a little older, with recovered artefacts indicating some of the remains are of 16th-17th century date and map evidence suggesting the features had been infilled or otherwise removed by the 1830s. Butchery waste was recovered from one of the pit/ditches.

Although there was evidence of relatively

recent buildings and services at the site these had not greatly affected earlier remains. Organic remains, albeit of probable late postmedieval date, were preserved at the site by waterlogging.

## **10. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

Archaeological Project Services would like to acknowledge the assistance of Mr B. Gilmore of Status Design who commissioned the fieldwork and postexcavation analysis. The archaeological project was coordinated by Steve Malone and was edited by Gary Taylor and Tom Lane. Mark Bennet and Sarah Grundy of Lincolnshire County Council permitted examination of the county archaeological Sites and Monuments Record. David Start kindly permitted access to the library maintained by the Heritage Trust of Lincolnshire.

## 11. PERSONNEL

Project Coordinator: Steve Malone Project Superviser: Rachael Hall Site Assistants: Barry Martin, Chris Moulis, and Paul Westrop Finds Processing: Denise Buckley Photographic Reproduction: Sue Unsworth Illustrations: Rachael Hall Post-excavation Analyst: Rachael Hall

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## 13. ABBREVIATIONS

BGS British Geological Survey

- DoE Department of the Environment
- IFA Institute of Field Archaeologists
- LAO Lincolnshire Archives Office, followed by document code
- OD Ordnance Datum
- OS Ordnance Survey





Figure 1 General Location Plan



Figure 2 - Site Location



Figure 3 - Site location plan





Figure 5 - Trench 1 plan and section





Figure 6 - Trench 2 plan and sections

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Figure 7 - Trench 3 plan and section



Figure 8 - Trench 4 plan and section



Plate 1 General Site View, looking northwest

Plate 2 Trench 1, Section 3, looking west



Plate 4 Millstone from Trench 4

Plate 3 Trench 2, looking southwest

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## Appendix 1

## SECRETARY OF STATE'S CRITERIA FOR SCHEDULING ANCIENT MONUMENTS extract from Archaeology and Planning DOE Planning Policy Guidance note 16, November 1990

The following criteria (which are not in any order of ranking), are used for assessing the national importance of an ancient monument and considering whether scheduling is appropriate. The criteria should not however be regarded as definitive; rather they are indicators which contribute to a wider judgement based on the individual circumstances of a case.

i *Period*: all types of monuments that characterise a category or period should be considered for preservation.

ii *Rarity*: there are some monument categories which in certain periods are so scarce that all surviving examples which retain some archaeological potential should be preserved. In general, however, a selection must be made which portrays the typical and commonplace as well as the rare. This process should take account of all aspects of the distribution of a particular class of monument, both in a national and regional context.

iii *Documentation*: the significance of a monument may be enhanced by the existence of records of previous investigation or, in the case of more recent monuments, by the supporting evidence of contemporary written records.

iv *Group value*: the value of a single monument (such as a field system) may be greatly enhanced by its association with related contemporary monuments (such as a settlement or cemetery) or with monuments of different periods. In some cases, it is preferable to protect the complete group of monuments, including associated and adjacent land, rather than to protect isolated monuments within the group.

v *Survival/Condition*: the survival of a monument's archaeological potential both above and below ground is a particularly important consideration and should be assessed in relation to its present condition and surviving features.

vi *Fragility/Vulnerability*: highly important archaeological evidence from some field monuments can be destroyed by a single ploughing or unsympathetic treatment; vulnerable monuments of this nature would particularly benefit from the statutory protection that scheduling confers. There are also existing standing structures of particular form or complexity whose value can again be severely reduced by neglect or careless treatment and which are similarly well suited by scheduled monument protection, even if these structures are already listed buildings.

vii *Diversity*: some monuments may be selected for scheduling because they possess a combination of high quality features, others because of a single important attribute.

viii *Potential*: on occasion, the nature of the evidence cannot be specified precisely but it may still be possible to document reasons anticipating its existence and importance and so to demonstrate the justification for scheduling. This is usually confined to sites rather than upstanding monuments.

# Appendix 2

# LAND AT ASH COURT, STATION ROAD, DONINGTON, LINCOLNSHIRE

# SPECIFICATION FOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

# PREPARED FOR STATUS DESIGN

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

### **NOVEMBER 2000**

#### SUMMARY

1

- 1.1 This document comprises a specification for the archaeological field evaluation of land at Ash Court, Station Street, Donington, Lincolnshire.
- 1.2 The area is archaeologically sensitive, lying close to the centre of the medieval village. Roman settlement is also known in the area although Roman material is relatively sparse.
- 1.3 Planning permission is sought for residential development of the site. The archaeological works are being undertaken in order to assist the determination of the application.
- 1.4 Desk-based assessment of the site was undertaken but there is little information currently available to define the archaeological potential more closely. A programme of trial trenching of the site has therefore been requested.
- 1.5 On completion of the fieldwork a report will be prepared detailing the findings of the investigation. The report will consist of a text describing the nature of the archaeological deposits located and will be supported by illustrations and photographs.

## 2 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 This document comprises a specification for the archaeological field evaluation of land at Ash Court, Station Street, Donington, Lincolnshire. The site is located at National Grid Reference TF 2078 3560.
- 2.2 The document contains the following parts:
  - 2.2.1 Overview
  - 2.2.2 The archaeological and natural setting
  - 2.2.3 Stages of work and methodologies to be used
  - 2.2.4 List of specialists
  - 2.2.5 Programme of works and staffing structure of the project

#### 3 SITE LOCATION

3.1 Donington is located approximately 13km north of Spalding and15km southwest of Boston in the South Holland district of Lincolnshire. The site is located 80m south of the town centre as defined by the Market Place and is centred on National Grid Reference TF 2078 3560.

#### 4 PLANNING BACKGROUND

4.1 Planning permission is being sought for residential development on the site. Archaeological desk-based assessment (Cope-Faulkner 2000) confirmed the possibility that archaeological remains of the medieval period might be present but there is little or no information currently available which might define this potential more closely. The Lincolnshire County Council Archaeological Officer has therefore requested a programme of trial trenching of the site.

#### 5 SOILS AND TOPOGRAPHY

5.1 The site lies at a height of c. 5m OD on fairly level ground with a slight drop to the southwest. Local soils are coarse silty calcareous alluvial soils of the Romney Series (Robson 1990, 26).

#### 6 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 6.1 Donington is located at the eastern end of the Romano-British thoroughfare, the Salter's Way. Romano-British finds within the village are sparse, but a Roman coin has been found near to the parish church and Romano-British pottery has been found to the south-east of the village.
- 6.2 Donington was referred to in the Domesday Book of 1086 when it comprised two manors which contained almost 30 salt pans between them. The parish church of St. Mary and the Holy Rood dates from the 13th century and later-Medieval pottery and a coin, together with post-medieval thimbles and lead seals have previously been found immediately west of the church.
- 6.3 The proposed development area appears from map evidence to have been maintained as open ground forming the rear gardens or plots of buildings fronting Station Street.

#### 7 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- 7.1 The aim of the work will be to gather sufficient information for the archaeological curator to be able to formulate a policy for the management of the archaeological resources present on the site.
- 7.2 The objectives of the work will be to:
  - 7.2.1 Establish the type of archaeological activity that may be present within the site.
  - 7.2.2 Determine the likely extent of archaeological activity present within the site.
  - 7.2.3 Determine the spatial arrangement of the archaeological features present within the site.
  - 7.2.4 Determine the extent to which the surrounding archaeological features extend into the application area.
  - 7.2.5 Establish the way in which the archaeological features identified fit into the pattern of occupation and land-use in the surrounding landscape.
  - 7.2.6 Determine the date and function of the archaeological features present on the site.

#### 8 TRIAL TRENCHING

- 8.1 Reasoning for this technique
  - 8.1.1 Trial trenching enables the *in situ* determination of the sequence, date, nature, depth, environmental potential and density of archaeological features present on the site.
  - 8.1.2 The trial trenching will consist of the excavation of four (4) trenches, 10m x 1.8m, placed as indicated on the plan supplied by the County Archaeological Officer. Trenches may be widened and stepped-in should archaeological deposits extend below

1.2m depth. Augering may be used to determine the depth of the sequence of deposits present.

- 8.2 General Considerations
  - 8.2.1 All work will be undertaken following statutory Health and Safety requirements in operation at the time of the evaluation.
  - 8.2.2 The work will be undertaken according to the relevant codes of practice issued by the Institute of Field Archaeologists (IFA). *Archaeological Project Services* is an IFA Registered Archaeological Organisation (No. 21).
  - 8.2.3 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.
  - 8.2.4 Excavation of the archaeological features exposed will only be undertaken as far as is required to determine their date, sequence, density and nature. Not all archaeological features exposed will be excavated. However, the evaluation will, as far as is reasonably practicable, determine the level of the natural deposits to ensure that the depth of the archaeological sequence present on the site is established.
  - 8.2.5 Open trenches will be marked by hazard tape attached to road irons or similar poles. Subject to the consent of the archaeological curator, and following the appropriate recording, the trenches, particularly those of excessive depth, will be backfilled as soon as possible to minimise any health and safety risks.

#### 8.3 Methodology

- 8.3.1 Removal of the topsoil and any other overburden will be undertaken by mechanical excavator using a toothless ditching bucket. To ensure that the correct amount of material is removed and that no archaeological deposits are damaged, this work will be supervised by Archaeological Project Services. On completion of the removal of the overburden, the nature of the underlying deposits will be assessed by hand excavation before any further mechanical excavation that may be required. Thereafter, the trenches will be cleaned by hand to enable the identification and analysis of the archaeological features exposed.
- 8.3.2 Investigation of the features will be undertaken only as far as required to determine their date, form and function. The work will consist of half- or quarter-sectioning of features as required and, where appropriate, the removal of layers. Should features be located which may be worthy of preservation *in situ*, excavation will be limited to the absolute minimum, (*ie* the minimum disturbance) necessary to interpret the form, function and date of the features.
- 8.3.3 The archaeological features encountered will be recorded on Archaeological Project Services pro-forma context record sheets. The system used is the single context method by which individual archaeological units of stratigraphy are assigned a unique record number and are individually described and drawn.
- 8.3.4 Plans of features will be drawn at a scale of 1:20 and sections at a scale of 1:10. Should individual features merit it, they will be drawn at a larger scale.

- 8.3.5 Throughout the duration of the trial trenching a photographic record consisting of black and white prints (reproduced as contact sheets) and colour slides will be compiled. The photographic record will consist of:
  - 8.3.5.1 the site before the commencement of field operations.
  - 8.3.5.2 the site during work to show specific stages of work, and the layout of the archaeology within individual trenches.
  - 8.3.5.3 individual features and, where appropriate, their sections.
  - 8.3.5.4 groups of features where their relationship is important.
  - 8.3.5.5 the site on completion of field work
- 8.3.6 Should human remains be encountered, they will be left *in situ* with excavation being limited to the identification and recording of such remains. If removal of the remains is necessary the appropriate Home Office licences will be obtained and the local environmental health department informed. If relevant, the coroner and the police will be notified.
- 8.3.7 Finds collected during the fieldwork will be bagged and labelled according to the individual deposit from which they were recovered ready for later washing and analysis.
- 8.3.8 The spoil generated during the evaluation will be mounded along the edges of the trial trenches with the top soil being kept separate from the other material excavated for subsequent backfilling.
- 8.3.9 The precise location of the trenches within the site and the location of site recording grid will be established by an EDM survey.

## 9 ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

9.1 If appropriate, during the evaluation specialist advice will be obtained from an environmental archaeologist. The specialist will visit the site and will prepare a report detailing the nature of the environmental material present on the site and its potential for additional analysis should further stages of archaeological work be required. The results of the specialist's assessment will be incorporated into the final report

#### 10 POST-EXCAVATION AND REPORT

- 10.1 Stage 1
  - 10.1.1 On completion of site operations, the records and schedules produced during the trial trenching will be checked and ordered to ensure that they form a uniform sequence constituting 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 slides will be labelled and mounted on appropriate hangers and the black and white contact prints will be labelled, in both cases the labelling will refer to schedules identifying the subject/s photographed.

10.1.2 All finds recovered during the trial trenching will be washed, marked, bagged and labelled according to the individual 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.

## 10.2 Stage 2

- 10.2.1 Detailed examination of the stratigraphic matrix to enable the determination of the various phases of activity on the site.
- 10.2.2 Finds will be sent to specialists for identification and dating.
- 10.3 Stage 3
  - 10.3.1 On completion of stage 2, a report detailing the findings of the evaluation will be prepared. This will consist of:
    - 10.3.1.1 A non-technical summary of the findings of the evaluation.
    - 10.3.1.2 A description of the archaeological setting of the site.
    - 10.3.1.3 Description of the topography and geology of the evaluation area.
    - 10.3.1.4 Description of the methodologies used during the evaluation and discussion of their effectiveness in the light of the findings of the investigation.
    - 10.3.1.5 A text describing the findings of the evaluation.
    - 10.3.1.6 Plans of the trenches showing the archaeological features exposed. If a sequence of archaeological deposits is encountered, separate plans for each phase will be produced.
    - 10.3.1.7 Sections of the trenches and archaeological features.
    - 10.3.1.8 Interpretation of the archaeological features exposed and their context within the surrounding landscape.
    - 10.3.1.9 Specialist reports on the finds from the site.
    - 10.3.1.10 Appropriate photographs of the site and specific archaeological features or groups of features.
    - 10.3.1.11 A consideration of the significance of the remains found, in local, regional, national and international terms, using recognised evaluation criteria.

#### 11 ARCHIVE

11.1 The documentation, finds, photographs and other records and materials generated during the evaluation will be sorted and ordered into the format acceptable to the City and County Museum, Lincoln. This sorting will be undertaken according to the document titled *Conditions* for the Acceptance of Project Archives for long term storage and curation.

#### 12 **REPORT DEPOSITION**

12.1 Copies of the evaluation report will be sent to: the client, Status Design; the Lincolnshire County Council Archaeological Officer; South Holland District Council Planning Department; and the Lincolnshire County Sites and Monuments Record.

## 13 PUBLICATION

13.1 A report of the findings of the evaluation will be published in Heritage Lincolnshire's annual report and an article of appropriate content will be submitted for inclusion in the journal *Lincolnshire History and Archaeology*. Notes or articles describing the results of the investigation will also be submitted for publication in the appropriate national journals: *Medieval Archaeology* and *Journal of the Medieval Settlement Research Group* for medieval and later remains, and *Britannia* for discoveries of Roman date.

## 14 CURATORIAL MONITORING

14.1 Curatorial responsibility for the project lies with County Archaeological Officer. As much written notice as possible, ideally at least seven days, will be given to the archaeological curator prior to the commencement of the project to enable them to make appropriate monitoring arrangements.

#### 15 VARIATIONS TO THE PROPOSED SCHEME OF WORKS

- 15.1 Variations to the scheme of works will only be made following written confirmation from the archaeological curator.
- 15.2 Should the archaeological curator require any additional investigation beyond the scope of the brief for works, or this specification, then the cost and duration of those supplementary examinations will be negotiated between the client and the contractor.

#### 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.

Task	Body to be undertaking the work
Conservation	Conservation Laboratory, City and County Museum, Lincoln.
Pottery Analysis	Prehistoric: Dr D Knight, Trent and Peak Archaeological Trust
	Roman: B Precious, independent specialist
	Anglo-Saxon: J Young, independent specialist
	Medieval and later: G Taylor, APS in consultation with H Healey, independent archaeologist

Other Artefacts	J Cowgill, independent specialist; or G Taylor, APS
Human Remains Analysis	R Gowland, independent specialist
Animal Remains Analysis	Environmental Archaeology Consultancy
Environmental Analysis	Environmental Archaeology Consultancy
Radiocarbon dating	Beta Analytic Inc., Florida, USA
Dendrochronology dating	University of Sheffield Dendrochronology Laboratory

## 17 PROGRAMME OF WORKS AND STAFFING LEVELS

- 17.1 Fieldwork is expected to be undertaken by 3 staff, a supervisor and 2 assistants, and to take four (4) days.
- 17.2 Post-excavation analysis and report production is expected to take 12 person-days within a notional programme of 10 days. A project officer or supervisor will undertake most of the analysis, with assistance from the finds supervisor and CAD illustrator. Two half-days of specialist time are allotted in the project budget.

#### 17.3 Contingency

- 17.3.1 Contingencies have been specified in the budget. These include: environmental sampling/analysis of waterlogged remains; Roman pottery (small amounts allowed for); Anglo-Saxon pottery (not expected); Medieval pottery large quantities (moderate amount expected and allowed for); Conservation and/or Other unexpected remains or artefacts.
- 17.3.2 Other than a pump, the activation of any contingency requirement will be by the archaeological curator, <u>not</u> Archaeological Project Services.

#### 18 INSURANCES

18.1 Archaeological Project Services, as part of the Heritage Trust of Lincolnshire, maintains Employers Liability insurance to £10,000,000. Additionally, the company maintains Public and Products Liability insurances, each with indemnity of £5,000,000. Copies of insurance documentation can be supplied on request.

#### 19 COPYRIGHT

- 19.1 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.
- 19.2 Licence will also be given to the archaeological curators to use the documentary archive for educational, public and research purposes.
- 19.3 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 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.

19.4 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.

## 20 BIBLIOGRAPHY

Cope-Faulkner, P. 2000. Desk-top Assessment of the Archaeological Implications of Proposed Development on land at Station Street, Donington, Lincolnshire. Unpublished APS report 154/00

Robson, J.D., 1990. Soils of the Boston and Spalding District (Sheet 131) Memoirs of the Soil Survey of Great Britain.

Specification: Version 1, 17th November 2000

# Appendix 3 Context Summary

Trench 1				••••••••••••••••••••••••••••••••••••••	-
Context	Туре	Description	Thickness (m)	Interpretation	Fill of/by
101	Deposit	Firm mid reddish brown clay	0.26	Levelling/dump	
102	Deposit	Firm dark reddish brown clayey silt, occ brick frags and charcoal flecks	0.3	Levelling/dump	
103	Deposit	Firm mid yellowish brown clayey silt	0.3	Fill	115
104	Deposit	Firm mid brownish grey clayey silt	0.3	Fill	115
105	Deposit	Firm light yellowish brownish red silt	0.5	Natural	
106	Deposit	Firm mid reddish brown clayey silt, occ charcoal flecks	0.2	Fill	113
107	Deposit	Firm mid yellowish brown clayey silt	0.1	Fill	113
108	Deposit	Soft light yellowish brown silt	0.32	Fill	113
109	Deposit	Soft mid brown clayey silt	0.4	Fill	110
110	Cut	Slightly convex sides and flattish base, width 1.18m	0.4	Pit/Indeterminate use	109
111	Deposit	Firm mid yellowish brown clayey silt	0.1	?Subsoil	
112	Deposit	Soft mid brownish grey clayey silt	0.35	?Subsoil	
113	Cut	Steep sided rectangular cut, 3.55m x >1.56m	0.6	Pit/Indeterminate use	106, 107, 108, 118

114	Deposit	Firm mid reddish brown clayey silt containing redeposited natural	0.3	Fill	115
115	Cut	Irregular cut, 3.2m wide x 1.56. Truncated by [113] and [110]	0.95	Pond	114, 103, 104,105 116, 126
116	Deposit	Firm dark reddish brown clayey silt, occ charcoal flecks and shell	0.2	Fill	115
117		NOT USED			
118	Deposit	Soft dark grey silt	0.25	Fill	113
119	Deposit	Soft mid reddish brown sandy silt	0.35	Natural Layer	
120	Deposit	Soft mid reddish brown silty sand	0.3	Natural Layer	
121	Deposit	Soft mid reddish brown sandy silt	0.19	Fill	117
122	Deposit	Soft mid grey silt	0.11	Fill	117
123	Deposit	Soft mid reddish brown sandy silt	0.34	Natural Layer	
124	Deposit	Soft greyish brown silt	0.24	Fill	115
125	Deposit	Mid reddish brown sandy silt	0.1	Natural Layer	
126	Deposit	Firm light brownish red silt	0.06	Redeposited Natural	
127	Deposit	Firm light yellowish brownish red silt	0.4	Natural layer	

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Context	Туре	Description	Thickness (m)	Interpretation	Fillof/by
201	Deposit	Friable dark grey silt matrix, freq. Pebbles, cbm frags and mortar powder	0.2	Demolition layer	
202	Deposit	Soft very dark grey silt, occ cbm and coal frags	0.2	Topsoil	
203	Deposit	Soft mid brownish grey silt	0.2	Buried topsoil	
204	Cut	Nature of cut unclear, gradually sloping sides, truncated to south by 206, >3.8m wide	>1.7	Pit	205, 210, 212, 213, 216, 217,218, 226, 227 228, 230, 231
205	Deposit	Soft mid- dark greyish brown silt, moderate charcoal flecks	0.29	Fill	204
206	Cut	Rectangular vertical sided cut >3.5m x >1.7m	>1.1	Pit	221, 225, 229, 234, 235
207	Deposit	Soft very dark grey sandy silt, occ cbm and coal frags	0.45	Drain backfill	209
208	Deposit	Red ceramic land drain		Land drain	209
209	Cut	Linear, vertical sided cut, 1.5m in length	0.5	Drain trench	207, 208
210	Deposit	Soft mid- dark greyish brown sandy silt, occ charcoal flecks	0.1	Fill	204
211	Deposit	Firm light- mid brown clayey silt	0.12	Fill	204
212	Deposit	Soft mid greyish brown silt, occ large limestone fragment	0.22	Fill	204

				and the second se	
213	Deposit	Soft mid brownish grey silt, freq. white mortar frags, occ charcoal frags	0.2	Fill	204
214	Deposit	Soft mid brown and very brownish grey silt, occ coal frags	0.15	Fill	215
215	Cut	Shallow concaved sided cut with flattish base, width 1m	0.15	Modern Pit	214
216	Deposit	Soft mid greyish brown silt, occ mortar flecks	0.3	Fill	216
217	Deposit	Soft mid greyish brown silt, freq powdered mortar	0.16	Fill	204
218	Deposit	Soft mid greyish brown sandy silt	0.2	Fill	204
219	Deposit	Soft mid-dark greyish brown sandy silt	0.1	Fill	204
220	Deposit	Soft mid greyish brown silt	0.23	Fill	233
221	Deposit	Soft mid greyish brown silt, occ sea shell, moderate mortar frags; same as 229	0.22	Fill	206
222	Deposit	Soft light-mid reddish brown with mottles of mid grey silt		Natural	
223	Deposit	Soft dark grey sandy silt, moderate sub-angular flints	0.25	Fill	239
224	Wood	Plank/post		Planking/post?	239
225	Deposit	Soft dark brown silt occ cbm and oyster shell frags	0.42	Fill	206
226	Deposit	Soft mid-dark grey silt, occ charcoal flecks, occ wood frags	0.26	Fill	204
227	Deposit	Very soft light beige with olive tint powdered mortar silt, occ cbm frags	0.18	Fill	204
228	Deposit	Soft greyish light-mid orangy brown clayey silt	0.18	Fill	204

229	Deposit	Soft mid greyish brown silt; same as 221	0.19	Fill	206
230	Deposit	Soft mid-dark grey sandy silt with mortar lenses, occ wood frags	0.35	Fill	204
231	Deposit	Soft brownish grey silt	0.14	Fill	204
232	Deposit	Soft mid greyish brown silt	0.23	Fill	204
233		CANCELLED			
234	Deposit	Soft dark grey silt		Fill	206
235	Deposit	Soft black silt	0.33	Fill	206
236	Deposit	Soft black, organic silt	0.34	Fill	204
237	Deposit	Soft mid grey silt	0.2	Natural	
238	Deposit	Soft dark brown silt	0.22	Fill	204
239	Cut	Vertical-sided cut, 0.2m wide	0.5	Posthole/ foundation slot	223, 224

Trench 3

Context	Туре	Description	Thickness (m)	Interpretation	Fill of/by
301	Deposit	Firm greyish brown sandy silt	0.45	Fill	317
302	Deposit	Firm black sandy silt, occ shell frags	0.4	Fill	317
303	Deposit	Firm light greyish beige sandy silt		Natural layer	

304		NOT USED			
305	Deposit	Firm reddish grey brown sandy silt	0.15	Fill	317
306	Deposit	Friable dark brown silt, occ brick rubble	0.04	Developing topsoil	
307	Deposit	Hard red brick and rubble with occ mortar	0.06	Rough surface	
308	Deposit	Firm dark brown silt, freq brick rubble	0.15	Buried topsoil	
309	Deposit	Loose black silt and coal, freq small brick	0.04	Fill	317
310	Deposit	Firm mid brownish grey silt, occ brick frags	0.22	Fill	317
311	Deposit	Firm mid greyish brown silt, occ flecks of brick	0.1	Fill	312
312	Cut	Small concave cut, width 0.44m	0.12	Hollow	311
313	Deposit	Firm mottled reddish brown silt, blue clay lenses	0.29	Alluvial layer(?)	
314	Deposit	Firm mid grey silt, freq brick rubble		Fill	317
315	Deposit	Firm blackish grey silt, moderate brick frags	0.25	Fill	317
316	Deposit	Firm light brownish grey silt, occ brick rubble	0.2	Subsoil	
317	Cut	West side of large cut, over 5.15m wide	1.75	Pit	310, 313, 314, 315, 322
318	Deposit	Firm brownish red silt	0.5	Natural layer	
319	Deposit	Firm mid brown silt	0.14	Fill	320
320	Cut	Small concave cut, 0.4m wide	0.14	Subsoil hollow	319

321	Deposit	Concrete foundation	Concrete	
			foundation	

Trench 4

Context	Туре	Description	Thickness (m)	Interpretation	Fill of/by
401	Deposit	Friable dark brown silt	0.04	Developing topsoil	
402	Deposit	Soft-firm mid brown silt	0.5	Levelling	
403	Deposit	Firm dark blackish brown silt, freq brick rubble	0.85	Refuse pit fill	407
404	Deposit	Soft mid greyish brown silt	0.35	Subsoil	
405	Deposit	Firm mid reddish brown sandy silt		Natural layer	
406		Mill Stone		Inclusion in 403	407
407	Cut	Unexcavated cut		Modern Rubbish Pit	403, 406

# Abbreviations

cbm ceramic building material (brick, tile, fired clay)

frags fragments

freq frequent

occ occasional

## Appendix 4

## THE FINDS

# Hilary Healey and Gary Taylor

#### Provenance

The material was recovered from dumped deposits (101), pond fills (104, 114, 116), pit fills (106, 226-9, 314, 315) and buried soil (308).

Most of the pottery was made in moderate proximity to Donington, at Bourne to the southwest and Toynton All Saints or the vicinity to the north. Some of the later pieces may also be fairly local though there are fragments from Staffordshire in the Midlands. The brick and tile is likely to be relatively local and made in the general Donington area.

#### Range

The range of material is detailed in the table.

Context	Description	Context Date	
101	1x Midlands Yellow ware, 17th century	19 <sup>th</sup> -early 20 <sup>th</sup>	
	1x white glazed tableware, 19th-early 20th century	century	
	1x plant pot, 19 <sup>th</sup> -20 <sup>th</sup> century		
	1x brick		
	1x iron square-sectioned nail		
Theresearch	1x coal/clinker		
104	2x Bourne A ware, 1 sooted externally, 13 <sup>th</sup> -14 <sup>th</sup> century 1x Bourne A/C ware, 13 <sup>th</sup> -14 <sup>th</sup> century 1x Toynton All Saints-type ware, 13 <sup>th</sup> -14 <sup>th</sup> century	13 <sup>th</sup> -14 <sup>th</sup> century	
106	1x Lincoln-type ware	13 <sup>th</sup> -14 <sup>th</sup> century	
114	1x Bourne A ware	13 <sup>th</sup> -14 <sup>th</sup> century	
116	2x Potterhanworth ware, 13th-14th century	13 <sup>th</sup> -14 <sup>th</sup> century	
	1x burnt clay		
226	2x Bourne D ware, 16 <sup>th</sup> -17 <sup>th</sup> century	16 <sup>th</sup> -17 <sup>th</sup> century	
4	1x Bourne A/B ware, 13th-14th century		
	1x whelk shell		
227	3x Bourne D ware, 2 link, large pieces, 16 <sup>th</sup> -17 <sup>th</sup> century 1x Toynton All Saints-type ware, 14 <sup>th</sup> -15 <sup>th</sup> century	16 <sup>th</sup> -17 <sup>th</sup> century	
228	2x Stamford ware, linked	10 <sup>th</sup> -12 <sup>th</sup> century	
229	1x Bourne A/B ware jug	13 <sup>th</sup> -14 <sup>th</sup> century	
308	1x red painted earthenware, black glazed, 18th century18th century1x red painted earthenware, brown glazed, pancheon, 18th century18th century1x clay pipe stem, bore 5/64", 18th century1x brick/tile, post-medieval		
314	2x handmade brick, mortar adhering	post-medieval	
315	1x handmade brick, 65mm thick	post-medieval	

	1x limestone	
and the second		

Fragments of pottery of probable 10th-12<sup>h</sup> century date provide the earliest material recovered, though most of the material is slightly later, dating from the 13<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> century. There is also a moderate amount of later post-medieval material. In addition to the pottery, clay pipe, brick/tile, metal, clinker, bone and mollusc shell was also retrieved.

The limestone fragment from (315) is perhaps a piece of building material but has no surviving faces. Artefacts of clearly recent date were observed in Trench 4 (contexts 401-407) but not collected due to sewage contamination.

#### 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 several previous archaeological investigations at Donington, which are the subjects of reports. Additionally, the present investigation site has been the subject of desk-based research that collated and examined the archaeological and historical evidence for the site and its vicinity. Details of archaeological sites and discoveries in the area are maintained in the Lincolnshire County Council Sites and Monuments Record.

#### Potential

Although not a large assemblage, much of the material is medieval in date and forms one of the first excavated collections of such date from Donington. In consequence, this has moderate potential and indicates the presence of archaeological remains of medieval date on the site or in immediate proximity. However, the limited quantity of medieval artefacts may, however, indicate that the site was not inhabited as such but served another, non-domestic purpose. The post-medieval aspect of the assemblage has limited potential but indicates indeterminate but probable settlement activity on the site or in the vicinity.

The absence of any material earlier than the 10th-12th century is informative and suggests that archaeological deposits dating from this period and before are absent from the area.

## Appendix 5 Donington, Ash Court – DAC01 Environmental Archaeology Assessment

1

## Introduction

During evaluation excavations conducted by Archaeological Project Services on a proposed development at Ash Court, Donington, seven environmental samples were collected from a number of trenches and contexts. All these features were found to be post-medieval in date and in the end only one of the samples, sample 7 – context 236, was taken forward for assessment. In addition a small collection of animal bones was submitted for assessment.

#### Methods

The soil sample was processed in the following manner. Sample volume and weight was measured prior to processing. The sample was washed in a 'Siraf' tank (Williams 1973) using a flotation sieve with a 0.5mm mesh and an internal wet-sieve of 1mm mesh for the residue. The sample included much waterlogged material so it was refloated while still damp and the coarser organic debris washed over into the flot sieve. After the second flot the residue was dried. The volume of the flot (while damp) was measured, and the volume and weight of the residue recorded.

The residue was scanned by eye, and environmental and archaeological finds picked out and noted on the assessment sheet. The residue has been retained. A magnet was run through each residue in order to recover magnetised material such as hammerscale and prill. The float of the sample was studied under a low power binocular microscope. The presence of environmental finds (ie snails, charcoal, carbonised seeds, bones etc) was noted and their abundance and species diversity recorded on the assessment sheet. The float has been stored wet. The float and finds from the sorted residue constitute the material archive of the samples.

#### Results

Context 236, sample 7. This sample was taken from a basal organic fill of a large pit feature in which a number of cattle horn cores and what appeared to be lime had been 'dumped'. An 8.75 litre sample was washed.

The sample produced stone, mortar, a little fired earth and animal bone. The latter included a cattle horn core, a pig calcaneum and lumbar vertebra fragment, and a few unidentifiable fragments. The organic flot included fairly large quantities of animal hair. This is presumed to be cattle hair and may have derived from the horn cores thrown into the pit. This suggests that the cores were thrown in 'fresh' with skin still attached at their base. Fragments of bird eggshell, probably chicken, part of a large fish vertebra, mussel and cockle fragments, and a single charred cereal grain indicates a low level of 'domestic rubbish' also entering the feature.

The presence of numbers of the ephippia of waterfleas (*Daphnia* sp.) indicate that the pit was waterfilled and suitable for colonisation by these freshwater crustaceans. Heavily mineralised puparia, seeds and even leaf fragments, however, suggests a fairly stagnant and 'salt' rich environment. This implies changing conditions, either seasonally or during the filling of the feature. The flot was composed entirely of waterlogged plant and insect remains, with occasional small roundwood, large numbers of elder seeds (*Sambucus* sp.), many other seeds, moss fragments, plant stem and leaf fragments. The insect remains include beetle fragments, wings, puparia and larval fragments. The latter two may be associated with the decomposition of material attached to the horn cores and other bones thrown in. Frog/toad bones were found in the residue.

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The feature appears to contain a mixture of dumped material, such as the horn cores, perhaps lime, a little rubble and 'domestic' rubbish, and vegetation and other debris that may have been growing in or on the sides of the large pit. There is only a little wood and brushwood, most of the organics reflect herbaceous plant debris. Although without specific identification of the plant and insect material in the sample it cannot be said conclusively that this debris is unrelated to the function of the feature, it is probable that it reflects the immediate environment rather than the purpose of the pit.

Given the post-medieval date for the feature, and the lack of any obvious function, the assemblage of horn cores and other animal bone would seem to be opportune disposal of fresh material in a large pit. It may be that this indicates the proximity of a butcher or slaughterhouse removing the horns for supply to a horner.

## Animal Bone

A small collection of twenty-eight bone fragments were recovered by hand during the evaluation. The bones have been identified and recorded following the procedures of the Environmental Archaeology Consultancy and the Archive catalogue is attached.

The bones included fragments of cattle, horse, sheep (or goat) and chicken (Table 1).

	109	114	226	227	314	316
Horse	1		1			2
Cattle (non horn cores)		1	4			
Cattle horn cores			5	5		
Cattle size			4	1	1	
Sheep or goat			2			
Chicken			1			

Table 1: fragments of bone recorded by context.

The bones from Trench 2 derive from a large pit and are dominated by cattle horn cores. These cores reflect animals of markedly different horn type, one core standing up almost vertically from the skull, while another turns forwards and twists, rising only slightly. Size varies as does the thickness of the core wall. This suggests the cores derive from animals of mixed stock. The condition of the bone is excellent. A number of fragments had been chewed by dogs, and a few exhibited chop marks. At least three of the cores had clearly been chopped from the skull. The two horse bones from context 316 were probably articulated.

## Acknowledgments

I should like to thank Alison Foster for the sample processing.

#### Bibliography

Williams, D.1973 Flotation at Siraf, Antiquity, 47, 198-202

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# Appendix 6

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# GLOSSARY

Alluvium	Deposits laid down by water. Marine alluvium is deposited by the sea and freshwater alluvium is laid down by rivers or in lakes.
Context	An archaeological context represents a distinct archaeological event or process. For example, the action of digging a pit creates a context (the cut) as does the process of its subsequent backfill (the fill). Each context encountered during an archaeological investigation is allocated a unique number by the archaeologist and a record sheet detailing the description and interpretations of the context (the context sheet) is created and placed in the site archive. Context numbers are identified within the report text by brackets, $e.g.$ (004).
Cut	A cut refers to the physical action of digging a posthole, pit, ditch, foundation trench, <i>etc.</i> 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 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.
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.

#### Appendix 7

## **THE ARCHIVE**

The archive consists of:

- 93 Context records
- 14 Scale drawings
- 2 Photographic record sheets
- 1 Stratigraphic matrix
- 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 Museum Accession Number:

LCNCC: 2001.3

Archaeological Project Services Site Code:

DAC01

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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