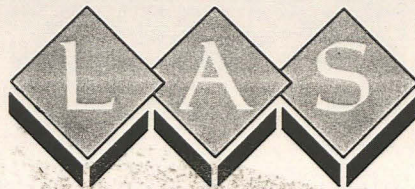


94/11



LINDSEY ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES

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GONERBY HILL, GRANTHAM ROAD, GRANTHAM
Archaeological Assessment (DESK TOP)

Source: L17217

Front L12612

Negative

GONERBY HILL, GRANTHAM ROAD, GRANTHAM Archaeological Assessment

Introduction

Lindsey Archaeological Services was commissioned by David Wilson Homes to undertake a Desk Top Study to assess the archaeological potential of land off Gonerby Hill in the parishes of Grantham and Great Gonerby. This has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the South Kesteven Community Archaeologist as outlined in the Brief dated January 1994.

Site Location *SK 8949 3762*

The proposal is for 72 houses on plots 137-208 which form the second phase of development on Gonerby Hill. The land straddles the parish boundary between Grantham and Great Gonerby, although no boundary division survives. It is bounded by the former Great North Road to the east (Grantham Rd) and the Nottingham-Grantham railway line to the west.

Method

Records from the parishes of Great Gonerby, Grantham and Barrowby lodged at the Lincoln Sites and Monuments Record (SMR) were examined and sites plotted onto a 1:25,000 map (Fig. 1). Records from the same parishes were then examined at the offices of Heritage Lincolnshire and cross-referenced - see Appendix I. A few additional records, held at the offices of LAS, were also incorporated into the list.

Visits were made to the Lincolnshire Archives Office and the Local Collections Library at Lincoln Castle.

The records of the Cambridge University Collection of Aerial Photographs (CUCAP) and National Air Photographic Library (Swindon) were investigated but neither had oblique specialist coverage of the proposed development site although archaeological remains have been recorded in the locality. These are listed in Appendix 1.

A visit was made to the site to examine ground conditions.

Results

The archaeological evidence comprises two main categories. Casual finds record human activity in the area dating from the Neolithic period to the recent past. Aerial photographs have recorded physical remains, such as enclosures and ditches which remain undated. There have been archaeological excavations in the wider study area at Great Gonerby and in the centre of Grantham itself, none of which are considered to have a direct bearing on the present site under consideration.

The Prehistoric Period

There is little recorded from this period. A single flint dagger dating to the Neolithic period was found south of the proposed development (Fig. 1/1). A scatter of Bronze Age worked flints and Iron Age pottery were found $\frac{1}{2}$ km south west of the proposed development on the same site as an extensive Romano-British settlement (Fig.1/2). Cropmarks recorded by Cambridge University include a pit alignment south-west of the development area (Fig. 1/7). These are thought to be prehistoric in date but few have been investigated and their function and date remains conjectural. Further cropmarks have been recorded south of the site which comprise an oval enclosure with a south-west entrance and a circular house inside. This may be pre-Roman in date (Fig.1/6).

The Roman Period

The majority of recorded archaeological finds in the area have been of Roman date. There are five known sites within 1km of the proposed development area which have produced Romano-British pottery and together with building materials in at least three instances (Fig.1/ 2, 3, 8, 9, 10). None of these sites has been excavated but it is clear that the area must have been extensively exploited.

The Saxon and Medieval Period

Saxon pottery was found on one of the Romano-British sites in Great Gonerby (Fig. 1/9). This site straddles the present parish boundary between Great Gonerby and Grantham, about $\frac{1}{2}$ km east of the deserted hamlet of Easthorpe. Anglo-Saxon and medieval remains tend to be located in or close to present settlements. At Great Gonerby a moat, fishpond and earthwork remains have been recorded close to the Manor House (Fig. 1/ 11, 12, 13). Medieval building remains were also recorded to the west of the village (Fig.1/4).

Recent History

The position of the proposed development adjacent to the parish boundary means that substantial medieval discoveries are unlikely. Examination of maps at the Lincolnshire Archives Office confirms this view. The earliest available map which includes the proposed development area is the Enclosure Map of 1808 (Kesteven Award 35). This shows that the site was part of the Abram Wells Field, belonging to Sir William Manners (Lord of the Manor). That part which lay in Great Gonerby parish was described as Glebe land with commons rights. Land in the parish of Grantham was tithe land for the prebendary of Grantham Borcalis. None of this area had been built on. The area now known as Gonerby Hill Foot was also open fields.

Consideration must be given to the recent history of the site in question. Two events in the last century may have had an impact on the site which could affect its archaeological potential; the coming of the railways and the improvement of the Great North Road.

In 1846 the Nottingham and Boston and Eastern Junction Railway Company began to construct a line between Nottingham and Grantham which opened in 1850. The development site backs onto a deep cutting which lies adjacent to the Gonerby Tunnel. The ground was examined to see if any of the upcast from the workings had been deposited on the land. This did not appear to have been the case.

The site lies nearly on the top of Gonerby Hill and is bounded by the Grantham Road which until the construction of the modern A1 by-pass was part of the Great North Road, the main road from London to the North. Gonerby Hill was a steep and dangerous hill and in order to reduce its gradient a deep cutting was made in the nineteenth century. Examination on the ground suggests that at least part of the eastern end of the proposed development site may have had material deposited from these works. The land has been landscaped recently as part of the Phase 1 housing development and it is difficult to determine precisely the former topography of the area.

The proposed development appears to lie close to areas of settlement but upon close examination it was in fact in the middle of the countryside until after the last war. The only part of Gonerby Hill Foot which is not post-World War II in date is a small group of terrace houses centring on Pretoria Road and Ladysmith Terrace, presumably named in memory of the Boer War, soon after the turn of the twentieth century.

Below Gonerby Hill Foot is further development west of the Railway. The only building of any age is Gonerby House (now part of the Kings School) which appears to be mid-nineteenth century in date.

The housing extending up Gonerby Hill from Great Gonerby is post-war in date.

Discussion

Archaeological discoveries in the vicinity of the proposed development site, and in surrounding parishes reflect intense activity during the Roman and medieval periods on the lower slopes of Gonerby Hill. However, nothing has been recorded from the site itself. It is considered unlikely that any remains from the post-Roman period are present on the site but there is a slight chance that Roman or prehistoric material may be present. The absence of data does not necessarily mean the absence of archaeological remains and it may be considered appropriate to carry out a watching brief during the first stages of groundworks to establish the presence or absence of archaeological remains.

Naomi Field
February 7th 1994

APPENDIX 1

Archaeological remains in the vicinity of the proposed development site

No known archaeological finds have been recorded from the site itself

Abbreviations

NGR National Grid Reference

SMR Sites and Monuments Record Lincoln

SK South Kesteven records (held at Sleaford)

I.A Iron Age

R-B Romano-British

CUCAP=Cambridge University Collection of Aerial Photographs (Ref. given = film and negative numbers).

Ordnance Survey Map SK83

No.	NGR	SMR Ref.	SK Ref.	Description
1	8982 3691	30533	35.011	Flint dagger
2	893 374	30132 30133 30134	06.36	I.A. & R-B settlement extensive pottery scatter, flints
3	893 380	30463	37.03 37.04	Roman coin R-B settlement, pottery and building remains
4	889 383	30462	37.09	medieval building remains
5	8959 3825	30464	37.15	15th century lead ampulla
6	8978 3619	--	--	CUCAP oval enclosure circular house inside (ref. ZY 84; ABP 26; AIV 19)
7	8935 3660	--	--	CUCAP pit alignments (ref. ZY83,85-6; ABP 27-28; ADM 48-49)

Ordnance Survey Map SK93

No.	NGR		SMR Ref.	SK Ref.	Description
8	913	389	30455	37.05	R-B settlement, pottery and building remains
9	909	383	30456 30457	37.06 35.106	R-B and Saxon pottery scatter. Straddles parish boundary
10	9028	3789	34684	--	R-B pottery scatter
11	903	384	30458 30459	37.07 37.11	Earthworks, deserted remains of Easthorpe
12	901	383	30456	37.14	Manor house
13	902	383	30460	37.12	Earthworks, medieval fishponds



Fig. 1 Gonerby Hill. Location of known archaeological remains. Reproduced from the 1954 Ordnance Survey 1:25,000 scale map with permission of the Controller of HMSO, Crown copyright. Licence no. AL50424A.