ARCHAEOLOGICAL
EVALUATION ON LAND AT
AVELAND WAY
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LINCOLNSHIRE
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EVALUATION ON LAND AT
AVELAND WAY
ASLACKBY That Action
LINCOLNSHIRE
(AAW01)

Work Undertaken For Building Design Services

January 2002

Report Compiled by M. Dymond

Planning Application Number: S01/1075/03 National Grid Reference: TF 0845 3030

A.P.S. Report No. 11/02

# ARCHAEOLOGICAL PROJECT SERVICES



Conservation Services

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Highways & Planning | Directorate

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#### 1. SUMMARY

Archaeological evaluation, comprising geophysical survey and trial trenching was undertaken in advance of residential development on a site south of Aveland Way, Aslackby, Lincolnshire.

The site lies just south of Aslackby Castle, and immediately west of a preceptory of the Knight's Templars. The parish church lies immediately to the northeast.

Three evaluation trenches were excavated. One was located close to Aveland Way, while the remainder were situated over the locations of the proposed dwellings.

Evaluation identified a gully, a pit and a possible post hole, all of Saxo-Norman date, in the northern part of the site close to Aveland Way. These probably indicate some limited domestic activity in the vicinity. These were sealed by a buried soil also containing Saxo-Norman pottery. An undated track was recorded near to the western extent of the site.

#### 2. INTRODUCTION

#### 2.1 Definition of an 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, structures. deposits, artefacts or ecofacts within a specified area or site. *If* 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 Planning Background

Planning permission (Application No. S01/1075/03) for the development was subject to a condition requiring the implementation of a scheme of archaeological works within specified areas of the site.

Archaeological Project Services (APS) was commissioned by Building Design Services to undertake the archaeological evaluation of the site in accordance with the requirements of the local planning authority. The first stage of the evaluation was geophysical survey using a fluxgate gradiometer. The second stage was a programme of targeted trial trenching. The evaluation was undertaken in the week beginning17<sup>th</sup> December 2001.

# 2.3 Topography and Geology

Aslackby is situated 10km north of Bourne in the South Kesteven District of Lincolnshire (Fig. 1). The site is located in the centre of the village, on land that generally slopes down to Aveland Way. Irregular earthworks are located on the property.

The proposed development is situated c. 100m southwest of the parish church of St. James. It covers approximately 0.2ha and lies at a height of c. 30m OD at National Grid Reference TF 0845 3030 (Fig. 2).

Local soils are the Denchworth pelostagnogley soils on Jurassic and Cretaceous clays (Hodge et al. 1984, 155).

# 2.4 Archaeological Setting (Fig. 2)

Aslackby is located in an area of known archaeological remains dating from the Romano-British period to the present day. A

Romano-British burial, within a stone cist, was found on the site of Monk's Cottage during 1836 (SK03.07 - Fig. 2).

Aslackby is first mentioned in the Domesday Survey of c. 1086. Recorded as Aslachebi, the name is derived from the Old Norse and means the settlement or 'by' of 'Aslac's' people (Ekwall 1974, 16). The Domesday Survey records that land here was owned by Robert de Todeni, Gilbert de Gand and Oger the Breton and contained at least 52 acres of meadow and 38 acres of underwood and may also have had a church (Foster and Longley 1976).

Extant remains of the medieval period comprise the church and Aslackby Manor House (DoE 1987). St. James's church dates from the late 13<sup>th</sup> or early 14<sup>th</sup> centuries with additions in c. 1330 and the mid 15<sup>th</sup> century (*ibid*. 8) and the Manor House is late medieval (*ibid*. 3, 10).

Approximately 150m east is Temple Farm, where a Knight's Templar preceptory was founded in the mid 12<sup>th</sup> century (Page 1988, 211) (SK03.04 - Fig. 2). Remains of the buildings, including a round church, were visible in the late 18<sup>th</sup> century (White 1981, 5). Following the suppression of the Knight's Templars in 1312, the land was taken over by the Knight's Hospitallers who managed the estate from Temple Bruer (Page 1988, 212). Carved stones, including a 15<sup>th</sup> century window, are found in the present farmhouse.

Located north of the church are a number of earthworks believed by some to be the remains of Aslackby Castle (SK03.05 - Fig. 2), although the few references to the castle appear to have been mistaken with Bourne (Cathcart-King 1983, 265). However, the earthworks are a Scheduled Ancient Monument (County No. 288).

An archaeological watching brief located at Monk's Cottage, Kirkby Underwood Road (SK03.34 - Fig. 2), revealed a subsoil, buried soil and a concrete yard surface. However, a quantity of human bone fragments was retrieved from the subsoil and may indicate the presence of a group burial (Cope-Faulkner, 2000).

#### 3. AIMS

The aim of the evaluation was 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.

#### 4. METHODS

# 4.1 Geophysical Survey

A geophysical survey was undertaken to establish the presence or absence of magnetic anomalies that would indicate the form and location of substantial archaeological features (EAS 2001). The survey was conducted using a fluxgate gradiometer, and resistivity meter. Of several magnetic anomalies detected, only one, 'L'-shaped in plan, gave a slightly enhanced magnetic signature (Fig. 3).

# 4.2 Trial Trenching

Three trenches were excavated, each measuring 30m x 2m. Two were located over the footprints of the proposed properties near the centre of the site, and the third trench was located close to Aveland Way, oriented N-S (Figure 3), on the line of the proposed access road. Trench 2, located over the eastern positioned footprint, was SO as investigate the enhanced magnetic anomaly. The positions of the excavated trenches was measured via a tape survey.

The trenches were excavated using a JCB with a 1.8m toothless ditching bucket. The exposed surfaces of the trenches were then cleaned by hand and inspected for archaeological remains. Where present, features were excavated by hand in order to retrieve dateable artefacts and other remains.

Each deposit exposed during evaluation was allocated a unique reference number (context number) with an individual written description. Contexts in Trench 1 start at 100, Trench 2 start at 200 and Trench 3 start at 300. A photographic record was compiled. Crosssections through deposits were drawn at a scale of 1:10 and plans at a scale of 1:20. Recording of deposits encountered was undertaken according to standard APS practice.

#### 4.2 Post-excavation

Following excavation, all records were checked and ordered to ensure that they constituted a complete Level II archive and a stratigraphic matrix of all identified deposits was produced. Artefacts recovered from excavated deposits were examined and a period date assigned where possible. A list of all contexts and interpretations appears as Appendix 2. Phasing was based on artefact dating and the nature of the deposits and recognisable relationships between them.

#### 5. RESULTS

#### 5.1 Description of the results

Five phases of activity were identified:

Phase 1: Natural deposits

Phase 2: Saxo-Norman deposits

Phase 3: Medieval deposits

Phase 4: Undated deposits

Phase 5: Modern deposits

Archaeological contexts are described below. The numbers in [square brackets] are the context numbers assigned in the field. Where context numbers are joined by an equals sign, it denotes that the numbers represent the same deposit or feature.

# 5.2 Phase 1: Natural deposits

The earliest deposit identified in each trench comprised natural brownish grey clay containing flint and gravel inclusions [104=207=310].

# 5.3 Phase 2: Saxo-Norman deposits

Overlying the natural deposits in Trenches 1 and 3, was a brownish yellow clay subsoil [103=309] (Figs. 4&6). Within Trench 3, cutting through the subsoil, was a gully [303], 1.2m long by 0.39m wide and 0.35m deep, filled by a yellowish brown silty clay [302]. The gully extended past the west edge of the trench (Fig. 6). Pottery from this feature has been dated to the 11<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> centuries.

Immediately east of gully [303] was a post hole/gully terminus [305], that continued beyond the east edge of the trench (Fig. 6). The feature was filled by a greenish grey clay [304], containing pottery of the 9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> centuries, and measured 0.4m wide by 0.32m deep.

South of these was a pit [300] (Fig. 6), 0.9m long by 0.7m wide and 0.15m deep, filled by a grey silty clay [301], that contained small flecks of crushed brick/tile and charcoal. This feature also extended beyond the east edge of the trench, and has

been dated by associated pottery to the 11<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> centuries.

Sealing features [300], [303] and [305] in Trench 3, and overlying the subsoil [103] in Trench 1, was a dark grey silty clay [102=308], up to 0.22m thick (Figs. 4&6), interpreted as a buried topsoil. Pottery from this layer dates to the 9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> centuries.

# 5.4 Phase 3: Medieval deposits

Overlying layer [102=308] in Trenches 1 and 3, and natural layer [207] in Trench 2, was a grey silty clay subsoil [101=206=307] (Figs. 4,5&6). This layer has been dated from pottery to the 11<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup> centuries. Four pieces of iron slag was also retrieved from [206]. The small quantity recovered would suggest that the smelting did not occur at the site but elsewhere in the vicinity (Appendix 3).

# 5.5 Phase 4: Undated deposits

Close to the north end of Trench 2, overlying subsoil [206] was an east-west metalled track [205], constructed from sandstone fragments (Fig. 5). Measuring c. 1.2m wide, the track extended east and west beyond the trench edge.

Repairs to the track are represented by the localised dumping of a layer of dark brown-grey silty clay with frequent limestone and sandstone inclusions [203], into a 'pot hole' [204].

Situated on the northern side of, and cutting through track [205], was a shallow pit [202], 0.5m wide, filled by a deposit of brownish grey clayey silt [201].

# 5.6 Phase 5: Modern Deposits

Overlying the subsoil [101=307] in Trenches 1 and 3, and track repair [203,

204] and pit [202, 201] in Trench 2, was a layer of greyish brown clayey silt topsoil [100=200=306], that constitutes the present ground surface (Figs. 4,5&6).

Finds recovered during the machining of Trench 3 were retrieved from deposits later than the Saxo-Norman buried topsoil. These finds have been dated to the 19<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup> century, and reflect that soil dumping has occurred in the vicinity of Trench 3 in recent years. Of the 11 fragments retrieved, only 1 was dated to the 11<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> century.

## 6. DISCUSSION

Features dated to the Saxo-Norman period were identified close to Aveleand Way in Trench 3. The remains represent drainage gullies oriented east-west and part of a pit/ditch. The gullies might denote the southern extent of a property that bounded the road. However, since the establishment of the roadside dyke, it is likely that any evidence for use/function of this area closer to the road will have been destroyed. Analysis of soil samples taken from these deposits (Appendix 4), indicate that cereal crops were being grown and processed locally. The deposits contain a mix of refuse comprising a low density of cereal processing debris and domestic rubbish. The similarity of the content of the environmental samples from features in Trench 3 suggests a common further indicating the contemporary date of the features.

Each of the features identified was sealed by a possible buried topsoil that also contained a small amount of Saxo-Norman pottery. This might derive from truncation of the underlying features or could indicate that the buried soil is contemporary with the Saxo-Norman activity. This layer extends south as far as the centre of Trench 1, though its western extent is not known as it was not present in Trench 2. The profile of the buried soil in Trench 1 shows that the ground surface formerly dipped to the south more sharply than it does today.

The topsoil became buried through the deposition of large quantities of soil. Examination of the topography shows extensive irregular earthworks hollows. These are probably the result of quarrying for clay, which here is quite stiff and likely to be suitable for general construction purposes. The irregular earthworks are probably the upcast from these excavations, and have served to seal, and, therefore, protect the earlier topsoil. The geophysical anomaly investigated in Trench 2 probably represents the upcast from one of these quarries.

Between the Saxo-Norman/medieval period and the present, a track, identified in Trench 2, was laid east to west across the field. The track is located in an area that is naturally wet, and it is likely that it served to provide stable access across this boggy area. Sustained use of the track is evidenced by the repair to its surface. The shallow pit located on its north side may be related directly to the track and may represent part of a fence-line that the track followed.

After the track had gone out of use, topsoil developed over it.

# 7. CONCLUSIONS

No evidence of significant occupation was encountered on the site. The Saxo-Norman pottery recovered from drainage features and a pit/ditch indicates limited domestic activity in the vicinity but this may not have extended into the investigation area.

Saxo-Norman and later archaeological features close to the northern boundary of the investigation area are likely to be well preserved in places due to burial beneath up to 0.7m of overburden, derived from localised quarrying. Such quarrying may equally have truncated deposits in other areas.

#### 8. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

APS wish to acknowledge David Wells of Building Design Services who commissioned the work and arranged for use of plant on site. The project was coordinated by Steve Malone; the report was edited by Steve Malone.

## 9. PERSONNEL

Project Coordinator: Steve Malone
Site Supervisor: Mark Dymond
Site Assistants: Merry Collins, Andy
Coupe, Barry Martin
Photographic reproduction: Sue Unsworth
CAD Illustration: Mark Dymond & Rachel
Hall
Post-excavation Analyst: Mark Dymond

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## 11. ABBREVIATIONS

APS Archaeological Project Services

EAS Engineering Archaeological Service

IFA Institute of Field Archaeologists

Numbers prefixed by SK are the primary record numbers used by the South Kesteven Community Archaeologist

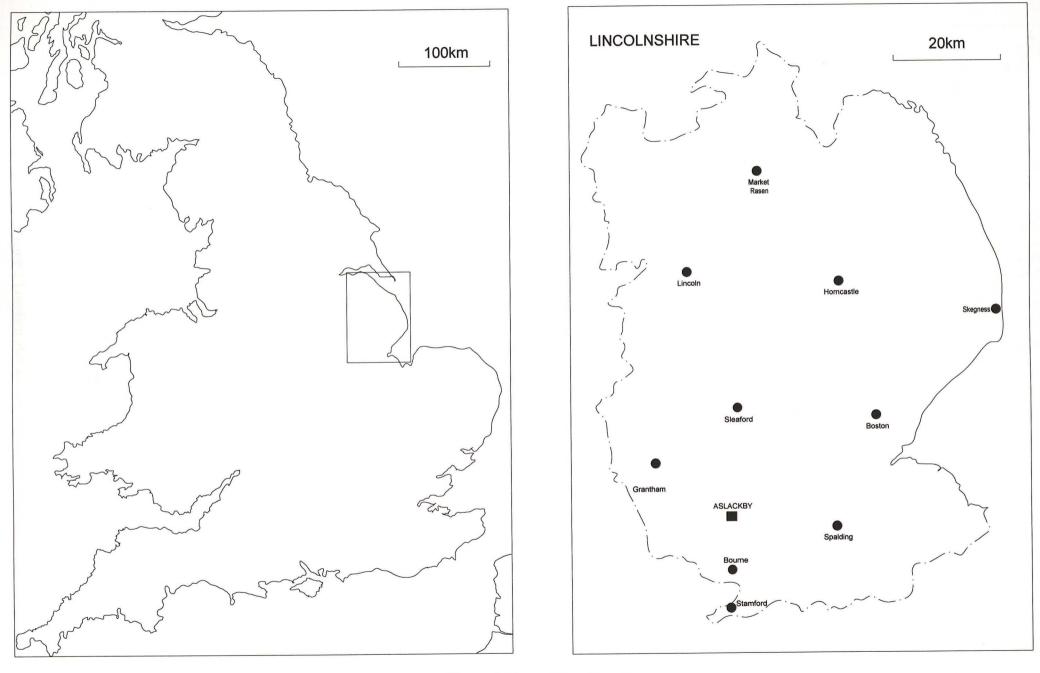


Figure 1 General location plan

Figure 2 Location plan and archaeological setting

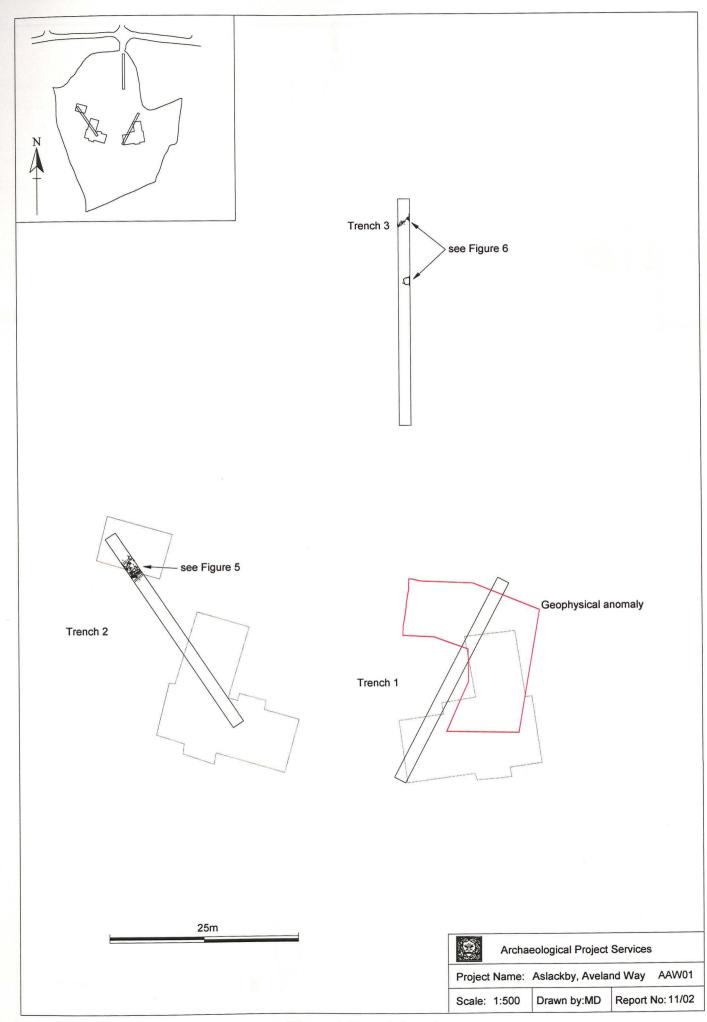


Figure 3 Trench locations

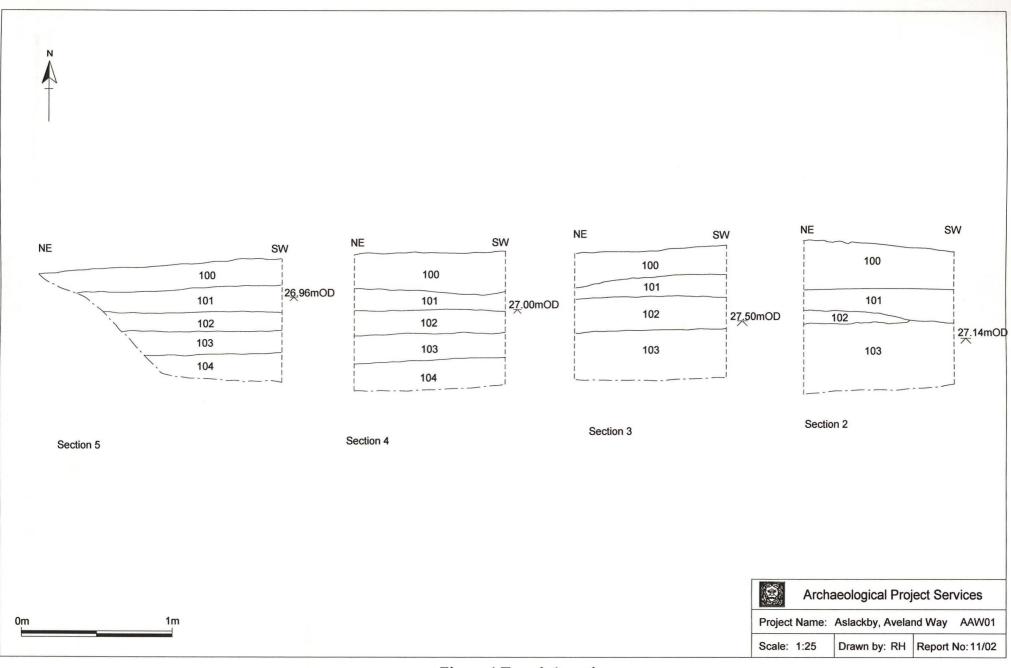


Figure 4 Trench 1 sections

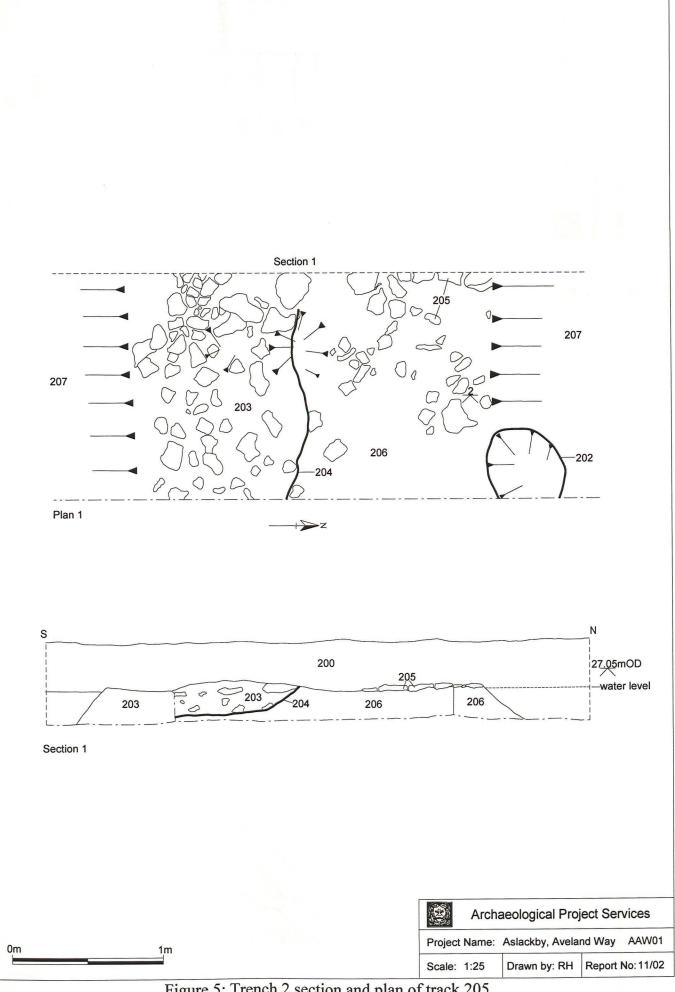


Figure 5: Trench 2 section and plan of track 205

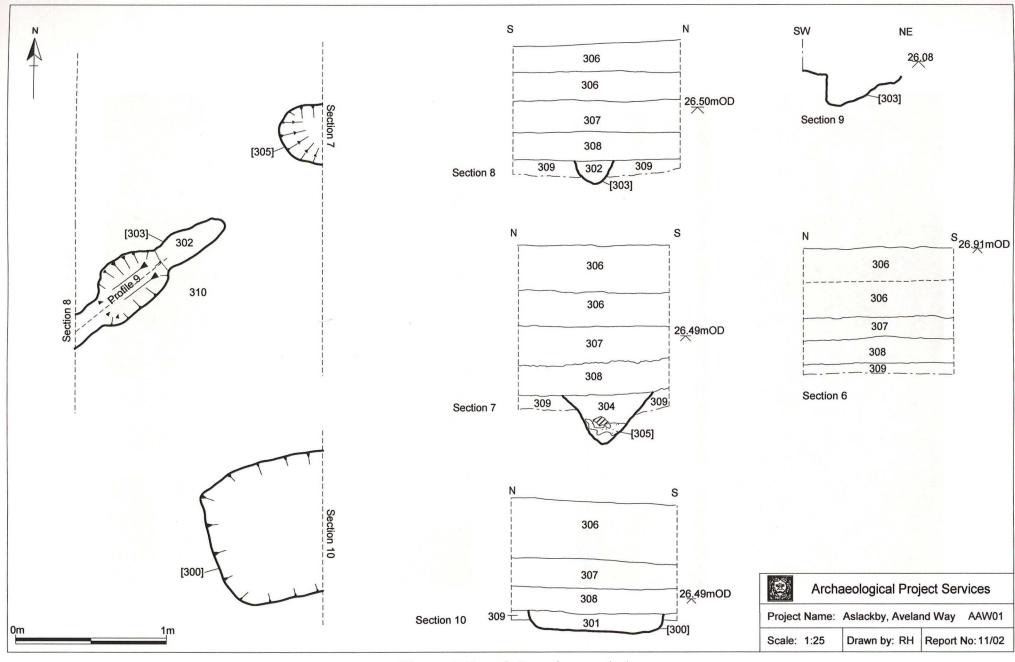


Figure 6: Trench 3 sections and plans



Plate 1 Trench 1: Buried topsoil 102



Plate 2 Trench 2: Trackway 205



Plate 3 Trench 3: Gully/posthole 305 beneath buried topsoil



Plate 4 Trench 3: Ditch/pit 301 beneath buried topsoil

# Appendix 1

LAND AT AVELAND WAY, ASLACKBY, LINCOLNSHIRE

# SPECIFICATION FOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

PREPARED FOR BUILDING DESIGN SERVICES

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

**NOVEMBER 2001** 

#### SUMMARY

- 1.1 This document comprises a specification for the archaeological field evaluation of land at Aveland Way, Aslackby, Lincolnshire.
- 1.2 The area is archaeologically sensitive, lying close to the centre of the medieval village, and the Church. Aslackby Castle and the site of a former Knight's Templar Preceptory are not far distant.
- 1.3 A planning application has been made for residential development of the site. The archaeological works are being undertaken in order to provide information to assist the determination of that application.
- 1.4 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 Aveland Way, Aslackby, Lincolnshire. The site is located at National Grid Reference TF 0845 3030.
- 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 Aslackby is located 10km north of Bourne in the South Kesteven district of Lincolnshire. The site is in the centre of the village, about 100m southwest of the parish church, at National Grid Reference TF 0845 3030.

# 4 PLANNING BACKGROUND

4.1 A planning application has been made for residential development of the site. Archaeological evaluation is required in order to provide information to assist the determination of that application. Geophysical survey has been undertaken on the site. A programme of trial trenching is now required.

# 5 SOILS AND TOPOGRAPHY

5.1 The site is at an elevation of about 30m OD in an east-west valley of a small stream that flows through the village. Local soils are the Denchworth pelo-stagnogley soils on Jurassic and Cretaceous clays (Hodge *et al.* 1984, 155).

#### 6 ARCHAEOLOGICAL OVERVIEW

- Numerous medieval sites and remains are located in the area. Aslackby Castle, dating from the 11<sup>th</sup> century and a nationally important scheduled ancient monument, survives as earthworks to the north of the church. Temple Farm, to the east of the development, is the site of a preceptory of the Knights Templars, founded in 1192. Very little of the templar buildings survive above ground though old descriptions and sketches show it to have been similar to the Temple Bruer structures. The parish church is 14<sup>th</sup> century or earlier and the nearby manor appears to have originated as a medieval open hall.
- 6.2 Geophysical survey undertaken on the site (EAS 2001) identified areas of archaeological potential. Further work in the form of trial trenching has been requested as a result.

#### 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 date and function of the archaeological features present on the site.
  - 7.2.4 Determine the state of preservation of the archaeological features present on the site.
  - 7.2.5 Determine the spatial arrangement of the archaeological features present within the site.
  - 7.2.6 Determine the extent to which the surrounding archaeological features extend into the application area.
  - 7.2.7 Establish the way in which the archaeological features identified fit into the pattern of occupation and land-use in the surrounding landscape.

#### 8 LIAISON WITH THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL CURATOR

8.1 Prior to the commencement of the trial trenching the arrangement of the interventions (excavations) will be agreed with the archaeological curator to ensure that the proposed scheme of works fulfils their requirements.

# 9 TRIAL TRENCHING

- 9.1 Reasoning for this technique
  - 9.1.1 Trial trenching enables the *in situ* determination of the sequence, date, nature, depth, environmental potential and density of archaeological features present on the site.
  - 9.1.2 The trial trenching will consist of the excavation of four (4) trenches, measuring 30m x 1.6m: two placed within the areas of the proposed buildings; one on the front access of the site; and one to the rear of the proposed buildings. 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.

# 9.2 General Considerations

- 9.2.1 All work will be undertaken following statutory Health and Safety requirements in operation at the time of the investigation.
- 9.2.2 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).
- 9.2.3 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.
- 9.2.4 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 necessarily be excavated. However, the investigation 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.
- 9.2.5 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.

## 9.3 Methodology

- 9.3.1 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.
- 9.3.2 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.
- 9.3.3 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.
- 9.3.4 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.
- 9.3.5 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:

- the site before the commencement of field operations.
- the site during work to show specific stages of work, and the layout of the archaeology within individual trenches.
- individual features and, where appropriate, their sections.
- groups of features where their relationship is important.
- the site on completion of field work
- 9.3.6 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.
- 9.3.7 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.
- 9.3.8 The spoil generated during the investigation 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.
- 9.3.9 The precise location of the trenches within the site and the location of site recording grid will be established by an EDM survey.

#### 10 ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

10.1 If appropriate, during the investigation 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

#### 11 POST-EXCAVATION AND REPORT

#### 11.1 Stage 1

- 11.1.1 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.
- 11.1.2 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.

# 11.2 Stage 2

- 11.2.1 Detailed examination of the stratigraphic matrix to enable the determination of the various phases of activity on the site.
- 11.2.2 Finds will be sent to specialists for identification and dating.

#### 11.3 Stage 3

- 11.3.1 On completion of stage 2, a report detailing the findings of the investigation will be prepared. This will consist of:
  - A non-technical summary of the results of the investigation.
  - A description of the archaeological setting of the site.
  - Description of the topography and geology of the investigation area.
  - Description of the methodologies used during the investigation and discussion of their effectiveness in the light of the results.
  - A text describing the findings of the investigation.
  - 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.
  - Sections of the trenches and archaeological features.
  - Interpretation of the archaeological features exposed and their context within the surrounding landscape.
  - Specialist reports on the finds from the site.
  - Appropriate photographs of the site and specific archaeological features or groups of features.
  - A consideration of the significance of the remains found, in local, regional, national and international terms, using recognised evaluation criteria.

#### 12 ARCHIVE

12.1 The documentation, finds, photographs and other records and materials generated during the investigation 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.

#### 13 REPORT DEPOSITION

13.1 Copies of the investigation report will be sent to: the client; the Community Archaeologist, South Kesteven District Council; South Kesteven District Council Planning Department; and the Lincolnshire County Sites and Monuments Record.

#### 14 **PUBLICATION**

14.1 A report of the findings of the investigation 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.

#### 15 **CURATORIAL MONITORING**

15.1 Curatorial responsibility for the project lies with Community Archaeologist, South Kesteven District Council. 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.

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

- 16.1 Variations to the scheme of works will only be made following written confirmation from the archaeological curator.
- 16.2 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.

#### 17 SPECIALISTS TO BE USED DURING THE PROJECT

17.1 The following organisations/persons will, in principle 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: 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; or P Cope-Faulkner, APS

Environmental Analysis Val Fryer, independent specialist

Radiocarbon dating Beta Analytic Inc., Florida, USA

Dendrochronology dating University of Sheffield Dendrochronology Laboratory

#### 18 PROGRAMME OF WORKS AND STAFFING LEVELS

- 18.1 Fieldwork is expected to be undertaken by 3 staff, a supervisor and 2 assistants, and to take five (5) days.
- 18.2 Post-excavation analysis and report production is expected to take 12.5 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.

# 18.3 Contingency

- 18.3.1 Contingencies have been specified in the budget. These include: environmental sampling/analysis of waterlogged remains; pump (not expected as no evidence of waterlogging previously identified in this area); Anglo-Saxon pottery (not expected); Medieval pottery- large quantities (moderate amount expected and allowed for); faunal remains -large quantities (moderate amounts expected and allowed for); Conservation and/or Other unexpected remains or artefacts.
- 18.3.2 Other than the pump, the activation of any contingency requirement will be by the archaeological curator (South Kesteven Community Archaeologist), <u>not</u> Archaeological Project Services.

#### 19 INSURANCES

19.1 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.

#### 20 COPYRIGHT

- 20.1 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.
- 20.2 Licence will also be given to the archaeological curators to use the documentary archive for educational, public and research purposes.
- 20.3 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.
- 20.4 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.

# 21 BIBLIOGRAPHY

Engineering Archaeological Services 2001 Aveland Way, Aslackby: Geophysical Survey unpublished specialist report.

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, 5th November 2001

# Appendix 2 CONTEXT SUMMARY

Context	Description	Interpretation		
100	Firm dark grey silty clay	Topsoil		
101	Firm grey silty clay	Subsoil		
102	Firm dark grey silty clay	Buried topsoil		
103	Firm brownish yellow clay	Buried subsoil		
104	Loose/firm brownish grey sandstone and flint	Natural		
	gravel in a clay-sand matrix			
200	Firm dark grey brown silty clay	Topsoil		
201	Firm dark brown grey mottled silty clay	Single fill of pit 202		
202	Circular pit, 0.5m diameter	Pit		
203	Firm dark brown grey silty clay, with frequent	Repair to track surface 205		
	angular and sub-angular sandstone and limestone	13		
	fragments			
204	Linear hollow, 1m wide by 0.3m deep	Erosion of track surface 205		
205	Roughly hewn sandstone blocks between 5mm and	Track		
	0.3m size, forming rough even metalled surface			
	aligned east-west			
206	Firm light grey yellow clay	Subsoil		
207	Firm light yellow clay	Natural		
300	Steep sided feature with a flat base, 0.9m long x	Pit/ditch		
	0.7m wide x 0.15m deep			
301	Firm grey silty clay, flecks and fragments of	Single fill of pit/ditch 300		
	charcoal, flint, ceramic building material and shell			
302	Firm yellowish brown silty clay	Single fill of gully 303		
303	Linear, steep sided feature, 1.2m long x 0.39m wide	Gully		
	x 0.35m deep	_		
304	Firm dark green grey clay	Single fill of posthole/gully		
		305		
305	Steep sided, sharp based feature, 0.28m long x	Posthole/gully		
	0.4m wide x 0.32m deep			
306	Firm dark grey silty clay	Topsoil		
307	Firm grey silty clay	Subsoil		
308	Firm dark grey silty clay	Buried topsoil		
309	Firm brownish yellow clay	Buried subsoil		
310	Loose-firm brownish grey sandstone and flint	Natural		
	gravel in clay and sand matrix			
311	Finds recovered during machine excavation of			
	Trench 3			

# Appendix 3

# THE FINDS

Paul Cope-Faulkner, Jane Cowgill, Rachael Hall, Hilary Healey, Tom Lane and Gary Taylor, with a comment on the Nottingham ware by Jane Young

Recording of the pottery was undertaken with reference to guidelines prepared by the Medieval Pottery Research Group (Slowikowski *et al.* 2001) and the pottery was quantified using the chronology and coding system of the City of Lincoln post-Roman pottery codes. A total of 48 fragments of pottery weighing 263g and representing a minimum of 24 separate vessels was recovered from seven contexts. In addition to the pottery, a moderate quantity of other artefacts, slag, glass, brick and burnt stone, comprising 13 items weighing a total of 1623g, was recovered. A small amount of faunal remains was also retrieved.

#### **Provenance**

Artefacts were most abundant in Trenches 2 and 3, though modern pottery and glass fragments were only retrieved from Trench 3 and slag and burnt material was only obtained from Trench 2.

Pottery of Saxo-Norman to early medieval date dominates the assemblage. All of this material was manufactured relatively locally to Aslackby in southern Lincolnshire, including Stamford, 27km to the south. Additionally, a single fragment of medieval Nottingham ware, in two linked pieces, was retrieved. A few fragments of much later pottery, probably made in Staffordshire, was also recovered.

#### Range

Most of the artefacts are of early medieval date and the range of material is detailed in the following tables. Pottery formed the largest component of the artefact assemblage though glass and industrial debris was also retrieved. A small quantity of faunal remains was also recovered.

Table 1: The Artefacts

Context	Fabric Code			Weight (g)	Latest Date early-mid 13 <sup>th</sup> century
101	NOTGE Nottingham green glazed jug		2 (link)		
	ST	Stamford ware, 9 <sup>th</sup> - 12 <sup>th</sup> century	1	2	Or great to a
102	ST	Stamford ware, 2 burnt; at least 2 separate vessels	3	11	9 <sup>th</sup> -12 <sup>th</sup> century
206	ST	Stamford ware, 8 glazed; 3 sooted externally; 6 abraded; minimum of 5 vessels, 11 <sup>th</sup> - 12 <sup>th</sup> century	16 (2 sets of 2 linked sherds)	65	11 <sup>th</sup> - 12 <sup>th</sup> century
	SLST	South Lincs. shelly ware, bowl, no links but probably 1 vessel, ?11 <sup>th</sup> - 12 <sup>th</sup> century	3	33	
	PREH	Prehistoric pot sherd	1	11	
		iron smelting slag	4	497	
2		Burnt ?tufa or shelly clay	3 (2 link)	60	
		Burnt stone	1	11	
301	ST	Stamford ware, 2 glazed; 2 sooted externally, 1sooted internally; 1 abraded; minimum of 2 vessels, 11 <sup>th</sup> - 12 <sup>th</sup> century	4	6	11 <sup>th</sup> - 12 <sup>th</sup> century
	SLST	South Lincs. shelly ware, 3 sooted externally. 1encrusted internally: 4	9 (2 link)	27	

Context	Fabric Code	Description	No.	Weight (g)	Latest Date
		abraded; minimum of 3 vessels, ?11 <sup>th</sup> -12 <sup>th</sup> century		100 000 T	
302	SLST	South Lincs. shelly ware, abraded	2	3	?11 <sup>th</sup> - 12 <sup>th</sup> century
304	ST	Stamford ware	1	2	9 <sup>th</sup> - 12 <sup>th</sup> century
311	SLST	South Lincs. shelly ware, sooted externally, ?11 <sup>th</sup> - 12 <sup>th</sup> century	1	6	20 <sup>th</sup> century
	EMOD	Transfer printed tableware, separate vessels, 19 <sup>th</sup> -early 20 <sup>th</sup> century	3	46	
	EMOD	White glazed tableware, burnt, 19 <sup>th</sup> - 20 <sup>th</sup> century	1	4	
	LSTON	Stoneware preserve jar, 19 <sup>th</sup> - early 20 <sup>th</sup> century	1	12	
		Brick, ?handmade, 60mm thick, 19 <sup>th</sup> -early 20 <sup>th</sup> century	1	773	
		complete colourless mould produced square bottle with oval panelling, 20 <sup>th</sup> century	1	206	4 75.15.7
		body fragments of colourless bottle glass, $20^{\text{th}}$ century	2	68	
	ā.	neck fragment of colourless mould produced bottle, 20 <sup>th</sup> century	1	8	

Most of the pottery is Stamford ware and south Lincolnshire shell-tempered ceramic, both of early medieval date. Several of the Stamford ware fragments are glazed. Despite the fact that Stamford ware was in production from the 9<sup>th</sup> century, glazing does not become common until after the mid 11<sup>th</sup> century (Kilmurry 1980, fig. 28). Later medieval and post-medieval material is virtually absent, with only one fragment (in two linked pieces) of 13<sup>th</sup> century pottery retrieved. This single piece of Nottingham ware is a rare find outside the area of its production source at Nottingham. The material indicates occupation of this part of Aslackby in the Saxo-Norman - early medieval period, followed by abandonment. Re-occupation of the area is indicated by a quantity of early modern, 19<sup>th</sup> - 20<sup>th</sup> century, pottery and glass.

Four pieces of iron slag were recovered from (206). These are all from smelting and two of the pieces have a lower side reflecting their flowing down a tapping channel. Some of the slag has greyish and vesicular upper surfaces, which is unusual but may be due to hearth lining being incorporated in the slag. Occasional pieces of plate hammerscale were identified in the soils adhering to the slag. The slag indicates the production of iron in the area and Aslackby is within the region of Castle and Little Bytham, one of only two places in Lincolnshire recorded as having iron workers by the Domesday Book of 1086 (Foster and Longley 1976, 142).

Table 2. The Faunal Remains

Context	Species	Bone	No.	Description	
301	Cattle sized	radius	1	slightly chalky	
302	Cattle sized	femur	1	head fragment	
311	Horse	metatarsus	1		

#### Condition

All of the material is in good condition and presents no long-term storage problems. Archive storage of the

material is by material class.

#### **Documentation**

There has been limited archaeological study undertaken in Aslackby previously, though other investigations are the subjects of reports. Records of archaeological remains and finds in the area are maintained in the files of the South Kesteven Community Archaeologist and the County Sites and Monuments Record.

#### **Potential**

As an assemblage of predominantly Saxo-Norman - early medieval date the assemblage is of moderately high local potential and significance and indicates occupation of the  $11^{th}$ -  $12^{th}$  century on or in close proximity to the site. Moreover, the artefacts suggest that the occupation is solely of this period, as there are no artefacts dating immediately prior to this and only one pottery fragment from the time directly following. The near-absence of any later medieval material indicates that the site was probably abandoned in the  $12^{th}$ -  $13^{th}$  century and not reoccupied until the  $19^{th}$ -  $20^{th}$  century when a quantity of pottery and glass was dumped in the area.

The iron slag is of moderate potential and indicates metal production in the vicinity, although the small quantity recovered would suggest that the smelting did not occur at the site but elsewhere in the area. Additionally, the slag occurs with early medieval pottery, implying that the iron smelting is of this date or earlier.

Although only a single fragment of prehistoric pottery was recovered this is of moderate local significance as such material is rare and generally does not survive well. With the absence of any contemporary associated material the piece probably indicates the presence of a prehistoric burial, rather than a settlement.

#### References

Foster, C.W. and Longley, T. (eds), 1976, *The Lincolnshire Domesday and the Lindsey Survey*, The Lincoln Record Society 19

Kilmurry, K, 1980 The Pottery Industry of Stamford, Lincs. c. AD850-1250, British Archaeological Reports British Series 84

Slowikowski, A., Nenk, B. and Pearce, J., 2001 Minimum Standards for the Processing, Recording, Analysis and Publication of Post-Roman Ceramics, Medieval Pottery Research Group Occasional Paper 2

# Appendix 4

# CHARRED PLANT MACROFOSSILS AND OTHER REMAINS FROM AVELAND WAY, ASLACKBY, LINCOLNSHIRE (AAW 01): AN ASSESSMENT.

Val Fryer, Church Farm, Sisland, Loddon, Norwich, Norfolk, NR14 6EF January 2002

#### Introduction

Evaluation excavations at Aveland Way, Aslackby were undertaken by Archaeological Project Services. The work revealed features of ninth to twelfth century date including pits, ditches and a possible post-hole. These Saxo-Norman features appeared to be sealed by a buried soil horizon.

Samples for the extraction of plant macrofossils were taken from across the excavated area and four were submitted for assessment.

## Methods

The samples were processed by manual water flotation/washover, collecting the flots in a 500 micron mesh sieve. The dried flots were scanned under a binocular microscope at magnifications up to x16, and the plant macrofossils and other remains noted are listed on Table 1. Nomenclature in the table follows Stace (1997). All plant material was preserved by charring. Modern contaminants, including fibrous roots and seeds/fruits, were present in all samples.

The non-floating residues were collected in a 1mm mesh sieve and sorted when dry. Pottery and bone fragments were removed for further specialist analysis.

# Results of assessment Plant macrofossils

Cereal remains and seeds/fruits of common weed species were present at low to moderate densities in all samples. Preservation was poor to moderate; a high density of the cereal grains were puffed and distorted due to high temperatures of combustion and many of the macrofossils were fragmented.

# Cereals and other food plants

Cereal grains were moderately common throughout. Oat (*Avena* sp.), barley (*Hordeum* sp.) and wheat (*Triticum* sp.) were recorded, with wheat being predominant. Chaff elements were rare; bread wheat (*T. aestivum/compactum*) type rachis nodes were only present in two samples. Cotyledon fragments of large pulses (Fabaceae) were noted in samples 1, 4 and 5.

#### Wild flora

Seeds/fruits of common weed taxa were present but rare. Segetal species were predominant and included stinking mayweed (*Anthemis cotula*), cornflower/knapweed (*Centaurea* sp.), goosegrass (*Galium aparine*), dock (*Rumex* sp.) and vetch/vetchling (*Vicia/Lathyrus* sp.). A possible small fragment of hazel (*Corylus avellana*) nutshell was noted in sample 1.

#### Other plant macrofossils

Charcoal fragments were common throughout. Other plant macrofossils were rare but included pieces of charred root, rhizome or stem and indeterminate buds and seeds.

#### Other materials

The fragments of black porous 'cokey' material and black tarry material are probably derived from the combustion of organic remains, including cereal grains, at very high temperatures. Possible dietary residues included mammal and fish bone fragments.

#### **Discussion**

As the composition of all four assemblages is very similar, it appears most likely that all have a common source. The cereal remains may be derived from low density deposits of processing debris. Grains are common whilst chaff elements and weed seeds are comparatively rare. This may be indicative of batches of cereal at an advanced stage of processing. However, it should be noted that the ratio of delicate macrofossils (i.e. small chaff elements and seeds) may have been severely reduced by the obvious high temperatures at which the material was subsequently burnt, creating an unrepresentative bias within the assemblages. The presence of seeds of stinking mayweed may indicate that heavy clay soils were being utilised for the production of some cereal crops. Possible domestic food residues, including pulses (pea/bean type), mammal and fish bone, are also present. It therefore appears most likely that the material is derived from small deposits of mixed refuse.

#### Conclusions and recommendations for further work.

In conclusion, the material from both the Saxo-Norman features and the overlying buried soil appears to be derived from low density deposits of mixed refuse including cereal processing debris and domestic rubbish.

As quantifiably viable assemblages (i.e. 200+ specimens) were not recorded from any of the samples studied, no further analysis is recommended at this time. However, should further samples become available as a result of future evaluation/excavation work in this area, the above results should be reviewed

#### References

Stace, C., 1997

New Flora of the British Isles. Second edition.

#### **Key to Table**

x = 1 - 10 specimens xx = 10 - 100 specimens xx = 100+ specimens x = 100+ specimens

Sample No.	1	3	4	5
Context No.	301	304	308	302
Cereals and other food plants				
Avena sp. (grains)			xcf	
(awn)				Х
Cereal indet. (grains)	XX	XX	xxfg	xfg
Large Fabaceae indet.	Х		х	Х
Hordeum sp. (grains)	Х	xcf	х	Х
Triticum sp. (grains)	Х	xx	х	
T. aestivum/compactum type (rachis nodes)	Х	x		
Herbs				
Anthemis cotula L.		×		Х
Asteraceae indet.				Х
Bromus sp.	xcf			
Centaurea sp.	Х			
Galium aparine L.	Х			
Hyoscyamus niger L.		x		
Ranunculus sp.			х	
Rumex sp.	Х			
Vicia/Lathyrus sp.	Х	x	x	х
Trees/shrubs				
Corylus avellana L.	xcf			1, 17, 17
Other plant macrofossils				
Charcoal <2mm	XX	xx	xx	XXX
Charred root/rhizome/stem	Х	x	x	
Indet.buds		x		
Indet.seeds			1 state	х
Other material			Laborate of the supposed	
Black pororus 'cokey' material			х	Х
Black tarry material	Х	×		
Bone	Х	xb	х	
Burnt organic concretions		х		TU(L)
Burnt/fired clay			×	
Fish bone			х	1 1 M
Small coal frags.	Х		×	
Small mammal/amphibian bone	Х	×		Х
Sample volume (litres)	7.5	10.5	7	7.5
Volume of flot (litres)	<0.1	<0.1	<0.1	<0.1
% flot sorted	100%	100%	100%	100%

# Appendix 5

#### **GLOSSARY**

Context An archaeological context represents a distinct archaeological event or process. For

example, the action of digging a pit creates a context (the cut) as does the process of its subsequent backfill (the fill). Each context encountered during an archaeological investigation is allocated a unique number by the archaeologist and a record sheet detailing the description and interpretations of the context (the context sheet) is created and placed in the site archive. Context numbers are identified within the report text by

brackets, e.g. (004).

Cut A cut refers to the physical action of digging a posthole, pit, ditch, foundation trench,

etc. Once the fills of these features are removed during an archaeological investigation

the original 'cut' is therefore exposed and subsequently recorded.

Dumped deposits These are deposits, often laid down intentionally, that raise a land surface. They may be

the result of casual waste disposal or may be deliberate attempts to raise the ground

surface.

Fill Once a feature has been dug it begins to silt up (either slowly or rapidly) or it can be

back-filled manually. The soil(s) which become contained by the 'cut' are referred to as

its fill(s).

Layer A layer is a term to describe an accumulation of soil or other material that is not

contained within a cut.

Medieval The Middle Ages, dating from approximately AD 1066-1500.

Natural Undisturbed deposit(s) of soil or rock which have accumulated without the influence of

human activity.

**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.

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

tribes from northern Germany.

# Appendix 6

#### THE ARCHIVE

The archive consists of:

25 Context records

1 Photographic record sheet

10 Drawing sheets

1 Box of finds

1 Stratigraphic matrix

All primary records and finds are currently kept at:

Archaeological Project Services The Old School Cameron Street Heckington

Sleaford

Lincolnshire

NG34 9RW

The ultimate destination of the project archive is:

Lincolnshire City and County Museum 12 Friars Lane Lincoln LN2 1HQ

The archive will be deposited in accordance with the document titled *Conditions for the Acceptance of Project Archives*, produced by the Lincolnshire City and County Museum.

Lincolnshire City and County Council Museum Accession Number: 2001.429

Archaeological Project Services Site Code: AAW 01

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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