ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF
OF DEVELOPMENT AT,
SOUTHFIELD PLACE,
HORNCASTLE,
LINCOLNSHIRE
(SPHB00)



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PROJECT

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ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF OF DEVELOPMENT AT, SOUTHFIELD PLACE, HORNCASTLE, LINCOLNSHIRE (SPHB00)

Work Undertaken For Brian Todd Homes

Report Compiled by Steve Thomson Bsc (Hons) PIFA

December 2001

Planning Application Number: S/086/01356/00 National Grid Reference: TF 2600 6900 City and County Museum Accession No: 2000.270

A.P.S. Report No: 180/01



Conservation Services

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Highways & Planning Directorate

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1. SUMMARY

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken during groundworks associated with the construction of a dwelling at Southfield Place, Horncastle, Lincolnshire, as the site lies in an area of known archaeological remains. An evaluation undertaken at the site revealed Romano-British deposits at depths of 0.90m.

Unstratified finds of Romano-British, 13th - 15th and 18th - 19th century date were recovered from the site before a change to the foundation design of the dwelling obviated the requirement for further archaeological monitoring.

2. INTRODUCTION

2.1 Definition of a Watching Brief

An archaeological watching brief is defined as 'a formal programme of observation and investigation conducted during any operation carried out for non-archaeological reasons within a specified area or site on land or underwater, where there is a possibility that archaeological deposits may be disturbed or destroyed (IFA 1997).

2.2 Planning Background

On the 20th October 2000, an archaeological watching brief was undertaken during the commencement of groundworks associated with the construction of a dwelling on land at Southfield Place, Horncastle, Lincolnshire. Archaeological monitoring was recommended by the Archaeological Officer, Lincolnshire County Council, following an evaluation undertaken in 1998 which determined the presence of remains of Romano-British date on the site (Albone 1998). A mitigation strategy was devised

requiring foundation trenches of no greater depth than 0.7m to minimise impact on archaeological remains, with a watching brief requirement during the groundworks.

Archaeological Project Services (APS) was commissioned by Brian Todd Homes to undertake the archaeological watching brief in accordance with a specification designed by APS (Appendix 1) and approved by Lincolnshire County Archaeological Officer.

Subsequent to the watching brief carried out by APS a revised foundation design and orientation was agreed with the Lincolnshire County Archaeological Officer. The revised scheme was located on a natural terrace, preserving archaeological layers *in situ*, and thus obviating the need for further archaeological monitoring.

2.3 Topography, Geology and Soils

Horncastle is located 27km east of Lincoln and 29km west of Skegness, in the valley of the Rivers Bain and Waring, in East Lindsey District, Lincolnshire (Fig.1).

The development site is located at Southfield Place, 600m to the south of the centre of Horncastle on the west side of Boston Street at National Grid Reference TF2600 6900 (Fig. 2).

Local soils are of the Fladbury I Association, typically pelo-alluvial gley soils, developed on flat valley floors (Hodge *et. al.* 1984, 194). These soils overlie a drift geology of recent alluvium and lower terrace deposits which in turn overlie a solid geology of the Jurassic Kimmeridge Clay (BGS 1995).

2.4 Archaeological Background

The site is located in an area of archaeological remains dating from the prehistoric period to the present day.

Prehistoric finds are limited, but are represented by Mesolithic flint tools found along the High Street and early Neolithic tools from Bridge Street. Neolithic polished stone axes have also been found to the northeast and northwest of the site. A Bronze Age perforated basalt hammer was found to the south of the River Waring.

During the 18th century, the antiquarian, William Stukeley identified Horncastle with the Roman settlement *Bannovallum*, and considered that the Roman name signified the fortification on the River Bain (Stukeley 1776, 30). The Roman place-name was recorded in the Ravenna Cosmography, an early 8th century geographical compilation. However, the identification of *Bannovallum* with Horncastle is disputed (Robinson 1983, 26).

Romano-British settlement is well-known in Horncastle with Roman defences in the town centre dated to the late 3rd century. However, the earliest Romano-British settlement appears to be concentrated to the south of the town, along South Street, Boston Road and Mareham Road. Just to the west of the development site is an area with a dense cropmark complex of enclosures, field systems and trackways, forming part of the early Roman settlement.

An archaeological evaluation undertaken on the site revealed a deep deposit sealed 0.90m beneath the topsoil containing Romano-British pottery and a metalled surface edged by a ditch (Albone 1998).

An Anglo-Saxon burial with grave goods and associated features has been found on the east side of the Romano-British stone-walled enclosure (Taylor 1993)

At the time of the Domesday Survey, Horncastle was owned by William the Conqueror from Queen Edith, the wife of Edward the Confessor. The survey states that there were two mills and 100 acres of meadow (Foster and Longley 1976). Between 1135 and 1154 the manor of Horncastle was held by Adelias de Cundi who is recorded as having built a castle in the town. Adelias took part against Stephen during the anarchy and her estates were consequently confiscated, although were later restored on condition she demolished the castle (Walter 1908, 11).

The present parish church of St. Mary was built in the 13th century (DoE 1987, 19). It is not known whether there was a church prior to St. Mary's, although the fact that Horncastle was a Royal estate centre would suggest some ecclesiastical importance at the end of the Saxon period (Stocker 1993, 117).

Excavations in the vicinity have revealed posthole constructions of medieval date along the High Street and a ford was located on the site of the present bridge over the River Bain (Taylor 1993).

3. AIMS

The requirements of the watching brief were to locate and record archaeological deposits, if present, and to determine their date, function, origin and spatial arrangement.

4. METHODS

Excavation of foundation trenches commenced with the use of a mechanical excavator. Spoil heaps were monitored and searched for artefacts to assist in the interpretation of the site. A photographic record was compiled depicting the setting of the site.

Due to the nature of the soil encountered, in

consultation with the buildings inspector and a structural engineer, a revised foundation design was implemented obviating the need for further archaeological monitoring.

5. RESULTS

Only a small number of unstratified finds (001) (Appendix 3) were recovered during the initial groundworks. No archaeological deposits or features were exposed during the course of that monitoring.

6. DISCUSSION

The finds recovered from the investigation, whilst unstratified, attest to Romano-British, medieval and post-medieval activity in the vicinity.

7. CONCLUSIONS

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken during initial groundworks associated with the construction of a dwelling at Southfield Place, Horncastle, Lincolnshire, as the site lies in an area of known archaeological remains. Due to the implementation of an alternate construction design, archaeological deposits were preserved *in situ* and no further archaeological monitoring was required.

The finds retrieved from the investigation were all unstratified.

8. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeological Project Services would like to acknowledge the assistance of Brian Todd Homes who commissioned the watching brief and post-excavation analysis. The work was coordinated by Denise Drury and this report was edited by Denise Drury and Tom Lane. Dave Start permitted access to the parish files maintained by the Heritage Trust of Lincolnshire.

9. PERSONNEL

Project Coordinator: Denise Drury
Site Supervisor: James Snee
Finds Processing: Denise Buckley
Illustration: Mark Dymond and Steve
Thomson
Photographic reproduction: Sue Unsworth
Post-Excavation Analysis: Steve Thomson

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11. ABBREVIATIONS

APS Archaeological Project Services

BGS British Geological Survey

DoE Department of the Environment

HTL Heritage Trust of Lincolnshire

IFA Institute of Field Archaeologists

LCCAS Lincolnshire County Council Archaeology Section

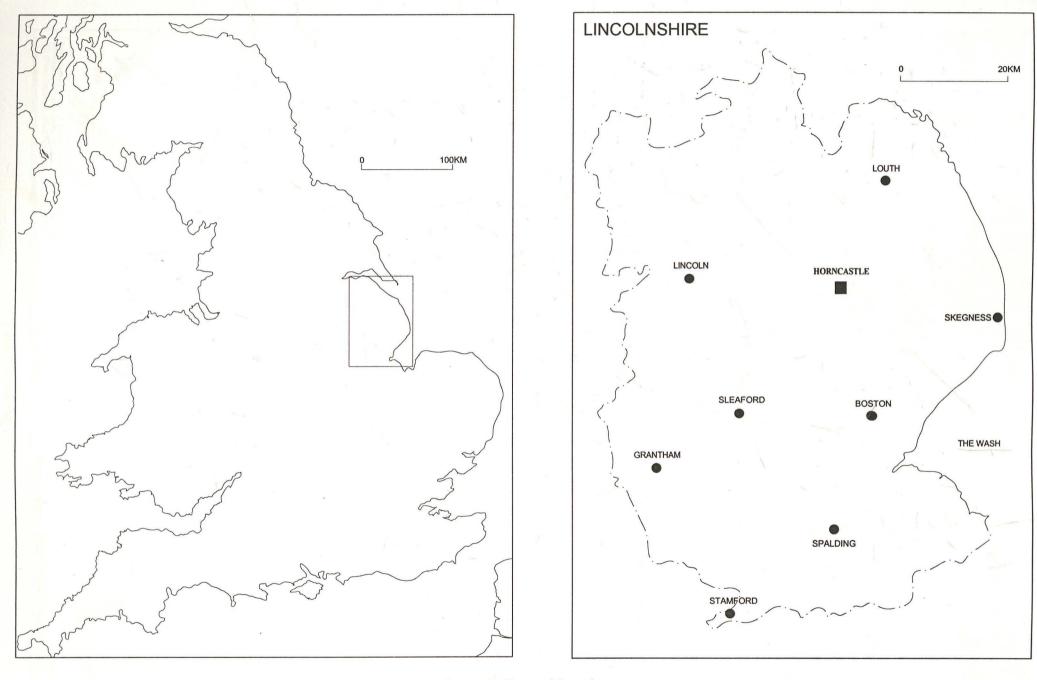


Figure 1: General location map

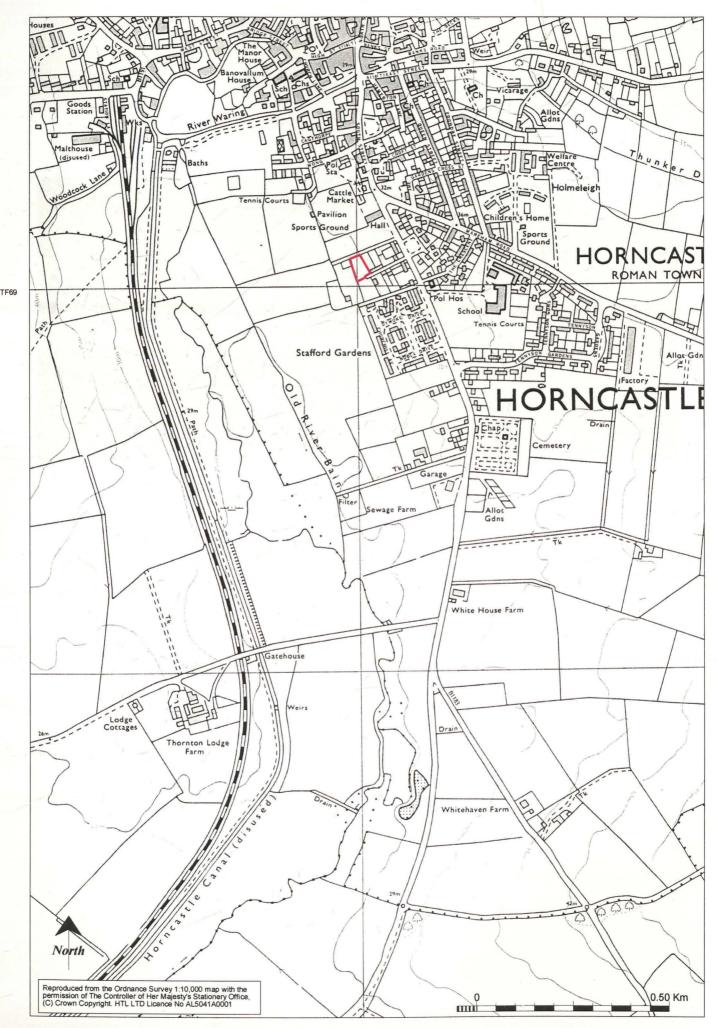


Figure 2 Location plan



Plate 1 General view of the development area

LAND AT SOUTHFIELD PLACE HORNCASTLE LINCOLNSHIRE

SPECIFICATION FOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

PREPARED FOR BRIAN TODD HOMES

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

OCTOBER 2000

1 SUMMARY

- 1.1 A watching brief is required during residential development at Southfield Place, Horncastle, Lincolnshire.
- 1.2 As a result of archaeological evaluation deposits and features of Roman date have been identified on the proposed site at a depth of approximately 0.9m. The depth of foundations is to be no more than 0.7m below ground level.
- 1.3 The watching brief will be undertaken during groundworks associated with the development.

 The archaeological features exposed will be recorded in writing, graphically and photographically.
- 1.4 On completion of the fieldwork a report will be prepared detailing the results of the investigation. The report will consist of a narrative supported by illustrations and photographs.

2 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 This document comprises a specification for an archaeological watching brief during groundworks connected with residential development at Springfield Place, Horncastle, Lincolnshire. The site is located at National Grid Reference TF 260 690
- 2.2 This document contains the following parts:
 - 2.2.1 Overview.
 - 2.2.2 Stages of work and methodologies.
 - 2.2.3 List of specialists.
 - 2.2.4 Programme of works and staffing structure of the project

3 SITE LOCATION

3.1 Horncastle is located 27km east of Lincoln and 29km west of Skegness in the East Lindsey district of Lincolnshire. The proposed development site lies at Southfield Place, approximately 600m to the south of the centre of Horncastle, on the west side of Boston Road at National Grid Reference TF 260 690.

4 PLANNING BACKGROUND

Planning permission (S/086/01356/00) for the development is subject to a condition requiring the implementation of an archaeological scheme of works. A previous archaeological evaluation at the site revealed deposits and features of Roman date. In order to preserve archaeological deposits in situ the foundations have been designed to be no more than 0.7m below ground level. A watching brief is to be undertaken during all stages of the development involving ground disturbance.

5 SOILS AND TOPOGRAPHY

5.1 Horncastle lies in the valley of the rivers Bain and Waring. The site lies to the south of the centre of Horncastle on the east bank of the Old River Bain at approximately c30m OD. Local soils are of the Fladury I Association typically pelo-alluvial gley soils developed on flat valley floors (Hodge et al. 1984, 194). These soils overlie a drift geology of recent alluvium and lower terrace deposits.

6 HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

- 6.1 The area is archaeologically sensitive with sites and find spots dating from the prehistoric period identified in Horncastle.
- 6.2 Romano-British settlement is well-known in Horncastle with Roman defences in the town centre dated to the late 3rd century. However, the earliest Romano-British settlement appears to be concentrated to the south of the town, along South Street, Boston Road and Mareham Road. Just to the west of the development site is an area with a dense cropmark complex of enclosures, field systems and trackways, forming part of the early Roman settlement.
- An evaluation undertaken at the proposed development site revealed a deep deposit, beneath topsoil, containing Roman pottery. A metalled surface edged by a ditch thought to be of Roman date was identified at approximately 0.9m to 1m below ground surface.

7 MITIGATION MEASURES

- As archaeological remains of apparent Roman date were found about 0.9m below the present ground surface, the groundwork for the development will involve the use of foundation trenches not more than 0.7m below the present ground surface. These foundation trneches will be c. 0.7m wide. Should unstable ground conditions be encountered, or if the building control inspector decides that foundations of the dimensions noted above are inadequate, then the trenches will be widened to about 1.00m and the concrete reinforced with steel mesh. Should the foundations still be inadequate they will be increased in size upwards, above the existing ground level, and the ground built up.
- 7.2 Mitigation of the development effects on the archaeological remains in the upper 0.7m of the site will be by a programme of archaeological recording (watching brief). A report detailing the results of the investigation will be prepared following completion of the site monitoring.
- 7.3 The service trenches will be excavated to a depth of 1m and are likely to impact on archaeological remains, therefore particular attention is to be paid in monitoring these excavations to ensure a suitable level of recording.

8 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- 8.1 The aims of the watching brief will be:
 - 8.1.1 To record and interpret the archaeological features exposed during stripping for the access road and other areas of ground disturbance.
- 8.2 The objectives of the watching brief will be to:
 - 8.2.1 Determine the form and function of the archaeological features encountered;
 - 8.2.2 Determine the spatial arrangement of the archaeological features encountered;
 - 8.2.3 As far as practicable, recover dating evidence from the archaeological features, and
 - 8.2.4 Establish the sequence of the archaeological remains present on the site.

9 SITE OPERATIONS

9.1 General considerations

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

- 9.1.2 The work will be undertaken according to the relevant codes of practise issued by the Institute of Field Archaeologists (IFA), under the management of a Member of the institute (MIFA). Archaeological Project Services is IFA registered organisation no. 21.
- 9.1.3 Any and all artefacts found during the investigation and thought to be 'treasure', as defined by the Treasure Act 1996, will be removed from site to a secure store and promptly reported to the appropriate coroner's office.

9.2 Methodology

- 9.2.1 The watching brief will be undertaken during the ground works phase of development, and includes the archaeological monitoring of all phases of soil movement. The foundation trenches will not be more than 0.7m below ground level. Particular attention will be paid during the excavation of the service trenches, which are likely to disturb archaeological remains, to ensure a suitable level of recording of any deposits or features.
- 9.2.2 Stripped areas and trench sections will be observed regularly to identify and record archaeological features that are exposed and to record changes in the geological conditions. The section drawings of the trenches will be recorded at a scale of 1:10. Should features be recorded in plan these will be drawn at a scale of 1:20. Written descriptions detailing the nature of the deposits, features and fills encountered will be compiled on Archaeological Project Services pro-forma record sheets.
- 9.2.3 Any finds recovered will be bagged and labelled for later analysis.
- 9.2.4 Throughout the watching brief a photographic record will be compiled. The photographic record will consist of:
 - the site during work to show specific stages, and the layout of the archaeology within the trench.
 - groups of features where their relationship is important
- 9.2.5 Should human remains be located the appropriate Home Office licence will be obtained before their removal. In addition, the Local Environmental Health Department and the police will be informed.

10 POST-EXCAVATION

10.1 Stage 1

- 10.1.1 On completion of site operations, the records and schedules produced during the watching brief will be checked and ordered to ensure that they form a uniform sequence forming a level II archive. A stratigraphic matrix of the archaeological deposits and features present on the site will be prepared. All photographic material will be catalogued and labelled, the labelling referring to schedules identifying the subject/s photographed.
- 10.1.2 All finds recovered during the field work will be washed, marked and packaged according to the deposit from which they were recovered. Any finds requiring specialist treatment and conservation will be sent to the Conservation Laboratory at the City and County Museum, Lincoln.

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 watching brief will be prepared.
- 10.3.2 This will consist of:
 - A non-technical summary of the results of the investigation.
 - A description of the archaeological setting of the watching brief.
 - Description of the topography of the site.
 - Description of the methodologies used during the watching brief.
 - A text describing the findings of the watching brief.
 - A consideration of the local, regional and national context of the watching brief findings.
 - Plans of the archaeological features exposed. If a sequence of archaeological deposits is encountered, separate plans for each phase will be produced.
 - Sections of the archaeological features.
 - Interpretation of the archaeological features exposed, and their chronology and setting within the surrounding landscape.
 - Specialist reports on the finds from the site.
 - Appropriate photographs of the site and specific archaeological features.

11 REPORT DEPOSITION

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

12 ARCHIVE

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

13 PUBLICATION

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

14 CURATORIAL RESPONSIBILITY

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

15 VARIATIONS

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

16 PROGRAMME OF WORKS AND STAFFING LEVELS

- 16.1 The watching brief will be integrated with the programme of construction and is dependent on the developers' work programme. It is therefore not possible to specify the person-hours for the archaeological site work.
- 16.2 An archaeological supervisor with experience of watching briefs will undertake the work.
- 16.3 Post-excavation analysis and report production will be undertaken by the archaeological supervisor, or a post-excavation analyst as appropriate, with assistance from a finds supervisor, illustrator and external specialists. It is expected that each fieldwork day (equal to one person-day) will require a post- excavation day (equal to one-and-a-half person-days) for completion of the analysis and report. If the fieldwork lasts longer than about four days then there will be an economy of scale with the post-excavation analysis.

17 CONTINGENCIES

- 16.1 A contingency cost has been included to allow for a second member of staff to assist on site if merited by the level of investigation and recording required to adequately record the archaeological remains. The contingency would only be enacted following consultation with the client and curator.
- 16.2 Post-excavation contingency costs have been included to allow for an appropriate level of analysis should large quantities of artefacts be recovered. Provision has been made in the project budget for small to moderate amounts of material. The contingency would only be enacted following consultation with the client and curator.

18 SPECIALISTS TO BE USED DURING THE PROJECT

18.1 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> Body to be undertaking the work

Conservation Conservation Laboratory, Lincoln

Pottery Analysis Prehistoric - Trent & Peak Archaeological Unit

Roman - B Precious, Independent Specialist

Anglo-Saxon - J Young, Independent Specialist

Medieval and later - H Healey, Independent Archaeologist

Non-pottery Artefacts

J Cowgill, Independent Specialist

Animal Bones

Environmental Archaeology Consultancy

Environmental Analysis

J Rackham, Independent Specialist

Human Remains Analysis

R Gowland, Independent Specialist

19 INSURANCES

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

20 COPYRIGHT

- 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

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Specification: Version 2, 18/10/2000

CONTEXT SUMMARY

Number	Description	Interpretation
001	Unstratified finds	Finds

THE FINDS Paul Cope-Faulkner, Hilary Healey and Gary Taylor

Provenance

All the material was recovered from (001) as unstratified finds.

The Romano-British pottery is probably all Lincolnshire products and the single medieval sherd was also made in proximity to Horncastle, at Toynton All Saints, 13km to the southeast. The post-medieval piece may also be a relatively local product.

Range

A total of 7 pottery sherds weighing 402g was recovered and the range of material is detailed in the table.

Fragments of Romano-British pottery dominate the small assemblage, though were associated with medieval and later artefacts which indicate the context date. All the Roman pottery appears to be from the latter part of the period, 3rd- 4th century AD. Faunal remains were also retrieved.

Context	Description	Number	Weight (g)	Context Date
001	Red painted earthenware, black glazed internally, 18th-early 19th century	1	78g	18 th -early 19 th century
	Toynton All Saints ware, base/wall sherd, 13th-15th century	1	46g	
	Greyware, inturned bead and flange rimmed bowl, 4th century	1	123g	
	Greyware, rim, 3 rd century	1	45g	
	Dales ware shelly, limey encrustation internally, mid-late 3 rd century	1	8g	
<i>y</i>	?Swanpool oxidized ware, white paint, ?3 rd - 4 th century	1 ·	13g	
	Greyware, base/wall junction, 3rd century	1	89g	
TOTAL		7	402g	

Table 2. Faunal Remains

Context	Species	Description
001	Sheep sized Cattle	Scapula fragment First phalange Tibia fragment

Condition

Although some of the pieces are slightly abraded all the material is in good condition and present no long-term storage problems. Archive storage of the collection is by material class.

Documentation

There have been numerous previous archaeological investigations at Horncastle, which are the subjects of reports. 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, most of the pieces are of the Roman period. These are of moderate local significance and contribute to other evidence for later Romano-British occupation in this part of Horncastle.

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.

Iron Age

A period characterised by the introduction of Iron into the country for tools, between 800 BC and AD 50.

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.

Romano-British

Pertaining to the period dating from AD 43-410 when the Romans occupied Britain.

Saxon

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

THE ARCHIVE

The archive consists of:

- 1 Context record
- 1 Photographic record sheet
- 2 Bags 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 Council Museum Accession Number: 2000.270
Archaeological Project Services Site Code: SPHB00

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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