ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF
OF DEVELOPMENT AT
49 STATION STREET,
DONINGTON,
LINCOLNSHIRE
(DSS 01)



A P S
ARCHAEOLOGICAL
PROJECT
SERVICES

SOURCES LI7930 LI7931 20037 LOEL MED 23779 LI83065 UNDOLED

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF
OF DEVELOPMENT AT
49 STATION STREET,
DONINGTON,
LINCOLNSHIRE
(DSS 01)

Work Undertaken For J.P. Builders

Report Compiled by P. Cope-Faulkner BA (Hons) AIFA

November 2001

Planning Application No: H04/0589/00 National Grid Reference: TF 2056 3566
City and County Museum Accession No: 2001.139

A.P.S. Report No: 168/01



Conservation Services

1 0 DEC 2001

Highways & Planning Directorate

CONTENTS

List of F	igures
-----------	--------

		0	n		
Li	st	ot	P	late	25

1.	Summary 1
2.	Introduction12.1 Definition of a Watching Brief12.2 Planning Background12.3 Topography and Geology12.4 Archaeological Setting1
3.	Aims
4.	Methods
5.	Results
6.	Discussion
7.	Conclusions
8.	Acknowledgements
9.	Personnel
10.	Bibliography
11.	Abbreviations
Apper	ndices
1 2 3 4 5	Specification for Archaeological Watching Brief Context Descriptions The Finds by Hilary Healey, Tom Lane and Gary Taylor Glossary The Archive

List of Figures

Figure 1 General Location Plan

Figure 2 Site Location Plan

Figure 3 Plan of the development showing principal features and section locations

Figure 4 Sections 1 to 5

List of Plates

Plate 1 General view of the development area

Plate 2 Section 3, showing cut (010)

Plate 3 Section 4, showing cut (013)

Plate 4 Western extent of Section 5, showing cut (015)

1. SUMMARY

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken during the construction of two buildings to the rear of 49 Station Street, Donington, Lincolnshire. The watching brief monitored the excavation of the groundworks associated with the development.

Donington lies at the eastern end of the Romano-British (AD 50-410) thoroughfare, the Salter's Way, although no settlement has yet been found associated with this. The site lies on the western fringe of the medieval (AD 1066-1500) town.

The investigations revealed an undated ditch, two medieval pits and a post-medieval ditch. Finds recovered from this investigation comprise pottery of medieval and post-medieval date and three fragments of briquetage or fired clay.

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, where there is a possibility that archaeological deposits may be disturbed or destroyed.' (IFA 1997).

2.2 Planning Background

Archaeological Project Services was commissioned by J.P. Builders to undertake an archaeological watching brief during construction of three bungalows on land to the rear of 49 Station Street, Donington, Lincolnshire. Approval for the development was sought through the submission of

planning application H04/0189/00. Permission was granted subject to a standard condition for archaeological recording. The watching brief was carried out in accordance with a specification designed by Archaeological Project Services and approved by the County Archaeological Officer (Appendix 1). The watching brief was undertaken on the 6th June 2001.

2.3 Topography and Geology

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

The development site is located 300m west of the village centre as defined by the Market Place at National Grid Reference TF 2056 3566 (Fig. 2). The site is situated at a height of c. 3m OD with land rising to the east, towards the Market Place.

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

2.4 Archaeological Setting

Donington lies at the eastern end of the Romano-British thoroughfare, the Salter's Way. Romano-British finds within the village are sparse, but a Roman coin has been found near to the parish church and pottery of the period has been identified southeast of the village (Cope-Faulkner 1999, 6).

Donington is first mentioned in the Domesday Survey of c. 1086. Referred to as *Donninctune* or *Duninctune* the name is derived from Old English and means the

'homestead $(t\bar{u}n)$ of Dunn(a)'s people' (Cameron 1998, 38).

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

The parish church at Donington is dedicated to St. Mary and the Holy Rood and dates from the 13th century (Pevsner and Harris 1989, 255). Medieval pottery has been found at a variety of locations around the town (Cope-Faulkner 1999, 5).

An archaeological investigation located south of the Market Place identified a medieval pond and two pits, possibly of a similar age (Hall 2001, 1). A watching brief carried out 250m to the west only identified late post-medieval deposits (Albone 2000, 1).

3. AIMS

The requirements of the watching brief, as described in the specification (Appendix 1), were to record and interpret archaeological deposits, if present, and to determine their date, sequence, function and origin.

4. METHODS

Trenches were opened by a mechanical excavator to depths of between 0.6m and 0.7m as required by the development. Following excavation, the sides of the

trenches were cleaned and rendered vertical. Selected deposits were partially or fully excavated by hand to determine their nature and to retrieve artefactual material. The depth and thickness of each deposit were measured from the ground surface. Each archaeological deposit or feature revealed was allocated a unique reference number (context number) with an individual written description. A list of all contexts and interpretations appears as Appendix 2. A photographic record was compiled and sections were drawn at a scale of 1:10. Recording of deposits encountered during the watching brief was undertaken according to standard Archaeological Project Services practice.

Finds recovered from excavated deposits were examined and a period date assigned where possible (Appendix 3). Records of the deposits and features recognised during the watching brief were examined. Phasing was assigned based on artefact dating and the nature of the deposits and recognisable relationships between them.

5. RESULTS

Five phases of activity were identified:

Phase 1	Natural deposits
Phase 2	Undated deposits
Phase 3	Medieval deposits
Phase 4	Post-medieval deposits
Phase 5	Modern deposits

Archaeological contexts are listed below and described. The numbers in brackets are the context numbers assigned in the field.

Phase 1 Natural deposits

The earliest deposits encountered at the base of the trench in Plot B was a soft mid brown silt (016) that measured more than 0.2m

thick. This was overlain by a yellowish brown silt and fine sand (005) which was 0.84m thick in Plot B and extended into Plot A where a thickness of 0.22m was recorded. These deposits represent the underlying drift geology.

Overlying the natural (005) in Plot A was a subsoil comprising brown silt and fine sand (002) which was 0.2m thick.

Phase 2 Undated deposits

Cut into the subsoil (002) in Plot A was a possible linear feature (008). This was 0.3m deep and at least 18m long and over 2.5m wide (Fig. 4, Section 1). Two fills were recorded, a lower of dark brown silt and shell (004) and an upper of dark brown silt (003) from which three pieces of fired clay or briquetage were retrieved.

Phase 3 Medieval deposits

Cut into the top of feature (008) in Plot A was a possible pit (007). This measured 0.7m wide and 0.3m deep and was filled with dark greyish brown silt (006) from which a single sherd of 13th - 15th century pottery was retrieved.

Located at the northeast corner of Plot B and also cut into the underlying natural was a possible pit (013). This measured at least 1.9m long and 0.5m wide and was 0.32m deep (Fig. 4, Section 4). A single fill of greyish brown silt (012) was identified. A sherd of medieval pottery and fire residue was recovered from the fill.

Phase 4 Post-medieval deposits

Cut into the natural (005) at the northern trench of Plot B was a probable linear feature (010), possibly a ditch (Fig. 4, Sections 2 and 3). This was aligned northwest-southeast and a possible

continuation (015) was recorded towards the centre of the Plot (Fig. 4, Section 5). Both features (010 and 015) had a single fill of mid brown silt (009 and 014). Post-medieval pottery was retrieved from these fills as was a small quantity of medieval sherds.

Phase 5 Modern deposits

Sealing all archaeological deposits was a topsoil that varied from a 0.38m thick dark greyish brown silt (001) in Plot A to a 0.32m thick dark brown silt in Plot B (011).

6. DISCUSSION

Deposits of natural sands and silts (Phase 1), were the earliest deposits encountered during the watching brief. These relate to the underlying drift geology and can be identified as marine alluvium. A naturally formed subsoil had then developed over the natural.

A possible ditch (Phase 2) was recorded and apart from three fragments of fired clay or briquetage contained no other dateable finds. The briquetage resembles Romano-British examples, although diagnostic characteristics are lacking from these examples. Medieval deposits (Phase 3) comprise two possible pits, possibly for refuse disposal. A post-medieval ditch (Phase 4) was identified and contained a quantity of pottery that dates it to the late 18th century. The range of pottery suggests a degree of affluence.

Apart from the fired clay and post-medieval pottery discussed above, other finds retrieved during the investigation include a quantity of medieval pottery sherds, mainly of locally produced wares, and a fragment of clinker.

7. CONCLUSIONS

Archaeological investigations were carried out on land at Station Street, Donington, because the site lies within the core of medieval settlement.

An undated ditch, two medieval pits and a post-medieval ditch were encountered during this investigation.

Several late 18th century pottery fragments were retrieved as were a number of locally produced medieval forms. No waterlogged features were found which indicates that few environmental indicators (snails, seeds, pollen *etc.*) will survive other than through charring.

8. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeological Project Services would like to acknowledge the assistance of Mr P. Brown of J.P. Builders who commissioned the fieldwork and post excavation analysis. The work was coordinated by Denise Drury and this report was edited by Tom Lane. Mark Bennet and Sarah Grundy of Lincolnshire County Council permitted examination of the Sites and Monuments Record. David Start kindly permitted access to the library and parish files maintained by the Heritage Trust of Lincolnshire.

9. PERSONNEL

Project Coordinator: Denise Drury

Supervisor: Fiona Walker

Finds Processing: Denise Buckley Illustration: Paul Cope-Faulkner

Photographic Reproduction: Sue Unsworth Post-excavation Analyst: Paul Cope-

Faulkner

10. BIBLIOGRAPHY

Albone, J., Archaeological Watching Brief of Development on land at Station Street, Donington, Lincolnshire (DNS 00), unpublished APS report 117/00

BGS, 1995, Boston, Solid and Drift geology, 1:50000 map sheet **128**

Cameron, K., 1998, A Dictionary of Lincolnshire Place-Names, English Place-Name Society Popular Series Vol. 1

Cope-Faulkner, P., 1999, Archaeological Implications of the Appraisal of Donington Conservation Area, Donington, Lincolnshire (DCA 99), unpublished APS report 51/99

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

Hall, R., 2001, Archaeological Evaluation at Ash Court, Donington, Lincolnshire (DAC 01), unpublished APS report 44/01

IFA, 1999, Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs

Pevsner, N. and Harris, J., 1989, *Lincolnshire*, The Buildings of Lincolnshire (2nd edition revised Antram, N.)

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

11. ABBREVIATIONS

APS Archaeological Project Services

BGS British Geological Survey

IFA Institute of Field Archaeologists



Figure 1 - General Location Plan

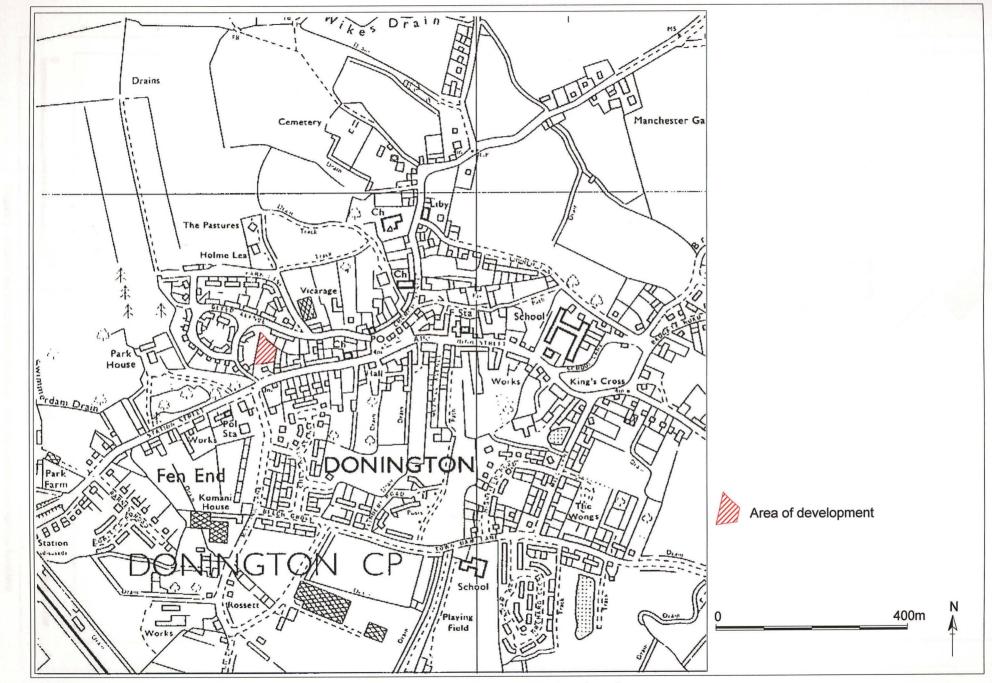


Figure 2 - Site location plan

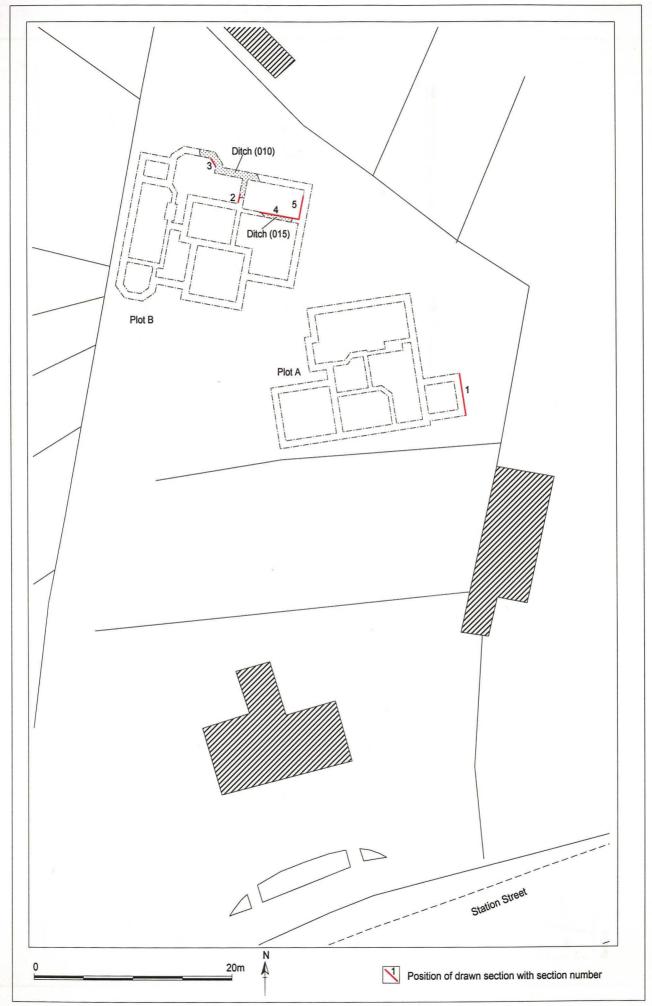


Figure 3 - Plan of the development showing principal features and section locations

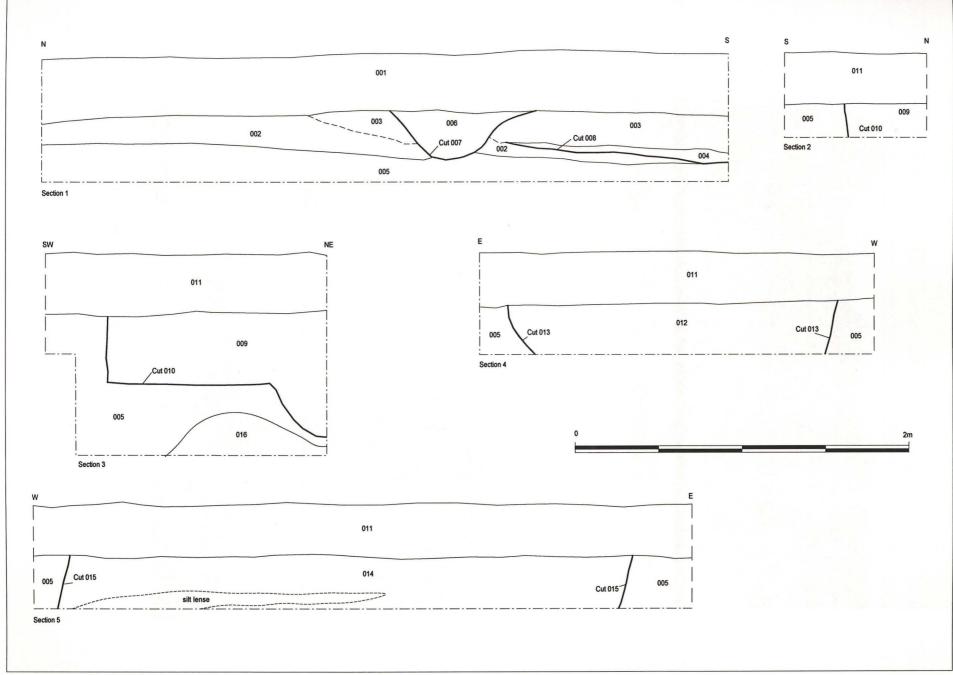


Figure 4 - Sections 1 to 5



Plate 1 - General view of the development area, looking southwest



Plate 2 - Section 3, showing cut (010), looking northwest



Plate 3 - Section 4, showing cut (013), looking south



Plate 4 - Western extent of Section 5, showing cut (015), looking north

LAND ADJACENT TO 49 STATION STREET, DONINGTON, LINCOLNSHIRE-SPECIFICATION FOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

1. SUMMARY

- a. A watching brief is required during residential development on land to the rear of 49 Station Street, Donington, Lincolnshire.
- b. The development lies close to the centre of the village. Medieval and later artefacts have previously been recovered in the village and Roman material is also known in the area.
- c. The watching brief will be undertaken during groundworks associated with the development. The archaeological features exposed will be recorded in writing, graphically and photographically.
- d. 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

- a. This document comprises a specification for an archaeological watching brief during construction of dwellings to the rear of 49, Station Street, Donington, Lincolnshire. The site is located at national grid reference TF 2055 3565.
- b. This document contains the following parts:
 - i. Overview.
 - Stages of work and methodologies.
 - iii. List of specialists.
 - iv. Programme of works and staffing structure of the project.

3. SITE LOCATION

a. Donington is located approximately 15km southwest of Boston and 17km southeast of Sleaford in South Holland district, Lincolnshire. The site is located in the centre of the village at national grid reference TF 2055 3565.

4. PLANNING BACKGROUND

a. A planning application (H04/0589/00) has been submitted to South Holland District Council for residential development on land to the rear of Station Street, Donington. Permission is subject to a condition requiring the implementation of an archaeological watching brief during the groundworks associated with the development.

5. SOILS AND TOPOGRAPHY

a. The site lies at approximately 3m OD on fairly flat land. Soils of the area are of the Romney Series, coarse silty gleyic brown calcareous alluvial soils (Robson 1990, 26). Beneath these soils is a drift geology of marine silts and clays which in turn overlie a solid geology of Jurassic Oxford Clay (BGS 1995).

6. THE ARCHAEOLOGY

a. Donington is located at the eastern end of the Romano-British thoroughfare, the Salter's Way. Romano-

British finds within the village are sparse, but a Roman coin has been found near to the parish church and Romano-British pottery has been found to the south-east of the village (Archaeological Project Services 1999).

b. Donington was referred to in the Domesday Book of 1086 when it comprised two manors which contained almost 30 salt pans between them. The parish church of St. Mary and the Holy Rood dates from the 13th century and later-medieval pottery and a coin, together with post-medieval thimbles and lead seals have previously been found immediately west of the church (Archaeological Project Services 1999). A recent archaeological evaluation close to the centre of the village identified a medieval pond and pits together with post-medieval ditches and pits (Archaeological Project Services 2001).

7. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- a. The aims of the watching brief will be:
 - i. To record and interpret the archaeological features exposed during the excavation of the foundation trenches and other areas of ground disturbance.
- b. The objectives of the watching brief will be to:
 - i. Determine the form and function of the archaeological features encountered;
 - ii. Determine the spatial arrangement of the archaeological features encountered;
 - iii. As far as practicable, recover dating evidence from the archaeological features, and
 - iv. Establish the sequence of the archaeological remains present on the site.

8. SITE OPERATIONS

a. General considerations

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

b. Methodology

- The watching brief will be undertaken during the ground works phase of development, and includes the archaeological monitoring of all phases of soil movement.
- ii. 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 proforma record sheets.
- iii. Any finds recovered will be bagged and labelled for later analysis.
- iv. Throughout the watching brief a photographic record consisting of colour prints will be compiled.

The photographic record will consist of:

- (1) The site during work to show specific stages, and the layout of the archaeology within the trench.
- (2) groups of features where their relationship is important
- v. 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.

9. POST-EXCAVATION

a. Stage 1

- i. 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: the colour prints will be labelled, the labelling referring to schedules identifying the subject/s photographed.
- ii. 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.

b. Stage 2

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

c. Stage 3

- i. On completion of stage 2, a report detailing the findings of the watching brief will be prepared.
- ii. This will consist of:
 - (1) A non-technical summary of the results of the investigation.
 - (2) A description of the archaeological setting of the watching brief.
 - (3) Description of the topography of the site.
 - (4) Description of the methodologies used during the watching brief.
 - (5) A text describing the findings of the watching brief.
 - (6) A consideration of the local, regional and national context of the watching brief findings.
 - (7) Plans of the archaeological features exposed. If a sequence of archaeological deposits is encountered, separate plans for each phase will be produced.
 - (8) Sections of the archaeological features.

- (9) Interpretation of the archaeological features exposed, and their chronology and setting within the surrounding landscape.
- (10) Specialist reports on the finds from the site.
- (11) Appropriate photographs of the site and specific archaeological features.

10. REPORT DEPOSITION

a. Copies of the report will be sent to the Client; the Lincolnshire County Council Archaeological Officer; the South Holland District Council Planning Department; and to the County Council Archaeological Sites and Monuments Record.

11. ARCHIVE

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

12. PUBLICATION

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

13. CURATORIAL RESPONSIBILITY

a. Curatorial responsibility for the archaeological work undertaken on the site lies with the Archaeological Officer, Lincolnshire County Council. They will be given written notice of the commencement of the project.

14. VARIATIONS

- a. Variations to the proposed scheme of works will only be made following written confirmation of acceptance from the archaeological curator.
- In the event of the discovery of any unexpected remains of archaeological importance, or of any changed circumstances, it is the responsibility of the archaeological contractor to inform the archaeological curator (*Lincolnshire Archaeological Handbook* 1998, Sections 5.7 and 18).
- 14.3 Where important archaeological remains are discovered and deemed to merit further investigation additional resources may be required to provide an appropriate level of investigation, recording and analysis.
- 14.4 Any contingency requirement for additional fieldwork or post-excavation analysis outside the scope of the proposed scheme of works will only be activated following full consultation with the archaeological curator and the client.

15. PROGRAMME OF WORKS AND STAFFING LEVELS

a. 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.

- b. An archaeological supervisor with experience of watching briefs will undertake the work.
- c. 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.

16. SPECIALISTS TO BE USED DURING THE PROJECT

a. 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 - Trent & Peak Archaeological Trust

Roman - B Precious, Independent Specialist

Anglo-Saxon - J Young, Independent Specialist

Medieval and later - G Taylor, Archaeological Project Services in

consultation with H. Healey, Independent Archaeologist

Non-pottery Artefacts J Cowgill, Independent Specialist; or G Taylor, Archaeological Project

Services

Animal Bones Environmental Archaeology Consultancy

Environmental Analysis J Rackham, Independent Specialist

Human Remains Analysis R Gowland, Independent Specialist

17 INSURANCES

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

18 COPYRIGHT

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

Planning Authority and/or archaeological curator will be notified by Archaeological Project Services that the use of any such information previously supplied constitutes an infringement under the *Copyright*, *Designs and Patents Act* 1988 and may result in legal action.

18.4 The author of any report or specialist contribution to a report shall retain intellectual copyright of their work and may make use of their work for educational or research purposes or for further publication.

19 BIBLIOGRAPHY

Archaeological Project Services, 1999 Archaeological Implications of the Appraisal of Donington Conservation Area, Donington, Lincolnshire (DCA99), APS Report No. 51/9

Archaeological Project Services, 2001 Archaeological Evaluation at Ashcourt, Donington, Lincolnshire (DAC01), APS Report No. 44/01

BGS, 1995 Boston, Solid and Drift Geology, 1:50,000 map sheet 128

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

Specification Version 1: 01/06/2001

CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

No.	Plot	Description	Interpretation
001	A	Firm dark greyish brown silt, 0.38m thick	Topsoil
002	A	Firm light to mid brown silt and fine sand, 0.2m thick	Subsoil
003	A	Firm mid to dark brown silt	Fill of (008)
004	A	Loose dark brown silt with frequent shell	Fill of (008)
005	A, B	Firm light to mid yellowish brown silt and fine sand, 0.22m thick in Plot A, 0.84m thick in Plot B	Natural deposit
006	A	Firm mid to dark greyish brown silt	Fill of (007)
007	A	Feature, 0.7m wide by 0.3m deep, gradual sides with rounded base	Possible pit or posthole
008	A	Feature, >2.5m wide by 0.3m deep, very shallow gradual slope full extent of base not recorded	Hollow or shallow ditch
009	В	Firm mid brown silt	Fill of (010)
010	В	Feature, possibly linear, steep near vertical sides with uneven base, aligned northwest-southeast	Pit/ditch
011	В	Firm mid to dark brown silt, 0.32m thick	Topsoil
012	В	Firm mixed mid greyish brown and yellowish brown silt	Fill of (013)
013	В	Feature, >1.9m long by 0.5m wide by 0.32m deep, near vertical sides, not fully excavated	?Pit
014	В	Firm mid greyish brown silt, 0.34m thick	Fill of (015)
015	В	Feature, 3.4m wide by 0.32m deep, steep sides, not fully excavated	Possible pit or ditch
016	В	Soft mid brown silt, >0.2m thick	Natural deposit

THE FINDS

Hilary Healey, Tom Lane and Gary Taylor

Provenance

The material was recovered from the fill of a large hollow (003) and fills of pits (006, 009, 012, 014).

The earlier pottery was made in moderate proximity to Donington, at Bourne to the southwest and Toynton All Saints to the north. Much of the later, post-medieval, pottery was probably made in Staffordshire, though the chinoiserie vessels from (009) may derive from Lowestoft, London or other sources.

Range

A total of 27 pieces of pottery, tile and fired clay, weighing 633g, was recovered and the range of material is detailed in the table.

Fragments of pottery dominate the small assemblage, with post-medieval items most numerous. There are also several pieces of medieval pottery. Tile and burnt clay was also recovered though no faunal remains were retrieved.

Context	Description	Weight (g)	Context Date	
003	3x fired clay, grey smoothed external surface and red/buff interior. Organic tempered	13g		
006	1x Toynton All Saints ware, 13th- 15th century	8g	13 th - 15 th century	
009	3x Pearlware, chinoiserie, 2 link, 2 separate vessels, mid-late 18th century	32g	late 18th- 19th century	
	3x red painted earthenware, 2 black glazed, 1 brown glazed, later 18 th century	67g		
	1x ?ironstone china, 19 th century	85g		
	5x soft paste porcelain, cup, 3 link, probably all same vessel, ?19th century	42g		
	5x creamware, bowl, 2 link, probably all same vessel, late 18th century	257g		
	1x Bourne A/B ware, bowl rim, 12th- 14th century	17g		
	1x ceramic roof tile, up to 15mm thick, post-medieval	83g		
012	1x Bourne A/B ware, green glazed, sooted externally, 13th- 14th century	14g	13 th - 14 th	
	1x clinker/fire residue	1g	century	
014	1x Toynton All Saints-type ware, moderate-high abrasion, 13th-15th century	9g	12 th - 15 th century	
	1x Bourne A/B ware, grey-green glazed, ridged, 12th- 14th century	5g		

The tile from (009) is in a finely-made, even fabric, fully oxidized throughout. These aspects are characteristic of post-medieval tile in the region. Although associated with a fragment of medieval pottery, the characteristics of the tile are used to date the context.

A moderate large quantity of predominantly later 18th century pottery, was recovered from (009). Additionally, many of the individual fragments were quite substantial. The composition of this group suggests that it derives from a household that was approaching moderate affluence. The group lacks certain pottery types, including white salt-glazed stoneware and Chinese porcelain that would more distinctly define an affluent household, but does contain copies, probably British-made, of the latter pottery type in the form of chinoiserie pearlwares. Most of this group is clearly later 18th century in date, though there are two pieces that are perhaps 19th century. In consequence, the context is dated as extending over this period.

A moderate amount of medieval pottery was recovered from several separate contexts. As a group it is probably a little too small to signify occupation of the site in the medieval period though may indicate settlement nearby.

The three pieces of fired clay resemble Romano-British briquetage but the lack of diagnostic characteristics prevent positive identification.

Condition

All the material is in good condition and present no long-term storage problems. Archive storage of the collection is by material class.

Documentation

There have been several previous archaeological investigations at Donington, including in very close proximity to the present investigation area, 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

The medieval aspect of the assemblage is of moderate local significance and perhaps indicates settlement of the period in close proximity to the site. Additionally, the group is one of few collections of material of this date to be recovered from Donington. The large, later 18^{th} - 19^{th} century group from (009) is also of moderate local potential and significance and indicates the proximity of a moderately affluent household of the period. It is also of note that there is no material of later 15^{th} - early 18^{th} century at the site, suggesting that the area was perhaps abandoned during this period or served a non-occupation function.

GLOSSARY

Briquetage A term given to fragments of ceramic equipment and hearth/oven remains from the processing of salt.

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).

Context

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.

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).

Hundred An administrative division of a shire, that may have originated as units of 100 taxable

hides, comparable to the Danish wapentakes.

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.

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

Saltern Salt producing site typified by ash, derived from fuel needed to evaporate sea water, and

briquetage.

THE ARCHIVE

The archive consists of:

16 Context records

7 Scale drawings (sections)

Photographic record sheet

1 Bag 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 Museum Accession Number: 2001.139

Archaeological Project Services Site Code: DSS 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.

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.