

# PRE-CONSTRUCT ARCHAEOLOGY L I N C O L N

**LAND NORTH OF INGLENOOK,  
FISKERTON.**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL  
EVALUATION REPORT**

Site Code: NIFI02  
NGR: TF 0505 7195.  
Planning Ref. M/O2/P/0221  
Accession No. 2002.489.





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Report prepared for Mr & Mrs Morley.  
by  
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### Summary

- *A field evaluation was undertaken on behalf of Mr & Mrs Morley to assess the archaeological potential of a sub-rectangular unit of land at Fiskerton in Lincolnshire in advance of an application for residential development.*
- *Two evaluation trenches were excavated within the footprints of the proposed new buildings.*
- *No archaeological features were exposed in either trench.*
- *Pottery recovered from topsoil on the site dates from the early 19<sup>th</sup> century*



**Fig. 1:** Site location. Area evaluated shown in red; for more detail, see fig. 2.  
Scale 1:25,000

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## **1.0 Introduction**

This report has been prepared for Mr & Mrs Morley to advise an application for residential development on a unit of land at Fiskerton in Lincolnshire. Its purpose is to advise both the commissioning body and West Lindsey District council of archaeological constraints which may exist, and which may warrant future protection and/or further investigation in advance of/during development of the site.

The land (hereafter 'the site') has been evaluated for its archaeological potential using an agreed strategy of trial excavation, and the results of this excavation are presented in the sections that follow.

The report follows current national guidelines (IFA, 1994), the guidelines set out in the Lincolnshire County Council document *Lincolnshire Archaeological Handbook: A Manual of Archaeological Practice* (LCC, 1998), and a formal project specification prepared by Pre-Construct Archaeology.

## **2.0 Location and description**

Fiskerton is approximately 7.5km east of Lincoln in the administrative district of West Lindsey, on the north bank of the River Witham. The site is towards the centre of the settlement, bordered by residential properties on all sides. It is 30m east-west and 60m north-south. The local geology is characterised by chalk-rich glacial till, masked in places by freshwater alluvium. The underlying geology is Oxford clay.

The National Grid Reference for the centre of the site is TF 0505 7195.

Street level for the site is approximately 4.5m OD.

## **3.0 Planning background**

Planning consent is sought from West Lindsey District Council for a residential development comprising 2 bungalows and an access road, and the current evaluation has been designed to inform this process. The approach is consistent with the recommendations of *Archaeology and Planning: Planning Policy Guidance Note 16*, 1990.

Planning reference number M/O2/P/0221



#### 4.0 Archaeological and historical background

The site lies to the immediate north of the medieval moated manorial complex of Fiskerton, which was excavated in 1999 by Pre-Construct Archaeology (Lincoln), exposing at least two phases of extensive building remains. These appeared to relate to occupation between the late 12<sup>th</sup> century and at least the mid 16<sup>th</sup> century. The excavation appeared to demonstrate that the building remains extended northwards into the current site (Palmer-Brown, 2000). A prior evaluation of the area in 1998 had identified prehistoric settlement features (Neolithic/Bronze Age), a buried soil and a peat horizon at the edge of the floodplain.

Further south, and closer to the river, is the nationally important early Iron Age causeway/jetty that was investigated in 1981, and later in 2001. It is believed the structure had a votive function, as numerous high status objects (swords, spearheads, axes, hammers and files), along with more utilitarian objects, were discarded within the wet ground on either side of the causeway/jetty. The line of this important monument projects directly through the proposed development site.

#### 5.0 Methodology (trial excavation)

The primary purpose of an archaeological evaluation is to gather and collate information for planning purposes: to assess the archaeological potential of a site and provide a basis for mitigating against the effects of development, where appropriate. The approach is consistent with the guidelines set out in *Archaeology and Planning: Planning Policy Guidance Note 16* (1990).

To achieve the above, two trial trenches were excavated to examine a representative percentage of the proposed development footprint. The evaluation was undertaken by a team of two experienced field archaeologists (including the author, who was project supervisor) during 1 day, the 25<sup>th</sup> November 2002.

A JCB fitted with a smooth ditching blade was used to remove all topsoil, subsoil and underlying non-archaeological deposits in spits no greater than 20cm in depth. The process was repeated until the first archaeologically significant or natural horizon was exposed. Any further excavation was by hand.

Where archaeological remains were exposed, features and deposits were sample excavated manually, and context information was recorded on Context Record Sheets. Archaeological deposits were drawn to scale, in plan and in section, and Ordnance Datum heights were entered on each class of drawing. Archaeological contexts were photographed, and some prints are reproduced within this report (see Appendix 1).

Archaeological finds were recovered during the investigation (e.g. domestic pottery sherds). They were washed and processed at the offices of PCA, prior to submission for detailed specialist appraisal.

## **6.0 Results**

The uppermost deposit was a topsoil of dark grey-brown fine sandy silt with a plastic consistency. This was recorded as context (001) in Trench 1 and (003) in Trench 2. Its thickness varied between 0.25 and 0.35m, and the deposit contained early 19<sup>th</sup> century pottery in Trench 1, (Jane Young, pers. comm.).

Directly beneath this material was (002), mottled light brown and grey plastic silty clay. This was a natural alluvial deposit, and it contained no traces of archaeological disturbance. Sondages were excavated in each trench to clarify this situation.

No archaeological or other features were present in either trench.

## **7.0 Discussion and conclusions**

No archaeological features were present in either of the trenches investigated. Furthermore, the almost complete absence of any artefactual material, (only two sherds of late post-medieval pottery were recovered) suggests that there has been little direct activity in the immediate vicinity of the trenches.

This is in striking contrast to the site that lies immediately to the south, which was investigated by P.C.A. in 1999, and which produced evidence for two large medieval buildings and associated deposits. One possible explanation for this difference is the nature of the boundary between the two sites (see colour plate 5). This boundary is still represented by a shallow ditch, and the bank to the south supports a hedge of mature hawthorns, as well as a single large elm. This clearly pre-dates the existing housing development boundaries and may represent a remainder of the boundary (ie the moat) to the medieval manorial complex. Further work would be required to substantiate this hypothesis, which is outside the remit of the current project.

## **8.0 Effectiveness of methodology**

The methodology that was employed allowed the presence/absence and the depth of archaeology to be determined in the trenches excavated, and, by inference, across the whole of the site.

## **9.0 Acknowledgments**

The author would like to thank Mr & Mrs Morley for commissioning this work, and for a plentiful supply of tea. Thanks are also due to Rachel Gardner for assistance on site.



## 10.0 Bibliography

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Palmer-Brown, C., 2000, *Archaeological Excavation Report. Medieval Manor, Nelson Road, Fiskerton*. Unpublished Client Report.

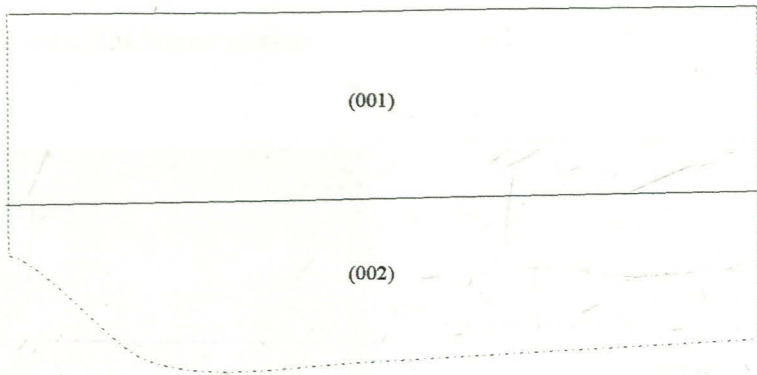
## 11.0 Site archive

The site archive (documentary and physical) for this project is in preparation and will be deposited with Lincoln City and County Museum within six months. Access can be gained by quoting L.C.C.M. accession number 2002.489.



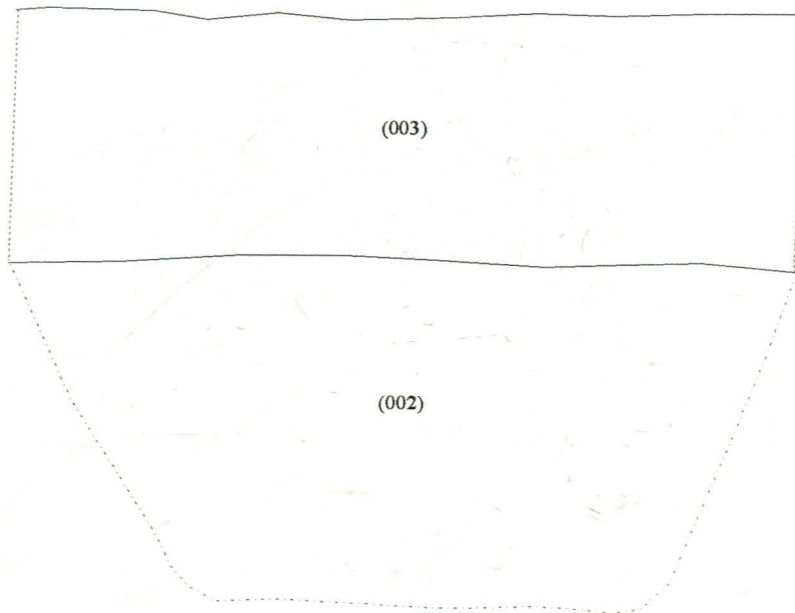


**Fig. 2:** Plan showing location of evaluation trenches and proposed new buildings. 1:500



0 0.5m  
Scale

**Fig. 3:** East facing section from trench 1.  
Shows topsoil and natural. 1:10



0 0.5m  
Scale

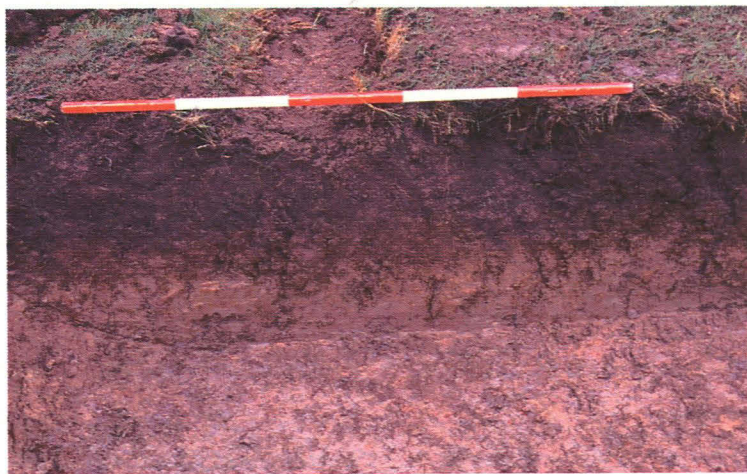
**Fig. 4:** West facing section from trench 2.  
Shows topsoil and natural. 1:10.



**Appendix 1. Colour plates**



**Pl. 1 : Trench 1 looking south.**



**Pl. 2 : East facing section from trench 1.**





**Pl. 3 :** Trench 2 looking south. The lines in the bottom left corner are tree roots and the posthole like features to the right of the scales are impressions from the foot of the machine



**Pl. 4 :** West facing section from trench 2. The grey area at the base is where the silt is waterlogged.



**Pl. 5 :** Boundary to the south of the site which separates it from a medieval manorial complex. The presence of mature trees suggests this pre-dates existing land use.



**Appendix 2. Context summary.**

CONTEXT NUMBER	CONTEXT DESCRIPTION
001	Topsoil, trench 1. 2 sherds of early 19 <sup>th</sup> C. pottery recovered.
002	Natural. Freshwater alluvium.
003	Topsoil, trench 2.