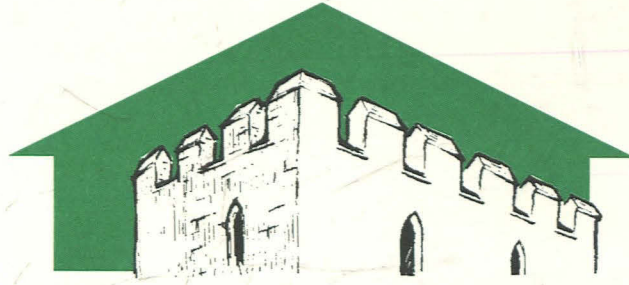


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PRE-CONSTRUCT ARCHAEOLOGY

L I N C O L N

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL
WATCHING BRIEF REPORT;
MOAT LANE, OLD BOLINGBROKE,
LINCOLNSHIRE**

NGR: TF 3488 6513
SITE CODE: MLOB02
LCNCC ACC. NO: 2002.396





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SOURCES 418441 418442 L13521
43574 Medieval 414206
44526 483880 Post Medieval

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Report prepared for
Mr. & Mrs. Bogg
by Chris Clay
September 2002

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Summary

- *An archaeological watching brief was undertaken during the groundworks for a residential development on land off Moat Lane, Old Bolingbroke, Lincolnshire*
- *The site lies close to Bolingbroke Castle, the birthplace of Henry IV, and is also in the vicinity of a late medieval pottery industry.*
- *The watching brief exposed a series of ground raising/levelling deposits, sealing two substantial linear features that may have been associated with the water supply of the Castle Moat. A post-medieval linear feature ran broadly parallel with Moat Lane, and was probably a roadside ditch.*

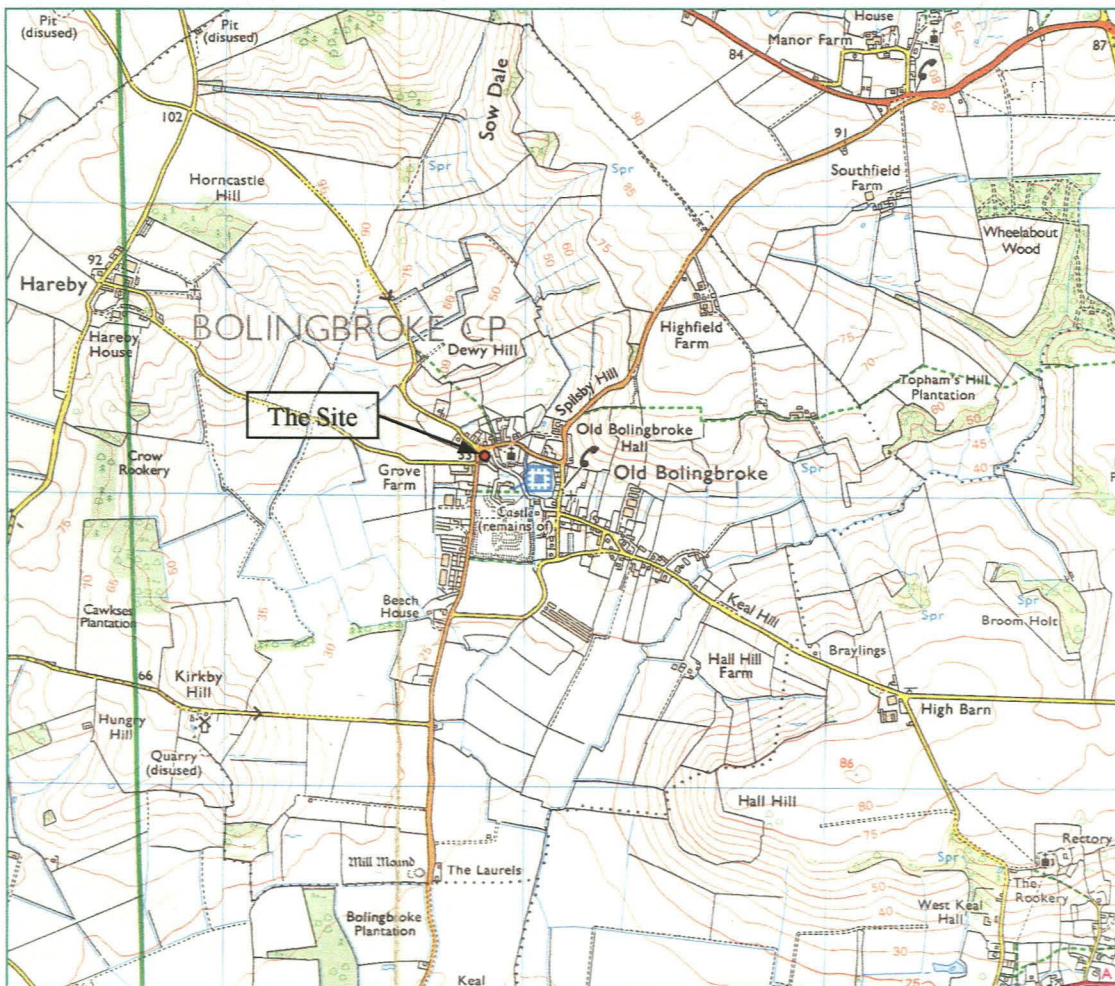


Fig.1: Site Location. (Scale 1:25000)
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1.0 Introduction

Pre-Construct Archaeology (Lincoln) was commissioned by Mr. & Mrs. Bogg to undertake an archaeological watching brief during the groundworks for a residential development on land off Moat Lane, Old Bolingbroke, Lincolnshire. These works were undertaken to fulfil the objectives of a formal project brief issued by the Assistant Built Environment Officer, and a project specification prepared by Pre-Construct Archaeology (Lincoln). This approach is consistent with the recommendations of *Archaeology & Planning: Planning Policy Guidance Note 16* (Department of the Environment, 1990), *Management of Archaeological Projects* (English Heritage, 1991), *Standards and guidance for archaeological watching briefs* (IFA, 1994), and the Lincolnshire County Council document *Lincolnshire Archaeological Handbook: a manual of archaeological practice* (LCC, 1998).

Copies of this report have been deposited with the commissioning body and the County Sites and Monuments Record for Lincolnshire. Reports will also be deposited at the City and County Museum, Lincoln, along with an ordered project archive for long term storage and curation.

2.0 Site location and description

Old Bolingbroke is in the administrative district of East Lindsey, approximately 9km south-east of Horncastle. The village is at the southern edge of the Lincolnshire Wolds, surrounded by higher ground to the north, west and east, and looks southwards over a gentle incline towards low lying fenland.

The development site is towards the core of the village, immediately to the north of Bolingbroke Castle, and to the west of Moat Lane. The ground slopes gently downwards from north to south, and has a coverage of low grass and weeds. The site is at a height of approximately 33m above Ordnance Datum.

The local geology consists of Ancholme Group Jurassic Clay (British geological Survey, 1995), overlain by Wickham 2 stagnogley (seasonally waterlogged) clayey soils (Soil Survey of England and Wales, 1983).

Central National Grid Reference TF 3488 6513.

3.0 Planning background

Full planning permission was granted to construct a single residential property and garage (planning ref.5/18/1105/99). This permission was granted subject to the undertaking of an archaeological watching brief on all associated groundworks.



Fig. 2: Site location, showing the position of recorded features in blue, and drawn sections in red (main scale 1:100, inset 1:2500)

4.0 Archaeological and historical background

There is tentative evidence for the presence of prehistoric occupation in the area: a Neolithic polished stone axe and a scatter of Bronze Age flints are recorded in the County Sites and Monuments Record (SMR) for the parish. The southern and central area of the Lincolnshire Wolds contains a significant amount of Neolithic burial activity, in the form of around 60 long barrows, surviving largely as cropmarks detected by aerial photography. These features delineate the marginal zone between the Wolds and the low lying fenland of the Lincolnshire Marsh (May, 1976).

There is a dearth of activity in the Romano-British period, the closest major settlement being at Horncastle, approximately 9km to the north-west. The Roman road that runs from Lincoln to Burgh-le-Marsh, is approximately 10km to the north.

At the time of the Domesday Survey, Bolingbroke was the centre of a large estate under the ownership of Ivo Tallboys. This estate was 6 leagues long and 6 leagues wide (18 miles by 18 miles). 17 separate manors are listed, including 12 churches and six mills. The estate stretched from Revesby in the west to Thorpe St. Peter in the east, and from Raithby in the north to Sibsey in the south (Morgan & Thorne, 1986). As the seat of such a large estate, Bolingbroke would have been endowed with a substantial residence, possibly with an Anglo-Saxon precursor.

Dewy Hill, to the north of the village, has been postulated as being the location of this early settlement. Excavations on the hill revealed a ditched enclosure containing pottery of 12th century date, and this phase of building has been linked with William de Roumare, Earl of Lincoln in the mid 12th century (Thompson, 1974). It is possible that any earlier activity has been masked by this defended enclosure.

The castle is believed to have been built around 1220-1230. The construction of this monument has been attributed to Ranulph de Blundeville, Earl of Chester and Lincoln (Pevsner & Harris, 1989). The first documentary reference comes from 1232, when the castle passed into the hands of Ranulph's sister, and then, in 1243, it was granted to the crown (Thompson, 1974). By 1311, it was in the possession of the Duchy of Lancaster, and in 1367, Henry of Bolingbroke, later Henry IV, was born in the castle (Mee, 1970).

In 1399, the estates of the Duchy of Lancaster, including Bolingbroke Castle, once again became the property of the crown. The south-west tower was rebuilt 1444-56 in octagonal form, and around the same time a hall was built against the north-east wall. The remains of ancillary service buildings have been excavated against the south wall of the castle (Pevsner & Harris, 1989).

The castle served as a prison in the Tudor period, and then was briefly occupied by a Royalist garrison in the Civil War, which fled following defeat at the nearby battle of Winceby in 1643. The castle was slighted by the Parliamentarian forces and gradually fell into disrepair (Thompson, 1974), until archaeological investigation, restoration and conservation measures were taken in the 1980s and 1990s.

Old Bolingbroke was the centre of a late medieval pottery industry, exploiting the readily available supplies of local clay. The SMR lists pottery scatters, dumps of

wasters and several kiln sites, including one brick kiln excavated in 1987 within the castle, and a large dump of wasters in the castle ditch.

5.0 Methodology

The groundworks were carried out using a JCB fitted with a 0.8m wide toothless bucket for the external walls, and a 0.6m wide toothless bucket for the internal walls. The foundations of the dwelling were excavated to a maximum depth of c.1.2m, and the garage plot was excavated to a maximum depth of 1m.

All plan and section surfaces were examined and intermittently cleaned, to examine the stratigraphic sequence. Where necessary, limited excavation by hand was carried out to establish the profile, orientation, date and function of exposed archaeological features. These features were accurately plotted on a site plan and section drawings were made at a scale of 1:20. Context information was recorded on standard watching brief record sheets. A colour photographic record was maintained, selected prints from which have been reproduced in this report.

The fieldwork was carried out on Thursday August 15th ²⁰⁰² and was monitored at all times by the author.

6.0 Results

6.1 House plot

The uppermost deposit was a 0.25m deep topsoil, containing fragments of brick and tile, (001). This sealed three layers of sandy clay, (002, 003, 004), which contained fragments of brick, tile and chunks of chalk, and may have been ground raising/levelling deposits. (004) was only visible towards the western side of the house plot. A fragment of a large jug in Toynton/Bolingbroke ware was recovered from this deposit, dating to the 15th/16th century (Appendix 2). The natural grey clay, (005) was exposed at the base of the foundation trench.

Two linear features were exposed, sealed beneath deposit (003), and cutting into the natural clay (005). Ditch [006] ran north to south across the centre of the plot, and was approximately 1.85m wide and 0.8m deep. A section excavated through the feature exposed moderately sloping sides and a slightly concave base. The fill, (007), was a dark grey, compact clay layer, with occasional chalk chunks and small subangular flints. The nature of the deposit suggested deposition in an environment of standing or slow moving water. No dating evidence was recovered, but its relationship to the overlying deposits, suggest that this feature was pre-16th century.

On the eastern side of the house plot, a more substantial linear feature was exposed, [009], running approximately north-west to south-east, suggesting that it would merge with [006] north of the house plot itself. Only one side of the ditch was exposed, the other being beyond the western extent of the groundworks. This would suggest that the ditch was at least 3.2m wide. Its fill, (010) was very similar to (007), again being indicative of alluvial deposition.

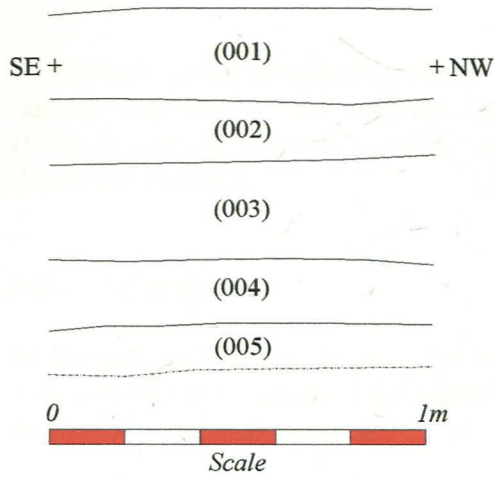


Fig. 3: Representative section, west side of house plot (scale 1:20)

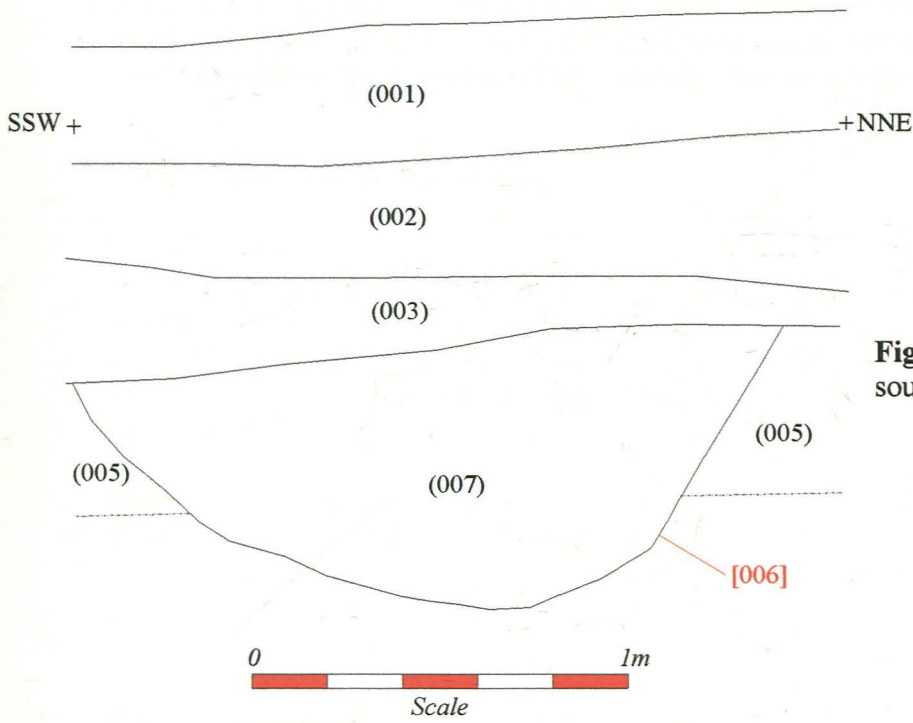


Fig. 4: Section through ditch [006], south side of house plot (scale 1:20)

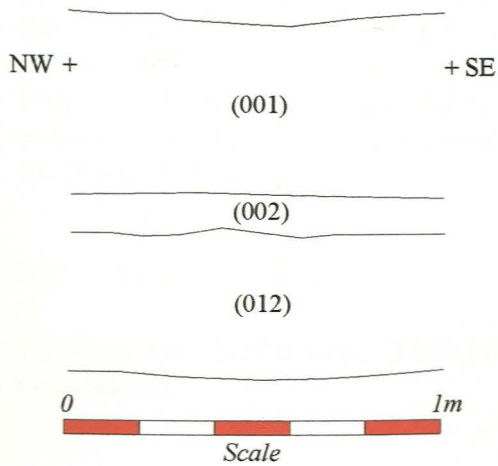


Fig. 5: Section showing (012), fill of [011], east side of garage plot (scale 1:20)

At the base of the foundation trench, in the area between ditches [006] and [009], the natural clay (005), was replaced by an orange/brown slightly clayey sand deposit (008). It was unclear whether this was a change in the natural geology, or deliberately deposited material.

6.2 Garage plot

In the area of the garage plot, the topsoil, (001) was approximately 0.5m deep, and was considerably disturbed by roots from the nearby roadside hedge. Deposits (002) and (003) were also exposed.

On the east side of the plot, sealed beneath (002), one side of a linear feature, [011], was exposed, aligned approximately north-north-east to south-south-west. Its fill, (012), was a very dark grey brown clayey loam, similar to (001). It produced a single sherd of late 17th/18th black glazed pottery (Appendix 2). On the west side of the plot it was possible to identify ditch [006] continuing southwards.

7.0 Discussion and conclusion

Three linear features were exposed; two in the house plot and one in the garage plot. In the house plot, ditches [006] and [009] produced no dating evidence. However, the overlying deposits offered a *terminus ante quem* in the 15th/16th century. The nature of the fills indicate that both ditches carried water, and it may tentatively be suggested that they represent channels feeding water either to or from the moat surrounding the nearby castle.

Ditch [011] in the garage plot was more recent, as it was cut through (003), and contained late 17th/18th century pottery. The ditch ran broadly parallel with Moat Lane, suggesting that it represents a former roadside ditch, the course of which has altered slightly over the years.

8.0 Effectiveness of methodology

The archaeological deposits exposed during this watching brief were indicative of activities taking place during the medieval/post medieval development of the village. The sub-surface archaeological deposits were well preserved, allowing the identification of a series of dated horizons and undated archaeological features. Further excavation of these features may have allowed the retrieval of dating evidence from the fills of the ditches; however, a broad relative date was provided by the overlying deposits.

9.0 Acknowledgements

Pre-Construct Archaeology (Lincoln) would like to thank Mr. & Mrs. Bogg for this commission.

10.0 References

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Pevsner N., & Harris J., 1989, *The Buildings of England: Lincolnshire, second edition*, Penguin, London

Thompson M.W., 1974, 'Bolingbroke Castle', *Archaeology Journal*, vol.131.

11.0 Site archive

The documentary archive for the site is currently in the possession of Pre-Construct Archaeology. This will be deposited at Lincoln City and County Museum within six months. Access to the archive may be gained by quoting the global accession number 2002.396.

APPENDIX 1: Colour Plates



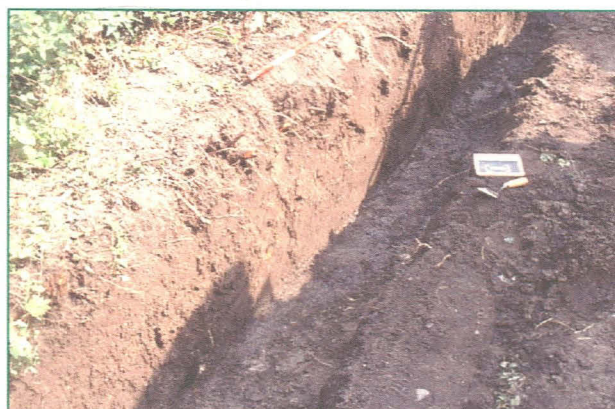
Pl. 1: General view of the site, looking south.



Pl. 2: Ditch [006], looking north-west



Pl. 3: Plan view of ditch [009],
exposed in house plot, looking
north-north-east.



Pl. 4: Roadside ditch [011], exposed in plan
in the garage plot. Looking south-east.

APPENDIX 2: Pottery report

Jane Young Lindsey Archaeological Services

context	cname	full name	fabric	sub type	frags	weight	description	date
004	NIB	Nibbed tile	OX/R/OX;med-coarse sandy	central ? Applied bar pulled to a point	2	153	thin tile	medieval to post-med
012	NIB	Nibbed tile	OX/R/OX;fine-med sandy	central ? Applied bar	1	111		medieval to post-med
012	PNR	Peg, nib or ridge tile	light firing some shell	flat roofer	1	124	salt surfacing	medieval to post-med
002	PNR	Peg, nib or ridge tile	OX/R/OX;med sandy	flat roofer	1	25		medieval to post-med

Jane Young Lindsey Archaeological Services

context	cname	full name	form type	sherds	weight	part	date
004	TB	Toynton/Bolingbroke wares	large jug	1	195	base	15th to 16th
012	BL	Black-glazed wares	jar/chamber	1	49	BS	late 17th to 18th

APPENDIX 3: List of SMR entries

<i>SMR ref.</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>NGR (TF)</i>
41767	Kiln	352 648
41768	15 th -16 th century kiln, excavated 1964-7	356 648
42094	Neolithic polished stone axe	340 660
42095	Medieval/post-medieval Kiln	3487 6522
42096	Post medieval pot/fired clay scatter	3499 6516
42097	Post medieval pot scatter	3485 6515
42098	Pot scatter	3484 6504
42099	Medieval/post-medieval Kilns	3480 6501
42100	Twelfth century earthworks, Dewy Hill	3480 6540
42105	Barbed and tanged flint arrowhead & scrapers	350 665
42107	Coin of Julia Domna	unlocated
43453	Medieval/post-medieval Kiln	3492 6511
43454	Medieval/post-medieval Kiln	3482 9496
43754	Bolingbroke Castle (SAM 22623)	3495 6485

APPENDIX 4: List of archaeological contexts

<i>Context</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Description</i>
001	Layer	Topsoil
002	Layer	Ground raising/levelling deposit
003	Layer	Ground raising/levelling deposit
004	Layer	Ground raising/levelling deposit
005	Layer	Natural
006	Cut	Ditch cut
007	Fill	Fill of [006]
008	Layer	Sand deposit, change in natural?
009	Cut	Ditch cut
010	Fill	Fill of [010]
011	Cut	Ditch cut
012	Fill	Fill of [011]