ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF AT BECK COTTAGE, WELTON-LE-MARSH, LINCOLNSHIRE (WBC02)



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ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF AT BECK COTTAGE, WELTON-LE-MARSH, LINCOLNSHIRE (WBC02)

> Work Undertaken For Mr Marshall

Report Compiled by Steve Thomson BSc(Hons)

January 2003

National Grid Reference: TF 4760 6875 City and County Museum Accession No: LCNCC: 2000.218 Planning Application No: S/199/1489/01

A.P.S. Report No. 224/02



Conservation Services

2 7 JAN 2003

Highways & Planning Directorate

Quality Control Welton-Le-Marsh, Beck Cottage WBC02

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1. SUMMARY

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken during development on land Beck Cottage, Welton-le-Marsh, Lincolnshire. The watching brief monitored the excavation of the foundation trenches for an extension and garage.

Welton-le-Marsh is situated in an area of considerable archaeological evidence. North of the site an Early Bronze Age axe was recovered (2250 - 700 BC) and to the southwest lies the course of a Roman Road (AD 50 - 410). Medieval and post-medieval activity (AD 1066-1700) has been recorded in the form of an Augustinian Priory and earthworks.

The investigation recorded a sequence of natural deposits, subsoil and topsoil with no archaeological features encountered.

Medieval pottery recovered from the topsoil indicated occupation of the period in proximity to, but not on the development site.

2. INTRODUCTION

2.1 Definition of a Watching Brief

An archaeological watching brief is defined as, 'a formal program of observation and investigation conducted during any operation carried out for non-archaeological reasons. This will be within a specified area or site on land, inter-tidal zone or underwater, where there is a possibility that archaeological deposits maybe disturbed or destroyed.' (IFA 1999).

2.2 Planning Background

Archaeological Project Services (APS) was

commissioned by Mr S Marshall to undertake an archaeological watching brief during the construction of an extension and garage at Beck Cottage, Welton-le-Marsh, Lincolnshire. Approval for the development was sought through the submission of planning application no. S/199/1489/01.

The investigation was carried out on the 15th May 2002 in accordance with a specification designed by APS (Appendix 1) and approved by the Built Environment Officer, Lincolnshire County Council.

2.3 Topography and Geology

Welton-le-Marsh is situated approximately 10km northwest of Skegness in the East Lindsey district of Lincolnshire (Fig. 1).

The development site (Plate 1) is located on the east side of the village, on an east facing slope at *c*.15m OD and centred on National Grid Reference TF 4760 6875 (Fig. 2).

The local soils are permeable fine or coarse loamy soils of the Holderness Association, developed on chalky till (Hodge *et al.* 1984, 214).

2.4 Archaeological Setting

Though there is little evidence of prehistoric activity recorded at Welton-le-Marsh, half of a battle axe of Early Bronze Age type was recorded 600m south of the development site (Fig. 2).

South of the development site and running northwest - southeast is the course of a Roman Road (Fig. 2) leading to Lincoln. Romano-British pottery has also been recorded within the vicinity (SMR records).

Welton-le-Marsh is first mentioned in the Domesday Survey of c. 1086. Referred to as *Waletone*, the name is derived the Old

English meaning 'the farmstead, village with a spring'. The suffix Le-Marsh is not recorded until the 19th century (Cameron 1998, 136). The Domesday Survey records that Welton-le-Marsh had 5 carucates of land divided between three major land owners, Ivo Taillebois, Gilbert De Gand and Gocelin son of Lanbert (Foster and Longley 1976, 89).

The village has considerable evidence of medieval activity in the form of ridge and furrow earthworks to the southwest of the site and cropmarks related to the deserted medieval village immediately southeast (Fig. 2).

The exact location of the Augustinian Priory, which was recorded in 1440, is unknown. It had been thought that the chalk building attached to the 18th century Thwaite Hall was the chapel of the priory (DoE 1987, 35).

Medieval pottery and 17th century clay pipes have been found in the vicinity (SMR Records).

The parish church of St. Martin lies 400m northwest of the development site. The brick church, which was rebuilt before 1792, was constructed on top of a medieval chalk base (Pevsner and Harris 1989, 788).

3. AIMS

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

4. METHODS

Foundation trenches were opened by mechanical excavator fitted with a 650mm

wide toothed blade, to a maximum depth of 1.6m below the ground level. Following excavation, the sides of the trenches were inspected, selectively cleaned and rendered vertical to identify archaeological deposits. The depth and thickness of each deposit was 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 depicting the setting of the site and the recorded deposits. A representative section was drawn at a scale of 1:10 and its location plotted on an annotated sketch plan. Recording of deposits encountered during the watching brief was undertaken according to standard APS' practice.

Records of the deposits and features recognised during the watching brief were examined and a stratigraphic matrix produced. Phasing was assigned based on the nature of the deposits and recognisable relationships between them, supplemented by artefact dating where appropriate (Appendix 3).

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

5. RESULTS

Following post-excavation analysis, two phases were identified

- 5.1 Phase 1 Natural geological deposits
- 5.2 Phase 2 Modern deposits

5.1 Phase 1 - Natural geological deposits

The earliest recorded deposit comprised a mid-brown clay containing grey bands of clay and moderate chalk fragments (004) (Fig. 4 – section 1). This was sealed by a 0.2m thick light reddish-yellow to brownish yellow sandy gravel (003). Both deposits were identified as resulting from natural geological deposition.

5.2 Phase 2 - Modern deposits

Overlying Phase 1 deposits was a 0.4m thick, mid-yellowish brown clayey silt subsoil (002). This was in turn sealed by a 0.42m thick, dark-greyish brown silt topsoil (001) (Plate 2). Pottery dating from the 13th to 19th centuries was recovered from the topsoil together with a metal button.

6. DISCUSSION

Natural, Phase 1, deposits were represented by the underlying chalky till and a sandy gravel. Both deposits are presumed to be glacial in origin, deposited during the last ice age.

A subsoil had formed over the natural geological deposits and was in turn sealed by the current topsoil.

Although no archaeological features were encountered, the small pottery assemblage is of interest. The two medieval sherds recovered were unworn, with relatively fresh breaks. These are unlikely to have entered the soil as part of a manuring process and suggest occupation of the medieval period in proximity to the site, supporting the evidence of earthworks and cropmarks which suggest that the vilage was once more extensive. Furthermore, the absence of any material of the 16th and 17th centuries may indicate that the site was not in use during

this time, before reuse in the 18th century.

There was no indication of the features which appear as cropmarks (Fig. 2) entering the site from the east and west.

7. CONCLUSION

Archaeological investigations were undertaken at Beck Cottage, Welton le-Marsh as the site lay within an area of known archaeological remains, notably of medieval and post-medieval date.

No archaeological features were encountered during the investigation, with a sequence of natural geological deposits, subsoil and topsoil recorded.

Medieval pottery recovered from the topsoil indicates occupation of the period in proximity though not on the site.

8. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeological Project Services would like to acknowledge the assistance of Mr Marshall who commissioned the fieldwork and post-excavation analysis. The work was coordinated by Dale Trimble who jointly edited this report with Tom Lane.

9. BIBLIOGRAPHY

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Foster, C.W. and Longley, T. (eds), 1976, The Lincolnshire Domesday and the Lindsey Survey, The Lincoln Record Society 19 Hodge, C.A.H, Burton, R.G.O., Corbett, W.M., Evans, R. and Seale, R.S., 1984, Soils and their Use in Eastern England, Soil Survey of England and Wales Bulletin No.13

IFA, 1999 Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs

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

9. ABBREVIATIONS

APS Archaeological Project Services

IFA Institute of Field Archaeologists

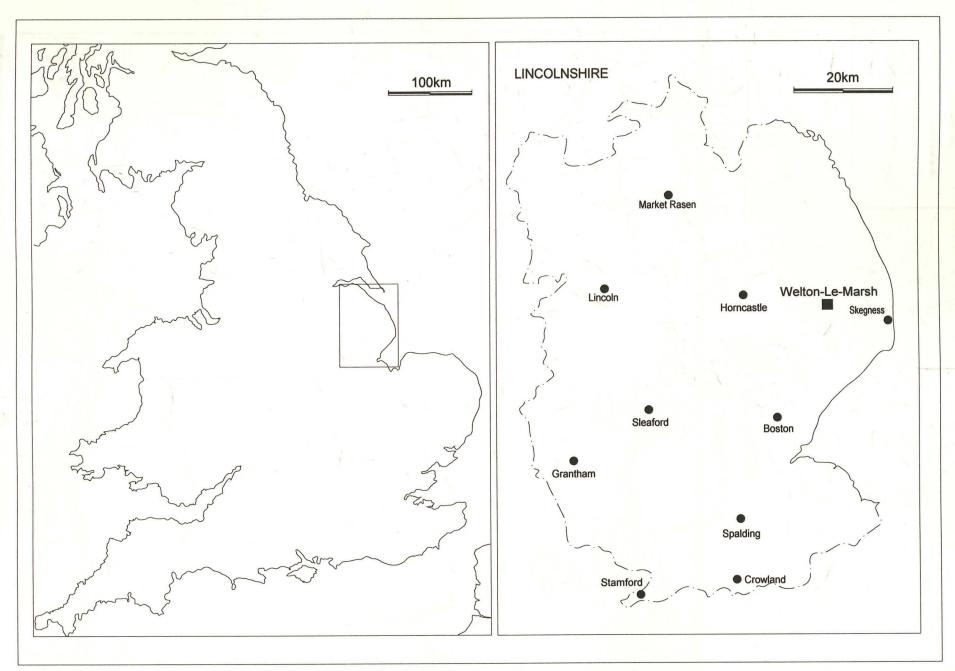


Figure 1: General Location Plan

Figure 2 Site location plan and archaeological setting

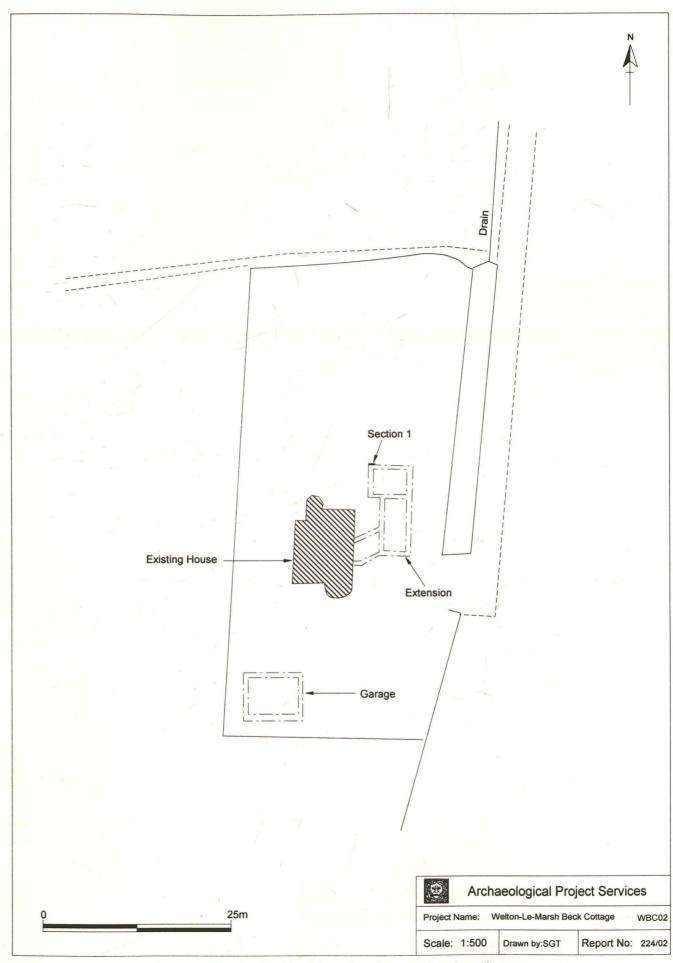


Figure 3 - Site plan showing section location

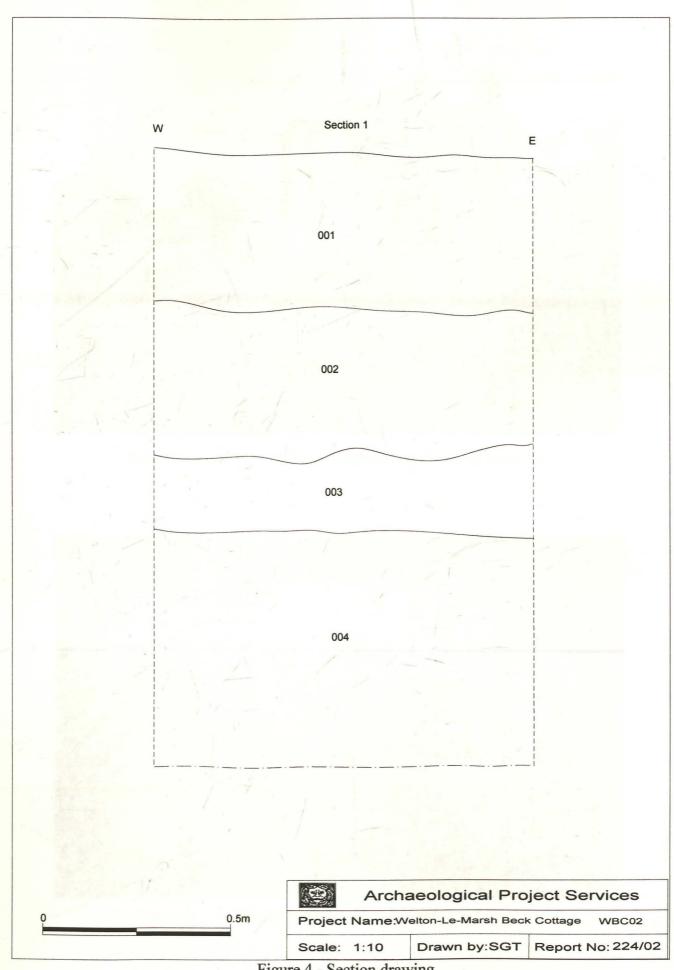


Figure 4 - Section drawing



Plate 1 General View of the development area, looking southwest



Plate 2 Section 1, looking north

LAND ADJACENT TO BECK COTTAGE WELTON LE MARSH LINCOLNSHIRE

SPECIFICATION FOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

PREPARED FOR MR MARSHALL

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

MAY 2002

1 SUMMARY

- 1.1 A watching brief is required during construction of a garage and extension to Beck Cottage, Welton le Marsh, Lincolnshire.
- 1.2 The site lies in an area of archaeological interest and potential, on the eastern edge of the formerly more extensive village. Possible settlement earthworks are preserved in adjoining fields.
- 1.3 The archaeological work will consist of a watching brief during development works on the site.
- 1.4 On completion of the fieldwork a report will be prepared detailing the results of the watching brief. The report will consist of a narrative supported by illustrations and photographs.

2 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 This document comprises a specification for archaeological watching brief during construction of a garage and extension to Beck Cottage, Welton le Marsh, Lincolnshire. The site is located at National Grid Reference TF 4760 6875.
- 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 Welton-le-Marsh is located 10km northwest of Skegness in the East Lindsey district of Lincolnshire. Beck Cottage lies on the east side of the village at National Grid Reference TF 4760 6875.

4 PLANNING BACKGROUND

4.1 A planning application (S/199/1489/01) was submitted to East Lindsey District Council for the construction of a garage and extension. Permission is subject to a condition requiring the undertaking of a watching-brief during groundworks associated with the development.

5 SOILS AND TOPOGRAPHY

5.1 The site lies at c. 15m OD on an east-facing slope. Local soils are permeable fine or coarse loamy soils of the Holderness Association, developed on chalky till (Hodge *et al.* 1984, 214).

6 ARCHAEOLOGICAL OVERVIEW

6.1 Welton is recorded in the Domesday book and the settlement presumably dates from the late Saxon period or earlier. It lies within 1km of the Roman road to Burgh-le-Marsh and burials, possibly Anglo-Saxon, were discovered at Candlesby Hill close to the road. The church of St Martin is in brick on a medieval chalk base. A small Augustinian house was in existence in the 15th century. A moated site lies a little to the northeast of the village. The village was formerly more extensive, as is indicated by surviving earthworks around the village including in the fields to the west, south and east of the development site.

7 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- 7.1 The aims of the watching brief will be:
 - 7.1.1 To record and interpret the archaeological features exposed during the excavation of the foundation trenches and other areas of ground disturbance.
- 7.2 The objectives of the watching brief will be to:
 - 7.2.1 Determine the form and function of the archaeological features encountered;
 - 7.2.2 Determine the spatial arrangement of the archaeological features encountered;
 - 7.2.3 As far as practicable, recover dating evidence from the archaeological features, and
 - 7.2.4 Establish the sequence of the archaeological remains present on the site.

8 SITE OPERATIONS

8.1 General considerations

- 8.1.1 All work will be undertaken following statutory Health and Safety requirements in operation at the time of the watching brief.
- 8.1.2 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.
- 8.1.3 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.

8.2 Methodology

- 8.2.1 The watching brief will be undertaken during the ground works phase of development. Existing access is to be retained. Two small outbuildings are to be removed and strip foundations excavated for the new structures.
- 8.2.2 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.
- 8.2.3 Any finds recovered will be bagged and labelled for later analysis.
 - 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

8.2.4 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

9.1 Stage 1

- 9.1.1 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.
- 9.1.2 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.

9.2 Stage 2

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

9.3 Stage 3

- 9.3.1 On completion of stage 2, a report detailing the findings of the watching brief will be prepared.
- 9.3.2 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.

10 REPORT DEPOSITION

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

11 ARCHIVE

11.1 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.

12 PUBLICATION

A report of the findings of the watching brief will be presented as a condensed article 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

13.1 Curatorial responsibility for the archaeological work undertaken on the site lies with the Lincolnshire County Council Archaeology Section. They will be given seven days notice in writing before the commencement of the project.

14 VARIATIONS AND CONTINGENCIES

- 14.1 Variations to the proposed scheme of works will only be made following written confirmation of acceptance from the archaeological curator.
- 14.2 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

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

15.3 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.

16 SPECIALISTS TO BE USED DURING THE PROJECT

16.1 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, 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, APS in consultation with 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

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

- 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

Hodge, CAH, Burton, RGO, Corbett, WM, Evans, R, and Seale, RS, 1984 Soils and their use in Eastern England, Soil Survey of England and Wales 13

Specification: Version 1, 9 May 2002

Appendix 2
Context Summary

Context No.	Section	Description	Interpretation	
001 1		Friable, dark greyish brown silt, 0.42m thick containing occasional ceramic building material, charcoal and ash fragments and small rounded stones	Topsoil	
002	1	Firm, mid-yellowish brown, clayey silt, 0.4m thick, containing occasional charcoal fragments	Subsoil	
003	1	Firm, light reddish yellow to brownish yellow sandy gravel. 0.2m thick	Natural geological deposit	
004	1	Firm, mid-brown with grey bands, clay, containing moderate chalk fragments >0.63m thick	Natural geological deposit	

Appendix 3

THE FINDS by Hilary Healey and Gary Taylor

Recording of the pottery was undertaken with reference to guidelines prepared by the Medieval Pottery Research Group (Slowikowski *et al.* 2001) and the pottery was quantified using the chronology and coding system of the Lincolnshire ceramic type series. A total of 12 fragments of pottery weighing 288g was recovered from a single context. In addition to the pottery a metal button weighing 4g was found. No faunal remains were recovered.

Provenance

The material was recovered from topsoil (001).

Most of the pottery was probably made in Staffordshire, though the earliest pieces were made in Toynton All Saints, 28km to the west.

Range

The range of material is detailed in the table.

Pottery of 13^{th} - 15^{th} century date is the earliest material recovered, though the bulk of the assemblage is later, dating from the 18^{th} to 19^{th} century.

Context	Fabric Code/Material	Description	No.	Wt (g)	Context Date
001	TPW	Blue and white transfer printed tableware, 1 abraded, 19 th century	3	117	19 th -20 th century
	WHITE	White glazed tableware, 19 th century	2	11	
	WHITE	White glazed tableware, blue edged, 19 th century	1	14	
	STSW	Staffordshire slipware, 18 th century	1	15	
	GRE	Glazed red earthenware, 2 linking pieces abraded, 18 th century	3(2 link)	94	
	TOY	Toynton All Saints ware, 13 th -15 th century	2	37	
	Steel?	Button, 19 th -20 th century	1	4	

Condition

Although a few 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 previous archaeological investigations at Welton that 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

In general, the collection of medieval and post-medieval pottery fragments is of limited local significance and potential. However, both of the medieval pieces are fairly fresh and unworn and perhaps indicate habitation of medieval date in the close proximity.

The absence of any material earlier than about the 13th century is informative and suggests that archaeological deposits dating from prior to this period are absent from the area, or were not disturbed by the development.

References

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

Appendix 4

GLOSSARY

Bronze Age A period characterised by the introduction of bronze into the country for tools, between

2250 and 800 BC.

Carucate A unit of land, originally based on the amount that could be ploughed annually by a

team of eight oxen.

Domesday Survey A survey of property ownership in England compiled on the instruction of William I for

taxation purposes in 1086 AD.

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

Modern The period dating from 1850 to the present.

Old English The language used by the Saxon occupants of Britain in the period c. AD 500-700.

Post-medieval The period following the Middle Ages, dating from approximately AD 1500-1850.

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.

Ridge and Furrow The remains of arable cultivation consisting of raised rounded strips separated by

furrows. It is characteristic of open field agriculture.

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

Appendix 5

THE ARCHIVE

The archive consists of:

- 4 Context records
- 1 Sheet of scale drawings
- 1 Photographic record sheet
- 1 Daily site record sheet
- 1 Section record sheet
- 1 Bag 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:2002:218 Archaeological Project Services Site Code: WBC02

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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