ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF ON LAND AT CHURCH ROAD, HUTTOFT, LINCOLNSHIRE (HCR02)

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ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF ON LAND AT CHURCH ROAD, HUTTOFT, LINCOLNSHIRE (HCR02)

Work Undertaken For Whitegate Homes

N/089/1577/01

June 2002

Report Compiled by Tobin Rayner BSc (Hons), AIFA

National Grid Reference: TF 511 764 City and County Museum Accession No: 2002.145



A.P.S. Report No. 102/02

Conservation Services

0 2 101 2002

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CONTENTS

List of Figures

List of Plates

1.	Sum	mary1
2.	Intro	oduction1
2 2	.1 .2 .3 .4	Definition of a Watching Brief
3.	Aim	s2
4.	Met	hods2
5.	Resi	ults3
5 5 5	.1 .2 .3 .4	The stratigraphic sequence 3 Phase 1: Natural deposits 3 Phase 2: Undated deposits 3 Phase 3: Medieval deposits 3 Phase 4: Modern deposits 3
6.	Disc	eussion4
8.	Ack	nowledgements5
9.	Bibl	liography5
10.	A	bbreviations5
Ap	pendi	ices
1 2 3	C	roject Specification context Summary The Finds by Paul Cope-Faulkner, Hilary Healey, Gary Taylor and Jane Young with tone identification by John Aram
4	G	Ples Archive

List of Figures

Figure 1 General location plan

Figure 2 Site location and archaeological setting

Figure 3 Plan showing roadway location in relation to development site

Figure 4 Site plan and section locations

Figure 5 Sections 1 - 6

List of Plates

Plate 1 General view of site with St Margaret's church in the background, looking southeast

Plate 2 Ditch/dyke (004), looking west

Plate 3 View of pit (007), looking northeast

Plate 4 Section no. 2 showing ditch/dyke terminus or pit (011), looking east

Plate 5 Ditch (015) seen in north facing section (no. 3), looking south

Plate 6 Section no. 5 showing modern ditch (019), looking north

Plate 7 View of ditch (022) within section no. 6, looking north

1. SUMMARY

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken during construction of a road on land at Church Road, Huttoft, Lincolnshire, as the site lies within the core of the medieval village, with the 13th century parish church of St. Margaret immediately to the southeast.

The investigation revealed undated ditches / dykes and pits, a medieval subsoil and modern ditches and post holes which probably represent drainage and land division and implies an agricultural function.

Anglo-Saxon and medieval pottery was retrieved from the modern features and suggests that the site lay peripheral to occupation during those periods.

Finds of 18th century pottery and undated ceramic building material were also recovered from the site.

2. INTRODUCTION

2.1 Definition of a Watching Brief

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

2.2 Planning Background

A planning application (N/089/1577/01) was submitted to East Lindsey District Council for the construction of a roadway at Church Road, Huttoft. Permission was granted subject to a condition requiring the

implementation of an archaeological watching brief during groundworks.

Archaeological Project Services (APS) was commissioned by Whitegate Homes to undertake the archaeological watching brief on the 8th and 11th March 2002. The investigation was carried out in accordance with the requirements of the specification (Appendix 1) produced by APS and approved by the Built Environment Officer, Lincolnshire County Council.

2.3 Topography and Geology

Huttoft is located 8km south of Mablethorpe in the East Lindsey district of Lincolnshire (Fig. 1). The site lies in the centre of the village, immediately to the northwest of St Margaret's Church, on the south side of Church Road at National Grid Reference TF 511 764.

The site is on the west side of a slight rise, upon which the church is situated, and lies at approximately 10m OD (Plate 1). Local soils are the Holderness Association, Burlington Series stagnogleyic argillic brown earths on chalky till, surrounded by marine alluvium (Hodge *et al.* 1984, 214-5).

2.4 Archaeological Setting (Fig. 2)

No evidence of prehistoric or Romano-British activity has been recorded from the Huttoft village.

The first historical records of the village are the entries in the Domesday survey, c.1086. The principle landholders were Earl Hugh and Alfred of Lincoln, who had several followers in the parish. The economy was primarily agricultural with small areas of meadow (Morris 1986). The entries suggest that the settlement was firmly established prior to the Norman Conquest. The name, recorded in the

Domesday Book as 'hotoft', is a hybrid place-name from the Old English 'hoh' meaning a heel or spur of land, and the Old Danish 'toft' meaning a curtilage or a messuage (Cameron 1998). Hybrid place-names occur across much of the county of Lincolnshire and it has been suggested that they are the result of earlier Anglo-Saxon settlements being partially renamed by Danish settlers (Cameron 1998), a process known as Scandinavianization.

An archaeological evaluation (SMR 43299), undertaken on the site, uncovered evidence of Late Saxon settlement. A deposit containing early Saxon pottery was also discovered, together with ditches and pits of 13th century date (LAS 1995).

Saxon features and deposits have also been recorded c 100m to the east (1) and to the northeast (SMR 43300).

The church of St Margaret (SMR 41497), immediately to the east of the development site (Plate 1), is of medieval date with several features remaining extant, including the 13th century west tower, nave and chancel arches. (Pevsner and Harris 1989). A partially restored medieval cross is also located on Church Lane (SMR 41496).

The location of the village today suggests occupation moving northwards over time, from the early core of the village centred on the church.

Evidence of early post-medieval occupation is recorded approximately 700m north of the development area (SMR 43681), whilst place-name evidence suggests the location of a manor house 400m south (SMR 41752).

Shipping connections in Huttoft are suggested during the medieval period. A reference to Thomas of Ferriby of Grimsby and his gang is made, impersonating crown officials around Huttoft during the 14th century, and fraudulently obtaining £200 'ship money', a tax possibly levied for tying up a ship in port (Platts 1985).

3. AIMS

The aim of the watching brief was to determine the form, function and spatial arrangement of any archaeological remains encountered during the groundworks and interpret those remains through the analysis of a completed record.

4. METHODS

The roadway was excavated by mechanical excavator to a depth of up to 1.5m (Fig. 3). The exposed surface and sections of the access road were inspected to identify archaeological deposits. Each deposit recorded during the investigation was allocated a unique reference number (Context Number) with an individual written description. Sections were drawn at a scale of 1:10 and plans at 1:20 and located on an annotated sketch plan. A photographic record was also compiled.

Records of deposits and features identified during the watching brief were examined and a stratigraphic matrix was produced. Phasing was assigned on the nature of deposits and recognisable relationships between them, supplemented by artefact dating. A summary list of all contexts appears as Appendix 2 and finds Appendix 3.

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

5. **RESULTS** (Figs. 4 and 5)

5.1 The stratigraphic sequence

Following post excavation analysis, four phases were identified:

5.1: Phase 1 Natural deposits
5.2: Phase 2 Undated deposits
5.3: Phase 3 Medieval deposits
5.4: Phase 4 Modern deposits

5.2 Phase 1: Natural deposits

The earliest deposit encountered during the watching brief was a firm, mid yellow reddish brown sandy silt (005).

5.3 Phase 2: Undated deposits

Overlying (005) to the north was a firm mixed sandy silt (006) measuring at least 0.67m thick. Cutting this deposit was a NE-SW curvilinear feature (004) (Plate 2). Measuring 2.3m wide x 0.83m deep this ditch or dyke contained two silt fills (002 and 003), ceramic building material was retrieved from (003). To the north of (004), at the entrance to the site, was a 1.75m diameter circular pit or tree throw (007) (Plate 3). A soft, mixed mid grey / yellow reddish brown sandy silt was recorded filling this feature.

Approximately 25m to the south of ditch (004) was a 1.4m+ long x 2.94m wide E-W linear feature (011) (Plate 4). Two silt (008 and 009) and a sand deposit (010) were recorded within this ditch or dyke.

To the southeast of (011), recorded in section only, was a pit or hollow (017) with concave sides and base. Measuring 1.28m wide x 0.47m deep this feature contained a soft, light to mid yellowish brown sandy silt (016).

Approximately 12m to the southeast of pit

or hollow (017) was a 3m wide x 0.9m deep N-S linear feature (022) (Plate 7). This ditch contained a mid greyish brown sandy silt (021) with ceramic building material inclusions.

5.4 Phase 3: Medieval deposits

An area of mid grey sandy silt (023) with occasional chalk / limestone flecks and medieval pottery was recorded at the eastern end of the site. This deposit has been interpreted as subsoil.

5.5 Phase 4: Modern deposits

Recorded to the north of ditch or dyke (011) was a square shaped post hole (013) containing a mid grey sandy silt (012) with wood inclusions. Another, similar post hole was recorded to the south.

To the southwest of (011) was a N-S linear feature (015) (Plate 5). Measuring 2.5m wide x 0.7m deep, this ditch was filled with a dark brown silt (001) that has been interpreted as back-filled topsoil.

Located centrally along the southern roadway, to the east of (022), was a 1m wide N-S curvilinear feature (019) with near vertical sides (Plate 6). Contained within this ditch was a 1.1m+ deep dark greyish brown silt (018) from which a single sherd of redeposited 13th – 15th century pottery was retrieved. Truncating (019), to the southwest, was the terminal end of a NW-SE linear feature (024) that measured at least 8m long x 1.75m wide and was filled by a mottled mid brown / reddish brown silt with coal, charcoal and burnt stone inclusions. Sherds of redeposited 5th – 7th and 13th – 15th century pottery were recovered from this feature.

Overlying all the features was a 0.30m thick dark brown silt with brick and occasional pebbles and containing 18th

century salt-glazed stoneware.

6. DISCUSSION

The earliest deposits encountered (Phase 1) were naturally formed brown earths typical of the local soils.

Numerous undated features (Phase 2) were recorded, several of these appear to be linear in nature and are probably associated with a drainage or boundary function. Handmade brick / fired clay was retrieved from two of these features and may suggest a medieval or later date. However, dating of such material is difficult and therefore these ditches / dykes must remain undated. Due to the lack of finds recovered from the non-linear features an agricultural purpose is assumed.

The medieval (Phase 3) dated subsoil, recorded to the east of the site, was probably formed due to agricultural activity on the site and through colluvial action.

Modern features (Phase 4) appear to be associated with land division in the form of ditches and fencing. Interestingly several of these features contained sherds of Anglo-Saxon and medieval cooking pots and jugs, possibly implying that when they were constructed earlier features were truncated. The large size of the fragments suggests probable occupation, or discard from adjacent habitation, during the 5th – 7th and 13th – 15th centuries at the investigation site.

The small medieval pottery assemblage retrieved from the site was manufactured at Toynton All Saints 17km to the southwest and Potterhanworth, 46km to the southwest and, although limited, suggests a trade network throughout

Lincolnshire during the period.

The earliest material recovered from the site was dated to the 5th century and suggests that activity prior to this date was absent from the site or not disturbed during the development. Furthermore, material dated between the 8th and 12th and 16th to 17th centuries was not retrieved and may imply occupation, adjacent to the site, decreased during those periods.

7. CONCLUSIONS

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken at land at Church Road, Huttoft, Lincolnshire, as the site lies within the medieval core of the village and previous investigations have revealed Angle-Saxon and medieval features and deposits.

The investigation revealed several undated ditches / dykes and pits that appear to be associated with drainage and field boundaries and suggests an agricultural setting. Medieval pottery was retrieved from a subsoil possibly implying that the undated features are of a similar date. Furthermore, the recovery of Anglo-Saxon and medieval pottery from modern features suggests that they probably disturbed earlier dated features, although were revealed during none investigations.

The artefact assemblage probably suggests that the site was peripheral to occupation during the $5^{th} - 7^{th}$ and $13^{th} - 15^{th}$ centuries. Additionally, the dearth of finds in the intervening periods probably implies a lack of activity on and near the site during those periods.

8. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeological Project Services wish to acknowledge the assistance of Mr P. Gunson of Whitegate Homes who commissioned the work. Background information was kindly supplied from the parish files and library maintained by Heritage Lincolnshire.

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10. ABBREVIATIONS

APS Archaeological Project Services

IFA Institute of Field Archaeologists

SMR Sites and Monuments Record



Figure 1: General location plan

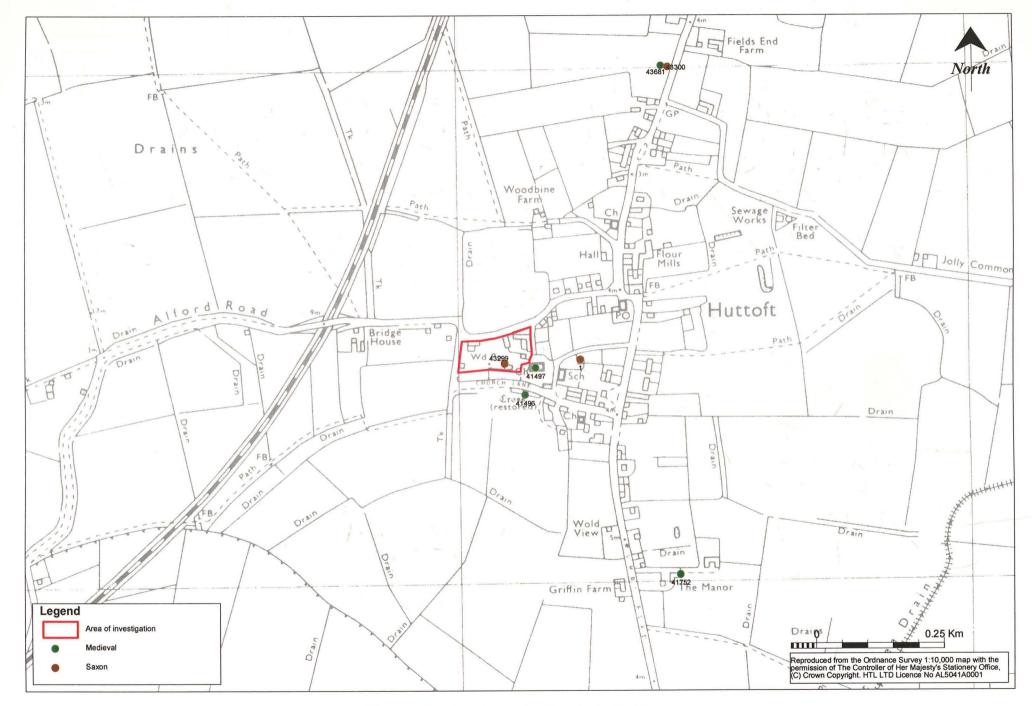


Figure 2: Site location and archaeological setting

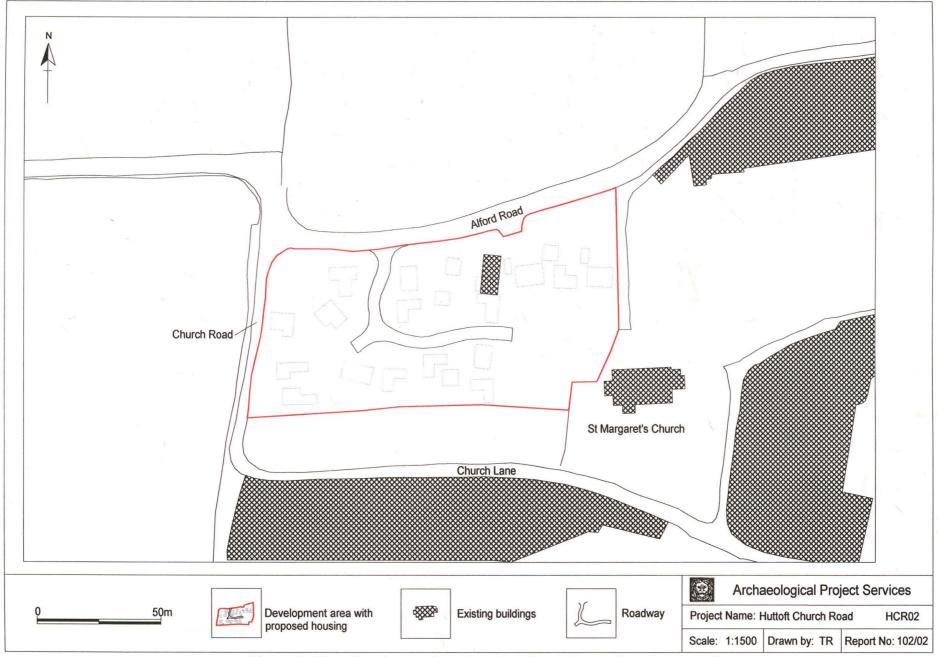


Figure 3: Plan showing roadway location in relation to development site

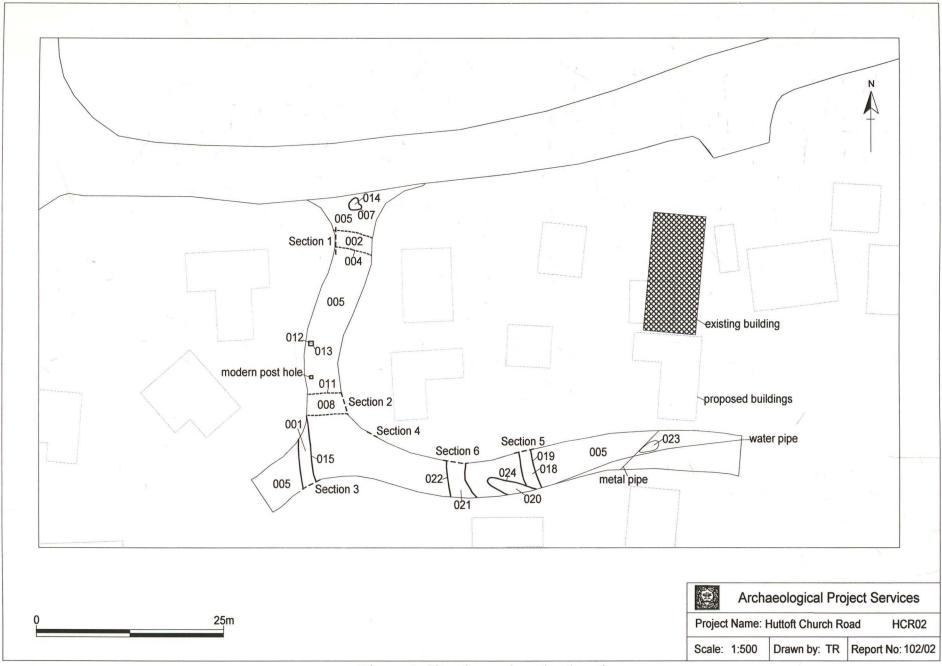


Figure 4: Site plan and section locations

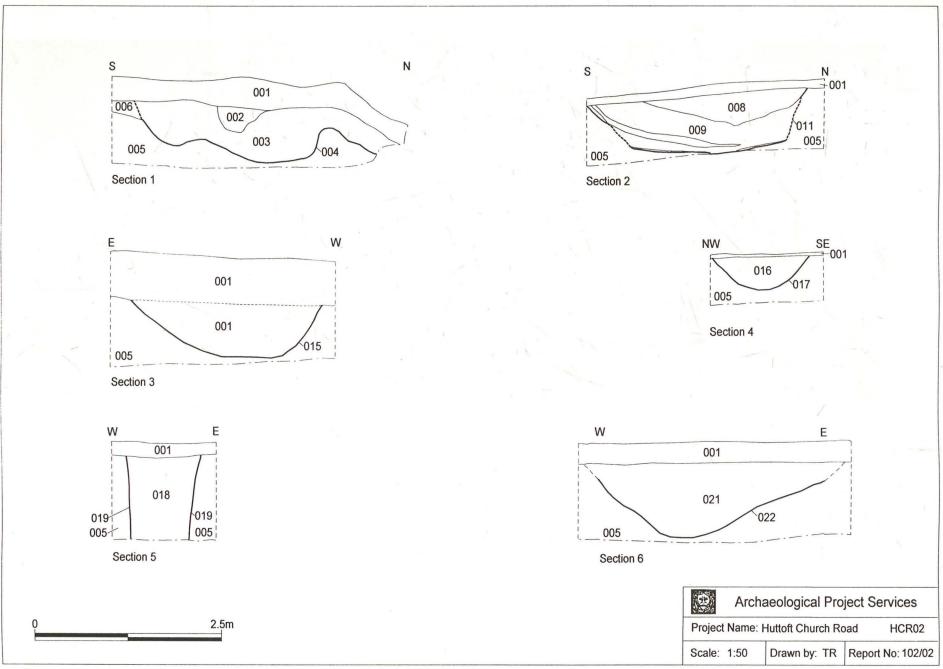


Figure 5: Sections 1 - 6



Plate 1: General view of site with St Margaret's church in the background, looking southeast



Plate 2: Ditch/dyke (004), looking west



Plate 3: View of pit (007), looking northeast



Plate 4: Section no. 2 showing ditch/dyke terminus or pit (011), looking east



Plate 5: Ditch (015) seen in north facing section (no. 3), looking south



Plate 6: Section no. 5 showing modern ditch (019), looking north



Plate 7: View of ditch (022) within section no. 6, looking north

SPECIFICATION FOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF LAND AT CHURCH ROAD, HUTTOFT, LINCOLNSHIRE

1 SUMMARY

- 1.1 A watching brief is required during roadway groundworks at Church Road, Huttoft
- 1.2 The area is archaeologically sensitive, previous investigations recorded ditches and pits dating to the 13th century and Saxon pottery. Furthermore, the site is located in the core of the medieval village, near to the 13th century parish church.
- 1.3 The watching brief will be undertaken during groundworks associated with the roadway. The archaeological features exposed will be recorded in writing, graphically and photographically.
- 1.4 On completion of the fieldwork a report will be prepared detailing the results of the investigation. The report will consist of a narrative supported by illustrations and photographs.

2 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 This document comprises a specification for an archaeological watching brief during groundworks connected to the construction of a roadway at Church Road, Huttoft.
- 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 Huttoft is located 8km south of Mablethorpe in the East Lindsey district of Lincolnshire. The works are to take place in the village centre, 100m northwest of the parish church at National Grid Reference TF 511 764.

4 PLANNING BACKGROUND

4.1 A planning application (N/089/1577/01) was submitted to East Lindsey District Council for the construction of a roadway at Church Road, Huttoft. Permission is subject to a condition requiring the implementation of an archaeological watching brief during groundworks.

5 SOILS AND TOPOGRAPHY

5.1 The site is the east side of a slight rise, upon which the church is situated, and lies at approximately 10m OD. Local soils are the Holderness Association, Burlington Series stagnogleyic argillic brown earths on chalky till, surrounded by marine alluvium (Hodge *et al.* 1984 214-5).

6 ARCHAEOLOGICAL OVERVIEW

6.1 Huttoft is recorded in the Domesday Book of 1086, a reference that indicates a Saxon origin for the settlement. The site is in the medieval core of the village and the 13th century parish church of St. Margaret lies approximately 100m to the southeast. Previous investigations at the

development area revealed ditches and pits dating to the 13th century and Saxon pottery.

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, and includes the archaeological monitoring of all phases of soil movement.
- 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.
- 8.2.4 Throughout the watching brief a photographic record will be compiled. The photographic record will consist of:
 - 8.2.4.1 the site during work to show specific stages, and the layout of the archaeology within the trench.
 - 8.2.4.2 groups of features where their relationship is important
- 8.2.5 Should human remains be located the appropriate Home Office licence will be obtained before their removal. In addition, the Local Environmental Health Department and the

police will be informed.

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

10 REPORT DEPOSITION

10.1 Copies of the report will be sent to the client; 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

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

13 CURATORIAL RESPONSIBILITY

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

14 VARIATIONS

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

15 PROGRAMME OF WORKS AND STAFFING LEVELS

- 15.1 The watching brief will be integrated with the programme of construction and is dependent on the developers' work programme. It is therefore not possible to specify the person-hours for the archaeological site work.
- 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> <u>Body to be undertaking the work</u>

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 - 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

- 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.
- 18.3 In the case of non-satisfactory settlement of account then copyright will remain fully and exclusively with Archaeological Project Services. In these circumstances it will be an infringement under the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988 for the client to pass any report, partial report, or copy of same, to any third party. Reports submitted in good faith by Archaeological Project Services to any Planning Authority or archaeological curator will be removed from said planning Authority and/or archaeological curator. The Planning Authority and/or archaeological curator will be notified by Archaeological Project Services that the use of any such information previously supplied constitutes an infringement under the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988 and may result in legal action.
- 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**

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Context Summary

Cxt	Type	Description	Tk (m)	Interpretation	Fill of
001	Deposit	Friable, dark brown silt with moderate sand and brick and occasional small to medium pebbles	0.30	Topsoil	015
002	Deposit	Friable, mid to dark brown silt with moderate sand	0.35	Ditch / dyke fill	004
003	Deposit	Firm, mottled light to mid yellowish brown / greyish brown silt with occasional small stones and charcoal		Ditch / dyke fill	004
004	Cut	NE-SW curvilinear shaped feature with stepped sides and rounded base, 2.3m wide	0.83	Ditch / dyke	
005	Deposit	Firm, mid yellow reddish brown sandy silt with occasional clay lenses	/	Natural	
006	Deposit	Firm, mixed mid brown / yellowish brown / reddish brown sandy silt with occasional brick and tile fragments and small stones	0.67+	Subsoil	
007	Cut	Circular shaped feature seen in plan only, 1.75m diameter		Pit / tree throw	
008	Deposit	Soft light yellowish brown silt	0.50	Ditch / dyke fill	011
009	Deposit	Soft, mid yellow reddish brown sandy silt with occasional clay lenses	0.61	Ditch / dyke fill	011
010	Deposit	Soft, dark greyish black sand	0.01	Ditch / dyke fill	011
011	Cut	E-W linear shaped feature with concave sides and base, 1.4m+ long x 2.94m wide	0.88	Ditch / dyke	
012	Deposit	Soft, mid grey sandy silt with wood inclusions		Modern post hole fill	013
013	Cut	Square shaped feature, 0.4m long x 0.4m wide		Modern post hole	
014	Deposit	Soft, mixed mid grey / yellow reddish brown sandy silt		Pit / tree throw fill	007
015	Cut	N-S linear shaped feature with concave sides and rounded base, 2.5m wide	0.7	Ditch	
016	Deposit	Soft, light to mid yellowish brown sandy silt	0.47	Pit / hollow fill	017
017	Cut	Feature with concave sides and base, 1.28m wide, seen in section only	0.47	Pit / hollow	
018	Deposit	Soft, dark brownish grey silt with occasional pebbles and charcoal inclusions	1.1+	Modern ditch fill	019
019	Cut	N-S curvilinear shaped feature with vertical sides, 1m wide	1.1+	Modern ditch	
020	Deposit	Soft, mottled mid brown / reddish brown silt with moderate coal, charcoal and occasional burnt stones		Ditch / gully fill	024
021	Deposit	Soft, mid greyish brown sandy silt with occasional charcoal, chalk, limestone and ceramic building material	0.9	Ditch fill	022
022	Cut	N-S linear shaped feature with convex sides and rounded base, 3m wide	0.9	Ditch	
023	Deposit	Soft, mid grey sandy silt with occasional chalk / limestone flecks		Subsoil	
024	Cut	NW-SE linear shaped feature, 8m+ long x 1.75m wide		Ditch / gully	

The Finds

by Paul Cope-Faulkner, Hilary Healey, Gary Taylor and Jane Young with stone identification by John Aram

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 18 fragments of pottery weighing 649g and representing a probable maximum of 7 vessels was recovered from 4 separate contexts. In addition to the pottery, a small quantity of other items, including fired clay/brick, stone and animal bone, comprising 6 objects weighing a total of 485g, was also retrieved.

Provenance

The material was recovered from topsoil (001), subsoil (023) and ditch fills (003, 018 and 020).

Most of the pottery was made in moderate proximity to Huttoft, at Toynton All Saints 17km to the southwest, and Potterhanworth, 46km to the southwest.

Range

The range of material is detailed in the tables.

Table 1: Pottery

Context	Fabric Code	Description	No.	Wt (g)	Context Date
001	BS	Brown salt-glazed stoneware, Nottingham?	1	5	18 th century
018	TOY	Toynton All Saints ware, jug	1	25	13 th -15 th century
020	TOY	Toynton All Saints ware, jugs, 2 separate vessels, 1 vessel (of 7 linked pieces) sooted internally, 13 th -15 th century	8 (7 link)	366	13 th -15 th century
	ERRA	Anglo-Saxon handmade large storage vessel, probably 2 separate vessels, 5 th -8 th century	5 (4 link)	117	
023	POTT	Potterhanworth ware, cooking pot, no links but probably same vessel	3	136	13 th -14 th century

Much of the pottery is in large pieces, occasionally with recent fractures. The large fragments of medieval material, Potterhanworth ware from (023) and Toynton All Saints ware from (020), suggest probable occupation, or refuse discard from adjacent habitation, during the 13th-15th centuries at the investigation site.

The larger piece of Anglo-Saxon pottery (comprising 4 pieces with recent breaks) is heavily pitted internally. This pitting is probably due to inclusions being dissolved or otherwise displaced from the inner surface of the vessel. As the pitting is solely internal it implies that the contents of the vessel were acidic and responsible for dissolving the material, rather than ground conditions. However, there are no obvious calcareous inclusions elsewhere and it may be that the cement around the inclusions, perhaps sandstone, was dissolved by the acidic liquid contents and the grains fell out. Other than this pitting the pieces are fresh and unworn and thus are unlikely to have been much disturbed from their original point of deposition. The material is tempered with glacial erratic stone, probably derived from local till.

Table 2: Other Objects

Context	Material	Description	No.	Wt (g)	Comments/ Context Date
001	Carbon and plastic	Battery cell	1	25	20 th century
003	Ceramic Building Material	Brick/fired clay	2	8 -	
	Bone	Unidentified	1	3	-
020	Stone	Natural stone, diorite/ granodiorite,	1	436	Glacial erractic
021	Ceramic Building Material	Handmade brick/fired clay	1	13	

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 previous archaeological investigations at Huttoft, including in the immediate proximity of the current site. Early Saxon pottery was recovered in these nearby investigations, together with evidence of Late Saxon settlement (Lindsey Archaeological Services 1995; Archaeological Project Services 2001) Details of archaeological sites and discoveries in the area are maintained in the Lincolnshire County Council Sites and Monuments Record.

Potential

The moderate collection of Anglo-Saxon and medieval pottery fragments is of moderate-high local significance. Most of the medieval pieces are quite large and do not exhibit marked abrasion. As such, they are likely to reflect habitation of medieval date at the site or in the immediate proximity. Similarly, the Early Saxon material, although redeposited and associated with later medieval artefacts, also occurs as large, unworn pieces and these, too reflect, occupation of 5th- 8th century date on the site or in the close vicinity.

The absence of any material earlier than the 5^{th} century is informative and suggests that archaeological deposits dating from this period and before are absent from the area, or were not disturbed by the development. Similarly, the dearth of artefacts later than the 15^{th} century would tend to suggest that the site was abandoned at that time.

References

Archaeological Project Services, 2001 Archaeological Watching Brief During Development at Huttoft Primary School, Church Lane, Huttoft, Lincolnshire (HTP00), unpublished Archaeological Project Services report no. 194/00

Lindsey Archaeological Services, 1995 Excavation Report: Alford Road, Huttoft

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

Glossary

Context

An archaeological context represents a distinct archaeological event or process. For example, the action of digging a pit creates a context (the cut), as does the process of its subsequent backfill (the fill). Each context encountered during an archaeological investigation is allocated a unique number by the archaeologist and a record sheet detailing the description and interpretations of the context (the context sheet) is created and placed in the site archive. Context numbers are identified within the report text by brackets, *e.g.* (004).

Cut

A cut refers to the physical action of digging a posthole, pit, ditch, foundation trench, *etc*. Once the fills of these features are removed during an archaeological investigation the original cut is therefore exposed and subsequently recorded.

Dumped deposits

These are deposits, often laid down intentionally, that raise a land surface. They may be the result of casual waste disposal or may be deliberate attempts to raise the ground surface.

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).

Iron Age

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

Layer

A layer is a term to describe an accumulation of soil or other material that is not contained within a cut.

Medieval

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

Messuage

Dwelling house and its appurtenances, i.e. outbuildings, garden and in some instances land.

Natural

Undisturbed deposit(s) of soil or rock which have accumulated without the influence of human activity.

Post-medieval

The period following the Middle Ages, dating from approximately AD 1500-1800.

Prehistoric

The period of human history prior to the introduction of writing. In Britain the prehistoric period lasts from the first evidence of human occupation about 500,000 BC, until the Roman invasion in the middle of the 1st century AD.

Romano-British

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

Saxon

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

The Archive

The archive consists of:

24 Context records

7 Drawing sheets

2 Daily record sheets

2 Context record sheets

1 Section record sheets

1 Plan record sheet

1 Photographic record sheet

1 Stratigraphic matrix

1 Box 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: 2002.145

Archaeological Project Services Site Code: HCR02

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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