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ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF
AT ELM TREE COTTAGE
MARSH LANE,
BURGH-LE-MARSH,
LINCOLNSHIRE
(BMML 03)



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PRN-45351 - Medieval ditch (MON) PRN-45352 - Medieval pot sherd (F)

> ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF AT ELM TREE COTTAGE MARSH LANE, BURGH-LE-MARSH, LINCOLNSHIRE (BMML 03)

> > Work Undertaken For Mr R. Wood

> > > April 2003

Report Compiled by Paul Cope-Faulkner BA (Hons) AIFA

National Grid Reference: TF 5045 6387 TF 50504 63886

Planning Reference: S/023/02021/01

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ARCHAEOLOGICAL PROJECT SERVICES



APS Report No. 76/03

Conservation Services

1 6 MAY 2003

Highways & Planning Directorate

Quality Control
Elm Tree Cottage,
Burgh-Le-Marsh
BMML 03

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1. SUMMARY

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken during the construction of an extension to existing buildings at Elm Tree Cottage, Marsh Lane, Burgh-le-Marsh, Lincolnshire. The watching brief monitored the excavation of the foundation trenches associated with the development.

The watching brief was undertaken as the site was located in an area of archaeological activity dating from the Mesolithic (8,500-4,200 BC) to the postmedieval period (AD 1540-1800). In particular, Burgh-le-Marsh is believed to be the site of a substantial Romano-British settlement and possibly an important Saxon 'burh' from which the town gets its name.

The investigations revealed an extensive subsoil deposit of medieval date cut through by a ditch of the same period. Finds recovered from this investigation comprise medieval to modern pottery, clay pipe, fired clay and animal bone.

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 was commissioned by Mr R. Wood to undertake an archaeological watching brief during groundworks associated with an extension to existing buildings at Elm Tree

Cottage, Marsh Lane, Burgh-le-Marsh, Lincolnshire. Approval for the development was sought through the submission of planning application S/023/02021/01. The watching brief was carried out 18th March 2003, in accordance with a specification prepared by Archaeological Project Services (Appendix 1) and approved by the Built Environment Officer, Lincolnshire County Council.

2.3 Topography and Geology

Burgh-le-Marsh is located approximately 5km west of Skegness in the administrative district of East Lindsey, Lincolnshire (Fig. 1).

The site is situated 1.2km southeast of Burgh-le-Marsh centre as defined by the parish church of SS. Peter and Paul. Located to the south and east of Marsh Lane the site is centred on National Grid Reference TF 5045 6387. The site lies at a height of c. 2.5m OD on generally level ground.

Local soils are of the Wallasea 2 Association, typically pelo-alluvial gley soils (Hodge *et al.* 1984, 338). These soils overlie a drift geology of alluvium derived from salt marsh and tidal creek deposits which in turn overlie a solid geology of Cretaceous Claxby Ironstone, Tealby Formation and Roach Formation rocks (BGS 1996).

2.4 Archaeological Setting

Burgh-le-Marsh is located in an area of known archaeological remains dating from the Mesolithic period to the present day. Mesolithic flint tools have been found northwest of the site.

At Burgh-le-Marsh Primary School, flints dating from the Neolithic through to the Late Bronze Age and an Early Bronze Age pot sherd were recovered as residual finds from a later ditch (Tann 1999). In addition,

a Bronze Age stone axe was discovered to the south of The Mount in 1937.

It has been conjectured that Burgh-le-Marsh is situated close to or on a major prehistoric route across the Wolds. This route, known as Bluestone Heath Road, connected Ludford to Burgh-le-Marsh (May 1976, 9).

During the Romano-British period Burghle-Marsh was the probable site of a settlement at the terminus of a Roman Road that ran from Lincoln, through Horncastle and subsequently to Burgh (Margary 1973, 238). The road has also been thought to continue southeast towards the coast of the Wash. Frequent finds of pottery and coins dating to the Romano-British period have been made from the vicinity of the church and two burials are known from Cock Hill. Along Hall Lane. archaeological investigations have identified Romano-British ditches and artefacts and suggest a probable high status building in the vicinity (Malone 2001, 7).

Anglo-Saxon pottery has been found in Burgh-le-Marsh, again concentrated around West End and Cock Hill, suggesting continuity of settlement. In addition, two *sceatta* coins of the 8th century from the lower Rhineland have been found (Blackburn 1993, 87).

Cock Hill, a large mound beside High Street, was excavated in 1933, when human remains associated with an Anglo-Saxon bronze buckle were uncovered (Leahy 1993, 39). Subsequent work on Cock Hill in the 1970s cast doubt on this interpretation and it is now thought that the mound was constructed for a windmill or for cock-fighting (Everson 1993, 94), although this is difficult to reconcile with the earlier finds.

By the Late Saxon period, Burgh is likely to have been an important estate centre. The name is derived from the Old English 'burh' and usually refers to some form of fortification (Cameron 1998, 23). Its importance is reflected in the Domesday Survey of c. 1086 where Burgh-le-Marsh is recorded as the centre of an estate with lands in Sutton, Addlethorpe, Wainfleet and Skegness (Foster and Longley 1976). At the time of the Domesday Survey, the land was held by Count Alan, Gilbert de Gand, Eudo and Robert the Steward and contained a church and 585 acres of meadow (ibid.).

Extant remains of the medieval period are restricted to the parish church of SS. Peter and Paul which dates from c. 1500 (DoE 1988, 6), which presumably replaced the church referred to in the Domesday Survey. A chapel dedicated to St. Mary was also located in Burgh-le-Marsh (Owen 1975, 17). Traces of the medieval field system, in the form of ridge and furrow earthworks, have been observed in the vicinity on aerial photographs.

3. AIMS

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

4. METHODS

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

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

5. RESULTS

Following post-excavation analysis two phases were identified;

Phase 1 Medieval deposits Phase 2 Recent deposits

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

Phase 1 Medieval deposits

Located at the base of the foundation trenches was a layer of yellowish brown silty clay (002) that measured over 0.5m deep. This was identified as a subsoil and contained a single sherd of 12th – mid 14th century pottery.

Cut into the subsoil was an east-west aligned ditch (004). This was over 4.4m long and was 1.3m wide and 0.48m deep. A single fill of yellowish brown silty clay (003) was recorded from which pottery of $13^{th} - 14^{th}$ century date and fired clay were retrieved.

Phase 2 Recent deposits

Sealing all archaeological layers was a 0.28m thick topsoil of brown clayey silt (001). Pottery and clay pipe, dating from the 16th to 20th century, were retrieved from this topsoil.

6. DISCUSSION

Medieval deposits (Phase 1) comprise a ditch and developed subsoil. The origins of the subsoil are unclear but it may have formed through agricultural activity during the medieval period. The ditch represents either land division or drainage. Recent deposits (Phase 2) comprise topsoil only.

Medieval pottery and brick were the earliest artefacts recovered during the investigation. The limited quantity of medieval material, which perhaps entered the area in manuring scatter, further emphasises the probable agricultural use of the area at this date. Sherds of earlier post-medieval pottery were recovered from the topsoil, which also contained examples of $18^{th} - 20^{th}$ century date that are probably associated with Elm Tree Cottage. The post-medieval material perhaps indicates the start of habitation in the area at that time.

7. CONCLUSION

Archaeological investigations were undertaken at Marsh Lane, Burgh-le-Marsh as the site lay within an area of archaeological activity dating from the prehistoric period onwards.

Medieval remains, an extensive medieval subsoil and a ditch were revealed and suggest the land had an agricultural function in that period. These were then sealed by topsoil.

Finds recovered from the investigation include examples of medieval pottery and

brick. Sherds of $16^{th} - 17^{th}$ century pottery suggest that after a slight hiatus in activity at the site, occupation commenced in the area at that date. Considerably more later pottery was also retrieved as well as clay pipe and animal bone.

8. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeological Project Services would like to acknowledge the assistance of Mr R. Wood who commissioned the fieldwork and post-excavation analysis. The work was coordinated by Gary Taylor who edited this report along with Tom Lane. Access to the County Sites and Monuments Record was kindly supplied by Mark Bennet of the Archaeology Section, Lincolnshire County Council. David Start permitted access to the library and parish files maintained by Heritage Lincolnshire.

9. PERSONNEL

Project Coordinator: Gary Taylor Site Supervisor: Fiona Walker Finds processing: Denise Buckley Photographic reproduction: Sue Unsworth Illustration: Paul Cope-Faulkner Post-excavation analysis: Paul Cope-Faulkner

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11. ABBREVIATIONS

- APS Archaeological Project Services
- BGS British Geological Survey
- DoE Department of the Environment
- IFA Institute of Field Archaeologists
- LAS Lindsey Archaeological Services



Figure 1 - General location plan

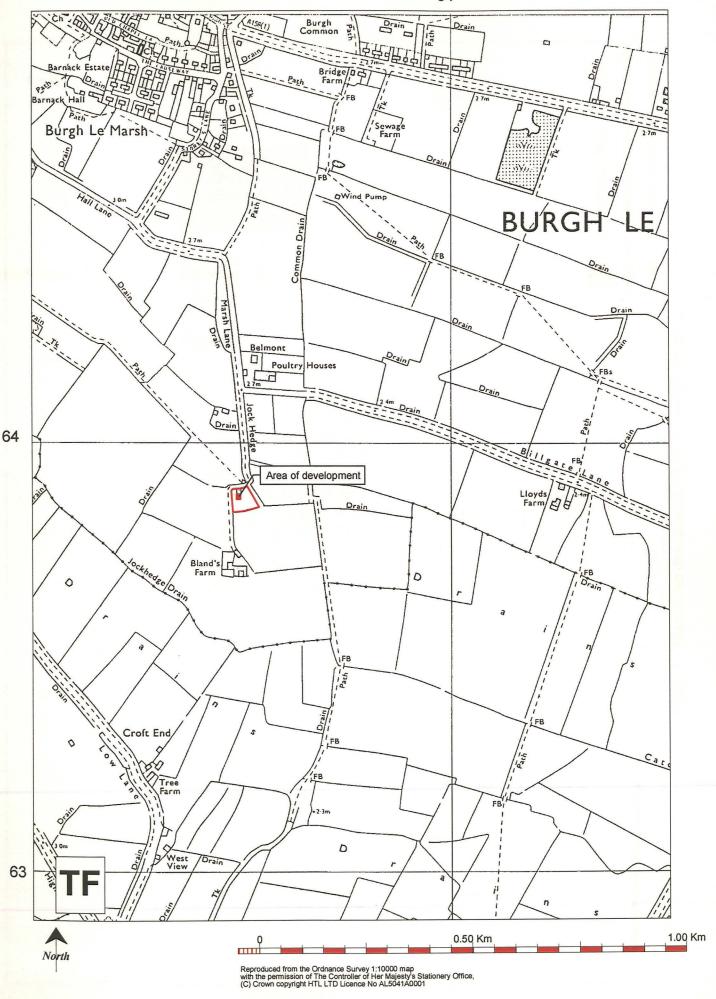


Figure 2 - Site location plan

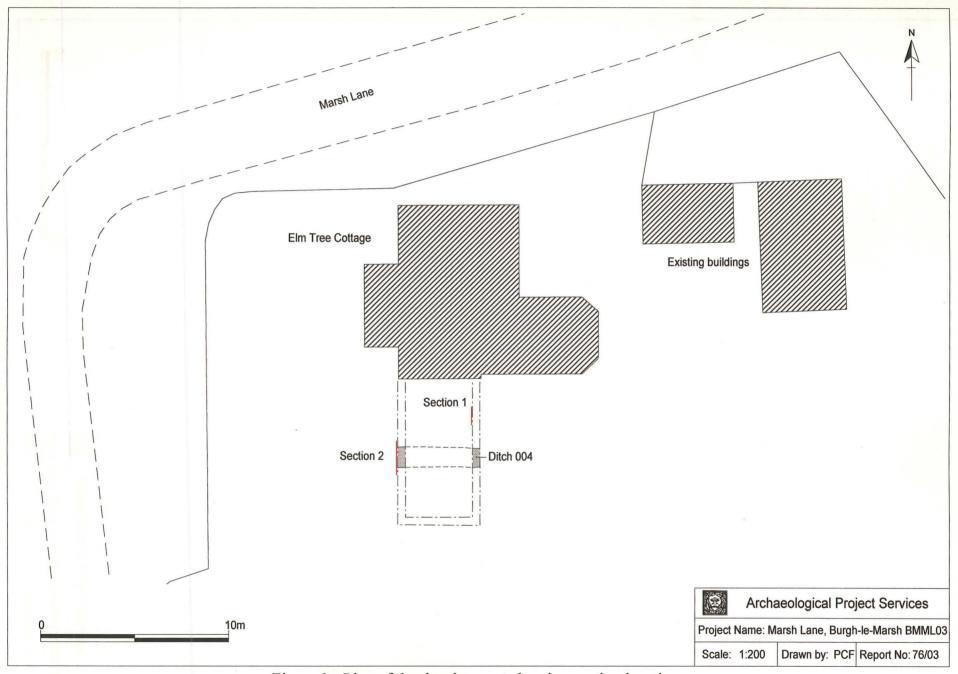


Figure 3 - Plan of the development showing section locations

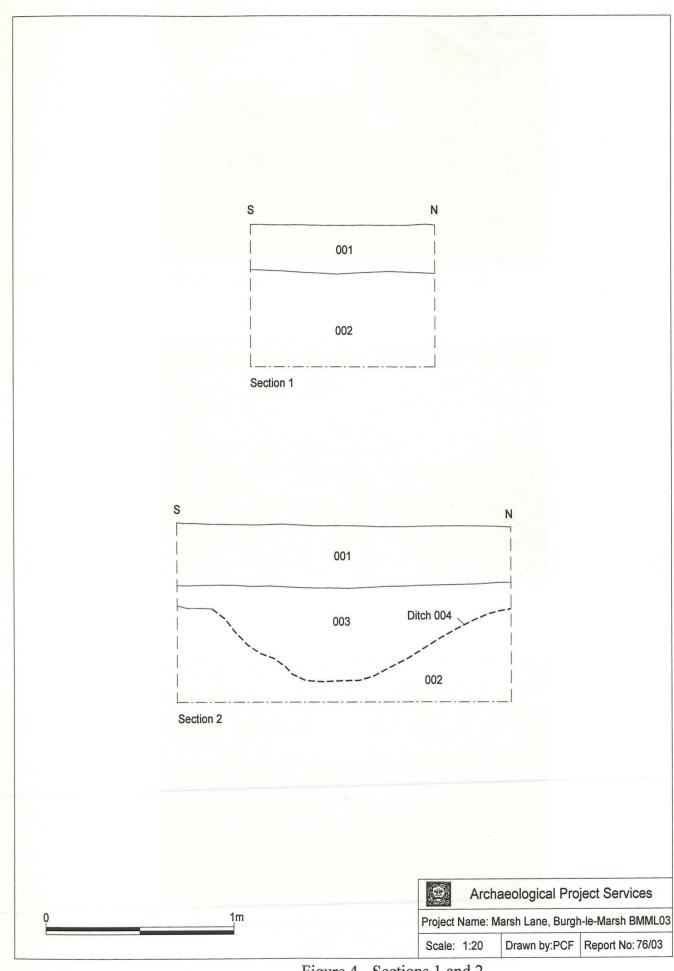


Figure 4 - Sections 1 and 2



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



Plate 2 - Section 1, looking west



Plate 3 - Section 2 showing ditch (004), looking west (cut line emphasised)

LAND AT ELM TREE COTTAGE, MARSH LANE, BURGH-LE-MARSH, LINCOLNSHIRE - SPECIFICATION FOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

1 SUMMARY

- 1.1 An archaeological watching brief is required during groundworks associated with the construction of an extension to a house on Marsh Lane, Burgh-le-Marsh, Lincolnshire.
- 1.2 The area of the development is archaeologically sensitive, located in an area where prehistoric, Romano British, Anglo-Saxon and post-medieval remains have previously been identified. Roman and Anglos-Saxon artefacts have been recovered to the north and post-medieval artefacts and a house site have been found to the northwest.
- 1.3 The watching brief will be undertaken during groundworks associated with the development. 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 with construction of an extension to a house on land at Marsh Lane, Burgh-le-Marsh, Lincolnshire.
- 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 Burgh-le-Marsh is located 5km west of Skegness in the East Lindsey district of Lincolnshire. The proposed development site lies about 1km southeast of the town, off Marsh Lane at National Grid Reference TF 5045 6387. It is a 7.5m x 4m rectangular area on the south side of the existing house.

4 PLANNING BACKGROUND

4.1 Planning permission (S/023/02021/01) has been granted for the erection of a extension to an existing house, subject to a condition requiring the implementation of an archaeological watching brief during groundworks associated with the development.

5 SOILS AND TOPOGRAPHY

5.1 The site lies at c. 2.5m OD on fairly flat land. The site is at the junction of, to the west, fine-coarse loamy soils of the Holderness Association developed on chalky till and glaciofluvial drift, and Wallasea 2 Association pelo-alluvial gleys developed on reclaimed marine alluvium (Hodge et al. 1984, 214; 338).

6 HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

- Burgh le Marsh is located in an area of known archaeological remains dating from the Mesolithic period to the present day. Prehistoric discoveries of Mesolithic, Neolithic and Bronze Age date have been made in and around the village and it is conjectured that Burgh-le-Marsh is situated on or close to a major prehistoric route across the Wolds.
- 6.2 During the Romano-British period Burgh-le-Marsh was probably the site of a settlement, located at the eastern, coastal end of a Roman road running from Lincoln and Horncastle. Frequent finds of Romano-British pottery and coins have been made to the north of the development site. Anglo-Saxon coins and pottery have also been found to the north of the site. Post-medieval artefacts and a house site have been found to the northwest of the development area.
- 6.3 The burgh element of the place name is derived from Old English and probably refers to some form of fortification (Cameron 1998). By the time of the Domesday Survey of 1086 Burgh-le-Marsh was of some importance, being at the centre of an estate with lands in Suton, Addlethorpe, Wainfleet and Skegness (Foster and Longley 1976).

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 groundworks associated with the development 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:
 - 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
- 8.2.5 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 fieldwork 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 <u>Stage 2</u>

- 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 trenches and 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; East Lindsey District Council Planning Department; and to the Lincolnshire 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 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 Archaeology Section. They will be given 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.
- 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

- 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 Conservation Laboratory, City and County Museum,

Lincoln

Pottery Analysis Prehistoric - Trent & Peak Archaeological Unit

Roman - B Precious, Independent Specialist

Anglo-Saxon-later - J Young, Independent Specialist

Non-pottery Artefacts J Cowgill, Independent Specialist

Animal Bones Environmental Archaeology Consultancy

Environmental Analysis V Fryer, Independent Specialist

Human Remains Analysis R Gowland, Independent Specialist

17 INSURANCES

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

18 COPYRIGHT

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

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

19 BIBLIOGRAPHY

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

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

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, 24th January 2003

CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

No.	Description	Interpretation
001	Friable mid brown clayey silt, 0.28m thick	Topsoil
002	Firm mid yellowish brown silty clay, >0.51m thick	Natural deposit
003	Firm mid yellowish brown silty clay	Fill of (004)
004	Linear feature, aligned east-west, 1.3m wide by 0.48m deep, unclear sides and flattish base	Ditch

THE FINDS

by Paul Cope-Faulkner, Hilary Healey, Tom Lane 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 10 fragments of pottery weighing 43g was recovered from 3 separate contexts. In addition to the pottery, a small quantity of other artefacts, brick/tile and clay pipe, comprising 12 items weighing a total of 119g, was retrieved. Faunal remains were also recovered.

The excavated animal bone assemblage comprises a single stratified fragment weighing 20g. The animal bone was identified by reference to published catalogues. No attempt is made to sex or age animals represented within the assemblage, although where this is readily apparent is noted in the comments column.

Provenance

The material was recovered from topsoil (001), subsoil (002) and the fill of a ditch (003).

All of the later pottery types were probably made in Staffordshire. However, the earlier ceramics were manufactured more locally to Burgh le Marsh, including probably in the area of Old Bolingbroke, 15km to the west, at Potterhanworth near Lincoln, 42km to the west, and north of the Humber at Scarborough.

Range

The range of material is detailed in the tables.

Table 1: Pottery

Context	Fabric Code	Description	No.	Wt (g)	Context Date
001	TPW	Purple and white transfer printed tableware, 19 th century	1	2	20 th century
	PORC	Blue painted soft paste porcelain, 19 th century	1	6	
	WHITE	White glazed tableware, 19 th -20 th century	1	5	
LPM Blue pai		Blue painted tableware, 20th century	1	6	1
	STSL	Staffordshire slipware, posset? 18 th century	1	4	
	ТВ	Toynton/Bolingbroke-type ware, 1 abraded, 1 very abraded, separate vessels, 16 th -17 th century	3	15	
002	SCAR?	Scarborough ware? jug	1	2	mid 12 th -mid 14 th century
003	POTT?	Potterhanworth ware?	1	3	13 th -14 th century

Two fragments of medieval pottery are the earliest items recovered. Both are small and could be components of manuring scatter and this interpretation would suggest the area was agricultural land at that date. Post-medieval and early modern material is more abundant and probably reflects occupation of these periods in the proximity.

Table 2: Other Artefacts

Context Material		Description	No.	Wt (g)	Context Date	
001	Clay pipe Stem, bore 4/64"			3	19 th century	
002	СВМ	Handmade brick/tile, sandy fabric with frequent inclusions of small and medium rounded chalk, abraded	2	23	Medieval?	
003	CBM	Fired clay, possibly handmade brick	9	93		

Note: CBM = Ceramic building material

Table 3: The Faunal Remains

Context	Species	Bone	No.	Wt (g)	Comments
002	Cattle sized	metacarpus	1	20	fragment

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 Burgh le Marsh 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

The early modern, 19th-20th century, aspect of the collection is of limited local potential and significance and probably relates to occupation of the site over this period. The earlier, medieval and post-medieval, pieces are of slightly greater potential and perhaps indicate habitation of these periods in close proximity, though the medieval sherds, in particularly, could be from manuring scatter.

The lack of any material earlier than the 12th 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, or were of a nature that did not involve artefact deposition.

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

GLOSSARY

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

Bronze Age A period characterised by the introduction of bronze into the country for tools, between 2250 and 800 BC.

Burh Old English (Saxon) term for a fortified town or dwelling.

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.

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).

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.

Mesolithic The 'Middle Stone Age' period, part of the prehistoric era, dating from approximately 8200-4500 BC.

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

Neolithic The 'New Stone Age' period, part of the prehistoric era, dating from approximately 4500-2250 BC.

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

PrehistoricThe 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.

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

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:

4 Context records

1 Sheet of scale drawings

1 Photographic record sheet

1 Stratigraphic matrix

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: 2003.42

Archaeological Project Services Site Code: BMML 03

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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