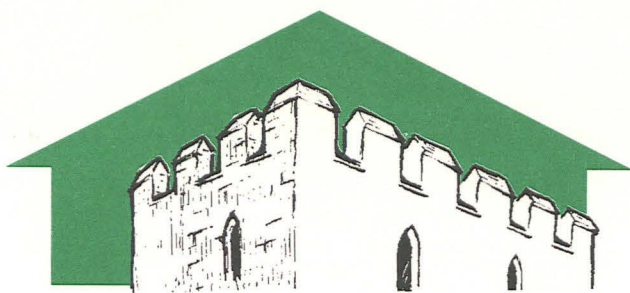


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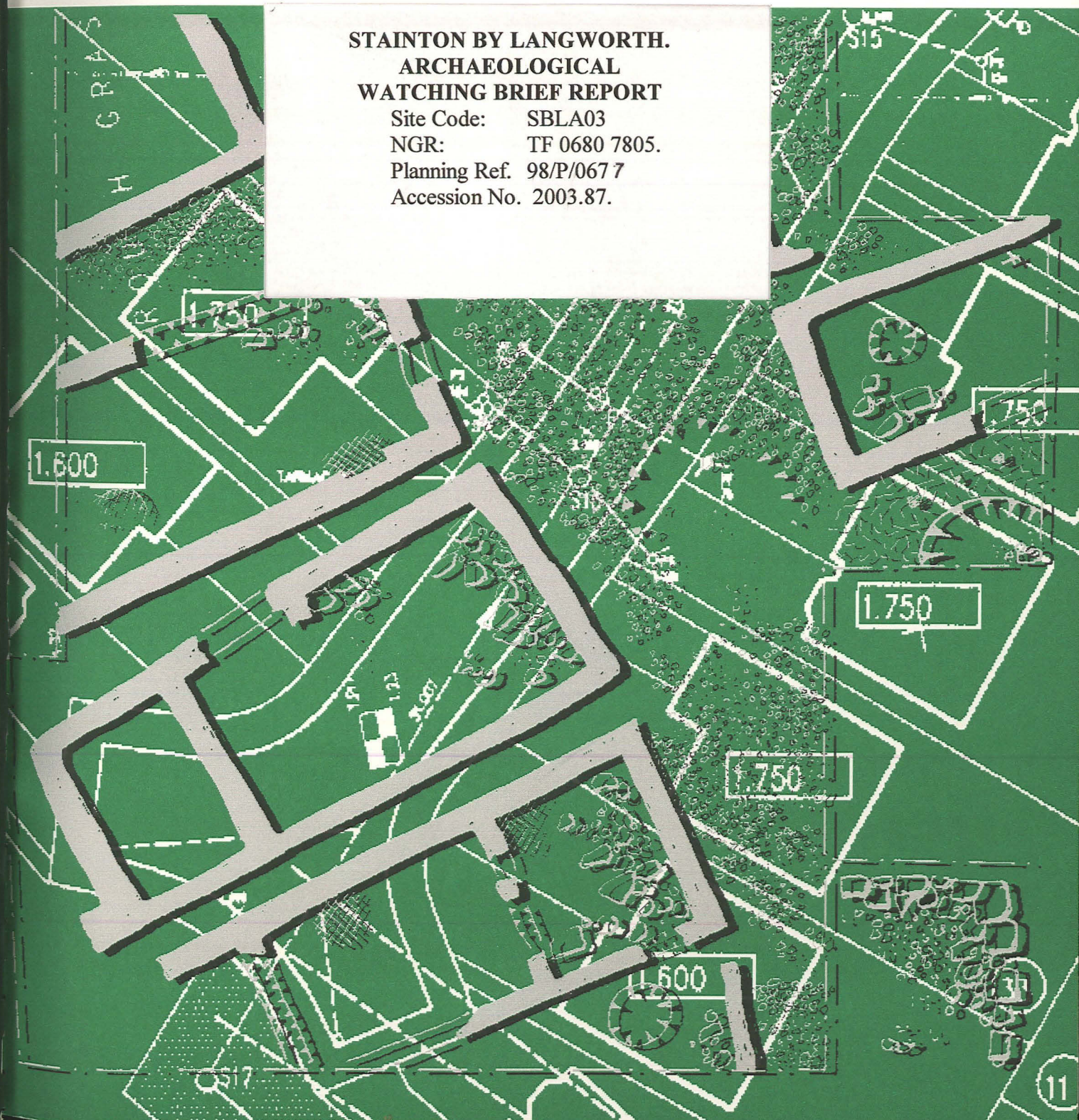


PRE-CONSTRUCT ARCHAEOLOGY

L I N C O L N

STANTON BY LANGWORTH. ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF REPORT

Site Code: SBLA03
NGR: TF 0680 7805.
Planning Ref. 98/P/0677
Accession No. 2003.87.



EVENT L14272

SOURCE L13825
L13826

L13154

**STANTON BY LANGWORTH.
ARCHAEOLOGICAL
WATCHING BRIEF REPORT**

Site Code: SBLA03
NGR: TF 0680 7805.
Planning Ref. 98/P/0677
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Report prepared for Mr M Annakin
by
Alex Brett

Pre-Construct Archaeology (Lincoln)
Unit G
William Street Business Park
Saxilby, Lincoln
LN1 2LP
Tel. & Fax. 01522 703800

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Illustrations

Fig. 1: Site location (1:25,000).

Fig. 2: Site plan (1:2000).

Appendices

Appendix 1 Colour plates

Appendix 2 List of archaeological contexts

Summary

- *A program of archaeological observation and recording took place during the stripping of topsoil as part of site levelling operations prior to the construction of a new poultry unit north of the A158 at Stainton by Langworth, Lincolnshire.*
- *No archaeological remains were exposed during the course of this watching brief, despite the known proximity of cropmarks and other settlement evidence. This may in part be a reflection of the methodology that was used to strip the site, and the fact that a relatively small area of the archaeological horizon was exposed.*

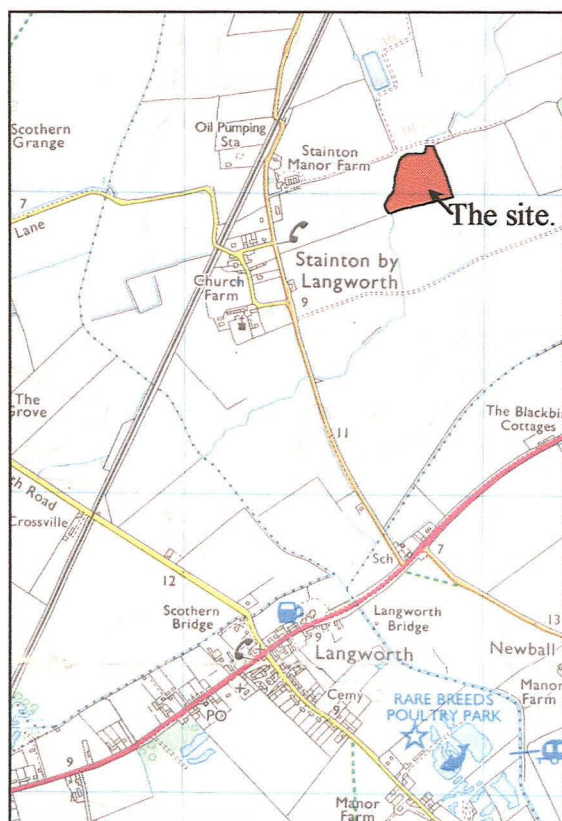


Fig. 1 : Site location, shows development area in red. 1:25,000.

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1.0 Introduction

Pre-Construct Archaeology (Lincoln) was commissioned by Land and Development Consultants to carry out an archaeological watching brief during the construction of new poultry units at Stainton by Langworth in Lincolnshire. This work was undertaken to fulfil the objectives of an agreed archaeological mitigation strategy that was based on the recommendations of Lincolnshire County Council. This approach complies with the recommendations of *Archaeology and Planning: Planning Policy Guidance Note 16*, Dept. of Environment (1990); *Management of Archaeological Projects*, EH (1991); *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Excavations*, IFA (1994) and the LCC document *Lincolnshire Archaeological Handbook: A Manual of Archaeological Practice*, 1998.

2.0 Site location and description

Stainton by Langworth is in the administrative district of West Lindsey, approximately 9km north-east of Lincoln centre, and c.13km south-east of Market Rasen. The site of development is approximately 500m east of the village.

The investigated area was formerly used for arable cultivation, and cereal stubble was still present when work commenced. The fields on all sides of the development are still being used for arable production.

The ground surface is predominantly flat, with a slight slope from 10.73m OD in the centre of the eastern side to 9.59m in the southwestern corner. The local drift geology consists of River Terrace Deposits of loam, sand and gravel over a solid geology of the Oxford Clay Formation, (BGS, 1999). The National Grid Reference for the centre of the site is TF 0680 7805.

3.0 Planning background

Full planning consent was granted for the erection of a new poultry unit, (planning reference number 98/P/067). This permission was granted subject to the completion of an archaeological watching brief on all intrusive groundworks, and this report represents the final stage of that process.

4.0 Archaeological and historical background

Stainton by Langworth is one of the settlements that are listed in the *Domesday Book* of 1086, indicating an origin at some time during the Saxon period. Stainton is a partial Scandinavianisation of the Old English '*Stantun*' meaning 'the farmstead, village on stony ground. All the Staintons in Lindsey adjoin a Roman road or prehistoric trackway and the '*stan*' here may refer to Romano-British remains, (Cameron, 1998).

The Lincolnshire County Council Sites and Monuments Record contains entries for undated cropmark ring ditches to the south of the site, as well as Romano-British settlement to the south-east, and a Roman stone coffin to the north.

Cropmarks interpreted as medieval settlement remains are also recorded at Stainton itself; the village also has the remains of a medieval stone cross.

In 1996, an archaeological field evaluation was undertaken within the village, on the east side of Scothern Lane, approximately 400m to the south-west of the current site (Johnson, 1996). This exposed mainly ground raising deposits and features of later post-medieval date. A small assemblage of late medieval pottery was also recovered.

5.0 Methodology

Visits were made to the site on two occasions to observe all groundworks; these were on the 26th and 27th of March 2003. These visits were by the author.

The groundworks consisted of levelling the site by the cut and fill method: removing soil from the eastern part of the site and depositing it to the west. For this reason, only the eastern part of the site was disturbed and then only to a maximum depth of 0.30m. The site had previously been disturbed by ploughing to a depth of 0.23m (Mr D Annakin, pers comm.) and so the majority of material removed had lain within the plough zone. This work was carried out using two bulldozers, and the finished surface was never really ideal for archaeological observation.

The groundworks were continually monitored by the author, and any archaeological features, or suspected archaeological features, were recorded in plan with reference to base plans (Land and Development Consultants drawing No. 341A/01) and using scale section drawings. A full photographic record was also maintained.

6.0 Results

The uppermost deposit was a ploughsoil (001), which supported stubble from a former cereal crop. This comprised dark brown silty sand with a substantial humic component, occasional broken land drain and frequent flint gravel inclusions. This deposit was between 0.20 and 0.30m thick.

Exposed beneath the topsoil in the north-eastern corner was a small area of the underlying natural (002), a mid yellow sandy silt with occasional patches of greenish-yellow sandy clay.

No archaeological deposits of any period (eg earth-cut archaeological features) were exposed during the course of the watching brief.

7.0 Discussion and conclusions

Despite the known occurrence of Romano-British, medieval and possibly prehistoric activity in the vicinity of the site, no archaeological deposits were exposed during the course of this watching brief. This may be due to the relatively small portion of the site on which the archaeological horizon was exposed, but also the fact that the use of bulldozers renders all but the most obvious features very difficult to detect.

8.0 Effectiveness of methodology

The methodology used during this project required archaeological monitoring of the surfaces that were left after the groundwork contractors had completed topsoil stripping. As this operation was carried out using bulldozers, the surface that was left was never very suitable for archaeological observation. However, a careful inspection of this surface was made. The relatively shallow depth of the soil stripping operation only exposed the archaeological horizon in a small part of the development site. Therefore, if there are any archaeological remains within the footprint area, then these should have been effectively preserved *in situ*.

9.0 Acknowledgements

The author would like to thank Land and Development Consultants for commissioning this report.

10.0 References

British Geological Survey, 1999. Market Rasen. England and Wales Sheet 102. Solid and Drift Geology. 1:50000 Provisional Series. Keyworth, Nottingham: British Geological Survey

Cameron K., 1998, *A Dictionary of Lincolnshire Place-Names*. English Place-Name Society, Nottingham.

Johnson, S 1996 *Archaeological Field Evaluation Report: Land off Scothern Lane, Stainton by Langworth* (unpublished SMR report)

11.0 Site archive

An archive consisting of written, drawn, photographic and object elements is in preparation and will be deposited at the Lincoln City and County museum within six months of the completion of this report.

Access can be gained to it by quoting the L.C.C. Museum accession number 2003.87.

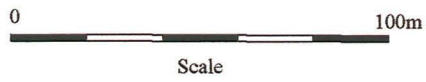
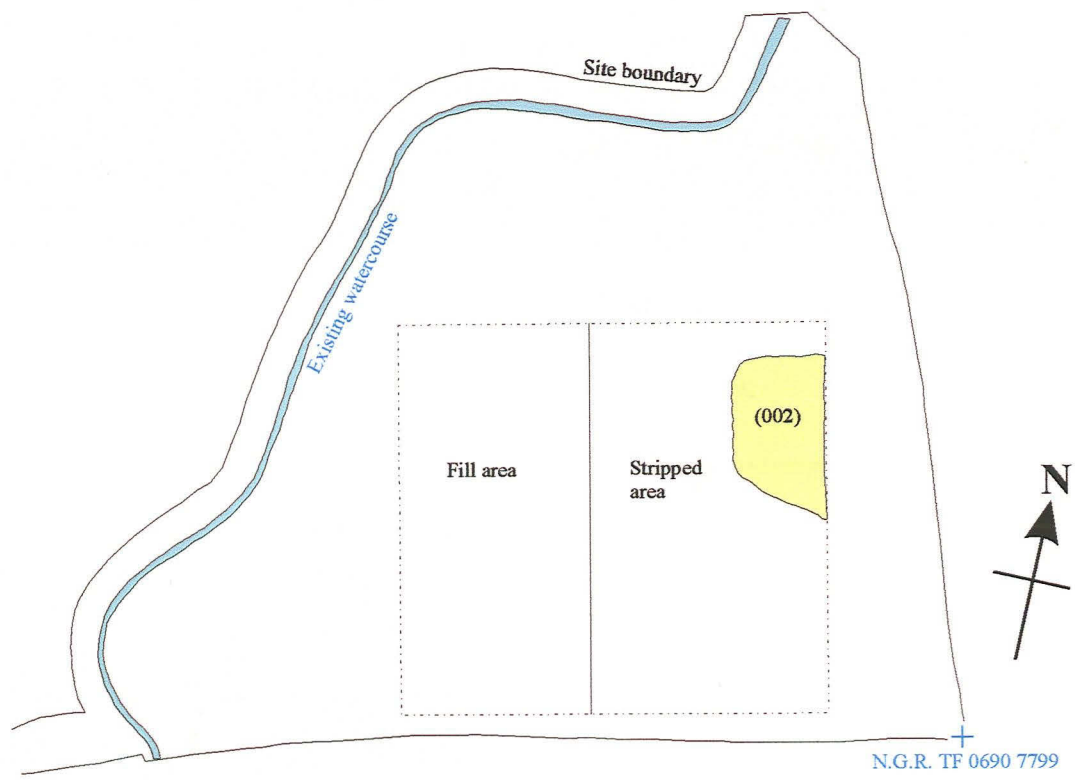


Fig. 2 : Plan showing site with stripped area and portion of natural exposed. 1:2,000

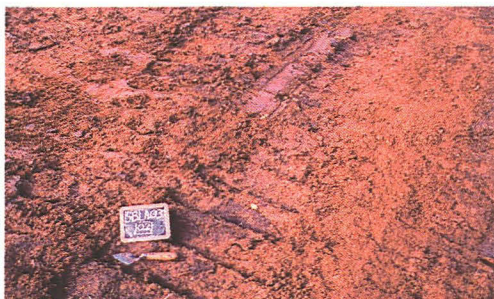
Appendix 1. Colour plates



Pl. 1 : General shot of site before work commenced. Looking northwest.



Pl. 2 : Bulldozer removal of topsoil. Looking south.



Pl. 3 : Part of the small area of natural that was exposed. Note poor quality of finish. Looking east.



Pl. 4 : Shot of site once stripping complete. Notice lighter natural in middle distance. Looking southeast.

Appendix 2. Context summary

CONTEXT NUMBER	DESCRIPTION
001	Ploughsoil.
002	Sandy silt and sandy clay natural.