

# PRE-CONSTRUCT ARCHAEOLOGY

L I N C O L N

**PROPOSED NEW PARSONAGE, LAND OFF  
HALMER GATE, SPALDING, LINCS.**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRIAL  
EXCAVATION REPORT**

Site code	HGS 03
NGR:	TF 2509 2251
LCCM Acc No:	2003.111
PLAN APPL.	H16/0644/02





EVENT L14230 TRIAL  
TRENCH  
SOURCES L18759  
L18760

EVENT L14231 AUGER  
HOLES

PRN 23602 - MED. CV

PRN 23604 POST MED

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Report prepared for Stephen Roberts Associates  
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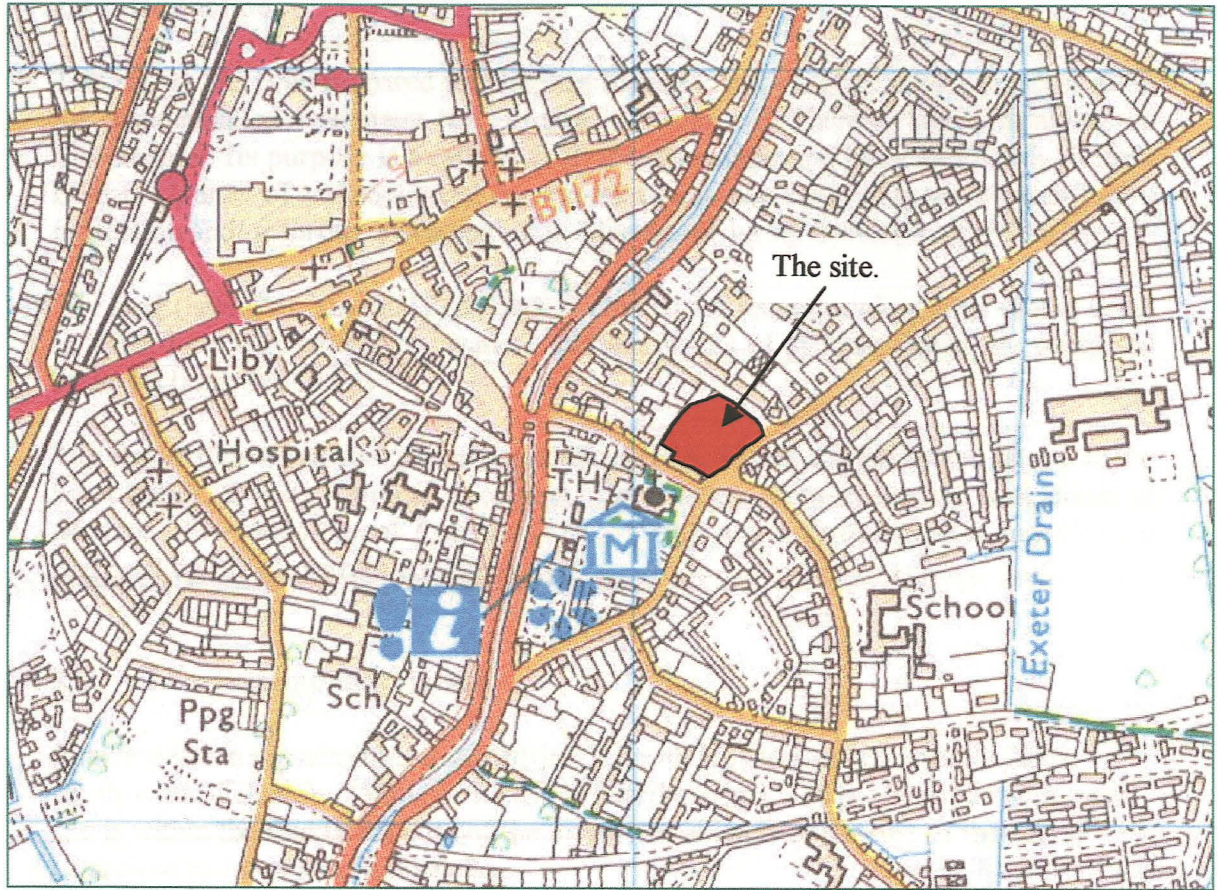
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### *Summary*

- *A field evaluation was undertaken on behalf of Steven Roberts Associates to assess the archaeological potential of a sub-rectangular unit of land off Halmer Gate, Spalding in Lincolnshire to advise an application for residential development.*
- *Three evaluation trenches were excavated to examine a representative sample of the proposed development footprint. These exposed a range of cut archaeological features, dating between the later medieval period and the modern era.*
- *Overall, it is concluded that the archaeological potential of the site is moderate, and that a low impact development of the area is unlikely to have a hugely negative effect upon the resource, provided that appropriate mitigation measures (possibly a watching brief) are in place in advance of works.*





**Fig. 1** : Site location showing garden of parsonage proposed for re-development. 1:10,000.

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## **1.0 Introduction**

This report has been prepared for Stephen Roberts Associates to advise an application for residential development on a unit of land off Halmer Gate, Spalding in Lincolnshire. Its purpose is to advise both the commissioning body and South Holland District Council of archaeological constraints which may exist, and may warrant future protection and/or further investigation in advance of/during development of the site.

The land (hereafter 'the site') has been evaluated for its archaeological potential using an agreed strategy of trial excavation, and the results of this excavation are presented in the sections that follow.

The report follows current national guidelines (IFA, 1999), the guidelines set out in the Lincolnshire County Council document *Lincolnshire Archaeological Handbook: A Manual of Archaeological Practice* (LCC, 1998), and a formal project specification prepared by Pre-Construct Archaeology.

## **2.0 Location and description**

Spalding lies in the administrative district of South Holland, approximately 22km south-west of Boston, 25km north-east of Peterborough. The proposed development site is within the traditional core of the town, immediately north-east of the parish Church of St Mary and St Nicholas.

The site is a sub-rectangular unit measuring approximately 56m south-west – north-east and c.45m north-west – south-east. Within this, the area proposed for redevelopment is approximately 30m x 20m, located at the northern edge, at approximately 4m OD (outlined red, fig 2).

The local solid geology is characterised by Oxford Clay overlain by the Terrington Beds, salt marsh and tidal creek deposits laid down after c. 500 BC (BGS 1992).

The National Grid Reference for the centre of the site is TF 2509 2251.

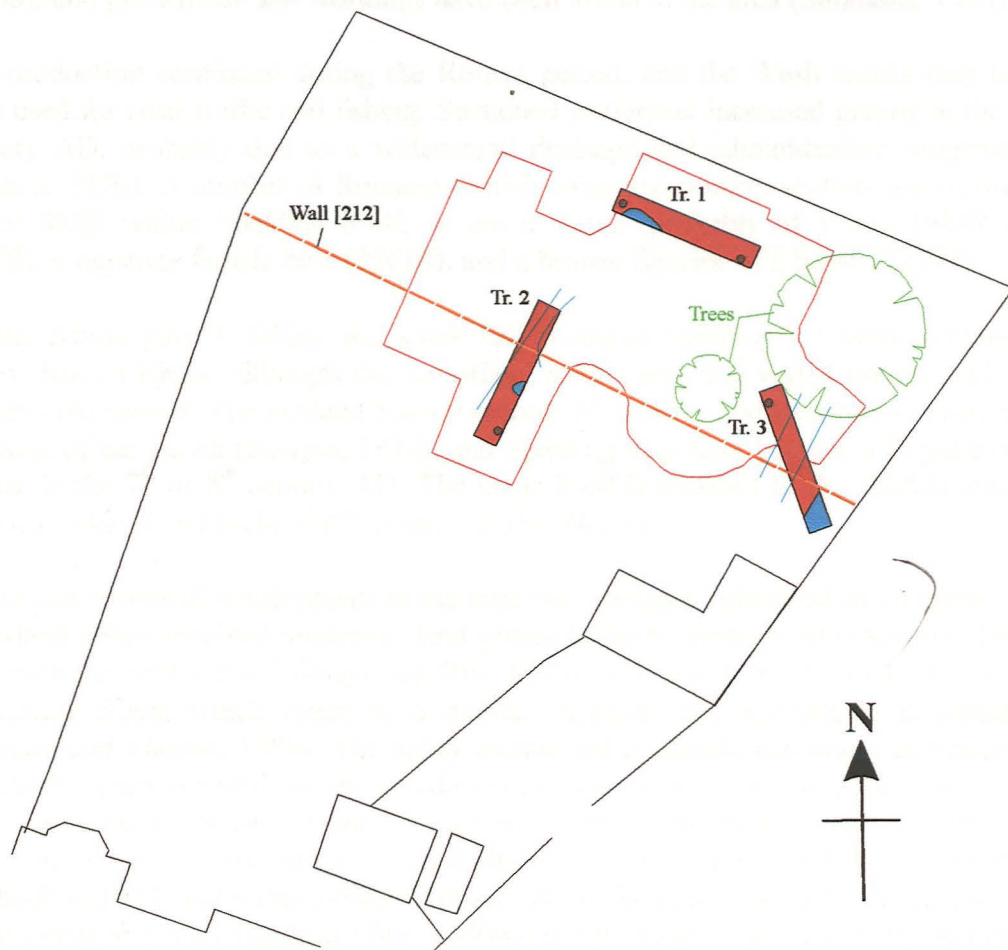
## **3.0 Planning background**

Planning consent is sought from South Holland District Council for the construction of a new parsonage with associated outbuildings and an access road (Planning Reference No.: H16/0644/02). The archaeological evaluation has been designed to inform this process, and this approach is consistent with the recommendations of *Archaeology and Planning: Planning Policy Guidance Note 16*, 1990.

## **4.0 Archaeological and historical background**

The coastline of prehistoric Lincolnshire was considerably further inland than its present course, and the area of Spalding was a frequently submerged island that was





**Fig. 2 :** Site plan showing site outline, proposed development area (in red), trench locations and archaeological features (in blue). The alignment of wall (212) is shown in orange and auger holes are shown as brown circles. 1:500.

uninhabitable for long periods. A prehistoric stone axe and a stone axe-hammer appear in the Sites and Monuments Record for Spalding parish (reference numbers 22367 and 22368), and pre-Roman salt workings have been found in the area (Simmons, 1993).

Salt production continued during the Roman period, and the Wash creeks may have been used for river traffic and fishing. Sustained settlement increased greatly in the 2<sup>nd</sup> century AD, probably due to a widespread drainage and administration programme (Hallam, 1970). A number of Romano-British coins and pottery scatters are recorded in the SMR within Spalding itself, as are a statue, probably of Venus (SMR ref. 22372), a ragstone female bust (23610), and a bronze figurine of a horse (22394).

By the Saxon period, falling sea levels had rendered Spalding a coastal settlement rather than an island, although the 'coastline' in this area still varied greatly with the tide and the season. The Fenland Survey records 6<sup>th</sup> century and later Saxon pottery in the west of the parish (Sawyer, 1998), and Spalding may have become a Royal Estate Centre in the 7<sup>th</sup> or 8<sup>th</sup> century AD. The name itself is ascribed to the *Spalda*, one of the local tribes listed in the 7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> century *Tribal Hidage*.

Saxon and medieval development in the area was strongly influenced by monasticism: Crowland abbey received numerous land grants in the 9<sup>th</sup> century AD (Sawyer, 1998) and, with the nobles Ivo Tallboys and Guy de Craon, is listed as a major landowner in *Domesday Book*, which refers to a market, fisheries and salt-houses in Spalding (Morgan and Thorne, 1986). The abbey established a Benedictine priory at Spalding: the charter granting land for its foundation is dated 1051, but it may not have been built until after the Norman Conquest (Sumner, 1988). The priory is well documented, but archaeologically little survives. Ivo Tallboys was made 'Lord of Spalding and all of Holland' in 1073, and subsequently built a castle in the town: its earthworks were said to be visible at Coney Garth in 1746, c. 400m north of the development site, but these remains are no longer extant.

The medieval port town was situated directly northeast of the priory, between the River Welland and the Westlode: wool and woad (then a popular dyestuff) were exported via the Welland, and prestige goods such as wine (for Crowland) were imported. The Westlode was primarily a drain, and may have originally been part of the Roman drainage system but was also used to transport goods inland to Bourne, and local agricultural produce to Spalding.

Both the town and the district were radically altered by the massive enclosure and drainage projects carried out in the Fens in the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries: large areas of previously unexploited wetland came under cultivation, and much of the produce was exported via Spalding, a prosperous port whose population doubled in the first half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Steam-powered pumping engines made the Welland obsolete in 1824 (Gooch, 1940): it was then filled in, and New Road and Westlode Street now follow its course.

In 2001, a single archaeological trial trench was investigated at 3 Albion Street, approximately 700m northeast of the current site. No archaeological deposits were encountered (JSAC, 2001).



## 5.0 Methodology (trial excavation)

The primary purpose of an archaeological evaluation is to gather and collate information for planning purposes: to assess the archaeological potential of a site and provide a basis for mitigating against the effects of development, where appropriate. The approach is consistent with the guidelines set out in *Archaeology and Planning: Planning Policy Guidance Note 16* (1990).

To achieve the above, three trial trenches were excavated to examine a representative percentage of the proposed development footprint. Each trench measured 10m x 1.6m in area. The evaluation was undertaken by a team of two experienced field archaeologists (including the author, who was project supervisor) over a period of four days; between the 6<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> May 2003.

A mini-digger fitted with a smooth ditching blade was used to remove all topsoil, subsoil and underlying non-archaeological deposits in spits no greater than 20cm in depth. The process was repeated until the first archaeologically significant or natural horizon was exposed, with all further excavation being undertaken by hand. Topsoil and subsoil was retained and reinstated separately, and Trench 2 was re-turfed by hand.

Where archaeological remains were exposed, features and deposits were sample excavated manually, and context information was recorded on Context Record Sheets. Archaeological deposits were drawn to scale, in plan and in section, and Ordnance Datum heights were entered on each class of drawing. Archaeological contexts were photographed, and some prints are reproduced within this report (see Appendix 1).

Following consultation with the Senior Built Environment Officer for Lincolnshire County Council it was agreed that an auger survey would be carried out to examine the deposits below the base of the trenches. Six auger holes were originally proposed but, due to difficulties with the equipment, only four could be completed.

Archaeological finds were recovered during the investigation (e.g. domestic pottery sherds and animal bone fragments). They were washed and processed at the offices of PCA, prior to submission for detailed specialist appraisal.

A bulk soil sample was recovered from Trench 3.



## 6.0 Results

### 6.1 Trench 1 (See figs. 2-5)

The trench ran west-north-west – east-south-east. The uppermost deposit in this trench was a deep dark grey humic silty topsoil (105). Beneath this was (103), a layer of dark grey slightly sandy silt, which contained frequent fragments of charcoal, coal, brick and tile. Pottery from this layer was exclusively Bourne and Toynton Wares, suggesting a late 15<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> century deposition date.

Machine excavation of layer (103) exposed a single cut feature, [102], comprising a large sub-circular pit with a straight, 45° sloping edge. Its fill (101) was dark grey clayey silt with occasional flecks of charcoal, two pieces of post-medieval brick, and eight sherds of almost exclusively Bourne Ware pottery (15<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> century). A lens of mussel shells was observed towards the centre of this material. The pit could not be fully excavated due to the high watertable.

The above was cut through (104), an alluvial deposit composed of mid grey and light orange slightly clayey silt. This layer, whilst being of alluvial origin, had witnessed some dumping of domestic refuse during its formation; represented by oyster and mussel shells, and thirteen sherds of pottery. The latter comprised mainly Bourne and Toynton Wares, with a single piece of imported Dutch Red Earthenware, suggesting a 15<sup>th</sup> to mid 16<sup>th</sup> century date for the deposition.

### 6.2 Trench 2 (see figs. 2, 6-9)

The trench was positioned within a kept lawn, running north-east – south-west. The lawn and a gravel-bedding layer (203) was machine-excavated, along with a layer of grey silt containing occasional charcoal and brick and tile fragments, (204), interpreted by the excavator as a former topsoil (modern).

Layer (204) sealed a pit or the butt-end of a large ditch, [202], towards the centre of the trench. [202] had gradual, concave sides and a slightly rounded base. The fill (201) was grey slightly sandy silt containing moderate amounts of shell, charcoal, brick and tile (not kept). The majority of the inclusions were found in the upper half of the fill, suggesting the dumping of refuse into the feature increased after initial silting had begun.

Pit/ditch [202] was cut through a layer of alluvial silt, (205), which contained frequent brick, tile and charcoal, that were not kept by the excavator. This material is likely to have been incorporated into the soft silts as they formed by sporadic discarding of domestic waste.

Following excavation of [202], layer (205) was machine-excavated, revealing two further archaeological cut features. The larger of these, a shallow linear, [211], ran in a roughly north-east to south-west direction. The fill (210) was brown silt with occasional pieces of charcoal and mussel and oyster shells; interpreted as forming naturally as a water lain deposit. The recovery of a potsherd of a local medieval ware,



a piece of Bourne ware pottery, a fragment of probable brick and a piece of shaft from a cattle-sized bone indicate some disposal of refuse, probably at some time during the 14<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> century.

Immediately to the east of [211] was [208], the part-exposed remains of a curvilinear ditch or pit. The primary fill (209), contained no artefacts, and can be interpreted as an initial silting. Sealing this was (207), dark grey silt with occasional charcoal flecks that appeared to be naturally formed. The inclusion of charcoal within the upper fill suggests some human activity occurring in the area during its formation.

Both [211] and [208] were cut into (206), a layer of blue clay with some light brown mottling, interpreted as an alluvial deposit formed in a relatively low-energy environment.

A brick wall was exposed towards the north-east end of the trench. This former boundary lay directly below the modern turf and bedding layer, (203). It was constructed in 'English garden wall' bond of frogged bricks, demonstrating that it was of 19<sup>th</sup> century or later date. The wall ran north-west – south-east, parallel with the north-east boundary to the site (fig. 2). The foundation was possibly a former garden boundary; probably of 19<sup>th</sup> century or later date. It appears to have been demolished in the 1930's (Rev. T Barker *pers. comm.*).

### 6.3 Trench 3 (see figs. 2, 10-13)

Trench 3 was positioned towards the eastern boundary of the site, on a north-north-west – south-south-east alignment. The position of the trench was restricted due to the proximity of two trees.

The topsoil (311) and a grey silt subsoil, (312), were removed by machine, revealing a number of archaeological deposits, including the garden wall (212) that was first exposed in Trench 2, cut into a yellow/grey sandy silt (313).

Towards the north end of the trench was a broad linear ditch, orientated north-east – south-west, [308]. This ditch (c. 3m wide) was not fully excavated as its depth exceeded 1.5m below modern ground level (fig. 11). Ten sherds of pottery of mixed date (mainly 17<sup>th</sup> to mid 18<sup>th</sup> centur) were recovered from its fill, (307), a grey silt that also contained frequent mussel and oyster shells, and four fragments of sheep or goat bone. A lens of brick rubble was also observed within the fill.

The ditch was later recut, [306], possibly in the 18<sup>th</sup> century (eighteen sherds of mid 18<sup>th</sup> century pottery recovered from the fill). Along with the pottery, the grey silt fill (305) contained a quantity of animal bone (exclusively cattle, cattle-sized and sheep/goat fragments). A small piece of hand-made brick and a piece of tile, both of post-medieval date, were also recovered.

The western edge of a large pit, [302], was exposed at the southern end of the trench (fig. 12). In profile, this appeared to have several steps leading down to its base. The nature of the deposits that the feature cut through however, suggests either that the pit



was open for only a very short period of time, or that the 'steps' were in some way planked. The primary fill, (310), a green/grey sandy silt contained abundant shell and charcoal flecks. A soil sample was taken from the secondary fill (309), a orange and grey mottled fine silt that also contained four pieces of late 14<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> century Bourne and Toynton ware pottery and ten fragments of animal bone (cattle, cattle-sized, sheep/goat and one horse scapula). The rich environmental sample appears to contain both cess and domestic rubbish. Brick/tile, some coal, pottery, a splinter of glass, cattle (including a calf mandible), sheep/goat and pig bones, numerous pieces of eggshell (probably chicken), cockle shells, mussels and oysters were identified, along with numerous pieces of hammerscale that indicate iron smithing was occurring in the vicinity of the feature. A number of fish bones were also found, of which eel and stickleback were readily identifiable. Numerous charred seeds were also present, with abundant wheat and barley seeds, and large numbers of pulses and weed seeds. Of particular interest were a series of charred 'seed cakes' that appeared to have been charred as lumps rather than becoming stuck together after charring. The seed type remains unidentified however. A number of snail shells were recovered, and these included species that thrive in open grassland habitats, shaded environments, and running water. A further species may have been introduced with vegetation collected from a stream or riverside environment.

The uppermost fill of [302], (301), a blue/grey silt with abundant charcoal pieces, mussel and oyster shells, also contained a single cattle bone.

A sub-circular feature, [304], was found to cut the western edge of pit [302] (fig. 13). The feature, identified as a posthole, had a flat base and 45° sloping sides. Its fill, (303), a grey silt contained two pieces of clay pipe stem (not retained).

#### **6.4 Auger survey**

Following a site meeting with the Senior Built Environment Officer, it was agreed that a series of auger holes would be excavated within the trenches to examine the underlying sequence of deposits. Two samples were taken in Trench 1, and one from Trenches 2 and 3. The results are presented in Appendix 3.

#### **7.0 Discussion and conclusions**

The evaluation has identified cut archaeological features and deposits in each of the three trenches: principally drainage/boundary ditches dating from the 14<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup> century through to the 18<sup>th</sup> century. Refuse pits also appear to have been excavated between the 14<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> centuries.

During the 15<sup>th</sup> to the 16<sup>th</sup> century there appears to have been some flooding of the area (evidenced in Trench 1 as layer (103) and possibly (205) in Trench 2). Pottery within this horizon may have been disposed of as refuse.

The three trial excavation trenches were excavated to depths varying between 0.9m (Trench 1) and 1.45m (Trench 3). These depths were not exceeded due to health and



safety considerations. However, subsequent augering in the bases of each trench revealed that archaeological deposits continue (context (104), for example, in Trench 1 extends between 0.28 and 0.38m beneath the base of the arbitrary cut) – see Appendix 3. It is difficult to speculate whether or not the lowest augered deposits are entirely natural or not.

Overall, the archaeological remains that have been sampled at Halmer Gate are considered to be of **moderate** interest. They show evidence of continuous domestic activity in the area from the 14<sup>th</sup>/15<sup>th</sup> centuries to at least the 18<sup>th</sup>/19<sup>th</sup> centuries, mostly in the form of earth-cut features (pits and drainage ditches). Evidence of building remains was not exposed, although buildings must have existed in the vicinity of the site.

Inevitably, redevelopment of the area will have an impact on the archaeological resource, although the construction of the new parsonage with associated access is unlikely to have a dramatic effect (the development is low density). A watching brief on all associated groundworks may be appropriate, although any such recommendation must be at the discretion of the Senior Built Environment Officer of Lincolnshire County Council.

## 8.0 Effectiveness of methodology

The methodology employed at the site has allowed the presence/absence, nature and the depth of archaeological remains to be assessed in each of the trenches that were investigated. By inference, the results of the investigation can be extrapolated across the whole of the site.

## 9.0 Acknowledgments

The author would like to thank Stephen Roberts Associates for commissioning this work, and Suzie Matthewson and Katie Cook for assistance on site. Thanks are due also to Reverend Tim Barker for providing access to the site and valuable background information.

## 10.0 Bibliography

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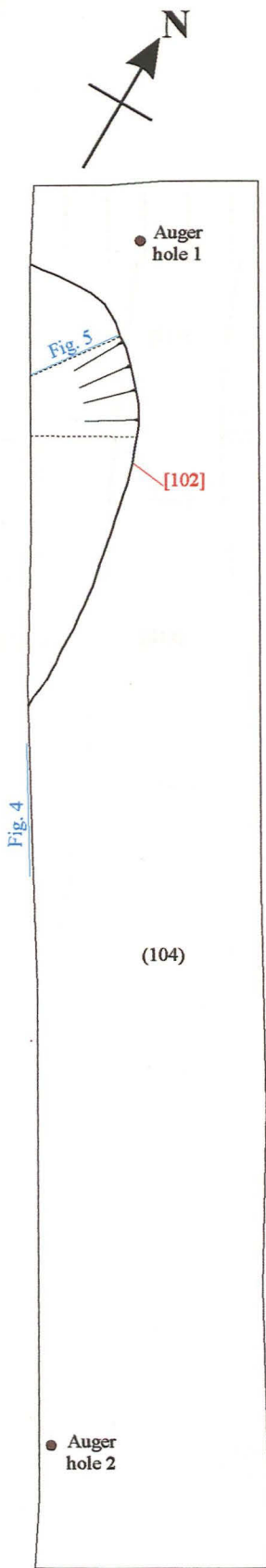
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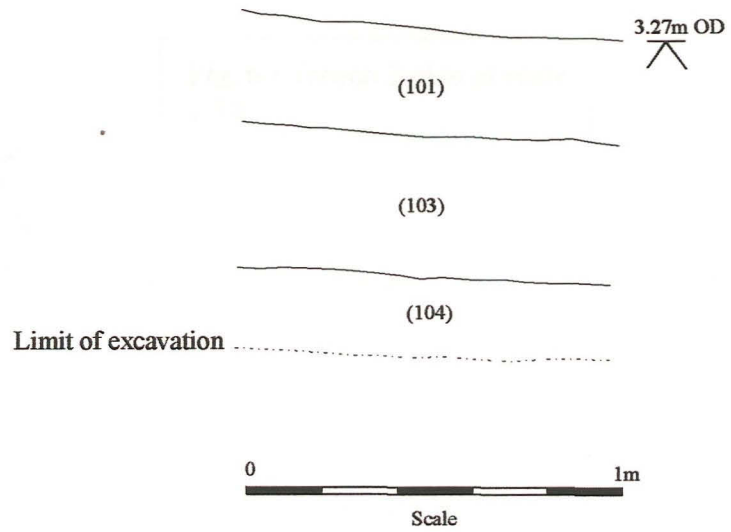
#### 11.0 Site archive

The site archive (documentary and physical) for this project is in preparation and will be deposited with Lincoln City and County Museum within six months. Access to this archive can be gained by quoting the global accession number 2003.111.

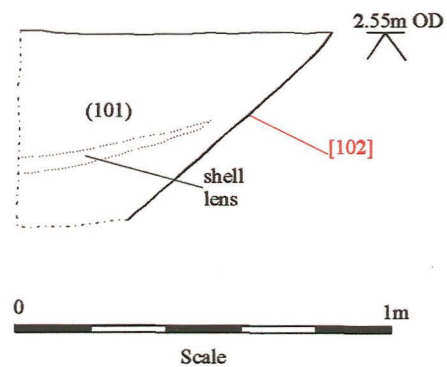




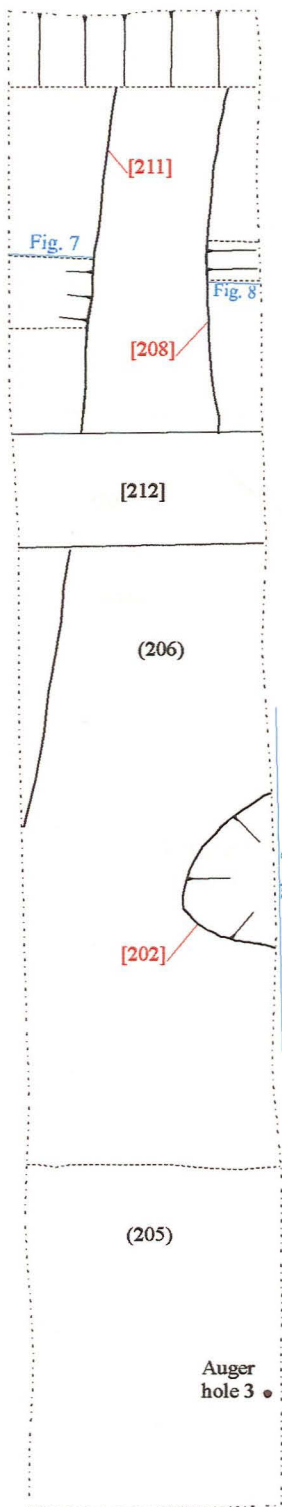
**Fig. 3 : Trench 1 plan at scale 1:50**



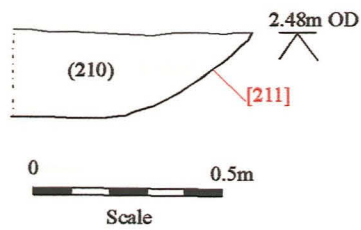
**Fig. 4 : Trench 1. East-facing sample section at scale 1:20**



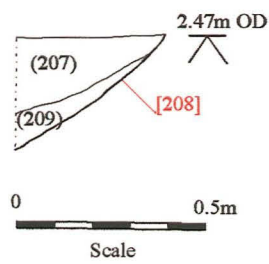
**Fig. 5 : Trench 1. South-east facing section of feature [102] at scale 1:20. Not fully excavated due to high water table**



**Fig. 6 : Trench 2 plan at scale 1:50**

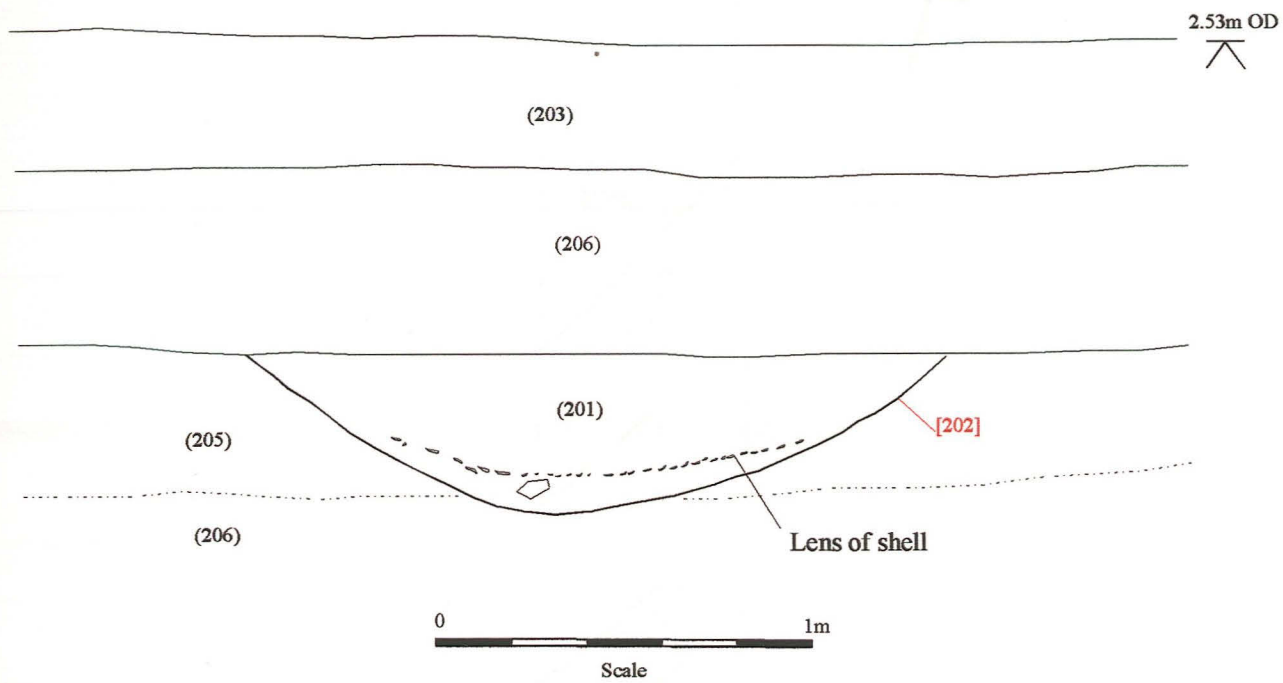


**Fig. 7 : Trench 2. South facing section of ditch [211] at scale 1:20**

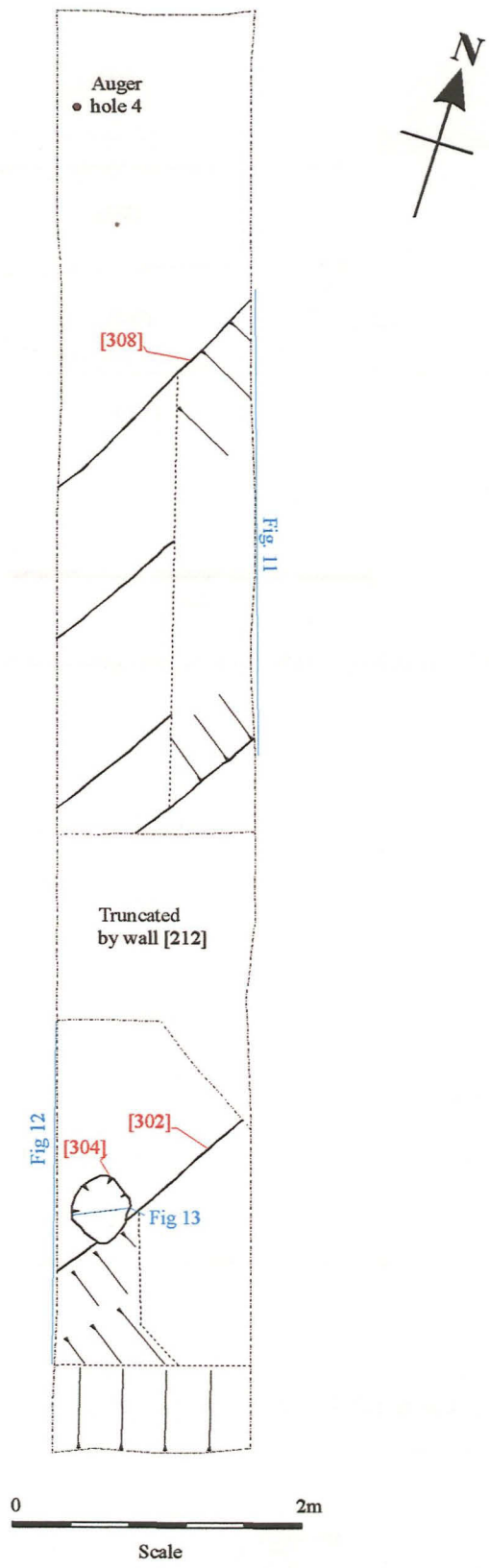


**Fig. 8 : Trench 2. North facing section of ditch [208] at scale 1:20.**





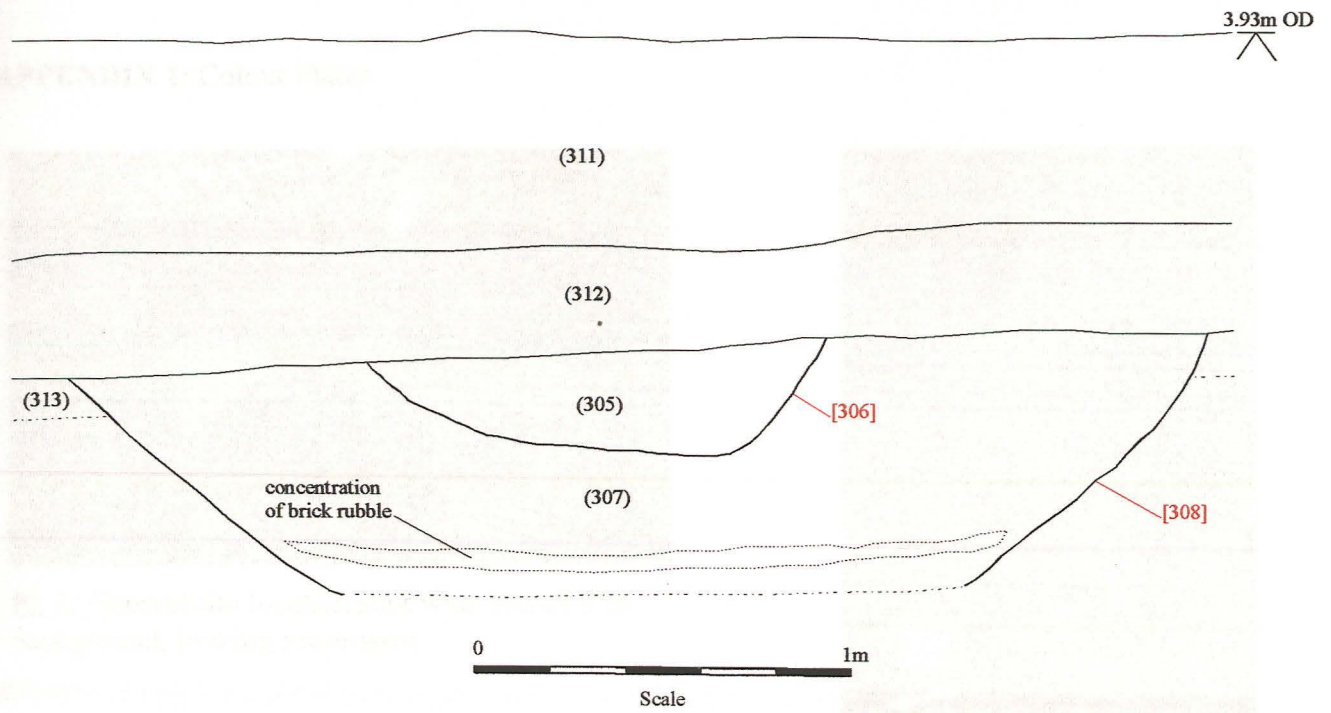
**Fig. 9 : Trench 2. West-facing section of feature [202] at scale 1:20 (see figure 3 for location)**



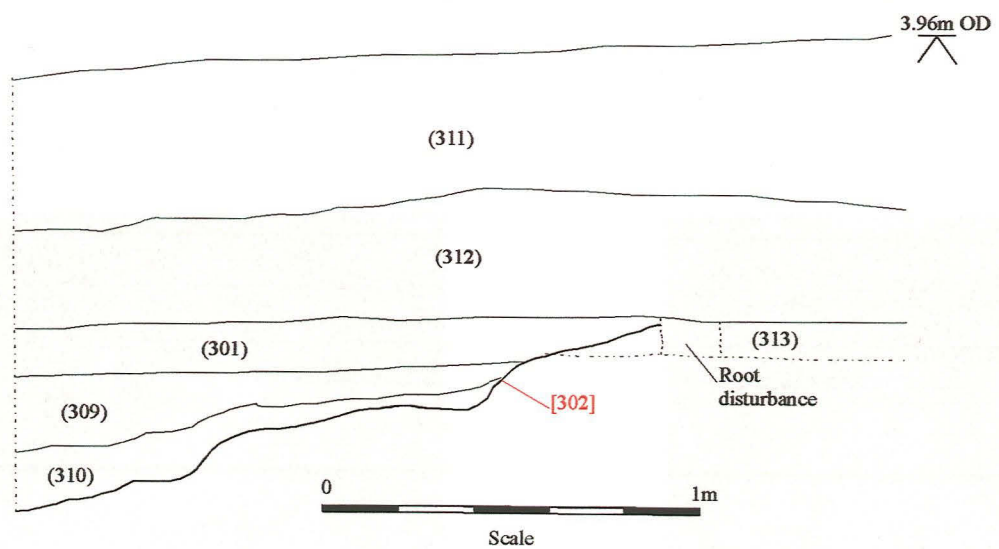
**Fig. 10 : Plan of Trench 3 at scale 1:50**

*Fig. 11: Trench 3 North-south section of feature [304] at scale 1:20*

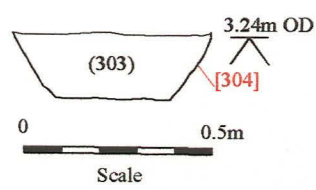




**Fig. 11 :** Trench 3. Oblique west-facing section through ditches [306] and [308] at scale 1:20



**Fig. 12 :** Trench 3. East-facing section of pit [302] at scale 1:20



**Fig. 13 :** Trench 3. North-facing section of feature [304] at scale 1:20



**APPENDIX 1: Colour Plates**



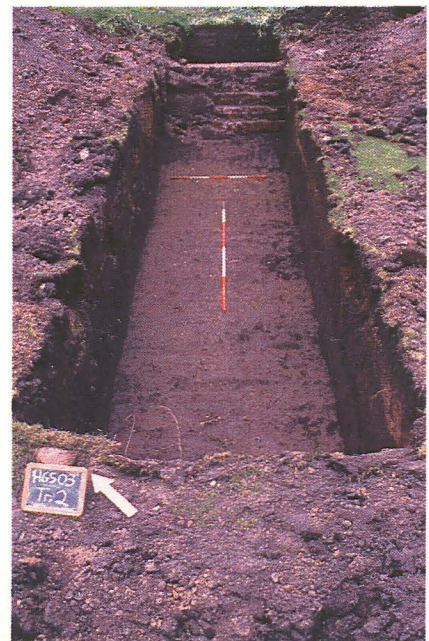
**Pl. 1:** General site location shot with Trench 2 in background, looking north-west



**Pl. 2:** Pre-excavation shot, Trench 1, looking east



**Pl. 3:** South-east facing section through feature [102], looking north-west (Trench 1)



**Pl. 4:** Pre-excavation shot of Trench 2, looking north-east. Note boundary wall [212] towards north-east end of trench





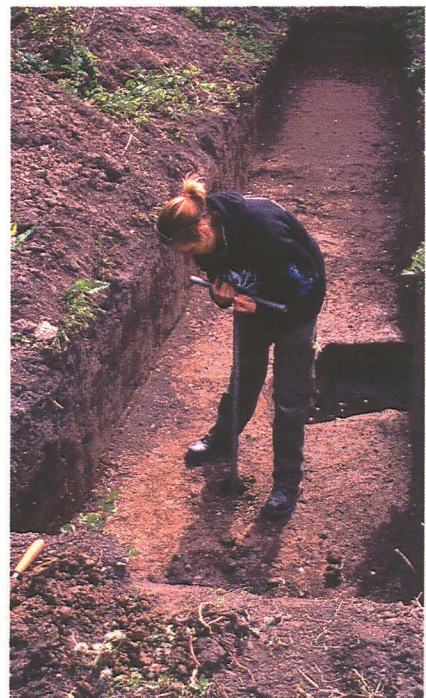
**Pl. 5:** Features [208] and [211], looking south-west (Trench 2)



**Pl. 6:** Pre-excavation shot of Trench 3, looking south-east. Note boundary wall towards south-east end of trench.



**Pl. 7:** Feature [302] in plan, following excavation, looking north-west (Trench 3)



**Pl. 8:** Undertaking auger survey in Trench 1



## APPENDIX 2: Post-Roman pottery and tile archive

Jane Young

### *Introduction*

Sixty-six sherds of pottery representing sixty-five vessels were recovered from the site. The material ranges in date from the medieval to the late post-medieval period. The pottery was examined both visually and where necessary with the aid of a x20 binocular microscope and then recorded on an Access database using locally and nationally agreed codenames.

### *Condition*

Most of the pottery showed some sign of post-breakage abrasion and it is unlikely that much of the material represents primary deposition. Only one vessel is represented by more than a single sherd. Five vessels have soot residues, three externally and two internally and three vessels have interior 'kettle fur' deposits suggesting that they have been used for containing or heating liquids.

### *The Pottery*

A total of nineteen different ware types, ranging in date from the medieval to the late post-medieval period were recovered from the site. These ware types together with their date spans are listed below in table 1.

Table 1. Ceramic codenames by sherd and vessel count

codename	full name	earliest date	latest date	sherds	vessels
BERTH	Brown glazed earthenware	1550	1800	2	2
BL	Black-glazed wares	1550	1750	5	5
BOU	Bourne D ware	1450	1650	23	22
BOUA	Bourne-type Fabrics A, B and C	1150	1350	7	7
CHPO	Chinese Export Porcelain	1640	1850	1	1
DUTR	Dutch Red Earthenware	1250	1650	1	1
GRE	Glazed Red Earthenware	1500	1650	1	1
MEDLOC	Medieval local fabrics	1150	1450	1	1
MEDX	Non Local Medieval Fabrics	1150	1450	1	1
NOTS	Nottingham stoneware	1690	1900	2	2
RGRE	Reduced glazed red earthenware	1600	1850	1	1
STMO	Staffordshire/Bristol mottled-glazed	1690	1800	2	2
STSL	Staffordshire/Bristol slipware	1680	1800	3	3
SWSG	Staffordshire White Saltglazed stoneware	1700	1770	1	1
TB	Toynton/Bolingbroke wares	1450	1750	4	4
TGE	Tin-glazed earthenware	1550	1750	1	1
TOY	Toynton Medieval Ware	1250	1450	8	8
TOYII	Toynton Late Medieval ware	1450	1550	1	1
WEST	Westerwald stoneware	1600	1800	1	1



It is difficult to be precise about which vessels are of medieval and which of late medieval date, as the two main production centres supplying the site were both making the majority of their vessels in forms and fabrics that differed little over about three hundred years. Only a small number of vessels of medieval type (more likely to be of 13th to 14th century date) were found on the site. The two main ware types, Bourne Medieval (seven vessels) and Toynton Medieval ware (eight vessels), were both produced in Lincolnshire, probably at the two main production sites at Bourne and Toynton All Saints, however they could have been made at other kiln sites in the county. Vessel types are limited to jugs, jars and bowls

Vessels that appear to be of late medieval or early post-medieval date are more numerous, again probably coming from the two main centres at Bourne (twenty-two vessels) and Toynton All Saints (five vessels). By this time products of the Bourne ware industry have come to dominate the assemblage. Vessel types are again limited to jugs, jars and bowls with the exception of an unusual fragment from a Bourne D ware chafing dish, intended for use at the table. A single imported vessel of this date, a footed, Dutch cooking vessel was found on the site.

A small number of 17th to 18th century vessels were recovered from the site. They include local and regional coarsewares together with tablewares from Nottingham and Staffordshire. A single imported Westerwald drinking jug is the only continental import of this date.

### *Recommendations*

This is a small group of mainly ordinary domestic late medieval to early post-medieval vessels. The presence of a fragment of a chafing dish however, hints that at least some of the material comes from an affluent household. The assemblage is useful in showing the swing from an almost equal ratio of Bourne to Toynton types in the medieval period to a dominance of Bourne ware by the late medieval to early post-medieval period. The assemblage should be kept for future study.

# Dating Archive HGS03

*Jane Young*

<b>context</b>	<b>date</b>	<b>comments</b>
101	15th to 16th	
103	late 15th to 16th	
104	15th to mid 16th	
208	13th to 15th	single sherd
210	14th to 16th	
305	mid 18th	
307	mixed with latest late 17th to mid 18th	
309	late 14th to 15th	



# Ceramic Building Material Archive HGS03

*Jane Young*

<b>context</b>	<b>cname</b>	<b>full name</b>	<b>frags</b>	<b>weight</b>	<b>description</b>	<b>date</b>
101	BRK	Brick	1	60	handmade;fine red silty fabric	post medieval
101	BRK	Brick	1	130	handmade;white salt surfacing;fine red silty fabric;corner	post medieval
104	BRK	Brick	2	17	handmade;small frags;fine oxidised fabric	post-medieval
210	MISC	Unidentified types	1	8	? Brick;hard fine red fabric	
305	BRK	Brick	2	39	fabric similar to Bourne;handmade	post-medieval
305	PNR	Peg, nib or ridge tile	1	33	very fine red fabric almost inclusionless	post-medieval

# Pottery Archive HGS03

*Jane Young*

context	cname	sub fabric	form type	sherds	vessels	weight	decoration	part	description	date
101	BOU	1	jug/jar	1	1	12		BS		
101	MEDX	white;med sandy;hard	jug	1	1	11	applied vertical notched fe strips	BS	cu glaze;comm med subround quartz mod fe	
101	BOU	6	jug/jar	1	1	11		BS	flake	
101	BOUA	B	jar	1	1	40		BS	soot;int dep ?;? ID or ELY	
101	BOUA	B	jar	1	1	36		base		
101	BOU	6	jug/jar	1	1	9		base		
101	BOU	6	jug	1	1	22		BS	cu speckled glaze	
101	BOUA	A/B	jug/jar	1	1	8		BS	decayed ext glaze;soot on inner neck	
103	BOUA	B	jar	1	1	18		BS	int glaze	
103	BOU	10	jug/jar	1	1	2		BS	cu speckled glaze	
103	BOU	10	jar	1	1	19		neck	int glaze or underfired slip	
103	BOU	7	jug	1	1	27		BS	bright cu glaze;int dep	
103	TOY	B	jug ?	1	1	19		BS		
103	BOU	5	chafing dish	1	1	76		base	cut pedestal;central hole in base;int glaze has fired in concentric circles of green brown and yellow	
103	BOU	8	jug/jar	1	1	7		BS		



context	cname	sub fabric	form type	sherds	vessels	weight	decoration	part	description	date
103	TOY	F	?	1	1	8		BS	int soot	
103	BOU	7	jug	1	1	53		handle	strap handle with deep central groove	
103	BOU	3	jug/jar	1	1	26		BS		
104	TOY	E	jug	1	1	5		BS		
104	DUTR		footed cooking	1	1	26		foot	soot	
104	BOU	9	jug/jar	1	1	4		BS		
104	TOY	1	jug/jar	1	1	4		BS		
104	TOYII	J	jug	1	1	19	thumbbed horizontal strip along lower glaze edge	BS		
104	TOY	K	small jug/bottle	1	1	8		BS		
104	BOU	7	jug	1	1	23		base	thick int dep	
104	BOU	7	jug	1	1	25		LHJ		
104	BOU	7	jug	2	1	18		LHJ		
104	BOU	3	jug	1	1	10		BS	cu specks in glaze	
104	BOU	6	jug/jar	1	1	4		BS		
104	BOU	9	jug	1	1	7	cordons	BS		
208	TOY	L	jug ?	1	1	10		BS		
210	MEDLOC	OX/R/OX;med sandy;hard	?	1	1	13		BS	abundant subround to subangular quartz sparse ca comm fe sparse to med clay pellets;poss a TOY	
210	BOUA	A/C	jar/jug	1	1	6	incised decoration	BS	glaze	
305	BL		jar ?	1	1	10		BS	semi vitrified	mid 17th to 18th

context	cname	sub fabric	form type	sherds	vessels	weight	decoration	part	description	date
305	BERTH		large bowl	1	1	45		rim	reeded rim	mid 17th to 18th
305	STMO		mug	1	1	6		BS		18th
305	NOTS		mug/cup	1	1	2		handle		18th
305	CHPO		small bowl	1	1	3		base	blue/white dec	
305	SWSG		small jar	1	1	6		base		early/mid to mid/late 18th
305	NOTS		?	1	1	5		BS	underfired;? ID	
305	TGE		dish	1	1	2		rim	blue/white dec	
305	BL		jar ?	1	1	11		BS	semi vitrified	mid 17th to 18th
305	BL		bowl	1	1	17		BS		mid 17th to 18th
305	BL		large bowl	1	1	47		BS		18th
305	STSL		pressmould dish	1	1	4		base	combed	
305	STSL		pressmould dish	1	1	6		base	combed	
305	STSL		cup/posset	1	1	4		BS	combed	
305	TB	C	jug	1	1	123		handle	grooved strap;misfired glaze	
305	TB	?	?	1	1	6		base	flake	
305	GRE		?	1	1	1		BS		
305	BL		?	1	1	3		BS		mid 17th to 18th
307	WEST		drinking jug	1	1	11	small medallions & blue decoration	BS		
307	STMO		mug	1	1	16		BS		
307	TB	D	jug	1	1	67		LHJ		



context	cname	sub fabric	form type	sherds	vessels	weight	decoration	part	description	date
307	BOUA	B/C	bowl	1	1	28		rim	slightly everted	
307	TB	E	large bowl	1	1	32		base		
307	BOU	9	jug/jar	1	1	34		base		
307	BOUA	A/C	jar ?	1	1	6		BS		
307	BERTH		jar	1	1	26		BS	int glaze;? Could be Dutch	16th
307	RGRE		bunghole vessel	1	1	37		BS		16th to 17th
307	BOU	7	jug/jar	1	1	5		BS		
309	BOU	2	jug	1	1	13		BS	cu glaze	
309	BOU	10	jug	1	1	42		LHJ		
309	TOY	E	jug	1	1	28		BS		
309	TOY	E	?	1	1	29		base	soot	

### Appendix 3. Auger survey results

#### Auger Hole 1 (Trench 1 – North)

O.D. HEIGHT	DESCRIPTION	CONTEXT NUMBER
2.53-2.25	Mottled mid grey and light orange slightly clayey silt. Occasional animal bone and oyster shell.	104
2.25-2.10	Greyish blue silty clay with some orange mottling from iron panning.	106
2.10-1.46	Greyish brown fine sandy silt with occasional orange mottles from iron pan.	107

#### Auger Hole 2 (Trench 1 – South)

O.D. HEIGHT	DESCRIPTION	CONTEXT NUMBER
2.87-2.49	Mottled mid grey and light orange slightly clayey silt. Occasional animal bone and oyster shell.	104
2.49-2.32	Mid brown slightly sandy silt with occasional root channels	108
2.32-2.22	Mottled mid grey and light green silt with occasional nodules of iron panning.	109
2.22-2.13	Orange-brown slightly clayey silt with occasional iron staining.	110
2.13-1.89	Mid brown slightly sandy silt, becoming sandier towards bottom.	111

#### Auger Hole 3 (Trench 2)

O.D. HEIGHT	DESCRIPTION	CONTEXT NUMBER
2.56-2.31	Dark grey slightly sandy silt with frequent CBM and charcoal inclusions	205
2.31-2.21	Blue clay with some light brown mottling.	206
2.21-1.66	Mottled blue-grey and orange-brown silt	213



Auger Hole 4 (Trench 3)

O.D. HEIGHT	DESCRIPTION	CONTEXT NUMBER
2.88-2.43	Yellow and grey mottled fine sandy silt.	313
2.43-2.38	Mid to dark brown clayey silt.	314
2.38-2.18	Brownish grey clayey silt becoming increasingly iron stained and clayey towards bottom.	315
2.18-1.88	Firm grey slightly silty clay with some iron staining.	316

## APPENDIX 4: Halmergate, Spalding, Lincolnshire – HGS03 Environmental Archaeology Assessment

### *Introduction*

One soil sample was taken on an evaluation excavation conducted by Pre-Construct Archaeology (Lincoln) at Halmergate, Spalding. A bulk sample of thirty litres was taken from context 309, the fill of rubbish pit 302, and interpreted in the field as a dump of domestic waste. The deposit has been preliminarily dated to the late medieval period. The sample was submitted to the Environmental Archaeology Consultancy for processing and assessment.

### *Methods*

The soil sample was processed in the following manner. Sample volume and weight was measured prior to processing. The sample was washed in a 'Siraf' tank (Williams 1973) using a flotation sieve with a 0.5mm mesh and an internal wet sieve of 1mm mesh for the residue. Both residue and flot were dried and the residue subsequently re-floated to ensure the efficient recovery of charred material. The dry volume of the flot was measured and the volume and weight of the residue recorded.

The residue was sorted by eye, and environmental and archaeological finds picked out, noted on the assessment sheet and bagged independently. A magnet was run through the residue in order to recover magnetised material such as hammerscale and prill. The residue was then discarded. The flot was studied using x10 magnifications and the presence of environmental finds (i.e. snails, charcoal, carbonised seeds, bones etc) was noted and their abundance and species diversity recorded on the assessment sheet. The flot was then bagged and along with the finds from the sorted residue, constitute the material archive of the sample.

The individual components of the sample were then preliminarily identified and the results are summarised below in Tables 1 and 2.

### *Results*

The residue after the washing and sorting of this sample was almost entirely composed of the concreted silts noted on site. The deposit was extremely rich in finds and a variety of remains were extracted (Tables 1 and 2).

**Table 1: HGS03. Finds from the processed samples**

samp no.	cont no.	samp vol (l)	residue vol. (l)	flot vol (ml)	pot no/wt	brick/ tile g.	coal g.	hamm. scale no.	slag g.	Fe object no.	glass no.	bone g.	marine shell g.	fish bone g.
1	309	30	3	32	13/27	115	3	>50	<1	4	1	198	543	5

Archaeological finds included brick/tile, a little coal, pottery, four concreted iron rich lumps that may be corroded iron objects, a splinter of glass and a number of flakes and spheroids of hammerscale. The latter is clear evidence for iron smithing being undertaken in the vicinity of the feature. Animal bone and marine shell are relatively abundant, with cockles comprising the bulk of the shells, and mussel and oyster being the other economic species. Cattle, sheep/goat and pig bones are present and a calf mandible illustrates that juveniles are present in the sample. A fair number of fish bones were extracted, with small, medium and larger fish represented. These are probably mainly marine taxa but will require a specialist to identify the



range of species present, although eel and stickleback have been identified during this assessment. A relatively large amount of eggshell all appears to be assignable to chicken.

**Table 2: HGS03. Finds from the processed samples**

samp no.	cont no.	samp vol (l)	flot vol (ml)	char-coal §	charr'd grain *	charr'd chaff *	charr'd seed *	mineralised seed *	egg-shell g.	snails #	Comments
1	309	30	1500	4/5	4		4	2	4	3/2	Wheat, barley, legumes, weed seeds, mineralised seeds, cockles, oyster, mussel, tellen, cattle, sheep/goat, pig, vole, mouse, eel, stickleback, small marine fish, chicken eggshell

\* = abundance: 1=1-10, 2=11-50, 3=51-150, 4=151-250, 5=250

# = abundance (as above)/diversity - 1=1-3; 2=4-10; 3=11-25; 4=26-50 taxa

§ - abundance of charcoal over 2mm/ abundance <2mm

The sample flot is rich in charred seeds as well as charcoal. Charred cereal grains are abundant, and wheat and barley have been preliminarily identified. There are also a large number of smaller seeds including pulses and weed seeds. A peculiar component not previously seen in any other samples studied by the Environmental Archaeology Consultancy appears to be charred 'seed cakes'. These are small lumps of adhering charred seeds that appear to have been charred as lumps rather than becoming stuck together after charring. The specific identification of the seeds within these 'cakes' may help to elucidate their origin. In addition there are a small number of mineralised seeds in the sample. This mineralisation of a few seeds and the concreted silts in the residue suggest that the pit has contained cess as well as rubbish and has either functioned as a cess pit at some time or received night-soil in addition to domestic rubbish. The charcoal component of the flot includes small wood and twiggy material. There is also a lot of siliceous material in the flot, probably representing burnt plant material or 'ash'.

The flot also produced a number of terrestrial and aquatic mollusc shells. These include *Trichia hispida*, *Retinella nitidula*, *Ceciliodes acicula*, *Pupilla muscorum*, *Vallonia excentrica*, *Vertigo pygmaea*, *Valvata piscinalis* and *Hydrobia ulvae*. The latter is an estuarine and brackish water species which may have been in the natural marine silts through which the pit was cut. The others include taxa of open grassland habitat, shaded environments and running water. The latter, *Valvata piscinalis*, may have been introduced with vegetation collected from a stream or riverside environment.

### **Discussion and Recommendations**

The deposit appears to reflect both cess and domestic rubbish. It is rich in dietary waste, having a range of different food stuffs represented. It also contains an unusual charred seed agglomeration which might reflect a 'processed' foodstuff of some sort and deserves more detailed investigation by an archaeobotanist. The presence of hammerscale in some quantity indicates that iron smithing was being undertaken in the vicinity.

This is a very rich sample and suggests that if further excavation is required at the site there is a high potential for the samples to answer questions on the activities taking place on the site, the diet of the occupants, and the functional role of individual features. Sampling should definitely be undertaken of dateable features in any further excavation work, and sample sizes should be maintained at the 30 litres taken for this evaluation sample. Even if no further excavation is required at the site the assemblages collected from this sample should be

submitted for full post-excavation analysis as an example of the diet at the site at this time and to investigate further the charred seed agglomerations that are present.

***Acknowledgements***

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***Bibliography***

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## Archive catalogue of Animal Bone from Halmergate, Spalding

site	cont	species	bone	no	side	fusion	zone	butchery	gnawing	toothwear	measurement	path	comment	preservation
HGS03	101	OVCA	HUM	1	L	DF	6789	CH			SD-13.1 BT-29.7 HT-17.5		DISTAL HALF-CUT AROUND MIDSHAFT	4
HGS03	101	CAN	INN	1	L	EF	7						ISCHIAL SHAFT AND PART ACETAB	4
HGS03	101	OVCA	INN	1	L		3						ILIAL SHAFT	4
HGS03	103	BOS	PH1	1	R	PF	12						COMPLETE WITH A HOLE IN SIDE	4
HGS03	103	OVCA	TIB	1	R	DF							MID AND DISTAL SHAFT WITH SMALL PART DISTAL END	4
HGS03	103	BOS	TIB	1	L								DISTAL SHAFT	4
HGS03	103	CSZ	INN	1	R		2	CH					PART SACRAL SCAR-CHOPPED ON VENTRAL SIDE	4
HGS03	104	BOS	CEV	1	F			CH					ZYGAPOPHYSIS AND PART NEURAL ARCH	4
HGS03	104	OVCA	PH1	1	L	PF	12						COMPLETE	4
HGS03	104	BOS	DUP4	1	F								NO WEAR	4
HGS03	104	CSZ	HUM	1	F								PROX SHAFT FRAG-POROUS-JUV	4
HGS03	104	BOS	TIB	1	R								PROX MIDSHAFT	4
HGS03	210	CSZ	LBF	1	F								SHAFT FRAGMENT	4
HGS03	301	BOS	MAN	1	R		2						DIASTEMAL FRAGMENT	4
HGS03	305	CSZ	RIB	2	F								SHAFT FRAGMENT	4
HGS03	305	CSZ	RIB	2	F			CH					SHAFT FRAGMENT-SL POROUS-ONE END CHOPPED	4
HGS03	305	SSZ	LMV	1	F		1						SPINE	4
HGS03	305	OVCA	UM2	1	L					J16			COMPLETE	4
HGS03	305	BOS	MAN	1	L		6						ANGLE	4
HGS03	305	SSZ	LBF	1	F				DG				SHAFT FRAGMENT-CHEWED	3
HGS03	305	BOS	MAN	1	F								VENTRAL FRAGMENT HORI RAMUS	4
HGS03	305	BOS	FEM	1	F			CH	DG				DISTAL SHAFT FRAGMENT-CHOPPED AND CHEWED	4
HGS03	305	CSZ	LBF	1	F								SHAFT FRAGMENT	4
HGS03	305	OVCA	MAN	1	R		567			K12			POST RAMUS AND CONDYLE-4 PIECES	4
HGS03	305	CSZ	LBF	1	F								SHAFT FRAGMENT-POROUS-JUV	4
HGS03	305	SSZ	SKL	1	F								OCCIPITAL FRAGMENT	4
HGS03	307	OVCA	UM3	1	L					K7			COMPLETE	4
HGS03	307	OVCA	SCP	1	R		235						GLENOID AND NECK	4
HGS03	307	OVCA	MTC	1	R	DF	345						DISTAL HALF-BROAD AND FLATTENED-RAM?	4
HGS03	307	OVCA	RAD	1	R								SPLIT MIDSHAFT WITH ULNAL SHAFT FUSED ON	4
HGS03	309	BOS	MTT	1	R		12	KN					PROX END-CUT MARKS ACROSS POST ARTIC	4
HGS03	309	CSZ	RIB	1	R								PROX SHAFT FRAGMENT	4
HGS03	309	BOS	MAN	1	L		2						DIASTEMAL AND PART SYMPHYSEAL FRAGMENT	4
HGS03	309	BOS	SKL	1	L		8						TEMPORAL	4
HGS03	309	BOS	CEV	1	F		15						SPINE AND PART NEURAL ARCH	4
HGS03	309	OVCA	ULN	1	R		23						FRAGMENT WITH SEMILUNARIS	4
HGS03	309	OVCA	MAN	1	L		23			G			ANT HORI RAMIS WITH DIASTEMA AND PM3	4
HGS03	309	EQU	SCP	1	R		2						GLENOID ONLY	4
HGS03	309	BOS	LPM3	1	L					G12			COMPLETE	4
HGS03	309	OVCA	CAL	1	L	PF	123				GL-59.98 Dd-23.8		COMPLETE	4