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ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF ON LAND TO THE REAR OF 8 THE GREEN, HELPRINGHAM, LINCOLNSHIRE (TGH 03)

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ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF ON LAND TO THE REAR OF 8 THE GREEN, HELPRINGHAM, LINCOLNSHIRE (TGH 03)

Work Undertaken For Mr Yarwood

September 2003

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

National Grid Reference: TF 1394 4083 Planning Reference: N/33/1013/00 City and County Museum Accession No: 2003.266

ARCHAEOLOGICAL PROJECT SERVICES



APS Report No. 125/03

Conservation Services 1 0 OCT 2003 Highways & Planning

Directorate

Quality Control 8 The Green, Helpringham TGH 03

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1. SUMMARY

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken during residential development on land at the rear of 8 The Green, Helpringham, Lincolnshire. The watching brief monitored the excavation of foundation trenches for a new bungalow.

The watching brief was required as the site lay close to the medieval (AD 1066-1540) core of the village which is best represented by St. Andrew's church, the base of a cross and ridge and furrow of the medieval field system. Additionally, a Saxon (AD 410-1066) spindle whorl is known from the village.

The investigation identified an undated boundary ditch and a recent, possibly machine cut, trench. Finds from the investigation included 19th century pottery, a glass bottle 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 nonarchaeological 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 N. Yarwood to undertake an archaeological watching brief during groundworks associated with residential development on land to the rear Helpringham. of 8 The Green. Lincolnshire. Approval for the development was sought through the submission of planning application

N/33/1013/00. The watching brief was carried out on the 7th July 2003, in accordance with a specification prepared by Archaeological Project Services (Appendix 1) and approved by the Heritage Officer, North Kesteven District Council.

2.3 Topography and Geology

Helpringham is located 9km southeast of Sleaford and 19km west of Boston in the administrative district of North Kesteven, Lincolnshire (Fig. 1).

The site is located 100m northeast of the village centre as defined by St. Andrew's parish church (Fig. 2). Located at National Grid Reference TF 1394 4083 the site is in an area of generally level ground at a height of c. 8m OD. Heights drop down to the north, towards the valley of the Helpringham Eau.

Local soils are of the Beccles 3 Association, typically fine loamy over clay soils (Hodge *et al.* 1984, 121). These soils overlie a drift geology of glaciofluvial outwash overlying boulder clay which in turn seals a solid geology of Jurassic Oxford Clay (BGS 1995).

2.4 Archaeological Setting

The development site lies within an area of known archaeological remains dating from the Saxon period to the present day. An Anglo-Saxon spindle whorl was found towards the southern extent of the village.

Helpringham is first mentioned in the Domesday Survey of c. 1086. Referred to as *Helperincham* and *Helpericham* the name is derived from the Old English and means the settlement $(h\bar{a}m)$ of 'Helpric's' people (Cameron 1998, 62). The Domesday Survey records that the land was held by Ivo Taillebois, Colsuan, Gilbert de Gand, Robert de Veci and Godfrey of Cambrai and contained a

church and at least 22 acres of meadow (Foster and Longley 1976).

The only extant remains of the medieval period are the 13th century church of St. Andrew (Pevsner and Harris 1989, 379), which presumably replaced the church referred to in the Domesday account of the village, and a medieval cross base reused as a foundation for a war memorial. Earthworks of medieval ridge and furrow have been identified immediately south of the village (Albone 2000, 4).

A watching brief undertaken 60m to the southeast identified an undated pit and boundary ditch with pottery and clay pipes of 19th century date (Cope-Faulkner 2000, 1). A second watching brief carried out along the High Street, west of the site, identified quarry pits, ditches and a posthole, though these were undated (Cope-Faulkner 2003, 1).

3. AIMS

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

4. METHODS

Prior to the excavation of foundation trenches topsoil was stripped from the site. Foundation trenches were then excavated by machine to depths required by the development. Sides of the trenches were then cleaned and rendered vertical. Selected deposits were then partially excavated by hand to determine their nature and to retrieve artefactual material. Each deposit or feature encountered was allocated a unique reference number (context number) with an individual written description. A list of all contexts and their descriptions appears as Appendix 2. A photographic record was compiled and sections were drawn at a scale of 1:10. Recording of the deposits was undertaken according to standard Archaeological Project Services' practice.

Following excavation, records of the deposits and features encountered were checked and a stratigraphic matrix produced. Finds were also examined and a period date assigned where possible (Appendix 3). Phasing is assigned based on the nature of the deposits and recognisable relationships between them.

5. **RESULTS**

Following post-excavation analysis three phases were identified;

Phase 1	Natural deposits
Phase 2	Undated deposits
Phase 3	Recent deposits

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

Phase 1 Natural deposits

The earliest deposit encountered in the base of the foundation trenches was a layer of dark yellowish brown sand (002). This was identified as the underlying drift geology.

Phase 2 Undated deposits

Aligned east-west through the foundation trenches was a linear ditch (005). This measured over 0.6m long by 1.63m wide and 0.77m deep (Fig. 4, Section 2). A single fill of greyish brown sandy silt (004) was recorded.

Phase 3 Recent deposits

Cut into the natural deposits was a northsouth linear feature (003). The function of this feature was unclear and although it

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF ON LAND TO THE REAR OF 8 THE GREEN, HELPRINGHAM

resembles a recent service trench, no cables or pipes were identified within it. It was over 12m long by 1.2m wide and 1.3m deep with vertical sides and a flat base. Filling the feature and evident as topsoil across the site was a layer of greyish brown sandy silt (001). Pottery of 19th to 20th century date was retrieved along with a glass bottle and animal bone.

6. **DISCUSSION**

Natural deposits (Phase 1) comprise sands of the underlying glaciofluvial deposits.

Undated features (Phase 2) consist of a single east-west aligned ditch. The ditch probably served a boundary function. A recent (Phase 3) feature was also identified and, based on its profile and width, may be a machine excavated trench.

Finds retrieved from the watching brief comprised a few sherds of 19th century pottery, a glass bottle and animal bone.

7. CONCLUSION

Archaeological investigations were undertaken on land to the rear of The Green as the site lay close to the medieval core of the village.

However, no medieval remains were clearly identified though an undated ditch was revealed that probably served a boundary function. A recent trench, perhaps for services, was also recorded.

No artefacts earlier than the 19th century were recovered, suggesting that the site served a non-occupation function in the medieval and early post-medieval periods.

8. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeological Project Services wish to acknowledge the assistance of Mr N.

Yarwood for commissioning the fieldwork and post-excavation analysis. The work was coordinated by Denise Drury who edited this report with Tom Lane. Jo Hambly, The North Kesteven Heritage Officer, kindly permitted access to the relevant parish files maintained by Heritage Lincolnshire.

9. PERSONNEL

Project Coordinator: Denise Drury Site Supervisor: Denise Buckley 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

IFA Institute of Field Archaeologists

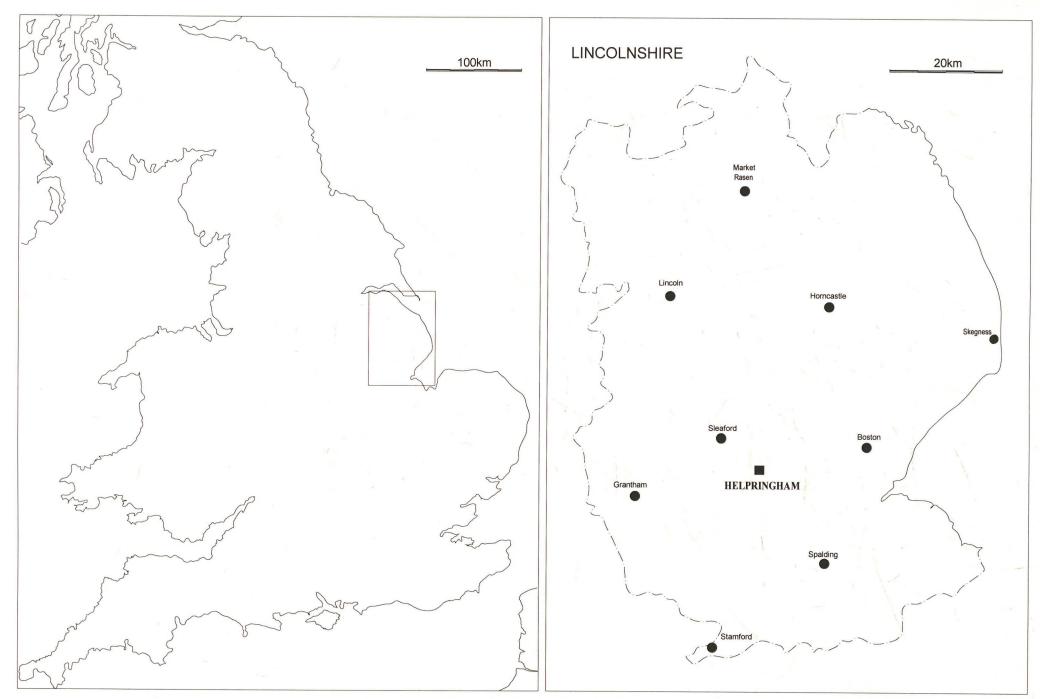


Figure 1 - General Location Plan

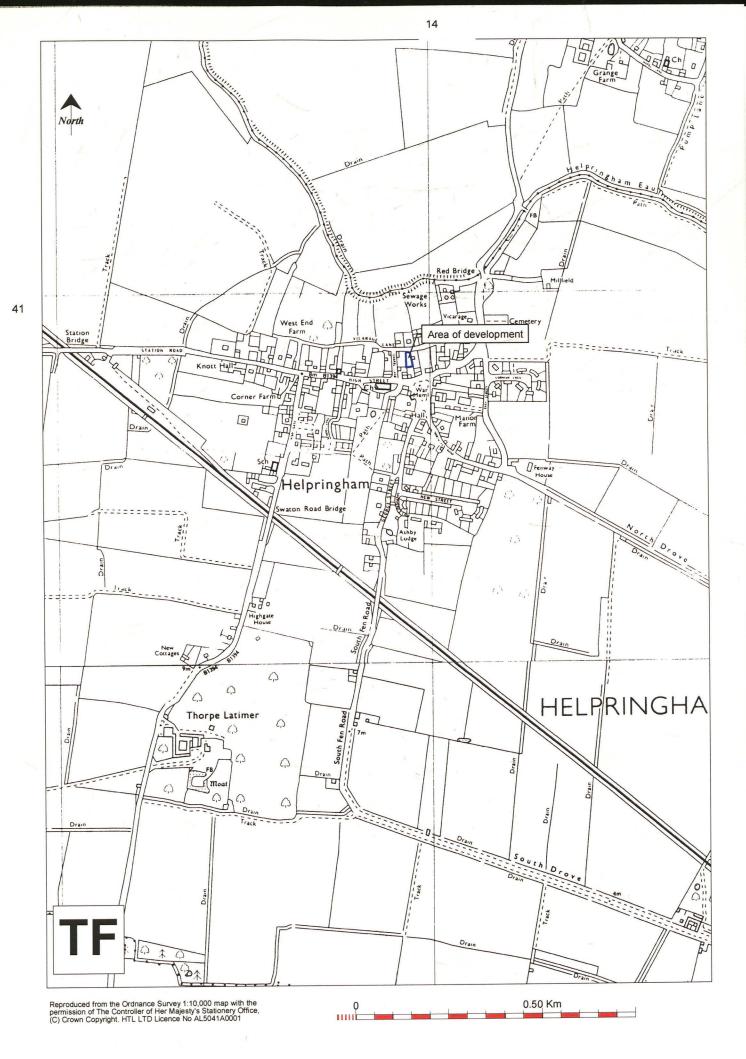
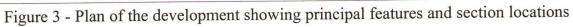


Figure 2 - Site location plan





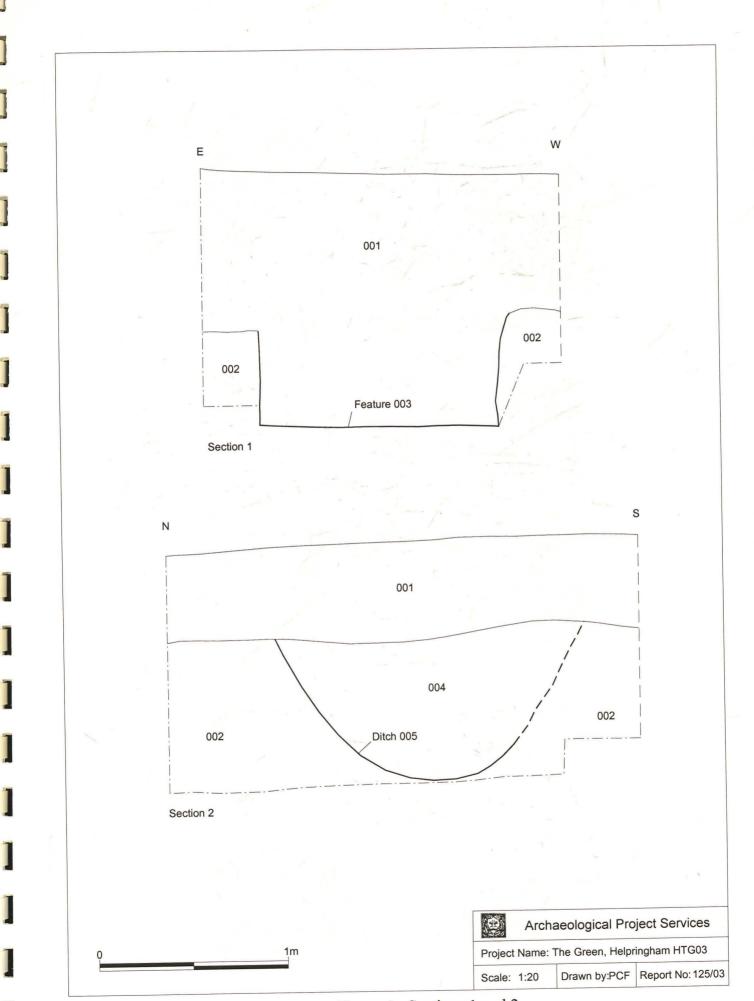


Figure 4 - Sections 1 and 2



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Plate 1 - General view of the development, looking southwest



Plate 2 - Section 1 showing cut (003), looking south



Plate 3 - Section 2 showing cut (005), looking east

LAND TO REAR OF 8 THE GREEN, HELPRINGHAM, LINCOLNSHIRE -SPECIFICATION FOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

SUMMARY

1

- 1.1 A watching brief is required during residential development on land to the rear of 8 The Green, Helpringham, Lincolnshire.
- 1.2 The site lies in the centre of the village of Helpringham which had its origins in the Anglo-Saxon period.
- 1.3 The watching brief will be undertaken during groundworks associated with the development. 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 residential development of land to the rear of 8 The Green, Helpringham, 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 Helpringham is located 8km southeast of Sleaford in the North Kesteven district of Lincolnshire. The site is located in the centre of the village, to the rear of 8 The Green and bounded by Vicarage Lane to the north. The site is centred on centred on National Grid Reference TF 1394 4081.

4 PLANNING BACKGROUND

4.1 A planning application (N/33/1013/00) has been submitted to North Kesteven District Council for erection of a dwelling. Permission is 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 is currently a garden containing a number of mature fruit trees. It lies at approximately 8m OD. Local soils are the Beccles 3 Association fine loamy over clayey soils developed on chalky till (Hodge *et al.* 1984 121-2).

6 ARCHAEOLOGICAL OVERVIEW

- 6.1 Helpringham is recorded in the Domesday Survey (1086). The place-name is Old English in origin and refers to the 'homestead or estate of the *Helpricingas*' an Anglo-Saxon tribal group.
- 6.2 The site lies close to the historic core of the village, 80m northeast of the parish church. The church of St Andrew is largely of 14th century date and includes fabric of Norman date.

6.3 Located in the centre of the village, close to the church, there is potential for the groundworks to expose or disturb remains associated with the Saxon, medieval and later development of the settlement.

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

7

- 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 <u>Methodology</u>

- 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 they will be left in situ and only excavated if

absolutely necessary. Should removal be required the appropriate Home Office licence will be obtained before the exhumation of the remains. In addition, the Local Environmental Health Department, coroner and the police will be informed, where appropriate.

POST-EXCAVATION

9

9.1 <u>Stage 1</u>

- 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 <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 <u>Stage 3</u>
 - 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; the North Kesteven Heritage Officer; North Kesteven 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 North Kesteven Heritage Officer. They will be given written notice in before the commencement of the project.

14 VARIATIONS AND CONTINGENCIES

- 14.1 Variations to the proposed scheme of works will only be made following written confirmation of acceptance from the archaeological curator.
- 14.2 In the event of the discovery of any unexpected remains of archaeological importance, or of any changed circumstances, it is the responsibility of the archaeological contractor to inform the archaeological curator (*Lincolnshire Archaeological Handbook* 1998, Sections 5.7 and 18).
- 14.3 Where important archaeological remains are discovered and deemed to merit further investigation additional resources may be required to provide an appropriate level of investigation, recording and analysis.
- 14.4 Any contingency requirement for additional fieldwork or post-excavation analysis outside the scope of the proposed scheme of works will only be activated following full consultation with the archaeological curator and the client.

15 PROGRAMME OF WORKS AND STAFFING LEVELS

- 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.

Task	Body to be undertaking the work
Conservation	Conservation Laboratory, City and County Museum, Lincoln
Pottery Analysis	Prehistoric - Trent & Peak Archaeological Trust
	Roman - B Precious, Independent Specialist
	Anglo-Saxon - J Young, Independent Specialist
	Medieval and later - G Taylor APS in consultation with H Healey, Independent Archaeologist
Non-pottery Artefacts	J Cowgill, Independent Specialist
Animal Bones	Environmental Archaeology Consultancy
Environmental Analysis	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.
- 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**

Albone, J. 2000 Desk-based assessment of land off Orchard Close, Helpringham, Lincolnshire. Unpublished APS report 148/00

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, 30/06/2003

CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

No.	Description	Interpretation	
001	Soft/loose dark greyish brown sandy silt, also fills (003), 0.86m thick	Topsoil	
002	Soft dark yellowish brown sand	Natural deposit	
003	Linear feature, aligned north-south, >12m long by 1.2m wide by 1.3m deep, vertical sides and flat base, filled with (001)	Ditch/trench	
004	Soft mid greyish brown sandy silt	Fill of (005)	
005	Linear feature, aligned east-west, >1m long by 1.63m wide by 0.77m deep, steep sides and rounded base	Ditch	

1

THE FINDS

by Paul Cope-Faulkner, Rachael Hall 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. Two fragments of pottery weighing 75g were recovered from a single context. In addition to the pottery, a glass bottle weighing 140g was retrieved. Faunal remains were also recovered.

Provenance

The material was recovered from topsoil (001).

All of the pottery was probably manufactured in Staffordshire.

Range

The range of material is detailed in the tables.

Table 1: Pottery

Context	Fabric Code	Description	No.	Wt (g)	Context Date
001	TPW	Blue and white transfer printed tableware, 20 th century	1	17	20 th century
	LPM	Brown glazed teapot lid, 19 th -early 20 th century	1	58	

Table 2: Other Artefacts

Context	Material	Description	No.	Wt (g)	Context Date
001	Glass	Complete mould produced bottle, colourless oval with cusping along 2 sides	1	140	20 th century

Table 3: The Faunal Remains

Context	Species	Bone	No.	Wt (g)	Comments	
001	Sheep sized	ribs	2	10	Iron stained, chalky condition	

Condition

All the material is in good condition and presents no long-term storage problems. Archive storage of the collection is by material class.

Documentation

There have been previous archaeological investigations at Helpringham that are the subjects of reports. Details of archaeological sites and discoveries in the area are maintained in the files of the North Kesteven Heritage Officer and the Lincolnshire County Council Sites and Monuments Record.

Potential

The small collection of early modern artefacts is of limited local potential and significance and probably derives from refuse discard in the area.

The lack of any material earlier than the 19th 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

1

A deposit formed after the retreat of a glacier. Also known as till, this material is generally unsorted and can comprise of rock flour to boulders to rocks of quite substantial size.
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, $e.g.(004)$.
A cut refers to the physical action of digging a posthole, pit, ditch, foundation trench, <i>etc.</i> Once the fills of these features are removed during an archaeological investigation the original 'cut' is therefore exposed and subsequently recorded.
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).
A layer is a term to describe an accumulation of soil or other material that is not contained within a cut.
The Middle Ages, dating from approximately AD 1066-1500.
Undisturbed deposit(s) of soil or rock which have accumulated without the influence of human activity.
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:

5	Context records
2	Drawing sheets
1	Daily record sheets
1	Photographic record sheets
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:	2003.266
Archaeological Project Services Site Code:	TGH 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.

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.