



LINDSEY ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES

Heapham Rd, Gainsborough, Lincs

**NGR:SK 8380 8940
Site Code:GHRE 03
LCNCC Museum Accn Code:2003.340
WLDC Planning Application No.: 99/P/1041**

Archaeological Watching Brief

**Report prepared for
West Lindsey District Council**

by I. Rowlandson MA

**LAS Report No. 714
November 2003**



25 WEST PARADE · LINCOLN · LN1 1NW
TELEPHONE 01522 544554 · FACSIMILE 01522 522211 · EMAIL las@linarch.co.uk

Lindsey Archaeological Services LLP Registered in England and Wales No. OC304247
Registered address 25 West Parade · Lincoln · LN1 1NW

VAT Registration No. 819 8029 41

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Heapham Road Industrial Estate, Gainsborough, Lincs.

Archaeological Watching Brief

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Site Code: GHRE 03

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Planning Application No.: 99/P/1041

Summary

Groundworks associated with the development of the Heapham Road Industrial Estate were monitored by Lindsey Archaeological Services. No archaeological features were observed during the monitoring and the watching brief was brought to an early conclusion after consultation with the Built Environment Officer.

Introduction

Lindsey Archaeological Services (LAS) was commissioned by West Lindsey District Council to conduct an archaeological watching brief during groundworks for the development of an area of land to the north and west of the existing Heapham Road industrial estate into new light industrial units (Figs. 1 and 2). The watching brief was required by the local planning authority to fulfil a condition on the planning permission. Groundworks were monitored from the 27th October to the 11th November 2003 when, after consultation, permission was given by Beryl Lott, Built Environment Officer Lincoln County Council (Archaeological advisor to West Lindsey District Council), to cease monitoring at the site.

The Development Site

The Heapham Road industrial estate is located east of Gainsborough town centre on top of the Limestone scarp close to the parish boundary. The site slopes east to west from 29m AOD in the north eastern corner of the site to 21m AOD.

Archaeological Background

The rights of the Lord of the manor to hold a market at Gainsborough were confirmed in 1204AD by King John and the town developed along the River Trent as Torksey went into decline. The majority of the surviving medieval timber buildings and street layout in the town were destroyed by urban redevelopment in the 20th century. (Field 1989)

Although archaeological material is known from the Gainsborough area there is little evidence for activity in the immediate vicinity of the site.

The Watching Brief (Fig. 3)

Groundworks consisted of the construction of an access road, foul drains, surface water drainage and a lagoon by 360° mechanical excavators with toothed buckets and a tracked bulldozer under the

observation of a qualified archaeologist. Context numbers were assigned by LAS for recording purposes, and these are used in bold in the text (Appendix 1).

Topsoil Reduction (Pl.1)

Topsoil stripping over the south western area of the lagoon and the access roads was undertaken to reduce the ground level. This was done with a tracked bulldozer which hampered the recognition of any archaeological features. The soil reduced comprised a grey brown silty clay topsoil, **101**, leaving a trampled deposit of **101** and the underlying clay **102**, mid orange brown clay natural. Although one sherd of medieval pottery was retrieved from **101** at the eastern extent of the lagoon the areas being stripped the topsoil produced a pottery deposit conducive with 19th to 20th century activity.

The Lagoon (Pl. 2)

The excavation of the eastern end of the lagoon was undertaken with a 360° mechanical excavator with a toothed bucket.

The deposits at the east of the lagoon (Pl. 3) consisted of

0.00m- 0.40m **101**

0.40m- 1.10m **102**

1.10m – 2.30m **103** Blue green clay

2.30m- 2.55m **104** Grey silty sand with laminar shale fragments c. 40mm x40mmx5mm

A change in the natural deposit was observed 40m from the eastern edge of the lagoon (Pl.4).

0.00m- 0.4m **101**

0.40m- 1.4m **105** Orange clay sand

1.4m- 2.10m **103**

2.10m- 2.20m **104**

No archaeological features were observed though two modern field drains were noted running down slope from east to west. This was the only area of the site where excavation penetrated the clays.

Pipe Trenches

The trenches were excavated with a 360° digger with a toothed bucket. A modern land drain was noted running down slope from east to west. The topsoil **101** had been bulldozed and the deposit is taken from the top of layer **102**.

Sample section taken from foul pipe trench (Pl. 5)

0.00m- 0.55m **102**

0.55m- 1.30m **103**

1.30m- 1.60m **106** Dark grey brown clay

No archaeological features were encountered during the watching brief

Discussion

The groundworks observed produced no evidence for any features earlier than late post-medieval to modern land drains which ran down slope from east to west presumably draining into the water drainage channel at the south western edge of the site. The method of bulldozer stripping was not conducive to the recognition of archaeological features and the movement of heavy plant machinery in wet conditions churned up the topsoil clay interface.

Only one sherd of medieval material dating earlier than the 19th- 20th was retrieved and it is likely that there was little archaeological activity on the area monitored. The 19th- 20th century pottery assemblage retrieved from the topsoil, **101**, may be the result of night soil or waste dumping on the site. Evidence for occupation of the area has probably been limited to the development of the present industrial estate and the previous modern farming.

The depth of the deposit model produced showing the clays and shale may be geologically interesting.

Conclusion

The site is on the periphery of modern settlement and the edge of the parish and is beyond the historically developed area of Gainsborough. The watching brief confirmed an absence of past occupation on the site.

Acknowledgements

LAS is grateful for the co-operation received from the contractors UCS Ltd. Illustrations were prepared by the author. The report was collated and produced by Naomi Field.

Ian Rowlandson MA
Lindsey Archaeological Services
2nd December 2003

References

Field, N. 1989, Gainsborough Archaeological Resource Map, LAS Report No. 450

Archive Summary

Correspondence

Developer's plans

Field notes

Photographs: LAS colour print film nos. 03/129, 03/130, 03/140, 03/143 & 03/14 (including those used in this report).

Lindsey
Archaeological Services

APPENDIX 1

APPENDIX 1

Context Summary: Heapham Road Industrial Estate, Gainsborough, Lincs

Context Number	Type	Description
101	Layer	Grey brown silty clay topsoil
102	Layer	Mid orange brown clay
103	Layer	Blue green clay
104	Layer	Grey silty sand with laminar compressed peat fragments
105	Layer	Orange clay sand
106	Layer	Dark grey brown clay

THE FIGURES

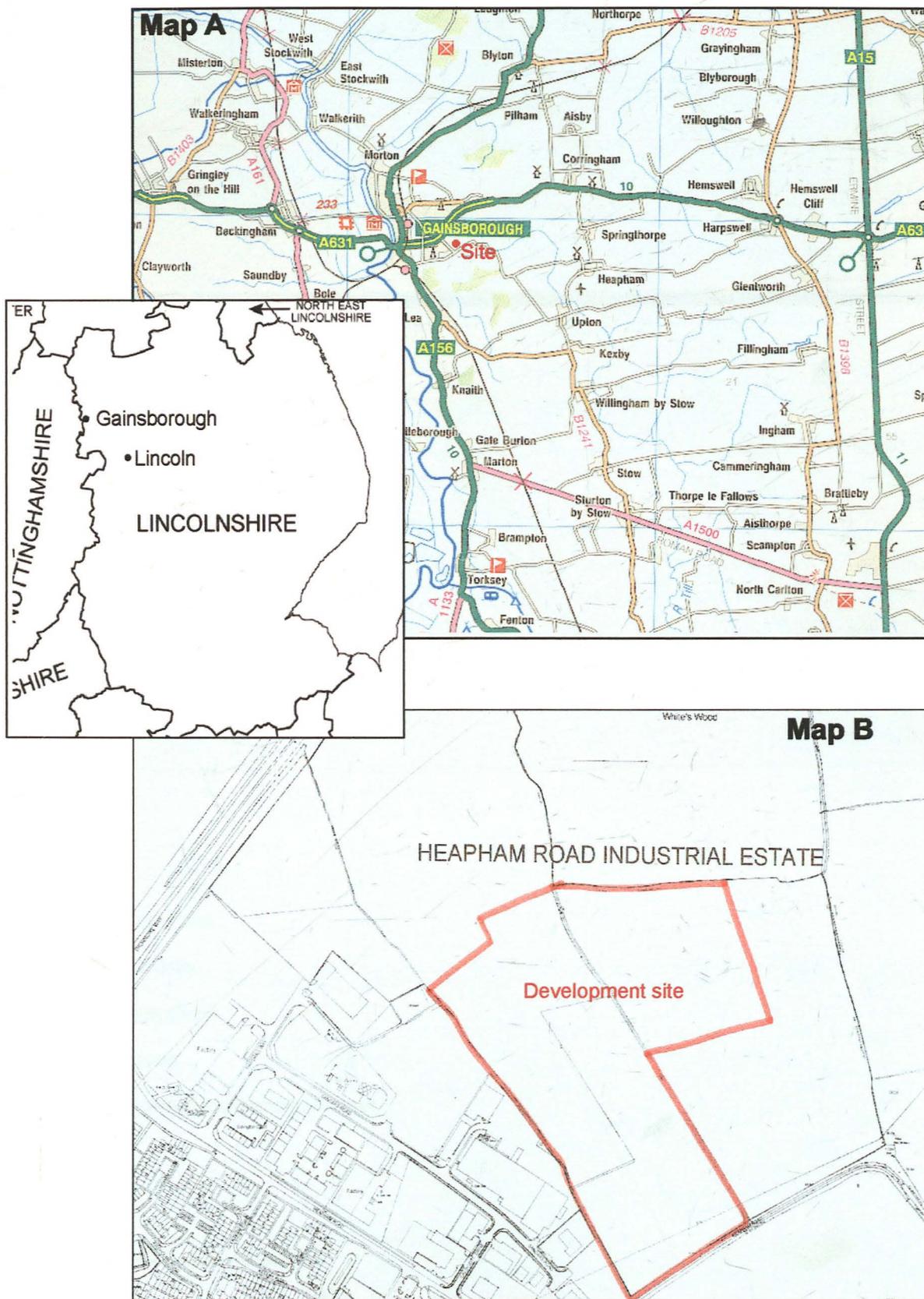


Fig. 1 Location of the development site, Heapham Road.

(A) 1:50,000 OS Map and (B) based on a 1:1250 map.

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Fig. 2 Map of groundworks (after plan supplied by client)

THE PLATES



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PI.2 The excavation of the lagoon, looking west.



PI.4 Sample section cut during the excavation of the lagoon, looking west.



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Pl. 5 Sample section of deposit in foul pipe trench 8m south west of the most south easterly manhole, looking north west.