

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL
WATCHING BRIEF.
NEW RECTORY, WEST STREET
FOLKINGHAM, LINCOLNSHIRE**

NGR: 507070 333692
SITE CODE: NRW04
LCNCC ACC. NO: 2004.62



Report prepared for
Stephen Roberts Associates
by William Munford
Feb 2004

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

© Pre-Construct Archaeology (Lincoln)

LCCM Accn. No. 2004.62

Summary

- During the initial groundworks for a new rectory, a programme of archaeological observation and recording took place on land situated to the rear of West Street and adjacent to the churchyard of St Andrew's Church, Folkingham, Lincolnshire.
- Although no significant archaeological deposits were observed, unstratified sherds of medieval pottery were recorded during the brief.

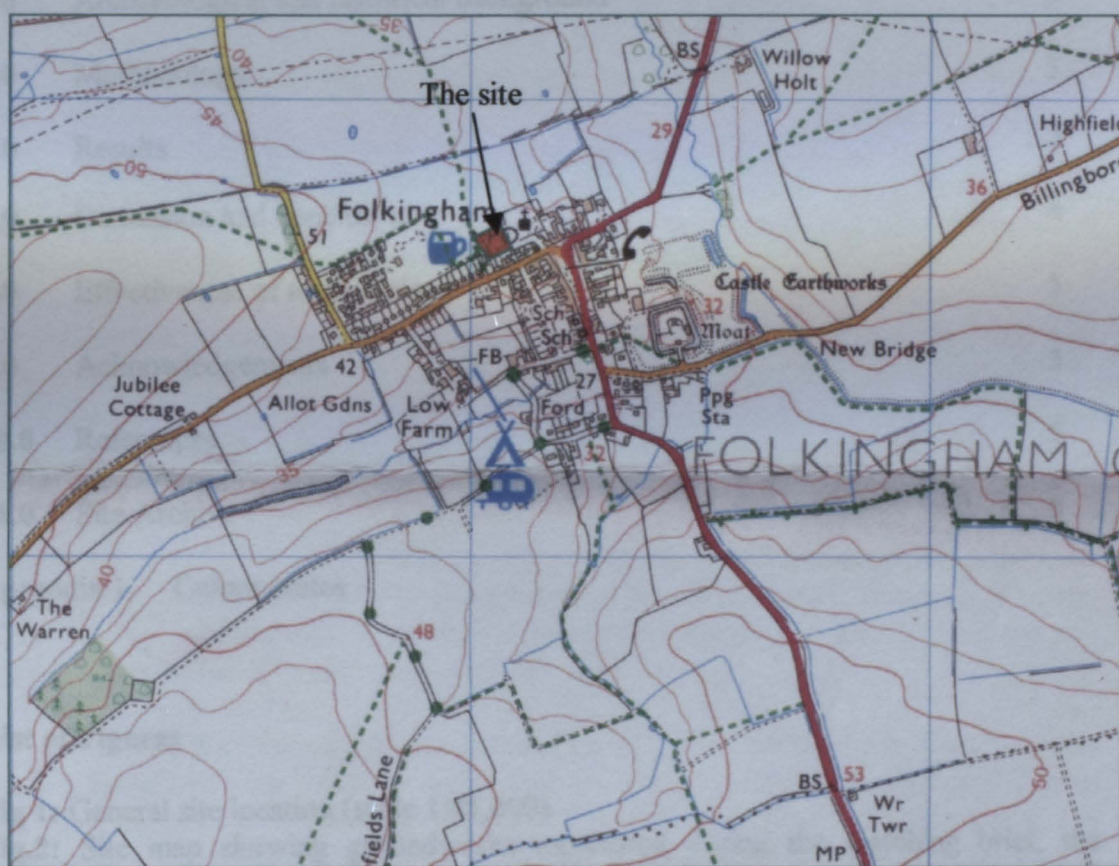


Fig. 1. Map showing location of site within Folkingham, Lincolnshire.
(Scale 1:25000)



CONTENTS

Summary	1
1.0 Introduction	2
2.0 Site location and description	2
3.0 Planning background	2
4.0 Archaeological and historical background	3
5.0 Methodology	3
6.0 Results	4
7.0 Discussion and conclusion	4
8.0 Effectiveness of methodology	5
9.0 Acknowledgements	5
10.0 References	5
11.0 Site Archive	5
Appendix 1: Colour plates	

List of Figures

Fig 1: General site location (scale 1:25,000)

Fig.2: Site map showing groundworks monitored during the watching brief, the position of the modern filled pond and the area stripped prior to archaeological monitoring. (Scale 1:250)

Fig.3 Sample section showing natural layers observed within the rectory footings and part of the modern backfilled pond [007], (scale, 1:20).

List of plates

Pl. 1. Overview of the rectory footings in progress within which pit [007] was observed, looking east.

Pl. 2. Sample section showing the natural layers observed within the excavated footings. Looking south.

1.0 Introduction

Stephen Roberts Associates commissioned Pre-Construct Archaeology (Lincoln) to undertake a programme of archaeological observation and recording on land situated to the rear of West Street and adjacent to the churchyard of St Andrews Church Folkingham, Lincolnshire. These works were undertaken to fulfil the objectives of a formal project brief issued by South Kesteven District Council. This 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 Watching Briefs*, IFA (1999) and the LCC document *Lincolnshire Archaeological Handbook: A Manual of Archaeological Practice*, 1998.

The full archaeological programme took place between the 19th and 25th of February 2004.

Copies of this report have been deposited with the commissioning body and the County Sites and Monuments Record for Lincolnshire. A summary will be submitted to the editor of the county journal, *Lincolnshire History and Archaeology*, and this will feature as a short note in due course. Reports will also be deposited at the City and County Museum, Lincoln, along with an ordered project archive for long term storage and curation.

2.0 Site location and description

Folkingham is approximately 12km south of Sleaford, 15.5 kilometres east-south-east of Grantham, within the administrative district of South Kesteven. The settlement lies within a slight dip towards the eastern edge of the Lincolnshire Heath, with the site occupying an area at approximately 42m OD.

The development site lies along the north edge of the settlement, immediately to the south-west of the parish church of St Andrew. The groundworks monitored during this watching brief included the stripping of topsoil from areas of the site and the excavation of two sets of foundation trenches for the rectory and its detached double garage. The extent of these are illustrated in figure 2.

Folkingham is situated upon a bed of concrete-like grey Oxford clay overlain with more pliable layers of Kellaways sand and clay and Blisworth clay. These are capped in some areas by a 0.40m thick seam of Blisworth limestone (BGS 1982).

The National Grid Reference for the centre of the site is TF 507070 333692

3.0 Planning background

Full planning permission was granted for the construction of a new rectory. This was subject to the undertaking of a watching brief on all associated groundworks. To fulfil this condition of planning, Stephen Roberts Associates commissioned Pre-Construct Archaeology (Lincoln) to carry out a programme of archaeological observation and recording in accordance with the recommendations of the South Kesteven District

Council Community Archaeologist. The results of this programme are presented in this report. The report represents the results of a final mitigation strategy for the site.

The South Kesteven District Council planning reference for this development is SO2/1612/32

4.0 Archaeological and historical background

Records held by the South Kesteven Community Archaeologist suggest that the earliest evidence for activity within the parish of Folkingham is a prehistoric multiple-ditched boundary recorded as a cropmark on the valley slope to the south-west of the village. Additionally, approximately 1km to the south of the site, Roman pottery is recorded, and a coin of Roman date is recorded some 800m to the south-east.

The settlement appears in the Domesday Book as *Fulechingham* (meaning 'the homestead, estate of the Folcingas') and is therefore likely to be of Anglo-Saxon origin (Morgan & Thorn, 1986). Prior to the Norman Conquest, one of the greatest landholders in the Danelaw, Ulf of Funen, contained land throughout Lincolnshire, Nottinghamshire, Derbyshire, Huntingdon and Cambridgeshire. His chief Lincolnshire estate centred on Folkingham: with his manor extending to 27 villages. Following the Conquest, the Domesday Survey of 1086 records the Norman Gilbert of Ghent as sole landowner in Folkingham. The existing parish church of St Andrew's contains some Norman elements, where the village stocks are exhibited in the south aisle.

A motte and bailey castle was built to the south-east of the village core, comprising a keepless inner bailey with corner towers and a gatehouse on the west side. A much larger outer bailey with its own wall and moat enclosed the inner moat. The castle was rebuilt in the 14th century but later destroyed by the roundheads during the Civil War. In 1825 a House of Correction was built on the site of the castle; today only the 19th century gatehouse remains.

5.0 Methodology

The groundworks were monitored by the author between the 19th and the 25th of February 2004. A JCB fitted with a 0.6m wide toothed bucket was used to excavate the rectory and house footings, and this work was continuously monitored by P.C.A.

The archaeological fieldwork involved the monitoring of topsoil stripping and the cleaning by hand and observation of exposed surfaces within the rectory and garage footing trenches, followed by a thorough inspection. These investigations resulted in the production of written descriptions of natural layers, colour photographs of ongoing works and foundation trench sections, a sample scale section drawing and a scale site plan.

6.0 Results

No significant archaeological deposits were observed during this watching brief. Before monitoring commenced, an area of the site to the south and east had been stripped of topsoil and covered with type one structural fill material. The extent of this area is illustrated on figure 2. The area of the site where the rectory footings were to be excavated had also been stripped prior to the arrival of the author on the 19th of February 2004. Here, remnants of the topsoil were observed overlying a thick layer of naturally structured limestone. In the north east corner of this area, an oval pit, [007], approximately 6m long and 2.5m wide was observed. Modern finds protruded from its dark brown, friable, topsoil like fill, (006). Excavation of the rectory footings revealed that [007] was approximately 0.50m deep with moderately sloping sides and a flat base as is illustrated in Section 1 (Fig 3). The site contractors mentioned that a pond had existed here shortly before development work commenced on the site.

The natural layers exposed by the excavation of the rectory footings rested upon a seam of concrete-like dark grey weathered clay, (005), which had occasional rounded gravel inclusions. Above this were two layers of more pliable light grey brown and mid orange brown clay, (002) and (004), which sandwiched a contrasting layer of light grey gravel with a pale clay infill, (003). The majority of the area monitored was capped by the aforementioned layer of naturally deposited beige limestone, (001), which proved to be approximately 0.40m thick. Towards the southern side of the area covered by the garage footings this gradually gave way to (008), a layer of mid dark brown silty subsoil of a similar depth. Two sherds of pottery of probable late medieval date were recovered whilst the area of the garage footings was being stripped of topsoil.

7.0 Conclusions.

The paucity of archaeology deposits on the development site may be a consequence of the presence of layer (001), which hindered excavation during these groundworks using modern plant. This is supported by an anecdote recorded whilst on site which detailed how local people deliberately avoided some areas of the adjacent consecrated plot to the north, which were covered by this limestone layer, when organising new graves.

It may be possible that cut features on the site in the past were restricted to the depth of the upper surface of (001) or avoided it completely in favour of more broken ground. This may perhaps be indicated by the change in strata corresponding to pottery finds; recovered towards the south of the garage area.

8.0 Effectiveness methodology

The methodology employed allowed a full inspection to be made of the sections of all of the foundation trenches, with minimal disruption to the primary scheme, and a full record to be made also of the natural deposits encountered.

9.0 Acknowledgements

The authors would like to thank Stephen Roberts Associates for commissioning this report, for assistance during the watching brief itself, and for providing some of the drawings used during the preparation of this account.

10.0 References

Morgan, P & Thorn, C (eds), 1986, Domesday Book: Lincolnshire

British Geological Survey, 1982, Bourne, Sheet 143, Drift edition, 1:50 000 series.
Keyworth, Nottingham: British Geological Survey.

11.0 Site Archive

The site archive [documentary) for this project is in preparation and will be deposited at the Lincoln City and County Museum and the Lincolnshire Archives Office [documentary) within six months. Access may be granted by quoting the global accession number 2004.62

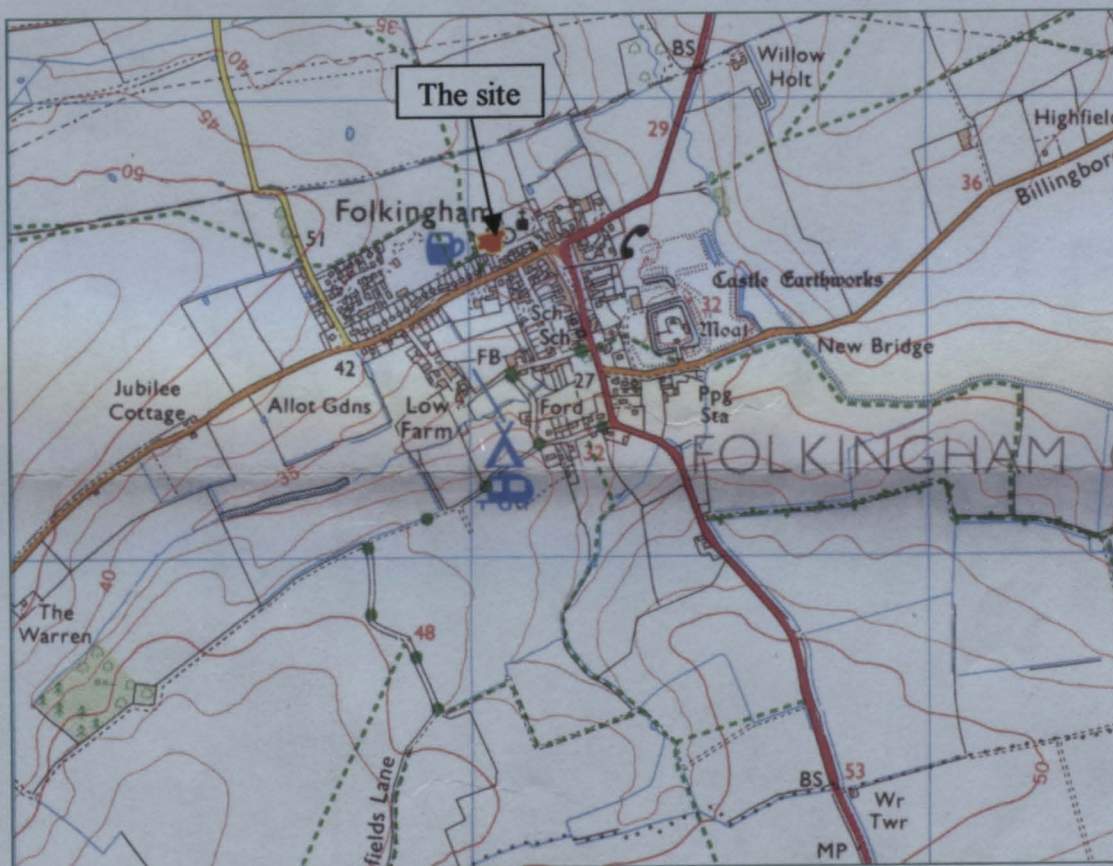


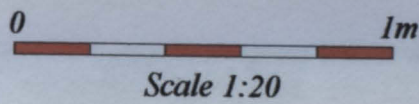
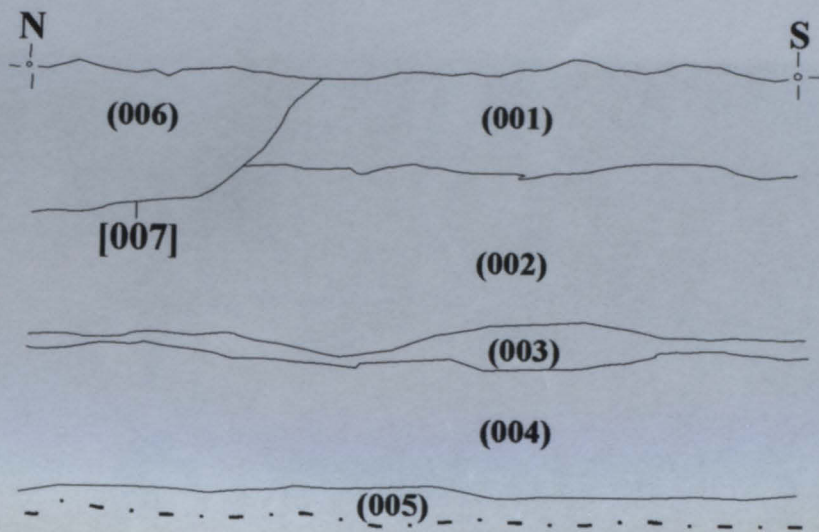
Figure 1. Map showing location of site within Folkingham, Lincolnshire.
(Scale 1:25000)



Site map showing groundworks monitored during the watching brief in brown, the position of the modern filled pond in purple and the area stripped prior to archaeological monitoring in blue. (Scale 1:500)



Fig. 2 Site map showing groundworks monitored during the watching brief in brown, the position of the modern filled pond in purple and the area stripped prior to archaeological monitoring in blue. (Scale 1:250)



Section 1

Fig. 3 Sample section showing natural layers observed within the rectory footings and part of the modern backfilled pond [007], (scale, 1:20)

Appendix 1: Colour slides



Pl. 1. Overview of the rectory footings in progress within which pit [007] was observed, looking east.



Pl. 2. Sample section showing the natural layers observed within the excavated footings. Looking south.