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## ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION ON LAND AT 81 MAIN ROAD WASHINGBOROUGH LINCOLNSHIRE (MRW 03)

LIGISG

Work Undertaken For Mr Woodward and M Kellet

February 2003 4

Report Compiled by Ray Holt BSc

National Grid Reference: TF 021 707 Planning Application No.: N/71/0417/03 Accession No.: 2003.363

A.P.S. Report No. 9/04

Conservation Services

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Highways & Planning Directorate

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## 1. SUMMARY

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken on land at 81 Main Road, Washingborough. The site lay on the postulated line of the Car Dyke Roman waterway and at the edge of the medieval village.

A buried land surface containing flint tools of Late Mesolithic/Early Neolithic date (c. 4700-3700 BC) was revealed. A Late Bronze Age bronze spearhead, probably dating to 1150-950 BC, was also found in this soil layer but is thought to have derived from an overlying peat deposit that began to develop in the same period. A radiocarbon date on the base of the peat indicated its formation commenced in the period 1260-905 BC.

The peat indicates the area was waterlogged for a considerable time, probably until the medieval period (1066-1500). During the medieval period a narrow track way was constructed by the dumping of limestone rubble to consolidate the peat. Over this a plough soil developed which yielded numerous potsherds of medieval date. The site then fell into disuse again until its recent function as a smallholding.

#### 2. INTRODUCTION

#### 2.1 Definition of an Evaluation

An archaeological evaluation is defined as, 'a limited programme of non-intrusive and/or intrusive fieldwork which determines the presence or absence of archaeological features, structures, deposits, artefacts or ecofacts within a specified area or site. If such archaeological remains are present Field Evaluation defines their character and extent, quality and preservation, and it enables an assessment of their worth in a

local, regional, national or international context as appropriate' (IFA 1999).

## 2.2 Planning Background

A Planning Application (N/71/0417/03) for the demolition of existing farm and outbuildings and the construction of 18 dwellings has been submitted to North Kesteven District Council. The council advised that an archaeological evaluation was required to assist the determination of the application and the North Kesteven Heritage Officer produced a brief for investigations. The investigation would consist of trial trenching of the site.

Archaeological Project Services (APS) was commissioned by Mr Woodward to undertake the archaeological evaluation of the site in reference to the requirements of the local planning authority. The work was undertaken between the 30/10/03 and 05/11/03 in accordance with a specification produced by APS and approved by the North Kesteven Heritage Officer (Appendix 1).

#### 2.3 Topography and Geology

Washingborough is situated 5km east of Lincoln in the North Kesteven District of Lincolnshire (Fig. 1).

The proposed development area, approximately 0.6ha in extent, lies in the north of the village, on the north side of Main Road at National Grid Reference TF 021 707 (Fig 2).

The site lies at c. 4m OD on ground sloping down north to the River Witham and also to the east. Local soils are peat soils of the Adventurers' 2 Association developed on fen peat that overlies glaciofluvial sands (Hodge *et al.* 1984, 85-6).

## 2.4 Archaeological Setting

Archaeological remains of prehistoric and later date have previously been identified in proximity to the investigation area. A group of three leaf-shaped swords of probable prehistoric date was found a short distance to the northeast of the site (Davey 1973, 98).

The investigation site appears to be on the line of the Car Dyke, a major man-made waterway of apparent Roman date. Earthworks of the Car Dyke survive in good condition about 130m east of the site (Plate 10) and are protected as nationally important Scheduled Ancient Monuments (English Heritage 1996, 16). Previous investigations just to the west of the current investigation site, behind the Royal Oak public house, appeared to identify the south flanking bank of the Car Dyke (NKHO records). Other evidence of Roman activity in the area is provided by several 3rd century coins found about 100m and 300m southwest of the site.

Washingborough is first referred to in the Domesday Book of 1086, and this indicates the settlement was in existence in the Late Saxon period. The place-name means 'the fortified place of the Wassingas' and is derived from the Old English group-name *Wassingas*, meaning family/dependents of Wassa, and Old English *burh*, a fortified place (Cameron 1998, 135). Washingborough itself is not recorded in the Domesday survey, though its inland and sokeland in Coleby is noted (Foster and Longley 1976, 16).

The medieval core of Washingborough is about 300m southwest of the investigation site. The church of St John Evangelist in the village centre is late 12<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup> century but contains a Norman (11<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> century) font (Pevsner and Harris 1989, 782-3). A medieval cross, protected as a Scheduled Ancient Monument, is located near to the church on the High Street (English Heritage 1996, 16).

#### 3. AIMS

The aim of the evaluation was to gather information to establish the presence or absence, extent, condition, character, quality and date of any archaeological deposits in order to enable the archaeological curator to formulate a policy for the management of archaeological resources present on the site.

#### 4. METHODS

#### 4.1 Trial Trenching

Two trenches were excavated: one measuring  $20m \times 1.6m$  and the other  $20m \times 3.0m$ . These were placed toward the northeast corner of the site overlapping the postulated line of the Car Dyke channel and its southern flanking bank (Fig 3).

A mechanical excavator using a toothless ditching bucket undertook the removal of the topsoil and other overburden. The exposed surfaces of the trenches were then cleaned by hand and inspected for archaeological remains. Selected features were excavated by hand in order to retrieve dateable artefacts and other remains.

Each deposit exposed during the evaluation was allocated a unique reference number (context number) with an individual written description. A photographic record was compiled. Sections were drawn at a scale of 1:10 and plans at a scale of 1:50. Recording of deposits encountered was undertaken according to standard Archaeological Project Services practice.

Samples for environmental assessment and radiocarbon dating were taken from selected deposits.

The location of the excavated trenches was surveyed with an EDM in relation to fixed points on boundaries and existing buildings.

#### 4.2 Post-excavation

Following excavation, all records were checked and ordered to ensure that they constituted a complete Level II archive and a stratigraphic matrix of all identified deposits was produced. Artefacts recovered from excavated deposits were examined and a period date assigned where possible. A list of all contexts and interpretations appears as Appendix 2. Context numbers are identified in the text by brackets. An equals sign between context numbers indicates that the contexts once formed a single layer or feature. Phasing was based the nature of the deposits and recognisable relationships between them, supplemented by artefact and scientific dating.

## 5. RESULTS

#### 5.1 Description of the results

Above the natural deposits, archaeological remains are divided into four phases: prehistoric; prehistoric-medieval; medieval; and modern deposits.

Phase 1: Natural deposits Phase 2: Late Mesolithic-Early Neolithic deposits Phase 3: Late Bronze Age-Medieval deposits Phase 4: Medieval deposits Phase 5: Modern deposits

Archaeological contexts are described below. The numbers in brackets are the

context numbers assigned in the field.

## 5.2 Phase 1: Natural deposits

The earliest deposit exposed during the evaluation was natural yellow glaciofluvial sand (109), (215) visible in the base of both trenches and gently rising towards the east of the site (Fig 4; Plates 2 and 3).

## 5.3 Phase 2: Late Mesolithic-Early Neolithic deposits

A light grey sandy deposit (210) immediately overlay the natural sand within Trench 2 to a depth of 0.1m (Fig 5). Interpreted as a degraded soil horizon, eleven flints were recovered dating from the Late Mesolithic to the Early Neolithic. They are blade flake types and could be contemporary, although the blade flake tradition is long lived. From the equivalent deposit in Trench 1 (104) a bronze spearhead of Late Bronze Age date, probably 1150-950 BC, was recovered (Plates 7, 8 and 9). This may not be contemporary with the layer and is possibly intrusive. This deposit appears to extend across the whole site. Environmental and pollen assessment of the buried soil suggests it developed in a damp grassland or scrub habitat of bracken and grass. Hazel, oak and alder pollen was also present and may suggest nearby woodland with these species, though the pollen could be intrusive from the overlying peat (Appendices 6 and 7).

Top of buried soil horizon (base of peat): Trench 1 – varied between 3.07 and 2.96m OD.

Trench 2 – varied between 2.89 and 2.71m OD.

## 5.4 Phase 3: Late Bronze Age-Medieval deposits

Above the buried soil a substantial peat deposit (102) and (214), up to 0.4m thick

at its northern extent, was revealed extending across the whole of the area under investigation (Plate 5). Beneath the peat and identified cutting into the Late Mesolithic/Early Neolithic soil horizon were numerous tree root holes (201), (205), (209), (217), (219), (221), (223) (Fig 4). These contained no dating evidence and appear to derive from trees growing during the formation of the peat layer.

The base of the peat deposit was sampled for radiocarbon dating and gave a calibrated date of 1260-905 BC (correct to 2 standard deviations). Pollen assessment of the peat indicated it commenced as alder carr (boggy woodland), with hazel and oak. Wetter conditions led to reed growth and there were indications of standing water or ponds in the area. Lime trees became relatively more abundant through time and willow was present in the area by the time the peat development ended (Appendix 7).

The peat contains naturally derived laminated sandy lenses/layers (106), probably flood deposits from the River Witham to the north. A single small fragment of pottery, of uncertain date but between Roman and medieval, was recovered from peat layer (102).

Probably contemporary with the peat, but only observed cutting the underlying buried soil, were two shallow pits (203) and (207) with grey organic, slightly silty sand fill containing occasional flecks of charcoal (Plate 4). A fragment of 13<sup>th</sup> century tile was recovered from (203).

#### Top of peat:

Trench 1 – varied between 3.42 and 3.25m OD.

Trench 2 – varied between 3.19 and 3.02m OD.

## 5.5 Phase 4: Medieval deposits

A linear spread of limestone blocks (105) 1.95m wide on an approximately southeast to northwest orientation, tentatively interpreted as a track way lies directly upon the peat layer (Fig 4), (Plate 6). The blocks appear to sit in a shallow depression (114) in the peat. This was probably caused by the weight of the blocks sinking into the waterlogged deposit below. Directly overlying the blocks was a clean yellow sand (113) that appears to complete the makeup of the track, although it is likely later ploughing may have removed additional layers. Pottery of 13<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup> century date was recovered from the track makeup layers.

Overlying the track way and peat deposits a grey-brown sandy loam layer up to 0.5m thick (101), (107), (108), (112), (213) contained large quantities of limestone rubble, 13<sup>th</sup> century pottery sherds, stone roof tile, coal and domestic animal bones, mainly cattle and sheep (Fig 5). A redeposited prehistoric flint was also recovered from the deposit. Interpreted as a medieval plough soil, this layer probably represents the blending of at least two separate deposits. The larger limestone blocks are concentrated at the base of the deposit, many impressed directly into the top of the underlying peat. This suggests the peat was stabilised prior to the formation of the plough soil by the dumping of a large quantity of rubble over the site. Later this rubble became incorporated into the overlying sandy loam by plough action forming a single if variable plough soil layer.

## 5.6 Phase 5: Modern deposits

Cut from the base of the topsoil, a modern sewer pipe cut (111), (225) 6.2m wide and at least 1.2m deep with vertical sides was identified crossing the site from east to west (Fig 5). Installed approximately 10

years ago (Mr Woodward, *pers. comm.*) the sewer replaced an existing 1960's pipe on the same alignment and was infilled with a mixture of the excavated glaciofluvial sand and peat (103), (224) that yielded 19<sup>th</sup> century pottery, iron, slate and mortar. Overlying and extending out to the north for 2.8m, a spread of mixed brown silty sand with frequent pebble inclusions (110), (226) up to 0.2m thick represents imported material for the final backfilling of the sewer cut (Mr Woodward, *pers. comm.*), spread out by the contractors to level the site prior to the reinstatement of the topsoil.

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A very dark brown silty sandy loam topsoil (100)=(211) sealed all deposits (Fig 5). Within Trench 2 a subsoil (212) was noted below the topsoil layer (Fig 6), (Plate 5), this was also a very dark brown silty sandy loam and was almost indistinguishable from the overlying topsoil and could not be identified with any confidence within Trench 1 due to the dryness of the deposits. Both the topsoil and subsoil contained modern ceramic brick and tile fragments, modern ironwork and occasional limestone fragments presumable ploughed out from the underlying medieval layer. These artefacts were not retained.

## 6. DISCUSSION

Natural glaciofluvial sands were revealed across the area (Phase 1). On top of this a soil layer had developed, probably in a damp grassland or scrub/bracken conditions. Pollen from trees was also present but is thought to be intrusive from a peat deposit that overlay the soil. Flint artefacts of Late Mesolithic/early neolithic date were recovered from the buried soil and indicate human activity in the area at that time (Phase 2). This transitional period marked the change from transhumant hunting and gathering (in the Mesolithic) to sedentism and the establishment of permanent farming communities in the neolithic.

From the same soil layer was recovered a Late Bronze Age spearhead. However, this spearhead, which dates to the period 1150-950 BC is thought to derive from a peat deposit that overlies the soil. A radiocarbon date from the base of the peat itself indicated the formation of this organic layer commenced in the period 1260-905 BC, that is, bracketing the date of the spearhead (Phase 3).

The spearhead is contemporary with three leaf-shaped swords that probably constitute a ritual deposit and which were found locally near the River Witham during the making of the Great Northern Railway in the mid 19th century. Another group, probably a bronze founders' hoard, consisting of a mould for a bronze socketed axe and four or five socketed axes, was found in Washingborough Fen in about 1830 (Davey 1973, 98). In addition, a settlement of Late Bronze Age date, probably the seventh or sixth century BC, is known on the bank of the Witham, about 2km east of the current investigation site (May 1976, 109-112). It has been suggested, on the basis of the distribution of finds, that Late Bronze Age settlement in Lincolnshire was probably commonest in the river valleys, as here (ibid., 114). However, given the lack of other definable Bronze Age material or features from the current investigation site, it seems likely that the spearhead is either a ritual deposit of a casual loss during hunting or other activities.

Beneath the peat, and cutting into the buried Phase 2 soil, were several root hollows and two pits. Although only evident below the peat, they are considered to be contemporary with the peat formation, the root holes being from trees/shrubs growing in the peat and the

upper parts of the pits rendered invisible by homogenisation of the deposit. Pollen assessment indicated the peat developed as boggy woodland of alder with hazel and oak, becoming wetter and reedy later (Appendix 7). The roots are thought to have introduced tree pollen from the developing peat into the underlying prehistoric soil layer (see above). One of the pits contained a medieval tile and a fragment of pottery recovered from the peat itself was of uncertain date between the Roman and medieval period (Appendix 3). This indicates the peat was formed over an extended time, lasting from the Late Bronze Age to the medieval period. Silt layers laminated in the peat deposit indicate that the area was subject to occasional flooding and pollen from pond plants suggest there was standing water in the area periodically.

Despite the suggestion that the site appears to be on the line of the Roman Car Dyke, visible as earthworks 130m to the east (Fig 2, Plate 10), no direct evidence for the dyke was found during these investigations. No archaeological remains were encountered which could be ascribed to that period. Given the lack of certainty over the precise line of the Car Dyke, these investigations can only suggest a deviation of its course occurs between the upstanding earthworks and the area under evaluation. A low bank visible in an adjoining field to the northeast could tentatively be interpreted as the southern flanking bank of the dyke. If this interpretation is correct the projected course of the dyke would lie somewhere to the north of the investigation area.

After a long hiatus during the peat formation, activity renewed in the medieval period (Phase 4). A narrow track way of limestone blocks was established crossing the peat. Later large amounts of medieval material had been dumped over this area in order to raise and level it. Roughly worked limestone rubble was abundant and presumably derived from the demolition of nearby structures. A thick soil developed during the medieval period incorporating material from the dump deposits and numerous potsherds of 13<sup>th</sup> century date. This presumably derives through the process of ploughing and manuring. However, although evident elsewhere around Washingborough no trace of ridge and furrow type cultivation was revealed.

The site appears to have fallen out of use by the end of the medieval period with no evidence for further activity until its recent use as a small holding when a sewer was laid through the area and further dumping occurred (Phase 5).

#### 7. CONCLUSIONS

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken on land at 81 Main Street, Washingborough. The site was on the postulated line of the Car Dyke Roman waterway, at the northern edge of the historic village.

A prehistoric soil horizon that contained flint tools of Late Mesolithic/Early Neolithic date was revealed, the artefacts indicating human activity in the area. Subsequently, in the Late Bronze Age, the site became subject to flooding and/or seasonal waterlogging and a peat began to be formed. A Late Bronze Age spearhead was found in the earlier prehistoric soil layer but is thought to have been deposited during the time of the peat formation, either as a ritual offering or a casual loss during hunting.

The peat development probably continued through to the medieval period but then ceased and the area was crossed by a narrow track way of limestone blocks. Further dumping of large quantities of

limestone blocks and rubble consolidated the peat. A ploughsoil subsequently developed over this rubble.

No evidence for the whereabouts of the Car Dyke was encountered within the investigation area. In addition, no other associated Roman activity was identified. It can only be concluded that the Car Dyke diverges from its east – west course (seen as upstanding earthworks 130m to the east of the site) somewhere east of the investigation area.

#### 8. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeological Project Services wish to acknowledge the assistance of Mr Woodward who commissioned the work. Gary Taylor coordinated the project, and together with Tom Lane edited the report. J. Rackham coordinated the pollen assessment and radiocarbon dating. Jo Hambly, the North Kesteven Heritage Officer, kindly provided access to the relevant parish files maintained by Heritage Lincolnshire.

### 9. PERSONNEL

Project Coordinator: Gary Taylor Site Supervisor: Ray Holt Surveying: Rachael Hall and Ray Holt Site Assistants: Fiona Walker and Chris Moulis

Photographic reproduction: Sue Unsworth CAD Illustration: Andrew Failes and Mary Nugent

Post-excavation Analyst: Ray Holt

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#### **11. ABBREVIATIONS**

APS Archaeological Project Services

NKHO North Kesteven Heritage Officer

- OD Ordnance Datum (height above sea level)
- IFA Institute of Field Archaeologists
- SMR Sites and Monuments Record





Figure 2: Site location plan





Figure 4 Trenches 1 and 2 post-excavation plans

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Figure 6 Section drawings Trench 2



Plate 1 Site before excavation



Plate 2 Trench 1 in plan



Plate 3 Trench 2 in plan



Plate 4 Pits at the northern end of Trench 2



Plate 5 Trench 2 representative section



Plate 6 Medieval track (105)



Plate 7 Bronze spearhead in situ



Plate 8 X-ray of the spearhead



Plate 9 The bronze spearhead





Plate 10 - Aerial photograph showing site and Car Dyke (Cambridge University Committee for Aerial Photography)

LAND AT 81 MAIN ROAD, WASHINGBOROUGH, LINCOLNSHIRE

## SPECIFICATION FOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

PREPARED FOR J WOODWARD AND M KELLET

BY

ARCHAEOLOGICAL PROJECT SERVICES Institute of Field Archaeologists' Registered Archaeological Organisation No. 21

**OCTOBER 2003** 

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#### SUMMARY

1

- 1.1 This document comprises a specification for the archaeological field evaluation of land at 81 Main Road, Washingborough, Lincolnshire.
- 1.2 The area is archaeologically sensitive, lying on the course of the Car Dyke, a major waterway of probable Roman date. Close to the site the Car Dyke has well-preserved earthworks that are protected as a nationally-important Scheduled Ancient Monument.
- 1.3 Planning permission is sought to demolish existing buildings and undertake residential development of the site. The archaeological works are being undertaken to assist determination of the planning application. The investigation will consist of trial trenching of the site.
- 1.4 On completion of the fieldwork a report will be prepared detailing the findings of the investigation. The report will consist of a text describing the nature of the archaeological deposits located and will be supported by illustrations and photographs.

## 2 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 This document comprises a specification for the archaeological field evaluation of land at 81 Main Road, Washingborough, Lincolnshire.
- 2.2 The document contains the following parts:
  - 2.2.1 Overview
  - 2.2.2 The archaeological and natural setting
  - 2.2.3 Stages of work and methodologies to be used
  - 2.2.4 List of specialists
  - 2.2.5 Programme of works and staffing structure of the project

## **3 SITE LOCATION**

3.1 Washingborough is located 5km east of Lincoln in the North Kesteven district of Lincolnshire. The proposed development area, approximately 0.6ha in extent, lies in the north of the village, on the north side of Main Road at National Grid Reference TF 021 707.

#### 4 PLANNING BACKGROUND

4.1 A Planning Application (N/71/0417/03) for the demolition of existing farm and outbuildings and construction of 18 dwellings has been submitted to North Kesteven District Council. The Council have advised that an archaeological evaluation is required to assist the determination of the application and a brief for investigations has been produced by the North Kesteven Heritage Officer.

## 5 SOILS AND TOPOGRAPHY

5.1 The site lies at c. 7m OD on ground sloping down north to the Witham and also to the east. Local soils are peat soils of the Adventurers' 2 Association developed on fen peat that overlies glaciofluvial sands (Hodge *et al.* 1984, 85-6).

## 6 ARCHAEOLOGICAL OVERVIEW

- 6.1 The investigation site appears to be on the line of the Car Dyke, a major manmade waterway of apparent Roman date. Earthworks of the Car Dyke survive in good condition about 130m east of the site and are protected as nationally important Scheduled Ancient Monuments.
- 6.2 Previous investigations just to the west, behind the Royal Oak public house, appeared to identify the south flanking bank of the Car Dyke. A group of three leaf-shaped swords of probable prehistoric date was found a short distance to the northeast of the site.

## 7 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- 7.1 The aim of the work will be to gather sufficient information for the archaeological curator to be able to formulate a policy for the management of the archaeological resources present on the site.
- 7.2 The objectives of the work will be to:
  - 7.2.1 Establish the type of archaeological activity that may be present within the site.
  - 7.2.2 Determine the likely extent of archaeological activity present within the site.
  - 7.2.3 Determine the date and function of the archaeological features present on the site.
  - 7.2.4 Determine the state of preservation of the archaeological features present on the site.

- 7.2.5 Determine the spatial arrangement of the archaeological features present within the site.
- 7.2.6 Determine the extent to which the surrounding archaeological features extend into the application area.
- 7.2.7 Establish the way in which the archaeological features identified fit into the pattern of occupation and land-use in the surrounding landscape.

## 8 LIAISON WITH THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL CURATOR

8.1 Prior to the commencement of the trial trenching the arrangement of the interventions (excavations) will be agreed with the archaeological curator to ensure that the proposed scheme of works fulfils their requirements.

## 9 TRIAL TRENCHING

- 9.1 <u>Reasoning for this technique</u>
  - 9.1.1 Trial trenching enables the *in situ* determination of the sequence, date, nature, depth, environmental potential and density of archaeological features present on the site.
  - 9.1.2 The trial trenching will consist of the excavation of two (2) trenches placed toward the northwest corner of the site and overlapping the postulated line of the Car Dyke channel and its southern flanking bank, as indicated on the accompanying plan. Trenches may be widened and stepped-in should archaeological deposits extend below 1.2m depth. Augering may be used to determine the depth of the sequence of deposits present. A contingency has been specified to open up an area 5m<sup>2</sup> if the deeper part of the Car Dyke channel is encountered.

## 9.2 General Considerations

- 9.2.1 All work will be undertaken following statutory Health and Safety requirements in operation at the time of the investigation.
- 9.2.2 The work will be undertaken according to the relevant codes of practice issued by the Institute of Field Archaeologists (IFA). Archaeological Project Services is an IFA Registered Archaeological Organisation (No. 21).
- 9.2.3 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.

- 9.2.4 Excavation of the archaeological features exposed will only be undertaken as far as is required to determine their date, sequence, density and nature. Not all archaeological features exposed will necessarily be excavated. However, the investigation will, as far as is reasonably practicable, determine the level of the natural deposits to ensure that the depth of the archaeological sequence present on the site is established.
- 9.2.5 Open trenches will be marked by hazard tape attached to road irons or similar poles. Subject to the consent of the archaeological curator, and following the appropriate recording, the trenches, particularly those of excessive depth, will be backfilled as soon as possible to minimise any health and safety risks.

#### 9.3 Methodology

- 9.3.1 Removal of the topsoil and any other overburden will be undertaken by mechanical excavator using a toothless ditching bucket. To ensure that the correct amount of material is removed and that no archaeological deposits are damaged, this work will be supervised by Archaeological Project Services. On completion of the removal of the overburden, the nature of the underlying deposits will be assessed by hand excavation before any further mechanical excavation that may be required. Thereafter, the trenches will be cleaned by hand to enable the identification and analysis of the archaeological features exposed.
- 9.3.2 Investigation of the features will be undertaken only as far as required to determine their date, form and function. The work will consist of half- or quarter-sectioning of features as required and, where appropriate, the removal of layers. Should features be located which may be worthy of preservation *in situ*, excavation will be limited to the absolute minimum, (*ie* the minimum disturbance) necessary to interpret the form, function and date of the features.
- 9.3.3 The archaeological features encountered will be recorded on Archaeological Project Services pro-forma context record sheets. The system used is the single context method by which individual archaeological units of stratigraphy are assigned a unique record number and are individually described and drawn.
- 9.3.4 Plans of features will be drawn at a scale of 1:20 and sections at a scale of 1:10. Should individual features merit it, they will be drawn at more appropriate scales.

- 9.3.5 Throughout the duration of the trial trenching a photographic record consisting of black and white prints (reproduced as contact sheets) and colour slides will be compiled. The photographic record will consist of:
  - 9.3.5.1 the site before the commencement of field operations.
  - 9.3.5.2 the site during work to show specific stages of work, and the layout of the archaeology within individual trenches.
  - 9.3.5.3 individual features and, where appropriate, their sections.
  - 9.3.5.4 groups of features where their relationship is important.
  - 9.3.5.5 the site on completion of field work
- 9.3.6 Should human remains be encountered, they will be left *in situ* with excavation being limited to the identification and recording of such remains. If removal of the remains is necessary the appropriate Home Office licences will be obtained and the local environmental health department informed. If relevant, the coroner and the police will be notified.
- 9.3.7 Finds collected during the fieldwork will be bagged and labelled according to the individual deposit from which they were recovered ready for later washing and analysis.
- 9.3.8 The spoil generated during the investigation will be mounded along the edges of the trial trenches with the topsoil being kept separate from the other material excavated for subsequent backfilling.
- 9.3.9 The precise location of the trenches within the site and the location of site recording grid will be established by an EDM survey.
- 9.3.10 If appropriate, samples for scientific assessment (environmental evidence, pollen, palaeosols, foraminiferae) will be taken from archaeological deposits.

## 10 ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

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10.1 If appropriate, during the investigation specialist advice will be obtained from an environmental archaeologist. The specialist will visit the site and will prepare a report detailing the nature of the environmental material present on the site and its potential for additional analysis should further stages of archaeological work be required. The results of the specialist's assessment will be incorporated into the final report

## 11 POST-EXCAVATION AND REPORT

#### 11.1 Stage 1

- 11.1.1 On completion of site operations, the records and schedules produced during the trial trenching will be checked and ordered to ensure that they form a uniform sequence constituting 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: the colour slides will be labelled and mounted on appropriate hangers and the black and white contact prints will be labelled, in both cases the labelling will refer to schedules identifying the subject/s photographed.
- 11.1.2 All finds recovered during the trial trenching will be washed, marked, bagged and labelled according to the individual 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.

## 11.2 Stage 2

- 11.2.1 Detailed examination of the stratigraphic matrix to enable the determination of the various phases of activity on the site.
- 11.2.2 Finds will be sent to specialists for identification and dating.

#### 11.3 Stage 3

- 11.3.1 On completion of stage 2, a report detailing the findings of the investigation will be prepared. This will consist of:
- 11.3.1.1 A non-technical summary of the results of the investigation.
  - 11.3.1.2 A description of the archaeological setting of the site.
- 11.3.1.3 Description of the topography and geology of the investigation area.
- 11.3.1.4 Description of the methodologies used during the investigation and discussion of their effectiveness in the light of the results.
  - 11.3.1.5 A text describing the findings of the investigation.

- 11.3.1.6 Plans of the trenches showing the archaeological features exposed. If a sequence of archaeological deposits is encountered, separate plans for each phase will be produced.
  - 11.3.1.7 Sections of the trenches and archaeological features.
  - 11.3.1.8 Interpretation of the archaeological features exposed and their context within the surrounding landscape.
- 11.3.1.9 Specialist reports on the finds from the site.

# 11.3.1.10 Appropriate photographs of the site and specific archaeological features or groups of features.

11.3.1.11 A consideration of the significance of the remains found, in local, regional, national and international terms, using recognised evaluation criteria.

## 12 ARCHIVE

12.1 The documentation, finds, photographs and other records and materials generated during the investigation will be sorted and ordered into the format acceptable to the City and County Museum, Lincoln. This sorting will be undertaken according to the document titled *Conditions for the Acceptance of Project Archives* for long-term storage and curation.

## 13 **REPORT DEPOSITION**

13.1 Copies of the investigation report will be sent to: the client; the Heritage Officer, North Kesteven District Council; North Kesteven District Council Planning Department; and the Lincolnshire County Sites and Monuments Record.

#### 14 PUBLICATION

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14.1 A report of the findings of the investigation will be submitted for inclusion in the journal *Lincolnshire History and Archaeology*. Notes or articles describing the results of the investigation will also be submitted for publication in the appropriate national journals: *Medieval Archaeology* and *Journal of the Medieval Settlement Research Group* for medieval and later remains, and *Britannia* for discoveries of Roman date.

## 15 CURATORIAL MONITORING

15.1 Curatorial responsibility for the project lies with North Kesteven District Council

Heritage Officer. As much written notice as possible, ideally at least seven days, will be given to the archaeological curator prior to the commencement of the project to enable them to make appropriate monitoring arrangements.

### 16 VARIATIONS TO THE PROPOSED SCHEME OF WORKS

- 16.1 Variations to the scheme of works will only be made following written confirmation from the archaeological curator.
- 16.2 Should the archaeological curator require any additional investigation beyond the scope of the brief for works, or this specification, then the cost and duration of those supplementary examinations will be negotiated between the client and the contractor.

## 17 STAFF TO BE USED DURING THE PROJECT

- 17.1 The work will be directed by Tom Lane MIFA, Senior Archaeologist, Heritage Lincolnshire. The on-site works will be supervised by an Archaeological Supervisor with knowledge of archaeological evaluations of this type. Archaeological excavation will be carried out by Archaeological Technicians, experienced in projects of this type.
- 17.2 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: Dr D Knight, Trent and Peak Archaeological Trust	
	Roman: B Precious, independent specialist	
	Anglo-Saxon: J Young, independent specialist	
	Medieval and later: H Healey, independent archaeologist; or G Taylor, APS	
Other Artefacts	J Cowgill, independent specialist; or G Taylor,	

Archaeological Project Services

	APS	
Human Remains Analysis	R Gowland, independent specialist	
Animal Remains Analysis	Environmental Archaeology Consultancy; or P Cope-Faulkner, APS	
Environmental Analysis	Environmental Archaeology Consultancy	
Radiocarbon dating	Beta Analytic Inc., Florida, USA	
Dendrochronology dating	University of Sheffield Dendrochronology Laboratory	

#### 18 PROGRAMME OF WORKS AND STAFFING LEVELS

- 18.1 Fieldwork is expected to be undertaken by 2 staff, a supervisor and assistant, and to take about five (5) days.
- 18.2 Post-excavation analysis and report production is expected to take 8 person-days within a notional programme of 10 days. A project officer or supervisor will undertake most of the analysis, with assistance from the finds supervisor and CAD illustrator. Two half-days of specialist time are allotted in the project budget.

#### 18.3 Contingency

- 18.3.1 Contingencies have been specified in the budget. These include: pump (probably required if Car Dyke channel encountered); security fencing (not expected as site on private property); sampling/analysis of environmental/waterlogged remains (expected to be some level of sampling but amount/necessity cannot be assessed in advance); Conservation and/or Other unexpected remains or artefacts. There is also a contingency for the excavation, recording and assessment of a 5m x 5m box down to a maximum depth of 2.4m if the deeper parts of the Car Dyke channel are encountered.
- 18.3.2 Other than the pump and fencing, the activation of any contingency requirement will be by the archaeological curator (North Kesteven Heritage Officer), not Archaeological Project Services.

## 19 INSURANCES

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19.1 Archaeological Project Services, as part of the Heritage Trust of Lincolnshire, maintains Employers Liability insurance to £10,000,000. Additionally, the

company maintains Public and Products Liability insurances, each with indemnity of £5,000,000. Copies of insurance documentation can be supplied on request.

## 20 COPYRIGHT

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- 20.1 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.
- 20.2 Licence will also be given to the archaeological curators to use the documentary archive for educational, public and research purposes.
- 20.3 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.
- 20.4 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.

#### 21 BIBLIOGRAPHY

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, 23/10/03

Archaeological Project Services

## CONTEXT SUMMARY

## Trench 1

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Context Number	Description	Interpretation
100	Friable dark greyish brown sandy silt layer with moderate stone inclusions, 0.2m thick.	Topsoil. Same as (211)
101	Firm very dark grey-brown sandy silt layer with moderate to frequent limestone fragments, 0.25m thick. Continuous across both trenches.	Medieval plough soil/build up layer. Deposits (101), (107) and (112) are variations within the same layer. Deposit (213) within Trench 2 represents a continuation of the same layer to the west.
102	Moderately firm very dark brown peat layer with occasional thin lenses of pale yellow sand, 0.3m thick.	Naturally deposited peat.
103	Compact mixed light yellowish and dark grey-brown sand and silty sands with occasional pebbles, limestone fragments and ceramic building material fragments. 6.0m wide, at least 0.9m deep.	Fill of cut [111].
104	Friable light grey silty sand up to 0.22m thick extending across whole trench.	Buried soil horizon. Bronze spearhead recovered. Same layer as (210) identified within Trench 2.
105	Linear dump of limestone rubble 0.2m thick and 2.0m wide aligned approximately east-west. Limestone blocks vary between 450mm x 230mm and 150mm x 150mm.	Base of track way, medieval pottery recovered.
106	Mixed laminated very dark brown peat and light yellow sand deposit. At least 2.7m wide and 0.5m deep with a very irregular base.	Naturally derived watercourse or flood deposit with the peat layer (102/108).
107	Moderately firm very dark brownish grey silty sand with occasional pebbles and moderate to frequent limestone fragments, 0.38m thick.	Medieval plough soil/build up layer.
108	Firm very dark brown peat layer up to 0.3m thick. Continuous across both trenches.	Naturally deposited peat. Same deposit as (102).
109	Friable mid to light yellow-brown slightly silty sand at least 0.15m thick visible across the entire trench.	Naturally deposited silty sand.
110	Friable light brown slightly silty sand with frequent pebble and sub-rounded stone inclusions, varying between 0.15m and 0.2m thick and visible for 6.6m overlying cut [111] and extending to north.	Modern imported dumped deposit associated with the final backfilling of cut [111]. Probably the same deposit as (226) in Trench 2.
111	Vertical sided linear cut 6.0m wide and at least 0.9m deep aligned approximately northwest to southeast.	Cut of modern sewer pipe trench. Same feature as cut [225] in Trench 2.
112	Moderately firm very dark greyish brown silty sand layer with frequent limestone fragments, up to 0.2m	Medieval plough soil/build up layer.
110	thick.	D 111 Ct 1 1
113	Very soft and friable light yellowish brown coarse sand up to 0.2m thick and 2.05m wide directly overlying (105)	Build up of track way, medieval pottery recovered.
114	Linear depression aligned approximately southeast to	Depression within top of the

Context Number	Description	Interpretation
	northwest in top of the peat layer (102), up to 0.2m deep and 2.05m wide with shallow sloping sides and no perceptible base.	peat layer caused by the sinking in of heavy limestone blocks placed for a narrow track way.
Trench 2		
Context Number	Description	Interpretation
200	Soft and friable mid to dark grey slightly silty sand with moderate red-brown mottling and streaking. Moderate organic content derived from the overlying peat deposit. Forms a curving and up to 0.3m wide, approximately 2.0m long and 0.15m deep	Fill of natural root disturbance.
201	Irregular sinuous linear up to 0.3m wide and 2.0m long with an uneven base and very variable profile.	Root disturbance probably contemporary with the formation of the overlying peat
202	Soft and friable dark grey slightly silty sand blending to a lighter grey at the edges feature. Moderate organic content derived from the overlying peat deposit occasional charcoal flecks. Approximately 70mm thick and 0.38m x 0.48m in plan.	Single fill of pit [203].
203	Sub-circular pit measuring 0.38m x 0.48m in plan and 70mm in depth with quite shallow sloping sides to an uneven base	Base of small sub-circular pit, only evident below peat (214).
204	Soft and friable dark grey slightly silty sand with occasional red-brown mottling. Some organic content derived from the overlying peat layer. Up to 30mm deep and 0.2m x 1.25m in plan.	Fill of natural root disturbance [205].
205	Irregular sinuous linear approximately 1.25m long, up to 0.2m wide and 30mm deep with shallow sloping sides to a concave base	Root disturbance probably contemporary with the formation of the overlying peat
206	Soft and friable mid to dark grey silty sand merging to lighter grey at the edges of the feature with a moderate organic content. Up to 90mm deep and	Single fill of pit [207].
207	0.46m x 0.34m in plan. Sub-circular pit measuring 0.46m x 0.34m in plan and 90mm deep with shallow sloping sides to a	Base of small sub-circular pit only evident below peat (214).
208	concave base. Weak mid to dark grey silty sand with occasional decayed tree roots, approximately 1.0m wide and up to 0.13m deep	Fill of root hole [209].
209	Irregular sub-circular feature, 1.0m diameter and up to 0.13m deep with irregular shallow sloping sides to an undulating base.	Root hole, probably contemporary with the formation of the overlying peat.
210	Weak light grey sand/silty sand layer with occasional pebbles and flint flakes. Variable dept between50mm and 100mm extending across both trenches. Merges with the underlying natural sand (215).	Buried soil horizon.
211	Loose very dark brown silty sandy loam with occasional pebbles and modern ceramic building material fragments, 0.25m-0.35m thick across the whole evaluation area.	Topsoil. Same as (100).
212	Firm dark brown silty sandy loam with occasional pebbles, limestone fragments and ceramic building material fragments, up to 0.2m thick.	Subsoil incorporating ploughed out limestone rubble from the underlying layer (213).
213	Weak to firm mid grey-brown sandy loam with frequent limestone rubble, roughly cut limestone	Medieval plough soil/build up layer. Same as (101).

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Context Number	Description	Interpretation
- APE SITE NO.	blocks measuring up to 300mm across and occasional fragments of medieval ceramic building material and pottery sherds. Variable in thickness from 0.28m to 0.50m and visible within both trenches. The larger limestone blocks are concentrated toward the base of the deposit.	egent have correct by the detainy in a honey filmestate blocks placet for a memory teach way.
214	Weak very dark brown peat layer varying between 0.25m to the S and 0.4m to the N, visible across whole evaluation area. Occasional thin lenses of sand. High organic preservation with very frequent wood fragments up to 50mm diameter.	Naturally deposited peat. Same as (102).
215	Weak to firm light yellow to mid orange sand with very occasional pebbles.	Natural sand.
216	Loose grey to dark grey sand with occasional tree roots, approximately 1.0m x 0.95m in plan.	Fill of root hole [217].
217	Sub-circular feature, 1.0m x 0.95m in plan. Not excavated.	Root hole, probably contemporary with the formation of the overlying peat.
218	Weak dark grey sand with occasional tree roots, 0.7m in diameter.	Fill of root hole [219].
219	Sub-circular feature, 0.7m in diameter. Not excavated.	Root hole, probably contemporary with the formation of the overlying peat.
220	Weak dark grey sand with occasional tree roots, approximately 1.75m x 1.1m in plan.	Fill of root hole [221].
221	Irregular amorphous feature, 1.75m x 1.1m in plan. Not excavated.	Root hole, probably contemporary with the formation of the overlying peat.
222	Firm very dark brown-grey silty sand with frequent tree roots, approximately 0.4m in diameter.	Fill of root hole [223].
223	Sub-circular feature, unclear extent, approximately 0.4m in diameter. Not excavated.	Root hole, probably contemporary with the formation of the overlying peat.
224	Weak to firm mixed light yellow sand, dark brown peat and dark brown topsoil with occasional limestone fragments, at least 3m wide and 0.9m deep.	Fill of modern sewer pipe cut [225]. Same as (103).
225	Vertical sided linear cut at least 3.0m wide and 0.9m deep aligned approximately northwest to southeast. Southern edge of cut outside excavation area.	Cut of modern sewer pipe trench. Same feature as cut [111] in Trench 1.
226	Loose mid to light brown silty sand with frequent pebble inclusions, up to 0.14m thick and visible for 4.4m and extending beyond the limit of excavation to the south.	Modern imported dumped deposit associated with the final backfilling of sewer cut [225]. Same as (110).

## POTTERY AND TILE ARCHIVE by Jane Young

This is a small but important group of pottery. The pottery from context 101 comprises almost entirely vessels in the glazed Potterhanworth ware. These are typologically the earliest forms to be found in this ware type, although a small number of undiagnostic sherds with splashed glaze recovered from the school may prove to be of earlier date. The vessels are very well executed with thin walls, certainly of a higher standard than much of the Lincoln ware of this date. The glaze is mainly pitted despite visually appearing to be a suspension type. Although soot appears on some vessels this group looks very fresh and several vessels look misfired. Several similar vessels appear in the group, externally they could be taken for the same vessel, however when turned over the internal colours show them to be different. This group appears to date to the early/mid to mid 13<sup>th</sup> century.

#### **Dating Archive**

context	date	comments
101	early/mid to mid 13th	good group
102	Roman to medieval	single sherd
103	19 <sup>th</sup>	single sherd
105	13 <sup>th</sup> to 14 <sup>th</sup>	
203	13 <sup>th</sup>	date on single til
213	13 <sup>th</sup> to 15 <sup>th</sup>	single sherd

#### Pottery and Ceramic Building Material Glossary

cname	full name
DST	Developed Stamford ware
LEMS	Lincoln Early Medieval Shelly
MISC	Unidentified types
NIB	nibbed tile
PNR	Peg, nib or ridge tile
POTT	Potterhanworth-type ware
POTTG	Potterhanworth Glazed ware
TPW	Transfer printed ware

Pottery an	nd Tile Arch	ive WMR03						
context	cname	form type	sherds	vessels	weight decoration	part	description	
101	POTTG	small jar/pipkin	1	1	3	BS	low fired	
101	LEMS	?	1	1	4	BS		
101	POTT	?	1	1	63	base	finger pressing on interior	
101	POTTG	jug	1	1	6 multi neck & shoulder cordon	BS		
101	POTTG	jug	1	1	2	BS		
101	POTTG	jug	1	1	1	BS		
101	POTTG	jug	1	1	3	neck		
101	POTTG	jug	1	1	4	BS	?ID or LSW2	
101	POTTG	jug	1	1	6	BS		
101	POTTG	small jug	1	1	2	BS		
101	POTTG	jug	1	1	2 applied decoration	BS		
101	POTTG	jug	1	1	5	BS		
101	POTTG	small jar/pipkin	1	1	13	base	untrimmed basal edge; hard fired; very thin	
101	POTTG	jug/jar	1	1	3	base		
101	DST	jug	1	1	11 applied combed strip	BS	thick cu glaze	
101	POTTG	jug	2	1	78 lower body cordon; pressed basal edge	base & BS	pocked glaze; very finely potted	
101	POTTG	jug/jar	1	1	4	BS	glaze spots	
101	POTTG	jug?	1	1	13	BS	amber pocked glaze; ?ID or LSWA	
101	POTTG	small jar/pipkin	1	1	4	BS	hard fired; very thin; soot	
101	POTTG	jug	1	1	18 horiz rows of scale dec	BS	cu glaze	
101	POTTG	large jug	2	1	88	BS		
101	POTTG	small jug/jar	1	1	2	BS	glaze spots	
101	POTTG	small jar	1	1	6	BS	low fired; lead pellet on ext	
101	POTTG	jar?	1	1	5	BS	low fired; unmated ext glaze; waster?	
101	POTTG	jug	1	1	3	LHJ	and int 0 and medium shalls	
102	MISC	jar?	1	1	4	BS	soot int & ext; medium shelly	
103	TPW	?	1	1	10	BS		
105	POTTG	jug	1	1	10	BS		
105	POTTG	jug/jar	1	1	5	BS	YID	
213	POTT	large bowl	1	Log of the other	76	nm	nollow evented nm	
TILE								
context	cname	full name fa	abric	sub type	frags	weigh	t description	date
103	PNR	Peg nib or rido P	OTTG?	ous type	1	3	3 fabric includes shell fragment	13th to 15th
203	NIB	nibbed tile P	OTTG?	small	1	17	0 cracked during firing; right corner; soot?;	13th
200				moulded round/ square cut back			mortar?	

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## THE OTHER FINDS by Paul Cope-Faulkner, Tom Lane and Gary Taylor

A total of 14 fragments of flints and burnt stone weighing 54g (2 discarded) was recovered from 2 separate contexts. In addition to the flint, a small quantity of other artefacts, mostly building materials, comprising 6 items weighing a total of 426g, was retrieved.

The excavated animal bone assemblage comprises 27 stratified fragments weighing 204g. The animal bone was identified by reference to published catalogues. No attempt is made to sex or age animals represented within the assemblage, although where this is readily apparent is noted in the comments column.

#### Provenance

The material was recovered from a former ploughsoil (101), a peat deposit (102), the fill of a sewer (103) and a buried soil (210).

#### Range

The range of material is detailed in the tables.

#### Table 1: Flints

Context	Description	Wt (g)	Context Date
101	Large, heavily patinated flint flake. 55 x 48x 13mm. Poss Neolithic	31	Neolithic?
210	1 broken burnt cobble. 35 x 20 x 20mm. Undated	23	Late
sy material	1 broken flint flake. Fire crazed. 20 x 16 x 2mm. Undated		Mesolithic/
	1 Flint fragment. Fire crazed. 17 x 10 x 4mm. Undated		Early Neolithic
There have	1 complete flint blade flake. Patinated. Slight retouch along part of one edge. 26 x 8 x 5mm. Late Mesolithic or Early Neolithic	hjectuo	reports, Details of
the Lincole	1 Complete blade flake. Patinated. 15 x 8 x 2mm. Late Mesolithic or Early Neolithic	PONCH I	critago Criticae ensi
Contact State	1 Flint Blade flake broken in antiquity. 15 x 12 x 1mm.		
The sector	1 Flint Blade core fragment. Patinated. 24 x 15 x 4mm		and the second
a second and and and	1 Flint blade fragment with notch on one side. Patinated. 16 x 10 x 1mm.	and a fact	a sugarities wanted
and a second second second	1 broken blade fragment. Patinated. 16 x 14 x 1.	Transfer 1995	te al toutule refer
Construction of the	1 broken flint blade fragment. Patinated. 20 x 16 x 3mm		
as house	1 Flint. Possible core fragment. Patinated. 20 x 19 x 4mm		
	2 Natural flint fragments (Discarded)	-	

The flints from (210) are of Late Mesolithic/Early Neolithic blade flake types and could be contemporary, although the blade flake tradition is long lived. All are heavily patinated with no evidence of later or recent impacts. The fire crazed examples and the burnt cobble are common on prehistoric occupation and industrial sites and suggest the presence of such a site in the vicinity.

#### Table 2: Other Artefacts

Context	Material	Description	No.	Wt (g)	Context Date
101	Stone	Roof tile, 5mm thick, drilled hole 2mm min diameter	1	21	
	Coal	Coal	1	6	
103	Slate	Roofing slate, possibly Swithland, post-medieval	2(link)	65	Post-medieval
	Mortar	Mortar/cement	1	124	
	Iron	Circular rod, 325mm long, 12mm diameter, post-medieval	1	210	

The roofing tile/slate and cement suggest the presence of buildings in the proximity.

A piece of roofing slate was recovered from (103). This appears to be Swithland slate, from Leicestershire. This type of slate only achieved widespread use for roofing ordinary houses in the 18<sup>th</sup> century, having previously been restricted in distribution to the Leicester area, and employed on significant buildings. Welsh slate began to replace the Swithland material from the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century (Bell and Jones 1976, 51-2). This evidence provides the post-medieval date for the recovered fragments.

Context	Species	Bone	No.	Wt (g)	Comments
i im ho	Cattle size	Ribs	3	48	ad appends to liave large circeler in t
	Cattle size	Carpal	Chilled	32	gent that it was either a protected
	Sheep size	Ribs	2	4	tize, but now the shane of the
101	Sheep size	Pelvis	1	32	sectional would below to the
101	Sheep size	Scapula	1	13	
	Sheep size	Vertebra	2	17	a se controly contractions when the
	Bird	Unidentified	2	4	te opening are known troin the
DOLLON	unknown	unidentified	12	38	fundamindustry is corrently dated -
active State	Cattle sized	Ulna	1	10	
102	Sheep sized	Vertebra	1	4	
Refetch	unknown	unidentified	1	2	Chalky, rodent gnawing

Table 3: The Faunal Remains

#### 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 Washingborough 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 collection of prehistoric flints is of moderate-high local potential and significance and signifies human exploitation of the area in that period. The small quantity of probably recent building material is of limited local potential but perhaps indicates building in the area at that time.

#### References

Bell, M. E. and Jones, M. D., 1976 'The Extractive Industries', in I. M. Evans (ed), Charnwood's Heritage

The Spearhead

## By Dr F. Pryor

On the X-radiograph the socketed copper alloy spearhead appears to have large circular openings on the lower part of the blade. This would suggest that it was either a protected opening spearhead or a lunate opening spearhead. The size, but not the shape of the openings leads me to favour the latter. Either way the spearhead would belong to the Wilburton tradition of the Late Bronze Age. This would be entirely consistent with the leaf-shaped swords found nearby. Spearheads with lunate opening are known from the Burton on Stather 2 hoard (Davey 1973, 114). The Wilburton industry is currently dated by Stuart Needham to his Period 6 (1150-950 cal BC).

#### References

1

P.J. Davey 1973, Bronze Age Metalwork from Lincolnshire, Archaeologia, 104, pp. 51-1127

S.P. Needham 1996, Chronology and Periodisation in the British Bronze Age, Acta Archaeologica, vol 67, pp. 121-140

#### Disconsion

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#### AN EVALUATION OF THE WATERLOGGED PLANT MACROFOSSILS AND OTHER REMAINS FROM WASHINGBOROUGH, LINCOLNSHIRE (WMR 03)

#### Val Fryer, Church Farm, Sisland, Loddon, Norwich, Norfolk, NR14 6EF December 2003

#### Introduction

Evaluation excavations at Washingborough, to the south east of Lincoln, were carried out by Archaeological Project Services in autumn 2003. The work revealed degraded soils and compacted organic muds/silts of possible Bronze Age date. Three samples were taken for the evaluation of the plant macrofossil assemblages.

#### Methods

The samples were processed by manual water flotation/washover, collecting the flots in a 500 micron mesh sieve. As wet retents were present in all three samples, the flots were stored in water prior to sorting. Material was scanned under a binocular microscope at magnifications up to x 16, and the plant macrofossils and other remains noted are listed on Table 1. Nomenclature within the table follows Stace (1997). With the exception of the charcoal fragments, all plant remains were waterlogged.

#### Results of evaluation Plant macrofossils

Waterlogged seeds and/or nutshell fragments were present at an extremely low density in all three samples Preservation was very poor; the seeds were crushed and degraded and the nutshell fragments were extremely friable. Charcoal fragments and pieces of waterlogged root/stem were also present in all assemblages, although it should be noted that some roots may be modern. Other plant macrofossils included indeterminate moss, twigs and wood fragments. Fungal sclerotia were noted in samples 2 and 4, but these may be modern in origin.

#### **Other materials**

Pieces of black porous 'cokey' material and black tarry material were present throughout. All may be derived from the combustion of organic remains at very high temperatures. Small coal fragments and pieces of burnt or fired clay (possibly brick/tile) were noted in sample 3.

#### Discussion

Samples 2 and 4 were both taken from a probable degraded soil horizon ([104]). Plant remains are extremely sparse, with a single of bugle (*Ajuga* sp.) seed, crushed elderberry (*Sambucus nigra*) 'pips' and fragments of hazel (*Corylus avellana*) nutshell. Preservation is very poor, with a notable absence of identifiable plant material and arthropods, probably suggesting that this deposit is very degraded, possibly as a result of a fluctuating water table. Charcoal fragments are common, but due to modern root disturbance, some or all may be intrusive within the context.

Sample 3 is from a compacted layer of organic mud/silt which covered the entire excavation. Plant remains are scarce, and the few recovered are very poorly preserved. It should be noted that modern contaminants (in the form of coal fragments and possible pieces of brick/tile) may be present within this layer.

#### Summary

Although the assemblages from samples 2 and 4 may be consistent with material derived from a damp grassland and/or scrub habitat, plant remains are extremely rare and preservation is poor. There would also appear to be an unknown degree of modern contamination. Therefore, on the evidence of these assemblages, no further sampling is recommended unless well-sealed and dated contexts are encountered during any further excavation work.

#### Reference

Stace, C., 1997 New Flora of the British Isles. Second edition. Cambridge University Press

#### Key to Table

X = 1 - 10 specimens	xx = 10 - 100 specimens	xxx = 100 + specimens	ss = sub-sample
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Sample No.	2	3	4
Context No.	210	108	104
Plant macrofossils	S. C. S. S.	10000	1222
Ajuga sp.			X
Carex sp.		xcf	
Corylus avellana L.		Contractor	X
Sambucus nigra L.	X	100 Mar	The Parts
Charcoal <2mm	XX	×	XX
Charcoal >2mm			X
Waterlogged root/rhizome/stem	XXX	X	XXX
Indet.moss			X
Indet.twigs	X		X
Wood frags.<5mm	XX		
Wood frags.>5mm	X	121221111	X
Mineralised root channels	X	Second Second	X
Fungal sclerotia	XX		X
Other materials		War harden	CHILLAT IN
Black porous 'cokey' material	X	X	ally week
Black tarry material	X	I for more	X
Burnt/fired clay	Section of the	x	10.00
Compacted organic silts/muds		XXX	1000
Small coal frags.	No en Station	x	
Waterlogged arthropods		x	X
Sample volume (litres)	4	455	455
Volume of flot (litres)	0.2	0.4	0.2
% flot sorted	50%	25%	50%

Table 1. Plant macrofossils and other remains from Washingborough, Lincolnshire.

% lotel by land pelles (idlp).

## Washingborough (WMR03): A Pollen Assessment Analysis

Dr. Rob Scaife

Department of Geography University of Southampton Highfield Southampton SO17 1BJ

#### **1.) Introduction**

Samples of peat overlying an old land surface (palaeosol) have been examined for their sub-fossil pollen and spore content. The principal aims of the study were to determine presence or absence of microfossils and potential for reconstructing the past vegetation and environment especially in relation to human activity. Pollen has been recovered and a preliminary diagram and results have been obtained.

#### 2.) Pollen method

Samples of 2ml volume were processed using standard techniques for the extraction of the sub-fossil pollen and spores (Moore and Webb 1978; Moore *et al.* 1991). Micromesh sieving (10u) was also used to aid with removal of the clay fraction in the basal mineral sediments. The sub-fossil pollen and spores were identified and counted using an Olympus biological research microscope fitted with Leitz optics. A pollen sum of up to 150 grains per level was counted for each level where possible. Additionally, all fern spores were also counted for each of the samples analysed. Pollen diagrams have been plotted using Tilia and Tilia Graph (figures 1 and 2). Percentages have been calculated as follows:

Sum =	% total dry land pollen (tdlp).
Marsh/aquatic =	% tdlp + sum of marsh/aquatics.
Spores =	% tdlp + sum of spores.
Misc. =	% tdlp + sum of misc. taxa.

Taxonomy, in general, follows that of Moore and Webb (1978) modified according to Bennett *et al.* (1994) for pollen types and Stace (1992) for plant descriptions. These procedures were carried out in the Palaeoecology Laboratory of the Department of Geography, University of Southampton.

#### 3.) The Pollen Data

The profile can be divided into two sections. First is the basal mineral soils of the old land surface and second, the overlying peat which started to accumulate from 2,880 BP+/-60BP.

3.a.) The old land surface. (26cm to 24cm): Pollen is poorly preserved in this soil and as a result there is evidence of differential preservation of those more robust types such as the Lactucoideae (dandelion types) and spores of *Pteridium aquilinum* (bracken). Trees and shrubs are dominant with *Quercus* (oak; to12%), *Alnus glutinosa* (alder; 12%) and *Corylus avellana* type (hazel; 36%). Herbs comprise Lactucoideae (dandelion types to 15%) and Poaceae (grasses; 16%). There are small occurrences of marsh taxa including Cyperaceae (1-2%) and *Typha angustifolia/Sparganium* type (reed mace and bur reed). Spores are dominated by *Pteridium aquilinum* which attain a high value (43%), *Polypodium vulgare* (common polypody fern) and monolete *Dryopteris* type are present (typical ferns).

3.b.) The overlying peat sequence. (24cm to 0cm): This is characterised by higher values of Alnus (to 48%) at the base of the profile. Quercus (oak; to 18%) and Corylus avellana type (hazel; to 30%) are also important. Tilia (lime)increases in importance to the top of the profile (18%). Rhamnus catharticus (alder buckthorn) and Salix (willow) occur in the uppermost level. Herbs are dominated by Poaceae (grasses; to 20%) with a range of other herbs including Plantago lanceolata (ribwort plantain; 2-3%). Marsh and aquatic taxa comprise Cyperaceae (sedges; to 16%) and Typha angustifolia type (bur reed and reed mace) with occasional Iris, Callitriche (water starwort,), Potamogeton type (pond weed). There are few spores Dryopteris type, Polypodium vulgare, and Osmunda regalis (Royal fern) in the upper level.

#### 4.) Discussion and inferred vegetation history

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Although poorly preserved, sub-fossil pollen and spores were recovered from these mineral sediments which represents the vegetation growing on the old land surface and in close proximity. These assemblages suggest some local woodland, perhaps hazel scrub with some oak. However, the on-site vegetation appears to be plants of waste ground with grassland (?pasture) and bracken. The latter may represent waste ground colonisation or be residual in the soils from differential preservation of these more robust grains. This similarly applies to the Lactucoideae (dandelion types) which may nevertheless suggest pasture.

Environmental conditions became wetter at c.3,000 BP which initiated peat/organic accumulation at this point in the valley. This inception of peat formation may have been due to changes in land use raising the local water table and/or from positive (i.e. increasing) changes in relative sea-level during the late-prehistoric and Iron Age periods. This will have affected the fluvial; systems during this period with ponding back and resultant water-logging of low lying ground.

Initially, with wetter conditions, alder colonised the site. With increasing wetness, this was followed by sedges and other typical herb fen taxa including reed-mace (*Typha angustifolia*), bur-reed (*Sparganium*), iris and Royal Fern (*Osmunda regalis*). There are also some indication of open or standing water with starwort (*Callitriche*) and pond weed (*Potamogeton*).

During this later phase, interpolated as being of Iron age and Romano-British age, the vegetation of the interfluves consisted primarily of hazel (*Corylus avellana*) and oak (*Quercus*). However, other taxa are also present in small numbers and suggest local growth. These include beech, ash and especially lime/lindens (*Tilia cordata*). which are all usually poorly represented in pollen spectra (Andersen 1970, 1973). The presence of *Tilia* is of particular interest since this tree was largely cleared from southern and eastern England by the middle to late-Bronze Age (i.e. c.3500-3,000 BP). Here. It appears that it remained in the landscape and growth as coppice during the recent centuries suggests continuity of what had been the one of the dominant woodland types since the middle Holocene.

With regards to agriculture, there is no evidence for arable cultivation in this sequence. However, grasses in the basal soils and subsequently might be attributed to pasture. This is not clear from the pollen analysis alone.

#### 5.) Summary and Conclusion.

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The following points can be made from this pollen analysis.

\* Pollen has been extracted from all of the samples examined including the basal minerogenic soil. This has allowed a pollen diagram and preliminary vegetation environmental reconstruction to be made.

\* Sub-fossil pollen and spores in the soils of the old land surface suggest grassland and bracken with oak and hazel woodland in proximity.

\* From c. 3,000 to 2,900 BP (late Bronze Age/early Iron Age), local conditions became wetter instigating anaerobic conditions and peat/organic accumulation. This may have been caused by local woodland clearance or more probably from regional rising relative sea level ponding back rivers.

\* Initially, the vegetation was alder which expanded into these wetter areas. Subsequently, a more herb rich fen was present with alder remaining around its fringes.

\* Whilst there may be some evidence of pasture, there are no real indications of any arable activity. This is probably due to the wide extent of the marsh with pollen from arable areas on the interfluves not falling onto this site.

\* There is interesting evidence for the presence of lime (*Tilia cordata*) into the historic period. This differs from most areas of southern Britain where such woodland was cleared during the middle to late-Bronze Age period.

\* This preliminary analysis has provided an initial insight into the local vegetation of the early historic period.

\* There is potential for a more detailed analysis of this site. This would be required should publication in a journal be required.

#### References

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Moore, P.D. and Webb, J.A. 1978 An illustrated guide to pollen analysis. London: Hodder and Stoughton.

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## Radiocarbon Dating

#### By Beta Analytic

A fragment of wood from the base of a peat deposit was submitted for radiocarbon dating.

Assay of the sample by extended counting provided a date of:

2880 +/- 60yrs BP (that is, Before Present where 'present' is taken as 1950)

or

1260-905 cal BC at  $2 \sigma$  (95% confidence)

Beta 189256

Edge said Perror

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## GLOSSARY

Bronze Age	A period characterised by the introduction of bronze into the country for tools, between 2250 and 800 BC.
Context	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 interpretation 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].
Cut	A cut refers to the physical action of digging a posthole, pit, ditch, foundation trench, etc. Once the fills of these features are removed during an archaeological investigation the original 'cut' is therefore exposed and subsequently recorded.
Domesday Survey	A survey of property ownership in England compiled on the instruction of William I for taxation purposes in 1086 AD.
Fill	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) that become contained by the 'cut' are referred to as its fill(s).
Glaciofluvial Drift	Materials (eg, clays, silts, gravels, etc.) deposited by the combined action of rivers and glaciers, or from streams from glacial ice.
Intrusive	Artefacts of later date found in deposits that must pre-date them are said to be intrusive. Such intrusive artefacts will usually be small and have worked down in the soil through cracks, or by root, worm or rodent action. Intrusive artefacts will generally be isolated and be distinctively later than a larger assemblage of earlier artefacts, for example, a single 19 <sup>th</sup> century pottery fragment found in a large collection of medieval ceramics in a refuse pit.
Layer	A layer is an accumulation of soil or other material that is not contained within a cut.
Medieval	The Middle Ages, dating from approximately AD 1066-1500.
Mesolithic	The 'Middle Stone Age' period, part of the prehistoric era, dating from approximately 11000 - 4500 BC.
Natural	Undisturbed deposit(s) of soil or rock which have accumulated without the influence of human activity
Neolithic	The 'New Stone Age' period, part of the prehistoric era, dating from approximately 4500 - 2250 BC.
Old English	The language used by the Saxon $(q.v.)$ occupants of Britain.
Prehistoric	The period of human history prior to the introduction of writing. In Britain the prehistoric period lasts from the first evidence of human occupation about 500,000 BC, until the Roman invasion in the middle of the 1st century AD.
<b>Ridge and Furrow</b>	The remains of arable cultivation consisting of raised rounded strips separated by furrows. It is characteristic of open field agriculture.

Romano-British	Pertaining to the period dating from AD 43-410 when the Romans occupied Britain.
Saxon	Pertaining to the period when Britain was occupied by peoples from northern Germany, Denmark and adjacent areas. The period dates from approximately AD 450-1066.
Sedentism	Practice of remaining in one place and having established settlements. Introduced in the Neolithic period $(q.v.)$
Transhumant	The practice of seasonal movement between areas, employed by hunter gathers in prehistory; characteristic of the Mesolithic period $(q.v.)$ .

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#### The Archive

The archive consists of:

- 1 Specification for archaeological evaluation
- 1 Project brief for archaeological evaluation
- 2 Plans on 2 permatrace sheets
- 7 Section Drawings on 16 permatrace Sheets
- 5 Daily record sheets
- 3 Context record sheets
- 42 Context sheets
- 1 Section record sheet
- 1 Plan record sheet
- 2 Photographic record sheets
- 1 Sample record sheet
- 5 Environmental sample sheets
- 3 Level sheets
- 1 Site matrix
- 2 Boxes 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:	2003.363
Archaeological Project Services Site Code:	MRW 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.

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