

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF REPORT:
HOME FARM, LAUGHTERTON,
LINCOLNSHIRE**

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SITE CODE: LAHF04
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Planning ref.: M02/P/1140

Report prepared for Apple Homes Ltd.

by

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Loughterton,

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Summary

- An archaeological watching brief was undertaken during topsoil stripping for a residential development at Home Farm, Laughterton, Lincolnshire.
- The topsoil stripping was restricted to a discrete area where previous evaluation had identified foundation courses of stone buildings; indicative perhaps of high status occupation of the site in the 13th century.
- No archaeologically significant deposits were encountered during the brief: the topsoil stripping did not penetrate the known depth of the building remains, and merely exposed a subsoil layer containing dispersed dumps of pottery of post-medieval to early modern date.



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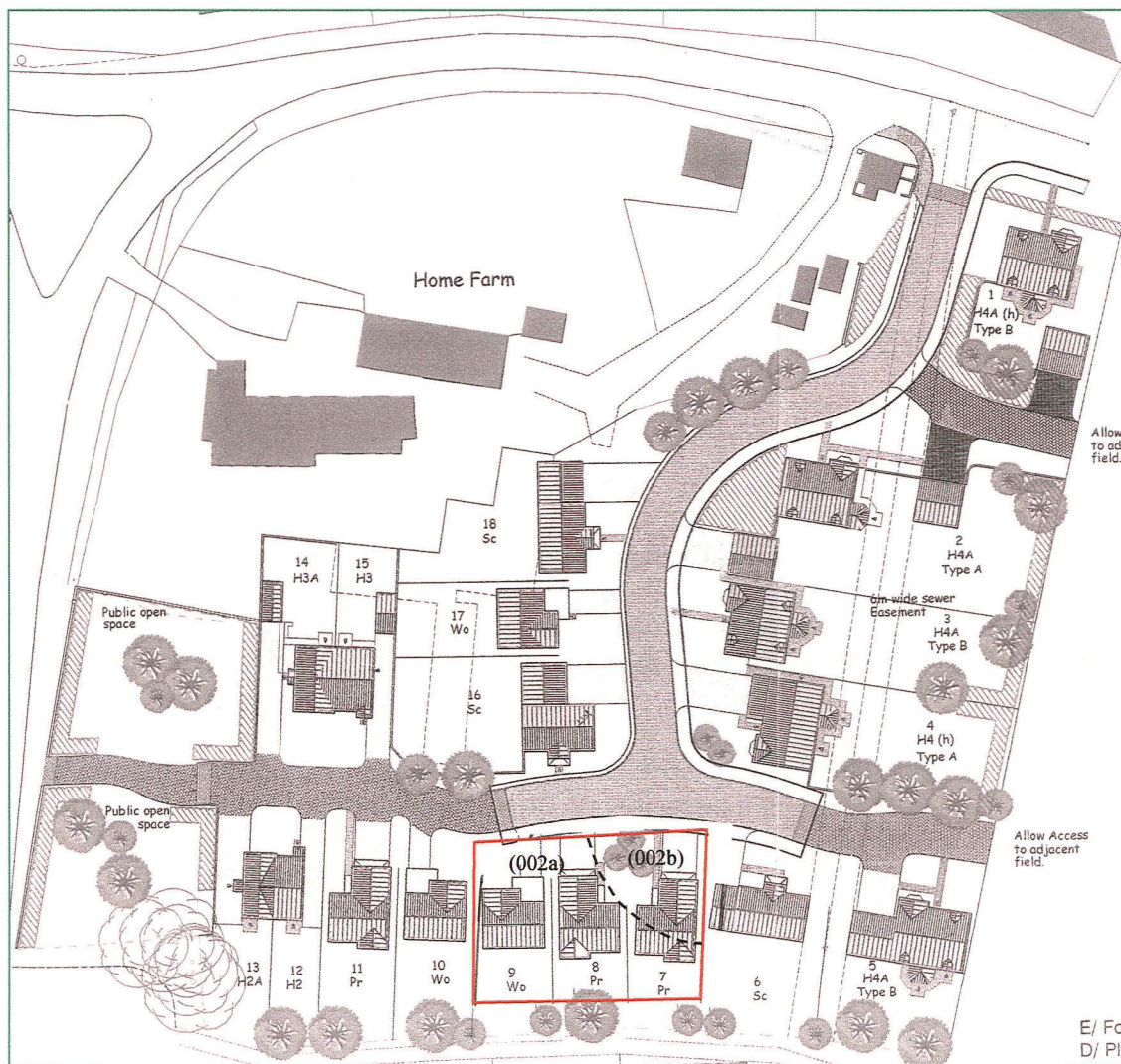


Fig. 2: Plan of the development area, showing the zone of archaeological monitoring outlined in red (scale 1:1000)

1.0 Introduction

Pre-Construct Archaeology (Lincoln) was commissioned by Apple Homes Ltd. to undertake an archaeological watching brief during topsoil stripping on a residential development on land at Home Farm, Laughterton, Lincolnshire.

The works were undertaken to fulfil the objectives of a project specification prepared by Pre-Construct Archaeology (Lincoln). This approach is consistent with the recommendations of *Archaeology & Planning: Planning Policy Guidance Note 16* (Department of the Environment, 1990), *Management of Archaeological Projects* (English Heritage, 1991), *Standards and guidance for archaeological watching briefs* (IFA, 1994), and the Lincolnshire County Council document *Lincolnshire Archaeological Handbook: a manual of archaeological practice* (LCC, 1998).

Copies of this report have been deposited with the commissioning body and the County Sites and Monuments Record for Lincolnshire. 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

Laughterton is situated in the administrative district of West Lindsey, approximately 14km west-north-west of Lincoln and 3km south of Torksey. The development area comprises former agricultural land towards the north end of the village. A minor road bounds the site to the north, open farmland to the east, the car park of the Friendship Inn to the south and the A1133 to the west.

The site lies at a height of approximately 6m OD, on a layer of blown sand, overlying a solid geology of Mercia Mudstone (British Geological Survey, 1999).

Central National Grid Reference SK 8385 7592.

3.0 Planning background

Full planning permission was granted for the erection of eighteen new dwellings on former agricultural land on the north side of the village (Planning ref.: M02/P/1140). This permission was granted subject to the undertaking of an archaeologically monitored topsoil strip over plots 7-9.

4.0 Archaeological and historical background

Laughterton has been subject to limited previous formal archaeological intervention. Fieldwork was carried out on the current site in 1998: five trenches were excavated across the development area, exposing several phases of archaeological activity. Single flint flakes were recovered from Trenches 4 and 5, tentatively evidencing prehistoric activity in the vicinity. In Trench 1, a layer of demolition material containing fragments of Roman roof tile was exposed close to the main road that bisects the village. This may indicate the presence of a former Roman building, or that demolition material has been imported from elsewhere (Albone, 1998). The site lies within an area of known Roman activity; a 1st century legionary fortress and pottery kilns have been identified at Newton-on-Trent to the south, and at Torksey Lock, to the north, where the Roman Fossedyke canal joins the River Trent (Whitwell, 1992).

Evaluation Trench 2 contained several phases of Late Saxon – early medieval archaeological activity, sealed by up to 0.9m of medieval – post-medieval soil build up. The earliest phase was a single gully containing 10th/11th century pottery. This was followed by two intercutting phases of stone walls, and a compacted clay floor interpreted as the remains of a stoking pit for a kiln or hearth. Dating evidence suggested an initial phase of construction in the 12th/13th century, followed by a redesign in the 14th – 16th century. This later phase also incorporated a circular stone built structure, interpreted as a possible dovecote (Albone, 1998).

Prior to the above phase of evaluation, it was believed that the village was not settled until well into the medieval period. Neither Laughterton nor the parish of Kettlethorpe, in which it is situated, appear in the Domesday Survey. Much of Well wapentake, in which Laughterton lies is also absent, leading to the suggestion that the pages have been lost (Cole, 1911). However, the settlement is also absent from the Lindsey Survey of 1116, the first definite reference dating to 1213-1223 (Cameron, 1998). It has also been associated with the place name *Leugtricedun*, which dates to the 7th century AD, meaning ‘the hill where the lettuce grew’ (Sawyer, 1998). Cameron suggests this is unlikely, as Laughterton is not on a hill. However, the evaluation suggested that the stone building remains in Trench 2 were situated on a slight elevation of dry ground, surrounding by low-lying wetter ground, as evidenced by flood deposits exposed in Trenches 1, 4 and 5 (Albone, 1998).

5.0 Methodology

The most significant archaeological deposits exposed by the evaluation (Trench 2) were located in the area of plots 7-9. Accordingly, it was required that the topsoil was stripped from these plots prior to the excavation of the footings trenches.

The groundworks were carried out using a 360° tracked excavator fitted with a 1.6m wide toothless bucket. Topsoil and a portion of the underlying subsoil were removed to a maximum depth of c.0.4m below the modern ground surface. The fieldwork was monitored at all times by the author and took place on Tuesday March 30th 2004.

6.0 Results

The topsoil, (001), was a 0.25m deep deposit of very dark brown sandy loam, containing small fragments of brick and tile. This overlay a subsoil layer, (002), of brown sand, containing several spreads of post-medieval to early modern pottery. A sample of this material was retained for specialist analysis, including an almost complete black glazed bowl of 18th/19th century date. It was noticed that to the east this deposit contained a higher concentration of poorly sorted limestone rubble fragments, (002a) (fig. 2).

7.0 Discussion and conclusion

The programme of topsoil stripping exposed deposits of limited archaeological significance. The subsoil, (002), contained several noticeable concentrations of post-medieval to early modern pottery, representing dumps of domestic waste, probably associated with the former use of the site as a farm, the waste being derived from the nearby farmhouse.

It was also noted that there was an increase in the amount of stone rubble observed to the east of the stripped area. This most likely was derived from the demolition and/or plough damage to the underlying stone building remains exposed in the 1998 evaluation (Albone, 1998). These structures were shown to be sealed by a substantial depth of soil build up (deposits (201) and (203), Albone, 1998), which relates to deposit (002) in the current programme of fieldwork. Much of this build up is likely to have been caused by the accumulation of wind blown sand following the abandonment of the archaeologically documented stone buildings.

8.0 Effectiveness of methodology

The watching brief methodology required the removal of topsoil from plots 7-9. This work removed 0.3 – 0.4m of overburden, revealing deposits of post-medieval to early modern date. The previous evaluations had clearly shown the stone building remains were identified at a depth of c.0.9m below the modern ground surface (Albone, 1998). As a result of the minimal extent of the archaeological intervention, these structures remained buried, and their extent and degree of preservation beyond Trench 2 of the 1998 evaluation was not established. ~~Given that the developer intends to use piling for the foundations of the buildings on plots 7-9, it is unlikely that the remains of the medieval structures will be preserved in situ.~~

This sentence deleted in discussion with Colin Palmer-Brown 22/7/04. R

9.0 Acknowledgements

Pre-Construct Archaeology (Lincoln) would like to thank Apple Homes Ltd. for this commission.

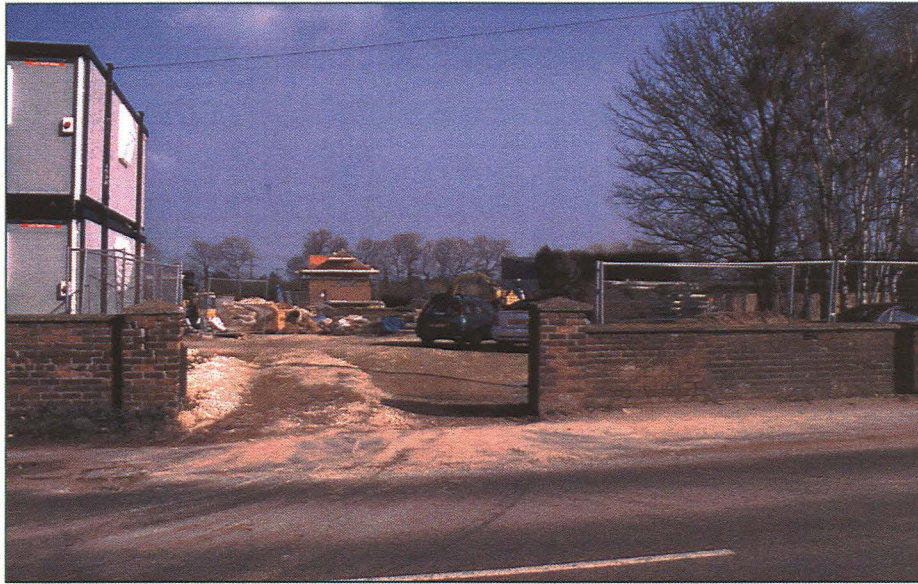
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- Sawyer P., 1998, *Anglo-Saxon Lincolnshire*, History of Lincolnshire III, History of Lincolnshire Committee, Lincoln
- Whitwell J.B., 1992, *Roman Lincolnshire*, History of Lincolnshire Committee, Lincoln

11.0 Site archive

The documentary and physical archive for the site is currently in the possession of Pre-Construct Archaeology (Lincoln). This will be deposited at Lincoln City and County Museum within six months. Access to the archive may be gained by quoting the global accession number 2004.106

APPENDIX 1: Colour Plates



Pl. 1: General view of the development area, looking east



Pl. 2: View of the stripped area of house plots 7 – 9, looking east-north-east.

Pottery Archive LAHF04

Jane Young

context	cname	form type	sherds	vessels	weight	decoration	part	description	date
002	NCBW	bowl	1	1	28		BS		19th
002	BL	large bowl	1	1	276		rim	internal glaze	18th to 19th
002	BL	large bowl	1	1	117		rim	internal glaze	18th to 19th
002	BL	large bowl	1	1	214		base	internal glaze	18th to 19th
002	BL	large bowl	1	1	100		base	internal glaze; white ext wash	18th to 19th
002	BL	large bowl	1	1	263		rim	internal glaze	18th to 19th
002	BL	large bowl	1	1	212		rim	internal glaze	18th to 19th
002	BL	large bowl	1	1	247		rim	internal glaze; part white ext wash	18th to 19th
002	BL	large side-handled bowl	1	1	376		rim	internal glaze	18th to 19th
002	NCBW	bowl	1	1	42		base		19th
002	BL	large bowl	2	1	453		rim	internal glaze	18th to 19th
002	NOTS	?	1	1	8	machine decoration	BS		mid 18th to 19th
002	PORC	dish	1	1	12		base		19th
002	TPW	dish	1	1	5		base	early	early to mid 19th
002	CREA	dish	1	1	17		rim		mid/late 18th to mid 19th

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context	cname	form type	sherds	vessels	weight	decoration	part	description	date
002	PEARL	dish	4	1	60	blue feathered rim edge	near profile		late 18th to mid 19th
002	NOTS	bowl/jar	1	1	36	machine decoration	BS	green internal glaze	19th
002	BL	large side-handled bowl	8	1	2477		profile	internal glaze	18th to 19th
002	BL	inturned jar	4	1	591		base	internal glaze	18th to 19th
002	BL	large bowl	1	1	108		rim	internal glaze	18th to 19th

Ceramic Building Material Archive LAHF04

Jane Young

context	cname	full name	fabric	frags	weight	description	date
002	MODTIL	Modern tile		1	74	possible very thick pantile	late 18th to 19th
002	MODTIL	Modern tile		1	109	possible very thick pantile	late 18th to 19th
002	BRK	Brick	very sandy	1	475	very abraded; 46mm thick 94+ wide; unusual; poss floor ?; abun subround quartz occ fine agg sst occ ca occ white clay pelleys	post-medieval

APPENDIX 3: List of archaeological contexts

<i>Context</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Description</i>
001	Layer	Topsoil
002	Layer	Subsoil