ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF AT BROOKSIDE, THE GREEN, MINTING, LINCOLNSHIRE (MTG 04)



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ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF AT BROOKSIDE, THE GREEN, MINTING, LINCOLNSHIRE (MTG 04)

Work Undertaken For Mrs R. McGlone-Healey

June 2004

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

Planning Application No: S/122/1318/03
National Grid Reference: TF 186 735
City and County Museum Accession No: 2004.117

ARCHAEOLOGICAL PROJECT SERVICES



APS Report No. 80/04

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1. SUMMARY

A watching brief was undertaken during groundworks at Brookside, The Green, Minting, Lincolnshire. The watching brief monitored the excavation of foundation trenches for a new extension.

The site lies within the medieval (AD 1066-1540) core of the village, close to the $12^{th} - 14^{th}$ century church and adjacent to the earthworks of the Benedictine Minting priory, which was founded before 1129.

The watching brief identified a sequence of natural, subsoil and topsoil deposits. Finds, retrieved as unstratified material, include 19th century pottery and glass.

2. INTRODUCTION

2.1 Definition of a Watching Brief

An archaeological watching brief is defined as "a formal programme of observation and investigation conducted during any operation carried out for non-archaeological reasons. This will be within a specified area or site on land, inter-tidal zone or underwater, where there is a possibility that archaeological deposits maybe disturbed or destroyed." (IFA 1999).

2.2 Planning Background

Archaeological Project Services was commissioned by Mrs R. McGlone-Healey to undertake an archaeological watching brief during groundworks associated with a new extension to existing buildings at Minting, The Green, Brookside. Approval the for Lincolnshire. development was sought through the application submission of planning S/122/1318/03. The watching brief was carried out on the 26th May 2004 in accordance with a specification prepared Archaeological Project Services (Appendix 1) and approved by the Historic Built Environment Officer, Lincolnshire County Council.

2.3 Topography and Geology

Minting is located 21km east of Lincoln and 9km northwest of Horncastle in the administrative district of East Lindsey, Lincolnshire (Fig. 1).

Brookside is located 130m northwest of the village centre as defined by the parish church of St. Andrew at National Grid Reference TF 186 735 (Fig. 2). The site lies within a northeast-southwest valley at a height of c. 20m OD adjacent to a small watercourse.

Soils at the site are of the Wickham 2 Association, typically fine loamy over clayey stagnogleys, with Ragdale Association, pelo-stagnogley soils on the higher ground (Hodge *et al.* 1984, 293, 351). These soils are developed on a drift geology of glacial till which seals a solid geology of Jurassic Ancholme clays (BGS 1980).

2.4 Archaeological Setting

The site is located in an area of known archaeological remains dating from the medieval period to the present day.

Minting is first mentioned in the Domesday Survey of c. 1086. Referred to as Mentinghes and Mentinges the name is derived from the Old English and means the 'family or people (ingas) of Mynta', a personal name (Cameron 1998, 88). At the time of Domesday, the land was assessed with Little Minting and was held by Ivo Taillebois and Countess Judith and contained 260 acres of meadow, 100 acres of woodland for pannage and 1010 acres of underwood (Foster and Longley 1976). The Countess Judith's land was held from her by William the Priest and may suggest that a church had been established in the village at this date.

St. Andrew's church is the only extant building of the medieval period. Although largely rebuilt in the 19th century, it contains much of its original 12th – 14th century stonework (Pevsner and Harris 1989, 564).

To the west of the site are the earthworks of Minting priory which are a Scheduled Ancient Monument (County No: 293). This was founded by Ranulf, Earl of Chester, prior to 1129 for Benedictine monks. It was never a particularly rich house and by 1403 was being leased out to a farmer, although it was subsequently granted to the Carthusian priory of Mount Grace in 1421 (Page 1988, 239).

3. AIMS

The aim of the archaeological investigation was to ensure that any archaeological features exposed during the groundworks should be recorded and, if present, to determine their date, function and origin.

4. METHODS

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

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

5. RESULTS

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

The earliest deposit encountered at the base of the foundation trenches was a layer of bluish grey clay (004). This lay beneath a deposit of greyish brown silty clay and gravel (003). Both these layers were identified as the underlying drift geology.

Developed upon the natural deposits was a 0.2m thick subsoil comprising yellowish brown silty clay (002). This was sealed beneath a grey clayey silt (001) topsoil which was 0.25m thick.

Unstratified finds recovered from the investigation comprise 19th century pottery and glass, a natural flint nodule, perhaps used as a weight and a fragment of coal.

6. DISCUSSION

Natural deposits of clay, silty clay and gravel are probably glacial in origin. A subsoil had developed upon these deposits and perhaps suggest an agricultural use of the site.

Artefacts of 19th century date were recovered as unstratified material.

7. CONCLUSION

A watching brief was undertaken at The Green, Minting, as the site lay close to the

medieval core of the village and adjacent to the earthworks of Minting priory.

However, only a sequence of natural, subsoil and topsoil deposits were affected by the development. Finds retrieved during the investigation comprise 19th century pottery and glass, a flint nodule and a piece of coal.

8. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeological Project Services wish to acknowledge the assistance of Mrs R. McGlone-Healey for commissioning the fieldwork and post-excavation analysis. The work was coordinated by Gary Taylor who edited this report along with Tom Lane. Dave Start kindly permitted access to the library maintained by Heritage Lincolnshire.

9. PERSONNEL

Project Coordinator: Gary Taylor Site Supervisor: Aaron Clements Finds processing: Denise Buckley

Photographic reproduction: Sue Unsworth

Illustration: Paul Cope-Faulkner

Post-excavation analysis: Paul Cope-

Faulkner

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11. ABBREVIATIONS

BGS British Geological Survey

IFA Institute of Field Archaeologists

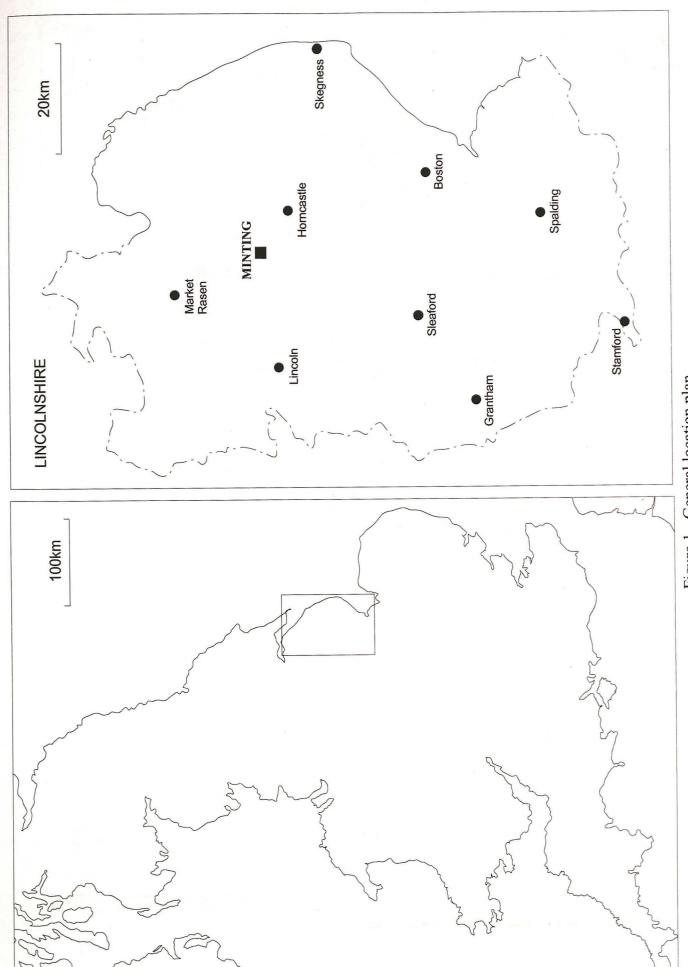


Figure 1 - General location plan

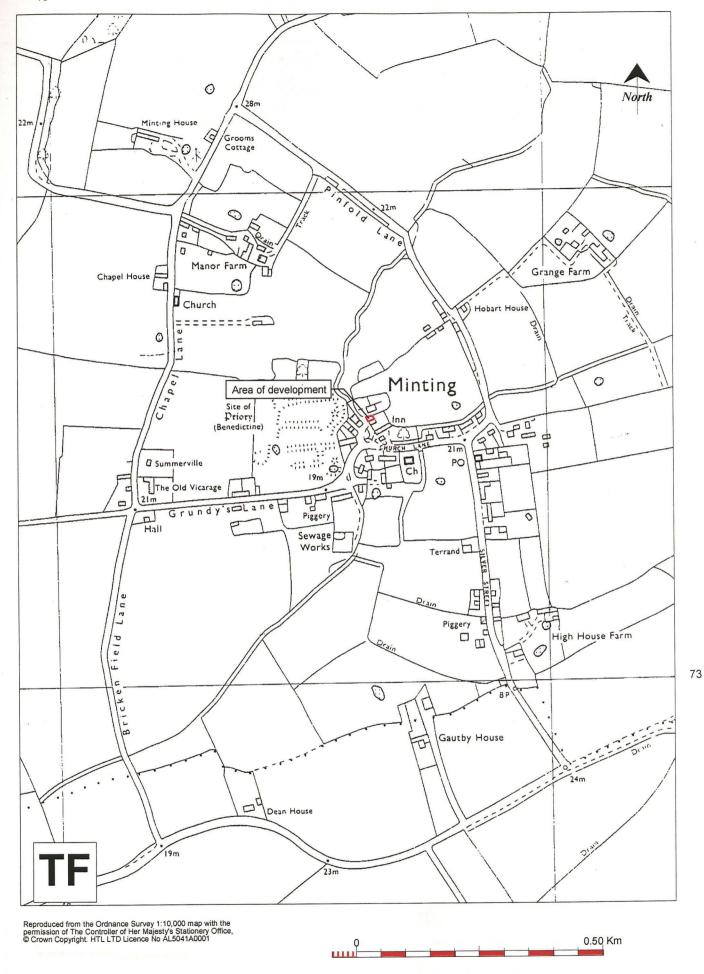


Figure 2 - Site location plan

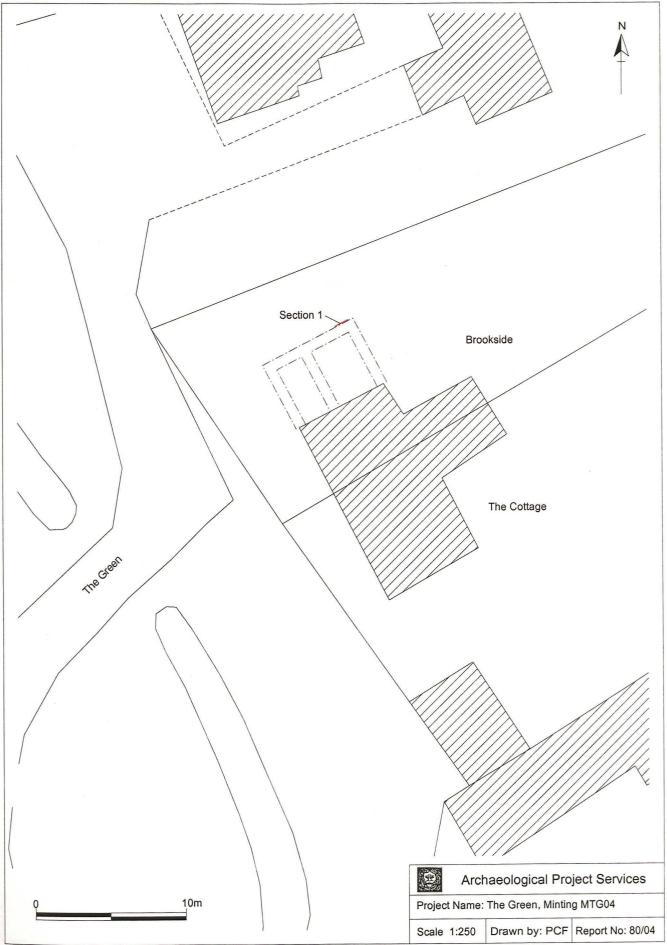


Figure 3 - Plan of the development showing section location

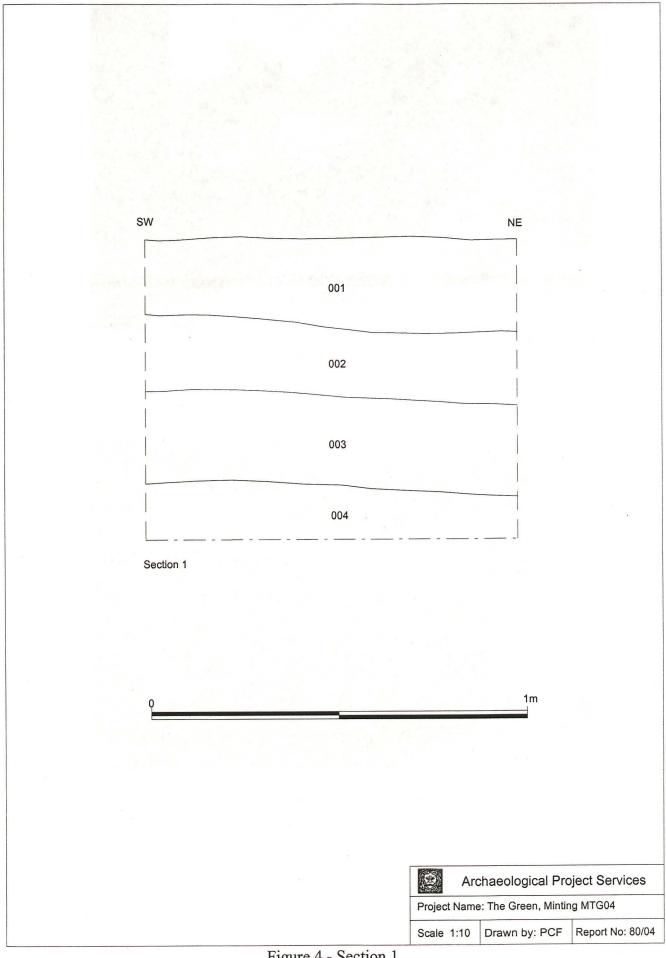


Figure 4 - Section 1



Plate 1 - View of the development area, looking west



Plate 2 - Section 1, looking north

LAND AT THE GREEN, MINTING, LINCOLNSHIRE - SPECIFICATION FOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

1 SUMMARY

- 1.1 A watching brief is required during groundworks associated with the construction of an extension to a dwelling at The Green, Minting, Lincolnshire.
- 1.2 The area is archaeologically sensitive, lying in the historic core of the village.
- 1.3 The watching brief will be undertaken during groundworks associated with the development. The archaeological features exposed will be recorded in writing, graphically and photographically.
- 1.4 On completion of the fieldwork a report will be prepared detailing the results of the watching brief. The report will consist of a narrative supported by illustrations and photographs.

2 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 This document comprises a specification for an archaeological watching brief during construction of an extension to a dwelling at The Green, Minting, Lincolnshire.
- 2.2 This document contains the following parts:
 - 2.2.1 Overview.
 - 2.2.2 Stages of work and methodologies.
 - 2.2.3 List of specialists.
 - 2.2.4 Programme of works and staffing structure of the project

3 SITE LOCATION

3.1 Minting is located approximately 38km northwest of Skegness and 21km east of Lincoln in the administrative district of East Lindsey in Lincolnshire. The proposed development is in the centre of the village, on The Green at NGR TF 186 735.

4 PLANNING BACKGROUND

4.1 A planning application was submitted to East Lindsey District Council for the construction of an extension to a dwelling. Full planning permission has been granted subject to a condition requiring the undertaking of an archaeological watching brief during groundworks associated with the development.

5 SOILS AND TOPOGRAPHY

5.1 Minting lies at around 20m OD in a northeast-southwest valley. Soils at the site are Wickham 2 Association fine loamy over clayey stagnogleys on drift over Jurasic clay shales (Hodge et al. 1984, 152-153).

6 ARCHAEOLOGICAL OVERVIEW

6.1 Minting is a place-name of Old English derivation, meaning 'the people/family of Mynta' and suggests occupation in the area from the Early Saxon period.

- 6.2 The site in the historic core of the village. The Domesday Book of 1086 records both Minting and Little Minting together, the two settlements being divided as two manors. A priest held land in one of the manors, suggesting an ecclesiastical establishment in the area.
- 6.3 The parish church is of medieval origin and nearby are earthworks of Minting Priory, founded by 1129 and a Scheduled Ancient Monument.

7 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- 7.1 The aims of the watching brief will be:
 - 7.1.1 To record and interpret the archaeological features exposed during the excavation of the foundation trenches and other areas of ground disturbance.
- 7.2 The objectives of the watching brief will be to:
 - 7.2.1 Determine the form and function of the archaeological features encountered;
 - 7.2.2 Determine the spatial arrangement of the archaeological features encountered;
 - 7.2.3 As far as practicable, recover dating evidence from the archaeological features, and
 - 7.2.4 Establish the sequence of the archaeological remains present on the site.

8 SITE OPERATIONS

8.1 General considerations

- 8.1.1 All work will be undertaken following statutory Health and Safety requirements in operation at the time of the watching brief.
- 8.1.2 The work will be undertaken according to the relevant codes of practise issued by the Institute of Field Archaeologists (IFA), under the management of a Member of the institute (MIFA). Archaeological Project Services is IFA registered organisation no. 21.
- 8.1.3 Any and all artefacts found during the investigation and thought to be 'treasure', as defined by the Treasure Act 1996, will be removed from site to a secure store and promptly reported to the appropriate coroner's office.

8.2 Methodology

- 8.2.1 The watching brief will be undertaken during the ground works phase of development, and includes the archaeological monitoring of all phases of soil movement.
- 8.2.2 Stripped areas and trench sections will be observed regularly to identify and record archaeological features that are exposed and to record changes in the geological conditions. The section drawings of the trenches will be recorded at a scale of 1:10. Should features be recorded in plan these will be drawn at a scale of 1:20. Written descriptions detailing the nature of the deposits, features and fills encountered will be compiled on Archaeological Project Services pro-forma record sheets.
- 8.2.3 Any finds recovered will be bagged and labelled for later analysis.
- 8.2.4 Throughout the watching brief a photographic record will be compiled. The photographic record will consist of:
 - the site during work to show specific stages, and the layout of the archaeology within the trench.

- groups of features where their relationship is important
- 8.2.5 Should human remains be located they will be left *in situ* and only removed if absolutely necessary. Should such excavation be required the appropriate Home Office licence will be obtained before the removal of the remains. In addition, the Local Environmental Health Department, the police and coroner will be informed.

9 POST EXCAVATION

9.1 Stage 1

- 9.1.1 On completion of site operations, the records and schedules produced during the watching brief will be checked and ordered to ensure that they form a uniform sequence forming a level II archive. A stratigraphic matrix of the archaeological deposits and features present on the site will be prepared. All photographic material will be catalogued and labelled, the labelling referring to schedules identifying the subject/s photographed.
- 9.1.2 All finds recovered during the fieldwork will be washed, marked and packaged according to the deposit from which they were recovered. Any finds requiring specialist treatment and conservation will be sent to the Conservation Laboratory at the City and County Museum, Lincoln.

9.2 Stage 2

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

9.3 Stage 3

- 9.3.1 On completion of stage 2, a report detailing the findings of the watching brief will be prepared.
- 9.3.2 This will consist of:
 - A non-technical summary of the results of the investigation.
 - A description of the archaeological setting of the watching brief.
 - Description of the topography of the site.
 - Description of the methodologies used during the watching brief.
 - A text describing the findings of the watching brief.
 - A consideration of the local, regional and national context of the watching brief findings.
 - Plans of the archaeological features exposed. If a sequence of archaeological deposits is encountered, separate plans for each phase will be produced.
 - Sections of the trenches and archaeological features.
 - Interpretation of the archaeological features exposed, and their chronology and setting within the surrounding landscape.
 - Specialist reports on the finds from the site.

• Appropriate photographs of the site and specific archaeological features.

10 REPORT DEPOSITION

10.1 Copies of the report will be sent to the Client; East Lindsey District Council Planning Department; and to the County Council Archaeological Sites and Monuments Record.

11 ARCHIVE

11.1 The documentation and records generated during the watching brief will be sorted and ordered into the format acceptable to the City and County Museum, Lincoln. This will be undertaken following the requirements of the document titled Conditions for the Acceptance of Project Archives for long-term storage and curation.

12 PUBLICATION

12.1 A report of the findings of the watching brief will be presented as a condensed article to the editor of the journal *Lincolnshire History and Archaeology*. If appropriate, notes on the findings will be submitted to the appropriate national journals: *Britannia* for discoveries of Roman date, and *Medieval Archaeology* and the *Journal of the Medieval Settlement Research Group* for findings of medieval or later date.

13 CURATORIAL RESPONSIBILITY

13.1 Curatorial responsibility for the archaeological work undertaken on the site lies with the Lincolnshire County Council Archaeological Section. They will be given notice in writing of the commencement of the project.

14 PROGRAMME OF WORKS AND STAFFING LEVELS

- 14.1 The watching brief will be integrated with the programme of construction and is dependent on the developers' work programme. It is therefore not possible to specify the person-hours for the archaeological site work.
- 14.2 An archaeological supervisor with experience of watching briefs will undertake the work.
- 14.3 Post-excavation analysis and report production will be undertaken by the archaeological supervisor, or a post-excavation analyst as appropriate, with assistance from a finds supervisor, illustrator and external specialists. It is expected that each fieldwork day (equal to one person-day) will require a post-excavation day (equal to one-and-a-half-person-days) for completion of the analysis and report. If the fieldwork lasts longer than about four days then there will be an economy of scale with the post-excavation analysis.

15 VARIATION AND CONTINGENCIES

- 15.1 Variations to the proposed scheme of works will only be made following written confirmation of acceptance from the archaeological curator.
- 15.2 In the event of the discovery of any unexpected remains of archaeological importance, or of any changed circumstances, it is the responsibility of the archaeological contractor to inform the archaeological curator (Lincolnshire Archaeological Handbook 1998, Sections 5.7 and 18).
- 15.3 Where important archaeological remains are discovered and deemed to merit further investigation additional resources may be required to provide an appropriate level of investigation, recording and analysis

15.4 Any contingency requirement for additional fieldwork or post-excavation analysis outside the scope of the proposed scheme of works will only be activated following full consultation with the archaeological curator and the client.

16 SPECIALISTS TO BE USED DURING THE PROJECT

16.1 The following organisations/persons will, in principle and if necessary, be used as subcontractors to provide the relevant specialist work and reports in respect of any objects or material recovered during the investigation that require their expert knowledge and input. Engagement of any particular specialist subcontractor is also dependent on their availability and ability to meet programming requirements.

Task Body to be undertaking the work

Conservation Conservation Laboratory, City and County Museum, Lincoln

Pottery Analysis Prehistoric - Trent & Peak Archaeological Trust

Roman B Precious, Independent Specialist

Anglo-Saxon-medieval J Young, Independent Specialist

Post-medieval and later G Taylor, APS in consultation with H Healey, Independent

Archaeologist

Non-pottery Artefacts J Cowgill, Independent Specialist

Animal Bones Environmental Archaeology Consultancy

Environmental Analysis Environmental Archaeology Consultancy

Human Remains Analysis R Gowland, Independent Specialist

17 INSURANCES

17.1 Archaeological Project Services, as part of the Heritage Trust of Lincolnshire, maintains Employers Liability Insurance of £10,000,000, together with Public and Products Liability insurances, each with indemnity of £5,000,000. Copies of insurance documentation can be supplied on request.

18 COPYRIGHT

- 18.1 Archaeological Project Services shall retain full copyright of any commissioned reports under the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988 with all rights reserved; excepting that it hereby provides an exclusive licence to the client for the use of such documents by the client in all matters directly relating to the project as described in the Project Specification.
- 18.2 Licence will also be given to the archaeological curators to use the documentary archive for educational, public and research purposes.
- 18.3 In the case of non-satisfactory settlement of account then copyright will remain fully and exclusively with Archaeological Project Services. In these circumstances it will be an infringement under the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988 for the client to pass any report, partial report, or copy of same, to any third party. Reports submitted in good faith by Archaeological Project Services to any Planning Authority or archaeological curator will be removed from said planning Authority and/or archaeological curator. The Planning Authority and/or archaeological curator will be notified by Archaeological Project Services that the use of any such information previously

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- 18.4 The author of any report or specialist contribution to a report shall retain intellectual copyright of their work and may make use of their work for educational or research purposes or for further publication.

19 BIBLIOGRAPHY

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Specification: Version 1, 12/09/03

CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

No.	Description	Interpretation
001	Loose dark grey clayey silt, 0.25m thick	Topsoil
002	Firm mid yellowish brown silty clay, 0.2m thick	Subsoil
003	Loose mid greyish brown silty clay and gravel, 0.3m thick	Natural deposit
004	Firm mid bluish grey clay, >0.15m thick	Natural deposit
005	Unstratified finds retrieval	

THE FINDS

By Hilary Healey and Gary Taylor

Recording of the pottery was undertaken with reference to guidelines prepared by the Medieval Pottery Research Group (Slowikowski *et al.* 2001) and the pottery was quantified using the chronology and coding system of the Lincolnshire ceramic type series. Two fragments of pottery weighing 30g were recovered from a single context. In addition to the pottery, a small quantity of other artefacts, glass, coal and stone, comprising 3 items weighing a total of 113g, was retrieved. No faunal remains were recovered.

Provenance

All of the material was recovered as unstratified artefacts (005).

The pottery was probably made in Staffordshire.

Range

The range of material is detailed in the tables.

Table 1: Pottery

Context	Fabric Code	Description	No.	Wt (g)	Context Date
005	TPW	Black and white transfer printed paste jar lid, 19 th century	1	14	19 th century
	BL	Red painted earthenware, black glazed, 18 th -19 th century	1	16	

The paste jar lid bears the transfer printed words:]ENUINE BEAR[and a picture of an animal, only partially surviving but perhaps a horse.

Table 2: Other Artefacts

Context	Material	Description	No.	Wt (g)	Context Date
005	Glass	Very pale green bottle glass, 19 th century	1	11	19 th century
	Stone	Oval flint nodule, 50mm x 40mm x 35mm, sub-circular sectioned hole 7-9mm diameter through centre (long axis); some indication of wear around either hole	1	80	
	Coal	Coal	1	22	

The flint nodule appears to be natural and the hole through it is irregular, does not appear to have been bored and is also probable natural. However, there appears to be some slight wear around each end of the hole and it is possible that this natural item was made use of, perhaps as a weight or net sinker.

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 Minting that are the subjects of reports. Details of archaeological sites and discoveries in the area are maintained in the Lincolnshire County Council Sites and Monuments Record.

Potential

As a small and apparently entirely late post-medieval collection of artefacts, the assemblage is of limited local

potential and significance but reflects use of the site in the 19th century.

The lack of any material clearly earlier than the 18th century is informative and suggests that archaeological deposits dating from prior to this period are absent from the area, or were not disturbed by the development, or were of a nature that did not involve artefact deposition.

References

Slowikowski, A., Nenk, B. and Pearce, J., 2001 Minimum Standards for the Processing. Recording. Analysis and Publication of Post-Roman Ceramics, Medieval Pottery Research Group Occasional Paper 2

GLOSSARY

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 interpretations of the context (the context sheet) is created and placed in the site archive. Context numbers are identified within the report text by brackets, e.g. (004).

Layer

A layer is a term to describe an accumulation of soil or other material that is not contained within a cut.

Medieval

The Middle Ages, dating from approximately AD 1066-1500.

Natural

Undisturbed deposit(s) of soil or rock which have accumulated without the influence of human activity.

Pannage

Right given to the owners of pigs to go into a wood and to allow the pigs to eat the acorns or beech mast which *fall to the ground*.

Post-medieval

The period following the Middle Ages, dating from approximately AD 1500-1800.

Till

A deposit formed after the retreat of a glacier. Also known as boulder clay, this material is generally unsorted and can comprise of rock flour to boulders to rocks of quite substantial size.

THE ARCHIVE

The archive consists of:

- 5 Context records
- 1 Scale drawings
- 1 Photographic record sheet
- 1 Stratigraphic matrix
- 1 Bag of finds

All primary records and finds are currently kept at:

Archaeological Project Services The Old School Cameron Street Heckington Sleaford Lincolnshire NG34 9RW

The ultimate destination of the project archive is:

Lincolnshire City and County Museum 12 Friars Lane Lincoln LN2 1HQ

The archive will be deposited in accordance with the document titled *Conditions for the Acceptance of Project Archives*, produced by the Lincolnshire City and County Museum.

Lincolnshire City and County Council Museum Accession Number:

2004.117

Archaeological Project Services Site Code:

MTG 04

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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