ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF AT ORMSBY ROAD, BRINKHILL, LINCOLNSHIRE (BOR 01)

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ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF AT ORMSBY ROAD, BRINKHILL, LINCOLNSHIRE (BOR 01)

> Work Undertaken For Mrs P. Best

> > May 2004

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

National Grid Reference: TF 3725 7368 Planning Reference: S/021/00664/01 City and County Museum Accession No: 2001.425

ARCHAEOLOGICAL PROJECT SERVICES



APS Report No. 51/04

Conservation Services

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Highways & Planning Directorate

Quality ControlOrmsby Road, Brinkhill BOR 01

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1. SUMMARY

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken on land at Ormsby Road, Brinkhill, Lincolnshire. The watching brief monitored the excavation of foundation trenches for a new detached house.

The site is in the core of the medieval (AD 1066-1540) village, 50m west of a moated enclosure. Earthworks of two other moats are known in the village and all three are nationally important scheduled ancient monuments. Neolithic (4000-2200 BC) stone and flint axes have been found in the parish and a Roman (AD 43-410) road runs through the north end of the village.

The watching brief identified a sequence of natural, subsoil and topsoil across the site. Middle Saxon pottery was retrieved from the subsoil.

2. INTRODUCTION

2.1 Definition of a Watching Brief

An archaeological watching brief is defined as "a formal program 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 P. Best to undertake an archaeological watching brief during groundworks associated with residential development on land at Ormsby Road, Brinkhill, Lincolnshire. Approval for the development was sought through the submission of planning application S/021/00664/01. The watching brief was carried out on the 18th December 2001, in

accordance with a specification prepared by Archaeological Project Services (Appendix 1) and approved by the Built Environment Officer, Lincolnshire County Council.

2.3 Topography and Geology

Brinkhill is located 12km northeast of Horncastle and 14km southeast of Louth in the administrative district of East Lindsey, Lincolnshire (Fig. 1).

The site is located 50m southeast of the village centre as defined by the parish church of St. Phillip on the eastern side of Ormsby Road (Fig. 2). The site is centred at National Grid Reference TF 3725 7368. Situated at a height of 43m OD the village lies in a northeast facing valley with land rising sharply to the northwest and southeast.

Local soils are of the Wickham 2 Association, typically fine loamy over clayey stagnogleys (Hodge *et al.* 1984, 351). These soils overlie a drift geology of glacial sands and gravels which in turn seal a solid geology of Cretaceous Tealby Clay (BGS 1980).

2.4 Archaeological Setting

Brinkhill lies in an area of known archaeological remains dating from the prehistoric period to the present. Four Neolithic flint and stone axes have been found in the parish, one west of the site.

Romano-British remains are represented by the course of a Roman road between Lincoln and Burgh-le-Marsh (Margary 1973, 239). Although the actual course of this thoroughfare is unclear through Brinkhill, its route to Tetford and continuation at Ulceby indicate that the road may have passed through the northern end of the village.

Brinkhill is first mentioned in the Domesday Survey of c. 1086. Referred to

as *Brincle*, the name is derived from the Old English *brinc(e)* meaning the brink of a hill or steep slope (Ekwall 1974, 65). At the time of Domesday the land was held by Earl Hugh and was sokeland, along with other villages, of Greetham (Foster and Longley 1976). In the subsequent Lindsey Survey of c. 1115, the land was held by Earl Richard (*ibid.*).

Remains of the medieval period are represented by earthworks of three moated enclosures in the village. Each is a Scheduled Ancient Monument (English Heritage 1996), the nearest moat lying 50m to the east of the site. A 14th century cross survives in the churchyard of St. Phillip's church (DoE 1987, 5). This church, although dated to the mid 19th century, contains a 13th century font that may suggest that the present structure is built on the site of an earlier church.

3. AIMS

The requirements of the watching brief, as detailed in the specification (Appendix 1), were to locate and record archaeological deposits and, if present, determine their date, nature and function.

4. METHODS

Prior to the excavation of foundation trenches topsoil was stripped from the area. Foundation and service trenches were then excavated by machine to depths required by the development. The sides of the trenches were cleaned and rendered vertical. Selected deposits were then fully or partially excavated by hand to determine their nature and to retrieve Each deposit material. artefactual encountered 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). Records were also examined and a stratigraphic matrix produced. Phasing was assigned based on the nature of the deposits and recognisable relationships between them and supplemented by artefact dating.

5. RESULTS

Following post-excavation analysis three phases were identified;

Phase 1 Natural deposits

Phase 2 Middle Saxon deposits

Phase 3 Modern deposits

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

Phase 1 Natural deposits

Natural deposits of brownish yellow sand (005) were only identified in the trench for a new manhole. These were over 0.6m thick and relate to the underlying drift geology.

Phase 2 Middle Saxon deposits

Overlying the natural sand and evident throughout the foundation trenches was a subsoil comprising yellowish brown sandy silt (002 and 004). Two sherds of Maxey ware pottery, dated to between AD680 and 870, were retrieved from (002).

Phase 3 Modern deposits

Sealing the subsoil and forming the modern ground surface was a greyish brown sandy silt topsoil (001 and 003). At

the eastern end of the site this had been mixed with modern dumped refuse (006).

6. **DISCUSSION**

Natural deposits (Phase 1) comprise sands of the underlying drift geology of glacial sand and gravel.

Middle Saxon deposits (Phase 2) consist of a subsoil layer evident across the site. This suggests that the development area may have been subject to an agricultural regime during this and subsequent periods. Two sherds of Middle Saxon pottery were recovered from subsoil deposits. Modern (Phase 3) topsoil and dumped deposits formed the current ground surface.

7. CONCLUSION

Archaeological investigations were undertaken at Ormsby Road, Brinkhill, as the site lay within the core of the medieval village in close proximity to the earthworks of a moat.

However, only a sequence of natural, subsoil and topsoil were identified during the watching brief. The subsoil contained two sherds of Middle Saxon pottery and suggests it was formed from this period onwards.

8. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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

9. PERSONNEL

Project Coordinator: Steve Malone
Site Supervisor: Fiona Walker
Finds processing: Denise Buckley
Photographic reproduction: Sue Unsworth
Illustration: Paul Cope-Faulkner
Post-excavation analysis: Paul CopeFaulkner

10. BIBLIOGRAPHY

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Margary, I.D., 1973, Roman Roads in Britain (4th edition)

11. ABBREVIATIONS

APS Archaeological Project Services

BGS British Geological Survey

DoE Department of the Environment

IFA Institute of Field Archaeologists

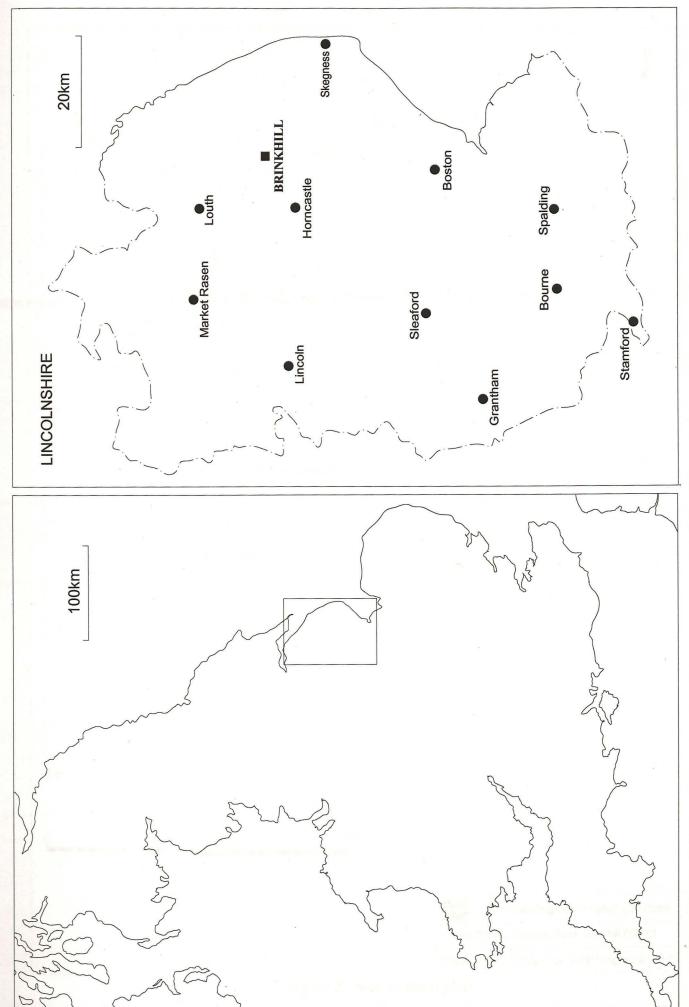


Figure 1 - General Location Plan

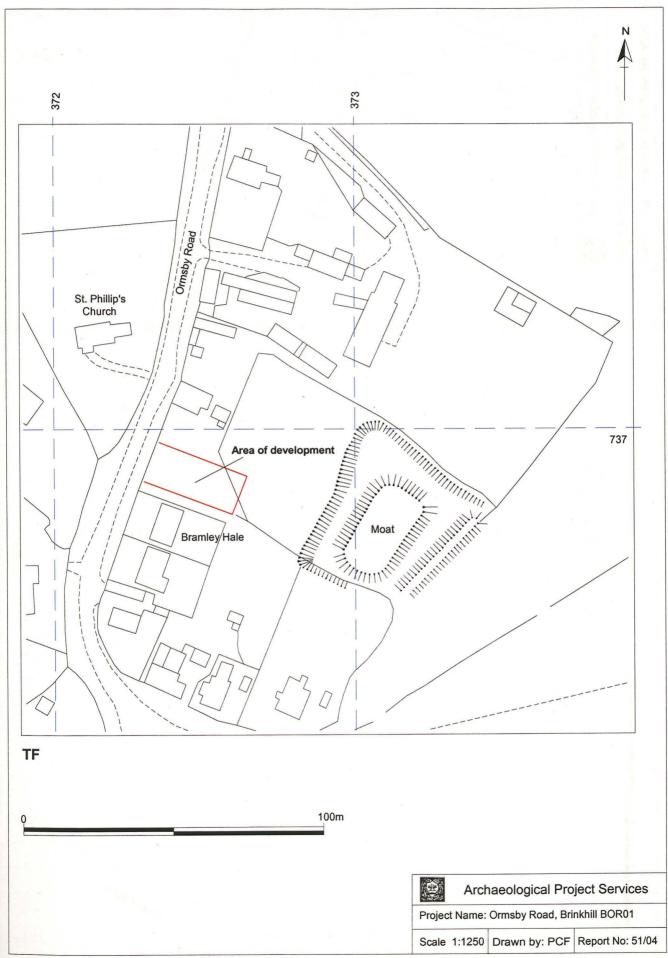


Figure 2 - Site location plan

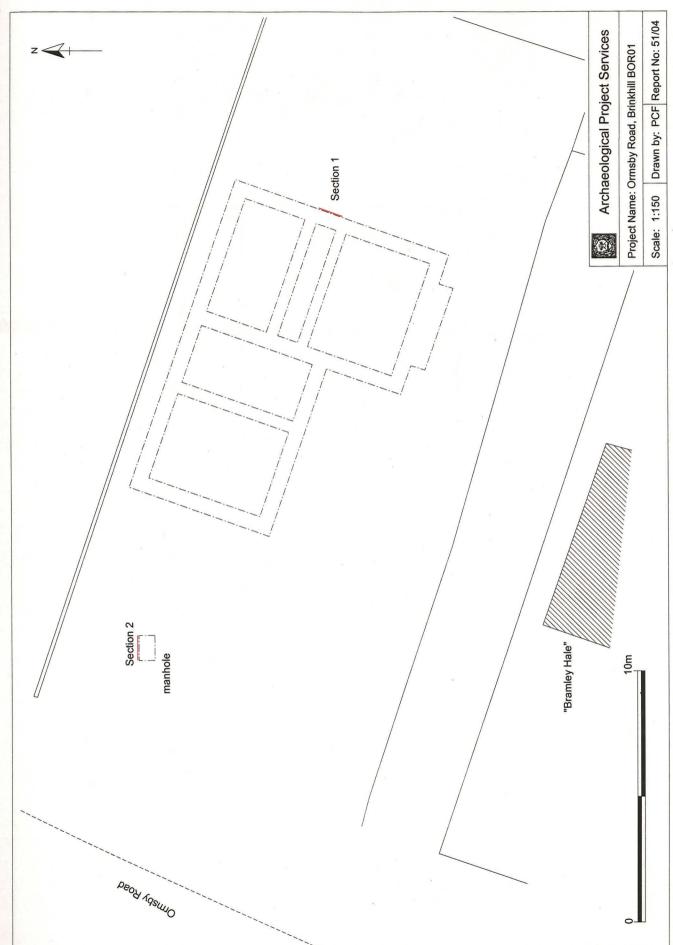


Figure 3 - Plan of the development showing section locations

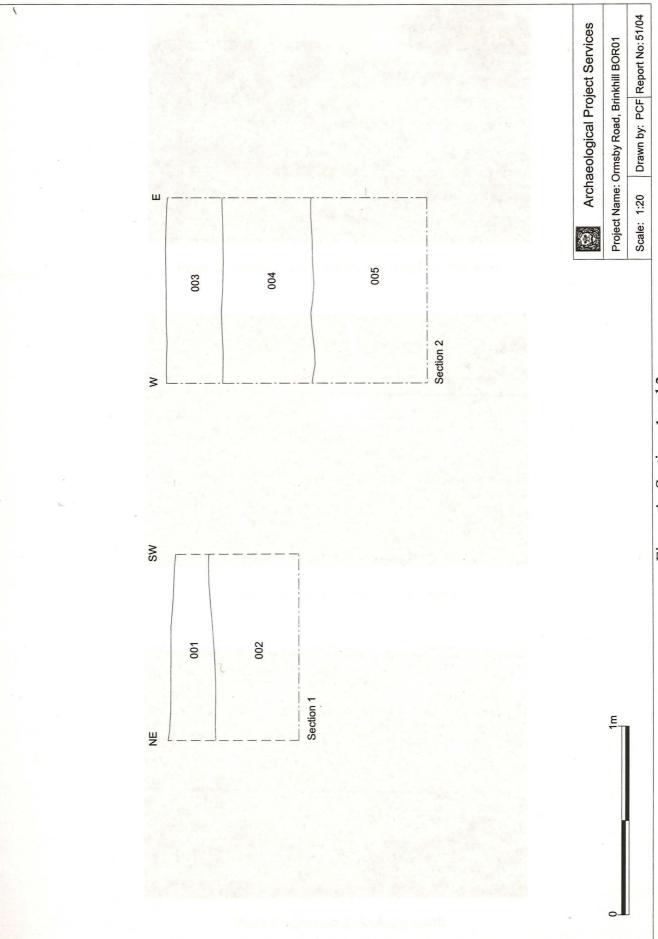


Figure 4 - Sections 1 and 2



Plate 1 - General view across the site, looking west



Plate 2 - Section 1, looking southeast



Plate 3 - Section 2, looking north

LAND ADJACENT TO GLEBE COTTAGE, ORMSBY ROAD, BRINKHILL, LOUTH, LINCOLNSHIRE - SPECIFICATION FOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

1 SUMMARY

- 1.1 A watching brief is required during construction of a dwelling on land adjacent to Glebe Cottage, Ormsby Road, Brinkhill, Louth.
- 1.2 The development lies in the heart of the village close to the earthwork remains of moated enclosures, which are Scheduled Ancient Monuments.
- 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 investigation. 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 a dwelling on land adjacent to Glebe Cottage, Ormsby Road, Brinkhill, Louth. The site is located at national grid reference TF 372 736.
- 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 Brinkhill is located 14.5km south of Louth in the administrative district of East Lindsey, Lincolnshire. The site is in the core of the village, about 100m south of the parish church of St. Philip at national grid reference TF 372 736.

4 PLANNING BACKGROUND

4.1 Planning permission (S/021/00664/01) for the construction of a new dwelling has been granted by East Lindsey District Council subject to a condition requiring the implementation of an archaeological watching brief during the development.

5 SOILS AND TOPOGRAPHY

5.1 Brinkhill village sits in a small northeast-southwest valley through which a partially canalised stream flows northeastward, subsequently becoming Calceby Beck The site lies in the centre of the village at a height of c. 42m OD. Local soils are the Wickham 2 Association, fine loamy over clayey typical stagnogleys (Hodge *et al.* 1984, 99).

6 THE ARCHAEOLOGY

6.1 Brinkhill lies in an area of known archaeological remains dating from the prehistoric period to the present. Four neolithic stone and flint axes have been recorded from within the parish (though three were from the higher ground to the north and south of the village).

- 6.2 The village lies on the route of the Roman road between Lincoln and Burgh-le-Marsh. Although the actual course of the thoroughfare through Brinkhill is unclear, its route to Tetford and continuation at Ulceby indicate that the road may have passed through the northern end of the village.
- 6.3 Remains of the medieval period are represented by the earthworks of three moated enclosures in the village, two of which lie within 100m of the development site. Each is a Scheduled Ancient Monument. A 14th-century cross, with modern additions, survives in the churchyard of St Philip ls which, although dated to the mid 19th-century, contains a 13th-century font and may lie on the site of an earlier church.

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:
 - 8.2.4.1 The site during work to show specific stages, and the layout of the archaeology within the trench.

- 8.2.4.2 groups of features where their relationship is important
- 8.2.5 Should human remains be located the appropriate Home Office licence will be obtained before their removal. In addition, the Local Environmental Health Department and the police 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 field work 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:

9.3.2.11

9.3.2.1	A non-technical summary of the results of the investigation.
9.3.2.2	A description of the archaeological setting of the watching brief.
9.3.2.3	Description of the topography of the site.
9.3.2.4	Description of the methodologies used during the watching brief.
9.3.2.5	A text describing the findings of the watching brief.
9.3.2.6	A consideration of the local, regional and national context of the watching brief findings.
9.3.2.7	Plans of the archaeological features exposed. If a sequence of archaeological deposits is encountered, separate plans for each phase will be produced.
9.3.2.8	Sections of the archaeological features.
9.3.2.9	Interpretation of the archaeological features exposed, and their chronology and setting within the surrounding landscape.
9.3.2.10	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; the Archaeological Officer, Lincolnshire County Council; 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 published in Heritage Lincolnshire's Annual Report and a note presented 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 Officer. They will be given seven days notice in writing before the commencement of the project.

14 VARIATIONS

14.1 Variations to the proposed scheme of works will only be made following written confirmation of acceptance from the archaeological curator.

15 PROGRAMME OF WORKS AND STAFFING LEVELS

- 15.1 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.
- 15.2 An archaeological supervisor with experience of watching briefs will undertake the work.
- 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.

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 - D. Knight, Trent & Peak Archaeological Unit

Roman - B Precious, Independent Specialist

Anglo-Saxon - J Young, Independent Specialist

Medieval and later - H Healey, Independent Archaeologist

Non-pottery Artefacts

J Cowgill, Independent Specialist

Animal Bones

Environmental Archaeology Consultancy

Environmental Analysis

V Fryer, Independent Specialist

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 \$\bigcap\$10,000,000, together with Public and Products Liability insurances, each with indemnity of \$\bigcap\$5,000,000. Copies of insurance documentation can be supplied on request.

18 COPYRIGHT

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- 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 supplied constitutes an infringement under the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988 and may result in legal action.
- 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

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

CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

No.	Description	Interpretation
001	Firm dark greyish brown sandy silt, 0.3m thick	Topsoil
002	Firm mid yellowish brown sandy silt, >0.5m thick	Subsoil
003	Firm dark greyish brown sandy silt, 0.3m thick	Topsoil
004	Firm mid yellowish brown sandy silt, 0.5m thick	Subsoil
005	Firm light to mid brownish yellow sand, >0.6m thick	Natural deposit
006	Firm dark greyish brown sandy silt with modern refuse, 0.7m thick	Topsoil

THE FINDS by Jane Young

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 a total of 2g were recovered from a single context. No other artefacts or faunal remains were retrieved.

Provenance

The material was recovered from subsoil (002).

The pottery was probably made in the northern half of Lincolnshire.

Range

The range of material is detailed in the table.

Table 1: Pottery

Context	Fabric Code	Description	No.	Wt (g)	Context Date
002	MAX	Northern Maxey-type ware, fabric B	2	2	c. 680-870 AD

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 Brinkhill 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

Although a small collection of tiny fragments, the assemblage is of moderate-high local potential and significance and suggests activity of Middle Saxon date in the vicinity. Although the pottery may be components of manuring scatter, which would indicate the area was in agricultural use in the Middle Saxon period, it does also demonstrate that there was occupation in the Brinkhill area at that time.

The lack of any material earlier than the 7th 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. Similarly, the absence of any artefacts later than the 9th century would tend to suggest that the site was abandoned at that time.

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.

Neolithic

The 'New Stone Age' period, part of the prehistoric era, dating from approximately 4500-2250 BC.

Post-medieval

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

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.

Romano-British

Pertaining to the period dating from AD 43-410 when the Romans occupied Britain.

Saxon

Pertaining to the period dating from AD 410-1066 when England was largely settled by tribes from northern Germany.

THE ARCHIVE

The archive consists of:

- 5 Context records
- 2 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: 2001. 425

Archaeological Project Services Site Code: BOR 01

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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