

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF AT CHEQUERS CHASE, PARK ROAD, HOLBEACH, LINCOLNSHIRE (HPR 03)

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ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF AT CHEQUERS CHASE, PARK ROAD, HOLBEACH, LINCOLNSHIRE (HPR 03)

Work Undertaken For Mr R. White

July 2004

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

Planning Application No: H09/1013/03 National Grid Reference: TF 3620 2488 City and County Museum Accession No: 2004.8

ARCHAEOLOGICAL PROJECT SERVICES



APS Report No. 99/04

Conservation Services 2 9 SEP 2004

Highways & Planning Directorate

Quality Control Chequers Chase, Park Road, Holbeach HPR 03

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1. SUMMARY

A watching brief was undertaken during residential development at Chequers Chase, Park Road, Holbeach, Lincolnshire. The watching brief monitored the excavation of foundation trenches for a new bungalow.

The site lies within the medieval (AD 1066-1540) core of Holbeach northeast of All Saints' parish church which dates to the 14th century. The site also lies northeast of the medieval hospital of St. John of Jerusalem which was founded in 1351. An evaluation undertaken to the west identified a medieval ditch sealed beneath later dumping. Romano-British (AD 42-410) pottery has also been found in the vicinity.

Two undated features, a pit and a posthole, were identified beneath a sequence of post-medieval remains including ponds or quarries, two pits, a ditch and sequences of dumped layers, perhaps infilling a channel and levelling the ground surface.

Finds retrieved during the investigation include a quantity of post-medieval pottery. A copper alloy stud, glass, fired clay and a fragment of clay pipe were also collected during the investigation.

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 nonarchaeological 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 Mr R. White to undertake an archaeological watching brief during residential development at Chequers Chase, Park Road, Holbeach, Lincolnshire. Approval for the development was sought through the submission of planning application H09/1013/03. The watching brief was carried out on the 13th January 2004 in accordance with a specification prepared by Archaeological Project Services (Appendix 1) and approved by the Senior Built Environment Officer, Lincolnshire County Council.

2.3 Topography and Geology

Holbeach is situated 11km east of Spalding and 20km south of Boston, in the civil parish of Holbeach, South Holland District, Lincolnshire (Fig. 1).

The site lies 120m northeast of the centre of Holbeach as defined by All Saints' parish church at National Grid Reference TF 3620 2488 (Fig. 2). The site lies southeast of Park Road and north of the High Street.

The local topography describes a linear band of high ground aligned east to west along the High Street and West End. The crest of this bank is at a height of c. 4m OD, dropping away to the south and north of this line. The origin of this raised area is possibly a sea bank, although no evidence supports this notion.

The village is located on soils of the Romney Series, generally coarse silty gleyic brown calcareous soils developed on roddons and reclaimed marshland (Robson 1990, 26). These soils seal a drift geology of marine alluvium (generally sandy silt, sand and clay) which in turn overlies a solid geology of Upper Jurassic clays (BGS 1992).

2.4 Archaeological Setting

Holbeach lies in an area of known archaeological remains dating from the Romano-British period to the present day. Finds of Romano-British pottery are known from two locations within Holbeach, both on the southern side of the town. These finds have been made at depth (c. 1 metre) and indicate that the Roman land surface is buried.

Holbeach is first mentioned in the Domesday Survey of c. 1086 and is referred to variably as *Holebech*, *Holeben*, *Holobech* and *Holobec*, derived from the Old English and meaning hollow (*hol*) back (*bæc*), a topographic reference to the ridge upon which the village sits (Cameron 1998, 64). At the time of the Domesday Survey over a hundred acres of meadow belonged to the King, Crowland Abbey, Count Alan and Guy of Craon (Foster and Longley 1976).

The only extant remains of this period is All Saints parish church which was largely built in the 14^{th} century by the then Bishop of Lincoln. This replaced an earlier church, the first mention of which dates to AD 1177 (Macdonald 1890, 19). It is not known whether the later church was built on the same site as the earlier one.

A hospital was founded in Holbeach by Sir John of Kirton in 1351 (Page 1988, 235). Named either the Hospital of St. John of Jerusalem or All Saints Hospital, it is believed to have been located where the Chequers Inn now stands (Foster 1891). The hospital was not in use as such by 1545 and was subsequently taken down in the 17th century by William Stukeley's father, who was also responsible for moving the Market Cross which once stood northwest of the church.

An archaeological evaluation undertaken approximately 100m to the west revealed a Late Saxon to early medieval ditch sealed beneath a post-medieval buried soil (Herbert 1999, 5). Investigations at 27-29 High Street revealed a post-medieval, perhaps 17th century, brick structure. Approximately 2m depth of ground raising deposits of 16th century and later date were encountered though medieval remains were absent (Dymond 1998, 7).

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

Foundation trenches for the new bungalow were excavated by machine to depths required by the development. The sides of 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: 20. 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 and supplemented by artefact dating.

5. **RESULTS**

Following post-excavation analysis four phases were identified;

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF AT CHEQUERS CHASE, PARK ROAD, HOLBEACH

Phase 1	Natural deposits
Phase 2	Undated deposits
Phase 3	Post-medieval deposits
Phase 4	Recent deposits

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

Phase 1 Natural deposits

The earliest deposit encountered in the base of the foundation trenches was a layer of yellowish brown silt (012) which was in excess of 0.16m thick. This deposit was identified as the underlying drift geology.

Phase 2 Undated deposits

Cutting natural silts towards the centre of the foundation trenches was a rectangular pit (017). This was over 1.1m long by over 0.6m wide and deeper than 0.36m (Fig. 4, Section 2). A single fill of brown silt with bricks (016) was recorded.

Located 0.6m to the southwest of pit (017) was a circular feature (019) identified as a posthole. This had a diameter of 0.14m and was over 0.3m deep and was filled with greyish brown silt (018).

Phase 3 Post-medieval deposits

A large feature (014), possibly an infilled pond or quarry, was identified cutting natural in the eastern corner of the foundation trenches. This was longer than 5m, wider than 3.4m and over 0.6m deep (Fig. 4, Section 1). Three fills were recorded, the lowest (011) comprised alternating bands of yellow, yellowish brown, brown and brownish yellow silt. This was sealed by brown silt (004) and further bands of yellow, yellowish brown, brown and brownish yellow silt (010). A single fragment of 18th century pottery was retrieved from (004). Cutting the pond or quarry was a vertical sided feature (015), perhaps a second pond or quarry. Due to poor conditions the full extent of this feature could not be determined, although a minimum extent of 1.5m by 1.5m and a depth of over 0.4m was established. This feature contained two fills, a lower of mixed bands of yellow, yellowish brown, brown and brownish yellow silt (013) and an upper fill of brown silt (002). The upper fill contained 18th century pottery.

Cut into this feature was a large pit (035) which was over 3m wide and 0.54m deep (Fig. 4, Section 1). A single fill of brownish yellow silt (005) was recorded. This was partially sealed by a dumped deposit of brownish yellow silt (003) that was 0.24m thick. A further episode of dumping was recorded to the southeast where a 0.38m thick deposit of brown silt (006) was identified.

Perhaps representing a re-cut of pit (035) was a second pit (034). This was over 2m wide by 0.6m deep and contained three fills. The lowest was brown silt with brick fragments (009) which lay beneath yellowish brown silt (008) and yellow silt (007).

In the northernmost foundation trench was a series of dumped layers. Overlying the natural was a yellowish brown silt (027) then a sequence of greyish brown silt (026), yellowish brown sand and silt (025) and then brown silt (024). Pottery of 18th century date was retrieved from (026). This sequence of dumping sloped down towards the southeast.

Dumping continued above (024), although deposits did not slope and were generally horizontal. This sequence began with yellow to brown silt (023), then brown sand and silt (022), then greyish brown silt (021) and finally yellow silt (020).

Located along the western side of the development was a linear feature (033)

with a terminus to the north (029) that was identified as a probable ditch. This had a combined length of 4.9m and was between 0.64m and 0.52m wide and over 0.52m deep (Fig. 5, Sections 4 and 5). Towards the north this was filled with brown and greyish brown silt (028) and further south a mixed grey, blackish brown and yellowish brown silt was recorded (032). This was sealed beneath dumped deposits of mixed silts (030) and yellowish brown silt (031). Pottery of 19th century date was retrieved from contexts (028) and (032).

Phase 4 Recent deposits

Sealing all archaeological deposits was a 0.26m thick topsoil comprising blackish brown silt (001).

6. **DISCUSSION**

Natural deposits (Phase 1) comprise silts of the underlying marine alluvium.

Undated deposits (Phase 2) comprise a pit and a posthole. The posthole remains undated due to a lack of artefactual material, although bricks were recorded within the pit. The presence of brick would suggest a post-medieval date, although their use is known from the medieval period.

Post-medieval deposits (Phase 3) comprise two possible ponds or quarries, two pits, a number of dumped layers and a ditch. The sequence of dumped deposits in the northern trench slope down to the southeast and may imply they are deliberately infilling a large feature, such as a channel. Other dumping may indicate an attempt to level the ground surface or raise it above the lower ground. The larger features may have started as quarries to extract the underlying silts. The northsouth ditch may represent a boundary between properties that fronted the High Street. The nature of the post-medieval deposits would suggest that medieval features could have been destroyed.

The earliest find recovered from the watching brief was a fragment of $15^{\text{th}} - 17^{\text{th}}$ century pottery from Bourne. Pottery of 18^{th} and 19^{th} century date was also retrieved. Other finds include cement, a copper alloy stud, glass, fired clay and a fragment of 18^{th} century clay pipe.

7. CONCLUSION

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken off Park Road, Holbeach, as the site lay within the medieval core of the village and close to the site of a medieval hospital.

However, no deposits were revealed that could securely be dated to the medieval period. An undated posthole and a pit were recorded and post-medieval remains were abundant, comprising quarries or ponds, two pits and a ditch. A sequence of postmedieval dumping was also identified which may represent both infilling of a channel and levelling of the ground surface.

Finds recovered from the investigation include a range of post-medieval pottery, cement, a copper alloy stud, glass, fired clay and clay pipe.

8. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeological Project Services wish to acknowledge the assistance of Mr R. White for commissioning the fieldwork and post-excavation analysis. The work was coordinated by Dale Trimble and this report was edited by Gary Taylor and Tom Lane. Dave Start kindly allowed access to the parish files and library maintained by Heritage Lincolnshire.

9. PERSONNEL

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

10. **BIBLIOGRAPHY**

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11. ABBREVIATIONS

- APS Archaeological Project Services
- BGS British Geological Survey
- IFA Institute of Field Archaeologists



Figure 1 - General location plan

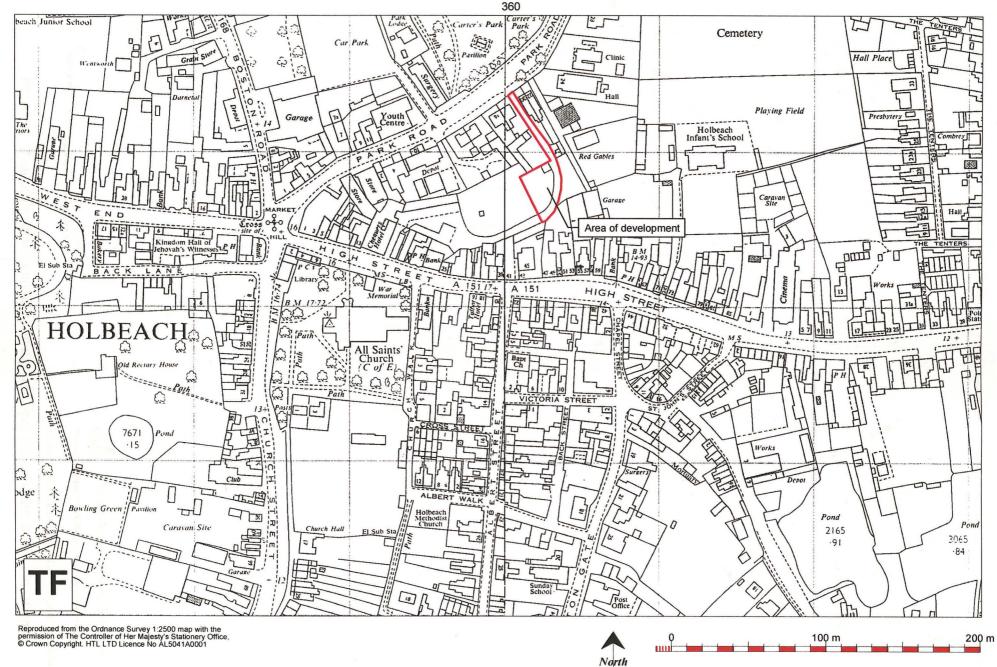
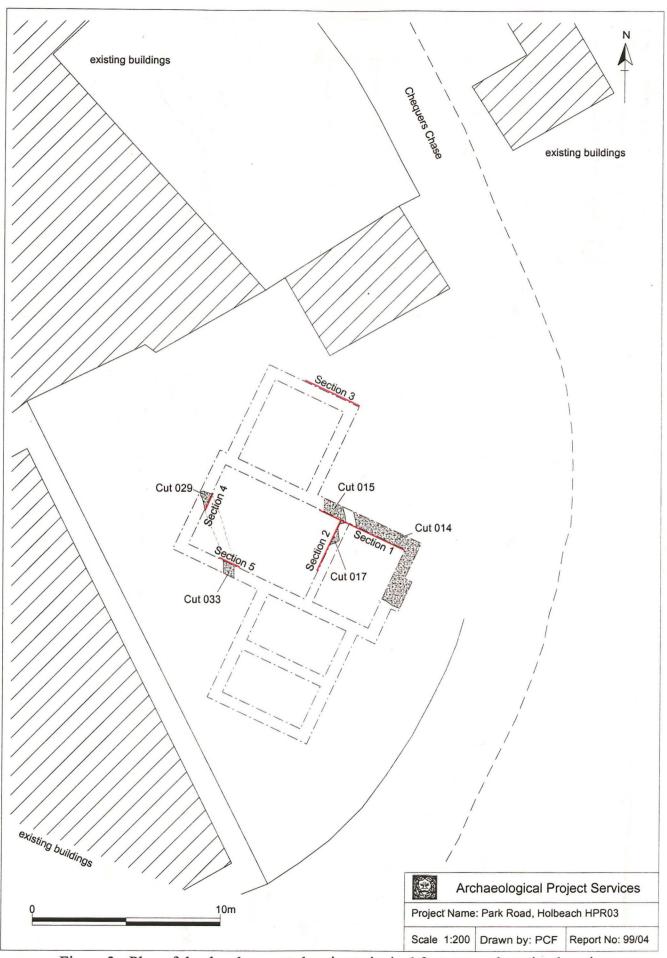
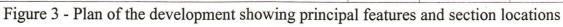


Figure 2 - Site location plan

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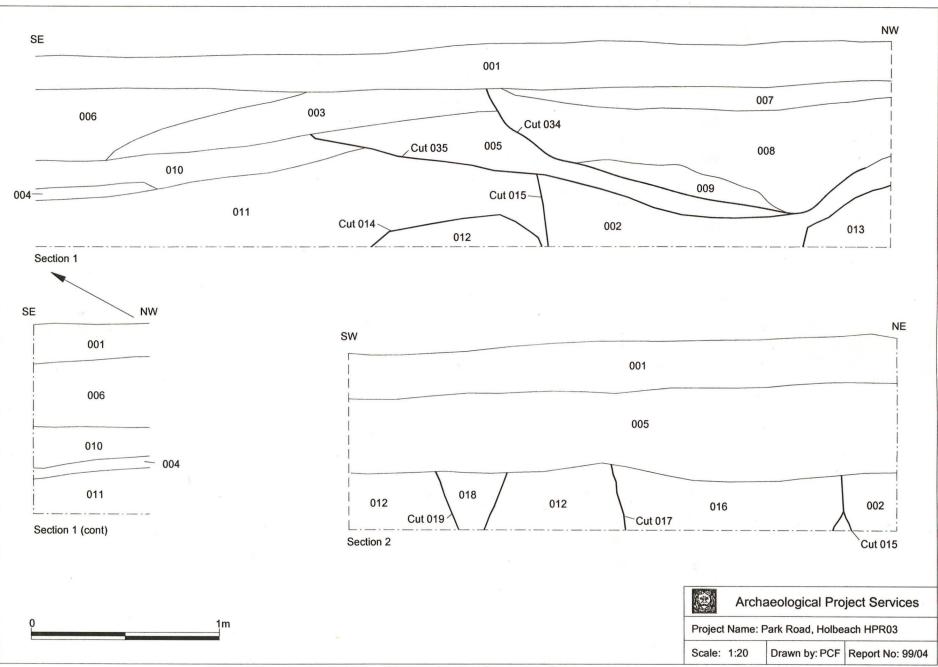


Figure 4 - Sections 1 and 2

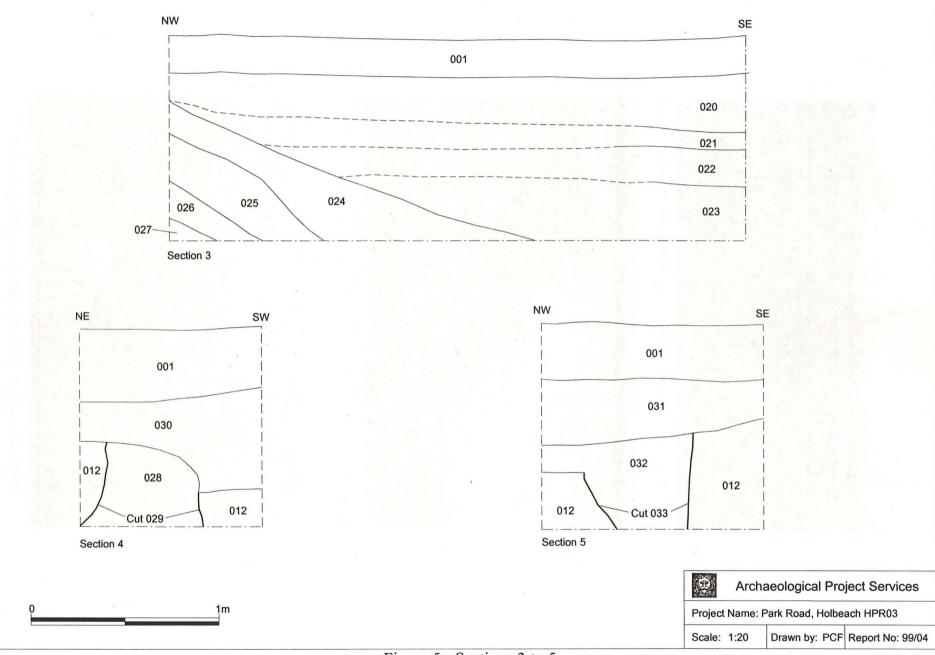


Figure 5 - Sections 3 to 5



Plate 1 - General view across the development area, looking southwest



Plate 2 - Section 1 showing cuts (014, 015, 034 and 035), looking southeast



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Plate 3 -Section 2 showing cut (017), looking northwest



Plate 4 - Section 4 showing cut (029), looking southeast

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LAND AT CHEQUERS CHASE, OFF PARK ROAD, HOLBEACH, LINCOLNSHIRE -SPECIFICATION FOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

SUMMARY

1

- 1.1 An archaeological watching brief is required during construction of 3 bedroom bungalow with integral garage on land at Chequers Gate off Park Road, Holbeach, Lincolnshire.
- 1.2 The site lies south of Park Road on the north side of the historic core of the town, approximately 150m northeast of the parish church of All Saints.
- 1.3 The application area extends southwards close to the rear of properties fronting onto the high street, which would have been the focus of activity from the medieval through to the modern period. The site of a medieval hospital is located to the west and an archaeological evaluation in the same area recorded possible remains of late Saxon date.
- 1.4 The archaeological work will consist of a watching brief during development works on the site.
- 1.5 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 archaeological watching brief during development on land at Chequers Gate off park Road, Holbeach, 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 Holbeach is situated 20km south of Boston in the South Holland district of Lincolnshire. The site lies close to the centre of the town, approximately 150m northeast south of All Saints' Church and centred on National Grid Reference TF 3602 2488 (Fig 1).

4 PLANNING BACKGROUND

4.1 A planning application (H09/1013/03) was submitted to South Holland District Council for construction of a three bedroom bungalow with integral garage. Permission is subject to the undertaking of an archaeological watching brief during groundworks associated with the development.

5 SOILS AND TOPOGRAPHY

5.1 The site and surrounding area is on a very slight slope down to the south and lies at approximately 4m OD. Holbeach is located on soils of the Romney series, generally coarse silty gleyic brown calcareous soils, developed on roddons and reclaimed marshland (Robson 1990, 26). South of the town are the Wisbech Series, calcareous alluvial gley soils (ibid. 28). These soils overlie a drift geology of marine alluvium (generally sandy silt, sand and clay) which in turn seals a solid

geology of Upper Jurassic clays (BGS 1992).

6 ARCHAEOLOGICAL OVERVIEW

- 6.1 Evidence for prehistoric activity in the Holbeach region is scarce. The prehistoric land surface lies several metres below a series of later flood deposits
- 6.2 The marshland stabilised during the Romano-British period, allowing agricultural and salt making activities to commence. Finds of Romano-British pottery are recorded from two locations south of Holbeach town centre. These finds were made at a depth of c. 1m and indicates that the Roman land surface is buried.
- 6.3 Holbeach is first mentioned in the Domesday Book of 1086, where it is referred to variably as *Holebech, Holeben, Holobech* and *Holobec*. It is possible that the name derives from Old English 'hol' and 'baec', meaning 'concave ridge', an appropriate topographic name as the town is elevated above the surrounding fen Cameron 1988. At the time of the Domesday Book the town was divided between the King, Crowland Abbey, Count Alan and Guy of Craon (Morris 1986).
- 6.4 The site of a medieval hospital founded in 1351 by Sir John of Kirton (Page 1988, 235) lies approximately 130m to the west and slightly to the north if this area a possible Late Saxon ditch was identified during an archaeological evaluation in 1999 (Herbert 1999).

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. Section drawings 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.
 - 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
- 8.2.3 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.

POST-EXCAVATION

9.2 Stage 1

- 9.2.2 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.
- 9.2.3 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.

9.3 Stage 2

- 9.3.2 Detailed examination of the stratigraphic matrix to enable the determination of the various phases of activity on the site.
- 9.3.3 Finds will be sent to specialists for identification and dating.
- 9.4 Stage 3
 - 9.4.2 On completion of stage 2, a report detailing the findings of the watching brief will be prepared.
 - 9.4.3 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 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

10.2Copies of the report will be sent to the Client, Mr R White, the LCC Archaeology Section and to the County Council Archaeological Sites and Monuments Record.

11 ARCHIVE

11.2The 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. An archive number will be obtained from the City and County Museum for deposition of the archive and all site records will be referenced with APS site code **HPR04**.

12 PUBLICATION

12.2A 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

13.2Curatorial responsibility for the archaeological work undertaken on the site lies with the Senior Built Environment Officer of the LCC Archaeology Section. They will be given seven days notice in writing before the commencement of the project.

14 VARIATIONS AND CONTINGENCIES

- 14.2Variations to the proposed scheme of works will only be made following written confirmation of acceptance from the archaeological curator.
- 14.3In 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).
- 14.4Where 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.
- 14.5Any 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.

15 PROGRAMME OF WORKS AND STAFFING LEVELS

15.2The 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.

- 15.3An archaeological supervisor with experience of watching briefs will undertake the work.
- 15.4Post-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

16.2 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 - Trent & Peak Archaeological Trust
Set lattice of post	Roman - B Precious, Independent Specialist
	Anglo-Saxon - J Young, Independent Specialist
	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	J Rackham, Independent Specialist
Human Remains Analysis	R Gowland, Independent Specialist

17 INSURANCES

17.2Archaeological 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

- 18.2Archaeological 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.
- 18.3Licence will also be given to the archaeological curators to use the documentary archive for educational, public and research purposes.
- 18.4In 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.

18.5The 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, January 6th, 2003

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. A total of 7 fragments of pottery weighing 94g was recovered from 5 separate contexts. In addition to the pottery, a quantity of other, mixed, artefacts, comprising 6 items weighing a total of 92g, was retrieved. No faunal remains were recovered.

Provenance

The material was recovered from pond or quarry fills (002, 004), ditch fills (028, 032) and from dumped deposits (003, 026).

Most of the pottery was probably made in Staffordshire, though the earliest piece is a product of Bourne 28km to the west.

Range

The range of material is detailed in the tables.

Table 1: Pott	tery				
Context	Fabric Code	Description	No.	Wt (g)	Context Date
002	WS	White salt-glazed stoneware dish	1	58	18 th century
004	TGE	Tin glazed earthenware	1	5	18 th century
026	BL	Red painted earthenware, black glazed	1	18	18 th century
028	BOU	Bourne D ware, 15 th -17 th century	1	8	19 th century
	TPW	Blue and white transfer printed tableware, 19 th century	2	4	
032	CRMWARE	Late creamware	- 1	1	Early 19 th century
		(~)			

A single fragment of pottery of probable 15^{th} - $\frac{5^{th}}{5^{th}}$ century date is the earliest material recovered, though the bulk of the small assemblage is slightly later, dating from the 18^{th} century. These 18^{th} century pieces include types (white stoneware and tin glazed ware) that would suggest moderately affluent inhabitants in the vicinity.

Table 2: Other Artefacts

Context	Material	Description	No.	Wt (g)	Context Date
002	Cement	Cement, post-medieval	1	69	Post-medieval
	Flint	Flake, natural	1	12]
003	Copper alloy	Stud	1	2	
026	Glass	Pale green bottle glass, much iridescence	1	4	Post-medieval
028	Fired clay	Fired clay	1	3	
032	Clay pipe	Bowl fragment	1	2	18 th century

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 Holbeach, including elsewhere nearby on Park Road, that are the subjects of reports. Additionally, there has been reported study of the archaeological and historical evidence for the town. Details of archaeological sites and discoveries in the area are maintained in the Lincolnshire County

Council Sites and Monuments Record.

Potential

The collection of post-medieval artefacts is of moderate local potential and significance. Many of the pieces are 18th century in date and are likely to reflect habitation of this period at the site or in the immediate proximity. Also, some of the pieces suggest the local occupants were moderately affluent.

The lack of any material earlier than about the 15th 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

CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

No.	Description	Interpretation	
001	Firm dark blackish brown silt, 0.26m thick	Topsoil	
002	Loose dark brown silt	Fill of (015)	
003	Firm mid brownish yellow silt, 0.24m thick	Dumped deposit	
004	Firm mid brown silt	Fill of (014)	
005	Firm mid brownish yellow silt	Fill of (035)	
006	Loose mid brown silt, 0.38m thick	Dumped deposit	
007	Firm light yellow silt	Fill of (034)	
008	Firm mid yellowish brown silt	Fill of (034)	
009	Loose dark brown silt with brick fragments	Fill of (034)	
010	Firm mixed bands of yellow, yellowish brown, brown and brownish yellow silt	Fill of (014)	
011	Firm mixed bands of yellow, yellowish brown, brown and brownish yellow silt	Fill of (014)	
012	Firm light yellowish brown silt, >0.16m thick	Natural deposit	
013	Firm mixed bands of yellow, yellowish brown, brown and brownish yellow silt	Fill of (015)	
014	Feature, >5m long by >3.4m wide by >0.6m deep, gradual sides, not fully excavated	Pond or quarry	
015	Feature, >1.5m long by >1.5m wide by >0.4m deep, steep sides, not fully excavated	Pond or quarry	
016	Loose mid brown silt with frequent brick	Fill of (017)	
017	Rectangular feature, >1.1m long by >0.6m wide by >0.36m deep, steep sides, not fully excavated	Pit	
018	Firm mid greyish brown silt	Fill of (019)	
019	Circular feature, 0.14m diameter by >0.3m deep, tapered sides, not fully excavated	Posthole	
020	Firm mid and light yellow silt, 0.32m thick	Dumped deposit	
021	Firm mid to dark greyish brown silt, 80mm thick	Dumped deposit	
022	Firm light brown sand and silt, 0.2m thick	Dumped deposit	
023	Firm mixed light yellow and light to mid brown silt, 0.3m thick	Dumped deposit	
024	Firm dark brown silt, 0.2m thick	Dumped deposit	
025	Firm light yellowish brown sand and silt, 0.2m thick	Dumped deposit	
026	Firm light to mid greyish brown silt, 0.14m thick	Dumped deposit	
027	Firm light to mid yellowish brown silt, 0.4m thick	Dumped deposit	
028	Soft mid brown and greyish brown silt	Fill of (029)	
029	?Rectangular feature, aligned north-south, >0.8m long by 0.64m wide by >0.4m deep, steep sides, not fully excavated	Ditch terminus	
030	Firm mixed brown, blackish brown and yellowish brown silt, 0.52m thick	Dumped deposit	
031	Firm light to mid yellowish brown silt, 0.36m thick	Dumped deposit	
032	Firm mixed mid grey, blackish brown and yellowish brown silt	Fill of (033)	
033	Linear feature, aligned north-south, >0.8m long by 0.52m wide by >0.52m deep, steep sides, not fully excavated	Ditch	
034	Feature, >2m wide by 0.6m deep, gradual sides and rounded base – <i>re-cut of (035)</i>	Pit	
035	Feature, >3m wide by 0.54m deep, gentle sides and rounded base	Pit	

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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, <i>e.g.</i> (004).
Cut	A cut refers to the physical action of digging a posthole, pit, ditch, foundation trench, <i>etc.</i> Once the fills of these features are removed during an archaeological investigation the original 'cut' is therefore exposed and subsequently recorded.
Dumped deposits	These are deposits, often laid down intentionally, that raise a land surface. They may be the result of casual waste disposal or may be deliberate attempts to raise the ground surface.
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) which become contained by the 'cut' are referred to as its fill(s).
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.
Post-medieval	The period following the Middle Ages, dating from approximately AD 1500-1800.
Romano-British	Pertaining to the period dating from AD 43-410 when the Romans occupied Britain.

THE ARCHIVE

The archive consists of:

- 35 Context records
- 4 Sheets of scale drawings
- 1 Photographic record sheet
- 1 Bag of finds
- 1 Stratigraphic matrix

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 Museum Accession Number:	2004.8

Archaeological Project Services Site Code:

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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