ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF AT THE FOOTBALL GROUND, THE CAUSEWAY, SWINESHEAD, LINCOLNSHIRE (SFG 04)

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ARCHAEOLOGICAL
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SERVICES

Source L1 9682 L1 9683 negative - 2 Ply foods, from top-soil

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF AT THE FOOTBALL GROUND, THE CAUSEWAY, SWINESHEAD, LINCOLNSHIRE (SFG 04)

Work Undertaken For Bellmarsh Building Services

August 2004

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

Planning Application No: B/01/0616/FUL
National Grid Reference: TF 2400 4000
City and County Museum Accession No: 2004.147

ARCHAEOLOGICAL PROJECT SERVICES



APS Report No. 105/04

Conservation Services

2 6 OCT 2004

Highways & Planning Directorate

Quality Control The Football Ground, Swineshead SGF 04

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Finds Processing	Denise Buckley	
Illustration Paul Cope-Faulkner		
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Checked by Project Manager	Approved by Senior Archaeologist		
Gary Taylor	Tom Lane		
Date: 9/8/04	Date: 12-08-04		

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1. SUMMARY

A watching brief was undertaken during groundworks at the playing field, Swineshead, Lincolnshire. The watching brief monitored the excavation of foundation trenches for a new sports pavilion.

The watching brief condition was imposed as the site lay close to the medieval (AD 1066-1540) core of the village which is represented by the 14th century St. Mary's church and two extant crosses. Saxon remains (AD 410-1066) are also known from the village which is first mentioned in the 7th century.

The watching brief revealed a sequence of natural alluvium and topsoil formation. No archaeological features were present. Finds from the topsoil include an 18th century pottery sherd and a 17th century clay pipe.

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 Bellmarsh Building Services to undertake an archaeological watching brief during groundworks associated with construction of a sports pavilion at the playing field, Swineshead, Lincolnshire. Approval for the development was sought through the

submission of planning application B/01/0616/FUL. The watching brief was carried out on the 5th and 6th July 2004 in accordance with a specification prepared by Archaeological Project Services (Appendix 1) and approved by the Boston Planning Archaeologist.

2.3 Topography and Geology

Swineshead is situated 40km southeast of Lincoln, 10km southwest of Boston and 7km from the coast of the Wash in Boston District, Lincolnshire (Fig. 1).

The site is located 300m southeast of Swineshead centre as defined by the parish church of St. Mary at National Grid Reference TF 2400 4000 (Fig. 2). The site is in a generally level area at a height of c. 4.5m OD.

Local soils are of the Romney Series, typically coarse silty gleyic brown calcareous alluvial soils (Robson 1990, 26). These soils overlie a drift geology of younger marine alluvium which seals a solid geology of Jurassic Ampthill Clay (BGS 1995).

2.4 Archaeological Setting

Swineshead is located in an area of known archaeological remains dating from the prehistoric period to the present day. Two prehistoric stone axes, one of which is dated to the Bronze Age, have been found in the village. It is generally believed that such finds come from a buried land surface.

Romano-British pottery has been found at a number of locations in the parish including at Broad Ings, which lies c.1km to the southwest of the site (Southworth 1996, 1).

The earliest reference to Swineshead is in the Anglo-Saxon Chronicle in c.675 AD when King Æthelred gave land at Swineshead to the monastery at Peterborough (Garmonsway 1992, 37). The place-name Swineshaefed is Old English in

origin and means 'the source of the creek' (Cameron 1998, 122). Previous archaeological investigations have recorded Mid to Late Saxon pottery and ditches representing a possible settlement focus in the North End part of the village (Albone 1999, 10). A Late Saxon strap end has also been found in the village centre.

Swineshead is not mentioned in the Domesday Survey of 1086, although the settlements of Drayton and Estevening which lay in the parish are recorded (Foster and Longley 1976). Estevening was abandoned as a settlement in the 14th century and lies 600m to the west of the development site.

During the medieval period, Swineshead was an important market town with charters for two annual fairs. The remains of two medieval crosses survive in the centre of the village. The church is dedicated to St Mary and constructed in the Decorated and Perpendicular styles (Pevsner and Harris 1989, 736). A number of medieval artefacts, including pottery and coins, have been found in the vicinity of the development.

A watching brief undertaken to the west of the site identified a possible pit of medieval date, containing pottery and slag, and an early post-medieval ditch (Albone 2000, 1).

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, to determine their date, function and origin.

4. METHODS

Topsoil was partially stripped from the footprint of the proposed building. Trenches for the new sports pavilion were then 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 1:10. 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 and supplemented by artefact dating.

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 natural layer of mottled yellowish brown and greyish brown clayey silt (002). This was identified as the underlying drift geology and was in excess of 0.34m thick.

Sealing the natural alluvium was a 0.58m thick topsoil comprising greyish brown sandy silt (001). Post-medieval pottery and clay pipe was retrieved from this layer.

6. DISCUSSION

Natural clayey silt was identified as the younger marine alluvium. This was sealed by the current topsoil. No archaeological features were identified and no evidence for the route of the former River Swin was forthcoming.

Finds retrieved from this investigation consist of a single sherd of an 18th century pancheon and the stem of a 17th century clay pipe. These may have been introduced to the area in a manuring scatter, which, in turn, would suggest the site had an agricultural function in the post-medieval period.

7. CONCLUSION

Archaeological investigations were undertaken at Swineshead football ground as the site lay close to the medieval core of the village.

However, only natural alluvium and topsoil was recorded with no archaeological features identified. Finds include a single sherd of post-medieval pottery and clay pipe fragment.

8. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeological Project Services wish to acknowledge the assistance of Debbie Runnalls of Belmarsh Building Services for commissioning the fieldwork and postexcavation analysis. The work was coordinated by Gary Taylor who edited this report along with Tom Lane. Jenny Boston Planning Young, the Archaeologist, kindly permitted examination of the parish files and library maintained by Heritage Lincolnshire.

9. PERSONNEL

Project Coordinator: Gary Taylor

Site Supervisor: Jim Snee

Finds processing: Denise Buckley

Photographic reproduction: Sue Unsworth

Illustration: Paul Cope-Faulkner

Post-excavation analysis: Paul Cope-

Faulkner

10. BIBLIOGRAPHY

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Southworth, P.A., 1996, A History of Swineshead.

11. ABBREVIATIONS

APS Archaeological Project Services

BGS British Geological Survey

IFA Institute of Field Archaeologists

PCA Pre-Construct Archaeology

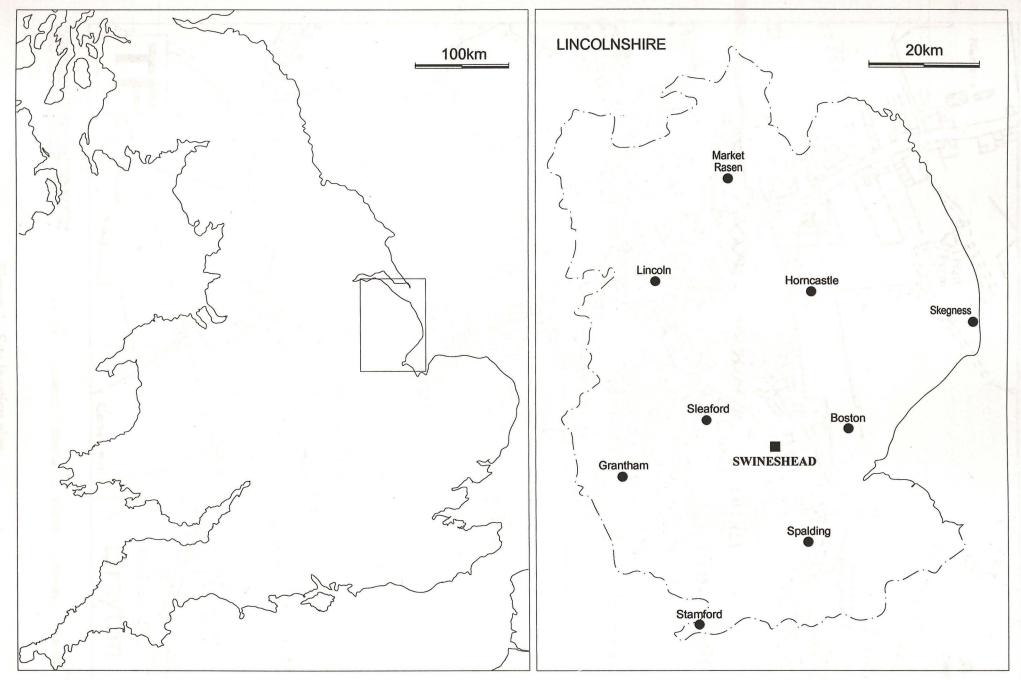


Figure 1 - General location plan

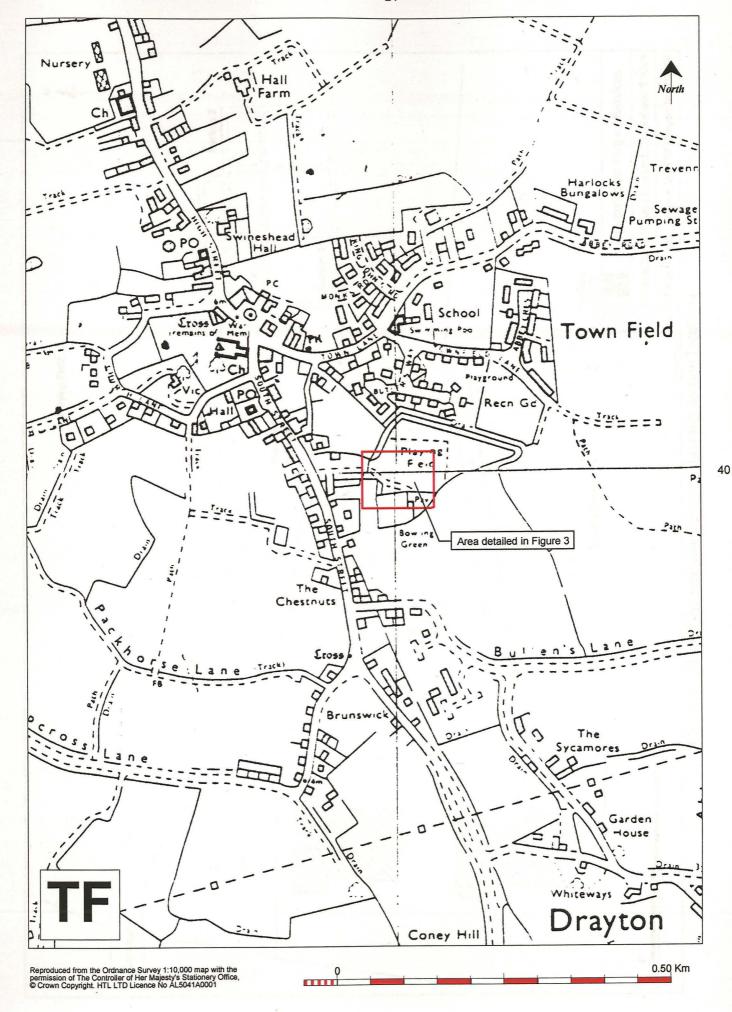


Figure 2 - Site location plan

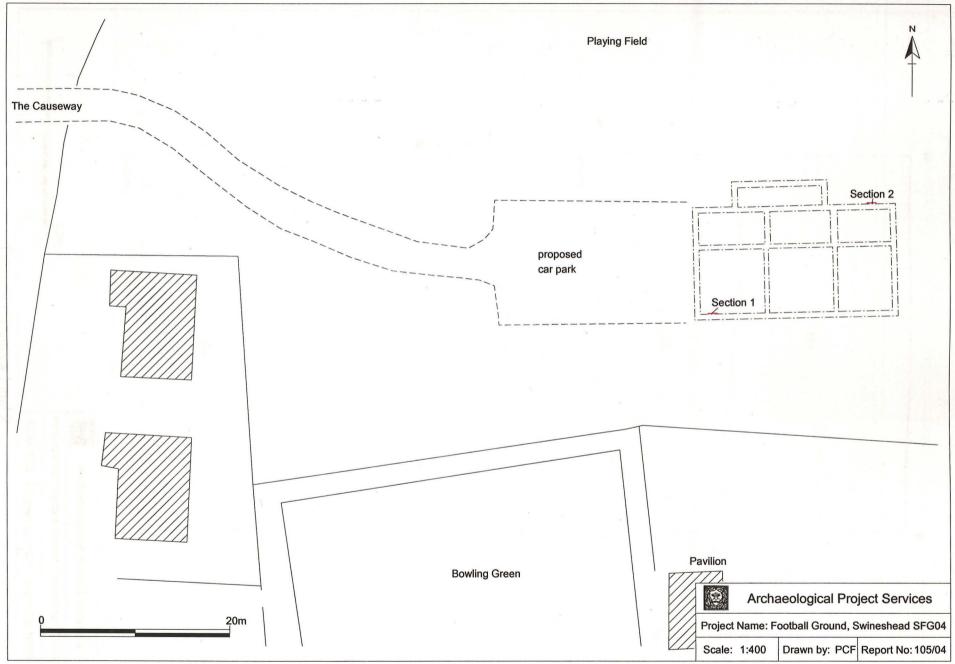


Figure 3 - Plan of the new development showing section locations

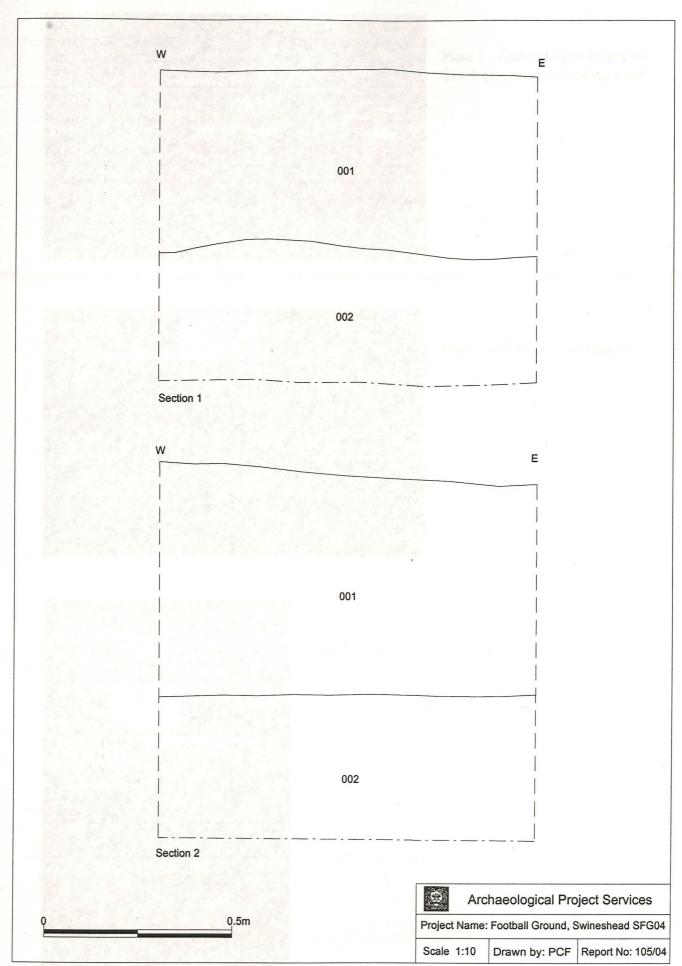


Figure 4 - Sections 1 and 2



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



Plate 2 - Section 1, looking north



Plate 3 - Section 2, looking north

LAND AT THE FOOTBALL GROUND, CAUSEWAY FIELD, SWINESHEAD, LINCOLNSHIRE - SPECIFICATION FOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

1 SUMMARY

- 1.1 A watching brief is required during construction of a sports pavilion at Swineshead Football Ground, Causeway Field, South Street, Swineshead, Lincolnshire.
- 1.2 The area is archaeologically sensitive, lying in an area where Roman, Early Saxon, medieval and later remains have been found.
- 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 groundworks connected with the construction of a sports pavilion at Swineshead Football Ground, Causeway Field, South Street, Swineshead, 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 Swineshead is located 10km southwest of Boston in the Boston Borough district of Lincolnshire. The works are to take place at the southeastern edge of the village, at the Football Ground, Causeway Field, off South Street at National Grid Reference TF 2400 4000.

4 PLANNING BACKGROUND

4.1 A planning application (B/01/0616/FULL) was submitted to Boston Borough Council for the proposed construction of a sports pavilion. Permission is subject to a condition requiring the implementation of an archaeological watching brief during groundworks. The Boston Borough Community Archaeologist has produced a project brief setting out the watching brief requirements.

5 SOILS AND TOPOGRAPHY

5.1 Swineshead lies in the fenland of South Lincolnshire at approximately 5m OD. Local soils are of the Romney series, typically coarse silty gleyic brown calcareous alluvial soils developed on marine alluvium(Robson 1990, 26).

6 ARCHAEOLOGICAL OVERVIEW

- 0.1 Roman pottery and briquetage, fired clay from salt-making, of Iron Age-Roman date has previously been found close to the site.
- 6.2 Also revealed nearby was an Early Saxon pit that cut through a clay platform of this date or earlier.

The earliest reference to Swineshead is in the Anglo-Saxon Chronicle in c675 AD. During the medieval period Swineshead was an important market town, with charters for two annual fairs, and was larger than the modern settlement.

- 0.3 The medieval parish church of St. Mary is located approximately 200m north of the site and is likely to have been the focus of settlement in the Late Saxon and medieval periods. Archaeological investigations on The Causeway, just to the north, revealed a possible medieval pit containing iron slag and pottery and a post-medieval ditch (Archaeological Project Services 2000). Medieval pottery has also been found just to the south.
- 0.4 The River Swin is believed to have run through this area and it is thought that the medieval dock or wharf was located in this area.

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 they will be left *in situ* and only excavated if absolutely necessary. Should removal be required the appropriate Home Office licence will be obtained before the exhumation of the remains. In addition, the Local Environmental Health Department, coroner and the police will be informed, where appropriate.

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:
 - 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 trenches and 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.

9.3.2.11 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 Boston Planning Archaeologist; Boston Borough 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 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

Curatorial responsibility for the archaeological work undertaken on the site lies with the Boston Planning Archaeologist. They will be given written notice of the commencement of the project.

14 VARIATIONS AND CONTINGENCIES

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

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.
- 15.3 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.

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.

<u>Task</u> <u>Body to be undertaking the work</u>

Conservation Conservation Laboratory, City and County Museum, Lincoln

Pottery Analysis Prehistoric - Trent & Peak Archaeological Trust

Roman - B Precious, Independent Specialist

Anglo-Saxon - J Young, Independent Specialist

Medieval and later - G Taylor 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

17.1 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.
- 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

Archaeological Project Services, 2000 Archaeological Watching Brief on Land North of the Causeway, Swineshead, Lincolnshire (STC99), unpublished APS report 12/00

Robson, JD, 1990 Soils of the Boston and Spalding District

Specification: Version 1, 30-06-04

CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

No.	Description	Interpretation
001	Firm dark greyish brown sandy silt, occasional broken tile fragments, 0.58m thick	Topsoil
002	Firm mottled yellowish brown and greyish brown clayey silt, 0.34m thick	Natural deposit

THE FINDS by 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. One fragment of pottery weighing 105g was recovered, together with a single piece of clay pipe weighing 4g. No other artefacts or faunal remains were retrieved.

Provenance

The material was recovered from topsoil (001).

Range

The range of material is detailed in the tables.

Table 1: Pottery

Context	Fabric Code	Description	No.	Wt (g)	Context Date
001	BL	Red painted black glazed earthenware, pancheon	1	105	18 th century

Table 2: Other Artefacts

Context	Material	Description	No.	Wt (g)	Context Date
001	Clay pipe	Stem, bore 6/64"	1	4	17 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 numerous previous archaeological investigations at Swineshead that are the subjects of reports. Details of archaeological sites and discoveries in the area are maintained in the files of the Boston Planning Archaeologist and the Lincolnshire County Council Sites and Monuments Record.

Potential

As a small and entirely post-medieval collection, the assemblage is of limited local potential and significance. The pieces may have entered the area as manuring scatter, which would indicate the site had an arable function in the 17th-18th centuries.

The lack of any material earlier than the 17th 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

Bronze Age

A period characterised by the introduction of bronze into the country for tools, between 2250 and 800 BC.

Context

An archaeological context represents a distinct archaeological event or process. For example, the action of digging a pit creates a context (the cut) as does the process of its subsequent backfill (the fill). Each context encountered during an archaeological investigation is allocated a unique number by the archaeologist and a record sheet detailing the description and 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.

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:

- 2 Context record sheets
- 2 Daily record sheet
- 1 Site matrix
- 1 Sheet of scale drawings
- 1 Photographic record sheet
- 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 Museum Accession Number:

2004.147

Archaeological Project Services Site Code:

SFG 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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