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**ARCHAEOLOGICAL
EVALUATION ON LAND AT
HOLME LANE,
RUSKINGTON,
LINCOLNSHIRE
(RHL05)**



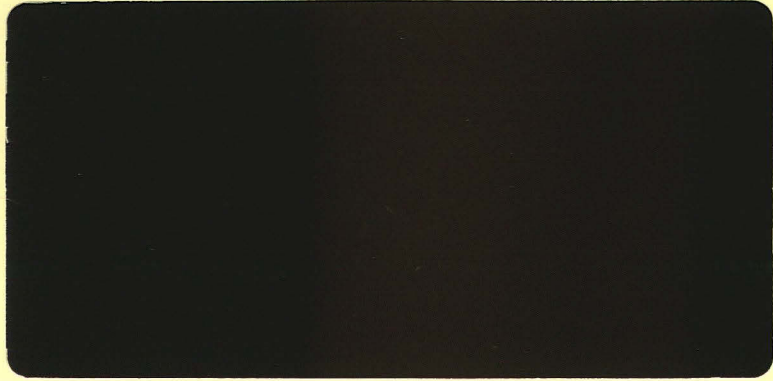
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**ARCHAEOLOGICAL
EVALUATION ON LAND AT
HOLME LANE,
RUSKINGTON,
LINCOLNSHIRE
(RHL05)**

Work Undertaken For
Mr Steve Coy

October 2005

Report Compiled by
Vicky Mellor BSc (Hons)

National Grid Reference: TF 08480 50936

Planning Reference: N/52/0785/03 *

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ARCHAEOLOGICAL PROJECT SERVICES



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at Holme Lane, Ruskington
(RHL05)

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CONTENTS

List of Appendices

List of Figures

List of Plates

1. SUMMARY.....	1
2. INTRODUCTION.....	1
2.1 DEFINITION OF AN EVALUATION.....	1
2.2 PLANNING BACKGROUND.....	1
2.3 TOPOGRAPHY AND GEOLOGY.....	2
2.4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL SETTING.....	2
3. AIMS.....	3
4. METHODS.....	3
5. RESULTS.....	4
6. DISCUSSION.....	5
<i>NATURAL DEPOSITS</i>	5
<i>UNDATED DEPOSITS</i>	5
<i>IRON AGE OR SAXON DEPOSITS</i>	5
<i>POST-MEDIEVAL AND RECENT DEPOSITS</i>	5
7. STATEMENT OF POTENTIAL.....	6
8. CONCLUSIONS.....	6
9. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS.....	7
10. PERSONNEL.....	7
11. BIBLIOGRAPHY.....	7
12. ABBREVIATIONS.....	7

List of Appendices

Appendix 1	Specification for Archaeological Evaluation
Appendix 2	Context Descriptions
Appendix 3	The Finds <i>by Paul Cope-Faulkner, Hilary Healey, Jennifer Kitch, Gary Taylor and Jane Young</i>
Appendix 4	Glossary
Appendix 5	Archive

List of Figures

- Figure 1 General location map
Figure 2 Site location plan
Figure 3 Location of trench
Figure 4 Trench plan and sections

List of Plates

- Plate 1 General view of the site, looking northeast
Plate 2 General view of the site, looking southwest
Plate 3 View of trench following cleaning, looking south
Plate 4 Undated shallow linear feature (possible plough furrow) [006] or area of deeper subsoil (004), Section 1, looking east
Plate 5 Undated small pit or post hole [001], Section 2, looking west
Plate 6 Undated small pit or post hole [009], Section 4, looking north
Plate 7 Doubtful post hole [011], more likely a natural hollow, from which a sherd of Iron Age or Saxon pottery was retrieved, Section 5, looking north
Plate 8 Undated pit or post hole [015], Section 8 (at left), and undated possible post hole [013], Section 6 (at centre), looking north
Plate 9 Selection of masonry retrieved from rockery of No. 3 Holme Lane

1. SUMMARY

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken to determine the archaeological implications of proposed development on land to the rear of No. 3 Holme Road, Ruskington, Lincolnshire.

Lane

Ruskington is situated in an area of known archaeological remains which span the prehistoric to post-medieval periods. Prehistoric remains in the area include Palaeolithic and Neolithic stone tools and Iron Age settlement features. Roman remains are known from the vicinity of the site, and the important Roman Road, Mareham Lane passes through the western edge of the village. An Anglo-Saxon cemetery containing at least 180 burials was also located at the western edge of the village, and an area of Middle Saxon settlement has been identified to the east of the site.

Part of a Bronze Age Beaker cemetery and Middle to Late Saxon settlement features were identified at 29 Station Road, immediately opposite the current investigation site. It was thought that similar remains might extend into the proposed development site. Roman pottery and a Middle to Late Saxon ditch have also been found on Station Road.

The investigations revealed several small pits or post holes and possible post holes, though these were undated. A possible linear feature was also identified, which could be a medieval plough furrow, though this is also uncertain.

Artefacts retrieved during the investigation included a single sherd of Iron Age or Saxon pottery, burnt stone, animal bone and late medieval roof tile. The tile may indicate the presence of a building on or near the site in the late medieval period.

Fragments of predominantly high medieval masonry observed in the rockery of No. 3 Holme Lane may have been derived from Haverholme Priory, or another redundant ecclesiastical site in the vicinity.

2. INTRODUCTION

2.1 Definition of an Evaluation

An archaeological evaluation is defined as, 'a limited programme of non-intrusive and/or intrusive fieldwork which determines the presence or absence of archaeological features, structures, deposits, artefacts or ecofacts within a specified area or site. If such archaeological remains are present Field Evaluation defines their character and extent and relative quality; and it enables an assessment of their worth in a local, regional, national or international context as appropriate' (IFA 1999).

2.2 Planning Background

A planning application (N/52/0785/03) for residential development on land to the rear of No. 3 Holme Lane, Ruskington, Lincolnshire, was submitted to North Kesteven District Council. The North Kesteven Planning Archaeologist advised that an archaeological evaluation by trial trenching should be undertaken to assess the importance of any archaeological remains buried on the site.

Archaeological Project Services was commissioned by Mr Steve Coy to undertake the archaeological evaluation. The evaluation was carried out on the 2nd June 2005 in accordance with a specification prepared by Archaeological Project Services (Appendix 1) and approved by the North Kesteven Planning Archaeologist.

2.3 Topography and Geology

Ruskington is located 5km north of Sleaford in the administrative district of North Kesteven, Lincolnshire (Figure 1). The site forms a roughly rectangular area of approximately 30m by 16m in extent, located in the eastern part of the village, c.70m south of High Street and The Beck, at National Grid Reference TF 08480 50936 (Figure 2).

The most recent use of the site is as part of the garden of No. 3 Holme Lane (Plates 1 & 2).

The site lies on land at approximately 10mOD, and soils at the site are Ruskington Association gleyic brown calcareous earths developed on glaciofluvial sand and gravel (Hodge *et al.* 1984, 304).

2.4 Archaeological and Historical Setting

Ruskington village is located in an area of archaeological remains dating from the prehistoric through to the post-medieval period. A Palaeolithic handaxe was discovered a few hundred metres south of the present investigation area. Two flint axes dated to the Neolithic period were found a few hundred metres east and worked flints have been recovered to the southeast.

Middle to Late Saxon settlement features comprising building slots, were identified during archaeological investigations at 29 Station Road, immediately opposite the present investigation site, along with part of a Bronze Age Beaker cemetery. Two inhumation burials, each accompanied by a highly decorated beaker pot, were recorded during building work, though the extent of the cemetery is unknown (Palmer-Brown 1995)

An archaeological evaluation at Station Road, c.200m south of the site, identified a gully containing Roman pottery and a Middle to Late Saxon ditch. These findings were interpreted as indicating that the site lay on the periphery of mid-late Saxon settlement (JSAC 2000).

Investigations c.300m northeast of the site identified a possible trackway, curvilinear features and several Iron Age pits and ditches, with the ditches including parts of a possible ring gully. 1st-2nd century Roman ditches were revealed throughout the southern half of the site, and two of the ditches were interpreted as a possible droveway. Later Roman ditches of a 3rd-4th century date were also identified, in addition to a late Roman grave. Undated postholes in a curvilinear arrangement may represent a late Iron Age or Early Roman round house type structure. Fragments of a briquetage container (ceramic debris from salt making) were also retrieved from a feature of probable Iron Age date. Briquetage had not been recovered in the area before, the nearest known Iron Age salterns being located some 12km to the southeast on the fen edge in Little Hale and Helpringham. (Rayner *et al* 2000, Hall 2004).

Investigations c.200m east of the site identified archaeological remains of prehistoric, Roman, Saxon and later dates. Prehistoric worked flints were retrieved during the investigations in addition to a small number of Roman artefacts. A Middle Iron Age enclosure and sub-enclosure were also identified, from which domestic pottery, animal bone and burnt stone were retrieved, indicating settlement in this period. Middle Saxon deposits on the site comprised a ditch, which may have functioned as a defence against flooding from The Beck. Saxon deposits to the north of this ditch were confined to flood deposits, the uppermost surviving level of which was approximately 9.30m OD, and

which contained dumped domestic refuse. To the south of this ditch Saxon remains included several pits, and the remains of a Saxon post-built structure. Saxon finds from the site date from between the mid 5th and 7th centuries, and indicate domestic and craft activity and occupation of the site in this period (Mellor 2005).

Passing through the western edge of the village in an approximately north-south direction is the important Roman Road, Mareham Lane. Aerial photographs have located field systems and enclosures of probable Roman date in the vicinity of Mareham Lane. Roman coins and pottery have been recovered from various locations in the vicinity of the proposed development area.

An Anglo-Saxon cemetery containing at least 180 burials was located at the western edge of the village. Iron spearheads, also of Anglo-Saxon date, have been found at several places to the east and southeast of the cemetery. Early Saxon pottery was retrieved east of the investigation area, during building works at Chestnut St Primary School.

Ruskington is first mentioned in the Domesday Survey of 1086. Referred to as *Riscintone* and *Reschintone* the name is derived from the Old English *riscen* meaning 'rushy' with the suffix indicating a homestead or village (Ekwall 1974, 397). At the time of the Domesday Survey, Ruskington was held principally by Geoffrey Alselin and contained 60 acres of meadow, 240 acres of wood for pannage, a church, a priest and 3 mills (Foster and Longley 1976). No standing remains of 11th century date are recorded at the present church, suggesting that the Domesday Book is referring to an earlier precursor.

The Medieval period is represented by All Saints' church which contains a Norman

tower arch and an Early English chancel and chancel arch (Pevsner and Harris 1989, 617). Medieval pottery has been recorded in the vicinity of the development site.

3. AIMS

The aim of the archaeological evaluation was to gather sufficient information for the North Kesteven Planning Archaeologist to formulate appropriate policies for the management of the archaeological resources, if present, on the site. The objectives of the investigation were to establish the type, chronology, density, spatial arrangement and extent of any archaeological remains present.

4. METHODS

The evaluation consisted of a single trial trench, located within the footprint of the proposed new dwelling. This 10m long and 1.60m wide trench was then excavated by machine.

The location of the trench was surveyed and plotted in relation to the site boundary using measuring tapes.

Once excavation had been completed, the sides and base of the trench were cleaned and the sides rendered vertical. Selected deposits were then excavated by hand to determine their nature and to retrieve artefactual material.

Each deposit exposed during the evaluation was allocated a unique reference number (context number) with an individual written description. All contexts and their descriptions appear as Appendix 2. A photographic record was compiled using both colour and black and white print formats. Sections were drawn at a scale of 1:10 and plans at 1:20.

Recording of deposits encountered was undertaken according to standard Archaeological Project Services practice.

Following excavation, all records were checked and ordered to ensure that they constituted a complete Level II archive and a stratigraphic matrix of all identified deposits was produced. Artefacts recovered from excavated deposits were examined and a period date assigned where possible (Appendix 3). Phasing was based on artefact dating and the nature of the deposits and recognisable relationships between them.

5. RESULTS (Figure 4)

The earliest deposit encountered in the trial trench was a naturally-formed light mottled yellow, brown and grey calcareous sand and gravel (005), which was over 0.27m thick.

Eight features and possible features were cut into this natural layer, including a possible linear feature with a flattish base [006] (Plate 4). Though feature [006] extended beyond the limit of excavation to the west, south and east, it was apparently a northwest-southeast aligned linear feature, over 1.70m by 1.50m in extent but only 100mm deep. The single fill of this feature comprised a dark greyish-brown silty sand with frequent gravel (007), which was similar in composition to the fills of each of the other features and possible features in the trench (Appendix 2).

Approximately 1.20m to the north of this feature was a small pit or substantial post hole [001] (Plate 5). Whilst this feature also extended beyond the edge of the trench to the west, it was possibly sub-round, over 0.55m by over 0.22m in extent and 0.20m deep, with steep sides and a

concave base. Animal bone was retrieved from the fill of this feature (002), identified as that of domestic fowl and a large mammal, which may have been gnawed by a carnivore (Appendix 3).

Two possible post holes, [020] and [018], were located just to the northeast of feature [001]. Each of these doubtful features was of sub-rounded to irregular shape and shallow, and so seem more likely to be natural hollows than cut features. No artefacts were retrieved from either of these possible features.

Approximately 4m north of feature [001] was a second small pit or substantial post hole [009], which again extended beyond the edge of the trial trench (Plate 6). Feature [009] was 0.62m by over 0.43m in extent and 0.20m deep, with steep sides and a concave base, though no artefacts were retrieved from its fill (008).

A possible post hole [011] was located just to the northeast of this feature. This was 0.25m in diameter and only 30mm deep with a concave base, and seems likely to be a natural hollow (Plate 7). However a single sherd of Iron Age or Saxon pottery was retrieved from the fill of this feature (010).

More convincing as a possible post hole was [013], located close to the northern limit of excavation. This was 0.22m in diameter and 0.10m deep (Plate 8). This feature had steep sides and a concave base, although no artefacts were retrieved from its fill (012).

At the northwest corner of, and extending outside the trench, was a pit or substantial post hole [015] (Plate 8). This feature was over 0.63m by over 0.48m in extent and 0.17m deep with fairly steep sides and a concave base. Mussel shell, cattle and sheep or goat bone were retrieved from the

fill of this feature (014), in addition to a burnt stone.

Each of the features and possible features was sealed by a layer of subsoil (004). This 0.20m thick deposit comprised a dark brown very slightly clayey silt and sand with frequent gravel. No artefacts were retrieved from this deposit.

This layer was in turn sealed by a 0.30m thick topsoil of dark brown slightly clayey silt and sand with occasional pebbles (003), from which two fragments of late medieval tile were retrieved.

Sealing this topsoil layer along the western edge of the trench was a row of concrete slabs (017), which formed a garden path of the former garden of No. 3 Holme Road (Figure 3).

Unstratified finds from the site included several fragments of late medieval roof tile and burnt stone.

During the archaeological evaluation of the site, vegetation was removed from the site by the client. During this clearance, a rockery was identified at the south of the garden, and many of the stones from which it was composed were found to be worked and highly decorative (Plate 9). Predominantly these seem to be high medieval in date.

6. DISCUSSION

Natural deposits

A layer of calcareous sand and gravel was the earliest deposit encountered in the evaluation trench, representing the underlying glaciofluvial sand and gravel.

Undated deposits

The majority of features identified on the

site were undated. Two doubtful features [020] & [018], near the centre of the trench are likely to be of natural origin rather than deliberately-cut features, and may be the result of animal burrowing or root action.

Three small pits or substantial post holes each extended beyond the western edge of the trench ([001], [009] & [015]). Although these were undated, animal bone was retrieved from two of these, and burnt stone was retrieved from one of them. If post holes, these three features might indicate the presence of a structure, although as only a small area surrounding these features was exposed any such interpretation remains speculative. A possible post hole at the north of the trench [013] was also undated but potentially also formed part of such a structure.

A possible feature of rather different character [006] was identified at the southern limit of the trench. Whilst this possible shallow linear feature might simply represent a natural subsoil-filled hollow, its form is comparable to the form of a medieval plough furrow.

Iron Age or Saxon deposits

A single sherd of what was either Iron Age or Saxon pottery was retrieved during the investigation, from the fill of possible post hole [011]. This possible feature was very shallow, and more likely a natural hollow, filled with subsoil (004) than a post hole (Plate 7).

Post-Medieval and recent deposits

Late medieval tile was retrieved from deposit (003), this layer being the topsoil of the former garden of No. 3 Holme Lane. Sealing this layer was a concrete path (017), also part of the former garden.

The medieval worked stones retrieved

from a rockery in the garden may have been derived from Haverholme Priory or another redundant ecclesiastical site in the proximity.

7. STATEMENT OF POTENTIAL

The deposits and feature types identified on the site comprised a single possible agricultural feature, and what were either post holes or pits. However, the function and date of these features remains unknown. Although finds of a wide range of periods are known in the vicinity of the site, little dating evidence was retrieved from the features identified during the investigation. Burnt stone and a single sherd of Iron Age or Saxon pottery indicate early activity in the area, and may suggest that at least some of the features are of an early date. However, several fragments of late medieval roof tile were also retrieved, and the features identified might equally be medieval.

Medieval masonry was noted during the investigation, though, as its derivation is uncertain, it is of limited local potential and significance.

As several features and possible features were identified in the evaluation trench, it seems probable that similar remains extend across the development area.

Archaeological features were sealed and protected by approximately 0.55m of overburden, and there was no evidence that these features had been significantly truncated by later activity. However, the features were relatively shallow, with a maximum depth of c.0.24m. This indicates that groundworks would be likely to have a destructive effect on any archaeological features which may be present on the remainder of the site.

8. CONCLUSIONS

Archaeological investigations were undertaken at Holme Lane, Ruskington, because the site lay in an area of known archaeological remains spanning the prehistoric to post-medieval periods. Archaeological remains in the immediate vicinity of the site include a Bronze Age Beaker cemetery, and Saxon settlement features. Both the burials and settlement features were found approximately 60m southeast of the site, and it was thought that these remains might extend into the proposed development site itself.

Several small pits or post holes and possible post holes were identified during the investigation, though these were undated.

A possible linear feature was identified which could be a medieval plough furrow, though this is uncertain.

Artefacts retrieved during the investigation included a single sherd of Iron Age or Saxon pottery, burnt stones and fragments of late medieval roof tile, and it is possible that the identified features may date to one or more of these periods.

Fragments of predominantly high medieval masonry were observed, forming part of a rockery in the garden of No. 3 Holme Lane, and may have been derived from Haverholme Priory or another redundant ecclesiastical site in the proximity.

Several fragments of late medieval roof tile retrieved during the investigation might indicate the presence of a building on or near the site in this period.

9. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeological Project Services would like to acknowledge the assistance of Mr Steve Coy who commissioned the fieldwork and post-excavation analysis. Mark Williams coordinated the work and along with Tom Lane edited this report. Jo Hambly, the North Kesteven Planning Archaeologist, kindly permitted access to the parish files maintained by Heritage Lincolnshire.

10. PERSONNEL

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 Site Supervisor: Vicky Mellor
 Site staff: Chris Moulis
 CAD illustration: Vicky Mellor
 Mapmaker illustration: Mark Dymond
 Finds processing: Denise Buckley
 Surveying: Vicky Mellor, Chris Moulis
 Photographic reproduction: Vicky Mellor
 Post-excavation Analyst: Vicky Mellor

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12. ABBREVIATIONS

APS Archaeological Project Services

IFA Institute of Field Archaeologists

NK North Kesteven (Parish Files reference number)

OD Ordnance Datum
(Height above sea level)

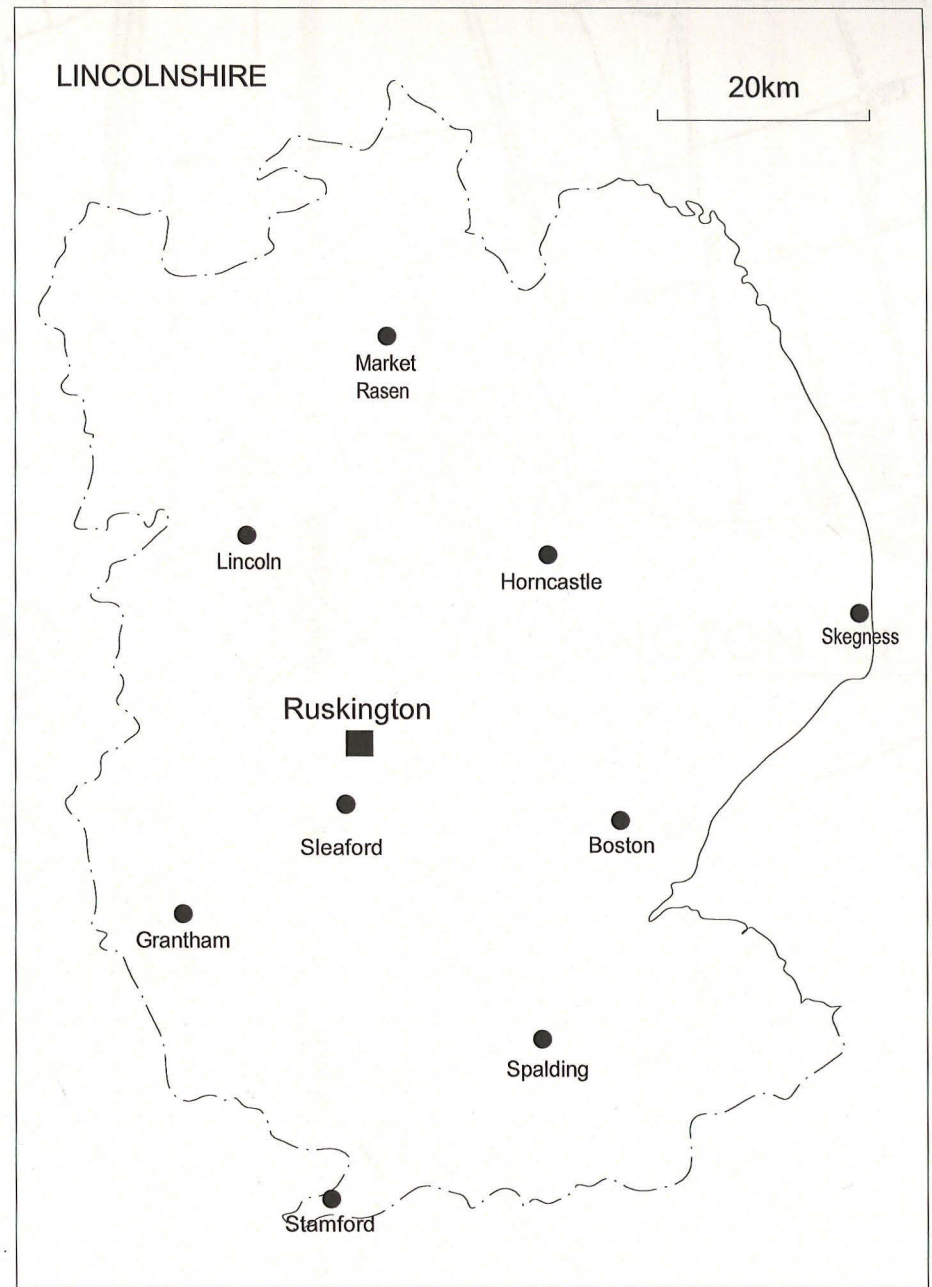
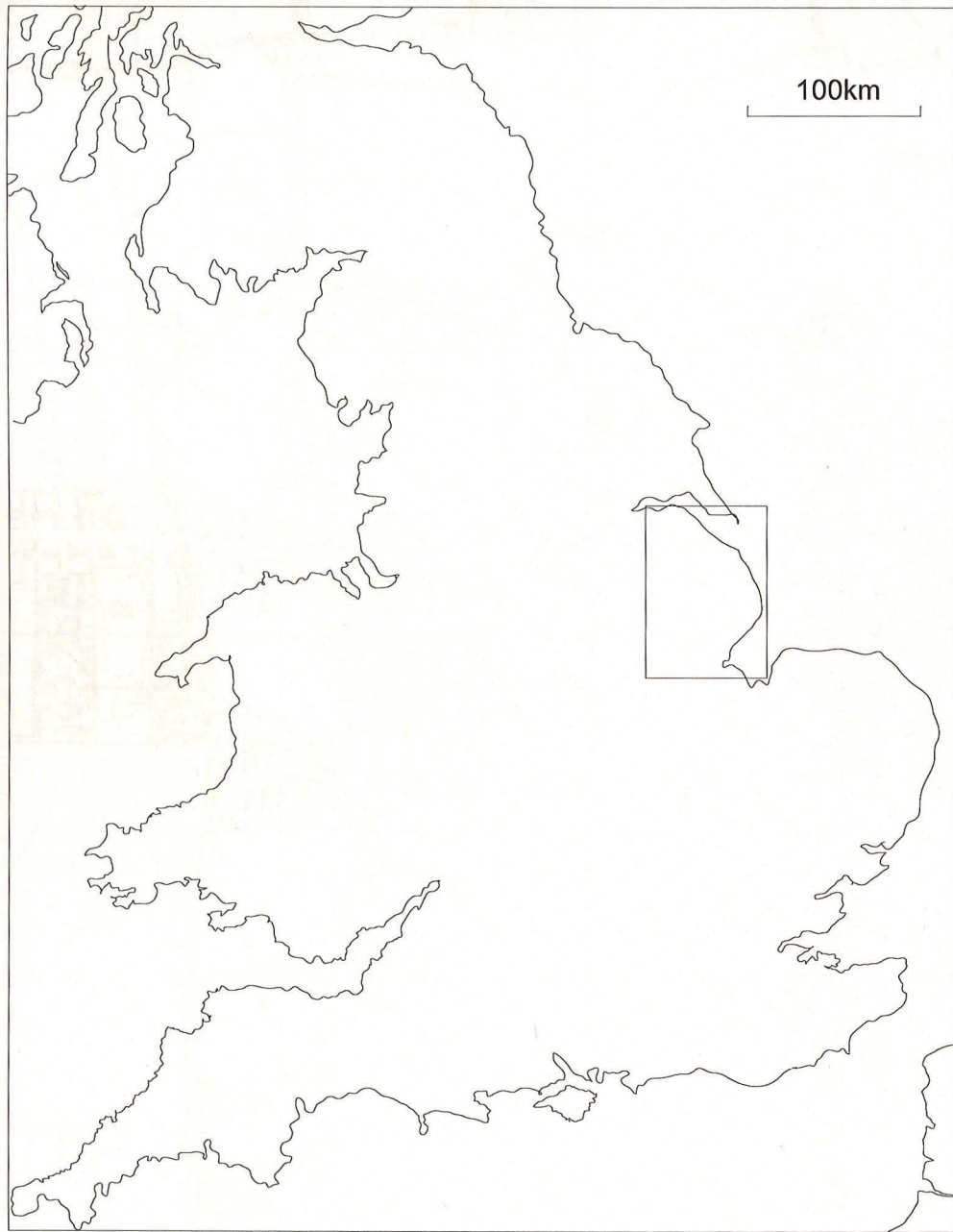
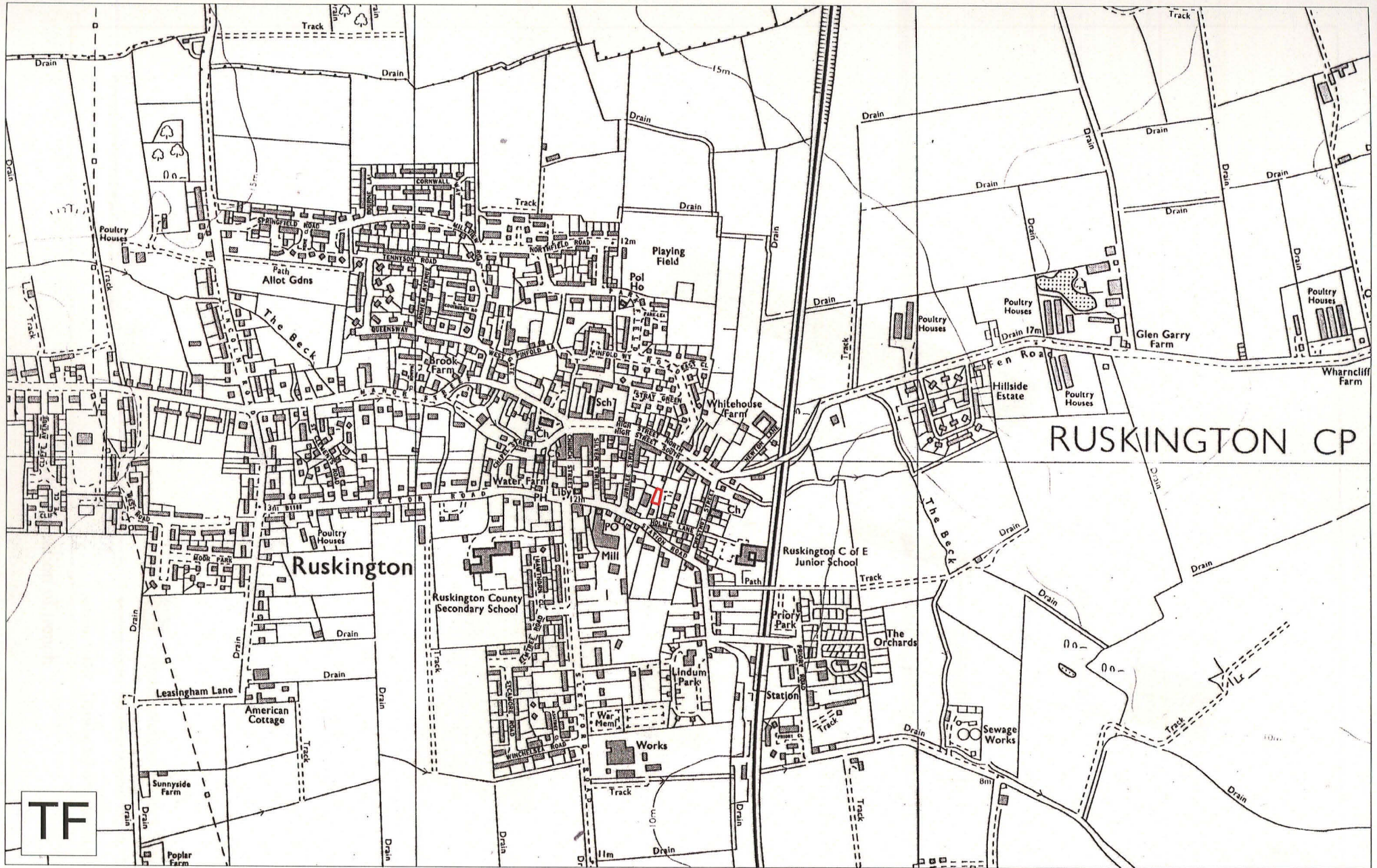


Figure 1 General Location Map

51



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Figure 2 Site location plan

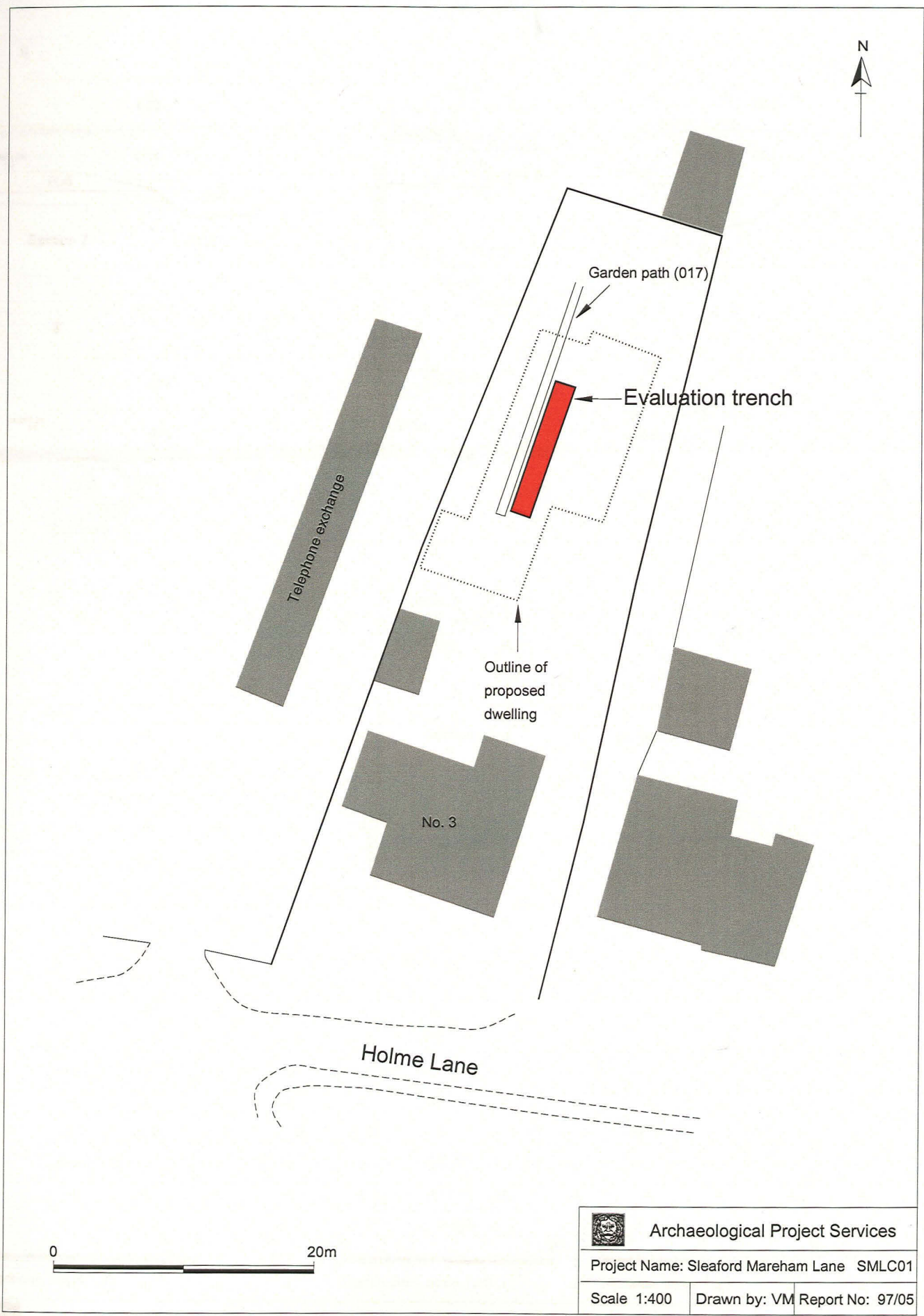


Figure 3 Location of trench

Figure 4 Trench plan and sections

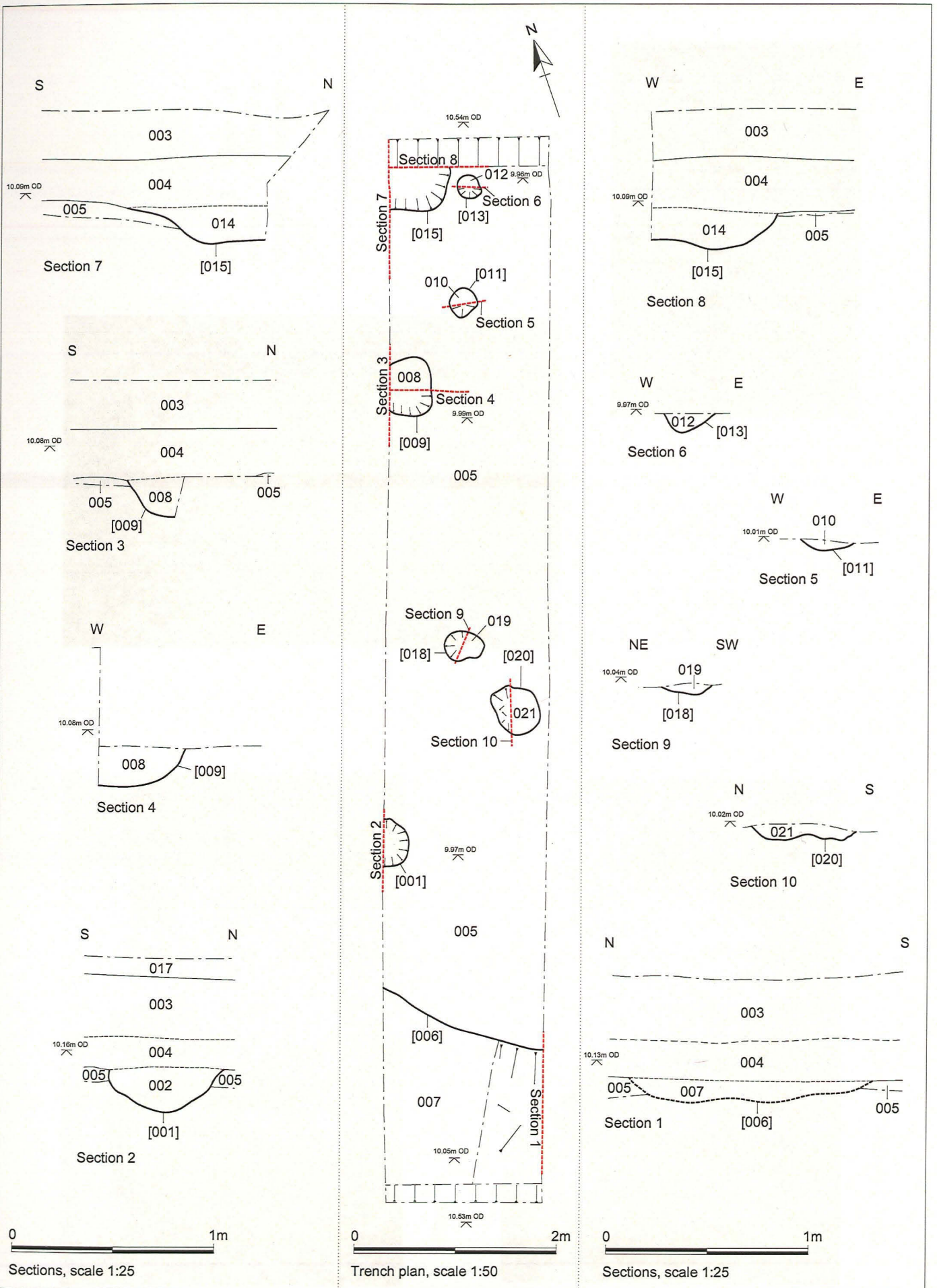


Figure 4 Trench plan and sections



Plate 1 General view of the site, looking northeast



Plate 2 General view of the site, looking southwest



Plate 3 View of trench following cleaning, looking south

Plate 4 Undated shallow linear feature (possible plough furrow) [006] or area of deeper subsoil (004), Section 1, looking east

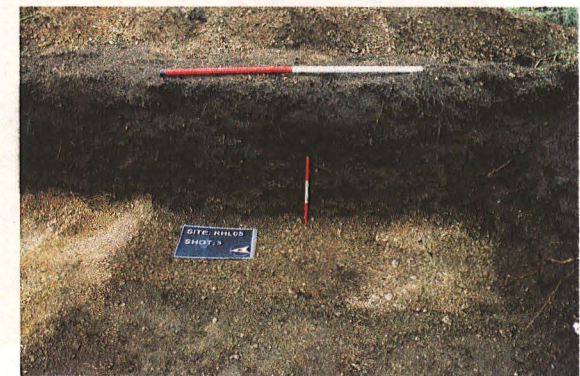




Plate 5 Undated small pit or post hole [001], Section 2, looking west

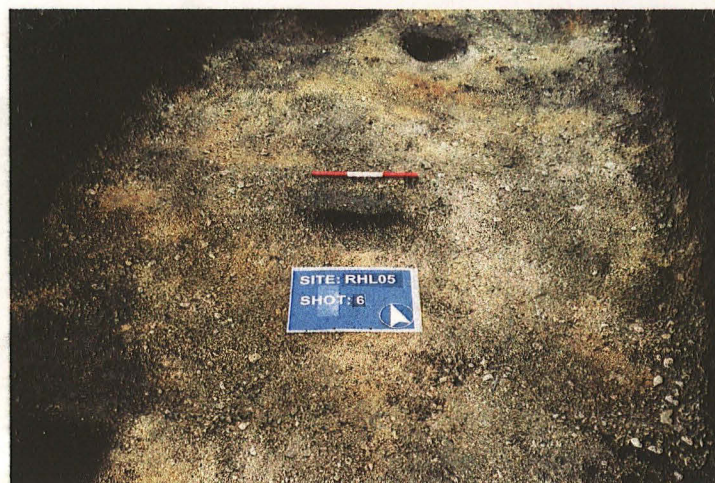


Plate 7 Doubtful post hole [011], more likely a natural hollow, from which a sherd of Iron Age or Saxon pottery was retrieved, Section 5, looking north



Plate 6 Undated small pit or post hole [009], Section 4, looking north



Plate 8 Undated pit or post hole [015], Section 8 (at left), and undated possible post hole [013], Section 6 (at centre), looking north



Plate 9 Selection of masonry retrieved from rockery of No. 3 Holme Lane

Appendix 1

SPECIFICATION FOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION ON LAND AT HOLME LANE, RUSKINGTON, LINCOLNSHIRE (RHL05)

1 SUMMARY

- 1.1 *This document comprises a specification for the archaeological field evaluation of land at 3 Holme Lane, Ruskington, Lincolnshire.*
- 1.2 *The area is archaeologically sensitive, lying close to the site of a previous discovery on a prehistoric burial and Middle-Late Saxon settlement remains.*
- 1.3 *Outline planning permission is sought for residential development of the site. The archaeological works are being undertaken to assist the determination of the application.*
- 1.4 *An evaluation by trial trenching will be conducted. Archaeological remains will be excavated and recorded in writing, drawings and photographically.*
- 1.5 *On completion of the fieldwork a report will be prepared detailing the findings of the investigation. The report will consist of a text describing the nature of the archaeological deposits located and will be supported by illustrations and photographs.*

2 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 This document comprises a specification for the archaeological field evaluation of land at 3 Holme Lane, Ruskington, Lincolnshire.
 - 2.1.1 The document contains the following parts:
 - 2.1.2 Overview
 - 2.1.3 The archaeological and natural setting
 - 2.1.4 Stages of work and methodologies to be used
 - 2.1.5 List of specialists
 - 2.1.6 Programme of works and staffing structure of the project

3 SITE LOCATION

- 3.1 Ruskington is located approximately 6km north of Sleaford in the administrative district of North Kesteven, Lincolnshire. The proposed development area, approximately 16m x 30m in extent lies just to the east of the village centre, on the north side of Holme Lane, close to its junction with Station Road, at National Grid Reference TF 08480 50936.

4 PLANNING BACKGROUND

- 4.1 Outline planning permission (N/52/0785/03) has been sought for residential development of the site, comprising one bungalow. Archaeological evaluation is required in order to provide information to assist in the determination of the application.

5 SOILS AND TOPOGRAPHY

- 5.1 The site lies on fairly level ground at approximately 12m OD. Soils at the site are Ruskington Association gleyic brown calcareous earths developed on glaciofluvial sand and gravel (Hodge *et al.* 1984, 304).

6 ARCHAEOLOGICAL OVERVIEW

- 6.1 Archaeological sites discovered in Ruskington include complete Early Bronze Age Beaker burials found only 60m southeast of the current proposed development site. Middle to Late Saxon settlement remains were also identified. The extents of both the prehistoric funerary remains and Saxon settlement are unknown. Elsewhere in Ruskington evidence for Roman occupation, an Early Saxon cemetery and medieval settlement has been identified.

7 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- 7.1 The aim of the work will be to gather sufficient information for the archaeological curator to be able to formulate a policy for the

management of the archaeological resources present on the site.

- 7.1.1 The objectives of the work will be to:
- 7.1.2 Establish the type of archaeological activity that may be present within the site.
- 7.1.3 Determine the likely extent of archaeological activity present within the site.
- 7.1.4 Determine the date and function of the archaeological features present on the site.
- 7.1.5 Determine the state of preservation of the archaeological features present on the site.
- 7.1.6 Determine the spatial arrangement of the archaeological features present within the site.
- 7.1.7 Determine the extent to which the surrounding archaeological features extend into the application area.
- 7.1.8 Establish the way in which the archaeological features identified fit into the pattern of occupation and land-use in the surrounding landscape.

8 LIAISON WITH THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL CURATOR

- 8.1 Prior to the commencement of the trial trenching the arrangement of the interventions (excavations) will be agreed with the archaeological curator to ensure that the proposed scheme of works fulfils their requirements.

9 TRIAL TRENCHING

9.1 Reasoning for this technique

- 9.1.1 Trial trenching enables the *in situ* determination of the sequence, date, nature, depth, environmental potential and density of archaeological features present on the site.
- 9.1.2 The trial trenching will consist of the excavation of a single trench measuring 10m x 1.6m. The trench may be widened and stepped-in should archaeological deposits extend below 1.2m depth. Augering may be used to determine the depth of the sequence of deposits present.

9.2 General Considerations

- 9.2.1 All work will be undertaken following statutory Health and Safety requirements in operation at the time of the investigation.
- 9.2.2 The work will be undertaken according to the relevant codes of practice issued by the Institute of Field Archaeologists (IFA). *Archaeological Project Services* is an IFA Registered Archaeological Organisation (No. 21).
- 9.2.3 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.
- 9.2.4 Excavation of the archaeological features exposed will only be undertaken as far as is required to determine their date, sequence, density and nature. Not all archaeological features exposed will necessarily be excavated. However, the investigation will, as far as is reasonably practicable, determine the level of the natural deposits to ensure that the depth of the archaeological sequence present on the site is established.
- 9.2.5 Open trenches will be marked by hazard tape attached to road irons or similar poles. Subject to the consent of the archaeological curator, and following the appropriate recording, the trenches, particularly those of excessive depth, will be backfilled as soon as possible to minimise any health and safety risks.

9.3 Methodology

- 9.3.1 Removal of the topsoil and any other overburden will be undertaken by mechanical excavator using a toothless ditching bucket. To ensure that the correct amount of material is removed and that no archaeological deposits are damaged, this work will be supervised by Archaeological Project Services. On completion of the removal of the overburden, the nature of the underlying deposits will be assessed by hand excavation before any further mechanical excavation that may be required. Thereafter, the trenches will be cleaned by hand to enable the identification and analysis of the archaeological features exposed.
- 9.3.2 Investigation of the features will be undertaken only as far as required to determine their date, form and function. The work

will consist of half- or quarter-sectioning of features as required and, where appropriate, the removal of layers. Should features be located which may be worthy of preservation *in situ*, excavation will be limited to the absolute minimum, (*ie* the minimum disturbance) necessary to interpret the form, function and date of the features.

9.3.3 The archaeological features encountered will be recorded on Archaeological Project Services pro-forma context record sheets. The system used is the single context method by which individual archaeological units of stratigraphy are assigned a unique record number and are individually described and drawn.

9.3.4 Plans of features will be drawn at a scale of 1:20 and sections at a scale of 1:10. Should individual features merit it, they will be drawn at a larger scale.

9.3.5 Throughout the duration of the trial trenching a photographic record consisting of black and white prints (reproduced as contact sheets) and colour slides will be compiled. The photographic record will consist of:

- the site before the commencement of field operations.
- the site during work to show specific stages of work, and the layout of the archaeology within individual trenches.
- individual features and, where appropriate, their sections.
- groups of features where their relationship is important.
- the site on completion of field work

9.4 Should human remains be encountered, they will be left *in situ* with excavation being limited to the identification and recording of such remains. If removal of the remains is necessary the appropriate Home Office licences will be obtained and the local environmental health department informed. If relevant, the coroner and the police will be notified.

9.5 Finds collected during the fieldwork will be bagged and labelled according to the individual deposit from which they were recovered ready for later washing and analysis.

9.6 The spoil generated during the investigation will be mounded along the edges of the trial trenches with the topsoil being kept separate from the other material excavated for subsequent backfilling.

9.7 The precise location of the trenches within the site and the location of site recording grid will be established by tape or EDM survey.

10 ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

10.1 If appropriate, during the investigation specialist advice will be obtained from an environmental archaeologist. The specialist will visit the site and will prepare a report detailing the nature of the environmental material present on the site and its potential for additional analysis should further stages of archaeological work be required. The results of the specialist's assessment will be incorporated into the final report

11 POST-EXCAVATION AND REPORT

11.1 Stage 1

11.1.1 On completion of site operations, the records and schedules produced during the trial trenching will be checked and ordered to ensure that they form a uniform sequence constituting 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: the colour slides will be labelled and mounted on appropriate hangers and the black and white contact prints will be labelled, in both cases the labelling will refer to schedules identifying the subject/s photographed.

11.1.2 All finds recovered during the trial trenching will be washed, marked, bagged and labelled according to the individual 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.

11.2 Stage 2

11.2.1 Detailed examination of the stratigraphic matrix to enable the determination of the various phases of activity on the site.

11.2.2 Finds will be sent to specialists for identification and dating.

11.3 Stage 3

11.3.1 On completion of stage 2, a report detailing the findings of the investigation will be prepared. This will consist of:

- A non-technical summary of the results of the investigation.

- A description of the archaeological setting of the site.
- Description of the topography and geology of the investigation area.
- Description of the methodologies used during the investigation and discussion of their effectiveness in the light of the results
- A text describing the findings of the investigation.
- Plans of the trenches showing the archaeological features exposed. If a sequence of archaeological deposits is encountered, separate plans for each phase will be produced.
- Sections of the trenches and archaeological features.
- Interpretation of the archaeological features exposed and their context within the surrounding landscape.
- Specialist reports on the finds from the site.
- Appropriate photographs of the site and specific archaeological features or groups of features.
- A consideration of the significance of the remains found, in local, regional, national and international terms, using recognised evaluation criteria.

12 ARCHIVE

- 12.1 The documentation, finds, photographs and other records and materials generated during the investigation will be sorted and ordered into the format acceptable to the City and County Museum, Lincoln. This sorting will be undertaken according to the document titled *Conditions for the Acceptance of Project Archives* for long-term storage and curation.

13 REPORT DEPOSITION

- 13.1 Copies of the investigation report will be sent to: the client; the North Kesteven Planning Archaeologist; North Kesteven District Council Planning Department; and the Lincolnshire County Sites and Monuments Record.

14 PUBLICATION

- 14.1 A report of the findings of the investigation will be submitted for inclusion in the journal *Lincolnshire History and Archaeology*. Notes or articles describing the results of the investigation will also be submitted for publication in the appropriate national journals: *Medieval Archaeology* and *Journal of the Medieval Settlement Research Group* for medieval and later remains, and *Britannia* for discoveries of Roman date.

15 CURATORIAL MONITORING

- 15.1 Curatorial responsibility for the project lies with the North Kesteven Planning Archaeologist. They will be given written notice of the commencement of the project to enable them to make appropriate monitoring arrangements.

16 VARIATIONS TO THE PROPOSED SCHEME OF WORKS

- 16.1 Variations to the scheme of works will only be made following written confirmation from the archaeological curator.
- 16.2 Should the archaeological curator require any additional investigation beyond the scope of the brief for works, or this specification, then the cost and duration of those supplementary examinations will be negotiated between the client and the contractor.

17 SPECIALISTS TO BE USED DURING THE PROJECT

- 17.1 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: Dr D Knight, Trent and Peak Archaeological Trust

	Roman: B Precious, independent specialist
	Anglo-Saxon: J Young, independent specialist
	Medieval and later: H Healey, independent archaeologist; or G Taylor, APS
Other Artefacts	J Cowgill, independent specialist; or G Taylor, APS
Human Remains Analysis	R Gowland, independent specialist
Animal Remains Analysis	Environmental Archaeology Consultancy; or P Cope-Faulkner, APS
Environmental Analysis	Environmental Archaeology Consultancy
Radiocarbon dating	Beta Analytic Inc., Florida, USA
Dendrochronology dating	University of Sheffield Dendrochronology Laboratory

18 PROGRAMME OF WORKS AND STAFFING LEVELS

- 18.1 Fieldwork is expected to be undertaken by 2 staff, a supervisor and assistant, and to take two (2) days.
- 18.2 Post-excavation analysis and report production is expected to take 5 person-days within a notional programme of 5 days. A project officer or supervisor will undertake most of the analysis, with assistance from the finds supervisor and CAD illustrator. Specialist time is allotted in the project budget.
- 18.3 Contingency
- 18.3.1 Contingencies have been specified in the budget. These include: environmental sampling/analysis of waterlogged remains; pump (not expected as no evidence of waterlogging previously identified in this area); Roman pottery (none expected); Anglo-Saxon pottery (small quantity expected); Medieval pottery- moderate-large quantities (small amount expected and allowed for); faunal remains -moderate quantities (small amounts expected and allowed for); Conservation and/or Other unexpected remains or artefacts.
- 18.3.2 Other than the pump, the activation of any contingency requirement will be by the archaeological curator (North Kesteven Planning Archaeologist), not Archaeological Project Services.

19 INSURANCES

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

20 COPYRIGHT

- 20.1 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.
- 20.2 Licence will also be given to the archaeological curators to use the documentary archive for educational, public and research purposes.
- 20.3 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.
- 20.4 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.

21 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

Appendix 2

CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

No.	Description	Interpretation
001	Feature extending beyond limit of excavation but possibly sub-round, 0.55m by over 0.22m in extent and 0.24m deep with steep sides and concave base	Small pit or substantial post hole
002	Soft, dark slightly reddish-brown, very slightly clayey silty sand with frequent gravel, 0.20m thick	Fill of small pit or substantial post hole [001]
003	Soft, dark brown, very slightly clayey silt and sand with occasional pebbles, and more frequent pebbles at junction with subsoil (004), also occasional small fragments of coal, 0.30m thick	Topsoil of former garden
004	Soft dark very slightly reddish-brown, very slightly clayey silty sand with frequent gravel, 0.20m thick	Subsoil layer
005	Loose mottled, light whitish-yellow, yellow, yellowish-brown and light grey sand and gravel, mainly pea gravel but also some pebble-sized particles, sand is largely medium to coarse grained, over 0.20m thick	Natural layer of calcareous sand and gravel
006	Feature extending beyond limit of excavation but possibly northwest-southeast aligned linear. Over 1.70m by over 1.50m in extent and 100mm deep, with flattish, irregular base	Possible shallow linear feature (plough furrow?) or area of deeper subsoil (004)
007	Soft dark greyish-brown silty sand with frequent gravel, 0.10m thick	Fill of possible shallow linear feature [006]
008	Soft and friable dark very slightly olivey- greyish-brown silty sand with occasional charcoal flecks, frequent limestone pebbles, 0.20m thick	Fill of small pit or substantial post hole [009]
009	Feature extending beyond limit of excavation but possibly sub-rectangular with rounded corners, 0.62m by over 0.43m in extent and 0.20m deep with steep sides and concave base	Small pit or substantial post hole
010	Soft and friable dark slightly olivey- greyish-brown mottled with dark grey silty sand with frequent small limestone pebbles and occasional charcoal flecks, 30mm thick	Fill of doubtful post hole [011]
011	Sub-circular feature, 0.25m in diameter, 30mm deep with a concave base	Doubtful post hole, more likely a natural hollow
012	Soft and friable dark, slightly olivey- greyish-brown with some darker grey mottles, silty sand with frequent small limestone pebbles, 0.10m thick	Fill of possible post hole [013]
013	Sub-circular feature, 0.22m in diameter and 0.10m deep with steep sides and a concave base	Possible post hole
014	Soft and friable dark, slightly olivey- greyish-brown silty sand with occasional charcoal flecks and frequent small limestone pebbles, 0.17m thick	Fill of pit or substantial post hole [015]
015	Feature extending beyond limit of excavation but possibly sub-rectangular with rounded corners, over 0.63m by over 0.48m in extent and 0.17m deep with fairly steep sides and a gently concave base	Pit or substantial post hole
016	Unstratified finds from machining	
017	Concrete slab path, over 18m long, 90mm thick and 0.66m wide	Garden path
018	Sub-rounded feature, 0.30m in diameter and 60mm deep with convex to flat base	Doubtful post hole, more likely a natural hollow
019	Soft dark greyish-brown silt and sand with frequent gravel, 60mm thick	Fill of doubtful post hole [018]
020	Irregular to sub-rounded feature, 0.55m by 0.45m in diameter and 70mm deep with undulating to convex base	Doubtful post hole or small pit, more likely a natural hollow
021	Soft dark greyish-brown silt and san with frequent gravel, 70mm thick	Fill of doubtful post hole or small pit [020]

Appendix 3

THE FINDS

by Paul Cope-Faulkner, Hilary Healey, Jennifer Kitch, Gary Taylor & 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. One fragment of pottery weighing 3g was recovered. In addition to the pottery, a small quantity of other artefacts, tile and stone, comprising 9 items weighing a total of 1732g, was retrieved. Faunal remains were also recovered.

The excavated animal bone assemblage comprises 6 stratified fragments and 2 of unstratified bone weighing 306g. The animal bone was identified by reference to published catalogues. No attempt is made to sex or age animals represented within the assemblage, although where this is readily apparent is noted in the comments column.

Provenance

The material was recovered from:

- (010), the fill of doubtful post hole [011]
- (003), topsoil
- (014), the fill of pit or substantial post hole [015]
- (016), unstratified finds from machining
- (002), the fill of pit or substantial post hole [001]

It is likely that the tile was made in the vicinity of Ruskington. The pottery is probably a Lincoln product.

Range

The range of material is detailed in the tables.

Table 1: Pottery

Context	Fabric Code	Description	No.	Wt (g)	Context Date
010		Iron Age or Saxon	1	3	Iron Age or Saxon

Table 2: Other Artefacts

Context	Material	Description	No.	Wt (g)	Context Date
003	CBM	Tile, fine pale pink-orange fabric, slight reduced core, 12-17mm thick	2	130	
014	Stone	Burnt stone	1	1135	
016	CBM	Tile, fine pale pink-orange fabric, 1 with slight reduced core, 15-17mm thick, late medieval	3	62	
	CBM	Tile, pale yellow-pink fabric, 17mm thick, late medieval?	1	131	
	CBM	Tile, pinkish fabric, slightly reduced core, 15mm thick, late medieval	1	69	
	Stone	Burnt stone	1	205	

Note: CBM = Ceramic Building Material

The tile has the same character (fine fabric, light coloured firing) as that seen at nearby Haverholme Priory and is considered to of contemporary late medieval date.

Table 3: The Faunal Remains

Context	Species	Bone	No.	Wt (g)	Comments
002	Domestic Fowl	Humerus	1	2	Juvenile
	Large Mammal Size	Long Bone	1	16	Possible carnivore gnawing on the shaft
	Unidentified	Unidentified	1	1	
014	Cattle	Mandible	1	149	
	Sheep/Goat	Metatarsal	1	2	
	Mussel	Shell	1	1	
016	Cattle	Phalanx I	1	32	
	Cattle	Humerus	1	103	Single chop mark on the head

The faunal remains assemblage is too small to provide detailed information on animal husbandry and utilisation, save the presence of the species.

In addition to the recovered materials, a quantity of dressed masonry was observed in an overgrown rockery and photographed but not removed. Amongst the photographed pieces are two window heads, one a monolithic lintel for a single window, the other providing half the arches for two adjacent openings. Both are Perpendicular with 4-centre arches with concave triangular spandrels and are likely to be 15th century. Another piece appears to be part of a pinnacle, with a socket to take a surmounting stone, and is also Perpendicular in style. The gablets are topped by short horizontal part-round shafts. A pyramidal apex stone, almost certainly from this pinnacle, was also noted. Another stone has, on its curved face, blind tracery in the form of a three-light Perpendicular window and may also be of this period. A corbel, carved with a face, was also observed and is of medieval date.

A further piece of stone, a chamfered ashlar block, is topped by figural work in the form of 4 animals, probably dogs, standing on their hind legs. An iron bar or pipe sticks out of the back of one of these emaciated-looking animals and their material is noticeably different from the stone of the ashlar block they stand on. It is thought this figure is perhaps moulded concrete and possibly the pedestal of a fountain of 19th-20th century date.

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 Ruskington that are the subjects of reports. Details of archaeological sites and discoveries in the area are maintained in the files of the North Kesteven Planning Archaeologist and the Lincolnshire County Council Sites and Monuments Record.

Potential

Although there is a moderate amount of late medieval roof tile, no other artefacts of comparable date were found during the investigation. Therefore, although the tile would generally indicate structures in the vicinity, it is possible that any buildings in the area were not domestic, or that the tile was imported to the site. The stonework in the rockery at the site is predominantly high medieval in date and is likely to have derived from Haverholme Priory, only 3km to the southeast, or another redundant ecclesiastical site in the proximity. In consequence of the uncertain derivation of the artefacts the assemblage is of limited local potential and significance.

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

Appendix 4

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 interpretation 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].
Cropmark	A mark that is produced by the effect of underlying archaeological or geological features influencing the growth of a particular crop.
Cut	A cut refers to the physical action of digging a posthole, pit, ditch, foundation trench, etc. Once the fills of these features are removed during an archaeological investigation the original 'cut' is therefore exposed and subsequently recorded.
Domesday Survey	A survey of property ownership in England compiled on the instruction of William I for taxation purposes in 1086 AD.
Early English	Division of English Gothic architecture dating from c.1190-1250.
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) that become contained by the 'cut' are referred to as its fill(s).
Geophysical Survey	Essentially non-invasive methods of examining below the ground surface by measuring deviations in the physical properties and characteristics of the earth. Techniques include magnetometry and resistivity survey.
Iron Age	A period characterised by the introduction of Iron into the country for tools, between 800 BC and AD 50.
Layer	A layer is a term used 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.
Mesolithic	The 'Middle Stone Age' period, part of the prehistoric era, dating from approximately 11000 - 4500 BC.
Manuring Scatter	A distribution of artefacts, usually pottery, created by the spreading of manure and domestic refuse from settlements onto arable fields. Such scatters can provide an indication of the extent and period of arable agriculture in the landscape.
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.
Old English	The language used by the Saxon (q.v.) occupants of Britain.

Palaeolithic	The 'Old Stone Age' period, part of the prehistoric era, dating from approximately 500000 - 11000 BC in Britain.
Post hole	The hole cut to take a timber post, usually in an upright position. The hole may have been dug larger than the post and contain soil or stones to support the post. Alternatively, the posthole may have been formed through the process of driving the post into the ground.
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.
Ridge and Furrow	The remains of arable cultivation consisting of raised rounded strips separated by furrows. It is characteristic of open field agriculture.
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
Till	A deposit formed after the retreat of a glacier. Also known as boulder clay, this material is generally unsorted and can comprise of rock flour to boulders to rocks of quite substantial size.

Appendix 5

THE ARCHIVE

The archive consists of:

- 1 Daily record sheet
- 20 Context records
- 1 Context register sheet
- 1 Photographic record sheet
- 1 Plan record sheet
- 1 Section record sheet
- 2 Levels sheets
- 4 Sheets of scale drawings
- 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: 2005.123

Archaeological Project Services Site Code: RHL05

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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