Conservation Services

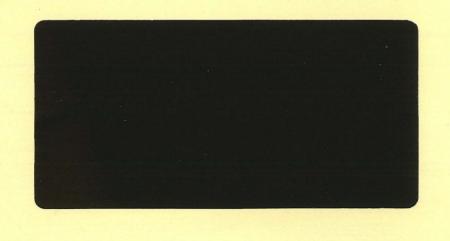
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Highways & Planning Directorate

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF ON GROUNDWORKS AT MANOR FARM, FIR TREE LANE, SUDBROOK, LINCOLNSHIRE. (SMF 05)



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ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF ON GROUNDWORKS AT MANOR FARM, FIR TREE LANE, SUDBROOK, LINCOLNSHIRE. (SMF 05)

Work Undertaken For W.E. Smith & Son

October 2005

Report Compiled by Steve Williams BA (Hons) PIFA

National Grid Reference: SK 9739 4468 City and County Museum Accession No: 2005.92

ARCHAEOLOGICAL PROJECT SERVICES



APS Report No. 159/05

Quality Control
Archaeological Watching Brief
at
Manor Farm,
Fir Tree Lane,
Sudbrook, Ancaster,
Lincolnshire
(SMF05)

Project Coordinator	Gary Taylor		
Supervisor	Steve Williams		
Illustration	Steve Williams		
Photographic Reproduction	Sue Unsworth		
Post-excavation Analyst	Steve Williams		

Checked by	Pro	ject Mar	ager	-	Approve	ed by Senior/Arch	aeologist	
Gary Taylor			26) _		1/m	То	m Lane
Date: 28	10	105			Date:	31-10-05		

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1. SUMMARY

A watching brief was undertaken during groundworks at Manor Farm, Fir Tree Lane, Sudbrook, Lincolnshire. The watching brief monitored soil stripping for the creation of a farmyard and access trackway.

Prehistoric and later remains have been identified in the vicinity. Southeast of the village a Mesolithic (8,500-4,200BC) flint scatter has been found. At the northeastern corner of the proposed development area a greenstone axe of Bronze Age date (2200-800BC) was discovered, while just west of the village a gold torc originating from the same period was found.

Iron Age and Romano-British remains are also well attested in the village and nearby. Immediately west of the site a granary of Roman date (AD42-410) was discovered, while to the south remains of a Roman marching camp are known.

However, the watching brief revealed a sequence of natural deposits and agricultural soils only. There were no archaeological features present. No finds were recovered or recorded during this watching brief.

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 may be disturbed or destroyed." (IFA 1999).

2.2 Planning Background

Archaeological Project Services (APS) was commissioned by W.E. Smith & Son to undertake an archaeological watching brief during groundworks associated with a new farmyard and access trackway at Manor Farm, Fir Tree Lane, Sudbrook, Approval for Lincolnshire. development was sought through the submission of planning application S04/1269/02. The watching brief was carried out on the 7th June 2005 in accordance with a specification prepared by APS and approved by the South Kesteven Planning Archaeologist (Appendix 1).

2.3 Topography and Geology

Sudbrook is located within the parish of Ancaster, approximately 9km southwest of Sleaford and 10km northeast of Grantham in the South Kesteven district of Lincolnshire (Fig.1).

Manor Farm is at the southeastern corner of Sudbrook and the site, part of land belonging to the farm, is about 300m east of the village. Located on the north side of Fir Tree Lane and bounded to the east by a farm track, the development area, part of field OS 4067, is centred on national grid reference SK 9739 4468 (Fig. 2).

The site is on a gentle south-facing slope at 50m OD and on the west side of a north-south stream valley.

The site lies at the junction of soils of the Elmton 1 Association brown rendzinas on limestone to the east, with Wickham 2 Association stagnogleys on drift over clay shales immediately to the west (Hodge *et al.* 1984).

2.4 Archaeological Setting

Sudbrook, together with West Willoughby, is part of the parish of Ancaster and lies in an area of known archaeological remains

dating from the prehistoric period and later. Mesolithic flint scatters have been found in the vicinity. At the northeastern corner of the proposed development site itself, a Bronze Age greenstone axe was recovered. A gold torc of the same period has also been found nearby. Iron Age and Roman archaeology is well represented throughout nearby Ancaster, most notably with an extensive Iron Age settlement and also the Ermine Street Roman road, while to the immediate south of the site is a marching camp. Previous Roman investigations at Manor Farm itself, about 300m to the west, revealed part of a Roman granary or malthouse and a medieval ditch (Snee 2003).

Sudbrook is first mentioned in the Pipe Rolls of 1168. Referred to as *Suggebroch*, the name is derived from the Old English *Sugge* and *broch* and means the 'brook where sparrows are found' (Cameron 1998).

The village and its surrounding lands were held by the de Vesci family until the reign of Henry III during the middle ages (Trollope 1872).

Sudbrook Hall dates from 1610 with later 18th and 19th century additions (Pevsner and Harris 1989).

By 1773 the village was enclosed with the rest of Ancaster parish (Trollope 1872).

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

The area was machined down to an

archaeological level using a 360° tracked machine with a toothed bucket. The stripped surfaces were examined for the presence of archaeological remains. Additionally, where possible, sections were hand cleaned and made 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 1. 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.

The records were also checked and a stratigraphic matrix produced. Phasing was assigned based on the nature of the deposits and recognisable relationships between them.

5. RESULTS

5.1 Description of the results

Following post-excavation analysis two phases were identified:

Phase 1 Natural deposits Phase 2 Modern deposits

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

Area 1, the location of the new farmyard area revealed a maximum topsoil (001) coverage of just 0.04m over natural limestone gravels (004).

At the base of the excavations on the route of the access track, Area 2, was a layer of light brown silty clay with occasional orange lenses of sand and sub-rounded limestone fragments (003). Of variable

thickness, this is considered to be natural, perhaps colluvium (Fig.4). Overlying this was (002), a light brown sandy silt which contained sparse sub-angular limestone fragments. Also of varying thickness, this is interpreted as subsoil and was sealed by a brown silty, sandy, clay topsoil (001).

6. DISCUSSION

All deposits encountered during this watching brief were natural soils. There may be several reasons for the lack of archaeology within the areas investigated. The land appears to have always been used for agriculture, a practice that can leave little trace in the archaeological record and which can also erase earlier remains. There is also the possibility that any archaeology present may have been subject to natural processes such as hill wash, and the access route, which climbs out of the stream valley by the site, seems to be in an area where colluviation has occurred. This could have dispersed evidence such as artefacts further down slope and possibly also masked archaeological remains.

7. CONCLUSION

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken during development at Manor Farm, Fir Tree Lane, Sudbrook, Lincolnshire, as the site lay within a landscape known to contain archaeology dating from the prehistoric period and later. However, no archaeological remains or artefacts were identified during the investigation.

8. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeological Project Services wish to acknowledge the assistance of W.E. Smith & Son who commissioned the fieldwork and post-excavation. The work was coordinated by Gary Taylor who, along with Tom Lane, edited this report. Jenny

Young, the South Kesteven Planning Archaeologist, kindly permitted access to the parish archaeological files maintained by Heritage Lincolnshire.

9. PERSONNEL

Project Coordinator: Gary Taylor Site Supervisor: Steve Williams Photographic reproduction: Sue Unsworth Illustration: Steve Williams Post-excavation analysis: Steve Williams

10. BIBLIOGRAPHY

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11. ABBREVIATIONS

APS Archaeological Project Services

IFA Institute of Field Archaeologists

OD Ordnance Datum (height above sea level)



Figure 1: General Location Plan

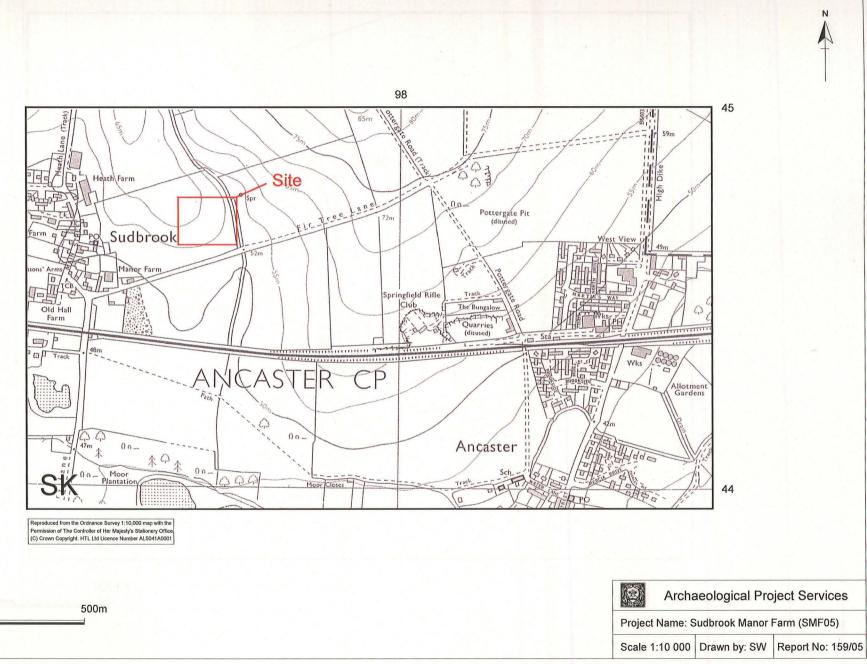


Figure 2 Site Location Map

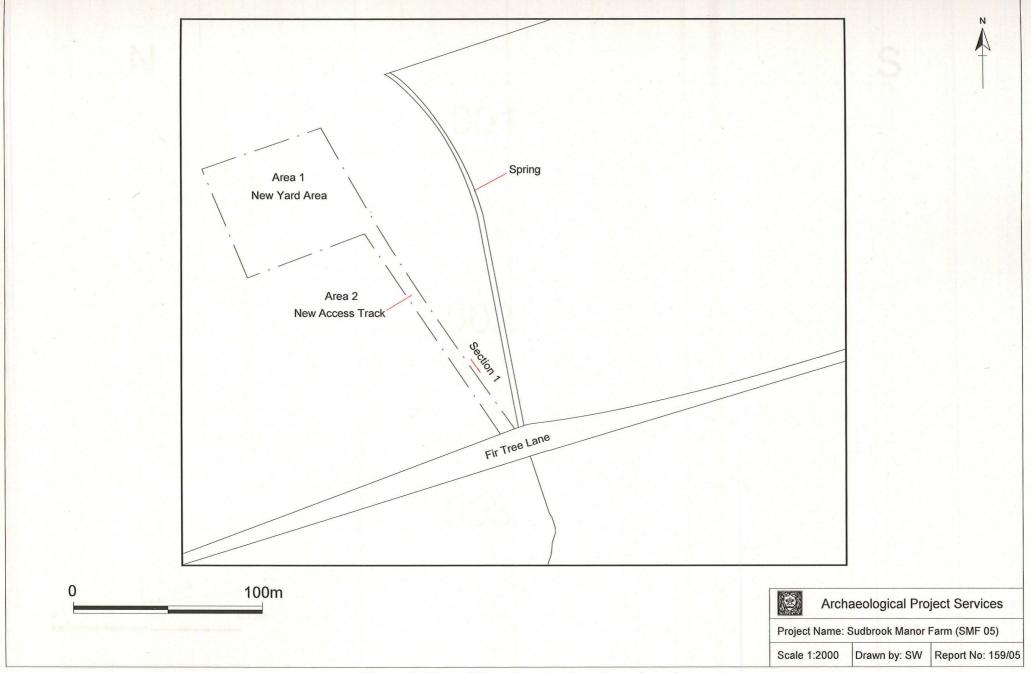


Figure 3 Plan of Site showing location of section

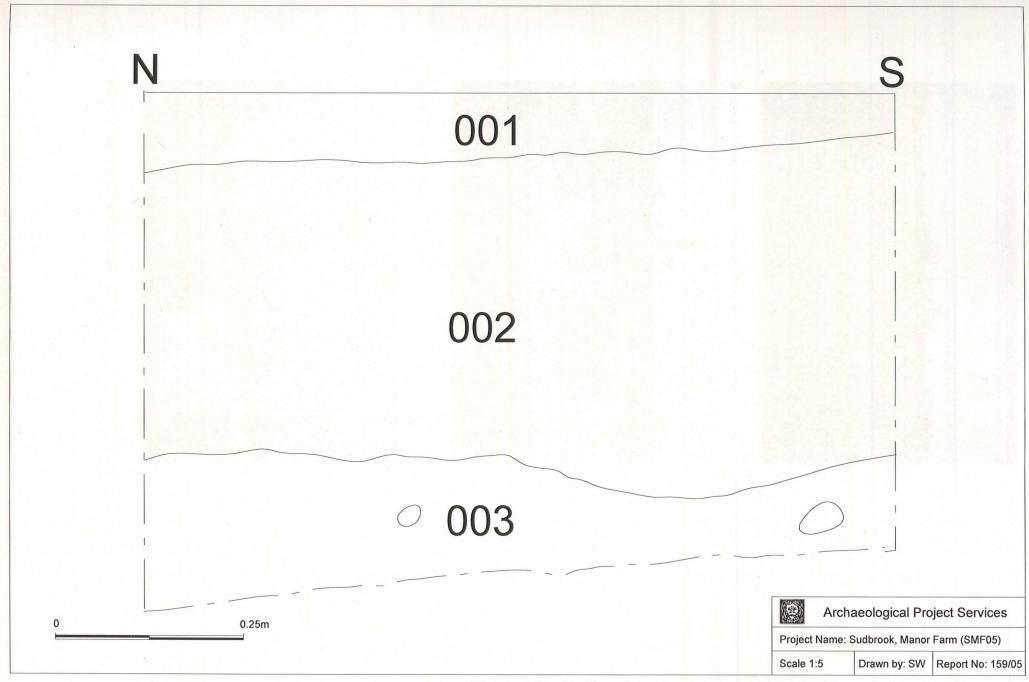


Figure 4 Section 1



Plate 1 North facing view of Area 1



Plate 2 North facing view of Area 2



Plate 3 Section 1, looking east

LAND AT MANOR FARM, FIR TREE LANE, SUDBROOK, LINCOLNSHIRE

SPECIFICATION FOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

PREPARED FOR W. E. SMITH & SON

BY
ARCHAEOLOGICAL PROJECT SERVICES
Institute of Field Archaeologists'
Registered Organisation No. 21

NOVEMBER 2004

SUMMARY

- 1.1 A watching brief is required during the construction of a new farmyard at Manor Farm, Fir Tree Lane, Sudbrook, Lincolnshire.
- 1.2 The area is archaeologically sensitive, lying in an area where prehistoric, Roman and Saxon remains have been found. A Roman military camp and undated human remains have also been found close by.
- 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 relocation of a farmyard at Manor Farm, Fir Tree Lane, Sudbrook, 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 Ancaster is located 10km northeast of Grantham in the South Kesteven district of Lincolnshire. Sudbrook is a hamlet about 1km northwest of Ancaster. The works are to take place about 300m east of the hamlet, in the eastern part of the field OS4067, on the north side of Fir Tree Lane at National Grid Reference SK 9739 4468.

4 PLANNING BACKGROUND

4.1 A planning application (S04/1269/02) was submitted to South Kesteven District Council for the proposed relocation of a farmyard. Permission is subject to a condition requiring the implementation of a continuous archaeological watching brief during groundworks.

5 SOILS AND TOPOGRAPHY

The site is on gentle slope down to the south at approximately 50m OD, and lies on the west bank of a stream. The site is at the junction of soils of the Elmton 1 Association brown rendzinas on limestone to the east, with Wickham 2 Association stagnogleys on drift over clay shales immediately to the west (Hodge *et al.* 1984, 179; 351).

6 ARCHAEOLOGICAL OVERVIEW

6.1 The site for the proposed development lies in an area of archaeological importance/interest. Sudbrook, together with West Willoughby is part of the parish of Ancaster. Ancaster itself sits

astride the major Roman road, Ermine Street, and has extensive archaeological remains, not only from the former Roman town and marching camp, but also from an extensive Iron Age settlement. There have been a number of other prehistoric finds in the area; flints, beaker sherds and part of a bucket urn. This all indicates that there has been much human activity in this area for a substantial time.

6.2 The development site lies in a known area of archaeological interest, as a number of artefacts (dating particularly from the prehistoric period) have been recovered from the immediate locality. On the proposed development site itself at the northeastern corner, a Bronze Age greenstone axe was recovered. Only about 250m to the southeast is the Roman Marching camp, and further south, undated human remains were uncovered during drainage work in 2000. To the west of the site, a scatter of finds has been recovered including a number of flint scrapers. Most remarkable was the discovery of a Late Bronze Age torc, a type of necklace. Previous investigations at Manor Farm itself, about 300m to the west, revealed part of a Roman granary or malthouse and a medieval ditch (Archaeological Project Services 2003).

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 stripping of the site and any excavations or other types 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 <u>Methodology</u>

- 8.2.1 The watching brief will be undertaken during the ground works phase of development, and includes the continuous archaeological monitoring of all phases of soil movement.
- 8.2.2 Stripped areas and trench sections will be observed continuously 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 field work will be washed, marked and packaged according to the deposit from which they were recovered. Any finds requiring specialist treatment and conservation will be sent to the Conservation Laboratory at the City and County Museum, Lincoln.

9.2 Stage 2

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

9.3 Stage 3

- 9.3.1 On completion of stage 2, a report detailing the findings of the watching brief will be prepared.
- 9.3.2 This will consist of:
 - 9.3.2.1 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 South Kesteven Planning Archaeologist; South Kesteven 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 South Kesteven 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.
- 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.
- 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.

Task Body to be undertaking the work

Conservation Conservation Laboratory, City and County Museum, Lincoln

Pottery Analysis Prehistoric - Trent & Peak Archaeological Trust

Roman - B Precious, Independent Specialist

Anglo-Saxon - 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

- 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, 2003 Archaeological Evaluation on land at Manor Farm, Main Street, Sudbrook, Lincolnshire (MHS03), APS Report No: 185/03

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

Specification: Version 1, 25-11-04

CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

No	Section No	Description	Interpretation
001	1	Loose, mid brown silty loam 0.04m thick.	Topsoil.
002	1	Moderate, light brown 'dirty' sandy silt with occasional sub-rounded limestone fragments (0.45m), up to 0.45m in thickness.	Subsoil.
003	1	Soft, light brown silty clay with occasional sub-rounded limestone fragments (0.50m) and lenses of mid orange sand, in excess of 0.20m.	Colluvium/natural.
004		Loose, irregular shaped limestone gravels (0.75m).	Natural.

GLOSSARY

Anglo-Saxon Pertaining to the period when Britain was occupied by peoples from northern Germany, Denmark and adjacent areas. The period dates from approximately AD 450-1066.

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

Colluvium Deposits transported downhill by gravity or rainwater and built up at the bases of slopes. When influenced by rainfall this is also known as hill wash (q, v).

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].

Hill wash Soils carried down-slope by rainwater action. A type of colluvium (q.v.).

A period characterized by the introduction of Iron into the country for tools, between 800 BC and AD 50.

Layer A layer is 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.

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

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

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

Prehistoric The period of human history prior to the introduction of writing. In Britain the prehistoric period lasts from the first evidence of human occupation about 500,000 BC, until the Roman invasion in the middle of the 1st century AD.

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

THE ARCHIVE

The archive consists of:

4 - Context records

1 - Photographic record sheet

0 - Plan sheets
1 - Section sheet

1 - Stratigraphic matrix

0 - Bag of finds

All primary records 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

Lincolnshire City and County Museum Accession Number: 2005.92

Archaeological Project Services Site Code: SMF05

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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