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ARCHAEOLOGICAL DESK TOP ASSESSMENT AND PHASE I FIELD  
EVALUATION

STATION ROAD, SWINESHEAD,  
LINCOLNSHIRE

PRE-CONSTRUCT ARCHAEOLOGY (Lincoln)

Site Code: SRS95  
CCM Accession Number: 52.95



CONTENTS

# STATION ROAD, SWINESHEAD

AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT AND PHASE I  
EVALUATION REPORT

FOR

MORLEY NEWBORN  
(ON BEHALF OF GEOFF GILBERT INTERNATIONAL  
LTD.)

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May 1995

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## **1.0 Non-technical summary**

Geoff Gilbert International Ltd propose to construct an agricultural distribution centre on land on the north-west side of the village of Swineshead, Lincolnshire. The rectangular proposal site measures approximately 4.0 hectares in extent and lies immediately adjacent to the north-west bank of the New Hammond Beck (Fig. 1).

The archaeological potential of the site is considered to be moderate or low, despite the relatively close proximity of cropmark sites and surface scatters which are documented in the Sites and Monuments Record.

Site-specific surface artefacts were collected and assessed as part of this study (the results of which are considered below in Section 7.0), though the overall finds count is considered to be low; suggesting either that the site contains few or no buried remains, or that such remains (if present) lie beneath modern plough penetration depths, possibly beneath primary impact levels associated with the proposed development.

The central National Grid Reference is TF 227 420

## **2.0. Introduction**

This desk top study was commissioned by Morley Newborn (Architectural Technicians) on behalf of their Clients, Geoff Gilbert International Ltd., in advance of development on land on the north-east side of Station Road, Swineshead, Lincolnshire (Figs 1 and 2). The commission was requested to fulfil a planning requirement issued by Boston Borough Council.

The report was researched and written between April 18th and May 10th, 1995, by Colin Palmer-Brown of Pre-Construct Archaeology (Lincoln). Research included a visual inspection of the site; inspection of the Sites and Monuments Record (SMR) held at the City & County Museum, Lincoln; records held by the Boston Community Archaeologist; the Local Studies Library, Lincoln and the Lincolnshire Archives Office. Aerial photographic cover-searches were requested from Cambridge University Dept. of Aerial Photography, and were requested at the Sites and Monuments Record, Lincoln. Relevant published and unpublished records held by Pre-Construct Archaeology were also consulted as part of the assessment.

The site was field walked in 20m grids and the results of this survey are considered in section 7.0 below.



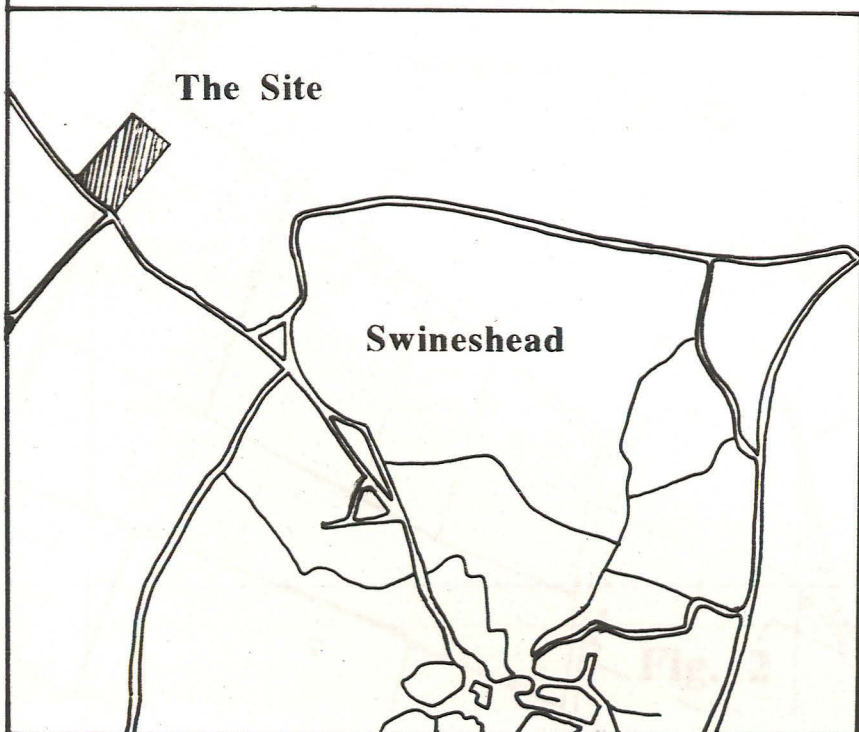


Fig. 1: Site Location Map



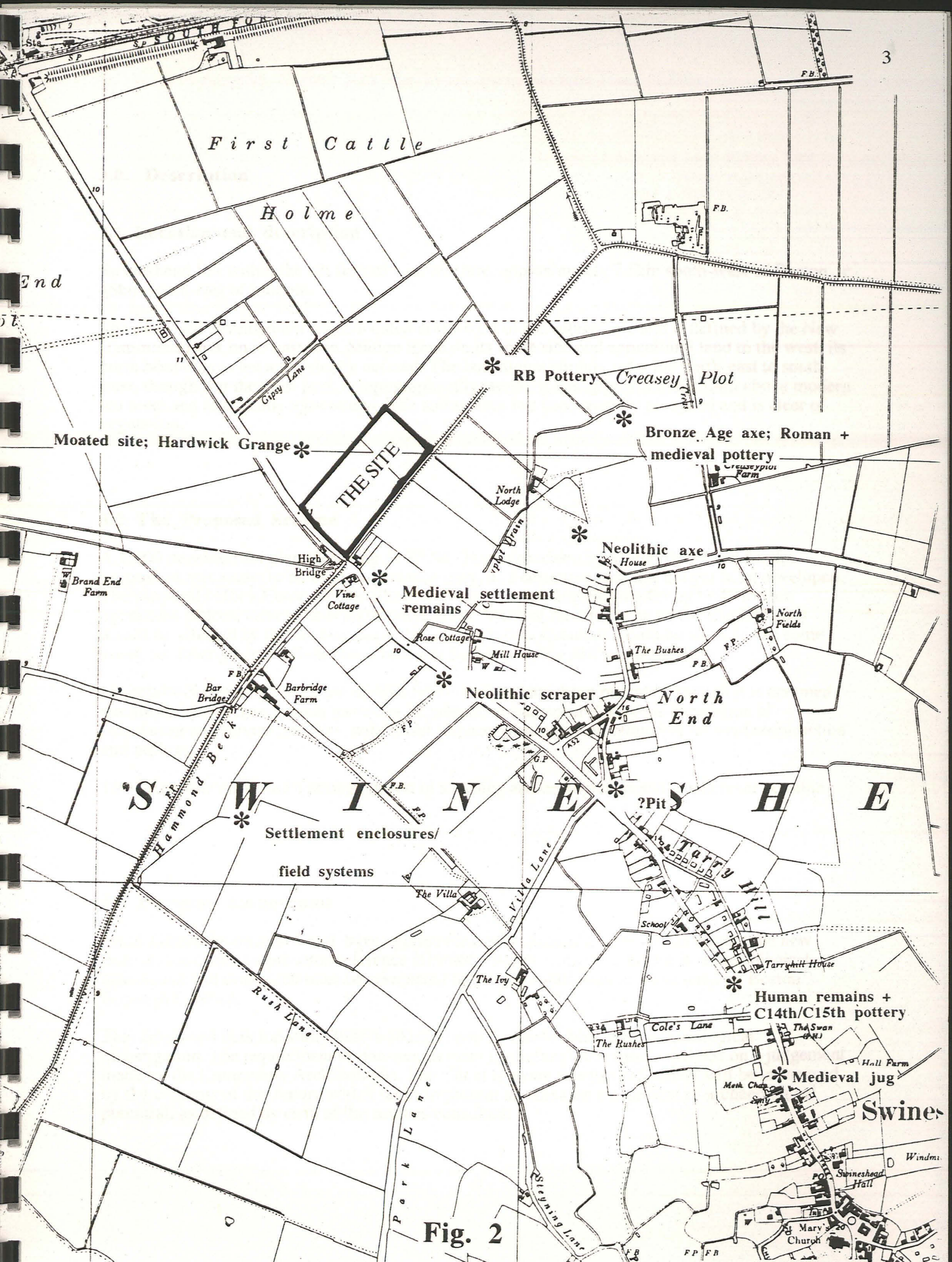


Fig. 2

1:10,000 map extract incorporating information contained in the Sites and Monuments Record and records held by the Boston Community Archaeologist



### 3.0. Description

#### 3.1 Location and description

Swineshead lies within the silt fens of Lincolnshire, approximately 7.5km south-west of Boston, c. 45km south-east of Lincoln.

The proposed development site is located north-west of the village core and is defined by the New Hammond Beck on its east side, Station Road on its south side and agricultural land to the west: its north boundary is not a physically defined. The land slopes slightly from the north-east to south-west, though, for the most part, is topographically sterile. It lies approximately 3.4m above modern sea level and is currently agricultural. The soil surface has been recently ploughed and is clear of vegetation.

#### 3.2 The Proposed Scheme

A 1:500 development plan (Drawing 1152: 94: 3) was provided by Morley Newborn for the purpose of this study; to be used as guidance only, as a definitive plan has not yet been developed. The proposal is for a European Distribution Centre, comprising parking for up to 40 lorries, operations offices, vehicle bays and storage areas. Much of the site (as an archaeological unit) would be affected by the development, though impacts to resources would be variable - in some areas, for example, provisions are to be made for landscaping and tree planting.

No details concerning the nature of foundation designs have been provided, though it is assumed that impacts to archaeological resources (if present) would occur during the excavation of foundation and service trenches, with lesser impacts during ground reduction for road construction and parking.

The Client has expressed a strong interest in avoiding archaeological remains wherever possible.

### 4.0 Planning background

Geoff Gilbert International Ltd. have applied for outline planning consent to construct the new distribution centre (application reference B19/0663/94). It is understood that an archaeological assessment and evaluation must be completed before the application is determined by Boston Borough Council.

This combined desk top study/field walking report forms two phases of archaeological investigation. The requirement or non-requirement for further intervention will rest on a judgement made by the Community Archaeologist. The Client is aware that this judgement will be influenced by the contents of this report, which seeks to present an unbiased assessment of archaeological potential, as defined by each of the sources consulted.



#### 4.1 Archaeology in Boston and the Local Development Plan (LDP)

Boston Borough Council recognises the importance of archaeological resources and has included within its LDP (Draft 1993), conditions regarding the protection or otherwise of buried deposits in association with the granting of planning permission (Sections C 11-13). The LDP states: "One important factor to be taken into consideration in evaluating development proposals is the impact on archaeological deposits". The Borough also recognises that, in cases where a site "contains archaeological deposits of particular importance it will normally be expected that those deposits should remain undisturbed by development." The document continues: "However where the development proposal is clearly of greater value to the community than the preservation of archaeological remains, or where the minor proposals will involve minimal damage, planning permission may be granted. When planning permission is granted it may be necessary to safeguard the archaeological interest."

The Boston LDP mirrors advice contained in a Department of the Environment document, "Planning Policy Guidance: Archaeology And Planning (PPG16)." This identifies the need for early consultation in the planning process to determine the impact of construction schemes upon buried archaeological deposits".

The current report forms two phases within a process of elimination. Using the results of the assessment and, where necessary, evaluation procedures, an informed decision on the requirement (or otherwise) for further archaeological intervention may be taken. Where archaeology remains a requirement, beyond desk-top stage, further management strategies for safeguarding the archaeological resource may be developed, including; preservation *in situ* (usually the preferred option by all interested parties); excavation (preservation by record), or a recording brief.

#### 4.2 Report Objectives

This report aims to identify and assess archaeological deposits which may be threatened by construction works associated with the proposed development. It will, in essence, gather sufficient information to provide interested parties with a set of data from which a reasoned judgement may be made regarding future archaeological resource management. Desk-top assessment is the first stage in a common process of archaeological investigation and may be procedurally followed by further assessments, exploratory trial work or a watching brief within a defined area. In the case of this study, it was suggested that archaeological field walking should form part of the overall assessment strategy; and therefore be presented as part of an integrated account.

#### 4.3 Methods

The assessment is based largely on data contained within the Sites and Monuments Record (SMR) held at the City & County Museum, Lincoln, and records held by Boston Community Archaeologist. Other data has been derived from records held by the Lincolnshire Archives Office and the Local Studies Library, Lincoln, as well as published and unpublished accounts held by Pre-Construct Archaeology (Lincoln). Requests were made to the University of Cambridge Aerial Photographic Library for vertical and oblique cover searches. Other sources relating to the geological, historical, and archaeological heritage of Swineshead have also been consulted.

#### 5.0 Geology and topography

The infilling of the Fen basin since the retreat of the last ice sheets, approximately 10,000 years ago, has been sporadic, fluctuatory and subject to the influences of a complex set of palaeogeographic, riverine and marine variables (Lane, 1993). The Pre-Flandrian land surface lies, in many instances, beneath thick beds of marine silt and alluvium, with intermittent peat horizons indicative of drier



phases. There have been successive phases of marine transgression and regression following an initial rise in sea level after the last glaciation, and each of these phases has left its own mark in the geological record. However, the timing of individual events, and the extent to which these events were physically expressed is a matter of some debate and therefore falls beyond the scope of this report.

The Fen basin of today bears little resemblance to that of yesteryear. Attempts to drain land within the Fens have taken place since at least the Roman and medieval periods, though the major effort came during the 17th and 18th centuries (Robinson, 1993). Not until the early 19th century, however, were the Lincolnshire Fens completely drained.

Like much of the surrounding terrain, the Swineshead site is set within a largely flat landscape, where the height above sea level is little over 4.0m. However, the modern landscape often conceals an earlier landscape, aspects of which have been exploited in times past.

## 6.0 The archaeological and historical background

The archaeological record for Swineshead has been developed largely as a result of voluntary field survey and collection. Systematic field research has been limited and widespread judgements regarding historical development in this part of the fens may be based largely on supposition and comparison with other, better-studied, areas.

### 6.1 Pre-Roman

Prehistoric sites/finds are poorly represented in the County Sites and Monuments Record. Surface finds have been recorded east of the proposal site (a Bronze Age axe and two, widely-spaced Neolithic artefacts) but the general record is sparse. However, experience in other areas of the fens has demonstrated that early sites can lie masked beneath deep beds of marine silt (in Fishtoft, for example, the site of Foggertys Factory produced Roman artefacts some 10 feet below the modern ground surface).

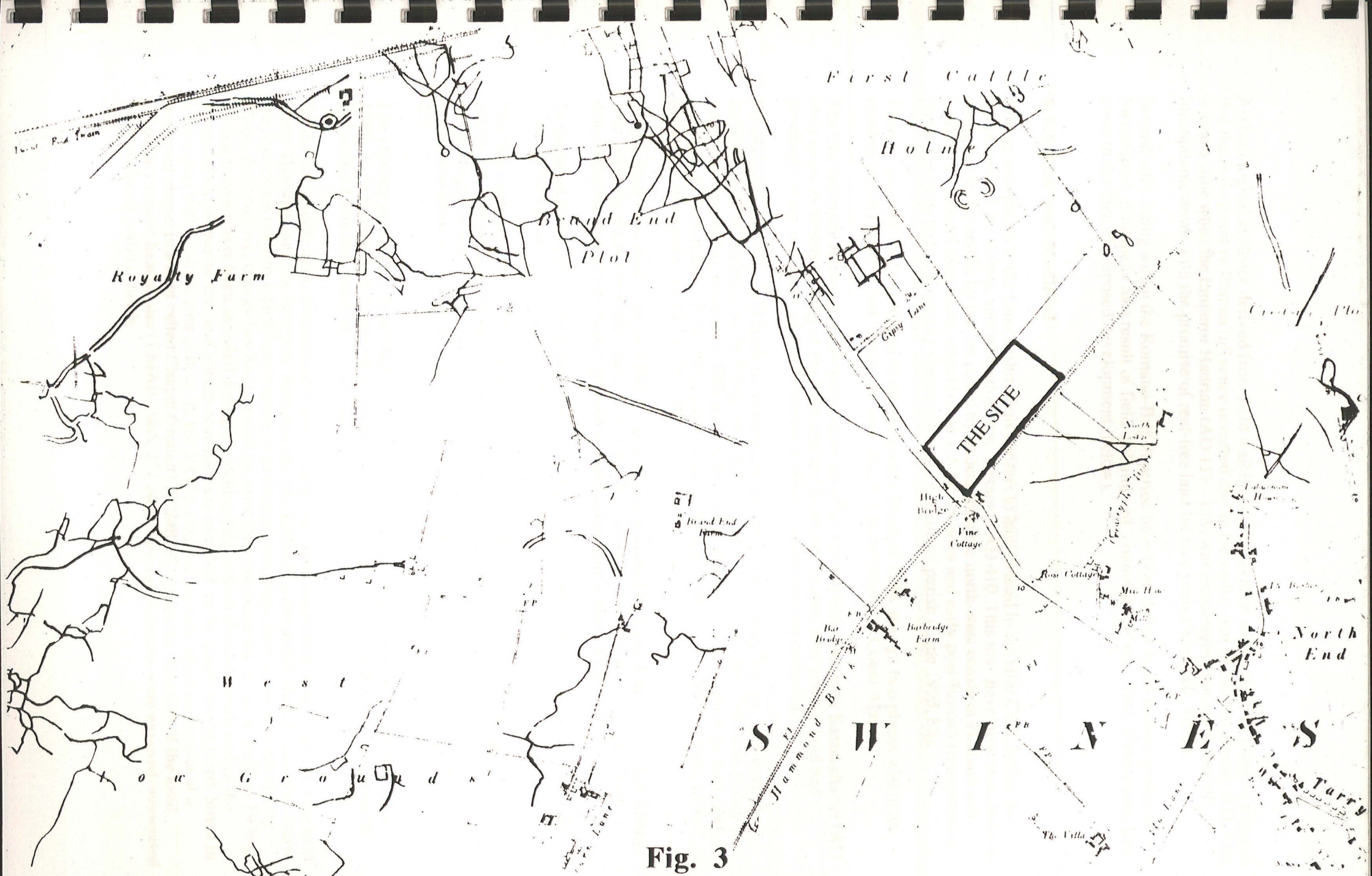
There are no known cropmarks of prehistoric or any other date on the site. Cover searches were requested from Cambridge University, and collections held at the Sites and Monuments Record were also consulted, as were those held by the Boston Community Archaeologist; to no avail.

### 6.2 Roman

There are claims that, in contrast with the preceding Iron Age period (where settlement appears to have focused largely on the western Fen edge) the Fens were more populous in the Roman period than at any other time. By approximately AD 100, there may have been more dry land available than there had been since before the Iron Age (Simmons 1993.). At this time, a period of marine regression almost certainly catalysed occupation deep within the Fens, perhaps for the first time in some areas.

The nature of Romano-British occupation in the Fens is quite distinct from that recorded in other parts of the region. There is little evidence of towns or villas, or of a military presence or extensive road systems. There is also no (archaeological) evidence of widespread cereal farming, despite claims made by some historians (*ibid*). It may be that salt procurement, processing and trade was a major stimulus behind this apparent increase in settlement density. Salt production in the Fens, which was of major importance during the Iron Age, appears to have continued throughout much of the Roman period, as it did in the post-Roman era. Aerial photographs of the area reveal a complex of relict tidal creeks (Fig. 3) which may have been the main sources of raw salt for processing.





**Fig. 3**

**1:10,000 plan of plotted cropmarks in site vicinity  
 (extracted from records held by the Boston Community Archaeologist)**



Archaeological evidence derived from field walking and excavation within the Fen margins suggests that the main thrust of Roman influence occurred during the earlier part of the 2nd century AD. This was at a time when the Emperor Hadrian (AD 117 - 138) was encouraging the settlement of inhospitable areas, with the promise of rent-free land for five years (Whitwell, 1992).

Several sites dating within the Romano-British period have been defied in the modern parish of Swineshead, principally as a result of field walking and 'chance discovery'. One of these sites lies close to the area of proposed development (below).

### 6.3 Saxon and Medieval

Roman occupation in the Lincolnshire fens appears to have ceased in the later C4th, before the withdrawal of the Roman administration from Britain in AD 410. This may have been stimulated by rising sea levels and/or by threats posed by raiders from the north-west coasts of Holland and Germany - Saxons (Simmons, unpublished.). A late Roman and early post-Roman transgression phase has been archaeologically documented in Swineshead parish (Lane 1993, 88).

There is no entry for Swineshead in the Domesday Book of 1086, though two places within the modern parish (Drayton and Stenning) were recorded as belonging to Count Alan.

The first historical reference to Swineshead occurs after AD 650 where an early Saxon charter (AD 664) refers to Wulfhere, king of the Mercians and Southern Angles, who granted land and privileges to the monastery of Medeshamstede (Peterborough) in Swynesheved.

Peterborough probably held lands in Swineshead before the Domesday Survey. However, the earliest record of any religious building does not occur until 1148 when the Cistercian Abbey was built. This was destroyed in the C18th and a farmhouse constructed from its ruins by the Lockton family c. 1773 (Green, c. 1910, 182). At the time of the dissolution of the Monasteries, 1536-7, the abbey had been valued at £175, 19s, 10d.

Claims have been made that, in 1216, King John was poisoned by a monk at Swineshead Abbey, after which he died at Newark Castle (*ibid*, 183). The authenticity of this claim has not been demonstrated, though was widely popularised in Shakespeare's play 'King John'.

Swineshead Abbey possessed at least two outlying granges. One of these, Hardwick, lies a short distance west of the proposed development site.

The Manwarings is a large, double-ditched, circular earthwork which lies close to the site of the abbey. Folklore implies that this was a Danish encampment though this has not been demonstrated archaeologically and it is possible the earthwork related more to the abbey itself. The traditional association between undated earthworks and 'Vikings' is common in many areas (Richards 1991, 23).

The existing parish church, St Mary's, can be traced to at least the C14th (Pevsner and Harris, 1989, 737). It is a notably large structure and would imply that, in the C14th, the population of Swineshead was also relatively substantial.

By the late middle ages, Swineshead was a wealthy and populous market town (markets were held every Thursday until the later post-medieval period). Excluding the parish church, however, there are few extant remains which bear witness to its former prosperity. One monument, the Stump Cross, does survive, though has been moved on more than one occasion (most recently in 1979). Buried remains have been sampled during a watching brief a short distance south-east of the proposed development site, and human remains were recorded on the south side of North Street in association with C14th/C15th pottery. In the 1960's, excavations took place on the site of a medieval chapel in a field called Chapel Ground (TF 248397) under the direction of the local secondary school headmaster (EMAB 1965, 27). Here, several skeletons were exposed, associated with medieval pottery sherds.



#### 6.4 Post-Medieval

By the early 18th century, much of the fenland had been drained, particularly in the south. New channels and dykes were added to an existing pattern of streams and slow-moving rivers. Opposition to these measures was expressed in some quarters because of the effect which fen drainage had on dairy farming (Beastall, 1978). These disagreements were nothing, however, in comparison with some opposition expressed during the later 18th and earlier 19th centuries. Fenmen, or 'Slodgers', as they were known, often filled-in the ditches which had been cut by the reclaimers (Wheeler, 1896).

Fen drainage schemes prior to 1740 had been either small-scale or had not affected Swineshead because they lay too far south. Not until the 1930's (when diesel and electrically-powered pumps were introduced) did the pumps along the drainage channels achieve real effectiveness.



By the early C19th, agriculture flourished (more than it had done in previous centuries) - Swineshead and other fenland parishes had not suffered from the C18th/19th Enclosure Acts in the same way that some upland villages had. The enclosure of Swineshead took place in 1774 (Holland Award 36).

By 1850, Swineshead had its own railway station. This allowed farmers to move their produce with greater ease. Unlike many fen villages, Swineshead possessed a school from 1780 onwards and a second school was built in 1879, with the two running together until the 1960's.

## **7.0 Archaeological field walking**

Agreement was reached between Pre-Construct Archaeology, the Client, and the Community Archaeologist that, as the site of proposed development is currently clear of vegetation and therefore suited to a field walking survey, that this phase of evaluation be incorporated as part of the wider desk-based study

### **7.1 Methodology**

The entire proposed development area was systematically walked (working within 20.0m grids) on April 18th, 1995 by two experienced field archaeologists. Their brief was to establish a base line, divide and number the whole site into 20.0m grid squares (with close gridding if appropriate), and to collect and bag surface finds. This was accomplished and the finds were washed and marked and subsequently taken to the City of Lincoln Archaeology Unit for specialist assessment (Appendix 2).

### **7.2 Results (Fig. 4)**

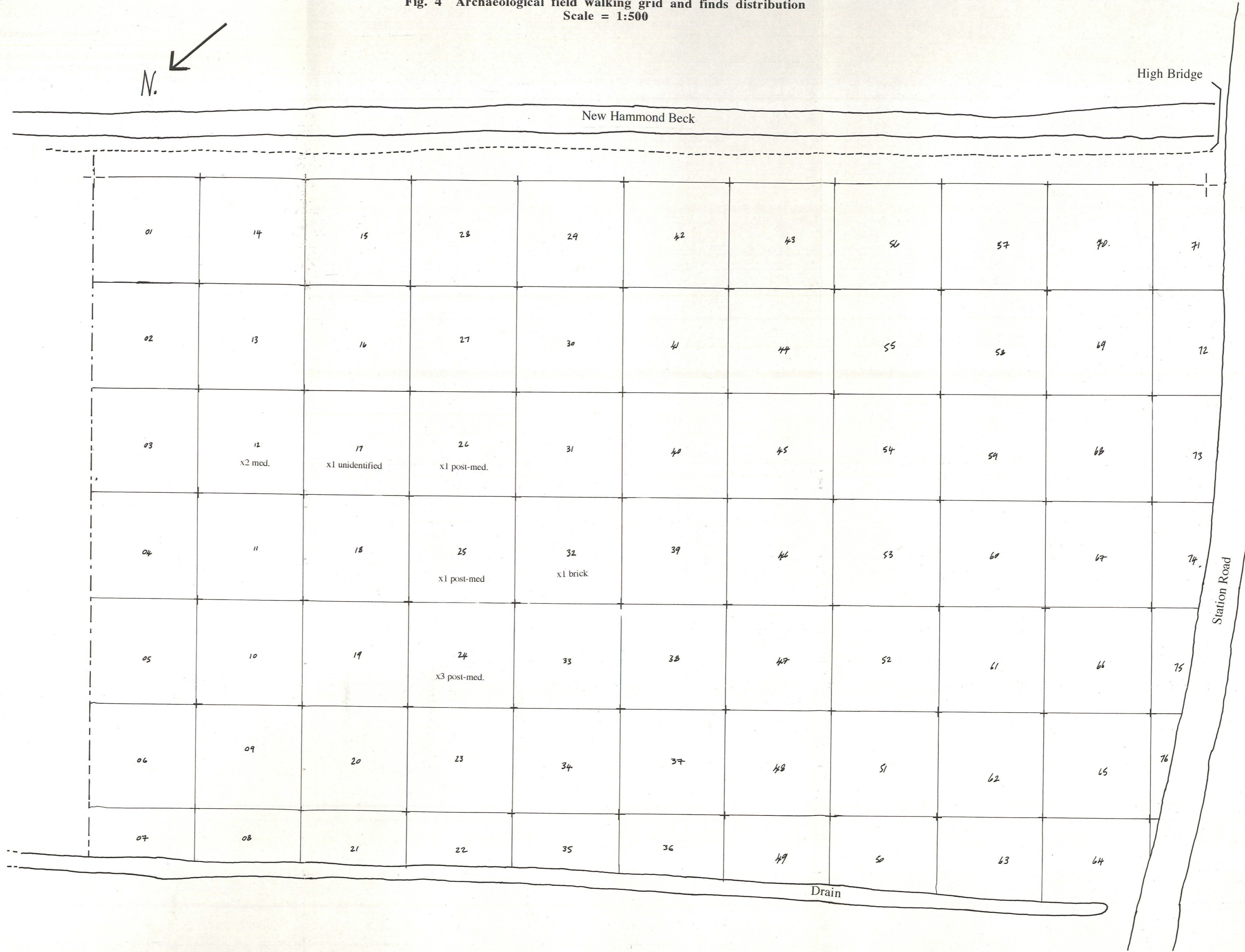
A finds count comprising seven pottery sherds, one tile fragment and one brick fragment were collected during the survey, as well as two fragments of unidentified metal (Appendix 2). The distribution of these finds is presented in Fig. 4, though it should be noted that the field workers were instructed not to collect sherds which were obviously late post-medieval/modern in date.

Apart from the very low finds count, it will be noted that not a single artefact dating within the Roman period was recovered. Finds that were recovered were generally heavily-abraded, suggesting the material had lain on the surface for some considerable period of time (by contrast, freshly-broken pottery is usually taken to indicate the presence of sub-surface remains which have been exposed to ploughing).

The 'assemblage' collected during the field walking study would imply there is a low likelihood of archaeological features being present on the site unless a) such features contain few or no cultural finds or b) they are too deeply-buried to be affected by ploughing (generally c. 25cm - 30cm).



Fig. 4 Archaeological field walking grid and finds distribution  
Scale = 1:500





## 8.0 Archaeological and archaeo-environmental potential

It is considered unlikely that archaeological deposits of prehistoric date will lie within the proposed development area. Usually in the Fens such remains are restricted to discreet topographical zones (eg sand/gravel islands) or lie masked beneath quantities of silt. If prehistoric horizons are present at Station Road, it is likely they will lie too deeply-buried to be affected by the development.

The scarcity of surface artefacts dating within the Romano-British period suggests either that there are few or no Roman remains on the site, or that these also lie deeply-buried and have not been truncated by ploughing. There may be some evidence to support the latter: approximately 200m north-east of the proposal site, surface artefacts were recorded adjacent to the New Hammond Beck; apparently following the clearing-out of that water course. When the finds were reported, it was suggested they came from a discreet geological interface between clay and silt (SMR ref. 12590/HTL ref. 19/032); possibly an ancient course of the River Witham.

Whilst the above interpretation remains tenuous, it is clear that there are Roman remains close to the proposed development site which would appear to lie masked beneath alluvial deposits of later periods (regrettably, the depth of the geological interface referred to was not recorded when the finds were made).

The project brief suggested that a Romano-British site lay on the edge of the proposal site. It should be noted, however, that some difficulty was experienced by several archaeological contractors in determining the precise area to be evaluated - tendering parties were not made aware in advance that the threatened area measured 4 hectares and not the suggested 9 hectares (which would indeed have placed the site noted in the brief on the edge of the proposal area).

For later periods (Saxon, medieval and post-medieval), the archaeological potential is considered to be low, though the occurrence of medieval settlement remains close to High Bridge (HTL ref. 19/044) suggests that some occupation on the (then) Sleaford Road frontage was taking place in the middle ages. The site also lies close to the earthworks of Hardwick Grange.

An inspection of the Enclosure map for Swineshead (Holland Award 36, 1744 ) indicates that, in the late C18th, the site was divided into two (possibly three) portions, though was then, as now, clear of buildings

## 9.0 Impacts to buried archaeological resources

Impacts to buried archaeological deposits, if present, are unlikely to have taken place within this development site as there are no widespread scatters of surface remains indicative of plough truncation.

As significant quantities of surface material were not recorded during recent field walking, it has been suggested above that any remains present would lie masked beneath beds of silt and alluvium - the deposits of marine transgression. As artefacts were brought to the surface during cleaning of the New Hammond Beck c. 200m north-east of the site, there remains a **possibility** that archaeological deposits could lie within the proposed development area which cannot be quantified on the basis of field walking alone. However, a question to be addressed is the likelihood/non-likelihood of such deposits being affected by development.



## 10.0 Mitigations

As stated above, the Boston Borough Council UDP contains procedural details for dealing with archaeological heritage. These procedures are based on advice contained within the Department of the Environment's *Planning and Policy Guidance; Archaeology and Planning* . (PPG 16), November 1990.

English Heritage in their recent publication (Wainwright. et al. 1991) have summarised the key points of this document:

- i)"that archaeological remains should be seen as a finite, non-renewable resource, in many cases highly fragile and vulnerable to damage and destruction;
- ii) that development plans should reconcile the need for development with the interests of conservation including archaeology - and that detailed development plans should include policies for the protection, enhancement and preservation of sites of archaeological interest and their settings:
- iii) that where nationally important remains, whether scheduled or not, and their settings are affected by proposed development, there should be a presumption in favour of their preservation - and that in such cases preservation by record (excavation) should be regarded as the second best option after physical preservation *in situ*;
- iv) that the needs of archaeology can be reconciled, and potential conflict very much reduced, if developers discuss their preliminary plans for development with the planning authority at an early stage (the PPG gives detailed guidance on how this can be achieved);
- v) that decisions by planning authorities on whether to preserve archaeological remains *in situ* in the face of proposed development are to be taken on merit, taking account of development plan policies and all other material considerations - including the importance of the remains - and weighing these against the need for development;
- vi) that planning authorities, when they propose to allow development which is damaging to archaeological remains, must ensure that the developer has satisfactorily provided for excavation and recording, either through voluntary agreement with the archaeologists or, in the absence of agreement, by imposing an appropriate condition on the planning permission."

Where archaeological features, as identified by the desk top study, are likely to be encountered, strategies should be developed to deal with them. These may include preservation *in situ*, by limiting the archaeological impact, redesigning building plans or raising floor levels, or preservation by record. If the latter is the favoured or apposite course for sub-surface deposits, archaeological trial excavations to assess the nature, depth, level of survival etc. may be conducted. This would usually involve the cutting of archaeological trenches in one or more locations, usually not exceeding 10% of the area to be developed.

The Department of the Environment's Planning Policy Guidance Note 16 states that, where preliminary research suggests survival of important archaeological remains,

"it is reasonable for the planning authority to request the prospective developer to arrange for an archaeological field evaluation to be carried out before any decision on the planning application is taken. This sort of evaluation is quite distinct from full archaeological excavation. It is normally a rapid and inexpensive operation, involving ground survey and small scale trial trenching, but it should be carried out by a professionally qualified archaeological organisation or archaeologist. Evaluations of this kind help to define the character and extent of the archaeological remains that exist in the area of a proposed development, and thus indicate the weight which ought to be attached to their preservation. They also provide information useful for identifying potential options for minimising or avoiding damage. On this basis, an informed and reasonable planning decision can be taken."



It continues,

"Local planning authorities can reasonably expect developers to provide this information as part of their application for sites where there is good reason to believe there are remains of archaeological importance. If developers are not prepared to do so, the planning authority may wish to consider whether it is appropriate to direct the applicant to supply further information under the provisions of Article 4 of the Town and Country Planning (Applications) Regulations 1988".

The results of trial work may lead to a redesign or realignment of the proposed scheme, further trial or survey work or open area archaeological excavations.

As stated above, the detailed construction design is not at present known though it is understood that a scheme involving high density housing is anticipated at the Swineshead site.

## 11.0 Conclusions

This report suggests that the site at Swineshead is one of moderate or low archaeological potential. After consulting a range of data (archaeological records, archive records, cartographic and published sources etc.), no significant body of material has emerged which would lead one to anticipate that there will be widespread disturbance to archaeological remains during development. Of the data consulted, the most significant record relates to an exposure of Roman artefacts some 200m north-east of the proposal site and undated waterlogged remains close to High Bridge.

A decision regarding the requirement or non-requirement to undertake additional archaeological work on the site must rest on a judgement made by the Community Archaeologist, not Pre-Construct Archaeology (Lincoln). However, in the opinion of the writer, there exists a slim range of evidence for suggesting the presence of significant *in situ* archaeological remains on the site of proposed development. That said, there must remain a **possibility** that deeply-buried remains have voided truncation by ploughing. The Client has indicated (informally) that there may be no requirement for deep foundation trenches. It is suggested, therefore, that the Community Archaeologist may wish to discuss overall foundation designs with the Client in the light of this report.



## 12.0 Acknowledgements

Pre-Construct Archaeology (Lincoln) would like to thank Morley Newborn for commissioning this report on behalf of their Clients, Geoff Gilbert International Ltd. Thanks are expressed to Jim Bonnor, the Community Archaeologist for Boston, for allowing access to his files, and to Mark Bennet, SMR Officer at the City and County Museum, Lincoln. Thanks also to Padraicin Ni Mhurchu of Cambridge University Dept. of Aerial Photography. Finally, thank you to Robert Schofield and Malcolm Otter for undertaking the field walking survey and to Jane Young (City of Lincoln Archaeology Unit) for assessing the finds.

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## 14.0 Appendices

## APPENDIX 1

**Information derived from the Sites & Monuments Record (SMR) held at the City & County Museum, Lincoln, and records held by the Boston Community Archaeologist**

Site grid ref.	SMR ref.	HTL ref.	Description
TF 22804150	12574	??	Flint scraper (Neolithic) in imported gravel?, 1976
TF 23114182	12570	19/030	Neolithic polished stone axe, found 1954
TF 23224211	12569	19/024	Bronze Age (?socketed) axe, found March, 1957. Also, Roman + medieval pottery
TF 23204210	12568	19/023	Scatter of Romano-British pottery discovered by Mr Frankish (now departed). Find spot = Creasey Plot
TF 23204210	12589	??	Medieval faceted pipkin handle
TF 242395	(P) - map	??	Large concentration of medieval pottery + occasional sherds of Romano-British and saltern material (??)
TF 1231231398	(N) - map	??	Scatter of Stamford ware pottery + Bourne type, Toynton, ?Saxo-Norman pot + bronze spoon
TF 236406	(P) - map	19/04	Complete medieval jug; brown glazed, green splashes
TF 24753965	(D) - map	??	Human remains; associated C16th/C17th pottery, tile, mould fragments. Site of St Adrian's Chapel (EMAB (1965), 27)
TF 223410	??	19/001	Soil marks (recorded on aerial photographs, CUCAP 1975); rectangular + linear - probably settlement enclosure and associated fields
TF 23754020	??	19/006	St Mary's Church
TF 221433	??	19/031	Romano-British grey ware pottery, colour coat + Samian ware
TF 229422 clearing-	12590	19/032	Romano-British pottery: reported after  out of the New Hammond Beck. Appears to have derived from a marked geological division between clay and silt and is possibly the



ancient			course of the River Witham
TF 235408	??	19/040	Human skeleton associated with C14th/C15th pottery. Found 4 feet beneath modern ground surface in sewer trench
TF 23204125	??	19/041	Possible pit discovered during watching brief; no associated finds
TF 23114240	??	19/043	Negative watching brief result
TF 226417	??	19//044	Pit-like feature; burnt deposits, pottery, bone (?x1 Potterhanworth-type sherd + 2 earlier fragments). Watching brief
TF 236407	??	19/045	Timber-framed mud and stud cottage destroyed. Medieval pottery found. ?Watching brief/survey.
TF 231399			Estevening Hall (site of)
TF 225420			Hardwick Grange (close to Old Hammond Beck)

### Aerial photography

Several aerial photographs (many without reference numbers) are held by the Boston Community Archaeologist (usually vertical cover). Those which covered the site currently being assessed were scrutinised: site-specific crop/soil marks or other distinguishing features were not detected.

There are linear cropmarks immediately east of the proposed development site and much of the surrounding terrain contains widespread evidence of former land use and extinct water courses.

The University of Cambridge photographic library was contacted and arrangements were made for a full cover-search on the site and its immediate setting. Only one photograph of relevance was contained in the archive (RC8 123); a black and white 1:10,000 vertical, taken in March 1976. Again, whilst it contains detailed information of a general nature, it contains little information of direct value to this study.



## Appendix 2

### SRS95: Assessment Report on the Post-Roman Pottery and Tile

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CLAU 15.5.95

#### 1. Introduction

A small group of seven sherds of post-Roman pottery, one fragment of tile and one fragment of brick were recovered from the site. The material was examined and recorded at basic CLAU archive level (ware type by sherd count with note of diagnostic vessel form and date) using CLAU classification.

#### 2. Condition

With the exception of the fragment of tile and the vitrified sherd the material was worn and consisted of tiny fragments. None of the vessels were represented by more than one sherd.

#### 3. Overall Chronology and Source

##### Medieval

The only sherd of medieval pottery from context 12 may possibly be a small fragment of a North French vessel (NFRE) of 13th century date.

##### Post-medieval

The remaining sherds are of post-medieval or modern date and include products of Bourne (BOU) and Toynton or Bolingbroke (TB). With the exception of one rim sherd that can be identified as a bowl the post-medieval material is too fragmentary to be diagnostic. The sherds can only be generally dated to between the 16th and the 18th centuries. The vitrified sherd is probably of 18th or 19th century date but cannot be identified further than this. The tile fragment is extremely interesting as the finished edges suggest a small object of possibly heart shape. Decoration consists of stabbed circular and star shaped holes forming the initial R framed by an arch with further decoration below.

#### 4. Further work

No further work is needed on this material.



SRS95 ARCHIVE: WARE TYPES BY CONTEXT NUMBER

Context	Ware	Sherds	Form	Comments
12	NFRE	1	-	? ID;OR ? STANLY;13TH
12	TILE	1	-	STABBED WITH 'R ' WITHIN DEC BORDER OF DOTS AND STARS; 17/18THC?
17	VITR	1	-	SHERD HAS BEEN WELL BURNT
24	TB	1	-	FRAG;UNGLZE;PMED
24	TB	1	-	FRAG;PMED
24	TB	1	-	FRAG;PMED
25	TB	1	BOWL	RIM;PMED FUEL ASH TYPE SLAG;? MODERN
26	BOU	1	-	? ID;REDUCED CORE;PMED
32	BRICK	1	-	



CLAU MEDIEVAL POTTERY CODES

Ware code	description	period	earliest horizon	latest horizon
BOU	BOURNE;FABRIC D	PMED	MH10	PMH4
NFRE	NORTH FRENCH FABRICS	EMED-MED	MH3?	MH5
TB	TOYNTON OR BOLINGBROKE-TYPE WARE	PMED	MH10?	PMH8
VITR	UNIDENTIFIED VITRIFIED SHERDS	ND	ASH1	EMH