

• **cambridgeshire** archaeology
• **archaeological field unit**



CCC AFU Report Number 866

**Land Adjacent to Northfields
Industrial Estate, Market
Deeping, Lincolnshire**

Archaeological Trial Trenching

Chris Thatcher BA

April 2006

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**Land Adjacent to Northfields
Industrial Estate, Market
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Archaeological Trial Trenching

Chris Thatcher BA

Lincolnshire
County Council
- 3 AUG 2006
Planning &
Conservation

Site Code: NIMD06
Date of works: 21-23rd March 2006
Grid Ref: TF 1426 1153

South Kestevan District Council Planning
Application No. SO5/0894/56

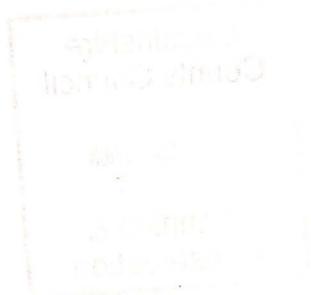
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*acknowledged receipt of rept to Jacobs Babbie (sender)
3/8/06 jonell*

Summary

An Archaeological Evaluation was conducted by Cambridgeshire County Council Archaeological Field Unit (CCC AFU) between 21st and 23rd March 2006 at the land adjacent to Northfields Industrial Estate, Market Deeping (TF 1426 1153) prior to the construction of new commercial properties with associated services and a car park. The development area comprised a 5.15ha parcel of land. The work was commissioned by Lincolnshire County Council.

CCC AFU were commissioned to mechanically excavate seven trenches (total area 280m²) in the development area. The evaluation uncovered a moderate sized ditch on an east to west alignment and a second ditch, which followed the same route, in Trench 5. A number of furrows, aligned northeast to southwest and natural features were also recorded. No finds were recovered from the features.



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Drawing Conventions

| Sections | Plans |
|--|---|
| Limit of Excavation ----- | Limit of Excavation _____ |
| Cut _____ | Deposit - Conjectured ----- |
| Cut-Conjectured ----- | Natural Features (dotted) |
| Soil Horizon _____ | Intrusion/Truncation ----- |
| Soil Horizon - Conjectured ----- | Sondages/Machine Strip ----- |
| Intrusion/Truncation ----- | Illustrated Section S.14 _____ |
| Top of Natural _____ | Excavated Segments |
| Top Surface _____ | Archaeological Deposit |
| Break in Section ----- | Furrow |
| Cut Number 118 | Natural Feature |
| Deposit Number 117 | Field Drain |
| Ordnance Datum $\frac{18.45m}{\times}$ ODN | Cut Number 118 |

1 Introduction

This archaeological evaluation was undertaken in accordance with a brief prepared by the South Kesteven Planning Archaeologist and is included in Appendix 2. Based on the requirements of this brief, an archaeological specification was prepared by Jacobs Babbie (Jacobs Babbie 2006). The methodology in the specification were agreed with the South Kesteven Planning Archaeologist

As specified in the Brief prepared by the South Kesteven Planning Archaeologist the general aim of the trial trenching was "to gather sufficient information to establish the presence/absence, extent, condition, depth, character, quality and date of any archaeological deposits in order to establish the impact of the development on the archaeological resource" (see Appendix 2). More specific aims and objectives were:

- to identify, investigate and record any such archaeological remains to the extent possible by the methods put forward in this Specification;
- to examine a representative sample of the any potential archaeological anomalies that may be identified by the geophysical survey and clarify the results of the survey;
- to test the remaining 'blank' areas to assess the potential for unrecorded archaeological remains within the development area;
- to determine (so far as possible) the stratigraphic sequence and dating of the deposits or features identified;
- establish any ecofactual and environmental potential of archaeological deposits and features;
- to disseminate the results through deposition of an ordered archive at the local museum, the deposition of a detailed report at the Sites and Monuments Record, and publication at a level of detail appropriate to the significance of the results.

The site archive is currently held by CCC AFU and will be deposited with the appropriate county stores in due course. The site has the museum accession code 2006.121 and Site Code NIMD06.

2 Planning Background

Archaeological geophysical survey and trial trenching were identified by the South Kesteven Planning Archaeologist as likely conditions of planning consent on the planning application for the development (application no. SO5/0894/56). As such, briefs for these works were prepared by the South Kesteven Planning Archaeologist. All works were informed by an archaeological desk based assessment (Jacobs Babbie 2005). The

geophysical survey was undertaken by Archaeological Services WYAS in February 2006 (ASWYAS 2006). None of the anomalies detected by the survey were interpreted by ASWYAS as being archaeological in origin. The archaeological trial trenching was undertaken by CCC AFU between 21 and 23 March 2006.

3 Geology and Topography

The site overlies Oxford clays and Kellaway Beds (British Geological Survey website 2005). Geotechnical borehole and trial pit data indicated that the topsoil deposits overlay silty clay, up to 1m thick in places, which in turn sealed sand and flint gravel deposits extending between 4m and 6m below ground level (Dempsey, 2006).

The topography of the area under investigation was broadly flat at approximately 4.50mOD with a recorded variation in height across the whole site of less than a metre.

4 Archaeological and Historical Background

The background in this report is drawn from the specification issued by Jacobs Babbie (Dempsey, 2006).

4.1 Prehistoric

A number of prehistoric sites and finds are recorded in close proximity to the site, which lies on the Fen edge; an area extensively occupied and exploited during the Neolithic and Bronze Age. The edge of Deeping Fen, 3km to the southeast, was the location of a particularly prominent barrow group and a Bronze Age barrow cemetery was excavated prior to the construction of Market Deeping Bypass. Other isolated finds have included several Neolithic/Bronze Age flints found to the east of the study area and a flint scraper recovered during the construction of the industrial buildings immediately adjacent to the west of the development area.

No Late Bronze Age or Iron Age remains are recorded in the vicinity, possibly as a result of periodic inundations caused by changing sea levels, or the shifting course of the River Welland, that may have rendered the development area uninhabitable during that time.

4.2 Roman

Several scatters of Roman artefacts recorded to the south and southeast of the development area were indicative of possible settlement in the vicinity. There was evidence for a Roman presence nearby in the form of field



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Figure 1: Site location showing position of trenches (black) and development area (red)

systems and a fairly significant Roman settlement at Priors Meadow approximately 2km to the southeast.

4.3 Saxon

The only direct evidence for Saxon settlement in the town of Market Deeping is a 10th/11th century grave cover incorporated into the south porch of the church of St Guthlac. The name 'Deepings', however, is probably derived from the Anglo-Saxon *Deoping*, a "deep or low place".

The first literary reference to the Deepings, a document that claimed Deeping was given to the Abbey of Crowland by the King of Mercia, has been dated to the 9th century. The Deepings are also listed in the Domesday Book (1086) as an agricultural landscape comprised of fisheries and meadowland under the divided ownership of Alvred of Lincoln, Godfrey de Cambrai and Crowland Abbey.

4.4 Medieval

Medieval pottery sherds and evidence of ridge and furrow earthworks have been recorded in the vicinity of the development area. A geophysical survey conducted by Archaeological Services (WYAS) suggested the presence of ridge and furrows within the development area.

Market Deeping itself is first mentioned in the 1412 Calendar of Patent Rolls as 'Markydeping' but the agricultural landscape only began to expand during the Late Medieval period as the flooding of the River Welland was brought under control by the construction of banks to the south and east of the town.

4.5 Post-Medieval

The London to Lincoln road brought prosperity to Market Deeping during the early Post-Medieval period but by the late 19th century the town's lack of a railway station meant its fortunes had reversed and a period of decline set in.

5 Methodology

The objective of this evaluation was to determine as far as reasonably possible the presence/absence, location, nature, extent, date, quality, condition and significance of any surviving archaeological deposits within the development area.

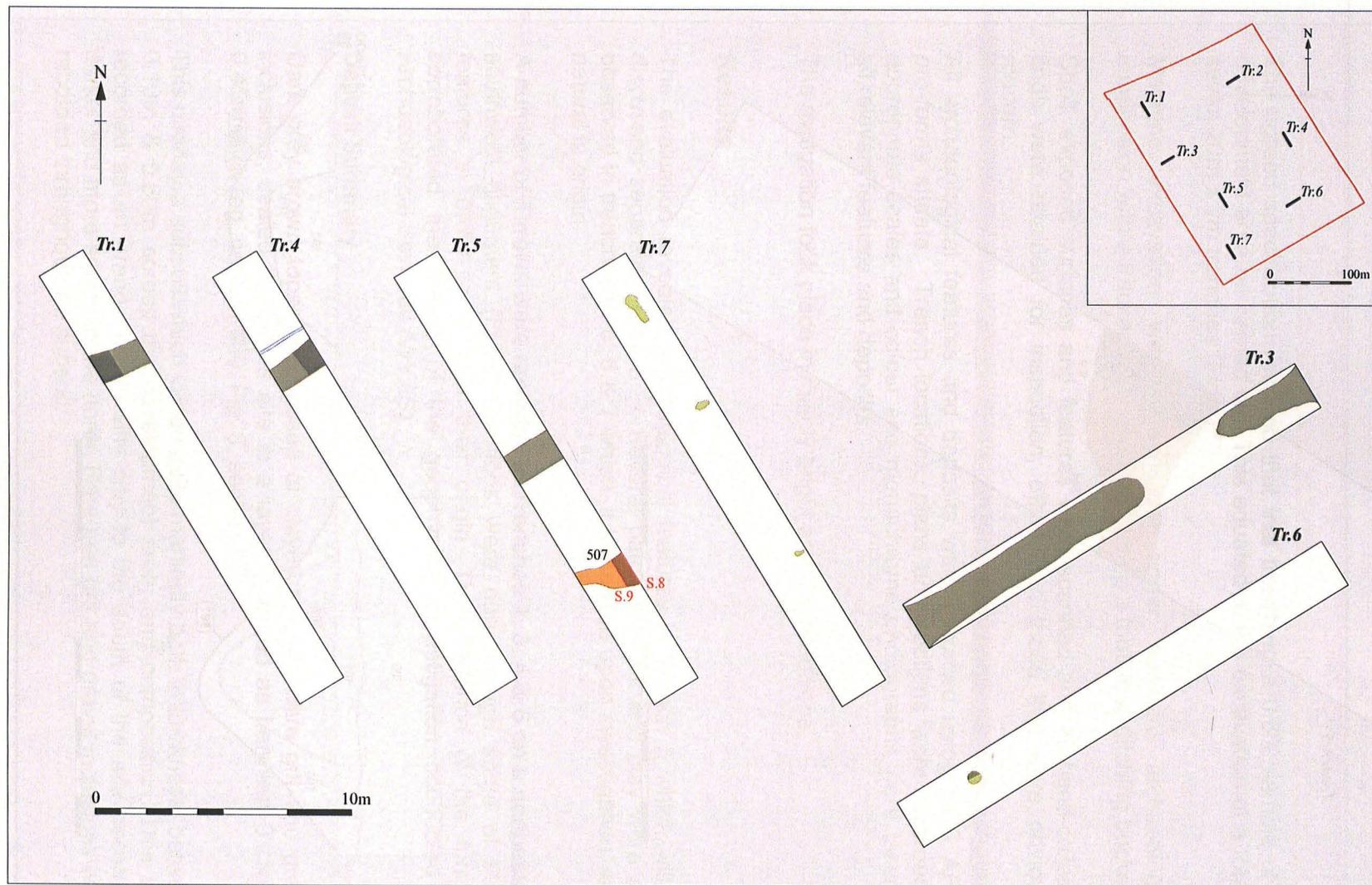


Figure 2: Trench plan

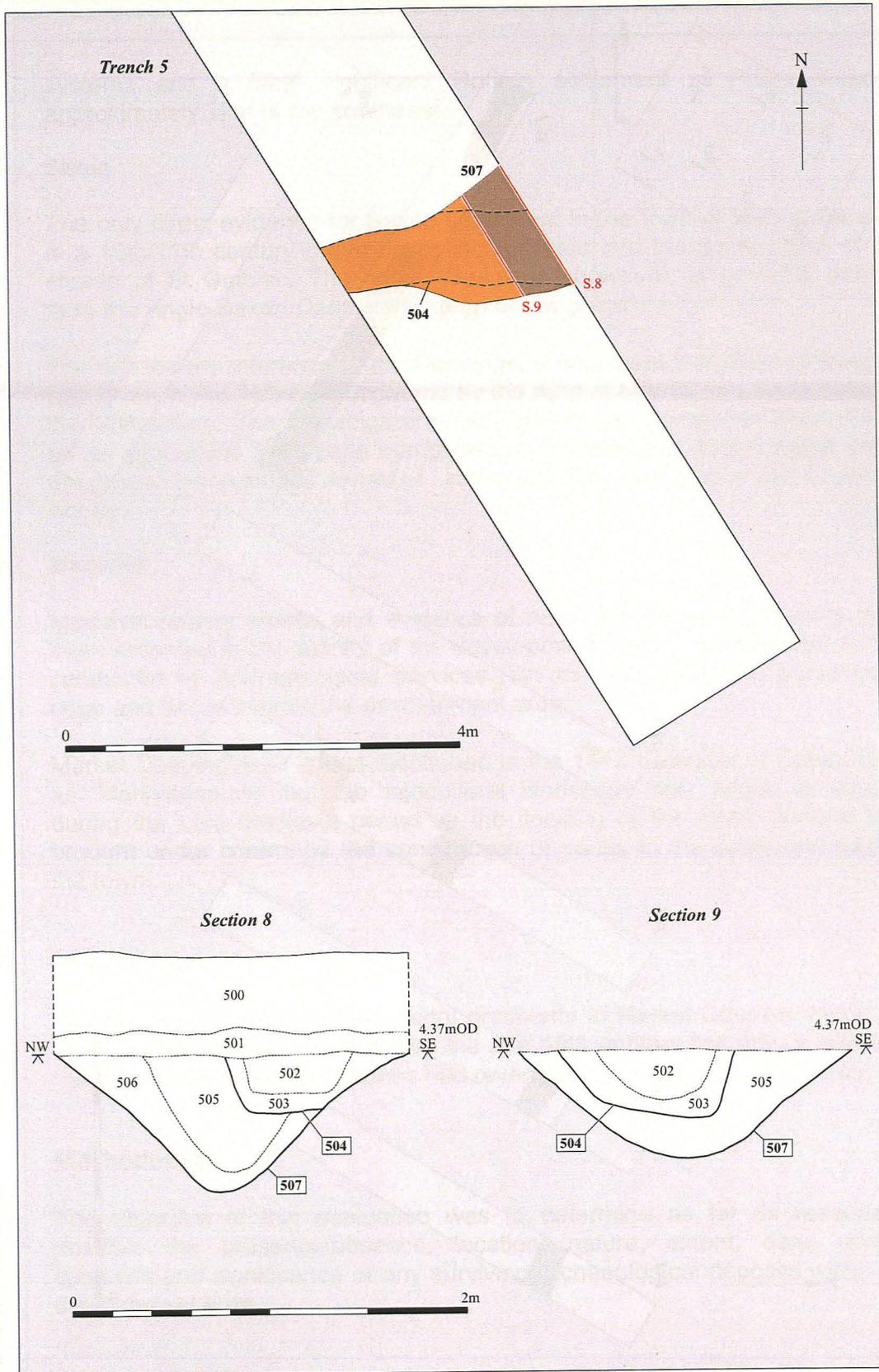


Figure 3: Feature and sections of Trench 5

The agreed specification required that trial trenching a 0.6% sample of the development area be carried out. This equated to the excavation of a total of seven 20m x 2m trenches (Fig.1).

Machine excavation was carried out under constant archaeological supervision with a tracked 360° excavator using a toothless ditching bucket.

Spoil, exposed surfaces and features were scanned and all hand-collected finds were retained for inspection, other than those that were obviously modern.

All archaeological features and deposits were recorded using CCC AFU's *pro-forma* sheets. Trench locations, plans and sections were recorded at appropriate scales and colour and monochrome photographs were taken of all relevant features and deposits.

The evaluation took place in mainly bright and dry conditions.

6 Results

The evaluation revealed archaeological features in Trench 5 which will be discussed separately (see 5.2). Several patches of silt and clay were also observed in trenches 1, 5, 6 & 7 which, it transpired upon investigation, were natural in origin.

A number of furrows were recorded in Trenches 1, 3, 4 & 5 on a northeast to southwest alignment (Fig.2). Sections were dug through some of these features in order to confirm their origin. The presence of the furrows corroborated the results of the geophysical investigation conducted by Archaeological Services (WYAS).

6.1 Deposit Summary

Dark grey brown topsoil composed of clayey silt, with rare grit and gravel inclusions, sealed the whole site in a layer recorded as between 0.25m & 0.45m thick (eg. context 500, Fig. 3, section 8).

This overlay a subsoil which varied quite markedly both in thickness, between 0.10m & 0.50m across the development area, and composition. This was recorded as an orange brown silty clay to the south of the site becoming darker and more sandy to the north. Rare pea grit and gravel inclusions were recorded throughout the subsoil.

The natural geological deposits, observed at between 3.87mOD and 4.34mOD, were comprised of light orange brown mixed sands and gravels with occasional patches of light grey silt and blue grey clay.

| Trench | No. | Topsoil | No. | Subsoil | Total depth of trench |
|--------|-----|-----------------------------|-----|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1 | 100 | 0.30m north, 0.25m south | 101 | 0.30m north 0.30m south | 0.60m north 0.55m south |
| 2 | 200 | 0.35m west 0.35m east | 201 | 0.35m west 0.35m east | 0.70m west 0.70m east |
| 3 | 300 | 0.45m west 0.30m east | 301 | 0.50m west 0.45m east | 0.95m west 0.75m east |
| 4 | 400 | 0.35m north 0.30m south | 401 | 0.15m north 0.10m south | 0.50m north 0.40m south |
| 5 | 500 | 0.50m north 0.45m south | 501 | 0.15m north 0.25m south | 0.65m north 0.70m south |
| 6 | 600 | 0.30m west 0.35m east | 601 | 0.10m west 0.10m east | 0.40m west 0.45m east |
| 7 | 700 | 0.35m north 0.30m south | 701 | 0.25m north 0.30m south | 0.60m north 0.60m south |

Table 1: *Depths of deposits across the development area*

Trench 5

Two archaeological features were recorded in Trench 5 during the evaluation. These comprised a ditch (**507**) aligned east to west (Fig. 3) which, it became apparent upon investigation, had been recut by a shallower ditch on the same alignment (**504**).

Ditch **507**, at 1.79m in width x 0.70m in depth, was large enough to have been part of an enclosure. In profile it was V-shaped and contained two fills. The secondary fill, an orange grey silty clay (**505**), was very homogeneous in composition and, as such, probably accumulated via natural weathering and silting once the feature fell into disuse. The primary fill (**506**) appeared to be a mixture of soil and natural derived material whose uniform nature also suggested deposition via weathering rather than deliberate backfill. No finds were recovered from either fill despite the removal of the rest of the contexts subsequent to them being recorded.



Plate 1: Section showing ditches 504 and 507

This feature was recut on its northern side by a less extensive ditch (504) 0.93m in width x 0.30m deep and with a U shaped profile. Two fills were recorded; 502, the secondary fill, was a dark black brown clay silt with a high frequency of burnt material from which a 20L environmental sample was taken in order to provide an indication of the level of survival of charred grain and other ecofacts. The sample underwent flotation and was found to contain nothing suitable for dating or species analysis. The primary fill (503) was a mid grey clay lain down in a band of even thickness that appeared to be lining the feature.

The stratigraphic relationship observed in section indicated that the earliest feature (507) had fallen almost entirely out of use prior to the recut (Fig. 3). It is therefore possible that despite its recorded position in the trench, where it was convergent with the earlier ditch, the two features had entirely different functions that actually represented unrelated phases of occupation within the landscape. This is made all the more likely by the dissimilar size, profiles and fill sequences of the two features.

Unfortunately, due to the restricted width of the trench it was impossible to determine the broader layout of either of these features and so their function was impossible to determine.

6 Discussion

The evaluation revealed two ditches (504 & 507) that were not recorded in any of the other trenches.



Plate 2: Ditches 504 and 507

Their overall layout could not be determined within the confines of the trial trenching but they appeared to represent either segments of two entirely different features or possibly two phases of a single enclosure; furthermore no finds were recovered from either feature and this rendered them impossible to date.

The remaining trenches revealed furrows that confirmed the results of the previously conducted geophysical investigation and a series of features that were interpreted as natural patches of silt and root disturbance.

8 Conclusions

Despite the limited scope of the evaluation some evidence for activity within the development area was recorded. Unfortunately it was not possible to date the features or determine their wider purpose.

Recommendations for any future work based upon this report will be made by the Heritage Lincolnshire.

Acknowledgements

The author would like to thank Lincolnshire County Council who commissioned and funded the archaeological work and Jacobs Babbie who managed the project. The evaluation was carried out by Chris Thatcher with the assistance of Nick Gilmour, Sarah Henley and Claire Martin. The illustrations were produced by Carlos Silva. The report was edited by Liz Popescu. The environmental sample was processed by Rachel Fosberry.

The specification for archaeological works was written by Jonathan Dempsey and agreed with Jenny Young, South Kesteven Planning Archaeologist, who visited the site and monitored the evaluation.

Bibliography

- Jacobs Babbie 2006 *Land Adjacent to Northfield Industrial Estate.
Specification for Archaeological Trial
Trenching*

3. Discussion

The purpose of this study was to determine the effect of the...
The results of the study indicate that...
The findings of this study suggest that...
The study was limited by...
Further research is needed to...

The author would like to thank...
The author would like to thank...
The author would like to thank...

Discussion

Conclusion

Appendix 1: Context Summary

| Context | Trench | Type | Function |
|---------|--------|-------------------------|--------------------|
| 100 | 1 | Topsoil | Layer |
| 101 | 1 | Subsoil | Layer |
| 102 | 1 | Natural | Geological deposit |
| 200 | 2 | Topsoil | Layer |
| 201 | 2 | Subsoil | Layer |
| 202 | 2 | Natural | Geological deposit |
| 300 | 3 | Topsoil | Layer |
| 301 | 3 | Subsoil | Layer |
| 302 | 3 | Natural | Geological deposit |
| 400 | 4 | Topsoil | Layer |
| 401 | 4 | Subsoil | Layer |
| 402 | 4 | Natural | Geological deposit |
| 500 | 5 | Topsoil | Layer |
| 501 | 5 | Subsoil | Layer |
| 502 | 5 | Secondary fill of ditch | Disuse |
| 503 | 5 | Primary fill of ditch | Disuse |
| 504 | 5 | Cut of ditch | Enclosure |
| 505 | 5 | Secondary fill of ditch | Disuse |
| 506 | 5 | Primary fill of ditch | Disuse |
| 507 | 5 | Cut of ditch | Enclosure |
| 600 | 6 | Topsoil | Layer |
| 601 | 6 | Subsoil | Layer |
| 602 | 6 | Natural | Geological deposit |
| 700 | 7 | Topsoil | Layer |
| 701 | 7 | Subsoil | Layer |
| 702 | 7 | Natural | Geological deposit |

BRIEF FOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL SCHEME OF EVALUATION AND RECORDING (TRIAL-TRENCHING)

For the particular attention of the Applicant

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 This document sets out the brief for an archaeological evaluation that should be prepared prior to determination of a planning application in order that the archaeological implications of the development can be fully considered. The information will enable the Local Planning Authority to consider the proposals and allow an informed and reasonable decision to be made.

1.2 There is a presumption in favour of preservation *in situ* of nationally important archaeological remains, whether scheduled or not (PPG16, paragraph 8). In some cases, unscheduled remains of local and regional importance will be considered worthy of preservation *in situ* (PPG16, paragraph 16). In these cases, the results of the assessment should influence the design of the development in order to protect a monument or remains. Proposals for enhancement may also be identified.

1.3 This brief should be sent to archaeological contractors as the basis for the preparation of a detailed archaeological project specification. In response to this brief contractors will be expected to provide details of the proposed scheme of work, to include the anticipated working methods, timescales and staffing levels.

(The South Kesteven Planning Archaeologist does not maintain a list of archaeological contractors, but names of local units can be found in the Yellow Pages, www.yell.com or from the Institute of Field Archaeologists. Tel: 0118 931 6446.)

1.4 Detailed specifications should be submitted by the applicant for approval by the South Kesteven Planning Archaeologist. Failure to seek approval at an early stage may result in delay later on; contractors are therefore strongly advised to seek approval of the detailed specification as soon as possible. The applicant will then be free to choose between those specifications, which are considered to adequately satisfy this brief.

1.5 The applicant must give the chosen contractor a full set of plans before work commences.

For the particular attention of the contractor

2. REQUIREMENT FOR WORK

2.1 The investigation should be carried out by a recognised archaeological body in accordance with the code of conduct of The Institute of Field Archaeologists (IFA). The

specialists used by the archaeological body should be members of the IFA and/or members of the appropriate finds group.

2.2 The contractor's specification should be prepared according to requirements of this brief and the Lincolnshire Archaeological Handbook's section 'Standard Briefs for Archaeological Projects in Lincolnshire' (August 1997).

2.3 All contractors supplying specifications should refer to the SCAUM Principles of Competitive Tendering (SCAUM Guidelines and Notes on Competitive Tendering for Archaeological Services 1996).

2.4 The objective of the trial trenching should be to gather sufficient information to establish the presence/absence, extent, condition, depth, character, quality and date of any archaeological deposits in order to establish the impact of the development on the archaeological resource.

2.5 Unless trench locations have been specified by the Planning Archaeologist, it is expected that the contractor will include location plans of their proposed trench/trenches, along with a justification of their position.

2.6 Any adjustments to the brief for the Trial Trenching project should only be made after discussion with the Planning Archaeologist for South Kesteven District Council.

3. METHODS

3.1 In consideration of methodology the following details should be given in the contractor's specification:

3.1.1 A projected timetable must be agreed for the various stages of work.

3.1.2 The staff structure and numbers must be detailed.

3.1.3 It is expected that all on site work will be carried out in a way that complies with the relevant Health and Safety Legislation and that due consideration will be given to site security.

3.1.4 The recovery and recording strategies to be used must be described in full. It is expected that an approved single context recording system will be used for all on site and post fieldwork procedures.

3.1.5 An estimate of time and resources allocated for post-excavation work and report production in the form of 'person hours'. This should include lists of specialists and their role in the project. If the specialists to be used by the archaeological body are not IFA registered and are not locally recognised, a CV, a list of reports and two peer referees/references should be provided with the specification. Where local reference collections have been created, these should be used where available. There should be no change to any of the specialists listed in the specification, unless previously discussed with the Planning Archaeologist.

3.2 Excavation is a potentially destructive technique and the specification should take the following factors into account:

3.2.1 The use of an appropriate machine with a wide, toothless ditching blade to remove topsoil down to the first archaeological horizon.

3.2.2 The supervision of all machine work by an experienced archaeologist.

3.2.3 When archaeological features are revealed by machine these will be cleaned and excavated by hand. A representative sample of every archaeological feature must be excavated and although the depth of deposits must be determined, it is not expected that every trench will be excavated to natural. However, it is expected that the level at which natural lies is established either by sondage excavation or augering.

3.2.4 If human remains are encountered the contractor must comply with all statutory consents and licences under the Disused Burial Grounds (Amendment) Act, 1981 or other Burial Acts regarding their exhumation and interment. It will also be necessary to comply with all reasonable requests of interested parties as to the method of removal, reinterment or disposal of the remains or associated items. Attempts must be made at all times not to cause offence to any interested parties.

3.2.5 If discovered during excavation, finds of gold and silver must be archaeologically removed to a safe place and reported to the local Coroner immediately (within 14 days) in accordance with the procedures of the Treasure Act 1997 and Code of Practice. If removal of such finds is not possible on the same day then adequate security arrangements must be made.

3.2.6 Adequate recovery of finds and an appropriate sampling programme to provide environmental evidence from all archaeological deposits should be ensured. A site visit by the nominated environmental specialist will be required.

3.2.7 Where appropriate, a level of scientific advice either from the English Heritage Regional Scientific Advisor or an appropriate specialist should be sought.

3.2.8 Should the site merit it, consideration should be given to drawing a sample of pottery for reference purposes.

3.2.9 A contingency sum to cover additional environmental costs and unexpected nds should be included with the tenders. However, this should only be activated after discussion with the Planning Archaeologist and the client.

4. MONITORING ARRANGEMENTS

4.1 The Planning Archaeologist for South Kesteven District Council will be responsible for monitoring progress and standards throughout the project and will require at least 14 days notice prior to the commencement of the work. The Planning Archaeologist should be kept informed of any unexpected discoveries and regularly updated on the project's progress. They should be allowed access to the site at their convenience and will

comply with any health and safety requirements associated with the site.

4.2 Any adjustments to the brief for the evaluation should only be made after discussions with the Planning Archaeologist. If any major archaeological discovery is made it is hoped that this will be accommodated within the scheme, and preservation *in situ* be given due consideration.

5. REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

5.1 The final report should be produced to the level outlined in The Management of Archaeological Projects, Appendix 3, English Heritage, 1991 and within two months of the completion of the fieldwork phase. If this is not possible then the Planning Archaeologist must be consulted at the earliest possible opportunity.

5.2 The report should conform to the minimum standards as defined in Section 14.6 of the Lincolnshire Archaeological Handbook, including:

5.1.1 Location plans of the proposed development area, ideally at a minimum scale of 1:10,000

5.1.2 Location plans of the area/s which have been investigated and the position of any trenches.

5.1.2 Tables summarising features and artefacts together with a full description and brief interpretation.

5.1.3 Specialist descriptions of artefacts and ecofacts.

5.1.4 Section and plan drawing, with ground level, Ordnance Datum, vertical and horizontal scales as appropriate. Should any trenches be devoid of archaeological features, a representative section must be included.

5.1.5 Photographs of the site scanned at a high resolution in colour. Photocopies are not acceptable.

5.1.6 The archaeological potential of the proposed development site and its immediate surrounding area.

5.1.7 A consideration of the importance of the findings on a local, regional and national basis.

5.1.8 A critical review of the effectiveness of the methodology.

5.1.9 A complete bibliography of all reference material.

5.2 Any recommendations for further work is the responsibility of the South Kesteven Planning Archaeologist. The report produced by the contractor, therefore, should not include any written recommendation concerning further works. Should the contractor wish to make recommendations to the South Kesteven Planning Archaeologist, this may

be done in writing, separately from the submitted report (IFA Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation, paragraph 3.4.8).

6. REPORT & ARCHIVE DEPOSITION

6.1 Copies of the final report must be deposited with South Kesteven District Council, the South Kesteven Planning Archaeologist, the Lincolnshire Sites and Monuments and the applicant.

6.2 After agreement with the land-owner(s), arrangements should be made for deposition of the object and paper archive in the City and County Museum, Lincoln as outlined in that Museum's document 'Conditions for the acceptance of Project Archives'. The City and County Museum should be contacted at the earliest possible opportunity so that the full cost implications of the archive deposition can be taken into account.

7. PUBLICATION AND DISSEMINATION

7.1 The deposition of a copy of the report with the Lincolnshire Sites and Monuments Record and the South Kesteven District Planning Archaeologist will be deemed to put all the information into the public domain, unless a special request is made for confidentiality. If material is to be held in confidence a timescale must be agreed with the Planning Archaeologist, but it is expected that this shall not exceed six months.

7.2 A summary of the findings of the investigation will be presented for publication to 'Lincolnshire History and Archaeology' within 12 months of completion.

7.3 Should the trial trenching reveal finds of national or regional importance, provision should be made for publication in the appropriate regional or national journal.

8. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

8.1 This document attempts to define the best practice expected of an archaeological investigation but cannot fully anticipate the conditions that will be encountered as work progresses. However, changes to the approved programme of excavation are only to be made with the prior written approval of the Planning Archaeologist.

8.2 Further Contact Addresses:

South Kesteven Planning Archaeologist
Heritage Lincolnshire
The Old School
Cameron Street
Heckington
Lincolnshire NG34 9RW
Tel: 01529 461499

County Sites and Monuments Record
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Planning Department
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Dr Jim Williams
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44 Derngate
Northampton
NN1 1UH

Brief set by Planning Archaeologist, South Kesteven District Council. This project brief is valid for a period of one year. After that period consult the South Kesteven District Planning Archaeologist.