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ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRIAL TRENCHING
AT LINCOLN ROAD,
HOLDINGHAM,
SLEAFORD,
LINCOLNSHIRE
(SLLR 07)



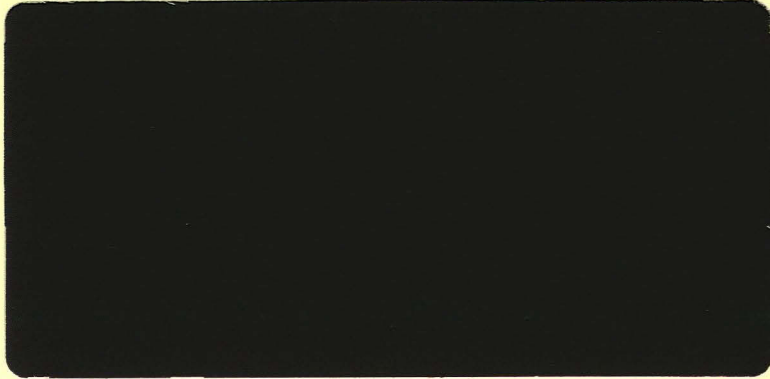
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**ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRIAL TRENCHING
 AT LINCOLN ROAD,
 HOLDINGHAM,
 SLEAFORD,
 LINCOLNSHIRE
 (SLLR 07)**



**Work Undertaken For
 NCHA Limited**

March 2007

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

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 City and County Museum Accession No: 2006.68


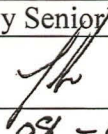
ARCHAEOLOGICAL PROJECT SERVICES



APS Report No. 25/07

Quality Control
 Lincoln Road,
 Holdingham,
 Sleaford
 SLLR 07

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Supervisor	Paul Cope-Faulkner
Site staff	Neil Parker
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Illustration	Paul Cope-Faulkner
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Post-excavation Analyst	Paul Cope-Faulkner

Checked by Project Manager	Approved by Senior Archaeologist
 Steve Malone	 Tom Lane
Date: 8-3-07	Date: 09-03-07

1. INTRODUCTION

Archaeological Project Services were commissioned by NCHA Limited to undertake a small programme of trial trenching to determine the extent of a stone building on land at Lincoln Road, Holdingham, Sleaford, Lincolnshire (National Grid Reference TF 0595 4730; Fig. 1). This was in order to formulate a design plan for access to the field for subsequent development of the area. The stone building was identified during previous evaluation of the site undertaken in 2006 (Cope-Faulkner 2006).

The work was undertaken on the 2nd March 2007 in accordance with guidelines for archaeological evaluation established by the Institute of Field Archaeologists (IFA 1999) and advice from the North Kesteven Planning Archaeologist.

2. BACKGROUND

Evaluation of the site in 2006 identified a limestone wall that was 4m long and 0.74m wide associated with demolition material and dating from between the 12th and early 13th century. Although the function of the wall was not clear, it was thought possible to be a building, possibly a watermill given its low-lying location next to the Holdingham Beck (Cope-Faulkner 2006, 15). The interpretation of the wall being part of a building was based on a moderate quantity of domestic waste from deposits adjacent to the wall and the presence of a slight earthwork mound, that perhaps indicates the extent of the building.

3. AIMS

The aims of the trial trenching were to determine the extent of a possible building so as to inform design solutions regarding its future management.

4. METHODOLOGY

The position of the previously identified wall was surveyed in using a GPS system. Four trenches were then excavated by hand to ascertain the extent of the structure. Following excavation, the trenches were planned and notes made on the deposits encountered. A photographic record was also compiled.

5. RESULTS

The results are discussed in trench order (Fig. 2).

Trench A

This trench was located to identify the north wall (previously identified during the evaluation) of the possible structure.

The earliest deposit encountered was a layer of soft mid yellowish brown sand with occasional mid blue clay lumps. This was interpreted as a buried topsoil.

At the north end of the trench was the wall of the previously identified structure comprising rough hewn limestone in random coursing,

Overlying this wall and present across much of the northern part of the trench was a demolition layer of limestone fragments in a matrix of mid yellowish brown sand that measured up to 0.2m thick.

Topsoil comprised a layer of grey silty sand that was 0.32m thick.

Trench B

This trench was south of Trench A and located over a slight change in height, marking the extent of the slight earthwork platform.

The earliest deposit was a natural layer of dark yellowish brown sandy clay with limestone fragments. This was sealed beneath a grey silty sand topsoil that was between 0.2m and 0.32m thick.

Trench C

This trench was excavated over the line of the western wall.

The earliest deposit was a layer of mid yellowish brown sand. This was cut by a north-south aligned foundation trench that was 0.5m wide and over 0.18m deep. Within the trench was a limestone wall that was 0.22m high.

Overlying the wall was a demolition layer of limestone fragments within a yellowish brown sand matrix. Topsoil measured 0.3m thick.

Trench D

This trench was excavated to confirm the presence of the north wall.

Removal of topsoil to a depth of 0.3m revealed dense limestone fragments set in yellowish brown sand and likely to confirm the presence of the north wall.

6. DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

Only the position of the north and west walls were confirmed during this programme of trial trenching. Any extension to the east would appear to have been removed by the construction of a pond that was recorded during the initial evaluation. No south wall was identified either, though this may have lain further to the south than the area examined. Demolition material was absent from the southernmost trench (Trench B) and would suggest there was no return wall to the east.

It would appear that the slight earthwork platform that provided the basis of the interpretation for a building was probably formed from the demolition of these two walls at its northwest corner. This would suggest that the walls revealed are two sides of an enclosure and not a building.

The field had recently undergone harrowing and visible limestone fragments on the surface were concentrated in the vicinity of the corner of the two walls and became sparser to the south and east.

There was a paucity of finds from this trial trenching episode and most of the finds identified during the previous evaluation came from deposits to the north of the wall. Their frequency and the type of deposit from which they were retrieved could indicate colluvial formation against this north wall. If so, this may indicate the presence of medieval features to the north of this area towards where medieval quarry pits had previously been identified.

7. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeological Project Services wishes to acknowledge the assistance of Mr M Price of NCHA Limited for commissioning the fieldwork and post-excavation analysis. The work was coordinated by Steve Malone who edited this report along with Tom Lane.

8. PERSONNEL

Project Manager: Steve Malone
Supervisor: Paul Cope-Faulkner
Site Staff: Neil Parker
Surveying: Dale Trimble
Illustration: Paul Cope-Faulkner
Report Compilation: Paul Cope-Faulkner

9. REFERENCES

Cope-Faulkner, P, 2006 *Archaeological Evaluation on land at Lincoln Road, Holdingham, Sleaford, Lincolnshire (SLLR 06)*, unpublished APS report **110/06**

IFA, 1999 *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluations*

10. ABBREVIATIONS

APS Archaeological Project Services
IFA Institute of Field Archaeologists

11. THE ARCHIVE

The ultimate destination of the project archive is:

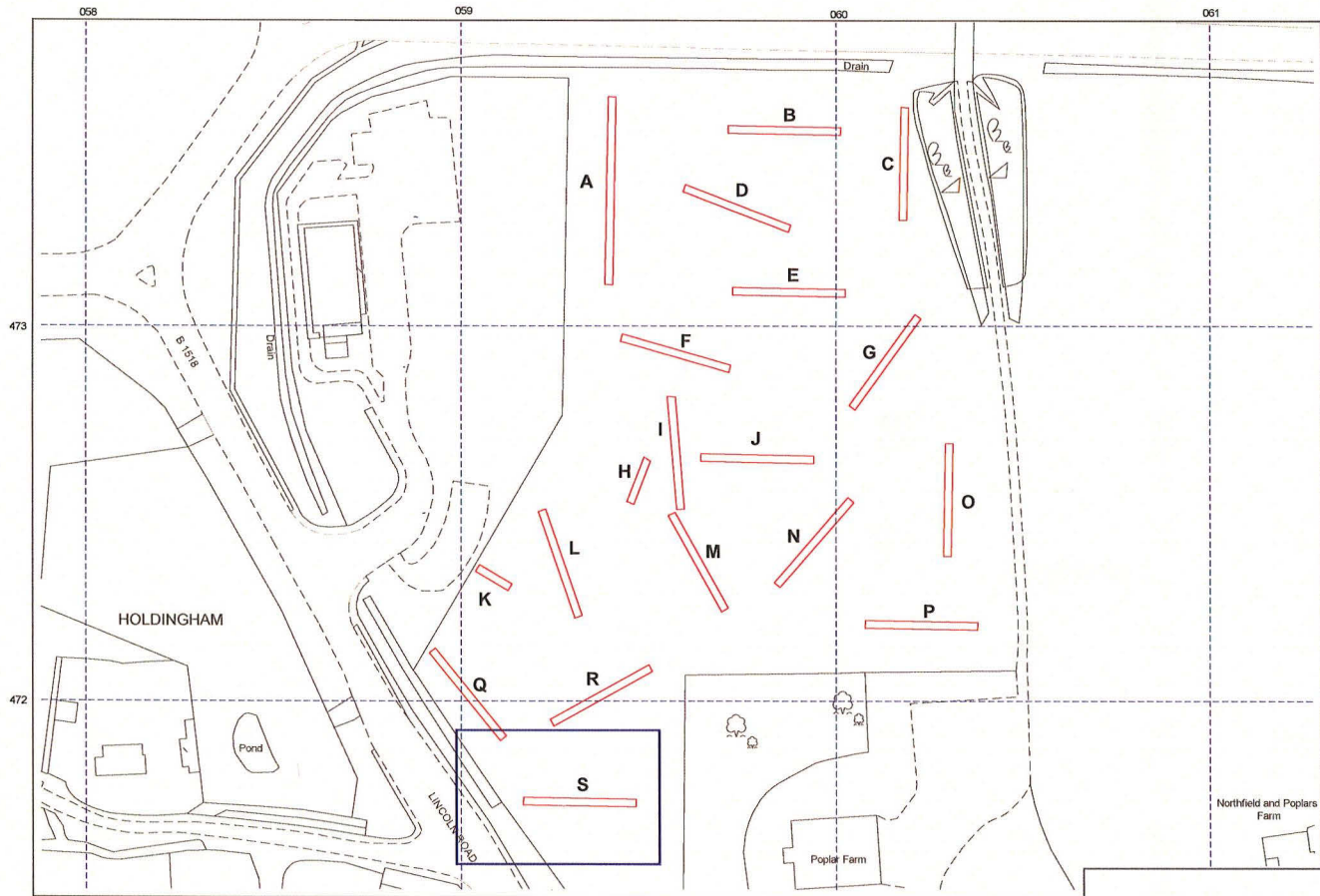
The Collection
Art and Archaeology in Lincolnshire
Danes Terrace
Lincoln
LN2 1LP

Accession Number:

2006.68

Archaeological Project Services Site Code:

SLLR 07



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 Area depicted in Figure 2




 Archaeological Project Services		
Project Name: Lincoln Road, Sleaford SLLR07		
Scale 1:2000	Drawn by: PCF	Report No: 25/07

Figure 1 - Site location plan

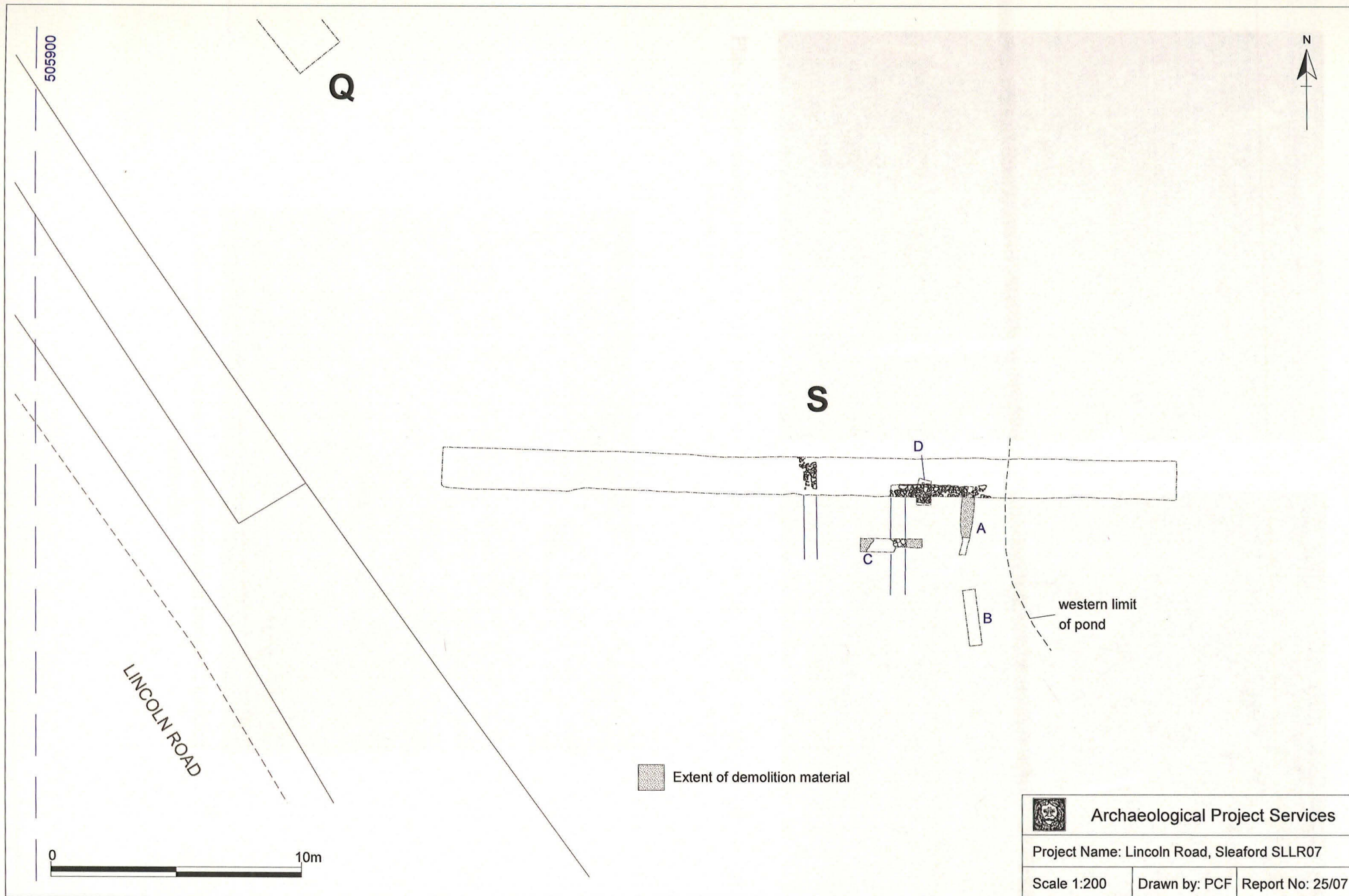


Figure 2 - plan showing location of trial Trenches in relation to evaluation Trench S



Plate 1 - View showing the north wall in Trench A, looking north



Plate 2 - Trench B with natural deposits exposed, looking north



Plate 3 - View of the western wall encountered in Trench C, looking northwest