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ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF REPORT

GRANGE FARM, WADDINGTON

LCNCC Accession No. 140.96

Site code: GFW96

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Report prepared for Shelf Exploration by CPH Palmer-Brown of Pre-Construct
Archaeology (Lincoln)

October 1996

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Summary

- * Shell Exploration commissioned Pre-Construct Archaeology (PCA) to undertake an archaeological watching brief during the construction of a site access and compound close to Grange Farm, Waddington
- * No archaeological features of any period were exposed during ground reduction, although unstratified artefacts were recovered during soil stripping
- * The watching brief was terminated prematurely and three test pits within the compound area were not monitored

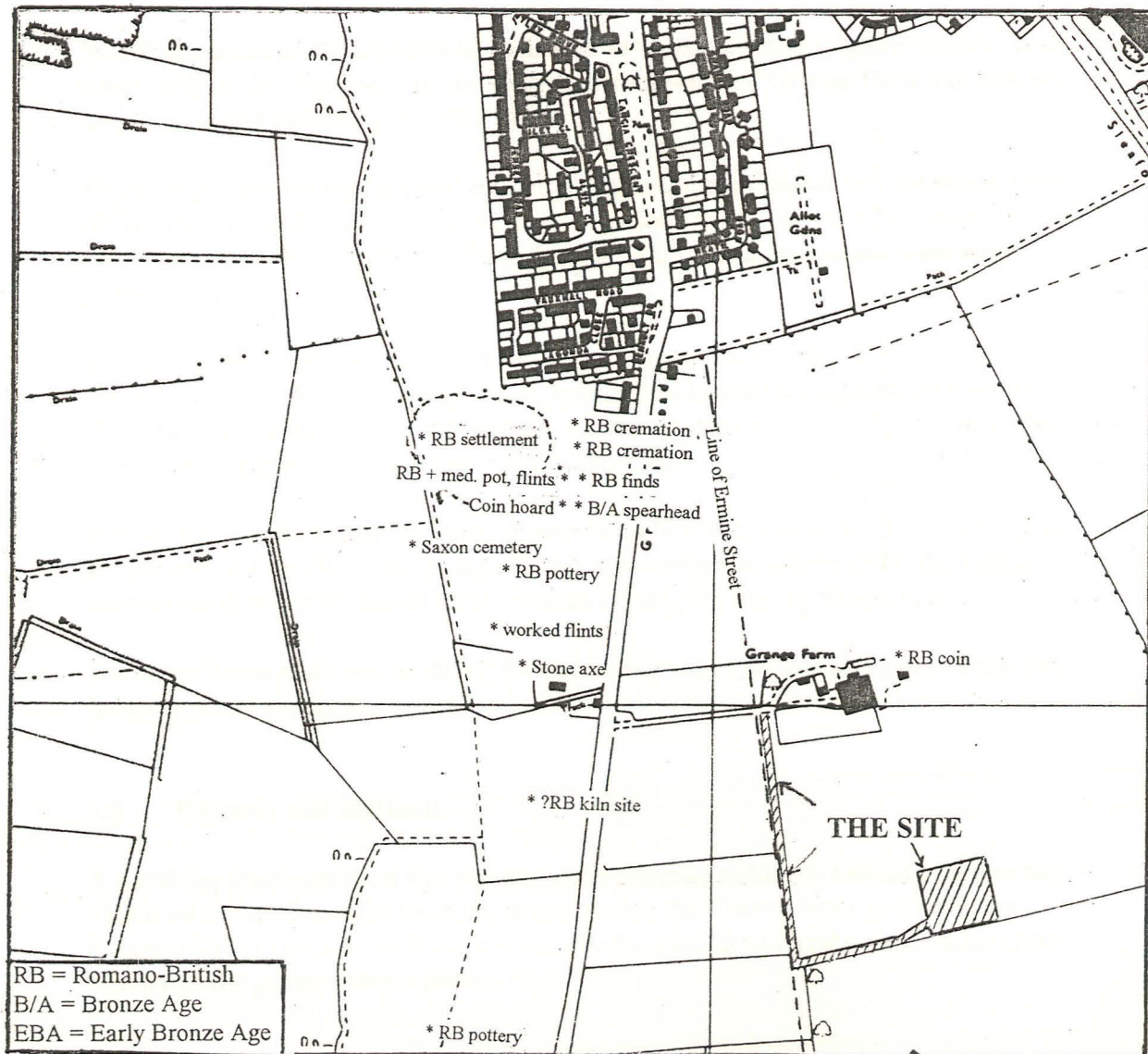


Fig. 1 1:10,000 site location, incorporating data derived from the County Sites and Monuments Record
(OS license No. AL 515 21 A0001)

1.0 Introduction

This report details a programme of archaeological work undertaken by PCA on behalf of Mr P Berladyn of Shelf Exploration. The work was carried out to fulfil a planning requirement issued by Lincolnshire County Council. Copies of the report will be lodged with the client, the County Sites and Monuments Record; the local planning authority and the Lincolnshire Archives Office. A summary on the findings will also be submitted to the editor of the county archaeological journal, *Lincolnshire History and Archaeology*, for inclusion in a future edition. An ordered archive of both the paper and object elements is in preparation and will be deposited at the City and County Museum, Lincoln, within six months of project completion.

The watching brief was undertaken by Mr SC Johnson and the writer.

2.0 Location and description

Waddington lies in the administrative district of North Kesteven, approximately 5km south of Lincoln. The site is to the south and south-east of Grange Farm and centres on national grid reference SK 9818 6601.

Planning permission was granted by Lincolnshire County Council in September 1996 for the drilling of an exploratory borehole. Attached to the planning permission was a requirement for an archaeological watching brief to take place during associated groundworks.

The development comprises a north-south access approximately 350m in length; which extends southwards from Grange Farm, before dog-legging and taking an easterly direction for a further 250m. The access, which is approximately 4.5m in width, then joins a site compound of approximately 110m x 90m.

The site lies on the limestone heath, approximately 500m east of the Lincoln Edge at an altitude of 75m OD. The geology in this area comprises undivided Lincolnshire limestone capped with glacial brash (British Geological Survey Sheet 114).

Soil disturbance has been confined, for the most part, to topsoil stripping during the creation of the access and compound area.

3.0 Purpose and methods

A watching brief condition was issued by the planning authority because the site lies within an archaeologically sensitive environment: the County Sites and Monuments Record (SMR) contains multiple entries, chiefly relating to chance discoveries in the vicinity of the present development.

In 1990, the Department of the Environment issued Planning Policy Guidance Note 16, *Archaeology and Planning*, which made archaeology a 'material consideration' within the planning process for the first time. The document emphasises the importance of preservation *in situ* but states that, where this is not possible, archaeological deposits must be preserved by record.

The Assistant Archaeological Officer for Lincolnshire issued a project brief requiring that an archaeological watching brief should be maintained during development. Conceptually, this may be defined as follows:

'An archaeological watching brief is defined as a programme of observation and investigation conducted during the destruction of archaeological deposits, resulting in the preparation of a report and ordered archive' (Institute of Field Archaeologists, 1994 *Standard Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs*)

Archaeological monitoring consisted of the following elements :

- (i) Observation of topsoil stripping and inspection of subsoil/natural for archaeological features.
- (ii) Collection and recording of surface and topsoil artefacts.

Recording was undertaken using PCA watching brief General Account and Context Record Sheets: supplemented with photography.

4.0 Archaeological and historic background

The new access which extends southwards from Grange Farm is on the same alignment as, and is immediately east of, the Roman road, Ermine Street. Romano-British artefacts, as well as settlement, industrial and ceremonial sites have been recovered or recorded from wide areas on both sides of the road. However, the majority of these appear to concentrate on the west side, between the limestone cliff and the A607 Grantham Road. They include two cremation burials, a large settlement (identified from aerial photographs), a hoard of coins, a potential kiln site and pottery scatters. Finds from earlier periods have also been recovered: a Bronze Age spearhead from fields to the west of Grantham Road, as well as worked flints and a stone axe of Neolithic date (c. 4000BC - 2500BC) - see Fig. 1. An Anglo-Saxon inhumation burial was discovered approximately 250m west of Grantham Road, close to the Lincoln Edge.

Regrettably, no systematic research design has yet been prepared which could address the relationship between the hilltop sites south of Lincoln (ie the precursors to Bracebridge Heath, Waddington, Harmston, Boothby Graffoe, Navenby and Wellingore). Unquantified prehistoric and Romano-British finds from around each of

these settlements suggests that occupation was both extensive and intensive, and it is possible that many of the Romano-British sites classed as settlements had their origins firmly rooted in the later prehistoric period (at Navenby, for example, it has been recently demonstrated that the site occupied in the Roman period was in fact a settlement area from at least the Bronze Age).

5.0 Results

The recording brief resulted in the exposure of no significant archaeological remains.

Monitoring commenced with the excavations of the access road leading southwards from Grange Farm. In this area the watching brief was intensive, as there was a possibility that the east side of Ermine Street would be exposed or its associated road ditch: excavations through a section of the road (the High Dike) at Coleby showed that, in this location, it measured approximately 15.6m in width (Chowne 1987).

A large mechanical excavator was used to remove all topsoil to a depth approximately 30cm beneath the modern ground surface. In the base of the cutting, natural limestone brash deposits were exposed, intermingled with drift deposits of orange sandy clay. No evidence of the road was exposed, and it is assumed that the new access lies a short distance east of this landscape feature.

Intermittent monitoring continued on the remainder of the route. No archaeological deposits or features of any period were exposed. On the east side of the site, towards and within the new compound area, the topsoil sealed an homogenous natural deposit of weathered limestone bedrock, the surface of which contained no evidence of human intrusion. For this reason, three test pits which were due to be excavated in the area were not monitored and the fieldwork was drawn to a conclusion.

6.0 Conclusions

The watching brief has demonstrated that there are probably few or no significant archaeological remains immediately east of Ermine Street between Grange Farm and RAF Waddington; and the evidence would appear to agree with the existing data (of which there is plenty) that most of the prehistoric and Romano-British occupation in the area was centred on a narrow belt between Ermine Street and the Lincoln Edge. This could suggest (and is the firm belief of the writer) that the Romano-British settlement pattern was determined more by the existence of a precursor to Ermine Street (the Jurassic Way) than it was by the road which was built (initially) for the Roman Army. Recent surveys and excavations on the west side of Ermine Street at Navenby have confirmed that, beneath a complex of Roman stone strip buildings, are late prehistoric settlement enclosures; the sitings of which were clearly not based on Roman lines of communication.

The Jurassic Way was a major prehistoric trackway which extended some 80km or more south of the Humber. Its precise course (if indeed it ever had one) has not been traced (in places the route may have been little more than a trampled path or series of paths) though its existence is amply demonstrated by the clusters of sites and artefacts which are known from the vicinity of what was, after all, a naturally advantageous communication route along the limestone ridge. Some 'modern' roads, including the B1398 and the A607 Grantham Road, do follow a sinuous line along the crest of the limestone scarp (May 1976) and may possibly reflect a cultural ancestry which pre-dates the arrival of the Romans.

7.0 Acknowledgements

Sincere thanks are expressed to Mr P Berladyn of Shelf Exploration for commissioning PCA to undertake the watching brief. Thanks are also due to staff at the County SMR for allowing access to the parish records.

8.0 References

Chowne, P 1987 'The Excavation of Ermine Street at Coleby, Lincolnshire', *LHA* 22, 31 - 4

Dept. of the Environment 1990 '*Archaeology and Planning*' *Planning Policy Guidance Note 16* (PPG 16)

May, J 1976 *Prehistoric Lincolnshire*

Palmer-Brown, CPH 1994 *Chapel Heath, Navenby: Archaeological Evaluation Report* (unpublished)

9.0 **Appendices**

9.1 Summary of information derived from the County Sites and Monuments Record

9.2 Site archive

9.3 Colour photographs

9.1 Summary of information derived from the County Sites and Monuments Record

NGR	PRN	Period	Description
SK 981 656	Q	Roman	Course of Ermine Street
SK 977 664	R	Roman	Settlement area defined on aerial photographs; extensive finds including greyware, coins, quern and 'Romano-Saxon' pot
SK 976 655	XT	Roman	RB pottery (Samian, Mortaria, greyware, colour coat, box tile, bronze chain + toilet set
SK 977 662	XY	Roman	Greyware, shell-tempered ware, NV colour coat, box + roof tile, limestone blocks
SK 9765 6612	BB	Prehist.	x2 leaf arrowheads, x1 barbed and tanged arrowhead, scrapers + debitage (Arch. Notes 1966)
SK 9736 6501	BI	Roman	Coin; Minim (364 - 83)
SK 9740 6523	BO	Multi.	Neolithic flints, RB pottery, med. + post-med. pottery/glass
SK 9781 6635	BV	Multi.	Roman coin hoard (2900+ Constantine Follies, c. 310 - 317AD in greyware 'cooking pot'; Treasure Trove 1972. Swanpool pottery, greyware, amphorae, Samian. Lead objects, silver bronze spoon, 5 brooches. Med. seal matrix, Neolithic stone axe (?Group VI), Bronze Age spearhead tip, 5 Denarii C1st - 2nd, found 1976
SK 9772 6606	BW	Prehist.	Blade frag. of Group VI stone axe
SK 9775 6586	BX	Roman	Abundant RB roof + flue tile, including wasters: ?kiln site. Greyware + Swanpool-type, x1 sherd of med. pottery
SK9800 6515	BZ	RB + med.	Pottery
SK 9740 6523	CD	Roman	large greyware rim

SK 9792 6648	CP	Roman	Greyware jar containing cremation
SK 9792 6648	CU	Roman	Greyware vessel containing cremation beneath stone slab
SK 976 663	CV	RB/post-med.	Roman coin + tile frags., greyware + Samian, Mortaria, NV colour coat + post-med. pottery
SK 082 660	DI	Roman	Coin of Trajan found at Waddington Grange, 1929
SK 9770 6398	O	Saxon	Anglo-Saxon cemetery, including 1 female; glass beads + iron and silver objects, brooches, sleeve clasps
SK 975 650	Q	Bronze Age	EBA perforated mace head
??	R	Roman	C3rd pottery + Hadrianic coin

9.2 Site archive

The site archive consists of the following elements:-

Paper Element:

- x1 Project Brief
- x1 Project Specification
- x1 General account sheet
- x3 Context record sheets
- x1 Colour print film
- Misc. notes and correspondence

Object Element:

Artefacts recovered (from the topsoil) included misc. (?modern) iron objects, fragments of tile, and five sherds of abraded (non-diagnostic) Romano-British pottery. The latter have been retained as part of the permanent site archive, though the other objects have now been discarded.

Primary records are currently with PCA (Lincoln). An ordered archive of both paper and object elements is in preparation and will be deposited at the City and County Museum, Lincoln, within six months. The data can be accessed by quoting the site code (GFW96) and the LCNCC global accession number (140.96).

Appendix 9.3 Colour photographs



P1 General view of access road from Grange Farm, looking south



P2 Access road looking east, adjacent to RAF Waddington



P3 Compound area soil strip, looking north-east