41476 - med 43491 - Post med 434912 - Prohistoric 97/1

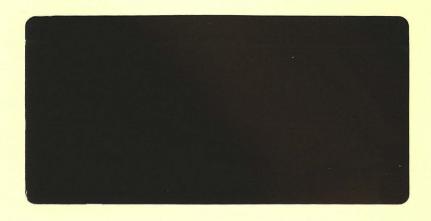
ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF
AT
MOAT HOUSE,
THURLBY, BILSBY PARISH
LINCOLNSHIRE
(TMH96)



A P S
ARCHAEOLOGICAL
PROJECT
SERVICES

Lincolnshire County Council
Are!

LINCOLN LN2 5AL
TEL. 0522 575292 FAX: 0522 530724
9.1.97



ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF
AT
MOAT HOUSE,
THURLBY, BILSBY PARISH
LINCOLNSHIRE
(TMH96)

Work Undertaken For Derek Barnes (Builder and Contractor) and Mr J Needham

> Report Compiled by Fiona Walker

> > January 1997

A.P.S. Report No. 48/96



CONTENTS

| List of | Figures | |
|------------------|--|-----|
| 1. | Summary | 1 |
| 2. | Introduction |] |
| | 2.1 Background |] |
| 3. | Aims | 2 |
| 4. | Methods | 1 |
| 5. | Results | 1 |
| | Phase 1 Natural deposits | 4 |
| 6. | Discussion | () |
| 7. | Conclusions | 4 |
| 8. | Acknowledgements | 4 |
| 9. | Personnel | 4 |
| 10. | Bibliography | 4 |
| 11. | Abbreviations | 4 |
| Apper | dices | |
| 1 2 3 4 | Specification for Archaeological Watching Brief Context Summary The Finds Glossary The Archive | |

List of Figures

Figure 1 . . General Location Plan

Figure 2 . . Site Location Map

Figure 3 . . Plan of Development Area: showing locations of sections and ditch

Figure 4 . . Sections 1 and 2

Plate 1 . . . General Site View, looking northwest

Plate2 . . . Ditch (022), showing dark silt lower fill (029)

1. SUMMARY

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken during the construction of an extension to the Moat House, Thurlby, near Bilsby, Lincolnshire. The watching brief monitored the excavation of the foundations trenches.

The site lies within a homestead moat of medieval date (1066-1500). It is probable that the current house, which is of 17th century date, overlies an earlier medieval structure.

Excavation of the foundation trenches revealed a large ditch, perhaps part of the moat complex. The ditch was filled in the 18th century and a pit subsequently dug on its line. A ditch, pit and field drains, all of modern date, were also observed. Artefacts of prehistoric, medieval and post-medieval date were recovered.

2. INTRODUCTION

2.1 Background

On the 29th and 30th April 1996, an watching brief archaeological undertaken during the construction of an extension to the Moat House, Thurlby, as detailed in planning application number N/016/1784/95. The archaeological work was commissioned by Derek Barnes, Builder and Contractor, and was carried out by Archaeological Project Services in accordance with a brief set by the Assistant Archaeological Officer, Lincolnshire County Council (Appendix 1).

2.2 Topography and Geology

Thurlby is located 50km to the east of Lincoln and about 18km southeast of Louth in the civil parish of Bilsby, East Lindsey district, Lincolnshire (Fig. 1). Bilsby

parish lies on the western limit of the Lincolnshire marshes.

Moat House is situated approximately 400m west of Thurlby on the north side of the B1449 Thurlby Road (Fig. 2). A partially canalised watercourse, Boy Grift Drain, forms the western boundary of the site. Located at national grid reference TF 4873 7605, the development area is approximately 44 square metres in extent.

The site lies on fairly flat ground at approximately 6m OD. The local soils are fine loamy and moderately permeable coarse loamy soils of the Holderness Association, developed over chalk till and glaciofluvial drift (Hodge *et al.* 1984, 214).

2.3 Archaeological Setting

Bilsby parish contains a number of sites of archaeological significance. Isolated archaeological finds have been made over the years but of particular interest are the sites of a number of medieval settlements. There was formerly a parish of Thurlby, although it was linked with Bilsby in the Domesday Survey of 1086 when, together, they formed part of the sokeland of the manor of Greetham Hill (Foster and Longley 1976, 74). The medieval village remains have been ploughed for a number of years but recent interpretation by the Royal Commission for the Historic Monuments of England has revealed some of their former extent. The present development site lies to the west of the shrunken medieval village of Thurlby.

Thurlby appears in the Domesday Book as *Toruluesbi*, and as *Turlebi* in the Assize Rolls of 1202. The name is of Old Danish origin and derives from *Purulf's by*, meaning 'Purulf's village or homestead' (Ekwall 1974, 471).

Moat House is a mid 17th century building

within a former homestead moat of medieval origins. The present structure probably stands on the site of an earlier medieval house. Brick-built, the house is a T-plan structure with a two-storey porch. Original features, including the staircase, have been retained, though the house has been altered (Pevsner and Harris 1989, 146). The house is listed Grade II (DoE 1986, 34).

3. AIMS

The aims of the work were as set out in the County Council brief. In summary, these were to record archaeological deposits disturbed by groundwork.

4. METHODS

Foundation trenches were opened to a maximum depth of c. 1.3m using a mechanical excavator (Fig. 3). The sides of the trenches were cleaned by hand and examined to identify any archaeological remains. Each archaeological deposit or feature revealed within the trench was allocated a unique reference number (context number) with an individual written description (Appendix 2). geological deposits were also recorded where exposed. A photographic record was compiled, and sections were drawn at 1:10 and plans at 1:20. Any finds recovered were allocated to a context where possible and retained for further analysis (Appendix 3)

5. RESULTS

Finds recovered from the deposits identified during the watching brief were examined and a date assigned where possible. Records of the deposits and features identified during the watching

brief were also examined. Phasing was assigned based on artefact dating and the nature of the deposits and recognisable relationships between them. A list of all contexts with interpretations appears as Appendix 2. Four phases were identified:

Phase 1 Natural deposits

Phase 2 Undated archaeological deposits

Phase 3 Post-Medieval deposits

Phase 4 Modern deposits

Phase 1 Natural deposits

Exposed across the development in the bases of the foundation trenches was a layer of orange-brown to mottled orange and grey clay (011, 028). Explained as natural, this deposit was not excavated to its lowest extent but was at least 0.5m thick. Above the clay was a 0.2-0.6m thick layer of brownish yellow clayey silt (023, 027), interpreted as a natural subsoil.

Phase 2 Undated archaeological deposits

Cut into natural c. 2.7m wide by at least 1.2m deep an east-west linear feature (022) (Fig. 3) was recorded for a length of 5m. The feature was interpreted as a ditch (Fig. 4, Sec. 1 and 2). Also included in Phase 2 is the primary fill of the ditch, (005, 029).

Phase 3 Post-medieval deposits

Post dating fill (003) and also filling ditch (022) were nine separate deposits, (003, 004, 014, 015, 016, 019, 020, 024, 030). These varied from mottled light grey clay (030) to a dark blackish-brown clayey silt (003), with the majority of them being of a mid brown clayey silt. Fragments of early 18th century pottery and an iron nail were recovered from deposit 003 and animal bone was recovered from 024.

Cut into fill (015) of ditch (022) was an irregular feature (013) which was at least

1.4m across by 0.65m deep with irregular, stepped sides. Interpreted as a pit, the feature was filled with brown clayey silts (010, 012). A piece of late medieval pottery was retrieved as a residual artefact from (012) and deposit (010) contained a sheep tooth and fragments of glass, including a wine glass base of probable late 18th-early 19th century date (Appendix 3).

Phase 4 Modern deposits

Cut into the upper fill (014, 019) of ditch (022) was an east-west linear feature (018) which was c. 0.6m wide by 0.3m deep and observed for 5m. Filled by brown silt (017) that contained ceramic pipe sections, this is interpreted as a field drain.

Also cut into ditch (022) was a vertical-sided, flat-based feature (031), 0.6m wide by 0.45m deep, and filled by grey clay and silt (032). This was interpreted as a pit because the cut did not continue into the opposite section and was not observed to extend south out of the cleared area.

Cut into pit (031) was (009), a 0.6m wide by 0.45m deep feature with vertical sides. It was filled with a yellow clay (008) and was considered to have been a pit. Passing through (008) was a field drain pipe, though the actual drain trench cut was not observed.

Above pit (009) was a layer of yellow clayey silt (002), interpreted as a dumped deposit.

Cut into (002) and also truncating pit (013) was a north-south linear feature (007, 026) which was c. Im wide by 0.6m deep and was observed for a length of 10m. Interpreted as a ditch, it was filled by a mottled mid-dark brown silt (006, 025).

Sealing all the features was a mid brown

sandy silt (001), interpreted as topsoil.

6. DISCUSSION

The natural deposits representing Phase 1 are likely to represent glaciofluvial drift. These deposits were sealed by a 0.2-0.6m thick layer of brownish yellow clayey silt, thought to represent a phase of subsoil development.

Phase 2 activity is represented by an undated, east-west aligned linear ditch. This feature extended along the entire 5m length of the southern foundation trench and beyond the western limit of excavation where an incomplete profile of the ditch, 2.7m wide and 1.2m deep, was recorded. Primary deposits within the ditch were fine grained silts indicating deposition sluggish, almost standing water. The dark colour of these sediments would suggest a high humic content, probably derived from vegetation growing on or near the water's edge. The absence of finds in the lower ditch fills points to this feature being located some distance from any settlement activity. If the present house marks the location of the medieval house, ditch (022) would be located too close to the contemporary Alternatively, the building. building stood further north and ditch (022) may mark the inner edge of the enclosing moat.

During the post-medieval period sediments gradually accumulated in ditch (022) and represent a period when routine cleaning and maintenance of the feature was not undertaken or no longer necessary.

A pit cut through the sediments in ditch (022) represents Phase 3 activity with pottery retrieved from the fills confirming a post-medieval date. It is possible that the partially infilled ditch influenced the siting of this refuse pit because the silts would

have been easier to dig through.

Phase 4 activity probably dates to the nineteenth and twentieth centuries when two refuse pits, a north-south aligned ditch and a field drain were excavated at the site. Topsoil provides the present ground surface.

7. CONCLUSIONS

Archaeological investigations were undertaken at Moat House, Thurlby, because the site fell within the moated area of the medieval manor and possibly on the site of the house. Consequently, it was likely that medieval remains may have been disturbed as a result of the development.

A limited number of archaeological deposits were encountered. Dating evidence indicated that the archaeological activity present at the site was probably post-medieval or later, in date. These remains consisted of two ditches, two pits field drains. Encountered and approximately 0.15m below the present ground surface, the deposits appeared to have survived in good condition. It is therefore probable that other archaeological deposits elswhere in the immediate vicinity are similarly well preserved.

Animal bones survived in good condition at the site and the potential for the survival of other environmental remains was moderately high in the deeper waterlogged features. Pottery of medieval, postmedieval and modern date was recovered in small quantities, together with a prehistoric flint artefact.

8. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeological Project Services wish to

acknowledge the assistance of Mr D. Barnes and Mr J Needham, who commissioned the fieldwork and post-excavation analysis. Tom Lane coordinate the work and edited this report. Hilary Healey, Paul Cope-Faulkner and Tom Lane kindly examined and commented on the artefacts.

9. PERSONNEL

Project Coordinator: Gary Taylor Site Supervisor: Fiona Walker Finds Processing: Denise Buckley Illustration: Denise Buckley Post-excavation Analyst: Fiona Walker

10. BIBLIOGRAPHY

DoE, 1986 List of Buildings of Special Architectural or Historical Interest. District of East Lindsey, Lincolnshire

Ekwall, E., 1974 The concise Oxford dictionary of English place-names (4th ed)

Foster, C.W. and Longley, T., 1976 *The Lincolnshire Domesday and Lindsey Survey*. The Lincoln Record Society **19**

Hodge, C.A.H., Burton, R.G.O., Corbett, W.M., Evans, R. and Seale, R.S., 1984 *Soils and their Use in Eastern England*, Soil Survey of England and Wales Bulletin No. 13 (Harpenden)

Pevsner, N. and Harris, J., 1989 *Lincolnshire*, The Buildings of England, (2nd ed, revised Antram, N.)

11. ABBREVIATIONS

'DoE' refers to publications by the Department of the Environment.

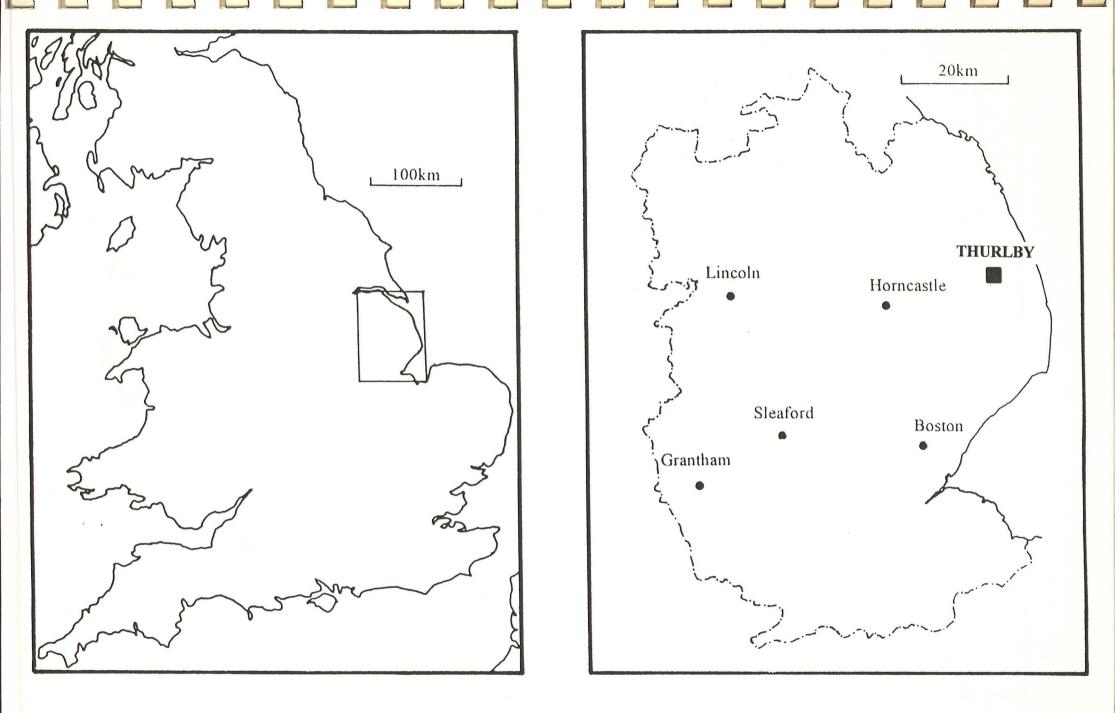


Figure 1 - General Location Plan

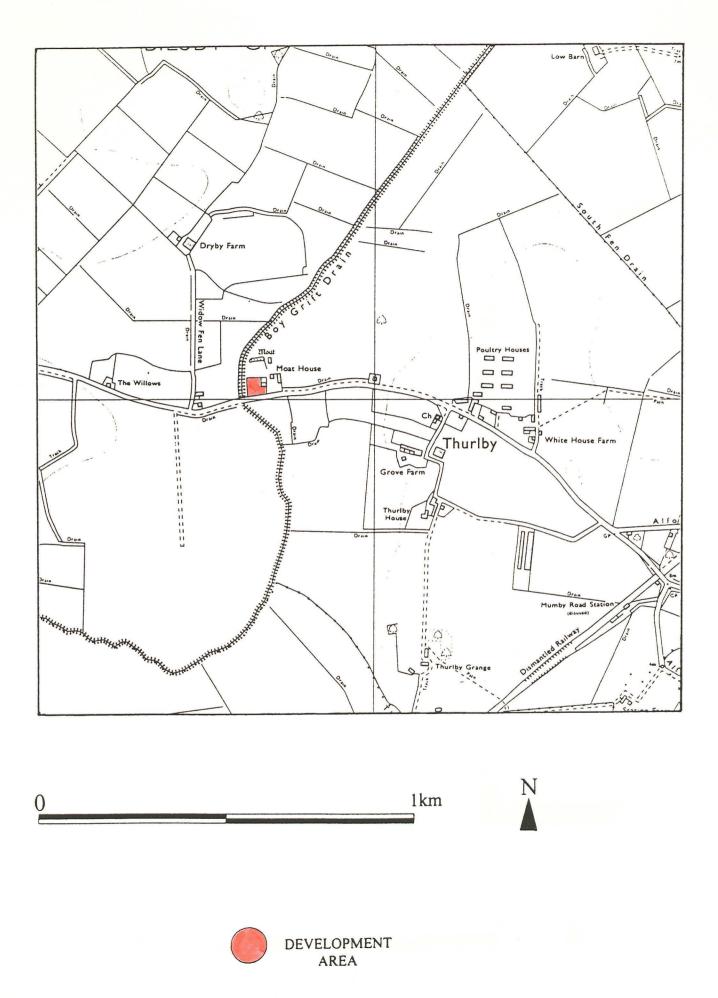


Figure 2 - Site Location Plan

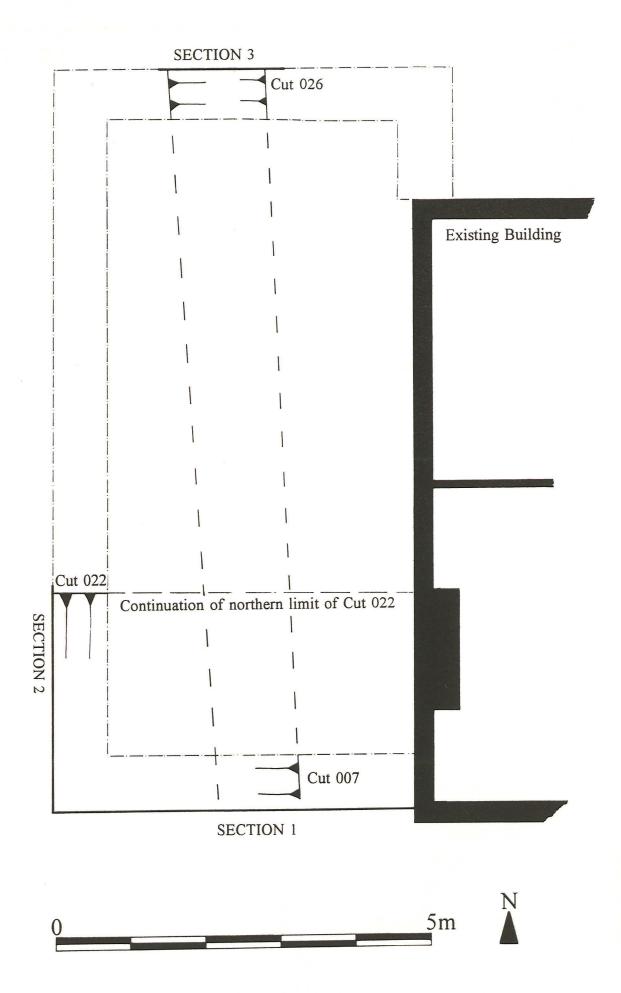
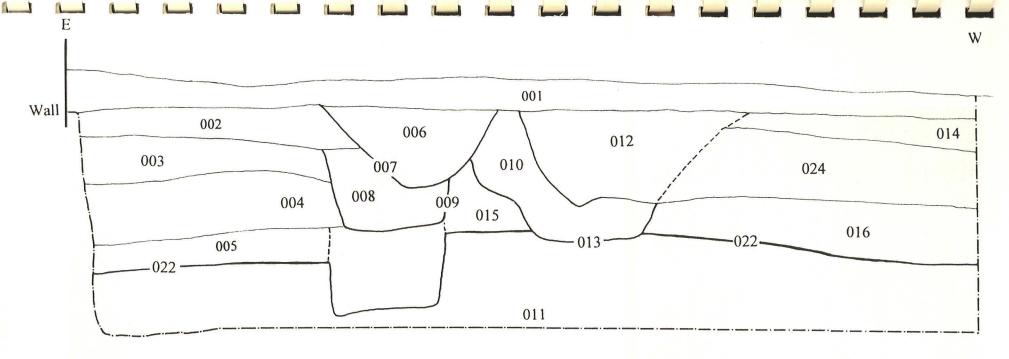


Figure 3 - Development Plan





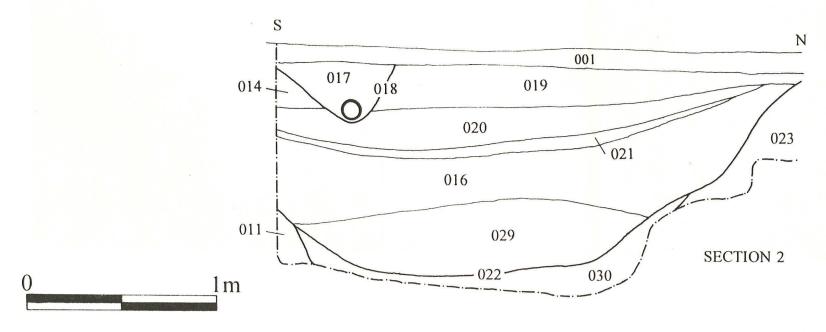


Figure 4 - Sections 1 and 2



Plate 1: General Site View, looking northwest



Plate 2: Ditch (022), showing dark silt lower fill (029)

Brief For An Archaeological Watching Brief

Thurlby, Moat House

BRIEF FOR AN

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

SITE:

Moat House. Thurlby

COMPANY:

J W Needhain

DATE:

February 1996

LOCATION:

Moat House, Thurlby, Bilsby, near Alford, LINCS

PLANNING APP. NO.:

N/016/1784/95

This brief produced by

Ian George, Asst Archaeological Officer, Lincolnshire County Council on behalf of East Lindsey District Council.

The brief is valid only for six months from the last day of the month given above. Any specifications produced in response to this brief will have a similar period of validity.

Any comments on this brief should be addressed to the author at the address given below.

1. Summary

- 1.1 This document is the brief for archaeological work to be undertaken on a scheme of residential development at Bilsby by Mr D Barnes on behalf of Mr J W Needham. It sets out the requirements for a watching brief to be carried out on all groundworks. Such a scheme should facilitate the preservation by record of any archaeological deposits.
- 1.2 This brief should be used by archaeological contractors as the basis for the preparation of a detailed archaeological project design. 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.
- 1.3 The detailed specification will be submitted to the company above subject to approval of the Archaeological Officer of Lincolnshire County Council. If more than one, the client will be free to choose between those specifications which adequately satisfy this brief.

2. Site location and description

- 2.1 A location plan for this development is in Appendix 1. The development is centred on national grid reference TF 4873 7605. The parish of Bilsby lies east of the town of Alford on the western limit of the Lincolnshire marshes.
- 2.2 The site is approximately 6m above sea level and land of generally flat relief. The development will take place within the garden of the existing house.

3. Planning background

3.1 An application was submitted to East Lindsey District Council in November 1995. This application sought approval for an extension to the existing house to provide a sun lounge, office, lobby and store. This was approved subject to a number of conditions one of which requested the undertaking of an archaeological watching brief during the main contractor's groundworks.

3.2 Such a requirement is in line with the guidance given in the DoE Planning Policy Guidance Note 16, "Archaeology and planning" and is consistent with the policies in the East Lindsey Local Plan.

4. Archaeological background

- 4.1 The parish of Bilsby contains a number of sites of archaeological significance. A number of isolated finds have been made over the years but of particular interest are the sites of a number of medieval settlements. There was formerly a parish of Thurlby although it was linked with Bilsby in the Domesday Survey of 1086. The medieval village remains have been ploughed for a number of years but recent interpretation by the RCHME has revealed some of their former extent.
- 4.2 The site to be developed is within a former homestead moat of medieval origins. The present house probably stands upon the site of the earlier, medieval house.

5. Objectives of an archaeological watching brief

5.1 According to the definition by the Institute of Field Archaeologists "an archaeological watching brief will record the archaeological resource during development within a specified area". To be carried out during groundworks, the objective of the watching brief should be to ensure that any archaeological features exposed by the groundworks are recorded and interpreted.

6. Requirements for work

- On the development outlined in 3.1 it is required that a watching brief be undertaken, to include:
 - 6.1.1 archaeological supervision of topsoil stripping;
 - 6.1.2 inspection of subsoil for archaeological features;
 - 6.1.3 recording of archaeological features in plan;
 - 6.1.4 limited excavation of features where appropriate;
 - 6.1.5 archaeological supervision of subsoil stripping;
 - 6.1.6 inspection of natural deposits for archaeological features and their recording if

extant.

7. Post-fieldwork programme

- 7.1 After completion of the fieldwork the following procedures should be undertaken:
 - 7.1.1 that, after agreement with the landowner, arrangements are made for long term storage of all artefacts in City and County Museum, Lincoln;
 - 7.1.2 that a site archive is produced and should be deposited with the artefacts as detailed in 7.1.1;
 - 7.1.3 a full report is produced and deposited with the appropriate bodies within two months of the completion of fieldwork.

8. Reporting requirements

- 8.1 A report of the fieldwork should be produced and supplied to the client and the planning authority. A further copy must be deposited with the county Sites and Monuments Record within two months of completion of fieldwork. The report should contain:
 - 1. a location plan of trenches;
 - 2. section and plan drawings, with ground level, Ordnance Datum, vertical and horizontal scales as appropriate;
 - 3. specialist descriptions of artefacts and/or ecofacts;
 - 4. any indication of potential archaeological deposits not disturbed by the present development;
 - 5. any indication of potential archaeological deposits not disturbed by the present development;
 - 6. a summary of the archaeology discovered and a consideration of its local, regional and national significance.
- 8.2 A short note in the appropriate format must be presented to the editor of Lincolnshire History and Archaeology for publication in the Archaeological Notes.

9. Monitoring arrangements

9.1 Curatorial responsibility for this project lies with the Archaeological Officer of

Lincolnshire County Council. He should be given at least seven days notice, in writing, of the proposed date of commencement of site work and may exercise his prerogative of monitoring of fieldwork.

10. Additional information

10.1 This document attempts to define the best practice expected of an archaeological watching brief but cannot fully anticipate the conditions that will be encountered as work progresses. If requirements of the brief cannot be met they should only be excluded after attainment of the written approval of the Archaeological Officer of Lincolnshire County Council.

10.2 Contact addresses:

Mr A Allen

Dept of Planning and Economic Development

East Lindsey District Council

Tedder Hall

Manby Park

LOUTH

LN11 8UP

Tel: 01507 601111 or Fax: 01507 600206

Mr D Barnes

Tudor Lodge

Thurlby Road

Bilsby

ALFORD

LN13 9SJ

Tel: 01507 466250

Mr I K George

Assistant Archaeological Officer

Lincolnshire County Council

12 Friars Lane

LINCOLN

LN2 5AL

Tel: 01522 575292 or Fax: 01522 530724

Mr T Page

City and County Museum

12 Friars Lane

LINCOLN

LN2 5AL

Tel: 01522 530401 or Fax: 01522 530724

Context Summary

| Context | Description | Interpretation |
|---------|---|----------------------|
| 001 | Mid brown sandy silt | Subsoil |
| 002 | Light yellowish fawn clayey silt | Dump deposit |
| 003 | Mid-dark blackish brown clayey silt | Fill of ditch 022 |
| 004 | Mid brown silty clay with moderate-frequent small angular and subangular stones | Fill of ditch 022 |
| 005 | Mid-dark greyish brown clay with organic material | Fill of ditch 022 |
| 006 | Mid brown sandy clayey silt with light yellow mottles and moderate-frequent small angular stones | Fill of ditch 007 |
| 007 | Linear N-S cut, maximum width c . 1m, depth 0.6m, steep sides | Ditch, same as (026) |
| 800 | Light yellowish fawn clay | Fill of pit 009 |
| 009 | Cut 0.6m wide by 0.45m deep with steep-vertical sides. Filled by 008 | Pit |
| 010 | Mid-dark brown clayey silt with moderate- frequent small rounded stones | Fill of pit 013 |
| 011 | Light-mid orange brown clay with moderate- frequent decayed fragments of limestone | Natural |
| 012 | Mid yellow-brown clayey silt | Fill of pit 013 |
| 013 | Cut with stepped sides, c. 1.4m across by 0.65m deep | ? Pit |
| 014 | Light yellowish fawn clayey silt | Fill of ditch 022 |
| 015 | Mid brown silty clay | Fill of ditch 022 |
| 016 | Mid brownish-grey clayey silt | Fill of ditch 022 |
| 017 | Light-mid brown silt with some grit and clay plus moderate-frequent fragments of decayed brick, decayed stones and coal/ charcoal. Included a ceramic pipe | Fill of drain 018 |
| 018 | Linear E-W cut c . 0.6m wide by 0.3m deep and seen for a distance of 5m. Gradual sides, concave base | Drain cut |

| 019 | Light-mid yellow brown silt with clay | Fill of ditch 022 |
|-----|--|------------------------|
| 020 | Light-mid brown clayish silt | Fill of ditch 022 |
| 021 | Mid brown clayish silt with frequent fragments of decayed limestone | Fill of ditch 022 |
| 022 | Linear E-W cut c . 2.7m wide by 1.2m+ deep and seen for 5m | Ditch |
| 023 | Light-mid brownish-yellow clayish silt | Subsoil |
| 024 | Mid brown clayey silt | Fill of ditch 022 |
| 025 | Mid-dark brown silt with clay | Fill of ditch 026 |
| 026 | N-S linear cut 1m wide by 0.54m deep. Gradual sides and concave base. | Ditch cut. Same as 007 |
| 027 | Light yellow-brown clayish silt | Subsoil |
| 028 | Light orange and grey mottled clay | Natural |
| 029 | Dark blackish-brown silt with organic matter | Fill of ditch 022 |
| 030 | Mottled light grey clay with moderate-frequent decayed stones | Fill of ditch 022 |
| 031 | Cut 0.6m wide by 0.45m deep with vertical sides and flat base. Filled by 032 | Pit cut |
| 032 | Light-mid grey clay and silt | Fill of pit 031 |

]

]

The Finds by Paul Cope-Faulkner, Hilary Healey and Tom Lane

| Context | Description | Date |
|---------|--|--|
| 001 | Black-glazed earthenware, 1 piece; slip-trailed earthenware, 1 piece; Cobalt blue transfer printed pottery, 1 piece Welsh slate, 1 piece struck flint flake, 1 flint chip, natural, 1 | late 18th-19th century; late 18th century; late 18th-early 19th century 19th-20th century prehistoric |
| 003 | white stoneware, 1 piece; tin glazed earthenware, 1 piece iron nail, 1 | early 18th century; first half of 18th century |
| 010 | window glass, 1 piece; wine glass base, 1 piece; Sheep tooth, 1 | late 18th-early 19th century |
| 012 | Toynton All Saints pottery, 1 piece | 14th-15th century |
| 017 | D-section, field-drain segment | late 19th-20th century |
| 024 | Horse footbone, 1 | |

The horse metacarpus (footbone) appears to be from a moderately young animal and is slightly larger than average. There are no signs of butchering on the bone which is in good condition. The sheep tooth is a molar and is probably from a young adult.

Two fragments of flint were recovered from the topsoil. One of these is probably a natural chip from a larger nodule, the second is a deliberately struck flake of prehistoric date. The deliberately struck artefact possesses flake scars and is probably a waste flake.

Glossary

Context

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 generally identified within the report text by brackets, *e.g.* (004).

Cut

A cut refers to the physical action of digging a posthole, pit, ditch, foundation trench, *etc*. Once the fills of these features are removed during an archaeological investigation the original 'cut' is therefore exposed and subsequently recorded.

Dumped deposits

These are deposits, often laid down intentionally, that raise a land surface. They may be the result of casual waste disposal or may be deliberate attempts to elevate the ground surface for drainage or other purposes.

Fill

Once a feature has been dug it begins to silt up (either slowly or rapidly) or it can be back-filled manually. The sediment(s) and soil(s) which become contained by the 'cut' are referred to as its fill(s).

Glaciofluvial

drift Natural deposits formed and laid down as a result of the action of both

glaciers (during the Ice Age) and rivers.

Layer A layer is a term used to describe an accumulation of soil or other material

that is not contained within a cut.

Medieval Pertaining to the Middle Ages, dating from approximately AD 1066-1500.

Natural Undisturbed deposit(s) of soil or rock which have accumulated without the

influence of human activity.

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

1800.

Sokeland Land which was outside a particular manor but which the lord of the manor

exercised personal jurisdiction over.

The Archive

The archive consists of:

32 . Context Records

11 . Photographs

6 . . Scale Drawings

1 . . Stratigraphic Matrix

1 . . Box of finds

All primary records are currently kept at:

Archaeological Project Services The Old School Cameron Street Heckington Lincolnshire NG34 9RW

Archaeological Project Services project code TMH95
City and County Museum, Lincoln Accession number 70.96