

PCA

97/2

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF
SUPPLEMENTARY REPORT**

Long Street Foston

Site Code: LSF 95

LCNCC Acc. No: 110.95

SK 858429

Lincolnshire County Council
Airedale, Leeds

LINCOLNSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL
TEL. 0522 315212 FAX: 0522 530724
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Prepared for Ray Williams Developments by Pre-Construct Archaeology (Lincoln)

Text Simon Johnson

Illustrations Rene Mouraille

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see also 97/8

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1.0 Introduction

In January 1995, Ray Williams Developments were granted full planning permission to build three new dwellings on land fronting Long Street, Foston, Lincolnshire. The permission was subject to five conditions, one of which required the undertaking of an archaeological scheme of works. Pre-Construct Archaeology (Lincoln) were commissioned to undertake a watching brief in order to fulfil the planning requirement and 'preserve by record' the archaeological remains. The watching brief demonstrated that the site was occupied from at least late Saxon times (Johnson, 1996, s 6.0).

Subsequent to the above, further planning approval was granted for the construction of another dwelling; immediately south of the original site. The permission was again subject to the same archaeological requirement.

On request, the Community Archaeologist for South Kesteven agreed to an extension of the original brief, allowing development to commence immediately. Accordingly, this report details the results obtained from the second phase of monitoring which should be read as an appendix/supplement to the original document.

The watching brief was undertaken by the writer and Mr RL Schofield.

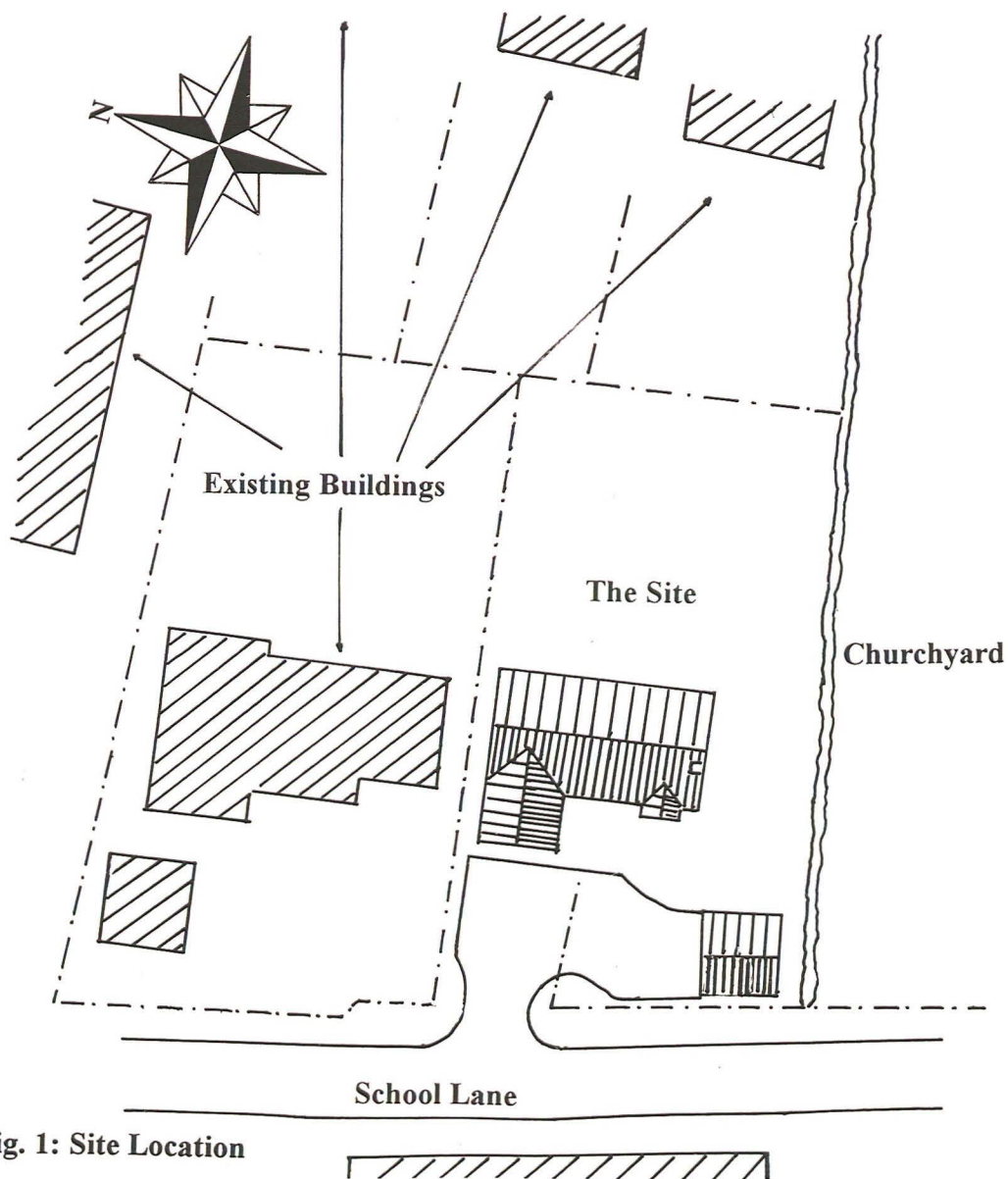


Fig. 1: Site Location

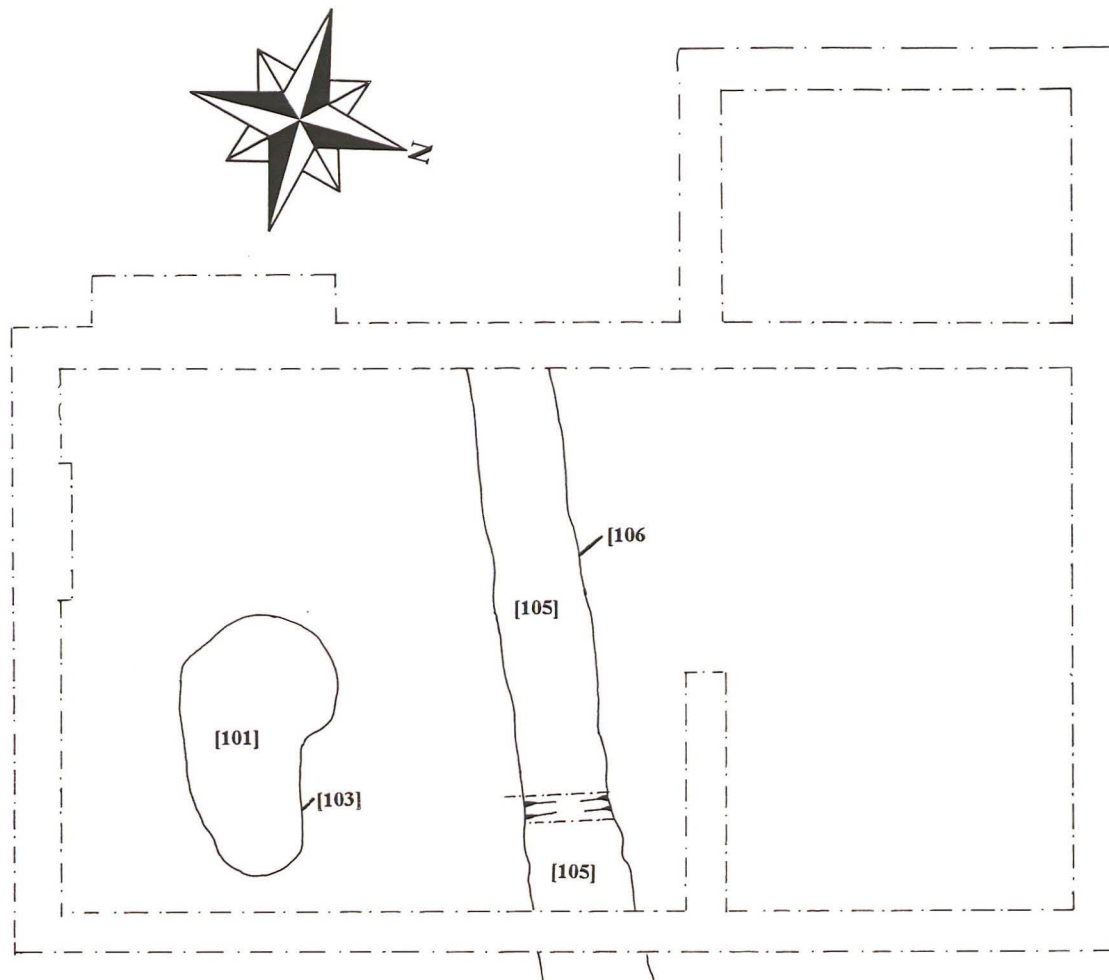


Fig. 2: 1:100 Foundation trench plot showing gully [106] and kiln type structure [102]

2.0 Results

The site comprised a broadly rectangular plot of land (c. 45 x 25 m.) which had been under rough pasture. The initial groundworks consisted of topsoil and subsoil stripping to produce a flat building platform. This stage was monitored by the writer who identified three areas of archaeological interest which were subsequently investigated and recorded by RL Schofield. Pottery recovered from the topsoil was primarily Late Saxon Lincoln Kiln and Local Fabric types; four sherds, however, were identified as Early Saxon Charnwood series which date from the C5th to the early C8th.

2.1 Kiln-type structure

The first feature investigated was discovered during initial ground reduction, and was located in the south-east corner of the foundation footprint.

A light-mid grey ash and charcoal-based deposit (101), 0.10 m. deep filled an irregular (but broadly 'figure-of-eight-shaped') cut (103). It contained fragments of fired clay (whose surfaces were semi-vitrified) and partially burnt bone. At the west end of the structure were the remains of a possible stone lining (102)a, and a stone lining/floor

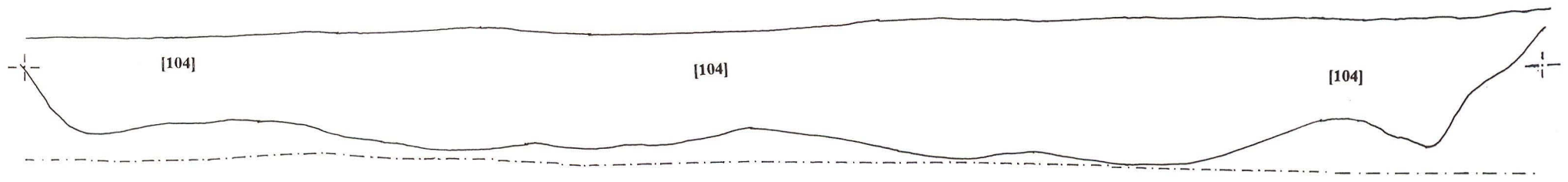
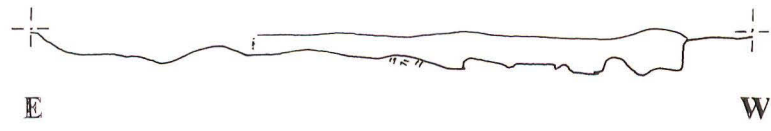
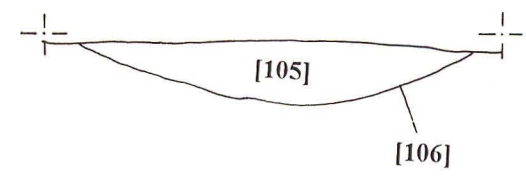
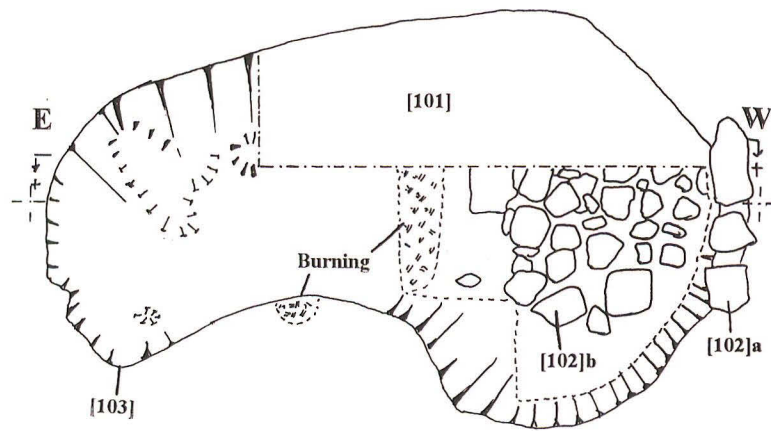


Fig. 3: 1:40 Composite plan and sections of 'kiln' [102] and charnel pits [104]
 1:20 Profile of gully [106]

which showed evidence of burning (102)b. Scorched natural at the 'neck' of the feature was recorded which may have constituted part of a burnt flue. The east end was very disturbed, though a shallow depression may have been the remains of a stoking area.

The purpose and date of the structure was not determined. Its form is reminiscent of a classic single-flue up-draught kiln but the absence of 'wasters' on the site would imply that pottery production was not the principal function. kiln-type structures were sometimes used for drying corn following harvest, but the general characteristics of the feature is not typical for structures known to have been associated with that process.

2.2 Linear gully

An undated linear gully was exposed, which entered the site in the east foundation and exited through the west. It was approximately 0.18 m. deep and 1.0 m wide. Although shallow and broadly U-shaped, its base was uneven and greatly affected by root activity: suggesting perhaps that it was the scar of an up-rooted boundary hedge.

2.3 Pit sequence

Examination of the north foundation trench revealed a series of pits, filled largely with discarded disarticulated animal bones (context [104]). The fills were of undifferentiated dark grey-brown clay-silt which could not be separated stratigraphically. No datable artefacts were recovered.

3.0 Conclusions

Continued archaeological monitoring of developments at Foston has produced further potentially interesting (though admittedly, undated) settlement evidence, including a possible updraught-type kiln.

The density, character, and state of preservation of the remains exposed within the three plots monitored under the brief (principally property boundaries and domestic rubbish/cess pits) suggests the possibility of structural remains surviving within the village core, possibly towards the frontage of Long Street where the development impact was slight; principally comprising a single service trench and private drives which were not cut below the topsoil horizon.

4.0 Acknowledgements

Once again, many thanks are expressed to Ray Williams for commissioning Pre-Construct Archaeology to take care of his archaeological matters. Thanks are also expressed to Jane Young for assessing the pottery.

5.0 Site Archive

Records and correspondence relating to this phase of work will be incorporated into the general site archive (Accession No: 110.95) which is deposited at the City and County Museum, Lincoln.

6.0 Appendices

6.1 Pottery Archive

POST-ROMAN POTTERY ARCHIVE: LSF95 WARE TYPES BY CONTEXT

| Context | Ware | Sherds | Form | Comments |
|---------|-------|--------|------|---|
| X100 | CHARN | 4 | - | INT CARBONISED DEPOSIT;HANDMADE BS |
| X100 | LKT | 1 | BOWL | EVERTED RIM |
| X100 | LSLOC | 3 | ? | HANDMADE;BS;SHELL FABRIC |
| X101 | MISC | 7 | - | FRAGS OF FIRED CLAY; SOME SURFACES SEMI VITRIFIED |

POST-ROMAN POTTERY ARCHIVE: LSF95 HORIZON DATING

| Context | Earliest horizon | Latest horizon | Date range |
|---------|------------------|----------------|-----------------------|
| X101 | ASH7 | ASH11 | late 9th to late 10th |

6.2 List of Contexts

| Context | Depth | Category | Description |
|---------|-----------------|----------------|---|
| 100 | 0.30m. | Layer | Dark grey-brown humic clayey silt topsoil. Removed by machine, monitored by S Johnson. |
| 101 | 0.10 m. | Fill | Ash deposit; light-mid grey with occasional charcoal flecks. |
| 102 | 0.08 m. | Fill | Surface of rough limestone slabs lining base at west end of feature [103]. Occasional scorching. |
| 103 | 0.38 m. | Cut | Figure-of-eight shaped cut with a shallow bowled profile. West end was lined with [102]. East end was very disturbed. Central area at 'neck' revealed scorched natural. Kiln type structure. |
| 104 | <i>variable</i> | Feature series | Series of inter-cutting charnel pits: containing domestic animal bone, no differentiation between subsequent fills could be determined; they comprised dark greyish-brown clayey silt. Undated. |
| 105 | 0.18 m. | Fill | Dark greyish black plastic clayey silt with occasional inclusions of charcoal and limestone fragments. |
| 106 | 0.18 m. | Cut | East-west aligned linear gully with a bowl shaped profile and uneven base. Possibly recent field boundary or hedge line. |
| 107 | ? | Layer | Natural underlying banded clay. |



Plate 1



Plate 2



Plate 3

6.3 Colour Plates

Plate 1: General shot of ?kiln [103] looking west

Plate 2: Gully [106], looking west

Plate 3: Pit series [106] looking north-west