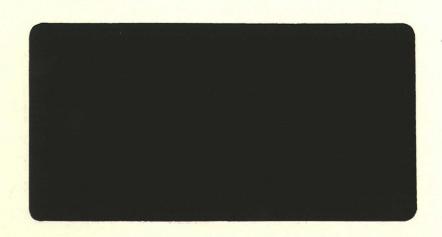


County Council

4. FEB 98

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A Report to R.H.Ward (Welton) Ltd.

January 1998

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POULTRY UNITS AT WELTON CLIFF FARM, WELTON, LINCOLNSHIRE

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

By K Wragg

CLAU ARCHAEOLOGICAL REPORT NO:322

POULTRY UNITS AT WELTON CLIFF FARM, WELTON, LINCOLNSHIRE

Archaeological Watching Brief

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POULTRY UNITS AT WELTON CLIFF FARM, WELTON, LINCOLNSHIRE

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

NON-TECHNICAL SUMMARY

This development involved the construction of two new timber-built poultry units on an area of farmland lying close to the A15 Trunk Road (see Fig.1). The main development area measures approximately 100m (N-S) x 70m (E-W), and is situated c. 1km to the north-east of the main farm buildings.

In view of the general proximity of sites of known archaeological importance within a rich historic landscape, it was decided by West Lindsey District Council, following consultation with the Lincolnshire County Council Archaeology Section, that any required groundworks should be monitored archaeologically.

Accordingly, during November 1997, the City of Lincoln Archaeology Unit was commissioned by Mr John Ward, the owner/developer, to carry out an intermittent watching brief on the site, in order to comply with an archaeological condition of planning consent. Observation was carried out on the site between the 24th and 25th of November 1997.

However, notwithstanding the potential of the site, the results from this watching brief have proved to be negative, with only topsoil and natural deposits (with no evidence for occupation and/or artefacts) revealed during the project.

POULTRY UNITS AT WELTON CLIFF FARM, WELTON, LINCOLNSHIRE

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

1.0 INTRODUCTION

This development involved the construction of two new timber-built poultry units on an area of farmland lying close to the A15 Trunk Road (see Fig.1). The main development area measures approximately 100m (N-S) x 70m (E-W), and is situated c. 1km to the north-east of the main farm buildings.

Because of the lightweight nature of the proposed structures, a simple concrete raft/slab foundation (without any supporting edge beams/trench foundation) was deemed suitable, resulting in little actual ground disturbance. The groundworks that were required involved the removal of c.300mm of the topsoil deposit, together with limited excavation to provide services/drainage.

In view of the general proximity of sites of known archaeological importance within a rich historic landscape, it was decided by West Lindsey District Council, following consultation with the Lincolnshire County Council Archaeology Section, that these groundworks should be monitored archaeologically.

Accordingly, during November 1997, the City of Lincoln Archaeology Unit was commissioned by Mr John Ward, the owner/developer, to carry out an intermittent watching brief on the site, in order to comply with an archaeological condition of planning consent. Observation was carried out during the site stripping phase on the 24th and 25th of November 1997.

In view of the negative archaeological result of this initial phase, it was decided (by Mr J. Bonnor of the Lincolnshire County Council Archaeology Section) that continued observation of the service/drainage trenching was unjustifiable. As a result, the watching brief was concluded on the 1st of December 1997

The information in this document is presented with the proviso that further data may yet emerge. The Unit, its members and employees cannot, therefore, be held responsible for any loss, delay or damage, material or otherwise, arising out of this report. The document has been prepared in accordance wit the terms of the Unit's Articles of Association, the Code of Conduct of the Institute of Field Archaeologists, and *The Management of Archaeological Projects 2* (English Heritage, 1991).

2.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Welton Cliff Farm lies between the village of Welton (to the east) and Scampton Royal Air Force base (to the west), and is located approximately 8km to the north of Lincoln, lying at a general height of c.20m O.D.

The site lies in a rich historic landscape with features of Prehistoric, Roman, medieval and post-medieval origins identified in the surrounding area (Whitwell, 1992; Everson et al, 1991). Previous archaeological discoveries close to the site have included a Neolithic stone axe-head, while aerial photographs have identified crop-marks possibly indicating the presence of prehistoric features (SMR No.:52185; J.Bonnor, pers.comm.)

A Roman road, *Ermine Street*, passes the site to the west, its alignment still recognisable in the line of the modern A15(T). *Ermine Street* was the original route between Lincoln and the ferries at the Humber, and thence to York. This road was one of the most important routes to the north, probably having its origins as a military supply road in the early years of the conquest.

3.0 RESULTS

Groundworks comprised a phase of site stripping & levelling work, and limited service trenching. All works were carried out by mechanical means.

The initial phase of site-stripping work involved removal of the topsoil deposit to a depth of c.300mm over an area measuring c.100mm (N-S) x 70m (E-W). No sign of occupation, either in the removed topsoil, or in the underlying limestone 'brash', was revealed during this activity.

The earliest deposit recorded was a limestone 'brash' layer (representing the natural, i.e., geological, strata), which was revealed at the limit of excavation (at a depth of c.300mm below the modern ground level) across the entire stripped area. This deposit, [101], comprised angular limestone pieces mixed with light yellow-brown clayey sand and mid orange-brown sand.

The limestone 'brash' was then sealed by the existing topsoil deposit for the area, [100], a moderately compacted (very slightly clayey/sticky) mid brown sandy silt. This layer contained evidence of recent manuring and some crop remains, together with c.10%-20% of small angular limestone fragments, and was again present across the site.

4.0 DISCUSSION OF RESULTS AND CONCLUSIONS

Notwithstanding the potential of the site, as related above, the results from this watching brief have proved to be negative, with only topsoil and natural deposits (with no evidence for occupation and/or artefacts) revealed during the project.

5.0 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The City of Lincoln Archaeology Unit would like to thank the following for their assistance during this project: Mr John Ward, R.H.Ward (Welton) Ltd., Welton Cliff Farm, Welton, Lincolnshire; Mr J.Bonnor, Assistant Archaeological Officer, Lincolnshire County Council, 12 Friars Lane, Lincoln, LN2 5AL; and the on-site staff of Fox Plant Ltd.

6.0 BIBLIOGRAPHY

Everson, P L, Taylor, C C & Dunn, C J (eds) 1991 Change and Continuity. Rural settlement in north-west Lincolnshire, RCHM(E)

Whitwell, J B 1992 Roman Lincolnshire - Revised Edition, History of Lincolnshire 2, Lincolnshire Local Hist Soc, Lincoln, [LAM BIB530]

7.0 LHA NOTE/ARCHIVE DETAILS

7.1 LHA NOTE DETAILS

CLAU CODE: WCF97

PLANNING APPLICATION NO.: 97/P/0689

FIELD OFFICER: K. Wragg

NGR: SK 9820/8070

CIVIL PARISH: Welton

SMR No.: 52185 (lies to E.)

DATE OF INTERVENTION: 24 - 25/11/97

TYPE OF INTERVENTION: Watching Brief

UNDERTAKEN FOR: Mr John Ward, R.H.Ward (Welton) Ltd., Welton Cliff Farm,

Welton, Lincolnshire

7.2 ARCHIVE DETAILS

PRESENT LOCATION: City of Lincoln Archaeology Unit, Charlotte House, The Lawn, Union Road, Lincoln, LN1 3BL.

FINAL LOCATION: The City and County Museum, Friars Lane, Lincoln.

MUSEUM ACCESSION No.: 280.97

ACCESSION DATE: -

APPENDIX A - COLOUR PLATE



Plate 1: General View of Site Stripping in Progress

APPENDIX B - ARCHIVE DEPOSITION

The archive consists of:

No.	Description
1	Site diary
1	Report
2	Context records
1	Site Plan drawing
1	Colour slide film

The primary archive material, as detailed above, is currently held by:

The City of Lincoln Archaeology Unit, Charlotte House, The Lawn, Union Road, Lincoln, Lincolnshire, LN1 3BL.

It is intended that transfer to the City and County Museum, Friars Lane, Lincoln, in accordance with current published requirements, under Museum Accession Number 280.97, will be undertaken following completion of this project.

