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**ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF
OF DEVELOPMENT ON LAND OFF
POSTLAND ROAD,
CROWLAND,
LINCOLNSHIRE
(CPR98)**



A P S
ARCHAEOLOGICAL
PROJECT
SERVICES

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**ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF
OF DEVELOPMENT ON LAND OFF
POSTLAND ROAD,
CROWLAND,
LINCOLNSHIRE
(CPR98)**

Work Undertaken For
L.E. Wyer and Sons Ltd

June 1998

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

Planning Application No: H02/0275/98
National Grid Reference: TF 2465 1064
City and County Museum Accession No: pending

A.P.S. Report No. 40/98

*Archaeological Project Services is an
IFA Registered Archaeological Organisation (No. 21)*

Lincolnshire County Council
Archaeology Service

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1. SUMMARY

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken during development on land adjacent to Postland Road, Crowland, Lincolnshire.

The earliest archaeological remains date to the Neolithic period (4200 - 2250 BC) and are represented by stone axes and flint tools. In the Early Bronze Age (2250 - 1600 BC), Crowland became a focus for a barrow cemetery, part of a sequence of such monuments along the fen-edge in Cambridgeshire and Lincolnshire. Following a possible hiatus of occupation in the Late Bronze and Iron Ages, Crowland was briefly re-occupied during the Romano-British period (AD 50 - 410).

Crowland is noted for its Abbey, which had its origins as a cell founded by St. Guthlac in the 8th century. The monastery grew in prosperity and by the medieval period (1066 - 1500 AD) controlled much of this part of south Lincolnshire, until its dissolution in 1539.

The watching brief identified natural deposits overlain by subsoil, cut through by a refuse pit that contained 19th century material. This was sealed by the present topsoil. In addition to the 19th century artefacts, pottery of the 16th - 17th century, and an Early Bronze Age flint, were also recovered.

2. INTRODUCTION

2.1 Definition of a Watching Brief

An archaeological watching brief is defined as 'a formal programme of observation and investigation conducted during any operation carried out for non-archaeological purposes within a specified area, where there is a possibility that

archaeological deposits may be disturbed or destroyed.' (IFA 1994, 1).

2.2 Planning Background

Archaeological Project Services was commissioned by Mr P. Wyer to undertake an archaeological watching brief during development on land adjacent to Postland Road, Crowland, Lincolnshire. Approval for the development was sought through the submission of planning application H02/0275/98. The watching brief was carried out on 11th May 1998.

2.3 Topography and Geology

Crowland is situated 12km south of Spalding and 22km east of Stamford, near the southern boundary of Lincolnshire (Fig. 1).

The site is located 600m northeast of the town centre as defined by the parish church of Our Lady, St. Bartholomew and St. Guthlac. The site lies on generally level ground at c. 3m OD, south of Postland Road, centred on National Grid Reference TF 2465 1064 (Fig. 2).

Local soils are of the Swanwick Series, typically coarse loamy argillic gley soils (Robson 1990, 29). Beneath the soils is a drift geology of marine or estuarine sand and gravel (also known as the Abbey Gravels) which are formed along a southwest to northeast line creating a peninsula of higher ground extending from the fen-edge to the west. These gravels in turn overlie a solid geology of Jurassic Oxford clays (BGS 1984).

2.4 Archaeological Setting

The proposed development site lies in an area of known archaeological remains dating from the prehistoric periods. The earliest evidence of occupation is during the Neolithic period and stone axes have been

found to the west and a collection of flints have been retrieved 250m south of the site (Hayes and Lane 1992, 197).

During the Early Bronze Age, the gravel ridge that Crowland sits on was the focus for a sizeable barrow cemetery. This was part of a system of such cemeteries extending from Borough Fen to the south, to Deeping St. Nicholas west of Crowland and continuing to the north (Lane 1994, 6). Most of the barrows are only known from their destruction in the last two centuries and the nearest to the site is located less than 250m to the east (Hayes and Lane 1992, 197). Little contemporary settlement associated with the barrows has yet been identified in Crowland. However, pottery sherds are known from the vicinity of the church (*ibid.*).

Later Bronze Age remains are unknown from the Crowland peninsula though an Iron Age site, possibly a saltern (salt-producing site), has been identified to the north of the town (*ibid.*, 198). Evidence for Romano-British remains is also scarce and comprise few scattered sherds of pottery and a coin, found 150m west of the development (*ibid.*).

Crowland is first mentioned in the mid 8th century by Felix, the biographer of St. Guthlac. Referred to as *Crugland*, *Cruulond* and *Cruwland*, the name is derived from the word *crûw*, possibly from the Old Norse *krûwila* meaning bend (Ekwall 1974, 133). Felix was writing about the life of St. Guthlac who founded a cell here, with two followers, in c. 700 AD (Page 1988, 105).

A Benedictine monastery dedicated to St. Guthlac was in existence in Crowland by 1051 and was subject to Peterborough Abbey. It is not known when the monastery was first built, although it is

believed to be in the mid-late 10th century, as a documentary reference noting an earlier foundation is now believed to be a forgery (Hayes and Lane 1992, 202). The present standing remains of the abbey date to 1156 AD (Pevsner and Harris 1989, 238).

Located c. 300m east of the development is a field named Anchor Church. The use of the word 'Anchor' is often related to an anchorite hermitage and may indicate the location of such a foundation (Gary Taylor *pers. comm.*). Apart from Guthlac's hermitage, his sister, St. Pega, also had a cell in Crowland which documentary references place to the east of the monastery (Page 1988, 118).

Crowland is not specifically referred to in the Domesday Survey of 1086, although details of its holdings at Holbeach, Whaplode, Spalding, Langtoft, Baston, Dowdyke, Drayton, Algarkirk, Burtoft and Bucknall are listed (Foster and Longley 1976, 60). Land was also held in the surrounding counties including Wothorpe, Elmington, Addington, Wellingborough and Badby in Northants (Thorn and Thorn 1979), Bucknall in Leicestershire, Morborne and Wisbech in Cambridgeshire (Page 1988, 106).

Following the dissolution in 1539, the abbey buildings gradually fell into decay, a process that was accelerated during the English Civil War (1642-46) when a Royalist garrison constructed a fort surrounding the church (Pevsner and Harris 1989, 240).

3. AIMS

The requirements of the watching brief, as detailed in the project specification (Appendix 1), were to locate and record archaeological deposits, if present, and to determine their date, function and origin.

4. METHODS

The proposed development required the excavation of trenches to accommodate the footings for the new building (Fig. 3; Plate 1). These were excavated by machine to a depth of *c.* 0.65m. Once the trenches were excavated, selected deposits were cleaned by hand. The depth and thickness of each deposit was measured from the ground surface. Each deposit or feature revealed within an opened area was allocated a unique reference number (context number) with an individual written description. Natural geological deposits were also recorded where exposed. Sections were drawn at a scale of 1:10. A photographic record was also compiled. Recording of the deposits encountered during the watching brief was undertaken according to standard Archaeological Project Services' practice.

Finds recovered from those deposits excavated were examined and a period date assigned where possible. Records of the deposits and features identified during the watching brief were also examined. Phasing was assigned based on the nature of the deposits and recognisable relationships between them. A list of all contexts with interpretations appears as Appendix 2.

5. RESULTS

Two phases were identified:

Phase 1: Natural Deposits
Phase 2: Modern Deposits

Archaeological contexts are listed below and described. The numbers in brackets are the context numbers assigned in the field.

Phase 1: Natural deposits

A layer of soft orange sand and silt with gravel (005) was encountered at the base of the foundation trenches. This was identified as the natural sand and silts of the underlying drift geology.

Phase 2: Modern deposits

Above the natural (005) a layer of subsoil developed comprising mid brown sandy silt or silt (004, 007 and 008). A single sherd of 19th century pottery was retrieved from (008) along with an oyster shell, suggesting that the subsoil had been worked.

Cutting through the subsoil deposit was a feature (003), at least 1.48m long by 1.2m wide and 0.38m deep. This feature (Plate 2) contained two fills, the upper of yellowish brown clayey silt (002) and the lower of blackish grey sand and silt (006). Pottery recovered from the two layers comprised 19th century wares.

Sealing the feature and present across the entirety of the site was a topsoil of brown sandy silt, 80mm thick (001). Finds from this included 19th century artefacts, although a residual Early Bronze Age flint and a 16th-17th century pot sherd were retrieved.

6. DISCUSSION

Natural deposits (Phase 1) of orange sand and silt with gravel were encountered in the base of the foundation trenches. This is probably a river terrace deposit derived from the former course of the River Welland and are part of the pre-Flandrian Abbey Gravel sequence (Horton 1989, 21).

Modern deposits (Phase 2) comprise a developed subsoil, that has probably been worked due to the inclusion of 19th century

material. A feature, interpreted as a refuse pit, was cut through this and backfilled with more 19th century material with dumps of silt and sand.

Artefacts recovered from the investigation included standard earthenware pottery of 19th century date. A single sherd from a Bourne D vessel represents earlier activity, as does a Bronze Age flint core although both of these finds are residual in nature. Other finds included glass, clay pipe stems, clinker and oyster shell. The finds derived from the topsoil may indicate no more than disturbance of the rubbish pits or discarded rubbish incorporated into midden heaps and later spread on the land to improve fertility of the soil.

7. CONCLUSIONS

Archaeological investigations at Postland Road, Crowland, were undertaken because the site fell within an area of known archaeological remains dating from the prehistoric periods and later.

Apart from a 19th century refuse pit, no deposits of archaeological interest were encountered during the watching brief. A small collection of finds were obtained from several layers and include a variety of 19th century wares. Other artefacts, including post-medieval pottery and prehistoric flint indicate a human presence in earlier periods, but these finds were residual in nature.

8. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeological Project Services wish to acknowledge the assistance of Mr P. Wyer who commissioned the fieldwork and post-excavation analysis. Gary Taylor coordinated the work and Tom Lane edited this report. Background information was

kindly provided by Dave Start, who allowed access to the parish files maintained by Heritage Lincolnshire. Hilary Healey examined the pottery finds and Tom Lane commented upon the flint.

9. PERSONNEL

Project Coordinator: Gary Taylor
Site Supervisor: Fiona Walker
Finds Processing: Denise Buckley
Illustration: Paul Cope-Faulkner, Phil Mills
Post-excavation Analyst: Paul Cope-Faulkner

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11. ABBREVIATIONS

APS Archaeological Project Services

BGS British Geological Survey

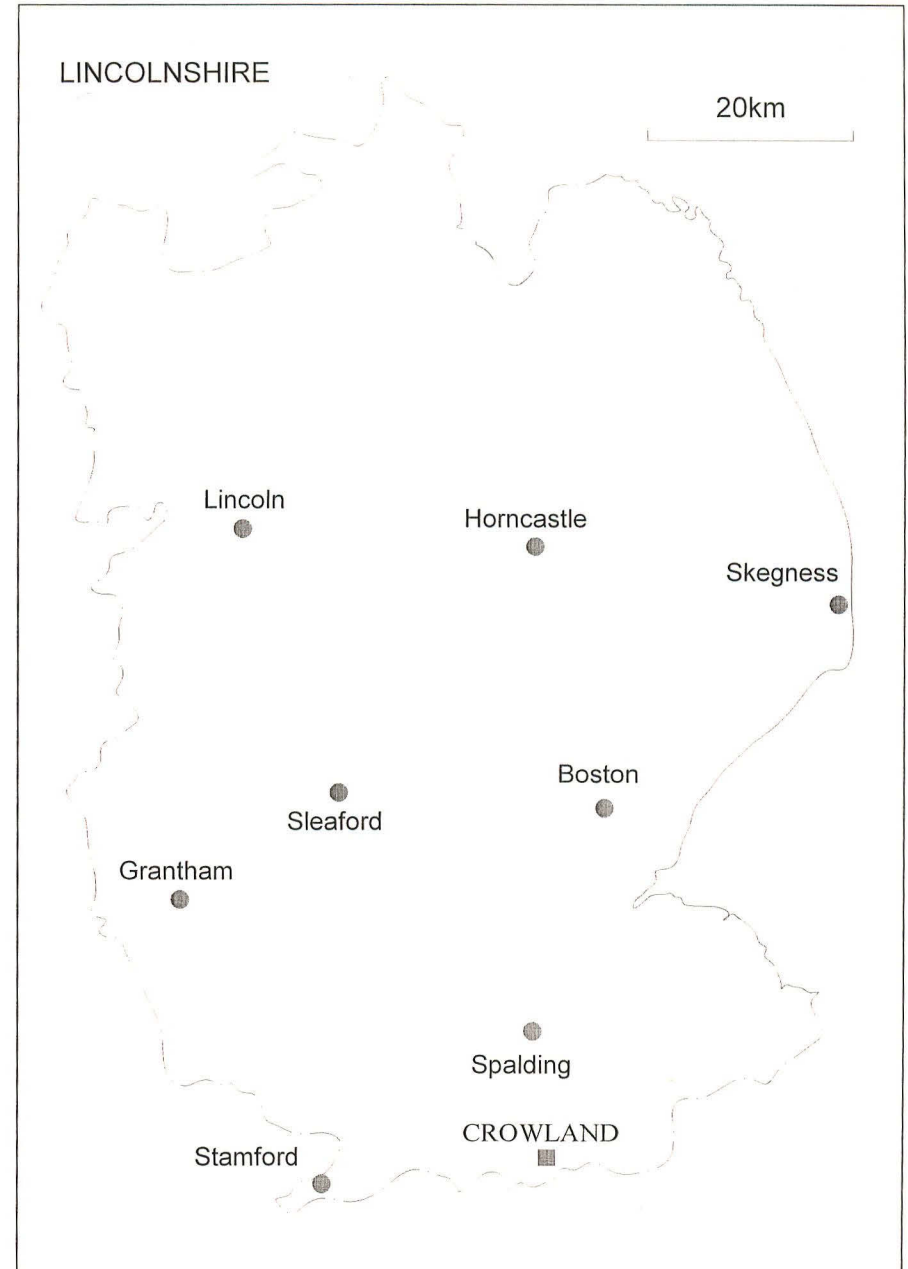


Figure 1 - General Location Plan



Figure 2 - Site Location Plan



Figure 3 - Development Site Plan, showing location of drawn section

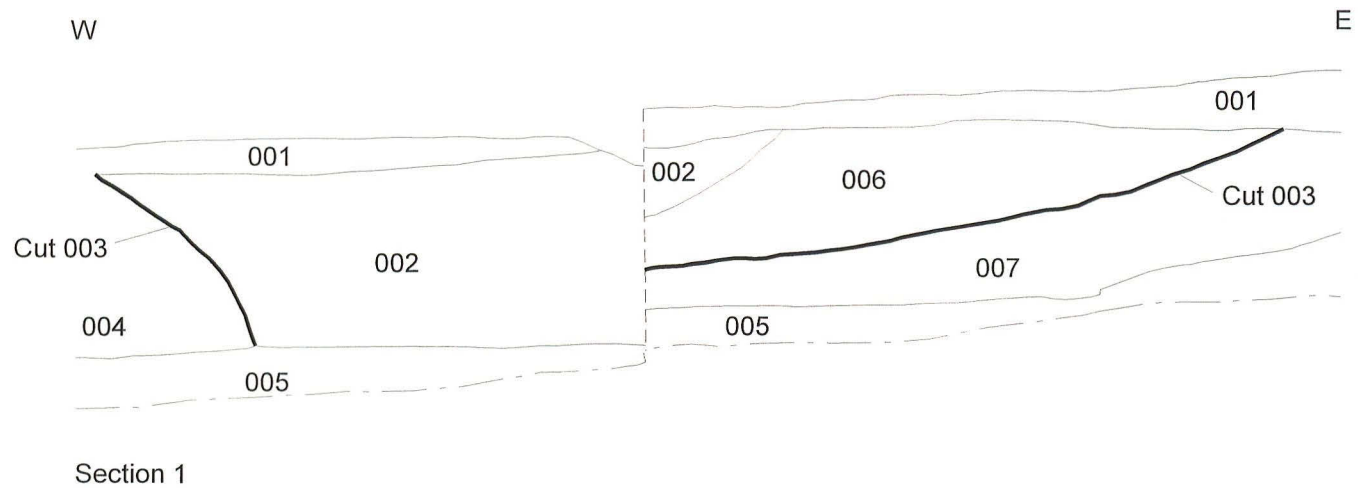


Figure 4 - Section 1



Plate 1: General site view.



Plate 2: Section 1, showing pit (003).

Appendix 1

PLOT 69C, POSTLAND ROAD, CROWLAND, LINCOLNSHIRE - SPECIFICATION FOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

1. SUMMARY

- a. *A watching brief is required during development at Postland Road, Crowland, Lincolnshire.*
- b. *Prehistoric burial mounds occur in the area and Roman pottery has been found in the vicinity. Additionally, an abbey, founded before the Norman conquest, brought the town to prominence and attracted settlement in the medieval period. The present town probably largely overlies the medieval village.*
- c. *The watching brief will be undertaken during groundworks associated with the development. The archaeological features exposed will be recorded in writing, graphically and photographically.*
- d. *On completion of the fieldwork a report will be prepared detailing the findings of the work. The report will consist of a narrative supported by illustrations and photographs.*

2. INTRODUCTION

- e. This document comprises a specification for an archaeological watching brief during development at Plot 69c, Postland Road, Crowland. The site is located at approximate national grid reference TF245107, and is shown on Figures 1 and 2.
- f. This document contains the following parts:
 - i. Overview.
 - ii. Stages of work and methodologies.
 - iii. List of specialists.
 - iv. Programme of works and staffing structure of the project.

3. SITE LOCATION

- g. Crowland is located approximately 12km south of Spalding in the administrative district of South Holland. The site, on the northeast side of the town, is located at approximately TF245107.

4. PLANNING BACKGROUND

- h. Outline planning permission for the construction of a dwelling has been granted by South Holland District Council, subject to a condition requiring the implementation of an archaeological watching brief.

5. SOILS AND TOPOGRAPHY

- i. Crowland is situated in the fens of south Lincolnshire. The site and surrounding area is on fairly flat on a very slight slope down to the east and lies at approximately 3m OD. Soils at the site are Ireton Association loamy over sandy soils formed in glaciofluvial deposits (Hodge *et al.* 1984, 229).

6. THE ARCHAEOLOGY

- j. Crowland lies on a gravel ridge and several prehistoric burial mounds have been identified on this ridge in the vicinity of the village. In particular, two burial mounds were located just south and east of Postland Road. Roman pottery and a coin has also been found in the town, just south of Postland Road, though there is no clear evidence of settlement of the period.

- k. Crowland came to prominence in the medieval period. An abbey was founded there by the late 10th century, and perhaps as early as the 8th century, and attracted settlement around. The present village of Crowland probably largely superimposes the medieval settlement. A medieval building, within a rectangular enclosure, was established on one of the prehistoric burial mounds near Postland Road (Hayes and Lane 1992).

7 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- l. The aims of the watching brief will be:
- i. To record and interpret the archaeological features exposed during ground disturbance.
- m. The objectives of the watching brief will be to:
- i. Determine the form and function of the archaeological features encountered;
- ii. Determine the spatial arrangement of the archaeological features encountered;
- iii. As far as practicable, recover dating evidence from the archaeological features, and
- iv. Establish the sequence of the archaeological remains present on the site.

8 SITE OPERATIONS

n General considerations

- v. All work will be undertaken following statutory Health and Safety requirements in operation at the time of the watching brief.
- vi. The work will be undertaken according to the relevant codes of practise issued by the Institute of Field Archaeologists. *Archaeological Project Services* is an Institute of Field Archaeologists' Registered Organisation (no. 21).

n. Methodology

- i. The watching brief will be undertaken during the ground works phase of development, and includes the archaeological monitoring of all phases of soil movement.
- ii. The sections of the trenches will be observed regularly to identify and record archaeological features that are exposed and to record changes in the geological conditions. The plans of the trench and features will be drawn at a scale of 1:20. Section drawings of the trenches and features will be recorded at a scale of 1:10. Written descriptions detailing the nature of the deposits, features and fills encountered will be compiled on Archaeological Project Services pro-forma record sheets.
- iii. Any finds recovered will be bagged and labelled for later analysis.
- iv. Throughout the watching brief a photographic record consisting of colour prints will be compiled. The photographic record will consist of:
- (1) The site during work to show specific stages, and the layout of the archaeology within the trench.
- (2) groups of features where their relationship is important
- v. Should human remains be located the appropriate Home Office licence will be obtained before their removal. In addition, the Local Environmental Health Department and the police will be informed.

9 POST-EXCAVATION

- o. Stage 1
 - i. On completion of site operations, the records and schedules produced during the watching brief will be checked and ordered to ensure that they form a uniform sequence forming a level II archive. A stratigraphic matrix of the archaeological deposits and features present on the site will be prepared. All photographic material will be catalogued and labelled, the labelling referring to schedules identifying the subject/s photographed.
 - ii. All finds recovered during the field work will be washed, marked and packaged according to the deposit from which they were recovered. Any finds requiring specialist treatment and conservation will be sent to the Conservation Laboratory at the City and County Museum, Lincoln.
- p. Stage 2
 - i. Detailed examination of the stratigraphic matrix to enable the determination of the various phases of activity on the site.
 - ii. Finds will be sent to specialists for identification and dating.
- q. Stage 3
 - i. On completion of stage 2, a report detailing the findings of the watching brief will be prepared.
 - ii. This will consist of:
 - (1) A non-technical summary of the results of the investigation.
 - (2) A description of the archaeological setting of the watching brief.
 - (3) Description of the topography of the site.
 - (4) Description of the methodologies used during the watching brief.
 - (5) A text describing the findings of the watching brief.
 - (6) A consideration of the local, regional and national context of the watching brief findings.
 - (7) Plans of the archaeological features exposed. If a sequence of archaeological deposits is encountered, separate plans for each phase will be produced.
 - (8) Sections of the archaeological features.
 - (9) Interpretation of the archaeological features exposed, and their chronology and setting within the surrounding landscape.
 - (10) Specialist reports on the finds from the site.
 - (11) Appropriate photographs of the site and specific archaeological features.

10 **REPORT DEPOSITION**

- r. Copies of the report will be sent to the client; the County Council Archaeological Sites and Monuments Record; and to South Holland District Council Planning Department.

11 **ARCHIVE**

- s. The documentation and records generated during the watching brief will be sorted and ordered into the format acceptable

to the City and County Museum, Lincoln. This will be undertaken following the requirements of the document titled *Conditions for the Acceptance of Project Archives* for long term storage and curation.

12 PUBLICATION

- t. A report of the findings of the watching brief will be published in Heritage Lincolnshire's Annual Report and a note presented to the editor of the journal of the Society for Lincolnshire History and Archaeology. If appropriate, notes on the findings will be submitted to the appropriate national journals: *Britannia* for discoveries of Roman date, and *Medieval Archaeology* and the journal of the *Medieval Settlement Research Group* for findings of medieval or later date.

13 CURATORIAL RESPONSIBILITY

- u. Curatorial responsibility for the archaeological work undertaken on the site lies with the Archaeology Officer, Lincolnshire County Council. They will be given seven days notice in writing before the commencement of the project.

14 VARIATIONS

- v. Variations to the proposed scheme of works will only be made following written confirmation of acceptance from the Archaeology Officer, Lincolnshire County Council.

15 PROGRAMME OF WORKS AND STAFFING LEVELS

- w. The watching brief will be integrated with the programme of construction.
x. An archaeological supervisor with experience of watching briefs will undertake the work.

16 SPECIALISTS TO BE USED DURING THE PROJECT

The following organisations/persons will, in principal and if necessary, be used as subcontractors to provide the relevant specialist work and reports in respect of any objects or material recovered during the investigation that require their expert knowledge and input. Engagement of any particular specialist subcontractor is also dependent on their availability and ability to meet programming requirements.

<u>Task</u>	<u>Body to be undertaking the work</u>
Conservation	Conservation Laboratory, City and County Museum, Lincoln
Pottery Analysis	Prehistoric - Trent & Peak Archaeological Trust Roman - B Precious, independent specialist Saxon - City of Lincoln Archaeology Unit Medieval and later - H Healey, independent archaeologist
Non-pottery Artefacts	J Cowgill, independent specialist
Animal Bones	Environmental Archaeology Consultancy
Human Remains Analysis	R Gowland, independent specialist

17 BIBLIOGRAPHY

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Appendix 2

CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

No.	Description	Interpretation
001	Mid to dark brown sandy silt, 80mm thick	Topsoil
002	Light - mid yellowish brownclayey silt	Fill of 003
003	Cut, >1.48m long by >1.2m wide by 0.38m deep	Refuse pit
004	Mid brown sandy silt, 0.39m thick	Subsoil
005	Soft orange sand and silt	Natural deposit
006	Dark blackish grey sand and silt	Fill of 003
007	Mid brown silt, 0.25m thick	Subsoil
008	Mid brown sandy silt, 0.2m thick	Subsoil

Appendix 3

THE FINDS Hilary Healey and Tom Lane

Provenance

The material came from topsoil, subsoil and the fill of a refuse pit.

Range

The range of material is detailed in the table.

Context	Description	Latest Date
001	1 Bourne D ware sherd, 16 th - 17 th century 2 Black glazed earthenware sherds, 19 th century 2 Brown glazed earthenware sherds, 19 th century 1 Cream slip earthenware sherd, 19 th century 1 clay pipe stem, 19 th century 1 flint core, Early Bronze Age	19 th century
002	2 white glazed earthenware, 19 th century 1 window glass	19 th century
006	1 white glazed earthenware, 19 th century 1 clay pipe stem, 19 th century 1 oyster shell fragment 1 clinker	19 th century
008	1 Black glazed earthenware 1 oyster shell	19 th century

Condition

All the material is in good condition and presents no long term storage problems. The assemblage should be archived by material class.

Documentation

Post-medieval artefact assemblages from throughout the county have previously been examined and reported.

Potential

The assemblage has little potential. A flint core of Late Bronze Age date suggest activity during the prehistoric period in the vicinity, though the flint is residual.

Appendix 4

THE ARCHIVE

The archive consists of:

8	Context records
1	Photographic record sheet
2	Scale drawings
1	Bag of finds
1	Stratigraphic matrix

All primary records and finds are currently kept at:

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

The ultimate destination of the project archive is:

Lincolnshire City and County Museum
12 Friars Lane
Lincoln
LN2 1HQ

The archive will be deposited in accordance with the document titled *Conditions for the Acceptance of Project Archives*, produced by the Lincolnshire City and County Museum.

Lincolnshire City and County Council Museum Accession Number: pending

Archaeological Project Services Site Code: CPR98

The discussion and comments provided in this report are based on the archaeology revealed during the site investigations. Other archaeological finds and features may exist on the development site but away from the areas exposed during the course of this fieldwork. *Archaeological Project Services* cannot confirm that those areas unexposed are free from archaeology nor that any archaeology present there is of a similar character to that revealed during the current investigation.

Archaeological Project Services shall retain full copyright of any commissioned reports under the *Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988* with all rights reserved; excepting that it hereby provides an exclusive licence to the client for the use of such documents by the client in all matters directly relating to the project as described in the Project Specification.

Appendix 5

GLOSSARY

Cropmark	A mark that is produced by the effect of underlying archaeological features influencing the growth of a particular crop.
Medieval	The Middle Ages, dating from approximately AD 1066-1500.
Post-medieval	The period following the Middle Ages, dating from approximately AD 1500-1800.
Pre-Flandrian	A geological period relating to the last Ice Age, approximately 40,000 - 10,000 years before present.
Prehistoric	The period of human history prior to the introduction of writing. In Britain the prehistoric period lasts from the first evidence of human occupation about 500,000 BC, until the Roman invasion in the middle of the 1st century AD.
Romano-British	Pertaining to the period dating from AD 43-410 when the Romans occupied Britain.
Saxon	Pertaining to the period dating from AD 410-1066 when England was largely settled by tribes from northern Germany