

Witham Archaeology

A Report to Prospect Archaeology on behalf of
East Lindsey District Council.

October 2020



PUBLIC SECTOR HUB, HORNCastle COLLEGE, MAREHAM ROAD, HORNCastle. LINCOLNSHIRE.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRIAL TRENCH EVALUATION

A Pascoe

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**ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRIAL TRENCH
EVALUATION**

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Archaeological Trial Trench Evaluation

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PUBLIC SECTOR HUB, HORNCASTLE COLLEGE, MAREHAM ROAD, HORNCASTLE, LINCOLNSHIRE

ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRIAL TRENCH EVALUATION

SUMMARY

This report presents the results of an archaeological trial trench evaluation undertaken by Witham Archaeology on land at the former Horncastle College, Mareham Road, Horncastle. The project was commissioned by East Lindsey District Council to comply with a condition of planning permission (Planning Ref. SO86/00645/20) relating to the proposed construction of a new public sector hub.

Geophysical Survey and Archaeological Trial Trenching in 1994 had previously revealed Roman remains at the southern edge of the development, in the field extending south to Mareham Road, including gullies, ditches and pits together with pottery dated to the Roman period. Residual finds included worked flint dated to the Neolithic/early Bronze Age period.

The current programme of trial trenching revealed no archaeologically significant features or deposits in the three trenches in the northern part of the site occupied by the former Horncastle Residential College buildings. The fourth trench on the south side of the site, at the northern end of the field adjacent to Mareham Road revealed archaeological features including ditches and pits dated to the Roman period, together with residual late Neolithic/early Bronze Age worked flint. The current work confirms the results of previous work in the vicinity in demonstrating the presence of significant Roman in the southernmost part of the proposed development, extending south to Mareham Road.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

This report presents the results of an archaeological trial trench evaluation undertaken by Witham Archaeology on the site of a proposed new public sector hub at the former Horncastle Residential College. The hub will include offices for East Lindsey District Council and facilities for Boston College. The project was commissioned by East Lindsey District Council to fulfil the requirements of a condition of planning permission. Archaeological fieldwork was completed during the period 1st September 2020 to 8th September 2020.

The information in this document is presented with the proviso that further data may yet emerge. Witham Archaeology 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 with the Code of Conduct of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists.

2.0 SITE LOCATION, TOPOGRAPHY & GEOLOGY (see Figs. 1 & 2)

Horncastle lies within the administrative district of East Lindsey, approximately 28km east of Lincoln. The town is centred around the crossroads of the A153 (Boston Road) and A158 (Spilsby Road), at the confluence of the Rivers Bain and Waring. The proposed development site lies to the south of the town centre.

The Site is situated approximately 600 m south-east of the town centre, on the north side of Mareham Road and is c.1.37 ha in extent.

The underlying geology consists of mudstone of the Kimmeridge Clay Formation, with overlying superficial deposits of sand and gravel recorded across the Site (mapapps.bgs.ac.uk). The Site lies at 36.6 m above Ordnance Datum (AOD) and the topography is relatively flat.

3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL & HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Scatters of worked flint found during fieldwalking and chance finds attest to Mesolithic, Neolithic and Bronze Age activity in the Horncastle area. However, there has been little evidence of contemporary features, the majority of the material being unstratified or deriving from later contexts. Worked flint of probable late Neolithic/early Bronze Age date was recovered from Roman features explored in trial trenches excavated at the southern edge of the proposed development in 1994 (Field 1994b). In addition, thirty-one fragments of worked flint with a similar date range (none of it in stratified contexts) was recovered during fieldwalking on land 400m to the east in 1993 (Field 1993). No evidence of associated features was revealed by later trial trenching (Tipper 1994).

Archaeological investigations in and around Horncastle have confirmed that settlement was well established in the area by the late Iron Age/early Roman period, with the town generally being identified with the place known from documentary sources as Banovallum (Whitwell, 1992). A town wall constructed in the 3rd century encompasses an area of around hectares located between the Rivers Bain and Waring. Surviving parts of the walls are protected as a Scheduled Monument (List Entry No. 1005034).

Archaeological investigations have revealed considerable evidence of late Iron Age/Romano-British settlement south of the walled area, with the area of the proposed development at the Former Horncastle Residential College apparently situated at its eastern periphery according to a projection of the likely extent of occupation in the Lincolnshire Historic Environment Record (HER Ref 43747). This projection indicates occupation at the southern end of the area of development, with the rest of the area (to the north) extending outside the occupied zone.

A Roman cremation cemetery (HER Ref. 41870) is located immediately north of the area of the proposed development. Cremations were found on the site of the Union Workhouse (just beyond the northern boundary of the development) when it was built in 1858 and further cremations in 24 cinerary urns were found during building works in Albert Street in 1938. Cremations including two Iron Age urns (HER Ref. 42200) have also been found in the grounds of the nearby Vicarage grounds and on the site of the Union Workhouse when it was built in 1858. Inhumations have been recorded to the north-west of the current site centred around Queen Street, Croft Street and Bryant Close (HER Ref. 41856).

In 1994, a geophysical survey carried out in the grounds of Horncastle Residential College, on land adjacent to Mareham Road, revealed several anomalies including possible pits and three linear/curvilinear features (Field 1994a). The survey area extended to just inside the southern boundary of the proposed development, and two of the curvilinear features (5 and 7 on plans included in the 1994 report) appear to have intersected with one of the trenches (Trench 4) excavated as part of the current programme of evaluation. The survey was followed by the excavation of two trial trenches targeting the linear and curvilinear anomalies. These revealed gullies dated as Roman as well as less well defined features not necessarily corresponding to the anomalies identified by geophysical survey (Field 1994b).

A watching brief during the construction of a lift shaft and other works at the residential college in 2006 did not produce any evidence of significant archaeological remains (Gardner 2006). A similarly negative result was reported after a recent programme of monitoring and recording during the excavation of three geotechnical test pits in the college grounds (Savage 2020).

In 1993, a programme of geophysical survey and fieldwalking on land north of Mareham Road approximately 400m to the south-east of the college grounds, was carried out on the site of a sub rectangular enclosure (HER Ref. 41865) identified from aerial photographs. The geophysical survey established the main elements of enclosure together other anomalies not visible on the aerial photographs, while fieldwalking over part of the area produced a small quantity of abraded Roman pot (Field 1993). Trial trenching on the site in March 1994 revealed a late Iron Age to Roman quadrilateral enclosure dated late 2nd Century BC to late 3rd Century AD. It was bounded by large V-shaped ditches, and the lack of internal features and associated artefactual material indicated use as a stock enclosure (Tipper 1994). A

more recent programme of geophysical survey and trial trenching immediately north of Mareham Road and close to the enclosure investigated in 1994 revealed two 19th ditches but no evidence of significant earlier remains (Lane 2014).

Several episodes of archaeological investigation have taken place to the north-east of the college grounds, in the area of Banovallum Gardens. These include a programme of Strip, Map and Record on land approximately 20m the north-east of the Union Workhouse, which produced no evidence of the cremation cemetery revealed during 19th century building works (Mandeville 2015). Further to the east, a geophysical survey and trial trench evaluation (Rowe 2015) revealed three undated (probably late Iron Age or Roman) ditches, but the potential for archaeologically significant remains was deemed to be low.

Trial trenching at the Black Swan, on Mareham Road and approximately 350m west of the college grounds, revealed an Iron Age ditch and four Roman ditches (Clay 2000). The ditches may have formed part of field systems visible on aerial photographs, flanking the east bank of the River Bain.

Pottery dated 3rd - 4th century, together with one Iron Age sherd was recovered during the construction of Banovallum School, on the south side of Mareham Road opposite Horncastle College. Other discoveries on the site of the school included a late Iron Age jar, a Roman coin and a 'Romano-Saxon' pot. A watching brief at the school in 2004 revealed two ditches and a series of shallow pits, while producing a large quantity of Roman pottery of 1st to the 4th century date (Gardner, 2004).

Little is known about Saxon occupation in Horncastle but burials from the period have been recorded inside the Roman walls and in 1993 a large ditch containing late Saxon pottery was found on Conging Street, just north of the Roman walled area (Crichton-Turley 2020). During the 10th century Horncastle was one of five towns in the Kingdom of Lindsey with a Royal Mint (Sawyer 1998) and at the time of the Norman Conquest in 1066 was held by Queen Edith before passing to William the Conqueror. The town was the administrative centre of the Horncastle wapentake and the parish church, market-place and manor house were all contained within its walls during the medieval period. Expansion of the medieval settlement was to the north-west of the walled town, and it was only in the post-medieval period that the town extended southwards across the River Waring and into the area of the extra-mural Roman settlement (Crichton Turley 2000).

The area of the proposed development, which is situated to the east of 19th century development on Queen Street and Foundry Street, continued in agricultural use into the 19th and 20th centuries as shown on the 1850 parish plan and on Ordnance Survey mapping of 1888 and 1906. The Union Workhouse off Foundry Street, immediately north of the site, was built to a design by Gilbert Scott after the formation of the Horncastle Poor Law Union in 1837 (ibid.).

The northern portion of the Site was developed in the 1930s as part of the Holmleigh Children's Home and the former workhouse was converted into a nursery. In addition to the workhouse building the children's home comprised a receiving centre, administration block and 5 units of semi-detached housing, two of which are situated within the boundaries of the Site. The children's home closed in 1968 and the buildings were incorporated into Horncastle college which opened in 1969, with new buildings constructed on land to the south. The college has since closed, and the buildings are disused (ibid.).

4.0 PLANNING BACKGROUND

Planning permission was granted on 6th August 2020, for the construction of a new public sector hub to include offices for East Lindsey District Council and facilities for Boston College. This work is subject to a number of planning conditions including a requirement for archaeological evaluation

5.0 AIMS & OBJECTIVES

The principal objectives of the project, as set out in a Prospect Archaeology specification of August 2020, were to:

- *provide information on the presence/absence, nature, date and quality of survival of archaeological deposits and remains which might be contained within the site, at the depth*

of proposed construction disturbance, and to assess the importance of such remains in terms of their local, regional and national context.

- *assess the possible scale of development impact on any remains and provide information which might influence development design so that impact on any remains can be avoided or minimised.*
- *provide information that will allow the local planning authority to reconcile development proposals with their policy for preserving archaeological remains and make an informed and reasoned decision on a planning application.*
- *provide site specific archaeological information which (if necessary) would allow for the design and integration of timing and funding of any further archaeological work (or other mitigating strategy) which might be required in advance of or during any subsequent development programme.*
- *produce a project archive for deposition with the appropriate museum and from which the potential for further study and academic research could be assessed.*
- *provide information for accession to the Lincolnshire Historic Environment Record (HER).*

6.0 METHODOLOGY

Four trenches were excavated, each 1.8m wide and totalling *c.* 127.5m in length. Prior to the commencement of fieldwork, provisional trench locations were agreed with the Local Planning Archaeologist, focussing upon those areas most likely to be affected by development groundworks.

Topsoil and other recent deposits were removed by a mechanical excavator fitted with a 1.8m wide toothless ditching bucket. Trench bases and representative samples of the trench sides were subsequently cleaned by hand, prior to the part-excavation of features and deposits of potential archaeological origin, to ascertain character, extent and date.

Excavated features were recorded through drawn plans and sections at a scale of 1: 20. This record was augmented by digital photographs in raw format and written context records on *pro forma* recording sheets. All trenches and reference points used in planning were located by survey grade GPS.

The trenches were positioned as close as possible to the planned locations, however alterations were made to the layout to avoid services revealed by C.A.T. scanning and investigations of local services made during the machining of the trenches. In Trenches 2 and 3 interruptions in the trenches were necessary to avoid services.

7.0 RESULTS (Fig. 2)

7.1 Trench 1 (Fig . 3; Plate 1)

Trench 1 was located at the north-west corner of the site, aligned west south-west to east north-east. It measured 33.9m long by 1.8m wide and was excavated to a maximum depth of 1.1m. The western end of the trench was moved approximately 0.3m to the north to avoid a service run, and excavation at the eastern end was terminated on encountering a gas main.

The earliest deposit encountered was a natural deposit of light yellow sandy silt and small sub-angular and angular flint (103) with occasional rounded pebbles and small cobbles. This was overlain by a compact mid-light yellow brown sandy silt (102) with moderate angular / sub-angular small flint stones measuring 0.25m thick and formed a possible buried soil. Covering this was a subsoil of firm mid-dark yellow brown sandy silt (101) with moderate small angular/sub-angular flint which was 0.25m thick. The sub-soil was covered by the topsoil, a firm dark grey brown sandy silt (100) with occasional small angular/sub-angular flint stones and occasional daub and charcoal, measuring 0.35m thick (Figure 8, Section 7, Plate 2).

7.2 Trench 2 (Fig. 3; Plate 3)

Trench 2 was located at the north-east corner of the site. Extending north north-west to south south-west between two prefabricated buildings, it measured 20.5m long by 1.8m wide and had a maximum depth of 0.6m. The trench was interrupted at two points to avoid electrical cables, one running approximately roughly east to west in the northern part of the trench, and one running south-west to north east in the southern part of the trench. Trenching terminated to the south on encountering a probable gas main.

The earliest deposit encountered was the natural, a firm mid-light yellow with mid grey brown mottled sandy silt (202) with small angular / sub-angular flint stones. The natural was overlain by the subsoil, a firm mid-dark yellowish brown (201) with occasional small angular and sub-angular flint, occasional small pebbles and occasional small cobbles measuring 0.2m thick. A single sherd of late 19th to early 20th century porcelain was recovered from this deposit. The subsoil was covered by the topsoil, a firm dark grey brown sandy silt (200) with occasional small sub-angular/ angular flint, 0.3m thick (Figure 8, Section 8, Plate 4). A Neolithic flint core was recovered from the deposit.

7.3 Trench 3 (Fig. 4; Plates 5 - 8)

Trench 3 was located to the south of Trench 1 and to the north of the conference hall. The trench was "L" shaped with a leg aligned south south-west to north north-east measuring 10.8m long. The trench then extended to the south east for a distance of 25.6m. Both parts of the trench were 1.8m wide and it was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.9m. The north to south leg was moved to the east after detecting a electricity signal from the C.A.T. scanner. At the north-west end of the longer trench, a service run was avoided by moving the trench south south-east, while a water pipe was avoided by breaking the trench 7m further to the south south-east. An electricity cable detected by the C.A.T. scanner 14.7m to the south south-east of the start point at the north north-west end was also avoided.

The earliest deposit encountered in Trench 3 was the natural, a firm mid-light yellow with a dark grey mottling, silty sand (303) with moderate small angular/sub-angular flint and occasional lenses of degraded chalk. Overlying the natural was a firm mid-light yellow with a brown grey mottled, sandy silt (302) including occasional small angular/sub-angular flint and measuring 0.12m thick. The deposit was darker than (303) and may have formed a buried soil. The 'buried soil' was covered by a firm dark-mid yellow brown sandy silt (301) with occasional small angular/sub-angular flint and occasional charcoal measuring 0.24m thick. The overlying topsoil was a friable dark grey brown sandy silt (300) with occasional small angular/sub-angular flint and occasional charcoal flecks, one sherd of Toynton Medieval ware dated to the late 13th to 15th century was located in the deposit. The deposit was 0.35m thick (Figure 8, Section 9, Plate 9).

7.4 Trench 4 (Fig.5; Plate 10)

Trench 4 was located at the southern end of the site, at the northern end of a field extending between the college car park to the north and Mareham Road to the south with college access road to the west. The trench was aligned north-east to south-west, measuring 32m long by 1.8m wide, and was excavated to a depth of 0.92m deep.

The natural in Trench 4 was a firm mid yellow brown sandy silt with small sub-angular and angular flint stones (418) with occasional small rounded pebbles. The natural in the eastern part of the trench contained more gravel and also patches of degraded chalk. Overlying the natural was a firm mid yellow brown sandy silt (402) with occasional small angular/sub-angular flint It was 0.3m thick and probably formed a 'buried soil'. At the top of the 'buried soil' a thin reddish-brown mineralisation was recorded. Measuring 0.5-1cm thick, the deposit extended 14m east from the western end of the trench.

Three features were recorded cutting the buried soil, all located in the western third of the trench. Near the western end of this area, a feature with rounded edges, steep vertical sides and concave base [413] was partly exposed on the south side of the trench measuring, 1.35m long by 0.78m wide and 0.52m deep. The pit was filled by a firm mid grey brown sandy silt (417) with occasional angular / sub-angular flint. A fragment of Roman tile, one prehistoric flint, a single Late Neolithic/ Late Bronze flint flake and a one fire-cracked pebble were recovered from the deposit (Figure 7, Section 6, Plate 13). To the east of

pit [413] was a linear feature [408] aligned east to west with steep irregular stepped sides and a flat base. Measuring 1.49m wide by at least 2.58m long and 0.6m deep. The ditch was filled by a loose dark orange grey sandy silt (407) with frequent sub-angular flint pebbles and occasional large pebbles. Three sherds of Roman greyware, 11 late Neolithic/early Bronze Age flakes and one Neolithic core were recovered from the deposit (Figure 6, Section 4 & 5, Plate 14). To the east of [413] a gully aligned north to south had steep straight sides and a flat base [406], measuring 0.47m wide, at least 1.82m long and 0.15m deep. The gully was filled by a loose dark grey orange silty sand (405) with frequent small sub-angular flint and occasional large flints. A sherd of Roman grog-tempered ware, a prehistoric flake, a nodule/core dated to the Later Neolithic/early Bronze Age, a single Bronze Age waste flake and a later Neolithic/Bronze Age core were recovered from this deposit (Figure 6, Section 2 & 3, Plate 15).

Gully [406] was cut by another linear gully aligned east to west [404]. The second gully had concave sides and base [404] and measured at least 3.15m long by 0.36m wide and 0.15m deep. It was filled by a loose mid orange grey sandy silt (403) with frequent sub-angular flint pebbles, some large. A single prehistoric flint flake and a flint core fragment dated Late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age were recovered from the deposit (Figure 6, Section 1, Plates 11 and 12).

Pit [413] was cut on its western edge by a linear ditch aligned north to south (Plate 13). The ditch [411] had concave sides and a concave base. Measuring 1.66m wide, 2m long and 0.6m deep, it contained two fills. The lowest, a firm mid grey-brown sandy silt (415) with occasional angular / sub-angular small flint and occasional charcoal flecks and daub measuring 0.57m thick and probably formed a series of silting events. The deposit contained a single sherd of Roman greyware, one Neolithic flint flake and a fire-cracked cobble. The primary fill was covered by a firm light-mid yellow sandy silt (416) with occasional angular/sub-angular small flint. It measured 0.3m thick and shared characteristics of the local natural (418), suggesting a backfill or possible pushed in bank (Figure 6, Section 4 & 5, Plate 3). It is probable that Ditch [411] was recorded in the Lindsey Archaeological Services Trench 1 (Field, 1994, Phase 2) as Feature 9, the lower fill being 21 and the upper fill being 24. The profile and fill descriptions matched those recorded in the present evaluation.

Cutting Ditch [411] on its western edge was a partly revealed feature curving with rounded sides and steep concave sides and concave base [412] which measured 0.83m by at least 0.6m in plan and 0.48m deep. The probable pit was filled by firm mid grey brown sandy silt (414) with occasional sub-angular/angular small flint (Figure 7, Section 6, Plate 13).

The features were overlain by a friable mid grey brown sandy silt (401) with occasional small angular and sub-angular flint, forming a sub-soil 0.38m thick. A single flint flake and a broken flint knife were recovered from the deposit, both dated late Neolithic/Bronze Age. The sub-soil was covered by friable dark grey brown sandy silt (400) topsoil containing small angular/sub-angular flint and measuring 0.3m thick. Residual in the topsoil were 2 sherds of Roman Greyware/coarse ware, one sherd of Staffordshire slipware dated late 17th to 18th century a single sherd of late earthen ware dated 16th to 18th century, a single mid-late 17th century clay pipe bowl and one prehistoric flint flake.

8.0 DISCUSSION & CONCLUSION

Trenches 1, 2 and 3 in the northern part of the area of the proposed development produced no evidence of archaeologically significant deposits or features, although a layer of sandy silt overlying the natural and sealed by the subsoil could have been be a remnant of plough-soil from the open fields around Horncastle. On the basis of these trenches it would appear that there is a low potential for remains associated with the Roman cremation cemetery identified on land immediately to the north of the site boundary.

The worked flints concentrated in Trench 4 were most likely residual given their occurrence with later finds in several contexts. The assemblage was almost all late Neolithic to early Bronze Age comprising mostly debitage and cores, with two flints possibly used in tool manufacture and a broken knife which may have been damaged in production. Two fire-cracked stones were probably employed as pot boilers in the prehistoric period, but these could be later as such methods for heating water were maintained into the early medieval period. Overall, the characteristics of the flint recovered during the most recent phase of trenching combined with the material from previous interventions in 1994 indicate a Late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age tool production site, with the density of distribution suggesting a high

potential for further finds in the area. The area of the enclosure 400m to the south-east of the current site (also investigated in 1994) was also notable for the frequent occurrence of late Neolithic/early Bronze Age flint, suggesting a wider distribution in the area.

The cut features recorded in Trench 4 were all concentrated in the westernmost third of the area, close to where similar remains were identified during the trial trenching in 1994. The features, which all cut a probable buried soil, included two ditches aligned roughly north-west to south-east at the western end of the trench, with the westernmost of the two probably representing a northward continuation of one of the features recorded in 1994. The remaining features comprised two intercutting gullies aligned north-west to south-east and roughly north to south, and two pits. The pottery recovered from these features was identified as Roman, but a closer date could not be assigned owing to the fragmentary state of the material which was thought to be residual. Taken together with the features recorded in 1994, the remains located in Trench 4 would appear to form part of Roman and possibly earlier settlement extending along the route of Mareham Road. It is not clear how far north this activity extends, but the absence of similar remains in Trenches 1, 2 and 3 suggests that the northern limit of the settlement lies north of Trench 4 and south of the other trenches.

The environmental material recovered from the samples taken in Trench 4 had a limited range, and the possibly later prehistoric or Roman charred cereal waste was of a low density and perhaps derived from scattered detritus which had been exposed to the elements before being included in the features fills. It is unclear if the coal and coal residues present in the samples were contemporary with the plant remains.

Four sherds of pottery recovered during machining were common domestic types ranging from the medieval to early modern date. A mid-late 17th century clay pipe bowl was recovered from the topsoil during machine excavation.

The top of archaeologically significant deposits at the western end of Trench 4 was encountered at heights of 36.30m OD to the west (at the eastern edge of Section 6, Fig. 5) and at 36.45m OD to the east (the east end of Section 3, Fig. 5). Current ground levels are 37.10m OD at the south-west corner of the trench and 37.03m OD at the eastern end of Section 3 (Fig. 5). This indicates a covering depth of deposits of 0.80m at the western limit of the features, thinning to 0.58m cover to the east. Surface levels at the southern end of the car park are expected to vary between 36.92m OD on the west side, 37.08m OD at the centre and 37.32m OD on the east side. Assuming a formation level 600mm below surface level in the car park, excavation would be required to elevations of 36.32m OD at the south-west corner and 36.48m OD at the centre of the southern edge of car park, only just above the top level of significant archaeological deposits.

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Whitwell, B. 1992 *Roman Lincolnshire. History of Lincolnshire Volume II*. Society for Lincolnshire History and Archaeology

11.0 PROJECT/ ARCHIVE DETAILS

11.1 Project Information

SITE CODE: HCRC20

PLANNING APPLICATION No.: SO86/00645/20

FIELD OFFICER: A Pascoe

NGR: TF 26453 69219

CIVIL PARISH: Horncastle

DATE OF INTERVENTION: 1st September 2020 to 8th September 2020.

TYPE OF INTERVENTION: Trial Trench Evaluation.

UNDERTAKEN FOR: East Lindsey District Council.

11.2 Archive Details

PRESENT LOCATION: Witham Archaeology Ltd, 2 High Street, Ruskington, Lincolnshire, NG34 9DT

FINAL LOCATION: The Collection, Danes Gate. Lincoln.

MUSEUM ACCESSION No.: LCNCC 2020.129

ACCESSION DATE: -TBC

The Site Archive Comprises:

Context Records	29
Section Drawings at Scale [1;10]	4
Section Drawing at Scale [1:20]	5
Black and White photographs	69
Digital Photographs	81
Set of Site Notes	6
Trench Sheets	5
Registers	3

It is intended that transfer of the archive in accordance with current published requirements will be undertaken following completion of this project.

COLOUR PLATES



Plate 1: Trench 1 looking north-east. 2 x 1m scales.



Plate 2: View of Trench 1 Representative Section 7 looking south-west. 1 x 1m scale.



Plate 3: Trench 2 looking north; 2 x 1m scales



Plate 4: View of Trench 2 Representative Section 8 looking west. 1 x 1m scale



Plate 5: Trench 3, westernmost element in north-west to south-east leg, looking south-east



Plate 6: Trench 3, middle segment in north-west to south-east leg, looking north-west; 2 x 1m scales



Plate 7: Trench 3 easternmost element in north-west to south-east leg, looking south-east; 2 x 1m scales



Plate 8: Trench 3 north to south leg looking south; 2 x 1m scales



Plate 9: View of Trench 3 representative section 9 looking south-west. 1 x 1m scale



Plate 10: Trench 4 post excavation, looking east north-east; 2 x 1m scales



Plate 11: View of [404] looking south. 2 x 1m scales.



Plate 12: View of [404] looking west. 1 x 1m scale 1 x 1/2m scale.



Plate 13: View of Section 6 Ditch [411], Pit [412], Pit [413] looking south. 2 x 1m scales.

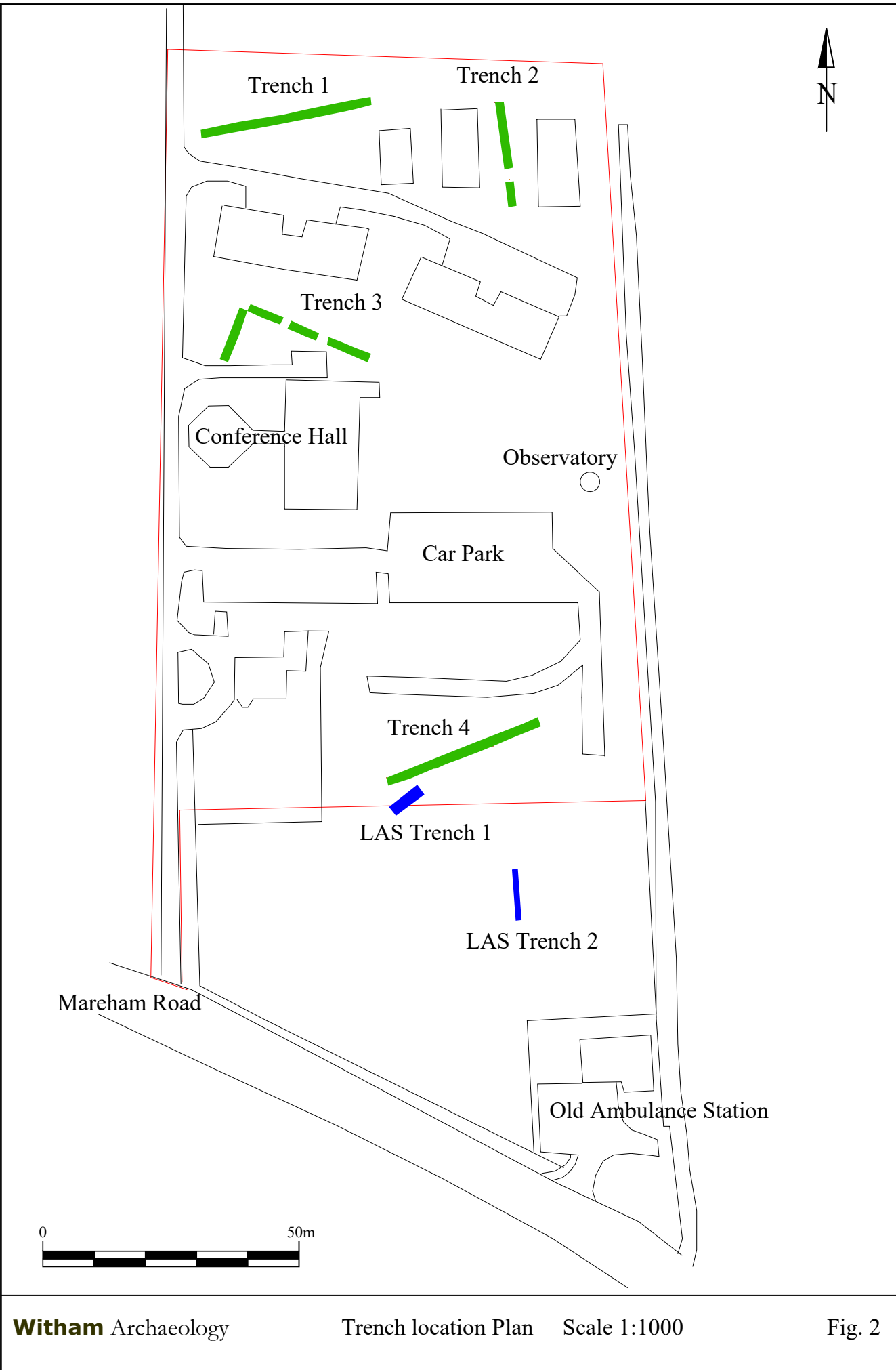


Plate 14: View of Ditch [408] looking south-east. 2 x 1m scales.

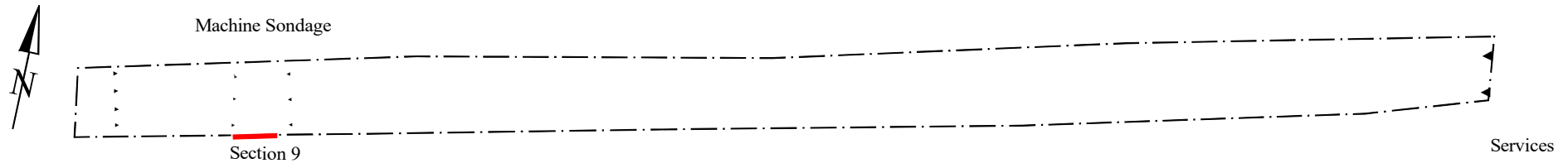


Plate 15: View of Gully [406] looking south-east. 2 x 1m scales

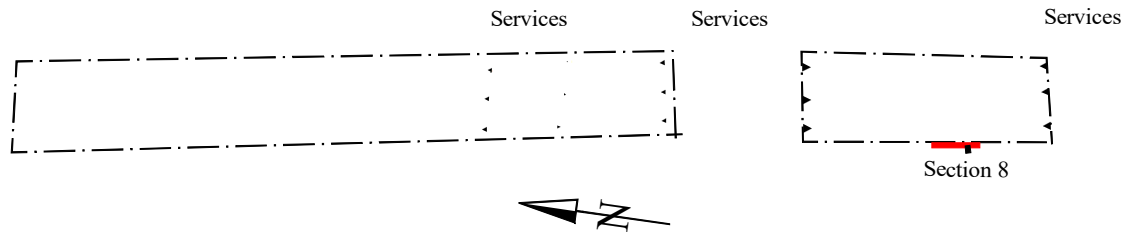


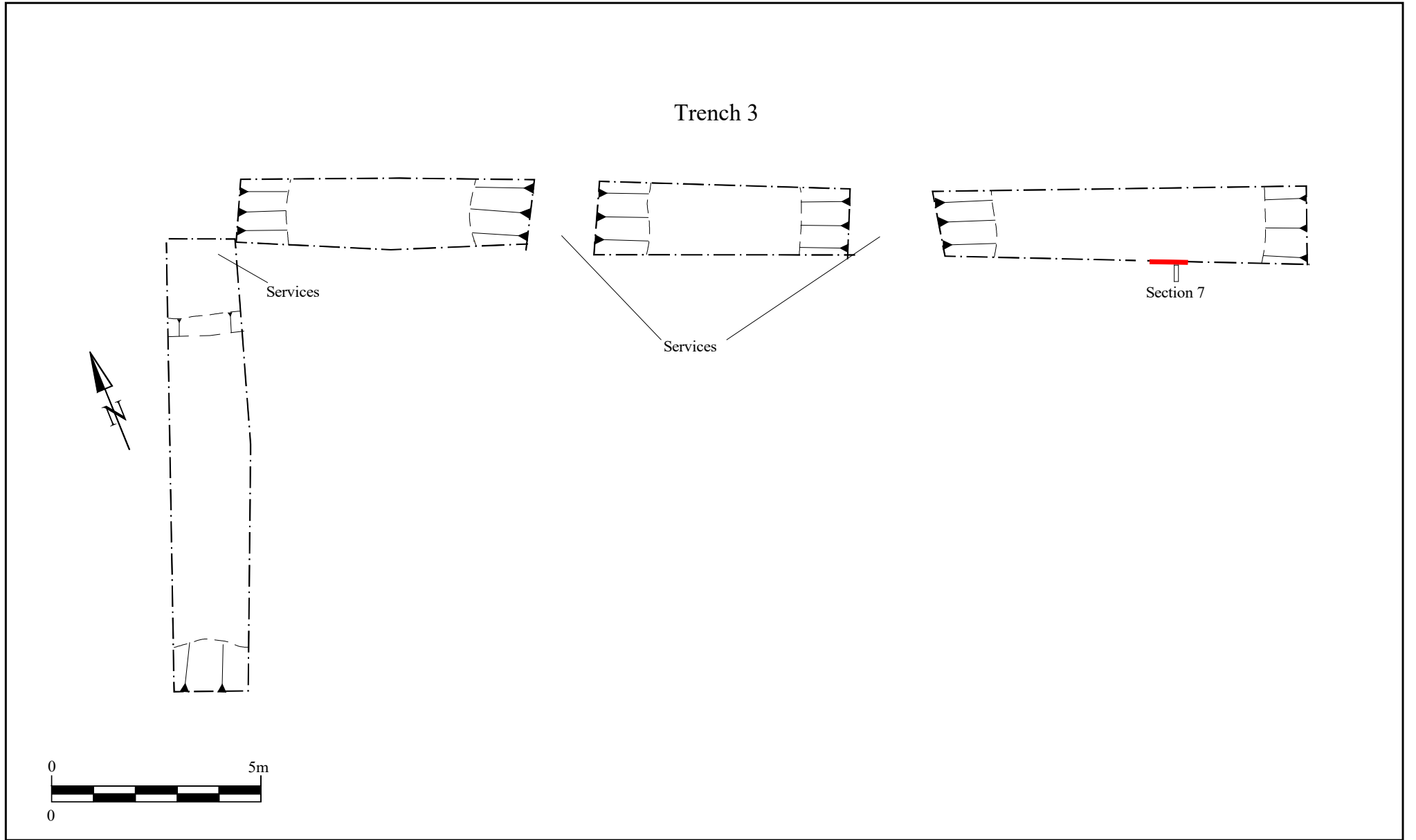


Trench 1

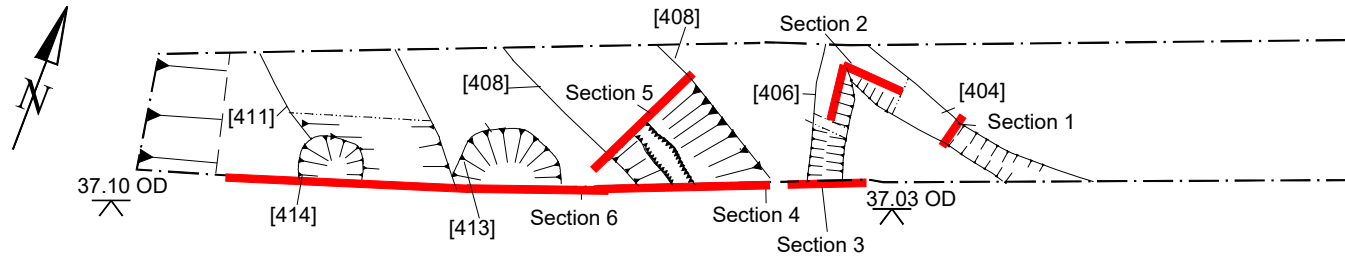


Trench 2

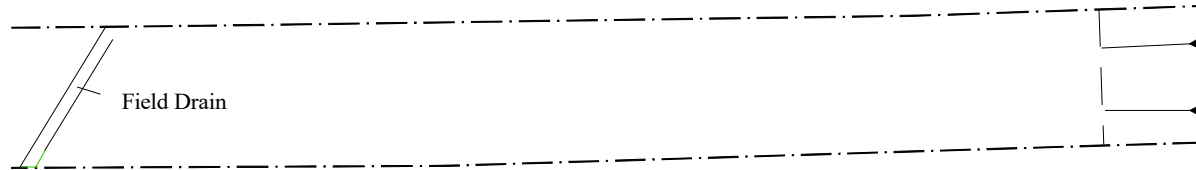


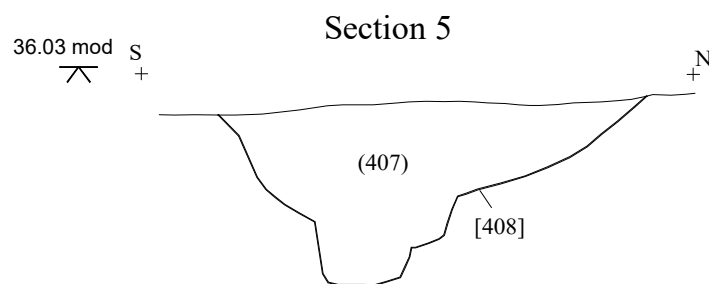
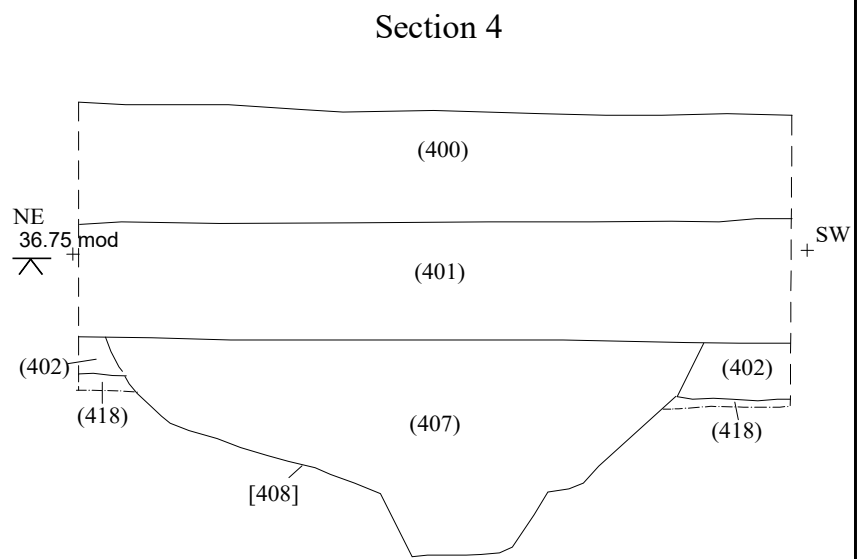
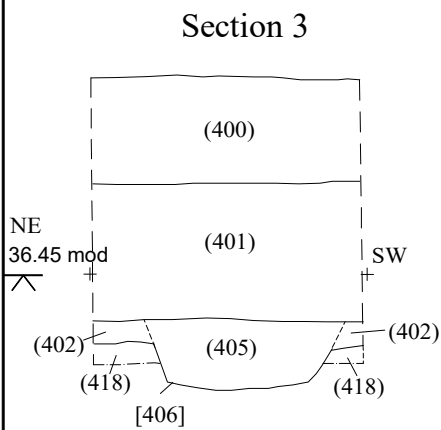
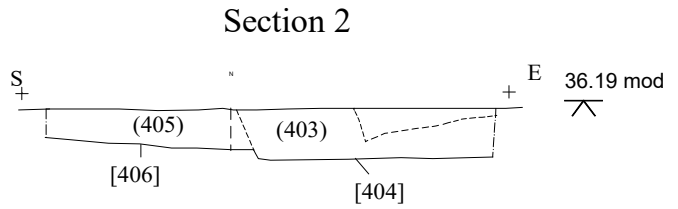
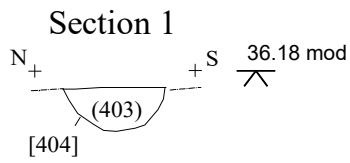


Trench 4 (west)

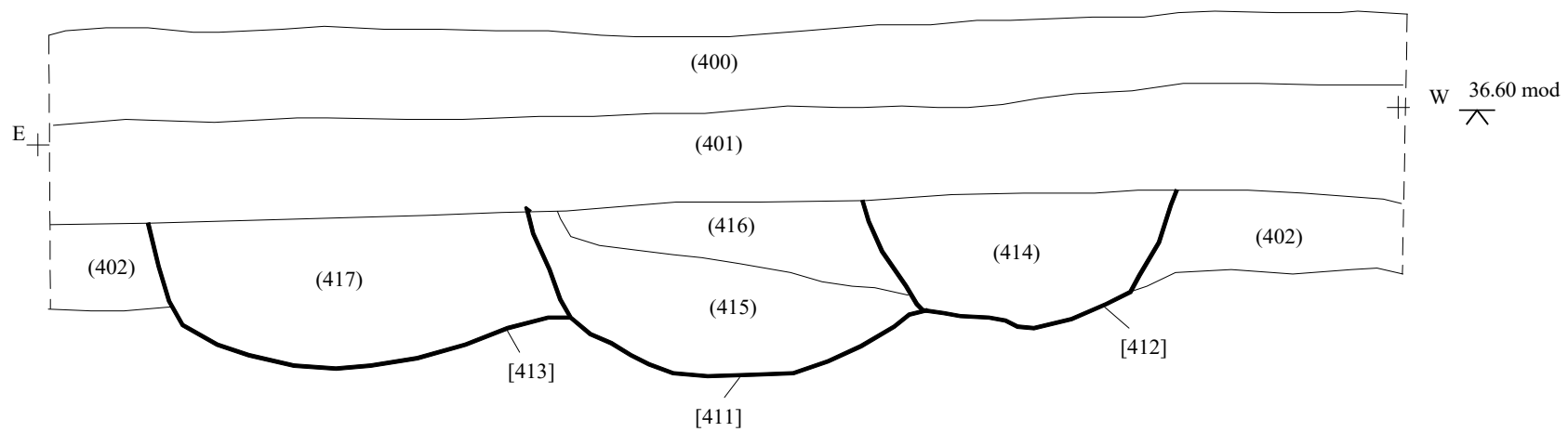


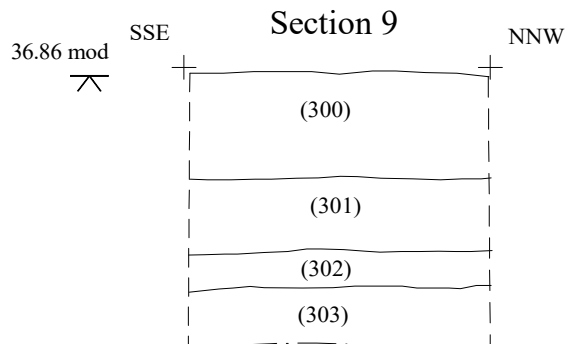
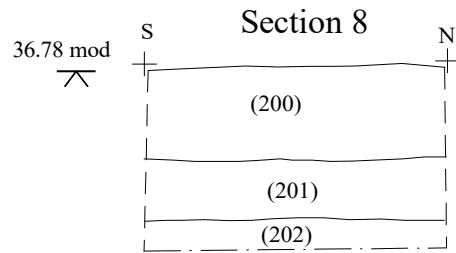
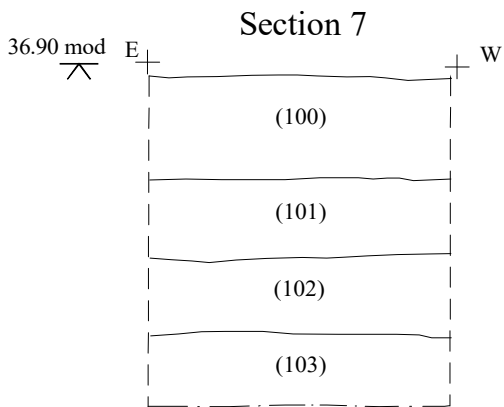
Trench 4 (east)





Section 6





APPENDIX A - CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

No.	TYPE	DESCRIPTION	INTERPRETATION	FINDS	SECTION, PHOTO
100	Deposit	Firm dark grey brown sandy silt with occasional small angular/sub-angular flint stones, occasional daub and charcoal. 0.35m thick.	Topsoil		Section 7, Shot 24.
101	Deposit	Firm mid-dark yellow brown sandy silt with moderate small angular/sub-angular flint stones. 0.25m thick.	Subsoil	1 x Late Neolithic /Bronze Age Flake flint .	Section 7, Shot 24.
102	Deposit	Compact mid-light yellow brown sandy silt with moderate angular / sub-angular small flint stones. 0.25m thick.	Buried soil.		Section 7, Shot 24.
103	Deposit	Compact light yellow sandy silt and small sub-angular and angular flint stones with occasional rounded pebbles and small cobbles.	Natural.		Section 7, Shot 24.
200	Deposit	Firm dark grey brown sandy silt with occasional small sub-angular/ angular flint . 0.3m thick.	Topsoil	1 x Later Neolithic large Core flint	Section 8, Shot 22.

201	Deposit	Firm mid-dark yellowish brown with occasional small angular / sub-angular flint , occasional small pebbles and occasional small cobbles. 0.2m thick.	Subsoil	1 x porcelain tea cup sherd . Late 19 th to early 20 th century.	Section 8, Shot 22.
202	Deposit	Firm mid-light yellow with mid grey brown mottle sandy silt with small angular / sub-angular flint stones.	Natural		Section 8, Shot 22.
300	Deposit	Friable dark grey brown sandy silt with occasional small angular / sub-angular flint stones, occasional charcoal flecks. 0.35m thick.	Topsoil	1 x toyneton Medieval ware, Late 13 th to 15 th century.	Section 9, Shot 21.
301	Deposit	Firm dark-mid yellow brown sandy silt with occasional small angular / sub-angular flint stones and occasional charcoal.	Subsoil		Section 9, Shot 21.
302	Deposit	Firm mid-light yellow with a brown grey mottle, sandy silt including occasional small angular / sub-angular flint stones. 0.12m thick. Darker than (303).	Buried soil		Section 9, Shot 21.
303	Deposit	Firm mid-light yellow with a dark grey mottle, silty sand with moderate small	Natural		Section 9, Shot 21.

		angular / sub-angular flint stones , occasional lenses of degraded chalk.			
400	Deposit	Friable dark grey brown sandy silt with occasional small angular / sub-angular flint stones. 0.3m thick.	Topsoil	2 x Roman sherds of greyware/ coarse ware . 1 x Staffordshire slipware L17th to 18 th c, 1 x Late earthen ware 16 th to 18 th century. Late 17 th to 18 th century. 1 x prehistoric flint flake. A single mid-late 17 th century clay pipe bowl.	Section 6, Shot 15,16,17.
401	Deposit	Friable mid grey brown sandy silt with occasional small angular and sub-angular flint stones. 0.38m thick.	Sub soil	1 x flint flake, 1 x flint broken knife, Late Neolithic/Bronze age.	Section 6, Shot 15,16,17.
402	Deposit	Firm mid yellow brown sandy silt occasional small angular / sub-angular flint stones. Thin reddish brown mineralisation noted to top of fill 0.5-1cm thick. 0.3m thick.	Buried soil		Section 6, Shot 15,16,17.
403	Deposit	Loose mid orange grey sandy silt with frequent sub-angular flint pebbles, occasional large sub-angular flint pebbles. 0.15m thick.	Fill of [404]	1 x prehistoric flint flake , 1 x flint core fragment Late Neolithic / Early Bronze Age.	Section 1, Shot 11, 12.
404	Cut	Linear aligned east to west with concave sides and base 0.15m deep. filled by (403). Intersects with [406]	Gulley		Section 1, Shot 11, 12.

405	Deposit	Loose dark grey orange silty sand with frequent small sub-angular flint with occasional large flints. 0.15m thick.	Fill of [406]	1 x Roman sherd Grog tempered ware. 1 x prehistoric flake, 1 x nodule / core Later Neolithic / early Bronze age , 1 x Bronze age waste flake, 1 x Later Neolithic / Bronze age core.	Section 2,3. Shot 14.
406	Cut	Linear aligned north to south with steep straight sides and flat base. 0.15m deep. Filled by (405)	Gully		Section 2,3. Shot 14.
407	Deposit	Loose dark orange grey sandy silt with frequent sub-angular flint pebbles and occasional large pebbles. 0.6m thick maximum.	Fill of [408]	3 x Roman greywares . 11 x Late Neolithic / early Bronze age Flakes, 1 x Neolithic core. A natural possible glacial erratic pebble sphalerite.	Sections 4, 5. Shots 18, 19.
408	Cut	Linear aligned east to west with steep irregular stepped sides and a flat base. 0.6m deep. Filled by (407).	Ditch.		Sections 4, 5. Shots 18, 19.
409	Void				
410	Void				
411	Cut	Linear aligned north to south with steep concave sides and concave base. 0.6m deep. Filled by (415), (416).	Ditch		Sections 4, 5. Shots 18, 19.
412	Cut	Circular with rounded sides and steep concave sides and concave base. 0.48m deep. Filled by (414). Cuts [411].	Small Pit		Section 6, Shots 15,16,17.

413	Cut	Circular with rounded edges with steep vertical sides and concave base. 0.52m deep. Filled by (417).	Small Pit.		Section 6, Shots 15,16,17.
414	Deposit	Firm mid grey brown sandy silt with occasional sub-angular / angular small flint stones. 0.48m thick.	Fill of [412].		Section 6, Shots 15,16,17.
415	Deposit	Firm mid grey-brown sandy silt with occasional angular / sub-angular small flint stones, occasional charcoal flecks and daub. 0.57m thick.	Fill of [411].	1 x Roman Greyware. 1 x Neolithic flake . 1 x fire cracked cobble.	Section 6, Shots 15,16,17.
416	Deposit	Firm light-mid yellow sandy silt with occasional angular / sub-angular small flint stones. 0.3m thick.	Fill of [411]. Backfilled natural. Bank?		Section 6, Shots 15,16,17.
417	Deposit	Firm mid grey brown sandy silt with occasional angular / sub-angular flint.	Fill of [413]. Probable backfill.	1 x fragment of Roman Tile. 1 x prehistoric flint, 1 x Late Neolithic / early Bronze age flake. 1 x fire cracked pebble.	Section 6, Shots 15,16,17.
418	Deposit	Firm mid yellow brown sandy silt with small sub-angular and angular flint stones. Occasional small rounded pebbles. To the east of the trench contained more gravel	Natural.		

		and patches of degraded chalk.			
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APPENDIX B – CERAMICS AND ‘OTHER’ FINDS

ROMAN POTTERY

By Alex Beeby

Introduction

The material was recorded at archive level in accordance with the guidelines laid out by Darling (2004) and to conform to Lincolnshire County Council's *Archaeology handbook*. The pottery was recorded in October 2020 using the codes and system developed for the City of Lincoln Archaeological Unit (Darling and Precious, 2014). A total of seven sherds from approximately seven vessels, weighing 115 grams was recovered from the site.

Methodology

The material was laid out and viewed in context order. The pottery was examined visually and using x20 magnification. This information was then added to an Access database. An archive list of the pottery is included in Table 1 below.

Condition

The pottery is in a fragmentary state, suggesting a high level of redeposition. Two pieces are also notably abraded.

Results

Table 1, Roman Pottery Archive

Tr	Context	Cname	Full Name	Form	Form Name	Alter	Comments	Sherds	Vessel	Weight
4	400	GREY	Greyware	JB	Jar or Bowl		BS	1	1	20
4	400	GREYC	Coarse Greyware	B	Bowl	ABR	BASE	1	1	33
4	400	CXT DATE					ROMAN			
4	405	GROG	Grog Tempered ware	JEV	Jar with everted rim		RIM; WM GREY FABRIC WITH GREY GROG; NATIVE COOKPOT VARIANT?	1	1	37
4	405	CXT DATE					ROMAN			
4	407	GREY	Greyware	J	Jar		BS	1	1	12
4	407	GRYMIC	Micaceous Greyware	J	Jar		BSS	2	2	6
4	407	CXT DATE					ROMAN			
4	415	GREY	Greyware	U	Unknown	ABR	BS	1	1	7
4	415	CXT DATE					ROMAN			
Total								7	7	115

Provenance

All of the pottery was recovered from deposits within Trench 4; here pieces came from fill (405) in linear gully [406], fill (407) in ditch [408] and fill (415) in ditch [411]. Additional fragments were also retrieved from the topsoil (400).

Range

A limited range of coarse Roman pottery types is represented, all of which are utilitarian cooking vessel fabrics. Types include grey sandy (GREY, GREYC), grey sandy micaceous (GRYMIC) and grog tempered types (GROG). None of the pottery is intrinsically closely datable.

Summary

A small quantity of utilitarian-type pottery of Roman date was recovered from deposits in Trench 4. The material is in a fragmentary state indicating a high level of residuality.

Potential

There is no potential for further work. The items should be retained as part of the site archive and should pose no problems for long term storage.

POST ROMAN POTTERY

By Alex Beeby

Introduction

All the material was recorded at archive level in accordance with the guidelines laid out in Slowikowski *et al.* (2001) and to conform to Lincolnshire County Council's *Archaeology Handbook*. The pottery codenames (Cname) are in accordance with the Post Roman pottery type series for Lincolnshire, as published in Young *et al.* (2005). A total of four sherds from four vessels, weighing 41 grams was recovered from the site.

Methodology

The material was laid out and viewed in context order. Sherds were counted and weighed by individual vessel within each context. The pottery was examined visually and using x20 magnification. This information was then added to an Access database. An archive list of the pottery is included Table 2 below. The pottery ranges in date from the medieval to the early modern period.

Condition

The pottery is in a fairly fragmentary but unabraded state.

Results

Table 2, Summary of the Post Roman Pottery

Tr	Cxt	Cname	Full Name	Form	Decoration	Part	Description	Date	NoS	NoV	W(g)
2	201	PORC	Porcelain	Tea Cup		Rim		L19th- E20th	1	1	12
3	300	TOY	Toynton Medieval ware	Bowl		BS		L13th- 15th	1	1	9
4	400	STSL	Staffordshire Slipware	Press moulded dish	Joggled brown on yellow	BS		L17th- 18th	1	1	8
4	400	LERTH	Late Earthenware	Open		BS	Brown external slip?	16th- 18th	1	1	12
Total									4	4	41

Provenance

Post Roman pottery was recovered from the subsoil in Trench 2 (201), as well as the topsoil in Trenches 3 and 4 (300 and 400 respectively).

Range

There are four fragments of domestic type pottery, including items of medieval, post medieval and early modern date. The fabrics are commonly occurring types of their respective periods.

Potential

The pottery is not worthy of long-term retention and can be disposed of. There is no potential for further work.

CERAMIC BUILDING MATERIAL

By Alex Beeby

Introduction

All the material was recorded at archive level in accordance with the guidelines laid out by the Archaeological Ceramic Building Materials Group (2002). A single fragment of ceramic building material, weighing 28 grams was recovered from the site.

Methodology

The material was laid out and weighed. The ceramic building material was then examined visually and using x20 magnification. This information was then added to an Access database. An archive list of the ceramic building material is included in Table 3 below.

Condition

There is a single small fragment of tile. The piece has been highly fired, and possibly burnt. The piece may have been overfired during production, it may have been damaged during a building fire or it may have been subjected to post-use burning, perhaps during rubbish disposal. Alternatively, the item may have used within the fabric of an industrial structure such as that of a furnace or kiln.

Results

Table 3, Ceramic Building Material Archive

Tr	Cxt	Cname	Name	Fabric	NoF	W(g)	Description	Date
4	417	RTIL	Roman Tile	Reduced; medium sandy; leached?	1	28	Oxidised margins; linear inclusion hollows; sanded base	Roman

Provenance

The ceramic building material was recovered from fill (417) within pit [413] in Trench 4.

Range

There is a single small piece of tile; the thickness and finish of the piece suggest it is of Roman date, probably a fragment of roofing tile.

Potential

The item should be retained as part of the site archive. There is no potential for further work.

The Clay Tobacco Pipe

Introduction

The clay pipe was analysed in accordance with guidelines prepared by Davey (1981). A single piece of pipe weighing 14g was recovered.

Condition

The clay pipe is in good condition, though abraded.

Results

Table 4, *The clay tobacco pipe*

Context	Bore diameters, /64"						Total	Wt(g)	Comments	Context date
	9	8	7	6	5	4				
400				1			1	14	Oswald Type G5/6 bowl, worn	c. 1640-80

Provenance

The clay pipes were recovered from the topsoil (400). It is likely to be local product, perhaps made in Horncastle itself.

Discussion

A single mid-late 17th century clay pipe bowl, of Oswald's general type 5 or 6 (Oswald 1975), was recovered.

Potential and Recommendations

The clay pipe is of limited potential. It offers tentative dating evidence, and indications of smoking at the site. No further work is required and the material could be discarded.

The Other Finds

Introduction

Three other items weighing a total of 628g were recovered.

Results

Table 5: *The Other Finds*

Context	Material	Description	No.	Wt(g)	Context date
407	stone	Possible sphalerite pebble, natural	1	36	
415	stone	Fire-cracked cobble	1	236	
417	stone	Fire-cracked cobble	1	356	
Totals			3	628	

Provenance

The items were recovered from ditch fills (407, 415), and pit fill (417).

Discussion

A natural pebble, mostly comprising of shiny black platy crystals and possibly limey matrix, was collected from (407). The pebble also has areas of red and very pale yellow crystals. The black crystalline material may be sphalerite, a natural ore of zinc. Its black colour is characteristic of sphalerite that has a high iron content, and this type is called marmatite. Pale yellow and red varieties, as apparent on the present example, contain very little iron. This mineral is not native to Lincolnshire and may be a glacial erratic. It may have been collected and curated in the past because of its unusual appearance.

Two water-worn cobbles, both heat-fractured, were also recovered. These fire-cracked pebbles were, perhaps, pot boilers. Used for heating fluids, water specifically, they are particularly prevalent in prehistoric contexts but were used perhaps as late as the early medieval period.

Potential and Recommendations

The burnt stones indicate fires and possibly the heating of liquids. The other stone, a natural shiny mineral, may have been collected because of its appearance. No further work is required and the material can be discarded.

SPOT DATING

The dating in Table 6 is based on the evidence provided by the finds detailed above.

Table 6, Spot dates

Cxt	Date (Century)	Comments
201	Late 19 th to early 20 th	Subsoil
300	Late 13 th to 15 th	Topsoil
400	Late 17 th to 18 th	Topsoil
405	Roman	
407	Roman	
415	Roman	
417	Roman	

ABBREVIATIONS

- ACBMG Archaeological Ceramic Building Materials Group
- BS Body sherd
- Ca Calcareous inclusions
- CBM Ceramic Building Material
- CXT Context
- NoF Number of Fragments
- NoS Number of sherds
- NoV Number of vessels
- Tr Trench
- W (g) Weight (grams)

REFERENCES

~ 2002, *Minimum Standards for the Recovery, Analysis and Publication of Ceramic Building Material*, version

Davey, P., 1981 Guidelines for the processing and publication of clay pipes from excavations. *Medieval and Later Pottery in Wales* 4, 65-88

Oswald, A., 1975 *Clay Pipes for the Archaeologist*, British Archaeological Reports 14

Young, J., Vince, A.G. and Nailor, V., 2005, *A Corpus of Saxon and Medieval Pottery from Lincoln* (Oxford)

Slowikowski, A. M., Nenck, B., and Pearce, J., 2001, *Minimum Standards for the Processing, Recording, Analysis and Publication of Post-Roman Ceramics*, Medieval Pottery Research Group Occasional Paper 2

Young, J., Vince, A.G. and Nailor, V., 2005, *A Corpus of Saxon and Medieval Pottery from Lincoln* (Oxford)

APPENDIX C - FLINT

By Tom Lane

Introduction

A total of 37 flints were submitted for Assessment. Of those, 11 (30%) were natural and unworked, the remainder predominantly debitage in the form of cores and flakes.

Condition

The assemblage as a whole is moderately abraded. No conservation measures would be required ahead of deposition in a museum or similar repository.

Results

Cxt No	Description	No	Wt(g)	Date
101	Flake. Utilized. Cortex remaining along one half of dorsal surface. Opposite lateral edge has secondary working/ denticulation. Non-patinated. 35 x 24 x 8mm	1	8	Late Neolithic/ Bronze Age
200	Core. Large. Single Platform. Flake/blade scars. Non-patinated. 40 x 38 x 32mm	1	47	Later Neolithic
400	<i>Flake. Natural. Unworked.</i>	1	11	
400	Flake. Waste flake. Non-patinated. 34 x 26 x 8mm	1	7	Prehistoric
401	Flake. Waste flake. Cortex remaining along one half of dorsal surface. Non-patinated. 45 x 18 x 8mm	1	7	Late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age
401	Possible knife. Broken along one lateral edge, possibly during manufacture. Light brown flint. Non-patinated. 36 x 23 x 5mm	1	4	Late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age
403	<i>Flake. Natural. Unworked</i>	1	22	
403	Flake. Small chip. Non-patinated. 17 x 13 x 2mm	1	<1	Prehistoric
403	Core fragment. Discoidal core? Small areas of cortex remaining. Flake scars on both dorsal and ventral surfaces. Non-patinated. 44 x 34 x 18mm	1	27	Late Neolithic/ Early Bronze Age
405	Nodule/core. Broken. Cortex over most of dorsal surface but with some limited flake removal. Non-patinated. 82 x 55 x 54	1	156	Later Neolithic/ Early Bronze Age
405	Flake. Small chip. Non-patinated. 15 x 14 x 3mm	1	<1	Prehistoric
405	Flake. Waste Flake. Cortex remaining on part of dorsal surface. 34 x 39 x 10.	1	18	? Bronze Age
405	Core. Single platform. Cortex remaining on c.30% of dorsal surface. Blade and flake scars on dorsal surface. Non-patinated. 45 x 32 x 17mm	1	37	Later Neolithic /Early Bronze Age
407	Flake. From core. Bladelet removed from Dorsal surface. Non-patinated. 25 x 20 x 4mm	1	3	Late Neolithic/early Bronze Age
407	<i>Flakes. Natural. Unworked.</i>	7	84	
407	Flake. From core. Flake scars on dorsal surface. Non-patinated. 23 x 14 x 4mm	1	<1	Late Neolithic/early Bronze Age
407	Flake. Flake scars on dorsal surface. Non -patinated. 15 x 12 x 4mm	1	<1	Late Neolithic/early Bronze Age
407	Flake. Possibly utilized. Slight damage/working along one edge. Some cortex remaining. Non-patinated. 33 x 14 x 6mm	1	1	Late Neolithic/early Bronze Age

407	Flake. Blade scars on dorsal surface. Some damage on one lateral edge. Possible utilized. Non-patinated. 19 x 9 x 4mm	1	<1	Late Neolithic/early Bronze Age
407	Flake. Cortex on much of dorsal surface. Non-patinated. 25 x 20 x 6mm	1	3	Late Neolithic/early Bronze Age
407	Flake. Non-patinated. 23 x 144 x 8mm	1	4	Late Neolithic/early Bronze Age
407	Flake. Irregular shape. Utilized. Short length of secondary working on one edge. 22 x 15 x 5mm	1	1	Late Neolithic/early Bronze Age
407	Flake. Dorsal ridge. Non-patinated. 22 x 13 x 4mm	1	1	Late Neolithic/early Bronze Age
407	Flake. Ridge along dorsal surface. Non-patinated. 34 x 14 x 3mm	1	1	Late Neolithic/early Bronze Age
407	Flake. Irregular shape. Flake scars on dorsal surface. Some cortex. Non-patinated. 37 x 28 x 6mm	1	9	Late Neolithic/early Bronze Age
407	Core. Single platform. Predominantly blade scars. Non-patinated. 32 x 26 x 36	1	44	Neolithic
414	<i>Flake. Natural. Unworked</i>	1	7	
415	Flake. Waste flake but with notch midway along one lateral edge. Non-patinated. Light brown coloured. 29 x 13 x 3mm	1	<1	Neolithic
417	Flake. Primary flake with cortex covering almost all of dorsal surface. Non-patinated. 17 x 24 x 6mm	1	3	Prehistoric
417	<i>Flake. Natural. Unworked.</i>	1	3	
417	Flake. Non-patinated. 51 x 15 x 13mm	1	17	Late Neolithic/early Bronze Age

Range

All but two of the flints were located in Trench 4 during Evaluation. The core from Trench 2 was unstratified and the flake from Trench 1 from subsoil. In Trench 4 two flakes and a utilized flake, came from the topsoil and subsoil, the remainder of the collection from ditch or gully fills. The largest number of finds was from ditch fill 407, which also yielded two sherds of Roman pottery.

Apart from two utilized flakes and a possible fragment of a knife (from subsoil [401]), the flint finds were restricted to debitage, chiefly from core reduction. The possible knife is likely to have been broken during manufacture, hinting at tool production on site. The dateable finds centre on the Neolithic period, chiefly late therein. The cores were large, typical of the later Neolithic (Butler 2005, 155).

Potential

The collection was dateable to the Neolithic, largely the later part of the period and into the Bronze Age, with little obviously earlier or later material. The finds represented predominantly debitage, indicating flint working, particularly core reduction, taking place in the area of Trench 4. There was little evidence of flint tools, suggesting that any tools might have been moved from site and used elsewhere. Should further work be required on the site the presence of flint working there should be considered. Finds samples, for instance, might refine the collections and confirm whether finished tools were actually present and used on site, or whether this was purely a flint working enterprise.

Reference

Butler, C., 2005, *Prehistoric Flintwork* (Stroud, Tempus)

APPENDIX D

AN ASSESSMENT OF THE CHARRED PLANT MACROFOSSILS AND OTHER REMAINS FROM HORNCASTLE, LINCOLNSHIRE

Val Fryer, Environmental Archaeologist
October 2020

Introduction and method statement

Excavations at Horncastle, undertaken by Witham Archaeology, recorded pits, ditches and other discrete features, none of which were dated at the time of writing. Samples for the retrieval of the plant macrofossil assemblages were taken, with six being submitted for assessment.

The samples were processed by manual water flotation/washover and the flots were collected in a 300 micron mesh sieve. The dried flots were scanned under a binocular microscope at magnifications up to x 16 and the plant macrofossils and other remains noted are listed in Table 1. Nomenclature within the table follows Stace (2010). All plant remains were charred. Modern roots and seeds were also recorded.

The non-floating residues were collected in a 1mm mesh sieve and sorted when dry. Natural ferrous concretions were noted, but other artefacts/ecofacts were absent.

Results

Charred cereal remains are noted at a very low density within all but sample 4 (gully [408]). Preservation is very poor, with the grains being puffed and distorted (probably as a result of high temperature combustion) whilst the chaff is heavily abraded. In addition, many of the macrofossils are coated with mineralised silt/grits, although in most instances, this has not precluded identification.

Single barley (*Hordeum* sp.) and wheat (*Triticum* sp.) grains are present within samples 2 (pit [412]) and 1 (ditch [411]) respectively. The assemblage from sample 2 also includes an additional possible grain, although preservation is too poor for close identification. Individual spelt wheat (*T. spelta*) glume bases are present in samples 2, 3 (pit [413]) and 5 (ditch [408]) and oat (*Avena* sp.) awn fragments are recorded from samples 2, 5 and 6 (gully [406]). The only seed is a single indeterminate grass (Poaceae) fruit from sample 2. Sample 6 includes a small and heavily abraded fragment of what appears to be hazel (*Corylus avellana*) nutshell. Charcoal/charred wood fragments are noted throughout at a low to moderate density, with the highest concentration occurring within the assemblage from gully [404]. Other plant macrofossils are scarce, but do include small pieces of charred root/stem and an abraded fragment of mineral replaced wood.

Black porous and tarry residues are recorded within all six assemblages. They are distinctly hard and brittle and it is thought most likely that all are bi-products of the combustion of coal. Small pieces of coal (coal 'dust') are also present. Degraded bone fragments are present throughout, but at the time of writing, the significance (if any) of these is unknown. A single, large ferrous spherule is present within the assemblages from sample 6.

Conclusions and recommendations for further work

In summary, the assemblages are all small (i.e. <0.1 litres in volume) and very limited in composition. Charred cereal waste of possible later prehistoric or Roman date is present, but at an extremely low density, and it is suggested that this material is entirely derived from scattered detritus, which had been exposed to the elements for some while prior to accidental incorporation within the feature fills. The assemblages also contain coal and possible coal-derived residues, but it is currently unclear whether these may be contemporary with the plant remains, or later inclusions.

As none of the assemblages contain a sufficient density of material for quantification (i.e. 100+ specimens), no further analysis is required. However, a summary of this assessment should be included within any synthesis of data from the site.

Reference

Stace, C., 2010 *New Flora of the British Isles*. 3rd edition. Cambridge University Press

Key to Table

x = 1 – 10 specimens xx = 11 – 50 specimens xxx = 51 – 100 specimens xxxx = 100+ specimens cf = compare

Sample No.	1	2	3	4	5	6
Context No.	415	414	417	403	407	405
Feature No.	411	412	413	404	408	406
Feature type	Ditch	Pit	Pit	Gully	Ditch	Gully
Cereals						
<i>Avena</i> sp. (awn frags.)		x			x	x
<i>Hordeum</i> sp. (grain)		x				
<i>Triticum</i> sp. (grain)	xcf					
<i>T. spelta</i> L. (glume bases)		x	x		xcf	
Cereal indet. (grain)		xcf				
(rachis node frag.)		x				
(rachis internode frag.)		x				
Dry land herbs						
Large Poaceae indet.		x				
Tree/shrub macrofossils						
<i>Corylus avellana</i> L.						xcf
Other plant macrofossils						
Charcoal <2mm	xxx	xx	x	xx	xx	xx
Charcoal >2mm	xx	x	x	xxxx	xx	x
Charcoal >5mm	x	x	x	xxx	x	x
Charcoal >10mm		x		x		x
Charred root/stem	x	x	x		x	x
Minerally preserved wood			x			
Indet. culm node		x				
Indet. fruit stone/nutshell frag.						x
Other remains						
Black porous material	xx	x	x	x	x	x
Black tarry material			x		x	x
Bone	xx	x	x	x	x	x
Burnt/fired clay	x	x				
Burnt stone	x					
Ferrous spherule						x
Small coal frags.	xx	x	x	x		xx
Small mammal/amphibian bones						x
Vitreous material	x	x			x	
White/grey mineral concretions	x	x		x	x	
Sample volume (litres)	12	10	10	10	20	8
Volume of flot (litres)	<0.1	<0.1	<0.1	<0.1	<0.1	<0.1
% flot sorted	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

Table 1. Charred plant macrofossils and other remains from Horncastle, Lincolnshire

APPENDIX E – ANIMAL BONE

A single fragment of cattle-sized bone was recovered from context 415 (James Rackham, *pers. comm.*)

APPENDIX F
OASIS SUMMARY DETAILS FORM

OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM: England

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OASIS ID: withamar1-405039

Project details

Project name	Trial Trench Evaluation at the New Public Sector Hub, Horncastle College, Horncastle, Lincolnshire
Short description of the project	For trial trenches were excavated on the site of the proposed public sector hub at the former Horncastle Residential College. The site is located at the periphery of Roman and Iron settlement at Horncastle and close to a Roman cremation cemetery. Evidence of Roman settlement was identified at the southern edge of the site during an evaluation in 1994 and cremations were found immediately north of the site during building works for the Union workhouse in the mid 19th century. Three of the trenches excavated in the northern part of the site of the new hub produced no evidence of significant archaeological deposits. However, the fourth trench near the southern edge of the site confirmed the presence of Roman activity in the form of ditches and pits. A small quantity of Roman pot was recovered together with residual late Neolithic/early Bronze worked flint.
Project dates	Start: 01-09-2020 End: 08-09-2020
Previous/future work	Yes / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	HCRC20 - Sitecode
Any associated project reference codes	2020.129 - Museum accession ID
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Community Service 1 - Community Buildings
Monument type	DITCH Roman
Monument type	PIT Roman
Significant Finds	FLINT Late Neolithic
Significant Finds	FLINT Early Bronze Age
Significant Finds	POTTERY Roman
Methods & techniques	"Environmental Sampling","Sample Trenches","Targeted Trenches"
Development type	Public building (e.g. school, church, hospital, medical centre, law courts etc.)
Prompt	National Planning Policy Framework - NPPF
Position in the planning process	After full determination (eg. As a condition)

Project location

Country	England
Site location	LINCOLNSHIRE EAST LINDSEY HORNCastle New Public Sector Hub at the former Horncastle College, Horncastle
Postcode	LN96BW
Study area	12000 Square metres
Site coordinates	TF 26453 69219 53.204680457897 -0.106499581251 53 12 16 N 000 06 23 W Point

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Witham Archaeology Ltd
Project brief originator	Local Authority Archaeologist and/or Planning Authority/advisory body
Project design originator	Prospect Archaeology
Project director/manager	Russell Trimble
Project supervisor	Andy Pascoe
Type of sponsor/funding body	District Council
Name of sponsor/funding body	East Lindsey District Council

Project archives

Physical Archive recipient	The Collection, Danes Terrace, Lincoln LN2 1LT
Physical Archive ID	LCNCC: 2020.129
Physical Contents	"Animal Bones","Ceramics","Environmental","Worked stone/lithics"
Digital Archive recipient	The Collection, Danes Terrace, Lincoln LN2 1LT
Digital Archive ID	LCNCC:2020.129
Digital Contents	"Animal Bones","Ceramics","Environmental","Stratigraphic","Survey","Worked stone/lithics"
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography","Spreadsheets","Survey","Text"
Paper Archive recipient	The Collection, Danes Terrace, Lincoln LN2 1LT
Paper Archive ID	LcNCC.2020.129
Paper Contents	"Animal Bones","Ceramics","Environmental","Stratigraphic","Survey","Worked stone/lithics"
Paper Media available	"Context sheet","Matrices","Miscellaneous Material","Notebook - Excavation',' Research',' General Notes","Photograph","Plan","Report","Section","Survey "

Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Public Sector Hub, Horncastle College, Mareham Road, Horncastle, Lincolnshire. Archaeological Trial Trench Evaluation
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Pascoe, A.

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