

# **Witham** Archaeology

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A Report to Mrs Julia Chaggar

October 2013



## **NEW STABLES AT WAINFLEET BANK WAINFLEET ST MARY, LINCOLNSHIRE**

### **Archaeological Monitoring and Recording**

*R Trimble*

# NEW STABLES AT WAINFLEET BANK, WAINFLEET ST MARY, LINCOLNSHIRE

Site Code: WMWB13  
Museum Accession No.: LCNCC 2013.133  
Planning Application No.: S/195/1360/10  
OASIS ID: wintahmar1-161690  
NGR: TF 46962 59139

## *Archaeological Monitoring and Recording*

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# **NEW STABLES AT WAINFLEET BANK, WAINFLEET ST MARY, LINCOLNSHIRE**

## **ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING AND RECORDING**

### ***SUMMARY***

*A programme of monitoring and recording was undertaken by Witham Archaeology during groundworks relating to the construction of new stable buildings at Wainfleet Bank, Wainfleet St Mary, Lincolnshire. The work was initiated in response to a condition of planning permission imposed by East Lindsey District Council.*

*The site lies within a complex of earthworks representing the remains of medieval settlement at Wainfleet. A trial trench evaluation carried out in 2000, on land to the southwest, revealed features interpreted as a hollow way and a pond.*

*The only feature of note located on the site of the new stables was a short linear cut interpreted as a gully. Finds associated with the gully indicate an 11<sup>th</sup> or 12<sup>th</sup> century date.*

### **1.0 INTRODUCTION**

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Witham Archaeology during groundworks relating to the construction of new stable buildings on land at Wainfleet Bank, Wainfleet St Mary, Lincolnshire. The work was commissioned by Mrs Julia Chaggar in response to a condition of planning permission imposed by East Lindsey District Council (Planning Reference S/195/1360/10). The requirements of the local planning authority were set out in a brief issued by the Historic Environment Team, Lincolnshire County Council. Attendance on site was provided on 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> July 2013.

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 Institute of Field Archaeologists.

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

The site, at NGR TF 46962 59139, lies approximately southwest of Skegness in the parish of Wainfleet St Mary and the administrative district of East Lindsey. The site lies immediately south of Wainfleet Bank, in the northwestern corner of a grassed paddock.

The geology of the area is Kimmeridge clay overlain by tidal flat deposits of clay and silt (British Geological Survey 1:50 000, solid and drift)

### **3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL & HISTORICAL BACKGROUND**

There are a several references to settlement at Wainfleet in the Domesday Book of 1086 (Morgan and Thorn 1986). The place-name, given as *Wenflet* in the Domesday Book, is believed to derive from the Old English *waegn* and *foet* meaning the creek or stream which can be crossed by a wagon (Cameron 1998, 133).

The area containing the site lies within an extensive complex of earthworks and cropmarks representing the remains of medieval settlement at Wainfleet (HER ref. 41761). The earthworks were surveyed in 1965 and were visible on aerial photographs taken in 1968. They were considered the most extensive

earthwork remains of deserted medieval settlement in Lincolnshire, until ploughing during the period 1965 to 1969 resulted in the levelling of much of the area. The settlement represented by the earthworks probably centred around a port which flourished in the 14<sup>th</sup> century.

The site of All Saints church lies to the northeast of the site at NGR 472 592 (HER ref. 41911). A church was probably in existence by *c.* AD1170 but was demolished in 1820. The graveyard is still visible, and foundations of the building are identifiable on aerial photographs.

A trial trench evaluation, involving the excavation of three trenches, was carried out in 1999, prior to construction of a fishing lake on land to the southwest of the site. The investigations revealed features interpreted as a hollow way and a pond. The evaluation was followed in 2000 by a watching brief, which provided further information on the extent and condition of the hollow way (HER ref. 41761).

A small quantity of unstratified medieval pottery (009) was recovered from the site.

#### **4.0 AIMS & OBJECTIVES**

The principal objectives of the project, as set out in a Witham Archaeology specification of 18<sup>th</sup> July 2013, were to:

- *allow the preservation by record of any surviving archaeological deposits and artefacts exposed by the development groundwork within the constraints imposed by the contractor's working methods, programme and development design.*
- *produce a project archive for deposition with the appropriate museum together with a client report.*
- *provide information for accession to the County Historic Environment Record.*

#### **5.0 METHODOLOGY**

The new buildings comprising stables, tack room, store and covered shoeing area, are arranged in three blocks, around a courtyard facing east. The buildings are constructed on a concrete base *c.* 300mm thick, which extends throughout the yard and along an access track leading north to Wainfleet Bank. Existing ground level was reduced by around 250mm to achieve formation level for the concrete base.

A photographic record was produced in both black and white film and colour digital, detailing archaeological deposits and features as well as the progress of development groundworks. Drawings were produced at scale 1:10 or 1:20 as appropriate, while individual, written context descriptions were made on *pro forma* context recording sheets.

#### **6.0 RESULTS (see Fig. 3)**

Light, orange-brown and mid brown silty clay, (004), extended throughout the area of the stables and yard, as well as the southern part of the access track.

The only feature identified in the area of the stables and yard was a linear cut, [003], aligned north to south (see *Plate 3*). The cut, interpreted as a ditch or gully, measured 3.4m long by 0.55m wide, narrowing over the southern extent to 0.35m wide. It was filled by moderately compact, mid grey clayey silt (002). Four sherds of pottery dated 11<sup>th</sup> or 12<sup>th</sup> century were recovered from (002), together with a small assemblage of animal bone (see Appendix B).

Within the line of the access track, (004) gave way to moderately compact to compact light orange brown and mid grey clayey silt, (005), which in turn gave way to moderately compact/friable mid grey clayey silt, (006), at least 0.20m thick.

North of (006) lay a deposit of moderately compact/friable, patchy light/dark grey and light brown sandy silt with an ashy content and frequent soft (possibly burnt) clay inclusions (see *Plate 4*). Deposit

(008) was overlain at the northern end of the track by moderately compact to compact light orange-brown sandy clay 0.25m thick.

## **7.0 DISCUSSION & CONCLUSION**

Monitoring during groundworks for the new stables revealed a short gully [003] whose fill [002] produced a small number of finds indicative of domestic occupation in the 11<sup>th</sup> or 12<sup>th</sup> century AD. The lack of associated features probably reflect a significant degree of truncation of deposits across the area – indicated by the shallow depth of overlying deposits (only topsoil), the absence of any other stratigraphy above the natural clay, and the relatively level topography in the immediate locality.

The variation in deposits on the route of the access track, represented by deposits (005), (006) and (008), coincides with a hollow or ditch shown on drawings for the current development. It would appear, therefore, that at least some of the material was deposited as part of a relatively recent episode of backfilling.

The flecks of fired clay present in undated deposit (008), adjacent to the road, might tentatively be identified as residue from a salt-making site (saltern) or another type of process involving the application of heat. During the medieval period there was a thriving salt-making industry in Wainfleet St Mary (HER Nos. 41731, 41759, 43584) and the potential for even earlier remains (Roman and/or Saxon) cannot be discounted.

## **8.0 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

The author of this report would like to thank Mrs Julia Chaggar for assistance in ensuring that the project was brought to a successful conclusion.

## **9.0 BIBLIOGRAPHY**

Cameron, K & Insley, J 1998 *A Dictionary of Lincolnshire Place-Names*. English Place-Name Society

Morgan, P & Thorn, C (Eds.) 1986 *Domesday Book, A Survey of the Counties of England: Lincolnshire*. Phillimore

## **10.0 PROJECT/ ARCHIVE DETAILS**

### **10.1 Project Details**

SITE CODE: WMWB13

PLANNING APPLICATION No.: S/195/1360/10

FIELD OFFICER: R Trimble

NGR: TF 46962 59139

CIVIL PARISH: Wainfleet St Mary

DATE OF INTERVENTION: 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> July 2013

TYPE OF INTERVENTION: Monitoring and Recording

UNDERTAKEN FOR: Mrs Julia Chaggar

### **10.2 Archive Details**

PRESENT LOCATION: Witham Archaeology, Unit 6, Sleaford Station Business Centre, Station Road, Sleaford, Lincolnshire NG34 7RG

FINAL LOCATION: The Collection, Danes Terrace, Lincoln

MUSEUM ACCESSION No.: LCNCC 2013.133

ACCESSION DATE: December 2013

#### ***The Site Archive Comprises:***

Context Records	8
Plan at Scale 1:20	1
Plan at Scale 1:100	1
Photographs	39
Set of Site Notes	1

*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: Work in progress, looking north*



*Plate 2: Area of stables and yard with overburden removed, looking south*



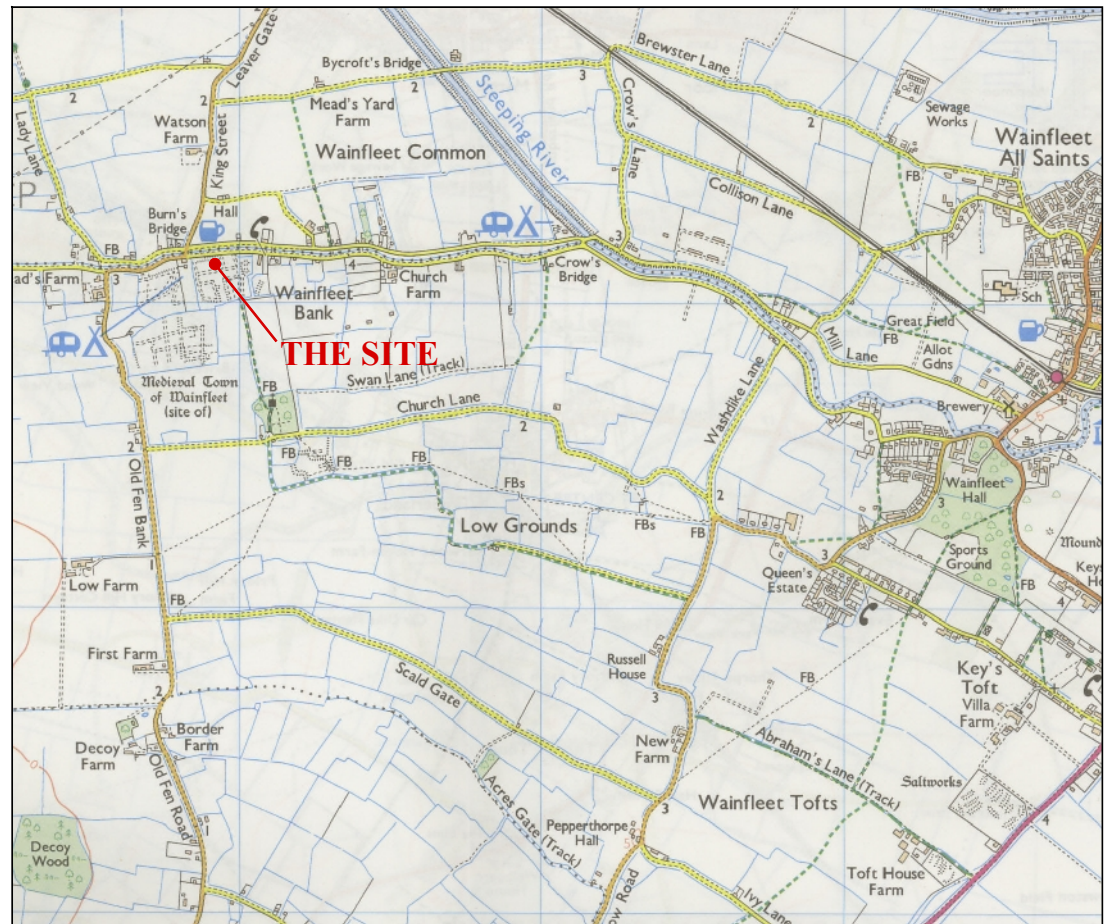
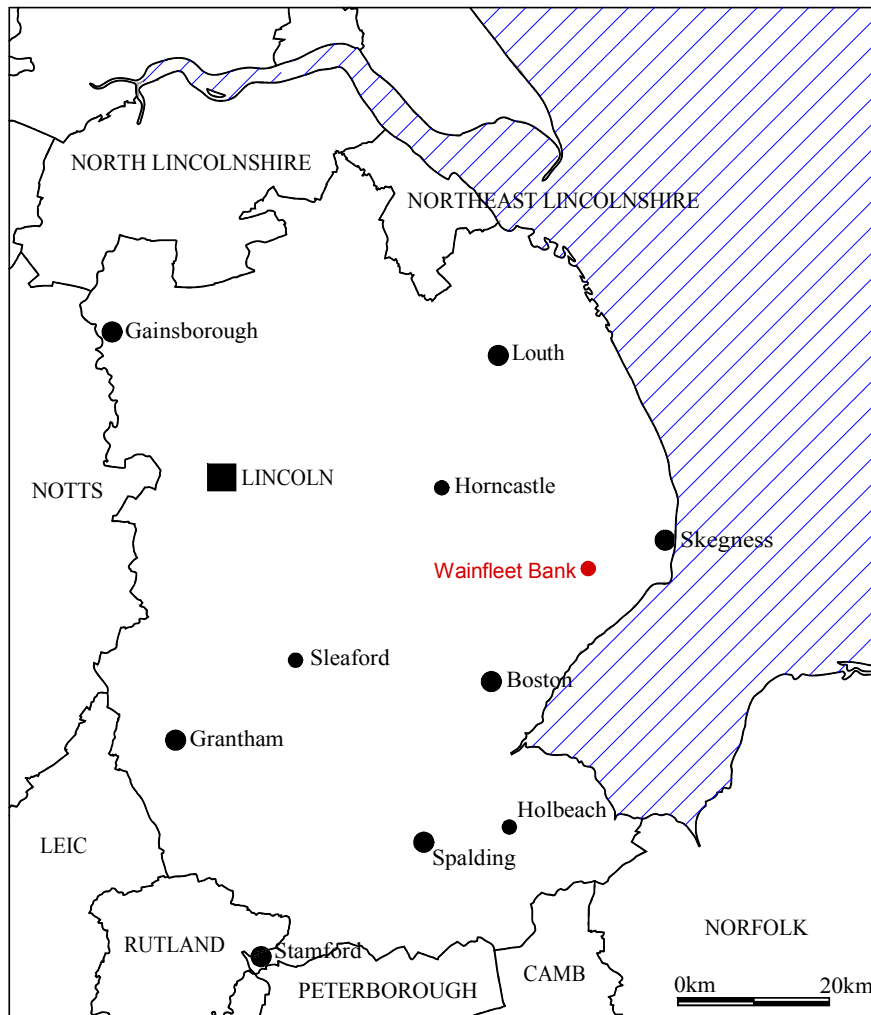
## ***COLOUR PLATES***



*Plate 3: Linear feature [003], looking west*

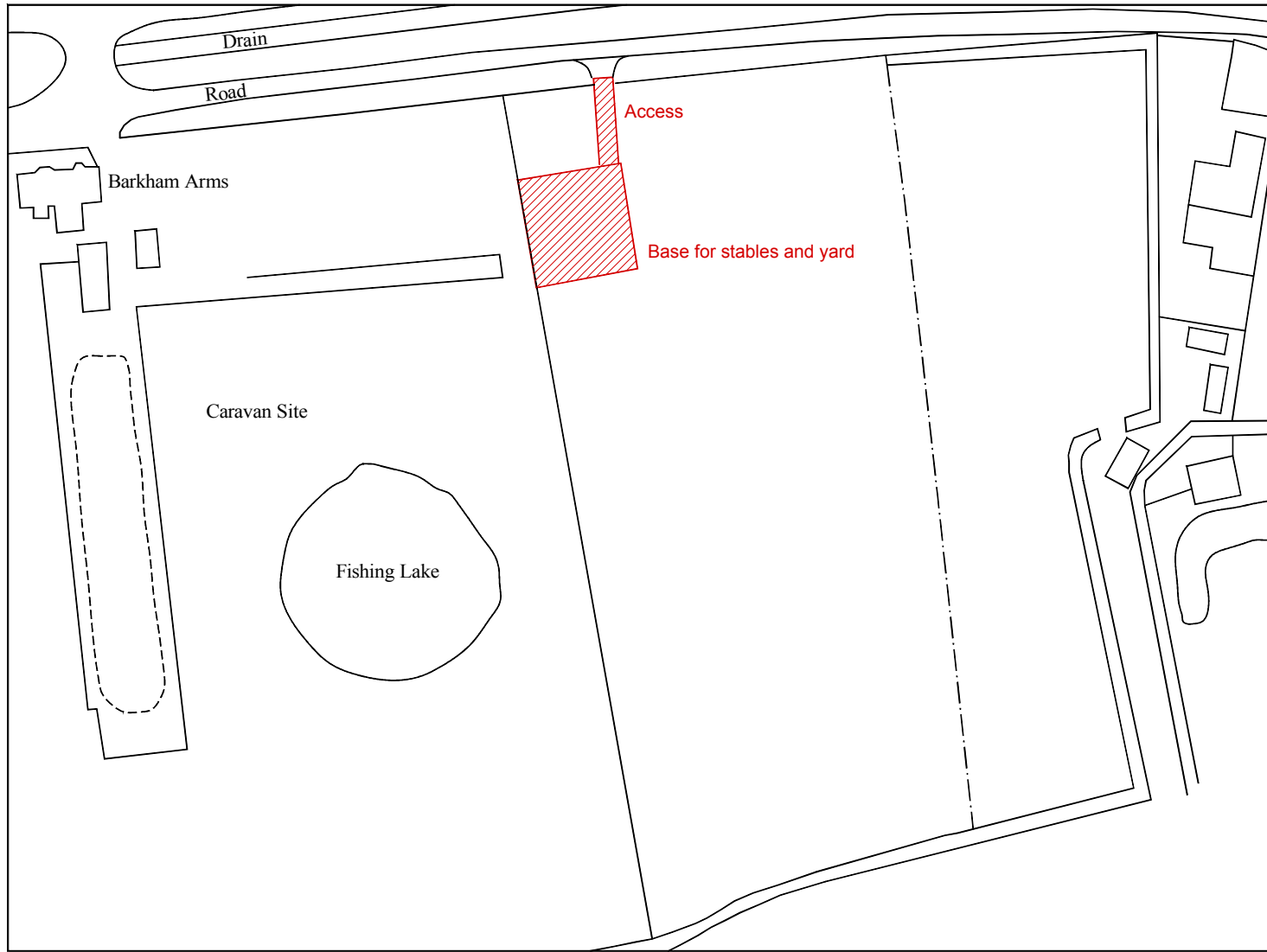


*Plate 4: Deposit (008), looking north*

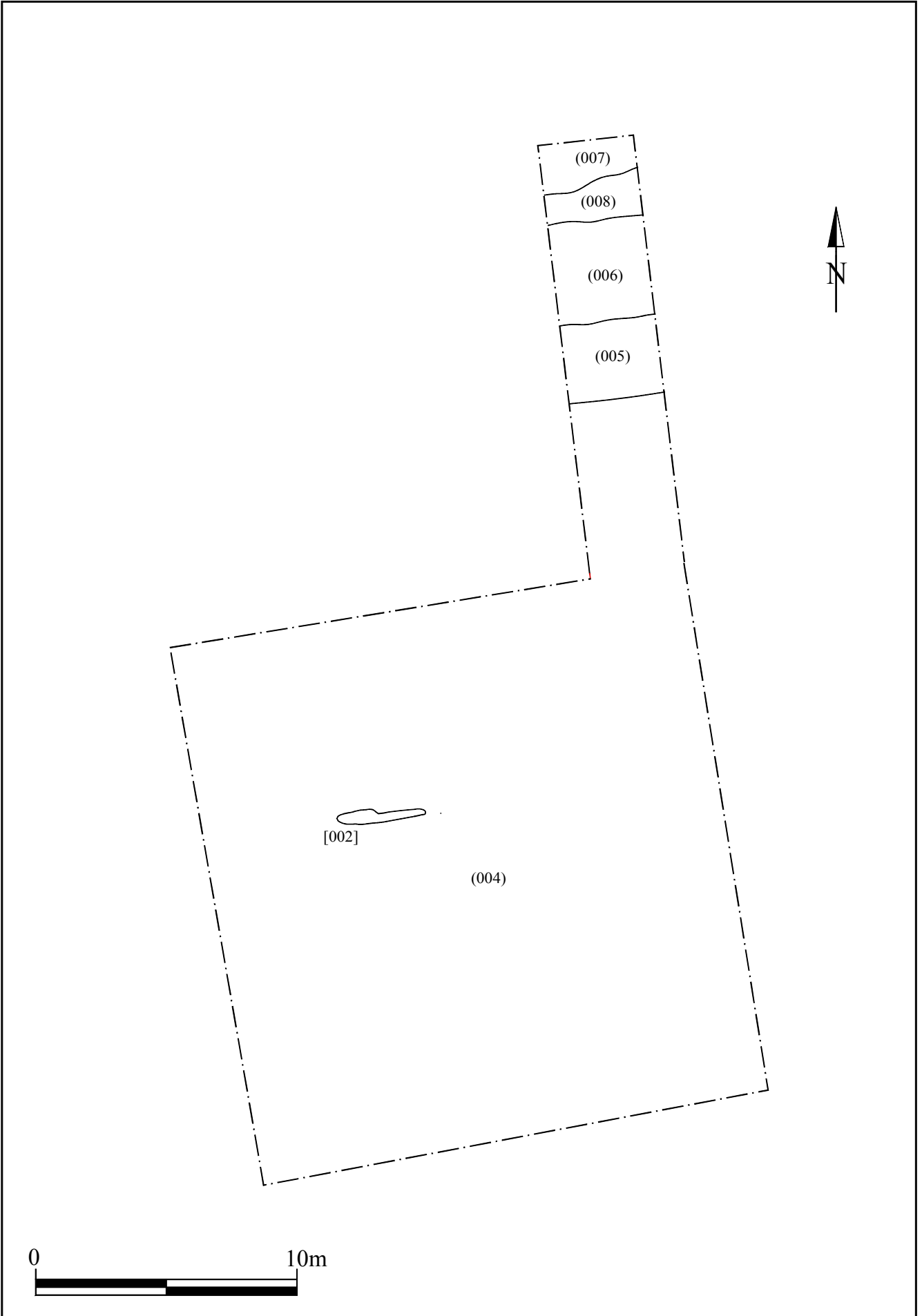


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Based on a drawing by Cliff Andrew Eng.



## APPENDIX A - CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

<i>No.</i>	<i>Interpretation</i>	<i>Description</i>
001	Topsoil	Moderately compact mid greyish brown clayey silt (20/80%); average 200-250mm thick
002	Fill of [003]	Moderately compact mid grey clayey silt (40/60%) containing occasional pot, bone and shell
003	Gully	Linear cut aligned north to south; Maximum 0.55m wide, narrowing to 0.35m in southern part; rounded plan shape at each end
004	Natural	Light orange-brown and mid brown silty clay (20/80%)
005	Layer	Moderately compact to compact light orange-brown and mid grey clayey silt (30/70%)
006	Layer or fill	Moderately compact/friable mid grey clayey silt (20/80%); at least 0.20m thick
007	Layer	Moderately compact to compact light orange-brown sandy clay; 0.25m thick
008	Layer	Moderately compact/friable patchy light/dark grey and light brown sandy silt with an ashy content and frequent small, soft clay inclusions
009	US Finds	

## APPENDIX B – FINDS REPORTS

### 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 10 sherds from 8 vessels, weighing 101 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 in Table 1 below. The pottery ranges in date from the Saxo-Norman or early medieval to the medieval period.

#### Condition

The pottery is fragmentary and sherds from two vessels are also abraded. Two fragments have sooted surfaces, probably due to use over a hearth or fire.

#### Results

Table 1, Post Roman Pottery Archive

Cxt	Cname	Full Name	Sub Fab	Form	Dec	Part	Description	Date	NoS	NoV	W(g)
002	SNEOT	St Neots Ware		Jar		BSS	Sooted		2	1	16
002	SNEOT	St Neots Ware		Bowl		Rim	Abraded; everted/flange rim	11th- 12th	1	1	11
002	THETT	Thetford Ware		Bowl		Rims	Burnt?; sooted; everted/ flanged rim	11th- M12th	2	1	13
002	THETT	Thetford Ware		Jar		BS			1	1	14
009	TOY	Toynton Medieval Ware		Jug		BS			1	1	3
009	TOY	Toynton Medieval Ware		Jug	Applied clay strips	BS		L13th- 15th	1	1	15
009	BOUA	Bourne Medieval Ware	A	Jug?		BS	Misfired glaze		1	1	3
009	BOUA	Bourne Medieval Ware	A	Jug or Jar		Base		M12th- 14th	1	1	26
<b>Total</b>									<b>10</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>101</b>

#### Provenance

Pottery was recovered from gully [003]. Unstratified material was labelled with context (009).

#### Range

Gully [003] produced fragments from at least four vessels, including jars and bowls in both Thetford Type ware (THETT) and St Neots Type Ware (SNEOT). These are common domestic types of the 11th to 12<sup>th</sup> centuries. Further sherds of medieval pottery are unstratified.

#### Potential

The pottery should be retained as part of the site archive. The material is stable and should pose no problems for long term storage.

## Summary

A small assemblage of Post Roman pottery was recovered from the site. A single gully produced material of 11<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> century date, whilst unstratified medieval sherds were also collected.

## FAUNAL REMAINS

By Paul Cope-Faulkner

## Introduction

A total of 4 (17g) fragments of animal bone were recovered from the fill (002) of a Late Saxon-early medieval gully.

## Methodology

The faunal remains were laid out in context order and reference made to published catalogues (e.g. Schmid 1972; Hillson 2003). All the animal remains were counted and weighed, and where possible identified to species, element and side. Also fusion data, butchery marks, gnawing, burning and pathological changes were noted when present. Ribs and vertebrae were only recorded to species when they were substantially complete and could accurately be identified. Undiagnostic bones were recorded as micro (mouse size), small (rabbit size), medium (sheep size) or large (cattle size).

The condition of the bone was graded using the criteria stipulated by Lyman (1996), Grade 0 being the best preserved bone and Grade 5 indicating that the bone had suffered such structural and attritional damage as to make it unrecognisable.

## Condition

The overall condition of the remains was good to moderate, averaging at grades 2-3 on the Lyman Criteria (1996).

## Results

Table 2, Fragments Identified to Taxa

Cxt	Taxon	Element	Side	Number	W (g)	Comments
002	large mammal	mandible	-	1	11	
	sheep/goat	molar	-	1	3	
	medium mammal	long bone	-	1	2	
	bird	femur	-	1	<1	Probably chicken

## Summary

As a small assemblage, the animal bones require no further comment. They are archive stable and should be retained as part of the site archive.

## ABBREVIATIONS

BS	Body sherd
CBM	Ceramic Building Material
CXT	Context
LHJ	Lower Handle Join
NoF	Number of Fragments
NoS	Number of sherds
NoV	Number of vessels
W (g)	Weight (grams)

## REFERENCES

- ~ 2012, *Lincolnshire Archaeological Handbook* [internet]. Available at  
<<http://www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/residents/environment-and-planning/conservation/archaeology/lincolnshire-archaeological-handbook>>  
Hillson, S, 2003 *Mammal Bones and Teeth. An introductory guide to methods of identification* (London)

- Lyman, RL, 1996 *Vertebrate Taphonomy*, Cambridge Manuals in Archaeology (Cambridge)
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- Slowikowski, A. M., Nenk, 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
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**APPENDIX C**  
**OASIS FORM**

# OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM:

## England

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### Printable version

**OASIS ID: withamar1-161690**

#### Project details

Project name	New Stables at Wainfleet Bank, Wainfleet St Mary, Lincolnshire
Short description of the project	An archaeological watching brief was undertaken during groundworks relating to the construction of new stables in a paddock at Wainfleet Bank, Wainfleet St Mary. The site lies within earthworks relating to medieval settlement at Wainfleet. A short gully was recorded, containing a small quantity of sherds identified as 11th or 12th century in date.
Project dates	Start: 24-07-2013 End: 25-07-2013
Previous/future work	No / No
Any associated project reference codes	WMWB13 - Sitecode
Any associated project reference codes	LCNCC 2013.133 - Museum accession ID
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	None
Current Land use	Grassland Heathland 5 - Character undetermined
Monument type	GULLY Medieval
Significant Finds	POTTERY Medieval
Significant Finds	BONE Medieval
Investigation type	"Watching Brief"
Prompt	Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPG16

#### Project location

Country	England
Site location	LINCOLNSHIRE EAST LINDSEY WAINFLEET ST MARY Paddock at Wainfleet Bank, Wainfleet St Mary, Lincolnshire
Postcode	PE24 4JR

Study area 225.00 Square metres  
Site coordinates TF 46962 59139 53 0 53 06 31 N 000 11 44 E Point

### Project creators

Name of Organisation Witham Archaeology  
Project brief originator Local Authority Archaeologist and/or Planning Authority/advisory body  
Project design originator Russell Trimble  
Project director/manager Russell Trimble  
Project supervisor Russell Trimble  
Type of sponsor/funding body Landowner  
Name of sponsor/funding body Mrs J Chagger

### Project archives

Physical Archive recipient The Collection, Danes Terrace, Lincoln LN2 1LT  
Physical Archive ID LNNCC 2013.133  
Physical Contents "Animal Bones","Ceramics"  
Digital Archive recipient The Collection, Danes Terrace, Lincoln LN2 1LT  
Digital Archive ID LCNCC 2013.133  
Digital Contents "Animal Bones","Ceramics","Stratigraphic"  
Digital Media available "Images vector","Text"  
Paper Archive recipient The Collection, Danes Terrace, Lincoln LN2 1LT  
Paper Archive ID LCNCC 2013.133  
Paper Contents "Animal Bones","Ceramics","Stratigraphic"  
Paper Media available "Context sheet","Drawing","Notebook - Excavation',' Research',' General Notes","Photograph","Plan","Report"

### Project bibliography 1

Publication type Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)  
Title New Stables at Wainfleet Bank, Wainfleet St Mary, Lincolnshire  
Author(s)/Editor(s) Trimble, R.  
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