

**LAND TO THE NORTH OF BOSTON ROAD
SLEAFORD, LINCOLNSHIRE**

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

PCA Job No. 422
Site code: EPBR 08
NGR: TF 0868 4586
Planning application: N/57/1111/07

Report prepared for Axis on behalf of Eco2 Ltd

by

M. Rowe

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Pre-Construct Archaeology (Lincoln)
47 Manor Road
Saxilby
Lincoln
LN1 2HX
Tel: 01522 703 800
Fax: 01522 703 656
info@pre-construct.co.uk

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Summary

Pre-Construct Archaeology (Lincoln) carried out an archaeological evaluation for Axis on behalf Eco2 Ltd on land to the north of Boston Road, near Sleaford, in the North Kesteven district of Lincolnshire (centred on NGR: TF 0868 4586).

Extensive evidence of activity of the Roman period, spanning the mid 1st – late 3rd centuries AD was recorded. The observed evidence consisted of several large pits, some reused as rubbish pits; boundary and possible enclosure ditches; gullies and postholes of possible structural origins; and possible ‘working hollows’ and furnace or oven pits. Two inhumation burials of Roman date and a possible truncated/disturbed cremation burial were also observed.

A large amount of residual material was identified within the plough soil, including fragments of ceramic building material and limestone blocks, providing further evidence that some structures and associated occupation may have occurred at this location. Both the residual material and the buried remains were concentrated in the southern third of the site and extended the full width of the site alongside the Boston Road.

The results of the evaluation indicate that the southern third of the site was densely utilised and possibly occupied during the Roman period and that the intensity of land use diminished notably to the north, although enclosures and field systems may be anticipated in this area. Evidence of medieval ridge and furrow agriculture was also recorded as well as post-medieval field boundaries.

Although the archaeology is considered to be of local and possibly regional significance, no remains have been identified that would preclude a proposed development of the area, provided that a suitable mitigation strategy is in place to ensure preservation of the most significant archaeological remains by record (ie excavation, recording and reporting). As such, at least as far as archaeology is concerned, it is recommended that planning permission should be granted by the local planning authority, with a condition being attached to ensure the implementation of a concluding programme of archaeological investigation in advance of development.

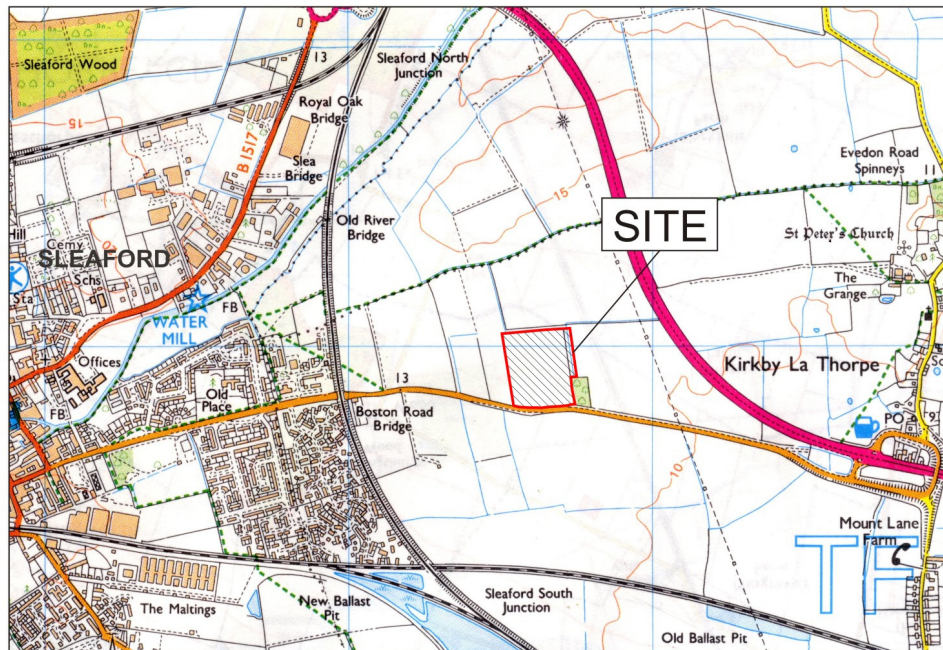


Fig 1: Site location map. Scale 1:25 000 (O.S. copyright licence no: AL515 32 A0001)

Introduction

In April 2008 Pre-Construct Archaeology (Lincoln) (PCA Lincoln) carried out an archaeological evaluation for Axis on behalf of Eco2 Ltd on land to the north of Boston Road, to the east of Sleaford, in the North Kesteven district of Lincolnshire (centred on NGR: TF 0868 4586).

This work was undertaken on the recommendation of Joanna Hambley, the North Kesteven Council Heritage Officer to determine the archaeological potential of the site in order to inform an application for planning permission for the construction of a renewable energy plant (Planning application N/57/1111/07).

The evaluation was carried out in accordance with a specification produced by PCA Lincoln (PCA Lincoln 2008) and approved by Joanna Hambley on behalf of North Kesteven District Council.

The scheme of investigation complies with the recommendations of *Archaeology and Planning: Planning Policy Guidance Note 16* (Dept. of Environment 1990) and also follows the *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation* (Institute of Field Archaeologists 1999), *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England* (EAA Occasional Paper 14) and the *Management of Archaeological Projects II* (English Heritage 1991).

1 Site location and description (Figs. 1 and 2)

The site is located within the parish of Kirkby la Thorpe in the North Kesteven district of Lincolnshire, c.1.7km east of the centre of the historic market town of Sleaford and c.1km west of the village of Kirkby la Thorpe. It is situated immediately north of the Boston Road and c.200m west of the modern A17 Sleaford by-pass (NGR: TF 0868 4586).

The site lies at the foot of the gentle dip slope of the eastern side of the Lincoln Heath, at the edge of the historic western fens. It is located c.8km east of the Ancaster Gap and c.800m southeast of the modern course of the River Slea. A ridge of higher ground is discernable c.300m to the north and the land rises gently to the west although the higher ground on which the town of Sleaford is situated is now obscured by the embanked course of the railway (Bennett and Bennett 1993).

The site is flanked by open farmland both to the north and west. A deep ditch and newly planted hedgerow defines the northern limit of the proposed development site, while there is no physical boundary on the western side. The east of the site is flanked by a small grove of older deciduous trees to the southeast and younger fir trees to the northeast. The south of the site is flanked by a mature hedgerow and the embanked Boston Road. The development site is currently arable land and encloses approximately 5.8Ha.

The site is flat with no discernable variations in levels and lies at c.10m AOD. The underlying solid geology is mapped as belonging to the Oxford Clay Formation of the Jurassic era. This is overlain by drift geology of Fen sand and gravel of the Pleistocene and Recent eras (British Geological Survey 1972).

2 Archaeological and historical background

A summary of the known history and recorded archaeology within the immediate area has been provided in an archaeological desk-based assessment produced by AOC Archaeology Group (AOC 2007). The results of which are only outlined here.

Currently, evidence for human activity within the immediate area during the early prehistoric period is limited to isolated finds. These include examples of worked flint dated to the Mesolithic and Neolithic periods, scattered widely around the area east of Sleaford. Activity during the Bronze Age is also attested by a small number of isolated finds of worked flint and metal-work (AOC 2007).

A number of cropmark sites have been identified by aerial photographs and record a settled presence within the immediate area, although at present most of these sites remain undated and could belong to any period from the earlier prehistoric-Roman period. All of these sites lie to the south of the proposed development area. Currently the earliest exploitation, settlement and development of the area around Sleaford remain obscure (*ibid.*).

However, there is an increasing amount of evidence that indicates the area around Sleaford had become a focus for settlement of some status by the middle Iron Age and continued to be so throughout the late Iron Age and the Roman periods. Excavations north of the Boston Road towards the eastern edge of modern Sleaford have identified part of a middle Iron Age palisaded enclosure believed to be 'of a size and type hitherto unknown in Lincolnshire' (Elsdon 1997 p.2).

It has been speculated that prior to the drainage of the Fens from the Roman period onwards the area around Sleaford may have had better access to the sea than at present and that the River Sleas may have been navigable for some distance inland. Combined with its proximity to the Ancaster Gap through the Lincoln Heath, which would provide the easiest access route from the coast to the Trent Valley, the area may have had some strategic importance (Elsdon 1997).

The combination of local strategic importance and a diversity of local resources, including inland/agricultural resources and wetland fen resources, particularly developing salt production may have contributed to the increasing prosperity, which has been archaeologically recorded in the area around Sleaford during the late Iron Age.

Evidence of this increasing local wealth in the late Iron Age consists of high quality local pottery, an unusually rich collection of imported Gallo-Belgic pottery and the debris from a mint consisting of over 4000 fragments of coin-pellet mould and in excess of 200 crucible fragments, constituting the largest collection of such material currently known from Iron Age Europe. It is suggested that this material indicates that the settlement around Sleaford was at least equal to Lincoln or Leicester, in terms of its economic status, during the late Iron Age and early Roman period (*ibid.*).

The exact nature of this Iron Age settlement remains unclear but may be speculated to have been focused on the higher ground upon which modern Sleaford is situated. However, recent excavations associated with the Hatton to Silk Willoughby Gas Pipeline have identified two areas of settlement to the south of the proposed development site which attest to the increasing concentration of people around the Sleaford area at this time and perhaps a sprawling settlement pattern rather than a nucleated one (AOC 2007).

The evidence for localised population growth and economic development during the Roman period is even better recorded by archaeological remains. The desk-based assessment has identified 16 individual sites, mostly concentrated within the modern limits of Sleaford but also dispersed to the east of the town, recording the growth of activity within the local area at this time (*ibid.*).

The Roman town appears to have been centred on the north-south Roman road, known locally as Mareham Lane where it crosses the River Sleas, linking Roman Chesterton (Durobrivae) with the Fortress and later *colonia* at Lincoln (Whitwell 1992). The extent and nature of the settlement of the Roman period remains unclear, however, recent excavations, at the new Sleaford Football Ground site, suggest that it may have extended further east than has previously been thought and possibly retained some of its sprawling character from the earlier period.

It is speculated that the growing importance of road transport during the Roman period, perhaps combined with drainage and silting up of the fens and local waterways may have contributed to the gradual decline of the settlement during the later Roman period. The creation of the *colonia* at Lincoln established the city as the centre for local political power and the settlement at Sleaford on the Mareham Lane Road may have effectively been by-passed by the more direct north-south course of Ermine Street to the west (Elsdon 1997).

During the post-Roman period the settlement appears to have declined although recent excavation suggests that there may have been no hiatus of occupation in the area as has previously been thought. The focus for settlement appears to have shifted westward by the early medieval period and the extent and significance of the old centre has been only recently rediscovered by the eastward expansion of the modern town (AOC 2007).

3 Aims and objectives

The aims of the evaluation were to identify and characterize the extent of any archaeological remains or potential for remains within the proposed development area. This information will assist North Kesteven District Council in making an informed judgment on the impact upon the archaeological resource of the proposed development.

4 Methodology

A detailed account of the methodology is set out in the specification for a programme of archaeological trial excavation (PCA Lincoln 2008) and is only summarised here.

The evaluation methodology required the excavation of sixteen trenches, each 30m long by 2m wide. Initial excavation was carried out using a tracked excavator fitted with a 2m wide toothless ditching bucket. All over burden was mechanically removed down to the natural substrate or to the top of the first significant archaeological feature. Where archaeological deposits were encountered, all further excavation was by hand.

Archaeological features were sample excavated to establish depths and profiles and, where possible, date and function. Features were recorded in plan and in section at appropriate scales (1:50 and 1:20), and written accounts were prepared on pro forma context record sheets. A colour photographic record was maintained throughout the project, and selected prints have been reproduced in this report.

A seventeenth trench was opened at the request of Joanna Hambley, Heritage Officer for North Kesteven District Council. This was targeted on the area immediately adjacent to the Boston Road in an attempt to identify whether or not the Roman road identified during recent excavation at the nearby Sleaford Football Ground, to the west of the site, was present on the proposed development site.

5 Results

All the excavated trenches revealed a uniform plough soil covering the whole site, consisting of sandy silt with frequent limestone gravel inclusions. This had an average depth of c.0.35m – 0.4m across the site. Modern plough scarring was also identified across the site and was observed to cut across many archaeological features. This intrusion was not more than 500mm in depth. However, because of this it was necessary to remove this ‘interface’ layer, including the top of the natural substrate in order to obtain a clear horizon in which to adequately identify the archaeology.

A total of 160 sherds of pottery were recovered from the plough soil prior to and during the mechanical excavation of the evaluation trenches. Details of these can be found in Appendix 3 (J. Young), and consist of 22 post-medieval sherds, 15 medieval sherds and 123 sherds from the Romano-British period. The post-medieval sherds were found to be evenly distributed across the site while the medieval and Romano-British material was found to be much more concentrated within the southern half of the site.

Along with the identified pottery sherds a quantity of ceramic building material was also recovered (see J. Young in Appendix 3). The majority of these fragments were of early modern date. Four fragments were dated to the 'medieval to post medieval' period and six fragments of tile and brick were dated to the Roman period. As with the pottery these were concentrated along the southern edge of the site.

Trench 1

At the southern end of Trench 1 a roughly north-south aligned furrow was observed extending beyond the western side of the trench. This is most probably associated with medieval ridge and furrow agriculture and similar examples were observed elsewhere throughout the site.

To the north of the furrow a series of small shallow pits were recorded [103, 105, 107, 109, 111, 115, 117, 119 and 121]. These pits were mostly roughly oval in shape, had moderately sloping sides and levelled out to a flat base. Most of the pits were filled with a very dark soil and some appeared to have been subject to heating. Some of these pits inter-cut each other. However, no dating evidence was recovered from any of these features. A single post-hole [113] was also recorded cut into the back fill of pit [111] this too produced no dating evidence.

The concentration, overlapping distribution and general uniformity of the pits suggests that this location was used for an activity that was being repeated, possibly an industrial working area. At present these features remain undated and the activity that produced them is unknown.

Trench 2

Only a single *c.* north-south aligned furrow was observed in this trench. This was probably part of the medieval agricultural system.

Trench 3

A pair of parallel, *c.* east –west aligned, drainage gullies were recorded in this trench [307 and 311]. Both gullies produced finds which were clearly of the early modern period, including pottery shreds dated to the late 16th – early 18th century and bottle glass. The location of these gullies corresponds with the location of a former field

boundary recorded on the Ordnance Survey map of 1889 (see AOC 2007 Fig.8) and probably represent the remains of this former field boundary.

At the western end of the trench, the northernmost of the two gullies was observed to cut across two *c.* north-south aligned gullies [303 and 305]. Similarly at the eastern end of the trench a single *c.* north-south aligned gully [313] was recorded as being cut by the southern most of the two east-west aligned gullies. The short sections of these three gullies that were exposed within the evaluation trench did not produce any dating evidence. It may be speculated that they reflected some form of land division, possibly enclosures, although of what period remains unclear.

A single small pit or post-hole [309] was also recorded, partially truncated by the northernmost of the two east-west aligned gullies. This too remains undated.

Trench 4

The east-west aligned gullies [307 and 311] recorded within Trench 3 were observed to continue to the east through this trench [403 and 405 respectively]. The southernmost of which partially truncated an irregular shallow pit [407]. No dating evidence was recovered from this feature.

Trench 5

Four *c.* north-south aligned furrows were observed within this trench and are probably part of the medieval agricultural system.

At the north-western end of the trench a large round possible post pit was recorded [507]. It appeared to have a central post pipe [509] within it and fired clay, possibly daub, was observed within the backfill of the pit itself. No dating evidence was recovered from this feature.

A similar sized pit was recorded *c.* 15m to the southeast, extending beyond the northern side of the trench [513]. This too remains undated. The two features may be structural but may not belong to the same construction as they are so far apart.

Two ditches were also recorded within this trench. One aligned *c.* northeast-southwest [503] and the other aligned *c.* east-west [515]. The later had a roughly 'V' shaped profile and its fill was clearly truncated by one of the north-south furrows. Neither of these two ditches produced any finds although the later, and probably the former as well may represent elements of pre-medieval land division.

Trench 6

Only a single *c.* north-south aligned furrow was observed in this trench; probably part of the medieval agricultural system.

Trench 7

A single *c.* north-south aligned furrow was recorded within this trench and was probably part of the medieval agricultural system.

Towards the southern end of this trench, two *c.* east-west aligned shallow ditches were observed [703 and 705], both truncated by the north-south aligned furrow. Neither of the two ditches produced any dating evidence. If contemporary they may define a track between two enclosures or, if of different dates they may indicate a realignment of pre-medieval land divisions.

Trench 8

A *c.* north-south aligned drainage gully [810] was recorded within this trench and probably represents the former field boundary recorded upon historical maps, which has been in-filled in recent times (see AOC 2007 Fig.8).

This drainage gully cuts across the fill of one [820] of a cluster of small pits [820, 822, 824 and 826] at the northern limit of this trench. An iron buckle, probably of post-medieval date was recovered from the fill of the truncated pit [818] as well as some animal bone. A single sherd of post-medieval pottery, dated to the 19th - 20th century, was also recovered from the northernmost of these pits [826]. The function of the pits remains unclear, although the dating evidence suggests a post-medieval origin for at least two of them.

The north-south aligned drainage gully [810] also cut across the top of a large in-filled *c.* northwest-southeast aligned ditch [806]. Although not entirely clear, it appeared that this ditch may have been re-cut [803]. Two sherds of abraded Roman pottery, dated to the mid-late 2nd century, and a fragment of animal bone were recovered from the fill of the possible re-cut (802). Another section was excavated through this ditch where it was exposed in Trench 11 (see below).

Three small pits [808, 812 and 814] were also recorded towards the southern end of this trench. Pit [808] was cut by the drainage gully [810], and both pits [808] and [812] were cut into the backfill of the large ditch [806] and thus clearly post-date the infilling of the large ditch. None of these pits produced any dating evidence and their function and relationship, if any, to the pits at the northern end of the trench remain unclear.

A possible posthole [818] was recorded near to the southern end of the trench and a narrow gully [816] was also recorded nearby. Both of these features remain undated. The narrow gully [816] appears to run parallel to the drainage gully [810], and it may be speculated that these are contemporary and that this gully represents a former trackside gully flanking the former field boundary.

Trench 9

Three or possibly four *c.* north-south aligned furrows were recorded within this trench, and as elsewhere they probably represent the remains of medieval agriculture.

More significantly, a large number of mostly rounded pits and/or postholes of varying size and depth were recorded this trench. Some of these features inter-cut each other, and some seemed to show signs of heating. No cohesive pattern could be discerned amongst these features, within the confines of the evaluation trench.

With the exception of one small pit or posthole [933] at the western end of the trench none of these features produced any dating evidence. The one feature that did provide dating evidence contained 31 sherds of heat damaged Roman period pottery, all from the same original vessel dated to the early 2nd century. It has been suggested that this vessel may have been used to contain 'pyre goods relating to cremation rites' (see R.S. Leary in Appendix 3).

As such one possible explanation is provided for at least some of these features, although despite extensive sampling of the features within this trench no burnt bone was observed within any of these features and they do not appear to cremation pits. The processed sample from the primary fill (949) of pit [903] produced very little charcoal and could not be convincingly interpreted as being involved with the cremation process.

The concentration of features within this trench reflects a concentration of activity, possibly involving ovens or furnaces and some screening or shelter, or possibly involving cremation activity, or even a combination of both. Dating can only be speculative at this stage, although one feature, [pit 933] is securely dated to the early 2nd century, although another, [929] may be cut through a furrow and thus of a much later date.

Trench 10

Three *c.* north-south aligned furrows were recorded within this trench, and as elsewhere they probably represent the remains of medieval agriculture.

Also within this trench, two close and roughly parallel ditches, aligned *c.* northeast – southwest, were recorded [1006 and 1008]. A single fragment of a small Samian vessel was recovered from the larger of the two ditches [1008], dated to the late 2nd – mid 3rd century. Whether these ditches represent a realignment of land division or a track between enclosures remains unclear.

Two postholes [1010 and 1017] and two inter-cutting pits [1013 and 1015] were also recorded within this trench. None of these features produced any dating evidence. The two postholes, which were *c.* 3m apart, may be part of a structure or possibly a fence-line. The inter-cutting pits extended beyond the southern side of the trench and

their complete plan could not be recorded although the exposed sections appeared to be very regular, with steep sides and a flat base. As such these features may also have had structural origins.

Trench 11

Two *c.* north-south aligned furrows were recorded within this trench, probably representing the remains of medieval agriculture.

One of the furrows at the southern end of the trench was cut by a *c.* north-south post-medieval gully [1124], probably the same field boundary drainage gully that was identified within Trench 8, [810].

To the north of the post-medieval drainage gully a shallow *c.* east-west aligned gully [1105] was recorded. A single fragment of animal bone and nine sherds of Roman period pottery, dated to the mid 2nd – early 3rd century, were recovered from this shallow feature.

To the north of this gully two large inter-cutting pits were recorded [1107 and 1109] (see Appendix 1, Photo No.1). The earliest pit [1109] appeared to be over 2m wide with steep sides cut to a gently concave base at a depth of 0.7m below the top of the natural substrate. This pit appears to have been deliberately backfilled mostly with soil. No dating evidence was recovered from this feature.

The later pit [1107] was cut into the top of the back-filled earlier pit [1109]. This pit [1107] had a larger circumference, but more shallow depth and shallow sloping sides. It appears to have been used for the disposal of domestic rubbish and the excavated section through it produced 124 sherds of Roman period pottery, mostly dated to the late 3rd – 4th century, but including earlier material. Thirty three fragments of animal bone, fragments of marine and land mollusc shell, six heavily corroded fragments of iron (including fragments of a 'hearth bottom') and a small scrap of lead were also recovered from the backfill of this pit.

The processed sample taken from this deposit (1108) provided evidence of cereal grains (spelt wheat, *Triticum spelta* L.) as well as chaff material and some arable weeds. Possible fragments of egg shell were also identified along with fragments of animal bone, some of which were burnt.

To the northeast of the two pits a section of the large ditch identified in Trench 8, [806] was also recorded (see Photo No.3). This ditch [1111] had a number of discernable fills (1112, 1113, 1114 and 1115) all of which produced Roman period pottery, and most of which produced animal bone as well. The lowest, primary fill (1112) was notable for being waterlogged and preserving within it recognisable fragments of wood. Seeds recovered from the processed sample were mostly derived

from plants growing in hedges, such as blackberry, raspberry, elder, sloe and cherry/plum. The bone recovered from this deposit was also notably well preserved and robust. No evidence of re-cutting was observed in this section of the ditch. Most of the pottery recovered from this ditch was dated to the 2nd -3rd century but late 3rd – 4th century material was also recovered from the tertiary fill, (1114).

At the north-eastern end of the trench a shallow gully [1122] and a small pit [1120] was also recorded. Neither of these features produced any datable evidence.

The large ditch identified within this trench [1111], and appearing to continue into Trench 8, [806], appears to represent a significant land boundary. The inclusion of domestic debris within this ditch may be interpreted to indicate that settlement was occurring nearby throughout the use of this feature. Settlement nearby may also be inferred by the presence of the large rubbish pit [1107], noted above, to the southwest of this ditch.

Trench 12

A single *c.* north-south aligned furrow was recorded within this trench, and is probably part of the remains of medieval agriculture in the area.

To the south of the furrow a series of shallow rounded pits extended down the entire length of this trench. Towards the southern end of the trench a large pit or possible ditch terminus, [1219] was also recorded. Only animal bone was recovered from the fill of this larger feature. None of the shallow pits produced dating evidence except for a single pit [1221], which was cut into the top of the backfilled possible ditch terminus. The single pottery sherd recovered from this pit has been dated to the late Iron Age – Conquest period. The function of these pits and their date of origin remain unclear.

Trench 13

A large pit, [1313], not dissimilar to the large pits in Trench 11, [1107 and 1109] was observed extending beyond the southern limit of this trench. Finds recovered from this pit included 15 sherds of Roman period pottery (dated to the late 2nd – mid 3rd century), animal bone and marine mollusc shell. A small fragment of possible medieval period pottery was also recovered from this feature but this small fragment is considered to be intrusive here.

Immediately north of the pit, a *c.* east-west aligned ditch [1311] was recorded. This feature was unusual as the short section exposed in the trench was much wider towards the east than it was to the west and may possibly be an intersection between two converging ditches. Seven sherds of Roman period pottery, dated to the mid 1st – 2nd century was recovered from the excavated section of this feature.

Immediately north of the possible converging ditches, three shallow pits [1303, 1305 and 1323] were recorded extending beyond the edges of the trench. Pit [1305] produced small amounts of Roman period pottery dated to the late 2nd – mid 3rd century. A single shallow posthole [1321] was also recorded between the pits and may represent a structural element associated with the activity that produced the pits.

In the middle of the trench a *c.* east-west aligned ditch [1307] was recorded. This shared the same alignment of ditches observed in Trenches 15 and 16, and may represent a property boundary or enclosure ditch. Roman period pottery (dated to the mid – late 2nd century), fragments of animal bone, land and marine mollusc shell and a single fragment of industrial slag material were recovered from the excavated section of this ditch.

Immediately to the north of this ditch a group of three shallow, elongated oval pits were observed [1315, 1317 and 1319] (see Photo No.8). They were evenly spaced and appeared to be deliberately laid out in a row. No dating evidence was recovered from any of these features. Their function and date remain unclear although they may indicate working areas associated with a nearby furnace or oven (see below).

To the north of the three pits a small pit [1309] extending beyond the limit of the trench to the west was recorded (see Photo No.7). This contained a distinct layer of charcoal and fired clay and may be part of a furnace or possible oven, with a clay ‘hood’ which has subsequently collapsed into the ‘fire pit’. No dating evidence was recovered from this feature.

Trench 14

A large pit, [1403], very similar to the large pits observed in Trench 11 [1107 and 1109] was recorded at the eastern end of this trench. It is possible that like the pits in Trench 11 this may have in fact been more than one pit with a later one cut into a backfilled earlier one, although in the narrow excavated section this was not clear. As with the latter pit in Trench 11 this pit appears to have been used as a domestic rubbish pit, with 61 sherds of Roman period pottery (including fragments of Samian and Mortaria, dated to the early – mid 2nd century) being recovered, as well as animal bone, fragments of horn and mollusc shells.

Immediately adjacent to this pit one of two human burials identified during the evaluation was observed (see Photo No.5). This grave [1405] consisted of a north-south aligned extended inhumation. Only sufficient bone was uncovered to confirm that this feature was a grave. The excavated section was recorded and then backfilled. Sixteen Roman period pottery sherds, dated to the mid – late 2nd century, were recovered from the backfill of the grave, including most of a single vessel, which may represent deliberate deposition of possible grave goods with the deceased.

To the west of the grave another large possible rubbish pit [1407] was observed (see Photo No.2). The small excavated section produced 35 sherds of Roman period pottery (dated to the mid – late 2nd century), animal bone and a small scrap of lead. Several small blocks of limestone were also observed within the upper fill of this pit.

To the west of this large pit a single undated posthole [1409] was recorded. To the west of the posthole, a pit [1411] extending beyond the southern side of the trench and a small curving gully [1413] extending beyond the northern side of the trench were also recorded. Ten sherds of Roman period pottery (dated to later than the mid 2nd), animal bone, mollusc shell and a single iron nail (a modern intrusion of probable agricultural origins) were recovered from the pit, but no finds were recovered from the smaller gully.

At the western end of the trench three small postholes [1415, 1417 and 1419] were recorded along with a small area of possible disturbance [1421] adjacent to the postholes (see Photo No.6). It is possible that these close-set postholes are structural and may represent the southern corner of a small construction. The area of disturbance may be the result of puddling outside of this structure.

Trench 15

A single *c.* north-south aligned furrow was recorded within this trench, and is probably part of the remains of medieval agriculture in the area.

At the south-eastern end of the trench a large pit [1533] was recorded. This appears to have been deliberately backfilled with soil. Two sherds of pottery were recovered from the excavated section and have been dated to the late Iron Age – Conquest period. It appeared that this pit may have truncated an earlier pit [1525] and two ditches [1523] and [1527], although it is also possible that these shallow features may have been part of the original excavation of the large pit [1533], the true relationship was not clear within the confines of the evaluation trench.

To the northwest of the large pit a cluster of pits or possible postholes [1513, 1515, 1517 and 1519] were observed, possibly flanking a narrow ditch [1507] and gully [1521]. Most of these features inter-cut each other and appear to represent a succession of activities in one place, although the pits/postholes may have formed structural elements they do not all appear to have been contemporary and may possibly represent construction and rebuilding at this location.

The fills of some of these features (1518 and 1520) from pits [1517 and 1519 respectively] appeared to contain some heated or burnt material, although subsequent processing of the samples taken from these features only produced fragments of charred or burnt snail shell as the only confirmation of heated material.

Fifty One sherds of Roman period pottery (dated to the early 2nd century) and animal bone was recovered from the ditch [1507] which these features appeared to flank.

This ditch may be the same east-west aligned ditch that was recorded in Trenches 13 and 16 [1307 and 1607 respectively].

To the northwest of this cluster of features three parallel shallow ditches were recorded [1504, 1511 and 1529]. These may be a pair of former trackside ditches, with the third being a realignment or expansion of the trackway. A fragment of Roman period pottery was recovered from the eastern most of the ditches, [1511], associated with a quantity of burnt bone. This appears to be a truncated, or possibly even a redeposited cremation burial, deposited within, or disturbed by the original excavation of the possible trackside ditch.

The middle one of these three ditches [1504] cut through the second human burial, [1502]. This burial was also an extended inhumation, although aligned *c.* east-west. The grave cut was quite wide and very regular and combined with five nails, recovered from the fill of the grave a coffin burial may be speculated. Only the skull was uncovered, at the west end of the grave, to confirm that the feature was a grave. Two sherds of Roman period pottery, dated to the early – mid 2nd century, were also recovered from the backfill. This material appeared to be residual rather than the remains of associated grave goods.

An apparently linear feature [1531] was partially exposed at the north-western limit of this trench. Its full extent was not revealed and no dating evidence was recovered from it.

Trench 16

A single *c.* north-south aligned furrow was recorded within this trench, and is probably part of the remains of medieval agriculture in the area.

At the southern end of the trench a large shallow pit, [1603], similar to the large pit in Trench 15 was recorded. Both of these features had very irregular bases and appear to have been deliberately backfilled. Eight sherds of Roman period pottery, dated to the late 2nd – early 3rd century, and fragments of animal bone were recovered from the fill of this pit.

Towards the northern end of this trench two converging ditches [1607 and 1611] and two apparently associated postholes [1609 and 1617] were recorded (see Photo No.4). Fragments of animal bone were recovered from the southern most of the two ditches [1607] which shared the same alignment as the ditches observed in Trenches 13 and 15 [1307 and 1507 respectively] and appear to be part of the same feature. Eight sherds of Roman pottery, dated to the late 2nd – 3rd century were recovered from the northern most of the two ditches [1611].

The two postholes [1609 and 1617] appear to respect one or both of the ditches although their exact relationship cannot be confirmed within the limited area of the evaluation trench. The arrangement of flanking postholes either side of a ditch is

similar to that observed around the ditch, [1507] in Trench 15 and it may indicate a flanking fence line or even palisade. No dating evidence was recovered from either of the two postholes.

Adjacent to the northern most ditch [1611], was an irregular feature [1613] was recorded and has been interpreted as root or burrowing disturbance. At the northern end of this trench a large shallow pit [1615] was recorded extending beyond the limits of the trench. No dating evidence was recovered from this feature and its full extent was not discernable.

Trench 17

A short section of trench, only 9m long was excavated at the southern edge of the site in order to ascertain the presence or otherwise of the projected Roman road observed in nearby excavations at the Sleaford Football Grounds. No evidence of a road or roadside ditch was observed and it is concluded the Roman road may lie under the existing road at this location.

A *c.* north-south aligned furrow was observed within this trench, and is probably part of the medieval agriculture observed elsewhere. Four pits were also observed [1703, 1705, 1707 and 1709]. These features were not excavated as the trench was only opened with the specific aim of identifying the course of the Roman road and not to extend the evaluation. A plan and photographic record was made of the features exposed in this trench.

6 Discussion and conclusion

The evaluation has identified a concentration of archaeological remains within the southern third of the proposed development site. The density of archaeological features appeared to be fairly consistent within the ten evaluation trenches (Nos.8-17) opened in the southern part of the site and it may be speculated that this density of archaeology is present across the whole of the road frontage extending for some 80m-90m to the north.

The remaining evaluation trenches (Nos.1-7) located in the northern two thirds of the site identified comparatively few archaeological features, although the northern part of the site could not be considered to be devoid of archaeology particularly around Trenches 1 and 5, there is no indication that the density of archaeological features observed in the southern part of the site extends across the whole site.

Although many of the features identified during the course of the evaluation remain undated, those features that have provided dating evidence are predominantly dated to the Roman period, specifically spanning the mid 1st–late 3rd centuries AD. Dated exceptions to the Roman period include two features potentially dated to the Late Iron Age–Conquest period, two post-medieval field boundaries and pits of the same

date, and the apparent medieval ridge and furrow, which has been dated typologically.

As such it may be concluded that the archaeological remains contained within the proposed development area are predominately dated to the Roman period, with the possibility of some limited Late Iron Age–Conquest period material being present as well as the remains of medieval agricultural systems and post-medieval field systems.

The post-medieval period archaeology identified during the course of the evaluation consists of former field boundaries, aligned *c.* east-west identified within Trenches 3 and 4 [gullies 307, 311, 403 and 405], and aligned *c.* north-south identified within trenches 8 and 11 [gullies 810 and 1124]. These are already recorded on historic maps and may be considered to be of very limited significance. The pits [818 and 826] dated to this period may also be considered to be of limited significance.

The medieval period archaeology identified during the course of the evaluation consists of only the remains of ridge and furrow agriculture. This may be considered to be of local interest although this evaluation has perhaps already provided a sufficient level of recording of such features, and it is suggested that little if any further investigation and recording would be worthwhile, other than perhaps to establish the full extent of these features.

It may also be noted that whilst no features, other than the in-filled furrows themselves, were positively identified as originating from the medieval period, 15 sherds of medieval pottery spanning the 13th–15th century were recovered as surface finds. These may be accounted for as evidence of manuring, associated with the ridge and furrow agriculture, and may possibly indicating the systematic disposal of waste from a near by medieval settlement, probably the village of Kirkby la Thorpe.

The Roman period archaeology is more significant and includes a notable land boundary identified within Trenches 8 and 11 [ditches 806 and 1111]. This feature contained well preserved waterlogged remains securely dated to the Roman period within its earliest fill (layer 1112). A number of smaller, probable enclosure ditches, identified within Trenches 11, 13, 15 and 16 are also securely dated to the Roman period [ditches 1105, 1307, 1310, 1507, 1511 and 1611]. Similar ditches identified in Trenches 3, 5 and 7, [ditches 303, 305, 313, 503, 515, 703 and 705], may also be part of the former Roman landscape which these features appear to represent.

Other identified Roman period remains include the large pits within Trenches 11, 13, 14, 15 and 16, [pits 1107, 1109, 1313, 1403, 1407, 1533 and 1603]. The original excavation of these pits appears to have been a regular activity, concentrated along the southern side of the site, although their purpose remains unclear. They may simply have served as ponds, perhaps for traffic along the former road or perhaps the ground water was being used as part of some industrial process focused in this area.

This concentration of large pits is unusual and is certainly worthy of further investigation.

No individual structures dating to the Roman period were positively identified during the course of the evaluation, although numerous postholes were recorded as well as possible drip gullies which may be interpreted as being the archaeological remains of small structures. Furthermore, the presence of a small amount of ceramic building material and limestone blocks within final fills of ditches and dispersed throughout the plough soil indicate that more substantial structures may have formerly occupied parts of the site and may have left some archaeologically recognisable remains; not identified during the evaluation.

A number of pits identified within Trenches 1, 5, 9, 10, 13 and 15 contained material that appeared to have been burnt or heated [pits 103, 105, 111, 117, 507, 901, 905, 915, 923, 935, 943, 949, 1017, 1309, 1517 and 1519]. It may be speculated that amongst these features are possibly domestic hearths and ovens and/or furnaces. As such these features may be indicative of normal domestic and/or industrial activity that may be anticipated to accompany a settlement.

However, the presence of a possible disturbed cremation identified within Trench 15, trackside ditch [1511], may indicate that funerary rites associated with cremation may also have produced at least some of these heated/burnt features. However, as no burnt/cremated bone was identified within any of these features the author is reluctant to speculate about the presence of a cremation cemetery (see R.S.Leary in Appendix 3), but rather like the two inhumation burials (see below) limited/isolated cremations may have taken place within the area.

The two human burials identified during the course of the evaluation, in Trenches 14 and 15, [grave cuts 1405 and 1502], appear to be securely dated to the Roman period. It may be speculated that they both belong to the same cemetery group as they are within *c.*25m of each other. However, in the absence of other graves being identified within the same evaluation trenches, it is just as likely that these are individual burials or two separate small groups. In either case it remains a distinct probability that other burials and possibly cremation burials may be located nearby and possibly elsewhere on the site.

The original excavation of a ditch, [1504] cutting through one of the burials, [1502] identified within Trench 15 provides the clearest example of the redevelopment of the site through the Roman period. A number of other inter-cutting features, such as the two large pits in Trench 11, [1107 and 1109] and other pits and gullies/ditches in Trench 15, such as [pits 1513, 1515, 1517, 1519, ditch 1507 and gully 1521] all indicate multiple phases of activity at this site. This indicates that the high concentration of features in the southern part of the site may be the result of a prolonged period of low-level occupation, perhaps shifting along the roadside over time, rather than a short period of intense occupation confined to a relatively small area.

The dating evidence provided by the recovered pottery indicates a period of activity that produced significant archaeologically recognisable features spanning the Late Iron Age-Conquest period to the mid 4th century AD, excluding the medieval furrows. Material from the earliest, Late Iron Age-Conquest, period consists of only three sherds of pottery, recovered from two features (pit 1221 and large pit 1533). This is perhaps not enough to suggest an entire phase of activity.

However, it may be noted that both features that produced material of this date had been cut into earlier features (pit [1221] cut into ditch terminus [1219] and the large pit [1533] cut into ditches [1523 and 1527]) and as such this material may in fact be redeposited from these earlier features or even possibly residual surviving in the soil until a later period. Thus their true origins remain unclear, although, limited remains of Late Iron Age-Conquest period landscape may be speculated to be present within the proposed development site, and possibly already encountered but not convincingly dated.

Material from the earliest Roman period identified (mid 1st-mid 2nd century AD) consists of 154 sherds of pottery from six features (pit [933], secondary fill of the large ditch [1111], ditch [1311], large pit [1403], grave cut [1502] and ditch [1507]). The deliberate deposition of material of this period, specifically the fragments of a heat damaged pot recovered from pit [933], the apparent large rubbish pit [1403] and numerous fragments recovered from within ditch [1507] provide convincing evidence of activity/occupation probably from the early 2nd century AD at this location. This is further supported by what may be residual material recovered from other features. As with the earlier material there are perhaps an insufficient number of dated features with which to discuss the nature of activity during this phase, although it may be noted that this material is predominantly concentrated in the southeast corner of the site around Trenches 9, 13, 14 and 15.

It may be speculated that activity/occupation intensified throughout the second Roman period identified (mid 2nd – mid 3rd centuries AD), as the total number of finds from this period and their distribution increases to a total of 170 sherds recovered from 13 features. This includes ditches [806, 1008, 1105, residual material in 1111, 1308, 1509 and 1611], pits [1306, 1314, 1408, 1412 and 1603] and grave cut [1405]. As with the earliest Roman period the greatest concentration of material from this period is located within the southeast corner of the site. The apparent grave goods recovered from grave cut [1405] securely date this burial to the mid-late 2nd century at the earliest and collectively this material appears to record activity/occupation is well established by this time.

Activity/occupation at this site appears to have been significantly reduced by the late 3rd – 4th centuries AD as only two features produced pottery sherds of this date. The main period of infilling of the large ditch [1111] contains material of this date. Similarly most of the finds from the nearby rubbish pit [1107] were also from this period. Both of these features are located at the southwest of the site and may possibly indicate that the former focus of activity in the southeast had by this time

come to an end and had shifted elsewhere, perhaps to the west beyond the limits of the proposed development site.

As such the exact nature and full extent of the Roman period activity/occupation of this site remains unclear, however, the dating evidence suggests a peak of activity in the mid-late 2nd century, perhaps with its origins in the mid 1st-early 2nd century and continuing until the mid 3rd century when the distribution pattern of material suggest that activity shifted to the west during the late 3rd century.

A small settlement of some prosperity, perhaps a farmstead incorporating a small burial ground perhaps for just one family group, may be speculated to have existed on or very near to the southeast corner of the proposed development site. A settlement here may have benefited commercially from its proximity to the Roman transport system and the nearby settlement at Sleaford and appears to have prospered during the mid-late 2nd century. It may even have been part of the suburban development of the settlement at Sleaford, initially expanding alongside the road to the east and wholly dependant upon the town's economic prosperity.

It may be concluded that this site is certainly of local importance, within its own right and in defining the extent and character of the settlement at Sleaford and its environs. It is also probably of some regional importance in understanding the broader development of Roman settlements within the region and their connection to the local, regional and wider imperial economy, specifically changing trade patterns, Romanisation and the growth and decline of such settlements.

However, nothing has been identified during the course of the evaluation that is of greater (*i.e.* national) importance, or that would preclude development of the site, and an agreed and structured programme of excavation, recording and reporting may be appropriate as part of the development, specifically targeting those area which will be most at risk for the development.

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**Boston Road, Sleaford,
Lincolnshire (EPBR 08)**
The Faunal Remains
By Jennifer Wood

Introduction

A total of 103 (2035g) fragments of animal bone were recovered by hand during archaeological trial trenches undertaken by Pre-Construct Archaeology Lincoln.

The remains were recovered from a series of pits and ditches predominantly dated from the 2nd – 3rd century Roman period.

Methodology

The entire assemblage has been fully recorded into a database archive. Identification of the bone was undertaken with access to a reference collection and published guides. All animal remains were counted and weighed, and where possible, identified to species, element, side and zone (Serjeantson 1996). Ribs and vertebrae were only recorded to species when they were substantially complete and could accurately be identified. Undiagnostic bones were recorded as micro (rodent size), small (rabbit size), medium (sheep size) or large (cattle size). The separation of sheep and goat bones was done using the criteria of Boessneck (1969) and Prummel and Frisch (1986) in addition to the use of the reference material. Where distinctions could not be made the bone was recorded as sheep/goat (S/G).

The quantification of species was carried out using the total fragment count, in which the total number of fragments of bone and teeth was calculated for each taxon. Where fresh breaks were noted, fragments were refitted and counted as one. The data produced the basic NISP (Number of Identified Specimen) counts.

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. Also fusion data, butchery marks (Binford 1981), gnawing, burning and pathological changes were noted when present.

Tooth eruption and wear stages were measured using a combination of Halstead (1985), Grant (1982), Levine (1982) and Payne (1973), and fusion data was analysed according to Silver (1969). Measurements of adult, that is, fully fused bones were taken according to the methods of von den Driesch (1976), with asterisked (*) measurements indicating bones that were reconstructed or had slight abrasion of the surface.

Results

The remains were generally of a moderate condition, averaging at Grade 3 on the Lyman criteria (1996).

A total of 4 fragments of bone recovered from pits [1411], [1107] and ditches [1111] and [1209] displayed evidence of butchery. The butchery marks were consistent with disarticulation/jointing of the carcass and meat removal.

A single equid first phalanx recovered from late 3rd-4th century pit [1107] showed some remodelling of the medial side of the distal articulation, possibly a result of slight trauma or as a reaction to mechanical strain from traction.

A total of seven fragments of bone recovered from late 3rd-4th century pit [1107], and late 2nd – middle 3rd century pit [1313] displayed evidence of burning, possibly indicating hearth cleaning episodes or incidental burning events.

Carnivore gnawing was noted on three fragments of bone recovered from ditch [1111] and pit [1403].

A single rabbit bone was recovered from early Roman ditch [1507]. Rabbits are considered to be an introduced species attributed to the Norman period. Several incidences of rabbit remains have been reported from Romano-British contexts; however these cases have not as yet been securely dated and due to the burrowing nature of the species, could very well indicate intrusive material into the assemblage.

Cattle are the more abundant species identified, followed by sheep/goat, one fragment positively identified as sheep, equid, pig, dog and domestic fowl.

The assemblage provides limited information on the animal utilisation and husbandry practices undertaken on site save these presence and use of the identified species.

In the event of further works, the site is liable to yield further bone of a moderate condition with a very good potential to provide further information on the diet economy, animal utilisation and husbandry practices for the site.

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Taxon	Date											Total	
	Early 2 nd Century	Early-Mid 2 nd Century	Mid 2 nd Century+	Mid-Late 2 nd Century	Mid -Late 2 nd Century+	Mid 2 nd – Early 3 rd Century	2 nd Century	Late 2 nd - Early 3 rd Century	Late 2 nd - Mid 3 rd Century	Late 3 rd – 4 th Century	Romano- British		Undated
<i>Equid</i> (Horse Family)		1					1			1	2		5
Cattle	1	11		1			1			4	5	5	28
Sheep/Goat		3	2			1	1	2		4	1		14
Sheep		1											1
Pig					1							1	2
Dog										1	1		2
Domestic Fowl (<i>Gallus Sp.</i>)	1												1
Rabbit (<i>Oryctolagus cuniculus</i>)	1												1
Large Mammal	1	2		1						19			23
Medium Mammal		1							6	12		1	20
Unidentified		1								5			6
Total	4	20	2	2	1	1	3	2	6	46	9	7	103

Codes and references used in cataloguing animal bone

- Taxon:** Species, family group or size category.
 Non-species specific codes: -
 : Equid- Horse Family
 : Gadidae- Cod Family
 : Passer- *Passerine*, Small songbirds i.e. Sparrow or Finches
 : Turdid- *Turdidae*, Blackbird/Thrush family
 : Corvid- *Coridae*, Crow family i.e. Crow, Rook or Jackdaw
 : Galliform- Fowl or Pheasant
 : Large Mammal – Cattle, Horse, Red Deer size
 : Medium Mammal- Sheep/Goat, Pig, Dog, Roe Deer size
 : Small Mammal- Cat, Rabbit size
 : Micro Mammal- Mouse sized
 : Unidentified- Not identified to species
- Element:** Skeletal element represented.
 : Unidentified- Not identified to element
- Side:** L-Left, R- Right, B- Both
- Zones:** Records presence/absence of individual areas of the bone.
 Based on Zone illustrations in Serjeantson, D, 1996 *The Animal Bones, in Refuse and Disposal at Area 16, East Runnymede: Runnymede Bridge Research Excavations*, Vol. 2, (eds) E S Needham and T Spence, British Museum Press, London.
- Prox & Dist:** Fusion of proximal and distal epiphyses
 : X- Not present, F- Fused, U- Unfused, B- Unfused diaphysis and epiphysis present, V- Fusion Line visible.
- Age Range:** Age range based on age at fusion. Based on Silver, I, A, 1969, *The Ageing of Domestic Animals*, in D. Brothwell and E.S. Higgs, *Science in Archaeology*, Thames and Hudson.
- Path:** Presence of pathology, details in notes column.
- Butch:** Presence of butchery, details in notes column.
- Burnt:** Presence of burning, details in notes column.
- Gnaw:** Presence of gnawing, details in notes column.
- Worked:** Fragment shows evidence of working, details in the notes column.
- Fresh Break:** Fresh break noted, fragments re-fitted as one bone.
- Associated:** Articulating or adjoining bones.
- Measured:** Measurements taken as according to Von den Driesch, A, 1976 *A Guide to the Measurement of Animal Bones from Archaeological Sites*, Peabody Museum.
- Tooth Wear:** Tooth wear score for aging data, taken as according to:
- Grant, A, 1982 'The Use of Tooth Wear as a Guide to the Age of Domestic Ungulates', in B Wilson *et al.* *Ageing and Sexing Animal Bones from Archaeological Sites*, BAR British Series 109, 91-108, Oxford
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- Surface:** Taphonomies noted on the bone surface:
W- Weathered
A- Abraded
R- Rootlet etched
D- Chemical etching from digestion
- Condition:** Grades 0-5, where 0 = pristine and 5= indicating that the bone had suffered such structural and attritional damage as to make it unrecognisable. Based on Lyman, R L, 1996 *Vertebrate Taphonomy*, Cambridge Manuals in Archaeology, Cambridge University Press, Cambridge
- No.:** Number of individual bones/fragments
- (g):** Weight in grams
- Notes:** Notes on observed taphonomies, differences and associations.

Ctxt No	Taxon	Element	Side	Z1	Z2	Z3	Z4	Z5	Z6	Z7	Z8	Prox	Dist	Path	Butch	Burnt	Gnaw	Fresh Break	Assoc'd	Measured	Tooth Wear	Surface	Condition	N	(g)	Notes		
1104	Cattle	Metatarsal	X	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	X	X	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	R	3	1	21	Shaft fragment	
1104	Equid	Tooth	L	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	X	X	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	X	3	1	7	Lower incisor	
1104	Sheep/Goat	Tooth	L	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	X	X	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	Y	X	3	1	6	Lower M2=f	
1106	Sheep/Goat	Femur	R	N	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N	X	X	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	X	3	1	4	Infant/Juv	
1108	Sheep/Goat	Metacarpal	R	N	N	N	N	Y	Y	N	N	X	X	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	X	3	1	4		
1108	Cattle	Innominate	R	N	N	Y	Y	N	N	Y	N	F	X	N	Y	N	N	Y	N	N	N	N	X	4	1	146	single cut on the ilium	
1108	Equid	Phalanx (I)	L	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	F	F	Y	N	N	N	N	N	Y	N	X		4	1	40	Slight remodelling of the medial side of the distal articulation.	
1108	Large Mammal	Rib	X	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	X	X	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	R	3	3	27		
1108	Large Mammal	Rib	X	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	X	X	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	R	4	1	4		
1108	Cattle	Mandible	R	N	N	N	N	N	N	Y	Y	X	X	N	N	N	N	Y	N	N	N	N	R	3	1	20		
1108	Large Mammal	Long Bone	X	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	X	X	N	N	Y	N	N	N	N	N	N	X	3	4	14	burnt grey	
1108	Large Mammal	Rib	X	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	X	X	N	N	Y	N	N	N	N	N	N	X	3	1	3	burnt grey	
1108	Unidentified	Unidentified	X	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	X	X	N	N	Y	N	N	N	N	N	N	X	3	3	4	burnt grey	
1108	Large Mammal	Long Bone	X	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	X	X	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	X	3	3	58		
1108	Large Mammal	Long Bone	X	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	X	X	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	R	4	3	33		
1108	Cattle	Radius	L	N	N	N	Y	N	N	N	N	X	X	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	R	3	1	22		
1108	Medium Mammal	Long Bone	X	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	X	X	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	R	4	7	10		
1108	Medium Mammal	Long Bone	X	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	X	X	N	N	Y	N	N	N	N	N	N	X	3	4	3	Burnt black/brown	
1108	Cattle	Tooth	R	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	X	X	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	X	3	1	4	Shovel shaped, with worn v-shaped break in the labial enamel surface, uncertain if congenital or trauma	
1108	Sheep/Goat	Tooth	L	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	X	X	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	Y	R	3	1	6	Lower M3=g	
1108	Large Mammal	Vertebra	X	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	X	X	N	N	Y	N	N	N	N	N	N	X	3	1	12	fragment, partially charred black	
1108	Large Mammal	Vertebra	X	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	X	X	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	X	3	1	9		
1108	Unidentified	Unidentified	X	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	X	X	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	X	4	2	12		
1108	Large Mammal	Ulna	L	N	N	N	N	Y	N	N	N	X	X	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	X	3	1	8		
1108	Medium Mammal	Long Bone	X	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	X	X	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	R	3	1	2		
1112	Cattle	Scapula	R	N	N	Y	Y	N	N	N	N	X	X	N	Y	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	X	3	1	80	Trimmed through the spinous process, cut diagonally through the neck	
1112	Cattle	Scapula	L	N	N	N	Y	N	Y	N	N	X	X	N	N	N	N	Y	N	N	N	N	X	3	1	86		
1112	Sheep/Goat	Mandible	R	Y	Y	N	N	N	N	N	N	X	X	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	X	2	1	4		
1112	Equid	Femur	L	N	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N	X	X	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	X	3	1	124		
1112	Cattle	Calcaneus	R	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	X	X	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	X	3	1	38		
1112	Cattle	Innominate	L	N	Y	Y	N	N	N	N	N	F	X	N	N	N	Y	N	N	N	N	N	X	3	1	124	possible carnivore gnawing on the ilium	
1112	Equid	Innominate	R	Y	Y	N	N	N	N	Y	Y	F	X	N	N	N	N	Y	N	N	N	N	X	3	1	128		
1112	Cattle	Tooth	R	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	X	X	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	Y	X	2	1	18	Lower M3=l
1112	Dog	Ulna	L	Y	Y	Y	N	N	N	N	N	F	X	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	X	2	1	2		
1113	Cattle	Scapula	R	N	N	N	Y	Y	Y	N	N	X	X	N	N	N	N	Y	N	N	N	N	X	3	1	166		
1113	Equid	Tooth	L	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	X	X	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	X	2	1	11	Lower PM2	
1114	Sheep/Goat	Scapula	R	N	N	Y	Y	N	N	N	N	X	X	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	R	4	1	4		
1114	Sheep/Goat	Tooth	L	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	X	X	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	Y	R	3	1	3	Lower M1=g	
1114	Dog	Ulna	L	N	N	N	N	Y	Y	N	N	X	X	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	X	2	1	1		
1114	Large Mammal	Rib	X	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	X	X	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	R	4	1	5		
1218	Cattle	Innominate	L	N	N	N	N	Y	N	Y	N	F	X	N	Y	N	N	Y	N	N	N	N	X	4	1	51	Chopped through the pubis	
1304	Cattle	Mandible	R	N	N	Y	N	N	N	N	N	X	X	N	N	N	N	Y	N	N	N	N	R	3	1	8	Broken dpm4, unerupted PM4 present	
1308	Large Mammal	Long Bone	X	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	X	X	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	R	4	1	25		
1314	Medium Mammal	Rib	X	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	X	X	N	N	Y	N	N	N	N	N	N	X	3	5	2	burnt white/grey	
1314	Medium Mammal	Long Bone	X	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	X	X	N	N	Y	N	N	N	N	N	N	X	3	1	0	Burnt white	

Ctxt No	Taxon	Element	Side	Z1	Z2	Z3	Z4	Z5	Z6	Z7	Z8	Prox	Dist	Path	Butch	Burnt	Gnaw	Fresh Break	Assoc'd	Measured	Tooth Wear	Surface	Condition	N	(g)	Notes	
1404	Large Mammal	Rib	X	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	X	X	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	2	1	12	
1404	Cattle	Horncore	X	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	X	X	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	2	4	24	fragments
1404	Sheep	Horncore	R	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	X	X	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	3	1	36	possibly chopped at the base
1404	Cattle	Calcaneus	R	N	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	X	X	N	N	N	Y	N	N	N	N	N	3	1	15	Carnivore gnawing on the body, possibly juvenile
1404	Sheep/Goat	Tibia	R	N	N	Y	Y	N	N	N	N	N	X	X	N	N	N	Y	N	N	N	N	N	2	1	10	possible carnivore gnawing on the proximal shaft
1404	Sheep/Goat	Metatarsal	R	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N	F	X	N	N	N	N	N	N	Y	N	N	3	1	15	
1404	Sheep/Goat	Metacarpal	L	N	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N	X	X	N	N	N	N	Y	N	N	N	N	3	1	9	
1404	Medium Mammal	Long Bone	X	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	X	X	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	3	1	2	
1404	Large Mammal	Long Bone	X	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	X	X	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	3	1	4	
1404	Unidentified	Unidentified	X	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	X	X	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	2	1	2	
1404	Cattle	Mandible	R	N	N	Y	Y	N	Y	N	N	N	X	X	N	N	N	N	Y	N	N	N	N	3	1	128	
1404	Cattle	Tooth	R	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	X	X	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	3	2	16	Upper PMs
1404	Cattle	Tooth	R	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	X	X	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	3	1	4	Lower PM3
1404	Cattle	Tooth	R	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	X	X	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	3	1	6	Broken lower PM4
1408	Cattle	Tooth	L	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	X	X	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	2	1	43	Upper M2
1412	Sheep/Goat	Tibia	L	N	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N	X	X	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	3	1	17	Chopped through the distal shaft
1412	Sheep/Goat	Femur	R	N	N	N	N	N	Y	Y	N	N	X	X	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	3	1	5	
1508	Cattle	Mandible	L	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	X	X	N	N	N	N	Y	N	N	Y	R	4	1	105	dpm4=k, M1=f, M2= U
1508	Large Mammal	Long Bone	X	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	X	X	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	4	1	22	
1508	Fowl	Humerus	R	N	N	N	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	X	F	N	N	N	N	Y	N	N	N	N	4	1	1	
1508	Rabbit	Tibia	R	Y	Y	Y	N	N	N	N	N	N	F	X	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	3	1	1	
1604	Sheep/Goat	Tibia	L	N	N	N	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	X	f	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	3	1	17	
1604	Sheep/Goat	Tooth	L	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	X	X	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	3	1	4	Lower M3=h
1608	Cattle	Radius	R	N	N	Y	Y	N	N	N	N	N	X	X	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	3	1	48	
1608	Cattle	Metatarsal	L	Y	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	F	X	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	3	1	18	
802	Pig	Humerus	L	N	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N	N	X	X	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	4	1	35	
819	Pig	Femur	L	Y	N	Y	Y	N	N	N	N	N	F	X	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	3	1	21	
819	Medium Mammal	Femur	R	N	N	N	N	N	N	Y	N	X	F	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	3	1	7	
902	Cattle	Tibia	L	Y	Y	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	X	X	N	N	N	N	Y	N	N	N	N	4	1	49	

Osteological Assessment of the Inhumed Human Remains and the Cremated Remains from Boston Road, Sleaford. L.L.Hill

1.0 Introduction

In April 2008 Pre-Construct Archaeology Lincoln undertook a sixteen trench evaluation on land north of Boston Road, Sleaford (EPBR 08, PCA 08/422). These works uncovered a substantial amount of Roman pottery and features relating to both a funerary and domestic landscape. During the evaluation disarticulated remains and a partial urned cremation burial were recovered from one of the trenches. The following report contains a comprehensive account of the osteological data derived from both these sources and the scientific inferences that can be concluded from this data. All work was carried out according to the standards recommended by the British Association of Biological Anthropologists and Osteologists in conjunction with the IFA (Guidelines to Recording Human Remains, Brickley and McKinley (eds) 2004).

The disarticulated remains and the urned cremation burial were retrieved from Trench 15. This trench was located in the south of the site, close to the assumed location of the Roman road. A further unexcavated north-south aligned possible coffin burial was identified in Trench 14 approximately 25m to the southwest of Trench 15. No definite funerary activity was identified elsewhere on the site.

The remains from Trench 15 were recovered from three separate features. Fragments of a cranium were recovered from a feature cleaned but unexcavated and identified later based on the bones retrieved as an east-west aligned grave [1502]. A number of disarticulated limb bones were recovered from a ditch [1504] which truncated through the lower part of grave [1502]. The cremation urn was recovered from ditch [1511] east of and running parallel with ditch [1504].

2.0 Methodology

2.1 The disarticulated Material

An archive of all disarticulated remains was completed, which entailed an inventory of bones, a record of preservation stage, information on demography and pathology where possible and an estimate of minimum number of individuals.

2.1.1 Preservation and Completeness

An inventory of all disarticulated material was recorded and all elements were visually assessed for their state of preservation, recording their level of bone surface erosion, fragmentation and overall condition. Once the demographics were recorded an estimate of minimum number of individuals (MNI) per context was then recorded.

2.1.2 Demographics

Due to the sparse and fragmentary nature of the remains age brackets rather than mean ages were established. For this material age was estimated based on size and robustness alone.

Sex was estimated where possible based on morphological traits (Frembach et al, 1980).

2.1.3 Pathology

All bones were visually assessed for evidence of congenital and acquired pathologies and where appropriate tentative diagnoses suggested.

2.2 The Cremated Remains

The cremated material was analysed to the standards laid out in Brickley and McKinley (2004) and was carried out using calibrated 10mm, 5mm and 2mm sieves and weighed to an accuracy of 0.1g. A measure of the total weight and what percentage was identifiable human bone was recorded. A measure of fragmentation and the efficiency of the cremation was noted as was skeletal part representation, demographic information, pathological change and an estimate of minimum number of individuals. The material was also assessed for information on pyre technology and goods. For a complete record of the analysis and its results the reader is directed to the primary archive.

2.2.1 Weight and Degree of Fragmentation

After sieving each fraction was weighed. The identifiable human material was weighed separately and expressed as a percentage of the total human bone recovered from the total cremated material. The recovery tray, containing all material smaller than 2mm was macroscopically assessed and an estimate for the percentage of bone visible was recorded. The maximum fragment size for each fraction was also recorded.

2.2.2 Skeletal Part Representation

Each bone was macroscopically analysed and identifiable human bone was separated into four areas; skull, axial skeleton, upper limbs and lower limbs. Number of fragments and weight for each area was recorded.

2.2.3 Efficiency of Cremation

Cremation is a process of dehydration and oxidation of the organic components of the body. This is visible and recordable in the bone fragments as colour change, shrinkage, fissuring and warping. The pattern of discolouration and physical distortion of the bones was noted so that efficiency of the cremation could be assessed.

2.2.4 Pyre Technology and Goods

The material from all fractions and the recovery tray were macroscopically assessed for evidence of artefacts that may have accompanied the individual in the cremation in the form of grave goods or pyre material itself.

3.0 Results

For a complete record of the analysis the reader is directed to the database and primary archive.

3.1 The Disarticulated Material

The preservation is good, surface damage is minimal on the majority of the bones however fragmentation of the bones hinders a thorough analysis. No evidence of congenital or acquired pathologies were visible nor was evidence for trauma or cultural processes evident.

The minimum number of individuals, based on the smallest number of individuals required to account for the skeletal elements present for each context was one. However, due to the relationship between the two features that yielded the bone the material is likely to have derived one individual.

3.1.1 Context 1503

Fragments of a largely incomplete cranium was recovered in pieces, the rest was left in-situ. As no teeth were present only a limited age estimation could be produced. The skull is large enough to be adult, the individual bones are robust and the anterior sagittal suture shows significant closure. These traits make the individual an adult of probable middle to older age. The dimorphic traits available on the fragments are male.

3.1.2 Context 1505

This context yielded a number of limb and foot bones. Recovered from the ditch fill was the mid shaft of a left tibia, missing both its proximal and distal ends, a left humerus in the same condition, fragments of a distal femur, the distal end of a left fibular, the mid shaft of an unisided fibular, and a broken right calcaneus and talus along with a number of broken tibia and fibular fragments. Unfortunately the sites of the epiphyses are missing for all the long bones present so state of fusion can not be assessed. However, based on robustness and the length of the remaining bones they would appear to have come from an older adolescent or adult. The bones of the feet are fully adult in robustness and fusion. Sex could not be estimated for these bones as none had sexually dimorphic traits and they were not complete enough to record biometrics. If these bones do belong to the individual in grave [1503] which this feature truncates, then they belong to an adult male.

3.2 The Cremated Material

The cremated material yielded by this evaluation was recovered in the form of an urned cremation burial, where the material is collected from a pyre site and placed within an urn and buried elsewhere. Unfortunately this cremation burial was badly damaged and as such a lot of potential information has been lost. The urn itself was broken with only the base and less than half of its body remaining. The context in which it was deposited does not appear to have been the primary burial site, with no visible cut or sign of truncation that caused the damage. It is possible like the grave to the west that the original burial site was truncated by the ditch in which it was finally re-deposited. Below, Table 1 summaries the results of the analysis of the cremated material.

Table 1. Cremated Material

Fraction	10mm	5mm	2mm	Total
Weight of bone	15.4g	25.5g	17g	57.9g
Weight of human bone	4.5g	3.7g	0g	8.2g
% of total human bone	55%	45%	0%	100%
Weight of animal bone	0g	0g	0g	0g
Weight of unidentified mammal bone	10.9g	21.8g	17g	49.7g
Max fragment size (human)	2.9cm	2.4cm	1.8cm	
Skull Fragments	0	0	0	0
Axial skeleton	0	0	0	0
Upper limb	0	0	0	0
Lower limb	8 fragments, fibular?	2 fragments femur?	0	10 fragments
Demographics	NR	NR	NR	
Pathology	NR	NR	NR	
Colour	White, black/blue	White, black/blue	White, black/blue	
Dehydration	Cracking U shaped fissures	Cracking U shaped fissures	Cracking U shaped fissures	
Pyre goods	None	None	None	None

NR denotes none recordable information

The cremation burial yielded only 57.9g of bone and only 8.2g of this could be identified as human due to the nature and size of the material, the largest fragment being only 2.9cm. A modern adult cremation yields between 1000 and 3600g of bone (McKinley, 1993) and even with incomplete selection of material to be deposited into the urn this count is very low. The minimum number of individuals for this cremation can only be estimated at one, as there are no identifiable duplicate elements and so little material left.

Sex can not be ascertained for this material as dimorphic traits are not visible on the fragments available and biometrics can not be recorded due to fragmentation. No infant or juvenile bones were recovered and from the robustness of the fragments it is probable that they belong to an older adolescent or adult. Evidence for pathology was not evident on the material available and reliable diagnoses would require almost complete skeletal recovery so this was deemed none recordable for this study.

The majority of the bone fragments showed the same pattern of discolouration, being white on the external surface and black/blue on the internal surface. This indicates temperatures of 700°-900° were acting on the external surfaces and cooler temperatures of 500°-700° penetrated to the internal cavities. The majority of the bone was completely oxidised on its external surface and incompletely oxidised on its internal surface. Less than 5% of the bone fragments recovered were white throughout the bone, representing high temperatures and complete oxidation. Dehydration of the bone during cremation has led to cracking and U-shaped fissures appearing horizontally and vertically on the bone fragments. These findings represent an efficient cremation however the material represents only part of the cremated material so the true nature of the cremation is unknown.

No metal, glass or pottery artefacts from the cremation pyre were recovered within the surviving urn. Nor was any staining apparent on the remaining bone to suggest the presence of metal artefacts within the pyre. Although none of the bone recovered was diagnostically animal some may have been present within the burial as was common for Romano-British cremations, these may make up part of the unidentifiable bone retrieved.

Unfortunately due to the damaged and disturbed nature of the cremation burial no evidence of pyre material was retrieved from within the cremated material. Only fragments of the broken urn and pea-grit were retrieved with the bone.

4.0 Discussion and Conclusion

The human remains from the Sleaford evaluation were located in the south of the evaluation area close to the assumed location of the Roman road. These may represent part of a cemetery area running along the roadside, consisting of both funerary practices of inhumation and cremation burial. The evaluation only identified two graves and yielded very little human material probably as a result of the truncation of later features, as this area moved from a funerary to domestic landscape with the suburban spread of the precursor to Sleaford.

The disarticulation, size and disturbed nature of the assemblage restricted the information that could be collected. Limited information on demographics has been collected and no evidence for diet, pathologies or trauma were visible on the surviving bone. The cremation yielded very limited information and was highly restricted due to its incomplete nature. The information from both sources is not sufficient to inform on the wider population of Roman Sleaford utilising this burial area. Neither can it provide insight into the proportion of the population that was chosen to be treated in these alternative manners.

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EVALUATION OF SLAG AND OTHER DEBRIS FROM LAND NORTH OF BOSTON ROAD, SLEAFORD (SITE CODE: EPBR 08)

Lynne Keys (2008)

Introduction and methodology

A small assemblage weighing just under 490g, recovered by hand on site, was examined by eye and categorised on the basis of morphology alone. Each slag or other material type in each context was weighed; quantification data are given in the table below in which weight (wt.) is shown in grams.

Quantification table and explanation of terms

EPBR 08	Land North of Boston Road, Sleaford
ctx identification	wt. comment
200 undiagnostic	95 possibly smithing slag; coal as fuel
200 undiagnostic	44 partly iron rich
902 natural concretion	99 with ferrous element
1306 undiagnostic	8
1308 undiagnostic	29 broken fragment
1310 ferruginous concretion	97 formed around vanished root or iron object
1310 natural concretion	59
1404 undiagnostic	51
1600 burnt coal	5

total wt = 487g

Most of the slag in the assemblage was undiagnostic, i.e. could not be assigned to either smelting or smithing because of its morphology or because it had been broken up during deposition, re-deposition or excavation. Other types of debris in the assemblage were natural concretions or soil with some ferruginous or other element binding the lump together.

Discussion of the assemblage

Although the quantity is small the slag indicates some activity, possibly smithing, somewhere in the vicinity.

Recommendations for further work

If any further excavation is envisaged, strategies should be established for sampling pits, ditches and other cut features with slag. Any internal surfaces with hearths, slag or ash, or which show signs of burning should be tested with a magnet (initially) for micro-slags such as hammerscale (which is very magnetic). Should the latter be present in quantities it may be necessary to carry out a magnetic susceptibility survey or to grid the surface for sampling. This will allow spatial analysis of the activity to be examined later.

Evaluation of biological remains from excavations on land to the north of Boston Road, Sleaford, Lincolnshire (site code: EPBR08)

by

John Carrott, Alexandra Schmidl, Deborah Jaques and Alex Beacock

Summary

Five bulk sediment samples, recovered from deposits encountered during excavations on land to the north of Boston Road, Sleaford, Lincolnshire, were submitted for an evaluation of their bioarchaeological potential. The site consisted mainly of ditches, gullies, pits and postholes of Roman date, with a small number of features dated to the late Iron Age-Conquest period, and some medieval ridge and furrow and post-medieval field boundaries.

Ancient plant remains recovered from four of the subsamples, all pit fills, were largely restricted to charcoal fragments which were mostly too small to be identifiable. A small, poorly preserved, charred grain assemblage, with some chaff, was recovered from a Roman pit fill (Context 1108) and represented human food waste but was too small to be of any real interpretative value. Each of these samples also gave small assemblages of land and freshwater snails which provided some limited insights into the environments surrounding the features.

A moderate amount of slightly decayed waterlogged plant material was recovered from the fifth sample, from a Roman ditch fill, and there were also some invertebrate remains (including cladoceran ehippia and beetle sclerites). The ehippia suggested non-permanent freshwater within the ditch at the time of the formation of this fill and the plant remains implied areas of grassland, waste ground, wet places and hedges in the surroundings – the beetle remains provided supporting evidence for some of these habitats and a more detailed study of these would undoubtedly provide additional information to refine the interpretation of the past environment.

The charred cereal remains and waterlogged seeds and fruits could provide suitable material for radiocarbon dating, if required.

A full analysis of the invertebrate remains, particularly the beetles, from the ditch fill Context 1112 would allow a more detailed reconstruction of the ecological conditions within and around ditch 1111 in the Roman period. No further study of the biological remains from the other deposits is warranted.

KEYWORDS: BOSTON ROAD; SLEAFORD; LINCOLNSHIRE; EVALUATION; ROMAN; PLANT REMAINS; CHARRED PLANT REMAINS; CHARRED CEREAL REMAINS; INVERTEBRATE REMAINS; BEETLES; LAND SNAILS; FRESHWATER SNAILS; VERTEBRATE REMAINS

Contact address for authors:

Palaeoecology Research Services
Unit 8
Dabble Duck Industrial Estate
Shildon
County Durham DL4 2RA

Prepared for:

Pre-Construct Archaeology (Lincoln)
47 Manor Road
Saxilby
Lincoln LN1 2HX

10 July 2008

Evaluation of biological remains from excavations on land to the north of Boston Road, Sleaford, Lincolnshire (site code: EPBR08)

Introduction

An archaeological evaluation excavation was carried out by Pre-Construct Archaeology (Lincoln) on land to the north of Boston Road, Sleaford, Lincolnshire (NGR TF 0868 4586), in the first half of 2008.

The site consisted of several large pits, boundary and ?enclosure ditches, gullies and postholes (?structural), possible 'working hollows' and furnace or oven pits dated to the Roman period (mid 1st to late 3rd centuries AD). Furthermore two inhumation burials of Roman date and a possible truncated/disturbed cremation burial were identified. The excavations also revealed two features dated to the late Iron Age-Conquest period, medieval ridge and furrow agriculture and post-medieval field boundaries.

Five bulk sediment samples ('GBA'/'BS' *sensu* Dobney *et al.* 1992) were submitted to Palaeoecology Research Services Limited (PRS), County Durham, for an evaluation of their bioarchaeological potential.

Methods

Sediment samples

The sediment samples were inspected in the laboratory and their lithologies were recorded using a standard *pro forma*. Subsamples were taken and processed, broadly following the techniques of Kenward *et al.* (1980), for the recovery of plant and invertebrate microfossils. Prior to processing the subsamples were disaggregated in water and their volumes recorded in a waterlogged state.

Biological remains in the processed subsample fractions (residues and washovers) were recorded briefly by 'scanning' using a low-power microscope (where necessary), identifiable taxa and other components being listed on paper. One of the washovers contained appreciable quantities of waterlogged remains and was examined wet. All of the residues and the four other washovers were primarily mineral in nature and were dried and weighed prior to recording.

During recording consideration was given to the identification of material suitable for submission for radiocarbon dating by standard radiometric technique or accelerator mass spectrometry (AMS).

Nomenclature for plant species follows Stace (1997) and charcoal identifications follow Schoch *et al.* (2004). Nomenclature for insects follows Kloet and Hincks (1964-77) and molluscs follow Kerney (1999).

Results

The results are presented in context number order by trench. Archaeological information, provided by the excavator, is given in square brackets. A brief summary of the processing method and an estimate of the remaining volume of unprocessed sediment follows (in round brackets) after the sample numbers.

TRENCH 9

Context 949 [primary fill of pit 903; unknown date]

Sample 16/T (9 kg/6 litres sieved to 300 microns with washover; no unprocessed sediment remains)

Wet, mid grey (with patches of mid grey-yellow to mid yellow-grey), unconsolidated, very stony (stones of 2 to 6 mm were abundant, of 6 to 60 mm were common and of over 60 mm were present), slightly silty sand. There was a minor component which was made up of indurated clay, similar to that seen in Context 1519 (see below); these areas were brittle to crumbly.

The small washover (34 g, dried) was mostly of sand and stones (to 15 mm), with a little coal (to 5 mm), charcoal (to 5 mm) and modern rootlets. Identifiable botanical remains were restricted to a single seed of orache/goosefoot (*Atriplex/Chenopodium*) – probably a modern contaminant.

There were also some freshwater and terrestrial snails present, mostly the latter. Many of the shell fragments were unidentified but the land snails included approximately 100 *Carychium* spp. (both *C. minimum* Müller and *C. tridentatum* (Risso) were present), four *Vertigo* ?*pygmaea* (Draparnaud) (and some apex fragments of *Vertigo* sp., possibly further *V. pygmaea* but perhaps another species), four *Vallonia* ?*costata* (Müller), two *Discus rotundatus* (Müller) and two *Cochlicopa* sp. (all represented by apex fragments) and single records of *Punctum pygmaeum* (Draparnaud) and ?*Ena obscura* (Müller) (just an apex fragment). The smaller group of freshwater snail taxa included apex fragments of at least eight *Valvata cristata* Müller, two planorbids (possibly two different species) and three small ?*Lymnaea* sp.

The large residue (dry weight 6 kg) was mainly of stones (to 62 mm), with some sand, charcoal (to 7 mm; <1 g) and numerous shell fragments (to 17 mm; 1 g). The last consisted of approximately 100 fragments most of which were of unidentified snail shell. The small number of identifiable fragments included remains of one *Lymnaea* ?*palustris* (Müller) and a small succineid. There was also a single conical unidentified fossil snail shell fragment.

TRENCH 11

Context 1108 [fill of pit 1107; Roman]

Sample 26/T (3 kg/2 litres sieved to 300 microns with washover; approximately 5 litres of unprocessed sediment remain)

Moist, mostly dark grey (with some areas of mid to dark yellow-brown), stiff to crumbly (working soft and very slightly plastic), slightly clay sandy silt. Modern rootlets and stones (20 to 60 mm, including rotted sandstone) were present.

The small washover (47 g, dried) was mainly charcoal (to 10 mm), with some sand, sediment concretions and a little cinder and modern rootlet. In addition, there were a few charred vegetative plant parts, including twiglets and rhizomes/rootlets. Some of the larger pieces of charcoal could be identified as alder/birch/hazel (*Alnus/Betula/Corylus*). There were small numbers (approximately 20 in total) of mostly poorly preserved (distorted, puffed and fragmented) charred cereal grains, some of which could be identified as spelt wheat (*Triticum spelta* L.), together with traces of chaff such as glume bases and spikelet forks which were also of spelt wheat. Occasional remains of arable weeds, such as brome (*Bromus*) and dock (*Rumex*) were noted.

There was a small assemblage of land snails which included at least two *Pupilla muscorum* (L.), 12 *Vallonia* ?*excentrica* Sterki and six *V. ?costata*, three *Trichia* sp., two *Cochlicopa* ?*lubrica* (Müller) and single representatives of *Punctum pygmaeum*, *Carychium* ?*minimum* and *Vertigo pygmaea*. A small number of remains of freshwater taxa were also noted – two small ?*Lymnaea* sp. apex fragments and another of an unidentified planorbid – and there were some unidentified shell fragments.

The small residue (dry weight 1.02 kg) consisted of stone (to 67 mm), with some sand, bone (to 42 mm; 14 g), pottery (to 21 mm; 2 g), charcoal (to 10 mm; 2 g), glass (to 14 mm; 1 g) and shell fragments (to 9 mm; <1 g). The last totalled approximately 12 fragments, some of which were of unidentified land snails but others appeared to be of eggshell.

Bone (34 fragments) recovered from this sample was of reasonable preservation, although fresh breakage was noted throughout. Seventeen of the fragments were burnt – some were partly white in colour but tinged with blue or black. Several of these were probably part of the same bone as most had sharp, freshly broken edges. Several larger fragments possibly represented large mammal rib and mandible fragments and there was a single caprovid incisor.

Context 1112 [primary fill of ditch 1111; Roman]

Sample 25/T (3 kg/3 litres sieved to 300 microns with washover; approximately 5 litres of unprocessed sediment remain)

Moist to wet, mid to dark yellow-brown to dark brown to dark grey-brown (with a blue-ish cast internally and black flecks throughout), brittle and fibrous (the latter probably from rootlets) to crumbly and somewhat compressed (working soft and slightly sticky), slightly humic, slightly sandy slightly clay silt. Small stones (2 to 6 mm, 'pea grit') were common and larger stones (6 to 20 mm) and twigs were present.

The medium-sized washover (300 ml) was mostly of decayed plant material (rootlets – to 25 mm, unidentifiable plant fibres, bud scales, small twig and wood fragments), with a little sand and a moderate assemblage of invertebrate remains. In addition, a moderate number of waterlogged seeds and fruits was recovered from this deposit, largely representing plants growing in hedges (e.g. blackberry/raspberry – *Rubus fruticosus* L. agg./*R. idaeus* L., cherry/plum – *Prunus*, dwarf elder/elder – *Sambucus ebulus* L./*S. nigra* L., elder – *Sambucus nigra* L., raspberry – *Rubus idaeus* L., rose – *Rosa*, rose/bramble – *Rosa/Rubus* and sloe – *Prunus spinosa* L.) and waste ground or grassland (e.g. chickweed – *Stellaria media* (L.) Vill., common nettle – *Urtica dioica* L., red/bladder campion – *Silene dioica* (L.) Clairv./*S. vulgaris* Garcke and thistle – *Carduus/Cirsium*). Remains of gypsywort (*Lycopus europaeus* L.) and sedge family (Cyperaceae) indicated damp/wet areas nearby.

The invertebrate remains included a few earthworm egg capsules, which almost certainly represented recent intrusions into the deposit, but there were also beetle sclerites, cladoceran (water flea, including *Daphnia*) ephippia (resting eggs), very many mites (Acarina), some ostracods and a few apex fragments of freshwater planorbid snails. The vast majority of the adult beetle remains could not be identified as fragmentation was severe. However, there was very little chemical erosion of the remains so more intact sclerites were very well preserved. Identifiable remains included weevil (*Otiorhynchus* sp.) heads, pronota and elytra, *Cercyon analis* (Paykull) elytra, *Helophorus* sp. pronota and elytral fragments, and other elytra of at least three staphylinids. Closer determination of these remains and the identification of additional taxa would certainly be possible with time.

The small residue (dry weight 0.754 kg) was mostly stones (to 30 mm), with some sand, bone (six well preserved fragments to 27 mm; 2 g) and shell fragments (approximately 50 larger pieces, to 9 mm, separated; <1 g – mostly unidentified fragments of terrestrial or freshwater snail shell but including single apex fragments of *Trichia* sp. and a planorbid). None of the bone could be identified to species but one fragment was probably a piece of medium-sized mammal skull.

TRENCH 15

Context 1518 [single fill of pit 1517; Roman]

Sample 10/T (11 kg/6 litres sieved to 300 microns with washover; no unprocessed sediment remains)

Just moist, light to mid yellow-brown to mid orange-brown to mid grey-brown (with occasional grey and red patches), unconsolidated (the lumps were indurated and crumbly), slightly silty sand. Stones (2 to 20 mm, including denuded sandstone) were present.

The small washover (43 g, dried) was mostly of sand, with a little coal (to 5 mm), charcoal (to 5 mm) and some snails. There were also several waterlogged seeds of orache/goosefoot and one seed of clover (*Trifolium*) present but these were probably modern contaminants.

Identifiable remains within the small snail assemblage included land snails (three *Pupilla muscorum*, three *Vertigo pygmaea*, six *Carychium* sp?p., four *Cochlicopa* sp., one *Punctum pygmaeum*, six *Trichia* sp., 15 *Vallonia ?excentrica* and two *V. ?costata*) and freshwater forms (a small *Lyymnaea* sp. apex fragment, two *Valvata cristata* apices, four planorbid apices – representing at least two different species – and two operculae of *Bithynia ?leachii* (Sheppard)). There were also many unidentified shell fragments and some of the remains, of both terrestrial and freshwater taxa, were discoloured blue-grey/black – probably by charring.

The relatively small residue (dry weight 3.6 kg) was of small stones (to 6 mm) and sand.

Context 1520 [single fill of pit 1519; Roman]

Sample 11/T (11 kg/8 litres sieved to 300 microns with washover; no unprocessed sediment remains)

Dry, mostly light grey to light to mid orange in parts (occasionally blue grey in clasts), brittle and indurated to crumbly, slightly sandy clay (slightly silty in the orange parts). Small stones (2 to 6 mm) were present

The tiny flot (6 g, dried) was mostly of sand and tiny unidentified snail shell fragments (though there was also a small assemblage of identifiable remains – see below), with a little coal (to 5 mm), very small amounts of cinder (to 5 mm) and charcoal (to 3 mm), a few modern rootlets and some earthworm egg capsules (probably modern too). Identifiable botanical remains were largely restricted to several seeds of orache/goosefoot and a few achenes of knotweed (*Persicaria*), but these were also probably modern contaminants. A single charred caryopsis of grass family (Poaceae) was also noted.

The small assemblage of identifiable snails was, again, predominantly of terrestrial taxa but also included some freshwater forms. Land snails present included single records for *Pupilla muscorum*, *Acanthinula aculeata* (Müller), *Punctum pygmaeum* and *Cecilioides acicula* (Müller) (this last is a burrowing species and almost certainly intrusive to the deposit), together with two *Cochlicopa* ?*lubricella* (Porro), four *Cochlicopa* sp. (apex fragments), seven *Vertigo* ?*pygmaea*, six ?*Oxychilus* sp. (apices only), three *Trichia* sp., two *Vallonia* ?*costata*, five *Vallonia* ?*excentrica* and approximately 120 *Carychium* spp. (both *C. minimum* and *C. tridentatum* were represented). Freshwater taxa included eight *Valvata cristata*, at least two species of planorbid (represented by fifteen apex fragments) and a single *Bithynia* sp. (an operculum was noted). As seen in the previous sample from Context 1518, some of the snail remains, of both terrestrial and freshwater taxa, were discoloured blue-grey/black probably as a result of burning.

The relatively small residue (dry weight 4 kg) was of stones (to 55 mm) and sand, with some additional snail shell (to 9 mm; <1 g). Of the last only one of the 40 or so fragments could be identified – as a *Vallonia* ?*excentrica* – and, on closer examination, some were fossil shell fragments.

Discussion and statement of potential

Ancient plant remains recovered from four of the five processed subsamples were restricted to charcoal and a small charred cereal grain assemblage with some chaff from Context 1108. Where identifiable, the cereals remains were predominately of spelt wheat and indicated food waste and human activity at the site, but were too few to be of any further interpretative value. However, Context 1112, the primary fill of ditch 1111, produced a moderate number of slightly decayed waterlogged plant remains of taxa of waste ground, grassland, wet places and hedgerow, reflecting the vegetation growing in the vicinity of this feature at the time of the formation of this fill.

The identifiable invertebrate assemblages were, generally, fairly small but a little more informative. Snail assemblages were recovered from the samples from pit fills (Contexts 949, 1108, 1518 and 1520) and all were dominated by terrestrial taxa but also included small numbers of remains of freshwater forms. The land snail groups from Contexts 1108 and 1518 (Roman fills of pits 1107 and 1517, respectively) were very similar and predominantly of dry, open ground taxa suggesting little vegetation in the vicinity of these features, perhaps no more than short grass on a calcareous soil. The assemblages from Contexts 949 and 1520 (primary and single fills of pits 903 and 1519, respectively) gave hints of more substantial vegetation in the form of far larger numbers of *Carychium* species – indicative of wetter and more sheltered conditions, and suggesting at least longer grass that remained permanently damp at the base or moist leaf litter under woodland – and also other taxa such as *Discus rotundatus* (Context 949) and *Acanthinula aculeata* (Context 1519) associated with leaf litter under hedgerow or deciduous woodland. However, it is possible that these remains were introduced via the

disposal of resources gathered from such habitats elsewhere – remains from kindling, for example, as some of the remains from Context 1520 appeared charred. It is certainly, most likely that the small numbers of aquatic snails recorded from each of the pit fills were introduced with waste water (or perhaps by flooding, although, in this case, the numbers of individuals might be expected to be higher) rather than indicating standing water within the features as *Valvata cristata* (Contexts 949, 1518 and 1520) and *Bithynia* species (Contexts 1518 and 1520) are restricted to well-oxygenated waters and would be improbable inhabitants of a water-filled pit.

In contrast, the invertebrate assemblage from Context 1112, primary fill of Roman ditch 1111, did suggest standing water within this feature, though probably not on a permanent basis. Cladoceran ephippia imply temporary freshwater as ephippia are formed as a response to environmental stress, such as may result from over-crowding during drying out or reduced water quality caused by pollution, for example. There was little evidence to suggest the latter and it seems probable that this ditch was intermittently, perhaps seasonally, wet. A range of beetle taxa was present which supported the evidence of the plant remains for wet/waterside habitats (*Cercyon analis* and *Helophorus* sp.) and local vegetation (plant feeders, e.g. weevils – *Otiorhynchus* sp.). A more detailed study of these remains would undoubtedly reveal additional information regarding the local environments at the time of the formation of this deposit.

Small numbers of animal bone fragments, some of which were burnt, were recovered from two of the deposits, the Roman pit fill Context 1108 and the Roman ditch fill Context 1112. These remains almost certainly represent human food waste but were too few to be of any interpretative value.

The charred cereal remains recovered from Context 1108 and waterlogged seeds and fruits from Context 1112 would provide suitable material for radiocarbon dating (via AMS), if required.

Recommendations

With the exception of the invertebrate remains from Context 1112, all of the assemblages of biological remains recovered from the evaluation subsamples were rather small and of no interpretative value beyond that reported above. Consequently, no further work is recommended on the remains from the pit fills.

A full analysis of the invertebrate remains, particularly the beetles, from the ditch fill Context 1112 would allow a more detailed reconstruction of the ecological conditions within and around ditch 1111. However, this would only be worthwhile if the dating of the deposit could be refined – this might be attempted via radiocarbon dating if no other evidence were available but there are calibration issues in dating material of this period that may result in inconclusive results. If further study is undertaken then all of the remaining sediment from this deposit should be processed and paraffin flotation should be employed to separate the invertebrate remains from the more substantial plant component and so facilitate their recording and identification.

Retention and disposal

Unless required for purposes other than the study of the biological remains, or the recovery of additional material for submission for radiocarbon dating (bearing in mind the *caveat* expressed above), the remaining sediment samples from the deposits other than Context 1112 may be discarded.

Archive

All material is currently stored by Palaeoecology Research Services (Unit 8, Dabble Duck Industrial Estate, Shildon, County Durham), along with paper and electronic records pertaining to the work described here.

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Assessment of Metal Artefacts from land north of Boston Road, Sleaford (EPBR 08)

Alan Vince and Kate Steane

A small collection of metal finds from an archaeological excavation on land north of Boston Road, Sleaford, carried out by Pre-Construct Archaeology (Lincoln) Ltd was submitted to the authors for identification and assessment. The finds probably range in date from the Roman period to the modern period.

Description

Copper Alloy

Three copper alloy artefacts were submitted:

- 1. Context 1000. The handle of a bowl or similar vessel. The handle is made from a hollow tube, bent at right angles twice and flattened at the ends and riveted to the body of the vessel. No close parallels can be put forward but similar construction is used on post-medieval and modern sheet metal vessels.
- 2. Context 1101. One arm of a set of tweezers, broken at the hinge. The arm widens towards the end and shows no sign of decoration. Probably Roman.
- 3. Context 1300. A small cast object (Fig 1), possibly a bar-mount (Egan & Pritchard 1991 #16773). Bar-mounts were attached to belts and girdles in the later medieval period and used to attach purses, pendants and the like.



Figure 1

Iron

Sixteen iron objects were recovered. Eleven of these were nails, or parts of nails. Two come from pit 1107 and one of these is curved, probably indicating that it was removed from the wood to allow the wood to be re-used. The remainder come from Grave B or ditch 1504, which cut through this grave. Several of the nails have mineralised wood traces and all were probably from a coffin. Dimensions indicate the use of two sizes of nail, one with a 90mm long shank and the other with a 55mm shank. The latter was driven right through the wood and bent over at the end, indicating a combined thickness of 47mm for the wood. The shanks are between 4mm and 7mm square.

The remaining five items are listed here:

- 1. Context 819. A rectangular buckle with an iron pin attached at the middle of one of the longer sides. The x-radiograph indicates that the item was coated with non-ferrous plating.
- 2. Context 1108. An iron strip. The x-radiograph shows possible traces of rivets and possible evidence for the strip being folded over at one of the narrower ends. Therefore, perhaps a hinge. However, this is by no means a certain identification.
- 3. Context 1108. An iron strip with two possible nails attached. Probably associated with No.2 above.
- 4. Context 1108. A probable "Hearth bottom" identified by its rough plano-convex section and the presence of abundant vesicles in the x-radiograph. "Hearth bottoms" are a by-product of iron smithing, forming below the tuyere nozzle.
- 5. Context 1412. A pin. The x-radiograph shows much better preservation of the iron than in any of the other iron artefacts and a very regular profile, including a truncated conical head. We interpret this as part of an item of agricultural machinery of recent date.

Lead Alloy

Three fragments of lead alloy were recovered.

- 1. Context 1100. A nail. Only slight corrosion despite being present in topsoil so probably recent.
- 2. Context 1108. A strip, 30 mm wide and 2mm thick. The ends are snapped but it was at least 58mm long.
- 3. Context 1408. A melted runnel less than 1mm across but crumpled, torn and folded.

Assessment

Most of the items from the fills of features were associated with Roman pottery and it is likely that they are of Roman date. This is almost certainly the case for the finds from pit 1107 and the nails from grave B and ditch 1504.

The tweezers from context 1101 are of a type current in the Roman period.

Two finds from features are less certainly of Roman date. These consist of the rectangular iron buckle from Pit 820, for which parallels of late medieval date can be found but not, on a superficial search, from Roman deposits, and the pin from pit 1411 which is certainly of recent date.

Finds from the topsoil are probably of late medieval or later date: the possible bar mount from context 1300; the lead nail from context 1100 and the copper alloy vessel handle from context 1000.

Further work

If the finds from pit 820 suggest a Roman date then the buckle could be submitted to a specialist on Roman small finds for a second opinion.

The finds from pit 1108 include possible evidence for iron-smithing and all ought to be submitted to a specialist on Roman metallurgy to determine the identification of the hearth bottom and to consider whether any of the other finds might be unfinished artefacts or associated in some other way with iron smithing.

The possible bar mount should be illustrated, since it could not be closely paralleled in Egan and Pritchard's 1991 catalogue of medieval dress fittings from the City of London.

Retention

All of the finds from stratified deposits should be retained for possible future re-examination or sampling.

Appendix 1

period	phase	Conte xt	mater ial	form	wt	part	Action	description	dia m	leng th	bread th	thickne ss
late medie val	Topso il	130 0	COP P	BAR MOUNT?	1	WHOL E			0	20	11	1
moder n	Topso il	110 0	LEA D	NAIL	5	PART		STRAIGHT; ROUND HEAD 12 ACROSS	0	16 +		
moder n	Pit 1411	141 2	IRO N	AGRICULTU RAL PIN	86	WHOL E		MODERN	0	135		9
post- med+	Topso il	100 0	COP P	HANDLE	5	WHOL E		HANDLE BROKEN AWAY FROM A VESSEL; TWO HOLES AT EACH END OF A BENT ROD TO ATTACH IT - ONE BROKEN AND ONE WITH PIN HEAD IN SITU	0	58	27	3
roman +	Pit 820	819	IRO N	BUCKLE	27	WHOL E		SINGLE CELL RECTANGULAR TINNED BUCKLE WITH ATTACHED CENTRAL PIN	0	44	33	7
roman +	interfa ce	110 1	COP P	TWEEZERS	1	PART		HALF A TWEEZERS - REST BROKEN OFF	0	33	3-6	1
roman +	Pit 1107	110 8	LEA D	STRIP	33	PART			0	58 +	30	2
roman +	Pit 1107	110 8	IRO N	STRIP	50	WHOL E?		POSSIBLE BUCKLE PLATE; STRIP FOLDED OVER CONTAINING POSSIBLE RIVETS	0	60	40	5-8
roman +	Pit 1107	110 8	IRO N	STRIP	64	WHOL E?		IRON STRIP WITH TWO POSSIBLE NAILS	0	70	26	7
roman +	Pit 1107	110 8	IRO N	NAIL	30	PART		CURVED NAIL; RECT HEAD 15 BY 20	0	55 +		6
roman	Pit	110	IRO	NAIL	22	PART		STRAIGHT; POSS CIRCULAR HEAD 20 DIA	0	50		7

The Alan Vince Archaeology Consultancy, 25 West Parade, Lincoln, LN1 1NW

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Appendix 1: Colour plates



Photo No.1 Large pits [1107] and [1109]



Photo No.2 Large pit [1407]



Photo No.3 Boundary ditch [1111]



Photo No.4 Enclosure ditches [1607] and [1611]



Photo No.5 Grave A [1405] adjacent to Large pit [1403]



Photo No.6 Postholes [1415], [1417] and [1419]



Photo No.7 Possible collapsed oven or furnace base [1309]



Photo No.8 Possible 'working hollows' [1315], [1317] and [1319]
cut through by a modern land drain

Appendix 2: Context descriptions

Levels are recorded as meters above Ordnance Datum (AOD), calculated from a spot height on the Boston Road, south of the proposed development site: 12.2m AOD.

Trench 1: Ground level 10.56m – 10.60m AOD

Context No.	Type	Description
100	Topsoil	Mid brown sandy silt with frequent small limestone gravels and occasional small flint gravels. < 0.42m thick.
101	Natural	Light yellow brown sandy matrix with limestone gravels = Limit of Excavation.
102	Fill of 103	Dark brown-black sandy silt with occasional limestone gravels. Possible evidence of heating - discolouration. 1.38m long x > 0.6m wide x 0.2m deep.
103	Cut of pit	Shallow sided – shallow concave base, oval cut. 1.38m long x > 0.6m wide x 0.2m deep. Cuts 104.
104	Fill of 105	Dark brown sandy silt with occasional limestone gravels. Possible evidence of heating. 0.5m in diameter x 0.21m deep. Cut by 103.
105	Cut of pit	Moderate sided – shallow concave base, round cut. 0.5m in diameter x 0.21m deep.
106	Fill of 107	Dark brown sandy silt with occasional small limestone fragments. 1.5m long x >1.1m wide x 0.2m deep.
107	Cut of pit	Moderate sided – irregular concave base, oval cut. 1.5m long x >1.1m wide x 0.2m deep.
108	Fill of 109	Mid brown silty sand. > 1m long x 0.8m wide x 0.12m deep.
109	Cut of pit	Steep sided – flat base, sub-rectangular cut. > 1m long x 0.8m wide x 0.12m deep.
110	Fill of 111	Dark brown sandy silt with occasional small limestone fragments. Possible evidence of heating. 1.5m long x 1m wide x 0.18m deep. Cut by 113.
111	Cut of pit	Moderate sided – concave-flat base, oval cut. 1.5m long x 1m wide x 0.18m deep.
112	Fill of 113	Dark brown sandy silt. 0.35m in diameter x 0.27m deep.
113	Cut of posthole	Steep sided – narrow concave base, round cut. 0.35m in diameter x 0.27m deep. Cuts 110.
114	Fill of 115	Mid brown silty sand. > 1m long x 1m wide x 0.15m deep. Cut by 117.
115	Cut if pit	Moderate sided – concave-flat base, oval cut. > 1m long x 1m wide x 0.15m deep.
116	Fill of 117	Dark brown sandy silt. Possible evidence of heating. > 1.3m long x 1m wide x 0.24m deep.
117	Cut of pit	Moderate sided – concave-flat base, oval cut. > 1.3m long x 1m wide x 0.24m deep. Cuts 114.
118	Fill of 119	Mid brown silty sand. 1.1m long x 0.95m wide x 0.41m deep.
119	Cut of pit	Steep sided – concave base, oval cut. 1.1m long x 0.95m wide x 0.41m deep. Cuts 120.
120	Fill of 121	Mid brown silty sand with occasional small limestone fragment. 0.75m long x 0.72m wide x 0.18m deep. Cut by 119.
121	Cut of pit	Moderate sided – concave base, sub-rounded cut. 0.75m long x 0.72m wide x 0.18m deep.

Trench 2: Ground level 10.48m – 10.52m AOD

Context No.	Type	Description
200	Topsoil	Mid brown sandy silt with frequent small limestone gravels and occasional small flint gravels. < 0.36m thick.
201	Interface	Mid orange brown silt-sand-gravel. < 0.08m thick.
202	Natural	Light yellow brown sandy matrix with limestone gravels = Limit of Excavation.
203	Cut of furrow	Shallow sided – shallow concave base, linear, aligned c. NNW-SSE. > 8m long x 0.88m wide x 0.18m deep.
204	Fill of 203	Light – mid brown sandy silt with frequent gravels. > 8m long x 0.88m wide x 0.18m deep.

Trench 3: Ground level 10.62m – 10.75m AOD

Context No.	Type	Description
300	Topsoil	Mid brown sandy silt with frequent small limestone gravels and occasional small flint gravels. < 0.5m thick.
301	Interface	Mid orange brown silt-sand-gravel. < 0.1m thick.
302	Natural	Light yellow brown sandy matrix with limestone gravels = Limit of Excavation.
303	Cut of ditch	Moderate sloping sides – concave base, linear, aligned c. N-S. > 1.7m long x 0.8m wide x 0.18m deep.
304	Fill of 303	Mid – dark brown sandy silt with frequent gravels. > 1.7m long x 0.8m wide x 0.18m deep. Cut by 307.
305	Cut of ditch	Shallow – concave base, linear, aligned c. N-S. > 1.5m long x 0.9m wide x 0.14m deep.
306	Fill of 305	Mid – dark brown sandy silt with frequent gravels. > 1.5m long x 0.9m wide x 0.14m deep. Cut by 307.
307	Cut of ditch	Shallow – concave base, linear, aligned c. N-S. > 28m long x 0.6m wide x 0.12m deep. Cuts 304, 306 and 310.
308	Fill of 307	Mid – dark brown sandy silt with frequent gravels. > 28m long x 0.6m wide x 0.12m deep. > 0.5m long x 0.7m wide x 0.2m deep.
309	Cut of pit	Sub-rounded, moderate sloping sides – concave base. > 28m long x 0.6m wide x 0.12m deep.
310	Fill of 309	Dark brown sandy silt with frequent gravels. > 28m long x 0.6m wide x 0.12m deep. Cut by 307.
311	Cut of ditch	Steep sides – flat base, linear, aligned c. E-W. > 21m long x 0.94m wide x 0.28m deep. Cuts 314.
312	Fill of 311	Dark brown sandy silt with frequent gravels. > 21m long x 0.94m wide x 0.28m deep.
313	Cut of ditch	Moderate sloping sides – flat base, linear, aligned c. E-W. > 2m long x 0.74m wide x 0.24m deep.
314	Fill of 313	Mid brown sandy silt with frequent gravels. > 2m long x 0.74m wide x 0.24m deep. Cut by 311.

Trench 4: Ground level 10.48m – 10.49m AOD

Context No.	Type	Description
400	Topsoil	Mid brown sandy silt with frequent small limestone gravels and occasional small flint gravels. < 0.3m thick.
401	Interface	Mid orange brown silt-sand-gravel. < 0.08m thick.
402	Natural	Light yellow brown sandy matrix with limestone gravels = Limit of Excavation.

403	Cut of ditch	Shallow - concave base, linear, aligned <i>c.</i> E-W. > 2m long x 0.48m x 0.08m deep.
404	Fill of 403	Light - mid brown sandy silt with frequent gravels. > 2m long x 0.48m x 0.08m deep.
405	Cut of ditch	Steep sides – flat base, linear, aligned <i>c.</i> E-W. > 2m long x 0.7m wide x 0.22m deep. Cuts 408.
406	Fill of 405	Mid – dark brown sandy silt with frequent gravels. > 2m long x 0.7m wide x 0.22m deep.
407	Cut of pit	Irregular - sub-rounded, moderate sloping sides – slightly concave base. 1.1m long x > 0.68m wide x 0.12m deep.
408	Fill of 407	Dark brown – black sandy silt. 1.1m long x > 0.68m wide x 0.12m deep. Cut by 405.

Trench 5: Ground level 10.67m – 10.72m AOD

Context No.	Type	Description
500	Topsoil	Mid brown sandy silt with frequent small limestone gravels and occasional small flint gravels. < 0.4m thick.
501	Natural	Light yellow brown sandy matrix with limestone gravels = Limit of Excavation.
502	Fill of 503	Dark brown – black sandy silt. > 2m long x 1.62m wide x 0.35m deep.
503	Cut of ditch	Moderate-irregular sided - concave base, linear, aligned <i>c.</i> NE-SW. > 2m long x 1.62m wide x 0.35m deep.
504	Fill of 505	Dark brown silty sand with occasional limestone gravels. > 2m long x 1.45m wide X 0.22m deep.
505	Cut of ditch	Moderate-irregular sided - concave base, linear, aligned <i>c.</i> NE-SW. > 2m long x 1.45m wide X 0.22m deep.
506	Fill of 507	Dark brown – black sandy silt with fragments of burnt clay. 1.15m in diameter x 0.45m deep.
507	Cut of pit	Moderate-even sided - concave base, round pit. 1.15m in diameter x 0.45m deep.
508	Fill of 509	Dark orange-brown silty sand. 0.27m in diameter x 0.36m deep.
509	Cut of posthole	Near vertical sided – flat based. 0.27m in diameter x 0.36m deep.
510	Fill of 511	Dark brown silty sand with occasional limestone gravels. > 2m long x 1.8m wide x 0.18m deep.
511	Cut of furrow	Shallow sided – shallow concave base, linear, aligned <i>c.</i> NNW-SSE. > 2m long x 1.8m wide x 0.18m deep.
512	Fill of 513	Dark brown sandy silt. 1.6m long x > 0.8m wide x 0.3m deep.
513	Cut of pit	Shallow sided – concave base, sub-rounded pit. 1.6m long x > 0.8m wide x 0.3m deep.
514	Fill of 515	Dark brown sandy silt with occasional limestone gravels. > 2.5m long x 0.98m wide x 0.39m deep. Cut by furrow.
515	Cut of ditch	Moderate-steep sided – shallow concave base, linear, aligned <i>c.</i> E-W. > 2.5m long x 0.98m wide x 0.39m deep.

Trench 6: Ground level 10.53m – 10.59m AOD

Context No.	Type	Description
600	Topsoil	Mid brown sandy silt with frequent small limestone gravels and occasional small flint gravels. < 0.38m thick.
601	Interface	Mid orange brown silt-sand-gravel. < 0.08m thick.
602	Natural	Light yellow brown sandy matrix with limestone gravels = Limit of

		Excavation.
603	Cut of furrow	Shallow sided – shallow concave base, linear cut, aligned c. NNW-SSE. > 30m long x 1.8m wide x 0.12m deep.
604	Fill of 603	Light –mid brown sandy silt with occasional gravels. > 30m long x 1.8m wide x 0.12m deep.

Trench 7: Ground level 10.34m – 10.35m AOD

Context No.	Type	Description
700	Topsoil	Mid brown sandy silt with frequent small limestone gravels and occasional small flint gravels. < 0.31m thick.
701	Natural	Light yellow brown sandy matrix with limestone gravels = Limit of Excavation.
702	Fill of 703	Mid grey brown sandy silt. > 1.8m long x 1.7m wide x 0.34m deep. Cut by 707.
703	Cut of ditch	Shallow sided – shallow concave base, linear cut, aligned c. E-W. > 1.8m long x 1.7m wide x 0.34m deep.
704	Fill of 705	Mid grey brown sandy silt. > 1m long x 1.38m wide x 0.34m deep. Cut by 707.
705	Cut of ditch	Shallow sided – shallow concave base, linear cut, aligned c. E-W. > 1m long x 1.38m wide x 0.34m deep.
706	Fill of 707	Mid brown sandy silt. > 21m long x 1.9m wide x 0.24m deep.
707	Cut of furrow	Shallow sided – shallow concave base, linear cut, aligned c. NNW-SSE. > 21m long x 1.9m wide x 0.24m deep. Cuts 702 and 704.

Trench 8: Ground level 10.56m – 10.64m AOD

Context No.	Type	Description
800	Topsoil	Mid brown sandy silt with frequent small limestone gravels and occasional small flint gravels. < 0.35m thick.
801	Natural	Light yellow brown sandy matrix with limestone gravels = Limit of Excavation.
802	Fill of 803	Mid brown sandy silt with occasional small limestone gravels. > 4m long x 1m wide x 0.43m deep. Cut by 808 and 810.
803	Re-cut of ditch ?	Moderate sided – concave base, linear cut, aligned c. NW-SE. > 4m long x 1m wide x 0.43m deep.
804	1 st Fill of 806	Dark grey brown-black slightly sandy silt-clay. >0.5m long x > 0.4m wide x 0.2m deep.
805	2 nd Fill of 806	Mid grey brown sandy silt. >0.5m long x > 2m wide x 0.45m deep. Cut by 812.
806	Cut of ditch	Moderate sided – concave base, linear cut, aligned c. NW-SE. > 4m long x > 2m wide x 1.2m deep.
807	Fill of 808	Mid brown silty sand. 0.7m long x 0.68m wide x 0.2m deep.
808	Cut of pit	Sub-rounded, moderate sloping sides – concave-flat base. 0.7m long x 0.68m wide x 0.2m deep. Cuts 802.
809	Fill of 810	Mid brown silty sand. > 11m x 0.5m wide x 0.23m deep.
810	Cut of ditch	Shallow sided – shallow concave base, linear cut, aligned c. NNW-SSE. > 11m x 0.5m wide x 0.23m deep. Cut 802, 807 and 819.
811	Fill of 812	Mid brown silty sand. 0.7m long x 0.68m wide x 0.12m deep. Cut by 814.
812	Cut of pit	Sub-rounded, moderate sloping sides – concave base. 0.7m long x 0.68m wide x 0.12m deep.
813	Fill of 814	Mid brown silty sand. 0.72m long x 0.7m wide x 0.08m deep.
814	Cut of pit	Sub-rounded, shallow sloping sides – concave base. 0.72m long x 0.7m wide x 0.08m deep. Cuts 811.

815	Fill of 816	Mid brown sandy silt with occasional small limestone gravels. > 7m long x 0.4m wide x 0.13m deep.
816	Cut of gully	Moderate sided – shallow concave base, linear cut, aligned c. NW-SE. > 7m long x 0.4m wide x 0.13m deep.
817	Fill of 818	Dark grey brown silty sand with occasional small limestone gravels. 0.6m long x > 0.35m wide x 0.4m deep.
818	Cut of posthole	Sub-circular, steep sided – concave base. 0.6m long x > 0.35m wide x 0.4m deep.
819	Fill of 820	Mid brown sandy silt with occasional small limestone gravels. 1.12m long x 1.1m wide x 0.3m deep. Cut by 810.
820	Cut of pit	Sub-circular, moderate sided – concave base. 1.12m long x 1.1m wide x 0.3m deep.
821	Fill of 822	Mid grey brown sandy silt. 0.8m long x > 0.44m wide x 0.2m deep.
822	Cut of pit	Sub-rounded, moderate sided – concave base. 0.8m long x > 0.44m wide x 0.2m deep.
823	Fill of 824	Mid grey brown sandy silt. 0.79m long x 0.45m wide x 0.25m deep.
824	Cut of pit	Sub-rounded, moderate sided – concave base. 0.79m long x 0.45m wide x 0.25m deep.
825	Fill of 826	Mid grey brown sandy silt. > 0.8m x 0.67m wide x 0.3m deep.
826	Cut of pit	Sub-rounded, moderate sided – concave base. > 0.8m x 0.67m wide x 0.3m deep.

Trench 9: Ground level 10.49m – 10.50m AOD

Context No.	Type	Description
900	Topsoil	Mid brown sandy silt with frequent small limestone gravels and occasional small flint gravels. < 0.38m thick.
901	Natural	Light yellow brown sandy matrix with limestone gravels = Limit of Excavation.
902	Fill of 903	Dark grey brown silty sand with occasional small limestone gravels and heat cracked stone. 1.8m long x > 0.63m wide x 0.33m deep.
903	Cut of pit	Sub-rounded, moderate sloping sides – concave-flat base. 1.8m long x > 0.63m wide x 0.33m deep. Cut 904.
904	Fill of 905	Dark grey brown silty sand with occasional small limestone gravels. Possible evidence of heating. 0.8m long x > 0.6m wide x 0.45m deep. Cut by 903.
905	Cut of pit	Sub-rounded, moderate sloping sides – concave-flat base. 0.8m long x > 0.6m wide x 0.45m deep. Cuts 942.
906	Fill of 907	Mid brown sandy silt with occasional small limestone gravels. 0.3m in diameter x 0.16m deep.
907	Cut of posthole	Circular, steep sided – concave base. 0.3m in diameter x 0.16m deep. Cuts 950.
908	Fill of 909	Dark grey brown silty sand. 0.8m long x > 0.61m wide x 0.3m deep.
909	Cut of pit?	Sub-rounded, moderate sloping sides – concave base. 0.8m long x > 0.61m wide x 0.3m deep.
910	Fill of 911	Dark grey brown silty sand. 1.12m long x 0.65m wide x 0.26m deep.
911	Cut of pit	Sub-rounded, moderate sloping sides – concave base. 1.12m long x 0.65m wide x 0.26m deep. Cuts 916.
912	Fill of 913	Mid-dark grey brown silty sand. 0.56m in diameter x 0.21m deep.
913	Cut of pit?	Circular, steep sided – concave base. 0.56m in diameter x 0.21m deep.
914	Fill of 915	Mid-dark grey brown silty sand with occasional small limestone gravels and fragments of burnt clay. 0.44m long x > 0.22m wide x 0.18m deep. Cut by furrow.
915	Cut of pit?	Sub-rounded, moderate sloping sides – concave base. 0.44m long x >

		0.22m wide x 0.18m deep.
916	Fill of 917	Mid-dark grey brown silty sand with occasional small limestone gravels. > 0.78m long x 0.62m wide x 0.23m deep. Cut by 911.
917	Cut of pit	Sub-rounded, moderate sloping sides – concave base. > 0.78m long x 0.62m wide x 0.23m deep. Cuts 936 and 938.
918	Fill of 919	Mid brown silty sand with occasional small limestone gravels. > 1.6m long x > 1.9m wide x 0.22m deep.
919	Cut of ditch	Shallow sided – shallow concave base, linear cut, aligned c. NNW-SSE. > 1.6m long x > 1.9m wide x 0.22m deep.
920	Fill of 921	Mid grey brown silty sand with occasional small limestone gravels. > 1.25m long x 1.08m wide x 0.25m deep.
921	Cut of ditch	Moderate sided – concave base, linear cut, aligned c. N-S. > 1.25m long x 1.08m wide x 0.25m deep.
922	Fill of 923	Mid brown silty sand. Possible evidence of heating. 0.58m long x 0.4m wide x 0.2m deep.
923	Cut of pit?	Sub-rounded, moderate sloping sides – concave base. 0.58m long x 0.4m wide x 0.2m deep.
924	Fill of 925	Mid brown silty sand with occasional small limestone gravels. 1.56m long 0.5m wide x 0.14m deep.
925	Cut of pit	Sub-rounded, shallow sloping sides – concave base. 1.56m long 0.5m wide x 0.14m deep.
926	Fill of 927	Mid brown silty sand. 0.58m long x 0.4m wide x 0.24m deep.
927	Cut of pit?	Sub-rounded, moderate sloping sides – concave base. 0.58m long x 0.4m wide x 0.24m deep.
928	Fill of 929	Mid grey brown silty sand with occasional small limestone gravels. < 0.95m in diameter x 0.24m deep.
929	Cut of pit	Sub-rounded, moderate sloping sides – concave base. < 0.95m in diameter x 0.24m deep. Cuts 946.
930	Fill of 931	Mid brown silty sand with occasional small limestone gravels. > 2m long x 2.3m wide x 0.23m deep.
931	Cut of ditch	Shallow sided – shallow concave base, linear cut, aligned c. NNW-SSE. > 2m long x 2.3m wide x 0.23m deep.
932	Fill of 933	Dark grey brown silty sand. Possible evidence of heating. 0.5m long x > 0.49m wide x 0.25m deep.
933	Cut of pit?	Sub-rounded, moderate sloping sides – concave base. 0.5m long x > 0.49m wide x 0.25m deep.
934	Fill of 935	Dark grey brown silty sand. Possible evidence of heating. 0.65m long x > 0.6m wide x 0.12m deep.
935	Cut of pit?	Sub-rounded, moderate sloping sides – concave base. 0.65m long x > 0.6m wide x 0.12m deep.
936	Fill of 937	Mid brown silty sand with occasional small limestone gravels. 0.5m long x > 0.2m deep x 0.15m deep. Cut by 917.
937	Cut of pit	Sub-rounded, moderate sloping sides – flat base. 0.5m long x > 0.2m deep x 0.15m deep.
938	Fill of 939	Dark grey brown silty sand. 0.1m in diameter x 0.11m deep. Cut by 917.
939	Cut of posthole	Circular, vertical sided – concave base. 0.1m in diameter x 0.11m deep.
940	Fill of 941	Mid brown silty sand. 0.1m in diameter x 0.12m deep.
941	Cut of posthole	Circular, steep sided – concave base. 0.1m in diameter x 0.12m deep.
942	Fill of pit	Dark grey brown silty sand. Possible evidence of heating. >0.85m long x 1m wide x 0.24m deep. Cut by 905.
943	Cut of pit	Sub-rounded, moderate sloping sides – concave base. >0.85m long x 1m wide x 0.24m deep.
944	Fill of 945	Mid brown silty sand with occasional small limestone gravels. >

		1.9m long x 1.5m wide x 0.2m deep.
945	Cut of ditch	Shallow sided – shallow concave base, linear cut, aligned <i>c.</i> NNW-SSE. > 1.9m long x 1.5m wide x 0.2m deep.
946	Fill of 947	Mid brown silty sand with occasional small limestone gravels. > 1.9m long x 1.94m wide x 0.14m deep. Cut by 929.
947	Cut of ditch	Shallow sided – shallow concave base, linear cut, aligned <i>c.</i> NNW-SSE. > 1.9m long x 1.94m wide x 0.14m deep.
948	1 st Fill of 911	Mid brown silty sand. > 0.65m long x 0.45m wide x 0.2m deep.
949	1 st Fill of 903	Mid brown silty sand with occasional small limestone gravels. 0.8m long x 0.6m wide x 0.3m deep.
950	Fill of 951	Mid brown silty sand with occasional small limestone gravels. 0.51m long x 0.37m wide x 0.16m deep. Cut by 907.
951	Cut of posthole	Sub-oval, moderate sloping sides – concave base. 0.51m long x 0.37m wide x 0.16m deep.

Trench 10: Ground level 10.49m – 10.50m AOD

Context No.	Type	Description
1000	Topsoil	Mid brown sandy silt with frequent small limestone gravels and occasional small flint gravels. < 0.38m thick.
1001	Fill of 1002	Mid brown sandy silt with occasional small limestone gravels. > 2m long x 1.55m wide x 0.12m deep.
1002	Cut of furrow	Shallow sided – shallow concave base, linear cut, aligned <i>c.</i> NNW-SSE. > 2m long x 1.55m wide x 0.12m deep.
1003	Fill of 1004	Mid brown sandy silt with occasional small limestone gravels. > 0.77m x 0.78m x 0.15m deep.
1004	Cut of pit/ ditch terminus?	Sub-rectangular, steep sided – flat base. > 0.77m x 0.78m x 0.15m deep. Cuts 1014.
1005	Fill of 1006	Mid brown sandy silt with occasional small limestone gravels. > 2m long x 0.86m wide x 0.19m deep.
1006	Cut of ditch	Shallow sided – shallow concave base, linear cut, aligned <i>c.</i> NE-SW. > 2m long x 0.86m wide x 0.19m deep.
1007	Fill of 1008	Mid greenish brown sandy silt with occasional small limestone gravels. > 2m long x 2.44m wide x 0.55m deep.
1008	Cut of ditch	Moderate sided – flat base, irregular linear cut, aligned <i>c.</i> NE-SW.
1009	Fill of 1010	Dark brown sandy silt with occasional small limestone gravels. 0.6m in diameter x 0.15m deep.
1010	Cut of pit	Moderate sloping sides – concave base. 0.6m in diameter x 0.15m deep.
1011	Natural	Light yellow brown sandy matrix with limestone gravels = Limit of Excavation.
1012	Fill of 1013	Mid brown sandy silt with occasional small limestone gravels. 0.14m in diameter x 0.2m deep.
1013	Cut of posthole	Circular, vertical sided – concave base. 0.1m in diameter x 0.18m deep.
1014	Fill of 1015	Mid brown sandy silt. 0.48m long x > 0.2m wide x 0.2m deep. Cut by 1004.
1015	Cut of posthole	Rounded, moderate sloping sides – concave-flat base. 0.48m long x > 0.2m wide x 0.2m deep.
1016	Fill of 1017	Dark brown sandy silt with occasional small limestone gravels. Possible evidence of heating. 0.74m long x 0.66m wide x 0.19m deep.
1017	Cut of pit	Sub-rounded, moderate sloping sides – concave-flat base. 0.74m long x 0.66m wide x 0.19m deep.

Trench 11: Ground level 10.59 – 10.69m AOD

Context No.	Type	Description
1100	Topsoil	Mid brown sandy silt with frequent small limestone gravels and occasional small flint gravels. < 0.38m thick.
1101	Interface	Mid orange brown silt-sand-gravel. < 0.1m thick.
1102	Natural	Light yellow brown sandy matrix with limestone gravels = Limit of Excavation.
1103	Cut of pit?	Shallow sloping sides – flat base. > 2m long x > 1.3m wide x 0.16m deep.
1104	Fill of 1103	Mid brown sandy silt with occasional small limestone gravels. > 2m long x > 1.3m wide x 0.16m deep. Cut by 1124.
1105	Cut of ditch	Steep sides – concave base, linear, aligned c. NW-SE. > 3m long x 0.8m wide x 0.16m deep.
1106	Fill of 1105	Mid – dark brown sandy silt with occasional gravels. > 3m long x 0.8m wide x 0.16m deep.
1107	(re) Cut of pit	Circular, steep sides – flat base. > 2m long x 2.44m wide x 0.45m deep. Cuts 1110.
1108	Fill of 1107	Dark brown black sandy silt with occasional gravels and rare small limestone slabs. > 2m long x 2.44m wide x 0.45m deep.
1109	Cut of pit	Sub-rounded, vertical sides – flat base. > 2m long x > 1.5m wide x 0.7m deep.
1110	Fill of 1109	Mid – dark brown sandy silt with moderate gravels. > 2m long x > 1.5m wide x 0.7m deep. Cut by 1107.
1111	Cut of ditch	Moderate sloping sides – narrow, concave base, linear, aligned c. NNW-SSE. > 2m long x 3.5m wide x 0.88m deep.
1112	1 st Fill of 1111	Waterlogged, dark grey-brown - black, silt-clay. > 0.75m long x 1.56m wide 0.28m deep.
1113	2 nd Fill of 1111	Re-deposited natural, light – mid orange brown, silt-sand-gravel. > 0.75m long x 2.5m wide x 0.14m deep.
1114	3 rd Fill of 1111	Mid – dark brown sandy silt with occasional gravels. > 0.75m long x 3.34m wide x 0.44m deep.
1115	4 th Fill of 1111	Mid brown sandy silt with occasional gravels. . > 2m long x 2.18m wide x 0.23m deep.
1116	Cut of pit?	Shallow, irregular plan – irregular-flat base. > 1m long x 0.32m x 0.18m deep.
1117	Fill of 1117	Dark brown sandy silt with occasional gravels. > 1m long x 0.32m x 0.18m deep.
1118	Cut of furrow	Shallow, moderate sloping sides – flat base, linear, aligned c. N-S. > 2m long x 1.6m wide x 0.15m deep.
1119	Fill of 1118	Mid brown sandy silt with frequent gravels. > 2m long x 1.6m wide x 0.15m deep.
1120	Cut of pit?	Shallow, irregular plan – irregular-flat base. 0.9m long x 0.74m wide x 0.1m deep.
1121	Fill of 1120	Mid brown sandy silt with frequent gravels. 0.9m long x 0.74m wide x 0.1m deep.
1122	Cut of gully	Shallow – flat base, linear, aligned c. E-W. > 3.4m long x 0.84m wide x 0.13m deep.
1123	Fill of 1122	Mid brown sandy silt with frequent gravels. > 3.4m long x 0.84m wide x 0.13m deep.
1124	Cut of ditch	Moderate sloping sides – flat base, linear, aligned c. N-S. > 2m long x 0.3m wide x 0.08m deep. Cuts 1104.
1125	Fill of 1124	Dark brown sandy silt with frequent gravels. > 2m long x 0.3m wide x 0.08m deep.

Trench 12: Ground level 10.55m – 10.56m AOD

Context No.	Type	Description
1200	Topsoil	Mid brown sandy silt with frequent small limestone gravels and occasional small flint gravels. < 0.4m thick.
1201	Natural	Light yellow brown sandy matrix with limestone gravels = Limit of Excavation.
1202	Fill of 1203	Dark brown sandy silt with occasional limestone gravels. 1.2m long x 1.04m wide x 0.17m deep.
1203	Cut of pit	Sub-rounded – oval, shallow sloping sides – concave base. 1.2m long x 1.04m wide x 0.17m deep. Cuts 1204.
1204	Fill of 1205	Dark brown sandy silt with occasional limestone gravels. > 1.65m long x 1.2m wide x 0.18m deep. Cut by 1203 and furrow.
1205	Cut of pit	Sub-rounded – oval, shallow sloping sides – concave base. > 1.65m long x 1.2m wide x 0.18m deep.
1206	Fill of 1207	Dark brown sandy silt. 0.8m long x 0.38m wide x 0.06m deep.
1207	Cut of pit	Elongated oval, shallow sloping sides – concave base. 0.8m long x 0.38m wide x 0.06m deep.
1208	Fill of 1209	Dark brown sandy silt with occasional limestone gravels. > 0.5m long x 0.19m wide x 0.11m deep.
1209	Cut of pit	Sub-rounded, shallow sloping sides – concave base. > 0.5m long x 0.19m wide x 0.11m deep.
1210	Fill of 1211	Dark brown sandy silt with occasional limestone gravels. 1.14m long x > 1.06m wide x 0.23m.
1211	Cut of pit	Sub-rounded, shallow-moderate sloping sides – concave base. 1.14m long x > 1.06m wide x 0.23m.
1212	Fill of 1213	Dark brown sandy silt with occasional limestone gravels. 1m long x > 0.92m wide x 0.08m deep.
1213	Cut of pit	Sub-rounded, shallow sloping sides – concave base. 1m long x > 0.92m wide x 0.08m deep. Cuts 1214.
1214	Fill of 1215	Dark brown sandy silt with occasional limestone gravels. > 0.85m long x > 0.77m wide x 0.08m deep. Cut by 1213.
1215	Cut of pit	Sub-rounded, shallow sloping sides – concave base. > 0.85m long x > 0.77m wide x 0.08m deep.
1216	Fill of 1217	Dark brown sandy silt with occasional limestone gravels. > 1.15m long x 0.9m wide x 0.08m deep.
1217	Cut of pit	Elongated sub-oval, shallow sloping sides – concave base. > 1.15m long x 0.9m wide x 0.08m deep.
1218	Fill of 1219	Dark brown sandy silt with occasional limestone gravels. > 5.2m long x > 1.7m wide x 0.41m deep. Cut by 1221.
1219	Cut of ditch	Straight sided – rounded end, shallow sloping sides – concave base. > 5.2m long x > 1.7m wide x 0.41m deep.
1220	Fill of 1221	Dark brown sandy silt with occasional limestone gravels. > 0.85m long x 0.85m wide x 0.14m deep.
1221	Cut of pit	Sub-rounded - oval, shallow sloping sides – concave base. > 0.85m long x 0.85m wide x 0.14m deep. Cuts 1218.
1222	Fill of 1223	Dark brown sandy silt with occasional limestone gravels. > 1.57m long x 1.42m wide x 0.12m deep. Cut by 1225.
1223	Cut of pit	Sub-rounded, shallow sloping sides – concave base. > 1.57m long x 1.42m wide x 0.12m deep.
1224	Fill of 1225	Dark brown sandy silt with occasional limestone gravels. 0.75m in diameter x 0.05m deep.
1225	Cut of pit	Circular, shallow sloping sides – concave base. 0.75m in diameter x 0.05m deep. Cuts 1222.
1226	Fill of 1227	Dark brown sandy silt with occasional limestone gravels. 1.52m long

		x > 0.7m wide x 0.23m deep.
1227	Cut of pit	Rounded, shallow sloping sides – concave base. 1.52m long x > 0.7m wide x 0.23m deep.

Trench 13: Ground level 10.50m – 10.52m AOD

Context No.	Type	Description
1300	Topsoil	Mid brown sandy silt with frequent small limestone gravels and occasional small flint gravels. < 0.42m thick.
1301	Interface	Mid orange brown silt-sand-gravel. < 0.08m thick.
1302	Natural	Light yellow brown sandy matrix with limestone gravels = Limit of Excavation.
1303	Cut of pit	Shallow, irregular plan, irregular flat base. 1.98m long x > 1.1m wide x 0.12m deep.
1304	Fill of 1303	Mid brown sandy silt with occasional gravels. 1.98m long x > 1.1m wide x 0.12m deep.
1305	Cut of pit	Irregular plan, moderate sloping sides – concave base. 1.85m long x 0.96m wide x 0.28m deep.
1306	Fill of 1305	Light - mid brown sandy silt with occasional gravels and rare limestone fragments. 1.85m long x 0.96m wide x 0.28m deep.
1307	Cut of ditch	Moderate sloping sides – concave base, linear, aligned c. E-W. > 2m long x 1.7m wide x 0.42m deep.
1308	Fill of 1307	Light - mid brown sandy silt with occasional gravels and rare limestone fragments. > 2m long x 1.7m wide x 0.42m deep.
1309	Cut of pit	Circular, steep sides – concave base. 1.42m long x > 0.6m wide x 0.24m deep.
1310	Fill of 1309	Mid brown sandy silt with occasional ash? and fired clay? 1.42m long x > 0.6m wide x 0.24m deep.
1311	Cut of ditch	Steep sloping sides – flat base, linear – narrowing to the west, aligned c. E-W. > 2m long x < 1.7m wide x 0.23m deep.
1312	Fill of 1311	Mid – dark brown sandy silt. > 2m long x < 1.7m wide x 0.23m deep.
1313	Cut of pit	Steep sides – irregular-flat base. > 2.5m long x > 2.5m wide x 0.38m deep.
1314	Fill of 1313	Dark brown sandy silt with occasional gravels. > 2.5m long x > 2.5m wide x 0.38m deep.
1315	Cut of pit	Sub-rounded, varying sides – flat base. > 2m long x 2m wide x 0.18m deep.
1316	Fill of 1315	Mid – dark brown sandy silt with moderate gravels. > 2m long x 2m wide x 0.18m deep.
1317	Cut of pit	Sub-rounded - rectangular, varying sides – flat base. > 2.5m long x 1.2m wide x 0.14m deep.
1318	Fill of 1317	Mid – dark brown sandy silt with moderate gravels. > 2.5m long x 1.2m wide x 0.14m deep.
1319	Cut of pit	Sub-rounded - rectangular, varying sides – flat base. > 2m long x 1.5m wide x 0.15m deep.
1320	Fill of 1319	Mid – dark brown sandy silt with moderate gravels. > 2m long x 1.5m wide x 0.15m deep.
1321	Cut of posthole	Shallow, circular, concave base. 0.46m in diameter x 0.1m deep.
1322	Fill of 1321	Light - mid brown silty sand with frequent gravels. 0.46m in diameter x 0.1m deep.
1323	Cut of pit	Shallow, circular, flat base. 1.48m long x > 0.46m wide x 0.08m deep.
1324	Fill of 1323	Mid brown sandy silt with occasional gravels. 1.48m long x > 0.46m wide x 0.08m deep.

Trench 14: Ground level 10.55 – 10.57m

Context No.	Type	Description
1400	Topsoil	Mid brown sandy silt with frequent small limestone gravels and occasional small flint gravels. < 0.38m thick.
1401	Interface	Mid orange brown silt-sand-gravel. < 0.1m thick.
1402	Natural	Light yellow brown sandy matrix with limestone gravels = Limit of Excavation.
1403	Cut of pit	Sub-rounded, steep sided – ‘stepped’ flat base. > 3m long x > 2.8m wide x > 0.5m deep – not fully excavated due to waterlogging.
1404	Fill of 1403	Dark brown sandy silt with rare limestone gravels and occasional limestone slabs. > 3m long x > 2.8m wide x > 0.5m deep – not fully excavated due to waterlogging. Cut by 1405?
1405	Cut of Grave A	Sub-rectangular, steep sided – flat base, aligned c. N-S. > 1.7m long x 1.02m wide x 0.24m deep. Cuts 1404?
1406	Fill of 1405	Mid-dark brown sandy silt with frequent flint and limestone gravels. > 1.7m long x 1.02m wide x 0.24m deep.
1407	Cut of pit	Sub-rounded, steep sided – flat base. > 2m long x 3.88m wide x 0.6m deep.
1408	Fill of 1407	Dark brown sandy silt with rare limestone gravels and occasional limestone slabs. > 2m long x 3.88m wide x 0.6m deep.
1409	Cut of posthole	Sub-rounded, vertical sided – concave base. < 0.48m in diameter x 0.14m deep.
1410	Fill of 1409	Mid-dark brown sandy silt with frequent flint and limestone gravels. < 0.48m in diameter x 0.14m deep.
1411	Cut of pit	Sub-rectangular, steep sided – concave base. > 1m long x 1.56m wide x 0.47m deep.
1412	Fill of 1411	Mid brown sandy silt. > 1m long x 1.56m wide x 0.47m deep.
1413	Cut of gully	Curvilinear, steep sided – concave base. > 2.1m long x 0.46m wide x 0.18m deep.
1414	Fill of 1413	Mid brown sandy silt. > 2.1m long x 0.46m wide x 0.18m deep.
1415	Cut of posthole	Circular, steep sided – concave base. 0.22m in diameter x 0.26m deep.
1416	Fill of 1415	Mid-dark brown sandy silt with frequent flint and limestone gravels. 0.22m in diameter x 0.26m deep.
1417	Cut of posthole	Circular, steep sided – concave base. 0.22m in diameter x 0.26m deep.
1418	Fill of 1417	Mid-dark brown sandy silt with frequent flint and limestone gravels. 0.22m in diameter x 0.26m deep. 0.22m in diameter x 0.26m deep.
1419	Cut of posthole	Circular, steep sided – concave base. 0.22m in diameter x 0.26m deep.
1420	Fill of 1419	Mid-dark brown sandy silt with frequent flint and limestone gravels. 0.22m in diameter x 0.26m deep.
1421	Cut of pit	Shallow, irregular oval, concave base. 1.1m long x 0.8m x 0.1m deep.
1422	Fill of 1421	Dark brown sandy silt with rare limestone gravels. 1.1m long x 0.8m x 0.1m deep.

Trench 15: Ground level 10.55m – 10.56m AOD

Context No.	Type	Description
1500	Topsoil	Mid brown sandy silt with frequent small limestone gravels and occasional small flint gravels. < 0.4m thick.
1501	Natural	Light yellow brown sandy matrix with limestone gravels = Limit of

		Excavation.
1502	Cut of Grave B	Sub-rectangular, steep sides – flat base. 2.2m long x 1.05m wide x 0.17m deep.
1503	Fill of 1502	Mid – dark grey brown, silty sand with rare gravels. 2.2m long x 1.05m wide x 0.17m deep. Cut by 1504.
1504	Cut of ditch	Moderate sloping sides – concave base, linear, aligned c. N-S. > 2m long x 0.85m wide x 0.34m deep. Cuts 1503.
1505	Fill of 1504	Mid – dark grey brown, silty sand with rare gravels. > 2m long x 0.85m wide x 0.34m deep.
1506	Fill of 1533	Mid brown sandy silt with frequent gravels. > 2m long x 4.3m wide x 0.3m deep.
1507	Cut of ditch	Shallow, moderate sloping sides – concave base, linear, aligned c. E-W. > 3m long x 0.6m wide x 0.16m deep.
1508	Fill of 1507	Mid brown sandy silt with occasional gravels. > 3m long x 0.6m wide x 0.16m deep. Cut by 1517, 1519 and 1521.
1509	Cut of ditch	Shallow, moderate sloping sides – concave base, linear, aligned c. N-S. > 3m long x 1.94m wide x 0.24m.
1510	Fill of 1509	Mid brown sandy silt with occasional gravels. > 3m long x 1.94m wide x 0.24m.
1511	Cut of ditch	Shallow, moderate sloping sides – concave base, linear, aligned c. N-S. > 2.2m long x 0.85m wide x 0.12m deep.
1512	Fill of 1511	Mid brown sandy silt with occasional gravels. > 2.2m long x 0.85m wide x 0.12m deep.
1513	Cut of pit ?	Steep sloping sides – flat base, plan unclear. > 0.6m long x > 0.4m wide x 0.2m deep.
1514	Fill of 1513	Mid brown sandy silt with occasional gravels. > 0.6m long x > 0.4m wide x 0.2m deep. Cut by 1517.
1515	Cut of pit ?	Steep sides – concave base, sub-rounded. 0.8m long x 0.7m wide x 0.32m deep.
1516	Fill of 1515	Mid brown sandy silt with occasional gravels. 0.8m long x 0.7m wide x 0.32m deep. Cut by 1517.
1517	Cut of pit	Shallow, sub-rounded – concave base. 1.2m long x > 0.55m wide x 0.1m deep. Cuts 1508, 1514 and 1517.
1518	Fill of 1517	Mid brown sandy silt with frequent gravels and fragments of fired clay. 1.2m long x > 0.55m wide x 0.1m deep.
1519	Cut of pit	Sub-rounded, steep sided – concave base. 0.85m long x 0.6m wide x 0.15m deep. Cuts 1508.
1520	Fill of 1519	Mid - dark brown sandy silt with fragments of fired clay. 0.85m long x 0.6m wide x 0.15m deep.
1521	Cut of gully	Shallow – concave base, linear, aligned c. E-W. > 1m long x 0.22m wide x 0.08m deep. Cuts 1508.
1522	Fill of 1521	Mid brown sandy silt with occasional gravels. > 1m long x 0.22m wide x 0.08m deep.
1523	Cut of ditch	Shallow sloping sides – concave base, linear, aligned c. NE-SW. > 2m long x 1.4m wide x 0.18m deep. Cuts 1526.
1524	Fill of 1523	Light - mid grey brown sandy silt with moderate gravels. > 2m long x 1.4m wide x 0.18m deep. Cut by 1533.
1525	Cut of pit	Circular, moderate sloping sides – flat base. 0.5m long x > 0.15m wide x 0.12m deep.
1526	Fill of 1525	Mid brown sandy silt with occasional gravels. 0.5m long x > 0.15m wide x 0.12m deep. Cut by 1523.
1527	Cut of ditch	Shallow sloping sides – flat base, linear, aligned c. NE-SW. > 1.9m long x 1.25m wide x 0.1m deep.
1528	Fill of 1527	Mid brown sandy silt with occasional gravels. > 1.9m long x 1.25m wide x 0.1m deep. Cut by 1533.

1529	Cut of ditch	Moderate sloping sides – flat base, linear, aligned <i>c.</i> N-S. > 2.2m long x 0.52m wide x 0.22m deep.
1530	Fill of 1529	Mid brown sandy silt with occasional gravels. > 2.2m long x 0.52m wide x 0.22m deep.
1531	Cut of	Moderately sloping sides – flat base, linear, aligned <i>c.</i> NE-SW. > 1.9m long x > 0.85m wide x 0.2m deep.
1532	Fill of 1531	Mid brown sandy silt with occasional gravels. > 1.9m long x > 0.85m wide x 0.2m deep.
1533	Cut of pit	Large moderate sides – flat base. > 2m long x 4.3m wide x 0.3m deep. Cuts 1524 and 1528.

Trench 16: Ground level 10.50 – 10.57m AOD

Context No.	Type	Description
1600	Topsoil	Mid brown sandy silt with frequent small limestone gravels and occasional small flint gravels. < 0.48m thick.
1601	Interface	Mid orange brown silt-sand-gravel. < 0.12m thick.
1602	Natural	Light yellow brown sandy matrix with limestone gravels = Limit of Excavation.
1603	Cut of pit	Sides of varying steepness – irregular-flat base. > 2m long x 3m wide x 0.22m deep.
1604	Fill of 1603	Mid orange brown slightly sandy silt with occasional small gravels. > 2m long x 3m wide x 0.22m deep.
1605	Cut of gully	Narrow, shallow sided – concave base, linear, aligned <i>c.</i> NW – SE. > 4m long x 1m wide x 0.08m deep.
1606	Fill of 1605	Mid orange brown sandy silt/gravel (re-deposited natural). > 4m long x 1m wide x 0.08m deep.
1607	Cut of ditch	Shallow sided – shallow concave-flat base, linear, aligned <i>c.</i> ESE-WNW. > 2m long x 1.4m wide x 0.25m deep.
1608	Fill of 1607	Mid orange brown slightly sandy silt with occasional small gravels. > 2m long x 1.4m wide x 0.25m deep.
1609	Cut of posthole	Circular, steep sided – concave base. 0.4m in diameter x 0.18m deep.
1610	Fill of 1609	Mid orange brown slightly sandy silt with occasional small gravels. 0.4m in diameter x 0.18m deep.
1611	Cut of ditch	Moderately steep sided – narrow flat base, linear, aligned <i>c.</i> ESE-WNW. > 2m long x 1.46m wide x 0.46m deep.
1612	Fill of 1612	Mid orange brown slightly sandy silt with occasional small gravels. > 2m long x 1.46m wide x 0.46m deep.
1613	Root disturbance	Irregular plan – irregular sides – irregular base. 1.06m long x 0.8m wide x 0.18m deep.
1614	Fill of 1613	Mid orange brown slightly sandy silt with occasional small gravels. 1.06m long x 0.8m wide x 0.18m deep.
1615	Cut of furrow ?	Shallow sided – irregular flat base, linear, aligned <i>c.</i> E – W. >2m long x > 3m wide x 0.3m deep.
1616	Fill of 1615	Mid orange brown slightly sandy silt with occasional small gravels. >2m long x > 3m wide x 0.3m deep.
1617	Cut of posthole	Circular, shallow sided – concave base. 0.68m in diameter x 0.1m deep.
1618	Fill of 1617	Mid orange brown slightly sandy silt with occasional small gravels. 0.68m in diameter x 0.1m deep.

Trench 17: Ground level 10.56m – 10.74m AOD

Context No.	Type	Description
1700	Topsoil	Mid brown sandy silt with frequent small limestone gravels and

		occasional small flint gravels. < 0.5m thick.
1701	Natural	Light yellow brown sandy matrix with limestone gravels = Limit of Excavation.
1702	Fill of 1703	Dark brown silty clay. Not excavated. Cuts furrow.
1703	Cut of pit	Circular in plan. < 0.8m in diameter. Not excavated.
1704	Fill of 1705	Dark brown silty clay. Not excavated.
1705	Cut of pit	Sub rounded in plan. > 0.5m wide. Not excavated.
1706	Fill of 1707	Dark brown silty clay. Not excavated.
1707	Cut of pit	Oval in plan. > 1.5m long x 1m wide. Not excavated.
1708	Fill of 1709	Dark brown silty clay. Not excavated.
1709	Cut of pit	Circular in plan. < 1.6m wide. Not excavated.
1710	Fill of 1711	Mid brown sandy silt with frequent small limestone gravels. > 4m long x 1.75m wide. Not excavated.
1711	Cut of furrow	Linear in plan, aligned c. NNW-SSE. Not excavated.

Appendix 3: Specialist reports

Boston Rd, Sleaford (EPBR08): the Iron Age and Romano-British pottery

R.S. Leary

530 sherds of Pre-Roman Iron Age and Romano-British coarse pottery (10480g. 7.83 estimated vessel equivalents) were recovered from the site. An archive catalogue was compiled for all the pottery according to the standard laid down by the Study Group for Romano-British Pottery (Darling 2004). Pottery was recorded detailing specific fabrics and forms, decorative treatment, condition, cross-joins/same vessel and was quantified by sherd count, weight and rim percentage values, giving estimated vessel equivalents. All the pottery from the site was catalogued in the archive and the stratified pottery was examined in order to date the features. Key groups are illustrated and catalogued below and unillustrated material is summarised. CLAU (City of Lincoln Archaeological Unit) and NRFRC (National Roman Fabric Reference Collection, Tomber and Dore 1998) fabric codes are included where possible.

The samian counts, weights and estimated vessel equivalents and dating are included in this report, in the discussion and the tables. The full samian report is given in Ward.

Pottery fabric descriptions

The fabric of the pottery was first examined by eye and sorted into fabric groups on the basis of colour, hardness, feel, fracture, inclusions and manufacturing technique. A sample of the sherds was further examined under an x30 binocular microscope to verify these divisions. The size of the sample was as large as was felt necessary for each fabric group.

Colour: narrative description only

Hardness: after Peacock 1977
soft - can be scratched by finger nail
hard - can be scratched with penknife blade
very hard - cannot be scratched

Feel: tactile qualities
smooth - no irregularities
rough - irregularities can be felt
sandy - grains can be felt across the surface
leathery - smoothed surface like polished leather
soapy - smooth feel like soap

Fracture: visual texture of fresh break, after Orton 1980.
smooth - flat or slightly curved with no visible irregularities
irregular - medium, fairly widely spaced irregularities
finely irregular - small, fairly closely spaced irregularities

laminar - stepped effect
hackly - large and generally angular irregularities

Inclusions:

Type: after Peacock 1977

Frequency: indicated on a 4-point scale - abundant, moderate, sparse and rare where abundant is a break packed with an inclusion and rare is a break with only one or two of an inclusion.

Sorting: after Orton 1980

Shape: angular - convex shape, sharp corners
subangular - convex shape, rounded corners
rounded - convex shape no corners
platey - flat

Size: subvisible - only just visible at x30 and too small to measure
fine - 0.1-0.25mm
medium - 0.25-0.5
coarse - 0.5-1mm
very coarse - over 1mm

Shelly and vesicular wares

The shelly wares were mostly brown with moderate, ill-sorted, medium to coarse shell and/or vesicles. Usually fairly hard with a rather soapy feel. It is often very difficult to assign undiagnostic sherds to a specific ware group and the coding reflects this difficulty.

CT undiagnostic shell-tempered and vesicular wares are coded CT when it is not possible to attribute them to the CTB or CTA group. *CLAU SHEL*.
CTA shell-tempered wares, probably a late shell-tempered ware. *CLAU CASH*
CTA2 Dales ware. *CLAU DWSH, NRFRC DAL SH*
CTA4 South Lincolnshire shell-tempered ware, Bourne/Greetham industry. *CLAU SLSH, NRFRC BOG SH*
CTB1 early shell-tempered ware. Usually thicker bodied than CTA2 and 4 and characteristically has brown margins and darker core. Some sherds could be Pre-Roman in date. *CLAU IASH*
CTG as CTB1 but grey. *CLAU IASH*
CTOX as CTB1 but oxidised. *CLAU IASH*

Grog-tempered wares

GTA8 grey/brown with grey core and orange/brown margins. Hard, smooth with slightly gritty feel. Moderate, ill-sorted angular and subangular argillaceous inclusions, sparse medium shell and moderate, medium, subrounded quartz. *CLAU NAT*

Grey wares

NVGW white with grey surfaces *CLAU NVGW*

GRA1 light grey throughout. Hard, smooth feel and fracture. Moderate fine quartz and rare, coarse black inclusions – iron rich *CLAU GFIN*

GRA2 medium grey with self slip. Hard. Smooth with fairly smooth fracture. Sparse, medium, fine, subangular quartz and rare, fine, rounded, grey inclusions – clay pellets? *CLAU GFIN*

GRA7 black with black core and brown margins. Hard and smooth. Rare, medium, subangular quartz and ?medium subvisible quartz. *CLAU PART*

GRB1 medium grey ware *CLAU GREY*

GRB1B medium grey ware as GRB1 with brown core *CLAU GREY*

GRB2 medium grey sometimes with brown margins with moderate, medium, well-sorted, subangular/subrounded quartz sparse, ill-sorted fine to coarse rounded white incl – reacts ?shell/limestone. Sparse, ill-sorted, fine to coarse subrounded black/brown inclusions. Finer than GRB6 below and grey rather than dark grey/brown. *CLAU GREY*

GRB3 light grey with core. Fairly hard, slightly sandy feel and finely irregular fracture. Subvisible, very fine quartz with sparse ill-sorted medium subrounded quartz. *CLAU GREY*

GRB4 gritty usually dark grey. Hard, gritty feel and hackly fracture. Abundant, moderately well-sorted, medium with some coarse subangular/subrounded quartz *CLAU GREY*

GRB5 light grey with slightly darker surfaces. Fairly hard, slightly sandy feel and finely irregular fracture. Moderate well-sorted, fine/medium quartz with sparse ill-sorted medium subrounded quartz. *CLAU SLGY?*

GRB6 dark grey/black with brown margins, sometimes brown core. Hard, gritty feel and hackly fracture. Abundant, moderately well-sorted, medium with some coarse subangular/subrounded quartz, rare white incl – shell. *CLAU GREY*

White ware

FLA1 cream with traces of self slip. Hard and smooth. Sparse, medium, subangular quartz and rounded, red/brown inclusions *CLAU CR*

FLA2. cream. Hard with smooth surfaces and irregular fracture. Abundant, well-sorted, medium, subrounded quartz and rare, ill-sorted, rounded and angular, fine to medium orange and black inclusions. *CLAU CR*

FLA2P as FLA2 but pink. *CLAU CR*

FLA3P pinkish cream, hard and slightly sandy with irregular fracture. Moderate, well-sorted, medium, subangular quartz and sparse, fine to medium, rounded, black/brown inclusions. ? *CLAU SLCR*

Fine wares

CC3 Cream with pale orange/brown colour coat. Smooth feel and fracture. Hard. Rare, fine subangular quartz, sparse ill-sorted fine to medium, rounded red

brown and white/cream inclusions. Possibly Central Gaulish colour coated ware 2 Tomber and Dore 1998 *NRFC CG CC2, CLAU CGCC*

NV Nene Valley colour-coated ware. This can be white with darker colour coat (NV1) or oxidised with darker colour coat (NV2) or greyish white with grey colour coat (NVG). Usually hard and smooth with finely irregular or smooth fracture but can be soft and powdery due to burial conditions. Well-sorted, moderate, fine quartz, sparse red, iron-rich inclusions and red and white clay pellets. *NRFC LNV CC, CLAU NVCC and NVGCC*

Mortaria

MH Fine-textured, cream fabric, varying from soft to very hard, sometimes with pink core; self-coloured or with a self-coloured slip. Inclusions usually moderate, smallish, transparent and translucent white and pinkish quartz with sparse opaque orange-brown and rarely blackish fragments; rarely white clay pellets (or re-fired pottery). The range in fabric is, in fact, quite wide, from that with virtually no inclusions to fabrics with a fair quantity and fabrics with hard, ill-sorted black inclusions. *NRFC MAH WH, CLAU MOMH*

The trituration grit after AD130-140 consisted of hard red-brown and/or hard blackish material (probably re-fired pottery fragments denoted in the catalogue by MH2), with only very rare quartz fragments. This grit is easy to recognize, but earlier mortaria usually have a more mixed trituration grit in which quartz and sandstone are normal components (MH1) and some early second-century mortaria seem to have entirely quartz trituration grit. The Mancetter-Hartshill fabrics of AD100-130 are variable in texture and tempering. It is also at this period when there is difficulty in distinguishing Mancetter-Hartshill, Little Chester and Lincoln.

MH/LINC White, hard and smooth fabric. Inclusions: moderate, very fine, subvisible white and pinkish quartz with sparse opaque orange-brown. Trituration grits: sparse quartz, flint, red sandstone and grey inclusion, c2-3mm. Mancetter-Hartshill or Lincoln. *NRFC MAH WH, CLAU MOMH or MOML*

Pre-Roman Iron Age

PQ1 dark grey with brown margins and core. Handmade. Hard and sandy feel with finely irregular fracture. Sparse, fine, subrounded quartz and rare, coarse, rounded grey inclusions and long thin vesicle. Two sherds were identified in this fabric which had clear finger marks on the inside and lacked throw lines. However this fabric shares some characteristics with GRB6 and finer versions of GRB6 belonging to the transitional group of the mid- to late first century. These sherds appear to come from near the base of a jar and it may be that hand working by the potter after throwing has resulted in an apparently hand made sherd

Fabrics and forms (

Ware	Fabric	Nos	Weight	EVES	Rel % nos	Rel % weight	Rel EVES
CT		17	140.7		3.1	1.3	
Late CT	CTA	1	19.6		0.2	0.2	
Late CT	CTA4	42	414.5	0.65	7.7	3.8	8.0
Late CT		43	434.1	0.65	7.9	4.0	8.0
Early CT	CTB1	30	462.5		5.5	4.3	
Early CT	CTG	1	19.3		0.2	0.2	
Early CT	CTOX	10	154.8		1.8	1.4	
Early CT		41	636.6		7.5	5.9	
GRB	GRB1	105	3002.1	1.58	19.2	27.8	19.5
GRB	GRB1B	17	252.9	0.61	3.1	2.3	7.5
GRB	GRB2	27	532.2	0.41	4.9	4.9	5.1
GRB	GRB3	1	2.3		0.2	0.0	
GRB	GRB4	12	129.5	0.6	2.2	1.2	7.4
GRB	GRB5	28	383.6	0.57	5.1	3.6	7.0
GRB	GRB6	49	907.8	0.58	9.0	8.4	7.2
GRB		239	5210.4	4.35	43.8	48.3	53.7
NVGW	NVGW	30	488.2	0.71	5.5	4.5	8.8
NVGW		30	488.2	0.71	5.5	4.5	8.8
GTA8	GTA8	8	163.2	0.32	1.5	1.5	4.0
GTA8		8	163.2	0.32	1.5	1.5	4.0
GRA	GRA1	4	174.5		0.7	1.6	
GRA	GRA2	6	78.5		1.1	0.7	
GRA		10	253		1.8	2.3	
Parisian	GRA7	4	10.2		0.7	0.1	
Parisian		4	10.2		0.7	0.1	
FLA	FLA1	40	127	0.4	7.3	1.2	4.9
FLA	FLA2	11	199	0.2	2.0	1.8	2.5
FLA	FLA2P	15	78.9		2.7	0.7	
FLA	FLA3P	2	11.7	0.15	0.4	0.1	1.9
FLA		68	416.6	0.75	12.5	3.9	9.3
F	CC3	1	1.7		0.2	0.0	
F	NV	1	2.1		0.2	0.0	
F	NV1	12	181.4	0.46	2.2	1.7	5.7
F	NV1G	5	35.6		0.9	0.3	
F	NV2	9	75		1.6	0.7	
F		28	295.8	0.46	5.1	2.7	5.7
M	MH	2	893.4	0.38	0.4	8.3	4.7
M	MH/MLINC	1	409.7	0.21	0.2	3.8	2.6
M		3	1303.1	0.59	0.5	12.1	7.3
A		37	1098.9		6.8	10.2	
TS	CG	15	262	0.27	2.7	2.4	3.3
TS	EG	1	48		0.2	0.4	
TS		16	310	0.27	2.9	2.9	3.3

Ware	Fabric	Nos	Weight	EVES	Rel % nos	Rel % weight	Rel EVES
PQ		2	28.8		0.4	0.3	
Grand Total		546	10789.6	8.1	100.0	100.0	100.0

Table 1 and Figure 1)

Grey ware sherds made up the greatest proportion of the assemblage (Figure 1). This group was made principally of fabrics likely to have been made locally in south Lincolnshire and related to the early Nene Valley grey ware industry. The unsourced grey ware GRB1 and its variant GRB1B is likely to include local products and also wares from adjacent areas. Vessel types included jars, bowls and dishes based on the black burnished ware types including flat-rim bowls/dishes, bead rim bowls/dishes, a grooved-rim dish and everted-rim jars. In addition indented jar/beakers with everted rims, a regional form, and East Midlands burnished type wide-mouthed jars (Todd 1968b) were represented in this fabric group. Some GRB1 early types included rusticated ware, a flat-rim bowl related to the reeded-rim bowl series, and an early necked wide-mouthed jar with everted rim. The GRB1B group included a flat-rim bowl and a small everted-rim beaker. A rim in this fabric, sharply everted with expanded rim tip, resembled rims from butt beakers. The GRB2 fabric with its characteristic sparse calcareous inclusions was used to make small everted-rim beakers and rusticated ware and seems to be an early fabric group of the late first to early second century. The GRB5 may belong to the South Lincolnshire grey ware group identified by Barbara Precious and Maggi Darling (Precious 2001). Comparison with sherds in the City of Lincoln fabric collection suggested this fabric was close to CLAU fabrics SLGY. Fabric GRB5 was used to make an everted-rim beaker, a cavetto-rim jar and an indented jar/beaker with everted rim suggesting a date range in the later second to mid-third century. Fabric GRB4 has been noted by this author previously in Lincolnshire but its source is unknown. The forms made in this fabric included a BB1 type jar, a funnel-necked beaker, a folded jar/beaker with everted rim and a rebated-rim jar. These types would be consistent with a date range in the late second to mid-third century. GRB6 is very similar to material found in quantity in the Trent Valley at Bantycok and Rampton, Nottinghamshire and examined by the author. Lower Nene Valley grey ware was present in small numbers (around 5% of sherds numbers and weight, the larger amount by estimated vessel equivalent is due to a grave pot) suggesting human activity resulting in the ceramic sherds from the site did not date to the period from late second to the third century, particularly the early third century, when NVGW was most common. Two vessel forms were identified: a simple, wide-necked jar and a small beaker with everted rim (cf Perrin 1999, fig. 57 nos 33 and 31-2 respectively). Three sherds from a Parisian ware vessel were identified. These were in a black, fine fabric with brown margins and belonged to Elsdon's early group (1982). The edge of a stamp was visible inside the vessel suggesting it may have been a maker's mark. Two other fine grey ware fabrics were identified. These were unsourced and the sherds undiagnostic. The vessels in fabric GRB6 included a lugged large jar, rusticated jars, jars with rather everted rims, a carinated bowl with a cordon on the carination and burnished decoration and a dish with a plain rim. Most of the vessels indicate a date range in the late/mid first to early second century except the plain rim dish which is likely to be at least mid-second century in date. However it may be that the fabric of this sherd is a

variant of fabric GRB4. The diagnostic Nene Valley grey ware sherds came from a chamfered bowl/dish and a wide-mouthed jar of unknown type.

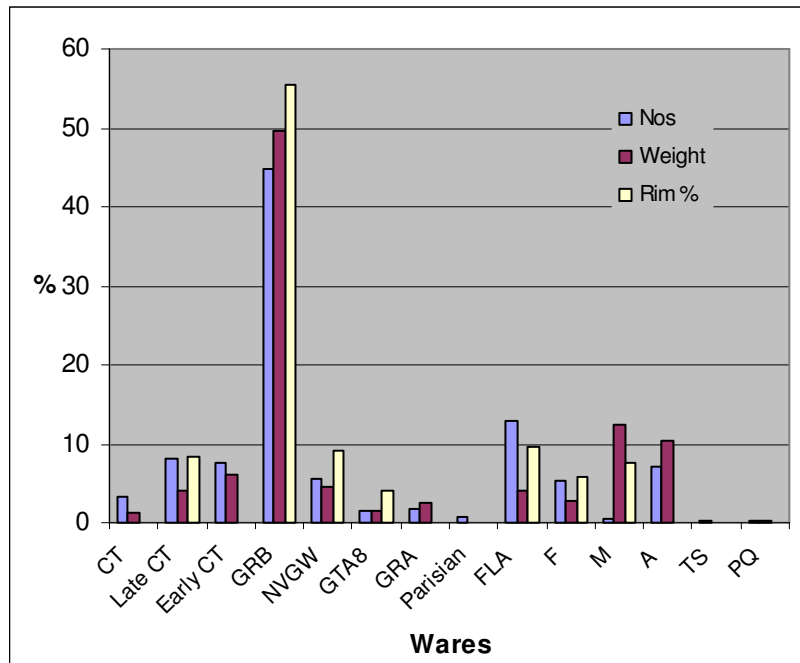


Figure 1 relative proportions of wares by sherds count, weight and rim % values

The early shell-tempered wares comprised undiagnostic jar bodysherds and bases and one CTOX sherd from the shoulder of a large storage jar. The late shell-tempered ware included two necked jars with a sharply everted and a bead rim and a dish/bowl with a grooved bead rim. The jars compare very well with the necked jars made at Bourne and Greetham with in-sloping necks. The dish/bowl is grooved on the top like a grooved flat-rim bowl of the late second to mid-third century and can be paralleled at Bourne (Samuels 1983 fig. 214 no. 61) and in a mid-third to early fourth group at Leicester (Clarke 1999, 131 fig. 71.193).

One grog-tempered jar was present, GTA8. This vessel had an everted rim and compared well with the jars identified by Todd in his Trent Valley group (1968a type) dated by him to the mid-late first century but surviving into the early second century in the Trent Valley.

Three or four white ware fabrics were present. The fine FLA1 ware was represented by body and basal sherds and one rim, a splayed ring necked flagon of the early second century. This vessel was abraded, severely burnt and was probably from a cremation pyre. A similar vessel in fabric FLA2 had rather more rounded rings and a slight internal cupping. This form is also likely to date to the early second century. No diagnostic sherds were found in the variant FLA2P but a small everted rim beaker was identified in FLA3P. FLA1 and FLA2 could be from kilns at Lincoln or in South Lincolnshire. FLA3P is quite a coarse vessel and might be very local in origin.

The fine wares came from two main sources: the Nene Valley industry and imported fine wares. The Nene Valley industry was well represented (5%) and included oval and slit folded, barbotine decorated and pentice moulded beakers and copies of samian form 36 and 38.

Amphorae were restricted to bodysherds of the Spanish Dressel 20 olive oil amphorae so common in Britain from the mid- first to third century. Mortaria were represented by several Mancetter-Hartshill mortaria and one vessel from there or possibly Lincoln. One large sherd came from vessel of early second century type with a stamp on either side of the flange. The stamp has been tentatively identified as Vitalis, a pottery from the Mancetter-Hartshill kilns, but this must be confirmed by the national stamp specialist Kay Hartley. Another fragment from the rim of a flanged mortarium is of Mancetter-Hartshill type dating to mid- to late second century and a third flanged vessel is of mid-second century form. This last vessel may be a Lincoln product.

Ware	Fabric	Nos	Weight	EVES	Rel % nos	Rel % weight	Rel EVES
CT		17	140.7		3.1	1.3	
Late CT	CTA	1	19.6		0.2	0.2	
Late CT	CTA4	42	414.5	0.65	7.7	3.8	8.0
Late CT		43	434.1	0.65	7.9	4.0	8.0
Early CT	CTB1	30	462.5		5.5	4.3	
Early CT	CTG	1	19.3		0.2	0.2	
Early CT	CTOX	10	154.8		1.8	1.4	
Early CT		41	636.6		7.5	5.9	
GRB	GRB1	105	3002.1	1.58	19.2	27.8	19.5
GRB	GRB1B	17	252.9	0.61	3.1	2.3	7.5
GRB	GRB2	27	532.2	0.41	4.9	4.9	5.1
GRB	GRB3	1	2.3		0.2	0.0	
GRB	GRB4	12	129.5	0.6	2.2	1.2	7.4
GRB	GRB5	28	383.6	0.57	5.1	3.6	7.0
GRB	GRB6	49	907.8	0.58	9.0	8.4	7.2
GRB		239	5210.4	4.35	43.8	48.3	53.7
NVGW	NVGW	30	488.2	0.71	5.5	4.5	8.8
NVGW		30	488.2	0.71	5.5	4.5	8.8
GTA8	GTA8	8	163.2	0.32	1.5	1.5	4.0
GTA8		8	163.2	0.32	1.5	1.5	4.0
GRA	GRA1	4	174.5		0.7	1.6	
GRA	GRA2	6	78.5		1.1	0.7	
GRA		10	253		1.8	2.3	
Parisian	GRA7	4	10.2		0.7	0.1	
Parisian		4	10.2		0.7	0.1	
FLA	FLA1	40	127	0.4	7.3	1.2	4.9
FLA	FLA2	11	199	0.2	2.0	1.8	2.5
FLA	FLA2P	15	78.9		2.7	0.7	
FLA	FLA3P	2	11.7	0.15	0.4	0.1	1.9
FLA		68	416.6	0.75	12.5	3.9	9.3

Ware	Fabric	Nos	Weight	EVES	Rel % nos	Rel % weight	Rel EVES
F	CC3	1	1.7		0.2	0.0	
F	NV	1	2.1		0.2	0.0	
F	NV1	12	181.4	0.46	2.2	1.7	5.7
F	NV1G	5	35.6		0.9	0.3	
F	NV2	9	75		1.6	0.7	
F		28	295.8	0.46	5.1	2.7	5.7
M	MH	2	893.4	0.38	0.4	8.3	4.7
M	MH/MLINC	1	409.7	0.21	0.2	3.8	2.6
M		3	1303.1	0.59	0.5	12.1	7.3
A		37	1098.9		6.8	10.2	
TS	CG	15	262	0.27	2.7	2.4	3.3
TS	EG	1	48		0.2	0.4	
TS		16	310	0.27	2.9	2.9	3.3
PQ		2	28.8		0.4	0.3	
Grand Total		546	10789.6	8.1	100.0	100.0	100.0

Table 1 Quantification of wares and fabrics

Taphonomy and conditions

The sherds showed some distinct patterns relating to their deposition history (Figure 1 and Table 2). Very small abraded sherds were recovered from trench 9 while trenches 9, 11 and 15 had high levels of brokenness. The material from trench 14 in particular had a large average sherd weight and low levels of brokenness suggesting the material from this trench was the freshest and least abraded.

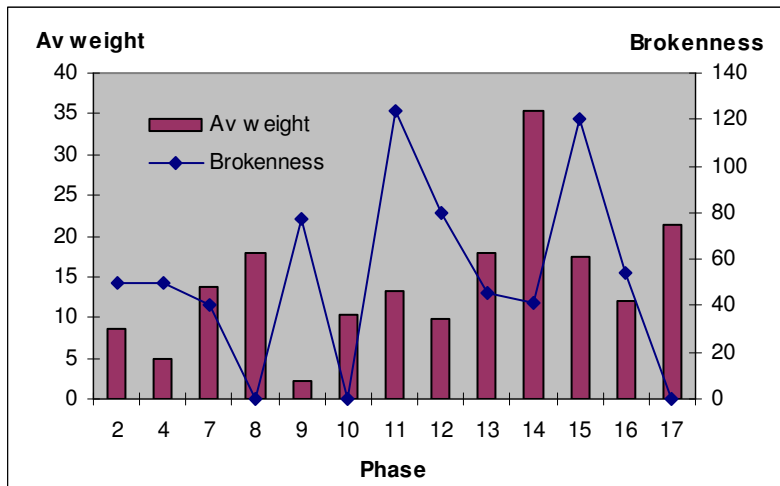


Figure 2 average sherd weight and brokenness (sherds count/estimated vessel equivalents) by trench

Significant amounts of stratified pottery were limited to trenches 11, 13, 14 and 15 with small amounts from single features in trenches 8, 9 and 12 and two features in trench 16. The processes resulting in sherd deposition varied through time and place. In trenches 14 and 15 cremation and inhumation graves were found. The rites being enacted resulted in intense burning of some vessels as pyre goods, causing cracking

and break-up into small discoloured scraps, and also in the preservation of some vessels as unburnt grave goods. These grave goods result in the high average sherd weight and low brokenness observed in trench 14 while the effects of the high temperatures within the pyre have resulted in the break up of the flagon in trench 9 giving a very low average sherd weight and high brokenness. Some pits appear to also have been used for the disposal of near complete vessels, perhaps used in the funerary rites or subsequent memorial feasts, for which we have accounts in Roman literature and evidence from other excavations. Heavily burnt material from trench 9 suggests that fragments of vessels relating to this activity were also deposited there.

Context	Description	Date range	Ceramic group	Nos	Weight	Rim %
1000	topsoil	L3-4	0	4	41.3	0
1007	Fill of ditch 1008	180-250	3	1	48	0
1100	topsoil	M2+	0	24	31.8	2
1104	fill of pit 1103	2	RB	3	9.6	
1106	fill of ditch 1105 (?)	M/L2-E3	3	9	65.9	6
1108	fill of pit 1107	L3-4 with sherds of the mid/late 2nd-3rd	4	124	1718	111
1112	1st fill ditch 1111	RB	RB	5	109.7	
1113	2nd fill of large ditch [1111]	120-160	2	2	10	0
1114	3rd fill ditch 1111	L3-4 with earlier material	4	11	118.6	27
1115	4th fill ditch 1111	170-200	3	2	266.5	0
1200	topsoil same as 700	Mid/late 2-?3	0	3	33.5	5
1220	fill of pit 1221	LPRIA- early RB	1	1	5.5	
1300	topsoil	L3-4 with earlier M1st and 2nd century sherds	0	14	359.7	20
1306	fill of pit 1306	L2-m3?	3	3	56.7	24
1308	fill of ditch 1307	M-L2	3	12	192.7	28
1312	fill of 1311 pit/ditch	M1-2	2	7	183	
1314	fill of pit 1313	L2-M3 + ?Med	3	15	126.2	41
1400	topsoil	4 with earlier material, L1-E2 and late 2nd	0	31	2279	64
1404	fill of large pit 1403	E-M2	2	61	2054	194
1406	fill of grave 1405	M/L2+	3	16	375.1	91
1408	fill of pit 1403	M/L2+	3	35	606.7	24
1412	fill of pit 1411	M2+	3	10	86.3	
1500	topsoil	L2-3	0	21	118	8
1503	fill of grave 1502	E-M2, after AD130	2	2	37	0
1506	occupation layer	LPRIA-early RB	1	2	48.1	
1508	fill of ditch 1507	E2 with one vessel pos L2-3	2	51	719.3	36
1510	fill of ditch 1509	M/L2, 140-180	3	2	439.7	21
1600	topsoil	L3-4	0	15	170.1	31

1604	fill of big pit 1603	L2-E3	3	8	124.7	8
1612	fill of ditch 1611	L2-3	3	8	80.2	18
1700	topsoil	120+ and Med	0	4	85.3	
200	topsoil	L2-4	0	2	17	4
400	topsoil	120-150	0	2	23.9	2
700	topsoil	150-200	0	2	27.4	5
800	topsoil	RB + MED	0	1	1.6	
802	fill of re-cut 803 of ditch 806	M/L2+	3	2	51.8	
932	fill of pit/ph 933	E2	2	31	67.4	40

Table 2 Quantification of pottery by trench and contexts with date ranges of assemblages (E= early, M=mid, L=late, RB= Romano-British, Med= mediaeval, +=or later, PRIA=pre-Roman Iron Age). Ceramic group 0 topsoil levels, RB- only broadly dated to Roman period, 1= late pre-Roman Iron Age or Conquest period, 2= mid/late first to mid-second, 3 = mid-second to mid-third and 4=late third to mid fourth.

Several vessel sherds were burnt, cracked and flaked due to the effect of heat. Although these were concentrated in trench 14, burnt sherds were present in other trenches also. Burnt sherds from a Dressel 20 oil amphora and a NV1 beaker were found in trench 11 contexts 1106 and 1108. The amphora sherds were flaked due to heat. Sherds from flagons from trench 9 context 932 and trench 13 context 1314 were severely burnt and may relate to cremation ceremonies. A burnt and flaked rusticated sherd from trench 15 may be related to the burial activity in that trench. In trench 14 evidence of scorching and burning were found in context 1404 on a white ware flagon, a small near complete beaker and a small incomplete beaker and a GTA8 jar. The mortarium from this context showed signs of wear. In context 1406 a rusticated jar was burnt and a near complete necked wide-mouthed jar bore a series of linear and curvilinear scratches on the neck and shoulder which may be graffiti which had some ritual significance. Context 1408 contained a burnt samian sherd from 18/31R or 31R dish dated to AD150-180. Two burnt grey ware sherds came from context 1412, one of which appeared to be heat affected inside the body, suggesting it may have broken on the pyre. An indented beaker in GRB4 grey ware from trench 13 1306 would be of a significantly later date than the burial activity and the surface flaking on this vessel looks, although possibly caused by changes in temperature, looks more like the effect of frost and seasonal freezing.

In addition many of the Nene Valley colour coated and grey wares had suffered from some sort of brownish staining resulting in a dirty fawn/cream core colouring. As this occurred on the white colour-coated wares it was assumed to be post-burial.

No sherds with burnt matter adhering were noted and this emphasises the non-domestic nature of the area excavated. One complete base and lower body of a jar in a shell-tempered ware had been modified by a large, slightly off centre perforation made in the base after firing. The perforation was c22mm x 30mm in size and was oval in shape. The vessel was either pre-Roman Iron Age in date or early Roman, around the middle of the first century AD.

Chronology

The ceramics indicate activity on the site from the late pre-Roman Iron Age or Conquest period until the fourth century AD (Figure 3). Most of the contexts belonged to the earlier part of Roman period from the Conquest to the late

second/mid-third century with the greatest number belonging to the early second to mid-third century. Only two contexts dated to the late third to fourth century, pit 1108 and ditch 1114 although further sherds of this date were recovered from the topsoil.

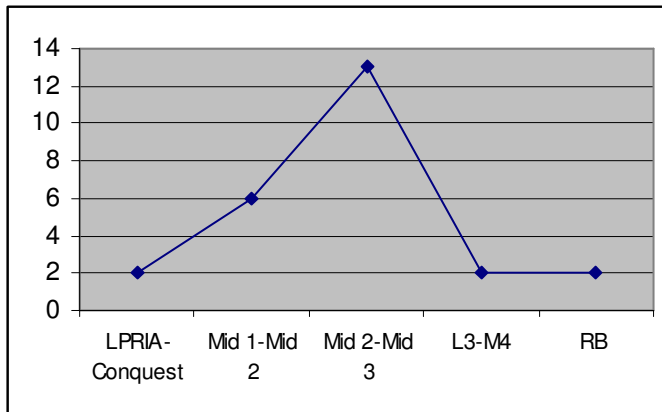


Figure 3 Numbers of contexts dated within broad chronological periods

Late pre-Roman Iron Age-Conquest period

Two contexts belonged to this period, occupation layer 1506 in trench 15 and fill 1220 in pit 1221 in trench 12. The two sherds from 1506 were both shell-tempered and included an oxidised shell-tempered sherd from the shoulder of a large, storage jar. These could belong to the late pre-Roman Iron Age and the absence of any later pieces makes this likely. However such forms and fabrics continued into the early Roman period in the mid-first century AD so a later date cannot be ruled out. A sherd from pit 1221 was in a similar oxidised shelly ware fabric and may also be of this early date or belong in the following chronological period.

In addition to these contexts, material from later contexts and the topsoil included a handmade jar base with a large, round, off centre, basal perforation from 1300, two PQ1 handmade sherds from 1406, sherds from a wide-mouthed vessel in 1114 of late pre-Roman Iron Age or mid-first century AD date, and a number of undiagnostic shell-tempered bodysherds which cannot be more closely dated than pre-Roman Iron Age to early Roman.

Mid-first to early-second century

Six contexts dated within the period from period from the Conquest to the early second century. Samian from fill 1113 in ditch 111 dated to AD120-60. Seven sherds from pit 1311 included a fine white ware flagon base. Such flagons date to the mid-first to second century and those present on the site were all of early second century type. The very fine fabric points to an earlier date in the possible range. The coarse fabric of three Dressel 20 scraps from here would also support an early date range. More tightly dated material came from the contexts in trench 14. The large pit 1404 contained a group of at least 17 vessels. These included parts of three flagons and one FLA3P beaker. One of the flagons had had its rim removed and the neck smoothed to

form a new plain rounded rim. A second flagon was represented by a rim and neck fragment from a ring-necked flagon with pronounced upper ring and cupped form. Such a form is likely to belong to the early second century. A small sherd from a CC3 roughcast beaker was present and at least two small GRB2 jars/beakers with short everted rims. These jars/beakers are not easily dated being simple types which did not change over time. Since Nene Valley colour-coated beakers were distributed in Sleaford in the mid- to late second century, a date prior to this trade might be appropriate. A further eight jars were represented, all had short everted rims and one was rusticated. Two non-adjoining sherds came from a jar found in grave 1405 with an everted, almost horizontal rim and the body seems to be indented with a shoulder groove. A thumb indented bodysherd in a similar fabric was found in the topsoil in this trench. Indented jars and beakers date broadly to the mid-second to third century. An example from north Lincolnshire comes from the Antonine kiln at Roxby (Stead 1976, fig. 68 no. 67). Jars with small round indentations like this vessel were made at kilns at Little London (Oswald 1937 58a), dated to the early third century by Buckland and Dolby (1980) Lea and Newton-on-Trent (Field and Palmer-Brown 1991 fig. 18 no. 29-30 and fig. 17 no. 15) dated to the second century. This vessel therefore suggests a date within the second century. Another jar was represented by a sherd from the upper body and beginning of the rim. This was similar to the neckless jars with short everted rims common at military kilns of the late first-early second century. The other jars had rims similar to "native" jars of the mid-first to early second century but were in grey and GTA8 wares rather than shell-tempered ware. Bodysherds from one shell-tempered jar were present. A GRB6 cordoned sherd may come from a beaker or bowl and belongs to a carinated and cordoned group made in the mid/late first to early second century. A good third of a stamped mortarium was present. The stamp has yet to be firmly identified by the relevant specialist but preliminary examination suggests this is a Mancetter-Hartshill pottery of AD100-140, perhaps Vitalis. The mortarium gives a date in the early second century and the other fabrics and forms would support this dating. These vessels point to a date range in the first half of the second century for this group. The absence of NVGW points to a date before its floruit in the mid-second to third century and probably before its manufacture from the second quarter of the second century.

In trench 15 grave 1502 yielded one small basal sherd from a jar in a GRB1 fabric with a fairly fine quartz temper and brown margins. Although this cannot be firmly dated its similarity to "transitional" fabrics in Leicester and the Trent Valley would make a date in the early Roman period, mid- to late first/early second century, appropriate if not certain. A samian sherd from this fill was dated to AD130-60 and probably after AD140. At least nine vessels were identified from ditch 1507. These comprised very abraded FLA2P sherds from a flagon, an everted rim from a GRB6 jar, of late first-early second century type, a large rusticated GRB6 sherd of the same date, CTB1 bodysherds from a jar of the same date range, the middle and lower body from a carinated bowl with cordoned carination and burnished wavy line decoration in GRB6, an everted rim, expanded at the tip, of a type typically found on butt beakers, bodysherds from a GRB6 closed vessel with zoned decoration of burnished lattice or oblique lines within two horizontal grooves, a GRA7 Parisian bowl with the edge of a stamp inside the body, perhaps a name stamp and six very abraded sherds in NVGW from a wide-mouthed shouldered vessel, probably a wide-mouthed jar. The presence of the NVGW sherds gave a *terminus post quem* in the early-mid second century but other vessels clearly belong to the mid-late first century. The transitional character of

the carinated bowl and the closed vessel with burnished lattice or oblique lines points to such as date on the ground of both details of the fabric and the forms. The everted rim, if correctly compared with butt beaker rims would be of a similar date. The rusticated jar dates to the late first to early second century. It seems likely therefore that the moderately abraded material belongs to the early fill of this ditch dating to the late first century while the very abraded NVGW sherds are perhaps later additions sometime after the second quarter of the second century.

Finally a post hole in trench 9, 932, contained 31 small fragments from a ring-necked flagon of early second century type. These were badly burnt, cracked and fragmented and this vessel is every likely to be one of the pyre goods relating to the cremation rites being carried out in the area.

Early second to mid-third century

The pottery from grave 1405 comprised most of a NVGW necked, wide-mouthed jar with everted rim. This belongs to a long-lived typological group but compares well with vessels dated to the mid/late second to third century (Perrin 1999 fig. 57 no. 33). The PQ1 bodysherds are residual prehistoric sherds or date to the mid-to late first century AD and abraded, burnt rusticated sherds of late first-early second century type may also be residual, derived from earlier cremation activity.

Pit 1403 contained sherds from at least eight vessels. A burnt samian sherd from a dish was present in this group. Two sherds from a Dressel 20 oil amphora were identified. An indented sherd may have come from the jar found in context 1404 and 1405, a type present in Trent Valley kilns of second to early third century date.. The rim and body of a bowl with flat rim is likely to belong to the reeded-rim bowl series of the late first-early second century rather than the BB1 type flat-rim bowls of cAD120-200AD. A wide-mouthed jar with curving everted rim has faint traces of lattice decoration on the shoulder. This vessel belongs to the second century. A chamfered base in a NVGW fabric would be dated to the second quarter of the second century at the earliest on present evidence (Perrin 1999, 78). This group dates to the second century. The linear shoulder decoration on the jar, the flat-rim bowl and the samian form point to a date in the early or mid-second century. The sherds from pit 1411 were less easy to date precisely as they were bodysherds of GRB1, GRB2, NVGW, GRB6 and FLA1. However the presence of burnt sherds of GRB2 and GRB6 would suggest contemporaneity with the other features while the presence of NVGW indicates a date in or after the second quarter of the second century when this ware began to be made in the lower Nene Valley kilns (Perrin and Booth 1990, 41). This feature may be contemporary with grave 1405 cut through pit 1404.

Ditch 1105 contained a small group of nine sherds which included a small abraded fragment from a NVGW cornice rim beaker of the mid/late second to early third century, a very small scrap from a NV beaker (burnt) and a GRB1 everted rim probably from a necked carinated bowl/beaker, a type common in the late first-second century. This ditch was still open to receive ceramic debris in the mid/late second and perhaps as late as the early third century.

Three features in trench 13 belong to this phase. Eight sherds from ditch 1307 included a sherd from an NVGW bowl or dish, a NV beaker with traces of decoration en barbotine (cf Perrin 1999 fig 60 no. 118 dated late second- early third century, a jar with a curving everted rim, almost cavetto and an incomplete mortarium rim from a

flanged mortarium with the flange rising almost level with the bead rim, a type (cf Gillam 1970 no. 246, AD120-60). A date from the mid- to late second century can be suggested. A large sherd from a grooved rim bowl in CTA4 was found in pit 1306. The vessel had a rather beaded rim with the groove next to the inner lip. It can be paralleled at Bourne and (Samuels 1983 fig. 214 no. 61) and in a mid-third to early fourth group at Leicester (Clarke 1999, 131 fig. 71.193). The vessel is closer to the grooved flat rim bowls of the late second to mid-third century than the bead and flange bowls dating after cAD270 so the Leicester example may be a late occurrence. Also in the pit was a sherd from a funnel necked indented beaker dating from the second quarter of the third century typologically. These vessels point to a date in the first half of the third century. Pit 1313 burnt sherds from a FLA1 flagon may be residual from earlier cremation rites. An abraded rim and body sherd from a NV beaker came from quite a globular beaker with cornice rim and shoulder groove of a type often rouletted and dating to the second half of the second century to the mid-third century (Perrin 1999, 93). A small GRB1B beaker in this group with short everted rim would fit this date range. One large mortarium sherd from ditch 1509 dates typologically to mid-second century (Gillam 1970, no. 243, probably Antonine, M. Darling pers comm.) and compares well with the products of the Mancetter-Hartshill industry near Coventry although a source at Lincoln cannot be ruled out completely since mortaria from these two sources can be very similar during this period. A samian sherd from this context gave a *terminus post quem* of AD140-80. In trench 16 pit 1603 included a bead-rim bowl/dish as Gillam 1970 no. 225 dated late second to mid third century and a fragment from a NV beaker of at least mid/late second century date or later. Ditch 1611, also in this trench, included a sherd from a NV folded beaker and a CTA4 bead-rim jar from the South Lincolnshire kilns at Bourne and Greetham. Evidence from Empingham, Rutland and Morton, Lincs. demonstrates that these jars were present in the mid- to late second century (Cooper 2000, 75-6 and Precious) while Clarke record third century examples at Leicester (1999, 127-8 in phase 3 fig. 69 no 151 and phase 4 fig. fig. 69 no. 163, phase5c fig. 71 no. 193). The folded beaker was not scaled. Folded beakers appear in the mid-late second century and were popular through the third century. Without the rim they are harder to date but this sherd seems to come from a more elongated vessel rather than the earlier fat globular vessels and a date in the late second to mid third century would be the optimum range. A GRB1 flat-rim bowl/dish and concave bodysherd were also present and would be consistent with mid- to late second century date. An NV beaker base from 802, the re-cut of ditch 806, although not closely datable can be given a date range from the mid/late second century or later. A sherd from a samian mortarium from ditch fill 1007 was dated to AD 180-250.

Late third to fourth century

Two features contained much later pottery. Sherds datable to the late third or fourth century came from both pit 1107 and ditch 1111 although earlier types were also present. A bead and flange NV1 bowl from 1111 belongs to the late Nene Valley colour-coated ware range of the late third to fourth century and a small fragment from a long necked beaker with small bead rim is of similar date. The material from 1107 was quite abraded but included much of a South Lincolnshire shell-tempered jar, necked with bead rim and a very fine grey, colour-coated ware pentice-moulded beaker with zones of rouletting on the pentice moulding and on the neck. This very

fine vessel is the latest Nene Valley beaker form and belongs to the late third to mid fourth century (Perrin 1999, 97). Another beaker/jar with sloping neck, everted rim and folded body in fabric GRB4 resembled the funnel-necked beaker from 1306 in fabric and by analogy with the Nene Valley beakers would date to the late second/early third to late third century (Perrin 1999 94 no. 155). Other NV colour coated ware fragments from beakers or other closed vessels and a bowl or dish were present and NVGW bodysherds from jars and a wide-mouthed jar. These may indicate some accumulation in the third as well as in the first half of the fourth century.

Late Nene Valley colour-coated vessels were also present in the topsoil in trenches 11, 13, 14 and 16 in the form of bowl/dish fragment or late beaker types.

Status and function

The overall ratios of jars to tableware and the proportions of amphorae and samian (Evans 1993 and 2001, Willis 2005) all suggest the site is urban rather than rural in character and are consistent with the status of Sleaford as a small town. The activity represented in the excavated area clearly related to funerary rites and thus have particular characteristics relating to that function. Although the funerary character of the site would increase the amounts of tableware during the cemetery phase and may have increased the quantities of samian, the relatively high proportion of amphora cannot be readily explained by this nor would this account for the high proportion of bowls in the late groups. Thus a small town character is indicated by the assemblage.

Much of the pottery showed clear signs of a funerary function in the form of evidence for burning and scorching on the cremation pyres and of a function as an accompanying cremation urns and grave goods. This activity would appear to span much of the second century. Some earlier material was present for which a mid- to late first century might be suggested. Apart from pit 1220 and layer 1506 this material was included in later assemblages and the material from these two features was too sparse to provide certain dating. Some of the burnt material such as the rusticated wares had a date range spanning the late first to early second century so it is possible that some cremation may have taken place in the late first century. The group from 1404 is very likely to be a cremation related deposit of some sort, a pit where pyre goods were deposited. Several vessels appeared to be burnt, pyre goods including two small jars/beakers, with more than half of one of these being present as a single sherd, and a flagon with its rim broken off and the broken edge smoothed into a reworked rim. The group from 932 is also of this type comprising very badly burnt fragments from a flagon. The group from 1508 may, on the other hand, be domestic debris. This group included some early material, probably first century rather than early second century, and none of the sherds were obviously burnt although two may have been.

The large group from 1408 pit 1403 included several burnt sherds and these are related to the cremation rites. The vessels from this pit included burnt samian, dated AD150-80, almost certainly pyre goods and other debris which perhaps also related to funerary rites. The use of samian is of interest. Samian is rarely included on the pyre on cemetery sites and where present, the sites are predominantly military in character (Cool and Leary forthcoming). The grave pot found with the inhumation is somewhat later and, while NVGW was made from the second quarter of the second century, its *floruit* was in the late second to third century and it is in this period that this simple

bowl is likely to belong. The sherd from grave 1502 is probably residual. Burnt sherds of Dressel 20 amphora and a NV1 bowl/dish were present in context 1108 but their significance is not clear. The other assemblages did not have any sherd conditions relating to function and the area may have reverted to domestic usage sometime in the third century.

In terms of the overall functional make-up of the assemblages, the earliest group was too small to consider. There were marked differences over time however. During the mid-first to early second century the pottery from the site included few bowls or dishes but many beaker and flagons types. If the beakers (fine ware vessels) and small jar/beakers (coarse ware vessels) are combined there is an unusually high percentage, greater than for jars. This high ratio of flagons and beakers is in keeping with the burial rites being carried out on the site at this time. The presence of mortaria is not common on cemetery sites but is known and can be associated with the preparation of funerary and memorial meals. The absence of bowls and dishes suggest that the tablewares used in such feasts were not deposited within the excavated area.

In the mid-second to mid-third century groups bowls and dishes were represented, flagons were scarcer and were not represented by rim fragments. More fine beakers were represented. The greater number of fine ware beakers marks the start of trade in Nene Valley colour-coated wares. The large proportion of wide-mouthed jars seems to be related to their function as grave goods. A mortarium of this date was present but was not represented in the EVES total. The late third to fourth century group was rather too small for analysis but did show a rise in jars and bowls perhaps signalling a change in use of the site from funerary to domestic at this time or, more probably in the second half of the third century. The topsoil finds have a similar character with no rim sherds of beakers and flagons.

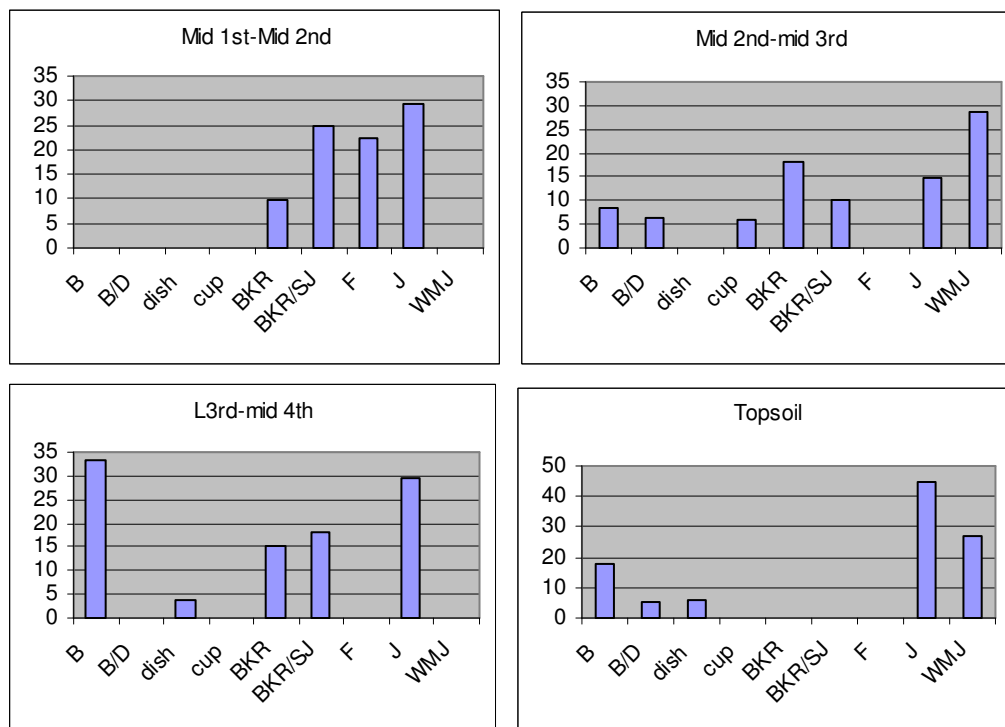


Figure 4 Relative proportion of vessel types by chronological groups (using EVES)

Trade and exchange (Table 3)

The small early group dating to late pre-Roman Iron Age or Conquest period is made up of shell-tempered ware for which a local origin can be suggested. In the mid-first-mid-second century group these are supplemented with grey wares. These were predominantly not Nene Valley grey wares and related types but other fabrics, probably predating the rise of that industry. Some 7% of the group continued to be made up of shell-tempered wares but to this were added 12% white wares (by weight) and 6% grog-tempered wares (only present in this group). Imported roughcast ware was present as was Parisian ware and Mancetter-Hartshill mortaria. This period shows a marked increase in traded and imported ceramic with both samian and Dressel 20 amphora present at around 2% and 3% respectively. In the mid-second to mid-third century the assemblage was altered by the arrival of the both Nene Valley grey wares and colour-coated wares. Nene Valley grey wares account for some 8-9% in both this and the following phase while the colour-coated wares make up 3-5% in the mid-second to mid-third century rising to 9-10% in the late third to fourth centuries as samian levels fall. Also present in the mid-second to mid-third century were the South Lincolnshire shell-tempered wares from Bourne and Greetham kilns, c2% by sherd weight and count and 7% by rim equivalents. This ware rises in the latest groups (18-28%) but only one vessel is represented so this may be misleading.

Recommendations

The group merits publication on account of the evidence for funerary rites in the second century alone. Well-published cemetery sites are uncommon in the region and this evidence adds to our understanding of the funerary customs practised at the settlement either side of the cremation to inhumation transition. The use of samian as pyre goods is of interest and further excavation may clarify the function of the unburnt samian. If publication in a local journal is anticipated 27 vessels should be illustrated which should be accompanied by a catalogue. If publication is intended the group could usefully be compared with other groups from Sleaford and the surrounding region largely contained in unpublished "grey" reports. Such "contextualising" of the assemblage is recommended should further work be undertaken.

The mortaria included a vessel with double stamp which could easily be firmly identified by Kay Hartley, the national expert for mortaria stamps, her opinion should also be sought on the source and date range of the rim from context 1510.

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		LPRIA-Conquest			Mid 1st-mid 2nd			Mid 2- mid 3			L3-M4			RB			Topsoil			Total		
Ware	Fabric	Nos	weight	Rim %	Nos	weight	Rim %	Nos	weight	Rim %	Nos	weight	Rim %	Nos	weight	Rim %	Nos	weight	Rim %	Nos	weight	Rim %
A	DR20				2.6%	0.9%		2.4%	20.1%		22.2%	30.7%								6.8%	10.2%	
A Total					2.6%	0.9%		2.4%	20.1%		22.2%	30.7%								6.8%	10.2%	
CT	CT	33.3%	36.0%					5.7%	1.7%		1.5%	1.0%		12.5%	3.0%		4.9%	1.8%		3.1%	1.3%	
CT Total		33.3%	36.0%					5.7%	1.7%		1.5%	1.0%		12.5%	3.0%		4.9%	1.8%		3.1%	1.3%	
Early CT	CTB1				2.6%	4.7%		0.8%	0.3%								20.5%	9.8%		5.5%	4.3%	
	CTG							0.8%	0.8%											0.2%	0.2%	
	CTOX	66.7%	64.0%		3.9%	2.2%		1.6%	2.2%											1.8%	1.4%	
Early CT Total		66.7%	64.0%		6.5%	6.8%		3.3%	3.3%								20.5%	9.8%		7.5%	5.9%	
F	CC3				0.6%	0.1%														0.2%	0.0%	
	NV							0.8%	0.1%											0.2%	0.0%	
	NV1							3.3%	2.6%	3.4%	5.2%	5.7%	23.2%				0.8%	0.4%	3.5%	2.2%	1.7%	5.7%
	NV1G										3.7%	1.9%								0.9%	0.3%	
	NV2							2.4%	0.5%		1.5%	0.9%					3.3%	1.4%		1.7%	0.7%	
F Total					0.6%	0.1%		6.5%	3.2%	3.4%	10.4%	8.5%	23.2%				4.1%	1.8%	3.5%	5.1%	2.7%	5.7%
FLA	FLA1				20.8%	2.7%	14.8%	6.5%	1.8%											7.3%	1.2%	4.9%
	FLA2				5.2%	6.1%	7.4%	0.8%	0.1%								1.6%	0.3%		2.0%	1.8%	2.5%
	FLA2P				5.8%	2.2%											4.9%	0.4%		2.8%	0.7%	
	FLA3P				1.3%	0.4%	5.6%													0.4%	0.1%	1.9%
FLA Total					33.1%	11.4%	27.8%	7.3%	1.8%								6.6%	0.6%		12.5%	3.9%	9.3%
GRA	GRA1										3.0%	9.5%								0.7%	1.6%	
	GRA2				3.9%	2.6%														1.1%	0.7%	
GRA Total					3.9%	2.6%					3.0%	9.5%								1.8%	2.3%	
GRB	GRB1				3.2%	2.7%		30.9%	16.9%	15.3%	9.6%	4.9%	7.2%	62.5%	78.5%		36.1%	72.9%	76.6%	19.3%	27.9%	19.5%
	GRB1B				4.5%	2.0%	7.0%	2.4%	1.3%	6.5%	3.7%	8.3%	18.1%				1.6%	0.2%		3.1%	2.3%	7.5%
	GRB2				8.4%	12.6%	15.2%	3.3%	1.7%		1.5%	0.4%					6.6%	3.0%		5.0%	4.9%	5.1%
	GRB4				1.3%	0.6%	7.4%	2.4%	0.8%	5.7%	3.7%	3.5%	18.1%	12.5%	2.1%		0.8%	0.8%		2.2%	1.2%	7.4%

		LPRIA-Conquest			Mid 1st-mid 2nd			Mid 2- mid 3			L3-M4			RB		Topsoil			Total			
Ware	Fabric	Nos	weight	Rim %	Nos	weight	Rim %	Nos	weight	Rim %	Nos	weight	Rim %	Nos	weight	Rim %	Nos	weight	Rim %	Nos	weight	Rim %
	GRB5				3.2%	2.0%	6.7%	12.2%	7.7%	14.9%	5.2%	6.4%					0.8%	0.3%		5.1%	3.6%	7.0%
	GRB6				17.5%	20.1%	10.0%	5.7%	2.2%	5.7%	0.7%	0.8%	3.6%				10.7%	6.3%	7.8%	8.8%	8.3%	7.2%
GRB Total					38.3%	40.1%	46.3%	56.9%	30.6%	48.3%	24.4%	24.3%	47.1%	75.0%	80.6%		56.6%	83.4%	84.4%	43.5%	48.2%	53.7%
GTA8	GTA8				5.2%	5.3%	11.9%													1.5%	1.5%	4.0%
GTA8 Total					5.2%	5.3%	11.9%													1.5%	1.5%	4.0%
Late CT	CTA CTA4							1.6%	2.3%	7.3%	28.1%	18.0%	26.1%	12.5%	16.4%		1.6%	0.8%	7.1%	7.7%	3.8%	8.0%
Late CT Total								1.6%	2.3%	7.3%	28.1%	18.0%	26.1%	12.5%	16.4%		1.6%	0.8%	7.1%	7.9%	4.0%	8.0%
M	MH MH/MLINC				0.6%	27.6%	14.1%	0.8%	1.8%								0.4%			0.4%	8.3%	4.7%
								0.8%	16.3%	8.0%							0.2%			0.2%	3.8%	2.6%
M Total					0.6%	27.6%	14.1%	1.6%	18.1%	8.0%							0.6%			0.6%	12.1%	7.3%
NVGW	NVGW NVGW?							8.9%	13.6%	27.2%	8.1%	5.1%					1.6%	0.8%		4.4%	4.3%	8.8%
					3.9%	0.9%											0.8%	0.1%		1.3%	0.3%	
NVGW Total					3.9%	0.9%		8.9%	13.6%	27.2%	8.1%	5.1%					2.5%	0.9%		5.7%	4.6%	8.8%
Parisian	GRA7				1.9%	0.3%					0.7%	0.1%								0.7%	0.1%	
Parisian Total					1.9%	0.3%					0.7%	0.1%								0.7%	0.1%	
PQ	PQ1							1.6%	1.1%											0.4%	0.3%	
PQ Total								1.6%	1.1%											0.4%	0.3%	
TS	CG EG				3.2%	4.1%		3.3%	2.3%	5.7%	1.5%	2.8%	3.6%				3.3%	0.9%	5.0%	2.8%	2.4%	3.3%
								0.8%	1.9%											0.2%	0.4%	
TS Total					3.2%	4.1%		4.1%	4.2%	5.7%	1.5%	2.8%	3.6%				3.3%	0.9%	5.0%	2.9%	2.9%	3.3%
Grand Total		3	53.6		154	3071.1	270	123	2520.5	261	135	1836.7	138	8	119.3		122	3169.5	141	545	10770.7	810

Table 3 Relative proportion of wares and fabrics with total sherd numbers, weights and estimated vessel equivalents given, includes samian.

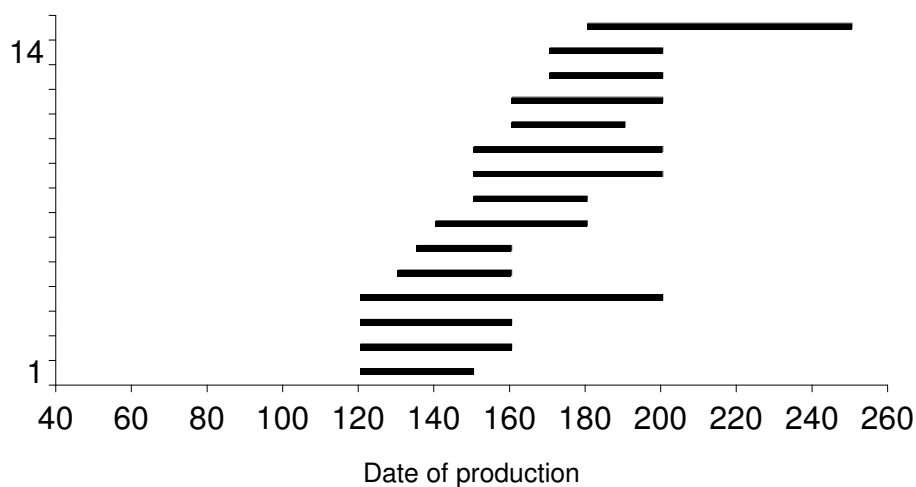
63	1400	CT	1	18.9	V	bodysherd																				
225	1404	CG	1	24			bowl, dec	0	0												Worn footing					
49	1404	GRB6	1	14.8	M	rim sherd	jar with short rather fat everted rim	J	16	10												y				
39	1404	GRB2	2	44	M	simple base sherd	plain	SJ/BKR					BR CRCK													
224	1404	CG	1	70				bowl, pln	0	0											Lower wall and worn footing of an exceptionally small bowl that was almost cup-sized (footring diameter 6 cm)					
12	1404	GRB2	2	130.8	M	profile	globular beaker with everted rim	SJ/BJR	8	41			BR CRK										y			
38	1404	GRB5	2	21.2	M	rim sherd	indented beaker/jar with rim everted almost horizontal	J/BKR	17	7												32	y			
37	1404	FLA2	1	16.7	A	rim sherd	ring-necked flagon with splayed neck and pronounced upper ring, rather rebated	F	9	20											different vessel to 10. Cf Marsh and Tyers 1B5 -Hadrianic			y		
36	1404	FLA2P	4	59	V	bodysherd	closed vessel	F													Probably different vessel to 10					
35	1404	DR20	1	20.3	V	bodysherd		A																		
34	1404	FLA2	4	22	A	bodysherd	flagon	F																10?		
33	1404	FLA2	1	31.9	A	handle	two ribbed	F																10		
15	1404	GTA8	8	163.2	V	rim sherd	jar with short everted rim as Trent Valley ware jars	J	18	32											surfaces mostly flaked off			y		
51	1404	FLA3P	2	11.7	A	rim sherd	globular beaker with everted rim	BKR	8	15														y		
14	1404	CTOX	6	66.1	M	bodysherd	closed vessel	J																		
52	1404	CC3	1	1.7	M	bodysherd	roughcast beaker	BLR																		
11	1404	GRB6	1	127.5	U	simple base sherd	plain	J													Complete base and half of lower part of body					
10	1404	FLA2	2	117.5	V	neck, handle and bodysherd	flagon	F					CRCK								Badly affected ?by burial conditions or exposure to weathering - joining sherd suggests rim has been cut off and neck smoothed over			33	y	
9	1404	MH	1	847	M	rim sherd	flanged mortarium	M	34	38			WRN								Two stamps to side of spout - double row ones stamped	Vitalis?	outside flange		y	
40	1404	GRB5	1	7.8	A	rim sherd	beaker with short everted rim	BKR	8	11															y	
44	1404	GRB1	1	24.3	M	bodysherd	neckless jar with short everted rim	J																		
43	1404	GRB1	1	6.9	A	bodysherd																				
41	1404	GRB2	5	32.3	V	bodysherd	rusticated jar	J													rusticated	nodular	outside body			
45	1404	GRB2	1	21	A	bodysherd																				
46	1404	GRB6	5	98.9	A	bodysherd	closed vessel	J																		
47	1404	GRB6	1	17.1	A	simple base sherd	angled base where body turns to form right angle wth base	J																		
48	1404	GRB4	2	19.1	M	rim sherd	jar with chunky everted rim with internal rebate	J	16	20															y	
50	1404	GRB6	1	3.7	U	bodysherd	closed vessel	BKR													cordoned	single	outside body			
42	1404	GRB5	2	33.9	M	bodysherd	closed vessel	J																		
32	1406	GRB5	1	85.5	M	rim sherd	beaker/jar with rim everted almost horizontal, probably indented	J/BKR	17	26											Very slight kink in wall may indicate beginning of indentation	groove	single	outside shoulder		38
31	1406	GRB6	4	10.5	A	scraps																				
30	1406	PQ1	2	28.8	M	bodysherd	closed vessel	J													HM					
29	1406	GRB1	3	30.3	A	bodysherd	rusticated jar	J					BR								rusticated	nodular	outside body			53

Context	Description	Date range	Ceramic group	Nos	Weight	Rim %	Context no
1000	topsoil	L3-4	0	4	41.3	0	0
1100	topsoil	M2+	0	24	31.8	2	0
1200	topsoil same as 700	Mid/late 2-?3	0	3	33.5	5	0
1300	topsoil	L3-4 with earlier M1st and 2nd century sherds	0	14	359.7	20	0
1400	topsoil	4 with earlier material, L1-E2 and late 2nd	0	31	2278.8	64	0
1500	topsoil	L2-3	0	21	118	8	0
1600	topsoil	L3-4	0	15	170.1	31	0
1700	topsoil	120+ and Med	0	4	85.3		0
200	topsoil	l2-4	0	2	17	4	0
700	topsoil	150-200	0	2	27.4	5	0
800	topsoil	RB + MED	0	1	1.6		0
400	topsoil	120-150	0	2	23.9	2	0
			0				0
1220	fill of pit 1221	LPRIA- early RB	1	1	5.5		1
1506	occupation layer	LPRIA-early RB	1	2	48.1		1
			LPRIA-Conquest				2
1113	2nd fill of large ditch [1111]	120-160	2	2	10	0	1
1312	fill of 1311 pit/ditch	M1-2	2	7	183		1
1404	fill of large pit 1403	E-M2	2	61	2054.4	194	1
1503	fill of grave 1502	E-M2, after AD130	2	2	37	0	1
1508	fill of ditch 1507	E2 with one vessel pos L2-3	2	51	719.3	36	1
932	fill of F pit/ph 933	E2	2	31	67.4	40	1
			Mid 1-Mid 2				6
1106	fill of ditch 1105 (?)	M/L2-E3	3	9	65.9	6	1
1115	4th fill ditch 1111	170-200	3	2	266.5	0	1
1306	fill of pit 1306	L2-m3?	3	3	56.7	24	1
1308	fill of ditch 1307	M-L2	3	12	192.7	28	1
1314	fill of pit 1313	L2-M3 + ?Med	3	15	126.2	41	1
1406	fill of grave 1405	M/L2+	3	16	375.1	91	1
1408	fill of pit 1403	M/L2+	3	35	606.7	24	1
1412	fill of pit 1411	M2+	3	10	86.3		1
1510	fill of ditch 1509	M/L2, 140-180	3	2	439.7	21	1
1604	fill of big pit 1603	L2-E3	3	8	124.7	8	1
1612	fill of ditch 1611	L2-3	3	8	80.2	18	1
802	fill of re-cut 803 of ditch 806	M/L2+	3	2	51.8		1

SLEAFORD, LINCS
EPBR08

The samian ware,
by Margaret Ward, MA MIFA

The sixteen sherds that were recovered from this site represented a maximum of 14 vessels (0.27 EVES, weight 310 g). Date-ranges for the maximum number of vessels are given on the following chart:



The forms represented are summarised on the following table.

Form	SG	CG	EG	Total
18/31 or 18/31R		2		2
18/31R		1		1
18/31R or 31R		2		2
31		2		2
33		1		1
37		3		3
44		1		1
45			1	1
ind	0	1		1
Total	0	13	1	14

Thus, apart from the one indeterminate sherd, there were seven dishes, one cup, one mortarium and (at least) three moulded bowls. One plain bowl of form 44, possibly an early example of the form, was so small as to be almost a cup. The moulded bowls comprised at least 21% of the collection – a large proportion that would suggest a high-status site. These moulded bowls included decoration by two Antonine potters, of whom one was Do(v)eccus i, who worked at Lezoux amongst the latest group to

export their wares to Roman Britain in the period c A 170-200. The second bowl with decoration surviving was also of Antonine origin; found in context (1400), its interior had been deeply scratched, apparently during use.

The single East Gaulish vessel was the mortarium, form 45, that may have been produced in the third century. After breakage, but before its final deposition in this location, this piece had seen considerable re-use upside-down in some secondary function. A dish in context (1510), an Antonine product, had seen at least an attempt at repairwork (drilled?), successfully or otherwise, through its base.

At least one vessel, that in (1408), and probably one sherd in (1108) that belonged to the bowl in the style of Do(v)eccus, had been burnt

Although a very small sample, this collection from this significant site had many points of considerable interest that warrant proper publication.

For present purposes, any information on the database provided for each context may be extracted and used as required.

MW, May 2008

INTRODUCTION TO THE EXCEL TABLE ENTRIES FOR SAMIAN

by Margaret Ward MA MIFA

The entries are ordered as follow:

Record No.
Context
Sherd No.
Contextual information
Fabric (South Gaulish, Central Gaulish or East Gaulish)
Products of **Les Martres-de-Veyre** in Central Gaul
Form (mostly Dragendorff's catalogue numbers)
Type of vessel eg dish, bowl, cup
Plain/stamped/decorated vessel
Weight (gms)
Potter's name
Comments (in note form)
Production **start-date** (of range)
Production **end-date** (of range)
Numbers of sherds
Numbers of vessels
Rim sherds (number)
Rim diameter in cms
Rim %
Footring sherds (number)
Complete or near-complete **vessel**
Condition (wear, graffito, repair, secondary use, burning)
Same as other sherds of the vessel

Abbreviations

SG, CG, EG denote South, Central and East Gaulish vessels
Ind denotes a sherd of indeterminate form

For other terminology, including form types, see:

Bulmer, M 1980 An introduction to Roman samian ware, with special reference to collections in Chester and the north-west, *J Chester Archaeol Soc* 62, for 1979, 5-72

Webster, P V 1996 *Roman samian pottery in Britain*, CBA Practical Handbook in Archaeology 13, York

Catalogue

Record	Trench	Context	Sherd No	Context info	Fabric	Les Martres	Form	Vessel type	Plain, Dec or Stamp	Weight	Potter	Comments	Start Date	End Date	Nos of sherds	Nos of vessels	Rim sherd	Rim %	Rim Diameter	Footring sherd	Complete profile	Condition	Same as	
1	4	400	1	Topsoil	CG		18/31 or 0 18/31R	dish	Pln	5		Rim fragment	120	150	1	1	1	2	0	0	0		0	
2	7	700	1	Topsoil	CG		0 31	dish	Pln	7		Abraded rimsherd Crumb lacking surfaces, produced at some point in the range c120-200 and Rheinzaubern ware, produced in the range c 180-250 and quite probably c200-240. The gritted base was very worn from use; its exterior was extremely worn within the footring below the base. Panelled decoration, rather blurred, containing draped female and Triton used in panelling with this large beaded border by Do(v)eccus i at Lezoux.	150	200	1	1	1	5	20	0	0	0	0	
3	10	1000	1	Topsoil	CG		0 ind	ind	Pln	1			120	200	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
4	10	1007	1	Sole fill of ditch [1008]	EG		0 45	mortarium	Pln	48			180	250	1	1	0	0	0	1	0	WS	0	
5	11	1108	1	Sole fill of re-cut of pit [1107]	CG		0 37	bowl, moulded	Dec	28	Do(v)eccus i.		170	200	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	B	1115	
6	11	1108	2	of re-cut of pit [1107]	CG		0 31	dish	Pln	24		Rimsherd	160	200	1	1	1	5	19	0	0	0	0	
7	11	1113	1	2nd fill of large ditch [1111]	CG		18/31 or 0 18/31R	dish	Pln	10		Adjoining flakes, not closely datable Panelling as on the sherd in (1108), which may be taken to be the same vessel though this is not	120	160	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
8	11	1115	1	4th fill of large ditch [1111]	CG		0 37	bowl, moulded	Dec	14	[Do(v)eccus i.]		170	200	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1108	
9	13	1308	1	of ditch	CG		0 33	cup	Pln	9		Rimsherd Fragment of panelled decoration including a hare: the beaded borders had rosette terminals. Probably the style of Paternus v or a contemporary in the period c160-185/190. The basal A large part of the lower wall and worn footring of an exceptionally small bowl (as this form ovf vessel is termed) that was	150	200	1	1	1	15	11	0	0	0		
10	14	1400	0	Topsoil	CG		0 37	bowl, dec	Dec	15	-		160	190	1	1	0	0	0	1	0	W	0	
11	14	1404	1	Sole fill of pit [1403]	CG		0 44	bowl, pln	Pln	70			135	160	1	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	
12	14	1404	2	of pit [1403]	CG		0 37	bowl, dec	Pln	24		Worn footring	120	160	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Catalogue

13 14	1408	"Large 0 pit" Fill of grave B	CG	18/31R 0 or 31R	dish	Pln	4	Considerably burnt flake from the lower wall (probably form 31R and c160-180 rather than Rimsherd, probably form 18/31R, c130-160 and probably early-Antonine Worn footring with an exceptionally high basal 'kick' that may suggest a developed form. A broken hole near the centre of the kick indicates that repairwork (drilled?) was	150	180	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0 B	0
14 15	1503	0 [1502]	CG	0 18/31R	dish	Pln	21		130	160	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
15 15	1510	Sole fill of ditch 0 [1509]	CG	18/31R 0 or 31R	dish	Pln	30		140	180	1	1	0	0	0	1	0	WR	0

Pottery Archive for EPBR08

Jane Young

trench	context	cname	full name	sub fabric	form type	sherds	vessels	weight	part	action	description	date
Trench 01	100	BL	Black-glazed wares	fine orange fabric	large jar/bowl	1	1	17	BS			18th to 19th
Trench 02	200	BERTH	Brown glazed earthenware	fine orange fabric	large bowl	1	1	25	BS			18th to 19th
Trench 02	200	LERTH	Late earthenwares		flowerpot	1	1	7	rim	discarded		19th to 20th
Trench 03	308	GRE	Glazed Red Earthenware	slightly sandy fabric	large bowl	5	1	90	rim & BS		worn inner rim edge;abraded;fabric incl occ flint	late 16th to early 18th
Trench 04	400	BERTH	Brown glazed earthenware	fine orange fabric	large jar/bowl	1	1	24	BS			18th to 19th
Trench 05	500	BL	Black-glazed wares	fine red fabric	jug	1	1	12	BS			late 17th to 18th
Trench 05	500	NOTGL	Light Bodied Nottingham Green Glazed ware		jug	1	1	2	BS		very abraded	13th to early/mid 14th
Trench 06	600	NOTGL	Light Bodied Nottingham Green Glazed ware		baluster jug	1	1	75	base			13th to early/mid 14th
Trench 06	600	TPW	Transfer printed ware		small bowl	1	1	3	BS	discarded		19th to 20th
Trench 06	600	TOY	Toynnton Medieval Ware	+ ca	jug	1	1	20	BS		abraded	late 13th to 16th
Trench 06	600	BOU	Bourne D ware	slightly sandy	jug/jar	1	1	2	BS		very abraded	15th to 16th
Trench 07	700	TB	Toynnton/Bolingbroke wares		jug	1	1	5	BS		? ID	mid 15th to 16th
Trench 08	800	NOTGL	Light Bodied Nottingham Green Glazed ware		small jug	1	1	2	BS		very abraded	13th to early/mid 14th
Trench 08	800	CIST	Cistercian-type ware		jug ?	1	1	5	BS		late	mid 16th to mid 17th
Trench 08	825	ENGS	Unspecified English Stoneware		small bottle	1	1	19	base	discarded		19th to mid 20th
Trench 09	900	BL	Black-glazed wares	fine orange fabric	large bowl	1	1	44	BS			18th to 19th
Trench 09	900	LERTH	Late earthenwares		flowerpot	1	1	7	BS	discarded		19th to 20th
Trench 10	1000	LERTH	Late earthenwares		flowerpot	1	1	8	BS	discarded		19th to 20th
Trench 10	1000	BL	Black-glazed wares	fine orange fabric	large jar/bowl	1	1	20	BS			19th to 20th
Trench 11	1100	BERTH	Brown glazed earthenware	fine orange fabric	jar/bowl	1	1	16	base			mid 17th to 18th
Trench 11	1100	LSW3	14th to 15th century Lincoln Glazed Ware		jug	1	1	10	BS		abraded	late 13th to mid 15th
Trench 12	1200	BL	Black-glazed wares	slightly sandy orange-brown fabric	large jar/bowl	1	1	202	base		common white incl	18th to early 20th
Trench 12	1200	LSW2/3	13th to 15th century Lincoln Glazed Ware		jug	1	1	32	base		abraded;thumbed basal angle	13th to 14th
Trench 13	1300	BL	Black-glazed wares	Staffs/Ticknall	large bowl	1	1	7	rim			late 17th to 18th
Trench 14	1400	NOTGL	Light Bodied Nottingham Green Glazed ware		jug	1	1	6	BS		very abraded	13th to early/mid 14th
Trench 14	1400	MEDLOC	Medieval local fabrics	OX/R/OX;med sandy + fe	jug	1	1	7	BS		very abraded;? Sleaford area sandy + fe	13th to 14th

trench	context	cname	full name	sub fabric	form type	sherds	vessels	weight	part	action	description	date
Trench 14	1400	POTT	Potterhanworth-type Ware		large jar/bowl	1	1	6	BS			13th to 15th
Trench 14	1400	LBLAK	Late Blackware (modern)		teapot/jar	1	1	4	BS	discarded		19th to 20th
Trench 14	1400	POTT	Potterhanworth-type Ware		jar/bowl	1	1	17	BS		abraded	13th to 15th
Trench 15	1500	NOTGL	Light Bodied Nottingham Green Glazed ware		jug	1	1	3	BS		very abraded	13th to early/mid 14th
Trench 15	1500	NOTGL	Light Bodied Nottingham Green Glazed ware		jug	1	1	2	BS		very abraded	13th to early/mid 14th
Trench 15	1500	CREA	Creamware		saucer	1	1	5	base	discarded		late 18th to mid 19th
Trench 15	1500	BL	Black-glazed wares	fine orange fabric	jar	1	1	12	BS			18th to 19th
Trench 15	1500	ENGS	Unspecified English Stoneware		large jar/flagon	1	1	39	base	discarded		19th to mid 20th
Trench 15	1500	BL	Black-glazed wares	fine red fabric	jar/bowl	1	1	11	base			18th to 19th
Trench 16	1600	ENGS	Unspecified English Stoneware		bottle	1	1	9	BS	discarded		19th to mid 20th
Trench 16	1600	BL	Black-glazed wares	fine red fabric	large bowl	1	1	11	BS			18th to 19th
Trench 17	1700	MEDLOC	Medieval local fabrics	OX/R/OX;med sandy + fe	small jug	1	1	17	base		abraded;? Sleaford area sandy + fe	13th to 14th
Trench 17	1700	LSW3	14th to 15th century Lincoln Glazed Ware		large jug	1	1	11	BS			late 13th to mid 15th

Ceramic Building Material Archive for Land North of Boston Road, Sleaford, Lincolnshire (EPBR08)

Jane Young

trench	context	cname	full name	fabric	frags	weight	action	description	date
Trench 03	308	PNR	Peg, nib or ridge tile	Fine sandy OX/R/OX	1	786		flat roofer;upper surface very poorly struck - only outer edges smooth - rest finely sanded;underside bedded on fine sand & poss cloth marks;mortar;corner;common fine-medium subround-round quartz moderate fe common fine ca	medieval to post medieval
Trench 05	500	BRK	Brick	coarse marbled fabric	1	54	discarded	handmade	late 18th to early 20th
Trench 05	500	BRK	Brick	fine marbled fabric	1	24	discarded	handmade	late 18th to early 20th
Trench 06	600	PNR	Peg, nib or ridge tile	fine orange sandy	1	69	discarded	flat roofer	19th to 20th
Trench 07	700	PNR	Peg, nib or ridge tile	fine oxid fabric some marbling	1	32	discarded	flat roofer	19th to 20th
Trench 08	800	PNR	Peg, nib or ridge tile	sandy oxid	1	34	discarded	flat roofer;fabric incl comm fe	18th to 20th
Trench 08	800	PNR	Peg, nib or ridge tile	fine marbled oxid	1	17		flat roofer	17th to 20th
Trench 08	800	BRK	Brick	fine marbled oxid	1	21	discarded	handmade;fabric incl comm fe	18th to 20th

trench	context	cname	full name	fabric	frags	weight	action	description	date
Trench 09	900	RID	Unidentified ridge tile	Fine sandy OX/R/OX	1	175		finely sanded underside;smooth struck upper;moderate fine-medium subround quartz moderate fe >4mm moderate fine ca sparse laminated pellets clay/shale some cream striations	medieval to post medieval
Trench 09	900	PANT	Pantile	fine light oxid fabric	1	77		corner;abundant very fine to fine quartz moderate medium-sized rounded moderate white clay specks to pellets some light clay striations;? ID;corner;fuel ash/glaze on ext surface	post medieval to early modern
Trench 09	900	PNR	Peg, nib or ridge tile	Fine sandy OX/R/OX	1	27		flat roofer;corner;common fine-medium subround-round quartz moderate fe common fine ca;smooth struck upper;finely sanded underside	medieval to post medieval
Trench 10	1000	PANT	Pantile	fine oxid	1	13	discarded		19th to 20th
Trench 11	1100	PNR	Peg, nib or ridge tile	fine oxid fabric some marbling	1	57	discarded	flat roofer	19th to 20th
Trench 11	1100	PNR	Peg, nib or ridge tile	fine oxid fabric some marbling	1	60	discarded	flat roofer;common white clay inclusions	19th to 20th
Trench 12	1200	BRK	Brick	coarse marbled fabric	1	42	discarded	handmade	late 18th to 20th
Trench 12	1200	PNR	Peg, nib or ridge tile	OX/R/OX sandy	1	37		flat roofer;fabric contains common shale;? Lincoln Fabric 1;very abraded	medieval
Trench 13	1300	PNR	Peg, nib or ridge tile	various fabrics	12	514	discarded	flat roofers	19th to 20th
Trench 14	1400	PANT	Pantile	coarse orange fabric	1	50	discarded	nib	20th
Trench 14	1400	MODTIL	Modern tile	fine red fabric	1	20	discarded		19th to 20th
Trench 14	1408	RTIL	Roman tile	fine OX/R/OX	1	45		probably a Tegula	Roman

trench	context	cname	full name	fabric	frags	weight	action	description	date
Trench 14	1408	RTIL	Roman tile	fine OX/R/OX	1	7		probably a Tegula	Roman
Trench 15	1500	RBRK	Roman brick	hard fired OX/R/OX	1	63		? ID or EMOD;abundant shale in fabric	Roman ?
Trench 15	1500	RBRK	Roman brick	hard fired OX/R/OX	1	45		fabric incl common fe	Roman
Trench 15	1500	PANT	Pantile	fine orange sandy	3	86	discarded	different tiles	19th to 20th
Trench 15	1500	RTIL	Roman tile	fine oxid	1	20		fabric incl common fe	Roman
Trench 16	1600	PNR	Peg, nib or ridge tile	fine oxid	1	82	discarded	flat roofer	late 18th to 20th
Trench 17	1700	PANT	Pantile	fine sandy	2	190	discarded		19th to 20th
Trench 17	1700	RTIL	Roman tile	near vitrified	1	164		fabric incl moderate ca;bedded on fine sand & abundant fine ca	Roman