



Northamptonshire County Council

Northamptonshire Archaeology

**A programme of archaeological work
during the construction of a
waste water treatment plant at
Saltfleetby St Peter, Lincolnshire**

June 2009

NGR: TF 429 903

Site code: SSP09

Accession No: LCNCC: 2009.33



Yvonne Wolfram-Murray

July 2009

Report 09/94

Northamptonshire Archaeology

2 Bolton House
Wootton Hall Park

Northampton NN4 8BE

t. 01604 700493 f. 01604 702822

e. sparry@northamptonshire.gov.uk

w. www.northantsarchaeology.co.uk



Northamptonshire
County Council



STAFF

Project manager: William A Boismier BA, MPhil, MA, PhD, MIfA
Text: Yvonne Wolframm-Murray BSc, PhD
Fieldwork: Yvonne Wolframm-Murray
Pottery: Paul Blinkhorn BTech
Illustrations: Pat Walsh BA

QUALITY CONTROL

	Print name	Signed	Date
Checked by	Iain Soden		
Verified by	Simon Carlyle		
Approved by	William A Boismier		

OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS		
Project name	A programme of archaeological work during the construction of a waste water treatment plant at Saltfleetby St Peter, Lincolnshire	
Short description	A programme of archaeological work was undertaken during groundworks connected with the construction of a new waste water treatment plant at Saltfleetby St Peter, Lincolnshire. Ridge and furrow, previously recorded through aerial photography, was identified. No other archaeological features or deposits were present.	
Project type	Strip, map and record with targeted watching brief	
Site status	Waste water treatment plant	
Previous work	None	
Current land use	Arable	
Future work	Unknown	
Monument type/ period	None	
Significant finds	None	
PROJECT LOCATION		
County	Lincolnshire	
Site address	Waste water treatment plant, Saltfleetby St Peter, Lincolnshire	
National grid reference	5429 3903	
Height OD	c 2m	
PROJECT CREATORS		
Organisation	Northamptonshire Archaeology (NA)	
Project brief originator	No brief	
Project design originator	NA	
Director/supervisor	Yvonne Wolfram-Murray	
Project manager	William A Boismier	
Sponsor or funding body	Anglian Water	
PROJECT DATE		
Start date	22 nd June 2009	
End date	26 th June 2009	
ARCHIVES	Location	Content
Physical	The Collection Museum, Lincoln; Accession No: LCNCC: 2009.33	15 pottery sherds (312g)
Paper	As above	Watching brief forms 7; colour slides 11; black and white negatives 11; digital photographs 38.
Digital	As above	Report text and figures

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**A PROGRAMME OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL WORK
DURING THE CONSTRUCTION OF
A WASTE WATER TREATMENT PLANT AT
SALTFLEETBY ST PETER, LINCOLNSHIRE
JUNE 2009**

Abstract

In June 2009, a programme of archaeological work was undertaken by Northamptonshire Archaeology on behalf of Anglian Water, during groundworks connected with the construction of a new waste water treatment plant at Saltfleetby St Peter, Lincolnshire. Medieval furrows, previously recorded through aerial photography, were identified. No other archaeological features or deposits were present.

1 INTRODUCTION

In June 2009, a programme of archaeological work, comprising strip, map and record excavation and targeted watching brief, was undertaken by Northamptonshire Archaeology (NA) during groundworks connected with the construction of a new waste water treatment plant at Saltfleetby St Peter, Lincolnshire (NGR TF 429 903; Fig 1). The work was carried out on behalf of Anglian Water following a specification produced by NA (Wolframm-Murray 2009).

2 BACKGROUND

2.1 Location and topography

The development area is located in arable fields on the north-western edge of Saltfleetby St Peter, Lincolnshire. It lies on ground that is flat to gently undulating at an approximate height of 2m aOD. The underlying geology has been mapped as alluvium overlying Cretaceous Upper Chalk (BGS 1980). Soils in the area belong to the Wallasea 2 (813g) Soil Association, comprising deep stoneless clayey soils, in places calcareous and silty (SSEW 1983).

2.2 Historical background

The Lincolnshire Historic Environment Record (LHER) was consulted so that the archaeological potential of the development area and its environs could be determined. A number of sites of archaeological interest are recorded in the surrounding area, including: a Bronze Age barrow (HER 44079) and Romano-British ditches (HER 46730), which survive as cropmarks, close-by at South Cockerington; and a Romano-British settlement (HER 46243) near Marside, Saltfleetby St Peter. There is evidence of medieval occupation at South Cockerington (HER 6158), along with medieval field systems at Saltfleetby St Peter (46232) and findspots of medieval pottery sherds (HER 43873 and 43871). A full list of the information held by the LHER in the vicinity of the development area is provided in Table 1 below.

Table 1: Summary of archaeological sites and findspots in the locality, as identified in the Lincolnshire Historic Environment Record

HER no.	NGR	Details
46158	TF 425 907	Medieval occupation site in South Cockerington
46730	TF 426 907	Romano-British ditches on land at South Cockerington
41266	TF 448 904	The Old Manor House, Saltfleetby All Saints
46243	TF 441 897	Romano-British settlement evidence on land southeast of Marside, Saltfleetby St Peter
46332	TF 448 906	Manor earthworks at Saltfleetby All Saints & Saltfleetby St Peter
43877	TF 440 907	Undated ridge and furrow
46232	TF 426 905	Field system in Saltfleetby St Peter
44079	TF 430 911	Barrow cropmark, South Cockerington (Bronze Age)
46249	TF 433 899	Earthworks at Saltfleetby St Peter
46270	TF 444 899	Earthworks in Saltfleetby All Saints
46271	TF 446 901	Earthworks in Saltfleetby All Saints
43873	TF 430 911	Two sherds of medieval pottery
43871	TF 443 905	A single sherd of late medieval pottery

3 OBJECTIVES AND METHODOLOGY

The aims of the programme of archaeological work were to:

- ◆ Observe the groundworks connected with the excavation of a lagoon, to be excavated as part of the waste water treatment site, and to record all archaeological deposits uncovered.
- ◆ Determine the date, character, state of preservation and depth of any archaeological deposits observed and to retrieve all datable artefacts.
- ◆ Create a permanent archive and record of the archaeological information collected during the course of the fieldwork and analysis.

The construction of the new waste water treatment site required the excavation of two lagoons (Fig 2), of which the smaller, deeper one was subject to a strip, map and record exercise followed by a targeted watching brief. Whilst the archaeological condition related only to the deeper lagoon the methodology employed by the contractors resulted in, and allowed for archaeological observation across the area of the larger shallower lagoon.

The groundworks were carried out using a combination of both 360° tracked and wheeled excavators fitted with toothless ditching buckets. The initial brief for archaeological work required the removal of both topsoil and subsoil within the area of the deeper lagoon to be conducted under archaeological control (strip, map and record) followed by a targeted watching brief. However following negative results during the removal of topsoil and subsoil the Historic Environment Officer for Lincolnshire agreed that no further archaeological work was required and the targeted watching brief was not undertaken. The strip map and record exercise was carried out in favourable conditions and the results are considered to be reliable.

A photographic record in both black and white negative and colour slide was kept, with supplementary photographs in digital format. The written record used Northamptonshire Archaeology *pro-forma* sheets. The watching brief was carried out in accordance with the Institute for Archaeologists' (IfA) *Standards and guidance for an archaeological watching brief* (2008) and followed the guidelines for archaeological work in Lincolnshire, as set out in the Lincolnshire Archaeological Handbook (LCC 2009).

4 THE RECORDED EVIDENCE

The natural substrate comprised mid orange/grey/blue compact alluvial clay with occasional small fragments of stone. This was cut by a total of seven furrows (Fig 2; Plate 2) that were set on a north-west to south-east alignment and extended across the development area. The furrows measured approximately 2.5m wide and were filled with dark grey/brown silt loam containing numerous small- to medium-sized chalk fragments and irregular stones. A number of modern ceramic land drains were also noted, cut into the natural substrate. Overlying both the natural substrate and the furrows was mid grey/brown silt loam subsoil, up to 0.30m thick, containing occasional irregular stones. This in turn was sealed by dark grey/brown silt loam topsoil, up to 0.10m thick containing occasional irregular stones. A small quantity of Roman and medieval pottery sherds was recovered from the furrows; no other archaeological deposits were present.

5 THE POTTERY by Paul Blinkhorn

A small quantity of pottery was recovered, comprising 15 sherds with a total weight of 312g. The assemblage was examined and where possible, the material was related to the coding system of the City of Lincoln Archaeology Unit type-series (Young and Vince 2005), as follows:

LSW1: Lincoln Glazed Ware, 12th – 13th century. 1 sherd, 3g.

POTT: Potterhanworth ware, early 13th – mid 15th century. 3 sherds, 34g.

TOY: Toynton Medieval ware, late 13th – late 15th century. 8 sherds, 234g.

TOYII: Late medieval Toynton ware, mid 15th – mid/late 16th century. 2 sherds, 16g.

BOU: Bourne 'D' ware, mid 15th – mid 17th centuries. 1 sherd, 15g.

Two sherds of residual Romano-British grey ware (10g) were also noted. The pottery occurrence by number and weight of sherds per context by fabric type is shown in Table 2 below. Each date should be regarded as a *terminus post quem*. The range of medieval fabric types is typical of this area of Lincolnshire and suggests that there was activity at the site from the later 13th – 16th centuries. All the pottery was slightly abraded, but the sherd size is generally fairly large, suggesting the soil chemistry rather than disturbance is to blame. Most of the assemblage comprised plain bodysherds, other than a handle from a jug and the base from a drinking jug, both in Toynton ware.

Table 2: Summary of pottery assemblage

Context	RB		LSW1		POTT		TOY		TOYII		BOU		Date
	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	
6&8	1	2			1	6	2	8	1	5			M15thC
9	1	8	1	3			1	106					L13thC
11							1	2	1	11			M15thC
13							2	4			1	15	M15thC
15					2	28	2	114					L13thC
Total	2	10	1	3	3	34	8	234	2	16	1	15	

6 THE SITE ARCHIVE

The project has generated a small archive comprising:

Record	Quantity
Watching brief forms	7
Colour slides	11
Black and white negatives (with contact print)	11
Digital photographs	38

The archive will be deposited with The Collection Museum in Lincoln, under accession number LCNCC:2009.33.

6 CONCLUSION

Evidence of medieval agricultural activity was present in the form of plough furrows, which had previously been identified from cropmarks shown on aerial photographs. A small quantity of medieval pottery was recovered from the furrows. Two residual sherds of Roman-British pottery were also recovered. No other archaeological features, deposits or artefacts were present.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

BGS 1980 *British Regional Geology: Eastern England from the Tees to the Wash*, 2nd edition, British Geological Survey, HMSO

IfA 2008 *Standards and guidance for an archaeological watching brief*, Institute for Archaeologists

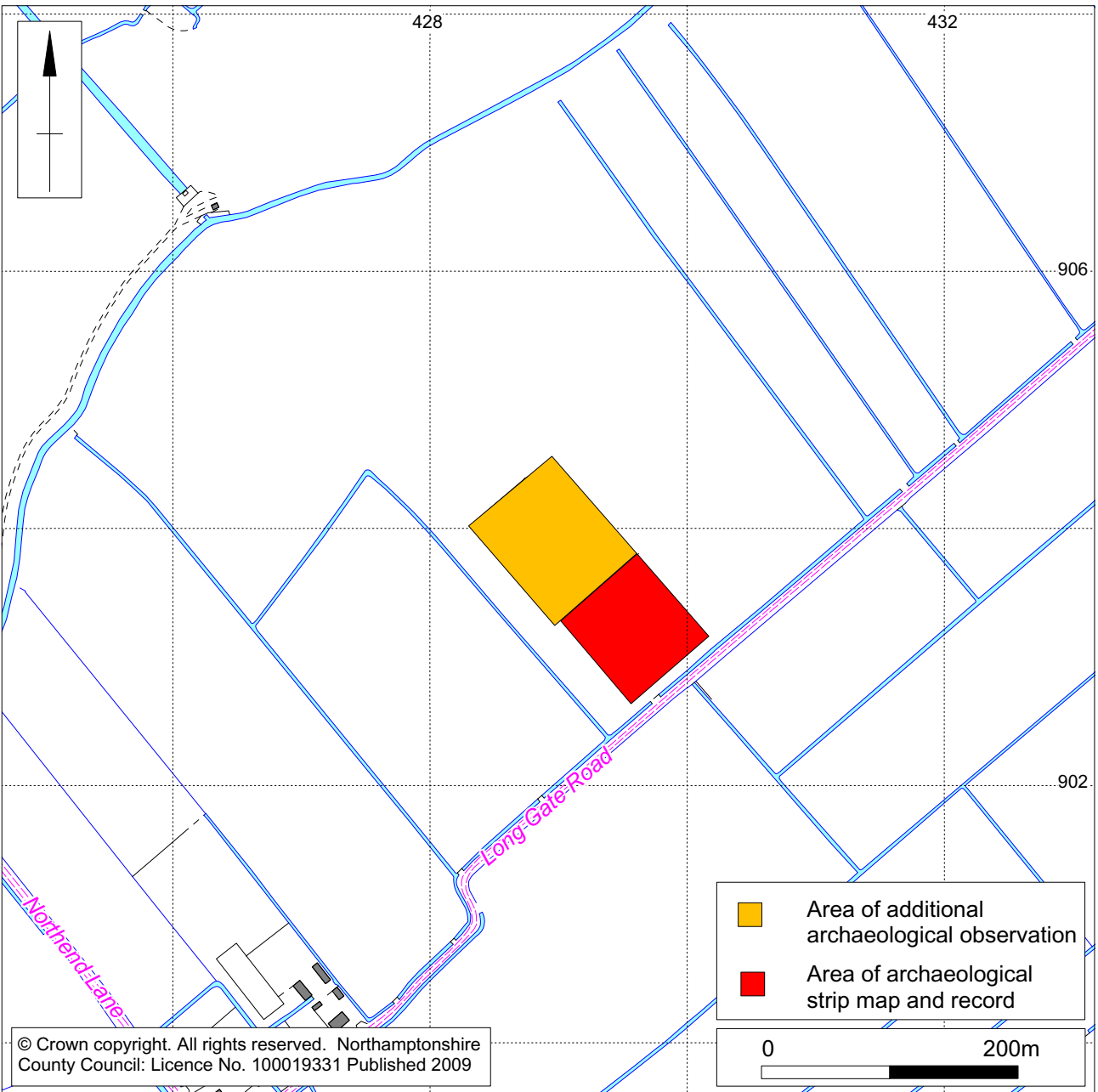
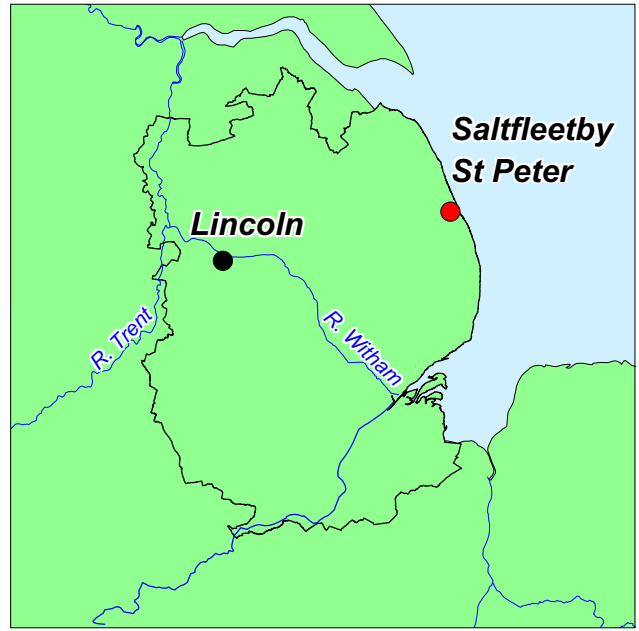
LCC 2009 *Archaeology Handbook*, Lincolnshire County Council

Wolfram-Murray, Y 2009 *Specification for a programme of archaeological works at Saltfleetby St Peter, Lincolnshire*, Northamptonshire Archaeology

Young, J, and Vince, A, with Nailor, V, 2005 *A Corpus of Anglo-Saxon and Medieval Pottery from Lincoln* Lincoln Archaeological Studies 7

Maps

SSEW 1983 *Soils of Eastern England*, Sheet 4, Soil Survey of England and Wales, 1:250,000



1:5000

Location of the development area Fig 1



1: 1500

Areas of archaeological investigation and recorded furrows Fig 2



Plate 1: General view of the groundworks



Plate 2: The development area with furrows on the left and right side of the picture



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