
**ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION
AT TOWN DAM LANE
DONINGTON
LINCOLNSHIRE
(DTD 17)**

Work Undertaken For
Ashwood Homes

November 2017

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

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**ARCHAEOLOGICAL
PROJECT
SERVICES**



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1. SUMMARY

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken on land at Town Dam Lane, Donington, Lincolnshire. This was in order to determine the archaeological implications of proposed development at the site.

The site lies close to the medieval (AD 1066-1540) village which is focussed on the Market Place. The site is likely to have lain within the open fields of the town. A Romano-British (AD 43-410) thoroughfare, the Salter's Way, passes close to the site, although there is little known evidence of associated settlement. Late Saxon (AD 850-1066) finds are also recorded from the general vicinity.

The evaluation identified a sequence of natural, post-medieval and recent remains. Post-medieval to modern ditches were recorded in several trenches with most containing ceramic drainage pipes.

Finds retrieved from the investigation include medieval and post-medieval pottery, the former perhaps deriving from manuring of the open fields. A small quantity of animal bone was also recovered.

2. INTRODUCTION

2.1 Definition of an Evaluation

An archaeological evaluation is defined as *'a limited programme of non-intrusive and/or intrusive fieldwork which determines the presence or absence of archaeological features, structures, deposits, artefacts or ecofacts within a specified area or site. If such archaeological remains are present Field Evaluation defines their character and extent, quality and preservation, and it*

enables an assessment of their worth in a local, regional, national or international context as appropriate' (CIFA 2015).

2.2 Planning Background

Archaeological Project Services was commissioned by Ashwood Homes to undertake a programme of archaeological investigation in advance of proposed development at Town Dam Lane, Donington, Lincolnshire, as detailed in Planning Application H04-0333-17. The evaluation was undertaken between the 2nd and 5th October 2017 in accordance with a written scheme of investigation prepared by Archaeological Project Services and approved by the Historic Environment Officer, Lincolnshire County Council.

2.3 Topography and Geology

Donington is situated 13km northwest of Spalding, in the administrative district of South Holland, Lincolnshire (Fig. 1).

The site is located 500m south of the centre of Donington as defined by the Market Place at National Grid Reference TF 2076 3522 (Fig. 2). Situated on the south side of Town Dam Lane, the site lies at a height of c. 3m OD on generally level ground of the south Lincolnshire Fens. The site encompasses some 2.5 hectares.

Local soils comprise the Wisbech Series, typically coarse silty calcareous alluvial gley soils (Robson 1990, 36). These are developed over a drift geology of younger marine alluvium (BGS 1984).

2.4 Archaeological Setting

Donington is located in an area of known archaeological remains dating from the Romano-British period to the present day. Donington lies on the eastern known end of the Romano-British thoroughfare, the

‘Salter’s Way’. This road once connected Donington to the Roman settlement of Saltersford, near Grantham, and beyond to Six Hills in Leicestershire (Margary 1973, 223). It follows the course of the current A52 until Horbling Fen, whereupon it takes a more southerly route until all traces of it vanish southeast of Donington. From Saltersford to Donington, the road is more sinuous than can be expected of a Roman road and it may follow the course of a prehistoric trackway (*ibid.*).

Considering that the apparent terminus of the Salter’s Way is located in Donington, there is a surprising dearth of known Romano-British sites in the vicinity, and no prehistoric or Romano-British sites are recorded in the vicinity.

Late Saxon pottery has been retrieved from investigations 360m (Rayner 2005) and 310m (Rayner 2006) to the north of the site. In both cases, the features and finds encountered were not suggestive of actual settlement.

Donington is first mentioned in the Domesday Survey of *c.* 1086. Referred to as *Donninctune*, *Donnintune* and *Duninctune* the name is derived from the Old English and means ‘the farmstead/settlement (*tūn*) belonging to *Dunn(a)*’ (Cameron 1998, 38). The Domesday Survey recorded that Donington was held principally by the Abbot of Peterborough with a share held by Count Alan as a berewick of Drayton. Extensive arable land is recorded along with 54 acres of meadow and 22 salt-pans (Foster and Longley 1976).

The core of the medieval town is likely to be focussed on the Market Place which was granted by King Henry III to John de la Rye and Peter of Savoy in the mid-13th century. The site itself is likely to have been located within the agricultural hinterland of Donington, although no evidence for either ridge and furrow or dyings have been

identified in proximity of the site.

3. AIMS

The aim of the evaluation was to gather sufficient information for the archaeological curator to be able to formulate a policy for the management of the archaeological resources present on the site.

The objectives of the work will be to:

- Establish the type of archaeological activity that may be present within the site.
- Determine the likely extent of archaeological activity present within the site.
- Determine the date and function of the archaeological features present on the site.
- Determine the state of preservation of the archaeological features present on the site.
- Determine the spatial arrangement of the archaeological features present within the site.
- Determine the extent to which the surrounding archaeological features extend into the application area.
- Establish the way in which the archaeological features identified fit into the pattern of occupation and land-use in the surrounding landscape.

4. METHODS

Six trenches, each measuring 40m by 1.6m were excavated to the surface of the

underlying natural geology. The location of the trenches was to provide sample coverage across the site (Fig. 3).

Removal of topsoil and other overburden was undertaken by mechanical excavator using a toothless ditching bucket. The exposed surfaces of the trenches were then cleaned by hand and inspected for archaeological remains.

Each deposit exposed during the evaluation was allocated a unique reference number (context number) with an individual written description. A list of all contexts and their interpretations appears as Appendix 1. A photographic record was also compiled and sections and plans were drawn at a scale of 1:10 and 1:20 respectively. Recording of deposits encountered was undertaken according to standard Archaeological Project Services practice.

The location of the excavated trenches was surveyed using survey grade differential GPS.

Following excavation, finds were examined and a period date assigned where possible (Appendix 2). The records were also checked and a stratigraphic matrix produced. Phasing was based on the nature of the deposits and recognisable relationships between them.

5. RESULTS

The results of the archaeological evaluation are discussed in trench order. Archaeological contexts are described below. The numbers in brackets are the context numbers assigned in the field.

Trench 1

The earliest deposit encountered in this trench was a natural layer of mottled grey and brown silt (1003). This was overlain by a layer of yellowish grey silt (1002), also

identified as natural and which measured 0.1m thick.

Sealing the natural deposits was the current topsoil comprising a 0.5m thick layer of greyish brown clayey silt (1001).

Trench 2

Natural deposits within this trench comprised a layer of yellowish brown and greyish brown silt (2002).

Towards the southern end of this trench was an east-west aligned ditch (2003). This was 2.9m wide and 0.8m deep (Fig. 5, Section 1; Plate 4). At the base of the ditch was a ceramic drainage pipe above which three fills were recorded. These comprised a lower fill of greyish brown silt (2004), followed by greyish brown silt (2005) and finally a fill of yellowish brown silt (2006). Residual pottery of medieval date was recovered from (2005).

Parallel to this ditch, some 15m to the north, was ditch (2008). This was 2.45m wide by 1.15m deep (Fig. 5, Section 2; Plate 5) and contained a single fill of greyish brown clayey silt (2007) overlying a ceramic drainage pipe.

Sealing both ditches was the current topsoil of greyish brown silt (2001) that measured 0.35m thick.

Trench 3

Natural was identified as a mottled grey and brown silt (3007).

Cutting the natural silts were two east-west aligned ditches. The southernmost ditch (3004) measured 2.65m wide and 0.55m deep (Fig. 5, Section 4; Plate 6). A drainage pipe lay at the base over which were deposits of brownish grey clayey silt (3003) and yellowish brown clayey silt (3002).

The northernmost ditch (3006) was 2.35m wide and 0.64m deep. A single fill of

greyish brown clayey silt (3005) above a drainage pipe was identified.

Topsoil comprised a 0.35m thick layer of greyish brown clayey silt (3001).

Trench 4

A natural layer of mottled grey and brown silt (4002) was overlain by a greyish brown clayey silt (4001) topsoil measuring 0.32m thick. No other deposits were identified in this trench.

Trench 5

The earliest deposit encountered was a natural layer of mottled grey and orange silt (5004). This was cut by an east-west aligned ditch (5003). Measuring over 0.85m wide and over 0.31m deep (Fig. 5, Section 6; Plate 8) it contained a single fill of greyish brown clayey silt (5002).

The trench was sealed by a topsoil of greyish brown clayey silt (5001) that was 0.5m thick.

Trench 6

The natural within this trench comprised yellow-orange clayey silt (6002).

An east-west aligned ditch (6003) was identified towards the south of the trench which was 1.8m wide and 0.6m deep (Fig. 5, Section 3; Plate 9). Two fills were recorded, a basal fill of greyish orange silty clay (6004) and an upper fill of greyish brown silt (6005). Pottery of post-medieval date was retrieved from (6005).

Sealing the ditch was a discrete deposit of greyish orange silt (6006) identified as a subsoil that was 0.13m thick.

Towards the centre of the trench was ditch (6010). Also aligned east-west, it measured 2.8m wide and 0.7m deep (Fig. 5, Section 7; Plate 11). It also contained a ceramic drain and was filled with greyish orange

silty clay (6011) and brownish grey silt (6012). Modern rubbish, including 20th century talcum powder tins, were retrieved but not retained from (6011).

A parallel third ditch (6007) lay at the northern end of the trench which was 3.35m wide and 0.95m deep (Fig. 5, Section 5; Plate 10). The ditch contained two fills above a ceramic drain, a greyish orange silty clay (6008) sealed by brownish orange silty clay (6009).

Sealing the ditches and the localised subsoil was topsoil, comprising a 0.38m thick layer of brownish orange silty sand (6001).

6. DISCUSSION

Natural deposits comprise clayey silts and silts of the underlying older marine alluvium.

Archaeological features were restricted to a series of east-west aligned ditches, revealed in all trenches apart from Trenches 1 and 4. The parallel nature of the ditches is similar to dylings, a system of ditches generally 20-25m apart. They are first recorded in the 14th century and appear to have been used to pasture sheep by creating higher land between the ditches (Hallam 1965, 152).

However, most of the ditches encountered during this work contained ceramic land drains indicating that they are probably 19th century and later in date, as evidenced by modern rubbish in their backfill.

Finds retrieved from the investigation include medieval and post-medieval pottery. Medieval pottery may have derived from a manuring scatter, indicating

7. CONCLUSIONS

An archaeological evaluation was

undertaken at Town Dam Lane, Donington, as the site lay on the periphery of the medieval town.

However, no medieval features were identified. Instead, a series of parallel large ditches that were dug to contain land drains were recorded. These are likely to be modern features, though some could be 19th century date.

Finds include medieval and post-medieval pottery and a small quantity of animal bone.

8. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeological Project Services wish to acknowledge the assistance of Mr B Gibson of Ashwood Homes for commissioning the fieldwork and post-excavation analysis. The work was coordinated by Paul Cope-Faulkner and the report was edited by Gail Graham. Elizabeth Bates kindly allowed access to the parish files and library maintained by Heritage Lincolnshire.

9. PERSONNEL

Project Coordinator: Paul Cope-Faulkner
 Site Staff: Denise Buckley, Maria Gale, Mark Peachey
 Finds Processing: Denise Buckley
 Photographic reproduction: Sue Unsworth
 Illustration: Paul Cope-Faulkner
 Post-excavation Analyst: Paul Cope-Faulkner

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11. ABBREVIATIONS

APS	Archaeological Project Services
BGS	British Geological Survey
CifA	Chartered Institute for Archaeologists



Figure 1 - General location plan

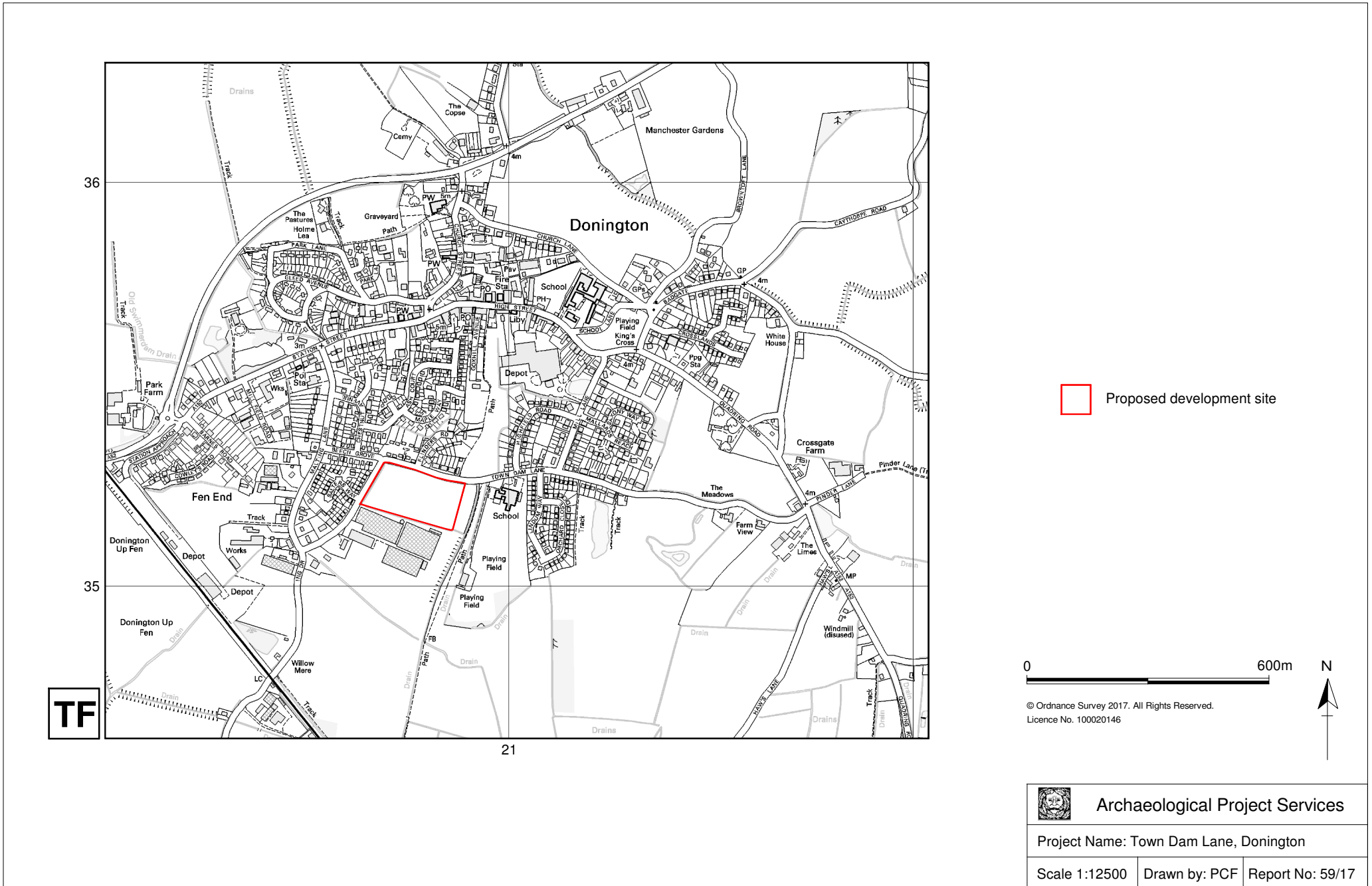
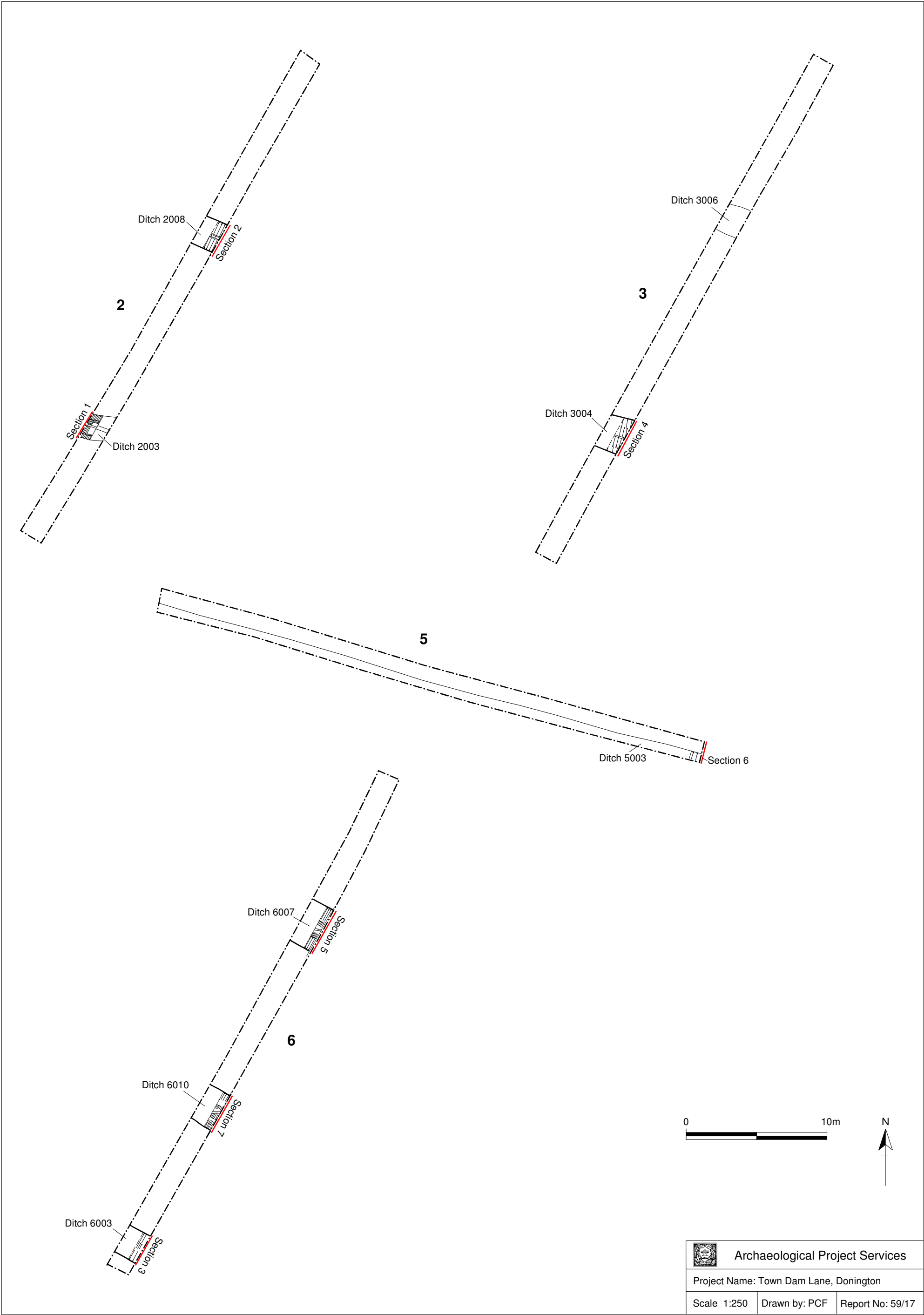


Figure 2 - Site location plan



Figure 3 - Trench location plan




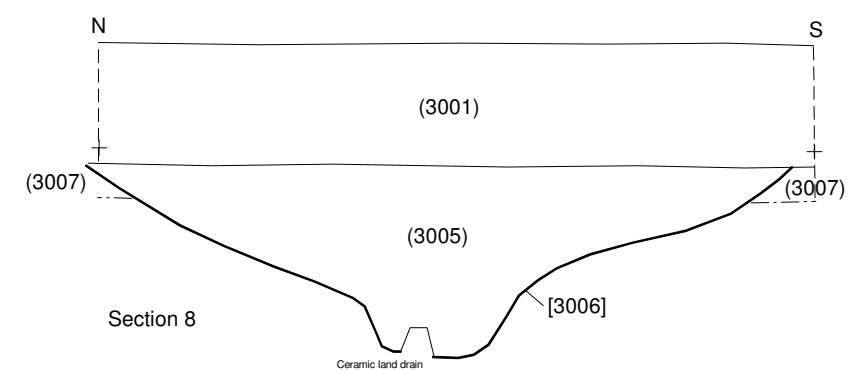
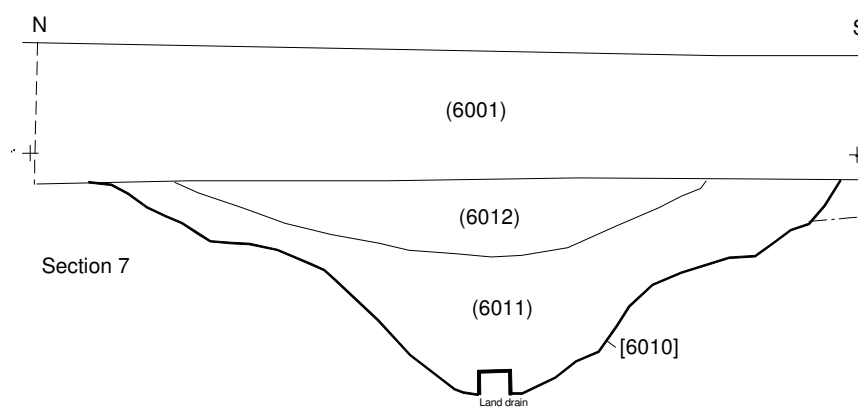
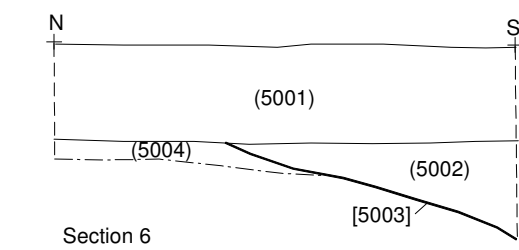
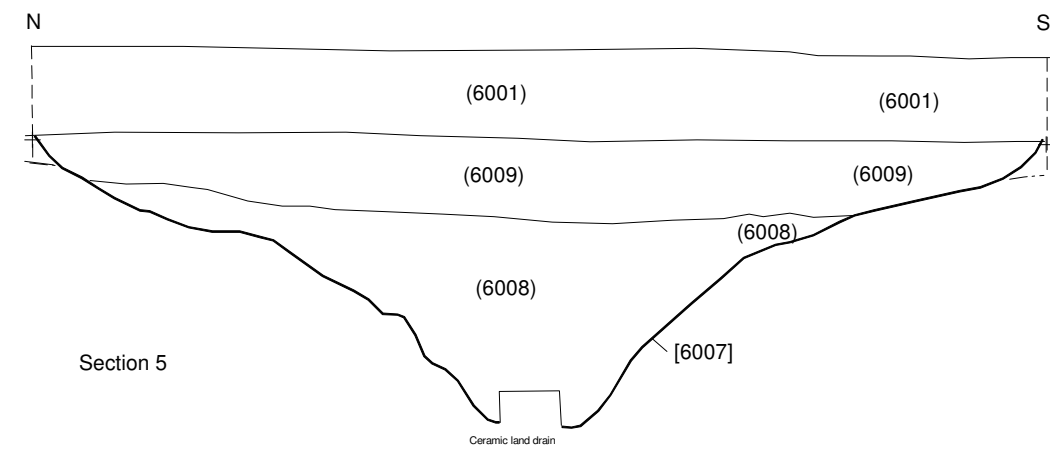
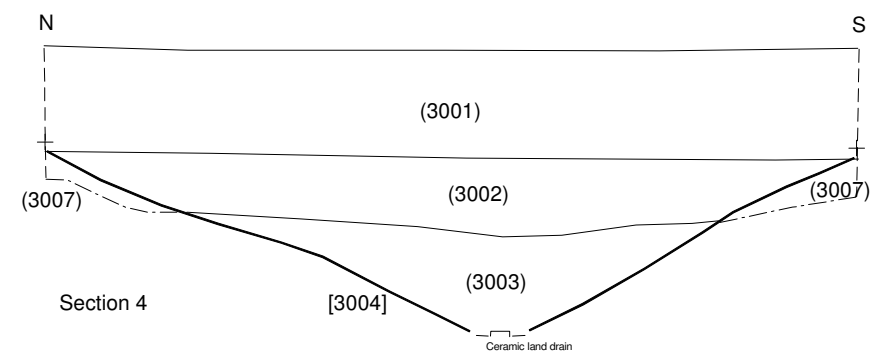
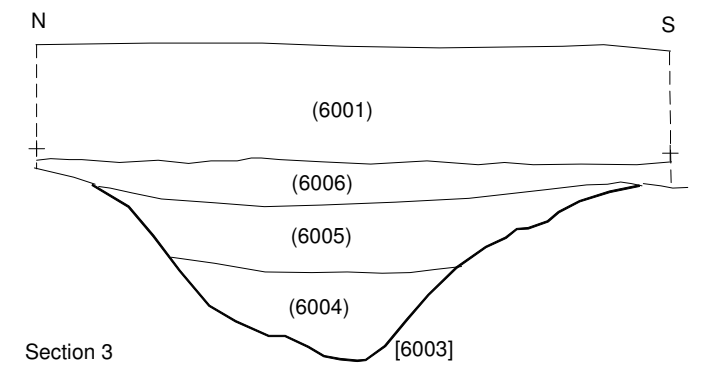
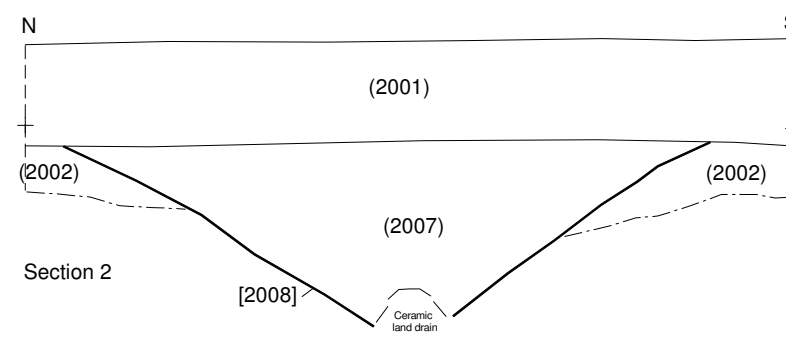
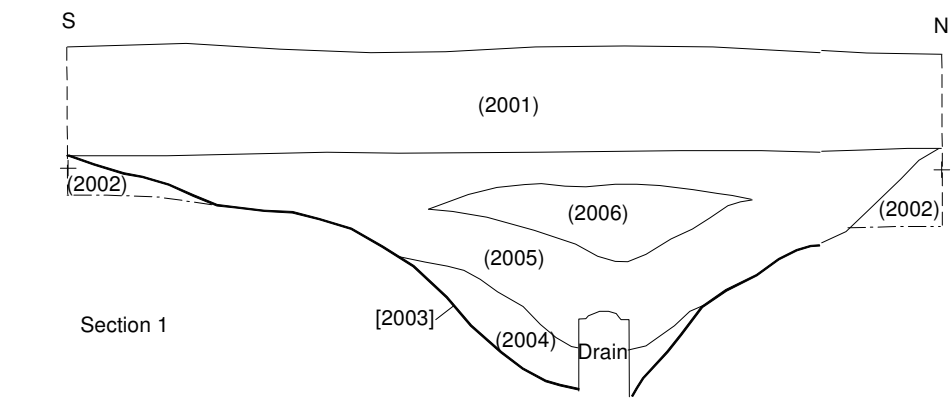
 Archaeological Project Services		
Project Name: Town Dam Lane, Donington		
Scale 1:250	Drawn by: PCF	Report No: 59/17

Figure 4 - Detailed trench plans




 Archaeological Project Services		
Project Name: Town Dam Lane, Donington		
Scale: 1:25	Drawn by: PCF	Report No: 59/17

Figure 5 - Sections



Plate 1 – View looking northeast across the site



Plate 2 – Trench 1 after excavation, looking west



Plate 3 – Trench 2 after excavation, looking north



Plate 4 – Trench 2, Ditch (2003), looking west



Plate 5 – Trench 2, Ditch (2008),
looking east



Plate 6 – Trench 3, Ditch (3004),
looking east



Plate 7 – Trench 4, representative
section, looking north



Plate 8 – Trench 5, Ditch (5003),
looking east



Plate 9 – Trench 6, Ditch (6003),
looking northeast



Plate 10 – Trench 6, Ditch (6007),
looking northeast



Plate 11 – Trench 6, Ditch (6010), looking east

Appendix 1

CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

Trench 1

No.	Description	Interpretation
1001	Friable dark greyish brown clayey silt, 0.5m thick	Topsoil
1002	Soft light yellowish clayey silt, 0.1m thick	Natural deposit
1003	Soft mottled light grey/mid brown silt	Natural deposit

Trench 2

No.	Description	Interpretation
2001	Friable mid greyish brown silt, 0.35m thick	Topsoil
2002	Soft light to mid yellowish brown and light greyish brown silt	Natural deposit
2003	Linear feature, aligned east-west, 2.9m wide by 0.8m deep, steep sides and rounded base	Ditch
2004	Soft light greyish brown silt	Fill of (2003)
2005	Soft mid greyish brown silt	Fill of (2003)
2006	Friable light yellowish brown silt	Fill of (2003)
2007	Friable mid greyish brown clayey silt	Fill of (2008)
2008	Linear feature, aligned east-west, 2.45m wide by 1.15m deep, steep sides and flattish base	Ditch

Trench 3

No.	Description	Interpretation
3001	Friable dark greyish brown clayey silt, 0.35m thick	Topsoil
3002	Friable mid yellowish brown clayey silt	Fill of (3004)
3003	Friable dark brownish grey clayey silt	Fill of (3004)
3004	Linear feature, aligned east-west, 2.65m wide by 0.55m deep, moderate sides and v-shaped base	Ditch
3005	Friable mid greyish brown clayey silt	Fill of (3006)
3006	Linear feature, aligned east-west, 2.35m wide by 0.64m deep	Ditch
3007	Soft mottled light grey/mid brown silt	Natural deposit

Trench 4

No.	Description	Interpretation
4001	Friable dark greyish brown clayey silt, 0.32m thick	Topsoil
4002	Soft mottled light grey/mid brown silt	Natural deposit

Trench 5

No.	Description	Interpretation
5001	Friable dark greyish brown clayey silt, 0.5m thick	Topsoil
5002	Soft mid greyish brown clayey silt	Fill of (5003)
5003	Linear feature, aligned east-west, >0.85m wide by >0.31m deep,	Ditch

No.	Description	Interpretation
5004	Soft mottled light grey/orange silt	Natural deposit

Trench 6

No.	Description	Interpretation
6001	Friable mid to light brownish orange silty sand, 0.38m thick	Topsoil
6002	Firm to soft mid to dark yellow orange, clayey silt	Natural deposit
6003	Linear feature, aligned east-west, 1.8m wide by 0.66m deep, steep sides and uneven base	Ditch
6004	Soft dark greyish orange silty clay	Fill of (6003)
6005	Soft mid to dark greyish brown silt	Fill of (6003)
6006	Soft mid greyish orange silt, 0.13m thick	Subsoil
6007	Linear feature, aligned east-west, 3.35m wide by 0.95m deep, steep sides and rounded base	Ditch
6008	Soft mid greyish orange silty clay	Fill of (6007)
6009	Soft light brownish orange silty clay	Fill of (6007)
6010	Linear feature, aligned east-west, 2.8m wide by 0.7m deep, gentle sides and rounded base	Ditch
6011	Soft dark greyish orange silty clay	Fill of (6010)
6012	Soft mid to dark brownish grey silt	Fill of (6010)

Appendix 2

POST ROMAN POTTERY

By Alex Beeby

Introduction

All the material was recorded at archive level in accordance with the guidelines laid out in Slowikowski *et al.* (2001) and to conform to Lincolnshire County Council's *Archaeology Handbook*. The pottery codenames (Cname) are in accordance with the Post Roman pottery type series for Lincolnshire, as published in Young *et al.* (2005). A total of four sherds from three vessels, weighing 54 grams was recovered from the site.

Methodology

The material was laid out and viewed in context order. Sherds were counted and weighed by individual vessel within each context. The pottery was examined visually and using x20 magnification. This information was then added to an Access database. An archive list of the pottery is included in Table 1 below. The pottery ranges in date from the medieval to the early modern period.

Condition

The material is in a fragmentary condition. One piece is abraded.

Results

Table 1, Post Roman Pottery Archive

Tr	Cxt	Cname	Sub Fabric	Form	Decoration	Part	Description	Date	NoS	NoV	W(g)
2	2005	BOUA	B/C	Jug or jar		BS	Leached Ca content	L12th-14th	1	1	39
2	2005	MEDLOC	OX/R/OX; medium sandy; Fe;	?		BS	Flake; abraded; oxidised over the break; possibly TOY type	12th-15th	1	1	7
6	6005	PEARL		Plate	Blue transfer print - Willow Pattern	Rims		19th	2	1	8
Total									4	3	54

Provenance

Pottery was recovered from ditch fills (2005) within [2003] in Trench 2 and fill (6005) within [6003] in Trench 6.

Range

Ditch [2003] in Trench 2 produced two pieces of medieval pottery, including a fragment of Bourne medieval ware (BOUA). Ditch [6003] in Trench 6 produced pieces of early modern dated, domestic Pearlware (PEARL) pottery.

Potential

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

FAUNAL REMAINS

By Paul Cope-Faulkner and Alex Beeby

Introduction

A total of 10 (74g) fragments of animal bone were recovered from stratified contexts.

Methodology

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

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.

Provenance

Animal bone was recovered from fill (3005) within ditch [3006] in Trench 3 and fill (6005) within [6003] in Trench 6

Condition

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

Results

Table 2, *Fragments Identified to Taxa*

Cxt	Taxon	Element	Side	Comments	Number	W (g)
3005	cattle	phalange			2	64
6005	large mammal	rib			6	6
6005	cattle	horn		Good condition - post medieval	2	4
Total					10	74

Summary

A small assemblage of animal bone was recovered, with features in Trenches 3 and 6 producing material. Most of the material derives from cattle.

Potential

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

SPOT DATING

The dating in Table 3 is based on the evidence provided by the finds detailed above.

Table 3, *Spot dates*

Cxt	Date	Comments
2005	Late 12 th -14 th	
6005	19 th	

ABBREVIATIONS

BS	Body sherd
CXT	Context
NoF	Number of Fragments
NoS	Number of sherds
NoV	Number of vessels
W (g)	Weight (grams)

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Appendix 3

GLOSSARY

Alluvium	Deposits laid down by water. Marine alluvium is deposited by the sea, and fresh water alluvium is laid down by rivers and in lakes.
Context	An archaeological context represents a distinct archaeological event or process. For example, the action of digging a pit creates a context (the cut) as does the process of its subsequent backfill (the fill). Each context encountered during an archaeological investigation is allocated a unique number by the archaeologist and a record sheet detailing the description and interpretation of the context (the context sheet) is created and placed in the site archive. Context numbers are identified within the report text by brackets, e.g. [004].
Cut	A cut refers to the physical action of digging a posthole, pit, ditch, foundation trench, etc. Once the fills of these features are removed during an archaeological investigation the original 'cut' is therefore exposed and subsequently recorded.
Domesday Survey	A survey of property ownership in England compiled on the instruction of William I for taxation purposes in 1086 AD.
Fill	Once a feature has been dug it begins to silt up (either slowly or rapidly) or it can be back-filled manually. The soil(s) that become contained by the 'cut' are referred to as its fill(s).
Layer	A layer is a term used to describe an accumulation of soil or other material that is not contained within a cut.
Medieval	The Middle Ages, dating from approximately AD 1066-1500.
Manuring Scatter	A distribution of artefacts, usually pottery, created by the spreading of manure and domestic refuse from settlements onto arable fields. Such scatters can provide an indication of the extent and period of arable agriculture in the landscape.
Natural	Undisturbed deposit(s) of soil or rock which have accumulated without the influence of human activity
Post-medieval	The period following the Middle Ages, dating from approximately AD 1500-1800.
Romano-British	Pertaining to the period dating from AD 43-410 when the Romans occupied Britain.
Saxon	Pertaining to the period dating from AD 410-1066 when England was largely settled by tribes from northern Germany

Appendix 4

THE ARCHIVE

The archive consists of:

27	Context records
6	Trench sheets
1	Photographic record sheet
1	Section record sheet
1	Plan record sheet
4	Daily record sheet
10	Sheets of scale drawings

All primary records and finds are currently kept at:

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

The ultimate destination of the project archive is:

The Collection
Danes Terrace
Lincoln
LN2 1LP

Accession Number	LCNCC: 2017.164
Archaeological Project Services Site Code:	DTDL 17
OASIS Record Number:	archaeo11-301418

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

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OASIS ID: archaeol1-301418

Project details

Project name	Town Dam Lane, Donington
Short description of the project	Six trench evaluation revealed post-medieval to modern drains.
Project dates	Start: 02-10-2017 End: 05-10-2017
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	DTD17 - Sitecode
Any associated project reference codes	LCNCC:2017.164 - Museum accession ID
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Cultivated Land 2 - Operations to a depth less than 0.25m
Monument type	DITCHES Post Medieval
Significant Finds	POTTERY Medieval
Significant Finds	POTTERY Post Medieval
Methods & techniques	"Sample Trenches"
Development type	Rural residential
Prompt	National Planning Policy Framework - NPPF
Position in the planning process	Between deposition of an application and determination

Project location

Country	England
Site location	LINCOLNSHIRE SOUTH HOLLAND DONINGTON Town Dam Lane, Donington
Study area	23395 Square metres
Site coordinates	TF 2076 3522 52.900502885493 -0.204446973064 52 54 01 N 000 12 16 W Point

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Archaeological Project Services
Project brief originator	None
Project design originator	Paul Cope-Faulkner
Project director/manager	Paul Cope-Faulkner
Project supervisor	Mark Peachey

Type of sponsor/funding body Developer

Project archives

Physical Archive recipient	The Collection
Physical Archive ID	LCNCC:2017.164
Physical Contents	"Animal Bones","Ceramics"
Digital Archive recipient	Archaeological Project Services
Digital Contents	"Animal Bones","Ceramics","Stratigraphic","Survey"
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography","Images vector","Survey","Text"
Paper Archive recipient	The Collection
Paper Archive ID	LCNCC:2017.164
Paper Contents	"Animal Bones","Ceramics","Stratigraphic","Survey"
Paper Media available	"Context sheet","Correspondence","Photograph","Plan","Report","Section","Survey"

Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Archaeological evaluation on land at Town Dam Lane, Donington, Lincolnshire
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Cope-Faulkner, P.
Other bibliographic details	59/17
Date	2017
Issuer or publisher	Archaeological Project Services
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Description	A4 comb-bound with A3 drawings
Entered by	Paul (info@apsarchaeology.co.uk)
Entered on	17 November 2017

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