

# ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION AT LITTLE LONDON, TORKSEY LOCK, FENTON, LINCOLNSHIRE (TLLR 10)

Work Undertaken For **Tithe Barn Limited** 

January 2011

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National Grid Reference: SK 8381 7788 The Collection Accession No: LCNCC: 2010.178 OASIS Record No: archaeol1-90476

APS Report No. 2/11



## **CONTENTS**

List of Figures

List of Plates

1.	SUMMARY1
2.	INTRODUCTION1
2.1	DEFINITION OF AN EVALUATION1
2.2	PLANNING BACKGROUND1
2.3	3 TOPOGRAPHY AND GEOLOGY1
2.4	ARCHAEOLOGICAL SETTING1
3.	AIMS2
4.	METHODS2
5.	RESULTS
6.	DISCUSSION5
7.	CONCLUSIONS5
8.	ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS6
9.	PERSONNEL6
10.	BIBLIOGRAPHY6
11.	ABBREVIATIONS

# A

1

2

	PERSONNEL
).	BIBLIOGRAPHY
1	
L.	ABBREVIATIONS
pper	ndices
	Context Descriptions
	The Finds by Alex Beeby, Anne Boyle, Tom Lane and Gary Taylor

- 3 Glossary
- 4 The Archive

# List of Figures

- Figure 1 General location plan
- Figure 2 Site location plan
- Figure 3 Trench location plan
- Figure 4 Trench 1 plan
- Figure 5 Trench 9 plan
- Figure 6 Sections 1 to 6
- Figure 7 Sections 7 to 13

## **List of Plates**

Plate 1	General view looking northwest across the development area
Plate 2	View looking northeast over the development area
Plate 3	Trench 1 after cleaning
Plate 4	Trench 1, Section1 showing ditch (105)
Plate 5	Trench 2 after cleaning
Plate 6	Trench 3, Section 3 showing the general sequence of deposits
Plate 7	Trench 4, Section 4
Plate 8	Trench 5, Section 5
Plate 9	Trench 6, Section 6
Plate 10	Trench 7, Section 7
Plate 11	Trench 8, Section 8
Plate 12	Trench 9 after cleaning
Plate 13	Section 9 showing ditch (905)
Plate 14	Section 10 showing pit (907)
Plate 15	Section 11 showing pit (909)
Plate 16	Trench 10, Section 13

Plate 17 Trench 11, Section 12

# 1. SUMMARY

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken on land at Little London, Torksey Lock, Fenton, Lincolnshire. This was in order to determine the archaeological implications of proposed development at the site.

The site lies to the south of the Foss Dyke canal, which connected Torksey to Lincoln and widely believed to be of Roman (AD 43-410) origin. To the east and southeast of the site lies an extensive settlement of the period. Three 3<sup>rd</sup> century pottery kilns are also known from the immediate area. Neolithic (4000-2200 BC) stone axes have been recovered from the close proximity of the site and a number of Iron Age (800 BC-AD 43) coins have been found nearby.

The evaluation identified a sequence of natural, undated and recent deposits. Two ditches, two pits and a dumped deposit are undated but may be of prehistoric or Romano-British origin as they are sealed beneath an extensive buried soil which contained Romano-British and medieval finds. The buried soil was recorded in all trenches across the site.

The largest category of finds retrieved from the evaluation comprise pottery of  $2^{nd}$ to  $4^{th}$  century date as well as later pottery of medieval and post-medieval date. A Neolithic flint blade was also recovered.

# 2. INTRODUCTION

# 2.1 Definition of an Evaluation

An archaeological evaluation is defined as 'a limited programme of non-intrusive intrusive fieldwork which and/or 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 '(IfA 2008).

# 2.2 Planning Background

Archaeological Project Services was commissioned by Tithe Barn Limited to undertake a programme of archaeological investigation in advance of proposed development at Little London Caravan Park, Torksey Lock, Fenton, Lincolnshire. The evaluation was undertaken between the 13<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> December 2010 in accordance with a specification prepared by Archaeological Project Services and approved by Historic Environment Team, Lincolnshire County Council.

# 2.3 Topography and Geology

Fenton is located 14km northwest of Lincoln and 14km south of Gainsborough in the administrative district of West Lindsey, Lincolnshire (Fig. 1).

Torksey Lock lies a further 1.8km northwest of Fenton to the south of the confluence of the River Trent and the Foss Dyke canal, at National Grid Reference SK 8381 7788 (Fig. 2). The site lies to the north and east of the Lincoln Road at a height of c. 5.4m OD on the generally level ground of the Trent floodplain.

Local soils are of the Blackwood Association, typically deep permeable sand and loam soils (Hodge *et al.* 1984, 309). These overlie a drift geology of glaciofluvial sands and gravels which in turn seal a solid geology of Triassic Mercia Mudstone (BGS 1999).

# 2.4 Archaeological Setting

Evidence for prehistoric activity in the area

is limited to chance finds in the vicinity. These include a Neolithic polished greenstone axe found at Little London and a further stone axe found in Torksey village. Several Iron Age coins have been found in fields to the southeast of Little London and comprise three silver staters and a gold coin of the Corieltauvi.

The site lies to the south of the Foss Dyke, a Roman watercourse, generally thought to have been constructed about AD 120 to provide a link between Lincoln and the River Trent. Dating is based largely on a statue of Mars Gradivus dredged from the dyke in the  $18^{th}$  century which is supposed to date to the  $2^{nd}$  to  $3^{rd}$  centuries (Carey 1997, 5).

Finds of Romano-British pottery and metalwork made to the southeast of the site are suggestive of a large settlement area dating from the  $2^{nd}$  century to the late  $4^{th}$  century. To the east of the site, three pottery kilns dating to AD 200-250 were excavated in 1937 (Trimble 2001, 4).

Fenton is first mentioned in the Lindsey Survey of c. 1115. Referred to as *Fentuna*, the name is derived from the Old English and means 'the settlement  $(t\bar{u}n)$  in the fen' (Cameron 1998, 43). The Lindsey Survey records that the land was held by the Bishop of Lincoln (Foster and Longley 1976).

An evaluation and watching brief undertaken 250m to the northeast of the site identified sequences of alluvial and windblown deposits of some depth as well as undated ditches, one which may be Romano-British (Allen 2005, 1; Wood 2006, 1). Romano-British pottery and a coin were found during a watching brief 460m southeast of the site where they were associated with a deposit of brown silty sand (Thomson 2002, 4).

## 3. AIMS

The aim of the evaluation was to gather information to establish the presence or absence, extent, condition, character. quality and date of any archaeological deposits in order to enable the Archaeological curator to formulate a policy for the management of any archaeological resources present on the site.

# 4. METHODS

Initially, ten trenches were to be excavated across the site to provide a random sample. However, the presence of spoilheaps and underground services meant that eleven trenches were excavated in total (Fig. 3), nine measuring 30m long and two measuring 15m long. All trenches were excavated to the surface of the underlying natural geology.

Removal of topsoil and other overburden was undertaken by mechanical excavator using a 1.6m wide toothless ditching bucket. The exposed surfaces of the trenches were then cleaned by hand and inspected for archaeological remains.

deposit during Each exposed 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 locations of the excavated trenches were surveyed by using a Thales Global Positioning System (GPS). A base receiver was established over a temporary survey station which logged satellite data while a roving receiver was used to record points of detail. This was processed using N4ce (version 1.11) software to produce CAD drawings.

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 and supplemented by artefact dating.

# 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 (Fig. 4; Plate 3)

The earliest deposit encountered at the base of this trench was a natural layer of orange brown sand with iron pan (104). This was overlain by a 0.25m thick layer of brownish grey sand (103).

Cut into the natural sands was a northwestsoutheast aligned ditch (105). This was 1.2m wide by 0.25m deep (Fig. 6, Section 1; Plate 4) and contained a single fill of grey sand (106).

Sealing the ditch was a buried soil comprising a 0.12m thick layer of brown sand (102).

Overlying the buried soil was the current topsoil of brownish grey silty sand (101). This was 0.45m thick.

# Trench 2 (Fig. 3; Plate 5)

Natural was identified as a layer of orange sand (203) that measured in excess of 50mm thick.

This was overlain by a buried soil of orange grey sand (202) that was 0.35m thick (Fig. 6, Section 2).

Sealing the buried soil was topsoil, comprising greyish brown silty sand (201) which lay beneath further topsoil of greyish brown sandy silt (200) which incorporated modern debris and stone.

# Trench 3

Yellowish brown sand with iron pan (302) was identified as the natural within this trench.

Above this was a layer of buried soil consisting of yellowish brown sand (301). This measured 0.15m thick (Fig. 6, Section 3; Plate 6) and was in turn sealed by a brownish grey silty sand (300) topsoil that was 0.59m thick.

# Trench 4

The earliest deposit within this trench was a layer of brown and yellow sand (403) which was overlain by brownish yellow sand with iron pan (402). These natural layers had a combined thickness of 0.71m.

A layer of brownish yellow sand (401) measuring 0.18m thick (Fig. 6, Section 4; Plate 7) was identified as a buried soil and overlay the natural throughout the trench. Pottery of  $4^{th}$  century date was retrieved from this layer along with a small fragment of  $12^{th} - 15^{th}$  century glazed roof tile (Appendix 2).

Sealing the buried soil was the current topsoil of grey silty sand (400) that was 0.33m thick.

# Trench 5

A natural deposit comprised a layer of orange sand with iron pan (503) and was sealed beneath a buried soil of orange brown sand (502) that was 0.19m thick (Fig. 6, Section 5; Plate 8). A small sherd of  $12^{th} - 14^{th}$  century pottery was recovered from the buried soil.

Two distinct topsoil layers were recorded, a lower of greyish brown silty sand (501) measuring 0.35m thick and an upper of greyish brown sandy silt (500) that was 0.15m thick.

# Trench 6

Located at the western end of this trench was a layer of red sand (603). This was overlain by natural brownish yellow sand with iron pan (602) that was evident across the base of the trench.

Buried soil, comprising brown sand (601), sealed the natural sands and was 0.22m thick (Fig. 6, Section 6; Plate 9).

Topsoil in this trench was identified as a 0.38m thick layer of brownish grey silty sand (600).

# Trench 7

Natural deposits within this trench consisted of brownish yellow sand with iron pan (703) which measured in excess of 0.22m thick.

Overlying this was a layer of brown sand (702) identified as a buried soil. This was 0.24m thick (Fig. 7, Section 7; Plate 10) and contained a single flake of medieval tile.

Topsoil, comprising greyish brown silty sand (701), and a dumped topsoil of greyish brown sandy silt (700) completed the sequence of deposits within this trench.

## Trench 8

Natural comprised brownish yellow sand with iron pan (802). This measured in excess of 0.37m thick.

This was sealed beneath a layer of yellowish brown sand (801), identified as the buried soil and measuring 0.21m thick

(Fig. 7, Section 8; Plate 11). A quantity of  $2^{nd}$  century pottery was recovered from this layer (Appendix 2).

Topsoil sealed the buried soil and comprised brownish grey silty sand (800) that was 0.46m thick.

# *Trench 9* (Fig. 5; Plate 12)

At the base of this trench, yellowish brown sand with iron pan (902) was identified as natural.

Located at the north of this trench was a north-south aligned ditch (905). This was over 5m long, wider than 2m and was 0.42m deep (Fig. 7, Section 9; Plate 13). Two fills were recorded, a lower of grey sand (904) and an upper of mottled grey and orange sand (903).

Towards the centre of the trench were two pits. The more northerly (907) was 1.6m long, over 0.9m wide and 0.15m deep (Fig. 7, Section 10; Plate 14). A single fill of brown clayey sand (906) was recorded from which a Neolithic flint blade was retrieved.

Immediately south of this was pit (909). This was more irregular in shape and measured 2.4m long, over 0.8m wide and 0.22m deep (Fig. 7, Section 11; Plate 15). This pit also contained a fill of brown clayey sand (908).

Sealing these three features was the buried soil, consisting of brownish yellow sand (901) that was up to 0.42m thick. Pottery of  $2^{nd}$  to early  $3^{rd}$  century was collected from this deposit as was a modern fragment of concrete pipe which may be intrusive.

Overlying the buried soil horizon was the present topsoil of grey silty sand (900) that was 0.4m thick.

# Trench 10

The sequence of deposits within this trench comprised a natural layer of yellowish brown sand (1003) over which was a buried soil of brownish yellow sand (1002) that was 0.14m thick (Fig. 7, Section 13; Plate 16). A single fragment of medieval pottery was collected from the natural layer and is considered intrusive.

Topsoil comprised a lower layer of greyish brown silty sand (1001) and an upper dumped topsoil of greyish brown sandy silt (1000). The combined thickness of these two layers was 0.62m. Medieval and later pottery was collected from the upper topsoil.

# Trench 11

The earliest deposit encountered within this trench was a natural layer of yellowish brown sand (1104).

A discrete dumped deposit overlay natural towards the west end of the trench and comprised a 90mm thick layer of brownish grey sand with charcoal (1103). This was sealed by a buried soil of brownish yellow sand (1102) that measured 0.31m thick (Fig. 7, Section 12; Plate 17).

Above the buried soil was a topsoil of brownish grey silty sand (1101), measuring 0.1m thick. This lay beneath the current dumped topsoil of greyish brown sandy silt (1100) that was 0.57m thick.

# 6. **DISCUSSION**

Natural deposits comprise the drift geology of glaciofluvial sands and gravels.

Two ditches (Trenches 1 and 9), two pits (Trench 9) and a dumped deposit (Trench 11) are undated due to a lack of artefactual material, although one pit contained a prehistoric flint blade. Furthermore, the similarity of the fills of the two pits may indicate they are contemporary. As these features are sealed beneath a buried soil they are likely to be of the Romano-British period or earlier.

A buried soil was evident in all the trenches. The origin of this layer is not clear but may have formed from blown sands or dumping. Alternatively, this could be a heavily leached former topsoil which is supported by the iron panning occurring in deposits below it. The buried soil was between 0.14m and 0.42m thick. In some cases. Romano-British pottery was retrieved from this layer but medieval pottery and tile was also collected. The Romano-British pottery was very abraded but appears to have been burnt which may indicate some industrial process occurring nearby. Furthermore, the pottery indicates low status settlement and is probably associated with the settlement also identified to the east of the site.

Modern topsoil was recorded above the buried soil. In some trenches, there was a visible distinction between topsoil and a dumped topsoil, the dumping having occurred recently (*pers comm.* Mr J Mannion). A recent service trench was also observed in Trench 9.

Romano-British pottery was the most common artefact retrieved during the investigation and spans the 2<sup>nd</sup> to 4<sup>th</sup> centuries. The types are comparable to the pottery produced in the nearby kilns to the east but also include wares from further afield including an amphora from Spain. A small quantity of medieval and later pottery was retrieved which probably represents nothing more than a manuring scatter.

# 7. CONCLUSIONS

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken at Little London, Torksey Lock, as the site lay in an area of extensive archaeological remains of the Romano-British period.

The evaluation recorded a number of undated features including two ditches, two pits and a dumped deposit. These had been sealed beneath an extensive buried soil horizon which produced Romano-British and medieval pottery.

Finds recovered from the evaluation comprise pottery, mainly of  $2^{nd}$  to  $4^{th}$  century date, but also including medieval and later wares. Medieval and later tile was also collected as was a Neolithic flint blade.

# 8. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeological Project Services wishes to acknowledge the assistance of Mr J Mannion of Tithe Barn Limited for commissioning the fieldwork and postexcavation analysis. The work was coordinated by Gary Taylor and this report was edited by Denise Drury and Tom Lane. Dave Start allowed access to the parish files and library maintained by Heritage Lincolnshire.

# 9. PERSONNEL

Project Coordinator: Gary Taylor Site Staff: Paul Cope-Faulkner, Liz Murray, Jonathon Smith Site Surveying: Andrew Failes 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

- CLAU City of Lincoln Archaeological Unit
- IfA Institute for Archaeologists



Figure 1 - General location plan

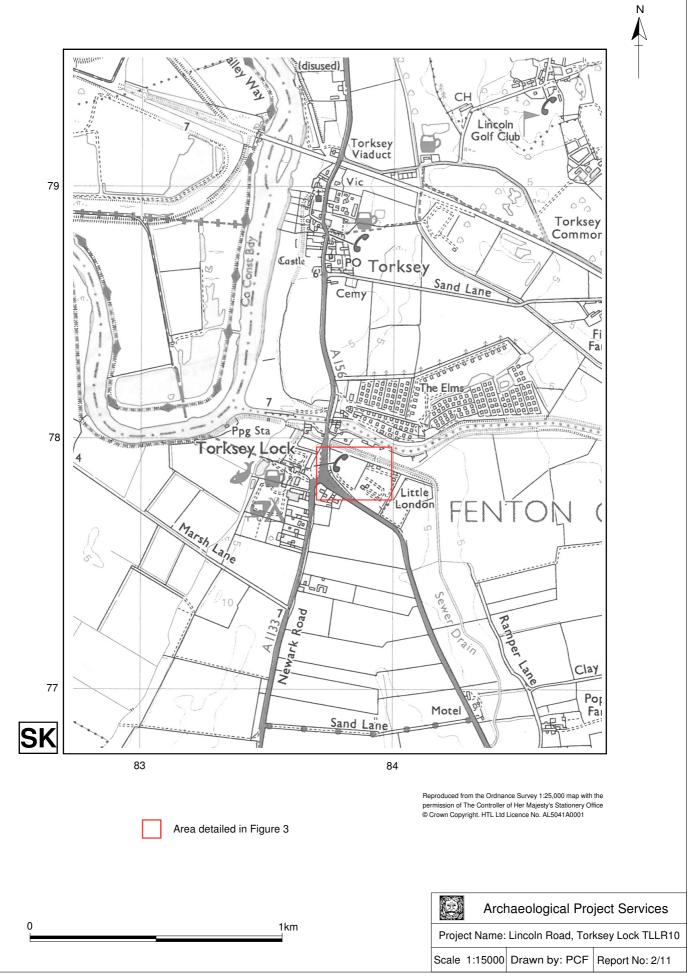
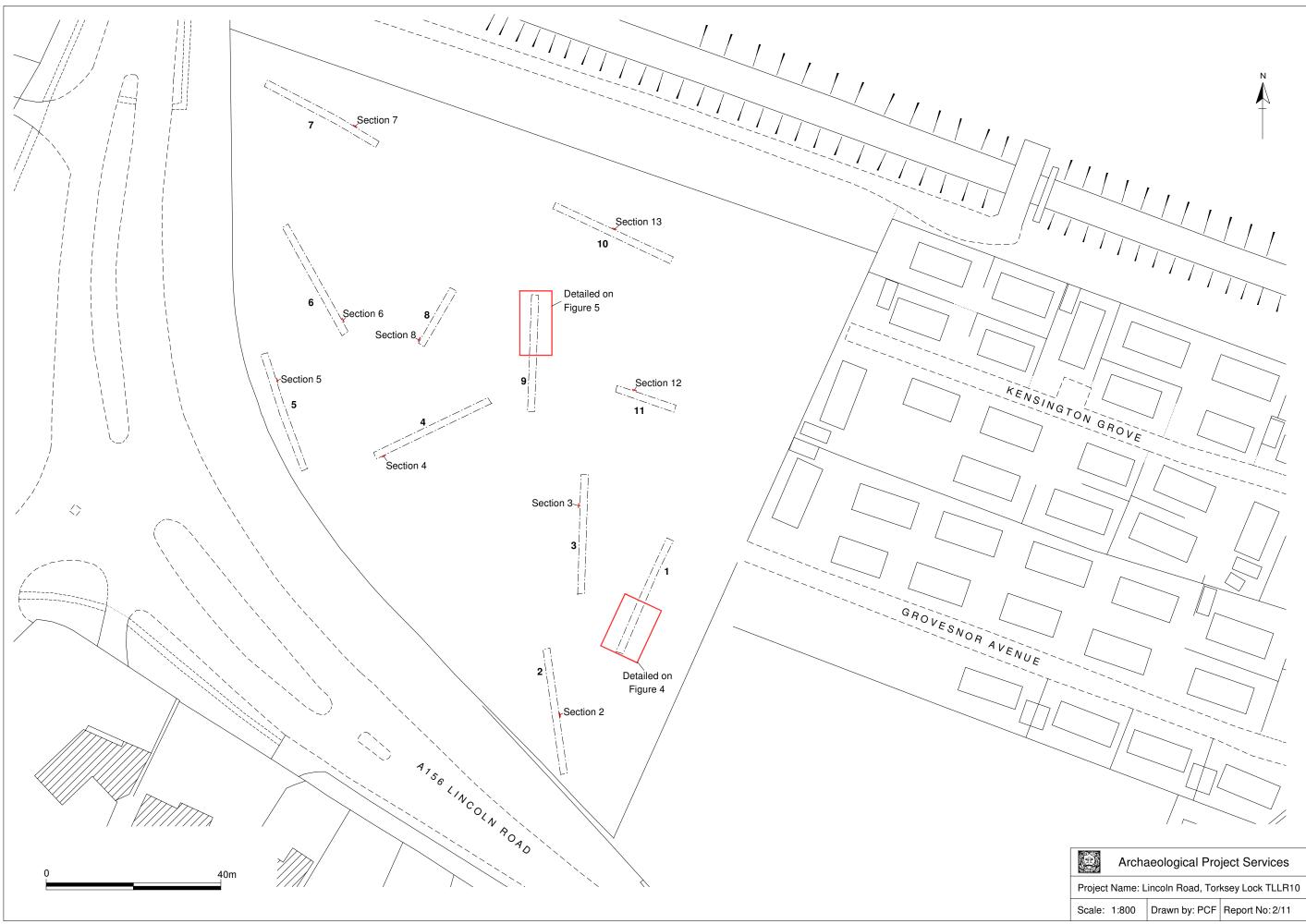


Figure 2 - Site location plan



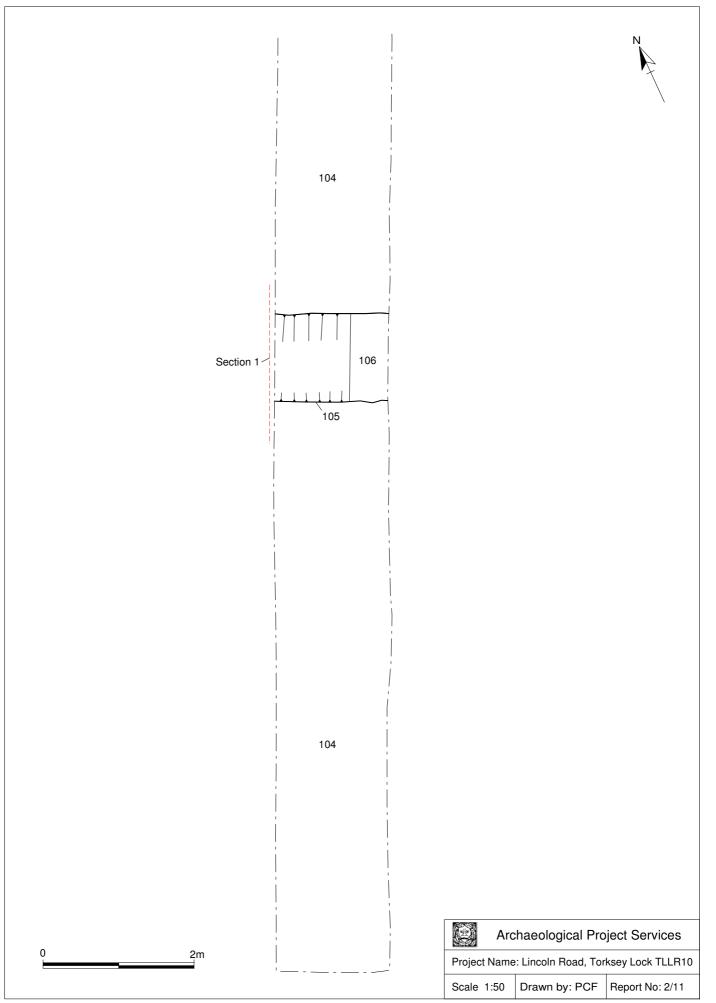


Figure 4 - Trench 1 plan

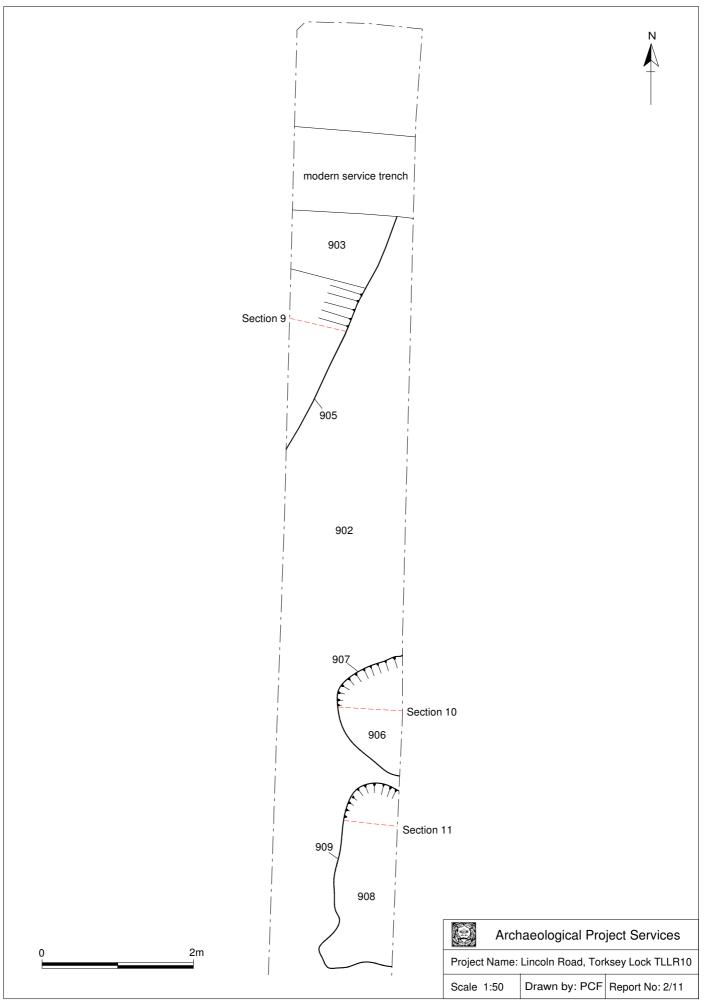


Figure 5 - Trench 9 plan

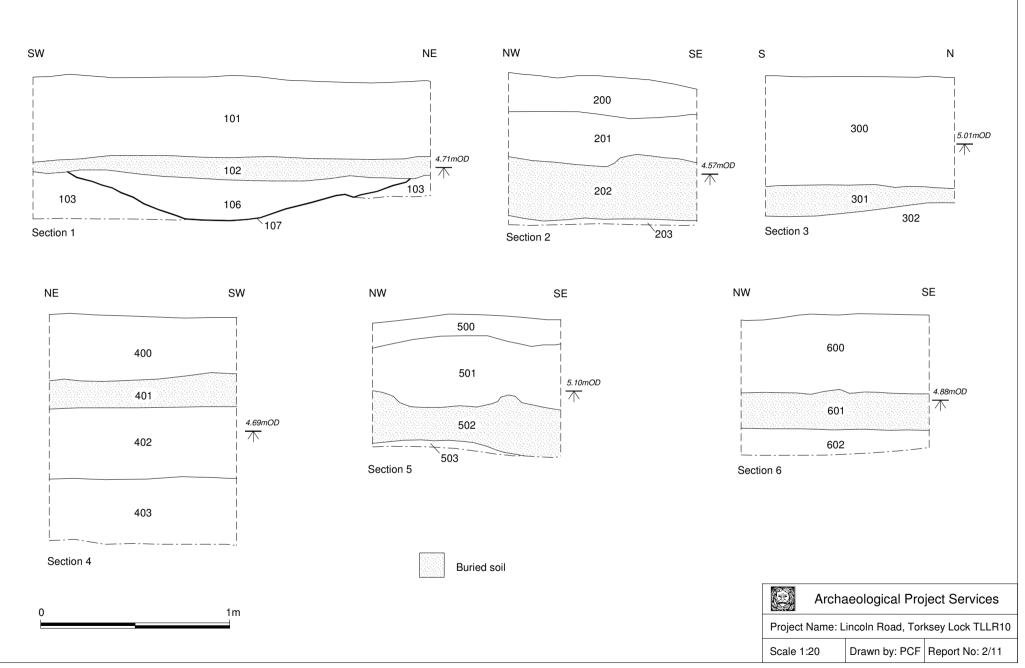


Figure 6 - Sections 1 to 6

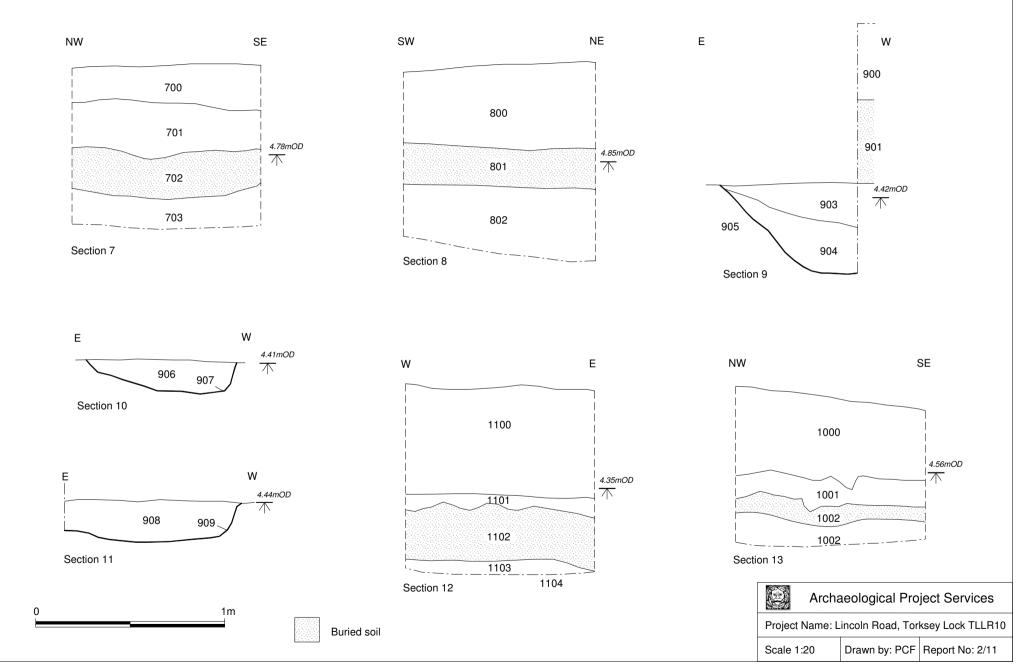


Figure 7 - Sections 7 to 13



Plate 1 - General view looking northwest across the proposed development area



Plate 2 – View looking northeast over the development area



Plate 3 – Trench 1 after cleaning, looking southwest



Plate 4 – Trench 1: Section 1 showing ditch (105), looking northwest



Plate 5 – Trench 2 after cleaning, looking southeast



Plate 6 – Trench 3, Section 3 showing the general sequence of deposits, looking west



Plate 7 – Trench 4, Section 4, looking southeast



Plate 8 – Trench 5, Section 5, looking northeast

Plate 9 – Trench 6, Section 6, looking northeast

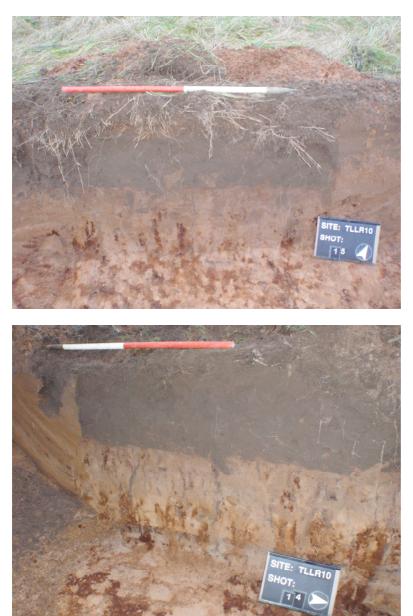


Plate 10 – Trench 7, Section 7, looking north

Plate 11 – Trench 8, Section 8, looking southwest



Plate 12 – Trench 9 after cleaning, looking south



Plate 13 – Section 9 showing ditch (905), looking southwest



Plate 14 – Section 10 showing pit (907), looking southeast



Plate 15 – Section 11 showing pit (909), looking southeast



Plate 16 – Trench 10, Section 13, looking northeast



Plate 17 – Trench 11, Section 12, looking north

# Appendix 1

# CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

## Trench 1

No.	Description	Interpretation
101	Loose dark brownish grey silty sand, 0.45m thick	Topsoil
102	Loose mid brown sand, 0.12m thick	Buried soil
103	Loose light brownish grey sand, 0.25m thick	Natural deposit
104	Loose mid orange brown sand with frequent iron pan and clay patches	Natural deposit
105	Linear feature, aligned northwest-southeast, 1.2m wide by 0.25m deep, gradual sides and flat base	Ditch
106	Loose mid grey sand	Fill of (105)

## Trench 2

No.	Description	Interpretation
200	Friable mid greyish brown sandy silt with frequent stone and modern debris, 0.25m thick	Dumped topsoil
201	Firm mid greyish brown silty sand, 0.2m thick	Topsoil
202	Friable light orange grey sand, 0.35m thick	Buried soil
203	Soft light orange sand, >50mm thick	Natural deposit

## Trench 3

No.	Description	Interpretation
300	Firm dark brownish grey silty sand, 0.59m thick	Topsoil
301	Soft mid yellowish brown sand, 0.15m thick	Buried soil
302	Soft mid yellowish brown sand with iron pan	Natural deposit

## Trench 4

No.	Description	Interpretation
400	Firm dark grey silty sand, 0.33m thick	Topsoil
401	Soft mid brownish yellow sand, 0.18m thick	Buried soil
402	Soft mid brownish yellow sand with iron pan, 0.37m thick	Natural deposit
403	Soft light brown and yellow sand, >0.34m thick	Natural deposit

## Trench 5

No.	Description	Interpretation
500	Loose to friable mid greyish brown sandy silt, 0.15m thick	Dumped topsoil
501	Firm mid greyish brown silty sand, 0.35m thick	Topsoil
502	Loose mid orange brown sand, 0.19m thick	Buried soil
503	Soft light orange sand with iron pan	Natural deposit

## Trench 6

No.	Description	Interpretation
600	Firm dark brownish grey silty sand, 0.38m thick	Topsoil
601	Firm to soft mid to light brown sand, 0.22m thick	Buried soil
602	Firm light brownish yellow sand with iron pan, >0.15m thick	Natural deposit
603	Soft dark red sand	Natural deposit

## Trench 7

No.	Description	Interpretation
700	Firm dark greyish brown sandy silt, 0.2m thick	Dumped topsoil
701	Firm mid greyish brown silty sand, 0.28m thick	Topsoil
702	Soft mid brown sand, 0.24m thick	Buried soil
703	Soft mid brownish yellow sand with iron pan, >0.22m thick	Natural deposit

## Trench 8

No.	Description	Interpretation
800	Firm dark brownish grey silty sand, 0.46m thick	Topsoil
801	Soft mid yellowish brown sand, 0.21m thick	Buried soil
802	Soft light brownish yellow sand with iron pan, >0.37m thick	Natural deposit

## Trench 9

No.	Description	Interpretation
900	Firm dark grey silty sand, 0.4m thick	Topsoil
901	Soft mid brownish yellow sand, 0.42m thick	Buried soil
902	Soft to firm mid yellowish brown sand with iron pan	Natural deposit
903	Soft mottled mid grey and orange sand	Fill of (905)
904	Firm mid grey sand	Fill of (905)
905	Linear feature, aligned north-south, >5m long by >2m wide by 0.42m deep, steep sides and flat base	Ditch
906	Firm light brown clayey sand with iron pan	Fill of (907)
907	?sub-circular feature, 1.6m long by >0.9m wide by 0.15m deep, near vertical sides and flattish base	Pit
908	Firm light brown clayey sand with iron pan	Fill of (909)
909	Irregular feature, 2.4m long by >0.8m wide by 0.22m deep, near vertical sides and flat base	Pit

## Trench 10

No.	Description	Interpretation
1000	Firm dark greyish brown sandy silt, 0.46m thick	Dumped topsoil
1001	Firm dark greyish brown silty sand, 0.16m thick	Topsoil
1002	Soft mid brownish yellow sand, 0.14m thick	Buried soil
1003	Soft mid yellowish brown sand, >0.17m thick	Natural sand

## Trench 11

No.	Description	Interpretation
1100	Firm dark greyish brown sandy silt, 0.57m thick	Dumped topsoil
1101	Firm dark brownish grey silty sand, 0.1m thick	Topsoil
1102	Soft mid brownish yellow sand, 0.31m thick	Buried soil
1103	Soft light brownish grey sand with charcoal, 90mm thick	Dumped deposit
1104	Soft mid yellowish brown sand	Natural deposit

## Appendix 2

## THE FINDS

## **ROMAN POTTERY**

By Alex Beeby

#### Introduction

All the material was recorded at archive level in accordance with the guidelines laid out by Darling (2004) and to conform to Lincolnshire County Council's *Archaeology Handbook*. A total of 77 sherds from 55 vessels, weighing 1869 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. All of the pottery was examined visually and some pieces using x20 magnification. This information was then added to an Access database. An archive list of the pottery is included in Archive Catalogue 1, with a summary in Table 1 below.

### Condition

Most of the pottery is in a very abraded and fragmentary state. The material from Trenches 4 and 8 is in especially poor condition and much of this is also reoxidised by burning, probably after deposition. Although the overall average sherd weight is moderate at 24.27 grams, the majority of sherds are considerably smaller than this. The total average is greatly inflated by a few very large body sherds from storage vessels, one of which weighs 424 grams.

#### Results

Fabric	Cname	Full name	NoS	NoV	W(g)
Amphora	DR20	Dr 20 Amphorae	1	1	4
Fine (Oxidised)	NVCC	Nene Valley Colour-Coated	1	1	10
	GFIN	Miscellaneous Fine Grey Ware	2	1	6
Fine (Reduced)	GMIC	Grey Fine Micaceous Ware	1	1	2
Oxidised	CR	Cream Flagon	1	1	16
	BB1	Black Burnished Ware 1	2	1	47
Deduced	BBT	Black Burnished Type Ware	1	1	26
Reduced	GREY/GREY?	Miscellaneous Grey Ware	50	31	771
	GREYC	Miscellaneous Coarse Grey Ware	7	7	112
	GRFF	Fairly Fine Grey Ware	2	2	17
Grog	GROG	Grog Tempered Ware	4	4	672
	DWSH	Dalesware Late Shell Tempered	2	1	19
Shell/Shell?	SHEL	Miscellaneous Undifferentiated Shell- Tempered	2	2	8
	VESIC	Vesicular Fabric	1	1	159
Total			77	55	1869

Table 1. Summary of the Roman Pottery

## Provenance

Roman pottery was recovered from Trenches 4, 8, 9 and 10. Most of the material came from buried soil deposits, these were (401) in Trench 4, (801) in Trench 8 and (901) in Trench 9. A single sherd, the only one recovered from Trench 10, came from (1003), a layer of natural sand.

#### Range

A wide range of domestic forms was recovered, including and amphora, a flagon and a high number of jars and bowls. The nature of this assemblage suggests Romanised but never the less relatively low status domestic activity at the site over a prolonged period. See Table 2 below for a full range of all forms recovered.

Form	Full name	Cname	NoS	NoV	W(g)
Amphora	Dressel 20 Amphora	А	1	1	4
	Unclassified Bowl/Unclassified Bowl?	B/B?	7	4	100
	Bead and Flange Rim Bowl	BFB	1	1	12
Bowl	Bowl Native Tradition	BNAT	3	3	244
	Wide Mouthed Bowl	BWM	6	4	119
	Wide Mouthed Bowl Type 1	BWM1	10	1	182
Bowl or Dish	Bowl/Dish	BD	1	1	39
Beaker	Unclassified Beaker/Unclassified Beaker?	BK/BK?	6	5	20
Flagon	Unclassified Flagon	F	1	1	16
	Unclassified Jar/Unclassified Jar?	J/J?	13	10	160
Jar	Jar with Double Lid Seated Rim	JDLS	2	1	19
	Storage Jar	JS	2	2	605
Jar or Bowl	Unclassified Jar/Bowl	JB	10	9	176
	Large Jar/Bowl	JBL	2	2	111
Jar or Beaker	Unclassified Jar/Beaker	JBK	5	3	18
Closed	Closed Closed Form CLSD		4	4	31
Unknown	Undiagnostic of Form	-	3	3	13
Total			77	55	1869

Table 2, Summary of Forms recovered

## Trench 4 (401)

This context yielded a wide range coarse sandy pottery types including Black Burnished Ware 1 (BB1), Black Burnished ware Type (BBT), Cream Flagon (CR), miscellaneous Greyware (GREY), miscellaneous coarse Greyware (GREYC) and Fairly Fine Greyware (GRFF). In addition to these types a flake from a Spanish Dressel 20 amphora (DR20), two sherds from reduced fineware vessels in Grey fine Micaceous Ware (GMIC) and Fine Greyware (GFIN) were recovered. A single piece of Nene Valley Colour Coat (NVCC) is the only sherd of oxidised fineware. Two vessels in miscellaneous shell tempered (SHEL) and one example in Dalesware shelly fabric (DWSH) were also retrieved.

There is a noticeably high number of bowl forms within this group and relatively few jars. Most of this pottery can be firmly dated to the  $3^{rd}$  and  $4^{th}$  centuries AD. The presence of a bead and flange bowl (BFB) and a double lid seated jar (JDLS) are of special note. These are the latest forms here and suggest an early to mid  $4^{th}$  century date for the context as a whole.

#### *Trench* 8 (801)

Context (801) produced a total of four vessels including a very large native type bowl (BNAT) in a vesicular fabric (VESIC), a Greyware jar or bowl (JB) and two jars (J). One of the jars is in a particularly coarse fabric type (GREYC). The presence of the BNAT here suggests a 2nd century date for this context.

## Trench 9 (901)

Buried soil (901) yielded material from at least 15 vessels including four in an unusual grog tempered fabric (GROG). There are also two native type bowls and an early wide mouthed bowl (BWM1) in this group. A late  $2^{nd}$  to early  $3^{rd}$  century date is a possibility here. This would make this context contemporary in date with kilns known to have been operating here at Torksey at that time.

#### Trench 10 (1003)

A single abraded sherd of Greyware was recovered from this context.

#### Potential

This is an interesting small group with a good number of forms and fabrics, including regional and foreign imports. The greyware fabrics warrant further microscopic analysis should any further work be carried out to help ascertain their origin. A single vessel, a double lid seated jar (JDLS) in Dalesware shell tempered (DWSH) is also worthy of

illustration at that point for its intrinsic value. All of the pottery should be retained as part of the site archive and should pose no problems for long term storage.

*Table 3, Vessels suitable for illustration* 

Drawing	Context	Fabric Cname	Full Name	Form Cname	Full Name
1	401	DWSH	Dalesware Late Shell Tempered	JDLS	Jar with Double Lid Seated Rim

### Summary

A broad range of Roman domestic pottery types was recovered during the evaluation, ranging from the 2<sup>nd</sup> to 4<sup>th</sup> century in date. Much of this material is in a very poor burnt condition, perhaps suggesting industrial activity at some point, on or near the site. There is no strong evidence of wasters or pottery manufacturing waste here, although some of the vessels are contemporaneous with known potting activity nearby.

## POST ROMAN POTTERY

By Alex Beeby and Anne Boyle

## 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 17 sherds from 12 vessels, weighing 171 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 Archive Catalogue 2, with a summary in Table 4 below. The pottery ranges in date from the early medieval to the early modern period.

### Condition

The pottery is a fragmentary condition, this is reflected in the low average sherd weight of just 10 grams. Sherds from three vessels are abraded and a single example is also spalled.

#### Results

Period	Cname	Full Name	Earliest Date	Latest Date	NoS	NoV	W(g)
Early Medieval to Medieval	EMHM	Early Medieval Handmade Ware	1100	1250	1	1	1
	LSWA	Lincoln Glazed ware Fabric A	1200	1300	5	1	44
	MEDLOC	Medieval Local Fabrics	1150	1450	3	3	15
Medieval	NOTGI	Nottingham Glazed ware with Iron	1200	1230	1	1	21
	NOTGL	Nottingham Light Bodied Glazed ware	1220	1320	1	1	54
Medieval to Post Medieval	CMO	Coal Measures Orange Ware	1300	1500	2	1	12
Late Medieval to Post Medieval	CIST	Cistercian-type Ware	1480	1650	1	1	4
Post Medieval	SLIP	Unidentified slipware	1650	1750	1	1	8
Early Modern	CREA	Creamware	1750	1900	1	1	3
	ENGS	Unspecified English Stoneware	1800	1900	1	1	9
Total					17	12	171

Table 4, Summary of the post Roman pottery recovered

#### Provenance

Post Roman material was retrieved from buried soil layers (502) in Trench 5, (702) in Trench 7 and (901) in Trench 9. Additional material came from topsoil (1000) and natural sand deposit (1003) in Trench 10.

Range

There is a broad range of material dating from Early Medieval Handmade Ware (EMHM) to early modern Creamware (CREA). None of the types here are especially uncommon, although the presence of Coal Measures Orange Ware (CMO), possibly a Yorkshire product, is of note.

## Potential

The material should be retained as part of the site archive and should present no problems for long term storage.

### Summary

A range of medieval to early modern material was recovered during the evaluation.

## **CERAMIC BUILDING MATERIAL**

By Alex Beeby

### Introduction

All the material was recorded at archive level in accordance with the guidelines laid out by the ACBMG (2001) and to conform to Lincolnshire County Council's *Archaeology Handbook*. A total of four fragments of ceramic building material, weighing 137 grams was recovered from the site.

### Methodology

The material was laid out and viewed in context order. Fragments were counted and weighed within each context. The ceramic building material was examined visually and using x20 magnification. This information was then added to an Access database. An archive list of the ceramic building material is included in Table 5 below.

## Condition

The condition of the material is fairly fragmentary.

### Results

Tr	Cxt	Cname	Fabric	Description	Date	NoF	W(g)
4	401	GPNR	Oxidised; medium sandy	Green splash glaze; Lincoln fabric; FLR	M12th-15th	1	19
7	702	CBM	Oxidised; fine sandy	Poss surface flake of PNR	13th-15th?	1	3
10	1003	PANT	Oxidised; medium sandy		17th-19th	1	104
10	1003	CBM	Oxidised; fine to medium sandy	Abraded surfaces; Lincoln fabric; PNR?	M12th-15th	1	11
Tota	ıl					4	137

Table 5, Ceramic Building Material Archive

#### Provenance

Ceramic building material was recovered from buried soil layers (401) in Trench 4 and (701) IN Trench 7 as well as natural sand deposit (1003) in Trench 10.

#### Range

There is a limited range of material dating from the medieval to the early modern period. The single piece of Medieval Glazed peg, nib or ridge tile from (401) maybe intrusive within that context as otherwise there was only Roman pottery recovered from there.

## 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.

#### Summary

A small assemblage of medieval to early modern ceramic building material was recovered during the evaluation.

## WORKED FLINT

By Tom Lane

## Introduction

A single flint weighing 1g was recovered.

#### Condition

The flint is in good condition.

#### Results

Table 6, Worked Flint Archive

Cxt	Description	No	Wt (g)	Date
906	Blade with bulb of percussion, snapped, 29mm x 10mm x 3mm	1	1	Neolithic

#### Provenance

The flint was recovered from a pit fill.

#### Range

A single flint blade was recovered. It retains its bulb of percussion and has cortex on one side. It has been snapped and the distal end lost. There are no obvious signs of working, though it appears to have some edge damage. It is probably of Neolithic date (c. 4000-2000 BC).

#### Potential

As an isolated item the flint if of limited potential but does indicate a prehistoric presence, probably transient, in the area.

### **OTHER FINDS**

By Gary Taylor

#### Introduction

Eight other finds weighing a total of 181g were recovered.

#### Condition

The other finds are in generally good condition. However, the burnt items are a little friable and fragile, while the metal objects are severely encrusted and corroded.

### Results

Cxt	Material	Description	NoF	W (g)	Date
901	concrete	Drain pipe cladding	1	93	19 <sup>th</sup> -20 <sup>th</sup>
901					century
906	stone	Burnt shale/coal	1	9	
908	stone	Burnt shale/coal	1	3	
900	Iron?	Ferrous concretion, unidentified	1	54	
1000	Stone?	Cinder/burnt stone?	2	3	
1000	stone	Possible roof tile, sandstone, 5mm thick	1	5	
1003	Iron?	Possible nail, extremely encrusted	1	14	

#### Provenance

The other finds were recovered from a buried soil (901), pit fills (906, 908), topsoil (1000) and natural (1003). The object from the natural is probably intrusive from the over-lying buried soil (1002).

#### Range

The other finds are mixed though half of the items are burnt or relate to burning. Two objects appear to be of iron, but these are extremely encrusted and corroded and may be just natural iron pan. There is a flat thin piece of sandstone which could be part of a roof tile but could also be natural. A piece of modern drain pipe cladding in concrete was also recovered.

#### Potential

In general, the other finds are of limited potential. However, the number of burnt items indicate the presence of fires or other high temperature activities in the area.

## SPOT DATING

The dating in Table 8 is based on the evidence provided by the finds detailed above.

#### Table 8, Spot dates

Cxt	Date	Comments
401	Mid 12th-15th	This date is based on a single fairly small fragment of CBM which may be intrusive. Otherwise a date of early to mid 4 <sup>th</sup> century AD is indicated by the pottery.
502	Late 12th-14th	
702	13th-15th?	Based on a single flake of CBM - could also earlier or later than this
801	2nd Century	
901	19 <sup>th</sup> -20th	Based on 1 piece of concrete drain pipe cladding; pottery dated late 2nd to early 3rd Century AD . Pipe could therefore, be intrusive here
906	Neolithic (4000-2000BC)	Based on 1 flint
1000	18th-19th	
1003	13th-15th	Probably 13th-14th

### **ABBREVIATIONS**

ACBMG	Archaeological Ceramic Building Materials Group
BS	Body sherd
CBM	Ceramic Building Material
CXT	Context
LHJ	Lower Handle Join
NoF	Number of Fragments
NoS	Number of sherds
NoV	Number of vessels
TR	Trench
UHJ	Upper Handle Join
W (g)	Weight (grams)

#### REFERENCES

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

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ARCHIVE	CATAI	LOGUE	S
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Tr	Cxt	Cname	Sub Fab	Form	Dec	NoV	Alter		Dr Comments		W(g)
4	401	BB1		В	B INT	1	V ABR; BURNT; PART OXID; IRON PAN		BASE; ROSSINGTON BRIDGE?	2	47
4	401	BBT		J		1	ABR; BURNT; PART OXID; THICK IRON PAN CONC		BS; POSS BB1	1	26
4	401	CR		F		1	SPALLED; ABR; THICK IRN PAN		HANDLE	1	16
4	401	DR20		А		1	V ABR		BS; 3C FAB	1	4

Tr	Cxt	Cname	Sub Fab	Form	Dec	NoV	Alter	Dr	Comments	NoS	W(g)
4	401	DWSH	HRD ROUNDE D FE	JDLS	В	1	ABR; LEACHED	1	RIMS DRAW; SAME VESS?	2	19
4	401	GFIN		BK		1	ABR; IRON PAN		BS; PART TYPE; ROUNDED BODY AND PED BASE	2	6
4	401	GMIC		BK?		1	V ABR		BS	1	2
4	401	GREY	CA GRITS; FINE MICA	BWM		1			RIM; POSS BWM 1; STRING BASE; BLUE	2	68
4	401	GREY		BK	B EX	1			BS	1	1
4	401	GREY		BK?		1	ABR		BS	1	1
4	401	GREY		J		3	BURNT		BSS; POSS 4 VESS	4	22
4	401	GREY		J		1			BS BASAL; BLUE	1	10
4	401	GREY		BWM		1	ABR; IRON PAN		RIM	1	9
4	401	GREY		JBL		1	V ABR; BURNT OXID; THICK IRON PAN CONC		BS; OXID SURFS; POSS BWM	1	61
4	401	GREY	CA GRIT	BFB		1	V ABR; THICK IRON PAN		RIM	1	12
4	401	GREY		JBK	B EX	1	V ABR; THICK IRON PAN		BS	2	8
4	401	GREY		BWM		1			BS BASAL; BS; HIGHLY FIRED; PALE BLUE FABRIC; WHITE Q; SPOOLY	2	31
4	401	GREY		BD	B INT	1	IRON PAN; ABR		BASE; CHAMFERED	1	39
4	401	GREY		BWM	B INT	1	SL ABR; BURNT; IRON PAN		BS; POSS SLIPPED	1	11
4	401	GREY		J	B EX	1	V ABR; BURNT OXID; THICK IRON PAN CONC		BS; TOTALLY OXID	2	56
4	401	GREY		CLSD		1			BS	1	7
4	401	GREY		B?		1	ABR		BS	1	6
4	401	GREY		JBL		1	V ABR; BLOWN		BS	1	50
4	401	GREY?				1	ABR; THICK IRON PAN; LEACHED - CA?		BS	1	5
4	401	GREYC	CA GRITS; CLAY PELLS	JB	BL	1			BS	1	4
4	401	GREYC				1	V ABR; THICK IRON PAN; BURNT		BS	1	1
4	401	GREYC	CA GRITS	CLSD		2	BURNT OR OVERFIRED		BS	2	14
4	401	GRFF		J		1	ABR; THICK IRON PAN		BS; AS BB2	1	12
4	401	GRFF		JBK		1	ABR		BS	1	5
4	401	NVCC?		BK		1	V BURNT; ABR		BS	1	10
4	401	SHEL		J?		1	BURNT; LEACHED		BS	1	1
4	401	SHEL	CA GRITS			1	BURNT; LEACHED		BS	1	7
4	401	ZDATE							E4-M4C		

Tr	Cxt	Cname	Sub Fab	Form	Dec	NoV	Alter	Dr	Comments	NoS	W(g)
4	401	ZZZ							GD 3-4C GRP; NO BWM3 TYPES		
8	801	GREY		JB		1	V ABR; BURNT		BASE?	1	5
8	801	GREY		J		1	V ABR; BURNT OXID		BS	2	25
8	801	GREYC		J		1	ABR; BURNT		BS	1	8
8	801	VESIC		BNAT	WIP; WF	1	V ABR; BURNT;' LEACHED		RIM TO U WALL; GREY CORE; DIAM 34CM; HUGE VESSEL; GRITTY FAB; PROABLY SHELL TEMPERED	1	159
8	801	ZDATE							2C		
8	801	ZZZ							REMARKABLE ABRADED AND BURNT GRP		
9	901	GREY		JB		1			BS	1	25
9	901	GREY		JBK	BG	1			BSS	2	5
9	901	GREY		JB		1			BS	1	12
9	901	GREY		CLSD		1			BS	1	10
9	901	GREY		JB		1			BSS	2	9
9	901	GREY	CA	В		1			BSS; BLUE FAB; PROB BWM OR BNAT	3	30
9	901	GREY	CA; FE	BWM1	BL	1	IRON PAN		RIMS; BSS; BLUE FAB	10	182
9	901	GREY		JB		2	SL ABR		BSS; BLUE FAB; BWM OR BNAT?	2	54
9	901	GREYC		BNAT	WM	1			RIM	1	45
9	901	GREYC		BNAT	WM	1			RIM	1	40
9	901	GROG		JS		1			BS BASAL	1	424
9	901	GROG		JB		1	V ABR; THICK IRON PAN CONC		BS	1	50
9	901	GROG		JS		1			BS	1	181
9	901	GROG		JB		1			LIP; V INTERESTING DARK FABRIC	1	17
9	901	ZDATE							L2-E3C		
9	901	ZZZ							CONTEXT CONTEMPORAR Y WITH KNOWN TORKSEY KILNS		
10	1003	GREY		B?		1	BURNT OXID		BS; CURVED BASE; POSS LID?	1	17
10	1003	ZDATE							2-4C		

Archive catalogue 2, Post Roman Pottery

Tr	Cxt	Cname	Sub Fabric	Form	NoS	NoV	W(g)	Dec	Part	Description	Date
			Oxidised; medium								
			coarse sandy; common								
			rounded quartz up to								
			0.6mm; sparse soft								L12th-
5	502	MEDLOC	rounded Fe	Jug	1	1	3		BS	Abraded	14th

Tr	Cxt	Cname	Sub Fabric	Form	NoS	NoV	W(g)	Dec	Part	Description	Date
			Oxidised; medium sandy; common rounded quartz up to								
7	702	MEDLOC	0.5m; sparse soft rounded Fe	Jar	1	1	7		Base		14th- 15th?
7	702	CIST		Drinking Cup	1	1	4		BS		M15th- 16th
7	702	СМО		Jar	2	1	12		BSS		14th- 15th
9	901	NOTGI		Jug	1	1	21		BS basal	Iron pan concretion	E13th
10	1000	SLIP		PMD	1	1	8		Rim		M17th- 18th
10	1000	CREA		Plate	1	1	3		Base	Spalled	19th
10	1000	EMHM		Jug	1	1	1		BS		12th- M13th
10	1000	ENGS		Jar or bottle	1	1	9		BS		18th- 19th
10	1003	MEDLOC	Oxidised; fine; rare rounded quartz up to 0.5mm; moderate fine mica	Jug	1	1	5		BS	Thin green glaze; abraded	13th- 15th
10	1003	LSWA		Jug?	5	1	44		Handle; BSS	Abraded; iron pan concretion; oval handle with central rib	13th- 14th
10	1003	NOTGL		Jug	1	1	54		Base		E13th- E14th