
**ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING AND
RECORDING AT PLOT 2,
RIDER GARDENS,
FISHTOFT,
LINCOLNSHIRE
(FIRG 10)**

**Work Undertaken For
Seagate Homes Limited**

August 2011

Report Compiled by
Paul Cope-Faulkner BA (Hons)

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Planning Application No: B/06/0081
The Collection Accession No: LCNCC: 2011.332
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APS Report No. **96/11**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL
PROJECT
SERVICES**



Quality Control
 Plot 2, Rider Gardens
 Fishtoft
 FIRG 11

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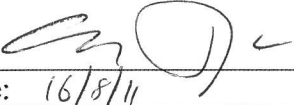
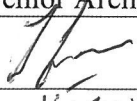
Checked by Project Manager	Approved by Senior Archaeologist
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Date: 16/8/11	Date: 16.8.11

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1. SUMMARY

A programme of archaeological monitoring and recording was undertaken during groundworks at Rider Gardens, Fishtoft, Lincolnshire. The watching brief monitored the excavation of foundation trenches for a new detached dwelling.

The site lies within an area of archaeological interest where previous investigations immediately to the south of the site have revealed Late Saxon settlement. Remains of this period included ditched enclosures and two buildings along with a significant amount of fired clay which may represent saltmaking at the site, or alternatively building remains possibly associated with a catastrophic fire. Investigations to the north of the site have identified medieval activity including possible salt-making of 13th century date.

The watching brief revealed a sequence of natural, post-medieval and modern deposits. A natural channel was identified along with an early 20th century pit. This had subsequently been sealed beneath subsoil. Finds retrieved during the investigation include a single medieval pot sherd as well as examples that date to between the 17th and 20th centuries. Post-medieval brick and glass was also collected along with a single fragment of animal bone.

2. INTRODUCTION

2.1 Planning Background

Archaeological Project Services was commissioned by Seagate Homes Limited to undertake a programme of archaeological monitoring and recording during groundworks associated with new residential development at Plot 2, Rider Gardens, Fishtoft, Lincolnshire. Approval for the development was sought through the submission of planning application B/06/0081. The watching brief was carried

out between the 8th and 11th August 2011 in accordance with a specification prepared by Archaeological Project Services and approved by the Boston Borough Planning Archaeologist.

2.2 Topography and Geology

Fishtoft is located 3km southeast of Boston in the administrative district of Boston Borough, Lincolnshire (Fig 1).

The site is located 2km west of the centre of Fishtoft as defined by the parish church of St Guthlac at National Grid Reference TF 3451 4304 (Fig. 2). The site lies to the north of Rider Gardens, immediately west of its junction with Whitehouse Lane. The site lies at a height of c. 2.1m OD on generally level ground.

Local soils are of the Tanvats/Rockcliffe Series, typically fine silty alluvial gley soils (Robson 1990, 31). These are developed upon a drift geology of marine deposits which overlie a solid geology of Jurassic clays and mudstones of the Ancholme Group (BGS 1995).

2.3 Archaeological Setting

Although prehistoric remains are known from the vicinity of Fishtoft itself, the development site lies closer to Boston where few prehistoric remains have been recovered.

Roman remains have been recorded at the site of Fogerty's Factory c. 500m south of the site, though here the remains lay beneath approximately 3m of silt and alluvium. However, occasionally in the Boston area, sites relating to Roman settlement occur closer to the present ground level, where sub-surface 'islands' or elevations outcrop through post-glacial sediment formations (Palmer-Brown and Johnson 1997, 3).

The site itself lies within an area of archaeological sensitivity. Previous

investigations have revealed important and well-preserved Late Saxon settlement features immediately to the south. It appears that this site was occupied on a permanent basis with the community engaged in the farming of animals and the practice of agriculture (*ibid*, 37). The investigations identified substantial ditches containing well-preserved (due to waterlogging) remains of two possible buildings. The presence of burnt silt/clay fragments from secondary contexts found within almost all of the Late Saxon features may represent saltmaking at the site, or alternatively building remains, possibly associated with a catastrophic fire (*ibid.*). It appears the site was abandoned by the middle of the 10th century or earlier.

To the north of the development site features dating from the 13th century have been identified, along with possible evidence for saltmaking of the same date. Although no hearths or briquetage forms were retrieved, steep-sided pits associated with standing water and backfilled with deposits containing large lumps of fired clay were uncovered, along with a natural pool or channel overlain by a spread of fired clay fragments (Palmer-Brown 1995, 17).

Fishtoft is first mentioned in the Domesday Survey of *c.* 1086 when it is referred to as *Toft*. This name is Old Danish in origin (Cameron 1998, 44), and the prefix is first documented in the 17th century. At the time of Domesday the land was held by Count Alan and Guy of Craon and contained a church with a priest, a mill and 80 acres of meadow (Foster and Longley 1976).

A watching brief undertaken to the northwest of the site identified a medieval pit (Cope-Faulkner 2010, 3). A further watching brief to the east of the site revealed a sequence of alluvial deposits of uncertain date, a post-medieval pit and recent topsoil deposits (Failes 2009, 1).

3. AIMS

The aim of the archaeological investigation was to ensure that any archaeological features exposed during the groundworks should be recorded and, if present, to determine their date, function and origin.

4. METHODS

Prior to the excavation of foundation trenches, topsoil and other overburden was stripped from the site. Foundation trenches were then excavated by machine to depths required by the development. Following excavation, the sides of the trenches were then cleaned and rendered vertical. Selected deposits were excavated further to retrieve artefactual material and to determine their function. Each deposit was allocated a unique reference number (context number) with an individual written description. A list of all contexts and their descriptions appears as Appendix 1. A photographic record was compiled and sections were drawn at a scale of 1:1. Recording was undertaken according to standard Archaeological Project Services practice.

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 assigned based on the nature of the deposits and recognisable relationships between them and supplemented by artefact dating.

5. RESULTS

Archaeological contexts are listed below and described. The numbers in brackets are the context numbers assigned in the field.

The earliest deposit encountered at the base of the foundation trenches was a layer

of orange brown silty clay (005). This measured over 0.55m thick.

Cutting the natural was an east-west aligned channel (007) that was 0.37m wide. A single deposit of bluish grey clay (008) was identified as its fill (Plate 6).

Located towards the northeast of the foundation trenches was a pit (006). This measured over 3.4m long, by over 0.8m wide and was 0.38m deep (Fig. 4, Sections 1 and 5; Plate 2). A single fill of mixed brown and black silt with coal and charcoal (003) was recorded from which early 20th century glass and 17th – 20th century pottery was retrieved. The fills of the pit had stained the surrounding natural deposits to a greyish brown clayey silt (004).

Sealing the pit and natural deposits elsewhere was a subsoil comprising a 0.15m thick layer of brown clayey silt (002). Overlying the subsoil was the current topsoil of brown clayey silt (001) that measured 0.35m thick.

Part of the topsoil and subsoil had been removed and replaced with a make-up deposit of greyish brown clayey silt with brick fragments (009) that provided a foundation for a now removed tarmac drive that led from Whitehouse Lane. A single sherd of medieval pottery was retrieved from this layer.

6. DISCUSSION

Natural deposits of silty clay relate to the underlying drift geology of marine alluvium. A natural channel, perhaps part of a creek system, was also recorded.

The only archaeological feature identified was a refuse pit dated to the early 20th century. This had been sealed by subsoil which may indicate that the area was under an agricultural regime in the recent past.

Finds from the investigation include a single sherd of locally produced pottery dating to the 13th – 14th century. Pottery of 17th to 20th century date was also retrieved along with 20th century glass, brick and animal bone.

7. CONCLUSION

A archaeological investigation was undertaken at Rider Gardens, Fishtoft, as the site lay close to previous discoveries of Late Saxon settlement and medieval salt-making and refuse disposal.

However, no remains dating to the Saxon or medieval periods were encountered. Instead, a natural channel and an early 20th century pit were recorded.

Finds retrieved from the investigation comprise pottery of medieval and later date, post-medieval brick and glass and a single fragment of animal bone.

8. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeological Project Services wishes to acknowledge the assistance of Mr A Brotherton of Seagate Homes Limited for commissioning the fieldwork and post-excavation analysis. The work was coordinated by Gary Taylor who edited this report along with Tom Lane. Jenny Young, the Boston Borough Planning Archaeologist, kindly allowed access to the parish files and library maintained by Heritage Lincolnshire.

9. PERSONNEL

Project Coordinator: Gary Taylor
 Site Supervisor: Bryn Leadbetter
 Finds processing: Denise Buckley
 Photographic reproduction: Sue Unsworth
 Illustration: Paul Cope-Faulkner
 Post-excavation analysis: Paul Cope-Faulkner

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11. ABBREVIATIONS

APS Archaeological Project Services

BGS British Geological Survey

PCA Pre-Construct Archaeology



Figure 1 - General location plan

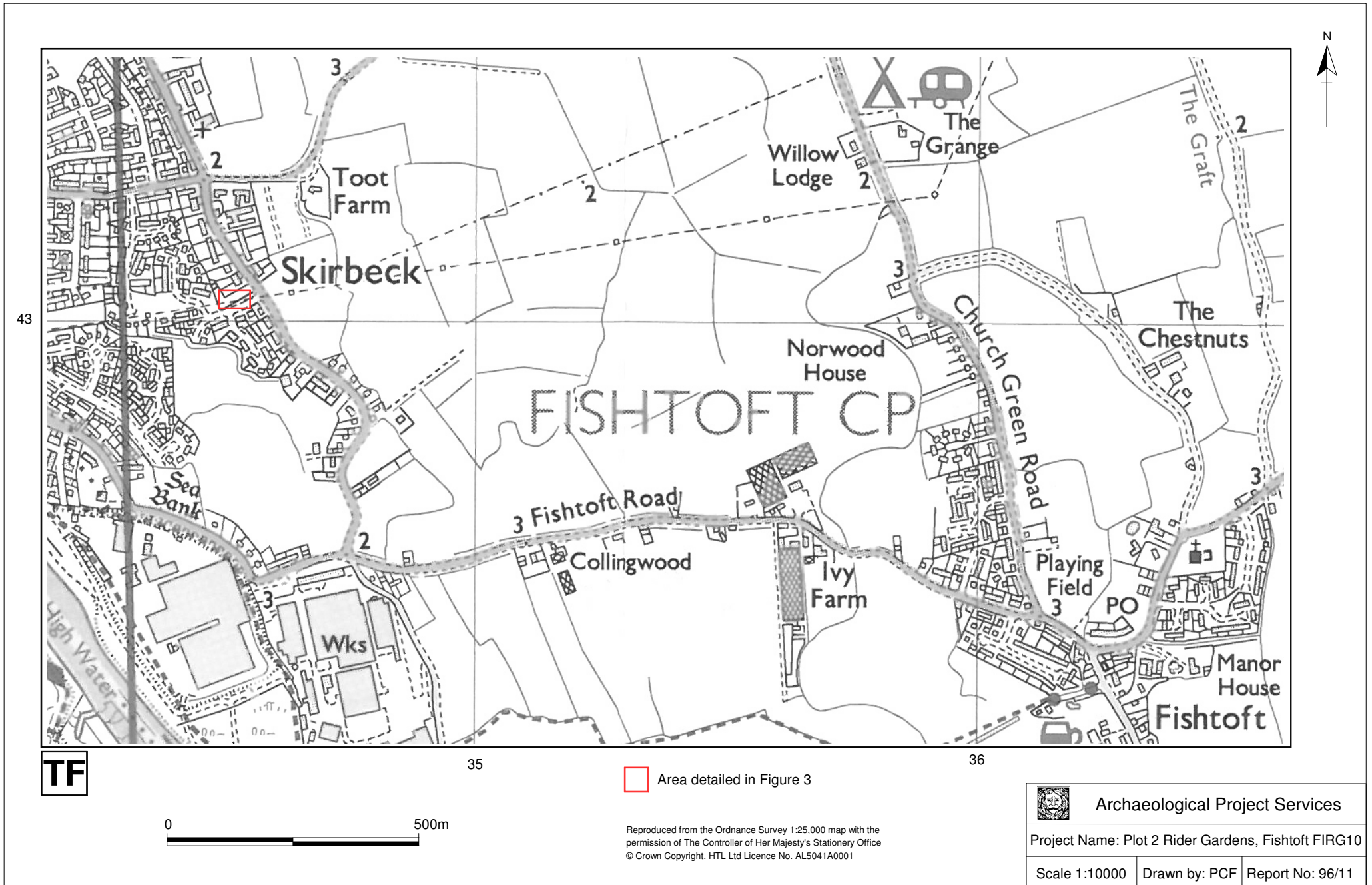


Figure 2 - Site location plan

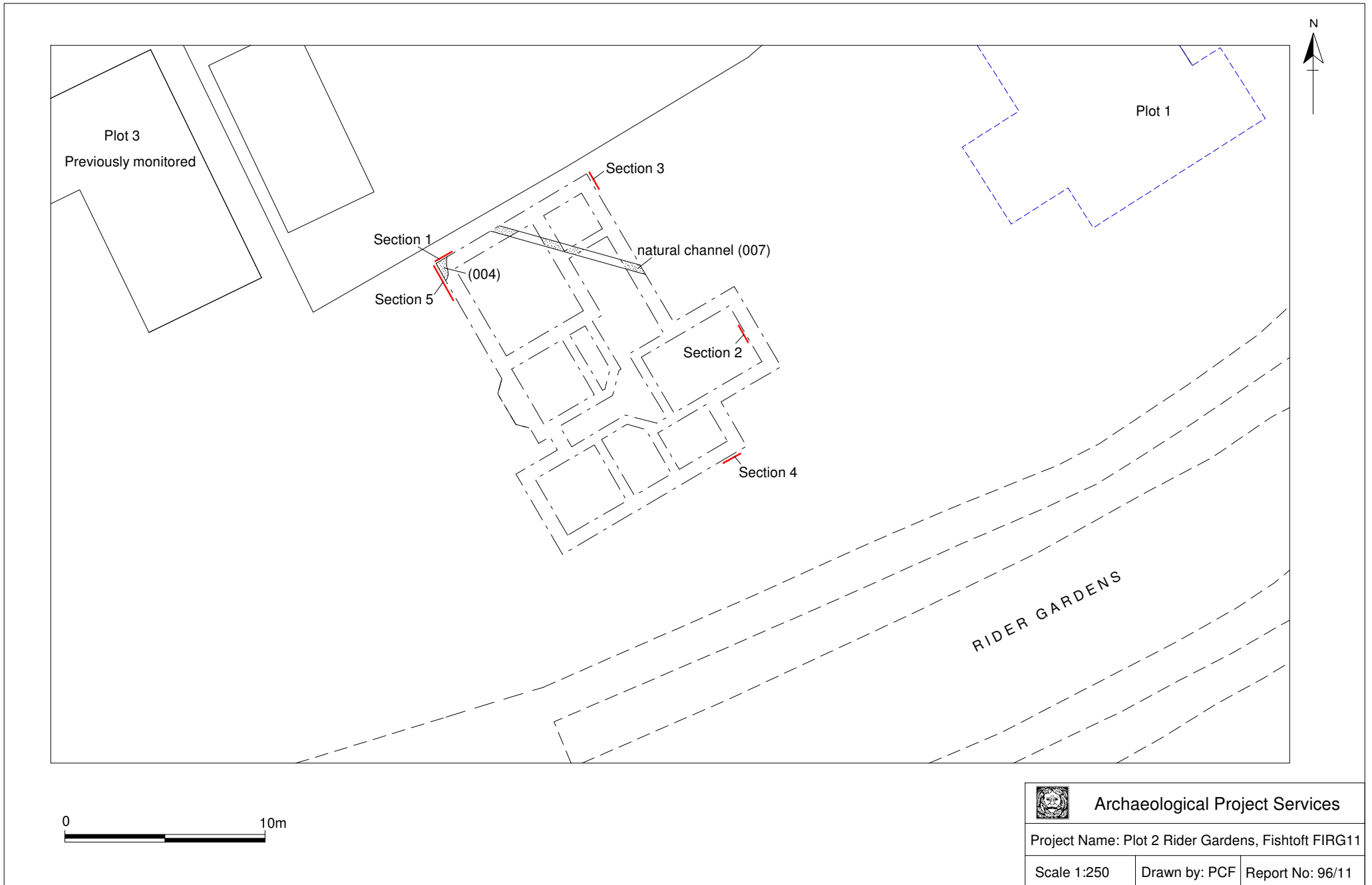
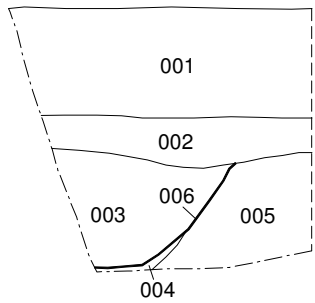


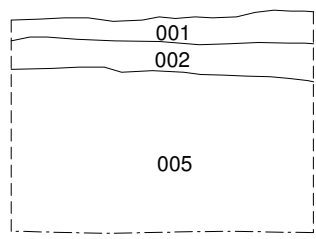
Figure 3 - Plan of the development showing section locations

SW NE



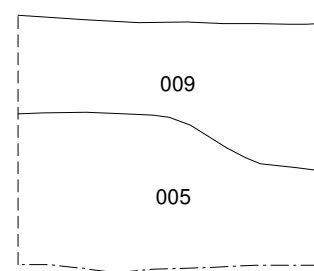
Section 1

SE NW



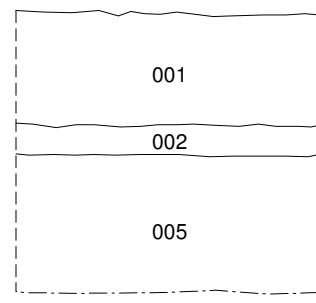
Section 2

NW SE



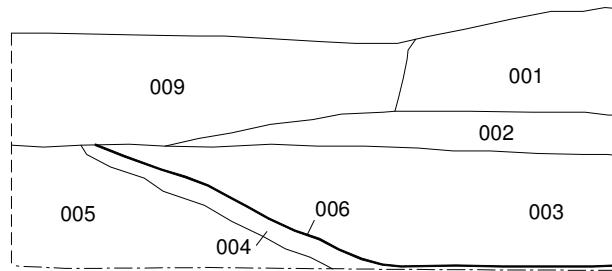
Section 3

NE SW



Section 4

SE NW



Section 5



Archaeological Project Services

Project Name: Plot 2 Rider Gardens, Fishtoft FIRG11

Scale 1:25

Drawn by: PCF

Report No: 96/11

Figure 4 - Sections 1 to 5



Plate 1 – View looking west across the development area



Plate 2 – Sections 1 and 5 showing pit (006), looking west



Plate 3 – Section 2, looking southwest



Plate 4 – Section 3, looking northeast



Plate 5 – Section 4, looking southeast



Plate 6 – Natural channel (007), looking northwest

Appendix 1

CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

No.	Description	Interpretation
001	Friable mid to light brown clayey silt, 0.35m thick	Topsoil
002	Friable mid brown clayey silt, 0.15m thick	Subsoil
003	Loose to firm dark brown, black, and mid brown silt with frequent charcoal and coal	Fill of (006)
004	Plastic mid greyish brown clayey silt	Stained natural deposit
005	Firm light orange brown silty clay	Natural deposit
006	Feature, 1.7m wide by 0.4m deep, steep sides, not fully excavated	Pit
007	Linear feature, aligned east-west, >7.8m long by 0.38m wide, not excavated	Natural channel
008	Plastic light bluish grey clay	Fill of (007)
009	Compact to friable dark greyish brown clayey silt with frequent brick fragments, 0.48m thick	Make-up for tarmac surface

Appendix 2

THE FINDS

POST ROMAN POTTERY

By Anne Irving

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 11 sherds from nine vessels, weighing 280 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.

Condition

The post-medieval pottery is in poor condition.

Results

Table 1, Post Roman Pottery Archive

Cxt	Cname	Full name	Form	NoS	NoV	W (g)	Part	Description	Date
003	PEARL	Pearlware	Small bowl	3	1	22	Profile	Multi colour decoration floral and geometric	Mid to Late 18th
003	WHITE	Modern whiteware	?	1	1	26	Base	Waterlain?	19th to 20th
003	PEARL	Pearlware	Dish/ bowl	1	1	20	Base	Moulded decoration	Mid 18th to 19th
003	PEARL	Pearlware	Dish/ bowl	1	1	19	Base	Moulded decoration	Mid 18th to 19th
003	PEARL	Pearlware	Dish/ bowl	1	1	55	Profile	Blue transfer print	19th
003	ENGS	Unspecified English Stoneware	Bottle	1	1	19	BS		19th to 20th
003	TB	Toynton/Bolingbroke wares	Bowl	1	1	59	Rim	Abraded	17th to 18th
003	GRE	Glazed Red Earthenware	Bowl	1	1	36	Rim	Abraded	17th to 18th
009	BOSTTT	Boston Glazed ware - Toynton type	?	1	1	24	Base	Soot	13th to 14th

Summary

A small group of pottery spanning the 13th to 20th centuries was recovered from two contexts, fill of pit (003) and made-up layer (009).

CERAMIC BUILDING MATERIAL

By Anne Irving

Results

Table 2, Ceramic Building Material Archive

Cxt	Cname	Full Name	Sub type	NoF	W (g)	Description	Date
003	BRK	Brick	Pierced	1	222	Discarded; flake	19th to 20th

Summary

A single early modern brick fragment was recovered from fill of pit (003)

FAUNAL REMAINS

By Paul Cope-Faulkner

Introduction

A single (64g) fragment of animal bone was retrieved from the fill of a pit (003).

Condition

The overall condition of the bone was good.

Results

Table 3, Fragments Identified to Taxa

Cxt	Taxon	Element	Side	Number	W (g)	Comments
003	Large mammal	rib	-	1	64	Sawn at both ends

Summary

As a single fragment of bone there is limited potential and, as such, could be discarded.

GLASS

By Gary Taylor

Introduction

Three glass items, 2 of them linking, weighing a total of 654g, were recovered.

Condition

Although naturally fragile the glass is in good condition. The objects are complete or nearly so.

Results

Table 4, Glass Archive

Cxt	Description	NoF	W (g)	Date
003	Very pale green rectangular bottle, embossed 'BRIGHT'S FRUIT SAUCE', near-complete, early 20 th century	2(link)	332	Early 20 th century
	Very pale green rectangular bottle, complete, early 20 th century	1	322	
Totals		3	654	

Provenance

All of the glass was recovered from a pit fill.

Range

Two bottles, probably both sauce containers of early 20th century date, were recovered.

Potential

Other than providing dating evidence, the glass is of limited potential. The completeness of the pieces indicate that there was little subsequent disturbance following their deposition.

SPOT DATING

The dating in Table 5 is based on the evidence provided by the finds detailed above.

Table 5, Spot dates

Cxt	Date	Comments
003	early 20th	
009	13th to 14th	Date on a single sherd

ABBREVIATIONS

ACBMG	Archaeological Ceramic Building Materials Group
BS	Body sherd
CBM	Ceramic Building Material
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	A deposit (usually clay, silts or sands) laid down in water. Marine alluvium is deposited by the sea and freshwater alluvium by streams, rivers or within 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 interpretations of the context (the context sheet) is created and placed in the site archive. Context numbers are identified within the report text by brackets, <i>e.g.</i> (004).
Cut	A cut refers to the physical action of digging a posthole, pit, ditch, foundation trench, <i>etc.</i> Once the fills of these features are removed during an archaeological investigation the original 'cut' is therefore exposed and subsequently recorded.
Dumped deposits	These are deposits, often laid down intentionally, that raise a land surface. They may be the result of casual waste disposal or may be deliberate attempts to raise the ground surface.
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) which become contained by the 'cut' are referred to as its fill(s).
Layer	A layer is a term 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.
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.
Prehistoric	The period of human history prior to the introduction of writing. In Britain the prehistoric period lasts from the first evidence of human occupation about 500,000 BC, until the Roman invasion in the middle of the 1 st century AD.
Romano-British	Pertaining to the period dating from AD 43-410 when the Romans occupied Britain.
Saltern	Salt producing site typified by ash, derived from fuel needed to evaporate sea water, and briquetage.
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:

9	Context records
1	Photographic record sheet
3	Sheets of scale drawings
3	Daily Record Sheets
1	Stratigraphic matrix
1	Bag of finds

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
Art and Archaeology in Lincolnshire
Danes Terrace
Lincoln
LN2 1LP

Accession Number: LCNCC: 2011.332

Archaeological Project Services Site Code: FIRG 11

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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