
**ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING
ON LAND AT
DECOY FARM,
CROWLAND,
LINCOLNSHIRE
(CRDF13 and CRDF15)**

**Work Undertaken For
Robert Doughty Consultancy Ltd,
on behalf of
Material Change Ltd**

April 2016

**Report produced by
Jonathon Smith BA (Hons), MA**

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Museum Accession No: LCNCC:2014.12
Planning Reference: PL/0224/10 and H02-1061-10
OASIS Record No: archaeo11-248445**


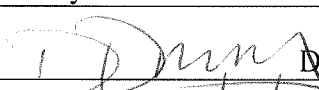
APS Report No: **28/16**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL
PROJECT
SERVICES**



Quality Control
 Decoy Farm,
 Crowland,
 Lincolnshire
 (CRDF15)

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Site Staff	Jonathon Smith, Fiona Walker
Survey processing and report	Jonathon Smith

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CONTENTS

List of Figures

List of Plates

1.	SUMMARY	1
2.	INTRODUCTION	1
2.1	PLANNING BACKGROUND	1
2.2	TOPOGRAPHY AND GEOLOGY	1
2.3	ARCHAEOLOGICAL SETTING	1
3.	AIMS AND OBJECTIVES	1
4.	METHODS	2
5.	RESULTS	2
6.	DISCUSSION	3
7.	CONCLUSIONS	3
8.	ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	3
9.	PERSONNEL	3
10.	BIBLIOGRAPHY	3
11.	ABBREVIATIONS	3

Appendices

1	Context Summary
2	Glossary
3	The Archive
4	OASIS Summary

List of Figures

Figure 1 General location plan

Figure 2 Site location plan

Figure 3 Site Plan

Figure 4 Sections

List of Plates

Plate 1: Working shot of site, looking southwest.

Plate 2: Section 1, looking NNE.

Plate 3: Section 2, looking ESE.

Plate 4: Section 3, looking SW.

Plate 5: Modern ditch [1104], looking SE.

Plate 6: Modern ditch [1107], looking NNE

Plate 7: Modern pit [1109], looking NNE

Plate 8: Section 4, undated ditch [1111], looking WNW

Plate 9: Undated pit [1112], looking east

1. SUMMARY

Archaeological monitoring was undertaken on land at Decoy Farm, Crowland, Lincolnshire. The site is archaeologically sensitive with prehistoric and Roman remains identified on higher ground to the southwest. A post-medieval duck decoy is likely to be located at the site and the farm was probably established in the late 18th to early 19th century.

The monitoring revealed three ditches and two pits. One pit and one of the ditches were undated, and the remaining features were modern. No artefacts were recovered.

2. INTRODUCTION

2.1 Planning Background

Archaeological Project Services was commissioned by the Robert Doughty Consultancy Ltd, on behalf of Material Change Ltd, to undertake a programme of archaeological monitoring and recording during groundworks associated with new energy and recycling park at Decoy Farm, Crowland, Lincolnshire. Approval for the development was sought through the submission of planning applications PL/0224/10 and H02-1061-10. The watching brief was carried between 24th January 2014 and 9th April 2015.

2.2 Topography and Geology

Crowland is situated 12km south of Spalding and 22km east of Stamford in the civil parish of Crowland, South Holland District, Lincolnshire (Fig. 1).

The site, centred on National Grid Reference TF 259 129, is located 3km northeast of the centre of Crowland, on the west of the A16 and Barrier Bank (formerly the A1073) (Fig 2).

The solid geology consists of Oxford Clay Formation mudstone overlain by sand, silt and clay alluvium (BGS 2015). This is covered by pelo-alluvial gley soils of the Wallasea 2 association (Hodge *et al.* 1984). The site is on a level plain at *c.* 2m OD.

2.3 Archaeological Setting

There are no known archaeological finds from the site itself. The nearest archaeological sites are over 2km away, with a Bronze Age barrow cemetery to the southwest and an Iron Age saltern to the east. Both these sites also yielded Roman finds (Taylor 2010).

Saxon and medieval finds are focused on Crowland 3km to the southwest, although documentary evidence suggests the area was used for pasture at this time (Taylor 2010).

The current farm is thought to date from the late 18th century and, given its name, probably incorporated a decoy for the hunting of water fowl, the location of which has now been lost (Taylor 2010).

3. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

The aim of the work was to record, investigate and interpret the deposits and any archaeological features exposed during the development groundworks and to preserve the archaeological resource by record.

The objectives were to establish the type of archaeological activity that might be present within the site, to determine its likely extent, the date and function of the archaeological features present on the site, their state of preservation, spatial arrangement and the extent to which surrounding archaeological features extended into the application area, and to establish the way in which any

archaeological features identified fitted into the pattern of occupation and land-use in the surrounding landscape.

4. METHODS

An area totalling 0.9 hectares, in two separate blocks (Fig. 3), was stripped by mechanical excavator under archaeological supervision, to the depth required by the development. In about three quarters of the area the surface of the underlying natural geology was exposed, but the northeast corner of the site was only excavated to the level of the subsoil.

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 were drawn at a scale of 1:10 and plans at 1:20. Recording of deposits encountered was undertaken according to standard Archaeological Project Services practice.

The extent of the excavated areas and archaeological remains and deposits were recorded with a survey grade GPS.

Following excavation, the records were checked and a stratigraphic matrix produced.

5. RESULTS (Fig 3)

The earliest deposit observed was a firm laminated yellowish grey clay which varied between light and dark (102)/(1103). This contained amorphous patches of dark grey and mid brown material, and had patches of cockle shells in places. This is likely to be marine alluvium.

In the small detached stripped area in the

southeast was a single linear feature [104]. Aligned ESE-WNW, this was at least 18m long and 1m wide. It appeared to be recent, possibly a water pipe trench or an infilled dike.

In the larger stripped area three shallow linears were observed, two of which, [1104] and [1107], contained large fragments of machine-made bricks and were judged to be modern. Gully [1104], which was 1m wide and 2cm deep, was in direct alignment with [104] to the east.

The remaining linear was ESE-WNW aligned with straight 60° sides and a flat base [1111] (Fig 4, Section 4, Plate 8). It was 13m long, 0.20m wide and 0.15m deep. The linear was filled by a mixed dark brownish grey and mid brownish yellow clay (1112), possibly a deliberate backfill.

Gully [1107] was cut by a pit [1109]. This was rectangular and full of charcoal and cinder fire waste (1110) (Plate 7). Modern brick/tile and glass was observed in (1110) but not retained.

A second pit, located in the northwestern part of the site, was rectangular with rounded 90° corners, shallow concave sides and a flat base, 0.50m long, 0.40m wide and 0.05m deep [1113] (Plate 9). It was filled by a firm black clay, 0.02m thick (1114) followed by a firm mid brown silty clay, 0.04m thick (1115).

Sealing all the observed features was a firm mid greyish brown clayey silt subsoil, 0.3m thick (102)/(1102). This was overlain by a stiff dark brownish grey clay topsoil, 0.30m thick (101)/(1001). In places the topsoil was in turn covered by a soft dark brownish grey clayey silt with frequent shredded plastic, 0.40m thick (1006) which was probably a recently imported soil, perhaps related to the land's current use as a compost store.

6. DISCUSSION

The majority of features observed were shallow and modern. Gullies [104] and [1104] were the same width and in direct alignment and are probably parts of the same feature. Their discontinuity is probably due to their shallowness, [1104] being a maximum of 2cm deep.

Gully [1111] contained no dating evidence, but was morphologically similar to the modern gullies [1104] and [1107], and sits on a similar alignment, parallel to the current track and field system. As such, gully [1111] is probably part of the post-medieval enclosure system. Together these gullies probably represent modern drainage works or temporary field divisions.

Truncating modern gully [1107] was a pit [1109]. This also contained recent debris, including fire waste.

The undated pit [1113] is relatively isolated from the other features and of uncertain function.

7. CONCLUSIONS

Archaeological monitoring and recording was undertaken during groundworks at Decoy Farm, Crowland, Lincolnshire. The site is archaeologically sensitive, with its name suggesting the former presence of a post-medieval duck decoy in the vicinity.

Several gullies and two pits were observed, most of which were probably post-medieval or modern except one pit, which was undated and of unclear association to the other remains.

No archaeological finds were recovered.

8. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeological Project Services wishes to acknowledge the Robert Doughty Consultancy Ltd and Material Change Ltd for commissioning the fieldwork and post-excavation analysis. The work was coordinated by Gary Taylor who edited this report along with Denise Drury.

9. PERSONNEL

Project Coordinator: Gary Taylor
 Site Supervisor: Jonathon Smith and Fiona Walker
 Photographic reproduction: Jonathon Smith
 CAD Illustration: Jonathon Smith
 Post-excavation Analyst: Jonathon Smith

10. BIBLIOGRAPHY

BGS, *Geology of Britain Viewer*. <http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html> (accessed 14.04.2015)

Hodge, CAH, Burton, RGO, Corbett, WM, Evans, R, and Seale, RS, 1984 *Soils and their use in Eastern England*, Soil Survey of England and Wales **13**

Taylor, G, 2010 *Archaeological Deskbased Assessment of Land at Decoy Farm, Postland Road, Crowland, Lincolnshire*. Heckington: Archaeological Project Services Report **109/10**

11. ABBREVIATIONS

APS Archaeological Project Services
 BGS British Geological Survey
 OD Ordnance Datum (height above sea level)



Figure 1 - General location plan

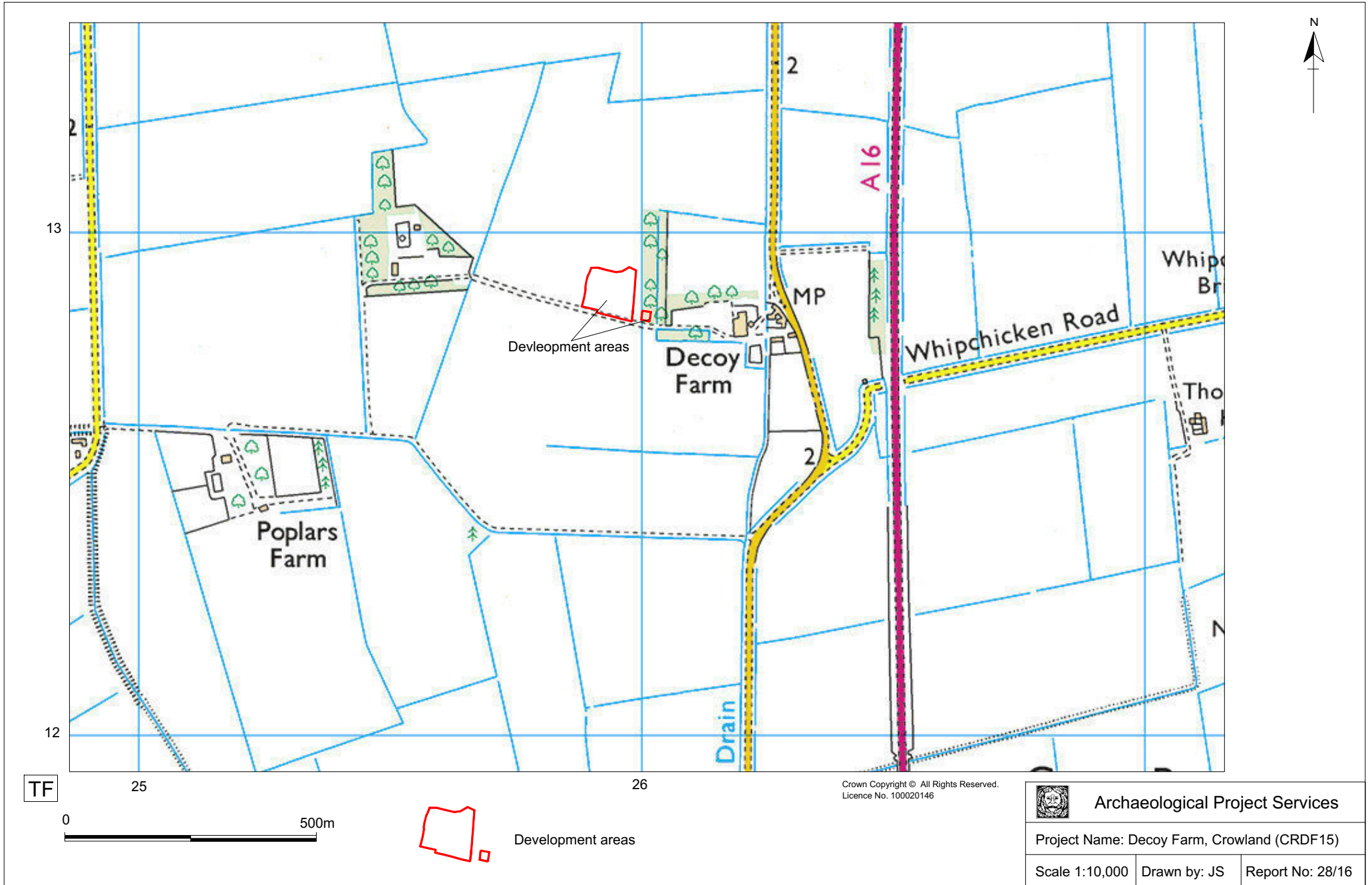
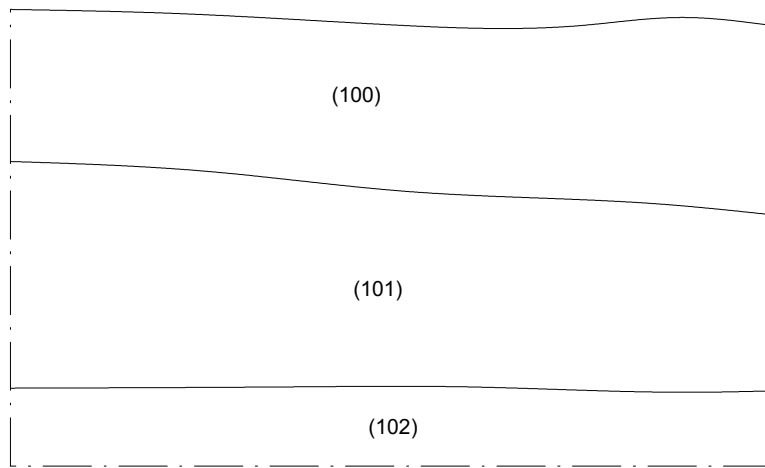


Figure 2 - Site location



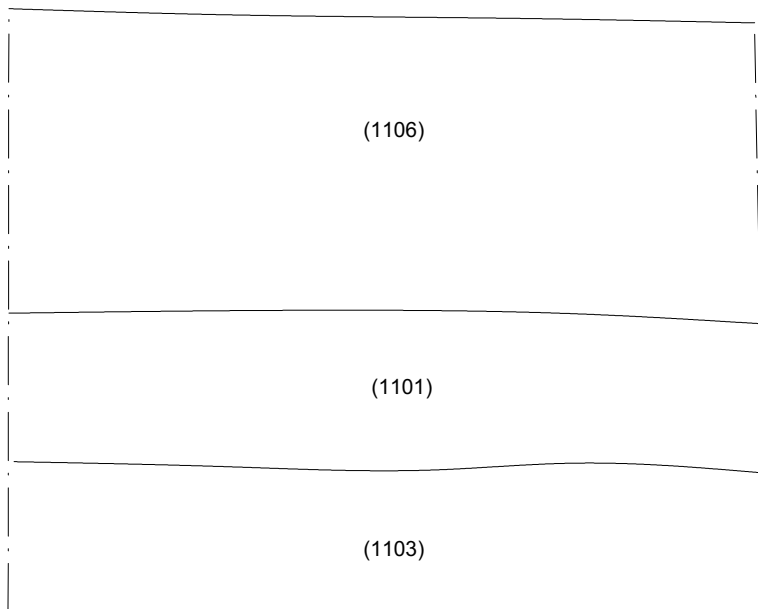
Figure 3 - Site Plan



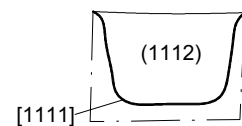
Section 1



Section 2



Section 3



Section 4



Archaeological Project Services

Project Name: Decoy Farm, Crowland (CRDF15)

Scale 1:10

Drawn by: JS

Report No: 28/16

Figure 4 - Sections



Plate 1: Working shot of site, looking southwest



Plate 2: Section 1, looking NNE



Plate 3: Section 2, looking ESE



Plate 4: Section 3, looking SW

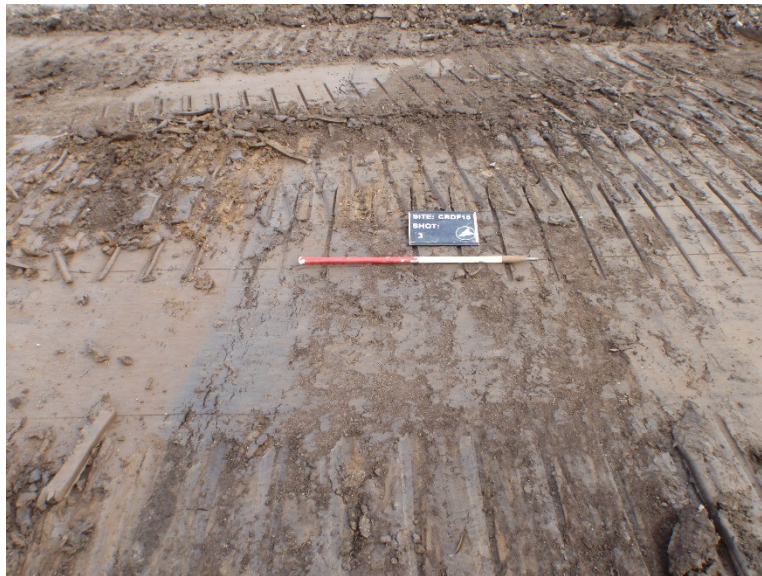


Plate 5: Modern ditch [1104], looking SE

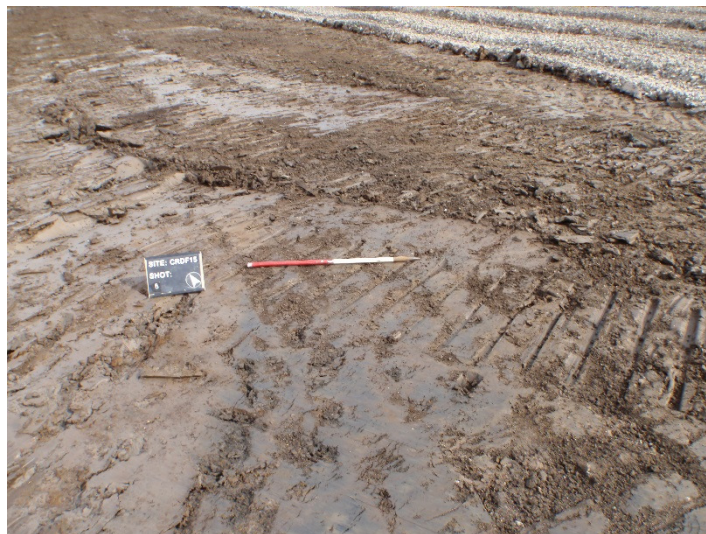


Plate 6: Modern ditch [1107], looking NNE



Plate 7: Modern pit [1109], looking NNE



Plate 8: Section 4, undated ditch [1111], looking WNW



Plate 9 Undated pit [1112], looking E

Appendix 1 – Context Descriptions

Context	Description	Interpretation	Date
(100)	Crumbly, dark brownish grey, silt with some clay and organic, 0.2m thick	Topsoil	Modern
(101)	Firm mid greyish brown clayey silt, 0.3m thick	Subsoil	
(102)	Firm mid yellow brown silty clay	Natural clay	Natural
(103)	Firm dark grey silty clay.	Fill of gully [104]	Modern
[104]	Cut of an ESE-WNW aligned linear, >18m long, 1m wide.	Gully	Modern
(1101)	Stiff dark brownish grey clay, 0.30m thick.	Former topsoil	Modern
(1102)	Stiff mid greyish brown clay, 0.10m thick.	Subsoil	Modern
(1103)	Stiff light yellowish brown clay. Has some dark grey laminations. Some patches are dark grey and some mid brown, but these do not form obvious features. Contains patches of cockles.	Marine alluvium	Natural
[1104]	Cut of an ESE-WNW aligned linear, 6m long, 1m wide and 0.02m deep.	Gully	Modern
(1105)	Firm dark grey silty clay with frequent mid sized chunks of machine-made bricks.	Fill of gully [1104]	Modern
(1106)	Soft dark brownish grey clayey silt with frequent shredded plastic, especially on the interface with (1101), 0.40m thick.	Imported topsoil	Modern
[1107]	Cut of a NNE-SSW aligned linear with steep concave sides and a concave base. 23m long, 1.30m wide and 0.20m deep.	Gully	Modern
(1108)	Firm mid grey silty clay containing some large pieces of machine made bricks. 0.20m thick.	Fill of [1107]	Modern
[1109]	Cut of a N-S aligned rectangular feature with sharp square corners. Not excavated. 0.90m long and 0.70m wide.	Pit for fire waste.	Modern
(1110)	Loose dark grey mixture of charcoal and cinder. Contains fragments of unburnt glass and CBM.	Fire waste	Modern
[1111]	Cut of an ESE-WNW linear with straight 60° sides and a flat base. 13m long, 0.20m wide and 0.15m deep.	Gully	
(1112)	Firm mixed dark brownish grey and mid brownish yellow clay. Possibly deliberately backfilled. 0.15m thick.	Fill of gully [1111]	
[1113]	Cut of a rectangular feature with rounded 90° corners, shallow concave sides and a flat base. 0.50m long, 0.40m wide and 0.05m deep.	Posthole or small pit.	
(1114)	Firm black clay, 0.02m thick.	Fill in [1113]	
(1115)	Firm mid brown silty clay, 0.04m thick.	Fill in [1113]	

Appendix 2

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.
Bronze Age	A period characterised by the introduction of bronze into the country for tools, between 2250 and 800 BC.
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).
Iron Age	A period characterised by the introduction of Iron into the country for tools, between 800 BC and AD 50.
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.
Natural	Undisturbed deposit(s) of soil or rock which have accumulated without the influence of human activity
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 3

THE ARCHIVE

The archive consists of:

2	Context register sheets
20	Context sheets
2	Photographic record sheets
6	Daily record sheets
2	Section record sheets
1	Plan register sheet
5	Sheets of scale drawings

All primary records 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

Museum Accession No:	LCNCC:2014.12
Archaeological Project Services Site Code:	CRDF13, CRDF15
OASIS record no:	archaeo11-248445

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: archaeol1-248445

Project details

Project name	ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING ON LAND AT DECOY FARM, CROWLAND, LINCOLNSHIRE
Short description of the project	Monitoring and recording of groundworks related to development at Decoy Farm, Crowland, South Holland, Lincolnshire. Three gullies and two pits were identified, all of which proved to be modern, except one pit which was undated.
Project dates	Start: 24-01-2014 End: 09-04-2015
Previous/future work	No / No
Any associated project reference codes	CRDF13 - Sitecode
Any associated project reference codes	CRDF15 - Sitecode
Any associated project reference codes	PL/0224/10 - Planning Application No.
Any associated project reference codes	H02-1061-10 - Planning Application No.
Any associated project reference codes	LCNCC:2014.12 - Museum accession ID
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	None
Current Land use	Other 15 - Other
Monument type	GULLY Modern
Monument type	PIT Modern
Monument type	PIT Uncertain
Significant Finds	NONE None
Investigation type	""Watching Brief""
Prompt	Planning condition

Project location

Country England
 Site location LINCOLNSHIRE SOUTH HOLLAND CROWLAND Decoy Farm
 Postcode PE6 0LX
 Study area 0.9 Hectares
 Site coordinates TF 25950 11880 52.68958246569 -0.136310597176 52 41 22 N 000 08 10 W
 Point

Project creators

Name of Organisation Archaeological Project Services
 Project brief originator Local Planning Authority (with/without advice from County/District Archaeologist)
 Project design originator Gary Taylor
 Project director/manager Gary Taylor
 Project supervisor Jonathon Smith, Fiona Walker
 Type of sponsor/funding body Developer
 Name of sponsor/funding body Robert Doughty Consultancy Ltd on behalf of Material Change Ltd

Project archives

Physical Archive Exists? No
 Digital Archive recipient The Collection
 Digital Archive ID LCNCC:2014.12
 Digital Contents "Survey"
 Digital Media available "Images raster / digital photography","Images vector","Survey","Text"
 Paper Archive recipient The Collection
 Paper Archive ID LCNCC:2014.12
 Paper Contents "Survey"
 Paper Media available "Context sheet","Correspondence","Diary","Photograph","Plan","Report","Section"

Project bibliography 1

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