

# ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF AT GOUGHS LANE, BELTON-IN-RUTLAND, RUTLAND (BRGL 07)

Planning Application No: RES/2004/0706/ID

# Work Undertaken For Brown and Shaw (Builders) Limited

February 2008

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

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ARCHAEOLOGICAL PROJECT SERVICES





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# 1. SUMMARY

A watching brief was undertaken during groundworks at Goughs Lane, Belton-in-Rutland, Rutland. The watching brief monitored the excavation of foundation trenches for two new detached dwellings.

The site lies close to the core of the medieval village best represented by the extant remains of the 13<sup>th</sup> century church of St Peter. Remnants of a village cross and earthworks of ridge and furrow also survive in the vicinity. A Roman coin has also been recovered from the parish.

The watching brief revealed a sequence of natural, subsoil and topsoil layers. No archaeological features were identified, though variations in subsoil depth may indicate vestigial remains of ridge and furrow. Post-medieval artefacts, mostly found by metal-detecting, were recovered.

# 2. INTRODUCTION

# 2.1 Definition of a Watching Brief

An archaeological watching brief is defined as "a formal programme of observation and investigation conducted during any operation carried out for non-archaeological reasons. This will be within a specified area or site on land, inter-tidal zone or underwater, where there is a possibility that archaeological deposits may be disturbed or destroyed." (IFA 1999).

# 2.2 Planning Background

Archaeological **Project** Services was commissioned by Brown and Shaw (Builders) Limited to undertake archaeological watching brief during groundworks associated with new residential development at Goughs Lane, Belton-in-Rutland, Rutland. Approval for the development was sought through the submission planning application of

RES/2004/0706/ID. The watching brief was carried out between the 6<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> December 2007 in accordance with a specification prepared by Archaeological Project Services (Appendix and 1) Planning approved Senior by the Archaeologist, County Leicestershire Council.

# 2.3 Topography and Geology

Belton-in-Rutland is located 9km southwest of Oakham in the county of Rutland (Fig. 1).

The site is located 270m southwest of the centre of the village as defined by the parish church of St Peter at National Grid Reference SK 815 011 (Fig. 2). The site is situated on the south side of Goughs Lane, close to the junction with New Road, at a height of c. 120m OD on land that slopes down to the south towards the valley of the Eye Brook.

Local soils are of the Ragdale Association, typically stony clays or clay loam (Hodge *et al.* 1984, 293). These soils are developed on a drift deposit of glacial sand and gravel which seals a solid geology of Jurassic Upper Lias Clay (GSGB 1975).

# 2.4 Archaeological Setting

Belton is located in an area of known archaeological remains dating from the Romano-British period to the present day. A bronze coin of Constantine II is known from the parish.

Belton is first mentioned in the Pipe Rolls of 1167. Referred to as *Bealton*, the name is derived from the Old English  $t\bar{u}n$ , meaning settlement, with an obscure first element (Ekwall 1989, 37).

Extant remains of the medieval period include the church of St Peter which dates from c. 1200 with a  $14^{th} - 15^{th}$  century tower (Pevsner 1992, 455) and the remains of a village cross. Ridge and furrow of the

medieval field system survives as earthworks around the village, including the field immediately south of the development area.

A watching brief undertaken some 60m northeast of the site identified a medieval subsoil with a  $16^{th} - 17^{th}$  century pit and later activity (Bamforth 2003, 4).

# 3. AIMS

The requirements of the watching brief, as detailed in the specification (Appendix 1), were to locate and record archaeological deposits and, if present, to determine their date, function and origin.

# 4. METHODS

Prior to the excavation of foundation trenches, topsoil was partially removed from the site. Foundation trenches were then excavated by machine to depths required by the development. Following excavation, the sides of the trenches were 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 2. A photographic record was compiled and sections were drawn at a scale of 1:10. Recording was undertaken according standard Archaeological Project Services practice.

Following excavation finds were examined and a period date assigned where possible (Appendix 3). 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.

# 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 within both plots during the watching brief were natural layers of bluish grey clay (001 and 008) measuring over 0.35m thick.

In Plot A, this was overlain by natural mixed bluish grey clay and yellowish brown sandy clay (002) that was 0.6m thick.

Within Plot B was a natural layer of yellowish brown mixed sands and clays (007) that was 0.95m thick.

Developed upon the natural layers was a subsoil comprising yellowish brown sandy clay (003) in Plot A and greyish brown clayey sand (006) in Plot B. These measured between 0.2m and 0.5m thick.

A topsoil of yellowish brown sandy silt (004) measuring 100mm thick was recorded in Plot A. This had been removed from the vicinity of Plot B.

A number of finds were retrieved by metal-detecting, presumably from topsoil and subsoil deposits. These comprised copper alloy objects, including two coins, and lead items including a musket ball. A billhook was also retrieved as an unstratified object.

# 6. DISCUSSION

Natural deposits (Phase 1) comprise clays of the underlying Lower Lias Clays with mixed sands and clays of the glacially derived drift geology.

A subsoil had developed upon this layer and implies that the site was under an agricultural regime in the past. Furthermore, the difference in the thickness of the subsoil deposits could be related to ridge and furrow, evident immediately south of the site (Plate 5).

Artefacts of 18<sup>th</sup> century and later date were recovered by metal detecting and perhaps imply increased use of the area in the post-medieval period.

# 7. CONCLUSION

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken at Goughs Lane, Belton-in-Rutland, as the site lay close to the medieval core of the village.

However, no medieval features were identified during the watching brief and only a sequence of natural, subsoil and topsoil deposits were encountered. Variations in the thickness of subsoil may indicate remnants of ridge and furrow.

# 8. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeological Project Services wishes to acknowledge the assistance of Mr R Stiff of Brown and Shaw (Builders) Limited for commissioning the fieldwork and post-excavation analysis. The work was coordinated by Gary Taylor who edited this report along with Tom Lane. Dave Start kindly allowed access to the library maintained by Heritage Lincolnshire.

# 9. PERSONNEL

Project Coordinator: Gary Taylor

Site Supervisors: Tom Bradley-Lovekin,

**Chris Moulis** 

Finds processing: Denise Buckley

Photographic reproduction: Sue Unsworth

Illustration: Paul Cope-Faulkner

Post-excavation analysis: Paul Cope-

Faulkner

# 10. BIBLIOGRAPHY

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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** 

IFA, 1999 Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs

Pevsner, N, 1992 *Leicestershire and Rutland*, The Buildings of England (2<sup>nd</sup> edition revised E Williamson)

## 11. ABBREVIATIONS

APS Archaeological Project Services

GSGB Geological Survey of Great Britain

IFA Institute of Field Archaeologists

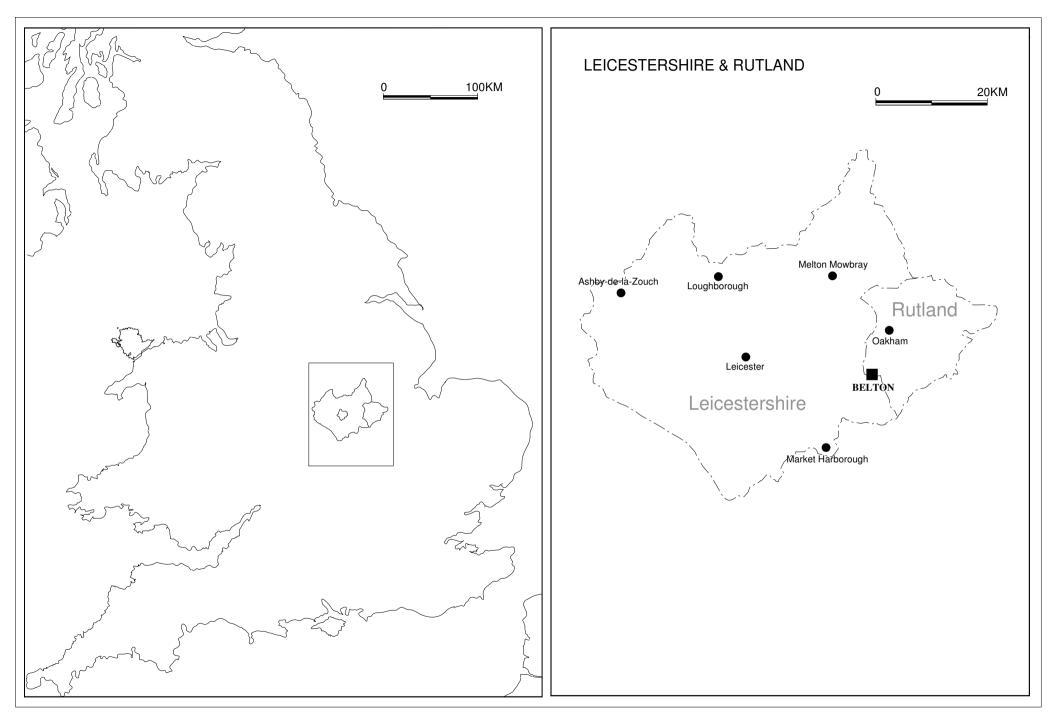


Figure 1 - General location map

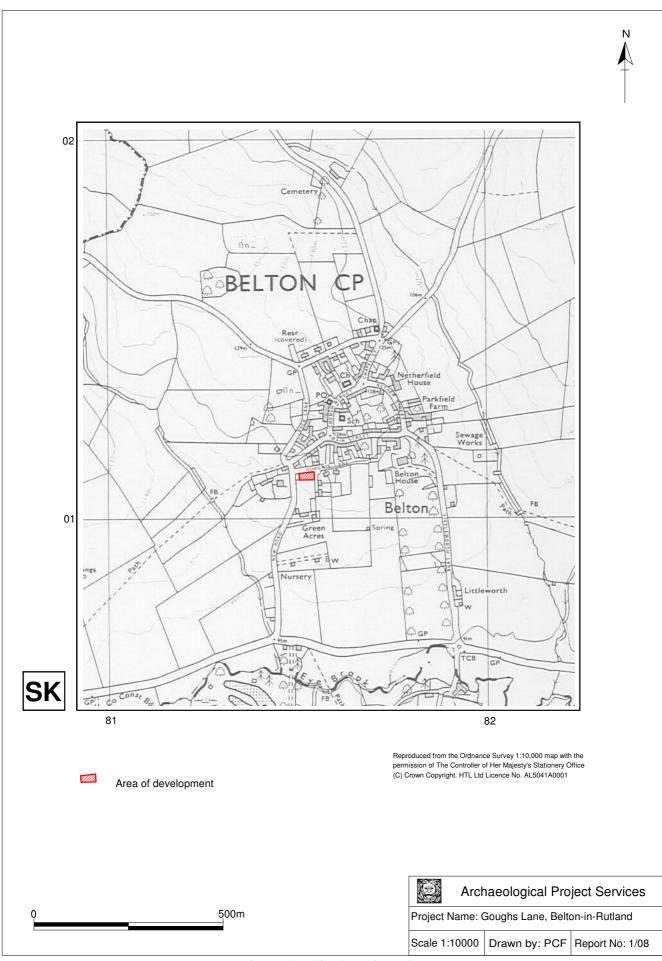


Figure 2 - Site location plan

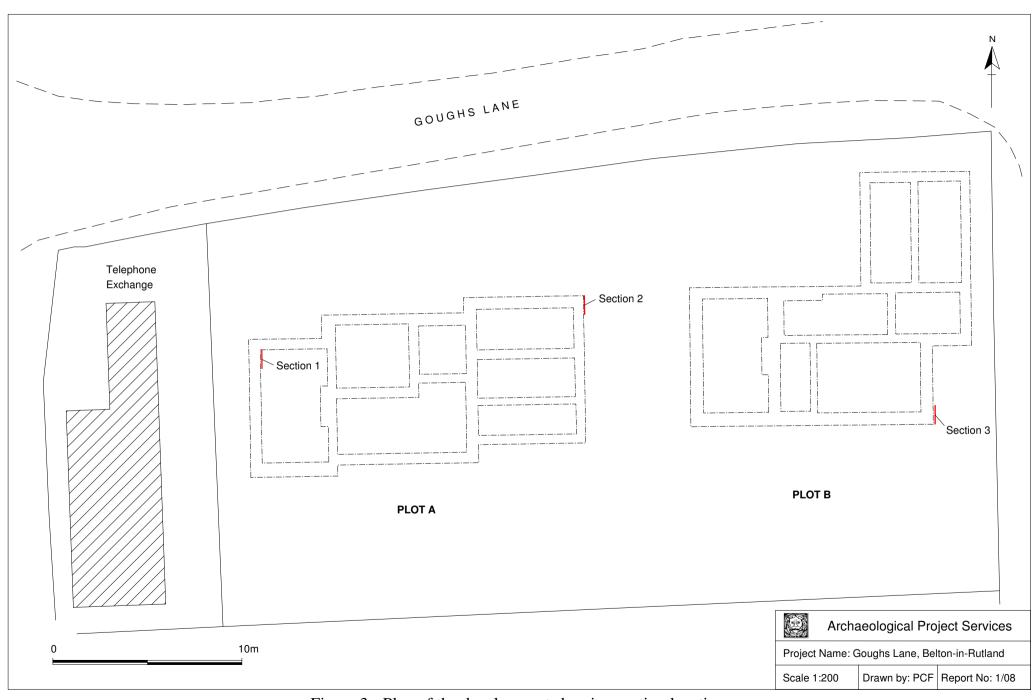


Figure 3 - Plan of the development showing section locations

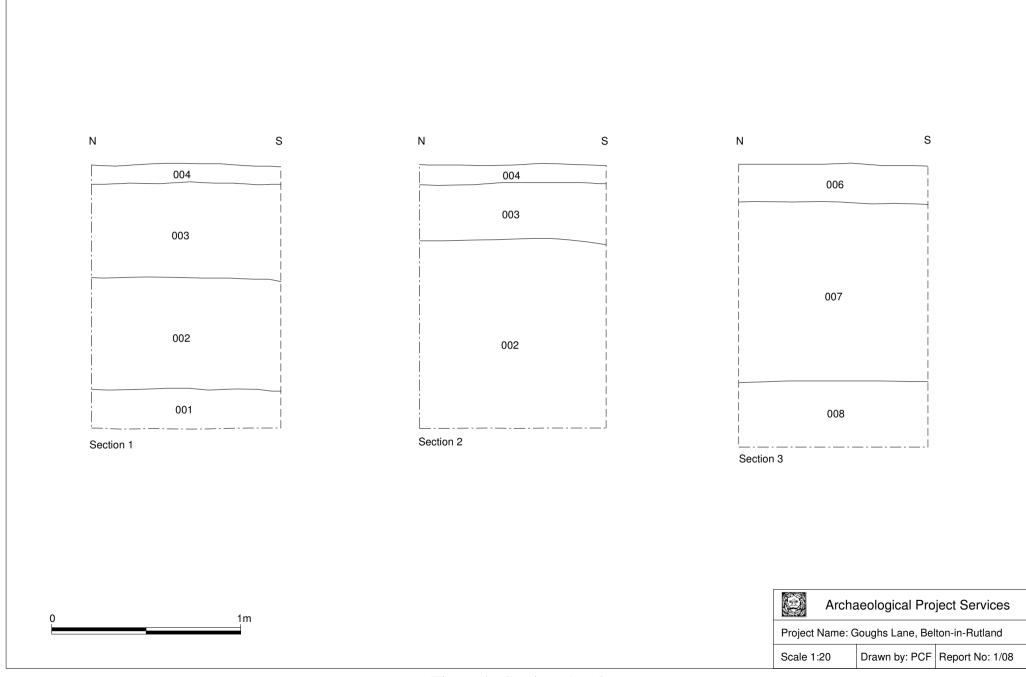


Figure 4 - Sections 1 to 3



Plate 1 – General view of the development area, looking northwest



Plate 2 – Section 1, looking east



Plate 3 – Section 2, looking east



Plate 4 – Section 3, looking east



Plate 4 – View showing remnants of ridge and furrow immediately south of the site, looking south

# LAND ADJACENT TO THE TELEPHONE EXCHANGE, GOUGH LANE, BELTON IN RUTLAND, RUTLAND - SPECIFICATION FOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

#### 1 SUMMARY

- 1.1 A watching brief is required during construction of two dwellings on land adjacent to the Telephone Exchange, Goughs Lane, Belton in Rutland, Rutland.
- 1.2 The site lies in an area of archaeological interest and potential, within the historic settlement core of Belton in Rutland. Medieval and undated remains have previously been found in the vicinity.
- 1.3 The archaeological work will consist of a watching brief during development works on the site.
- 1.4 On completion of the fieldwork a report will be prepared detailing the results of the watching brief. The report will consist of a narrative supported by illustrations and photographs.

# 2 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 This document comprises a specification for archaeological watching brief during construction of two dwellings on land adjacent to the Telephone Exchange, Goughs Lane, Belton in Rutland, Rutland.
- 2.2 This document contains the following parts:
  - 2.2.1 Overview.
  - 2.2.2 Stages of work and methodologies.
  - 2.2.3 List of specialists.
  - 2.2.4 Programme of works and staffing structure of the project

# 3 SITE LOCATION

3.1 Belton in Rutland is located approximately 9km southwest of Oakham on the southwestern border of Rutland. The site lies on the south side of Goughs Lane, adjacent to the Telephone Exchange, in the southwest of the village. It is centred on National Grid Reference SK 815 011.

### 4 PLANNING BACKGROUND

4.1 Planning permission (RES/2004/0706/ID) has been granted by Rutland County Council for construction of two dwellings. Permission is subject to a condition requiring the undertaking of a watching brief during groundworks associated with the development.

# 5 SOILS AND TOPOGRAPHY

5.1 The village lies on the end of a spur of land between two small tributaries to the Eye Brook with the land generally sloping south toward the stream, with the site at an elevation of 110m OD. Soils of the area are greyish brown moderately stony clay or clay loam of the Ragdale Association developed on till (Hodge *et al.* 1984, 293).

# 6 ARCHAEOLOGICAL OVERVIEW

6.1 The site is in an area of potential archaeological significance within the historic settlement core of

medieval and post-medieval Belton in Rutland. Medieval structures and remains in the vicinity include the parish church. A subsoil of 13<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup> century date, a 16<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup> century pit and other features of 18<sup>th</sup> century date were revealed close by (Archaeological Project Services 2002). Undated ditches and banks have also been identified in the area.

# 7 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- 7.1 The aims of the watching brief will be:
  - 7.1.1 To record and interpret the archaeological features exposed during the excavation of the foundation trenches and other areas of ground disturbance.
  - 7.2 The objectives of the watching brief will be to:
    - 7.2.1 Determine the form and function of the archaeological features encountered;
    - 7.2.2 Determine the spatial arrangement of the archaeological features encountered;
    - 7.2.3 As far as practicable, recover dating evidence from the archaeological features, and
    - 7.2.4 Establish the sequence of the archaeological remains present on the site.

# 8 SITE OPERATIONS

# 8.1 General considerations

- 8.1.1 All work will be undertaken following statutory Health and Safety requirements in operation at the time of the watching brief.
- 8.1.2 The work will be undertaken according to the relevant codes of practise issued by the Institute of Field Archaeologists (IFA), under the management of a Member of the institute (MIFA). Archaeological Project Services is IFA registered organisation no. 21.
- 8.1.3 Any and all artefacts found during the investigation and thought to be 'treasure', as defined by the Treasure Act 1996, will be removed from site to a secure store and promptly reported to the appropriate coroner's office.

# 8.2 <u>Methodology</u>

- 8.2.1 The watching brief will be undertaken during the ground works phase of development, and includes the archaeological monitoring of all phases of soil movement.
- 8.2.2 Stripped areas and trench sections will be observed regularly to identify and record archaeological features that are exposed and to record changes in the geological conditions. The section drawings of the trenches will be recorded at a scale of 1:10. Should features be recorded in plan these will be drawn at a scale of 1:20. Written descriptions detailing the nature of the deposits, features and fills encountered will be compiled on Archaeological Project Services pro-forma record sheets.
- 8.2.3 Any finds recovered will be bagged and labelled for later analysis.
- 8.2.4 Throughout the watching brief a photographic record will be compiled. The photographic record will consist of:
  - the site during work to show specific stages, and the layout of the archaeology within the trench.
  - groups of features where their relationship is important

8.2.5 Should human remains be located the appropriate Home Office licence will be obtained before their removal. In addition, the Local Environmental Health Department and the police will be informed.

# 9 POST-EXCAVATION

# 9.1 <u>Stage 1</u>

- 9.1.1 On completion of site operations, the records and schedules produced during the watching brief will be checked and ordered to ensure that they form a uniform sequence forming a level II archive. A stratigraphic matrix of the archaeological deposits and features present on the site will be prepared. All photographic material will be catalogued and labelled, the labelling referring to schedules identifying the subject/s photographed.
- 9.1.2 All finds recovered during the field work will be washed, marked and packaged according to the deposit from which they were recovered. Any finds requiring specialist treatment and conservation will be sent to the Conservation Laboratory at the City and County Museum, Lincoln.

# 9.2 <u>Stage 2</u>

- 9.2.1 Detailed examination of the stratigraphic matrix to enable the determination of the various phases of activity on the site.
- 9.2.2 Finds will be sent to specialists for identification and dating.

# 9.3 Stage 3

- 9.3.1 On completion of stage 2, a report detailing the findings of the watching brief will be prepared.
- 9.3.2 This will consist of:
  - A non-technical summary of the results of the investigation.
  - A description of the archaeological setting of the watching brief.
  - Description of the topography of the site.
  - Description of the methodologies used during the watching brief.
  - A text describing the findings of the watching brief.
  - A consideration of the local, regional and national context of the watching brief findings.
  - Plans of the archaeological features exposed. If a sequence of archaeological deposits is encountered, separate plans for each phase will be produced.
  - Sections of the trenches and archaeological features.
  - Interpretation of the archaeological features exposed, and their chronology and setting within the surrounding landscape.
  - Specialist reports on the finds from the site.
  - Appropriate photographs of the site and specific archaeological features.

### 10 REPORT DEPOSITION

10.1 Copies of the report will be sent to the Client; the Senior Planning Archaeologist, Leicestershire County Council; Rutland County Council Planning Department; and to the County Council Archaeological Sites and Monuments Record.

### 11 ARCHIVE

11.1 The documentation and records generated during the watching brief will be sorted and ordered into the format acceptable to with Rutland County Museum, sorted and ordered into the format acceptable to the Museum. This will be undertaken following the requirements of the documents titled *Acquisition and Disposal Policy*, prepared by Rutland County Museum.

# 12 PUBLICATION

12.1 Details of the investigation will be input to the Online Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations (OASIS). A report of the findings of the evaluation will be submitted to the journals: *Rutland Record* and *Transactions of the Leicestershire Archaeological and Historical* Society. If appropriate, notes or articles describing the results of the investigation will also be submitted for publication in the appropriate national journals: *Medieval Archaeology* and *Journal of the Medieval Settlement Research Group* for medieval and later remains, and *Britannia* for discoveries of Roman date.

# 13 CURATORIAL RESPONSIBILITY

13.1 Curatorial responsibility for the archaeological work undertaken on the site lies with the Senior Planning Archaeologist, Leicestershire County Council. They will be given seven days notice in writing before the commencement of the project.

# 14 VARIATIONS AND CONTINGENCIES

- 14.1 Variations to the proposed scheme of works will only be made following written confirmation of acceptance from the archaeological curator.
- 14.2 In the event of the discovery of any unexpected remains of archaeological importance, or of any changed circumstances, it is the responsibility of the archaeological contractor to inform the archaeological curator.
- 14.3 Where important archaeological remains are discovered and deemed to merit further investigation additional resources may be required to provide an appropriate level of investigation, recording and analysis.
- 14.4 Any contingency requirement for additional fieldwork or post-excavation analysis outside the scope of the proposed scheme of works will only be activated following full consultation with the archaeological curator and the client.

# 15 PROGRAMME OF WORKS AND STAFFING LEVELS

- 15.1 The watching brief will be integrated with the programme of construction and is dependent on the developers' work programme. It is therefore not possible to specify the person-hours for the archaeological site work.
- 15.2 An archaeological supervisor with experience of watching briefs will undertake the work.
- 15.3 Post-excavation analysis and report production will be undertaken by the archaeological supervisor, or a post-excavation analyst as appropriate, with assistance from a finds supervisor, illustrator and external specialists. It is expected that each fieldwork day (equal to one person-day) will require a post-excavation day (equal to one-and-a-half person-days) for completion of the analysis and report. If the

fieldwork lasts longer than about four days then there will be an economy of scale with the post-excavation analysis.

# 16 SPECIALISTS TO BE USED DURING THE PROJECT

16.1 The following organisations/persons will, in principle and if necessary, be used as subcontractors to provide the relevant specialist work and reports in respect of any objects or material recovered during the investigation that require their expert knowledge and input. Engagement of any particular specialist subcontractor is also dependent on their availability and ability to meet programming requirements.

<u>Task</u> Body to be undertaking the work

Conservation Conservation Laboratory, City and County Museum, Lincoln

Pottery Analysis Prehistoric - Trent & Peak Archaeological Trust

Roman - B Precious, Independent Specialist

Anglo-Saxon - post-medieval - J Young, Independent Specialist/A

Boyle, APS

Non-pottery Artefacts J Cowgill, Independent Specialist/G Taylor, APS

Animal/human Bones J Kitch, APS

Environmental Analysis J Rackham, Independent Specialist

# 17 INSURANCES

17.1 Archaeological Project Services, as part of the Heritage Trust of Lincolnshire, maintains Employers Liability Insurance of £10,000,000, together with Public and Products Liability insurances, each with indemnity of £5,000,000. Copies of insurance documentation can be supplied on request.

# 18 COPYRIGHT

- 18.1 Archaeological Project Services shall retain full copyright of any commissioned reports under the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988 with all rights reserved; excepting that it hereby provides an exclusive licence to the client for the use of such documents by the client in all matters directly relating to the project as described in the Project Specification.
- 18.2 Licence will also be given to the archaeological curators to use the documentary archive for educational, public and research purposes.
- 18.3 In the case of non-satisfactory settlement of account then copyright will remain fully and exclusively with Archaeological Project Services. In these circumstances it will be an infringement under the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988 for the client to pass any report, partial report, or copy of same, to any third party. Reports submitted in good faith by Archaeological Project Services to any Planning Authority or archaeological curator will be removed from said planning Authority and/or archaeological curator. The Planning Authority and/or archaeological curator will be notified by Archaeological Project Services that the use of any such information previously supplied constitutes an infringement under the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988 and may result in legal action.
- 18.4 The author of any report or specialist contribution to a report shall retain intellectual copyright of their work and may make use of their work for educational or research purposes or for further publication

# 19 BIBLIOGRAPHY

Archaeological Project Services, 2003 Archaeological Watching Brief on land to the rear of 30 Main Street, Belton-in-Rutland, Rutland (BMS02), APS report no. 38/03

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** 

Specification: Version 1, 30<sup>th</sup> April 2007

# CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

No.	Area	<b>Description</b> Interpretation			
001	A	Plastic light bluish grey clay, >0.2m thick  Natural deposit			
002	A	Firm mixed mid bluish grey clay and yellowish brown sandy clay, 0.6m thick			
003	A	Friable mid yellowish brown sandy clay, 0.5m thick	Subsoil		
004	A	Loose dark yellowish brown sandy silt, 100mm thick	Topsoil		
005	Metal detected finds from stripped area				
006	В	Firm mid greyish brown clayey sand, 0.2m thick	Subsoil		
007	В	Firm light yellowish brown mixed sands and clays, 0.95m thick	Natural deposit		
008	В	B Firm dark bluish grey clay, >0.35m thick Natural deposit			
009	Unstrat	ified finds retrieval			

# THE FINDS

By Gary Taylor

#### INTRODUCTION

Nine items, all metal and weighing a total of 875g, were recovered during the investigations, the majority as unstratified artefacts found by metal detecting. All of the items are post-medieval to early modern in date.

### **Condition**

All of the material is in good condition and presents no long-term storage problems.

#### Results

Table 1, Other Materials

Cxt	Material	Description	NoF	W (g)	Date
	Copper alloy	Coin, 1d George V, 1914	1	8	
	Copper alloy	Coin, 1/2d George II, counterstruck 'CORK', 1729-39	1	5	1
	Copper alloy	Shotgun cartridge base, 20th century	1	1	
005	Copper alloy	Button, 20th century	1	2	20 <sup>th</sup> century
000	Copper alloy	Chromed mount/back plate, 20th century	1	4	20 centary
	Lead	Musket ball? Post-medieval	1	24	
	Lead	Cast ball, not musket ball, no corrosion, 20th century	1	7	1
	Lead alloy	White metal ferrule, 20th century	1	1	1
009	Iron	Billhook, rectangular-sectioned tang	1	823	Post-medieval

#### **Provenance**

All of the finds were unstratified, most recovered during metal detecting (005), while one was retrieved during the watching brief monitoring, but also as an unstratified object (009).

#### Range

Ferrous and non-ferrous metals were recovered, with the latter being most abundant, though this is probably due to the metal detector being on discrimination mode to exclude iron. Although metal detection has enhanced the level of recovery of metals, the total absence of other materials is unusual.

An iron billhook, complete except for the handle, was recovered from (009). Billhooks were used for coppicing and lopping stems and branches of trees and shrubs.

### **Potential**

All of the material is post-medieval to early modern. Overall the potential of the assemblage is low, other than providing some indications of date range and, due to the bias in the collection, the possibility of some functional traits.

# SPOT DATING

The dating in table 2 is based on the evidence provided by the finds detailed above.

# Table 2, Spot dates

Cxt	Date	Comments
005	20 <sup>th</sup>	Unstratified
009	Post-medieval	Unstratified

ABBREVIATIONS CXT Cor

Context Number of Fragments Weight (grams) NoF W (g)

# **GLOSSARY**

**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, *e.g.*(004).

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.

**Romano-British** Pertaining to the period dating from AD 43-410 when the Romans occupied Britain.

# THE ARCHIVE

The archive consists of:

- 9 Context records
- 1 Photographic record sheet
- 4 Drawing 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:

Rutland County Museum Catmose Street Oakham Rutland LE15 6HW

Accession Number: OAKRM: 2007.57

Archaeological Project Services Site Code: BRGL 07

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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