
**ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF
AT TEMPLE COTTAGE,
TEMPLE BRUER,
LINCOLNSHIRE
(TBTC 08)**

**Work Undertaken For
Mr B Covell**

March 2008

Report Compiled by
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Planning Application No: N/63/1080/07
National Grid Reference: TF 0083 5375
City and County Museum Accession No: 2008.37
OASIS Record No: archaeo11-38923

APS Report No. **26/08**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL
PROJECT
SERVICES**



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1. SUMMARY

A watching brief was undertaken during groundworks at Temple Cottage, Temple Bruer, Lincolnshire. The watching brief monitored the excavation of stanchion pits for a new agricultural building and the stripping of an access road.

The site lies within the precinct of a medieval (AD 1066-1540) preceptory of the Knights Templar which is best represented by a surviving tower of the Templar church. Excavations have revealed the groundplan of the church and identified a burial ground to the north, close to the investigation site.

The watching brief revealed a sequence of natural, subsoil and topsoil with no archaeological features clearly identified, though variations in the subsoil thickness may represent remnant ridge and furrow. Finds comprise a single sherd of 19th – 20th century pot and a metal bowl.

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 Mr B Covell to undertake an archaeological watching brief during groundworks associated with new agricultural development at Temple Cottage, Temple Bruer, Lincolnshire. Approval for the development was sought

through the submission of planning application N/63/1080/07. The watching brief was carried out on the 3rd March 2008 in accordance with a specification prepared by Archaeological Project Services (Appendix 1) and approved by the North Kesteven Heritage Officer.

2.3 Topography and Geology

Temple Bruer is located 18km south of Lincoln and 10km northwest of Sleaford, in the administrative district of North Kesteven, Lincolnshire (Fig. 1).

The site lies to the north of the range of farm buildings and cottages that form the centre of Temple Bruer at National Grid Reference TF 0083 5375 (Fig. 2). The site lies to the north of Temple Road at a height of c. 50m OD on land that slopes down to the east.

Local soils are of the Marcham Association, typically calcareous brown rendzinas (Hodge *et al.* 1984). These soils are developed upon a solid geology of Lower Lincolnshire Limestone (GSGB 1972).

2.4 Archaeological Setting

The Templar Preceptory was founded in the mid 12th century by William of Ashby, who granted sizeable tracts of heathland to the order. This area of land equates to the modern parish of Temple Bruer and Temple High Grange and was carved out of the parishes of Ashby de la Launde and Scopwick. The preceptory flourished and was recorded as the second richest in England by 1308 (Page 1906, 212). A survey of Templars estates in 1185 gave a separate section to Bruer, treating it as a full manor and mentioning 37 tenants inhabiting 34 crofts. The crofts, or village, relate to an area of cropmarks to the south of the preceptory which was established to work the estates during the 12th century.

Following the suppression of the Knights

Templar, the site was eventually taken over by the Hospitallers in 1338 for a new commandery. Initially, the Hospitallers also flourished, although falling recruitment meant that the commandery was recorded as being ruinous in 1534 and although attempts were made to better its condition, the order was eventually dissolved in 1541 (*ibid.*). Elements of the building survived into the 18th century but today only the 13th century south tower remains, which is a Scheduled Ancient Monument.

Excavations were undertaken at the site of the preceptory in 1833 and 1907 and identified the circular nave and choir of the Templar church along with the foundations of a matching tower as well as a range of outbuildings including a cistern head. To the north of the church was the conventual burial ground (Hope 1908).

Evaluation of an area east of the church identified medieval and later floor surfaces as well as a layer containing a sherd of 9th – 10th century pottery, thus pre-dating the establishment of the preceptory (Hall 2005, 5).

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

The new access road was stripped of overburden followed by the excavation of ten stanchion pits for the new agricultural building to depths of *c.* 0.9m below the current ground level. Following excavation, the sides of the stanchion pits 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 to 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 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 stripped area was a natural layer of light yellow limestone (003). This measured in excess of 0.5m thick.

Above this was a subsoil layer comprising reddish brown limestone and sandy silt (002) and measured up to 0.2m thick.

Sealing the subsoil was the current topsoil of brown sandy silt (001). This measured between 50mm and 0.3m thick. Pottery and an iron bowl were retrieved from this layer.

6. DISCUSSION

Natural deposits comprise limestone of the underlying solid geology. Developed upon this is a subsoil. Variations in the thickness of the subsoil, particularly towards the southern side of the site where it increased

noticeably, may indicate the presence of archaeological remains. However, the small size of the stanchion pits precluded clear definition of whether these variations were due to natural undulations in the bedrock or the results of archaeological features. Nonetheless, no archaeological features were definitely identified, suggesting that the site lies within a relatively empty area of the preceptory precinct. Finds retrieved from the investigation include a single sherd of 19th–20th century pottery and an iron bowl.

7. CONCLUSION

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken at Temple Cottage, Temple Bruer, as the site lay within the precinct of a medieval commandery.

However, no remains were encountered that were associated with the medieval precinct. Instead a sequence of natural geology, subsoil and topsoil was encountered. Finds retrieved from the investigation comprise pot and metalwork.

8. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeological Project Services wishes to acknowledge the assistance of Mr B Covell for commissioning the fieldwork and post-excavation analysis. The work was coordinated by Gary Taylor who edited this report along with Tom Lane. Jo Hambly, the North Kesteven Heritage Officer, kindly allowed access to the parish files and library maintained by Heritage Lincolnshire.

9. PERSONNEL

Project Coordinator: Gary Taylor
 Site Supervisor: Fiona Walker
 Finds processing: Denise Buckley
 Photographic reproduction: Sue Unsworth
 Illustration: Paul Cope-Faulkner

Post-excavation analysis: Paul Cope-Faulkner

10. BIBLIOGRAPHY

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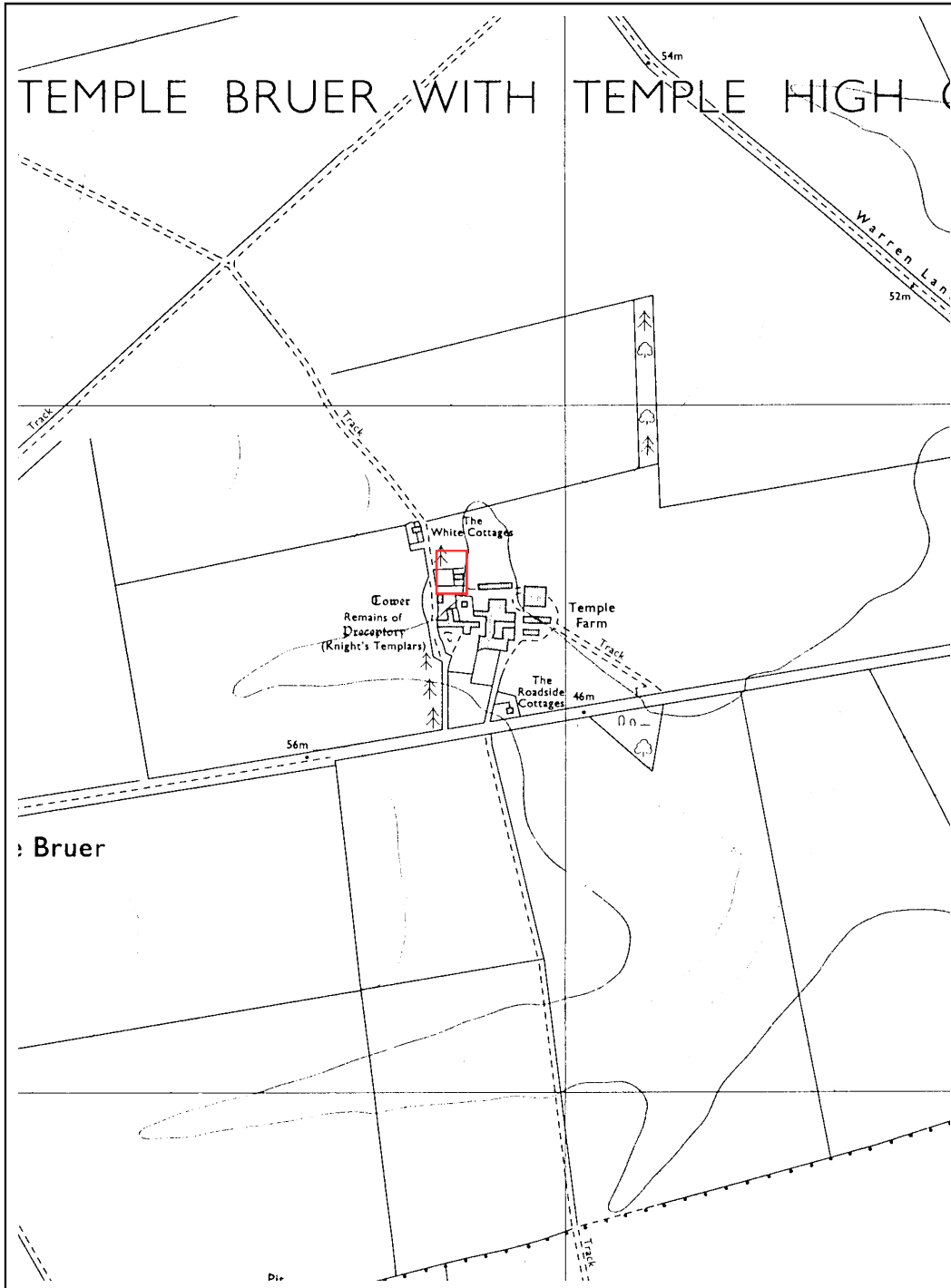
Page, W (ed), 1906 *The Victoria History of the County of Lincoln*, Vol. **II**

11. ABBREVIATIONS

APS Archaeological Project Services
 GSGB Geological Survey of Great Britain
 IFA Institute of Field Archaeologists



Figure 1 - General location plan



TF

Area detailed in Figure 3

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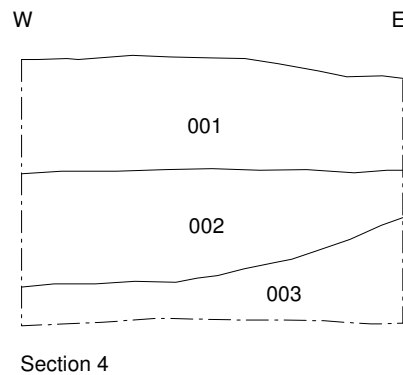
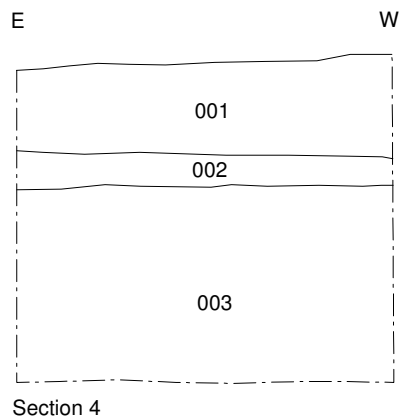
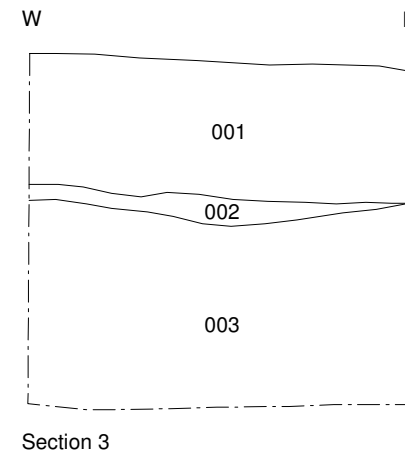
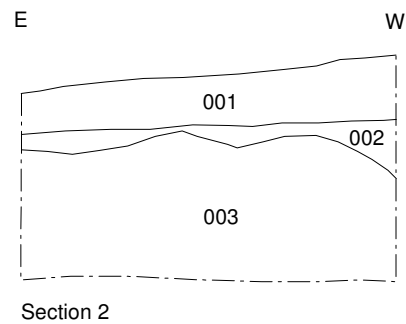
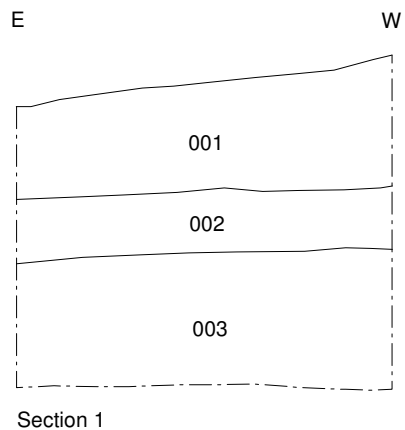
 Archaeological Project Services		
Project Name: Temple Cottage, Temple Bruer		
Scale 1:10000	Drawn by: PCF	Report No: 26/08

Figure 2 - Site location plan



Figure 3 - Plan of the development showing section locations

 Archaeological Project Services		
Project Name: Temple Cottage, Temple Bruer		
Scale 1:250	Drawn by: PCF	Report No: 26/08




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Project Name: Temple Cottage, Temple Bruer		
Scale 1:20	Drawn by: PCF	Report No: 26/08

Figure 4 - Sections 1 to 5



Plate 1 – View across the development area with Temple Cottage and the tower in the background, looking south



Plate 2 – Stripping off the access road, looking west



Plate 3 – Section 1, looking south



Plate 4 – Section 3, looking north



Plate 5 – Section 5, looking north

Appendix 1

TEMPLE COTTAGE, TEMPLE BRUER, LINCOLNSHIRE - SPECIFICATION FOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATION AND RECORDING

1 SUMMARY

- 1.1 *This document comprises a specification for archaeological investigation and recording at Temple Cottage, Temple Bruer.*
- 1.2 *The area is archaeologically sensitive lying within the vicinity of a medieval Templar Preceptory. Burials from the preceptory cemetery have previously been found just to the south of the development site.*
- 1.3 *The North Kesteven Heritage Officer has requested that archaeological investigation and recording be undertaken during the groundworks for the proposed development – adequate provision will be made for appropriate excavation and recording of any archaeological features revealed.*
- 1.4 *On completion of the fieldwork a report will be prepared detailing the findings of the investigation. The report will consist of a text describing the nature of the archaeological deposits located and will be supported by illustrations and photographs.*

2 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 This document comprises a specification for archaeological investigation and recording at Temple Cottage, Temple Bruer, Lincolnshire.
- 2.2 The document contains the following parts:
 - 2.2.1 Overview
 - 2.2.2 The archaeological and natural setting
 - 2.2.3 Stages of work and methodologies to be used
 - 2.2.4 List of specialists
 - 2.2.5 Programme of works and staffing structure of the project

3 SITE LOCATION

- 3.1 Temple Bruer is located between Lincoln and Sleaford, 4 km east of Welbourn in the administrative district of North Kesteven. The cottage is part of the Temple Farm complex around the former Knights Templar preceptory. It is located to the north of the preceptory tower, with the proposed development directly north of the cottage at national grid reference TF 0083 5375.

4 PLANNING BACKGROUND

- 4.1 An application (N/63/1080/07) for the erection of an agricultural livestock building had been granted by North Kesteven District Council, subject to a condition for a programme of archaeological investigation and recording during the ground work (including topsoil stripping and levelling works) for the proposed development.

5 SOILS AND TOPOGRAPHY

- 5.1 The site lies at the northern edge of the farmyard of the existing Temple Farm on undulating ground at c. 46m OD. Soils at the site are Marcham series brown rendzinas and calcareous soils over Lower Lincolnshire Limestone (Hodge *et al.* 1984).

6 ARCHAEOLOGICAL OVERVIEW

- 6.1 The area lies in the vicinity of the Preceptory Church, Temple Bruer. Founded in the mid 12th century, this is one of 57 preceptories in Britain but is unusual in that it has standing remains including the south tower which stands to a height of over 16m. Investigations in 1908 just to the south of the development site revealed rock-cut graves associated with the medieval preceptory.
- 6.2 Previous investigations directly to the southeast of the development site identified surfaces of medieval and post-medieval date and recovered Saxo-Norman and later artefacts (Archaeological Project Services 2005).

7 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- 7.1 The aims of the archaeological work 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.
- 7.2.1 The objectives of the archaeological work will be to:
- Determine the form and function of the archaeological features encountered;
 - Determine the spatial arrangement of the archaeological features encountered;
 - As far as practicable, recover dating evidence from the archaeological features, and
 - Establish the sequence of the archaeological remains present on the site.

8 SITE OPERATIONS

8.2 General considerations

- 8.2.1 All work will be undertaken following statutory Health and Safety requirements in operation at the time of the work.
- 8.2.2 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.
- 8.2.3 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.

8.3 Methodology

- 8.3.1 The archaeological program will be undertaken during the ground works phase of development. All excavations, including levelling works and clearance of topsoil, associated with the extension, garage and stable block will be carried out under archaeological supervision and control. Where archaeological deposits are encountered these will be hand excavated.
- 8.3.2 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.
- 8.3.3 Any finds recovered will be bagged and labelled for later analysis.
- 8.3.4 Throughout the works 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

8.3.5 Should human remains be located they will be left *in situ*. Should they need to be removed the Ministry of Justice will be consulted. In addition, the Local Environmental Health Department, coroner and police will be informed.

9 POST-EXCAVATION

9.1 Stage 1

9.1.1 On completion of site operations, the records and schedules produced during the archaeological works 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 fieldwork 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 Stage 2

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 archaeological works 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 archaeological works.
- Description of the topography of the site.
- Description of the methodologies used during the archaeological works.
- A text describing the findings of the archaeological works.
- A consideration of the local, regional and national context of the archaeological 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

- 10.2 Copies of the report will be sent to the Client; the North Kesteven Heritage Officer; North Kesteven District Council Planning Department; and to the County Council Archaeological Sites and Monuments Record.

11 ARCHIVE

- 11.2 The documentation and records generated during the archaeological works will be sorted and ordered into the format acceptable to the The Collection, Lincoln. This will be undertaken following the requirements of the document titled Conditions for the Acceptance of Project Archives for long-term storage and curation.

12 PUBLICATION

- 12.2 Details of the investigation will be input to the Online Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations (OASIS).
- 12.3 If appropriate, notes on the findings will be submitted to the appropriate national journals: *Britannia* for discoveries of Roman date, and *Medieval Archaeology* and the *Journal of the Medieval Settlement Research Group* for findings of medieval or later date.

13 CURATORIAL RESPONSIBILITY

- 13.2 Curatorial responsibility for the archaeological work undertaken on the site lies with the North Kesteven Heritage Officer. They will be given written notice of the commencement of the project to enable them to make monitoring arrangements.

14 VARIATIONS AND CONTINGENCIES

- 14.2 Variations to the proposed scheme of works will only be made following written confirmation of acceptance from the archaeological curator.
- 14.3 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 (*Lincolnshire Archaeological Handbook* 1998, Sections 5.7 and 18).
- 14.4 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.
- 14.5 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

- 15.2 The archaeological works 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.
- 15.3 An archaeological supervisor with experience of similar projects will undertake the work.
- 15.4 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

16.2 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>	<u>Body to be undertaking the work</u>
Conservation	Conservation Laboratory, City and County Museum, Lincoln
Pottery Analysis	Prehistoric – D Trimble, APS (in consultation with Trent & Peak Archaeological Trust) Roman – A Boyle, APS Post-Roman – A Boyle, APS
Non-pottery Artefacts	J Cowgill, Independent Specialist, or G Taylor, APS
Animal Bones	J Kitch or P Cope-Faulkner, APS
Environmental Analysis	J Rackham, Independent Specialist
Human Remains Analysis	J Kitch, APS

17 INSURANCES

17.2 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

18.2 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.

18.3 Licence will also be given to the archaeological curators to use the documentary archive for educational, public and research purposes.

18.4 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.

18.5 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

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Appendix 2

CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

No.	Description	Interpretation
001	Friable mid to dark brown sandy silt, 0.18m thick	Topsoil
002	Firm mid reddish brown limestone fragments and sandy silt, 0.2m thick	Subsoil
003	Firm light yellow limestone, >0.5m thick	Natural deposit

Appendix 3

THE FINDS

INTRODUCTION

A single ceramic item and a steel bowl were retrieved and are modern in date.

POST ROMAN POTTERY

By 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 single modern sherd, weighing 21 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 data was then added to an Access database. An archive list of the pottery is included in table 1.

Condition

The sherd is medium sized but abraded.

Results

Table 1, Post Roman Pottery Archive

Cxt	Cname	Full Name	Form	NoS	NoV	W (g)	Part	Comment	Date
001	WHITE	Modern white ware	Dish/ bowl	1	1	21	Base	Abraded	19th to 20th

Potential

The assemblage offers limited potential for further work. The sherd is suitable for discard.

Summary

A single modern sherd of pottery was recovered from context (001).

OTHER FINDS

By Gary Taylor

Introduction

A single modern metal container was recovered.

Condition

The metal container is in good condition and presents no long-term storage problems.

Results

Table 2, Other Materials

Cxt	Material	Description	NoF	W (g)	Date
001	Iron	Press-moulded container, stamped 'STAINLESS STEEL'	1	96	20 th century

Provenance

The metal container was retrieved from the topsoil.

Potential

Other than providing some dating evidence the item is of negligible potential and could be discarded.

SPOT DATING

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

Table3, Spot dates

Cxt	Date	Comments
001	20 th	

ABBREVIATIONS

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

REFERENCES

~ 2003, *Lincolnshire Archaeological Handbook* [internet]. Available at <<http://www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/section.asp?catId=3155>>

Slowikowski, AM, Nenck, 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

Young, J, Vince, AG, and Nailor, V, 2005 *A Corpus of Saxon and Medieval Pottery from Lincoln* (Oxford)

Appendix 4

GLOSSARY

Commandery	A religious house of the Knights Hospitallers.
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).
Cropmark	A mark that is produced by the effect of underlying archaeological features influencing the growth of a particular crop.
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.
Preceptory	A religious house of the Knights Templar.

Appendix 5

THE ARCHIVE

The archive consists of:

3	Context records
1	Photographic record sheet
2	Sheets of scale drawings
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: 2008.37

Archaeological Project Services Site Code: TBTC 08

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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