

HERITAGE LINCOLNSHIRE



ARCHAEOLOGICAL PROJECT SERVICES

**HECKINGTON MANOR ARCHAEOLOGY DAY  
HECKINGTON  
LINCOLNSHIRE**



Prepared for  
Charles and Sally Pinchbeck

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Report Compiled by  
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## SUMMARY

*Heritage Lincolnshire were invited to organise an archaeology day in the grounds of Heckington Manor, by the new owners of the property – Charles and Sally Pinchbeck. Prior to any works starting on the house, the local community were to be given a chance to help investigate the history, heritage, and archaeology of the grounds.*

*Two test pits were excavated, from which several finds were revealed. Most of the finds comprised a mix of domestic sherds from the 17<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> century, however other finds included a piece of Anglo-Saxon pottery and potential prehistoric flint hammerstone. The assemblage recovered supports the written record by evidencing settlement on this site for hundreds of years.*

*The community were given the chance to excavate, complete geophysical surveys and register their interest in having any memories they had of the building being recorded. All the participants were observed to have a good time, with a great deal of interest in the future of the manor, indicating the event was a success.*

## SITE OVERVIEW

The name Heckington derives from ‘-ingtūn’ which in old English means for a settlement to be called after or connected with ‘Heca’. According to the Domesday book, Heckington had a recorded population of 54.8 households in 1086, putting it in the largest 20% of settlements recorded in Domesday, and is listed under 7 owners in Domesday book.

Archaeological remains in the area include typical ridge and furrow earthworks indicative of medieval farming. The location of ridge and furrow, evident as surviving earthworks or as cropmarks was plotted by the Trust for Lincolnshire Archaeology in the 1970’s. This recording has shown that the ridge and furrow was located to the north and east of the village.

Heckington Manor was originally a 17<sup>th</sup> century house, which had considerable work completed on it in 1905. In 1578 a building called the Mansion House, also known as Boston Garth, was leased to a William Taylor, this appears to be the same large house that Robert Taylor was living in, in 1665. It is presumed that this building stood where Heckington Manor is today. In 1769, a Richard Godson married Mary Taylor, the heiress of the Taylor estate, and this family lived at Heckington Manor until the 1950s. It was Earnest H. Godson, a Sleaford solicitor, who enlarged and altered the house in 1905. After the 1950s the house was purchased by the County Council and became a children's home, then a residential home for the elderly before being sold to become the Ferdowse Clinic. It is currently unoccupied, with plans to restore it to a habitable state.





## GEOFYSICS RESULTS

The geophysics results contained a lot of magnetic noise within the data, this was caused by the proximity to the building itself, the driveway, the large container on the driveway, utility cables as well as ferrous objects or mixture of fired rubble buried in the ground. This resulted in most geological and archaeological features becoming obscured, however, some areas in the sunken garden did show some positive readings which could hold some archaeological relevance.

### Interpretation

#### *Positive disturbance*

A couple of smaller area of positive disturbance has been highlighted with red hatching towards the west side of the sunken garden were found but given the strength of the signal, are likely to be due to a metallic item just outside of the survey area. This was close to the stairs that lead down to the sunken garden and where a tarpaulin with metal rings was laid, which may account for the disturbance.

#### *Discrete positive anomalies*

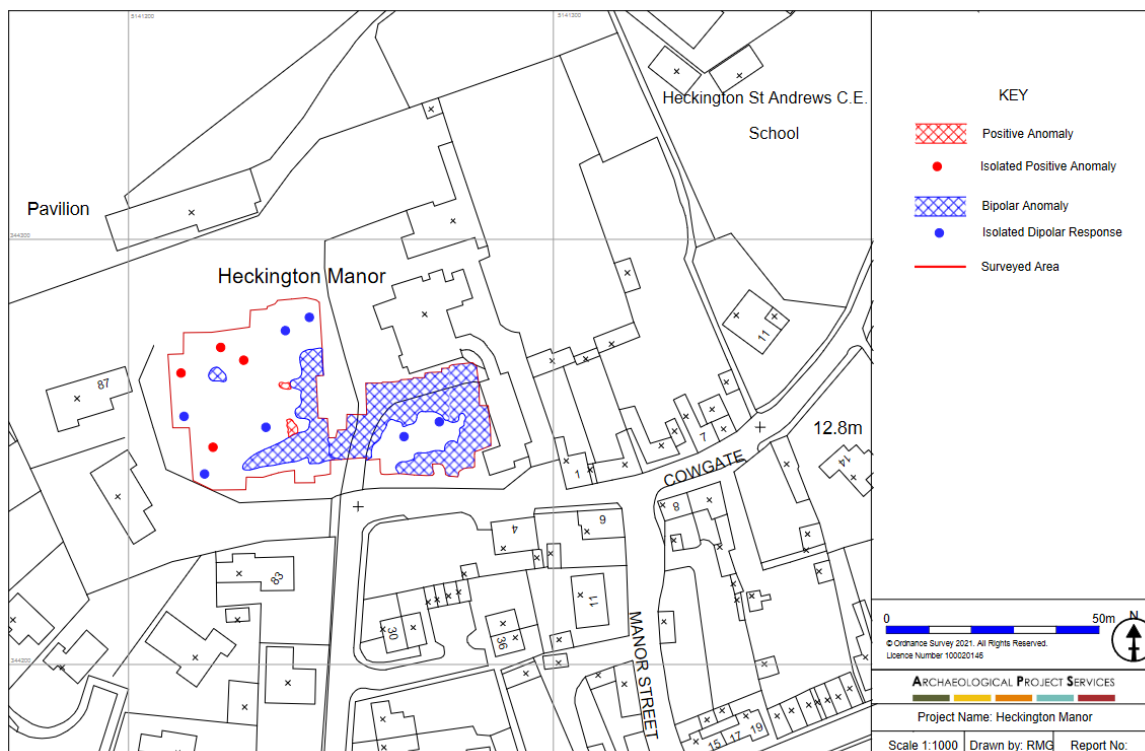
Discrete positive anomalies have been highlighted with red dots. These can be caused by human-made pits but are also very commonly caused by natural build-ups of magnetically enhanced material.

#### *Bipolar Anomaly*

The blue hatching labelled as bipolar anomaly are the areas which had a lot of magnetic noise caused by metal and rubble. These are likely caused by the proximity to the building itself, the driveway, the large container on the driveway, utility cables as well as ferrous objects or mixture of fired rubble buried in the ground.

#### *Dipolar response*

The Blue dots indicated an isolated dipolar response. These are typically caused by small metallic items in the topsoil, such as nails, bolt, or cans.



The volunteer teams “3 Amigos”, “Ben Squared”, “Davi doo” and “GA” completed the work with enthusiasm and to a good standard, and thanks must be extended to all of them.

## EXCAVATION RESULTS

### Test Pit 1 (TF142442) (sunken garden, close to the steps) (left picture)

Test Pit 1 was dug over the course of one day in the sunken garden of the manor, near the base of the steps leading into the area. The soil dug represented the topsoil, with mixed finds dating from the Mesolithic to modern day.

### Test Pit 2 (TF142442) (by main entrance to the manor) (right picture)

Test Pit 2 was the second test pit dug within the grounds of Heckington Manor, close to the main southern entrance to the building. The main deposit excavated is likely to be a topsoil, with a possible surface being reached at the end of the day. This may have been an old path or drive to the house.



## FINDS ANALYSIS

Three spits were dug in each Test Pit and given the numbers (001), (002) and (003). The finds date overall to the 18<sup>th</sup>/19<sup>th</sup> century. No finds were retrieved from the top layer (001) in Test Pit 1.

**Test Pit 1** layer (002) produced a range of artefacts comprising coal, brick fragments, clay pipe, window glass, flint, and pottery. Layer (003) also produced coal, brick fragments, window and vessel glass, pottery, plaster, iron nails, animal bone and shell.

**Test Pit 2** layer (001) produced coal, brick fragments, pottery, stone tile, and animal bone.

Layer (002) produced coal, brick and tile fragments, unworked flint, plaster, clay pipe, vessel and window glass, pottery, and stone tile. Layer (003) produced coal, brick and tile fragments, vessel and window glass, an iron nail, stone tile, pottery, and animal bone.

Most of the finds are pottery, brick, and tile fragments. Test Pit 1 contained white glazed English stoneware, brown and black glazed pancheon, shelly ware, brown glazed stoneware, and yellow glazed earthenware.

Test Pit 2 also contained white glazed English stoneware and brown and black glazed pancheon, along with tin glazed earthenware with blue painted decoration, slipware, and a couple of pieces of Stamford ware.

Most of the pottery dates to the 19<sup>th</sup> century, although the brown and yellow slipware is more likely to be 18<sup>th</sup> century and the Stamford ware 11<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> century. There is also a small piece of shelly ware which could potentially be earlier in date. Both pits contained fragments of post Medieval brick and tile.

Two pieces of shell (oyster and snail) were found in test pit 1. Coal, window and vessel glass, animal bone, stone tile, unworked flint, plaster, clay pipe and iron nails were also found in both test pits. The glass is mostly window glass dating to the 19<sup>th</sup> century. There were several clay pipe stem fragments (all plain) dating to the late 17<sup>th</sup> to mid-18<sup>th</sup> century.

Overall, a not unexpected assemblage for its setting. Except for the small piece of shelly ware pottery (which could potentially be earlier in date), all the finds date from the late 17<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> century in date, with the majority being 18<sup>th</sup>/19<sup>th</sup> century, and relate to domestic activity and occupation of the site from the late post medieval period onwards.

## REMINISCENCE RESULTS

The opportunity was given for people with memories of the manor to leave their details, in anticipation of a possible oral history project in the future. Whilst no one signed up, it was noted that a lot of volunteers were very happy to talk about their memories of the building, and clearly felt a strong connection with the building.

## COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION AND PUBLIC OUTREACH

One of the main aims of Heckington Manor Archaeology Open Day was to give local people the chance to understand and engage with the archaeology and heritage of the Manor, while learning about and receiving training in how archaeologists gather information. To ensure that this opportunity was publicised to the local community, the event was advertised on social media and was fully booked within 48 hours, additional slots were subsequently created to accommodate additional groups whilst remaining Covid secure. In total, 46 volunteers signed up to participate took part in the archaeology day, more volunteers could not be accommodated due to the social distancing guidelines imposed by the Pandemic. Some locals also visited the site throughout the day to observe progress. Overall feedback from the event was very positive, with many expressing approvals of the building being restored, and looking forwards to seeing the improvement in the building.

Feedback includes:

*“Thank you so much for organising and making the day possible. It was lovely to meet you and share in your enthusiasm. We really enjoyed our time excavating.... just wish we had discovered more. Although we were proud of our minor finds. Keep up the great work!”*

*“Just wanted to say thank you for a lovely morning on Saturday. I really enjoyed it hope you found some exciting treasure in the afternoon”*



## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Heritage Lincolnshire wishes to Thank Charles and Sally Pinchbeck for allowing us to organise this event, and all the volunteers who took part so enthusiastically!

### *Staff Involvement*

Project Manager: Gail Graham

Project Officers: Lydia Hendry, Cola Jennings, Jim Snee

Geophysics Supervisor: Ryan Godbold

Finds Officer: Denise Buckley