

---

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING AND  
RECORDING  
AT 17 – 19 REYNARD STREET,  
SPILSBY,  
LINCOLNSHIRE  
(SPRS 10)**

---

**Work Undertaken For  
Worth Developments**

May 2010

Report Compiled by  
Paul Cope-Faulkner BA (Hons)

Planning Application No: S/165/01436/08  
National Grid Reference: TF 4025 6627  
The Collection Accession No: LCNCC: 2010.20  
OASIS Record No: archaeol1-76938

APS Report No. **40/10**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL  
PROJECT  
SERVICES**



## Table of Contents

### List of Figures

### List of Plates

1.	SUMMARY .....	1
2.	INTRODUCTION.....	1
2.1	DEFINITION OF A WATCHING BRIEF.....	1
2.2	PLANNING BACKGROUND.....	1
2.3	TOPOGRAPHY AND GEOLOGY.....	1
2.4	ARCHAEOLOGICAL SETTING .....	1
3.	AIMS .....	2
4.	METHODS .....	2
5.	RESULTS .....	3
6.	DISCUSSION .....	3
7.	CONCLUSION .....	3
8.	ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS .....	3
9.	PERSONNEL .....	3
10.	BIBLIOGRAPHY .....	3
11.	ABBREVIATIONS .....	4

### Appendices

1. Context descriptions
2. The Finds *by Anne Boyle*
3. Glossary
4. The Archive

## **List of Figures**

- Figure 1      General location plan
- Figure 2      Site location plan
- Figure 3      Plan of the development showing section locations
- Figure 4      Sections 1 and 2

## **List of Plates**

- Plate 1        View looking northeast over the development area
- Plate 2        Section 1
- Plate 3        Section 2

## 1. SUMMARY

*A watching brief was undertaken during groundworks at Reynard Street, Spilsby, Lincolnshire. The watching brief monitored the excavation of foundation trenches for a new detached dwelling.*

*A major settlement of the Late Iron Age (c. 150BC -AD50) is known to be located in the Spilsby area. Additionally, Spilsby is a medieval (AD 1066-1540) planned town and the investigation site is located close to the Market Place, which dates from the 14<sup>th</sup> century, and near to 17<sup>th</sup> century and later buildings.*

*The watching brief revealed a sequence of natural, subsoil and topsoil. No archaeological features were identified. Finds from the investigation include pottery of 17<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup> century date and 18<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup> century roof tile.*

## 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 maybe disturbed or destroyed.*” (IFA 1999).

### 2.2 Planning Background

Archaeological Project Services was commissioned by Worth Developments to undertake an archaeological watching brief during groundworks associated with new residential development at Reynard Street, Spilsby, Lincolnshire. Approval for the development was sought through the submission of planning application S/165/01436/08. The watching brief was

carried out on the 7<sup>th</sup> April 2010 in accordance with a specification prepared by Archaeological Project Services and approved by the Archaeology Section, Lincolnshire County Council.

### 2.3 Topography and Geology

Spilsby lies at the south end of the Lincolnshire Wolds, approximately 25km north of Boston and 15km southeast of Horncastle in the administrative district of East Lindsey, Lincolnshire (Fig. 1).

The site lies 293m northeast of the centre of the town as defined by the parish church of St James at National Grid Reference TF 4025 6627 (Fig. 2). Located on the north side of Reynard Street, the site is situated at a height of c. 43m OD on land that slopes down to the northeast, towards the River Lymn.

Local soils are the Cuckney 2 Association, typical brown sands (Hodge *et al.* 1984, 152). These soils are developed on a solid geology of Upper Jurassic Spilsby Sandstone which overlies Kimmeridge Clay (BGS 1995).

### 2.4 Archaeological Setting

Spilsby lies in an area of known archaeological remains dating from the prehistoric period to the present. Prehistoric artefacts, including a polished flint axe and a socketed axe, have been found in the parish. Additionally, a major Late Iron Age settlement is located in the area, evident as an artefact scatter with numerous coins of the period (May 1984, 22).

An Anglo-Saxon glass bead and medieval pottery have previously been found in the parish.

Spilsby is first referred to in the Domesday Book of 1086 and the place-name derives from the Old Scandinavian *Spillir's* by, meaning 'Spillir's homestead or village'

(Cameron 1998, 115). At the time of Domesday, Spilsby formed part of a large manor with Eresby and Thorpe St Peter. This manor, which was held by the Bishop of Durham, had two mills (Foster and Longley 1976, 33).

Spilsby is a medieval planned market town (Everson and Hayes 1984, 39) and still retains much of its original structure. The central spinal road of the medieval settlement is Market Street, approximately 100m southwest of the investigation site. On either side of the spinal highway there are parallel back lanes or property boundaries, including Reynard Street, that appear to define the primary planned unit of the settlement. Queen Street, on the immediate west of the investigation site, would seem to form the eastern limit of this original planned unit.

In 1302 Spilsby obtained its market charter and approximately 100m southwest of the investigation site is the Market Cross which dates from the 14<sup>th</sup> century (Jacques nd, 3). The cross is a Scheduled Monument, no. 22697 (English Heritage 1996, 8).

A chapel in Spilsby is referred to in 1291 and was endowed in the 14<sup>th</sup> century with construction of a chancel (Marjoram 1984, 79). This became the parish church of St. James which dates from the 14<sup>th</sup> century and was founded as a college for priests (DoE 1987, 33).

Near the church is the Grammar School, founded in 1550, though now comprising predominantly 18<sup>th</sup> century and later buildings (Pevsner and Harris 1989, 681). In addition, there are a number of buildings dating from the 17<sup>th</sup> century and later in the town, including nearby on Queen Street (DoE 1987, 43).

Approximately 1km to the north of the present investigation site are the earthwork remains of the deserted village of Old Spilsby, a Scheduled Ancient Monument,

no. 22715 (English Heritage 1996, 8). A survey of the earthwork remains has suggested that the village probably originated in the Late Saxon period, though cartographic evidence indicated that some of the village enclosures had gone out of use by 1771 (Field and George 1996, 61).

A watching brief undertaken immediately west of the site revealed no archaeological remains (Garrett 2005) and one undertaken to the southeast identified a possible quarry pit (Berger 2007).

### 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, the upper layer of topsoil 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 1:10. 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 was a natural layer of brown sand (003) that measured in excess of 0.25m thick (Fig. 4, Sections 1 and 2).

Sealing this was a subsoil of brownish grey sandy silt (002). This was 0.3m thick and contained post-medieval pottery and 18<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> century roof tile.

All deposits were sealed by the current topsoil comprising a 0.42m thick layer of greyish brown clayey silt (001). Modern pottery and tile was retrieved from this deposit.

## 6. DISCUSSION

Natural deposits comprise sand and represent the upper weathered surface of the underlying solid geology.

A subsoil had developed upon this and may indicate that the site was formerly under an agricultural regime until quite recently. Topsoil sealed the site.

Finds include pottery and tile of post-medieval to modern date.

## 7. CONCLUSION

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken at Reynard Street, Spilsby, as the site lay close to the core of the

medieval town and in an area of prehistoric findspots.

However, the watching brief revealed a sequence of natural, subsoil and topsoil deposits with no archaeological features present.

Finds from the topsoil and subsoil consist of pottery and tile of post-medieval to modern date.

## 8. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeological Project Services wishes to acknowledge the assistance of Mr N Worth of Worth Developments for commissioning the fieldwork and post-excavation analysis. The work was coordinated by Dale Trimble who edited this report along with Tom Lane. Dave Start kindly allowed access to the parish files and library maintained by Heritage Lincolnshire.

## 9. PERSONNEL

Project Coordinator: Dale Trimble  
 Site Supervisor: Mark Peachey  
 Finds processing: Denise Buckley  
 Photographic reproduction: Sue Unsworth  
 Illustration: Paul Cope-Faulkner  
 Post-excavation analysis: Paul Cope-Faulkner

## 10. BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Berger, M, 2007 *Land to the rear of 27 Reynard Street, Spilsby*
- BGS, 1995 *Horncastle, Solid and Drift Edition*, 1:50,000 sheet **115**
- Cameron, K, 1998 *A Dictionary of Lincolnshire Place-Names*, English Place-Name Society Popular Series Vol. **1**

DoE, 1987 *List of Buildings of Special Architectural or Historic Interest, District of East Lindsey, Lincolnshire*

English Heritage, 1996 *County List of Scheduled Monuments: Lincolnshire*

Everson, P and Hayes, T, 1984 'Lincolnshire from the Air', in N Field and A White (eds), *A Prospect of Lincolnshire*

Field, N and George, I, 1996 Archaeology in Lincolnshire, *Lincolnshire History and Archaeology* **31**

Foster, CW and Longley, T (eds), 1976 *The Lincolnshire Domesday and the Lindsey Survey*, The Lincoln Record Society **19**

Garrett, M, 2005 *17-19 Reynard Street, Spilsby, Lincolnshire: Archaeological Watching Brief*, unpublished LAS report **876**

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*

Jacques, JH, nd *Spilsby and its Church*

Marjoram, J, 1984 'Eresby Manor House, Spilsby', in N. Field and A. White (eds), *A Prospect of Lincolnshire*

May, J, 1984 'Major Settlements of the Later Iron Age in Lincolnshire', in N Field and A White (eds), *A Prospect of Lincolnshire*

Pevsner, N. and Harris, J., 1989 *Lincolnshire, The Buildings of England* (2nd edition revised N. Antram)

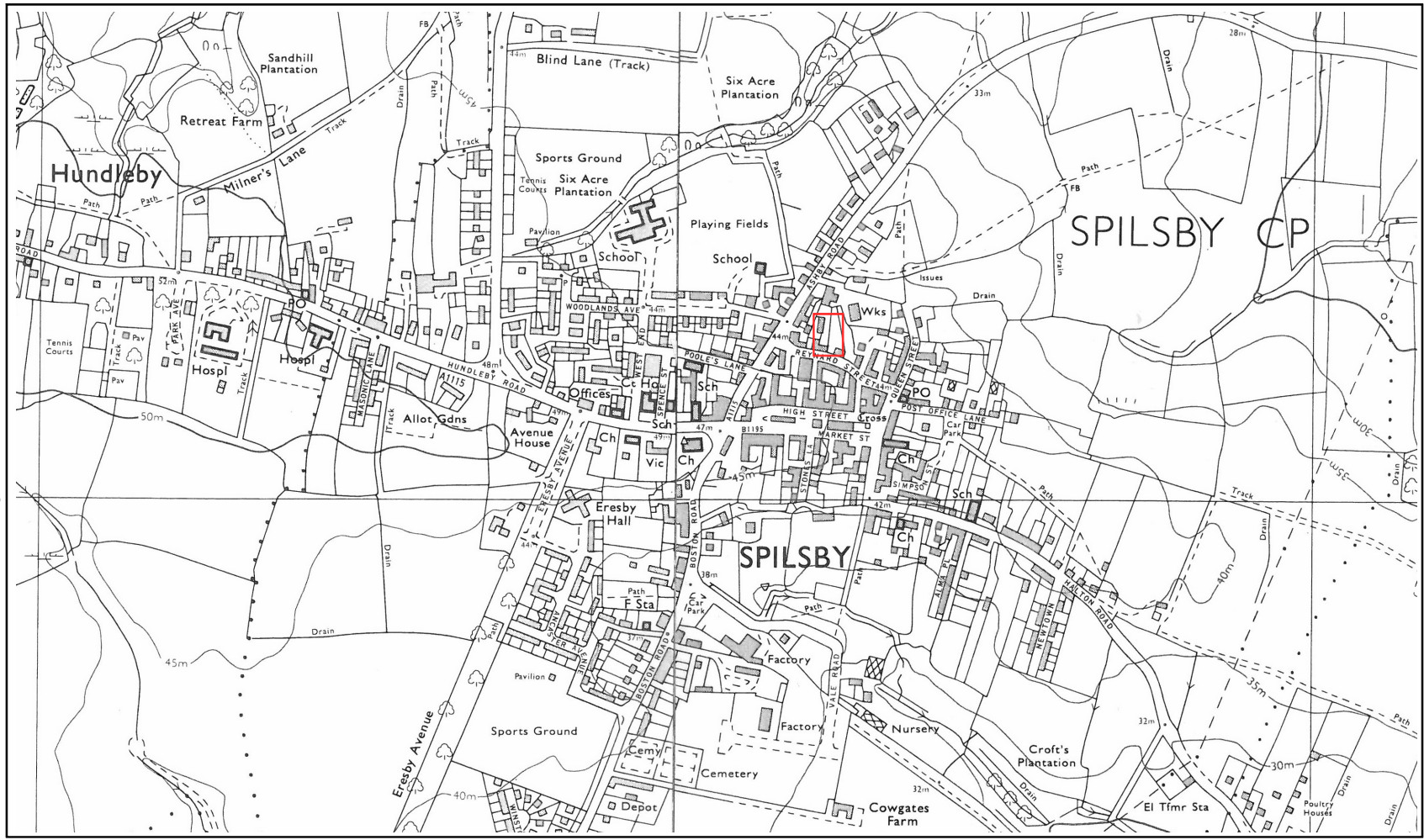
APS	Archaeological Project Services
BGS	British Geological Survey
IFA	Institute of Field Archaeologists
LAS	Lindsey Archaeological Services

## 11. ABBREVIATIONS



Figure 1 - General location plan





Reproduced from the Ordnance Survey 1:10,000 map with the permission of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office  
© Crown Copyright. HTL Ltd Licence No. AL5041A0001



 Area detailed in Figure 3


 Archaeological Project Services		
Project Name: Reynard Street, Spilsby SPRS10		
Scale 1:10000	Drawn by: PCF	Report No: 40/10

Figure 2 - Site location plan

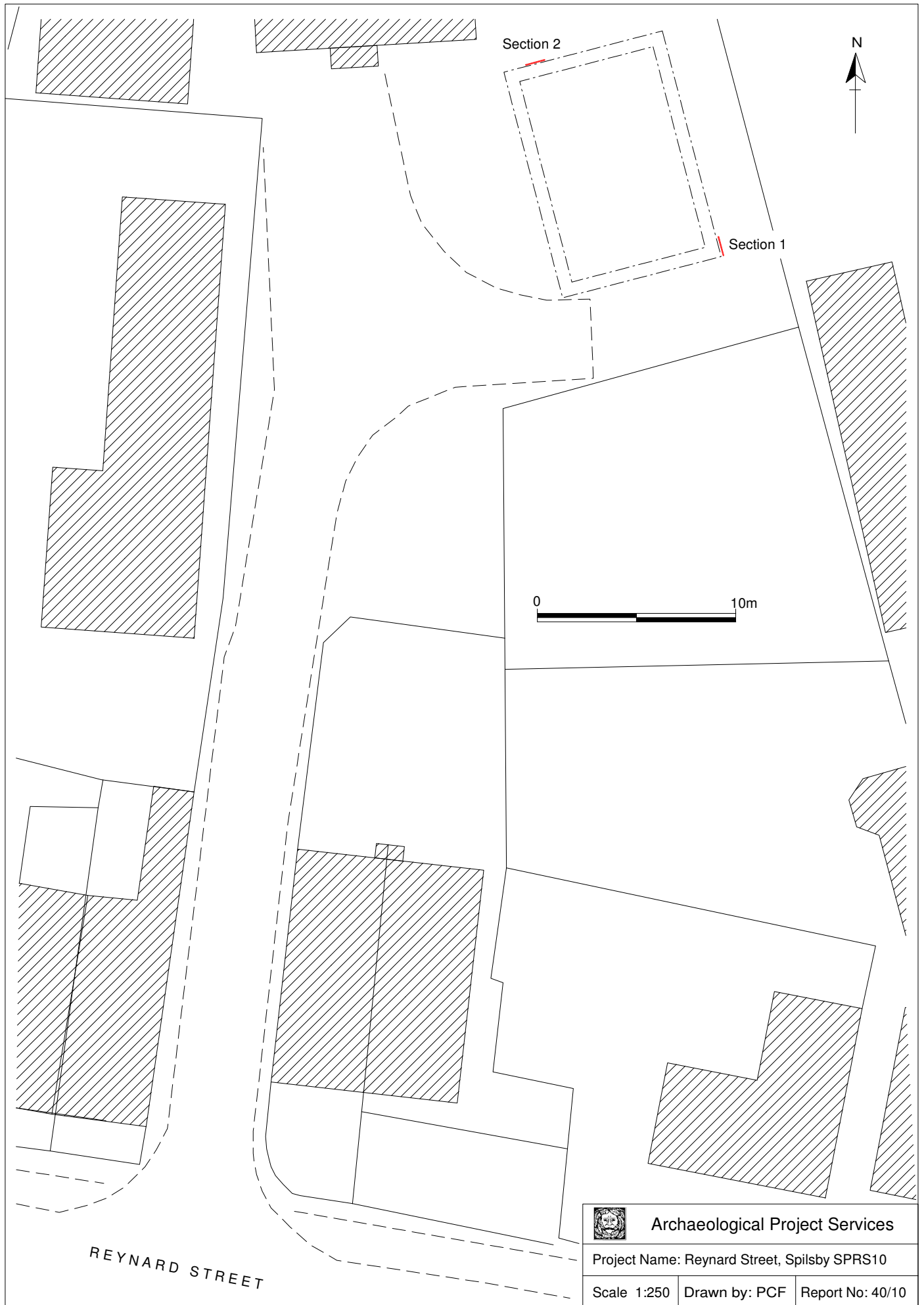
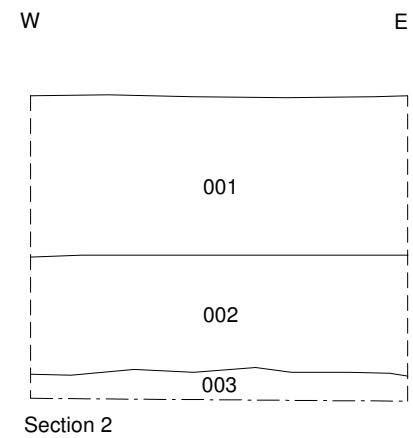
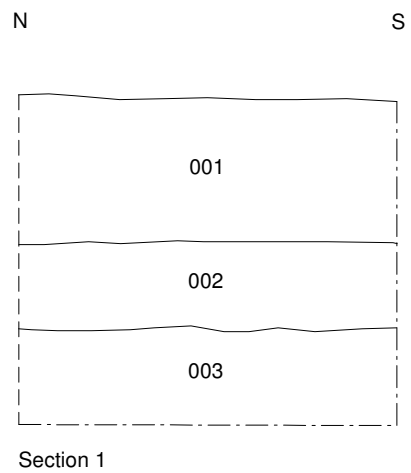


Figure 3 - Plan of the development showing section locations




		
Archaeological Project Services		
Project Name: Reynard Street, Spilsby SPRS10		
Scale 1:20	Drawn by: PCF	Report No: 40/10

Figure 4 - Sections 1 and 2



Plate 1 – View looking northeast over the development area



Plate 2 – Section 1, looking east



Plate 3 – Section 2, looking north

## Appendix 1

### CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

No.	Description	Interpretation
001	Friable dark greyish brown clayey silt, 0.42m thick	Topsoil
002	Friable mid brownish grey sandy silt, 0.3m thick	Subsoil
003	Soft mid brown sand, >0.25m thick	Natural deposit

## Appendix 2

### THE FINDS

#### 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 total of three sherds from three vessels, weighing 31 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. The pottery ranges in date from the post-medieval to the early modern period.

##### Condition

All of the sherds are in fairly fresh condition.

##### Results

Table 1, Post Roman Pottery Archive

Cxt	Cname	Full name	Form	NoS	NoV	W (g)	Part	Description	Date
001	ENGS	English Stoneware	Hollow	1	1	6	BS		19th to 20th
001	ENGS	English Stoneware	Fluted jar	1	1	9	BS		19th to 20th
002	TB	Toynton Bolingbroke ware	Bowl	1	1	31	Rim	Stacking scar on rim	17th to 18th

##### Provenance

Early modern pottery came from topsoil (001) with a single post-medieval sherd present in the subsoil (002).

##### Potential

All of the pottery is stable and poses no problems for long-term storage. The assemblage should be retained.

##### Summary

A small group of 17th to 20th century pottery was retrieved from two contexts.

#### CERAMIC BUILDING MATERIAL

By Anne Boyle

##### Introduction

All the material was recorded at archive level in accordance with the guidelines laid out by the ACBMG (2001) and to conform to Lincolnshire County Council's *Archaeology Handbook*. A total of two fragments of ceramic building material, weighing 226 grams was recovered from the site.

##### Methodology

The material was laid out and viewed in context order. Fragments were counted and weighed within each context. The ceramic building material was examined visually and using x20 magnification. This information was then added to an Access database. An archive list of the ceramic building material is included in Table 2.

##### Condition

Both fragments are abraded.

##### Results

Table 2, Ceramic Building Material Archive

Cxt	Cname	Full name	NoF	W (g)	Description	Date
001	PANT	Pantile	1	146	Very abraded	18th to 20th
002	MODTIL	Modern tile	1	80	Thick pantile?; abraded	18th to 20th



**Provenance**

Modern roofing tile came from topsoil and subsoil layers.

**Potential**

Both pieces are suitable for discard.

**Summary**

Two pieces of early modern roofing tile were retrieved from two contexts.

**SPOT DATING**

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

*Table 3, Spot dates*

Cxt	Date	Comments
001	18th to 20th	
002	18th to 20th	

**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)

**REFERENCES**

- ~ 2001 *Draft Minimum Standards for the Recovery, Analysis and Publication of Ceramic Building Material*, third version [internet]. Available from <http://www.geocities.com/acbmg1/CBMGDE3.htm>
- ~ 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 2

### THE FINDS

#### 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 total of three sherds from three vessels, weighing 31 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. The pottery ranges in date from the post-medieval to the early modern period.

##### Condition

All of the sherds are in fairly fresh condition.

##### Results

Table 1, Post Roman Pottery Archive

Cxt	Cname	Full name	Form	NoS	NoV	W (g)	Part	Description	Date
001	ENGS	English Stoneware	Hollow	1	1	6	BS		19th to 20th
001	ENGS	English Stoneware	Fluted jar	1	1	9	BS		19th to 20th
002	TB	Toynton Bolingbroke ware	Bowl	1	1	31	Rim	Stacking scar on rim	17th to 18th

##### Provenance

Early modern pottery came from topsoil (001) with a single post-medieval sherd present in the subsoil (002).

##### Potential

All of the pottery is stable and poses no problems for long-term storage. The assemblage should be retained.

##### Summary

A small group of 17th to 20th century pottery was retrieved from two contexts.

#### CERAMIC BUILDING MATERIAL

By Anne Boyle

##### Introduction

All the material was recorded at archive level in accordance with the guidelines laid out by the ACBMG (2001) and to conform to Lincolnshire County Council's *Archaeology Handbook*. A total of two fragments of ceramic building material, weighing 226 grams was recovered from the site.

##### Methodology

The material was laid out and viewed in context order. Fragments were counted and weighed within each context. The ceramic building material was examined visually and using x20 magnification. This information was then added to an Access database. An archive list of the ceramic building material is included in Table 2.

##### Condition

Both fragments are abraded.

##### Results

Table 2, Ceramic Building Material Archive

Cxt	Cname	Full name	NoF	W (g)	Description	Date
001	PANT	Pantile	1	146	Very abraded	18th to 20th
002	MODTIL	Modern tile	1	80	Thick pantile?; abraded	18th to 20th



**Provenance**

Modern roofing tile came from topsoil and subsoil layers.

**Potential**

Both pieces are suitable for discard.

**Summary**

Two pieces of early modern roofing tile were retrieved from two contexts.

**SPOT DATING**

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

Table 3, Spot dates

Cxt	Date	Comments
001	18th to 20th	
002	18th to 20th	

**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)

**REFERENCES**

- ~ 2001 *Draft Minimum Standards for the Recovery, Analysis and Publication of Ceramic Building Material*, third version [internet]. Available from <http://www.geocities.com/acbmg1/CBMGDE3.htm>
- ~ 2003 *Lincolnshire Archaeological Handbook* [internet]. Available at <http://www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/section.asp?catId=3155>
- Slowikowski, AM, Nenk, 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

### THE ARCHIVE

The archive consists of:

3	Context records
1	Photographic record sheet
1	Sheet 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: LCNCC: 2010.20

Archaeological Project Services Site Code: SPRS 10

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.

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.