
**ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING AND
RECORDING AT
JUBILEE WAY,
HORNCastle,
LINCOLNSHIRE
(HJW 10)**

**Work Undertaken For
The Environment Agency**

December 2010

Report Compiled by
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APS Report No. **108/10**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL
PROJECT
SERVICES**



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1. SUMMARY

A programme of archaeological monitoring and recording was undertaken at Jubilee Way, Horncastle, Lincolnshire. The investigations monitored the excavation of trenches for the disposal of reeds from the adjacent River Bain.

The site lies in an area where evidence for extensive Iron Age (800 BC-AD 42) and Romano-British (AD 42-410) settlement has been identified, including a walled town of 3rd century date. The walled area later became the focus for the medieval (AD 1066-1540) town centre.

The investigations revealed a sequence of dumped deposits overlain by topsoil. Later dumped deposits were dated to the early-mid 20th century. Finds retrieved from the investigation comprise medieval and later pottery, post-medieval and modern glass, clay pipe and animal bone.

2. INTRODUCTION

2.1 Planning Background

Archaeological Project Services was commissioned by the Environment Agency to undertake a programme of archaeological monitoring and recording during groundworks associated with reed removal works from alongside the River Bain at Jubilee Way, Horncastle, Lincolnshire. The watching brief was carried out on the 4th and 5th November 2010.

2.2 Topography and Geology

Horncastle is located 27km east of Lincoln and 29km west of Skegness in the administrative district of East Lindsey, Lincolnshire (Fig. 1).

The site lies 375m southwest of the town centre as defined by the parish church of St Mary at National Grid Reference TF

2550 6941 (Fig. 2). The site lies to the north of the confluence of the Rivers Bain and Waring on generally level ground at a height of c. 29m OD.

Local soils are of the Fladbury 2 Association, typically mottled clayey soils (Hodge *et al.* 1984, 196). These soils are developed on a drift geology of river alluvium with Lower River Terrace sands and gravels to the east and west which in turn seal a solid geology of Jurassic Kimmeridge Clay (BGS 1995).

2.3 Archaeological Setting

Horncastle lies in an area of dense archaeological remains dating from the prehistoric period to the present day. Evidence for a Late Iron Age settlement has been identified on the river terrace gravels to the east and southeast of the site (Field and Hurst 1984, 84). Other finds of this period suggest that Horncastle, like Ancaster and Sleaford, was a substantial settlement during the Late Iron Age (Whitwell 1982, 44).

The Iron Age settlement continued into the Romano-British period and was an unenclosed area covering some 54 hectares. A second area of Roman occupation, enclosed by a wall, lies some 350m to the northeast. It appears to have been concentrated to the south of the town, along South Street, Boston Road and Mareham Road (Field and Hurst 1984, 85). Closer to the site is evidence for funerary practices, both cremation and inhumation (*ibid.* fig. 26).

Early to mid Saxon settlement and funerary activity is known within the town and a Late Saxon coin bearing the inscription 'HORN' has been associated with the town. However, Horncastle is first mentioned in the Domesday Survey of c. 1086. Referred to as *Hornecastre*, the name derives from the Old English 'horn', meaning a projecting spur of land, and 'caester' indicating a Roman fort (Cameron

1998, 66).

At the time of Domesday, Horncastle was held by the King from Queen Edith, the wife of Edward the Confessor, and contained 2 mills and 100 acres of meadow (Foster and Longley 1976).

Extant remains of the medieval period include the church of St Mary which was built in the 13th century. It is unknown if there was a church prior to St Mary's, although the fact Horncastle was a royal estate centre suggests some ecclesiastical importance at the end of the Saxon period (Stocker 1993, 117).

Weir's '*Plan of Horncastle*', dating to 1819 depicts the site as lying in open ground alongside the Old River Bain. To the south is an area named '*Julian Bower*', a probable reference to a turf cut maze, and a dry dock facing the site.

A watching brief undertaken at the swimming pool only c. 60m south of the current site identified a sequence of freshwater silts and peat along with made-ground (Cope-Faulkner 2004, 3).

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

A single trench was excavated by machine to depths of up to 1.2m below the ground surface along artificial banks alongside the river (Fig. 3). The sides of the trench were then cleaned and rendered vertical before reeds cleared from the adjacent river were put into the trench prior to backfilling. 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 within the trench was a dumped layer of brownish orange silty sand (006) that measured over 0.6m thick. This was sealed by a further dumped deposit comprising greyish brown clayey sand (003) that contained a range of finds dating from the 17th to 20th century. Animal bones, mainly lower leg elements from sheep/goat, and a horn core from the same species were also recovered.

Further dumping over (003) was evidenced by deposits of brownish orange clayey sand (002), greyish brown clay with gravel (005) and orange brown silty sand (007). Medieval and later pottery was retrieved from (002) along with modern glass and animal bones, including numerous pieces from the lower legs of sheep/goats (Appendix 2).

Sealing the dumped deposits was the current topsoil consisting of greyish brown silty sand (001) that measured 0.3m thick.

Material dredged from the river as part of this reed clearance work comprised sand and clay with frequent gravel (004) which also contained modern glass.

6. DISCUSSION

No natural deposits were encountered during the investigations. This suggests that the artificial levee alongside the river was high enough for these deposits not to be reached.

Most deposits comprised dumped layers forming the artificial bank alongside the river. These dumped layers probably derive from previous dredging of the river from the 19th century onwards.

Finds retrieved from the investigation comprise a single sherd of pottery and a fragment of tile of medieval date. Most of the pottery and clay pipe was of the post-medieval period and glass was 19th -20th century date. Animal bone, suggestive of tanning waste, was also retrieved.

7. CONCLUSION

A programme of archaeological monitoring and recording was undertaken at Jubilee Way, Horncastle, as the site lay in close proximity to Iron Age and Roman settlement and close to the medieval town.

However, no deposits were recorded which could be dated to these periods. Instead, a sequence of dumping was recorded which is probably early to mid 20th century in date.

Finds recovered from the watching brief include medieval and later pottery, medieval roof tile, 19th – 20th century

glass, clay pipe and an assemblage of animal bone indicative of tanning.

8. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeological Project Services wishes to acknowledge the assistance of Ms J Parker of the Environment Agency for commissioning the fieldwork and post-excavation analysis. The work was coordinated by Gary Taylor who edited this report along with Tom Lane. Mark Bennet of Lincolnshire County Council's Heritage Environment Team kindly provided information regarding previous archaeological investigations nearby. Dave Start kindly allowed access to the parish files and library maintained by Heritage Lincolnshire.

9. PERSONNEL

Project Coordinator: Gary Taylor
 Site Supervisor: Bob Hamilton
 Finds processing: Denise Buckley
 Photographic reproduction: Sue Unsworth
 Illustration: Paul Cope-Faulkner
 Post-excavation analysis: Paul Cope-Faulkner

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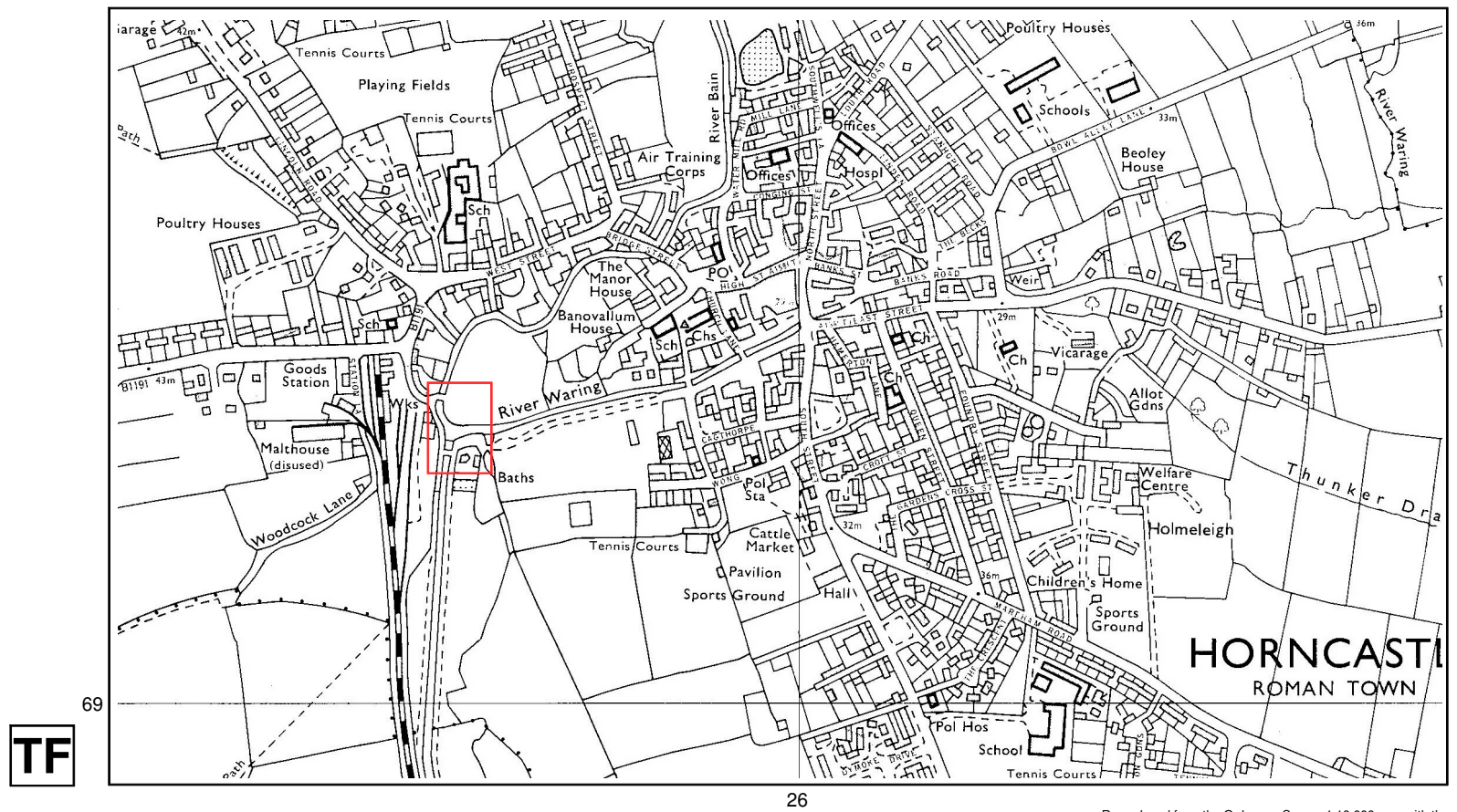
11. ABBREVIATIONS

APS Archaeological Project Services

BGS British Geological Survey



Figure 1 - General location plan



 Area detailed in Figure 3


| | | |
|---|---------------------------------|-------------------|
|  | Archaeological Project Services | |
| Project Name: Jubilee Way, Horncastle HJW10 | | |
| Scale 1:10000 | Drawn by: PCF | Report No: 108/10 |

Figure 2 - Site location plan

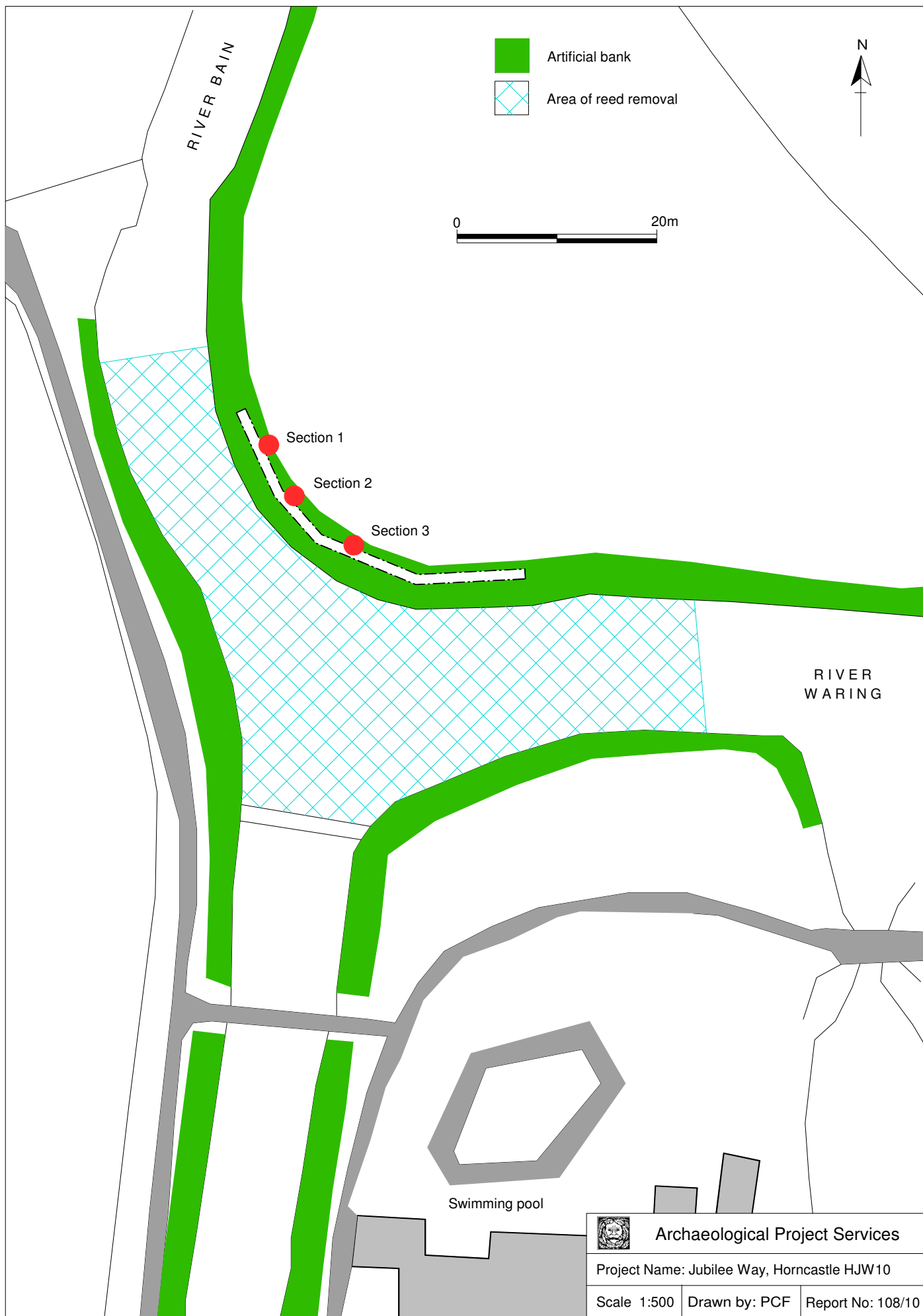
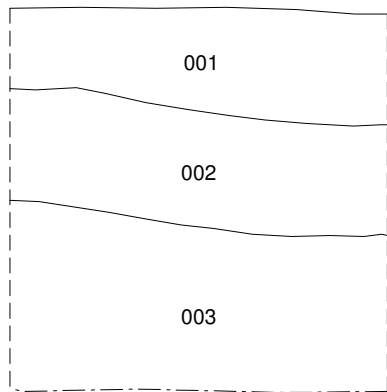


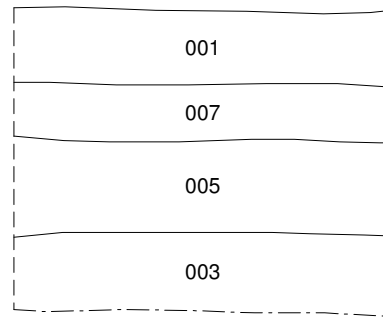
Figure 3 - Plan showing trench and section locations

N S



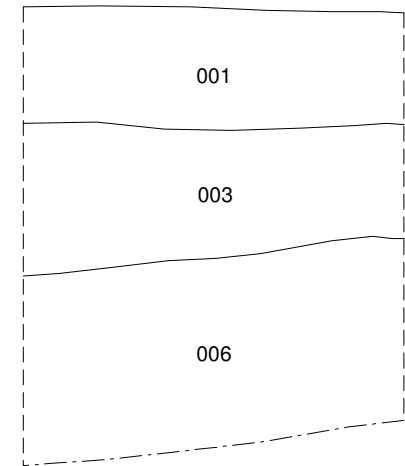
Section 1

N S



Section 2

NW SE



Section 3



Archaeological Project Services

Project Name: Jubilee Way, Horncastle HJW10

Scale 1:20

Drawn by: PCF

Report No: 108/10

Figure 4 - Sections 1 to 3



Plate 1 – General view over the site, looking south



Plate 2 – Section 1, looking east



Plate 3 – Section 2, looking east



Plate 4 – Section 3, looking northeast

Appendix 1

CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

| No. | Description | Interpretation |
|-----|--|------------------|
| 001 | Loose dark greyish brown silty sand, 0.3m thick | Topsoil |
| 002 | Loose mid brownish orange clayey sand, 0.3m thick | Dumped deposit |
| 003 | Loose mid greyish brown clayey sand | Dredged material |
| 004 | Loose mixed sand and clay with frequent gravel | Dumped deposit |
| 005 | Friable light greyish brown clay with gravel, 0.3m thick | Dumped deposit |
| 006 | Friable mid brownish orange silty sand, >0.6m thick | Dumped deposit |
| 007 | Loose dark orange brown silty sand, 0.15m thick | Dumped deposit |

Appendix 2

THE FINDS

POST ROMAN POTTERY

By Alex Beeby

Introduction

All the medieval and post medieval 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 early modern material recovered was recorded by basic weight and count and were discarded. 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 46 sherds from at least 41 vessels, weighing 3331 grams was recovered from the site. Of these, 41 sherds were of modern date and discarded.

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 below. The pottery ranges in date from the medieval to the early modern period.

Condition

The assemblage comprises large fresh pieces; this is reflected in the high average sherd weight of 72.4 grams. A single medieval fragment is overfired or possibly burnt, whilst a number of early modern pieces are covered in a white deposit probably caused by exposure to standing water.

Results

Table 1, Post Roman Pottery Archive

| Cxt | Cname | Form | NoS | NoV | W(g) | Dec | Part | Comments | Date |
|-----|-------|-----------------------|-----|-----|------|--------------------|-----------------|--|-------------|
| 002 | BL | Jar or Bowl | 1 | 1 | 16 | | BS | Heavy matt black glaze; dark orange | 18th |
| 002 | ENGS | Straight Sided Bottle | 1 | 1 | 320 | | Complete | | M19th-E20th |
| 002 | GRE | Bowl | 1 | 1 | 176 | | Profile | Flint; Norfolk?; abraded exterior; sooted exterior; plain everted rim | E16th-M17th |
| 002 | TOY2 | Jug | 1 | 1 | 77 | Stabbed Handle rib | Handle with UHJ | Warped and over fired; poss burnt?; glaze over UHJ; strap with central hollow | 14th-15th |
| 003 | ENGS | Straight Sided Bottle | 1 | 1 | 55 | | | stamped ...D...MARTIN...ARING CROSS; boot blacking bottle - Warren's liquid blacking, Charing Cross; pitted exterior | EM19th |

Provenance

Pottery was recovered from a dumped deposit (002) as well as dredged material (003).

Range

(002) – This context yielded a range of material dating from the medieval to early modern period. Vessels recovered include a large sherd from a Glazed Red Earthenware (GRE) bowl, and a handle fragment from a late Toynton Ware jug (TOY2). The vessel in GRE has flint inclusions and may well be a product of the prolific industries based around King's Lynn in Norfolk. Other notable pieces from this context include a sherd of Blackware (BL) of probable 18th century date, and a complete straight sided bottle in English Stoneware (ENGS). Eight other sherds of early modern pottery, all of a 19th century date, were also retrieved from (002).

(003) – Context (003) produced a range of 19th century domestic pottery types including Pearlware (PEARL), English Stoneware (ENGS), 19th Century Buff Ware (NCBW), Modern Whiteware (WHITE), miscellaneous Slipware (SLIP) and Creamware (CREA). A single sherd of English Stoneware from a straight sided bottle is the only piece of special note; this is a boot blacking bottle from Warren's blacking factory in Charing Cross London.

(004) – 10 sherds from nine vessels were recovered from this context. All of these are of mid to late 19th to early 20th century date. Fabrics include 19th century Buff Ware (NCBW), English porcelain (ENPO), Creamware (CREA) and Pearlware (PEARL).

Potential

There is limited potential for further work. The items recorded to archive standard should be retained, whilst the remainder is modern, of little intrinsic value and, therefore, has been discarded

Summary

Three contexts yielded post Roman ceramic material, mostly of 19th century date. A single context (002) also produced pottery of medieval and post medieval date.

CERAMIC BUILDING MATERIAL

By Alex Beeby

Introduction

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 single fragment of ceramic building material weighing 125 grams was recovered from the site.

Methodology

The piece was laid out before being viewed and weighed. The item 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 below.

Condition

The fragment abraded and covered in a white deposit, possibly mortar. The piece may have been reshaped for reuse.

Results

Table 2, Ceramic Building Material Archive

| Cxt | Cname | Fabric | NoF | W(g) | Description | Date |
|-----|-------|-------------------------------------|-----|------|---|-----------|
| 002 | PNR | OX/R/OX; medium sandy; clay pellets | 1 | 125 | covered in mortar; poss reshaped for reuse; abraded | 13th-15th |

Provenance

The material came from dumped deposit (002).

Range

There is a single fragment from a medieval roofing tile (PNR).

Potential

There is limited potential for further work. The piece should be retained as part of the site archive.

Summary

A single piece of medieval roofing tile was recovered during the watching brief; this shows signs of possible reuse before deposition.

FAUNAL REMAINS

By Paul Cope-Faulkner

Introduction

A total of 25 (742g) fragments of animal bone were recovered from stratified contexts.

Provenance

The animal bone was retrieved from a dumped deposit (002) and from dredged material (003).

Condition

The overall condition of the remains was good to moderate.

Results

Table 3, Fragments Identified to Taxa

| Cxt | Taxon | Element | Number | W (g) | Comments |
|-----|---------------|------------|--------|-------|----------------|
| 002 | large mammal | rib | 1 | 28 | butchery marks |
| | large mammal | tibia | 2 | 84 | |
| | pig | tibia | 1 | 47 | |
| | medium mammal | radius | 1 | 24 | |
| | sheep/goat | metacarpus | 4 | 86 | |
| | sheep/goat | metatarsus | 5 | 131 | |
| 003 | large mammal | vertebra | 1 | 168 | |
| | sheep/goat | horn core | 1 | 22 | |
| | sheep/goat | metacarpus | 4 | 53 | |
| | sheep/goat | metatarsus | 4 | 88 | |
| | oyster | shell | 1 | 11 | |

Summary

The abundance of lower leg bones with a horn core suggests that the bone may derive from tanning waste, although no tanners are recorded in the immediate vicinity in the early Ordnance Survey maps of the town. As a small assemblage and that the bone has been divorced from its primary area of disposal, the animal bone has been discarded.

GLASS

By Gary Taylor

Introduction

Fourteen pieces of glass weighing a total of 2183g were recovered.

Condition

Although naturally fragile the glass is in good condition. A few of the bottles exhibit very slight iridescent decay.

Results

Table 4, Glass Archive

| Cxt | Description | NoF | W (g) | Date |
|-----|---|---------|-------|----------------------|
| 002 | Very pale green bottle, embossed with trade and manufacturer's marks, late 19 th -early 20 th century | 1 | 183 | Early-mid century |
| | Very pale green torpedo-bottles, embossed, late 19 th -early 20 th century | 2 | 395 | |
| | Very pale green bottle, embossed punt mark, late 19 th -early 20 th century | 1 | 271 | |
| | Colourless bottle, embossed, early-mid 20 th century | 4(link) | 281 | |
| 003 | Green glob-top bottle, string rim, embossed, complete, mid-late 19 th century | 1 | 428 | Early-mid century |
| | Very pale green bottle, embossed, late 19 th century | 1 | 301 | |
| | Brown flat bottle, embossed, late 19 th -early 20 th century | 1 | 46 | |
| | Colourless flat, slightly curved, bottle, complete, early-mid 20 th century | 1 | 113 | |
| 004 | Very dark olive green bottle, early-mid 20 th century | 1 | 106 | Early-mid century |
| | Very pale green bottle, probable Hamilton bottle, embossed, mid-late 19 th century | 1 | 59 | |

Provenance

The glass was recovered from dumped deposits (002, 004) and dredged material (003). Many of the vessels are marked as containing beverages made in Horncastle or nearby, including Wainfleet. A couple of the pieces are also marked as bottles manufactured in Castleford (Yorkshire) and in Bristol.

Range

One of the bottle fragments from (002) is embossed: T. PO[, AERAT[, WATER, WORKS, HORNCASTLE. This mineral water manufacturer has not been identified, though a Thomas Pogson held the Fighting Cocks inn at Horncastle in 1856 (White 1856, 765). The embossed manufacturer's mark notes that the bottle was made by Breffitt & Co Ltd of Castleford, Yorkshire.

Embossing on the torpedo-shaped bottles from (002) reads:]LTERS,]AR,]CASTLE, which probably indicates an Horncastle mineral water manufacturer. This might be Joseph Walter, who is recorded as a ginger beer maker at Bridge Street in 1856, or a member of his family (White 1856, 764). Another green bottle from (002) has a punt

mark of the bottle maker: H. R. & Co, Bristol. The colourless bottle from the same context is embossed with the word 'Wainfleet'.

Two complete bottles were recovered from (003). One is a green mineral water bottle and is embossed: J. W. G. SETTLE, TRADE MARK, HORNCASTLE, with the image of a horn and a castle. The base of the bottle is similarly embossed with: JOSEPH []. G. SETTLE, HORNCASTLE. Settle operated as mineral water manufacturers in Horncastle in the mid 19th century, with Joseph Grundy Settle recorded on the High Street in 1856 (White 1856, 763). The second complete bottle is a small colourless flat bottle, probably a spirits flask.

Two other embossed fragments were recovered from (003). The brown bottle is marked 'UR[', while the pale green mineral water bottle is marked: THE M[]SEN, A16, W. PILGRIM, MANAGER, BREWERY C^O L^{TD}.

The probable Hamilton bottle from (004) is embossed:]RATED WA[, clearly 'aerated water'.

Potential

The main potential of the glass is in providing dating evidence, though the items also indicate some of the mineral water or ginger beer manufacturers around the town.

CLAY PIPE

By Gary Taylor

Introduction

Analysis of the clay pipes followed the guidance published by Davey (1981) and the material is detailed in the accompanying table.

Condition

All the pipes are in good condition.

Results

Table 5, Clay Pipes

| Context no. | Bore diameter /64" | | | | | NoF | W(g) | Comments | Date |
|-------------|--------------------|---|---|---|---|-----|------|------------------------------|--------------------------|
| | 8 | 7 | 6 | 5 | 4 | | | | |
| 002 | | | | 1 | | 1 | 2 | Bore is hexagonal at one end | 18 th century |
| 003 | | 1 | | | | 1 | 3 | Stem only | 17 th century |
| Totals | | 1 | | 1 | | 2 | 5 | | |

Provenance

Clay pipe fragments were recovered from a dumped deposit (002) and dredged material (003). They are probably fairly local products, perhaps manufactured in Horncastle itself, though one (from 002) has characteristics of pipes made nearer to the coast, perhaps in Boston.

Range

Stems were the only pieces of clay pipes found. One of them has a hexagonal bore at one end. Such angular/polygonal bores are extremely unusual as the bore moulding wires were usually twisted on removal, this twisting generating a round hole even when a rectangular or other form of wire was used. However, while this feature is rare it seems to be a characteristic of the region around The Wash, as previous examples have been found in this area, including at Boston (Taylor 2002), King's Lynn (Taylor 2003) and Walsoken in Norfolk (Boyle and Taylor 2010). The present example is the furthest inland a pipe of this type has yet been recorded.

Potential

Other than providing dating evidence the clay pipe is of limited potential. However, the example with the hexagonal bore provides an addition to the small corpus of such clay pipes previously identified, and extends their geographical range.

SPOT DATING

The dating in Table 6 is based on the evidence provided by the finds detailed above.

Table 6, Spot dates

| Cxt | Date | Comments |
|-----|--------------------------------|----------------|
| 002 | Early 20 th century | Based on glass |
| 003 | Early 20 th century | Based on glass |
| 004 | Early 20 th century | Based on glass |

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 |
| UHJ | Upper Handle Join |
| W (g) | Weight (grams) |

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Appendix 3

GLOSSARY

| | |
|------------------------|---|
| Alluvium | A deposit (usually clay, silts or sands) laid down in water. Marine alluvium is deposited by the sea and freshwater alluvium by streams, rivers or within lakes. |
| 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). |
| Dumped deposits | These are deposits, often laid down intentionally, that raise a land surface. They may be the result of casual waste disposal or may be deliberate attempts to raise the ground surface. |
| 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 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. |
| Prehistoric | The period of human history prior to the introduction of writing. In Britain the prehistoric period lasts from the first evidence of human occupation about 500,000 BC, until the Roman invasion in the middle of the 1 st century AD. |
| 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 4

THE ARCHIVE

The archive consists of:

| | |
|---|---------------------------|
| 7 | Context records |
| 1 | Photographic record sheet |
| 2 | Daily record sheets |
| 2 | Sheets of scale drawings |
| 1 | Stratigraphic matrix |
| 1 | Box 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

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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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