

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF REPORT:
MARMION DRIVE, WINTERTON
NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE**

Planning Reference: PA/2008/0124
NGR: SE 92001 18698
Site Code: WIMD 09
North Lincolnshire Museum Site Code: WNTAH
OASIS Reference Number: allenarc1-80500



Report prepared for Winterton Parish Council

By
Allen Archaeology Limited
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Summary

- Allen Archaeology Limited was commissioned by Winterton Parish Council to carry out an archaeological watching brief in March 2009 on Marmion Drive in Winterton, North Lincolnshire.
- The watching brief recorded only modern topsoil overlying a natural limestone brash. No finds or features of archaeological interest were recorded.

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 Allen Archaeology Limited was commissioned by Winterton Parish Council to carry out an archaeological watching brief on land west of Marmion Drive in Winterton, North Lincolnshire.
- 1.2 The excavation, recording and reporting conforms to current national guidelines, as set out in the Institute for Archaeologists '*Standard and guidance for archaeological watching briefs*' (IfA 1994, revised 2001 and 2008). All appropriate English Heritage guidelines on archaeological practice were also followed (www.helm.org/server/show/nav.7740) as well as the methodologies set out in the specification prepared by this company (Allen 2009).
- 1.3 The documentary archive will be submitted to North Lincolnshire Museum, where it will be stored under the museum site code WNTAH.

2.0 Site Location and Description

- 2.1 Winterton is situated in the administrative district of North Lincolnshire, approximately 9km north-north-east of central Scunthorpe. The site is c.0.53km to the west-north-west of the historic core of the settlement, to the west of Marmion Drive. It comprises a rectangular block of grass covered open space. The site centres on NGR SE 92001 18698.
- 2.2 The local solid geology consists of Jurassic Limestone deposits of the Raventhorpe Beds, with no overlying superficial deposits recorded on the site (British Geological Survey 1983).

3.0 Planning Background

- 3.1 A full planning permission has been granted for the construction of a multi-sport area with associated fencing, shelter, play equipment with enclosure fencing, swing, climbing frame and site boundary fencing (Planning Application Reference PA/2008/0124). Permission has been granted subject to conditions, one of which is for the undertaking of an archaeological watching brief.
- 3.2 The watching brief will comprise the monitoring of groundworks for the scheme, and the recording of any archaeological remains exposed, effectively 'preserving the archaeology by record'. This approach is consistent with the guidelines that are set out in *Archaeology and Planning: Planning Policy Guidance Note 16* (1990). This planning guidance was in place when the archaeological condition was attached to the development, but has now been superseded by Planning Policy Statement 5 (PPS5)

4.0 Archaeological and Historical Background

- 4.1 There is considerable evidence of prehistoric activity around Winterton, the earliest find from the parish being a Mesolithic tranchet axehead (May 1976). A scatter of flints, including part of a Neolithic greenstone axe, and leaf shaped and barbed and tanged arrowheads has been found during farming operations c.1.5km to the east of the site. The Archaeological Data Service website also shows further prehistoric finds from the parish: including flint scatters, a flint knife and sickle, a bronze palstave and Bronze Age pottery (National Monument Record (hereafter NMR) Monument Numbers 63720 and 63836). Numerous cropmarks of enclosures, field systems and hut circles have also been identified from aerial photography (NMR Monument Numbers 1063767, 1063769, 1063770 and 1063772), attesting to a landscape of relatively intensive occupation and agricultural exploitation during the later prehistoric period.

- 4.2 To the west of the site, near Old Cliff Farm, a large scale high status Romano-British villa complex has been excavated. Elaborate mosaics were first identified in 1747, with later extensive excavations exposing many phases of development; beginning with circular stone structures that were demolished in the 2nd century AD and gradually replaced by a three-sided complex of buildings arranged around a central courtyard. This complex included dwellings with hypocaust heating and bath houses, workshops, corn drying ovens, and cattle stalls (Whitwell 1992).
- 4.3 Another stone building of early 4th century AD date was excavated in 1953 to the east of North Street, with associated enclosure cropmarks (NMR Monument Number 63657). In 1968, a stone coffin was found during the widening of the A1077, c.0.75km to the south-west (NMR Monument Number 1063766), and a number of scatters of pottery and coins have been found around the parish (NMR Monument Numbers 63696, 1063764, 1063765 and 1063852). The majority of this activity is concentrated around the villa site to the west of the site, and to the east of the village.
- 4.4 In the Domesday Book Winterton is listed as *Wintretune*, a place name derived from the Old English meaning 'the village, farmstead of the Wintringas', referring to an ancient tribal grouping whose name is also reflected in the nearby village of Winteringham (Cameron 1998). The Domesday Book records eight landowners in the parish, all controlling small estates (Morgan and Thorne 1986). This suggests the presence of a well established settlement by the time of the Norman Conquest.
- 4.5 The site is situated to the west of the traditional historic core of the village, approximately 0.75km west of the parish church of All Saints. The church has a Saxo-Norman tower of 11th century date, and as such the church may have its origins in the Late Saxon period (Pevsner and Harris 2002).

5.0 Methodology

- 5.1 The groundworks for the first phase of the project, the new sports ground, was monitored by Chris Clay on 16th March 2009. The sports ground was stripped of topsoil using a wheeled 360° excavator fitted with a 1.8m wide, toothless bucket and all exposed plan and section surfaces were inspected for any archaeological features and deposits to determine the stratigraphic sequence. Each context was recorded on pro-forma AAL context record sheets, accompanied by plan and section drawings at appropriate scales. A photographic record was maintained by the use of film cameras fitted for colour and monochrome 35mm format; and a digital camera with selected digital shots included as an appendix to this report (see Appendix 1).
- 5.2 Each deposit was allocated a unique identifier (context number), and accorded a written description, a summary of these are included in Appendix 2.
- 5.3 Due to the lack of finds or features recorded during the monitoring of the Phase I works, it was agreed that the watching brief condition for Phase II could be removed and no further monitoring was necessary.

6.0 Results (Figures 2 – 3)

- 6.1 Due to the slightly uneven nature of the existing ground surface, the site strip removed only c.0.2m of material towards the east side of the site, increasing to 0.62m towards the north-west corner of the stripped area. The uppermost deposit was a modern topsoil 01, comprising a 0.42m thick mid brown sandy silt with occasional small sub-angular limestone. The topsoil sealed the natural limestone brash 02, excavated to a maximum depth of 0.20m, and extending below the limit of excavation.

7.0 Discussion and Conclusion

- 7.1 No archaeological deposits or features were recorded during the watching brief of the sports ground. Natural geology of limestone brash was directly sealed by modern topsoil.

8.0 Effectiveness of Methodology

- 8.1 The watching brief was appropriate to the scale and nature of the scheme. No archaeological finds or features were discovered on the site.

9.0 Acknowledgements

- 9.1 Allen Archaeology Limited would like to thank Winterton Parish Council for this commission.

10.0 References

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Appendix 1: Colour Plates



Plate 1: General site shot, looking north during groundworks



Plate 2: South facing representative section, looking north

Appendix 2: Context Summary List

Context No.	Type	Description	Interpretation
01	Layer	Mid brown sandy silt with occasional small sub-angular limestone. Seals 02	Modern topsoil
02	Layer	Poorly sorted sub-angular limestone in pale yellowish brown coarse sand matrix. Sealed by 01	Natural limestone brash

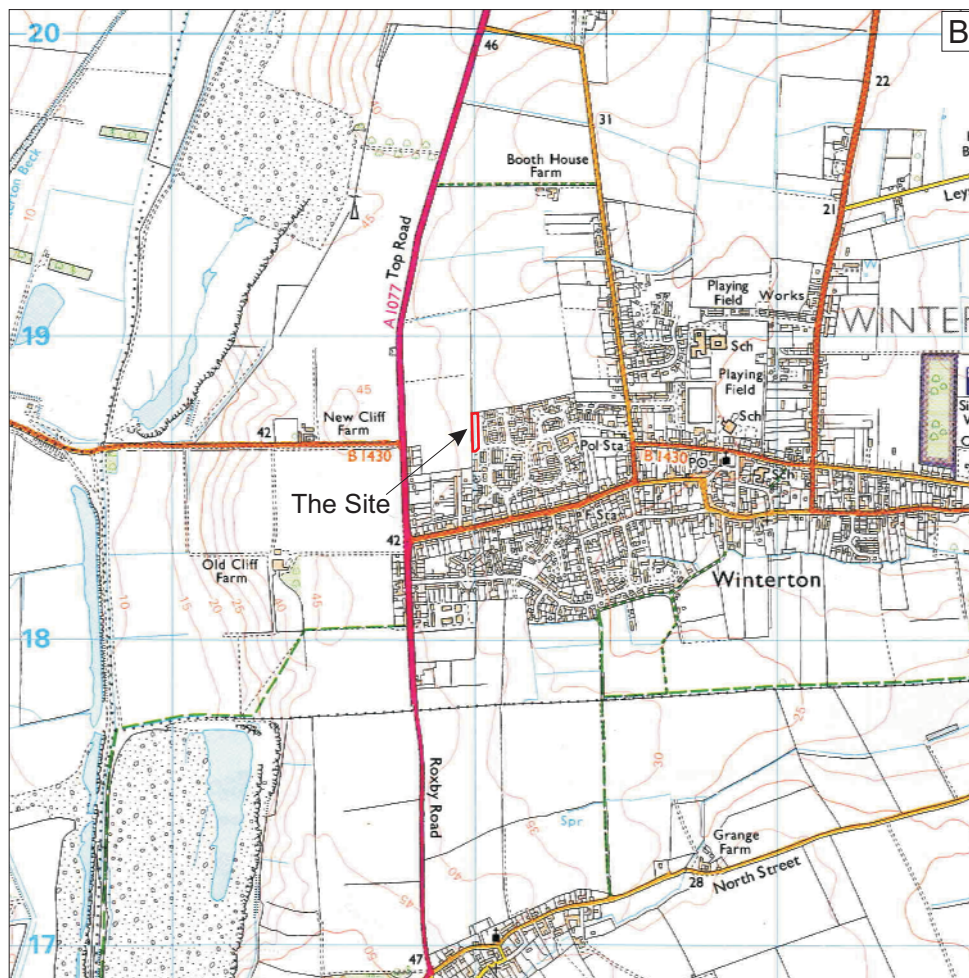
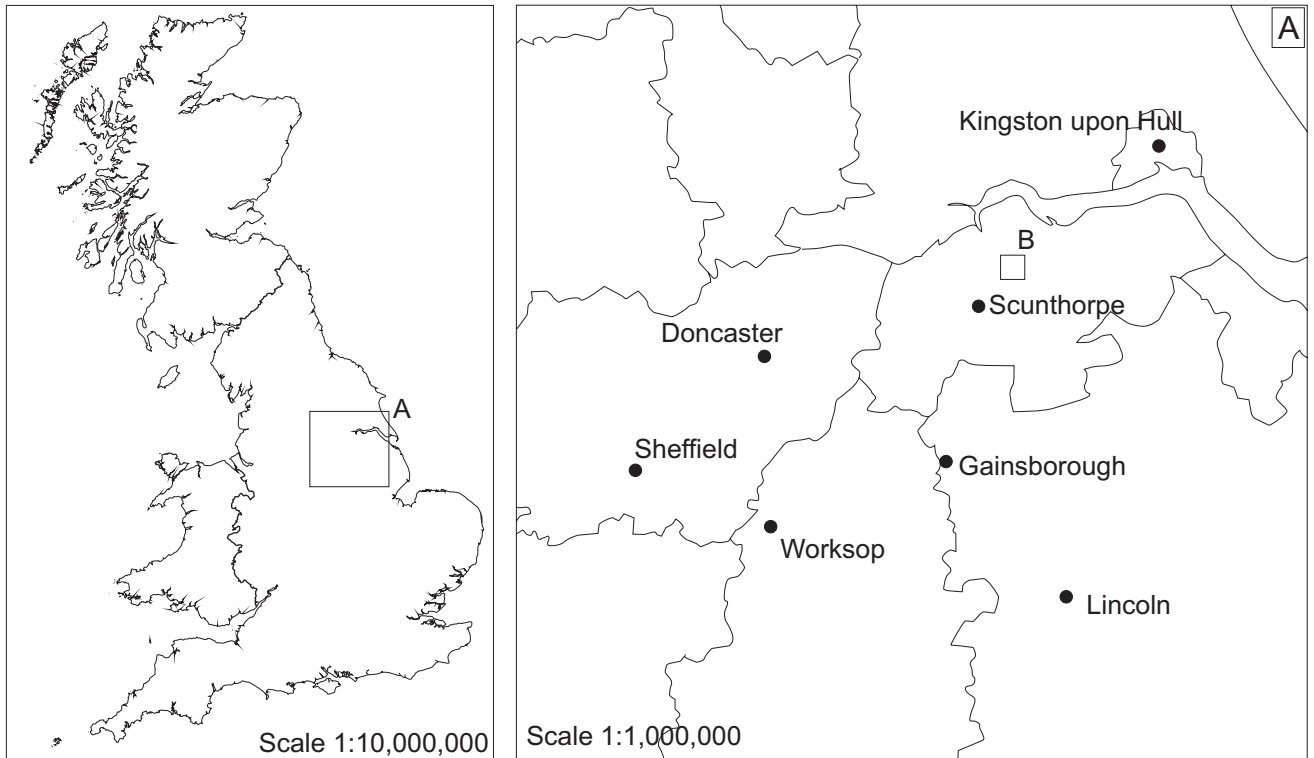


Figure 1: Site location at scale 1:25,000, with the site outlined in red.
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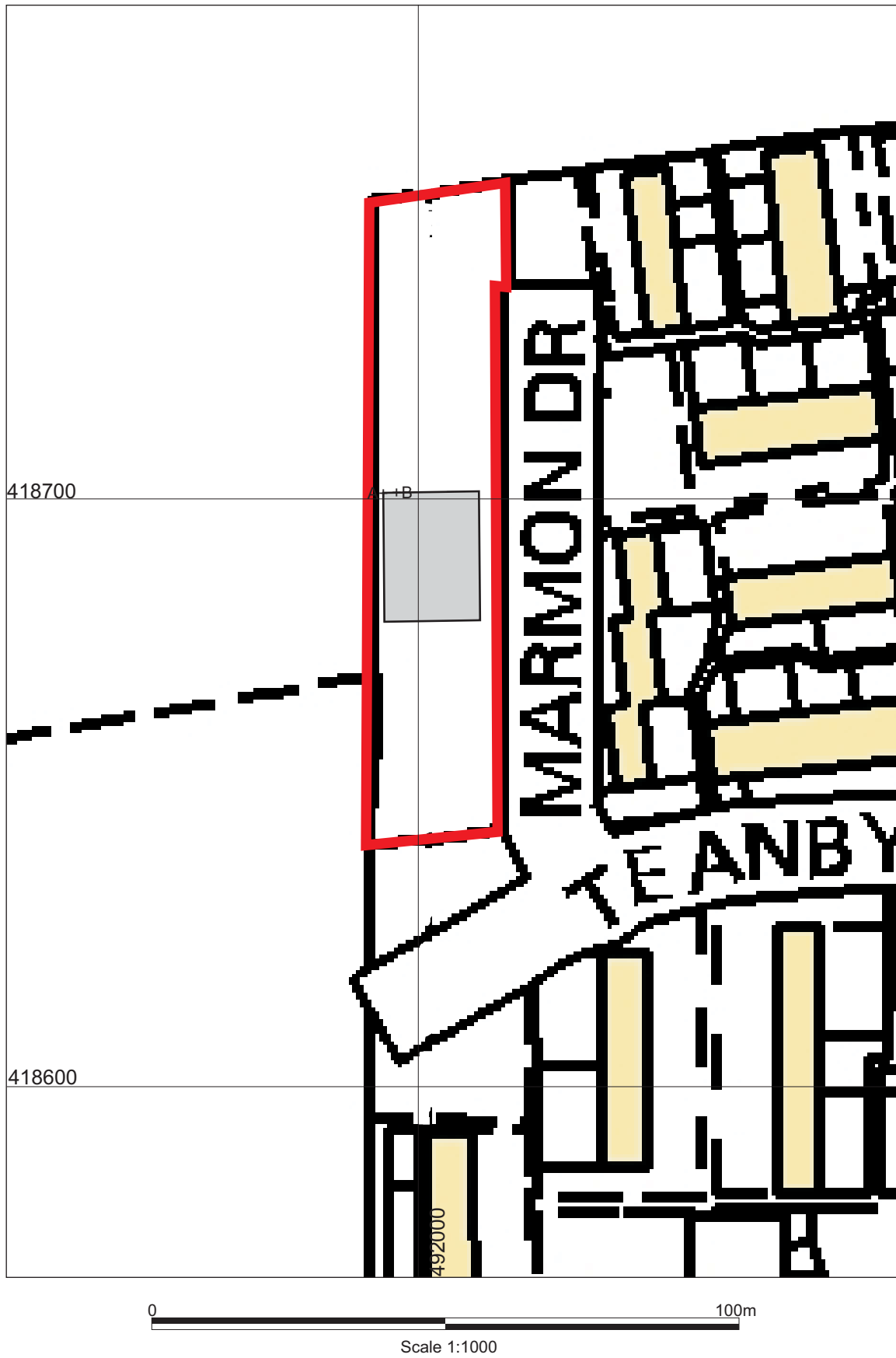


Figure 2: Site location plan at scale 1:1000 with site outlined in red and striped area shaded grey. Section A - B shown on Figure 3

South facing representative section

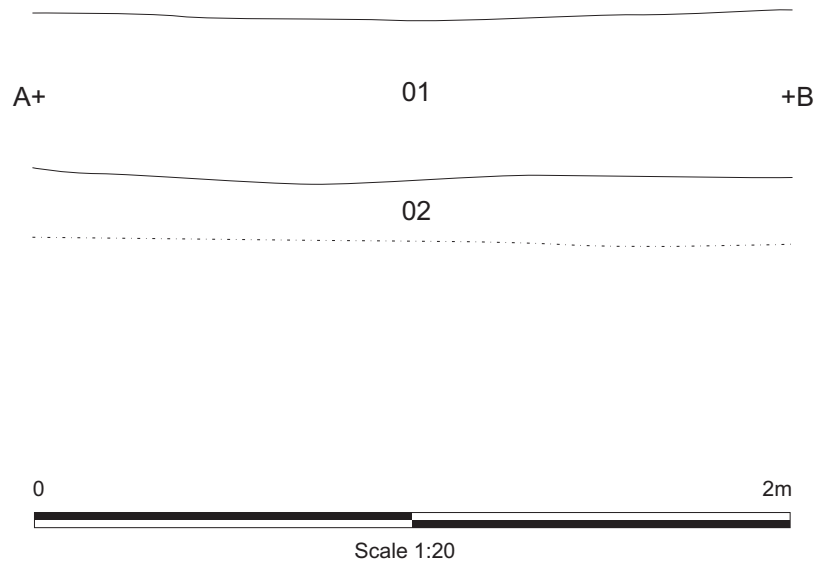


Figure 3: Representative section at scale 1:20. See Figure 2 for section location.