

**LAND OFF HALL LANE,
BURGH LE MARSH, LINCOLNSHIRE**

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION REPORT

NGR:	TF 5010 6456
ELDC Planning Ref.:	Pre-application
Archive acc. no.:	TBC
Site code:	BLME12
PCAS job no.:	967

Prepared for

Neil Dowlman Architecture Ltd

on behalf of Messrs R P & C G Clarke

by

M. Walker (BA)

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Pre-Construct Archaeological Services Ltd
47, Manor Road
Saxilby
Lincoln
LN1 2HX

Tel. 01522 703800
e-mail info@pre-construct.co.uk

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Summary

This report presents the results of a programme of archaeological evaluation (trial-trenching) which took place in November 2012, preceding the development of seven housing plots on land approximately 30m south-west of Hall Lane, Burgh le Marsh, Lincolnshire.

The work, conducted in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation approved by Lincolnshire County Council (LCC), represented an initial stage of archaeological investigation on the site.

The evaluation revealed two linear features that possibly represent former field boundaries, one of which has been dated between the mid-5th to 9th century AD. Pottery sherds, flints and a whetstone were retrieved from the topsoil.

The results of the evaluation show that the proposed development will have an impact on archaeological remains.



Fig. 1 Site Location (based on the 1:25,000 Ordnance Survey Explorer map sheet 274 [2000]. © Crown copyright. All rights reserved. PCAS Licence No. 100049278).

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 On the advice of East Lindsey District Council, PCAS Ltd., were commissioned by Neil Dowlman Architecture Ltd. (on behalf of Messrs. Clarke) to undertake a scheme of archaeological evaluation (trial-trenching) in advance of a small residential development on land adjacent to Ash Barn, Hall Lane, Burgh le Marsh. The work, conducted in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) approved by Lincolnshire County Council (LCC), represented an initial stage of archaeological investigation on the site.

2.0 Site location and description

- 2.1 The market town of Burgh le Marsh is situated on a small hillock, located approximately 4km to the west of the town of Skegness. The proposed development site is located on the southern edge of the town, c. 30m southwest of Hall Lane on a cultivated field plot, centred on National Grid Reference TF 5010 6456.

3.0 Geology and Topography

- 3.1 The solid geology of the area is undifferentiated Cretaceous Roach Formation, Tealby Formation, Claxby Ironstone Formation, overlain by Devensian Till (boulder clay) (BGS, 1996). This in turn is overlain by slowly permeable seasonally waterlogged fine loamy over clayey soils of the Holderness Series (Soil Survey of England and Wales, 1983).
- 3.2 The settlement of Burgh le Marsh is situated on elevated ground, approximately 5m AOD higher than the surrounding low-lying flatlands (Hall 2012).

4.0 Planning Background

- 4.1 A planning application is currently under consideration by East Lindsey District Council for the construction of seven houses on land adjacent to Ash Barn, Hall Lane, Burgh le Marsh. In accordance with the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF 2012), the Planning Archaeologist for ELDC recommended that an archaeological evaluation on the site should take place in order to better inform the planning process.
- 4.2 The NPPF came into legislation on 27 March 2012, replacing PPS5. The NPPF places the responsibility for dealing with heritage assets affected by development proposals with the developer. Local planning authorities now need to be assured by those applying for planning permission that any such remains are not under threat. As a result developers are required to produce a definitive method of mitigating the effect of development on the historic environment within the planning process. In Lincolnshire planning archaeologists will produce an appropriate level of guidance to aid developers in the fulfilment of their archaeological responsibilities (LCC 2012, 7.1).
- 4.3 Section 12, paragraph 128 of the NPPF states that, *'128. In determining applications, local planning authorities should require an applicant to describe the significance of any heritage assets affected, including any contribution made by their setting. The level of detail should be proportionate to the assets' importance and no more than is sufficient to understand the potential impact of the proposal on their significance. As a*

minimum the relevant historic environment record should have been consulted and the heritage assets assessed using appropriate expertise where necessary. Where a site on which development is proposed includes or has the potential to include heritage assets with archaeological interest, local planning authorities should require developers to submit an appropriate desk-based assessment and, where necessary, a field evaluation'.

5.0 Archaeological and Historical Background

Prehistoric

- 5.1 Two watching briefs undertaken near Hall Lane recovered a total of four worked flints, ranging in date from the Neolithic to the Bronze Age (HER 43946, Heritage Gateway, 2012).
- 5.2 Previous trial trenching in Burgh le Marsh uncovered a thin scatter of undiagnostic flint tools that possibly represent the remains of a temporary Mesolithic hunting camp (HER 43947, Heritage Gateway, 2012).

Roman

- 5.3 A watching brief carried out in close proximity to the proposed development site during the construction of a new access road on Hall Lane (TF 499 647) recorded evidence for Iron Age/Roman agricultural activity. The archaeology included ditches and gullies that are believed to represent agricultural land divisions. The east-west and north-west-south-east alignments identified suggested there may have been two phases of agricultural land division in the Roman period. Pottery from the site included Lincoln material, Central Gaulish samian, and a samian fabric bowl manufactured in the Nene Valley - all suggestive of relatively high-status Roman settlement (**HER 40583**, Heritage Gateway, 2012).
- 5.4 The Hall Lane watching brief was followed by geophysical survey and the excavation of four trial trenches, which uncovered possible Iron Age features on the same alignment as the Roman ditches but truncated by them. A large quantity of residual Iron Age pottery was found across the site, which could reflect significant activity during this period (**HER 40583**, Heritage Gateway, 2012).
- 5.5 The previous Hall Lane evaluation identified a large Iron Age/Roman ditch with several recuts. The upper fill of this contained Anglo-Saxon pottery from the 5th-7th centuries; and late Anglo-Saxon and medieval pottery dating from the 10th-16th centuries. This suggests that some of the early field boundaries remained a significant part of the landscape from the Iron Age/Roman period, through to the late medieval period (Hall 2012).

Medieval

- 5.6 A possible medieval earthwork identified from aerial photographs to the southwest of the proposed development site may represent the remains of a moated site. A possible post-medieval earthwork enclosure and trackway has also been identified on aerial photographs to the immediate west of the assessment site (Hall 2012).
- 5.7 A watching brief undertaken in 2001 uncovered two east-west ditches containing 12th – and 13th-14th century pottery and were thought to be land divisions (**HER 41542**, Heritage Gateway, 2012).

6.0 Aims and Methodology

- 6.1 The results presented in this evaluation report will be used to assess the significance of the site's archaeological resource and the potential impact that the proposed residential development may have on this. The results will thus be used to inform the planning application and determine an appropriate scheme of mitigation.
- 6.2 The principal aim of the field evaluation was to gather sufficient information to establish the presence or absence, location, extent, depth, condition, character, quality and date of any archaeological remains on the site.
- 6.3 The approved WSI for the archaeological evaluation and subsequent evaluation fieldwork were designed in collaboration with the Planning Archaeologist and Lincoln Museums. The scheme of works and this report have been compiled in accordance with current best practice and appropriate national guidance including:
- *The Management of Archaeological Projects* (MAP2), (English Heritage, 1991);
 - *National Planning Policy Framework*. Department for Communities and Local Government. March 2012;
 - *IFA Code of Conduct* (1994 as revised);
 - *IFA Standards and Guidance for archaeological excavation* (2008);
 - *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment* (MoRPHE Rev.2009);
 - *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation* (Institute of Field Archaeologists, 1994 as revised).
- 6.4 Two evaluation trenches, each 50m x 2m and were set out and excavated between the 13th and 14th of November 2012, under the PCAS site code **BLME12** (Fig.2) The trenches were sited by offsetting from known geographical points in the field and existing residential housing plots situated to the north of Hall Lane, using long tapes and planning information from the Architect. They were later accurately recorded using a GPS. All archaeological deposits and features, including those revealed by machine, were manually cleaned and recorded in accordance with the approved WSI. All context information was recorded on standard Context Record Sheets. Archaeological plans and sections were drawn to appropriate scales (1:10, 1:20 or 1:50), with Ordnance Datum heights calculated for each class of drawing. Photography was conducted in 35mm colour slide format supplemented by colour digital.

7.0 Results

- 7.1 Trenches 1 and 2 were excavated down to the natural substrate and contained topsoil and subsoil. Both trenches contained single, linear archaeological features, which were investigated and recorded (Appendices 1 & 2).
- 7.2 The natural substrate (1002) in Trench 1 was compact silty clay, overlain by compact subsoil (1001). The subsoil and natural substrate were both cut by a linear ditch [1003] aligned east-west, measuring 2.50m+ x 0.86m x 0.34m. The ditch had a concave profile with gradual edges. It contained a compact clayey silt fill (1004)

incorporating two sherds of pottery dated between the mid-5th to 9th century AD from a jar or bowl form. Two small fragments of animal long bone were also recovered. Poor preservation and quantity (1.4g) made species identification impossible. The feature was sealed by topsoil (1000).

- 7.3 Trench 2 exposed compact natural substrate (2002) overlain by an orange-brown subsoil (2001). As in Trench 1, the subsoil and natural were cut by a linear gully [2003] aligned north/west-south/east, measuring 8.50m+ x 0.47m x 0.20m. The gully had gradual edges forming a concave profile. It contained a compact clayey silt fill (2004), from which was retrieved a single sherd of pottery of undated fine sandy/organic fabric. The gully was sealed by topsoil (2000), from which a small assemblage of miscellaneous finds were retrieved including one handle fragment from a Toynton All Saints ware jug, dated between the Late 13th to 15th century AD, and four flints comprising three flakes and a side scraper, the latter possibly dated to the final Upper Palaeolithic. Also retrieved was a hone or whetstone, possibly Roman in date.
- 7.4 No environmental samples were taken from the site.

8.0 Discussion and Conclusions

- 8.1 The archaeological evaluation encountered two linear features [1003] and [2003], on differing alignments, which could potentially indicate two phases of agricultural land division. Linear ditch [1003] recorded in Trench 1 may represent the remains of a small field boundary dated between the Mid 5th to 9th century AD. The ditch fill did not appear to have been deliberately backfilled, but instead to have accumulated naturally.
- 8.2 Linear gully [2003] in Trench 2 may also represent the remains of a field boundary cut into the subsoil. The gully fill (2004) was similar to the subsoil and appeared to have accumulated naturally, although dating evidence in the form of a single sherd proved inconclusive due to the generic nature of the fabric.
- 8.3 The three flint flakes from the topsoil (2000) in Trench 2 displayed evidence of limited and secondary working, whereas one appeared to be a retouched tool, possibly a side scraper of Upper Palaeolithic date. Small assemblages of prehistoric flint have been recovered previously from the vicinity and this small assemblage, while not conclusive, indicates the presence of prehistoric settlement in the area.
- 8.4 In conclusion, the results of the 2012 archaeological evaluation at Hall Lane show that the proposed development will have some impact on archaeological remains.

9.0 Site Archive

- 9.1 The documentary archive for this scheme is currently in the possession of Pre-Construct Archaeological Services Ltd. The collection will be deposited with Lincoln Museum within six months of submittal of the final evaluation report, under the PCAS Site code BLME12; an archive accession number has been applied for.

10.0 Acknowledgements

- 10.1 Pre-Construct Archaeological Services Ltd are grateful to Neil Dowlman Architecture Ltd and their clients; Messrs R. P. & C. G. Clarke for this commission.

11.0 References

British Geological Survey, (1996), Skegness Solid & Drift, Sheet 116, Scale 1:50,000.

Heritage Gateway, 2012. www.heritagegateway.co.uk, *Iron Age/Roman site Hall Lane/Barnack lodge*, **HER no: 40583, 41542, 43946, 43947**.

Hall., N. 2012. *A desk based heritage assessment of land adjacent to Ash Barn, Hall Lane, Burgh Le Marsh, Lincolnshire*. Unpublished client report.

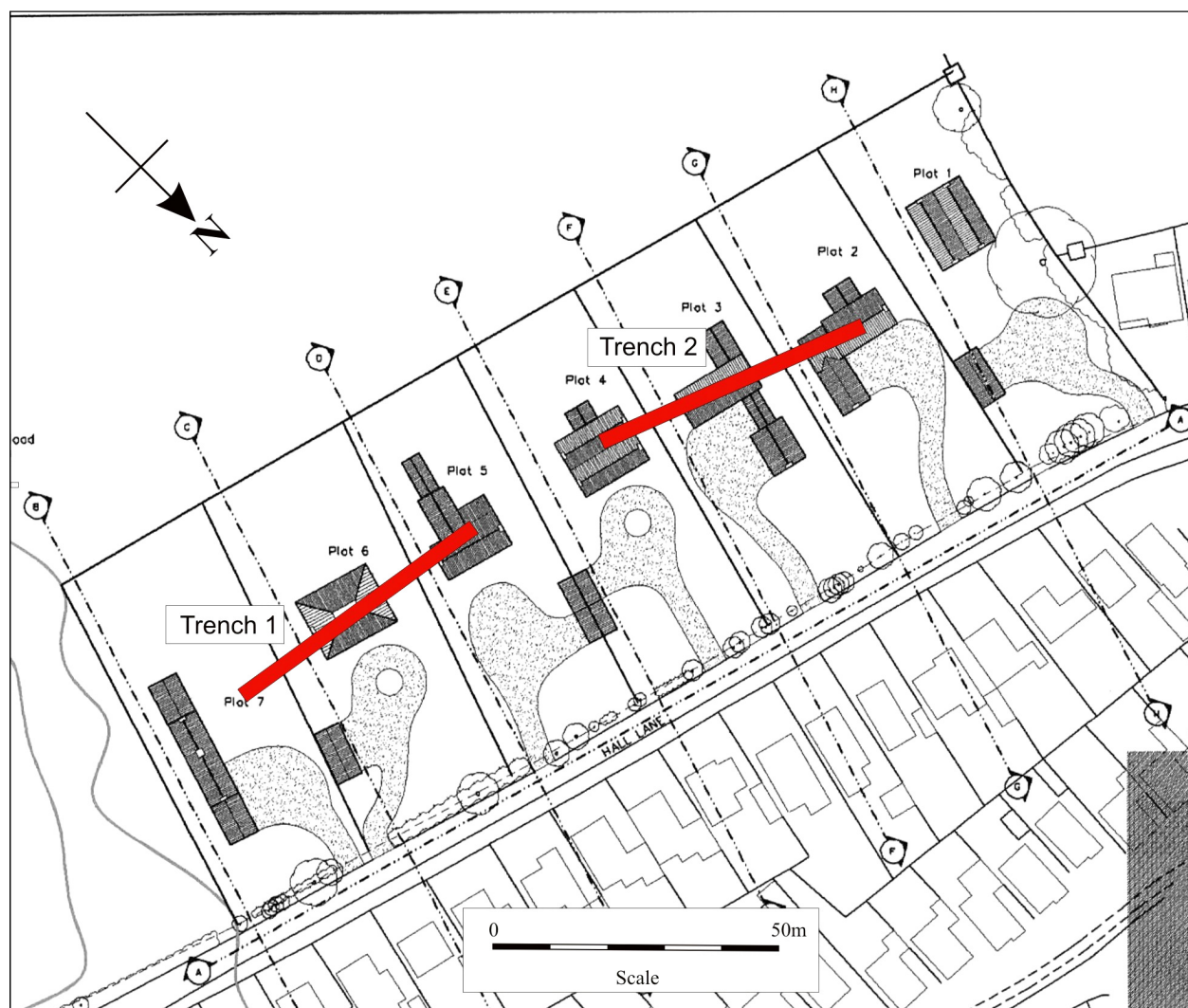


Figure 2: Trench location plan

Fig 3a. Plan of Trench 1

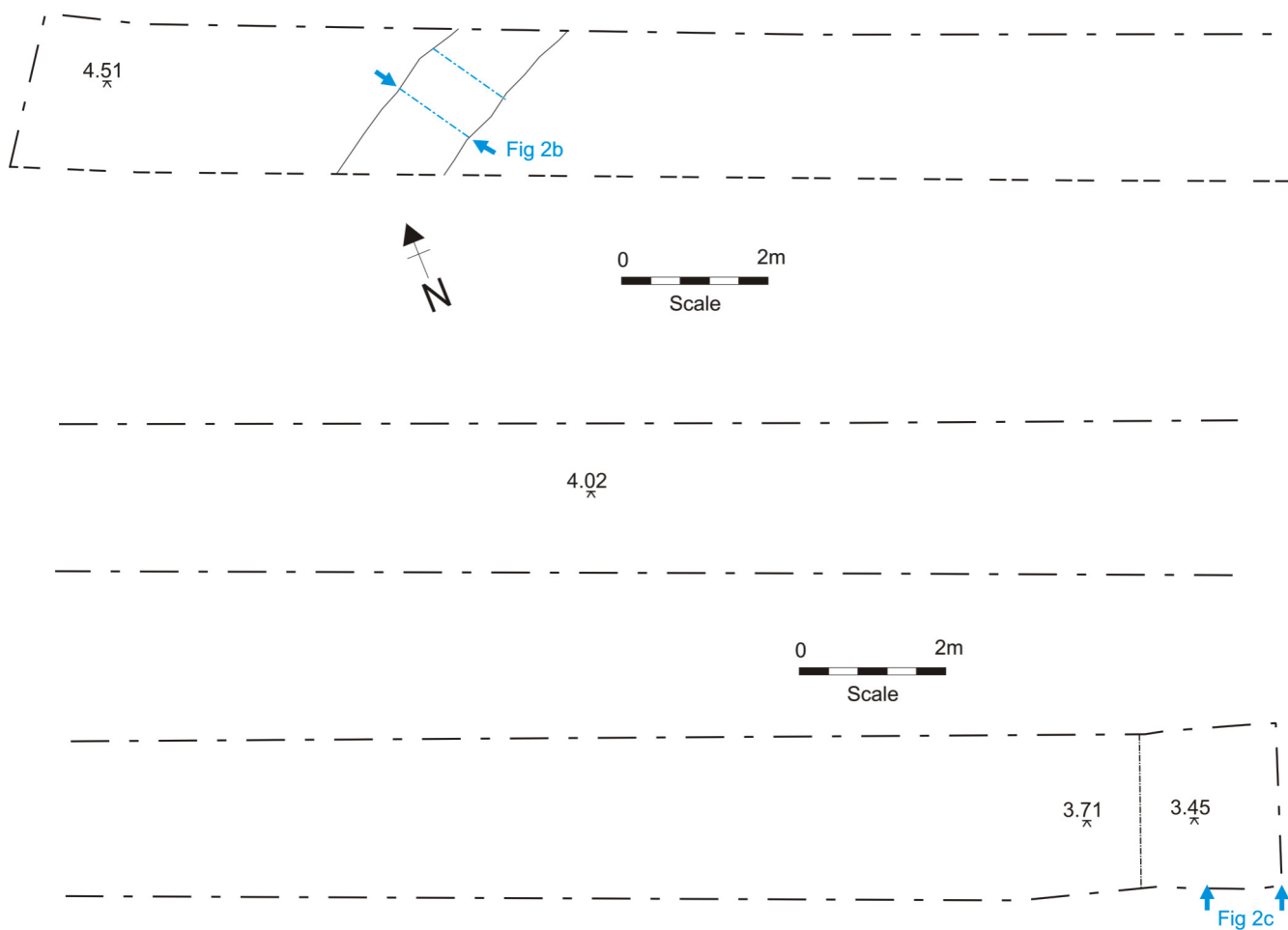


Fig 3b. NE facing section of ditch [1003]

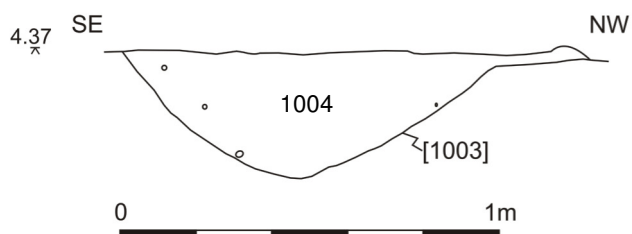


Fig 3c. N facing section of trench 1

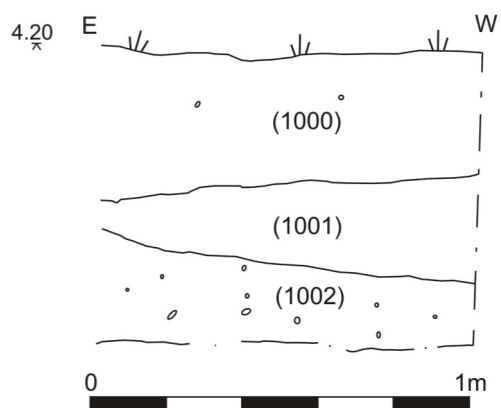


Fig 4a. Plan of Trench 1

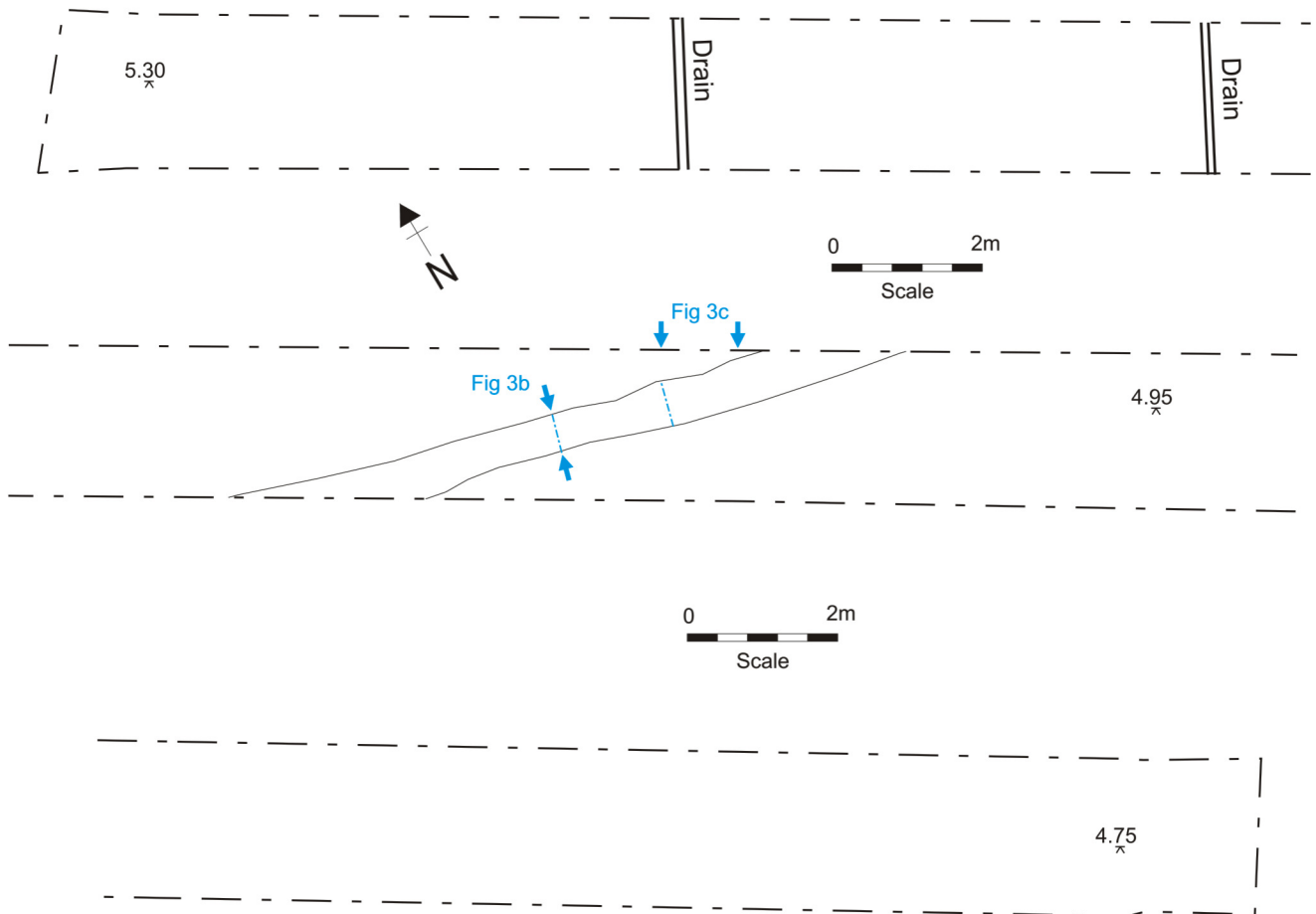
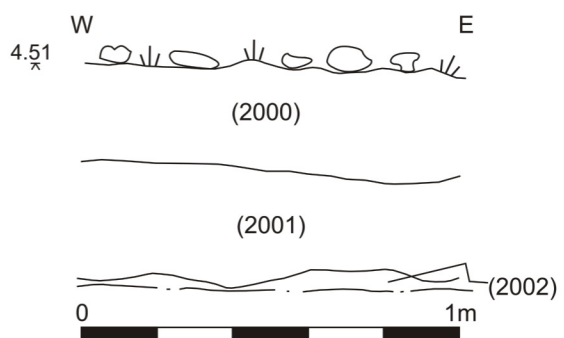


Fig 4b. E facing section of gully [2003]



Fig 4c. S facing section of trench 2



Appendix 1: Colour Plates



Plate 1: General view of the site, looking west from the site boundary on Hall Lane.



Plate 2 (left): General view of Trench 1, looking ESE.

Plate 3 (above): Excavated segment of ditch [1003], looking southwest.



Plate 4: General view of Trench 2, looking southeast.



Plate 5: Excavated segment of gully [2003], looking northwest.

Appendix 2: Context Summary

Trench 1

Context no.	Type	Description	Finds/Dating
1000	Layer	Topsoil – compact mid brownish grey clayey silt. Plough soil.	None
1001	Layer	Subsoil- compact mid orange-brown clayey silt, occasional chalk flecks.	None
1002	Layer	Natural-compact mid yellow-orange silty clay, frequent chalk flecks.	None
1003	Cut	Linear ditch, orientated east-west. 2.50m+ length, 0.86m wide, 0.34m deep. Filled by (1004).	None
1004	Fill	Of ditch (1003). Compact mid mottled orange-brown clayey silt, no inclusions.	Pottery, bone

Trench 2

Context no.	Type	Description	Finds/Dating
2000	Layer	Topsoil – compact mid brownish grey clayey silt. Plough soil.	Flint, pottery, stone
2001	Layer	Subsoil- compact mid orange-brown clayey silt, occasional chalk flecks.	None
2002	Layer	Natural - compact mid yellow-orange silty clay, frequent chalk flecks.	None
2003	Cut	Linear gully, orientated north/west-south/east. 0.47m wide, 8.50m+ length, and 0.20m deep. Filled by (2004).	None
2004	Fill	Of gully (2003). Compact mid mottled orange-brown clayey silt, occasional chalk flecks. Similar to subsoil (2001).	Pottery

Appendix 3: Pottery Report

Land off Hall Lane, Burgh Le Marsh, Lincolnshire (BLME12)

CERAMIC FINDS

Dr Anne Irving

THE POTTERY

Cxt	Cname	Full name	Fabric	Form	NoS	NoV	W (g)	Part	Description
1004	FE	Iron-rich Anglo-Saxon Fabrics		Jar/ bowl	2	1	3	BS	Soot
2000	TOY	Toynton All Saints ware		Jug	1	1	87	Handle	Combed; abraded
2004	MISC	Miscellaneous	Fine to medium sandy + organics	Jar/ bowl	1	1	6	BS	Soot; abraded; ?ID

CONTEXT DATES

Cxt	Date	Comment
1004	Mid 5 th to 9 th	Date on a single sherd
2000	Late 13 th to 15 th	Date on a single sherd
2004	?	

Appendix 4: Worked Stone Report

By Gary Taylor

Introduction

A single other find weighing 188g was recovered.

Condition

The other find is in good, archive-stable condition.

Results

Table 1, Other Materials

Cxt	Material	Description	NoF	W (g)	Date
2000	stone	Hone, rectangular cross section 41mm x 30mm max, 93mm long, broken at one end	1	188	Roman or later

Provenance

The other find was recovered from the topsoil of Trench 2.

Range

A single hone or whetstone was recovered. This is in a fine, slightly micaceous reddish sandstone. It is rectangular in section and rather oblate sub-rectangular in plan. It tapers prominently to one end and the other terminal is broken. Nonetheless, all faces are worn and smooth, including the broken end.

It bears close similarity to hones of Roman date (Crummy 1996, 111). However, the form is conservative and similar hones were made until early modern times, though from the later 19th century synthetic hones, made from carborundum or corundum, have largely replaced natural stone hones such as this.

Potential

The other find is of limited potential.

SPOT DATING

The dating in Table 2 is based on the evidence provided by the finds detailed above.

Table 2, Spot dates

Cxt	Date	Comments
2000	Roman or later	Based on 1 stone

ABBREVIATIONS

CXT	Context
NoF	Number of Fragments
W (g)	Weight (grams)

REFERENCES

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

Crummy, N., 1995 *The Roman Small Finds from Excavations in Colchester 1971-9*, Colchester
Archaeology Report 2

Appendix 5: Flint Report

BURGH LE MARSH BLME12

Flint

By Tom Lane

Introduction

Four flints were collected from the topsoil during Evaluation at Hall Lane, Burgh Le Marsh

Condition

All had suffered some abrasion but overall condition is good. No conservation measures are required.

Results

Cxt No	Description	No	Wt(g)	Date
2000	Broken Flake; Carefully prepared striking platform. Poor quality flint. Some edge damage. 48 x 20 x 14mm	1	9	Prehistoric
2000	Utilized flake; Irregular shaped flake with limited working on edge. Poor quality raw material. 36 x 20 x 12	1	11	prehistoric
2000	Broken Utilized Flake; Some secondary working along one of the parallel sides and edge damage on other.	1	3	Prehistoric
2000	Side Scraper on blade flake; Broken at distal end. Very heavily patinated (brown) flint. Blunted on opposite side to scraping edge. No cortex remaining. 45 x 22 x 7mm	1	12	Poss Final Upper Palaeolithic

Provenance

All items were retrieved from the topsoil

Range

Three of the items are flakes from core reduction, two of which show some attempts at secondary working. None of the three can be dated accurately. The remaining item is a tool, a side scraper and is of considerable antiquity, most likely belonging to the final upper Palaeolithic period.

Potential

The items should be retained as part of the site archive but have little potential for increasing understanding of prehistoric settlement in the area.

Summary

Flints from the topsoil covered a wide date range in the prehistoric period, but indicate little other than a presence at Burgh Le Marsh during that period of time.