

**LAND TO THE SOUTH OF HALL LANE, BURGH LE MARSH,
EAST LINDSEY, LINCOLNSHIRE**

**HERITAGE IMPACT ASSESSMENT AND
ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION REPORT**

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PCAS Job Nos.: 1119/1146
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Report prepared for
Neil Dowlman Architecture Ltd.

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Non-Technical Summary

Pre-Construct Archaeological Services Ltd. (PCAS) was commissioned by Neil Dowlman Architecture Ltd. to compile a Heritage Statement for a proposed residential development on land to the south of Hall Lane in the town of Burgh le Marsh in Lincolnshire. The Heritage Statement, which incorporates the results of a trial trench evaluation, will allow the potential impact of the proposed development on the archaeological resource to be adequately assessed and appropriate mitigation to be considered.

The site is located at the southern edge of Burgh le Marsh, to the south of Hall Lane. It is currently a large arable field, although historic mapping indicates that it was divided into three until the 20th century, with one boundary extant into the 1970s.

Prehistoric, Roman and medieval activity has been recorded in the vicinity. An earlier evaluation on the site itself retrieved unstratified prehistoric and medieval artefacts, and one possibly Roman find; the only stratified material comprised sherds of early medieval pottery retrieved from the fill of a ditch, although these finds may have been redeposited.

The more recent archaeological evaluation associated with this project identified one post-medieval field boundary, and encountered another ditch, on a different alignment, which could not be dated. Only one pit (out of a possible cluster located by geophysical survey) was encountered. Dating evidence was confined to medieval pottery retrieved from the modern ploughsoil.

It would appear that there are some limited archaeological remains on the site other than post-enclosure field boundaries, but it seems unlikely that further archaeological intervention would recover worthwhile groups of stratified finds that have thus far eluded the various evaluation schemes that have taken place to date.

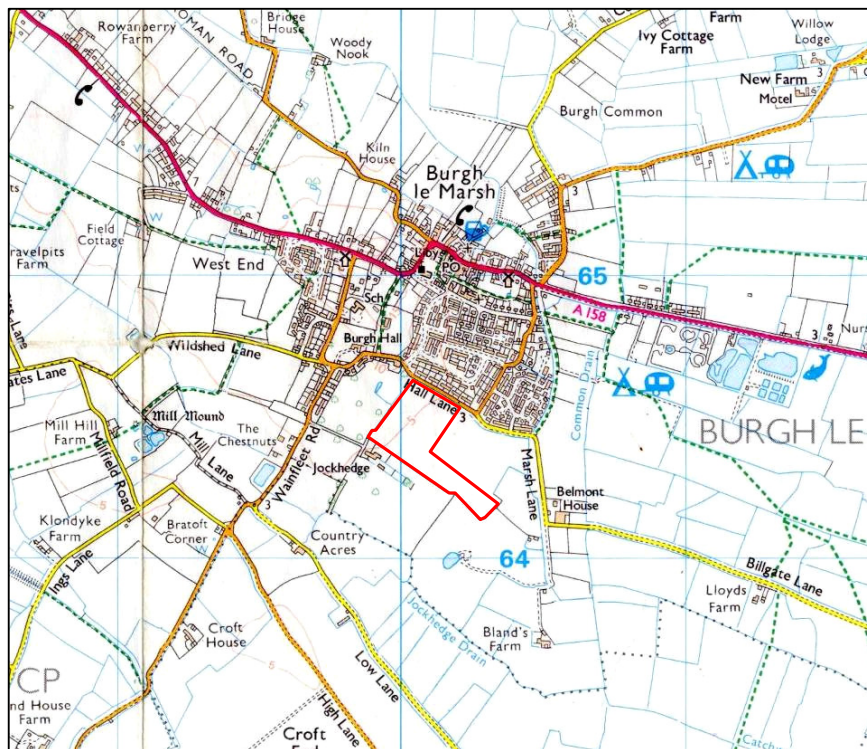


Figure 1: Location plan of the site (outlined in red) at scale 1:25,000. OS mapping © Crown copyright. All rights reserved. PCAS licence no. 100049278.

1.0 Introduction

Pre-Construct Archaeological Services Ltd. (PCAS) was commissioned by Neil Dowman Architecture Ltd. to compile a Heritage Impact Assessment for a proposed residential development on land to the south of Hall Lane in the town of Burgh le Marsh in Lincolnshire, incorporating the results of a preceding archaeological evaluation. The Heritage Statement will be used to inform a forthcoming application for planning permission.

2.0 Site location and description (figs. 1 and 2)

The small market town of Burgh le Marsh is situated in the district of East Lindsey, approximately 4km to the west of the coastal town of Skegness. It lies within the Historic Character Zone GRM5, 'The Skegness Holiday Coast', which forms part of the Grazing Marshes Character Area. This zone is dominated by large modern fields, chiefly formed by consolidation of older field patterns. The Skegness Road (A158), which runs through Burgh le Marsh, forms a watershed in the appearance of the landscape: to the north, the field patterns are strongly rectilinear, while to the south, they are very irregular, with long, sinuous streams, which may be the courses of creeks in the former marshland, forming the majority of the field boundaries. The larger settlements, such as Burgh le Marsh, are situated on higher ground and are strongly nucleated, while smaller settlements occupy low mounds, and the lower-lying drained marshland is occupied by a sparse scatter of isolated farm complexes. As a general rule, the older settlements are to be found on higher ground, with settlement expanding into the lower land with the introduction of large-scale drainage and reclamation schemes: Burgh le Marsh is typical of this pattern, retaining a very distinct historic core on higher land, with modern estates built on the periphery of the village on former marshland (Lord and MacIntosh, 2011).

The proposed development site is located at the southern edge of the settlement, to the south of Hall Lane, at NGR TF 500 643. It is an irregular area of some 6 hectares within a large arable field, consisting of a large rectangular block of land to the west with a narrow strip extending eastwards from the south-east corner of the western block. The site is bordered by Hall Lane to the north-east; to the south-west, a shallow dry ditch with a hedgeline of mature trees at its base divide it from the grass paddock of the Jockhedge farm complex conversion (now holiday accommodation). To the north-west is Burgh Hall Park; a stream arising within the park forms part of the north-western site boundary, along with a hedgeline of trees and mature shrubs. Further arable land borders it to the south-east.

3.0 Topography and Geology

The historic settlement of Burgh le Marsh is situated on elevated ground, between 10m and 15m OD. Its modern outskirts have spread into the reclaimed marshlands which stretch eastwards to the coast, chiefly extending to the south-east on to land at 5m or less above sea level. The proposed development site is generally level, with a ground surface averaging roughly 4.8m above sea level (plate 1).

The older part of the town stands on an 'island' of glaciofluvial sand and gravel, forming an elevated area of reliably dry ground within the boulder clay of the Middle Marsh. On and around the site, the drift geology is Till: a chalk-rich sandy, gravelly boulder clay. The solid geology of the area is undifferentiated Cretaceous Roach Formation ferruginous oolitic clay and limestone (incorporating Sutterby Marl and Skegness Clay) with Tealby Formation mudstone and clay and Claxby Ironstone Formation ferruginous oolitic clay (BGS, 1996). The drift geology is overlain by slowly permeable seasonally waterlogged fine loamy over clayey soils of the Holderness Series (Walker, 2013).

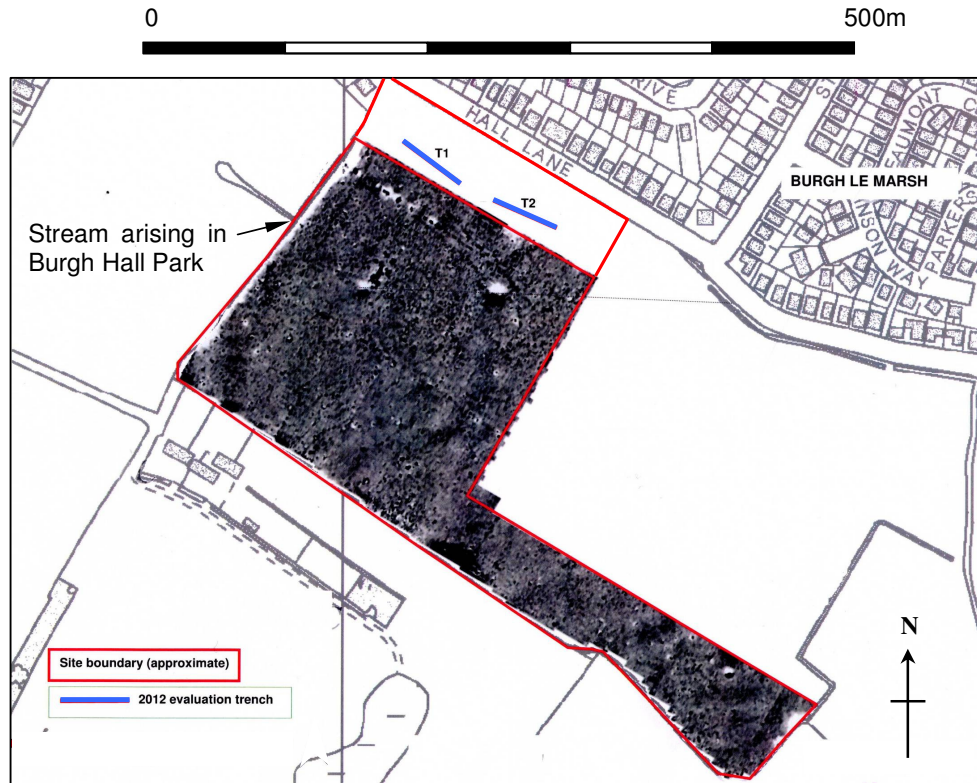


Figure 2: Plan of the site at scale 1:5000, showing the results of the geophysical survey and the position of the trenches from the first phase of evaluation (Bunn, 2013).

4.0 Planning Background

A Planning Application will be submitted to East Lindsey District Council for the construction of a small residential development. The Planning Archaeologist for LCC acting as advisor to East Lindsey District Council, has advised that the proposed development site has the potential to contain heritage assets with archaeological interest. In accordance with the National Planning Policy Framework (2012, para. 128), a Heritage Impact Assessment, incorporating an archaeological evaluation, has been requested to provide further information on the archaeological potential of the site and the impact of the proposals, in order to inform the planning decision.

5.0 Archaeological and Historical Background (figs. 2 and 3)

5.1 Prehistoric

Evaluation trenching on the proposed development site was undertaken in November 2012 by Pre-Construct Archaeological Services Ltd; two trenches were excavated, both at the north side of the site, adjacent to Hall Lane (fig. 2). No stratified prehistoric remains were encountered, but four late Upper Palaeolithic flints (three flakes and one scraper) were retrieved from the topsoil of the eastern trench (Walker, 2013; HER ref. 48693), suggesting that some prehistoric activity had taken place in the area. However, as these were topsoil finds, they may have been transported some distance from their place of origin by later agricultural activity and/or land reclamation projects; the East Midlands Archaeological Research Framework notes that Palaeolithic material occurring in or close to the modern soil is generally of lower archaeological significance (Collcut, 2006, p.46).

Archaeological evaluation trenching on land at Hall Lane opposite Burgh Hall, approximately 150m from the north-west corner of the site, retrieved a thin scatter of worked flint. No diagnostic tools were recovered, but technical attributes of the tools (i.e., the presence of small blade cores and blades) suggested that they dated to the Mesolithic (early post-glacial) period. The amount of cortex remaining on the tools, coupled with the fact that only one was broken, indicated that the tools were produced quickly for immediate use elsewhere, and therefore that the site was a temporary hunting encampment, where the tools were produced and taken away from the site in pursuit of game (HER ref. 43947). During an associated watching brief, three more flints were recovered. These comprised an undated flake, a possible broken core dating to the early Bronze Age, and a broken blade dating to the Neolithic. A further prehistoric flint blade flake was recovered during an adjacent watching brief at The Paddock in 2001 (HER ref. 43946).

5.2 Roman

The first-phase evaluation carried out by PCAS on the northern part of the present site encountered no stratified Roman material. However, a hone or whetstone retrieved from the topsoil of the eastern trench, along with prehistoric flint and a sherd of medieval pottery, is comparable to examples of Roman date, although similar artefacts are known from all periods up to the early modern (Taylor, 2013).

A programme of archaeological works on a site at Hall Lane/Barnack Lodge, opposite Burgh Hall, approximately 150m from the north-west corner of the site, encountered an area of Iron Age to Romano-British occupation, including a series of ditches and gullies with probable refuse pits. The ditches and gullies were thought to be land divisions for agricultural purposes, possibly representing two phases. Undated features were recorded on the same alignment as or cut by Romano-British features, and so were thought to be Iron Age in date; a large quantity of residual Iron Age pottery was found across the site, indicating significant activity during this period. Although no settlement evidence was recovered, a quantity of roofing tile indicates the presence of standing buildings in the vicinity; the pottery assemblage was also suggestive of a relatively high status Roman site. The dating of the pottery assemblage for the site was broad, but a concentration of material dating to the 3rd and 4th centuries was noted. Iron-smithing slag and hearth bottoms thought to be Roman in date were also recovered (HER ref. 40583).

Sherds of Romano-British pottery, including a piece of stamped samian ware, were retrieved from foundation trenches during development to the north of Hall Lane in the 1970s; medieval wares were also retrieved, suggesting that the Roman material may not have been derived from stratified features (HER ref. 41527). Romano-British pottery, including a sherd of decorated samian ware, has also been found on land to the west of Jockhedge, approximately 100m from the south-west corner of the site (HER ref. 41578), and a find of Roman pottery is also recorded approximately 150m to the south of its south-east corner (HER ref. 41524), while an illegible Roman bronze coin was found on land near Belmont House, approximately 150m from the east end of the site (HER ref. 41518).

5.3 Saxon to Early Medieval

The first-phase evaluation carried out by PCAS on the northern part of the present development site exposed an east-to-west aligned ditch in the western trench, which produced two sherds of pottery from a jar or bowl of the 5th to 9th century and two small fragments of animal long bone, too badly preserved to be identified. As the ditch was cut into the subsoil, it is possible that the finds were redeposited (Walker, 2013; HER ref. 48550).

The appearance of Burgh le Marsh as a substantial settlement in Domesday Book suggests that it must have been established well before the Norman Conquest, but there are no known documentary references to it before this date (Cameron, 1998, p. 23). No other material from

this period is recorded in the vicinity of the site, although remains, including an Anglo-Saxon burial mound known as Cock Hill (Scheduled Ancient Monument LI 83) are located in the historic village core.

5.4 Medieval

The Domesday Survey of AD 1086 records Burgh le Marsh as a conglomerate of estates of various sizes, all but one being satellites of manorial estates elsewhere. The manor of Burgh le Marsh was a small estate belonging to Eudo fitzSpirewic, with a population of 14 households (including Eudo's two overseers) farming 10 bovates of arable land and 85 acres of meadow, while the bulk of the aggregate settlement was formed by an outlying holding of Gilbert de Ghent's manor of Bardney, which was a substantial estate in its own right, comprising 8 carucates of ploughland and 500 acres of meadow, with a population of 35 households and a church. The remainder of the settlement was composed of a small outlying holding of Count Alan's manor of Drayton, consisting entirely of arable land farmed by eight households, an even smaller outlying holding of Eudo fitzSpirewic's Candlesby estate, with a single household farming a carucate of land, and an outlying holding of a manor of Robert Despenser, believed to be at Ingoldmells, which is recorded jointly with the manor's other outlying possessions, but was certainly not large, as the four properties recorded were occupied by a total of seven households (Williams and Martin, 1992, pp.906, 922, 933, 941). No trace of the church recorded in Domesday Book now remains: the present parish church of St. Peter and St. Paul, a Grade I Listed Building, was built around 1500 (LB ref. 2/12).

There is currently little evidence for medieval activity on the site itself. The previous phase of evaluation encountered no features datable to this period, and the only find was a handle fragment from a Toynton Ware jug from the late 13th to the 15th century, which was retrieved from the topsoil of the western trench, along with prehistoric struck flint and a possible Roman whetstone (Walker, 2013; HER ref. 48695). No evidence for medieval strip ploughing was found, although earthwork ridge-and-furrow on various alignments is preserved within Burgh Hall Park, adjoining the site to the north-west (HER ref. 47132), and ridge-and-furrow has also been recorded in the field to the south-west of the site (HER ref. 48443), suggesting that at least part of the site ought to lie within the former open fields of Burgh le Marsh parish. A possible medieval enclosure and trackway has also been recorded as an earthwork from aerial photography within Burgh Hall Park, close to the boundary with the site (HER ref. 46574), while the cropmarks of another possible medieval trackway, associated with a linear feature, have been identified near an existing track some 250m to the south-east of the site (HER ref. 48444).

Two assemblages of late medieval and post-medieval pottery, including Toynton and Bolingbroke wares, were found within the southern edge of the site in 1976; the Lincolnshire Historic Environment Record does not have any report of systematic fieldwalking in this area, and these finds are recorded only as part of a brief summary of archaeological discoveries in that year, suggesting that the material was a casual find made in one place, rather than having been collected across a large part or the whole of the field (HER refs. 41540-1; White, 1977, p.71; Richard Watts, HER Officer, pers. comm.). A further surface collection of late medieval and post-medieval pottery, again including Toynton and Bolingbroke wares, with handle and pancheon sherds, was made on land to the south-west of Jockhedge, approximately 300m from the south-west corner of the proposed development site (HER ref. 41580), and medieval pottery has also been found on land to the south of its south-east corner (HER ref. 41525).

Archaeological monitoring in 2001 on a site at Hall Lane/Chapman Avenue, approximately 70m from the north-west corner of the proposed development site, recorded two east-to-west aligned ditches, both of which contained sherds of 12th- to 14th-century shelly and Toynton wares. The ditches were thought to indicate former land divisions. Four sherds of 12th- to 13th-century pottery were recovered during an adjacent watching brief carried out the following

year (HER ref. 41542). Medieval pottery was also found (with Roman material) in foundation trenches during development to the north of Hall Lane, although no features are recorded (HER ref. 41528).

Individual casual finds recorded within the vicinity of the site include a small bronze escutcheon, probably late medieval, and a fragment of a medieval bronze bowl found within Burgh Hall Park (HER refs. 41579, 41581); two halfpennies of Henry III (1216-72) and a 15th century bronze ewer spout found on land near Belmont House, to the east of the site (HER refs. 41519, 41561)

5.5 Post-medieval and modern

The 1889 1st edition 25" Ordnance Survey map shows the proposed development site as divided into four fields: the larger, rectangular western portion of the site is divided into three parallel plots of roughly similar size, whose long axes are aligned north-west to south-east on approximately the same orientation as Hall Lane, while the smaller portion to the east forms a fourth plot. The internal plot boundaries are all shown as drains; widely spaced trees are shown within the external field boundaries, but no trees appear within the site (fig. 4). The north-west to south-east aligned internal boundaries in the western portion can be identified as two of the linear features recorded by the geophysical survey (fig. 6).

The more southerly of the internal boundary ditches had been filled in by the mid-20th century, and does not appear on the 1967 25" mapping (fig. 5). The more northerly ditch remained in use; consultation of later 6" mapping suggests that this boundary was filled in during the 1970s.

An assemblage of post-medieval pottery was found in 1976 within the south side of the site, in association with medieval pottery. The Lincolnshire HER does not have any report of systematic fieldwalking in this area, and these finds are recorded only as part of a brief summary of archaeological discoveries in that year, suggesting that the material was a casual find made in one place, rather than having been collected across a large part or the whole of the field (HER ref. 42844; White, 1977, p.71; Richard Watts, HER Officer, pers. comm.) Post-medieval pottery was also found in association with medieval material on land to the south-west of Jockhedges, and on land to the south of the south-eastern corner of the site (HER refs. 42839 and 41526). A findspot consisting of only post-medieval material, including 17th- to 19th-century coarse pottery and clay tobacco pipes of the late 17th and early 18th centuries, is recorded approximately 250m to the south-east of the site, probably associated with either an existing track or a possible medieval antecedent (HER ref. 41555). The fertilisation of field with midden material is probably responsible for the majority of these finds.

Casual finds recorded in the vicinity of the site include a bronze spur found approximately 340m south-east of the south-eastern end of the site (HER ref. 41533), a possibly 17th-century bronze handle or stopper found near Belmont House (HER ref. 41560)

Burgh Hall, 'a commodious mansion with pleasant grounds' was built in 1840, and remained a private dwelling until 1944 when it was bought by Lindsey County Council and used as a children's home. Towards the end of the 20th century, it became a residential home for the elderly; it was closed down in 2008, and is now standing empty (Burgh le Marsh town website). The building is not listed, nor is Burgh Hall Park designated.

5.6 Undated

The first phase of evaluation encountered an undated gully in Trench 2. As with the ditch encountered in Trench 1, the gully cut the subsoil; it was aligned north-east to south-west. A sherd of pottery was found, but could not be dated (Walker, 2013; HER ref. 48694).

6.0 Archaeological Evaluation

6.1 Methodology

The evaluation consisted of three 20m x 2m trenches targeted on the findings of a previous geophysical survey, which recorded three linear features, two of which could be identified as the internal field boundaries shown on late 19th- and early 20th-century OS mapping, while the third lay directly to the north of the more northerly post-medieval field boundary, on a different alignment. An area of variously sized anomalies towards the centre of the western part of the site was provisionally interpreted as a group of pits, possibly containing burnt material (Bunn, 2013; fig. 6). Trench 1 was positioned to intercept both the unmapped linear feature and the post-medieval field boundary, while Trench 2 was intended to sample the possible pit group; Trench 3 was sited as a control, towards the south side of the site in an area where no geophysical responses had been recorded.

The trenches were laid out using GPS, and machine excavated under archaeological supervision, using a 180° back-acting excavator fitted with a 1.5m wide toothless ditching bucket. At the time of the evaluation, the site was under a seedling crop of winter cereal, and care was taken to approach the trenches around the edges of the field and by using existing wheelings, in order to cause the minimum amount of damage. Spoil was side-cast, with topsoil being piled on one side of the trench and the underlying material on the other, to allow reinstatement; no discrete subsoil was seen, but the horizon between the topsoil and the natural drift geology was very diffuse, and some depth of material that was neither wholly topsoil nor clearly natural had to be removed before the natural horizon was definitely reached. The exposed surfaces were then cleaned by hand, and the features encountered were sample excavated.

The evaluation trenches were drawn in plan at a scale of 1:100, and excavated features were drawn in section at a scale of 1:20; sample sections of the trench baulks were not drawn, as no stratigraphy was visible. Deposits were recorded on standard PCAS record sheets, and an excavation site diary was also kept; a digital photographic record, supplemented by colour slide photography, was made, and extracts from this are reproduced in Appendix 1. Finds were stored in labelled finds bags prior to their removal to the offices of PCAS for initial processing.

Following the completion of the fieldwork, the finds were taken to PCAS to be washed, marked and sorted before being dispatched for specialist assessment (Appendix 3).

The fieldwork was carried out by Simon Savage and the author, and took place on the 11th and 12th of December, 2013. Weather and ground conditions were unfavourable, with fog, poor light, high groundwater and short hours of daylight hindering excavation and recording.

6.2 Results

6.2.1 Trench 1 (fig. 7a-c)

Trench 1 was oriented north-north-east to south-south-west and positioned towards the north side of the area of evaluation to intercept two linear anomalies identified by geophysical survey (fig. 6). The geophysicist's interpretation of the more southerly anomaly as being a very recently filled-in field boundary was confirmed by excavation; the other feature could not be dated.

At the base of the trench was the natural chalk-flecked silty boulder clay, 101. This was cut by two linear features (the southerly being more distinctly visible than the northerly) and a broken modern field drain (fig. 7a; pl. 2). Ditch **104** ran east-south-east to west-north-west across the northern end of the trench; it measured 2.2m wide and 0.72m deep, with steep,

regular sides and a slightly concave base which lay below the water table, causing the base of the ditch to flood during excavation (fig. 7b-c; pl. 3). Neither of its two fills produced any dating evidence, nor was any other evidence of human activity in the vicinity, such as inclusions of charcoal or other burnt material, seen during excavation.

Ditch **106** appeared to be aligned east to west, placing it on a convergence with ditch **104** towards the east, as indicated by the geophysical survey (fig. 6). This ditch was 2.5m wide and steep-sided, with a single fill. It was excavated to a depth of 0.70m, where an earthenware field drain was encountered, laid in the ditch fill. Both the pipe and the ditch were on the same alignment as the field drain encountered on the surface of the natural during machining (fig. 7a). As several pieces of nylon binder-twine had been found in the immediate vicinity of the drain, and it was clear that the fill was extremely recent, excavation was abandoned at this depth. A written record was made and the ditch section was drawn on the 1:100 trench plan, but detailed section drawings were not made; photography was no longer possible due to light deterioration.

Both features were sealed by 0.28m of modern ploughsoil 100.

6.2.2 Trench 2 (fig. 7d-g)

Trench 2 was oriented north to south; it was positioned to the south-east of Trench 1, in order to sample a group of geophysical responses provisionally interpreted as a pit cluster (fig. 6). A single shallow, undated pit was encountered.

At the base of Trench 2 was natural boulder clay 201, which had a similar consistency to natural 101 in Trench 1, but did not display the same chalky flecking. This deposit was cut by a single pit and a heavily disturbed modern field drain on the surface of the natural (plate 4).

Pit **203** was partially exposed at the northern end of the trench, in exactly the position where the geophysical survey indicated that a pit was to be expected (fig. 6). The exposed portion was sub-circular and 1.4m wide, which may have represented the diameter of the whole feature; it was nowhere more than 0.10m deep, with a very irregular profile, typical of features caused by natural tree rooting (fig. 7e-g; pl.5). The pit fill was similar in colour to the overlying topsoil, but markedly different in texture. It produced no dating evidence; a whelk shell was found, but was discarded.

No other features were encountered within Trench 2. Pit **203** was sealed by 0.40m of topsoil 200, from which three sherds of late 13th-15th century Toynton Medieval Ware were retrieved during machining; their abraded state indicated that they were residual in the modern ploughsoil.

6.2.3 Trench 3

Trench 3 was positioned near the southern edge of the site, oriented north-north-east to south-south-west in an area where no geophysical anomalies had been recorded, in order to act as a control (fig. 6).

Excavation of Trench 3 revealed only natural boulder clay 301, whose appearance changed over the length of the trench, with chalk flecks similar to those in natural 101 visible at the north end only. No features or archaeological deposits were encountered. The trench was sealed by 0.35m of topsoil 300, from which two sherds of late 13th-15th century Toynton Medieval Ware were retrieved during machining; as with the finds retrieved from Trench 2, their abraded state indicated that they were residual in the modern ploughsoil.

7.0 Potential Constraints

Burgh le Marsh and the surrounding lowlands form a Target Area within the Lincolnshire Coastal Grazing Marshes Heritage Landscape; this target area covers almost 3000 hectares and incorporates parts of seven parishes. However, no constraints associated with this designation could be identified (Heritage Lincolnshire, 2010). Burgh le Marsh does not lie within either an Area of Great Landscape Value or an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (ECUS, 2009).

The East Lindsey Landscape Character Assessment does not record any Historic Parks or Gardens, historic battlefields or areas of ancient woodland within the parish of Burgh le Marsh; Burgh House Park is not designated. The site lies well to the south-east of the Burgh le Marsh Conservation Area, which incorporates the western and northern parts of the town (ECUS, 2009).

Burgh le Marsh town contains a number of Listed Buildings and one Scheduled Ancient Monument, but none of these fall within the vicinity of the site (see 7.1 below).

7.1 Potential settings issues (fig. 8)

The majority of the Listed Buildings in and around Burgh le Marsh are situated along and to the north of the Skegness Road, and are separated from the site by almost the full width of the town. The proposed development will not impinge on the settings of these buildings, as it is extremely unlikely that any part of a residential development here could be seen from them. The possible exception is the Grade I listed parish church, whose tower can be seen from the site (pl. 1); however, the effect of development here on the setting of the church is likely to be low, as unless the new buildings are to considerably exceed the usual dwelling height of two storeys, the sight lines at ground level will also be blocked by the residential development in between, and they will only be visible from the tower. The only Scheduled Ancient Monument in Burgh le Marsh, the Anglo-Saxon burial mound known as Cock Hill, is at a similar remove from the site, and the proposed development will not impinge on its setting either.

To the south-east of the site is the isolated Grade II Listed Building of Blands Farmhouse. This dates to 1779, and is built of red brick with pantile roofs, featuring brick tumbled and coped gables with kneelers and two gable stacks (LB ref. 5/101). Blands Farmhouse is situated approximately 450m from the south-eastern corner of the site, with open agricultural land in between, and any development on the site is very likely to be visible from the farmhouse. However, the distance between Blands Farmhouse and the site suggests that a residential development is likely to have little effect on the way that the Listed Building itself is viewed. Blands Farmhouse is approached from the north, via a track off Marsh Lane, and anybody approaching it would have their backs to the proposed development; the farmhouse and the development would only be seen in juxtaposition by somebody standing in the fields to the rear of the house, from which vantage point the development would be at a distance of some half a kilometre and is unlikely to overshadow the Listed Building.

8.0 Conclusions and Recommendations

The proposed development site does not lie within an area of historically derived planning constraints, such as a Conservation Area. It does not encroach on the setting of Burgh le Marsh's single Scheduled Ancient Monument nor on the majority of its Listed Buildings; possible settings issues arise with the Grade II listed Blands Farmhouse to the south-east and the Grade I listed parish church to the north-west, but the site lies at a considerable distance from both buildings, and the effects of a residential development, assuming that it is

relatively low-rise, are likely to be minor in the case of Blands Farmhouse and negligible in that of the church.

Evidence for prehistoric activity in the vicinity of the site is largely restricted to the north-west of the study area, on the higher, drier ground above the surrounding marshland. The identification of the Hall Lane Mesolithic site (HER ref. 43947) as a temporary hunting camp suggests that it lay at the edge of the habitable zone, while the site lay within marginal land into which forays could be made, but where no settled activity would take place. The find of several worked flints in the topsoil of the site itself during the earlier phase of evaluation does not contradict this interpretation, as ploughsoil finds represent disturbed material that may have been moved some distance from its point of origin. The present evaluation encountered no prehistoric remains; not features nor finds.

The principal Roman site in the area, the Hall Lane/Barnack Lodge settlement, also lies to the north-west of the proposed development site (HER ref. 40583). However, surface finds of Roman artefacts, chiefly pottery, have been recorded on all sides of the site, suggesting that activity was more widespread and longer-term in this period, probably due to a general retreat in sea level that made former wetland temporarily cultivable. Evidence for Roman activity on the site itself is inconclusive, being restricted to a single unstratified artefact, provisionally identified as Roman, and recovered during the first phase of evaluation; the present phase encountered no remains from this period.

The lowlands of Lincolnshire were reverting to uncultivable wetland at approximately the time that the Roman Empire was retreating from Britain, and it is typical of marginal settlements such as Burgh le Marsh that settled activity would have retreated to the higher ground during the post-Roman and early medieval period, resulting in the almost complete absence of Anglo-Saxon or Anglo-Scandinavian sites or findspots in the vicinity of the site; it seems likely that the low-lying marshland was not exploited, other than for transient activities that would leave little trace in the archaeological record, such as seasonal grazing, reed-cutting and fishing, during this period. Sherds of 5th to 9th-century pottery found in the fill of a ditch excavated during the first phase of evaluation on the site may indicate that this feature was a drainage ditch of the period, or possibly an earlier drain that was abandoned and allowed to silt up during this period, although the small number and abraded condition of the sherds may suggest that they were redeposited in the feature where they were found, and cannot be relied on as dating evidence. No Anglo-Saxon or Anglo-Scandinavian material was retrieved during the present phase of evaluation; the undated linear feature that was encountered ran neither parallel nor perpendicular to the first-phase ditch, and so cannot plausibly be associated with it as a possible part of the same field and/or drainage system.

Later in the medieval period, large-scale drainage projects allowed reclamation of the abandoned wetlands to begin. Although settlement appears to have remained on the higher, drier ground in this period, earthwork ridge-and-furrow to the west and south-west of the site and widespread scatters of medieval pottery, with possible cropmarks to the west and south-east, attest to the marshland being brought back into cultivation. No evidence of strip cultivation has been identified on the site itself, neither as cropmarks, as geophysical traces, or as features seen during evaluation trenching (ridge-and-furrow earthworks only survive on land that was never ploughed again after enclosure), but the HER records a surface scatter of medieval pottery, while both phases of the evaluation retrieved abraded sherds of 13th-15th century pottery from the modern ploughsoil. It seems likely that the site lay within the agricultural hinterland of medieval Burgh le Marsh.

Widespread scatters of post-medieval pottery, together with the establishment of the 18th-century Blands Farm, indicate that cultivation and land reclamation were continuing in the post-medieval period. From the late 19th century, the site can be identified on historic mapping, beginning as a group of four fields and gradually becoming amalgamated; the

drainage ditches that formed the internal field boundaries have been identified by geophysical survey, with one further identified by evaluation.

While the post-medieval field boundary ditch intercepted during the evaluation could confidently be identified, the results of the evaluation are otherwise ambiguous. The other ditch encountered in Trench 1 produced no dating evidence, and cannot be associated with either of the linear features recorded by the previous evaluation on the grounds of a potential spatial relationship, as it was neither parallel with nor at right-angles to either of them. The single pit encountered in Trench 2 was exactly where the geophysical survey indicated that a pit would be found, but there was no trace of the remainder of the loose group of geophysical anomalies interpreted as a pit cluster. It is possible that the relatively narrow trench passed between the other potential features, and also that a portion of the geophysical disturbance was caused by the environmental effects of the broken field drain that was the only other feature to be found

The presence of archaeological remains on the site, other than the known post-enclosure field boundaries, has been demonstrated. However, dating evidence remains sparse and unreliable, not surprisingly for an area of reclaimed agricultural land where little activity beyond the cutting of drainage ditches would have left a permanent record, and generations of ploughing have obliterated shallower features, such as ridge-and-furrow, and redistributed any finds that were in them. The undated linear features encountered could have been Roman, Anglo-Saxon, medieval or early post-medieval, and it is entirely likely, given their differing orientations, that they were not contemporary. The further archaeological potential of the site appears to be low, as it seems unlikely that continuing archaeological intervention would retrieve the securely stratified dating evidence necessary to shed any more light on the nature of the site. However, while intrusive archaeological investigation is unlikely to be fruitful, it is possible that a systematic programme of fieldwalking before the commencement of groundworks might retrieve sufficient material of various periods to provide a worthwhile addition to the broad picture of Burgh le Marsh's development.

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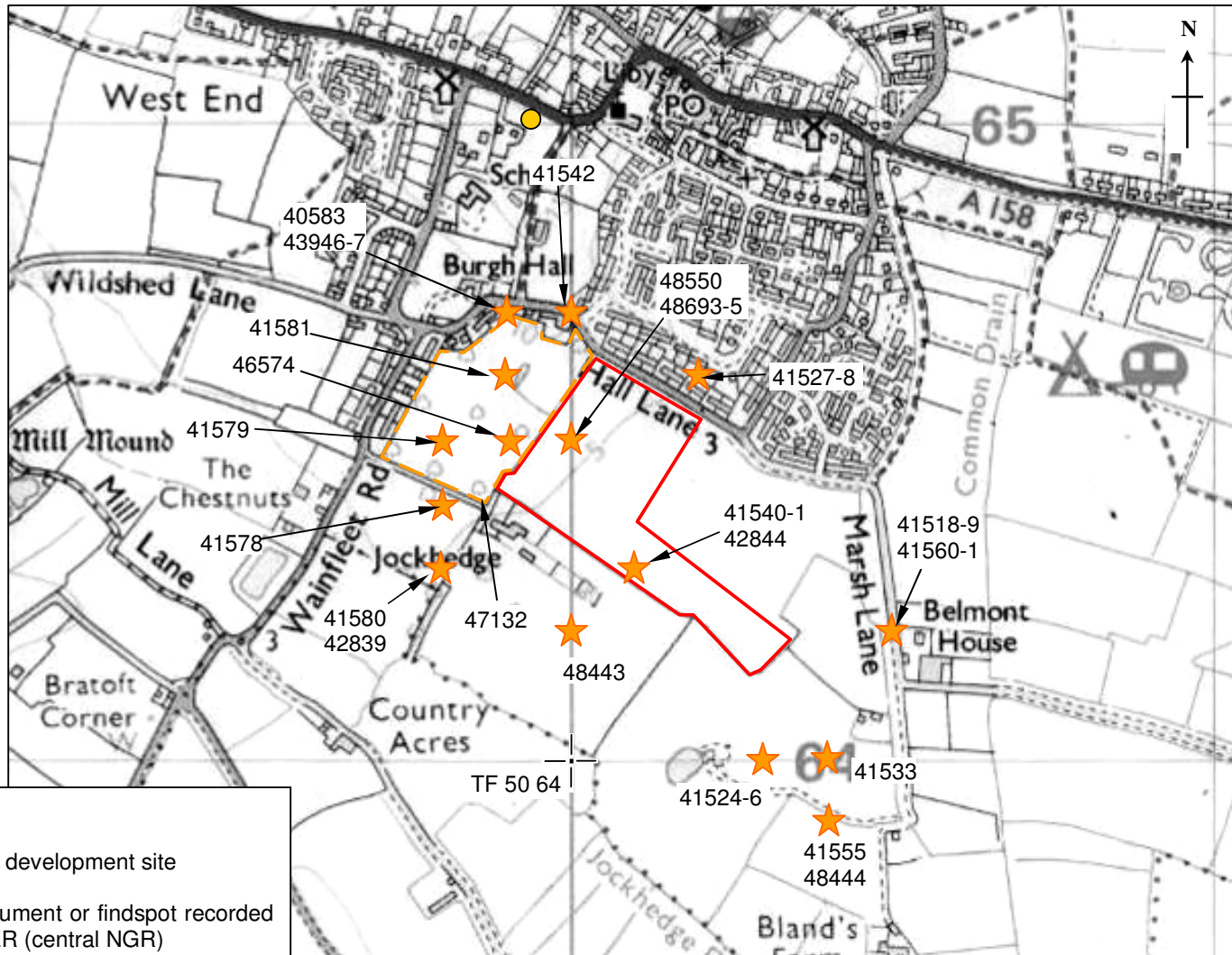
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Key:

- Proposed development site
- ★ Site, monument or findspot recorded by the HER (central NGR)
- Burgh Hall Park
- Scheduled Ancient Monument

Figure 3: Plan showing the location of sites, monuments and findspots recorded by the Lincolnshire HER within 250m of the site, at scale 1:10,000.

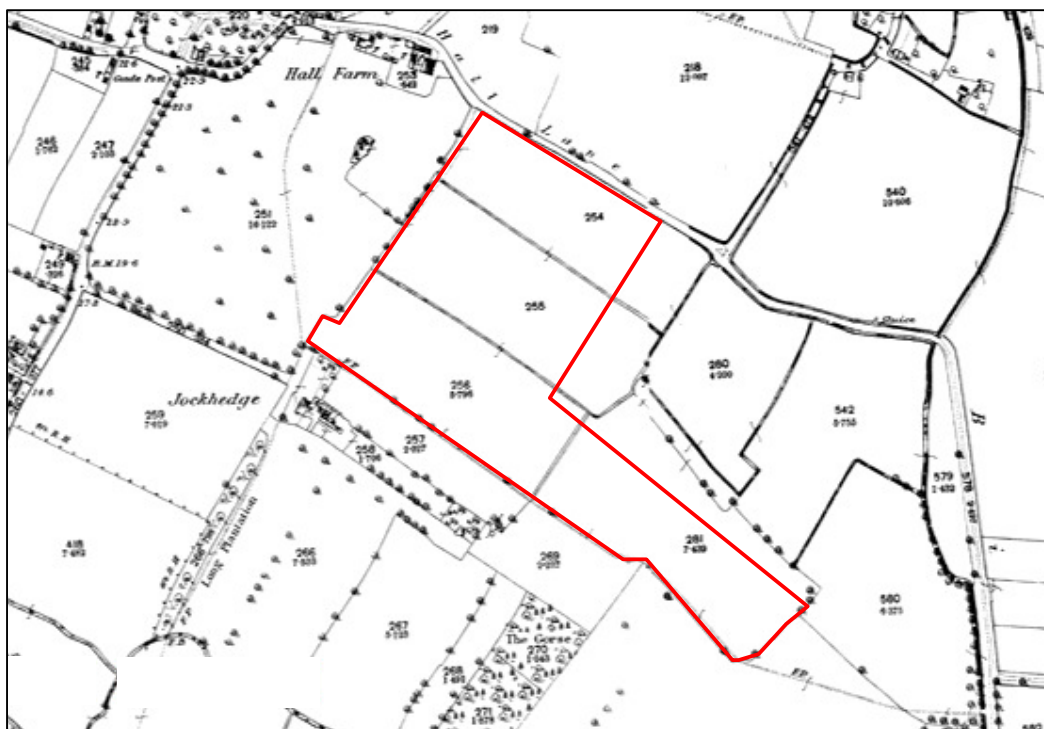


Figure 4: Extract (not to scale) from the 1st edition 25" to the mile OS map of 1889. The boundaries of the present development site are shown in red.

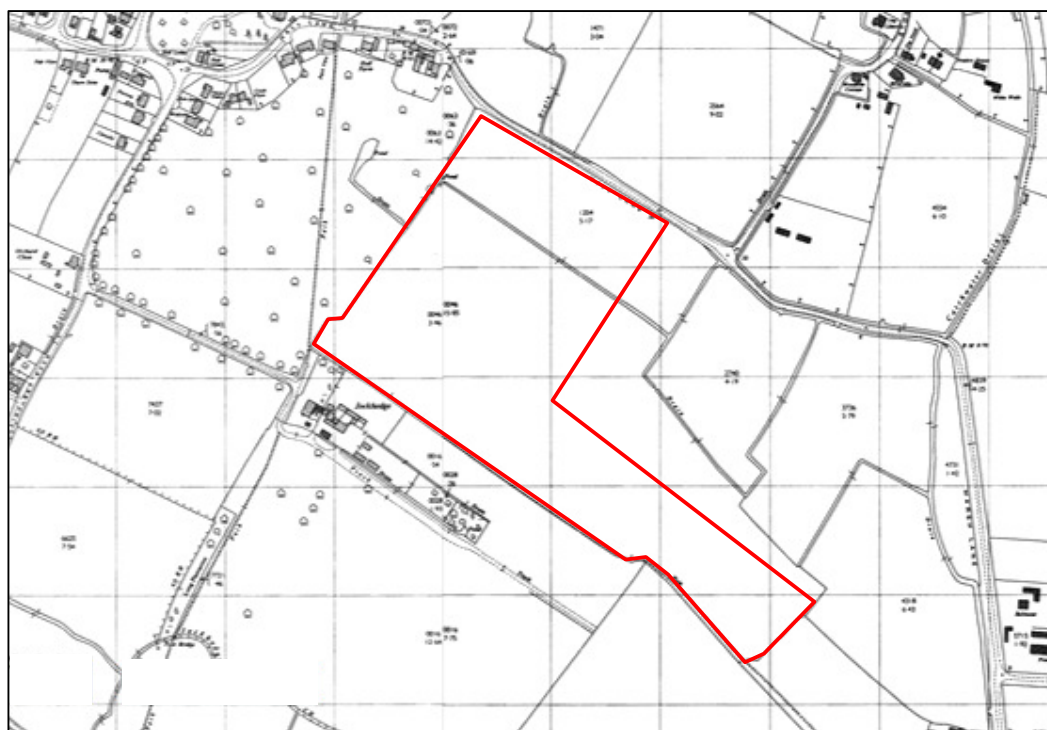


Figure 5: Extract (not to scale) from the 25" to the mile OS map of 1967. The boundaries of the present development site are shown in red. OS mapping © Crown copyright. All rights reserved. PCAS licence no. 100049278

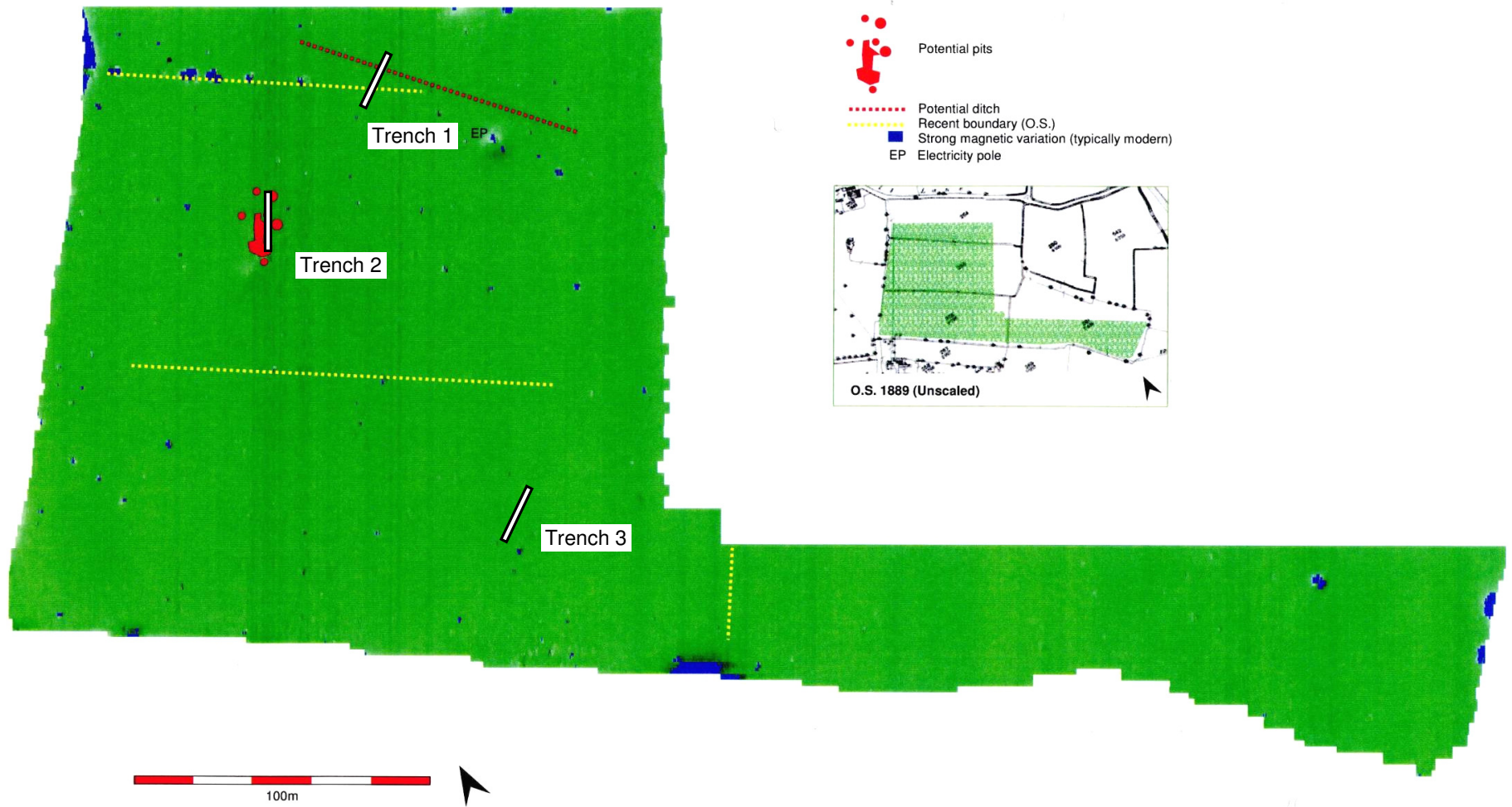


Figure 6: Interpretative plot of the geophysical survey at scale 1:2000, showing the positions of the evaluation trenches.

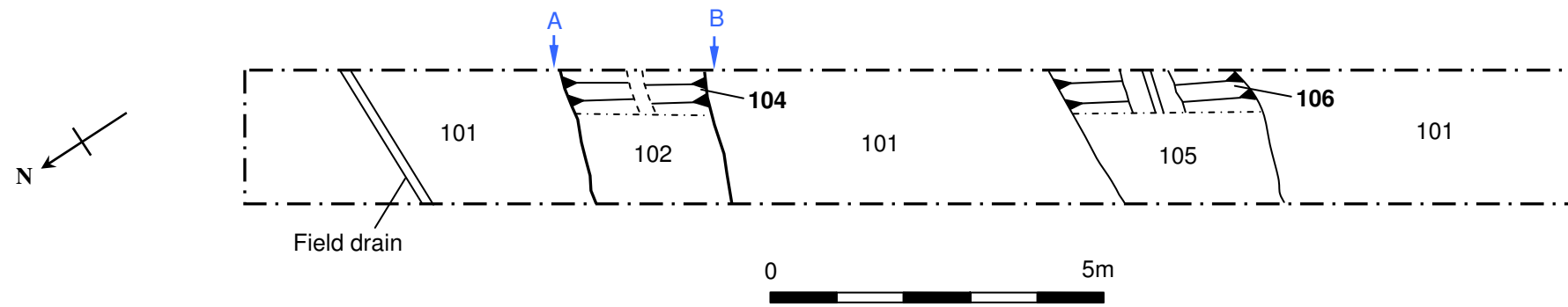


Fig. 7a: Plan of Trench 1 at scale 1:100.

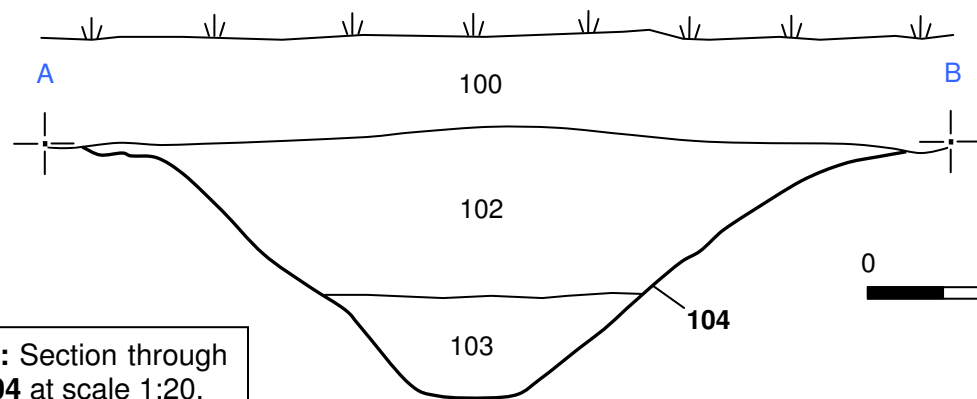


Fig. 7b: Section through ditch 104 at scale 1:20.

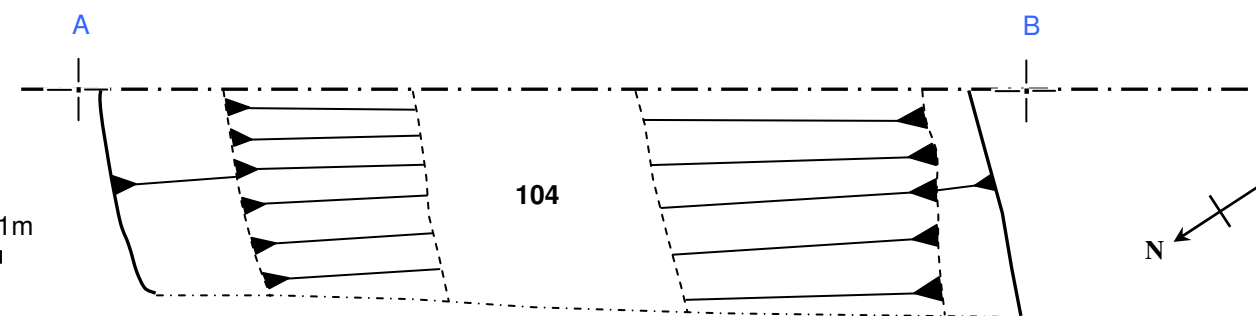


Fig. 7c: Detailed plan of the section through ditch 104 at scale 1:20.

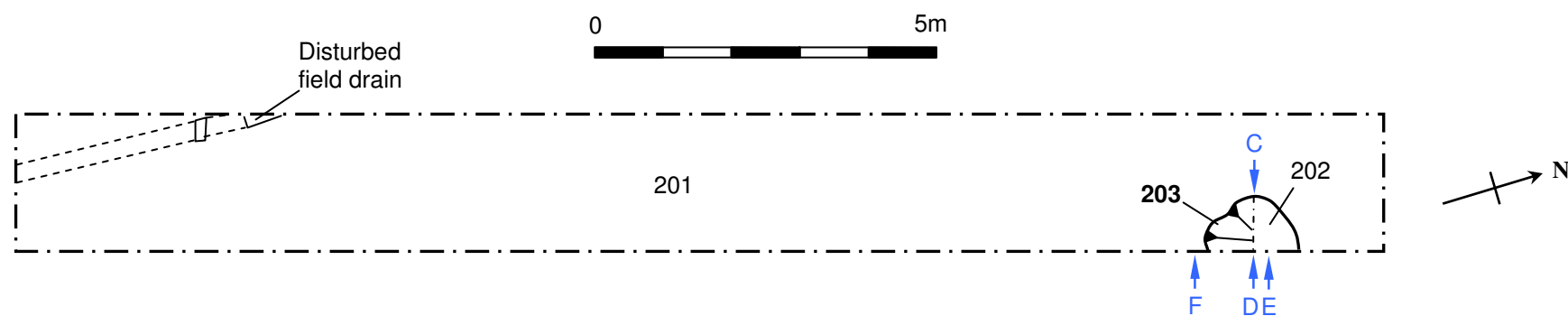


Fig. 7d: Plan of Trench 2 at scale 1:100.

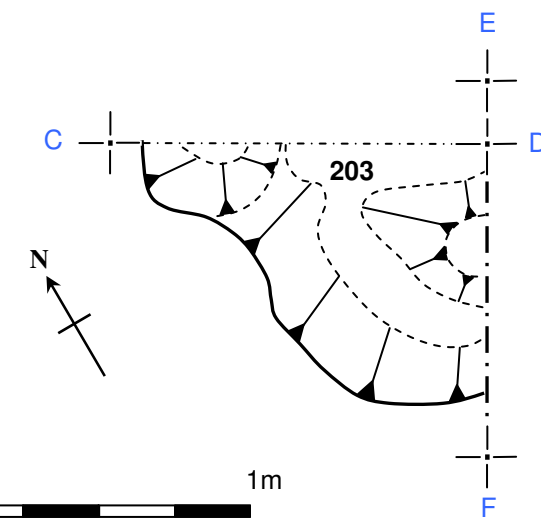


Fig. 7e: Detailed plan of the section through pit 203 at scale 1:20.

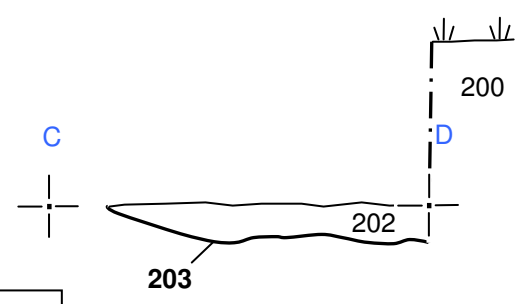


Fig. 7f: Section through pit 203 at scale 1:20.

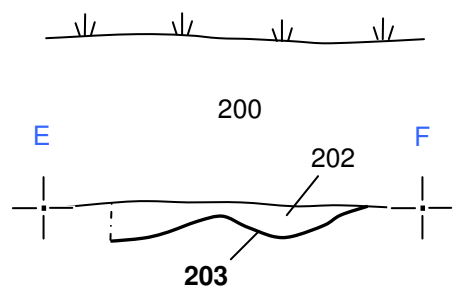
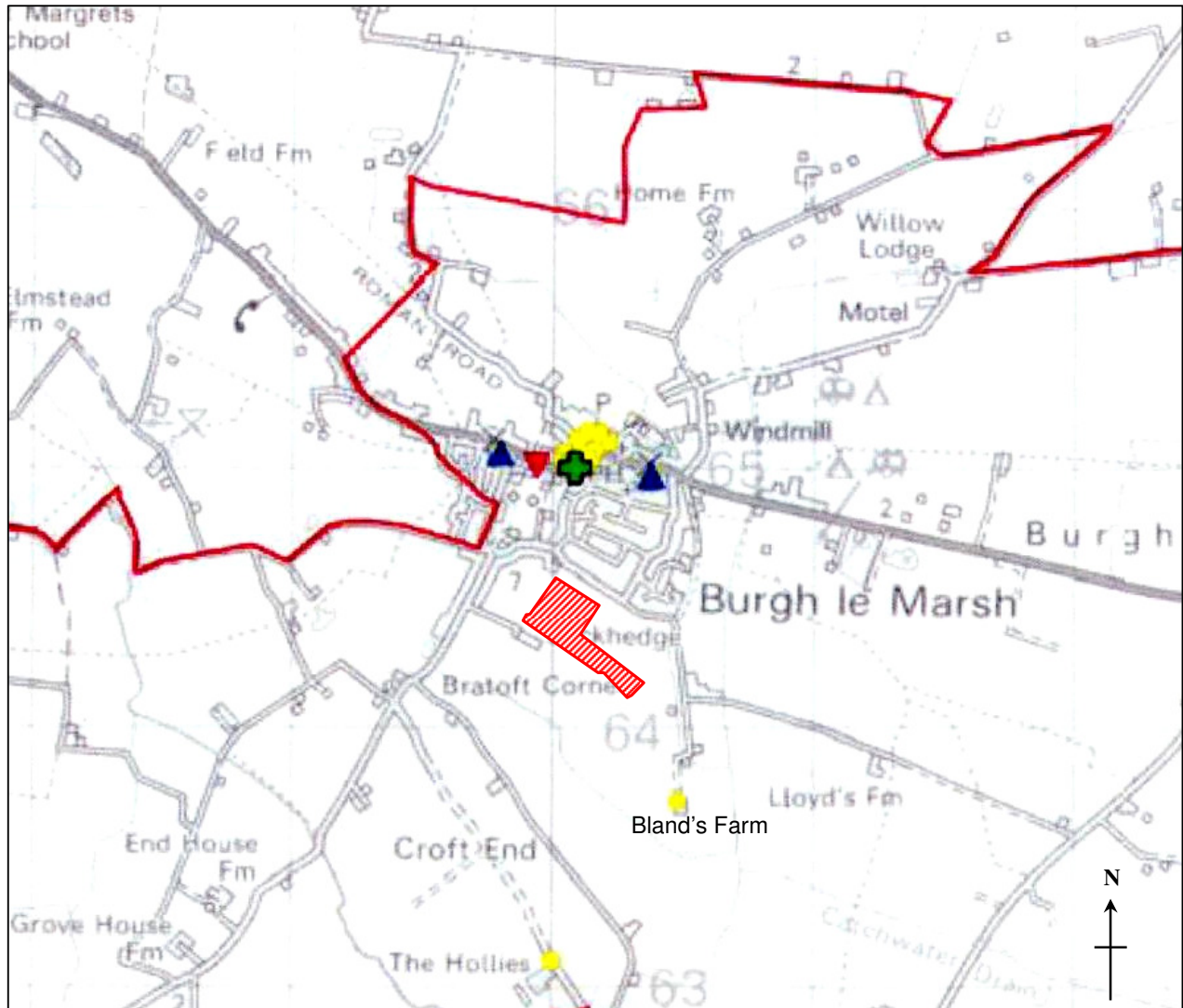


Fig. 7g: Section through pit 203 at scale 1:20.

Figure 7: Plan and section drawings in Trenches 1 and 2, at scales of 1:100 and 1:20.



Key:

-  Proposed development site
-  Edge of Burgh le Marsh Heritage Landscape Target Area
-  Scheduled Ancient Monument
-  Church
-  Windmill
-  Other Listed Building

Figure 8: Plan of the area at scale 1:25,000, showing the location of Scheduled Ancient Monuments and Listed Buildings in relation to the site. Plan extract reproduced from ECUS, 2009.

Appendix 1: Summary of data from the Lincolnshire HER for a search area of 250m radius around the central NGR of the site

Search carried out online on 17th January 2014 at <http://www.heritagegateway.org.uk/gateway>

Ref. no.	Type	Description	NGR
40583	Monument	Iron Age to Romano-British site at Hall Lane/Barnack Lodge. A programme of archaeological intervention identified two possible phases of land division, with evidence for settlement in the immediate vicinity, including roofing material, domestic waste including relatively high-status pottery, and metal-working residues.	TF 499 647
41518	Findspot	Illegible bronze Roman coin	TF 505 642
41519	Findspot	Two cut long-cross halfpennies of King Henry III	TF 505 642
41524	Findspot	Roman pottery found to S of Burgh le Marsh	TF 503 640
41525	Findspot	Medieval pottery found to S of Burgh le Marsh	TF 503 640
41526	Findspot	Post-medieval pottery, including Old Bolingbroke Ware, found to S of Burgh le Marsh	TF 503 640
41527	Monument	Sherds of Romano-British pottery, including a piece of stamped Samian found in foundation trenches to S of Burgh le Marsh	TF 502 646
41528	Monument	Medieval pottery found in foundation trenches to S of Burgh le Marsh	TF 502 646
41533	Findspot	Bronze chased rowel spur, post-medieval	TF 504 640
41540	Findspot	Medieval and some post-medieval pottery found S of Burgh le Marsh	TF 501 643
41541	Findspot	Late medieval pottery found in 1976	TF 501 643
41542	Monument	Medieval ditches observed during a watching brief in 2001 at Hall Lane/Chapman Avenue	TF 500 647
41555	Findspot	Coarse pottery of the 17 th to 19 th centuries, mostly of E Lincolnshire types, including slipware, a fragment of a Bellarmine face mask and clay tobacco pipes of the late 17 th and early 18 th centuries.	TF 504 639
41560	Findspot	Bronze handle or stopper of possible 17 th -century date	TF 505 642
41561	Findspot	Bronze ewer spout of Continental 15 th -century date	TF 505 642

Ref. no.	Type	Description	NGR
41578	Findspot	A sherd of decorated Samian ware and sherds of Romano-British grey ware, with a post-medieval shoe buckle, found near Jockhedge, Burgh le Marsh	TF 498 644
41579	Findspot	Small bronze escutcheon, probably late medieval, found to SW of Burgh le Marsh	TF 498 645
41580	Findspot	Surface collection of late medieval pottery	TF 498 643
41581	Findspot	Fragment of a medieval bronze bowl rim, found to S of Burgh le Marsh	TF 499 646
42839	Findspot	Surface collection of post-medieval pottery	TF 498 643
42844	Findspot	Post-medieval pottery found in 1976	TF 501 643
43946	Findspot	Three prehistoric struck flints found during a watching brief at Hall Lane in 2000, with another found during a further watching brief in 2002.	TF 499 647
43947	Monument	Possible Mesolithic hunting camp, deduced from a thin scatter of flint tools, encountered during evaluation trenching on land at Hall Lane.	TF 499 647
46574	Monument	Possible medieval earthwork enclosure identified by the National Mapping Programme on aerial photographs	TF 499 645
47132	Monument	Burgh Hall Park: a post-medieval park recorded on the 1907 OS map. Ridge-and-furrow earthworks on various alignments have been observed within the park boundary.	TF 498 645
48443	Monument	Medieval ridge-and-furrow earthworks identified by the National Mapping Programme on aerial photographs	TF 500 642
48444	Monument	Possible medieval trackway and linear feature identified as cropmarks from aerial photographs	TF 504 639
48550	Monument	Mid-5 th to 9 th -century ditch found during trial trenching on land off Hall Lane in 2012	TF 500 645
48693	Findspot	Four Upper Palaeolithic flints (three flakes and a scraper) found during trial trenching on land off Hall Lane in 2012	TF 500 645
48694	Monument	Undated gully, containing an undatable potsherd, found during trial trenching on land off Hall Lane in 2012. A whetstone, possibly Roman, was retrieved from the topsoil of the same trench.	TF 500 645
48695	Findspot	Late 13 th to 15 th -century potsherd found in topsoil during trial trenching on land off Hall Lane in 2012	TF 500 645

Appendix 2: Colour Plates



Plate 1: General view of the site, looking N from the SW edge of the site, near Trench 3, towards the site, near Trench 3, towards the church (on the horizon near the centre of the shot). The positions of Trenches 1 and 2 can be seen in the distance as linear spoilheaps. Weather conditions were foggy.



Plate 2: Pre-excitation shot of Trench 1 (no post-excitation shot could be taken, as work in this trench was not finished until after sunset) looking NE towards Hall Lane. Post-medieval field boundary **106** can be seen as a dark stripe across the trench, marked by pink paint on the trench sections; older ditch **104** is similarly marked towards the far end of the trench.



Plate 3: Ditch **104** in section in Trench 1, looking SE.



Plate 4: Trench 2 post-excitation, looking SW; feature 203 can be seen to rear left of the scale bar.



Plate 5: Pit 203 in section in Trench 2, looking SE.



Plate 6: Trench 3 after machining, looking SW towards the S site boundary; no features were encountered in this trench.

Appendix 3: Context Summary

Context	Type	Description	Finds/samples/dating
Trench 1			
100	Layer	Slightly plastic mid-brownish-grey silty clay topsoil with moderate chalky flecks and frequent small to medium flint fragments and pebbles, 0.28m deep	
101	Layer	Friable to slightly plastic mid-brown natural silty clay with abundant chalky flecks and small chalk pebbles/gravel	
102	Fill	Upper fill in feature 104 : mid-greyish-brown plastic silty clay with moderate chalky flecks and occasional small flint fragments and small-medium stones, 0.44m deep	
103	Fill	Lower fill in feature 104 : mid-brownish-grey plastic coarse-sandy clay with moderate pebbles and small stone fragments, 0.28m deep	
104	Cut	E-W aligned ditch towards N end of trench, 2.2m wide x 0.72m deep, with steep sides and concave base (below water table), filled by 103 and 104	
105	Fill	Fill of feature 106 : plastic mid-brownish-grey silty clay, very like topsoil 100, containing occasional chalky flecks, small chalk and other pebbles, one large cobble and an earthenware drainpipe; 0.70m ⁺ deep	2 fragments CBM and 1 fragment animal bone retrieved during excavation, but discarded when several pieces of nylon binder-twine were also found
106	Cut	E-W aligned ditch towards S end of trench, 2.5m wide with steep sides, excavated to a depth of 0.70m without reaching base; excavation abandoned when the ditch proved to be modern	
Trench 2			
200	Layer	Mid-greyish-brown plastic silty clay topsoil with frequent small to medium pebbles and flint fragments, 0.40m deep	3 abraded sherds of late 13 th -15 th century Toynton Medieval Ware
201	Layer	Mid-brown, slightly plastic, natural fine-sandy clay with occasional small flint fragments	
202	Fill	Fill of feature 203 : mid-brownish-grey plastic silty clay with no inclusions, similar in colour to topsoil 200 but of completely different texture	1 whelk shell found but discarded
203	Cut	Shallow sub-circular pit with very irregular sides and base, possibly caused by tree rooting	Width (probable approx. diameter) 1.4m; 0.10m deep
Trench 3			
300	Layer	Mid-greyish-brown plastic silty clay topsoil with frequent small to medium pebbles and flint fragments, 0.35m deep	2 abraded sherds of late 13 th -15 th century Toynton Medieval Ware
301	Layer	Mid-brown, slightly plastic fine-sandy clay natural, with chalky flecks at N end of trench only; otherwise containing occasional small-medium pebbles and flint fragments.	

Appendix 4: Pottery Assessment

by Dr. Anne Irving

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 seven sherds from six vessels, weighing 119 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 dates to the medieval period.

Results

Table 1, Pottery Archive

Cxt	Cname	Full name	Form	NoS	NoV	W (g)	Description	Date
200	TOY	Toynton Medieval Ware	Bowl	1	1	32	Reeded rim; abraded	Late 13th to 15th
200	TOY	Toynton Medieval Ware	Jug	1	1	22	Very abraded	Late 13th to 15th
200	TOY	Toynton Medieval Ware	Jug/ jar	2	2	14	Very abraded	Late 13th to 15th
300	TOY	Toynton Medieval Ware	Jug/ jar	1	1	14	Very abraded	Late 13th to 15th
300	TOY	Toynton Medieval Ware	Jug	2	1	37	Very abraded	Late 13th to 15th

Potential

All the pottery is stable and poses no problems for storage. No further work is required on the assemblage.

Summary

A small group of medieval Toynton ware was recovered from the site. This type is common in assemblages from this area.

ABBREVIATIONS

BS	Body sherd
CXT	Context
NoF	Number of Fragments
NoS	Number of sherds
NoV	Number of vessels
W (g)	Weight (grams)

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~ 2010, *Lincolnshire Archaeological Handbook* [internet]. Available at
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