

**LAND TO THE REAR OF NO.19 RIBY ROAD, KEELBY,
WEST LINDSEY, LINCOLNSHIRE**

**SCHEME OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING
AND RECORDING**

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WLDC Planning Ref.: 131427
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Prepared for

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by

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Summary

A scheme of archaeological monitoring and recording took place between the 17th and 19th March 2015 during the construction of a new house on land to the rear of no. 19, Riby Road in the village of Keelby, in the district of West Lindsey in Lincolnshire.

Keelby is a Shrunken Medieval Village: the medieval settlement, consisting of numerous small manors and landholdings, exceeded the size of the modern village, and its remains have been recorded as earthworks around the fringes of the village. The remains of the only surviving medieval manor house stand some 200m to the north of the site.

The site lies within the area of the medieval village: earthwork remains of possible houses have been identified in four places between 250m and 500m from the site to the north, north-east and south-west. It was, therefore, possible that further medieval remains may be encountered during development.

The monitoring of the excavation of the foundation trenches revealed no significant archaeological features or deposits.

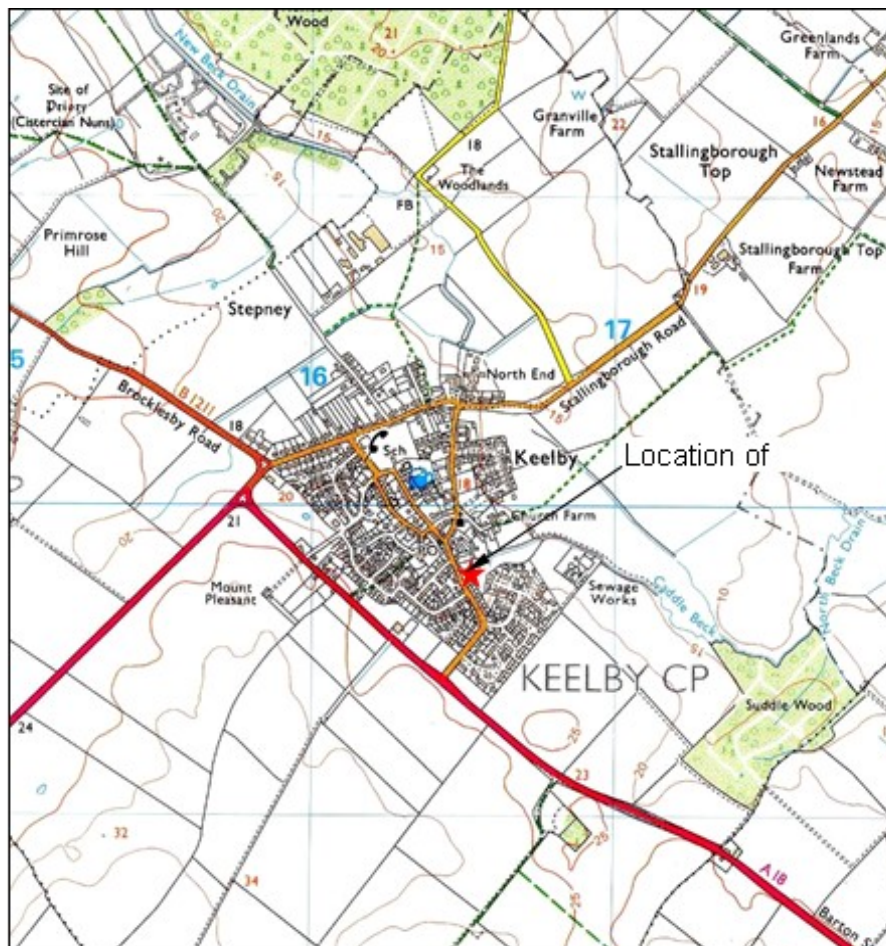


Figure 1: Location plan of the site (marked in red) at scale 1:25,000. OS mapping © Crown copyright. All rights reserved. PCAS licence no. 100049270

1. Introduction

Pre-Construct Archaeological Services Ltd (PCAS) was commissioned by Flarevisual Ltd. to prepare a specification for a scheme of archaeological monitoring and recording during groundworks for a residential development on land to the rear of no. 19, Riby Road in the village of Keelby, in the district of West Lindsey in Lincolnshire (post code DN41 8ER). The works are expected to commence in February 2015.

This document outlines the findings from a programme of archaeological monitoring and recording. It follows current best practice and appropriate national guidance including:

NPPF, National Planning Policy Framework, 2012;

IFA Code of Conduct (2008 as revised);

IFA Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs (2008);

Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE ver. 1.1, 2009)

Lincolnshire Archaeological Handbook (Lincolnshire County Council, 2012).

2. Site Location and Description (Figs. 1 and 2)

The village of Keelby is situated at the north-eastern edge of the district of West Lindsey, approximately 4km south-south-west of Immingham and 7km from the south bank of the Humber estuary. It lies near the foot of the slope of the Lincolnshire Wolds down to the estuarine basin. The village is sited at the junction of the A18 and the B1211.

The proposed development site is located to the south of the village centre. It consisted of an undeveloped, roughly triangular area of land to the rear of no. 19, Riby Road, which fronts on to the north-east side of Riby Road.

Keelby has no designated Conservation Area.

3. Topography and Geology

Keelby lies on the northward slope of the Lincolnshire Wolds down into the basin of the Humber estuary. It is sited at a spring line, and several streams rise within or near the village, cutting shallow valleys down towards the Humber; the Caddle Beck rises a short distance to the north-east of the site. In general, the village slopes from approximately 20m above Ordnance Datum sea level at its south-western edge to approximately 15m on the north-eastern edge; the site is at roughly 16m OD, gently sloping in an easterly direction away from Ribey Road.

Keelby is situated on a band of fluvioglacial sand and gravel, lying near the foot of the Wolds and deposited by rivers running down from them: this material forms the drift geology of the site. The underlying solid geology is Burnham Chalk (BGS, 1990).

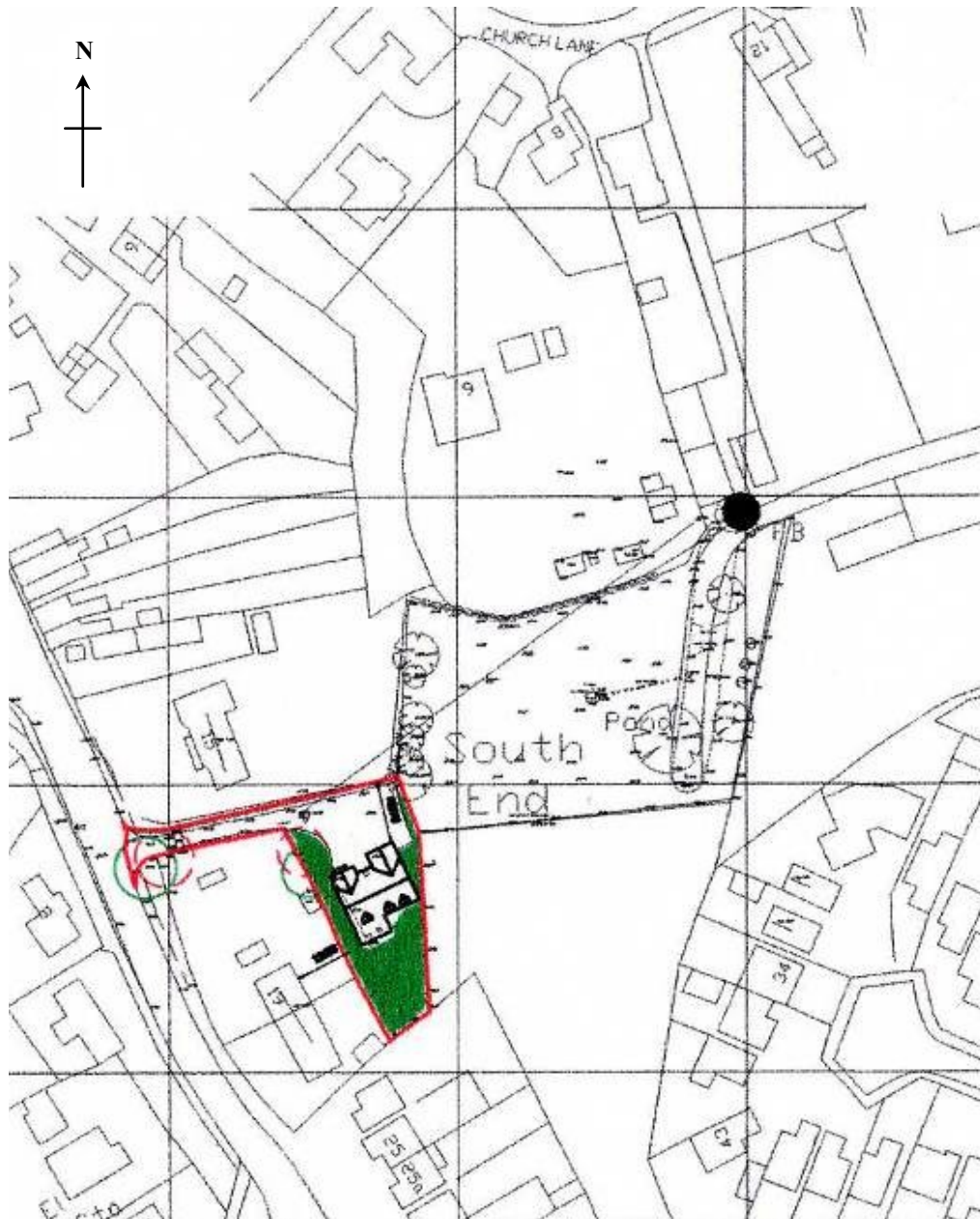


Figure 2: Location plan of the site at scale 1:1250. Plan supplied by client.

4. Planning Background

Full planning permission for the construction of a dwelling was granted in December 2014 (planning application number 131427). Condition 8 of the grant of planning permission stipulated that a scheme of archaeological works should be commissioned prior to the commencement of groundworks, in accordance with a written scheme of archaeological investigation submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority (Savage, 2015).

5. Archaeological and Historical Background

There has been evidence of a settlement at Keelby since the Roman period. Late Roman/early Germanic metalwork finds indicate the possibility of continuous occupation, reinforced by 5th-6th century metalwork finds of 17 cruciform brooches, 4 small-long brooches, a sleeve clasp and a pair of funerary tweezers. Coins dateable to the 8th and 9th centuries have also been recovered (Hamilton, 2006). However, no sites or findspots pre-dating the High Middle Ages have been recorded by the Lincolnshire HER within 500m of the proposed development site.

The Domesday Survey of AD 1086 records Keelby as being divided between eight major and minor landowners, chiefly holding small manorial estates. Both the Archbishop of York and the Bishop of Bayeux had small manors there: the Bishop's estate was occupied by only five households other than his administrator, while the Archbishop's estate fielded only four, but had a mill in whose profits the Archbishop had a half share. The Bishop of Lincoln had a slightly larger manor, possessing both arable and pasture land, also occupied by his administrator and five households; this estate also had a mill. The royal manor of Caistor and Hundon administered a portion of arable land in Keelby roughly equivalent in size to all three of the ecclesiastical manors and occupied by 16 households. Ivo Taillebois' manor is recorded as having 'the site of a mill', suggesting that this estate had been neglected; it was occupied by Ivo's administrator and three households farming a small amount of arable and meadow land. The minor landowner Drew de Beurere had a substantial manor, occupied by 11 households farming arable and meadow land: this estate also profited from a salt-pan, indicating that Keelby was close enough to the estuarine coastline at the time for sea water to be available at high tide. Norman de Arci's manor featured six households and an administrator, farming a small amount of arable land, while Waldin the Engineer's Man oversaw three households on a small manorial estate consisting of both arable and pasture land (Foster and Longley, 1924, pp.22, 26, 40, 50, 83, 140, 147, 168-9). This multiplicity of landowners is reflected in the form of the existing settlement and the earthworks derived from former medieval occupation on the fringes of the modern village: Keelby has no coherent plan, but is characterised by a network of curving and looping streets, suggesting a number of discrete nuclei (HER ref. 53780).

The present parish church of St. Bartholomew, approximately 200m to the north of the site, is 13th century with a 14th century tower, but excavations on its south side exposed the remains of a 12th to 13th century aisle, suggesting that the present building was altered from an earlier one. The church is a Grade I Listed Building, while the remains of a 14th century cross in the churchyard are separately Grade II Listed (HER refs. 50001-2; listing refs. 6/121-2).

By the early 14th century, Keelby had shrunk to a fraction of its former size: only 36 taxpaying households were recorded by the Poll Tax in 1377. The Grade I Listed remains of a manor house of this period are attached to Church End Farmhouse, approximately 200m to the north of the site: the building was of two storeys, possibly incorporating a chapel, and was unusual in being made almost entirely of chalk. A hooded fireplace on the first floor indicates the presence of a hall chamber, and some aspects of construction and style suggest that, as with the church, the manor house was remodelled from an earlier building. The site was originally moated; part of the moat survives as an earthwork on the north side (HER ref. 50003; listing ref. 6/123). The existing Manor House, to the east of Church End Farmhouse, dates from 1794, and is a Grade II Listed Building (HER ref. 56096; listing ref. 6/125).

Earthwork traces of possible medieval buildings have been identified from aerial photographs near the centre of the modern village, on its south-western edge and on the north-eastern edge near Church Farm: four of these lie between 250m and 500m from the site, although none have been recorded any closer (HER refs. 50031-2 and 50034-5).

6. Methodology (Plates 1 and 2)

Groundworks were monitored between the 18th and 20th March 2015 by an experienced archaeologist, adhering to the Written Scheme of Investigation (Savage, 2015).

Prior to the excavation of the foundation trench for the new property, the existing topsoil 001 was removed over the footprint of the new building. A pronounced ridge of made ground 004 that follows the western site boundary with Plot 19 was terraced by the initial groundworks. This was interpreted as an accumulation of garden earth to the rear of the house occupying Plot 19.

The western foundation trench was then dug. Here, the deepest portion of the foundations was encountered at a depth at-least 1.20m from the existing ground surface. Over the next two days, the remainder of the foundation trench were then excavated. The depth of the remainder of the foundation trench was typically 0.60m.

All features and deposits seen were recorded on standard PCAS context recording sheets, and the progress of the groundworks noted on a standard PCAS site diary sheet. Sample sections were drawn at intervals at a scale of 1:20, and plotted on a base plan. A digital photographic record was maintained throughout the watching brief; a selection from this is reproduced as Appendix 1.

7. Results (Fig. 3, Plate 3)

Topsoil (001) was a maximum of 0.28m deep, and largely removed during initial groundworks prior to the excavation of the foundation trench for the new building. Across most of the site, this sealed an accumulation of fine sandy silt subsoil (002) typically 0.50m thick. Beneath this was the natural drift geology (003) only encountered in the north-west corner of the foundation trench, a yellowish-brown fine, sandy fluvio-glacial silt 0.75m below the present ground surface.

Underlying the topsoil along the western site boundary was a ridge of redeposited subsoil (004) 0.50m thick, which was terraced by the initial groundworks for the new development. Comprised of a uniform sandy loam, this material was an accumulation of garden earth laid down after the construction of the house occupying Plot 19 during the latter part of the 20th century and was indistinct from the underlying subsoil (002).

Some naturally deposited flint nodules were recorded at the interface between subsoil (002) and natural (003) in the southern extent of the footings (Fig. 3a).

A small amount of unstratified finds were recovered during the groundworks. These comprised two sherds of pottery of 13th to 14th century date (see Appendix 3), and a blade core of Mesolithic date (see Appendix 4).

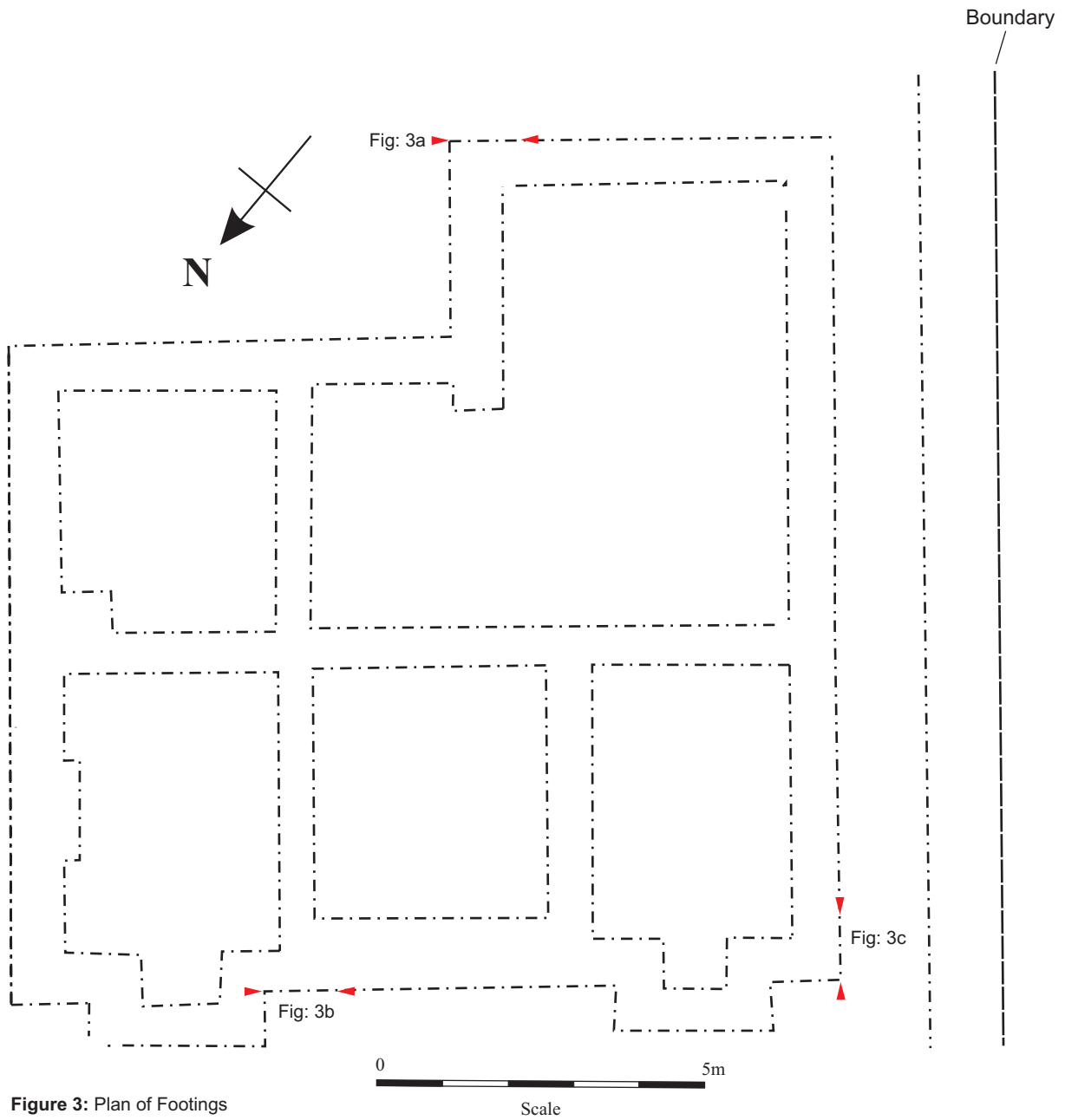


Figure 3: Plan of Footings

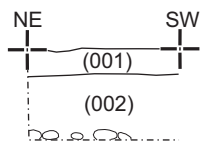


Fig. 3a: NW facing Representative Section

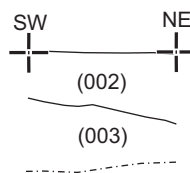


Fig. 3b: SE facing Representative Section

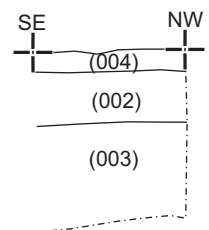
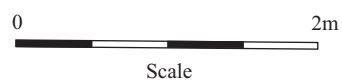


Fig. 3c: NE facing Representative Section



8. Conclusion

No features or deposits of archaeological importance were identified during the groundworks.

The unstratified flint blade core shows some background occupation on or near to the site during the Mesolithic/Early Neolithic period.

Two sherds of unstratified 13th to 14th century medieval pottery show background occupation of the site during this time.

9. Effectiveness of Methodology

The methodology employed during this project achieved its primary objective, ensuring that any archaeological remains that might have been present on the site would not have been destroyed unrecorded, while causing the minimum of disruption to the construction process.

10. Acknowledgements

PCAS Ltd would like to thank Flarevisual Ltd. for this commission.

11. Site Archive

The project archive is currently held at the offices of PCAS Ltd. in Saxilby, Lincolnshire while being prepared for deposition, and will be deposited with the Lincoln City and County Museum ('The Collection') under the unique archive accession number 2015.26.

12. Bibliography

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List of conservation areas in West Lindsey consulted online 17-02-2015 at <http://www.west-lindsey.gov.uk/residents/planning-and-building/conservation-and-environment/conservation-areas>

Appendix 1: Colour Plates



Plate 1: General shot of initial groundworks, looking south-east



Plate 2: General shot foundation trench post excavation, looking south-east



Plate 3: Representative Section 3c, looking south-west

Appendix 2: Context Summary

Context No.	Type	Description	Finds/Dating
001	Layer	Topsoil, dark greyish-brown, firm/friable fine sandy clay-silt, up to 0.28m deep	None
002	Layer	Subsoil, mid greyish-brown, firm/friable fine sandy-silt with rare small pebbles, typically 0.50m deep	Flint core, Medieval pot
003	Natural	Mid-brownish-yellow natural fine sandy-clay with rare flint nodules at the interface with 002, at least 0.75m deep in north-eastern portion of the development	None
004	Made Ground	Re-deposited Subsoil; mid greyish-brown, firm/friable fine sandy-silt with rare small pebbles, against western site boundary	Modern

Appendix 3: Medieval Pottery Report

POTTERY REPORT FOR 19 RIBY ROAD, KEELBY, LINCOLNSHIRE (KRRM 15)

Jane Young

INTRODUCTION

Two sherds of medieval pottery recovered from the site were examined for this report. The pottery was examined both visually and using a x20 binocular microscope, then recorded using the fabric codenames (CNAME) of the City of Lincoln Archaeology Unit (Young, Vince and Nailor 2005) and other nationally agreed codenames (Table 1). The assemblage was quantified by three measures: number of sherds, vessel count and weight and the resulting archive entered onto an Access database. The material has been recorded at archive level by ware and fabric type in accordance with the Medieval Pottery Research Group's Guidelines (Slowikowski 2001) and complies with the Lincolnshire County Council's *Archaeological Handbook* (sections 13.4 and 13.5).

CONDITION

The pottery recovered is in a slightly abraded condition. Individual sherd sizes are 2 grams and 8 grams.

THE RANGE AND VARIETY OF MATERIALS

Two small medieval sherds were recovered from the topsoil layer. The larger sherd is from a glazed Beverley 2-type (BEVO2) jug of 13th to mid 14th century date. The other sherd is from a Humberware (HUM) jug of late 13th to 14th century type.

DISCUSSION

The currency of the two small medieval sherds recovered from the site is between the 13th and 14th centuries. The types recovered are not unusual for the area.

The collection is in a stable condition and should be kept for future study.

REFERENCES

Lincolnshire Archaeological Handbook 2009 edition [Internet]. Available from

<http://www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/upload/public/attachments/1073/Archaeological_Handbook.pdf

Slowikowski, A.M., Nenk, B. and Pearce, J. 2001. *Minimum standards for the processing, recording, analysis and publication of post-Roman ceramics*. Occasional paper **2**. London: Medieval Pottery Research Group.

Young, J, Vince, A and Nailor, V, 2005. *A Corpus of Anglo-Saxon and Medieval Pottery from Lincoln*, Lincoln Archaeological Studies **7**, Oxbow, Oxford

Appendix 4: Lithics Report

Flint

By Tom Lane

Introduction

A single core was submitted for analysis

Condition

The piece is in good condition and relatively unabraded. It requires no conservation measures.

Results

Cxt No	Description	No	Wt(g)	Date
U/S	Single Platform blade core. 25 x 25 x 21mm	1	25m m	Mesolithic/Early Neolithic

Provenance

A single unstratified flint was collected. It is a core of Mesolithic or Early Neolithic date and indicates localised flint working in the area.

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