

## Summary

An archaeological watching brief was carried out by Pre-Construct Archaeology (Lincoln) during the excavation of 36 foundation pits for a proposed new grain store on land at Eastfield Farm, Winteringham, Lincolnshire.

Excavation of the pits revealed that the ground on which the proposed new grain store is to be sited consisted of entirely modern made ground down to the limit of excavation. At no point was the natural underlying geology encountered. No archaeological features were encountered. However a number of Romano-British pottery sherds were recovered from the adjacent ground surface, although the material from which they came has almost certainly been displaced from its original location.



**Fig 1:** Site location map. Scale 1:25 000  
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## **Introduction**

Pre-Construct Archaeology (Lincoln) was commissioned by A.F. Dowson & Son to carry out an archaeological watching brief during groundworks for the construction of a new grain store at Eastfield Farm, Sluice Lane, Winteringham, North Lincolnshire (NGR: SE 9442 2118).

A formal specification for the watching brief was prepared by Pre-Construct Archaeology (Lincoln) (PCA Lincoln 2008) and approved by North Lincolnshire Council. The watching brief was carried out to fulfill a condition placed upon development by North Lincolnshire Council (planning ref. PA/2007/1258).

This approach complies with the recommendations of *Archaeology and Planning: Planning Policy Guidance Note 16*, Dept. of Environment (1990); *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs*, IFA (1999) and the LCC document *Lincolnshire Archaeological Handbook: A Manual of Archaeological Practice*, 1998.

## **Site location and description** (Figs. 1 and 2)

Eastfield Farm is situated *c.*11km northeast of Scunthorpe, *c.*0.7km southeast of the village of Winteringham, to the north of the A 1077 (Sluice Lane). It is located within the parish of Winteringham in the administrative district of North Lincolnshire (NGR: SE 9442 2118).

The Farm is situated towards the northern limit of the Ancholme Vale, *c.*3km east of the now canalised course of the River Ancholme and *c.*0.9km southwest of South Channel of the River Humber with Read's Island just beyond South Channel. The site occupies a location within the low lying and undulating landscape close to the foreshore of the upper Humber Estuary between the nearby Limestone Wolds to the west and the Chalk Wolds to the east.

The proposed development site is situated within an area that has previously been quarried and landscaped. Immediately northeast of the site of the proposed new grain store is an existing storage facility and to the southeast is an area of hard-standing. Both to the southwest and northwest are soil bunds with a now water filled quarry beyond to the west and a deep ditch/channel to the north. The site slopes gently down to the north from *c.*10m AOD and is currently covered in hard-standing comprising modern building demolition material.

## **Geological background**

The drift geology of the area consists of glacial sand and gravel described as fine to medium blown sands (Aram 1993). The underlying solid geology is recorded as Hibaldstow Limestone (British Geological Survey 1983).

## **Archaeological context**

The site at Eastfield Farm is located within an area that encompasses significant archaeological remains. Ploughsoil scatters attest to human activity within the vicinity of the site from the Iron Age, with Roman finds also dating from the 1<sup>st</sup> century AD. A concentration of material close by the Humber foreshore is considered to be the location of an early Roman military installation, possibly a fort (PCA Lincoln 2006).

Aerial photographic evidence has identified roads extending below the modern cultivated landscape, leading to an extensive multi-period settlement site nearby, excavated by Stead in 1964-5, part of which is a scheduled ancient monument. Humberside Archaeology Unit conducted further work in 1981-2, in advance of mineral extraction at Sandhills Farm. These latter investigations revealed that medieval and modern cultivation had destroyed the majority of the Roman building remains. However, enough had survived to indicate the presence of structures within rectangular enclosures. The principal period of activity in this area appears to have centered on the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> centuries AD (Rylatt and Bunn 2001)

A number of burials have been recovered from the margins around the settlement areas, notably six were found in the field immediately west of the current development, in advance of sand quarrying (PCA Lincoln 2006).

The evidence for Anglian settlement suggests a shift in settlement westwards to the site of modern Winteringham at some time during the mid-later Anglo-Saxon period. By the time of the Domesday survey in AD 1086, Winteringham consisted of a single large agricultural estate belonging to Gilbert de Ghent, remnants of this landscape are still visible as crop marks of ridge and furrow recorded by aerial photography around the village (Rylatt and Bunn 2001).

## **Methodology**

The methodology follows that set out in the Archaeological Works Specification (PCA Lincoln 2008). The 36 foundation pad pits were excavated by a mechanical excavator under archaeological supervision.

## **Results (Appendix 1 and 2)**

All of the 36 excavated pits did not penetrate the deposit of hardcore that covers the footprint of the proposed new grain store. At no point was undisturbed ground encountered.

An exposed soil deposit which flanked the northern end of the proposed development site did produce a small quantity of Romano-British pottery sherds. However, this deposit also contained a significant amount of modern material as well. An examination of the section of the adjacent deep ditch/channel showed that modern brick was present within

this soil layer at some depth and as such this material is probably redeposited, possibly originally stripped from the area of the adjacent quarry.

### **Discussion and conclusion**

No archaeological features or deposits were encountered during the course of the groundworks associated with the construction of the proposed new grain store at Eastfield Farm, Winteringham.

The depth of the hardcore covering the site suggests that the original ground surface may have already been removed, although as the immediate area has been substantially changed by the construction of nearby storage facilities and previous quarrying it was not possible to establish, with any accuracy, where original ground level may have been expectedly encountered.

As such it is not possible to assess the potential for the survival of archaeological remains within the immediate area, although considering all the development in the immediate area that potential may not be high.

However, it can be confirmed that no archeological remains have been disturbed by the current groundworks.

### **Effectiveness of methodology**

The methodology employed to monitor these works has provided evidence that no archaeological deposits were disturbed.

### **Acknowledgements**

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## References

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