

**PLOT 2, LAND AT HIGHFIELD FARM COTTAGE, HIGHFIELD ROAD,  
NORTH THORESBY, LINCOLNSHIRE**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL SCHEME OF WORK**

**REPORT**

Site code: HFTN 09  
NGR: TF 29089 98280  
ELDC Planning Ref.: N/133/01231/ 09  
(revised planning application no. pending)  
LCNCC Museum Accn. No.: 2009.164  
PCA Ref: 09/598

Report prepared for

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by

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- Fig. 1:** Site Location (scale 1:25,000. Reproduced from the 2000 Ordnance Survey Explorer map, Sheet 284. © Crown copyright. All rights reserved. PCA Licence No. 100049278).
- Fig. 2:** Trench Layout © Crown Copyright 2009. PCA Licence No. 100049278. Main Plan scale 1:500 Inset at 1:100
- Fig. 3:** Trench 1 plan and sections 1:20

## Appendices

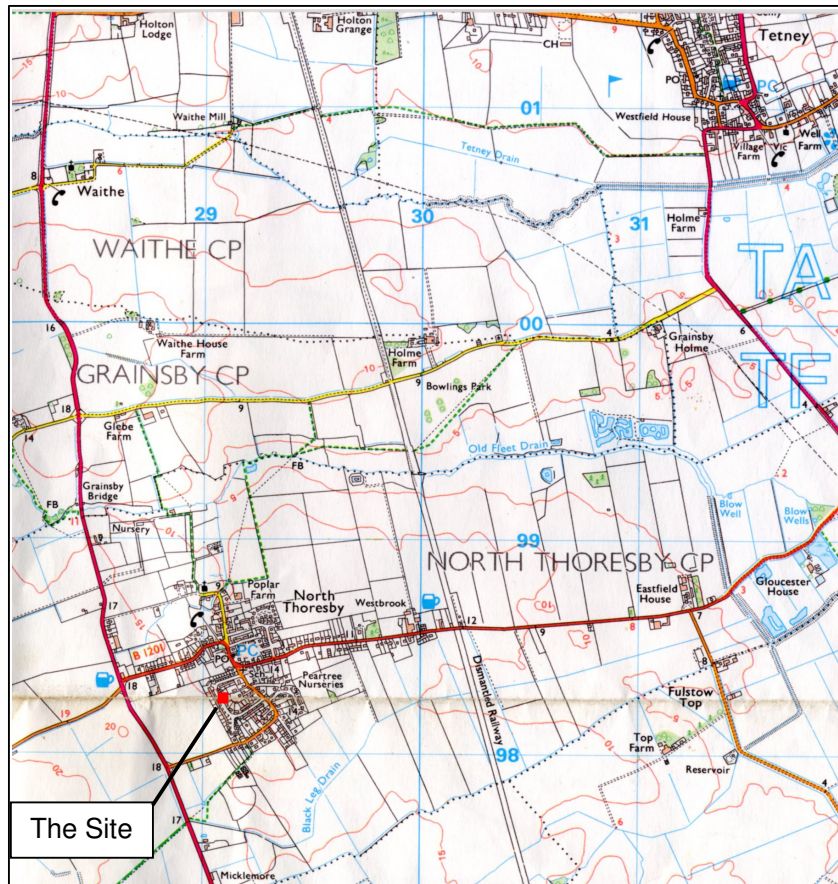
- Appendix 1:** Colour Plates  
**Appendix 2:** Context Register  
**Appendix 3:** OASIS

## Plates

- Pl. 1** Position of the evaluation trench within the proposed development plot (looking north-east past No. 19 Highfield Road).
- Pl. 2** The machine-excavated trench (looking south, scales 1m). Raised ground to the south-east of the trench is probably a spoil heap associated with development of the adjacent plots.
- Pl. 3** Deposits visible at the north-eastern end of the trench (looking south-east, scale 1m). The dark modern topsoil (100) covers a band of redeposited clay above the subsoil (101), indicating probable machined truncation in the past.
- Pl. 4** Close to the south-western end of the trench (below the horizontal scale), the modern topsoil dipped into a depression above a backfilled land drain [104]. At the end of the trench a machined scoop confirmed that underlying layers were undisturbed glacially deposited material (looking south-east; scales 1m).
- Pl. 5** Partly excavated post-medieval land drain cut [104]. The water is covering a horse-shoe type clay land drain. (Looking south, scale 1m).

## Summary

- The scheme of work, comprising of a single evaluation trench took place on land at Plot 2, Highfield Farm Cottage, North Thoresby, Lincolnshire.
- The trenching identified subsoil above boulder-clay, and redeposited boulder-clay between the topsoil and the subsoil - suspected to have resulted from 20<sup>th</sup> century development of adjacent properties. The only archaeological feature identified was a post-medieval land drain with horse-shoe type clay tiles.
- No further archaeological intervention is recommended, either before or during the groundworks associated with Plot 2.



**Fig. 1:** Site Location (scale 1:25,000. Reproduced from the 2000 Ordnance Survey Explorer map, Sheet 284. © Crown copyright. All rights reserved. PCA Licence No. 100049278).

## 1.0 Introduction

Pre-Construct Archaeological Services Ltd (PCA) was commissioned by Mr P. Jeffrey to investigate a single archaeological evaluation trench as part of a scheme of work on land at Plot 2, Highfield Farm Cottage, North Thoresby, Lincolnshire.

A scheme of works was undertaken in response to a brief issued by the archaeological advisor to East Lindsey District Council. This report has been compiled to meet the requirements of the 'Lincolnshire Archaeological Handbook: A Manual of Archaeological Practice' (LCC, 2009); Archaeology & Planning: Planning Policy Guidance Note 16 (Department of the Environment, 1990); Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE), and Standards and guidance for archaeological evaluations (IFA, 2008).

Copies of this report will be deposited with the commissioning client, with East Lindsey District Council, and with the Lincolnshire Historic Environment Record (HER). Reports will also be deposited at *The Collection*, Lincoln, along with an ordered project archive for long-term storage and curation.

The evaluation took place on 17th November 2009, and was carried out by Neil Jefferson.

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

The site is located within the parish of North Thoresby, to the south of the village core. Highfield Road is a large residential crescent to the west of Ludborough Road. Plot 2 is to the east of Highfield Road. The site is centred on NGR: TF 29089 98280 and is currently open land with rough vegetation (Pl. 1).

The name of Highfield Farm suggests that it was sited within the higher of North Thoresby's medieval open fields, indicating a relatively elevated position. The site lies at about 17m OD, with ground rising slowly towards the west. Ground level rises rapidly c.3km to the west at the edge of the Wolds.

The drift geology of the area is recorded as till (boulder-clay), above chalk (BGS 1990).

## 3.0 Planning background

East Lindsey District Council granted planning permission for the erection of a house with integral single garage, an adjacent house with a detached single garage, and the construction of two vehicular accesses, subject to conditions. Condition 3 states:

*No development shall take place until the applicant has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological work in accordance with a written scheme of investigation, which has been submitted by the applicant and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority. The agreed programme must be implemented in accordance with the approved details.*

*Reason: In order to ensure that satisfactory arrangements are made for the investigation, retrieval and recording of any possible archaeological remains on the site. This condition is imposed in accordance with the requirements in Planning Policy Guidance Note 16 - Archaeology and Planning.*

Previous planning applications N/133/3067/07, N/133/1065/08, and N/133/3707/08 relate to the site, and a further planning application number is pending.

The *Project Brief* issued by Lincolnshire County Council Historic Environment Team (archaeological advisors to ELDC) indicated that an archaeological evaluation trench across the footprint of each proposed house would be required as part of the

programme of archaeological works. The results of evaluation would establish whether or not further archaeological excavation or monitoring of ground disturbance would be required.

#### **4.0 Archaeological and historical background**

North Thoresby is documented as *Toresbi* in the *Domesday Survey* of 1086. The place-name is thought to derive from Old Danish elements meaning 'Thorir's farmstead or village' (Cameron 1998, 125).

Cropmarks of possible prehistoric occupation sites have been identified from air photographs to the east and west of the village, and a Roman farmstead with possible evidence of a vineyard has been recorded close to the edge of the Wolds, to the west. The village is close to the lower ground of the Lincolnshire Outmarsh and the settlement was well placed to exploit the varying economies of the upland and wetlands during millennia of sea level changes.

Although the site appears to lie outside the historic core of the village (and probably within or near to one of the settlement's 'open-fields', the *Brief* noted that possible late medieval earthwork tofts (occupation sites), a hollow way and fishponds have been identified in the vicinity of this proposed development, and that the site seems to have been relatively undisturbed for some time. The medieval features (HER 46624) are located to the north of the village, about 600m north of the evaluated site.

#### **5.0 Methodology**

The evaluation was intended to provide site-specific archaeological information that will allow the Local Planning Authority to reconcile development proposals with their policy of preserving archaeological remains. Specifically, this information will be used in discussing the need for any further archaeological investigation/recording and/or to suggest the most suitable form of foundation design to minimise damage to archaeological deposits.

The evaluation was based on a single 7.5m long x 1.9m wide north-east/south-west aligned trench, located within the footprint of Plot 2, as indicated on Fig. 2. The trench position was designed to remain within the proposed footprint, but avoiding the positions of the external footings.

The trench was mechanically excavated under archaeological supervision using a JCB fitted with a 1.8m wide toothless ditching blade. It was excavated to a depth 0.7m below ground level, where natural boulder-clay deposits were encountered across most of the trench (Pl. 2). There was localised manual and mechanical excavation to deeper depths close to the south-western end to check the depths of an identified feature and to locate deposits down to a maximum of 1m below ground level.

The trench base and sides were then hand cleaned.

Context numbers were assigned for recording purposes, and are reproduced in the text (Appendix 2). Selected photographs are attached (Appendix 1).

#### **6.0 Results (Fig 3, Appendix 2)**

The very dark brown sandy clay topsoil (100) was 20 – 30cm thick. At the north-eastern end of the trench it overlay a thin layer of redeposited red/brown boulder-clay (105), which appeared to be the result of relatively recent site levelling (Pl. 3).

Across the remainder of the trench the topsoil covered a grey/brown sandy clay subsoil (101), which was between 0.36m and 0.48m thick. This layer overlay

undisturbed natural red/brown chalky boulder-clay (102) at about 15.5m OD, 0.7m below the modern ground surface.

A single south-east/north-west aligned land drain trench [104] crossed the evaluation trench, incorporating a horseshoe type clay pipe at its base, 1.1m below ground level (Pls. 4 and 5). The drain trench had been excavated through the subsoil layer (101). The trench width was 0.6m at the base, splaying outwards towards the top. Its fill (103) was brown sandy clay with small stones and fragments of broken drain.

At the south-western end of the trench, the machine was used to investigate the underlying material. This was demonstrated to be boulder-clay (102) below the trench base.

## **7.0 Discussion and conclusions**

The only identified feature within the evaluation trench was a post-medieval land drain. It was impossible to determine from the single trench whether this was part of a regularly - distributed drainage system, or if the trench had specifically been positioned over a localised area of poor natural drainage.

Some signs of relatively recent earth-moving were identified from the trench section, where red/brown boulder-clay had been redeposited between the topsoil and the subsoil layers. This activity was probably associated with the development of the adjacent house plots.

## **8.0 Effectiveness of methodology**

The evaluation methodology has effectively demonstrated that the area of proposed development is, to all intents and purposes, archaeologically sterile. The post-medieval land drain is of some minor interest, but no archaeological deposits have been identified within the evaluation trench to warrant any further investigation in advance of, or during, the construction of Plot 2.

## **9.0 Acknowledgements**

Pre-Construct Archaeological Services Ltd would like to thank Mr Jeffrey for this commission.

## **10.0 References**

British Geological Survey, 1990, *Grimsby: England and Wales Sheet 90/91: Solid and Drift Edition. 1:50,000 Provisional Series.*

Cameron, K. 1998 *A Dictionary of Lincolnshire Place-Names.*

IFA, 2008, *Standards and guidance for archaeological evaluations.* Institute for Field Archaeologists, Birmingham.

*Lincolnshire Archaeology Handbook* (Lincolnshire County Council, 2009).

*Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment* (MoRPHE).

## **11.0 Site archive**

The documentary archive for the site is currently in the possession of Pre-Construct Archaeological Services Ltd. This will be deposited with *The Collection*, Lincoln, within six months from the completion of the project, accession number LCNCC 2009.164.

**Appendix 2****Context Summary (HFTN 09)**

<b>Context No.</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Relationships</b>	<b>Description</b>
<b>100</b>	Layer	Above 105 and 103	Dark brown sandy clay topsoil with stone and brick inclusions; 0.35m thick.
<b>101</b>	Layer	Above 102, cut by 104, below 105	Grey/brown sandy clay subsoil, up to 0.48m thick.
<b>102</b>	Layer	Below 101	Light orange/brown clay natural
<b>103</b>	Fill	Fill of 104, below 100	Brown sandy clay fill of land drain trench
<b>104</b>	Cut	Filled by 103, cuts 101	Land drain trench, 1.4m wide at surface, 0.63m wide at base. 0.8m deep, flat base.
<b>105</b>	Layer	Above 101, below 100	Red/brown clay; redeposited natural.