
**ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION
LAND OFF FEN ROAD
HOLBEACH
LINCOLNSHIRE
(HBFR22)**

Work Undertaken For
Ashwood Homes

September 2022

Report Compiled by
Mark Peachey BA (Hons)

Planning Application No: Pre planning
National Grid Reference: TF 3570 2384
The Collection Accession No: LCNCC:2022.4
OASIS Record No: archaeol1-509672

APS Report No. **68/22**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL
PROJECT
SERVICES**



CONTENTS

List of Figures

List of Plates

1.	SUMMARY.....	1
2.	INTRODUCTION.....	1
2.1	DEFINITION OF AN EVALUATION.....	1
2.2	PLANNING BACKGROUND.....	1
2.3	LOCATION, TOPOGRAPHY AND GEOLOGY.....	1
2.4	ARCHAEOLOGICAL SETTING.....	1
3.	AIMS AND OBJECTIVES	3
4.	METHODS	3
5.	RESULTS.....	3
6.	DISCUSSION	4
7.	CONCLUSIONS.....	5
8.	ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS.....	5
9.	PERSONNEL	5
10.	BIBLIOGRAPHY	5
11.	ABBREVIATIONS	6

Appendices

1	Context Descriptions
2	The Finds <i>by Paul Cope-Faulkner, Maria Leroi, Charles Simpson and Jane Young</i>
3	Glossary
4	The Archive
5	OASIS form

List of Figures

- Figure 1 General location plan
- Figure 2 Site location plan
- Figure 3 Site plan
- Figure 4 Plans of Trenches 1, 2 and 4
- Figure 5 Sections

List of Plates

- Plate 1 Pre-machining view of the site, looking northwest
- Plate 2 Trench 1, looking south
- Plate 3 Trench 1, Furrow [1004], Section 1, looking south
- Plate 4 Trench 2, looking west
- Plate 5 Trench 2, Furrow [2004], Section 2, looking northeast
- Plate 6 Trench 2, Furrow [2006], Section 3, looking southeast
- Plate 7 Trench 2, Ditch [2008], Section 5, looking northwest
- Plate 8 Trench 3, looking northwest
- Plate 9 Trench 3, representative section, looking southwest
- Plate 10 Trench 4, looking north
- Plate 11 Trench 4, Pit [4004], Section 4, looking southeast
- Plate 12 Trench 4, Ditch [4007], Section 6, looking south

1. SUMMARY

An archaeological trial trench evaluation was undertaken of land on Fen Road, Holbeach, Lincolnshire. This was in advance of proposed residential development of the site.

The site lies in an archaeologically sensitive area south of the settlement of Holbeach, immediately southwest of a probable Late Saxon farmstead and in close proximity to early medieval saltmaking activity. Roman remains in the vicinity lie at depth beneath later flood silts.

The evaluation revealed a boundary ditch, a shallow gully and a pit of early medieval, probably mid 12th century date, and two undated furrows. This indicates domestic activity at the site around a century later than that to the northeast.

Finds included Saxo-Norman and early medieval pottery, animal bone and mussel shell.

2. INTRODUCTION

2.1 Definition of an Evaluation

An archaeological evaluation is defined as *'a limited programme of non-intrusive and/or intrusive fieldwork which determines the presence or absence of archaeological features, structures, deposits, artefacts or ecofacts within a specified area or site on land, inter-tidal zone or underwater. If such archaeological remains are present field evaluation defines their character, extent, quality and preservation, and enables an assessment of their significance in a local, regional, national or international context as appropriate'* (CIFA 2014).

2.2 Planning Background

A proposal for residential development comprising 38 dwellings with a new access road is in place for the site. Previous work in the vicinity (eg. application no. H09-0276-19) for residential development has included a condition of archaeological work. Archaeological Project Services was commissioned by Ashwood Homes to undertake this phase of the work which was carried out between 11th and 14th July 2022 in accordance with a written scheme of investigation prepared by Archaeological Project Services and approved by the Planning Archaeologist, Lincolnshire County Council.

2.3 Location, Topography and Geology

Holbeach is located 11km east of Spalding and 20km southwest of Boston in the South Holland district of Lincolnshire (Fig. 1).

The site is in the southern edge of the village, about 950m south of the parish church of All Saints, on the northwest side of Fen Road at National Grid Reference TF 3570 2384 (Fig. 2). The old river forms the northwestern boundary of the site.

Local soils are of the Wisbech Series, typically coarse silty alluvial gley soils, with coarse silty gleyic brown calcareous alluvial soils of the Romney Series in the northeast corner of the site (Robson 1990, 26, 36). These soils are developed on a drift geology of younger marine alluvium which in turn seal a solid geology of Jurassic West Walton Formation mudstones (BGS 1992). The site is on generally level ground within the fenland of south Lincolnshire at around 3m AOD.

2.4 Archaeological Setting

Much Roman pottery, perhaps indicative

of settlement, has been found on the east side of Fen Road, 200m east of the site, beneath alluvial deposits.

Holbeach is first mentioned in the Domesday Survey of c. 1086. Referred to as *Holobec*, *Holobech* and *Holebech*, the name is derived from the Old English and means the ‘hollow (*hol*) back (*bæc*)’, derived from the topographic position of the town on raised ground (Cameron 1998, 64). The Domesday Survey records that Holbeach was held by the King (as sokeland of Gedney), by Crowland Abbey (as a manor), Count Alan (as sokeland and a berewic) and Guy de Craon (also manorial) and contained extensive arable land and pasture (Foster and Longley 1976).

The manor belonging to Crowland Abbey appears to have been the principal manor in Holbeach and seems to have formed part of the demesne lands of the abbey at the time of the dissolution in 1539 (Dugdale 1819, 124). The descent of the manor is generally unknown but was held by Sir Joseph Banks in the 18th century and was known as Holbeach Abbots.

A chapel dedicated to St Peter is recorded at Holbeach during the reign of King John (Owen 1975, 19). Only one document relates to its existence in which Fulk of Oiri made over the advowson of the church and Chapel of St Peter to Conan (RC 1811, 97). The fate of this chapel is unknown but it must have had some importance as it held burial rights. This was shown by the discovery of 130 skeletons when a mound was levelled in 1867. Recent archaeological work in the vicinity of the presumed chapel, 400m north of the current site, identified medieval features and pottery (Cope-Faulkner 2014).

Archaeological evaluation of an area 300m north of the current site near Manor Farm revealed evidence of settlement along with

saltmaking activity along the bank of a former watercourse. A series of large ditches containing 11th to 13th century pottery were excavated (Failes 2016). Manor Farm was built in the 19th century but the name is thought to refer to the location of a manor house mentioned in the 17th century. A concentration of Late Saxon and medieval pottery suggests it may have been present since the Saxon period (Lane 2014). Geophysical evidence has suggested the presence of rubble, indicating buildings, in the area (Jefferson 2014).

A trenching evaluation immediately northeast of the current site revealed a concentration of pits and linear features in the trench closest to the abovementioned saltmaking area. Several of the features were dated by pottery to the Late Saxon period. The pottery was domestic rather than industrial in nature while environmental samples suggested a freshwater rather than saltwater environment in Late Saxon times. They also indicated the processing of cereals in the vicinity, especially hulled barley. Together with hand collected animal bone the samples also indicated cattle and sheep husbandry. This evidence suggested a small Late Saxon farmstead in the vicinity of the trench. One ditch in the trench was dated to the 13th-14th century (Peachey 2019).

A subsequent strip, map and sample excavation of the site (currently being developed) during 2021 revealed many more pits and ditches of Late Saxon date, with some disarticulated human bone being among the finds (Peachey 2022).

The Tithe apportionment map of 1838 shows that the site was already in its present layout.

3. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

The aim of the work was to gather sufficient information for the archaeological curator to be able to formulate a policy for the management of the archaeological resources present on the site.

The objectives were to:

- Establish the type of archaeological activity that may be present within the site.
- Determine the likely extent of archaeological activity present within the site.
- Determine the date and function of the archaeological features present on the site.
- Determine the state of preservation of the archaeological features present on the site.
- Determine the spatial arrangement of the archaeological features present within the site.
- Determine the extent to which the surrounding archaeological features extend into the application area.
- Establish the way in which the archaeological features identified fit into the pattern of occupation and land-use in the surrounding landscape.

4. METHODS

Four evaluation trenches (Fig. 3), each measuring 35m long by 1.55m wide, were opened to the top of archaeological deposits or the surface of the underlying

natural geology, as appropriate.

Removal of topsoil and other overburden was undertaken by a mechanical excavator using a toothless ditching bucket under archaeological supervision. The exposed surfaces of the trenches were then cleaned by hand and inspected for archaeological remains.

Each deposit exposed during the evaluation was allocated a unique reference number (context number) with an individual written description. A list of all contexts and their interpretations appears as Appendix 1. A photographic record was also compiled and sections and plans were drawn at scales of 1:10 and 1:20 respectively. Recording of deposits encountered was undertaken according to standard Archaeological Project Services practice.

The location of the excavated trenches was plotted with a survey grade differential GPS.

Following excavation, finds were examined and a period date assigned where possible (Appendix 2).

5. RESULTS (Figs. 4-5)

The results of the archaeological evaluation are discussed in trench order. Archaeological contexts are described below. The numbers in brackets are the context numbers assigned in the field.

Trench 1 (Fig. 4; Plate 2)

In this trench, at the south end of the site, a natural deposit of mottled mid yellow brown silt (1002) was cut, towards the south end of the trench, by a single linear feature.

Probable furrow [1004] (Fig. 5, Section 1;

Plate 3) had concave sides and a flat base and was 1.47m wide and 0.12m deep. It was filled with a mid orange clayey silt (1003).

This was sealed by a 0.32m thick layer of topsoil (1001).

Trench 2 (Fig. 4; Plate 4)

In Trench 2, a natural deposit of mottled light yellow/mid brown sandy silt (2002) was cut by three features.

At the east end of the trench, a southwest-northeast aligned linear feature, a probable furrow or gully [2004] (Fig. 5, Section 2; Plate 5) had concave sides and an uneven base and measured 0.94m wide and 0.15m deep. It was filled with a mid brown silt (2003) which contained three sherds of early medieval pottery and a mussel shell.

A few metres west of this was a northwest-southeast aligned linear feature [2006] (Fig. 5, Section 3; Plate 6). Measuring 0.9m wide and 0.11m deep, with concave sides and a flat base, this further probable furrow was filled with a mid brown silt (2005).

West of this, on a similar alignment was ditch [2008] (Fig. 5, Section 5; Plate 7). This had 40° straight sides and a flat base. It was 1.17m wide and 0.35m deep and was filled with mottled mid brown/light yellowish brown silt (2007) which contained four sherds of 12th century pottery and three mussel shells.

The features were sealed by a 0.35m thick layer of topsoil (2001).

Trench 3 (Fig. 3; Plate 8)

In this trench, a natural deposit of light yellow/mid yellowish brown silt (3002) was overlain by a 0.4m thick layer of topsoil (Fig. 5, rep section; Plate 9).

There were no archaeological features.

Trench 4 (Fig. 4; Plate 10)

In Trench 4, at the north end of the site, the natural deposit was a mottled light yellow/mid yellowish brown silt (4002). This was cut by two features.

Towards the north end of the trench was an irregular shaped pit [4004] (Fig. 5, Section 4, Plate 11). This was irregular in plan with concave sides and a rounded base. Measuring 1.8m by at least 1.18m in plan and 0.43m deep it was filled with mid brown silt (4003) which contained five sherds of Saxo-Norman and seven sherds of early medieval pottery, animal bone and a single fragment of furnace slag.

South of this, a northwest-southeast aligned ditch (Fig. 5, Section 6; Plate 12) had concave sides and a flat base. It was at least 1.23m wide and 0.56m deep and contained two fills. A 0.26m thick lower fill of dark grey brown clayey silt (4006) contained a single abraded sherd of either Roman or Saxo-Norman type, four sherds of Saxo-Norman and nine sherds of early medieval pottery and animal bone. The upper fill was a 0.39m thick yellow brown sand (4005).

The features were sealed by a 0.4m thick layer of topsoil (4001).

6. DISCUSSION

The natural deposits across the site were light yellowish and yellowish-brown alluvial silts. This is likely to be post-Roman in date as Roman features in the vicinity are known to lie beneath such deposits.

There was a boundary ditch [2008] in Trench 2 and [4007] in Trench 4 which

appear to be on the same alignment (Fig. 4). They also contained similar early medieval pottery which was also retrieved from a pit in Trench 4.

Three shallow linear features in Trenches 1 and 2 may be agricultural furrows, although one, [2004] was at right angles to [2008], perhaps suggesting a truncated gully forming an enclosure.

All the dated features contained pottery of probable mid 12th century date, along with animal bone, suggesting domestic activity on the site around a century later than the Late Saxon farmstead a short distance to the northeast.

The site contributed to the research priority of the agricultural economy and rural landscape of early medieval times with evidence of both animal husbandry and cooking (Knight *et al*, 2012, 94).

7. CONCLUSIONS

An archaeological trial trench evaluation was undertaken on land at Fen Road, Holbeach as the site lies in an archaeologically sensitive area adjacent to a probable Late Saxon farmstead and in close proximity to early medieval saltmaking activity.

The evaluation revealed a boundary ditch, a shallow gully and a pit of early medieval date and two undated furrows. Finds suggested that domestic activity at the site was most likely in the mid 12th century.

Finds comprised Saxo-Norman and early medieval pottery, animal bone, slag and mussel shell.

8. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeological Project Services wishes to

acknowledge the assistance of Ashwood Homes who commissioned the fieldwork and post-excavation analysis. The work was coordinated by Paul Cope-Faulkner who also edited this report along with Neil Parker.

9. PERSONNEL

Project Coordinator: Paul Cope-Faulkner
Site Supervisor: Mark Peachey
Site Team: Francesca Lam-March, Sean Parker
Finds Processing: Denise Buckley
Photographic reproduction: Mark Peachey
CAD Illustration: Mark Peachey
Post-excavation Analysis: Mark Peachey
Archiving: Denise Buckley, Maria Leroi

10. BIBLIOGRAPHY

BGS, 1992 *Spalding: Solid and drift edition*, 1:50000 map sheet **144**

Cameron, K, 1998 *A Dictionary of Lincolnshire Place-Names*, English Place-Name Society Popular Series Vol. **1**

CIfA, 2014 *Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation*

Cope-Faulkner, P, 2014 *Archaeological Desk-based Assessment of land at Hall Gate, Holbeach, Lincolnshire* Unpublished APS report **59/14**

Dugdale, W, 1819 *Monasticon Anglicanum* (edition of J Caley, H Ellis and B Bandinel), Vol. **II**

Failes, A, 2016 *Archaeological Evaluation at Hall Gate, Holbeach, Lincolnshire (HBHG15)* Unpublished APS report **4/16**

Foster, CW and Longley, T (eds), 1976 *The Lincolnshire Domesday and the*

Lindsey Survey, The Lincoln Record Society **19**

BGS British Geological Survey

CIfA Chartered Institute for Archaeologists

Jefferson, N, 2014 *Land at Hall Gate, Holbeach, Lincolnshire: Geophysical Survey* Unpublished APS report **69/14**

RC Records Commission

Knight, D, Vyner, B and Allen, C, 2012 *East Midlands Heritage: An Updated Research Agenda and Strategy for the Historic Environment of the East Midlands*

Lane, T, 2014 *Archaeological Fieldwalking of land at Hall Gate, Holbeach, Lincolnshire* Unpublished APS report **79/14**

MacDonald, GW, 1892 *The Holbeach Parish Register of Baptisms, Marriages and Burials*

Owen, DM, 1975 'Medieval Chapels in Lincolnshire', *Lincolnshire History and Archaeology*, Vol. **10**, pp15-22

Peachey, M, 2019 *Archaeological Evaluation, Land off Fen Road Holbeach, Lincolnshire (HBFR19)* Unpublished APS report **73/19**

Peachey, M, 2022 *Archaeological Strip, map and sample excavation, Land off Fen Road Holbeach, Lincolnshire (HBFR21)* Unpublished APS report **56/22**

RC, 1811 *Placitorum in Domo Capitular Westmonasteriensi Asservatorum Abbreviatio*

Robson, JD, 1990 *Soils of the Boston and Spalding District (Sheet 131)* Memoirs of the Soil Survey of Great Britain

11. ABBREVIATIONS

AOD Above Ordnance Datum

APS Archaeological Project Services

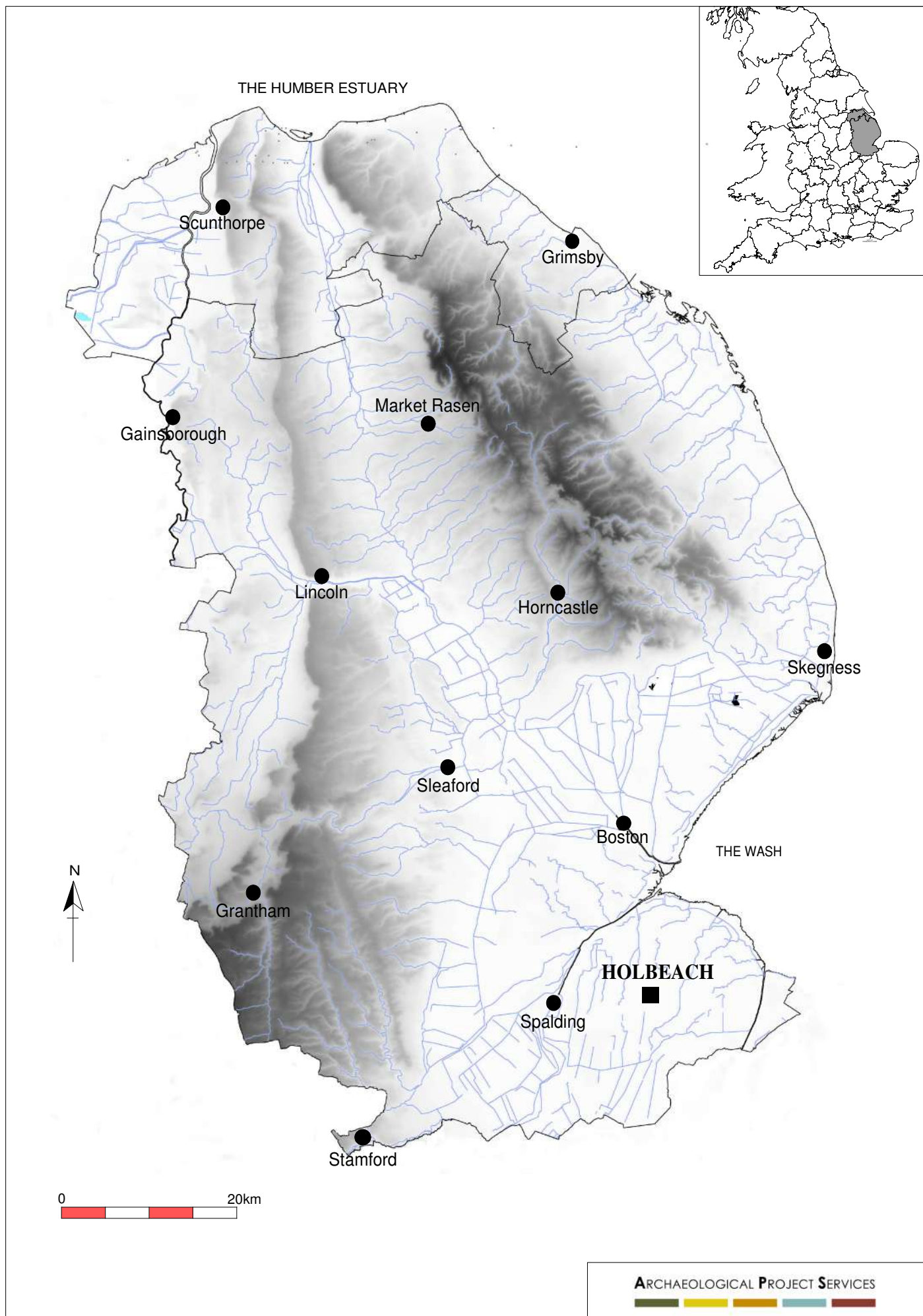


Figure 1 - General location plan

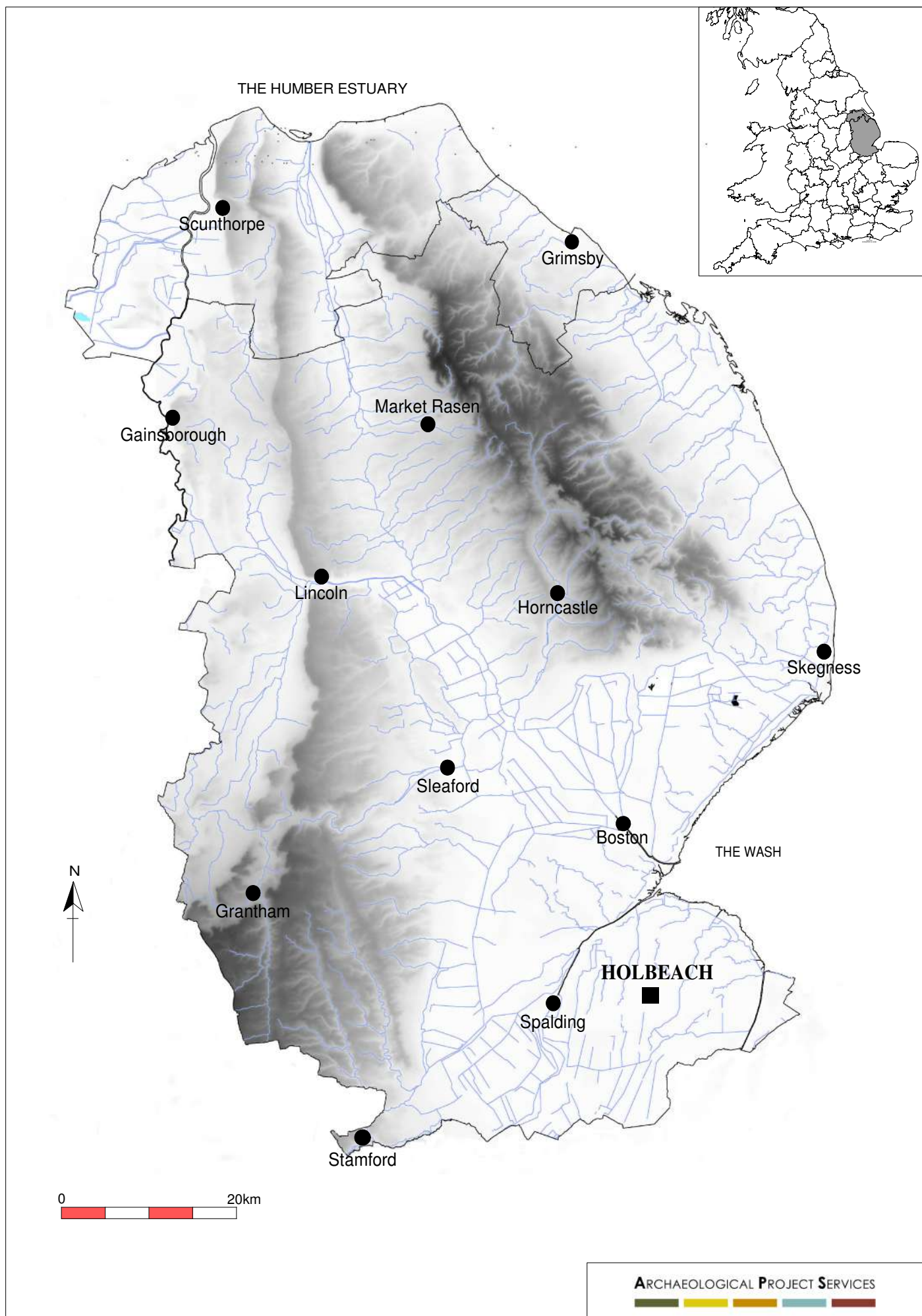


Figure 1 - General location plan

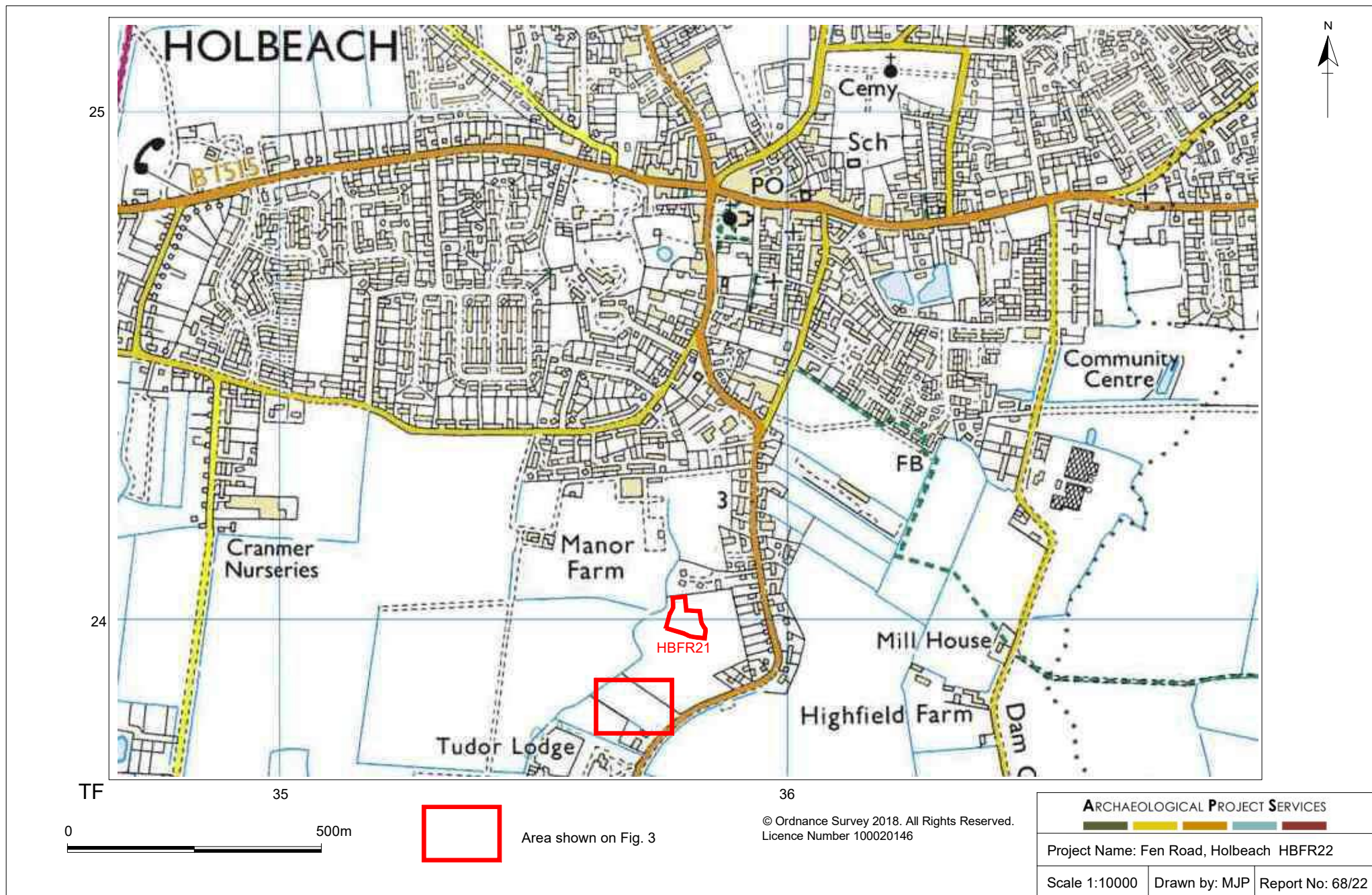


Figure 2. Site location plan

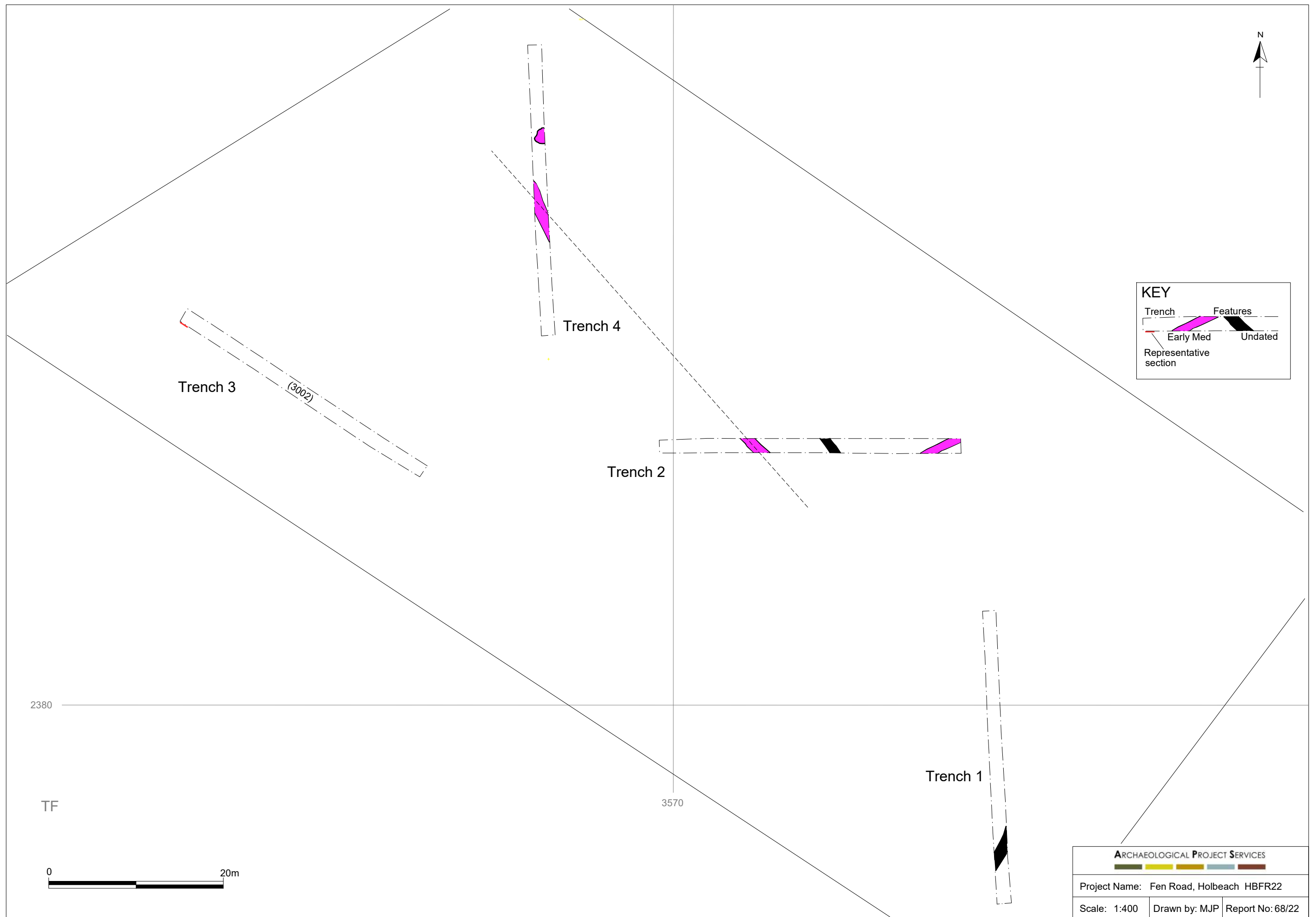


Figure 3. Site plan

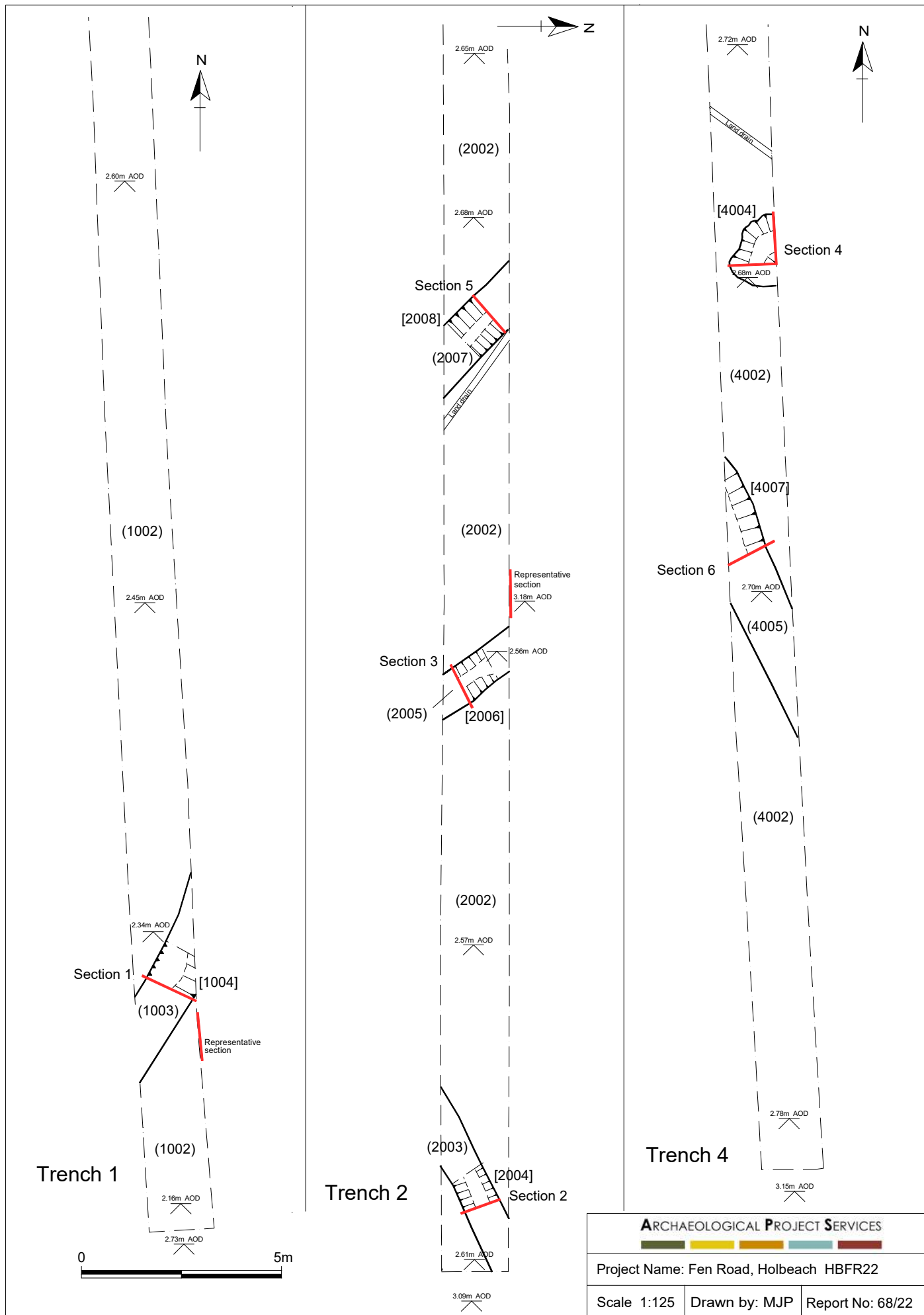
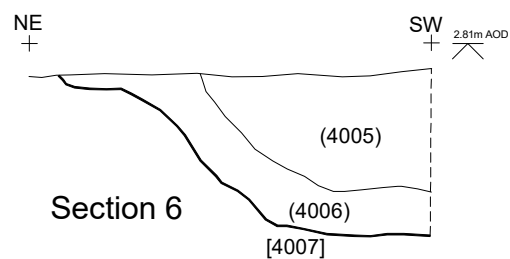
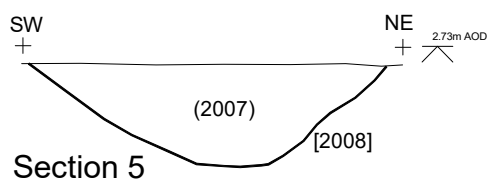
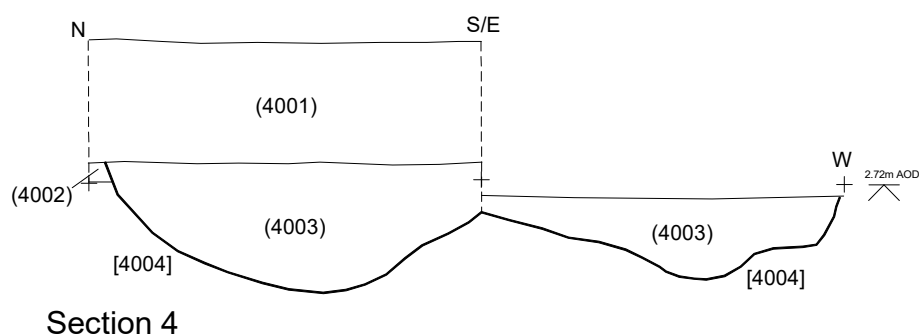
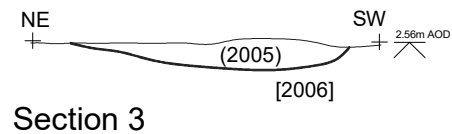
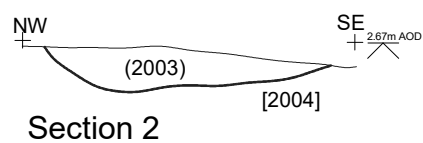
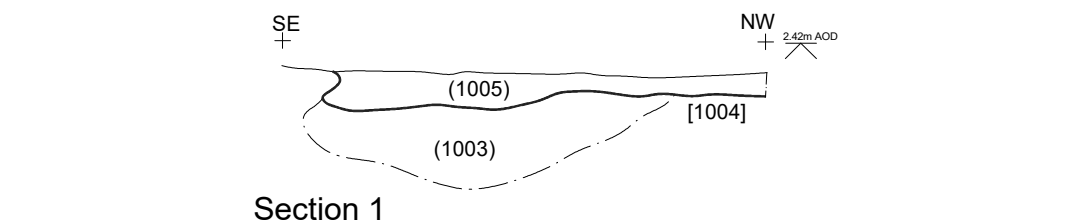
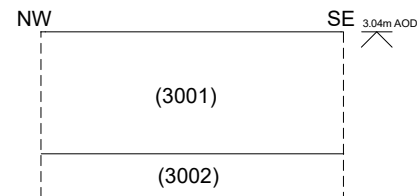
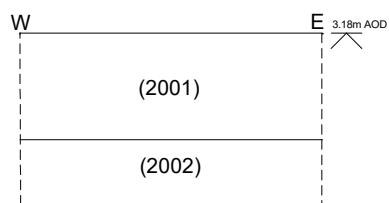
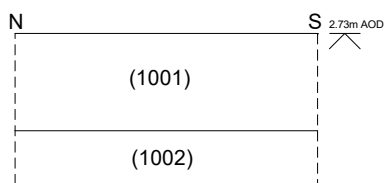


Figure 4. Plans of Trenches 1, 2, and 4



Representative sections



ARCHAEOLOGICAL PROJECT SERVICES		
Project Name: Fen Road, Holbeach HBFR22		
Scale 1: 25	Drawn by: MJP	Report No: 68/22

Figure 5. Sections



Plate 1. Pre-machining view of the site, looking northwest



Plate 2. Trench 1, looking south



Plate 3. Trench 1, Furrow [1004], Section 1, looking south



Plate 4. Trench 2, looking west



Plate 5. Trench 2, Furrow [2004], Section 2, looking northeast



Plate 6. Trench 2, Furrow [2006], Section 3, looking southeast



Plate 7. Trench 2, Ditch
[2008], Section 5,
looking northwest



Plate 8. Trench 3,
looking northwest



Plate 9. Trench 3, representative section, looking southwest



Plate 10. Trench 4, looking north



Plate 11. Trench 4, Pit [4004], Trench 4, looking southeast



Plate 12. Trench 4, Ditch [4007], Trench 6, looking south

Appendix 1

CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

Context No.	Trench	Description	Interpretation
1001	1	Friable mid grey brown clayey silt, 0.32m thick	Topsoil
1002	1	Soft mottled mid yellow brown/yellow orange silt	Natural
1003	1	Firm mid orange clayey silt, 0.12m thick	Fill of [1004]
1004	1	SW-NE aligned linear cut with concave sides and flat base, 1.47m wide, 0.12m deep	Probable furrow
2001	2	Friable dark greyish brown slightly clayey silt, 0.35m thick	Topsoil
2002	2	Soft mottled light yellow/mid brown sandy silt, 0.35m thick	Natural
2003	2	Soft mid brown silt, 0.15m thick	Fill of [2004]
2004	2	SW-NE aligned linear cut with concave sides and an uneven base, at least 3.2m long, 0.94m wide, 0.15m deep	Probable furrow
2005	2	Soft mid brown silt, 0.11m thick	Fill of [2006]
2006	2	NW-SE aligned linear cut with concave sides and a flat base, at least 2m long, 0.9m wide, 0.11m deep	Probable furrow
2007	2	Soft mottled mid brown/light yellowish brown silt with occasional thin charcoal lenses, 0.35m thick	Fill of [2008]
2008	2	NW-SE aligned linear cut with 40° straight sides and a flat base, at least 2.5m long, 1.17m wide, 0.35m deep	Ditch
3001	3	Friable dark greyish brown slightly clayey silt, 0.4m thick	Topsoil
3002	3	Soft mottled light yellow/mid yellowish brown silt	Natural
4001	4	Friable dark greyish brown slightly clayey silt, 0.4m thick	Topsoil
4002	4	Soft mottled light yellow/mid yellowish brown silt	Natural
4003	4	Soft mid brown silt, 0.43m thick	Fill of [4004]
4004	4	Irregular cut with concave sides and rounded base, 1.8m N-S by at least 1.18m E-W in plan, 0.43m deep	Probable rubbish pit
4005	4	Friable yellow brown sand, 0.39m thick	Fill of [4007]
4006	4	Friable dark grey brown clayey silt, 0.26m thick	Fill of [4007]
4007	4	NW-SE aligned linear cut with concave sides and a flat base, at least 3m long, at least 1.23m wide, 0.56m deep	Ditch

Appendix 2

THE FINDS

POST ROMAN POTTERY

By Jane Young

Introduction

A small group of thirty-two sherds of post-Roman pottery representing twenty vessels and a sherd of uncertain date weighing 0.181kgs in total was examined for this report. The identifiable assemblage is of Saxo-Norman to early medieval type. The material 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 et al 2005). The assemblage was quantified by three measures: number of sherds, vessel count and weight and the resulting archive entered onto an Access database (Appendix 1). Recording of the assemblage was in accordance with the guidelines laid out in Slowikowski, *et al.* (2001) and a Standard for Pottery Studies in Archaeology (2016) and complies with the Lincolnshire County Council's *Archaeological Handbook* (sections 13.4 and 13.5).

Condition

The pottery is mainly in a slightly abraded condition with sherd size varying from 1 gram to 24 grams. All of the sherds have post-depositional organic and iron-rich concretions over surfaces and broken edges suggesting deposition in a waterlogged environment. The assemblage is in a stable condition.

The Range and Variety of Materials

In total thirty-two sherds of post-Roman pottery representing twenty vessels and one sherd of uncertain Roman or Saxo-Norman date were examined. The material was recovered from four deposits in two trenches. Three identifiable post-Roman pottery ware types were identified; the type and general date range for these fabrics are shown in Table 1.

Table 1, *Ceramic types with total quantities by sherd, vessel count and weight in grams*

Codename	Full name	Earliest date	Latest date	Total sherds	Total vessels	Total weight
EMHM	Early Medieval Handmade ware	1100	1250	19	13	108
RSN	Roman or Saxo-Norman	40	1200	1	1	6
SNX	Non-local Saxo-Norman Fabrics	870	1150	3	2	13
ST	Stamford Ware	970	1200	10	5	54
Totals				33	21	181

Uncertain

A single abraded sherd in a mixed micaceous fabric is from a jar or bowl of Roman or Saxo-Norman potential 11th to 12th century date (RSN).

Saxo-Norman

Thirteen sherds representing seven vessels are of Saxo-Norman type.

Ten Saxo-Norman-type Stamford ware sherds (ST) recovered come from five jars, jugs or pitchers in post-conquest Fabrics B and C. Two sherds in Fabric B are from a single small unglazed jar. The other two sherds in Fabric B have a thin external glaze and come from one small and one medium-sized jars or pitchers of probable late 11th to mid 12th century date. The six glazed sherds in Fabric C are from glazed jars or jugs. The thin glaze suggests a probable mid 12th century date.

Three shell-tempered basal sherds come from two small jars. The mixed fabric of the jars includes common mixed fine to medium-sized fossil shell fragments, moderate iron-rich grains, sparse flint fragments, sparse calcareous grains and sparse large well-rounded quartz grains. The fabric has not previously been noted in the local area and the presence of flint and well-rounded quartz grains suggest a regional import of unknown but possibly East Anglian source (SNX).

Early Medieval

Nineteen sherds are from thirteen Early Medieval Handmade ware (EMHM) vessels of probable late 11th to 12th century type. The majority of sherds come from six identifiable small-sized jars but seven of the vessels are too small to be certain of form and could potentially be bowls or jars, although bowls are usually an uncommon find in Lincolnshire. With one possible exception the recovered vessels have a fabric consistent with an East Anglian, probably Norfolk source (Young et al 2005, 121-122).

The Site Sequence

The recovered pottery came from four deposits in two trenches with most of the pottery coming from Trench 4. In Trench 2 three Early Medieval Handmade ware sherds, each representing an individual small jar were recovered from fill (2003) of furrow [2004]. The presence of soot residues on the external surfaces of the jars suggest that they have been used in a cooking process over an open flame. These vessels are most likely to date to between the late 11th and mid 12th centuries. Fill (2007) of ditch [2007] produced four thinly glazed sherds from a single Stamford ware jug or jar in Fabric C. The fabric and glazing suggest a probable mid 12th century date.

Twelve sherds from five small jars were recovered from fill (4003) of pit [4004] in Trench 4. Two sherds are from a single small unglazed Stamford ware jar in post-conquest Fabric B. The seven Early Medieval Handmade ware sherds recovered from this feature are from two small jars of East Anglian type. The other three sherds are from two small shell-tempered jars that appear to be regional imports from an unknown Saxo-Norman production centre. This small group can probably be dated to between the post-conquest late 11th and mid 12th centuries. Fill (4006) of ditch [4007] produced the largest group to be recovered from the site with fourteen sherds representing twelve vessels. One micaceous sherd is of uncertain date (RSN) and may be from a jar or bowl of Roman or Saxo-Norman date. Four thinly glazed Stamford ware sherds are from jars, jugs or pitchers. The two vessels in Fabric B date to between the late 11th and mid 12th centuries whilst the vessel in Fabric B is most probably of mid 12th century date. The other nine sherds are from eight Early Medieval Handmade ware jars or bowls. This small group suggests a mid 12th century deposition date unless the group is residual.

Summary and Recommendations

This is a small group of pottery indicating post-conquest domestic activity, most probably in the middle part of the 12th century, in the vicinity of the site. The recovered pottery types confirm the ceramic profile for this period as suggested by previous recovered material.

One sherd has been added to the County Fabric Type Series (SNX). The remaining assemblage should be retained for future study.

FAUNAL REMAINS

By Paul Cope-Faulkner and Maria LeRoi

Introduction

A total of 16 (323.1g) fragments of animal bone were recovered from stratified contexts.

Methodology

The faunal remains were laid out in context order and reference made to published catalogues (e.g. Schmid

1972; Hillson 2003). All the animal remains were counted and weighed, and where possible identified to species, element and side. Also fusion data, butchery marks, gnawing, burning and pathological changes were noted when present. Ribs and vertebrae were only recorded to species when they were substantially complete and could accurately be identified. Undiagnostic bones were recorded as micro (mouse size), small (rabbit size), medium (sheep size) or large (cattle size).

The condition of the bone was graded using the criteria stipulated by Lyman (1996). Grade 0 being the best preserved bone and grade 5 indicating that the bone had suffered such structural and attritional damage as to make it unrecognisable.

Provenance

The faunal remains were recovered from fill (2003) of probable furrow [2004], fill (2007) of ditch [2008], fill (4003) of probable rubbish pit [4004], and fill (4006) of ditch [4007].

Condition

The overall condition of the remains was good to moderate, averaging at grades 2-3 on the Lyman Criteria (1996).

Results

Table 2, *Fragments Identified to Taxa*

Cxt	Taxon	Element	Side	No	W (g)	Comments
2003	Mussel	Shell	-	1	2.5	Marine mussel
2007	Mussel	Shell	-	3	11.6	Large marine mussels
4003	Horse	Ulna	-	1	51.3	
4003	Unknown	Long Bone	-	1	0.3	Burnt bone fragment
4003	Large Mammal	Mandible	-	1	3.2	
4003	Chicken	Long bone	-	1	1.4	
4006	Medium mammal	Long bone	-	1	1.5	
4006	Large mammal	Long bone	-	1	7.4	
4006	Sheep/Goat	Mandible	-	1	9.4	
4006	Unknown	Unidentified	-	1	1.5	
4006	Chicken	Unidentified	-	1	1.1	
4006	Sheep/Goat	Rib	-	1	2.7	Burnt bone fragment
4006	Cow	Maxilla	R	1	134.5	
4006	Cow	Radius	R	1	94.7	Possible modification at proximal articular surface
Totals				16	323.1	

Summary

Only marine mussel shell were found in (2003) and (2007) suggesting consumption at the site.

A range of domesticated species were found in (4003) and (4006) including Cattle, Sheep/Goat and Chicken. The presence of some burnt fragments of bone suggest that there was consumption happening in the vicinity of the site.

OTHER FINDS

By Charles Simpson BSc (Hons), MA

Introduction

A single item listed as slag was recovered from context (4003) during archaeological investigations at Fen Road, Holbeach, Lincolnshire. This was submitted for analysis and reporting.

There was no provisional dating evidence available at the time of writing from ceramics evidence.

The material was recorded in September 2022.

Methodology

Any fragments were cleaned of surface debris, measured, weighed and macroscopically examined to identify diagnostic material and features. Exceptionally encrusted fragments were washed and dried in line with recommendations from Dungworth (pers.comm.) to reveal diagnostic surface features if present.

Full reference was made to published slag and crucible guides (Crew, 1995 & 1996; Dungworth et. al., 2012a, b & c; Historic England, 2015 & 2018; HMS, 2009; Tylecote, 1990) and reference material.

Results

A summary of the assemblage is recorded below in the table below.

Table 3, Other Materials

Cxt	Material	Date	NoF	Mass (g)	Comments
4003	Furn	?	1	9	Dense, non-vesicular, variably-magnetic, dark grey furnace slag.
Total			1	9	

Key

furn = furnace slag (undiag.) pio = possible iron object tap = tap slag fas = fuel ash slag
shb = smithing hearth bottom pcb = plano-convex bottom blm = bloomery slag lin = furnace lining
(f_n) = fractured into multiple pieces irnb = iron bloom ore = metal working ore cru = crucible
Rm = Roman (RB = Romano British) med = medieval pm = post medieval mod = modern

Discussion

The main assemblage was very small in terms of overall numbers of fragments (1).

The fragment from context (4003) was small in size (with a mass of 9g) and had limited morphological features. It is uniformly dense, non-vesicular, dark grey in colour and has variable magnetic qualities from one side to the other.

The shape and lack of visible abrasion on the fragment suggests it has not travelled far once deposition occurred.

The sample size and lack of features prevent further interpretation beyond stating its origin as a fragment of iron working furnace slag.

Recommendations

No further work is recommended at this stage. The single fragment of slag may be discarded.

Any environmental samples taken from the features or deposits that produced slags, should be scanned for small fragments of metalworking debris such as hammerscale and other slag fragments, which may indicate any associated industrial activity in the vicinity and provide further details of casting or smithing occurring in the vicinity.

Should further investigations be undertaken at any of the monitored locations, it would be advisable to seek appropriate advice on any sampling strategies.

SPOT DATING

The dating in Table 4 is based on the evidence provided by the finds detailed above.

Table 4, Spot dates

Cxt	Date	Comments
2003	Mid 12 th	Date on pottery
2007	Mid 12 th	Date on pottery
4003	Mid 12 th	Date on pottery
4006	Mid 12 th	Date on pottery

ABBREVIATIONS

ACBMG	Archaeological Ceramic Building Materials Group
BS	Body sherd
CBM	Ceramic Building Material
CXT	Context
LHJ	Lower Handle Join
NoF	Number of Fragments
NoS	Number of sherds
NoV	Number of vessels
PCRG	Prehistoric Ceramic Research Group
TR	Trench
UHJ	Upper Handle Join
W (g)	Weight (grams)

REFERENCES

- ~ 2002, *Minimum Standards for the Recovery, Analysis and Publication of Ceramic Building Material*, version 3.2 [internet]. Available at <http://www.tegula.freeserve.co.uk/acbm/CBMGDE3.htm>
- ~ 2016, *Lincolnshire Archaeological Handbook* [internet]. Available at: <https://www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/downloads/file/2204/archaeology-handbook-pdf>
- Blinkhorn, P. 2012. *The Ipswich Ware Project: Ceramics, Trade and Society in Middle Saxon England*. Medieval Pottery Research Group Occasional papers 7.
- Crew, P. (1995). *Bloomery iron smelting slags and other residues*. The Historical Metallurgy Society – Archaeology Datasheet 105

- Crew, P. (1996). *Bloom refining and smithing slags and other residues*. The Historical Metallurgy Society - Archaeology Datasheet 106
- Dungworth, D. (2012a). Introduction to post-excavation techniques for metalworking sites. The Historical Metallurgy Society - Archaeology Datasheet 104
- Dungworth, D., Crew, P. and McDonnell, G. (2012b). *Iron: bloomery smelting and associated processes*. The Historical Metallurgy Society - Archaeology Datasheet 301
- Dungworth, D. and Starley, D. (2012c). *Textures, microstructures and metallography*. The Historical Metallurgy Society - Archaeology Datasheet 105
- Hillson, S, 2003 *Mammal Bones and Teeth. An introductory guide to methods of identification* (London)
- Historic England. (2015). *Archaeometallurgy – Guidelines for Best Practice*.
- Historic England. (2018). *Pre-industrial Ironworks: Introductions to Heritage Assets*. Historic England. Swindon.
- Historical Metallurgy Society (HMS). 2009. *National Slag Collection: Catalogue*
- Lyman, RL, 1996 *Vertebrate Taphonomy*, Cambridge Manuals in Archaeology (Cambridge)
- P.C.R.G., S.G.R.P. & M.P.R.G., 2016, A Standard for Pottery Studies in Archaeology
- Schmid, E, 1972 *Atlas of Animal Bones for Prehistorians, Archaeologists and Quaternary Geologists* (Amsterdam, London, New York: Elsevier)
- Slowikowski, A. M., Nenck, B., and Pearce, J., 2001, *Minimum Standards for the Processing, Recording, Analysis and Publication of Post-Roman Ceramics*, Medieval Pottery Research Group Occasional Paper 2
- Tylecote, R. (1990). *The Prehistory of Metallurgy in the British Isles*. Maney: London.
- Young, J., Vince, A.G. and Nailor, V., 2005, *A Corpus of Anglo-Saxon and Medieval Pottery from Lincoln* (Oxford)

ARCHIVE CATALOGUES

Archive catalogue 1, Post Roman Pottery

Tr.No.	cxt	cname	sub fabric	form type	No S	No V	W (g)	part	description
2	2003	EMHM	East Anglia; R/OX/R	small jar	1	1	5	BS	concretions incl breaks; ext soot
2	2003	EMHM	East Anglia; reduced	small jar ?	1	1	2	BS	concretions incl breaks; int soot
2	2003	EMHM	East Anglia; reduced	small jar ?	1	1	2	BS	concretions incl breaks; ext soot
2	2007	ST	Fabric C	jug/jar	4	1	21	BS	concretions incl breaks; thin glaze
4	4003	EMHM	East Anglia; OX/R	small jar	5	1	34	BS	concretions incl breaks; ext soot; moderate flint in fabric

4	4003	EMHM	East Anglia; OX/R/OX/R	small jar	2	1	29	BS	concretions incl breaks; ext soot; fresh breaks no joining sherds; thin walled
4	4003	SNX	OX/R/OX shelly + quartz	small jar	1	1	2	base	concretions incl breaks; fabric incl comm mixed fine to medium shell sparse flint sparse ca sparse large rounded quartz & moderate fe
4	4003	SNX	OX/R/OX shelly + quartz	small jar	2	1	11	base	concretions incl breaks; ext soot mainly on walls; fabric incl comm mixed fine to medium shell sparse flint sparse ca sparse large rounded quartz & moderate fe
4	4003	ST	Fabric B	small jar	2	1	10	BS	concretions incl breaks; ext & part int soot; high fe in fabric
4	4006	EMHM	East Anglia ?;dull oxidised	jar/bowl	1	1	5	BS	concretions incl breaks
4	4006	EMHM	East Anglia; OX/R	jar/bowl	1	1	3	BS	concretions incl breaks; ext soot; moderate flint in fabric
4	4006	EMHM	East Anglia; OX/R	jar/bowl	1	1	5	BS	concretions incl breaks; ext soot
4	4006	EMHM	East Anglia; OX/R	small jar/bowl	1	1	1	BS	concretions incl breaks; ext soot; thin walled
4	4006	EMHM	East Anglia; OX/R	small jar/bowl	1	1	3	BS	concretions incl breaks; ext soot
4	4006	EMHM	East Anglia; OX/R/OX	small jar/bowl	1	1	1	BS	concretions incl breaks; ext soot
4	4006	EMHM	East Anglia; oxidised	small jar	2	1	12	BS	concretions incl breaks; ext soot; thin walled
4	4006	EMHM	East Anglia; reduced	jar/bowl	1	1	6	BS	concretions incl breaks; ext soot; moderate flint in fabric
4	4006	RSN	OX/R/OX ;mixed micaceous	jar/bowl	1	1	6	BS	concretions incl breaks; abraded; very mixed fabric incl quartz fe shell voids & rock fragments ? Igneous
4	4006	ST	Fabric B	jar/pitcher	1	1	12	BS	concretions incl breaks; thin glaze; high fe in fabric
4	4006	ST	Fabric B	small jar/pitcher	1	1	2	BS	concretions incl breaks; thin glaze; high fe in fabric
4	4006	ST	Fabric C	jug/jar	2	1	9	BS	concretions incl breaks; thin glaze; ext soot patch; high fe in fabric

Appendix 3

GLOSSARY

Alluvium	Deposits laid down by water. Marine alluvium is deposited by the sea, and fresh water alluvium is laid down by rivers and in lakes.
Briquetage	A coarse ceramic material used to make evaporation vessels and supporting pillars used in extracting salt from seawater.
Context	An archaeological context represents a distinct archaeological event or process. For example, the action of digging a pit creates a context (the cut) as does the process of its subsequent backfill (the fill). Each context encountered during an archaeological investigation is allocated a unique number by the archaeologist and a record sheet detailing the description and interpretation of the context (the context sheet) is created and placed in the site archive. Context numbers are identified within the report text by brackets, <i>e.g.</i> [004].
Cut	A cut refers to the physical action of digging a posthole, pit, ditch, foundation trench, <i>etc.</i> Once the fills of these features are removed during an archaeological investigation the original 'cut' is therefore exposed and subsequently recorded.
Domesday Survey	A survey of property ownership in England compiled on the instruction of William I for taxation purposes in 1086 AD.
Fill	Once a feature has been dug it begins to silt up (either slowly or rapidly) or it can be back-filled manually. The soil(s) that become contained by the 'cut' are referred to as its fill(s).
Geophysical Survey	Essentially non-invasive methods of examining below the ground surface by measuring deviations in the physical properties and characteristics of the earth. Techniques include magnetometry and resistivity survey.
Intrusive	Artefacts of later date found in deposits that must pre-date them are said to be intrusive. Such intrusive artefacts will usually be small and have worked down in the soil through cracks, or by root, worm or rodent action. Intrusive artefacts will generally be isolated and be distinctively later than a larger assemblage of earlier artefacts, for example, a single 19 th century pottery fragment found in a large collection of medieval ceramics in a refuse pit.
Layer	A layer is an accumulation of soil or other material that is not contained within a cut
Medieval	The Middle Ages, dating from approximately AD 1066-1500.
Natural	Undisturbed deposit(s) of soil or rock which have accumulated without the influence of human activity
Old English	The language used by the Saxon (<i>q.v.</i>) occupants of Britain.
Ridge and Furrow	The remains of arable cultivation consisting of raised rounded strips separated by furrows. It is characteristic of open field agriculture.
Romano-British	Pertaining to the period dating from AD 43-410 when the Romans occupied Britain.
Saxon	Pertaining to the period dating from AD 410-1066 when England was largely settled by tribes from northern Germany, Denmark and adjacent areas. Divided into Early (AD 410-660), Middle (AD 660-900) and Late Saxon (AD 900-1066).

Appendix 4

THE ARCHIVE

The archive consists of:

4	Trench record sheets
13	Context record sheets
1	Section record sheet
3	Daily record sheets
1	Photographic record sheet
2	Sheets of scale drawings
1	Box of finds

All primary records and finds are currently kept at:

Archaeological Project Services
The Old School
Cameron Street
Heckington
Sleaford
Lincolnshire
NG34 9RW

The ultimate destination of the project archive is:

The Collection
Art and Archaeology in Lincolnshire
Danes Terrace
Lincoln
LN2 1LP

Accession Number:	LCNCC: 2022.4
Archaeological Project Services Site Code:	HBFR 22
OASIS record number	archaeol1-509672

The discussion and comments provided in this report are based on the archaeology revealed during the site investigations. Other archaeological finds and features may exist on the development site but away from the areas exposed during the course of this fieldwork. *Archaeological Project Services* cannot confirm that those areas unexposed are free from archaeology nor that any archaeology present there is of a similar character to that revealed during the current investigation.

Archaeological Project Services shall retain full copyright of any commissioned reports under the *Copyright, Designs and Patents Act* 1988 with all rights reserved; excepting that it hereby provides an exclusive licence to the client for the use of such documents by the client in all matters directly relating to the project as described in the Project Specification.

Summary for archaeol1-509672

OASIS ID (UID)	archaeol1-509672
Project Name	Archaeological Evaluation, land off Fen Road, Holbeach, Lincolnshire
Sitename	Fen Road, Spalding, Lincolnshire
Activity type	Archaeological Intervention
Project Identifier(s)	4567
Planning Id	
Reason For Investigation	Planning: Pre application
Organisation Responsible for work	Archaeological Project Services
Project Dates	11-Jul-2022 - 14-Jul-2022
Location	Fen Road, Spalding, Lincolnshire NGR : TF 35700 23840 LL : 52.7950665427291, 0.011136272784023 12 Fig : 535700,323840 NGR : TF 35731 23810 LL : 52.794793, 0.011587 12 Fig : 535731,323810
Administrative Areas	Country : England County : Lincolnshire District : South Holland Parish : Holbeach
Project Methodology	A four trench evaluation revealed several linear features and a pit containing evidence for early medieval, most probably mid 12th century, domestic activity.
Project Results	Several linear features and a pit of probable mid 12th century date.
Keywords	Archaeological Feature - EARLY MEDIEVAL - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types
Funder	
HER	Lincolnshire HER - unRev - STANDARD
Person Responsible for work	M, Peachey
HER Identifiers	
Archives	Physical Archive, Documentary Archive - to be deposited with The Collection: Art and Archaeology in Lincolnshire;