

Report on Archaeological Fieldwalking



Haxey, North Lincolnshire

NLMS Archaeology Site Code : HXBN

Contractors Site Code: IOA01

Report prepared by Isle of Axholme and Hatfield Chase Landscape Partnership

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1 Summary

An archaeological survey was undertaken by Isle of Axholme and Hatfield Chase Landscape Partnership on a 1.48 ha site located on Haslam's Farm in Haxey (SE 75708 00892) revealed a number of interesting finds, in random scatter.

2 Introduction

The Isle of Axholme and Hatfield Chase Landscape Partnership is a 5 year Heritage Lottery Funded managed and delivered by North Lincolnshire Council.

A survey of arable land known as Cliff Hill (SE 768 012) was conducted on Thursday 1 March 2018. The area proved sufficiently weathered and had been ploughed 3 weeks prior to the survey. A follow-up session of finds processing (pot washing) took place at the Church Hall in Haxey. Volunteers attended and took part in the activity under the supervision of the project team.

3 Geology and landuse

The underlying geology is Mercia Mudstone Group overlain with windblown sand deposits. The land presents well drained with clayey soils with a peaty surface. Large amounts of gypsum and a grey marl were also present.

The field has most recently been used for arable farming (cereals). The weather on the day was dry and fine.

4 Archaeological background

Haslam's Farm (SE 75708 00892) comprises of an estimated area of 150ha. Prehistoric finds from the land surrounding the farm centre are suggestive of a site of Neolithic occupation.

http://www.heritagegateway.org.uk/Gateway/Results_Single.aspx?resourceID=1034&uid=MLS17331

The field is situated off the public right of way, Rocket Lane, and is in close proximity of the disused Joint Axholme Railway line.

http://www.heritagegateway.org.uk/Gateway/Results_Single.aspx?resourceID=1034&uid=MLS7910

The site is the location of a Brickyard (1800-1920) situated to the west of Burnham Hill Farm and Burnham Mill.

http://www.heritagegateway.org.uk/Gateway/Results_Single.aspx?resourceID=1034&uid=MLS22392

http://www.heritagegateway.org.uk/Gateway/Results_Single.aspx?resourceID=1034&uid=MLS10463

The CARP fieldwalking group surveyed parcels of land surrounding the farm centre. Further information regarding these surveys are available from the North Lincolnshire Historic Environment Record. <http://www.northlincs.gov.uk/planning-and-environment/historic-environment-and-conservation/historic-environment-record/introduction-to-the-her/>

5 Aim

The aim was to carry out systematic field walking to determine the extent, date and significance of any artefactual evidence within the ploughsoil. The aim was to involve local residents in the survey and provide them with the necessary tools, knowledge and experience from project staff. An overall aim was to engage members of the local community in appreciating and valuing their heritage.

6 Methodology

The fieldwalking survey followed a standard methodology advised in the BAJR Practical Guide Series (2008).

Two 50m x 100m survey grids were applied measuring at 10m transects and 25m stints. Starting at transect 16A and labelled 16 to 20 and 11A to 15 with stints labelled A-D. The recording system was based on the individual 10m grid block (1A, 1B, 1C, 2A, and so forth).

The first grid was walked uphill A-D (16 to 20) and the second grid walked downhill A-D (11 to 15).

Collected and bagged are all surface finds removed from the plough-soil. All the finds were bagged, washed and marked with the unique grid reference. This was to denote the grid square from which they were collected.

Additional pot washing sessions were undertaken at North Lincolnshire Museum to further process and date the finds. Finds such as modern brick, tile and glass were discarded. Volunteers steered by the project team undertook these sessions.

On the higher ground, a minor strip of the field was not covered by this survey. This was close to the boundary and was unploughed.

7 Finds

7.1 Lithics

The survey produced a number of significant lithic finds. Seven were collected including; 1 complete and 2 partial thumbnail scrapers and 3 blade flakes/knife. There were 2 occasions of non-lithic fragments collected in 14B and 11D. There were blank survey areas, but this did not represent any clear pattern. The moderate, but relatively even, gradient of the field could mean the finds had originated from the higher ground.

The volume of flint was not sufficient to determine any clustering or notable distribution in the field; however, the lithics do present to the west and situated as the incline begins.



Flint blade flakes (16C)



Flint blade flake/knife (16D)



Scrapers (12A, 17C and 16D)



Clay pipe bowl fragments featuring various decorations

Fig.1 Special finds distribution

<i>Stint A-D</i>			Decorated clay pipe bowl		Decorated clay pipe bowls
		Decorated clay pipe bowl			
	Reduced Greenware - pottery sherd				
		Struck flint- thumbnail scraper		Decorated clay pipe bowls	Decorate clay pipe bowls
	11A	12	13	14	15

Transect 11-15

Walk direction ↓

<i>Stint A-D</i>	Struck flint - thumbnail scraper	Struck flint - knife/blade flake			
	Flint flake Flint flake	Struck flint Struck flint			
	16A				

Transect 16-20

Walk and plough direction ↑

7.2 Pottery Finds

A broad range of periods are represented in the pottery sherds. Types included; red earthenware, salt glazed stoneware, slipware and blackware. A sherd of medieval reduced greenware was also collected. The volume of sherds could suggest night soiling by the nearby settlement. A large quantity of modern pottery was also recovered.

8 Discussion and conclusion

The lithic material is consistent with Haxey Carr's prehistoric occupation.

Evidence is representative of a homestead settlement located on the higher, drier parts of the area with finds collected from a number of connecting transects.

The quantity of lithic and non-lithic material found is fairly low and indicative of the area's natural geology and landscape. The assemblage is characterised by smaller fragments with retouching clear and identifiable.

White stem fragments (241 pieces in total) dominate the majority of the clay pipe assemblage. The assemblage also includes 13 bowl fragments, with 1 complete bowl and several large bowl fragments. Decoration includes; plant, shell and braided rope patterns and an acorn motif. However, this particular bowl fragment with the acorn design was collected prior to the grid being established, therefore cannot be assigned a grid number. There is no identifiable initials or maker's mark. This limits the possibility of assigning a particular manufacturer. Distribution of the clay pipe is of no particular cluster and is dispersed in abundance across both grids.

A significant amount of pottery sherds were collected along with other ceramics and building materials. Recent materials were discarded such as brick, drainage and tile along with other materials such as gypsum and coal.

Pottery sherds were mostly collected from the higher ground, but were of no significant pattern.

These finds could be representative of the nearby railway and brickworks, but also consistent with domestic household waste perhaps a result of night soiling from the nearby Haxey Carr residents.

Metal finds were low in terms of archaeological significance. The finds included modern buttons.

9 Archive deposition

Finds and any supporting paper archive are currently held with the North Lincolnshire Museum Service (Entry Form No: 6347)

This report prepared by the Isle of Axholme and Hatfield Chase Landscape Partnership will be submitted to the North Lincolnshire Historic Environment Record Office and to the North Lincolnshire Museum Service.

A copy of this report will be retained by the project for the Partnerships duration and has been made available to project volunteers and the landowner.

10 Acknowledgements

Thanks is given to players of the National Lottery. The Heritage Lottery Fund is supporting the Isle of Axholme and Hatfield Landscape Partnership over 5 years (2017-2022)

Thanks is also given to the current landowner for allowing access and facilitating the fieldwalking investigation.

The Landscape Partnership wishes to acknowledge the support and assistance given by North Lincolnshire Museum Service and the North Lincolnshire Historic Environment Officer.

Thanks is also offered to members of local community and volunteers who took part in the survey.

11 References

BJAR Practical Guide Series (2008) *Field Survey, Field Walking and Detecting Survey Guide 15*. UK: BJAR Practical Guide Series.

Websites

Grid Reference Finder. (2019) *Site Location*. Available online: <https://gridreferencefinder.com/> [Accessed 15/1/2019].

Heritage Gateway. (2019) *Various References*. Available online: <http://www.heritagegateway.org.uk/gateway/> [Accessed 15.01.2019].

Grid Location



SPECIAL FINDS RECORD										
BAG	NUM	W	H	L	Notes					
19b	SF1				3 fragments Reddish earthen ware post med					
19b	SF2				button					
19b	SF3				salt glazed stoneware					
15d	SF4				2x dec clay pipe bowls both with leaf seam design					
18c	SF5				metal fragment					
13D	SF6				clay pipe bowl with braid design					
12A	SF7				struck flint - scraper?					
14A	SF8				clay pipe bowls (x2) leaf and braid designs					
16d	SF9				metal fragment					
16d	SF10	18m m	4mm	25m m	BA Thumbnail scraper					
transect unknown	SF11				Clay pipe acorn design bowl					
16c	SF12				flint blade flakes					
17d	SF13	5mm	20m m	65m m	flint blade flake/knife					
17c	SF14	20m m	5mm	19m m	struck flint/scraper					
17c	SF15	13m m	2mm	13m m	struck flint					
14b	SF16	15m m	23m m	3mm	Natural flint					
15a	SF17				2x decorated clay pipe bowls					
11d	SF18	17m m	20m m	5mm	Natural flint					
15a	SF19				2x decorated clay pipe bowls					
12c	SF20				decorated clay pipe bowl					
11b	Sf21				reduced greenware sherd					