M2/12

Final Report for an Archaeological Watching Brief at 43 Postland Road, Crowland, Lincs

NGR: 524481/310642

By:
Michael Bamforth
Soke **A**rchaeological **S**ervices Ltd

Planning Application Number: H02/0837/01
Museum Accession number: 2002.2
Site Code: PRC 02

Commissioned By:
MR & Mrs Church
Crowland, Lincs

May 2002

Our Ref:SAS02/MB/2

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CONTENTS

1.0 SUMMARY 3

2.0 INTRODUCTION 3

2.1 PLANNING BACKGROUND 3
2.2 TOPOGRAPHY, GEOLOGY AND SOILS 3
2.3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND 4

3.0 PROJECT AIMS 4

3.1 ORIGINAL PROJECT AIMS 4
3.2 SCHEDULE OF WORKS 5

4.0 METHODOLOGY 5

5.0 RESULTS 5

5.1 LAYERS 5
5.1.1 Layer (003) 5
5.1.2 Layer (004) 6
5.1.3 Layer (005) 6
5.1.4 Layer (006) 6
5.1.5 Layer (007) 6
5.2 FEATURES 6
5.2.1 Feature [001] 6

6.0 CONCLUSION 6

7.0 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS 7

8.0 PERSONNEL 7

9.0 REFERENCES 7

10.0 ABBREVIATIONS 8

11.0 APPENDICES 9

11.1 APPENDIX A - ILLUSTRATIONS 10
11.1.1 Regional Location Plan 11
11.1.2 Site Location Plan 12
11.1.3 Trench Plan 13
11.1.4 Sections and Profiles 14
11.2 APPENDIX B - PLATES 15
11.2.1 Veiw of footings during excavation, looking north 16
11.2.3 Veiw of footings during excavation, facing north 17
11.3 APPENDIX C - PROJECT SPECIFICATION 18

1.0 SUMMARY 20

2.0 TOPOGRAPHICAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND 20

2.1 DESCRIPTION OF THE AREA TO BE EXAMINED 20
2.2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND 21
2.2.1 Sites and Monuments Record 21

1.0 Summary

An archaeological watching brief was carried out at 43 Postland Road, Crowland, during an extension to an existing dwelling, at the request of South Holland District Council (SHDC), acting on advice from Lincolnshire County Council (LCC). Crowland is situated within the Southern extent of the county of Lincolnshire. Prior to development on the site, the area in question was a gravelled parking area serving the existing dwelling. The watching brief included monitoring the foundation footings of the extension and the new service connections.

The client, Mr Paul Church, commissioned Soke Archaeological Services Ltd to carry out the works, in accordance with guidelines and recommendations provided by LCC Conservation Services (1998).

This report provides information, regarding the archaeological methods employed and the archaeological evidence recorded. Details also include archaeological and historical background.

2.0 Introduction

2.1 Planning Background

In response to Planning Application Number H02/0837/01 , SHDC, acting on advice from LCC, placed an archaeological watching brief on the development. This was due to probability of archaeological remains being encountered, ranging from the Neolithic to the Medieval period.

2.2 Topography, Geology and Soils

Crowland is located approximately 12km south of Spalding, in the administrative district of South Holland District Council, Lincolnshire. The parish is situated on a 'peninsular of sand and gravel, formed as a terrace of a proto-course of the River Welland and surrounded by soils derived from Flandrian alluvium' (LCC 2000:2.2).

Postland Road is situated in the north east of Crowland, centred on NGR 524481/310642, approximately 200m to the north of Crowland Abbey. Prior to the development, the area in question was a gravelled parking area serving the existing dwelling.

2.3 Archaeological Background

A full listing of the SMR data, along with the projects conducted in this area, is contained in Appendix C within the original project specification. However, in order to keep this report concise a brief summary can be found herewith.

Recent excavations have brought to light evidence of occupation in Crowland, dating from the Early Neolithic through to the Late Bronze Age. Although the exact nature of this activity remains unknown, It is imperative to note its presence. There is a wealth of evidence pointing to Romano British settlement of Crowland, with a rich variety of sites already recorded (*see SMR data in Appendix C and Philips 1970*). The Medieval period is dominated by the Benedictine Abbey and associated settlement and buildings. Due to the sites proximity to the Abbey itself, it was expected to reveal at least some evidence from the Medieval period.

3.0 Project Aims

3.1 Original Project Aims

3.1.1 To determine the location, extent, date, character condition, significance and quality of any surviving archaeological material remains liable to be threatened by the proposed development. The results will be subsequently placed in their local, regional and national contexts.

3.1.2 To determine the survival rate of any *in-situ* buried soil, as well as the levels of truncation to buried deposits.

3.1.3 Define any potential constraints for on going archaeological fieldwork, i.e. the strategy employed within this specification may need to be amended/complimented by an additional method statement, depending on the archaeological deposits encountered.

3.1.4 To supplement and improve existing information to a level of confidence at which the archaeological potential of the site can be assessed, thus enabling reasonable planning recommendations to be made.

3.1.5 Due to the nature of a Watching Brief, it is possible that features and/or finds may warrant physical preservation *in-situ.* However, sufficient work will be carried out, to allow the resolution of the principal aims (above) of the project.

3.2 Schedule of Works

Commencing at 08:30, a mini-digger equipped with a 600mm bucket was used to excavate the foundation footings, cutting down to a depth of 1m below the ground surface. No archaeological deposits were encountered, but the local drift geology was recorded, as was a limited amount of modern ground disturbance encountered. The field work for this project was completed in one day.

4.0 Methodology

The machine stripping was carried out in 20mm spits by a mini-digger fitted with a 600mm bucket. Mechanical excavation was carried out under close supervision by an experienced archaeologist, with the spoil being monitored and metal detected for finds. Following mechanical clearance all possible features were hand cleaned. All written records are on Soke Archaeological Services Ltd, pro-forma, MoLAS based context sheets. All plans and sections are drawn to conventional scales, levels tied into Ordnance Datum and plans tied into the Ordnance Survey National Grid

All field work was carried out following the regulations and guidelines as set out by LCC (1998) and the IFA (1999). Health and safety regulations, as set out by English Heritage (1993), were adopted on site.

5.0 Results

5.1 Layers

5.1.1 Layer (003)

Seen on Profile 1 & 2, and on Section 1. This first layer encountered, making up the top of the existing ground surface. Spread over the entire area, this deposit was a slightly silty gravel put in place to act as a hard standing area and car park for the existing dwelling. The gravel was approximately 50mm - 100mm.

5.1.2 Layer (004)

Seen on Profile 1 & 2, and on Section 1. This layer was the modern topsoil. Ranging in thickness from 0.30m - 0.45m, this deposit was a dark brown clayish silt with occasional inclusions of CBM and modern rubbish.

5.1.3 Layer (005)

This layer represents the natural sub-soil. The lowest layer encountered, this deposit can be seen on Profile 1 & 2, and on Section 1. This deposit was a mid orangey brown sandy silt with frequent inclusions of various graded, mainly sub angular gravels.

5.1.4 Layer (006)

A mid brown clayish silt with moderate inclusions of CBM and modern rubbish. Seen in the northern area of the site, which had suffered from a limited amount of modern truncation (see Profile 2 and trench plan).

5.1.5 Layer (007)

A mix of CBM, hard-core and a dark brown clayish silt similar to deposit (004), the topsoil. This deposit was seen in the northern area of the site, which had suffered from a limited amount of modern truncation (see Profile 2 and trench plan).

5.2 Features

5.2.1 Feature [001]

Although this feature was modern in date, it was recorded in plan and in section 1. Filled by (002), a mid grey clayish silt with occasional inclusions of CBM, glass and modern rubbish.

6.0 Conclusion

Although no archaeological deposits were seen during this watching brief, it has been confirmed that the area seems to be mostly undisturbed, with only a small amount of modern truncation seen This low level

of disturbance seems to indicate that any archaeological deposits extant within the immediate area are unlikely to have been destroyed by modern disturbance.

7.0 Acknowledgements

Soke Archaeological Services Ltd would like to thank Mr Paul Church for commissioning the project. David Britchfield of Soke Archaeological Services Ltd co-ordinated the work. Masie Taylor of Soke Archaeological Services Ltd edited this report.

8.0 Personnel

Project Director: Francis Pryor MBE MA PhD FSA MIFA

Project Manager: David Britchfield BA (Hons)

Project Supervisor: Michael Bamforth

Illustrations: Chloe Watson

9.0 References

Association for Environmental Archaeology (1996) *Environmental Archaeology and Evaluation Guidelines*. Working papers of the Association for Environmental Archaeology 2.

Bamforth, M (2001) *A Report for an Archaeological Evaluation at Abbey Mews, Crowland, Lincs.* Soke Archaeological Services Ltd. SAS01/23

Britchfield, D. & Redding, M (2000) *A Report on Archaeological Excavations at Cluttons Close (Rear of 65 North Street), Crowland, Peterborough.* Soke Archaeological Services Ltd.

Britchfield, D (2000) *A Report on an Archaeological Watching Brief at West Bank, Crowland.* Soke Archaeological Services Ltd.

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Tann, G (2000) *West Street, Crowland, Lincs – Archaeological Watching Brief.* Lindsey Archaeological Services. Accession No. 2000.160.

Westron, P (2000) *Report for the Archaeological Watching Brief at 78 North Street, Crowland.* Soke Archaeological Services Ltd. SAS00/3.

10.0 Abbreviations

CBM	Ceramic Building Materials
IFA	Institute of Field Archaeologists
LCC	Lincolnshire County Council
MoLAS	Museum of London Archaeological Services
SAS	Soke Archaeological Services Ltd
SHDC	South Holland District Council

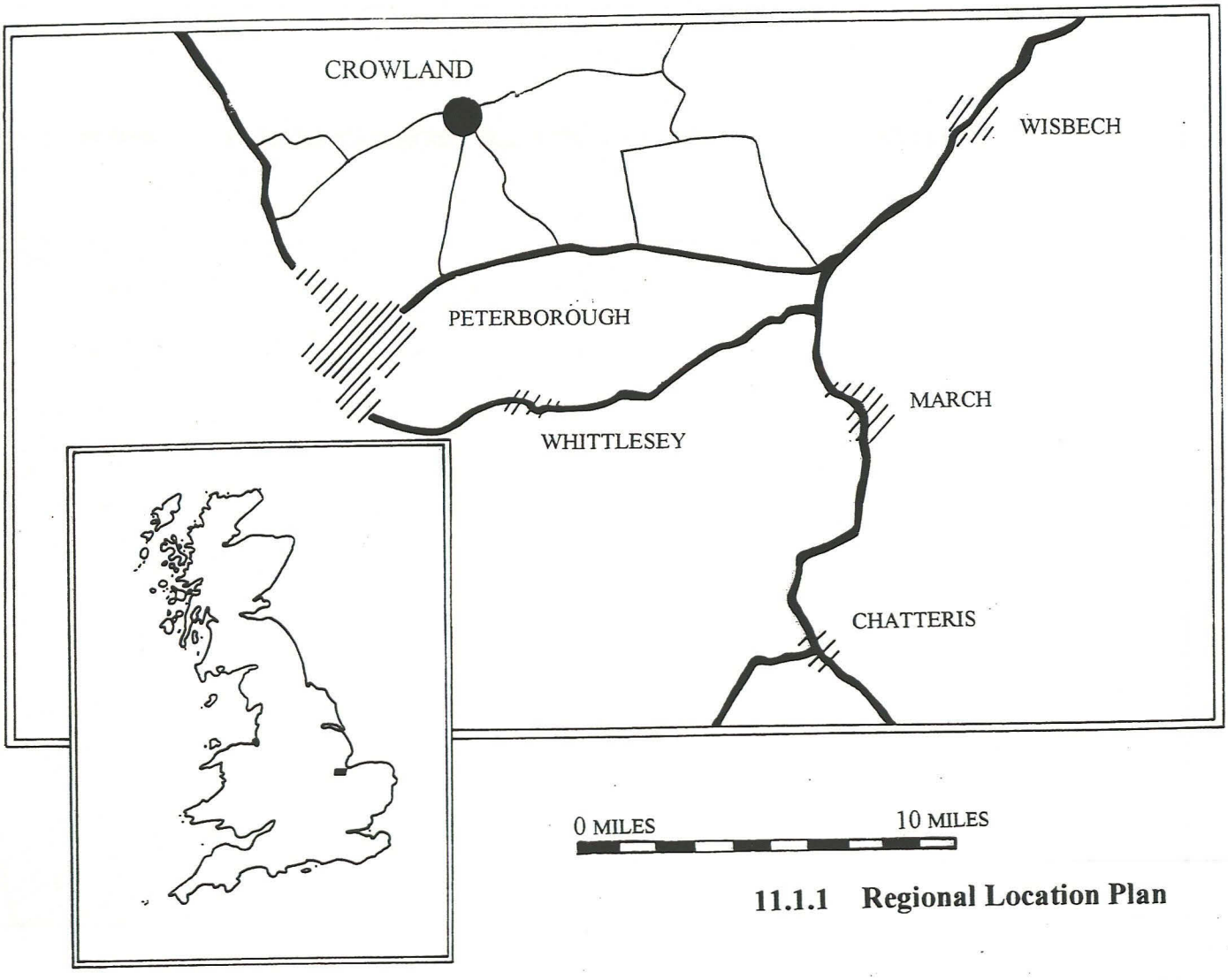
11.0 Appendices

11.1 Appendix A - Illustrations

11.2 Appendix B - Plates

11.3 Appendix C - Project Specification

11.1 Appendix A - Illustrations

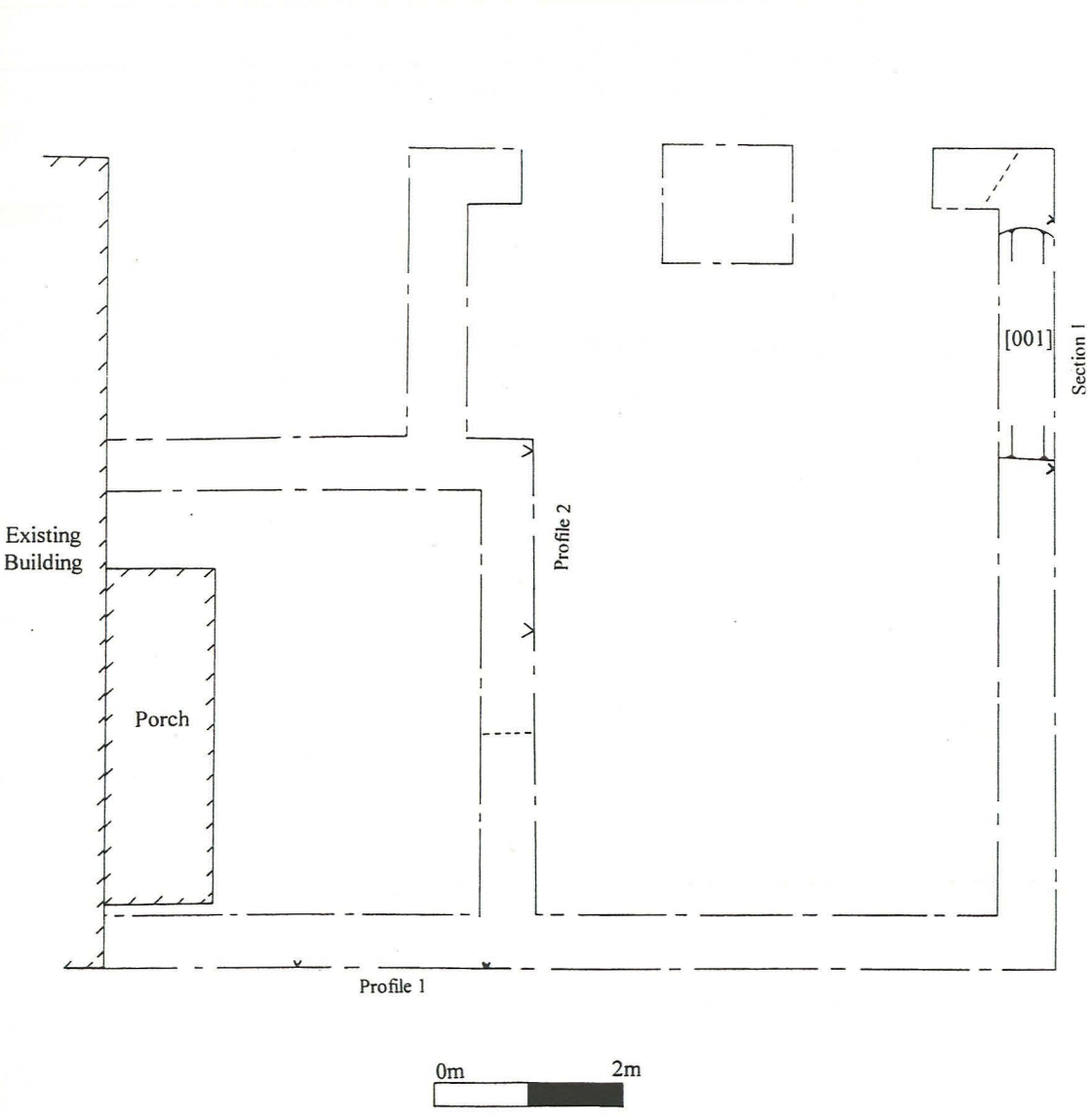


11.1.1 Regional Location Plan

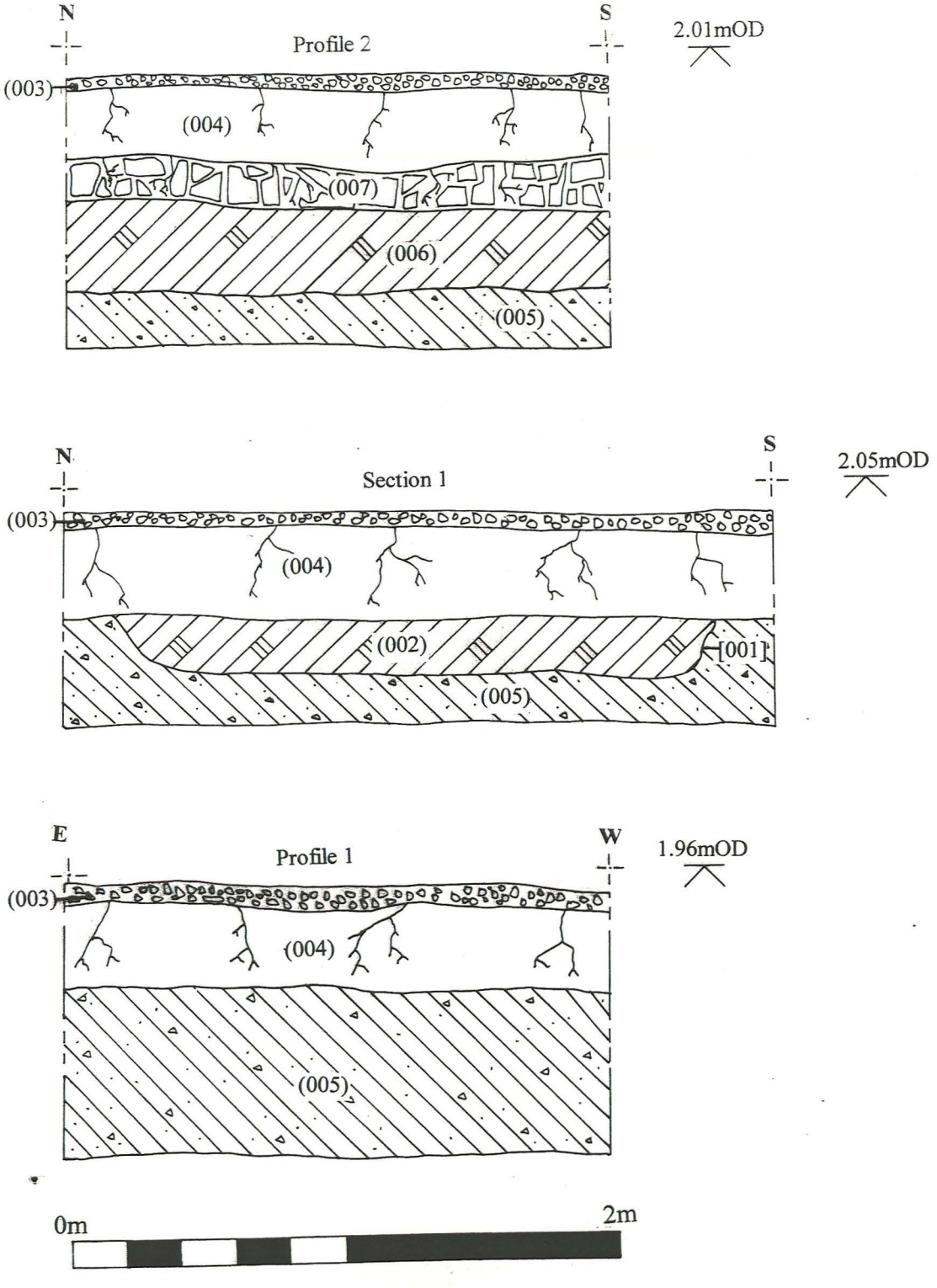
24

0m 200m

11.1.2 Site Location Plan



11.1.3 Trench Plan



11.1.4 Sections and Profiles

11.2 Appendix B - Plates

11.2.1 Veiw of footings during excavation, looking north

11.2.2 Veiw of footings during excavation, looking west

11.2.3 Veiw of footings during excavation, facing north

11.2.4 Soil profile 1, facing south

11.3 Appendix C - Project Specification

CONTENTS

1.0 SUMMARY **20**

2.0 TOPOGRAPHICAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND **20**

2.1 DESCRIPTION OF THE AREA TO BE EXAMINED 20
2.2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND 21
2.2.1 Sites and Monuments Record *21*
2.2.2 Previous work *22*
2.2.3 Archaeological summary *22*

3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL STRATEGY **23**

3.1 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES 23
3.2 TIMETABLE 23
3.3 FIELDWORK METHODOLOGY 24
3.3.1 General considerations *24*
3.3.2 Techniques of excavation *24*
3.3.2.1 Mechanical excavation *24*
3.3.2.2 Hand excavation *24*
3.3.3 Metal detecting *24*
3.3.4 Palaeoenvironmental sampling *24*
3.3.5 Recording *25*
3.4 POST-FIELDWORK METHODOLOGY 25
3.4.1 General considerations *25*
3.4.2 Cataloguing and packaging *25*
3.4.3 Dating techniques *26*
3.4.4 Specialist input *26*

4.0 WORKING STANDARDS **26**

5.0 MISCELLANEOUS REQUIREMENTS AND CONSIDERATIONS **26**

5.1 RISK ASSESSMENT 26

6.0 STAFF **26**

7.0 REPORT AND ARCHIVE **27**

8.0 REFERENCES **27**

9.0 APPENDIX A - SITES AND MONUMENTS DATA **29**

9.1 PREHISTORIC 29
9.2 ROMANO-BRITISH 29
9.3 MEDIEVAL 29
9.4 POST-MEDIEVAL 30

10.0 APPENDIX B - SITE LOCATION PLAN **31**

11.0 APPENDIX C - RISK ASSESSMENT.....32

1.0 Summary

Prior to the extension of a dwelling, at 43 Postland Road, Crowland (Planing Application No: H02/0837/01), South Holland District Council (SHDC), acting on advice issued by Lincolnshire County Council (LCC), have requested that an archaeological watching brief be carried out during all ground penetrating works. The aim of this watching brief will be to provide 'a formal programme of observation and investigation conducted during any operation carried out for non-archaeological reasons within a specified area or site on land or underwater, where there is a possibility that archaeological deposits may be disturbed or destroyed' (IFA 1994).

The client, Mr Paul Church, has commisioned Soke Archaeological Services Ltd to carry out the works in accordance with guidelines and recomendations provided by LCC, Conservation Services (1998)

This specification provides information on how the watching brief will be carried out, including details regarding the archaeological and historical background, as well as the aims and methods of post-excavation analysis.

2.0 Topographical and archaeological background

2.1 Description of the area to be examined

Crowland is located approximately 12km south of Spalding, in the administrative district of South Holland District Council, Lincolnshire. The parish is situated on a 'peninsular of sand and gravel, formed as a terrace of a proto-course of the River Welland and surrounded by soils derived from Flandrian alluvium' (LCC 2000:2.2).

Postland Road is situated in the north east of Crowland, centered on NGR 524481/310642, approximately 200m to the north of Crowland Abbey. The land is currently being used as a garden for an existing dwelling. An ornamental concrete wall to the east of the existing property has probably caused some degree of disturbance to the area of the proposed extension.

2.2 *Archaeological and historical background*

2.2.1 Sites and Monuments Record

A full listing of the data, covered within the Sites and Monuments Record, is provided in Appendix A. The following, however, describes those, which due to their close proximity, have special significance to this particular site.

Throughout the last 25 years, the development of housing estates, within 500m to the south east of the site, has produced evidence for prehistoric occupation at Crowland. It is not clear, due to the lack of systematic archaeological investigation, as to whether these were permanent, seasonal or temporary, but artefacts ranging from the Early Neolithic to the Late Bronze Age have been recovered (SMR 22980, 22014, & 20263).

Evidence for Romano-British settlement within this area of the fens ranges from saltern sites to isolated finds, such as pottery and coins. It is also thought by some that a structure of probable Romano-British date, located on the northeastern edge of Crowland to the south of the development site and within the scheduled area of Crowland Abbey, was subsequently utilised by St Guthlac's hermitage (Cope-Faulkner 1998:10). The proximity of the proposed development site to the scheduled area provides the possibility that Romano-British remains may be extant within the development area.

The Medieval record within Crowland is dominated by the establishment of the Abbey and the arrival of St Guthlac in AD699. It is believed that the original settlement consisted of a hermitage comprising of an oratory, a guest house and a number of cells that are 'thought to have been scattered over the original peninsula of Crowland, in some cases superimposed on the remains of pre-Christian burial mounds' (SMR 23519). The SMR states that the house was destroyed during the Danish invasions in AD870 and subsequently re-founded, as a Benedictine Abbey, possibly in the mid-tenth century.
For 500 years the site underwent constant expansion and rebuilding, until it was finally dissolved in AD1539, when all the monastic buildings were demolished, with the exception of the nave and aisles of the Abbey church (SMR 20551). The building is now used as a parish church.

As well as the above mentioned sites, there is also evidence for post-medieval occupation within the scheduled site. During the Civil War, Crowland Abbey was utilised as a Royalist stronghold,

with banks and ditches 'that took the form of a defensive rampart around the churchyard with projection bastions' (SMR 22051).

2.2.2 Previous work

Although very little systematic archaeological work has been carried out in Crowland, a couple of projects have great significance to this particular site.

In 1998, Archaeological Project Services (APS) carried out the monitoring of works during the development of a new building (NGR TF2408 1025), adjacent to the Abbey grounds (Cope-Faulkner 1998). The following statement was included in the final report as a summary:
'The watching brief identified natural deposits overlain by a series of limestone layers which may represent the former location of structures associated with Crowland Abbey. Finds include Late Saxon pottery, medieval roof tile and a collection of animal bone' (1998:1).

In additional to the above survey, a further programme of archaeological works was carried out, approximately 60m to the southeast of the Abbey. Archaeological Project Services were commissioned by Soke Archaeological Services, to carry out an evaluation consisting of two trenches, excavated prior to the development of two dwellings at the land to the rear of 16 Abbey Walk, Crowland. Excavations revealed 'a ditch and medieval surface, both of medieval date' (Taylor 2001:1), with both domestic debris and building material providing the possibility of 'tile-roofed buildings of medieval date in the vicinity' (2001:1). A small evaluation was carried out on an adjacent strip of land, Abbey Mews, by Soke Archaeological Services (Bamforth 2001), identifying a series of archaeological deposits, possibly representing surviving medieval occupation layers.

Other watching briefs carried out within Crowland (Britchfield 2000, Britchfield & Redding 2000, Tann 2000) have provided little information that can be added to the archaeological record.

2.2.3 Archaeological summary

In summary, the multi-phased nature of the archaeological record within Crowland ranges from the Neolithic, through the Bronze Age, Roman and medieval periods, and continues to be in use at the time of the Civil War and after. Due to the close proximity of the development site, in relation to the above, it is likely that excavations will disturb some kind of archaeological

deposits. The frequency of archaeological data, suggests that this is more likely to be medieval/post-medieval, although earlier periods should not be ruled out.

3.0 Archaeological Strategy

3.1 Aims and objectives

The aims and objectives will be as follows:

3.1.1 To determine the location, extent, date, character condition, significance and quality of any surviving archaeological material remains liable to be threatened by the proposed development. The results will be subsequently placed in their local, regional and national contexts.

3.1.2 To determine the survival rate of any *in-situ* buried soil, as well as the levels of truncation to buried deposits.

3.1.3 Define any potential constraints for on going archaeological fieldwork, i.e. the strategy employed within this specification may need to be amended/complimented by an additional method statement, depending on the archaeological deposits encountered.

3.1.4 To supplement and improve existing information to a level of confidence at which the archaeological potential of the site can be assessed, thus enabling reasonable planning recommendations to be made.

3.1.5 Due to the nature of a Watching Brief, it is possible that features and/or finds may warrant physical preservation *in-situ.* However, sufficient work will be carried out, to allow the resolution of the principal aims (above) of the project.

3.2 Timetable

The excavation of the extension footings is expected to begin on January 21 2002, with a duration of approximately two days. During this time, an archaeologist from Soke Archaeological Services Ltd will be on site at all times to record any archaeological remains encountered.

3.3 *Fieldwork methodology*

3.3.1 General considerations

All fieldwork will be carried out following the regulations and guidelines, as set out by LCC (1998) and the IFA (1999). If any changes in methodology need to be adopted on site, during the course of the Watching Brief, LCC will be consulted prior to doing so. Health and Safety regulations, as set out in English Heritage (1993), will be adopted on site.

3.3.2 Techniques of excavation

3.3.2.1 Mechanical excavation

All mechanical excavation will be carried out by a JCB, or similar. The excavation will take place in 20mm spits, under archaeological supervision, with constant monitoring of the spoil, until the maximum depth of impact has been reached.

3.3.2.2 Hand excavation

Should potential deposits/features become visible, which cannot be preserved *in-situ*, hand excavation will commence, under archaeological conditions, to determine the nature of such anomalies. Following the identification of a potential feature or deposit hand excavation will commence in line with the appropriate standards (IFA 1992, LCC 1998). Discrete features, under threat from development, will be subject to 100% excavation, while larger linear features will be sample excavated to a minimum of 10%. This will be carried out as quickly as possible, in order to determine the nature of such features, while adhering to the aims and objectives set out in section 4.1. If any human remains are encountered, they will be left *in-situ*, covered, protected, and LCC will be notified. LCC will also be notified if any structural remains, special remains or deposits are unearthed during the course of the excavation.

3.3.3 Metal detecting

Experienced and competent operators will undertake routine metal detector scanning of topsoil, horizons, spoil or contexts.

3.3.4 Palaeoenvironmental sampling

Due to the small scale of the project it is unlikely that a sampling strategy will need to be employed. It is suggested that a site visit from a specialist will probably be unnecessary, and that sampling advice, if needed, can be given over the phone (Murphy and Wiltshire 1994:1).

Any sampling will be in accordance with Murphy and Wiltshire (1994), the Association for Environmental Archaeology (1996), and English Heritage (1996).

3.3.5 Recording

All written records will be on Soke Archaeological Services Ltd, pro-forma, MoLAS based context sheets. All archaeological features will be recorded in single context.

Also:

a) Sections will be drawn at 1:10; plans at 1:20; burials at 1:10; trench location plans at a suitable scale for publication.

b) All plans will be tied into the Ordnance Survey National Grid.

c) All surveying levels will be tied into the Ordnance Datum.

d) Trenches will be surveyed using an EDM or equivalent.

e) All small finds will be 3D co-ordinated.

f) A photographic record, including both monochrome and colour prints or slides, will form part of the final report and archive. Particular attention will be given to archaeological relationships, specific features, spatial relationships and general ongoing site views etc.

If any changes in recording methodology need to be adopted on site, LCC will be consulted prior to doing so.

3.4 Post-fieldwork methodology

3.4.1 General considerations

Provision has been made for the identification of artefacts, with a list of specialists in section 7.0. All finds processing will be in line with recommendations made by the IFA (1992).

During the fieldwork stage, all finds will be immediately labelled with site codes and context numbers, and kept in secure accommodation. Fragile material, such as wood, will be temporarily housed at Flag Fen, Peterborough, which has adequate facilities for such storage. The treatment of any archaeological wood will be in accordance with standards set out in English Heritage (1996).

Any items of gold or silver will be forwarded to the local coroners office, under the Treasure Trove Act (1996).

3.4.2 Cataloguing and packaging

All cataloguing and packaging will be carried out as specified by LCC (1998: chapter 16).

3.4.3 Dating techniques

It is assumed, at this point, that the majority of dating, should it be required, will be carried out using the typological sequence of artefacts. It is, however, recognised that scientific dating techniques may be required. The costs for such techniques have been incorporated within a contingency.

3.4.4 Specialist input

Due to the multi-phased nature of the archaeological record within this area of the fenland landscape, specialists may be required to provide individual analyses on specific deposits/artefacts. These will be incorporated within the final report and added to the overall interpretation of the site. A list of specialists likely to be used is covered in section 6.0.

4.0 Working Standards

Work will be conducted in accordance with the *Lincolnshire City Council Archaeological Handbook* (LCC 1998), by competent and experienced staff, familiar with local archaeological and geological deposits. All work will be undertaken to a standard acceptable to Lincolnshire City Council and the client.

5.0 Miscellaneous requirements and considerations

5.1 Risk Assessment

Prior to any fieldwork, it is necessary to prepare a risk assessment, in order to describe any possible hazards, along with the effect, severity and likelihood, to provide the degree of risk (see Appendix C). The analysis suggested that the highest risk is caused by the presence of the machine and trenches. However, all involved in the project have experience in such conditions, and are familiar with all the relevant health and safety procedures. The Site Supervisor will reinforce these.

6.0 Staff

The Project Director is Francis Pryor MBE, MA, PhD, FSA, MIFA. The Project Manager will be David Britchfield BA (Hons), HNC, OND. Fieldwork will be carried out by either David Britchfield, or Michael Bamforth (a Supervisor at Flag Fen, with experience in carry out Watching Briefs and Evaluations for both SAS and MoLAS). Specialist support will be given, if necessary, by the following:

Prehistoric: Pottery and flint: Francis Pryor MBE MA PhD FSA MIFA
Wood: Maisie Taylor BA Cert Ed FSA MIFA

Roman: Gwladys Monteil - Cambridge Archaeology Unit – Currently carrying out research for a PhD in Roman ceramics.

Medieval: David Hall

Environmental: Charlie French PhD MIFA - Cambridge University Archaeology Department

Dr Malcolm Lillie and his team at the University of Hull, Wetland Archaeology and Environments Centre, will provide environmental support on topics (such as pollen), which are not covered by Dr. French, including support in the field, if necessary.

7.0 Report and Archive

The watching brief report will be in accordance with English Heritage guidelines (1991) and guidelines set out by LCC (1998).
The final report will include maps, plans, sections and photographs, which will accompany the narrative. Selected artefact drawings (should there be any) will also form part of the final report, along with the comments from appropriate specialists.

8.0 References

Association for Environmental Archaeology (1996) *Environmental Archaeology and Evaluation Guidelines*. Working papers of the Association for Environmental Archaeology 2.

Bamforth, M (2001) *A Report for an Archaeological Evaluation at Abbey Mews, Crowland, Lincs.* Soke Archaeological Services Ltd. SAS01/23

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Westron, P (2000) *Report for the Archaeological Watching Brief at 78 North Street, Crowland.* Soke Archaeological Services Ltd. SAS00/3.

9.0 Appendix A - Sites and Monuments Data

The following is a list of Sites and Monuments Record data, relevant to this particular project. These are separated into chronological periods.

9.1 Prehistoric

SMR Number	*Details*	*Grid Reference*
20261	Iron Age pottery from mound	TF24000 11200
20263	Early Bronze Age pottery	TF2436 1032
20265	Possible barrow cemetery	TF24600 10600
22004	Neolithic flint axe	TF24100 10600
22005	Neolithic flint axe	TF2400 1040
22014	Early Neolithic to Late Bronze Age flint scatter	TF2450 1035
22980	Early Neolithic to Late Bronze Age flint implements	TF2450 1035

9.2 Romano-British

SMR Number	*Details*	*Grid Reference*
20250	Tesserae and possible saltmaking debris	TF25050 10870
20251	Cropmarks	TF29050 14050
22017	Coin	TF24300 10500

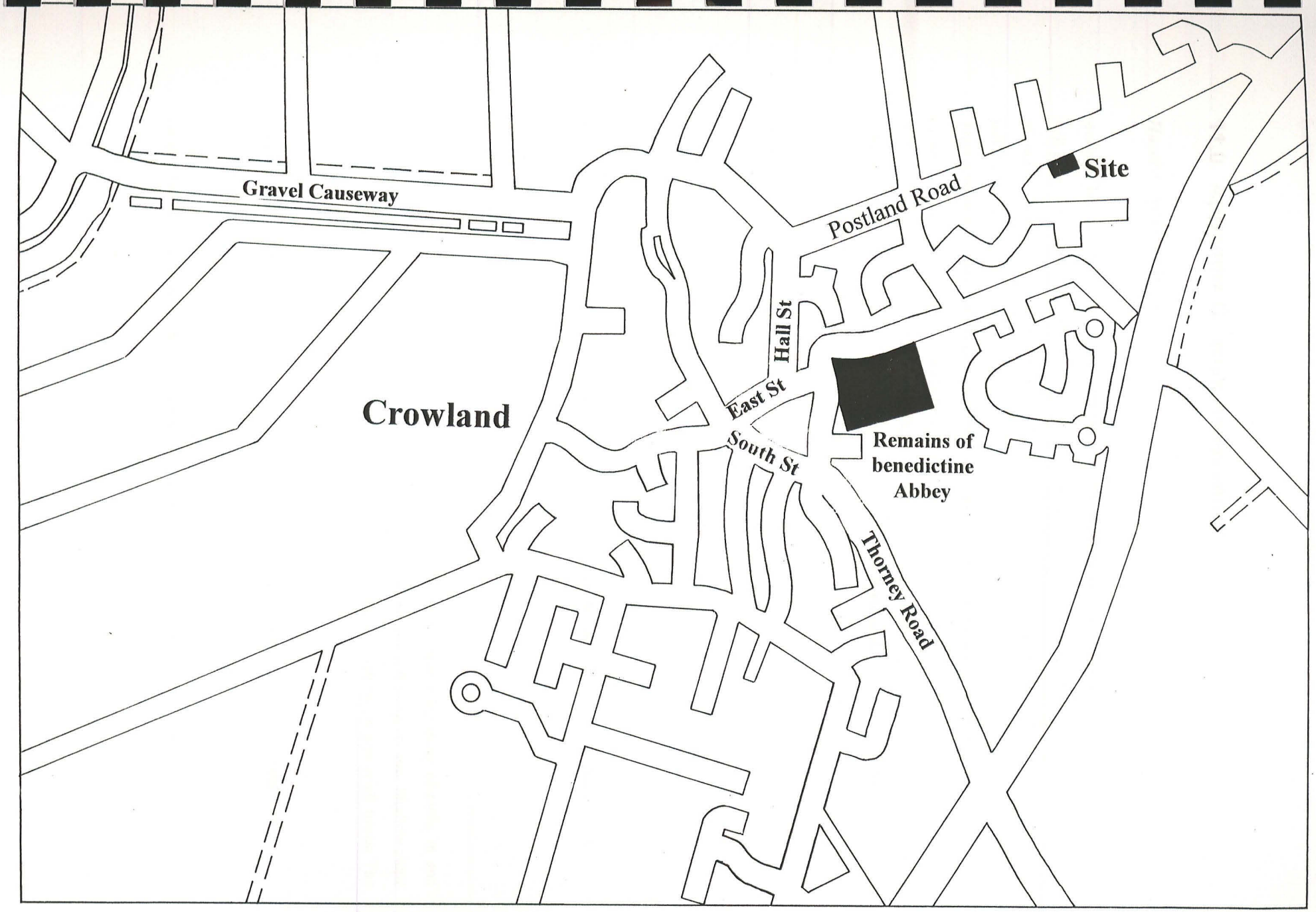
9.3 Medieval

SMR Number	*Details*	*Grid Reference*
20266	Knife handle	-
20551	Medieval site of Crowland Abbey	TF2423 1030
20552	Holy Trinity Bridge	TF23940 10230
22012	Possible pottery kiln	TF24400 10300

SMR Number	*Details*	*Grid Reference*
23519	Early Medieval site of Crowland Abbey	TF2430 1030
23653-5	APS Watching Brief	TF2408 1025
None assigned	SAS/APS Evaluation on Abbey Walk	TF24136 10185

9.4 Post-Medieval

SMR Number	*Details*	*Grid Reference*
22051	Civil War defences	TF2423 1030



10.0 Appendix B - Site Location Plan

11.0 Appendix C - Risk Assessment

Hazard - Wheeled digger

Action - The possibility that the moving machine may hit those on site. Initially, only one member of staff will be on-site when the machine is present. Safe working distances will be adhered to, as well as the use of hand signals etc. The banksman will, at all times, be wearing a hardhat and high visibility jacket/clothing.
The Director of the archaeological contractors possesses a CITB excavator driver certificate, while the Site Supervisor has worked with machines for over 15 years.

Effect: Injury **Severity:** 4 **Likelihood:** 3 **Risk:** 12

Hazard - Trenches

Action - Maintaining a maximum unsupported depth of 1.2m. Where it is necessary to excavate deeper, battered/stepped edges will be used. Broken limbs, injury and even paralysis are possibilities. Spoil heaps will be positioned well away from trenches, with wheelbarrow planks laid down if necessary.

Effect: Injury **Severity:** 3-6 **Likelihood:** 3 **Risk:** 9-18

Hazard - Hand tools

Action - Injuries primarily caused by negligent behaviour. Therefore, proper handling of tools, in and around the excavation, is to be reinforced, making sure that tools are not left lying on site. Shallow slope barrow runs, safety boots and helmets will also be used. A first aid box will be on site at all times. The Site Supervisor has experience in basic first aid applications.

Effect: Injury to self & others. **Severity:** 2 **Likelihood:** 3 **Risk:** 6

Scale range ***(for severity and likelihood)*** **= 1 - 6 where 1 = least likely and 6 = most likely**