

98/19

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF
AT MAIDEN HOUSE FARM
LIGHT INDUSTRIAL ESTATE,
FULBECK HEATH,
LINCOLNSHIRE
(FMH98)**

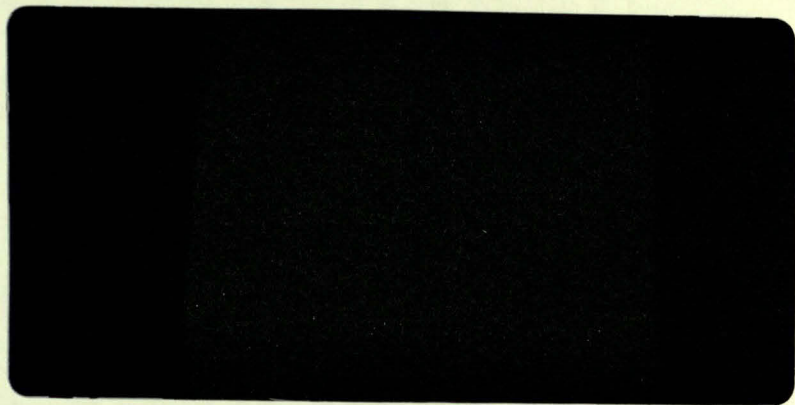


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**ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF
AT MAIDEN HOUSE FARM
LIGHT INDUSTRIAL ESTATE,
FULBECK HEATH,
LINCOLNSHIRE
(FMH98)**

Work Undertaken For
Molsom and Partners

November 1998

Report Compiled by
Jenny Young BA (Hons)

Planning Application No.: SK97/875/34/35
National Grid Reference: SK 9835 5030
City and County Museum Accession No: 106.98

A.P.S. Report No. 79/98

*Archaeological Project Services is a IFA Registered Archaeological
Organisation (No. 21)*

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1. SUMMARY

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken during development at Maiden House Farm Industrial Estate, Fulbeck Heath, Lincolnshire.

A major Roman road is located nearby and the industrial estate is on the site of a monastic farm or grange of medieval date (AD 1066-1500).

Several undated pits and postholes were recorded but did not clearly represent buildings or other distinct structures. Some of the postholes were covered by subsoil, while others cut through it, indicating separate phases of activity at the site. A number of recent land-drains and services were also observed crossing the site.

2. INTRODUCTION

2.1 Definition of a Watching Brief

An archaeological watching brief is defined as '*a formal programme of observation and investigation conducted during any operation carried out for non-archaeological reasons within a specified area or site..., where there is a possibility that archaeological deposits may be disturbed or destroyed*' (IFA 1997).

2.2 Planning Background

Archaeological Project Services were commissioned by Molsom and Partners to undertake a watching brief during excavation of foundation trenches for industrial units at Maiden House Farm, Light Industrial Unit, Fulbeck Heath, Lincolnshire. Approval for the proposed development was sought through the submission of planning application number SK97/875/34/35. Permission was granted

subject to a standard condition for archaeological recording. The watching brief was carried out between the 22nd April and 5th May 1998, in accordance with a project brief designed by the Community Archaeologist for South Kesteven District Council (Appendix 1).

2.3 Topography, Geology and Soils

Fulbeck Heath lies in the northern part of South Kesteven district, Lincolnshire, approximately 10km northwest of Sleaford and 14km north of Grantham (Fig.1).

The development is located at Maiden House Farm on Fulbeck Heath and lies approximately 3.5km east of the village of Fulbeck. The site lies at National Grid Reference SK 9835 5030 at a height of 80m OD. The local topography forms gently undulating ground and the site lies within a former farmyard.

The site is on the boundary of soils of the Elmtun 1 Association, consisting mainly of shallow brown redzinas, and Marcham Association typical brown (Hodge *et al.* 1984, 179 and 242). These soils overlie a solid geology of Jurassic Lincolnshire Limestone (GSGB 1972).

The earliest deposits encountered during the watching brief comprised light yellow sand and pale greyish yellow silty sand with limestone pieces.

2.4 Archaeological Background

The development is located within an area of known archaeological remains dating from the Romano-British period and later. Within 350m east of the development is the course of the Romano-British thoroughfare Ermine Street, that once connected London to Lincoln and beyond to the Humber (Margary 1973, 228).

Fulbeck is first mentioned in the Domesday Survey of 1086. Referred to as '*Fulebec*', the name means foul or dirty brook (Ekwall 1974, 189). The Domesday Survey records 2 churches, 2 priests and half a mill and comprised the manors of Fulbeck and nearby Leadenham. The manors were held by Count Alan of Brittany and Ralf the Staller (Foster and Longley 1976, xxviii & 12/48).

A grange was established in the vicinity of the development by Sempringham Priory in the 12th century. Documentary evidence indicates that a grant of 920 acres of land at Fulbeck was made to Sempringham Priory to make a grange, by Alexander son of Osbert, and his son Nigel (Owen 1981, 50). The land is recorded as belonging to the priory in 1189, the year of St. Gilbert's death, and remained in the priory's possession until the monastery surrendered to the crown in 1536 (Page 1988, 187). Maiden House Farm lies on the site of this grange and ruins which may relate to this usage were noted during the 19th century. At present no earthworks or ruins are visible, although cropmarks indicate several rectangular enclosures and possible buildings located immediately south of the development.

3. AIMS

The aim of the watching brief, as outlined in the brief (Appendix 1), was to record and interpret the archaeological features exposed during ground disturbance. The objectives were to determine the form, function, spatial arrangement, date and sequence of archaeological remains, if any.

4. METHODS

Prior to the trench excavation, topsoil was stripped in the immediate vicinity of the development. Individual footings were

excavated by mechanical excavator to a maximum depth of 1.4m and a width of 1m, with stanchions up to 2.5m in length.

Following excavation, the sides of trenches were cleaned and rendered vertical. Selected deposits were partially or fully excavated by hand to determine their nature. The depth and thickness of each deposit was measured from ground surface. Each deposit within a trench was allocated a unique reference number (context number) with an individual written description. Sections of the excavated deposits were recorded at a scale of 1:10. A sketch plan of the development was also made. Photographs were taken during groundworks, depicting the setting of the site and recording deposits exposed by the development.

Records of deposits exposed by groundworks were examined. A list of all contexts and interpretations appears as Appendix 2. Phasing was assigned based on the nature of the deposits and recognisable relationships between them. A stratigraphic matrix of all identified deposits was produced.

5. RESULTS

Three phases were identified:

- Phase 1: Geological deposits
- Phase 2: Undated deposits
- Phase 3: Recent deposits

Archaeological contexts are described below. The numbers in brackets are the context numbers assigned in the field.

Phase 1: Geological Deposits

The earliest recorded deposits comprise a light yellow sand containing limestone fragments (003) and a pale greyish yellow

silty sand also containing limestone fragments (011). Both deposits were encountered at a depth of 0.25m below the present ground surface and continued beyond the limit of excavation. These deposits represent the weathered bedrock surface.

Phase 2: Undated deposits

A vertical sided feature (004), 0.15m wide by 0.35m deep, was recorded cutting through the weathered bedrock (Fig. 4, Section 2). The cut, the full extent of which was not established, possibly represents the remains of a posthole.

Located 3.5m to the east of posthole (004) was a possible pit (006) with concave sides and base also cut into natural (003). Appearing in section only, this feature measured 0.7m in length and 0.32m in depth (Fig. 4, Section 3). No dateable artefacts were retrieved.

Situated 80m to the northeast of (006), along the northern foundation trench, was a series of three features recorded in section. The first, cut into natural bedrock, was a possible posthole (020) with vertical sides and a flat base. A second posthole (021), 6m to the east, measured 0.4m wide and 0.5m deep with vertical sides and a flat base. The third posthole (022), with concave sides and base, was recorded a further 0.5m to the east of (021). No dateable artefacts were retrieved from any of these postholes.

A layer of subsoil (002), consisting of light to mid reddish brown silty sand, was recorded sealing and filling each of the above features.

To the west of these postholes, a further posthole (019) with steep sides and an uneven base was recorded in section (Fig. 5, Section 6). The full extent of this cut was

not established but it measured 0.4m in width and 0.2m in depth. This contained a fill of yellowish brown silty sand (018).

Located at the west of the site, were deposits of subsoil (012), (013), (014) and (017) comprising greyish red-brown silty sand, recorded as overlying the natural geology and sealing archaeological features.

A further posthole (016) was recorded to the north of (019) cutting through subsoil deposits (014) and (017). Measuring 0.35m wide and 0.45m deep (Fig. 5, Section 6), this contained a fill of reddish brown clayey silt (015).

Cut through the subsoil (012 and 013), a posthole (010) with steep sides and a pointed base was recorded in section (Fig. 5, Section 5). This contained fills of reddish brown clayey silt (008) and reddish brown silty clay with limestone (009). No dateable material was recovered.

Phase 3: Recent Deposits

Immediately to the east of posthole (004), was a northeast-southwest aligned land-drain (005).

A number of service trenches containing water pipes were also noted cutting through the subsoil.

A 0.15m layer of topsoil was recorded sealing both archaeological, subsoil and recent activity. These deposits comprised a mid to dark brown silt (001) and a dark grey silty sandy clay (007) and formed the most recent deposit recorded during the watching brief.

6. DISCUSSION

Natural deposits (Phase 1) of yellow sands

and greyish yellow silty sand represent the upper weathered surface of the Lincolnshire Limestone.

Undated features, comprising a pit and five postholes were located across the development area. Although some of the postholes are similar in form to frost cracks, this interpretation was discounted as real frost cracks or ice wedges were present on site. They form no coherent pattern, although two deep flat based postholes are located in close proximity to each other, and may indicate different phases of posthole construction. These were each filled and then sealed by a subsoil. Two further postholes and later land drains and service pipes were recorded cutting through this subsoil.

All features were recorded in section and not in plan. This may indicate potential for further archaeological features surviving within the development area, from which a more coherent distribution may be attained.

A layer of topsoil formed over these deposits and represent, along with the service trenches the most recent activity on the site.

7. CONCLUSIONS

Archaeological investigations at Maiden House Farm Light Industrial Unit, Fulbeck Heath have recorded a sequence of geological, undated and recent deposits.

No firm evidence for settlement was encountered during the archaeological watching brief. However, the presence of undated postholes and a pit suggests some indeterminate, but probably non- occupation activity on the site.

The absence of building material or finds of medieval date suggests that development has

not impeded on any surviving archaeological remains associated with the grange. However, remains of this date are situated in close proximity to the development.

8. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeological Project Services would like to acknowledge the assistance of Mr G.S. Molsom of Molsom and Partners who commissioned the watching brief on behalf of Hurlingham Estates Ltd. The work was coordinated by Gary Taylor and this report was edited by Gary Taylor and Tom Lane. Jenny Stevens, the Community Archaeologist for South Kesteven District Council, permitted examination of the relevant parish files maintained by the Heritage Trust of Lincolnshire.

9. PERSONNEL

Project Coordinator: Gary Taylor
Site Supervisors: Gary Taylor, Fiona Walker and Jenny Young
Illustration: Paul Cope-Faulkner and Phil Mills
Post-Excavation Analysis: Jenny Young

10. BIBLIOGRAPHY

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11. ABBREVIATIONS

GSGB Geological Survey of Great Britain

IFA Institute of Field Archaeologists

SKDC South Kesteven District Council

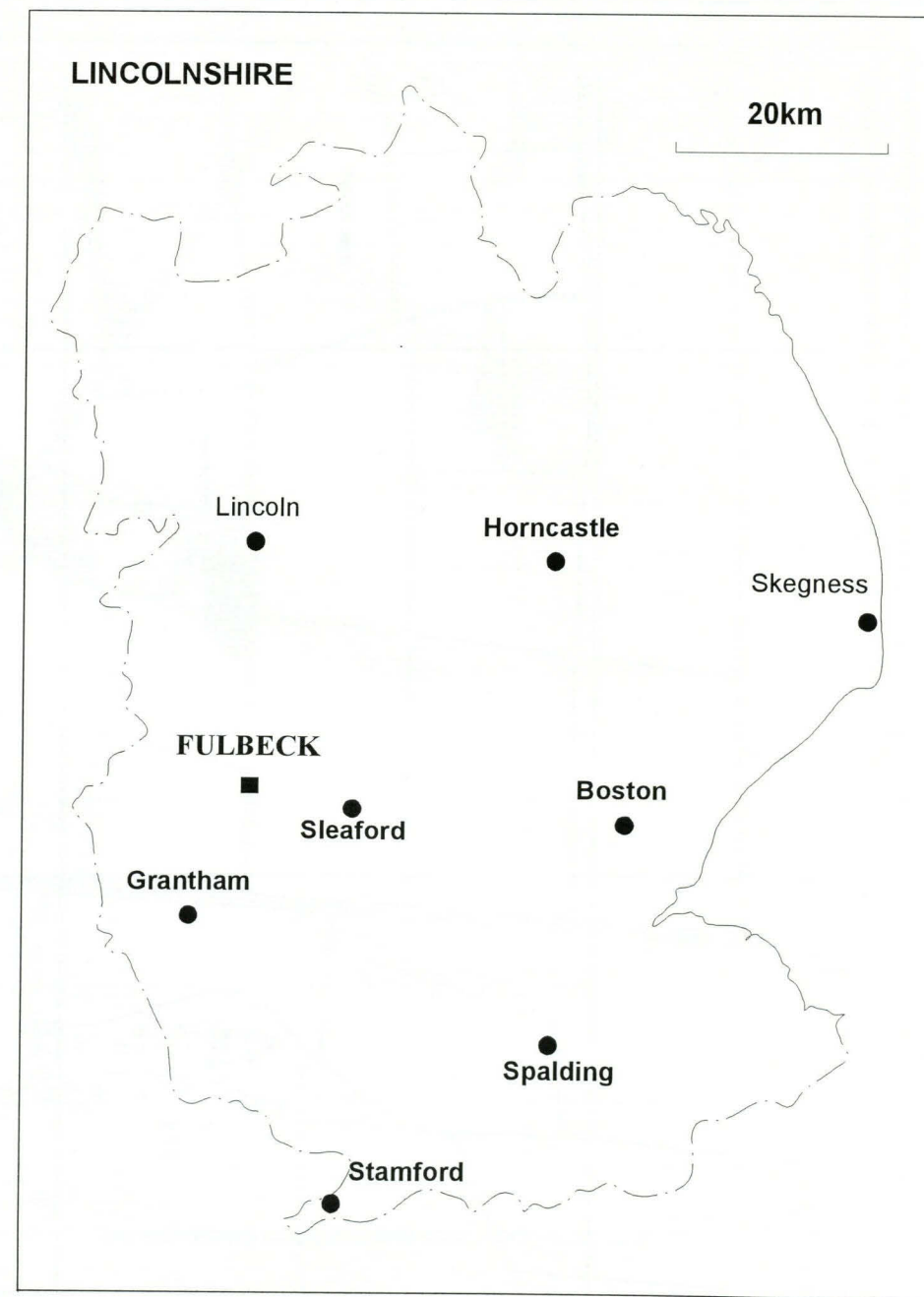
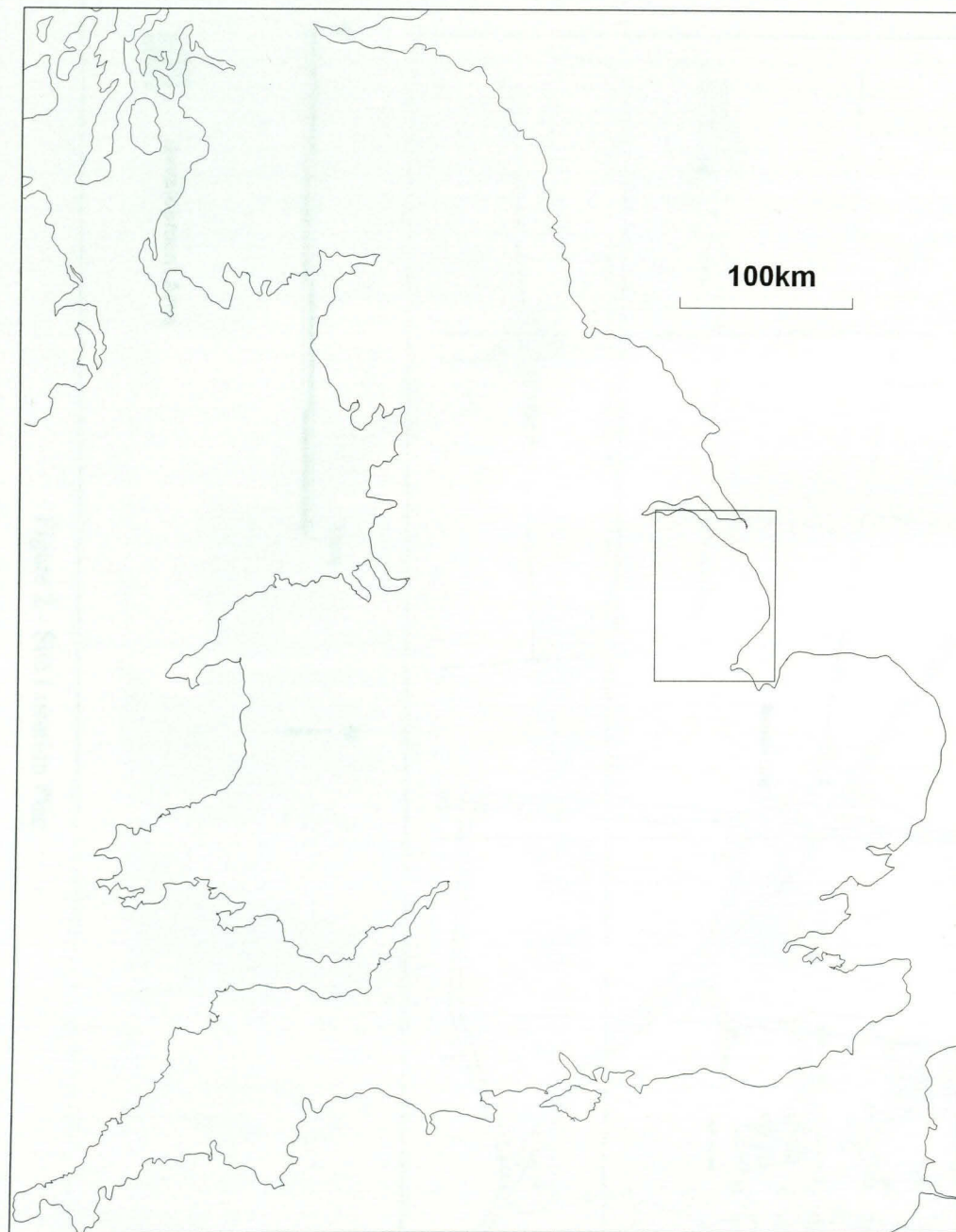


Figure 1 - General Location Plan

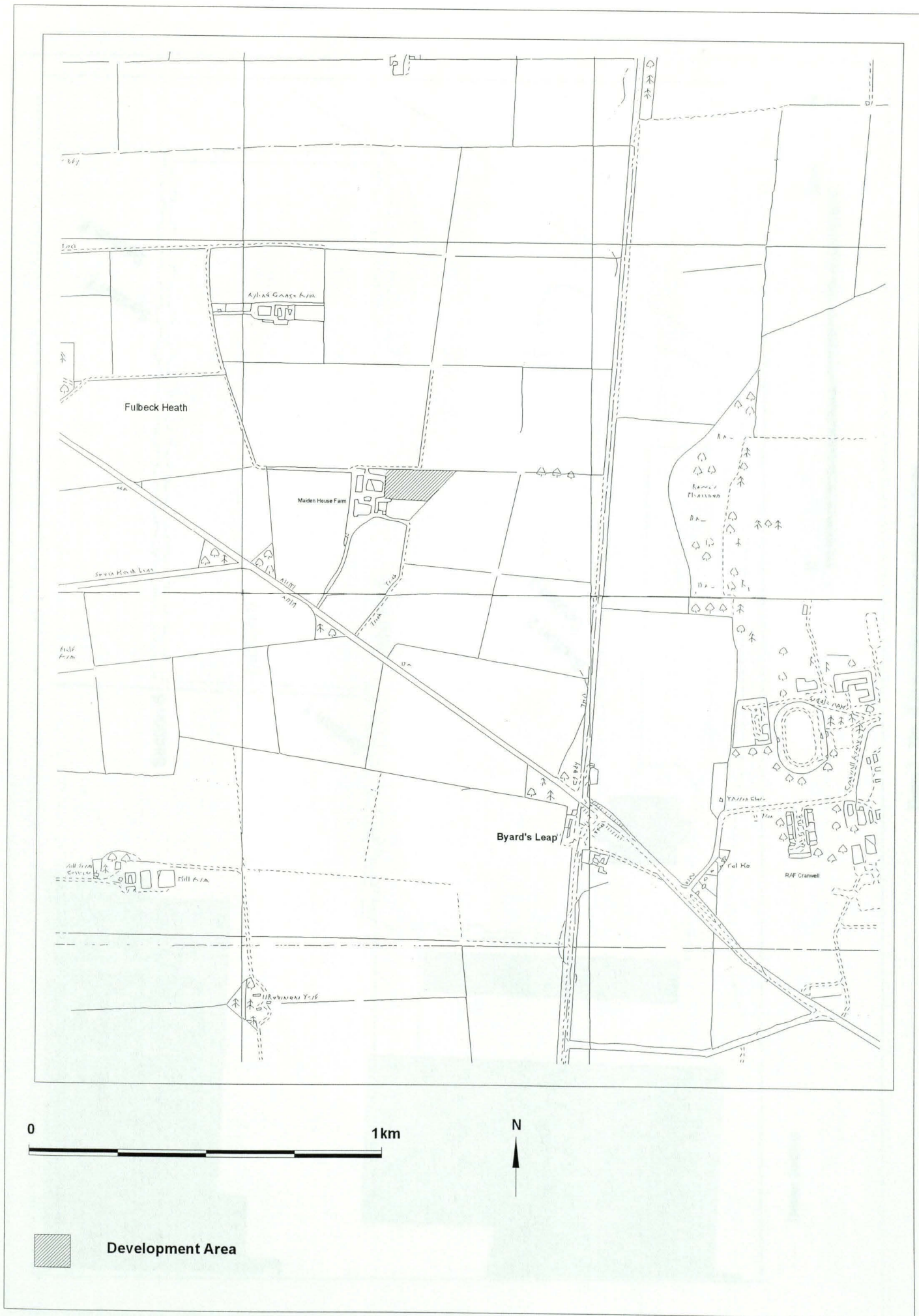


Figure 2 - Site Location Plan

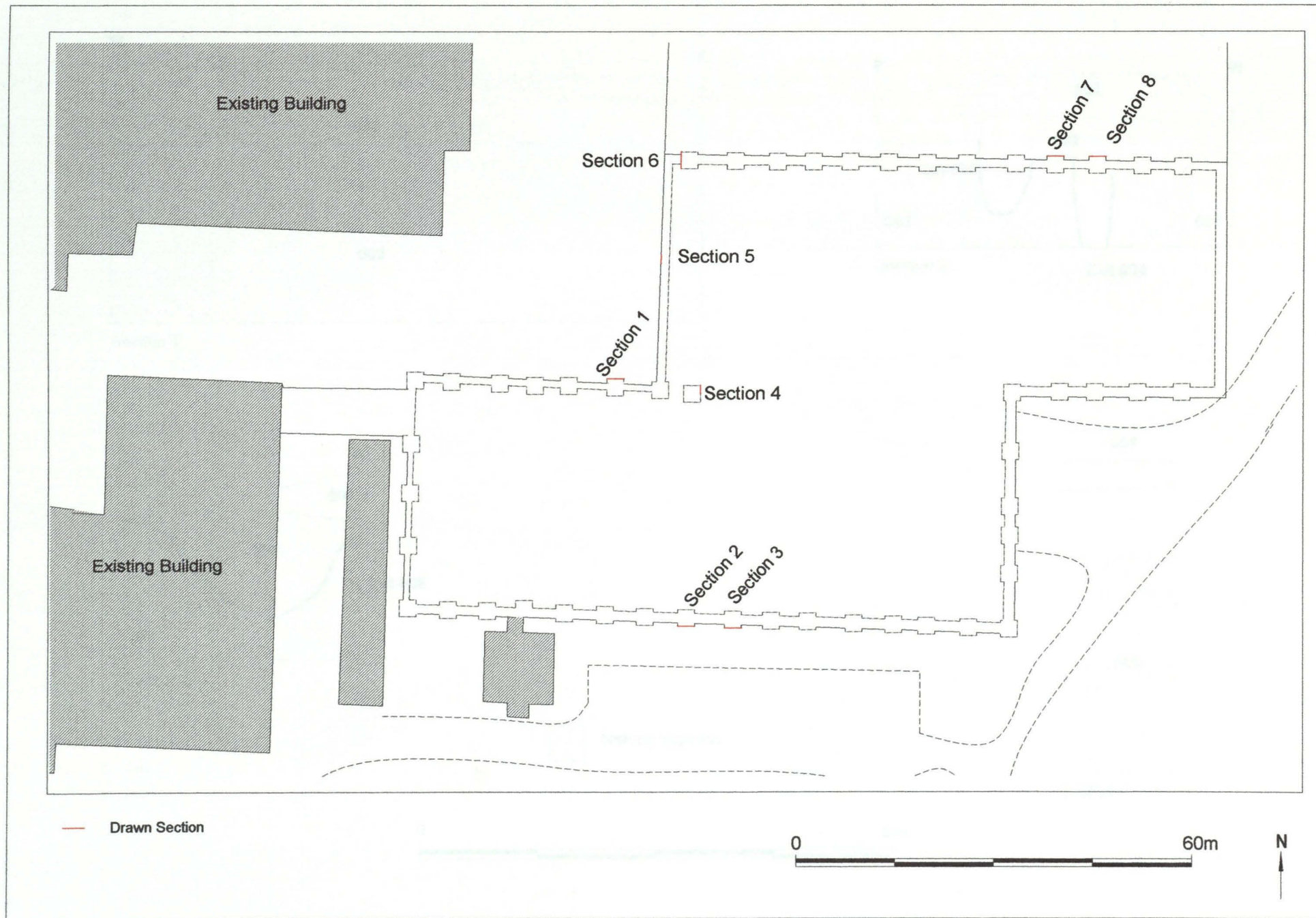
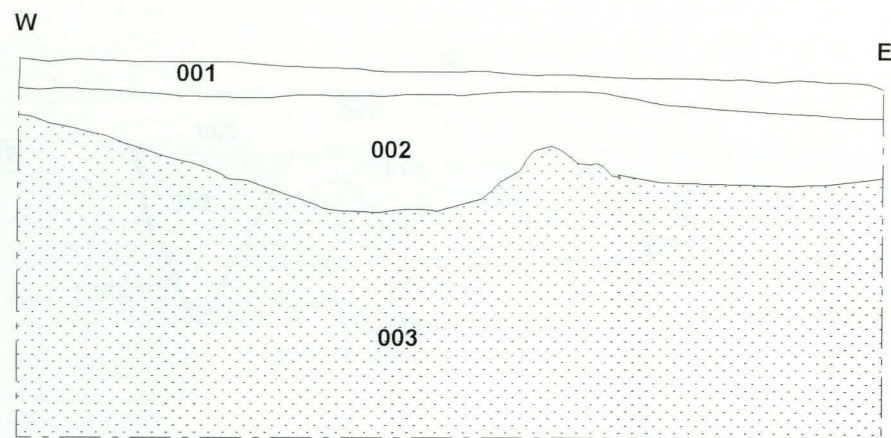
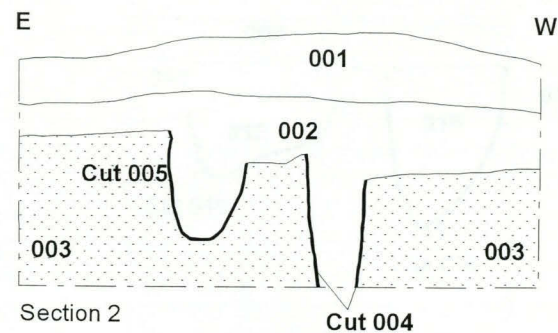


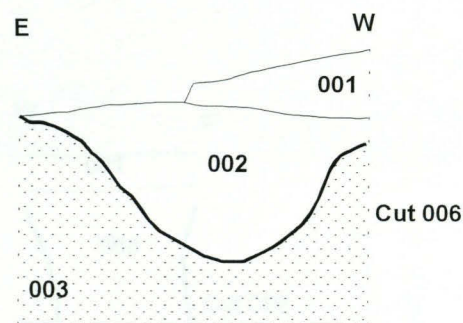
Figure 3 - Plan of Development, showing section locations




Section 1

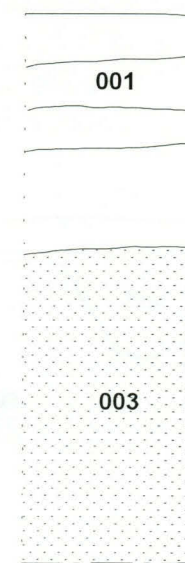


Section 2



Section 3

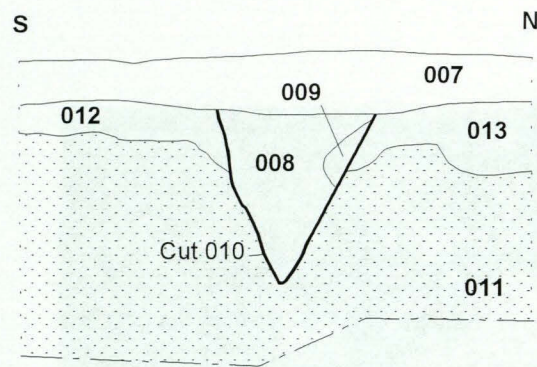
 Natural deposits



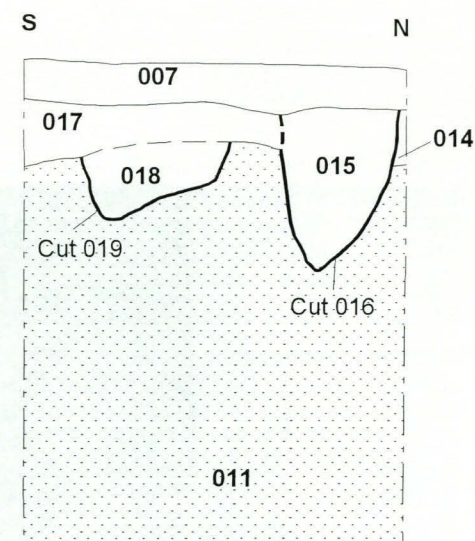
Section 4



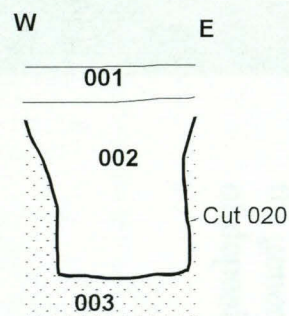
Figure 4 - Sections 1, 2, 3 and 4



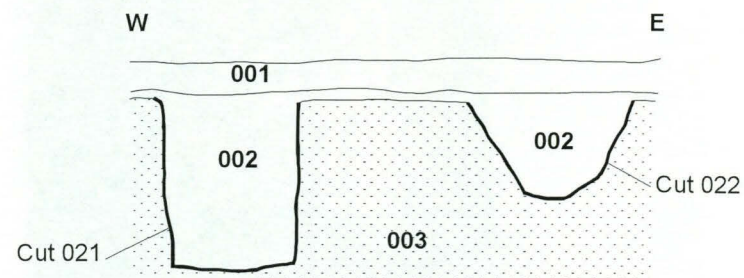
Section 5



Section 6



Section 7



Section 8

 Natural deposits



Figure 5 - Sections 5, 6, 7 and 8



▲ Plate 1 - General view of the development area, looking west

◀ Plate 2 - View of the northern foundation trenches, showing the general sequence of deposits

Appendix 1

ARCHAEOLOGICAL PROJECT BRIEF.- WATCHING BRIEF DURING ERECTION OF INDUSTRIAL BUILDING AND CONVERSION OF HOUSE AND BARNs TO OFFICES. MAIDEN HOUSE FARM LIGHT INDUSTRIAL ESTATE, FULBECK HEATH.

1. SUMMARY

- 1.1 This document is the brief for an archaeological watching brief to be carried out during the erection of an industrial building and conversion of house barns to offices. Maiden House Farm Light Industrial Estate, Fulbeck Heath.
- 1.2 This brief should be used by archaeological contractors as the basis for the preparation of a detailed archaeological project specification. In response to this brief contractors will be expected to provide details of the proposed scheme of work, to include the anticipated working methods, timescales and staffing levels.
- 1.3 The detailed specifications will be submitted for approval to the Community Archaeologist of South Kesteven District Council. The client will be free to choose between those specifications which are considered to adequately satisfy this brief.

2. SITE LOCATION AND DESCRIPTION

- 2.1 Fulbeck Heath lies approximately 14km north of Grantham in the district of South Kesteven, Lincolnshire. The site of the proposed development is centred at NGR: SK 9835 5030 (Please see enclosed location plan.)

3. PLANNING BACKGROUND

- 3.1 An application has been made to South Kesteven District Council. Application No. SK97/875/34/35. The Community Archaeologist has recommended that a Watching Brief takes place during the development.

4. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 4.1 Documentary sources indicate that Maiden house Farm may have been the site of one of the Granges of Sempringham Priory. Ruins which may relate to this usage were noted during the 19th century. Sempringham Priory itself was founded in the 12th century and survived through until the dissolution of the monasteries in the 16th century. There is a possibility therefore that the Grange dates to some if not most of this period and that there may be archaeological remains present which would be disturbed by the proposed development.

5. REQUIREMENT FOR WORK

- 5.1 The objective of the watching brief should be to ensure that any archaeological features exposed by the groundworks are recorded and interpreted and that any remains disturbed are recovered.
- 5.2 Any adjustments to the brief for the Watching Brief project should only be made after discussion with the Community Archaeologist of South Kesteven District Council.
- 5.3 The following details should be given in the contractor's specification:
 - 5.3.1 A projected timetable must be agreed for the various stages of work.
 - 5.3.2 The staff structure and numbers must be detailed.
 - 5.3.3 It is expected that all on-site work will be carried out in a way that complies with the relevant Health and Safety Legislation and that due consideration will be given to site security.

5.3.4 The recovery and recording strategies to be used must be described in full. **It is expected that an approved single context recording system will be used for all on-site and post fieldwork procedures;**

5.3.5 **An estimate of time and resources allocated for the post-excavation and report production in the form of 'person hours.'** This should include lists of specialists and their role in the project.

6. METHODS

6.1 The investigation should be carried out by a recognised archaeological body in accordance with the code of conduct of The Institute of Field Archaeologists.

6.2 The watching brief should involve:

6.2.1 archaeological supervision of soil stripping;

6.2.2 inspection of subsoil for archaeological features;

6.2.3 recording of archaeological features in plan;

6.2.4 rapid excavation of features if necessary;

6.2.5 archaeological supervision of subsoil stripping;

6.2.6 inspection of natural for archaeological features and recording of them;

6.2.7 any human remains encountered must be left in situ and only removed if absolutely necessary. The contractor must comply with all statutory consents and licences under the Disused Burial Grounds (Amendment) Act, 1981 or other Burial Acts regarding the exhumation and interment of human remains. It will also be necessary to comply with all reasonable requests of interested parties as to the method of removal, reinterment or disposal of the remains or associated items. Attempt must be made at all times not to cause offence to any interested parties;

7. MONITORING ARRANGEMENTS

7.1 The Community Archaeologist of South Kesteven District Council will be responsible for monitoring progress and standards throughout the project and will require at least seven days notice prior to the commencement of the work. The Community Archaeologist should be kept informed of any unexpected discoveries and regularly updated on the project's progress. They should be allowed access to the site at their convenience and will comply with any health and safety requirements associated with the site.

.8 REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

8.1 A full report should be produced and deposited with the South Kesteven Community Archaeologist, South Kesteven District Council Planning Department, the Developer and the County Sites and Monuments Record. The report should include:

8.1.1 location plan of the development.

8.1.2 section and plan drawing, with ground level, Ordnance Datum, vertical and horizontal scales as appropriate;

8.1.3 specialist descriptions of artefacts and ecofacts;

8.1.4 an indication of potential archaeological deposits not disturbed by the present development;

8.2 After agreement with the landowner, arrangements should be made for long term storage of all artefacts in the City and County Museum, Lincoln, as outlined in that Museum's document 'Conditions for the acceptance of Project Archives'. The City and County Museum should be contacted at the earliest possible opportunity so that the full cost implications of the archive deposition can be taken into account.

8.3 A site archive should be produced and deposited with the artefacts as detailed in 8.2.

9. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION.

9.1 This document attempts to define the best practice expected of an archaeological watching brief but cannot fully anticipate the conditions that will be encountered as work progresses. However, changes to the approved programme of excavation are only to be made with the prior written approval of the Community Archaeologist.

Brief set by Community Archaeologist, South Kesteven District Council. September 1997.

Appendix 2

CONTEXT SUMMARY

No.	Section	Description	Interpretation
001	1, 2 & 3	Moderate, mid to dark brown silt containing occasional sand, small stones and charcoal.	Topsoil.
002	1, 2 & 3	Moderate, light to mid reddish brown silty sand containing moderate limestone fragments.	Subsoil.
003	1, 2 & 3	Moderate to firm, light yellow sand and limestone fragments.	Natural.
004	2	Cut (extent unknown) with vertical sides (0.15m wide and 0.35m deep).	?Posthole.
005	2	Linear cut with steep sides and concave base (0.2m wide and 0.32m deep).	Landdrain.
006	3	Unknown cut with gradual sides and concave base (0.7m E-W and 0.32m deep).	?Pit.
007	5	Moderate, dark grey silty sandy clay containing roots and small to medium angular stones.	Topsoil.
008	5	Moderate, mid reddish brown sandy clayey silt containing roots and small to medium sub-angular stones.	Secondary fill of (010).
009	5	Compact, pale yellow limestones in a reddish brown sandy silty clay matrix.	Primary fill of (010).
010	5	Cut (extent unknown) with steep sides and pointed base (0.5m deep and 0.4m wide).	Posthole.
011	5	Compact, pale greyish yellow silty sand with medium angular limestone fragments.	Natural.
012	5	Moderate, greyish red-brown silty sand containing abundant small to medium sub-angular limestone fragments (same as 013).	Subsoil.
013	5	Moderate, greyish red-brown silty sand containing frequent small to medium sub-angular limestone fragments (same as 012).	Subsoil.
014	6	Moderate, greyish red-brown silty sand containing frequent small to large sub-angular limestone fragments (same as 017).	Subsoil.
015	6	Moderate, reddish brown sandy clayey silt containing root activity, rare large angular limestone fragments.	Fill of (016).
016	6	Cut (extent unknown) with vertical sides and pointed base.	?Posthole.
017	6	Moderate, greyish red-brown sandy silt containing moderate small to medium sub-angular limestone.	Subsoil.

018	6	Moderate, yellowish brown silty sand containing frequent small to medium sub-angular limestone and occasional large angular limestone fragments.	Fill of (019).
019	6	Cut (extent unknown) with steep sides and a flat base (0.4m wide and 0.2m deep).	?Posthole.
020	7	Cut (extent unknown) with vertical sides and a flat base (0.5m wide and 0.5m deep).	?Posthole.
021	8	Cut (extent unknown) with vertical sides and a flat base (0.4m wide and 0.5m deep).	Posthole.
022	8	Cut (extent unknown) with concave sides and base (0.4m wide and 0.35m deep).	Posthole.

Appendix 3

THE ARCHIVE

The archive consists of:

22	Context records
3	Photographic record sheet
6	Drawing sheets
1	Stratigraphic matrix

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:

Lincolnshire City and County Museum
12 Friars Lane
Lincoln
LN2 1HQ

The archive will be deposited in accordance with the document titled *Conditions for the Acceptance of Project Archives*, produced by the Lincolnshire City and County Museum.

Lincolnshire City and County Council Museum Accession Number: 106.98

Archaeological Project Services Site Code: FMH98

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.

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Appendix 4

GLOSSARY

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> (4).
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.
Layer	A layer is a term used to describe an accumulation of soil or other material that is not contained within a cut.
Medieval	The Middle Ages, dating from approximately AD 1066-1500.
Mesolithic	The period known as the 'Middle Stone Age', dating from approximately 10,000 - 4000 BC.'
Natural	Undisturbed deposit(s) of soil or rock which have accumulated without the influence of human activity.
Neolithic	The period known as the 'New Stone Age' ranging from 4000 - 2000 BC
Prehistoric	The period of human history prior to the introduction of writing. In Britain the prehistoric period lasts from the first evidence of human occupation about 500,000 BC, until the Roman invasion in the middle of the 1st century AD.
Romano-British	Pertaining to the period dating from AD 43-410 when the Romans occupied Britain.