

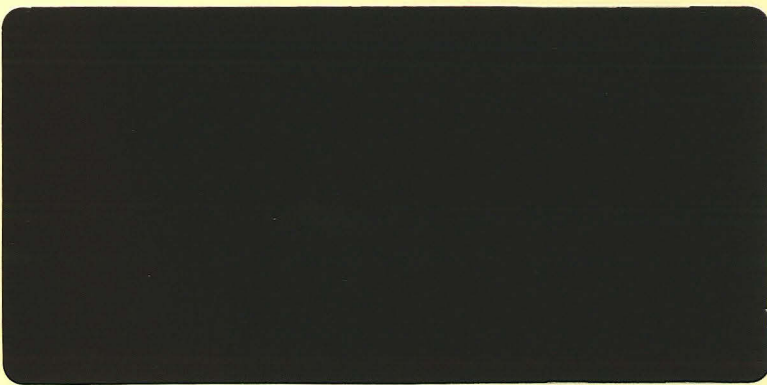
ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF
OF DEVELOPMENT ON LAND AT
POPLARS FARM,
TATTERSHALL ROAD,
~~BOSTON~~, FISHTOFT
LINCOLNSHIRE
(BTR98)



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ARCHAEOLOGICAL
PROJECT
SERVICES

Lincolnshire County Council
Archaeology Section
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**ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF
OF DEVELOPMENT ON LAND AT
POPLARS FARM,
TATTERSHALL ROAD,
~~BOSTON~~, FISHTOFT
LINCOLNSHIRE
(BTR98)**

Work Undertaken For
Mr and Mrs Hardy

January 1999

Report Compiled by
Paul Cope-Faulkner

Planning Application No: B09/0402/97
National Grid Reference: TF 3124 4700
City and County Museum Accession No: 104.98

A.P.S. Report No. **36/98**

*Archaeological Project Services is an IFA Registered Archaeological
Organisation (Number 21)*

CONTENTS

List of Figures

List of Plates

1.	Summary	1
2.	Introduction	1
	2.1 Planning Background	1
	2.2 Topography and Geology	1
	2.3 Archaeological Setting	1
3.	Aims	2
4.	Methods	2
5.	Results	2
6.	Discussion	2
7.	Conclusions	3
8.	Acknowledgements	3
9.	Personnel	3
10.	Bibliography	3
11.	Abbreviations	4

Appendices

1	Context Summary
2	The Finds by <i>Paul Cope-Faulkner and Gary Taylor</i>
3	The Archive
4	Glossary

List of Figures

Figure 1 General Location Plan

Figure 2 Site Location Plan

Figure 3 Development Site Plan

Plates

Plate 1 General View of the development, looking northeast

1. SUMMARY

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken during development on land at Poplars Farm, Tattershall Road, ~~Boston~~ ^{fisher} Lincolnshire.

Cropmarks of enclosures and droveways occur to the southwest and southeast and suggest settlement dating from the Romano-British period (AD 43-410).

The watching brief identified only a natural alluvial deposit overlain by subsoil and sealed by the present topsoil. Finds, all from the topsoil, included pottery, all of 16th - 18th century date including a Dutch import. Other finds included a small quantity of animal bone and glassware.

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 was commissioned by Mr and Mrs Hardy to undertake an archaeological watching brief during development at Poplars Farm, Tattershall Road, ~~Boston~~ ^{fisher} Lincolnshire. Approval for the development was sought through the submission of planning application B09/0402/97. The watching brief was carried out on 9th March 1998.

2.3 Topography and Geology

Boston is situated 45km southeast of Lincoln and approximately 7km from the coast of the Wash within the fens of south Lincolnshire (Fig. 1).

Tattershall Road is situated c. 3km northwest of the centre of Boston, as defined by the market place and the parish church of St. Botolph. The site lies on generally level ground at c. 3m OD, north of Tattershall Road, centred on National Grid Reference TF 3124 4700 (Fig. 2).

Local soils are Wallasea 2 Association, pelo-alluvial gley soils developed on reclaimed marine alluvium (Hodge *et al.* 1984, 338). Beneath the alluvial deposits is a solid geology of Jurassic Kellaways clays (BGS 1995).

2.4 Archaeological Setting

The proposed development site lies in an area of known archaeological activity dating from the Romano-British period. Two areas of distinct cropmarks are evident on aerial photographs. The first lies c. 300m to the southwest of the proposed development and comprises enclosures and droveways (B09/046). The second cropmark complex, situated c. 600m to the southeast, comprises rectangular, circular and linear features suggestive of a settlement (B09/038).

The development site lies northwest of the medieval town and port of Boston and during the medieval period may have been arable or, possibly, unreclaimed marshland affected by flooding of the River Witham. However, such wetland areas were an important resource for wildfowling, fisheries and reeds. Also of this period, although never accurately located, is an underground aqueduct which started near Bolingbroke, some 20km to the north, and ended in Boston. This was granted by Royal

Charter in 1327 and 1338 to the Dominican (Black Friars) monastery in the town (Page 1988, 214). The present investigation site is only slightly west of a direct line between Bolingbroke and Boston.

Located 400m to the south, Tudor Cottage is a renovated 19th century building that incorporates timber and part of a mud and stud wall from an earlier structure (Hilary Healey, *pers. comm.*). A watching brief carried out here identified an undated pit possibly associated with 18th century occupation of the site (Walker 1997).

3. AIMS

The requirements of the watching brief were to locate and record archaeological deposits, if present, and to determine their date, function and origin.

4. METHODS

The proposed development required the excavation of trenches to accommodate the footings for the new building (Fig. 3). These were excavated by machine to a depth of c. 0.75m. Once the trenches were excavated, selected deposits were cleaned by hand. The depth and thickness of each deposit was measured from the ground surface. Each deposit or feature revealed within an opened area was allocated a unique reference number (context number) with an individual written description. Natural geological deposits were also recorded where exposed. Sketch sections were made of the revealed deposits. A photographic record was also compiled. Recording of the deposits encountered during the watching brief was undertaken according to standard Archaeological Project Services' practice.

Finds recovered from those deposits

excavated were examined and a period date assigned where possible. Records of the deposits and features identified during the watching brief were also examined. Phasing was assigned based on the nature of the deposits and recognisable relationships between them. A list of all contexts with interpretations appears as Appendix 1.

5. RESULTS

Two phases were identified:

Phase 1: Natural Deposits

Phase 2: Modern Deposits

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

Phase 1: Natural deposits

A layer of blueish grey clay (003) was encountered at the base of the foundation trenches. This was identified as natural alluvium.

Phase 2: Modern deposits

Sealing the alluvial clay was a layer of brownish grey mottled silt (002). This layer was 0.44m thick and was interpreted as a naturally formed subsoil.

Overlying the subsoil was a topsoil of dark brown silt (001), measuring 0.2m thick and containing finds of 16th - 18th century pottery, 19th century glass and animal bone.

6. DISCUSSION

Natural deposits (Phase 1) of blueish grey clay were encountered in the base of the foundations. This is probably an alluvial deposit derived from marine flooding of the

area. Investigations at Tudor Cottage revealed natural deposits of sand and gravel, interpreted as a glacial deposit, possibly associated with a moraine (Walker 1997, 3).

Modern deposits (Phase 2) represent the formation of natural soil above the marine deposit.

Artefacts recovered from Phase 2 deposits at the site included locally manufactured Boston ware pottery, Cistercian ware pottery, both of 16th - 17th century date, a Dutch import of the 17th century and 18th century glazed tablewares. Other finds included animal bone, glass and a handmade brick. Such finds, derived mainly from the topsoil, may indicate no more than discarded rubbish incorporated into midden heaps and later spread on the land to improve fertility of the soil.

7. CONCLUSIONS

Archaeological investigations at Poplars Farm, Tattershall Road, ~~Boston~~ ^{GSWA} was undertaken because the site fell within an area of known archaeological activity, the close proximity of two groups of cropmarks, plus the remains of a post-medieval mud and stud building.

No deposits of archaeological interest were encountered during the watching brief. A small collection of finds were obtained from the topsoil and include 16th - 18th century pottery. No evidence was found to suggest the presence of archaeology relating to the nearby cropmarks. The nature of the local site conditions would suggest that few environmental indicators (seeds, wood, shells *etc.*) would survive, other than through charring.

8. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeological Project Services wish to acknowledge the assistance of Mr and Mrs Hardy who commissioned the fieldwork and post-excavation analysis. Gary Taylor coordinated the work and Tom Lane edited this report. Background information was kindly provided by Steven Membery, the Community Archaeologist for Boston District Council.

9. PERSONNEL

Project Coordinator: Gary Taylor
Site Supervisor: Fiona Walker
Finds Processing: Denise Buckley
Illustration: Paul Cope-Faulkner, Phil Mills
Post-excavation Analyst: Paul Cope-Faulkner

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11. ABBREVIATIONS

APS Archaeological Project Services

B Numbers prefixed thus are the reference codes used by the Community Archaeologist for Boston District Council for identifying archaeological sites and finds.

BGS British Geological Survey

IFA Institute of Field Archaeology

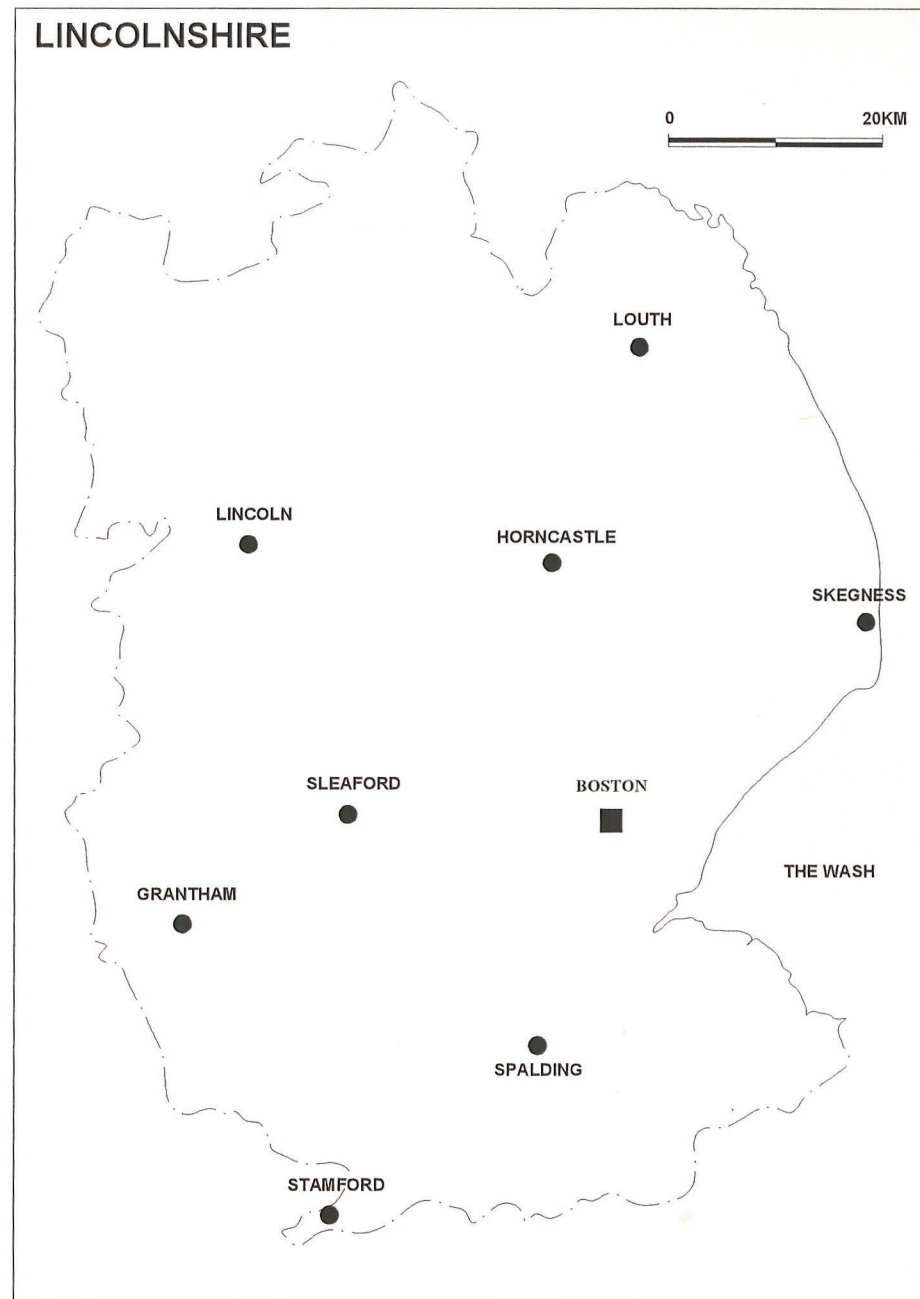
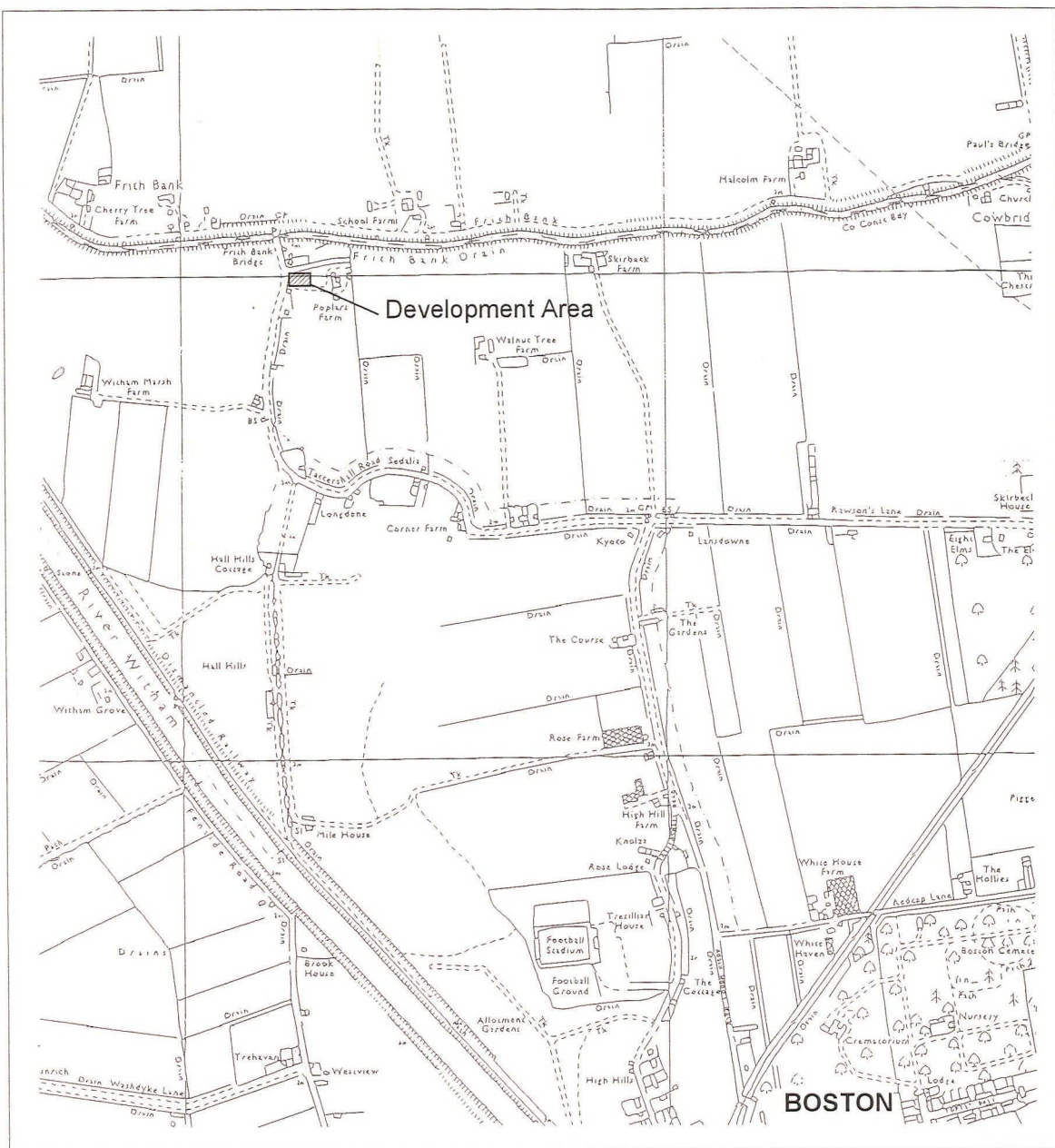
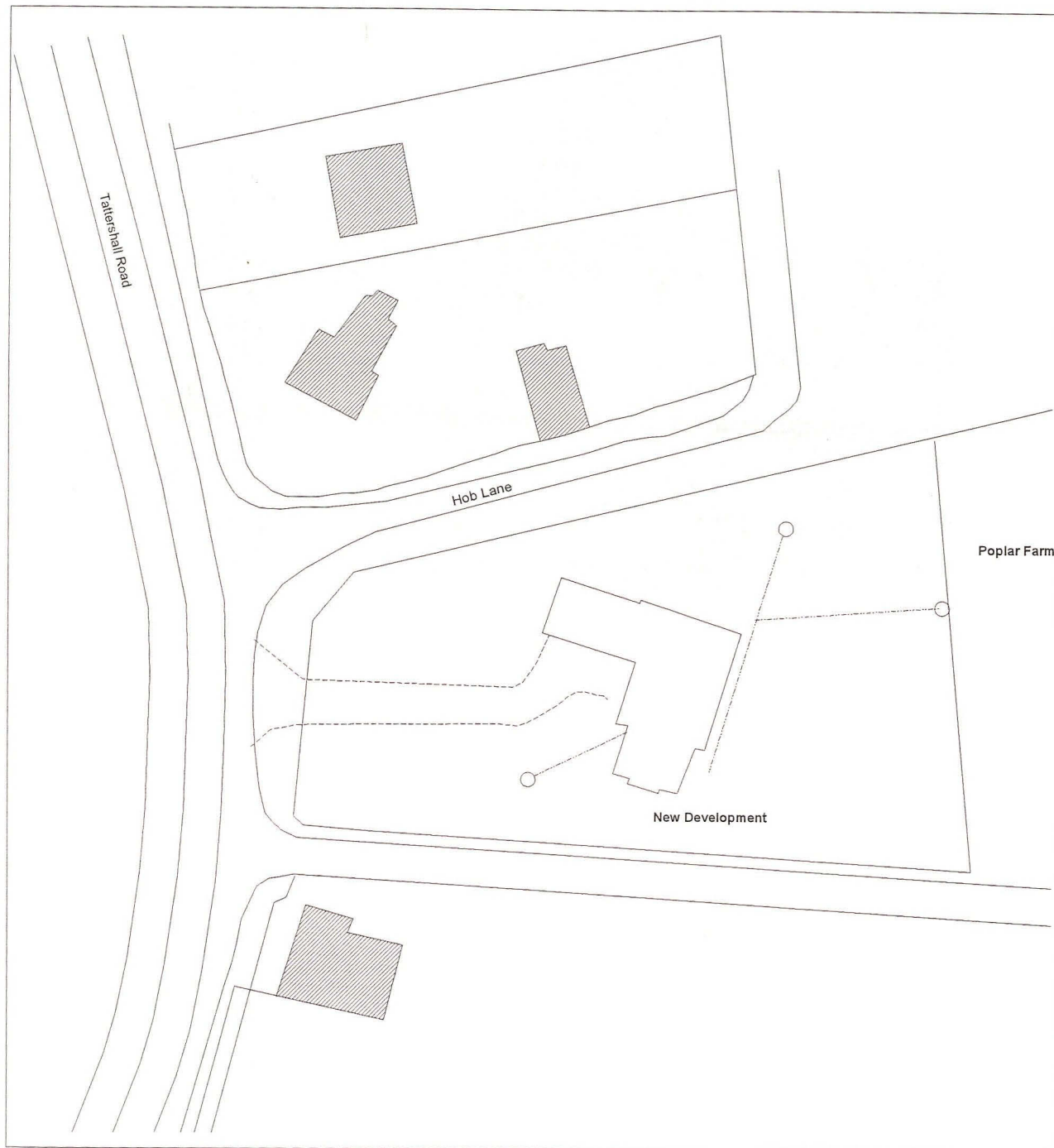


Figure 1 - General location map



Reproduced from the 1974 Ordnance Survey 1:10,000 map with the permission of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationary Office, © Crown Copyright, HTL Ltd, License No. AL52041A0001

Figure 2 - Site Location Plan



0 40m

N

Figure 3 - Development Site Plan



Plate 1 - General view across the development area,
looking northeast.

Appendix 1

CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

No.	Description	Interpretation
001	Soft to moderate dark brown silt, with frequent organic inclusions, 0.2m thick	Topsoil
002	Firm light to mid brownish grey with moderate orange brown mottled silt, 0.44m thick	Subsoil
003	Firm blueish grey clay (with some silt), minimum 0.1m thick	Natural

Appendix 2

THE FINDS

Hilary Healey and Paul Cope-Faulkner

Provenance

The material was evenly distributed in the topsoil across the site.

Range

The range of material is detailed in the table.

Context	Description	Latest Date
001	3 16 th - 17 th century Boston type ware 1 17 th century Dutch import 1 16 th - 17 th century Cistercian type ware 1 early 18 th century Cream glaze 2 mid 18 th century white salt glaze sherds 1 handmade brick fragment 1 fragment of glass bottle (19 th century) 1 Red deer tibia 1 unidentified bone fragment	19 th century

Condition

All the material is in good condition with the exception of the animal bone which has a chalky texture. However, it should present no long-term storage problems. The assemblage is archived by material class.

Documentation

Post-medieval pottery and animal bone has previously been found in Lincolnshire and reported upon.

Potential

The assemblage has little potential.

Appendix 3

THE ARCHIVE

The archive consists of:

- | | |
|---|---------------------------|
| 3 | Context records |
| 1 | Photographic record sheet |
| 3 | Sketch drawings |
| 1 | Bag of finds |
| 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: 104.98

Archaeological Project Services Site Code: BTR98

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> (004).
Cropmarks	Alterations in plant growth caused by buried remains (both archaeological and natural). Cropmarks can often be seen at ground level but are more easily observed and understood when recorded on photographs taken from aeroplanes.
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	Pertaining to the Middle Ages, dating from approximately AD 1066-1500.
Moraine	Debris carried down and deposited by a glacier.
Natural	Undisturbed deposit(s) of soil or rock which have accumulated without the influence of human activity.
Romano-British	Pertaining to the period dating from AD 43-410 when the Romans occupied Britain.