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**AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF
OF DEVELOPMENT AT
MAIN ROAD,
DYKE,
LINCOLNSHIRE
(DMR98)**

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Innocent County Council
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undated pit

Event LI1124

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**AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF
OF DEVELOPMENT AT
MAIN ROAD,
DYKE,
LINCOLNSHIRE
(DMR98)**

Work Undertaken For
Mr. R. Bailey

Report Compiled By
Martin Griffiths

February 1999

Planning Application No: SK96/983/12/43
National Grid Reference: TF 1072-2225- 1065 2232
City and County Museum Accession No: 164.98

A.P.S. Report No. 17/99

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

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1. SUMMARY

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken during the erection of a private dwelling and garage at Main Road, Dyke.

The development site lies to the east of Dyke village on the fen edge. The area is rich in archaeological remains dating from the Prehistoric period. To the north of the site lies the Car Dyke, a Romano-British waterway.

The watching brief identified a subsoil, possibly a remnant of medieval ridge and furrow, and an undated pit.

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 maybe disturbed or destroyed.' (IFA 1997).

2.2 Planning Background

On the 30th June 1998, an archaeological watching brief was undertaken during the excavation of foundation trenches for the construction of a domestic dwelling and garage on Main Road, Dyke. Approval for the development was sought through the submission of planning application SK98/0161/40/08. A condition was placed on this application for a watching brief to be carried out at Outline SK95/204/40/09. The archaeological work was commissioned by Mr. R. Bailey and was carried out by Archaeological Project Services in accordance with a brief set by the

Community Archaeologist for South Kesteven District Council.

2.3 Topography and Geology

The village of Dyke is located approximately 3km north of Bourne and 24km southeast of Grantham, in the district of South Kesteven, Lincolnshire (Fig. 1). The village is situated on a gentle slope east, towards the Fens of south Lincolnshire.

The development is located 350m southeast of the village centre as defined by the Post Office (Fig. 2). The development encompasses an area of c. 450 square metres and is situated at a height of 6m OD.

Local soils are of the Badsey 2 Association, typically fine loamy soils over calcareous gravel (Hodge *et al.* 1984, 101). The development area lies close to the junction between first terrace gravels formed in a marine environment and older sands and gravels formed during the last glaciation (GSGB 1964). These drift deposits overlie a solid geology of Oxford Clay (*ibid.*).

2.4 Archaeological Setting

Dyke is located in an area of archaeological remains dating from the Bronze Age (2250-800 BC) and later. Early Bronze Age pottery has been found within 700m southeast and northeast of the site (Hayes and Lane 1992).

The Fenland Survey identified an Iron Age settlement, possibly associated with early salt-making, 600m southeast of the site (Hayes and Lane 1992, 135). The survey also established that the settlement remained in use into the Romano-British period. The Romano-British waterway, the Car Dyke, is situated 100m to the west of the development. This monument was first believed to be a canal connecting Peterborough to Lincoln (Simmons and Cope-Faulkner 1997, 7). However, it is now

generally believed to be part of an elaborate drainage system, designed to aid colonisation of the fenland (*ibid.*). The portion of the Car Dyke near the development is an extremely well preserved section and has been designated Scheduled Ancient Monument status (County No. L1297).

Dyke is first mentioned in the Domesday Survey of 1086. Referred to as 'dic' the name is derived from the Old English *dīc* meaning ditch (Ekwall 1974, 155). The village name is probably derived from the Car Dyke earthworks and, if this is so, would be one of the earliest documentary references to the Car Dyke.

The Domesday Survey records that the land was owned by Oger the Breton and Heppo the Arblaster and contained more than 9 acres of meadow and 20 acres of woodland for pannage, the grazing of pigs (Foster and Longley 1976).

Aerial photographs of Dyke depict medieval ridge and furrow, part of an elaborate field system surrounding the village. Ridge and furrow survived as low earthworks across the development area, aligned parallel to the Car Dyke.

A watching brief was undertaken adjacent to the site in 1993 (Taylor 1993, 1). This identified a north-south aligned field boundary, although remained undated.

3. AIMS

The requirements of the watching brief, as outlined in the brief (Appendix 1), 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 footings to a depth of *c.* 1 m and width of *c.* 0.6 m. The development area was stripped of topsoil and the footings were excavated by means of a mechanical excavator. 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. Sections were drawn at a scale of 1:10. A photographic record was also compiled.

5. RESULTS

Records of the deposits and features identified during the watching brief were 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 2. Three periods of activity were recognised:

- Phase 1: Natural deposits
- Phase 2: Undated deposits
- Phase 3: Modern deposits

The numbers in brackets are the context numbers assigned in the field.

5.1 Phase 1: Natural deposits

The earliest deposit encountered during the investigation, was a layer of yellow sandy clay gravel (002) identified as the underlying natural. This deposit was found at the base of the house footings at a depth of *c.* 0.7m below the present ground level. The deposit continued beyond the limit of excavation.

5.2 Phase 2: Undated deposits

Overlying the natural deposit, towards the

eastern side of the development, a layer of yellow orange sandy clay subsoil (002) was recorded. No finds were retrieved from this layer.

Cutting through the natural deposits in Trench 3 a pit (005) was recorded. A single deposit of dark brown silt (004) that contained some burnt material filled the pit.

5.3 Phase 3: Modern deposits

A layer of topsoil (001), comprising a dark brown silty clay loam, overlay undated deposits. It varied in thickness between 0.2m and 0.3m. across the site.

6. DISCUSSION

Phase 1 deposits of sandy clay gravels represent the underlying first terrace deposits formed through glacial activity.

A subsoil and a pit indicate undated activity at the site (Phase 2). The presence of an intermittent subsoil as recorded during this investigation may relate to the medieval ridge and furrow that has previously been identified in the area. If this is so, the pit is likely to have been inserted during the post-medieval or modern periods, after the ridge and furrow had gone out of use. The function of the pit is unknown, but the absence of finds suggest it was not used for refuse disposal.

No finds were made during the investigation.

7. CONCLUSIONS

Archaeological investigations at Main Road. Dyke were undertaken because the site fell within an area of known archaeological activity, notably, its close proximity to the

Roman Car Dyke. It was considered likely that archaeological remains may be disturbed by the development.

However, an undated pit and an intermittent subsoil, possibly indicating the former ridge and furrow that was present on the site, were the only archaeological remains identified. No finds were retrieved during the investigation. 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 would like to acknowledge the assistance of Mr. R. Bailey who commissioned the fieldwork and post-excavation analysis. The work was coordinated by Gary Taylor and this report was edited by Tom Lane. Access to the Heritage Lincolnshire parish files was kindly supplied by Jenny Stevens, the Community Archaeologist for South Kesteven District Council.

9. PERSONNEL

Project Coordinator: Gary Taylor
Background: Paul Cope-Faulkner
Supervisor: Martin Griffiths
Illustration: Paul Cope-Faulkner
Post-excavation Analyst: Paul Cope-Faulkner, Martin Griffiths

10. BIBLIOGRAPHY

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11. ABBREVIATIONS

APS Archaeological Project Services

GSGB Geological Survey of Great Britain

IFA Institute of Field Archaeologists

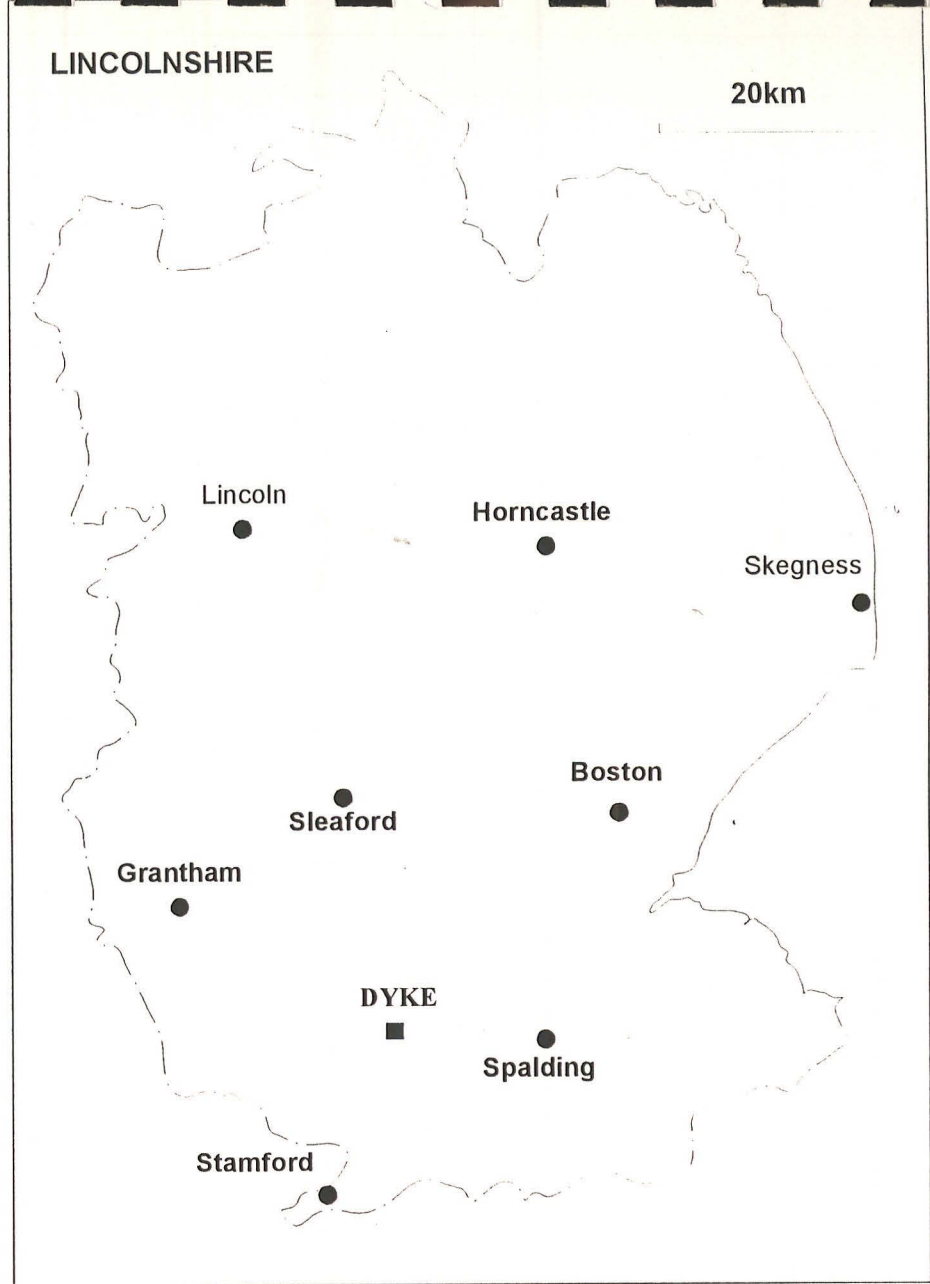
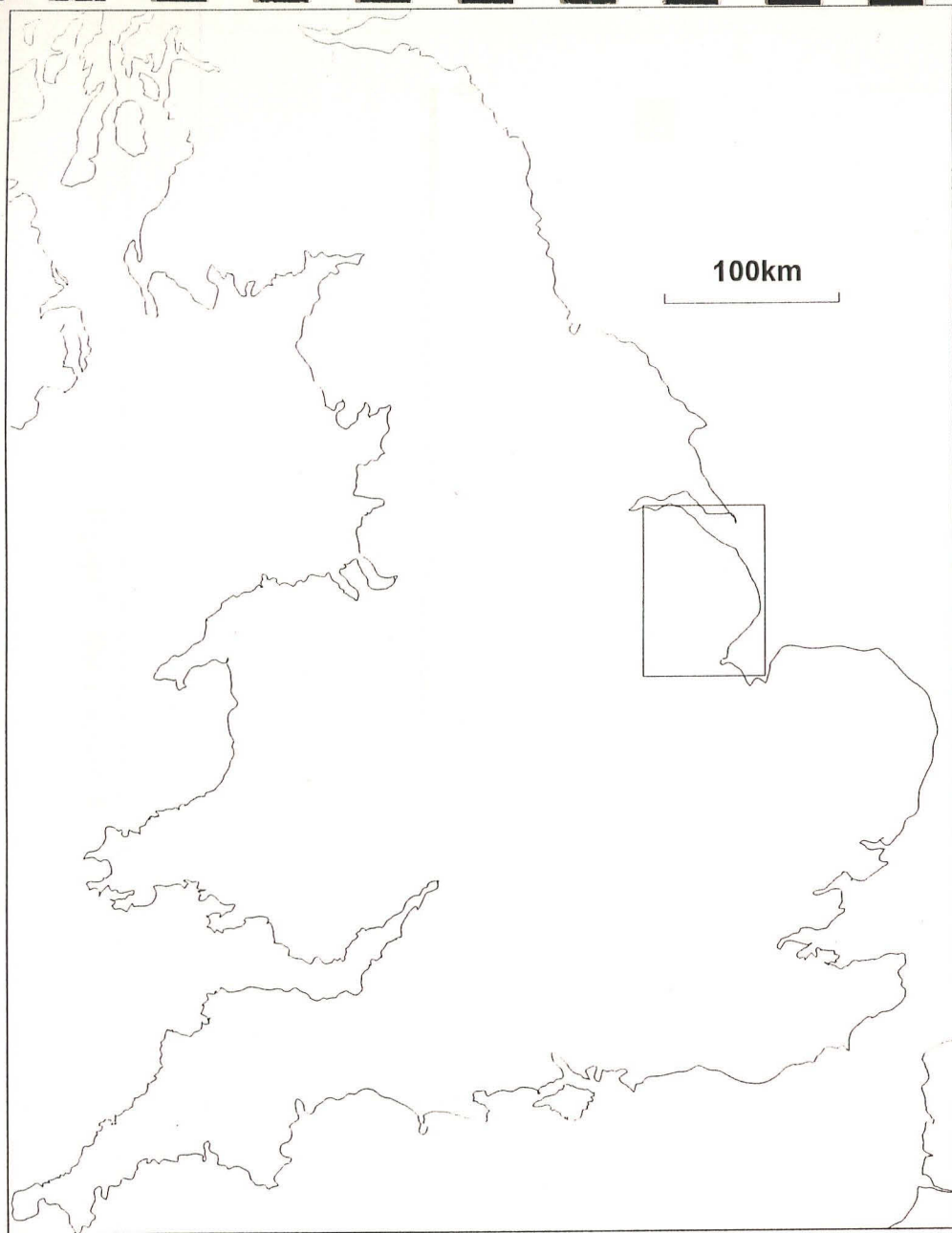
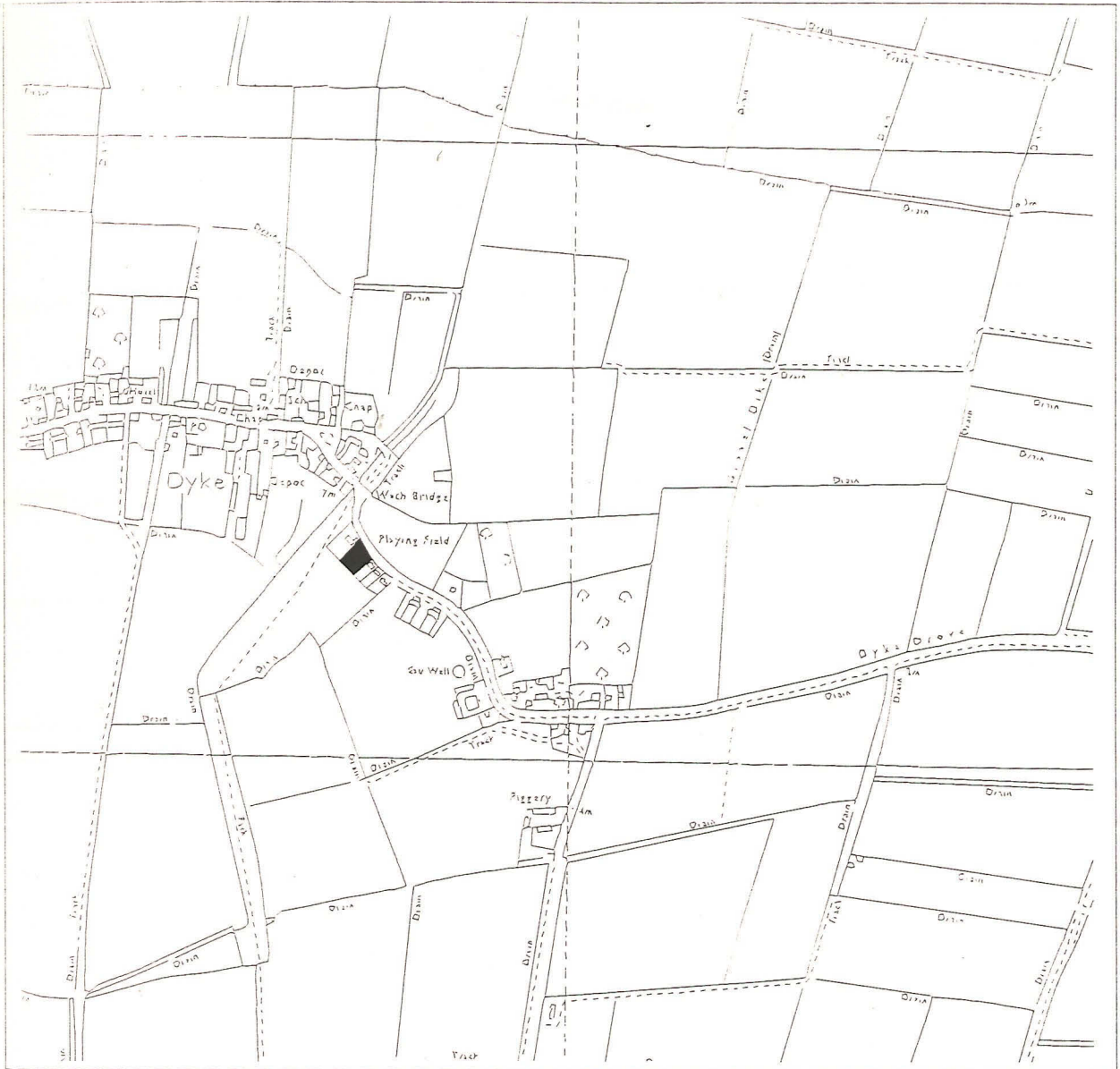


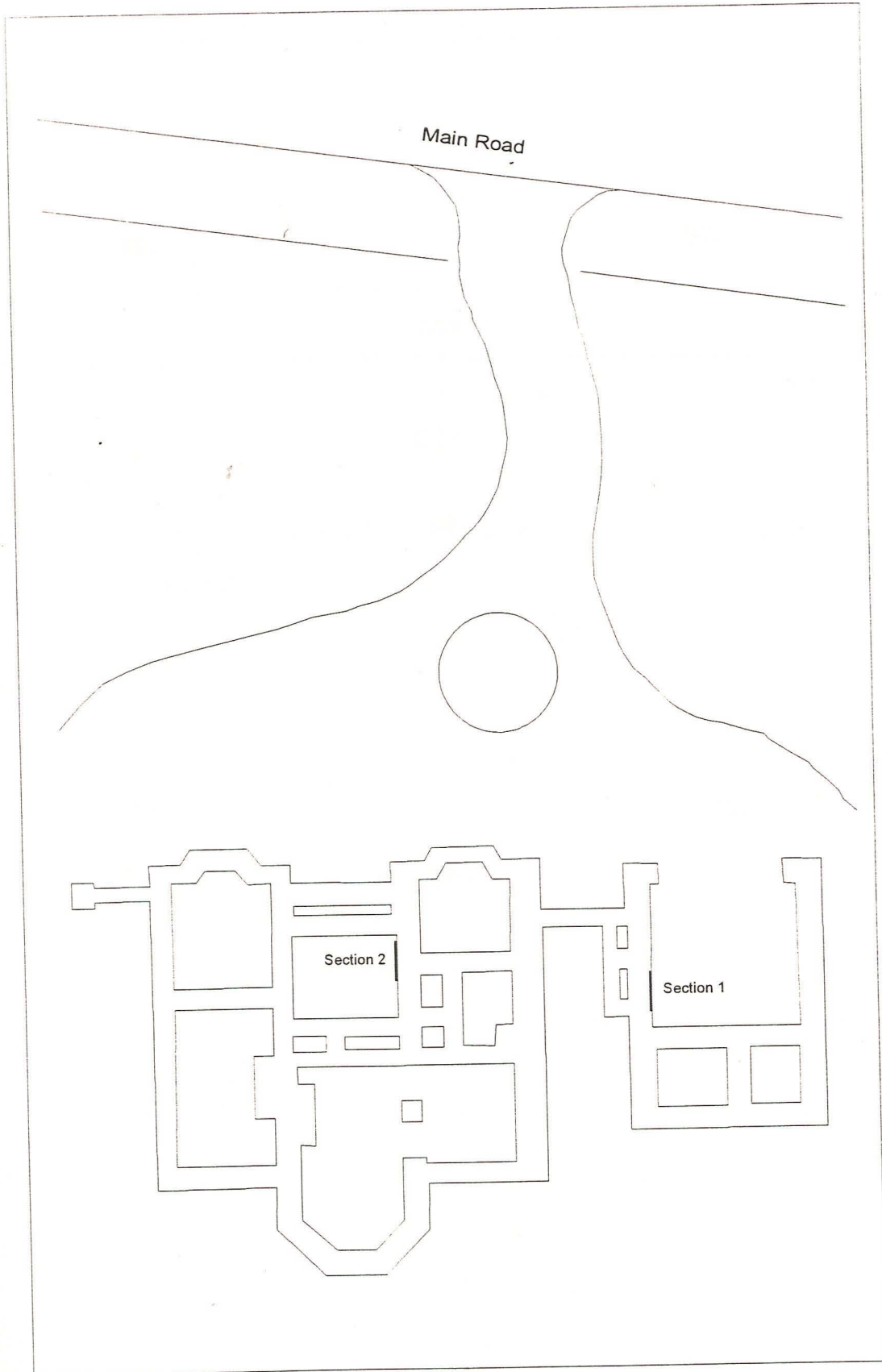
Figure 1 - General Location Plan



■ Development Site



Figure 2 - Site Location Plan



0 10m



Figure 3 - Plan of the Development, showing Section locations

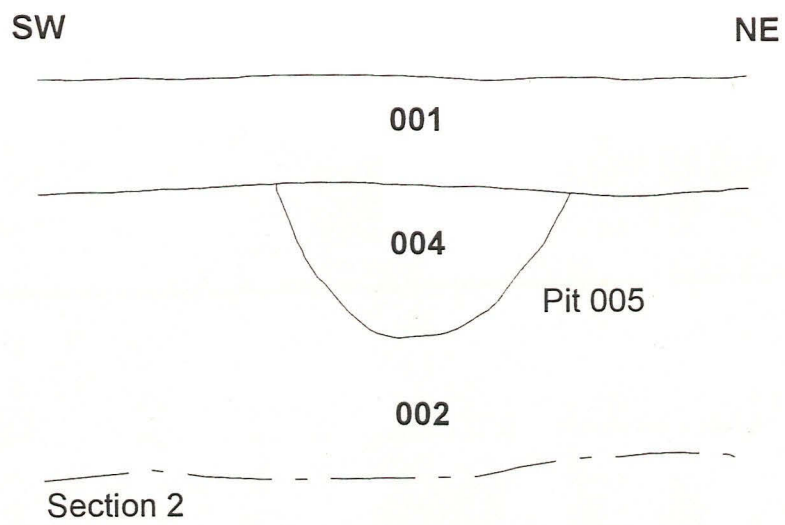
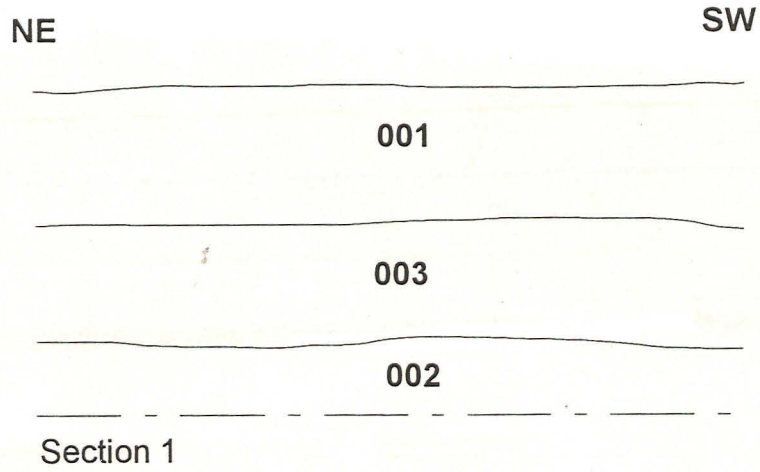


Figure 4 - Sections 1 and 2



Plate 1 - General view of the site, looking south

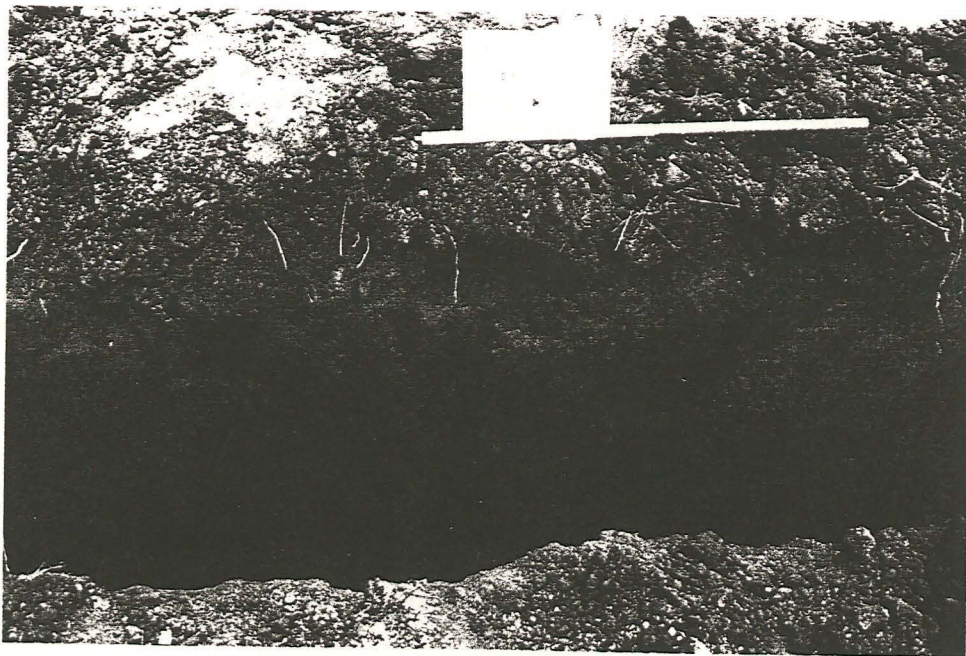


Plate 2 - The undated pit (005), Section 2, looking northwest

Appendix 1

ARCHAEOLOGICAL PROJECT BRIEF. WATCHING BRIEF AT LAND ADJACENT TO EASTGATE HOUSE, MAIN STREET, DYKE.

1. SUMMARY

- 1.1 This document is the brief for an archaeological watching brief to be carried out during the development of land adjacent to Eastgate House, Main Street, Dyke.
- 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 All of 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 The village of Dyke lies approximately 3km north east of the town of Bourne, South Kesteven, Lincolnshire. The current application site lies towards the south eastern end of the village and is centred at NGR No. TF 1072 2225 (Please see enclosed map.)

3. PLANNING BACKGROUND.

- 3.1 The proposed development is for the construction of one dwelling + garage. The application is SK96/983/12/43 and planning permission is required from South Kesteven District Council.

4. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND.

- 4.1 The site of the proposed development lies in close vicinity to the course of the Car Dyke, the Roman watercourse which runs through Lincolnshire. This particular stretch of the Car Dyke is Scheduled Ancient Monument 297 and is protected by law as being one of the best preserved section of the Dyke. It is possible that any ground disturbance within this area may disturb remains relating to the settlement of the area around the Car Dyke.

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, reinternment 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 trenches;
 - 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. November 1996

Appendix 2

CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

No.	Description	Interpretation
001	Firm dark brown silty clay, 0.2m thick. Contains occasional flint and stone fragments	Topsoil
002	Firm brownish yellow sandy clay. Occasional limestone and gravel inclusions	Natural deposit
003	Firm yellowish grey silty clay, maximum 0.25m thick. Occasional gravel and limestone inclusions	Subsoil
004	Firm dark brown silty sand. Occasional flint and limestone fragments	Fill of 005
005	Possible circular feature, 0.6m wide by 0.34m deep. Gentle slope with rounded base.	Refuse pit

Appendix 3

THE ARCHIVE

The archive consists of:

5	Context records
1	Photographic records
2	Scale drawings
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: 164.98

Archaeological Project Services Site Code: DMR98

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

Bronze Age	A period characterised by the introduction and use of bronze for tools. In Britain this period occurred between 2250 and 800 BC.
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 interpretations 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.
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) which become contained by the 'cut' are referred to as its fill(s).
Iron Age	A period characterised by the introduction of Iron into the country for tools, between 800 BC and AD 50.
Layer	A layer is a term 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.
Natural	Undisturbed deposit(s) of soil or rock which have accumulated without the influence of human activity.
Post-medieval	The period following the Middle Ages, dating from approximately AD 1500-1800.
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.