

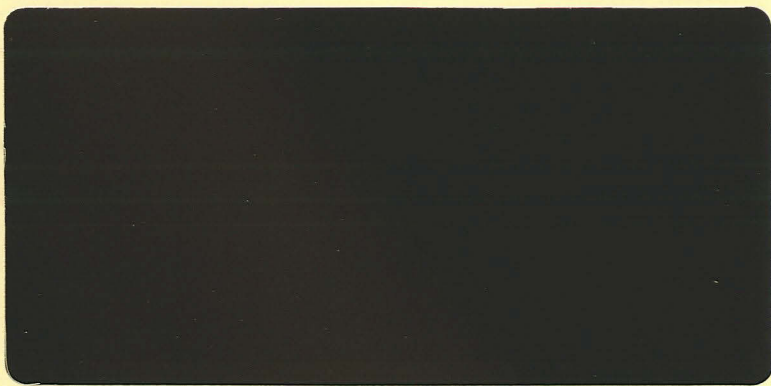
99/4  
neg.

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF  
AT BELTON PARK GOLF CLUB,  
GRANTHAM,  
LINCOLNSHIRE  
(BPG97)**



**A P S**  
ARCHAEOLOGICAL  
PROJECT  
SERVICES





Lincolnshire County Council  
Archaeology Section  
0 4. MAR 99  
arch 4/3/99

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF  
AT BELTON PARK GOLF CLUB,  
GRANTHAM,  
LINCOLNSHIRE  
(BPG97)**

Work Undertaken For  
Mr. P. H. Cross  
Belton Park Golf Club

February 1999

Report Compiled by  
Jenny Young BA (Hons)

Planning Application No.: SK97/266/54/12  
National Grid Reference: SK 9365 3806  
City and County Museum Accession No: 224.97

A.P.S. Report No. 21/99

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

## CONTENTS

Appendices

List of Figures

Plates

1.	Summary .....	1
2.	Introduction .....	1
2.1	Definition of a Watching Brief .....	1
2.2	Planning Background .....	1
2.3	Topography, Geology and Soils .....	1
2.4	Archaeological Setting .....	1
3.	Aims .....	2
4.	Methods .....	2
5.	Results .....	2
5.1	The Stratigraphic Sequence .....	2
5.2	Phase 1: Geological Deposits .....	3
5.3	Phase 2: Undated Later Deposits .....	3
6.	Discussion .....	3
7.	Conclusions .....	3
8.	Acknowledgements .....	4
9.	Personnel .....	4
10.	Bibliography .....	4
11.	Abbreviations .....	4

## Appendices

1	Archaeological Project Brief
2	Context Summary
3	The Finds, <i>Paul Cope-Faulkner and Gary Taylor</i>
4	The Archive
5	Glossary



### **List of Figures**

Figure 1 General Location Plan

Figure 2 Plan showing Area of Development

Figure 3 Detailed Plan of Development showing Recorded Features

Figure 4 Section 2

Figure 5 Sections 1 & 3

### **Plates**

Plate 1 General view of the topsoil stripping, looking northwest

Plate 2 Section 2, looking east

## 1. SUMMARY

*An archaeological watching brief was undertaken during excavation for an irrigation pond at Belton Park Golf Club, Grantham, Lincolnshire. The development is situated in close proximity to known findspots of prehistoric date.*

*Excavation of the storage pond revealed glaciofluvial deposits of sand, gravel and boulder clay probably formed at the end of the last ice age. Several modern land drains were cut into the surface of these deposits, apparently still functioning. Some sherds of post-medieval ceramic and a single piece of medieval pottery was found during removal of the topsoil, probably representing occasional refuse disposal.*

*No in situ archaeological deposits or features were observed during the watching brief and it is therefore unlikely that the area of investigation has previously been occupied.*

## 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

Between the 18th and 27th May 1998 an archaeological watching brief was undertaken during excavation of an irrigation storage pond at Belton Park Golf Club, Grantham, Lincolnshire (Planning

Application No. SK97/266/54/12). Permission for the development was granted subject to recommendation that a watching brief was undertaken during groundworks at the site.

This investigation was commissioned by Mr P.H. Cross, on behalf of Belton Park Golf Club, and was carried out by Archaeological Project Services (APS) in accordance with a brief set by the Community Archaeologist for South Kesteven District Council (Appendix 1).

### 2.3 Topography, Geology and Soils

The site is situated in Belton and Manthorpe Civil Parish approximately 4km north of Grantham town centre and 19km west of Sleaford at National Grid Reference SK9365 3806 (Fig.1).

Situated at the base of a narrow valley, the primary area of investigation straddles a small stream, central to Belton Park Golf course (Fig. 2). Although marshy, the site surface consists of improved grassland occasionally interrupted by trees on the upper slopes of the valley. Further north, a second area, outside the main valley, was monitored during topsoil stripping (Fig. 2, No. 2).

Local soils are the Blackwood Association deep permeable sandy and coarse loamy soils (Hodge *et al.* 1984, 127). These soils overlie a drift geology of glaciolacustrine sand and gravel which in turn seals a solid geology of Middle Lias clays (GSGB 1972).

Natural geological deposits recorded during the watching brief comprised clayey sands overlying a substratum of bluish-grey clay.

### 2.3 Archaeological Setting

The proposed development site lies in an area of known archaeological activity dating from the prehistoric and medieval periods.



Prehistoric archaeology has been recorded in close proximity to the development site in the form of a Neolithic flat axe found approximately 400m west of the excavations (SK08.08) and is the only evidence for prehistoric activity in the area.

Place-name evidence suggests that the nearby settlement at Belton is likely to have originated during the Anglo-Saxon or medieval periods. The first historical reference occurs in the Domesday Book, written c. 1086. Mentioned as *Beltone* (Ekwall 1974, 36), the latter states that the settlement was within the Wapentake of Threo. Local landowners included King William I, Berenger de Toden, Walter de Aincurt, Guy de Reinbuedurt, Guy of Craon and Colegrim; the listings include mention of 2 mills and a church within the village lands (Foster and Longley 1976).

Belton village is also recorded in the 12th century *Registrum Antiquissimum*, as *Beltuna* (Ekwall 1974, 36). The place-name derives from the Old English *Bel-haga*, and the first element of the word is identical with that found in numerous continental place-names; such as *Beelen* in Munster. Meaning of this continental element is unknown, though it may belong to the Old Norse *bil*, or the Danish *bil* or *bæl*, translating as 'point of time' and literally meaning 'interval' of 'inter-space'. If so, the word might naturally have been used of a glade in a forest or a piece of dry land in fenny country (*ibid*, 35).

A deserted medieval village, presumed to be that of Townthorpe (SK08.12), has been recorded 1.4km west of the development situated on either side of the River Witham.

### 3. AIMS

The requirements of the watching brief, as set by Community Archaeologist for South

Kesteven District Council, (Appendix 1), included archaeological supervision of soil stripping, inspection of the subsoil for archaeological features, recording of archaeological features in plan, rapid excavation of features if necessary, inspection of natural deposits for archaeological features and recording of them and archaeological supervision of subsoil stripping.

## 4. METHODS

Two 3 - 4m deep test pits were excavated for geological purposes to identify the depth and stratigraphy of deposits at the site. The area under development was then stripped of topsoil and the pond was subsequently excavated by machine. An area to the north of the pond was stripped to accommodate material generated from the excavation of the pond. All works were monitored by an archaeologist. Deposits and features exposed by the excavation were planned at a scale of 1:20 and sections were recorded at a scale of 1:10.

Each deposit or feature revealed within 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

### 5.1 The Stratigraphic Sequence

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. Two periods of activity were recognised:



Phase 1: Geological Deposits  
Phase 2: Undated/Later Deposits

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

### 5.2 Phase 1: Geological Deposits

The earliest deposits recorded during the watching brief was a light grey sandy clay (012) (Fig. 4) underlying a bluish grey clay (011). These were overlain by a layer of mid orange clay (010) recorded at a depth of 0.5m below the present ground surface. All these deposits extend beyond the limit of excavation and represent the underlying natural geology at the site.

### 5.3 Phase 2: Undated/Later Deposits

A layer of subsoil sealed the Phase 1 deposits (004 and 008). Measuring up to 1m thick, this deposit was present across the entire area. Pottery retrieved from deposit (008) is dateable to the medieval period.

Overlying subsoil (004) a mid orangish brown silty sand (006) was recorded and interpreted as a fluvial deposit. No dateable artefacts were retrieved from this layer.

A discontinuous dump of clinker and ashes (005) overlay deposit (006). This deposit extended intermittently from the eastern edge of the site for a length of 12.4m, a width of 2.2m and a depth of 0.2m. No dateable artefacts were retrieved from this deposit.

Cutting through subsoil (004), a field drain (013) (Fig. 5) with concave sides and base was recorded. No dateable artefacts were retrieved from this feature.

A layer of topsoil (003) and (007) developed across the site and comprised mid brown silty clay. Material retrieved from both

deposits is dateable to the 19th-20th centuries.

## 6. DISCUSSION

A sequence of natural, undated and later deposits were recorded during machine excavation of the reservoir.

The earliest deposits encountered comprise bluish or orange clays overlying grey sandy clay (Phase 1) and represent glaciofluvial drift.

Excavation of test pits prior to the development recorded a stratigraphic sequence of topsoil overlying a clayey sand subsoil. One sherd of medieval pottery retrieved from the subsoil is residual and indicates activity of this date in close proximity to the site.

Subsequent excavation of the irrigation pond recorded a strata of natural deposits overlain by subsoil. Cutting through the subsoil a field drain was recorded and overlying it, a fluvial deposit and a recent dumped deposit were recorded. The stripping of topsoil to the north of the development to accommodate excavated deposits from the pond, revealed a sequence of topsoil overlying subsoil. Several field drains were also identified, cutting through the subsoil.

## 7. CONCLUSIONS

Archaeological investigations on land at Belton Park Golf Club, Belton, Grantham, Lincolnshire were undertaken because the area lies in close proximity to known prehistoric and later archaeological remains. Artefacts dating from the Neolithic and Mesolithic periods have previously been recorded on the site. It was therefore possible that development of the area could impact into any surviving archaeological deposits.



It was expected that remains of prehistoric date would be disturbed during the development of the site. However, the deposits encountered suggest that the site was unlikely to have been used prior to the medieval period.

A number of field drains were identified along with a dumped deposit. Although no dating evidence was retrieved, it is considered that both are of post-medieval date.

## 8. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeological Project Services wish acknowledge the assistance of Mr P.H Cross for commissioning the fieldwork and post-excavation analysis. Gary Taylor coordinated the work and Dale Trimble and Tom Lane edited this report. 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 Supervisor: Ian Miller  
Computer Drafting: Neil Herbert  
Finds Processing: Denise Buckley  
Post-excavation Analyst: Jenny Young

## 10. BIBLIOGRAPHY

Ekwall, E., 1974, *The Concise Oxford Dictionary of English Place-names (4th ed)*

Foster C.W., and Longley, T. (eds), 1976, *The Lincolnshire Domesday and Lindsey Survey*, The Lincoln Record Society 19

GSGB, 1972, *Grantham: Solid and Drift geology*, 1:50,000 map sheet 127

Hodge, C.A.H., Burton, R.G.O., Corbett, W.M., Evans, R. and Seale, R.S., 1984, *Soils and their use in Eastern England*, Soil Survey of England and Wales 13

## 11. ABBREVIATIONS

APS Archaeological Project Services  
IFA Institute of Field Archaeologists  
LoE Limit of Excavation  
SK South Kesteven Parish Files

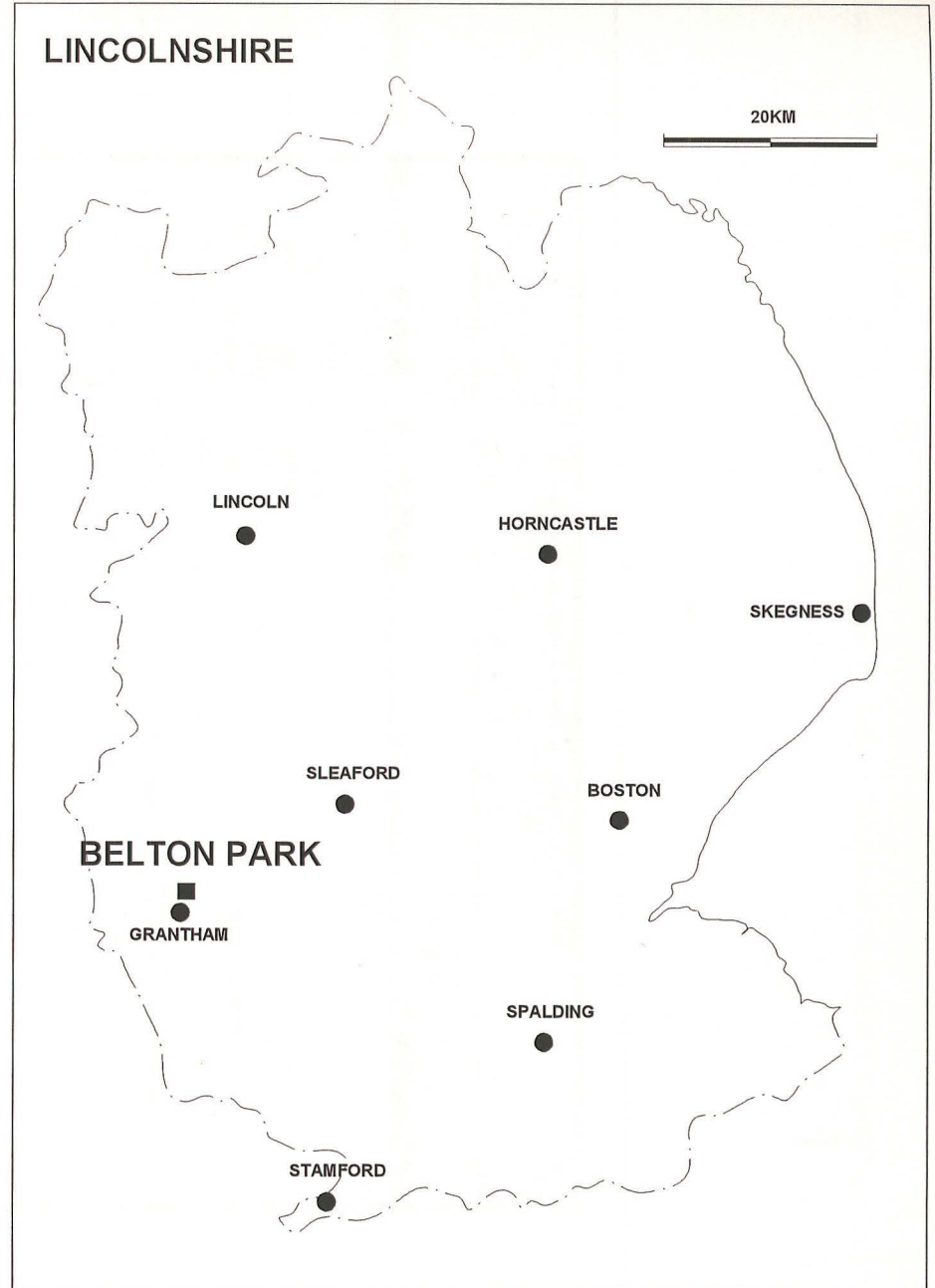
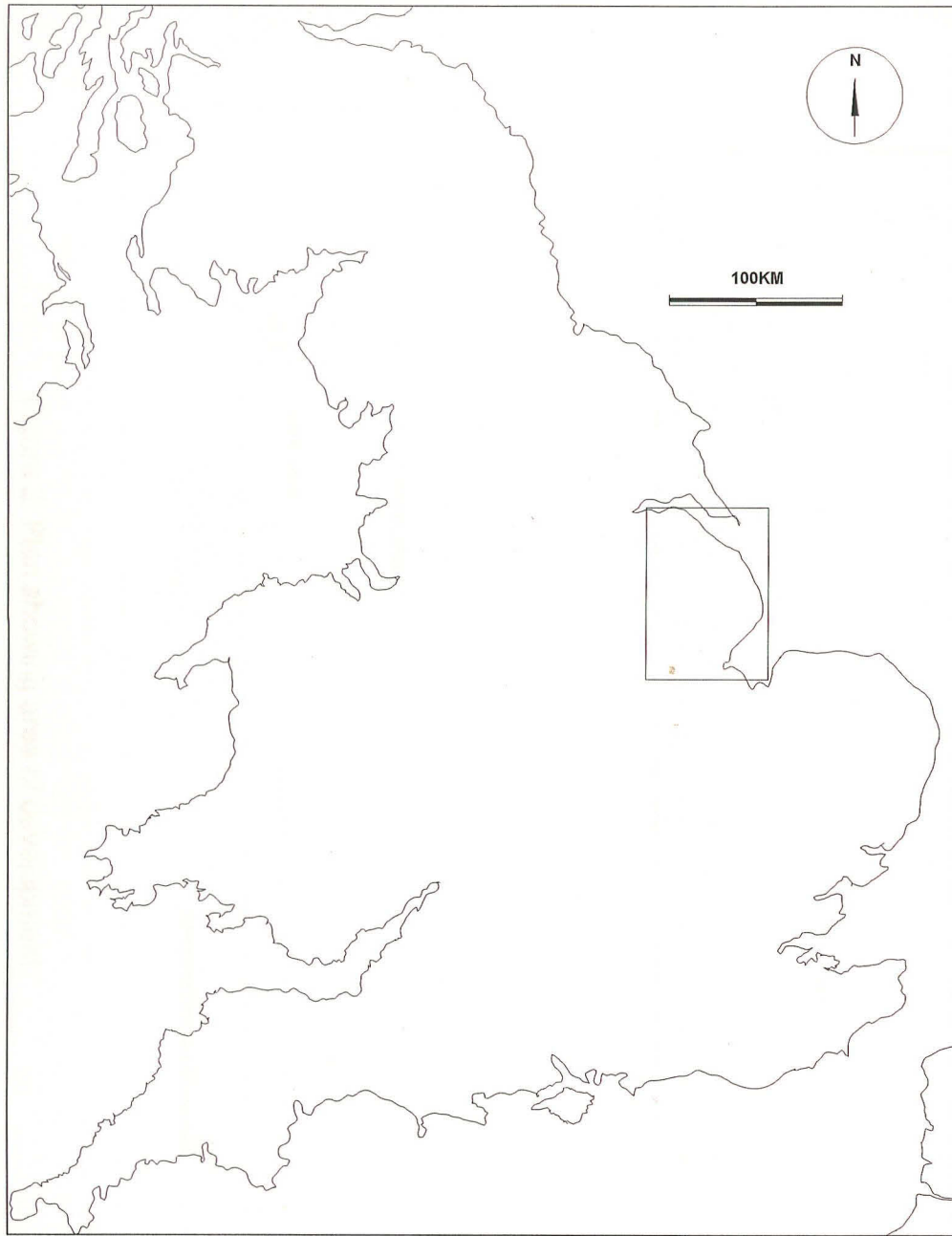
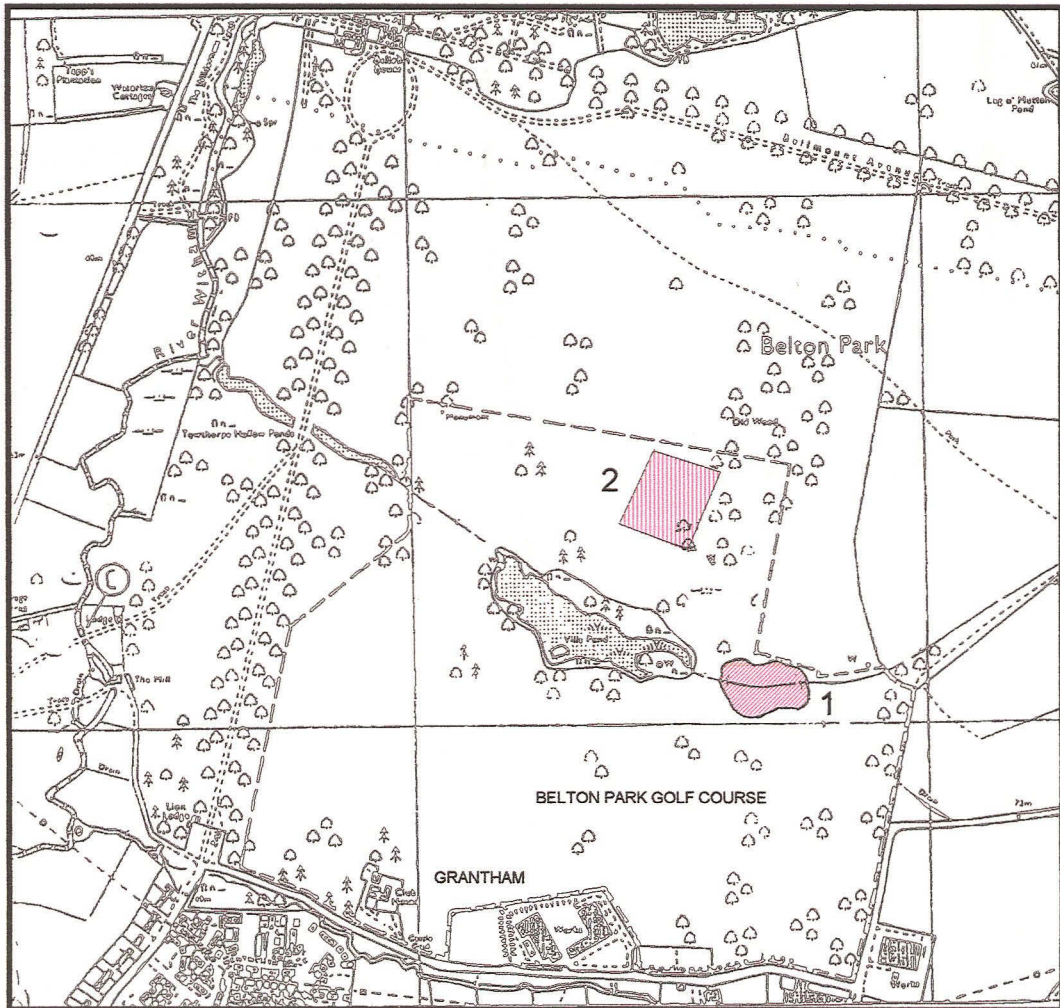
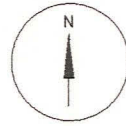


Figure 1: General location map





KEY



AREA OF DEVELOPMENT



SPOIL HEAP



Figure 2: Plan showing area of development

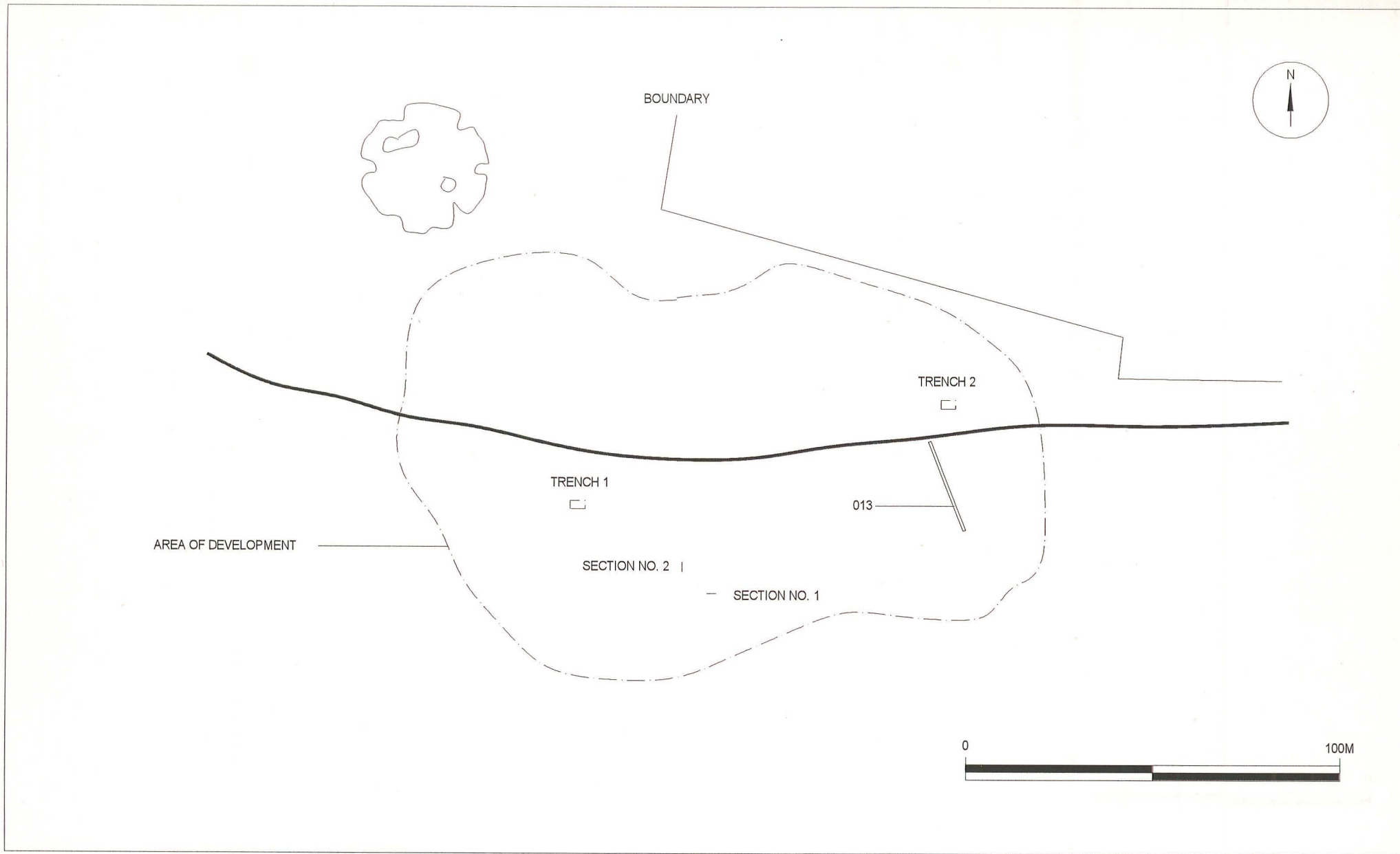


Figure 3 Detailed plan of development showing recorded features



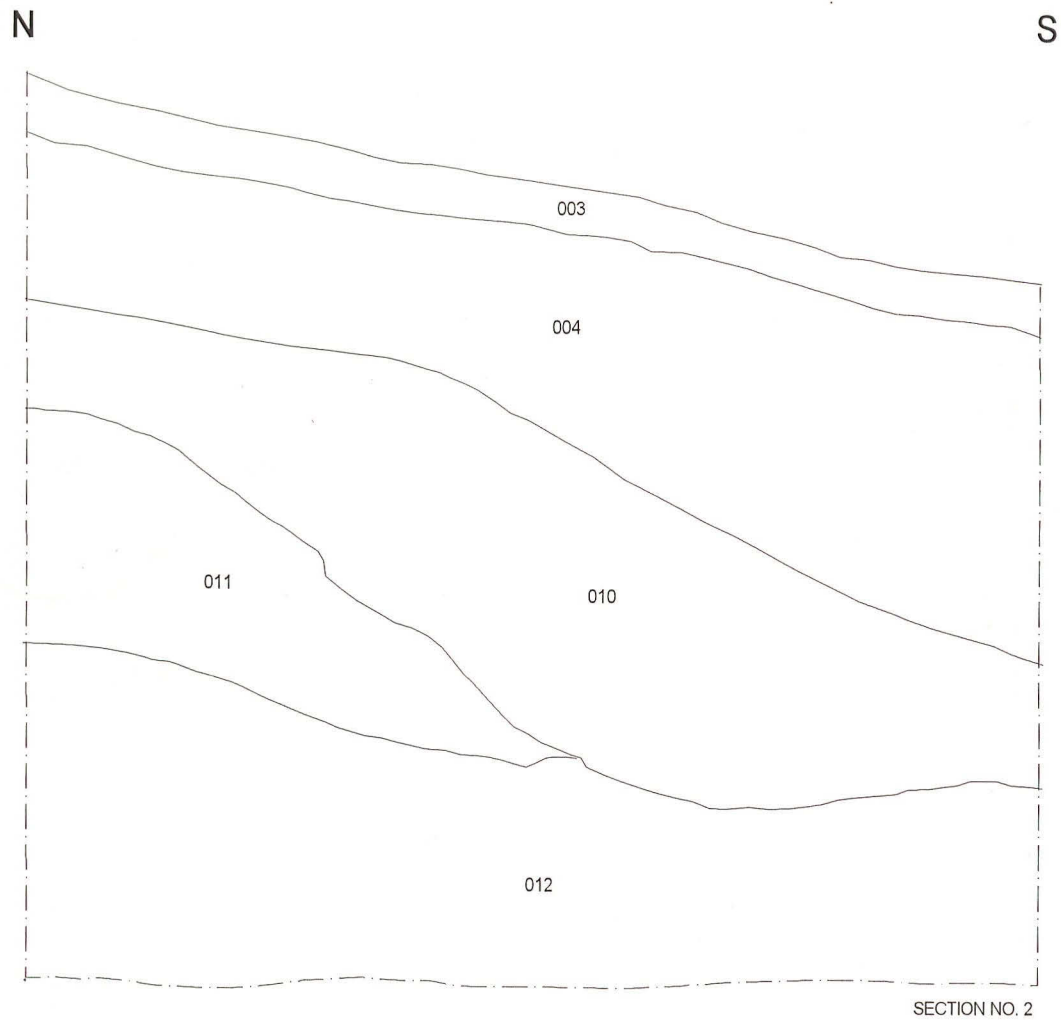


Figure 4: Section 2

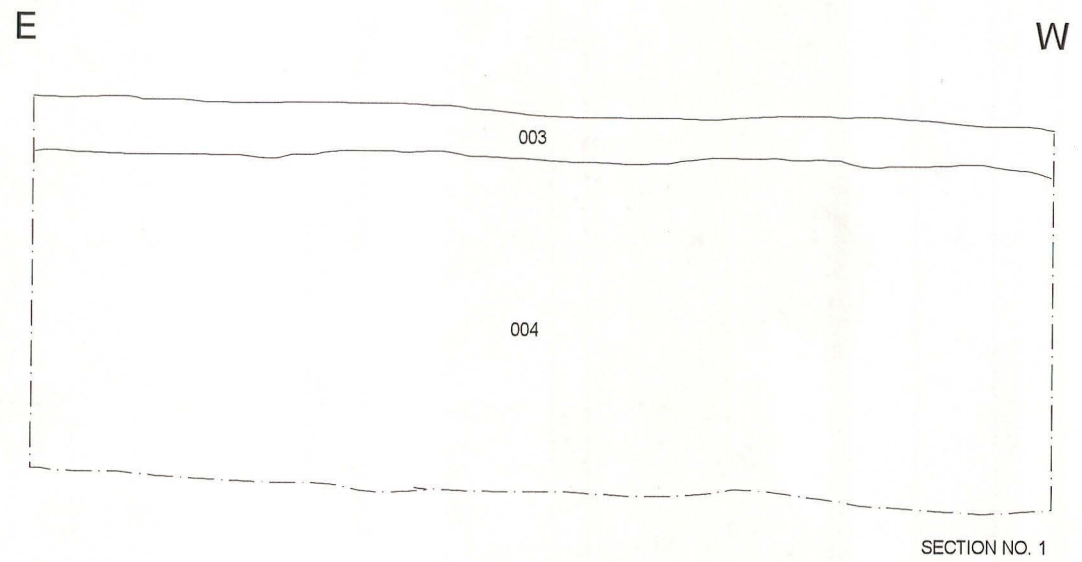
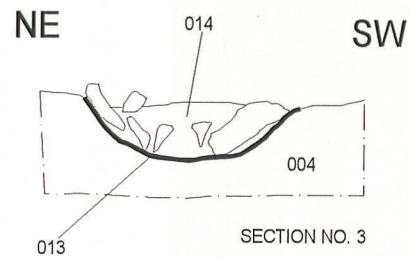


Figure 5: Sections 1 and 3





Plate 1: General view of the topsoil stripping,  
looking northwest



Plate 2: Section 2, looking east



## Appendix 1

### ARCHAEOLOGICAL PROJECT BRIEF. WATCHING BRIEF AT BELTON PARK GOLF CLUB

#### 1. SUMMARY

- 1.1 This document is the brief for an archaeological watching brief to be carried out during the excavation of an irrigation storage pond, Belton Park Golf Club, Belton, Grantham.
- 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 The application site is situated within the grounds of Belton Park Golf Course, which is itself situated within Belton Estate which lies to the north of the town of Grantham, South Kesteven District, Lincolnshire. The proposed lagoon is situated at NGR SK 9365 3806. (See map.) It is proposed to be approximately 20metres x 10 metres. Full and more accurate dimensions should be obtained from the developer.

#### 3. PLANNING BACKGROUND.

The proposed development is for the excavation of an irrigation storage pond and is application No.SK97/266/54/12. Planning permission is sought from South Kesteven District Council and the Community Archaeologist has recommended that a watching brief is undertaken during excavation.

#### 4. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND.

- 4.1 The site of the proposed development lies in an area where archaeological artefacts from a number of different periods have been found. To the west of the site are the remains of the Deserted Medieval Village of Towthorpe, situated it would seem either side of the river Witham. Recent finds in this area have included some rare pieces of Saxon pottery along with Medieval pieces. Also on the golf course itself a number of finds from the stone age periods have been found. These included Neolithic flint arrowheads and Mesolithic microliths (small pieces of worked flint used as tools). They have also been findings of Roman pottery from this area reported to Grantham museum.  
Although there has been much earth movement within Belton Park, partly the result of landscaping and subsequently the construction of the Golf Course, it is possible that remains relating to this long period of the area's history may still be present on the site.
- 4.4 An expectation concerning quality and quantity of artefacts and ecofacts should be included within the specifications based on the nature of the site. It should not be considered as part of a contingency.

#### 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 due consideration will be given to site security.
  - 5.3.4 The recovery and recording strategies to be used must be described in full.
  - 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 inspection of natural for archaeological features and recording of them;
  - 6.2.6 archaeological supervision of subsoil stripping.
  - 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.

## 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 disturbed area;
  - 8.1.2 section and plan drawing, with ground level, OrdnanceDatum, 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. April 1997.



## Appendix 2

### CONTEXT SUMMARY

No.	Area	Description	Interpretation
001	TEST PIT 1	Rectangular cut, 2m x 4m x 4m.	Test pit.
002	TEST PIT 2	Rectangular cut, 2m x 4m x 3m.	Test pit.
003	POND	Friable, mid brown silty clay containing occasional sub-rounded to angular small stones and plant roots (same as 007).	Topsoil.
004	POND	Loose to compact, mid orangish brown clayey sand containing occasional field drain fragments (same as 008).	Subsoil.
005	POND	Loose, dark grey silty clay containing frequent clinker and ashes.	Dumped deposit.
006	POND	Loose, mid orangish brown silty sand containing frequent small sub-rounded limestones.	Fluvial deposit.
007	NORTH	Friable, mid brown silty clay containing occasional sub-rounded to angular small limestones (same as 003).	Topsoil.
008	NORTH	Loose to compact, mid orangish brown clayey sand containing occasional limestones and fragments of field drain. (same as 004).	Subsoil.
009	NORTH	Unstratified finds retrieval.	
010	POND	Compact to sticky, mid orange clay containing moderate sub-angular to rounded stones.	Natural deposit.
011	POND	Sticky to compact, bluish grey clay containing occasional sub-rounded to angular stones.	Natural deposit.
012	POND	Friable, light grey sandy clay containing occasional small rounded stones.	Natural deposit.
013	S. STREAM	Linear cut, with concave sides and base (0.32m wide and 0.18m deep).	Field drain.
014	S. STREAM	Loose, mid orangish brown clayey sand containing frequent sub-angular stones and occasional plant roots.	Backfill of (013).

## Appendix 3

### THE FINDS

By Paul Cope-Faulkner BA and Gary Taylor MA

#### Provenance

All of the material was recovered from either the topsoil (003 and 007) or subsoil (008) deposits.

The medieval material derives from production centres in the general vicinity, at Stamford, only 32km to the southeast of Belton. In contrast, probably all of the post-medieval pottery comes from more distant sources, most probably the Midlands, particularly Staffordshire.

#### Range

The range of material is detailed in the tables.

The earliest artefact is a fragment of pottery of probable 11<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup> century date. However, 19th-20th century pottery and glass provide the most abundant aspect of the assemblage. The assemblage consists of pottery, brick, glass and animal bone.

*Table 1: The Pottery and Slate*

Context	Description	Date
003	1x white glazed earthenware	19th-20th century
	1x stoneware jar with black transfer print ']* G['	19th-20th century
	7x vessel glass, 6 green, 1 colourless	19th-20th century
007	5x white glazed earthenware, 2 with concretion	19th-20th century
	1x creamware	18th-early 19th century
	1x stoneware	19th-20th century
	1x brick, ?handmade	
	1x vessel glass	19th-20th century
008	1x ?Stamford ware, abraded	?11th-13th century

*Table 2: The Animal Bone*

Context	Description	Notes
009	1 cattle-size lower jaw (mandible)	?butchered

#### Condition

Although the medieval sherd is worn, all of the material is in good condition and presents no long-term storage problems. The assemblage should be archived by material class.

#### Documentation

Medieval and post-medieval artefact assemblages from throughout the county have previously been examined and reported, though material of such generally late date is usually dealt with in a cursory fashion. Artefacts, though mostly of prehistoric date, have previously been found in Belton Park and reported to the South Kesteven



Community Archaeologist and County Sites and Monuments Record.

**Potential**

The assemblage has limited potential. The single medieval artefact may have entered the area through manuring, indicating that the area was probably arable during the medieval period. Further indications of medieval arable activity in Belton Park are represented by areas of ridge and furrow earthworks.

## Appendix 4

### THE ARCHIVE

The archive consists of:

14	Context records
1	Photographic record sheet
3	Scale 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: 224.97

Archaeological Project Services Site Code: BPG97

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.

Archaeological Project Services shall retain full copyright of any commissioned reports under the *Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988* with all rights reserved; excepting that it hereby provides an exclusive licence to the client for the use of such documents by the client in all matters directly relating to the project as described in the Project Specification.



## Appendix 5

### GLOSSARY

<b>Context</b>	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).
<b>Cut</b>	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.
<b>Layer</b>	A layer is a term used to describe an accumulation of soil or other material that is not contained within a cut.
<b>Medieval</b>	The Middle Ages, dating from approximately AD 1066-1500.
<b>Natural</b>	Undisturbed deposit(s) of soil or rock which have accumulated without the influence of human activity.
<b>Neolithic</b>	The period known as the 'New Stone Age' ranging from 4000 - 2000 BC
<b>Prehistoric</b>	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.
<b>Wapentake</b>	An administrative district in the former Danelaw shires of Derby, Leicester, Lincoln and Nottingham