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**ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF
ON LAND ADJACENT TO
DALESTORTH FARM,
ALLINGTON,
LINCOLNSHIRE
(ADF97)**



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**ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF
ON LAND ADJACENT TO
DALESTORTH FARM,
ALLINGTON,
LINCOLNSHIRE
(ADF97)**

Work Undertaken For
Carlin Construction Ltd

March 1999

Report Compiled by
Paul Cope-Faulkner BA (Hons) AIFA

Planning Application No.: SK97/532/01/22
National Grid Reference: SK 8575 4007
City and County Museum Accession No: 299.97

A.P.S. Report No. 25/99

*Archaeological Project Services is an IFA registered archaeological
organisation (Number 21)*

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1. SUMMARY

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken during development at Dalestorth Farm, Sedgebrook Road, Allington, Lincolnshire. The development is situated on the edge of the modern village from which medieval, and earlier, remains are known.

A medieval pit and gully represent the earliest features identified during this investigation. No indication of habitation was associated with these features. Post-medieval remains were largely associated with agricultural activities, notably the farm buildings existing on the site.

Artefacts recovered during this investigation include two medieval pottery fragments and a range of 19th to 20th century material.

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 Background

Between the 5th November 1997 and the 30th September 1998 an archaeological watching brief was undertaken during development at Dalestorth Farm, Sedgebrook Road, Allington, Lincolnshire. Permission for the development was granted subject to recommendation that a watching brief was undertaken during groundworks at the site as detailed in Planning Application No.

SK97/532/01/22.

This investigation was commissioned by Carlin Construction Ltd, and was carried out by Archaeological Project Services in accordance with a brief set by the Community Archaeologist for South Kesteven District Council (Appendix 1).

2.3 Topography, Geology and Soils

Allington is located 7km northwest of Grantham and 22km west of Sleaford in South Kesteven District, Lincolnshire (Fig.1).

Dalestorth Farm is located 300m southeast of the village centre as defined by the parish church of the Holy Trinity (Fig. 2). The development site is situated at a height of c. 45m OD on a slope down to the southeast on land centred on National Grid Reference SK 8575 4007.

Local soils are the Evesham II Association, typically calcereous pelosols (Hodge *et al.* 1984, 188). These soils overlie a solid geology of Lower Jurassic Lower Lias shales and ferruginous limestones (GSGB 1972).

2.4 Archaeological Setting

The proposed development site lies in an area of known archaeological remains dating from the prehistoric period to the present. A Neolithic polished stone axe was found 750m west of the site (Pask 1990, 3). The green lane known as Sewstern Lane, along the west side of the parish, may also have prehistoric origins, and much of its length was reused during the Romano-British period (Whitwell 1970, 48). A 3rd century Roman coin has also been found within the village (Pask 1990, 3).

Allington village is first recorded in the Domesday Survey of 1086. Referred to as

Adelingtone the name derives from the Old English meaning either the village or homestead (*tûn*) of the *aethelings* (princes) or of *Aepelheah's* people (Ekwall 1974, 7). The Domesday Survey records three manors held by Robert de Toden, Berenger de Toden and Robert Mallet and included two churches and 420 acres of meadow (Foster and Longley 1976). The two manors owned by the de Toden family subsequently split from the other to form West Allington (Pask 1990, 6).

Each of the two villages contained a church, probably those referred to in the Domesday Survey. The church of the Holy Trinity, 400m northwest of the site, was situated in West Allington and dates from the early 13th century (Pevsner & Harris 1989, 97). However, within the church are Saxon cross fragments, presumably belonging to the church mentioned in the Domesday Survey (Pask 1990, 4). The second church or chapel of East Allington, that of St. James, was demolished after the 2nd World War and was located 270m north of the development (*ibid.* 18).

Medieval artefacts, comprising 10th - 13th century pottery, have been recorded in close proximity to the development site and are possibly associated with earthworks located 100m northwest of the development.

Standing structures of post-medieval date include Allington Hall and the Old Manor House, both dating to the 17th century (Pevsner & Harris 1989, 97). The village was unified in 1896 (Pask 1990, 14).

3. AIMS

The requirements of the watching brief, as detailed in the brief (Appendix 1), were to locate and record archaeological deposits, if present, and to determine their date, function

and origin.

4. METHODS

Areas were stripped of topsoil or foundation trenches excavated as required by the development. After excavation by mechanical excavator, the sides and base of all trenches were cleaned and sections rendered vertical. Selected deposits were partially or fully excavated by hand to determine their nature and to retrieve artefactual data. The depth and thickness of each deposit was measured from the ground surface. Each archaeological deposit or feature revealed within the trench was allocated a unique reference number (context number) with an individual written description. A photographic record was compiled and sections were drawn at a scale of 1:10 and plans at a scale of 1:100. Recording of deposits encountered during the watching brief was undertaken according to Archaeological Project Services standard practice.

Finds recovered from excavated deposits were examined and a period date assigned where possible (Appendix 3). Records of the deposits and features recognised during the watching brief were also examined and a stratigraphic matrix compiled. A list of all contexts and interpretations appears as Appendix 1. Phasing was assigned based on artefact dating and the nature of the deposits and recognisable relationships between them.

5. RESULTS

Three periods of activity were recognised:

- Phase 1 Natural deposits
- Phase 2 Medieval deposits
- Phase 3 Post-medieval/Recent deposits

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

Phase 1 Natural deposits

Located in the north corner of the site at the base of the foundation trenches was a solid geology of white limestone (021). This was overlain by a light brownish yellow clay (020), up to 0.8m thick.

To the south, no solid geology was observed. Natural deposits were either a yellowish brown silt (005) or a light brown silt (014).

Phase 2 Medieval deposits

Cut into natural deposits was a linear feature aligned northeast to southwest (011) and measuring 0.4m wide and 2m in length (Fig. 4). Interpreted as a gully it contained a single fill of yellowish brown sandy silt (010). This gully was truncated by a sub-rectangular pit (009). This pit was 1.3m long by 1m wide and contained a single fill of brown silt (008). Although unexcavated, a single unabraded sherd of Stamford ware, dating from the 10th to 12th century, was retrieved from the fill.

Phase 3 Post-medieval/Recent deposits

Sealing pit (009) was a layer of brownish yellow silt and clay (002) and brown silt with clay (013) interpreted as subsoil (Fig. 5, Section 1). Between 0.1m and 0.4m thick, this subsoil was only evident in the southern portion of the site.

Cut into the subsoil was a linear feature (004), interpreted as a gully, and an oval pit (007). The gully contained a fill of light brown silt and clay (003) in which three animal burials were recorded. The pit

contained a light brown silt fill (006) from which a further animal burial was noted.

In the north corner of the site a sub-circular cut (024) was recorded, measuring approximately 7m in diameter and 0.8m deep (Fig. 5, Section 3). This feature, probably a pond, contained two fills, a lower of blue clay (023) and an upper of brownish yellow clay (022). Brick and modern debris were recorded from this feature, but were not collected.

The western part of the site was sealed by a topsoil of brown silts (001 and 012) up to 0.45m thick. In the northern corner, recent activity, associated with the development, had mixed the topsoil with building debris (019).

East of the main development was a sequence of bedding layers (016, 017 and 018) for a tarmac surface (015), formerly an access to the farm buildings.

6. DISCUSSION

A solid geology of limestone represents the earliest deposit encountered during the investigation (Phase 1). Other natural deposits include silts and clays and are possibly derived from weathering of the underlying geological deposits as no drift geology (glacially derived deposits, alluvium, colluvium, *etc.*) is recorded in the vicinity.

The earliest archaeological features (Phase 2) are a pit and a gully. Neither feature was excavated during the investigation and only a single sherd of pottery was retrieved from the surface of the pit fill. Without further investigation in Allington, particularly of the earthworks to the northwest, these two features stand in isolation. However, neither of these features, and the lack of finds,

would indicate medieval habitation in the immediate vicinity.

Phase 3 deposits are probably associated with the former farm buildings on the site and activities associated with them. The animal remains from the gully and pit accord with the agricultural nature of the site.

Finds from the site include medieval Stamford and Toynton pottery and a range of 18th to 20th century material including glass and clay pipes. Most finds were from topsoil layers and may represent nothing more than discarded rubbish. A total of four animal burials was recorded during the investigation. Three of these came from a gully and include juvenile and adult sheep and one burial was in a pit. These carcasses show no sign of butchery and it is likely they died naturally, perhaps as a result of some disease.

7. CONCLUSIONS

Archaeological investigations on land at Dalestorth Farm, Sedgebrook Road, Allington, Lincolnshire were undertaken because the area lies in close proximity to known archaeological remains, particularly the medieval settlement of Allington.

The watching brief identified a medieval pit and gully and a number of post-medieval features associated with the farm. None of the medieval features are indicative of settlement and it is likely the site lay on the periphery of the medieval village.

Artefacts were recovered and represent a typical, if small, collection common in Lincolnshire. The nature of the local site conditions would suggest that few environmental indicators (seeds, wood, snails, *etc.*) would survive, other than

through charring.

This investigation represents the first archaeological intervention within Allington and indicates that there is potential for the survival of archaeological features.

8. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeological Project Services wish to acknowledge the assistance of Mr D.E.R. Parry of Carlin Construction Ltd for commissioning the fieldwork and post-excavation analysis. Dale Trimble coordinated the work and Tom Lane edited this report. Jenny Sevens, 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: Dale Trimble
Site Supervisors: Neil Herbert, Rene Mouraille, Fiona Walker
Finds Processing: Denise Buckley
Illustration: Paul Cope-Faulkner
Post-excavation Analyst: Paul Cope-Faulkner

10. BIBLIOGRAPHY

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11. ABBREVIATIONS

APS	Archaeological Project Services
GSGB	Geological Survey of Great Britain
IFA	Institute of Field Archaeologists
LoE	Limit of Excavation
SK	South Kesteven Parish Files

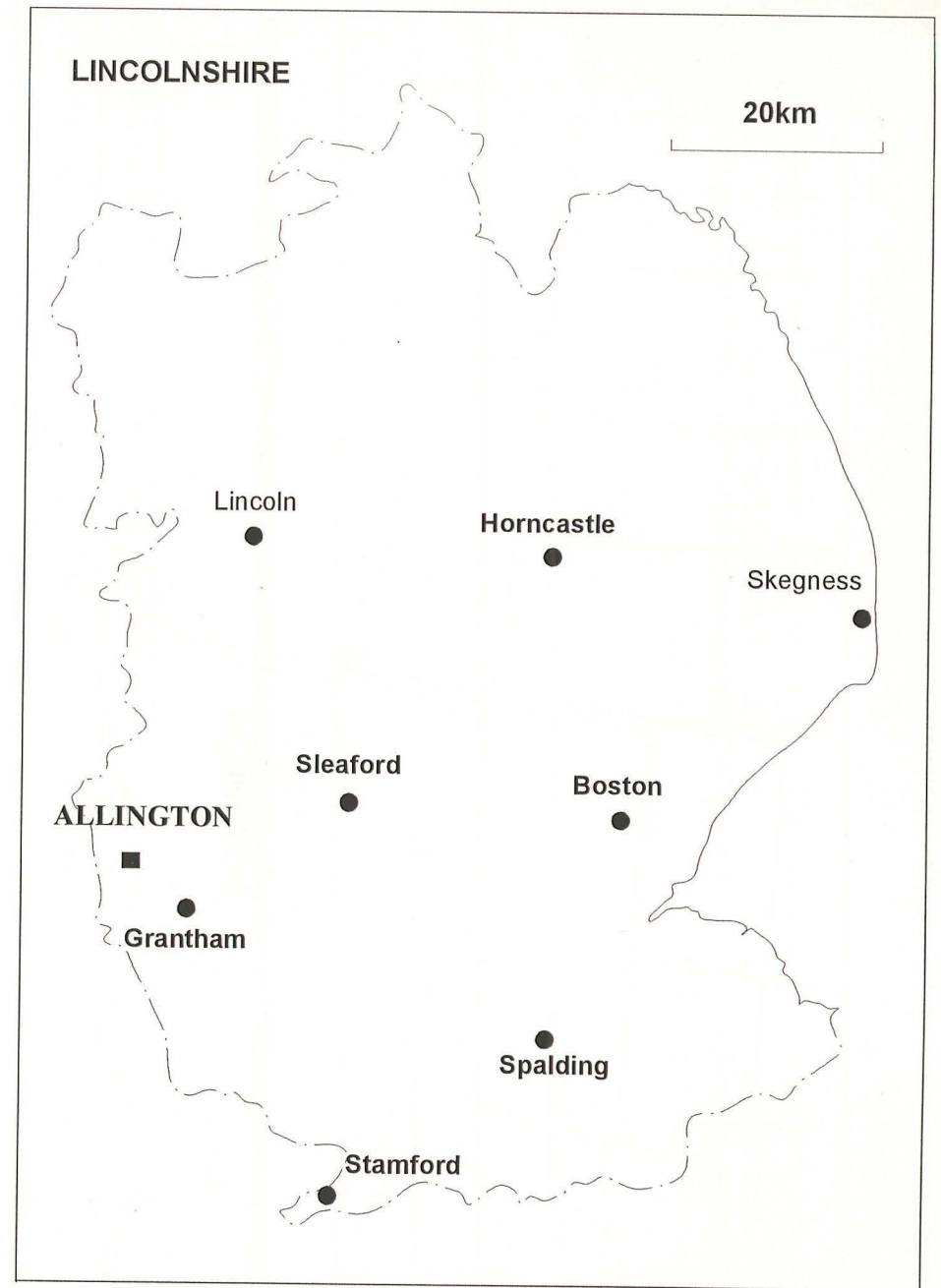
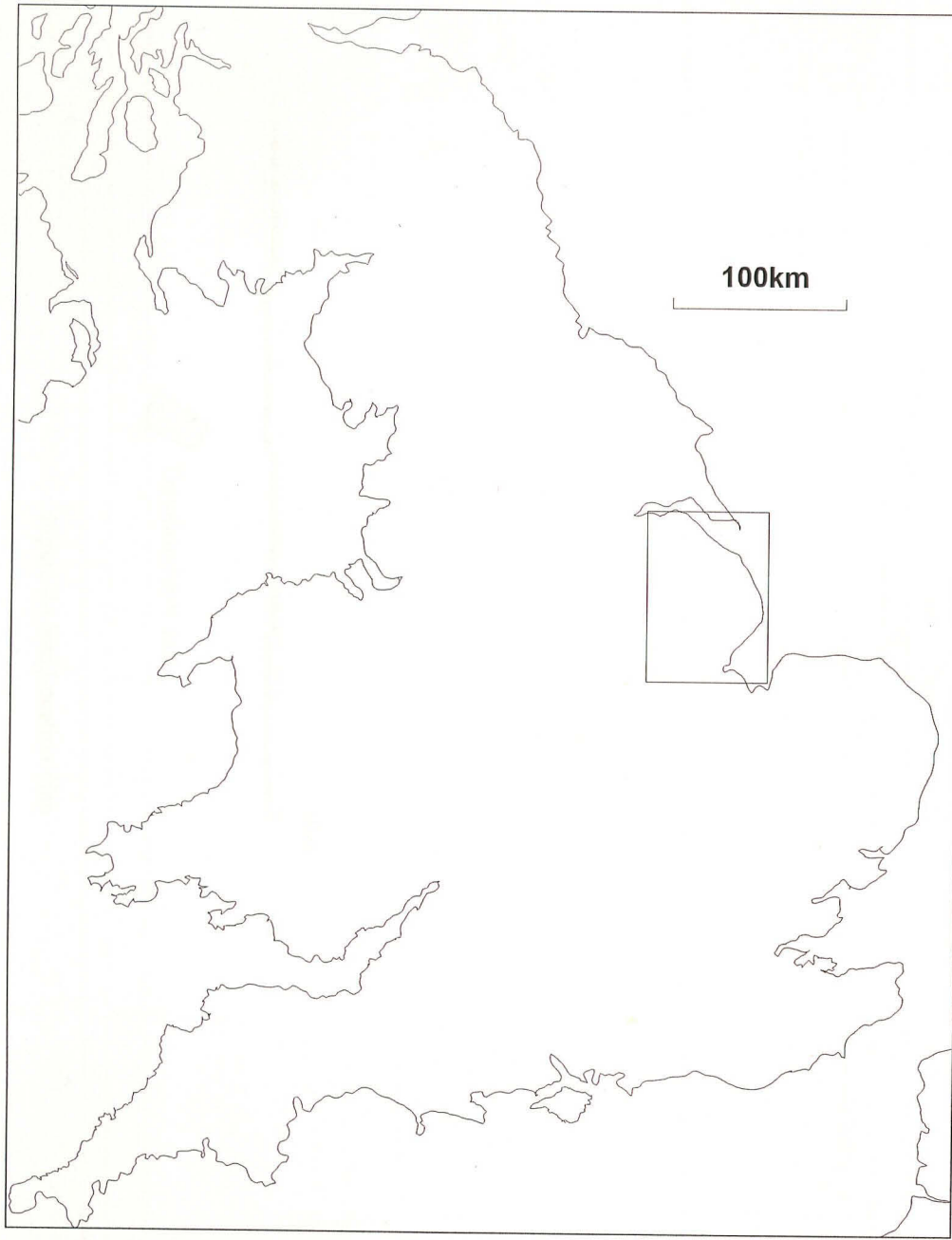


Figure 1 - General Location Plan



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1km

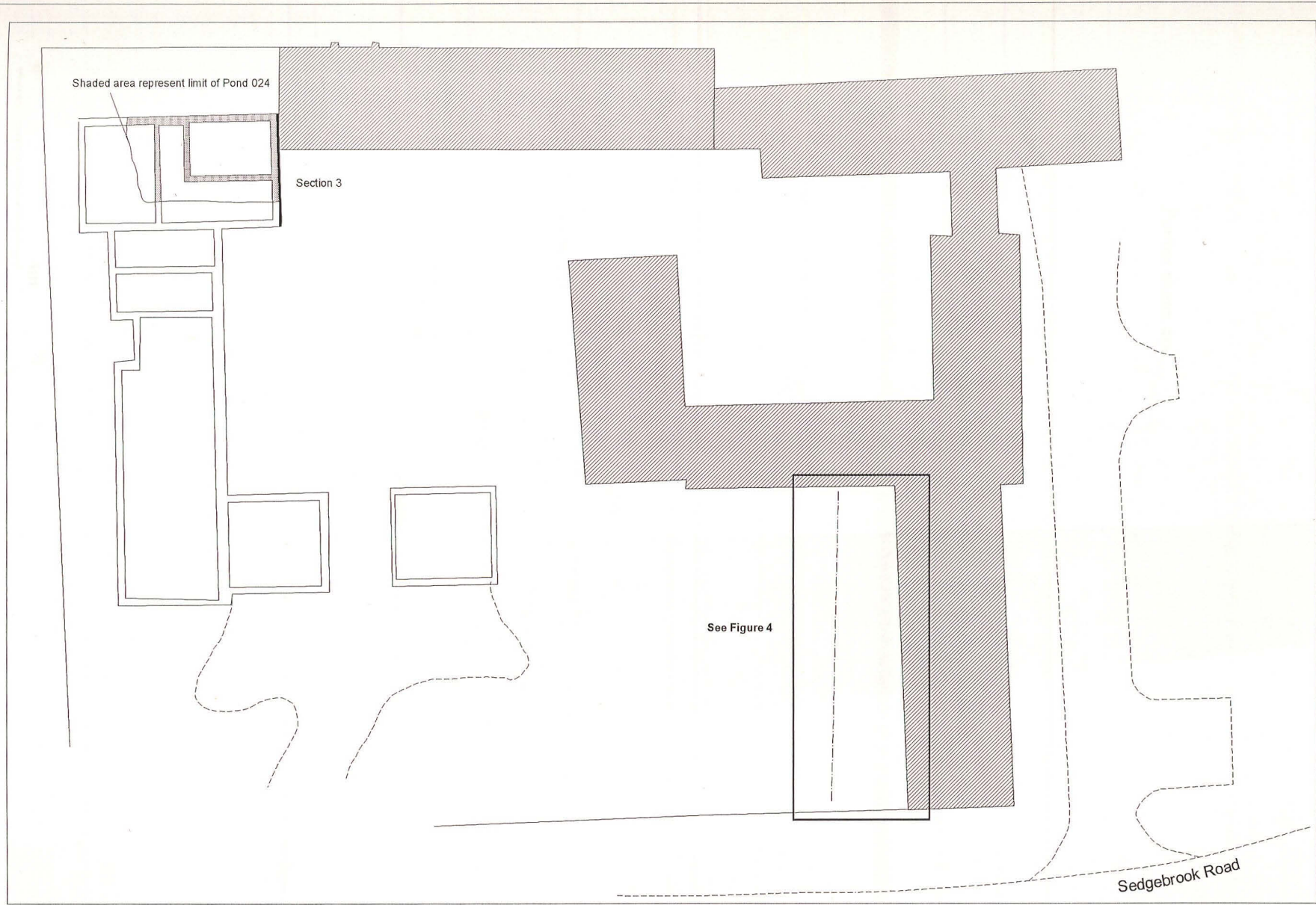


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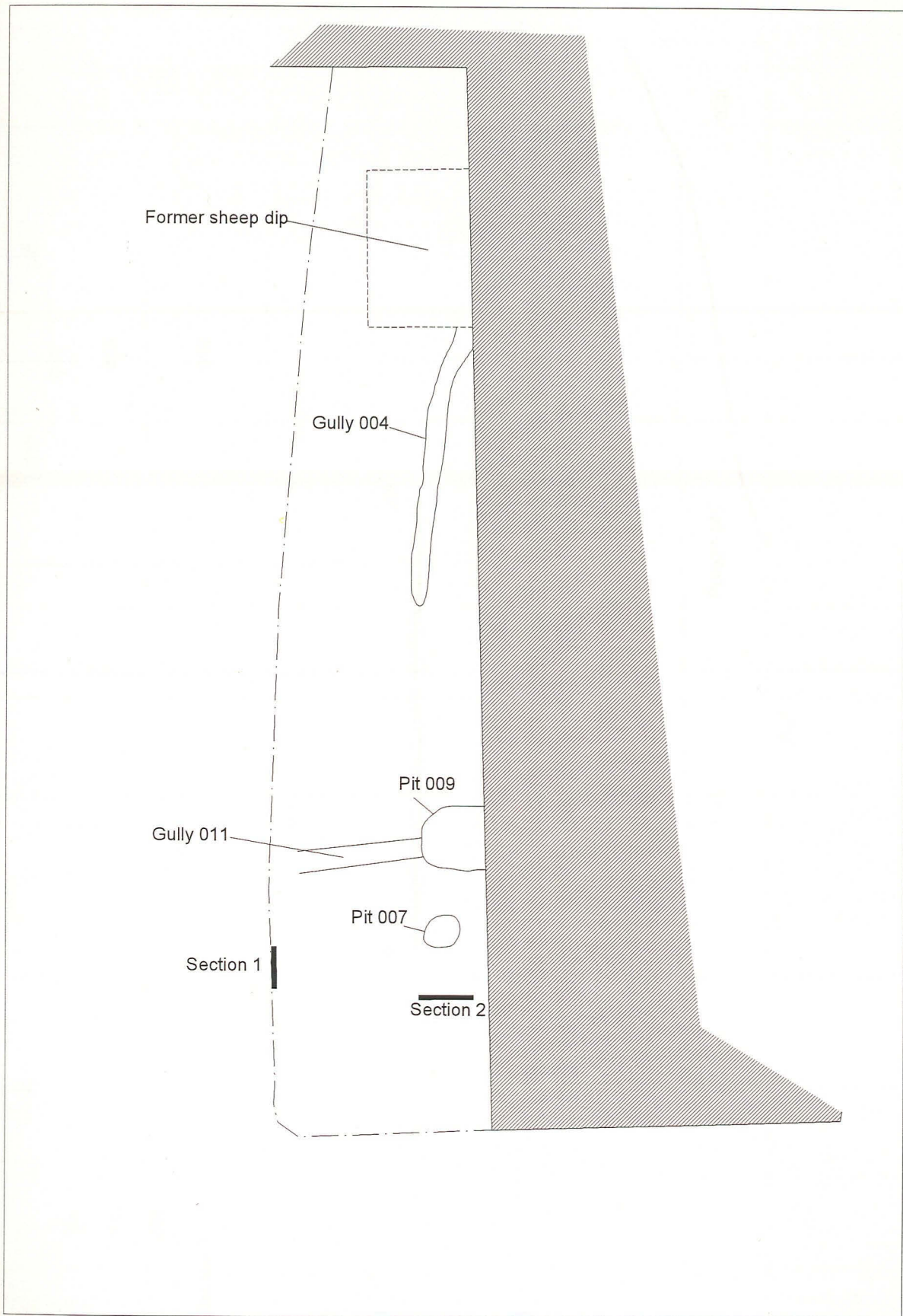
Development site

Figure 2 - Site Location Plan



Existing buildings (to be converted)

Figure 3 - Plan of Development



0 4m



Figure 4 - Plan of features found adjacent to farm buildings

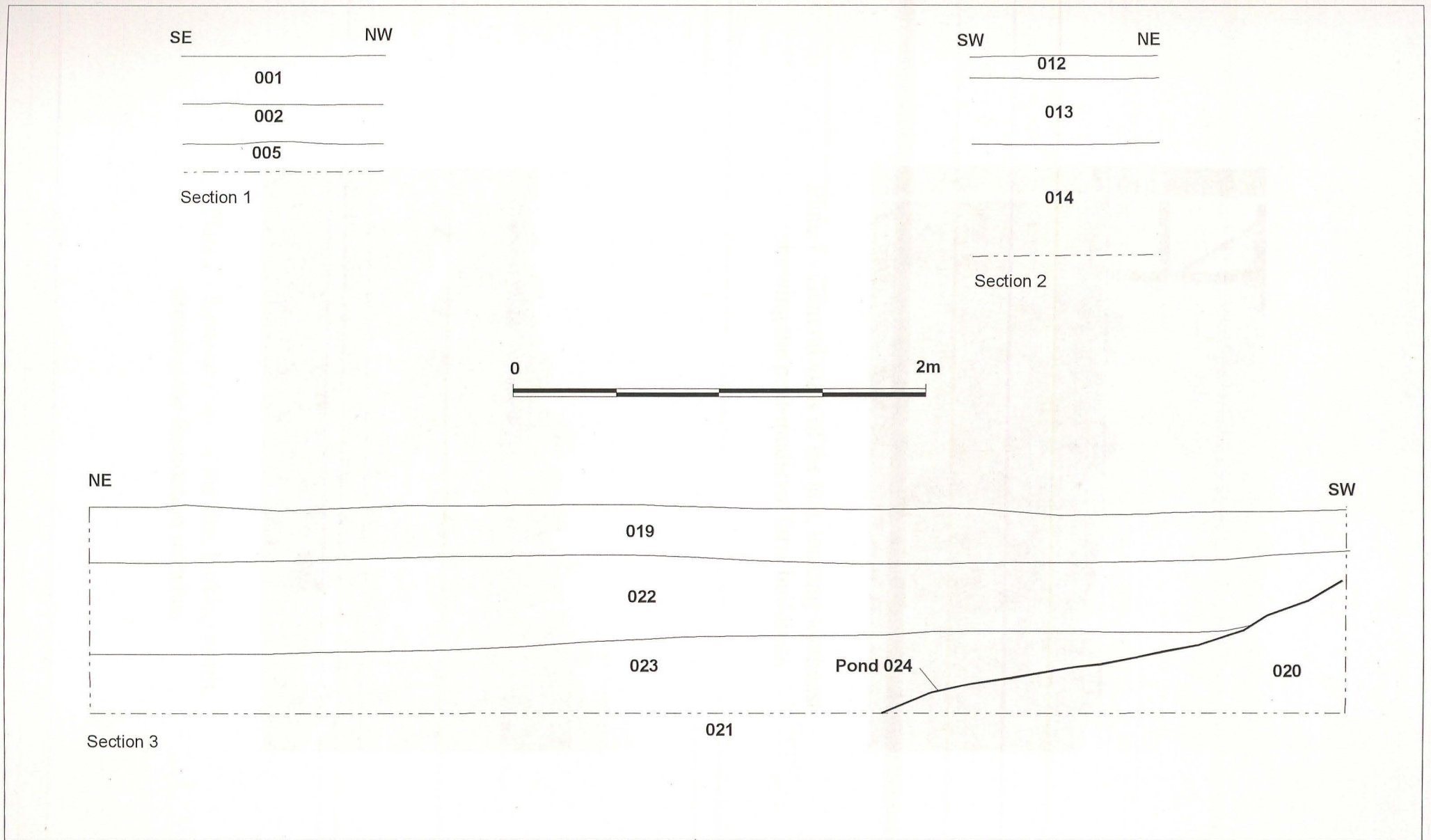


Figure 5 - Sections 1, 2 and 3



Plate 1 - General view of the site, looking southeast, showing the post-medieval farm buildings



Plate 2 - General view of the site, looking north, showing the foundation trenches

Appendix 1

ARCHAEOLOGICAL PROJECT BRIEF. WATCHING BRIEF DURING THE DEVELOPMENT OF LAND AT DALESTORTH FARM, SEDGEBROOK ROAD, ALLINGTON.

1. SUMMARY

- 1.1 This document is the brief for an archaeological watching brief to be carried out during the development of land at Dalestorth Farm, Sedgbrook road, Allington.
- 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 Dalestorth Farm lies in the village of Allington in the district of South Kesteven, Lincolnshire, approximately 8km North-west of Grantham. The proposed development lies at NGR:SK 8575 4007. (See enclosed plan.)

3. PLANNING BACKGROUND.

- 3.1 The proposed development is for the conversion and extension to existing barns to form 5 dwellings. Planning permission for this development is sought from South Kesteven District Council. Application No. SK97/532/01/22. The Community Archaeologist has recommended that a watching brief take place during the groundworks stages of the development.

4. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND.

- 4.1 The village of Allington is actually the result of this unification of two villages in the last century. This inevitably meant that there are two village cores, though their exact position is unknown. The site of the development lies in an area where earthworks have been noted in the surrounding fields between Dalestorth Farm and the Old Manor House. These earthworks may relate to the previous occupation of the site, possibly Sunken medieval Village remains. Alternatively they may relate to the Old Manor itself, parts of which are believed to date back to the late 17th century. Various remains of medieval date have been recovered from around the village, so it is possible that more may be disturbed as a result of this 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 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. June 1997.

Appendix 2

CONTEXT SUMMARY

No.	Description	Interpretation
001	Firm dark blackish brown silt, 0.45m thick	Topsoil.
002	Firm light to mid greenish brown yellow silt and clay.	Subsoil.
003	Firm light brown silt and clay.	Fill of 004
004	Linear cut with concave sides and base (038m wide x 4.5m long x 0.08m deep)	Drainage gully.
005	Firm mid yellowish brown silt containing clay and fossilised shell	Natural deposit
006	Firm mid yellowish brown silt containing clay and fossilised shell	Fill of 007
007	Unexcavated oval cut (0.7m x 0.6m)	Pit
008	Firm light to mid brown silt	Fill of 009
009	Unexcavated oval cut	Pit.
010	Firm light to mid yellow brown sandy silt containing occasional stone.	Fill of 011
011	Linear cut with vertical sides (0.4m wide x 2m long)	Gully
012	Firm dark brown silt, 0.12m thick	Topsoil
013	Firm mid brown silt containing clay	Subsoil
014	Firm light brown silt with grey clay	Natural deposit
015	Firm dark grey crushed tarmac	Driveway surface
016	Firm whitish brown limestone	Bedding for 015
017	Compact dark brown CBM containing silt, small pebbles and ash.	Bedding for 015
018	Compact grey limestone fragments	Bedding for 015
019	Loose light to mid brown mix of brick rubble, crushed limestone and pebbles containing tile, 0.2m thick	Disturbed ground surface
020	Soft light brownish yellow clay	Natural deposit
021	Indurated white limestone	Bedrock
022	Soft light brownish yellow silty clay	Fill of 024
023	Plastic mid blue clay	Fill of 024
024	Sub-circular cut with concave sides and flat base (7m diameter x 0.8m deep)	Pond.

Appendix 3

THE FINDS

Paul Cope-Faulkner, Hilary Healey and Gary Taylor

Provenance

Much of the material was recovered from the topsoil (001) with smaller quantities of artefacts recovered from pit and gully fills.

Both of the medieval and early post-medieval pottery fragments are local Lincolnshire products made in Stamford, 35km southeast of Allington, and Toynton, 60km to the northeast. Additionally, one of the later post-medieval pottery fragments was probably made in Nottingham, 25km to the west. The remainder of the later post-medieval pottery is likely to have been made in the Midlands, particularly Staffordshire, though the Mocha ware from (001) has the characteristics of pottery of this type made at the Belle Vue works in Hull (Bartlett and Brooks 1972).

Range

The range of the material is detailed in the tables.

A single fragment of Stamford ware pottery of probable 10th -12th century date is the earliest artefact recovered, though the largest component of the assemblage is domestic debris of late 18th-20th century date. Pottery is the main constituent of the moderate assemblage which also comprises glass, field drain, clay pipe, and iron.

Table 1: *The Artefacts*

Context	Description	Date	Context Date
001	1x Toynton All Saints ware	14 th -16 th century	20 th century
	1x Nottingham salt-glazed stoneware	19 th century	
	2x creamware, linked pieces	late 18 th -19 th century	
	1x blue and white transfer printed tableware	19 th century	
	1x white glazed tableware	19 th -20 th century	
	1x white and yellow glazed earthenware	19 th -early 20 th century	
	2x mocha ware, linked pieces, ?Hull	19 th -early 20 th century	
	1x blue tableware	late 19 th -20 th century	
	2x clay pipe stems	late 19 th -20 th century	
	1x unglazed red earthenware/brick	19 th -20 th century	
	2x ceramic field drain	18 th -20 th century	
	1x bottle glass	19 th -early 20 th century	
	1x moulded vessel glass	20 th century	
	1x iron horseshoe, Shire horse type	post-medieval	
004	1x black-glazed earthenware	18 th -early 20 th century	18 th -early 20 th century
008	1x Stamford ware	10 th -12 th century	10 th -12 th century

Table 2: Faunal Remains

Context	Species	Notes
001	Cattle molar Sheep molar	
004	Part of sheep carcass, including back and shoulders Sheep metacarpus Cattle tibia	Juvenile Adult
006	Upper body and head of sheep	Juvenile

Condition

All the material is in good condition and presents no long-term storage problems. The Stamford ware fragment from (008) is unabraded and unlikely to have entered the area as manuring scatter. The assemblage is archived by material class.

Documentation

No previous formal archaeological investigations have been undertaken in Allington though records of archaeological sites and finds in the area are maintained in the Lincolnshire County Sites and Monuments Record and the files of South Kesteven Community Archaeologist.

Stamford and Toynton wares have previously been studied both as occupation site assemblages and production evidence (eg, Kilmurry 1980; Healey 1984).

Potential

The medieval material has slight potential and may indicate otherwise unknown medieval activity, though of indeterminate nature, in the vicinity. However, the later aspect of the assemblage has low potential.

References

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Healey, R H, 1984, 'Toynton All Saints: Decorated Jugs from the Roses Kiln' in Field, N. and White, A. (eds), *A Prospect of Lincolnshire*

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Appendix 4

THE ARCHIVE

The archive consists of:

24	Context records
3	Photographic record sheets
4	Drawing sheets
1	Box 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: 299.97

Archaeological Project Services Site Code: ADF97

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 5

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 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).
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.
Neolithic	The 'New Stone Age' period, part of the prehistoric era, dating from approximately 4500-2250 BC.
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.
Saxon	Pertaining to the period dating from AD 410-1066 when England was largely settled by tribes from northern Germany