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**ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF
OF DEVELOPMENT ON LAND
ADJACENT TO LINCOLN LANE,
BOSTON,
LINCOLNSHIRE
(BLL 99)**



A P S
ARCHAEOLOGICAL
PROJECT
SERVICES



Lincolnshire County Council
Archaeology Section
12 JUL 99
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**ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF
OF DEVELOPMENT ON LAND
ADJACENT TO LINCOLN LANE,
BOSTON,
LINCOLNSHIRE
(BLL 99)**

Work Undertaken For
Boston Borough Council

Report Compiled by
P. Cope-Faulkner BA (Hons) AIFA

May 1999

Planning Application No: B/06/0386/97
National Grid Reference: TF 325 439
City and County Museum Accession No: 15.99

A.P.S. Report No: **46/99**

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

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1. SUMMARY

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken during the construction of a new volunteer centre on land adjacent to Lincoln Lane, Boston, Lincolnshire. The watching brief monitored the excavation of the groundworks associated with the development.

The site lies outside of the medieval (AD 1066-1500) town of Boston, which is located on the east side of the River Witham. However, the area to the west of the river started to be developed in the 13th century. Until the 19th century, maps indicate that this area was largely open ground with limited development occurring along High Street. During the last century houses, breweries and maltings were all constructed in this vicinity.

The investigations revealed natural alluvial deposits sealed by layers associated with the 19th century development of the area. Recent deposits include surfaces and drains associated with a bus station and public toilets dating from 1976. Two sherds of 19th century pottery represent the only finds made during this investigation.

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, 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 Boston Borough Council to undertake an archaeological watching brief during construction of a new volunteer centre between Lincoln Lane and Rosegarth Street, Boston, Lincolnshire. Approval for the development was sought through the submission of planning application B06/0386/97. The watching brief was carried out in accordance with a specification designed by Archaeological Project Services (Appendix 1).

2.3 Topography and Geology

Boston is situated 45km southeast of Lincoln and approximately 7km from the coast of The Wash, in the Fenland of south Lincolnshire (Fig. 1).

The development site is located 250m southwest of the town centre as defined by St. Botolph's parish church alongside the east-west aligned section of Rosegarth Street (Fig. 2). The site is situated at a height of c. 3.5m OD on fairly level ground.

As an urban area, local soils have not been mapped. However, they are likely to be of the Wisbech Series, typically coarse silty calcareous alluvial gley soils (Robson 1990, 36). Below the soils is a drift geology of marine alluvium which overlies a glacial drift that was deposited in a geological basin between the Lincolnshire Wolds and the East Anglian Heights (Harden 1978, 5). These glacial deposits overlie a solid geology of Jurassic Ampthill Clay (BGS 1995).

2.4 Archaeological Setting

Lincoln Lane, Boston, is located in an area of archaeological remains dating from the medieval and post-medieval periods.

Although the development site lay outside the main medieval town, it is generally believed that there was settlement in a small area at the northern end of the High Street. Crowland Abbey is known to have held land in Stonebow, now Irby Place, in the 13th century (Harden 1978, 26). Lincoln Lane may have been named after the Lincoln merchants who apparently built stone properties in this vicinity in the late 13th century. By the early 14th century, a Carmelite Friary had been constructed somewhere in the vicinity of Paddock Grove (Cope-Faulkner 1995, 2).

Pottery has been recovered from development sites 150m to the east. Although mostly of post-medieval date, these finds have included a complete medieval baluster jug (Marjoram 1974, 25). Late 13th and 14th century deposits, accompanied by finds of pottery and preserved straw, *etc.*, were identified during archaeological evaluation 270m to the east (Herbert 1996, 8).

Early maps of the vicinity depict the area as largely open ground until the 19th century (Molyneaux and Wright 1974). Wood's plan of Boston, dating from 1829, shows development having occurred around the site with a brewery occupying the area to the west (*ibid.* 19). The 1887 Ordnance Survey map indicates that the site lies at the end of Bond Street with malhouses to the north and east and a laundry and timber yard to the west (*ibid.* 25).

3. AIMS

The requirements of the watching brief, as described in the specification (Appendix 1), were to record and interpret archaeological deposits, if present, and to determine their date, sequence, function and origin.

4. METHODS

The area of development was stripped of tarmac by a mechanical excavator to a depth of 0.2m. Foundation trenches were then opened to a maximum depth of 0.95m below the ground level, as required by the development. Trenches for drainage and manholes were excavated to 2.4m depth. Following excavation, the sides of those trenches that did not exceed 1.2m depth were cleaned and rendered vertical. Selected deposits were partially or fully excavated by hand to determine their nature and to retrieve artefactual material. The depth and thickness of each deposit was measured from the ground surface. Each archaeological deposit or feature revealed was allocated a unique reference number (context number) with an individual written description. A list of all contexts and interpretations appears as Appendix 2. A photographic record was compiled and sections were drawn at a scale of 1:10. Recording of deposits encountered during the watching brief was undertaken according to standard Archaeological Project Services practice.

Records of the deposits and features recognised during the watching brief were examined. Phasing was assigned based on the nature of the deposits and recognisable relationships between them.

5. RESULTS

Three phases of activity were identified:

Phase 1	Natural deposits
Phase 2	Undated deposits
Phase 3	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

The earliest deposit revealed was a blue-grey clay (028), encountered at the base of the drainage trenches (Fig. 5, Sections 6 and 7). A minimum depth of 0.5m was recorded for this layer, which was identified as natural alluvium.

The clay layer was sealed by deposits of blue-grey clayey silt (019), dark grey clayey silt (020) and mid grey clay (027) also of alluvial origin. The upper surface of the natural deposits was *c.*1.8m below the present ground surface.

Phase 2 Undated deposits

This phase is typified by deposits of made ground and levelling deposits. The thickest of these layers was a deposit of dark blue-grey silty clay (004) which was 1.6m thick (Figs 4 and 5, Sections 1 and 7). Other layers of made ground include a yellow brown clay (009), mixed grey, blue and brown clayey silt (018), grey clay (025) and grey silty clay (026). All of these deposits contained brick and tile fragments.

Overlying the made ground were two deposits of black organic silt and silty clay (012 and 024). Measuring up to 0.3m thick, these two deposits may indicate a former topsoil (Figs. 4 and 5, Sections 3 and 6).

Phase 3 Modern deposits

Also overlying the made ground was a deposit of brick and mortar (015) sealed by brick rubble and clay (014) both interpreted as demolition deposits (Fig. 4, Section 4).

A single service trench was identified (Fig. 4, Section 2), that of a drain (005) and backfilled with crushed limestone (008 and 010).

The remaining modern deposits formed the bedding and make-up layers for the present ground surface.

6. DISCUSSION

Natural deposits (Phase 1) were the earliest deposits encountered during the watching brief. Of alluvial origin, it is impossible, without further scientific examination, to determine whether they are marine or freshwater derived deposits.

Undated deposits (Phase 2) comprise made ground and possible topsoil deposits. The made ground appears to have been derived from deposits with brick and tile debris incorporated. Although undated, these deposits are possibly associated with the 19th century development of the area. The organic silt deposits may represent traces of rear yards or gardens to these early properties.

Modern deposits include demolition layers, presumably of the 19th century buildings, and features associated with the public toilet and bus station at the site. These deposits probably date from 1976, the year the bus station was built (Pevsner and Harris 1989, 162).

Two sherds of pottery were retrieved during the watching brief, both are unstratified. Both sherds date from the early to mid 19th century.

7. CONCLUSIONS

Archaeological investigations were carried out on land adjacent to Lincoln Lane, Boston because the site lies on the periphery of the medieval town and in an area of known post-medieval remains.

Natural alluvium represents the earliest layers on the site. These were sealed by deposits that have been associated with 19th century development in the area. Modern deposits are associated with the bus station and a public toilet. No medieval or early post-medieval deposits were encountered.

Pottery was recovered from unstratified layers but was dated to the early to mid 19th century. Ground water level was not reached and therefore few environmental indicators (snails, seeds, pollen *etc.*) will survive at this level other than through charring.

8. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeological Project Services would like to acknowledge the assistance of Mr M. Barker of Boston Borough Council who commissioned the fieldwork and post excavation. The work was coordinated by David Fell and this report was edited by Tom Lane. Steven Membery, the Boston District Community archaeologist kindly provided information from the relevant parish files maintained by Heritage Lincolnshire.

9. PERSONNEL

Project Coordinator: David Fell
Supervisors: Denise Buckley, Neil Herbert, Fiona Walker
Illustration: Paul Cope-Faulkner
Post-excavation Analyst: Paul Cope-Faulkner

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11. ABBREVIATIONS

APS Archaeological Project Services
BGS British Geological Survey
IFA Institute of Field Archaeologists

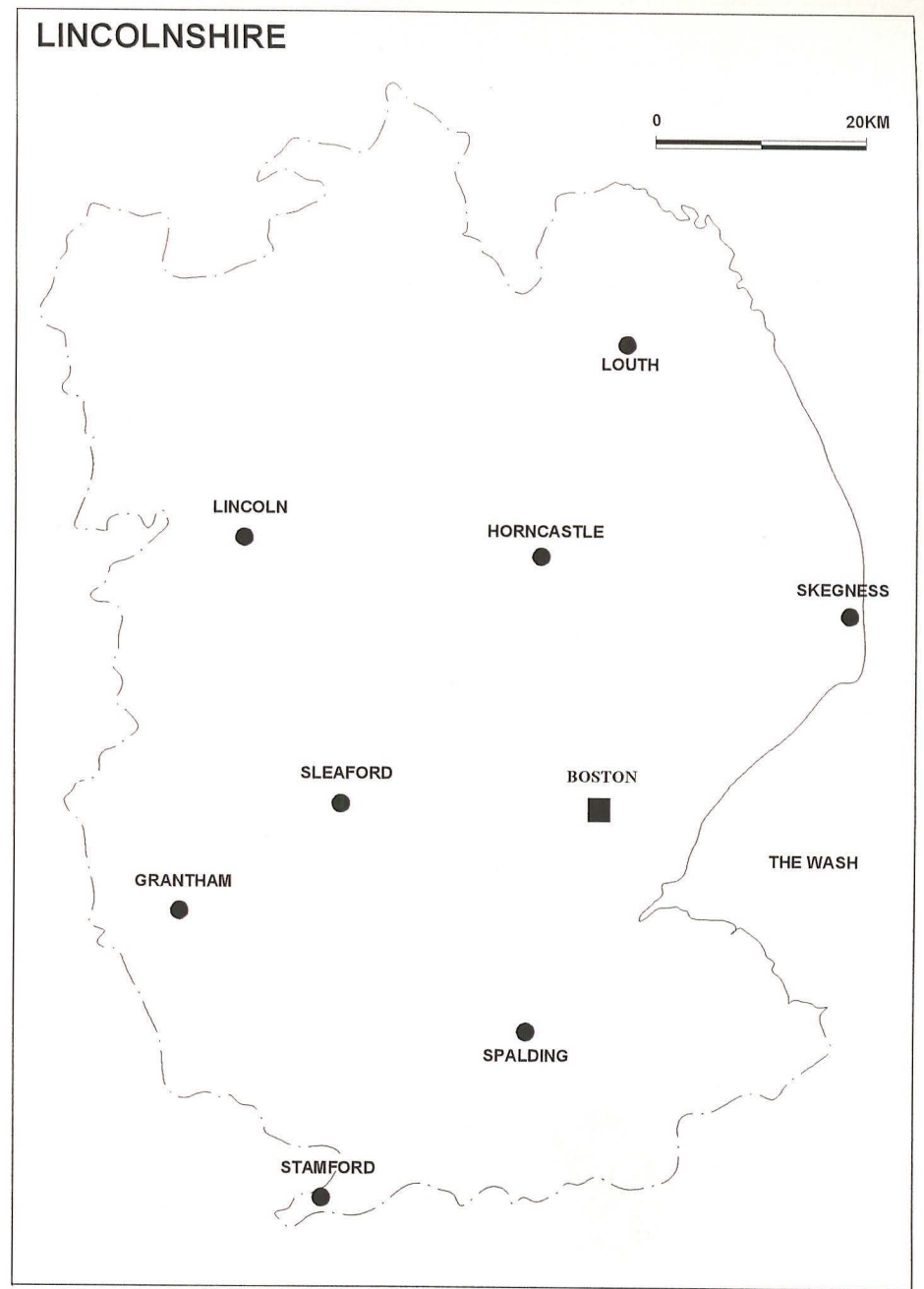
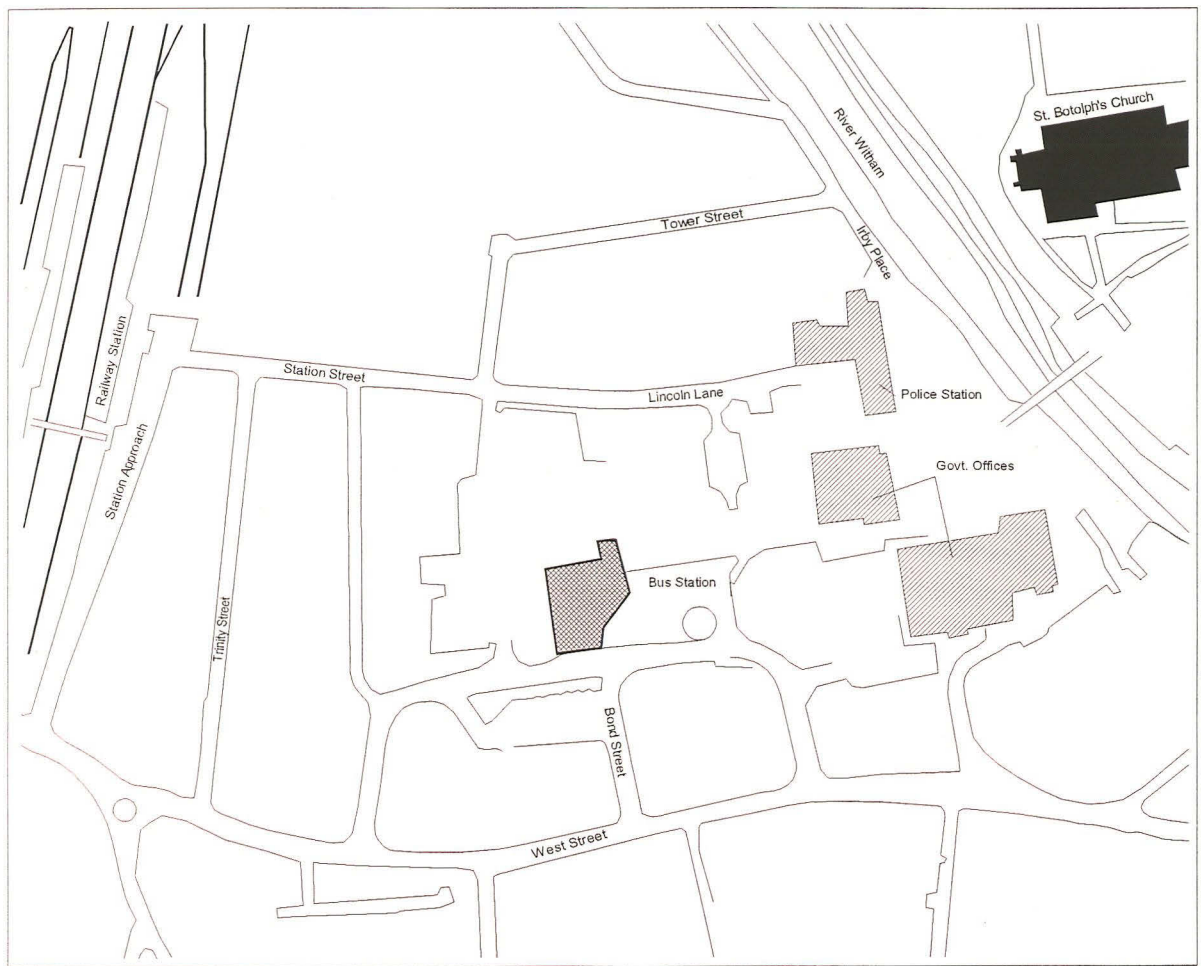


Figure 1 - General location map



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Development Area

Figure 2 - Site Location Plan

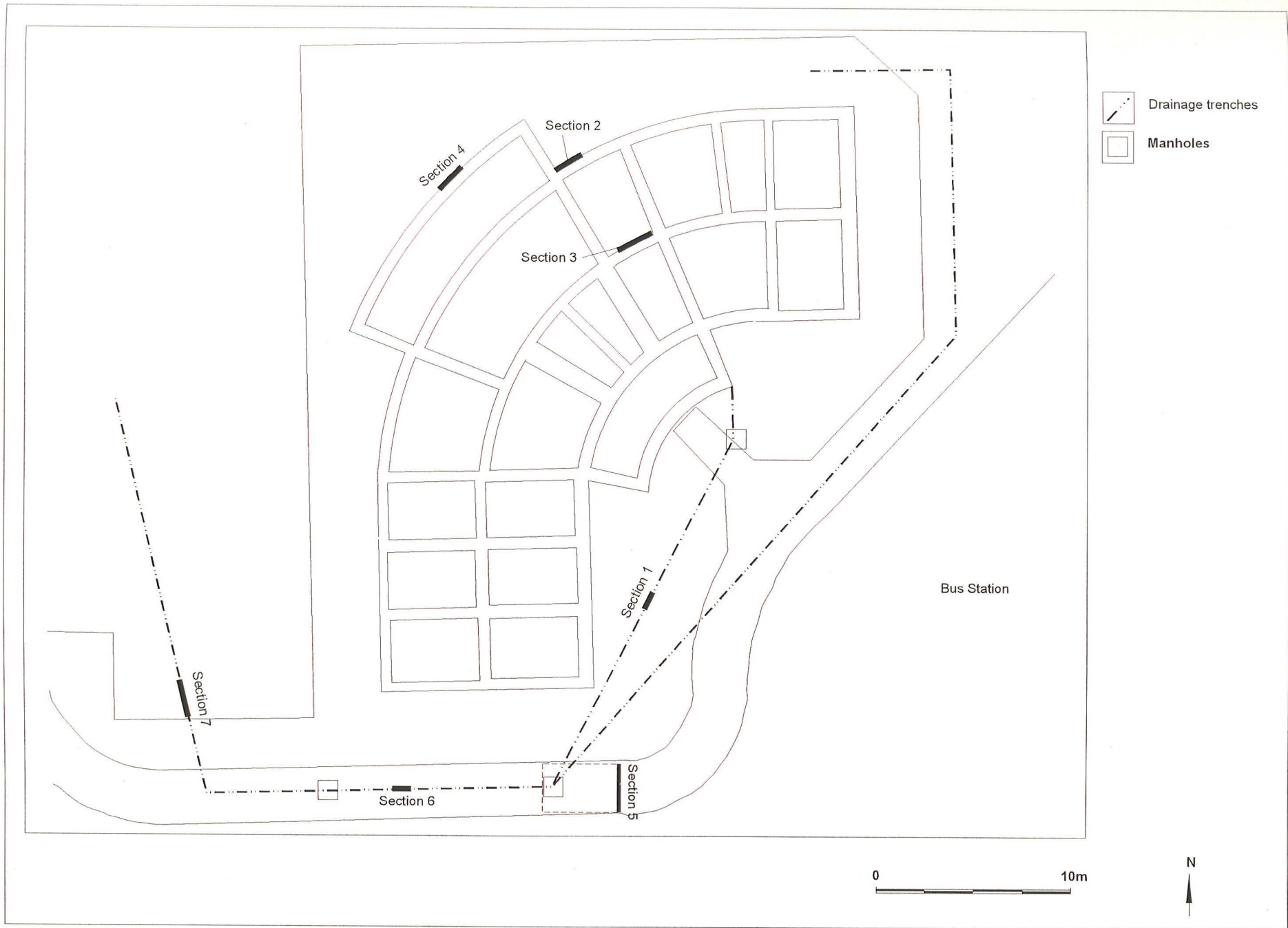
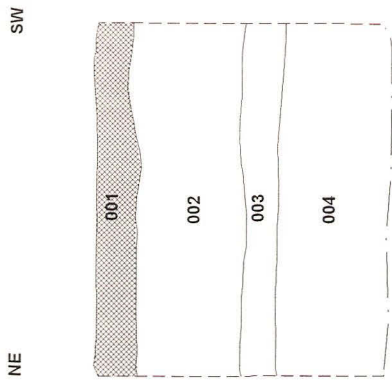
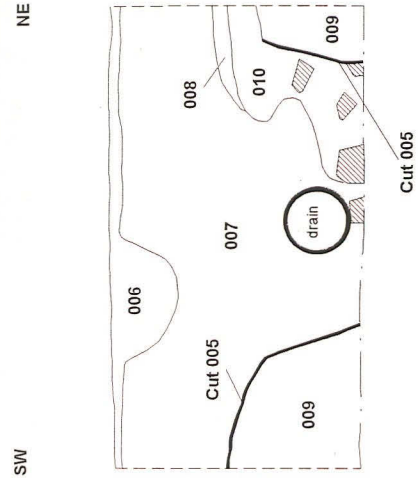


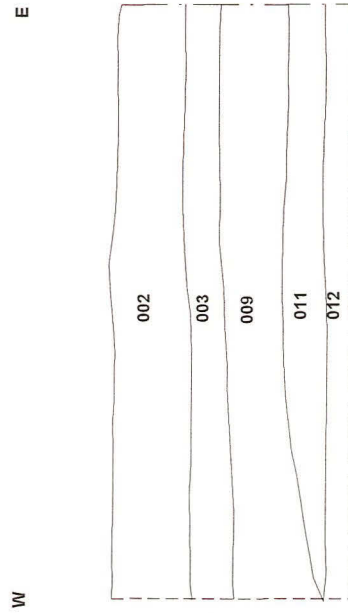
Figure 3 - Plan of development, showing Section locations



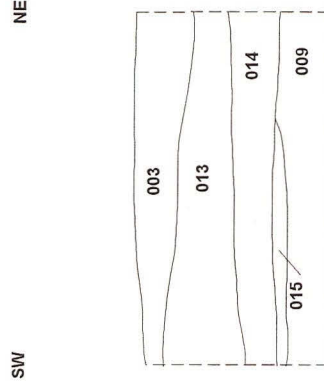
Section 1



Section 2



Section 3



Section 4

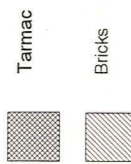


Figure 4 - Sections 1, 2, 3 and 4

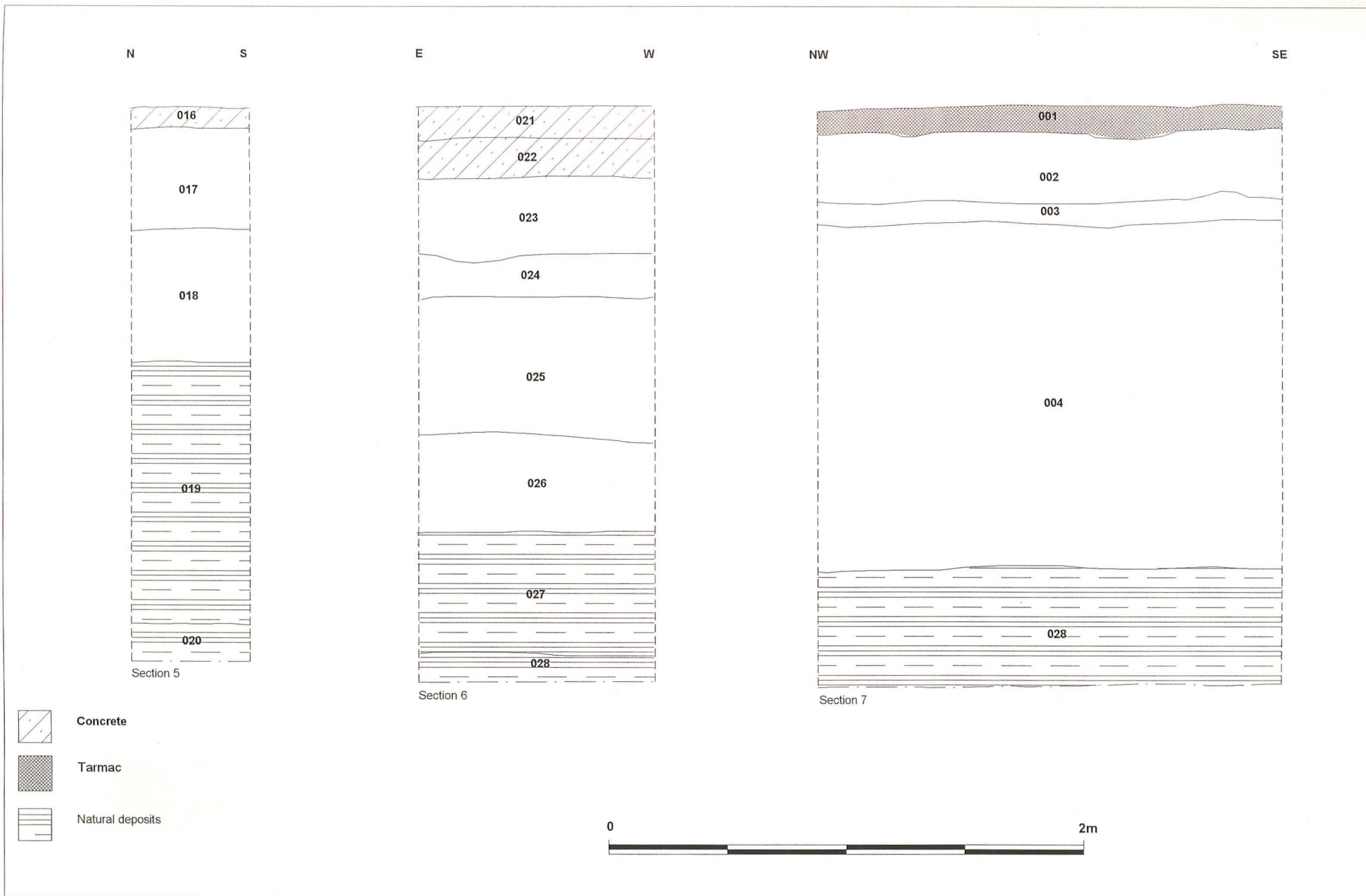


Figure 5 - Sections 5, 6 and 7



Plate 1 – General view of Development area, looking northeast

Plate 2 – Section 2, showing the modern drain cutting through the undated made ground



Appendix 1

VOLUNTEER CENTRE LINCOLN LANE BOSTON - SPECIFICATION FOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

1 SUMMARY

- 1.1 *A watching brief is required during residential development at Lincoln Lane, Boston, Lincolnshire.*
- 1.2 *Boston is an area of considerable archaeological interest. Boston may be the site of a small Roman town and a wide variety of artefacts, ranging from the Roman to the Post-Medieval period have been found in Boston. During the medieval period the town was a major port and trading centre.*
- 1.3 *The watching brief will be undertaken during groundworks associated with the development. Any archaeological features exposed will be recorded in writing, graphically and photographically.*
- 1.4 *On completion of the fieldwork a report will be prepared detailing the findings of the work. The report will consist of a narrative supported by illustrations and, if appropriate, photographs.*

2 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 This document comprises a specification for an archaeological watching brief during development at Lincoln Lane, Boston. The site is located at national grid reference TF 325 439.
- 2.2 This document contains the following parts:
 - 2.2.1 Overview.
 - 2.2.2 Stages of work and methodologies.
 - 2.2.3 List of specialists.
 - 2.2.4 Programme of works and staffing structure of the project.

3 SITE LOCATION

- 3.1 Boston is located approximately 45km southeast of Lincoln and 7km from the northwest coast of the Wash, in the fens of south Lincolnshire. The site is situated in the central part of the town, west of the River Witham, adjacent to the Bus Station.

4 PLANNING BACKGROUND

- 4.1 Boston Borough Council intend constructing a new volunteer centre on land off Lincoln Lane, Boston. The Community Archaeologist of Boston Borough Council stated that the area is archaeologically sensitive and advised that an archaeological watching brief should be commissioned, in order to record any archaeological remains that may be discovered during the works.

5 SOILS AND TOPOGRAPHY

- 5.1 The natural soil at the site comprises the Wisbech Association, coarse silty calcareous soil, overlying marine alluvium. The site is essentially flat and has a height of approximately 5m OD.

6 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

- 6.1 The site lies within an area of considerable archaeological interest.
- 6.2 Previous archaeological work in the Boston has identified sites and artefacts ranging from the Roman to post-medieval periods.
- 6.3 Boston is situated on an extensive deposit of marine alluvium. There is the potential for prehistoric

- 8.2.2 Trench sections will be observed regularly to identify and record archaeological features that are exposed and to record changes in the geological conditions.
- 8.2.3 Plans of the any archaeological features will be produced at a scale of 1:20. Section drawings will be produced at a scale of 1:10. Larger scale illustrations may be produced, if individual features warrant it
- 8.2.4 Written descriptions detailing the nature of the deposits, features and fills encountered will be compiled on Archaeological Project Services pro-forma record sheets.
- 8.2.5 Any finds recovered will be bagged and labelled for later analysis.
- 8.2.6 Throughout the watching brief a photographic record consisting of colour slides and black and white prints will be compiled.
- 8.2.7 The photographic record will consist of:
 - 8.2.7.1 The site during work to show specific stages, and the layout of archaeological features within the trench or area.
 - 8.2.7.2 Individual archaeological features.
 - 8.2.7.3 groups of features where their relationship is important.
- 8.3 Should human remains be located, the appropriate Home Office licence will be obtained before their removal. In addition, the Local Environmental Health Department and the police will be informed.

9 POST-EXCAVATION & REPORT

9.1 Stage 1

- 9.1.1 On completion of site operations, the records and schedules produced during the watching brief will be checked and ordered to ensure that they form a uniform sequence forming a level II archive. A stratigraphic matrix of the archaeological deposits and features present on the site will be prepared. All photographic material will be catalogued: the colour prints will be labelled, the labelling referring to schedules identifying the subject/s photographed.
- 9.1.2 All finds recovered during the field work will be washed, marked and packaged according to the deposit from which they were recovered. Any finds requiring specialist treatment and conservation will be sent to the Conservation Laboratory at the City and County Museum, Lincoln.

9.2 Stage 2

- 9.2.1 Detailed examination of the stratigraphic matrix to enable the determination of the various phases of activity on the site.
- 9.2.2 Finds will be sent to specialists for identification and dating.

9.3 Stage 3

- 9.3.1 On completion of stage 2, a report detailing the findings of the watching brief will be prepared. This will consist of:
 - 9.3.1.1 A non-technical summary of the results of the investigation.
 - 9.3.1.2 A description of the archaeological setting of the watching brief.

sites and artefacts to be recorded, beneath the alluvium. A limited number of Bronze Age metal artefacts are known from the general vicinity, although only one of these possesses an accurate location (APS, 1994).

- 6.4 The earliest archaeological activity currently known in the Boston area is of the Roman period. Excavation at Boston Grammar School revealed *in situ* Roman industrial material, probably the remains of salt manufacturing. Roman period pottery sherds have been found at a variety of locations throughout the town, notably at the General Hospital in South End and from the Hussey Tower, in the town centre. It is possible that Boston is the site of a Romano-British small town
- 6.5 Boston rose to prominence during the medieval period when it developed into an important port and one of the largest wool exporting centres in England. It was also a major religious centre for the church and four religious houses were established in the town during the medieval period. The medieval parish church of St. Botolph is situated on New Street. The medieval town is defined by the Barditch, a watercourse which defended and defined the limits of the town.
- 6.6 Previous archaeological work in Boston have shown that waterlogged layers and artefacts are frequently present in Boston. Waterlogging results in enhanced preservation of wood, leather and other organic materials. There is high potential for the discovery of waterlogged layers and artefacts during the evaluation.

7 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- 7.1 The aims of the watching brief will be:
 - 7.1.1 To record and interpret archaeological features exposed during the excavation of the foundation trenches and other areas of ground disturbance.
- 7.2 The objectives of the watching brief will be to:
 - 7.2.1 Determine the form and function of the archaeological features encountered;
 - 7.2.2 Determine the spatial arrangement of the archaeological features encountered;
 - 7.2.3 As far as practicable, recover dating evidence from the archaeological features, and
 - 7.2.4 Establish the sequence of the archaeological remains present on the site.

8 SITE OPERATIONS

- 8.1 General considerations
 - 8.1.1 All work will be undertaken following statutory Health and Safety requirements in operation at the time of the watching brief.
 - 8.1.2 The work will be undertaken according to the relevant codes of practise issued by the Institute of Field Archaeologists (IFA), under the management of a Member of the Institute (MIFA). *Archaeological Project Services* is an IFA Registered Archaeological Organisation (no. 21).
 - 8.1.3 Any and all artefacts found during the investigation and thought to be 'treasure', as defined by the Treasure Act 1996, will be removed from site to a secure store and promptly reported to the appropriate coroner's office in Lincoln or Sleaford.
- 8.2 Methodology
 - 8.2.1 The watching brief will be undertaken during the ground works phase of development, and includes the archaeological monitoring of all phases of soil movement.

- 9.3.1.3 Description of the topography of the site.
- 9.3.1.4 Description of the methodologies used during the watching brief.
- 9.3.1.5 A text describing the findings of the watching brief.
- 9.3.1.6 A consideration of the local, regional and national context of the watching brief findings.
- 9.3.1.7 Plans of the archaeological features exposed. If a sequence of archaeological deposits is encountered, separate plans for each phase will be produced.
- 9.3.1.8 Section illustrations of the archaeological features.
- 9.3.1.9 Interpretation of the archaeological features exposed, and their chronology and setting within the surrounding landscape.
- 9.3.1.10 Specialist reports on the finds from the site.
- 9.3.1.11 Appropriate photographs of the site and specific archaeological features.

10 REPORT DEPOSITION

- 10.1 Copies of the report will be sent to the client, the Boston Community Archaeologist, Boston District Council Planning Department and to the County Sites and Monuments Record.

11 ARCHIVE

- 11.1 The documentation and records generated during the watching brief will be sorted and ordered into the format acceptable to the City and County Museum, Lincoln. This will be undertaken following the requirements of the document titled *Conditions for the Acceptance of Project Archives* for long term storage and curation.

12 PUBLICATION

- 12.1 A report of the findings of the watching brief will be published in Heritage Lincolnshire's Annual Report and a note presented to the editor of the journal of the Society for Lincolnshire History and Archaeology. If appropriate, notes on the findings will be submitted to the appropriate national journals: *Britannia* for discoveries of Roman date, and *Medieval Archaeology* and the journal of the *Medieval Settlement Research Group* for findings of medieval or later date.

13 CURATORIAL RESPONSIBILITY

- 13.1 Curatorial responsibility for the archaeological work undertaken on the site lies with the Community Archaeologist, Boston District Council. They will be given seven days notice in writing before the commencement of the project.

14 VARIATIONS

- 14.1 Variations to the proposed scheme of works will only be made following written confirmation of acceptance from Community Archaeologist, Boston District Council.

15 PROGRAMME OF WORKS AND STAFFING LEVELS

- 15.1 The watching brief will be integrated with the programme of construction and is dependent on the developers' work programme. It is therefore not possible to specify the person-hours for the archaeological site work.

- 15.2 The project will be managed by Tom Lane MIFA, Senior Archaeologist, Archaeological Project Services.
- 15.3 An archaeological supervisor with experience of watching briefs will undertake the work.
- 15.4 Post-excavation analysis and report production will be undertaken by the archaeological supervisor, or a post-excavation analyst as appropriate, with assistance from a finds supervisor, illustrator and external specialists, if appropriate. It is expected that each fieldwork day (equal to one man-day) will require a post-excavation day (equal to one-and-a-half man-days) for completion of the analysis and report. If the fieldwork lasts longer than about six days then there will be an economy of scale with the post-excavation analysis.

16 SPECIALISTS TO BE USED DURING THE PROJECT

- 16.1 The following organisations/persons will, in principal and if necessary, be used as subcontractors to provide the relevant specialist work and reports in respect of any objects or material recovered during the investigation that require their expert knowledge and input. Engagement of any particular specialist subcontractor is also dependent on their availability and ability to meet programming requirements.

<u>Task</u>	<u>Body to be undertaking the work</u>
Conservation	Conservation Laboratory, City and County Museum, Lincoln
Pottery Analysis	
Prehistoric Pottery -	David Knight, Trent & Peak Archaeological Trust
Roman -	B Precious, independent specialist
Saxon -	City of Lincoln Archaeology Unit
Medieval and later-	Hilary Healey, independent archaeologist
Non-pottery Artefacts	J Cowgill, independent specialist
Animal Bones	Environmental Archaeology Consultancy
Human Remains Analysis	R Gowland, independent specialist

17 BIBLIOGRAPHY

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Appendix 2

CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

No.	Section	Description	Interpretation
001	1, 7	Indurated black tarmac, 0.1m thick	Modern surface
002	1,3,7	Indurated light blue-grey cement and hardcore, 0.3m thick	Bedding for 001
003	1,3,4,7	Loose light yellow crushed limestone, 0.1m thick	Bedding for 002
004	1, 7	Plastic dark blue-grey silty clay, 1.6m thick	Made ground
005	2	?Linear feature, 0.9m wide by >0.35m deep, steep sides and flat base	Cut for drainage pipe
006	2	Loose yellow-white rubble and crushed limestone	Bedding for surface
007	2	Soft mottled brown, grey and yellow silt and clay	Backfill of 005
008	2	Loose black coal fragments, 0.3m thick	Dumped layer
009	2, 3	Soft light yellow brown clay	Made ground
010	2	Loose yellow-white rubble and crushed limestone	Backfill of 005
011	3	Firm mid yellowish red crushed brick, 0.11m thick	Dumped layer
012	3	Firm black organic silt, >0.15m thick	Former topsoil?
013	4	Soft yellowish brown sand, 0.2m thick	Bedding for surface
014	4	Firm dark grey and brown rubble and clay, 0.14m thick	Dumped layer
015	4	Firm mixed light grey and red brick with mortar, 30mm thick	Dumped layer
016	5	Indurated yellow grey concrete, 80mm thick	Modern surface
017	5	Firm mid yellowish brown sand and grit, 0.42m thick	Levelling for 016
018	5	Firm mixed grey, blue and brown clayey silt, 0.45m thick	Made ground
019	5	Firm mid blue grey clayey silt, 1.1m thick	Natural deposit
020	5	Firm dark grey clayey silt, >0.2m thick	Natural deposit
021	6	Indurated light grey concrete, 0.12m thick	Roadside kerb
022	6	Indurated light grey concrete, 0.28m thick	Bedding for 022
023	6	Firm grey silty clay, 0.3m thick	Levelling deposit
024	6	Firm black organic silty clay, 0.3m thick	Former topsoil?
025	6	Plastic brownish grey clay, 0.6m thick	Made ground
026	6	Friable mid grey silty clay, 0.45m thick	Demolition layer
027	6	Firm mid grey clay, 0.5m thick	Natural deposit
028	6, 7	Plastic blueish grey clay, >0.4m thick	Natural deposit

Appendix 3

THE ARCHIVE

The archive consists of:

28	Context records
6	Scale drawings
8	Photographic record sheets
1	Stratigraphic matrix
1	Bag of finds

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: 15.99

Archaeological Project Services Site Code: BLL99

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 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 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.
Post-medieval	The period following the Middle Ages, dating from approximately AD 1500-1800.