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**AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF
OF DEVELOPMENT ON LAND ADJACENT TO
LINCOLN ROAD,
LEASINGHAM,
LINCOLNSHIRE
(LLR 99)**



A P S
ARCHAEOLOGICAL
PROJECT
SERVICES

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**AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF
OF DEVELOPMENT ON LAND ADJACENT TO
LINCOLN ROAD,
LEASINGHAM,
LINCOLNSHIRE
(LLR 99)**

Work Undertaken For
Mr and Mrs J. Dwyer

Report Compiled By
Paul Cope-Faulkner BA AIFA

July 1999

Planning Application No: N/36/927/98
National Grid Reference: TF 0554 4856
City and County Museum Accession No: 109.99

A.P.S. Report No: **61/98**

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

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1. SUMMARY

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Archaeological Project Services at Lincoln Road, Leasingham, Lincolnshire to monitor topsoil stripping and the excavation of foundation trenches.

The watching brief condition was imposed because the site lay within an area of significant archaeological interest. A Neolithic (4000-2250 BC) stone axe has been found west of the village, and finds of Romano-British (AD 50-410) pottery have been made near Leasingham. An Anglo-Saxon (AD 410-650) spearhead and pottery have been found within the vicinity of the village, as has medieval pottery. The medieval (AD 1066-1500) parish church is also located close by.

Subsoil and topsoil deposits were the only layers revealed during the investigation. Artefacts of 19th and 20th century date were retrieved from the topsoil and may represent rubbish disposal on the site.

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 Background

Archaeological Project Services was commissioned by Mr and Mrs J. Dwyer to undertake an archaeological watching brief of development on land adjacent to Lincoln

Road, Leasingham, Lincolnshire. Approval for the development was sought through the submission of planning application N/36/927&928/98. Permission was granted by North Kesteven District Council subject to a standard condition for archaeological recording. The watching brief was carried out on the 20th and 26th May and 2nd June 1999.

2.3 Topography and Geology

The village of Leasingham is situated approximately 3km north of Sleaford and 24km southeast of Lincoln in the civil parish of Leasingham, North Kesteven District, Lincolnshire (Fig. 1).

The development site is located 110m west of the village centre as defined by the parish church of St. Andrew and is centred on National Grid Reference TF 0554 4856 (Fig. 2). The village lies on a spur of higher ground overlooking a small stream valley and the development site is located in a slight dip.

Local soils are of the Haselor Association, typically calcareous, sometimes stagnogleyic, pelosols (George and Robson 1978, 38). These soils overlie a solid geology of Great Oolite Limestone and Cornbrash (GSGB 1972).

2.4 Archaeological Setting

Leasingham village is located in an area of archaeological remains dating from the prehistoric period through to the present day. Prehistoric archaeology is represented by a fragment of a Neolithic polished stone axe (Group IV, Langdale series) from approximately 1km west of the village.

From *c.* 300m northwest of the village, quantities of Roman pottery have been found. Roman pottery scatters have also

been recorded 1km to the west of the village.

Anglo-Saxon activity is represented by a spearhead located in the vicinity of the village and by fragments of pottery (which included medieval examples) located to the north of the village.

Leasingham is first mentioned in the Domesday Survey of 1086. Referred to as *Lessingham* and *Leuesingham* the name is derived from the Old English 'settlement of *Lêofsiges*' people' (Ekwall 1974, 292). The Domesday Survey records that Leasingham was owned by the Bishop of Lincoln and Geoffrey Alselin (Foster and Longley 1976).

A medieval moated site, identified from aerial photographs, is situated approximately 1km west of the village. Undated artefacts from the area comprise two lead loom weights found *c.* 260m south of the village and a ceramic spindle whorl located 100m north of the site. In the village, the church of St Andrew has 12th century features and other buildings have 16th and 17th origins (Pevsner and Harris, 1989, 431).

A watching brief carried out during water mains laying along Lincoln Road established earlier road surfaces, including a limestone road (Cope-Faulkner 1994, 1).

3. AIMS

The aim of the watching brief, as outlined in the brief (Appendix 1), was to locate surviving archaeological deposits and, if present, record them in detail to enable their date, function and origin to be determined.

4. METHODS

Prior to the trench excavation, topsoil was stripped to a depth of 0.1m in the immediate

vicinity of the site of the proposed buildings. Trenches were then excavated to a depth of 1m. Following excavation by mechanical excavator, the sides of the foundation trenches were cleaned and rendered vertical. Selected deposits were partially or fully excavated by hand to determine their nature and to retrieve artefactual material. Metal detecting was also used to assist artefact retrieval. 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. Recording of deposits encountered was undertaken according to standard Archaeological Project Services.

Finds recovered from the 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. A list of all contexts and interpretations appears as Appendix 2. Phasing was assigned based on artefact dating and the nature of the deposits and recognisable relationships between them.

5. RESULTS

A deposit of mid yellowish brown silt (002) was encountered at the base of all foundation trenches. Thicknesses of 0.7m were recorded, although this deposit exceeded the depth of the foundation trenches. Identified as subsoil, this deposit produced no finds.

Overlying the subsoil was a dark greyish brown silt (001) identified as the present topsoil. This measured between 0.3m to 0.8m thick across the site. Isolated

concentrations of limestone fragments were also recorded within this layer. These may represent the position of former stone walls.

6. DISCUSSION

Naturally formed subsoil was the earliest layer recorded during this investigation. A layer of topsoil sealed the subsoil. Small localised concentrations of limestone fragments may indicate former walls, though there is no other evidence for the existence of buildings on this site.

It is unusual for such a lack of archaeological features to be located in a position close to the village core. It is possible that any medieval settlement was located closer to the church and along the road to the Manor House.

Artefacts recovered from this investigation include pottery dating largely from the 19th and 20th centuries. Other finds include glass, a clay pipe, animal bone and metalwork. Such finds derived from the topsoil may indicate nothing more than discarded rubbish.

7. CONCLUSIONS

Archaeological investigations on land adjacent to Lincoln Road, Leasingham were undertaken because the site fell within the core of the medieval village.

However, no definite archaeological remains were revealed and only subsoil and topsoil deposits were encountered, although traces of former walls may exist within the latter. Given the lack of any substantial foundations the walls may represent land divisions. Artefactual material of 19th and 20th century date was retrieved from the topsoil. 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 and Mrs J. Dwyer who commissioned the fieldwork and post-excavation analysis. The work was coordinated by Denise Drury and this report was edited by Tom Lane. Kate Orr, the Heritage Officer for North Kesteven District Council, kindly permitted access to the relevant parish files.

9. PERSONNEL

Project Coordinator: Denise Drury
Site Supervisor: Denise Buckley
Finds Processing: Denise Buckley
Illustration: Paul Cope-Faulkner
Post-excavation Analyst: Paul Cope-Faulkner

10. BIBLIOGRAPHY

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IFA, 1997, *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs*

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11. ABBREVIATIONS

NK Numbers prefixed thus are the reference numbers used by the North Kesteven Heritage Officer.

GSGB Geological Survey of Great Britain

IFA Institute of Field Archaeologists

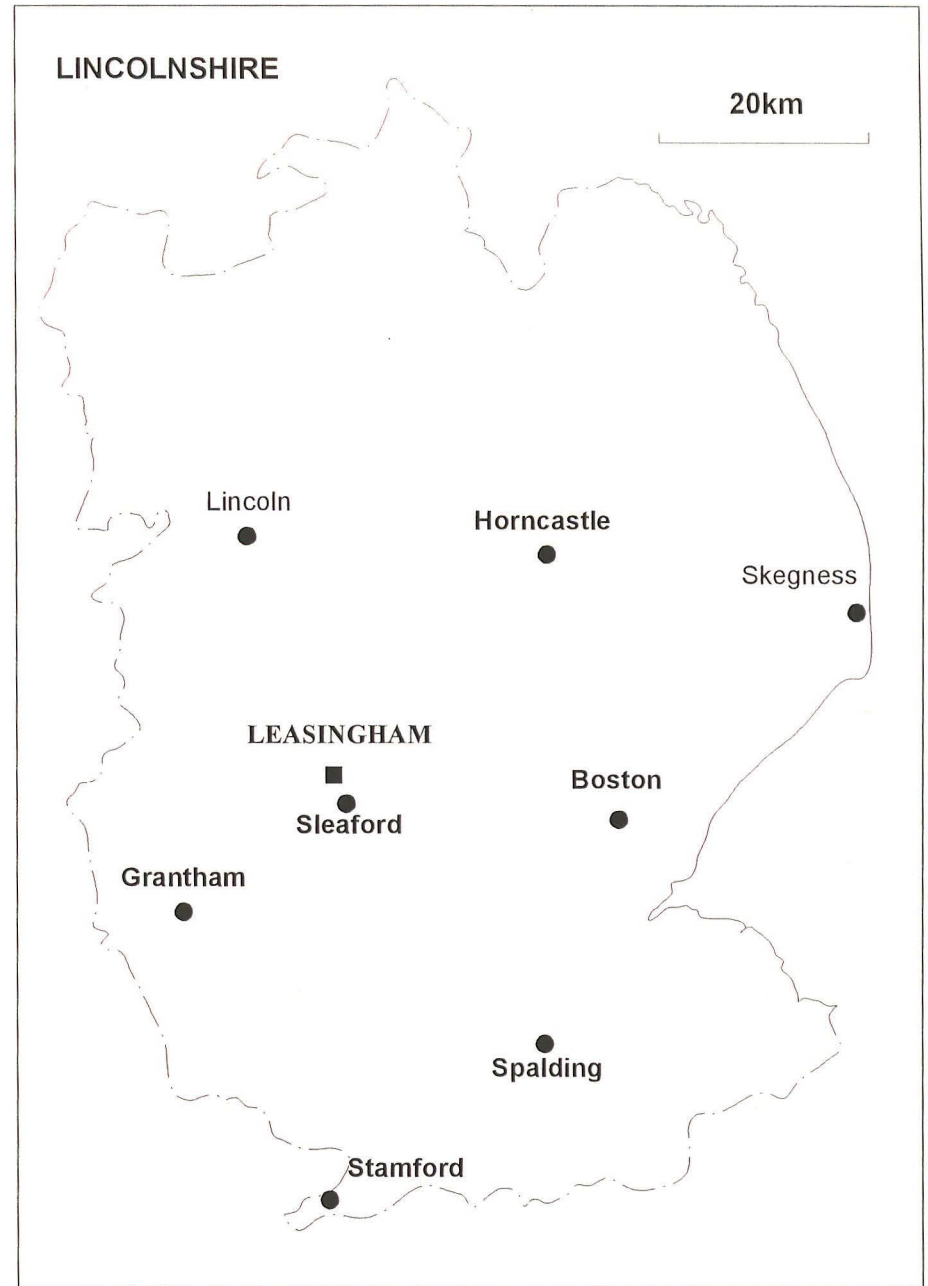


Figure 1 - General Location Plan



Leasingham

Church

Leasingham Hall

Manor Farm

Greystones

N



Area of Development

Figure 2 - Site Location Plan

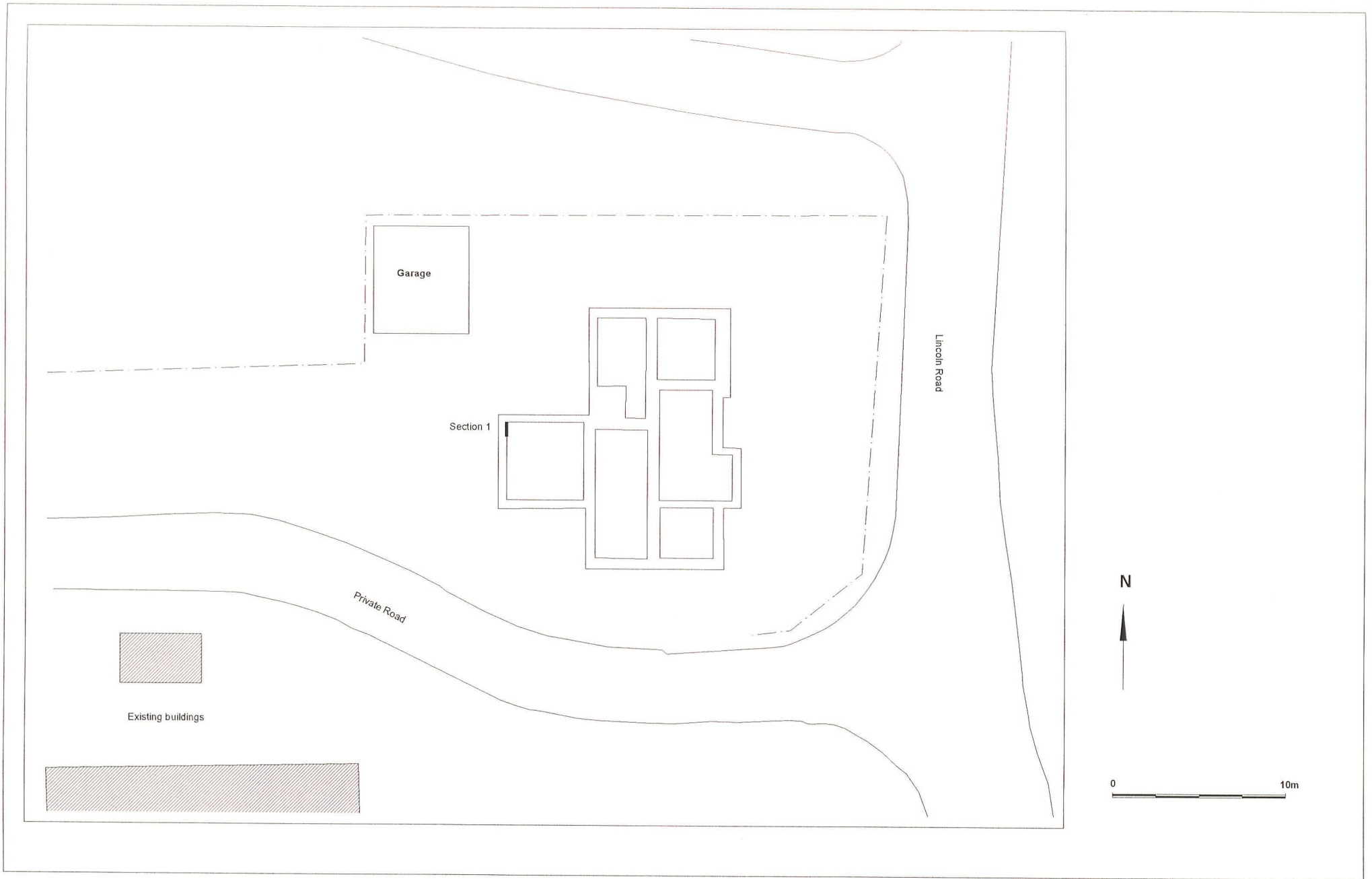


Figure 3 - Development Plan, showing location of drawn section

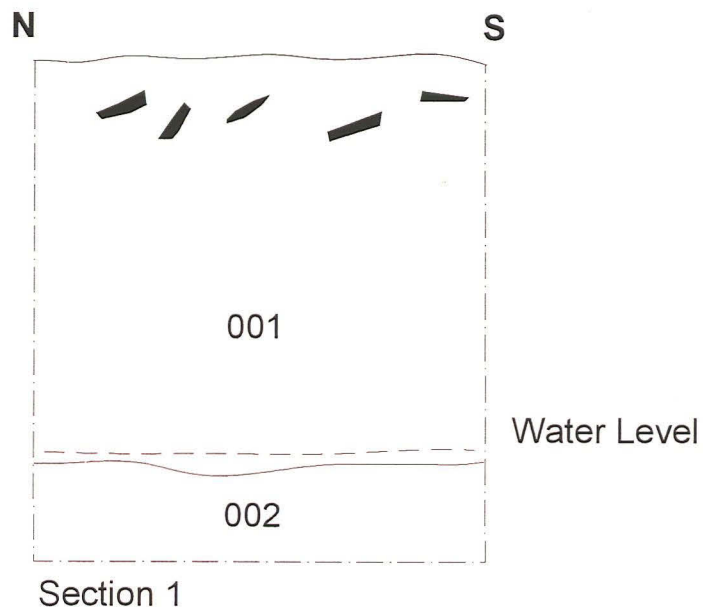


Figure 4 - Section 1



Plate 1 - General view of the development area,
looking east

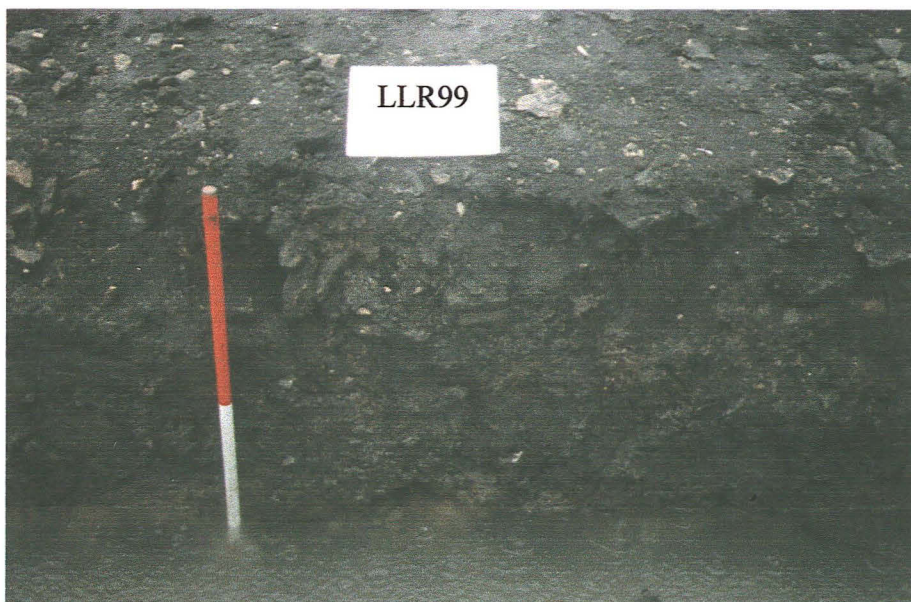


Plate 2 - A view of the topsoil (001) with a
concentration of limestone, possibly indicating
the position of a former wall

Appendix 1

BRIEF FOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL OBSERVATION AND RECORDING (WATCHING BRIEF)

PLOTS 1, 2, 3 &4, ADJACENT TO 5 LINCOLN ROAD, LEASINGHAM, LINCS

Planning Application Number: N/36/927 & 928/98

NGR: 505540 348560

Applicant: Mr and Mrs J Dwyer

Agent: RB & S Hayward

1. Summary

- 1.1 This brief should be sent to archaeological contractors as the basis for the preparation of a detailed archaeological project specification. In response to this brief contractors will include the anticipated working methods, timescales and staffing levels. (The Heritage Officer does not maintain a list of archaeological contractors but names of local units can be found in the Yellow Pages or from the Institute of Field Archaeologists, Tel: 0118 931 6446).
- 1.2 These detailed specifications will be submitted by the client for approval by the North Kesteven Heritage Officer. The client will be free to choose between those specifications which are considered to adequately satisfy the brief

2. Site Location and Description

- 2.1 Leasingham village is situated approximately 24km south of Lincoln and 1.5 km north of Sleaford. The development area is situated in the middle of the village just south of the school. At present the area is under grass.

3. Planning Background

- 3.1 Full planning permission has been given to erect one bungalow and a garage (Plot 4 - N/36/927/98) and outline planning permission has been given to erect three bungalows (Plots 1, 2, & 3 - N/36/928/98).

4. Archaeological Background

- 4.1 The application site is situated within the medieval core of the village being 100m from the medieval church. Anglo-Saxon pottery found approximately 100m to the Northeast indicates an even earlier phase of settlement. It is therefore likely that the foundations and services for the bungalows will disturb buried archaeological remains and hence a watching brief should be carried out to record any features and retrieve any finds.

5. Requirements 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.
- 5.2 Any adjustments to the brief for the watching brief project should only be made after consultation with the Heritage Officer for North Kesteven.
- 5.3 The contractor's specification should be prepared according to requirements of this brief and the Lincolnshire Archaeological Handbook's section 'Standard Briefs for Archaeological Projects in Lincolnshire' (August 1997) and should include the following:
 - 5.3.1 A projected timetable for the various stages of work.

- 5.3.2 Details of the staff structure and numbers including person hours for on-site work.
- 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 A full description of the recovery and recording strategies to be used.
- 5.3.5 An estimate of time and resources allocated for the post-excavation work and report production in the form of 'person' hours. This should include lists of specialists and their role in the project. It is expected that medieval finds will be encountered and therefore adequate provision should be made for specialists in this area.
- 5.3.6 Contingency costs should only be used in the event of unexpected costs and should only be activated after discussion with the Heritage Officer and the client.

6. **Methods**

- 6.1 The project should be carried out by a recognised archaeological body in accordance with the code of conduct of The Institute of Field Archaeologists. If the specialists to be used by the body are not members of The Institute of Field Archaeologists and are not locally recognised, a CV or some other form of reference should be provided with the specification.
- 6.2 The watching brief should involve:
 - 6.2.1 archaeological supervision of topsoil 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 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 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 remains or associated items. Attempt must be made at all times not to cause offence to any interested parties.
 - 6.2.8 Under the new Treasure Act, all gold and silver artefacts found during the watching brief, thought to be 'treasure' should be reported to the appropriate coroner's office in Lincoln or Sleaford within fourteen days.

7. **Monitoring Arrangements**

- 7.1 The Heritage Officer for North Kesteven will be responsible for monitoring progress and standards throughout the project and will require preferably fourteen days notice but at least five working days prior to the commencement of the work. The Heritage Officer should be kept informed of any unexpected discoveries and should be 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 planning department of North Kesteven District

Council, the Heritage Officer, the client 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 drawings, 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 are to be made for long term storage of all artefacts and paper archive in an appropriate museum.
- 8.3 If the receiving museum is to be the City and County Museum, Lincoln then the archive should be produced in the form outlined in the museum's document 'Conditions for the Acceptance of Project Archives', see address below.

9. **Publication and Dissemination**

- 9.1 The deposition of a copy of the report with the Lincolnshire Sites and Monuments Record will be deemed to put all information into the public domain, unless a special request is made for confidentiality. If material is to be held in confidence a timescale must be agreed with the North Kesteven Heritage Officer but is expected this will not exceed six months. A summary of the results must be published in 'Lincolnshire History and Archaeology' in due course.
- 9.2 Should the watching brief reveal finds of national or regional importance, provision should be made of publication within the appropriate regional or national journal.

10. **Additional Information**

- 10.1 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 programme are only to be made with the prior written approval of the Heritage Officer.

Brief set by Heritage Officer, North Kesteven 11/2/1999

Appendix 2

CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

No.	Description	Interpretation
001	Soft dark greyish brown silt with gravel and limestone fragments, thickness between 0.3m and 0.8m	Topsoil
002	Soft mid yellowish brown silt, thickness between 0.2m and 0,7m	Subsoil

Appendix 3

THE FINDS

Gary Taylor and Paul Cope-Faulkner

Provenance

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

The assemblage, as a whole, is generally 19th to 20th century in date.

Range

The range of material is detailed in the table.

Context	Description	Latest date
Unstratified	3 black glazed earthenware	19 th century
	1 cream and brown glazed earthenware	19 th - 20 th century
	2 (linked sherds) grey stoneware jar	19 th - 20 th century
	1 yellow stoneware jar	19 th - 20 th century
	3 yellow glazed earthenwares	19 th - 20 th century
	1 salt-glazed stoneware, Derbyshire?	lt 18 th - 20 th century
	2 white glazed tablewares	19 th - 20 th century
	2 polychrome tablewares	19 th - 20 th century
	1 blue and white sponged ware	19 th century
	3 blue and white transfer printed tableware	19 th - 20 th century
	1 clay pipe stem	18 th - 19 th century
	1 plastic comb	20 th century
	5 green vessel glass	lt 18 th - 20 th century
	1 pale green window glass	19 th - 20 th century
	1 Fe nail, bent, drawn out of wood	
	1 Fe hinge plate	19 th - 20 th century
	1 Fe C-shaped shoe-heel guard?	19 th - 20 th century
1 Fe cast fitting	19 th - 20 th century	
1 Cu alloy button	19 th - 20 th century	
1 sheep sized rib		

Condition

All the material is in good condition and presents no long term storage problems. The assemblage should be archived by material class.

Documentation

Late post-medieval artefact assemblages from throughout the county have previously been examined and reported.

Potential

Given the late date range, the assemblage has little potential.

Appendix 4

THE ARCHIVE

The archive consists of:

2	Context records
3	Scale drawings
1	Photographic record sheet
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: 109.99

Archaeological Project Services Site Code: LLR99

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).
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.
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