

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF
OF DEVELOPMENT AT GEEST FOODS
WEST MARSH ROAD,
SPALDING,
LINCOLNSHIRE
(SWM 99)**



A P S
ARCHAEOLOGICAL
PROJECT
SERVICES

Event L13239
SOURCES L17973 L17974
23781 L183093 ROMAN

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF
OF DEVELOPMENT AT GEEST FOODS
WEST MARSH ROAD,
SPALDING,
LINCOLNSHIRE
(SWM 99)**

Work Undertaken For
DA Green and Sons Limited

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

August 1999

TF 2558 23971

National Grid Reference: ~~TF~~ 255 235
Planning Application No: H16/0260/99
City and County Museum Accession No: 108.99

A.P.S. Report No: 75/99

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

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1. SUMMARY

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken during development on land adjacent to West Marsh Road, Spalding, Lincolnshire.

Romano-British (AD 50-410) settlement has been identified in close proximity to the site and a burial, apparently of this period, has been found close by. Settlement of this period generally lies below layers of alluvium and is not readily visible at ground level.

The investigations revealed a single north-south aligned ditch which remains undated. Apart from scientific dating methods, it is impossible to date the remains. However, the ditch's position below a buried soil and a flood silt suggest a Romano-British date for the remains.

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

Archaeological Project Services was commissioned by DA Green and Sons Limited to undertake an archaeological watching brief during development on land adjacent to West Marsh Road, Spalding, Lincolnshire. Approval for the development was sought through the submission of planning application H16/0260/99.

Permission was granted subject to a standard condition for archaeological recording. The watching brief was carried out in accordance with a specification designed by Archaeological Project Services (Appendix 1).

2.3 Topography and Geology

Spalding is located 23km southwest of Boston and 30km southeast of Sleaford in the administrative district of South Holland, Lincolnshire (Fig. 1).

The site is located c.1.3km northeast of Spalding town centre as defined by the market place. Situated at a height of approximately 6m OD on fairly flat and level land bounded by West Marsh Road to the southeast and West Elloe Avenue to the southwest within the Geest factory, the site is centred on National Grid Reference TF 255-235. 2558 2397

Local soils have not been mapped but are likely to be of the Wisbech Series, typically coarse silty calcareous alluvial gley soils (Robson 1990, 36). These soils are developed on a drift geology of young marine alluvium. Beneath the drift deposits is a solid geology of Jurassic Oxford Clay (BGS 1992).

2.4 Archaeological Setting

West Marsh Road is situated in an area of archaeological remains dating from the Romano-British period to the present day.

A Romano-British occupation level was found 250m to the southeast (Whitwell 1965, 48; Phillips 1970, 292). This layer, which contained quantities of pottery, was found at a depth of 0.75m below the present ground surface (c. 2m OD). Buried Romano-British remains have also been uncovered during the excavation of the Coronation

Channel, where occupation layers were found at heights of between 1.3m and 1.6m OD (Smith 1970, 151).

A burial was found some 200m to the south of the development site and is believed to be Romano-British in date (Cope-Faulkner 1999, 4). Located 1.2m below the present ground level, the inhumation was of a female aged between 18 and 25.

Spalding is possibly first referred to in the Tribal Hideage of the 7th century wherein a tribe known as the *Spaldas* are recorded. The place name Spalding derives from the Old English *Spaldingas*, 'descendants of *Spaldas*' (Ekwall 1974, 432). To date, little evidence for Saxon occupation within Spalding has been located, although Late Saxon pottery has been found 1km to the east (Cope-Faulkner 1998, 6).

The Domesday Book of 1086 records that Spalding was owned principally by Ivo Taillebois with land also belonging to Crowland Abbey and Guy of Craon (Foster and Longley 1976). The survey also mentions the existence of a market, six fisheries, salt-pans and a wood of alders. Ivo Taillebois is believed to have constructed a castle in the town and early maps indicate this was located 700m southwest of the site.

However, the archaeological remains of the medieval period are restricted to the town centre of Spalding and the investigation site lay outside the 13th century sea bank (BGS 1992).

3. AIMS

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

4. METHODS

The development required the excavation of pits for stanchion bases across an area of 35m by 29m. Test and stanchion pits were opened to the relevant depths required by the development. The sides of the stanchion pits 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 were 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 plans 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. Phasing was assigned based on the nature of the deposits and recognisable relationships between them.

5. RESULTS

Following specialist descriptions, 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

Located at the base of the stanchion pits were deposits of silts and clays generally brown and grey in colour (005, 011, 021, 025, 027, 030 and 035) and a light brownish

yellow sand (026). These layers were identified as the underlying alluvial deposits of probable marine origin.

Phase 2 Undated deposits

Cut into the natural alluvial deposits in Pit 1 was a linear feature aligned north to south and measuring more than 0.5m wide and 0.2m deep (020). Identified as a ditch, it was filled with a grey clayey silt (019) containing charcoal flecks (Fig. 4, Section 3).

The ditch was sealed by a layer of mid brown silt 0.5m thick (018). This probably represents a later alluvial deposit which may be contemporary with layers discussed in Phase 1, particularly (011). The deposit contained snail shells associated with grassland and semi-aquatic environments.

Overlying the alluvium (018) and extending into Pit 7 was a layer of dark grey silt (010 and 017). Interpreted as a former topsoil this layer measured no more than 100mm thick.

Phase 3 Modern deposits

Modern deposits comprise a number of dumped deposits (003, 004, 022 and 034) associated with the initial construction of factories on the site. Cut through these construction deposits in Pit 1 was a service trench (015) aligned north-south.

All deposits are sealed by hardcore (002, 007, 009, 024 and 032) for the present ground surface (001 006, 012, 028 and 031).

6. DISCUSSION

Natural silts and clays (Phase 1) were the earliest deposits encountered during the watching brief and are identified as the underlying marine alluvium.

A ditch (Phase 2) represented the earliest archaeological feature identified on the site and was sealed beneath alluvium. No finds were retrieved from the fill of the ditch, so no date could be ascertained for this feature. However, the subsequent burial of this ditch by 0.5m of alluvium corresponds to known buried Romano-British sites south of the site and along the route of the Coronation Channel. Furthermore, environmental assessment (Appendix 3) indicates that the ditch fill formed in freshwater or terrestrial conditions. Such conditions were more apparent during the Romano-British period, after the marsh had sufficiently retreated to allow occupation of the area. Moreover, the presence of a Romano-British settlement to the southeast may support this theory.

Phase 3 deposits are connected with recent development of the site.

7. CONCLUSIONS

Archaeological investigations on land adjacent to West Marsh Road were carried out because the site lay within an area of known Romano-British settlement and funerary evidence and the possibility existed of further remains being found.

Only one archaeological feature was identified, that of an undated ditch. Although the ditch remains undated its stratigraphic position, beneath a buried soil and a flood silt, would suggest it is possibly of Romano-British date.

No other finds were made during the investigation. Site conditions suggest that few environmental indicators (snails, seeds, pollen *etc.*) have survived. However, charcoal and snails were recorded.

8. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeological Project Services would like to acknowledge the assistance of Mr Mark Smith of DA Green and Sons Limited who commissioned the fieldwork and post-excavation analysis. The work was coordinated by Denise Drury and this report was edited by Tom Lane MIFA. Dave Start permitted examination of the parish files maintained by Heritage Lincolnshire.

9. PERSONNEL

Project Coordinator: Denise Drury
Supervisors: David Fell, Gary Taylor
Illustration: Paul Cope-Faulkner
Post-excavation Analyst: Paul Cope-Faulkner

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11. ABBREVIATIONS

APS Archaeological Project Services

BGS British Geological Survey

DoE Department of the Environment

IFA Institute of Field Archaeologists

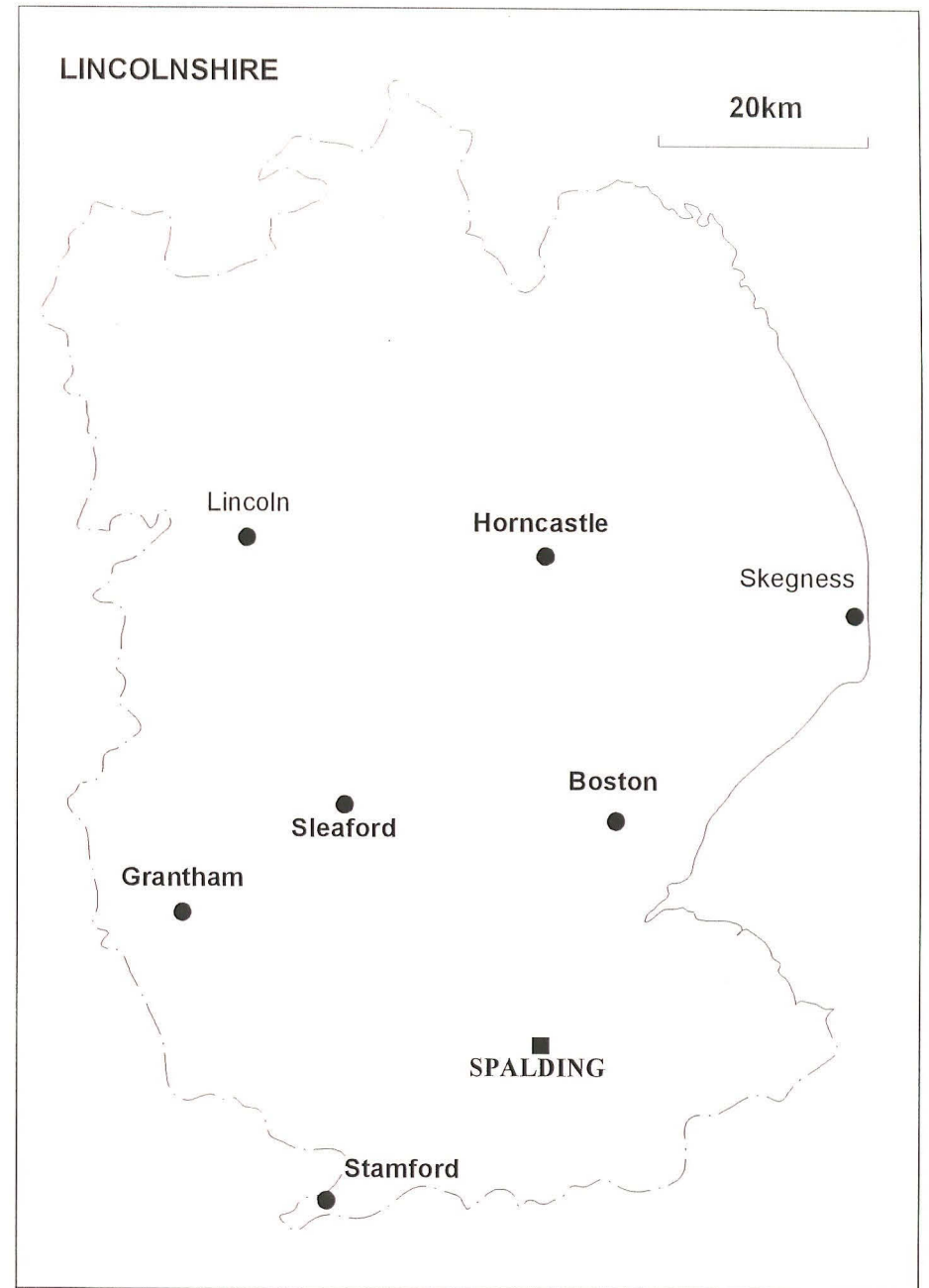
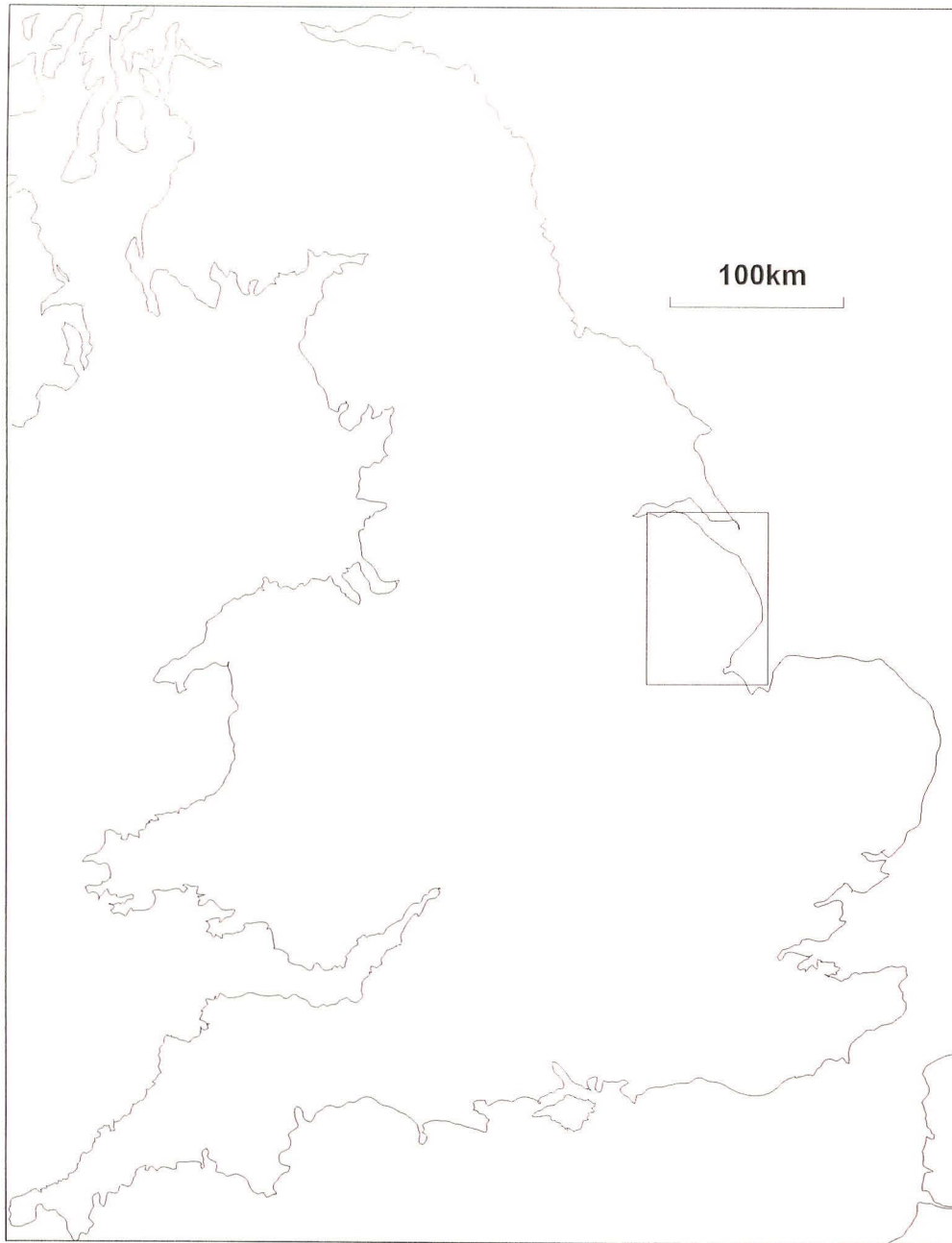


Figure 1 - General Location Plan



0 200m



 Investigation Area

Figure 2 - Site Location Plan

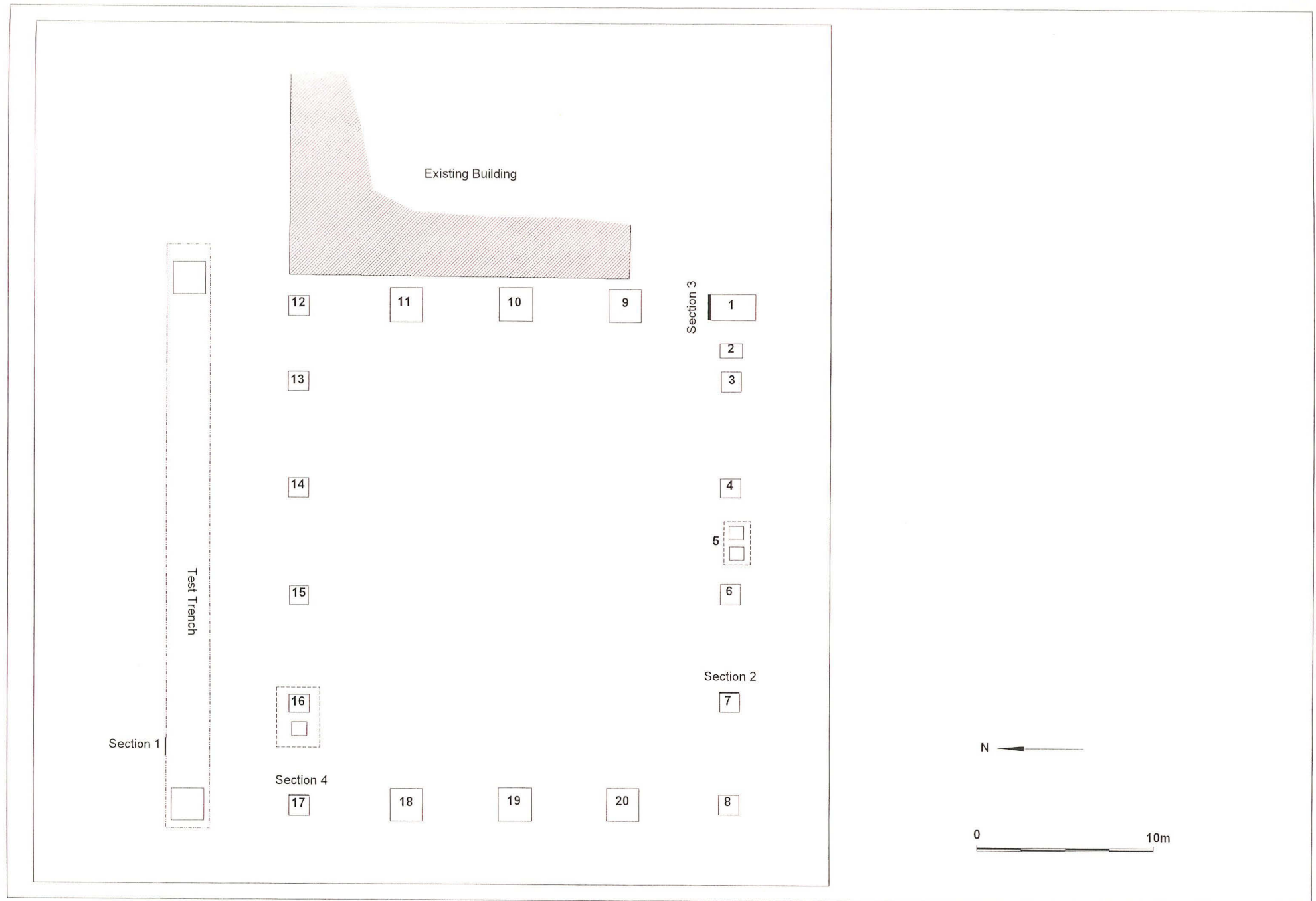
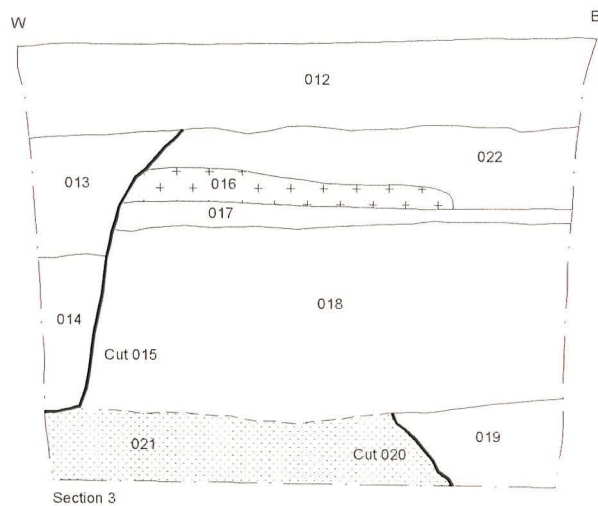
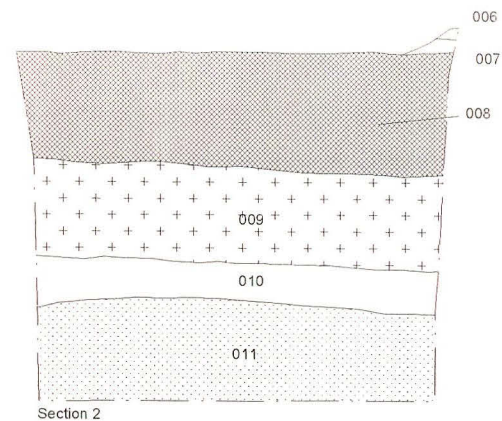
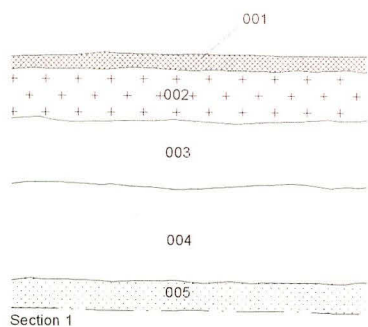





Figure 3 - Plan of Development, showing Section locations



-  Tarmac
-  Concrete
-  Natural

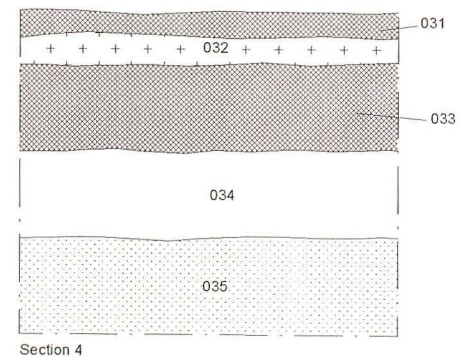


Figure 4 - Sections 1, 2, 3 and 4



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

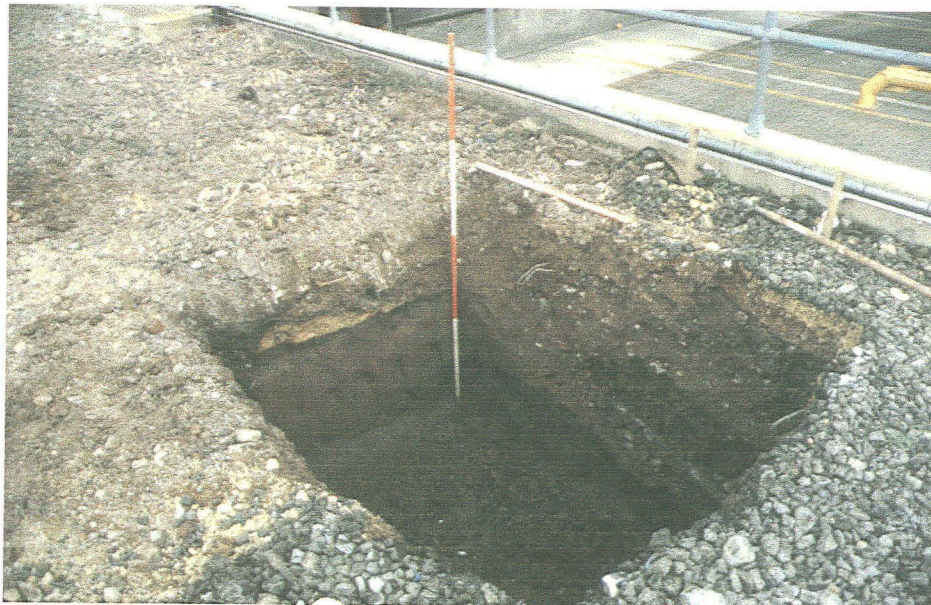


Plate 2 -Section 3, showing the extent of the ditch (020),
looking northeast

Appendix 1

LAND AT WEST MARSH ROAD SPALDING LINCOLNSHIRE SPECIFICATION FOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

1. SUMMARY

- a. *A watching brief is required during development at West Marsh Road, Spalding Lincolnshire.*
- b. *Romano-British settlement has been identified in close proximity to the site. Human remains were discovered during recent excavation of a pipeline trench on land adjacent to West Marsh Road.*
- c. *The watching brief will be undertaken during groundworks associated with the development. The archaeological features exposed will be recorded in writing, graphically and photographically.*
- d. *On completion of the fieldwork a report will be prepared detailing the results of the investigation. The report will consist of a narrative supported by illustrations and photographs.*

2. INTRODUCTION

- a. This document comprises a specification for an archaeological watching brief during development on land adjacent to West Marsh Road, Spalding. The site is located at national grid reference TF 255 235.
- b. This document contains the following parts:
 - i. Overview.
 - ii. Stages of work and methodologies.
 - iii. List of specialists.
 - iv. Programme of works and staffing structure of the project.

3. SITE LOCATION

- a. Spalding is located 23km southwest of Boston and 30km southeast of Sleaford in the administrative district of South Holland. The site is located approximately 1.5km northeast of Spalding town centre adjacent to West Marsh Road at national grid reference TF 255 235.

4. PLANNING BACKGROUND

- a. A planning application (H16/0260/99) was submitted to South Holland District Council for a storage and general purpose building. The application is subject to a condition requiring the implementation of an archaeological watching brief during the development.

5. SOILS AND TOPOGRAPHY

- a. The site lies 1.5km to the northeast of Spalding town centre at approximately 6m OD. Local soils have not been mapped but are likely to be Wisbech Series, typically coarse silty calcareous alluvial grey soils (Robson 1990, 36).

6. THE ARCHAEOLOGY

- a. West Marsh Road is situated in an area of archaeological remains dating from the Romano-British period to the present day. Evidence of Romano-British settlement has been found in the vicinity of the proposed development.

- b. Human remains were discovered during the excavation of a pipeline trench at Geest Foods, West Marsh Road; although the remains could not be securely dated the burial may have been associated with Romano-British settlement to the southeast of the site (Archaeological Project Services 1999).

7. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- a. The aims of the watching brief will be:
 - i. To record and interpret the archaeological features exposed during the excavation of the foundation trenches and other areas of ground disturbance.
- b. The objectives of the watching brief will be to:
 - i. Determine the form and function of the archaeological features encountered;
 - ii. Determine the spatial arrangement of the archaeological features encountered;
 - iii. As far as practicable, recover dating evidence from the archaeological features, and
 - iv. Establish the sequence of the archaeological remains present on the site.

8. SITE OPERATIONS

- a. General considerations
 - i. All work will be undertaken following statutory Health and Safety requirements in operation at the time of the watching brief.
 - ii. The work will be undertaken according to the relevant codes of practice issued by the Institute of Field Archaeologists (IFA), under the management of a Member of the institute (MIFA). *Archaeological Project Services* is IFA registered organisation no. 21.
 - iii. 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.
- b. Methodology
 - i. The watching brief will be undertaken during the ground works phase of development, and includes the archaeological monitoring of all phases of soil movement.
 - ii. Stripped areas and trench sections will be observed regularly to identify and record archaeological features that are exposed and to record changes in the geological conditions. The section drawings of the trenches will be recorded at a scale of 1:10. Should features be recorded in plan these will be drawn at a scale of 1:20. Written descriptions detailing the nature of the deposits, features and fills encountered will be compiled on Archaeological Project Services pro-forma record sheets.
 - iii. Any finds recovered will be bagged and labelled for later analysis.
 - iv. Throughout the watching brief a photographic record consisting of colour prints will be compiled. The photographic record will consist of:
 - (1) The site during work to show specific stages, and the layout of the archaeology within the trench.
 - (2) groups of features where their relationship is important

- v. 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

a. Stage 1

- i. 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.
- ii. 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.

b. Stage 2

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

c. Stage 3

- i. On completion of stage 2, a report detailing the findings of the watching brief will be prepared.
- ii. This will consist of:
 - (1) A non-technical summary of the results of the investigation.
 - (2) A description of the archaeological setting of the watching brief.
 - (3) Description of the topography of the site.
 - (4) Description of the methodologies used during the watching brief.
 - (5) A text describing the findings of the watching brief.
 - (6) A consideration of the local, regional and national context of the watching brief findings.
 - (7) Plans of the archaeological features exposed. If a sequence of archaeological deposits is encountered, separate plans for each phase will be produced.
 - (8) Sections of the archaeological features.
 - (9) Interpretation of the archaeological features exposed, and their chronology and setting within the surrounding landscape.
 - (10) Specialist reports on the finds from the site.
 - (11) Appropriate photographs of the site and specific archaeological features.

10. REPORT DEPOSITION

- a. Copies of the report will be sent to the Client; the Archaeology Officer, Lincolnshire County Council, South Holland District Council Planning Department; and to the County Council Archaeological Sites and Monuments Record.

11. ARCHIVE

- a. 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

- a. 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 *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

- a. Curatorial responsibility for the archaeological work undertaken on the site lies with the Archaeology Officer, Lincolnshire County Council. They will be given seven days notice in writing before the commencement of the project.

14. VARIATIONS

- a. Variations to the proposed scheme of works will only be made following written confirmation of acceptance from the archaeological curator.

15. PROGRAMME OF WORKS AND STAFFING LEVELS

- a. 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.
- b. An archaeological supervisor with experience of watching briefs will undertake the work.
- c. 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. It is expected that each fieldwork day (equal to one person-day) will require a post-excavation day (equal to one-and-a-half person-days) for completion of the analysis and report. If the fieldwork lasts longer than about four days then there will be an economy of scale with the post-excavation analysis.

16. SPECIALISTS TO BE USED DURING THE PROJECT

- a. 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 - Trent & Peak Archaeological Trust
	Roman - B Precious, Independent Specialist
	Anglo-Saxon - J Young, Independent Specialist
	Medieval and later - H Healey, Independent Archaeologist; or G Taylor, Archaeological Project Services
Non-pottery Artefacts	J Cowgill, Independent Specialist; or G Taylor, Archaeological Project Services
Animal Bones	Environmental Archaeology Consultancy
Environmental Analysis	J Rackham, Independent Specialist; or P Cope-Faulkner, Archaeological Project Services
Human Remains Analysis	R Gowland, Independent Specialist

17. **BIBLIOGRAPHY**

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Appendix 2

CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

No.	Section	Description	Interpretation
001	1	Hard black-grey tarmac, 40mm thick	Tarmac surface
002	1	Hard light greyish brown concrete, 0.14m thick	Hardcore for 001
003	1	Compact mixed demolition rubble, 0.17m thick	Dumped deposit
004	1	Friable yellow brown gravel, 0.27m thick	Dumped deposit
005	1	Firm mid grey silt, >80mm thick	Natural deposit
006	2	Loose mid to dark grey sandy silt with gravel, 30mm thick	Stone surface
007	2	Hard light greyish brown concrete, 100mm thick	Hardcore for 006
008	2	Hard black tarmac, 0.3m thick	Former surface
009	2	Hard light greyish brown concrete, 0.15m thick	Hardcore for 008
010	2	Firm dark grey silt, 100mm thick	Former topsoil
011	2	Firm mid brown silt, >0.25m thick	Natural deposit
012	3	Loose mid greyish brown pebbles in sandy silt, 0.5m thick	Surface
013	3	Firm dark grey stony sandy silt	Fill of 015
014	3	Loose light brown fine gravel, with plastic pipe	Fill of 015
015	3	Linear cut, 0.4m wide by 0.7m deep, aligned north-south	Service trench
016	3	Indurated yellow cement, 100mm thick	Cement raft
017	3	Firm dark grey silt, 60mm thick	Former topsoil
018	3	Firm mid brown silt, >0.5m thick	Natural deposit
019	3	Firm mid grey clayey silt, with frequent charcoal flecks	Fill of 020
020	3	Linear cut, >0.5m wide by >0.2m deep, aligned north-south	Ditch
021	3	Firm mid brownish grey clayey silt	Natural deposit
022	3	Firm mid brown stones in sandy silt, 0.25m thick	Dumped deposit
023	-	Hard grey concrete, 0.2m thick	Concrete raft
024	-	Loose grey coarse gravel	Hardcore for 023
025	-	Friable mid brownish yellow clay	Natural deposit
026	-	Loose light brownish yellow sand	Natural deposit
027	-	Friable mid brown clay	Natural deposit
028	-	Hard dark grey tarmac	Tarmac surface
029	-	Hard dark grey-black tarmac	Former surface

No.	Section	Description	Interpretation
030	-		Natural
031	4	Hard grey tarmac, 70mm thick	Tarmac surface
032	4	Hard near white concrete and gravel, 80mm thick	Hardcore for 031
033	4	Hard black-grey tarmac, 0.24m thick	Former surface
034	4	Friable mixed demolition debris, 0.24m thick	Dumped deposit
035	4	Firm dark grey clay, >0.27m thick	Natural deposit

Appendix 3

ENVIRONMENTAL ARCHAEOLOGY REPORT

James Rackham

A single sample of 0.5 litres of fine silt from an undated ditch fill was submitted by Archaeological Project Services for assessment, specifically whether it contained indicators of marine or freshwater conditions.

The sample was washed in a bowl, with disaggregation being assisted by the addition of washing soda. The sample was then rinsed on a 0.3mm mesh sieve and the retent studied under a binocular microscope.

The retent of fine silt and some coarse sand grains was found to contain small quantities of very fine coal and charcoal which may be contemporary with the deposition of the sediment, although they are fine enough to have passed down through the soil as a result of natural processes. The biological inclusions were limited to ostracods (shelled crustaceans) and mollusc shells. No attempt has been made to identify the ostracods which would need to be submitted to a specialist if further information is required.

The mollusc assemblage includes many pieces of fragmented unidentifiable shell and a few intact shells of small snails and slugs. The most abundant intact shells are those of the genus *Vallonia*, among which *Vallonia excentrica* has been identified. This genus is associated with grassland habitats (Cameron and Redfern 1976; Ellis 1969; Evans 1972). The next most frequent taxa is *Lymnaea truncatula* a semi-aquatic species commonly found along ditch and stream edges or in damp places within fields (Macan 1977). The only other snail taxa recorded is *Vertigo pygmaea* another open country or grassland species.

This limited evidence clearly indicates that the ditch deposit has formed in a freshwater/terrestrial rather than a marine environment although the fine grained sediment infilling the ditch is probably composed of re-worked marine silts. A clearer picture of the aquatic environment pertaining in the ditch at the time of deposition would be obtained if the ostracods were studied.

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Catalogue of the Shells from Contexts (018) and (019) by Gary Taylor

018	5 x <i>Vallonia excentrica</i> 8 x <i>Lymnaea truncatula</i> 8-10 unidentified shell fragments
019	1 x <i>Ceciloides acicula</i> (subterranean snail found in calcareous areas) 1 x unidentified shell fragment

Appendix 4

THE ARCHIVE

The archive consists of:

35	Context records
5	Scale drawings
2	Photographic record sheet
1	Processed environmental sample
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: 108.99

Archaeological Project Services Site Code: SWM99

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

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.
Romano-British	Pertaining to the period dating from AD 43-410 when the Romans occupied Britain.