ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF
OF DEVELOPMENT ON LAND
AT VICARAGE LANE,
SCOPWICK,
LINCOLNSHIRE
(SVL 99)

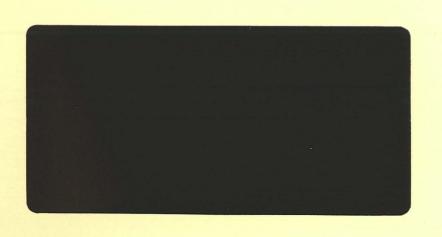


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ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF
OF DEVELOPMENT ON LAND
AT VICARAGE LANE,
SCOPWICK,
LINCOLNSHIRE
(SVL 99)

Work Undertaken For Mr S. Ward

August 1999

Report Compiled by Tobin Rayner BSc (Hons)

Planning Application No: N/53/348/99
National Grid Reference: TF-0695-5810
TFO694-5811
City and County Museum Accession No: 166.99

A. P. S. Report No. 99/64

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

CONTENTS

Y .	0	77.	
LIST	Of	Figures	ς

	200	7000	1000	
T	· 0+	af	D	lates
	101	()1	Р	12100

1.	Summary
2.	Introduction12.1 Definition of a Watching Brief12.2 Planning Background12.3 Topography and Geology12.4 Archaeological Setting1
3.	Aims
4.	Methods
5.	Results
6.	Discussion
7.	Conclusions
8.	Acknowledgements
9.	Personnel
10.	Bibliography
11.	Abbreviations
Append	dices
1 2 3 4 5	The Brief Specification for Archaeological Watching Brief Context Descriptions Glossary The Archive

List of Figures

Figure 1 General location plan

Figure 2 Site location plan and SMR data

Figure 3 Plan showing location of sections

Figure 4 Sections 1 - 3

List of Plates

Plate 1 General view of site, looking south

Plate 2 View of natural geology, looking west

Plate 3 View of limestone wall, looking north

1. SUMMARY

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken during residential development at Vicarage Lane, Scopwick, Lincolnshire.

The watching brief identified a natural deposit overlain by a soil possibly formed when the land was pasture. Cutting this deposit was a limestone wall which may represent part of a medieval structure, although was undated.

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 commissioned by Mr S. Ward to undertake an archaeological watching brief during the associated with groundworks development at Vicarage Lane, Scopwick, Lincolnshire. Approval for development was sought through the planning submission of application N/53/348/99. Permission was granted subject to a standard condition for archaeological recording. The watching brief was undertaken in accordance with a specification designed by Archaeological Project Services (Appendix 2) and approved by the NKHO.

2.3 Topography and Geology

Scopwick is situated approximately 8km north of Sleaford and 13km southeast of

Lincoln, in the district of North Kesteven, Lincolnshire (Fig.1).

The development site is located to the northwest of Scopwick village centre as defined by the parish church of Holy Cross (Fig. 2). The site is pasture and dips down towards the south (Plate 1), lying at approximately 18m OD and is located at National Grid Reference TF 0695 5810.

Local soils are of the Aswarby Association typically fine loamy gleyic brown calcareous earths over interbedded Jurassic limestone and clays (Hodge *et al.* 1984, 99).

2.4 Archaeological Setting

The development site lies within an area of known archaeological remains. Reverend G. Oliver postulated in 1838 that a mound 150m west of the development site was a prehistoric burial mound containing cremations (Fig. 2, NK53.5).

Romano-British remains have been retrieved 100m to the southeast and include pottery, coins (Fig. 2, NK53.10) and a 4th century burial (Fig. 2, NK53.12). Other Romano-British finds include a flagon rim located 350m east of the development site (Fig. 2, NK53.9).

Scopwick is first mentioned in the Domesday Survey of 1086. Referred to as *Scapuic* the name is derived from the Old English *sceap-wic* meaning 'sheep farm' (Ekwall 1974, 397). At the time of the Domesday Survey, Scopwick was held principally by Walter De Aincurte and contained a church, a priest and 6 mills (Foster and Longley 1976).

The Brief (Appendix 1) noted that the proposed development site lies within the core of the medieval village, located between the two main streets and close to

the 13th century church. Medieval pottery has been retrieved from the cellar of the present vicarage (Fig. 2, NK53.4). There also used to be an earlier vicarage in the village.

3. AIMS

The aims of the watching brief, as detailed in the specification (Appendix 2), were to locate and record archaeological deposits, if present, and to determine their date, function and origin.

4. METHODS

The proposed development required the excavation of trenches to accommodate the footings for the new buildings (Fig. 3). These were excavated by machine to a depth of 1.4m. Following excavation, the sides of selected portions of the trench were cleaned and rendered vertical. The depths and thicknesses of each deposit were 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. Natural geological deposits were also recorded where exposed. A photographic record was compiled and sections were drawn. Recording of deposits encountered was undertaken according to standard Archaeological Project Services practice.

Records of the deposits were examined and a stratigraphic matrix compiled. A list of all contexts and descriptions appears as Appendix 2.

5. RESULTS

The earliest deposit encountered in the development area was a light yellow limestone (005) identified as the underlying geology (Plate 2).

Sealing the limestone was a black brown clayey sand soil (004), measuring 0.5m thick.

Cutting the soil layer (004), in the garage foundation trench, was a northeast-southwest orientated linear foundation trench (003) containing a limestone masonry wall (002) (Fig. 4) (Plate 3).

Sealing the wall (002) and soil (004) was topsoil (turf) consisting of a black brown sandy silt (001) which was 0.2m thick.

No finds were recovered from any of the deposits.

6. DISCUSSION

Natural deposits of indurated limestone were encountered in the base of the foundation trenches. This is probably part of the interbedded Jurassic limestone associated with the Aswarby Association.

The overlying soil layer was identified as a natural build up of soil, possibly whilst the land was open pasture.

The substantial nature of the limestone wall discovered in the garage foundation trench suggests that it may be part of a structure extending eastwards off the site. An occupant of one of the houses adjacent to the site stated that they often removed "large limestone blocks" from their garden. Although no datable evidence was present in the wall, a possible medieval date may be inferred, due to the early Enclosure of the land and there being no evidence of any structures on this site from relevant maps of the 19th century (Appendix 1).

7. CONCLUSIONS

Archaeological investigations during

development at Vicarage Lane, Scopwick, were carried out due to the possible presence of medieval tofts (houses) and crofts (yards) or possibly the remains of an early vicarage (Appendix 1).

A substantial bonded limestone wall was discovered. This may possibly be part of a medieval structure, although no artefacts were recovered to confirm this date. Conditions at the site suggest that ancient environmental remains (seeds, pollen, *etc.*) would only survive through charring.

8. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeological Project Services wish to acknowledge the assistance of Mr S. Ward for commissioning the fieldwork and post-excavation analysis. Gary Taylor coordinated this project and edited this report. Kate Orr, the North Kesteven District Heritage Officer, provided information from the relevant parish files maintained by Heritage Lincolnshire.

9. PERSONNEL

Project Coordinator: Gary Taylor

Supervisor: Neil Herbert Illustration: Phil Mills

Photographic Reproduction: Sue Unsworth Post-excavation Analyst: Tobin Rayner

10. BIBLIOGRAPHY

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

Foster, C.W. and Longley, T., (eds), 1976 The Lincolnshire Domesday and the Lindsey Survey, The Lincoln Record Society 19 Hodge, C. A. H., Burton, R. G. O., Corbett, W. M., Evans, R., and Seale, R. S., 1984 *Soils and their uses in Eastern England*, Soil Survey of England and Wales 13

11. ABBREVIATIONS

SMR Sites and Monuments Record NKHO North Kesteven Heritage Officer

BRIEF FOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL OBSERVATION AND RECORDING (WATCHING BRIEF)

VICARAGE LANE, SCOPWICK, LINCS

Planning Application Number: N/53/348/99 NGR: 506950 358100

Applicant: Mr S Ward Agent: R, B & S Haywood

1. Summary

- 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 Scopwick village is situated approximately 13km south east of Lincoln on the dipslope of the Lincolnshire limestone. The development site is accessed from Vicarage Lane and is situated to the north west of the parish church. The elongated rectangular plot of land is pasture and the surface is irregular.
- 2.2 The site lies on the junction of two soil types: the Elmton 1 Association of fine loamy or clayey variably stony soil overlying Jurassic limestone; and the Aswarby Association fine loamy glevic brown calcareous earths over interbedded Jurassic limestone and clays.

3. Planning Background

Full planning permission has been given to erect a house and garage on this plot of land. A watching brief is required on all groundworks as condition of planning permission.

4. Archaeological Background

- 4.1The site is in the medieval core of the village, being between the two main streets and in close proximity to the medeval church. This block of land was subject to Enclosure earlier than the rest of the village, which indicates the liklihood of its use for settlement rather than for open fields or common pre -1799. Therefore it is essential to monitor groundworks as buried remains of medieval tofts (houses) and crofts (yards) may survive.
- 4.2 There used to be an earlier Vicarage in the village. Remains of this building may exist within the application area.

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 these areas.
 - 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**

- 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 '<u>Lincolnshire History and Archaeology</u>' 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.

10.2 Further contact addresses:

Kate Orr
North Kesteven Heritage Officer
Heritage Lincolnshire
The Old School
Cameron Street
Heckington
Lincolnshire
NG34 9RW

County Sites and Monuments Record Highways and Planning Directorate Lincolnshire County Council 4th Floor City Hall Lincoln LN1 1DN

Mr T. Page City and County Museum 12 Friars Lane Lincoln LN2 5AL

Department of Planning North Kesteven District Council Offices Kesteven Street Sleaford Lincolnshire NG34 7EF

Brief set by Heritage Officer, North Kesteven -11/6/1999

This brief is only valid for one year from this date.

LAND AT VICARAGE LANE, SCOPWICK, LINCOLNSHIRE

SPECIFICATION FOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

PREPARED FOR

MR S WARD

JUNE 1999

SUMMARY

- 1.1 A watching brief is required during residential development at Vicarage Lane, Scopwick.
- 1.2 The site lies within the medieval core of the village. The site is also close to the medieval church.
- 1.3 The watching brief will be undertaken during groundworks associated with the development. The 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 photographs.

2 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 This document comprises a specification for an archaeological watching brief during residential development at Vicarage Lane, Scopwick. The site is located at national grid reference TF 0695 5810.
- 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 Scopwick is located approximately 13km southeast of Lincoln and 8km west of Timberland in the district of North Kesteven.

4 PLANNING BACKGROUND

4.1 Full planning permission (application number N/53/348/99) for the construction of a house and garage has been granted by North Kesteven District Council, subject to a condition requiring the implementation of an archaeological watching brief.

5 SOILS AND TOPOGRAPHY

5.1 Scopwick is situated on the easterly dip slope of the Lincoln Edge, overlooking the Witham Valley. The site and surrounding area is set within a dry valley aligned to the east, and lies at approximately 18m OD. Soils at the site are Aswarby Association typical loamy gleyic brown calcareous earths (Hodge *et al.* 1984, 99).

6 THE ARCHAEOLOGY

- 6.1 The proposed development site lies within the core of the medieval village, located between the two main streets and close to the 13th century church. The block of land was subject to enclosure earlier than the rest of the village and may indicate the likelihood of its use for settlement rather than for open fields or common.
- 6.2 There used to be an earlier Vicarage in the village. Remains of this building may exist within the application area.

7 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- 7.1 The aims of the watching brief will be:
 - 7.1.1 To record and interpret the archaeological features exposed during 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.

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.
- 8.2.2 The sections of the trenches will be observed regularly to identify and record archaeological features that are exposed and to record changes in the geological conditions. The plans of the trench and features will be drawn at a scale of 1:20. Section drawings of the trenches and features will be recorded at a scale of 1:10. Written descriptions detailing the nature of the

deposits, features and fills encountered will be compiled on Archaeological Project Services pro-forma record sheets.

- 8.2.3 Any finds recovered will be bagged and labelled for later analysis.
- 8.2.4 Throughout the watching brief a photographic record consisting of colour prints will be compiled. The photographic record will consist of:
 - 8.2.4.1 The site during work to show specific stages, and the layout of the archaeology within the trench.
 - 8.2.4.2 groups of features where their relationship is important
- 8.2.5 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

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.
- 9.3.2 This will consist of:
 - 9.3.2.1 A description of the archaeological setting of the watching brief.
 - 9.3.2.2 Description of the topography of the site.

- 9.3.2.3 Description of the methodologies used during the watching brief.
- 9.3.2.4 A text describing the findings of the watching brief.
- 9.3.2.5 A consideration of the local, regional and national context of the watching brief findings.
- 9.3.2.6 Plans of the archaeological features exposed. If a sequence of archaeological deposits is encountered, separate plans for each phase will be produced.
- 9.3.2.7 Sections of the archaeological features.
- 9.3.2.8 Interpretation of the archaeological features exposed, and their chronology and setting within the surrounding landscape.
- 9.3.2.9 Specialist reports on the finds from the site.
- 9.3.2.10 Appropriate photographs of specific archaeological features.

10 REPORT DEPOSITION

10.1 Copies of the report will be sent to the client; the County Council Archaeological Sites and Monuments Record; and to North Kesteven District Council Planning Department and the North Kesteven Heritage Officer.

11 ARCHIVE

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 Heritage Officer for North Kesteven District Council. She 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 the Heritage Officer, North Kesteven District Council.

15 PROGRAMME OF WORKS AND STAFFING LEVELS

- 15.1 The watching brief will be integrated with the programme of construction.
- 15.2 An archaeological supervisor with experience of watching briefs will undertake the work.

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.

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Conservation Conservation Laboratory, City and County Museum, Lincoln

Pottery Analysis Prehistoric - Trent & Peak Archaeological Trust

Roman - B Precious, independent specialist Saxon - City of Lincoln Archaeology Unit

Medieval and later - H Healey, independent archaeologist

Non-pottery Artefacts J Cowgill, independent specialist

Animal Bones Environmental Archaeology Consultancy

Human Remains Analysis R Gowland, independent specialist

17 BIBLIOGRAPHY

Hodge, CAH, Burton, RGO, Corbett, WM, Evans, R, and Seale, RS, 1984 Soils and their use in Eastern England, Soil Survey of England and Wales 13

CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

No.	Description	Interpretation
001	Loose black - brown sandy silt with frequent roots and occasional sub - angular limestone, 0.3m thick	Turf layer
002	Roughly hewn oolitic limestone masonry, with a red clayey sand bond, 5.6m in length and 0.5m in depth.	Wall
003	Vertical sided flat bottomed cut, 0.7m wide, 0.5m deep and 5.6m long	Foundation trench
004	Friable black - brown clayey sand with occasional sub - angular limestone, 0.5m thick	Soil
005	Indurated light yellow limestone, 0.3m thick	Natural geology

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, *e.g.*(004).

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.

Romano-British

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

THE ARCHIVE

The archive consists of:

- 5 Context records
- 2 Scale drawings
- Photographic record sheet
- 1 Stratigraphic matrix
- 1 Report

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:

166.99

Archaeological Project Services Site Code:

SVL99

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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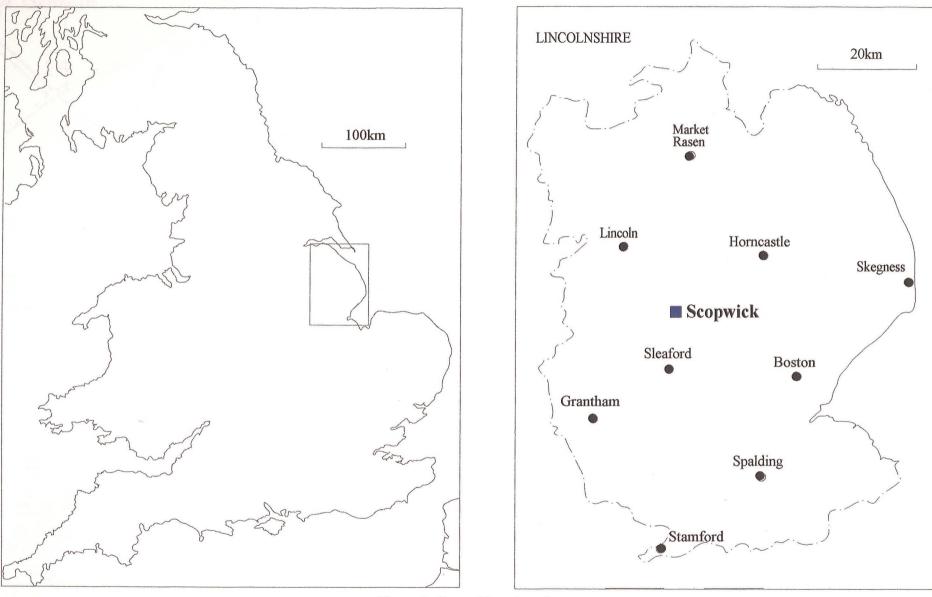


Figure 1: General location plan

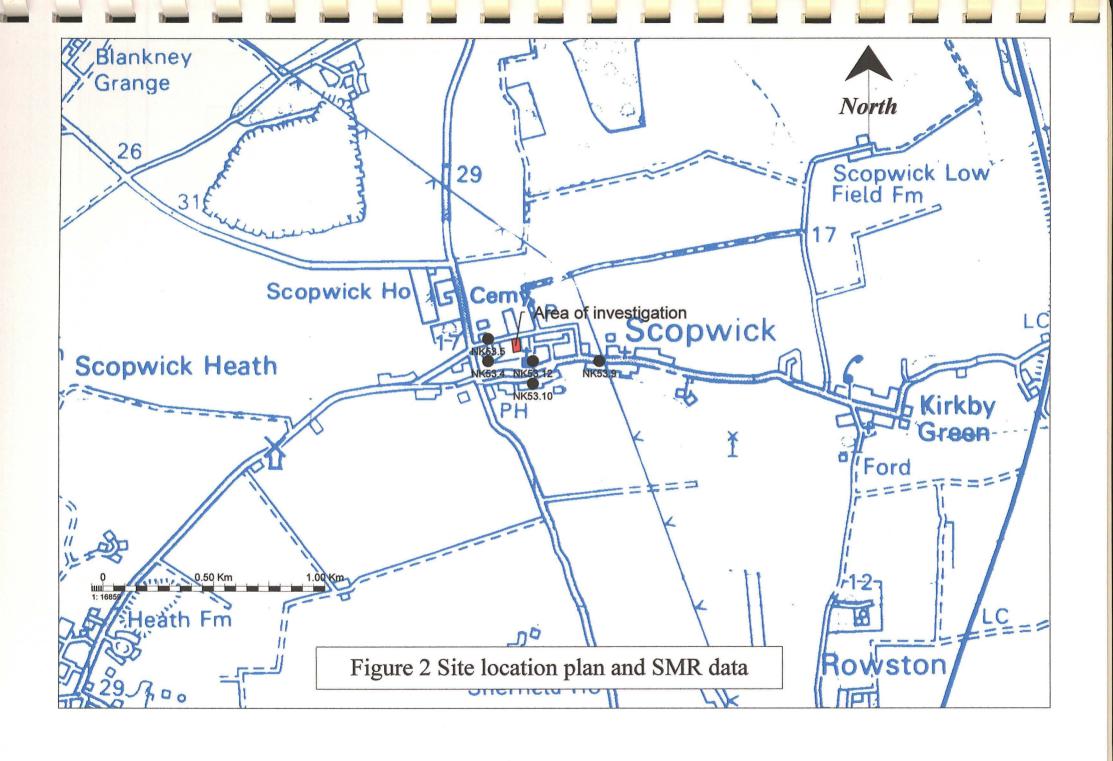




Figure 3: Plan showing location of sections

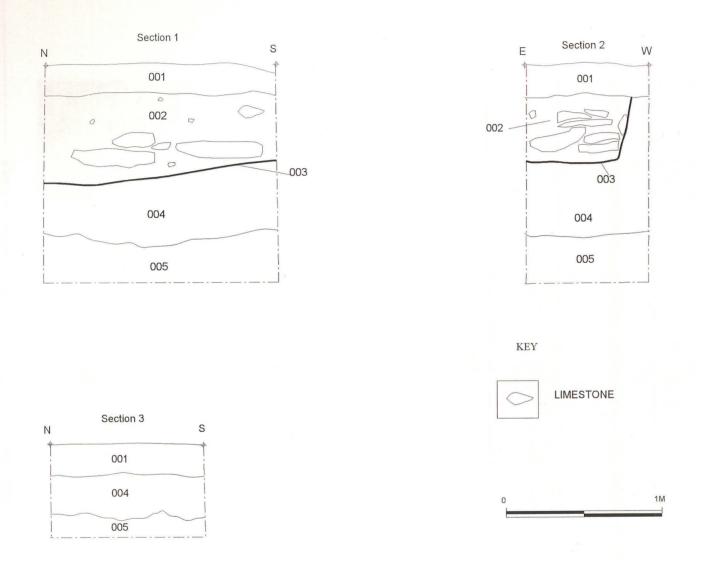


Figure 4: Sections 1 -3



Plate 1 General view of site, looking south



Plate 2 View of natural geology, looking west



Plate 3 View of limestone wall, looking north