ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF
THE GILES SCHOOL
OLD LEAKE,
LINCOLNSHIRE
(OLG99))



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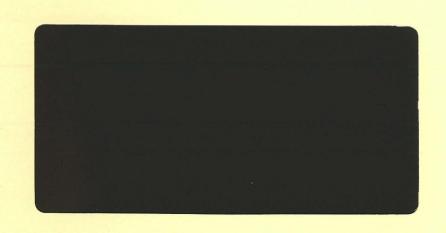
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ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF THE GILES SCHOOL OLD LEAKE, LINCOLNSHIRE (OLG99))

> Work Undertaken For Mr.D. W. Bradley

> > August 1999

Report compiled by Rachael Hall BA (Hons)

National Grid Reference: TF 408502 City and County Museum Accession No: 81.99

A.P.S. Report No:103/99



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#### 1. SUMMARY

An enhanced archaeological watching brief was undertaken during development at The Giles School, Old Leake, Lincolnshire. Monitoring was undertaken during the stripping of tarmac and the excavation of stanchion pits, associated with the construction of a new sports hall at the site.

The watching brief was undertaken as Saxo-Norman artefacts and remains have previously been recorded at The Giles School. Located only 300m north of the site are earthworks of medieval dylings.

The archaeological investigations revealed several deposits used to backfill a former swimming pool and makeup for tarmac sports court. Finds dating to the 20th century were noted though not retrieved.

#### 2. INTRODUCTION

#### 2.1 Background

An enhanced archaeological watching brief was undertaken during the stripping of tarmac, and the excavation of stanchion pits in advance of construction of a sports hall at The Giles School, Old Leake, Lincolnshire (National Grid Reference TF408502).

Approval for the development was sought through the submission of planing application B16/0620/98, and granted by Boston Borough Council, subject to a condition requiring an enhanced archaeological watching brief. The work was commissioned by Mr. D. Bradley and undertaken by Archaeological Project Services.

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 Topography and Geology

Old Leake is located in the fens of South Lincolnshire in the administrative district of the Borough of Boston, 6.5km northeast of the town itself. The site lies at c. 3m OD. within a generally level and open landscape.

Local soils are of the Wallasea Series, typical pelo-alluvial gley soils mixed with Wisbech soils on creek ridges. To the northeast soils are Stockwith Series, calcareous alluvial gleys. These soils are developed on marine alluvium, beneath which is glacial drift overlying Jurassic clays (Hodge *et al*, 1984, 34).

### 2.3 Archaeological Setting

Although no prehistoric or Roman remains are known from Old Leake, sites of these periods have been identified in the neighbouring parish of Wrangle, which has been subject to intensive survey. Also within Wrangle parish numerous saltmaking sites thought to date from the Roman period have been identified.

In the Domesday Book of 1086 Old Leake is referred to as *Leche*, derived from the Old English *lece*, meaning 'to drip or leak'. The survey also lists 26 salt-pans and 34 acres of meadow are recorded for the village.

Saxo-Norman artefacts and remains have been recorded at The Giles

School, Old Leake during a previous watching brief undertaken by Archaeological Project Services in 1997. Medieval salt making sites were also found in Old Leake during the Fenland Survey.

The parish church of St. Mary, dating to the 12th century, with 13th-15th century additions, lies only 150m north of the site, and is surrounded by a ditch known as 'the moat'. Earthworks of dylings, agricultural features of medieval date, survive approximately 300m north of the development area.

#### 4. AIMS

The requirements of the watching brief, as specified in the Lincolnshire County Council Archaeological Handbook (1998) are;

To record and interpret the archaeological features, exposed during the excavation of the foundation trenches and other areas of ground disturbance

The objectives of the enhanced watching brief were to:

- 1) Determine the form and function of the archaeological features encountered;
- 2) Determine the spatial arrangement of the archaeological features encountered;
- 3) As far as practical, recover dating evidence from archaeological features and
- 4) Establish the sequence of the archaeological remains present on the site.

#### 5. METHODS

Monitoring was undertaken during the stripping of the tarmac sports court.

Within the stripped area, 1.8m x 1.8m stanchion pits were excavated at 0.6m intervals along the wall line of the proposed 36m x 20m rectangular sports hall. Between the stanchion pits, narrow, shallow footings were opened to allow the insertion of concrete beams. The sides of the stanchion pits hand cleaned to enable the identification of any archaelogical remains. Sections within three separate stanchion pits were recorded as representative of the site as a whole. Deposits recorded during investigation were allocated a unique reference number (Context Number) with an individual written description. Sections were drawn at a scale of 1:10. and a sketch plan was made of the site. A photographic record was complied.

#### 6. RESULTS

Records of the deposits and features identified during the watching brief were examined. A list of all contexts with interpretation appears as Appendix 2. The deposits can be divided into two phases.

Phase 1 Natural deposits Phase 2 Modern deposits

#### Phase 1 Natural Deposits

The earliest deposits recorded at the site was a series of brown silts (008, 010 and 012) identified in Sections 1 and 2 at the north side of the plot and Section 3 to the south. These silts appear 0.6m below the current ground surface and extend 1m to the limit of excavation. Within the natural silts, lenses of dark grey silty clay were identified (005 and 009).

#### Phase 2 Modern Deposits

A deposit of dark greyish brown silt (004 and 007) with inclusions of brick and concrete sealing the natural silts is likely to represent backfilling of the former swimming pool known to have existed on the site. This layer of dumped silt (004 and 007) had a maximum thickness of 0.84m and was recorded in Sections pits 1 and 2 on the south side of the plot.

The dumped silts (004) and 007) were sealed by a 0.36m thick deposit of crushed stone (003), visible in Sections 1 and 2. This deposit forms a make-up layer for the tarmac sports court still extant at the time of recording.

Modern brick fragments were observed during the removal of dumped silt (004 and 007), though not retrieved.

#### 6. DISCUSSION

Natural silts (Phase 1), were the earliest deposit recorded during the watching brief. These deposits can be attributed to alluvial deposition, probably within a salt marsh environment

The dumped deposits from Phase 2 are associated with the infilling of the former swimming pool located at the west end of the development site.

The crushed stone recorded within the stanchions pits can be associated with the recently stripped tarmac courts.

Few finds were recorded from the site. The only artefactual material being 20<sup>th</sup> century brick recorded in the dumped deposit used as levelling.

#### 7. CONCLUSIONS

Archaeological investigations at the site of the sports hall development, The

Giles School were undertaken as previous excavations at The Giles School had revealed Saxo-Norman artefacts and remains.

The archaeological investigations revealed no archaeological deposits earlier than the 20<sup>th</sup> century within the development area. It is possible that earlier archaeological remains were destroyed during groundworks associated with the construction of the former swimming pool.

Finds dating to the 20th century were observed, though not retrieved during the excavation of the stanchions.

#### 8. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeological Project Services wish to acknowledge the assistance of Mr. D.W. Bradley for commissioning the work and post excavation analysis. Gary Taylor coordinated the work, Dale Trimble and Tom Lane edited this report. Steve Membrey the community archaeologist for Boston District Council, permitted examination of the relevant parish files.

#### 9. PERSONNEL

Project Coordinator: Gary Taylor Archaeological Team: Neil Herbert and Fiona Walker CAD Illustration: Post Excavation Analyst: Rachael Hall

#### 10. BIBLIOGRAPHY

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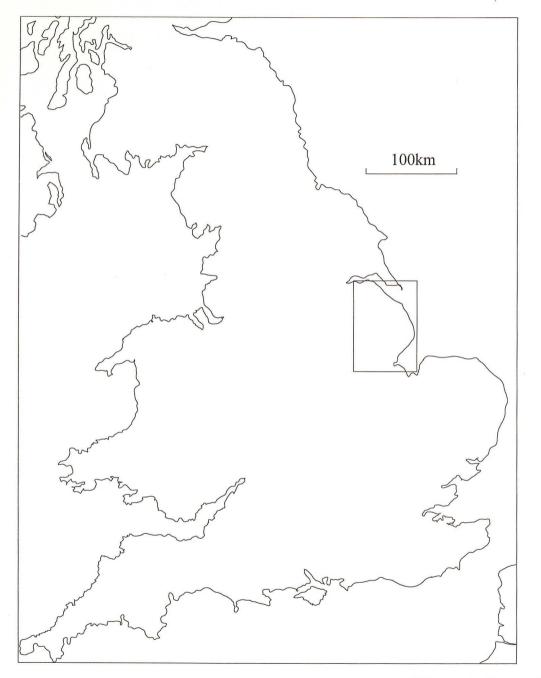
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### 11. ABBREVIATIONS

IFA Insitute of Field Archaeologists



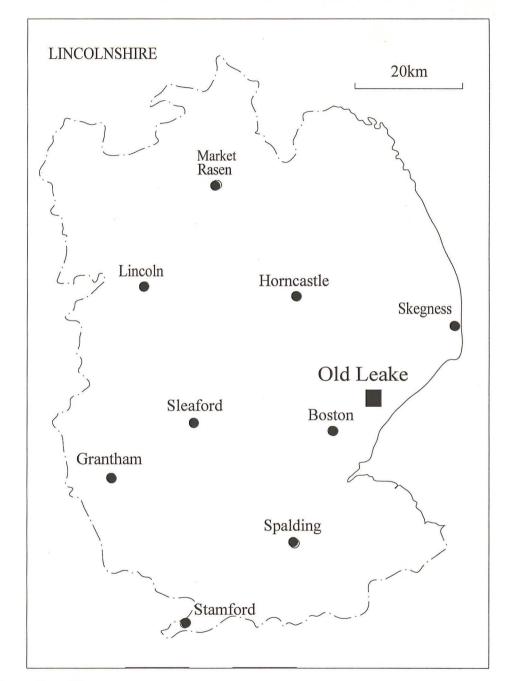
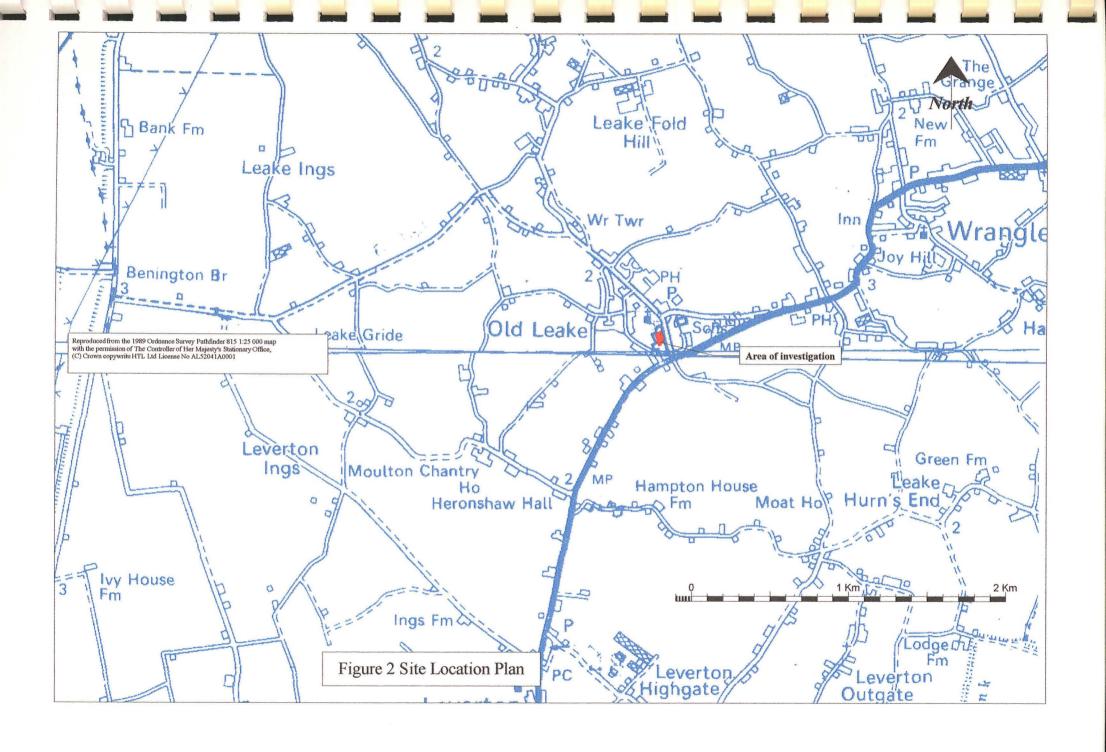


Figure 1 General Location Plan



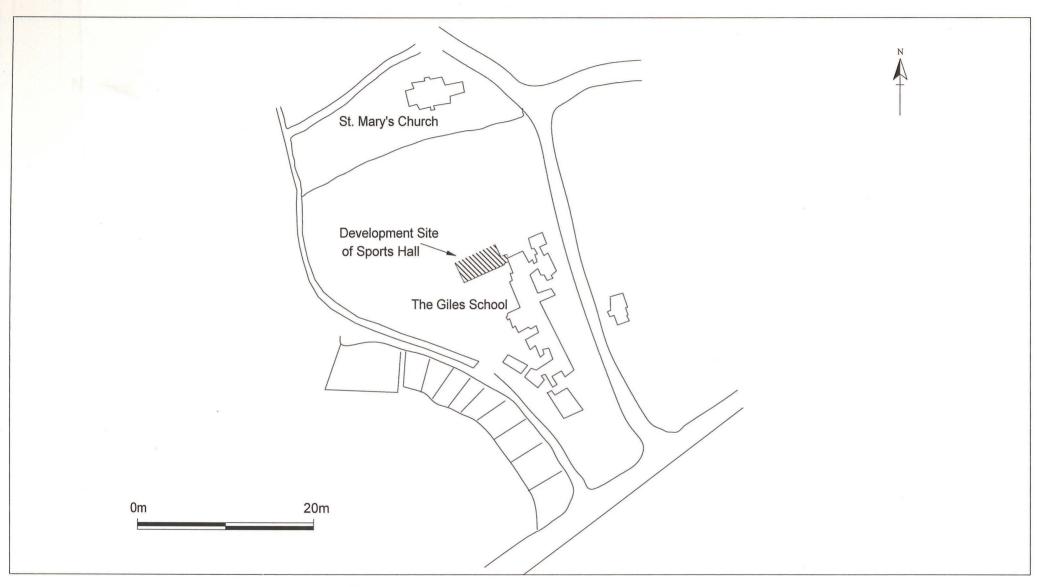


Figure 3 Location of development site

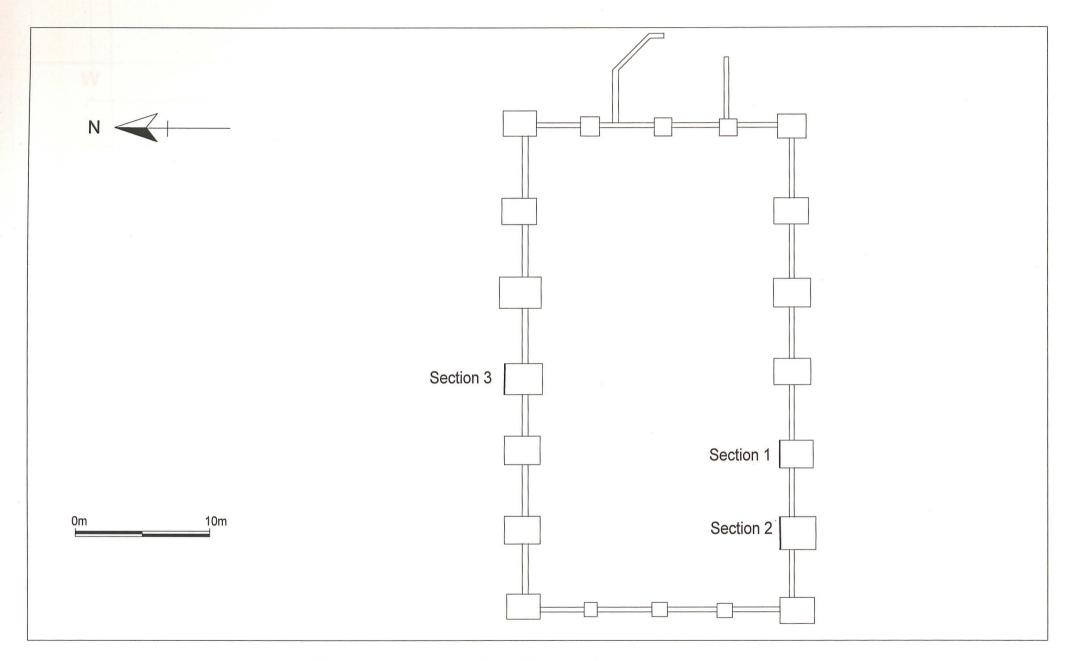


Figure 4 Foundation Plan of School Hall

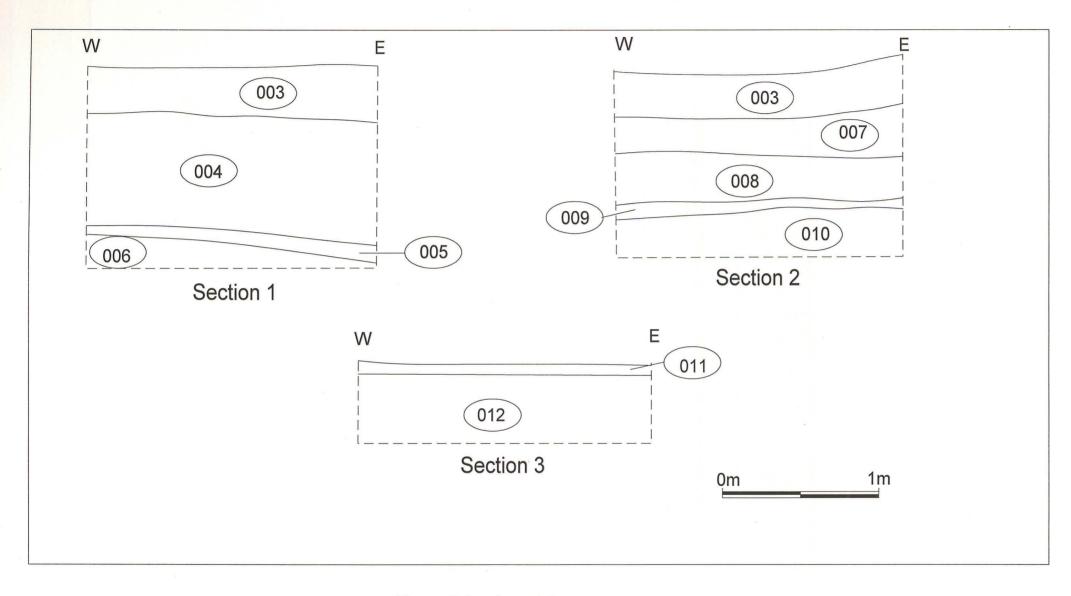


Figure 5 Sections 1-3



Plate 1 General site shot, looking northeast



Plate 2 Context (001), looking southeast

LAND AT
THE GILES SCHOOL
OLD LEAKE,
BOSTON
LINCOLNSHIRE

SPECIFICATION FOR ENHANCED, ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

PREPARED FOR
D. W. BRADLEY FRICS, CHARTERED SURVEYOR
AND
THE GILES SCHOOL

BY
ARCHAEOLOGICAL PROJECT SERVICES
Institute of Field Archaeologists'
Registered Organisation No. 21

**APRIL 1999** 

#### SUMMARY

- 1.1 An enhanced archaeological watching brief is required during the development of land at The Giles School, Old Leake, Lincolnshire.
- 1.2 Saxo-Norman artefacts and remains have previously been found at the Giles School. The parish church contains Norman features and medieval earthworks are located close by.
- 1.3 The enhanced watching brief will be undertaken during groundworks associated with the development. Significant archaeological deposits will be systematically examined. The archaeological features exposed will be recorded in writing, graphically and photographically. Archaeologically sensitive areas will be adequately excavated and recorded.
- 1.4 On completion of the fieldwork a report will be prepared detailing the findings of the investigation. The report will consist of a narrative supported by illustrations.

### 2 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 This document comprises a specification for an enhanced archaeological watching brief during development at The Giles School, Old Leake, Boston, national grid reference TF408502.
- 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 Old Leake is located approximately 8km northeast of Boston in the Fenland of south Lincolnshire. The site is located on the north side of The Giles School, approximately 150m south of then parish church, at TF408502.

### 4 PLANNING BACKGROUND

4.1: A planning application (number B16/0620/98) for the construction of a sports hall at the Giles School has been granted permission by Boston Borough Council, subject to a condition requiring the implementation of an enhanced archaeological watching brief.

#### 5 SOILS AND TOPOGRAPHY

5.1 Old Leake is situated in the Fens of south Lincolnshire. The site and surrounding area is on fairly flat and level land and lies at approximately 3m OD. Local soils at the site are Wallasea Series, typical pelo-alluvial gley soils mixed with Wisbech soils on creek ridges. To the northeast soils are of the Stockwith Series, calcareous alluvial gleys (Robson 1985, 32; 34). These soils are developed in marine alluvium, beneath which is glacial drift that in turn overlies Jurassic clays.

### 6 THE ARCHAEOLOGY

- 6.1 Although no prehistoric or Roman remains are known from Old Leake, sites of these periods have been identified in the neighbouring parish of Wrangle which has been subject to extensive survey. Within Wrangle, numerous saltmaking sites of the periods have been identified.
- 6.2 Old Leake is first referred to in the Domesday Book of 1086 at which time it contained over 40 salt-pans. Late Saxon or Saxo-Norman artefacts have previously been recovered from Old Leake, including at the Giles School. Archaeological remains of the period were encountered at Church Lane and archaeological features have also been revealed during previous investigations at the Giles School (Archaeological Project Services 1997).
- 6.3 The parish church of St. Mary, which contains Norman elements, with 13th-15th century additions, lies only 150m north of the site and is surrounded by a ditch known as 'the moat'. Earthworks of dylings, agricultural features of medieval date, survive approximately 300m north of the development area.

#### 7 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- 7.1 The aims of the enhanced watching brief will be:
  - 7.1.1 To record and interpret the archaeological features exposed during the excavation of the foundation trenches and other areas of ground disturbance.
- 7.2 The objectives of the enhanced 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 IFA registered 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.

### 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 Should archaeological features be encountered they will be subject to appropriate levels of sample excavation and recording to determine their date, function and associations. In particular, relationships of intercutting features will be established.
- 8.2.3 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 proforma record sheets.
- 8.2.4 Any finds recovered will be bagged and labelled for later analysis.
- 8.2.5 Throughout the investigation a photographic record will be compiled and will consist of:
  - 8.2.5.1 The site during work to show specific stages, and the layout of the archaeology within the trench.

- 8.2.5.2 groups of features where their relationship is important
- 8.2.6 Should human remains be located they will be left *in situ* and only removed if necessary. Should such be the case, 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 <u>Stage 1</u>

- 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 non-technical summary of the results of the investigation.
  - 9.3.2.2 A description of the archaeological setting of the watching brief.
  - 9.3.2.3 Description of the topography of the site.

9.3.2.4	Description of the methodologies used during the watching brief.
9.3.2.5	A text describing the findings of the watching brief.
9.3.2.6	A consideration of the local, regional and national context of the watching brief findings.
9.3.2.7	Plans of the archaeological features exposed. If a sequence of archaeological deposits is encountered, separate plans for each phase will be produced.
9.3.2.8	Sections of the archaeological features.
9.3.2.9	Interpretation of the archaeological features exposed, and their chronology and setting within the surrounding landscape.
9.3.2.10	Specialist reports on the finds from the site.
9.3.2.11	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 District Community Archaeologist; Boston Council Planning Department; and the County Council Archaeological 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 an article or note presented to the editor of the journal Lincolnshire History and Archaeology. If appropriate, notes on the findings will be submitted to the relevant 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 Boston Community Archaeologist. 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 the archaeological curator.

#### 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 An archaeological supervisor with experience of watching briefs will undertake the work.
- 15.3 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 three-four 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.

Task	Body to be undertaking the work
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 1

# CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

Context Number	Description	Interpretation
001	Dark brown silt, thickness 0.2m to limit of excavation	Natural Layer
002	Mixed grey and red-brown crushed brick. Maximum thickness 0.3m	Dump/Levelling material
003	Mid yellow crushed stone, maximum thickness 0.3m	Hardcore for tarmac courts
004	Greyish brown silt, maximum thickness 0.8m	Dump/levelling material
005	Dark grey silty clay, maximum thickness 0.12m	Lens
006	Mid greyish brown silt, maximum thickness 0.26m	Dump/levelling material
007	Dark greyish brown silt, maximum thickness 0.35m	Buried soil
008	Mid brown silt, maximum thickness 0.4m	Natural Layer
009	Mid grey silty clay, maximum thickness	Lens
010	Mid brown silt, maximum thickness 0.4m	Subsoil
011	Dark brown silt, maximum thickness 0.1m	Turf
012	Mid brown silt, maximum depth 0.5m	Subsoil

#### Appendix 2

#### **GLOSSARY**

Anglo-Saxon

Pertaining to the early part of the Saxon period and dating from approximately AD 450-650.

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).

Dumped deposits

These are deposits, often laid down intentionally, that raise a land surface. They may be the result of casual waste disposal or may be deliberate attempts to raise the ground surface.

Layer

A layer is a term to describe an accumulation of soil or other material that is not contained within a cut.

Medieval

Pertaining to 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.

### Appendix 3

#### THE ARCHIVE

The archive consists of:

- 12 Context records
- 3 Scale drawings
- 1 Photographic record sheets
- 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: 81.99

Archaeological Project Services Site Code:

OLG99

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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