ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF AT LONDON ROAD, GRANTHAM, LINCOLNSHIRE (GLR99)



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ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF AT LONDON ROAD, GRANTHAM, LINCOLNSHIRE (GLR99)

Work Undertaken For Albury Construction Ltd.

September 1999

Report Compiled by Mark Dymond HND

Planning Application No: SK98/1096/35 National Grid Reference: SK 916 354 City and County Museum Accession No:49.99

A.P.S. Report No. 95.99



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1. SUMMARY

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken during the construction of retail units at London Road, Grantham, Lincolnshire.

Prehistoric remains, including a neolithic stone hammer and two Bronze Age food vessels, have previously been found in the vicinity. Anglo-Saxon activity is also attested to by the discovery of a burial with grave goods. A medieval cemetery, associated with a leper hospital, has been identified just south of the site, though the location of the hospital itself has not been established. Other finds of medieval date comprising pottery, masonry and wells have been made in the area.

However, the watching brief identified only modern deposits comprising the remains of a car park, and back-filled cellar. This previous development may have removed any earlier archaeological deposits from 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 Planning Background

A planning application renewal (application number SK98/1096/35) for the erection of

non-food retail units and car park was submitted to South Kesteven District Council. A previous application (SK97/365/35) for planning permission had also been made. Consent was granted subject to a standard condition for archaeological recording.

Archaeological Project Services was commissioned by Albury Construction Ltd. to undertake a watching brief during the construction of retail units on land west of London Road, Grantham, Lincolnshire (Fig. 1). The work was carried out between the 2nd March and 25th May 1999.

2.3 Topography and Geology

Grantham, located 35km south of Lincoln and 30km northwest of Stamford, is in the administrative district of South Kesteven, Lincolnshire. The site occupies part of the southern limit of the town centre, in the Spittlegate suburb, on the west side of London Road at national grid reference SK 9162 3541 (Figs. 2 and 3).

The site and surrounding area are on a slight slope eastward down to the River Witham and lies at approximately 60m OD. Soils at the site have not been mapped as the area is urban but are likely to be Elmton 1 Association shallow brown rendzinas which occur on head or colluvial deposits in dry valleys on Jurassic limestone (Hodge *et al.* 1984, 179).

2.4 Archaeological Setting (Fig. 2)

Archaeological sites and findspots in the area represent several periods of human activity.

Prehistoric remains have been found near to the development area. Neolithic flint tools and a circular cropmark, perhaps denoting the position of a prehistoric burial, are located a little south of Stamford Street, on the south side of the town (SK35.44). Recent investigations in this area did not identify any archaeological remains though the investigations were limited in scale (Young 1998, 1). Bronze Age food vessels have been found 300m south, and perhaps signify prehistoric burials (SK35.20).

An Anglo-Saxon inhumation with a spearhead and bronze buckle (SK35.202), has also been found near the investigation area.

Grantham is first referred to in Domesday and is variously referred to as *Grantham*, *Granham* and *Grandham*. The place-name may derive from *Granta's Ham*, meaning 'settlement of Granta', or it may transliterate as 'sand-bank', taken from the Old English element *grand* meaning gravel (Ekwall 1974, 202-3).

Domesday describes Grantham as a royal borough belonging to the King and which contained a hall, a church and four mills (Foster & Longley 1976, 16). Other land holders in Grantham at this time included Robert de Todeni, Drew de Beurere, Robert of Stafford and Colegrim (*ibid*. 98;141;186;199). The Spittlegate area, the location of the investigation site, may be identified with *Nongetune*, a village that cannot be traced after its mention in Domesday. Land owned here was held by the king and Bishop Osmund of Salisbury (*ibid*. lxi;17; 46).

Possible building remains dating from the 13th-14th century have been found *c*. 200m northeast of the site (SK35.210 and SK35.215). Additionally, 300m to the northwest, human remains (SK35.234) have been revealed and may be associated with the chantry or chapel of St. Peter. Two medieval wells have also been found in the

same area (SK35.212).

Most of the known medieval remains of the town occur in its centre, to the north of the development area, and include the 11th-12th century St. Wulfram's parish church and 14th century Grantham House. Foundations of a medieval wall, possibly representing part of a castle, lying between Castlegate and the River Witham, were recorded in the 18th century.

The development is in the Spittlegate area of Grantham, which derives its name from a medieval leper hospital located in the vicinity. Dedicated to St. Leonard, the hospital dates from at least as early as the 12th century to the early 16th century. Although the exact location of this hospital is unknown, part of an associated cemetery containing human remains, some of which showed signs of leprosy, has been found on the east side of London Road, just south of the development area (SK35.240). The excavated remains comprised 49 inhumations, though the full extent of the graveyard was not established (Unsworth 1991).

3. AIMS

The requirements of the watching brief were to determine the spatial arrangement, date, form, function and sequence of the archaeological features encountered (Appendix 1).

4. METHODS

In the first stage of redevelopment, the watching brief area was cleared of modern building remains by machine and the underlying concrete and soil layers were removed to the level of London Road. Due to

the essentially similar nature of the deposits revealed across the area, a single representative section was recorded on the southern boundary of the site. Archaeological monitoring on a later phase of development examined manholes on drains for the new buildings.

The depths and thicknesses 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. Due to the essentially uniform nature of the deposits across the site, only three representative sections were drawn, at scale 1:10. Recording of deposits encountered during the watching brief was undertaken according to standard Archaeological Project Services practice.

5. RESULTS

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

Two phases of activity were identified:

Phase 1 Natural deposits
Phase 2 Modern deposits

Archaeological contexts are listed below and described. The numbers in square brackets are the context numbers assigned in the field.

5.1 Phase 1 Natural deposits

A light brown silty clay [004], was revealed

at the base of section 1 (Fig. 4). The surface of this layer occurred 1.2m below the existing ground surface and was at least 0.88m thick. Above this, and comprising the earliest deposit recorded in section 2 (Fig. 4), was a subsoil consisting of yellow sandy silt 0.75m thick [003] and [009].

5.2 Phase 2 Modern deposits

Above the subsoil in section 1 was a 0.30m thick layer of concrete [002]. However, overlying the subsoil in section 2, and comprising the earliest deposit in section 3 were layers of crushed stone and brick [008] and [011], at least 0.6m thick. Overlying these deposits were layers of crushed stone [007] and [010], which formed part of the present surface of the site. The concrete layer [002] was sealed by a layer of tarmac [001] which also formed part of the site's surface.

Overlying the natural deposit [004] was a clayey silt subsoil [003], overlaid by a concrete raft [002]. This was sealed by a tarmac and stone layer [001] that represents the remains of a car park surface.

A north-south brick wall [006] was recorded close to the frontage on London Road (Fig. 3). On the west side of the wall was a deposit of brick and stone [005] considered to represent back-fill of a cellar.

No artefacts were recovered during the investigation.

6. DISCUSSION

Natural (Phase 1) silty clays and subsoils, together over 1.5m thick, were observed at the site. Above these were modern deposits (Phase 2), representing the remains of former cellared buildings on the street frontage and more recent car park or yard surfaces.

The absence of any natural soil development on the surface of the Phase 1 subsoil probably implies that the area was stripped prior to the construction of the car park/hardstanding areas. This action may have served to remove any earlier archaeological remains from the area. Similarly, the street front cellar(s) will have removed earlier archaeological deposits from that part of the site.

7. CONCLUSIONS

Archaeological investigations were carried out during development at London Road, Grantham, Lincolnshire, because the site lies in close proximity to a medieval cemetery and other remains.

However, no archaeological remains were identified during the investigation. It is possible that previous development at the site has removed any earlier remains.

8. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeological Project Services would like to acknowledge the assistance of Mr. G. Thomas of Albury Construction Ltd., who commissioned the fieldwork and post-excavation analysis. Thanks are also due to Jo Simpson, the South Kesteven Community Archaeologist for allowing access to the relevant parish files. The work was coordinated by Gary Taylor and this report was edited by Gary Taylor and Tom Lane MIFA.

9. PERSONNEL

Project Coordinator: Gary Taylor Field Staff: Fiona Walker

Illustration: Mark Dymond and Sue

Unsworth

Post-excavation Analyst: Mark Dymond

10. BIBLIOGRAPHY

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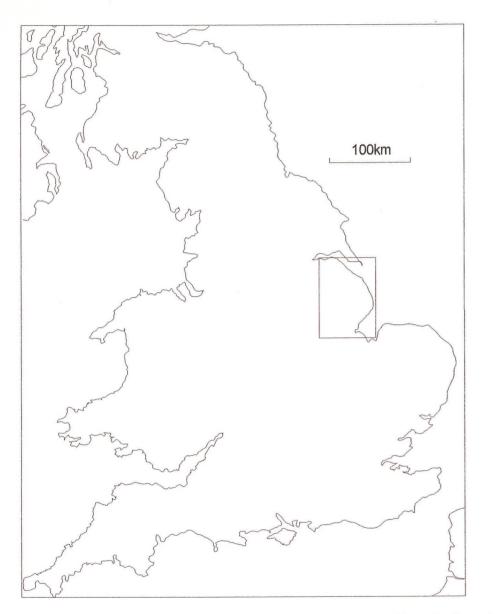
Unsworth, S., 1991 Archaeological excavation at London Road, Grantham, by Heritage Lincolnshire Unpublished Heritage Lincolnshire report

11. ABBREVIATIONS

APS Archaeological Project Services

IFA Institute of Field Archaeologists

SK Numbers prefixed by SK are the primary reference numbers used by the South Kesteven Community Archaeologist for identifying archaeological sites and finds.



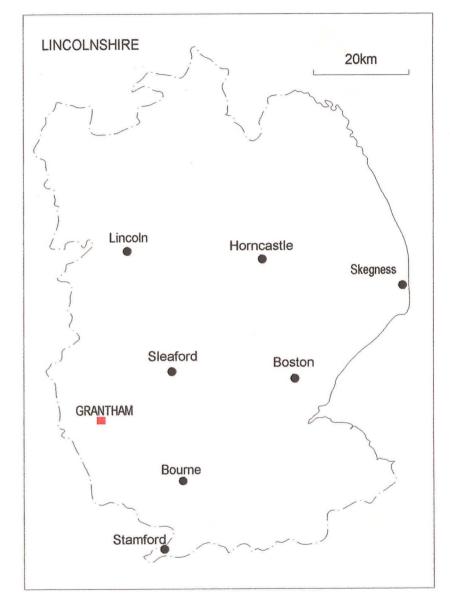
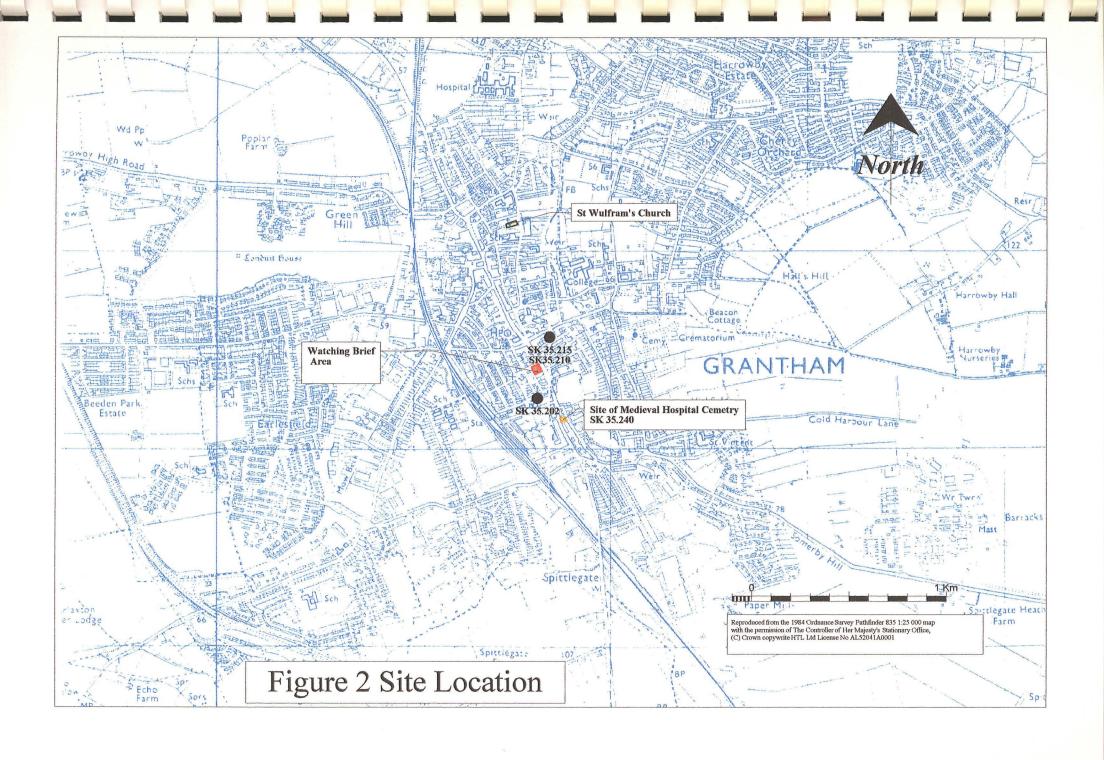


Figure 1 - General Location Plan



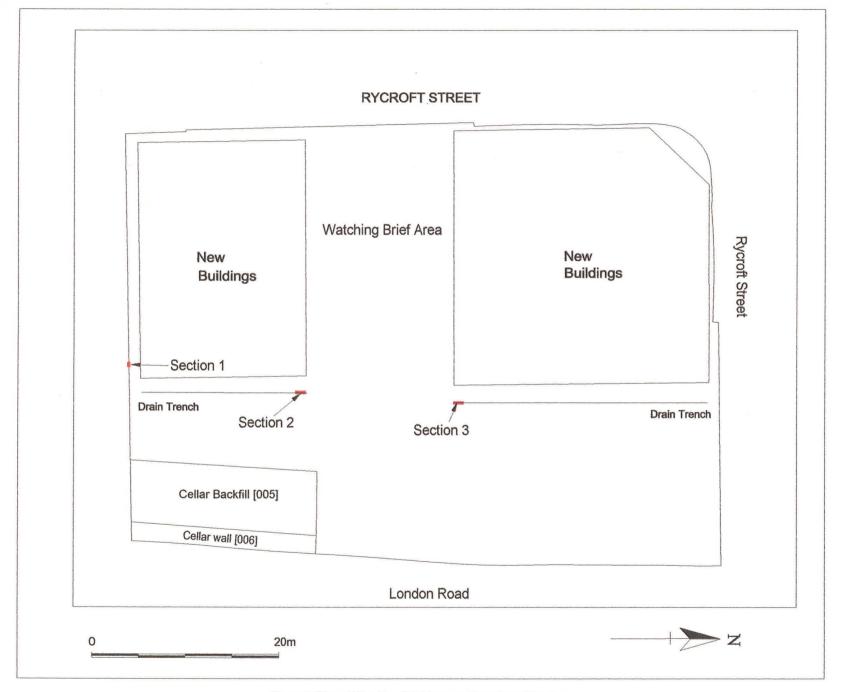


Figure 3: Plan of Watching Brief Area and Location of Sections

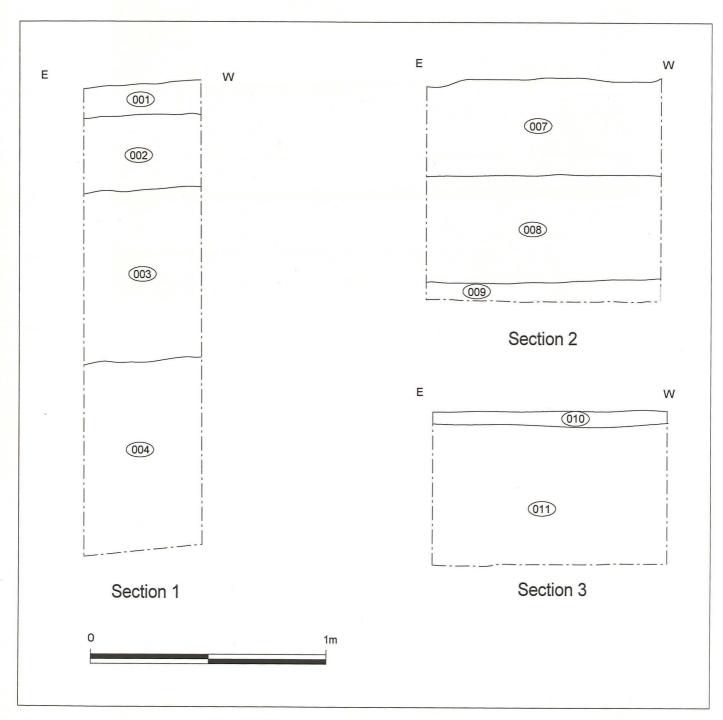


Figure 4: Sections 1, 2 and 3



Plate 1 General view of site, looking east. Section 1 is located on the right.



Plate 2 General view of site, looking west toward Section 1 (on left).

Appendix 1

LAND AT
FORMER KEVIN BARKER CAR SALES,
LONDON ROAD,
GRANTHAM,
LINCOLNSHIRE

SPECIFICATION FOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

PREPARED FOR

ALBURY CONSTRUCTION LTD

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

MARCH 1999

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SUMMARY

- 1.1 A watching brief is required during development at the former Kevin Barker Car Sales, London Road, Grantham, Lincolnshire.
- 1.2 The site is in the Spittlegate area of Grantham, which takes its name from the medieval hospital previously located there. Burials from this hospital have previously been revealed off London Road. Prehistoric remains are also known to the south of the site and an Anglo-Saxon burial has also been found close by.
- 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 development at the former Kevin Barker Car Sales, London Road, Grantham, national grid reference SK 916 354.
- 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 Grantham is located 35km south of Lincoln and is the main town of the administrative district of South Kesteven, Lincolnshire. The site is in the southern part of the town, on the west side of London Road at national grid reference SK 916 354.

4 PLANNING BACKGROUND

4.1 A planning application renewal (application number SK98/1096/35) for the erection of non-food retail units and car park has been submitted to South

Kesteven District Council. A previous application (SK97/365/35) for planning permission was also made. Consent has been granted subject to a standard negative condition for archaeological recording.

5 SOILS AND TOPOGRAPHY

5.1 The site and surrounding area is on a slight slope eastward down to the River Witham and lies at approximately 60m OD. Soils at the site have not been mapped as the area is urban but are likely to be Elmton 1 Association shallow brown rendzinas which occur on head or colluvial deposits in dry valleys on Jurassic limestone (Hodge *et al.* 1984, 179).

6 THE ARCHAEOLOGY

- 6.1 Prehistoric remains are known from just south of Grantham town centre, near to the development area. Neolithic flint tools have been found and a circular cropmark, perhaps denoting the position of a prehistoric burial, is located a little south of Stamford Street, on the south side of the town. Recent investigations in this area did not encounter any archaeological remains though the investigations were very limited in scale (Archaeological Project Services 1998). Bronze Age food vessels, perhaps also signifying prehistoric burials, are also known in the area.
- 6.2 The site lies in the southern part of Grantham town, an important royal borough of medieval date. An Anglo-Saxon burial with grave goods is known from just north of the site. Most of the known medieval remains of the town occur in the centre, to the north of the development area, and include the 11th-12th century St. Wulfram's parish church and 14th century Grantham House. Foundations of a medieval castle, lying between Castlegate and the River Witham, were recorded in the 18th century.
- 6.3 The development site is in the Spittlegate area of Grantham. This location takes its name from the medieval hospital which served the needs of lepers from at least the early 12th century. Although the exact location of this hospital is unknown, part of an associated cemetery has been found adjacent to London Road, immediately across the highway from the development site (Unsworth 1991, 31-3).

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 the excavation of the foundation trenches and other areas of ground disturbance.

- 7.2 The objectives of the watching brief will be to:
 - 7.2.1 Determine the form and function of the archaeological features encountered;
 - 7.2.2 Determine the spatial arrangement of the archaeological features encountered;
 - 7.2.3 As far as practicable, recover dating evidence from the archaeological features, and
 - 7.2.4 Establish the sequence of the archaeological remains present on the site.

8 SITE OPERATIONS

8.1 General considerations

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

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 section of the trench 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.

- 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.
- 8.2.6 In the event of human remains being found a contingency will be required for their recording and removal. This contingency will be agreed between the client, curator and archaeological contractor and will operate in respect of those remains that are directly affected by the development.

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 <u>Stage 3</u>

- 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 South Kesteven Community Archaeologist; South Kesteven District Council and to the County Sites and Monuments Record.

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 South Kesteven 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 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 man-day) will require a post-excavation day (equal to one-and-a-half man-days) for completion of the analysis and report. If the fieldwork lasts longer than about six days then there will be an economy of scale with the post-excavation analysis.

16 SPECIALISTS TO BE USED DURING THE PROJECT

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

<u>Task</u> Body to be undertaking the work

Conservation Conservation Laboratory, City and County

Museum, Lincoln

Pottery Analysis Prehistoric Pottery - Trent & Peak

Archaeological Trust

Roman - B Precious, independent specialist Saxon - J Young, independent specialist

Medieval and later - Hilary Healey, independent

archaeologist

Non-pottery Artefacts J Cowgill, independent specialist

Animal Bones Environmental Archaeology Consultancy

Human Remains Analysis R Gowland, independent specialist

17 **BIBLIOGRAPHY**

Archaeological Project Services, 1998 Archaeological Watching Brief at Stamford Street, Grantham, Lincolnshire (GSS98), APS Report No: 72/98

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

Unsworth, S, 1991 'London Road, Grantham', in D Start (ed), *The First Annual Report of the Heritage Trust of Lincolnshire 1990-1991*

Appendix 2

Context numbers in **bold** type denote cut features.

Context	Description	Dimension	Interpretation
001	Tarmac and stone	0.14m thick	Car park surface
002	Concrete	0.30m thick	Base for 001; earlier surface
003	Yellowish brown sandy clayey silt	0.74m thick	Subsoil
004	Light brownish yellow silty clay	0.88m thick	Natural
005	Brick and stone	c. 7m wide	Fill of cellar defined by 006
006	Brick wall	c. 2m wide	Cellar wall
007	Crushed stone	0.40m thick	Dumped deposit
008	Crushed stone, concrete and brick	0.49m thick	Dumped deposit
009	Yellow sandy silt	5mm thick	Subsoil
010	Crushed stone	5mm thick	Dumped deposit
011	Crushed stone and brick mixed with yellow sandy silt	0.60m thick	Dumped deposit

Appendix 3

Glossary

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

Bronze Age Part of the prehistoric era (qv) characterised by the introduction and use of bronze for tools and weapons. In Britain this period dates from approximately 2200-700 BC.

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 interpretation of the context (the context sheet) is created and placed in the site archive. Context numbers are identified within the report text by square brackets, e.g. [004].

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.

Neolithic The 'New Stone Age', part of the prehistoric period (q.v.) characterised by the first permanent settlements, the introduction of farming and the use of ground stone tools. In Britain, the period dates from approximately 4,000 to 2,000 BC.

Old English The language used by the Saxon (q.v.) occupants of Britain.

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.

Appendix 4

THE ARCHIVE

The archive consists of:

- 11 Context records
- 3 Scale drawings
- 1 Sketch plan
- 6 colour slides
- 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:

49.99

Archaeological Project Services Site Code:

GLR99

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.