

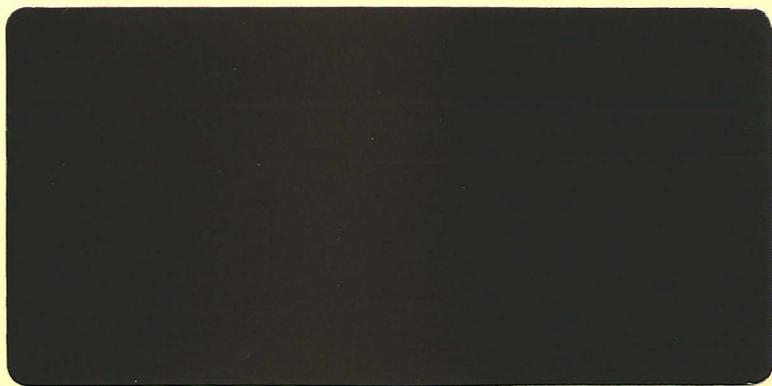
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**ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF
AT ST. ANDREW'S CHURCH**

Culverthorpe & **KELBY,
LINCOLNSHIRE
(KSA98)**



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ARCHAEOLOGICAL
PROJECT
SERVICES



Lincolnshire County Council
Archaeology Section

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AT ST. ANDREW'S CHURCH
Culverthorpe & KELBY,
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(KSA98)**

Work Undertaken For
Benton and Co. Architects
on behalf of
The Kelby Parish Church Council

August 1999

Report Compiled by
Mark Dymond HND

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1. SUMMARY

An archaeological watching brief was completed during the excavation of two drainage trenches adjacent to St. Andrew's Church, Kelby, Lincolnshire. The church dates from the 11th century, with later alterations and additions.

A probable 11th century soil layer, perhaps the ground surface prior to the construction of the church, was revealed. The quantity of artefacts from the layer implies settlement on, or in immediate proximity to, the site before the church was built. A possible grave was also identified cutting through this 11th century ground surface.

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

On the 18th November 1998, an archaeological watching brief was undertaken during excavation of two drains at St. Andrew's Church, Kelby, Lincolnshire. The work was carried out in accordance with a Faculty issued by the Lincolnshire Diocesan Advisory Committee.

Archaeological Project Services was commissioned by Benton and Co. Architects to undertake the watching brief.

2.3 Topography, Geology and Soils

Kelby is situated in the civil parish of Culverthorpe and Kelby, North Kesteven district, approximately 11km northeast of Grantham and 8km southwest of Sleaford (Fig. 1).

St. Andrew's Church is located in the centre of Kelby at NGR 004 404 (Fig. 2). The development area lies on the west side of the church (Fig. 3).

Local soils are of the Sherborne Series, typically fine loamy soils (George and Robson 1978, 28). These soils overlie a solid geology of the Jurassic Great Oolite Limestone (GSGB 1972).

2.4 Archaeological Background

Historical reference to Kelby first occurs in the Domesday Book, written 1086, mentioning 'Chelebi' and 'Chillebi'. The name is derived from the Old Scandinavian *Kialar-býr* meaning homestead or village on a ridge (Ekwall, 1974, 269). Additionally, the Domesday Book, while making reference to a priest, 'Aschil', under Guy of Craon, does not refer to a church (Foster & Longley 1976, 182).

St. Andrew's parish church was built during the 11th century. The lower portion of the west tower dates to this period. It is possible that the tower replaced an earlier crossing tower, remains of which might be represented by herringbone masonry above the chancel arch. The true date of the tower is, however, difficult to determine as it collapsed and was rebuilt in 1850 (Pevsner and Harris 1989, 412).

The north nave arcade is Early English (1190-1250), and other 13th and 14th century architectural styles are represented by the Decorated (1290-1350) chancel and tower

arches, and the south nave arcade (Pevsner and Harris 1989, 412; DoE 1990, 25).

The south aisle is 14th century, and the north aisle and the east wall of the nave both contain a 14th century panel traceried window (*ibid.*).

3. AIMS

The aim of the watching brief was to record and interpret the archaeological features exposed during ground disturbance. The objectives were to determine the form, function, spatial arrangement, date and sequence of any archaeological remains.

4. METHODS

Two drains, each with a soak away, aligned east-west and north-south was excavated adjacent to the west and north sides respectively of the tower of St. Andrew's parish church. The trenches measured *c.* 5m long by 1m deep (Fig. 3).

Deposits exposed in the trench sides were recorded at a scale of 1:10. A sketch plan of the groundworks was also made. A photographic record was compiled, depicting the setting of the site and deposits exposed by development.

Finds recovered from excavated deposits were examined and a period date assigned where possible (Appendix 2). Records of deposits exposed by groundworks were also examined. A summary list of all contexts and interpretations appears as Appendix 1. Phasing was assigned based on artefact dating and the nature of the deposits and recognisable relationships between them. A stratigraphic matrix of all identified deposits was produced.

5. RESULTS

Three phases were identified:

- Phase 1: Natural deposits
- Phase 2: Medieval deposits
- Phase 3: Recent deposits

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

Phase 1: Natural deposits

The earliest recorded deposit within the trenches comprised brownish yellow silt (004 and 007). This was exposed at a depth of 0.8m below the modern ground surface, and continued beyond the limit of excavation.

Phase 2: Medieval deposits

Overlying the Phase 1 deposits was a dumped layer of yellowish brown clayey silt (002 and 006). Although the finds retrieved from (006) are consistently of the 11th century, one fragment of ceramic tile from (002) is 19th or 20th century in date. It is considered that this tile is a later intrusion.

Cutting through this deposit was a possible grave (008), 1m wide and 0.82m deep, though it continued beyond the limit of excavation. This was filled by a brown silt (003), that contained pottery and tile dated to the 13th or 14th century, together with redeposited 10th - 12th century pot.

Phase 3: Recent deposits

Sealing Phase 2 deposit (006) was a layer of yellowish brown silt subsoil (005). The subsoil and the grave fill (003) were overlaid by a deposit of dark brown silt topsoil (001) that contained a fragment of 19th - 20th century pot.

6. DISCUSSION

Phase 1 deposits comprise silts indicating a drift geological deposit or naturally formed subsoil.

Above this was a layer containing medieval, particularly 11th century, pottery which may represent the former medieval ground surface. The 11th century pottery may have derived from settlement in the vicinity prior to the construction of the church. A grave was recorded cutting through this deposit. No human remains were found to confirm this as presumably they lay at a greater depth. Pottery of the 13th and 14th century was retrieved from the fill, together with fragments of broadly 11th century date which were probably redeposited from the medieval ground surface.

Subsoil and topsoil comprise recent deposits (Phase 3).

7. CONCLUSIONS

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken at St. Andrew's church, Kelby because the groundworks were likely to disturb archaeological remains associated with the church.

A deposit, indicating a former soil, and a grave represent the only archaeological remains identified during the watching brief. Pottery indicates that there may have been settlement in the vicinity prior to the construction of the church in the 11th century. The nature of the local site conditions would suggest that few environmental indicators (seeds, wood, shells, *etc.*) would survive, other than through charring.

8. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeological Project Services would like to acknowledge the assistance of Mr. Benton who commissioned the fieldwork and post-excavation analysis on behalf of Kelby Parish Church Council. The work was coordinated by Gary Taylor and this report was edited by Tom Lane. Background information was obtained from the library maintained by Heritage Lincolnshire.

9. PERSONNEL

Project Coordinator: Gary Taylor
Site Supervisor: Fiona Walker
Illustration: Mark Dymond
Post-Excavation Analysis: Mark Dymond

10. BIBLIOGRAPHY

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Edition, rev. N. Antram)

11. ABBREVIATIONS

DoE Department of the Environment

IFA Institute of Field Archaeologists

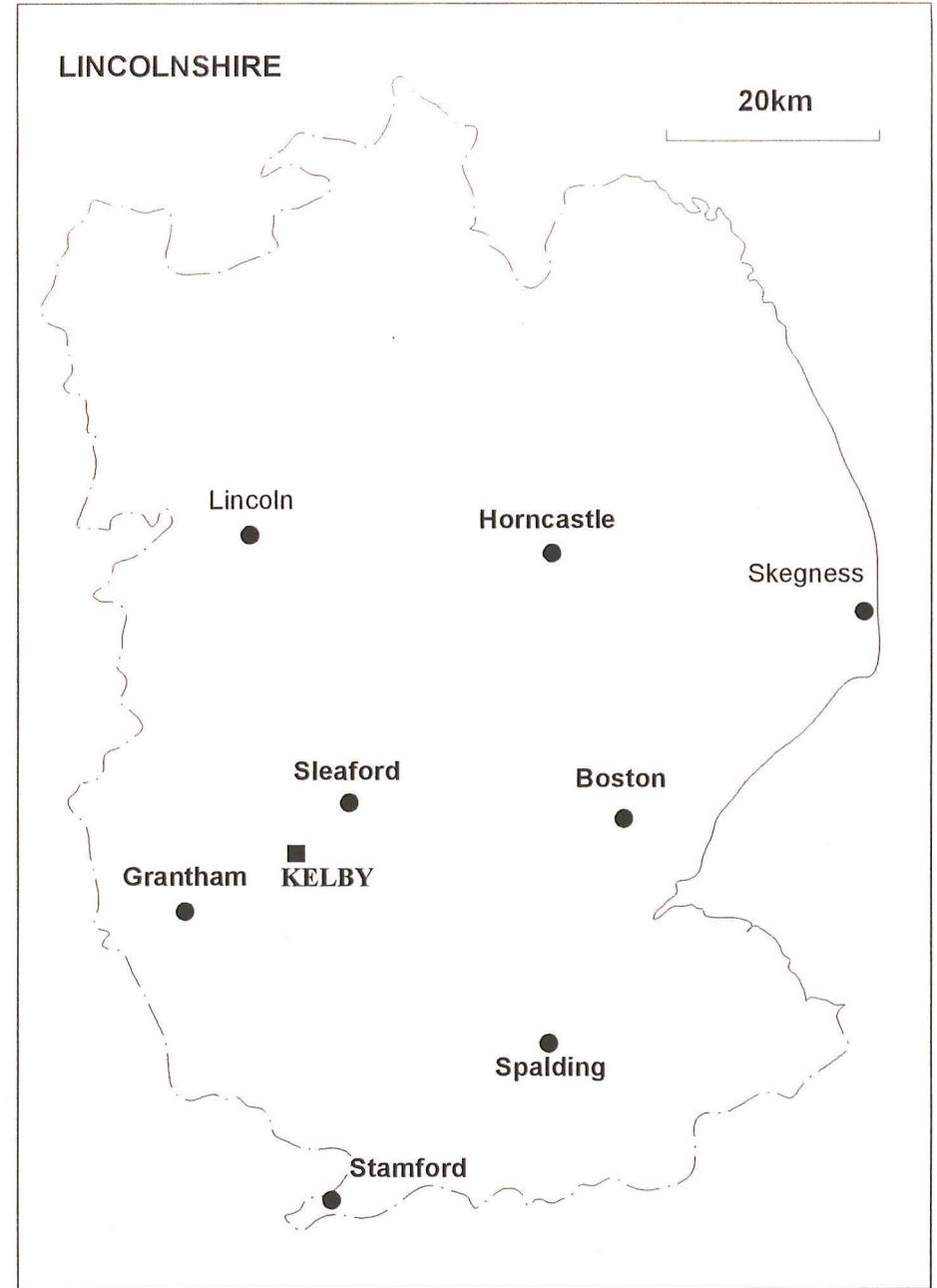
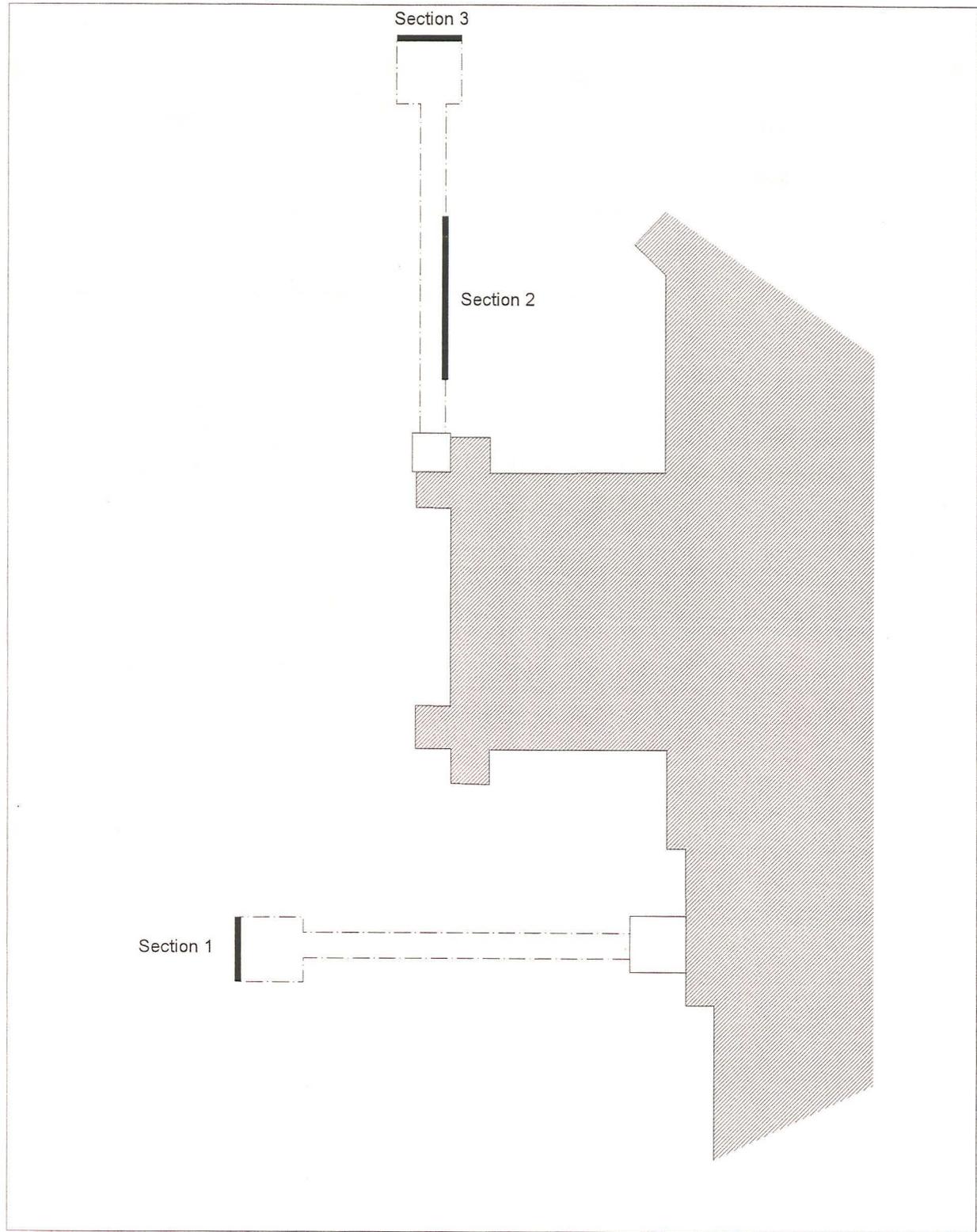


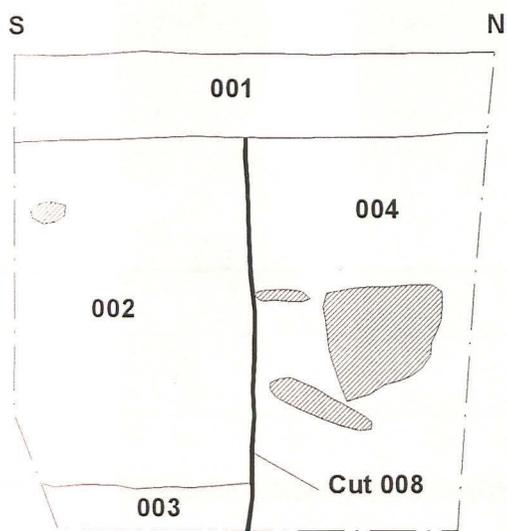
Figure 1 - General Location Plan



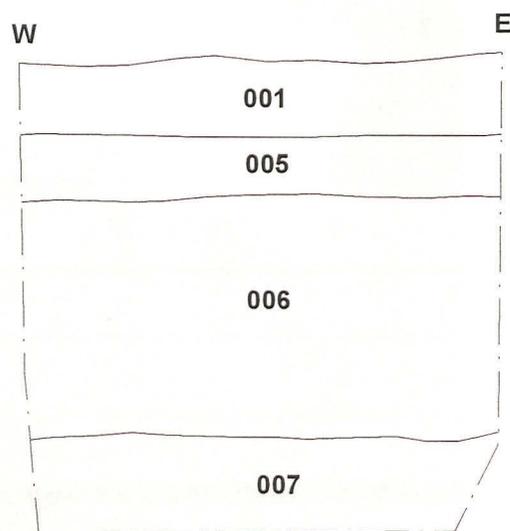
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Figure 3 - Drainage Plan, showing section locations

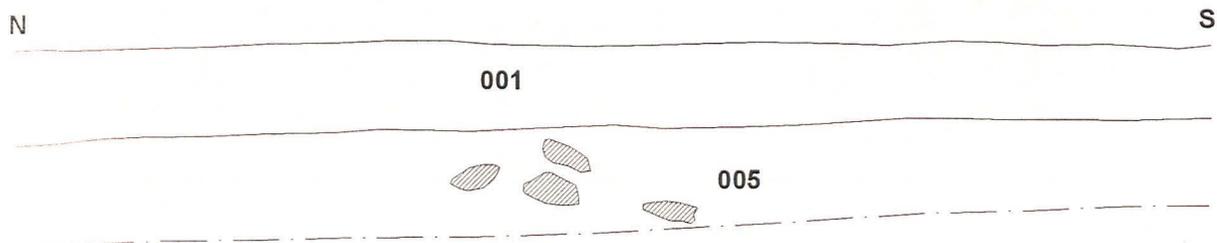


Section 1



Section 3

 Limestone



Section 2



Figure 4 - Sections 1, 2 and 3



Plate 1 - St Andrew's Church, from the south



Plate 2 - Section 1, from the east

Appendix 1

CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

No	Description	Interpretation
001	Dark brown silt, 0.16m thick	Topsoil
002	Yellowish brown clayey silt, 0.72m thick, same as 006	Dumped deposit
003	Brown silt, >0.83m thick	Primary fill of grave 008
004	Yellowish brown silt, same as 007	Natural
005	Yellowish brown silt 0.2m thick	Subsoil
006	Yellowish brown silt, 0.5m thick, same as 002	Dumped deposit
007	Yellow silt, >0.2m thick, same as 004	Natural
008	Steep sided cut feature, not fully exposed	Possible grave

Appendix 2

THE FINDS

By Hilary Healey MPhil and Gary Taylor MA

Provenance

Virtually all of the medieval pottery fragments are from kilns thought to be in south Lincolnshire, including at Stamford, approximately 34km south of Kelby. However, the post-medieval pottery and tile derives from production sites in the Midlands, possibly Nottingham and Staffordshire. Some of the tile fragments may be relatively local Lincolnshire products.

Range

The range of material is detailed in the tables.

The earliest artefacts are fragments of pottery of probable 10th-11th century date, which also form the majority of the small assemblage. Later pottery and ceramic tile is also present.

Table 1: The Artefacts

CONTEXT	DESCRIPTION	LATEST DATE
001	1x salt-glazed stoneware	19 th -20 th century
002	1x ceramic tile, oxidation fired (orange)	19 th -20 th century
	1x ceramic tile, reduction fired (dark blue-grey outer) ?Staffordshire blue, 19 th -20 th century	
003	1x Stamford ware, 10 th -12 th century	?13 th -14 th century
	1x South Lincs. shelly ware, 10 th -11 th century	
	1x oxidised sandy ware, ?13 th -14 th century	
	1x ceramic tile	
006	6x South Lincs. shelly ware, 10 th -11 th century	11 th century
	2x South Lincs. gritty ware, 10 th -11 th century	
	2x Stamford ware, incl. 1x form K3.11, 11 th century	

One of the pottery sherds from context (006) is a Stamford ware rim, Kilmurry form K3.11. This lid-seated cooking pot is particularly characteristic of the 11th century (Kilmurry 1980, 136).

Condition

All of the assemblage, including all the medieval pottery sherds, is in good condition and presents no long-term storage problems. Archive storage of the assemblage is by material class.

Documentation

There has been limited formal archaeological investigation in Kelby, though records of sites and finds in the area are maintained in the files of the North Kesteven Heritage Officer and the County Sites and Monuments Record.

Stamford wares, both as production evidence and occupation assemblages, are the subject of a detailed study (Kilmurry 1980).

Potential

Although in general terms a small assemblage, the collection is unusually large considering that it is derived from a Christian graveyard and, moreover, the excavations were of small extent. As such, the medieval aspect of the assemblage has high potential and, considering the overall date of the material and the chronology of the church, the artefacts may derive from settlement on the site prior to the construction of the church. Alternatively, and perhaps more probably, the artefacts may have been deposited during construction of the church, which occurred in the 11th century. A further alternative explanation for the material, that it was perhaps introduced in soil to build up the graveyard, seems unlikely as most of the pieces are fresh and unabraded.

References

Kilmurry, K., 1980 *The Pottery Industry of Stamford, Lincs. c. A.D. 850-1250*, British Archaeological Reports British Series 84

Appendix 3

THE ARCHIVE

The archive consists of:

8	Context records
5	Scale drawings
1	Photographic record sheet
1	Bag of finds
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: 273.98

Archaeological Project Services Site Code: KSA98

The discussion and comments provided in this report are based on the archaeology revealed during the site investigations. Other archaeological finds and features may exist on the development site but away from the areas exposed during the course of this fieldwork. *Archaeological Project Services* cannot confirm that those areas unexposed are free from archaeology nor that any archaeology present there is of a similar character to that revealed during the current investigation.

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Appendix 4

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.
Natural	Undisturbed deposit(s) of soil or rock which have accumulated without the influence of human activity.