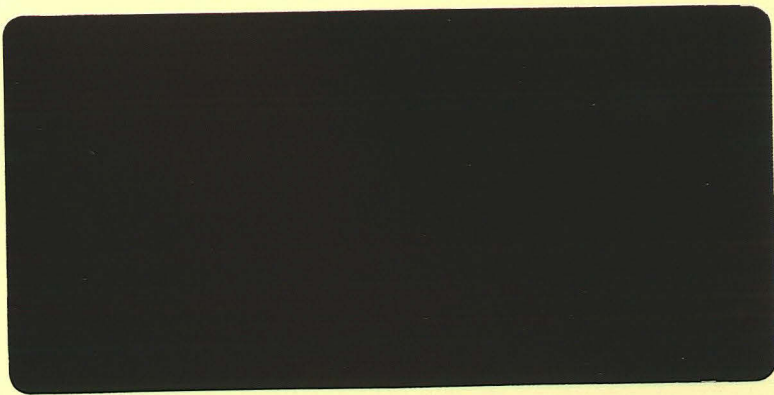


**ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF
ON
LAND ADJACENT TO
50 MAIN STREET,
EWERBY, SLEAFORD,
LINCOLNSHIRE
(EMS 98)**



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ARCHAEOLOGICAL
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SERVICES



Lincolnshire County Council
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**ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF
ON
LAND ADJACENT TO
50 MAIN STREET,
EWERBY, SLEAFORD,
LINCOLNSHIRE
(EMS 98)**

Work Undertaken For
Mr M. Priestly

November 1998

Report compiled by
Torven Zeffertt BA (Hons) MA AIFA

National Grid Reference: SK 121 472
Planning Application No: N/28/0932/95
City and County Museum Accession No: 212.98

A.P.S. Report No: 107/99



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1. SUMMARY

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken during construction of a house on land adjacent to 50 Main Street, Ewerby, Lincolnshire.

Archaeological remains in the parish date from at least the Neolithic period (4,500-2250 BC). The site lies next to St Andrews Church and in the past may have been within the churchyard. Additionally, the site is in the heart of the medieval (AD 1066-1500) village.

Within the foundation trenches were the remains of two large medieval ditches, a gully and a pit of 16th - 17th century date. The medieval ditches may be interpreted as belonging to the church boundary.

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 was commissioned by Mr M. Priestley to undertake an archaeological watching brief during building work on land adjacent to 50 Main Street, Ewerby, Lincolnshire. Approval for the development of a detached house and garage was sought through the submission of a planning application N//28/0932/95. Permission was granted subject to a standard condition for an archaeological watching brief during any groundwork to lay the

foundations.

2.3 Topography and Geology

Ewerby is situated 29km south of Lincoln and 5km east of Sleaford in the civil parish of Ewerby and Evedon, North Kesteven District, Lincolnshire (Fig. 1). The land within the parish slope gently down towards the fens in the east.

The site formed part of the open turfed garden of 50 Main Street. It lies c. 0.5m higher than the adjacent road. The ground rises gently towards St Andrew's Church, immediately to the east.

The development site is located at the heart of the village of Ewerby, next to the parish church of St. Andrew. Situated at a height of c. 20m OD on land bounded by Church Lane to the south and Main Street to the east. (National Grid Reference SK 121 472), the proposed development site is approximately 50m by 35m in extent.

Local soils are of the Beccles 3 Association, consisting of stagnogley soils. The soils have a fine loamy over clayey profiles (Hodge *et al.* 1984, 214). These soils are developed on a drift geology of boulder clay, which overlies a solid geology of Jurassic Oxford Clay (BGS 1995).

2.4 Archaeological Setting

The earliest find from the parish is a Neolithic polished flint axe (Beeby 1977, 20). In addition, a Neolithic perforated stone macehead has been reported (Philips 1935, 166). Fragments of a Bronze Age cooking pot have also been found to the east and southeast of the site.

The course of the Car Dyke, a waterway constructed during the Romano-British period, cuts through the eastern end of the

parish, 3.5 kilometres from the village. A gravel causeway aligned on Ewerby may have formed part of a north-south Roman track, 2km to the northeast (Philips 1935, 111). Only a few minor Romano-British artefacts have been recovered. These include a pottery mortar rim with a potter's mark, inscribed 'GENIALIS', found towards Evedon (Barley 1958, 6). To the southwest of Ewerby, Romano-British pottery and a coin of Tetricus I (270-273AD) have been retrieved from the surface of a ploughed field. In the same vicinity, locally made Late Iron Age pottery has been recovered (Beeby 1977, 20; Elsdon 1993, 25).

St Andrew's church lies just to the east of the development and it is possible that the site was at one time within the curtilage boundary of the churchyard. The church is recorded in the Domesday Book of 1086, but the only surviving Norman feature is the massive base of the 14th century octagonal tub font (Morgan and Thorn 1986, 24, 38). The earliest surviving evidence for the construction of the building belongs to the 12th century, although the tower was built later in the 14th century. Within the church on the north aisle floor is a complete Late Saxon grave-cover dated to the 10th century (Pevsner and Harris 1989, 274).

The place-name derives from the Old Scandinavian '*by*' meaning a village or estate, and the Old Danish personal name '*Ivarr*' (Ekwall 1974, 170). As such, it implies a probable Anglo-Scandinavian foundation of the settlement in the late 9th or early 10th century.

Located north of the development site lies the village cross, dating to the 14th century and erected by Sir Ranulph Rye during the reign of Edward I (1272-1307)

3. AIMS

The aims of the archaeological watching brief, as detailed in the specification (Appendix 1), were to record and interpret any archaeological features exposed during the excavation of foundation trenches, or any other areas of ground disturbance.

4. METHODS

The watching brief involved the archaeological supervision of all groundwork completed as part of the development scheme (Figs 3 and 4). A mechanical excavator undertook excavation and levelling operations.

Where archaeological features were recognized, hand excavation and cleaning was used to determine the extent and nature of these remains. Recording was completed according to standard Archaeological Project Services practise, based upon the Museum of London manual (MOLAS 1994), and each deposit was assigned a unique reference number (context number).

Finds recovered from the excavated deposits were examined and a date assigned where possible. Records of the deposits and features identified during the watching brief were also examined. A list of all contexts with interpretations appears as Appendix 1. The finds are listed in Appendix 2. Phasing was assigned based on the nature of the contexts, identifiable relationships between contexts and by dateable artefacts recovered from them.

5. RESULTS

Following post-excavation analysis, four phases of activity on site were identified:

- Phase 1: Natural Deposits
- Phase 2: Medieval feature
- Phase 3: Post-medieval features
- Phase 4: Modern and undated deposits

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

Phase 1: Natural deposits

The lowest deposits encountered during excavation for the building foundations comprised a yellow limestone brash [005] interpreted as a natural geological horizon. This layer occurred *c.* 0.4 – 0.5m below the modern ground surface and continued beyond the excavation limits.

Phase 2: Medieval Deposits

In the foundation trench at the northeast of the site and lying below, and partially truncated by, the subsoil [002] was a shallow, linear gully [014]. It was recorded as being 1.8m wide and 0.25m deep and oriented northeast to southwest. The gully was filled with a deposit of moderately compact, light greenish brown clayey silt [013], that spread to the south of the gully and sealed a second ditch [016], discussed below. A single sherd of Potterhanworth ware pottery was recovered from the fill [013], giving the silting a *terminus post quem* in the 13th-14th centuries.

A second ditch [016] lay below layer [013], described above. The ditch was curvilinear in plan and aligned southeast to northwest (Fig 5). It was *c.* 3.5m wide and was visible in the foundation trench to a maximum depth of 0.35m. The only fill of the ditch was a moderately crumbly, mid grey-brown silt [015], mottled with grey and yellow silt. Potterhanworth ware pottery was also recovered from this feature. The ditch was

seen in the centre of the eastern trench and then appears to head northwest for *c.* 3m.

Phase 3: Post-medieval Deposits

Recorded in the southern trench, possibly cutting ditch [016] was a curvilinear feature [011] with moderately steep sides and a flat base, measuring *c.* 2.3m wide and 0.55m deep. Apparently truncating this was a re-cut or tipline [012].

The primary fill of [011] was a loose, layer of silt and ash [010], containing frequent pottery, of 16th – 17th century date, and occasional shell and charcoal. Above this was a brown silt [009], containing occasional charcoal and shell fragments. The re-cut or tipline [012] within feature [011] cut both [009] and [010].

The primary fill of re-cut [012], and over most of [011], was brown silt [008] with light yellow lenses. This layer was 1.6m wide and 0.15m thick, gradually thinning to the south. Above [008] was loose grey silt and ash with blue lenses [007], containing a moderate quantity of shell. It was 0.25m deep and 1.85m wide, rising to the top of [011/012] at the southern edge. Deposit [007] lay at an approximate equivalent depth to layer [010] in feature [011]. Above [007] was a red brown fine sand and silt [006], containing 16th – 17th century pottery, shell, charcoal, and concreted stone and slag. The fill lay at a roughly equivalent depth to deposit [009] in feature [011].

Phase 4: Undated and Modern Deposits

Sealing all deposits was a greyish brown clayey silt [002] identified as the subsoil. A blackish brown organic silt topsoil [001] covered the entire surface of the site to a depth of 0.2m. From this layer 7 sherds of pottery were recovered which could be dated to the 17th-19th centuries.

In the northeast part of the site was part of an unclear cut feature [004]. The southern edge to the feature was not seen, but its extent was at least 7.12m and 0.15m deep. A fill of greyish brown clayey silt with yellow mottles [003] extended to nearly 0.30m above the top break of slope of [004].

6. DISCUSSION

The watching brief revealed archaeological deposits of medieval, post-medieval and modern date. The underlying natural deposits were also recorded.

The earliest dateable deposits belong to the medieval period, comprising a ditch and a gully. Dated to the 13th-14th century by the Potterhanworth ware pottery, this covers the main period of church rebuilding. It is possible that the ditch and gully were originally dug as part of that work, possibly the relaying out and defining of the churchyard.

A later ditch is dated to the 16th-17th centuries as evidenced by the recovery of Bourne D pottery and indicates a change in the boundaries.

Apart from the medieval and post-medieval pottery already referred to, other finds include 18th and 19th century pottery from the topsoil, mussel shell and a fragment of iron smithing slag.

8. CONCLUSIONS

A watching brief was carried out at Main Street, Ewerby as the site lay within an area of known archaeological remains dating from the prehistoric period, notably the proximity of the medieval church.

A medieval ditch and gully was revealed

during the investigation representing former land divisions. A 16th or 17th century ditch represents a change in these divisions. Locally produced medieval and post-medieval pottery was recovered during this investigation. The nature of the local site conditions suggests that few environmental indicators (seeds, wood, snails *etc.*) would survive, other than through charring.

9. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeological Project Services would like to acknowledge the assistance of Mr M. Priestley who commissioned the fieldwork and post-excavation analysis. The work was co-ordinated by Gary Taylor and this report edited by Tom Lane. Kate Orr, the Heritage Officer for North Kesteven District Council permitted examination of the relevant parish files. Thanks are also due to the staff of the Nottingham University Library and Nottingham Central Library for help with finding sources.

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11. ABBREVIATIONS

- APS Archaeological Project Services.
BGS British Geological Survey
HTL Heritage Trust of Lincolnshire.

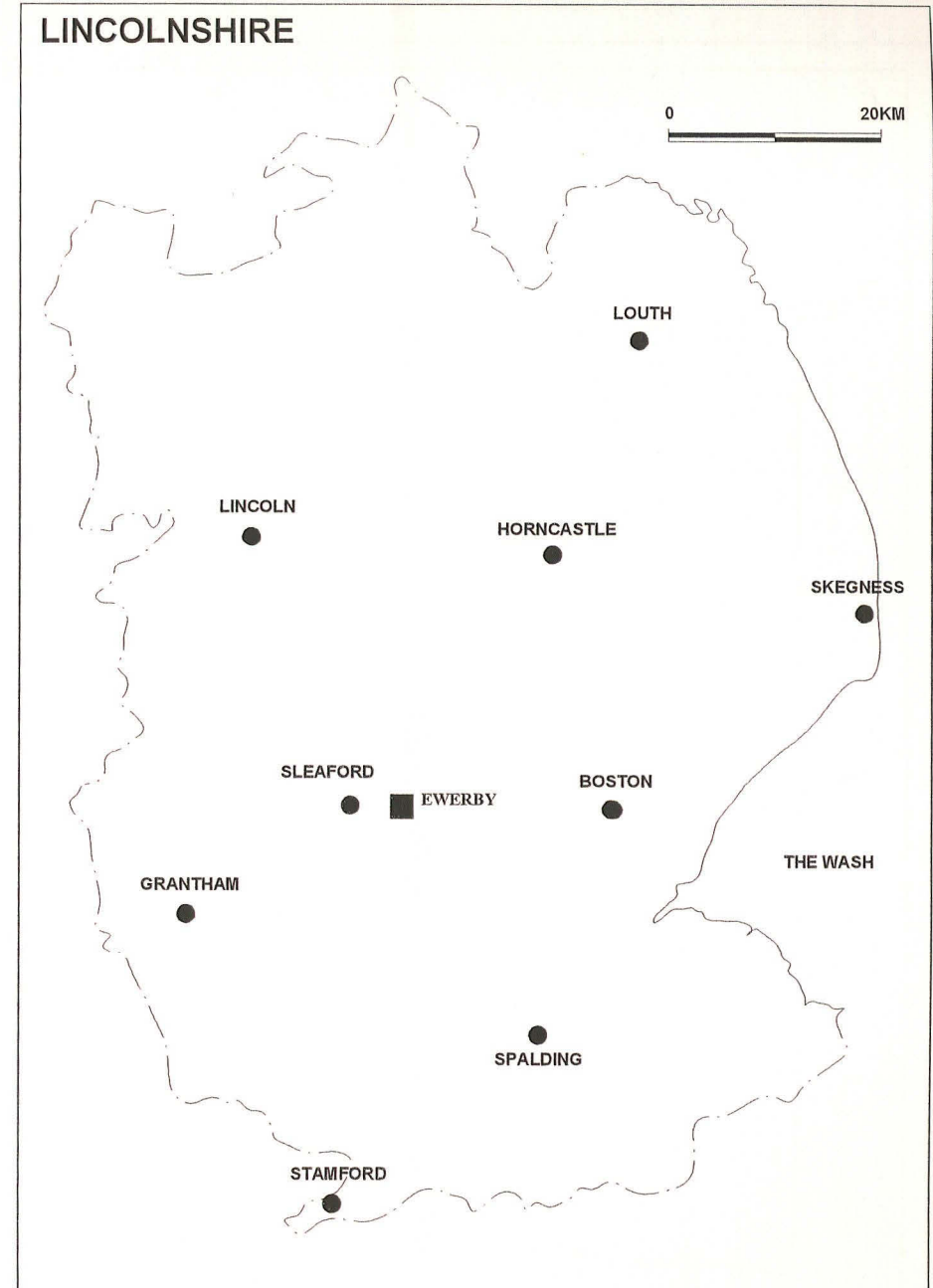
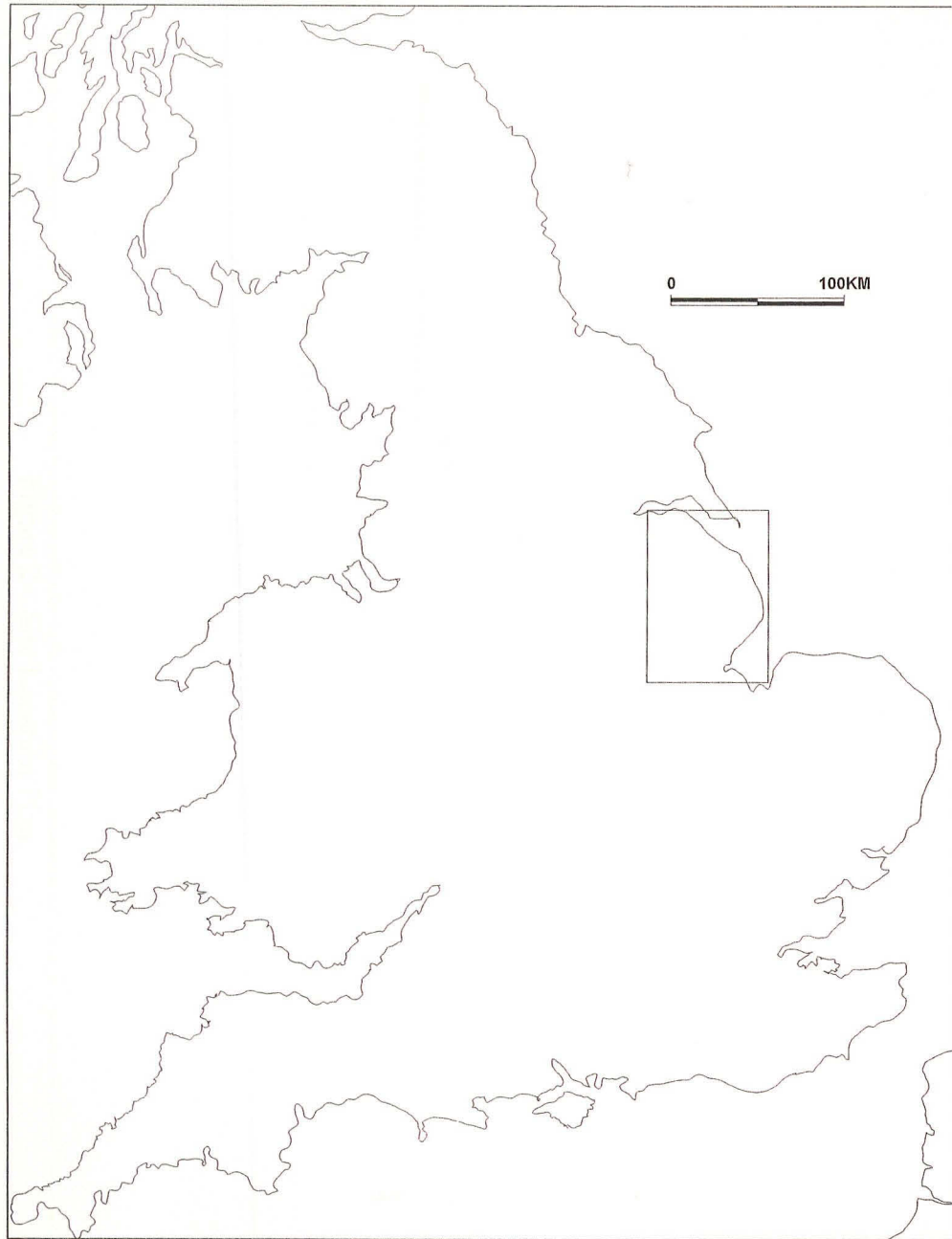


Figure 1: General location map

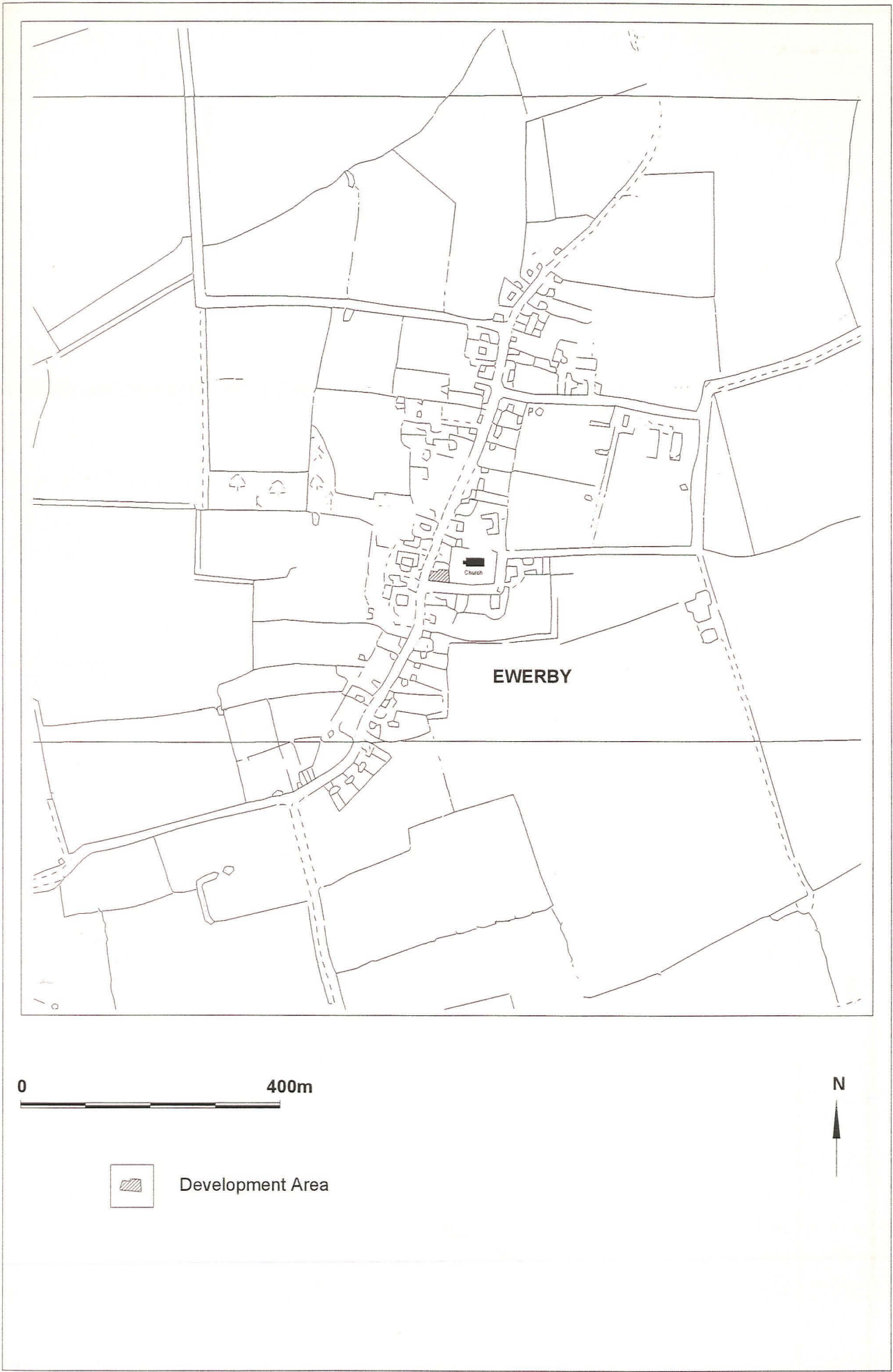


Figure 2 - Site Location Plan

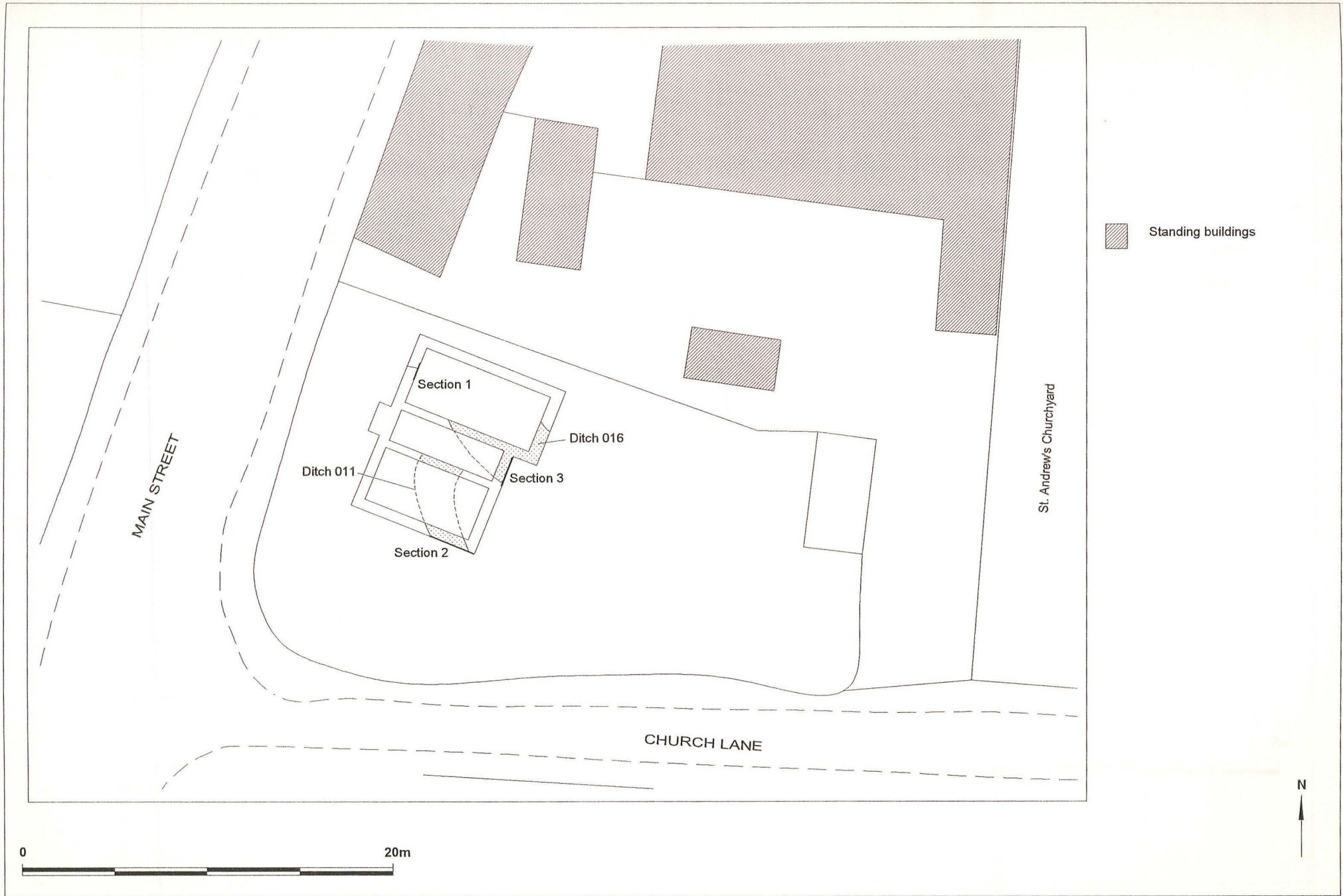
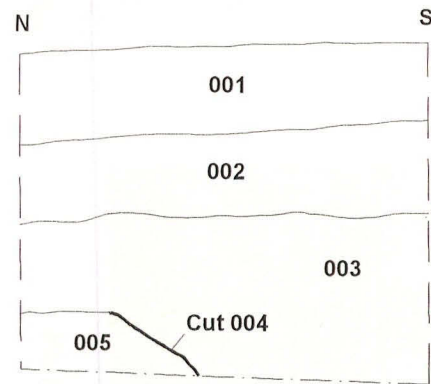
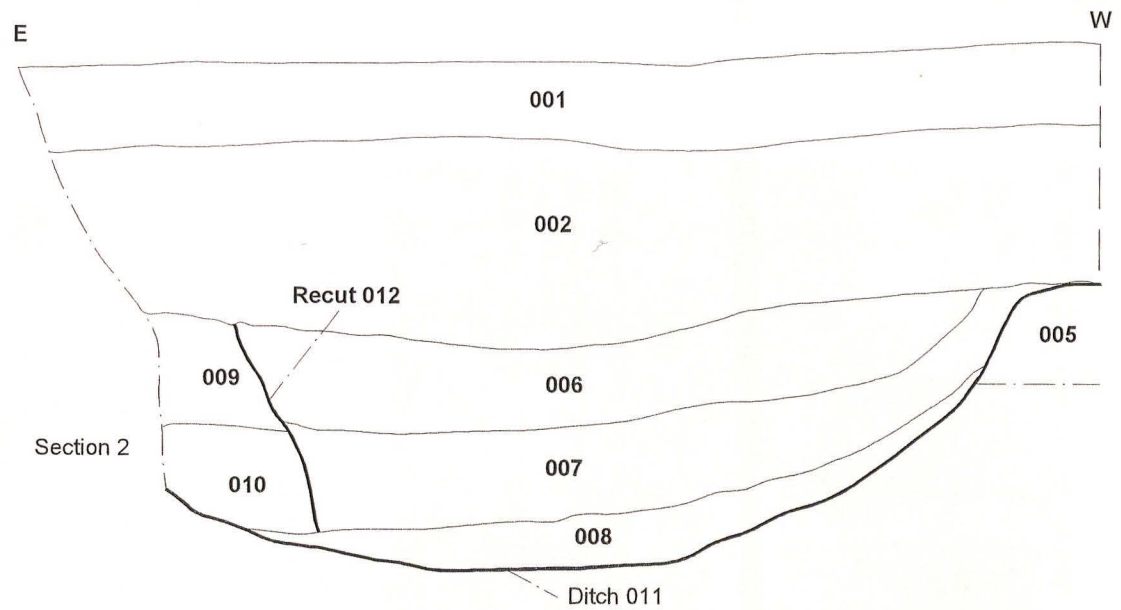


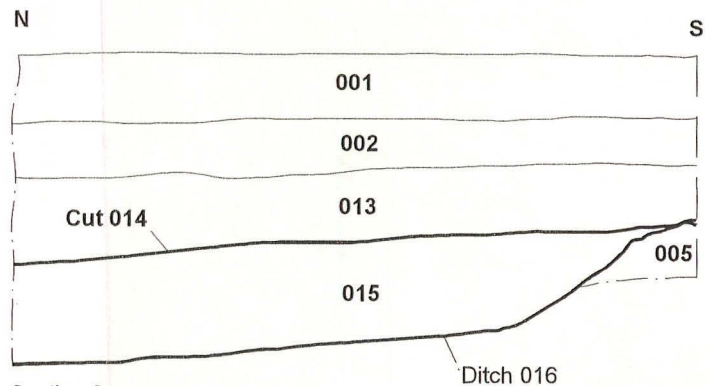
Figure 3 - Plan of development showing location of drawn sections



Section 1



Section 2



Section 3

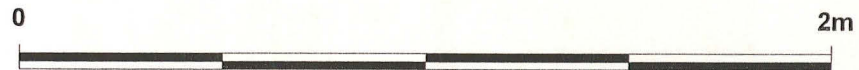


Figure 4 - Sections 1, 2 and 3



Plate 1 - General view of the development area,
looking towards St. Andrew's church



Plate 2 - Section 2, showing ditch (011)

Appendix 1

LAND AT 50 MAIN STREET, EWERBY, LINCOLNSHIRE - SPECIFICATION FOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

1 SUMMARY

- 1.1 *A watching brief is required during residential development at Number 50 Main Street, Ewerby, Lincolnshire.*
- 1.2 *The site is immediately adjacent to the 13th-14th century parish church in the core of the medieval village. Other medieval and Roman remains have been found nearby.*
- 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 No. 50 Main Street, Ewerby. The site is located at National Grid Reference TF 121 473.
- 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 Ewerby is located approximately 5km east of Sleaford in the administrative district of North Kesteven. The site is located immediately southwest of the parish church on the east side of Main Street at National Grid Reference TF 121 473.

4 PLANNING BACKGROUND

- 4.1 Planning permission (application number N/28/0932/95) for the residential development of the land has been granted by North Kesteven District Council, subject to a standard negative condition for archaeological recording.

5 SOILS AND TOPOGRAPHY

- 5.1 The site and surrounding area is near the crest of a very gentle rise looking down to the north and lies at approximately 20m OD. Soils at the site are Beccles 3 Association typical stagnogley soils, developed on chalky till (Hodge *et al.* 1984, 121).

6 THE ARCHAEOLOGY

- 6.1 The site is adjacent to the 13th-14th parish church in the medieval core of Ewerby village. A medieval cross also lies in the immediate vicinity. Medieval artefacts, including pottery and a lead ampulla, have been found just to the southeast of the site. Roman pottery and a quern stone, suggesting the possibility of Roman settlement, has also been found just to the southeast of the

site.

7 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

7.1 The aims of the watching brief will be:

7.1.1 To record and interpret any archaeological remains 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). 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 1997, 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.

POST-EXCAVATION9.1 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 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.

REPORT DEPOSITION

- 10.1 Copies of the report will be sent to the client; the North Kesteven Heritage Officer; North Kesteven District Council; and to the County 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 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, North Kesteven District Council. 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 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 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>	<u>Body to be undertaking the work</u>
Conservation	Conservation Laboratory, City and County Museum, Lincoln
Pottery Analysis	Prehistoric Pottery - Trent & Peak Archaeological Trust Roman - B Precious, independent specialist Saxon - City of Lincoln Archaeology Unit Medieval and later - Hilary Healey, independent archaeologist
Non-pottery Artefacts	J Cowgill, independent specialist
Animal Bones	Environmental Archaeology Consultancy

17 **BIBLIOGRAPHY**

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Appendix 2

CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

No.	Section	Description	Interpretation
001	1,2	Crumbly dark blackish brown organic silt, 0.2m thick	Topsoil and turf
002	1,2	Crumbly greyish brown clayey silt, up to 0.3m thick	Subsoil
003	1	Moderately compact greyish brown clayey silt, over c.0.42m thick	Fill of [004], levelling
004	1	Cut of feature, seen in section: >7.12m north-south x >0.15m deep	Gully or Pit
005	1,2,3	Firm brownish yellow clay and corn brash	Natural deposit
006	2	Loose red brown fine sand and silt,	Fill of [012]
007	2	Loose mid grey ash and silt	Fill of [012]
008	2	Crumbly brown silt with light yellow lenses	Fill of [012]
009	2	Crumbly brown silt	Fill of [011]
010	2	Loose brown silt and ash, frequent pottery	Fill of [011]
011	2	Cut of feature seen in section: 2.3m wide x 0.55m deep	Ditch
012	2	Cut line seen in section, within [011]: 1.9m wide x 0.58m deep	Recut of feature [011]
013	3	Moderately compact light greenish brown clayey silt	Fill of [014]
014		Shallow linear feature: 1.8m wide x 0.25m deep.	Gully
015	3	Crumbly grey brown silt	Fill of [016]
016	3	Cut of linear feature: 3.5m wide x 0.35m deep.	Ditch

Appendix 3

THE FINDS

By Gary Taylor

Provenance

The material was collected as stratified artefacts from a number of archaeological contexts.

Range

The range of material is detailed in the table below.

Pottery fragments of thirteenth century date were the earliest artefacts recovered. The date for the pottery ranges between the thirteenth to nineteenth centuries. Association with the pottery can roughly date other finds and site features. Iron slag was recovered from [006], indicating Post-medieval metalworking nearby or on-site. No Faunal and environmental samples were retrieved.

Context	Description	Date
001	2 x Nottingham saltglazed stoneware (separate vessels)	Late 18 th -19 th century
001	2 x yellow glazed earthen/tableware (separate vessels)	19 th century
001	1 x blue and white tableware	19 th century
001	1 x Midland Purple type/ black glazed	18 th century
001	Boston ware jug	17 th century
002	1 x Potterhanworth ware	13 th -14 th century
006	3 x Bourne D ware, 1 burnt/ sooted internally	16 th -17 th century
006	1 x slag from iron smithing?	undated
006	1 x mussel shell	undated
010	7 x Bourne D ware (possibly a jug). Possibly all from the same vessel.	16 th -17 th century
010	1 x mussel shell	undated
013	1 x Potterhanworth ware	13 th -14 th century
015	1 x Potterhanworth ware	13 th -14 th century

Condition

All the material is in good condition and presents no long-term storage problems. The objects are archived by material class.

Appendix 4

THE ARCHIVE

The archive consists of:

16	Context records
2	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: 212.98

Archaeological Project Services Site Code: EMS98

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

Archaeological Project Services shall retain full copyright of any commissioned reports under the *Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988* with all rights reserved; excepting that it hereby provides an exclusive licence to the client for the use of such documents by the client in all matters directly relating to the project as described in the Project Specification.

Appendix 5

GLOSSARY

Bronze Age	A period characterised by the introduction of bronze into the country for tools, between 2250 and 800 BC.
Context	An archaeological context represents a distinct archaeological event or process. For example, the action of digging a pit creates a context (the cut) as does the process of its subsequent backfill (the fill). Each context encountered during an archaeological investigation is allocated a unique number by the archaeologist and a record sheet detailing the description and interpretations of the context (the context sheet) is created and placed in the site archive. Context numbers are identified within the report text by brackets, <i>e.g.</i> (004).
Cut	A cut refers to the physical action of digging a posthole, pit, ditch, foundation trench, <i>etc.</i> Once the fills of these features are removed during an archaeological investigation the original 'cut' is therefore exposed and subsequently recorded.
Fill	Once a feature has been dug it begins to silt up (either slowly or rapidly) or it can be back-filled manually. The soil(s) which become contained by the 'cut' are referred to as its fill(s).
Layer	A layer is a term to describe an accumulation of soil or other material that is not contained within a cut.
Medieval	The Middle Ages, dating from approximately AD 1066-1500.
Natural	Undisturbed deposit(s) of soil or rock which have accumulated without the influence of human activity.
Neolithic	The 'New Stone Age' period, part of the prehistoric era, dating from approximately 4500-2250 BC.
Post-medieval	The period following the Middle Ages, dating from approximately AD 1500-1800.
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.
Romano-British	Pertaining to the period dating from AD 43-410 when the Romans occupied Britain.
Saxon	Pertaining to the period dating from AD 410-1066 when England was largely settled by tribes from northern Germany.