

99/22

**AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF
AT CAMPAIN'S LANE,
DEEPING ST. NICHOLAS,
LINCOLNSHIRE
(DCL 99)**



A P S
ARCHAEOLOGICAL
PROJECT
SERVICES



1 2 NOV 99
made 12/11/99
Lincolnshire County Council
Archaeology Section

**AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF
AT CAMPAIN'S LANE,
DEEPING ST. NICHOLAS,
LINCOLNSHIRE
(DCL 99)**

Work Undertaken For
Mr J. Blake

Report Compiled by
Neil Herbert BA (Hons) AIFA

October 1999

National Grid Reference: TF 216 166
City and County Museum Accession No: 107.99

A.P.S. Report No: 110/99



CONTENTS

List of Figures

List of Plates

1.	Summary	1
2.	Introduction	1
	2.1 Definition of a Watching Brief	1
	2.2 Planning Background	1
	2.3 Topography and Geology	1
	2.4 Archaeological Setting	1
3.	Aims	2
4.	Methods	2
5.	Results	2
6.	Discussion	2
7.	Conclusions	3
8.	Acknowledgements	3
9.	Personnel	3
10.	Bibliography	3
11.	Abbreviations	3

Appendices

1	Specification for Archaeological Watching Brief
2	Context Descriptions
3	The Archive
4	Glossary

List of Figures

Figure 1 General Location Plan

Figure 2 Site Location Plan

Figure 3 Plan of Development showing location of Section 1

Figure 4 Section 1

List of Plates

Plate 1 General view of the development site, looking southeast

Plate 2 Section 1, looking south

1. SUMMARY

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken during the excavation of footings at Campain's Lane, Deeping St. Nicholas, Lincolnshire. The watching brief monitored the excavation of the foundations.

Archaeological remains dating from the Late Iron Age (100 BC - AD 50) are known to the south and Romano-British (AD 50 - 410) settlement is indicated by cropmarks to the northwest.

The investigations revealed natural deposits of clay and silt sealed by topsoil. No artefacts or archaeological features were present and it is probable that the site has not previously been occupied.

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 J. Blake to undertake an archaeological watching brief during the excavation of foundations for a new dwelling at Campain's Lane, Deeping St. Nicholas, Lincolnshire. The watching brief was undertaken on the 17th May 1999 and was carried out in accordance with a specification designed by Archaeological Project Services (Appendix 1).

2.3 Topography, Geology and Soils

Deeping St. Nicholas is located 7km northeast of Market Deeping and 7km southwest of Spalding in the administrative district of South Holland, Lincolnshire (Fig. 1).

The site is situated 500m north of the village centre as defined by the parish church of St. Nicholas (Fig. 2). Land at the site is flat and lies at a height of c. 2m OD. The development is centred on National Grid Reference TF 2145 1670.

Local soils are either of the Wallasea Series, typically clayey pelo-alluvial gley soils, or the Wisbech Series, calcareous alluvial gley soils (Robson 1990, 34, 36). These soils overlie the junction between older marine alluvium, developed in salt marsh environments, and younger marine alluvium, developed in creeks and rivers. These drift deposits overlie a solid geology of Jurassic Oxford Clay (BGS 1992). Light yellow or grey silt and clay represented the underlying natural deposits encountered during the investigation.

2.4 Archaeological Setting

Deeping St. Nicholas lies in an area of known archaeological remains dating from the Iron Age to the present day. A possible Late Iron Age saltern (salt production site) was identified during the Fenland Survey 300m to the south (Hayes and Lane 1992, 171).

A few sherds of Romano-British pottery was also identified on the above site (*ibid.*, gazetteer). However, an area of cropmarks was identified as Romano-British 400m to the northwest (Phillips 1970, Gazetteer). The cropmarks depict enclosures, a northeast-southwest aligned trackway and a number of meandering natural water

courses.

Deeping St. Nicholas is a relatively new village and probably came about as a result of post-medieval drainage of the fens. A church was built here in 1846 and it became a parish in 1856 (Wheeler 1896, 331). Formerly, Deeping St. Nicholas was part of Deeping Fen and belonged to Deeping St. James or East Deeping. However, the fen was an important medieval resource for fish, wildfowl, rushes, *etc.* and medieval pottery has been found in the locality, possibly indicating transient activity (Hayes and Lane 1992, 172).

3. PROJECT AIMS

The requirements of the watching brief, as described in the specification (Appendix 1), were to record and interpret archaeological deposits, if present, and to determine their date, sequence, function and origin.

4. METHODS

The foundation trenches were opened to a maximum depth of 1.1m below ground level. Following excavation, selected parts of the trenches were cleaned and rendered vertical. The depths and thickness 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 and sections were drawn at a scale of 1:10. Recording of deposits encountered during the watching brief was undertaken according to standard Archaeological Project Services practice.

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.

5. RESULTS

Two phases of activity were identified:

Phase 1 Natural Geology
Phase 2 Topsoil

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

Phase 1 Natural Geology

Located at the base of the foundation trenches was a 0.3m thick layer of light blue-grey clay [003], sealed by 0.4m of light red-yellow silt [002]. These layers were present, and maintained a consistent thickness and composition, throughout all of the footings.

These deposits are interpreted as natural geological layers, deposited as a result of marine inundations.

Phase 2 Topsoil

Sealing [002] was a 0.3m thick layer of mid-brown silt [001], containing occasional fine roots. This deposit is interpreted as topsoil and formed the present site surface.

6. DISCUSSION

Natural deposits (Phase 1), comprising silts overlying plastic clays, represent the earliest layers encountered during the investigation. Such deposits are known to have formed during prolonged periods of flooding.

The present topsoil had developed over the natural silt. An absence of artefacts within the topsoil suggests that the site is unlikely to have been previously inhabited.

7. CONCLUSIONS

Archaeological investigations were carried out on land at Campaign's Lane, Deeping St. Nicholas, because the site lies within an area of Late Iron Age and Romano-British remains.

No archaeological features or artefacts were present throughout the foundation trenches, strongly suggesting that the ground has remained unoccupied throughout antiquity.

8. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeological Project Services would like to acknowledge the assistance of Mr J. Blake who commissioned the fieldwork and post excavation analysis. The work was coordinated by Gary Taylor and this report was edited by Gary Taylor and Tom Lane. Mark Bennett and Sarah Grundy kindly provided information from the County Sites and Monuments Record maintained by the Archaeology Section, Lincolnshire County Council. Dave Start permitted access to the library and parish files maintained by the Heritage Trust of Lincolnshire.

9. PERSONNEL

Project Coordinator: Gary Taylor
Background: Paul Cope-Faulkner
Supervisor: Neil Herbert
CAD Illustration: Paul Cope-Faulkner
Post-excavation Analyst: Neil Herbert

10. BIBLIOGRAPHY

BGS, 1992, *Spalding; Solid and Drift geology*, 1:50,000 map sheet 144

Hayes, P.P. and Lane, T.W., 1992, *The Fenland Project No. 5: Lincolnshire Survey, the southwest Fens*, East Anglian Archaeology 55

IFA, 1997, *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs*

Phillips, C.W., 1970, *The Fenland in Roman Times*, Royal Geographic Society Research Series No. 5

Robson, J.D., 1990, *Soils of the Boston and Spalding district*, Memoirs of the Soil Survey of Great Britain

Wheeler, W.H., 1896, *A History of the Fens of South Lincolnshire*, (2nd edition)

11. ABBREVIATIONS

BGS British Geological Survey
DoE Department of the Environment
IFA Institute of Field Archaeologists

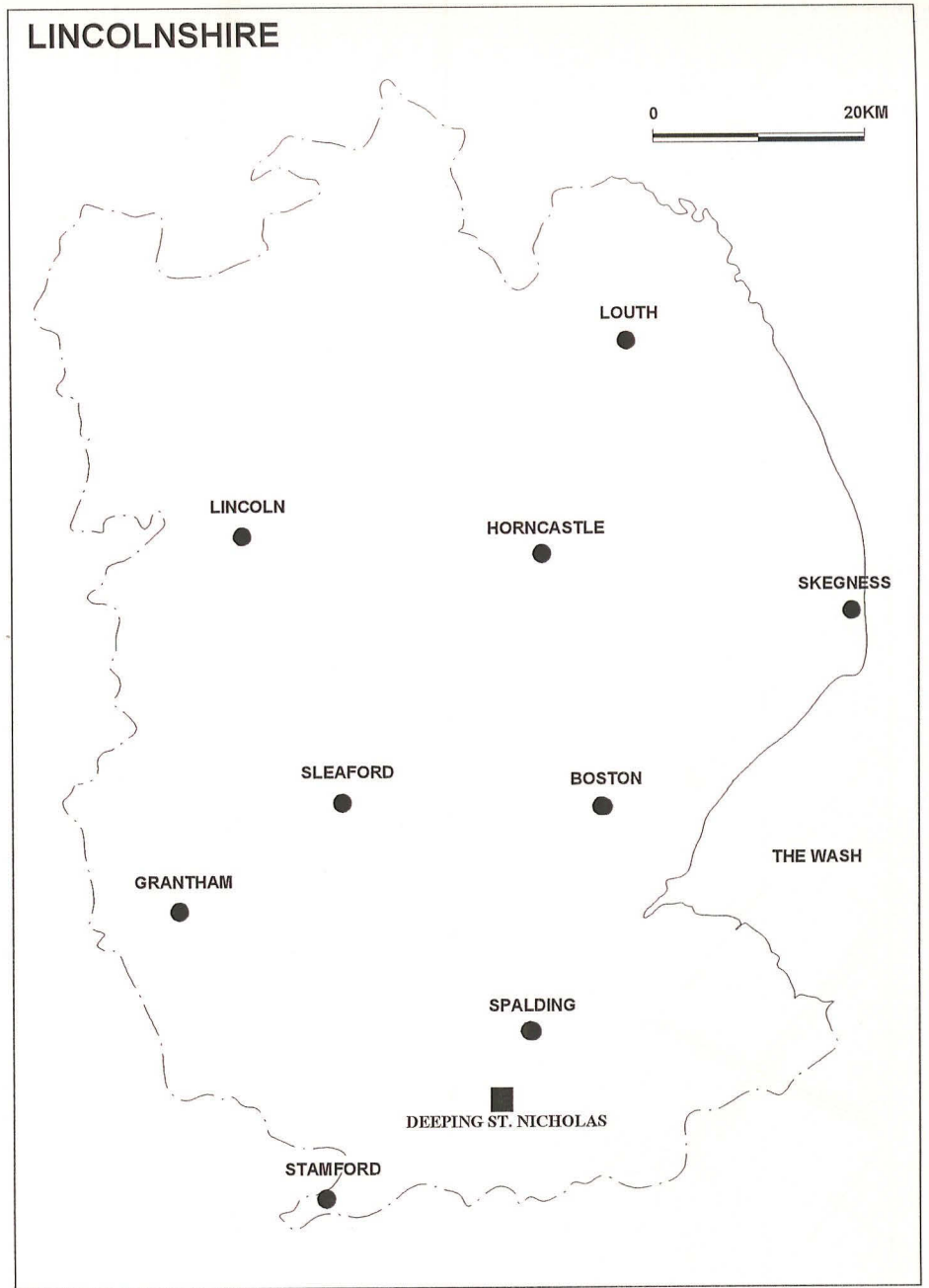


Figure 1 - General location map

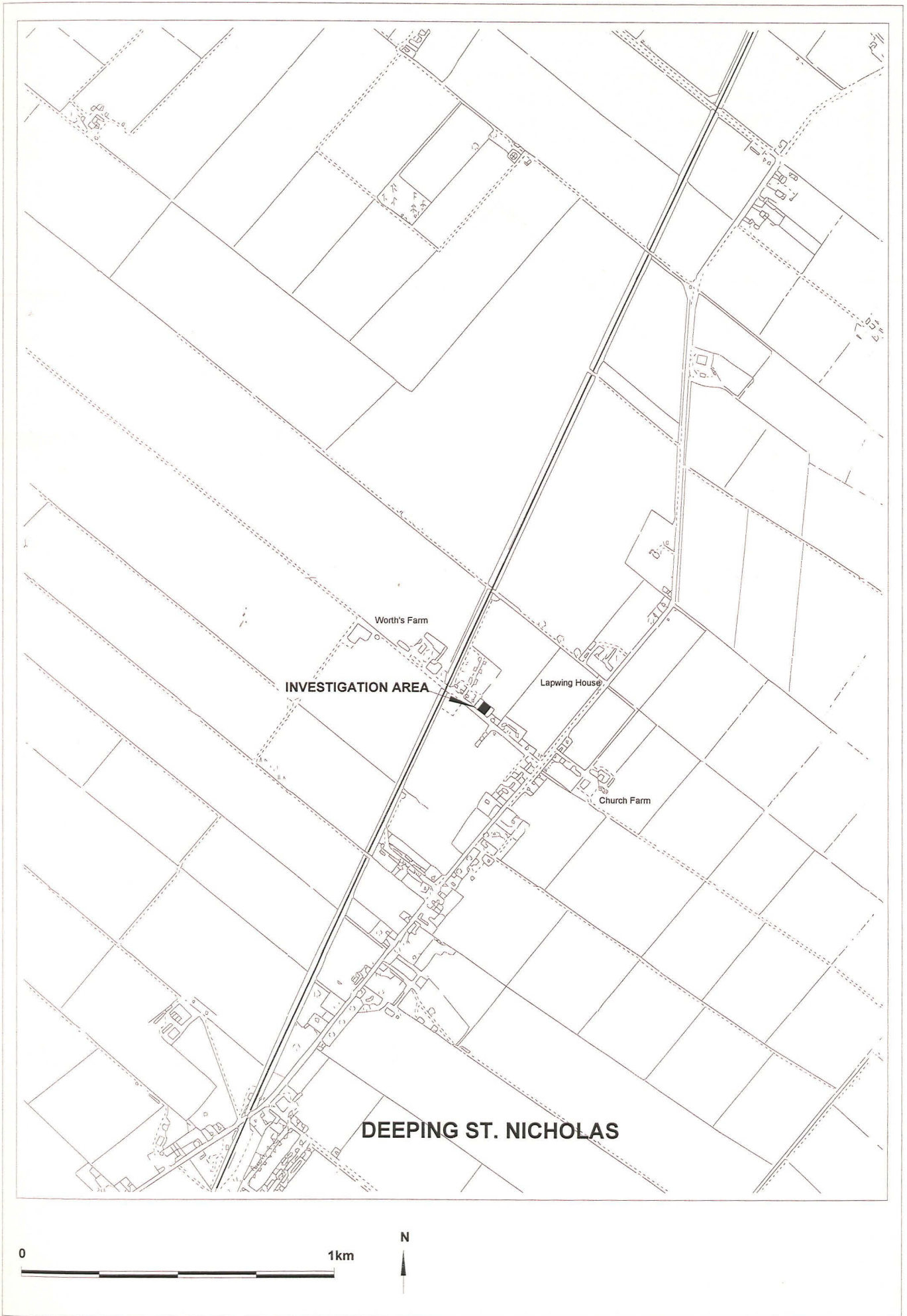


Figure 2 - Site Location Plan

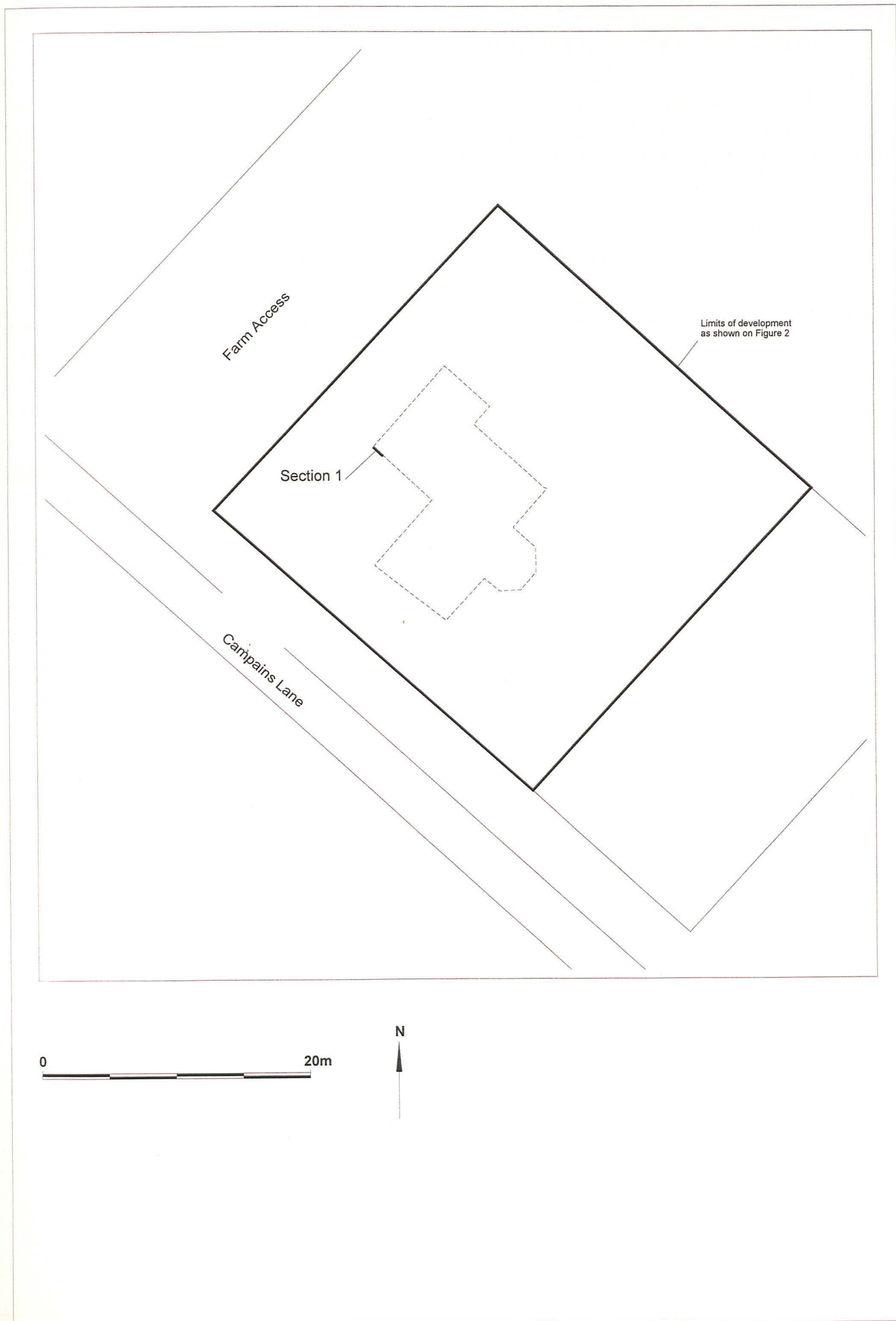
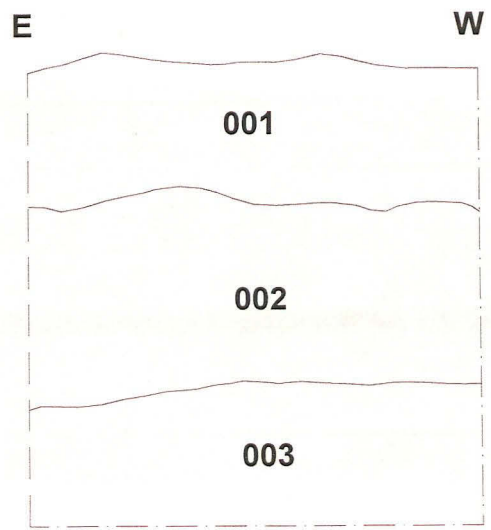


Figure 3 - Plan of Development showing location of Section 1



Section 1



Figure 4 - Section 1



Plate 1 - General view of the development site,
looking southeast



Plate 2 - Section 1, looking south

Appendix 1

LAND AT PLOT 1, CAMPAINS LANE, DEEPING ST. NICHOLAS, LINCOLNSHIRE - SPECIFICATION FOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

1. SUMMARY

- a. *A watching brief is required during development at Plot 1, Campains Lane, Deeping St. Nicholas.*
- b. *A probable Iron Age salt-making site is located just south of the development. Other settlements and salt-making sites of Iron Age and Roman date are located in the general area.*
- c. *The watching brief will be undertaken during groundworks associated with the development. The archaeological features exposed will be recorded in writing, graphically and photographically.*
- d. *On completion of the fieldwork a report will be prepared detailing the results of the investigation. The report will consist of a narrative supported by illustrations and photographs.*

2. INTRODUCTION

- a. This document comprises a specification for an archaeological watching brief during development at Plot 1, Campains Lane, Deeping St. Nicholas, national grid reference TF 216 166.
- b. This document contains the following parts:
 - i. Overview.
 - ii. Stages of work and methodologies.
 - iii. List of specialists.
 - iv. Programme of works and staffing structure of the project.

3. SITE LOCATION

- a. Deeping St. Nicholas lies approximately 7km southwest of Spalding in the administrative district of South Holland, Lincolnshire. The site is in the northern part of the village, between Littleworth Drove and the rail track, on the north side of Campains Lane at national grid reference TF 216 166.

4. PLANNING BACKGROUND

- a. A planning application was submitted to South Holland District Council for the construction of a house. Permission was granted subject to a condition requiring the implementation of an archaeological watching brief during the development.

5. SOILS AND TOPOGRAPHY

- a. The site lies on fairly flat and level land at approximately 3m OD, 3.5km west of the River Welland in the fens of south Lincolnshire. At the site soils are the Downholland 1 Association, clayey humic alluvial gley soils (Hodge *et al.* 1984, 166). Immediately to the west is a strip of Wisbech Association, coarse silty calcareous soils (*ibid.*, 361). Both soil types are developed on marine alluvium, though the extent of the Wisbech soils suggest that they occur on a former watercourse.

6. THE ARCHAEOLOGY

- a. An Early Bronze Age barrow cemetery is located at the west end of Deeping St. Nicholas village,

approximately 5km southwest of the site. Probably during the Middle Bronze Age the area became subject to marine flooding and a major creek was located immediately west of the site, with a minor one just to the east. By the Iron Age-Roman period these creeks were largely extinct or semi-active and settlements and salt-making activities were established in the area.

- b. Just to the south of the development area is a salt-making site of apparent Iron Age date (Hayes and Lane 1992, 171; fig. 102). Other Iron Age and Roman occupation and industrial sites are located in the general area, within 1-2km of the development. The area probably became freshwater fen in the late Roman period and remained so in to medieval times.

7. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- a. The aims of the watching brief will be:
 - i. To record and interpret the archaeological features exposed during the excavation of the foundation trenches and other areas of ground disturbance.
- b. The objectives of the watching brief will be to:
 - i. Determine the form and function of the archaeological features encountered;
 - ii. Determine the spatial arrangement of the archaeological features encountered;
 - iii. As far as practicable, recover dating evidence from the archaeological features, and
 - iv. Establish the sequence of the archaeological remains present on the site.

8. SITE OPERATIONS

- a. General considerations
 - i. All work will be undertaken following statutory Health and Safety requirements in operation at the time of the watching brief.
 - ii. 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.
 - iii. 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.
- b. Methodology
 - i. The watching brief will be undertaken during the ground works phase of development, and includes the archaeological monitoring of all phases of soil movement.
 - ii. 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 pro-forma record sheets.
 - iii. Any finds recovered will be bagged and labelled for later analysis.
 - iv. Throughout the watching brief a photographic record consisting of colour prints will be compiled. The photographic record will consist of:

- (1) The site during work to show specific stages, and the layout of the archaeology within the trench.
 - (2) groups of features where their relationship is important
- v. Should human remains be located the appropriate Home Office licence will be obtained before their removal. In addition, the Local Environmental Health Department and the police will be informed.

9. POST-EXCAVATION

a. Stage 1

- i. 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.
- ii. 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.

b. Stage 2

- i. Detailed examination of the stratigraphic matrix to enable the determination of the various phases of activity on the site.
- ii. Finds will be sent to specialists for identification and dating.

c. Stage 3

- i. On completion of stage 2, a report detailing the findings of the watching brief will be prepared.
- ii. This will consist of:
 - (1) A non-technical summary of the results of the investigation.
 - (2) A description of the archaeological setting of the watching brief.
 - (3) Description of the topography of the site.
 - (4) Description of the methodologies used during the watching brief.
 - (5) A text describing the findings of the watching brief.
 - (6) A consideration of the local, regional and national context of the watching brief findings.
 - (7) Plans of the archaeological features exposed. If a sequence of archaeological deposits is encountered, separate plans for each phase will be produced.
 - (8) Sections of the archaeological features.
 - (9) Interpretation of the archaeological features exposed, and their chronology and setting

within the surrounding landscape.

(10) Specialist reports on the finds from the site.

(11) Appropriate photographs of the site and specific archaeological features.

10. REPORT DEPOSITION

- a. Copies of the report will be sent to the client; South Holland District Council Planning Department; and the County Council Archaeological Sites and Monuments Record.

11. ARCHIVE

- a. 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

- a. 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 *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

- a. Curatorial responsibility for the archaeological work undertaken on the site lies with the Archaeology Officer, Lincolnshire County Council. They will be given as much written notice as possible, ideally at least seven days, before the commencement of the project.

14. VARIATIONS

- a. 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

- a. 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.
- b. An archaeological supervisor with experience of watching briefs will undertake the work.
- c. 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 four days then there will be an economy of scale with the post-excavation analysis.

16. SPECIALISTS TO BE USED DURING THE PROJECT

- a. 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 - 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**

Hayes, PP, and Lane, TW, 1992 *The Fenland Project Number 5: Lincolnshire Survey, The South-Wst Fens*, East Anglian Archaeology **55**

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**

Appendix 2

CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

No.	Description	Interpretation
001	Loose mid brown silt, 0.3m thick	Topsoil
002	Loose light red-yellow fine silt, 0.4m thick	Natural deposit
003	Plastic light blue-grey clay, >0.25m thick	Natural deposit

Appendix 3

THE ARCHIVE

The archive consists of:

3	Context records
1	Photographic record sheets
1	Drawing 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: 107.99

Archaeological Project Services Site Code: DCL99

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 4

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.
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.