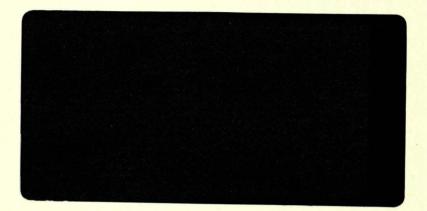


Lincolnshire County Council Archaeology Section

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ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF OF DEVELOPMENT ON LAND ADJACENT TO, CHURCH FARM, CLAYPOLE, LINCOLNSHIRE (CCF 99)

Work Undertaken For Oaklyn Construction Ltd

January 2000

Report Compiled by Paul Cope-Faulkner BA (Hons) AIFA

Planning Application No: S99/0489/21 National Grid Reference: SK 8451 4892 City and County Museum Accession No: 258.99

A.P.S. Report No. 15/00



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1. SUMMARY

A watching brief was undertaken during the construction of three dwellings at Church Farm, Claypole, Lincolnshire.

A Bronze Age (2250-800 BC) axe and Iron Age (800 BC - AD 50) gold coin represent the earliest finds from the village. Several finds of Romano-British (AD 50 -410) date have been found in the village and may be part of a settlement. Medieval (AD 1066-1500) remains include the parish church and a village cross.

The investigations revealed an undated ditch, which probably once formed a boundary between two properties. The only finds retrieved were three pottery fragments of late 18th -early 19th century date.

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 nonarchaeological reasons within a specified area,..., where there is a possibility that archaeological deposits may be disturbed or destroyed,' (IFA 1997).

2.2 Planning Background

Between the 4th and 6th October 1999 a watching brief was undertaken during the excavations of footings for a residential development at Church Farm Claypole, Lincolnshire. Approval for the development was sought through the submission of planning application S99/0489/21 to South Kesteven District Council. Permission was granted subject to a standard condition for archaeological recording. The archaeological recording was commissioned by Oaklyn Construction Ltd and carried out by Archaeological Project Services in accordance with a brief accepted by the Community Archaeologist for South Kesteven District Council (Appendix 1).

2.3 Topography and Geology

Claypole is situated 16km north of Grantham and 25km southwest of Lincoln in South Kesteven District, Lincolnshire (Fig. 1).

Church Farm is located on the southwest corner of the village, 200m south of the parish church of St. Peter at National Grid Reference SK 8451 4892 (Fig. 2). The local topography describes a gentle slope down to the west, towards the River Witham. The site is situated at a height of c.20m OD.

Local soils are of the Evesham 2 Association, typically calcareous pelosoils, of which many are gleyed (Hodge *et al.* 1984, 188). The soils are developed on a solid geology of Jurassic Lower Lias clay with siltstones and sandstones (GSGB 1972).

2.4 Archaeological Setting

Claypole is located in an area of known archaeological remains dating from the Bronze Age to the present day. Retrieved from fields west of the site was a Bronze Age palstave axe and an Iron Age gold coin was found along Chapel Lane.

A number of Romano-British artefacts have been found in the village, possibly indicating a settlement. These include coins of Constantine I (AD 306-324) and Valentian (AD 364-75) as well as pottery and a lead spindle whorl.

Claypole is first mentioned in the Domesday

Survey of *c*. 1086. Referred to as *Claipol* the name is derived from the Old English and means 'clayey pool' (Ekwall 1974, 110). At the time of the Domesday Survey, the land was owned by the Bishop of Bayeaux and Geoffrey Alselin and contained a church with a priest, a mill and 55 acres of meadow (Foster and Longley 1976).

The only extant remains of the medieval period is the parish church of St. Peter and the churchyard cross. The church largely dates from the late 13th century, and must have presumably replaced the church mentioned in the Domesday Survey, whereas the cross is dated to the 14th century (Pevsner and Harris 1989, 221). Traces of the medieval field system around Claypole survived until recently and was represented by ridge and furrow earthworks.

Within the village, the Old Rectory and Church View Cottages are surviving examples of 17th century buildings (*ibid*.).

3. AIMS

The aim of the archaeological investigation, as detailed in the specification (Appendix 1), was to ensure that any archaeological features exposed during the drainage works should be recorded and, if present, to determine their date, function and origin.

4. METHODS

Foundation trenches for new buildings were excavated by machine to depths required by the development. Following excavation, the sides of the trenches were rendered vertical and archaeological deposits were examined by hand. Each archaeological deposit or feature revealed within the trench was allocated a unique reference number (context number) with an individual written description. A photographic record was compiled and sections were drawn at a scale of 1:10.

Finds recovered from the deposits identified in the watching brief were examined and a date was assigned where possible. Records of the deposits and features recognised during the investigation were also examined. A list of all contexts and interpretations appears as Appendix 1. Phasing was assigned based on the nature of the deposits and recognisable relationships between them, supplemented by artefact dating where relevant. A stratigraphic matrix of all identified deposits was produced.

5. **RESULTS**

Three phases were identified:

Phase 1	Natural deposits
Phase 2	Undated deposits
Phase 3	Modern deposits

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

Phase 1 Natural Deposits

The earliest deposit encountered during this investigation was a layer of yellowish brown clay (004) exposed at the base of Area A (Fig. 3). Interpreted as a natural deposit, it may have formed as a result of alluvial processes.

Overlying this natural was a layer of blueish grey silty clay or clay (003, 018, 021, 025, 032 and 039) evident in the bases of the remaining foundation trenches apart from Section 2 and 3, where a yellowish grey clay was recorded (010 and 014).

Phase 2 Undated deposits

Cut into the natural deposits in Area A was an east-west aligned linear feature (009), probably a ditch. This was 1.78m wide and was deeper than 0.57m and visible for a length of c. 10m. Two fills were recorded, a lower of dark grey silty clay (008) and an upper fill of grey clay (007).

Phase 3 Modern Deposits

Developed above the natural deposits and ditch was a topsoil layer ranging from black (002), blackish brown (006), blackish grey (013) clayey silt to brownish black (017), yellowish grey (020, 024 and 031) and greyish brown (037) silty clay. This deposit was identified in all sections and varied in thickness from 0.2m to 0.56m.

Overlying the topsoil in Area A was a dumped deposit of greyish brown silty clay (005) from which three sherds of late 18th - early 19th century Red Painted Earthenware were retrieved.

Cut through the topsoil in Area C was a circular feature, identified as a rubbish pit (036). This was c. 5m in diameter and 0.46m deep and contained a single fill of charcoal, burnt organic material and silty clay (038), perhaps resulting from a bonfire. This was in turn sealed by a dumped deposit of grey silty clay (035).

Traces of the former farm buildings were identified in Area B, where a 2m length of an east-west aligned brick wall (015) was recorded.

Remaining deposits include levelling layers (012, 023, 027, 029, 030 and 034) for concrete (011 and 022), tarmac (028 and 033) and gravel (026) surfaces. Demolition deposits were also encountered and comprise brick and stone rubble within a

silty or silty clay matrix (001, 016 and 019).

6. DISCUSSION

Natural (Phase 1) deposits are represented by predominantly clay deposits which may be a localised alluvial layer or the weathered surface of the underlying Jurassic clays.

Undated deposits (Phase 2) comprise a single ditch aligned east-west and is associated with a former land division. No such land division appears on Ordnance Survey plans of 1904 onwards. Remaining deposits and features relate to the former farm buildings located on the site and their subsequent demolition.

Only three finds of Red Painted earthenware were retrieved during the investigation and are dated to the late 18th - early 19th century. The finds derive from a dumped deposit and are probably residual in nature.

7. CONCLUSIONS

Archaeological investigations were undertaken at Church Farm, Claypole because the site lay within an area of known remains dating from the prehistoric to the medieval periods.

An undated ditch was the earliest archaeological feature encountered and represents a former boundary. Remaining deposits were associated with the use of the site as a farmyard and its subsequent demolition.

Only three finds of late post-medieval pottery were retrieved. Site conditions are thought to be generally unsuitable for the survival of plant remains (*eg*, seeds, pollen, plant macrofossils) other than through charring, although other environmental indicators (snail shells, insect remains, bone) may be preserved.

8. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeological Project Services wish to acknowledge the assistance of Mr E. Carley of Oaklyn Construction Ltd who commissioned the fieldwork and postexcavation analysis. The work was coordinated by Gary Taylor and this report was edited by Tom Lane. Jo Simpson, the South Kesteven Community Archaeologist, kindly permitted examination of the relevant parish archaeological files.

9. PERSONNEL

Project Coordinator: Gary Taylor Supervisors: Denise Buckley, Phil Mills, Fiona Walker Finds Processing: Denise Buckley Illustration: Paul Cope-Faulkner Post-excavation Analyst: Paul Cope-Faulkner

10. **BIBLIOGRAPHY**

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11. ABBREVIATIONS

GSGB Geological Survey of Great Britain

IFA Institute of Field Archaeologists



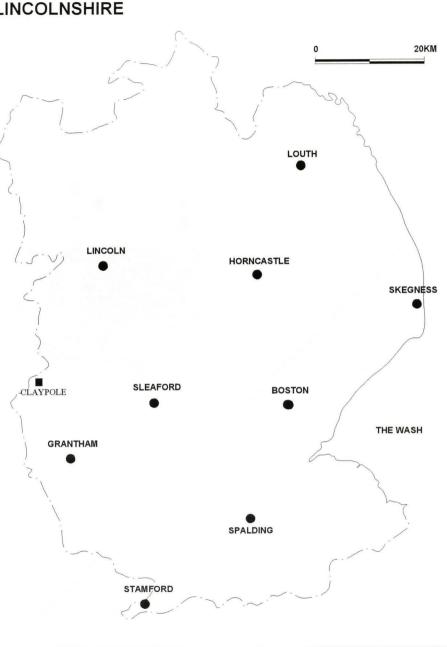


Figure 1 - General location map



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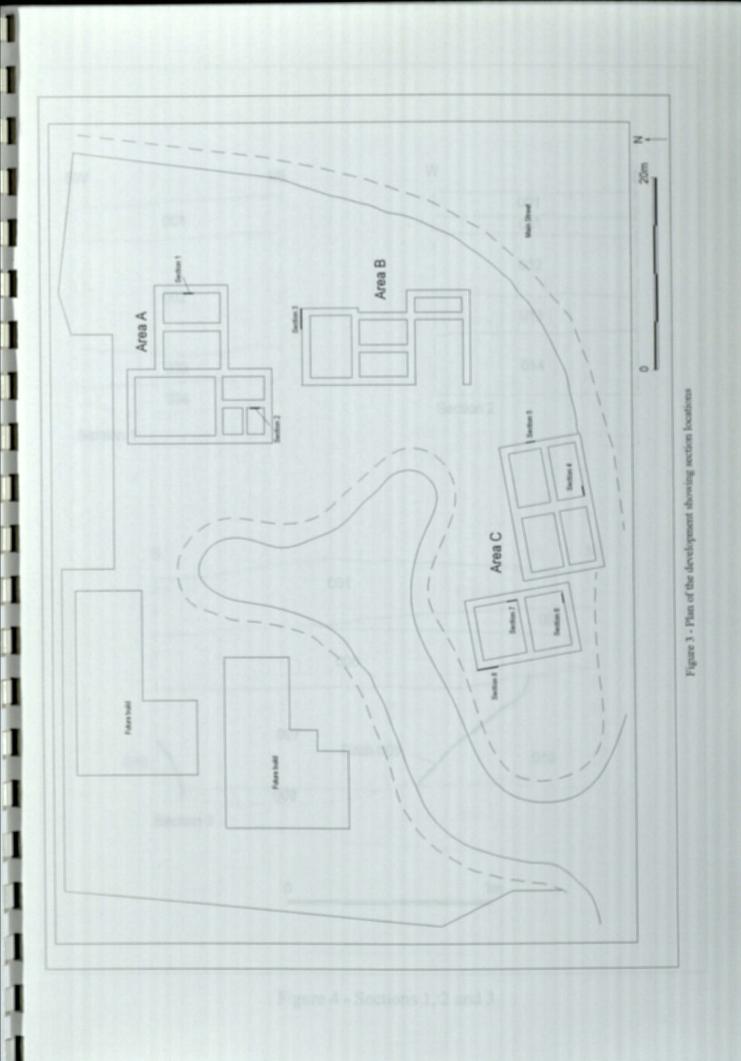
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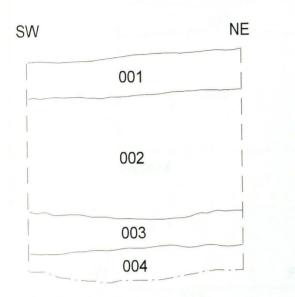
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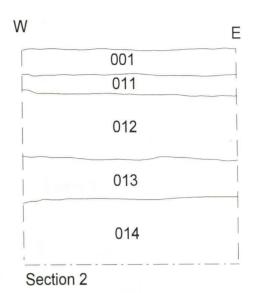
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Figure 2 - Site Location Plan







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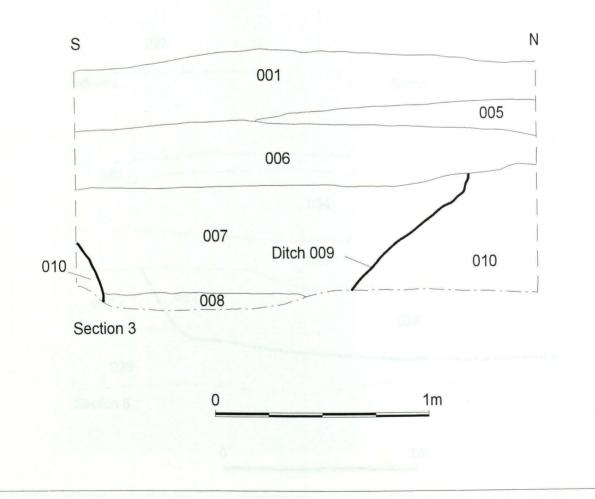
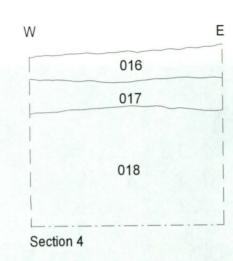
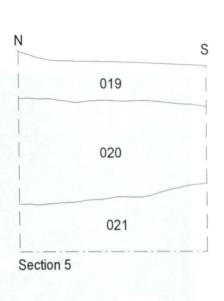
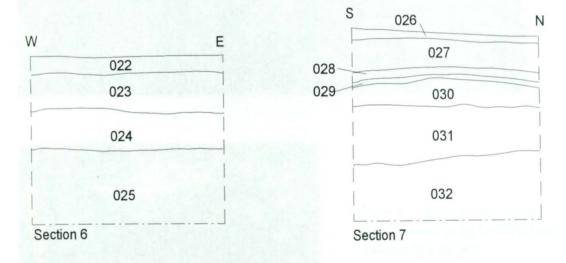


Figure 4 - Sections 1, 2 and 3



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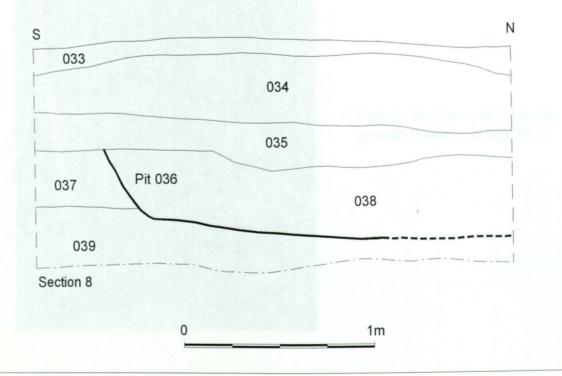


Figure 5 - Sections 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 and 8





A Plate 1 - General view of the development area, looking north towards the church

< Plate 2 - Section 1, showing the general sequence of deposits

Appendix 1

LAND ADJACENT TO CHURCH FARM, CLAYPOLE, LINCOLNSHIRE -SPECIFICATION FOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

1 SUMMARY

- 1.1 A watching brief is required during development on land adjacent to Church Farm, Claypole, Lincolnshire.
- 1.2 Finds from a range of periods have been found in and around the village of Claypole ranging from the Bronze Age to the medieval period. The proposed site lies close to the village church in an area where archaeological remains of Saxon and medieval origins may survive.
- 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 results of the investigation. 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 on land adjacent to Church Farm, Claypole, Lincolnshire. The site is located at national grid reference SK 8451 4892.
- 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 Claypole lies approximately 6km southeast of Newark and 23km east of Sleaford in the administrative district of South Kesteven. The site lies on the west side of the village, to south of the church at national grid reference SK 8451 4892. The site is currently in use as a farmyard.

4 PLANNING BACKGROUND

4.1 A full planning application (S99/0489/21) was submitted to South Kesteven District Council for residential development. The application is subject to a condition requiring the implementation of an archaeological watching brief during the groundworks associated with the development.

5 SOILS AND TOPOGRAPHY

5.1 The site lies on the west side of the village at approximately 18m OD. Local soils are the Evesham 2 Association, typically clayey soils with slowly permeable subsoils developed in Jurassic and Cretaceous clay shales (Hodge *et al.* 1984, 188).

6 THE ARCHAEOLOGY

- 6.1 Finds from a range of periods have been found in and around the village of Claypole including artefacts dating from the Bronze Age through to the medieval period.
- 6.2 The proposed development site lies on the west side of the village close to the church of St Peter's. The Domesday Survey records a church and a priest at Claypole. At that time the manor was held by the Bishop of Bayeux and the rest of the village was sokeland of Westborough. It is thought that the original church occupied the site of the present church which dates from the 13th century with additions made to the building during the 14th century.
- 6.3 Located close to the church it is possible that archaeological remains, particularly of the Saxon and medieval periods, may survive on the site.

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 IFA registered organisation no. 21.
- 8.1.3 Any and all artefacts found during the investigation and thought to be 'treasure', as defined by the Treasure Act 1996, will be removed from site to a secure store and promptly reported to the appropriate coroner's office.

8.2 Methodology

- 8.2.1 The watching brief will be undertaken during the ground works phase of development, and includes the archaeological monitoring of all phases of soil movement.
- 8.2.2 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.
- 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.

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 Stage 3

9.3.1 On completion of stage 2, a report detailing the findings of the watching brief will be prepared.

- 9.3.2 This will consist of:
 - 9.3.2.1 A non-technical summary of the results of the investigation.
 - 9.3.2.2 A description of the archaeological setting of the watching brief.
 - 9.3.2.3 Description of the topography of the site.
 - 9.3.2.4 Description of the methodologies used during the watching brief.
 - 9.3.2.5 A text describing the findings of the watching brief.
 - 9.3.2.6 A consideration of the local, regional and national context of the watching brief findings.
 - 9.3.2.7 Plans of the archaeological features exposed. If a sequence of archaeological deposits is encountered, separate plans for each phase will be produced.
 - 9.3.2.8 Sections of the archaeological features.
 - 9.3.2.9 Interpretation of the archaeological features exposed, and their chronology and setting within the surrounding landscape.
 - 9.3.2.10 Specialist reports on the finds from the site.

9.3.2.11 Appropriate photographs of the site and specific archaeological features.

10 REPORT DEPOSITION

10.1 Copies of the report will be sent to the Client; the South Kesteven Community Archaeologist; South Kesteven District Council Planning Department; and to the County Council Archaeological Sites and Monuments Record.

11 ARCHIVE

11.1 The documentation and records generated during the watching brief will be sorted and ordered into the format acceptable to the City and County Museum, Lincoln. This will be undertaken following the requirements of the document titled *Conditions for the Acceptance of Project Archives* for long term storage and curation.

12 PUBLICATION

12.1 A report of the findings of the watching brief will be published in Heritage Lincolnshire's Annual Report and 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

13.1 Curatorial responsibility for the archaeological work undertaken on the site lies with the Community Archaeologist of South 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 the archaeological curator.

15 PROGRAMME OF WORKS AND STAFFING LEVELS

- 15.1 The watching brief will be integrated with the programme of construction and is dependent on the developers' work programme. It is therefore not possible to specify the person-hours for the archaeological site work.
- 15.2 An archaeological supervisor with experience of watching briefs will undertake the work.
- 15.3 Post-excavation analysis and report production will be undertaken by the archaeological supervisor, or a post-excavation analyst as appropriate, with assistance from a finds supervisor, illustrator and external specialists. It is expected that each fieldwork day (equal to one person-day) will require a post-excavation day (equal to one-and-a-half person-days) for completion of the analysis and report. If the fieldwork lasts longer than about four days then there will be an economy of scale with the post-excavation analysis.

16 SPECIALISTS TO BE USED DURING THE PROJECT

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

Body to be undertaking the work

Task

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
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Appendix 2

CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

No.	Section	Description	Interpretation
001	1	Loose light yellowish brown brick and stone with frequent silt, 0.2m thick	Demolition deposit
002	1	Loose black clayey silt, frequent stones, 0.56m thick	Buried soil
003	1	Soft light blueish grey silty clay, 0.2m	Natural deposit
004	1	Soft light yellowish brown clay, >0.14m deep	Natural deposit
005	2	Friable mid greyish brown silty clay	Dumped deposit
006	2	Firm dark blackish brown clayey silt, 0.32m thick	Buried soil
007	2	Plastic dark grey clay	Fill of (009)
008	2	Friable dark grey silty clay	Fill of (009)
009	2	Linear feature, 1.78m wide by >0.57m deep, steep sides, aligned east-west	Ditch
010	2	Plastic light yellowish grey clay	Natural deposit
011	3	Indurated greyish white concrete	Surface
012	3	Firm mid reddish yellow crushed brick, sand and stone	Levelling for (011)
013	3	Friable dark blackish grey clayey silt	Buried soil
014	3	Firm light yellowish grey clay	Natural deposit
015		Brick structure, English Garden Wall bond, aligned east-west, 2m long by 1.05m deep	Former barn
016	4	Loose dark reddish brown silty clay with frequent bricks, 0.15m thick	Demolition deposit
017	4	Loose dark brownish black silty clay with bricks, 0.2m thick	Buried soil
018	4	Firm dark blueish grey silty clay, 0.5m thick	Natural deposit
019	5	Loose dark brownish red brick rubble, 0.26m thick	Demolition deposit
020	5	Loose mid yellowish grey silty clay, 0.56m thick	Buried soil
021	5	Firm mid blueish grey silty clay, >0.8m thick	Natural deposit
022	6	Indurated greyish white concrete	Surface
023	6	Loose mid greyish black silty clay, 0.2m thick	Levelling for (023)
024	6	Firm mid yellowish grey silty clay, 0.2m thick	Buried soil
025	6	Firm mid blueish grey clay, >0.48m thick	Natural deposit
026	7	Loose mid greyish brown gravel and clayey silt, 50mm thick	Surface
027	7	Loose mid yellowish brown gravel and sand, 100mm thick	Levelling for (026)

No.	Section	Description	Interpretation
028	7	Hard black tarmac, 100mm thick	Surface
029	7	Loose mid yellowish grey gravel and silty sand, 40mm thick	Levelling for (028)
030	7	Loose mid grey silty clay, 0.2m thick	Levelling for (028)
031	7	Loose mid yellowish grey silty clay, 0.3m thick	Buried soil
032	7	Firm mid blueish grey clay, >0.4m thick	Natural deposit
033	8	Firm black tarmac, 0.15m thick	Surface
034	8	Loose mid greyish brown gravel and sand, 0.3m thick	Levelling for (033)
035	8	Loose grey silty clay with frequent charcoal flecks, 0.2m thick	Dumped deposit
036	8	Circular feature, c . 5m diameter by 0.46m deep, steep sides and flattish base	Refuse pit
037	8	Loose mid greyish brown silty clay, 0.3m thick	Buried soil
038	8	Loose black charcoal, burnt rotted organic material and silty clay	Fill of (036)
039	8	Firm mid blueish grey clay, >0.3m thick	Natural deposit

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Appendix 3

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).
Iron Age	A period characterised by the introduction of Iron into the country for tools, between 800 BC and AD 50.
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.

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Appendix 4

THE ARCHIVE

The archive consists of:

- 39 Context records
- 1 Photographic record sheets
- 5 Drawing sheets
- 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:	258.99
Archaeological Project Services Site Code:	CCF99

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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