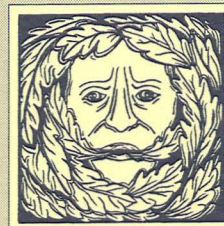
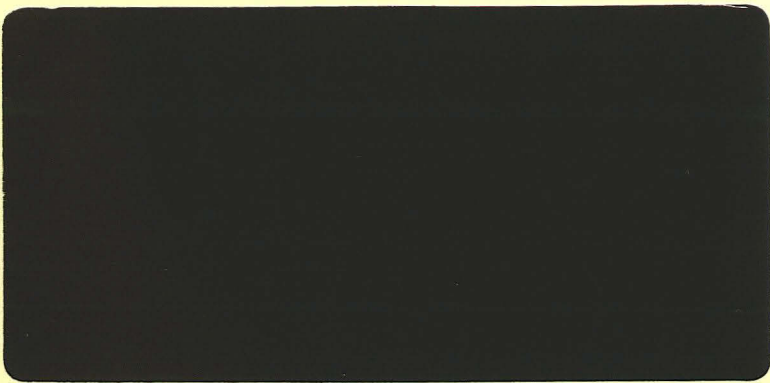


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**ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF  
OF DEVELOPMENT ON LAND  
AT 33 WEST STREET,  
CROWLAND,  
LINCOLNSHIRE  
(CWS 00)**



**A P S**  
ARCHAEOLOGICAL  
PROJECT  
SERVICES



Lincobnshire County Council  
Archaeology Section  
20. APR 00  
ack 20/4/02



**ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF  
OF DEVELOPMENT ON LAND  
AT 33 WEST STREET,  
CROWLAND,  
LINCOLNSHIRE  
(CWS 00)**

Work Undertaken For  
Mr T. Browne

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

April 2000

Planning Application No: H02/0358/99  
National Grid Reference: TF 2371 1024  
City and County Museum Accession No: 2000.4

A.P.S. Report No: 54/00



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## 1. SUMMARY

*An archaeological watching brief was undertaken during development on land at 33 West Street, Crowland, Lincolnshire. The watching brief monitored the excavation of the foundation trenches for a new detached garage.*

*The earliest archaeological remains date to the Neolithic period (4200-2250 BC) and are represented by stone axes and flint tools. In the Early Bronze Age (2250-1600 BC), Crowland became a focus for a barrow cemetery, part of a sequence of such monuments along the fen-edge in Cambridgeshire and Lincolnshire. Crowland is also noted for its Abbey, which had its origins as a cell founded by St. Guthlac in the 8<sup>th</sup> century. The monastery grew in prosperity and by the medieval period (AD 1066-1500) controlled much of this part of south Lincolnshire, until its dissolution in 1539.*

*No archaeological deposits or features were encountered and no artefacts were retrieved during the investigation.*

## 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 T. Browne to

undertake an archaeological watching brief during construction of a new garage at 33 West Street, Crowland, Lincolnshire. Approval for the development was sought through the submission of planning application H02/0358/99. The watching brief was carried out on the 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2000.

### 2.3 Topography and Geology

Crowland is situated 12km south of Spalding and 22km east of Stamford in the Welland valley, near the southern boundary of Lincolnshire (Fig. 1).

The site is located 450m west of the town centre as defined by the parish church of Our Lady, St. Bartholomew and St. Guthlac. The site lies on generally level ground at c. 4m OD, north of West Street, centred on National Grid Reference TF 2371 1024 (Fig. 2).

Local soils are of the Swanwick Series, typically coarse loamy argillic gley soils (Robson 1990, 29). Beneath the soils is a drift geology of marine or estuarine sand and gravel (also known as Abbey Gravels) which are formed along a southwest to northeast line creating a peninsula of higher ground extending from the fen-edge to the west. These gravels in turn overlie a solid geology of Jurassic Oxford Clays (BGS 1984).

### 2.4 Archaeological Setting

The development site lies in an area of known archaeological remains dating from the prehistoric period onwards. The earliest evidence of occupation is during the Neolithic period and stone axes have been found to the west and collections of flint have been retrieved to the south and north of the site (Hayes and Lane 1992, 197).

During the Early Bronze Age, the gravel ridge that Crowlands sits on was the focus



for a sizeable barrow cemetery. This was part of a system of such cemeteries extending from Borough Fen to the south, to Deeping St. Nicholas west of Crowland and continuing to the north (Lane 1994, 6). Most of the barrows are only known from their destruction in the last two centuries and the nearest to the site is located less than 300m to the south (Hayes and Lane 1992, 197). Contemporary settlement associated with the barrows has yet to be identified in Crowland. However, pottery sherds of the period are known from the vicinity of the church (*ibid.*).

Later Bronze Age remains are unknown from the Crowland peninsula though an Iron Age site, possibly a saltern (salt producing site), has been identified to the north of the town (*ibid.*, 198). Evidence for Romano-British remains is also scarce and comprises a few scattered sherds of pottery, found to the south of the development (*ibid.*).

Crowland is first mentioned in the mid 8<sup>th</sup> century by Felix, the biographer of St. Guthlac. Referred to as *Crugland*, *Cruuulond* and *Crowland*, the name is derived from the word *crûw*, possibly meaning 'bend' (Ekwall 1974, 133). Felix was writing about the life of St. Guthlac who founded a cell here, with two followers, in c. 700 AD (Page 1988, 105).

A Benedictine monastery dedicated to St. Guthlac was in existence in Crowland by 1051 and was subject to Peterborough Abbey. It is not known when the monastery was first built, although it is believed to be in the mid-late 10<sup>th</sup> century, as a documentary reference noting an earlier foundation is now believed to be a forgery (Hayes and Lane 1992, 202). The present standing remains of the abbey date to 1156 AD (Pevsner and Harris 1989, 238).

Crowland is not specifically referred to in

the Domesday Survey of c. 1086, although details of its holdings at Holbeach, Whaplode, Spalding, Langtoft, Baston, Dowdyke, Drayton, Algakirk and Burtoft are listed (Foster and Longley 1976, 60). Land was also held in the surrounding counties of Northamptonshire, Leicestershire and Cambridgeshire (Page 1988, 106).

Following the dissolution in 1539, the abbey buildings gradually fell into decay, a process that was accelerated during the English Civil War (1642-46) when a Royalist garrison constructed a fort surrounding the church (Pevsner and Harris 1989, 240).

33 West Street is a Grade II Listed cottage that dates to the Late 18<sup>th</sup> century (DoE 1988, 15).

### 3. 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

Foundation trenches for the new garage were opened by mechanical excavator to a maximum depth of 0.9m below the present ground level. Following excavation, the sides of all trenches were cleaned and rendered vertical. Selected deposits were partially or fully excavated by hand to determine their nature and to retrieve artefactual material. The depth and thickness of each deposit was 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 and a stratigraphic matrix produced. Phasing was assigned based on the nature of the deposits and recognisable relationships between them.

## 5. RESULTS

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

The lowest deposit encountered during the investigation was a reddish yellow clayey silt (004) identified a natural deposit. This was overlain with a 0.2m thick brown and yellow clayey silt (003) layer marking the transgression from natural to subsoil.

The subsoil (002) was a mid brown clayey silt which was 0.3m thick and was sealed by a topsoil of blackish brown sandy silt (001).

In addition to the above recorded deposits, a gravel drive had been inserted into the topsoil and was laid above a hardcore layer of brick and limestone debris. The extent of the former drive is shown on Figure 3. No context numbers were assigned to the drive.

## 6. DISCUSSION

Natural deposits of alluvial silt were encountered at the base of the trenches. These probably represent isolated flooding episodes as they are not derived from the gravel river terrace deposits formed from the

former courses of the River Welland (Horton 1989, 21). It is possible that these deposits seal earlier archaeological remains.

Subsoil and topsoil sealed the site and no archaeological deposits or features were encountered. Furthermore, no artefacts were retrieved during the investigation, although modern pottery was noted in the topsoil.

## 7. CONCLUSIONS

Archaeological investigations were undertaken at West Street, Crowland because the site fell within the medieval village core and an area of known archaeological remains dating from the prehistoric periods and later.

No archaeological features or deposits were encountered during the investigation. Any such features may lie closer to the street frontage. No artefacts were retrieved.

There was no evidence of waterlogging and any environmental remains in the area are only likely to survive through charring.

## 8. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeological Project Services would like to acknowledge the assistance of Mr T. Browne who commissioned the fieldwork and post excavation. The work was coordinated by Denise Druey and this report was edited by Tom Lane. Background information was kindly provided by Dave Start, who allowed access to the relevant parish files maintained by Heritage Lincolnshire.

## 9. PERSONNEL

Project Coordinator: Denise Drury

Supervisor: Paul Cope-Faulkner  
Illustration: Paul Cope-Faulkner  
Photographic Reproduction: Sue Unsworth  
Post-excavation Analyst: Paul Cope-Faulkner

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## 11. ABBREVIATIONS

APS Archaeological Project Services

BGS British Geological Survey

DoE Department of the Environment

IFA Institute of Field Archaeologists

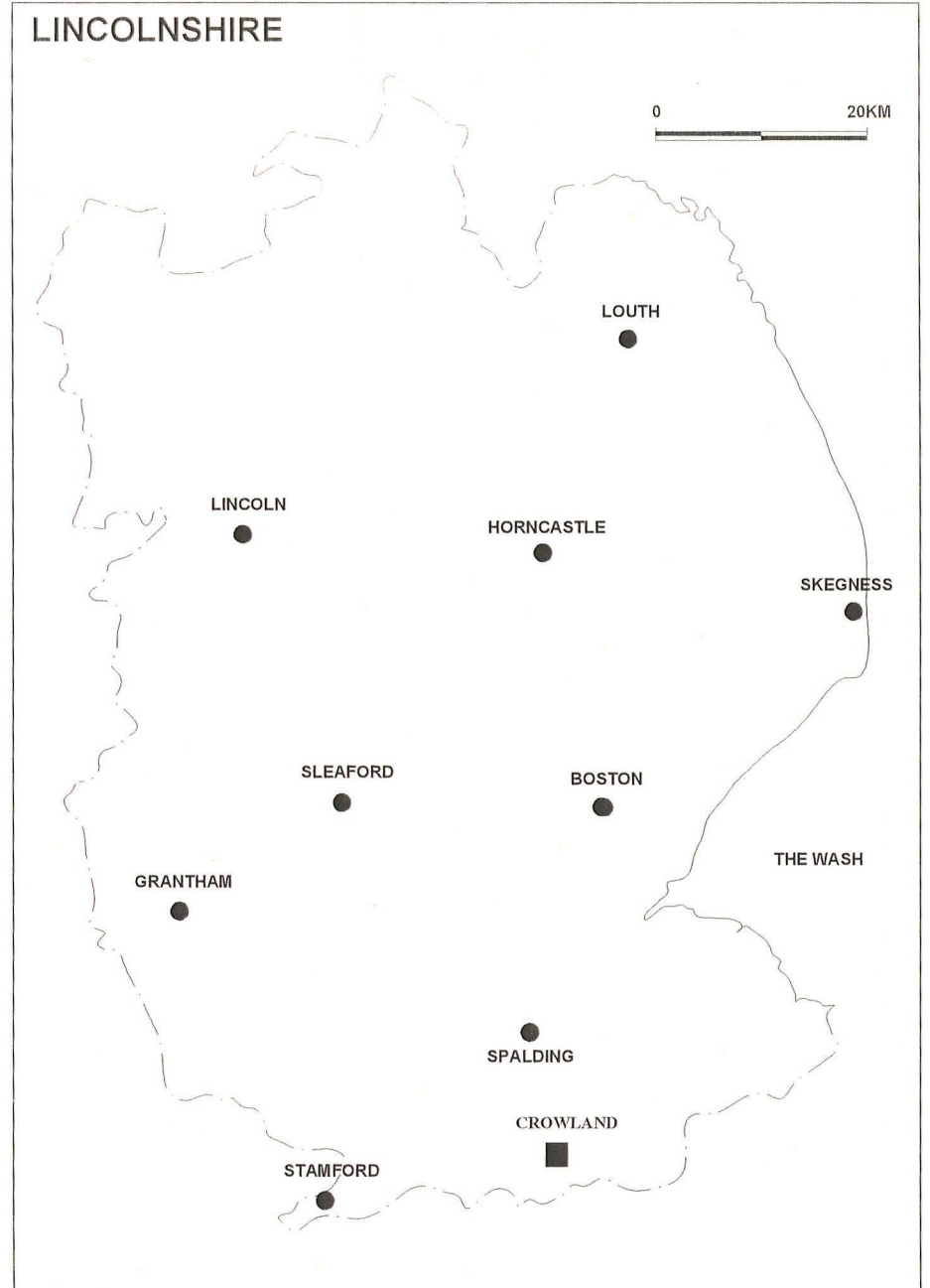
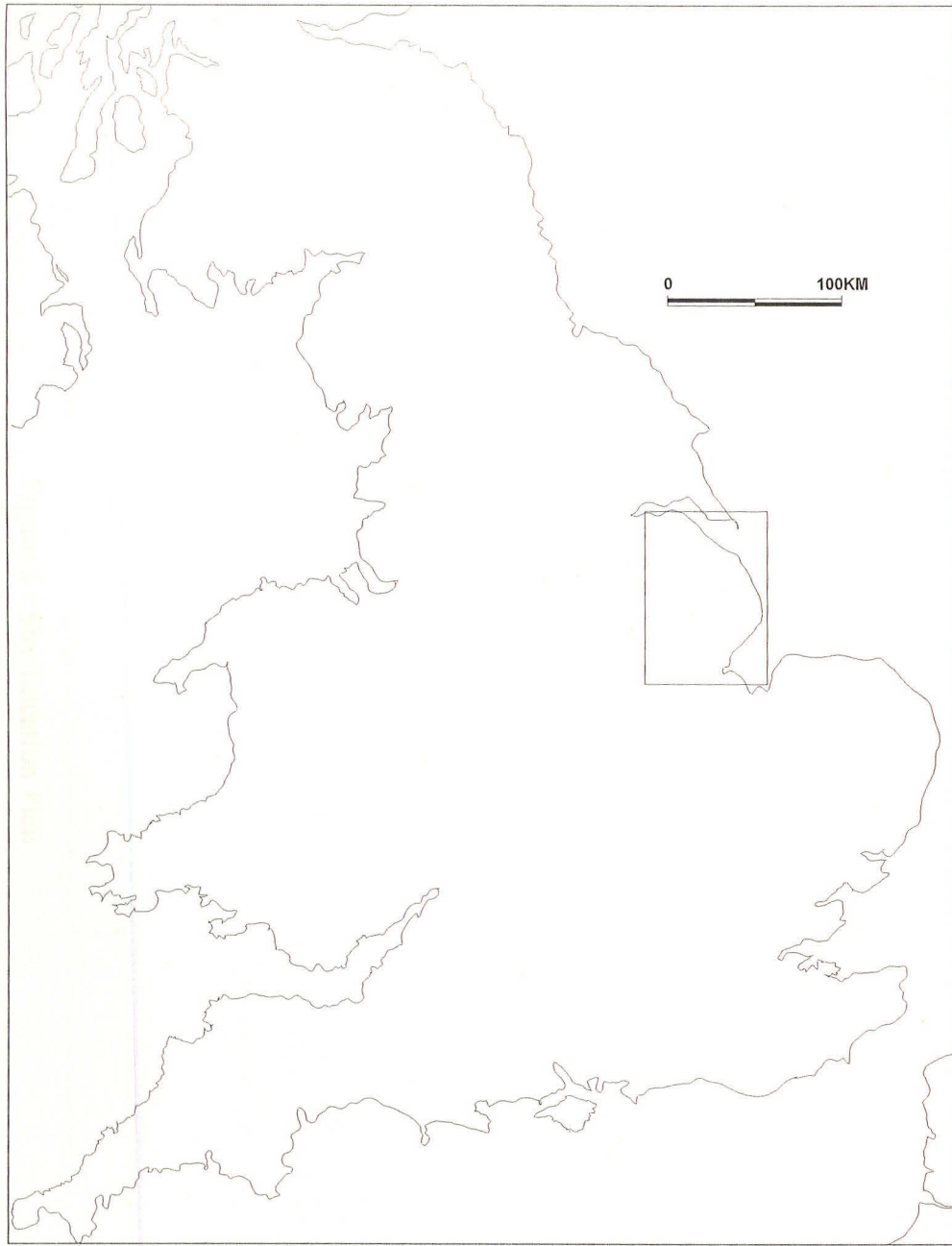


Figure 1 - General location map





 Development Area

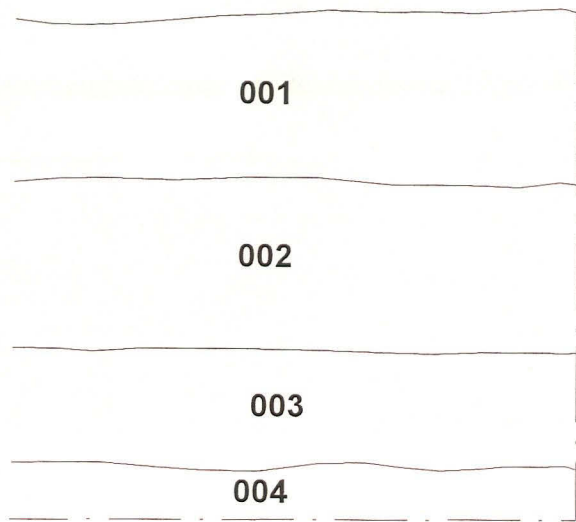
Figure 2 - Site Location Plan



Figure 3 - Plan of the development showing section location

NW

SE



Section 1



Figure 4 - Section 1





Plate 1 - General view across the development area, looking south



Plate 2 - Section 1, looking southeast

## Appendix 1

### LAND AT 33 WEST STREET, CROWLAND, LINCOLNSHIRE - SPECIFICATION FOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

#### 1 SUMMARY

- 1.1 *A watching brief is required during development at 33 West Street, Crowland, Lincolnshire.*
- 1.2 *Prehistoric burial mounds occur in the area and Roman pottery has been found in the vicinity. Additionally, an abbey, founded before the Norman conquest, brought the town to prominence and attracted settlement in the medieval period. The present town probably largely overlies the medieval village.*
- 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 at 33 West Street, Crowland. The site is located at national grid reference TF 2370 1022.
- 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 Crowland is located approximately 12km south of Spalding in the administrative district of South Holland, Lincolnshire. The site is situated on West Street, on the west side of the village centre, at TF 2370 1022.

#### 4 PLANNING BACKGROUND

- 4.1 A planning application (number H02/0358/99) for the construction of a double garage has been granted by South Holland District Council, subject to a condition requiring the implementation of an archaeological watching brief during groundworks associated with the development.

#### 5 SOILS AND TOPOGRAPHY

- 5.1 Crowland is situated in the fens of south Lincolnshire. The site and surrounding area lies at approximately 5m OD. Soils at the site are Ireton Association loamy over sandy soils formed in glaciofluvial deposits (Hodge *et al.* 1984, 229).

#### 6 THE ARCHAEOLOGY

- 6.1 Crowland lies on a gravel ridge and several prehistoric burial mounds have been identified on this ridge in the vicinity of the village. Roman pottery has also been found in the town, though there is no clear evidence for a Roman period settlement.



- 6.2 Crowland came to prominence during the early medieval period. An abbey was founded there by the late 10th century and became a focus of settlement during the later medieval period. The present village of Crowland probably largely superimposes the medieval settlement. An archaeological watching brief undertaken on land adjacent to West Street revealed deposits of late medieval and post-medieval date (Archaeological Project Services 1998).

## 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 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 and 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 Lincolnshire County Archaeological Officer; South Holland 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 Lincolnshire County Archaeological Officer. 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.

<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
Non-pottery Artefacts	J Cowgill, Independent Specialist
Animal Bones	Environmental Archaeology Consultancy
Environmental Analysis	J Rackham, Independent Specialist
Human Remains Analysis	R Gowland, Independent Specialist

## 17 INSURANCES

- 17.1 Archaeological Project Services, as part of the Heritage Trust of Lincolnshire, maintains Employers Liability Insurance of £10,000,000, together with Public and Products Liability insurances, each with indemnity of £5,000,000. Copies of insurance documentation can be supplied on request.

## 18 COPYRIGHT

- 18.1 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.
- 18.2 Licence will also be given to the archaeological curators to use the documentary archive for educational, public and research purposes.
- 18.3 In the case of non-satisfactory settlement of account then copyright will remain fully and exclusively with Archaeological Project Services. In these circumstances it will be an infringement under the *Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988* for the client to pass any report, partial report, or copy of same, to any third party. Reports submitted in good faith by Archaeological Project Services to any Planning Authority or archaeological curator will be removed from said planning Authority and/or archaeological curator. The Planning Authority and/or archaeological curator will be notified by Archaeological Project Services that the use of any such information previously supplied constitutes an infringement under the *Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988* and may result in legal action.
- 18.4 The author of any report or specialist contribution to a report shall retain intellectual copyright of their work and may make use of their work for educational or research purposes or for further publication.

## 19 BIBLIOGRAPHY

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Specification: Version 1, 17<sup>th</sup> January 2000



## Appendix 2

### CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

No.	Description	Interpretation
001	Friable dark blackish brown sandy silt, occasional tile fragments, 0.3m thick	Topsoil/Garden soil
002	Firm mid brown clayey silt, 0.3m thick, diffuse boundary with 003	Subsoil
003	Firm mid brown becoming yellower with depth clayey silt, 0.2m thick, diffuse boundaries with 002 and 004	Subsoil and natural interchange
004	Firm reddish yellow clayey silt, >0.1m thick, diffuse boundary with 003	Natural deposit

## Appendix 3

### GLOSSARY

<b>Bronze Age</b>	A period characterised by the introduction of bronze into the country for tools, between 2250 and 800 BC.
<b>Context</b>	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).
<b>Cut</b>	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.
<b>Iron Age</b>	A period characterised by the introduction of Iron into the country for tools, between 800 BC and AD 50.
<b>Layer</b>	A layer is a term to describe an accumulation of soil or other material that is not contained within a cut.
<b>Medieval</b>	The Middle Ages, dating from approximately AD 1066-1500.
<b>Natural</b>	Undisturbed deposit(s) of soil or rock which have accumulated without the influence of human activity.
<b>Neolithic</b>	The 'New Stone Age' period, part of the prehistoric era, dating from approximately 4500-2250 BC.
<b>Prehistoric</b>	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.
<b>Saxon</b>	Pertaining to the period dating from AD 410-1066 when England was largely settled by tribes from northern Germany

## Appendix 4

### THE ARCHIVE

The archive consists of:

4	Context records
1	Scale drawings
1	Photographic record 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: 2000.4

Archaeological Project Services Site Code: CWS00

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.