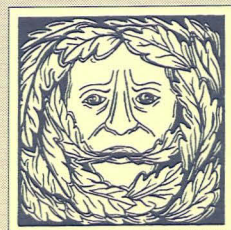


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**ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF
OF DEVELOPMENT AT
ORCHARD LODGE,
NORTHBECK,
SCREDINGTON,
LINCOLNSHIRE
(SNO 00)**



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ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF
OF DEVELOPMENT AT
ORCHARD LODGE,
NORTHBECK,
SCREDINGTON,
LINCOLNSHIRE
(SNO 00)

Work Undertaken For
Robert Doughty Consultants
on behalf of
Mrs B.A. Law

June 2000

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

Planning Application No: S/021/0113/96
National Grid Reference: TF 0956 4096
City and County Museum Accession No: 2000.116

*This is the wrong planning
application number. It
actually belongs to a
development site in
Brinkhill, E. Lindsey.*

A.P.S. Report No. 83/00

*Jill S
12.9.00.*



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1. SUMMARY

A watching brief was undertaken during construction of a garage extension at Orchard Lodge, Northbeck, Scredington, Lincolnshire.

The site lies in a hamlet located north of the medieval (AD 1066-1500) centre of the village and near three of the five moats known in Scredington.

Overlying natural clays were layers of subsoil and topsoil. No other archaeological features were observed. A quantity of finds was retrieved and include medieval and modern pottery, brick and animal bone.

2. INTRODUCTION

2.1 Definition of a Watching Brief

An archaeological watching brief is defined as *'a formal programme of observation and investigation conducted during any operation carried out for non-archaeological reasons within a specified area,..., where there is a possibility that archaeological deposits may be disturbed or destroyed,'* (IFA 1997).

2.2 Planning Background

On the 2nd May a watching brief was undertaken during the excavations of footings for a garage extension at Orchard Lodge, Northbeck, Scredington, Lincolnshire. Approval for the development was sought through the submission of planning application S/021/0113/96. Permission was granted subject to a standard condition for archaeological recording. Archaeological Project Services was commissioned by Robert Doughty Consultancy on the behalf of Mrs B.A. Law to undertake the watching brief.

2.3 Topography and Geology

Scredington is situated 6km south of Sleaford and 19km west of Grantham in North Kesteven District, Lincolnshire (Fig. 1).

Orchard Lodge is located 570m north of the centre of Scredington, within the hamlet of Northbeck, as defined by the parish church of St. Andrew (Fig. 2). The site is centred on National Grid Reference TF 0956 4096 at heights of c. 7m OD. The land slopes gently down southwards towards a small stream.

Local soils at the site are of the Denchworth Series, typically stagnogley soils (George and Robson 1978, 66). These soils are developed upon a solid geology of Jurassic Oxford Clay (GSGB 1972).

2.4 Archaeological Setting

Scredington is located in an area of known archaeological remains dating from the Romano-British period to the present day. A Romano-British ampulla, a small globular vessel for holding sacred unguents, was found from south of the village.

Scredington is first mentioned in the Domesday Survey of c. 1086. Referred to as *Scredinctun* and *Scredintune*, the name is derived from the Scandinavianized form of the Old English, *scrēad* meaning 'shred' or the personal name *Scīrheard* with the suffix *tūn*, meaning settlement (Ekwall 1974, 408). Northbeck simply means the north stream. The Domesday Survey records that the land was owned by Gilbert de Gand and Robert of Stafford and had a church and a priest and contained 24 acres of meadow (Foster and Longley 1976).

Medieval activity is principally represented by five moated enclosures, three of which lie within 400m of the development site. The

remaining two are located adjacent to Church Lane at the southern edge of the village. The most southerly moated area was excavated prior to its destruction in 1959 and revealed occupation from the mid 13th century (Butler 1963, 51). Other earthworks include the crofts and tofts of the medieval village. The hamlet of Northbeck may have originated in association with these moated areas.

The parish church of St. Andrew was largely built in 1869, although much use was made of medieval stonework, particularly the north nave, and of 14th century tombs (Pevsner and Harris 1989, 629).

3. AIMS

The aim of the archaeological investigation was to ensure that any archaeological features exposed during the repairs should be recorded and, if present, to determine their date, function and origin.

4. METHODS

Two trenches for the new garage extension were marked out and excavated by hand (Fig. 4). Exposed portions of the trenches were cleaned and rendered vertical. Selected deposits were partially excavated to determine their nature. The depth and thickness of each deposit was measured from the present ground surface. Each archaeological deposit or feature revealed within the trench was allocated a unique reference number (context number) with an individual written description. A list of all contexts and interpretations appears as Appendix 1. A photographic record was compiled and sections were drawn at a scale of 1:20. Recording of the deposits encountered during the watching brief was undertaken according to standard

Archaeological Project Services practice.

Finds recovered from the deposits identified in the watching brief were examined and a date was assigned where possible (Appendix 2). Records of the deposits and features recognised during the investigation were also examined. 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

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

The earliest deposit encountered during the investigation was a mottled greyish blue and yellowish brown clay (003), identified as the underlying natural (Fig. 4).

This was overlain by a 0.26m thick subsoil comprising greyish blue and reddish brown sandy clay (002), which contained sub-angular limestone fragments. A single sherd of medieval pottery produced in Nottingham was retrieved from this layer.

Sealing the subsoil was greyish brown clayey silt (001) measuring 0.28m thick and forming the present topsoil, although this may have been redeposited. A substantial gravel inclusion indicates that this area was gravelled prior to the development.

6. DISCUSSION

A natural deposit of clay may represent the weathered upper surface of the underlying Oxford Clay, though there is a slight possibility that the clay is an outlier of

boulder clay which occurs immediately to the south and east (GSGB 1972).

The subsoil represents natural soil formation, though the inclusion of pot may suggest this area was under cultivation. Modern deposits are restricted to the topsoil and a number of services (cables and sewers) that were observed but not recorded.

Finds retrieved from the investigation include 12th - 14th century pottery, imported from Nottingham, 19th century pottery, brick and animal bone.

7. CONCLUSIONS

Archaeological investigations were undertaken at Orchard Lodge, Northbeck, Screddington because the site lay to the north of the core of the medieval village and in close proximity to earthworks of three moated enclosures.

Natural clay, subsoil and topsoil were the only archaeological deposits encountered during the watching brief. A number of finds were retrieved and include medieval and 19th century pottery, animal bone and a brick fragment. The nature of the local site conditions would suggest that few environmental indicators (eg, seeds, pollen, plant macrofossils) would survive 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 R. Doughty of Robert Doughty Consultants who commissioned this investigation on the behalf of Mrs B.A. Law. The work was coordinated by Gary Taylor and this report

was edited by Tom Lane. Hilary Healey, the acting North Kesteven Community Archaeologist, kindly permitted examination of the relevant parish archaeological files.

9. PERSONNEL

Project Coordinator: Gary Taylor
Supervisors: Tobin Rayner
Finds Processing: Denise Buckley
Photographic reproduction: Sue Unsworth
Illustration: Paul Cope-Faulkner
Post-excavation Analyst: Paul Cope-Faulkner

10. BIBLIOGRAPHY

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

Pevsner, N. and Harris, J., 1989 *Lincolnshire, The Buildings of England* (2nd edition, revised Antram, N.)

11. ABBREVIATIONS

GSGB Geological Survey of Great Britain

IFA Institute of Field Archaeologists

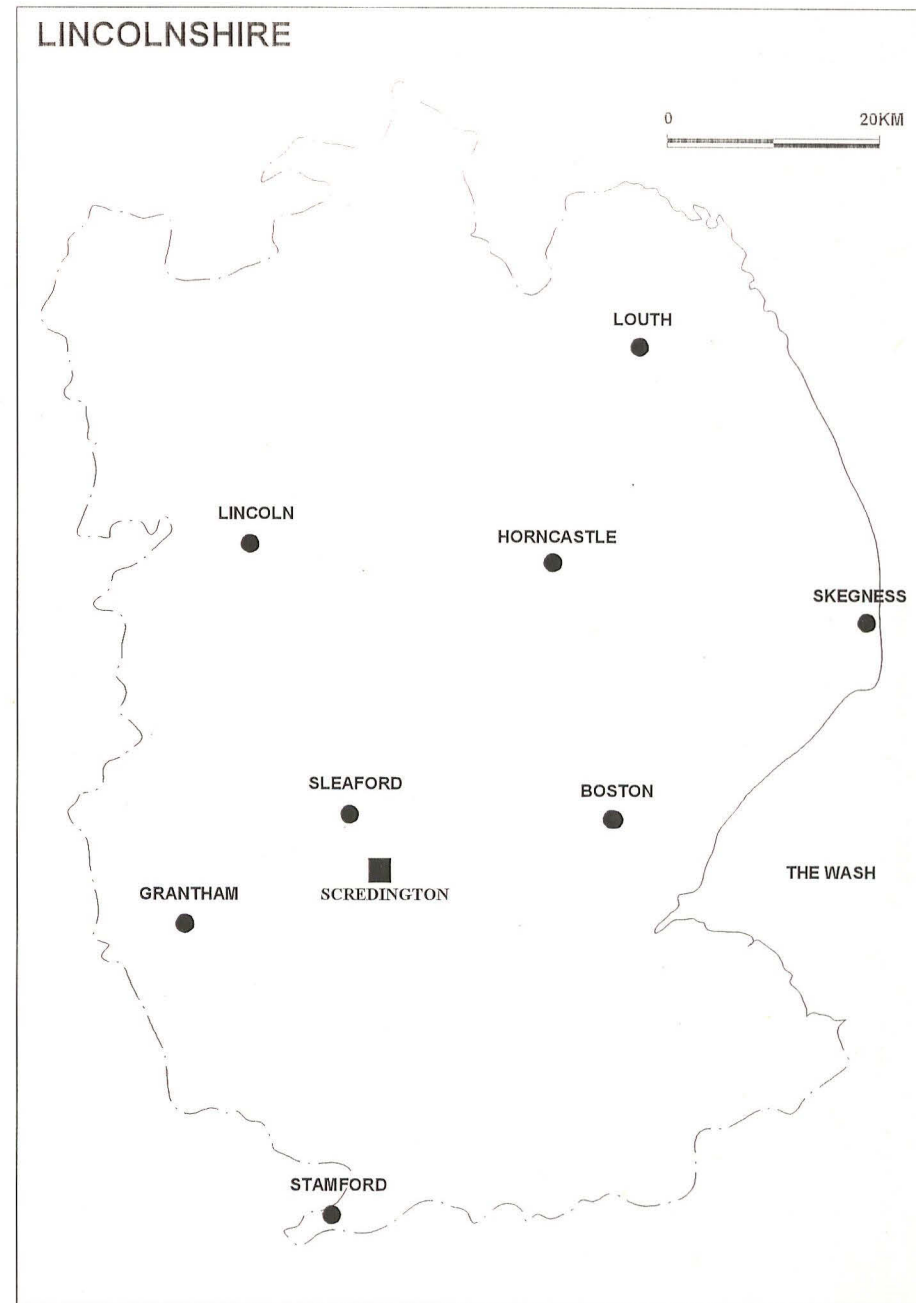


Figure 1 - General location map

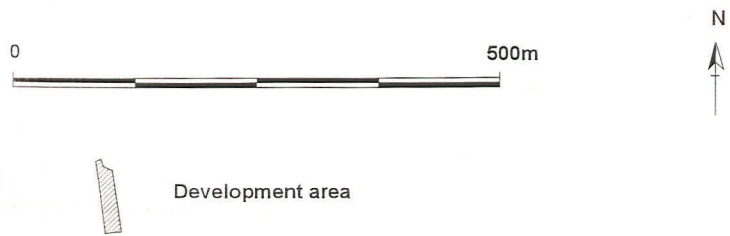


Figure 2 - Site Location Plan

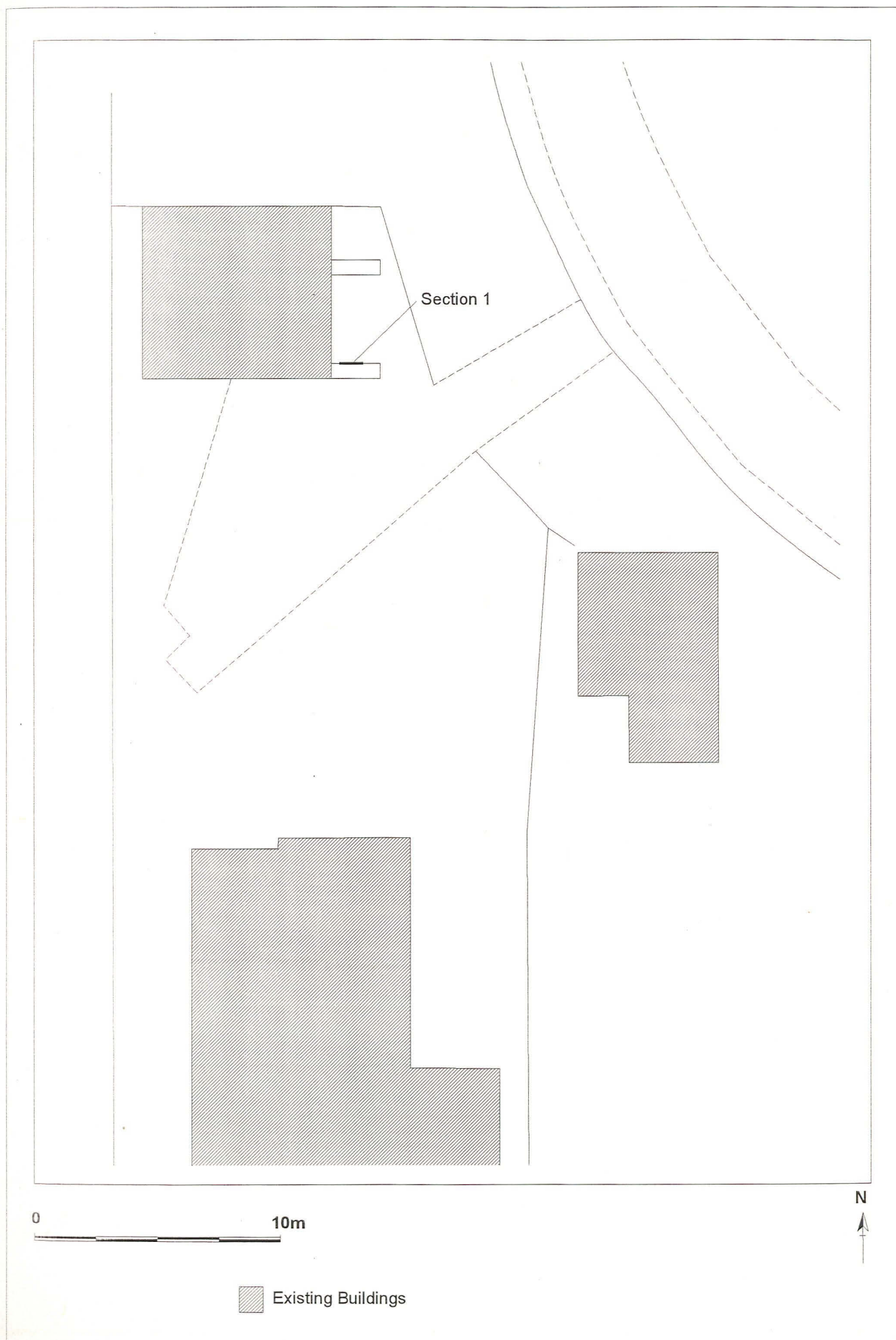
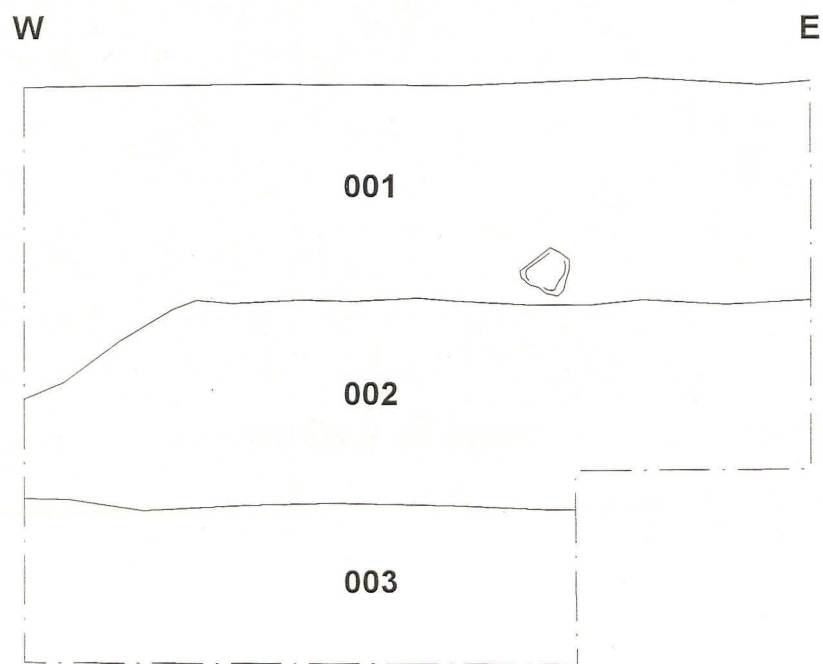


Figure 3 - Plan of development showing section location



Section 1



Limestone

Figure 4 - Section 1



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



Plate 2 - Section 1, looking north

Appendix 1

CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

No.	Description	Interpretation
001	Soft mid greyish brown clayey silt with occasional sub-angular limestone fragments, 0.28m thick	Topsoil
002	Soft mottled mid greyish blue/yellow reddish brown sandy clay with frequent sub-angular limestone fragments, 0.26m thick	Subsoil
003	Soft mottled mid greyish blue/yellowish brown clay, >0.21m thick	Natural deposit

Appendix 2

THE FINDS

by Paul Cope-Faulkner, Hilary Healey, Phil Mills and Gary Taylor

Provenance

The material was recovered from topsoil (001) and subsoil (002) layers.

The earlier pottery fragment is a product of kilns at Nottingham, 50km to the west of Screddington. However, the later pottery was probably made in Staffordshire.

Range

The range of material is detailed in the tables.

The earliest artefact is a pottery sherd of medieval date, though the majority of the small assemblage is relatively recent, from the 18th -20th century.

Table 1: The Finds

CONTEXT	DESCRIPTION	DATE
001	3x creamware, 18 th -early 19 th century 2x brick, machine-made, frogged, ?20 th century 1x cattle sized skull fragment	?20 th century
002	1x Nottingham pale sandy ware, ?12 th -14 th century	?12 th -14 th century

Condition

All of the material is in good condition and presents no long-term storage problems. The assemblage should be archived by material class.

Documentation

Archaeological investigations have been undertaken in Screddington previously (Cope-Faulkner 1994). Details of archaeological sites and finds in the area are maintained in the files of the North Kesteven Community Archaeologist and Lincolnshire County archaeological Sites and Monuments Record.

Potential

The assemblage has limited potential though the medieval sherd may suggest activity of that period in the vicinity.

References

Cope-Faulkner, P., 1994 *Archaeological Watching Brief at Screddington, Lincolnshire (SMR94)*, unpublished APS Report

Appendix 3

GLOSSARY

Boulder Clay	A deposit formed after the retreat of a glacier. Also known as till, this material is generally unsorted and can comprise of rock flour to boulders to rocks of quite substantial size.
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).
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.
Romano-British	Pertaining to the period dating from AD 43-410 when the Romans occupied Britain.

Appendix 4

THE ARCHIVE

The archive consists of:

3	Context records
1	Photographic record sheets
1	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: 2000.116

Archaeological Project Services Site Code: SNO 00

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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