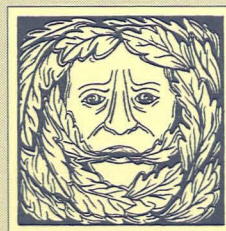


JB⁺
SMR

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF
AT 2 HARDWICK ESTATE, KIRTON,
LINCOLNSHIRE
(KHE00)

Boston
Bow



A P S
ARCHAEOLOGICAL
PROJECT
SERVICES



00/17

Event LI 1404
Source LI 6160
" 6161

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF
AT 2 HARDWICK ESTATE, KIRTON,
LINCOLNSHIRE
(KHE00)**

*Boston
Boro*

Work Undertaken For
Mr Barkworth

Report Compiled by
James Snee

June 2000

National Grid Reference: TF 3063 3883
City and County Museum Accession No: LCNCC : 2000.137
Planning Application No: FP99248

A.P.S. Report No. 100/00



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	3
7.	Conclusions	3
8.	Acknowledgements	3
9.	Personnel	3
10.	Bibliography	3
11.	Abbreviations	4

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 Foundation Plan and Section 1

List of Plates

- Plate 1 General view of the development area, looking south
- Plate 2 Representative section, looking west

1. SUMMARY

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken during the construction of a garage extension at 2 Hardwick Estate, Kirton, Lincolnshire as the site lies within an area of archaeological activity associated with the medieval town.

However, only modern topsoil and alluvial silt were exposed by the excavations. Similar silt deposits have been recorded on other sites in the town and are associated with late medieval and post medieval flooding. It is possible that archaeological remains from the medieval period or earlier were sealed beneath the silt, but the excavations did not delve sufficiently deep to disturb them.

No artefacts were recovered during the investigation and due to the nature of the soils exposed few environmental indicators (seeds, pollen etc.) will have survived other than through charring.

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 5th May 2000, an archaeological watching brief was undertaken during the groundworks associated with the construction of a garage extension at 2 Hardwick Estate, Kirton, Lincolnshire. Approval for the development was sought

through the submission of planning application FP99248 to Boston Borough Council and granted subject to a standard condition for an archaeological watching brief. The watching brief was carried out in accordance with a specification designed by Archaeological Project Services (Appendix 1).

2.3 Topography and Geology

Kirton is situated 6km southwest of Boston and approximately 16km north of Spalding, in Boston District, Lincolnshire (Fig. 1).

The site is adjacent to the junction of Boston Road and Hardwick Road to the north of the town centre, at a National Grid Reference TF 3063 3883, at a height of c. 4m OD. The site is fairly level ground.

Local soils are of the Tanvats Association typical alluvial gley soils developed in marine alluvium (Hodge *et al* 1984, 214). Beneath this marine alluvium is glacial drift that was deposited in a geological basin between the Lincolnshire Wolds and East Anglian Heights (Harden 1978, 5). These glacial deposits in turn overlie a solid geology of Jurassic clays, probably the West Walton Formation (BGS 1996).

2.4 Archaeological Setting

A neolithic stone axe, an import into the fens, and an Bronze Age tumulus (though this may be a medieval salt-mound) provide the only indication of a prehistoric presence in the parish. Similarly, evidence for Roman activity is scarce, but is represented by Romano-British finds from along Willoughton Road c. 1km to the northwest. This spread of artefacts may represent the location of a settlement site.

Significantly greater evidence is available

for use of the area in the medieval period. Kirton is referred to in the Domesday Book of 1086 AD and was an important medieval town, though it has since declined in favour of Boston. The centre of the town is dominated by the parish church of SS Peter and Paul which was originally built in the 12th century although substantially altered, and reduced in size, in the early 19th century. Located outside the town were three sizable houses of medieval date, Bozon Hall, Littlebury Hall and Orme Hall, all now demolished. Medieval and later pottery has been recovered at the northwestern edge of the town (Cope-Faulkner 1994).

French and German jettons (counting piece or token) of 15th and 16th century date have been found in the centre of the town (Cope Faulkner 1994). Also in the town centre, close to the church, is the Old King's Head Inn of early 16th century date (Pevsner & Harris 1989).

Previous investigations have revealed a sequence of deposits from the Late Saxon period to the modern day at the High Street (Cope Faulkner 1996) and evidence of medieval activity on the Station Road frontage (Taylor 1994). On both of these sites the medieval and earlier deposits were sealed below naturally deposited alluvium. Similarly undated archaeological activity was covered by alluvium on Willington Road, near the Town centre (Hambly, 2000).

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

The footing for the extension was excavated by hand to a depth of 0.9m as required by the development. Following excavation, the sides of the trenches were examined, cleaned and rendered vertical, where it was necessary to do so. The depth 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

5.1 Description of the results

Two phases of activity were identified:

Phase 1	Natural deposits
Phase 2	Modern deposits

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

5.2 Phase 1: Natural deposits

The earliest deposit exposed during the watching brief was clean, soft, orange-brown silt (002). This deposit was greater than 0.56m thick and extended across the entire site.

5.3 Phase 2: Modern deposits

Overlying the brown silt (002) was 0.34m of soft, grey-brown silt (001) with occasional small stones. This layer covered the entire development area and made up the modern ground level. Cutting through this layer was a modern brick lined well for rain water, associated with the modern house.

6. DISCUSSION

The natural (Phase 1) brown silt was probably naturally deposited alluvium. Similar deposits that seal medieval and earlier remains have been recorded in the centre of Kirton. It is believed that these deposits were caused by flooding events after the 14th century.

Covering the site was a modern (phase 2) topsoil deposit which made up the modern ground surface.

7. CONCLUSIONS

Archaeological investigations at Hardwick Estate, Kirton were carried out because the site lies within an area of archaeological activity associated with the medieval town.

However, only modern topsoil and alluvial silt were exposed by the excavations. It is possible that archaeological remains from the medieval period or earlier were sealed beneath the silt, but the excavations did not delve sufficiently deep to disturb them.

No artefacts were recovered during the investigation and due to the nature of the soils exposed few environmental indicators (seeds, pollen *etc.*) will have survived other than through charring.

8. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeological Project Services would like to acknowledge the assistance of Mr. Barkworth who commissioned the fieldwork and post-excavation analysis. The work was coordinated by Tom Lane, who also edited this report. The Community Archaeologist for Boston Borough Council kindly allowed access to the relevant reports and parish files.

9. PERSONNEL

Project Coordinator: Tom Lane
Supervisor: James Snee
Illustration: Rachel Hall
Post-excavation Analyst: James Snee

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11. ABBREVIATIONS

APS Archaeological Project Services

BGS British Geological Survey

IFA Institute of Field Archaeologists

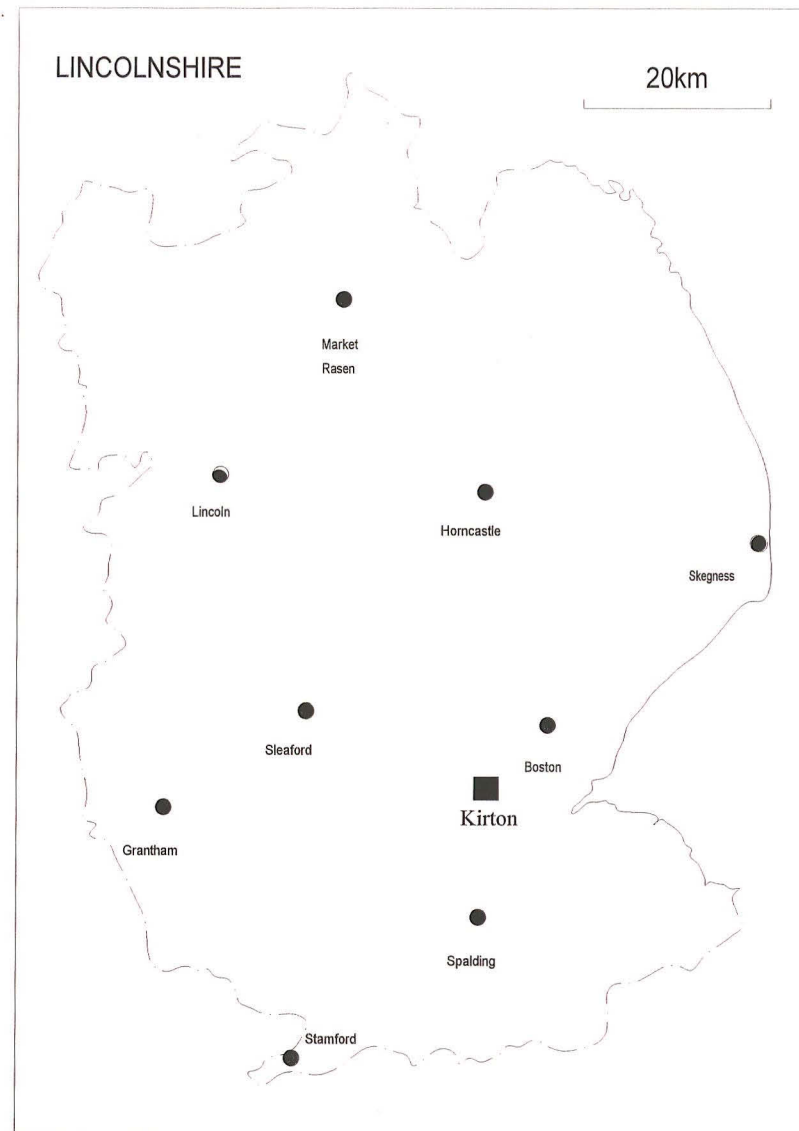


Figure 1 General Location Plan

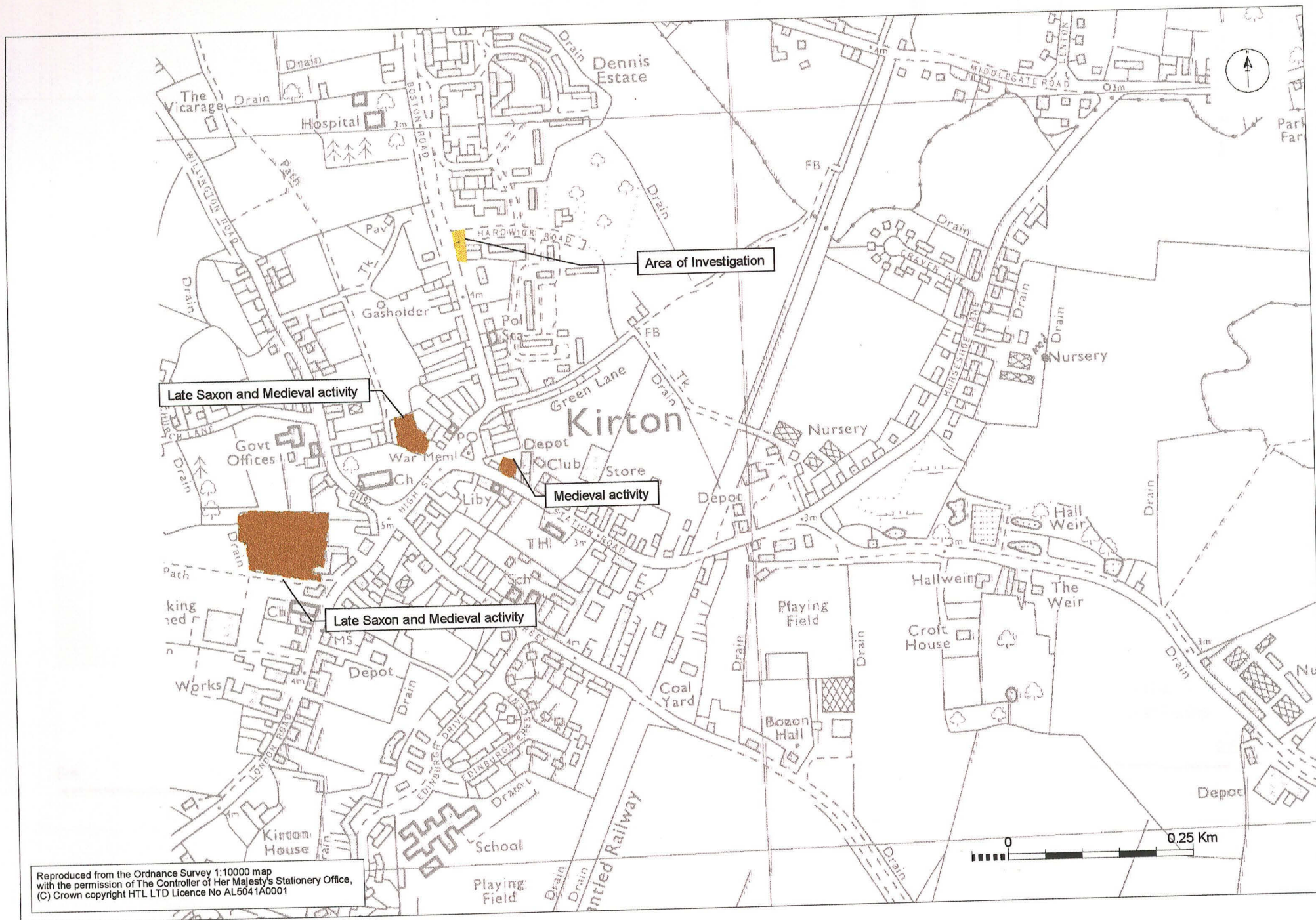


Figure 2 Site Location

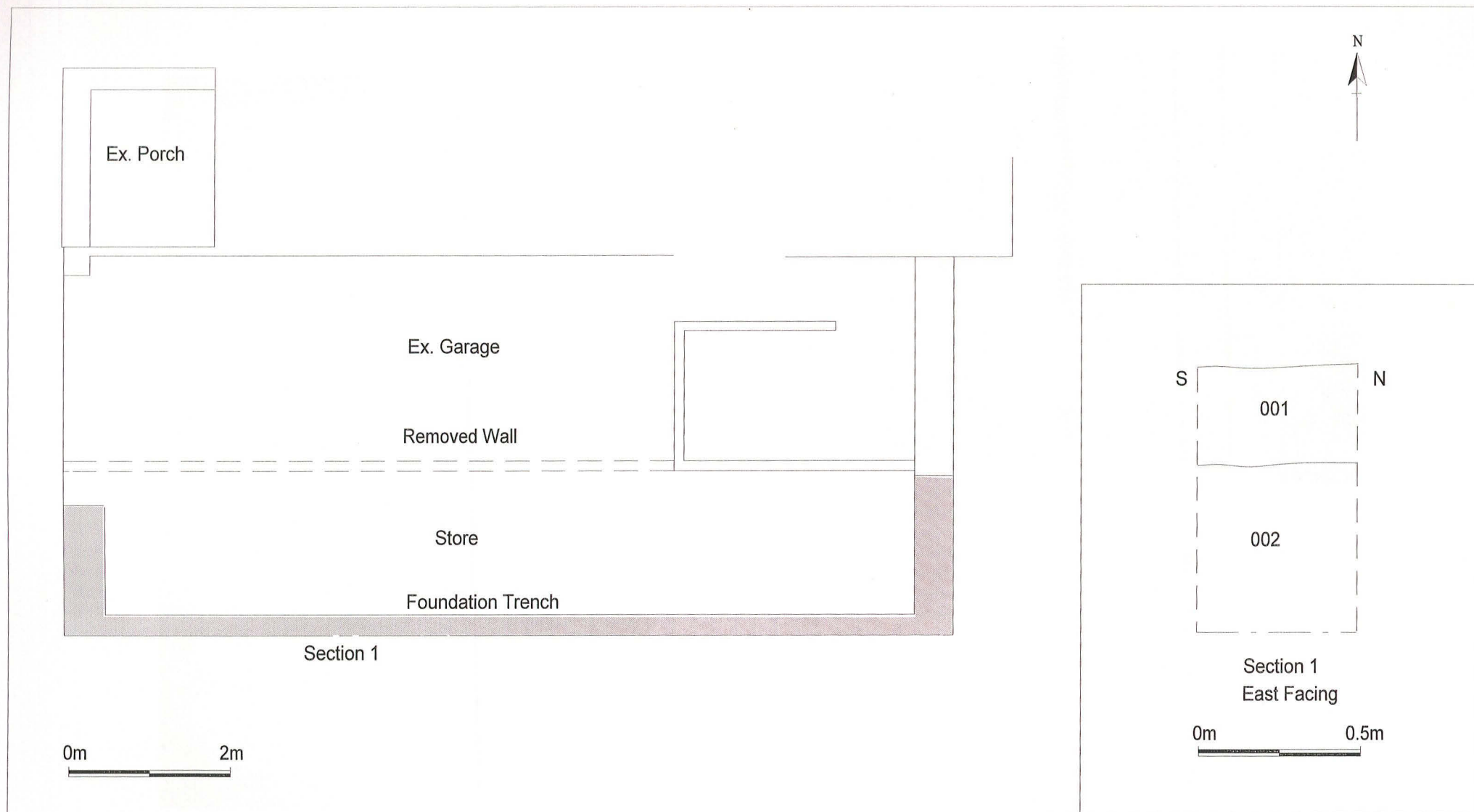


Figure 3 Foundation Plan and Section 1



◀ Plate 1 General view of the development area, looking south

▼ Plate 2 Representative section, looking west



Appendix 1

**LAND AT
HARDWICK ESTATE,
KIRTON,
LINCOLNSHIRE**

**SPECIFICATION FOR
ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF**

**PREPARED FOR
Mr BARKWORTH**

**BY
ARCHAEOLOGICAL PROJECT SERVICES
Institute of Field Archaeologists'
Registered Organisation No. 21**

MAY 2000

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1	SUMMARY	1
2	INTRODUCTION	1
3	SITE LOCATION	1
4	PLANNING BACKGROUND	1
5	SOILS AND TOPOGRAPHY	2
6	ARCHAEOLOGICAL OVERVIEW	2
7	AIMS AND OBJECTIVES	2
8	SITE OPERATIONS	3
9	POST EXCAVATION	4
10	REPORT DEPOSITION	5
11	ARCHIVE	5
12	PUBLICATION	5
13	CURATORIAL RESPONSIBILITY	6
14	VARIATIONS	6
15	PROGRAMME OF WORKS AND STAFFING LEVELS	6
16	SPECIALISTS TO BE USED DURING THE PROJECT	6
17	INSURANCES	7
18	COPYRIGHT	7
19	BIBLIOGRAPHY	8

1 SUMMARY

- 1.1 *A watching brief is required during development works at Hardwick Estate, Kirton, Lincolnshire.*
- 1.2 *The area is archaeologically sensitive, located close to Late Saxon and medieval remains.*
- 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 groundworks connected with development at Hardwick Estate, Kirton, Lincs. The site is located at National Grid Reference TF 308 389.
- 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 Kirton is located 4km southwest of Boston in the fens of south Lincolnshire. The site is in the northeastern part of the village centre, off Hardwick Road, about 500m northeast of the parish church at nation grid reference TF 308 389.

4 PLANNING BACKGROUND

- 4.1 A planning application was submitted to Boston Borough Council for proposed extensions to existing buildings. Permission is subject to a condition requiring the implementation of an archaeological watching brief during groundworks.

5 SOILS AND TOPOGRAPHY

- 5.1 The site and surrounding area is on a gentle slope down to the east at c. 4m OD. Soils at the site are typical alluvial gleys of the Tanvats Association developed on marine alluvium (Hodge *et al.* 1984, 319). Beneath this alluvium is glacial drift that was deposited in a geological basin between the Lincolnshire Wolds and the East Anglian Heights.

6 ARCHAEOLOGICAL OVERVIEW

- 6.1 The site lies close to the medieval village core, about 500m northeast of the parish church. It is likely that the church was the focus of settlement in the Late Saxon period and investigations

immediately east of the church revealed evidence of occupation of the period, perhaps a farm yard. Medieval settlement and evidence of craft working was subsequently established in the area (Archaeological Project Services 1996). Other investigations, about 350m to the south on Station Road, also revealed early medieval occupation remains dating to the 13th-14th century (Archaeological Project Services 1994a). At both sites the medieval settlement was interrupted by apparent flooding which laid down silts over the Late Saxon and medieval archaeological remains. Later medieval and post-medieval occupation was subsequently established on the surface of the flood silts at both sites (Archaeological Project Services 1994a; 1996). Recent investigations on Willington Road, to the west of the site, revealed medieval settlement evidence.

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 practice 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 Boston Community Archaeologist; Boston Borough 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 Boston Community Archaeologist. They will be given written notice of 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 principle 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; Public and Products Liability insurances, each with indemnity of £5,000,000; and Professional Indemnity. 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.

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Specification: Version 1, 05-05-00

Appendix 2

Context Description

Context	Section	Description	Interpretation
001	1	Soft, grey-brown silt, with occasional small stones, <i>c.</i> 0.34m thick.	Topsoil
002	1	Soft, orange-brown silt, greater than 0.56m thick.	Naturally deposited alluvium

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).
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.
Neolithic	The 'New Stone Age' period, part of the prehistoric era, dating from approximately 4000-2000BC.
Post-medieval	The period following the Middle Ages, dating from approximately AD 1500-1800.
Prehistoric	The period of human history prior to the introduction of writing. In Britain the prehistoric period lasts from the first evidence of human occupation about 500,000 BC, until the Roman invasion in the middle of the 1st century AD.
Romano-British	Pertaining to the period dating from AD 43-410 when the Romans occupied Britain.
Saxon	Pertaining to the period dating from AD 410-1066 when England was largely settled by tribes from northern Germany.
Tumulus	An earth mound, usually with ancient funereal associations.

Appendix 4

THE ARCHIVE

The archive consists of:

2	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: LCNCC : 2000.137

Archaeological Project Services Site Code: KHE00

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.