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**ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF
ON LAND NORTH OF THE CAUSEWAY,
SWINESHEAD, *Boston*
LINCOLNSHIRE
(STC 99)**



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ARCHAEOLOGICAL
PROJECT
SERVICES



Lincolnshire County Council
Archives & Records Section
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**ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF
ON LAND NORTH OF THE CAUSEWAY,
SWINESHEAD, *Boston*
LINCOLNSHIRE
(STC 99)**

Work Undertaken For
Charles Hunt (Builder)

August 2000

Report Compiled by
James Albone BSc, MA, PIFA

National Grid Reference: TF 2391 4000
Planning Reference: B/99/0478
LCNCC Accession No. and Code: 266.99 SWC99



A.P.S. Report No. 012/00

*correct? perhaps 102/00?
others are all 10m something*

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1. SUMMARY

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Archaeological Project Services at The Causeway, Swineshead, Lincolnshire during the excavation of foundation trenches for a detached bungalow.

The watching brief was imposed as the site lay close to the core of the medieval (AD 1066-1500) village.

A possible pit of medieval date, containing pottery and slag, and an early post-medieval ditch were recorded. An undated brick-lined well, probably of 19th century date, was also identified.

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 or site on land or underwater, where there is a possibility that archaeological deposits may be disturbed or destroyed' (IFA, 1997).

2.2 Planning background

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken on 20th October 1999 during the excavation of foundation trenches for a detached bungalow at The Causeway, Swineshead, Lincolnshire (Planning Application B/99/0478). Archaeological monitoring was recommended by the Boston District Community Archaeologist, in order to determine the presence of any archaeological remains.

Archaeological Project Services was commissioned by Charles Hunt (Builder), to undertake the archaeological watching brief.

2.3 Topography and Geology

Swineshead is situated 9km southwest of Boston in its administrative district. The site at The Causeway lies on the south side of the village at NGR TF 2391 4000. The site lies at a height of below 5m OD on silty gley alluvial soils of the Romney Series (Robson 1990, 26).

2.4 Archaeological Setting

The earliest archaeological evidence from Swineshead consists of two prehistoric stone axes, one of which is dated to the Bronze Age (2250 - 1000 BC).

Romano-British (43 - 410 AD) pottery has been found at a number of locations in the parish including at Broad Ings, which lies c.1km to the south-west of the site (Southworth 1996, 1).

The earliest reference to Swineshead is in the Anglo-Saxon Chronicle in c.675 AD when King Aethelred gave land at Swineshead to the monastery at Peterborough (Garmonsway ed. 1992, 37). The place-name *Swineshaefed* is Old English in origin and refers to, 'the source of the creek' (Cameron 1998, 122). Previous archaeological investigations have identified Mid to Late Saxon (650 - 1066 AD) pottery and ditches representing a possible settlement focus in the North End part of the village (Albone 1999, 10). A Late Saxon strap end has been found in the village centre.

Swineshead is not mentioned in the Domesday Survey of 1086, although the settlements of Drayton and Estevening

which lay in the parish are recorded (Morris 1986). Estevening was abandoned as a settlement in the 14th century and lies 600m to the west of the development site.

During the medieval period (1066 - 1500), Swineshead was an important market town with charters for two annual fairs. The remains of two medieval crosses survive in the centre of the village. The church is dedicated to St Mary and constructed in the Decorated and Perpendicular styles (Pevsner 1995, 736). A number of medieval artefacts, including pottery and coins, have been found in the vicinity of the development.

3. AIMS

The aim of the watching brief was to ensure that any archaeological features exposed by the groundworks were recorded and that any remains disturbed were recovered.

4. METHODS

Vegetation cover was removed prior to the start of the development. The foundation trenches were excavated by mechanical excavator to a depth of approximately 0.85m. This element of the groundworks was monitored by Archaeological Projects Services.

Each deposit identified was allocated a unique reference number (Context number) with an individual written description. Sections of archaeological features were drawn at a scale of 1:20 and their location recorded on a plan of the foundation trenches. Photographic recording, depicting the setting of the site and the archaeological features, was undertaken.

5. RESULTS

Records of deposits excavated during the development were examined. A list of contexts and interpretations appears as Appendix 2. Phasing was assigned based on the nature of the deposits.

- Phase 1 Natural Deposits
- Phase 2 Medieval Deposits
- Phase 3 Post-medieval Deposits
- Phase 4 Modern Structures and Deposits

5.1 Natural Deposits

The earliest deposit encountered during the watching brief was a medium yellow coarse silt (010) which was greater than 0.24m in thickness. Overlying this deposit was medium grey clayey silt (009) and light to medium yellow silt (008 & 018).

5.2 Medieval Deposits

A single archaeological feature of medieval date was identified during the watching brief.

A possible pit (017) was located in the south-west corner of the house plot. This feature was not fully excavated and its extent was not established. The lowest fills identified in this feature consisted of mixed orange-brown, black and grey silty clays (014 & 016). The upper of these two deposits contained fragments of baked clay and shells. Between these deposits was a lens of organic black clay containing occasional fragments of baked clay (015).

A deposit of light grey silt (013) was recorded on the south side of the feature. The limit of the foundation trenches did not fully expose this deposit and it was difficult to interpret it in relation to the other fills of this feature. The upper fill of this pit was

medium brownish grey silt (012) which contained a sherd of 13th to 14th century pottery and iron slag.

5.3 Post-Medieval Deposits

A large north to south aligned ditch (007) of post-medieval date was identified at the eastern end of the house plot. Although this feature was not fully excavated, due to groundwater problems, it appeared to have a steep sided U-shaped profile.

The earliest fill in this ditch was mixed dark greyish green and yellow organic silty clay (006). The lower fills of this ditch consisted of a medium greyish brown clayey silt (005) which was sealed beneath a lens of dark brownish grey clayey silt (004). A fragment of a cattle mandible (*Cope-Faulkner pers comm.*) was recovered from the lower of these two deposits. The upper fill of this feature was a medium brown silt (003). Two sherds of pottery dating to the 14th to 15th and 16th to 17th centuries were recovered from this deposit.

Both the medieval and post-medieval features identified were sealed by a subsoil (002). This deposit consisted of a slightly reddish brown silt which contained sherds of 16th to 17th century pottery.

5.4 Modern Structures and Deposits

A brick well (011) was identified on the western side of the house plot. The types of bricks used in its construction suggested that it was of 19th century date. It had a diameter of c. 1.6m and was at least 1.8m deep but no detailed recording was undertaken as the structure was very unsafe.

A dark greyish brown silt topsoil (001) was present across all of the site. Modern pottery and glass were recovered from this deposit

but were not retained.

6. DISCUSSION

A possible medieval pit (017) identified on the southwest side of the plot is difficult to interpret from the exposed sections.

A large north to south aligned ditch (007) containing early post-medieval pottery was identified on the eastern part of the site. It is likely that this feature formed a property boundary as well as functioning as a drainage ditch.

7. CONCLUSION

Archaeological investigations at The Causeway, Swineshead, were undertaken as the site lay close to the core of the medieval village. A small quantity of 14th to 17th century pottery and iron slag was recovered from the two excavated features (007 & 017).

This limited evidence does not suggest that the site lay in an area of dense settlement activity during the medieval and early post-medieval periods. The presence of small quantities of iron slag from pit 017 may indicate that smithing activity was taking place in the vicinity.

8. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeological Project Services would like to acknowledge the assistance of Charles Hunt (Builder) who commissioned the watching brief. The work was coordinated by Gary Taylor and this report was edited by Tom Lane.

9. PERSONNEL

Project Coordinator: Gary Taylor
Site Supervisor: James Albone
Finds Processing: Denise Buckley
CAD Illustration: James Albone
Post-Excavation Analysis: James Albone

10. BIBLIOGRAPHY

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11. ABBREVIATIONS

IFA Institute of Field Archaeologists

PCA Pre-Construct Archaeology

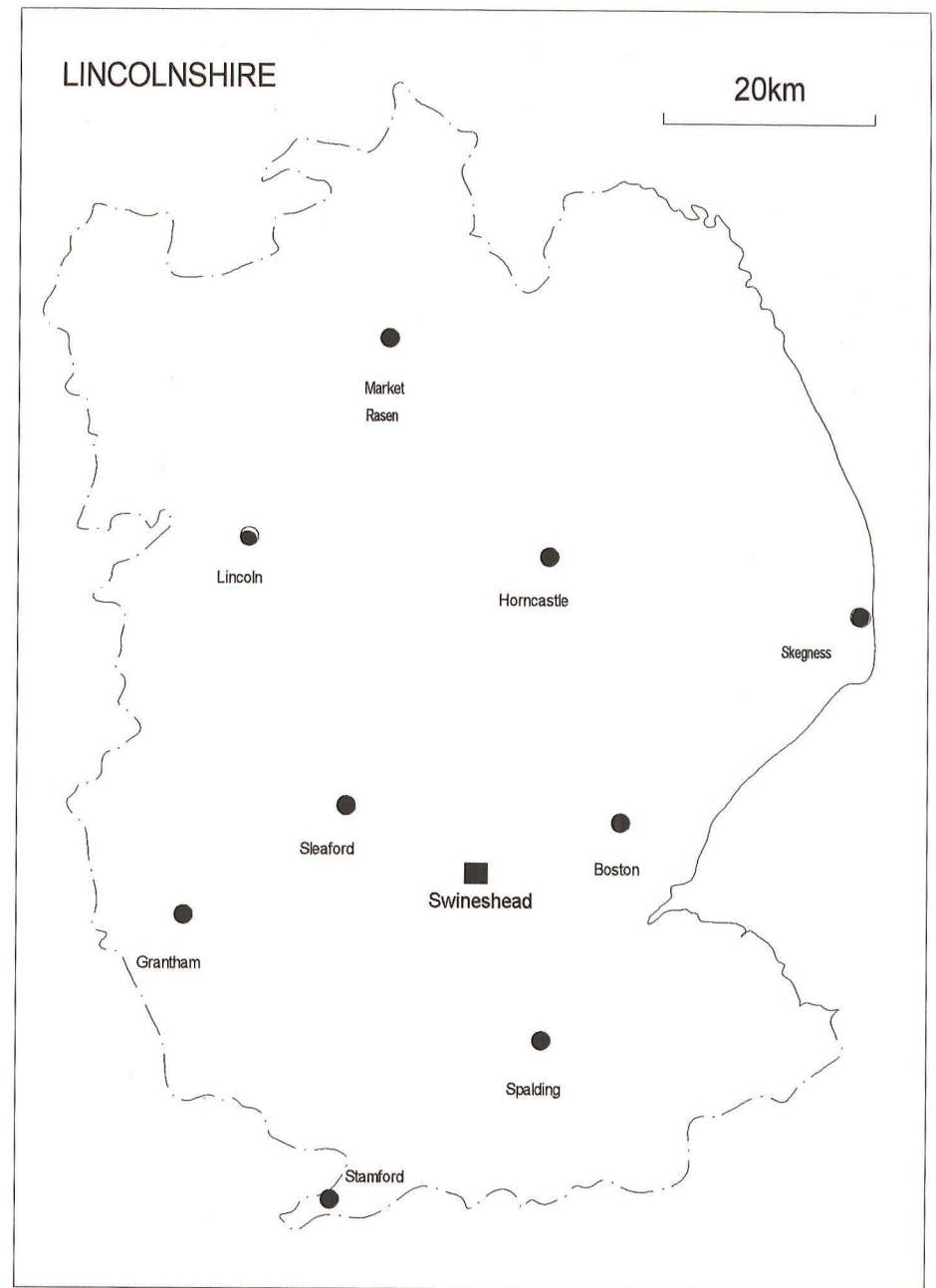
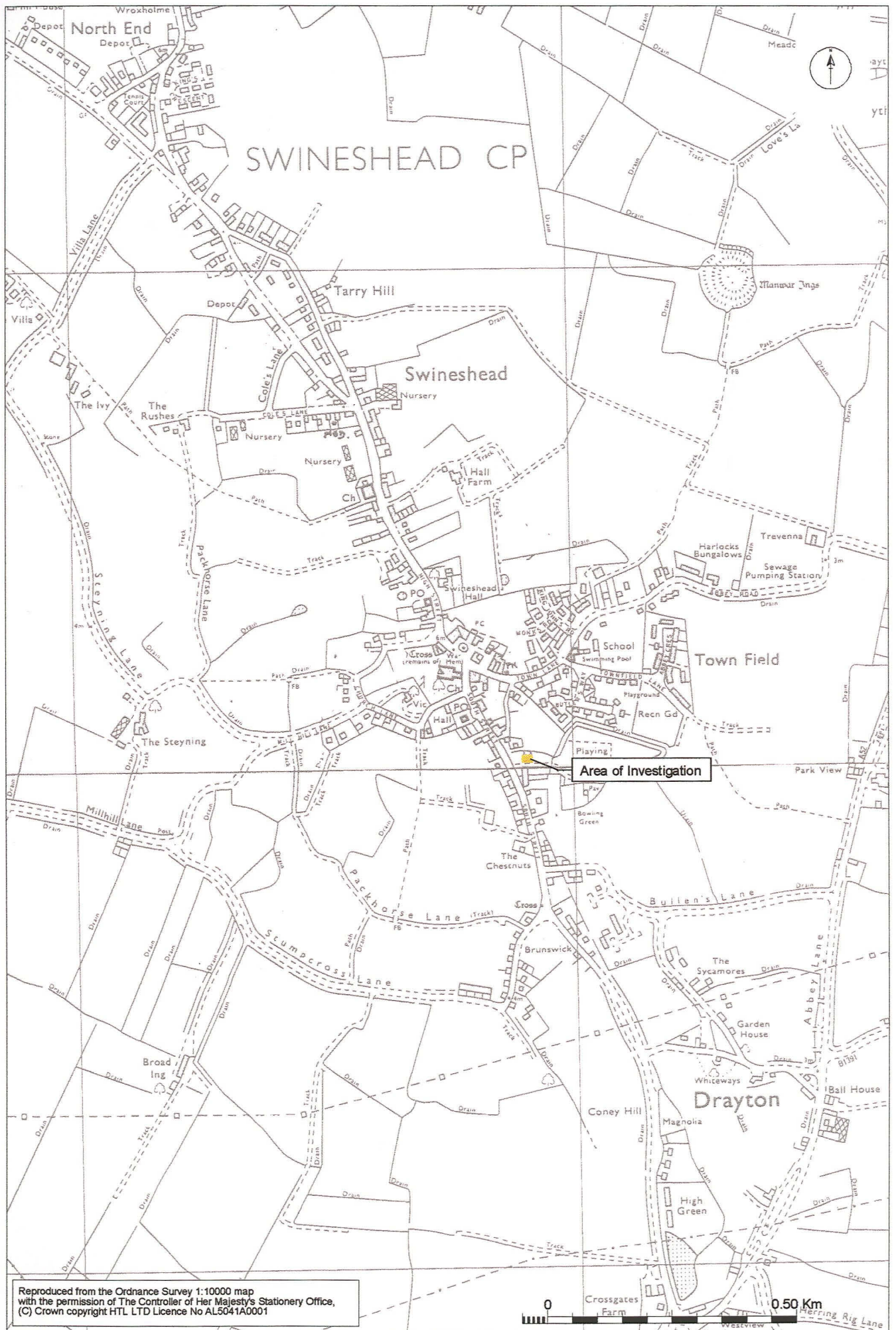


Figure 1: General Location Plan



Reproduced from the Ordnance Survey 1:10000 map
 with the permission of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office,
 (C) Crown copyright HTL LTD Licence No AL5041A0001

Figure 2 Site Location Plan

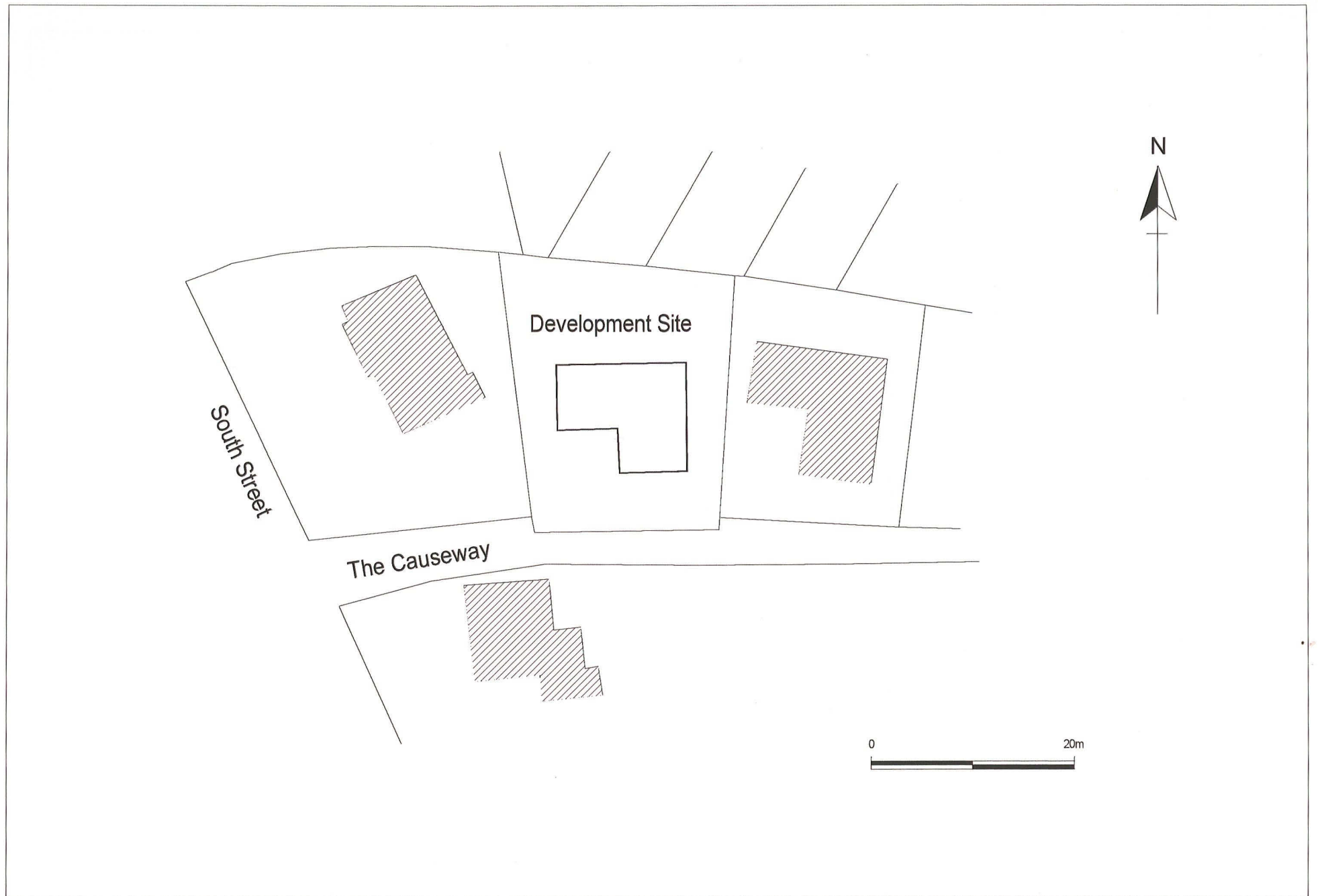


Figure 3: Plan showing the location of the development area

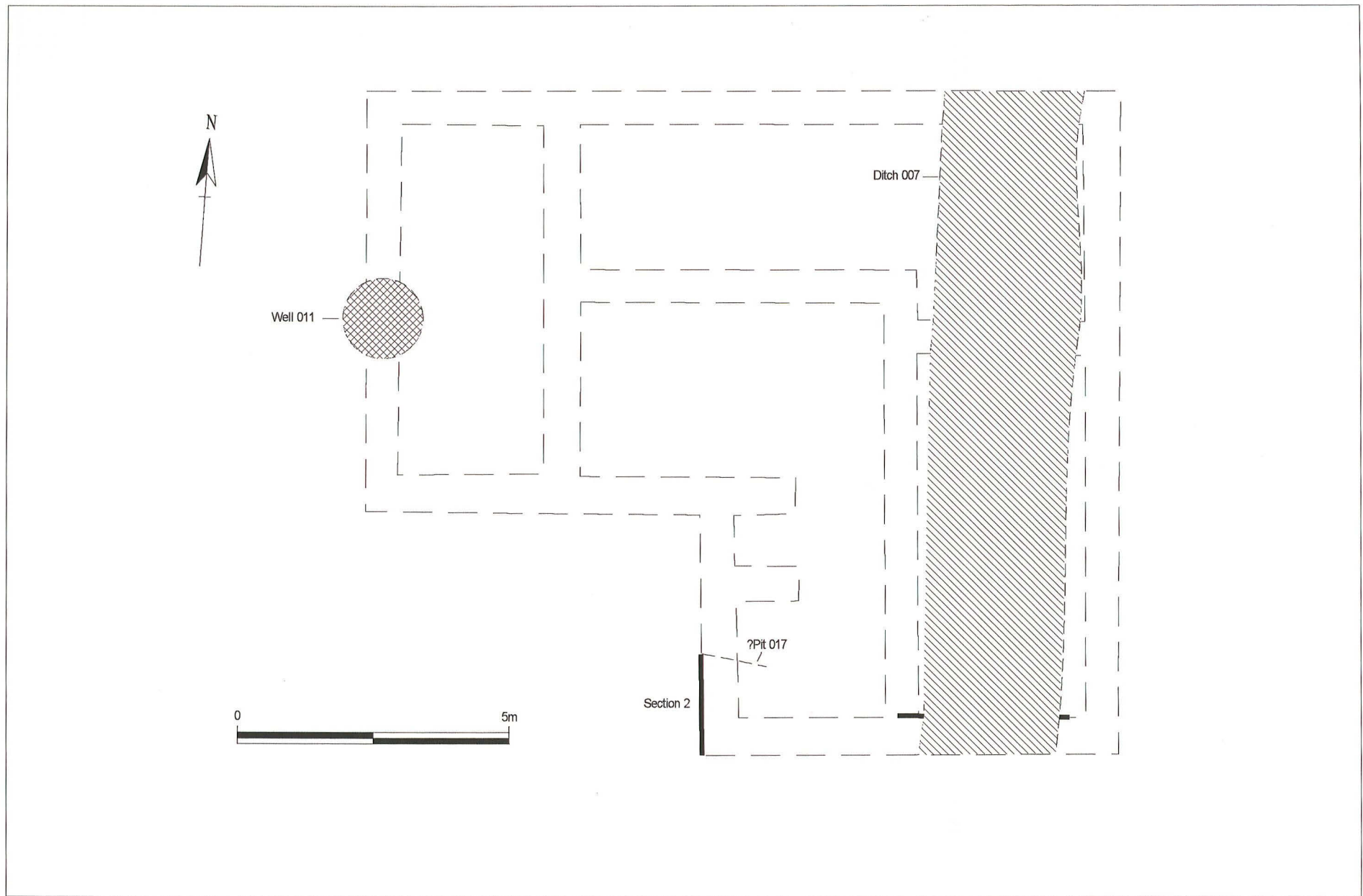
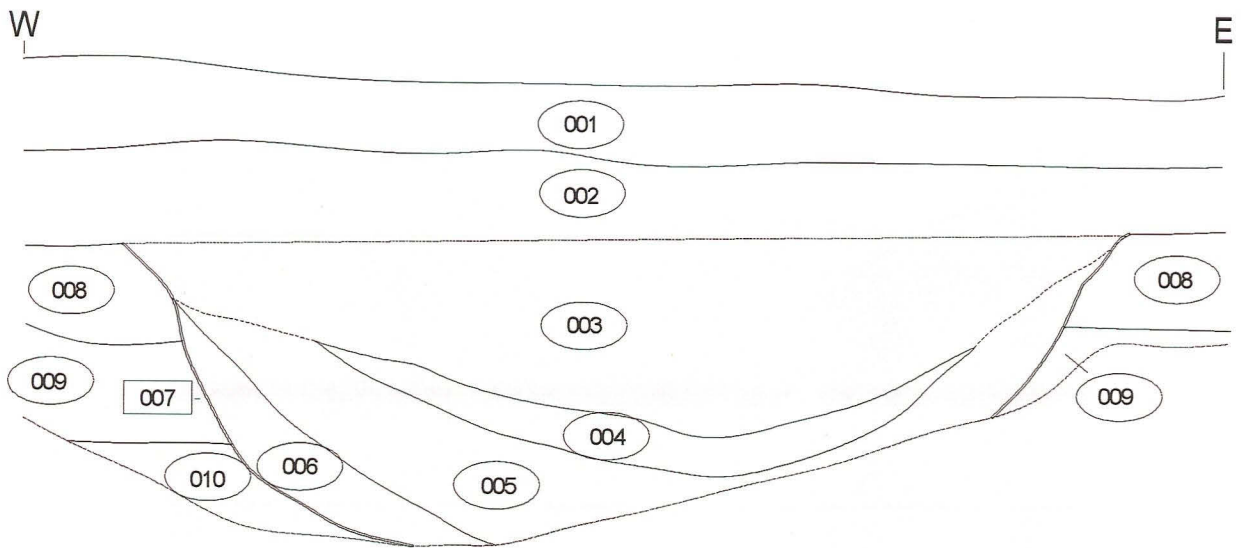
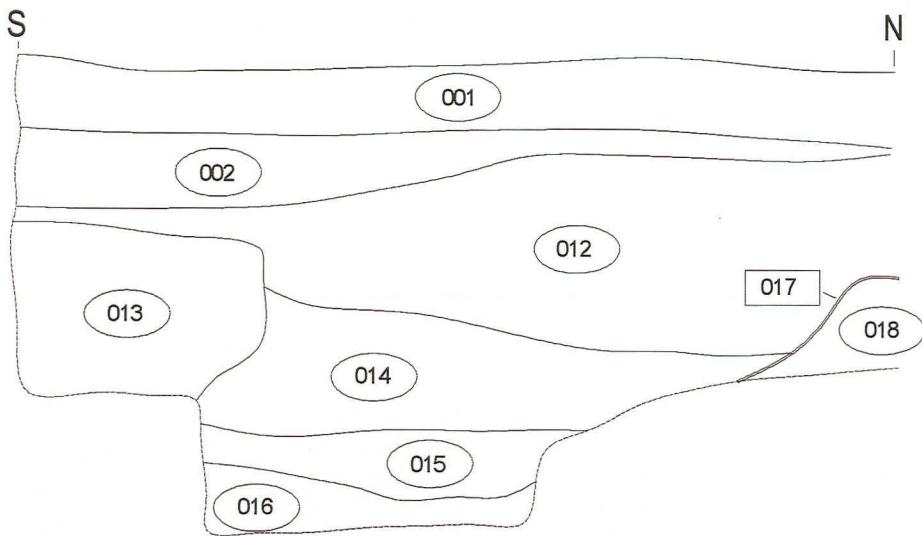


Figure 4: Plan of the foundation trenches showing the location of the archaeological features



Section 1



Section 2

Figure 5: Sections 1 and 2



Plate 1 General view of the site, looking north west,
showing Swineshead church tower in the distance



Plate 2 Ditch 007, looking north east



Plate 3 Pit 017, looking south



Plate 4 Well 011, looking west

Appendix 1

ARCHAEOLOGICAL PROJECT BRIEF ENHANCED OBSERVATION AND RECORDING

The Causeway, Swineshead

1. SUMMARY

- 1.1 This document is the brief for an archaeological Enhanced Observation and Recording brief to be carried out during the construction of a detached bungalow and garage at The Causeway, Swineshead.
- 1.2 This brief should be used by archaeological contractors as the basis for the preparation of a detailed archaeological project specification. In response to this brief contractors will be expected to provide details of the proposed scheme of work, to include the anticipated working methods, timescales and staffing levels. This brief is supplementary to the Lincolnshire Archaeological Handbook, which can be provided by Lincolnshire County Council Archaeology Office, or at <http://WWW.lincsc.c.u-net.com/archhome.htm>.
- 1.3 All of the detailed specifications will be submitted for approval to the Boston Community Archaeologist. The client will be free to choose between those specifications, which are considered to satisfy adequately this brief.
- 1.4 **All contractors supplying specifications should refer to SCAUM Principles of Competitive Tendering (SCAUM Guidelines and Notes on Competitive Tendering for Archaeological Services 1996).**
- 1.5 The Enhanced nature of this brief requires that full investigation of archaeology take place. Therefore pauses in groundworking may be appropriate to ensure complete understanding through excavation, recording and sampling of material of any exposed archaeologically sensitive areas.
- 1.6 This brief should not be used after the date April 2000 after which the Community Archaeologist should be contacted.

2. Site Location and Description

- 2.1 Boston is situated in the south Lincolnshire Fens, approximately 45km southeast of Lincoln and 7km from the northwest coast of the Wash. Swineshead is situated approximately 9km east south east of Boston.

3. Planning Background

- 3.1 A planning application was submitted to Boston Borough Council (B99/0478/FULL) and granted permission subject to a condition requiring a Scheme of Works defined as an archaeological Enhanced Observation and Recording brief.

4. Archaeological Background

- 4.1 Two prehistoric stone axes have been recovered from Swineshead. The prehistoric land surface, however, is known to be deeply buried under later peat and alluvial silts.
- 4.2 Romano-British pottery has been recorded within the locality of the development. Fieldwalking has produced a significant quantity of material from this period within a 5km radius of this site. Air photographs show a series of enclosures that are probably of late Iron Age/early Romano-British date.
- 4.3 Late Saxon pottery recovered from the area indicates activity during the Anglo-Scandinavian period. A late Saxon strap-end has also been found near the centre of the village. The earliest historical reference to Swineshead dates approximately to 650 A.D. (the Anglo-Saxon Chronicle refers to 'Swineshaefed').
- 4.4 Medieval pottery finds are common in the village, and evidence from chance finds and previous fieldwork suggests that occupation from this period is widespread. The surrounding landscape has several standing monuments from this period including St Mary's church and Manwar Ings Castle. Stenning or Estovening, a Deserted Medieval Village mentioned in the Domesday Book, is located approximately 600 metres west of the development area.
- 4.5 Swineshead was a market town during the medieval period with charters for two annual fairs. There is a stone market cross in the centre of the village which provided a focus for trading activities during the medieval period and later.
- 4.6 Swineshead was also an important port during the medieval period. Many medieval artefacts, including pottery, coins and copper alloy objects (including a buckle identified as Saxon) have been recovered north of Bullens Lane. The course of the River Swin is believed to have run through this area, and it has been suggested that this location was the site of the dock or wharf of Swineshead.

5. REQUIREMENT FOR WORK.

- 5.1 The objective of the Enhanced Observation should be to ensure that any archaeological features exposed by the groundworks are recorded and interpreted and that any remains disturbed are recovered. To this end archaeological deposits or features are to be systematically examined, therefore extra time must be given to fully excavate and record archaeologically sensitive areas.
- 5.2 Any adjustments to the brief for the Enhanced Observation and Recording Brief project should only be made after discussion with the Boston Community Archaeologist.
- 5.3 The following details should be given in the contractor's specification:
 - 5.3.1 A projected timetable must be agreed for the various stages of work.

- 5.3.2 The staff structure and numbers must be detailed. **This should include lists of specialists and their role in the project.**
- 5.3.3 It is expected that all on-site work will be carried out in a way that complies with the relevant Health and Safety Legislation and that due consideration will be given to site security.
- 5.3.4 The recovery and recording strategies to be used must be described in full.
- 5.3.5 An estimate of time and resources allocated for post excavation work and report production.
- 5.3.6 The contingencies for extended excavation/recording/sampling required for this brief.

6. METHODS

- 6.1 The investigation should be carried out by a recognised archaeological body in accordance with the code of conduct of The Institute of Field Archaeologists.
- 6.2 The Enhanced Observation and Recording Brief should involve:
 - 6.2.1 archaeological supervision of soil stripping;
 - 6.2.2 inspection of subsoil for archaeological features;
 - 6.2.3 recording of archaeological features in plan;
 - 6.2.4 full excavation of features;
 - 6.2.5 archaeological supervision of subsoil stripping;
 - 6.2.6 inspection of natural for archaeological features and excavation, recording of them;
 - 6.2.7 sampling of deposits which warrant further investigations
 - 6.2.8 any human remains encountered must be left in situ and only removed if absolutely necessary. The contractor must comply with all statutory consents and licences under the Disused Burial Grounds (Amendment) Act, 1981 or other Burial Acts regarding the exhumation and interment of human remains. It will also be necessary to comply with all reasonable requests of interested parties as to the method of removal, reinterment or disposal of the remains or associated items. Attempt must be made at all times not to cause offence to any interested parties;
 - 6.2.9 If discovered during excavation finds of gold and silver must be archaeologically removed to a safe place and reported to the local Coroner immediately (within 14

days) in accordance with the procedures of Treasure Act 1997 and Code of Practice. If removal of such finds is not possible on the same day then adequate security arrangements must be made.

7. MONITORING ARRANGEMENTS

- 7.1 The Boston Community Archaeologist of will be responsible for monitoring progress and standards throughout the project and will require at least seven days notice prior to the commencement of the work.** The Community Archaeologist should be kept informed of any unexpected discoveries and regularly updated on the project's progress. They should be allowed access to the site at their convenience and will comply with any health and safety requirements associated with the site.

8. REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

- 8.1** A full report should be produced and deposited with the Boston Community Archaeologist, Boston Council Planning Department, the Developer and the County Sites and Monuments Record. The report should include:
- 8.1.1 location plan of the trenches;
 - 8.1.2 section and plan drawing, with ground level, Ordnance Datum, vertical and horizontal scales as appropriate;
 - 8.1.3 specialist descriptions and discussions of artefacts and ecofacts;
 - 8.1.4 an indication of potential archaeological deposits not disturbed by the present development;
 - 8.1.5 colour photographs should be utilised to illustrate specific points or for general views;
- 8.2** After agreement with the landowner, arrangements should be made for long term storage of all artefacts in the City and County Museum, Lincoln, as outlined in that Museum's document 'Conditions for the acceptance of Project Archives'. The City and County Museum should be contacted at the earliest possible opportunity so that the full cost implications of the archive deposition can be taken into account.
- 8.3** A site archive should be produced and deposited with the artefacts as detailed in 8.2.

9. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION.

- 9.1** This document attempts to define the best practice expected of an enhanced archaeological Observation and Recording brief but cannot fully anticipate the conditions that will be encountered as work progresses. However, changes to the approved programme of excavation are only to be made with the prior written approval of the Community Archaeologist.

9.2 Further contact addresses:

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Mr T Page
City and County Museum
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LN2 5AL

Brief set by Boston Community Archaeologist October 1999

Appendix 2

THE FINDS

Hilary Healey MPhil and Gary Taylor MA

Provenance

Almost all the pottery is relatively local, derived from kilns at Toynton All Saints, Lincoln and Bourne, all within 40km of Swineshead. However, one of the latest pieces, the Midlands Purple-type ware recovered from context (003) may have been made in Staffordshire or elsewhere in the central midlands of England.

Range

The range of material is detailed in the following table;

Table 1: The Pottery and other artefacts

Context	Description	Latest Date
002	1x Lincoln ware, 13 th - 14 th century 1x Toynton All Saints ware, 14 th -15 th century 1x Bourne D ware, 16 th - 17 th century	16 th - 17 th century
003	1x Toynton All Saints ware, 14 th -15 th century 1x Midlands Purple-type, black glazed, 16 th - 17 th century	16 th - 17 th century
012	1x Lincoln ware, 13 th -14 th century 3x iron slag	13 th -14 th century

Table 2: The Animal Bone

Context	Description
005	Cattle mandible

The iron slag from context (012) is probably from smithing, though one of the pieces could be smelting slag or a hearth bottom fragment. One of the slag fragments contains coal, which was the fuel used in the industrial process.

Condition

All of the material is in good condition and presents no long-term storage problems. Archive storage of the material is by material class.

Documentation

Archaeological investigations at numerous locations in Swineshead parish have been undertaken and reported previously. Records of archaeological remains and finds in Swineshead are maintained in the County Sites and Monuments Record and the files of the Boston Community Archaeologist.

Potential

In general, the assemblage has low-moderate potential and suggests the presence of medieval occupation on, or in proximity to, the site. Additionally, the iron slag is of moderate potential and suggests the possibility of medieval iron smithing in the vicinity.

Appendix 3

CONTEXT SUMMARY

No.	Section	Description	Interpretation
001	ALL	Dark greyish brown silt.	Topsoil
002	ALL	Medium reddish brown silt	Subsoil
003	1	Medium brown silt	Upper fill of ditch 007
004	1	Dark brownish grey clayey silt	Lens in fill of ditch 007
005	1	Medium brownish grey clayey silt	Secondary fill of 007
006	1	Mixed greyish green , light yellow and black silty clay	Primary fill of ditch 007
007	1	Cut of medieval ditch with U-shaped profile	Boundary / drainage ditch
008	1	Light - medium yellow silt	Natural
009	1	Medium grey clayey silt	Natural
010	1	Medium yellow silt	Natural
011	-	Undated circular brick structure	?19 th C well
012	2	Medium brownish grey silt	Upper fill of ?pit 017
013	2	Light yellowish grey silt	Fill within ?pit 017
014	2	Mixed orange-brown, black and dark grey silty clay	Fill within ?pit 017
015	2	Black organic clay	Fill within ?pit 017
016	2	Mixed orange-brown, black and dark grey silty clay	?Lower fill of ?pit 017
017	2	Cut of possible pit	?Pit of unknown function
018	2	Light yellow silt	Natural

Appendix 4

GLOSSARY

Bronze Age	A period characterised by the introduction of bronze into the country for tools, between 2250 and 800 BC.
Context	An archaeological context represents a distinct archaeological event or process. For example, the action of digging a pit creates a context (the cut) as does the process of its subsequent backfill (the fill). Each context encountered during an archaeological investigation is allocated a unique number by the archaeologist and a record sheet detailing the description and interpretations of the context (the context sheet) is created and placed in the site archive. Context numbers are identified within the report text by brackets, <i>e.g.</i> (004).
Cut	A cut refers to the physical action of digging a posthole, pit, ditch, foundation trench, <i>etc.</i> Once the fills of these features are removed during an archaeological investigation the original 'cut' is therefore exposed and subsequently recorded.
Decorated	Division of English Gothic architecture in use from <i>c.</i> 1290 - <i>c.</i> 1350.
Fill	Once a feature has been dug it begins to silt up (either slowly or rapidly) or it can be back-filled manually. The soil(s) which become contained by the 'cut' are referred to as its fill(s).
Layer	A layer is a term to describe an accumulation of soil or other material that is not contained within a cut.
Medieval	The Middle Ages, dating from approximately AD 1066-1500.
Natural	Undisturbed deposit(s) of soil or rock which have accumulated without the influence of human activity.
Perpendicular	Division of English Gothic architecture in use from <i>c.</i> 1350 - <i>c.</i> 1530.
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	The period dating from AD 410-1066 when England was largely settled by tribes from northern Germany

Appendix 5

THE ARCHIVE

The archive consists of:

18	Context records
2	Scale drawings
1	Context record sheet
1	Section record sheet
1	Photographic record sheet
1	Daily record sheets
1	Bag of pottery
1	Bag of animal bone and iron slag

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:

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 Museum Accession Number and Site Code: 266.99 SWC99

Archaeological Project Services Site Code: STC99

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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