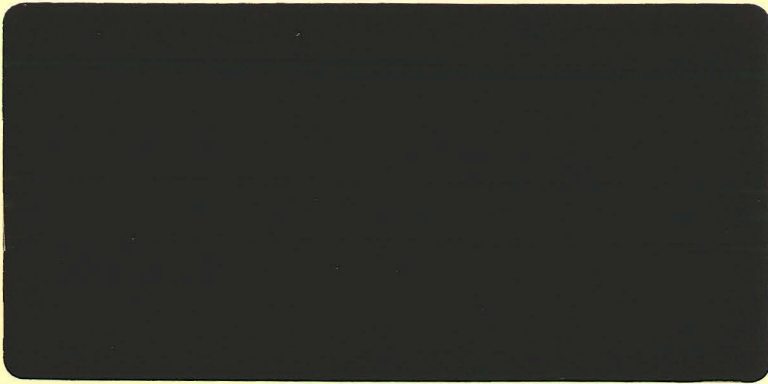


00/22

**AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF  
AT 83-85 MAREHAM LANE,  
SLEAFORD,  
LINCOLNSHIRE  
(SMLA 00)**



**A P S**  
ARCHAEOLOGICAL  
PROJECT  
SERVICES



19 JAN 01

Lincoln County, Oregon  
Archives of Oregon

EVENT L11516  
SOURCES L16303/6304  
PRN 61394 481148

**AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF  
AT 83-85 MAREHAM LANE,  
SLEAFORD,  
LINCOLNSHIRE  
(SMLA 00)**

Work Undertaken For  
Gelder Construction

Report Compiled by  
James Snee BSc

Decemebr 2000

National Grid Reference: TF 0735 4505  
Planning Application Number: N/57/122/99  
City and County Museum Accession No: LCNCC : 2000.45

A.P.S. Report No. 190/00



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## 1. SUMMARY

*A watching brief was undertaken during the development at land to the rear of 83-85 Mareham Lane, Sleaford, Lincolnshire.*

*The site lay within an area of known archaeological remains dating from the prehistoric to the Roman periods.*

*An undated but probably ancient pit was revealed, beneath a subsoil, probably a long-established agricultural layer. No finds were recorded.*

## 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

A watching brief was undertaken on 28<sup>th</sup> January 2000 during the excavations of footings for the first of two bungalows at 83-85 Mareham Lane, Sleaford, Lincolnshire. Approval for the development was sought through the submission of planning application N/57/122/99 to North Kesteven District Council. Permission was granted subject to a standard watching brief condition for archaeological recording.

The archaeological recording was commissioned by Gelder Construction and carried out by Archaeological Project Services in accordance with a specification accepted by the North Kesteven District

Council Heritage Officer (Appendix 1).

### 2.3 Topography and Geology

Sleaford lies approximately 27km south of Lincoln in the administrative district of North Kesteven. (Fig. 1). Mareham Lane is located on the southeast side of the town.

The development site is located on the northeast side of Mareham Lane, to the rear of numbers 83-85, at National Grid Reference TF 0735 4505 (Fig. 2). Currently the site is partly under grass and hardcore.

The site lies on a generally level landscape at approximately 12m OD. The local soils of the Curdridge Association, typically deep permeable, coarse loamy soils (Hodge *et al.* 1984, 154).

### 2.4 Archaeological Setting

There are no known archaeological finds from the development area, though prehistoric and Roman finds and deposits have been recorded in the vicinity.

Worked flints have been recovered approximately 150m to the north of the site and Bronze Age axes have been found to the north of the development area.

The line of Mareham Lane Roman road runs north-south approximately 600m to the east of the site. A brooch, coins and pottery dating from the Romano-British period have been recovered from various sites to the north of the development area.

A watching brief on land adjacent to Mareham Lane revealed a series of features such as ditches, gullies and pits and recovered fragments of Romano-British pottery (Herbert 1997).

### 3. AIMS

The aim of the archaeological investigation, as detailed in the specification (Appendix 1), was to ensure that any archaeological features exposed during the excavation of the foundation trenches and other areas of ground disturbance should be recorded and, if present, to determine their date, function and origin.

### 4. METHODS

The site was initially stripped of vegetation. The footings were excavated by machine using a toothed bucket to produce a trench *c.* 0.85m wide and *c.* 1.0m deep. All surfaces exposed by the excavation were examined and where necessary cleaned using a pointing trowel. Each archaeological deposit or feature revealed within the trench was allocated a unique reference number (context number) with an individual written description. A photographic record was compiled and sections were drawn at a scale of 1:10.

Records of the deposits and features recognised during the investigation were examined. A list of all contexts and interpretations appears as Appendix 2. Phasing was assigned based on the nature of the deposits and recognisable relationships between them, supplemented by artefact dating where relevant. A stratigraphic matrix of all identified deposits was produced.

### 5. RESULTS

Three phases were identified:

Phase 1: Natural deposits  
Phase 2: Undated deposits  
Phase 3: Modern deposits  
Archaeological contexts are listed below and

described. The numbers in brackets are the context numbers assigned in the field.

#### 5.1 Phase 1: Natural Deposits

The earliest deposit encountered during this investigation was moderately compacted, mid yellowish red-brown sand (003) with occasional inclusions of decayed stone. This natural deposit was greater than 0.55m thick and was encountered from a depth of *c.* 0.4m.

#### 5.2 Phase 2: Undated Deposits

Cutting the natural sand was a possible pit (005) with moderately steeply sloping sides. The pit was at least 0.25m deep though the base was below the limit of excavation and not recorded as the bottom of the trench was flooded. The pit was *c.* 3.85m wide and observable in the east section of the footing trenches but not the opposite side less than 1m to the west. Filling the pit was moderately compacted, mid brown silt and sand (004) containing occasional medium sized stones.

Overlying the natural sand (003) and sealing pit fill (004) was a layer of moderately compacted, mid yellow-brown sandy silt (002), between 0.12m and 0.30m thick and interpreted as a subsoil.

#### 5.3 Phase 3: Modern Deposits

Above the subsoil (002) was moderately compacted, mid to dark brown sandy silt topsoil (001). This deposit was approximately 0.30m thick and contained occasional small angular stones.

### 6. DISCUSSION

Phase 1 was represented by a natural sand deposit (003) typical of the glaciofluvial

geology in the area.

Cutting the natural sand was a large pit (005) of uncertain function (Phase 2). Although no artefacts were recovered from the feature, it was sealed by a 0.30m thick subsoil that was probably formed through prolonged agricultural activity. In consequence, the feature is likely to be pre-medieval in date. Moreover, previous investigations nearby revealed Roman remains beneath the subsoil (Herbert 1997).

Topsoil sealed the subsoil and formed the modern ground surface.

## 7. CONCLUSIONS

Archaeological investigations were undertaken at land to the rear of 83-85 Mareham Lane because the site lay within an area of known remains dating from the prehistoric to the Roman periods.

A single undated, though probably ancient, pit was revealed but was of uncertain function.

Although the trenches retained standing water there was no evidence of former waterlogging. As a result, palaeo-environmental evidence (plant remains) is only likely to survive through charring.

## 8. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeological Project Services wish to acknowledge the assistance of Gelder Construction who commissioned the fieldwork and post-excavation analysis. The work was coordinated by Denise Drury and this report was edited by Gary Taylor and Tom Lane. Kate Orr, the North Kesteven Heritage Officer, kindly permitted examination of the relevant parish

archaeological files.

## 9. PERSONNEL

Project Coordinator: Denise Drury  
Supervisor: Fiona Walker  
Illustration: Rachael Hall  
Post-excavation Analyst: James Snee  
Photographic reproduction: Sue Unsworth

## 10. BIBLIOGRAPHY

Herbert, N., 1997 *Archaeological Watching Brief of Drain Recutting on Land Adjacent to Mareham Lane, Sleaford, Lincolnshire*, unpublished APS report 3/97.

Hodge, C.A.H., Burton, R.G.O., Corbett, W.M., Evans, R., and Seale, R.S., 1984 *Soils and their use in Eastern England*, Soil Survey of England and Wales 13

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

## 11. ABBREVIATIONS

APS      Archaeological Project Services  
IFA      Institute of Field Archaeologists



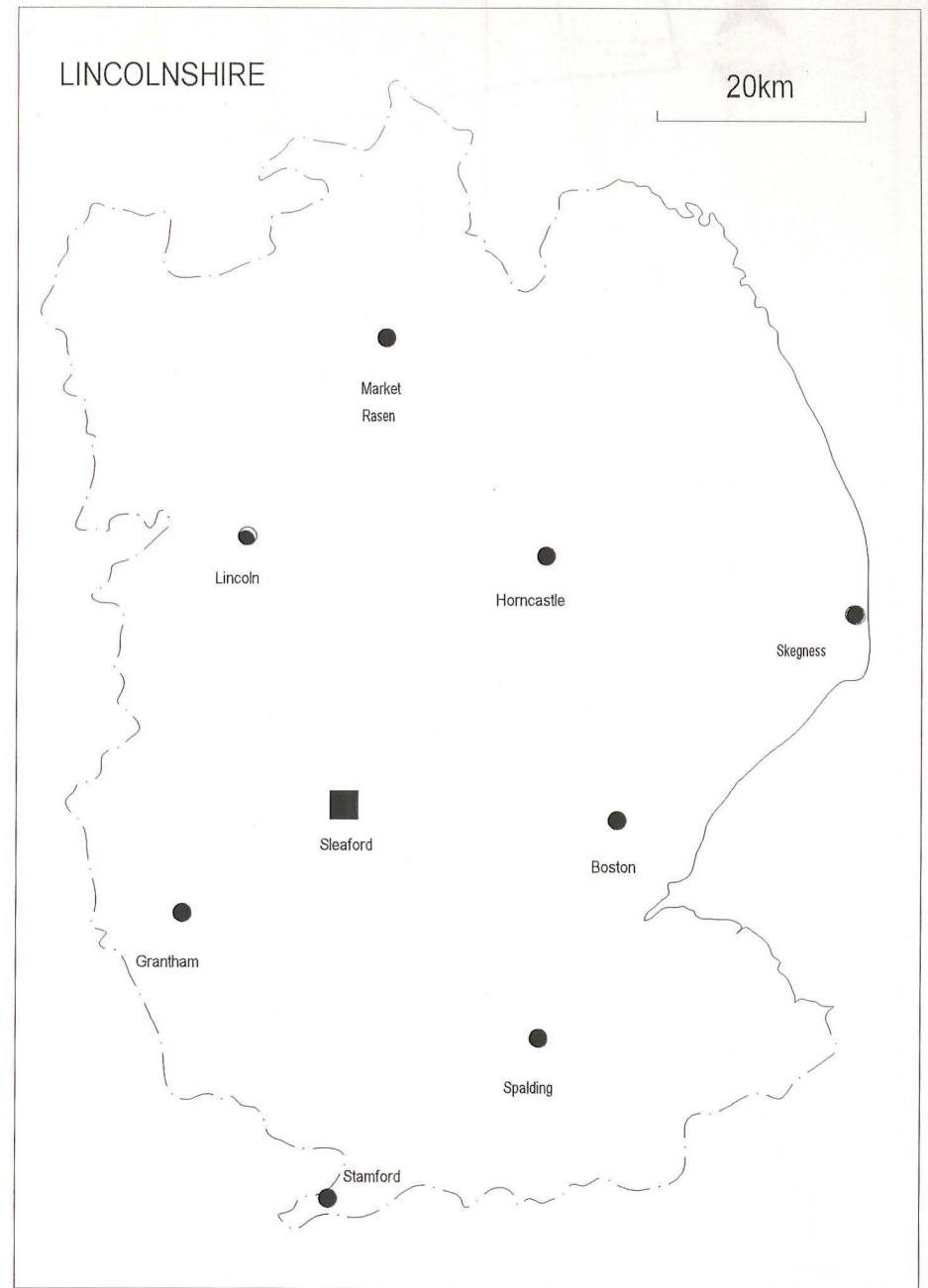


Figure 1 General Location Plan

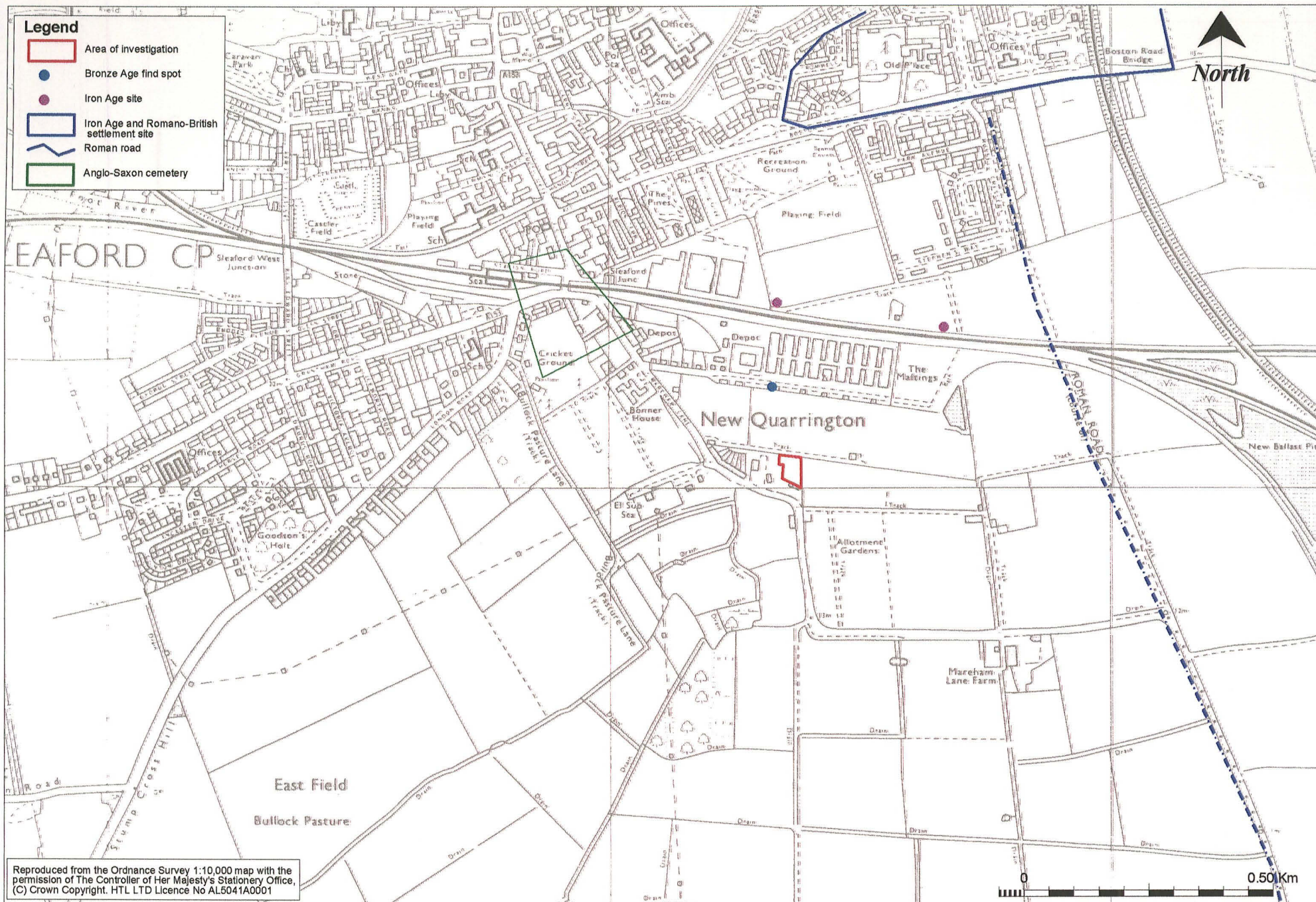


Figure 2 Location plan and archaeological setting

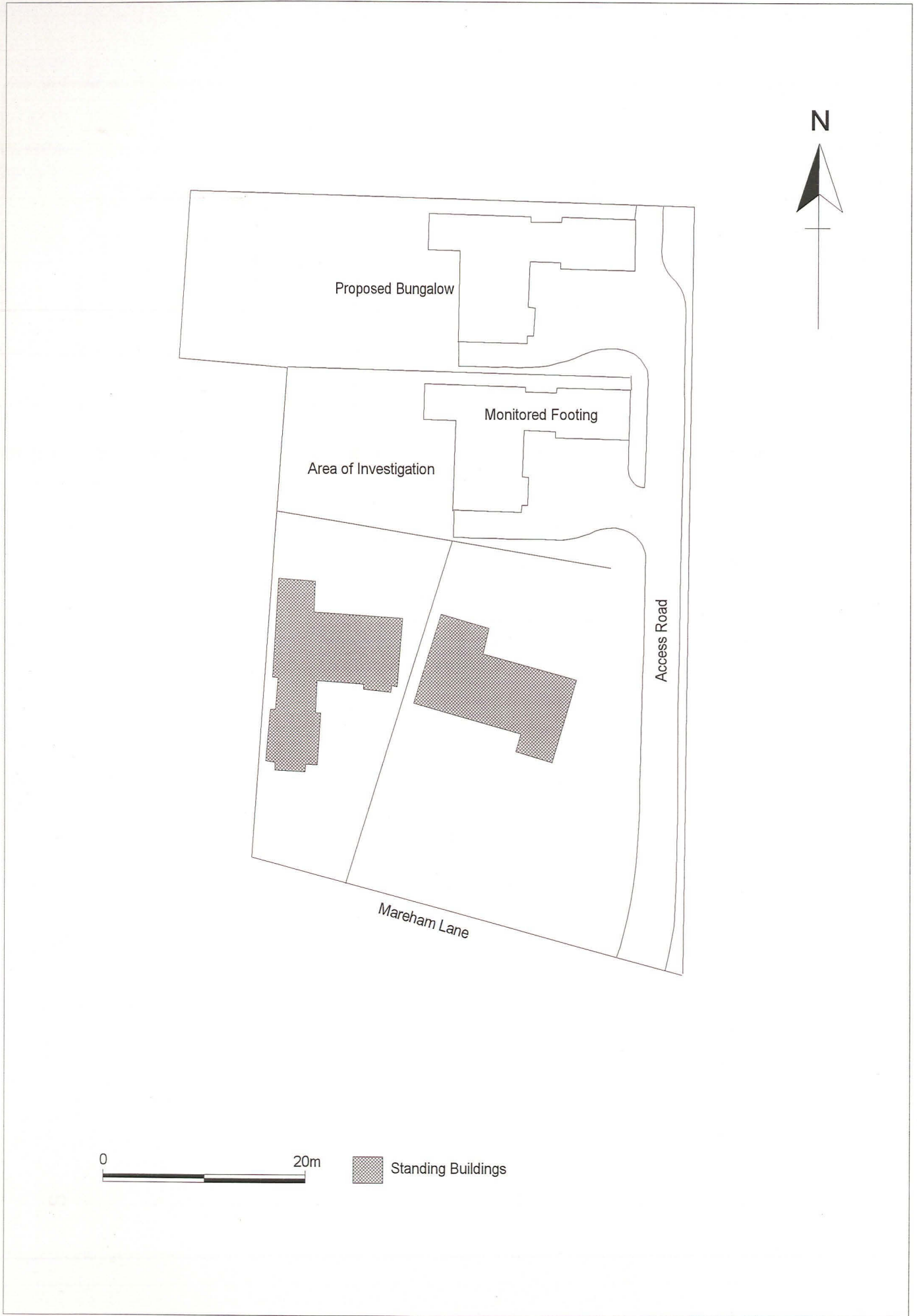
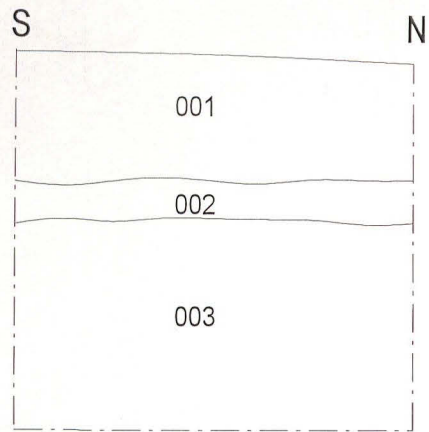
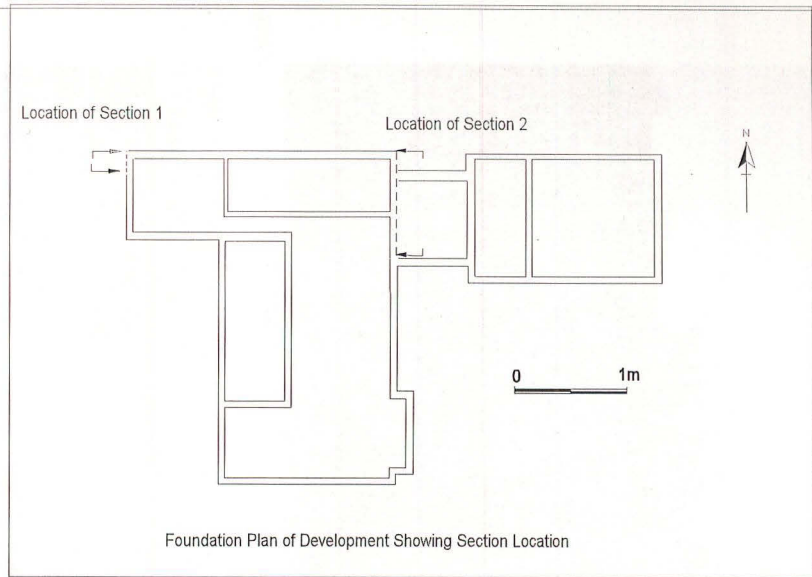


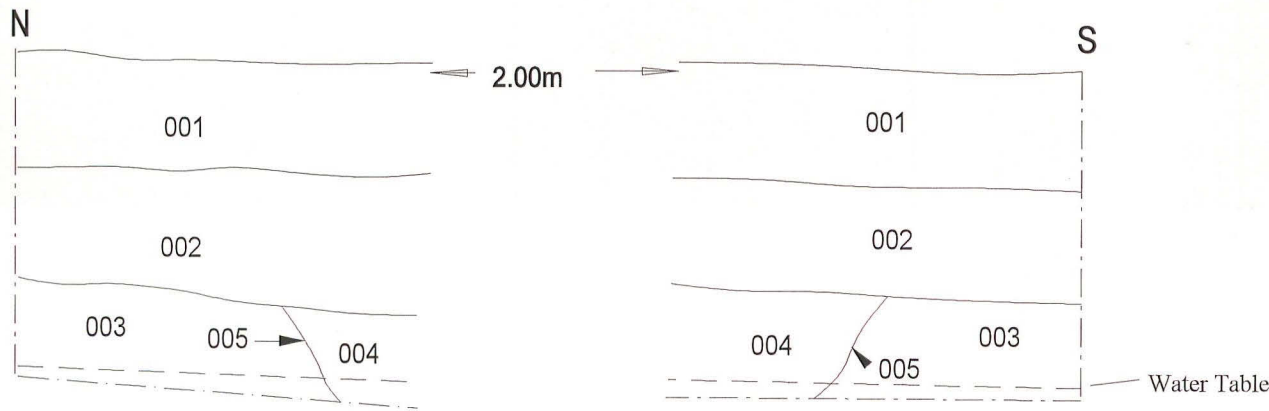
Figure 3 General plan of development area



Section 1



Foundation Plan of Development Showing Section Location



Section 2

Figure 4 Sections 1 and 2



Plate 1 General view of development area during excavation, looking north



Plate 2 Representative section (section 1), looking west



Plate 3 North edge of pit (005) (section 2), looking east

**APPENDIX 1**

**LAND TO REAR OF  
83 - 85 MAREHAM LANE  
SLEAFORD  
LINCOLNSHIRE**

**SPECIFICATION FOR  
ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF**

**PREPARED FOR  
GELDER CONSTRUCTION**

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

**JANUARY 2000**

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## 1 SUMMARY

- 1.1 *A watching brief is required during development at 83-85 Mareham Lane, Sleaford, Lincolnshire.*
- 1.2 *Prehistoric and Roman archaeology has been identified in the vicinity of the development area and the line of Mareham Lane Roman road lies to the east of the site.*
- 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 to the rear of 83-85 Mareham Lane, Sleaford, Lincolnshire. The site is located at national grid reference TF 0735 4505.
- 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 Sleaford lies approximately 27km south of Lincoln in the administrative district of North Kesteven. The site is located on the northeast side of Mareham Lane, to the rear of numbers 83-85 at national grid reference TF 0735 4505. Currently the site is partly under grass and partly under hardcore.

## 4 PLANNING BACKGROUND

- 4.1 A full planning application (N/57/122/99) was submitted to North Kesteven District Council for the erection of two bungalows. The application is subject to a standard condition requiring the implementation of an archaeological watching



brief during the development.

## 5 SOILS AND TOPOGRAPHY

- 5.1 The site lies to the southeast of the town centre at approximately 12m OD. Local soils are the Curdridge Association, typically deep, permeable, coarse loamy soils (Hodge *et al.* 1984, 154).

## 6 THE ARCHAEOLOGY

- 6.1 There are no known archaeological finds from the development area however, prehistoric and Roman finds and deposits have been recorded in the vicinity. Worked flints have been recovered approximately 150m to the north of the site and Bronze Age axes have been found to the north of the development area.
- 6.2 The line of Mareham Lane Roman road runs north - south approximately 600m to the east of the site. A brooch, coins and pottery dating from the Romano-British period have been recovered from various sites to the north of the development area.
- 6.3 A watching brief on land adjacent to Mareham Lane revealed a series of features such as ditches, gullies and pits and recovered fragments of Romano-British pottery (Archaeological Project Services 1997).

## 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 North Kesteven Heritage Officer; North Kesteven District Council Planning Department; and to the County Council Archaeological Sites and Monuments Record.

## 11 ARCHIVE

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

## 12 PUBLICATION

- 12.1 A report of the findings of the watching brief will be published in Heritage Lincolnshire's Annual Report and a note presented to the editor of the journal *Lincolnshire History and Archaeology*. If appropriate, notes on the findings will be submitted to the appropriate national journals: *Britannia* for discoveries of Roman date, and *Medieval Archaeology* and the journal of the *Medieval Settlement Research Group* for findings of medieval or later date.

## 13 CURATORIAL RESPONSIBILITY

- 13.1 Curatorial responsibility for the archaeological work undertaken on the site lies with the Heritage Officer of North Kesteven District Council. They will be given seven days notice in writing before the commencement of the project.

14 **VARIATIONS**

- 14.1 Variations to the proposed scheme of works will only be made following written confirmation of acceptance from the archaeological curator.

15 **PROGRAMME OF WORKS AND STAFFING LEVELS**

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

16 **SPECIALISTS TO BE USED DURING THE PROJECT**

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

<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**

Archaeological Project Services, 1997 *Archaeological watching brief of drain cutting on land adjacent to Mareham Lane, Sleaford, Lincolnshire (SML96)*, APS unpublished report No **3/97**

Hodge, CAH, Burton, RGO, Corbett, WM, Evans, R, and Seale, RS, 1984 *Soils and their use in Eastern England*, Soil Survey of England and Wales **13**

Specification: Version 1, 18/01/2000

## APPENDIX 2

### CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

Context	Section	Description	Interpretation
001	1	Mid- dark brown sandy silt, thickness 0.3m	Topsoil
002	1	Mid yellow brown sandy silt, thickness 0.12m	Subsoil
003	1	Mid yellowish red brown sand	Natural
004	2	Mid brown silt and sand, thickness 0.25m	Fill of 005
005	2	Cut with steep sides, width 3.85m , depth 0.25m, seen 1.2m E-W	Pit/Hollow



## Appendix 3

### GLOSSARY

<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>Fill</b>	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).
<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>Post-medieval</b>	The period following the Middle Ages, dating from approximately AD 1500-1800.
<b>Romano-British</b>	Pertaining to the period dating from AD 43-410 when the Romans occupied Britain.

## Appendix 4

### THE ARCHIVE

The archive consists of:

5	Context records
2	Scale drawings
1	Photographic record sheet
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: 2000.45

Archaeological Project Services Site Code: SML00

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.