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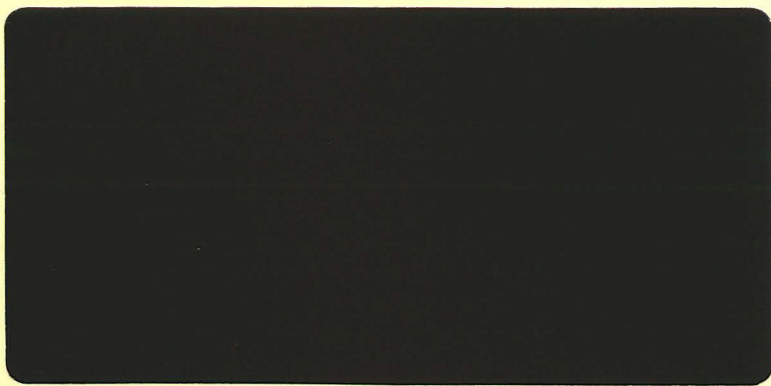
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**ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF
DURING DEVELOPMENT ON PLOT 4,
THE NURSERIES, ROWSTON,
LINCOLNSHIRE
(RTN400)**

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**ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF
DURING DEVELOPMENT ON PLOT 4,
THE NURSERIES, ROWSTON,
LINCOLNSHIRE
(RTN400)**

Work Undertaken For
Mr M Steventon

January 2001

Report Compiled by
James Snee

Planning Application No. N/50/0223/96
National Grid References: TF 0850 5635
City and County Museum Accession No: LCNCC : 2000.276

A.P.S. Report No. 11/01



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1. SUMMARY

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken during construction of a dwelling at Plot 4, The Nurseries, Rowston, Lincolnshire. The site lies within the core of the medieval village.

Two undated ditches were revealed during the investigation, it is possible that these represented property boundaries probably associated with an earlier village layout.

No artefacts were recovered from this watching brief.

The nature of the soils exposed suggests that few ancient environmental indicators (plant remains, seeds, pollen etc.) will have survived other than through charring.

2. INTRODUCTION

2.1 Definition of a Watching Brief

A 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

On the 18th October 2000 an archaeological watching brief was undertaken during groundworks associated with the erection of a dwelling and garage at Plot 4, The Nurseries, Rowston, Lincolnshire.

A planning application (N/50/0223/96) was submitted to North Kesteven District Council for a residential development. Permission was granted subject to a condition requiring a watching brief.

Archaeological Project Services was commissioned by Mr Steventon to undertake the archaeological watching brief. The investigation was carried out in accordance with a specification (Appendix 1) produced by APS and approved by the North Kesteven Community Archaeologist.

2.3 Topography and Geology

Rowston is located 9km north of Sleaford, in the administrative district of North Kesteven (Fig. 1). The site lies in the centre of the village, approximately 150m east of the church, at approximately 18m OD. It is centred on National Grid Reference TF 0850 5635 (Fig. 2).

Local soils are the Aswarby Association, gleyic brown calcareous earths developed on interbedded Jurassic limestone and clays (Hodge *et al.* 1984, 99).

2.4 Archaeological Setting

Very little is known about the prehistory of Rowston village or the surrounding parish. Casual finds of an unlocated polished stone axe (NK 50.15) and a Bronze Age spear head (NK 50.2) have been reported, but no other indications of settlement or agriculture have so far been recorded.

Evidence for Romano-British activity is equally sparse. Romano-British pottery has previously been recovered from the site of The Nurseries (NK 50.5) and a coin of Constantine I (307-337 AD) has been reported from northeast of the village (NK50.12).

No artefactual evidence of Anglo-Saxon settlement has yet been recovered from Rowston. However the place-name evidence suggests a Saxon origin. The name is a hybrid of either the Old Norse personal name *Hrolfr* or the Old Danish personal name *Rolfr*, and

the Old English (ie Anglo-Saxon) suffix *tun*. It means 'Rolf's farmstead or village' and it is possible that it was an Anglo-Saxon settlement taken over and partially renamed by Danish settlers (Cameron 1998).

The Domesday Survey of 1086 records that Rowston was part of the lands held by Geoffrey Alselin who settled two of his men-at-arms there. The survey also records a 32 Freeman and 2 small holders giving the early medieval parish a population of approximately 36 households (Morris 1986).

Medieval remains from the village are limited. The church, St Clement, is Norman in origin and in the centre of the village is the remains of a 14th century stone cross (NK 50.3). To the west of the village were a group of fishponds and earthworks, which although undated may have been medieval. Local tradition associated these remains with the Templars of Temple Bruer. A historical connection between Rowston and the Templars does exist. In the third quarter of the 12th century the right of presentation to an ecclesiastical benefice (an office such as rectory or vicarage) at Rowston Church was given to the Templars. Later in the 12th century monies were paid from the Church to Temple Bruer.

The population of Rowston does not seem to have altered significantly from the medieval period to the early post-medieval. The Diocesan Return of 1563 records 33 households in Rowston parish. This is just above the average for the Deanery of Lafford (28.6 households per parish) to which Rowston belonged (Hodgett 1975).

The most prominent later post-medieval building in the village is the Manor House, located to the west of the Nurseries, which is dated to 1741 (Pevsner 1989).

3. AIMS

The aim of the watching brief was to complete a record, both written and photographic, of any archaeological contexts or artefacts exposed during the groundworks of the development.

4. METHOD

The footing trenches were excavated by a machine with a toothed bucket, to a maximum depth of 1.0m. The sides of the trenches were inspected and hand cleaned at close intervals. The depth and thickness of each deposit was measured from the ground surface. Each deposit or feature was allocated a unique reference number (Context Number) with an individual written description. Sections were drawn at a scale of 1:10 and annotated sketch plans were produced. A photographic record was compiled, depicting the setting of the site and the nature of recorded features and deposits. The spoil from the excavations was searched using a trowel to recover finds that may assist in the interpretation of the site.

5. RESULTS

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

Phase 1	Natural Deposits
Phase 2	Undated Deposits
Phase 3	Modern Deposits

5.1 Phase 1: Natural Deposits

The earliest deposit recorded at the site consisted of more than 0.4m of firm, yellow-brown silty clay (006) with frequent limestone fragments (Figures 4 & 5).

Overlying this was between 0.1 and 0.2m of friable, grey-brown clayey silt (005), with frequent limestone fragments.

5.2 Phase 2: Undated Deposits

Cutting through the grey-brown brash deposit (005) was an east-west oriented ditch (004), 0.88m wide and 0.40m deep, with sloping concave sides and a flat base (Figures 4 & 5; Section 1). Filling (004) was firm, mid grey-brown slightly clayey silt (003) with occasional limestone fragments.

Cutting the east end of ditch (004) was a northwest-southeast oriented ditch (008), with sloping sides and a flat base. Only fragmentary or very oblique sections (Figure 5; Sections 2 & 3) of this ditch were revealed. The fill was firm, dark grey-brown slightly silty clay (007) with occasional limestone fragments.

Overlying both ditches was a 0.45m thick layer of firm, dark grey-brown slightly clayey silt (002) with occasional limestone fragments (Figure 5).

5.3 Phase 3: Modern Deposits

Covering the entire site was 0.15m of soft dark grey-brown slightly clayey silt (001) with occasional limestone fragments and rounded pebbles (Figure 5).

6. DISCUSSION

The natural (Phase 1) deposits were weathered limestone brash, probably formed over Jurassic limestone bedrock. Layer (005) appears to have been transformed possibly by deep root action.

Two intercutting undated (Phase 2) ditches were revealed, the earlier (004) oriented east-west with a later ditch (008) oriented

northwest-southeast. The absence of finds could suggest that these features were peripheral to domestic activity or housing, however their presence in the historical core of the village could indicate that they represent property boundaries of some kind. These features were sealed below a subsoil layer (002).

Phase 3 was represented by a layer of modern topsoil that made up the current ground level.

7. CONCLUSION

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken during construction of a dwelling at Plot 4, The Nurseries, Rowston, Lincolnshire. The site lies within the historical core of the village.

Two undated ditches were revealed during the investigation, it is possible that these represented property boundaries probably associated with an earlier village layout. No definite Roman archaeology was found.

No artefacts were recovered from this watching brief.

The nature of the soils exposed suggests that few ancient environmental indicators (plant remains, seeds, pollen etc.) will have survived other than through charring.

8. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeological Project Services would like to acknowledge the assistance of Mr Steventon who commissioned the fieldwork and post-excavation analysis. The work was coordinated by Denise Drury and this report was edited by Steve Malone and Tom Lane. Jo Hambly, the Community Archaeologist for North Kesteven District Council, kindly permitted examination of the relevant parish

files.

NK Prefix given to North Kesteven parish
file refernces.

9. PERSONNEL

Project Coordinator: Denise Drury
Site Supervisor: James Snee
Cad Illustration: James Snee
Photographic Reproduction: Sue Unsworth
Post Excavation Analyst: James Snee

10. BIBLIOGRAPHY

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11. ABBREVIATIONS

APS Archaeological Project Services

IFA Institute of Field Archaeologists



Figure 1 General Location Plan.

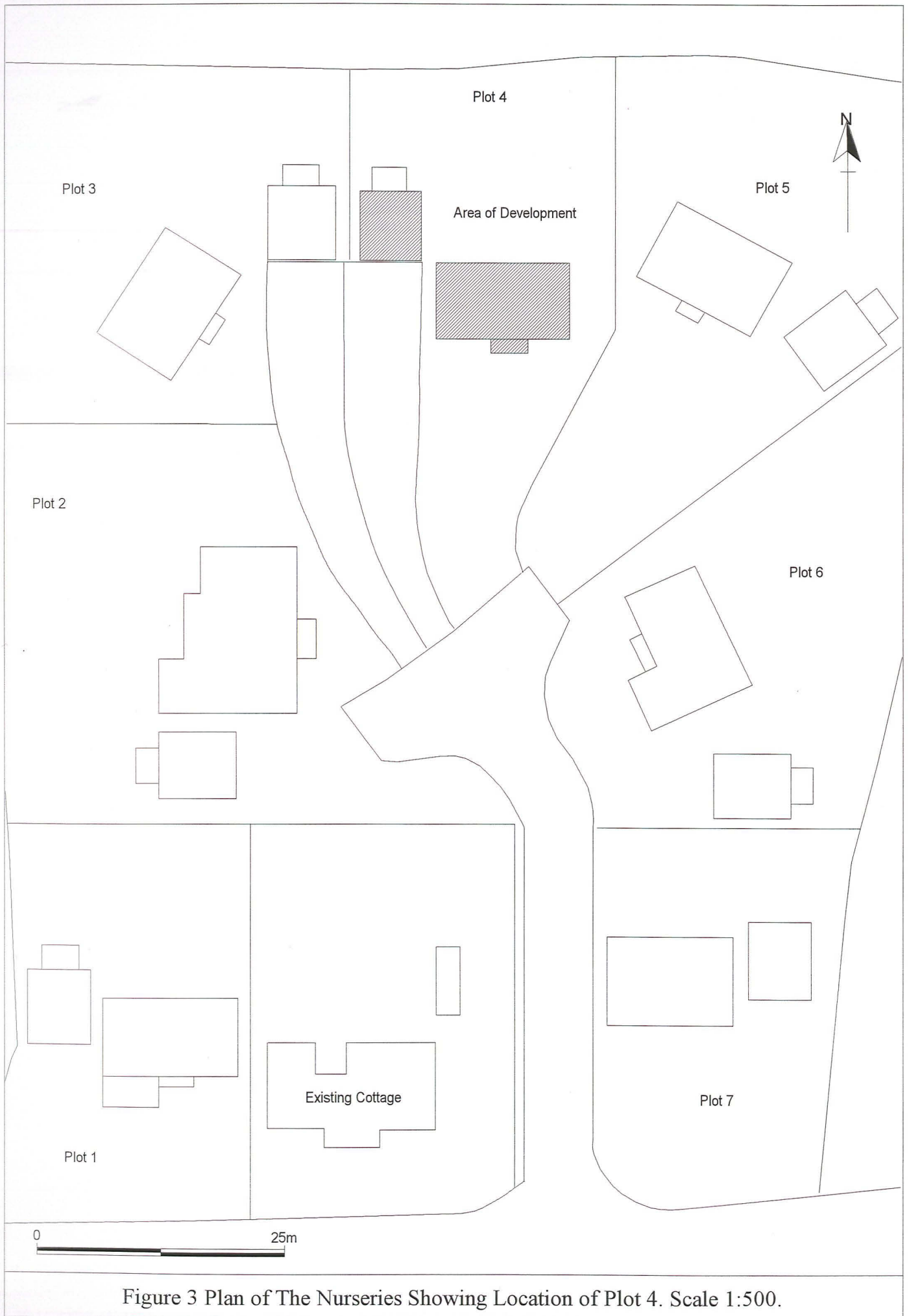
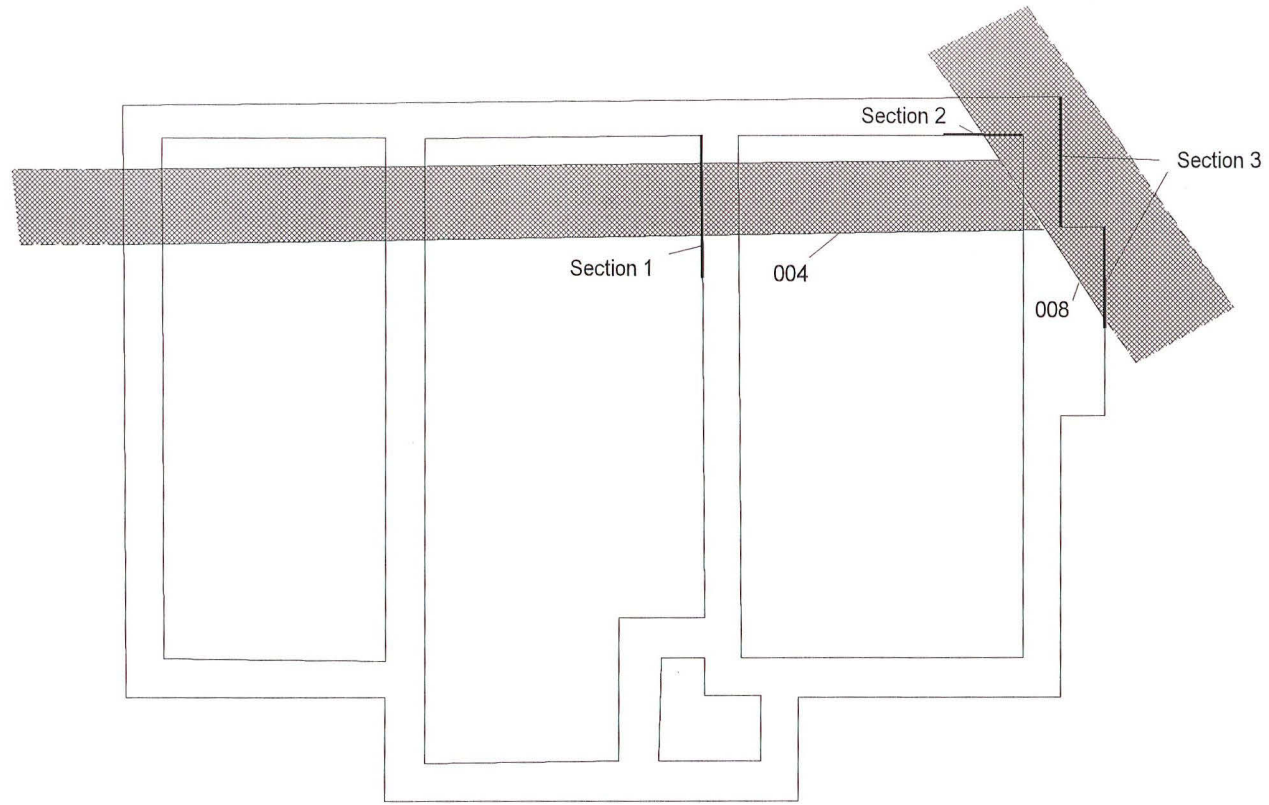
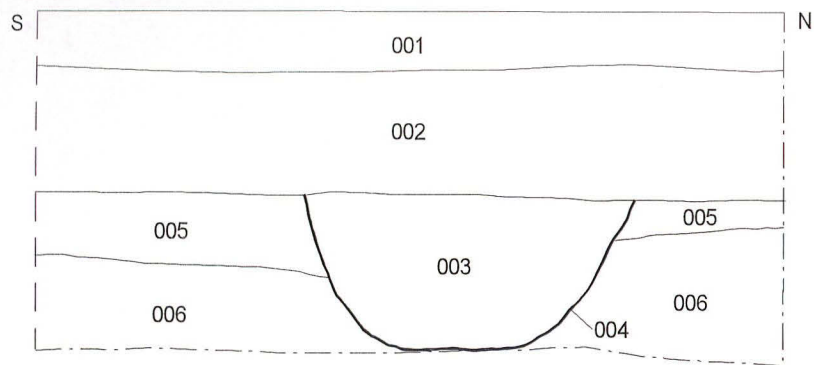


Figure 3 Plan of The Nurseries Showing Location of Plot 4. Scale 1:500.

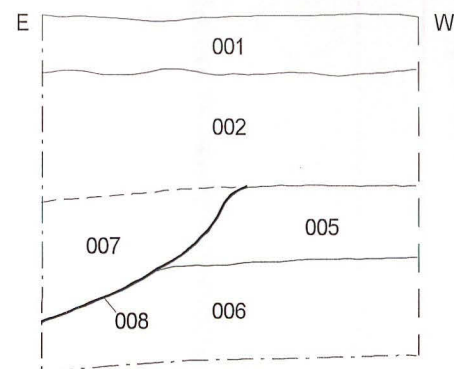


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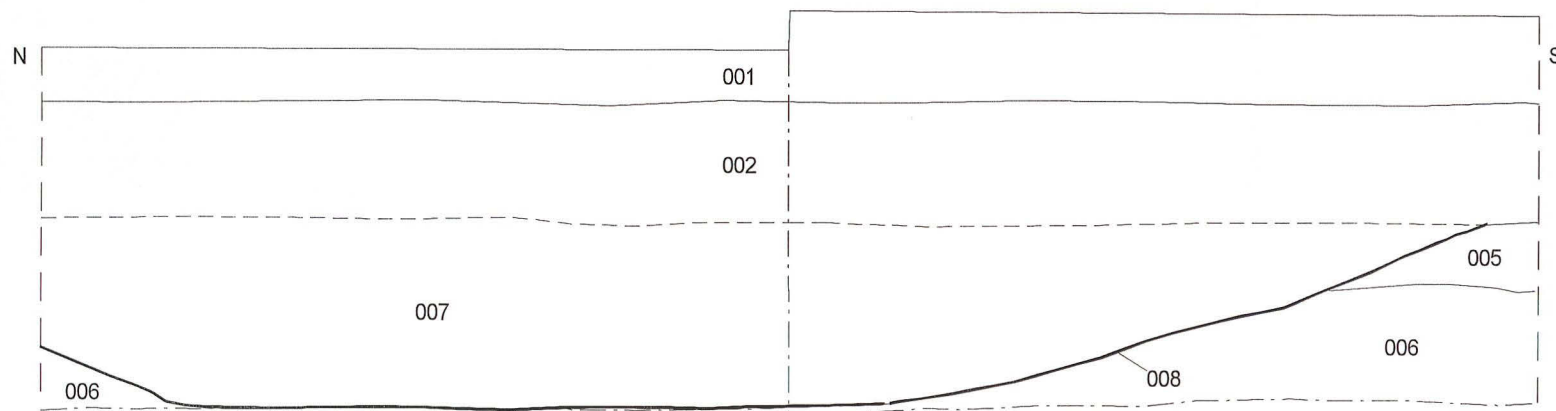
Figure 4 Footing Plan Showing Location of Sections and Features. Scale 1:100.



Section 1 East Facing



Section 2 North Facing



Section 3 West Facing



Figure 5 Details of Sections 1 to 3. Scale 1:20.



Plate 1 General view of site during groundworks.



Plate 2 Partial section of ditch (008), looking south.



Plate 3 Section through ditch (004), looking west.

APPENDIX 1

**LAND AT
THE NURSERIES
ROWSTON
LINCOLNSHIRE**

**SPECIFICATION FOR
ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF**

**PREPARED FOR
M. STEVENTON**

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

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1 SUMMARY

- 1.1 *A watching brief is required during residential development on land at The Nurseries, Rowston, Lincolnshire.*
- 1.2 *The development site lies in the core of the medieval village of Rowston where finds of Roman and medieval date have been discovered.*
- 1.3 *The watching brief will be undertaken during groundworks associated with the development. The archaeological features exposed will be recorded in writing, graphically and photographically.*
- 1.4 *On completion of the fieldwork a report will be prepared detailing the results of the investigation. The report will consist of a narrative supported by illustrations and photographs.*

2 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 This document comprises a specification for an archaeological watching brief during development on land at The Nurseries, Rowston, Lincolnshire. The site is located at national grid reference TF 0850 5635.
- 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 Rowston lies approximately 9km north of Sleaford in the administrative district of North Kesteven. The site lies in the centre of Rowston village, approximately 150m to the east of the church, at national grid reference TF 0850 5635.

4 PLANNING BACKGROUND

- 4.1 A planning application (N/50/0223/96) was submitted to North Kesteven District Council for a residential development on 0.68ha of Rowston nurseries land. The application is subject to a condition requiring the implementation of an archaeological watching brief during the groundworks associated with the development.

5 **SOILS AND TOPOGRAPHY**

- 5.1 The site lies in the centre of Rowston village at approximately 18m OD. Local soils are the Aswarby Association, gleyic brown calcareous earths (Hodge *et al.* 1984, 99).

6 **THE ARCHAEOLOGY**

- 6.1 The site lies in the core of the medieval village of Rowston approximately 150m east of the Norman church and medieval cross. Sherds of Roman pottery have been discovered at the site of the nursery. Roman and medieval remains may be disturbed by the groundworks associated by the development.

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 consisting of colour prints 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: the colour prints will be 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; or G Taylor, Archaeological Project Services
Non-pottery Artefacts	J Cowgill, Independent Specialist; or G Taylor, Archaeological Project Services
Animal Bones	Environmental Archaeology Consultancy
Environmental Analysis	J Rackham, Independent Specialist; or P Cope-

Faulkner, Archaeological Project Services

Human Remains Analysis

R Gowland, Independent Specialist

17 **BIBLIOGRAPHY**

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APPENDIX 2

Context Summary

Context Number	Section Number	Description	Interpretation
001	1 - 3	Soft, dark grey-brown slightly clayey silt, with occasional limestone fragments and rounded pebbles, <i>c.</i> 0.15m thick.	Topsoil
002	1 - 3	Firm, dark grey-brown slightly clayey silt, with occasional limestone fragments, 0.45m thick.	Subsoil
003	1	Firm, mid grey-brown slightly clayey silt, with occasional limestone fragments.	Fill of (004)
004	1	Linear cut, <i>c.</i> 0.88m wide and <i>c.</i> 0.4m deep, sloping concave sides, flat base, oriented east-west.	Ditch
005	1 - 3	Friable, grey-brown clayey silt, with frequent limestone fragments, between 0.1m and 0.2m thick.	Transformed limestone brash
006	1 - 3	Firm, yellow-brown silty clay, with frequent limestone fragments, > 0.4m thick.	Natural limestone brash
007	2 - 3	Firm, dark grey-brown slightly silty clay, with occasional limestone fragments.	Fill of (008)
008	2 - 3	Linear cut, sloping sides and flat base, oriented northwest-southeast.	Ditch

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 interpretation 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].
Crop mark	A mark that is produced by the effect of underlying archaeological or geological features influencing the growth of a particular crop.
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.
Domesday Survey	A survey of property ownership in England compiled on the instruction of William I for taxation purposes in 1086 AD.
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) that become contained by the 'cut' are referred to as its fill(s).
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 used 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
Old English	The vernacular dialects of the Anglo-Saxons and English up to <i>c.</i> 1150 AD.
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

APPENDIX 4

THE ARCHIVE

The archive consists of:

8	-	Context records
1	-	Photographic record sheets
3	-	Drawing 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 : 2000.276

Archaeological Project Services Site Code: RTN400

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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