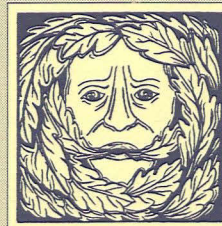


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**ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF
DURING MAINLAYING AT
POTTERGATE ROAD,
ANCASTER,
LINCOLNSHIRE
(APR01)**



A P S
ARCHAEOLOGICAL
PROJECT
SERVICES

EVENT 41853
SOURCES 416612 416613

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF
DURING MAINLAYING AT
POTTERGATE ROAD,
ANCASTER,
LINCOLNSHIRE
(APR01)**

Work Undertaken For
Anglian Water

March 2001

Report Compiled by
James Snee BSc (Hons)

National Grid References: SK 9829 4454 to SK 9842 4461
City and County Museum Accession No: LCNCC : 2001.54

A.P.S. Report No. 50/01



20. APR 01

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 | Glossary |
| 4 | The Archive |

List of Figures

- | | |
|----------|--|
| Figure 1 | General location plan |
| Figure 2 | Site location and archaeological setting |
| Figure 3 | General plan of the development area |
| Figure 4 | Sections 1 and 2 |

List of Plates

- | | |
|---------|---|
| Plate 1 | General view of site during excavation of pipe trench, looking northeast. |
| Plate 2 | Section 1 (soil profile), looking northeast. |

1. SUMMARY

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken during works to install a new water main between Pottergate Road and St Martin's Way, Ancaster, Lincolnshire. The area is archaeologically sensitive, being adjacent to the site of a Roman fort and close to the Roman town.

However, only natural deposits sealed below subsoil and topsoil were revealed during the works. No archaeological remains were encountered or disturbed by the project.

No artefacts were recovered during this investigation.

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

Between the 15th and 19th February 2001 an archaeological watching brief was undertaken during works to install a new water main between Pottergate Road and St Martin's Way, Ancaster, Lincolnshire.

The environmental department of Anglian Water was advised by Lincolnshire County Council of the archaeological significance of the Ancaster area. It was also recommended that an archaeological watching brief be undertaken during the works.

Archaeological Project Services (APS) was commissioned by Anglian Water to undertake the archaeological watching brief. The investigation was carried out in accordance with a specification produced by APS (Appendix 1).

2.3 Topography and Geology

Ancaster is situated 27km south of Lincoln in the administrative district of South Kesteven (Figure 1). Pottergate Road lies on the northwestern edge of the village. The route of the pipeline runs east from Pottergate Road at National Grid Reference SK 9829 4454 to join with existing services on St Martin's Way at SK 9842 4461 (Figures 2 & 3). The pipeline traversed the northern flanks of the Ancaster Gap, at approximately 60m OD. Soils in the area are Elmton 1 Association shallow, well-drained, brashy, calcareous fine loamy soils developed on Lincolnshire Limestone (Hodge *et al.* 1984, 179).

2.4 Archaeological Setting

Ancaster is situated in an area of significant known archaeological remains dating from the Neolithic to the post-medieval period.

Stone artefacts of Neolithic date (3500-2000 BC), and evidence of later settlement during the Iron Age (600 BC- AD43), have been recorded in the area (May 1976).

During the Romano-British period Ancaster was the site of an early temporary Roman fort, situated to the northwest of the present village. The site lies to the west of Ermine Street, a major Roman road that connected London, Lincoln and the Humber Estuary. In addition, the site is located a short distance to the north of the Romano-British walled town, established in 280 AD. Archaeological excavations in and around Ancaster (Todd

1975 & 1981), have uncovered evidence of the town's earthen rampart and walled defences and extensive stone buildings with fragments of tessellated pavements. Coins and coin moulds, stone sculpture and inscriptions, brooches and pottery have been found, together with a possible pottery kiln and cemeteries outside the town walls (APS 1995).

Anglo-Saxon activity is represented by a cemetery that continued to use the site of a Romano-British burial ground to the south of the village. This suggests that occupation of the Roman town continued into the Anglo-Saxon period, but that as yet, no settlement evidence has been recovered.

Ancaster is not mentioned in the Domesday Survey of 1086, however, nearby West Willoughby is recorded as having two churches, one of which may have been located at Ancaster (Morris 1986). Ancaster is first referred to by name in the mid 12th century. The name is Old English and means 'Ana's Roman station' (Cameron 1998).

The church of St. Martin has a Norman chancel and northern arcade and a possible fragment of an Anglo-Saxon window. The tower is 14th century. A medieval chapel of St. Mary stood in the field opposite (Pevsner & Harris 1989).

Various 17th to 19th century buildings can be found in the village (*ibid.*). Ancaster became a parish in its own right in the 19th century.

3. AIMS

The aim of the watching brief as stated in the specification (Appendix 1) was to record and interpret the archaeological features exposed during the excavation of the pipe trench and other areas of groundworks.

4. METHOD

Initially it was intended to drill the pipeline through the ground, and two test pits (Figure 3) were opened to determine the suitability of the ground for this. However, after the ground had been examined the strategy was changed to open trenching using a 0.40m wide toothed bucket. The base and sides of the test pits and pipe trench were inspected and hand cleaned at 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.

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 during the works was compacted, pale yellow-brown (almost white) limestone brash (003 & 006) with sandy silt matrix (Figure 4) which extended beyond the limits of the trench.

5.2 Phase 2: Late Post-medieval Deposits

Overlying limestone brash (003 & 006) (Figure 4) was up to 0.25m of soft, mid reddish brown silty sand (002 & 005) with frequent limestone fragments.

5.3 Phase 3: Modern Deposits

The latest deposit encountered (Figure 4) was 0.30m of soft, mid brown silty sand (001 & 004) with frequent small limestone fragments.

6. DISCUSSION

The earliest phase (Phase 1) comprises natural limestone brash, typical of the soils and geology of the area.

Overlying the natural brash was an undated (Phase 2) silty sand layer (002 & 005), probably a leached subsoil.

The latest deposit (Phase 3) was a layer of modern topsoil.

7. CONCLUSION

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken during works to install a new water main between Pottergate Road and St Martin's Way, Ancaster, Lincolnshire. The area is archaeologically sensitive, being adjacent to the site of a Roman fort and close to the Roman town.

However, only natural deposits sealed below subsoil and topsoil were revealed during the works. No archaeological remains were encountered or disturbed by the project.

No artefacts were recovered during this

investigation.

8. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeological Project Services would like to acknowledge the assistance of Mr Neil Wilmer-Richards of Anglian Water who commissioned the fieldwork and post-excavation analysis. The work was coordinated by Steve Malone and this report was edited by Dale Trimble and Tom Lane. Gail Smith, the Community Archaeologist for South Kesteven District Council, kindly permitted examination of the relevant parish files.

9. PERSONNEL

Project Coordinator: Steve Malone
Site Supervisors: Rachael Hall & Chris Moulis
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

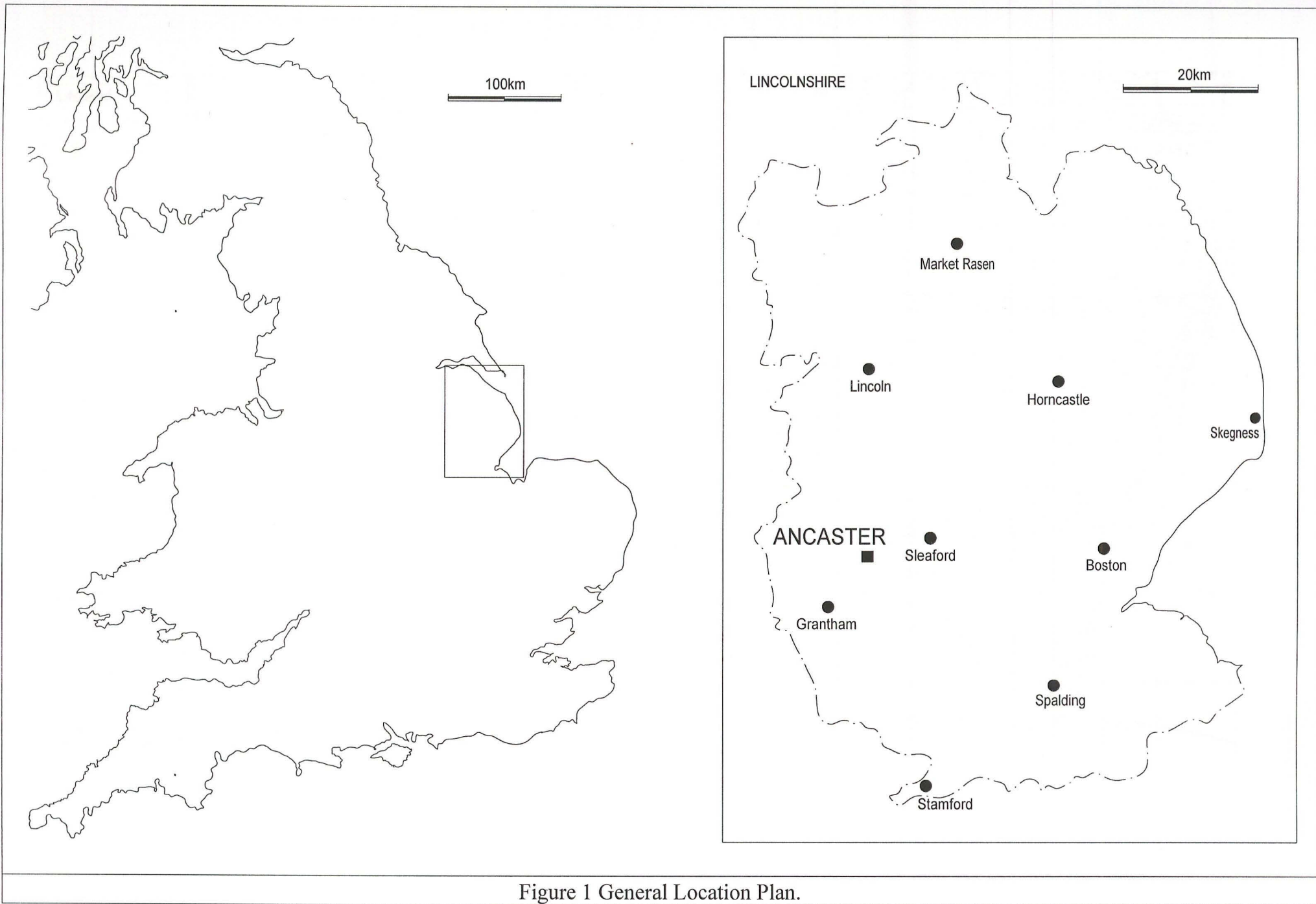


Figure 1 General Location Plan.

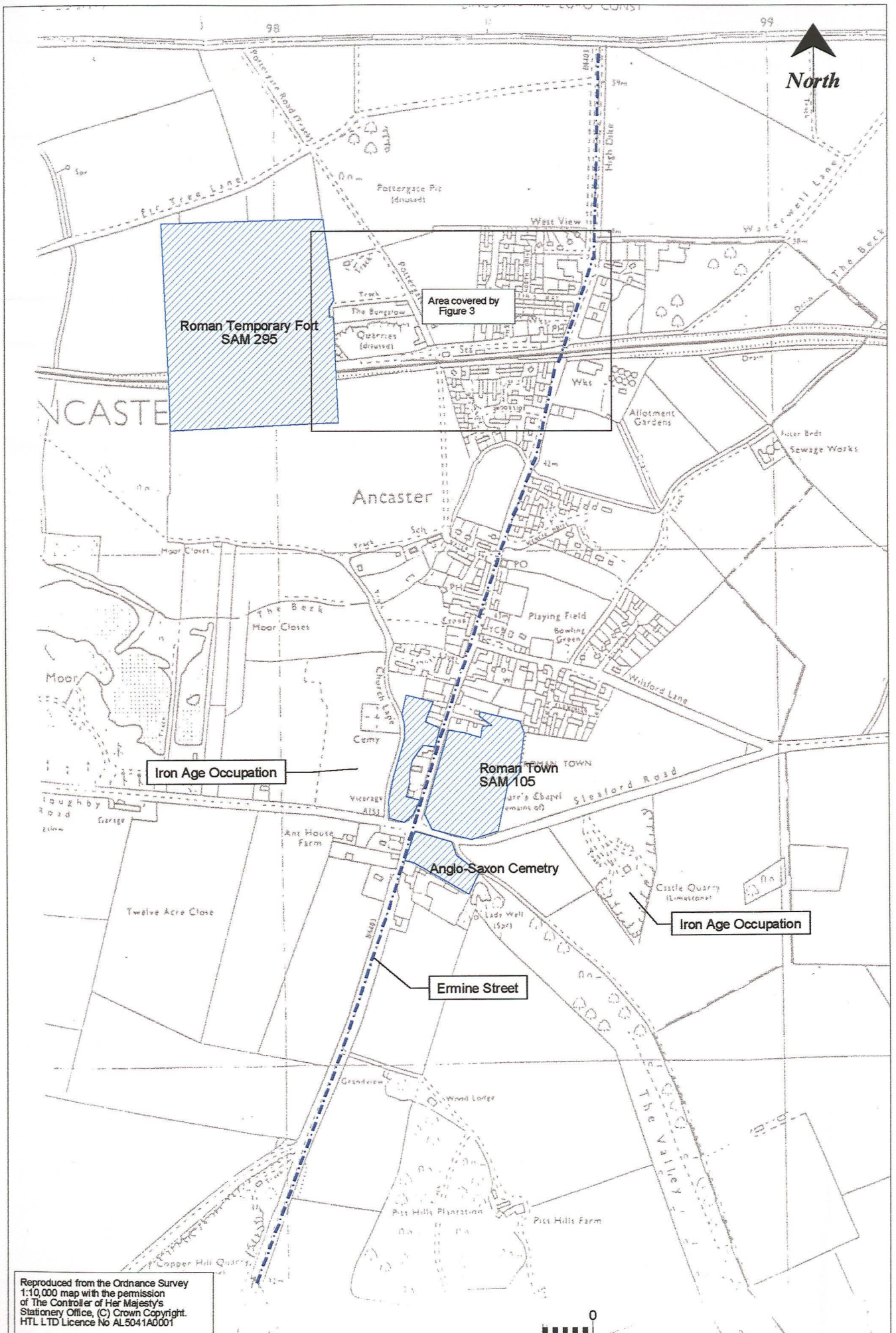
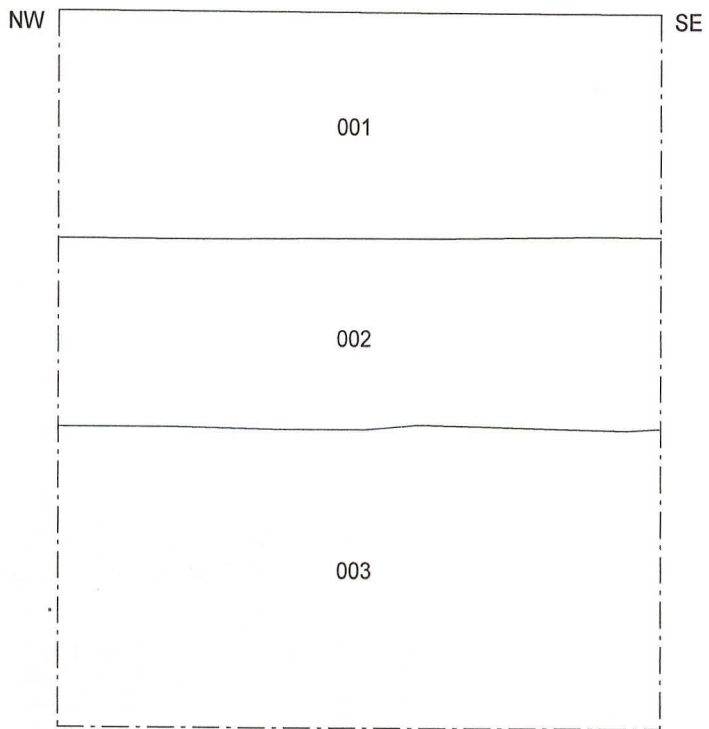
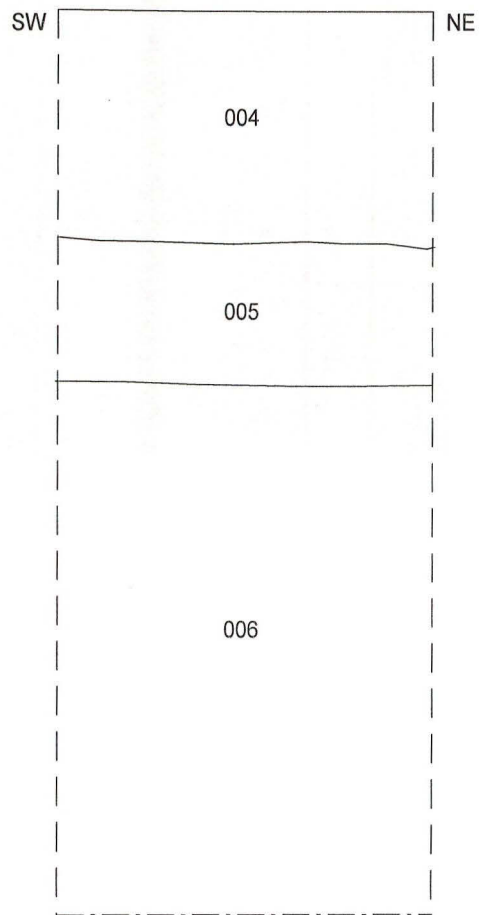


Figure 2 General site location and archaeological setting



Section 1 Southwest Facing



Section 1 Southeast Facing



Figure 4 Sections 1 and 2. Scale 1:10.



Plate 1 General view of site during excavation of pipe trench, looking northeast.

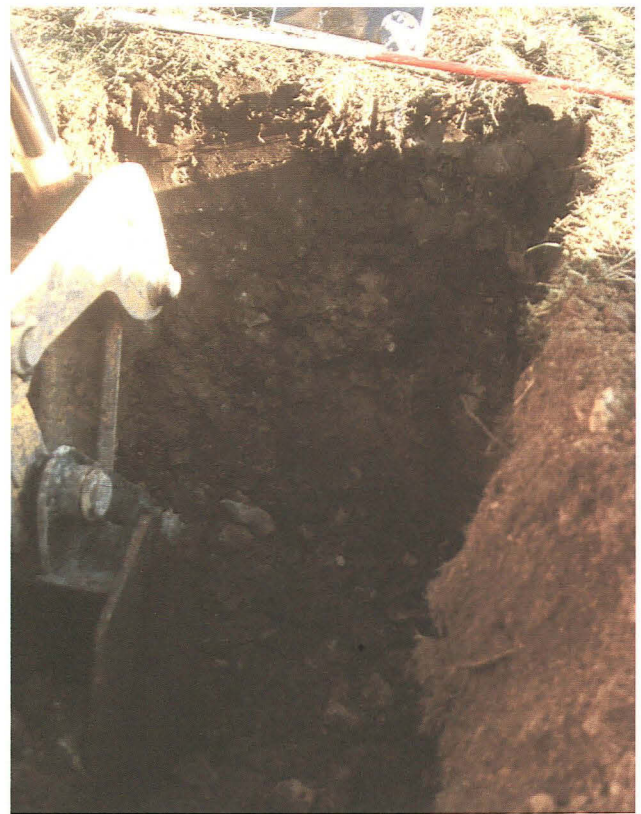


Plate 2 Section 1 (soil profile), looking northeast.

APPENDIX 1

**MAINLAYING AT
POTTERGATE ROAD,
ANCASTER,
LINCOLNSHIRE**

**SPECIFICATION FOR
ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF**

**PREPARED FOR
ANGLIAN WATER**

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

JANUARY 2001

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 | 2 |
| 9 | POST EXCAVATION | 3 |
| 10 | REPORT DEPOSITION | 5 |
| 11 | ARCHIVE | 5 |
| 12 | PUBLICATION | 5 |
| 13 | CURATORIAL RESPONSIBILITY | 5 |
| 14 | VARIATIONS AND CONTINGENCIES | 5 |
| 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 works to install a new water main between Pottergate Road and St Martin's Way, Ancaster, Lincolnshire.*
- 1.2 *The area is archaeologically sensitive, being on the site of a Roman fort and close to the Roman town.*
- 1.3 *The watching brief will be undertaken during groundworks associated with the mainlaying. 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 mainlaying between Pottergate Road and St Martin's Way, Ancaster, Lincolnshire.
- 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 Ancaster is situated 27km south of Lincoln in the administrative district of South Kesteven. Pottergate Road lies on the northwestern edge of the village. The mainlaying runs east from Pottergate Road at National Grid Reference SK 9829 4454 to join with existing services on St Martin's Way at SK 9842 4461.

4 PLANNING BACKGROUND

- 4.1 Lincolnshire County Council have advised the environmental department of Anglian Water of the archaeological significance of the Ancaster area and have recommended that an archaeological watching brief be undertaken during groundworks.

5 SOILS AND TOPOGRAPHY

- 5.1 The site lies at c. 60m OD on the northern flanks of the Ancaster Gap. Soils here are the Elmton 1 Association shallow, well-drained, brashy, calcareous fine loamy soils developed on Lincolnshire Limestone (Hodge *et al.* 1984, 179).

6 ARCHAEOLOGICAL OVERVIEW

- 6.1 Ancaster possesses archaeological remains of national importance, some of which are protected as scheduled ancient monuments. It is the site of an Iron Age settlement, Roman Fort and Roman Town which developed into a walled settlement by the beginning of the third century. The Roman fort occupies a large area of the development site served by the mainlaying scheme. The development itself lies within a disused quarry, however, and it is the connection eastwards to the existing main which forms the focus of archaeological interest.

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 archaeological features encountered;
- 7.2.2 Determine the spatial arrangement of archaeological features encountered;
- 7.2.3 As far as practicable, recover dating evidence from archaeological features, and
- 7.2.4 Establish the sequence of 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:

- the site during work to show specific stages, and the layout of the archaeology within the trench.
- groups of features where their relationship is important

8.2.5 Should human remains be located they will be left *in situ* and only excavated if absolutely necessary. Should removal be required the appropriate Home Office licence will be obtained before the exhumation of the remains. In addition, the Local Environmental Health Department, coroner and the police will be informed, where appropriate.

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:

- A non-technical summary of the results of the investigation.
- A description of the archaeological setting of the watching brief.
- Description of the topography of the site.
- Description of the methodologies used during the watching brief.
- A text describing the findings of the watching brief.
- A consideration of the local, regional and national context of the watching brief findings.
- Plans of the archaeological features exposed. If a sequence of archaeological deposits is encountered, separate plans for each phase will be produced.

- Sections of the trenches and archaeological features.
- Interpretation of the archaeological features exposed, and their chronology and setting within the surrounding landscape.
- Specialist reports on the finds from the site.
- 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 Lincolnshire County Council Archaeological Officer; South 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 Lincolnshire County Council Archaeological Officer. They will be given seven days notice in writing before the commencement of the project.

14 VARIATIONS AND CONTINGENCIES

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

- 14.2 In the event of the discovery of any unexpected remains of archaeological importance, or of any changed circumstances, it is the responsibility of the archaeological contractor to inform the archaeological curator (*Lincolnshire Archaeological Handbook* 1998, Sections 5.7 and 18).
- 14.3 Where important archaeological remains are discovered and deemed to merit further investigation additional resources may be required to provide an appropriate level of investigation, recording and analysis.
- 14.4 Any contingency requirement for additional fieldwork or post-excavation analysis outside the scope of the proposed scheme of works will only be activated following full consultation with the archaeological curator and the client.

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, 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

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- 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**

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, 12th January 2001

APPENDIX 2

Context Summary

| Context Number | Section Number | Description | Interpretation |
|----------------|----------------|---|----------------|
| 001 | 1 | Soft, mid to dark brown silty sand, with frequent small limestone fragments, 0.30m thick. | Topsoil. |
| 002 | 1 | Soft, mid reddish brown silty sand, with frequent limestone fragments, 0.25m thick. | Subsoil. |
| 003 | 1 | Compacted, pale yellow-brown (almost white) limestone brash, with sandy silt matrix, > 0.40m thick. | Natural. |
| 004 | 2 | Soft, mid brown silty sand, with frequent small limestone fragments, 0.30m thick. | Topsoil. |
| 005 | 2 | Soft, mid reddish brown silty sand, with frequent limestone fragments, 0.20m thick. | Subsoil. |
| 006 | 2 | Compacted, pale yellow-brown (almost white) limestone brash, with sandy silt matrix, > 0.70m thick. | Natural. |

APPENDIX 3

GLOSSARY

| | |
|------------------------|--|
| Anglo-Saxon | Pertaining to the period when Britain was occupied by peoples from northern Germany, Denmark and adjacent areas. The period dates from approximately AD 450-1066. |
| 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]. |
| Domesday Survey | A survey of property ownership in England compiled on the instruction of William I for taxation purposes in 1086 AD. |
| 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 |
| Neolithic | The 'New Stone Age' period, part of the prehistoric era, dating from approximately 4500-2250 BC. |
| 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:

| | | |
|---|---|----------------------------|
| 6 | - | Context records |
| 1 | - | Photographic record sheets |
| 1 | - | 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 : 2001.54

Archaeological Project Services Site Code: APR01

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.