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ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF OF DEVELOPMENT AT, THE OLD POST OFFICE, BRINKHILL, LOUTH, LINCOLNSHIRE (BOP 00)

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A P S ARCHAEOLOGICAL P R O J E C T S E R V I C E S

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ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF OF DEVELOPMENT AT, THE OLD POST OFFICE, BRINKHILL, LOUTH, LINCOLNSHIRE (BOP 00)

Work Undertaken For Mrs J. Croney

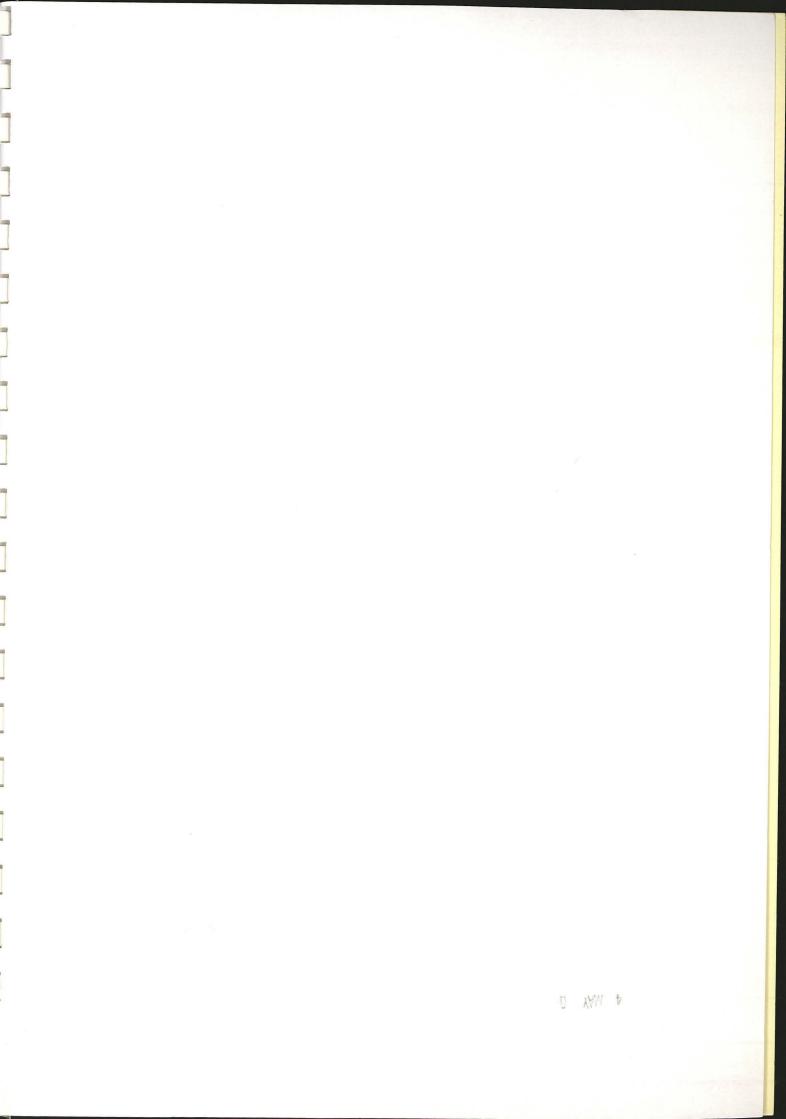
Report Compiled by P. Cope-Faulkner BA (Hons) AIFA

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1. SUMMARY

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken during the construction of a detached double garage at The Old Post Office, Brinkhill, Lincolnshire. The watching brief monitored the excavation of the groundworks associated with the development.

Prehistoric flint tools have been found around the village and a Romano-British (AD 50-410) road is believed to run through the village. The development lies within the medieval (AD 1066-1500) village amid a number of moated enclosures.

The investigations revealed an undated pit, possibly natural in origin, and a medieval subsoil. Finds comprise medieval and later pottery, glass and tile.

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 nonarchaeological reasons within a specified area, where there is a possibility that archaeological deposits may be disturbed or destroyed.' (IFA 1997).

2.2 Planning Background

Archaeological Project Services was commissioned by Mrs J. Croney to undertake an archaeological watching brief during construction of a new double garage at The Old Post Office, Brinkhill, Louth, Lincolnshire. The watching brief was carried out in accordance with a specification designed by Archaeological Project Services

(Appendix 1).

2.3 Topography and Geology

Brinkhill is located 14.5km south of Louth in the administrative district of East Lindsey, Lincolnshire (Fig. 1).

The development site is in the core of the village, about 100m south of the parish church of St. Philip at National Grid Reference TF 372 736 (Fig. 2). Brinkhill lies in a small northeast-southwest valley through which a partially canalised stream flows to the northeast, subsequently becoming Calceby Beck. Lying at a height of c. 42m OD, the site is on the northwest side of the valley on land sloping gently down to the southeast.

Local soils are the Wickham 2 Association fine loamy over clayey stagnogleys. Immediately to the east are Banbury Association soils, typically loamy ferritic brown earths (Hodge *et al.* 1984, 351; 103). The soils overlie a drift geology of glacial sands and gravel which rests on Lower Cretaceous limestones and clays (IGS 1980).

2.4 Archaeological Setting

Brinkhill lies in an area of known archaeological remains dating from the prehistoric period to the present day. Four Neolithic stone and flint axes are recorded from the parish. One of the axes was found 100m north of the present investigation site, though the others were found on the higher ground to the north and south of the village.

Romano-British remains are restricted to the course of the Roman road between Lincoln and Burgh-le-Marsh (Margary 1973, 239). Although the actual course of the thoroughfare is unclear through Brinkhill, its route to Tetford and continuation at Ulceby indicate that the road may have passed through the northern end of the village.

Brinkhill is first mentioned in the Domesday Survey of c. 1086. Referred to as *Brincle*, the name is derived from the Old English *brinc(e)* meaning the brink of a hill or steep slope (Ekwall 1974, 65). At the time of Domesday the land was owned by Earl Hugh and, together with several other villages, was sokeland of the manor of Greetham (Foster and Longley 1976).

Remains of the medieval period are represented by earthworks of three moated enclosures in the village. Each is a Scheduled Ancient Monument (English Heritage 1996) and one of the moats is less than 150m north of the present investigation site. A 14th century cross, with a modern addition, survives in the churchyard of St. Philip's church (DoE 1987, 5). This church, although dated to the mid 19th century, contains a 13th century font that may suggest the present structure is built on the site of an earlier church.

Previous archaeological investigations 300m southwest of the present site revealed two undated boundary ditches that parallelled existing property divisions in the area. Additionally, Roman, medieval and later artefacts were recovered (Cope-Faulkner 1998). Medieval pottery and an undated ditch were also recorded from investigations 100m to the south (Cope-Faulkner and Taylor 1999).

3. AIMS

The requirements of the watching brief, as described in the specification (Appendix 1), were to record and interpret archaeological deposits, if present, and to determine their date, sequence, function and origin.

4. METHODS

Trenches were opened by a mechanical excavator to a depth of 1.1m as required by the development. Following excavation, the sides of the trenches were cleaned and rendered vertical. Selected deposits were partially or fully excavated by hand to determine their nature and to retrieve artefactual material. The depth and thickness of each deposit were measured from the ground surface. Each archaeological deposit or feature revealed was allocated a unique reference number (context number) with an individual written description. A list of all contexts and interpretations appears as Appendix 2. A photographic record was compiled and sections were drawn at a scale of 1:10. Recording of deposits encountered during the watching brief was undertaken according to standard Archaeological Project Services practice.

Finds recovered from excavated deposits were examined and a period date assigned where possible (Appendix 3). Records of the deposits and features recognised during the watching brief were examined. Phasing was assigned based on artefact dating and the nature of the deposits and recognisable relationships between them.

5. **RESULTS**

Four phases of activity were identified:

Phase 1	Natural deposits
Phase 2	Undated deposits
Phase 3	Medieval deposits
Phase 4	Modern deposits

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

Phase 1 Natural deposits

The earliest deposit encountered at the base of the trenches was a yellowish brown clayey silt (004) varying to a brownish yellow silty clay (008) towards the east. These deposits are probably glacial in origin.

Phase 2 Undated deposits

Cut into the natural deposits was a feature (009), possibly a pit, that was over 2.5m long and 0.5m deep (Fig. 4, Section 2). This was filled with greenish yellow silty clay (006) and brown sandy silt (007).

Phase 3 Medieval deposits

Overlying the natural deposits and sealing the possible pit was a subsoil comprising yellowish brown clayey silt (003 and 005). This measured between 0.57m and 0.78m thick and contained a single sherd of medieval pottery and a ceramic tile.

Phase 4 Modern deposits

Overlying the subsoil (003) at the west end of the foundation trenches was a 0.15m thick dumped deposit of yellowish brown silt (002) used for levelling the ground surface.

Sealing all deposits was a topsoil of dark brown clayey silt (001) that was 0.28m thick. Pottery dating to the 19th and early 20th century was retrieved from this deposit.

6. **DISCUSSION**

Deposits of natural clay and silts (Phase 1), were the earliest deposits encountered during the watching brief. These probably formed during the last glaciation. An undated possible pit (Phase 2) represents the only feature recorded during this investigation. Although interpreted as a pit, it may also be a naturally occurring feature such as a tree throw. A subsoil (Phase 3) was also recorded from which medieval pottery was retrieved. Levelling of the site was also recorded and is probably related to the rear yard of the former post office.

Several finds were recorded from the site and comprise medieval and more recent pottery, tile and glass. Such finds, derived from the topsoil and subsoil, may indicate nothing more than discarded rubbish incorporated into midden heaps and later spread on the land to improve soil fertility.

7. CONCLUSIONS

Archaeological investigations were carried out on land at The Old Post Office, Brinkhill, because the site lies within an area of medieval settlement.

An undated feature sealed by a medieval subsoil represent the only archaeological remains recorded during this investigation. The undated feature may be a pit but could also be natural in origin

A single medieval sherd and several 19th - 20th century pottery fragments were retrieved as was a glass bottle neck and a fragment of ceramic tile. No waterlogged features were found which indicates that few environmental indicators (snails, seeds, pollen *etc.*) will survive other than through charring.

8. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeological Project Services would like to acknowledge the assistance of Mrs J.

Croney who commissioned the fieldwork and post excavation analysis. The work was coordinated by Steve Malone and this report was edited by Tom Lane. Sarah Grundy kindly provided information from the County Sites and Monuments Record maintained by the Archaeology Section, Lincolnshire County Council. Hilary Healey commented upon the pottery.

9. PERSONNEL

Project Coordinator: Steve Malone Supervisor: Fiona Walker Finds Processing: Denise Buckley Illustration: Paul Cope-Faulkner Photographic Reproduction: Sue Unsworth Post-excavation Analyst: Paul Cope-Faulkner

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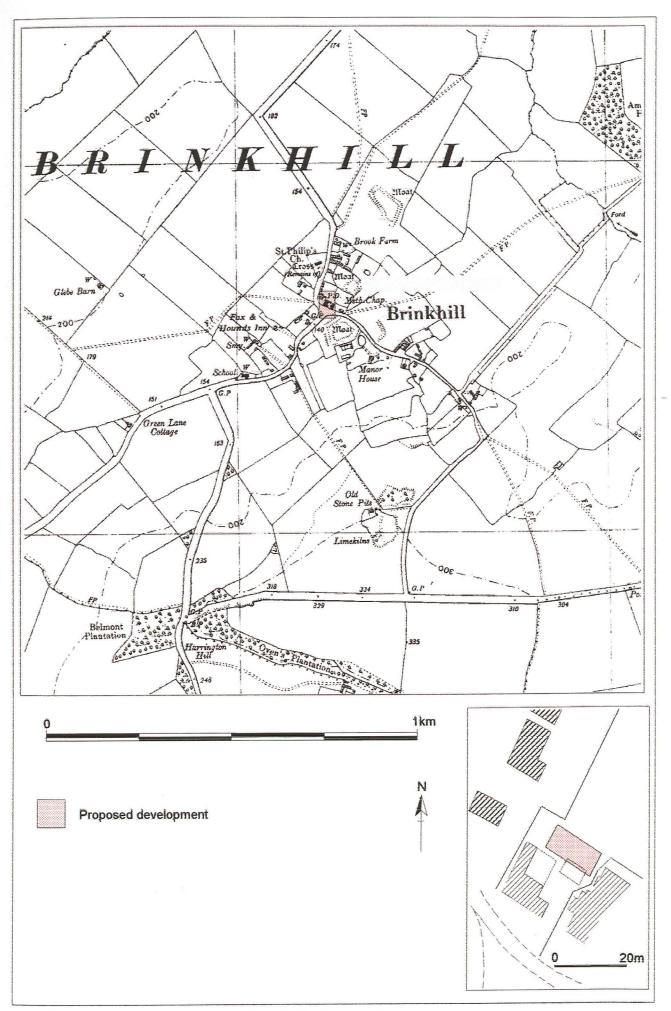
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11. ABBREVIATIONS

- APS Archaeological Project Services
- DoE Department of the Environment
- IFA Institute of Field Archaeologists
- IGS Institute of Geological Sciences

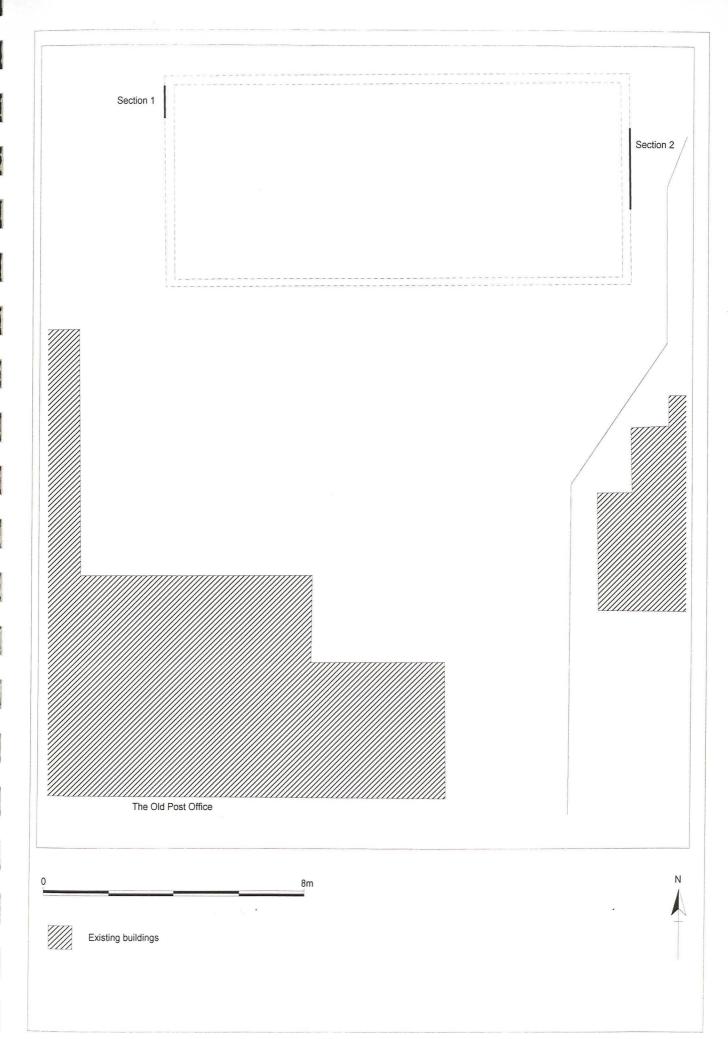


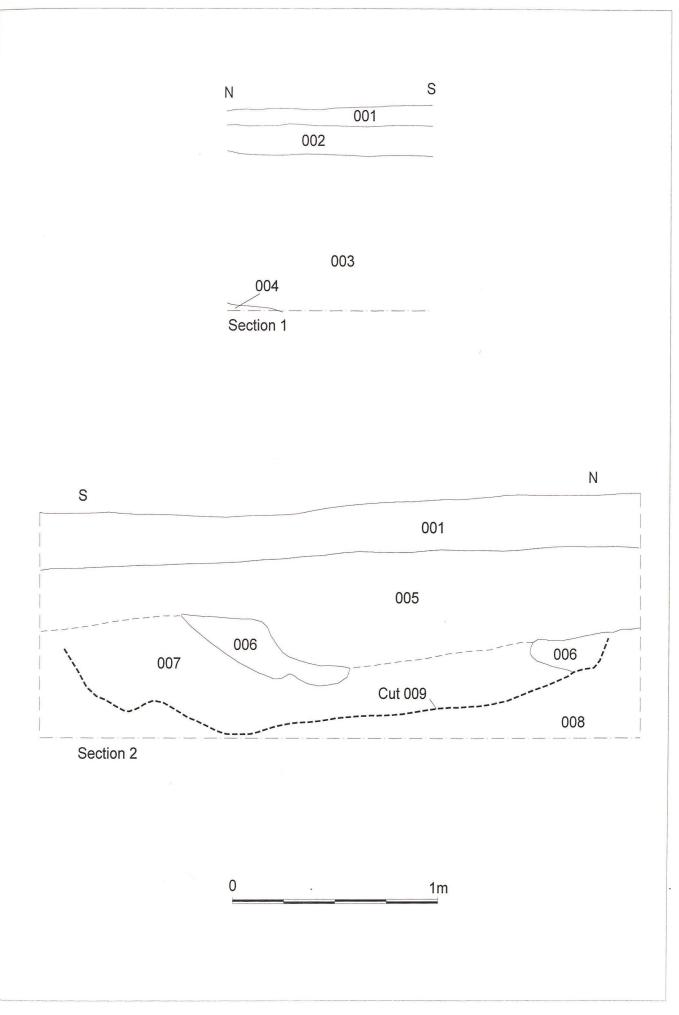
Figure 1 - General location map



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Figure 2 - Site location plan





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Figure 4 - Sections 1 and 2



Plate 1 - General view across the development area, looking south



Plate 2 - Section 1, looking west

LAND AT THE OLD POST OFFICE, BRINKHILL, LOUTH, LINCOLNSHIRE -SPECIFICATION FOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

1 SUMMARY

- 1.1 A watching brief is required during construction of a garage at The Old Post Office, Brinkhill, Louth.
- 1.2 The development lies in the heart of the village close to the earthwork remains of moated enclosures, which are Scheduled Ancient Monuments.
- 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 construction of a new garage on land at The Old Post Office, Brinkhill, Louth. The site is located at national grid reference TF 372 736.
- 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 Brinkhill is located 14.5km south of Louth in the administrative district of East Lindsey, Lincolnshire. The site is in the core of the village, about 100m south of the parish church of St. Philip at national grid reference TF 372 736.

4 PLANNING BACKGROUND

4.1 Planning permission for the construction of a new garage has been granted by East Lindsey District Council subject to a condition requiring the implementation of an archaeological watching brief during the development.

5 SOILS AND TOPOGRAPHY

5.1 Brinkhill village sits in a small northeast-southwest valley through which a partially canalised stream flows northeastward, subsequently becoming Calceby Beck The site lies in the centre of the village at a height of c. 42m OD. Local soils are the Wickham 2 Association, fine loamy over clayey typical stagnogleys (Hodge *et al.* 1984, 99).

6 THE ARCHAEOLOGY

6.1 Brinkhill lies in an area of known archaeological remains dating from the prehistoric period to the

present. Four neolithic stone and flint axes have been recorded from within the parish (though three were from the higher ground to the north and south of the village).

- 6.2 The village lies on the route of the Roman road between Lincoln and Burgh-le-Marsh. Although the actual course of the thoroughfare through Brinkhill is unclear, its route to Tetford and continuation at Ulceby indicate that the road may have passed through the northern end of the village.
- 6.3 Remains of the medieval period are represented by the earthworks of three moated enclosures in the village, two of which lie within 100m of the development site. Each is a Scheduled Ancient Monument. A 14th-century cross, with modern additions, survives in the churchyard of St Philip's which, although dated to the mid 19th-century, contains a 13th-century font and may lie on the site of an earlier church.

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 <u>Methodology</u>

- 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 <u>Stage 2</u>

- 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 Archaeological Officer, Lincolnshire County Council; East Lindsey 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

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

15 PROGRAMME OF WORKS AND STAFFING LEVELS

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

16 SPECIALISTS TO BE USED DURING THE PROJECT

16.1 The following organisations/persons will, in principle and if necessary, be used as subcontractors to provide the relevant specialist work and reports in respect of any objects or material recovered during the investigation that require their expert knowledge and input. Engagement of any particular

specialist subcontractor is also dependent on their availability and ability to meet programming requirements.

<u>Task</u>	Body to be undertaking the work
Conservation	Conservation Laboratory, City and County Museum, Lincoln
Pottery Analysis	Prehistoric - D. Knight, Trent & Peak Archaeological Unit
	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**

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CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

No.	Description	Interpretation
001	Firm dark brown clayey silt, maximum thickness 0.28m	Topsoil
002	Firm mid yellowish brown clayey silt, maximum thickness 0.15m	Levelling deposit
003	Firm mid yellowish brown clayey silt, 0.78m thick	Subsoil
004	Firm light to mid yellowish brown sandy silt, 50mm thick	Natural deposit
005	Firm mid yellowish brown clayey silt, maximum thickness 0.57m	Subsoil
006	Firm light to mid greenish yellow silty clay	Fill of 009
007	Firm mid brown sandy silt, maximum thickness 0.5m	Fill of 009
008	Firm mid brownish yellow silty clay, 0.35m thick	Natural deposit
009	Cut, seen in section only, concave sides with irregular base, 0.5m deep extent unclear	Possible pit or natural feature

THE FINDS

Hilary Healey and Gary Taylor

Provenance

The material was recovered from the topsoil (001) and a subsoil (003).

One of the pottery fragments was probably made at locally at Toynton All Saints, 10km to the south, though the majority of the assemblage is probably products of Staffordshire in the Midlands.

Range

The range of material is detailed in the table.

A single fragment of pottery of probable 14th-15th century date is the earliest material recovered. However, the majority of the small assemblage is provided by pottery of probable 19th century date. In addition to the pottery, glass, tile and burnt clay was also retrieved.

Context	Description	Context Date
001	4x blue and white transfer-printed tablewares, 19th-early 20th century, 1 trademarked	
	1x red painted earthenware, black glazed, 19th century	19 th -early 20 th
	1x red earthenware, brown glazed earthenware, 19th century	century
	1x glass bottle neck, 19th century	
003	1x Toynton All Saints-type ware, 14th-15th century	14 th -15 th century
	1x ceramic tile?	
	1x baked clay with ?ferrous concretion	

Although a pottery fragment from (001) is trademarked, the transfer is partially illegible and the maker cannot be identified.

Condition

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

Documentation

There have been several previous archaeological investigations at Brinkhill which are the subjects of reports. Details of archaeological sites and discoveries in the area are maintained in the Lincolnshire County Council Sites and Monuments Record.

Potential

The assemblage has limited potential in that much of it seems to be late post-medieval. However, it probably signifies the proximity of habitation of the period.

GLOSSARY

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.
Dumped deposits	These are deposits, often laid down intentionally, that raise a land surface. They may be the result of casual waste disposal or may be deliberate attempts to raise the ground surface.
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.
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 1 st century AD.
Romano-British	Pertaining to the period dating from AD 43-410 when the Romans occupied Britain.

THE ARCHIVE

The archive consists of:

- 9 Context records
- 2 Scale drawings
- 1 Photographic record sheet
- 1 Bag of finds
- 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:	2000.82
Archaeological Project Services Site Code:	BOP 00

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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