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**ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF
OF DEVELOPMENT AT
MANOR FARM,
EAST KEAL,
SPILSBY,
LINCOLNSHIRE
(EKM 01)**



A P S
ARCHAEOLOGICAL
PROJECT
SERVICES

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SOURCES 4697646977
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**ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF
OF DEVELOPMENT AT
MANOR FARM,
EAST KEAL,
SPILSBY,
LINCOLNSHIRE
(EKM 01)**

Work Undertaken For
Mrs C. Wells

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

May 2001

Planning Application No: S/45/1926/00
National Grid Reference: TF 382 642
City and County Museum Accession No: 2001.93

A.P.S. Report No: 89/01



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1. SUMMARY

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken during the construction of a new dwelling at Manor Farm, East Keal, Spilsby, Lincolnshire. The watching brief monitored the excavation of foundation trenches.

The site lies in an area of continued archaeological activity dating from the Mesolithic period (8200-4200 BC), through the Neolithic (4200-2250 BC) and into the Bronze Age (2250-800 BC) with additional finds indicating a Romano-British (AD 50-410), Saxon (AD 410-1066) and medieval (AD 1066-1500) presence close to the village.

The investigations revealed a sequence natural sand, subsoil and topsoil with an undated pit. A single fragment of daub was retrieved.

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

Archaeological Project Services was commissioned by Mrs C. Wells to undertake an archaeological watching brief during construction of a new dwelling at Manor Farm, East Keal, Spilsby, Lincolnshire. Approval for the development was sought through planning application S/45/1926/00. Permission was granted subject to a standard

condition for archaeological recording. The watching brief was undertaken on the 23rd April 2001 and was carried out in accordance with a specification designed by Archaeological Project Services and approved by the County Archaeological Officer (Appendix 1).

2.3 Topography and Geology

East Keal is located approximately 21km north of Boston and 13km southeast of Horncastle, in the administrative district of East Lindsey, Lincolnshire (Fig. 1).

The development site is located 275m north of the village centre as defined by the parish church of St. Helen at National Grid Reference TF 3824 6426 (Fig. 2). The site and surrounding area is situated on a moderate slope down to the southeast at a height of approximately 54m OD. Specifically, the site overlooks a small stream flowing from the northwest to the southeast.

Local soils are of the Cuckney 2 Association, typically brown sands, ferritic brown earths and argillic gley soils and Salop Association stagnogley soils (Hodge *et al.* 1984, 152, 361). These soils are developed on a solid geology of Cretaceous Spilsby Sandstone and the Claxby Ironstone Formation (BGS 1995).

2.4 Archaeological Setting

East Keal is located within an area of Mesolithic and later finds. Flints dating from the Mesolithic period were identified during the Fenland Survey from a broad band north of the village and from isolated areas to the east and west (Lane 1993, 39). Concentrations of Mesolithic sites are known from neighbouring West Keal where sources of flint were readily available from the weathered Spilsby Sandstone.

Artefacts, mainly flint tools with some pottery, indicate a continued presence in the vicinity until the end of the Early Bronze Age, predominantly to the north and west of the village (*ibid.* 39 and 45). There follows an apparent paucity of later prehistoric sites.

Scatters of Romano-British pottery have been recovered from the west of the village and immediately north of the development site and would appear to indicate settlement (*ibid.* 53). Many of these Romano-British sites were re-occupied during the Early and Middle Saxon period, prior to the Scandinavian invasions (*ibid.* 59).

East Keal is first mentioned in the Domesday Survey of c. 1086. Referred to as *Estrecale* the name is derived from the Old English *kjōlr*, meaning a keel and used topographically for a ridge, and either the Old Norse *eystri* or Old English *ēasterra*, meaning more easterly (Cameron 1998, 71). The Domesday Survey records that the land was owned by the Bishop of Durham, Ivo Taillebois and Eudo son of Spirewic and contained 30 acres of meadow and half a church (Foster and Longley 1976). The later Lindsey Survey of c. 1115 indicates only two landowners, Hugh son of Eudo and Ketelbern (*ibid.*).

The only extant remains of the medieval period is the 13th century church of St. Helen which presumably replaced the church mentioned in the Domesday Survey (DoE 1986). Earthworks of house platforms andcroft boundaries occur within the village and indicate that East Keal was once much larger.

Later extant buildings include two mud and stud cottages, the Old Rectory and Glengarry Cottage, dating from the 17th century and an 18th century mud and stud gable end in the Cottage Barn (Cousins 2000, 33).

Previous archaeological investigations have occurred south of the church. These revealed undated ditches and gullies and quantities of locally derived Toynton type pottery (Young 1999a and b).

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 depths of approximately 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.

Records of the deposits and features recognised during the watching brief were the examined and phasing was assigned based on the nature of the deposits and recognisable relationships between them.

5. RESULTS

Three phases were identified;

Phase 1	Natural deposits
Phase 2	Undated deposits
Phase 3	Recent deposits

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

Phase 1 Natural deposits

Located at the base of the foundation trenches was a light to mid yellow sand with sandstone fragments (005). This was greater than 0.4m thick and was identified as the underlying natural geology.

Developed upon this and derived from the geological deposits was a subsoil of light to mid reddish brown sand (004) which was 0.48m thick.

Phase 2 Undated deposits

Cut into the subsoil was a 0.7m wide feature (003) identified as a pit. This was 0.27m deep and contained a single fill of mid grey silty sand (002) from which a fragment of daub was retrieved.

Phase 3 Recent deposits

Sealing the undated pit (003) and overlying the subsoil (004) was a 0.2m thick layer of mid brown sandy silt (001) representing the topsoil.

6. DISCUSSION

Deposits of natural sand (Phase 1) were the earliest deposits encountered during the watching brief. These may represent the weathered surface of the underlying Spilsby

Sandstone. A layer of subsoil was also recorded.

A single pit (Phase 2) represents the only archaeological activity identified during this investigation. A small fragment of daub was retrieved but, unfortunately, cannot be dated.

7. CONCLUSIONS

Archaeological investigations were carried out on land at Manor Farm, East Keal, because the site lay within an area of archaeological activity dating from the Mesolithic period to the present day.

However, only a single pit was recorded during this investigation with no accompanying finds, apart from a fragment of daub.

Apart from the daub, no other artefacts were retrieved and the nature of the local site conditions suggests 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 C. Wells who commissioned the fieldwork and post excavation analysis. The work was coordinated by Gary Taylor and this report was edited by Tom Lane. Tom Lane and Gary Taylor commented upon the single fragment of daub. Dave Start kindly permitted access to the parish files and library maintained by Heritage Lincolnshire.

9. PERSONNEL

Project Coordinator: Gary Taylor
Supervisor: Fiona Walker

Illustration: Paul Cope-Faulkner
Photographic Reproduction: Sue Unsworth
Post-excavation Analyst: Paul Cope-Faulkner

report No. 108/99

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11. ABBREVIATIONS

APS Archaeological Project Services

BGS British Geological Survey

DoE Department of the Environment

IFA Institute of Field Archaeologists

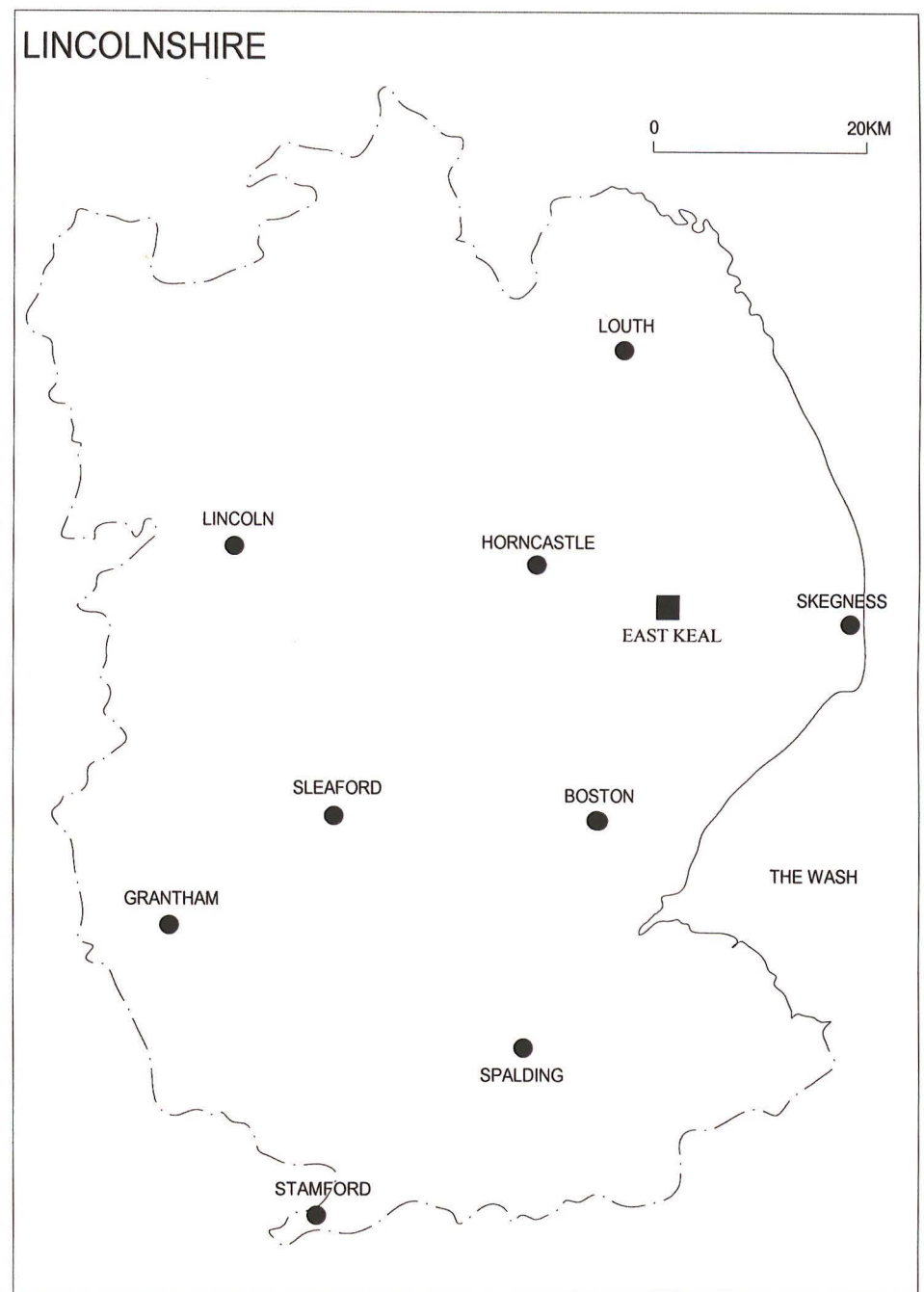


Figure 1 - General location plan



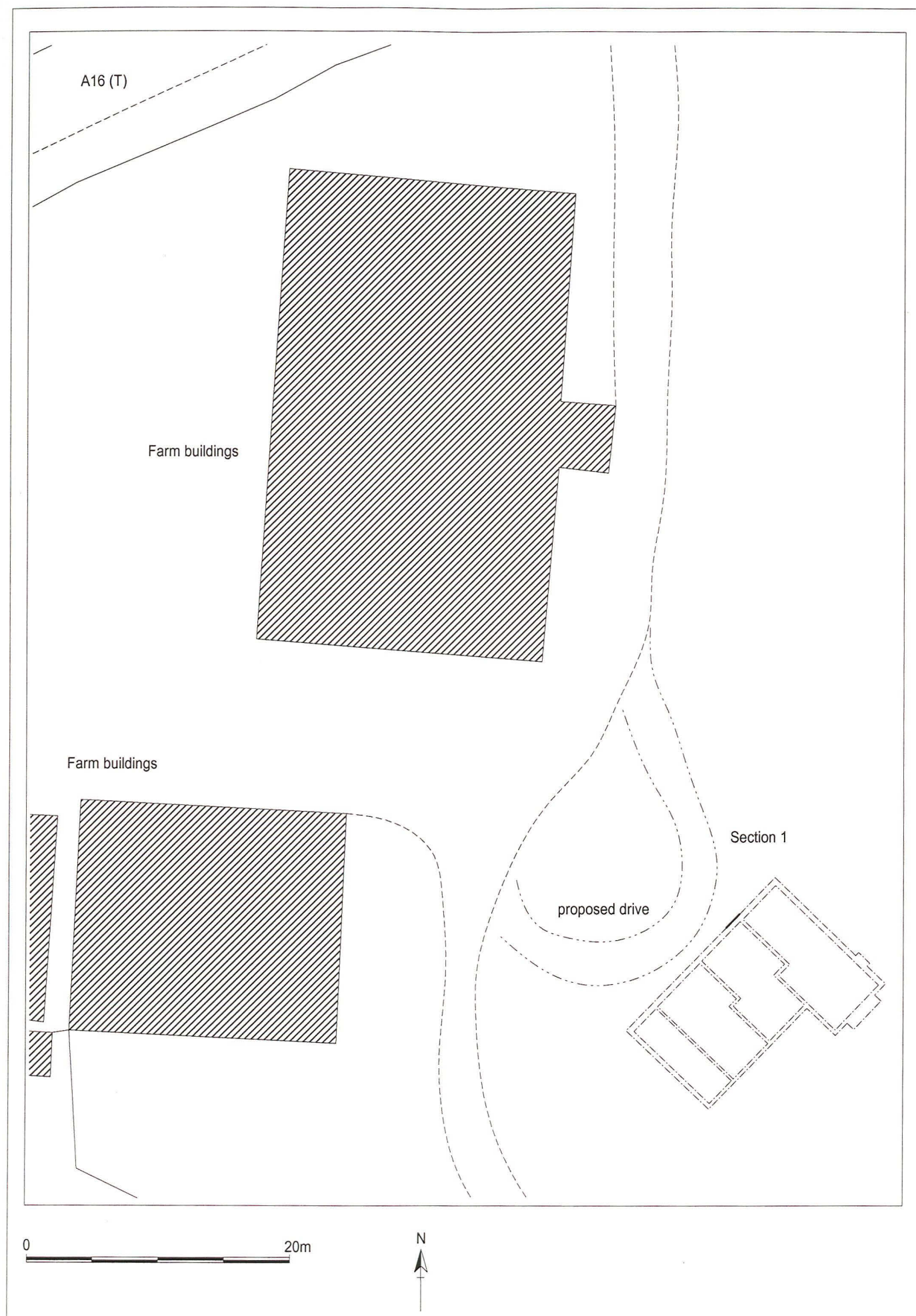
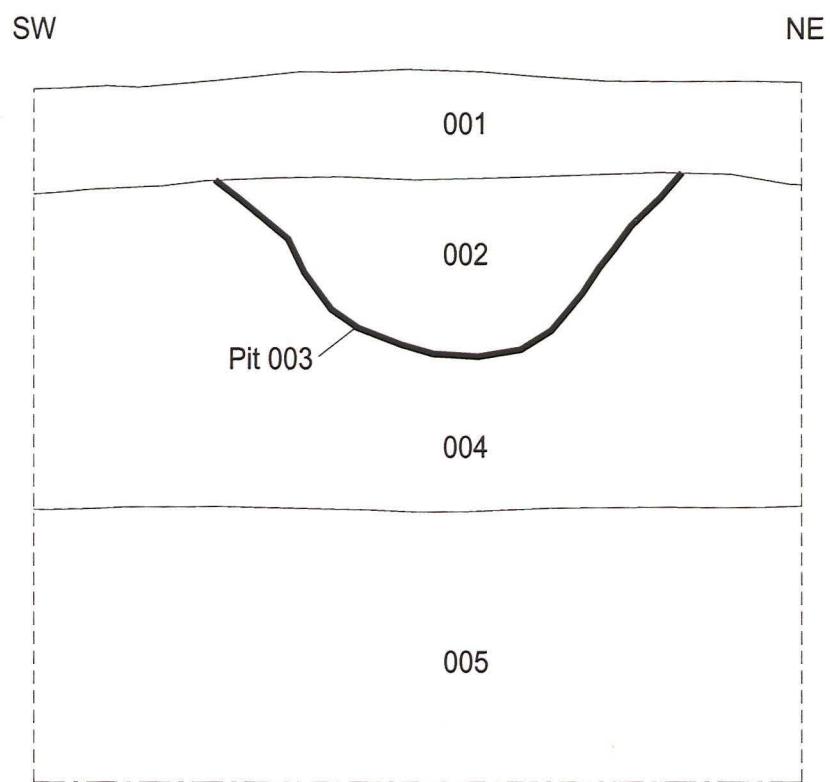


Figure 3 - Development plan showing the location of Section 1



Section 1



Figure 4 - Section 1



Plate 1 - General view of the development area, looking northwest



Plate 2 - Section 1, looking northwest

Appendix 1

LAND AT MANOR FARM, EAST KEAL, LINCOLNSHIRE - SPECIFICATION FOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

1 SUMMARY

- 1.1 *A watching brief is required during the construction of a farmhouse at East Keal, Lincolnshire.*
- 1.2 *The area is archaeologically sensitive, lying in close proximity to prehistoric flint scatter sites and in the immediate vicinity of a Romano-British site. Medieval and later remains are also located nearby, with the site being located in the area of the shrunken medieval village.*
- 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 groundworks connected with construction of a farmhouse at Manor Farm, East Keal, near Spilsby, Lincolnshire, National Grid Reference TF 382 642.
- 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 East Keal is located 3km southwest of Spilsby in the East Lindsey district of Lincolnshire. The works are to take place at the northeastern edge of the village, at Manor Farm, on the south side of the A16 at National Grid Reference TF 382 642.

4 PLANNING BACKGROUND

- 4.1 A planning application (S/45/1926/00) was submitted to East Lindsey District Council for the proposed farmhouse construction. Permission is subject to a condition requiring the implementation of an archaeological watching brief during groundworks.

5 SOILS AND TOPOGRAPHY

- 5.1 East Keal is situated at the southern edge of the Lincolnshire Wolds. The site and surrounding area is on a general southeast-facing slope at approximately 40m OD. Specifically, the site is on the north bank of a small stream flowing approximately northwest-southeast. Local soils are the Cuckney 2 Association brown sands on Cretaceous sandstone and Salop Association stagnogleys on drift (Hodge *et al.* 1984, 152; 361).

6 ARCHAEOLOGICAL OVERVIEW

- 6.1 Prehistoric remains have been found extensively throughout the parish. Several scatters of flint of Mesolithic, Neolithic and Bronze Age date have been found at various locations just to the north and

northeast of the development site. Romano-British remains have been found to the west and north of the village, and in the southern part of the parish near the fen edge. In particular, a Roman site is known immediately north of the development site, on the opposite side of the A16 road. The Roman site at the western edge of the village continued in occupation in to the Middle Saxon period.

- 6.2 East Keal is a topographic place-name of Scandinavian derivation and the settlement is first recorded in the Domesday Book of 1086, indicating that it was in existence in the Late Saxon period. Domesday records it shared a church, the present building being of 13th century origin. The present development site occupies part of the area of the shrunken medieval village. Evidence of pottery production in the medieval and post-medieval periods has been identified in the area.

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 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:

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 trenches and 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; 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 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 Archaeology Section. They will be given written notice of 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
Flints	K Pederson, Archaeological Project Services
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

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

Appendix 2

CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

No.	Description	Interpretation
001	Firm mid brown sandy silt, 0.2m thick	Plough soil
002	Firm mid grey silty sand	Fill of (003)
003	Feature, 0.7m wide by 0.27m thick, uniformly concave sides and rounded base	Pit
004	Firm light to mid reddish brown sand, 0.48m thick	Subsoil
005	Firm light to mid yellow sand with occasional sandstone blocks	Natural deposit

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 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.
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.
Mesolithic	The 'Middle Stone Age' period, part of the prehistoric era, dating from approximately 8200-4500 BC.
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.
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:

- 5 Context records
- 1 Scale drawings
- 1 Photographic record sheet
- 1 Stratigraphic matrix
- 1 Bag of finds

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: 2001.93

Archaeological Project Services Site Code: EKM 01

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.