

JOHN SAMUELS CONSULTANTS M2/18 Event Lizs65 Source Limist.

An Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment of land south of Lincoln Road, Metheringham, Lincolnshire NGR TF 506671 361441

> prepared by John Samuels Archaeological Consultants

> > on behalf of

appe N/39/0204/01

**Chanceoption Developments Ltd.** 6D High Street South Ruskington Nr. Sleaford

Lincolnshire

**NG34 9DT** 

JSAC 800/01/01

May 2001



Certificate Number 1967/99



SMR

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Conservation Services

0 5 OCT 2001

Highways & Planning Directorate

## An Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment

## of land south of Lincoln Road, Metheringham, Lincolnshire

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#### Summary

It is proposed to develop approximately 1.6ha of land south of Lincoln Road, Metheringham, Lincolnshire (NGR TF 506671 361441). John Samuels Archaeological Consultants were commissioned to undertake a desk-based assessment of the site by Chanceoption Developments Ltd.. An assessment was made, analysing relevant entries in the Lincolnshire Sites and Monuments Record (SMR), material held by the Lincoln Archives and our own library sources.

The assessment has revealed that no archaeological sites have been recorded in the County Sites and Monuments Record for the study site. The closest remains date from the Roman period and comprise a few sporadic finds of coins and pottery. No settlement remains of this date have been recorded within or close to Metheringham. Medieval remains have been recorded in Metheringham itself and comprise the 12<sup>th</sup> century church of St. Wilfrids and a moated site to the east of the village. No artefacts or remains of this date have been recorded close to the site. During the medieval period, the development site is likely to have been beyond the western outskirts of the medieval village, with the focus towards the moated site, the church and its surroundings. The eastern part of the parish, beyond Metheringham, is likely to have been a part of the Witham Fen which was drained and reclaimed during the 18<sup>th</sup> century. In the post-medieval period, cartographic evidence suggests that the site is likely to have remained agricultural land divided into small fields and an orchard.

There is no site specific geotechnical information available regarding the site. Archaeological monitoring undertaken during pipeline trenching along Princes Street, High Street and Albert Avenue suggested that the underlying geology is almost immediately below the road surfaces. Undated archaeological features were identified during trenching along the High Street.

There is an absence of recorded archaeological remains on the development site and the sparsity of remains recorded outside and close to the development site. The site has been developed on its eastern half and only the far western part remains relatively undisturbed. Development surrounding the site, undertaken over the last century has not identified artefacts or remains and it has not been until the last thirty years that sporadic finds have been identified. It is considered that there is a negligible-low potential for archaeological remains to exist within the development site.

#### 1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 Metheringham lies approximately 14km to the southeast of Lincoln and 15km north of Sleaford. The study area is situated to the west of the Church of St. Winifrids, centred on NGR TF 506671 361441. The site is bounded by residential development undertaken in the last century with Lincoln Road to the north and Princes Road to the south.
- 1.2 The area proposed for development covers approximately 1.6ha of land currently concreted hardstanding on the eastern part and grassed on the western part. The eastern part is used to store agricultural machinery. The site is generally level at a height of approximately 17m AOD with various buildings present which include sheds and stone and brick built buildings. Soils at the site are Elmton 1 Association (343a) comprising shallow well drained brashy calcareous fine loamy soils overlying a solid geology of Jurassic limestone (SSEW 1983).
- 1.3 Chanceoption Developments Ltd. commissioned John Samuels Archaeological Consultants to undertake a desk-based assessment to establish the site's archaeological potential in response to a brief set by the North Kesteven Heritage Officer (Appendix A).
- 1.4 This assessment was written by Jenny Young BA (Hons), AIFA in consultation with John Samuels BA, PhD, FSA, MIFA, MLI.

#### 2.0 Methodology

- 2.1 This assessment conforms to: Government Guidance to Local Planning Authorities: Planning Policy Guidance Note 16: Archaeology and Planning (PPG 16), DoE 1990; advice from English Heritage: Management of Archaeological Projects, English Heritage 1991; and is based on the requirements of the professional standards: Code of Conduct, Institute of Field Archaeologists1994; Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Desk-based Assessment, Institute of Field Archaeologists 1994.
- 2.2 Desk-top research undertaken by John Samuels Archaeological Consultants was based on an area of 500m around the proposed development site. It comprised analysis of relevant information contained in and provided by Lincolnshire County Sites and Monuments Record (SMR); documentary and cartographic searches of relevant material in published and unpublished sources were undertaken at the Lincoln Archives and our own library resources. Information about Scheduled Ancient Monuments, Registered Battlefields and Registered Parks & Gardens was obtained from English Heritage.
- 2.3 A site visit and walkover survey was undertaken to examine the topography and current land use of the site, and to identify any previously unrecorded above ground archaeology.
- 2.4 Following the assessment, conclusions were drawn and an indication provided of the archaeological potential of the proposed land for development and the importance of any sites directly affected or where their setting may be a consideration. Where appropriate, recommendations have been made.
- 2.5 At the time of writing there is no nationally agreed method of measuring the relative importance of archaeological monuments. PPG16 (paragraph 8) draws a distinction between nationally important remains and those of lesser distinction. On this basis it is possible to distinguish between monuments of national, regional local or negligible importance.
- National Monuments that are scheduled and protected under the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act (1979), those suitable for scheduling, or considered to be of national importance but not covered by the Secretary of State's criteria for scheduling.
  Regional Sites listed in the Sites and Monuments Record (SMR) or other sources which are of

south of Lincoln Road, Metheringham, Lincolnshire a reasonably well defined extent, nature and date and significant examples in the regional context.

An Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment of land

- Local Sites listed in the SMR or other sources which are of very low potential or minor importance.
- **Negligible** Areas in which investigative techniques have produced negative or minimal evidence of antiquity, or where large scale destruction of deposits has taken place (eg by mineral extraction).
- 2.6 The potential of a site to contain archaeological remains is based upon a consideration of its topography and the distribution and nature of recorded archaeological finds in the locality. It is measured on the basis of High, Medium, Low and Negligible.
- 2.7 The setting of a monument is generally considered what can be seen or heard to and from the monument. Its impact can be assessed on the basis of Major, Medium, Minor or Insignificant.

## 3.0 Archaeological, Historical and Cartographic Assessment

- 3.1 Archaeological Assessment
- 3.1.1 A search of the Lincolnshire Sites and Monuments Record (SMR) was made for a radius of up to 500m around site centre NGR TF 506671 361441. A distribution plot for those entries appears as Figure 2 and a summary of each entry is to be found in Appendix B. No archaeological remains have been recorded from within the study site. The closest archaeological remains recorded close to the development site date from the Roman period and later.
- 3.1.2 No settlement remains dating from the Roman period have been recorded close to the development site. However, chance finds of artefacts of Roman date have been recorded to the south and east of the development site. Such finds include Roman pottery (SMR 60843, 7 on Fig. 2; 60844, 8 on Fig. 2; K, 11 on Fig. 2) and coins of 3<sup>rd</sup> Century date (SMR P, 13 on Fig. 2; Q 14 on Fig. 2; U, 15 on Fig. 2) and are likely to indicate a presence in the area at this time. The Roman Car Dyke is located some 4km to the east of the site and appears to follow the edge of the Witham Fen (as plotted by Bennett & Bennett 1994; 73).
- 3.1.3 Medieval remains comprise artefacts, structures and cropmarks and are recorded to the east, west and south of the development site. Chance finds of artefacts have been recorded to the east and west of the site and comprise a silver penny of 13th/14th century date (SMR AO, 18 on Fig. 2) and a late medieval bronze buckle (SMR V, 16 on Fig. 2).
- 3.1.4 Standing structures dated to the medieval period comprise the village cross and St. Wilfrids Church. The stone village cross (SMR 60713/SAM 94, 3 on Fig. 2) has been recorded to the east of the study site and within the centre of Metheringham. Its original location has also been recorded a few yards away at the junction of three roads (SMR H, 10 on Fig. 2). The 12<sup>th</sup> century church of St. Wilfrids was damaged by fire in 1599 but still retains medieval features (Pevsner 1989; 562). The church is located to the southeast of the study site (SMR N, 12 on Fig. 2).
- 3.1.5 Earthworks and cropmarks dated to the medieval period have been recorded to the east and south of the site. The earthwork remains of a moated site have been recorded at Manor House (SMR Z, 17 on Fig. 2) and cropmarks comprising ridge and furrow are located to the south of the site (SMR 60840, on Fig. 2).

- 3.1.6 Further cropmarks and soilmarks have been recorded by aerial photography to the south of the site but remain undated. These remains comprise a trackway (SMR 60842, 6 on Fig. 2) and buildings (SMR 60841, 5 on Fig. 2; 60923, 9 on Fig. 2).
- 3.1.7 Further undated remains have been recorded during watching briefs associated with residential development and pipe trenching. During a watching brief undertaken at Church Walk (SMR 61366, 1 on Fig. 2) a layer of subsoil containing post-medieval material was recorded and overlay an undated pit and posthole (Cope-Faulkner 2000). Observations carried out during the laying of water pipes recorded undated ditches/pits and features were recorded along the High Street in the centre of Metheringham (SMR 60282, 2 on Fig. 2; LAS Report No. 333).
- 3.1.8 The watching brief undertaken during pipe trenching (SMR 60282) is of interest to the development site in that the route runs along Princes Street to the south of the site, Albert Avenue to the west and the High Street to the east (see Figure 2). Along Princes Street there are indications to suggest that the clay deposit overlying the natural limestone is petering out, the further eastwards one heads towards the High Street. At Point 2, limestone is recorded at 1m depth and as the land falls away eastwards, the limestone is recorded immediately below the tarmac roadway (at Point 6 & 14).

#### 3.2 Historical Assessment

- 3.2.1 The first written record for Metheringham occurs during the eleventh century where mention is made of *Medrichesham* in the Domesday Survey of 1086 AD. It is thought that the name describes Mēdrīc's homestead/estate or the homestead/estate of Mēdrīc's people (Cameron 1998). Mēdrīc is thought to derive from a personal name but may also be derived from the Old English *mædric* meaning meadow stream (Ekwall 1991).
- 3.2.2 The Domesday Survey of 1086AD, records Metheringham in the Wapentake of Langoe with Earl Hugh, Walter de Aincurt, Robert of Stafford and Sortebrand listed as owning land (Foster & Longley1976). Within the manor, 26 bordars, 12 sokemen, 28 villagers, three mills, a church, 191 acres of underwood and 470 acres of meadow are listed in total. The large extent of meadow suggests the presence of a large pastoral economy with sheep or cattle present.
- 3.2.3 The presence of three mills recorded at the time of the Domesday Survey would suggest a large arable community within the manor. Also during the medieval period, William son of Walter of

An Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment of land south of Lincoln Road, Metheringham, Lincolnshire Metheringham gave a mill at Metheringham to Stixwold Priory (Owen 1971; 50-51).

3.2.4 The 18<sup>th</sup> century saw the drainage and reclamation of the eastern part of the parish which was made up of the Witham Fens (Bennett & Bennett 1994; 73). Between 1777 and 1797 some 25,000 acres of the Witham Fens were drained and enclosed. By the 19<sup>th</sup> century, a new turnpiked road was created across the heathland between Sleaford and Lincoln and bypassed the old road between Ruskington and Metheringham (Rogers 1970; 74)

### 3.3 Cartographic Assessment

- 3.3.1 The earliest map consulted for the site dates from 1779 and comprises the Enclosure Award (original) and Map (photocopy) for Metheringham. A reconstructed copy of the map made in 1957 illustrates the site fully but without the accompanying legend, therefore landuse has not been ascertained. A tracing of the 1957 copy map (Figure 3) illustrates that the site was made up of rectangular parcels of land (approx.103, 112, 115, 118) aligned north-south and is part of a larger piece of land. A mill is illustrated to the west of the site off the main Sleaford-Lincoln Road (today known as the B1188). Until the enclosure of the land in 1779, the site was no doubt part of the larger open field system.
- 3.3.2 An undated plan of Metheringham (2Cra 2/2/57) which forms part of a collection of plans and tracings held by John Cragg illustrates the site itself much the same as the enclosure plan of 1779 (see Figure 4). Land to the east and south of the site shows a differing layout plan to the map of 1779 but no further analysis can be made.
- 3.3.3 Further maps of 19<sup>th</sup> century date illustrate land to the east and south of the site but not the development site itself and include the Tithe Plan of 1848 (H549), an undated plan of Metheringham (PSJ 13/15) and a plan of the Chaplin Estate (BS13/11/9/1).
- 3.3.4 The Second Edition 25" (1905) and 6" (1906) (see Figure 5) maps for the area were consulted and illustrate the site as comprising small fields and orchard. A windmill which is still upstanding today is illustrated to the west of the development site. In contrast, the later 1:25000 Pathfinder (782) ordnance survey plan of 1985, illustrates that Metheringham has spread from its centre out towards the B1188 with widespread development to the north, west and southwest of the site.

#### 4.0 Conclusions

- 4.1 The assessment has revealed that no archaeological sites have been recorded in the County Sites and Monuments Record, for the study site. The closest remains date from the Roman period and comprise a few sporadic finds of coins and pottery. No settlement remains of this date have been recorded within or close to Metheringham.
- 4.2 Medieval remains have been recorded in Metheringham itself and comprise the 12<sup>th</sup> century church of St. Wilfrids and a moated site to the east of the village. No artefacts or remains of this date have been recorded close to the development site. During the medieval period, the development site is likely to have been beyond the outskirts of the medieval village with the focus towards the moated site, the church and its surroundings. The eastern part of the parish, beyond Metheringham, is likely to have been a part of the Witham Fen which was drained and reclaimed during the 18<sup>th</sup> century. In the post-medieval period, cartographic evidence suggests that the site is likely to have remained agricultural land divided into small fields and an orchard.
- 4.3 There is no site specific geotechnical information available regarding the site. Archaeological monitoring undertaken during pipeline trenching along Princes Street, High Street and Albert Avenue suggested that the underlying geology is almost immediately below the road surfaces. Undated archaeological features were identified during trenching along the High Street.
- 4.4 It is considered that there is a negligible-low potential for archaeological remains to exist within the development site. This consideration is based on the absence of recorded archaeological remains on the development site and the sparsity of remains recorded outside and close to the development site. The site has been developed on its eastern half and only the far western part remains relatively undisturbed. Development surrounding the site, undertaken over the last century has not identified artefacts or remains and it has not been until the last thirty years that sporadic finds have been recorded.

## 5.0 Figures

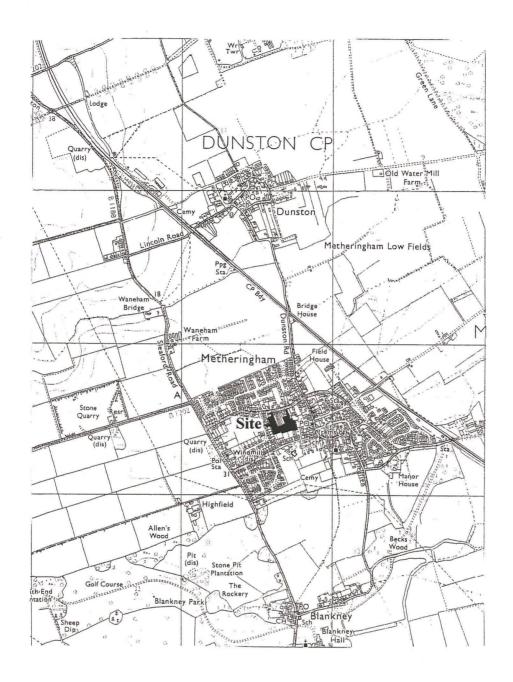
Figure 1. Site Location Plan

Figure 2. SMR Distribution plot

Figure 3. Tracing of the Enclosure map 1779 (1957 copy)

Figure 4. Undated plan of Metheringham (tracing) (2Cra/2/2/57)

Figure 5. 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition 6" Ordnance Survey map (1906)



0

1km

## Figure 1. Site Location Plan

Note: Map based on Ordnance Survey with the sanction of the Controller of H.M. Stationery Office, Crown Copyright Reserved. Licence No. AL 100020447

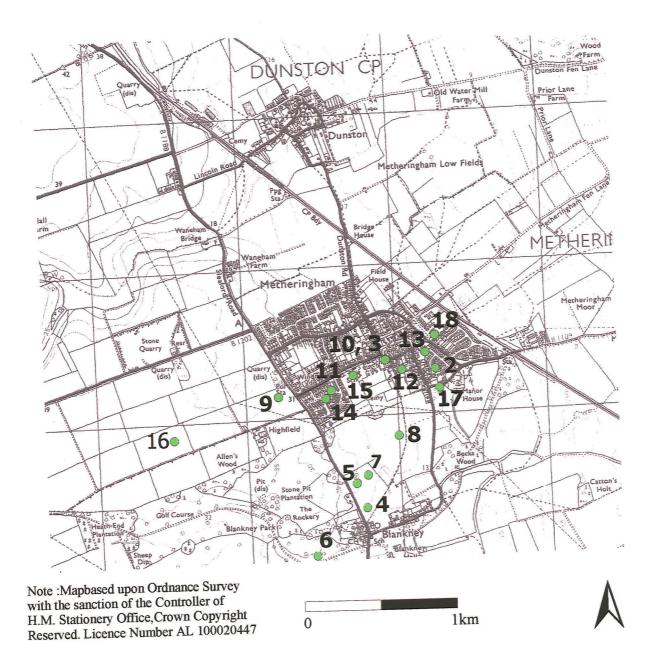


Figure 2. SMR Distribution Plot

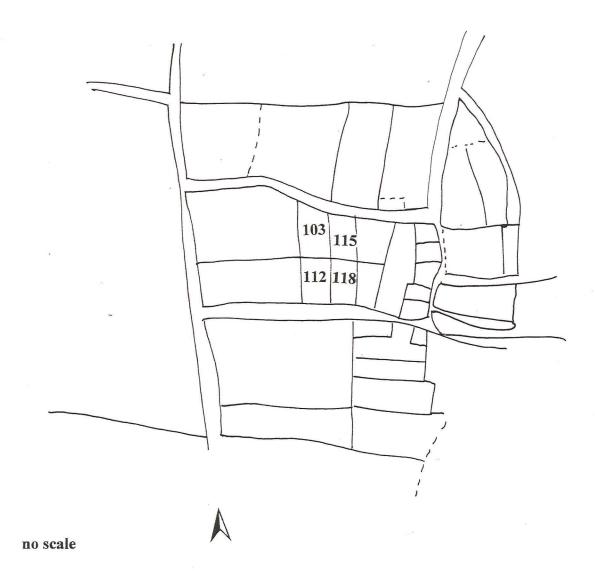
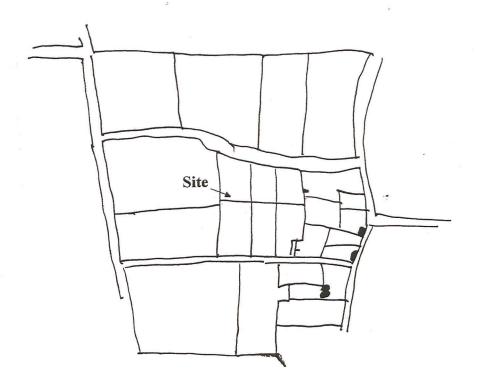
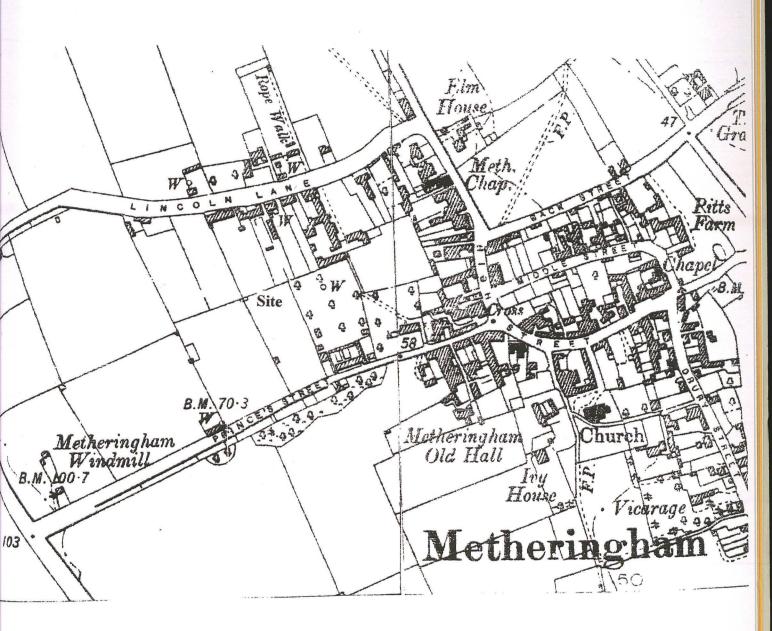


Figure 3. Tracing of the Enclosure map 1779 (1957 copy)



no scale





(not to scale)



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Lincolnshire SMR

Lincoln Archives: Maps:

Undated plan of Metheringham (19th century) (PSJ 13/15)

Plan of Metheringham (c. 19<sup>th</sup> C.) Chaplin Estate (BS 13/11/9/1)

Plan of Metheringham (nd) Plans and tracings collected by John Cragg (2Cra 2/2/57)

Kesteven Inclosure Award and Plan 52 (29th Nov. 1779)

Tithe Award and Plan (1848) (H549)

Ordnance Survey 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition 25" & 6" (1905 & 1906 respectively) Sheet 79 SW & SE

Appendix A: Brief for an Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment

# BRIEF FOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL DESK TOP ASSESSMENT OF LAND SOUTH OF LINCOLN ROAD, METHERINGHAM, LINCOLN

#### Application Number: N/39/0204/01

Site Address: Land south of Lincoln Road, Metheringham, Lincoln

NGR: 506671 361441

Applicant: Chanceoption Developments Ltd.

#### Agent: Richard Hunt Design

#### Site Description:

The site is an irregular block of land located between Lincoln Road, the High Street and Prince's Street, just outside the western boundary of the conservation area of the village. It is presently used to store agricultural machinery and a large modern pre-fab. warehouse dominates the centre of the site. A number of historic buildings, possibly representing former farm buildings are located within and adjacent to the proposed development area. The ground is generally hard standing with a strip of grass along the southern boundary.

#### **Planning Background:**

This is a full planning application to construct 20 dwellings with associated roads and services.

#### Archaeological Background:

Sporadic finds of Roman coins have been reported from 4 places located towards the west and south of Metheringham. Roman pottery was also discovered approximately 250m southwest of the proposed development.

Medieval remains are extensive. The present church was founded in the 12<sup>th</sup> century and a medieval moated site once lay to the east of the village near the Manor House.

#### Reasons for an Archaeological Desk-Top Assessment

The history and archaeology of Metheringham has never been synthesised and although it is believed that the origins of the village lie further east, the western end of the settlement remains completely unexplored.

This development involves the demolition of a number of buildings and re-development of a site where evidence of previous occupation has already been cleared during its conversion to commercial use.

A desk-top assessment is necessary to assess the archaeological potential of the site and the expected survival and quality of any archaeological remains within it. The development of the site in historical times and the level of disturbance caused by its present use would be particularly useful.

Heritage Officer

fund

Date: 28/03/01 Brief is valid for 1 year from this date.

#### For the particular attention of the Client

#### 1. INTRODUCTION

1. This brief should be sent to archaeological contractors as the basis for the preparation of a detailed archaeological project specification. In response to this brief contractors will be expected to provide details of the proposed scheme of work, to include the anticipated timescales, staffing levels and sources of information.

(The North Kevesten Heritage Officer does not maintain a list of archaeological contractors but names of local units can be found in the Yellow Pages, or from the Institute of Field Archaeologists. Tel: 0118 931 6446)

1.2. Detailed specifications should be submitted by the client for approval by the North Kesteven Heritage Officer. Failure to seek approval at an early stage may result in delay later on; contractors are therefore strongly advised to seek approval of the detailed specification as soon as possible. The client will be free to choose between those specifications which are considered to adequately satisfy this brief.

#### For the particular attention of the Contractor

#### 2. REQUIREMENT FOR WORK

2.1. The objective of the archaeological desk-top assessment will be to examine existing information in order to establish the likely archaeological potential of the site and particularly the expected survival and quality of any archaeological remains. The results of this assessment should seek to enable a decision on whether further information can reasonably be required through implementing a designed field evaluation.

2.2. Any adjustments to the brief for this assessment should only be made after discussion with the North Kesteven Heritage Officer.

2.3. The contractor's specification should be prepared according to the requirements of this brief and the Lincolnshire Archaeological Handbook's section 'Standard Briefs for Archaeological Projects in Lincolnshire' (August 1997) and should include the following:

2.3.1. a projected timetable of work;

2.3.2. staff structure and numbers.

#### 3. METHODS

3.1. It is expected that the desk-top assessment should include reference to the geology, soils and drainage of the site. Particular reference should be made to the anticipated preservation conditions at the site, and especially to variables affecting preservation of biological remains and organic artifacts.

3.2. The report should include an assessment of the site within both the local and regional context. It should highlight any particular relevant research priorities which may be addressed by this project.

3.3. In order to ensure that all possible archaeological constraints are evaluated, all secondary sources must be consulted as part of this assessment. Sources to be consulted should include:

3.3.1. Lincolnshire Sites and Monuments Record; /

3.3.2. All Ordnance Survey maps;

3.3.3. Tithe, Enclosure Award and Parish Maps (where appropriate);

3.3.4. Historical documents, particularly those held in Lincolnshire Archives Office;

3.3.6. Unpublished reports and archives (where appropriate);

3.3.7. Aerial photographs;

3.3.8. Geotechnical information, e.g. client geosurvey records, boreholes and test pits

3.3.9. Any other sources deemed appropriate.

3.4. A site visit should be made to verify site conditions and locate any potential constraints to further evaluation. It is vital that information regarding previous land-use of the site is included in the report.

#### 4. **REPORTING REQUIREMENT**

4.1. A full report should be produced and deposited with the North Kesteven Heritage Officer, the Developer and the County Sites and Monuments Record.

4.2. The final report should be produced to the level outlined in The Management of Archaeological Projects, Appendix 3, English Heritage, 1991 and should include:

4.2.1. a location plan of the development, preferably at a minimum scale of 1:10,000;

4.2.2. a summary of all available information;

4.2.3. objectives;

4.2.4. methodology;

4.2.5. summary of geology and topography (including at least one photograph, reproduced at high resolution in colour);

4.2.6. a comprehensive list of all sources consulted, regardless of whether they provided material for this assessment;

4.2.7. possible options for further evaluation work, including all constraints.

4.3. An assessment of the significance of the site should also be included (guidelines can be found in the Secretary of State's criteria for scheduling ancient monuments – DOE 1990, Annex 4, or the Heritage Values outlined within Sustaining the historic environment: new perspectives on the future – EH March 1997);

#### 5. PUBLICATION AND DISSEMINATION

5.1. The deposition of a copy of the report with the Lincolnshire Sites and Monuments Record will be deemed to put all information in the public domain, unless a special request is made for confidentiality. If material is to be held in confidence, a timescale must be agreed, but it is expected that this will not exceed six months.

#### 6. FURTHER CONTACT ADDRESSES

Joanna Hambly North Kesteven Heritage Officer, Heritage Lincolnshire The Old School Cameron Street Heckington Lincolnshire NG34 9RW Tel: 01529 461499 joanna@lincsheritage.org

County Sites and Monuments Record Highways and Planning Directorate Lincolnshire County Council 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor City Hall Lincoln LN1 1DN Tel: 01522 553073

Department of Planning North Kesteven District Council Offices Kesteven Street Sleaford Lincolnshire NG34 7EF

Mr T. Page City and County Museum 12 Friars Lane Lincoln LN2 5AL

#### Date: 28/03/01

Brief set by the North Kesteven Heritage Officer. This project brief is valid for a period of one year.

> Appendix B : Relevant SMR Entries

| NO.            | SMR NO.   | NGR NO.                                      | PERIOD        | n Road, Metheringham, Lincolnshire<br>DESCRIPTION |
|----------------|-----------|--|---------------|---|
| 1              | 61366     | TF0698 6126                                  | Undated       |   |
|                |           | Mitture internation and international states |               | Pit and post hole                                 |
| 2              | 60282     | TF0727 6128                                  | Medieval      | Moat and water course                             |
| <b>3</b> 60713 |           | TF06894 61401                                | Medieval      | Cross   |
| 4              | 60840     | TF0680 6040                                  | Medieval      | Ridge and furrow                                  |
| 5 60841        |           | TF0673 6055                                  | Undated       | Soilmark and stone                                |
|                |           | 4  |               | (Building)  |
| 6              | 60842     | TF065 609                                    | Undated       | Soilmark (Trackway)                               |
|                |           | TF070 603                                    |               |   |
| 7              | 60843     | TF068 606                                    | Roman         | Artefact scatter (pottery)                        |
| 8              | 60844     | TF070 608                                    | Roman         | Artefact scatter (pottery)                        |
| 9              | 60923     | TF0620 6115                                  | Undated       | Artefact scatter (stone and                       |
|                |           |  |               | building)   |
| 10             | Н         | TF0690 6140                                  | Medieval      | Stone cross, 3 octagonal                          |
|                |           |  |               | steps and part of shaft                           |
|                |           |  |               | (SAM 94)  |
| 11             | K         | TF066 612                                    | Roman         | Base of large grey ware jar                       |
| 12             | Ν         | TF0701 6128                                  | Medieval      | St. Wilfrids church                               |
| 13             | Р         | TF072 614                                    | Roman         | Roman coin  |
| 14             | Q         | TF0650 6118                                  | Roman         | Silver washed antoninianous                       |
|                |           |  |               | of ?Galliienus                                    |
| 15             | U         | TF0607 6127                                  | Roman         | Coin  |
| 16             | V         | TF0552 6089                                  | Late medieval | Bronze buckle                                     |
| 17             | Z (60282) | TF0727 6128                                  | Medieval      | Possible moated site                              |
| 18             | AO        | TF073 616                                    | Medieval      | Silver penny of Edward I-                         |
|                |           |  |               | III   |