AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF OF DEVELOPMENT ON LAND ADJACENT TO WEST END, WALCOTT, LINCOLNSHIRE (WWE 01)

1



M1120

A P S ARCHAEOLOGICAL P R O J E C T S E R V I C E S Event L12601 Source 117202 L17203.

regative

Conservation Services 0 9 NOV 2001

Highways & Planning Directorate

AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF OF DEVELOPMENT ON LAND ADJACENT TO WEST END, WALCOTT, LINCOLNSHIRE (WWE 01)

Work Undertaken For Mr D.A. Gale

Report Compiled By Paul Cope-Faulkner BA (Hons) AIFA

November 2001

Planning Application No: N/70/092/98 National Grid Reference: TF 1285 5638 City and County Museum Accession No:2001.274

A.P.S. Report No: 142/01



CONTENTS

List of Figures

List of Plates

1

1.	Summary 1
2.	Introduction12.1Definition of a Watching Brief12.2Planning Background12.3Topography and Geology12.4Archaeological Setting1
3.	Aims
4.	Methods
5.	Results
6.	Discussion
7.	Conclusions 3
8.	Acknowledgements
9.	Personnel
10.	Bibliography 3
11.	Abbreviations

Appendices

- Specification for archaeological recording 1 2 **Context Descriptions**
- 34 Glossary
- The Archive

List of Figures

[]

IJ

- Figure 1 General Location Plan
- Figure 2 Site Location Plan
- Figure 3 Plan of the development showing section locations
- Figure 4 Sections 1, 2, and 3

List of Plates

- Plate 1 General view of the development area, looking east
- Plate 2 Section 1 showing the general sequence of deposits, looking east

INTRODUCTION.

- Definition of a Watching Brief

An archaeological watching brief is defined as 'a formal programme of observation and investigation conducted during any operation carried and for nonarchaeological reasons within a specified area, where there is a possibility that orchaeological depositation to disturbed or destroyed' (IFA 1997).

1.2 Planatog Background

Archaeological Project Services was commissioned by Mr D.A. Gale to codensity an archaeological seatching brief south vert of the village centre as defined by St. Orwald's parish church at National Grid Reference TF 1285 5638 (Fig. 2). The size is situated at a bright of c. 10m OD on a slight stops: down to the west and the particity canalized stream, New Citt.

Local soils are of the Deories (Association, generally fine foamy staggogicy soils containing quarts or fint (Hodge et al. 1984, 117). These soils overlive a dolt geology of glacial, chaffe rich backfor slows which overlie a solid geology of Associate Anchoiree Series clays, whete end family one (HOS 1975).

2.4 Archaoological Setting

Webout is located in an area of known archaeological remains during from the Needlifie period to the present day. Aerist photographs have recorded a possible long berrow southwest of the village and Greenslooe exes of the period are also

1. SUMMARY

ļ

in the second state of the second sec

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken during the construction of a single dwelling on land adjacent to West End, Wacott, Lincolnshire. The watching brief monitored the excavation of the groundworks associated with the development.

A Neolithic (4200-2250 BC) long barrow and isolated stone tools are known from the vicinity, the long barrow becoming a focus for a Bronze Age (2250-800 BC) round barrow cemetery. Romano-British (AD 50-410) remains in the vicinity include a cemetery to the south of Walcott and the watercourse, the Car Dyke, located to the northeast. The earthworks of Catley Priory are the only medieval (1066-1500) remains in the vicinity.

The investigations revealed a sequence of natural sands, silts and gravel overlain by subsoil and topsoil deposits. No archaeological features were identified and no artefacts were 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 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 Mr D.A. Gale to undertake an archaeological watching brief during construction of a single dwelling on land adjacent to West End, Walcott, Lincolnshire. Approval for the development was sought through the submission of planning application N/70/092/98. Permission was granted subject to a standard condition for archaeological recording. The watching brief was carried out in accordance with a specification designed by Archaeological Project Services and approved by the Heritage Officer for North Kesteven District Council (Appendix 1). The watching brief was undertaken on the 8th October 2001.

2.3 Topography and Geology

Walcott village is approximately 20km southeast of Lincoln and 13km northeast of Sleaford, North Kesteven District, Lincolnshire (Fig. 1).

The development site is located 320m southwest of the village centre as defined by St. Oswald's parish church at National Grid Reference TF 1285 5638 (Fig. 2). The site is situated at a height of c. 10m OD on a slight slope down to the west and the partially canalised stream, New Cut.

Local soils are of the Beccles 1 Association, generally fine loamy stagnogley soils containing quartz or flint (Hodge *et al.* 1984, 117). These soils overlie a drift geology of glacial chalk rich boulder clays which overlie a solid geology of Jurassic Ancholme Series clays, shale and limestone (BGS 1995).

2.4 Archaeological Setting

Walcott is located in an area of known archaeological remains dating from the Neolithic period to the present day. Aerial photographs have recorded a possible long barrow southwest of the village and Greenstone axes of the period are also

known from the vicinity.

J

J

J

i the test of test of

Numerous Bronze Age round barrows, constituting a cemetery, are recorded in the same area as the Neolithic long barrow.

A Romano-British cemetery is known to lie within 700m of the development, midway between Walcott and Billinghay. The cemetery was discovered early in the 20th century when human bones and pottery urns were discovered. Further Romano-British remains are represented by the Car Dyke which passes Walcott to the northeast.

Walcott is first mentioned in the Domesday Survey of c. 1086. Referred to as Walecote the name is derived from the Old English and means the 'cottage (cot) of the Welshmen (wala)' (Cameron 1998, 134). At the time of Domesday the land was held by the Archbishop of York and Walter de Aincurt and contained 20 acres of meadow and 46 acres of underwood (Foster and Longley 1976).

A group of earthworks located southwest of the development represent the site of a former Gilbertine Priory. This was established in the 12th century and known as Catley Priory. The abbey was described in its foundation charter as 'the site of the grange between *Walcot* and the marsh, with its enclosures and ditches, and two cultures of arable land (Owen 1981, 57).

The parish church of St.Oswald, central to the modern village, was built in 1852, while farther south is the Methodist Chapel built in 1869 (Pevsner and Harris 1989, 779).

A watching brief undertaken 30m to the southwest revealed a system of undated field boundaries, possibly post-medieval in date (Herbert 1998, 1).

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 c. 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, if present, 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. 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 examined. Phasing was assigned based on artefact dating and the nature of the deposits and recognisable relationships between them.

5. RESULTS

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

The earliest deposit encountered at the base

of the foundation trenches was a greyish brown sandy silt (004) which was overlain by a 0.3m thick yellowish brown silty sand with gravel (003). These deposits are derived from the underlying boulder clay.

A 0.4m thick subsoil, comprising yellowish brown silty sand and gravel (002), developed upon the natural deposits and was in turn sealed by a 0.4m thick greyish brown silty sand topsoil (001).

6. DISCUSSION

Deposits of natural sands, silts and gravels were the earliest deposits encountered during the watching brief. These relate to the underlying drift geology and are glacial in origin. Subsoil and topsoil had then developed upon these natural deposits.

No artefacts were retrieved during this investigation and there was no evidence of former field boundaries that have previously been identified in the vicinity.

7. CONCLUSIONS

Archaeological investigations were carried out on land at West End, Walcott, because the site lies within an area of prehistoric and medieval settlement.

No archaeological features were identified and a sequence of natural, subsoil and topsoil deposits were recorded. No finds were retrieved. No waterlogged deposits 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 Mr D.A. Gale who commissioned the fieldwork and post excavation analysis. The work was coordinated by Steve Malone and this report was edited by Tom Lane. Jo Hambly, the North Kesteven Heritage Officer, kindly permitted access to the parish files maintained by Heritage Lincolnshire

9. PERSONNEL

Project Coordinator: Steve Malone Supervisors: Barry Martin, Jim Snee Illustration: Paul Cope-Faulkner Photographic Reproduction: Sue Unsworth Post-excavation Analyst: Paul Cope-Faulkner

10. **BIBLIOGRAPHY**

BGS, 1995, Horncastle, Solid and Drift geology, 1:50000 map sheet 115

Cameron, K., 1998, A Dictionary of Lincolnshire Place-Names, English Place-Name Society Popular Series Vol. 1

Foster, C.W. and Longley, T. (eds), 1976, *The Lincolnshire Domesday and the Lindsey Survey*, The Lincoln Record Society 19

Herbert, N., 1998, Archaeological Watching Brief of Development on Land at West End, Walcott, Lincolnshire (WEW 98), unpublished APS report No. 71/98

Hodge, C.A.H., Burton, R.G.O., Corbett, W.M., Evans, R. and Seale, R.S., 1984, Soils and their uses in Eastern England, Soil Survey of England and Wales 13

IFA, 1999, Standard and Guidance for

Archaeological Watching Briefs

Owen, D.M., 1981, Church and Society in Medieval Lincolnshire, History of Lincolnshire Vol. V

Pevsner, N. and Harris, J., 1989, Lincolnshire, The Buildings of Lincolnshire (2nd edition revised Antram, N.)

11. ABBREVIATIONS

APS Archaeological Project Services

BGS British Geological Survey

IFA Institute of Field Archaeologists

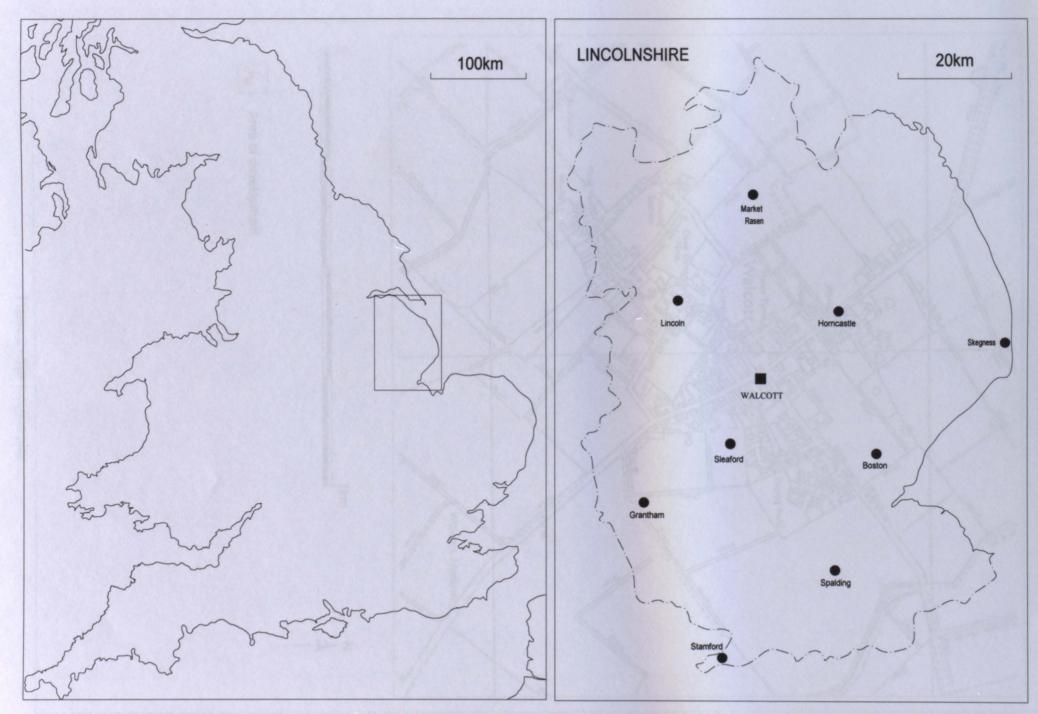
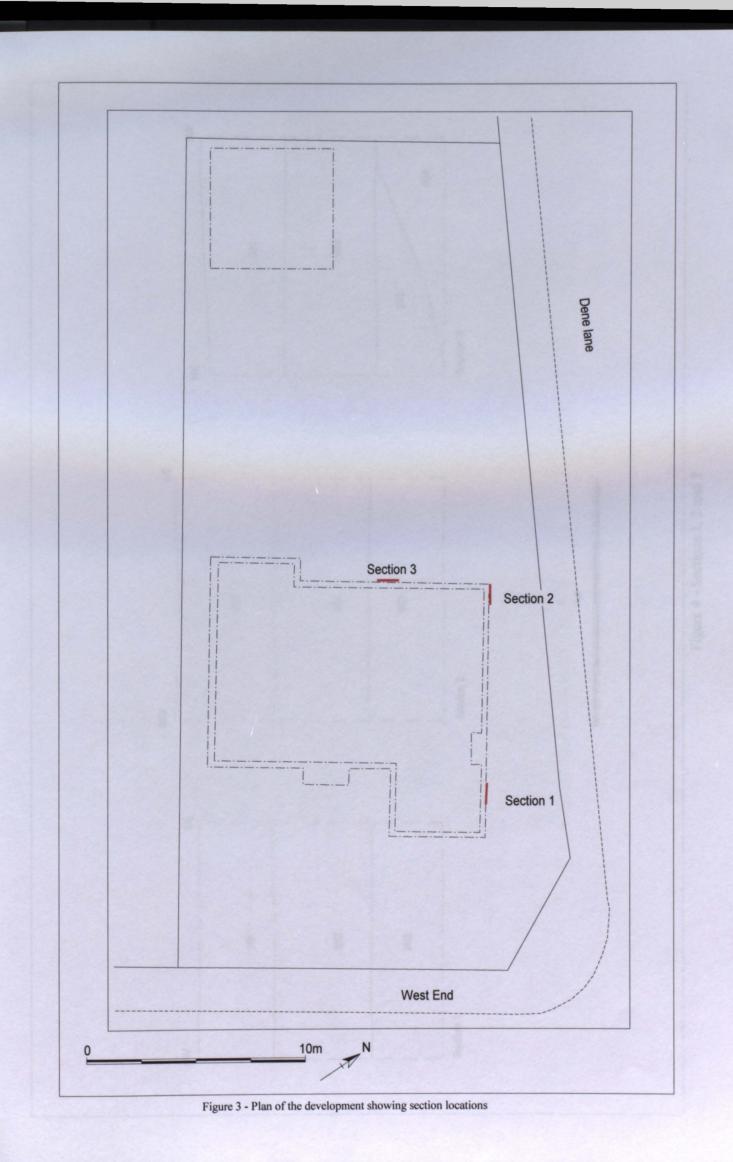


Figure 1 - General Location Plan



Figure 2 - Site location plan



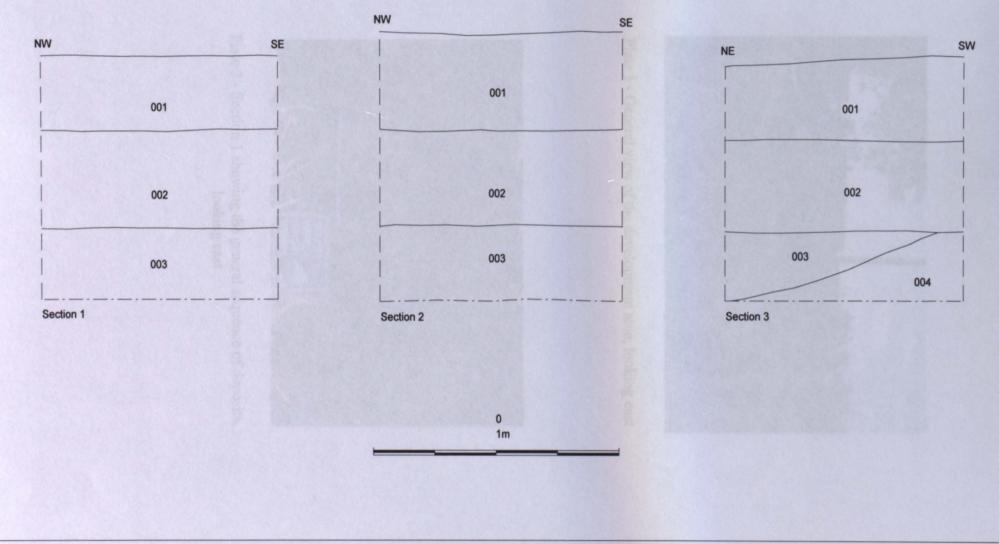


Figure 4 - Sections 1, 2 and 3



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



Plate 2 - Section 1 showing the general sequence of deposits, looking east

LAND AT WEST END, WALCOTT, LINCOLNSHIRE - SPECIFICATION FOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

SUMMARY

1

- 1.1 A watching brief is required during residential development on land at West End, Walcott, Lincolnshire.
- 1.2 The area is archaeologically sensitive, in an area with evidence of settlement from the prehistoric, Roman and medieval periods.
- 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 residential development at Walcott, Lincolnshire, National Grid Reference TF 1285 5638.
- 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 Walcott is located approximately 22km southeast of Lincoln and 13km northeast of Sleaford in the North Kesteven district of Lincolnshire. The development site lies in the west of the village, on the north side of West End at National Grid Reference TF 1285 5638.

4 PLANNING BACKGROUND

4.1 A planning application was submitted to North Kesteven District Council for the proposed development. Permission is subject to a condition requiring the implementation of an archaeological watching brief during groundworks.

5 SOILS AND TOPOGRAPHY

5.1 The site is on relatively level ground at approximately 10m OD. Local soils are the Beccles 1Association fine loamy over clayey soils developed on chalky till (Hodge *et al.* 1984, 117).

6 ARCHAEOLOGICAL OVERVIEW

6.1 Walcott lies on the edge of the Witham valley just west of the Car Dyke. An extensive Bronze Age barrow cemetery lies 600m to the southwest. Finds of Bronze Age axes in the vicinity are a further

indication of prehistoric settlement somewhere in the area. A Roman cemetery is also known 600m to the southeast of the development site. About 1.3km to the southwest lay the Medieval Gilbertine Priory of Catley. The street name 'Grange Street' may indicate the presence of a monastic grange in the immediate 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:
 - 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; North Kesteven District Council Planning Department; the North Kesteven Heritage Officer; and to the County Council Archaeological Sites and Monuments

Task	Body to be undertaking the work Conservation Laboratory, City and County Museum, Lincoln	
Conservation		
Pottery Analysis	Prehistoric - Trent & Peak Archaeological Trust	
	Roman - B Precious, Independent Specialist	
	Anglo-Saxon - J Young, Independent Specialist	
	Medieval and later - G Taylor in consultation with 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

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

CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

No.	Description	Interpretation
001	Soft dark greyish brown silty sand, 0.4m thick	Topsoil
002	Soft mid yellowish brown silty sand with gravel, 0.4m thick	Subsoil
003	Soft light yellowish brown silty sand with gravel, 0.3m thick	Natural deposit
004	Soft dark greyish brown sandy silt, >0.3m thick	Natural deposit

The beautistic party party is an annexed the stand and a second standard and a

in period of homes history prior to the introductor of ready in the secstructure period has from the form of the second of homes of the second second second second second second second the Traces introducts in the mathing of her P second AD.

Reizesso-British

enabling to the period during from AD 43-410 when the Kornard Out speed stress

GLOSSARY

Boulder Clay	A deposit formed after the retreat of a glacier. Also known as till, this material is generally unsorted and can comprise of rock flour to boulders to rocks of quite substantial size.
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).
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:

4

1

- Context records
- 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:	2001.271
Archaeological Project Services Site Code:	WWE 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.