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**AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF  
OF DEVELOPMENT AT  
ALL SAINTS' CHURCH,  
EAGLE,  
LINCOLNSHIRE  
(EAS 01)**



**A P S**  
ARCHAEOLOGICAL  
PROJECT  
SERVICES

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**AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF  
OF DEVELOPMENT AT  
ALL SAINTS' CHURCH,  
EAGLE,  
LINCOLNSHIRE  
(EAS 01)**

Work Undertaken For  
Eagle PCC

Report Compiled By  
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October 2001

Planning Application No: N/27/0084/00  
National Grid Reference: SK 8759 6721  
City and County Museum Accession No:2001.145

A.P.S. Report No: 136/01



## CONTENTS

List of Figures

List of Plates

1.	Summary .....	1
2.	Introduction .....	1
2.1	Definition of a Watching brief .....	1
2.2	Planning Background .....	1
2.3	Topography and Geology .....	1
2.4	Archaeological Setting .....	1
3.	Aims .....	2
4.	Methods .....	2
5.	Results .....	2
6.	Discussion .....	2
7.	Conclusions .....	3
8.	Acknowledgements .....	3
9.	Personnel .....	3
10.	Bibliography .....	3
11.	Abbreviations .....	3

### Appendices

1	Specification for archaeological watching brief
2	Context Descriptions
3	Glossary
4	The Archive

### **List of Figures**

- Figure 1 General location plan
- Figure 2 Site location plan
- Figure 3 Plan of the development
- Figure 4 Sections 1 and 2

### **List of Plates**

- Plate 1 General view of the development, looking southwest
- Plate 2 Section 1, looking north
- Plate 3 Section 2, looking east

## 1. SUMMARY

*An archaeological watching brief was undertaken during the construction of a new vestry at All Saints' Church, Eagle, Lincolnshire. The watching brief monitored the excavation of the foundation trenches.*

*All Saints' church dates from the 12<sup>th</sup> century although an earlier church is documented in Eagle. The church also incorporates a Late Saxon (AD 850-1100) grave cover.*

*The investigations revealed a developed graveyard soil with a single possible grave identified. Finds recovered from this investigation comprised a single roof tile and clay pipe fragment.*

## 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 Eagle PCC to undertake an archaeological watching brief during development at All Saints' Church, Eagle, Lincolnshire. Approval for the development was sought through the submission of planning application N/27/0084/00. Permission was granted subject to a standard condition for archaeological recording. The watching brief was carried out in accordance with a specification prepared by

Archaeological Project Services and agreed by the North Kesteven Heritage Officer (Appendix 1). The watching brief was undertaken on the 14<sup>th</sup> June 2001.

### 2.3 Topography and Geology

Eagle is located 12km southwest of Grantham and 9km north of Stamford, South Kesteven District, Lincolnshire (Fig. 1).

The development site is located in the western portion of the village at National Grid Reference SK 8759 6721 (Fig. 2). The church is situated at a height of c. 26m OD with land dropping down to the west.

Eagle is located on soils of the Blackwood Association, typically sandy and coarse loamy soils (Hodge *et al.* 1984, 127). Beneath these soils is a drift geology of glacial sands and gravels which in turn overlies a solid geology of Jurassic Lower Lias clays and shales (BGS 1973).

### 2.4 Archaeological Setting

Eagle is first mentioned in the Domesday Survey of c. 1086. Referred to as *Acle*, *Aclei*, *Akely* and *Aycle* the name is derived from the Old English and means 'the oak (*āc*) wood or glade (*lēah*)' (Cameron 1998, 41). The Domesday Survey records that the land was owned by Roger of Poitou, Durand Malet, Odo the Arblaster and Countess Judith and contained a church with a priest, extensive meadows and woodlands (Foster and Longley 1976).

The present church dates from the 12<sup>th</sup> century and presumably replaced the church mentioned in the Domesday Survey (Pevsner and Harris 1989, 262). Within the church is a mid 10<sup>th</sup> - 11<sup>th</sup> century grave cover (Everson and Stocker 1999, 155). The church has been restored in the 18<sup>th</sup> century and between 1903 and 1904 (Pevsner and

Harris 1989, 262).

### 3. AIMS

The requirements of the watching brief, as detailed 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

Prior to the excavation of the foundation trenches the former vestry was removed. Trenches were then opened by machine to depths of *c.* 1m. 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, if present. 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 examined. Phasing was assigned based on the nature of the deposits and recognisable relationships between them.

### 5. RESULTS

Two phases of activity were identified:

Phase 1	Natural deposits
Phase 2	Graveyard and 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 in the foundation trenches was a layer of brownish red sand (005) which was over 100mm thick. This was identified as the underlying drift geology.

#### Phase 2 Graveyard and Modern deposits

Overlying the natural (005) was a graveyard soil of mid brown silty sand (002 and 004) which, with a lense of brownish yellow sand (003) jointly measured 0.6m thick (Fig. 4, Section 1). This graveyard soil contained frequent limestone fragments (006) close to the eastern end of the church and may be related to construction or restoration.

Cut into the graveyard soil (006) was a feature (008) recorded in section only (Fig. 4, Section 2). This was 0.61m wide by 0.68m deep and may indicate the position of a grave. A single fill of yellowish brown silty sand (007) was recorded.

Sealing all deposits was a topsoil of blackish grey silty sand (001) which was 0.4m thick.

### 6. DISCUSSION

Deposits of natural sand (Phase 1), were the earliest deposits encountered during the watching brief. These relate to the underlying drift geology and can be identified as glaciofluvial sands.

Phase 2 deposits include a developed graveyard soil in which a single possible grave was identified.

A fragment of roof tile and a clay-pipe fragment were retrieved from the topsoil. Such finds, derived from the topsoil, may indicate nothing more than discarded rubbish incorporated into the ground during grave digging.

## 7. CONCLUSIONS

Archaeological investigations were carried out at Eagle as the site lay within the churchyard of the 12<sup>th</sup> century and later All Saints' church.

Overlying natural deposits was a developed graveyard soil through which was cut a possible grave.

A single roof tile fragment and a fragment of clay pipe were retrieved. 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 Mr J.E. Green of Eagle PCC who commissioned the fieldwork and post excavation analysis. The work was coordinated by Gary Taylor and this report was edited by Tom Lane. Jo Hambly, the Heritage Officer for North Kesteven District Council, kindly permitted access to the parish files maintained by Heritage Lincolnshire.

## 9. PERSONNEL

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

## 10. BIBLIOGRAPHY

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IFA, 1999, *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs*

## 11. ABBREVIATIONS

APS Archaeological Project Services  
BGS British Geological Survey  
IFA Institute of Field Archaeologists

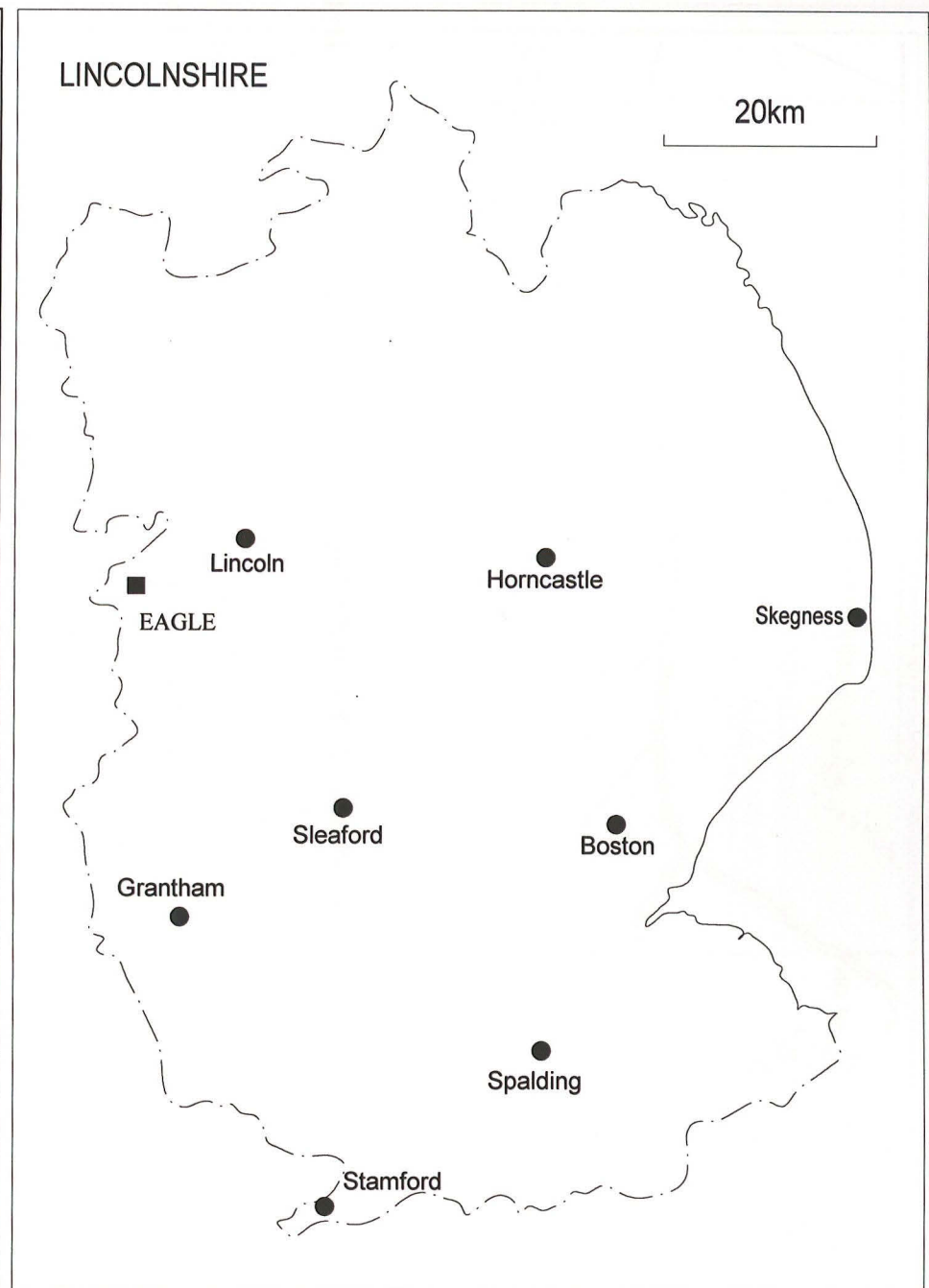
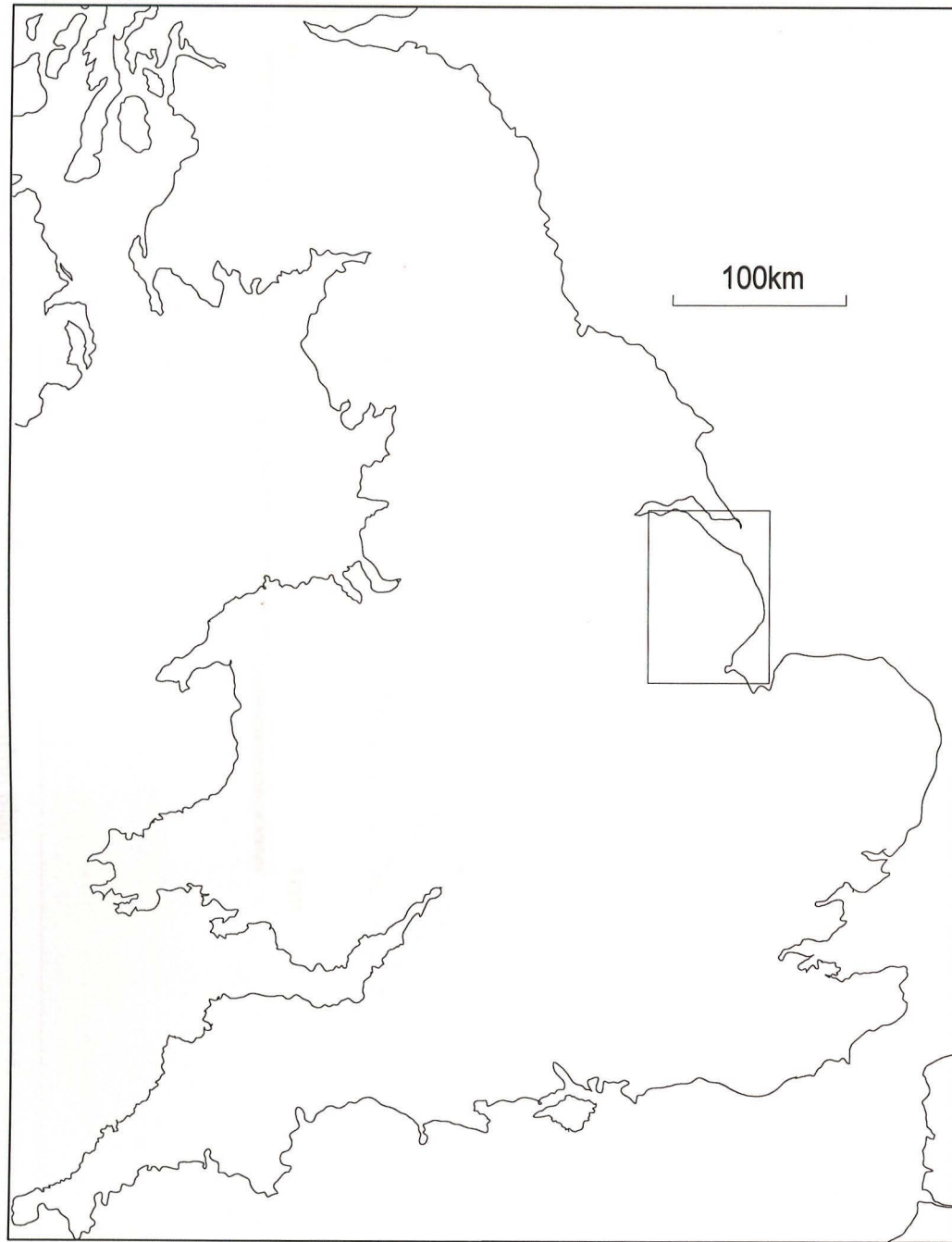


Figure 1 - General Location Plan



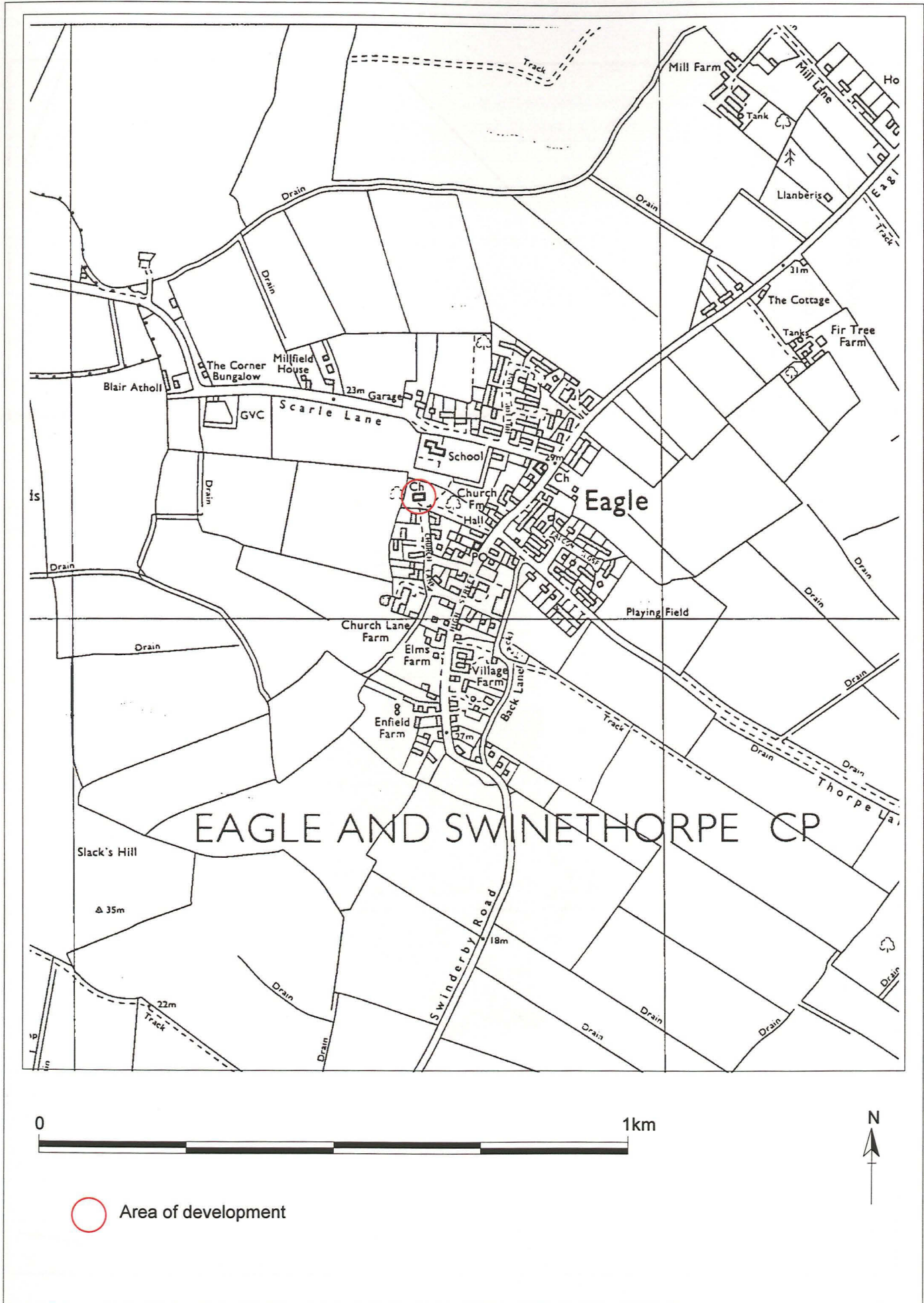


Figure 2 - Site location plan

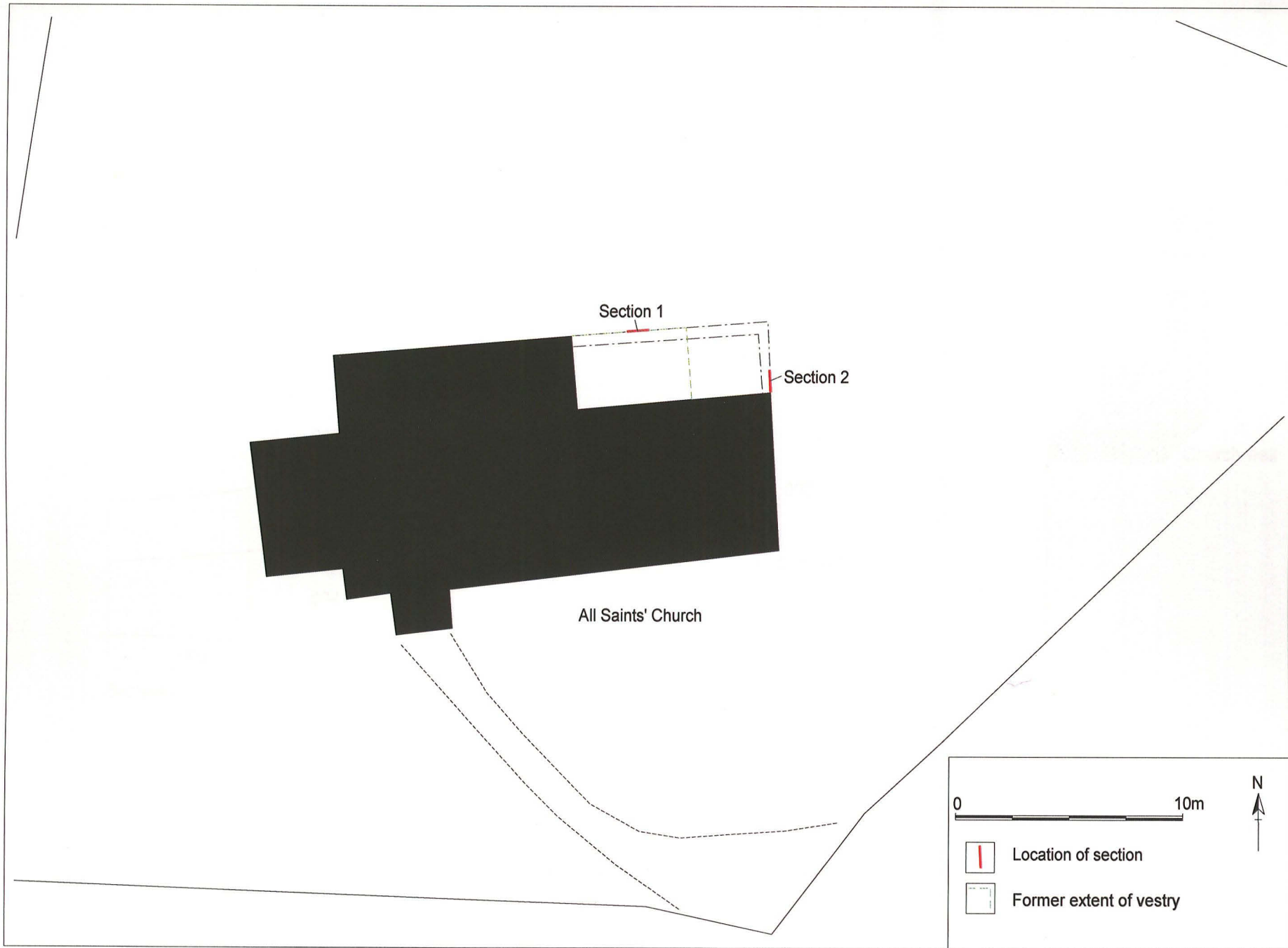


Figure 3 - Plan of the development

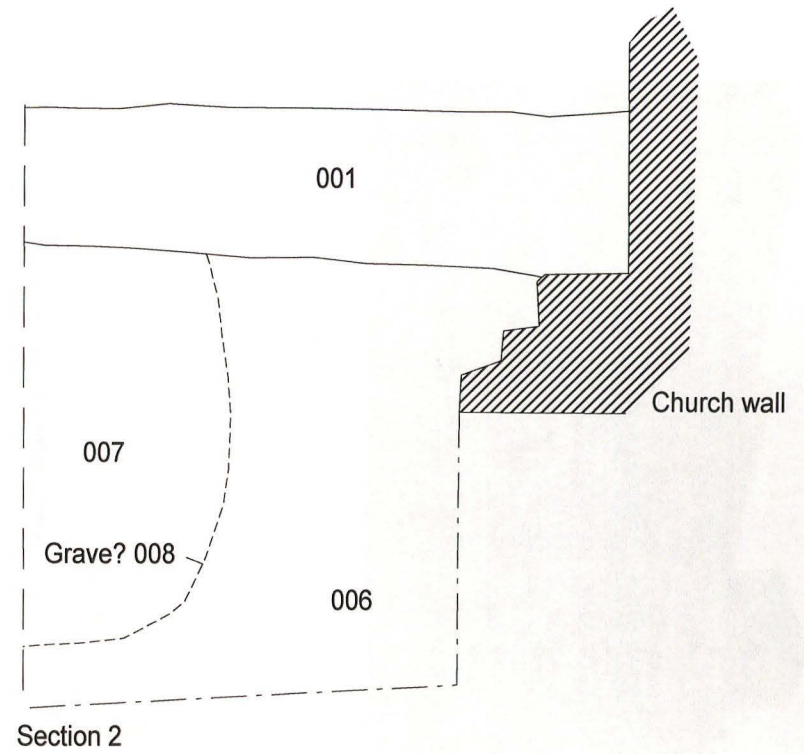
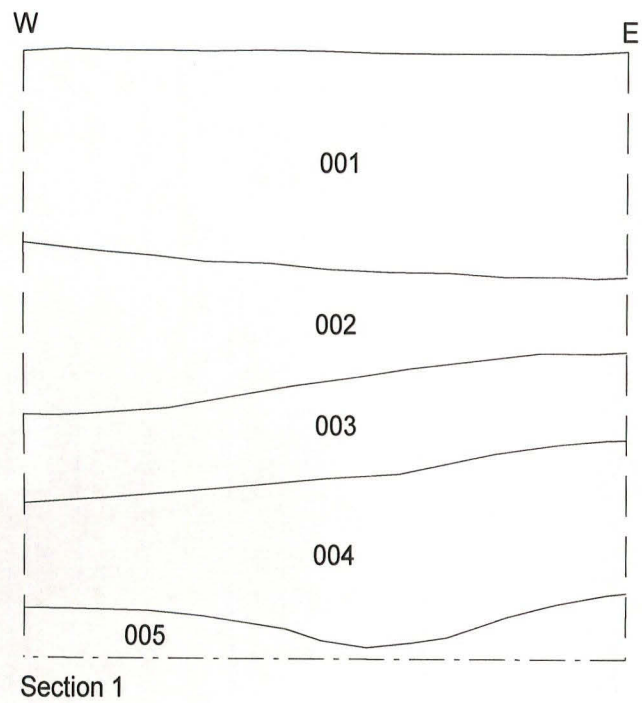


Figure 4 - Sections 1 and 2



Plate 1 - General view of the development, looking southwest



Plate 2 - Section 1, looking north



Plate 2 - Section 2, looking east

## Appendix 1

### LAND AT ALL SAINTS' CHURCH, EAGLE, LINCOLNSHIRE - SPECIFICATION FOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

#### 1. SUMMARY

- a. *A watching brief is required during the construction of a vestry at All Saints' Church, Eagle, Lincolnshire.*
- b. *The church is of 12<sup>th</sup> century origin with later alterations. Additionally, there are fragments of Anglo-Saxon sculpture in the church.*
- c. *The watching brief will be undertaken during groundworks associated with the development. The archaeological features exposed will be recorded in writing, graphically and photographically.*
- d. *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

- a. This document comprises a specification for an archaeological watching brief during groundworks connected with construction of a vestry at All Saints' church, Eagle, Lincolnshire, National Grid Reference SK 876 672.
- b. This document contains the following parts:
  - i. Overview.
  - ii. Stages of work and methodologies.
  - iii. List of specialists.
  - iv. Programme of works and staffing structure of the project

#### 3. SITE LOCATION

- a. Eagle is located approximately 11km southeast of Lincoln and 15km northeast of Newark. All Saints' church is located on the west side of the village at National Grid Reference SK 876 672.

#### 4. PLANNING BACKGROUND

- a. A planning application (N/27/84/00) was submitted to North Kesteven District Council for the proposed vestry construction. Permission is subject to a condition requiring the implementation of an archaeological watching brief during groundworks.

#### 5. SOILS AND TOPOGRAPHY

- a. The site is on a slope down to the west at approximately 90m OD. Local soils are the Blackwood Association, sandy and coarse loamy soils developed on drift geology of Older river sand and gravel (Hodge *et al.* 1984, 127).

#### 6. ARCHAEOLOGICAL OVERVIEW

- a. All Saints' church dates from the late 12<sup>th</sup>-mid 13<sup>th</sup> century but contains a Norman font and fragments of Anglo-Saxon cross shaft. The church is recorded in the Domesday Book of 1086, indicating that it was probably in existence in the Late Saxon period.

## 7. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- a. The aims of the watching brief will be:
  - i. To record and interpret the archaeological features exposed during the excavation of the foundation trenches and other areas of ground disturbance.
- b. The objectives of the watching brief will be to:
  - i. Determine the form and function of the archaeological features encountered;
  - ii. Determine the spatial arrangement of the archaeological features encountered;
  - iii. As far as practicable, recover dating evidence from the archaeological features, and
  - iv. Establish the sequence of the archaeological remains present on the site.

## 8. SITE OPERATIONS

- a. General considerations
  - i. All work will be undertaken following statutory Health and Safety requirements in operation at the time of the watching brief.
  - ii. 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. 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.
  - iii. Charnel will not be retained but be passed back to the church for re-burial.
- b. Methodology
  - i. The watching brief will be undertaken during the ground works phase of development, and includes the archaeological monitoring of all phases of soil movement.
  - ii. 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.
  - iii. Any finds recovered will be bagged and labelled for later analysis.
  - iv. Throughout the watching brief a photographic record will be compiled. The photographic record will consist of:
    - (1) the site during work to show specific stages, and the layout of the archaeology within the trench.
    - (2) groups of features where their relationship is important
  - v. 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

### a. Stage 1

- i. 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.
- ii. 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.

### b. Stage 2

- i. Detailed examination of the stratigraphic matrix to enable the determination of the various phases of activity on the site.
- ii. Finds will be sent to specialists for identification and dating.

### c. Stage 3

- i. On completion of stage 2, a report detailing the findings of the watching brief will be prepared.
- ii. This will consist of:
  - (1) A non-technical summary of the results of the investigation.
  - (2) A description of the archaeological setting of the watching brief.
  - (3) Description of the topography of the site.
  - (4) Description of the methodologies used during the watching brief.
  - (5) A text describing the findings of the watching brief.
  - (6) A consideration of the local, regional and national context of the watching brief findings.
  - (7) Plans of the archaeological features exposed. If a sequence of archaeological deposits is encountered, separate plans for each phase will be produced.
  - (8) Sections of the trenches and archaeological features.
  - (9) Interpretation of the archaeological features exposed, and their chronology and setting within the surrounding landscape.
  - (10) Specialist reports on the finds from the site.
  - (11) Appropriate photographs of the site and specific archaeological features.

## 10. REPORT DEPOSITION

- a. Copies of the report will be sent to the client; the North Kesteven Heritage Officer; and to the County Council Archaeological Sites and Monuments Record.

## 11. ARCHIVE

- a. 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

- a. 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

- a. Curatorial responsibility for the archaeological work undertaken on the site lies with the North Kesteven Heritage Officer. They will be given written notice of the commencement of the project.

## 14. VARIATIONS AND CONTINGENCIES

- a. Variations to the proposed scheme of works will only be made following written confirmation of acceptance from the archaeological curator.
- b. 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).
- c. 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.
- d. 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

- a. 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.
- b. An archaeological supervisor with experience of watching briefs will undertake the work.
- c. 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

- a. 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 - G Taylor/H Healey
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

- a. 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

- a. 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.
- b. Licence will also be given to the archaeological curators to use the documentary archive for educational, public and research purposes.
- c. 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.
- d. 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 dark blackish grey silty sand, 0.4m thick	Topsoil
002	Firm mid brown silty sand, 0.3m thick	Graveyard soil
003	Firm mid brownish yellow sand, 0.2m thick	Lense within (002)
004	Firm dark brown silty sand, 0.3m thick	Graveyard soil
005	Soft to firm mid brownish red sand, >100mm thick	Natural deposit
006	Firm mid yellowish brown silty sand with frequent limestone fragments, 0.75m thick	Graveyard soil with building debris
007	Loose mid yellowish brown silty sand	Fill of (008)
008	Feature, 0.61m wide by 0.68m deep, irregular sides	Possible grave

## Appendix 3

### 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, *e.g.* (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.
- 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:

8	Context records
1	Photographic record sheets
2	Drawing sheets
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: 2001.145

Archaeological Project Services Site Code: EAS 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.