ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF OF DEVELOPMENT OF LAND AT CHURCH STREET, DIGBY, LINCOLNSHIRE (DCS 01)

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Highways & Planning Directorate

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF OF DEVELOPMENT OF LAND AT CHURCH STREET, DIGBY, LINCOLNSHIRE (DCS 01)

Work Undertaken For Mr and Mrs S. Munton

Report Compiled by Kristian L.R. Pedersen (BIS)

November 2001

Planning Application No: N/22/1004/00 National Grid Reference: TF-0801-5483 TFOSIO SUSS City and County Museum Accession No: 2001.32

A.P.S. Report No: 79/01



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INTRODUCTION

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1. SUMMARY

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

Prehistoric stone tools, probably of Neolithic date (4200-2250 BC), and an undated bronze spearhead are known from the vicinity of the village and attest to occupation in this area during prehistory. The site lies on the western fringe of the medieval (AD 1066-1500) village.

The watching brief identified a single pit of possible 16th - 17th century date cut into the solid geology. Finds retrieved during this investigation included brick, tile glass and a fragment of post-medieval Bourne D ware.

2. INTRODUCTION

2.1 Definition of a Watching Brief

An archaeological watching brief is defined by the Institute of Field Archaeologists (IFA) 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" (1997).

2.2 Planning Background

Archaeological Project Services was commissioned by Mr and Mrs Munton to undertake an archaeological watching brief during development of land adjacent to Church Street, Digby, Lincolnshire. Approval for the development was sought through the submission of planning application N/22/1004/00. 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 Heritage Officer for North Kesteven District Council (Appendix 1).

2.3 Topography and Geology

Digby is situated 19km southeast of Lincoln and 9km north of Sleaford, North Kesteven District, Lincolnshire (Fig. 1).

The development site is located 110m east of the village centre as defined by St. Thomas á Becket parish church at National Grid Reference TF 0801 5483 (Fig. 2). The site is situated at a height of c. 15m OD within a slight east-west aligned valley along which Digby Beck flows to the east.

Local soils are of the Aswarby Association, generally fine loamy gleyic brown calcareous earths (Hodge *et al.* 1984, 99). These soils overlie a solid geology of Jurassic Cornbrash and Kellaways Sand and Clay, although alluvium is present adjacent to Digby Beck (BGS 1973).

2.4 Archaeological Background

Digby is located in an area of known archaeological remains dating from the Neolithic to the present day. Neolithic stone axes and worked flints have been retrieved from the parish and a bronze spearhead of uncertain date was discovered north of the village.

Digby is first mentioned in the Domesday Survey of c. 1086. Referred to as *Dicbi* the name is Anglo-Scandinavian in origin and means 'settlement by the ditch' (Cameron 1999, 38). At the time of the Domesday Survey, the land was held by Geoffrey Alselin and contained 100 acres of meadow and 10 acres of underwood (Foster and Longley 1976).

The only extant remains of the medieval period are the parish church of St. Thomas á Becket, which has a south doorway and nave dating to the 11th century, and a village cross (Pevsner and Harris 1989, 252).

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 0.9m 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. Sections were drawn at a scale of 1:10. Recording of deposits encountered during the watching brief was undertaken according to standard Archaeological Project Services practice.

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

5. RESULTS

Following post-excavation analysis two phases were identified;

Phase 1 Natural Deposits Phase 2 Post-medieval and 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

The earliest deposit encountered was a layer of yellowish brown fractured limestone (103). This measured over 0.35m thick and was identified as the underlying natural geology.

Phase 2 Post-medieval and Recent deposits

Cut into the limestone was a rectangular feature (101) that measured $3.5m \log$, over 1.5m wide and deeper than 0.55m (Fig. 4, Section 1). Identified as a pit it contained a single fill of dark brown silt (102) from which $16^{th} - 17^{th}$ century pottery was retrieved.

Sealing the pit and present across the site was a 0.35m thick layer of brownish grey silt (100) identified as the topsoil

6. **DISCUSSION**

Natural deposits (Phase 1) relate to the underlying solid geology of Cornbrash. A single pit (Phase 2) indicates the only archaeological activity identified during this investigation. With such few finds present, the pit is unlikely to have served a refuse function.

Finds retrieved during this investigation included brick, tile, glass and a single sherd of 16th - 17th century Bourne D ware. A single animal bone was also recovered.

7. CONCLUSIONS

Archaeological investigations were carried out at Church Street, Digby as the site lay in the core of the medieval village and close to the 11th century church.

A single pit of possible post-medieval date was identified during the investigation. No other archaeological features or deposits were identified.

Brick or tile, glass and a single postmedieval pottery sherd were recovered during the investigation. The nature of the local site conditions would suggest that few environmental indicators would survive other than through charring.

8. ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Archaeological Project Services would like to acknowledge the assistance of Mr and Mrs Munton for commissioning the watching brief and post-excavation analysis of the material. Steve Malone co-ordinated the project and this report was edited by Tom Lane. Jo Hambly, the North Kesteven District Heritage Officer, kindly permitted examination of the relevant files maintained by Heritage Lincolnshire.

9. PERSONNEL

Project Co-ordinator: Steve Malone Site Supervisor: Kristian Pedersen Finds Processing: Denise Buckley Photographic Reproduction: Sue Unsworth Illustration: Paul Cope-Faulkner Post-Excavation Analyst: Kristian Pedersen

10. REFERENCES

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11. ABBREVIATIONS

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

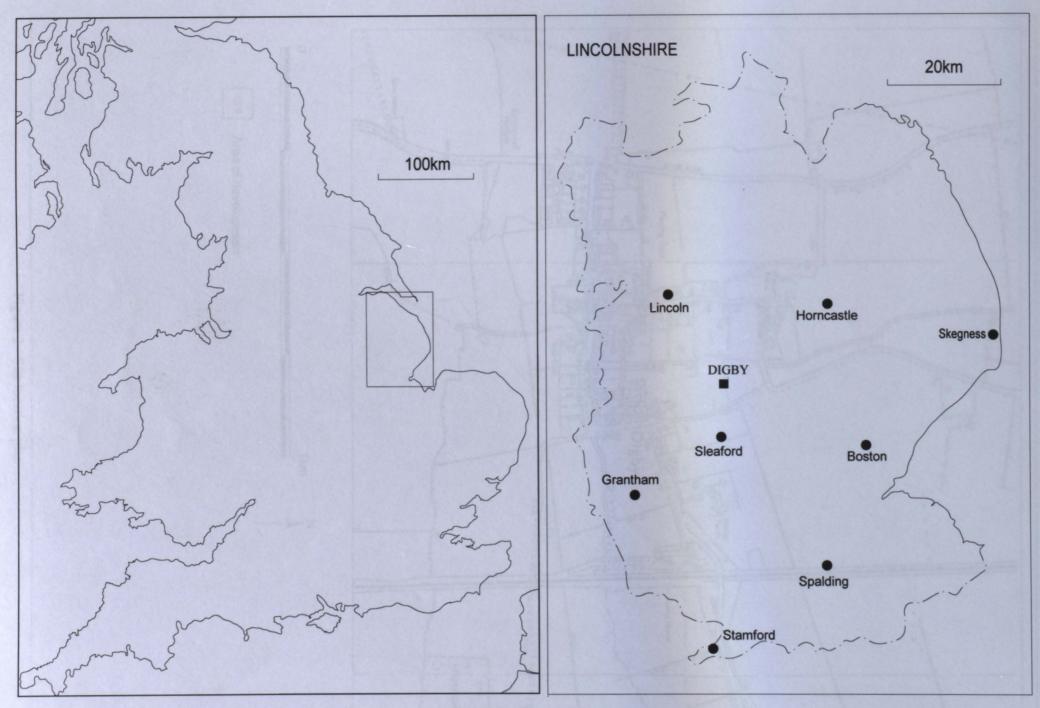


Figure 1 - General Location Plan



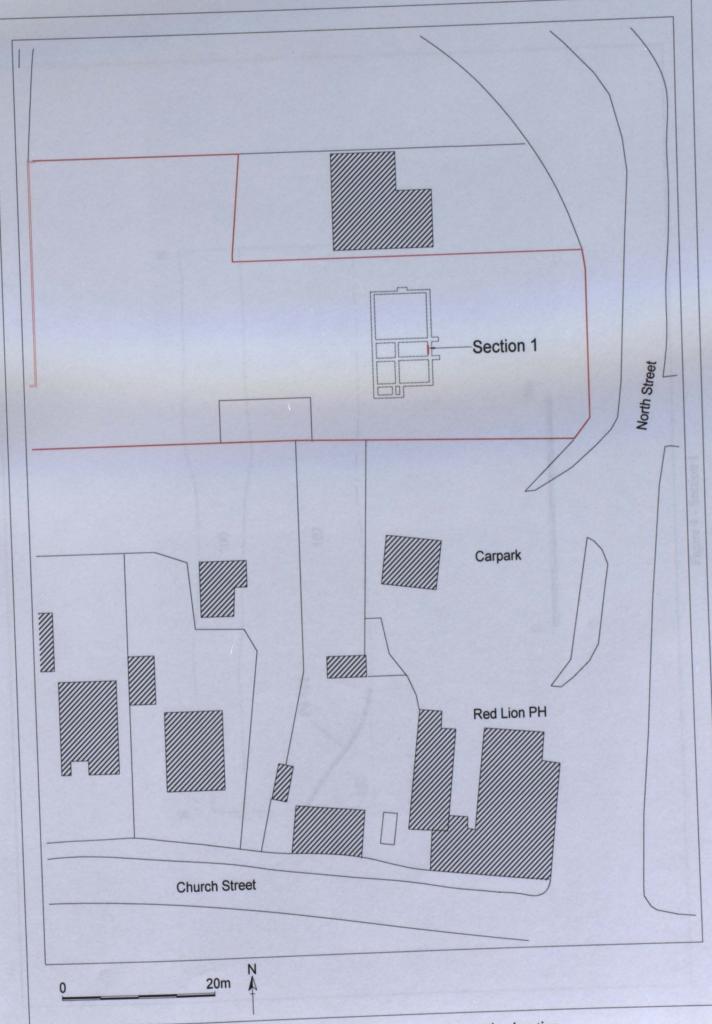


Figure 3 - Plan of the development showing section location

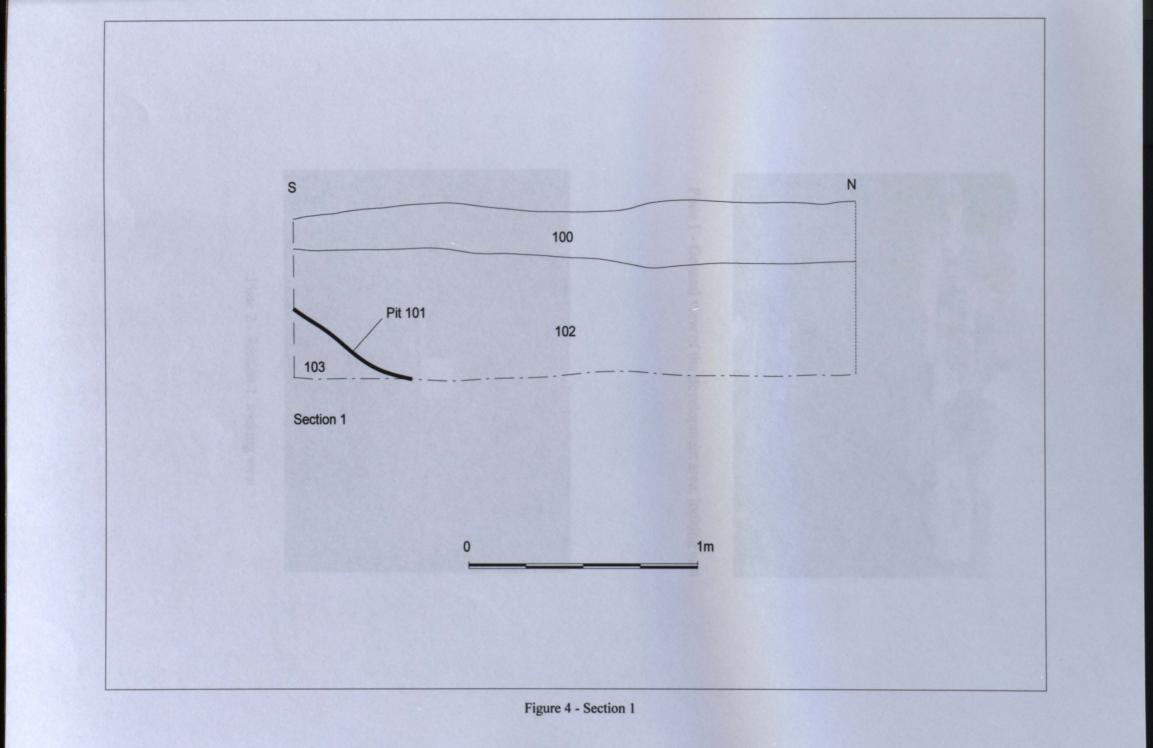




Plate 1 - General view of the development area, looking east

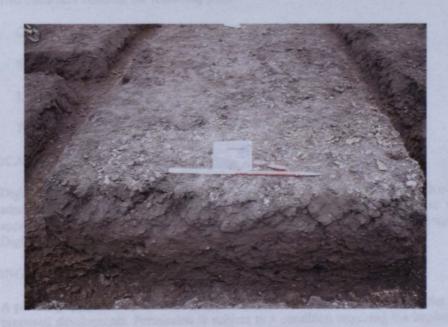


Plate 2 - Section 1, looking west

LAND ADJACENT TO RED LION, NORTH STREET, DIGBY, LINCOLNSHIRE -SPECIFICATION FOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

1 SUMMARY

- 1.1 A watching brief is required during groundworks associated with residential development on land immediately to the north of the Red Lion public house on North Street, Digby.
- 1.2 The area of the proposed development is archaeologically sensitive, located within the historic core of the village, immediately east of the medieval church of St. Thomas a Becket.
- 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 associated with residential development on land immediately north of the Red Lion public house, North Street, Digby.
- 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 Digby village is situated approximately 19km southeast of Lincoln and 9km north of Sleaford in the administrative district of North Kesteven, Lincolnshire. The application area forms an approximately 0.2ha T-shaped area immediately north of the Red Lion public house, North Street, Digby at around 17m OD centred on National Grid Reference TF 081 548

4 PLANNING BACKGROUND

4.1 A planning application (N/22/1004/00) 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 Digby lies in gently undulating terrain at the foot of the Jurassic ridge dipslope on soil of the Aswarby Association, generally fine loamy gleyic brown calcareous earths, which form on the Cornbrash and Great Oolite limestones (Hodge *et al.* 1984, 99).

6 ARCHAEOLOGICAL OVERVIEW

6.1 The application area is located within the historic core of Digby village, immediately east of the medieval church of St. Thomas a Becket which incorporates a south doorway and elements of the nave dating to the Norman period (Pevsner and Harris, 252).

- 6.2 The place-name Digby is Anglo-Scandinavian in origin and means ?By at the ditch?, literally settlement by the ditch (Ekwall 1974, 504). It is first recorded in the Domesday Survey in 1086 as *Dicbi* and then in late thirteenth century Pipe Rolls as *Diggebi*
- 6.3 Prehistoric stone axes and other worked flints have been recorded within the parish. A bronze spearhead of uncertain date was discovered approximately 2km northeast of the village.
- 6.4 A well preserved medieval village cross stands southeast of the church
- 6.5 Medieval pottery has been recovered from the site of Digby Grange, a monasitc farm, known to be located east of the village on the fen edge

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

7

- 7.1 The aims of the watching brief will be:
 - 7.1.1 To record and interpret the archaeological features exposed during the excavation of the foundation trenches and other areas of ground disturbance.
- 7.2 The objectives of the watching brief will be to:
 - 7.2.1 Determine the form and function of the archaeological features encountered;
 - 7.2.2 Determine the spatial arrangement of the archaeological features encountered;
 - 7.2.3 As far as practicable, recover dating evidence from the archaeological features, and
 - 7.2.4 Establish the sequence of the archaeological remains present on the site.

8 SITE OPERATIONS

- 8.1 General considerations
 - 8.1.1 All work will be undertaken following statutory Health and Safety requirements in operation at the time of the watching brief.
 - 8.1.2 The work will be undertaken according to the relevant codes of practise issued by the Institute of Field Archaeologists (IFA), under the management of a Member of the institute (MIFA). Archaeological Project Services is IFA registered organisation no. 21.
 - 8.1.3 Any and all artefacts found during the investigation and thought to be 'treasure', as defined by the Treasure Act 1996, will be removed from site to a secure store and promptly reported to the appropriate coroner's office.

8.2 <u>Methodology</u>

- 8.2.1 The watching brief will be undertaken during the ground works phase of development, and includes the archaeological monitoring of all phases of soil movement.
- 8.2.2 Stripped areas and trench sections will be observed regularly to identify and record archaeological features that are exposed and to record changes in the geological conditions. The section drawings of the trenches will be recorded at a scale of 1:10. Should features be recorded in plan these will be drawn at a scale of 1:20. Written descriptions detailing the nature of the deposits, features and fills encountered will be compiled on Archaeological Project Services pro-forma record sheets.
- 8.2.3 Any finds recovered will be bagged and labelled for later analysis. A metal detector may be used to assist artefact recovery.
- 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. If exhumation is required the appropriate Home Office licence will be obtained before the removal of the remains. In addition, the Local Environmental Health Department, coroner and the police will be informed, where relevant.

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; the North Kesteven Heritage Officer; North Kesteven District Council Planning Department; and to the County Council Archaeological Sites and Monuments Record.

11 ARCHIVE

11.1 The documentation and records generated during the watching brief will be sorted and ordered into the format acceptable to the City and County Museum, Lincoln. This will be undertaken following the requirements of the document titled Conditions for the Acceptance of Project Archives for long term storage and curation.

12 PUBLICATION

12.1 A report of the findings of the watching brief will be published in Heritage Lincolnshire's Annual Report and a note presented to the editor of the journal *Lincolnshire History and Archaeology*. If appropriate, notes on the findings will be submitted to the appropriate national journals: *Britannia* for discoveries of Roman date, and *Medieval Archaeology* and the *Journal of the Medieval Settlement Research Group* for findings of medieval or later date.

13 CURATORIAL RESPONSIBILITY

13.1 Curatorial responsibility for the archaeological work undertaken on the site lies with the North Kesteven Heritage Officer. They will be given seven days notice in writing before the commencement of the project.

14 VARIATIONS

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

15 PROGRAMME OF WORKS AND STAFFING LEVELS

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

16 SPECIALISTS TO BE USED DURING THE PROJECT

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

Task

Body to be undertaking the work

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
Animal Bones	Environmental Archaeology Consultancy
Environmental Analysis	Environmental Archaeology Consultancy
Human Remains Analysis	R Gowland, Independent Specialist

17 INSURANCES

17.1 Archaeological Project Services, as part of the Heritage Trust of Lincolnshire, maintains Employers Liability Insurance of ?10,000,000, together with Public and Products Liability insurances, each with indemnity of ?5,000,000. Copies of insurance documentation can be supplied on request.

18 COPYRIGHT

- 18.1 Archaeological Project Services shall retain full copyright of any commissioned reports under the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988 with all rights reserved; excepting that it hereby provides an exclusive licence to the client for the use of such documents by the client in all matters directly relating to the project as described in the Project Specification.
- 18.2 Licence will also be given to the archaeological curators to use the documentary archive for educational, public and research purposes.
- 18.3 In the case of non-satisfactory settlement of account then copyright will remain fully and exclusively with Archaeological Project Services. In these circumstances it will be an infringement under the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988 for the client to pass any report, partial report, or copy of same, to any third party. Reports submitted in good faith by Archaeological Project Services to any Planning Authority or archaeological curator will be removed from said planning Authority and/or archaeological curator. The Planning Authority and/or archaeological curator will be notified by Archaeological Project Services that the use of any such information previously supplied constitutes an infringement under the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988 and may result in legal action.
- 18.4 The author of any report or specialist contribution to a report shall retain intellectual copyright of their work and may make use of their work for educational or research purposes or for further publication.

19 **BIBLIOGRAPHY**

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CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

No.	Description	Interpretation
100	Firm dark brownish grey silt, 0.35m thick	Top-soil
101	Rectangular feature, 3.5m long by >1.5m wide by >0.55m deep, concave sides, not fully excavated	Pit
102	Firm dark brown silt	Fill of (101)
103	Fractured yellowish brown limestone, >0.35m thick	Natural geology

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THE FINDS Paul Cope-Faulkner, Rachael Hall, Hilary Healey and Gary Taylor

Provenance

The material was recovered from topsoil (100) and the fill (102) of a pit.

The single fragment of pottery was made at Bourne, 35km south of Digby. The handmade brick and tile is likely to be relatively local and made in the general Digby area.

Range

The range of material is detailed in the table.

A single fragment of pottery of 16th-17^h century date is the earliest item recovered, though most of the material is likely to be slightly later, dating from the late post-medieval period, perhaps 18th to 20th century. Ceramic building materials, brick/tile, dominate the small assemblage. In addition to the pottery and brick/tile, glass and animal bone was also retrieved.

Context	Description	Context Date
100	1x machine-made brick/tile, 19th-20th century	early 20th century
	1x late handmade brick, late post-medieval	entirent that is not
	2x handmade brick/tile, late post-medieval	
Malieval	1x fragment of colourless mould-produced bottle glass, early 20 th century	
riatural	1x fragment of colourless undiagnostic glass, decorated with mould ribs, 20 th century	
102	1x Bourne D ware, 16 th -17 th century	16 th -17 th century
	2x ferruginous stones, possibly burnt	0 A 10 1940 - 1880
	1x sheep-size metatarsus, small animal	

The single bone recovered is a lower fore leg bone from a small sheep, probably a lamb.

Condition

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

Documentation

There have been a number of previous archaeological investigations at Digby which are the subjects of reports. Details of archaeological sites and discoveries in the area are maintained in the files of the North Kesteven Heritage Officer and the Lincolnshire County Council Sites and Monuments Record.

Potential

As a small and entirely post-medieval assemblage, the material is of limited potential. However, the pottery indicates a human presence in the area during the 16th-17th century, and the ceramic building material indicates the presence of buildings in the area from the 18th century.

The absence of any material earlier than the 16th-17th century suggests that archaeological deposits dating from this period and before are absent from the area or were not disturbed by the development.

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.
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.
Saxon	Pertaining to the period dating from AD 410-1066 when England was largely settled by tribes from northern Germany.

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THE ARCHIVE

The archive consists of:

4

- Context records
- Scale drawings
- Photographic record sheet
 - Stratigraphic matrix
- 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 Museum Accession Number:

Archaeological Project Services Site Code:

DCS01

LCNCC: 2001.32

The discussion and comments provided in this report are based on the archaeology revealed during the site investigations. Other archaeological finds and features may exist on the development site but away from the areas exposed during the course of this fieldwork. *Archaeological Project Services* cannot confirm that those areas unexposed are free from archaeology nor that any archaeology present there is of a similar character to that revealed during the current investigation.

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