ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF
OF A WATER MAIN REPLACEMENT ALONG
HARROWBY LANE AND ERMINE STREET,
HARROWBY,
LINCOLNSHIRE.
(HTR99)

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Highways & Planning Directorate

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OF A WATER MAIN REPLACEMENT ALONG
HARROWBY LANE AND ERMINE STREET,
HARROWBY,
LINCOLNSHIRE.
(HTR99)

Londonthorpe and Harrowly without

Work Undertaken For Anglian Water Services Ltd

October 2001

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Report compiled by Torven Zeffertt BA (Hons) MA AIFA

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# CONTENTS

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-		~~		0.	

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

# Appendices

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

# List of Figures

Figure 1 General Location Map

Figure 2 Site location plan showing section locations

Figure 3 Sections 1, 2, 3 and 4

#### **List of Plates**

Plate 1 The pipeline trench along Ermine Street, looking southwest

Plate 2 The pipeline trench near Harrowby, looking west

Plate 3 Section 4 showing the typical sequence of deposits, looking north

# 1. SUMMARY

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken during groundworks for the replacement of water mains along the course of Harrowby Lane and Ermine Street in the vicinity of Harrowby, Lincolnshire

The pipeline followed part of the course of the Romano-British (AD 50-410) thoroughfare, Ermine Street. The pipeline also traversed an area from which Mesolithic (8,500-4,200 BC), Neolithic (4,200-2250 BC) and Bronze Age (2250-800 BC) finds have been retrieved.

The watching brief examined the pipeline trench but no distinct archaeological remains were revealed. It is possible that limestone deposits by the side of Ermine Street were part of the lower make-up of the Roman road but they are more likely to be natural layers. No artefacts were retrieved during the investigation.

#### 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 Anglian Water Services Ltd to undertake an archaeological watching brief during the excavation of trenches for a new watermain along two roads:

Harrowby Lane (SK941361 - SK951363), in the parish of Londonthorpe and

Harrowby Without, near Grantham, Lincolnshire;

The B6403, Ermine Street, (SK 952352 - SK 954359), lying between the Parishes of Londonthorpe and Harrowby Without, Old Somerby and Ropsley and Humby.

The watching brief was carried out between the 26<sup>th</sup> April and 25<sup>th</sup> May 1999 in accordance with a specification prepared by Archaeological Project Services.

# 2.3 Topography, Soils and Geology

The route of the pipeline is located between 1km and 2km east of Grantham, South Kesteven District, Lincolnshire (Figs. 1 and 2).

The pipelines are situated at a height of c. 130m OD. The area is mostly flat, although the western area of the watching brief, towards Harrowby, slopes down westwards to the River Witham.

The local soils are of the Elmton 1 Association, comprising shallow brown rendzinas with a slightly or moderately stony clay loam or sandy clay loam profile (Hodge *et al.* 1984, 179). These soils overlie a solid geology of Upper and Lower Lincolnshire Limestone (GSGB 1972).

#### 2.4 Archaeological Setting

The course of the pipelines traverse known archaeological remains dating from the Mesolithic period to the present day. The earliest finds are flint microliths and cores of the Mesolithic date from the lower ground to the east of the pipeline route. The Neolithic period (4200-2250 BC) is represented by polished stone axes

to the north of the area, a quernstone and flints from fieldwalking.

Activity during the Bronze Age (2250-800 BC) seems to have increased in the area as the number of sites increase. The Early Bronze Age (2600-1600 BC) is represented by worked flints, including a dagger, found 400 metres south of Harrowby Lane. A large Bronze Age site lies to the east of Ermine Street. This site might comprise a number of settlements and finds from here include pottery, flints, including potboilers, hammerstones, cores, blades, scrapers and flakes, and numerous arrowheads, including barbed and tanged, leaf-shaped and hollow-based forms.

Other Bronze Age artefacts have been found in the area. A barbed and tanged arrowhead has been recovered from south of Harrowby Lane. Bronze Age flints have also been found at the western end of the watching brief area.

A number of areas have produced pottery of the Iron Age (700BC-AD43). To the west of the watching brief area on Harrowby Lane was a scatter of pottery sherds and many small stones in localized patches. To the north of Harrowby Lane was a scatter of pottery and worked flint.

The Romano-British period is highlighted by the Roman road, Ermine Street, running between Roman towns at Ancaster and Water Newton. Close to the area of the watching brief is a second Roman road Salter's Way, linking the Roman town of *Ratae* (Leicester) with Donington in the Fens. A Roman 'pewter bucket' has been reported by metal detectorists of Grantham Search Club as being found beneath the Roman road, but the site has not been properly identified.

A number of probable Romano-British occupation sites have been found through fieldwalking. The finds include building

debris indicating some form of small-scale settlement, possibly farmsteads. To the north of Harrowby Lane is an extensive Roman site and to the east of Ermine Street, on the same site as the Bronze Age settlement mentioned above there is also evidence of Roman occupation with sherds of pottery scattered over 12 hectares.

The only archaeological finds of medieval date from the vicinity is some pottery from fieldwalking. This may either indicate a small medieval farmstead or be the byproduct of manuring of the fields.

## 3. AIMS

The aims of the archaeological watching brief, as detailed in the specification (Appendix 1), were to record and interpret any archaeological features exposed during the excavation of pipeline trenches, or any other areas of ground disturbance. It was hoped to determine the extent, date, form and function of any exposed archaeological features.

# 4. METHODS

The watching brief involved the archaeological supervision of groundwork completed as part of the water main replacement. The trench was dug through the road or the verge by a mechanical excavator to a depth of up to c. 1 metre and a width of 0.2-0.5 metres. The narrowness of the trenches meant visibility for archaeological inspection was generally poor. Along Harrowby Lane the trench went through the road surface. Along Ermine Street (B6403) the trench went through the road verge.

The sides of the trenches were inspected

to ascertain if archaeological remains were present. Hand excavation and cleaning was used to determine the extent and nature of any archaeological and geological remains. Sections were drawn to indicate representative samples of the deposits encountered. Recording was completed according to standard Archaeological Project Services practise, based upon the Museum of London manual (MOLAS 1994), and each deposit was assigned a unique reference number (context number). A daily record was made of the watching brief and context sheets completed for each new deposit.

Records of the deposits and features identified during the watching brief were also examined. Phasing was assigned based on the nature of the deposits and recognizable stratigraphic relationships between them. A list of all contexts with interpretations is given in Appendix 2.

#### 5. RESULTS

Following post-excavation analysis, two phases were identified:

Phase 1: Natural Deposits Phase 2: Modern Deposits

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

#### Phase 1: Natural Deposits

The earliest deposits recorded was a yellow limestone and loose sand (025). This layer was visible at a depth of 0.4 metres and was found in one of four test pits excavated near the junction of Ermine Street and Harrowby Lane.

Above the natural (025) was a subsoil comprising brown sandy silt (002, 003, 006

and 009), reddy brown clayey sand (012) and reddish brown sandy clay (018). Another layer of subsoil was also recorded (023). These layers were recorded up to a depth of c.1m. The full depth and extent of these layers was not excavated or recorded in any of the sections.

# Phase 2: Modern Deposits

The upper layers of the trenches varied according to whether the cable trench was cut through the road or roadside verge.

Along Harrowby Lane the trench was dug through the road surface. The upper layers were formed of modern tarmac (004, 007, 010, 013 and 021). Below the tarmac was a layer of compacted limestone fragments (005, 008, 011, 014, 015 and 022), these layers forming part of the modern road make-up.

Along Ermine Street the trench was cut through the roadside verge. At various points the topsoil was recorded as a dark brown sand (001) and a loose clayey silt (024).

The only features recorded were visible in the section as cuts for modern service trenches (017), (019) and (020).

#### 6. DISCUSSION

Apparent natural deposits (Phase 1) comprise limestone and loose sand, possibly representing the weathered surface of the underlying solid geology. However, it is also possible that this deposit may be part of the Romano-British road make-up, although the size of the trenches precluded ascertaining this possibility.

The pipeline trenches were excavated

through the modern road or verge (Phase 2). Most of the layers seen and recorded were part of modern road surfaces, road make-up or the topsoil of the roadside verges. The only features identified were of modern pipe trenches.

No finds were retrieved during this investigation.

## 7. CONCLUSIONS

An archaeological watching brief was carried out as the route of the pipeline traversed an area of known archaeological remains dating from the mesolithic to the present day, notably a major Romano-British thoroughfare.

No archaeological features were encountered during the watching brief, although a layer of limestone may be part of the Roman road make-up. No artefacts were retrieved during this investigation. The nature of the local site conditions would suggest that few environmental indicators (seeds, wood, shells etc.) would survive, other than through charring.

# 8. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeological Project Services would like to acknowledge the assistance of Carol Dring of Anglian Water Services who commissioned the watching brief and post-excavation analysis. The work was co-ordinated by Gary Taylor and this report edited by Tom Lane. Jo Simpson, the Community Archaeologist for South Kesteven District Council, permitted access to the parish files maintained by Heritage Lincolnshire.

#### 9. PERSONNEL

Project Coordinator: Gary Taylor

Supervisors: David Fell, Neil Herbert,

Gary Taylor, Fiona Walker Illustration: Paul Cope-Faulkner

Photographic Reproduction: Sue

Unsworth

Post-Excavation Analysis: Torven Zeffert

#### 10. REFERENCES

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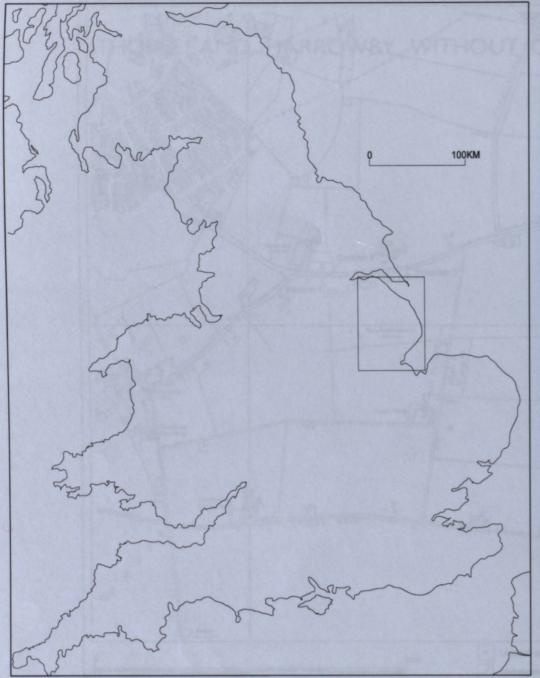
#### 11. ABBREVIATIONS

APS Archaeological Project Services.

HTL Heritage Trust of Lincolnshire.

IFA Institute of Field Archaeologists.

MOLAS Museum of London Archaeology Service.



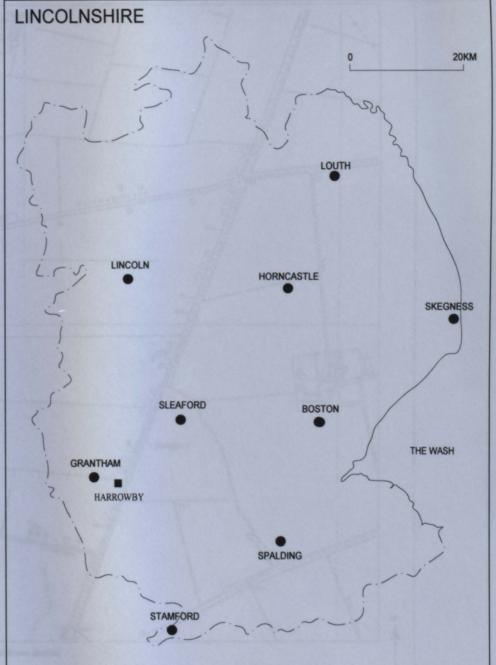


Figure 1 - General location map



Figure 2 - Site location plan showing location of drawn sections

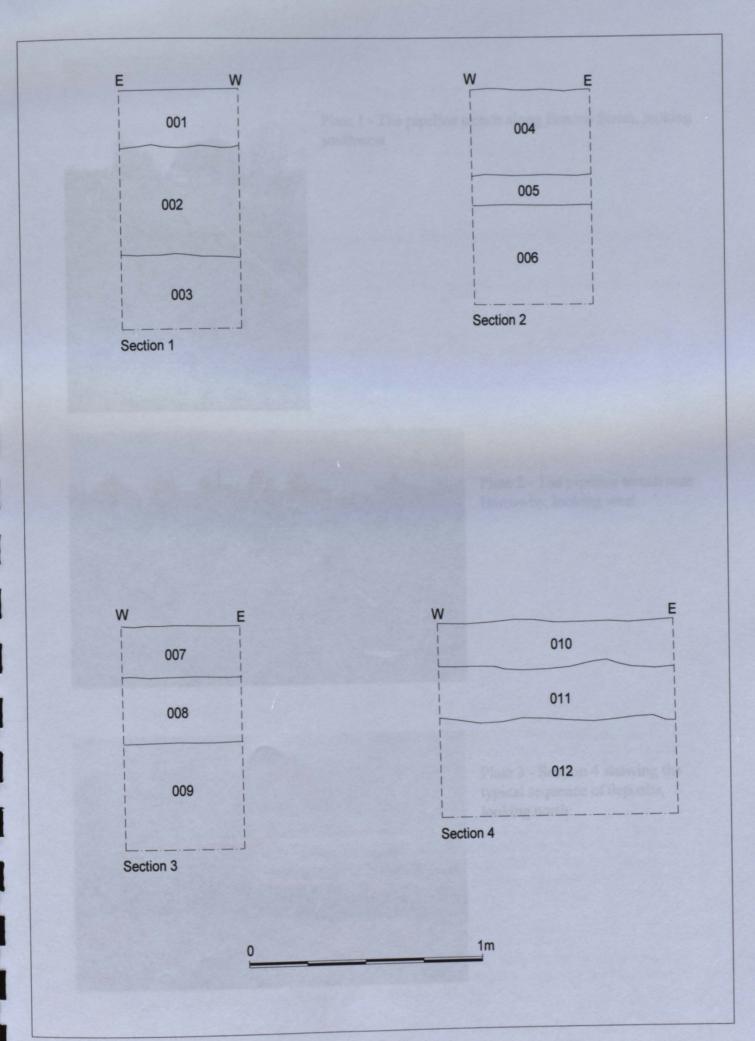


Figure 3 - Sections 1, 2, 3 and 4



Plate 1 - The pipeline trench along Ermine Street, looking southwest



Plate 2 - The pipeline trench near Harrowby, looking west

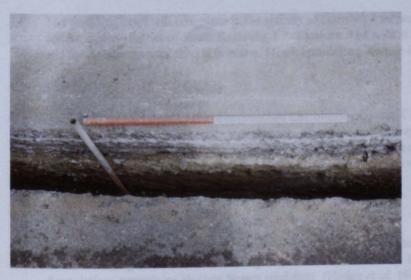


Plate 3 - Section 4 showing the typical sequence of deposits, looking north

# HARROWBY WATER MAIN REPLACEMENT, HARROWBY, TURNER ROAD AND VICINITY LINCOLNSHIRE - SPECIFICATION FOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIFF

#### 1. SUMMARY

- 1.1 A watching brief is required during replacement of water mains at a number of sites at Harrowby, near Grantham, Lincolnshire.
- 1.2 The works will take place adjacent to a major Roman road and also in the vicinity of three Romano-British farmsteads, at Harrowby.
- 1.3 The watching brief will be undertaken during groundworks associated with the development. Any 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 water mains replacement at locations near Harrowby, near Grantham Lincolnshire. The watching brief will take place at Turnor Road, Harrowby, between NGRs SK 937 355 and SK 951 363 and also along the Roman road, Ermine Street, between NGRs SK952 352 and SK 954 359.
- 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 The watching brief will take place in the vicinity of Harrowby, between 2 and 4km east of Grantham, in the administrative district of South Kesteven, Lincolnshire. The sites at Harrowby lie south of Harrowby Hall and the remaining sites lie c.1km east of Heath Farm along Roman Ermine Street.

#### 4. PLANNING BACKGROUND

4.1 Anglian Water Services Ltd have approached Lincolnshire County Council Archaeology Section for advice concerning the archaeological implications of water mains replacement at Harrowby, Grantham, Lincolnshire. The County Archaeological Officer advised that the pipeline will pass through areas of archaeological sensitivity and recommended that an archaeological watching brief should be undertaken at appropriate locations, along the route.

#### 5. SOILS AND TOPOGRAPHY

5.1 The route of the pipeline lies at an elevation of c. 130m OD. The area is essentially flat, but the western part of the watching brief area at Harrowby slopes down to the River Witham. Local soils are the Elmton 1 Association, comprising shallow brown rendzinas (Hodge et al. 1984, 179).

# 6. THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

- 6.1 The pipeline passes through an area of archaeological interest.
- A variety of prehistoric artefacts have been recorded along the route of the pipeline. An assembalge of worked flint has been recorded immediately south of the route, at Harrowby Lanhe (NGR SK947 362 SMR SK56.02). Further prehistoric flints have been recorded on the northern side of Harrowby Lane, at NGR SK 943 362 (SMR SK54.16/20).
- 6.3 The area was of considerable importance during the Roman period and the Roman small town of Saltersford Cavsennis lies west of the watching brief area. The Roman road Salters Way, linking the Fens with Leicester (Ratae), is located close to the watching brief area. Harrowby Lane may lie on the course of this route. The eastern watching brief area comprises a stretch of the Roman road Ermine Street, running between Ancaster and Water Newton (Durobrivae).
- 6.4 A 4th century Roman coin was found 200m south of the watching brief area, at NGR SK 939 357 (SMR SK 54.19). An extensive Roman site is located on the northern side of Harrowby Lane, at NGR SK944 362 (SMR SK54.16/20) and a second Roman site is located 800m north of the watching brief area, adjacent to Heath Farm, at NGR 944 371 (SMR SK54.10/18).
- 6.5 Grantham town was an important royal borough of medieval date. Anglo-Saxon burials with grave goods are known from the town. Most of the known medieval remains of the town occur in the centre and include the 11th-12th century St. Wulfram's parish church and 14th century Grantham House. Foundations of a medieval castle, lying between Castlegate and the River Witham, were recorded in the 18th century.

#### 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 consisting of colour prints will be compiled. The photographic record will consist of:
  - a) The site during work to show specific stages, and the layout of the archaeology within the trench.
  - b) groups of features where their relationship is important
- 8.3 Should human remains be located the appropriate Home Office licence will be obtained before their removal. In addition, the Local Environmental Health Department and the police will be informed.

#### 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: the colour prints will be 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) A non-technical summary of the results of the investigation.
  - b) A description of the archaeological setting of the watching brief.
  - c) Description of the topography of the site.
  - d) Description of the methodologies used during the watching brief.

- e) A text describing the findings of the watching brief.
- f) A consideration of the local, regional and national context of the watching brief findings.
- g) Plans of the archaeological features exposed. If a sequence of archaeological deposits is encountered, separate plans for each phase will be produced.
- h) Sections of the archaeological features.
- Interpretation of the archaeological features exposed, and their chronology and setting within the surrounding landscape.
- j) Specialist reports on the finds from the site.
- k) 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 South Kesteven Community Archaeologist; South 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 Community Archaeologist of South Kesteven District Council. She 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

The following organisations/persons will, in principal 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 Analy	sis			
	Prehistoric -	David Knight:- Trent & Peak Archaeological Trust.		
	Roman -	Ruth Leary:-Trent & Peak Archaeological Trust.		
	Anglo-Saxon -	David Hall, Independent Specialist		
	Medieval and later-	Hilary Healey, Independent specilaist or Gary Taylor, Archaeological Project Services		
Non-pottery Artefacts		J Cowgill, Independent Specialist; or Gary Taylor, Archaeological Project Services		
Animal Bones	s Company	James Rackham:- Environmental Archaeology Consultancy		
Environmental Analysis		James Rackham:-Environmental Archaeology Consultancy-; or P Cope-		
		Faulkner, Archaeological Project Services		
Human Remains Analysis		R Gowland, Independent Specialist		

## 17. BIBLIOGRAPHY

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# CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

No.	Section	Description	Interpretation
001	1	Crumbly dark brown sand	Topsoil
002	1	Moderately compact brown sandy silt	Subsoil
003	1	Moderately compact brown sandy silt	Subsoil
004	2	Compact tarmac	Road surface
005	2	Limestone fragments	Modern road hardcore
006	2	Moderately compact brown sandy silt	Subsoil
007		Compact tarmac	Road surface (As [004])
008		Limestone fragments	Modern road hardcore
009		Moderately compact brown sandy silt	Subsoil (As [006])
010	3	Compact tarmac	Road surface
011	3	Light yellow sandy limestone	Modern road hardcore
012	3	Loose red-brown clayey sand	Subsoil
013		Compact tarmac	Road surface
014		Compacted limestone fragments	Modern road makeup
015		Cut	Limit of [014]
016		Grey brown sandy clay.	2 0
017	a Desidedo	Compacted limestone fragments cut through [016]	Fill of cut for [020]?
018		Reddish brown sandy clay	Subsoil
019		Modern pipes within [018] – cut not seen.	Modern pipes
020		Pipe	Modern pipe
021		Compact tarmac	Road surface
022		Compacted rough limestone fragments	Modern road makeup
023		No details – at depth of 0.5m	Subsoil
024		Loose clayey silt, 0.30 m depth	Topsoil
025		Loose sand and creamy yellow sandstone	Subsoil

#### **GLOSSARY**

Bronze Age A period characterised by the introduction of bronze into the country for tools, between 2250 and 800 BC.

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).

Cropmark

A mark that is produced by the effect of underlying archaeological features influencing the growth of a particular crop.

Dumped deposits

These are deposits, often laid down intentionally, that raise a land surface. They may be the result of casual waste disposal or may be deliberate attempts to raise the ground surface.

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.

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 1st century AD.

Romano-British Pertaining to the period dating from AD 43-410 when the Romans occupied Britain.

# THE ARCHIVE

#### The archive consists of:

- 25 Context records
- Watching brief daily record sheets 12
- 2 OS map photocopies showing line of trenches
- 2
- Photographic record sheet

# 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.

118.99 Lincolnshire City and County Council Museum Accession Number:

HTR99 Archaeological Project Services Site Code:

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 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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