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**ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF
OF DEVELOPMENT ON LAND OFF
FISKERTON ROAD,
REEPHAM, —
LINCOLNSHIRE
(FRR 01)**



A P S
ARCHAEOLOGICAL
PROJECT
SERVICES

Event L12644

Source L17259
L17260

Negative

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF
OF DEVELOPMENT ON LAND OFF
FISKERTON ROAD,
REEPHAM, -
LINCOLNSHIRE
(FRR 01)**

Work Undertaken For
Prestige Homes (Eastern) Ltd

Report Compiled by
P. Cope-Faulkner BA (Hons) AIFA

November 2001

Planning Application No: M01/P/0321
National Grid Reference: TF 0443 7371
City and County Museum Accession No: 2001.157

A.P.S. Report No: **147/01**



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 showing section location

Figure 4 Section 1

List of Plates

Plate 1 General view of the development area

Plate 2 Section 1

1. SUMMARY

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken during the construction of a new dwelling on land adjacent to Fiskerton Road, Reepham, Lincolnshire. The watching brief monitored the excavation of the foundation trenches associated with the development.

The site lies close to a Romano-British (AD 50-410) settlement as evidenced by a number of finds. An Early Bronze Age (2250-1850 BC) axe is also known from the parish. The development site is located southeast of the medieval (1066-1500) core of the village.

The investigations revealed the underlying natural till overlain by modern topsoil. No archaeological features or deposits 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 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 Prestige Homes (Eastern) Ltd to undertake an archaeological watching brief during construction of a new dwelling at Fiskerton Road, Reepham, Lincolnshire. Approval for the development was sought through the submission of planning application M01/P/0321. 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 County Archaeological Officer (Appendix 1). The watching brief was undertaken on the 26th June 2001.

2.3 Topography and Geology

Reepham is located 6.5km northeast of the centre of Lincoln in West Lindsey District, Lincolnshire (Fig. 1).

The development site is located 600m southeast of the centre of Reepham as defined by SS. Peter and Paul's parish church (Fig. 2). Centred on National Grid Reference TF 0443 7371 the site is at a height of c. 18m OD. The local topography describes a gentle slope downwards to the south, towards the River Witham, and the east, towards Barlings Eau

The village is located on soils of the Ragdale Association, typically pelo-stagnogley and stagnogley soils (Hodge *et al.* 1984, 293). These soils overlie a drift geology of Wragby Till which in turn overlie a solid geology of Jurassic Oxford Clay (BGS 1999).

2.4 Archaeological Setting

Reepham is situated in an area of archaeological remains dating from the Bronze Age to the present day. An Early Bronze Age flat axe is known from the parish (May 1976, 95).

Located west of Fiskerton Road is an area from which Romano-British pottery, coins, brooches, spearheads and other items have been found and appear to indicate a sizeable settlement.

Reepham is first mentioned in the Domesday Survey of c. 1086. Referred to as *Refam*, *Refan* and *Refaim*, the name is derived from the Old English and means 'the village or estate (*hām*) of the ((*ge*) *rēfa*) reeve' (Cameron 1998, 101). At the time of the Domesday Survey the land was owned by Peterborough Abbey, Colsuain and Rannulf de Sancto Walarico and contained 90 acres of meadow and underwood measuring 8 furlongs long by 4 furlongs wide (Foster and Longley 1976). In the subsequent Lindsey Survey of c. 1115, the land was held by the Bishop of Lincoln, Robert de Haia and the Abbot of Peterborough (*ibid.*).

The only extant remains of the medieval period is the parish church of SS. Peter and Paul which, although rebuilt in 1836, has elements dating to the late 12th century and early 14th century (Pevsner and Harris 1989, 609).

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 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. 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.

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

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

The earliest deposit encountered was a dark yellowish brown sandy silt (002) which measured over 0.8m deep (Fig. 4, Section 1). Within this were discrete areas of a bluish grey clay (004). These two deposits were identified as the underlying drift geology.

Sealing these natural deposits was a topsoil comprising dark greyish brown sandy silt (001) that measured 0.3m thick.

6. DISCUSSION

The earliest deposits encountered during this investigation can be related to the underlying till which was formed during the last glaciation. A modern topsoil sealed these layers.

No artefacts were retrieved during this

investigation. Although only a small area was opened, it would appear that any Romano-British settlement is restricted to west of the Fiskerton Road.

7. CONCLUSIONS

Archaeological investigations were carried out on land at Fiskerton Road, Reepham, because the site lies close to Romano-British settlement.

Natural deposits were encountered that were sealed by the modern topsoil. No archaeological deposits or features were encountered and no artefacts were observed or retrieved.

8. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeological Project Services would like to acknowledge the assistance of Mr B. Leasing of Prestige Homes (Eastern) Ltd who commissioned the fieldwork and post excavation analysis. The work was coordinated by Denise Drury and this report was edited by Tom Lane. David Start kindly permitted access to the library and parish files maintained by the Heritage Trust of Lincolnshire.

9. PERSONNEL

Project Coordinator: Denise Drury
Supervisor: Jim Snee
Finds Processing: Denise Buckley
Illustration: Paul Cope-Faulkner
Photographic Reproduction: Sue Unsworth
Post-excavation Analyst: Paul Cope-Faulkner

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11. ABBREVIATIONS

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

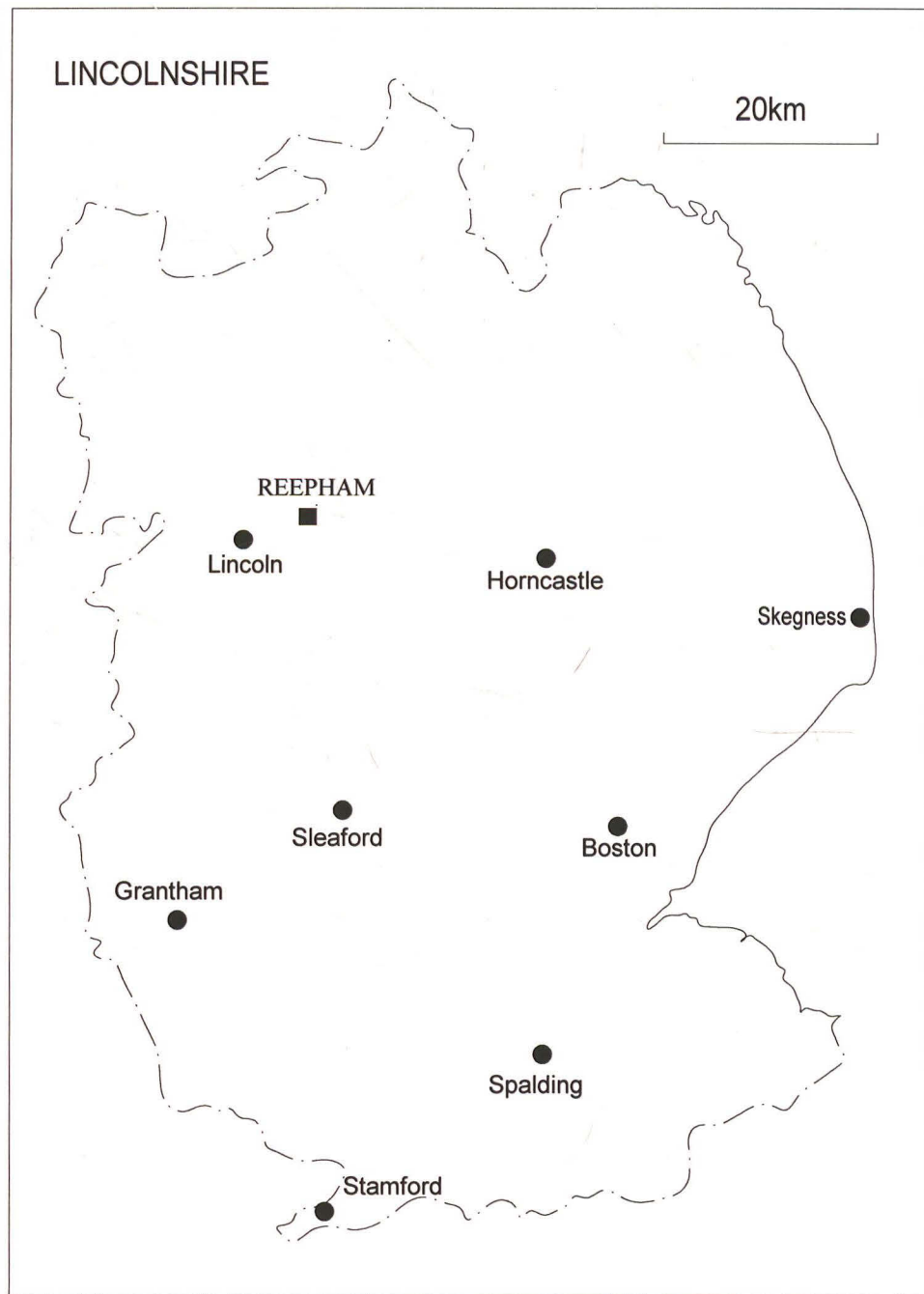
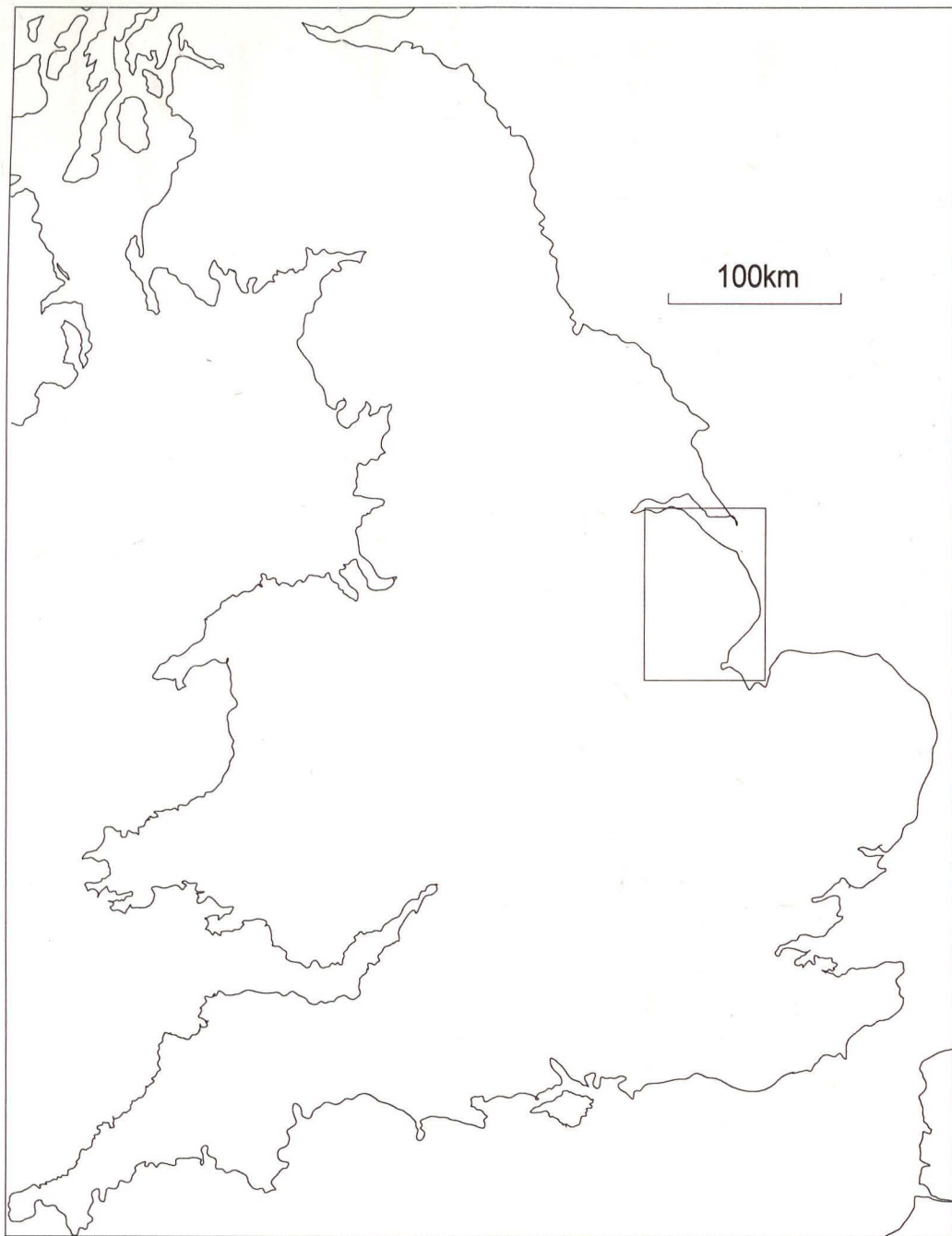


Figure 1 - General Location Plan

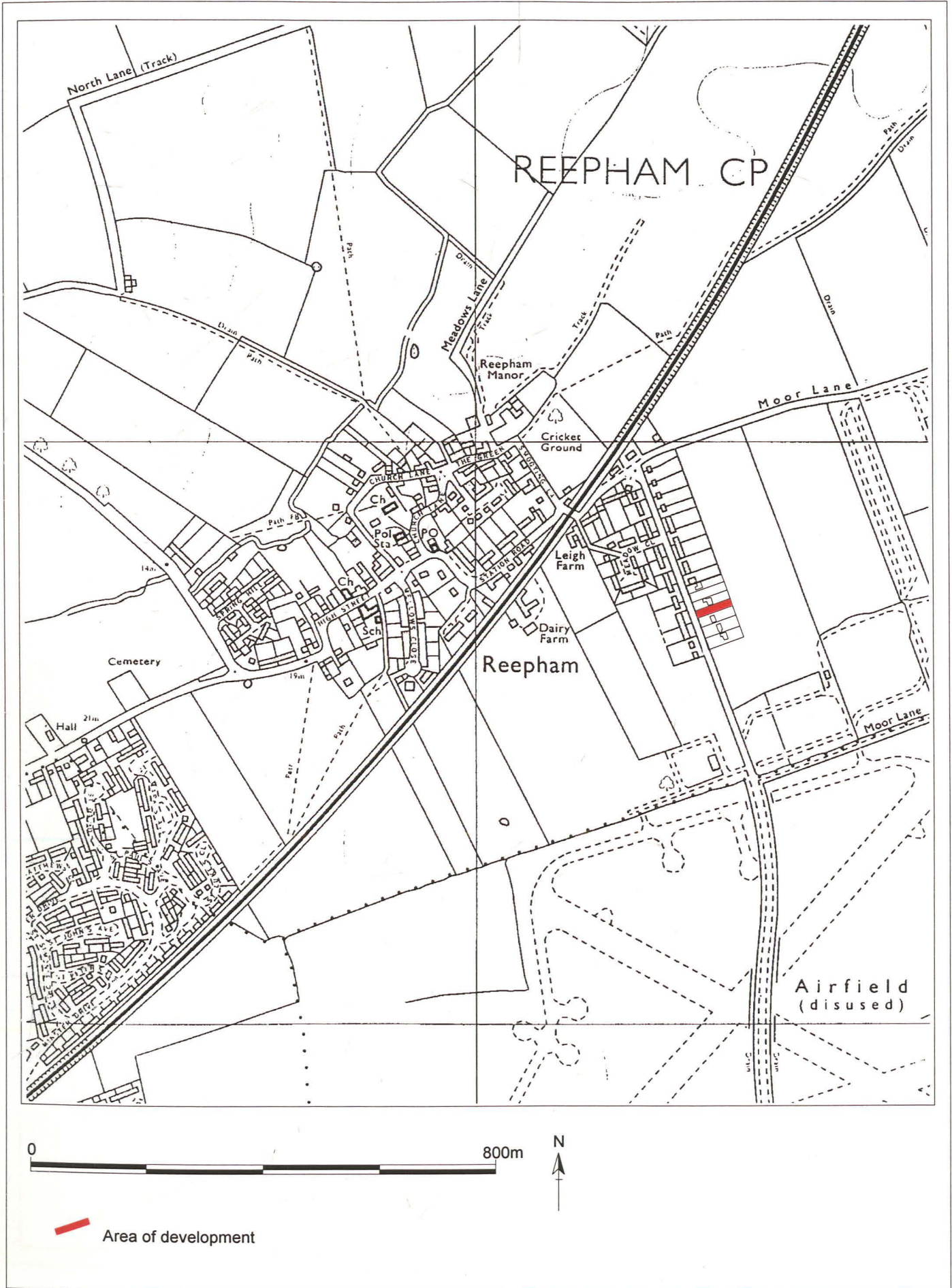


Figure 2 - Site location plan

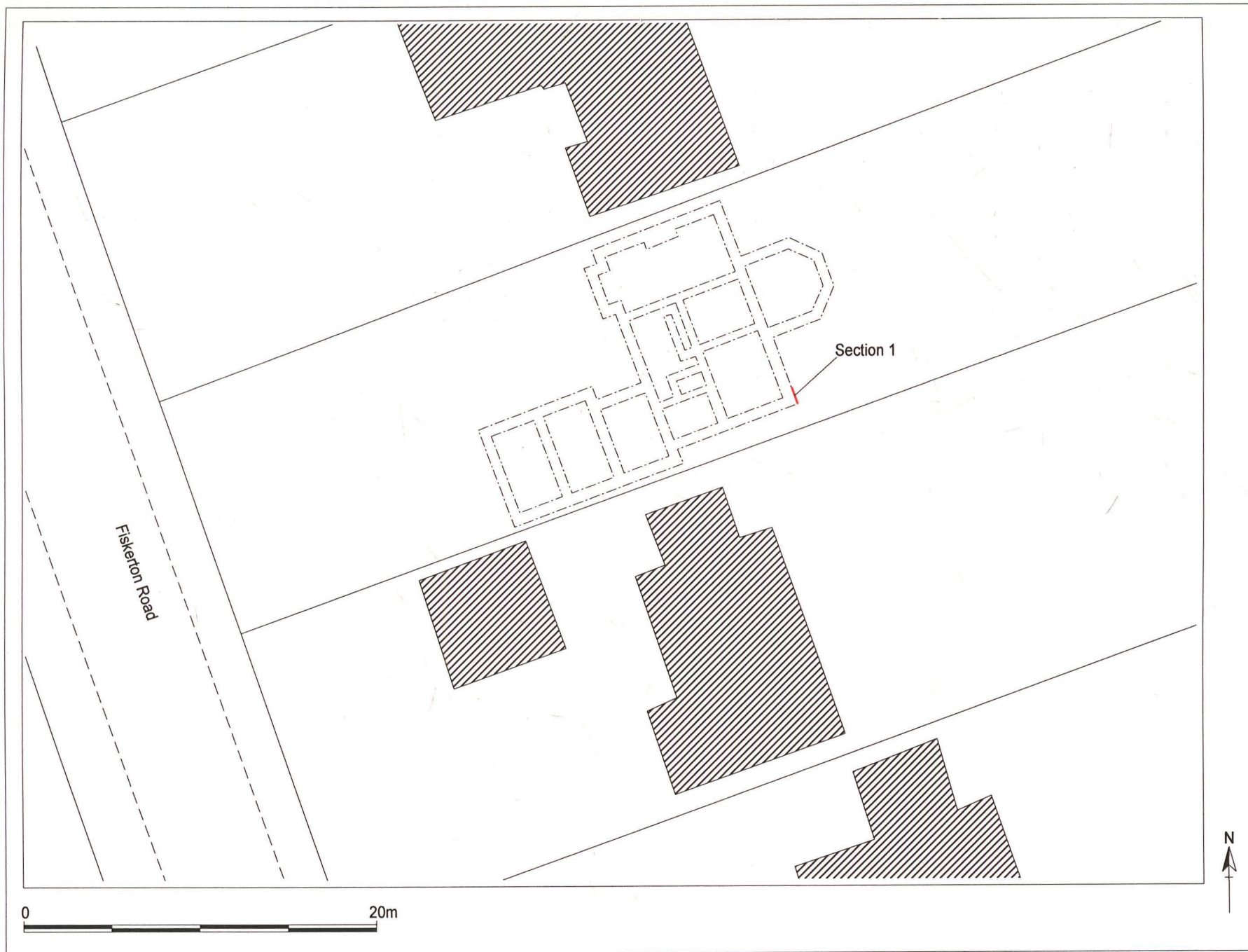
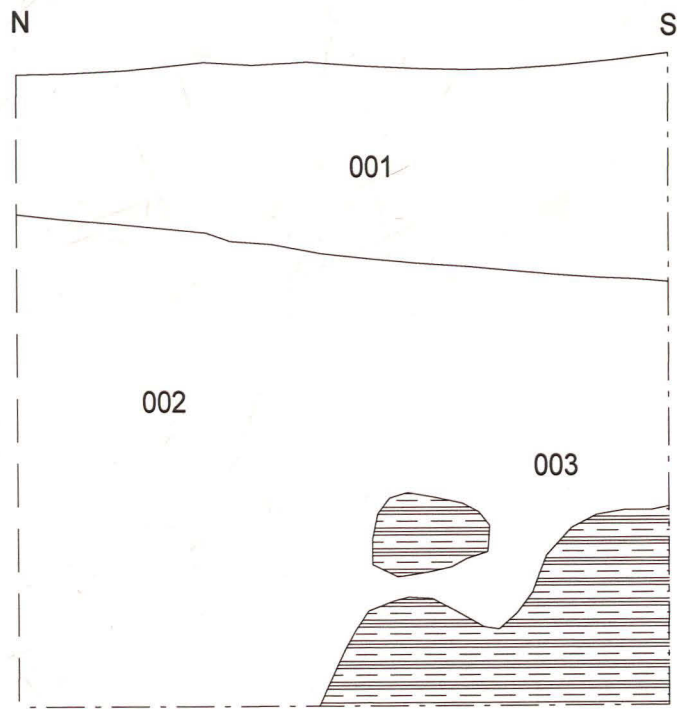


Figure 3 - Plan of development showing section location



Section 1

 Clay



Figure 4 - Section 1



Plate 1 - General view of the development area looking west



Plate 2 - Section 1, looking east

Appendix 1

PLOT 4 FISKERTON ROAD, REEPHAM, LINCOLNSHIRE - SPECIFICATION FOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

1 SUMMARY

- 1.1 *A watching brief is required during the construction of a dwelling on Plot 4, Fiskerton Road, Reepham, Lincolnshire.*
- 1.2 *The development site lies in an area where finds of Bronze Age and Romano-British date have been identified and close to the medieval core of the village.*
- 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 development on Plot 4, Fiskerton Road, Reepham, Lincolnshire, National Grid Reference TF 044 737.
- 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 Reepham is located 6.5km northeast of the centre of Lincoln in the West Lindsey district of Lincolnshire. The development site lies on the eastern edge of the village, on the east side of the Fiskerton Road at National Grid Reference TF 044 737 (Figs 1 and 2).

4 PLANNING BACKGROUND

- 4.1 A planning application (M01/P/0321) was submitted to West Lindsey District Council for the construction of a dwelling. Permission is subject to a condition requiring the implementation of an archaeological watching brief during all stages of the groundworks associated with the development.

5 SOILS AND TOPOGRAPHY

- 5.1 The site lies at approximately 18m OD. Local soils are the Ragdale Association, pelo-stagnogley soils and typical stagnogley soils, developed in chalky till (Hodge *et al.* 1984, 293).

6 ARCHAEOLOGICAL OVERVIEW

- 6.1 A Bronze Age axe and artefacts from the Romano-British period have been found in the Reepham area.

- 6.2 Reepham is mentioned in the Domesday Survey (1086) when there were three separate land holdings. The parish church of St Peter and St Paul, approximately 600m to the northwest of the proposed development, was partly rebuilt and restored in the 19th century but retains medieval fabric dating from the late 12th to the early 14th 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 groundworks 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:
 - 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. 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:

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 Archaeological Officer, Lincolnshire County Council; West Lindsey 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 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 Lincolnshire County Council Archaeology Section. They will be given written notice of the commencement of the project.

14 VARIATIONS AND CONTINGENCIES

- 14.1 Variations to the proposed scheme of works will only be made following written confirmation of acceptance from the archaeological curator.
- 14.2 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).
- 14.3 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.
- 14.4 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

- 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.

<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 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

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Appendix 2

CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

No.	Description	Interpretation
001	Soft dark greyish brown sandy silt, 0.3m thick	Topsoil
002	Soft dark yellowish brown sandy silt, >0.8m thick	Natural deposit
003	Soft bluish grey clay, frequent limestone fragments, contained within (002)	Natural deposit

Appendix 3

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

Appendix 4

THE ARCHIVE

The archive consists of:

- 3 Context records
- 1 Scale drawings (sections)
- 1 Photographic record sheet
- 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 Museum Accession Number: 2001.157

Archaeological Project Services Site Code: FRR 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.