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**ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF
ON LAND AT CHURCH LANE, SWINESHEAD,
LINCOLNSHIRE
(SCLB01)**



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**ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF
ON LAND AT CHURCH LANE, SWINESHEAD,
LINCOLNSHIRE
(SCLB01)**

Work Undertaken For
Lofthouse Developments

Report Compiled by
Steve Thomson BSc (Hons) PIFA

December 2001

Planning Application Number: B/00/0518/FULL
National Grid Reference: TF 2370 4020
City and County Museum Accession No: LCNCC : 2001.24

A.P.S. Report No. 183/01



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1. SUMMARY

A watching brief was undertaken during groundworks associated with the construction of a single dwelling at Church Lane, Swineshead. The site is located within the core of the historic village and medieval pottery has previously been recovered from the site. Medieval remains have previously been found during an earlier investigation on adjacent land.

An archaeological evaluation on the site recorded a sequence of deposits interpreted as a medieval plough soil, sealed below a layer of marine sediment.

During the course of the watching brief an undated probable pond was identified. No evidence of a medieval ploughsoil or medieval activity was encountered with no artefacts recovered.

2. INTRODUCTION

2.1 Definition of a Watching Brief

An archaeological watching brief is 'defined as a formal program 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 maybe disturbed or destroyed.' (IFA 1997).

2.2 Planning Background

An archaeological evaluation was carried out by John Samuels Archaeological Consultants prior to outline planning permission for development of the site. The evaluation recorded a possible palaeosol sealed below a layer interpreted as marine inundation. The level of the suggested marine sediment was significantly higher

and later than previous evidence of sea level maximums and the Boston Community Archaeologist advised that further archaeological investigations be undertaken.

A watching brief was undertaken on the 7th June 2001 during the excavations of footings for a single dwelling on land at Church Lane, Swineshead, Boston, Lincolnshire. Approval for the development was sought through the submission of planning application number B00/0518/FULL to Boston Borough Council. Permission was granted subject to a condition for the implementation of a scheme of archaeological works.

The watching brief was commissioned by Mr G.W. Fletcher and carried out by Archaeological Project Services in accordance with a specification designed by APS (Appendix 1) and approved by the Boston Community Archaeologist.

2.3 Topography, Geology and Soils

Swineshead is located approximately 45km south east of Lincoln in the administrative district of Boston Borough Council (Fig. 1). The site is located in the southern part of the village, just south of the parish church at national grid reference TF 2370 4020 (Fig. 2).

The area surrounding the site is relatively flat and lies at approximately 5m OD. Local soils are alluvial gleys of the Agney Association developed on marine alluvium (Hodge *et al.* 1984, 87).

2.4 Archaeological Background

No finds of Roman or prehistoric material have been made from the immediate vicinity, though finds of these dates are common in the general area. However, the Roman and prehistoric land surfaces occur at depth, buried beneath later silts and peats.

During the medieval period Swineshead was an important settlement, established on the navigable River Swin. The settlement is first mentioned shortly after 650 AD when there are references to a monastery at Swineshead. In the Domesday Book, Swineshead itself is not mentioned but the settlements of Stenning and Drayton, both within the parish, are referred to.

The medieval core of the village is likely to have been centred around the parish church of St. Mary's. Medieval pottery has been found both to the east and west of the church. Located to the west of the site is the deserted medieval village of *Estovening*.

Previous investigations in the immediate vicinity of the site has revealed several undated features including pits and a possible boundary ditch (Cope-Faulkner, 1997).

Archaeological evaluation of the area, which included the present site, revealed a modern ditch and what was interpreted as a medieval buried soil, sealed by silts thought to represent a phase of marine transgression. During subsequent archaeological investigations on an adjacent plot, the Boston Community Archaeologist requested that the site was visited by an environmental archaeologist to identify and if possible re-evaluate the interpretation of this sequence of deposits. Following this, the results were thought not to represent marine transgression (Snee 2000). The watching brief undertaken on the adjacent plot identified a large pond or ditch (*ibid*).

3. AIMS

The aim of the watching brief, as detailed in the specification (Appendix 1), was to record and interpret archaeological features exposed during the ground disturbance. The

objectives were to determine the form, function, spatial arrangement, date and sequence of any archaeological remains.

4. METHODS

Foundation trenches for the dwelling were excavated using a mechanical excavator to depths of up to 2m. The sections of the trenches were inspected and rendered vertical to identify archaeological deposits. Each deposit recorded during the investigation was allocated a unique reference number (Context Number) with an individual written description. Sections were drawn at a scale of 1:10 and 1:20 and located on an annotated sketch plan. A photographic record was also compiled.

Records of deposits and features identified during the watching brief were examined and a stratigraphic matrix was produced. Phasing was assigned on the nature of deposits and recognisable relationships between them. A summary list of all contexts appears as Appendix 2.

Archaeological contexts are described below and the numbers shown in bold and brackets are the context numbers assigned in the field.

5. RESULTS

Following post excavation analysis, three phases were identified:

- | | | |
|-----|---------|------------------|
| 5.1 | Phase 1 | Natural deposits |
| 5.2 | Phase 2 | Undated deposits |
| 5.3 | Phase 3 | Modern deposits |

5.1 Phase 1: Natural Deposits

The earliest deposit encountered was a moderately compact mid-yellowish brown

alluvial fine sand and silt (008).

5.2 Phase 2 - Undated deposits

Overlying the Phase 1 alluvium was a moderately compact mid-brown fine sand and silt (004) which was identified as a subsoil.

To the west of the foundation trenches (Figure 4) an indeterminately shaped 1.30m deep cut was identified (007). Filled by a 0.10m thick, soft mid-brownish yellow sand and silt (006), a 0.80m thick, friable dark grey brown sandy silt (005) and a 0.50m thick, moderately compact mid-yellowish brown silt (003) (Figure 5, Section 1), the cut was interpreted as a pond.

A 0.85m deep cut recorded in the northwestern edge of the foundation trench (010) contained a moderately compact, dark greyish brown to blackish grey silt (009) (Figure 5 - Section 2).

In the southern central area of the foundations, a mid-grey silt and sand subsoil containing occasional stones and brick fragments (012) was sealed by a moderately compact dark greyish brown to blackish grey silt and sand (011) (Figure 5 - Section 3). A similar, soft, dark brown silt (002) which sealed cuts (010) and (007). Both (002) and (011) are likely to have represented a buried topsoil.

5.3 Phase 3 - Modern Deposits

The final layer identified was a moderately compact, mid-brown sandy silt levelling deposit (001) containing brick, tile and stone fragments which was visible throughout the footings.

6. DISCUSSION

The Phase 1 alluvium was the earliest deposit identified in the investigation and is in keeping with soils previously observed in the area.

The Phase 2 undated cuts (010) and (007) are likely to be two edges of the same feature, probably a pond, measuring greater than 8m long, located to the western edge of the foundation trenches. No dating evidence was recovered from the fills of the feature, which was sealed beneath a buried topsoil. The topsoil (002) is unlikely to be of any great antiquity, having recently been overlain by the Phase 3 layer (001) deposited during current construction work on the site

7. CONCLUSIONS

Archaeological investigations were undertaken at Church Lane, Swineshead because the site was located within the core of the historic village and medieval pottery has previously been recovered from the site. Previous investigations had recorded an possible buried soil and a silt layer interpreted as a marine flood deposit. It was therefore possible that development could reveal further information about the nature and date of these deposits, and expose other associated archaeological remains.

An undated, probable pond extending over the western edge of the site was the only archaeological feature observed during the investigation with no evidence of a medieval plough soil or post-medieval flood event revealed.

8. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeological Project Services wish to acknowledge the assistance of Mr GW Fletcher who commissioned the fieldwork and

post-excavation analysis. The work was coordinated by Gary Taylor and this report was edited by Dale Trimble and Denise Drury. The Boston Community Archaeologist kindly permitted access to relevant parish files.

9. PERSONNEL

Project Coordinator: Gary Taylor
Site supervisor: Fiona Walker
Illustration: Mark Dymond and Steve Thomson
Photographic reproduction: Sue Unsworth
Post-excavation Analyst: Steve Thomson

10. BIBLIOGRAPHY

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11. ABBREVIATIONS

APS Archaeological Project Services

GSGB Geological Survey of Great Britain

IFA Institute of Field Archaeologists

JSAC John Samuels Archaeological Consultants

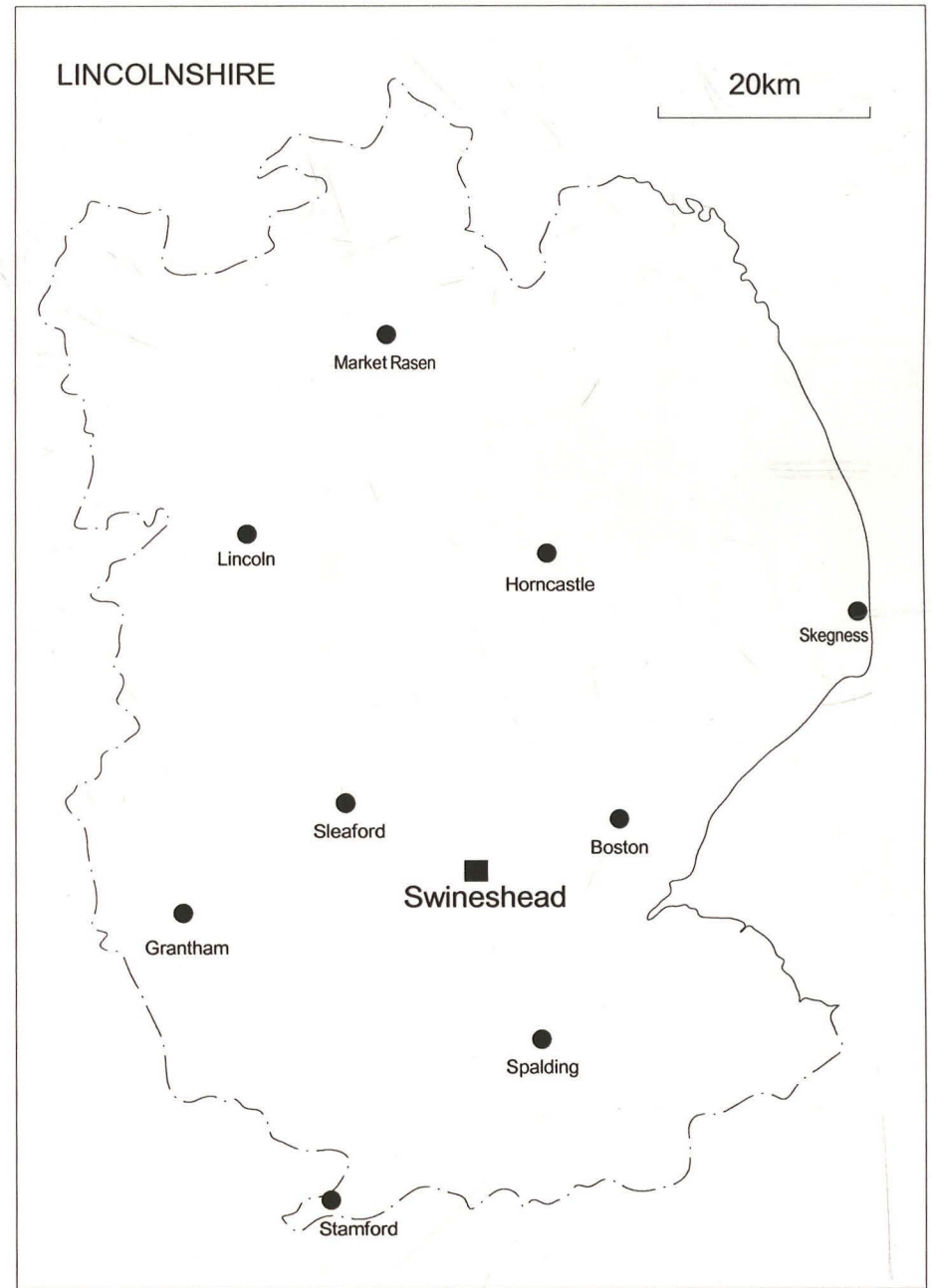
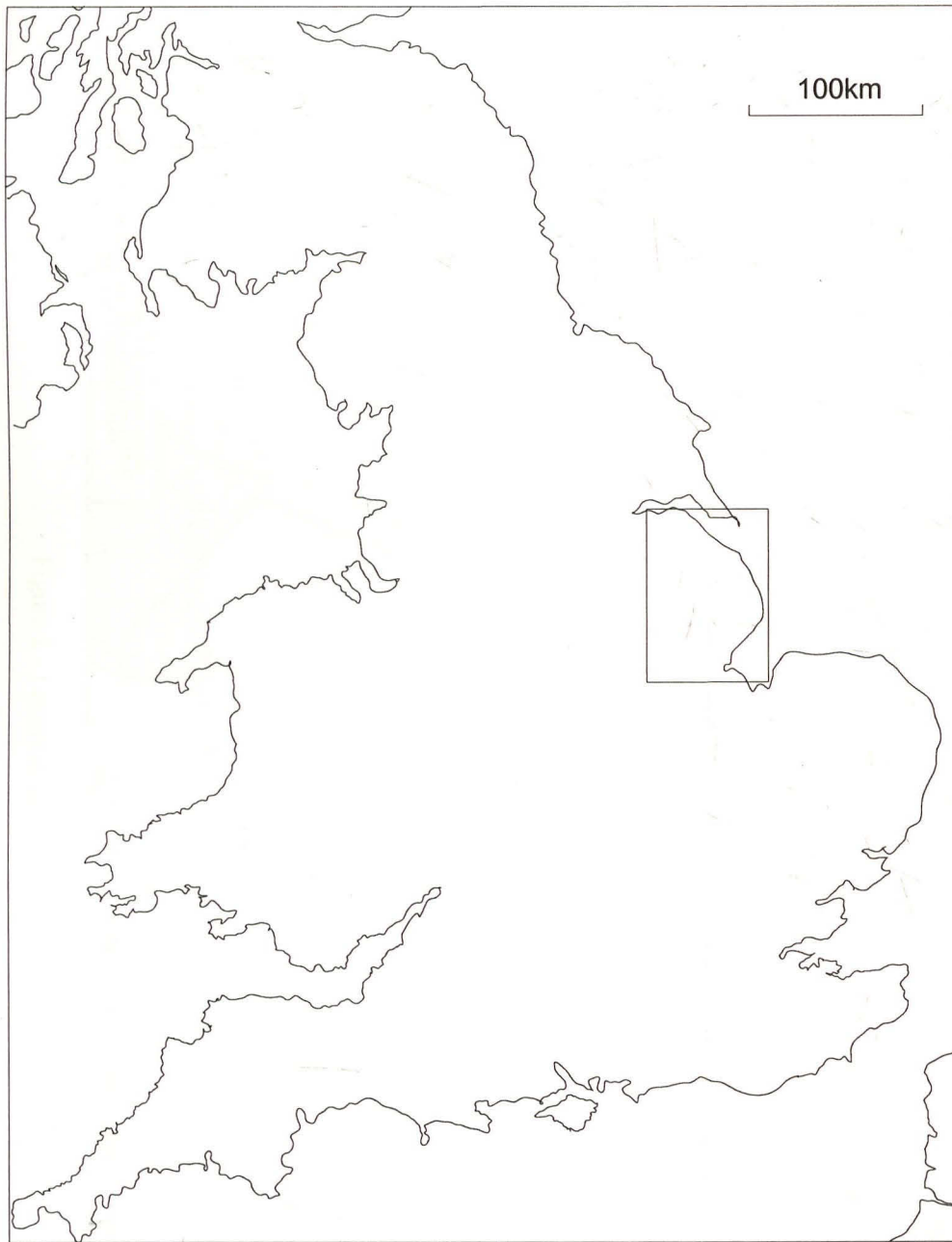
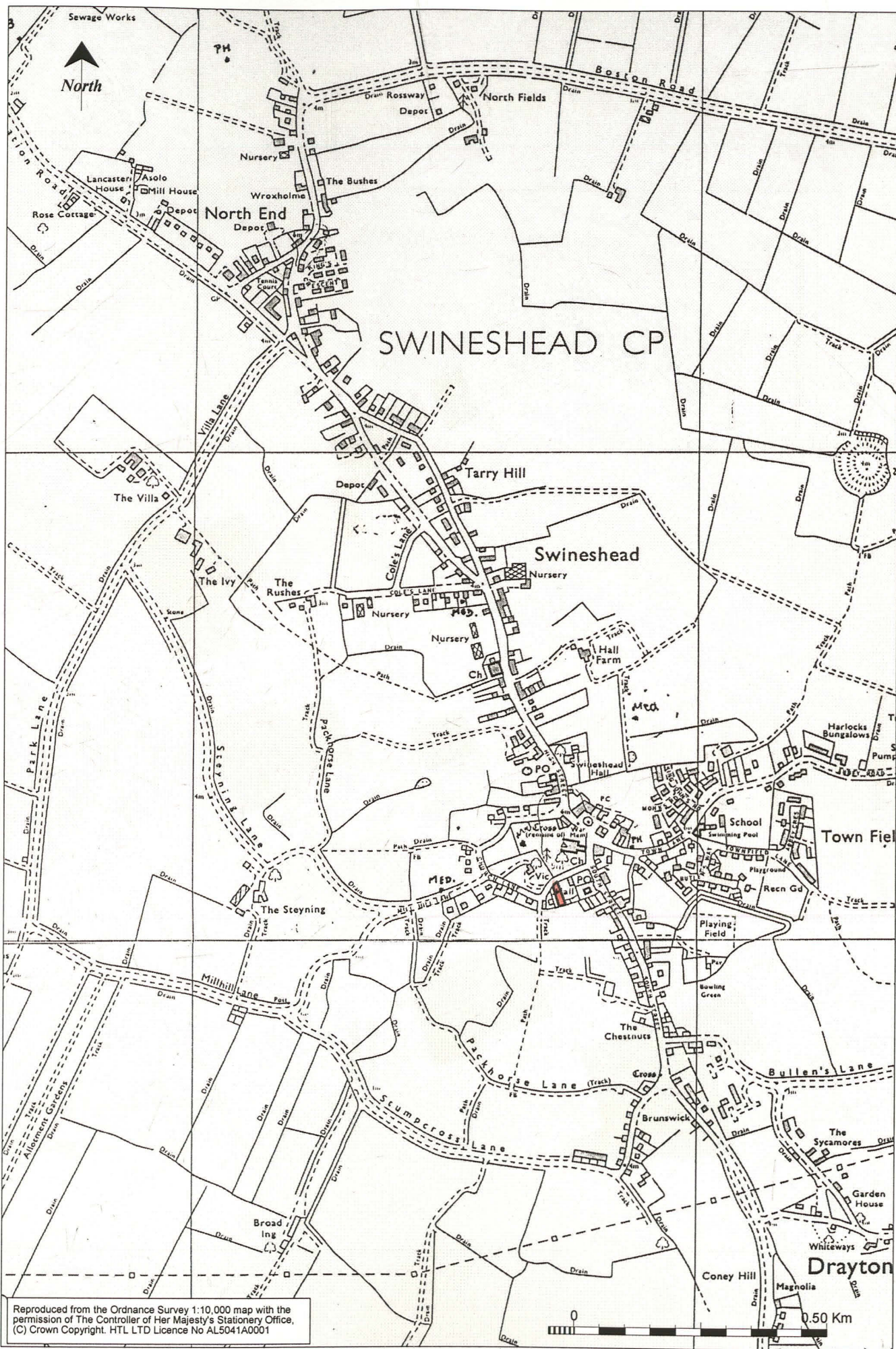


Figure 1 General Location Plan



TF 70

Figure 2 - Location plan



Figure 3 - Detailed Location Plan

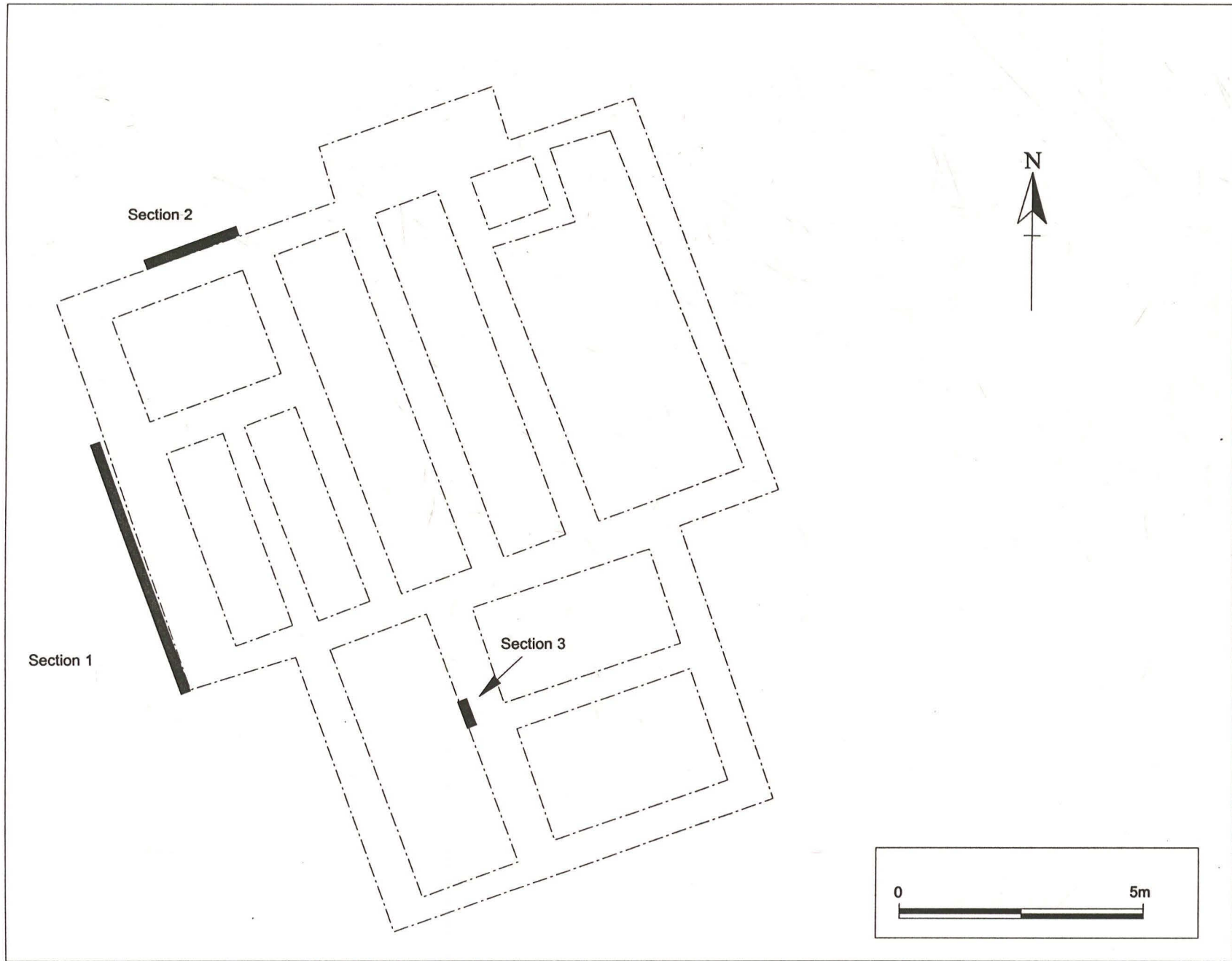


Figure 4 - Section locations

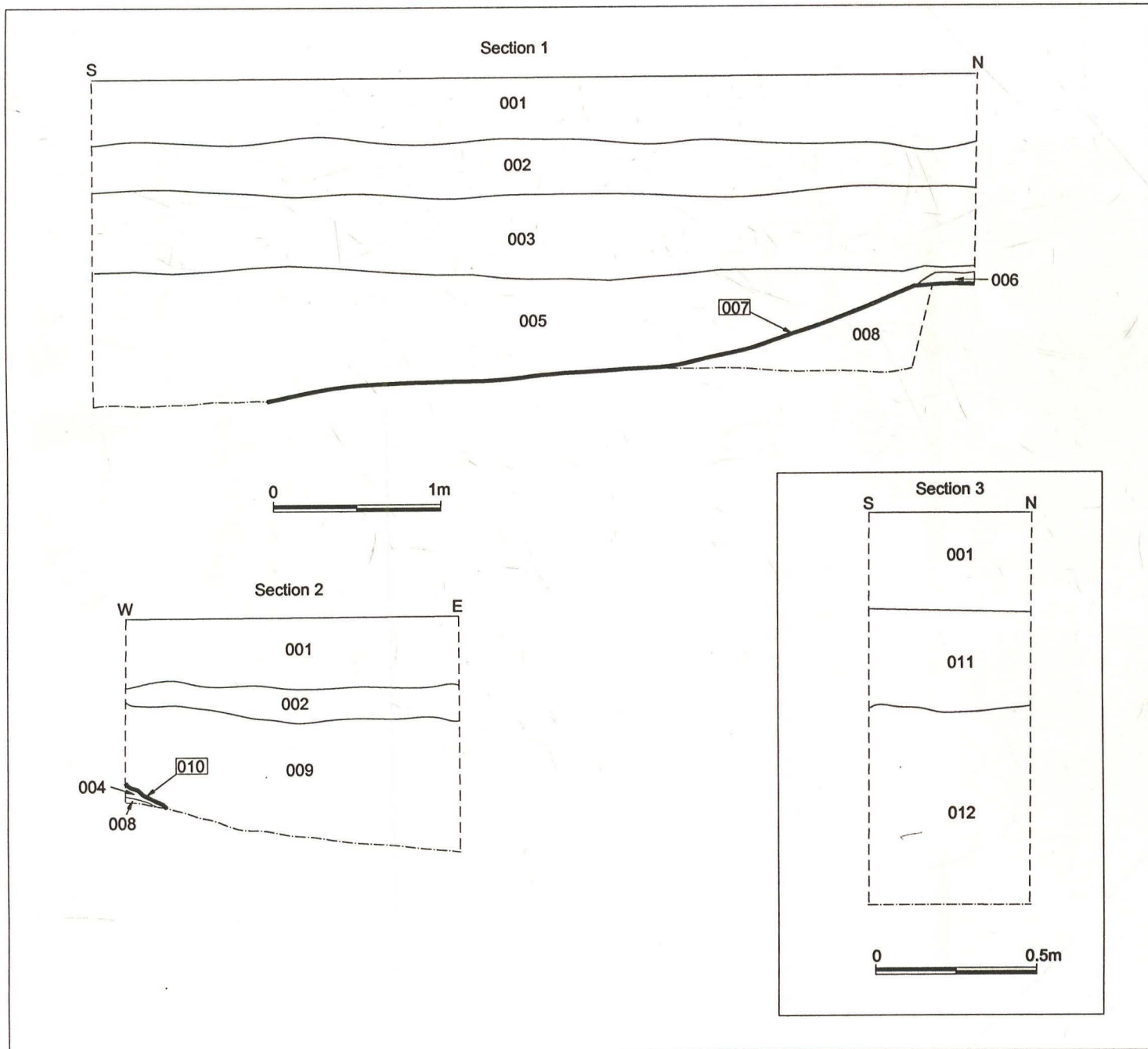


Figure 5 - Section drawings



Plate 1 General view of site prior to groundworks



Plate 2 Section 1, looking west

Appendix 1

**LAND AT
CHURCH LANE,
SWINESHEAD,
LINCOLNSHIRE**

**SPECIFICATION FOR
ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF**

**PREPARED FOR
G. FLETCHER**

**BY
ARCHAEOLOGICAL PROJECT SERVICES
Institute of Field Archaeologists'
Registered Organisation No. 21**

MARCH 2001

navigable River Swin. The settlement is first mentioned shortly after 650 AD when there are references to a monastery at Swineshead. In the Domesday Book, Swineshead itself is not mentioned but the settlements of Stening and Drayton, both within the parish, are referred to.

- 6.3 The medieval core of the village is likely to have been centred around the parish church of St. Mary's. Medieval pottery has been found both to the east and west of the church. Located to the west of the site is the deserted medieval village of *Estovening*.
- 6.4 Previous investigations in the immediate vicinity of the site has revealed several undated features including pits and a possible boundary ditch (Archaeological Project Services 1997, 3). Investigations originally undertaken immediately adjacent to the site revealed a modern ditch and a possible buried soil of 13th-14th century date. The undulating base of this deposit may be due to ploughing while the lack of corresponding undulation on the upper surface of deposit may be due to an episode of levelling. This soil layer was sealed by silt layers thought to have resulted from marine flooding of the area (JSAC 1997). However, further investigation on that adjacent site (Archaeological Project Services 2000) concluded that the soil profile represented gleying caused by fluctuations in the level of the water table. The sequence of soils revealed during the earlier investigation was not as clearly represented in the latter, possibly due to the difference in level between the two investigations (c. 2m).

7 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

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

8 SITE OPERATIONS

- 8.1 General considerations
- 8.1.1 All work will be undertaken following statutory Health and Safety requirements in operation at the time of the watching brief.
- 8.1.2 The work will be undertaken according to the relevant codes of practise issued by the Institute of Field Archaeologists (IFA), under the management of a Member of the institute (MIFA). Archaeological Project Services is IFA registered organisation no. 21.
- 8.1.3 Any and all artefacts found during the investigation and thought to be 'treasure', as defined by the Treasure Act 1996, will be removed from site to a secure store and promptly reported to the appropriate coroner's office.
- 8.2 Methodology
- 8.2.1 The watching brief will be undertaken during the ground works phase of development, and includes the archaeological monitoring of all phases of soil movement.
- 8.2.2 Stripped areas and trench sections will be observed regularly to identify and record archaeological features that are exposed and to record changes in the geological conditions. The section drawings of the trenches will be recorded at a scale of 1:10. Should features be recorded in plan these will be drawn at a scale of 1:20. Written descriptions detailing the nature of the deposits, features and fills encountered will be

compiled on Archaeological Project Services pro-forma record sheets.

- 8.2.3 Any finds recovered will be bagged and labelled for later analysis.
- 8.2.4 Throughout the watching brief a photographic record will be compiled. The photographic record will consist of:
 - 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 Boston Community Archaeologist; Boston Borough 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 Boston Community Archaeologist. They will be given seven days notice in writing before 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 - 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

Archaeological Project Services, 1997 *Archaeological Watching Brief of Land Adjacent to Church Lane, Swineshead, Lincolnshire (SCL97)*, APS Report No: 19/97

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Specification: Version 1, 05-03-01

Appendix 2

Context Summary

Context No.	Section	Description	Interpretation
001	1,2,3	Moderately compact, mid-brown sandy silt containing frequent brick fragments, moderate tile and stone fragments, 0.40m thick	Levelling deposit
002	1,2	Soft, dark brown silt, 0.30-0.40m thick	Buried topsoil
003	1	Moderately compact, mid-yellowish brown silt, 0.50m thick	Fill of 007
004	1	Moderately compact mid-brown fine sand and silt, 0.45m thick	Subsoil
005	1	Friable, dark grey brown sandy silt, 0.80m thick containing moderate brick fragments	Fill of 007
006	1	Soft, mid-brownish yellow fine sands and silt, 0.10m thick	Fill of 007
007	1	Indeterminate shape cut, gradually sloping sides, slightly concave base, 1.30m deep	Probable pond
008	1	Moderately compact, mid-yellowish brown fine sand and silt, greater than 0.60m thick	Natural geological deposit
009	2	Moderately compact dark greyish brown to blackish grey silt and sand, containing occasional brick fragments, 0.85m thick	Fill of 010
010	2	Indeterminate shape cut, 0.85m deep, greater than 8m long	Probable pond
011	3	Moderately compact dark greyish brown to blackish grey silt and sand, containing occasional brick fragments, 0.30m thick	Buried topsoil
012	3	Mid-grey silt and sand containing occasional stones and brick fragments, 0.60m thick	Subsoil

Appendix 3

GLOSSARY

Alluvium	Sediment deposited by the action of water
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).
Iron Age	A period characterised by the introduction of Iron into the country for tools, between 800 BC and AD 50.
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.
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 1st 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:

12	Context records
1	Sheet of scale drawings
1	Photographic record sheets
1	Stratigraphic matrix

All primary records and finds are currently kept at:

Archaeological Project Services
The Old School
Cameron Street
Heckington
Sleaford
Lincolnshire
NG34 9RW

The ultimate destination of the project archive is:

Lincolnshire City and County Museum
12 Friars Lane
Lincoln
LN2 1HQ

The archive will be deposited in accordance with the document titled *Conditions for the Acceptance of Project Archives*, produced by the Lincolnshire City and County Museum.

Lincolnshire City and County Council Museum Accession Number: LCNCC : 2001.24

Archaeological Project Services Site Code: SCLB01

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.