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**ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF
OF DEVELOPMENT AT
PLOT 5,
CHURCH END.
WRANGLE,
LINCOLNSHIRE
(WCE5 01)**



A P S
ARCHAEOLOGICAL
PROJECT
SERVICES

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**ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF
OF DEVELOPMENT AT
PLOT 5,
CHURCH END.
WRANGLE,
LINCOLNSHIRE
(WCE5 01)**

Work Undertaken For
Mr G. Dreher

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

November 2001

Planning Application No: B/01/0151/FULL
National Grid Reference: TF 422 508
City and County Museum Accession No: 2001.137

A.P.S. Report No: 167/01



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1. SUMMARY

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken during the construction of a single dwelling on land at Church End, Wrangle, Lincolnshire. The watching brief monitored the excavation of the foundation trenches associated with the development.

Wrangle lies in an area of Iron Age (800 BC-AD 50) and Romano-British (AD 50-410) remains and close to the core of the medieval (AD 1066-1500) village.

The investigations revealed a sequence of marine alluvium overlain by subsoil and topsoil. No archaeological deposits or features were encountered. Finds include a single sherd of medieval pottery and fragments of modern drain.

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 Mr G. Dreher to undertake an archaeological watching brief during construction of a dwelling at Church End, Wrangle, Lincolnshire. Approval for the development was sought through the submission of planning application B/01/0151/FULL. 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 Boston Community Archaeologist (Appendix 1). The watching brief was undertaken on the 11th June 2001.

2.3 Topography and Geology

Wrangle is located 4km from the Lincolnshire coast and 12km northeast of Boston, Boston District, Lincolnshire (Fig. 1).

The development site is located 240m west of the village centre as defined by the parish church of St. Mary and St. Nicholas at National Grid Reference TF 422 508 (Fig. 2). The site lies on the southern side of the village on generally level ground at a height of c. 3m OD.

Local soils are of the Snargate Series, typically coarse silty gleyic brown alluvial soils (Robson 1985, 41). Beneath these soils is a drift geology of younger marine silts and clays.

2.4 Archaeological Setting

Wrangle lies within an area of known archaeological remains dating from the Bronze age to the present day. A Bronze Age axe hammer and a number of worked flints have been found around the village (Lane 1993, Gazetteer).

Fieldwork undertaken as part of the Fenland Project identified an area of Iron Age and Romano-British settlement and salt-making sites (salterns) south of Church End (Lane 1993, 74).

Wrangle is first mentioned in the Domesday Survey of c. 1086. Referred to as *Werangle* the name is derived from the Old English *wrengel* or *wrangel* meaning 'a crooked

place' (Cameron 1998, 144). At the time of the Domesday Survey the land was held by Count Alan and Guy of Craon and a portion of it was waste due to the action of the sea (Foster and Longley 1976).

The only extant remains of the medieval period is the church of St. Mary and St. Nicholas which has a 13th century doorway and tower but is mainly of 14th century date (DoE 1987, 67).

A watching brief undertaken on an adjacent plot identified a ditch and pond of post-medieval date and late medieval to early post-medieval pottery and a prehistoric flint (Snee 2000, 1).

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 0.75m 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 mixed greyish brown and yellowish brown clayey silt (003) identified as the underlying drift geology. This was overlain by a 0.16m thick deposit of brownish yellow silt (002) identified as a subsoil.

Sealing all deposits was a 0.28m thick topsoil comprising dark brown silt (001).

6. DISCUSSION

A deposit of clayey silt was the earliest layer encountered during the watching brief. These relate to the underlying drift geology and can be identified as marine alluvium. These were sealed by a naturally formed subsoil and a modern topsoil.

Finds retrieved during this investigation include a single sherd of Toynton type pottery and a modern drain fragment.

7. CONCLUSIONS

Archaeological investigations were carried out on land at Church End, Wrangle, because the site lay in close proximity to Iron Age and Romano-British remains and close to the core of the medieval settlement.

A sequence of natural deposits, identifiable with the underlying marine alluvium, subsoil and topsoil was encountered. No archaeological deposits or features were recorded or identified.

Finds retrieved during the investigation include a single medieval pottery and recent drain fragments. No waterlogged features were found which indicates that few environmental indicators (snails, seeds, pollen *etc.*) will survive other than through charring.

8. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeological Project Services would like to acknowledge the assistance of Mr G. Dreher who commissioned the fieldwork and post excavation analysis. The work was coordinated by Gary Taylor and this report was edited by Tom Lane. Rebecca Wilcox, the Boston Borough Community Archaeologist, kindly permitted access to the library and parish files maintained by the Heritage Trust of Lincolnshire.

9. PERSONNEL

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

10. BIBLIOGRAPHY

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11. ABBREVIATIONS

APS Archaeological Project Services
DoE Department of the Environment
IFA Institute of Field Archaeologists

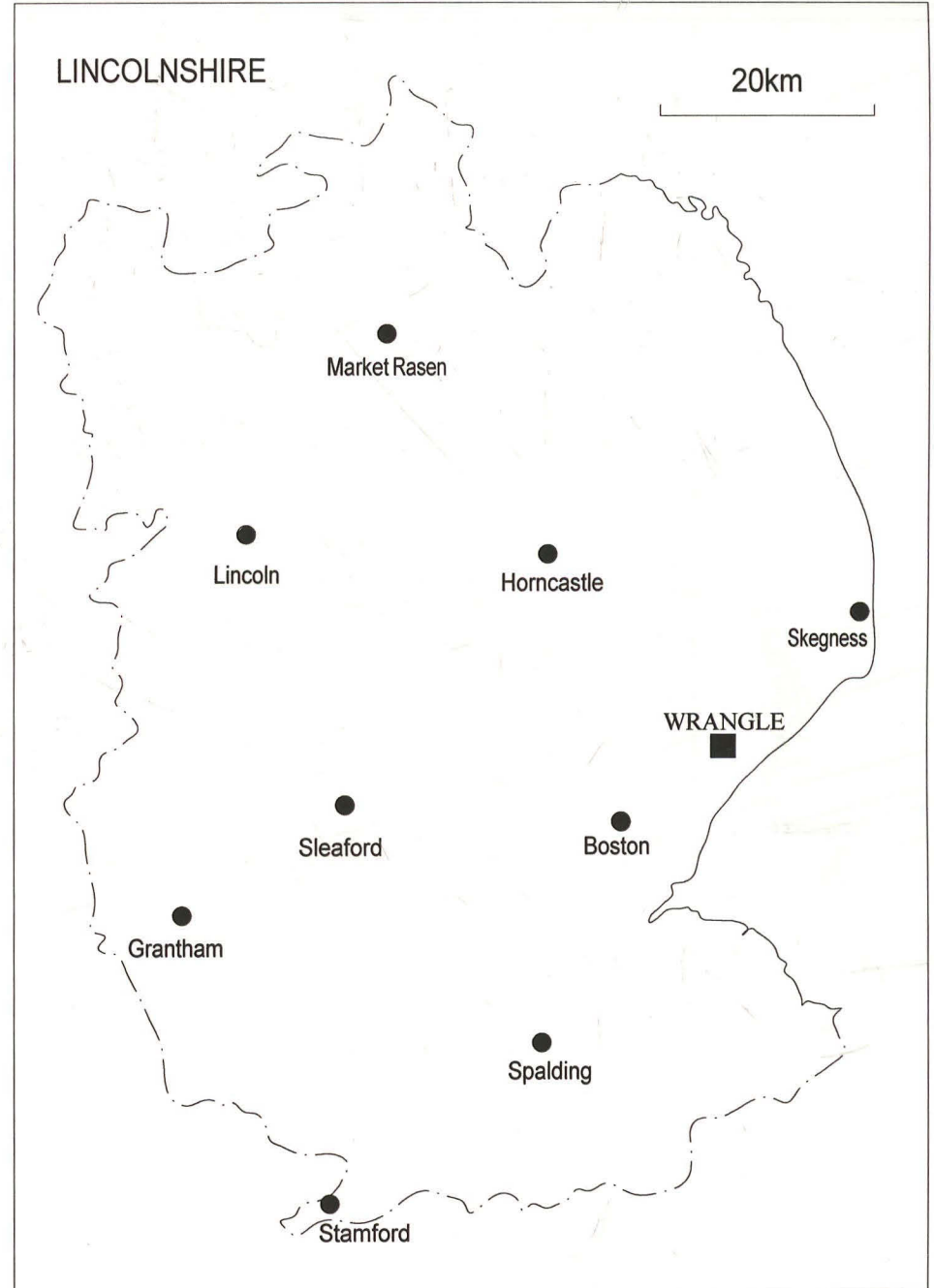
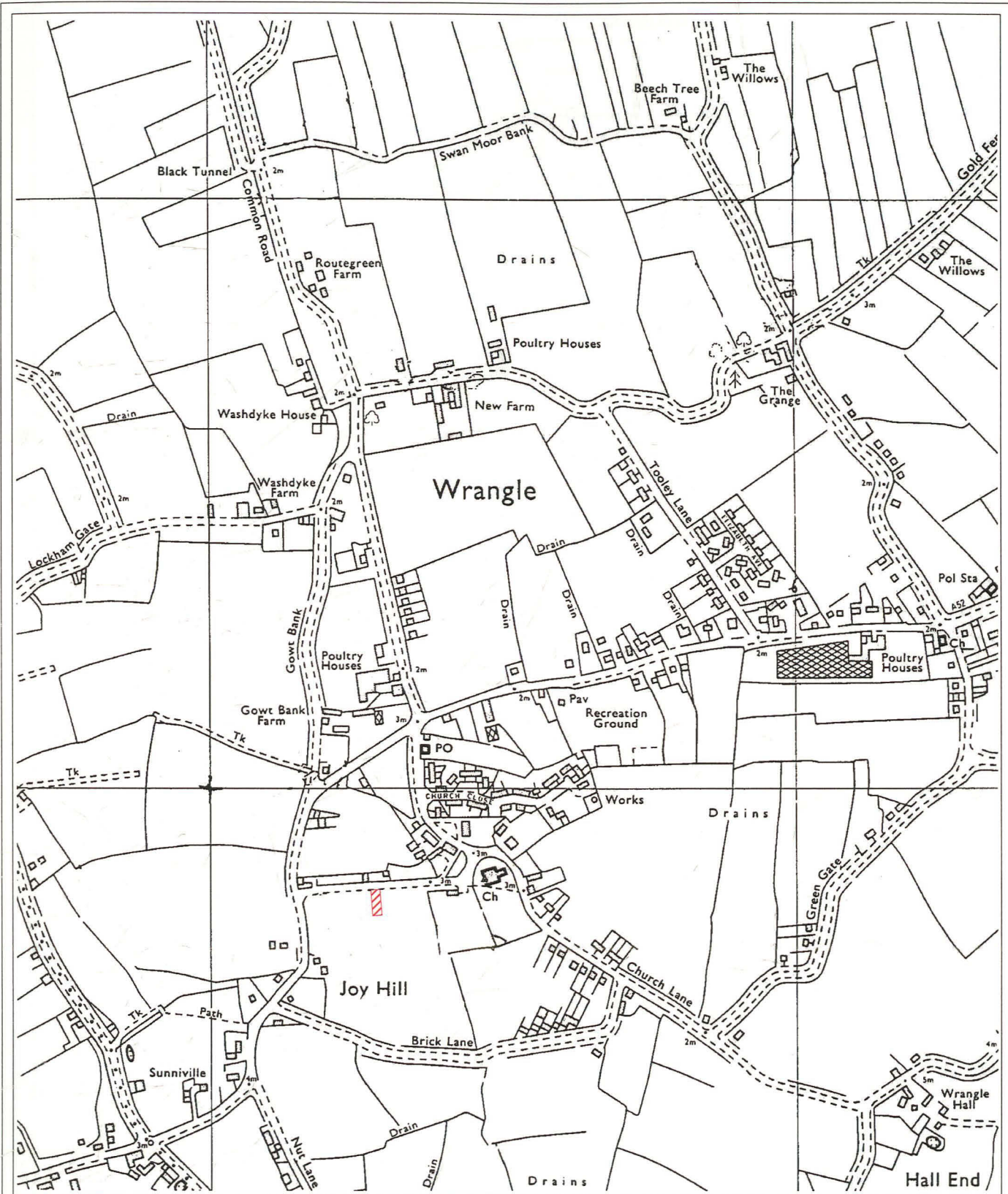


Figure 1 General Location Plan



 Area of development

Figure 2 - Site location plan

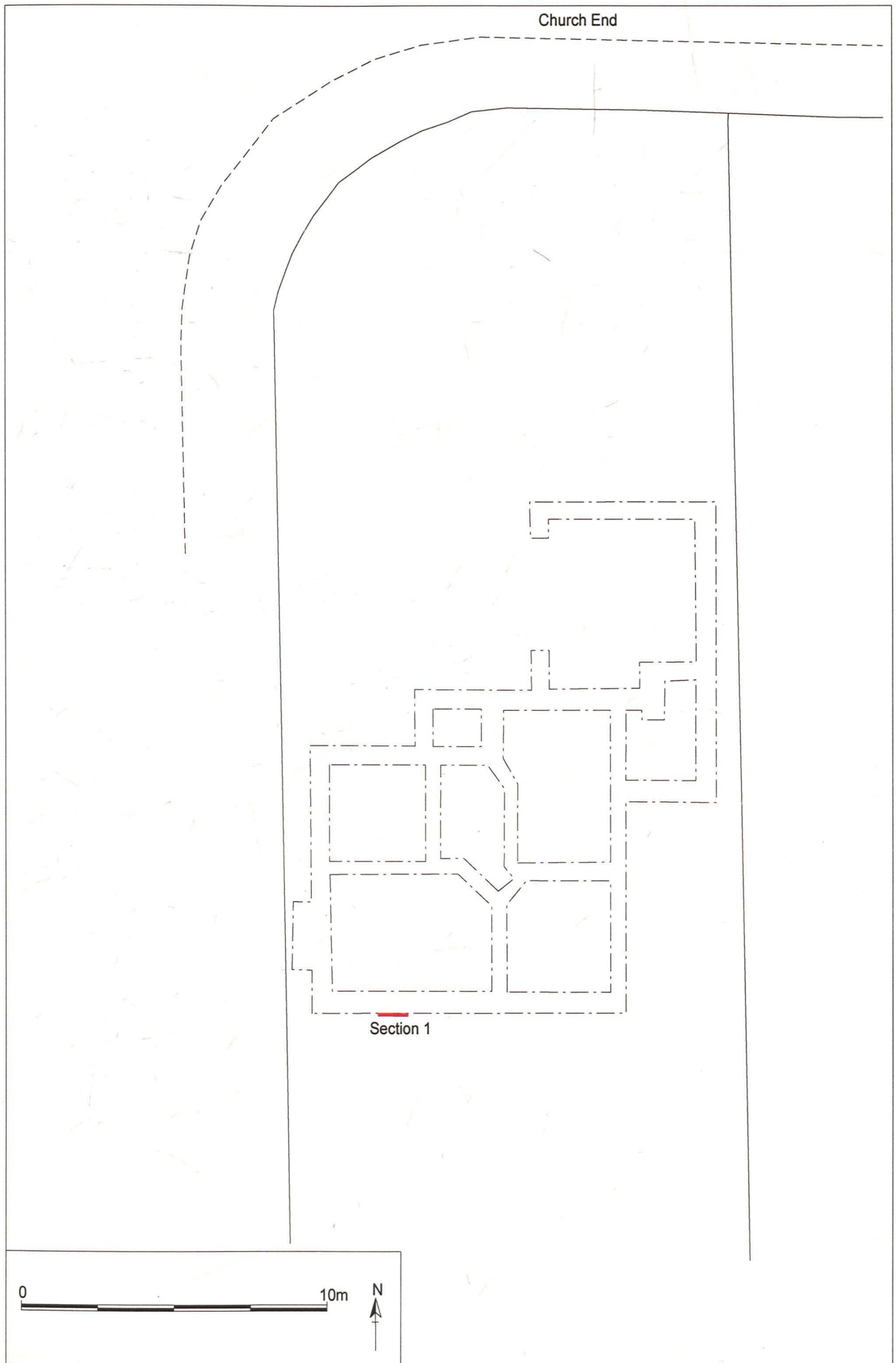


Figure 3 - Plan of the development showing section location

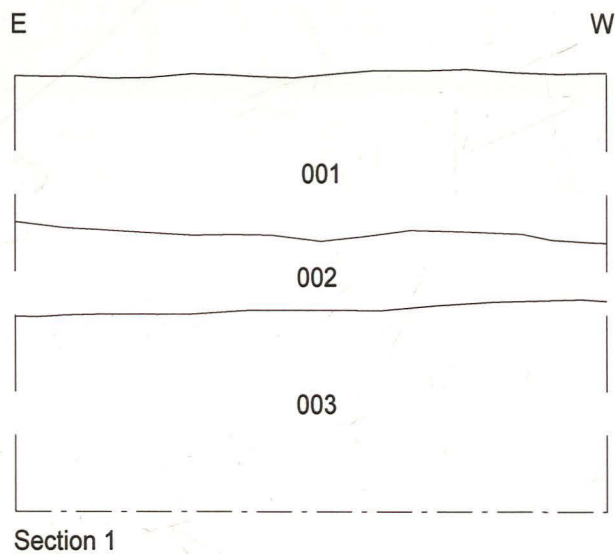


Figure 4 - Section 1



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



Plate 2 - Section 1, looking south

Appendix 1

LAND AT PLOT 5, CHURCH END, WRANGLE, LINCOLNSHIRE - SPECIFICATION FOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

1 SUMMARY

- 1.1 *A watching brief is required during construction of a house and garage at Church End, Wrangle, Lincolnshire.*
- 1.2 *The site lies in an area of known archaeological significance. A Romano-British settlement with evidence of salt-making has been identified in close proximity to the site. Additionally, investigations elsewhere on Church End have revealed medieval and later remains.*
- 1.3 *The archaeological work will consist of a watching brief during development works on the site.*
- 1.4 *On completion of the fieldwork a report will be prepared detailing the results of the watching brief. The report will consist of a narrative supported by illustrations and photographs.*

2 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 This document comprises a specification for archaeological watching brief during construction of a house and garage on land at Church End, Wrangle, Lincolnshire. The site is located at National Grid Reference TF 422 508.
- 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 Wrangle is located approximately 4km from the Lincolnshire coast and 12.5km northeast of Boston, in the administrative district of Boston. Church End lies on the southwest side of the village and the site, Plot 5, is located on the south side of Church End road, approximately 200m west of the church. It is centred on National Grid Reference TF 422 508.

4 PLANNING BACKGROUND

- 4.1 A planning application (B/01/0151/FULL) was submitted to Boston Borough Council for the construction of a house and attached double garage. Permission is subject to a condition requiring the undertaking of a watching-brief during groundworks associated with the development.

5 SOILS AND TOPOGRAPHY

- 5.1 Church End lies on the southwest side of Wrangle village at approximately 3m OD. Local soils are the Wisbech Association, mainly coarse silty calcareous soils developed on marine alluvium (Hodge *et al.* 1984, 361).

6 ARCHAEOLOGICAL OVERVIEW

- 6.1 Wrangle lies in an area of known archaeological remains, a number of sites and finds spots dating from the prehistoric period through to the medieval period have been identified together with Iron Age and Romano-British salterns. Wrangle is first mentioned in the Domesday Survey (1086). The

church of St Mary and St Nicholas is believed to date from the 14th century or earlier.

- 6.2 A Romano-British settlement site with evidence of salt-making, together with flints and Iron Age pottery was identified during the Fenland Survey approximately 60m to the south of the proposed development site (Lane 1993). Finds retrieved in the vicinity of the development site include flint and medieval pottery and medieval pottery and glazed floor tile have been found in the churchyard. Archaeological investigations in close proximity to the site have identified remains, including ditches, of medieval date and later date (Archaeological Project Services 2000; 2001).
- 6.3 It is thought likely that the groundworks may disturb archaeological deposits from prehistoric though to medieval date.

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:

- the site during work to show specific stages, and the layout of the archaeology

within the trench.

- groups of features where their relationship is important

8.2.5 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 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:

- A non-technical summary of the results of the investigation.
- A description of the archaeological setting of the watching brief.
- Description of the topography of the site.
- Description of the methodologies used during the watching brief.
- A text describing the findings of the watching brief.
- A consideration of the local, regional and national context of the watching brief findings.
- Plans of the archaeological features exposed. If a sequence of archaeological deposits is encountered, separate plans for each phase will be produced.
- Sections of the archaeological features.
- Interpretation of the archaeological features exposed, and their chronology and setting within the surrounding landscape.
- Specialist reports on the finds from the site.
- 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 Borough Council 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 Borough Council Community Archaeologist. 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 CONTINGENCIES

- 16.1 Should significant archaeological remains be encountered the brief of works, set by the archaeological curator, requires sufficient time to ensure the appropriate level of excavation / recording / sampling of those remains (Sections 1.5 and 5.1 in the brief of works). This may require interruptions in the development work to allow for the recording of archaeologically sensitive areas. Variations to the proposed scheme of works will only be made following written confirmation of acceptance from the archaeological curator.

17 SPECIALISTS TO BE USED DURING THE PROJECT

- 17.1 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, APS 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

18 INSURANCES

- 18.1 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.

19 COPYRIGHT

- 19.1 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.
- 19.2 Licence will also be given to the archaeological curators to use the documentary archive for educational, public and research purposes.
- 19.3 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.
- 19.4 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.

20 BIBLIOGRAPHY

Archaeological Project Services, 2000 *Archaeological watching brief of land at Church End, Wrangle, Lincolnshire (WCL99)*, unpublished APS report 133/00

Archaeological Project Services, 2001 *Archaeological watching brief of land at Church End, Wrangle, Lincolnshire (WCL499)*, unpublished APS report 8/01

Hodge, CAH, Burton, RGO, Corbett, WM, Evans, R, and Seale, RS, 1984 *Soils and their use in Eastern England*, Soil Survey of England and Wales 13

Lane, T, 1993 *The Fenland project number 8: Lincolnshire survey, the northern Fen-edge*, East Anglian Archaeology 66

Appendix 2

CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

No.	Description	Interpretation
001	Firm dark brown silt with some clay, 0.28m thick	Topsoil
002	Firm light to mid brownish yellow silt, 0.16m thick	Subsoil
003	Firm light to mid greyish brown and yellowish brown clayey silt, >0.35m thick	Natural deposit

Appendix 3

THE FINDS

Hilary Healey and Gary Taylor

Provenance

All the material was recovered from topsoil (001).

The single pottery fragment was made relatively locally at Toynton All Saints, about 13km to the north of Wrangle.

Range

The range of material is detailed in the table.

A single fragment of pottery of 13th-15th century date is the earliest material recovered, though this was associated with modern field drain. No faunal remains were retrieved.

Context	Description	Weight (g)	Context Date
001	1x Toynton All Saints ware, slightly abraded, 13 th - 15 th century	40g	late 19 th - 20 th century
	2x ceramic drain, late 19 th - 20 th century	35g	

Although a moderately large piece, the medieval pottery fragment is abraded. This condition, and its isolation as a single artefact of the period, suggests it is probably a constituent of manuring scatter. This, in turn, tends to indicate that the land was probably agricultural in the medieval period. This suggestion is supported by evidence of ridge and furrow earthworks previously encountered in the vicinity (Archaeological Project Services 2001, plt 1).

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 numerous previous archaeological investigations at Wrangle, including in close proximity to the present site (Archaeological Project Services 1996; 2001). The parish has also been the subject of detailed archaeological study (Lane 1993). Details of archaeological sites and discoveries in the area are maintained in the files of the Boston Community Archaeologist and the Lincolnshire County Council Sites and Monuments Record.

Potential

As a small group the assemblage has limited local potential and suggests that the land was agricultural in the medieval period and later.

References

Archaeological Project Services, 1996 *Archaeological Watching Brief on Land North of Church End, Wrangle, Lincolnshire (WCE96)*, APS Report No. 46/96

Archaeological Project Services, 2001 *Archaeological Watching Brief on Land at Church End, Wrangle, Lincolnshire (WCE400)*, APS Report No. 8/01

Lane, T. W., 1993 *The Fenland Project Number 8: Lincolnshire Survey, the Northern Fen-Edge*, East Anglian Archaeology 66

Appendix 4

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

Appendix 5

THE ARCHIVE

The archive consists of:

3	Context records
1	Scale drawings (sections)
1	Photographic record sheet
1	Bag of finds
1	Stratigraphic matrix

All primary records and finds are currently kept at:

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

The ultimate destination of the project archive is:

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

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

Lincolnshire City and County Museum Accession Number: 2001.137

Archaeological Project Services Site Code: WCE5 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.