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**ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF
OF DEVELOPMENT AT
GREAT FEN ROAD,
BOARDSIDES,
WYBERTON,
LINCOLNSHIRE
(WGF 01)**



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**ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF
OF DEVELOPMENT AT
GREAT FEN ROAD,
BOARDSIDES,
WYBERTON,
LINCOLNSHIRE
(WGF 01)**

Work Undertaken For
Trilcot Ltd

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

January 2002

Planning Application No: B/00/0593/FULL
National Grid Reference: TF 2984 4357
City and County Museum Accession No: 2001.121

A.P.S. Report No: 18/02



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1. SUMMARY

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken during the construction of an extension to existing buildings at Great Fen Road, Boardsides, Wyberton, Lincolnshire. The watching brief monitored the excavation of the foundation trenches associated with the development.

Great Fen Road is located in an area of Romano-British (AD 50-410) agricultural and settlement sites away from medieval (AD 1066-1500) settlement.

The investigations revealed a sequence of marine alluvium overlain by topsoil. Cut into the alluvium were two undated ditches that may be part of an extensive field system. No finds 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 Trilcot Ltd to undertake an archaeological watching brief during construction of an extension to existing buildings at Great Fen Road, off Boardsides, Wyberton, Lincolnshire. Approval for the development was sought through the submission of planning application B/00/0593/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 between the 16th and 21st May 2001.

2.3 Topography and Geology

Wyberton is located 3.5km south of Boston and approximately 19km north of Spalding, Boston District, Lincolnshire (Fig. 1).

The development site is located 2.7km northwest of the village centre as defined by the parish church of St. Leodegar at National Grid Reference TF 2984 4357 (Fig. 2). The site lies within Wyberton Fen immediately west of Boston on generally flat land at heights of c. 3m OD.

Local soils are of the Wallsea or Pepperthorpe Series, typically pelo-alluvial gley soils (Robson 1990, 34). Beneath these soils is a drift geology of older marine silts and clays overlying boulder clay and sealing a solid geology of Jurassic Ampthill Clays (BGS 1995).

2.4 Archaeological Setting

Wyberton Fen is located within an area of known archaeological remains dating from the Romano-British period to the present day. A Romano-British enclosure and possible farmstead was recorded during deep ploughing a kilometre to the west (Wheatley 1966, 2).

Wyberton is first mentioned in the Domesday Survey of c. 1086. Referred to as *Wibertune* and *Wibertone* the name is derived from the Old English and means the 'village or farmstead (*tūn*) of Wibert' (Cameron 1998, 144). At the time of the

Domesday Survey the land was held by Count Alan of Brittany and Guy of Craon and contained a church and 22 acres of meadow (Foster and Longley 1976).

The focus of medieval settlement would have been closer to Wyberton or Boston as the development area would have largely been open fen, until drainage during the 17th and 18th centuries allowed utilisation of the land.

An archaeological evaluation undertaken to the north of the site identified four undated ditches of a former field system (Allen 2001, 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

Stanchion pits were opened by a mechanical excavator to depths of between 0.9m and 1m as required by the development. Following excavation, the sides of the pits 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

Following post-excavation analysis a total of three phases were identified;

Phase 1	Natural deposits
Phase 2	Undated deposits
Phase 3	Recent deposits

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

Phase 1 Natural deposits

The earliest deposits encountered in the base of the stanchion pits were layers of yellowish red clayey silt (002 and 012). These deposits, representing the underlying drift geology, measured more than 0.32m thick.

Phase 2 Undated deposits

Located in the northwestern stanchion pit and trench was a northwest-southeast aligned linear feature (004). This was over 4m long and was wider than 1.4m and deeper than 0.35m (Fig. 4, Section 1). This ditch contained a single fill of mottled bluish grey and yellowish red silty clay (003).

Situated 3.2m to the east of ditch (004) was

a second ditch (006). This was aligned east-west and continued into the adjacent stanchion pit to the east (008). Measuring over 1.1m wide this ditch was filled with bluish grey and brown silty clay (005 and 007).

Phase 3 Recent deposits

Sealing the undated ditches was a 0.28m thick layer of topsoil comprising brown silty clay (001 and 011). This had been partially removed towards the eastern end of the site where surfaces (009) and (013) and their relevant make-up layers (010 and 014) were recorded.

6. DISCUSSION

Clayey silts (Phase 1) were the earliest deposits encountered during the watching brief and can be identified as marine alluvium.

Two undated ditches (Phase 2) were revealed which are both possibly of a field system. Undated ditches have also been recorded in the vicinity and it is possible that they are part of an extensive field system. Though undated, it is possible that the ditches are Romano-British in origin.

No finds were retrieved during this investigation

7. CONCLUSIONS

Archaeological investigations were carried out on land at Old Fen Road, Wyberton, because the site lay in close proximity to Romano-British agricultural and settlement sites.

Two undated ditches were recorded and which may relate to undated ditches

identified to the north and indicating the presence of an extensive field system. Though undated, these may be Romano-British in date. 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 A. Teesdale of Trilcot Ltd 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: Gary Taylor
Supervisor: Tobin Rayner
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
BGS British Geological Survey
DoE Department of the Environment
IFA Institute of Field Archaeologists
PCA Pre-Construct Archaeology (Lincoln)

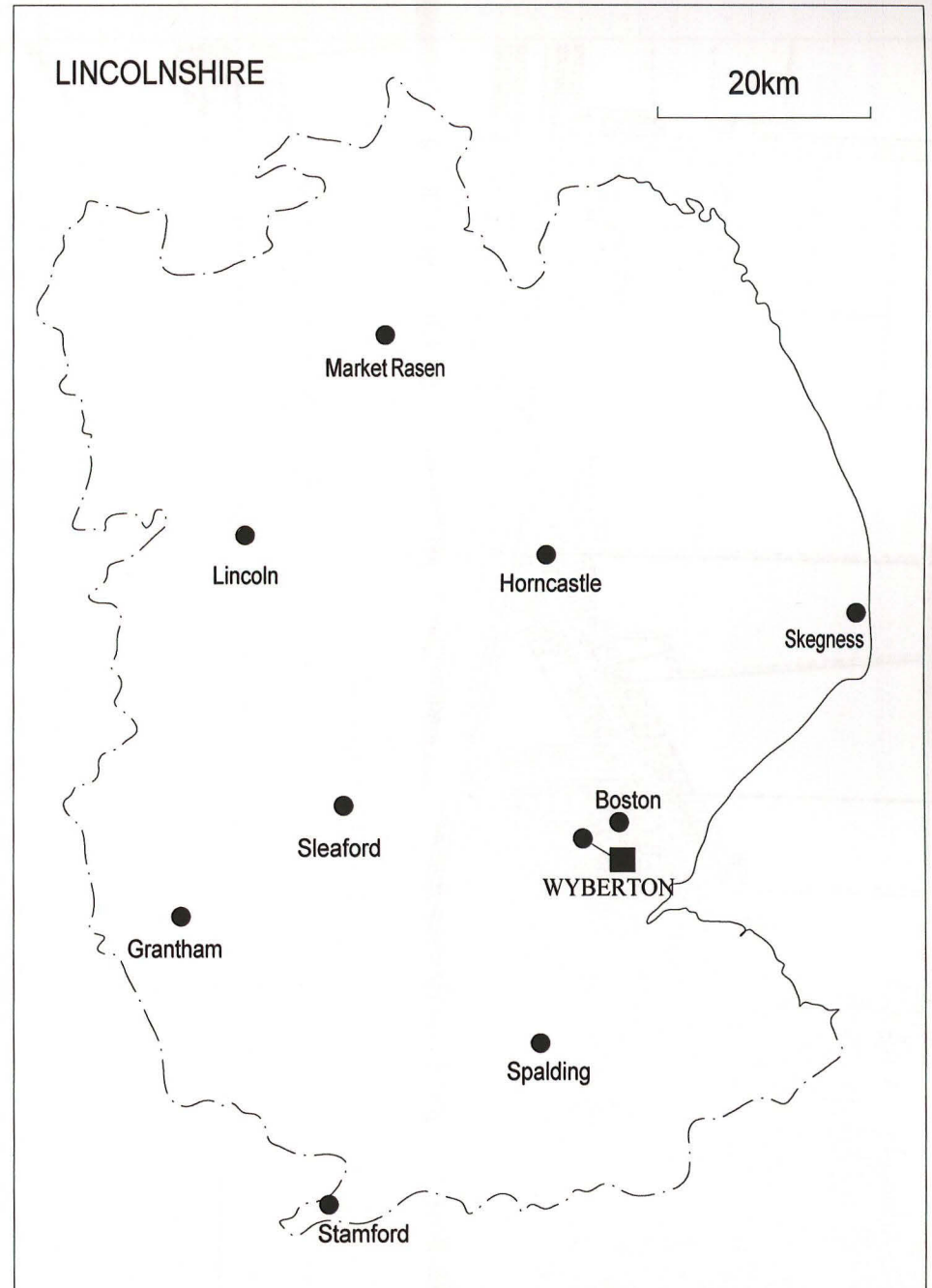
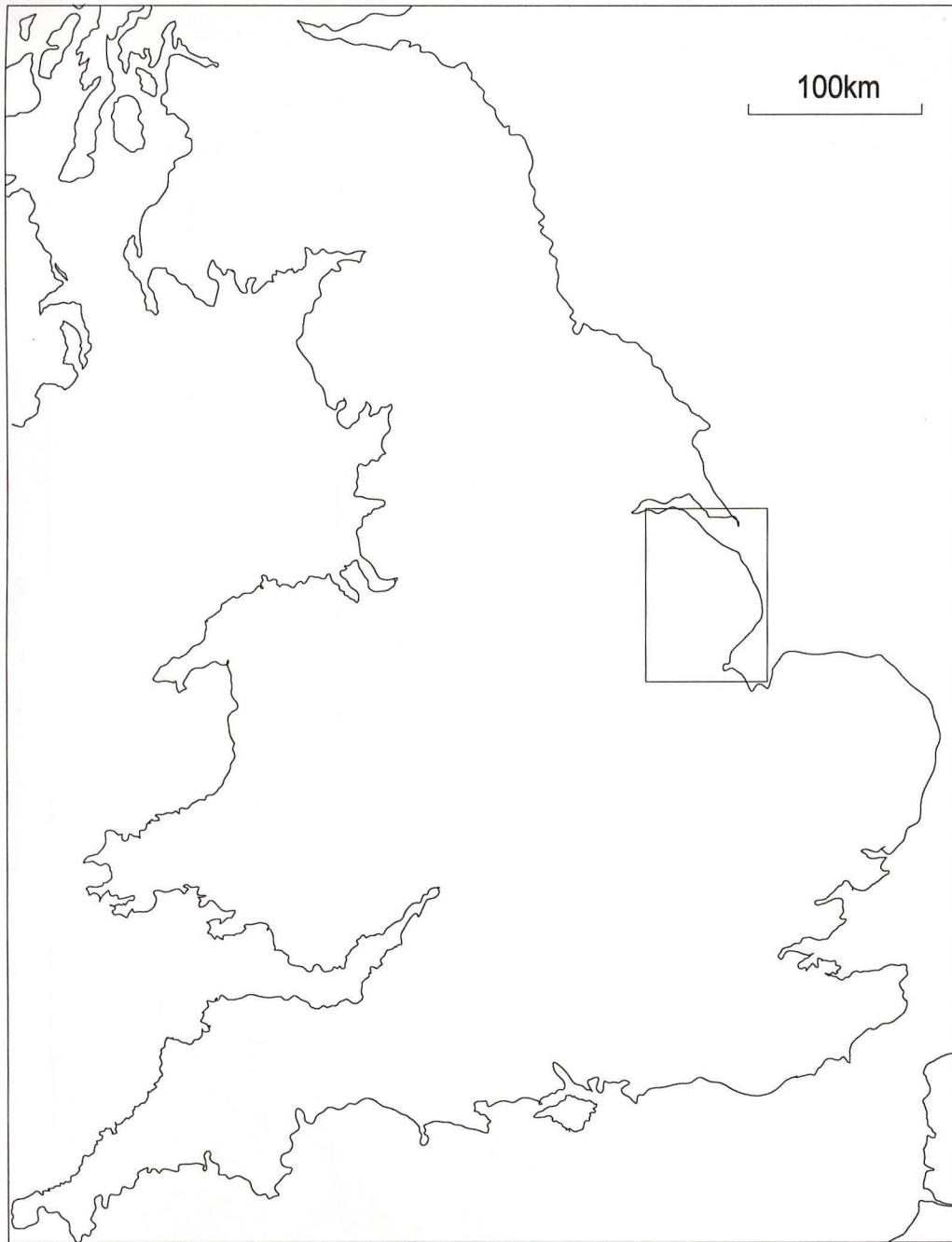


Figure 1 General Location Plan

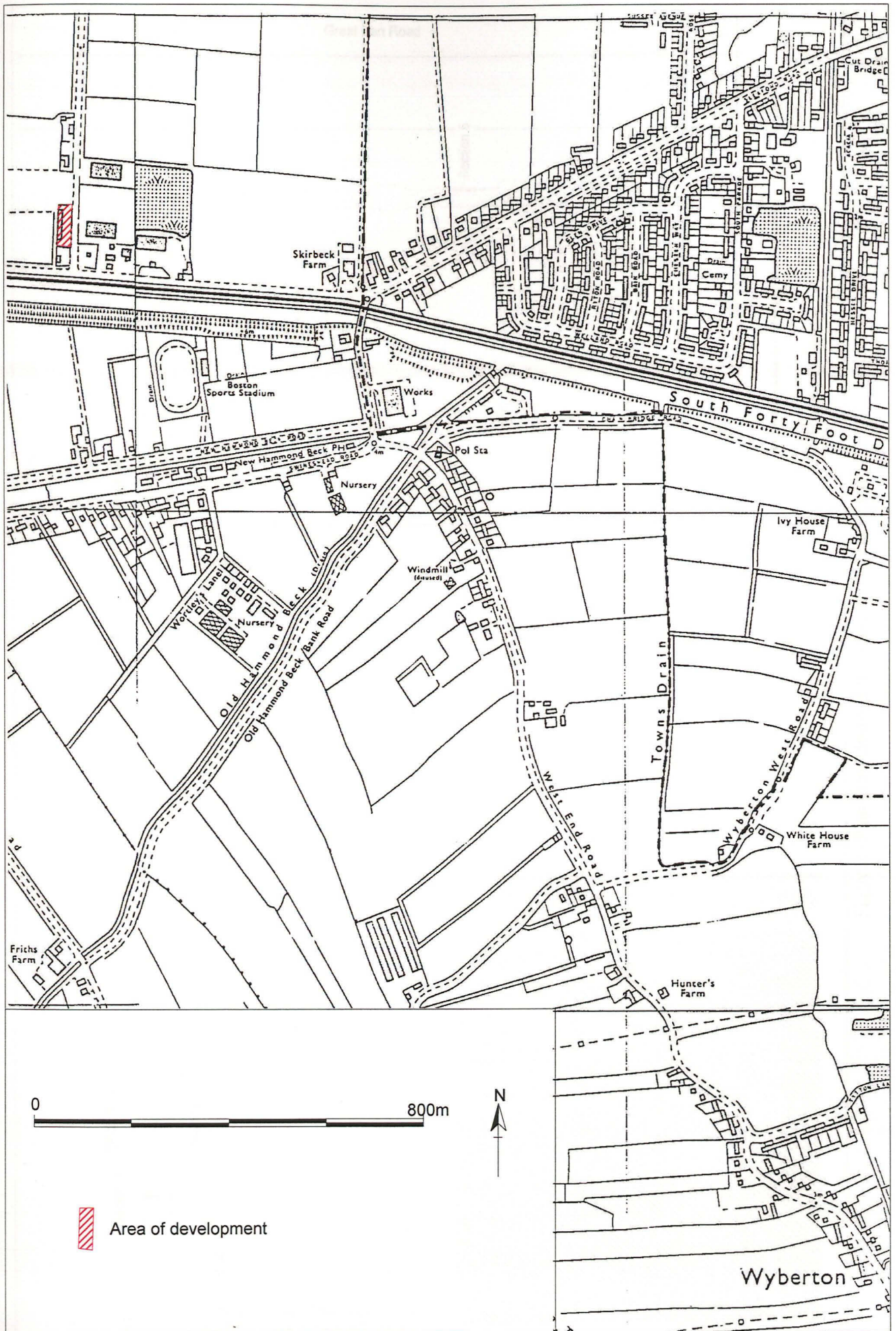


Figure 2 - Site location plan

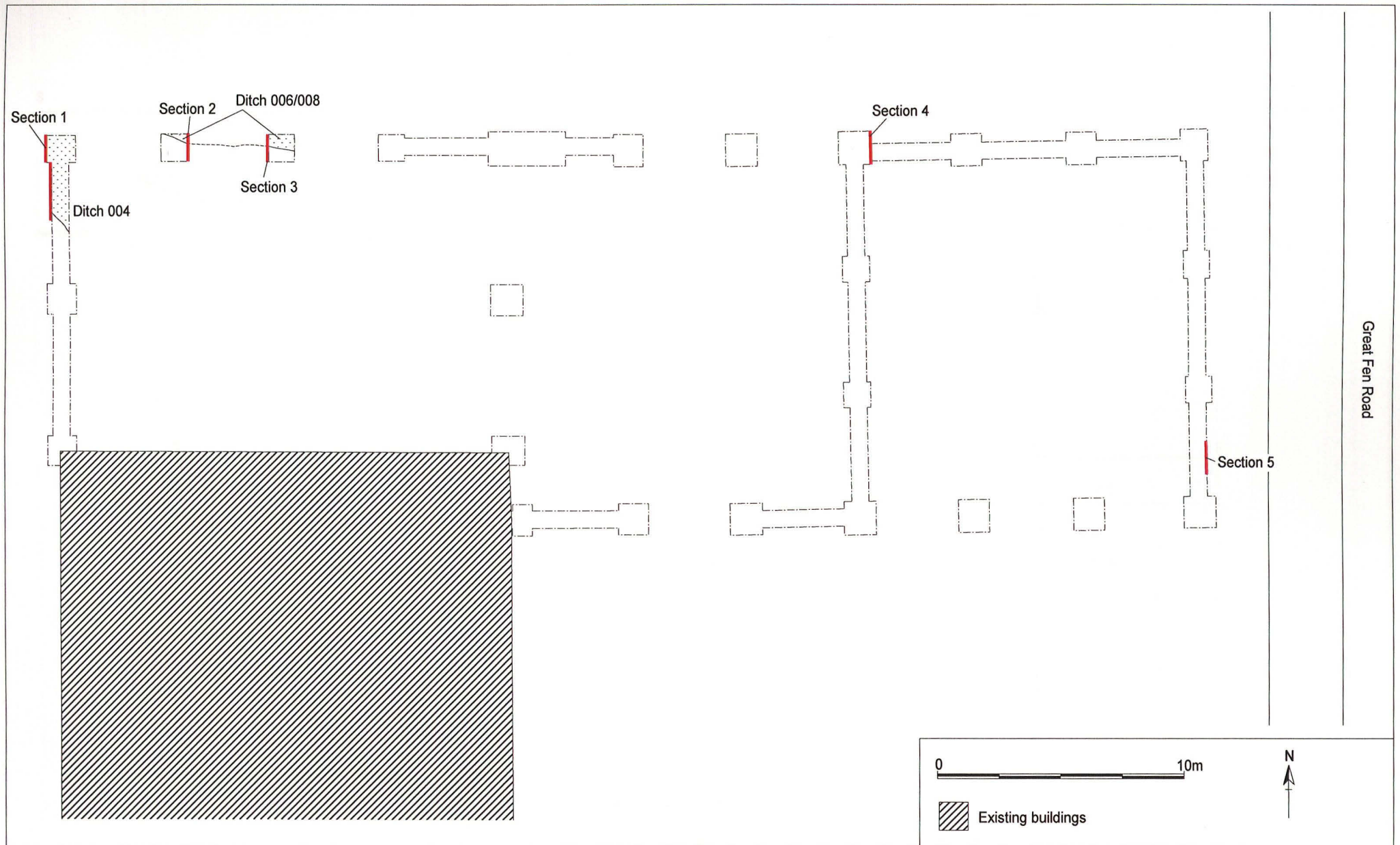


Figure 3 - Plan of the development showing section locations

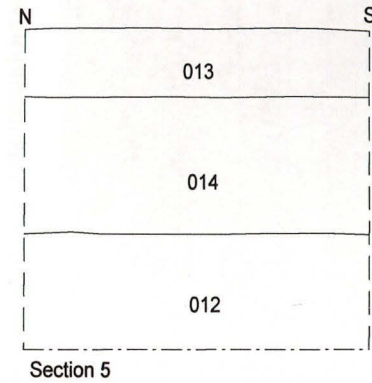
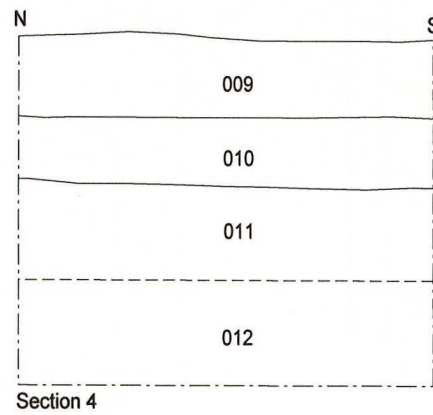
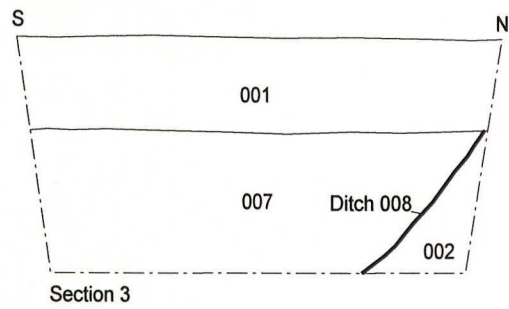
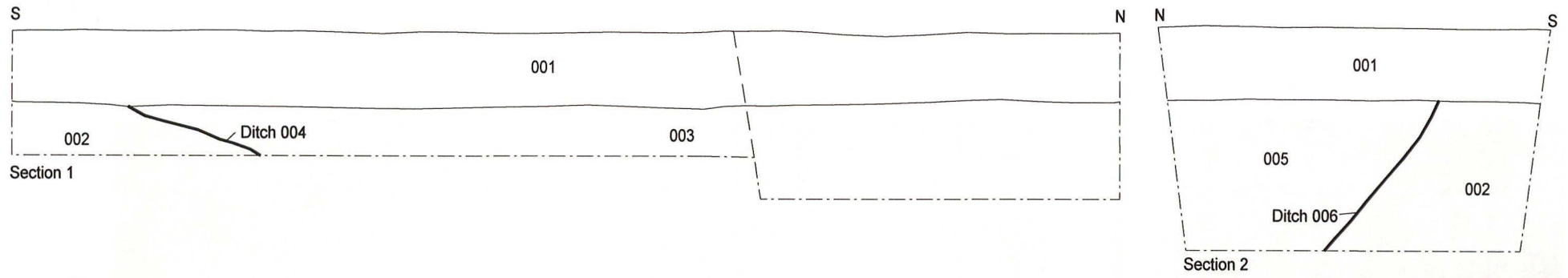


Figure 4 - Sections 1 to 5



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



Plate 2 - Section 1, looking northwest



Plate 3 - Section 3, looking west

Appendix 1

LAND AT GREAT FEN ROAD, BOARDSIDES, WYBERTON, LINCOLNSHIRE - SPECIFICATION FOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

1 SUMMARY

- 1.1 *A watching brief is required during the construction of an extension on land at Great Fen Road, Wyberton, Lincolnshire.*
- 1.2 *The area is archaeologically sensitive, lying close to Romano-British enclosures. Wyberton Fen in general is an area of known Romano-British settlement and industrial activity, probably salt-making.*
- 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 construction of an extension at Trilcot Ltd, Great Fen Road, Wyberton, near Boston, Lincolnshire, National Grid Reference TF 2984 4357.
- 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 Boston is located 45km southeast of Lincoln and 7km from the northwest coast of the Wash in the fens of south Lincolnshire. The site is about 3km west of Boston town centre, in Wyberton Fen. The works are to take place on the north side of Boardsides at National Grid Reference TF 2984 4357.

4 PLANNING BACKGROUND

- 4.1 A planning application (B/00/0593/FULL) was submitted to Boston Borough Council for a proposed to a warehouse. Permission is subject to a condition requiring the implementation of an archaeological watching brief during groundworks.

5 SOILS AND TOPOGRAPHY

- 5.1 The site is on flat land at approximately 3m OD, on the north side of the Forty Foot Drain. Local soils are the Wallasea 2 Association pelo-alluvial gleys developed in reclaimed marine alluvium (Hodge *et al.* 1984, 338).

6 ARCHAEOLOGICAL OVERVIEW

- 6.1 Approximately 80m southwest of the development area are soilmarks of enclosures which have been found to be of Romano-British date, containing 2nd - 4th century AD pottery. Geophysical survey within 300m of the site has detected magnetic anomalies that may be buried archaeological remains. The general area of Wyberton Fen is known as an area of Romano-British settlement and industrial

activity, perhaps salt-making.

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 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 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 - 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.
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- 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

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

Appendix 2

CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

No.	Description	Interpretation
001	Soft mid brown silty clay, 0.28m thick	Topsoil
002	Soft mid yellowish red clayey silt, >0.32m thick	Natural deposit
003	Soft mottled bluish grey and yellowish red silty clay	Fill of (004)
004	Linear feature, aligned northwest-southeast, >4m long by >1.4m wide by >0.35m deep, concave sides, not fully excavated	Ditch
005	Soft mottled mid bluish grey and brown silty clay	Fill of (006)
006	Linear feature, aligned east-west, >1.08m long by >0.97m wide by >0.54m deep, concave sides, not fully excavated	Ditch
007	Soft mottled mid bluish grey and brown silty clay	Fill of (008)
008	Linear feature, aligned east-west, >1.2m long by >1.1m wide by >0.42m deep, concave sides, not fully excavated	Ditch, continuation of (006)
009	Loose light greyish white limestone fragments, 0.23m thick	Surface
010	Loose light yellowish red limestone, 0.2m thick	Make-up for (009)
011	Soft mid brown silty clay, 0.28m thick	Topsoil
012	Soft mid yellowish red clayey silt, >0.3m thick	Natural deposit
013	Indurated mid greyish white concrete, 0.19m thick	Surface
014	Firm mottled black and greyish white tarmac and limestone, 0.4m thick	Make-up for (013)

Appendix 3

GLOSSARY

Boulder Clay	A deposit formed after the retreat of a glacier. Also known as till, this material is generally unsorted and can comprise of rock flour to boulders to rocks of quite substantial size.
Context	An archaeological context represents a distinct archaeological event or process. For example, the action of digging a pit creates a context (the cut) as does the process of its subsequent backfill (the fill). Each context encountered during an archaeological investigation is allocated a unique number by the archaeologist and a record sheet detailing the description and interpretations of the context (the context sheet) is created and placed in the site archive. Context numbers are identified within the report text by brackets, <i>e.g.</i> (004).
Cut	A cut refers to the physical action of digging a posthole, pit, ditch, foundation trench, <i>etc.</i> Once the fills of these features are removed during an archaeological investigation the original 'cut' is therefore exposed and subsequently recorded.
Fill	Once a feature has been dug it begins to silt up (either slowly or rapidly) or it can be back-filled manually. The soil(s) which become contained by the 'cut' are referred to as its fill(s).
Layer	A layer is a term to describe an accumulation of soil or other material that is not contained within a cut.
Medieval	The Middle Ages, dating from approximately AD 1066-1500.
Natural	Undisturbed deposit(s) of soil or rock which have accumulated without the influence of human activity.
Romano-British	Pertaining to the period dating from AD 43-410 when the Romans occupied Britain.

Appendix 4

THE ARCHIVE

The archive consists of:

14	Context records
8	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: 2001.121

Archaeological Project Services Site Code: WGF 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.

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