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**ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF
OF DEVELOPMENT AT
CHURCH LANE,
SCREDINGTON,
LINCOLNSHIRE
(SVH 01)**



A P S
ARCHAEOLOGICAL
PROJECT
SERVICES

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**ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF
OF DEVELOPMENT AT
CHURCH LANE,
SCREDINGTON,
LINCOLNSHIRE
(SVH 01)**

Work Undertaken For
Mr J. Woodward

January 2002

Report Compiled by
Paul Cope-Faulkner BA (Hons) AIFA

Planning Application No: N/54/0315/01
National Grid Reference: TF 0944 4031
City and County Museum Accession No: 2001.392

A.P.S. Report No. 1/02



CONTENTS

List of Figures

List of Plates

1.	Summary	1
2.	Introduction	1
	2.1 Definition of a Watching Brief	1
	2.2 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	4

Appendices

1	Specification for Archaeological Watching Brief
2	Context Summary
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 locations

Figure 4 Sections 1 and 2

List of Plates

Plate 1 General view of the development area, looking south

Plate 2 Section 1, looking north

1. SUMMARY

A watching brief was undertaken during construction of a new village hall at Church Lane, Scredington, Lincolnshire. The watching brief monitored the excavation of the foundation trenches.

The site lies in the core of the medieval (AD 1066-1500) village on the site of a moated enclosure that was levelled in 1969.

Overlying natural clays were layers of subsoil and topsoil. A large feature, identified as a pond, is probably related to the former earthworks of the moated enclosure. No finds were retrieved during this 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 Mr J. Woodward to undertake a watching brief during the excavations of footings for a new village hall at Church lane, Scredington, Lincolnshire. Approval for the development was sought through the submission of planning application N/54/0315/01. 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 North Kesteven Heritage Officer (Appendix 1). The watching brief was undertaken on the 26th November 2001.

2.3 Topography and Geology

Scredington is situated 6km south of Sleaford and 19km west of Grantham in North Kesteven District, Lincolnshire (Fig. 1).

The development site is located 140m west of the village centre as defined by the parish church of St. Andrew (Fig. 2). The site is centred on National Grid Reference TF 0944 4031 at heights of c. 10m OD. The land slopes gently down to the south and north.

Local soils at the site are of the Denchworth Series, typically stagnogley soils (George and Robson 1978, 66). These soils are developed upon a solid geology of Jurassic Oxford Clay (GSGB 1972).

2.4 Archaeological Setting

Scredington is located in an area of known archaeological remains dating from the Romano-British period to the present day. A Romano-British ampulla, a small globular vessel for holding sacred unguents, was found from south of the village.

Scredington is first mentioned in the Domesday Survey of c. 1086. Referred to as *Scredinctun* and *Scredintune*, the name is derived from the Scandinavianized form of the Old English, *scrēad* meaning 'shred' or the personal name *Scīrheard* with the suffix *tūn*, meaning settlement (Ekwall 1974, 408), although Cameron can find no explanation for the name (1998, 108). The Domesday Survey records that the land was owned by Gilbert de Gand and Robert of Stafford and had a church and a priest and contained 24 acres of meadow (Foster and Longley 1976).

Medieval remains are principally represented by five moated enclosures, one of which lay in the adjacent field to the south and three of which lie within 400m of the development site. The remaining one is located in the adjacent hamlet of Northbeck, immediately north of the village. The most southerly moated area was excavated prior to its destruction in 1959 and revealed occupation from the mid 13th century (Butler 1963, 51). Other earthworks include the crofts and tofts of the medieval village. The moated site southwest of the development site was levelled in 1969 and medieval and post-medieval pottery was collected from the site at that time.

The parish church of St. Andrew was largely built in 1869, although much use was made of medieval stonework, particularly the north nave, and of 14th century tombs (Pevsner and Harris 1989, 629).

3. AIMS

The aim of the archaeological investigation, as outlined in the specification (Appendix 1), was to ensure that any archaeological features exposed during the development should be recorded and, if present, to determine their date, function and origin.

4. METHODS

Trenches were opened by a mechanical excavator to depths of 1.5m as required by the development. Exposed portions of the trenches were cleaned and rendered vertical. Selected deposits were partially excavated to determine their nature. The depth and thickness of each deposit was measured from the present ground surface. Each archaeological deposit or feature revealed within the trench was allocated a unique reference number (context number) with an

individual written description. A list of all contexts and interpretations appears as Appendix 1. A photographic record was compiled and sections were drawn at a scale of 1:20. Recording of the deposits encountered during the watching brief was undertaken according to standard Archaeological Project Services practice.

Finds recovered from the deposits identified in the watching brief were examined and a date was assigned where possible (Appendix 2). Records of the deposits and features recognised during the investigation were also examined. Phasing was assigned based on the nature of the deposits and recognisable relationships between them, supplemented by artefact dating where relevant. A stratigraphic matrix of all identified deposits was produced.

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 during the investigation was a light greyish brown clay (003), identified as the underlying natural. This was overlain by a 0.68m thick naturally formed subsoil comprising greyish brown silty clay (002).

Cut into this subsoil was a feature measuring over 4m wide and over 1.3m deep (006). Identified as a possible pond it contained two fills, a lower of dark bluish grey clay (005) and an upper of black silt with modern refuse (004).

All deposits were sealed by the modern topsoil comprising a 0.12m thick layer of dark brown silt (001).

6. DISCUSSION

A natural deposit of clay may represent the weathered upper surface of the underlying Oxford Clay, though there is a slight possibility that the clay is an outlier of boulder clay which occurs immediately to the south and east (GSGB 1972). The subsoil represents natural soil formation.

A feature identified as a pond probably relates to the former earthworks of the moated site. The upper fill of modern refuse was probably deposited during the levelling of the earthworks in 1969.

No finds were retrieved from this investigation, although modern refuse was recorded.

7. CONCLUSIONS

Archaeological investigations were undertaken at Church Lane, Scredington because the site lay in the core of the medieval village and in close proximity to a former moated enclosure.

Natural clay, subsoil and topsoil were encountered during the watching brief, as was a pond that associates well with the remains of a former moated enclosure at the site.

No finds were retrieved during this investigation. The nature of the local site conditions would suggest that few environmental indicators (eg, seeds, pollen, plant macrofossils) would survive other than through charring, although other environmental indicators (snail shells, insect remains, bone) may be preserved.

8. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeological Project Services wish to acknowledge the assistance of Mr J. Woodward who commissioned the fieldwork and post-excavation analysis. The work was coordinated by Steve Malone and this report was edited by Tom Lane. Jo Hambly, the North Kesteven Heritage Officer, kindly permitted examination of the relevant parish archaeological files.

9. PERSONNEL

Project Coordinator: Steve Malone
Supervisor: Rachael Hall
Photographic reproduction: Sue Unsworth
Illustration: Paul Cope-Faulkner
Post-excavation Analyst: Paul Cope-Faulkner

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11. ABBREVIATIONS

GSGB Geological Survey of Great Britain

IFA Institute of Field Archaeologists

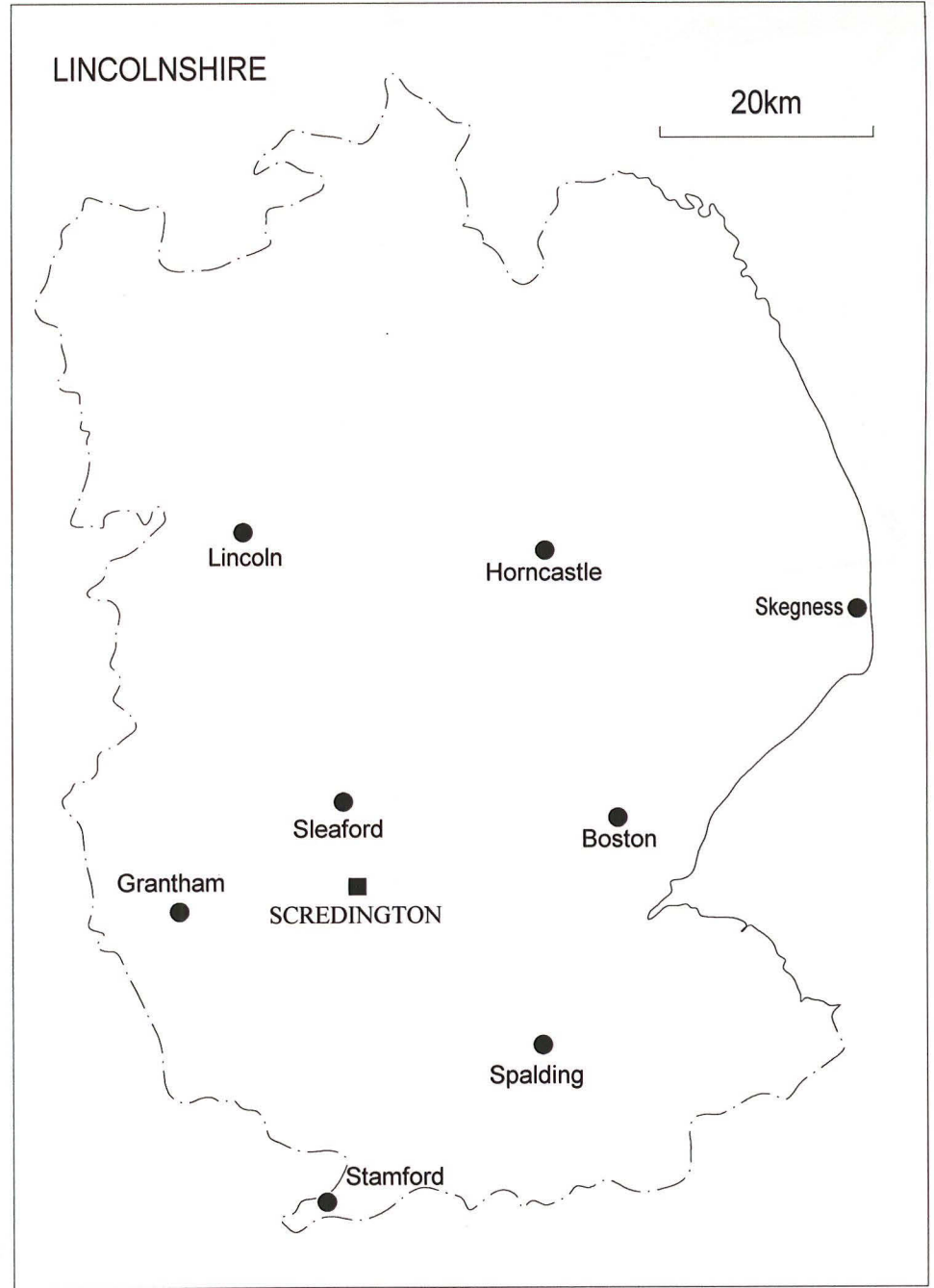
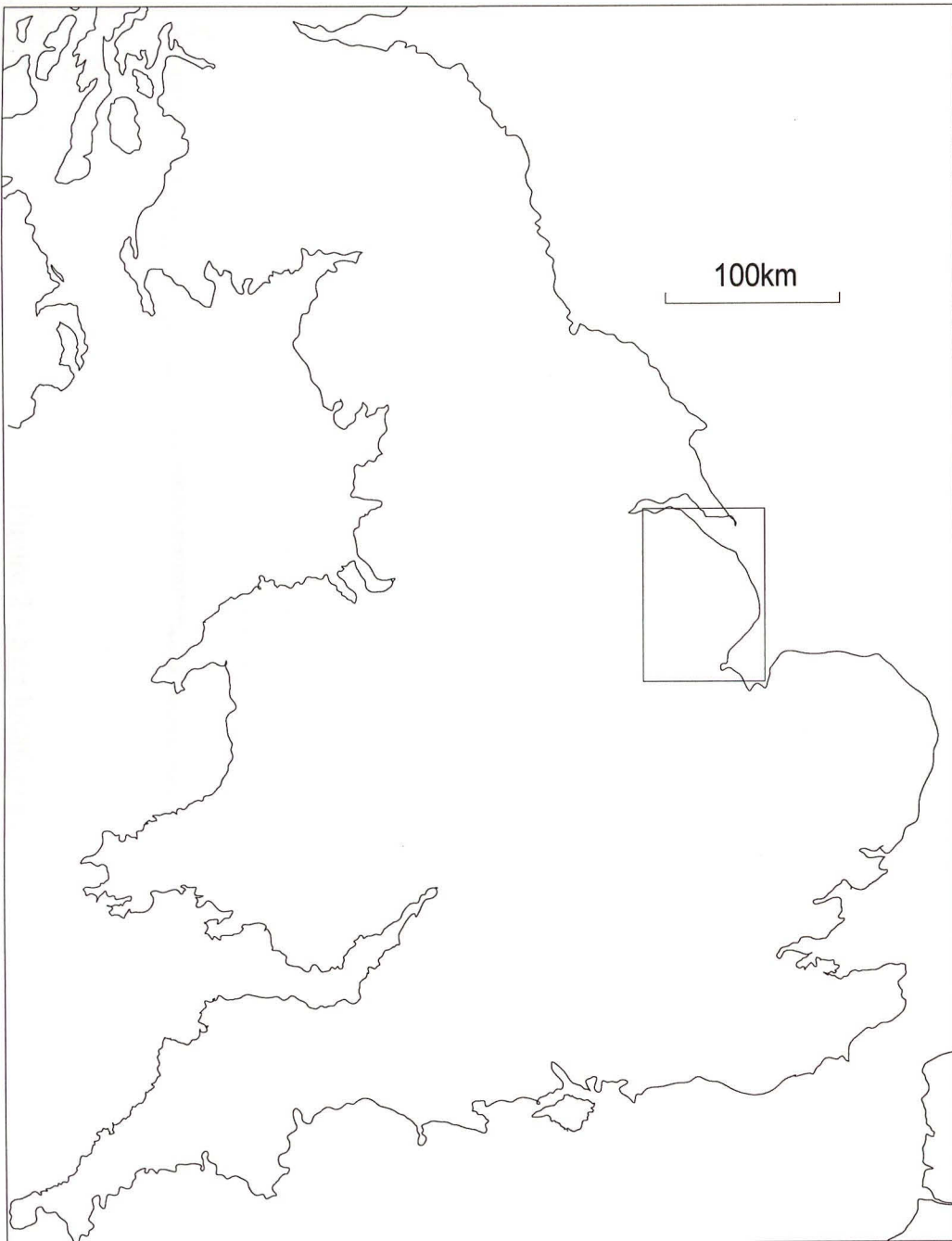


Figure 1 - General Location Plan

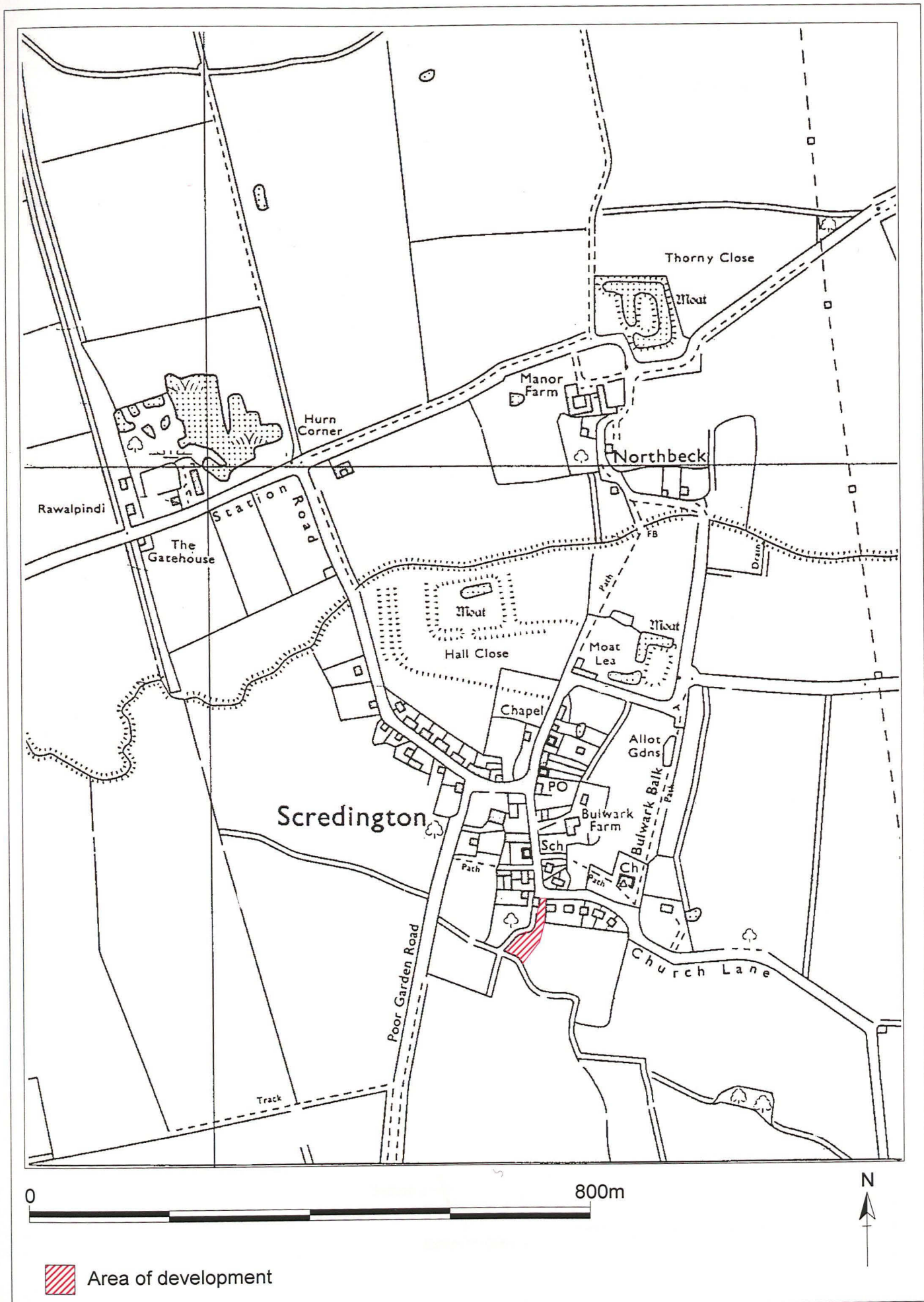
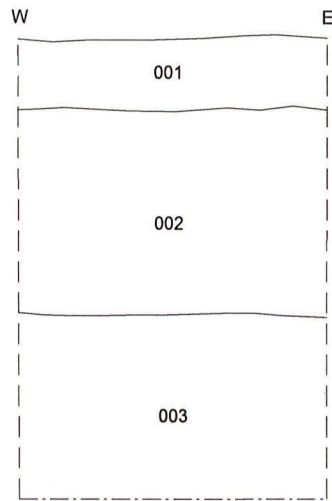


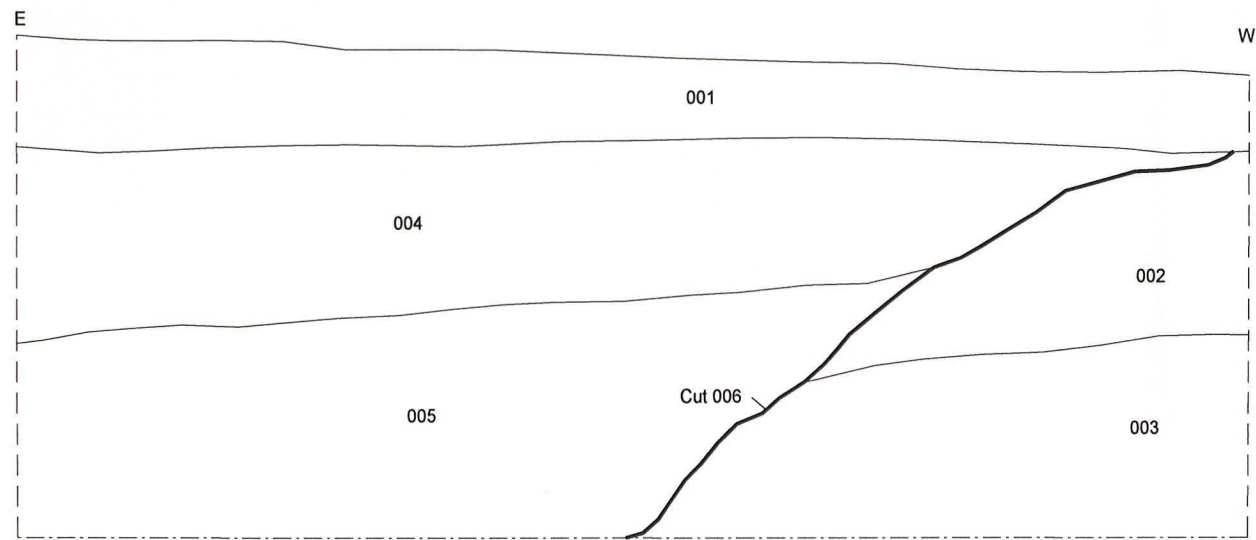
Figure 2 - Site location plan



Figure 3 - Plan of the development showing section locations



Section 1



Section 2

Figure 4 - Sections 1 and 2



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



Plate 2 - Section 1, looking north

Appendix 1

LAND AT CHURCH LANE, SCREDINGTON, LINCOLNSHIRE - SPECIFICATION FOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

1 SUMMARY

- 1.1 *A watching brief is required during the construction of a new village hall on land off Church Lane, Scredington, Lincolnshire.*
- 1.2 *The area is archaeologically sensitive, having been previously occupied by a medieval moated site, the earthworks of which were levelled in 1969.*
- 1.3 *The watching brief will be undertaken during groundworks associated with the development. 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 a new village hall at Scredington, Lincolnshire, National Grid Reference TF 0944 4031.
- 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 Scredington is located 8km south of Sleaford in the North Kesteven district of Lincolnshire. The works are to take place on the southern edge of the village, on the south side of Church Lane at National Grid Reference TF 0944 4031.

4 PLANNING BACKGROUND

- 4.1 A planning application (N/54/0315/01) was submitted to North Kesteven District Council for the proposed development. 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 a gentle slope to the southwest at approximately 10m OD. Local soils are the Denchworth Association fine loamy over clayey soils developed on Jurassic and Cretaceous clays (Hodge *et al.* 1984, 155).

6 ARCHAEOLOGICAL OVERVIEW

- 6.1 The village of Scredington boasts a number of moated sites, most notably the moat and earthworks in Hall Close which is a Scheduled Monument (254). Further earthworks are extant alongside Main

Street to the east and adjacent to Manor Farm in Northbeck just to the north. Until 1969 another such site was in existence within the area of the proposed development. The earthworks here were levelled in that year. Medieval and post-medieval pottery was collected from the site at the time and there is potential for the discovery of further remains and artefacts associated with the prior occupation of this moated site.

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 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:

- 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 trenches and 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; North Kesteven District Council Planning Department; and to the County Council Archaeological Sites and Monuments Record.

11 ARCHIVE

- 11.1 The documentation and records generated during the watching brief will be sorted and ordered into the format acceptable to the City and County Museum, Lincoln. This will be undertaken following the requirements of the document titled *Conditions for the Acceptance of Project Archives* for long term storage and curation.

12 PUBLICATION

- 12.1 A report of the findings of the watching brief will be 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: *Medieval Archaeology* and the *Journal of the Medieval Settlement Research Group* for findings of medieval or later date; *andannia* for discoveries of Roman date.

13 CURATORIAL RESPONSIBILITY

- 13.1 Curatorial responsibility for the archaeological work undertaken on the site lies with the North Kesteven Heritage Officer. 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	Friable dark brown silt, 0.12m thick	Topsoil
002	Firm mid greyish brown silty clay, 0.68m thick	Subsoil
003	Firm light greyish brown clay, >0.6m thick	Natural deposit
004	Loose black silt with modern refuse	Fill of (006)
005	Firm dark bluish grey clay, 0.8m thick	Fill of (006)
006	Feature, >4m wide by >1.3m deep, gradual sides, not fully excavated	Former pond

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.
Post-medieval	The period following the Middle Ages, dating from approximately AD 1500-1800.

Appendix 4

THE ARCHIVE

The archive consists of:

6	Context records
1	Photographic record sheet
1	Drawing 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 Council Museum Accession Number: 2001.392

Archaeological Project Services Site Code: SVH 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.