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**AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF
OF DEVELOPMENT AT
7 BRIDGE STREET,
MARSTON,
LINCOLNSHIRE
(MBS 01)**



A P S
ARCHAEOLOGICAL
PROJECT
SERVICES

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1. SUMMARY

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken during the construction of an extension to existing buildings at Bridge Street, Marston, Lincolnshire. The watching brief monitored the excavation of the foundation trenches associated with the development.

The site lies in an area of prehistoric cropmarks and there is limited evidence for Romano-British (AD 50-410) activity in the area. The site lies within the medieval (AD 1066-1500) core of Marston, close to St. Mary's church.

The investigations revealed a sequence of natural deposits overlain by subsoils. A pit was also revealed but remains undated. Apart from a fragmentary cattle mandible, 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 O'Keefe to undertake an archaeological watching brief during the construction of an extension to existing buildings at 7 Bridge Street, Marston, Lincolnshire. Approval for the development was sought through the submission of

planning application S00/1248/57. 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 South Kesteven Community Archaeologist (Appendix 1). The watching brief was undertaken on the 31st August 2001.

2.3 Topography and Geology

Marston is located 8km north of Grantham and 19km west of Sleaford, South Kesteven District, Lincolnshire (Fig. 1).

The development site is located 100m northwest of the village centre as defined by St. Mary's parish church (Fig. 2). Situated at National Grid Reference SK 8921 4381 the site lies at 29m OD on land that gently slopes down to the north and the River Witham.

Local soils are of the Blackwood Association, typically sandy and coarse loamy soils (Hodge *et al.* 1984, 152). Beneath these soils is a drift geology of glacial sands and gravels, although recent alluvium associated with the River Witham may also be expected. These deposits overlie a solid geology of Jurassic Lower Lias clays and sandstones (GSGB 1972).

2.4 Archaeological Setting

Marston lies in an area of known archaeological remains dating from the prehistoric period onwards. The village lies in an area of extensive cropmarks recorded on aerial photographs, many of which may have a prehistoric origin (Boutwood 1998, 41). Further prehistoric activity is attested to by a fragment of a Neolithic stone axe found to the north of the development area.

Romano-British pottery, coins and an iron lance, bronze chain and key are known from a variety of locations around the village.

Marston is first mentioned in the Domesday Survey of c. 1086. Referred to as *Merestune*, *Merestone* and *Merestun*, the name is derived from the Old English and means 'the village (*tūn*) by the marsh (*mersc*)' (Cameron 1998, 87). The Domesday Survey records that the land was held by Count Alan, Colsuain, Alfred of Lincoln, Osbern the Priest, Ralph the Sewer and Guy of Craon and contained 4 mills and 156 acres of meadow (Foster and Longley 1976).

Extant remains of the medieval period are represented by the church of St. Mary, which contains reused Norman stonework within the mainly 12th century building, and a cross within the churchyard (Pevsner and Harris 1989, 557).

Post-medieval remains include Marston Hall which dates from the 16th century, although was altered and refaced during the 18th century (*ibid.* 558).

An archaeological watching brief undertaken in the southern portion of the village identified an early medieval ditch and an undated posthole (Thomson 2001, 1).

3. AIMS

The requirements of the watching brief, as detailed 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

Prior to the excavation of the foundation trenches topsoil was stripped from the site.

Foundation trenches were then excavated by machine to depths of 1.2m 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.

Records of the deposits and features recognised during the watching brief were examined. Phasing was assigned based on the nature of the deposits and recognisable relationships between them.

5. RESULTS

Following post-excavation analysis 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 deposit encountered in the base of the foundation trenches was a yellowish brown clayey sand (003) which measured over 0.63m thick and was identified as the

underlying drift geology.

Phase 2 Undated deposits

Cut into the natural was a feature (005) identified as a pit. This was over 1.8m long by over 0.6m wide and deeper than 0.68m (Fig. 4, Section 1). A single fill of greyish brown clayey silt (004) was recorded which contained four fragments of a single cattle mandible.

Phase 3 Recent deposits

Sealing the pit was a 0.31m thick subsoil of greyish brown sand (002) which contained recent pottery (not retained) and which was overlain by topsoil comprising brown silty sand (001).

6. DISCUSSION

Deposits of natural clayey sand were the earliest layers encountered during the watching brief. These relate to the underlying drift geology of glacially derived sands and gravels.

An undated pit was identified cut into the natural deposits. This probably served a refuse function as indicated by the discarded cattle mandible. Modern pottery was identified within the subsoil deposit but was not retained.

7. CONCLUSIONS

Archaeological investigations were carried out at Bridge Street, Marston, as the site lay within the core of the medieval village.

Cut into natural deposits was an undated pit upon which a subsoil layer had developed. This was in turn sealed by topsoil.

No artefacts were retrieved during this investigation other than a fragmentary cattle mandible from the pit fill. 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 Neil O'Keefe who commissioned the fieldwork and post excavation analysis. The work was coordinated by Steve Malone and this report was edited by Tom Lane. Gail Smith, the Community Archaeologist for South Kesteven District Council, kindly permitted access to the parish files maintained by Heritage Lincolnshire.

9. PERSONNEL

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

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11. ABBREVIATIONS

APS Archaeological Project Services

GSGB Geological Survey of Great Britain

IFA Institute of Field Archaeologists

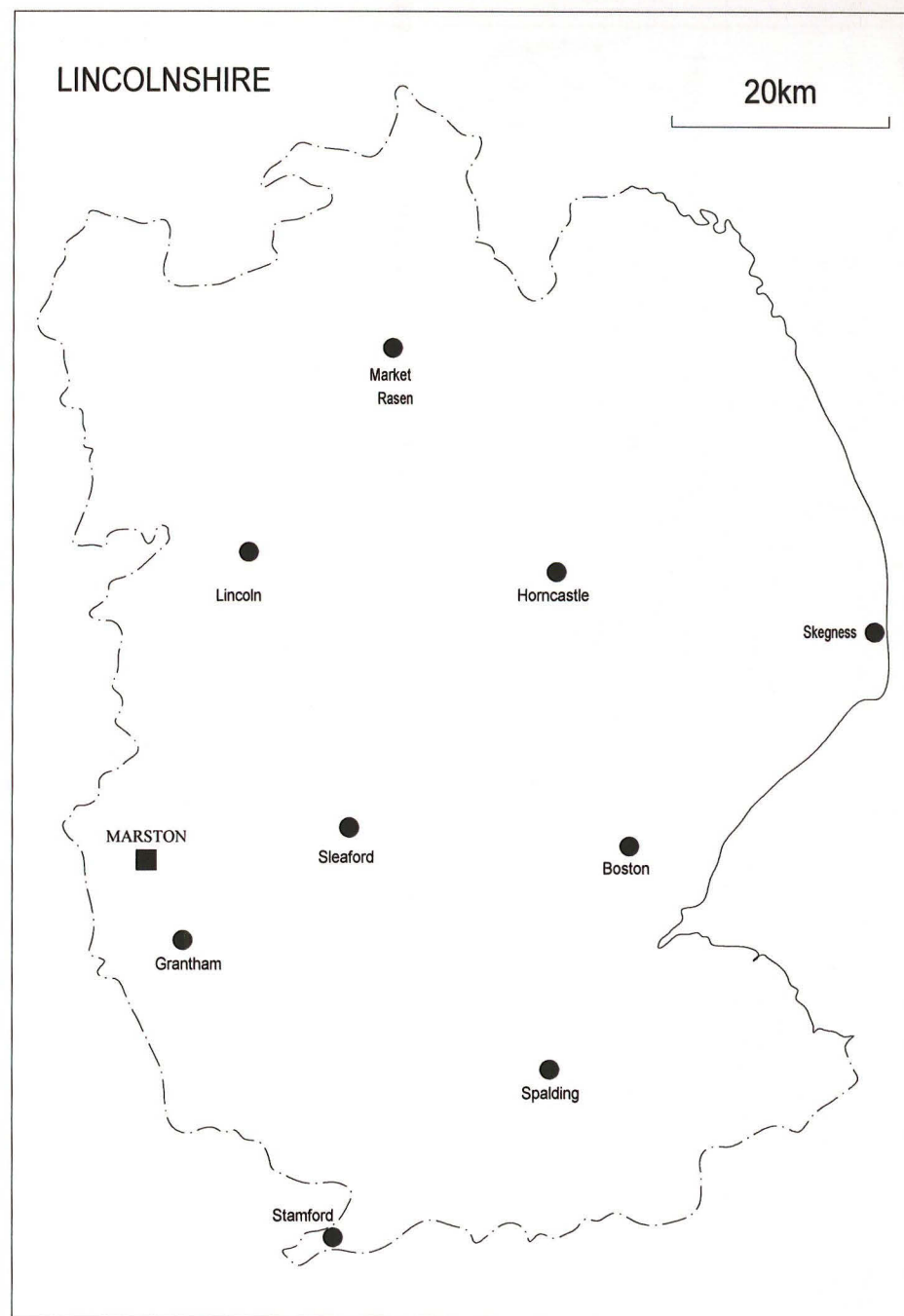
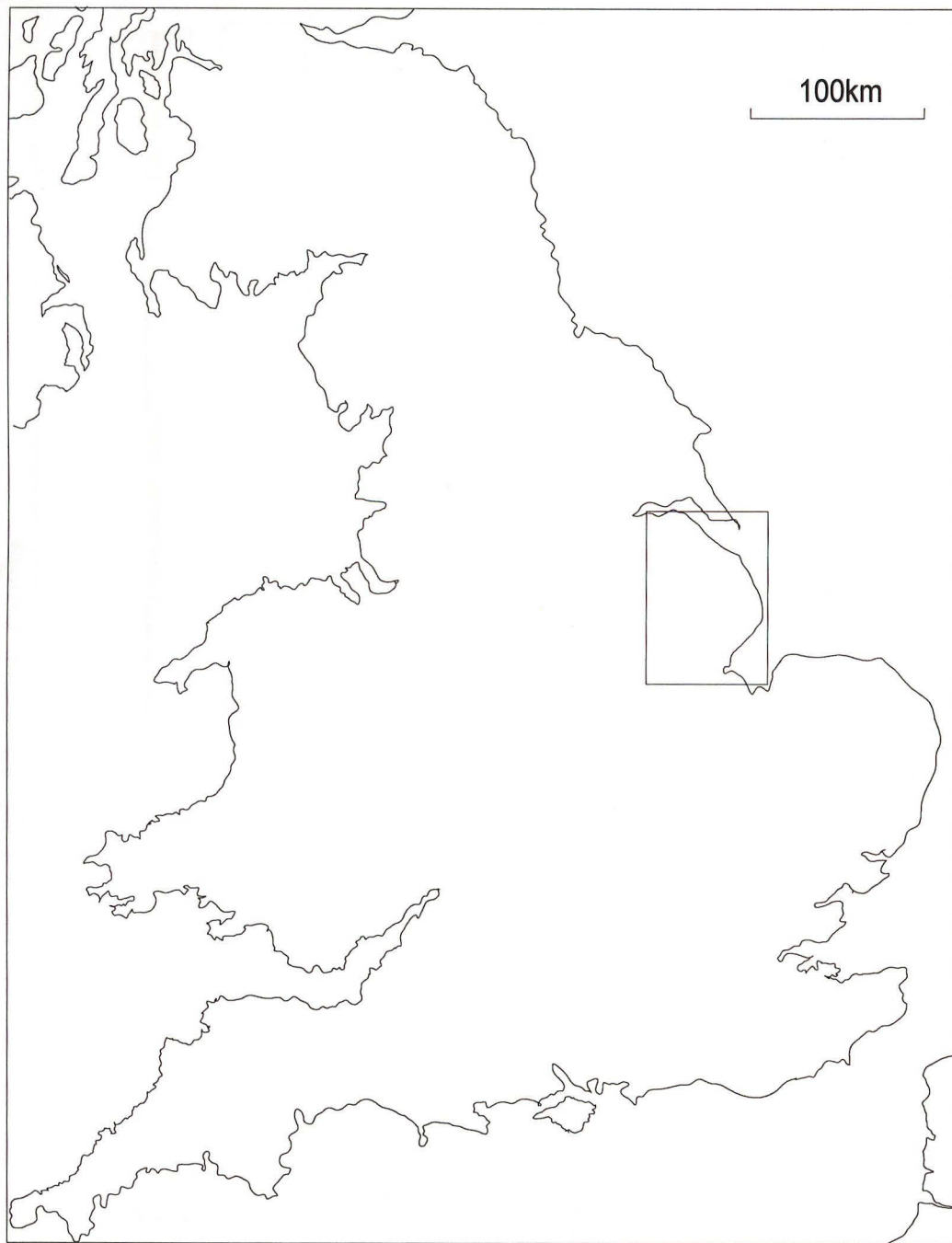


Figure 1 - General Location Plan

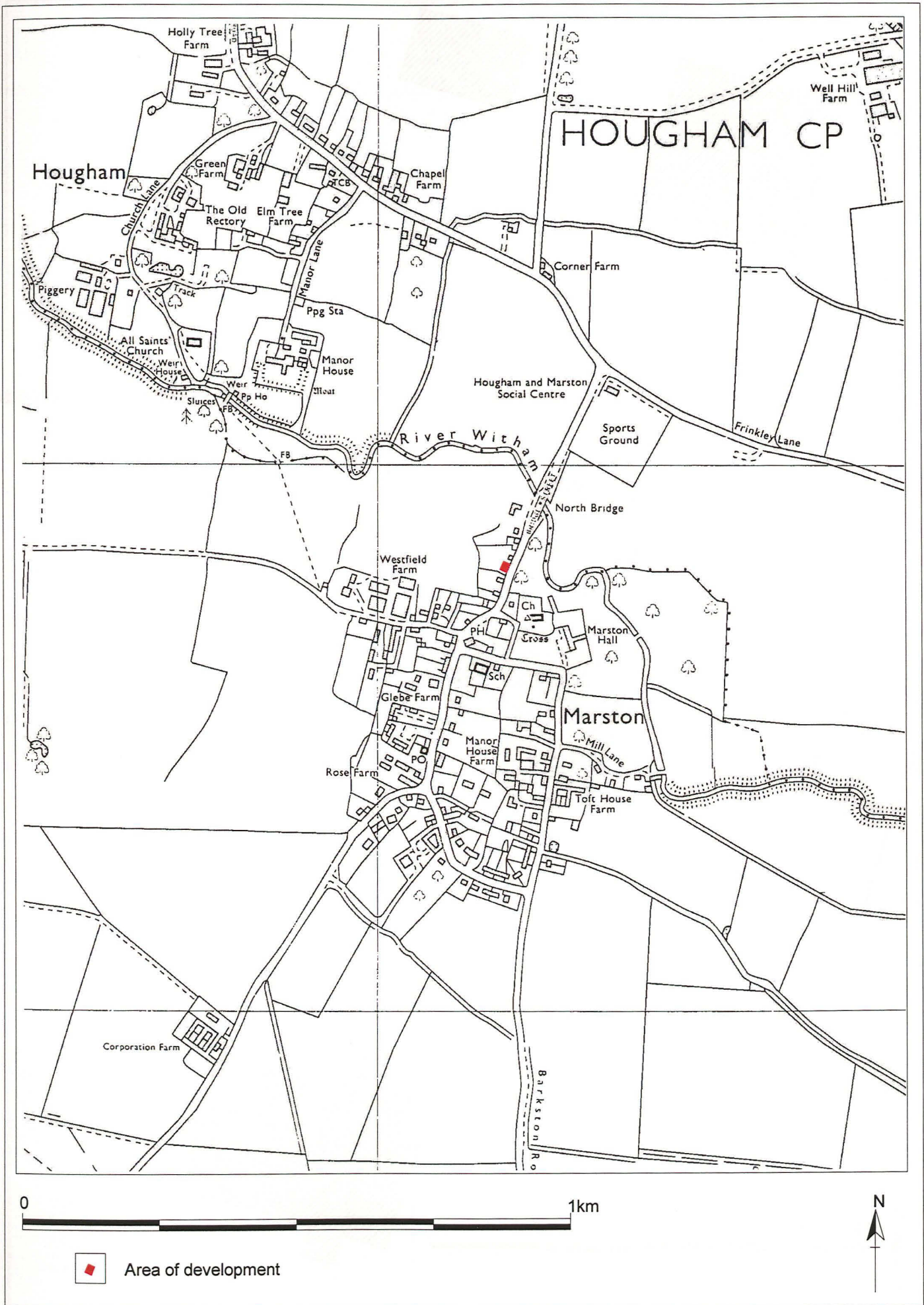


Figure 2 - Site location plan

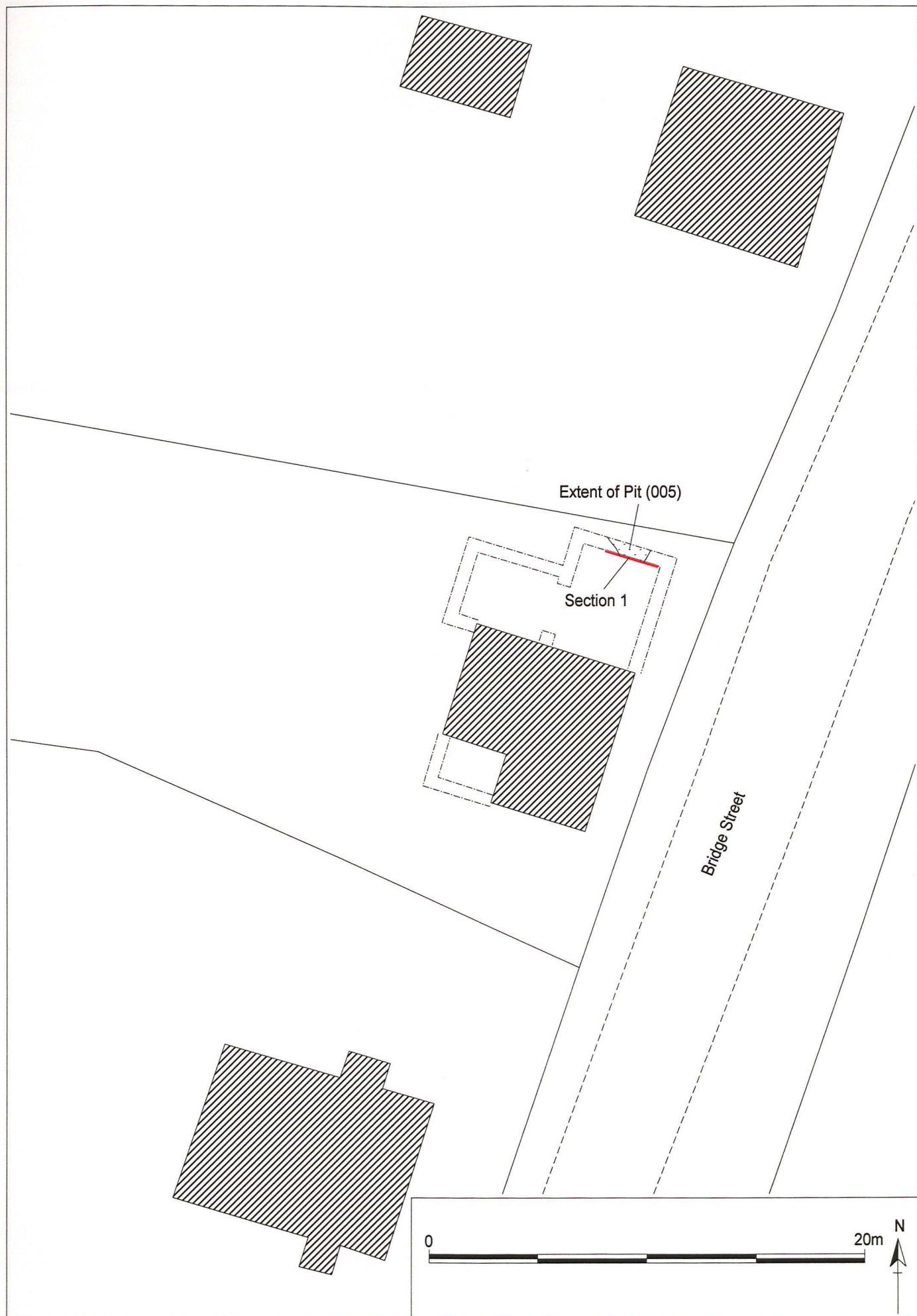


Figure 3 - Plan of the development showing section location

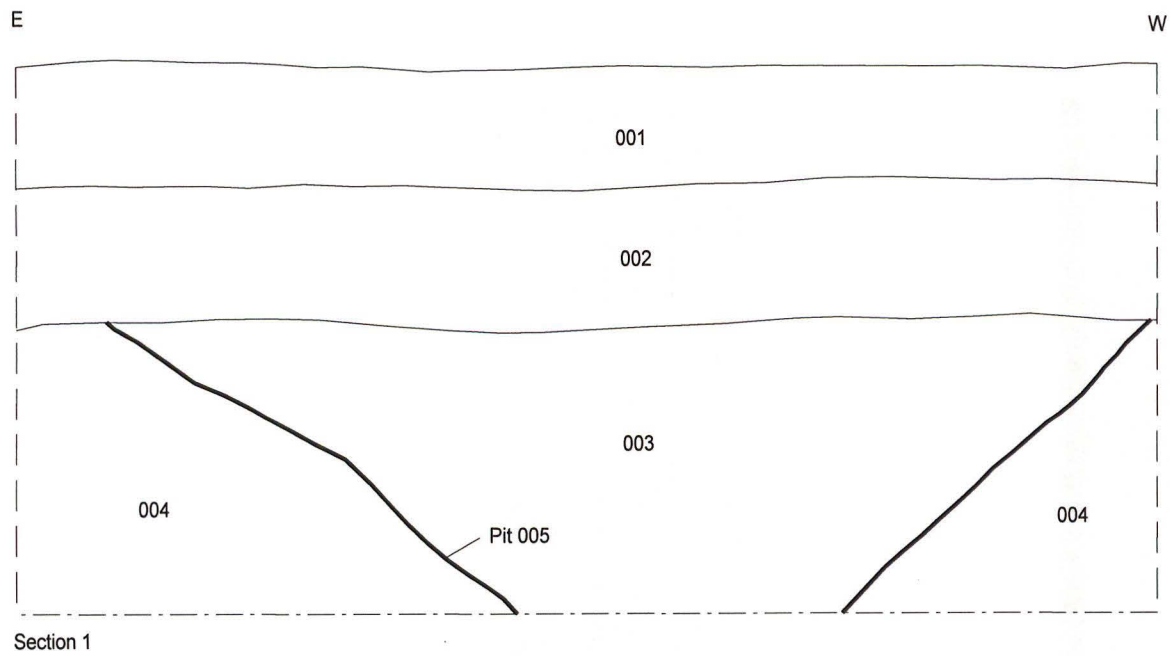


Figure 4 - Section 1



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



Plate 2 - Section 1, looking southwest

Appendix 1

LAND AT BRIDGE STREET, MARSTON, LINCOLNSHIRE - SPECIFICATION FOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

1 SUMMARY

- 1.1 *A watching brief is required during the construction of an extension at 7 Bridge Street, Marston, Lincolnshire.*
- 1.2 *The area is archaeologically sensitive, lying in an area of known archaeological activity from the prehistoric period onwards and close to the historic core of the village.*
- 1.3 *The watching brief will be undertaken during groundworks associated with the development. The archaeological features exposed will be recorded in writing, graphically and photographically.*
- 1.4 *On completion of the fieldwork a report will be prepared detailing the results of the investigation. The report will consist of a narrative supported by illustrations and photographs.*

2 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 This document comprises a specification for an archaeological watching brief during groundworks connected with construction of an extension at 7 Bridge Street, Marston, Lincolnshire, National Grid Reference SK 8921 4381.
- 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 Marston is located 8km north of Grantham in the South Kesteven district of Lincolnshire. The works are to take place in the north of the village, on the west side of Bridge Street at National Grid Reference SK 8921 4381.

4 PLANNING BACKGROUND

- 4.1 A planning application (S00/1248/57) was submitted to South Kesteven District Council for the proposed garage construction. Permission is subject to a condition requiring the implementation of an archaeological watching brief during groundworks.

5 SOILS AND TOPOGRAPHY

- 5.1 The site lies at approximately 30m OD on the south bank of the River Witham. Local soils are the Blackwood Association sandy and coarse loamy soils developed on glaciofluvial drift (Hodge *et al.* 1984, 152).

6 ARCHAEOLOGICAL OVERVIEW

- 6.1 Marston lies in an area of known archaeological activity dating from the prehistoric period onwards. Cropmarks of enclosures and linear and circular features have been recorded around the village and ridge and furrow also survives providing evidence of previous agricultural systems.
- 6.2 The site lies close to the historic core of the village centred on St Mary's Church, some 100m to the

southeast, and Marston Hall. The church dates from the 12th century, with traces of re-used Norman masonry. Marston Hall retains late 16th century elements. It is in this northeast quarter of the current village that buildings are shown on a map dated 1614. Development of the village to the south appears to be of later 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 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; the South Kesteven Community Archaeologist; South 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: *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 South Kesteven 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 - 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

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 dark brown silty sand, 0.27m thick	Topsoil
002	Soft mid greyish brown sand, 0.31m thick	Subsoil
003	Soft mid yellowish brown clayey sand, >0.63m thick	Natural deposit
004	Soft mid greyish brown clayey sand	Fill of (005)
005	Feature, >1.8m long by >0.6m wide by >0.68m deep, slightly concave sides, not fully excavated	Pit

Appendix 3

GLOSSARY

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).
Cropmark	A mark that is produced by the effect of underlying archaeological features influencing the growth of a particular crop.
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.
Neolithic	The 'New Stone Age' period, part of the prehistoric era, dating from approximately 4500-2250 BC.
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 4

THE ARCHIVE

The archive consists of:

5	Context records
1	Photographic record sheet
2	Drawing 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: 2001.250

Archaeological Project Services Site Code: MBS 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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