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**AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF
OF DEVELOPMENT ON LAND BETWEEN
HIGH STREET AND
HOLME LANE,
RUSKINGTON,
LINCOLNSHIRE
(RUH 01)**



A P S
ARCHAEOLOGICAL
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SERVICES

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**AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF
OF DEVELOPMENT ON LAND BETWEEN
HIGH STREET AND
HOLME LANE,
RUSKINGTON,
LINCOLNSHIRE
(RUH 01)**

Work Undertaken For
Mr and Mrs A. Welsh

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

March 2002

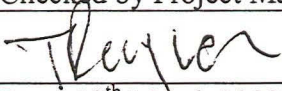
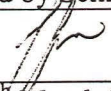
Planning Application No: N/52/1160/00
National Grid Reference: TF 0851 5094
City and County Museum Accession No:2001.58

A.P.S. Report No: **54/02**



Quality Control
High Street, Ruskington
RUH01

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Supervisors	Kristian Pederson, Fiona Walker
Finds Processing	Denise Buckley
Illustration	Paul Cope-Faulkner
Photographic Reproduction	Sue Unsworth
Post-excavation Analyst	Paul Cope-Faulkner
Finds Analysis	Paul Cope-Faulkner, Rachael Hall, Gary Taylor

Checked by Project Manager	Approved by Senior Archaeologist
 Tobin Rayner	 Tom Lane
Date: 18 th March 2002	Date: 18 th March 2002

CONTENTS

List of Figures

List of Plates

1.	Summary	1
2.	Introduction	1
	2.1 Definition of a Watching Brief	1
	2.2 Planning Background	1
	2.3 Topography and Geology	1
	2.4 Archaeological Setting	1
3.	Aims	2
4.	Methods	2
5.	Results	3
6.	Discussion	3
7.	Conclusions	3
8.	Acknowledgements	4
9.	Personnel	4
10.	Bibliography	4
11.	Abbreviations	4

Appendices

1	Specification for Archaeological Watching Brief
2	Context Descriptions
3	The Finds by <i>Paul Cope-Faulkner, Rachael Hall and Gary Taylor</i>
4	Glossary
5	The Archive

List of Figures

Figure 1 General Location Plan

Figure 2 Site Location Plan

Figure 3 Plan of the development showing principal features and section locations

Figure 4 Sections 1 to 5

List of Plates

Plate 1 General view of the development area

Plate 2 Section 1 showing the sequence of deposits within the garage footings

Plate 3 Section 3 showing Ditch (011)

Plate 4 Section 5 showing the sequence of deposits within the service trench

1. SUMMARY

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by on land to the rear of 48 High Street, Ruskington, Lincolnshire to monitor the excavation of foundation trenches for a new dwelling.

A number of prehistoric finds have been retrieved from the vicinity and the site lies adjacent to the findspot of two Early Bronze Age (2250-1850 BC) burials. Romano-British (AD 50-410) remains are also known from the vicinity and a large Anglo-Saxon (AD 410-650) cemetery is located on the western side of the village. The site lies slightly east of the medieval core of Ruskington.

Although a ditch, two gullies and a series of postholes were identified during this investigation, they are all modern features associated with former use of the land. A number of modern artefacts were retrieved as was post-medieval brick and tile.

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 and Mrs A. Welsh to undertake an archaeological watching brief of development on land to the rear of 48 High Street, Ruskington, Lincolnshire.

Approval for the development was sought through the submission of planning application N/52/1160/00. Permission was granted by North Kesteven District Council subject to a standard condition for archaeological recording. The watching brief was undertaken in accordance with a specification prepared by Archaeological Project Services (Appendix 1) and was carried out between the 21st February and 20th June 2001.

2.3 Topography and Geology

Ruskington is situated approximately 23km southeast of Lincoln and 5km north of Sleaford, North Kesteven District, Lincolnshire (Fig. 1).

The development site is located 280m southeast of the village centre as defined by All Saints' parish church and is centred on National Grid Reference TF 0851 5094 (Fig. 2). The village lies on the north facing slope of a narrow valley at a height of c. 12m OD.

Local soils are of the Ruskington Association and comprise Ruskington and Ickford series gleyic brown calcareous earths and Newsleaford series gleyic brown calcareous sands (Hodge *et al.* 1984, 304). These soils overlie a drift geology of glacially derived sands and gravels which seal a solid geology of Jurassic Oxford Clay (GSGB 1972).

2.4 Archaeological Setting

Ruskington is located in an area of known archaeological remains dating from the prehistoric period to the present day. Two Acheulian hand axes of the Lower Palaeolithic have been retrieved from the south of the village.

Neolithic stone axes and flint tools have been found in several areas around the

village and a Bronze Age palstave axe has been found to the south of the development. Two inhumation burials accompanied by Beaker pottery of the Early Bronze Age were recorded during building work immediately adjacent to the site.

Aerial photographs have revealed cropmarks of prehistoric enclosures and trackways situated to the west of the village. To the north of these, further cropmarks of ring ditches have also been identified.

Passing through the west edge of the village is the route of the Roman thoroughfare Mareham Lane that linked Bourne with Sleaford and continuing to Lincoln. Romano-British enclosures have been identified adjacent to Mareham Lane and a number of coins of the period are known in the vicinity.

Less than 2km to the west is the site of an extensive Anglo-Saxon inhumation and cremation cemetery, which has yielded over 180 burials and dating to the 5th - 6th centuries (Atkin and Healey forthcoming). A Late Saxon cross shaft fragment has been reused in the parish church (Everson and Stocker 1999, 243).

Ruskington is first mentioned in the Domesday Survey of c. 1086. Referred to as *Reschintone* and *Rischentone* the name is derived from the Old English and means 'the village (tūn) amongst the rushes (riscen)' (Cameron 1998, 103). At the time of the Domesday Survey the land was owned by Drew de Beurere and Geoffrey Alselin and contained a church with a priest, 3 mills, 60 acres of meadow and 240 acres of woodland for pannage (Foster and Longley 1976). The only extant remains of the medieval period is the 12th century church of All Saints.

An archaeological evaluation was

undertaken 350m to the east of the site which revealed Iron Age and Romano-British ditches and pits (Rayner *et al.*, 2000, 1).

3. AIMS

The aim of the watching brief, as outlined in the specification (Appendix 1), was to locate surviving archaeological deposits and, if present, record them in detail to enable their date, function and origin to be determined.

4. METHODS

Foundation trenches were excavated by a mechanical excavator to depths of between 0.7m and 1m as required by the development. Following excavation, the sides of the foundation 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 was measured from the 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 photographic record was compiled and sections were drawn at a scale of 1:10. Recording of deposits encountered was undertaken according to standard Archaeological Project Services practice.

Finds recovered from the 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 also examined. A list of all contexts and interpretations appears as Appendix 2. Phasing was assigned based on the nature of the deposits and recognisable relationships between them and

supplemented by artefact dating.

5. RESULTS

Following post-excavation analysis two phases were identified;

Phase 1 Natural deposits
Phase 2 Recent deposits

Archaeological contexts are listed and described below. 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 garage footings comprised brownish grey sand (002), grey sand and gravel (003) and reddish brown sand and gravel (004).

Within the house footings, deposits of grey sand and gravel (019, 021, 025, 026, 028 and 029), and reddish brown sand and gravel (020, 023, 024 and 030) were encountered.

Brownish yellow sand and gravel (034) were recorded within the service trench which was overlain by a subsoil of yellowish brown sandy silt (033).

Phase 2 Recent deposits

Aligned east to west across the site was a linear feature (011) identified as a ditch. This was 1m wide by over 0.59m deep and contained a fill of dark brown silt (016). A single late post-medieval brick fragment was retrieved from the fill, although modern brick and glass were also recorded.

Located 4m to the north of, and parallel to, Ditch (011) was an east-west aligned gully (005). This was 0.4m wide with a single fill of dark brown silt (012). Within the gully

were modern drainage pipes.

Between ditch (011) and gully (005) was a north-south aligned gully (006). This was over 3m long and was 0.4m wide and 0.25m deep. This was filled with grey sand and gravel (017) from which a post-medieval roofing tile was retrieved although modern machine produced brick was also noted.

Along the line of this gully (006) were three features each identified as postholes (007, 008 and 009). These were all filled with grey sand and gravel (013, 014 and 015).

Sealing all features and deposits was a topsoil which varied from dark brown silt (001, 022, 027) to dark blackish brown sandy silt (031).

6. DISCUSSION

Natural (Phase 1) deposits comprise sands, silts and gravels of probable glacial origin and representing the underlying drift geology.

One ditch and a gully, both aligned east-west were recorded (Phase 2). The ditch may have served a boundary function whereas the gully, which still contained drainage pipes, was used for drainage. Three postholes were recorded and were linked by a north-south gully. This arrangement of features probably indicates a former fenced boundary.

A number of finds were retrieved during this investigation. The earliest, a post-medieval brick and roof tile, probably derived from the demolition of a nearby building. Other finds were entirely modern in nature.

7. CONCLUSIONS

Archaeological investigations on land

adjacent to 48 High Street, Ruskington were undertaken because the site fell within the core of the medieval village and in proximity to prehistoric and Roman sites.

However, only modern gullies, postholes and a ditch were encountered during the watching brief. Artefacts of mainly 20th century date were retrieved and include glass, brick, tile and animal bone. The nature of the local site conditions would suggest that few environmental indicators (seeds, wood, shells *etc.*) would survive, other than through charring.

8. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeological Project Services would like to acknowledge the assistance of Mr and Mrs A. Welsh 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 Heritage Officer for North Kesteven District Council, kindly permitted access to the relevant parish files.

9. PERSONNEL

Project Coordinator: Steve Malone
Site Supervisors: Kristian Pederson, Fiona Walker
Finds Processing: Denise Buckley
Photographic Reproduction: Sue Unsworth
Illustration: Paul Cope-Faulkner
Post-excavation Analyst: Paul Cope-Faulkner

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11. ABBREVIATIONS

APS Archaeological Project Services
DoE Department of the Environment
GSGB Geological Survey of Great Britain
IFA Institute of Field Archaeologists

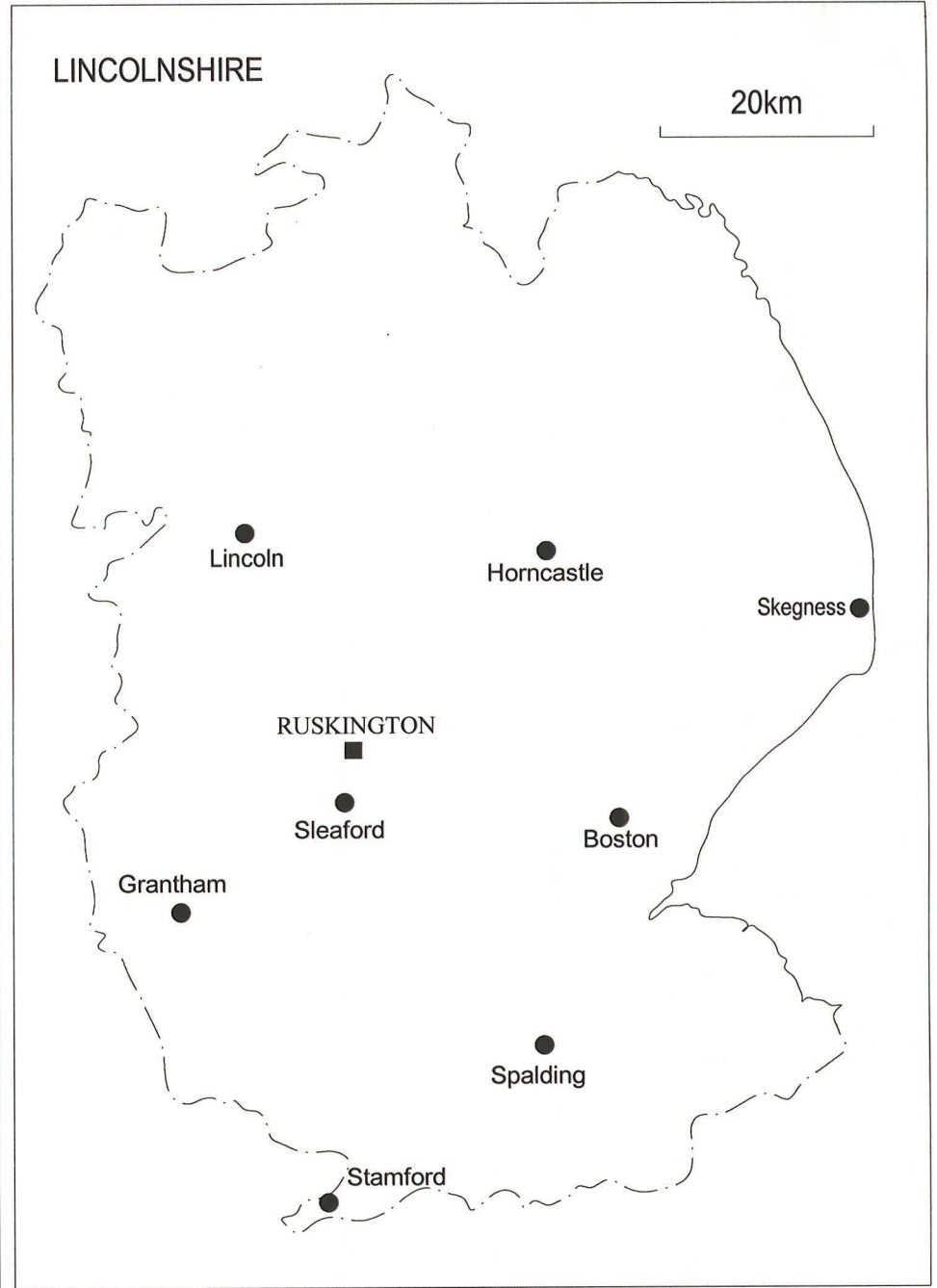
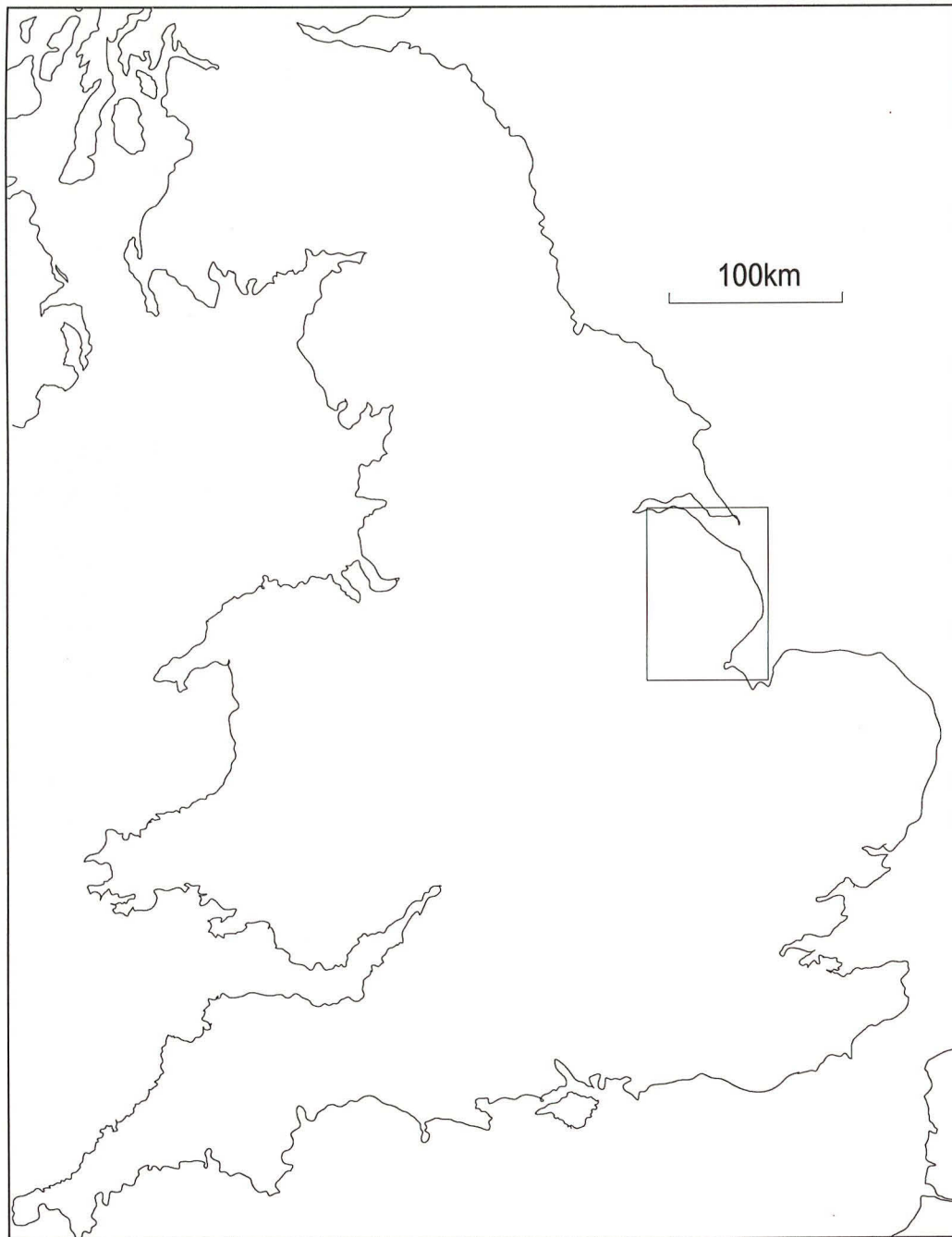
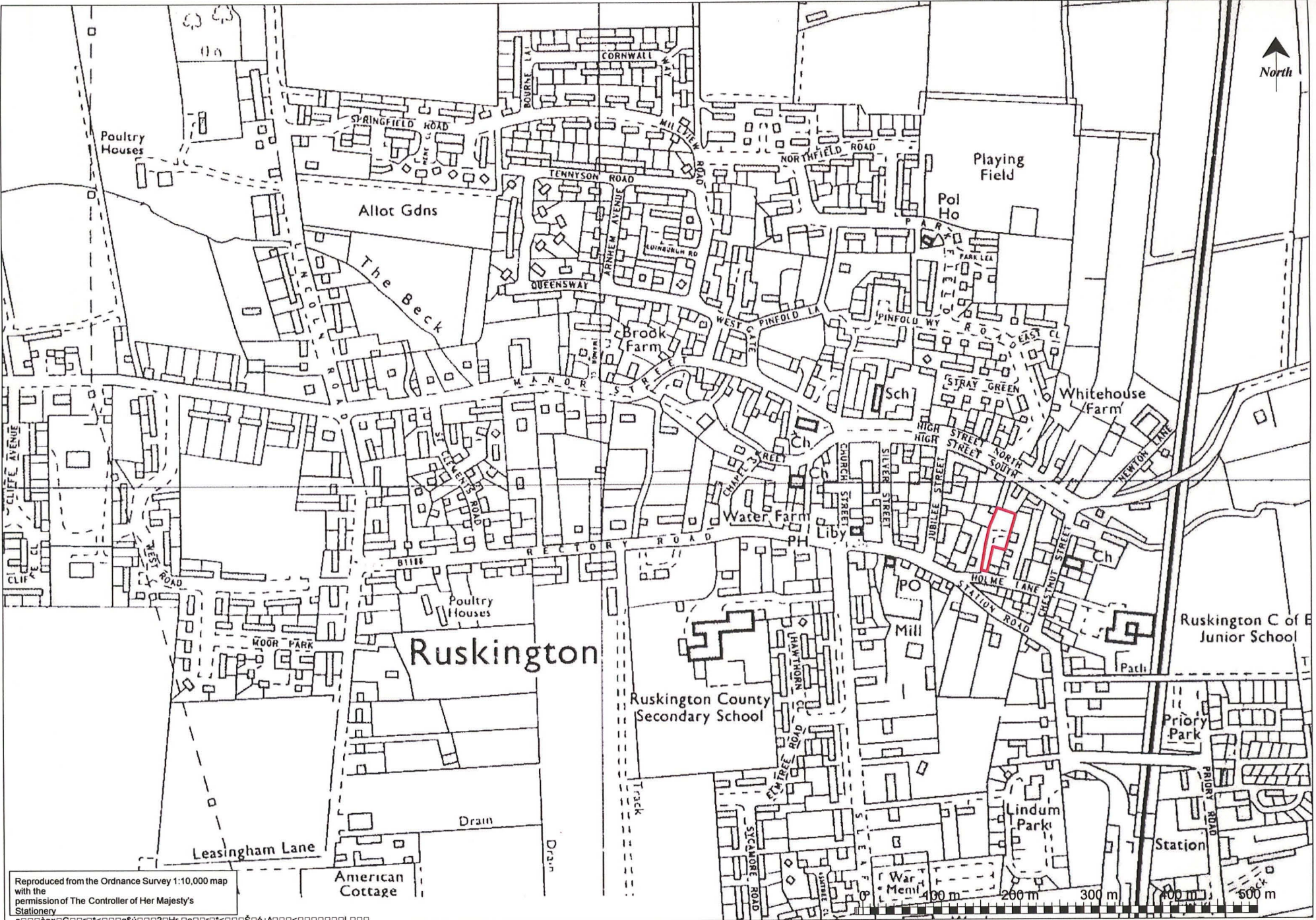


Figure 1 - General Location Plan



Reproduced from the Ordnance Survey 1:10,000 map with the permission of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery

Figure 2 - Site location plan

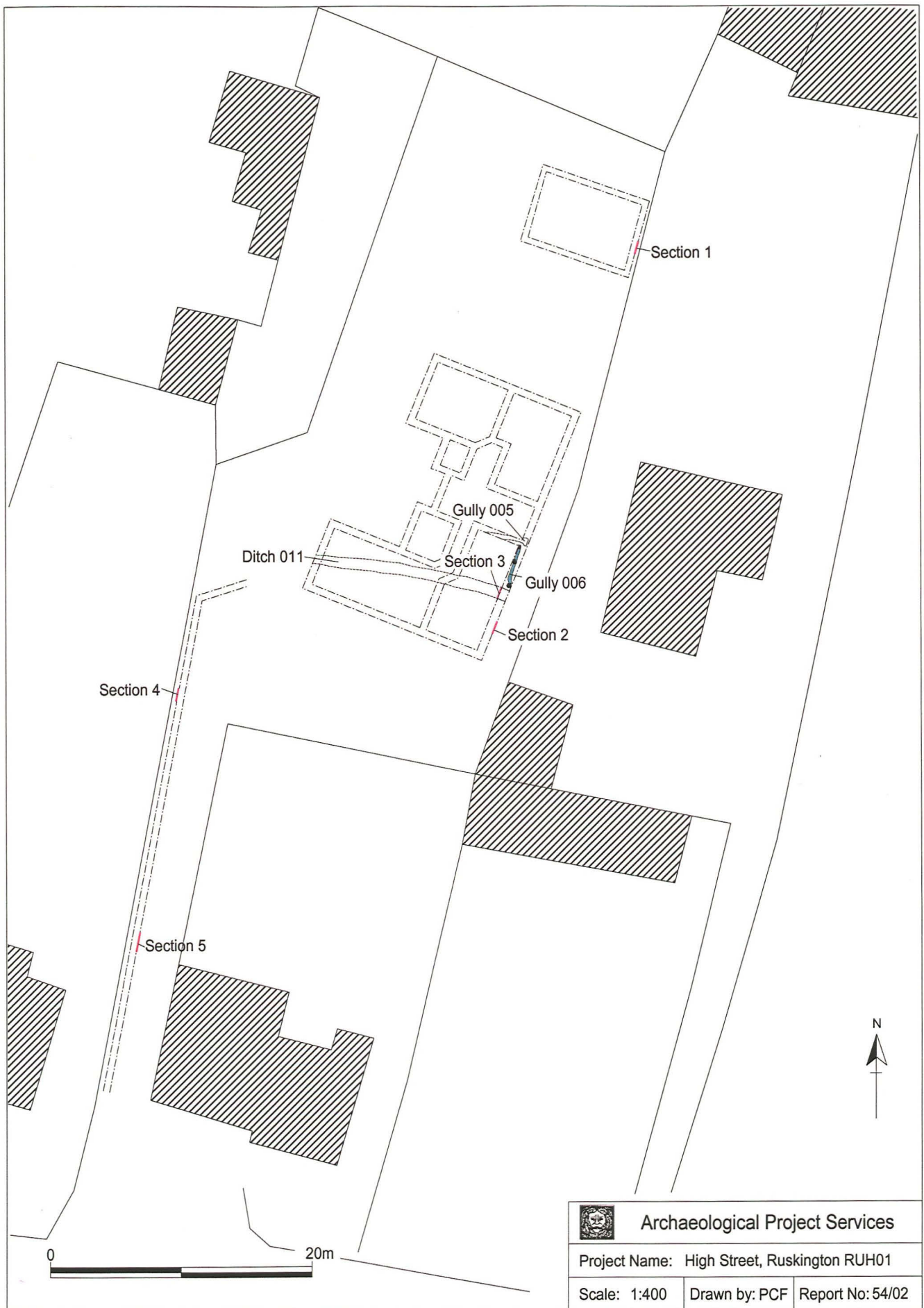
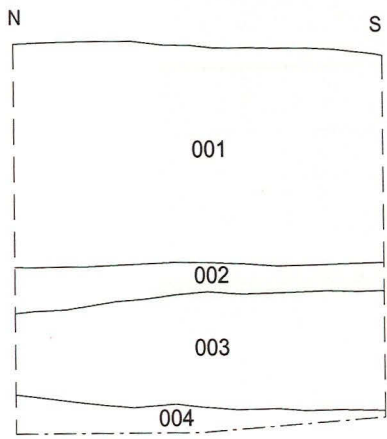
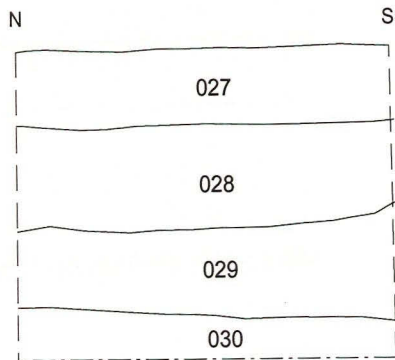


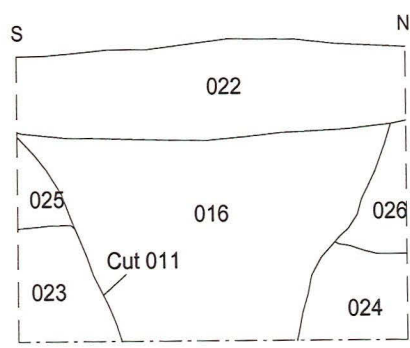
Figure 3 - Plan of the development showing principal features and section locations



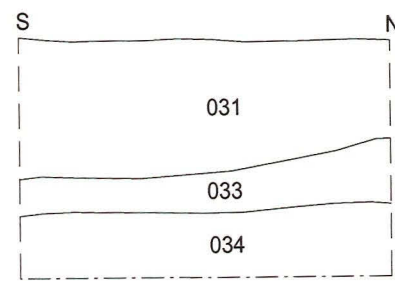
Section 1



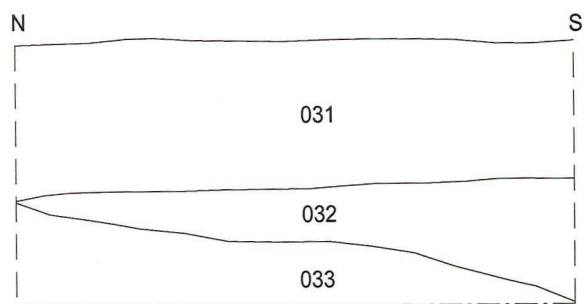
Section 2



Section 3



Section 4



Section 5




 Archaeological Project Services		
Project Name: High Street, Ruskington RUH01		
Scale: 1:20	Drawn by: PCF	Report No: 54/02

Figure 4 - Sections 1 to 5



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



Plate 2 - Section 1 showing the sequence of deposits within the garage footings, looking southeast



Plate 3 -Section 3 showing Ditch (011), looking northwest



Plate 4 - Section 5 showing the sequence of deposits within the service trench, looking west

Appendix 1

LAND ADJACENT TO 48 HIGH STREET, RUSKINGTON, LINCOLNSHIRE - SPECIFICATION FOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

1. SUMMARY

- a. *A watching brief is required during the construction of a bungalow on land adjacent to 48 High Street, Ruskington, Lincolnshire.*
- b. *The site lies in an archaeologically sensitive area. Bronze Age and Anglo-Saxon remains have previously been found in the general vicinity.*
- c. *The watching brief will be undertaken during groundworks associated with the development. The archaeological features exposed will be recorded in writing, graphically and photographically.*
- d. *On completion of the fieldwork a report will be prepared detailing the findings of the work. The report will consist of a narrative supported by illustrations and photographs.*

2. INTRODUCTION

- a. This document comprises a specification for an archaeological watching brief during residential development on land adjacent to 48 High Street, Ruskington, Lincolnshire.
- b. This document contains the following parts:
 - i. Overview.
 - ii. Stages of work and methodologies.
 - iii. List of specialists.
 - iv. Programme of works and staffing structure of the project.

3. SITE LOCATION

- a. Ruskington is located approximately 6km north of Sleaford in the Lincolnshire administrative district of North Kesteven. The site is located in the east side of the historic village core, between High Street South and Holme Lane at National Grid Reference TF 0851 5094.

4. PLANNING BACKGROUND

- a. Outline planning permission (Application No. N/52/1160/00) for the construction of a bungalow has been granted by North Kesteven District Council, subject to a standard condition for an archaeological watching brief to be undertaken during groundworks associated with the development.

5. SOILS AND TOPOGRAPHY

- a. The site lies on fairly level ground at approximately 12m OD. Soils at the site are Ruskington Association gleyic brown calcareous earths developed on glaciofluvial sand and gravel (Hodge *et al.* 1984, 304).

6. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- a. Archaeological sites discovered in Ruskington include complete Early Bronze Age Beaker burials and a rich Anglo-Saxon cemetery located to the west of the village which contained at least 180 burials, mainly inhumation but some cremation. The Roman road known as Mareham Lane which linked Bourne with Lincoln passes through the village. Some of the cropmarks recorded in the area seem to be aligned onto Mareham Lane, suggesting that these features are of similar date to the road. However,

many follow markedly different alignments and may be of prehistoric date.

- b. Bronze Age 'Beaker' burials were found approximately 75m to the south of the proposed development site in 1994 during the building of an extension to the Chestnuts Residential Home. These probably represent only part of a much more extensive cemetery. Structural remains of middle-late Saxon date were also found.

7. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- a. The aims of the watching brief will be:
 - i. To record and interpret any archaeological remains exposed during the excavation of the foundation trenches and other areas of ground disturbance.
- b. The objectives of the watching brief will be to:
 - i. Determine the form and function of the archaeological features encountered;
 - ii. Determine the spatial arrangement of the archaeological features encountered;
 - iii. As far as practicable, recover dating evidence from the archaeological features;
 - iv. Establish the sequence of the archaeological remains present on the site.

8. SITE OPERATIONS

- a. General considerations
 - i. All work will be undertaken following statutory Health and Safety requirements in operation at the time of the watching brief.
 - ii. 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.
 - iii. Any and all artefacts found during the investigation and thought to be 'treasure', as defined by the Treasure Act 1997, will be removed from site to a secure store and promptly reported to the appropriate coroner's office.
- b. Methodology
 - i. The watching brief will be undertaken during the ground works phase of development, and includes the archaeological monitoring of all phases of soil movement.
 - ii. 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.
 - iii. Any finds recovered will be bagged and labelled for later analysis.
 - iv. Throughout the watching brief a photographic record consisting of colour prints will be compiled. The photographic record will consist of:
 - (1) The site during work to show specific stages, and the layout of the archaeology within the trench.
 - (2) groups of features where their relationship is important

- v. 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

a. Stage 1

- i. 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: the colour prints will be labelled, the labelling referring to schedules identifying the subject/s photographed.
- ii. 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.

b. Stage 2

- i. Detailed examination of the stratigraphic matrix to enable the determination of the various phases of activity on the site.
- ii. Finds will be sent to specialists for identification and dating.

c. Stage 3

- i. On completion of stage 2, a report detailing the findings of the watching brief will be prepared.
- ii. This will consist of:
 - (1) A non-technical summary of the results of the investigation.
 - (2) A description of the archaeological setting of the watching brief.
 - (3) Description of the topography of the site.
 - (4) Description of the methodologies used during the watching brief.
 - (5) A text describing the findings of the watching brief.
 - (6) A consideration of the local, regional and national context of the watching brief findings.
 - (7) Plans of the archaeological features exposed. If a sequence of archaeological deposits is encountered, separate plans for each phase will be produced.
 - (8) Sections of the archaeological features.
 - (9) Interpretation of the archaeological features exposed, and their chronology and setting within the surrounding landscape.
 - (10) Specialist reports on the finds from the site.
 - (11) Appropriate photographs of the site and specific archaeological features.

10. REPORT DEPOSITION

- a. Copies of the report will be sent to the client; the North Kesteven Heritage Officer; North Kesteven

District Council; and to the County Sites and Monuments Record.

11. ARCHIVE

- a. 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

- a. 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 of the Society for Lincolnshire History and Archaeology. If appropriate, notes on the findings will be submitted to the appropriate national journals: *Proceeding of the Prehistoric Society* for discoveries of prehistoric date, *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

- a. Curatorial responsibility for the archaeological work undertaken on the site lies with the Heritage Officer, North Kesteven District Council. They will be given seven days notice in writing before the commencement of the project.

14. VARIATIONS

- a. Variations to the proposed scheme of works will only be made following written confirmation of acceptance from the archaeological curator.
- b. 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).
- c. 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.
- d. 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

- a. 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.
- b. An archaeological supervisor with experience of watching briefs will undertake the work.
- c. 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 man-day) will require a post-excavation day (equal to one-and-a-half man-days) for completion of the analysis and report. If the fieldwork lasts longer than about six days then there will be an economy of scale with the post-excavation analysis.

16. SPECIALISTS TO BE USED DURING THE PROJECT

- a. The following organisations/persons will, in principal 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	Bronze Age pottery - Dr C. Allen, OAU Iron Age Pottery - Dr. D. Knight, Trent & Peak Archaeological Unit Roman - B Precious, independent specialist Saxon - Jane Young, LAS Medieval and later - G. Taylor APS in consultation with Hilary Healey, independent archaeologist
Non-pottery Artefacts	J Cowgill, independent specialist
Animal Bones	Environmental Archaeology Consultancy
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	Loose dark brown silt, 0.55m thick	Topsoil
002	Loose mid brownish grey sand, 100mm thick	Natural deposit
003	Loose light grey sand and gravel, 0.3m thick	Natural deposit
004	Loose reddish brown sand and gravel	Natural deposit
005	Linear feature, aligned east-west, 0.4m wide, not excavated	Gully
006	Linear feature, aligned north-south, >3m long by 0.4m wide and 0.25m deep, concave sides and rounded base	Gully
007	Circular feature, 0.32m diameter, not excavated	Posthole
008	Sub-circular feature, 0.36m by 0.24m, not excavated	Posthole
009	Oval feature, 0.36m by 0.28m, not excavated	Posthole
011	Linear feature, aligned east-west, 1m wide by 0.59m deep, steep sides, not fully excavated	Ditch
012	Loose dark brown silt	Fill of (005)
013	Loose mid grey sand and gravel	Fill of (007)
014	Loose mid grey sand and gravel	Fill of (008)
015	Loose mid grey sand and gravel	Fill of (009)
016	Loose dark brown silt	Fill of (011)
017	Loose mid grey sand and gravel	Fill of (006)
019	Loose light grey sand and gravel	Natural deposit
020	Loose mid reddish brown sand and gravel	Natural deposit
021	Loose light grey sand and gravel	Natural deposit
022	Loose dark brown silt, 0.2m thick	Topsoil
023	Loose mid reddish brown sand and gravel	Natural deposit
024	Loose mid reddish brown sand and gravel	Natural deposit
025	Loose light grey sand and gravel, 0.25m thick	Natural deposit
026	Loose light grey sand and gravel	Natural deposit
027	Loose dark brown silt	Topsoil
028	Loose light grey sand and gravel, 0.3m thick	Natural deposit
029	Loose light grey sand and gravel	Natural deposit
030	Loose mid reddish brown sand and gravel	Natural deposit

No.	Description	Interpretation
031	Soft to friable dark blackish brown sandy silt, 0.54m thick	Topsoil
032	Soft dark greyish brown sandy silt, 0.34m thick	Made ground
033	Soft mid yellowish brown sandy silt	Subsoil
034	Firm mid brownish yellow sand and gravel	Natural deposit

Appendix 3

THE FINDS

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Provenance

The material was recovered from ditch fills (012, 016, 017) and a posthole fill (013).

Range

The range of material is detailed in the table.

Table 1: *The Finds*

Context	Description	Number	Weight (g)	Context Date
012	Fireclay glazed tile, marked 'ENGLAND', 20 th century	1	62	20 th century
	Clear window glass, 20 th century	1	3	
	Clear bottle glass, 20 th century	1	1	
	Sheep sized rib	1	15	
013	Copper alloy, torch reflector, 20 th century	1	8	20 th century
016	Brick, handmade, 52mm thick, late post-medieval	2	249	late post-medieval
017	Pantile/drain?, post-medieval	1	103	post-medieval

Items of post-medieval, probably 19th century, date were the earliest objects recovered. No pottery was retrieved and building materials, brick, tile and window glass, provided the major component of the small assemblage. Faunal remains were also collected.

The fireclay tile from (012) has a mottled brown and grey glaze and is likely to derive from a fire surround. Although the thickness of the handmade brick from (016) is comparable with medieval examples the piece is very well made and dates from the later post-medieval period, perhaps the 19th century.

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 a number of previous archaeological investigations at Ruskington which are the subjects of reports. Details of archaeological sites and discoveries in the area are maintained in the files of the North Kesteven Heritage Officer and the Lincolnshire County Council Sites and Monuments Record.

Potential

As a small and entirely late post-medieval assemblage the material is of limited potential. However, the building materials suggest the proximity of brick structures in the 19th century and later. The absence of any artefacts earlier than perhaps the 19th century would tend to indicate that early archaeological remains are absent from the area, or were not revealed, nor disturbed by, the development.

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).
Cut	A cut refers to the physical action of digging a posthole, pit, ditch, foundation trench, <i>etc.</i> Once the fills of these features are removed during an archaeological investigation the original 'cut' is therefore exposed and subsequently recorded.
Fill	Once a feature has been dug it begins to silt up (either slowly or rapidly) or it can be back-filled manually. The soil(s) which become contained by the 'cut' are referred to as its fill(s).
Iron Age	A period characterised by the introduction of Iron into the country for tools, between 800 BC and AD 50.
Layer	A layer is a term to describe an accumulation of soil or other material that is not contained within a cut.
Medieval	The Middle Ages, dating from approximately AD 1066-1500.
Natural	Undisturbed deposit(s) of soil or rock which have accumulated without the influence of human activity.
Neolithic	The 'New Stone Age' period, part of the prehistoric era, dating from approximately 4500-2250 BC.
Palaeolithic	The earliest part of the 'Stone Age' dating from the first period of human occupation to the end of the last ice age (approximately 10,000 years ago). It is usually sub-divided into lower, middle and upper, each characterised by differing stone tools and sub-species of humans.
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.
Saxon	Pertaining to the period dating from AD 410-1066 when England was largely settled by tribes from northern Germany.

Appendix 5

THE ARCHIVE

The archive consists of:

34	Context records
7	Scale drawings
1	Photographic record sheet
1	Stratigraphic matrix
1	Bag of finds

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: 2001.58

Archaeological Project Services Site Code: RUH 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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