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**ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF
OF DEVELOPMENT AT
ROYAL OAK LANE,
AUBOURN,
LINCOLNSHIRE
(ARO 01)**



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ARCHAEOLOGICAL
PROJECT
SERVICES

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**ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF
OF DEVELOPMENT AT
ROYAL OAK LANE,
AUBOURN,
LINCOLNSHIRE
(ARO 01)**

**Work Undertaken For
Claude Bingley Developments Ltd**

April 2002

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

National Grid Reference: SK 924 627
Planning Reference: N/05/0990/00
City and County Museum Accession No: 2001.31

ARCHAEOLOGICAL PROJECT SERVICES



APS Report No. 78/02



Quality Control
Royal Oak Lane, Aubourn
ARO 01

Project Coordinator	Steve Malone
Supervisors	Rachael Hall, Jim Snee, Fiona Walker
Finds Processing	Denise Buckley
Illustration	Paul Cope-Faulkner, Mark Dymond
Photographic Reproduction	Sue Unsworth
Post-excavation Analyst	Paul Cope-Faulkner

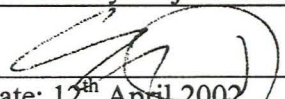
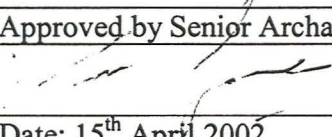
Checked by Project Manager	Approved by Senior Archaeologist
 Gary Taylor	 Tom Lane
Date: 12 th April 2002	Date: 15 th April 2002

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1. SUMMARY

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken during residential development on land off Royal Oak Lane, Aubourn, Lincolnshire. The watching brief monitored the excavation of foundation trenches.

Aubourn is located in an area that contains archaeological remains dating from the Late Saxon (AD 850-1066) period to the present day. Evaluation of the site prior to the development had identified Late Saxon activity. The site lies within the core of the medieval (AD 1066-1500) village.

This investigation revealed two pits, a pond and a ditch. However, none of these features could be dated due to a lack of artefactual material. A single sherd of 19th century pottery was retrieved from the topsoil.

2. INTRODUCTION

2.1 Definition of a Watching Brief

An archaeological watching brief is defined as "a formal program of observation and investigation conducted during any operation carried out for non-archaeological reasons. This will be within a specified area or site on land, inter-tidal zone or underwater, where there is a possibility that archaeological deposits maybe disturbed or destroyed." (IFA 1999).

2.2 Planning Background

Archaeological Project Services was commissioned by Claude Bingley Developments Ltd to undertake an archaeological watching brief during groundworks associated with development on land at Royal Oak Lane, Aubourn, Lincolnshire. Approval for the

development was sought through the submission of planning application N/05/0990/00. The watching brief was carried out between the 31st January and 25th September 2001, in accordance with a specification designed by Archaeological Project Services (Appendix 1) and approved by the North Kesteven Heritage Officer.

2.3 Topography and Geology

Aubourn is situated 10km southwest of Lincoln and approximately 26km north of Grantham in North Kesteven District, Lincolnshire (Fig. 1).

The site is 360m west of the village centre as defined by the parish church of St. Peter at National Grid Reference SK 924 627 (Fig. 2). Encompassing 0.5 hectares the land is situated at a height of c. 10m OD on a gentle slope down to the east.

Local soils are the Isleham 2 Association, typically sandy and peaty soils (Hodge *et al.* 1984, 231). Beneath the soils is a solid geology of Lower Lias clays, shales and limestone (BGS 1973), although outcrops of river terrace sand and gravels are known from the vicinity.

2.4 Archaeological Setting

Aubourn is located in an area of known archaeological remains dating from the medieval period to the present day. Aubourn is first mentioned in the Domesday Survey of c. 1086. Referred to as *Aburne* and *Aburn*, the name is derived from the Old English *alor* and *burna* and means 'the stream where alder grows' (Cameron 1998, 6).

The Domesday Survey records that Robert de Toden held the land which contained a church, a mill and a fishery (Foster and Longley 1976). By the 12th century the land had passed to the de Coleville family of Castle Bytham (Wilson 1991). The de

Coleville family died out in 1369 and the land was divided between the Mere family, the Convent of Belvoir with a smaller portion held by the Knights Templar.

The only extant building of the medieval period is St. Peter's church which was built in the 13th century with additions in the 14th and 19th century (Pevsner and Harris 1989, 109). Only the chancel remains although the outline of the church is still visible in the churchyard. Located at the eastern end of the village is Hop Hill, a small ditched enclosure that may have once been a medieval moated site although it is possible that this is a garden feature of a later date.

Activity of the post-medieval period is represented by Aubourn Hall. Begun by the Mere family in the 16th century, the present building was altered in the 17th century. To the rear of the Hall are earthworks and ponds that may be remnants of a formal garden (*pers. comm.* Hilary Healey).

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken at the site prior to development. This identified Late Saxon to medieval ditches and pits and demolition deposits associated with a 17th – 18th century cottage that formerly stood at the site (Albone 1999, 1).

3. AIMS

The aims of the watching brief, as detailed in the specification (Appendix 1), were to locate and record archaeological deposits, if present, and to determine their date, function and origin.

4. METHODS

Foundation trenches were excavated by machine to depths of between 1.3m and 3m as required by the development.

Following excavation, the sides of the trenches were cleaned (where the depth allowed this) 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 deposit revealed within the trenches was allocated a unique reference number (context number) with an individual written description. A list of all contexts and their descriptions appears as Appendix 2. A photographic record was compiled and sections were drawn at scales of 1:10 and 1:20. Recording of deposits encountered was undertaken according to standard Archaeological Project Services' practice.

Records of the deposits were examined and a stratigraphic matrix compiled. 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 three phases were identified.

Phase 1	Natural deposits
Phase 2	Undated deposits
Phase 3	Modern 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 at the base of the foundation trenches in Plots 8 and 11-13 was a bluish grey clay (007, 021, 023 and 028). Plot 11 revealed that this clay was overlain by a 1.8m thick layer of brownish yellow sandy silt (020).

In Plots 12 and 13, the clay was overlain by a 1.4m thick brownish yellow sand (006 and 027) which was in turn overlain by brownish grey silty clay (005). These deposits relate to the underlying solid and drift geology.

Phase 2 Undated deposits

Located within the southeastern foundation trenches of Plot 13 was an east-west aligned linear feature (004). Identified as a ditch, this was 2m wide by 0.2m deep (Fig. 4, Section 1) and filled with grey clayey silt (003).

Located to the northwest of this ditch was a large feature (009) measuring 4m long by 1m wide and over 1.8m deep. This pit contained grey and black sandy silt (008).

North of this pit was a further large feature (015). This was identified as a pond and was 4m wide and 2.5m deep (Fig. 4, Sections 2 and 3). Five fills were recorded, the lowest being grey gravel with silt (014) which was overlain by grey to black silt (013), then brownish grey silt and clay (012) followed by bluish grey silty clay (011) and finally sealed by brown silt (010).

A pit was also identified in Plot 11 (019). This measured 2.5m wide by over 1.46m deep (Fig. 4, Section 4) and contained two fills, a lower of brownish grey sandy silt (018) and an upper fill of yellowish brown silty clay (017).

Phase 3 Modern deposits

Overlying natural and archaeological deposits in Plots 8, 12 and 13 was a subsoil which comprised yellowish brown sandy silt (002 and 026) or clay with silt and sand (022). The site was sealed by topsoil which varied from brown clayey silt (001 and 025) through silt (016) to sandy silt (024). A piece of pottery of 19th

century date was retrieved from the topsoil.

6. DISCUSSION

Natural deposits (Phase 1) comprise bluish grey clays that may relate to the underlying solid geology. At the southern end of the site these were overlain by thick layers of silty sand and sand which may represent river terrace deposits or blown sand. No drift geology is recorded on the relevant geological map (BGS 1973).

Two pits, a pond and a ditch (Phase 2) were identified and recorded. A lack of artefactual material from these features means they remain undated. The ditch probably served a boundary function, it being parallel to Chapel Lane. None of these features can be associated with the features revealed during evaluation of the site.

A single sherd of mid 19th century pottery was retrieved from the topsoil. Such finds represent nothing more than casual disposal and is probably associated with former farm buildings on the site.

7. CONCLUSION

Archaeological investigations were undertaken at Royal Oak Lane, Aubourn, as the site lay within the medieval core of the village in an area from which Late Saxon to post-medieval remains had previously been found.

Archaeological remains were only identified in two of the southern plots. These include two large pits, a pond and a boundary ditch that may have demarcated the southern limit of the site. However, no finds were associated with these features and they must remain undated.

A single sherd of 19th century pottery was retrieved. Local site conditions would

suggest that few environmental indicators (seeds, wood, pollen *etc.*) would survive other than through charring, although the pond fills did contain organic material at depth.

8. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeological Project Services wish to acknowledge the assistance of Mr G. Bingley of Claude Bingley Developments Ltd for commissioning the fieldwork and post-excavation analysis. This work was coordinated by Steve Malone and this report edited by Gary Taylor and Tom Lane. Jo Hambly, the North Kesteven Heritage Officer, kindly permitted examination of the relevant parish files.

9. PERSONNEL

Project Coordinator: Steve Malone
Site Supervisors: Rachael Hall, Jim Snee, Fiona Walker
Finds processing: Denise Buckley
Photographic reproduction: Sue Unsworth
Illustration: Paul Cope-Faulkner, Mark Dymond
Post-excavation analysis: Paul Cope-Faulkner

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11. ABBREVIATIONS

APS Archaeological Project Services

BGS British Geological Survey

IFA Institute of Field Archaeologists

PCA Pre-Construct Archaeology

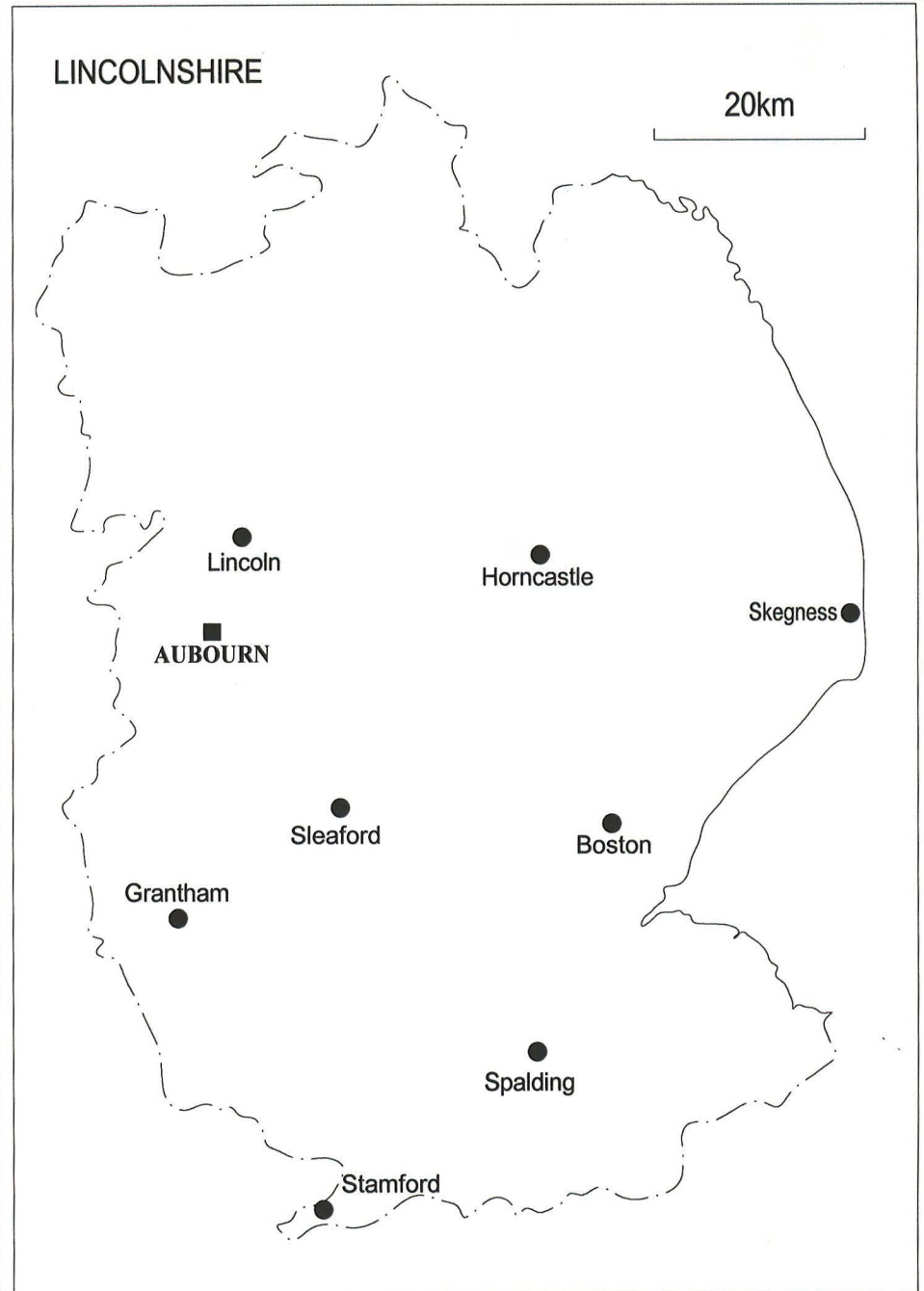
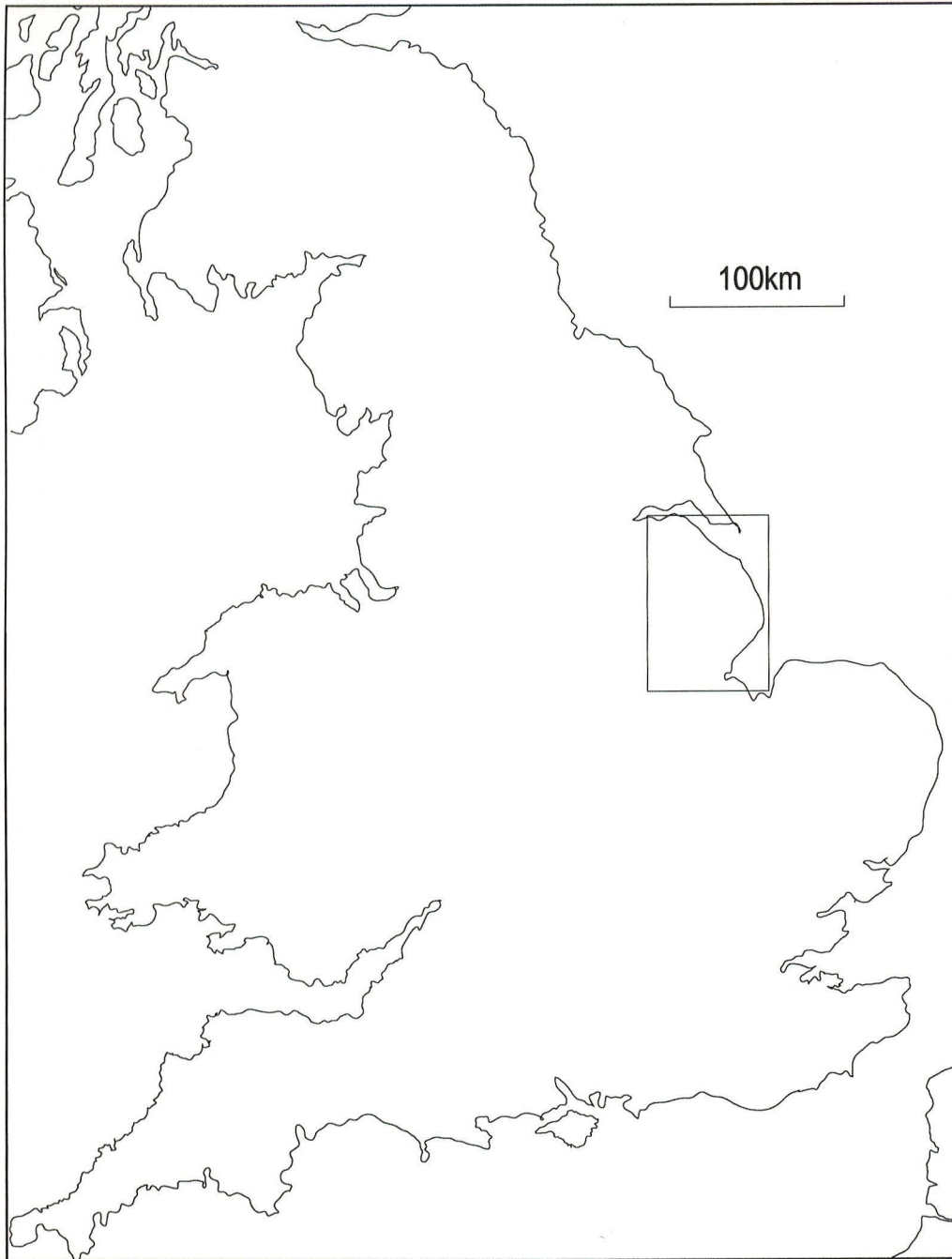
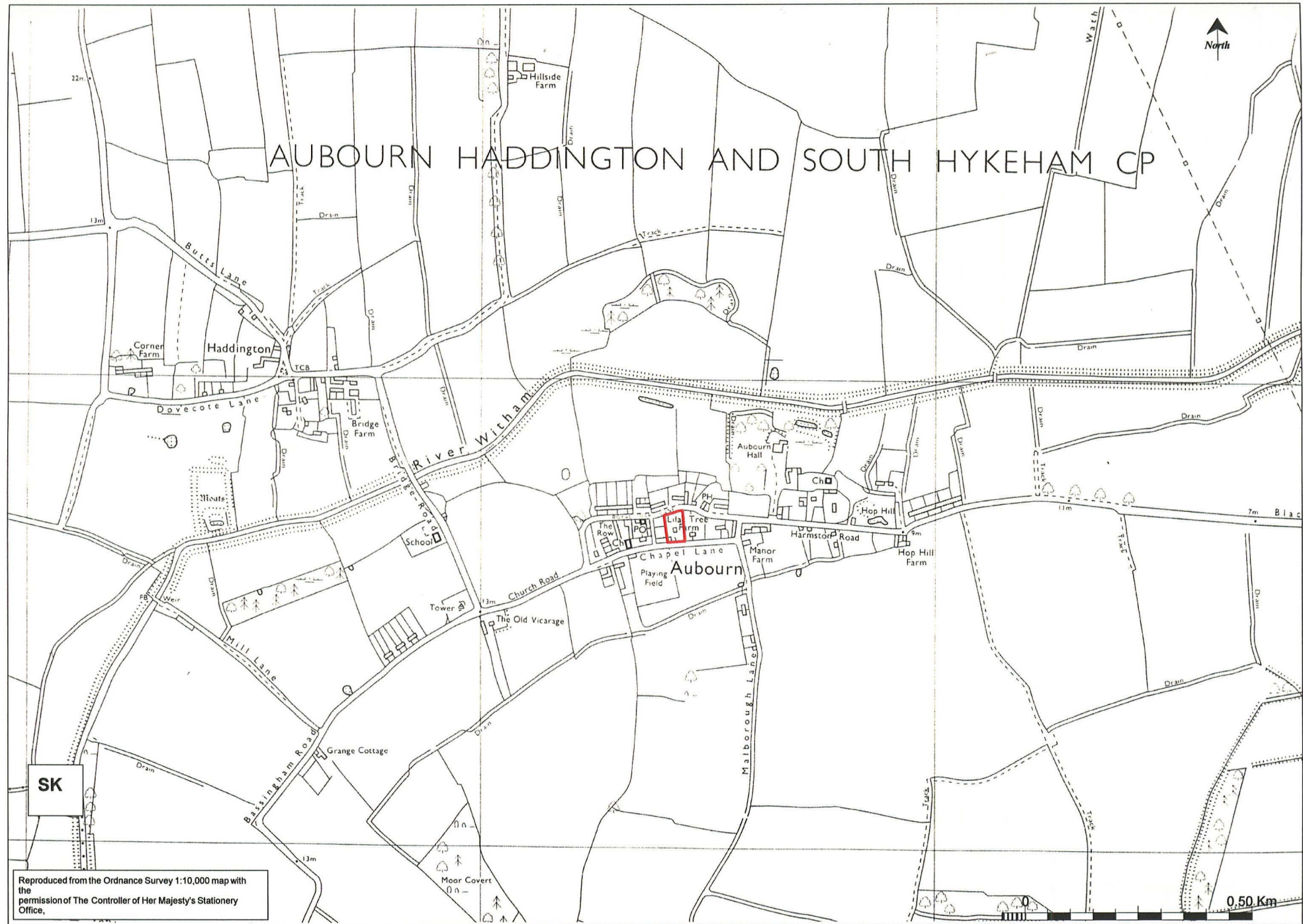


Figure 1 - General Location Plan



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

Figure 2 - Site location plan

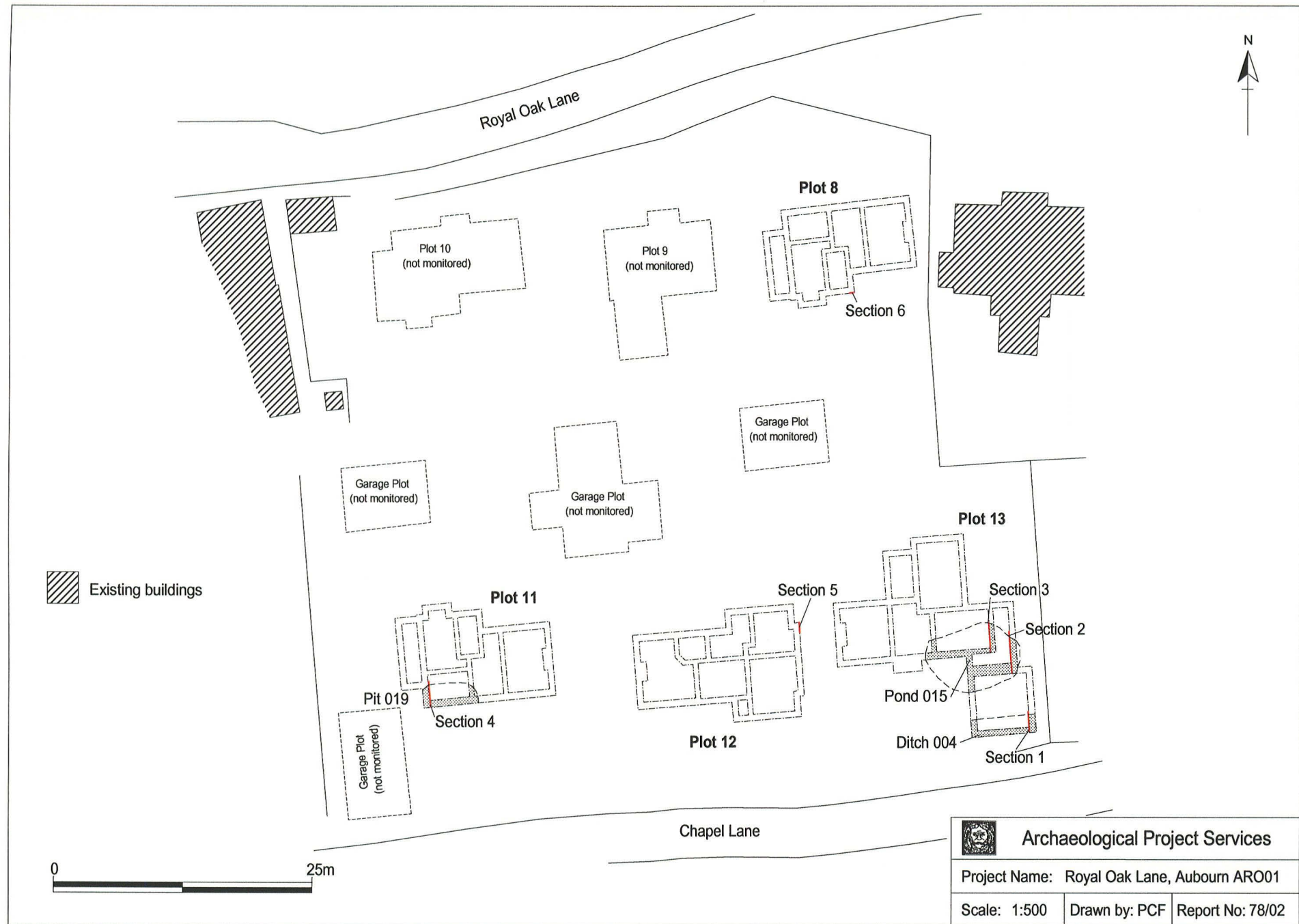


Figure 3 - Plan of the development showing principal features and section locations

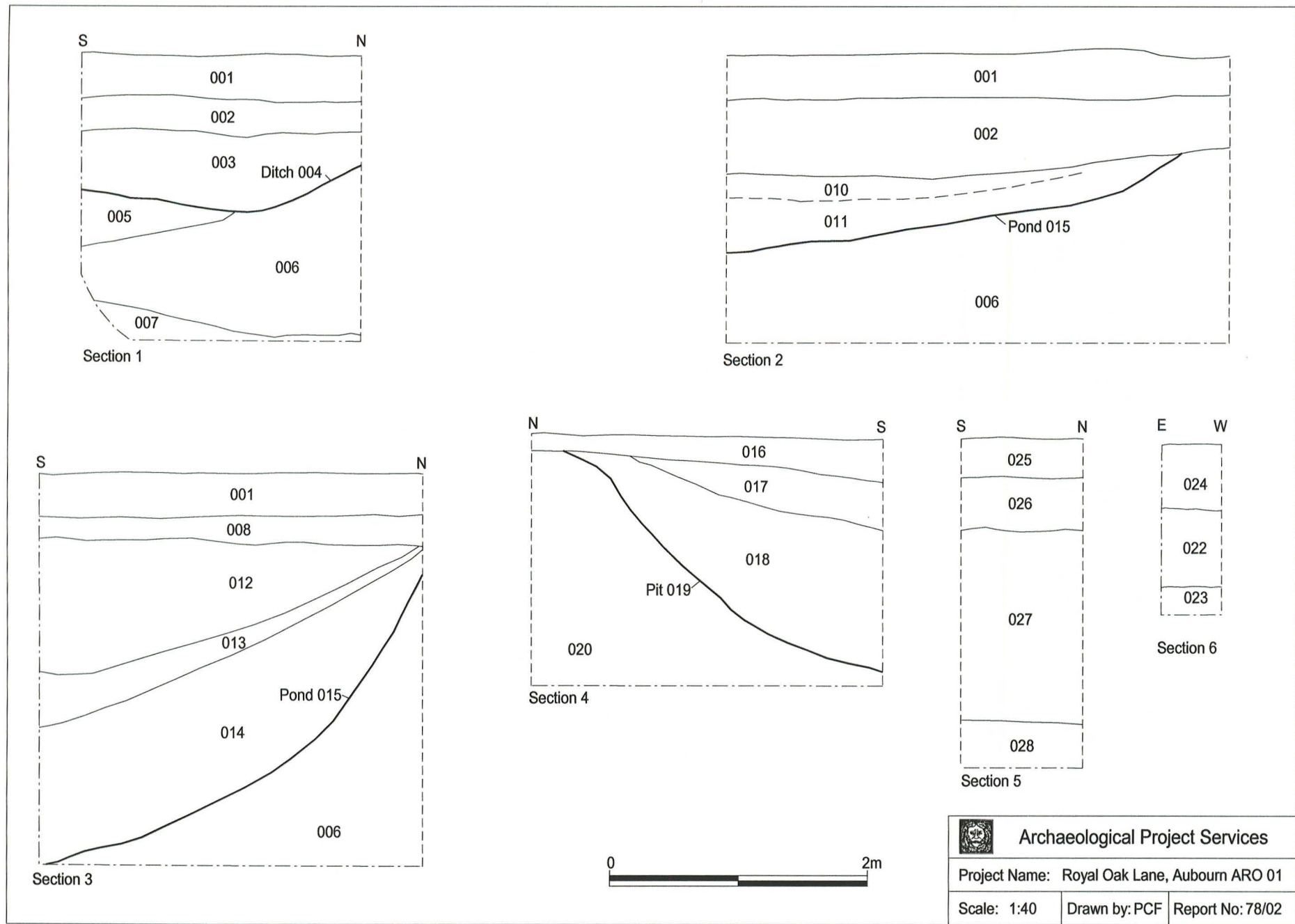


Figure 4 - Sections 1 to 6



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

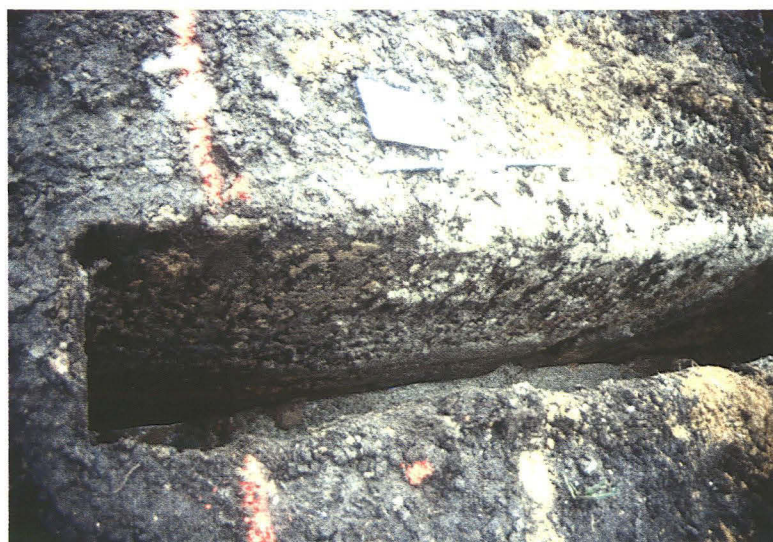


Plate 2 - Section 1 showing ditch (004), looking west

Appendix 1

LAND OFF ROYAL OAK LANE, AUBOURN, LINCOLNSHIRE - SPECIFICATION FOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

1. SUMMARY

- a. *A watching brief is required during residential development on land off Royal Oak Lane, Aubourn, Lincolnshire.*
- b. *The area has been previously subject to archaeological evaluation which revealed pits and ditches containing pottery of 10th-14th century date.*
- 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 results of the investigation. 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 groundworks connected with residential development on land off Royal Oak Lane, Aubourn, Lincs.
- 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. Aubourn is located 10km southwest of Lincoln in the administrative district of North Kesteven. The site is situated in the present village core, on the south side of Royal Oak Lane at National Grid Reference SK 924 627 and comprises a squarish plot of land covering an area of approximately 0.5ha.

4. PLANNING BACKGROUND

- a. A planning application (N/05/0990/00) was submitted to North Kesteven District Council for the erection of six dwellings and associated services and garages. Permission is subject to a condition requiring the implementation of an archaeological watching brief during groundworks connected with construction on three houseplots along the northern edge of the site closest to Royal Oak Lane.

5. SOILS AND TOPOGRAPHY

- a. Aubourn is on the south bank of the River Witham. The site and surrounding area is on a very gentle slope down to the east at a height of approximately 10m OD. Soils at the site are typical sandy and peaty soils of the Isleham 2 Association developed on alluvial clays, though river terrace sands and gravels are also known in the vicinity (Hodge *et al.* 1984, 231).

6. ARCHAEOLOGICAL OVERVIEW

- a. Aubourn is a topographic place-name of Old English origin, implying settlement activity of Anglo-Saxon date in the area. The settlement is first referred to in the Domesday Book of 1086 when it had a church, a mill and a fishery. The mill and fishery were probably located adjacent to the Witham, or one of its

tributaries.

- b. The site of the Domesday church may be marked by 13th century parish church of St. Peter, c. 250m to the northeast of the site. A recent investigation at the church revealed remains that are probably associated with documented 19th century demolitions of the building (Archaeological Project Services 1999, 1)
- c. Previous archaeological evaluation at the site revealed pits and ditches containing pottery dating from the 10th to the 14th centuries along the northern edge of the site, near to Royal Oak Lane and in the eastern corner of the site. These have been interpreted as the remains of medieval boundaries and possible refuse pits.

7. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- a. The aims of the watching brief will be:
 - i. To record and interpret the archaeological features 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, and
 - 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 1996, 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 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 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

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 and 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 trenches and 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 Planning Department; and to the County Council Archaeological 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 *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

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

14. VARIATIONS AND CONTINGENCIES

- 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 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

- a. The following organisations/persons will, in principle and if necessary, be used as subcontractors to provide the relevant specialist work and reports in respect of any objects or material recovered during the investigation that require their expert knowledge and input. Engagement of any particular specialist subcontractor is also dependent on their availability and ability to meet programming requirements.

<u>Task</u>	<u>Body to be undertaking the work</u>
Conservation	Conservation Laboratory, City and County Museum, Lincoln
Pottery Analysis	Prehistoric - Trent & Peak Archaeological Trust Roman - B Precious, Independent Specialist Anglo-Saxon - J Young, Independent Specialist Medieval and later - G. Taylor APS in consultation with H Healey, Independent Archaeologist
Non-pottery Artefacts	J Cowgill, Independent Specialist
Animal Bones	Environmental Archaeology Consultancy
Environmental Analysis	J Rackham, Independent Specialist
Human Remains Analysis	R Gowland, Independent Specialist

17. INSURANCES

- a. 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

- a. 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.
- b. Licence will also be given to the archaeological curators to use the documentary archive for educational, public and research purposes.
- c. 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.
- d. 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.

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Appendix 2

CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

No.	Plot	Description	Interpretation
001	13	Firm dark brown clayey silt, 0.34m thick	Topsoil
002	13	Firm light to mid yellowish brown sandy silt, 0.26m thick	Subsoil
003	13	Firm light to mid grey clayey silt	Fill of (004)
004	13	Linear feature, aligned east-west, 2m wide by 0.2m deep, gradual sides and rounded base	Ditch
005	13	Firm mid brownish grey silty clay, 0.5m thick	Natural deposit
006	13	Firm mid brownish yellow sand, 1.4m thick	Natural deposit
007	13	Firm dark bluish grey clay, >0.3m thick	Natural deposit
008	13	Loose mixed grey and black sandy silt	Fill of (009)
009	13	Feature, 4m long by 1m wide by >1.8m deep, near vertical sides, not fully excavated	Pit
010	13	Loose mid brown silt with organic material	Fill of (015)
011	13	Firm mid bluish grey silty clay	Fill of (015)
012	13	Firm mid brownish grey silt and clay	Fill of (015)
013	13	Loose dark grey to black silt with organic material	Fill of (015)
014	13	Firm mid grey gravel with silt	Fill of (015)
015	13	Feature, 4m wide by 2.5m deep, gradual sides, base too deep to record	Pond
016	11	Friable mid to dark brown silt, 0.32m thick	Topsoil
017	11	Soft mid yellowish brown silty clay	Fill of (019)
018	11	Soft dark brownish grey sandy silt	Fill of (019)
019	11	Feature, 2.5m wide by >1.46m deep, gradual sides, not fully excavated	Pit
020	11	Loose light brownish yellow sandy silt, 1.8m thick	Natural deposit
021	11	Firm dark bluish grey clay	Natural deposit
022	8	Soft light to mid yellowish brown clay with silt and sand	Subsoil
023	8	Firm mid bluish grey clay	Natural deposit
024	8	Firm dark brown sandy silt, 0.5m thick	Topsoil
025	12	Firm dark brown clayey silt, 0.3m thick	Topsoil
026	12	Firm light to mid yellowish brown sandy silt, 0.4m thick	Subsoil
027	12	Firm mid brownish yellow sand, 1.45m thick	Natural deposit
028	12	Firm dark bluish grey clay, >0.35m thick	Natural deposit

Appendix 3

THE FINDS *by Gary Taylor*

Provenance

The single find, which is probably a Staffordshire product, was recovered from topsoil (024).

Range

Only one fragment of pottery was recovered and no faunal remains were retrieved.

Context	Fabric Code	Description	No.	Wt (g)	Context Date
024	EMOD	Red and white transfer printed bowl	1	26g	mid 19 th century

Condition

The artefact is in good condition and presents no long-term storage problems. Archive storage of the collection is by material class.

Documentation

There have been previous archaeological investigations at Auburn, including at the current site, 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 single, recent artefact, the item has low local potential.

Appendix 4

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).
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.
Dumped deposits	These are deposits, often laid down intentionally, that raise a land surface. They may be the result of casual waste disposal or may be deliberate attempts to raise the ground surface.
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.
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:

28	Context records
1	Photographic record sheet
4	Drawing sheets
1	Bag of finds
1	Stratigraphic matrix

All primary records and finds are currently kept at:

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

The ultimate destination of the project archive is:

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

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

Lincolnshire City and County Council Museum Accession Number: 2001.31

Archaeological Project Services Site Code: ARO 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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