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**ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF
OF DEVELOPMENT AT
PARK FARM,
NORTH DROVE,
HELPRINGHAM,
LINCOLNSHIRE
(HND 01)**



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**ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF
OF DEVELOPMENT AT
PARK FARM,
NORTH DROVE,
HELPRINGHAM,
LINCOLNSHIRE
(HND 01)**

Work Undertaken For
Mr A.J. Hillman

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

March 2002

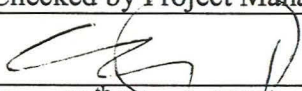
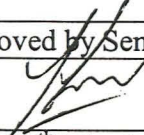
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National Grid Reference: TF ~~15573987~~ 1561 3997
City and County Museum Accession No: 2001.77

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Quality Control
North Drove, Helpringham
HND 01

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Date: 27 th March 2002	Date: 28 th March 2002

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1. SUMMARY

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken during the construction of a new dwelling and garage on land at Park Farm, North Drove, Helpringham, Lincolnshire. The watching brief monitored the excavation of the groundworks associated with the development.

Park Farm is situated in an area of dense archaeological activity dating from the Middle Iron Age (400-100 BC) and the Romano-British (AD 50-410) periods. Iron Age remains indicate that the area was important for salt-making but by the Romano-British period the sea had retreated and settlement was possible within the vicinity.

The investigations identified a sequence of natural sandy clays overlain by a modern topsoil. No artefacts were retrieved and no archaeological deposits encountered.

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 A.J. Hillman to undertake an archaeological watching brief during construction of a new dwelling and garage on land at Park Farm, North Drove, Helpringham, Lincolnshire. Approval for the

development was sought through the submission of planning application N33/0488/00. Permission was granted subject to a standard condition for archaeological recording. The watching brief was undertaken in accordance with a brief prepared by the Heritage Officer for North Kesteven District Council (Appendix 1). The watching brief was undertaken on the 15th March 2001.

2.3 Topography and Geology

Helpringham is located 9km southeast of Sleaford and 19km west of Boston in the administrative district of North Kesteven, Lincolnshire (Fig. 1).

The development site is 1.9km southeast of the village centre at National Grid Reference TF 1557 3987 (Fig. 2). The site lies on generally level ground at heights of c. 3m OD. There is a drop in height to the west and north towards the fens.

Local soils are of the Beccles 3 Association, typically fine loam over clay soils (Hodge *et al.* 1984, 121). These soils are developed on glacially derived till which in turn overlies a solid geology of Jurassic Oxford Clay (BGS 1995).

2.4 Archaeological Setting

The development site lies within an area of known archaeological remains dating from the Iron Age to the present day. During the Iron Age the site would have been located close to the coast and fieldwork has identified a number of salterns (salt-making sites) in the vicinity of Park Farm. One example, located 500m to the north, was partially excavated during the 1970s which revealed hearths, pottery and briquetage dating to the Middle Iron Age (Healey 1999,1).

The Romano-British period is represented by the Car Dyke which is situated 220m to the west. This was a watercourse that once connected Lincoln to Peterborough and which may have served as a catchwater drain (Simmons and Cope-Faulkner 1997, 1). Romano-British pottery has also been found in the vicinity and probably indicates settlement.

Helpringham is first mentioned in the Domesday Survey of c. 1086. Referred to as *Helerincham* and *Helpericham*, the name is derived from the Old English *Helprīcingas* meaning the 'homestead of Helprīc's people' (Cameron 1998, 62). The Domesday Survey records that the land was owned by Ivo Taillebois, Colsuain, Gilbert de Gand, Robert de Veci and Godfrey of Cambrai and contained a church and at least 22 acres of meadow (Foster and Longley 1976). Medieval remains are restricted to the area of the village, although medieval pottery has been retrieved from the surrounding fields which may indicate dumped refuse spread to aid fertility.

3. AIMS

The requirements of the watching brief, as described in the brief (Appendix 1), were to record and interpret archaeological deposits, if present, and to determine their date, sequence, function and origin.

4. METHODS

Foundation trenches for the development had already been excavated and partially back-filled with concrete (Plate 2). Spoil heaps were examined and it was noted that other than topsoil there was only a single clay deposit. A nearby ditch was subsequently cleaned so that a soil profile could be recorded. The depth and thickness

of each deposit were measured from the ground surface. Each archaeological deposit 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 recognised during the watching brief were examined. Phasing was assigned based on the nature of the deposits and recognisable relationships between them.

5. RESULTS

The earliest deposit encountered was a layer of mid yellowish brown sandy clay (003) that was over 0.52m thick (Fig. 4, Section 1). This was sealed by a 0.3m thick dark yellowish brown sandy clay (002). Both these deposits are natural in origin, the darker layer affected by modern root action.

These deposits were sealed by a topsoil of dark greyish brown sandy clay (001). This measured 0.4m thick.

6. DISCUSSION

Layers of sandy clay were the earliest deposits encountered during this investigation. These probably relate to the glacial tills recorded in the vicinity. These were overlain by a modern topsoil

No artefacts were retrieved and the nature of the local site conditions would suggest that few environmental indicators (seeds, wood, shells *etc*) would survive other than through

charring or at depth.

7. CONCLUSIONS

Archaeological investigations were carried out on land at Park Farm, Helpringham, because of the sites proximity to known Iron Age salt-making sites and Romano-British settlement.

However, no archaeological features or deposits were encountered during this investigation and no artefacts were retrieved. This lack of archaeological material is suprising considering the proximity of known archaeological remains.

8. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeological Project Services would like to acknowledge the assistance of Mr A.J. Hillman who commissioned the fieldwork and post excavation analysis. The work was coordinated by Gary Taylor and this report was edited by Tom Lane. Jo Hambly, the Heritage Officer for North Kesteven District Council, kindly provided background information.

9. PERSONNEL

Project Coordinator: Gary Taylor
Site Supervisor: Jim Snee
Illustration: Paul Cope-Faulkner
Photographic Reproduction: Sue Unsworth
Post-excavation Analyst: Paul Cope-Faulkner

10. BIBLIOGRAPHY

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11. ABBREVIATIONS

APS Archaeological Project Services
BGS British Geological Survey
IFA Institute of Field Archaeologists

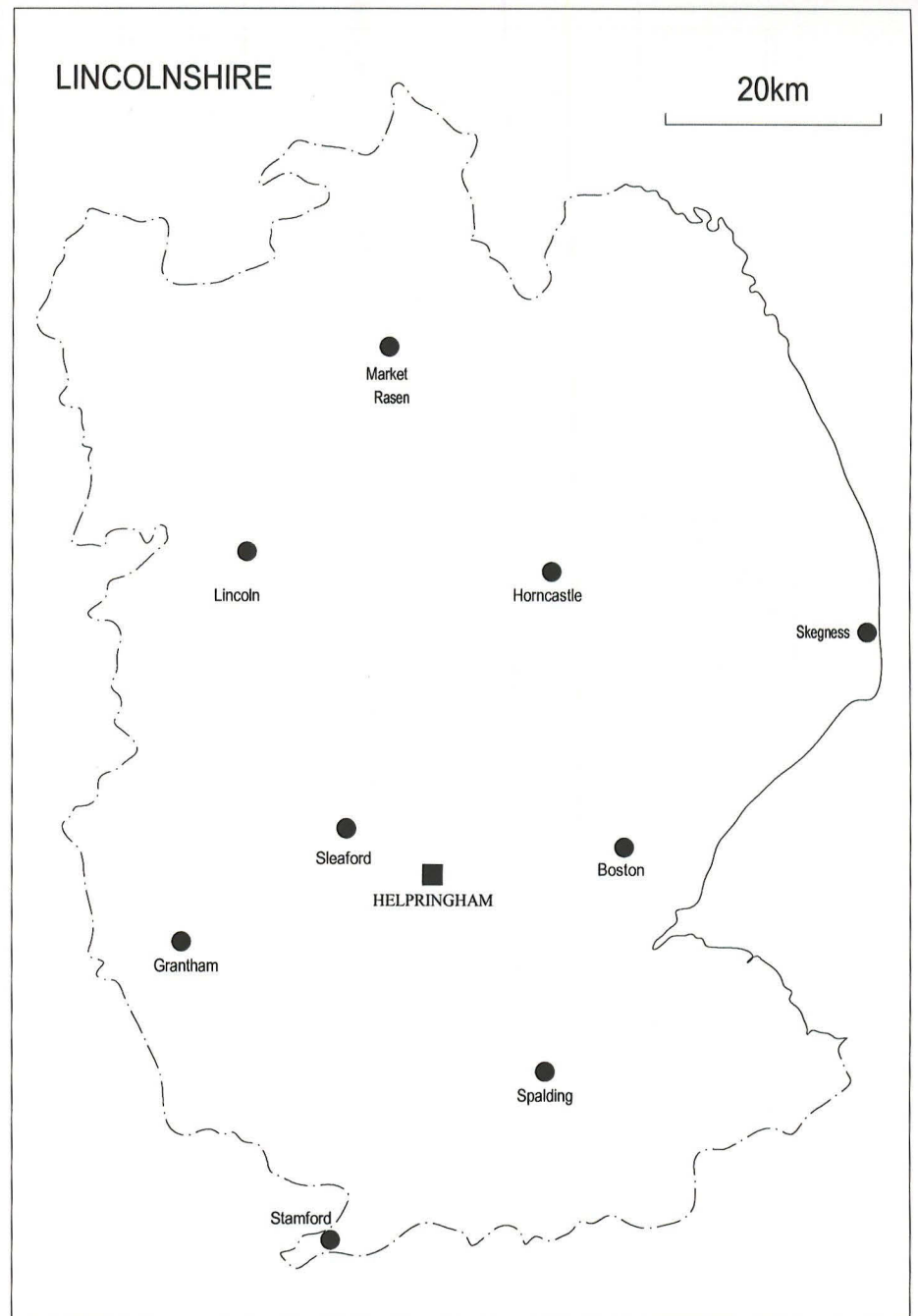
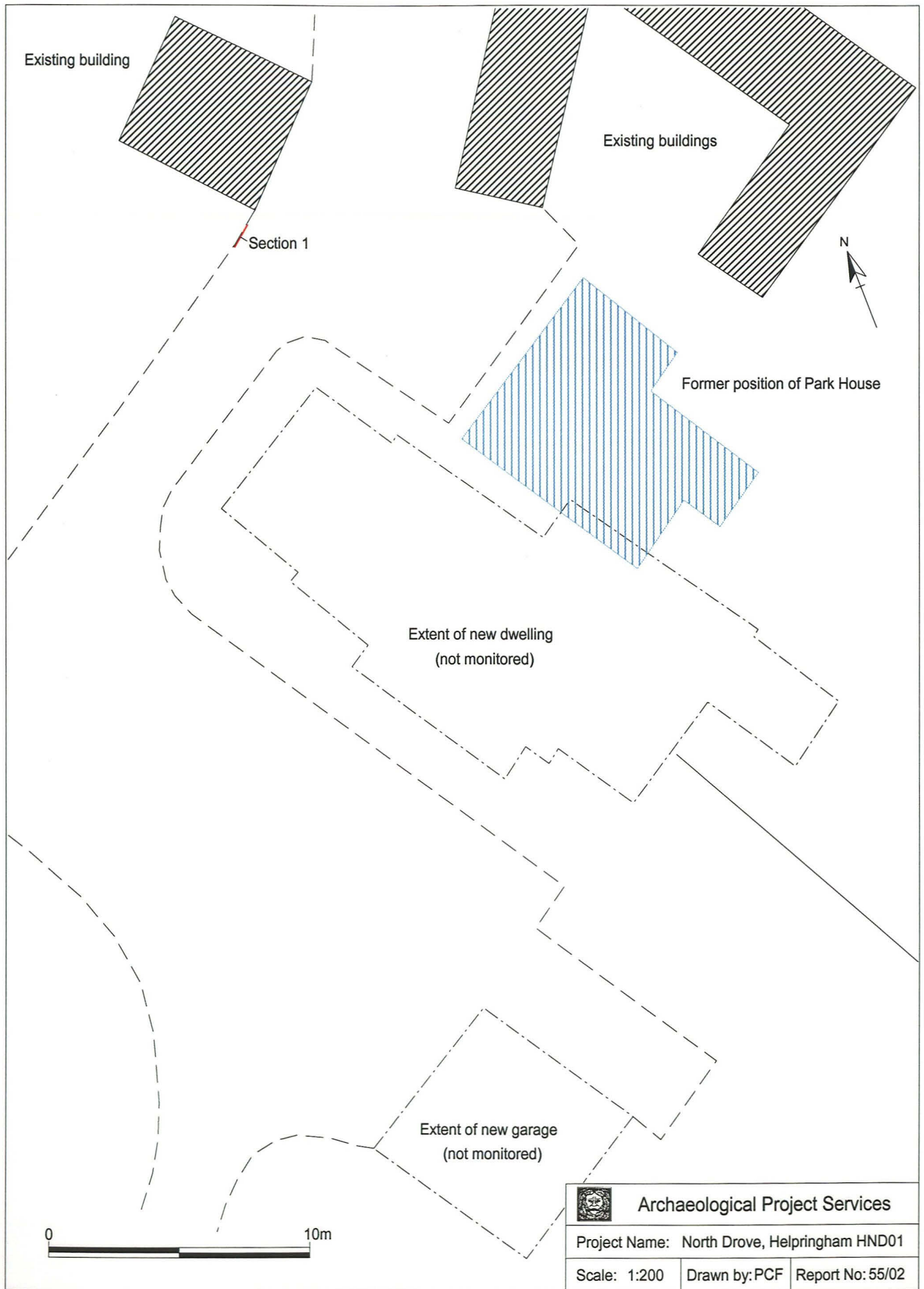


Figure 1 - General Location Plan



Figure 2 - Site location plan




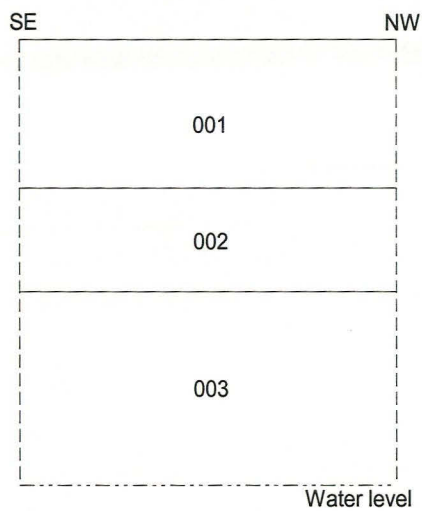
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Project Name: North Drove, Helpringham HND01		
Scale: 1:200	Drawn by: PCF	Report No: 55/02

Figure 3 - Plan of the development area showing section location



Section 1



Archaeological Project Services

Project Name: North Drove, Helpringham HND01

Scale: 1:20

Drawn by: PCF

Report No: 55/02

Figure 4 - Section 1



Plate 1 - General view of the site, looking northwest



Plate 2 - View of the main development showing the infilled foundation trenches, looking west



Plate 3 - Section 1, looking southwest

Appendix 1

BRIEF FOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL OBSERVATION AND RECORDING (WATCHING BRIEF) AT NORTH DROVE, HELPRINGHAM, LINCS.

Nb: REISSUE OF BRIEF FOR REVISED APPLICATION N/33/0030/01.

Application Number: N 33 / 0488 / 00

HTL File ref: hel.488.00

Site Address: Park Farm, North Drove, Helpringham, Sleaford

NGR: 515575 339874

Applicant: T Hillman

Agent: Clive Wicks Associates

Site Description:

Helpringham lies about 11km to the south east of Sleaford. The site of the proposed development is in Helpringham Fen on the northern side of North Drove, about 2km to the south east of the village.

Planning Background:

An application has been made (planning application number N/33/0488/00) for full planning permission to demolish an existing derelict dwelling and erect a replacement house and garage.

The application was repeated due to re-siting of the dwelling as planning application N/33/0030/01.

Archaeological Background:

The proposed development is in an archaeologically sensitive area. The farm lies about 200m to the east of the Car Dyke – a nationally important Roman watercourse. This section of the Car Dyke is particularly well preserved. It still exists as an earthwork and is protected from unnecessary damage by its status as a Scheduled Ancient Monument. To the south of the proposed development there is abundant evidence of Roman occupation, including enclosed occupation areas and scatters of pottery. Although the site of the development has previously been built upon, it is likely that Roman material will be disturbed during groundworks for the new building.

Heritage Officer

Date: 4/8/00

Brief is valid for 1 year from this date.

1. Summary

- 1.1 This brief should be sent to archaeological contractors as the basis for the preparation of a detailed archaeological project specification. In response to this brief contractors will include the anticipated working methods, timescales and staffing levels. (The Heritage Officer does not maintain a list of archaeological contractors but names of local units can be found in the Yellow Pages or from the Institute of Field Archaeologists, Tel: 0118 931 6446).
- 1.2 These detailed specifications will be submitted by the client for approval by the North Kesteven Heritage Officer. The client will be free to choose between those specifications which are considered to adequately satisfy the brief

2. Requirements for Work

- 2.1 The objective of the watching brief should be to ensure that any archaeological features exposed by the groundworks are recorded and interpreted.
- 2.2 Any adjustments to the brief for the watching brief project should only be made after consultation with the Heritage Officer for North Kesteven.

- 2.3 The contractor's specification should be prepared according to requirements of this brief and the Lincolnshire Archaeological Handbook's section *Standard Briefs for Archaeological Projects in Lincolnshire* (August 1997) and should include the following:
- 2.3.1 A projected timetable for the various stages of work.
 - 2.3.2 Details of the staff structure and numbers including person hours for on-site work.
 - 2.3.3 It is expected that all on-site work will be carried out in a way that complies with the relevant Health and Safety legislation and that due consideration will be given to site security.
 - 2.3.4 A full description of the recovery and recording strategies to be used.
 - 2.3.5 An estimate of time and resources allocated for the post-excavation work and report production in the form of 'person' hours. This should include lists of specialists and their role in the project. It is expected that finds will be encountered and therefore adequate provision should be made for relevant specialists.
 - 2.3.6 Contingency costs should only be used in the event of unexpected costs and should only be activated after discussion with the Heritage Officer and the client.

3. Methods

- 3.1 The project should be carried out by a recognised archaeological body in accordance with the code of conduct of The Institute of Field Archaeologists. If the specialists to be used by the body are not members of The Institute of Field Archaeologists and are not locally recognised, a CV or some other form of reference should be provided with the specification.
- 3.2 The watching brief should involve:
- 3.2.1 archaeological supervision of topsoil stripping;
 - 3.2.2 inspection of subsoil for archaeological features;
 - 3.2.3 recording of archaeological features in plan;
 - 3.2.4 rapid excavation of features if necessary;
 - 3.2.5 archaeological supervision of subsoil stripping
 - 3.2.6 inspection of natural for archaeological features and recording them.
- 2.1.7 any human remains encountered must be left in situ and only removed if absolutely necessary. The contractor must comply with all statutory consents and licences regarding the exhumation and interment of human remains. It will also be necessary to comply with all reasonable requests of interested parties as to the remains or associated items. Attempt must be made at all times not to cause offence to any interested parties.
- 3.2.8 under the new Treasure Act, all gold and silver artefacts found during the watching brief, thought to be 'treasure' should be reported to the appropriate coroner's office in Lincoln or Sleaford within fourteen days.

4. Monitoring Arrangements

- 4.1 The Heritage Officer for North Kesteven will be responsible for monitoring progress and standards throughout the project and will require preferably fourteen days notice but at least five working days prior to the commencement of the work. The Heritage Officer should be kept informed of any unexpected discoveries and should be regularly updated on the project's progress. They should be allowed access to the site at their convenience and will comply with any health and safety requirements associated with the site.

5. Reporting Requirements

- 5.1 A full report must be produced and deposited with the planning department of North Kesteven District Council, the Heritage Officer, the client and the County Sites and Monuments Record before the planning application will be discharged. The report should include:
- 5.1.1 location plan of the trenches;
 - 5.1.2 section and plan drawings, with ground level, Ordnance Datum, vertical and horizontal scales as appropriate;
 - 5.1.3 specialist descriptions of artefacts and ecofacts;
 - 2.1.8 an indication of potential archaeological deposits not disturbed by the present development;
 - 2.1.9 a detailed bibliography including all sources that were referred to during the course of the investigation
- 5.2 After agreement with the landowner, arrangements are to be made for long term storage of all artefacts and paper archive in an appropriate museum.
- 5.3 If the receiving museum is to be the City and County Museum, Lincoln then the archive should be produced in the form outlined in the museum's document 'Conditions for the Acceptance of Project Archives', see address below.

6. Publication and Dissemination

- 6.1 The deposition of a copy of the report with the Lincolnshire Sites and Monuments Record will be deemed to put all information into the public domain, unless a special request is made for confidentiality. If material is to be held in confidence a timescale must be agreed with the North Kesteven Heritage Officer but is expected this will not exceed six months. A summary of the results must be published in 'Lincolnshire History and Archaeology' in due course.
- 6.2 Should the watching brief reveal finds of national or regional importance, provision should be made of publication within the appropriate regional or national journal.

7. Additional Information

- 6.1 This document attempts to define the best practice expected of an archaeological watching brief but cannot fully anticipate the conditions that will be encountered as work progresses. However, changes to the programme are only to be made with the prior written approval of the Heritage Officer

Appendix 2

CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

No.	Description	Interpretation
001	Soft dark greyish brown sandy clay with occasional limestone fragments and pebbles, 0.4m thick	Topsoil
002	Soft dark yellowish brown sandy clay with frequent root activity, 0.3m thick	Natural deposit
003	Soft mid yellowish brown sandy clay, >0.52m thick	Natural deposit

Appendix 3

GLOSSARY

Boulder Clay	A deposit formed after the retreat of a glacier. Also known as till, this material is generally unsorted and can comprise of rock flour to boulders to rocks of quite substantial size.
Briquetage	A term given to fragments of ceramic equipment and hearth/oven remains from the processing of salt.
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).
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.
Romano-British	Pertaining to the period dating from AD 43-410 when the Romans occupied Britain.
Saltern	Salt producing site typified by ash, derived from fuel needed to evaporate sea water, and briquetage.

Appendix 4

THE ARCHIVE

The archive consists of:

3	Context records
1	Scale drawings
1	Photographic record sheet
1	Stratigraphic matrix

All primary records and finds are currently kept at:

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

The ultimate destination of the project archive is:

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

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

Lincolnshire City and County Museum Accession Number: 2001.77

Archaeological Project Services Site Code: HND 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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