ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF ON LAND ADJACENT TO HALCYON HOUSE, WAINFLEET ROAD, BURGH-LE-MARSH, LINCOLNSHIRE (BWR 01)

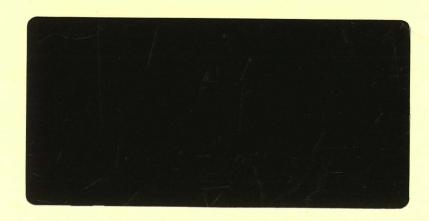


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Conservation Services

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Highways & Planning Directorate



ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF ON LAND ADJACENT TO HALCYON HOUSE, WAINFLEET ROAD, BURGH-LE-MARSH, LINCOLNSHIRE (BWR 01)

Work Undertaken For Mr P. Smith

March 2002

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

National Grid Reference: TF 4976 6487
Planning Reference: S/023/00551/01 + S/623/961/00 (C15929)
City and County Museum Accession No: 2001.140

# ARCHAEOLOGICAL PROJECT SERVICES



APS Report No. 51/02

# Quality Control Wainfleet Road, Burgh-le-Marsh BWR 01

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Supervisor	Jim Snee	
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#### 1. SUMMARY

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken during the construction of a single dwelling and detached garage on land at Wainfleet Road, Burgh-le-Marsh. The watching brief monitored the excavation of the foundation trenches associated with the development.

The watching brief was undertaken as the site was located in an area of archaeological activity dating from the Mesolithic (8,500-4,200 BC) to the postmedieval period (AD 1500-1800). In particular, Burgh-le-Marsh is believed to be the site of a substantial Romano-British settlement and possibly an important Saxon 'burh' from which the town got its name.

The investigations revealed topsoil overlying natural boulder clay. A modern brick well was also identified. No artefacts 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

Between the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> June 2001, an archaeological watching brief was undertaken during development on land adjacent to Halcyon House, Wainfleet Road, Burgh-le-Marsh, Lincolnshire. Approval for the development was sought through the submission of planning application S/023/00551/01 to East

Lindsey District Council. Permission was granted subject to a standard condition for archaeological recording. Archaeological Project Services was commissioned by Mr P. Smith and the watching brief was undertaken in accordance with a specification prepared by Archaeological Project Services and approved of by the Archaeology Section, Lincolnshire County Council (Appendix 1).

# 2.3 Topography and Geology

Burgh-le-Marsh is located approximately 5km west of Skegness in the administrative district of East Lindsey, Lincolnshire (Fig. 1).

The proposed development area lies 300m southwest of the village centre as defined by SS. Peter and Paul's church (Fig. 2). Located on the west side of Wainfleet Road, at National Grid Reference TF 4976 6487, the site is situated at a height of *c*. 10m OD on relatively level ground.

Local soils are of the Holderness Association, typically fine-coarse loamy soils (Hodge *et al.* 1984, 214). These soils overlie a drift geology of glaciofluvial sands and gravels sealing boulder clay which in turn overlie a solid geology of Cretaceous Claxby Ironstone and Tealby Mudstone (BGS 1996).

# 2.4 Archaeological Setting

Burgh-le-Marsh is located in an area of known archaeological remains dating from the Mesolithic period to the present day. Mesolithic flint tools have been found in the vicinity of Cock Hill and in an area southeast of the site.

At Burgh-le-Marsh Primary school, flints dating from the Neolithic through to the Late Bronze Age and an Early Bronze Age pot sherd were recovered as residual finds from a later ditch (Tann 1999). In addition,

a Bronze Age stone axe was discovered to the south of The Mount in 1937.

It has been conjectured that Burgh-le-Marsh is situated close to or on a major prehistoric route across the Wolds. This route, known as Bluestone Heath Road, connected Ludford to Burgh-le-Marsh (May 1976, 9).

During the Romano-British period Burghle-Marsh was the probable site of a settlement at the terminus of a Roman road that ran from Lincoln, through Horncastle and subsequently Burgh (Margary 1973, 238). The road has also been thought to continue southeast towards the coast of the Wash. Frequent finds of pottery and coins dating to the Romano-British period have been made from the area around High Street, particularly between Cock Hill and the church. Two Romano-British burials have been recorded close to Cock Hill House, both of which were covered in roofing tile. Southeast of the site, archaeological investigations have revealed Romano-British ditches and artefacts suggesting the possible presence of a high status building in the vicinity (Malone 2001, 7).

Anglo-Saxon pottery has been found in Burgh-le-Marsh, again concentrated around West End and Cock Hill, suggesting continuity of settlement. In addition, two *Sceatta* coins of the 8<sup>th</sup> century from the lower Rhineland have been found (Blackburn 1993, 87).

Cock Hill, a large mound beside High Street, was excavated in 1933, when human remains associated with an Anglo-Saxon bronze buckle were uncovered (Leahy 1993, 39). Subsequent work on Cock Hill in the 1970s cast doubt on this interpretation and it is now thought that the mound was constructed to support a windmill or for cock-fighting (Everson 1993, 94).

By the Late Saxon period, Burgh is likely to have been an important estate centre. The name is derived from the Old English and usually refers to some form of fortification (Cameron 1998, 23). Its importance is reflected in the Domesday Survey of c. 1086 where Burgh-le-Marsh is the centre of an estate with lands in Addlethorpe, Wainfleet Sutton. Skegness (Foster and Longley 1976). At the time of the Domesday Survey, the land was held by Count Alan, Gilbert de Gand, Eudo and Robert the Steward contained a church and 585 acres of meadow (ibid.).

Extant remains of the medieval period are restricted to the parish church of SS. Peter and Paul which dates from c. 1500 (DoE 1988, 6), which presumably replaced the church referred to in the Domesday Survey. A chapel dedicated to St. Mary was also located in Burgh-le-Marsh (Owen 1975, 17). Traces of the medieval field system, in the form of ridge and furrow earthworks, have been observed in the vicinity on aerial photographs.

#### 3. AIMS

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

#### 4. METHODS

Foundation trenches were excavated by machine to depths of c. 1m as required by the development. Following excavation, the sides of the trenches were cleaned and rendered vertical. Selected deposits were fully or partially 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 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

Archaeological contexts are described below. The numbers in brackets are the context numbers assigned in the field.

The earliest deposit encountered in the base of the foundation trenches was a mid reddish brown silty clay (002) that became more chalky with depth and was identified as the underlying drift geology. This was sealed by a 0.3m thick topsoil of mid brown clayey silt (001).

Located along the northernmost foundation trench was a circular brick structure (003). Measuring 1.5m in diameter this was identified as a modern well or cistern.

# 6. DISCUSSION

The earliest deposits relate to the underlying drift geology of boulder clay formed during the last glaciation. Topsoil had then developed naturally above this. A modern brick well was also recorded and probably relates to Halcyon House to the north.

No artefacts were retrieved or noted during this investigation.

# 7. CONCLUSION

Archaeological investigations were carried out on land at Wainfleet Road, Burgh-le-Marsh, because the site lay within an area of archaeological activity dating from the prehistoric period to the present day.

A sequence of natural geology overlain by modern topsoil was encountered and a modern brick well was also recorded. No archaeological deposits or features were identified and no artefacts were retrieved. The nature of the local site conditions would suggest that few environmental indicators (seeds, wood, pollen, etc.) would survive other than through charring.

# 8. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeological Project Services would like to acknowledge the assistance of Mr P. Smith who commissioned the fieldwork and post-excavation analysis. The work was coordinated by Steve Malone and this report was edited by Tom Lane. Access to the County Sites and Monuments Record was kindly supplied by Mark Bennet of the Archaeology Section, Lincolnshire County Council. David Start permitted access to the library and parish files maintained by Heritage Lincolnshire.

# 9. PERSONNEL

Project Coordinator: Steve Malone

Site Supervisor: Jim Snee

Photographic reproduction: Sue Unsworth

Illustration: Paul Cope-Faulkner

Post-excavation analysis: Paul Cope-

Faulkner

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# 11. ABBREVIATIONS

APS Archaeological Project Services

BGS British Geological Survey

DoE Department of the Environment

IFA Institute of Field Archaeologists



Figure 1 - General location plan

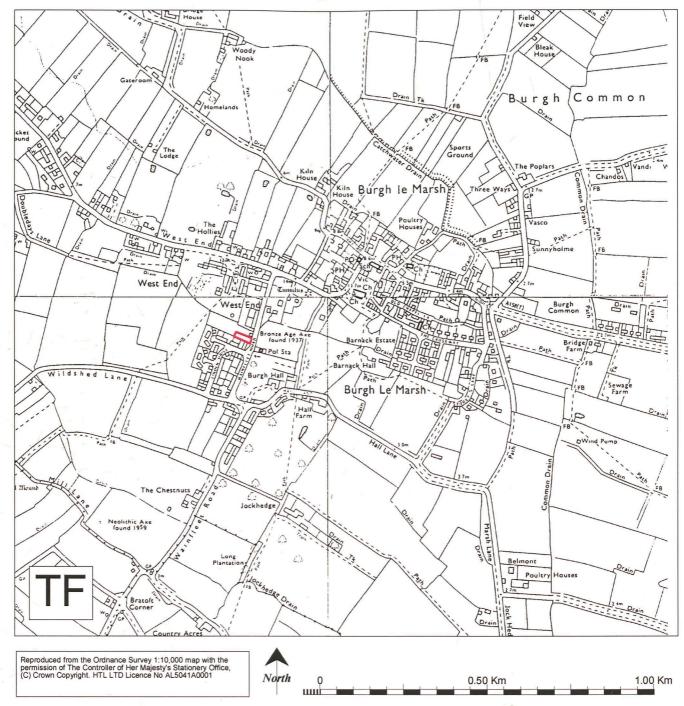


Figure 2 - Site location plan

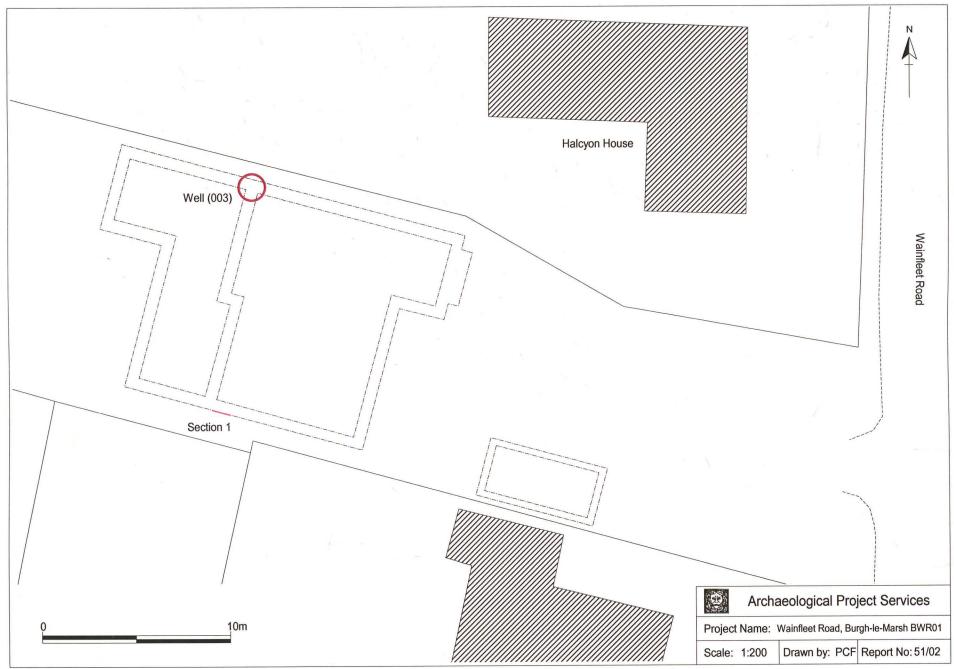


Figure 3 - Plan of the development showing section location

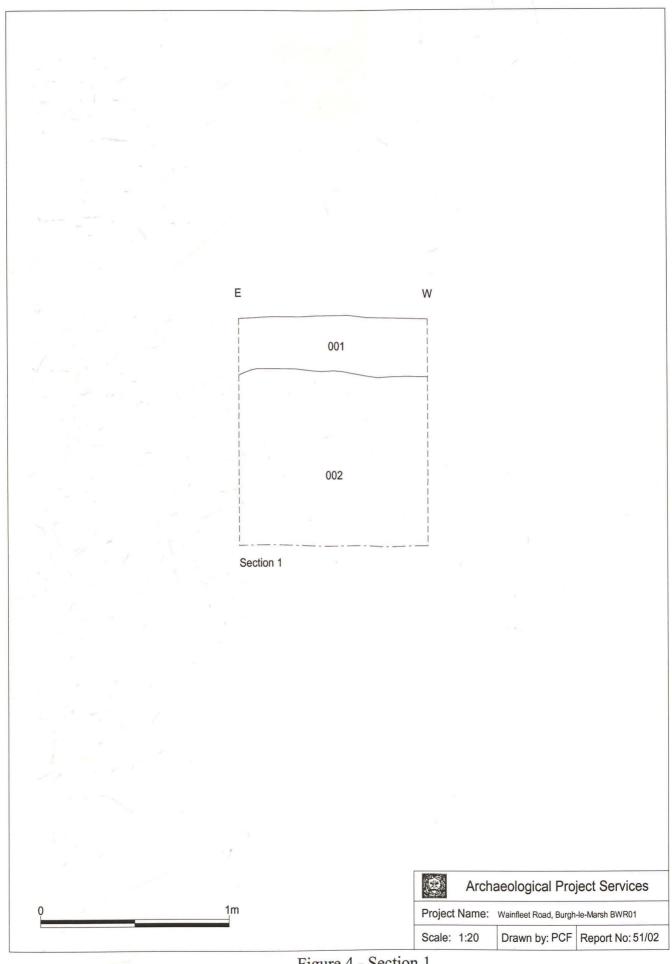


Figure 4 - Section 1



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



Plate 2 - Section 1, looking south



Plate 3 - Well or cistern (003), looking west

# LAND AT WAINFLEET ROAD, BURGH-LE-MARSH, LINCOLNSHIRE - SPECIFICATION FOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

#### 1 SUMMARY

- 1.1 A watching brief is required during the construction of a dwelling on land adjacent to Halcyon House, Wainfleet Road, Burgh-le-Marsh, Lincolnshire.
- 1.2 The area is archaeologically sensitive, lying close to the centre of the medieval village, and the Church. A Roman settlement previously existed and there have been frequent finds of Roman material in the area 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 the construction of a dwelling on land adjacent to Halcyon House, Wainfleet Road, Burgh-le-Marsh, Lincolnshire. The site is located at National Grid Reference TF 4976 6487.
- 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 Burgh-le-Marsh is located 5km west of Skegness in the East Lindsey district of Lincolnshire. The site for the new dwelling lies adjacent to Halcyon House on the west side of Wainfleet Road, at National Grid Reference TF 4976 6487, approximately 300m southwest of the village centre as defined by the parish church.

# 4 PLANNING BACKGROUND

4.1 Planning permission (Application No.: S/023/00551/01) for the development is subject to a condition requiring the implementation of an archaeological watching brief during groundworks associated with the development.

# 5 SOILS AND TOPOGRAPHY

5.1 The site lies at c. 10m OD on ground sloping to the south and west. Local soils are fine-coarse loamy soils of the Holderness Association developed on chalky till and glaciofluvial drift (Hodge *et al.* 1984, 214).

# 6 HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

6.1 Burgh le Marsh is located in an area of known archaeological remains dating from the Mesolithic

period to the present day. Prehistoric discoveries of Mesolithic, Neolithic and Bronze Age date have been made including a Neolithic pottery and a Bronze Age axe within 100m to the west and north-west. It is conjectured that Burgh le Marsh is situated on or close to a major prehistoric route across the Wolds.

During the Romano-British period Burgh le Marsh was probably the site of a settlement, located at the end of a Roman road running from Lincoln and Horncastle. Frequent finds of Romano-British pottery and coins have been made, and Romano-British burials are recorded, again only a short way to the west and north-west, on the site of the adjacent school and in the vicinity of Cock Hill House.

## 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 stripping for the access road 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 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

# 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 <u>Stage 2</u>

- 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 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 Lincolnshire County Council Archaeology Section; East Lindsey 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 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

13.1 Curatorial responsibility for the archaeological work undertaken on the site lies with the Lincolnshire County Council Archaeology Section. They will be given seven days notice in writing before the commencement of the project.

# 14 VARIATIONS

14.1 Variations to the proposed scheme of works will only be made following written confirmation of acceptance from the archaeological curator.

#### 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.

Task

Body to be undertaking the work

Conservation

Conservation Laboratory, City and County Museum, Lincoln

Pottery Analysis

Prehistoric - Trent & Peak Archaeological Unit

Roman - B Precious, Independent Specialist

Anglo-Saxon - J Young, Independent Specialist

Medieval and later - Gary 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

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.
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### 19 **BIBLIOGRAPHY**

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# CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

No.	Description	Interpretation
001	Firm mid brown clayey silt, 0.3m deep	Topsoil
002	Firm mid reddish brown silty clay, >1m thick	Natural deposit
003	Circular brick structure, 1.5m diameter by 1.2m deep	Well/cistern

# **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.

**Bronze Age** 

A period characterised by the introduction of bronze into the country for tools, between 2250 and 800 BC.

Burh

Old English (Saxon) term for a fortified town or dwelling.

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, *e.g.*(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.

Mesolithic

The 'Middle Stone Age' period, part of the prehistoric era, dating from approximately 8200-4500 BC.

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<sup>st</sup> 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.

# 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.

2001.140

Lincolnshire City and County Council Museum Accession Number:

Archaeological Project Services Site Code: BWR 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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