ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF DURING DEVELOPMENT ON LAND AT CHURCH FARM, BARFF ROAD, POTTERHANWORTH, LINCOLNSHIRE

(PBRA99)

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# ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF DURING DEVELOPMENT ON LAND AT CHURCH FARM, BARFF ROAD, POTTERHANWORTH, LINCOLNSHIRE (PBRA99)

Work Undertaken For Stonewell Homes

May 2002

Report Compiled by James Snee Bsc (Hons)

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# CONTENTS

# List of Figures

# List of Plates

1.	Summary
2.	Introduction
	<ul><li>2.1 Definition of a Watching brief</li></ul>
	2.3 Topography and Geology
	2.4 Archaeological Setting
3.	Aims
4.	Method
5.	Results
6.	Discussion
7.	Conclusions
8.	Acknowledgements
9.	Bibliography
10.	Abbreviations
Apper	ndices
1	Specification for Archaeological Watching Brief
2 3	Context Descriptions The Finds
4	Glossary
5	The Archive

1	ist	of	Fig	וויס	res
_	TOF	UL		-	

Plate 8

Figure 1	General location plan.
Figure 2	Site location and archaeological setting.
Figure 3	Plan of the development area.
Figure 4	Plan of plot 1 showing location of sections and features.
Figure 5	Plan of plot 2 showing location of sections and features.
Figure 6	Plan of plot 4 showing location of sections and features.
Figure 7	Sections 1, 3 & 5.
Figure 8	Section 2.
Figure 9	Section 4.
Figure 10	Section 6 & 9.
Figure 11	Sections 7 & 8.
Figure 12	Section 10 & 11.
Figure 13	Section 12 & 13.
Figure 14	The pottery recovered from pit fill (035).
List of Plates	
Plate 1	General view of the site during the excavation for plot 6, looking west.
Plate 2	Section through medieval pit (046), looking northeast.
Plate 3	General view of undated pit (008), looking south.
Plate 4	Section through undated pit (015 & 018), looking west.
Plate 5	General view showing section of undated ditch/channel (062), looking southwest.
Plate 6	Section through undated ditch/channel (066), looking south.
Plate 7	General view showing section through undated ditch/channel (068), looking northeast.

Section through modern pit (026), looking west.

#### 1. SUMMARY

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken during development at Church Farm, Barff Road, Potterhanworth, Lincolnshire (TF 0583 6610). The area contains known archaeological remains dating from the prehistoric through to the post-medieval period.

The aim of the watching brief was to record and interpret the archaeological features exposed during the excavation of the foundation trenches and other areas of ground disturbance.

During the groundworks a number of medieval refuse pits were revealed, and a medieval clay extraction pit associated with pottery manufacture. In addition undated pits and three undated boundary ditches or drainage channels were recorded, sealed below layers of post-medieval makeup and a modern levelling deposit.

Finds of medieval and later pottery, brick, tile and bone were recovered from the site. The medieval pottery including kiln wasters of Potterhanworth type, including the first fragments of jug wasters to be recovered from the village. This discovery has important implications for the identification of Potterhanworth ware from other parts of the region, and also confirms that the range of forms produced in the village was greater than previous evidence indicated.

# 2. INTRODUCTION

#### 2.1 Definition of a Watching Brief

A 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 or site on land or underwater, where there is a possibility that archaeological deposits may be disturbed or destroyed' (IFA 1997).

# 2.2 Planning Background

Between the 23<sup>rd</sup> November 1999 and 9<sup>th</sup> November 2000 an archaeological watching brief was undertaken during groundworks associated with the erection of six dwellings at Church Farm, Barff Road, Potterhanworth, Lincolnshire.

A planning application (N/49/297/98) was submitted to North Kesteven District Council for a residential development including the construction of six dwellings. Permission was granted subject to a condition requiring an archaeological watching brief during groundworks.

Archaeological Project Services was commissioned by Mr Paul Goy of Stonewell Homes to undertake the archaeological watching brief. The investigation was carried out in accordance with a specification (Appendix 1) produced by APS and approved by the Heritage Officer for North Kesteven District Council.

# 2.3 Topography and Geology

Potterhanworth is situated 9km southeast of Lincoln and 21km north of Sleaford, in the administrative district of North Kesteven. The site is on the eastern side of the villlage, on the south side of Barff Road, at approximately 15m OD. It is centred on National Grid Reference TF 0583 6610.

Local soils are Beccles 1 Association typical stagnogley soils developed on chalky till (Hodge *et al.* 1984, 117). Beneath drift deposits of till and river sand and gravel there is a solid geology of Jurassic Cornbrash and Kellaways sand and clays (BGS 1973).

# 2.4 Archaeological Setting

Although no evidence of prehistoric activity has been discovered within the village of Potterhanworth itself, occasional finds of Neolithic and Bronze Age artefacts from elsewhere in the parish, and the presence of prehistoric barrows southeast of the village, suggest that prehistoric populations were present in the area.

Finds of Romano-British pottery and coins have been made in and around the village, and the Car Dyke, a Roman waterway, is located approximately 1km to the east. However no direct evidence of Roman settlement has yet been found in the area.

To date, no evidence of Saxon settlement has been recovered from the area, although the place-name evidence suggests that the origin for the settlement dates to this period. The name is first recorded in the Domesday survey of 1086 as *Haneworde* and is derived from the Old English personal name *Hana* and the Old English word *worth* meaning an enclosed settlement. The prefix Potter was added later (first recorded in 1327) and is probably a reference to pottery production in the village (Cameron 1998).

The Domesday survey records that Potterhanworth was owned by Walter of Aincourt and settled by some of his men-at-arms. It contained a church and priest, agricultural land, meadow, woodland pasture and approximately 47 households (Morris 1984).

Earthworks, believed to be remains of medieval structures, have been identified in fields on the southeast edge of the modern village. The village church, St Andrew's, contains elements dated to the 13<sup>th</sup> century, although it was substantially rebuilt in the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries (Pevsner & Harris 1989).

During the medieval period Potterhanworth emerged as the centre of a sizeable pottery industry. Quantities of medieval pottery have been recovered from the village and suggest that the kilns may have been located along Barff Road (Healey 1974 & 1988). The fabric of these pots is usually shell-gritted with grey, buff or light brown surface. Local supplies of limestone were probably used for the extraction of fossilised used as temper. Known forms include cooking pots, bowls, pancheons, pipkins, jugs and storage jars that were probably produced between 1200 and 1450 (Healey 1974).

It was probably during this period that Potterhanworth village was at its greatest extent, in the post-medieval period the population seems to have decreased and in the 1563 Diocesan Return the parish is recorded as having 45 households (Hodgett 1975). Population decline occurred throughout the rural areas of North Kesteven and Lindsey in the 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> century, mainly as a result of changes in the agricultural economy, particularly increased use of enclosed pasture (Holmes 1980).

# 3. AIMS

The aim of the watching brief, as set out in the project specification (Appendix 1), was to record and interpret the archaeological features exposed during the excavation of the foundation trenches and other areas of ground disturbance.

#### 4. METHOD

The footing trenches were excavated by a machine with a toothed bucket, to a maximum depth of 1.3m. The sides of the trenches were inspected and hand cleaned at close intervals. The depth and thickness of each deposit was measured from the ground

surface. Each deposit or feature was allocated a unique reference number (Context Number) with an individual written description. Sections were drawn at a scale of 1:10 and annotated sketch plans were produced. A photographic record was compiled, depicting the setting of the site and the nature of recorded features and deposits. The spoil from the excavations was searched using a trowel to recover finds.

## 5. RESULTS

The records of deposits excavated during development and the finds that were recovered were examined. A list of contexts appears as Appendix 2. Phasing was assigned based on the nature of the deposits and their stratigraphic relationships.

Phase 1 Natural Deposits
Phase 2 Medieval Deposits
Phase 3 Undated Deposits
Phase 4 Post-medieval and Later
Deposits

## 5.1 Phase 1: Natural Deposits

The earliest deposit encountered was a layer of mid yellowish reddish brown clayey sandy limestone brash (012 & 027) (Figures 7 & 10). This was overlain by an approximately 0.5m thick series of inter-bedded layers of brownish yellow and light blue clay (004, 024 & 010), light grey to reddish brown clayey sand (009, 011, 021, 022, 023, 027, 028 & 029), grey to brownish yellow silty sand (037, 049 & 059), grey to reddish brown sand (023, 063 & 069), brownish yellow sandy silt (057), grey to brownish red clayey silt (014 & 048) and grey silty clay (064) (Figures 7 to 13).

In the area of pit (046) (see below) the natural had been transformed to a firm, orange sandy deposit (047) (Figure 11).

# 5.2 Phase 2: Medieval Deposits

In the southeast corner of the site (Figure 3 & 6), the excavation of the footing for Plot 4 revealed the northwest side of a concave sided pit (036) (Figure 11) which extended beyond the limits of the groundworks. It contained mixed yellowish brown silt and fine sand (035), from which sherds of 13<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> century Potterhanworth pottery were recovered, including wasters and near complete vessels. Sealing this was a 0.5m thick layer of yellowish brown sandy silt (034). From this, finds of 13<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> century pottery were recovered.

Cutting layer (034) and the edge of (036), was pit (038) (Figure 11), c. 3m wide with steep sloping sides and filled with 0.35m of mixed yellowish brown silt and sand (040) overlain by 0.5m of firm, mid brown sandy silt (039) containing sherds of 13<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> century pottery.

Immediately to the northwest of (038) (Figure 6), natural sandy silt (048) was cut by a sub-circular pit (046) (Figure 11), c. 1m in diameter with near vertical sides and filled with 0.26m of dark brown sandy silt (042) overlain by 0.12m of mid brown sandy silt (041). Both of these fills contained sherds of 13<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> century pottery.

Further northwest (Figure 6), and cutting natural sand and silt (037) was an irregular pit or hollow (044), 80mm deep, with sloping sides and an uneven rounded base. It was filled with brown sandy silt (043), with moderate ash and occasional charcoal. Sherds of 13<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> century domestic pottery were recovered from this deposit.

Adjacent to pit (044) (Figure 6) was a 0.64m wide and 0.34m deep pit (052), with sloping sides and a rounded base and filled with mixed greyish brown silty sand. Recovered from this were a number of sherds of 13<sup>th</sup> to

14th century pottery.

# 5.3 Phase 3: Undated Deposits

In the north of the site (Plot 6) (Figure 3) was a possibly circular pond (005), 0.65m deep and filled with greyish brown clayey silt (003) overlain by loose mid brownish red clayey silt (002).

In the southwest corner of the site (Figure 3), groundworks associated with Plot 2, revealed a sub-rectangular pit (008) (Figure 5), 4.04m long and 0.40m deep, with steep sides and a flattish base (Figure 8). It was filled with brownish grey clayey sandy silt (007).

Located to the south of pit (008) (Figure 5) was the northern edge of a probable pit cut (015), with concave sides and a flat base (Figure 9), filled with mid brown clayey sandy silt (016). A possible recut to this feature (018), contained a loose, light brown sandy silt (017).

In this part of the site, natural clayey silt (010) was overlain by 0.93m of mottled yellow/red brown and grey silty sand (013) subsoil (Figure 7).

Cutting medieval pit fill (039) in Plot 4 (Figure 6) was a 0.4m wide and 0.18m deep pit (051) (Figure 11), with gently sloping sides and a rounded base, filled with firm, mid grey sandy silt (050).

In Plot 3 (Figure 3), natural sandy silt (057) was sealed by 0.3m of firm, mid yellowish brown sandy silt (056) (Figure 10).

In the western part of the site (Plot 1) (Figure 3) was a northeast-southwest oriented ditch/channel (062) (Figure 4), 1.40m wide and more than 0.45m deep with steep sides and filled with 0.17m of mid reddish brown sand (060) overlain by mid brownish yellow sand (061) (Figure 12).

To the west of (062) (Figure 4) was northeast-southwest oriented ditch/channel (066), 1.05m wide and 0.50m deep, with steep and under cut sides and a rounded base (Figure 12). It was filled with mottled brown silty sand (065).

A third northeast-southwest oriented ditch/channel (068) was identified to the north of (066) (Figure 4). Measuring 1.70m wide and 0.60m deep, it had steep sides and was filled with red-brown sand (067) (Figure 13).

# 5.4 Phase 4: Post-medieval and Later Deposits

In Plot 5 (Figure 3) a modern pit (026) (Figure 10), 0.7m wide and 0.95m deep with vertical sides contained a grey/black clayey sand fill (026).

Sealing undated fill (050) and medieval fills (041, 043 & 045) was a 0.5m thick buried soil layer (033) comprising compacted, dark brown silt with occasional brick fragments (Figure 11).

Overlying subsoil (056) (Figure 10) was a make up deposit of light-mid grey and light brownish yellow ash and silt (055), sealed by a firm, mixed mid brown and yellowish brown sandy silt (053).

Covering the entire site was layer of silt, sand and rubble (001, 006, 019, 032, 053 & 058).

# 6. DISCUSSION

The earliest deposits revealed (Phase 1) were the upper layers of Jurassic Cornbrash overlain by drift deposits and till and river sand and gravel.

A number of medieval (Phase 2) features

were recorded during the investigation. Pits (038, 046 & 052) were probably for refuse disposal. Pit (036) however, significantly larger and was probably a clay extraction pit associated with the kilns located in the village. The fills of this feature contained a quantity of kiln wasters and fragments of kiln furniture, suggesting that manufacture was conducted close to the site. The other pits had moderate to low quantities of Potterhanworth pottery amongst sherds of other types, perhaps suggesting a more domestic origin for the fills. Pit (044) contained an ashy fill with a quantity of jug sherds which may be wasters. If so, these represent the first evidence of the production of this type of vessel at Potterhanworth. The pit itself may represent a refuse pit for the pottery makers.

The undated (Phase 3) features included a pond (005) and rectangular pit (008) which were probably post-medieval, as was pit (051). The ditches or channels (062, 066 & 068) may have been drains or boundaries. Pit (015 & 018) was probably another clay extraction pit, although no pottery was recovered from its fills, perhaps suggesting a location slightly further away from the kiln sites themselves.

The post-medieval and later deposits (Phase 4) were mainly makeup deposits sealed below a modern levelling deposit.

# 7. CONCLUSION

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken during development at Church Farm, Barff Road, Potterhanworth, Lincolnshire. The site lies within an area of known archaeological remains dating from the prehistoric through to the post-medieval period.

During the groundworks a number of

medieval refuse pits and a medieval clay extraction pit associated with pottery manufacture were revealed. In addition undated pits and three undated boundary ditches or drainage channels, were recorded, sealed below layers of post-medieval makeup and a modern levelling deposit.

Finds of medieval and later pottery, brick and tile and bone were recovered from the site. Among the medieval pottery were kiln wasters of Potterhanworth type, including the first fragments of jug wasters to be recovered from the village. This discovery has important implications for the identification of Potterhanworth ware from other parts of the region, and also confirms that the range of forms produced in the village was greater than previous evidence indicated.

#### 8. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeological Project Services would like to acknowledge the assistance of Mr Paul Goy of Stonewell Homes who commissioned the fieldwork and post-excavation analysis. The work was coordinated by Gary Taylor and this report was edited by Dale Trimble and Tom Lane. Joanna Hambley, the Heritage Officer for North Kesteven District Council, kindly permitted examination of the relevant parish files.

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#### 10. ABBREVIATIONS

APS Archaeological Project Services

BGS British Geological Survey

IFA Institute of Field Archaeologists



Figure 1 General Location Plan.

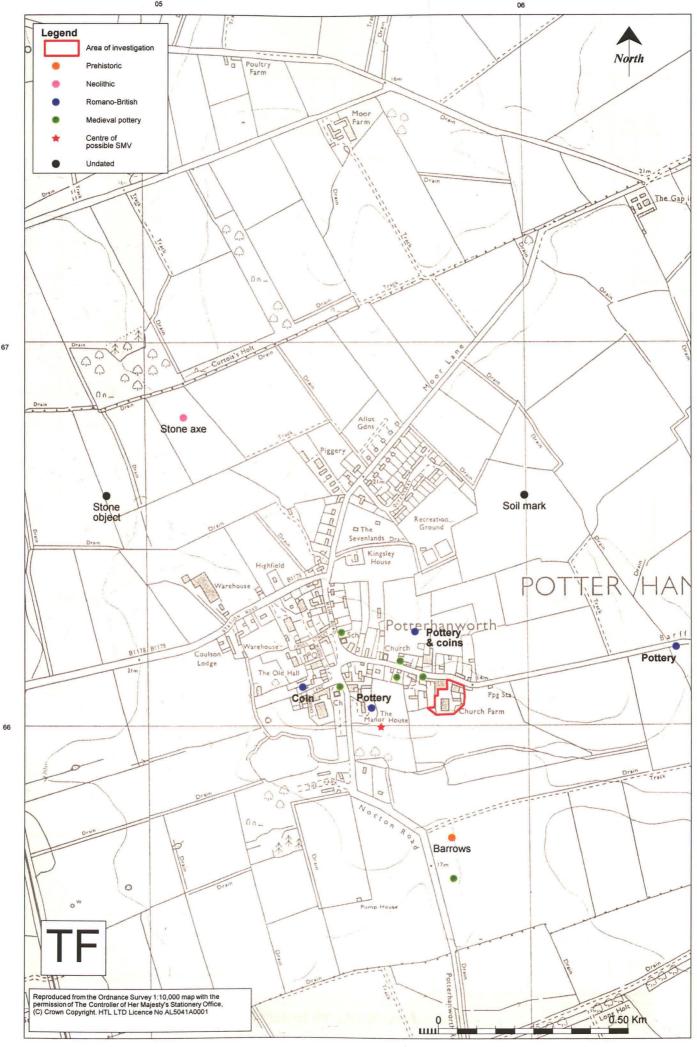


Figure 2 Location plan and archaeological setting

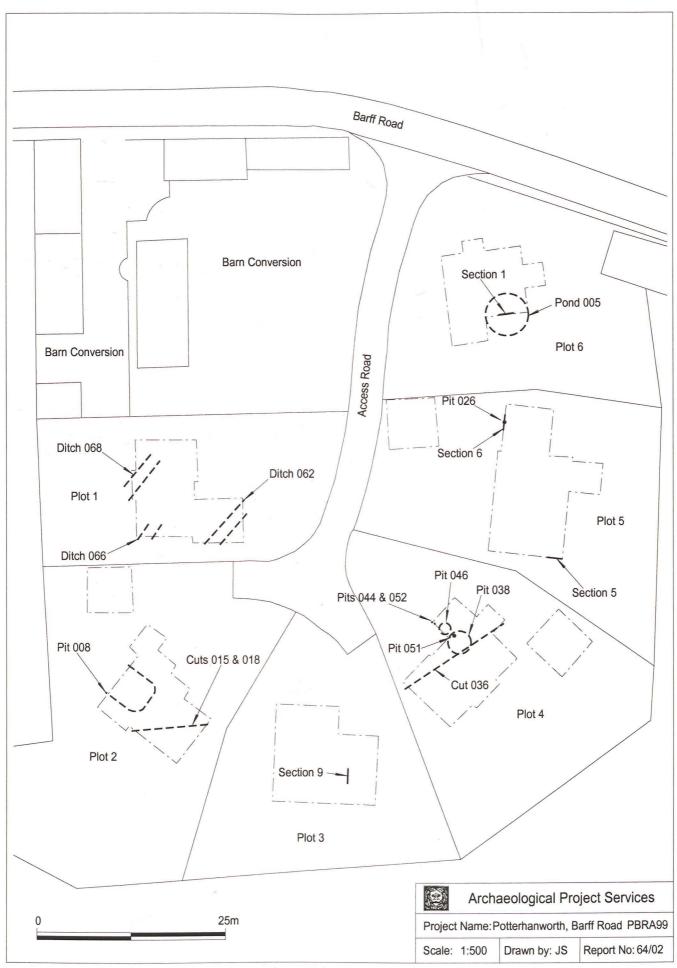


Figure 3 Plan of the Development Area.

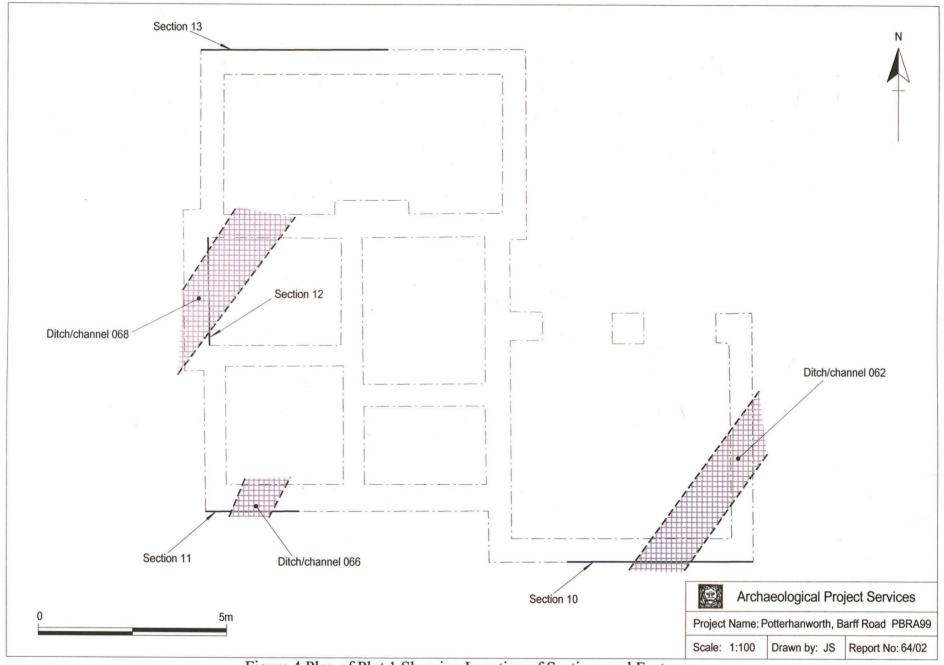


Figure 4 Plan of Plot 1 Showing Location of Sections and Features.



Figure 5 Plan of Plot 2 Showing Location of Sections and Features.

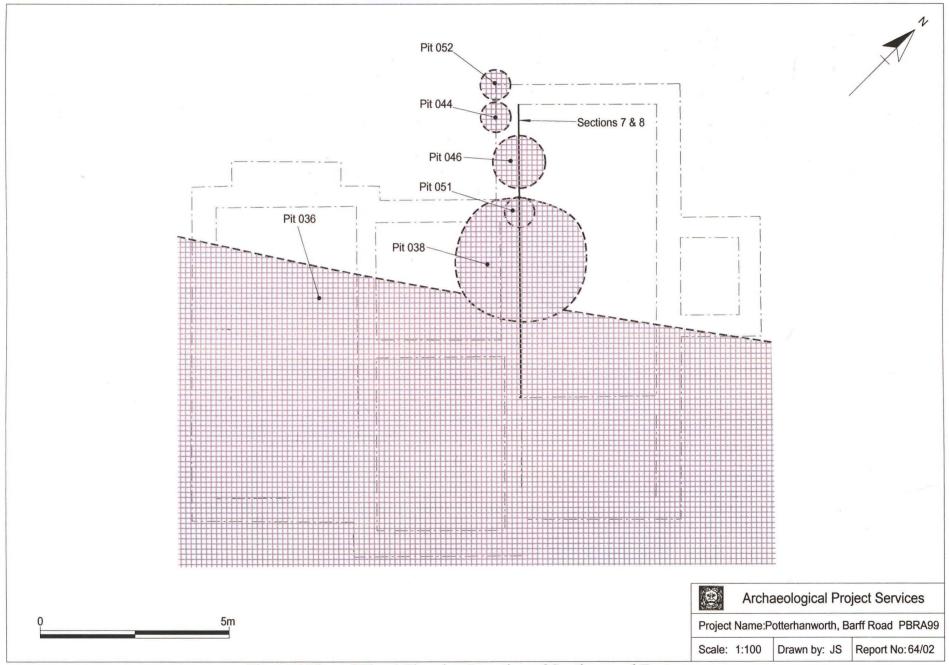


Figure 6 Plan of Plot 4 Showing Location of Sections and Features.

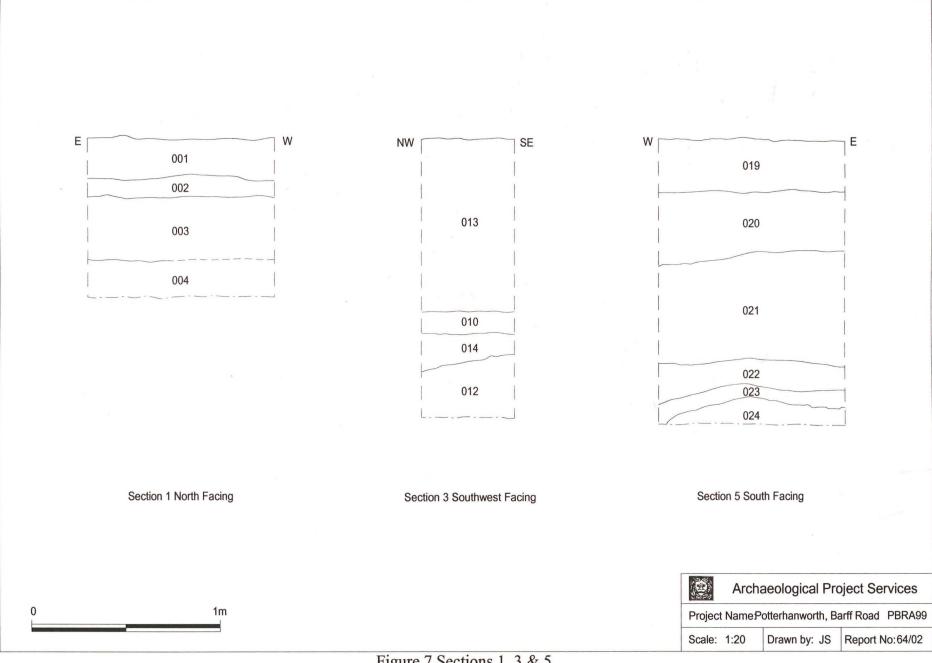


Figure 7 Sections 1, 3 & 5.

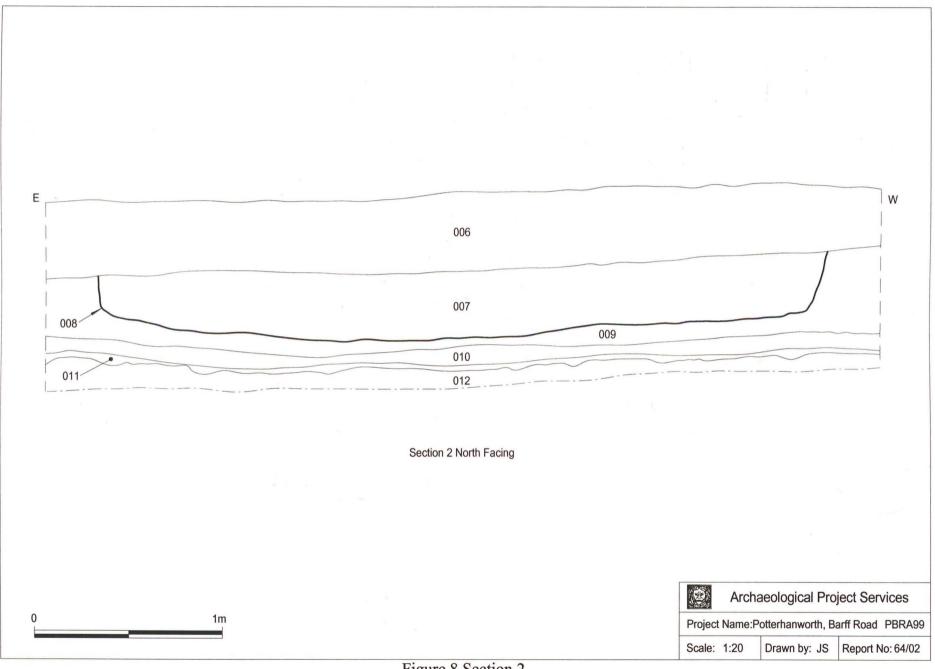
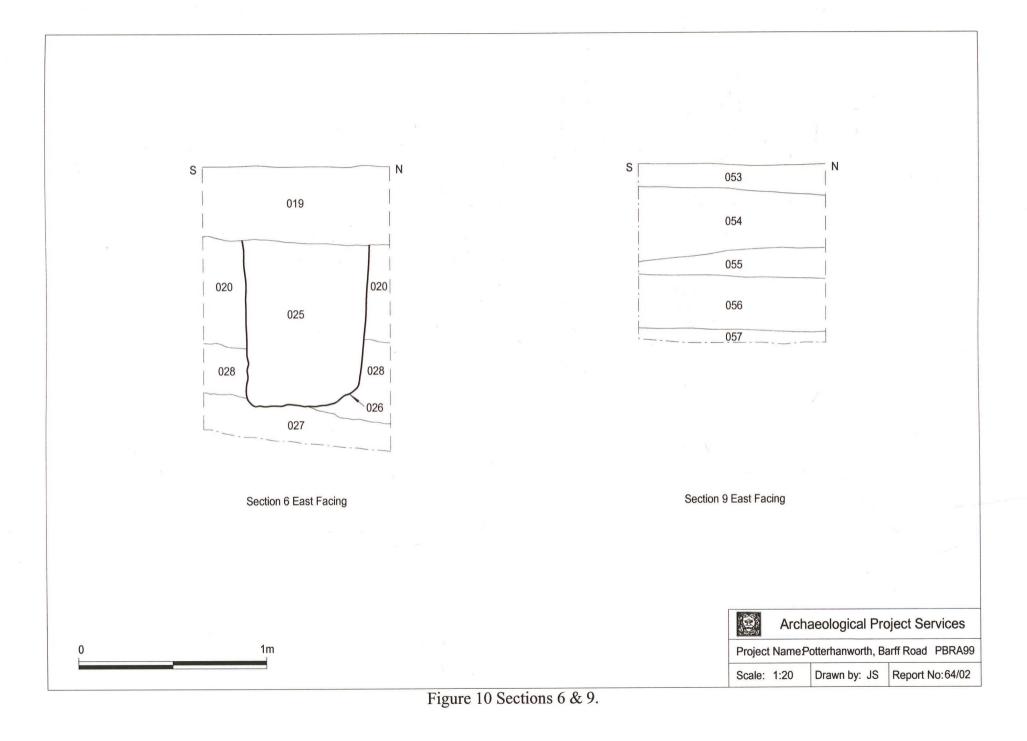


Figure 8 Section 2.



Figure 9 Section 4.



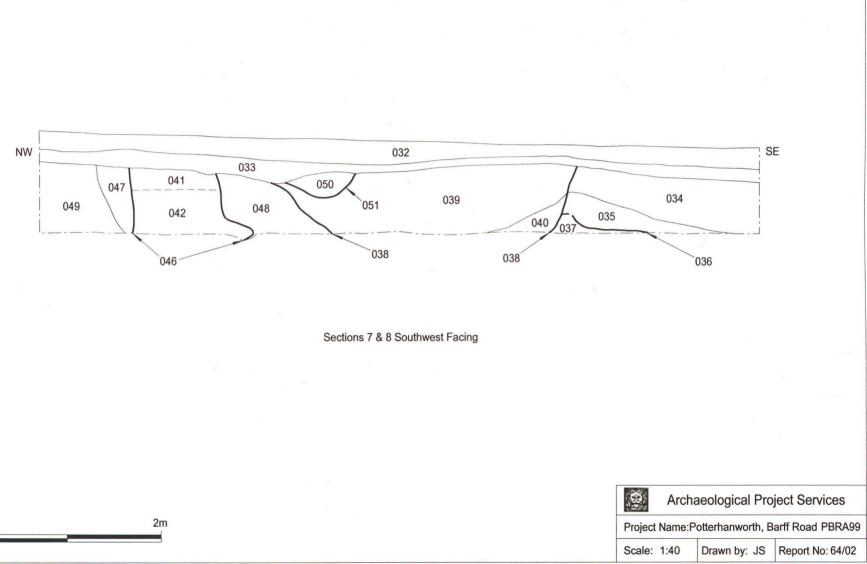


Figure 11 Sections 7 & 8.

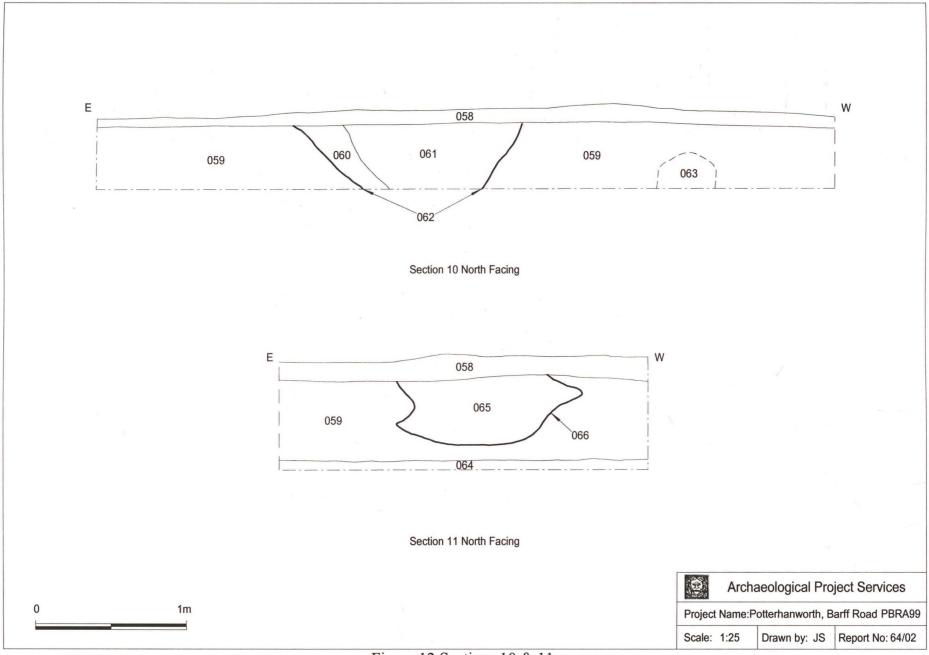


Figure 12 Sections 10 & 11.

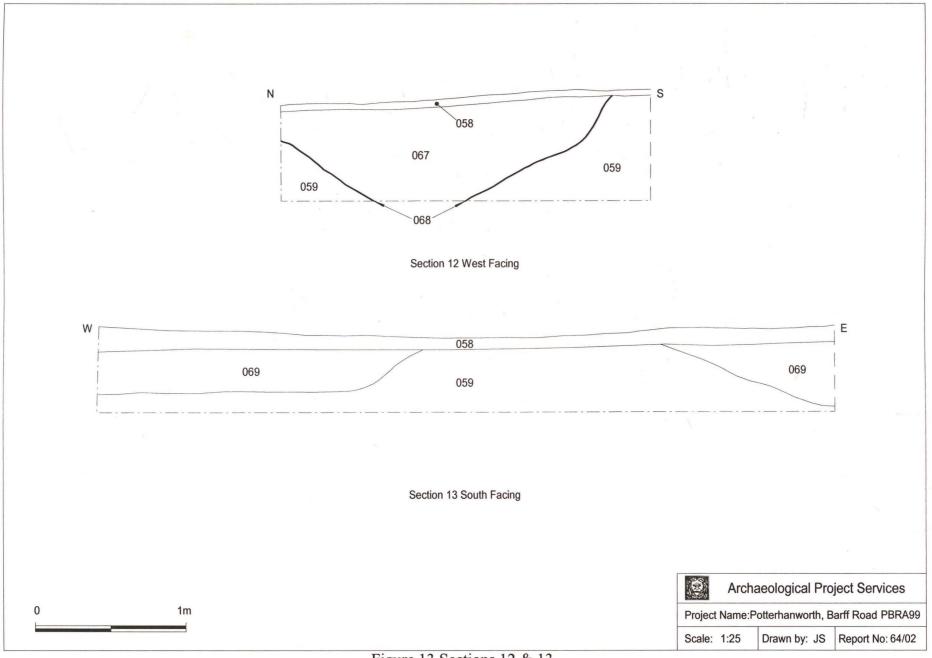


Figure 13 Sections 12 & 13.

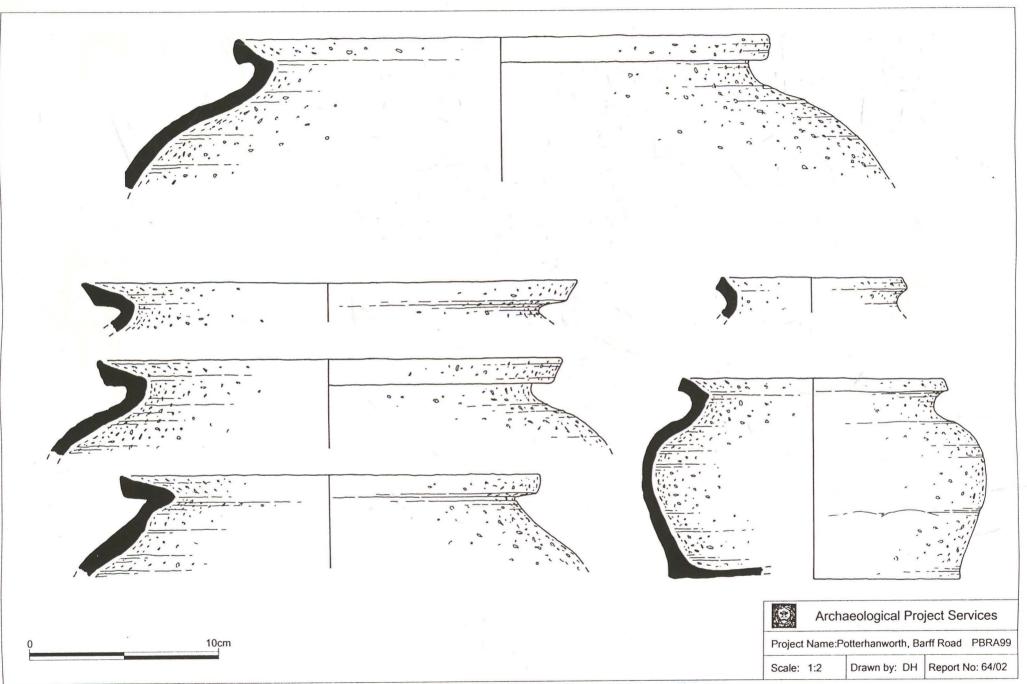


Figure 14 The Pottery Recovered from Pit Fill (035).



Plate 1 General view of the site during the excavation for plot 6, looking west.



Plate 2 Section through medieval pit (046), looking northeast.



Plate 3 General view of undated pit (008), looking south.



Plate 4 Section through undated pit (015 & 018), looking west.



Plate 5 General view showing section of undated ditch/channel (062), looking southwest.



Plate 7 General view showing section through undated ditch/channel (068), looking northeast.



Plate 6 Section through undated ditch/channel (066), looking south.



Plate 8 Section through modern pit (026), looking west.

# Appendix 1

# LAND AT BARFF ROAD POTTERHANWORTH LINCOLNSHIRE SPECIFICATION FOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

#### 1 SUMMARY

- 1.1 A watching brief is required during development at Church Farm, Barff Road, Potterhanworth, Lincolnshire.
- 1.2 The development site is located in area identified as a major medieval pottery industry.

  Previous archaeological work has revealed evidence of kiln sites and recovered quantities of medieval pottery from along Barff Road.
- 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 development on land at Church Farm, Barff Road, Potterhanworth. The site is located at national grid reference TF 0583 6610.
- 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 Potterhanworth is situated 9km southeast of Lincoln and 21km north of Sleaford in the administrative district of North Kesteven. The site is on the eastern side of the village, on the south side of Barff Road at national grid reference TF 0583 6610. The site is located in a farmyard.

#### 4 PLANNING BACKGROUND

4.1 A planning application (N/49/297/98) was submitted to North Kesteven District Council for residential development. The application is subject to a condition requiring the implementation of an archaeological watching brief during the groundworks associated with the development.

#### 5 SOILS AND TOPOGRAPHY

5.1 The site lies in a farmyard on the eastern side of the village at approximately 15m OD. Local soils are the Beccles 1 Association typical stagnogley soils developed on chalky till (Hodge *et al.* 1984, 117). Beneath drift deposits of till and river sand and gravel there is a solid geology of Jurassic Cornbrash and Kellaways sand and clays.

#### 6 THE ARCHAEOLOGY

6.1 The site is located in an area where archaeological finds dating from the Romano-British and medieval periods have been recovered. Mentioned in the Domesday Survey of 1086,

Potterhanworth is recorded as containing a church. The present church dates to the 13th century. During the medieval period Potterhanworth became the centre of a major pottery industry.

- 6.2 Large quantities of medieval pottery have been recovered from Potterhanworth and kiln sites have been identified along Barff Road. A recent watching brief adjacent to Joiners Yard, Barff Road uncovered evidence for a medieval kiln, and revealed large amounts of pottery (Archaeological Project Services 1998).
- 6.2 It is highly likely that the groundworks will disturb medieval archaeological deposits associated with the pottery industry and that medieval pottery will be recovered.

#### 7 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- 7.1 The aims of the watching brief will be:
  - 7.1.1 To record and interpret the archaeological features exposed during the excavation of the foundation trenches and other areas of ground disturbance.
- 7.2 The objectives of the watching brief will be to:
  - 7.2.1 Determine the form and function of the archaeological features encountered;
  - 7.2.2 Determine the spatial arrangement of the archaeological features encountered;
  - 7.2.3 As far as practicable, recover dating evidence from the archaeological features, and
  - 7.2.4 Establish the sequence of the archaeological remains present on the site.

## 8 SITE OPERATIONS

## 8.1 General considerations

- 8.1.1 All work will be undertaken following statutory Health and Safety requirements in operation at the time of the watching brief.
- 8.1.2 The work will be undertaken according to the relevant codes of practise issued by the Institute of Field Archaeologists (IFA), under the management of a Member of the institute (MIFA). *Archaeological Project Services* is IFA registered organisation no. 21.
- 8.1.3 Any and all artefacts found during the investigation and thought to be 'treasure', as defined by the Treasure Act 1996, will be removed from site to a secure store and promptly reported to the appropriate coroner's office.

#### 8.2 Methodology

- 8.2.1 The watching brief will be undertaken during the ground works phase of development, and includes the archaeological monitoring of all phases of soil movement.
- 8.2.2 Stripped areas and trench sections will be observed regularly to identify and record archaeological features that are exposed and to record changes in the geological conditions. The section drawings of the trenches will be recorded at a scale of 1:10. Should features be recorded in plan these will be drawn at a scale of 1:20. Written descriptions detailing the nature of the deposits, features and fills encountered will be compiled on Archaeological Project Services pro-forma record sheets.
- 8.2.3 Any finds recovered will be bagged and labelled for later analysis.
- 8.2.4 Throughout the watching brief a photographic record will be compiled. The photographic record will consist of:

- 8.2.4.1 The site during work to show specific stages, and the layout of the archaeology within the trench.
- 8.2.4.2 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 Stage 2

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

#### 9.3 Stage 3

- 9.3.1 On completion of stage 2, a report detailing the findings of the watching brief will be prepared.
- 9.3.2 This will consist of:
  - 9.3.2.1 A non-technical summary of the results of the investigation.
  - 9.3.2.2 A description of the archaeological setting of the watching brief.
  - 9.3.2.3 Description of the topography of the site.
  - 9.3.2.4 Description of the methodologies used during the watching brief.
  - 9.3.2.5 A text describing the findings of the watching brief.
  - 9.3.2.6 A consideration of the local, regional and national context of the watching brief findings.
  - 9.3.2.7 Plans of the archaeological features exposed. If a sequence of archaeological deposits is encountered, separate plans for each phase will be produced.
  - 9.3.2.8 Sections of the archaeological features.
  - 9.3.2.9 Interpretation of the archaeological features exposed, and their chronology and setting within the surrounding landscape.
  - 9.3.2.10 Specialist reports on the finds from the site.

9.3.2.11 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 North Kesteven Heritage Officer; North Kesteven District Council Planning Department; and to the County Council Archaeological Sites and Monuments Record.

## 11 ARCHIVE

11.1 The documentation and records generated during the watching brief will be sorted and ordered into the format acceptable to the City and County Museum, Lincoln. This will be undertaken following the requirements of the document titled *Conditions for the Acceptance of Project Archives* for long term storage and curation.

#### 12 PUBLICATION

12.1 A report of the findings of the watching brief will be 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 North Kesteven Heritage Officer. 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 personday) 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 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.

**Task** 

Body to be undertaking the work

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 - H Healey, Independent Archaeologist

Non-pottery Artefacts

J Cowgill, Independent Specialist

**Animal Bones** 

Environmental Archaeology Consultancy

Environmental Analysis

J Rackham, Independent Specialist

Human Remains Analysis

R Gowland, Independent Specialist

#### 17 INSURANCES

17.1 Archaeological Project Services, as part of the Heritage Trust of Lincolnshire, maintains Employers Liability Insurance of £10,000,000, together with Public and Products Liability insurances, each with indemnity of £5,000,000. Copies of insurance documentation can be supplied on request.

#### 18 COPYRIGHT

- 18.1 Archaeological Project Services shall retain full copyright of any commissioned reports under the *Copyright, Designs and Patents Act* 1988 with all rights reserved; excepting that it hereby provides an exclusive licence to the client for the use of such documents by the client in all matters directly relating to the project as described in the Project Specification.
- 18.2 Licence will also be given to the archaeological curators to use the documentary archive for educational, public and research purposes.
- 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

Archaeological Project Services, 1998 Archaeological Watching Brief on land at Barff Road, Potterhanworth, Lincolnshire (PBR97), APS Report No. 27/98

Hodge, CAH, Burton, RGO, Corbett, WM, Evans, R, and Seale, RS, 1984 Soils and their use in Eastern England, Soil Survey of England and Wales 13

Context No.	Section	Description	Interpretation	
021	5	Soft, mottled grey-white, yellow orangey brown, 0.56m thick.	Natural.	
022	5	Soft, orangey brown clayey sand, 0.18m thick.	Natural.	
023	5	Soft, light yellowish reddish brown sand, <0.10m thick.	Natural.	
024	5	Compacted, light brownish yellow clay, up to 0.14m thick.	Natural.	
025	-~ .	Loose, dark grey/black clayey sand, with occasional angular limestone, CBM, coal, gravel and flints, 0.95m thick.	Fill of (026).	
026	-	Cut, 0.95m deep and 0.70m wide, near vertical sides and slightly rounded base.	Modern pit.	
027	6	Compacted, mid yellowish reddish brown clayey sand and limestone, >0.20m thick.	Natural.	
028	6	Soft, light yellowish brown clayey sand, with occasional rounded pebbles and wood fragments, 0.35m thick.	Subsoil.	
029	-	Soft, light grey clayey sand, with occasional gravel, up to 0.25m thick.	Subsoil.	
030	-	Loose, dark grey brown clayey sand with building debris, 2.2m thick.	Fill of (031).	
031	- 1	Cut, 5.5m wide and 2.2m deep, east-west oriented.	Modern cut.	
032	7 & 8	Firm, mid brown to mid greyish brown clayey silt and stone, with frequent large tarmac fragments, moderate brick fragments and occasional concrete, 0.28m thick.	Levelling deposit.	
033	7 & 8	Compacted, dark brown silt, with occasional small brick fragments and rounded stones, up to 0.5m thick.	Buried soil.	
034	7	Firm, mid yellowish brown sandy silt, with occasional small rounded stones, up to 0.5m thick.	Subsoil.	
035	7	Firm, mixed mid yellowish brown and light brownish yellow silt and fine sand, with occasional small - medium rounded stones, 0.35m thick.	Fill of (036).	
036	7	Cut, concave sides, only one side revealed.	Pit.	
037	7	Firm, light - mid reddish yellow/orange sand and silt, 0.3m thick.	Natural.	
038	7 & 8	Cut, c. 3m wide, steep sloping sides.	Pit.	
039	7 & 8	Firm, mid brown sandy silt, with occasional stones, o.5m thick.	Fill of (038).	
040	7	Firm, mixed mid yellowish brown and light brownish yellow silt and fine sand, with occasional small - medium rounded stones, 0.35m thick.	Fill of (038).	
041	8	Firm, mid brown sandy silt, with occasional small rounded stones, 0.12m thick.	Fill of (046).	

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# Appendix 2

# Context Summary

Context No.	Section	Description	Interpretation
001	1	Loose, dark greenish brown clayey silt, with frequent brick and concrete rubble, 0.2m thick.	Demolition layer.
002	1	Loose, mid brownish red clayey silt, occasional gravel, 0.1m thick.	Fill of (005).
003	1	Loose, dark greyish brown clayey silt, 0.4m thick.	Fill of (005).
004	1	Loose, light brownish yellow clay, >0.2m thick.	Natural.
005	1	Circular cut feature, 0.65m deep, exposed in section.	Pond.
006	2,4	compact, mid brownish grey sandy silt, with frequent rounded pebbles, occasional angular stones, flints and charcoal fragments, 0.42m thick.	Subsoil.
007	2	Loose, mid brownish grey clayey sandy silt, with frequent rounded stones, occasional flint gravel and charcoal fragments, 0.40m deep.	Fill of (008).
800	2	Sub-rectangular cut, 4.04m wide x 0.40m deep, steep sides and flattish base.	Pit.
009	2	Loose, light greyish yellow clayey sand, 0.58m thick.	Natural.
010	2	Compact/firm, light blue clay, up to 0.11m thick.	Natural.
011	2	Loose, reddish brown, iron pan clayey sand, 0.06m thick.	Iron pan layer.
012	2	Loose, dark reddish brown, clayey sandy limestone brash, >0.58m thick.	Natural.
013	3	Loose, mottled yellow/red brown and grey silty sand, 0.93m thick.	Natural.
014	3	Firm, brownish red clayey silt, up to 0.21m thick.	Natural.
015	4	Linear cut, 1.4m wide and 60m deep, concave sides and flat base, oriented east-west.	Probable pit.
016	4	Loose, mid brown clayey sandy silt, with occasional rounded pebbles and charcoal fragments, 0.18m thick.	Fill of (015).
017	4	Loose, light brown sandy silt, frequent rounded pebbles and occasional flint gravel, 0.90m thick.	Fill of (018).
018	4	Cut, gradual sloping sides and flat base, 5.3m wide x 0.90m deep.	Probable pit.
019	5	Compacted, dark grey sandy silt, with frequent CBM and building rubble, occasional rounded stones, flint gravel and coal fragments, up to 0.90m thick.	Made up ground.
020	5	Loose, light greyish brown sandy silt, occasional angular stones, rounded pebbles and charcoal fragments, up to 0.38m thick.	Subsoil.

Context No.	Section	Description	Interpretation	
042	8	Soft, dark brown sandy silt, with occasional small rounded stones and patches of orange sand, 0.26m thick.	Fill of (046).	
043	-	Firm, mid brown sandy silt, with moderate ash, occasional charcoal, 80mm.	Fill of (044).	
044	• <u>-</u>	Cut, >0.26m wide and 80mm deep, sloping sides and uneven rounded base.	Pit/hollow.	
045	•	Firm, mixed mid greyish brown, brown and yellowish brown silty sand, with occasional charcoal flecks, shell, small stones and fired clay, 0.34m thick.	Fill of (052).	
046	8	Sub-circular cut, 0.5m wide and 0.36m deep, near vertical sides.	Pit.	
047	8	Firm, orange sand, with occasional stone, 0.37m thick.	Transformed natural.	
048	8	Firm, yellow and light grey slightly clayey sandy silt, 0.33m thick.	Natural.	
049	8	Firm, light grey/yellow silty sand, >0.36m thick.	Natural.	
050	8	Firm, mid grey sandy silt, with some ash, charcoal and small stones.	Fill of (051).	
051	8	Cut, 0.4m wide and 0.18m deep, gently sloping sides and a rounded base.	Pit.	
052	-	Cut, 0.64m wide and 0.34m deep, sloping sides and rounded base.	Pit.	
053	9	Firm, mixed mid brown and yellow sandy silt, with frequent small-medium stones, occasional brick and concrete fragments, 0.16m thick.	Levelling deposit.	
054	9	Firm, mixed mid brown and mid yellowish brown sandy silt, with occasional charcoal, coal and small rounded stones, 0.38m thick.	Makeup deposit.	
055	9	Soft, light-mid grey and light brownish yellow ash and silt, with occasional small-medium rounded stones and charcoal/coal.	Makeup deposit.	
056	9	Firm, mid yellowish brown sandy silt, with occasional sub-angular stones, 0.3m thick.	Subsoil.	
057	9	Firm, mid brownish yellow slightly sandy silt, with occasional small-medium stones.	Natural.	
058	10, 11, 12 & 13	Loose brick, stone and concrete rubble, up to 0.1m thick.	Levelling deposit.	
059	10, 11, 12 & 13	Friable, mottled light grey to light brownish yellow silty sand, 0.53m thick.	Natural.	
060	10	Soft, mid reddish brown sand, with occasional small pebbles, 0.17m thick.	Fill of (062).	
061	10	Soft, mid brownish yellow mottled with light grey sand, >0.45m thick.	Fill of (062).	

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Context No.	Section	Description	Interpretation
062	10	Linear cut, 1.40m wide and >0.45m deep, with steep sloping sides, oriented northeast-southwest.	Ditch/channel.
063	10	Soft, light grey sand, 0.3m thick.	Natural lens.
064	11	Stiff dark grey silty clay, up to 100mm thick.	Natural.
065	. 11	Soft, mid brown silty sand with light yellowish brown mottles, moderate pebbles, up to 0.50m thick.	Fill of (066).
066	11	Linear cut, 1.05m wide and 0.50m deep, steep and undercut sides and a rounded base, oriented northeast-southwest.	Ditch/channel.
067	12	Soft, mid red-brown sand, with frequent pebbles, 0.60m thick.	Fill of (068).
068	12	Linear cut, 1.70m wide and 0.60m deep, steep sides, northeast-southwest.	Ditch/channel
069	13	Soft, mid reddish brown sand Frequent pebbles, sub-angular and sub-rounded flints, 0.40m thick.	Natural lenses.

# Appendix 3

#### THE FINDS

Paul Cope-Faulkner, Rachael Hall, Hilary Healey and Gary Taylor

Recording of the pottery was undertaken with reference to guidelines prepared by the Medieval Pottery Research Group (Slowikowski *et al.* 2001) and the pottery was quantified using the chronology and coding system of the Lincolnshire ceramic type series. A total of 251 fragments of pottery weighing 3356g were recovered from 10 separate contexts. In addition to the pottery, a small quantity of other items, clay pipe, glass, tile, burnt clay and stone, comprising 9 items weighing a total of 128g, was retrieved. A small amount of faunal remains were also recovered.

#### Provenance

The material was recovered from pit fills (034), (035), (039), (041), (042), (043), & (045), subsoil deposit (020) and demolition and makeup deposits (001), (019), & (055).

Almost all of the medieval pottery is locally made Potterhanworth ware. By contrast, the later pottery has more diverse sources, including Ely, Nottingham and elsewhere in the Midlands.

#### Range

The range of material is detailed in the tables. Locally made medieval pottery fragments are the earliest items recovered and dominate the assemblage.

Table 1: Pottery

Context	Fabric Code	Description	No.	Wt (g)	Context Date
001	TOY	Toynton All Saints-type ware, ?cistern, 13 <sup>th</sup> -15 <sup>th</sup> century	2 (link)	285	13 <sup>th</sup> - 15 <sup>th</sup> century
019	POTT	Potterhanworth ware, 1 with limey encrustation internally, separate vessels, 13 <sup>th</sup> -14 <sup>th</sup> century	3	62	18 <sup>th</sup> century
		Nottingham salt-glazed stoneware, 18 <sup>th</sup> century	1	5	
		Midland Purple-type ware, 17th century	1	114	
	,	?West Norfolk (Ely) bichrome ware, 16 <sup>th</sup> - 17 <sup>th</sup> century	1	26	
		Potterhanworth jugs, at least 2 separate vessels, 13 <sup>th</sup> -14 <sup>th</sup> century	3	174	
	. *	Lincoln ware, 13 <sup>th</sup> - 14 <sup>th</sup> century	1	40	
		Glazed red earthenware, 17th- 18th century	1	3	
	TOY?	?Toynton All Saints-type ware, separate vessels, 13 <sup>th</sup> - 15 <sup>th</sup> century	3	43	
020	POTT	Potterhanworth ware, cooking pots/ bowls, 1 with grooved wavy line decoration; 2 sooted externally, 4 abraded, 13 <sup>th</sup> - 14 <sup>th</sup> century	86	349	13 <sup>th</sup> - 14 <sup>th</sup> century
	?LSW	?Lincoln ware, ?12 <sup>th</sup> - 14 <sup>th</sup> century	2	21	
034	POTT	Potterhanworth ware, cooking pots, min. 8	46	868	13 <sup>th</sup> - 14 <sup>th</sup>

		max. 38 separate vessels; sets of 4, 4 and 3 linking sherds			century
035	POTT	Potterhanworth ware, most of 1 small cooking pot, maximum 3 vessels	47	703	13 <sup>th</sup> - 14 <sup>th</sup> century
039	POTT	Potterhanworth ware, 13 <sup>th</sup> - 14 <sup>th</sup> century	6	183	13 <sup>th</sup> - 14 <sup>th</sup>
		unidentified	1	2	century
041	POTT	Potterhanworth ware	5	22	13 <sup>th</sup> - 14 <sup>th</sup> century
042	POTT	Potterhanworth ware	9	69	13 <sup>th</sup> - 14 <sup>th</sup> century
043	POTT	Potterhanworth ware	3	43	13 <sup>th</sup> - 14 <sup>th</sup>
	<i>y</i>	Potterhanworth jugs, sets of 2, 2, 2 and 3 linking sherds, maximum 23 separate vessels, includes very overfired wasters and other flawed sherds that are probably wasters, 13 <sup>th</sup> -14 <sup>th</sup> century	29	310	century
045	POTT	Potterhanworth ware	1	34	13 <sup>th</sup> - 14 <sup>th</sup> century

Contexts (020), (034) and (035) all contain large quantities of locally-made Potterhanworth shelly ware pottery of the 13<sup>th</sup>- 14<sup>th</sup> centuries. None of this material, 178 fragments, displays any evidence, such as sooting or encrustation, of having been used. Moreover, many of the fragments from (035) constitute a single vessel. Only one of the shelly ware sherds, a redeposited piece from (019), bears any sign of use, in the form of an internal limey encrustation.

Most significantly, a relatively large number of sherds from (043) are fragments of jugs. All are in the same basic fabric, tempered with moderate-abundant small sub-angular off-white quartz sand and rare-occasional small white angular shell. Several of the sherds in this context are wasters or sub-standard, with pieces very overfired to near-vitrification and others slightly deformed or with firing flaws. This evidence therefore appears to confirm the production of jugs at Potterhanworth in the medieval period, something which has been suspected but not previously proven (J Young, pers comm). The jugs are coated with a dark olive green glaze and several show decoration in the forms of rilling or other finely grooved lines. Identification, on the basis of the wasters, of these apparently locally-made jugs in this context has been extended to assist the identification of sherds in the same fabric and glaze or decorative characteristics, in other contexts.

It is likely that the great majority of the Potterhanworth ware fragments, both jugs and shelly cooking wares, are production waste from kilns in the vicinity. Previous investigations in close proximity to the site have recovered similar groups of material, together with kiln furniture, indicating pottery making close proximity (Healey and Taylor 1998).

Table 2: The Other Items

Context	Description	No.	Wt(g)	Context Date
001	Clay pipe stem, bore 7/64"	1	3	17th century
019	Clay pipe stem, bore 7/64", 17th century	1	4	late 18th century
	Rim and neck of pale blue cylindrical bottle, internal screw, late 18 <sup>th</sup> century	1	30	Contacty
	Bone hairbrush, late post-medieval	1	20	

020	Tile, 11.5mm thick	1	15	19th-20th century
034	Kiln furniture, ?kiln prop, Potterhanworth fabric	1	30	13th-14th century
043	Fired clay, shelly	1	21	
045	Fossiliferous, shelly, limestone	1	2	
055	Window glass	1	3	19th-20th century

A fragment of a probable kiln prop was recovered from (034), a context that also included one of the largest groups of shelly ware pottery sherds. The kiln prop is in the same shelly ware fabric as the local pottery and further confirms pottery manufacture in the proximity. The piece of shelly, fired clay from (043) is fairly amorphous but may also be kiln furniture or structure.

The fossiliferous limestone is natural but may be a source for the shell tempering of the locally made pottery.

Table 3: The Animal Bone

Context	Species	Bone	Wt (g)	Comments
020	Cattle	mandible	28	
	Cattle sized	unidentified	4	
039	Cattle sized	mandible	18	4 fragments
	Cattle sized	?humerus	15	

#### 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 Potterhanworth, including elsewhere in the vicinity of the present site. The locally produced pottery has also been studied previously (Healey 1974). 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

The medieval component of the assemblage has moderately high local potential and probably represents waste dumping from pottery kilns elsewhere in the vicinity. The vessel forms and decoration largely correspond with examples previously discovered (Healey 1974). These artefacts, therefore, supplement and enhance the previous discoveries at the site, indicating pottery making in the area during the medieval period. However, the fragments of jug sherds indicating local production are of moderately high regional significance and confirm the prior suspicion that vessels of this form were made in the medieval period in Potterhanworth. Examples of these waster and substandard jug fragments should be added to the County ceramic type series and can be used to identify and source other pieces in the same fabric found on different sites.

The post-medieval, 16<sup>th</sup> century and later, material is not particularly abundant and therefore of limited potential but does reflect activity at the site during this period.

#### References

Healey, R.H., 1974 Pottery from Potterhanworth, in J. Marjoram 'Archaeological Notes, 1973', *Lincolnshire History and Archaeology* 9

Healey, H. and Taylor, G., 1998 'The Finds', in N. Herbert, Archaeological Watching Brief on Land at Barff Road, Potterhanworth, Lincolnshire (PBR97), APS Report No. 27/98

Slowikowski, A., Nenk, B. and Pearce, J., 2001 Minimum Standards for the Processing, Recording, Analysis and Publication of Post-Roman Ceramics, Medieval Pottery Research Group Occasional Paper 2

#### Appendix 4

#### **GLOSSARY**

Pertaining to the period when Britain was occupied by peoples from northern Germany, Anglo-Saxon Denmark and adjacent areas. The period dates from approximately AD 450-1066.

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

An archaeological context represents a distinct archaeological event or process. For Context 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 interpretation 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].

A mark that is produced by the effect of underlying archaeological or geological features influencing the growth of a particular crop.

A cut refers to the physical action of digging a posthole, pit, ditch, foundation trench, etc. Once the fills of these features are removed during an archaeological investigation the original 'cut' is therefore exposed and subsequently recorded.

> A survey of property ownership in England compiled on the instruction of William I for taxation purposes in 1086 AD.

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) that become contained by the 'cut' are referred to as its

A layer is a term used to describe an accumulation of soil or other material that is not contained within a cut.

The Middle Ages, dating from approximately AD 1066-1500.

Undisturbed deposit(s) of soil or rock which have accumulated without the influence of human activity

The 'New Stone Age' period, part of the prehistoric era, dating from approximately 4500-2250 BC.

The period following the Middle Ages, dating from approximately AD 1500-1800.

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 1st century AD.

Pertaining to the period dating from AD 43-410 when the Romans occupied Britain.

Pertaining to the period dating from AD 410-1066 when England was largely settled by tribes from northern Germany

A deposit formed after the retreat of a glacier. Also known as boulder clay, this material is generally unsorted and can comprise of rock flour to boulders to rocks of quite substantial size.

Crop mark

Cut

Domesday Survey

Fill

Layer

Natural

Medieval

**Neolithic** 

Prehistoric

Post-medieval

Romano-British

Saxon

Till

Transformed

Soil deposits that have been changed. The agencies of such changes include natural processes, such as fluctuating water tables, worm or root action, and human activities such as gardening or agriculture. This transformation process serves to homogenise soil, erasing evidence of layering or features.

# Appendix 5

#### THE ARCHIVE

#### The archive consists of:

69 - Context records

2 - Photographic record sheets

10 - Drawing sheets 1 - Stratigraphic matrix

All primary records and finds are currently kept at:

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

The ultimate destination of the project archive is:

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

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

Lincolnshire City and County Council Museum Accession Number: LCNCC: 303.99

Archaeological Project Services Site Code: PBR99

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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