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ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF
OF PLOT 4,
CALEB HILL LANE,
OLD LEAKE COMMONSIDE,
BOSTON,
LINCOLNSHIRE
(OLC4 00)



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Conservation
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**ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF
OF PLOT 4,
CALEB HILL LANE,
OLD LEAKE COMMONSIDE,
BOSTON,
LINCOLNSHIRE
(OLC4 00)**

**Work Undertaken For
Mr G. Wakefield**

May 2002

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

National Grid Reference: TF 3998 5244
Planning Reference: B/00/0549/FULL

ARCHAEOLOGICAL PROJECT SERVICES



APS Report No. 67/02

Quality Control
Plot 4, Caleb Hill Lane
Old Leake Commonsides
OLC4 01

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Supervisor	Jim Snee
Finds Processing	-
Illustration	Paul Cope-Faulkner, Mark Dymond
Photographic Reproduction	Sue Unsworth
Post-excavation Analyst	Paul Cope-Faulkner


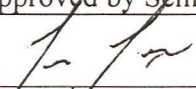
Checked by Project Manager	Approved by Senior Archaeologist
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Date: 7 th May 2002	Date: 8 th May 2002

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1. SUMMARY

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken during development on land at Caleb Hill Lane, Old Leake Commonside, Boston, Lincolnshire. The watching brief monitored the excavation of the foundation trenches for a single dwelling.

Old Leake Commonside is situated in an area of salt production dating from the Romano-British (AD 50-410) to the medieval (AD 1066-1500) period. A possible Late Saxon (AD 850-1066) saltern (salt producing site) lies to the northwest and a medieval saltern was identified in the adjacent plots to the north and south. Leake Commonside is believed to have existed as a hamlet since at least the 12th century.

Only topsoil and alluvium were revealed during this investigation and no archaeological features identified, although these may survive at depth. No artefacts were retrieved.

2. INTRODUCTION

2.1 Definition of a Watching Brief

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

2.2 Planning Background

Archaeological Project Services was commissioned by Mr G. Wakefield to undertake an archaeological watching brief during groundworks associated with the construction of a single dwelling on land at Caleb Hill Lane, Old Leake Commonside, Lincolnshire. Approval for the development was sought through the submission of planning application B/00/0549/FULL. The

watching brief was carried out on the 19th June 2001 in accordance with a specification designed by Archaeological Project Services (Appendix 1) and approved by the Community Archaeologist for Boston District Council.

2.3 Topography and Geology

Old Leake Commonside is situated approximately 7km from the Lincolnshire coast and 12km northeast of Boston, in the district of Boston, Lincolnshire (Fig. 1).

The development site is located along Caleb Hill Lane, to the east of Old Leake Commonside at National Grid Reference TF 3998 5244. The site lies on generally level ground at heights of c. 3m OD. There is a drop in height northwards as the fens are approached.

The local soils are of the Romney Series, typically gleyic brown calcareous alluvial soils (Robson 1985, 53). These soils are developed on younger marine alluvium which in turn overlies a solid geology of Jurassic Kimmeridge Clay (BGS 1995).

2.4 Archaeological Setting

The development site lies within an area of known archaeological remains dating from the Romano-British period to the present day. A spread of Romano-British pottery and briquetage is situated 800m to the east (Lane 1993, Gazetteer).

A watching brief located 200m to the northwest identified the possible remains of a saltern with limited preservation of timbers (HTL parish file). A number of other salterns that date from the Saxon period to the 13th century have been identified in the area and follow a former creek that once marked the parish boundary between Wrangle and Old Leake (Lane 1993, 77).

Leake is first mentioned in the Domesday Survey of c. 1086. Referred to as *Leche*, the name is derived from the Old English *lece* meaning 'the brook' and influenced or

replaced by the Old Norse *loekr* of similar meaning (Cameron 1998, 79). The Domesday Survey records that Leake was held by Count Alan and contained 26 salterns and 34 acres of meadow (Foster and Longley 1976). Leake Commonside is believed to have existed as a hamlet since the 12th century and possibly earlier (Hallam 1965, 87).

Medieval and post-medieval pottery has been found 300m to the north of the site and included a range of locally produced wares dating from the 14th to the 16th centuries.

Watching briefs carried out on two adjacent plots to the north identified medieval saltern remains comprising brine tanks, clay-lined pits and mounds of burnt debris (Cope-Faulkner 2000a, 1; 2000b, 1). Medieval salt-working was also identified in the two adjacent plots to the south (Cope-Faulkner 2001, 1).

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 date, sequence, function and origin.

4. METHODS

Foundation trenches were opened by machine to a depth of 0.8m as required by the development. Following excavation, the sides of the trenches were cleaned and rendered vertical. Selected deposits were partially or fully excavated by hand to determine their nature and to retrieve artefactual material. The depth and thickness of each deposit was measured from the ground surface. Each archaeological deposit 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 and a stratigraphic matrix produced. Phasing was assigned based on the nature of the deposits and recognisable relationships between them.

5. RESULTS

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

The earliest deposit encountered was a firm dark yellowish brown silt (002) identified as the underlying natural deposits. This was overlain by a topsoil of dark brown silt (001) which varied in thickness from 0.2m to 0.8m.

6. DISCUSSION

Only natural deposits, representing the underlying alluvium, and topsoil deposits were encountered during this investigation. No archaeological features were identified which is surprising considering the adjacent saltern remains in the plots to the north and south. However, the depth of the foundation trenches and the thickness of the topsoil may indicate that such remains are located at depth, beyond the limit of development groundworks. No artefacts were retrieved during this investigation.

7. CONCLUSION

Archaeological investigations were undertaken during development on land at Caleb Hill Lane, Old Leake Commonside, as the site lay within close proximity to known medieval salterns.

However, only natural alluvium and topsoil were encountered during this watching brief and no features associated with the nearby salterns were revealed. No artefacts were retrieved and the nature of the local site conditions would suggest that few environmental indicators (woods, seeds, pollen, *etc.*) would survive other than through charring at this level.

8. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeological Project Services wish to acknowledge the assistance of Mr G. Wakefield who commissioned the fieldwork and post-excavation analysis. The work was coordinated by Denise Drury and this report was edited by Tom Lane. Rebecca Wilcox, the Boston District Community Archaeologist kindly provided information from the relevant parish files maintained by Heritage Lincolnshire.

9. PERSONNEL

Project Coordinator: Denise Drury
 Site Supervisor: Jim Snee
 Photographic reproduction: Sue Unsworth
 Illustration: Paul Cope-Faulkner, Mark Dymond
 Post-excavation analysis: Paul Cope-Faulkner

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11. ABBREVIATIONS

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

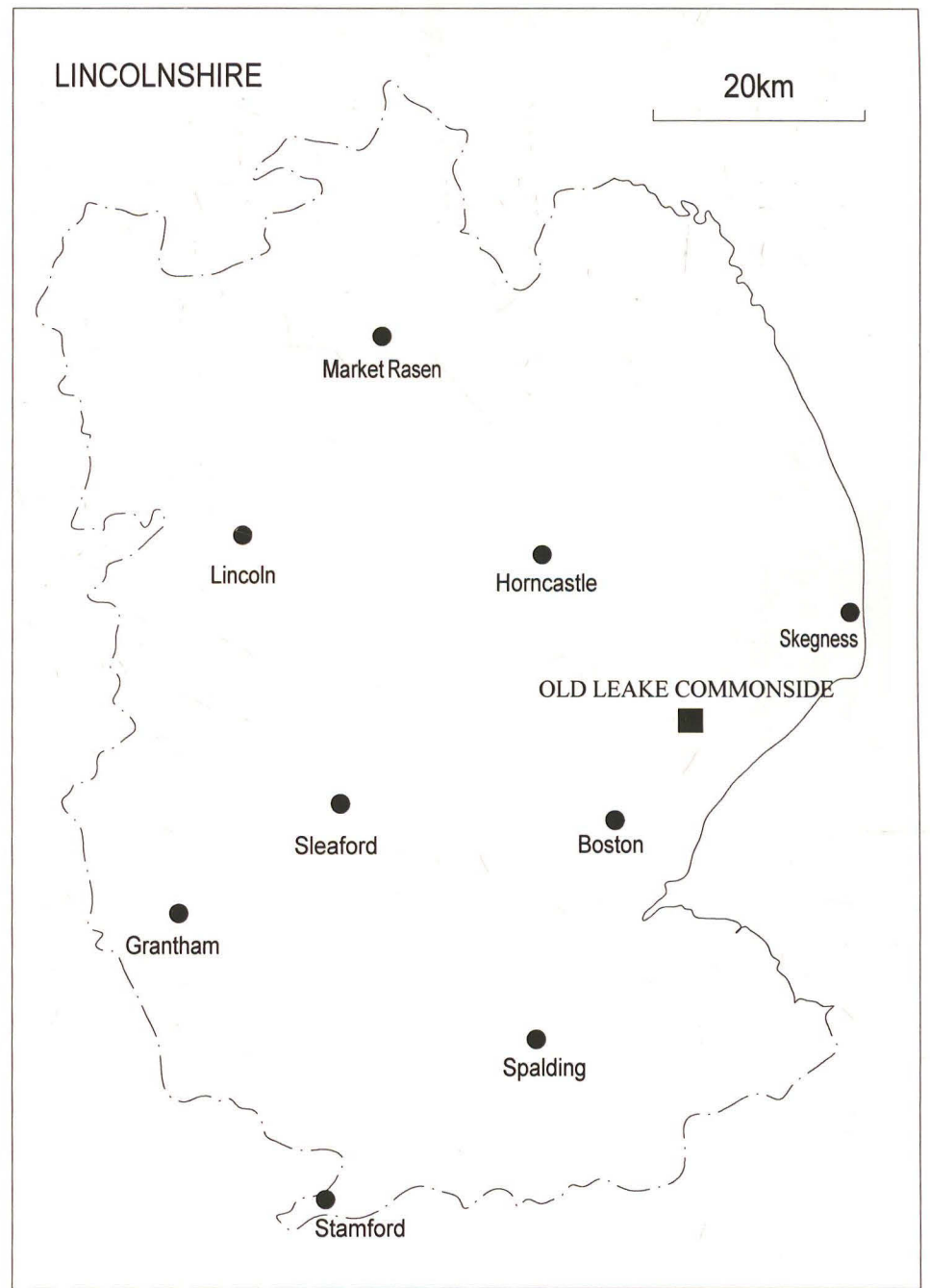
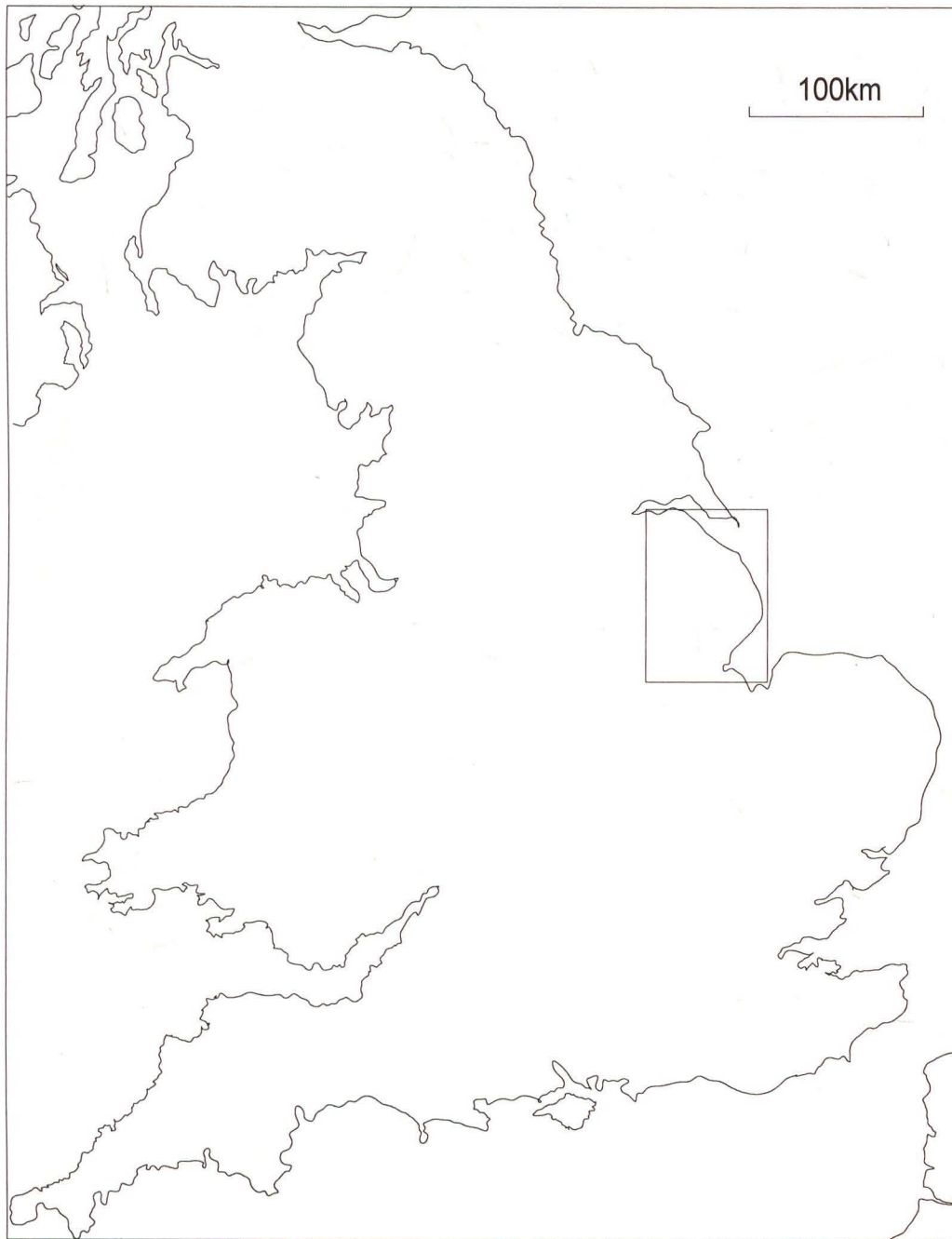
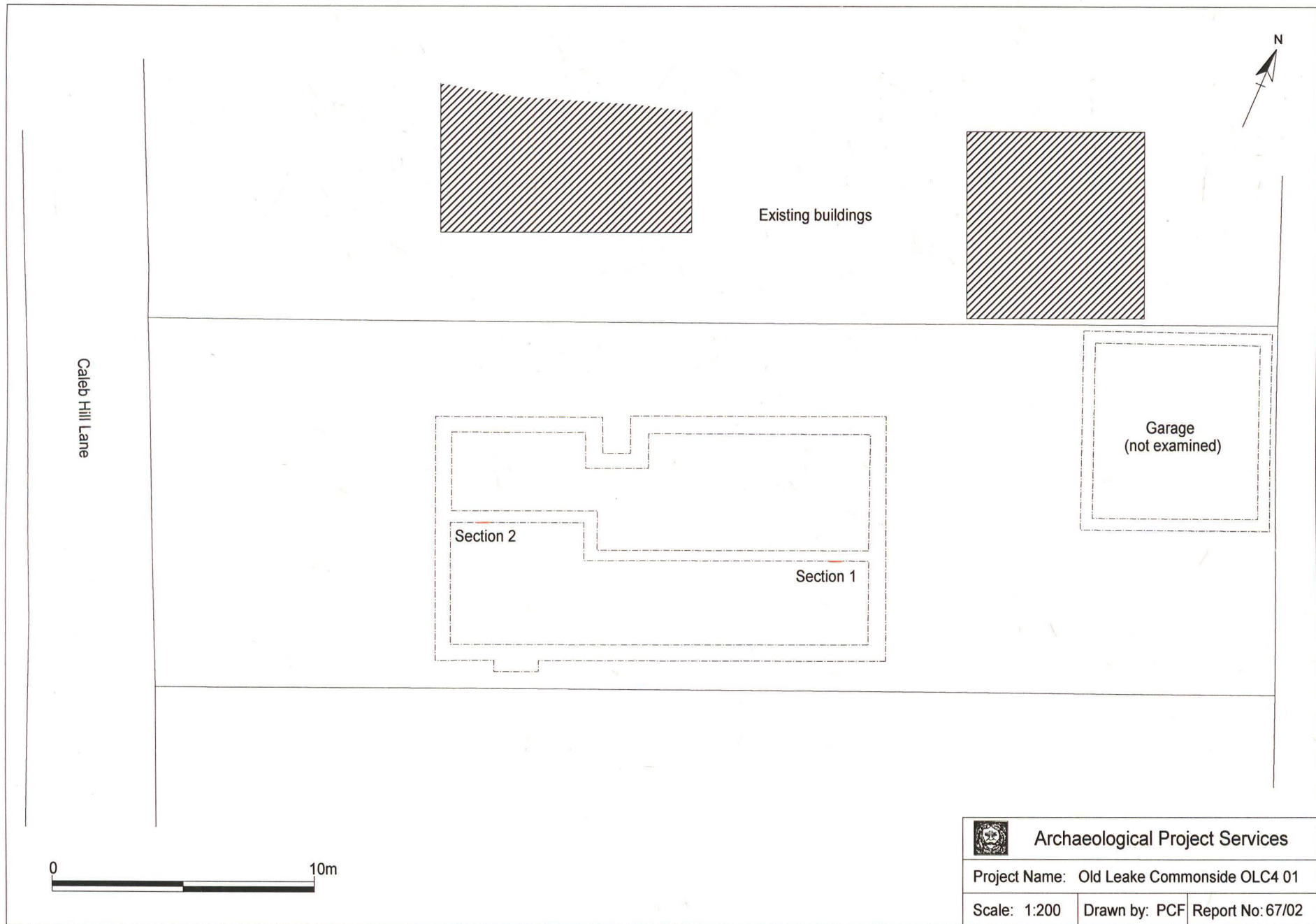


Figure 1 General Location Plan



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Figure 2 - Site location plan




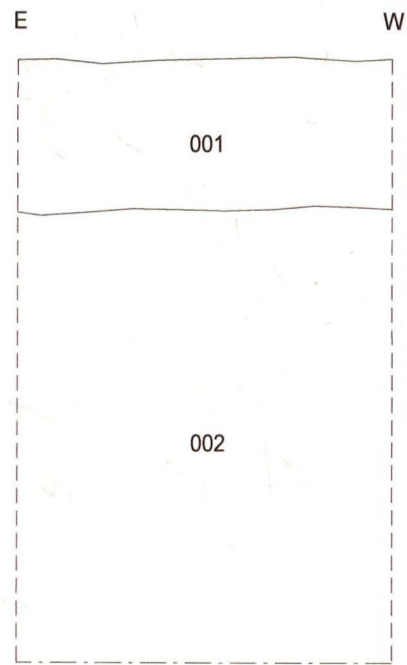
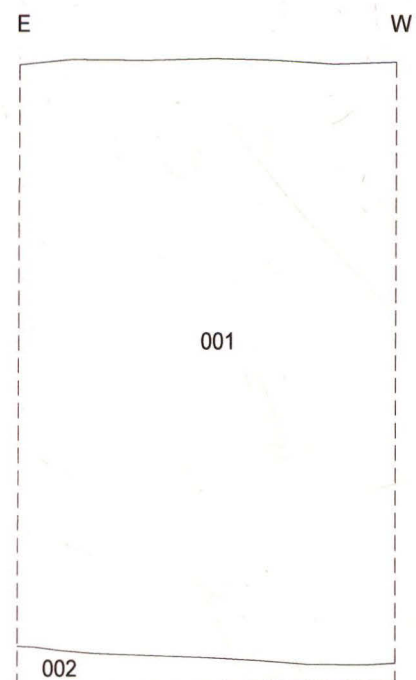
	Archaeological Project Services		
Project Name: Old Leake Commonside OLC4 01			
Scale: 1:200	Drawn by: PCF	Report No: 67/02	

Figure 3 - Plan of the development showing section locations



Section 1



Section 2




	Archaeological Project Services		
Project Name: Old Leake Commons OLC4 01			
Scale: 1:10	Drawn by: PCF	Report No: 67/02	

Figure 4 - Sections 1 and 2



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



Plate 2 - Section 1 showing the general sequence of deposits, looking south

Appendix 1

PLOT 4, CALEB HILL LANE. OLD LEAKE COMMONSIDE, LINCOLNSHIRE - SPECIFICATION FOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

1 SUMMARY

- 1.1 *A watching brief is required during residential development at Plot 4, Caleb Hill Lane, Old Leake Commonside, Boston, Lincolnshire.*
- 1.2 *The proposed development lies in an area of known salt-making. Recent archaeological work in the immediate vicinity has identified medieval and undated features associated with salt-making.*
- 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 development on Plot 4, Caleb Hill Lane, Old Leake Commonside, Boston, Lincolnshire, National Grid Reference TF 3998 5244.
- 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 Old Leake is located approximately 8km northeast of Boston in the Fenland of south Lincolnshire. Commonside lies approximately 300m north of the village and the site is located on the east side of Caleb Hill Lane at National Grid Reference TF 3998 5244.

4 PLANNING BACKGROUND

- 4.1 A planning application was submitted to Boston Borough Council (B/00/0549/FULL) for residential development. Permission has been granted subject to a condition requiring the implementation of an archaeological watching brief during all stages of the groundworks associated with the development.

5 SOILS AND TOPOGRAPHY

- 5.1 The site lies on generally level ground at approximately 3m OD. The local soils are of the Romney Series, typically gleyic brown calcareous alluvial soils (Robson 1985, 53). These soils are developed on younger marine alluvium which in turn overlies a solid geology of Jurassic Kimmeridge Clay (BGS 1995).

6 ARCHAEOLOGICAL OVERVIEW

- 6.1 The development site lies in an area of known archaeological remains dating from the Romano-British period to the present day. A spread of Romano-British pottery and briquetage (generally associated with salt-making sites) has been found in the vicinity and a number of salterns dating

from the Late Saxon period to the 13th century have been identified in the area.

- 6.2 Archaeological investigations carried out on plots adjacent to the proposed development identified a medieval pit containing saltern refuse. A series of features including a brine tank, clay lined features, a large pit and a low mound of burnt debris were also recorded and, although undated, are thought to be of the medieval period (Archaeological Project Services 2000a and 2000b).

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 they will be left *in situ* and only excavated if absolutely necessary. Should removal be required the appropriate Home Office licence will be obtained before the exhumation of the remains. In addition, the Local Environmental Health Department, coroner and the police will be informed, where appropriate.

9 POST-EXCAVATION

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 trenches and 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; Boston Community Archaeologist; Boston Borough 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 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 Boston Community Archaeologist. They will be given written notice of the commencement of the project.

14 **VARIATIONS AND CONTINGENCIES**

- 14.1 Variations to the proposed scheme of works will only be made following written confirmation of acceptance from the archaeological curator.
- 14.2 In the event of the discovery of any unexpected remains of archaeological importance, or of any changed circumstances, it is the responsibility of the archaeological contractor to inform the archaeological curator (*Lincolnshire Archaeological Handbook* 1998, Sections 5.7 and 18).
- 14.3 Where important archaeological remains are discovered and deemed to merit further investigation additional resources may be required to provide an appropriate level of investigation, recording and analysis.
- 14.4 Any contingency requirement for additional fieldwork or post-excavation analysis outside the scope of the proposed scheme of works will only be activated following full consultation with the archaeological curator and the client.

15 **PROGRAMME OF WORKS AND STAFFING LEVELS**

- 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.

<u>Task</u>	<u>Body to be undertaking the work</u>
Conservation	Conservation Laboratory, City and County Museum, Lincoln
Pottery Analysis	Prehistoric - Trent & Peak Archaeological Trust Roman - B Precious, Independent Specialist Anglo-Saxon - J Young, Independent Specialist Medieval and later - G Taylor 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.

18.2 Licence will also be given to the archaeological curators to use the documentary archive for educational, public and research purposes.

18.3 In the case of non-satisfactory settlement of account then copyright will remain fully and exclusively with Archaeological Project Services. In these circumstances it will be an infringement under the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988 for the client to pass any report, partial report, or copy of same, to any third party. Reports submitted in good faith by Archaeological Project Services to any Planning Authority or archaeological curator will be removed from said planning Authority and/or archaeological curator. The Planning Authority and/or archaeological curator will be notified by Archaeological Project Services that the use of any such information previously supplied constitutes an infringement under the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988 and may result in legal action.

18.4 The author of any report or specialist contribution to a report shall retain intellectual copyright of their work and may make use of their work for educational or research purposes or for further publication.

19 **BIBLIOGRAPHY**

Archaeological Project Services, 2000a *Archaeological watching brief of development on land at Plot 2, Caleb Hill Lane, Old Leake Commonside, Boston, Lincolnshire (OLP 99)*, APS unpublished report **49/00**

Archaeological Project Services, 2000b *Archaeological watching brief of development on land at Plot 3, Caleb Hill Lane, Old Leake Commonside, Boston, Lincolnshire (OLP2 99)*, APS unpublished report **50/00**

Robson, JD, 1985 *Soils in Lincolnshire IV: Sheet TF45 (Friskney)*, Soil Survey Record No. **88**

BGS, 1995 *Boston, Solid and drift edition*, 1:50,000 sheet **128**

Appendix 2

CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

No.	Description	Interpretation
001	Firm dark brown silt, 0.2m to 0.8m thick	Topsoil
002	Firm dark yellowish brown silt, >0.6m thick	Natural deposit

Appendix 3

GLOSSARY

Brine tank	An open tank or pool where brine was collected and allowed to settle before use. May be lined with puddled clay, wood or lead sheet.
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).
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.
Saxon	Pertaining to the period dating from AD 410-1066 when England was largely settled by tribes from northern Germany.

Appendix 4

THE ARCHIVE

The archive consists of:

- 2 Context records
- 2 Scale drawings (sections)
- 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:

2001.146

Archaeological Project Services Site Code:

OLC4 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.

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.