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**ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATIONS
AT EAST ROAD,
SLEAFORD,
LINCOLNSHIRE
(ERSC 01)**



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Highways & Planning
Directorate

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATIONS
AT EAST ROAD,
SLEAFORD,
LINCOLNSHIRE
(ERSC 01)**

**Work Undertaken For
J.O. Kirk Associates**

July 2002

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

National Grid Reference: TF 0792 4701
Planning Reference: N/57/0160/01
City and County Museum Accession No: 2001.80

ARCHAEOLOGICAL PROJECT SERVICES



APS Report No. 122/02

Quality Control
East Road, Sleaford
ERSC 01

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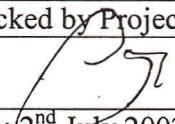
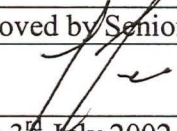
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Date: 2 nd July 2002	Date: 3 rd July 2002

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1. SUMMARY

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Archaeological Project Services during development on land at East Road, Sleaford, Lincolnshire. The watching brief monitored the excavation of trial pits and topsoil stripping and further investigation recorded two sections across a Roman road.

The investigations were undertaken as the site lay within an area of prehistoric and later remains, particularly close proximity to a Middle Iron Age (400-150 BC) enclosure. A possible Late Iron Age (150 BC - AD 50) tribal centre or oppidum lay to the south which subsequently became a small Romano-British (AD 50-410) town. A Roman thoroughfare, Mareham Lane, was previously identified at the site and once connected the Roman towns of Bourne, Sleaford and Lincoln.

The investigation identified the early make-up and roadside ditches of Mareham Lane, which appear to have been maintained into the 3rd and 4th centuries. Molluscs from environmental samples indicate that this road ran through open countryside and the ditches were semi-waterlogged or seasonally flooded. A number of post-medieval pits and ditches were also identified. Artefacts retrieved include pottery of Romano-British date with examples also present from the post-medieval and later periods. Glass, brick, fired clay and animal bone were also 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 may be disturbed or destroyed" (IFA 1999).

2.2 Planning Background

Archaeological Project Services was commissioned by J.O. Kirk Associates to undertake an enhanced archaeological watching brief during groundworks associated with the construction of a new veterinary surgery on land at East Road, Sleaford, Lincolnshire. Approval for the development was sought through the submission of planning application N/57/0160/01. The watching brief was carried out between the 2nd April and the 7th November 2001, in accordance with a specification prepared by Archaeological Project Services (Appendix 1) and approved by the Heritage Officer, North Kesteven District Council.

2.3 Topography and Geology

Sleaford is situated 27km south of Lincoln and 26km west of Boston in North Kesteven District, Lincolnshire (Fig. 1).

The development site is located, on the eastern side of East Road, 1.6km northeast of Sleaford town centre as defined by St. Denys' parish church at National Grid Reference TF 0792 4701 (Fig. 2). The site encompasses approximately 0.3ha and lies on generally level ground at a height of c. 12m OD on the western floodplain of the River Sleas.

Local soils are of the Ruskington Series, typically gleyic brown calcareous earths, with Newsleaford Series, typically gleyic brown calcareous sands, immediately to the north (George and Robson 1978, 79, 86). These soils overlie a drift geology of glaciofluvial sands and gravels which in turn overlie a solid geology of Jurassic Oxford Clay (GSGB 1972).

2.4 Archaeological Setting

Sleaford is situated in an area of known archaeological remains dating from prehistory to the present day. Three Acheulian flint tools of the Upper Palaeolithic period have been found in the vicinity, although they are likely to derive from the gravel deposited during the Wolstonian glaciation.

A Neolithic stone axe and Bronze Age flint tools are known from the vicinity and trial excavations undertaken to the west revealed evidence for a Neolithic and Bronze Age site occupying an area of higher ground (Rayner 2000, 2).

Previous archaeological investigations of the North Junction site identified the presence of a sub-rectangular ditched enclosure. This lies immediately east of the site and was initially identified from aerial photographs. The lower fills of the enclosure ditch were waterlogged and contained well preserved organic remains (Hambly 2001, 1). Pottery from the ditch comprised mainly scored wares, a type of pottery thought to date from the Middle Iron Age and widely distributed throughout the East Midlands. Located west of the enclosure was a north-south aligned prehistoric trackway, which subsequently became the Roman thoroughfare, Mareham Lane.

The focus of Later Iron Age and subsequent Romano-British settlement is located south of the River Sleas. High status pottery and a significant collection of coin pellet mould fragments were found adjacent to Old Place and has led to speculation that at this time Sleaford was an important centre or *oppidum* of the *Corieltavi*, a local tribe (Elsdon 1997, 75).

As mentioned above, the Romano-British thoroughfare Mareham Lane was previously identified running through the development site (Herbert 1998, 13). This

also identified the wheel-ruts of carts or wagons which were subsequently backfilled with stones (*ibid.*). Mareham Lane still connects Bourne to Sleaford and once continued to Lincoln, although traces of it north of Ashby-de-la-Launde have yet to be identified (Margary 1973, 234). A number of undated cropmarks along the route of this road may represent contemporary enclosures.

Medieval remains are particularly scarce in the immediate vicinity of the site, although a Viking weight, a 13th century spearhead and a medieval coin have been recorded. Additionally, earthworks of ridge and furrow are known adjacent to the railway to the northeast.

3. AIMS

The aim of the archaeological investigations, as outlined in the specification (Appendix 1), was to locate surviving archaeological deposits and, if present, record them in detail to enable their date, function and origin to be determined. Particular attention was to be given to the Romano-British thoroughfare, Mareham Lane, with its associated ditches.

4. METHODS

Prior to the development six trial pits were opened by machine. The sides of the trial pits 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.

Subsequently, the area was stripped of topsoil and archaeological recording was undertaken before limestone hardstanding was laid down. As the Romano-British road, Mareham Lane, was exposed further detailed examination was necessary which entailed the excavation of three trenches.

The third trench, Trench C, was placed to examine a layer of limestone sealing a buried soil.

Environmental sampling was taken at the discretion of the site supervisor using guidelines established by Murphy and Wiltshire (1994). The methodology for the subsequent processing of the samples is outlined in the environmental report (Appendix 4).

Each archaeological deposit or feature revealed was allocated a unique reference number (context number) with an individual written description. A list of all contexts and their descriptions appears as Appendix 2. A photographic record was compiled and vertical sections were drawn at a scale of 1:10 and plans at a scale of 1:20. Recording of the deposits and features encountered was undertaken according to standard Archaeological Project Services' practise.

Following excavation, all records were checked and ordered to ensure that they constituted a complete Level II archive and a stratigraphic matrix produced. Finds recovered from excavated deposits were examined and a period date assigned where possible (Appendix 3). Phasing was assigned based on the nature of the deposits and recognisable relationships between them and supplemented by artefact dating.

5. RESULTS

Following post-excavation analysis five phases were identified;

Phase 1	Natural deposits
Phase 2	Undated deposits
Phase 3	Romano-British deposits
Phase 4	Post-medieval deposits
Phase 5	Modern deposits

Archaeological contexts are listed below and described. The numbers in brackets

are the context numbers assigned in the field.

Phase 1 Natural deposits

Located at the base of Trial Pits 1 and 2 was a deposit of dark brownish yellow sand (006) that measured over 0.5m thick.

The earliest deposits found in the bases of Trenches A and B was a layer of mid yellowish brown sand and gravel (029) and (033).

Phase 2 Undated deposits

Cut into the natural (033) towards the centre of Trench B was a north-south aligned linear feature (056). This gully was 0.76m wide and 0.17m deep (Fig. 6) and contained a single fill of grey sand (057). This gully was sealed by a layer of dark greyish brown sandy silt (040).

Cut into layer (040) along its western side was a north-south aligned linear ditch (039). Measuring 3m wide and 0.65m deep this ditch contained three fills. The basal fill comprised a greenish yellow silty sand (038) above which were two secondary fills of greyish brown clayey silt (036) and brownish yellow sandy silt (037).

Above natural (033), and located to the east of deposit (040), was a layer of firm mixed yellow, brown and grey sand (045). Possibly representing the lowest of the road make-up deposits, this measured 0.15m thick. Overlying this make-up layer and deposit (040) was a further make-up layer comprising firm mixed brown silty sand with limestone (044) overlain by brownish yellow limestone fragments (055) representing the road metalling.

At the eastern end of Trench B were three north-south aligned linear ditches. The earliest (030) was 1.5m wide and 0.3m deep and contained a single fill of greyish brown clayey sand (052). This was cut by a second ditch (054) on the same

alignment but slightly further to the east. This ditch was at least 0.7m wide and 0.3m deep and was also filled with greyish brown clayey sand (053). Recutting this was a third ditch (049) which was 2.6m wide and 0.48m deep. Filling this was a primary deposit of brownish yellow sandy clay (048) and an upper fill of brownish yellow sand (047).

Cut into the top of ditch (049) was a northwest-southeast aligned gully (051). This was 0.3m wide and 0.15m deep with a V-shaped profile and contained a fill of reddish brown clayey silt (050).

Partly overlying the eastern roadside ditch (030), on its west side, was a make-up layer of brownish yellow sand (046). Cut into this make-up deposit and layer (045), central to the roadside ditches, was a northwest-southeast aligned ditch (060) which was 0.8m wide and 0.4m deep. This ditch contained dark grey and mid brown sand (061).

Sealing this ditch was a layer of firm yellowish brown limestone fragments (059) representing the final episode of road metalling.

Located at the western end of Trench B was a feature interpreted as either a pit or ditch terminal (042). This was 1.8m wide and 0.45m deep with two fills, a lower of dark greyish brown clayey sand (041) overlain by mid greyish brown clayey sand (043). Fragments of charred spelt wheat were recovered from (041) (Appendix 4).

Exposed in Trial Pit 2 was an east-west aligned ditch (008). This measured 1.07m wide and 0.25m deep (Fig. 4) and was filled with greyish brown silty sand (007). Its full extent was not exposed during the subsequent topsoil stripping.

Located along the western edge of the stripped area was an oval feature (020). This pit was 1.1m long by 0.96m wide and 0.35m deep (Fig. 8). Two fills were

recorded, a lower of blackish grey silty sand with ash (019) and an upper of yellowish brown silty sand (018).

In the vicinity of pit (020) was a number of discrete dumped deposits. These comprised grey ashy silt (021), blackish grey silty sand (022), brown silt and sand (023) and brown and blackish grey silty sand (024).

Phase 3 Romano-British deposits

Cut into natural deposits in Trench A was a north-south aligned linear ditch (028). This was 1.95m wide and 0.4m deep (Fig. 5) and contained a single fill of dark brownish grey clayey silt (027). A 3rd – 4th century greyware sherd was recovered from the fill.

Cut into the top of this ditch was a broad shallow feature (026), possibly indicating a later recut. This was 4m wide and 0.2m deep. A single fill of greyish brown clayey silt (025) was recorded.

Representing a recut of the undated ditch (039) in Trench B was a ditch (035) that was 1.9m wide and 0.35m deep (Fig. 6). This was filled with reddish brown clayey silt (034) from which a single sherd of mid-late 3rd century greyware was retrieved.

Phase 4 Post-medieval deposits

Located within the central area of the development (Fig. 3) and cut into natural deposits was a sub-circular feature (010). Identified as a pit, it measured approximately 1.25m in diameter and was 0.32m deep (Fig. 7). This was filled with mid greyish brown silty sand (009) from which a fragment of handmade brick or tile was retrieved.

Above the undated make-up deposit (013) in Trench C was a 100mm thick buried topsoil comprising greyish brown silty sand (014). A single sherd of 17th – 18th

century pottery was retrieved from this layer. This soil was buried beneath a discrete area of grey limestone (015), representing hardstanding for access into the field.

Located along the western edge of the exposed area (Fig. 2) was an east-west aligned linear ditch (017). This was 5m wide and at least 10m long and terminated within the stripped area. The ditch was filled with greyish brown silty sand (016) from which a 19th century stoneware jar was retrieved.

Phase 5 Modern deposits

Subsoil was exposed in Trial Pits 1, 2 and 4, comprising a brown silty sand (002), and Trench B where a reddish brown clayey silt (032) was exposed. Sealing the subsoil and other archaeological features was a topsoil which varied from dark brown silty sand (001) to dark brown clayey silt (031).

Exposed during the topsoil stripping and partly within Trench A was a linear feature (012) identified as a 1997 evaluation trench.

6. DISCUSSION

Natural deposits (Phase 1) are sands and gravels of the underlying glaciofluvial drift geology.

Undated features and deposits (Phase 2) comprise ditches and make-up layers of a north-south aligned track. Although undated, these remains are likely to be Romano-British in origin and represent a northward continuation of Mareham Lane. Mareham Lane has previously been identified from cropmarks (Winton 1998, 59) and from previous excavation at the site (Herbert 1998, 13). One of the undated features, a pit or ditch (042), contained fragments of spelt wheat. This type of grain is characteristic of the Roman period

and, in addition to supporting the suggested Romano-British date for these features indicates that arable farming and crop processing occurred in the area at that time.

The paucity of artefactual material means that the date of the construction of Mareham Lane cannot be ascertained, although Herbert (1997, 1) suggested a prehistoric origin to the route. The method of construction is not clear and no quarry pits adjacent to the road were noted, although have been identified further north (Winton 1998, 59).

Romano-British deposits (Phase 3), representing later re-cutting of the ditches and make-up deposits, indicate that the track was in use until the 3rd – 4th century. The continual re-cutting of ditches and addition of make-up layers indicate that the road was routinely maintained.

Environmental data obtained from the roadside ditches indicate that this road ran through a relatively open countryside. This is somewhat supported by the cropmark evidence north of the site where a pattern of fields, enclosures and settlement is visible (Winton 1998, 67). Molluscs indicate that the ditches were semi-permanently waterlogged or seasonally flooded which, considering the sites position within the floodplain of the River Sleas, is not surprising.

Evidence was not forthcoming as to how, when or why the road was abandoned. South of the site Mareham Lane became the focus for Saxon and medieval settlement at Old Place and further to the south is still in use. It is probable that as the new settlement at the centre of Sleaford developed, routes were realigned to the new town.

Post-medieval deposits (Phase 4) comprise a pit, a partially buried soil and a ditch. The pit and ditch are likely to be associated with agricultural activity at the

site and the preservation of the buried soil lies in the dumping of material at the entrance to the field. No medieval features were found, although surviving ridge and furrow in the adjacent field to the south would indicate that the area was farmed.

7. CONCLUSION

Archaeological investigations were undertaken at East Road, Sleaford, as the site was located on a Romano-British thoroughfare, Mareham Lane. Prehistoric sites are also known from the vicinity.

The earliest deposits and features encountered were associated with the construction and maintenance of the Roman track. No evidence for a prehistoric precursor was identified. Artefactual evidence suggests that the road was maintained at least until the 3rd – 4th century and environmental data suggests that the road ran through an open landscape.

A post-medieval pit and a ditch were also encountered as was a discrete layer of buried soil.

Artefacts retrieved from the investigation includes Romano-British, post-medieval and later pottery along with brick, glass, animal bone and fired clay.

8. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeological Project Services would like to acknowledge the assistance of Mr A. Kirk of J.O. Kirk and Associates who commissioned the fieldwork and post-excavation analysis. Access to the site was provided by Mr J. Marris and plans of the development were supplied by Tim Benton Architect. The work was coordinated by Steve Malone and this report was edited by Gary Taylor and Tom Lane. Jo Hambly, the Heritage Officer for North Kesteven

District Council, kindly permitted access to the relevant parish files.

9. PERSONNEL

Project Coordinator: Steve Malone
 Site Supervisors: James Albone, Mark Dymond, Andy Hardwick, Fiona Walker
 Site Assistants: Meredith Collins, Andy Coupe, Barry Martin
 Finds Processing: Denise Buckley
 Photographic Reproduction: Sue Unsworth
 Illustration: Paul Cope-Faulkner
 Post-excavation Analyst: Paul Cope-Faulkner

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11. ABBREVIATIONS

APS Archaeological Project Services

GSGB Geological Survey of Great Britain

IFA Institute of Field Archaeologists

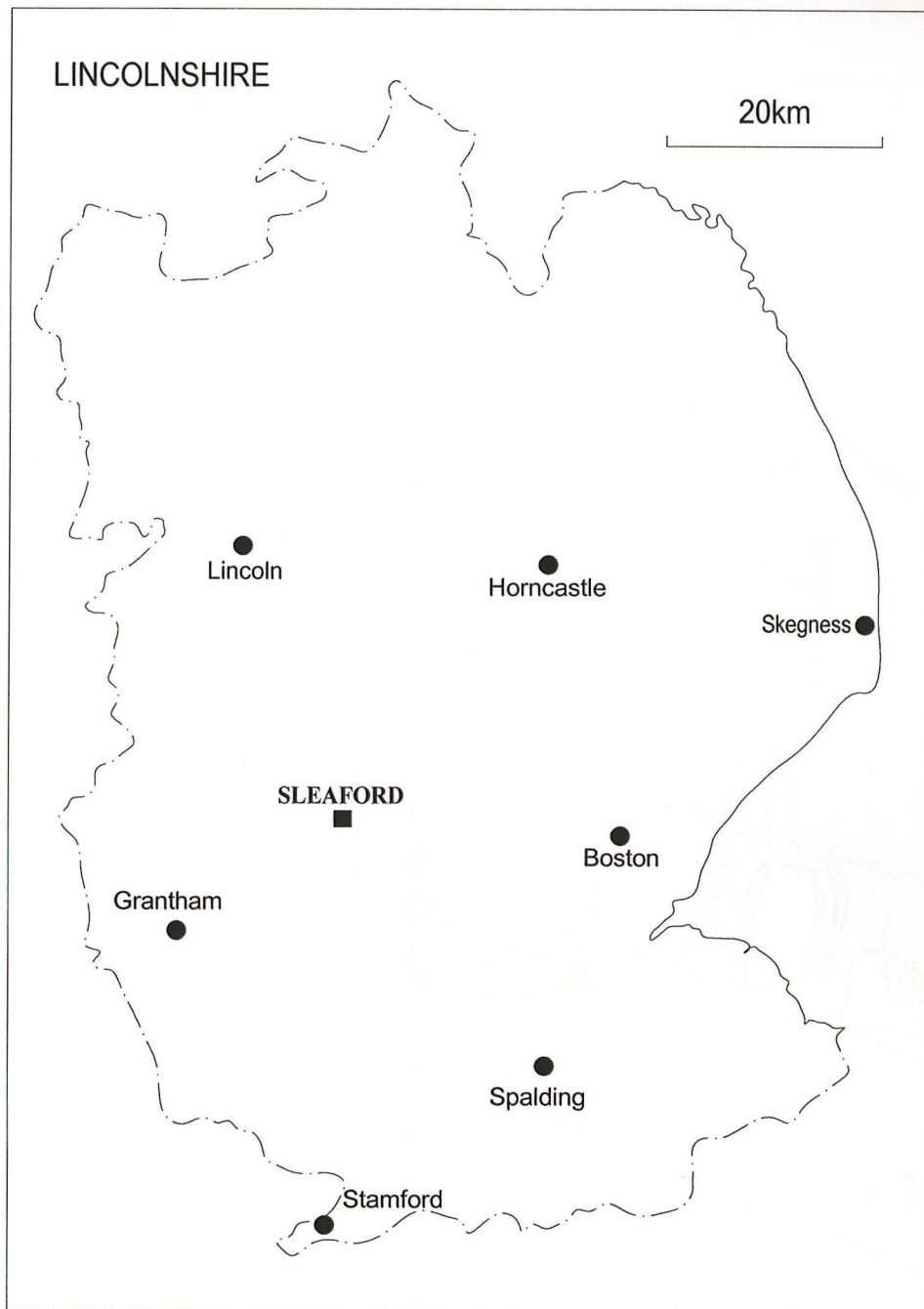
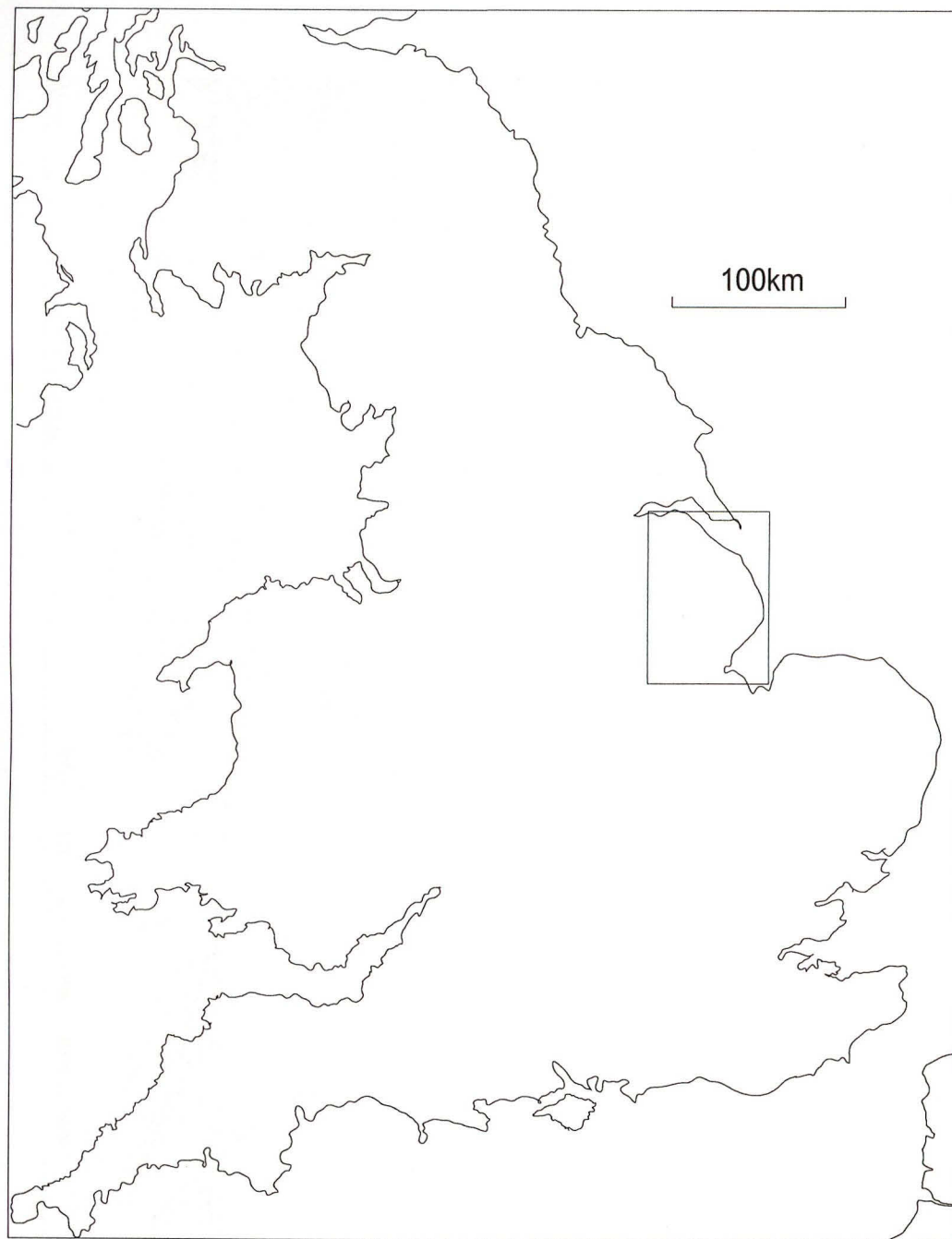


Figure 1 - General Location Plan

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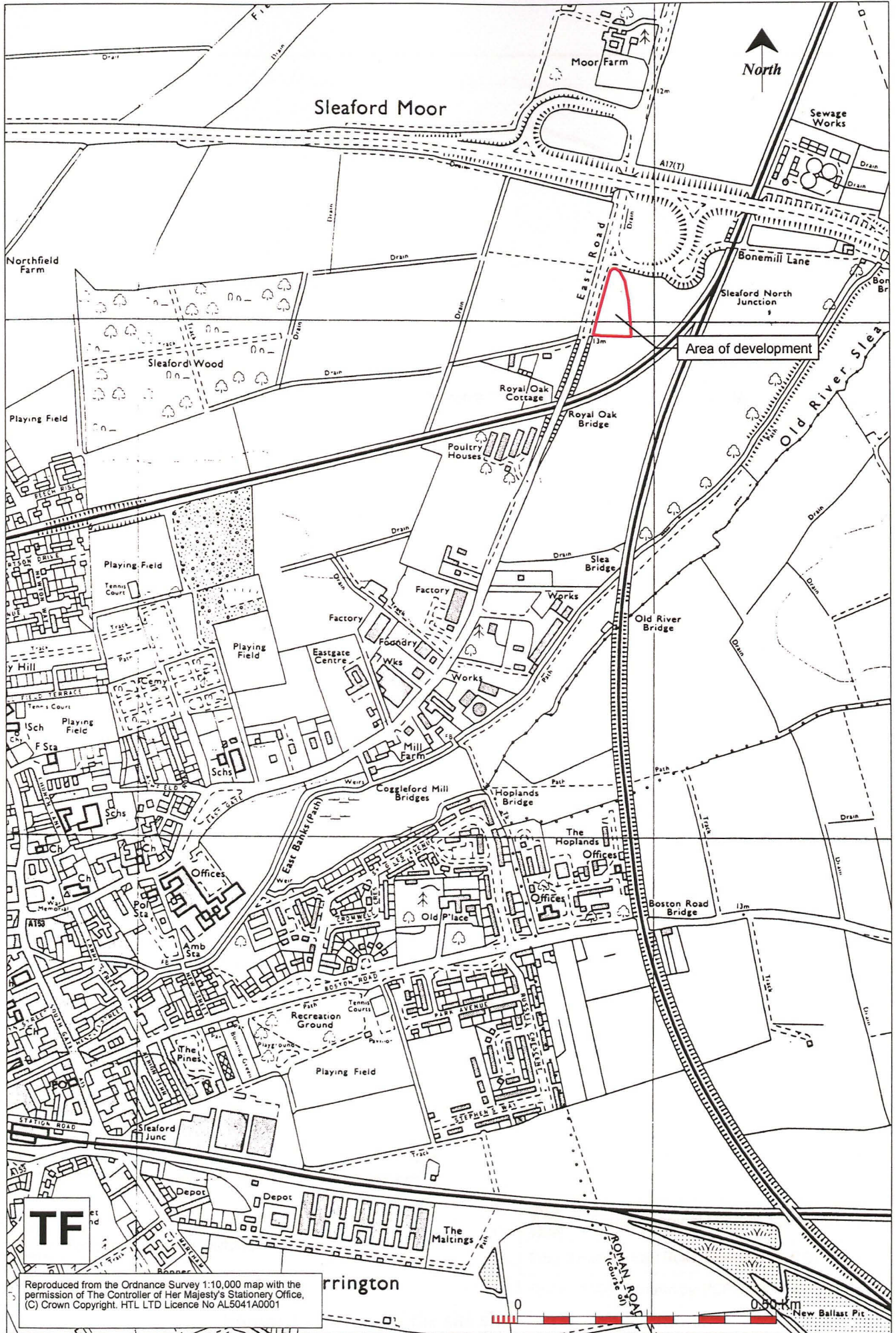


Figure 2 - Site location plan

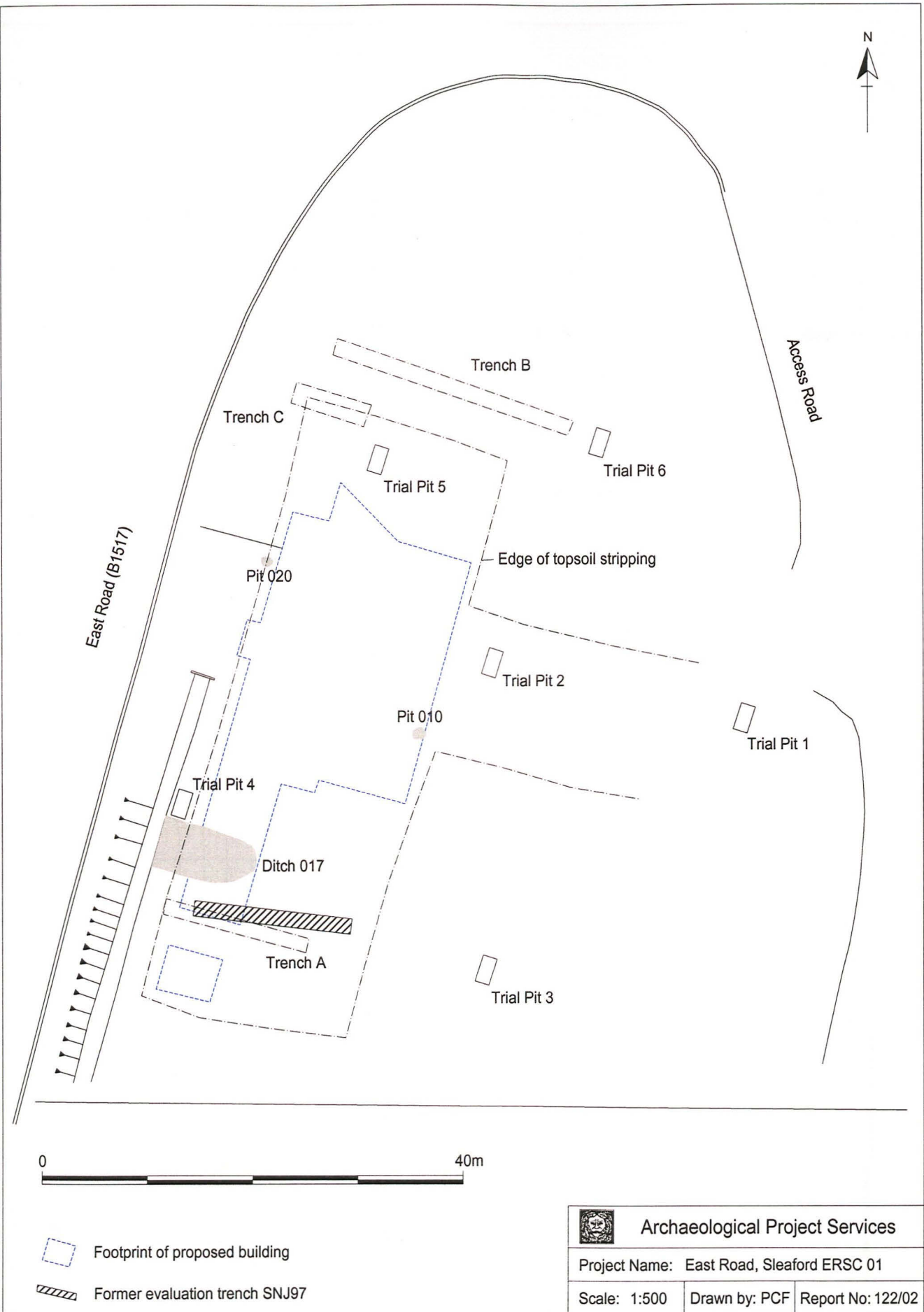
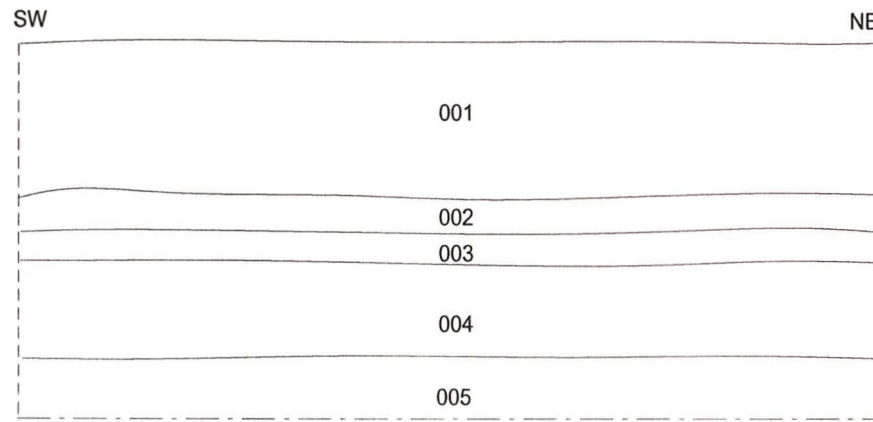
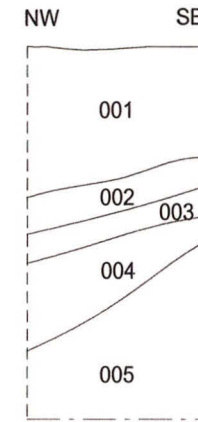


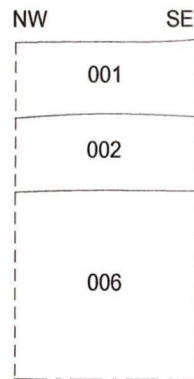
Figure 3 - Layout of the site showing trench locations



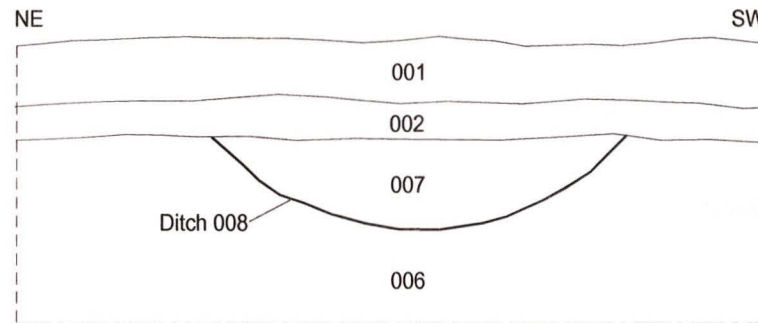
Section 1/ Test pit 4



Section 2/ Test pit 4



Section 3/ Test pit 1



Section 4/ Test pit 2



Archaeological Project Services

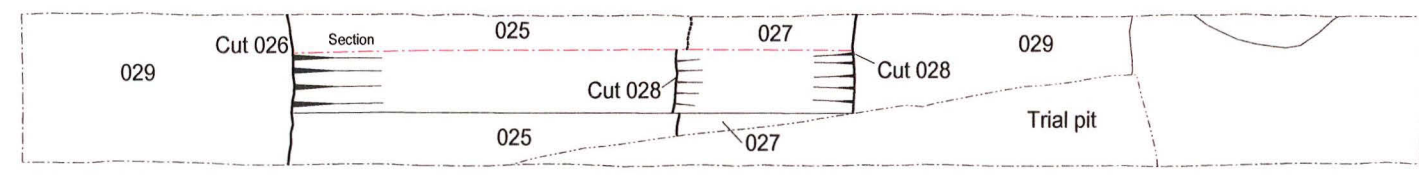
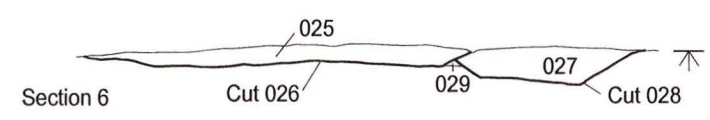
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Figure 4 - Trial Pit sections



Trench A




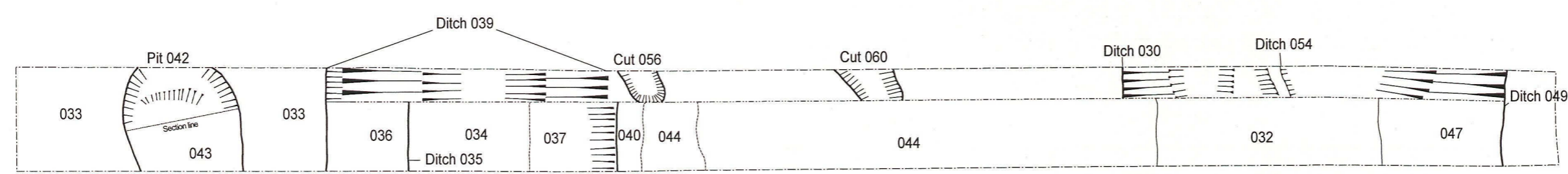
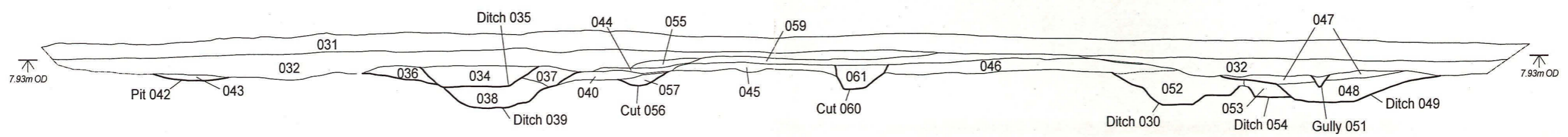
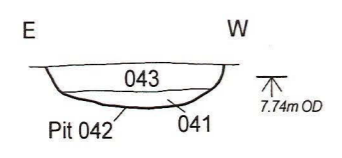
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Figure 5 - Trench A, plan and section



Trench B




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Figure 6 - Trench B, plan and sections

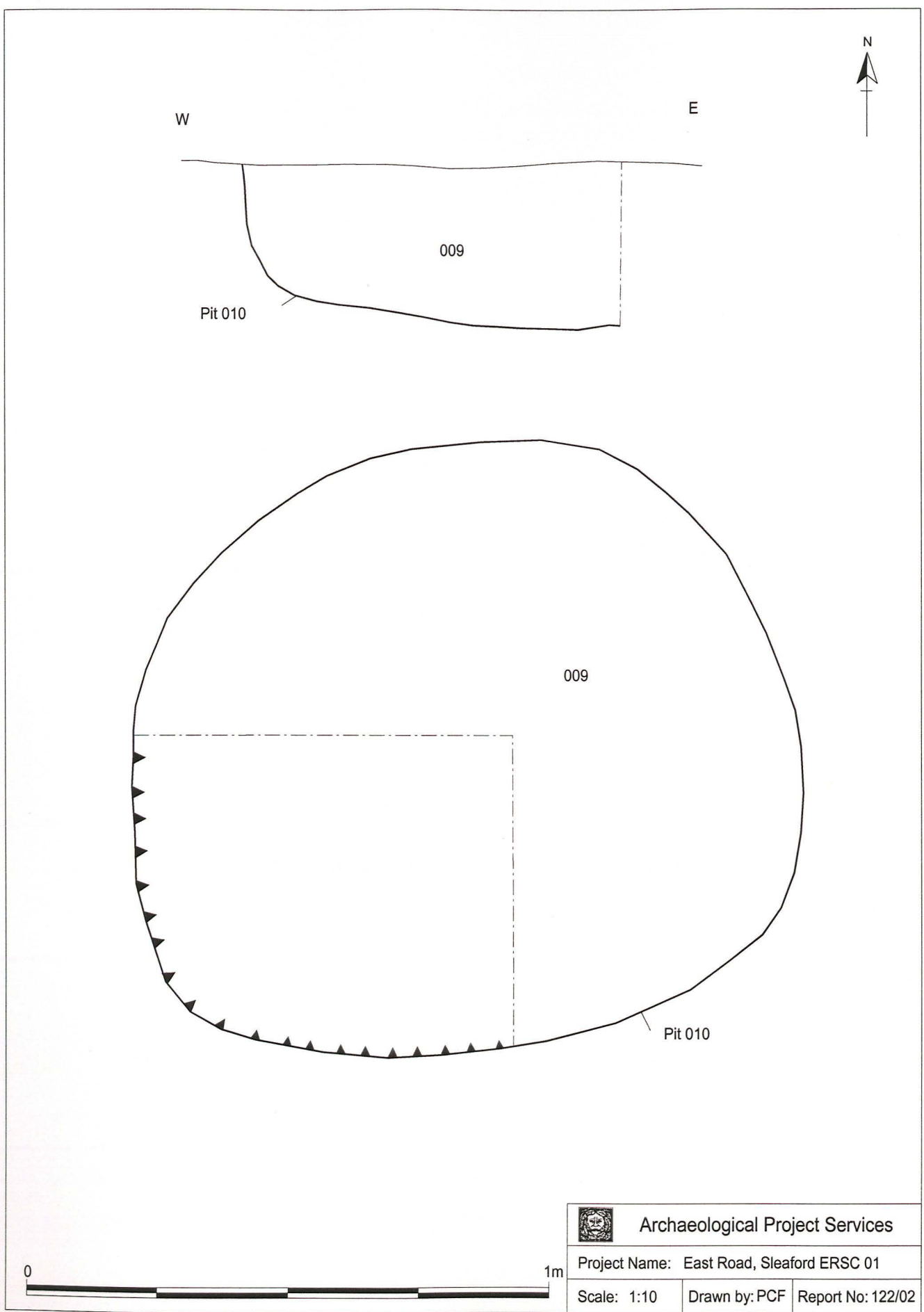
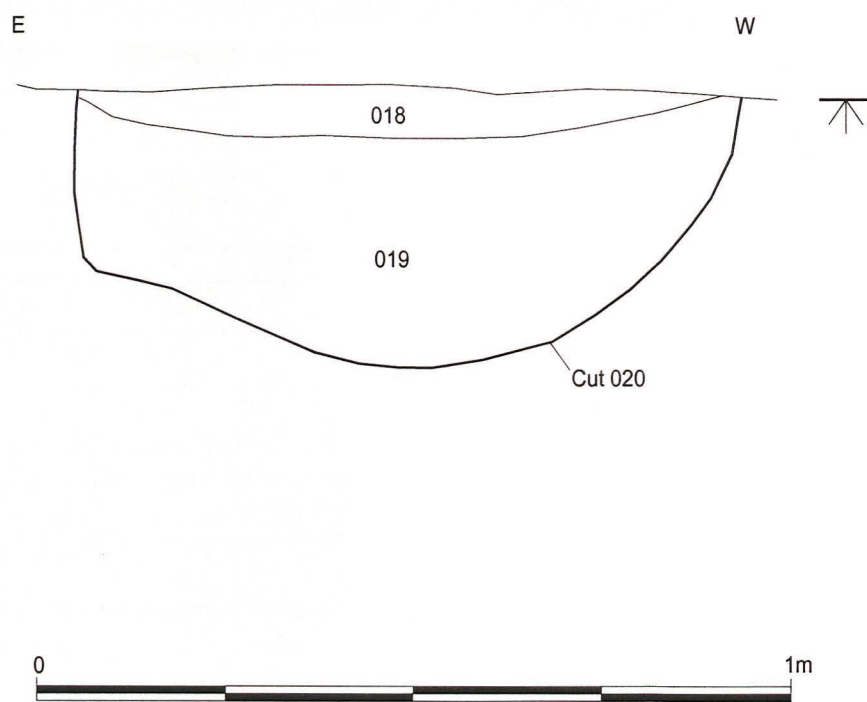


Figure 7 - Pit 010, plan and section



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Scale: 1:10

Drawn by: PCF

Report No: 122/02

Figure 8 - Section of undated pit (020)



Plate 1 - General view across the site, looking north



Plate 2 - Trench A before excavation, looking east



Plate 2 - Trench A after excavation, looking south



Plate 4 - Trench B after excavation, showing the make-up deposits, looking north



Plate 5 - Section through Pit (042), looking south



Plate 6 - Pit (010), looking west

Appendix 1

LAND AT SLEAFORD ENTERPRISE PARK, EAST ROAD, SLEAFORD, LINCOLNSHIRE - SPECIFICATION FOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATIONS

1. SUMMARY

- a. *Archaeological monitoring and recording of groundworks is required during development on land at Sleaford Enterprise Park, East Road, Sleaford, Lincolnshire.*
- b. *The area is archaeologically sensitive, lying over the line of the Mareham Lane Roman road and close to an area of Iron Age settlement.*
- c. *Archaeological monitoring will be undertaken during groundworks associated with the development in order to identify and record the road surface and associated features. The archaeological features exposed will be recorded in writing, graphically and photographically.*
- d. *On completion of the fieldwork a report will be prepared detailing the results of the investigation. The report will consist of a narrative supported by illustrations and photographs.*

2. INTRODUCTION

- a. This document comprises a specification for archaeological monitoring and recording of groundworks connected with the construction of a new veterinary centre at Sleaford Enterprise Park, East Road, Sleaford, Lincolnshire. The site is located at National Grid Reference TF 0792 4701.
- b. This document contains the following parts:
 - i. Overview.
 - ii. Stages of work and methodologies.
 - iii. List of specialists.
 - iv. Programme of works and staffing structure of the project

3. SITE LOCATION

- a. Sleaford is located some 27km south of Lincoln in the North Kesteven district of Lincolnshire. The site is located on the northeastern edge of the town. It comprises a block of land of roughly 0.3ha on the east side of East Road close to the A17 junction at National Grid Reference TF 0792 4701.

4. PLANNING BACKGROUND

- a. Planning permission (Application No. N/57/0160/01) has been granted subject to a condition requiring the implementation of an archaeological scheme of works during construction.

5. SOILS AND TOPOGRAPHY

- a. The site lies on an area of flat land immediately to the west of the River Sleas at an elevation of approximately 12m OD. Soils at the site are Ruskington Association gleyic brown calcareous earths developed on glaciofluvial sands and gravels with a calcareous substrate containing limestone stones, flints and quartzite pebbles (Hodge *et al.* 1984 304). The solid geology comprises Upper Jurassic limestones with an undulating substratum of Oxford clays. Most of the site is waterlogged from a depth of 600mm below the ground surface.

6. ARCHAEOLOGICAL OVERVIEW

- 6.1 Sleaford is situated on the junction of two lines of communication. The east to west route through the

Ancaster Gap links the Trent Valley and the Derbyshire hills with the salt-making sites of the east coast. 'Mareham Lane', used in the Late Iron Age and Roman periods, runs north-south through Old Sleaford and crosses the development site. Old Sleaford was also well placed for water-borne communications along the Old River Sleas.

- 6.2 Old Sleaford was a high status settlement in the Late Iron Age, being a sub-capital of the *Corieltavi* and the site of the largest known mint in prehistoric Europe (Elsdon 1997). This settlement was located 1km to the south of Sleaford Enterprise Park, around Old Place and The Hoplands, but little is known of the precursors to the Late Iron Age settlement.
- 6.3 Archaeological study of the area of the Enterprise Park (Lindsey Archaeological Services 1996; Archaeological Project Services 1998) has demonstrated the presence of a settlement enclosure dating from the Middle to Late Iron Age. Well-preserved ditches, pits and postholes produced waterlogged deposits containing preserved plant and animal remains.
- 6.4 The proposed development lies immediately to the west of the Iron Age enclosure and sits atop the line of the Mareham Lane Roman road, remains of which have previously been revealed just below the topsoil in this area (APS 1998).

7. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- a. The aims of the archaeological monitoring will be:
 - i. To identify and record the road surface and associated ditches and other features exposed during groundworks associated with the development.
- b. The objectives of the watching brief will be to:
 - i. Determine the form and function of the archaeological features encountered;
 - ii. Determine the spatial arrangement of the archaeological features encountered;
 - iii. As far as practicable, recover dating evidence from the archaeological features, and
 - iv. Establish the sequence of the archaeological remains present on the site.

8. SITE OPERATIONS

- a. General considerations
 - i. All work will be undertaken following statutory Health and Safety requirements in operation at the time of the watching brief.
 - ii. The work will be undertaken according to the relevant codes of practise issued by the Institute of Field Archaeologists (IFA), under the management of a Member of the Institute (MIFA). Archaeological Project Services is IFA registered organisation no. 21.
 - iii. Any and all artefacts found during the investigation and thought to be 'treasure', as defined by the Treasure Act 1996, will be removed from site to a secure store and promptly reported to the appropriate coroner's office.
- b. Methodology
 - i. Archaeological monitoring will be undertaken during the ground works phase of development, and includes the monitoring of all phases of soil movement.
 - ii. Topsoil stripping will be undertaken by a mechanical excavator using a toothless ditching bucket under archaeological supervision. The exposed road surface and associated features will be hand cleaned and a sample of exposed features excavated. Two hand-dug sections will be excavated across the Roman road at points judged most likely to provide detailed stratigraphic and dating evidence.

- iii. The archaeological features encountered will be recorded on Archaeological Project Services proforma context record sheets. The system used is the single context method by which individual archaeological units of stratigraphy are assigned a unique record number and are individually described and drawn.
- iv. Plans of features will be drawn at a scale of 1:20 and sections at a scale of 1:10. Should individual features merit it, they will be drawn at a larger scale. Plans of the road surface as a whole will be produced at smaller scale.
- v. Finds collected during the fieldwork will be bagged and labelled according to the individual deposit from which they were recovered ready for later washing and analysis.
- vi. Throughout the duration of the excavation a photographic record consisting of black and white prints (reproduced as contact sheets) and colour slides will be compiled. The photographic record will consist of:
 - (1) the site before the commencement of field operations.
 - (2) the site during work to show specific stages of work, and the layout of the archaeology within the area of investigation.
 - (3) individual features and, where appropriate, their sections.
 - (4) groups of features where their relationship is important.
 - (5) the site on completion of field work
- vii. 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.
- viii. The precise location of the investigation area within the site and the location of site recording grid will be established by an EDM survey.

9. POST-EXCAVATION

a. Stage 1

- i. On completion of site operations, the records and schedules produced during the watching brief will be checked and ordered to ensure that they form a uniform sequence forming a level II archive. A stratigraphic matrix of the archaeological deposits and features present on the site will be prepared. All photographic material will be catalogued and labelled, the labelling referring to schedules identifying the subject/s photographed.
- ii. All finds recovered during the field work will be washed, marked and packaged according to the deposit from which they were recovered. Any finds requiring specialist treatment and conservation will be sent to the Conservation Laboratory at the City and County Museum, Lincoln.

b. Stage 2

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

c. Stage 3

- i. On completion of stage 2, a report detailing the findings of the watching brief will be prepared.

- ii. This will consist of:
 - (1) A non-technical summary of the results of the investigation.
 - (2) A description of the archaeological setting of the watching brief.
 - (3) Description of the topography of the site.
 - (4) Description of the methodologies used during the watching brief.
 - (5) A text describing the findings of the watching brief.
 - (6) A consideration of the local, regional and national context of the watching brief findings.
 - (7) Plans of the archaeological features exposed. If a sequence of archaeological deposits is encountered, separate plans for each phase will be produced.
 - (8) Sections of the trenches and archaeological features.
 - (9) Interpretation of the archaeological features exposed, and their chronology and setting within the surrounding landscape.
 - (10) Specialist reports on the finds from the site.
 - (11) Appropriate photographs of the site and specific archaeological features.

10. REPORT DEPOSITION

- a. Copies of the report will be sent to the client; the North Kesteven Heritage Officer; North Kesteven District Council Planning Department; and to the County Council Archaeological Sites and Monuments Record.

11. ARCHIVE

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

12. PUBLICATION

- a. A report of the findings of the watching brief will be published in Heritage Lincolnshire's Annual Report and a note presented to the editor of the journal *Lincolnshire History and Archaeology*. If appropriate, notes on the findings will be submitted to the appropriate national journals: *Britannia* for discoveries of Roman date, and *Medieval Archaeology* and the *Journal of the Medieval Settlement Research Group* for findings of medieval or later date.

13. CURATORIAL RESPONSIBILITY

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

14. VARIATIONS AND CONTINGENCIES

- a. Variations to the proposed scheme of works will only be made following written confirmation of acceptance from the archaeological curator.
- b. In the event of the discovery of any unexpected remains of archaeological importance, or of any changed circumstances, it is the responsibility of the archaeological contractor to inform the archaeological curator (*Lincolnshire Archaeological Handbook* 1998, Sections 5.7 and 18).

- c. Where important archaeological remains are discovered and deemed to merit further investigation additional resources may be required to provide an appropriate level of investigation, recording and analysis.
- d. Any contingency requirement for additional fieldwork or post-excavation analysis outside the scope of the proposed scheme of works will only be activated following full consultation with the archaeological curator and the client.

15. PROGRAMME OF WORKS AND STAFFING LEVELS

- a. The watching brief will be integrated with the programme of construction and is dependent on the developers' work programme. It is therefore not possible to specify the person-hours for the archaeological site work.
- b. An archaeological supervisor with experience of watching briefs will undertake the work.
- c. Post-excavation analysis and report production will be undertaken by the archaeological supervisor, or a post-excavation analyst as appropriate, with assistance from a finds supervisor, illustrator and external specialists. It is expected that each fieldwork day (equal to one person-day) will require a post- excavation day (equal to one-and-a-half person-days) for completion of the analysis and report. If the fieldwork lasts longer than about four days then there will be an economy of scale with the post-excavation analysis.

16. SPECIALISTS TO BE USED DURING THE PROJECT

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

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

17. INSURANCES

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

18. COPYRIGHT

- a. Archaeological Project Services shall retain full copyright of any commissioned reports under the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988 with all rights reserved; excepting that it hereby provides an

exclusive licence to the client for the use of such documents by the client in all matters directly relating to the project as described in the Project Specification.

- b. Licence will also be given to the archaeological curators to use the documentary archive for educational, public and research purposes.
- c. In the case of non-satisfactory settlement of account then copyright will remain fully and exclusively with Archaeological Project Services. In these circumstances it will be an infringement under the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988 for the client to pass any report, partial report, or copy of same, to any third party. Reports submitted in good faith by Archaeological Project Services to any Planning Authority or archaeological curator will be removed from said planning Authority and/or archaeological curator. The Planning Authority and/or archaeological curator will be notified by Archaeological Project Services that the use of any such information previously supplied constitutes an infringement under the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988 and may result in legal action.
- d. The author of any report or specialist contribution to a report shall retain intellectual copyright of their work and may make use of their work for educational or research purposes or for further publication.

19. BIBLIOGRAPHY

Archaeological Project Services, 1998 *Archaeological Field Evaluation on land Adjacent to North Junction, Sleaford Lincolnshire (SNJ97)* Archaeological Project Services report no. 1/98

Archaeological Project Services, 2000 *Interim Summary of Archaeological Excavations at Sleaford North Junction (SNJ00)* Archaeological Project Services report no. 52/00

Elsdon, S. 1997 *Old Sleaford Revealed. A Lincolnshire Settlement in Iron Age, Roman, Saxon and Medieval Times: Excavations 1882-1995.*

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

Lindsey Archaeological Services, 1996 *Sleaford, Land Off East Road: Archaeological Desktop Assessment*

Appendix 2

CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

No.	Area	Description	Interpretation
001	TP4	Friable dark brown silty sand, 0.2m-0.4m thick	Topsoil
002	TP4	Friable mid brown silty sand, 100-200mm thick	Subsoil
003	TP4	Loose reddish brown sand, 90mm thick	Natural deposit
004	TP4	Loose dark reddish brown gravel, 0.25m thick	Natural deposit
005	TP4	Loose dark greyish brown sand, 0.48m thick	Natural deposit
006	TP	Loose dark brownish yellow sand, >0.5m thick	Natural deposit
007	TP2	Friable dark greyish brown silty sand	Fill of (008)
008	TP2	Linear feature, aligned east-west, 1.07m wide by 0.25m deep, moderate sides and concave base	Ditch
009		Firm mid greyish brown silty sand	Fill of (010)
010		Sub-circular feature, 1.25m diameter x 0.32m deep, steep sides and flat base	Pit
011		Loose greyish brown and yellow sandy silt with sand and gravel	Backfill of (011)
012		Linear feature, aligned east-west, 5.5m long by 1.55m wide, not excavated	1997 evaluation trench
013		Loose brownish yellow silty sand, 8m extent	Make-up deposit
014		Firm dark greyish brown silty sand, 100mm thick	Buried soil
015		Loose light grey limestone (incorporating topsoil), 100mm thick	Surface
016		Loose dark greyish brown silty sand	Fill of (017)
017		Linear feature, aligned east-west, 5m wide by 10m long, not excavated	Ditch
018		Firm mid yellowish brown silty sand	Fill of (020)
019		Friable dark blackish grey silty sand with ash	Fill of (020)
020		Oval feature, 1.1m long by 0.96m wide by 0.35m deep, near vertical sides and concave base	Pit
021		Compact whitish grey ashy silt	Dumped deposit
022		Firm dark blackish grey silty sand	Dumped deposit
023		Firm mid brown silt and sand	Dumped deposit
024		Soft to firm mid brown and dark blackish grey silty sand	Dumped deposit
025	A	Firm mid greyish brown clayey silt	Fill of (026)
026	A	Linear feature, aligned north-south, 4m wide by 0.2m deep, gradual sides and flat base	Ditch recut
027	A	Firm dark brownish grey clayey silt	Fill of (028)
028	A	Linear feature, aligned north-south, 1.95m wide by 0.4m deep, steep	Ditch

No.	Area	Description	Interpretation
		sides and flat base	
029	A	Firm to loose mid yellowish brown sand and gravel	Natural deposit
030	B	Linear feature, aligned north-south, 1.5m wide by 0.3m deep, stepped sides and flat base	Ditch
031	B	Firm to friable dark brown clayey silt, 0.2m thick	Topsoil
032	B	Firm to friable mid reddish brown clayey silt, ##thick	Subsoil
033	B	Loose light to mid yellowish brown sand and gravel	Natural deposit
034	B	Firm to friable light to mid reddish brown clayey silt	Fill of (035)
035	B	Linear feature, aligned north-south, 1.9m wide by 0.35m deep, moderate sides and flat base	Ditch
036	B	Firm dark greyish brown clayey silt	Fill of (039)
037	B	Firm light to mid brownish yellow	Fill of (039)
038	B	Firm mid greenish yellow silty sand	Fill of (039)
039	B	Linear feature, aligned north-south, 3m wide by 0.65m deep, gradual sides and concave base	Ditch
040	B	Firm mid to dark greyish brown sandy silt	Layer
041	B	Soft mid to dark greyish brown clayey sand	Fill of (042)
042	B	Linear feature, 1.8m wide by 0.45m deep, steep sides and slightly rounded base	Ditch
043	B	Soft mid greyish brown clayey sand	Fill of (042)
044	B	Firm mixed mid greyish brown and yellowish brown silty sand with stone, 100mm thick	Make-up deposit
045	B	Firm mixed yellow, light brown, greyish brown and mid grey sand, 0.15m thick	Make-up deposit
046	B	Firm light brownish yellow sand, 0.2m thick	Make-up deposit
047	B	Firm mid brownish yellow sand	Fill of (049)
048	B	Firm light brownish yellow sandy clay	Fill of (049)
049	B	Linear feature, aligned north-south, 2.6m wide by 0.48m deep, gradual sides and flat base	Ditch
050	B	Firm mid to dark reddish brown clayey silt	Fill of (051)
051	B	Linear feature, aligned northwest-southeast, 0.3m wide by 0.15m deep, steep sides and v-shaped base	Gully
052	B	Firm dark greyish brown clayey sand	Fill of (030)
053	B	Firm dark greyish brown clayey sand	Fill of (054)
054	B	Linear feature, aligned north-south, 0.7m wide by 0.3m deep, steep sides and flat base	Ditch
055	B	Firm light to mid brownish yellow limestone fragments, 100mm thick	Road metalling
056	B	Linear feature, aligned north-south, 0.76m wide by 0.17m deep,	Gully

No.	Area	Description	Interpretation
		gradual sides and concave base	
057	B	Firm mid to dark grey silty sand	Fill of (056)
058	B	Firm mixed mid greyish brown and yellowish brown silty sand with stone, 20mm thick	Make-up deposit
059	B	Firm mid yellowish brown limestone fragments, 0.12m thick	Road metalling
060	B	Linear feature, aligned northwest-southeast, 0.8m wide by 0.4m deep, steep sides and flat base	Ditch
061	B	Soft mixed dark grey and mid brown sand	Fill of (060)

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 7 fragments of pottery weighing 170g was recovered from 6 separate contexts. In addition to the pottery, a small quantity of other artefacts, brick/tile, glass and metal objects, comprising 8 items weighing a total of 181g, was also retrieved.

Provenance

The material was recovered from a variety of deposits and includes ditch and pit fills, buried soil and recent layers.

It is probable that the Romano-British pottery was all produced in Lincolnshire and comparable material has previously been recovered from numerous other sites in the county. Some of the post-medieval pottery, the red earthenware, may also be Lincolnshire products but the latest material includes a jar stamped as manufactured in London.

Range

The range of material is detailed in the tables.

Several fragments of Romano-British pottery are the earliest items recovered, though most of the material is late post-medieval in date, 17th to 20th century. Pottery is the main component of the moderate assemblage.

Table 1: Pottery

Context	Fabric Code	Description	No.	Wt(g)	Context Date
011	BL	Red earthenware, black glazed, possibly Boston	1	6	17 th century
013	CRMWARE	Creamware, late, late 18 th -early 19 th century	1	8	late 18 th -early 19 th century
	GREY	Greyware, Romano-British slightly abraded, mid-late 3 rd century	1	10	
014	BL	Red earthenware, black glazed	1	3	17 th -18 th century
016	LSTON	Stoneware jar, impressed trademark BLACKWOOD & Co. LONDON	1	127	19 th century
027	?GREY	?Greyware, Romano-British	1	14	3 rd -4 th century
034	GREY	Greyware, Romano-British, abraded	1	2	mid-late 3 rd century

Two of the Romano-British pottery fragments are abraded though the third, from (027), is fresh and unworn.

Table 2: The Other Items

Context	Description	No.	Wt(g)	Context Date
009	Handmade brick/tile	1	4	?post-medieval
014	Coal/clinker	2	4	
016	Colourless glass bottle, punt mark 3/166 4A and irregular 'T' within circle, 20 th century	1	98	20 th century

Context	Description	No.	Wt(g)	Context Date
	Dark olive green glass bottle, deep kick-up with punt scar, 19 th century	1	72	
032	Sheep tooth	1	1	
052	Fired clay	2	2	

The single animal bone recovered is an unworn molar tooth from a sheep.

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 Sleaford, particularly in close proximity to the current site elsewhere on East Road, which are the subjects of reports. Details of archaeological sites and discoveries in the area are maintained in the files of the North Kesteven Heritage Officer and the Lincolnshire County Council Sites and Monuments Record.

Potential

Although a small quantity, the Romano-British aspect of the assemblage is of moderate local significance. Although Iron Age activity and remains are known in the area, little Roman material has previously been found in the proximity. Therefore, these artefacts supplement and enhance the previous discoveries and perhaps signify otherwise unknown Romano-British occupation nearby.

The late post-medieval material is of limited potential. However, the absence of any medieval material is informative and suggests that the site was little used, perhaps other than for pasture, during that period.

Reference

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

PLANT MACROFOSSILS, MOLLUSC SHELLS AND OTHER REMAINS FROM EAST ROAD, SLEAFORD, LINCS. (ERSC01): AN ASSESSMENT.

By Val Fryer

Introduction

Excavations at East Road, Sleaford were undertaken by Archaeological Project Services. Contexts of Romano-British date were recorded including three ditches and one elongated feature, possibly a pit or ditch terminus. Samples for the extraction of plant macrofossils were taken from across the excavated area, and four were submitted for assessment.

Methods

The samples were processed by manual water flotation/washover, collecting the flots in a 500 micron mesh sieve. The dried flots were scanned under a binocular microscope at magnifications up to x16, and the plant macrofossils, mollusc shells and other remains noted are listed on Table 1. Nomenclature within the table follows Evans (1972), Macan (1969) and Stace (1997). All plant remains were preserved by charring.

The non-floating residues were collected in a 1mm mesh sieve and will be sorted when dried. Artefacts/ecofacts will be removed for further specialist analysis.

Results of assessment

Plant macrofossils

With the exception of the charcoal fragments, plant remains are only recorded from sample 4 at an extremely low density. A single wheat (*Triticum* sp.) grain of an elongated 'drop' form typical of spelt (*T. spelta*) is present along with a spelt glume base.

Molluscs

Mollusc shells are common or abundant in all four samples. The specimens from sample 1 appear to be largely modern in origin; all are very well preserved with colouration and surface structuring still visible and intact. The remaining assemblages may be contemporary with the features, although some modern contamination may be present. Terrestrial, marsh/freshwater slum and freshwater obligate species are present with freshwater slum species being predominant. A single specimen of *Hydrobia ulvae* from sample 3 is possibly of note as this is a brackish water species commonly found in estuaries and salt marshes.

Other materials

With the exception of the mineralised concretions, which are common in sample 3, other remains are extremely rare. Fragments of black porous 'cokey' material and black tarry material may be derived from the combustion of organic remains at very high temperatures, and it is possible that the coal fragments are the residue of recent agricultural techniques, for example steam ploughing.

Conclusions

In conclusion, the plant macrofossil assemblage is insufficient for interpretation and all plant remains are probably accidental inclusions within the features. Although it cannot be conclusively proved that the mollusc assemblages are contemporary with the ditches, they do indicate that, at some point, these features were situated within an open landscape and were semi-permanently waterlogged/ seasonally flooded.

References

Evans, J., 1972, *Land Snails in Archaeology*

Macan, T.T., 1969, A key to the British Fresh- and Brackish-water gastropods. *Freshwater Biological Association Scientific Publication* No. 13

Stace, C., 1997, *New Flora of the British Isles*. Second edition.

Table 1: Charred plant macrofossils, molluscs and other remains

Sample No.	1	2	3	4
Context No.	048	052	038	041
Cereals				
<i>Triticum</i> sp. (grain)				x
<i>T. Spelta</i> L. (glume base)				x
Other plant macrofossils				
Charcoal <2mm	x		x	x
Charred root/rhizome/stem		x		x
Molluscs				
Woodland/shade loving species				
<i>Carychium</i> sp.			x	
Open country species				
<i>Abide secale</i>				xcf
<i>Pupilla muscorum</i>			xx	x
<i>Vallonia</i> sp.		x		x
<i>V. castata</i>			xx	x
<i>V. excentrica</i>			xcf	
<i>V. pulchella</i>			x	
Catholic species				
<i>Cochlicopa</i> sp.		x	xx	
<i>Trichia hispida</i> group		x	xx	x
Marsh/freshwater slum species				
<i>Lymnaea truncatula</i>			xxx	
<i>Vertigo</i> sp.				x
<i>Vertigo antivertigo</i>			xx	
Freshwater species				
<i>Anisus leucostoma</i>			xxx	x
<i>Hydrobia ulvae</i>			x	
<i>Lymnaea</i> sp.		x		
<i>L. peregra</i>		x		x
Other materials				
Black porous 'cokey' material	x	x	x	x
Black tarry material				x
Burnt/fired clay		x		
Metallic globules	x			
Mineralised concretions			xx	
Small coal frags.	x	x		x
Vitrified material		x		
Sample volume (litres)	6	7	7	8
Volume of flot (litres)	<0.1	<0.1	0.1	<0.1
% flot sorted	100%	100%	100%	100%

Key to Table

x = 1 - 10 specimens xx = 10 - 100 specimens xxx = 100+ specimens

Appendix 5

GLOSSARY

Bronze Age	A period characterised by the introduction of bronze into the country for tools, between 2250 and 800 BC.
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).
Cropmark	A mark that is produced by the effect of underlying archaeological features influencing the growth of a particular crop.
Cut	A cut refers to the physical action of digging a posthole, pit, ditch, foundation trench, <i>etc.</i> Once the fills of these features are removed during an archaeological investigation the original 'cut' is therefore exposed and subsequently recorded.
Dumped deposits	These are deposits, often laid down intentionally, that raise a land surface. They may be the result of casual waste disposal or may be deliberate attempts to raise the ground surface.
Fill	Once a feature has been dug it begins to silt up (either slowly or rapidly) or it can be back-filled manually. The soil(s) which become contained by the 'cut' are referred to as its fill(s).
Iron Age	A period characterised by the introduction of Iron into the country for tools, between 800 BC and AD 50.
Layer	A layer is a term to describe an accumulation of soil or other material that is not contained within a cut.
Medieval	The Middle Ages, dating from approximately AD 1066-1500.
Natural	Undisturbed deposit(s) of soil or rock which have accumulated without the influence of human activity.
Neolithic	The 'New Stone Age' period, part of the prehistoric era, dating from approximately 4500-2250 BC.
Palaeolithic	The earliest part of the 'Stone Age' dating from the first period of human occupation to the end of the last ice age (approximately 10,000 years ago). It is usually sub-divided into lower, middle and upper, each characterised by differing stone tools and sub-species of humans.
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 st 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.

Appendix 6

THE ARCHIVE

The archive consists of:

61	Context records
18	Scaled drawing sheets
1	Photographic record sheet
1	Stratigraphic matrix
1	Box of finds

All primary records and finds are currently kept at:

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

The ultimate destination of the project archive is:

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

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

Lincolnshire City and County Council Museum Accession Number: 2001.80

Archaeological Project Services Site Code: ERSC 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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