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ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF
ON LAND AT
MANI FIRS,
KIRTON,
LINCOLNSHIRE
(KMF02)



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ARCHAEOLOGICAL
PROJECT
SERVICES

Conservation Services

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Highways & Planning Directorate



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ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF ON LAND AT MANI FIRS, KIRTON, LINCOLNSHIRE (KMF02)

Work Undertaken For DW Bradley Chartered Surveyor

August 2002

Report Compiled by Steve Thomson BSc (Hons)

National Grid Reference: TF 3023 3834 Planning Reference: B/01/0695/FULL City and County Museums Accession No. LCNCC 2002.187

ARCHAEOLOGICAL PROJECT SERVICES



APS Report No. 168/02

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1. SUMMARY

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken on land at Mani Firs, Kirton, Lincolnshire, as the area is archaeologically sensitive, lying within the historic core of Kirton and approximately 300m southwest of the church of SS. Peter and Paul.

During the course of the watching brief only a modern concrete surface, associated hardcore and a subsoil layer were revealed. No archaeological deposits or features were exposed, with no artefacts recovered from the site.

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 anv operation carried out for nonarchaeological 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 (APS) was commissioned by Mr. DW Bradley to undertake an archaeological watching brief during groundworks associated with the construction of an extension to offices on land at Mani Firs, Kirton, Lincolnshire. Approval for the development was sought through the submission of planning application B/01/0695/FULL.

The watching brief was carried out between the 26th and 29th April 2002, in accordance with a specification designed

by APS (Appendix 1) and approved by the Boston District Community Archaeologist.

2.3 Topography and Geology

Kirton is situated 6km southwest of Boston and approximately 16km north of Spalding, in Boston District, Lincolnshire (Fig. 1).

The development site (Plate 1) lies in the western part of the village, on the west side of London Road, 300m southwest of the Church of St. Peter and St.Paul (Fig.2) and is centred on National Grid Reference TF 3023 3834.

The site is low lying at approximately 4m OD on fairly level ground. Local soils are typical alluvial gleys of the Wisbech Association, developed on marine alluvium which in turn overlies Oxford clays (Hodge *et al.* 1984, 319; 361).

2.4 Archaeological Setting

A Neolithic stone axe and a possible tumulus provide the only evidence of a prehistoric presence in the parish. However, it is likely that the 'tumulus' is in fact a medieval saltern mound, and the provenance of the axe is uncertain.

Evidence for Romano-British activity is also scarce with finds limited to the northwest edge of the parish and is confined, in this area, to a spread of artefacts found approximately 1km northwest of the development site. It remains likely, however, that much of the evidence for both of these earlier periods may be buried under deep alluvial deposits.

Medieval use of the area is well attested (Fig. 2). Kirton is recorded in the Domesday Survey of 1086 AD and was an important medieval settlement, though it has since declined in favour of Boston. Referred to as *Chirchetune*, the name is likely to derive from a Scandanavianised

form of Old English *Ciric-tun*, meaning church village. The Old English *cirice* appears to have been replaced at some point by the Old Norse *kirkja* (Cameron 1998).

The area of investigation lies c. 300m southwest of the 12th century parish church of SS Peter and Paul, which dominates the village centre. Immediately east of the church, Late Saxon to early medieval remains, representing a farmyard with an area of open water nearby, was excavated during an evaluation on the High Street (Cope-Faulkner 1996). Evidence of late Saxon and early medieval activity has been identified on Station Road (Rayner 2002) and to the east on King Street (Thomson 2001).

Further early medieval and later deposits were identified c. 200m to the east of the development area on London Road (Snee 2001).

Approximately 150m northeast of the development, probable late Saxon and early medieval domestic remains were revealed (Hambly 2000). Further medieval occupation was identified along Station Road and Willington Road (Cope-Faulkner 1994, 1996, Taylor 1994, Thomson 2002a).

Located outside the village were three sizeable houses of medieval date, Bozon Hall, Orme Hall and Littlebury Hall, all now demolished.

French and German tokens of 15th and 16th century date have been found in the centre of the village and The Old Kings Head, formerly an inn, dating to the 16th century is located northeast of the development.

Intensive building activity in the 19th century has been recorded on the High Street (Cope-Faulkner 1996).

Early post-medieval remains, in the form of refuse pits and brick structural evidence have been recorded approximately 450m northeast on the High Street (Thomson 2002b).

3. AIMS

The aim of the watching brief, as detailed in the specification (Appendix 1), was to record and interpret archaeological features exposed during the ground disturbance, and, where present, to determine their form, function, spatial arrangement, date and sequence.

4. METHODS

Removal of the existing concrete surface and associated hardcore was carried out using a mechanical excavator. Foundation trenches were then mechanically excavated to a depth of 0.6m below ground surface, intrusive by some 0.15m into the underlying soils.

The exposed sections of the trenches were inspected to identify archaeological remains. Spoil was monitored and searched by trowel to recover artefacts, which may have assisted with the interpretation of the site. The depth and thickness of each deposit was measured from the ground surface.

Each deposit or feature revealed was allocated a unique reference number (context number) with an individual written description. A photographic record was compiled depicting the setting of the site and the recorded section drawings. Sections were drawn at a scale of 1:10 and their locations annotated on sketch plans and a scale plan of the development.

Recording of the deposits encountered during the watching brief was undertaken according to standard APS' practice.

Records of the deposits and features identified during the watching brief were examined. Phasing was assigned based on the nature of the deposits and recognisable relationships between them.

A summary of all contexts, with interpretations, appears as Appendix 2.

Contexts are described below with the numbers assigned in the field shown in bold and brackets.

5. RESULTS

Following post-excavation analysis, two phases were identified;

- 5.1 Phase 1 Alluvial deposits
- 5.2 Phase 2 Modern deposits

5.1 Phase 1 – Alluvial deposits

The earliest deposit encountered during the course of the investigation was a midbrown clayey silt (003) (Fig 4 – section 1, Plate 2) the full depth of which was not exposed. The layer represented an alluvial subsoil.

5.2 Phase 2 – Modern deposits

Truncating the Phase 1 deposit was an extensive horizontal cut (004). Established on this reduced level was a compact whitish grey stone hardcore (002) which served as a make up layer for the most recent deposit recorded, an indurate light grey concrete (001) surface.

6. DISCUSSION

Phase 1 deposits were represented by a subsoil. It is likely that this layer was originally alluvially deposited and subject to subsequent reworking through ploughing, though without deeper excavation, the exact nature of the layer cannot be ascertained.

To permit the laying of the Phase 2 deposits, Phase 1 deposits, which comprised the current yard surface and associated make up layer, had been truncated across the entire site.

No artefacts or archaeological deposits were encountered during the investigation, perhaps due to the shallow nature of the excavation and recent truncation. Given the amount of early archaeological evidence in the vicinity, it is possible that archaeological deposits remain buried on the development site and were not disturbed by the groundworks.

7. CONCLUSION

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken on land at Mani Firs, Kirton, Lincolnshire, as the site is archaeologically sensitive, lying close to the medieval village core and in the vicinity of known Late-Saxon and medieval settlement remains.

However, the excavations for the development were only slightly below modern levels. As a consequence, no archaeological features or deposits were encountered and no artefactual evidence was retrieved.

The nature of the site conditions suggest that few paleo-environmental indicators (seeds, wood, plant macrofossils) would survive other than through charring.

8. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeological Project Services would like to acknowledge the assistance of Mr. DW Bradley, who commissioned the fieldwork and post-excavation analysis. The project was coordinated by Gary Taylor, who jointly edited this report with Tom Lane. Rebecca Wilcox, the Boston Community Archaeologist kindly permitted access to the relevant parish files. Dave Start kindly

permitted access to the library maintained by Heritage Lincolnshire.

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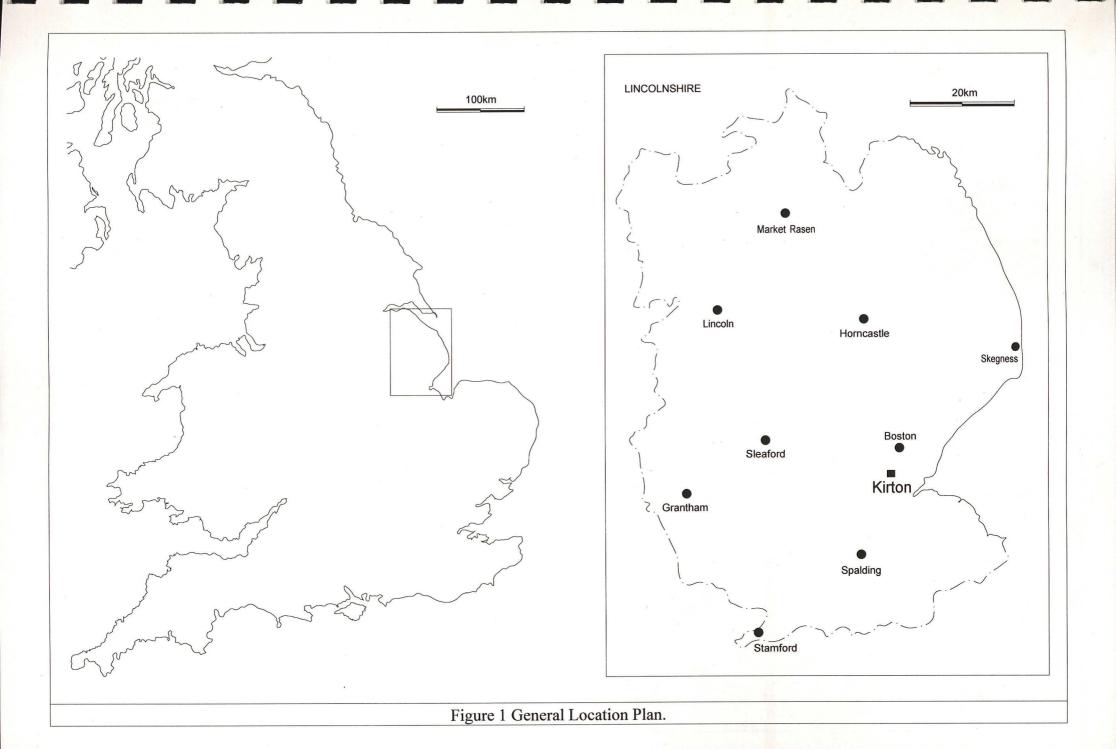
10. ABBREVIATIONS

APS Archaeological Project Services

BGS British Geological Survey

EAS Engineering Archaeological Services Ltd.

IFA Institute of Field Archaeologists



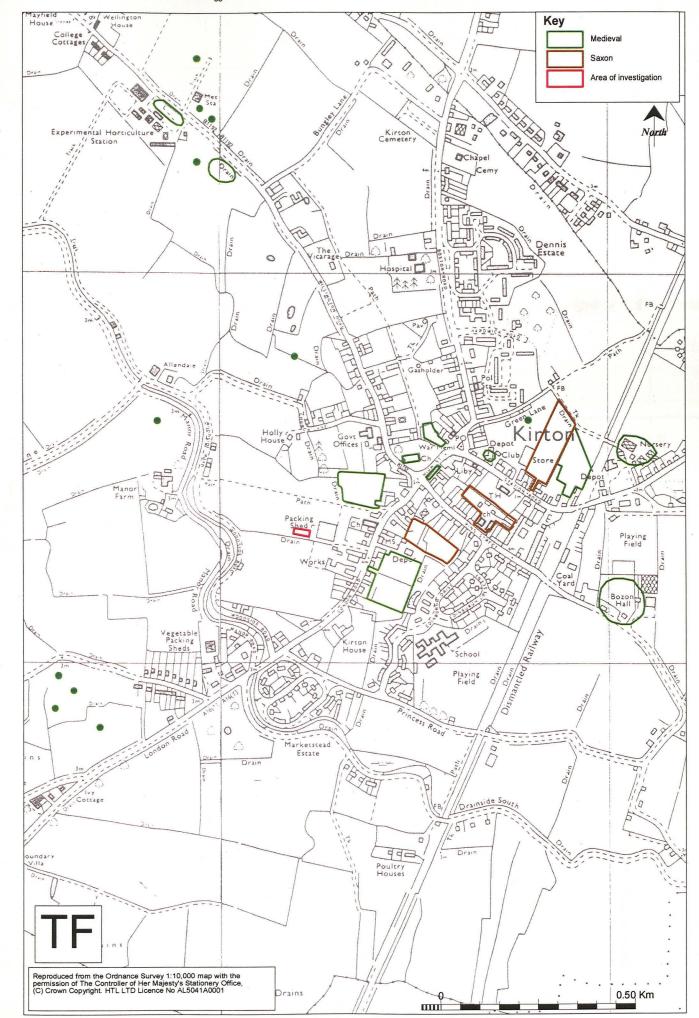


Figure 2 Location plan and archaeological setting

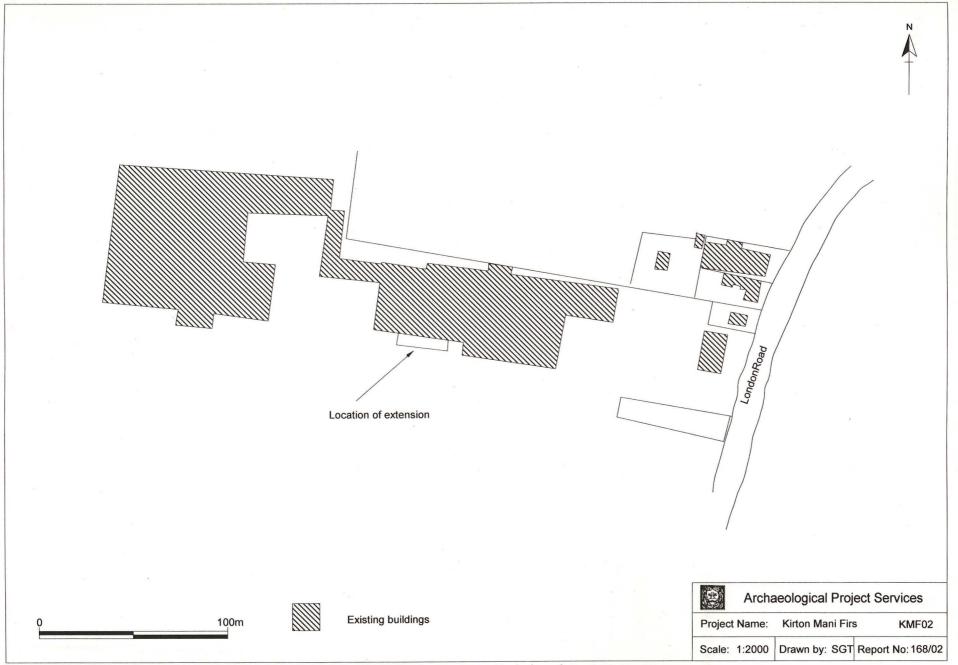


Figure 3 - Detailed site plan

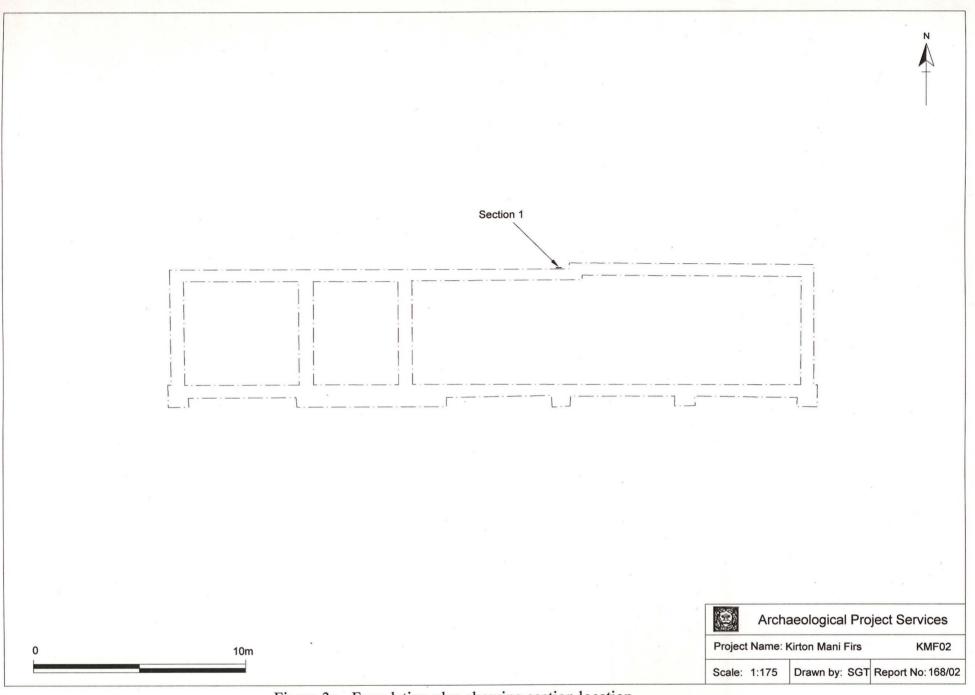


Figure 3a - Foundation plan showing section location

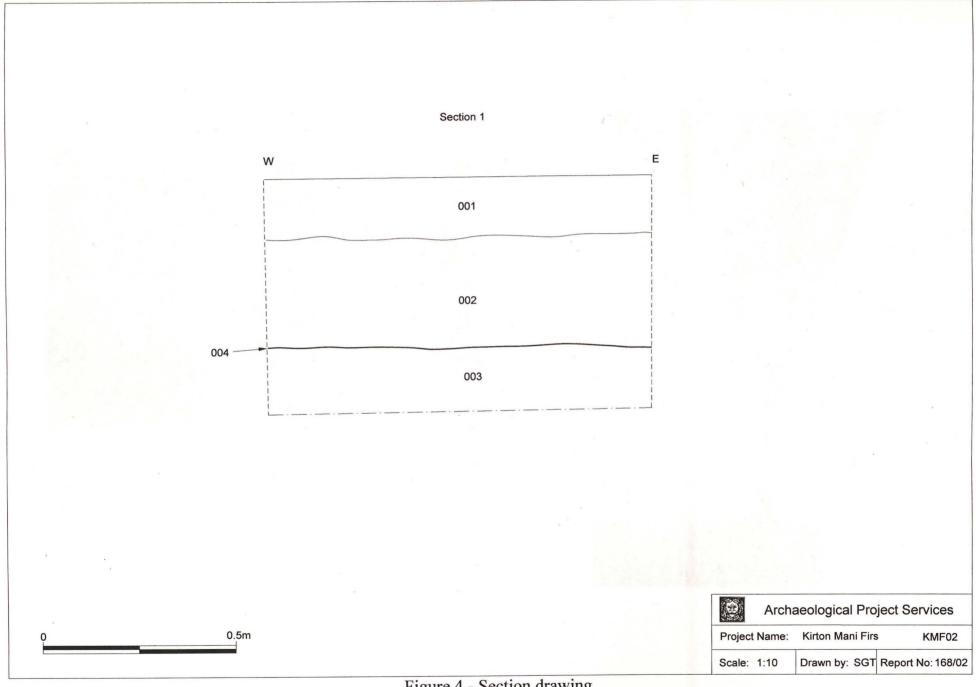


Figure 4 - Section drawing



Plate 1 General view of development area looking east



Plate 2 Section 1, looking north

Appendix 1

LAND AT MANI FIRS, LONDON ROAD, KIRTON, LINCOLNSHIRE

SPECIFICATION FOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

PREPARED FOR D. W. BRADLEY CHARTERED SURVEYOR

BY
ARCHAEOLOGICAL PROJECT SERVICES
Institute of Field Archaeologists'
Registered Organisation No. 21

MARCH 2002

1 SUMMARY

- 1.1 A watching brief is required during construction of an extension to an office on land at London Road, Kirton, Lincolnshire.
- 1.2 The site is in an area of known archaeological significance within the historic core of the Village of Kirton, close to the church of St Peter and St Paul. Previous investigations just to the west revealed Late Saxon-early medieval settlement remains. An investigation just to the north revealed an undated but probably Saxon pitcontaining crop processing waste. Medieval and post-medieval remains have also been found to north and west of the development site.
- 1.3 The archaeological work will consist of a comprehensive watching brief during development works on the site.
- 1.4 On completion of the fieldwork a report will be prepared detailing the results of the watching brief. The report will consist of a narrative supported by illustrations and photographs.

2 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 This document comprises a specification for archaeological watching brief during construction of a garage and store on land at Mani Firs, London Road, Kirton, Lincolnshire.
- 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 Kirton is situated approximately 6km southwest of Boston in the Boston district of Lincolnshire. The proposed development lies in the western part of the village, on the west side of London Road, 300m southwest of the Church of St Peter and St Paul. It is centred on National Grid Reference TF 3023 3834.

4 PLANNING BACKGROUND

4.1 A planning application (B/01/0695/FULL) was submitted to Boston Borough Council for the construction of an office extension. Permission is subject to a condition requiring the undertaking of a watching brief during groundworks associated with the development.

5 SOILS AND TOPOGRAPHY

5.1 The site is low-lying at approximately 4m OD. Local soils are the Wisbech Association calcareous alluvial gleys (Hodge et al. 1984 319; 361). The soils are developed in marine alluvium which in turn overlies Oxford Clays.

6 ARCHAEOLOGICAL OVERVIEW

6.1 The origins of Kirton go back to the late Saxon period. Archaeological excavations have revealed

evidence of occupation from this period onwards within the village. The village is mentioned in the Domesday Book where it us named as *Chirchetune*, deriving from the Old English words 'cirice' (a church) and 'tun' (a village) (Cameron 1998). During the medieval period Kirton was an important market town and recent archaeological work suggests that the village was more extensive in the past, extending beyond its modern boundaries.

6.2 The site lies near the centre of the modern village, about 300m southwest of the parish church. Investigations undertaken near the centre of the village, and just north of the development site, have identified evidence of possible Saxo-Norman or medieval activity (Hambly 2000) and also post-medieval remains (Cope-Faulkner 2002). Deposits dating from the late Saxon through to post-medieval periods were recorded on the opposite side of London Road, with evidence of Late Saxon-early medieval settlement associated with an ancient watercourse, and indications of iron smithing in the area at that time (Snee 2001).

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.
 - 7.1.2 The objectives of the watching brief will be to:
 - Determine the form and function of the archaeological features encountered;
 - Determine the spatial arrangement of the archaeological features encountered;
 - As far as practicable, recover dating evidence from the archaeological features, and
 - 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. Comprehensive watching brief is required, which may require pauses in groundworks to enable recording of archaeological deposits to take place.
- 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.
 - Throughout the watching brief a photographic record will be compiled. The photographic record will consist of:
 - the site during work to show specific stages, and the layout of the archaeology within the trench.
 - groups of features where their relationship is important
- 8.2.4 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 fieldwork 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:
 - A non-technical summary of the results of the investigation.
 - A description of the archaeological setting of the watching brief.
 - Description of the topography of the site.
 - Description of the methodologies used during the watching brief.

- A text describing the findings of the watching brief.
- A consideration of the local, regional and national context of the watching brief findings.
- Plans of the archaeological features exposed. If a sequence of archaeological deposits is encountered, separate plans for each phase will be produced.
- Sections of the trenches and archaeological features.
- Interpretation of the archaeological features exposed, and their chronology and setting within the surrounding landscape.
- · Specialist reports on the finds from the site.
- Appropriate photographs of the site and specific archaeological features.

10 REPORT DEPOSITION

10.1 Copies of the report will be sent to the Client; the Boston Borough Council 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 as a condensed article 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 Borough Council Community Archaeologist. They will be given seven days notice in writing before 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.

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, APS in consultation with H

Healey, Independent Archaeologist

Non-pottery Artefacts J Cowgill, Independent Specialist

Animal Bones Environmental Archaeology Consultancy

Environmental Analysis J Rackham, Independent Specialist

Human Remains Analysis R Gowland, Independent Specialist

17 INSURANCES

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

supplied on request.

18 COPYRIGHT

- 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

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Specification: Version 1, 27th March 2002.

Appendix 2
Context Summary

Context	Section	Description	Interpretation
No.			
001	1	Indurate, light grey concrete, 0.15m thick	Yard surface
002	1	Compact, whitish grey hardcore, 0.3m thick	Make up for 001
003	1	Firm, mid-brown clayey silt, 0.15m thick	Subsoil
004	1	Horizontal cut, covers entire development area	Levelling cut for construction of modern ground

Appendix 3

GLOSSARY

Alluvial

Sediments or soils deposited by the action of water

Context

An archaeological context represents a distinct archaeological event or process. For example, the action of digging a pit creates a context (the cut) as does the process of its subsequent backfill (the fill). Each context encountered during an archaeological investigation is allocated a unique number by the archaeologist and a record sheet detailing the description and interpretations of the context (the context sheet) is created and placed in the site archive. Context numbers are identified within the report text by brackets, *e.g.* (004).

Cut

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.

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).

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.

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 1st century AD.

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:

- 4 Context records
- 1 Sheet of scale drawings
- 3 Daily record sheets
- 1 Context register sheet
- 1 Section record sheet
- 1 Photographic record sheet

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: 2002.187

Archaeological Project Services Site Code: KMF02

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.