ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF
ON LAND AT
R. BRATLEY LIMITED,
QUADRING EAUDIKE,
LINCOLNSHIRE
(QEB01)



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Conservation Services

2 1 OCT 2002

Highways & Planning Directorate

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF ON LAND AT R. BRATLEY LIMITED, QUADRING EAUDIKE, LINCOLNSHIRE (QEB01)

> Work Undertaken For R. Bratley Limited

Report Compiled by Steve Thomson BSc (Hons)

September 2002

Planning Application No: H15/0507/01 National Grid Reference: TF 2455 3325 City and County Museum Accession No: LCNCC: 2001.166

A.P.S. Report No.201/02



# Quality Control Quadring Eaudike Bratley Ltd QEB01

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#### 1. SUMMARY

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken during groundworks associated with the construction of a potato store at Bratley Limited, Quadring Eaudike, Lincolnshire. The site is archaeologically sensitive, lying close to the medieval seabank and in an area with abundant remains of medieval saltmaking activities.

During the course of the investigation, a sequence of naturally deposited soils, subsoil, topsoil and modern hardstanding was identified.

No archaeological features were identified with no artefacts 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 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

Approval for the construction of a potato store at Bratley Limited was sought through the submission of planning application number H15/0507/01 to South Holland District Council. Permission was granted subject to a condition requiring an archaeological watching brief.

Archaeological Project Services (APS) was commissioned by R.Bratley Limited to

undertake the watching brief. The works took place on the 16<sup>th</sup> July 2001, in accordance with a specification designed by APS (Appendix 1) and approved by the Built Environment Officer, Lincolnshire County Council.

# 2.3 Topography and Geology

Quadring Eaudike is located 10km north of Spalding in the South Holland district of Lincolnshire (Fig. 1).

The site lies in the centre of the village, on the west side of the main road and is centred on National Grid Reference TF 2455 3325 (Fig.2)

The land is relatively level at approximately 4m OD. Local soils are fine and coarse silty and clayey soils of the Tanvats Association developed on marine alluvium (Hodge *et al.* 1984, 319).

# 2.4 Archaeological Setting

Quadring Eaudike lies in an area of known archaeological remains. Romano-British pottery scatters have been found within the parish (Fig. 2) indicating settlement of the period in the area.

The village of Quadring, to the west, is mentioned in the Domesday survey where the land was held by the Bishop of Durham and Count Alan. Two salt pans are recorded (Foster and Longley 1976).

The name derives from the Old English Haeferingas, meaning 'the people or followers of Haefer'. The prefix cwead, meaning 'dirt, mud' refers to the fen. The name indicates a period of early Anglo-Saxon settlement (Cameron 1998, 99). Quadring Eaudike first appears in the Papal Registers in 1403. The suffix ea is Old English and refers to a stream, to which dik

was added meaning a ditch or draining channel (*Ibid*).

The site lies within the Bicker Haven, an area where evidence of medieval salt production is abundant. Medieval salterns survive to the north of the site in the form of earthworks (Fig. 2) and the course of the medieval sea bank lies immediately to the east following Eaudyke and New Roads. A medieval salt making site has been the Bicker excavated in Haven approximately 1km northeast of the investigation area, revealing pits, well preserved hearths and evidence of a building (Healey 1999).

Medieval pottery has been found to the north of the site (Fig.2) and substantial scatters, including late Saxon material, have been recorded in the vicinity during the fenland survey (Hayes and Lane, 1992).

Immediately northeast of the site is the believed location of a medieval chapel centred on Chapel Fields. Coincidentally this lies in the vicinity of the 1920's Methodist church.

## 3. AIMS

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

#### 4. METHODS

Stanchion pits measuring 1.7m<sup>2</sup> and 1.8m<sup>2</sup> were opened using a mechanical excavator to depths of up to 1.21m as required by the development.

Following excavation, the sides of the pits were inspected, selectively cleaned and rendered vertical to identify archaeological features and deposits. The depth and thickness of each deposit was measured from the ground surface. 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 interpretations appears as Appendix 2.

A photographic record was compiled depicting the setting of the site and the deposits recorded. Sections were drawn at a scale of 1:10 and their locations were plotted on an annotated sketch plan of the foundations. Recording of deposits encountered during the watching brief was undertaken according to standard APS practice.

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

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

#### 5. RESULTS

Following post-excavation analysis, two phases were recognised.

5.1 Phase 1 Natural deposits5.2 Phase 2 Recent deposits

# 5.1 Natural deposits

The earliest deposit recorded comprised a mid-grey clay (005). This was overlain by a reddish brown clay (004). Both deposits

represented natural geological deposition

In the central area of the site (Fig.4) a soft mid-greyish brown sandy silt (006) (Fig. 5 – section 3) was recorded and was interpreted as an alluvial deposit.

# 5.2 Recent Deposits

Overlying the Phase 1 deposits was a 0.33m thick, mid-reddish brown clayey silt (003), which represented a subsoil. This was in turn sealed by a 0.35m thick dark brown clayey silt.

The most recent deposit encountered was a 0.25m thick, light yellowish brown rubble hardstand (001).

#### 6. DISCUSSION

Phase 1, natural deposits were represented by a clays and sandy silts, all of which are likely to be alluvial in nature. A degree of variation in the naturally deposited layers was noted across the site. This is probably due to the sites location within the Bicker Haven, possibly inter-tidal, leading to variable localised depositional patterns. The location of these deposits behind the known medieval seabank suggests a relatively early date for their formation, certainly early medieval.

Phase 2 deposits were represented by a subsoil, topsoil and modern hardstand.

No archaeological features were identified and no artefacts recovered. This may indicate that the area was not occupied and perhaps existed as open fields or pasture.

## 7. CONCLUSIONS

Archaeological investigations at Bratley

Limited, Quadring Eaudike were undertaken as the site lies within an area of archaeological interest.

During the course of the investigation, natural alluvial deposits, subsoil, topsoil and modern hardstand layer were identified. The alluvial layers appear to have formed prior to the construction of the medieval seabank, indicating an early date.

No archaeological deposits or artefacts connected with medieval salt production were encountered and suggest that the site was not occupied at that time, perhaps existing as open fields or pasture.

### 8. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeological Project Services would like to acknowledge the assistance of Bratley Limited, who commissioned the fieldwork and post-excavation analysis. The work was coordinated by Steve Malone and this report was edited by Dale Trimble and Tom Lane. Dave Start kindly allowed access to the parish files maintained by the Heritage Trust of Lincolnshire.

#### 9. BIBLIOGRAPHY

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Archaeological Project Services

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IFA, 1999 Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs

# 10. ABBREVIATIONS

APS Archaeological Project Services

BGS British Geological Survey

IFA Institute of Field Archaeologists

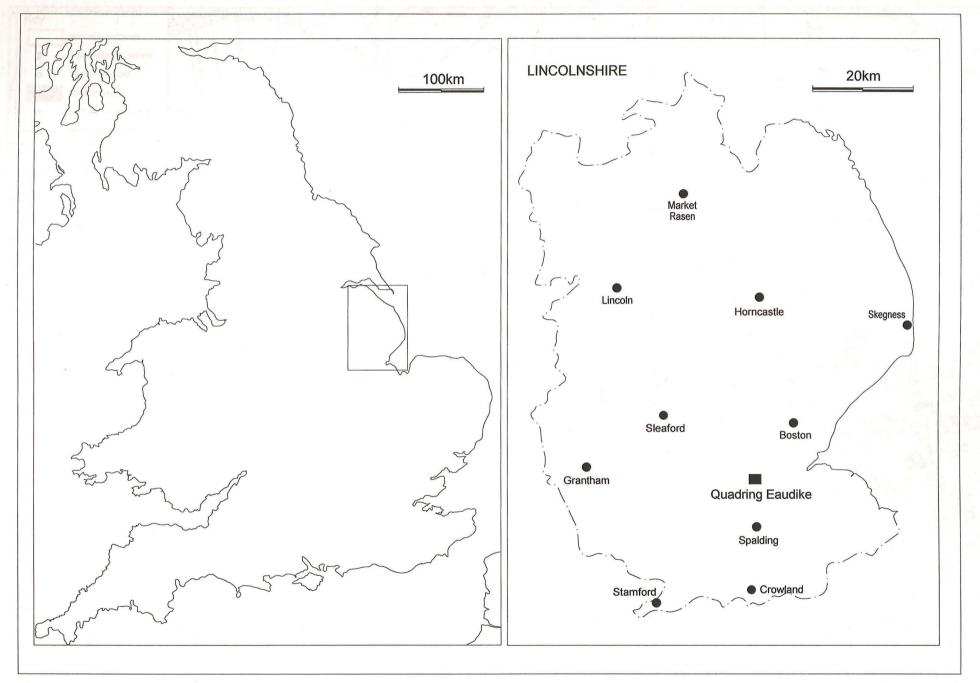


Figure 1: General Location Plan

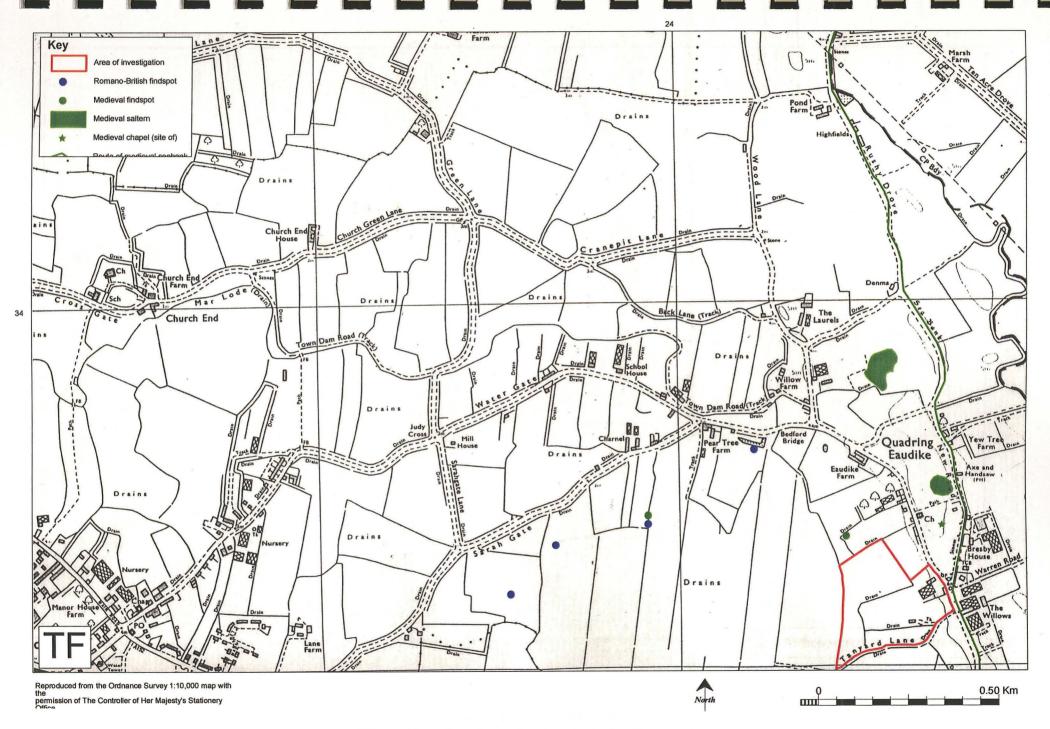


Figure 2 Location plan and archaeological setting

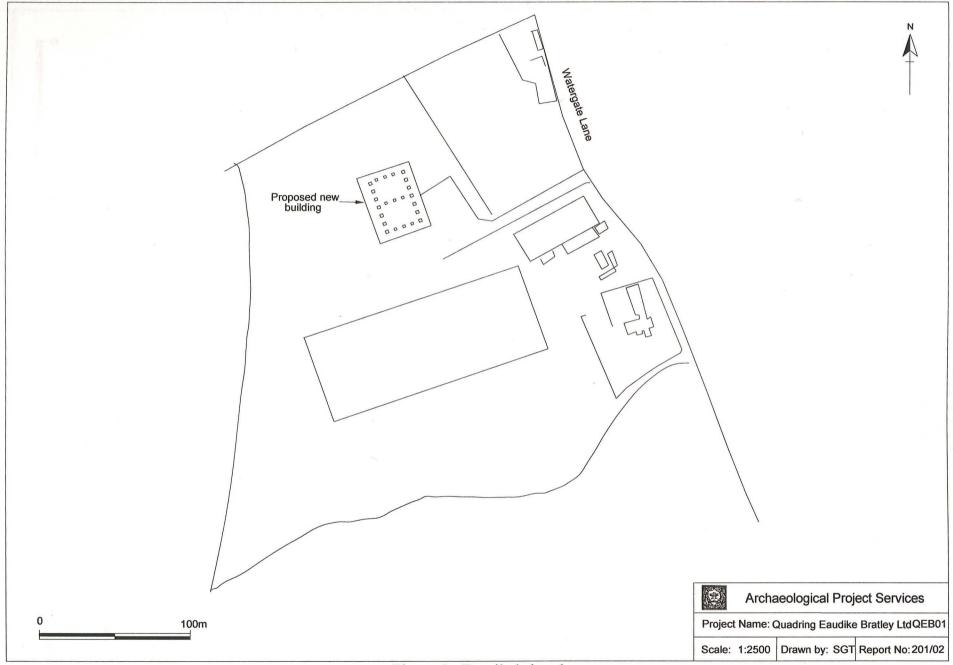


Figure 3 - Detailed site plan

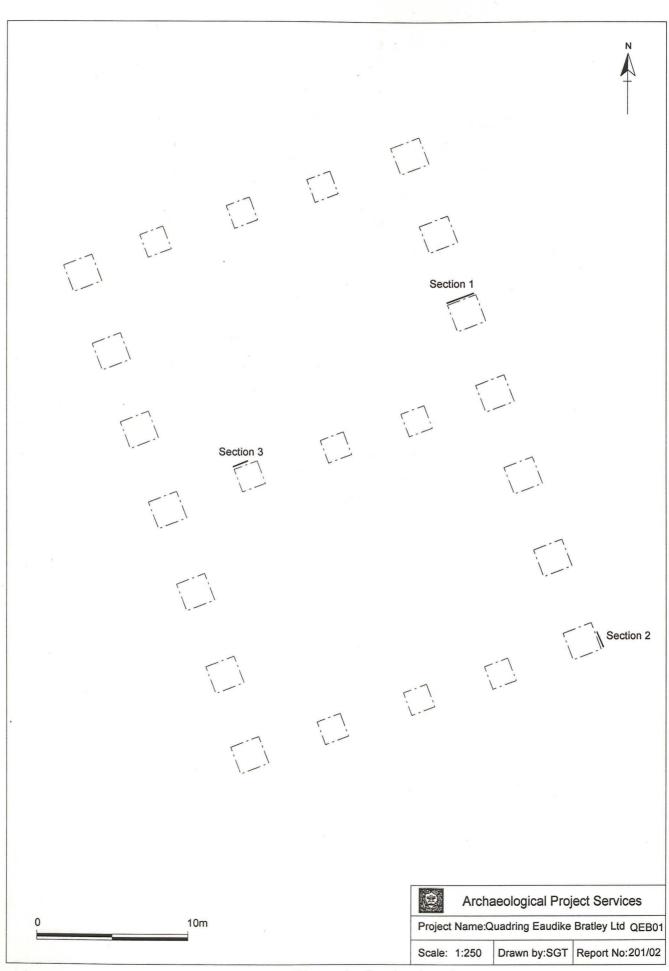


Figure 4 - Section locations

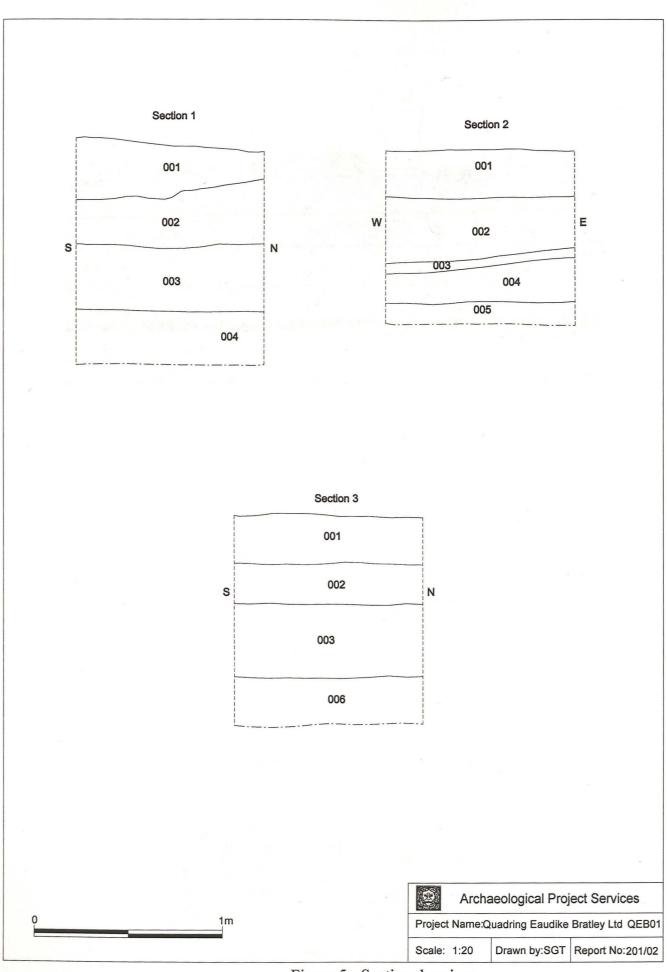


Figure 5 - Section drawings



Plate 1 View of the seabank, looking east

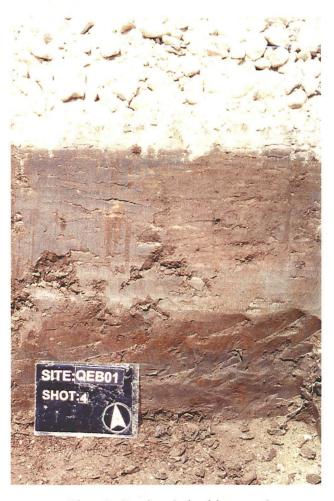


Plate 2 Section 2, looking north

# Appendix 1

LAND AT R. BRATLEY LTD, QUADRING EAUDYKE, LINCOLNSHIRE

SPECIFICATION FOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

PREPARED FOR R. BRATLEY LTD

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

**JULY 2001** 

#### 1 SUMMARY

- 1.1 A watching brief is required during the construction of a potato store on land at Quadring Eaudyke, Lincolnshire.
- 1.2 The area is archaeologically sensitive, lying immediately adjacent to the medieval seabank in an area with abundant remains of medieval saltmaking activities.
- 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 construction of a potato store at R. Bratley Ltd, Quadring Eaudyke, Lincolnshire, National Grid Reference TF 2455 3325.
- 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 Quadring Eaudyke is located 10km north of Spalding in the South Holland district of Lincolnshire. The works are to take place in the centre of the village, on the west side of the main road at National Grid Reference TF 2455 3325.

#### 4 PLANNING BACKGROUND

4.1 Planning permission (Application No. H15/0507/01) has been granted by South Holland District Council subject to a condition requiring the implementation of an archaeological watching brief during groundworks.

#### 5 SOILS AND TOPOGRAPHY

5.1 The site lies on flat land at approximately 4m OD. Local soils are fine and coarse silty and clayey soils of the Tanvats Association developed on marine alluvium (Hodge *et al.* 1984, 319).

### 6 ARCHAEOLOGICAL OVERVIEW

6.1 The site lies adjacent to Bicker Haven, just within the medieval Sea Bank, now followed by Eaudyke Road and New Road. Remains of medieval saltmaking are widespread in the vicinity along the margins of the Haven and evidence for these early salt production activities might be present on the site.

#### 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 excavations for stanchion pits 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 <u>Methodology</u>

- 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 stanchion pits will be observed to identify and record archaeological features that are exposed and to record changes in the geological conditions. Section drawings will be recorded at a scale of 1:10. Should features be recorded in plan these will be drawn at a scale of 1:20. Written descriptions detailing the nature of the deposits, features and fills encountered will be compiled on Archaeological Project Services pro-forma record sheets.
- 8.2.3 Any finds recovered will be bagged and labelled for later analysis.
- 8.2.4 Throughout the watching brief a photographic record will be compiled. The photographic record will consist of:
  - the site during work to show specific stages, and the layout of the archaeology within the trench.
  - groups of features where their relationship is important
- 8.2.5 Should human remains be located 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 <u>Stage 2</u>

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

#### 9.3 Stage 3

- 9.3.1 On completion of stage 2, a report detailing the findings of the watching brief will be prepared.
- 9.3.2 This will consist of:
  - A non-technical summary of the results of the investigation.
  - A description of the archaeological setting of the watching brief.
  - Description of the topography of the site.
  - Description of the methodologies used during the watching brief.
  - A text describing the findings of the watching brief.
  - A consideration of the local, regional and national context of the watching brief findings.
  - Plans of the archaeological features exposed. If a sequence of archaeological deposits is encountered, separate plans for each phase will be produced.
  - Sections of the 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; South Holland District Council Planning Department; and to the County Council Archaeological Sites and Monuments Record.

#### 11 ARCHIVE

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

#### 12 PUBLICATION

12.1 A report of the findings of the watching brief will be presented to the editor of the journal Lincolnshire History and Archaeology. If appropriate, notes on the findings will be submitted to the appropriate national journals: Britannia for discoveries of Roman date, and Medieval Archaeology and the Journal of the Medieval Settlement Research Group for findings of medieval or later date.

## 13 CURATORIAL RESPONSIBILITY

13.1 Curatorial responsibility for the archaeological work undertaken on the site lies with the Lincolnshire County Council Archaeology Section. They will be given 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.

Task Body to be undertaking the work

Conservation Conservation Laboratory, City and County Museum,

Lincoln

Pottery Analysis Prehistoric - Trent & Peak Archaeological Trust

Roman - B Precious, Independent Specialist

Anglo-Saxon - J Young, Independent Specialist

Medieval and later - 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

- Archaeological Project Services shall retain full copyright of any commissioned reports under the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988 with all rights reserved; excepting that it hereby provides an exclusive licence to the client for the use of such documents by the client in all matters directly relating to the project as described in the Project Specification.
- 18.2 Licence will also be given to the archaeological curators to use the documentary archive for educational, public and research purposes.
- In the case of non-satisfactory settlement of account then copyright will remain fully and exclusively with Archaeological Project Services. In these circumstances it will be an infringement under the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988 for the client to pass any report, partial report, or copy of same, to any third party. Reports submitted in good faith by Archaeological Project Services to any Planning Authority or archaeological curator will be removed from said planning Authority and/or archaeological curator. The Planning Authority and/or archaeological curator will be notified by Archaeological Project Services that the use of any such information previously supplied constitutes an infringement under the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988 and may result in legal action.
- 18.4 The author of any report or specialist contribution to a report shall retain intellectual copyright of their work and may make use of their work for educational or research purposes or for further publication.

#### 19 BIBLIOGRAPHY

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

Specification: Version 1, 10th July 2001

Appendix 2
Context Summary

Context No.	Section	Description	Interpretation
001	1,2,3	Loose, light yellowish brown, rubble, 0.25m thick	Hardstand ground surface
002	1,2,3	Firm, Dark brown, clayey silt, up to 0.35m thick	Topsoil
003	1,2,3	Soft, mid-redish brown clayey silt, 0.33m thick	Subsoil
004	1,2	Firm, reddish brown clay >0.3m thick	Natural geological deposit
005	2	Firm, mid-grey clay, 0.23m thick	Natural geological deposit
006	3	Soft, mid-greyish brown sandy silt, >0.25m thick	Alluvial deposit

# Appendix 3

#### **GLOSSARY**

**Bronze Age** 

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

Carucate

A unit of land measurement of approximately 120 acres

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).

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 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 subspecies 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 1st century AD.

Romano-British

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

# Appendix 4

#### THE ARCHIVE

The archive consists of:

6 - Context records

1 - Photographic record sheet

1 - Section record sheet

1 - Sheet of scale drawings

All primary records and finds are currently kept at:

Archaeological Project Services

The Old School

Cameron Street

Heckington

Sleaford

Lincolnshire

NG34 9RW

The ultimate destination of the project archive is:

Lincolnshire City and County Museum

12 Friars Lane

Lincoln

LN2 1HQ

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

Lincolnshire City and County Council Museum Accession Number:

LCNCC:2001.166

Archaeological Project Services Site Code:

QEB01

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.