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**ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF
ON LAND AT
BOSTON ROAD,
SUTTERTON,
LINCOLNSHIRE
(BRS01)**



A P S
ARCHAEOLOGICAL
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**ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF
ON LAND AT
BOSTON ROAD,
SUTTERTON,
LINCOLNSHIRE
(BRS01)**

Work Undertaken For
Persimmon Homes

Report Compiled by
Steve Thomson BSc (Hons)

November 2002

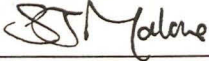

Planning Application No: B/00/0441/FULL
National Grid Reference: TF ~~2870 3580~~ 2860/3592
City and County Museum Accession No: LCNCC : 2001.248

A.P.S. Report No.219/02



Quality Control
Sutterton, Boston Road
BRS01

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Date: 27-11-02	Date: 27-11-02

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1. SUMMARY

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken during groundworks associated with residential development on land off Boston Road, Sutterton, Lincolnshire, as the area is archaeologically sensitive.

Stripping of the access road and the area of plots 4 & 5 was monitored. No archaeological features were encountered. A few sherds of post-medieval pottery were identified in the topsoil and brick and tile fragments in the subsoil but these were not retained.

2. INTRODUCTION

2.1 Definition of a Watching Brief

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

2.2 Planning Background

Approval for residential development on land at Boston Road, Sutterton was sought through the submission of planning application number B00/0441/FULL to Boston Borough Council. Permission was granted subject to a condition requiring the implementation of an archaeological scheme of works. Archaeological evaluation was undertaken immediately to the east and southeast but this western area was not then available. In the light of the negative results of the evaluation, a watching brief only was requested in this area.

Archaeological Project Services (APS) was commissioned by Persimmon Homes to undertake the works. The investigation was carried out on the 13th and 14th November 2001 in accordance with a specification designed by APS (Appendix 1) and approved by the Boston Community Archaeologist.

2.3 Location, Topography and Geology

Sutterton is located 8km southeast of Boston in the Boston district of Lincolnshire (Fig. 1). The proposed development is an irregular block of land and lies to the east side of Boston Road, on the north side of the village and is centred on National Grid Reference TF 2870 3580 (Fig. 2) at approximately 4m OD.

Local soils are the Agney Association alluvial gley soils developed on marine alluvium (Hodge *et al.* 1984, 87).

2.4 Archaeological Setting

No evidence of prehistoric activity has been identified in Sutterton and it is likely that any remains of this period lie buried under later alluvial deposits.

Romano-British remains are recorded approximately 400m south of the proposed development where an archaeological evaluation revealed pits and ditches containing charred grain and 3rd century pottery (Herbert 1996). Subsequent work recorded the remains of kilns or corn driers and a possible structure. Earlier finds of Romano-British pottery have also been made along Station Road.

Undated cropmarks, which may be from this period, have also been recorded to the southeast of the development site (Albone

2000).

Sutterton itself is not mentioned in the Domesday Survey of 1086. However, the survey records evidence of ploughland and meadow in Dowdyke within Sutterton parish (Foster & Longley 1976). The extinct settlement of Riche, to the north is also recorded, where Count Alan held land for 10 ploughs and 12 acres of meadow (Morris 1986)

Sutterton is first recorded in 1177, the place name deriving from Old English and referring to 'the shoemakers village' (Cameron 1998).

The medieval origins of the village are indicated by the parish church of St. Mary, which has late Norman style aisle doorways. The chancel is Early English, with the nave and aisles in the Decorated style (Pevsner 1995). Medieval pottery has also been found throughout the village with a cluster of medieval and post-medieval artefacts found adjacent to the cemetery (APS 1994).

The site of Sutterton House, built in the early 17th century, lies approximately 500m to the northwest of the development area.

Evaluation of land immediately east and to the southeast of the development area revealed no evidence of archaeological remains (Hall 2001).

3. AIMS

The aim of the archaeological investigation, as detailed in the specification (Appendix 1), was to ensure that any archaeological remains exposed during the development

should be recorded and, if present, to determine their date, function, origin and spatial arrangement.

4. METHODS

Soils were stripped for an access road and plots for two dwellings using a tracked 360° mechanical excavator fitted with a 1.5m smooth blade. Due to the shallow nature of the excavations, soils were monitored in plan with selected areas hoed clean to identify possible archaeological deposits.

Each deposit recorded during the investigation 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 work in progress.

Records of deposits were examined. Phasing was assigned on the nature of deposits and recognisable relationships between them. A summary list of contexts appears as Appendix 2.

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

5. RESULTS

Following post-excavation analysis, the following results were noted.

The earliest recorded deposit comprised a mid-yellowish brown silt subsoil (**701**) containing occasional brick, tile and coal fragments.

Sealing this was a dark brown silt topsoil

(700). Pottery of post-medieval date was identified in the topsoil, however this was not retained.

6. DISCUSSION

The investigation revealed only a subsoil and topsoil deposit, with no archaeological features exposed. Trial trenching on land immediately east of the development area recorded alluvial deposits of depths of up to 1.2m below ground surface, with no archaeological features exposed. With this in mind, it would seem unlikely that archaeological deposits exist on the current investigation area.

Pottery identified from the topsoil was of post-medieval date and suggests that the site was unoccupied during the medieval period and probably functioned as open land or pasture away from the core of the medieval settlement.

7. CONCLUSIONS

Archaeological investigations were undertaken on land off Boston Road, Sutterton, Lincolnshire, as the site lies in an area that it is archaeologically sensitive.

No archaeological features were identified with only pottery of post-medieval date observed. The site is likely to have lain outside of the medieval settlement and been unoccupied during the medieval period.

8. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeological Project Services wish to acknowledge the assistance of Persimmon

Homes who commissioned the fieldwork and post-excavation analysis. The work was coordinated by Steve Malone, who jointly edited this report with Tom Lane. Rebecca Wilcox, the Boston Community Archaeologist, kindly permitted access to relevant parish files.

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10. ABBREVIATIONS

APS Archaeological Project Services

GSGB Geological Survey of Great Britain

IFA Institute of Field Archaeologists

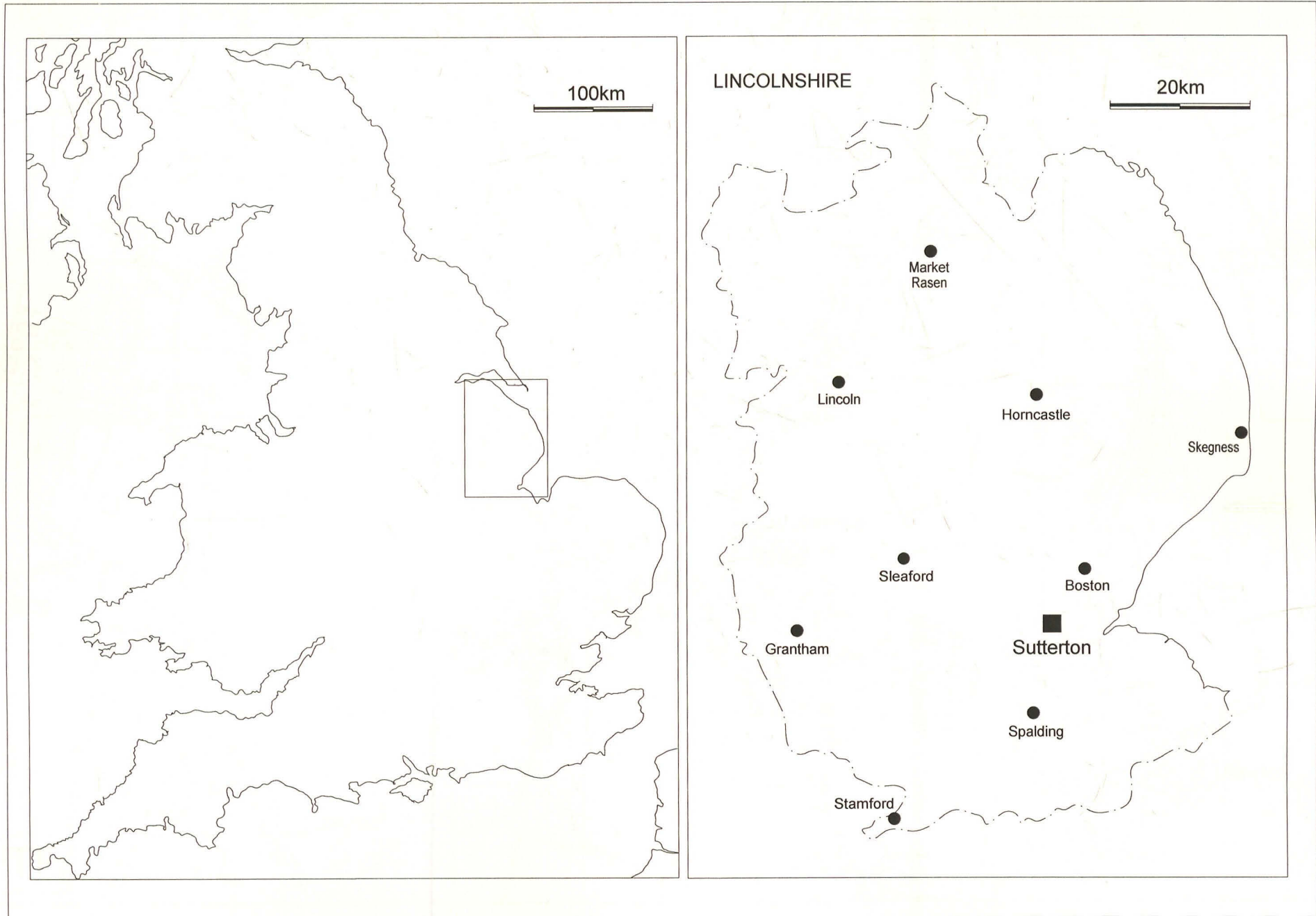


Figure 1: General Location Plan



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Figure 2 Site location plan




	Archaeological Project Services	
Project Name: Boston Road Sutterton	BRS01	
Scale: 1:500	Drawn by: SGT	Report No: 219/02

Figure 3 - Site plan showing extent of stripped area



Plate 1 General view of stripped area, looking north



Plate 2 Work in progress, looking northeast

Appendix 1

**LAND AT
BOSTON ROAD,
SUTTERTON,
LINCOLNSHIRE**

**SPECIFICATION FOR
ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF**

**PREPARED FOR
PERSIMMON HOMES**

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

NOVEMBER 2001

1 SUMMARY

- 1.1 *A watching brief is required during residential development on land at Boston Road, Sutterton, Lincolnshire.*
- 1.2 *The area is archaeologically sensitive, with frequent finds of Romano-British, Saxon and medieval pottery scatters found in fieldwalking in the vicinity. Evaluation of the eastern part of the site proved negative, but it was not possible to evaluate the Boston Road frontage prior to development and a targeted watching brief is required in these areas.*
- 1.3 *The watching brief will be undertaken during groundworks associated with the development in Plots 4 and 5 and on the western part of the access road. 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 residential development at Boston Road, Sutterton, Lincolnshire, National Grid Reference TF 2870 3580.
- 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 Sutterton is located in the Boston district of Lincolnshire, approximately 8km southeast of Boston. The site is located to the east of Boston Road on the north side of the village. It is centred on NGR 2870 3580.
- 3.2 The site as a whole is an irregular block of land covering an area of approximately 3.4ha. The site has been under crop or occupied by glasshouses.

4 PLANNING BACKGROUND

- 4.1 Planning permission (B/00/0441/FULL) has been granted by Boston Borough Council for residential development. An archaeological scheme of works is required as part of the planning consent for the development. Geophysical survey and trial trenching have been undertaken on parts of the site. Targeted watching brief is now required.

5 SOILS AND TOPOGRAPHY

- 5.1 The site lies in flat lands of the Lincolnshire fens at c. 3m OD. Soils at the site are Agney Association, calcareous fine and coarse silty soils developed on marine alluvium (Hodge *et al.* 1984, 87).

6 ARCHAEOLOGICAL OVERVIEW

- 6.1 Although the development site itself contains no known archaeological remains, fieldwalking in and around Sutterton has recovered numerous Romano-British, Saxon and medieval pottery scatters. A Romano-British settlement site has been identified some 500m to the south. The potential for unidentified settlement remains to exist at the site is perhaps only low-moderate but sites within this area can often be masked by later flood silts.
- 6.2 Geophysical survey (Brooks 2001) identified a number of possible archaeological features in the eastern part of the site. These were investigated in trial trenching but nothing of archaeological significance was encountered (Hall 2001). The area closest to the Boston Road frontage was unavailable for evaluation. Targeted watching brief is required in these areas.

7 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

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

8 SITE OPERATIONS

8.1 General considerations

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

8.2 Methodology

- 8.2.1 The watching brief will be undertaken during the ground works phase of development, and includes the archaeological monitoring of all phases of soil movement within the areas of Plots 4 and 5 and in the western part of the access road..
- 8.2.2 Stripped areas and trench sections will be observed regularly to identify and record archaeological features that are exposed and to record changes in the geological conditions. The section drawings of the trenches will be recorded at a scale of 1:10. Should features be recorded in plan these will be drawn at a scale of 1:20. Written descriptions detailing the nature of the deposits, features and fills encountered will be compiled on Archaeological Project Services pro-forma record sheets.
- 8.2.3 Any finds recovered will be bagged and labelled for later analysis.
- 8.2.4 Throughout the watching brief a photographic record will be compiled. The photographic record will consist of:
- 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 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, Persimmon Homes; the Boston Community Archaeologist; the Boston District Planning Department; and the Lincolnshire County 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 project lies with Boston Community Archaeologist. They will be given written notice of the commencement of the project.

14 VARIATIONS AND CONTINGENCIES

- 14.1 Variations to the proposed scheme of works will only be made following written confirmation of

acceptance from the archaeological curator.

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

15 PROGRAMME OF WORKS AND STAFFING LEVELS

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

16 SPECIALISTS TO BE USED DURING THE PROJECT

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

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

Medieval and later - G Taylor in consultation with H Healey, Independent Archaeologist

Non-pottery Artefacts	J Cowgill, Independent Specialist
Animal Bones	Environmental Archaeology Consultancy
Environmental Analysis	J Rackham, Independent Specialist
Human Remains Analysis	R Gowland, Independent Specialist

17 INSURANCES

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

18 COPYRIGHT

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

19 BIBLIOGRAPHY

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Specification: Version 1, 9th November 2001

Appendix 2
Context Summary

Contexts follow on from evaluation of the site (Hall 2001)

Context No.	Description	Interpretation
700	Soft, dark brown silt	Topsoil
701	Firm, mid-yellowish brown silt, containing occasional brick, tile and coal fragments and flint gravel	Subsoil

Appendix 3

GLOSSARY

Alluvium	Sediment 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, <i>e.g.</i> (004).
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.
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.

Appendix 4

THE ARCHIVE

The archive consists of:

- 2 Context records
- 1 Photographic record sheet
- 2 Daily record sheets

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 : 2001.248

Archaeological Project Services Site Code:

BRS01

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.