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**ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF
ON LAND AT
MANOR FARM HOUSE,
LINCOLN LANE,
THORPE ON THE HILL,
LINCOLNSHIRE
(TTL02)**



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**ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF
ON LAND AT
MANOR FARM HOUSE,
LINCOLN LANE,
THORPE ON THE HILL,
LINCOLNSHIRE
(TTL02)**

Work Undertaken For
John Woodward Chartered Architect

Report Compiled by
Steve Thomson BSc (Hons)

January 2003

9066 6561
National Grid Reference: SK 9070 6560
Planning Application No: N64/0825/97
City and County Museum Accession No: LCNCC: 2002.242

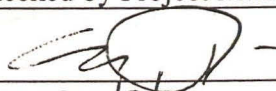
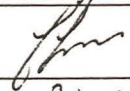
A.P.S. Report No. 16/03



Quality Control

Thorpe on the Hill, Lincoln Lane TTL 02

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CONTENTS

List of Figures

List of Plates

1.	Summary.....	1
2.	Introduction	1
	2.1 Definition of a Watching brief.....	1
	2.2 Planning Background.....	1
	2.3 Topography and Geology	1
	2.4 Archaeological Setting.....	1
3.	Aims	2
4.	Methods	2
5.	Results	2
6.	Discussion	3
7.	Conclusions	3
8.	Acknowledgements.....	3
9.	Bibliography.....	3
10.	Abbreviations	4

Appendices

1	Specification for Archaeological watching brief
2	Context Summary
3	Glossary
4	The Archive

List of Figures

Figure 1 General location plan

Figure 2 Site location plan and archaeological setting

Figure 3 Detailed site plan showing section location

Figure 4 Section drawing

List of Plates

Plate 1 General view of site, looking west

Plate 2 Section 1, looking north

1. SUMMARY

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken during construction of a dwelling on land at Manor Farm House, Lincoln Lane, Thorpe on the Hill, Lincolnshire. The area is archaeologically sensitive with prehistoric and Romano-British finds and a possible medieval moat in proximity.

The investigation revealed a sequence of a modern tarmac surface, subsoil and natural geological deposits, with the site having been lowered to create the modern surface. No archaeological features or deposits were identified and no artefacts were recovered.

2. INTRODUCTION

2.1 Definition of a Watching Brief

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

2.2 Planning background

A planning application (N64/0825/97) for the construction of a dwelling on land at Manor Farm House, Lincoln Lane, Thorpe on the Hill, Lincolnshire was submitted for approval to North Kesteven District Council. A recommendation requiring an archaeological watching brief during associated groundworks was made.

Archaeological Project Services (APS) was

commissioned by John Woodward Chartered Architect to undertake the watching brief.

The works took place 22nd and 23rd May 2002, in accordance with a specification designed by APS (Appendix 1) and approved by the North Kesteven Heritage Officer.

2.3 Topography and Geology

Thorpe on the Hill is located approximately 7km southwest of Lincoln in the North Kesteven district of Lincolnshire (Fig.1).

The site lies at approximately 25m OD, on land which slopes gently to the east and is situated at Manor House Farm, on the south side of Lincoln Lane close to its junction with Main Street. The development is centred on National Grid Reference SK 9070 6560 (Fig.2).

Local soils are of the Wickham 2 Association, mainly fine loamy over clayey, typical stagnogley soils (Hodge *et al.* 1984, 351).

2.3 Archaeological setting

Prehistoric remains are recorded in the village in the form of two handaxes (Fig.2). Two flint flakes believed to be from the paleolithic period have also been reported in the parish, though these are now lost (May, 1976, 16).

The Roman Road, the Fosse Way, lies approximately 1km to the southeast of the village. Romano-British pottery was recovered on land at The Farm during construction of an access road (Field & Bennet 1999). The same watching brief revealed evidence of a large ditch, possibly a

medieval moat, to the southwest of the investigation area (*Ibid*).

The village is mentioned in the Domesday Survey of c.1086 AD, the land being held by the King and Saint Peter of Westminster (Foster and Longley 1976). Prior to the conquest, the land was held by Æðlric, son of Mæregeat, who gave it to Westminster Abbey (Sawyer 1998, 245).

The place-name derives from the Old Norse 'thorp' meaning settlement. The suffix is topographical. The name is indicative of a secondary settlement, though in relation to where is unknown (Cameron 1998, 126).

The church of St. Michael represents the only extant remains of the medieval period in the village. The church retains Early English (c. 1190 – 1250 AD) features. The tower was constructed in 1722 and much of the church was rebuilt in 1912 (Pevsner & Harris 1989, 762).

3. AIMS

The aim of the watching brief, as detailed in the specification (Appendix 1), was to locate and record archaeological deposits and, if present, to determine their date, spatial arrangement, function and origin.

4. METHODS

Foundation trenches for a new dwelling were opened using a mechanical excavator fitted with a toothed 0.6m wide blade to depths of up to 1.1m below the ground surface.

The exposed sections of the trenches were examined to identify archaeological features and deposits. The depth and thickness of

each deposit was measured from the ground surface. Each deposit revealed was allocated a unique reference number (context number) with an individual written description. A summary of all contexts and their descriptions appears as Appendix 2.

A photographic record, depicting the setting of the site and the recorded deposits, was compiled. A representative section was drawn at a scale of 1:10, with its location recorded on an annotated sketch plan. Recording of deposits encountered during the watching brief was undertaken according to standard APS' practise.

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

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

5. RESULTS

Following post-excavation analysis, two phases were identified;

- 5.1 Phase 1 - Natural deposits
- 5.2 Phase 2 - Recent deposits

5.1 Phase 1 – Natural deposits

The earliest recorded deposit comprised a mottled dark grey and mid-brownish grey clay (**004**) (Fig. 4)

Over this, a mid-reddish brown sand subsoil (**003**) had developed.

Phase 2 – Recent deposits

Truncating the Phase 1 deposits was an irregular clearance cut (005). On this was a 0.5m thick layer of crushed limestone (002), which acted as a make up layer for the present tarmac ground surface (001).

6. DISCUSSION

The earliest Phase 1 deposit represented natural geological deposition laid down during the last ice age. A subsoil had developed over this, probably as a result of natural weathering.

The previous ground surface had been truncated by a clearance cut for the creation of a yard formed by the present tarmac surface and associated make up layer.

The lack of artefactual material and archaeological features suggests that the site was not occupied during the medieval and earlier periods, and served an agricultural function, possibly as pasture. Although the site had been cut down to form a yard in the recent past, it is probable that the clearance cut only removed the pre-existing topsoil and would not have impacted on any archaeological remains if they had been present.

The site's location, on a slope, may have dictated that it was not suitable for occupation, with settlement concentrated on the higher ground to the west.

7. CONCLUSIONS

Archaeological investigations on land at Thorpe on the Hill were undertaken as the site lies in an area of known archaeological

remains.

A sequence of natural geological deposits, subsoil and modern tarmac surface was revealed with no archaeological features identified.

The nature of the local site conditions would suggest that few environmental indicators (seeds, wood, pollen *etc.*) would survive other than through charring.

8. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeological Project Services would like to acknowledge the assistance of Mr John Woodward who commissioned the fieldwork and post-excavation analysis. The work was coordinated by Gary Taylor, who jointly edited this report with Tom Lane. Jo Hambly, the North Kesteven Heritage Officer, permitted access to the relevant parish files held by Heritage Lincolnshire.

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10. ABBREVIATIONS

APS Archaeological Project Services

IFA Institute of Field Archaeologists



Figure 1: General Location Plan



Reproduced from the Ordnance Survey 1:10,000 map with the permission of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationary Office. (C) Crown Copyright. HTL LTD Licence No AL5041A0001



Figure 2 Site location plan and archaeological setting



Lincoln Lane

Proposed new dwelling

Section 1




	Archaeological Project Services	
Project Name:	Thorpe on the Hill Lincoln Lane	TTL02
Scale:	1:300	Drawn by:SGT Report No: 16/03

Figure 3 - Detailed site plan showing section location

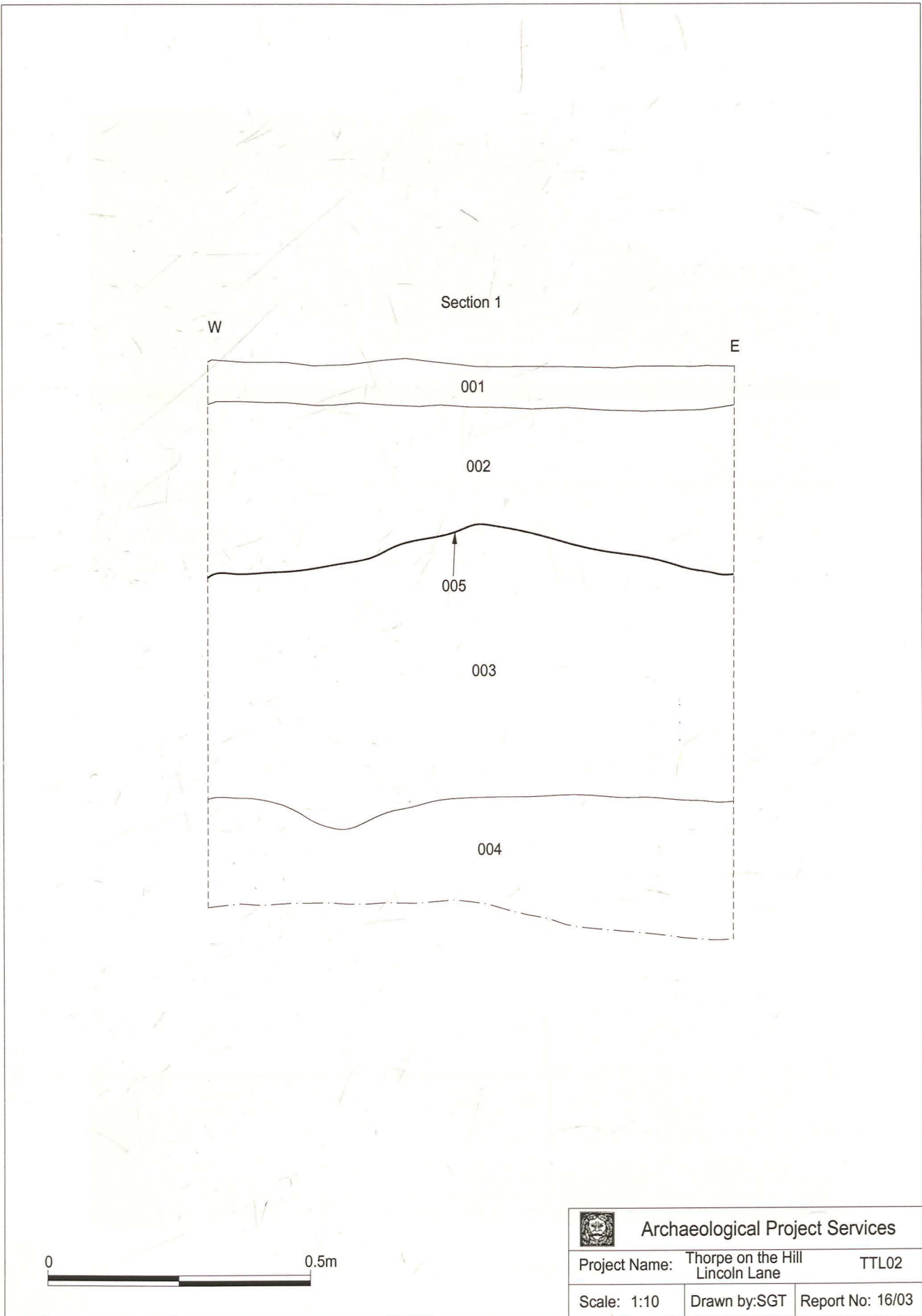


Figure 4 - Section drawing



Plate 1 General view of site, looking west



Plate 2 Section 1, looking north

Appendix 1

**LAND AT
MANOR FARM HOUSE,
LINCOLN LANE,
THORPE ON THE HILL,
LINCOLNSHIRE**

**SPECIFICATION FOR
ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF**

**PREPARED FOR
JOHN WOODWARD CHARTERED ARCHITECT**

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

MAY 2002

1 SUMMARY

- 0.1 *A watching brief is required during the erection of a dwelling at Manor Farm, Lincoln Lane, Thorpe on the Hill, Lincolnshire.*
- 0.2 *The development site is in an archaeologically-sensitive area, located in the medieval core of the village. Roman pottery has been found in various locations in the village, including in close proximity to the site. Prehistoric artefacts have also been found in the general vicinity. A large ditch, possibly a moat, was also found close by.*
- 0.3 *The watching brief will be undertaken during groundworks associated with the development. The archaeological features exposed will be recorded in writing, graphically and photographically.*
- 0.4 *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.*

1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 This document comprises a specification for an archaeological watching brief during groundworks connected with construction of a dwelling at Manor Farm, Lincoln Lane, Thorpe on the Hill, Lincolnshire.
- 1.2 This document contains the following parts:
 - 1.2.1 Overview.
 - 1.2.2 Stages of work and methodologies.
 - 1.2.3 List of specialists.
 - 1.2.4 Programme of works and staffing structure of the project

2 SITE LOCATION

- 2.1 Thorpe on the Hill is located 8km southwest of Lincoln in the North Kesteven district of Lincolnshire. The works are to take place at Manor Farm, on the south side of Lincoln Lane, close to its junction with Main Street, at National Grid Reference SK 907 656.

3 PLANNING BACKGROUND

- 3.1 Planning Permission (Application No: N/64/0825/97) has been granted by North Kesteven District Council for the construction of a dwelling. Permission is subject to a condition requiring the implementation of an archaeological watching brief during groundworks.

4 SOILS AND TOPOGRAPHY

- 4.1 Thorpe on the Hill is on a slight hill overlooking Pike Drain, a watercourse to the north. The site is on a gentle slope down to the east at approximately 25m OD. Local soils are the Wickham 2 Association typical stagnogleys on glacial drift (Hodge *et al.* 1984, 351).

5 ARCHAEOLOGICAL OVERVIEW

- 5.1 The site is in the medieval core of the village. A large ditch, possibly a moat, has been identified about 100m to the southwest. Roman pottery was found at that same location, and Roman pottery has also been found elsewhere around the parish. Prehistoric artefacts, including polished stone axes, have been found in and around the village.

6 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- 6.1 The aims of the watching brief will be:

- 6.1.1 To record and interpret the archaeological features exposed during the excavation of the foundation trenches and other areas of ground disturbance.
- 6.2 The objectives of the watching brief will be to:
 - 6.2.1 Determine the form and function of the archaeological features encountered;
 - 6.2.2 Determine the spatial arrangement of the archaeological features encountered;
 - 6.2.3 As far as practicable, recover dating evidence from the archaeological features, and
 - 6.2.4 Establish the sequence of the archaeological remains present on the site.

7 SITE OPERATIONS

7.1 General considerations

- 7.1.1 All work will be undertaken following statutory Health and Safety requirements in operation at the time of the watching brief.
- 7.1.2 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.
- 7.1.3 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.

7.2 Methodology

- 7.2.1 The watching brief will be undertaken during the ground works phase of development, and includes the archaeological monitoring of all phases of soil movement.
- 7.2.2 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.
- 7.2.3 Any finds recovered will be bagged and labelled for later analysis.
- 7.2.4 Throughout the watching brief a photographic record will be compiled. The photographic record will consist of:
 - 7.2.4.1 the site during work to show specific stages, and the layout of the archaeology within the trench.
 - 7.2.4.2 groups of features where their relationship is important
- 7.2.5 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.

8 POST-EXCAVATION

8.1 Stage 1

- 8.1.1 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.

- 8.1.2 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.

8.2 Stage 2

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

8.3 Stage 3

- 8.3.1 On completion of stage 2, a report detailing the findings of the watching brief will be prepared.
- 8.3.2 This will consist of:
 - 8.3.2.1 A non-technical summary of the results of the investigation.
 - 8.3.2.2 A description of the archaeological setting of the watching brief.
 - 8.3.2.3 Description of the topography of the site.
 - 8.3.2.4 Description of the methodologies used during the watching brief.
 - 8.3.2.5 A text describing the findings of the watching brief.
 - 8.3.2.6 A consideration of the local, regional and national context of the watching brief findings.
 - 8.3.2.7 Plans of the archaeological features exposed. If a sequence of archaeological deposits is encountered, separate plans for each phase will be produced.
 - 8.3.2.8 Sections of the trenches and archaeological features.
 - 8.3.2.9 Interpretation of the archaeological features exposed, and their chronology and setting within the surrounding landscape.
 - 8.3.2.10 Specialist reports on the finds from the site.
 - 8.3.2.11 Appropriate photographs of the site and specific archaeological features.

9 **REPORT DEPOSITION**

- 9.1 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.

10 **ARCHIVE**

- 10.1 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.

11 PUBLICATION

- 11.1 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.

12 CURATORIAL RESPONSIBILITY

- 12.1 Curatorial responsibility for the archaeological work undertaken on the site lies with the North Kesteven Heritage Officer. They will be given written notice of the commencement of the project.

13 VARIATIONS AND CONTINGENCIES

- 13.1 Variations to the proposed scheme of works will only be made following written confirmation of acceptance from the archaeological curator.
- 13.2 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).
- 13.3 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.
- 13.4 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.

14 PROGRAMME OF WORKS AND STAFFING LEVELS

- 14.1 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.
- 14.2 An archaeological supervisor with experience of watching briefs will undertake the work.
- 14.3 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.

15 SPECIALISTS TO BE USED DURING THE PROJECT

- 15.1 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

16 INSURANCES

16.1 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.

17 COPYRIGHT

17.1 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.

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

17.3 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.

17.4 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.

18 BIBLIOGRAPHY

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Specification: Version 1, 20-05-02

Appendix 2

Context Summary

Context No.	Description	Interpretation
001	Indurated black tarmac, 0.08m thick	Yard surface
002	Firm, light yellow crushed limestone, 0.5m thick	Make up for 001
003	Firm, mid-reddish brown sand, 0.54m thick	Subsoil
004	Firm, mottled dark grey and mid-brownish grey clay, >0.7m thick	Natural geological deposit
005	Irregular cut	Clearance cut

Appendix 3

GLOSSARY

- 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.
- 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:

5	Context records
1	Daily record sheets
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 : 2002.242

Archaeological Project Services Site Code: TTL02

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.