ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF
ON LAND AT
STATION ROAD,
OLD LEAKE COMMONSIDE,
LINCOLNSHIRE

(OLC 02)

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Highways & Planning Directorate

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF
ON LAND AT
STATION ROAD,
OLD LEAKE COMMONSIDE,
LINCOLNSHIRE
(OLC 02)

Work Undertaken For Mr & Mrs Willetts

January 2003

Report Compiled by Steve Thomson BSc (Hons)

TF39724 52624

National Grid Reference: TF 3960-5260 Planning Reference: B/01/0675/FULL LCNCC Accession No: 2002.153



A.P.S. Report No. 128/02

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1. SUMMARY

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken during development on land at Station Road, Old Leake Commonside, Boston, Lincolnshire, as the site is archaeologically sensitive, with evidence of medieval salt production identified in close proximity.

The watching brief identified a modern drainage ditch, cut into alluvial deposits, with no earlier archaeological features exposed.

No artefacts were retrieved from the site.

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

Archaeological Project Services (APS) was commissioned by Mr & Mrs Willetts to undertake an archaeological watching brief during groundworks associated with the construction of a dwelling and garage on land at Station Road, Old Leake Commonside, Lincolnshire.

Approval for the development was sought through the submission of planning application B/01/0675/FULL. The watching brief was carried out on the 10th April 2002 in accordance with a specification designed by APS (Appendix 1) and approved by the Community Archaeologist for Boston District

Council.

2.3 Topography and Geology

Old Leake Commonside is situated approximately 7km from the Lincolnshire coast and 8km northeast of Boston, in the district of Boston, Lincolnshire (Fig. 1).

The development site is located in the centre of the village, on the north side of Station Road at National Grid Reference TF 3960 5260. The site lies on generally level ground at approximately 3m OD.

The local soils are of the Romney Series, typically gleyic brown calcareous alluvial soils (Robson 1985, 53). These soils are developed on younger marine alluvium, which in turn overlies a solid geology of Jurassic Kimmeridge Clay (BGS 1995).

2.4 Archaeological Setting

The development site lies within an area of known archaeological remains dating from the Romano-British period to the present day. A spread of Romano-British pottery and briquetage is situated c. 1km to the southeast (Lane 1993, Gazetteer).

A watching brief undertaken in 1992, some 200m to the southeast identified the possible remains of a saltern with limited preservation of timbers (HTL parish file). A number of other salterns that date from the Saxon period to the 13th century have been identified in the area and follow a former creek that once marked the parish boundary between Wrangle and Old Leake (Lane 1993, 77).

Leake is first mentioned in the Domesday Survey of c. 1086. Referred to as *Leche*, the name is derived from the Old English *lece* meaning 'the brook' and influenced or was replaced by the Old Norse *loekr* of similar meaning (Cameron 1998, 79). The Domesday Survey records that Leake was held by Count

Alan and contained 26 salterns and 34 acres of meadow (Foster and Longley 1976). Leake Commonside is believed to have existed as a hamlet since the 12th century and possibly earlier (Hallam 1965, 87).

Medieval and post-medieval pottery has been found northeast of the site and included a range of locally produced wares dating from the 14th to the 16th centuries.

Watching briefs carried out on Caleb Lane, to the southeast, identified medieval saltern remains comprising brine tanks, clay-lined pits and mounds of burnt debris (Cope-Faulkner 2000a, 1; 2000b, 1; 2001, 1).

3. AIMS

The aim of the watching brief, as detailed in the specification (Appendix 1) was to ensure that any archaeological features exposed by the groundworks were fully recorded and, where present, to determine their nature, date, form, function and spatial arrangement.

4. METHODS

Foundation trenches for a dwelling and garage were opened using a mechanical excavator fitted with a 1.1m wide toothed blade, to depths of up to 2m below ground surface.

The sides of the trenches were inspected and selectively rendered vertical to identify archaeological remains. Each deposit identified was allocated a unique reference number (Context number) with an individual written description. A section drawing was produced at a scale of 1:20, depicting the recorded features and soil profile, with its location recorded on an annotated sketch plan of the foundation trenches.

Photographic recording, depicting the setting of the site and the archaeological features, was undertaken.

Records of deposits excavated during the development were examined. A list of contexts and interpretations appears as Appendix 2.

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

5. RESULTS

Following post-excavation analysis, two phases were identified;

Phase 1 – Alluvial deposits Phase 2 – Recent deposits

5.1 Phase 1 – Alluvial deposits

The earliest recorded deposit comprised a mid-yellowish brown fine sand and silt (003). The deposit was exposed throughout the foundation trenches and was at least 1m thick.

5.2 Phase 2 – Recent deposits

Overlying the alluvium was a 0.2m thick, mid-grey silt subsoil (002). The subsoil was noted to contain plastic and stones. Cutting the alluvium and subsoil was a linear ditch (005) measuring 3.5m wide, 1.3m deep and greater than 12m long (Fig.4, Plate 1). The ditch was oriented east-west and contained a primary fill of mid-grey fine sand and silt (006) sealed by a secondary fill of dark blackish grey sand and silt (004). Secondary fill (004) was noted to contain bricks, plastic and concrete fragments but these were not retained.

The most recent deposit was represented by a dark blackish grey silt topsoil (001).

6. DISCUSSION

Phase 1 deposits were represented by alluvium. This is likely to be marine in origin and is in keeping with sediments identified during prior work in the village.

Phase 2 comprised a subsoil, topsoil and dyke cut. The dyke is likely to have served a drainage function and also demarcated a field boundary.

The subsoil deposit was relatively shallow and contained plastic and stones. The shallow nature does not suggest any great length of time for its formation and it is even possible that it is an imported soil. This would suggest relatively recent levelling of the site, which may be responsible for the truncation or removal of earlier deposits.

The lack of evidence of medieval salt making and settlement is surprising given the proximity of known remains. However, it is also possible that evidence related to this period remains buried at greater depth below alluvial layers.

7. CONCLUSION

Archaeological investigations were undertaken on land at Station Road, Old Leake Commonside, Lincolnshire, as the site is archaeologically sensitive.

The investigation encountered a recent eastwest oriented drainage ditch. A subsoil, possibly imported, sealed alluvium and was in turn overlain by the present topsoil. No evidence of the medieval settlement or salt production was identified with no artefacts recovered.

8. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeological Project Services would like to acknowledge the assistance of Mr & Mrs DCR Willetts 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. Rebecca Wilcox, the Boston Community Archaeologist, allowed 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

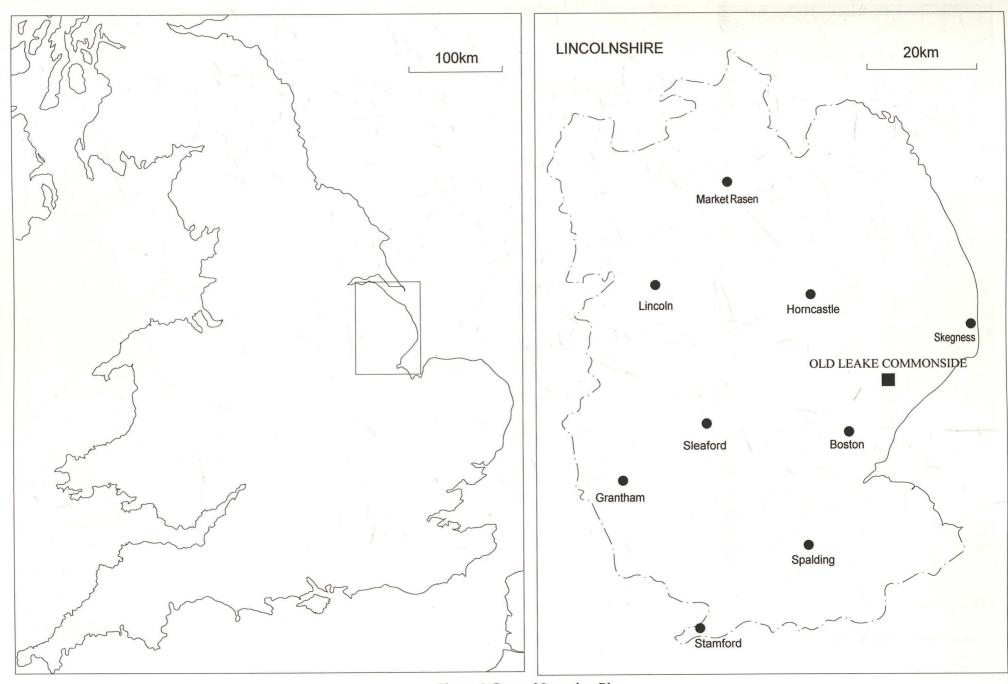


Figure 1 General Location Plan

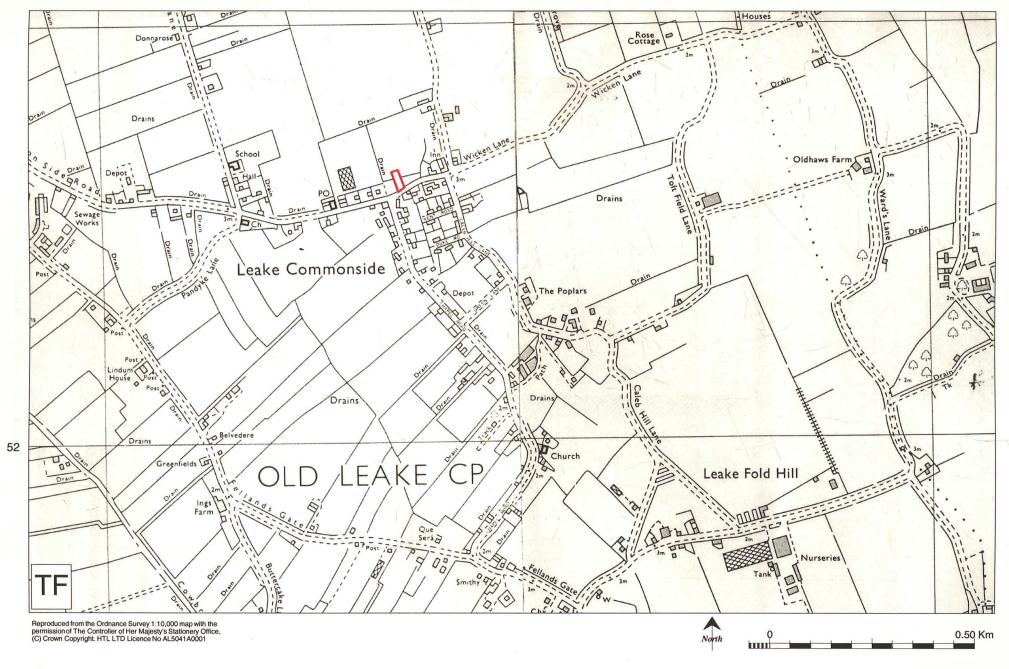


Figure 2 Site location plan

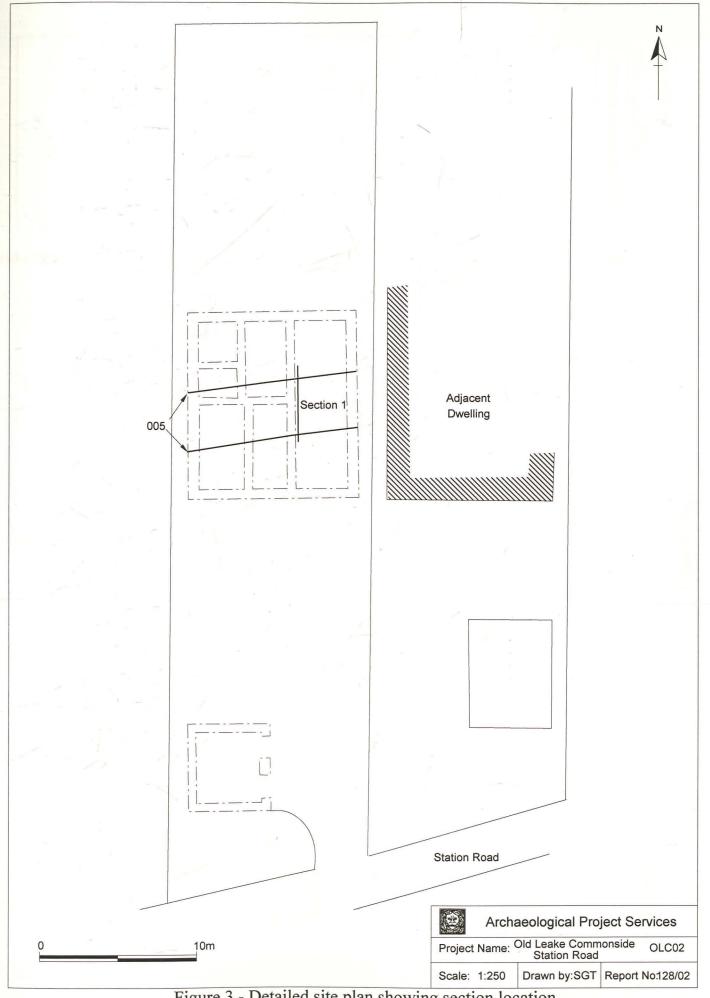


Figure 3 - Detailed site plan showing section location

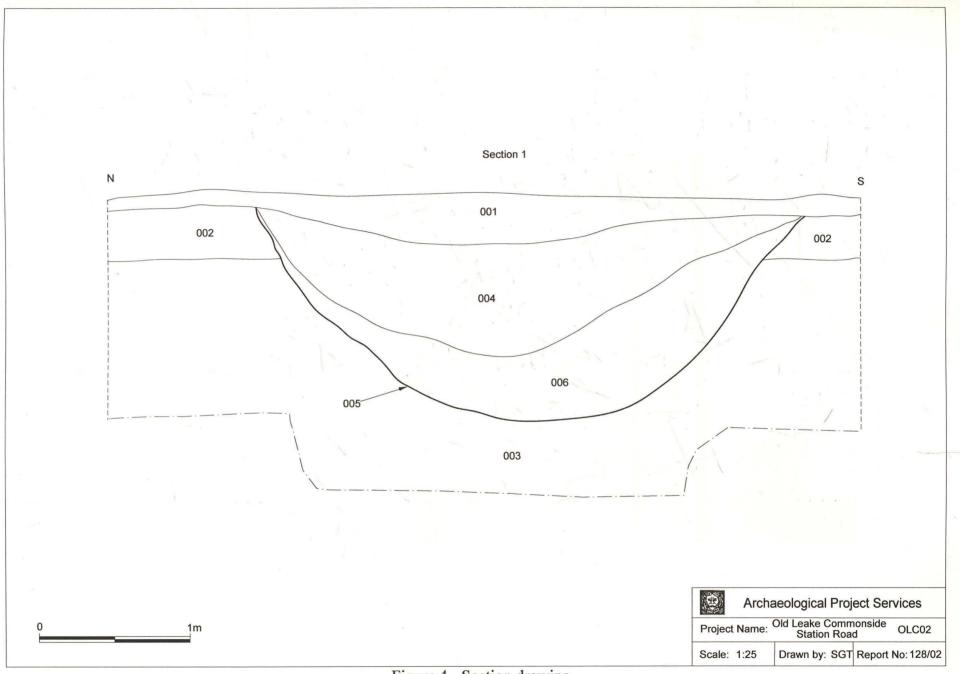


Figure 4 - Section drawing



Plate 1 General view of dyke (005) during groundworks looking northeast

Appendix 1

LAND AT STATION ROAD, OLD LEAKE COMMONSIDE LINCOLNSHIRE

SPECIFICATION FOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

PREPARED FOR MR & MRS WILLETTS

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

FEBRUARY 2002

1 SUMMARY

- 1.1 A watching brief is required during construction of a house and garage on land at Station Road, Old Leake Commonside, Lincolnshire.
- 1.2 The site lies in an area of known archaeological significance. Evidence of medieval salt-making has been identified in proximity to the site and evidence of medieval settlement may also lie in the vicinity.
- 1.3 The archaeological work will consist of a 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 house and garage on land at Station Road, Old Leake Commonside, Lincolnshire. The site is located at National Grid Reference TF 3960 5260.
- 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 Old Leake Commonside is located approximately 8km northeast of Boston in the Fenland of south Lincolnshire. The site is located in the centre of the village on the north side of Station Road at National Grid Reference TF 3960 5260.

4 PLANNING BACKGROUND

4.1 A planning application (B/01/0675/FULL) was submitted to Boston Borough Council for the construction of a house and attached double garage. 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 lies on generally level ground at approximately 3m OD. The local soils are of the Romney Series, typically gleyic brown calcareous alluvial soils (Robson 1985, 53). These soils are developed on younger marine alluvium which in turn overlies a solid geology of Jurassic Kimmeridge Clay (BGS 1995).

6 ARCHAEOLOGICAL OVERVIEW

6.1 The development site lies in an area of known archaeological remains dating from the Romano-British period to the present day. A spread of Romano-British pottery and briquetage (generally associated with salt-making sites) has been found in the vicinity and a number of salterns dating from the Late Saxon period to the 13th century have been identified in the area.

6.2 Concentrations of medieval pottery have been found in the vicinity and archaeological investigations carried out prior to development on Caleb Hill Lane to the southeast have identified features relating to salt manufacture. A medieval pit containing saltern refuse was located together with a series of features including a brine tank, clay lined features, a large pit and a low mound of burnt debris. Although undated, these are thought to be of the medieval period (Archaeological Project Services 2000a and 2000b).

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.
- 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 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 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.
- 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 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

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

Archaeological Project Services, 2000a Archaeological watching brief of development on land at Plot 2, Caleb Hill Lane, Old Leake Commonside, Boston, Lincolnshire (OLP 99), APS unpublished report 49/00

Archaeological Project Services, 2000b Archaeological watching brief of development on land at Plot 3, Caleb Hill Lane, Old Leake Commonside, Boston, Lincolnshire (OLP2 99), APS unpublished report 50/00

Robson, JD, 1985 Soils in Lincolnshire IV: Sheet TF45 (Friskney), Soil Survey Record No. 88

BGS, 1995 Boston, Solid and drift edition, 1:50,000 sheet 128

Specification: Version 1, 25th February 2002

Appendix 2
Context Summary

Context No.	Section	Description	Interpretation
001	1	Firm, dark blackish grey silt, 0.3m thick containing moderate brick and stone and occasional concrete and metal	Topsoil
002	1 \	Firm, mid-grey silt, 0.2m thick	Subsoil
003	1	Soft, mid yellowish brown fine sand and silt, c.1m thick	Alluvium
004	1	Firm, dark blackish brown fne sand and silt, containing moderate pebbles, stones and brick, frequent roots and occasional modern debris	Fill of 005
005	1	Linear cut, 3.5m wide x 1.3m deep $x > 12m$ long, E-W orientation	Ditch
006	1	Firm, mid-grey sine sand and silt	Fill of 005

Appendix 3

GLOSSARY

Brine tank

An open tank or pool where brine was collected and allowed to settle before use. May be lined with puddled clay, wood or lead sheet.

Briquetage A term given to fragments of ceramic equipment and hearth/oven remains from the processing of salt.

processing of said

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).

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.

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:

6 Context records 1 Context register 1 Section register

1 Sheet of scale drawings 1

Daily 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 Museum Accession Number:

2002.153

Archaeological Project Services Site Code:

OLC 02

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.