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Watching brief

ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATIONS
AT WYBERTON WEST ROAD,
BOSTON,
LINCOLNSHIRE
(BWWA02)



A P S
ARCHAEOLOGICAL
PROJECT
SERVICES

Event LI3864

Source LI8518

LI8520

Conservation
Services

03 MAR 2003

Highways & Planning
Directorate

Watching brief

ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATIONS
AT WYBERTON WEST ROAD,
BOSTON,
LINCOLNSHIRE
(BWWA02)

Work Undertaken For
Allison Homes

January 2003

Report Compiled by
Rachael V. Hall BA(Hons)

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Planning Reference: B/02/0419/FULL

LCNCC Accession No:2000.269

ARCHAEOLOGICAL PROJECT SERVICES



APS Report No. 18/03

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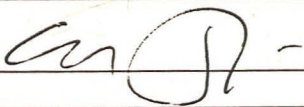
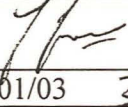
Checked by Project Manager	Approved by Senior Archaeologist
Gary Taylor 	 Tom Lane
Date: 31/01/03	Date: 31/01/03 31-01-03

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1. SUMMARY

Archaeological investigations were undertaken at land off Wyberton West Road, Boston, Lincolnshire. Three trenches were excavated alongside the main drain in replacement of the watching brief of the drain

The site lies on the southern edge of Boston between Wyberton West Road and the South Forty Foot drain. An earlier watching brief undertaken during Phase 1 of the development identified several undated features. Cropmarks of a possible Iron Age or Roman date have also been identified to the north and the south of the site.

The archaeological investigations revealed two modern gullies. Modern brick was retrieved from one of the gullies.

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).

The watching brief involved intensive monitoring, and the excavation of areas similar to an archaeological evaluation.

2.2 Planning Background

Planning application (B/02/0419/FULL) for Phase III of a residential development at land off Wyberton West Road, Boston,

Lincolnshire was subject to a condition requiring an intensive watching brief.

Archaeological Project Services was commissioned by Robert Doughty Consultancy on behalf of Allison Homes to undertake the archaeological investigations at the site in accordance with the requirements of the local planning authority. However, due to onsite communication problems, the excavation of the drainage trench and road was not monitored. This was compensated for by the excavation of areas trenches 2m west of the north-south drainage trench.

2.3 Topography and Geology

Boston is situated 45km southeast of Lincoln and approximately 7km northwest from the coast of The Wash, in the Fenland of south Lincolnshire. Bisected by the River Witham, the town is located in the administrative district of Boston, Lincolnshire (Fig. 1).

The site is located on the southern edge of Boston between Wyberton West Road and the South Forty Foot Drain (Fig. 2). Centred on National Grid Reference TF 316 429. It lies on generally level ground at a height of c. 3m OD.

2.4 Archaeological Setting

There is little evidence for prehistoric remains in the Boston area as the land surface of that period is now buried by later alluvium (peats, silts, clays etc.). A Neolithic stone axe, found within the town, is considered to be a later import.

Stratified Romano-British deposits have been found at Boston Grammar School, 350m to the east, where occupation remains of the period were recorded 1.4m below the present ground surface (Palmer-Brown 1996, 5).

Boston is not mentioned in the Domesday Survey of c. 1086. However, the survey

recorded two churches and two fisheries in Skirbeck, southeast of the current town (Foster and Longley 1976). One of these churches was granted to St. Mary's abbey, York in 1089. In 1130, Boston received its first mention when it was referred to as 'Botulvestan' (Dover 1972, 1).

A desk-based assessment (JSAC 1999) identified several archaeological sites in the vicinity of the development area. Iron Age and Roman pottery has been recovered in the area. Cropmarks identified to the north and east of the site may date from the Iron Age and Roman periods. To the west of the development there is a medieval moated site (Scheduled Monument, County Number 48).

During a watching brief undertaken as part of Phase I of the development, several undated features including a pit containing fired clay, ditches and a posthole were recorded immediately east of the current site.

3. AIMS

The aims of the investigations was to:

- to record and interpret the archaeological features exposed during the investigations
- to determine form and function of the archaeological features
- to determine the spatial arrangement of the archaeological features
- to recover datable material from archaeological features
- to establish the sequence of archaeological remains present on the site

4. METHODS

Three trenches measuring 2m x 16m, 2m x 12m and 3m x 6m were excavated 2m west of the north-south drainage trench.

Removal of overburden was undertaken by mechanical excavator using a toothless ditching bucket. The exposed surfaces were then cleaned and inspected for archaeological remains. Where present archaeological features were hand excavated.

Each deposit exposed during the investigations was allocated a unique reference number (context number) with an individual written description. A photographic record was compiled. Sections were drawn at a scale of 1:20. Recording of deposits encountered was undertaken according to standard Archaeological Project Services' practice.

The location of the excavated trenches was surveyed by EDM onto fixed points on boundaries.

5. RESULTS

Only ten deposits were revealed during the investigations. These are listed below and described. The numbers in brackets are the context numbers assigned in the field.

The earliest deposit encountered was a natural layer of mid-reddish brown with grey mottles clayey silt (003)=(008), 0.35m beneath the 'unbuilt ground' surface. In Area C two shallow gullies were identified. The northernmost gully [005], measuring 0.70m wide by 0.14m deep, aligned southwest-northeast was shallow sided with an uneven base. Filling this was mid-greyish brown silty clay (004) from which a fragment of late medieval brick or tile was retrieved and modern debris was discarded on site. The second gully [010] located 4.5m to the south was also shallow sided, measuring 0.68m wide x 0.13m deep. It was aligned east-west and contained dark grey clay (009) with brick flecks and chalk fragments.

Sealing the features and seen across the site was a 0.35m thick topsoil layer consisting of dark brownish grey clayey silt (002) = (007). Dumped above this was a 0.80m thick layer of mixed dark greyish brown silty clay and reddish brown clayey silt (001)=(006).

6. DISCUSSION

A natural deposit of clayey silt was encountered at the base of all the trenches, 0.35m beneath the topsoil. Two modern gullies were identified in Area C, a fragment of late medieval brick/tile was retrieved from one of these. It is likely that these served at drainage ditches.

Overlying the topsoil across the site was a dumped layer, derived from the earlier excavation of the drains and roads.

7. CONCLUSION

Archaeological investigations on land off Wyberton West Road, Boston, Lincolnshire were carried out to identify any archaeological features or deposits as previous investigations had identified Iron Age and later remains in the area.

However, only two gullies were identified, from which a fragment of late medieval brick/tile was retrieved. Conditions at the site suggest that environmental indicators (seeds, pollen *etc*) would only survive through charring.

8. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeological Project Services wish to acknowledge Darren Smith of Allison Homes who commissioned the work. The project was coordinated by Gary Taylor and this report was edited by Gary Taylor and Tom Lane.

9. PERSONNEL

Project Coordinator: Gary Taylor
 Site Supervisor: Rachael Hall
 Site Staff: Barry Martin
 Finds processing: Denise Buckley
 Photographic reproduction: Sue Unsworth
 CAD Illustration: Rachael Hall
 Post-excavation analysis: Rachael Hall

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11. ABBREVIATIONS

APS Archaeological Project Services

IFA Institute of Field Archaeologists

JSAC John Samuels Archaeological Consultancy

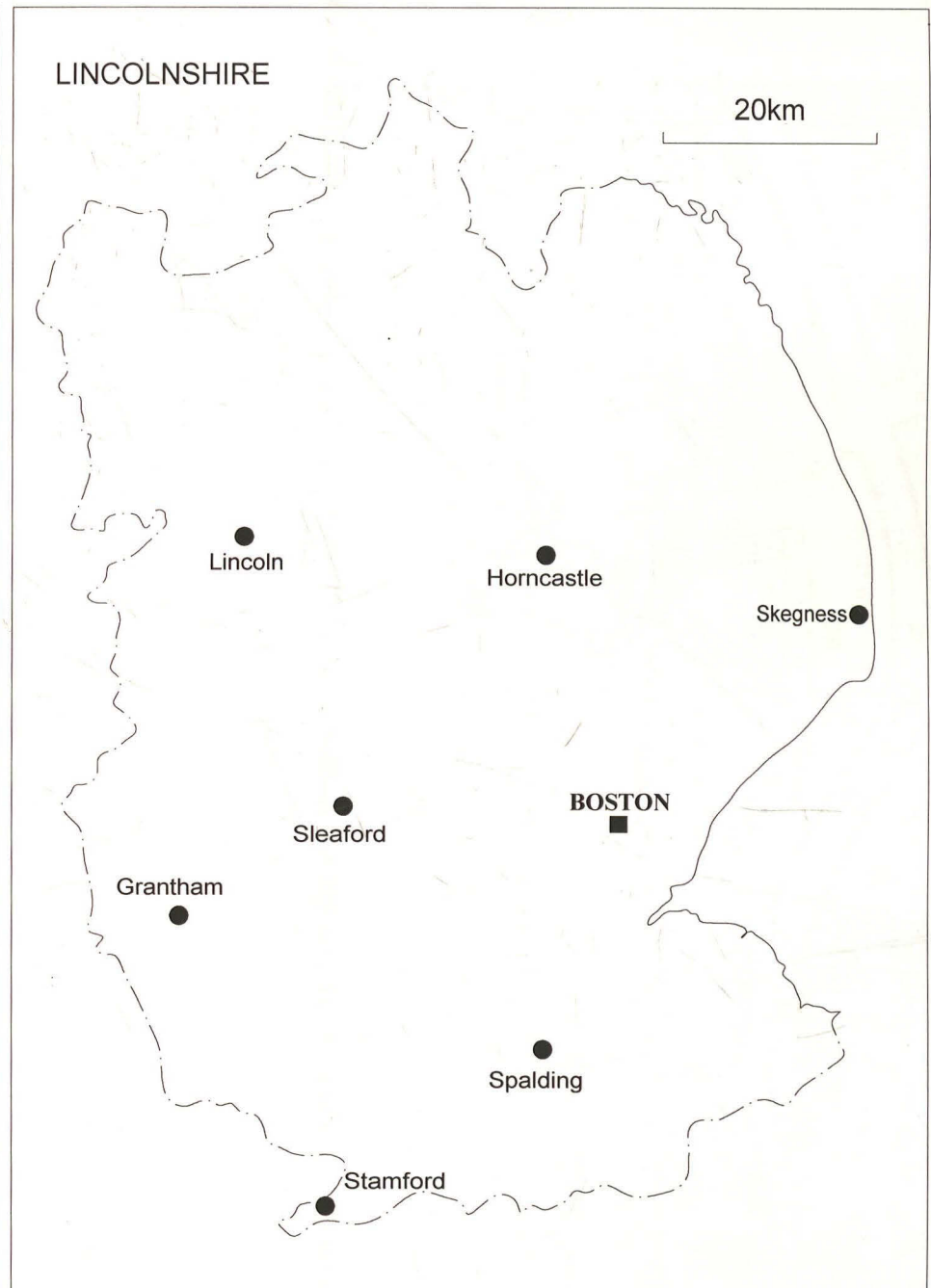
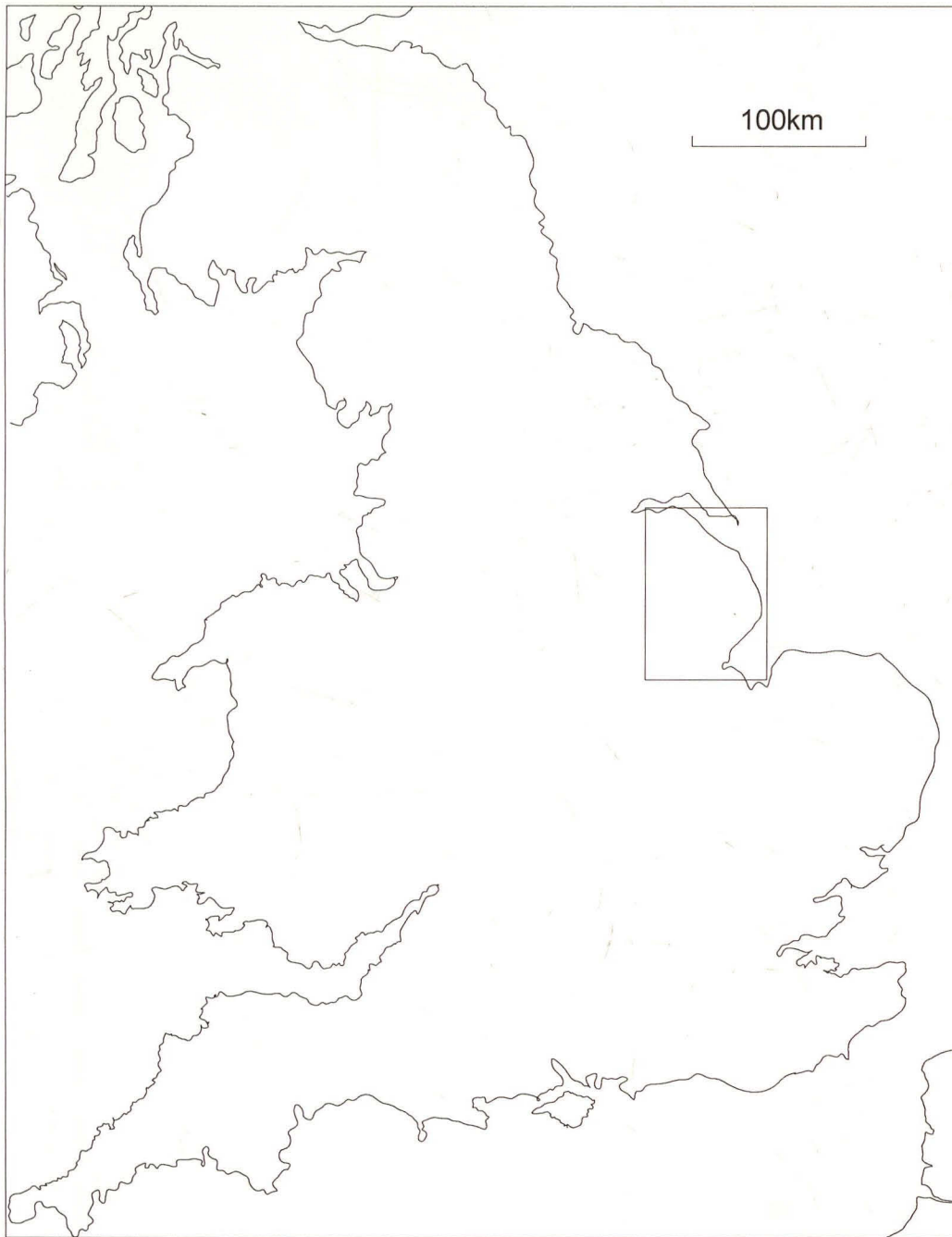


Figure 1 - General Location Plan

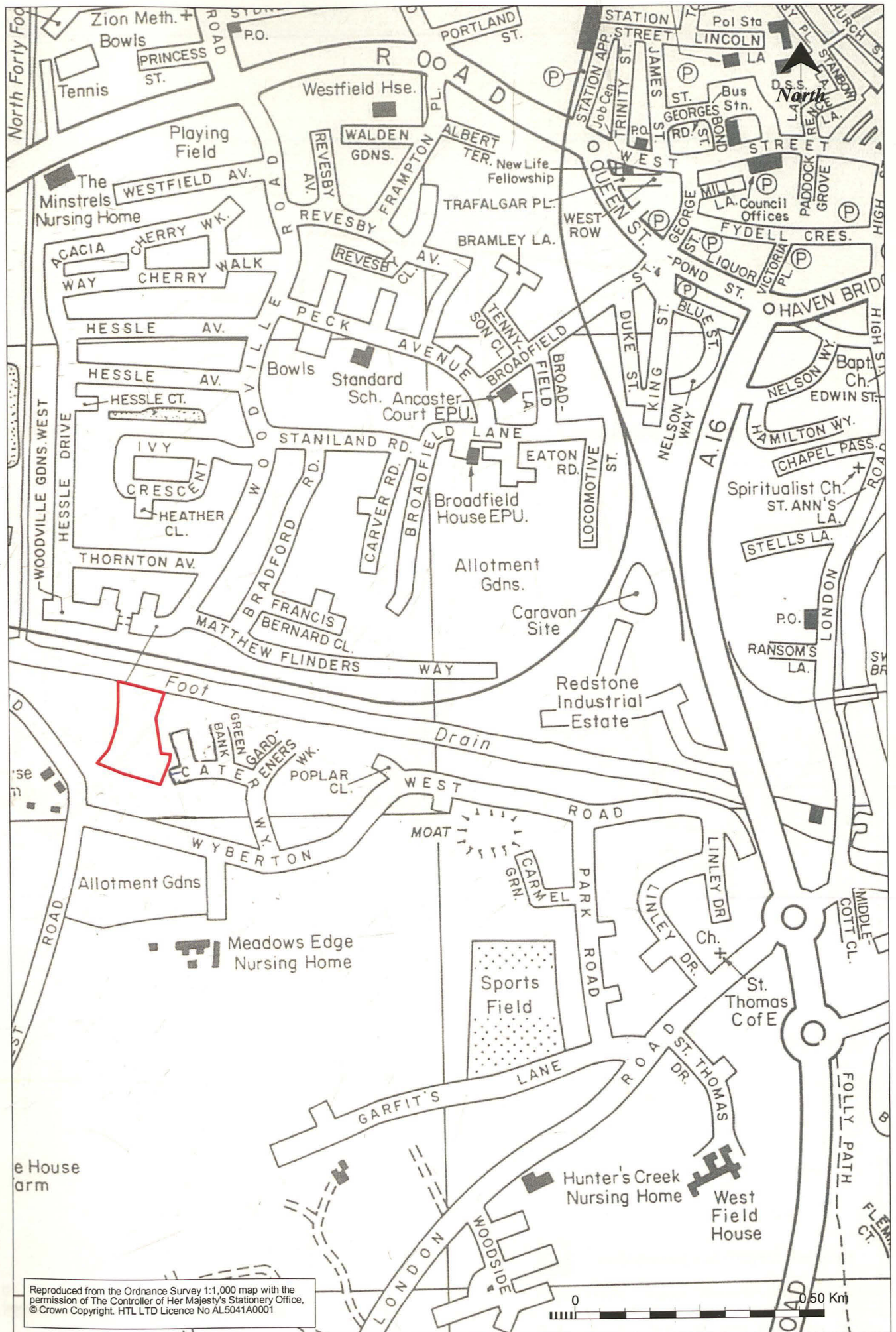
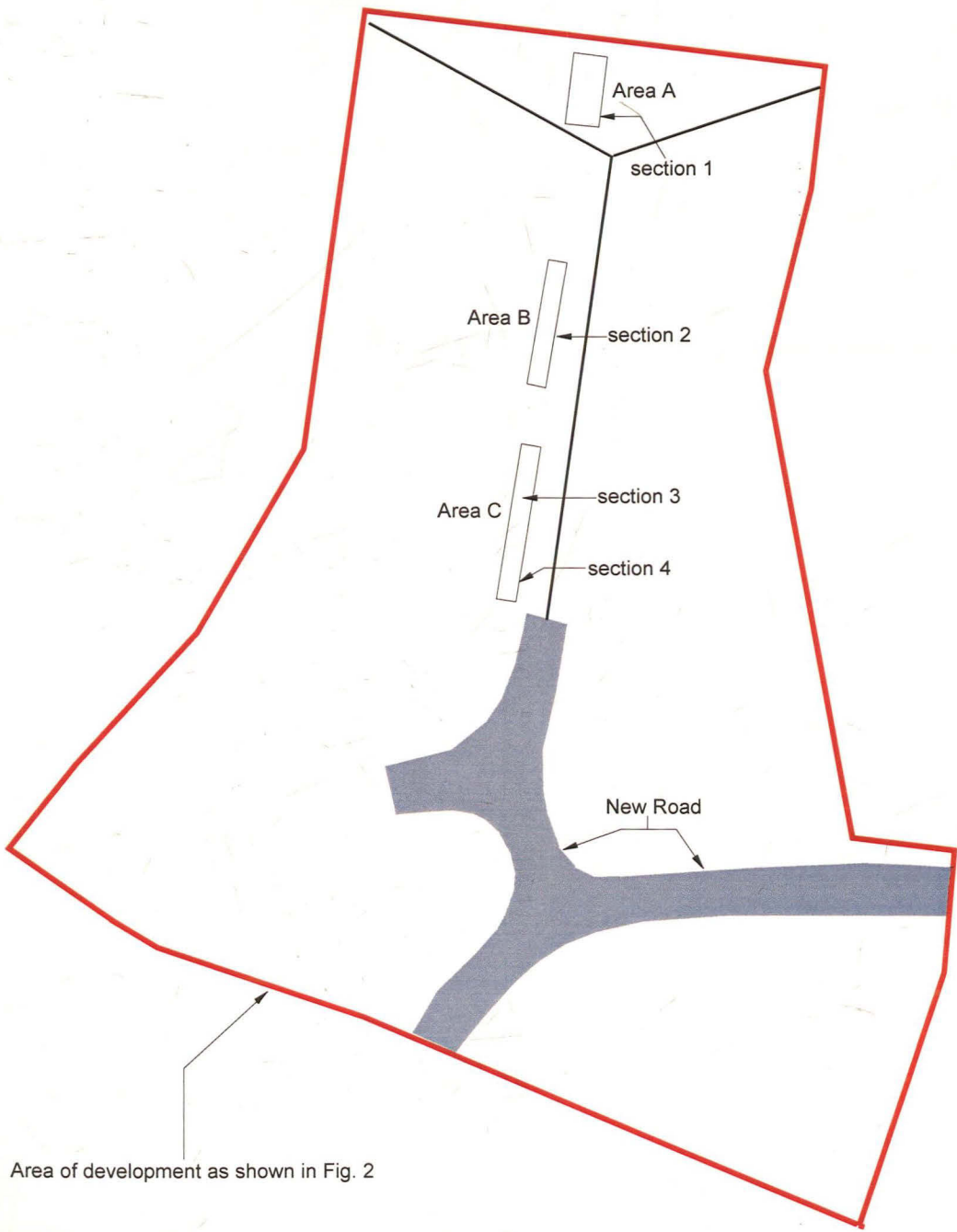


Figure 2 Site Location



Area of development as shown in Fig. 2




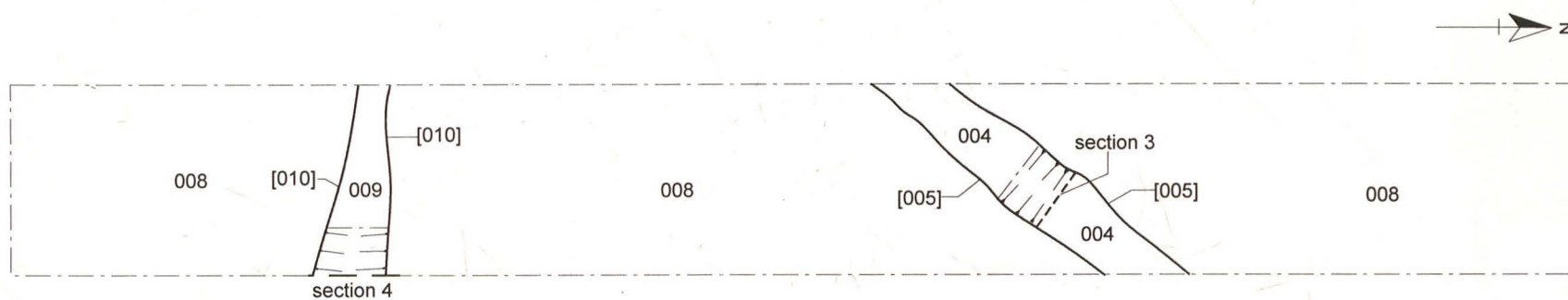
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Project Name: Boston, Wyberton West BWWA02	
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Figure 3: Plan of area showing trenches




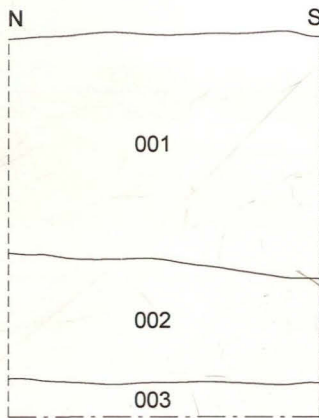
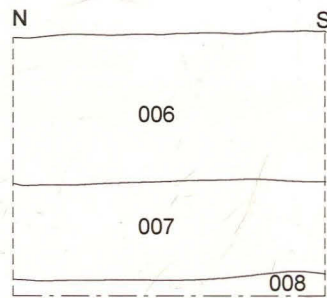
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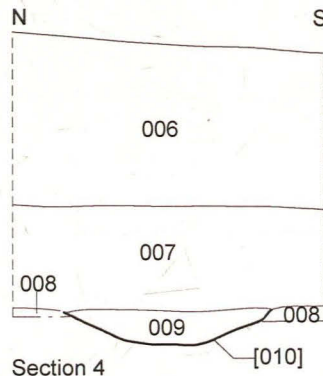
Figure 4: Plan of Area C



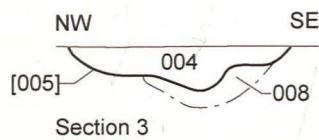
Section 1



Section 2



Section 4



Section 3



Archaeological Project Services

Project Name: Boston, Wyberton West BWWA02

Scale: 1:25

Drawn by:RVH

Report No: 18/03

Figure 5: Sections



Plate 1 General view
of site, looking NE



Plate 2 Working view,
looking NW



Plate 3 Gully [005],
looking East

Appendix 1

Specification for Intensive Archaeological Watching Brief Phase III land off Wyberton West Road, Boston, Lincolnshire

1. SUMMARY

- 1.1 *An intensive archaeological watching brief is required during residential development on land off Wyberton West Road, Boston, Lincolnshire.*
- 1.2 *The development area was subject to a desk-based assessment which identified archaeological sites in the vicinity of the site, including cropmarks and pottery dating from the Iron Age and Roman periods. A previous watching brief nearby identified undated ditches, a pit containing burnt clay and a posthole and retrieved medieval tile.*
- 1.3 *The watching brief will be undertaken during groundworks for roads and drains 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 intensive archaeological watching brief during development at Wyberton West Road, Boston, Lincolnshire.
- 2.2 This document contains the following parts:
 - 2.2.1 Overview.
 - 2.2.2 Stages of work and methodologies.
 - 2.2.3 List of specialists.
 - 2.2.4 Programme of works and staffing structure of the project.

3. SITE LOCATION

- 3.1 Boston is located 45km southeast of Lincoln and 7km from the northwest coast of The Wash, in the fens of south Lincolnshire. The site, Phase III of the development, is located on the southern edge of Boston between Wyberton West Road and the South Forty Foot Drain at national grid reference TF 316 429.

4. PLANNING BACKGROUND

- 4.1 An archaeological desk-based assessment was carried out at the site to provide information to assist the determination of a planning application for development at the site. Full planning permission (B/02/0419/FULL) has been granted subject to a condition requiring an intensive archaeological watching brief during all groundworks associated with the installation of roads and services for the development.

5. SOILS AND TOPOGRAPHY

- 5.1 Local soils are likely to be the Tanvats Association typical alluvial gley soils and Wisbech Association, coarse silty calcareous soil, overlying marine alluvium (Hodge *et al.* 1984, 319,

361). The site lies at approximately 3m OD on fairly level ground.

6 THE ARCHAEOLOGY

- 6.1 Little is currently known about Boston in the prehistoric and Roman periods; the archaeological remains from these periods are often deeply buried under alluvial deposits and silts. During the medieval period Boston was a major port and an international market/trading centre.
- 6.2 The site is located on Wyberton Road West, on the southern edge of the present town. A desk-based assessment (JSAC 1999) identified a number of archaeological sites in the vicinity of the development area. Iron Age and Roman pottery has been recovered in the area. Cropmarks identified to the north and east of the site may date from the Iron Age and Roman periods. To the west of the proposed development there is a moated site (a Scheduled Monument, County Number 48). A watching brief on Phase I of the development revealed a pit containing fired clay, ditches and a posthole, though these were undated. Medieval tile and animal bone was retrieved (APS 2002).
- 6.3 Due to the evidence for sites of Iron Age / Roman date in the vicinity of the proposed development it is thought that the groundworks may disturb archaeological remains.

7 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- 7.1 The aims of the intensive watching brief will be:
- 7.1.1 To record and interpret the archaeological features exposed during the excavation of the service trenches and roads.
- 7.2 The objectives of the intensive 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 intensive watching brief will be undertaken during the ground works phase of development, and includes the archaeological monitoring of excavations for roads and service trenches.
- 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. In the event of archaeological remains being revealed it may be necessary for pauses in groundworks, to allow the investigation and recording of the remains. The section drawings of the trenches will be recorded at a scale of 1:10. Features 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. A metal detector may be used to assist artefact recovery.
- 8.2.4 Throughout the watching brief a photographic record will be compiled. The photographic record will consist of:
 - 8.2.4.1 The site during work to show specific stages, and the layout of the archaeology within the trench.
 - 8.2.4.2 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 required by the development. Should such excavation prove necessary the appropriate Home Office licence will be obtained before their removal. In addition, the Local Environmental Health Department, archaeological curator, coroner and the police will be informed, as 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:
 - 9.3.2.1 A non-technical summary of the results of the investigation.
 - 9.3.2.2 A description of the archaeological setting of the investigation.
 - 9.3.2.3 Description of the topography of the site.

-
- 9.3.2.4 Description of the methodologies used during the investigation.
 - 9.3.2.5 A text describing the findings of the investigation.
 - 9.3.2.6 A consideration of the local, regional and national context of the investigation findings.
 - 9.3.2.7 Plans of the archaeological features exposed. If a sequence of archaeological deposits is encountered, separate plans for each phase will be produced.
 - 9.3.2.8 Sections of the trenches and archaeological features.
 - 9.3.2.9 Interpretation of the archaeological features exposed, and their chronology and setting within the surrounding landscape.
 - 9.3.2.10 Specialist reports on the finds from the site.
 - 9.3.2.11 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 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 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 Community Archaeologist of Boston Borough Council. They will be given seven days notice in writing before the commencement of the project.

14 VARIATIONS

- 14.1 Variations to the proposed scheme of works will only be made following written confirmation of acceptance from the archaeological curator.

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. It may be necessary to have pauses in development groundwork to permit investigation and recording of archaeological remains, if this cannot be accomplished within the normal watching brief remit.

- 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 CONTINGENCIES

16.1 Should important archaeological remains be discovered during the watching brief then consultation will be undertaken with the archaeological curator and client to ensure adequate provision is made for a suitable level of recording and post-excavation analysis.

16.2 Any requirement for additional recording and analysis beyond the scope of the watching brief would only be enacted following consultation with the client and archaeological curator.

17 SPECIALISTS TO BE USED DURING THE PROJECT

17.1 The following organisations/persons will, in principal 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 - H Healey, Independent Archaeologist, or G Taylor, APS
Non-pottery Artefacts	J Cowgill, Independent Specialist, or G Taylor, APS
Animal Bones	Environmental Archaeology Consultancy, or P Cope-Faulkner, APS
Environmental Analysis	Environmental Archaeology Consultancy
Human Remains Analysis	R Gowland, Independent Specialist

18 INSURANCES

18.1 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.

19 COPYRIGHT

19.1 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.

-
- 19.2 Licence will also be given to the archaeological curators to use the documentary archive for educational, public and research purposes.
- 19.3 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.
- 19.4 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.

20 BIBLIOGRAPHY

Archaeological Project Services, 2002 *Archaeological Watching Brief on land off Wyberton West Road, Boston, Lincolnshire (BWWA00)*, APS report no. 63/02

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

John Samuels Archaeological Consultants, 1999 *An archaeological desk-based assessment of land off Wyberton West Road, Boston, Lincolnshire (BRP98)*, unpublished report JSAC 609/99/02

ABBREVIATIONS

APS Archaeological Project Services
JSAC John Samuels Archaeological Consultants

Appendix 2 Context Summary

Context No.	Type	Description	Thck (m)	Interpretation
001	Deposit	Soft, mixture of dark grayish brown and reddish brown silty clay and clayey silt	0.80	Dumped layer
002	Deposit	Firm, dark brownish grey clayey silt, freq. sm gravel	0.35	Topsoil
003	Deposit	Firm, mid-reddish brown and grey clayey silt	-	Natural
004	Deposit	Compact, mid-greyish brown silty clay	0.14	Fill of [005]
005	Cut	East-west linear, shallow sided, rounded base, 0.70m	0.14	Gully
006	Deposit	Soft, dark brownish grey silty clay, freq. lrg. Stones and brick frags	0.47	Dumped layer
007	Deposit	Firm, dark brownish grey silty clay, freq. Flint, gravel and brick rubble	0.30	Topsoil
008	Deposit	Firm, mid-brownish red with light grey mottles clayey silt	-	Natural
009	Deposit	Firm, dark grey clay, freq. bricks and chalk flecks	0.12	Fill of [010]
010	Cut	East-west linear, shallow sided with slightly concave base, 0.68m wide	0.13	Gully

Abbreviations

lrg large
 freq frequent
 frags fragments
 sm small

Appendix 3

THE FINDS *by Gary Taylor*

A single piece of handmade tile or brick weighing 21g was retrieved from a gully fill (004). The piece, which is oxidized throughout and is probably of late medieval or early post-medieval date, is slightly abraded. It is probably a fairly local product of the Boston area. It is in good condition and presents no long-term storage problems.

Context	Material	Description	No.	Wt (g)	Context Date
004	Ceramic building material	Handmade tile or brick, oxidized throughout	1	21g	Modern (modern plastic was discarded on site)

Appendix 4

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 interpretation 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.
Domesday Survey	A survey of property ownership in England compiled on the instruction of William I for taxation purposes in 1086 AD.
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) that become contained by the 'cut' are referred to as its fill(s).
Layer	A layer is a term used to describe an accumulation of soil or other material that is not contained within a cut.
Natural	Undisturbed deposit(s) of soil or rock which have accumulated without the influence of human activity

Appendix 5

THE ARCHIVE

The archive consists of:

10	Context records
5	Sheets containing scale drawings (plans and sections)
1	Photographic record sheet
1	Bag of finds

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: 2000.296

Archaeological Project Services Site Code: BWWA 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.

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