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**ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF  
AT NAVIGATION YARD,  
CARRE STREET,  
SLEAFORD, \*  
LINCOLNSHIRE  
(SNYA 02) \***



**A P S**  
ARCHAEOLOGICAL  
PROJECT  
SERVICES

EVENT 43982  
SOURCES 418547 418548



**ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF  
AT NAVIGATION YARD,  
CARRE STREET,  
SLEAFORD, \*  
LINCOLNSHIRE  
(SNYA 02) \***

**Work Undertaken For  
North Kesteven District Council**

February 2003

Report Compiled by  
Paul Cope-Faulkner BA (Hons) AIFA

National Grid Reference: TF 0696 45802  
Planning Reference: N/57/0278/01  
City and County Museum Accession No: 2002.476

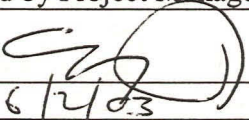
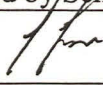
**ARCHAEOLOGICAL PROJECT SERVICES**



APS Report No. 34/03 \*

**Quality Control**  
Navigation Yard, Sleaford  
SNYA 02

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Date: 6/24/03	Date: 28-02-03

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## 1. SUMMARY

*A watching brief was undertaken during development at Navigation Yard, Carre Street, Sleaford, Lincolnshire. The watching brief monitored the excavation of service trenches for a new retail and craft building.*

*The site lies near the medieval (AD 1066-1540) core of the town and close to Iron Age (800 BC-AD 50), Romano-British (AD 50-410) and Saxon (AD 410-1066) settlement sites. Navigation Yard is a post-medieval development catering for traffic associated with the canalisation of the River Sleas. Artefacts of the Neolithic (4000-2200 BC) and Bronze Age (2201-800 BC) have also been recovered in the vicinity.*

*The watching brief identified a former buried topsoil overlain by recent make-up layers for a tarmac surface. No artefacts were retrieved during this investigation.*

## 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

Archaeological Project Services was commissioned by North Kesteven District Council to undertake an archaeological watching brief during groundworks associated with new development at Navigation Yard, Carre Street, Sleaford, Lincolnshire. Approval for the

development was sought through the submission of planning application N/57/0278/01. The watching brief was carried out between the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> October 2002, in accordance with a specification prepared by Archaeological Project Services (Appendix 1) and approved by the North Kesteven Heritage Officer.

### 2.3 Topography and Geology

Sleaford is situated approximately 27km south of Lincoln in the administrative district of North Kesteven, Lincolnshire (Fig. 1).

The development site is located 110m southeast of the town centre as defined by the Market Place (Fig. 2). Lying to the east of Carre Street, the site is centred on National Grid Reference TF 0696 4580 at a height of c. 13m OD adjacent to the River Sleas,

As an urban area, local soils have not been mapped. However, soils are likely to be of the Newsleaford Series, typically brown calcareous sands (George and Robson 1978, 86). These soils are developed on drift deposits of older river sand and gravel which overlies a solid geology of Jurassic Cornbrash (GSGB 1972).

### 2.4 Archaeological Setting

Sleaford is located in an area of known archaeological remains dating from the Neolithic to the present day. Neolithic flint tools and Bronze Age axes are known from the vicinity.

To the southeast of the site lies a Middle Iron Age enclosure, one of several in the vicinity of the town, and which may be associated with settlement of the period identified further east (Rayner 1999, 10). By the Late Iron Age, the focus of settlement centred on Old Place, 500m to the east of the site. High status pottery and a significant collection of coin pellet mould fragments were found adjacent to

Old Place and has lead speculation that at this time Sleaford was an important centre or *oppidum* of the *Corieltauvi*, a local tribe (Elsdon 1997, 75). The Iron Age occupation of Sleaford was succeeded by an extensive Romano-British settlement, possibly a small town.

Excavations in the Market Place revealed Anglo-Saxon structures and Late Saxon pits (Mahaney 1979, 23). Furthermore, in the vicinity of the railway station a large Anglo-Saxon inhumation cemetery was identified and partly excavated in 1881 (Thomas 1882).

Sleaford is first mentioned in AD 825 in a charter relating to the leasing of land at Sempringham by Peterborough Abbey (Hart 1966, 100) and confirmed in the Anglo-Saxon chronicle (Swanton 1997, 65). Referred to as *Slioforda*, the name is derived from the Old English and means the ford over the 'sliowa', meaning muddy water (Cameron 1998, 112).

There has been debate as to Sleaford's inclusion in the Domesday Survey of c. 1086, although it is now assumed that Sleaford, referred to as *Eslaforde*, relates to the modern town, and Old Sleaford is included within the entry for Quarrington (Roffe 1979, 13). If so, the survey records that the Bishop of Lincoln held the land which contained a church with a priest, 320 acres of meadow, 1 acre of underwood and 330 acres of marsh (Foster and Longley 1976). The site lies about 100m southeast of the parish church of St. Denys which dates from the 12<sup>th</sup> century (DoE 1974, 23).

Carre Street and Navigation Yard are both relatively recent developments within the town and constructed when the Sleas was canalised in 1792 (Pawley 1996, 65). Navigation House, immediately west of the site, was the offices of the Sleas Navigation Company and dates from 1838-9 (Pevsner and Harris 1989, 654).

### 3. AIMS

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

### 4. METHODS

The watching brief monitored the excavation of a service trench along the northern side of the development. Once the service trench had been excavated and backfilled, the footprint of the new building was to be raised before piling foundations were inserted. Partial lengths of the sides of the initial service trench were cleaned and rendered vertical. Selected deposits were partially examined by hand to determine their nature and to retrieve artefactual material. The depth and thickness of each deposit was measured from the current ground surface. Each archaeological deposit or feature revealed was allocated a unique reference number (context number) with an individual written description. A list of all contexts and their descriptions appears as Appendix 2. A photographic record was compiled and a section was drawn at a scale of 1:10. Recording of the deposits was undertaken according to standard Archaeological Project Services' practice.

Records of the deposits recognised during the examination were examined and a stratigraphic matrix produced.

### 5. RESULTS

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

The earliest deposit encountered during the watching brief was a layer of greyish brown sandy silt (006) measuring over

0.15m deep. This was identified as a possible former topsoil deposit.

Above this was a sequence of make-up layers, comprising limestone and gravel (003 and 005) and grey sandy silt (004), for a tarmac surface (002).

Above the tarmac was a soil build up of greyish brown sandy silt (001) which was 0.15m thick.

## 6. DISCUSSION

An undated buried topsoil overlain by recent make-up deposits for a tarmac surface were recorded during the watching brief. The former topsoil appears to be extensive and has previously been identified in archaeological investigations to the south (Cope-Faulkner 2003, 3). No significant archaeological remains were recorded but may survive at depth.

No artefacts were retrieved during this investigation.

## 7. CONCLUSION

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken at Navigation Yard, Carre Street, Sleaford, as the site lay in close proximity to known archaeological remains dating from the Iron Age to the present day.

However, no medieval or earlier remains were identified and only a former buried topsoil was identified beneath a sequence of make-up deposits for a recent tarmac surface. No artefacts were retrieved.

## 8. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeological Project Services wish to acknowledge the assistance of Mr G. Wright who commissioned the fieldwork and post-excavation analysis on behalf of

North Kesteven District Council. This work was coordinated by Denise Drury and this report was edited by Gary Taylor and Tom Lane. Jo Hambly, the North Kesteven Heritage Officer, kindly permitted examination of the relevant parish files maintained by Heritage Lincolnshire.

## 9. PERSONNEL

Project Coordinator: Denise Drury  
 Site Supervisor: Denise Buckley  
 Photographic reproduction: Sue Unsworth  
 Illustration: Paul Cope-Faulkner  
 Post-excavation analysis: Paul Cope-Faulkner

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## 11. ABBREVIATIONS

APS Archaeological Project Services

GSGB Geological Survey of Great Britain

IFA Institute of Field Archaeologists

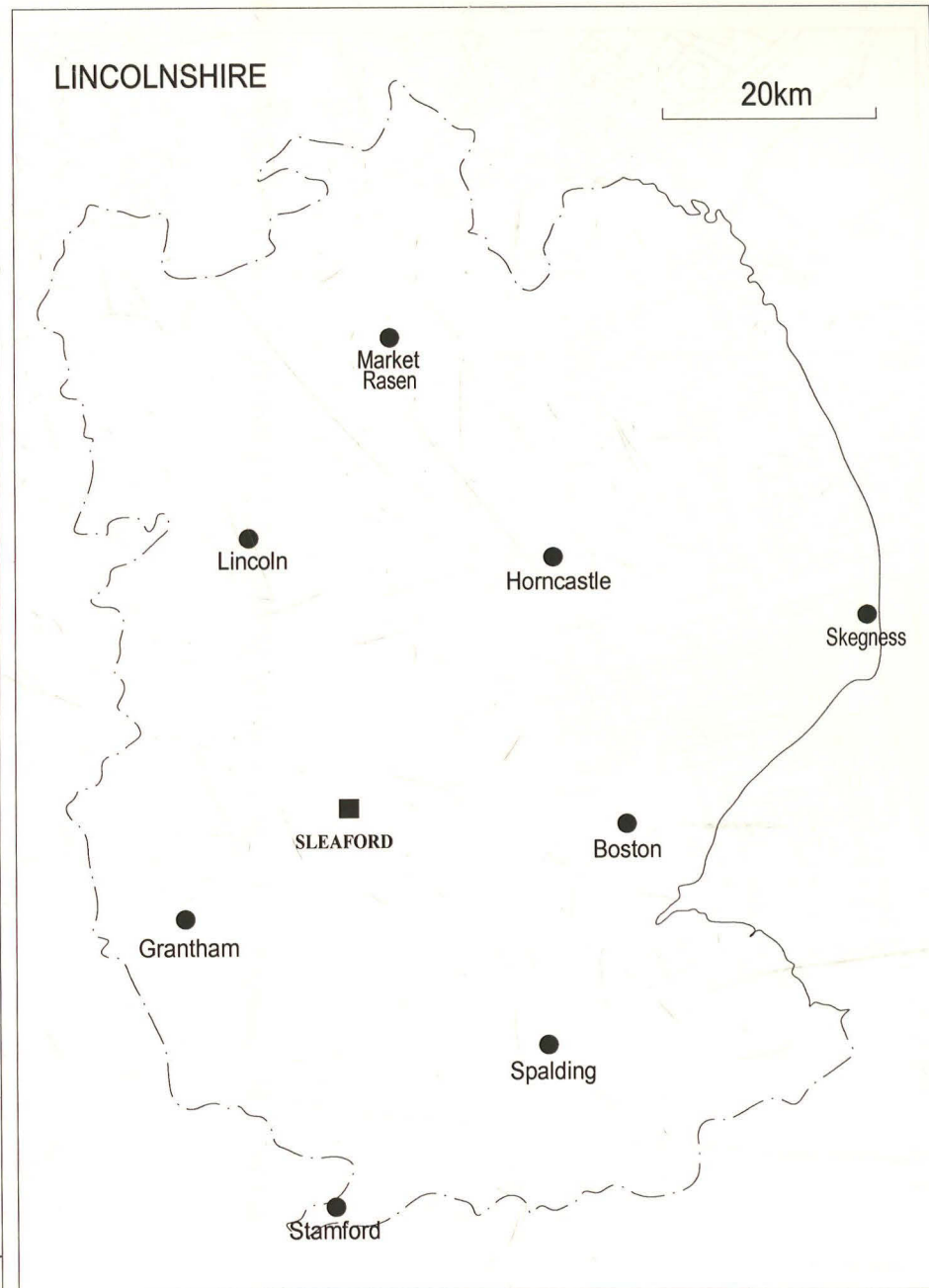
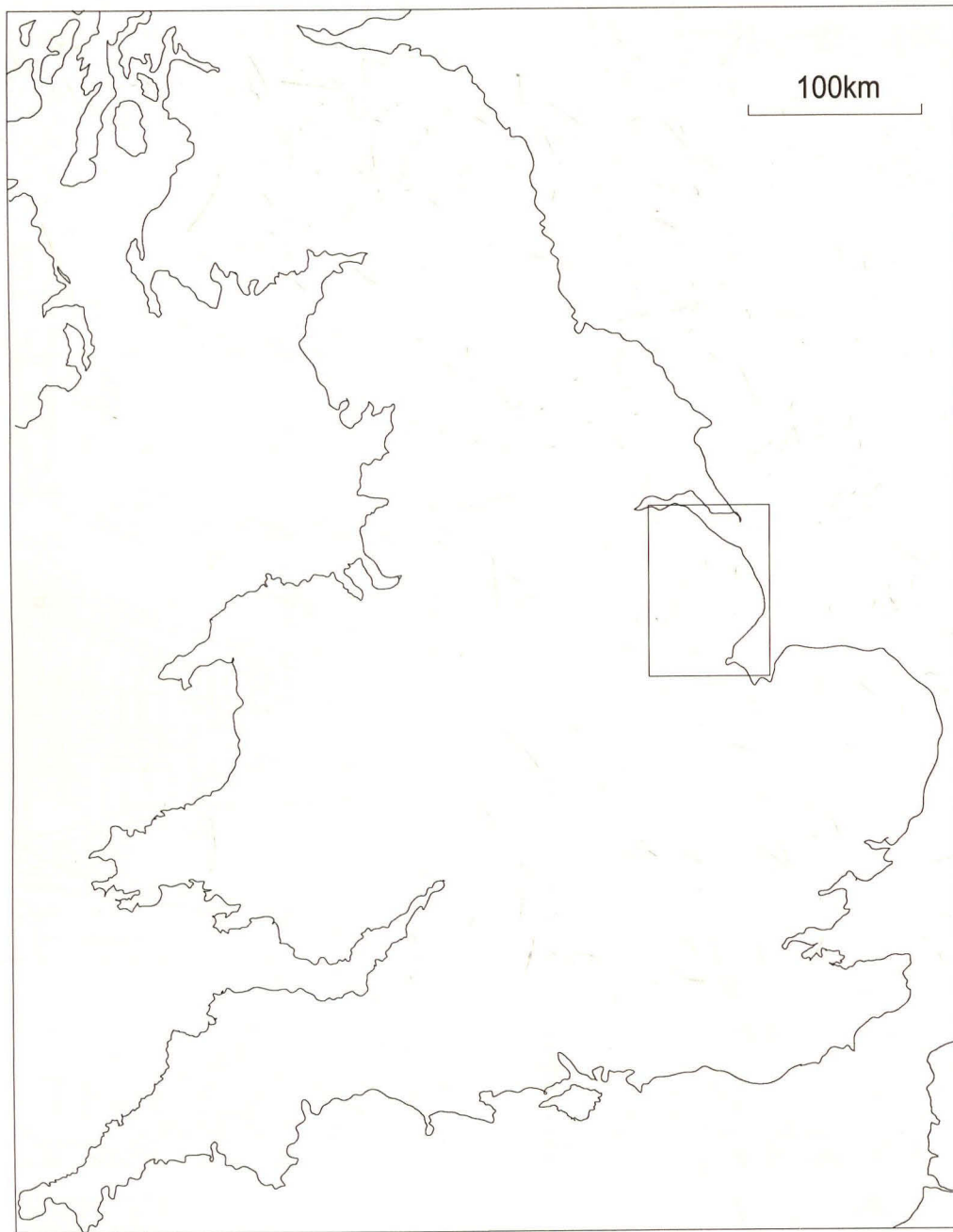


Figure 1 - General Location Plan



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Figure 2 - Site location plan

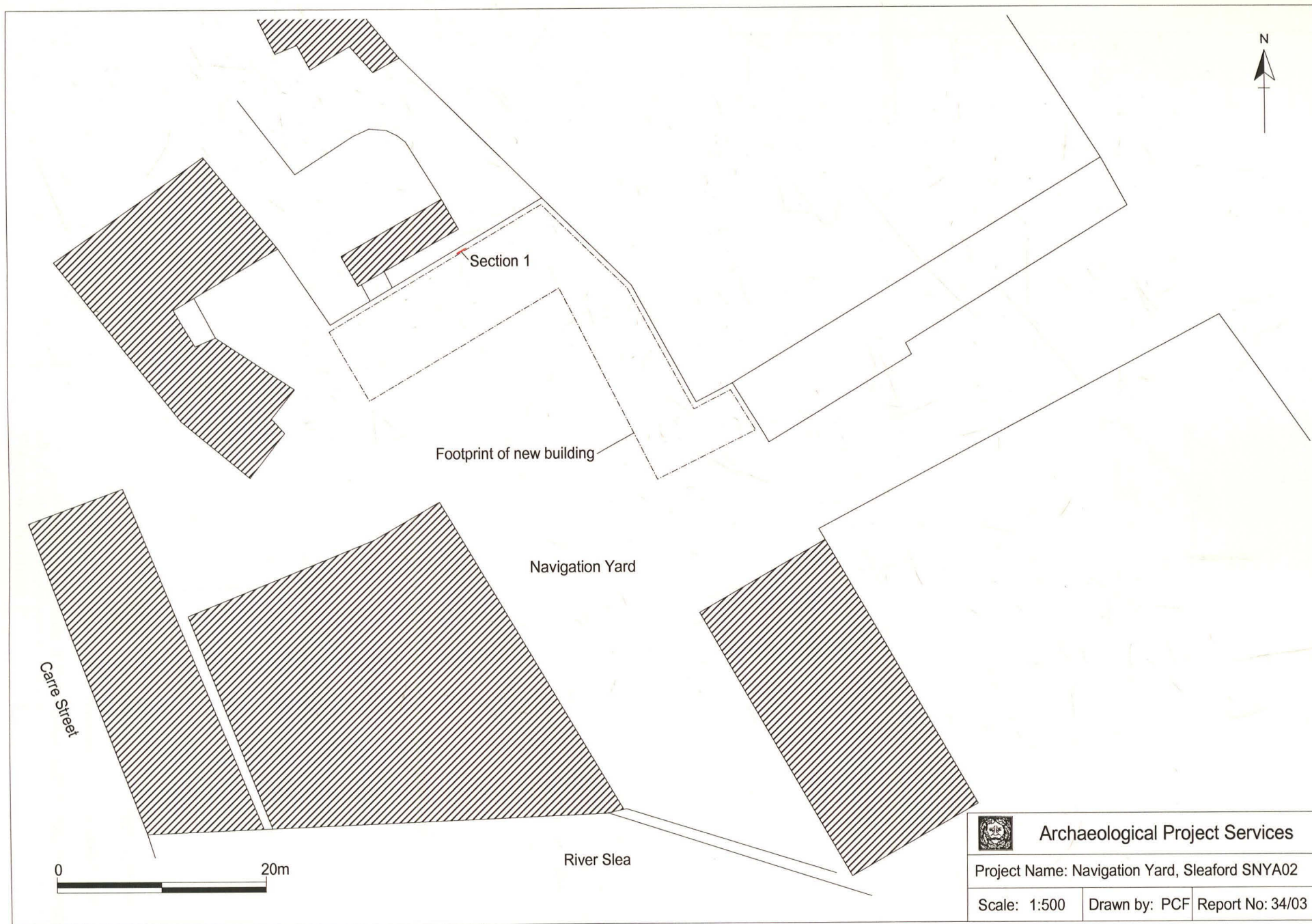
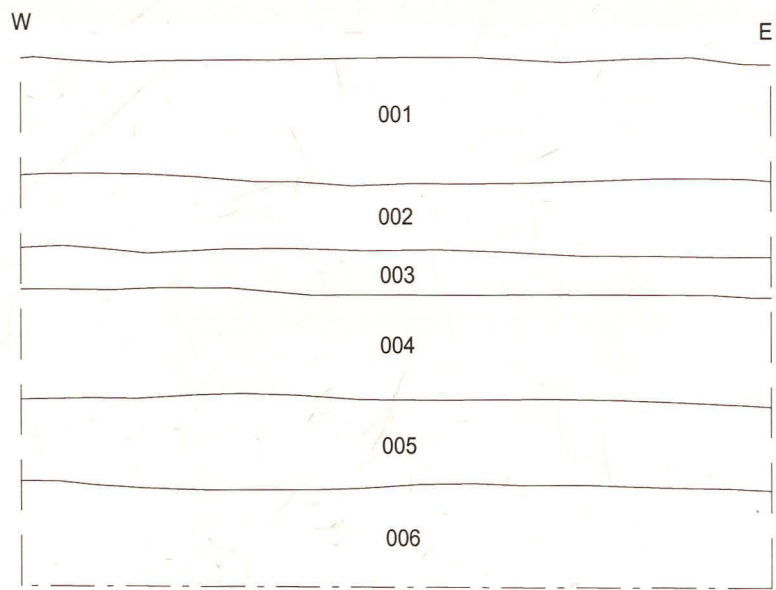


Figure 3 - Plan of the development showing section location



Section 1




 <b>Archaeological Project Services</b>		
Project Name: Navigation Yard, Sleaford SNYA02		
Scale: 1:10	Drawn by:PCF	Report No: 34/03

Figure 4 - Section 1



Plate 1 - General view of the development area and service trench, looking west towards Navigation House



Plate 2 - Section 1, looking north

## Appendix 1

### LAND AT NAVIGATION YARD, CARRE STREET, SLEAFORD, LINCOLNSHIRE - SPECIFICATION FOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

#### 1 SUMMARY

- 1.1 *A watching brief is required during development at Navigation Yard, Carre Street, Sleaford, Lincolnshire.*
- 1.2 *The development site lies in an archaeologically sensitive area. Excavations in the area have revealed evidence of Iron Age, Roman, Saxon and medieval occupation.*
- 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 development on land at Navigation Yard, Carre Street, Sleaford, Lincolnshire. The site is located at National Grid Reference TF 0696 4580.
- 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 Sleaford is situated 27km south of Lincoln in the administrative district of North Kesteven. The site of the development lies in the centre of the town, east of Carre Street. The site is centred on National Grid Reference TF 0693 4580.

#### 4 PLANNING BACKGROUND

- 4.1 A planning application (N/57/0278/01) was submitted to North Kesteven District Council for the erection of a new building to house retail and craft workshop units. Permission is subject to a condition requiring the implementation of a watching-brief during the groundworks associated with the development.

#### 5 SOILS AND TOPOGRAPHY

- 5.1 The site lies in a built-up area, on the north side of the River Slea, at approximately 15m OD. As an urban area the soils have not been mapped, however, soils are likely to be of the Newsleaford Series, typically brown calcareous sand or the Aswarby Series, brown calcareous earths (George and Robson 1978).

## 6 ARCHAEOLOGICAL OVERVIEW

- 6.1 Sleaford is situated in an area of known archaeological remains dating from prehistory to the present. The town has expanded to cover several previous foci of settlement and other activity dating from the prehistoric. Evidence of Iron Age settlement has been identified around the town and excavations at Old Place have also produced evidence of a major Late Iron Age centre. Evidence for Roman occupation has been found along the route of the Roman road, Mareham Lane.
- 6.2 Evidence of Anglo-Saxon occupation has been recovered, including evidence from a large Anglo-Saxon cemetery approximately 400m south of the site. Medieval remains from Sleaford include the former St Giles church which was founded during the late Saxon period. The site lies in the centre of the present town about 150m south of St Denys' church, the earliest portion of which dates from c1180. Excavations in the Market Place, adjacent to St Denys', revealed Anglo-Saxon structures and Late Saxon pits.
- 6.3 Groundworks may disturb archaeological deposits associated with the development of Sleaford.

## 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.
- 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 North Kesteven Heritage Officer; North Kesteven 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 North Kesteven Heritage Officer. 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.

<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, APS in consultation with H Healey, Independent Archaeologist
Non-pottery Artefacts	J Cowgill, Independent Specialist
Animal Bones	Environmental Archaeology Consultancy
Environmental Analysis	V Fryer, 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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## Appendix 2

### CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

No.	Description	Interpretation
001	Loose greyish brown sandy silt, 0.15m thick	Soil build-up
002	Indurated black tarmac, 100mm thick	Surface
003	Firm light yellowish brown gravel and limestone fragments, 60mm thick	Make-up for (002)
004	Firm light grey sandy silt, 0.15m thick	Make-up for (002)
005	Firm mid yellowish brown limestone and gravel, 100mm thick	Make-up for (002)
006	Firm dark greyish brown sandy silt, <0.15m thick	?Former topsoil

## Appendix 3

### GLOSSARY

<b>Bronze Age</b>	A period characterised by the introduction of bronze into the country for tools, between 2250 and 800 BC.
<b>Context</b>	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).
<b>Dumped deposits</b>	These are deposits, often laid down intentionally, that raise a land surface. They may be the result of casual waste disposal or may be deliberate attempts to raise the ground surface.
<b>Iron Age</b>	A period characterised by the introduction of Iron into the country for tools, between 800 BC and AD 50.
<b>Layer</b>	A layer is a term to describe an accumulation of soil or other material that is not contained within a cut.
<b>Medieval</b>	The Middle Ages, dating from approximately AD 1066-1500.
<b>Neolithic</b>	The 'New Stone Age' period, part of the prehistoric era, dating from approximately 4500-2250 BC.
<b>Post-medieval</b>	The period following the Middle Ages, dating from approximately AD 1500-1800.
<b>Prehistoric</b>	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 1 <sup>st</sup> century AD.
<b>Romano-British</b>	Pertaining to the period dating from AD 43-410 when the Romans occupied Britain.
<b>Saxon</b>	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
- 3 Daily record sheets
- 1 Photographic record sheet
- 1 Scale drawing

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: 2002.476

Archaeological Project Services Site Code: SNYA 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.