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ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF
AT HOLMES LANE,
~~STIXWOLD~~, HORSINGTON
LINCOLNSHIRE
(SHL 03)



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ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF
AT HOLMES LANE,
~~STIXWOLD,~~ HORSINGTON
LINCOLNSHIRE
(SHL 03)

Work Undertaken For
Mr T.S. Dixon

March 2003

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

National Grid Reference: TF 1666 6654
Planning Reference: S/170/0306/01
City and County Museum Accession No: 2003.80

ARCHAEOLOGICAL PROJECT SERVICES



APS Report No. 77/03



Quality Control
Holmes Lane, Stixwould
SHL 03

Project Coordinator	Dale Trimble
Supervisor	Fiona Walker
Illustration	Paul Cope-Faulkner
Photographic Reproduction	Sue Unsworth
Post-excavation Analyst	Paul Cope-Faulkner

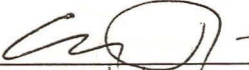
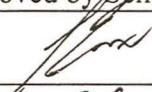
Checked by Project Manager	Approved by Senior Archaeologist
 Gary Taylor	 Tom Lane
Date: 26/3/03	Date: 26-03-03

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1. SUMMARY

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken during residential development on land adjacent to Holmes Lane, Stixwould, Lincolnshire. The watching brief monitored the excavation of the foundation trenches.

Prehistoric bone and wooden objects, including a canoe, have been found in the vicinity. Stixwould lies at the southern end of a Roman (AD 50-410) thoroughfare that extended to Saltfleetby on the Lincolnshire coast. Middle Saxon (AD 650-850) pottery has been found south of the development site. Holmes Lane lies to the west of the medieval (AD 1066-1540) village which was dominated by the 12th century Cistercian priory.

The watching brief identified no archaeological remains and natural geology overlain by recent topsoil was recorded. 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 Mr T.S. Dixon to undertake an archaeological watching brief during groundworks associated with residential development on land adjacent to Holmes Lane, ~~Stixwould~~, Lincolnshire.

Horsington

Approval for the development was sought through the submission of planning application S/170/0306/01. The watching brief was carried out on the 17th March 2003, in accordance with a specification designed by Archaeological Project Services (Appendix 1) and approved by the Historic Built Environment Officer, Lincolnshire County Council.

2.3 Topography and Geology

Stixwould is located 9km west of Horncastle and 21km southeast of Lincoln in the administrative district of East Lindsey, Lincolnshire (Fig. 1).

The site is located 1.2km northwest of Stixwould centre as defined by the parish church of St. Peter (Fig. 2). The site lies to the north of Holmes Lane adjacent to a track to Willow Farm and is centred on National Grid Reference TF 1666 6654. The site lies at a height of c. 10m OD on land that slopes down southwards to a former river valley, now indicated by a catchwater drain.

Local soils are of the Ragdale Series, typically clay loam over clayey calcareous soils (Robson *et al.* 1974, 38). These soils overlie a drift geology of Upper River Terrace deposits which in turn overlie glacial till that seals a solid geology of Jurassic Amphill Clay Group (BGS 1995).

2.4 Archaeological Setting

Stixwould lies in an area of known archaeological remains dating from the prehistoric period to the present day. Prehistoric artefacts were recovered during the 18th and 19th centuries adjacent to the River Witham and may indicate an early focus for settlement. The finds include a bone spearhead, a bone skate and a wooden canoe. Although undated, cropmarks have indicated a number of enclosures in the vicinity that may represent prehistoric settlement.

Stixwould lies at the terminus of a Roman road that continued to Saltfleetby (Margary 1973, 241). It has been suggested that this road continued southwest to Sleaford, though this remains unproven (Platts 1985, 134).

Middle Saxon pottery has been found to the south of the development site close to the Witham and probably indicates a settlement of the period (Walker 1996, 1).

Stixwould is first mentioned in the Domesday Survey of c. 1086. Referred to as *Stigeswalde* the name is derived from the Old Danish personal name 'Stig' and the Old English 'wald' meaning a stretch of woodland on higher ground (Cameron 1998, 118). The Domesday Survey records that the land was held by Ivo Taillebois, Alfred of Lincoln and Waldin the Breton and contained two fisheries (Foster and Longley 1976).

Immediately west of the village lie the earthwork remains of the Cistercian priory of Stixwould, now a Scheduled Ancient Monument. This was founded in the first half of the 12th century by Lucy, Countess of Chester. The revenue from this house shows that it was not intended to contain a large number of nuns. In the 15th century there were usually 12 to 16, but at the foundation there may have been between 20 and 30. An Act of Suppression, dating to 1536, dissolved the priory, though it was ordered to remain standing for the use of the Benedictine nuns of Stainfield. Henry VIII refounded the priory under Premonstratensian rule during 1537, although this was short lived and the priory was surrendered in 1539 (Page 1988, 146).

St. Peter's church dates to the medieval period and contains fragments of moulded stonework and coffin lids that are likely to have come from the priory (Pevsner and Harris 1989, 719).

3. AIMS

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

4. METHODS

Prior to the excavation of the foundation trenches, topsoil was removed from the area within the footprint of the new building. Foundation trenches were then excavated by machine to depths required for the development. Following excavation, the sides of the trenches were cleaned and rendered vertical. Selected deposits were fully or partially excavated by hand to determine their nature and to retrieve artefactual material. The depth and thickness of each deposit were measured from the ground surface. Each archaeological deposit was allocated a unique reference number (context number) with an individual written description. A list of all contexts and their interpretations appears as Appendix 2. A photographic record was compiled and sections were drawn at a scale of 1:10. Recording of the deposits encountered during the watching brief was undertaken according to standard Archaeological Project Services' practice.

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

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 was a layer of yellowish brown clay (002) which

became greyer at depth (Fig. 4, Section 1). This was identified as the underlying drift geology.

Sealing this was a 0.24m thick topsoil of greyish brown clayey silt (001).

6. DISCUSSION

Natural deposits of clay were the earliest deposits encountered during the watching brief. These are unlikely to be River Terrace deposits and probably represent a glacial till. The lack of a subsoil may also indicate that the area was previously stripped.

No artefacts were retrieved during this investigation.

7. CONCLUSION

Archaeological investigations were undertaken at Holmes Lane as the site lay in an area of undated cropmark enclosures and close to probable settlement of prehistoric and Middle Saxon date.

However, no deposits were identified that belonged to these periods and only a sequence of topsoil overlying natural was encountered. No artefactual material was recovered during this investigation.

8. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeological Project Services wish to acknowledge the assistance of Mr T.S. Dixon who commissioned the fieldwork and post-excavation analysis. Mr C. Wilson kindly provided development plans. Dale Trimble coordinated the work and this report was edited by Gary Taylor and Tom Lane. Dave Start kindly permitted access to the parish files and library maintained by Heritage Lincolnshire.

9. PERSONNEL

Project Coordinator: Dale Trimble
 Site Supervisor: Fiona Walker
 Photographic reproduction: Sue Unsworth
 Illustration: Paul Cope-Faulkner
 Post-excavation analysis: Paul Cope-Faulkner

10. BIBLIOGRAPHY

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11. ABBREVIATIONS

APS Archaeological Project Services

BGS British Geological Survey

IFA Institute of Field Archaeologists

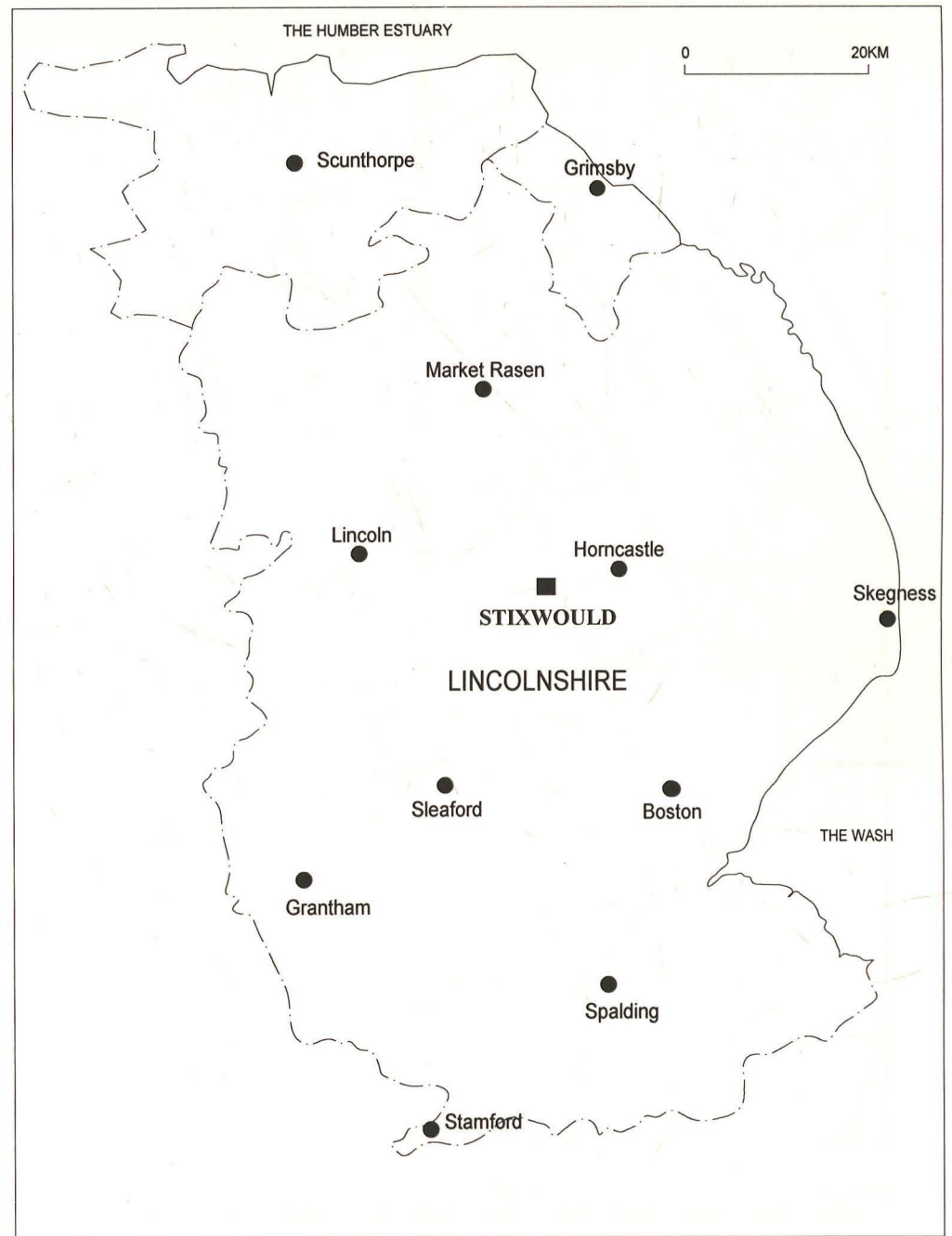
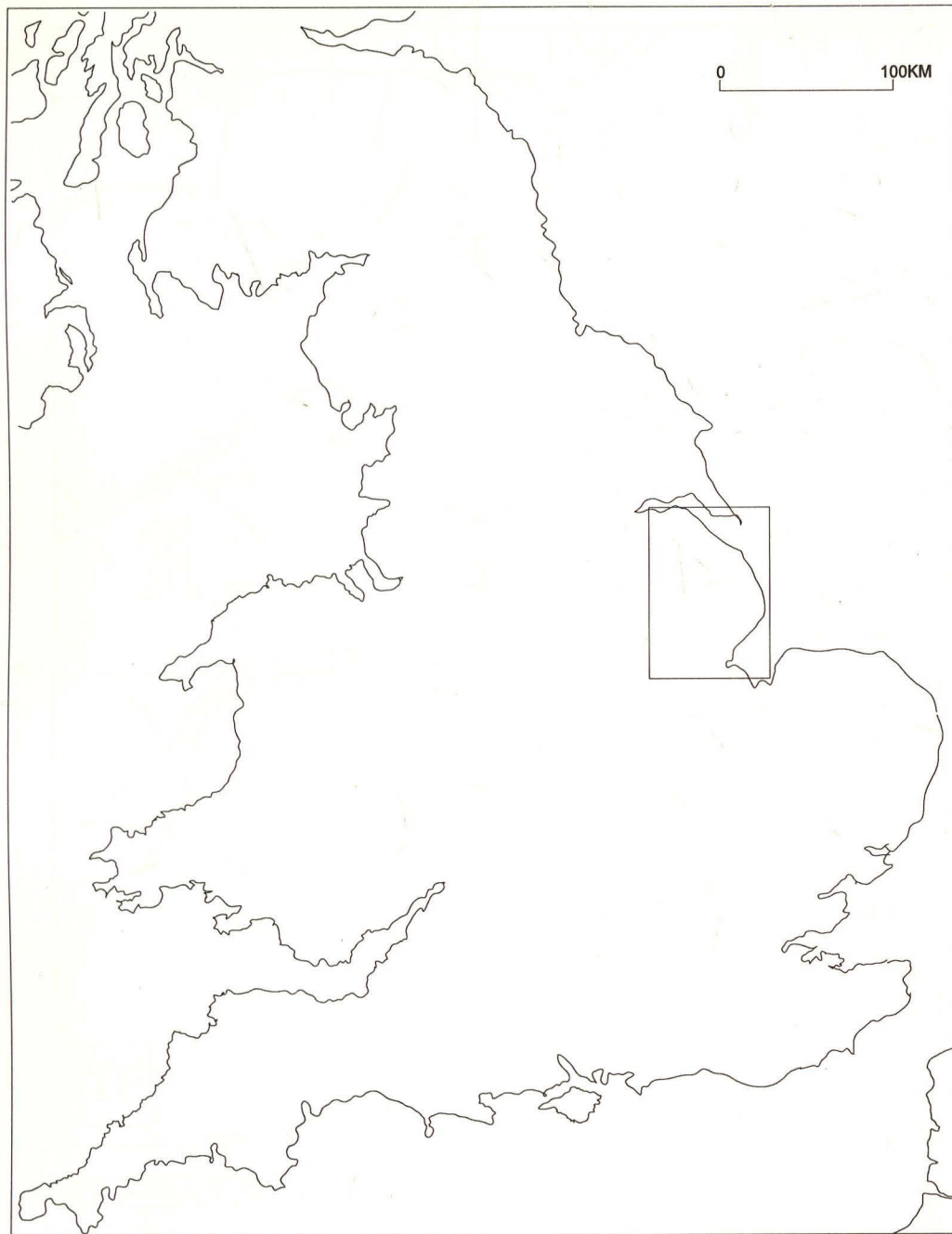
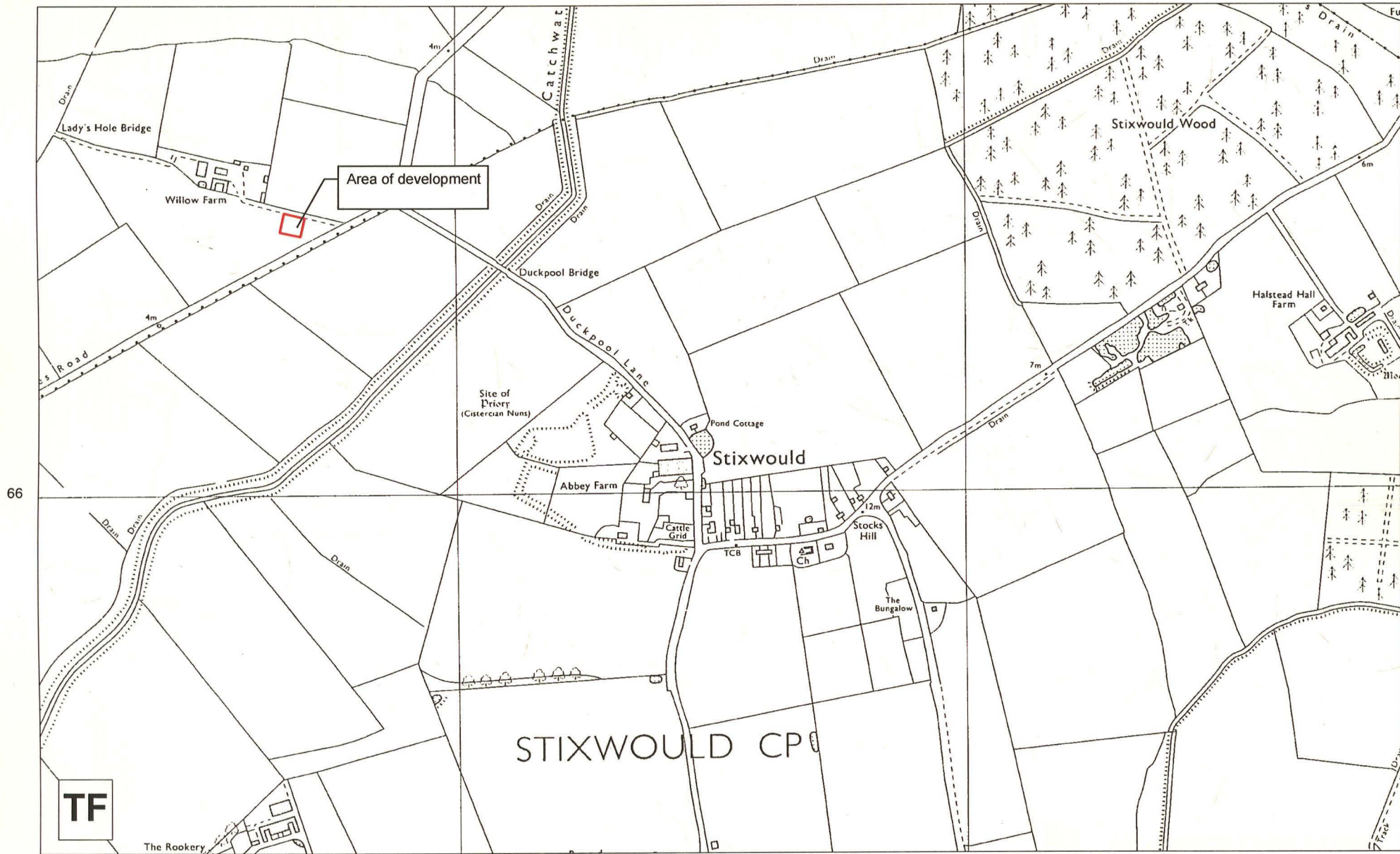


Figure 1 - General location plan



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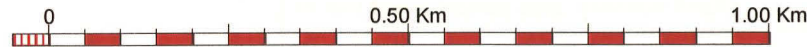
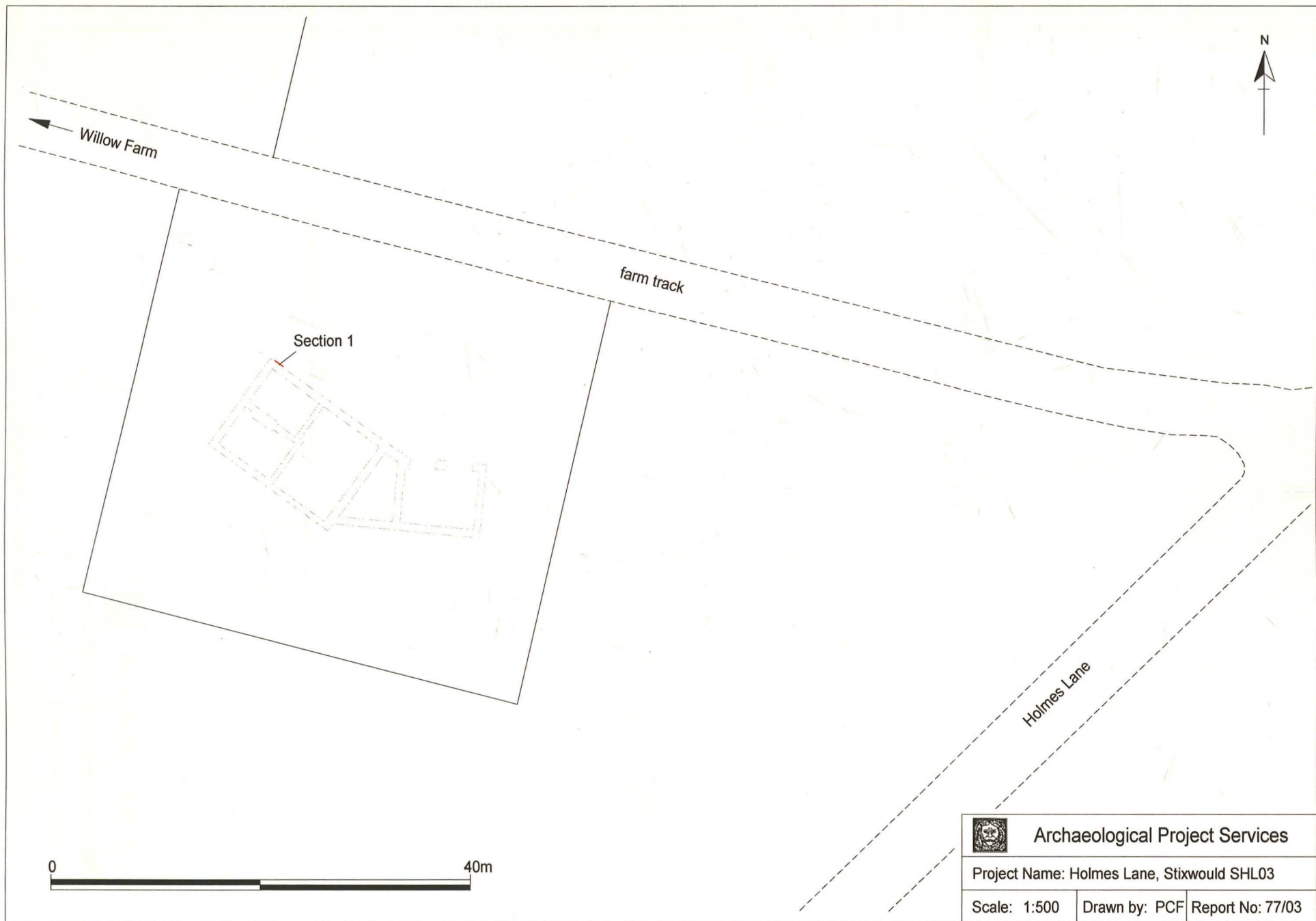


Figure 2 - Site location plan




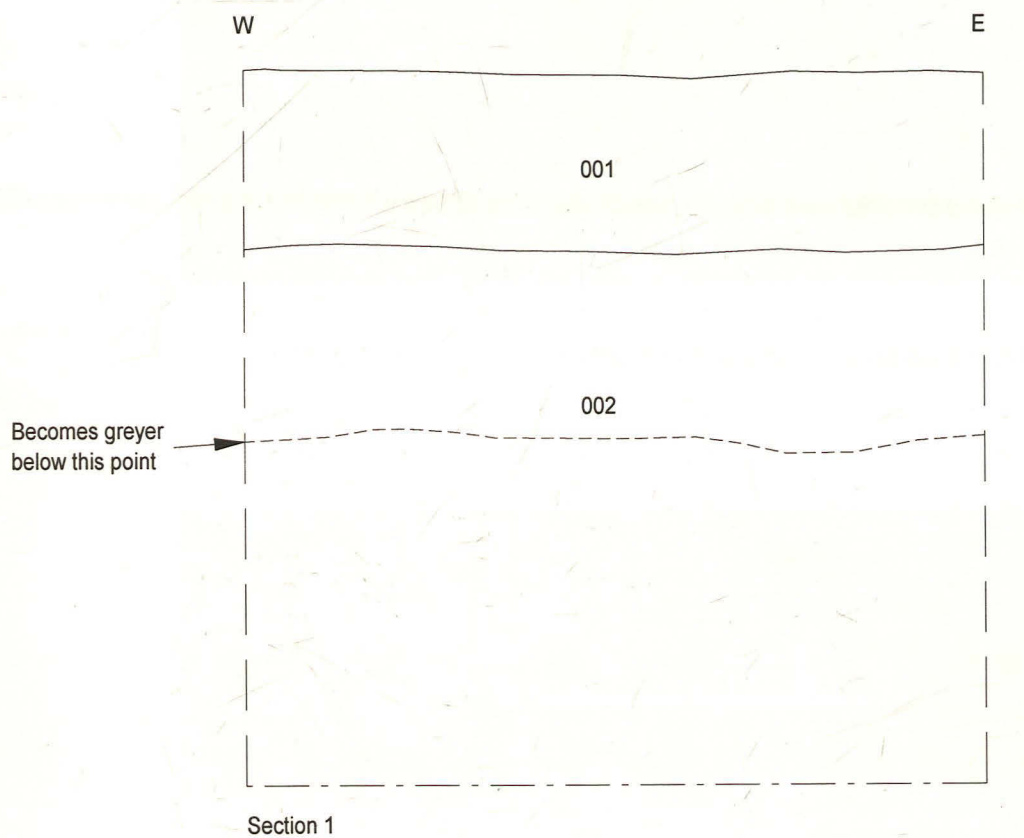
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Project Name: Holmes Lane, Stixwold SHL03		
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Figure 3 - Plan of the development showing section location



Archaeological Project Services

Project Name: Holmes Lane, Stixwold SHL03

Scale: 1:10

Drawn by:PCF

Report No: 77/03

Figure 4 - Section 1



Plate 1 - General view of the development, looking northwest



Plate 2 - Section 1, looking northeast

Appendix 1

LAND AT WILLOW FARM, STIXWOULD, WOODHALL SPA, LINCOLNSHIRE - SPECIFICATION FOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

1 SUMMARY

- 1.1 *A watching brief is required during groundworks associated with construction of a bungalow at Willow Farm, Holme Lane, Stixwould, Woodhall Spa, Lincolnshire.*
- 1.2 *The site lies approximately 0.5km northeast of the earthwork remains of Stixwould Priory and cropmarks have been recorded in the vicinity of the site on aerial photographs.*
- 1.3 *The archaeological work will consist of a watching brief during groundworks 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 at Willow Farm, Holme Lane, Stixwould, Lincolnshire at TF 1568065980.
- 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 Stixwould is located approximately 22km southeast of Lincoln and 4km north of Woodhall Spa in the East Lindsey administrative district of Lincolnshire. The proposed development at Willow Farm lies approximately 1km northwest of the village, on Holmes Lane at TF 1568065980.

4 PLANNING BACKGROUND

- 4.1 A planning application (S/170/0306/01) was submitted to East Lindsey District Council for construction of a dwelling. 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 Stixwould lies at around 10m OD in the Witham valley and approximately 2km northeast of the river on soils of the Wickham 2 Association which comprise fine loamy over clayey and clayey soils developed on drift over Jurassic and cretaceous clay or mudstone (Hodge *et al.* 1984, 140).

6 ARCHAEOLOGICAL OVERVIEW

- 6.1 Land in Stixwould was held by Ivo Tallboys, Alfred of Lincoln and Waldin the Breton at the time of the Domesday Survey of 1086. The Domesday reference indicates that the settlement was in existence by at least the Late Saxon period (Morris, 1986). The place name is derived from the Old Danish personal name *Stig* and the Old English *Wald*, the compound meaning 'Stig's stretch

of woodland on higher ground' (Cameron 1998, 118).

- 6.2 A nunnery was established in Stixwold by Cistercian nuns in the early 12th century. Earthwork remains of the priory are protected as a Scheduled Ancient Monument and are located at Abbey Farm approximately 600m southwest of the proposed development. Moulded stonework and possibly coffin lids inside the medieval parish church of St. Peter probably come from the nunnery (Pevsner, 1986).
- 6.3 Several cropmarks have been identified on aerial photographs of the area and are recorded in the Lincolnshire County Council Site and Monuments Record. These include a rectangular undated enclosure approximately 100m southwest of Willow Farm, indeterminate cropmarks some 600m to the south and a second rectangular cropmark approximately 1km to the northwest (Lott *pers comm.*).

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 excavation of foundation trenches and other aspects of ground disturbance.
 - 8.2.2 Stripped areas and trench sections will be observed 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 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.

9.2 Stage 2

9.2.1 Detailed examination of the stratigraphic matrix to enable the determination of the various phases of activity on the site.

9.2.2 Finds will be sent to specialists for identification and dating.

9.3 Stage 3

9.3.1 On completion of stage 2, a report detailing the findings of the watching brief will be prepared.

9.3.2 This will consist of:

- A non-technical summary of the results of the investigation.
- A description of the archaeological setting of the watching brief.
- Description of the topography of the site.
- Description of the methodologies used during the watching brief.
- A text describing the findings of the watching brief.
- A consideration of the local, regional and national context of the watching brief findings.
- Plans of the archaeological features exposed. If a sequence of archaeological deposits is encountered, separate plans for each phase will be produced.
- Sections of the trenches and archaeological features.

- Interpretation of the archaeological features exposed, and their chronology and setting within the surrounding landscape.
- Specialist reports on the finds from the site.
- Appropriate photographs of the site and specific archaeological features.

10 REPORT DEPOSITION

- 10.1 Copies of the report will be sent to the Client; the East Lindsey District Council Planning Department; the Lincolnshire County Council Archaeology Section; 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 Lincolnshire County Council Archaeology Section. They will be given as much notice as possible, ideally seven days 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 sub-contractor 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	J Rackham, Independent Specialist
Human Remains Analysis	R Gowland, Independent Specialist

17 INSURANCES

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

18 COPYRIGHT

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

supplied constitutes an infringement under the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988 and may result in legal action.

- 18.4 The author of any report or specialist contribution to a report shall retain intellectual copyright of their work and may make use of their work for educational or research purposes or for further publication.

19 BIBLIOGRAPHY

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Specification: Version 1, 13th March 2003

Appendix 2

CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

No.	Description	Interpretation
001	Moderately friable mid greyish brown clayey silt, 0.24m thick	Topsoil
002	Firm to plastic light to mid yellowish brown, becoming greyer at depth clay, >0.7m thick	Natural deposit

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, <i>e.g.</i> (004).
Cropmark	A mark that is produced by the effect of underlying archaeological features influencing the growth of a particular crop.
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.
Prehistoric	The period of human history prior to the introduction of writing. In Britain the prehistoric period lasts from the first evidence of human occupation about 500,000 BC, until the Roman invasion in the middle of the 1 st century AD.
Romano-British	Pertaining to the period dating from AD 43-410 when the Romans occupied Britain.
Saxon	Pertaining to the period dating from AD 410-1066 when England was largely settled by tribes from northern Germany.
Till	A deposit formed after the retreat of a glacier. Also known as boulder clay, this material is generally unsorted and can comprise of rock flour to boulders to rocks of quite substantial size.

Appendix 4

THE ARCHIVE

The archive consists of:

- 2 Context sheets
- 1 Sheets of scale drawings
- 1 Photographic record sheet
- 1 Day Works Sheet
- 1 Stratigraphic matrix

All primary records 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: 2003.80

Archaeological Project Services Site Code: SHL 03

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.