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**ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF
ON LAND AT PINFOLD LANE,
BEESBY,
LINCOLNSHIRE
(BOR 02)**



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**ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF
ON LAND AT PINFOLD LANE,
BEESBY,
LINCOLNSHIRE
(BOR 02)**

**Work Undertaken For
Beesby Estates Limited**

April 2003

Report Compiled by
Steve Thomson BSc (Hons)

National Grid Reference: TF 4636 8020
 Planning Reference: ~~N/143/1769/00~~ N/143/0370/02,
 City and County Museum Accession No: 2001.138

ARCHAEOLOGICAL PROJECT SERVICES



APS Report No. 225/02

Quality Control

Beesby, Old Rectory
BOR02

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Supervisor	Chris Moulis
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Photographic Reproduction	Sue Unsworth
Post-excavation Analyst	Steve Thomson

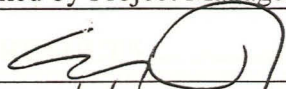
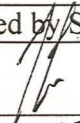
Checked by Project Manager	Approved by Senior Archaeologist
 Gary Taylor	 Tom Lane
Date: 14/4/03	Date: 17-4-03

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application for a planning application to the Langrat Ferris District Council.

The Langrat Ferris Group Council Archaeology Section requested further information in the form of a detailed plan of the site and a detailed plan of the application (Langrat Ferris 2 Lane) showing the location of the proposed brick kiln and the location of the proposed brick kiln. The Langrat Ferris Group Council Archaeology Section requested further information in the form of a detailed plan of the site and a detailed plan of the application (Langrat Ferris 2 Lane) showing the location of the proposed brick kiln and the location of the proposed brick kiln.

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1. SUMMARY

Archaeological investigations were undertaken during development on land at The Old Rectory, Pinfold Lane, Beesby, Lincolnshire. The site is archaeologically sensitive, located adjacent to the medieval (AD 1066-1540) church and near to earthwork remains of the medieval settlement.

A previous watching brief had identified post-medieval occupation of the site in the form of a ditch, well, yard surface and possible pond. A single, residual sherd of medieval pottery was the earliest artefact recovered.

Three trial trenches revealed a sequence of dumped deposits related to recent construction or demolition at the site, topsoil, subsoil and natural geological deposits. Two modern features were also recorded.

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 (APS) was commissioned by Beesby Estates Limited, to undertake an archaeological investigation on land at The Old Rectory, Pinfold Lane, Beesby, Lincolnshire.

Approval for the development had been sought through the submission of planning

application N/143/1769/00 to East Lindsey District Council.

The Lincolnshire County Council Archaeology Section requested further information, in the form of a desk-based study, to assist determination of the application (Cope-Faulkner 2001). Subsequently, planning permission was granted subject to a condition requiring the implementation of an archaeological watching brief during groundworks (Thomson 2002). The Built Environment Officer, Lincolnshire County Council, requested that further work be undertaken, in the form of trial trenching, in the area of the tennis court and access road, which had not been subject to monitoring during the initial investigation.

The works were carried out on the 20th May 2002.

2.3 Topography and Geology

Beesby is located 15km southeast of Louth and 20km northwest of Skegness in the administrative district of East Lindsey, Lincolnshire (Fig. 1).

The proposed development area is located just to the east of the present hamlet and immediately west of St. Andrew's parish church (Fig. 2). The site is centred on National Grid Reference TF 4636 8020 and is situated at a height of 7.6m OD. The land is generally level.

Local soils at the site are of the Holderness Association, typically coarse loamy soils (Hodge *et al.* 1984, 214). These soils are above a drift geology of chalky boulder clay which in turn overlie a solid geology of Cretaceous Chalk (BGS 1996).

2.4 Archaeological Setting

No evidence of the Prehistoric, Romano-British or Saxon periods is known in Beesby. The village is first mentioned in the Domesday survey of c.1086, confirming

it was in existence by the Late Saxon period.

Referred to as *Besebi* and *Bizebi* the name is derived from Old Danish and means 'the settlement of *Besi*' (Cameron 1998, 12).

At the time of the Domesday Survey, the land was owned by Count Alan, Gilbert de Gand and Gocelin, son of Lambert, and contained 180 acres of underwood and 90 acres of meadow (Foster and Longley 1976). It may also have had a church, although the reference is not clear as to whether this was located in Maltby le Marsh (*ibid.*).

The site lies adjacent to the present church (Fig. 2, No.1). The earliest parts of the church, dedicated to St. Peter, date to the 13th century. It contains a 13th century chancel arch and grave slab and a 14th century font base (DoE 1986, 30). However, the church was substantially rebuilt in 1841 (White 1856, 497). In addition to the church there was a chapel in the parish, which was licensed in 1315 (Owen 1975, 16). The location of this chapel is unknown.

Beesby was once a larger village with additional foci of settlement to the north and south (Fig. 2, Nos. 2 & 3). The remains of ridge and furrow agriculture are also located to the east of the development area (Fig. 2).

To the north of the site is a recently restored mud and stud cottage of the 17th century (Cousins 2000, 32). Examination of cartographic evidence, undertaken as part of a desk-top assessment of the site, revealed evidence of buildings located on the site on the 1841 tithe map (Cope-Faulkner 2001).

A watching brief previously undertaken on the site revealed evidence of post-medieval occupation in the form of a ditch, well, yard surface and probable pond (Thomson 2002).

3. AIMS

The requirements of the investigations were to locate and record archaeological deposits and, if present, determine their nature, function, origin and date.

4. METHODS

Three trial trenches (Fig. 3) were excavated until archaeological or natural geological deposits were reached. This was carried out using a mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless 1.6m wide blade under archaeological supervision.

The exposed sections and bases of the trenches were inspected and hand cleaned to identify archaeological remains. Spoil heaps were monitored and searched by trowel to recover artefactual material which may assist with the interpretation of the site. The depth and thickness of each deposit was measured from the ground surface.

Each deposit or feature revealed was allocated a unique reference number (context number) with an individual written description. A photographic record was compiled depicting the setting of the site and the recorded trenches. Sections were drawn at a scale of 1:10 and their locations plotted on 1:50 scale plans of the trenches. Recording of the deposits encountered during the watching brief was undertaken according to standard APS' practice.

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

A summary of all contexts, with interpretations, appears as Appendix 2.

5. RESULTS

Following post-excavation analysis three phases were identified;

- Phase 1 Natural deposits
- Phase 2 Undated deposits
- Phase 3 Recent deposits

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

Phase 1 Natural deposits

Trench 1

The earliest deposit encountered in trench 1 was a layer of mid brown clay (006) which was over 0.25m thick.

Trench 2

The earliest deposit in Trench 2 was a brown silty clay (011). This was thicker than 0.2m.

Trench 3

Natural deposits comprise a brown silty clay (017) that was over 0.15m thick.

Phase 2 Undated deposits

Trench 1

Developed upon the natural deposits in this trench was a subsoil of greyish brown silty clay (003) 0.15m thick.

Towards the southern end of the trench was a deposit of limestone and grey silty clay (007). Identified as a surface this was 100mm thick with an unknown extent (Fig. 4, Section 1).

Trench 2

Sealing the natural silty clay was a subsoil of grey silty clay (010). This was 0.3m thick (Fig. 5, Section 2).

Trench 3

A 0.22m thick subsoil comprising greyish brown clayey silt (016) was recorded as

overlying natural deposits in Trench 3 (Fig. 6, Section 3).

Phase 3 Recent deposits

Trench 1

A topsoil of grey clayey silt (002) sealed earlier archaeological deposits in this trench. Cut through the topsoil at the northern end of Trench 1 was a modern pit (005) into which grey clayey silt and brick/tile fragments had been dumped (004). This had then been sealed by a dumped layer of grey and brown silty clay (001).

Trench 2

Topsoil overlay subsoil deposits and comprised a grey silty clay (009). Cut through this was a further refuse pit (013) which was filled with topsoil, clay, brick, tile and drain (012). As in trench 1, a dumped deposit of brown clay (008) sealed the trench.

Trench 3

A 0.15m thick topsoil of grey clayey silt (015) overlay the subsoil and was in turn sealed by a dumped deposit of brown clay (014).

6. DISCUSSION

Natural deposits (Phase 1) of clay and silty clay are interpreted as the underlying drift geology of boulder clay.

Undated deposits (Phase 2) comprise subsoil, evident in all trenches, and the remnants of a metalled surface. The metalled surface may be a yard to unidentified structures or perhaps a path. Buildings are recorded in this vicinity on early maps (Cope-Faulkner 2000, Fig. 9).

Recent deposits (Phase 3) comprise topsoil layers, refuse pits in Trenches 1 and 2 and dumped layers in all trenches. Apart from the topsoil, the other features are likely to

be associated with modern demolition and construction at the site.

Although brick and tile was observed, none of this material was collected for further analysis.

7. CONCLUSION

Archaeological investigations were undertaken on the site of the former Rectory, Pinfold Lane, as the site lay adjacent to the medieval church and within the core of the medieval village.

However, no securely medieval deposits were identified. Above the underlying boulder clay was natural subsoil development. An undated surface was identified and may relate to post-medieval buildings previously recorded at the site.

No artefacts were retrieved in this investigation.

8. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeological Project Services would like to acknowledge the assistance of Mr Jan Von Draczek of Beesby Estates Limited who commissioned the fieldwork and this report. The project was coordinated by Gary Taylor who edited this report with Tom Lane. Mark Bennet and Sarah Grundy kindly permitted access to the County Sites and Monuments Record. Dave Start kindly allowed access to the relevant parish files maintained by Heritage Lincolnshire.

9. PERSONNEL

Project Coordinator: Gary Taylor
 Site Supervisor: Chris Moulis
 Finds processing: Denise Buckley
 Photographic reproduction: Sue Unsworth
 Illustration: Paul Cope-Faulkner, Mark Dymond
 Post-excavation analysis: Steve Thomson

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11. ABBREVIATIONS

APS Archaeological Project Services
 BGS British Geological Survey
 DoE Department of the Environment

IFA Institute of Field Archaeologists



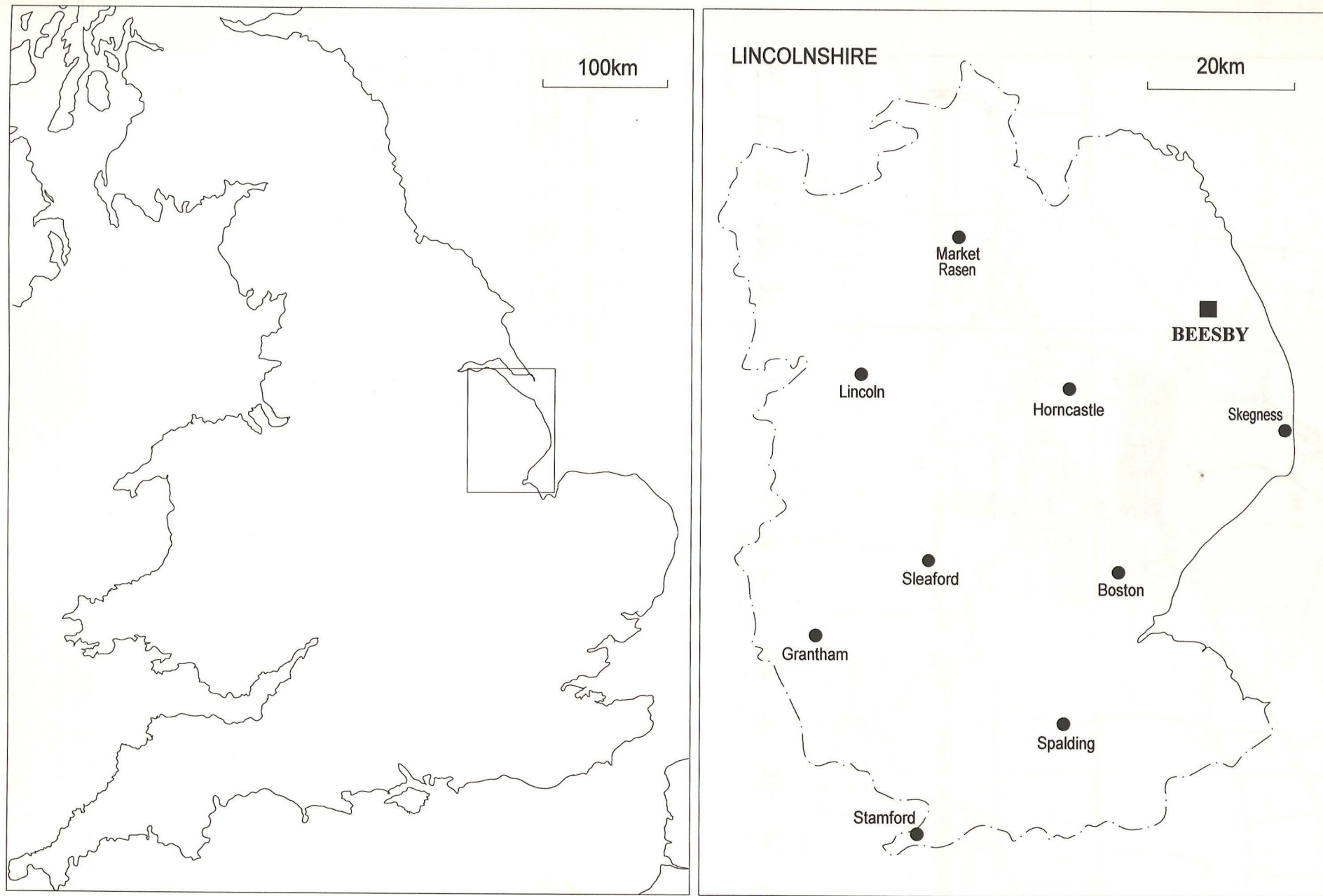
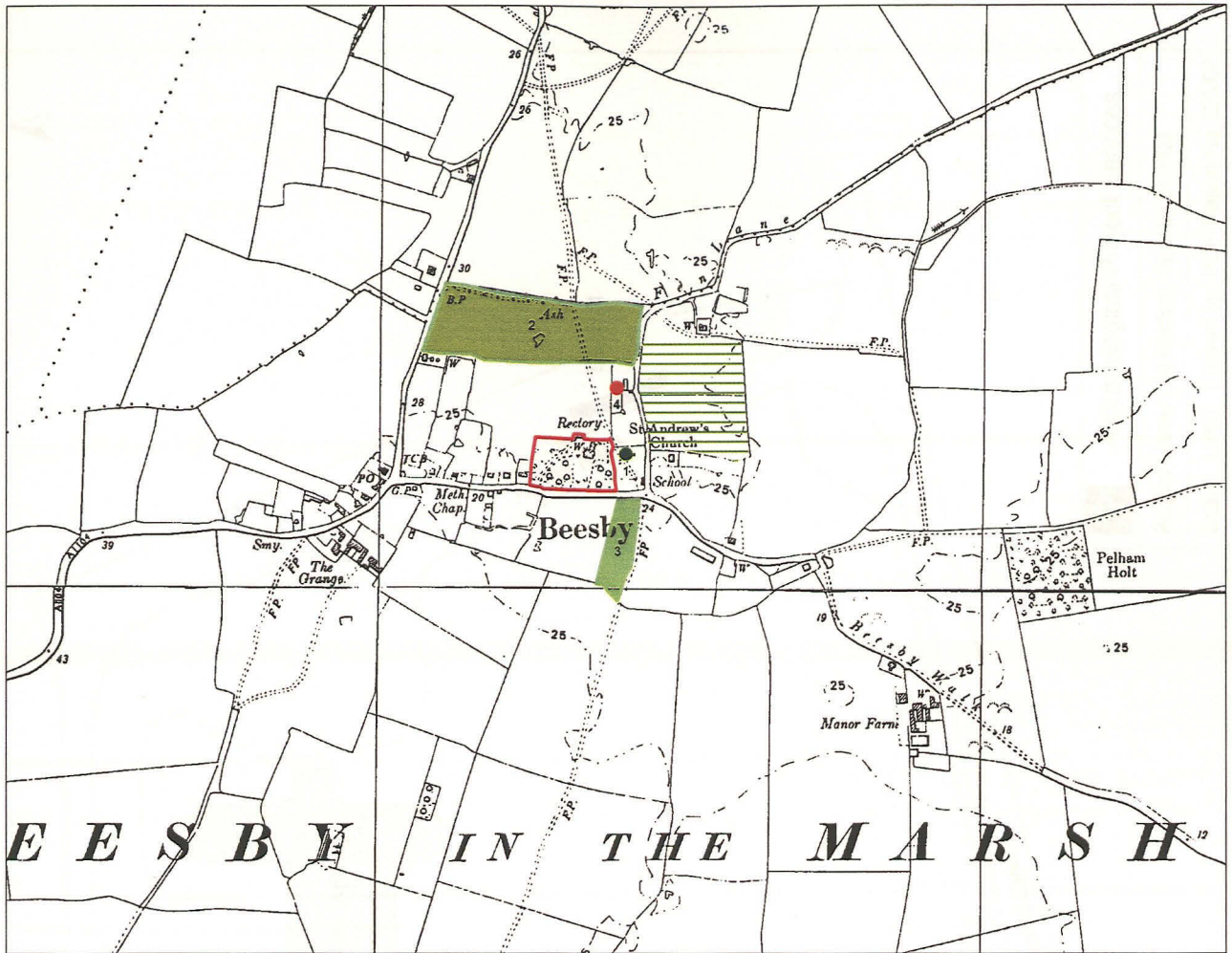


Figure 1 - General Location Plan



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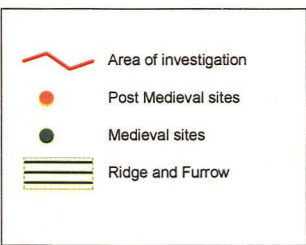
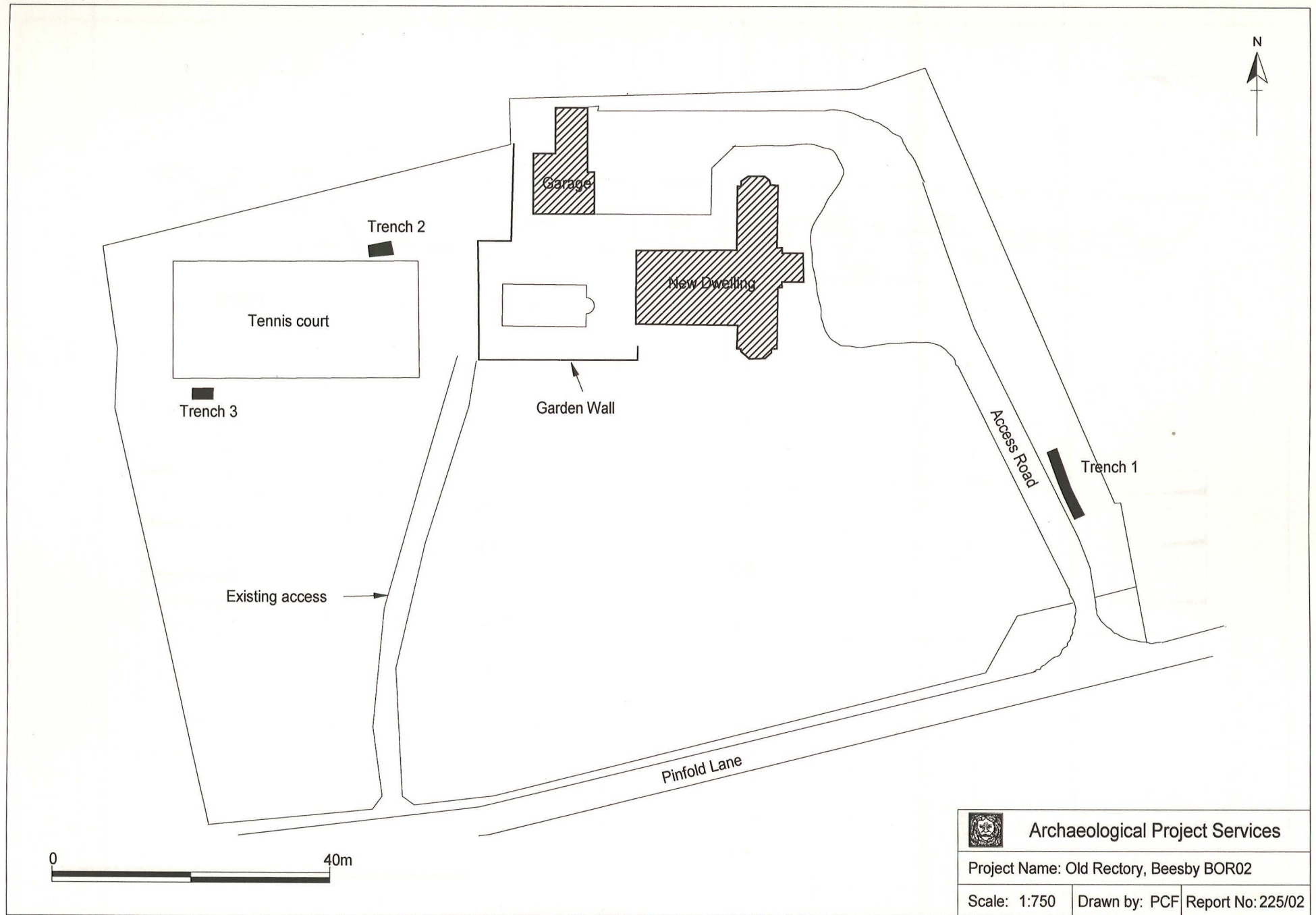


Figure 2 - Site Location Plan




 Archaeological Project Services		
Project Name: Old Rectory, Beesby BOR02		
Scale: 1:750	Drawn by: PCF	Report No: 225/02

Figure 3 - Trench location plan

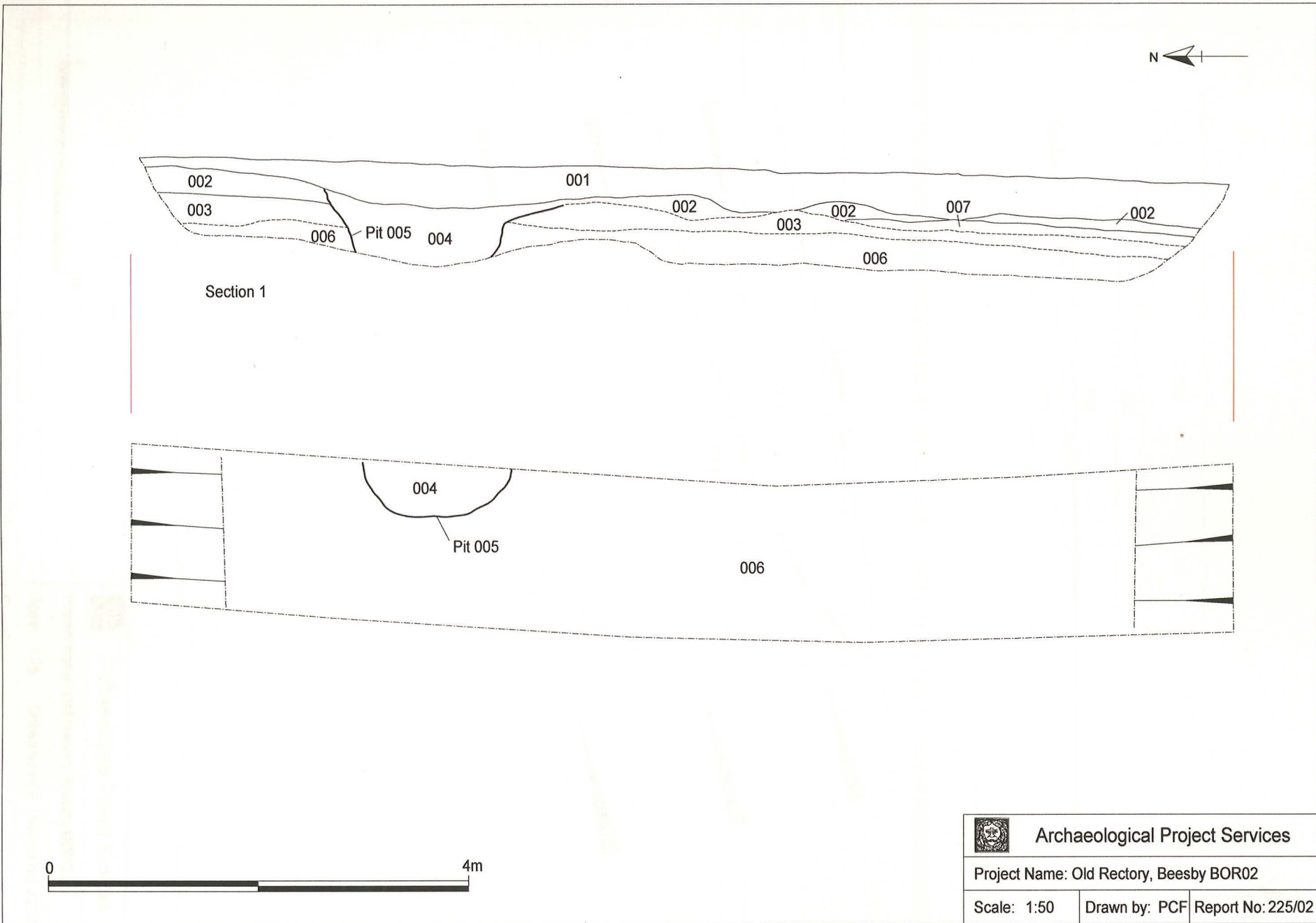

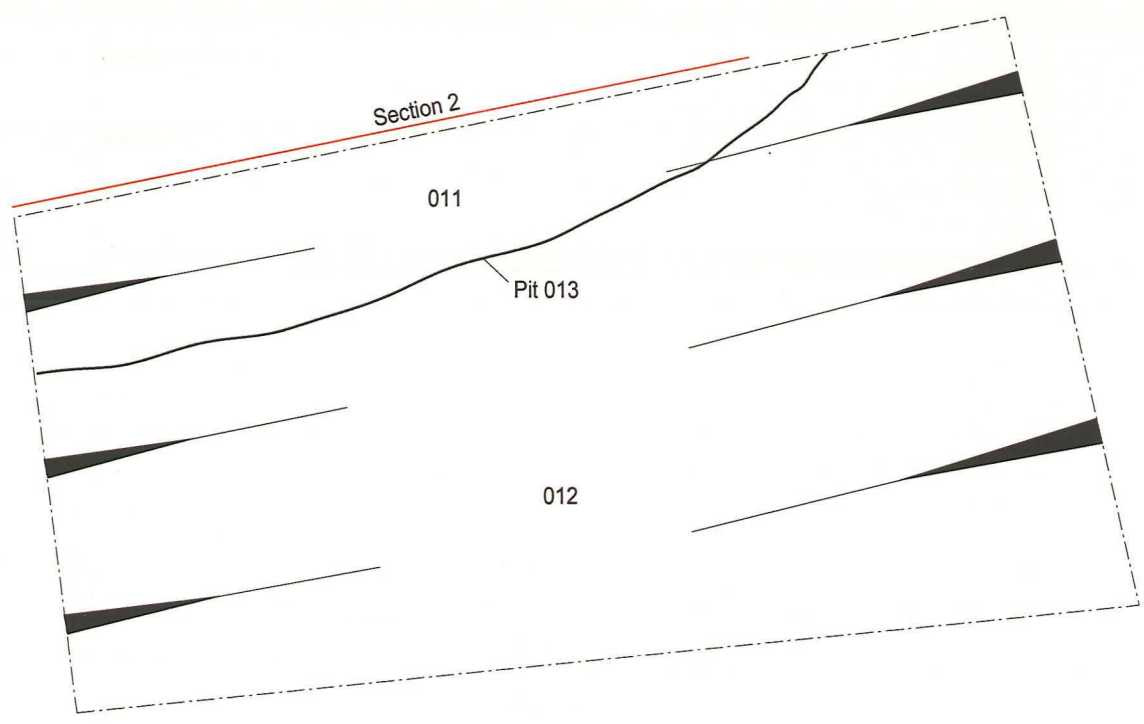
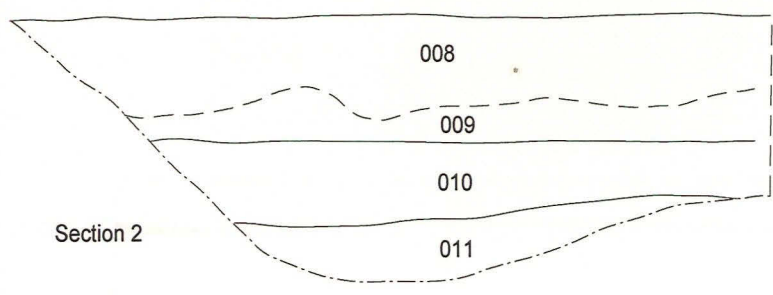


Figure 4 - Trench 1: Plan and Section

 Archaeological Project Services		
Project Name: Old Rectory, Beesby BOR02		
Scale: 1:50	Drawn by: PCF	Report No: 225/02




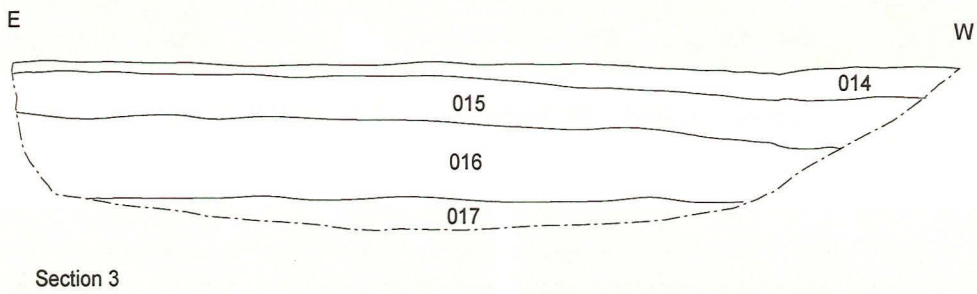
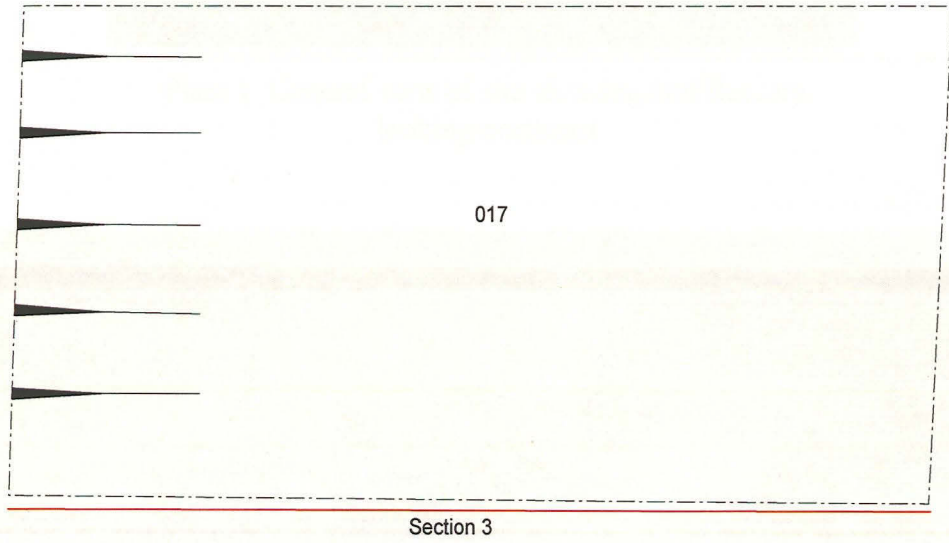
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Project Name: Old Rectory, Beesby BOR02		
Scale: 1:25	Drawn by: PCF	Report No: 225/02

Figure 5 - Trench 2: Plan and Section



Archaeological Project Services

Project Name: Old Rectory, Beesby BOR02

Scale: 1:25

Drawn by: PCF

Report No: 225/02

Figure 6 - Trench 3: Plan and Section



Plate 1 General view of site showing Old Rectory,
looking northeast



Plate 2 Trench 1, showing pit 005, looking southeast



Plate 3 Trench 2, looking north



Plate 4 Trench 3, looking south

Appendix 1

CONTEXT SUMMARY

No.	Trench	Description	Interpretation
001	1	Firm, mixed dark grey and mid-brown silty clay., 0.4m thick containing frequent ceramic building material fragments	Dumped deposit
002	1	Soft, dark grey clayey silt, 0.2m thick containing occasional chalk and ceramic building material fragments	Topsoil
003	1	Firm, mid-greyish brown silty clay, 0.15m thick	Subsoil
004	1	Soft, dark grey clayey silt containing occasional ceramic building material fragments	Fill of 005
005	1	Sub-circular cut, 1.5m x 0.5m exposed, 0.6m deep steep sided.	?Pit
006	1	Firm, mid-brown with light bluish grey mottling, clay >0.25m thick	Natural deposit
007	1	Firm, limestone and dark grey silty clay, 0.1m thick extending >3.5m N-S, E-W extent unknown	Metalled surface
008	2	Firm, mid-brown clay, 0.3m thick	Dumped deposit
009	2	Firm, dark grey, silty clay, 0.18m thick containing frequent chalk fragments, occasional coal and ceramic building material fragments	Topsoil
010	2	Firm, mid-grey with mid-reddish brown mottling silty clay, 0.3m thick containing occasional charcoal and ceramic building material fragments	Subsoil
011	2	Firm, mid-brown silty clay, >0.2m thick	Natural deposit
012	2	Mixed topsoil and clay containing brick, tile and drain fragments	Fill of 013
013	2	Partially exposed cut, measuring 3.5 x 1.5m, steep vertical sides	Modern ?pit
014	3	Firm, mid-brown clay, 0.1m thick	Dumped deposit
015	3	Firm, dark grey clayey silt containing occasional chalk and ceramic building material fragments, 0.15m thick	Topsoil
016	3	Firm, mid-greyish brown clayey silt, 0.22m thick containing occasional charcoal fragments	Subsoil
017	3	Firm, light brown silty clay, >0.15m thick	Natural deposit

Appendix 2

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.
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.
Dumped deposits	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.
Fill	Once a feature has been dug it begins to silt up (either slowly or rapidly) or it can be back-filled manually. The soil(s) which become contained by the cut are referred to as its fill(s).
Iron Age	A period characterised by the introduction of Iron into the country for tools, between 800 BC and AD 50.
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.
Post-medieval	The period following the Middle Ages, dating from approximately AD 1500-1800.
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.

Appendix 3

THE ARCHIVE

The archive consists of:

- 17 Context records
- 7 Sheets of scale drawings
- 1 Photographic record sheet
- 1 Stratigraphic matrix

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: LCNCC : 2001.138

Archaeological Project Services Site Code: BOR02

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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