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**ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF
ON LAND AT LOWGATE LANE,
BICKER,
LINCOLNSHIRE
(BLL03)**



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Quality Control
Lowgate Lane, Bicker
BLL03

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF
ON LAND AT LOWGATE LANE,
BICKER,
LINCOLNSHIRE
(BLL03)**

**Work Undertaken For
Mr P. M. Jones**

February 2003

Report Compiled by
James Snee BSc (Hons)

National Grid Reference: TF 225 375
Planning Reference: B/02/0062/FULL
City and County Museum Accession No: LCNCC: 2003.40

ARCHAEOLOGICAL PROJECT SERVICES



APS Report No. 113/03



Quality Control
Lowgate Lane, Bicker
BLL03

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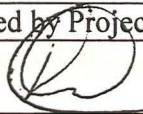
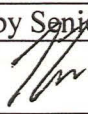
Checked by Project Manager	Approved by Senior Archaeologist
 Dale Trimble	 Tom Lane
Date: 27 th June 2003	Date: 27 th June 2003

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1. SUMMARY

An Archaeological watching brief was undertaken on land at Lowgate Lane, Bicker, Lincolnshire (NGR TF 225 375) as the site lay within the medieval core of the village and close to substantial medieval and later remains.

The aims of the watching brief were to record the archaeological features exposed during the excavation of the foundation trenches and other areas of ground disturbance.

Four 19th to 20th century pits, possibly soak-aways or horticultural features, and a brick lined well or soak-away were revealed during the works.

Finds of medieval and later pottery, brick and tile and metal work were recovered during the watching brief.

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 P. M. Jones to undertake an archaeological watching brief during groundworks associated with the erection of a dwelling on land at Lowgate Lane, Bicker, Lincolnshire. Approval for the development was sought through the submission of planning application B/02/0062/FULL. Planning permission

was granted subject to a condition requiring a watching brief during groundworks.

The watching brief was carried out on the 27th and 28th of January 2003 in accordance with a brief issued by the Boston District Community Archaeologist (Appendix 1) and a specification designed by Archaeological Project Services (Appendix 2).

2.3 Topography and Geology

Bicker is located 12km southwest of Boston and 17km southeast of Sleaford in Boston District, Lincolnshire (Fig.1). Local topography is relatively flat, reflecting the fen landscape in this part of the country.

The site lies on the east side of Lowgate Lane in the historic core of the village. Situated at a height of c. 4.m OD the land slopes gradually to the south and is centred on National Grid Reference TF 225 375.

Local soils are predominantly Romney Series, coarse silty gleyic brown calcareous alluvial soils developed on roddons in the reclaimed marshlands (Robson 1990, 26). However, where medieval salt making has occurred, the soils often become more silty and contain ash and charcoal (*ibid.*, 27). Beneath these deposits is a solid geology of Jurassic clays.

2.4 Archaeological Setting

The likelihood of evidence for prehistoric remains in the Bicker area is remote as the contemporary landscape lies several metres below the present ground surface. Likewise, much of the Romano-British surface locally, lies beneath later silts (Waller 1994).

An important Roman thoroughfare, the Salter's Way, is believed to have originated near Donington and continued

west to Grantham and beyond (Margary 1973, 223). Romano-British pottery has also been found within the village c. 200m northeast of the church (Fig. 2 - SK04/035). A settlement, probably dating to this period, has been identified from aerial photographs to the northwest of the village.

During the later part of the Saxon period land reclamation was underway from both the sea and fen and by the 10th - 11th centuries Bicker had developed into a sizeable settlement centred around a church. Anglo-Saxon worked stones have been noted in the fabric of St. Swithin's church and may relate to an earlier structure. Salt extraction also began here during this period though the location of the Saxon salterns is unknown. Saxon pottery has been found to the north of the village (Fig 2. SK04/013).

Bicker lay at the head of Bicker Haven, an ancient estuary that discharged into the Wash. It became an important salt-production centre and was utilized as a small port.

South of the development site are mounds representing probable medieval salterns (Fig. 2 SK04/025 & SK04/026). Other salterns exist between Bicker and the neighbouring village of Donington and were recorded during construction of the Bicker bypass (Healey 1999). Medieval sea banks are also located in the area, with one, marked by Donington Road.

Despite efforts to maintain the Haven channel to the village between 1359 and 1413 (Healey 1999, 99), the Haven gradually silted up, leading to the decline of Bicker and other neighbouring villages in the area. It also heralded the end of salt production locally.

Archaeological evaluation of the area to the east of the current investigation identified deposits possibly associated with medieval industrial activity in the

form of iron working and salt production (PCA 2001). A subsequent watching brief on Morley Lane (Thomson 2002) revealed a complex range of deposits that may be related to medieval salt production and domestic occupation in the immediate vicinity of the road. Medieval dumped deposits, possibly against, or related to a seabank, were also identified.

Other watching briefs undertaken to the south of the development area, on Red Lion Street, revealed ditches and pits of medieval and post-medieval date, with evidence of a structure and associated refuse pits of medieval date (Thomson 2002).

Waste materials, possibly associated with medieval salt-making were also found. These medieval remains were covered by a silt deposit, probably formed by agricultural activity or natural soil transformation processes.

Post medieval activity is also evidenced on Red Lion Street (*Ibid*) and to the southwest of the development in the form of pottery kiln wasters (Fig.2 SK04/40). To the east is the site of a post-medieval windmill (Fig 2. SK04/036).

3. AIMS

The aims of the watching brief were to record the archaeological features exposed during the excavation of the foundation trenches and other areas of ground disturbance.

4. METHODS

Foundation trenches were excavated by machine to depths required by the development. The sides of the trenches were cleaned and rendered vertical and selected deposits were partially excavated by hand to determine their nature and to retrieve artefactual material. The depth and

thickness of each deposit was measured from the ground surface. Each archaeological deposit or feature 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 plans and sections were drawn at appropriate scales. Recording of deposits encountered during the watching brief was undertaken according to standard Archaeological Project Services' practice.

Finds retrieved during the examination were examined and a period date assigned where possible (Appendix 3). Records of the deposits and features were also examined and a stratigraphic matrix produced. Phasing was assigned based on the nature of the deposits and recognisable relationships between them and supplemented by artefact dating.

5. RESULTS

Following post-excavation analysis two phases were recognised:

- Phase 1 Undated alluvial deposits
- Phase 2 Post-medieval and later deposits

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

Phase 1 Natural deposits

The earliest deposit encountered during the watching brief was more than 0.04m of mid brown silt (010).

Phase 2 Post-medieval and later deposits

Overlying undated alluvium (010) was a 0.38m thick layer of mid to light greyish brown silt (002). Finds of medieval, post-

medieval and 19th – 20th century pottery were recovered from this deposit.

Cutting through subsoil (002), in the southeast corner of the footing, was sub-rectangular pit (003), 3.10m wide and more than 0.25m deep with a dark greyish brown silt fill (004). Finds of 19th century brick and pottery were recovered from this fill.

To the north of pit (003) was the northern edge of pit (009), more than 0.45m wide and 0.30m deep, with brownish grey silt lower fill (008), and grey ashey silt upper fill (007). Truncating the southern edge of (009) was a 3.1m long by 1.7m wide sub-rectangular pit (005) that extended below the base of the footing trench. Filling (005) was a mottled brownish grey and light brown silt (006) that contained post-medieval pottery and brick fragments. Cutting the southern edge of pit (005) was a recent brick lined well or soak-away (014, 015 & 016) that had been deliberately filled with soil and rubble (013).

In the northeast corner of the footing was the southern edge of a pit (011), approximately 4.2m wide and 0.30m deep, with a greyish brown silt fill (012).

Covering the entire site was a 0.45m thick layer of topsoil.

6. DISCUSSION

The earliest deposit was an undated (Phase 1) alluvial layer, probably of medieval or earlier date.

The post-medieval and later (Phase 2) features represent possible soak-aways and garden features related to 19th and 20th century domestic occupation of the site. These features were cut through a 19th – 20th century makeup layer.

7. CONCLUSION

Archaeological investigations were undertaken on land at Lowgate Lane, Bicker, as the site lay within the medieval core of the village and close to substantial medieval and later remains.

Four 19th to 20th century pits, possibly soak-aways or horticultural features, and a brick lined well or soak-away were revealed during the works.

Finds of medieval and later pottery, brick and tile and metal work were recovered during the watching brief. Although these are residual in later contexts, they form approximately two thirds of the assemblage, suggesting activity of medieval and post-medieval date in close proximity to the site.

8. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeological Project Services wish to acknowledge the assistance of Mr P. M. Jones who commissioned the fieldwork and post-excavation analysis. Gary Taylor coordinated the work and Dale Trimble and Tom Lane edited this report. Dave Start permitted access to the parish files and library maintained by Heritage Lincolnshire.

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10. ABBREVIATIONS

APS Archaeological Project Services

BGS British Geological Survey

IFA Institute of Field Archaeologists

Figure 2 Location plan and archaeological sites

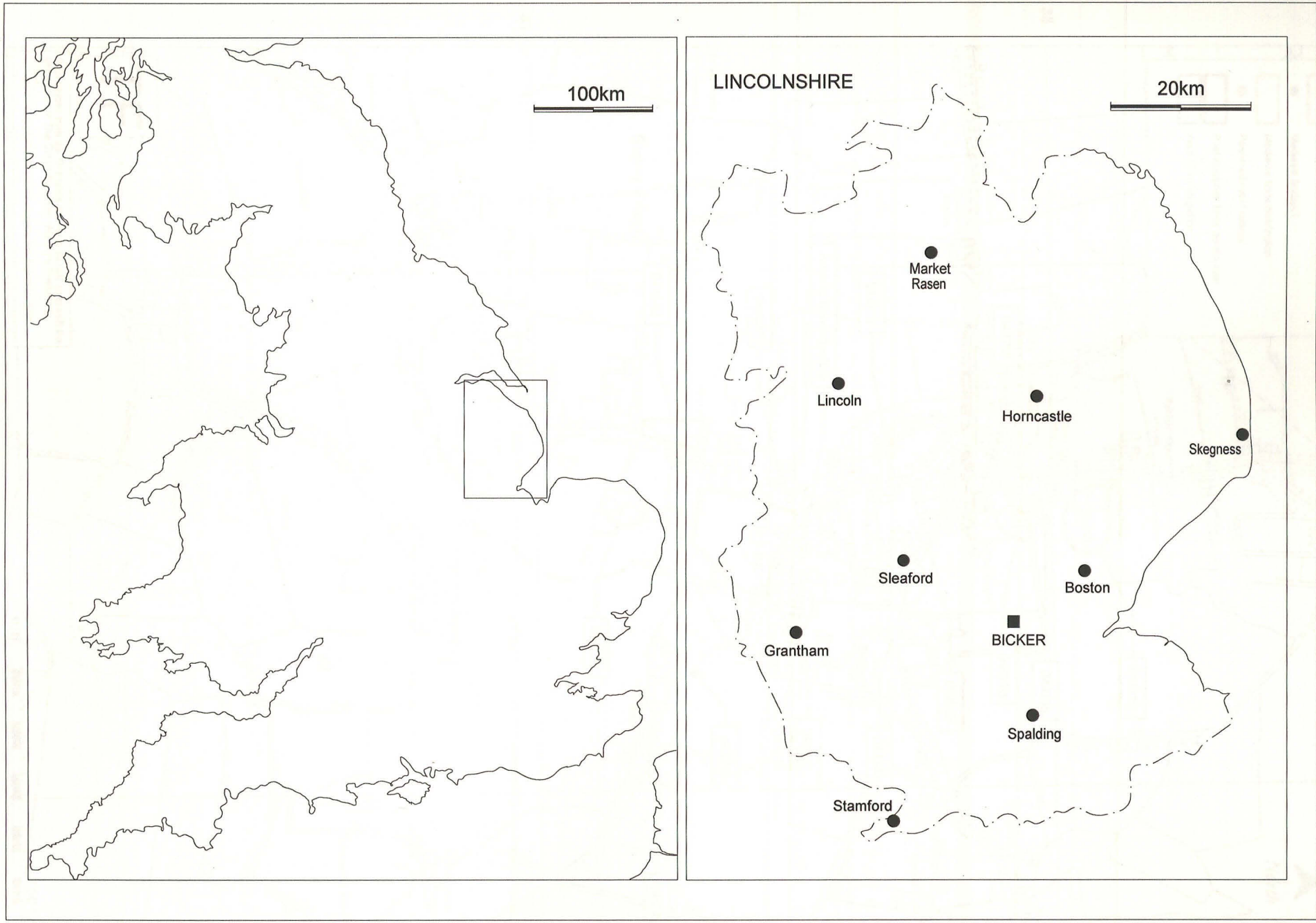


Figure 1: General Location Plan

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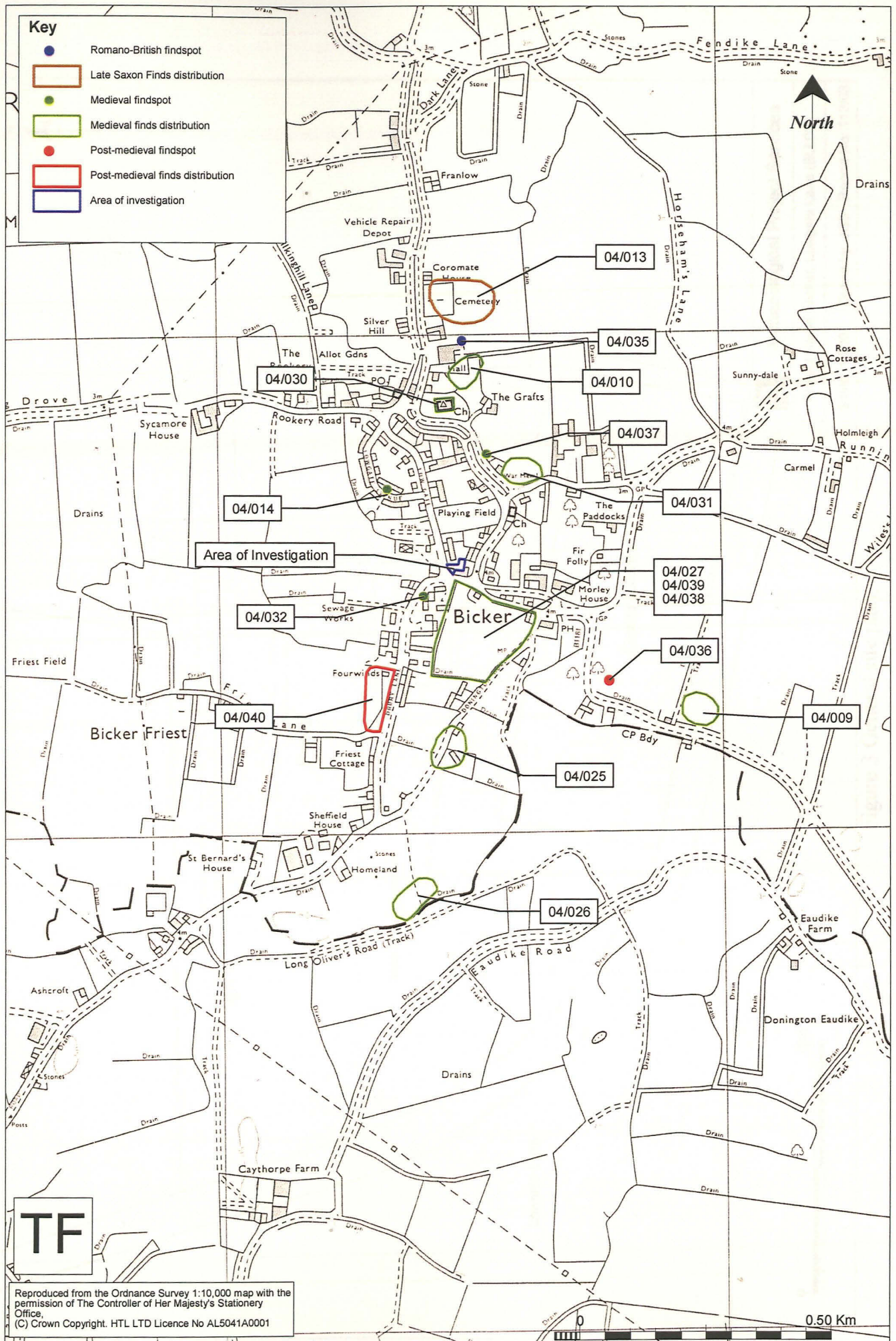
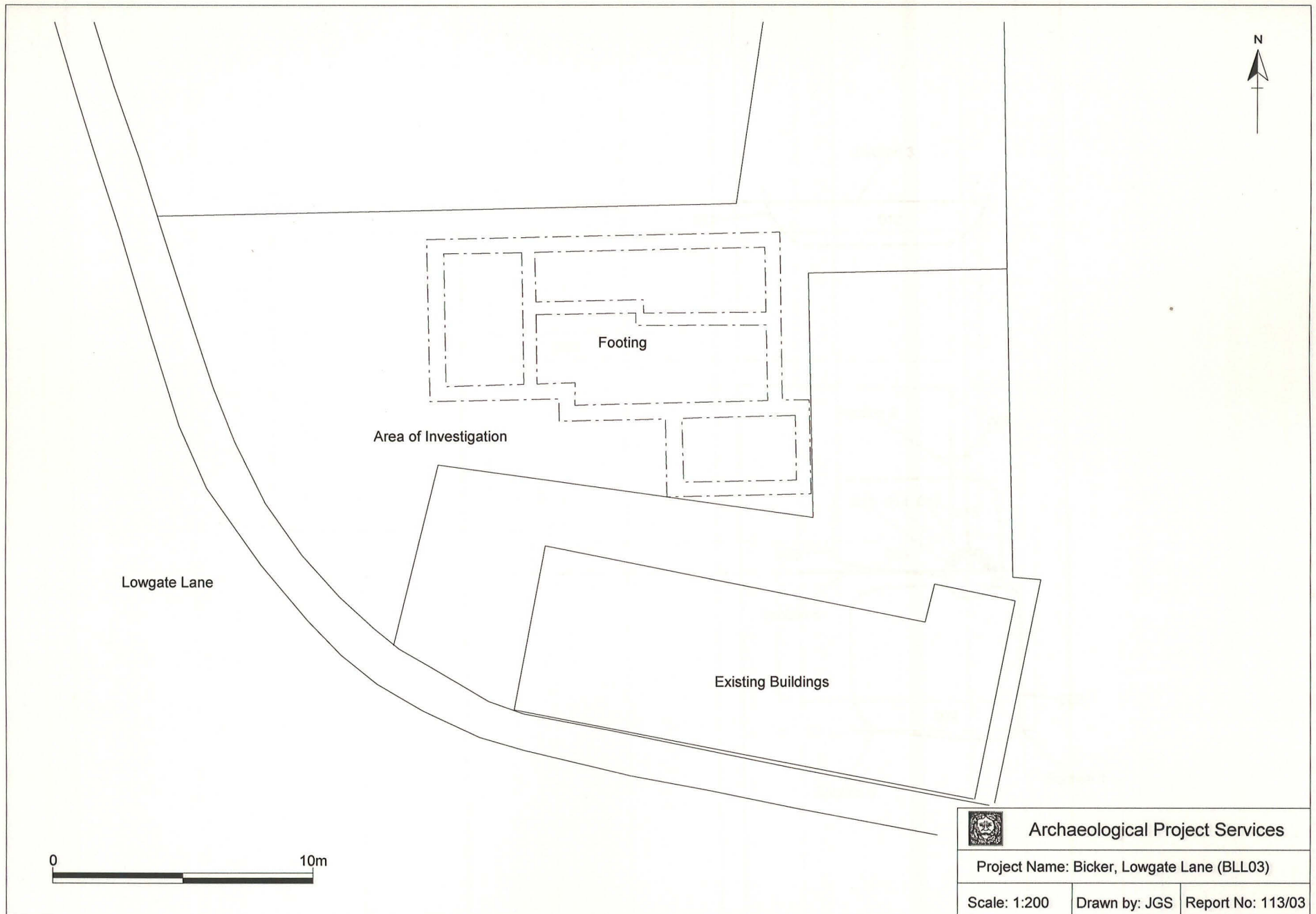


Figure 2 Location plan and archaeological setting




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Project Name: Bicker, Lowgate Lane (BLL03)		
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Figure 3 General site plan.

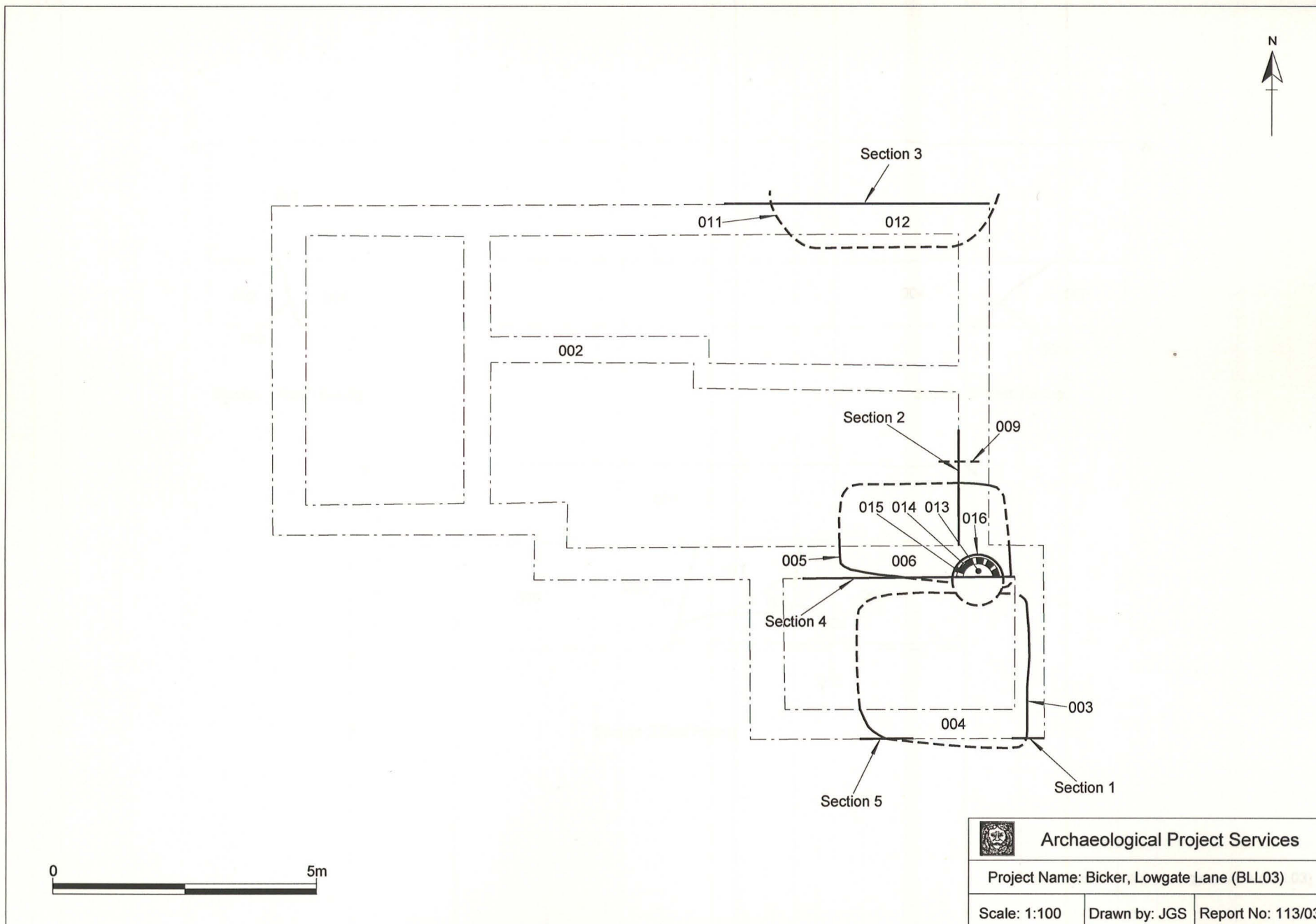
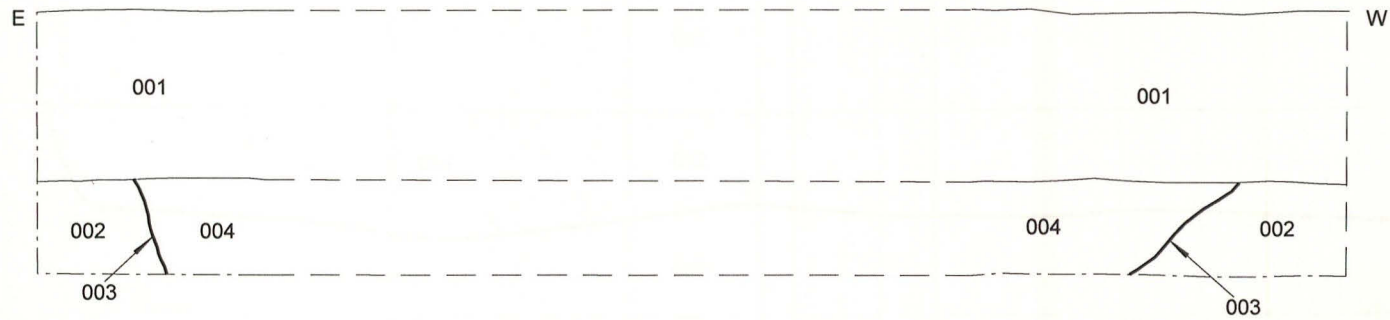
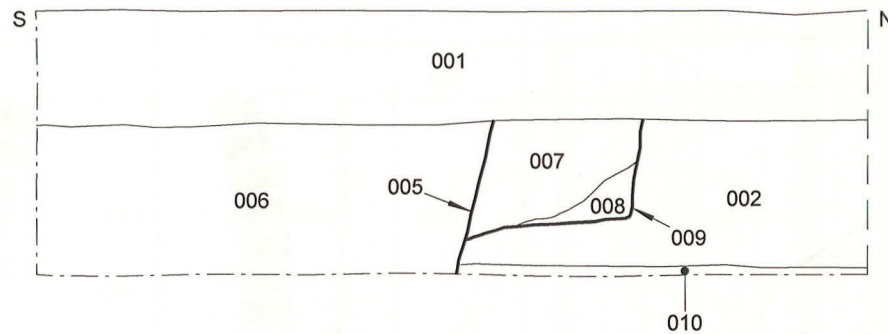


Figure 4 General plan of the footing showing principle features and section locations.



Section 1 North Facing

Section 5 North Facing



Section 2 East Facing




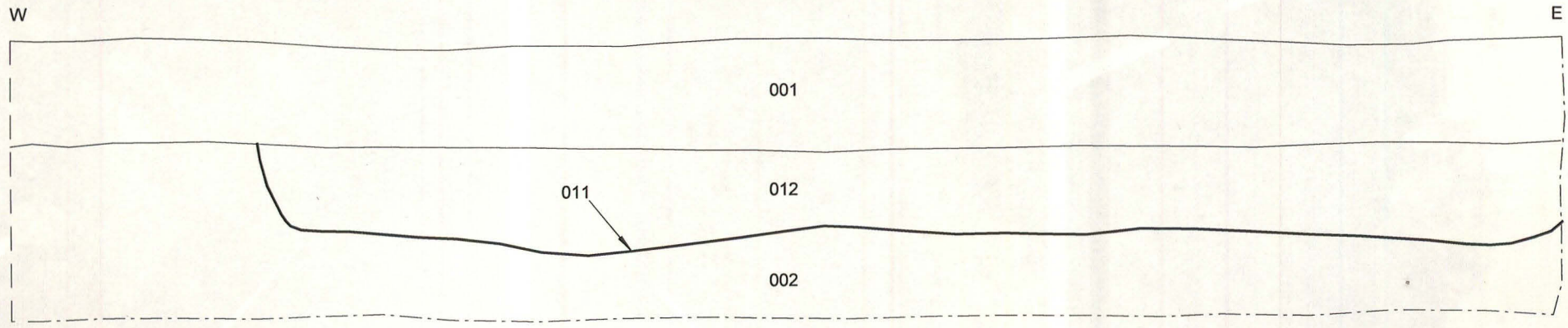
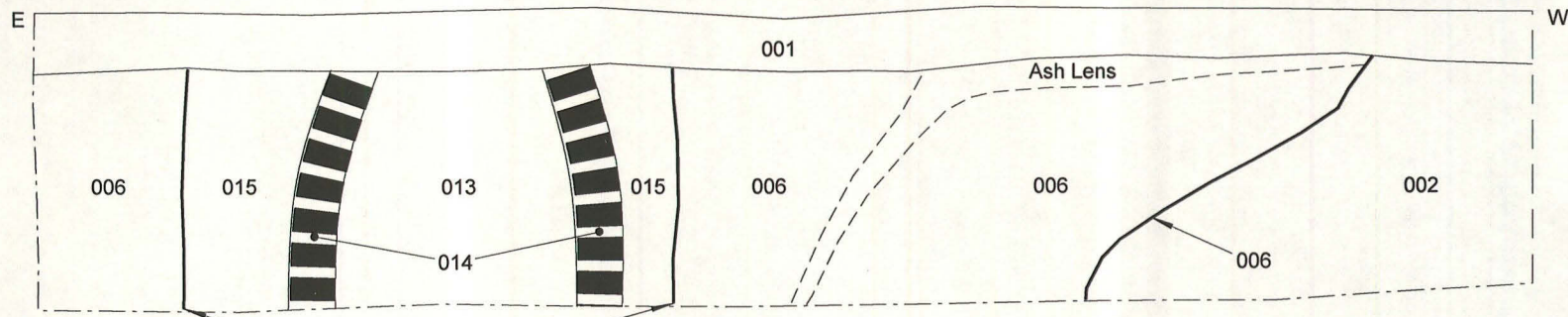
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Project Name: Bicker, Lowgate Lane (BLL03)		
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Figure 5 Sections 1, 2 & 5.



Section 3 South Facing



Section 4 North Facing




 Archaeological Project Services		
Project Name: Bicker, Lowgate Lane (BLL03)		
Scale: 1:20	Drawn by: JGS	Report No: 113/03

Figure 6 Sections 3 & 4.



Plate 1 General view of development, looking northwest.



Plate 2 Section through post-medieval pit (011), looking northeast.



Plate 3 Section through post-medieval pit (005) and brick lined well (016), looking southeast.

**BRIEF FOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL OBSERVATION AND RECORDING
(WATCHING BRIEF) AT**

Lowgate Lane, Bicker

Application Number: B/02/0062/FULL
Site Address: Lowgate Lane, Bicker
NGR: TF 2250 3750
Applicant: Mr P M Jones,
Blacksmiths House,
Red Lion Street,
Bicker,
Boston,
Lincs

Agent: Mr P Purkiss,
Cherry Trees,
Frampton Lane,
Hubberts Bridge,
Boston,
Lincs PE20 3QU

Site Description:

The site is an irregular L shape and is currently a building plot.

Planning Background:

A full planning application, B/02/0062/FULL, has been submitted to Boston Borough Council for the construction of a Bungalow on the site.

Archaeological Background:

The proposed site lies in the centre of the modern village, to the south of the historic core. 50 metres southwest of the site medieval pottery was recovered, indicating activity extended this far during this period. 75 metres south of the site medieval deposits were encountered during archaeological work, further indicating activity in the area. Further medieval deposits were encountered 100 metres east of the site and Saxon and medieval deposits were encountered during archaeological work in the area to the south of the site.

Reason for Archaeological Planning Condition:

The proposed development has the potential to impact on deposits relating to the history and development of Bicker, especially during the medieval period. A watching Brief is therefore requested on all groundworks associated with this development,

Signed

Rebecca Wilcox.
Boston Community Archaeologist

Date: 04/03/02

Brief is valid for 1 year from this date. Please contact the Community Archaeologist after this time.

Appendix 2

**LAND AT LOWGATE LANE, BICKER, LINCOLNSHIRE.
SPECIFICATION FOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF.****1 SUMMARY**

- 1.1 *A watching brief is required during residential development at Lowgate Lane, Bicker, Lincolnshire.*
- 1.2 *Bicker was a Domesday settlement and Late Saxon pottery has been found in the area. It was a notable trading community in the early medieval period and was also important for its production of salt. Previous work in the vicinity of the development area has revealed archaeological remains dating to the 13th century and earlier, together with finds and other material which suggest salt making sites nearby.*
- 1.3 *The watching brief will be undertaken during groundworks 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 findings of the work. The report will consist of a narrative supported by illustrations and photographs.*

2 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 This document comprises a specification for an archaeological watching brief during the construction of a single dwelling on land at Lowgate Lane, Bicker, near 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 situated in the south Lincolnshire Fens, approximately 45km southeast of Lincoln and 7km from the coast of the Wash. The village of Bicker is located approximately 10km to the southwest of Boston and lies within the administrative district of Boston. The site is on Lowgate Lane at national grid reference TF 225 375.

4 PLANNING BACKGROUND

- 4.1 Planning permission (application number B/02/0062/FULL) for the construction of a single dwelling (bungalow) has been granted by Boston Borough Council, subject to a condition for an archaeological watching brief to be undertaken during the development.

5 SOILS AND TOPOGRAPHY

- 5.1 The local topography is relatively flat and the site lies at approximately 4m OD. Soils in the area are predominantly of the Romney series, coarse silty gleyic brown calcareous alluvial soils over calcareous or sandy silt loams. These deposits overlie Jurassic clays.

6 THE ARCHAEOLOGY

- 6.1 Bicker was a Domesday settlement and has produced late Saxon pottery. During the early medieval period Bicker was an important trading centre due to its position on the Bicker Haven which silted up in the late medieval period. Bicker was also important for its production of salt and the shores of the haven are lined with salt making sites.
- 6.2 Rubbish pits and boundary or drainage ditches of 13th century date were revealed during an archaeological watching brief just to the southeast of the proposed development. Other finds included building material and slag suggesting that there may be a salt processing site nearby (Archaeological Project Services 1994).
- 6.3 An archaeological evaluation and subsequent watching brief of land immediately to the south of the proposed development revealed ditches and gullies representing medieval and post-medieval boundaries. Industrial material was also recovered which may have been associated with salt-making (Archaeological Project Services 1996; 2002).
- 6.4 Other watching briefs immediately south of the site have revealed medieval pits and ditches, including examples containing abundant sea shells (Archaeological Project Services 1997).

7 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- 7.1 The aims of the watching brief will be:
- 7.1.1 To record 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.
- 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 groundworks phase of development, and includes the archaeological monitoring of all phases of soil movement.
- 8.2.2 The section of the trench will be observed regularly to identify and record
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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. A metal detector may be used to assist artefact recovery.
- 8.2.4 Throughout the watching brief a photographic record will be compiled and 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 absolutely necessary. The appropriate Home Office licence will be obtained before their removal. In addition, the Local Environmental Health Department, 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 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:
 - 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 watching brief.
 - 9.3.2.3 Description of the topography of the site.

- 9.3.2.4 Description of the methodologies used during the watching brief.
- 9.3.2.5 A text describing the findings of the watching brief.
- 9.3.2.6 A consideration of the local, regional and national context of the watching brief 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 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 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, Boston Borough Council. They will be given notice in writing of 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 Community Archaeologist, Boston Borough Council.
- 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 man-day) will require a post-excavation day (equal to one-and-a-half man-days) for completion of the analysis and report. If the fieldwork lasts longer than about six 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 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, Lincoln.
Pottery Analysis	Prehistoric: Dr D Knight, Trent and 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
Other Artefacts	J Cowgill, independent specialist, or G Taylor, APS
Human Remains Analysis	R Gowland, Independent specialist.
Environmental Analysis	Environmental Archaeology Consultancy(EAC)
Animal Remains Analysis	EAC, or P Cope-Faulkner, APS

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, 27th January 2003

Appendix 3

Context Descriptions

Number	Section	Description	Interpretation
001	1	Soft, dark greyish brown silt, up to 0.45m thick.	Topsoil.
002	1	Firm, mid to light greyish brown silt, up to 0.38m thick.	Subsoil.
003	1	Sub-rectangular cut, c. 3.1m wide and > 0.25m deep, with sloping sides.	Pit.
004	1	Soft, dark greyish brown silt, with frequent CBM fragments.	Fill of pit (003).
005	2 & 4	Sub-rectangular cut, c. 3.1m long by 1.7m wide and > 0.40m deep, with steep sides.	Pit.
006	2 & 4	Soft, mottled medium brownish grey and light brown silt, with occasional CBM and charcoal fragments.	Fill of pit (005).
007	2	Friable, light whitish grey sandy ashy silt, with frequent CBM fragments.	Fill of pit (009).
008	2	Soft, mid to dark brownish grey silt, with occasional small CBM fragments.	Fill of pit (009).
009	2	Pit cut, 0.45m wide and 0.30m deep, with near vertical sides and a flattish base.	Pit.
010	2	Soft, mid brown silt, with occasional charcoal flecks, > 0.04m thick.	Alluvial layer.
011	3	Possible sub-rectangular cut, c. 4.2m wide and 0.30m deep, with near vertical sides and a flat base.	Pit.
012	3	Soft, mid – dark greyish brown silt, with occasional charcoal and CBM fragments.	Fill of pit (011).
013	4	Loose, dark greyish brown clayey silt, with frequent CBM fragments.	Fill of well (014).
014	4	Circular brick structure with domed top, 0.66m high and 1m diameter.	Well or soak-away.
015	4	Firm, light yellowish brown clayey silt.	Backfill for well (014).
016	4	Sub-circular cut, > 0.66m deep and 1.32m wide, with vertical sides.	Construction cut for well (014).

Abbreviations:

CBM – Ceramic Building Material (i.e. brick and tile).

Appendix 4

THE FINDS

by Paul Cope-Faulkner, Hilary Healey,
Tom Lane and Gary Taylor

Recording of the pottery was undertaken with reference to guidelines prepared by the Medieval Pottery Research Group (Slowikowski *et al.* 2001) and the pottery was quantified using the chronology and coding system of the Lincolnshire ceramic type series. A total of 19 fragments of pottery weighing 222g was recovered from 4 separate contexts. In addition to the pottery, a small quantity of other artefacts, brick/tile, iron and industrial residue, comprising 7 items weighing a total of 1745g, was retrieved. Faunal remains were also recovered.

The excavated animal bone assemblage comprises a single stratified fragment weighing 1g. The animal bone was identified by reference to published catalogues. No attempt is made to sex or age animals represented within the assemblage, although where this is readily apparent is noted in the comments column.

Provenance

The material was recovered from subsoil (002) and pit fills (004, 006 & 012).

All of the earlier pottery was made in moderate proximity to Bicker, at Bourne 21km to the southwest, and elsewhere in South Lincolnshire. However, the later pottery was probably mostly manufactured in Staffordshire.

Range

The range of material is detailed in the tables.

Table 1: Pottery

Context	Fabric Code	Description	No.	Wt (g)	Context Date
002	TPW	Green and white transfer-printed tableware, 19 th century	1	28	19 th century
	WHITE	White-glazed tableware, 19 th century	1	7	
	BOU	Bourne D ware, 15 th -17 th century	5	41	
	BOUA	Bourne A/B ware, 12 th -14 th century	5	75	
	SLSH	South Lincs shelly ware,	1	3	
004	LSTON	Grey stoneware	1	24	19 th -early 20 th century
006	GRE	Glazed red earthenware, 17 th century	1	19	18 th century
	BOU	Bourne D ware, 16 th -17 th century	1	7	
	BL	Red painted, black-glazed earthenware, 18 th century	1	6	
012	TPW	Blue and white transfer printed tableware, 19 th century	1	10	19 th century
	PORC	Bone china, 19 th century	1	2	

All the contexts are dated by the pottery from them to the 18th-early 20th centuries. However, about one-third of the assemblage is medieval and a further third is post-medieval, dating to the 16th-17th centuries. Although all these pieces are redeposited with later ceramics, the quantities involved suggest activity of medieval and early post-medieval date in the proximity.

Table 2: Other Artefacts

Context	Material	Description	No.	Wt (g)	Context Date
002	CBM	Handmade brick, overfired, post-medieval	1	11	Post-medieval
	Iron	Rectangular-sectioned nail, bent, 58mm long	1	6	
	Iron	Part of annular/penannular ring, 44mm diameter, 5mm wide, 3mm thick	1	5	
004	CBM	Handmade brick, 100mm wide, 55mm thick, very overfired and distorted, post-medieval	1	1071	Post-medieval
	CBM	Handmade brick, 62mm thick, vitrified, post medieval	1	409	
	CBM	Fired clay, probably handmade brick	1	66	Post-medieval
	Industrial residue	Iron slag, hearth bottom fragment, contains coal, post-medieval	1	177	

Note: CBM = Ceramic building material

Most of the ceramic building material is overfired, some of it extremely so. It is possible that these overfired pieces are from brick manufacture in the immediate vicinity, or perhaps became overfired through use in industrial activity in the proximity.

A single piece of a hearth bottom, from iron smithing, was recovered. This fragment contains pieces of coal, the fuel used in the smithing process, which indicates a post-medieval date for the artefact. The slag may indicate iron smithing in the vicinity though such industrial activity normally generates extensive quantities of such slag. Therefore, as a single piece, the slag is perhaps more likely to have entered the area as hardcore.

Table 3: The Faunal Remains

Context	Species	Bone	No.	Wt (g)	Comments
002	?bird	unknown	1	1	Possibly larger species such as goose

Condition

All the material is in good condition and present no long-term storage problems. Archive storage of the collection is by material class.

Documentation

There have been numerous previous archaeological investigations at Bicker that are the subjects of reports. Details of archaeological sites and discoveries in the area are maintained in the files of the Boston Community Archaeologist and the Lincolnshire County Council Sites and Monuments Record.

Potential

The moderate collection of medieval and early post-medieval pottery fragments is of moderate local potential. Although this material is entirely redeposited, the quantities involved are greater than would be expected from manuring scatter. Consequently, they are likely to indicate medieval and post-medieval occupation or other activity at the site or in the immediate proximity.

The overfired bricks are also of moderate local significance and indicate industrial activity, probably brick making or some other high temperature process, in the very close vicinity of the site.

The lack of any material earlier than the 12th century is informative and suggests that archaeological deposits dating from prior to this period are absent from the area, or were not disturbed by the development, or were of a nature that did not involve artefact deposition.

References

Slowikowski, A., Nenck, B. and Pearce, J., 2001 *Minimum Standards for the Processing, Recording, Analysis and Publication of Post-Roman Ceramics*, Medieval Pottery Research Group Occasional Paper 2

Broken Age	A period determined by the identification of broken items for exactly for total broken items.
Context	The archaeological context in which a pottery fragment is found. The context is defined by the soil profile, the depth of the fragment, the nature of the surrounding soil, the nature of the surrounding structures, the nature of the surrounding landscape, the nature of the surrounding vegetation, the nature of the surrounding fauna, the nature of the surrounding flora, the nature of the surrounding atmosphere, the nature of the surrounding water, the nature of the surrounding air, the nature of the surrounding earth, the nature of the surrounding sky, the nature of the surrounding sun, the nature of the surrounding moon, the nature of the surrounding stars, the nature of the surrounding planets, the nature of the surrounding galaxies, the nature of the surrounding universe.
Cracking	A crack that is formed by the action of a force, such as a blow, or by the action of a chemical process, such as the expansion of a material.
Crust	A thin layer of material that forms on the surface of a pottery fragment, usually as a result of the action of a chemical process, such as the oxidation of iron.
Decorative Markings	A series of marks or symbols that are used to identify a pottery fragment, such as a maker's mark, a date, or a location.
Fill	The material that is used to fill a hole or a crack in a pottery fragment, usually as a result of the action of a chemical process, such as the oxidation of iron.
Layer	A thin layer of material that is found on the surface of a pottery fragment, usually as a result of the action of a chemical process, such as the oxidation of iron.
Material	The substance from which a pottery fragment is made, such as clay or earthenware.
Process	The method by which a pottery fragment is made, such as wheel-throwing or hand-building.
Recovery	The process of finding a pottery fragment, such as by excavation or by chance.
Preparation	The process of preparing a pottery fragment for analysis, such as by cleaning or by drying.
Production	The process of making a pottery fragment, such as by wheel-throwing or hand-building.
Removal	The process of removing a pottery fragment from a site, such as by excavation or by chance.
Shape	The form of a pottery fragment, such as a bowl, a plate, or a jar.
Thickness	The distance between the two surfaces of a pottery fragment, usually measured in millimeters.
Transformation	Soil deposits that have been changed. The changes in soil changes include erosion

Appendix 5

GLOSSARY

Anglo-Saxon	Pertaining to the period when Britain was occupied by peoples from northern Germany, Denmark and adjacent areas. The period dates from approximately AD 450-1066.
Bronze Age	A period characterised by the introduction of bronze into the country for tools, between 2250 and 800 BC.
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].
Crop mark	A mark that is produced by the effect of underlying archaeological or geological 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.
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.
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
Neolithic	The 'New Stone Age' period, part of the prehistoric era, dating from approximately 4500-2250 BC.
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 1st 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.
Transformed	Soil deposits that have been changed. The agencies of such changes include natural

Appendix 6

THE ARCHIVE

The archive consists of:

16	Context records
4	Sheet of scale drawings
1	Photographic record sheet
1	Section 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 Council Museum Accession Number: LCNCC: 2003.40

Archaeological Project Services Site Code: BLL03

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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