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**ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF
ON LAND OFF ALFORD ROAD,
HUTTOFT,
LINCOLNSHIRE
(HCR 03)**



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ARCHAEOLOGICAL
PROJECT
SERVICES

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**ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF
ON LAND OFF ALFORD ROAD,
HUTTOFT,
LINCOLNSHIRE
(HCR 03)**

**Work Undertaken For
Whitegate Homes**

April 2003

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

National Grid Reference: TF 511 764
Planning Reference: N/089/1619/02
City and County Museum Accession No: 2002.145

ARCHAEOLOGICAL PROJECT SERVICES



APS Report No. 90/03

Quality Control
Land off Alford Road, Huttoft
HCR 03

| | |
|---------------------------|--------------------|
| Project Coordinator | Steve Malone |
| Supervisor | Vicky Mellor |
| Finds Processing | Denise Buckley |
| Illustration | Paul Cope-Faulkner |
| Photographic Reproduction | Sue Unsworth |
| Post-excavation Analyst | Paul Cope-Faulkner |

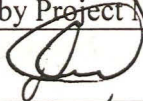
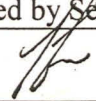
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| Checked by Project Manager | Approved by Senior Archaeologist |
|  Dale Trimble |  Tom Lane |
| Date: 28/04/03 | Date: 28-04-03 |

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1. SUMMARY

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken on land at Alford Road, Huttoft, Lincolnshire. The watching brief monitored the stripping of topsoil in advance of the excavation of foundation trenches.

Huttoft lies in an area of known Saxon (AD 411 – 1066) settlement previously identified during evaluation of the site. To the southeast of the site lies the 13th century church of St. Margaret.

The investigation revealed a single post-medieval ditch cut into a sequence of natural deposits. A single brick fragment was recovered.

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 Whitegate Homes to undertake an archaeological watching brief during groundworks associated with residential development on land off Alford Road, Huttoft, Lincolnshire. Approval for the development was sought through the submission of planning application N/089/1619/02. The watching brief was carried out on the 6th February 2003, in accordance with a specification prepared by Archaeological Project Services (Appendix 1) and approved by the Built

Environment Officer, Lincolnshire County Council.

2.3 Topography and Geology

Huttoft is located 26km northeast of Horncastle and 17km north of Skegness in the administrative district of East Lindsey, Lincolnshire (Fig. 1).

The site lies to the west of the village, immediately northwest of the parish church of St. Margaret (Fig. 2). Situated at National Grid Reference TF 511 764 the site sits at a height of c. 10m OD on a slight rise upon which the church is located.

Local soils are of the Holderness Association, typically stagnogleyic argillic brown earths (Hodge *et al.* 1984, 214). The soils overlie a drift geology of glaciofluvial sand and gravel which in turn lies over chalk rich till beneath which is a solid geology of Cretaceous chalk (BGS 1996).

2.4 Archaeological Setting

No evidence of prehistoric or Romano-British activity has been recorded from the vicinity.

Previous evaluation at the site revealed evidence for a Late Saxon settlement. A deposit containing Early Saxon pottery was also identified (LAS 1995). Saxon deposits have also been identified to the east and northeast.

Huttoft is first mentioned in the Domesday Survey of c. 1086. Referred to as ‘*hotoft*’ the name is a hybrid of the Old English *hōh*, meaning a heel or spur of land, and the Old Danish *toft* meaning a message (Cameron 1998, 68). At the time of Domesday the land was held by Earl Hugh, Alfred of Lincoln and Chetelbern and contained 80 acres of meadow (Foster and Longley 1976). In the subsequent Lindsey Survey of c. 1115 the land was

held by Earl Richard, Alan of Lincoln and Chetelbern (*ibid.*).

The medieval period is best represented by the church of St. Margaret which has elements dating to the 13th century, notably the tower, nave and chancel arches (Pevsner and Harris 1989, 403). A partially restored medieval cross is located along Church Road.

The evaluation of the site identified ditches and pits of 13th century date (LAS 1995) and a watching brief of the access road identified a medieval subsoil as well as undated ditches and pits (Rayner 2002, 4).

3. AIMS

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

4. METHODS

Prior to the excavation of the foundation trenches topsoil and other deposits were removed by machine to a depth of 1m below the ground surface. As this impacted well into natural deposits, monitoring of the foundation trenches was not undertaken. The sides of the stripped area were cleaned and rendered vertical. Selected deposits were then investigated by hand to determine their nature and to retrieve artefactual material. Each deposit identified 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 and plans at 1:500. Recording was undertaken according to standard Archaeological Project Services' practice.

Records of deposits and features identified were examined and a stratigraphic matrix produced. Finds were also examined and a period date assigned where possible (Appendix 3). 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 three phases were identified;

| | |
|---------|------------------------|
| Phase 1 | Natural deposits |
| Phase 2 | Post-medieval 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

The earliest deposit encountered was a layer of reddish brown sandy silt and clay (006). This measured over 0.7m thick. Overlying this was a sequence of yellowish brown silty sand (005), then reddish brown clayey sand (004) and yellowish brown sand (003). These were identified as the underlying drift geology.

Phase 2 Post-medieval deposits

Cut into the natural deposits was a north-south aligned linear feature (007), identified as a ditch. This was 2.2m wide by 0.65m deep (Fig. 4, Section 2) and contained three fills. The lowest was a grey clayey silt (010) which was overlain by reddish brown sandy silt and clay (009) and sealed by blackish brown sandy silt (008).

Phase 3 Recent deposits

Sealing all archaeological deposits was a topsoil of dark greyish brown sandy silt (002) which was 0.3m thick. Recent construction at the site had added brick and stone fragments (001).

6. DISCUSSION

Natural deposits (Phase 1) comprise sandy silts, silty sands, clayey sands, clay and sand. These are identifiable with the glaciofluvial sands forming the underlying drift geology.

Post-medieval deposits (Phase 2) consist of a single ditch. This aligns well with a north-south ditch identified during the watching brief on the access road which, although undated, contained ceramic building material. A plan by the Ordnance Survey dating to 1888 does not show the ditch suggesting it had been infilled by this date.

7. CONCLUSION

Archaeological investigations were undertaken at Alford Road, Huttoft, as the site is close to previously identified Saxon remains and the 13th century church.

However, no Saxon or medieval remains were encountered. A sequence of natural deposits was identified as well as a post-medieval ditch. A single brick fragment was retrieved from the ditch fill.

8. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeological Project Services wish to acknowledge the assistance of Mr P. Gunson of Whitegate Homes for commissioning the fieldwork and post-excavation analysis. The work was coordinated by Steve Malone and this report was edited by Dale Trimble and

Tom Lane. Dave Start kindly permitted access to the library and parish files maintained by Heritage Lincolnshire.

9. PERSONNEL

Project Coordinator: Steve Malone
 Site Supervisor: Vicky Mellor
 Finds processing: Denise Buckley
 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

LAS Lindsey Archaeological Services

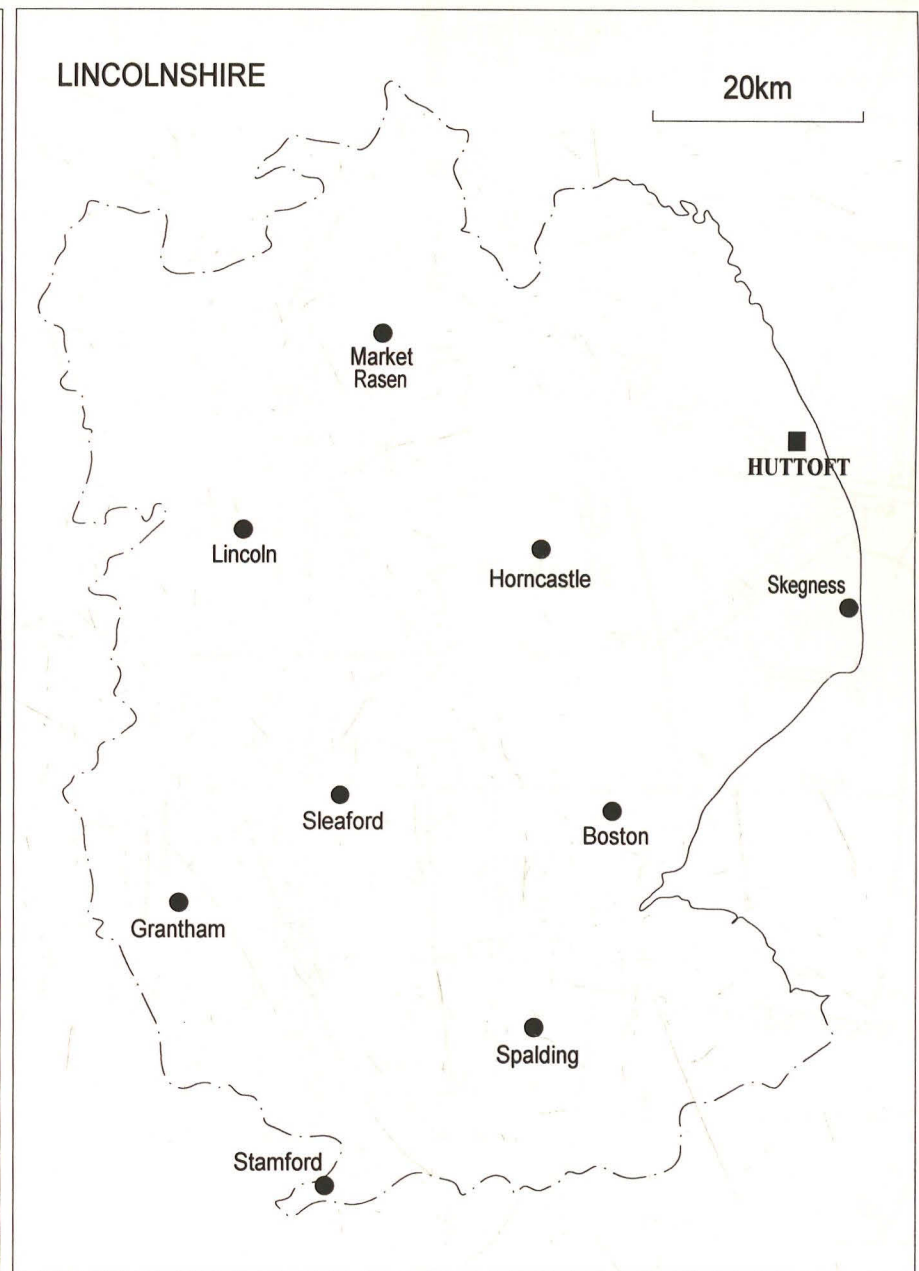
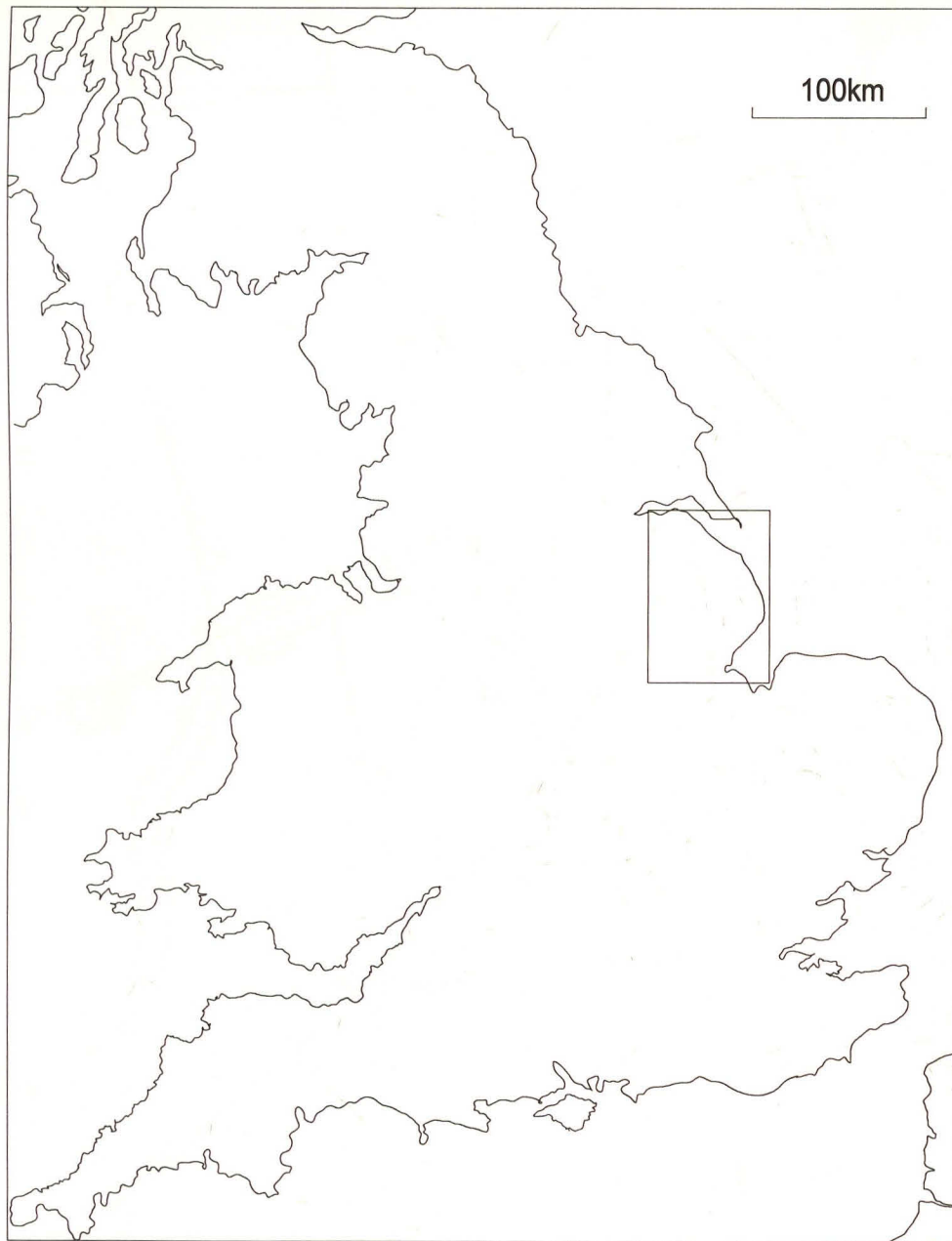
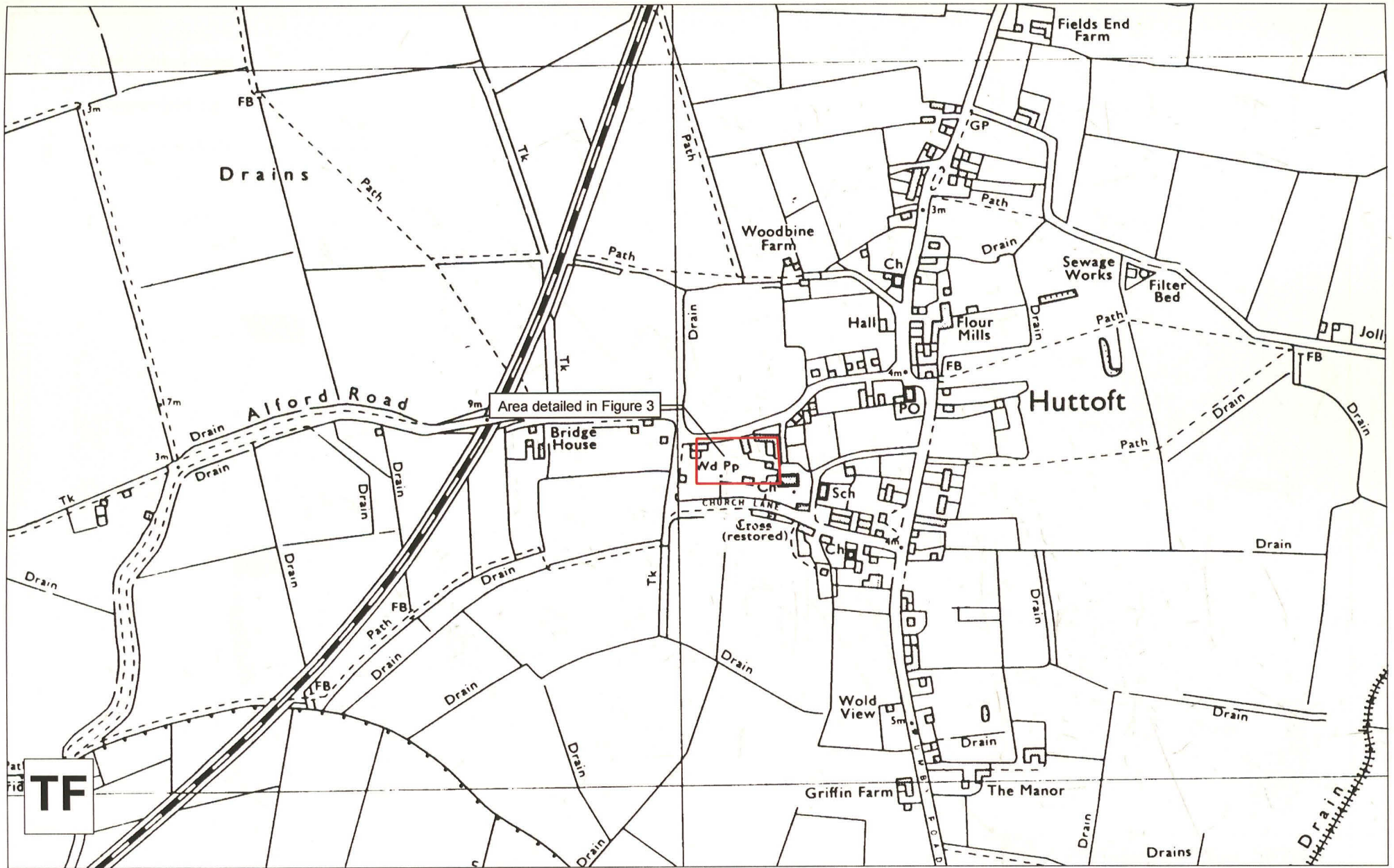


Figure 1 - General location plan



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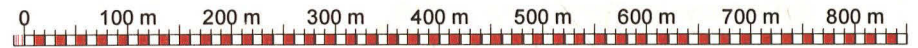


Figure 2 - Site location plan

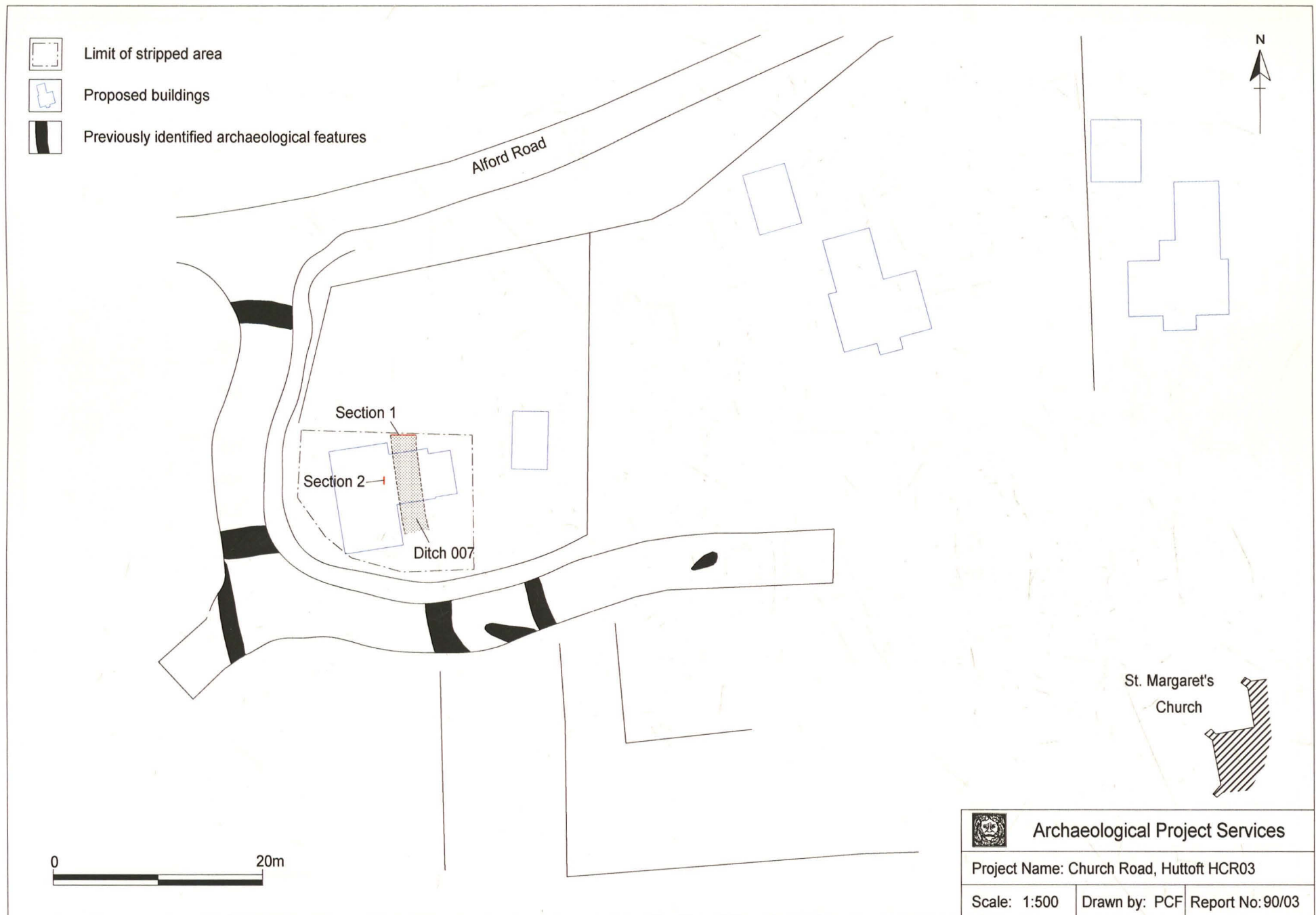
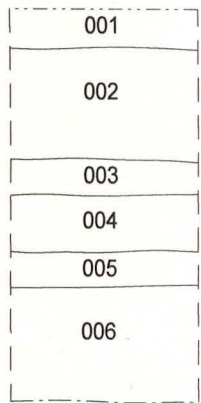


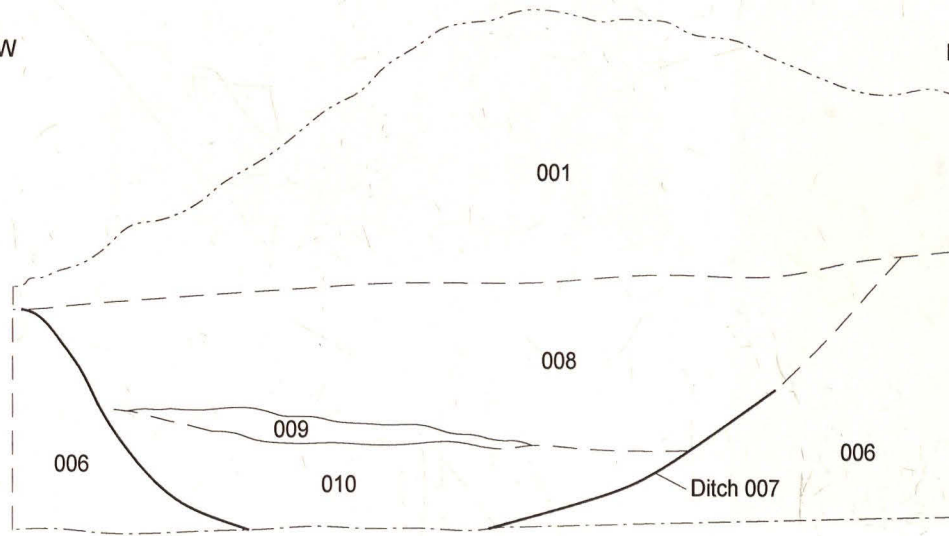
Figure 3 - Plan of the development showing section locations

N S



Section 1

W



Section 2



Archaeological Project Services

Project Name: Church Road, Huttoft HCR03

Scale: 1:20

Drawn by: PCF

Report No: 90/03

Figure 4 - Sections 1 and 2



Plate 1 - General view of the development area, looking north



Plate 2 - Section 1 showing the general sequence of deposits, looking east



Plate 3 - Section 2 showing Ditch (007), looking north

Appendix 1

LAND AT CHURCH ROAD, HUTTOFT, LINCOLNSHIRE - SPECIFICATION FOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

1 SUMMARY

- 1.1 *A watching brief is required during groundworks associated with residential development at Church Road, Huttoft*
- 1.2 *The area is archaeologically sensitive. The site is located in the core of the medieval village, near to the 13th century parish church. Previous investigations have recorded ditches and pits dating to the 13th century and Saxon pottery. Watching brief on the construction of the access road recovered more such material.*
- 1.3 *The watching brief will be undertaken during groundworks associated with the roadway. The archaeological features exposed will be recorded in writing, graphically and photographically.*
- 1.4 *On completion of the fieldwork a report will be prepared detailing the results of the investigation. The report will consist of a narrative supported by illustrations and photographs.*

2 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 This document comprises a specification for an archaeological watching brief during groundworks connected with residential development at Church Road, Huttoft.
- 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 Huttoft is located 8km south of Mablethorpe in the East Lindsey district of Lincolnshire. The works are to take place in the village centre, 100m northwest of the parish church at National Grid Reference TF 511 764.

4 PLANNING BACKGROUND

- 4.1 A planning application (N/089/1619/02) was submitted to East Lindsey District Council for residential development at Church Road, Huttoft. Permission is subject to a condition requiring the implementation of an archaeological watching brief during groundworks.

5 SOILS AND TOPOGRAPHY

- 5.1 The site is the east side of a slight rise, upon which the church is situated, and lies at approximately 10m OD. Local soils are the Holderness Association, Burlington Series stagnogleyic argillic brown earths on chalky till, surrounded by marine alluvium (Hodge *et al.* 1984 214-5).

6 ARCHAEOLOGICAL OVERVIEW

- 6.1 Huttoft is recorded in the Domesday Book of 1086, a reference that indicates a Saxon origin for the settlement. The site is in the medieval core of the village and the 13th century parish church of St. Margaret lies approximately 100m to the southeast. Previous investigations at the development area revealed ditches and pits dating to the 13th century and Saxon pottery.

- 6.2 Watching brief undertaken during construction of the access road revealed further Saxon and medieval pottery redeposited in later features.

7 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- 7.1 The aims of the watching brief will be:
- 7.1.1 To record and interpret the archaeological features exposed during the excavation of the foundation trenches and other areas of ground disturbance.
- 7.2 The objectives of the watching brief will be to:
- 7.2.1 Determine the form and function of the archaeological features encountered;
- 7.2.2 Determine the spatial arrangement of the archaeological features encountered;
- 7.2.3 As far as practicable, recover dating evidence from the archaeological features, and
- 7.2.4 Establish the sequence of the archaeological remains present on the site.

8 SITE OPERATIONS

8.1 General considerations

- 8.1.1 All work will be undertaken following statutory Health and Safety requirements in operation at the time of the watching brief.
- 8.1.2 The work will be undertaken according to the relevant codes of practise issued by the Institute of Field Archaeologists (IFA), under the management of a Member of the institute (MIFA). Archaeological Project Services is IFA registered organisation no. 21.
- 8.1.3 Any and all artefacts found during the investigation and thought to be 'treasure', as defined by the Treasure Act 1996, will be removed from site to a secure store and promptly reported to the appropriate coroner's office.

8.2 Methodology

- 8.2.1 The watching brief will be undertaken during the ground works phase of development, and includes the archaeological monitoring of all phases of soil movement.
- 8.2.2 Stripped areas and trench sections will be observed regularly to identify and record archaeological features that are exposed and to record changes in the geological conditions. The section drawings of the trenches will be recorded at a scale of 1:10. Should features be recorded in plan these will be drawn at a scale of 1:20. Written descriptions detailing the nature of the deposits, features and fills encountered will be compiled on Archaeological Project Services pro-forma record sheets.
- 8.2.3 Any finds recovered will be bagged and labelled for later analysis.
- 8.2.4 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
- 8.2.5 Should human remains be located the appropriate Home Office licence will be obtained before their removal. In addition, the Local Environmental Health Department and the police will be informed.

9 POST-EXCAVATION

9.1 Stage 1

9.1.1 On completion of site operations, the records and schedules produced during the watching brief will be checked and ordered to ensure that they form a uniform sequence forming a level II archive. A stratigraphic matrix of the archaeological deposits and features present on the site will be prepared. All photographic material will be catalogued and labelled, the labelling referring to schedules identifying the subject/s photographed.

9.1.2 All finds recovered during the field work will be washed, marked and packaged according to the deposit from which they were recovered. Any finds requiring specialist treatment and conservation will be sent to the Conservation Laboratory at the City and County Museum, Lincoln.

9.2 Stage 2

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

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

9.3 Stage 3

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

9.3.2 This will consist of:

- A non-technical summary of the results of the investigation.
- A description of the archaeological setting of the watching brief.
- Description of the topography of the site.
- Description of the methodologies used during the watching brief.
- A text describing the findings of the watching brief.
- A consideration of the local, regional and national context of the watching brief findings.
- Plans of the archaeological features exposed. If a sequence of archaeological deposits is encountered, separate plans for each phase will be produced.
- Sections of the archaeological features.
- Interpretation of the archaeological features exposed, and their chronology and setting within the surrounding landscape.
- Specialist reports on the finds from the site.
- Appropriate photographs of the site and specific archaeological features.

10 REPORT DEPOSITION

10.1 Copies of the report will be sent to the client; East Lindsey District Council Planning Department; and to the County Council Archaeological Sites and Monuments Record.

11 ARCHIVE

- 11.1 The documentation and records generated during the watching brief will be sorted and ordered into the format acceptable to the City and County Museum, Lincoln. This will be undertaken following the requirements of the document titled Conditions for the Acceptance of Project Archives for long term storage and curation.

12 PUBLICATION

- 12.1 A report of the findings of the watching brief will be published in Heritage Lincolnshire's Annual Report and a note 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 Lincolnshire County Council Archaeology Section. They will be given seven days notice in writing before the commencement of the project.

14 VARIATIONS

- 14.1 Variations to the proposed scheme of works will only be made following written confirmation of acceptance from the archaeological curator.
- 14.2 In the event of the discovery of any unexpected remains of archaeological importance, or of any changed circumstances, it is the responsibility of the archaeological contractor to inform the archaeological curator (*Lincolnshire Archaeological Handbook* 1998, Sections 5.7 and 18).
- 14.3 Where important archaeological remains are discovered and deemed to merit further investigation additional resources may be required to provide an appropriate level of investigation, recording and analysis.
- 14.4 Any contingency requirement for additional fieldwork or post-excavation analysis outside the scope of the proposed scheme of works will only be activated following full consultation with the archaeological curator and the client.

15 PROGRAMME OF WORKS AND STAFFING LEVELS

- 15.1 The watching brief will be integrated with the programme of construction and is dependent on the developers' work programme. It is therefore not possible to specify the person-hours for the archaeological site work.
- 15.2 An archaeological supervisor with experience of watching briefs will undertake the work.
- 15.3 Post-excavation analysis and report production will be undertaken by the archaeological supervisor, or a post-excavation analyst as appropriate, with assistance from a finds supervisor, illustrator and external specialists. It is expected that each fieldwork day (equal to one person-day) will require a post-excavation day (equal to one-and-a-half person-days) for completion of the analysis and report. If the fieldwork lasts longer than about four days then there will be an economy of scale with the post-excavation analysis.

16 SPECIALISTS TO BE USED DURING THE PROJECT

- 16.1 The following organisations/persons will, in principle and if necessary, be used as subcontractors to provide the relevant specialist work and reports in respect of any objects or material recovered during the investigation that require their expert knowledge and input. Engagement of any particular specialist subcontractor is also dependent on their availability and ability to meet programming requirements.

| <u>Task</u> | <u>Body to be undertaking the work</u> |
|------------------------|--|
| Conservation | Conservation Laboratory, City and County Museum, Lincoln |
| Pottery Analysis | Prehistoric - Trent & Peak Archaeological Trust Roman - B Precious, Independent Specialist Anglo-Saxon - J Young, Independent Specialist Medieval and later - 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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Appendix 2

CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

| No. | Description | Interpretation |
|-----|---|--|
| 001 | Soft dark blackish brown sandy silt with brick and stone fragments, 100mm to 0.7m thick | Topsoil mixed with construction debris |
| 002 | Soft mid to dark greyish brown sandy silt, 0.3m thick | Topsoil |
| 003 | Soft mid yellowish brown sand, 100mm thick | Natural deposit |
| 004 | Soft mid reddish brown clayey sand, 0.15m thick | Natural deposit |
| 005 | Soft mid yellowish brown silty sand, 100mm thick | Natural deposit |
| 006 | Soft mid reddish brown sandy silt and clay, >0.7m thick | Natural deposit |
| 007 | Linear feature, aligned north-south, 2.2m wide by 0.65m deep, moderate sides, not fully excavated | Ditch |
| 008 | Soft dark blackish brown sandy silt | Fill of (007) |
| 009 | Soft mid reddish brown sandy silt and clay | Fill of (007) |
| 010 | Soft mid grey clayey silt | Fill of (007) |

Appendix 3

THE FINDS *by Gary Taylor*

A single piece of brick weighing 79g was the only find recovered. No other artefacts or faunal remains were retrieved.

Provenance

The material was recovered from ditch fill (008). The brick is likely to be a local product of the Huttoft area.

Range

The range of material is detailed in the table.

| Context | Material | Description | No. | Wt (g) | Context Date |
|---------|---------------------------|----------------|-----|-----------|---------------------|
| 008 | Ceramic building material | Handmade brick | 1 | 79 | Early post-medieval |

Condition

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

Documentation

There have been previous archaeological investigations at Huttoft, including in immediate proximity to the current investigation site, that are subjects of reports. Details of archaeological sites and discoveries in the area are maintained in the Lincolnshire County Council Sites and Monuments Record.

Potential

As a single item, the brick is of very limited potential and significance. It may have entered the area as manuring scatter and therefore does not necessarily indicate the presence of buildings at the site.

Appendix 4

GLOSSARY

| | |
|-----------------------|---|
| Context | An archaeological context represents a distinct archaeological event or process. For example, the action of digging a pit creates a context (the cut) as does the process of its subsequent backfill (the fill). Each context encountered during an archaeological investigation is allocated a unique number by the archaeologist and a record sheet detailing the description and 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). |
| 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. |
| 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). |
| 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. |
| Message | A dwelling and the land surrounding it. |
| 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. |
| 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 5

THE ARCHIVE

The archive consists of:

| | |
|----|---------------------------|
| 10 | Context records |
| 3 | Scale drawings |
| 1 | Photographic record sheet |
| 1 | Stratigraphic matrix |
| 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: 2002.145

Archaeological Project Services Site Code: HCR 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.

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