ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF AT HURLINGHAM BUSINESS PARK, FULBECK HEATH, FULBECK, LINCOLNSHIRE (FHH 03)

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ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF AT HURLINGHAM BUSINESS PARK, **FULBECK HEATH,** FULBECK, LINCOLNSHIRE (FHH 03)

> Work Undertaken For **Molsom and Partners** on behalf of Hurlingham Estates Ltd.

> > April 2004

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

National Grid Reference: SK 975 504 Planning Reference: S03/0743/34 City and County Museum Accession No: 2002.217

## ARCHAEOLOGICAL PROJECT SERVICES



APS Report No. 18/04

Conservation Services 2 4 MAY 2004 Highways & Planning Directorate

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Date: 20/4/04		Date:	20-04-	04

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#### 1. SUMMARY

An intensive archaeological watching brief was undertaken during commercial development on land at Hurlingham Business Park, Fulbeck Heath, Lincolnshire. The watching brief monitored the removal of topsoil from the site in advance of the excavation of stanchion pits for a new industrial unit.

The investigation area lies close to the site of a medieval Gilbertine grange of Sempringham priory which was established on Fulbeck Heath during the 12<sup>th</sup> century. Nothing remains above ground of the grange, although ruins were noted at the site during the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Previous investigations at the site in advance of the current development had revealed a stone building which, based on animal bone and finds of horseshoe nails, may be a stable associated with the medieval grange.

The watching brief identified a single ditch which remains undated due to a lack of artefactual material. A modern service trench was also located. No finds were retrieved.

## 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 Molsom and Partners on

behalf of Hurlingham Estates Ltd to undertake an archaeological watching brief during groundworks associated with commercial development of land at Business Park, Fulbeck Hurlingham Heath, Fulbeck, Lincolnshire. Approval for the development was sought through the submission of planning application S03/0743/34. The watching brief was carried out between the 17<sup>th</sup> November 2003 and 12<sup>th</sup> January 2004, in accordance specification prepared with a Archaeological Project Services (Appendix 1) and approved by the South Kesteven Community Archaeologist.

## 2.3 Topography and Geology

Fulbeck Heath lies in the northern part of South Kesteven District, Lincolnshire, approximately 10km northwest of Sleaford and 14km north of Grantham (Fig. 1).

The area of development is located approximately 3.5km east of Fulbeck and lies north of the A17 highway within the Hurlingham Business Park complex centred on Maiden House Farm. The site comprises a roughly rectangular block of land located on a gentle slope down to the east. The site is centred at National Grid Reference SK 975 504 at a height of c. 80m OD.

The site lies on the boundary of soils of the Elmton 1 Association, typically shallow brown rendzinas, and Marcham Association, typically brown rendzinas and calcareous earths (Hodge *et al.* 1984, 179; 182). These soils overlie a solid geology of Jurassic Lincolnshire Limestone (GSGB 1972).

## 2.4 Archaeological Setting

The development area is located in an area of known archaeological remains dating from the Romano-British period to the present day. Within 350m east of the site is the Roman thoroughfare, Ermine Street, that once connected London to Lincoln

and beyond to the Humber (Margary 1973, 228).

Fulbeck is first mentioned in the Domesday Survey of c. 1086. Referred to as 'Fulebec' the name is derived from the Old English  $f\bar{u}l$  meaning 'foul' and the Old Norse bekkr meaning 'brook' (Cameron 1998, 47). At the time of the Domesday Survey the land was assessed with Leadenham and held by Count Alan of Brittany and Ralf Staller and contained 2 churches with 2 priests and a half share of a mill (Foster and Longley 1976).

Immediately north of the site lies Maiden House Farm. Ruins of older buildings were noted at the site in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century (Anon 1812, 635). It was thought that these were a *camerae* associated with the Templar Preceptory at Temple Bruer. However, the ruins comprise part of a grange established by Sempringham Priory in the 12<sup>th</sup> century and documentary sources indicate that 920 acres were granted for this purpose (Owen 1981, 50). The grange remained in the possession of the priory until the monastery was surrendered to the crown in 1536 (Page 1988, 187).

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken immediately south of the site and identified an undated pit and several postholes (Young 1988, 4). Prior to the current watching brief, an archaeological evaluation was undertaken 200m south of the site. Geophysical survey revealed a number of linear anomalies, large pit like features and areas of high magnetic responses (GSB 2002, 2). Trial trenching then identified several undated quarry pits, an undated ditch and a medieval stone building which, on the basis of finds, was identified as a possible stable (Hall 2002, 5). Furthermore, pottery of Bronze Age Romano-British date was retrieved (ibid.). A subsequent watching brief identified further stone structures, a well and two quarry pits (Cope-Faulkner 2003, 1).

#### 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 stanchion pits, topsoil was stripped from the area of the new development. Topsoil was generally stripped to the surface of the underlying geology, although this did not occur in all areas. Features and deposits exposed during the stripping were cleaned by hand to determine their nature and to retrieve artefactual material. Each deposit was allocated a unique reference number (context number) with an individual written description. A list of all contexts and their descriptions appears as Appendix 2. Plans were drawn at a scale of 1:20 and sections were drawn at a scale of 1:10. A photographic record, comprising colour slides, was compiled. Recording was according to standard undertaken Archaeological Project Services' practice.

Following excavation the records were checked 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.

## 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

The earliest deposit encountered was indurated white limestone (003) that was over 1.5m thick representing the natural geology. This was overlain by an intermittent reddish brown silty sand with limestone fragments (002) representing natural subsoil development.

## Phase 2 Undated deposits

Cut into the natural geology towards the centre of the development was a north-south aligned linear feature (005). Identified as a ditch this was 0.85m wide by 0.45m deep and contained a single fill of yellowish brown clayey sand with limestone (004).

## Phase 3 Recent deposits

Along the northern limit of the development was an east-west drain trench cut into the natural bedrock, excavated in 1998 (006). This was 1.25m wide and over 1.5m deep and contained a yellowish brown silty sand (007).

Sealing all deposits, although removed from the site, was a 0.32m thick topsoil comprising brown sandy silt with limestone fragments (001).

## 6. DISCUSSION

Natural deposits (Phase 1) comprise Jurassic Lincolnshire Limestone and naturally developed subsoil.

Undated deposits (Phase 2) are represented by a single ditch. Excavations immediately south of the site also revealed undated features. The general clustering of archaeological features, but the dearth of artefacts from within them, suggest that this area was a significant distance away from habitation or other activities that generate waste material.

No artefacts were retrieved during this investigation.

#### 7. CONCLUSION

Archaeological investigations were undertaken at Fulbeck Heath as the site lay in close proximity to a medieval grange and in an area where prehistoric and Romano-British artefacts have been retrieved.

However, no features were located that could be assigned to these periods. A single undated ditch was identified cutting into the natural geology. A trench for a recent drain was also identified. No finds were recovered from the watching brief.

#### 8. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeological Project Services wish to acknowledge the assistance of Mr G.S. Molsom of Molsom and Partners who commissioned the fieldwork and postbehalf excavation analysis on Hurlingham Estates Ltd. Gary Taylor coordinated this work and along with Tom Lane edited this report. Jenny Young, the Kesteven Community Archaeologist, kindly provided access to the parish files maintained by Heritage Lincolnshire.

## 9. PERSONNEL

Project Coordinator: Gary Taylor
Site Supervisors: Aaron Clements, Tom
Bradley-Lovekin, Jim Snee
Photographic reproduction: Sue Unsworth
Illustration: Paul Cope-Faulkner
Post-excavation analysis: Paul CopeFaulkner

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## 11. ABBREVIATIONS

APS Archaeological Project Services

GSB Geophysical Surveys of Bradford

GSGB Geological Survey of Great Britain

IFA Institute of Field Archaeologists

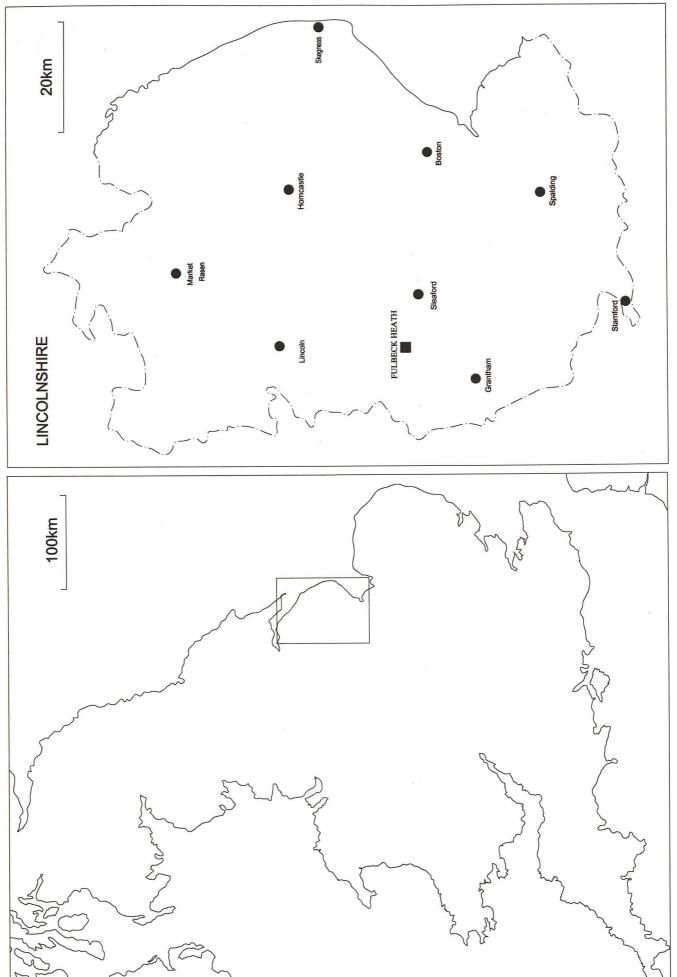


Figure 1 - General Location Plan

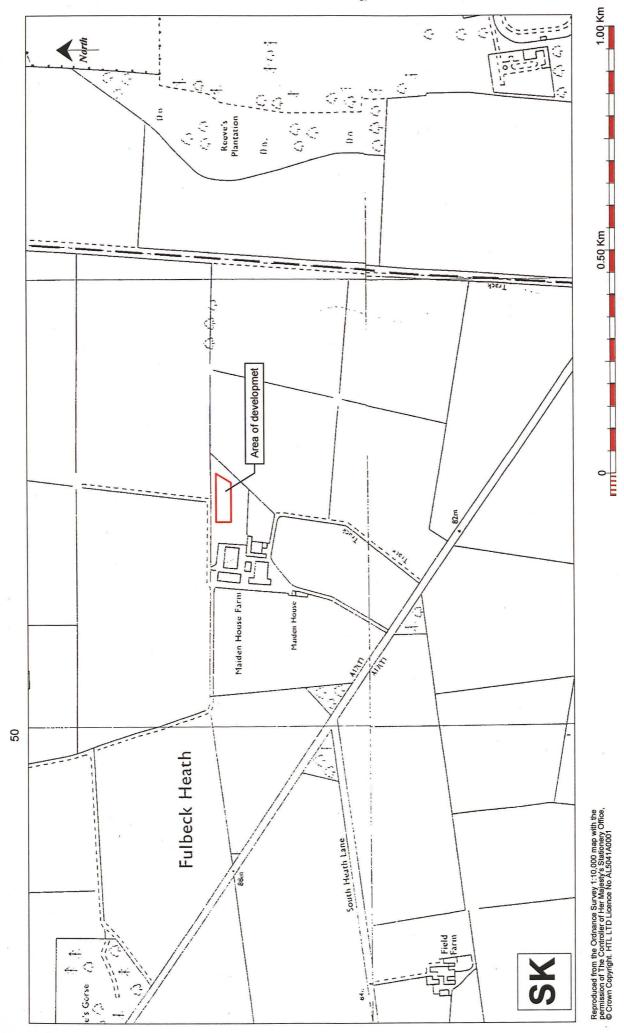


Figure 2 - Site location plan

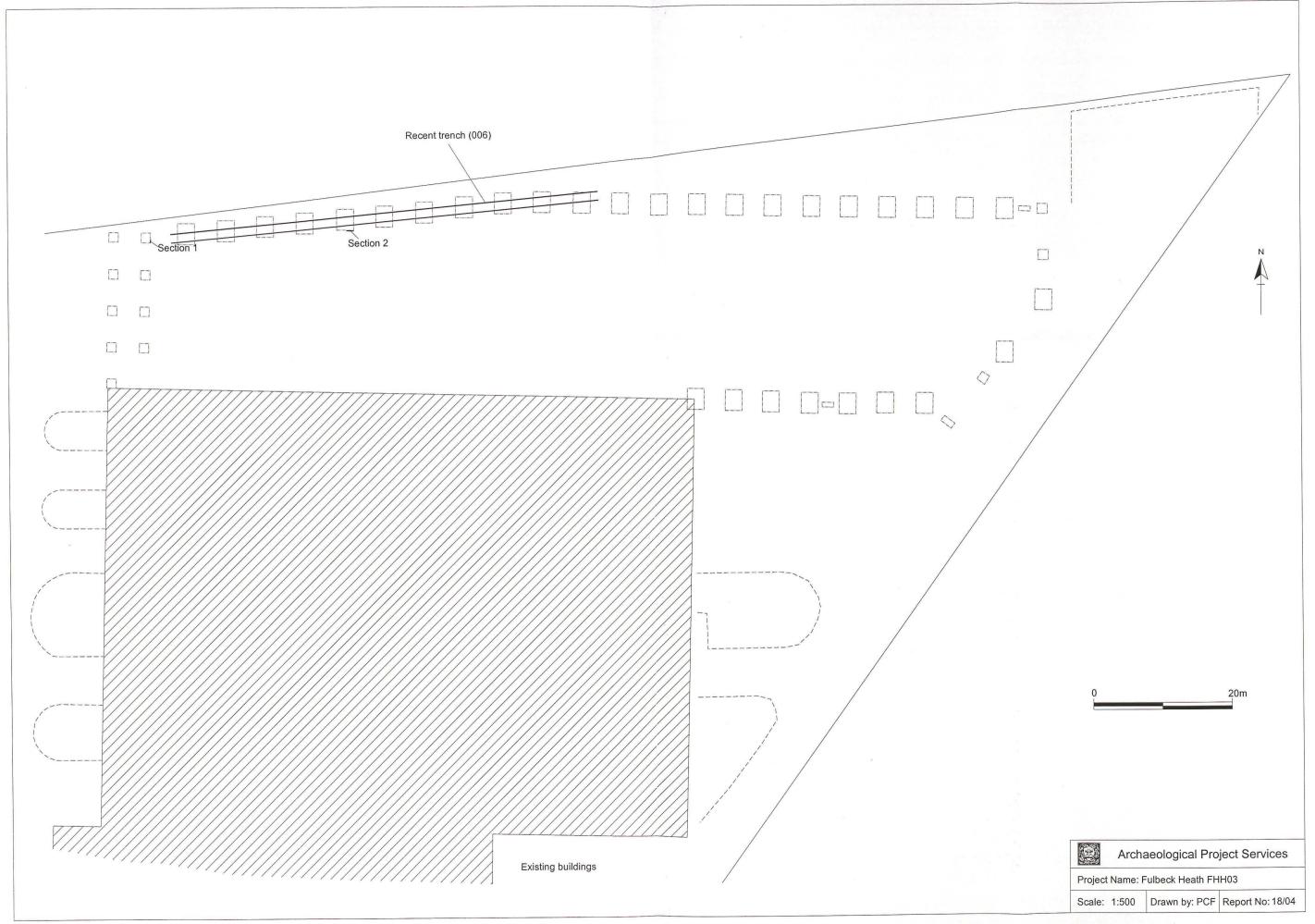


Figure 3 - Plan of the development showing section locations

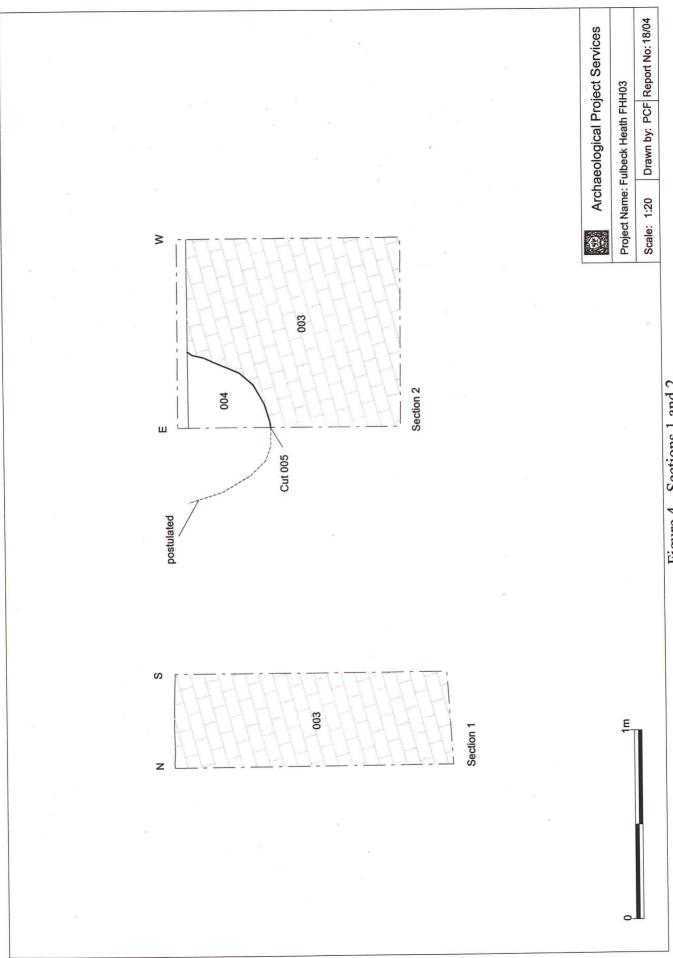


Figure 4 - Sections 1 and 2



Plate 1 - General view of the development, looking northeast



Plate 2 - Section 2 showing cut (005), looking south

# LAND AT HURLINGHAM BUSINESS PARK, FULBECK HEATH, LINCOLNSHIRE - SPECIFICATION FOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

#### 1 SUMMARY

- 1.1 This document comprises a specification for an archaeological watching brief on land at Hurlingham Business Park, Fulbeck Heath, Lincolnshire.
- The area is archaeologically sensitive, previous investigations revealed a large number of anomalies and a variety of features dating from the Romano-British to the medieval period. Immediately to the south of the current development undated pits and postholes were identified
- 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 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 the archaeological watching brief of land at Hurlingham Business Park, Fulbeck Heath, Lincolnshire. The site is located at National Grid Reference SK 9835 5010.
- 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

- Fulbeck Heath is located 10km northwest of Sleaford in the administrative district of South Kesteven, Lincolnshire. The site is to the north of the A17 highway, immediately south of Maidenhouse Farm at Hurlingham Business Park. The site is on the east side of the access road at National Grid Reference SK 9835 5010.
- 3.2 The field accommodating the site is a roughly rectangular block of land covering an area of approximately 4.5ha. Currently the area is pasture. The proposed development site itself is located near the northern limit of the field.

#### 4 PLANNING BACKGROUND

4.1 The site is the subject of a full planning application (S03/0743/34) submitted to South Kesteven District Council for the erection of an extension to an existing storage building. Permission is subject to a condition requiring the implementation of an archaeological watching brief during groundworks.

#### 5 SOILS AND TOPOGRAPHY

The site and surrounding area is on a gentle slope down to the east at approximately 80m OD. The site is at the boundary of soils of the Elmton 1 Association shallow brown rendzinas and Marcham Association brown rendzinas/ calcareous earths, both soils developed on Jurassic Lincolnshire Limestone (Hodge *et al.* 1984, 179; 242).

## 6 ARCHAEOLOGICAL OVERVIEW

- Maidenhouse Farm, located immediately north of the proposed development area, is the site of a grange established by Gilbertines of Sempringham Priory in the 12<sup>th</sup> century. The priory was dissolved in 1536, at which time its possessions, including the grange, were surrendered to the crown. Ruins that may relate to the grange were noted in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Transcriptions of cropmarks on aerial photographs depict several sub-rectangular enclosures, which may represent buildings, gardens or ponds, immediately south of Maidenhouse Farm, south of the area of proposed development.
- Previous investigations immediately to the south, on the existing storage building, recorded a pit and several postholes. Due to the absence of artefacts or other occupation debris, these features were undated and thought not to represent settlement remains (Archaeological Project Services 1998).
- 6.3 Geophysical survey of the an area south of the development area has identified a large number of probable archaeological features, including numerous pits, rectilinear enclosures and the site of a possible building (GSB 2002).
- Trail trenching in the area of the geophysics survey revealed a variety of features dating from the Romano-British to medieval period. One trench contained foundations of a medieval building thought to be associated with the Gilbertine Grange.

## 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 <u>Methodology</u>

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:
  - 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. Should removal be required the appropriate Home Office licence will be obtained before the exhumation of the remains. In addition, the Local Environmental Health Department, coroner and the police will be informed, where appropriate.

## 9 POST-EXCAVATION

- 9.1 <u>Stage 1</u>
  - 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 trenches and 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 South Kesteven Community Archaeologist; and to the County Council Archaeological Sites and Monuments Record.

#### 11 ARCHIVE

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

#### 12 PUBLICATION

12.1 A report of the findings of the watching brief will be presented 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 South Kesteven Community Archaeologist. They will be given written notice of the commencement of the project.

# 14 VARIATIONS AND CONTINGENCIES

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

## 15 PROGRAMME OF WORKS AND STAFFING LEVELS

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

## 16 SPECIALISTS TO BE USED DURING THE PROJECT

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

<u>Task</u> <u>Body to be undertaking the work</u>

Conservation Conservation Laboratory, City and County Museum, Lincoln

Pottery Analysis Prehistoric - Trent & Peak Archaeological Trust

Roman - B Precious, Independent Specialist Anglo-Saxon - J Young, Independent Specialist

Medieval and later - G Taylor in consultation with H Healey,

Independent Archaeologist

Non-pottery Artefacts J Cowgill, Independent Specialist

Animal Bones Environmental Archaeology Consultancy

Environmental Analysis J Rackham, Independent Specialist

Human Remains Analysis R Gowland, Independent Specialist

#### 17 INSURANCES

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

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- 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

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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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GSB, 2002 Hurlingham Business Park, Fulbeck Heath, Lincolnshire, GSB Report 2002/28

Hodge, CAH, Burton, RGO, Corbett, WM, Evans, R, and Seale, RS, 1984 Soils and their use in Eastern England, Soil Survey of England and Wales 13

Specification: Version 1, 14th November 2003

# CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

No.	Description	Interpretation
N001	Firm dark brown sandy silt with limestone fragments, 0.32m thick	Topsoil
N002	Firm mid reddish brown silty sand with frequent limestone fragments, 100mm thick	Subsoil
N003	Indurated white limestone, >1.5m thick	Natural geology
N004	Loose light yellowish brown clayey sand with limestone fragments	Fill of (005)
N005	Linear feature, aligned north-south, 0.85m wide by 0.45m deep, shallow sides and rounded base	Ditch
N006	Linear feature, aligned east-west, 1.25m wide by >1.55m deep, vertical sides, not fully excavated	Drain trench
N007	Loose dark yellowish brown silty sand	Fill of (006)

#### **GLOSSARY**

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 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, e.g. (004).

Cut

A cut refers to the physical action of digging a posthole, pit, ditch, foundation trench, etc. 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).

Geophysical Survey

Essentially non-invasive methods of examining below the ground surface by measuring deviations in the physical properties and characteristics of the earth. Techniques include magnetometry and resistivity survey.

Grange

A monastic farm complex at some distance from the abbey, generally supervised by a monk and staffed by lay brethren, created to cultivate one of the abbey's estates.

Layer

A layer is a term to describe an accumulation of soil or other material that is not contained within a cut.

Medieval

The Middle Ages, dating from approximately AD 1066-1500.

Natural

Undisturbed deposit(s) of soil or rock which have accumulated without the influence of human activity.

Prehistoric

The period of human history prior to the introduction of writing. In Britain the prehistoric period lasts from the first evidence of human occupation about 500,000 BC, until the Roman invasion in the middle of the 1<sup>st</sup> century AD.

Romano-British

Pertaining to the period dating from AD 43-410 when the Romans occupied Britain.

#### THE ARCHIVE

The archive consists of:

7 Context records

1 Photographic record sheet

1 Drawing sheet

1 Stratigraphic matrix

All primary records are currently kept at:

Archaeological Project Services The Old School Cameron Street Heckington Sleaford Lincolnshire NG34 9RW

The ultimate destination of the project archive is:

Lincolnshire City and County Museum 12 Friars Lane Lincoln LN2 1HQ

The archive will be deposited in accordance with the document titled *Conditions for the Acceptance of Project Archives*, produced by the Lincolnshire City and County Museum.

Lincolnshire City and County Council Museum Accession Number:

2002.217

Archaeological Project Services Site Code:

FHH 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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