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**ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF
AT DIGBY CHURCH OF ENGLAND SCHOOL,
DIGBY,
LINCOLNSHIRE
(DDS 02)**



A P S
ARCHAEOLOGICAL
PROJECT
SERVICES

EVENT LI 5067

SOURCE LI 9466
LI 9467

NEGATIVE

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF
AT DIGBY CHURCH OF ENGLAND SCHOOL,
DIGBY,
LINCOLNSHIRE
(DDS 02)**

**Work Undertaken For
Hyder Business Services**

April 2003

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

National Grid Reference: TF 081 549
City and County Museum Accession No: 2002.507

ARCHAEOLOGICAL PROJECT SERVICES



APS Report No. 82/03



Quality Control
 Digby Church of England School
 Digby, Lincolnshire
 DDS 02

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Supervisor	Fiona Walker
Finds Processing	Denise Buckley
Illustration	Paul Cope-Faulkner
Photographic Reproduction	Sue Unsworth
Post-excavation Analyst	Paul Cope-Faulkner

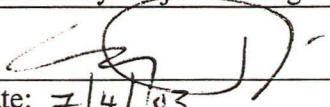

Checked by Project Manager	Approved by Senior Archaeologist
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Date: 7/4/03	Date: 14.4.03

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1. SUMMARY

A watching brief was undertaken during the construction of a new school hall and offices and a new access road at Digby Church of England School, Digby, Lincolnshire. The watching brief monitored the stripping of surface deposits associated with the development.

Prehistoric stone tools, probably of Neolithic date (4200-2250 BC), and an undated bronze spearhead are known from the vicinity of the village and attest to occupation in this area. The site lies close to the medieval (AD 1066-1540) core of the village.

The investigations revealed recent features, probably associated with the existing school buildings. Artefacts recovered comprise a single 18th century and a single 19th century pottery sherd.

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 Hyder Business Services to undertake an archaeological watching brief during groundworks associated with the construction of a new school hall and offices, along with a new access road, at Digby Church of England School, Digby, Lincolnshire. The watching brief was carried out between the 22nd January and

25th March 2003, in accordance with a specification prepared by Archaeological Project Services (Appendix 1) and approved by the Senior Historic Built Environment Officer, Lincolnshire County Council.

2.3 Topography and Geology

Digby is situated 19km southeast of Lincoln and 9km north of Sleaford, North Kesteven District, Lincolnshire (Fig. 1).

The development site is located 100m north of the village centre as defined by St. Thomas á Becket parish church at National Grid Reference TF 081 549 (Fig. 2). The site is situated at a height of c. 15m OD within a slight east-west aligned valley along which Digby Beck flows to the east.

Local soils are of the Aswarby Association, generally fine loamy gleyic brown calcareous earths (Hodge *et al.* 1984, 99). These soils overlie a solid geology of Jurassic Cornbrash and Kellaways sands and clays, although alluvium is present adjacent to Digby Beck.

2.4 Archaeological Setting

Digby is located in an area of known archaeological remains dating from the Neolithic to the present day. Neolithic stone axes and worked flints have been retrieved from the parish and a bronze spearhead of uncertain date, but perhaps Bronze Age, was discovered north of the village.

Digby is first mentioned in the Domesday Survey of c. 1086. Referred to as *Dicbi* the name is Anglo-Scandinavian in origin and means 'settlement by the ditch' (Cameron 1998, 38). At the time of the Domesday Survey, the land was held by Geoffrey Alselin and contained 100 acres of meadow and 10 acres of underwood (Foster and Longley 1976).

The only extant remains of the medieval period are the parish church of St. Thomas á Becket, which has a south doorway and nave dating to the 11th century, and a village cross (Pevsner and Harris 1989, 252).

A watching brief undertaken to the southeast identified a single pit possibly of 16th – 17th century date (Pederson 2001, 1).

3. AIMS

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

4. METHODS

Soil was removed by machine along the route of the new access road and tarmac surfaces were removed from the position of the new school hall and offices. Selected portions of the excavated area were then cleaned and the sides rendered vertical. Deposits or features were then examined and hand excavated to determine their nature and to retrieve artefactual material. Each deposit encountered was then allocated a unique reference number (context number) with an individual written description. A list of all contexts and their interpretations appears as Appendix 2. A photographic record was compiled and sections were drawn at a scale of 1:10. Recording was undertaken according to Archaeological Project Services' practice.

Finds recovered from excavated deposits were examined and a period date assigned where possible (Appendix 3). Records of the deposits and features recognised during the watching brief were examined. Phasing was assigned based on artefact dating and the nature of deposits and recognisable relationships between them.

5. RESULTS

Following post-excavation analysis two phases were identified;

Phase 1	Natural deposits
Phase 2	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 across the development area was a layer of brownish yellow limestone fragments (006). These relate to the underlying solid geology.

Developed upon the natural geology were subsoils. These comprised a yellowish brown sandy silt (002) in the western part of the site which became a clayey silt (004) to the east.

Phase 2 Recent deposits

Although not securely dated, an east-west aligned linear cut (007) was identified as a service trench associated with the school. This was at least 7m long by 1.8m wide and contained a single fill of yellowish brown clayey silt with limestone fragments (005).

Topsoil was recorded across the site and comprised brown sandy silt (001). Where the topsoil had been replaced by parking, a make-up layer of mixed gravel and silt (003) was identified. Pottery of 19th century date was retrieved from this layer. Above the make-up layer was a tarmac surface.

6. DISCUSSION

Natural deposits (Phase 1) comprise the underlying solid geology of Jurassic

Cornbrash. Subsoils had then developed upon the bedrock.

Recent deposits (Phase 2) include a service trench, topsoil and surface layers. These can be directly related to activities associated with the school.

Finds retrieved from this investigation consist of two sherds of pottery, one of 18th century date and one dating to the 19th century. Their inclusion into a make-up deposit may imply that they were imported onto the site.

7. CONCLUSION

Archaeological investigations were undertaken at Digby Church of England School, Digby, as the site lay close to the medieval core of the village.

However, no medieval remains were revealed and the watching brief identified only natural and recent deposits, comprising a service trench, topsoil and surface make-up layers.

Two sherds of pottery, one each of 18th and 19th century date, were the only finds retrieved during the investigation.

8. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeological Project Services wish to acknowledge the assistance of Ms. H. Brooks of Hyder Business Services for commissioning the fieldwork and post-excavation analysis. Gary Taylor coordinated the work and edited the report along with Tom Lane. Jo Hambly, the North Kesteven District Officer, kindly permitted examination of the relevant parish files maintained by Heritage Lincolnshire.

9. PERSONNEL

Project Coordinator: Gary Taylor
 Site Supervisor: Fiona Walker
 Finds processing: Denise Buckley
 Photographic reproduction: Sue Unsworth
 Illustration: Paul Cope-Faulkner
 Post-excavation analysis: Paul Cope-Faulkner

10. BIBLIOGRAPHY

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Pevsner, N. and Harris, J., 1989, *Lincolnshire The Buildings of England* (2nd edition, revised Antram, N.)

11. ABBREVIATIONS

APS Archaeological Project Services
 BGS British Geological Survey
 IFA Institute of Field Archaeologists

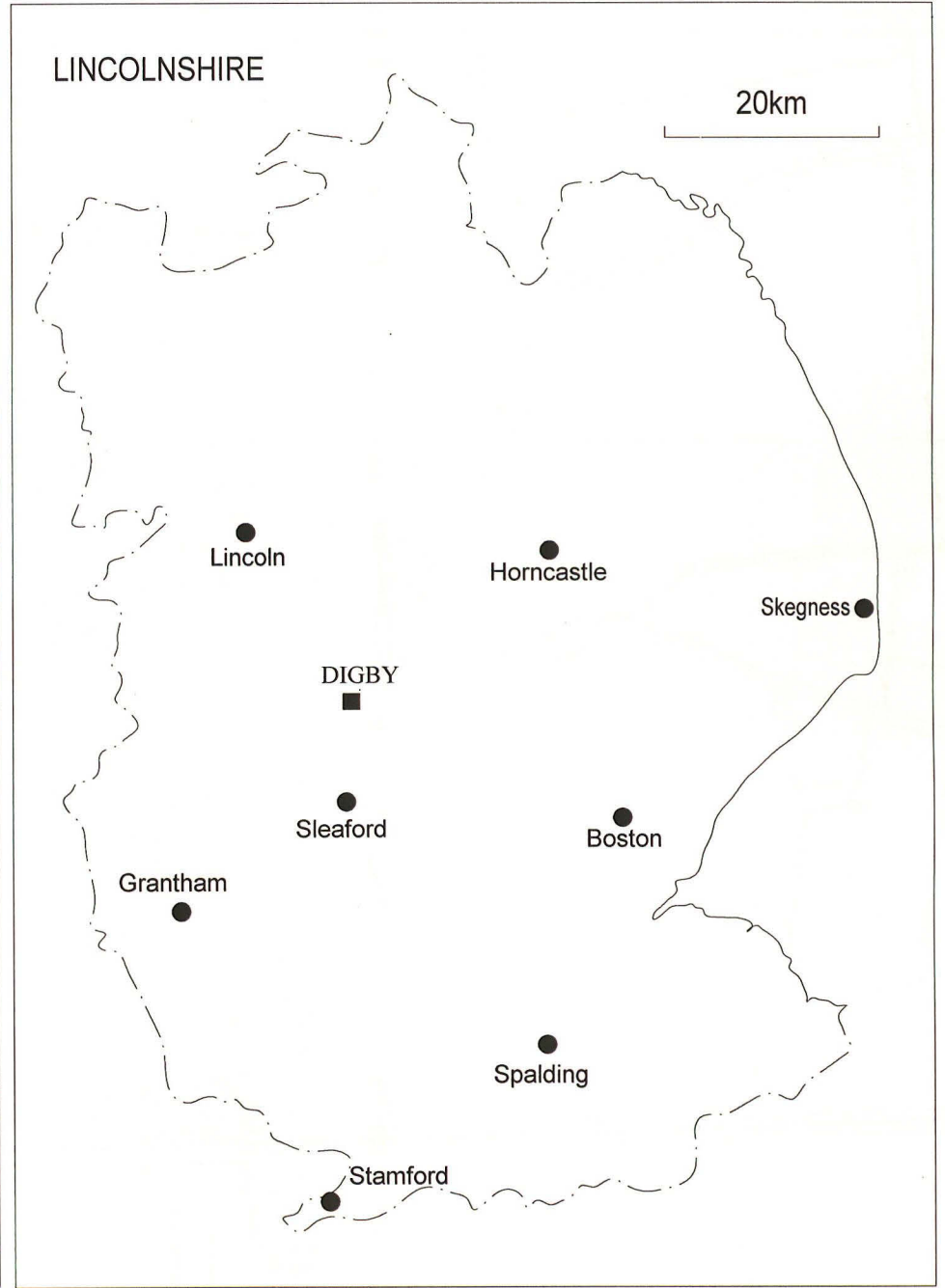
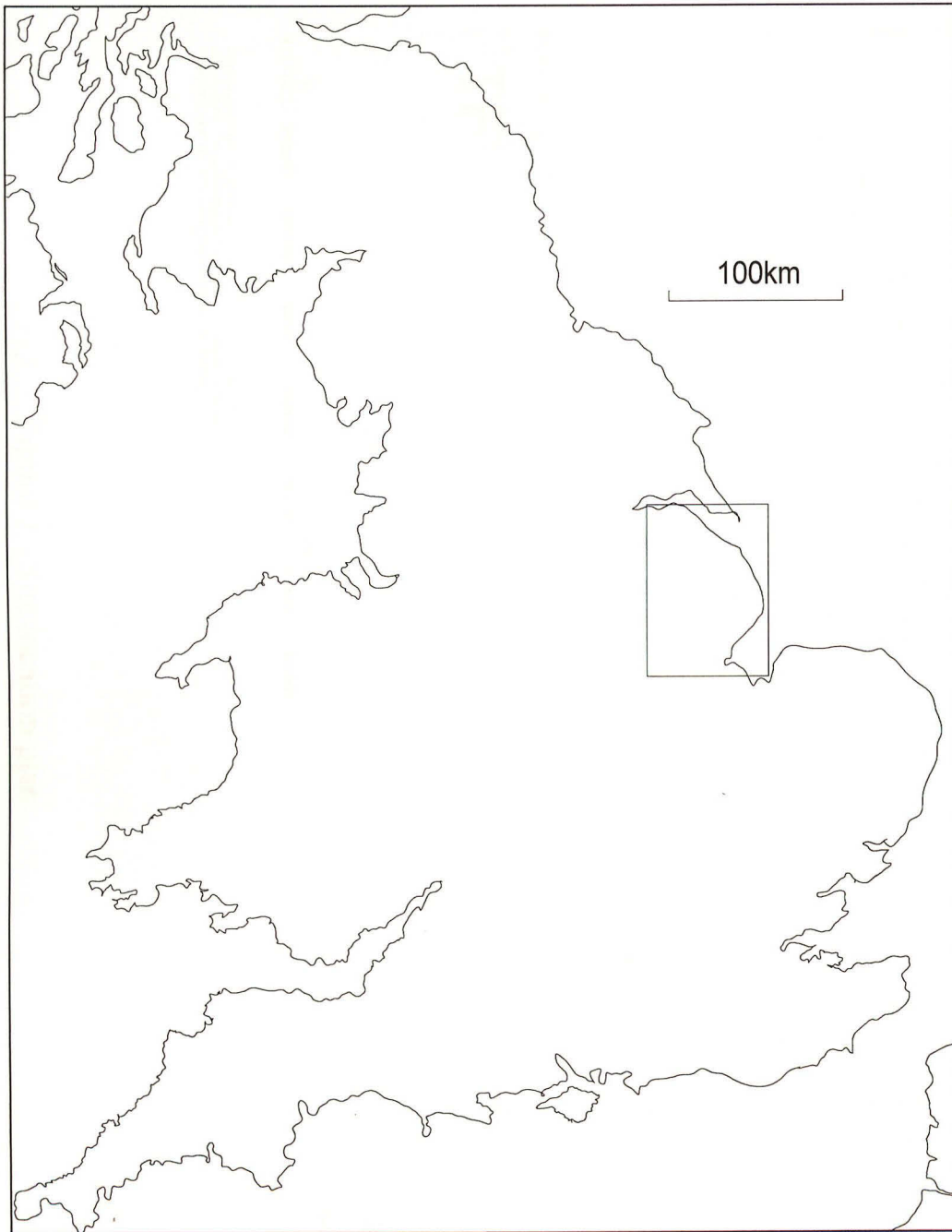
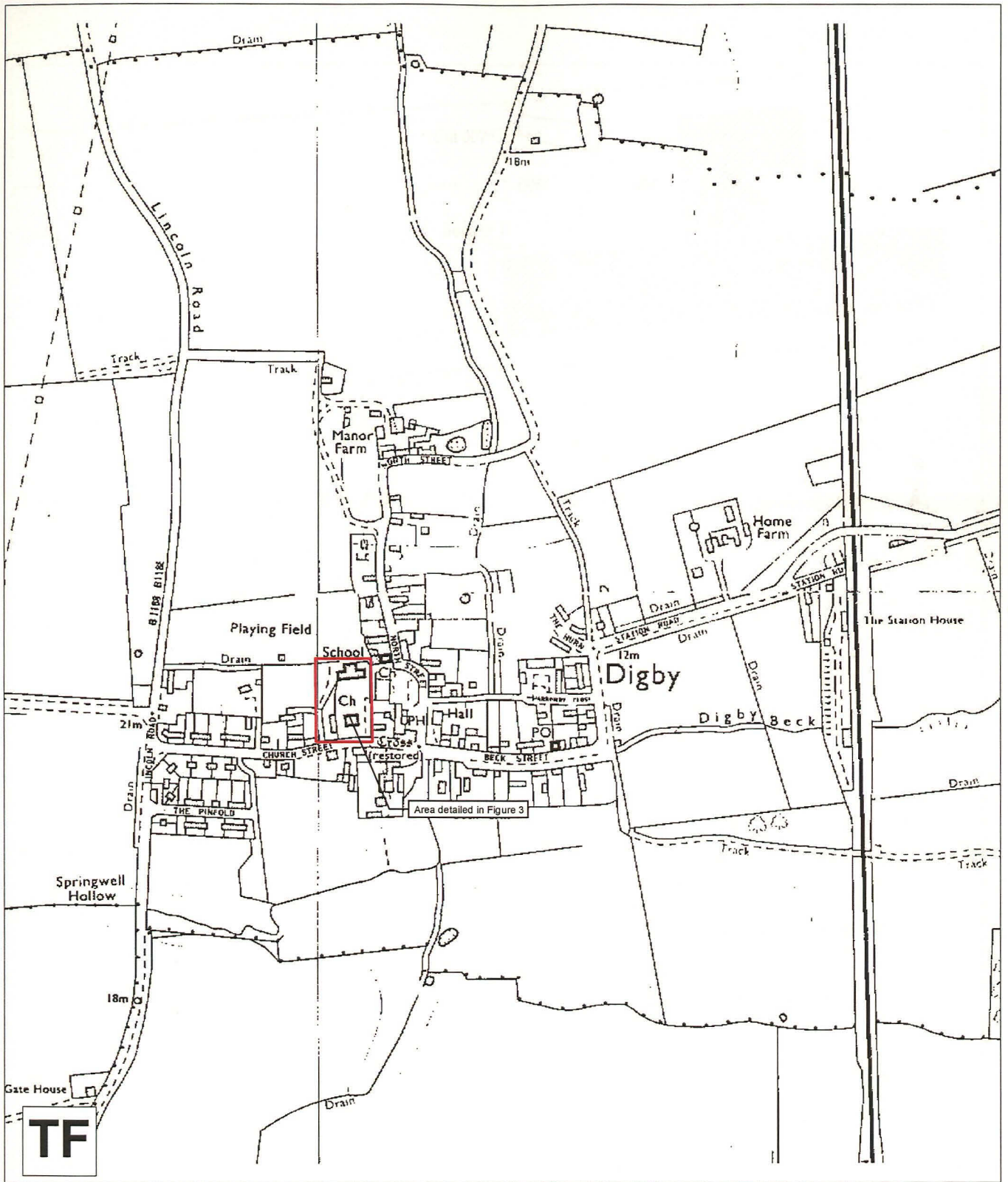


Figure 1 - General Location Plan



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Figure 2 - Site location plan

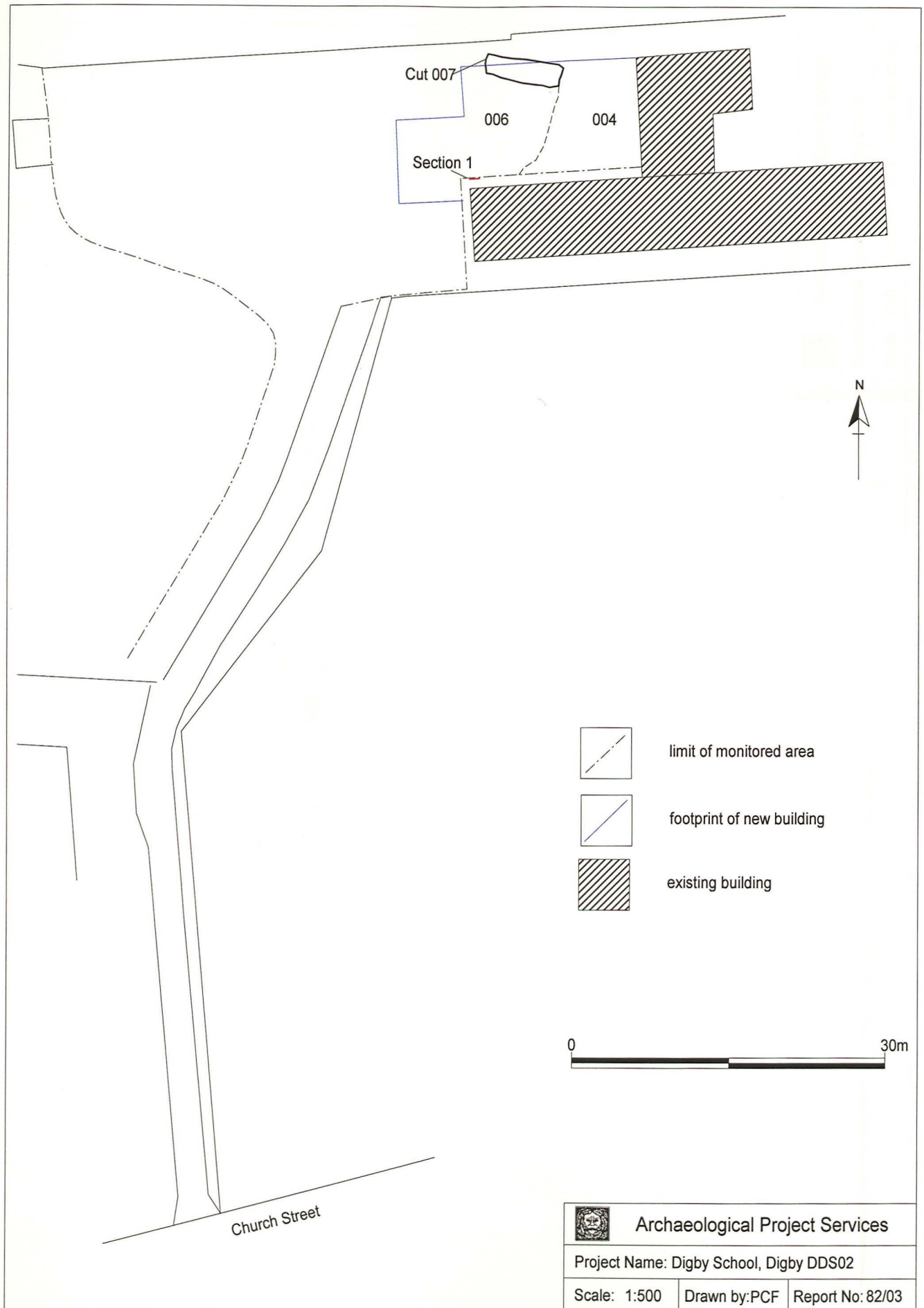

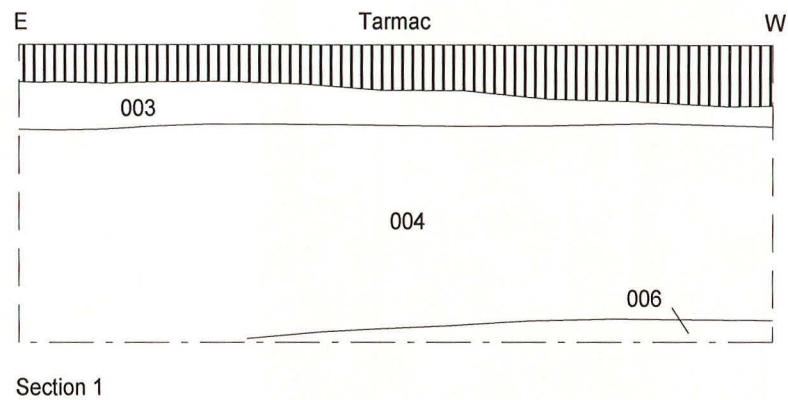


Figure 3 - Plan of the development showing section location

 Archaeological Project Services		
Project Name: Digby School, Digby DDS02		
Scale: 1:500	Drawn by:PCF	Report No: 82/03



Archaeological Project Services

Project Name: Digby School, Digby DDS02

Scale: 1:10

Drawn by: PCF

Report No: 82/03

Figure 4 - Section 1



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



Plate 2 - Section 1, looking south



Plate 3 - View of the service trench (007), looking west

Appendix 1

LAND AT DIGBY CE SCHOOL, CHURCH STREET, DIGBY, LINCOLNSHIRE - SPECIFICATION FOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

1 SUMMARY

- 1.1 *A watching brief is required during groundworks associated with development at Digby CE School, Church Street, Digby.*
- 1.2 *The area of the proposed development is archaeologically sensitive, located within the historic core of the village, immediately north of the medieval church of St. Thomas a Becket.*
- 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 an archaeological watching brief during groundworks associated with construction of a new school hall and offices at Digby CE School, Church Street, Digby.
- 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 Digby village is situated approximately 19km southeast of Lincoln and 9km north of Sleaford in the administrative district of North Kesteven, Lincolnshire. Digby CE School is in the centre of the village, just north of the parish church of St Thomas a Beckett, off Church Street at National Grid Reference TF 081 549.

4 PLANNING BACKGROUND

- 4.1 A planning application has been submitted for the construction of a new school hall and offices at Digby CE School, Digby. Permission is subject to a condition requiring the implementation of an archaeological watching brief during groundworks.

5 SOILS AND TOPOGRAPHY

- 5.1 Digby lies in gently undulating terrain at the foot of the Jurassic ridge dip slope on soil of the Aswarby Association, generally fine loamy gleyic brown calcareous earths, which form on the Cornbrash and Great Oolite limestones (Hodge *et al.* 1984, 99). The site lies at c. 16m OD on this gently slope down to the east, and on the north bank of a slight east-west valley through which Digby Beck flows.

6 ARCHAEOLOGICAL OVERVIEW

- 6.1 The application area is located within the historic core of Digby village, immediately north of the

medieval church of St. Thomas a Becket which incorporates a south doorway and elements of the nave dating to the Norman period (Pevsner and Harris 1989, 252).

- 6.2 The place-name Digby is Anglo-Scandinavian in origin and means 'By at the ditch', literally 'settlement by the ditch' (Cameron 1998, 38). It is first recorded in the Domesday Survey in 1086 as *Dicbi* when it was sokeland of the manor of Ruskington (Foster and Longley 1976, 194).
- 6.3 Prehistoric stone axes and other worked flints have been recorded within the parish. A bronze spearhead of uncertain date was discovered approximately 2km northeast of the village.
- 6.4 A well-preserved medieval village cross stands southeast of the church. A watching brief only 50m southwest of the current site revealed a pit of 16th-17th century date (Archaeological Project Services 2001).

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. A Risk Assessment will be prepared prior to the commencement of the investigation.
- 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. A metal detector

may be used to assist artefact recovery.

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

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 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 North Kesteven Heritage Officer; 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 County Archaeology Service. 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.

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.

Task	Body to be undertaking the work
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, or G Taylor, APS
Non-pottery Artefacts	J Cowgill, Independent Specialist
Animal Bones	Environmental Archaeology Consultancy
Environmental Analysis	Environmental Archaeology Consultancy
Human Remains Analysis	R Gowland, Independent Specialist

17 INSURANCES

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

18 COPYRIGHT

18.1 Archaeological Project Services shall retain full copyright of any commissioned reports under the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988 with all rights reserved; excepting that it hereby provides an exclusive licence to the client for the use of such documents by the client in all matters directly relating to the project as described in the Project Specification.

18.2 Licence will also be given to the archaeological curators to use the documentary archive for educational, public and research purposes.

18.3 In the case of non-satisfactory settlement of account then copyright will remain fully and exclusively with Archaeological Project Services. In these circumstances it will be an infringement under the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988 for the client to pass any report, partial report, or copy of same, to any third party. Reports submitted in good faith by Archaeological Project Services to any Planning Authority or archaeological curator will be removed from said planning Authority and/or archaeological curator. The Planning Authority and/or archaeological curator will be notified by Archaeological Project Services that the use of any such information previously supplied constitutes an infringement under the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988 and may result in legal action.

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

19 BIBLIOGRAPHY

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Specification: Version 1, 11th November 2002

Appendix 2

CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

No.	Description	Interpretation
001	Friable mid brown sandy silt, 0.15m thick	Topsoil
002	Firm mid yellowish brown sandy silt, 0.15m thick	Subsoil
003	Soft mixed grey/black and mid brown gravel and silt, 0.25m thick	Surface make-up
004	Firm mid yellowish brown clayey silt, 0.2m thick	Subsoil
005	Firm mid yellowish brown clayey silt with limestone fragments, no depth ascertained	Fill of (007)
006	Firm mid brownish yellow limestone fragments	Natural geology
007	Linear feature, aligned east-west, 7m long by 1.8m wide, not excavated	Service trench

Appendix 3

THE FINDS by 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 2 fragments of pottery weighing 151g was recovered from a single context. No other artefacts or faunal remains were retrieved.

Provenance

The material was recovered from made ground (003).

All of the pottery was probably made in Staffordshire.

Range

The range of material is detailed in the table.

Table 1: Pottery

Context	Fabric Code	Description	No.	Wt (g)	Context Date
003	TPW	Blue and white transfer printed tableware, trademarked 19 th century	1	141	19 th century
	BL	Red painted earthenware, blackglazed, 18 th century	1	10	

The transfer printed vessel has a partially surviving trademark reading:

]nese
]GODA
].R. & S.

The first two lines denote the pattern name, probably 'Chinese Pagoda' but the partial survival of the final line prevents the identification of the maker.

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 previous archaeological investigations at Digby that are the subjects of reports. Details of archaeological sites and discoveries in the area are maintained in the files of the North Kesteven Heritage Officer and the Lincolnshire County Council Sites and Monuments Record.

Potential

As a small and entirely early modern collection of material, the assemblage is of limited local potential and significance. The artefacts suggest activity of 19th century date at the site.

The lack of any material earlier than the 18th 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

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.
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 1 st century AD.
Saxon	Pertaining to the period dating from AD 410-1066 when England was largely settled by tribes from northern Germany.

Appendix 5

THE ARCHIVE

The archive consists of:

7	Context records
1	Photographic record sheets
2	Drawing sheets
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: 2002.507

Archaeological Project Services Site Code: DDS 02

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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