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ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF ON LAND AT BRACKLEY LODGE, CHURCH LANE, EAST KEAL, LINCOLNSHIRE (EKC 03)



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ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF ON LAND AT BRACKLEY LODGE, CHURCH LANE, EAST KEAL, LINCOLNSHIRE (EKC 03)

> Work Undertaken For **Charles Hunt Construction**

> > August 2004

Report Compiled by Andrew S. Failes BA (Hons)

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ARCHAEOLOGICAL PROJECT SERVICES



APS Report No. 114/04

Conservation Services

2 9 SEP 2004

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1. SUMMARY

A watching brief was undertaken during residential development on land at Brackley Lodge, Church Lane, East Keal, Lincolnshire. The watching brief monitored the excavation of drain runs and a foundation trench for a garden wall.

The area is archaeologically sensitive, lying in an area where prehistoric and Romano-British sites have been recorded. The development site lies within the medieval core of the village, close to the parish church.

The watching brief did not reveal any archaeological features, nor were any artefacts retrieved during this investigation.

2. INTRODUCTION

2.1 Definition of a Watching Brief

An archaeological watching brief is defined as "a formal programme 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 Charles Hunt Construction undertake to archaeological watching brief during groundworks associated with residential development on land at Brackley Lodge, Church Lane, East Keal, Lincolnshire. Approval for the development was sought through the submission of planning (045/00517/03).The application

excavation of the drain runs and a garden wall footing were monitored in accordance with a specification (Appendix 1) produced by APS and approved by the Built Environmental officer, Lincolnshire County Council. The watching brief was undertaken on the 22nd of June 2004.

2.3 Topography and Geology

East Keal is located approximately 21 km north of Boston and 13km southeast of Horncastle, in the administrative district of East Lindsey, Lincolnshire (Fig. 1).

The development site is located in the eastern part of the village approximately 110m west of the village centre as defined by the parish church of St. Helen at National Grid Reference TF 3816 6392 (Fig. 2). The site and surrounding area is situated on a gentle slope down to the east at a height of approximately 50m OD.

Local soils are of the Cuckney 2 Association, typically brown sands, ferritic brown earths and argillic gley soils and Salop Association stagnogley soils (Hodge *et al.* 1984, 152, 361). These soils are developed on a solid geology of Cretaceous Spilsby Sandstone and the Claxby Ironstone Formation (BGS 1995).

2.4 Archaeological Setting

East Keal is located within an area of Mesolithic and later finds. Flints dating from the Mesolithic period were identified during the Fenland Survey from a broad band north of the village and from isolated areas to the east and west (Lane 1993, 39). Concentrations of Mesolithic sites are known from neighbouring West Keal where sources of flint were readily available from the weathered Spilsby Sandstone.

Artefacts, mainly flint tools with some pottery, indicate a continued presence in the vicinity until the end of the Early Bronze Age, predominantly to the north and west of

the village (*ibid*. 39 and 45). There follows an apparent paucity of later prehistoric sites.

Scatters of Romano-British pottery have been recovered from the west of the village and immediately north of the development site and would appear to indicate settlement (*ibid.* 53). Many of these Romano-British sites were re-occupied during the Early and Middle Saxon period, prior to the Scandinavian invasions (*ibid.* 59).

East Keal is first mentioned in the Domesday Survey of c. 1086. Referred to as *Estrecale* the name is derived from the Old English *kjolr*, meaning a keel and used topographically for a ridge, and either the Old Norse *eystri* or Old English *easterra*, meaning more easterly (Cameron 1998, 71). The Domesday Survey records that the land was owned by the Bishop of Durham, Ivo Taillebois and Eudo son of Spirewic and contained 30 acres of meadow and half a church (Foster and Longley 1976). The later Lindsey Survey of c. 1115 indicates only two landowners, Hugh son of Eudo and Ketelbern (*ibid.*).

The only extant remains of the medieval period is the 13th century church of St. Helen which presumably replaced the church mentioned in the Domesday Survey (DoE 1986). Earthworks of house platforms and croft boundaries occur within the village and indicate that East Keal was once much larger.

Later extant buildings include two mud and stud cottages, the Old Rectory and Glengarry Cottage, dating from the 17th century and an 18th century mud and stud gable end in the Cottage Barn (Cousins 2000, 33).

Previous archaeological investigations have occurred south of the church. These revealed undated ditches and gullies and quantities of locally derived Toynton type pottery (Young 1999).

3. AIMS

The aim of the archaeological investigation was to ensure that any archaeological features exposed during the groundworks should be recorded and, if present, to determine their date, function and origin.

4. METHODS

Due to the fact that the footings trenches for this residential development were already completed and therefore unable to be looked at, the remaining groundworks, which consisted of drain runs and a single footings trench, were all that was investigated. Trenches for the drain runs were machine excavated to the north and the south of the residential development, while on the western side of the building a footings trench for a garden wall was dug to the south (Fig. 3). Trenches were then cleaned and rendered vertical. Selected deposits were excavated further in an attempt to retrieve artefactual material and to determine their function. 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. A photographic record was compiled and sections were drawn at a scale of 1:10 (Fig.4). Recording was undertaken according to standard Archaeological Project Services' practice.

Following excavation, records were checked and a stratigraphic matrix produced. Phasing was assigned based on the nature of the 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

Located at the base of the foundation trench for the garden wall, was a loose yellowish brown sandy (004) natural deposit. c. 30mm of this deposit could be seen in section.

The sand (004) was overlain by a firm yellowish brown sandy clay layer (003), approximately 0.10m thick

Above (003), a compacted reddish yellowish brown clay with frequent iron panning (002) and a thickness of approximately 0.07m could be seen. This layer was identified in the field as 'probably natural'.

Phase 2 Recent Deposits

Overlying (002) was a 0.70m thick layer of firm mid brown sandy silty clay (001), with occasional limestone and ceramic building material fragments (not retained) (Fig. 4) (Plate 2).

6. DISCUSSION

Deposits of natural sand and clay were the earliest deposits identified during the watching brief. The sands, specifically (004) and perhaps (003), may represent the weathered surface of the underlying Spilsby Sandstone. While the iron panning content in (002) is consistent with the underlying solid geography of the Claxby Ironstone Formation, which is located uphill and to the north of the site. This suggests that this layer may be colluvial, having being formed from eroded deposits on the hill, which then washed down to the site.

Occasional inclusions of ceramic building material and limestone fragments in the topsoil layer (001) represent the only archaeological trace of activity in this area. Unfortunately these fragments revealed no indication of date.

7. CONCLUSION

Archaeological investigations were carried out on land at Brackley Lodge, Church Lane, East Keal, Lincolnshire, due to the site lying within an area of archaeological activity stretching from the Mesolithic to the present day.

However, no archaeological features were found during this investigation, and no artefacts were retrieved. The only trace of human activity was evidenced in the recent topsoil deposit by occasional inclusions of ceramic building material, and limestone fragments. The fact that these inclusions were occasional and fragmented suggests that this topsoil may have formerly been a plough soil. Unfortunately the material inclusions were un-dateable, and likely out of their primary context, therefore few other conclusions can be drawn.

With regards to environmental evidence the nature of the local site conditions suggest that few environmental indicators (seeds, wood, molluscs *etc.*) would survive other than through charring.

8. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeological Project Services wish to acknowledge the assistance of Charles Hunt Construction who commissioned the fieldwork and post-excavation analysis. The work was coordinated by Denise Drury and this report edited by Tom Lane. Dave Start kindly permitted access to the parish files and library maintained by Heritage Lincolnshire.

9. PERSONNEL

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF AT BRACKLEY LODGE, CHURCH LANE, EAST KEAL, LINCOLNSHIRE

Project Coordinator: Denise Drury

Site Supervisor: Jim Snee

Photographic reproduction: Sue Unsworth

Illustration: Andrew S. Failes

Post-excavation analysis: Andrew S. Failes

BGS British Geological Survey

CBM Ceramic building material

10. BIBLIOGRAPHY

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11. ABBREVIATIONS

APS Archaeological Project Services

DoE Department of the Environment

GSGB Geological Survey of Great Britain

IFA Institute of Field Archaeologists

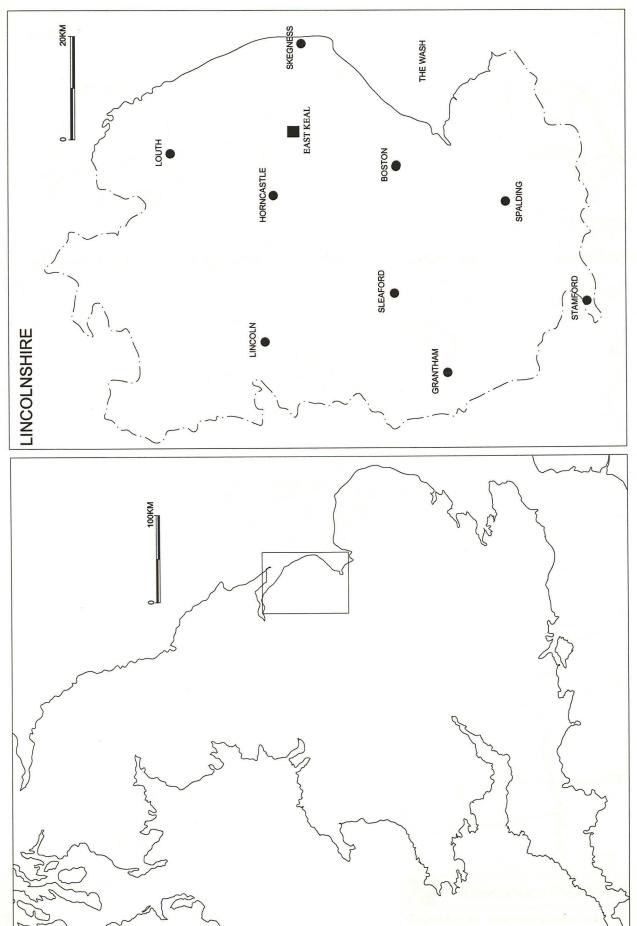


Figure 1 - General Location Plan

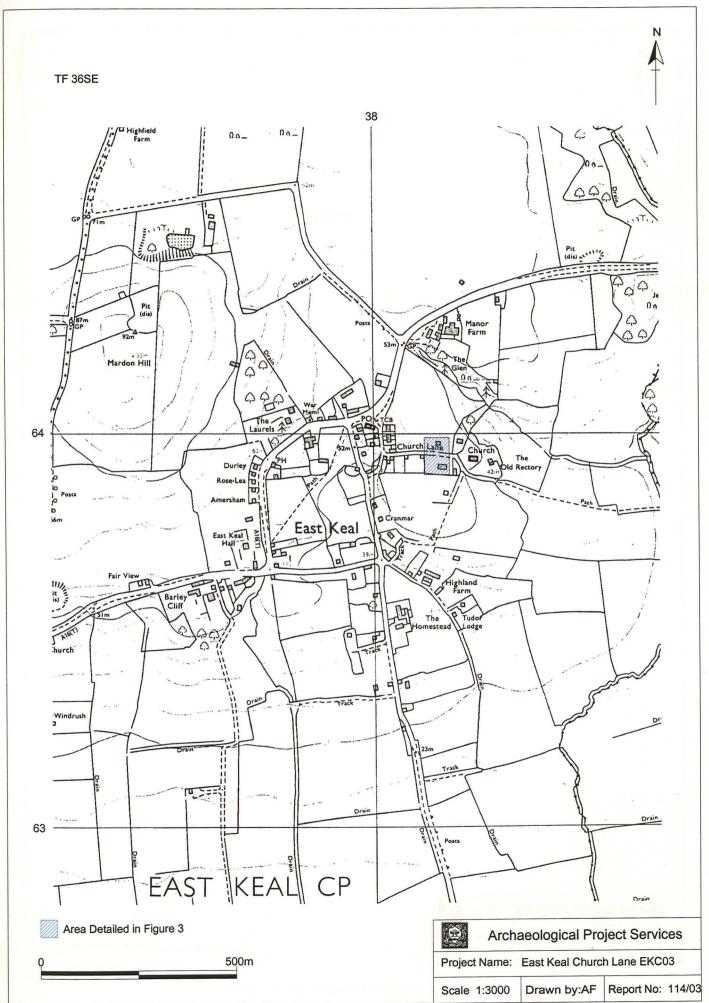


Figure 2: Site Location Plan

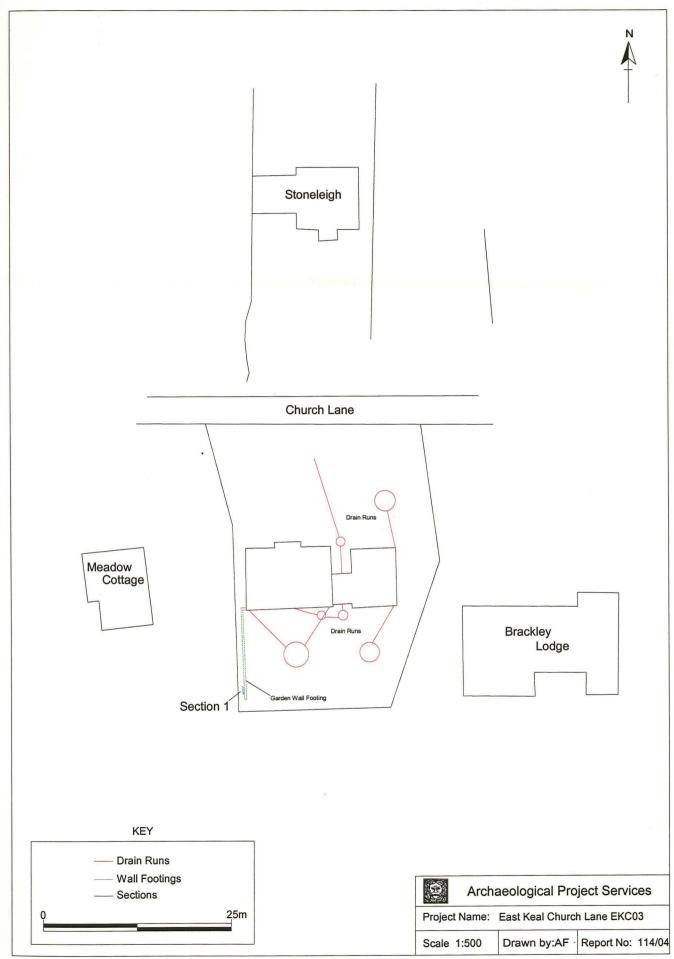


Figure 3: Drain Runs and Footings Location Plan

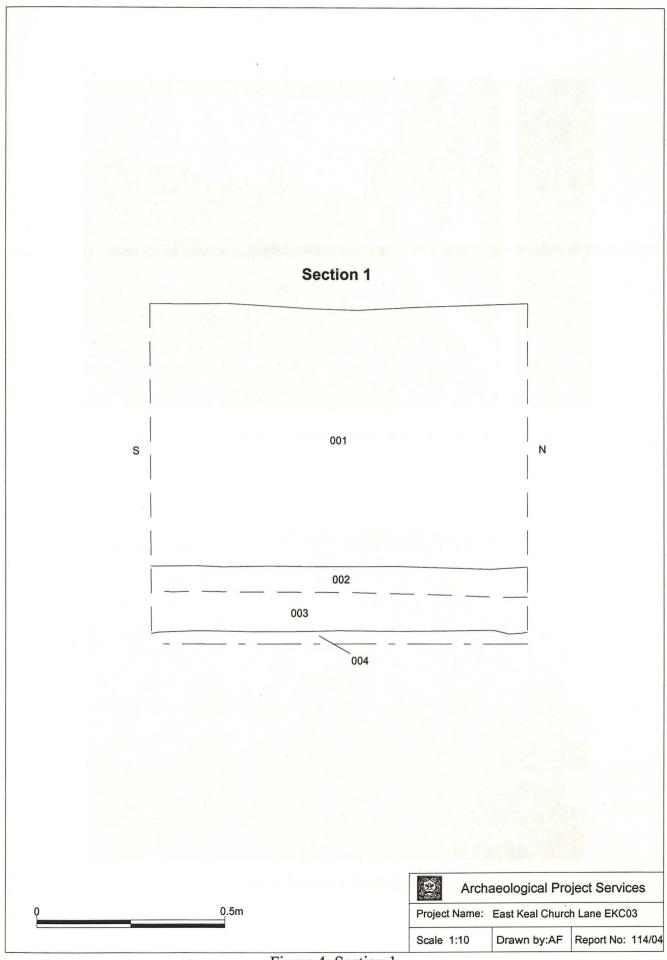


Figure 4: Section 1



Plate 1 General view of development area showing work being done



Plate 2 Section 1 looking west

LAND AT BRACKLEY LODGE, CHURCH LANE, EAST KEAL, LINCOLNSHIRE SPECIFICATION FOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

1 SUMMARY

- 1.1 A watching brief is required during residential development on land at Brackley Lodge, Church Lane, East Keal, Lincolnshire.
- 1.2 The area is archaeologically sensitive, lying in an area where prehistoric and Romano-British sites have been recorded. The development site lies within the medieval core of the village, close to the parish church.
- 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 connected with residential development at Brackley Lodge, Church Lane, East Keal, 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 East Keal is located 3km southwest of Spilsby in the East Lindsey district of Lincolnshire. The works are to take place in the eastern part of the village, on the south side of Church Lane at National Grid Reference TF 3816 6392 (Fig. 1).

4 PLANNING BACKGROUND

- 4.1 A planning application (045/00517/03) was submitted to East Lindsey District Council for the proposed construction of a dwelling with attached garage. Permission is subject to a condition requiring the implementation of an archaeological watching brief during groundworks.
- 4.2 The house footings have been completed and the watching brief will be undertaken during the excavation of the service trenches.

5 SOILS AND TOPOGRAPHY

5.1 East Keal is situated at the southern edge of the Lincolnshire Wolds at approximately 50m OD. Local soils are the Cuckney 2 Association, typically brown sands, ferritic brown earths and argillic gley soils and Salop Association stagnogleys soils (Hodge *et al.* 1984, 152; 361).

6 ARCHAEOLOGICAL OVERVIEW

6.1 Prehistoric remains have been found extensively throughout the parish. Several scatters of flint of Mesolithic, Neolithic and Bronze Age date have been found at various locations to the north of the village. Romano-British remains have been found to the west and north of the village and in

the southern part of the parish near the fen edge. Roman sites are known to the north and west of the village.

East Keal is a topographic place-name of Scandinavian derivation and the settlement is first recorded in the Domesday Book (1086), indicating that it was in existence in the Late Saxon period. Domesday records a shared church and the present church of St Helen, which lies approximately 100m to the east of the development site, is of 13th century origin. Earthworks of house platforms and croft boundaries occur within the village.

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 service trenches.
- 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 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:
 - 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 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 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 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.
- 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.
- 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.

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 - 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.

18 **COPYRIGHT**

- 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.
- 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, 08/05/2003

CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

No.	Description	Interpretation
001	Firm mid brown sandy silty clay with occasional	Topsoil layer, possible plough
	limestone and CBM fragments, c. 0.70m thick	soil
002	Compacted reddish yellowish brown clay with frequent	Clay layer, probably natural
	iron panning, c. 70mm thick	
003	Firm yellowish brown sandy clay, c. 0.10m thick	Natural clay layer
004	Loose yellowish brown sand, c. 30mm thickness seen in	Natural sand layer
	section	

GLOSSARY

Bronze Age A period characterised by the introduction of bronze into the country for tools, between 2250 and 800 BC.

Context

Cut

Fill

Layer

Medieval

Mesolithic

Natural

Neolithic

Post-medieval

Romano-British

Prehistoric

Saxon

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).

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.

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).

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

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

The 'Middle Stone Age' period, part of the prehistoric era, dating from approximately 8200-4500 BC.

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

The 'New Stone Age' period, part of the prehistoric era, dating from approximately 4500-2250 BC.

The period following the Middle Ages, dating from approximately AD 1500-1800.

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.

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

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

THE ARCHIVE

The archive consists of:

- 4 Context records
- 1 Scale drawings
- 1 Photographic record sheet
- 1 Stratigraphic matrix

All primary records and finds are currently kept at:

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

The ultimate destination of the project archive is:

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

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

Lincolnshire City and County Council Museum Accession Number: 2003.137

Archaeological Project Services Site Code: EKC 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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