ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF AT PARK LANE. SURFLEET, LINCOLNSHIRE (PLS 03)



A P S
ARCHAEOLOGICAL
PROJECT
SERVICES

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ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF AT PARK LANE. SURFLEET, LINCOLNSHIRE (PLS 03)

Work Undertaken For **Brian Harding Construction Limited**

July 2004

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

Planning Application No: H17/0379/01 National Grid Reference: TF 2514 2812 City and County Museum Accession No: 2003.380

ARCHAEOLOGICAL PROJECT SERVICES



APS Report No. 100/04

Conservation Services

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Highways & Planning Directorate

Quality Control Park Lane, Surfleet PLS 03

Project Coordinator	Denise Drury
Supervisor	Mary Nugent
Illustration	Paul Cope-Faulkner
Post-excavation Analyst	Paul Cope-Faulkner

Checked by Project Manager	Approved by Sonjor Archaeologist	
Gary Taylo	or Tom Lan	ie
Date: 8/7/04	Date: / 9-7-04	

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1. SUMMARY

A watching brief was undertaken during groundworks at Park Lane, Surfleet, Lincolnshire. The watching brief monitored the excavation of foundation trenches for a new dwelling.

The site lies close to the medieval (AD 1066-1540) centre of the village as represented by St. Laurence's church and adjacent to a contemporary sea-bank and the site of a bridge. Romano-British (AD 42-410) pottery is also known from the parish

The watching brief revealed a sequence of alluvial deposits associated with the River Glen. A range of post-medieval features and layers were also identified that are probably associated with former buildings at the site. No finds were retrieved.

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 Brian Harding Construction Limited to undertake an archaeological watching brief during groundworks associated with residential development at Park Lane, Surfleet, Lincolnshire. Approval for the development was sought through the submission of planning application H17/0379/01. The watching brief was

carried out on the 3rd December 2003 in accordance with a specification prepared by Archaeological Project Services (Appendix 1) and approved by the Senior Built Environment Officer, Lincolnshire County Council.

2.3 Topography and Geology

Surfleet is situated 5.5km north of Spalding and 17km southwest of Boston in the administrative district of South Holland, Lincolnshire (Fig. 1).

The site is located 100m south of the centre of Surfleet as defined by the parish church of St. Laurence at National Grid Reference TF 2514 2812 (Fig. 2). The site lies between the southern bank of the River Glen and immediately north of Park Lane. The area is generally level ground at a height of 4.8m OD.

Local soils are of the Romney Series, typically coarse silty gleyic brown calcareous alluvial soils (Robson 1990, 26). These soils are developed on young marine alluvium which in turn seals a solid geology of Jurassic Oxford Clay (BGS 1992).

2.4 Archaeological Setting

Surfleet lies in an area of known remains dating from the Romano-British period to the present day. Quantities of Romano-British pottery are known from the parish although associated settlement has yet to be discovered.

Surfleet is first mentioned in the Domesday Survey of c. 1086. Referred to as *Suerefelt* the name is derived from the Old English $s\bar{u}r$ and $fl\bar{e}ot$ meaning 'the sour inlet or creek' (Cameron 1998, 120). At the time of Domesday the land was held by Heppo the Arblaster and contained two salt-pans (Foster and Longley 1976).

The only extant remains of the medieval period is the church of St. Laurence of

which the west tower dates to the 14^{th} century and the remaining portions dated to the $14^{th} - 15^{th}$ centuries (Pevsner and Harris 1989, 729).

Park Lane runs along the crest of a seabank which is thought to mark the limit of reclamation by 1300 (BGS 1992). Adjacent to the site lies the modern crossing over the Glen which may replace a bridge named *Surflete Brigge* first mentioned in 1320 (Wheeler 1896, 450).

The 1st edition 6" Ordnance Survey plan of 1890 indicates that the site was occupied by buildings.

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, to determine their date, function and origin.

4. METHODS

Foundation trenches were excavated by machine to depths required by the development. The trenches exceeded the 1.2m safe working depth so observations were made from the ground surface. Each deposit encountered 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 but due to the film snapping in the camera, no photographs survived. Sections were drawn at a scale of 1:10. Recording was undertaken according standard Archaeological Project Services' practice.

Following excavation the 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 three phases were identified;

Phase 1	Alluvial 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 Alluvial deposits

The earliest deposit encountered was a layer of greyish blue silty clay (005) varying to clayey silt (010). Overlying the silty clay was a deposit of greyish brown sandy silt (004) which was also evident to the east (019).

Phase 2 Post-medieval deposits

Cutting natural sand silts was a former cess-pit (018), observed in section only. This was 0.7m wide by 0.48m deep (Fig. 4, Section 3). The cut had been lined with lime mortar (017) and backfilled with brown organic sandy silt (016). Capping the cess-pit was a further deposit of lime mortar (015).

Above the cess-pit was a dumped deposit of brown and yellow sand (014) which was also identified further to the west (003).

Above (014) was a 20mm thick layer of clinker and sand (013) interpreted as the remnant of a path. Sealing the path and also evident to the west was a demolition layer of grey ashy sand and brick rubble (002 and 012).

Overlying natural deposits within the southern foundation trenches was a series of dumped deposits (Fig. 4, Section 2). These began with reddish brown sandy silt with brick fragments and charcoal (009), then bluish grey sandy silt (008) and

finally, a layer of brownish yellow sand with brick rubble and gravel (007).

Phase 3 Recent deposits

Sealing all archaeological layers was a topsoil comprising brown sandy silt (002, 006 and 011) which ranged from 0.2m to 0.4m thick.

6. DISCUSSION

Alluvial deposits (Phase 1) comprise silty clays, clayey silts and sandy silts and are derived from either marine or freshwater deposition.

Post-medieval deposits (Phase 2) comprise a cess pit, demolition layers, a path and a number of dumped deposits. Apart from the dumped layers, the remaining deposits are likely to be associated with buildings that formerly stood on the site in the 19th century. The dumped deposits may represent an attempt to raise the ground surface above the level of the River Glen.

No finds were retrieved during this investigation and post-medieval deposits are thus dated by association with the available map evidence.

7. CONCLUSION

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken at Park Lane, Surfleet, as the site lay close to a medieval sea-bank and the site of a medieval bridge.

However, no medieval deposits were identified. Alluvial deposits were recorded which lay beneath a cess pit, a path and demolition deposits which are likely to be associated with former buildings at the site. A number of dumped deposits to raise the ground level were also identified. No finds were recovered during the investigation.

8. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeological Project Services wish to acknowledge the assistance of Mr D. Neville of Brian Harding Construction Limited for commissioning the fieldwork and post-excavation analysis. The work was coordinated by Denise Drury and this report was edited by Gary Taylor and Tom Lane. Dave Start kindly permitted access to the parish files and library maintained by Heritage Lincolnshire.

9. PERSONNEL

Project Coordinator: Denise Drury Site Supervisor: Mary Nugent Photographic reproduction: Sue Unsworth Illustration: Paul Cope-Faulkner Post-excavation analysis: Paul Cope-Faulkner

10. BIBLIOGRAPHY

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Wheeler, W.H., 1896, A History of the Fens of South Lincolnshire (reprint 1990)

11. ABBREVIATIONS

APS Archaeological Project Services

BGS British Geological Survey

IFA Institute of Field Archaeologists

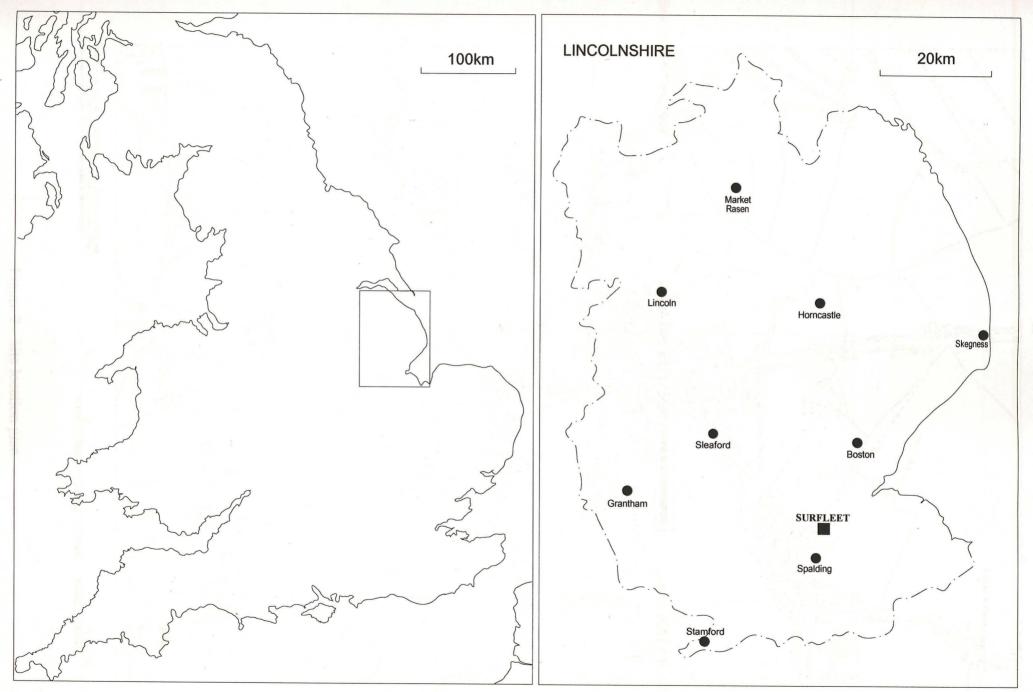


Figure 1 - General location plan

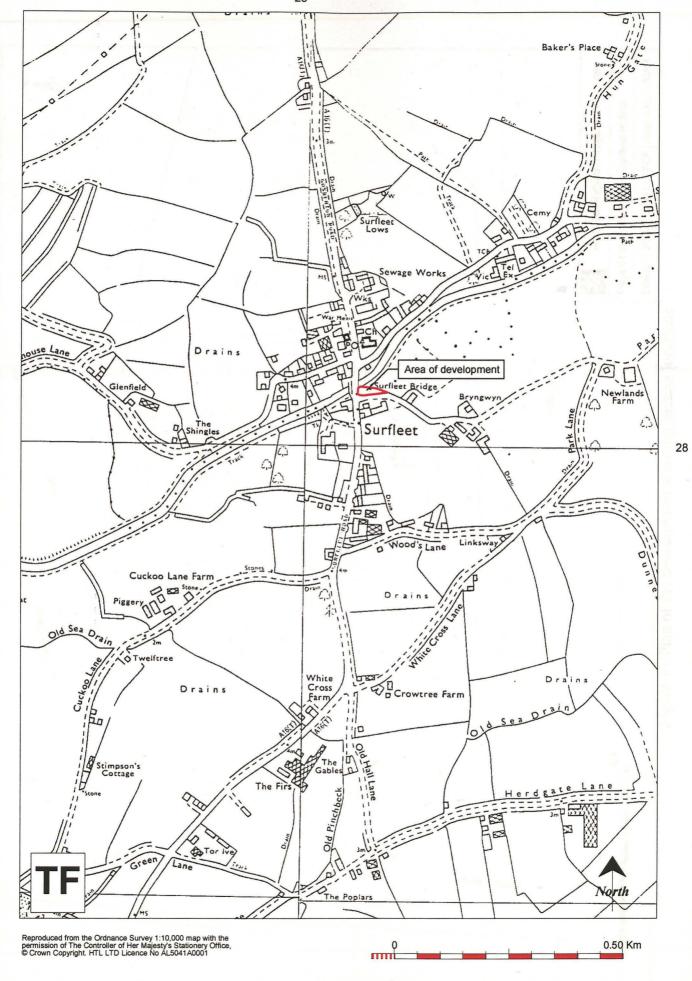


Figure 2 - Site location plan

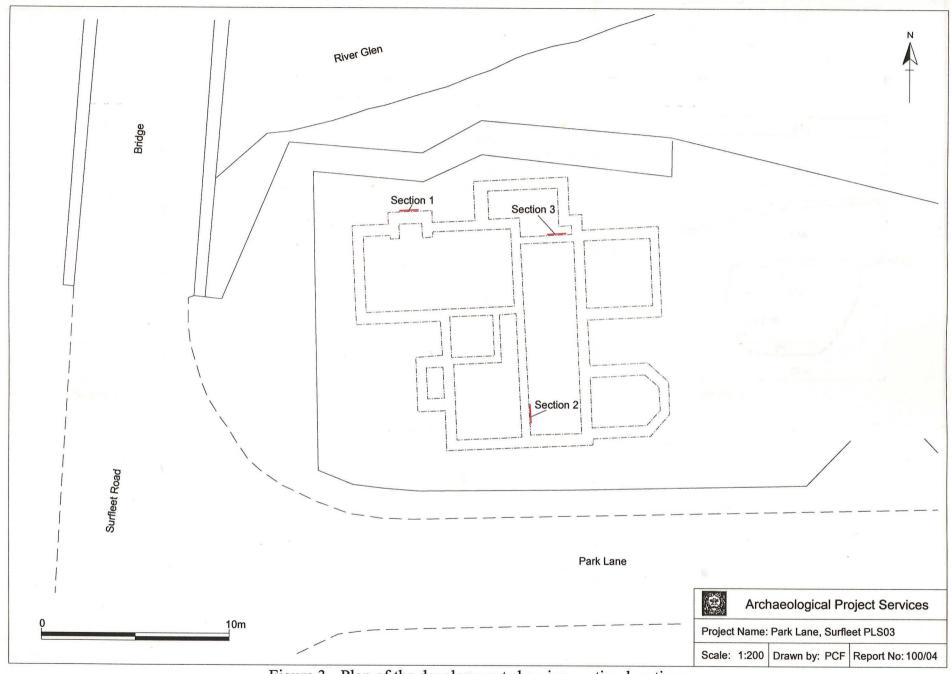


Figure 3 - Plan of the development showing section locations

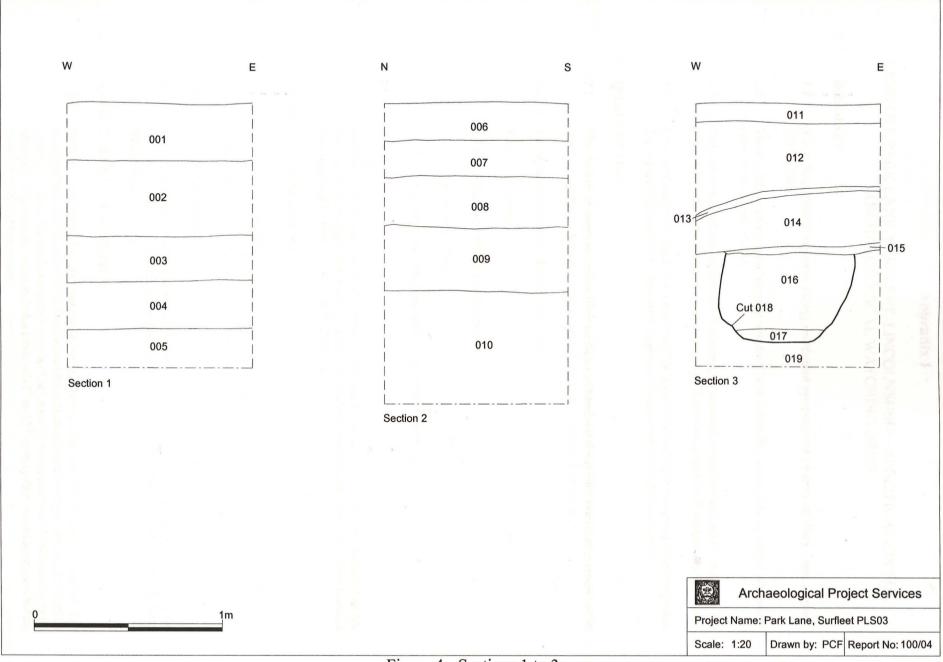


Figure 4 - Sections 1 to 3

LAND OFF PARK LANE, SURFLEET, LINCOLNSHIRE - SPECIFICATION FOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

1 SUMMARY

- 1.1 A watching brief is required during residential development on land off Park Lane, Surfleet, Lincolnshire.
- 1.2 The site lies in an archaeologically sensitive area within the core of the medieval settlement, 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 Park Lane, Surfleet, 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 Surfleet is located 6km north of Spalding in the South Holland district of Lincolnshire. The site lies close to the village church, on the north side of Park Lane and to the east of Surfleet Road, at National Grid Reference TF 2514 2812 (Fig 1).

4 PLANNING BACKGROUND

4.1 A planning application (H17/0379/01) was submitted to South Holland Council for residential development. Permission is subject to a condition requiring the implementation of an archaeological watching brief during groundworks.

5 SOILS AND TOPOGRAPHY

5.1 The site lies on the south bank and immediately adjacent to the River Glen at approximately 4m OD. Local soils are Wisbech Association silty calcareous soils, developed on marine alluvium (Hodge *et al.* 1984, 361).

6 ARCHAEOLOGICAL OVERVIEW

6.1 Surfleet is mentioned in the Domesday Survey (1086) when two salt-pans were recorded. The coastline was once much closer to Surfleet and the settlement itself developed around the formerly tidal River Glen. The medieval parish church of St Laurence lies approximately 100m to the north of the site. The church, which includes fabric of 11th to 12th century date, would have provided the focus of medieval habitation.

6.2 The groundworks may disturb or reveal evidence of the medieval and later development of the settlement.

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:
 - 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

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 Senior Built Environment Officer, Lincolnshire County Council; South Holland District 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

Curatorial responsibility for the archaeological work undertaken on the site lies with the Senior Built Environment Officer, Lincolnshire County Council. 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

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> 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**

- 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.
- 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**

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, 20/11/2003

CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

No.	Description	Interpretation
001	Soft dark brown sandy silt, 0.4m thick	Topsoil
002	Firm light grey ashy sand and brick rubble, 0.44m thick	Demolition deposit
003	Soft mid brown and yellow sand, 0.48m thick	Dumped deposit
004	Soft mid greyish brown sandy silt	Alluvial deposit
005	Firm mid greyish blue silty clay, >0.2m thick	Alluvial deposit
006	Soft dark brown sandy silt, 0.2m thick	Topsoil
007	Firm mid brownish yellow sand with brick rubble and gravel, 0.2m thick	Dumped deposit
800	Soft dark bluish grey sandy silt, 0.25m thick	Dumped deposit
009	Soft mid reddish brown sandy silt with brick fragments and charcoal, 0.35m thick	Dumped deposit
010	Firm dark greyish blue clayey silt	Alluvial deposit
011	Soft dark brown sandy silt, 100mm thick	Topsoil
012	Firm light grey ashy sand and brick rubble, 0.5m thick	Demolition deposit
013	Loose dark grey clinker and sand, 20mm thick	Path
014	Soft mid brown and yellow sand	Dumped deposit
015	Loose light yellowish white lime mortar	Capping to (018)
016	Loose dark brown organic sandy silt	Fill of (018)
017	Loose light yellowish white lime mortar	Lining to (018)
018	Feature, 0.7m wide by 0.48m deep, steep sides and flat base	Cesspit
019	Soft mid greyish brown sandy silt	Alluvial deposit

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, *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.

Dumped deposits

These are deposits, often laid down intentionally, that raise a land surface. They may be the result of casual waste disposal or may be deliberate attempts to raise the ground surface.

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.

Post-medieval

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

Romano-British

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

THE ARCHIVE

The archive consists of:

19 Context records

4 Sheets of scale drawings

1 Photographic record 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 Museum Accession Number:

2003.380

Archaeological Project Services Site Code:

PLS 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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