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ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF
AT 24 PETERBOROUGH ROAD,
LANGTOFT, (Skest)
LINCOLNSHIRE
(LPR 03)



A P S
ARCHAEOLOGICAL
PROJECT
SERVICES

EVENT L15570

INTERVENTION L19725

EXCAVATION L19726

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**ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF
AT 24 PETERBOROUGH ROAD,
LANGTOFT, (Skest)
LINCOLNSHIRE
(LPR 03)**

**Work Undertaken For
Morspace Loft Conversions**

November 2004

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

Planning Application No: S02/0518/50 ←
National Grid Reference: TF 1248 1228
City and County Museum Accession No: 2003.65

ARCHAEOLOGICAL PROJECT SERVICES



APS Report No. 159/04



Quality Control
24 Peterborough Road,
Langtoft
LPR 03

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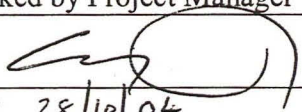
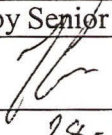
Checked by Project Manager	Approved by Senior Archaeologist
 Gary Taylor	 Tom Lane
Date: 28/10/04	Date: 28-10-04

Table of Contents

List of Figures

List of Plates

1.	SUMMARY	1
2.	INTRODUCTION.....	1
2.1	DEFINITION OF A WATCHING BRIEF.....	1
2.2	PLANNING BACKGROUND.....	1
2.3	TOPOGRAPHY AND GEOLOGY	1
2.4	ARCHAEOLOGICAL SETTING	1
3.	AIMS	2
4.	METHODS	2
5.	RESULTS	2
6.	DISCUSSION	2
7.	CONCLUSION	3
8.	ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	3
9.	PERSONNEL	3
10.	BIBLIOGRAPHY	3
11.	ABBREVIATIONS.....	3

Appendices

1. Specification for archaeological watching brief
2. Context descriptions
3. Glossary
4. The Archive

List of Figures

- Figure 1 General location plan
- Figure 2 Site location plan
- Figure 3 Plan of the development showing section locations
- Figure 4 Section 1 to 3

List of Plates

- Plate 1 View looking across the development area
- Plate 2 Section 1
- Plate 3 Section 3

1. SUMMARY

A watching brief was undertaken during groundworks at 24 Peterborough Road, Langtoft, Lincolnshire. The watching brief monitored the excavation of foundation trenches for two detached houses.

A Bronze Age (2200-800 BC) ring ditch has been identified to the west of the site, close to an area where excavation revealed Iron Age (800 BC-AD 42) enclosures and roundhouses. Romano-British (AD 42-410) activity is well attested to with numerous finds of pottery and coins from around the village. The site lies to the south of the medieval (AD 1066-1540) village which is centred on the 12th – 13th century church of St. Michael.

The watching brief revealed a sequence of natural sands and gravels upon which subsoil and topsoil had developed. Archaeological features and artefacts were absent.

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 Morspace Loft Conversions to undertake an archaeological watching brief during groundworks associated with residential development at 24 Peterborough Road, Langtoft, Lincolnshire. Approval for the

development was sought through the submission of planning application S02/0518/50. The watching brief was carried out between the 17th February 2003 and 25th February 2004 in accordance with a specification prepared by Archaeological Project Services (Appendix 1) and approved by the South Kesteven Planning Archaeologist.

2.3 Topography and Geology

Langtoft is located 11km northeast of Stamford and 16km southwest of Spalding in the administrative district of South Kesteven, Lincolnshire (Fig. 1).

The site is located 290m south of the village centre as defined by the parish church of St. Michael at National Grid Reference TF 1248 1228 (Fig. 2). The site lies at a height of c. 6m OD on land that slopes gently down eastwards towards the fens of south Lincolnshire.

Local soils are of the Badsey 2 Association, typically calcareous fine loamy soils (Hodge *et al.* 1984, 101). These soils are developed on sands and gravels of the 1st River Terrace that seals a solid geology of Jurassic Oxford Clay (BGS 1984).

2.4 Archaeological Setting

Langtoft lies in an area of known archaeological remains dating from the Bronze Age to the present day. A cropmark of a ring ditch, perhaps a Bronze Age barrow, has been identified west of the site. Cropmarks plotted for an adjacent site identified a ditch-like feature aligned directly on the development site, stopping on its western boundary (Challands 1984, Fig. 1).

Excavations undertaken close to the centre of the village, immediately northwest of the site, revealed Iron Age enclosures and two roundhouses with a further building, possibly a granary, also identified (JSAC

2000, 28).

The above excavations also identified evidence for Romano-British occupation in the village, principally associated with agricultural activity, possibly vine growing (*ibid.* 29). Around the village, pottery and coins of this period have also been recorded.

Langtoft is first mentioned in the Domesday Survey of c. 1086. Referred to as *Langetoft*, the name is derived from the Old Norse *langr* and the Old Danish *toft* and means 'the long messuage' (Cameron 1998, 77). At the time of Domesday the land was held by Crowland Abbey and contained 100 acres of meadow, marsh two leagues in length by two wide and woodland (Foster and Longley 1976).

The only extant remains of the medieval period is the parish church of St. Michael which was built in the late 12th or early 13th century with later additions (Pevsner and Harris 1989, 424). Earthworks of ridge and furrow of the medieval field system were visible on aerial photographs taken during the mid 20th century.

3. AIMS

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

4. METHODS

Prior to the excavation of foundation trenches, turf was stripped from the footprint of each building and topsoil from the route of the access road. Foundation trenches were then excavated by machine to depths required by the development, generally no more than 0.7m below the ground level. The sides of the trenches were then cleaned and rendered vertical.

Selected deposits were excavated further 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. Recording was undertaken according to standard Archaeological Project Services' practice.

Following excavation finds 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

Archaeological contexts are listed below and described. The numbers in brackets are the context numbers assigned in the field.

The earliest deposit encountered in the base of the foundation trenches and along the access road was a layer of brownish yellow sand and gravel (003) that measured over 90mm thick.

Developed upon the natural gravel was a subsoil comprising yellowish brown sandy silt with gravel (002 and 004). This measured 0.3m thick (Fig. 4).

Sealing the subsoil was a 0.3m thick topsoil of sandy silt (001) that contained gravel and limestone fragments.

6. DISCUSSION

Natural sand and gravel can be identified as the underlying drift geology of 1st River Terrace deposits. Subsoil, perhaps of an agricultural origin, and topsoil had then developed upon this.

No archaeological features were identified during the watching brief. As natural was only just reached in places, it is possible that these may survive at depth. No artefacts were recovered.

7. CONCLUSION

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken at Peterborough Road, Langtoft, as the site lay in close proximity to previously identified prehistoric and Romano-British remains.

However, only a sequence of natural, subsoil and topsoil deposits were identified with no archaeological features recorded or finds collected.

8. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeological Project Services wish to acknowledge the assistance of Mr S. Fox of Morspace Loft Conversions for commissioning the fieldwork and post-excavation analysis. Steve Malone coordinated the work and Gary Taylor and Tom Lane edited this report. Jenny Young, the South Kesteven Planning Archaeologist, kindly permitted examination of the parish files and library maintained by Heritage Lincolnshire.

9. PERSONNEL

Project Coordinator: Steve Malone
 Site Supervisors: Aaron Clements, Chris Moulis
 Photographic reproduction: Sue Unsworth
 Illustration: Paul Cope-Faulkner
 Post-excavation analysis: Paul Cope-Faulkner

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11. ABBREVIATIONS

APS Archaeological Project Services
 BGS British Geological Survey
 IFA Institute of Field Archaeologists
 JSAC John Samuels Archaeological Consultants

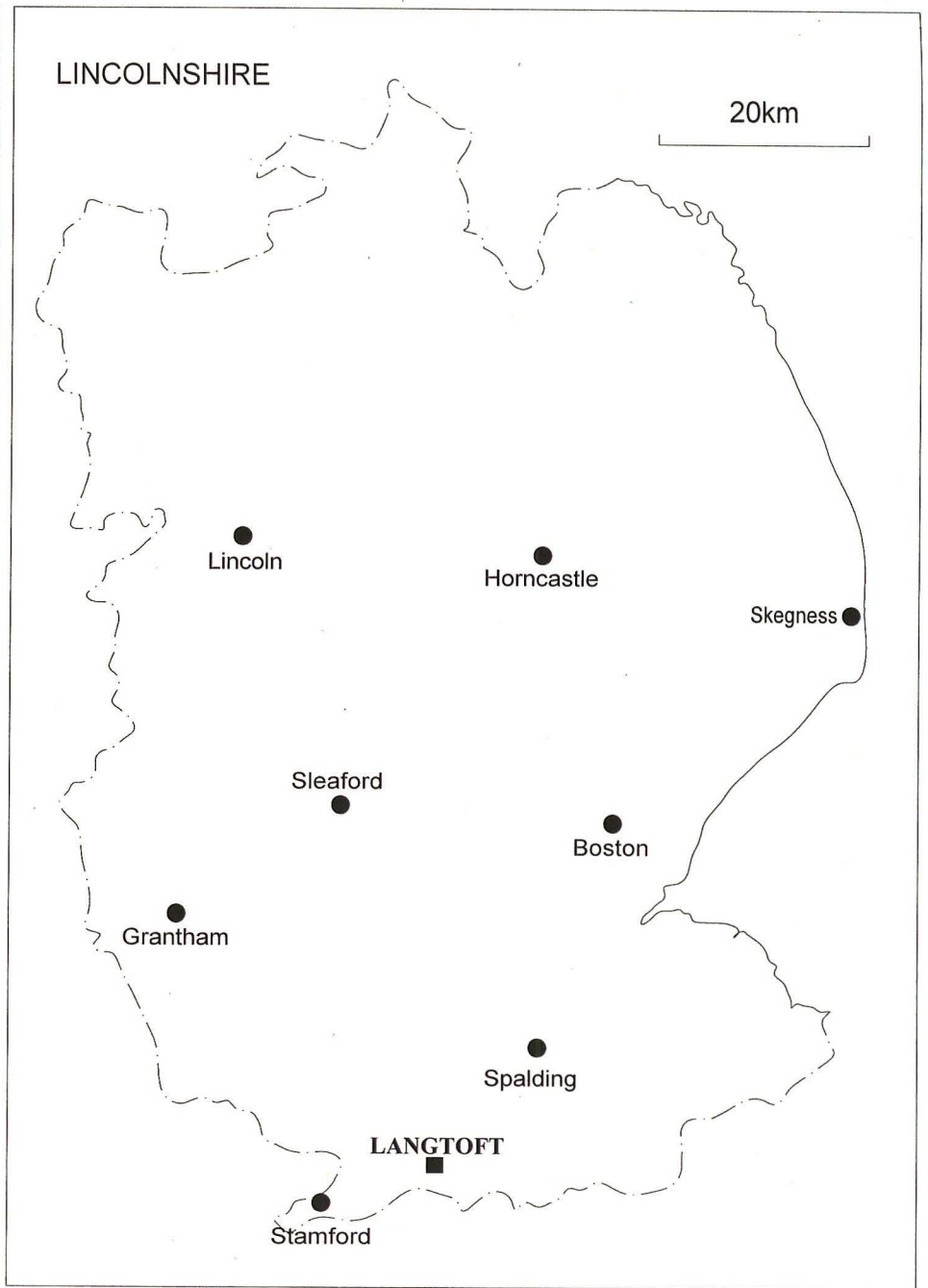


Figure 1 - General Location Plan



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Figure 2 - Site location plan

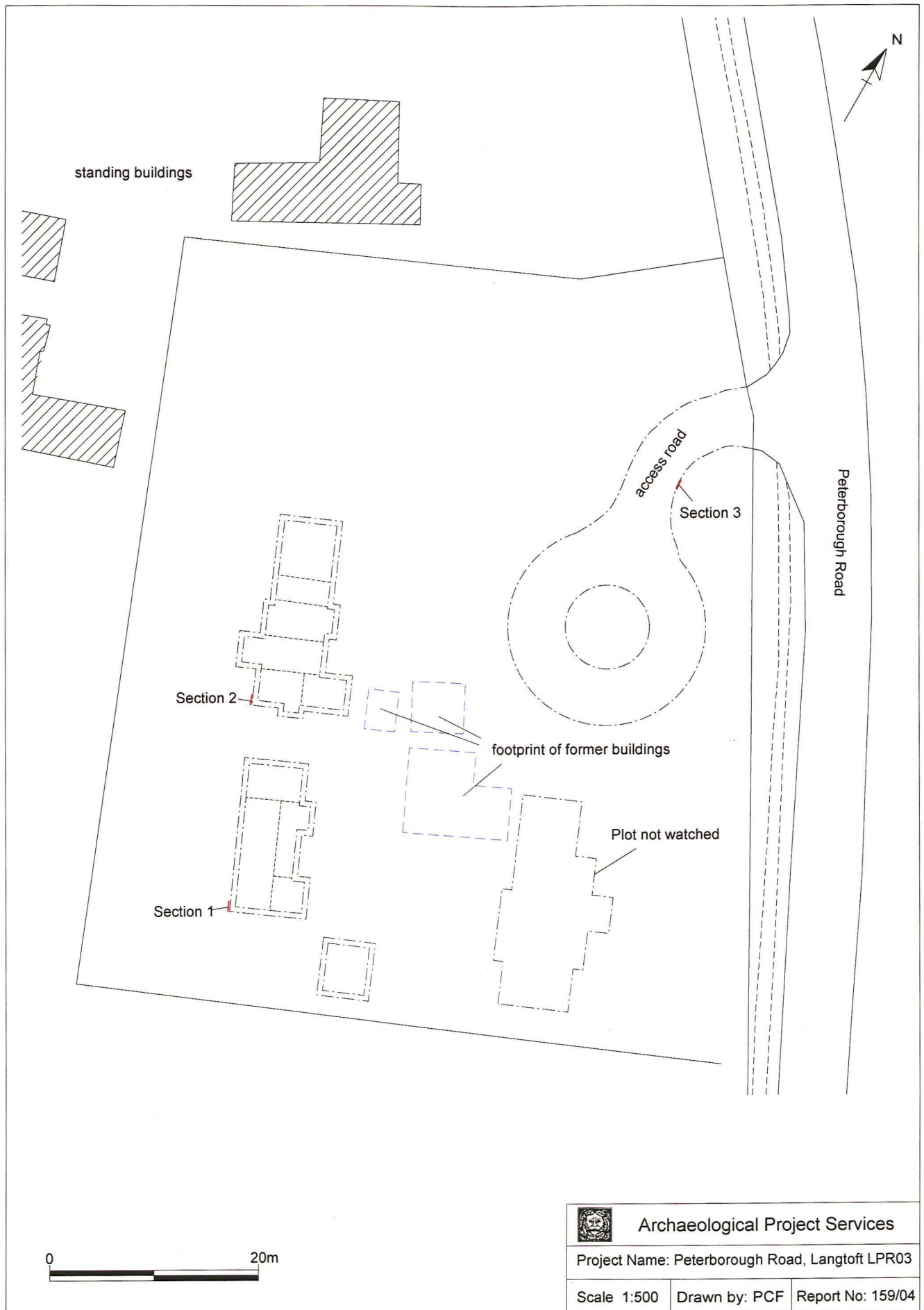
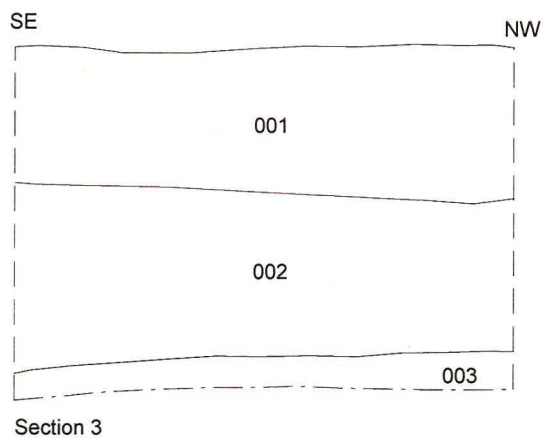
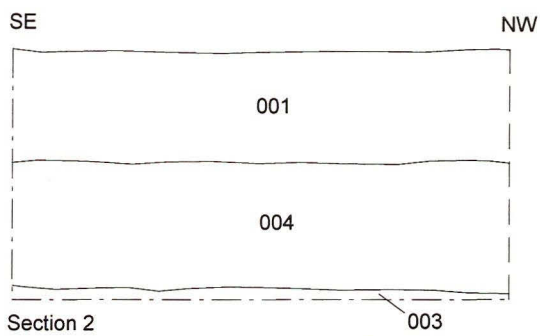
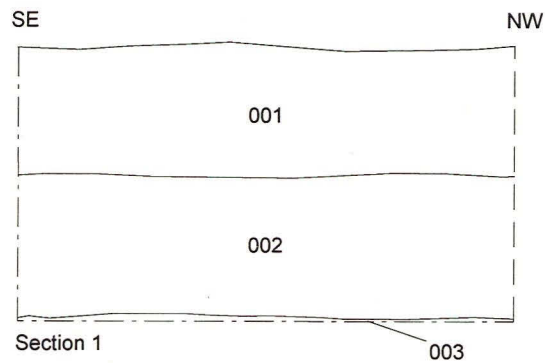


Figure 3 - Plan of the development showing section locations




 Archaeological Project Services		
Project Name: Peterborough Road, Langtoft LPR03		
Scale 1:15	Drawn by: PCF	Report No: 159/04

Figure 4 - Sections 1 to 3



Plate 1 - View across the development area, looking north



Plate 2 - Section 1, looking southwest



Plate 3 - Section 3, looking southeast

Appendix 1

LAND AT 24 PETERBOROUGH ROAD, LANGTOFT, LINCOLNSHIRE - SPECIFICATION FOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

1 SUMMARY

- 1.1 *A watching brief is required during residential development on land at 24 Peterborough Road, Langtoft, Lincolnshire.*
- 1.2 *The area is archaeologically sensitive, lying in an area of considerable archaeological interest and potential. Iron Age and Romano-British remains were recovered on an immediately adjacent site.*
- 1.3 *The archaeological work will consist of a watching brief during development works on the site.*
- 1.4 *On completion of the fieldwork a report will be prepared detailing the results of the watching brief. The report will consist of a narrative supported by illustrations and photographs.*

2 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 This document comprises a specification for archaeological watching brief during residential development on land at 24 Peterborough Road, Langtoft, Lincolnshire. The site is located at National Grid Reference TF 1248 1230.
- 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 Langtoft is located 2km north of Market Deeping on the Lincolnshire fen edge in the South Kesteven District of the county. The site lies on the south side of the village on the west side of Peterborough Road, centred on National Grid Reference TF 1248 1228.

4 PLANNING BACKGROUND

- 4.1 A planning application (S02/0518/50) was submitted to South Kesteven District Council for the construction of three houses with garages. An earlier recommendation for archaeological evaluation has been varied in the light of alterations to the proposed foundation design. Permission is subject to a condition requiring the undertaking of a watching-brief during groundworks associated with the development.

5 SOILS AND TOPOGRAPHY

- 5.1 The site lies at c. 6m OD on level ground. Local soils are calcareous fine loamy soils of the Badsey 2 Association developed on limestone gravel (Hodge *et al.* 1984, 101).

6 ARCHAEOLOGICAL OVERVIEW

- 6.1 Langtoft lies in an area rich in evidence for past settlement and land-use from the prehistoric period onwards. Work on an adjacent site, immediately to the north and west, identified a multi-

phased Iron Age/Romano-British site. It is considered highly likely that the site extends into the proposed development area and that any archaeological remains uncovered might have the potential to provide further information on the phasing and function of the site as a whole.

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.
- Throughout the watching brief a photographic record will be compiled. The photographic record will consist of:
 - the site during work to show specific stages, and the layout of the archaeology within the trench.
 - groups of features where their relationship is important
- 8.2.4 Should human remains be located the appropriate Home Office licence will be obtained before their removal. In addition, the Local Environmental Health Department and the police will be informed.

9 POST-EXCAVATION

9.1 Stage 1

- 9.1.1 On completion of site operations, the records and schedules produced during the watching brief will be checked and ordered to ensure that they form a uniform sequence forming a level II archive. A stratigraphic matrix of the archaeological deposits and features present on the site will be prepared. All photographic material will be catalogued and labelled, the labelling referring to schedules identifying the subject/s photographed.
- 9.1.2 All finds recovered during the field work will be washed, marked and packaged according to the deposit from which they were recovered. Any finds requiring specialist treatment and conservation will be sent to the Conservation Laboratory at the City and County Museum, Lincoln.

9.2 Stage 2

- 9.2.1 Detailed examination of the stratigraphic matrix to enable the determination of the various phases of activity on the site.
- 9.2.2 Finds will be sent to specialists for identification and dating.

9.3 Stage 3

- 9.3.1 On completion of stage 2, a report detailing the findings of the watching brief will be prepared.
- 9.3.2 This will consist of:
- A non-technical summary of the results of the investigation.
 - A description of the archaeological setting of the watching brief.
 - Description of the topography of the site.
 - Description of the methodologies used during the watching brief.
 - A text describing the findings of the watching brief.
 - A consideration of the local, regional and national context of the watching brief findings.
 - Plans of the archaeological features exposed. If a sequence of archaeological deposits is encountered, separate plans for each phase will be produced.
 - Sections of the archaeological features.
 - Interpretation of the archaeological features exposed, and their chronology and setting within the surrounding landscape.
 - Specialist reports on the finds from the site.
 - Appropriate photographs of the site and specific archaeological features.

10 REPORT DEPOSITION

- 10.1 Copies of the investigation report will be sent to: the client, Morspace Loft Conversions; the South Kesteven Community Archaeologist; South Kesteven District Council Planning Department; and the Lincolnshire County 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 as a condensed article 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 as much notice as possible, ideally seven days, in writing before 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.
- 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, APS 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.
- 18.3 In the case of non-satisfactory settlement of account then copyright will remain fully and exclusively with Archaeological Project Services. In these circumstances it will be an infringement under the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988 for the client to pass any report, partial report, or copy of same, to any third party. Reports submitted in good faith by Archaeological Project Services to any Planning Authority or archaeological curator will be removed from said planning Authority and/or archaeological curator. The Planning Authority and/or archaeological curator will be notified by Archaeological Project Services that the use of any such information previously supplied constitutes an infringement under the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988 and may result in legal action.
- 18.4 The author of any report or specialist contribution to a report shall retain intellectual copyright of their work and may make use of their work for educational or research purposes or for further publication.

19 BIBLIOGRAPHY

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Appendix 2

CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

No.	Description	Interpretation
001	Firm dark brown sandy silt with moderate gravel and limestone fragments, 0.3m thick	Topsoil
002	Firm mid yellowish brown sandy silt with gravel, 0.3m thick	Subsoil
003	Firm light brownish yellow sand and gravel, >90mm thick	Natural deposit
004	Firm mid yellowish brown sandy silt with gravel, 0.3m thick	Subsoil

Appendix 3

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, <i>e.g.</i> (004).
Cropmark	A mark that is produced by the effect of underlying archaeological features influencing the growth of a particular crop.
Iron Age	A period characterised by the introduction of Iron into the country for tools, between 800 BC and AD 50.
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 st century AD.
Romano-British	Pertaining to the period dating from AD 43-410 when the Romans occupied Britain.

Appendix 4

THE ARCHIVE

The archive consists of:

4	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: 2003.65

Archaeological Project Services Site Code: LPR 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.

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.