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**ARCHAEOLOGICAL
INTENSIVE WATCHING BRIEF
ON LAND OFF
BOSTON ROAD,
KIRTON
LINCOLNSHIRE
(KBR03)**



A P S
ARCHAEOLOGICAL
PROJECT
SERVICES

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**ARCHAEOLOGICAL
INTENSIVE WATCHING BRIEF
ON LAND OFF
BOSTON ROAD,
KIRTON
LINCOLNSHIRE
(KBR03)**

Work Undertaken For
R K Wilson, Builders

June 2004

Report Compiled by
Aaron Clements BA (Hons) PIFA

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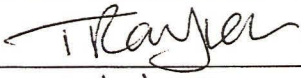
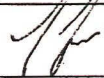
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ARCHAEOLOGICAL PROJECT SERVICES



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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.....	3
4.1	MACHINE EXCAVATION AND RECORDING.....	3
4.2	POST-EXCAVATION.....	3
5.	RESULTS.....	3
5.1	DESCRIPTION OF THE RESULTS.....	3
5.2	PHASE 1: UNDATED DEPOSITS.....	3
5.3	PHASE 2: MEDIEVAL DEPOSITS.....	4
5.4	PHASE 3: POST-MEDIEVAL DEPOSITS.....	4
5.5	PHASE 4: MODERN DEPOSITS.....	5
6.	DISCUSSION.....	5
7.	CONCLUSIONS.....	6
8.	ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS.....	6
9.	BIBLIOGRAPHY.....	7
10.	ABBREVIATIONS.....	7

Appendices

1	Project Specification
2	Context Summary
3	The Finds by <i>Paul Cope-Faulkner, Hilary Healey and Gary Taylor</i>
4	Glossary
5	The Archive

List of Figures

- Figure 1 General location map
- Figure 2 Site location and Archaeological Setting
- Figure 3 Detailed Site Location plan
- Figure 4 Sections 1, 2, 4, 5, 6 and 7
- Figure 5 Section 3

List of Plates

- Plate 1 General view of first footings, looking East
- Plate 2 Section 1, through ditches [009] and [010], looking North
- Plate 3 Section 1, through ditches [010] and [011], looking North
- Plate 4 Section 1, through ditches [013] and [011], looking North
- Plate 5 Section 4, Southern end, looking West
- Plate 6 Section 4, Northern end, looking West
- Plate 7 Section 6, through feature [050], looking North
- Plate 8 Exposed well (003), plot 12, looking East
- Plate 9 General view of concreted footings, looking West

1. SUMMARY

An intensive watching brief was required during housing development on land off Boston Road, Kirton, Lincolnshire as there was a possibility that remains of Saxon and medieval date may be disturbed during the development.

The watching brief uncovered a number of drainage channels of varying sizes and a post-medieval well. Finds from the site are mostly of post-medieval date, though some medieval artefacts were also recovered.

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

A reserved matters application, B/03/0395/RESM, was submitted to Boston Borough Council for the construction of 12 houses. An outline planning application, B/02/0283/OUTL, had previously been submitted and an archaeological scheme of works in the form of an intensive watching brief was requested.

Archaeological Project Services was commissioned by R K Wilson, Builders, to undertake the archaeological investigations of the site, (Figure 3), in accordance with the requirements of the local planning authority. A specification prepared by APS

(Appendix 1) was approved by the Boston Borough Community Archaeologist. The work was undertaken between the 8th and 11th September 2003.

2.3 Topography and Geology

Kirton is situated 4km southwest of Boston, in the administrative Borough of Boston, within the Fenland of South Lincolnshire (Fig 1). The area of investigation lies to the north of the village centre, as defined by the church of St Peter and St Paul, off Boston Road, at National Grid Reference TF 3070 3860. The site is approximately square shape and has recently been used as a builders yard.

The site and surrounding area gently slopes down to the west at c. 4m OD. Soils at the site are typical alluvial gleys of the Tanvats Association developed on marine alluvium (Hodge *et al.* 1984, 319). Beneath this alluvium is glacial drift that was deposited in a geological basin between the Lincolnshire Wolds and the East Anglian Heights.

2.4 Archaeological Setting

There is little evidence for archaeological remains of prehistoric date in the area and deposits from the earlier part of this period are likely to be deeply buried beneath silts and peats deposited during alternating phases of freshwater and marine flooding in the fen basin.

Evidence of Romano-British activity is also scarce, but is represented by finds of this period from along Willoughton Road, on the northwest edge of the village. This spread of artefacts may represent the location of a settlement site.

Although the early origins of the village are not fully understood, a number of investigations around the village have

identified dispersed archaeological remains of the Late Saxon period. An evaluation of land at Station Road revealed a group of Late Saxon/early medieval ditches and postholes, probably representing a peripheral agricultural settlement on newly drained fens (Snee 2001a). Further investigation at Station Road revealed several penannular ring gullies, dating to the 9th – 10th Century, along with a number of ditches, pits and post holes of an early medieval date (Hall 2002). Saxo-Norman/early medieval ditches and pits associated with dumps of domestic refuse have been revealed to the southwest (Snee 2001b, Thomson 2001). To the east of the site investigations revealed a group of Late Saxon features including the remains of a hearth.

Medieval use of the area is well attested. Kirton village was the administrative centre of Kirton Wapentake at the time of the Domesday Survey of c. 1086 (Morris 1986). The village name is recorded as *Chirchetune* and is derived from the Old English words 'cirice' (church) and 'tun' (village), although at some point between 1096 and 1155-56 'cirice' was replaced by the Old Norse 'kirkja' (Cameron 1998).

The church of SS Peter and Paul (BD 14/043) lies in the centre of the village, and was originally built in the 12th century although it was substantially altered and reduced in size in the early 19th century. Located outside the village were three sizable houses of medieval date, Bozon Hall (14/018), Littlebury Hall (14/002) and Orme Hall (14/019), all now demolished. Medieval and later pottery and coins associated with Orme Hall have been recovered at the northwestern edge of the town (14/020, 021, 022 & 024) and a watching brief in the area (14/044) recorded a medieval ditch and finds of medieval pottery (Cope-Faulkner 1994).

To the west of the village, a number of medieval and post-medieval finds have been reported (14/041 & 14/034). Finds of medieval pottery have also been recorded on the east and southwest outskirts of the village (14/023 and 14/025, 027, 028 & 029).

A number of investigations have been carried out in the centre of Kirton village. These have revealed a sequence of deposits from the Late Saxon period to the modern day at High Street (14/050) (Cope-Faulkner 1996) and evidence of medieval activity on Station Road (14/045) (Taylor 1994). On both of these sites the medieval and earlier deposits were sealed below a layer of alluvium. Similarly undated archaeological activity was covered by alluvium on Willington Road (14/051), near the village centre (Hamblay 2000).

French and German jettons (counting pieces or tokens) of 15th and 16th century date have been found in the centre of the town (Cope-Faulkner 1994). Also in the town centre, close to the church, is the Old King's Head Inn (14/042) of early 16th century date (Pevsner & Harris 1989). Figure 2 shows the location of each site within the town as identified in the Lincolnshire SMR.

3. AIMS

The aims of the watching brief were:

- To record and interpret the archaeological features exposed during the excavation of the foundation trenches and other areas of ground disturbance.

The objectives of the watching brief were to:

- Determine the form and function of the archaeological features encountered.

- Determine the spatial arrangement of the archaeological features encountered.
- As far as practicable, recover dating evidence from the archaeological features.
- Establish the sequence of the archaeological remains present on the site.

4. METHODS

4.1 Machine excavation and Recording

Following demolition of existing buildings on the site, excavation was conducted using a mechanical excavator and a 0.75m wide toothless ditching bucket. All ground works associated with the site were conducted under archaeological supervision.

The watching brief was undertaken during the ground works phase of development, and included the archaeological monitoring of all phases of soil movement. Houses on both the London Road and Green Lane frontages were subject to an intensive watching brief. House plots not on the road frontages were subject to an intermittent watching brief. In areas where an intensive watching brief was required provision was made to pause groundworks to record and investigate the archaeology encountered.

Throughout the watching brief a photographic record was compiled. The photographic record consists of:

- The site during work to show specific stages, eg Plates 1 and 9,

and the layout of the archaeology within the trench, eg Plates 2 - 8.

- Groups of features where their relationship is important

Each deposit and feature exposed during the investigation was allocated a unique reference number (context number) with an individual written description. A photographic record was compiled. Sections were drawn at a scale of 1:10 and plans at a scale of 1:20. Recording of deposits encountered was undertaken according to standard Archaeological Project Services' practice.

4.2 Post-excavation

Following excavation, all records were checked and ordered to ensure that they constituted a complete Level II archive and a stratigraphic matrix of all identified deposits was produced. Artefacts recovered from the site were examined and a period date assigned (Appendix 3). A list of all contexts and interpretations appears as Appendix 2. Context numbers are identified in the text by brackets. Phasing was based on artefact dating and the nature of the deposits and recognisable relationships between them.

5. RESULTS

5.1 Description of the results

Four phases were identified:

- Phase 1: Undated deposits
- Phase 2: Medieval deposits
- Phase 3: Post-medieval deposits
- Phase 4: Modern deposits

5.2 Phase 1: Undated deposits

The earliest phase of deposition on this site is made up of silt deposits. (033) is a firm

light grey silt, [Section 3, Figure 5] while (037) is a firm mid brown silt, containing lenses (038) and (045), each a light yellow sand, [Figure 4, Section 4, Plates 5 and 6]. These lenses appear to be of natural formation. In addition, layer (015) shows the remains of a heavily disturbed layer of light grey sand, and (014) is a heavily disturbed layer of light brownish yellow silty sand [Figure 4, Section 1; Plates 2, 3 and 4].

5.3 Phase 2: Medieval deposits

The deposit (019) is a layer of light yellowish-brown sandy silt. This material was exposed to a thickness of 0.60m, lying up to 0.60m below current ground surface (Figure 4, Sections 5 and 7). Artefact evidence dates this deposit to between 13th and 16th century (see Appendix 3). [Figure 4, Section 1 and 2, Plates 3 and 4].

5.4 Phase 3: Post-medieval deposits

[039] is a drainage channel located on the west side of the site, approximately 0.40m beneath current ground surface. [Figure 4, Section 4, Plate 5]. The channel is 1.10m wide (north - south), 0.50m deep and filled by contexts (043), a loose light yellow sandy silt, (042), loose light grey ash and silt with charcoal inclusions, (041), firm mid brown silt with moderate gravel inclusions and (040), firm mid yellowish-brown silt with moderate gravel inclusions. Fill number (042) contained a piece of clay pipe stem dating to the 17th century (Appendix 3). This feature was sealed by layer (018), firm mid brown silt with moderate flecks and fragments of cbm.

Figure 4, Section 1, and Plates 2, 3 and 4, show a number of ditch features. The eastern most of these, [013], lies approximately 0.35m below current ground surface. It is cut sharply at the top, with gradually sloping sides becoming steeper into the feature. The cut, measuring

6.50m wide (east - west) by 1.00m deep is filled by (012), a light grey and yellowish-brown silty sand containing earthenware pottery dated 17th - 18th century. To the west of [013] is cut [009], which is a ditch, aligned north - south, and measuring 4.75m wide (east - west) by 1.25m deep, (Figure 4, Section 1, Plate 2). This feature has been filled by deposits (008), a firm light yellowish-brown sandy silt, (007), a firm dark yellowish brown sandy silt and (006), a firm mid yellowish brown sandy silt containing Staffordshire mottled ware dated to the 18th century. [009] and [013] have been truncated by linear feature [010], measuring 2.90m wide (east - west) cut gradually at the top, with steeply sloping sides. Filling [010] is deposit (005), a firm dark yellowish brown sandy silt with occasional concrete and charcoal inclusions and containing red painted black glazed earthenware dated 17th - 18th century.

On the north side of the southern range of footings (Figure 5, Section 3) there is a sequence of re-cut ditches. The earliest cut is [031], 8.00m wide (east - west) by 2.20m deep, with moderately sloping sides to a gradual break into a concave base. The feature is aligned northwest - southeast, and is filled by contexts (032), a moderately firm dark grey silt, (030), a loose mid brown silt with cbm inclusions and containing pottery artefacts dating to the 19th century, and (021), a moderately firm mid brown silt with flecks of cbm included. This feature is approximately 0.40m below current ground surface. A second cut, [023], 1.30m deep by 1.90m wide (east - west) was also identified. It is cut sharply at the top, with moderately sloping sides to a gradual break into a concave base. The feature is aligned northwest - southeast, and is filled by (029), a moderately firm light grey silt with inclusions of small stones, (036), firm mid brown silt also containing occasional small stones, and (022), moderately firm

friable light yellow sandy silt with occasional cbm inclusions, and containing pottery artefacts dating to the 19th century. A further possible re-cut, [028], 4.30m wide (east – west) and 2.00m deep, is cut gradually at the top, with moderately sloping sides and a gradual break into a concave base. It is filled by (027), a loose mid greyish brown silt with moderate amounts of cbm and gravel included, and containing pottery artefacts dating to the late 18th to early 19th century. [028] is also filled by (026), a firm mid brown silt with occasional small stones, gravel and cbm inclusions. This feature is also aligned Northwest-Southeast. This final re-cut is further truncated by an undated feature, [025], which appears to be a posthole, filled with as firm dark grey silt (024).

A further sequence of activity on this site relates to a brick lined well, cut [016], structural fill (003) [Figure 4, Section 1, Plates 3 and 4. Also Plate 8]. The construction cut [016] is circular, diameter 1.00m, excavated to 0.55m deep. The brick structure (003) sits within this cut, and is formed of 19th or 20th century red bricks. This feature is truncated by [011], a shallow, sharply cut feature with a flat base. This is filled by a firm light yellowish brown sandy silt (002). While these features do not provide dating evidence, [011] clearly truncates (004), a layer of firm dark yellowish brown sandy silt with occasional concrete rubble inclusions, overlying feature [010].

5.5 Phase 4: Modern deposits

Covering much of the site are layers of modern demolition material. The earliest of these deposits is (018) [Figure 4, Sections 2, 5, 6 and 7], a moderately firm mid brown silt with moderate flecks and fragments of cbm included. This layer is cut by a series of drainage channels. [046] is a linear feature 0.50m wide (north – south), cut sharply with vertical sides and a

flat base. It has been filled initially by (047), a moderately firm dark grey silt with cbm and gravel inclusions. Similarly, [050], (Figure 4, Section 6, Plate 7), is a linear feature 1.80m wide (east – west), sharply cut with steeply sloping sides to a flat base. The earliest fill of this channel is (049), a loose dark grey silt with moderate cbm and glass inclusions. Channel [044], 0.50m wide (north – south) and 0.50m deep, gradually cut with near vertical sides and a concave base, and channel [048], 1.50m wide (east – west) by 1.10m deep, gradually cut with a vertical east side and steeply sloping west side and a flat base, are both backfilled by the overlying material, (017), (Figure 4, Sections 4 – 7), a loose, friable mid grey brown silt with frequent inclusions of gravel and modern cbm rubble. This layer is the same as (020), and contemporary with layer (001), a firm reddish brown silty sand with cbm inclusions, to the south side of the site.

In addition to this identified material, one piece of bone was retrieved from this site, (051). This proved to be a piece of cattle skull of unknown date (Appendix 3).

6. DISCUSSION

Archaeological investigations off Boston Road, Kirton, Lincolnshire revealed substantial evidence of post-medieval activity. The most significant features identified on this site were a sequence of apparent drainage channels and a well.

The earliest deposits recorded at the site were natural marine silts laid down prior to the 12th century. The earliest dated artefact dates to this time. (Taylor, Appendix 3).

Perhaps the most significant aspect of this site is the use and control of water. The principal sequences of features within the investigation area are made up of series of drainage ditches, dating to between the 17th and 19th centuries ([009], [010], and

[013], [031], [023] and [028]). These features comprise a series of re-cut ditches, probably originating with what seems to have been a sizeable dyke, [031]. These features cut through layers containing artefacts dating to between the 13th and 19th centuries. While the medieval remains included in this material are clearly residual, there can be little doubt they represent activity and occupation either on or close to the investigation site.

Further to these indications for control of excess water, almost certainly for agricultural purposes, there is evidence of further use of this land as a source of water. The well, (003), suggests occupation of the site, apparently during the 18th to 19th century. The construction of the well, [016], clearly disturbs features positively dated to the 18th century, and suggests a change in land use at this time, disturbing agricultural drainage in favour of retrieving water. The inference can be that this represents domestic occupation.

Overlying the identified remains was found an even distribution of dark silty material, incorporating artefacts indicating the recent demolition of standing buildings, such as glass fragments and brick rubble. In addition, this material was found to contain further residual artefactual remains dating to the 13th to 15th centuries, suggesting that whatever was demolished at this site may well have disturbed earlier remains, now no longer visible.

7. CONCLUSIONS

Archaeological investigations were undertaken on land off Boston Road, Kirton, in accordance with conditions of planning consent

As indicated, the main focus of activity seen on this site concentrated on the

control and use of water. Initially, this was clearly in an effort to control the flow of water on the land in order to gain usable agricultural land in a largely flooded environment, however, the land use seems to have changed over time, turning instead to domestic occupation, requiring a readily available source of fresh water.

The artefactual remains from this site provide a wide range of dates, though they can be largely grouped into two phases. Firstly, finds were identified dating to the medieval period, and while being largely residual within later deposits, they indicate activity and land use at this time. Secondly, there were several features of Post-medieval date located on this site. Initially, these seem to have focused on channelling water off the land, as might be seen in an agricultural setting under commonly flooded or waterlogged conditions, though a shift can be seen towards the end of this period towards domestic use.

The condition and nature of the artefacts found at this site is such that they indicate evidence of activity in the vicinity. Given the lack of clearly identified sites in this area, any such remains are clearly of local significance.

8. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeological Project Services wish to acknowledge the assistance of Mr R K Wilson, of R K Wilson, Builders, who commissioned the fieldwork and this report. The project was coordinated by Tobin Rayner; the report was edited by Tobin Rayner and Tom Lane. The Boston Community Archaeologist kindly permitted the examination of the relevant parish files.

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10. ABBREVIATIONS

APS	Archaeological Project Services
BD	Boston District
IFA	Institute of Field Archaeologists
SMR	Sites and Monuments Record



Figure 1: General Location Plan

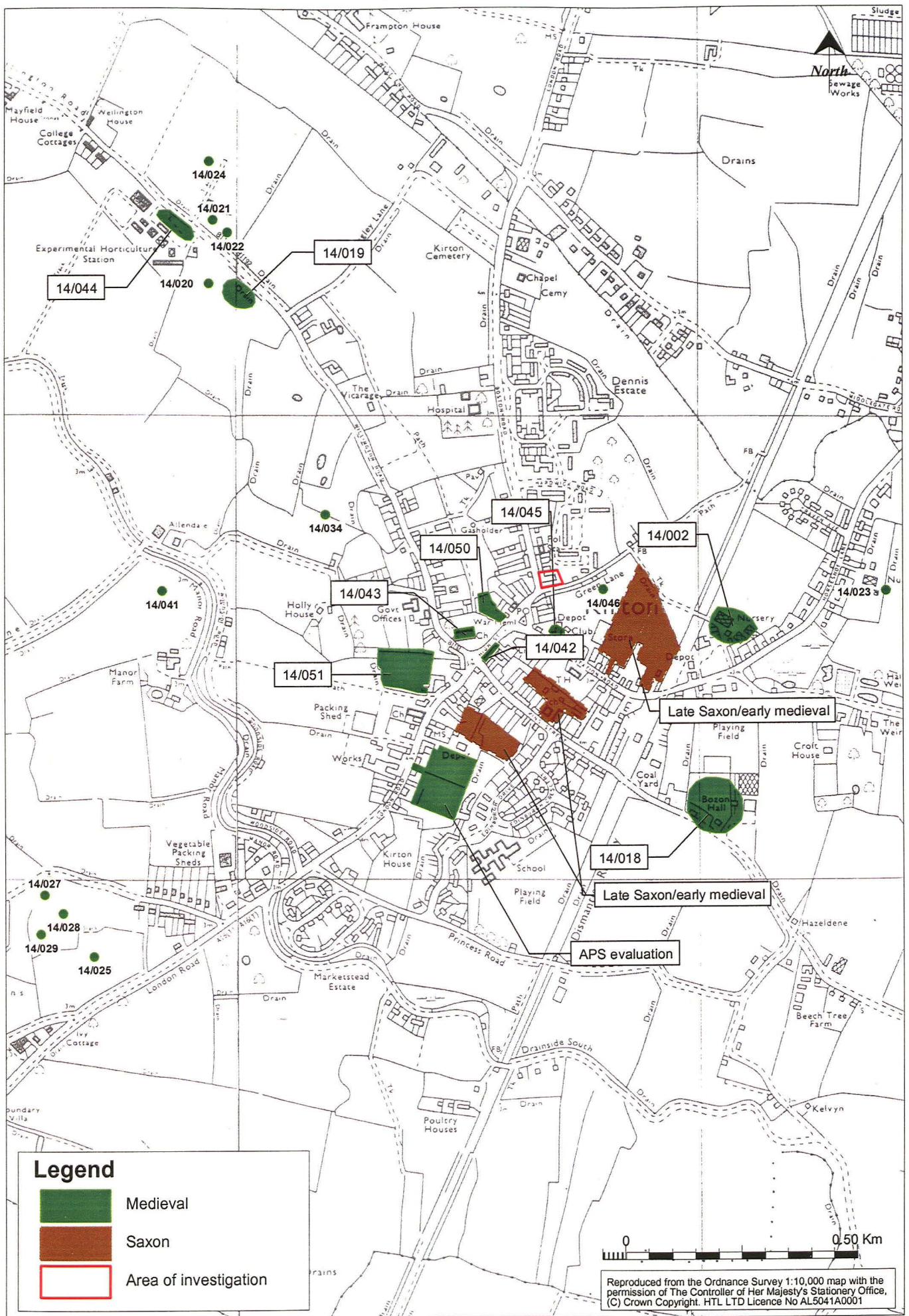
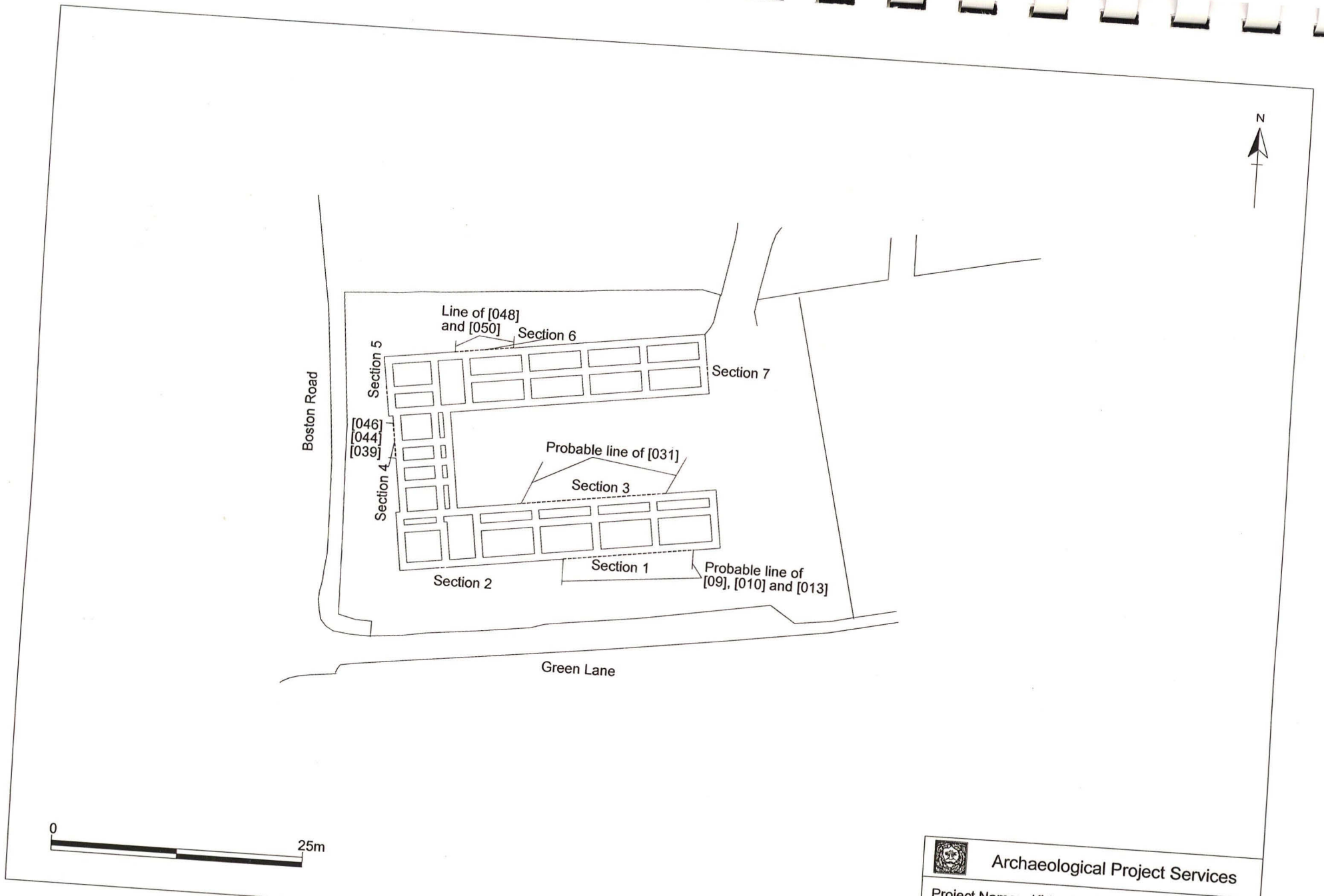


Figure 2: Site location and archaeological setting



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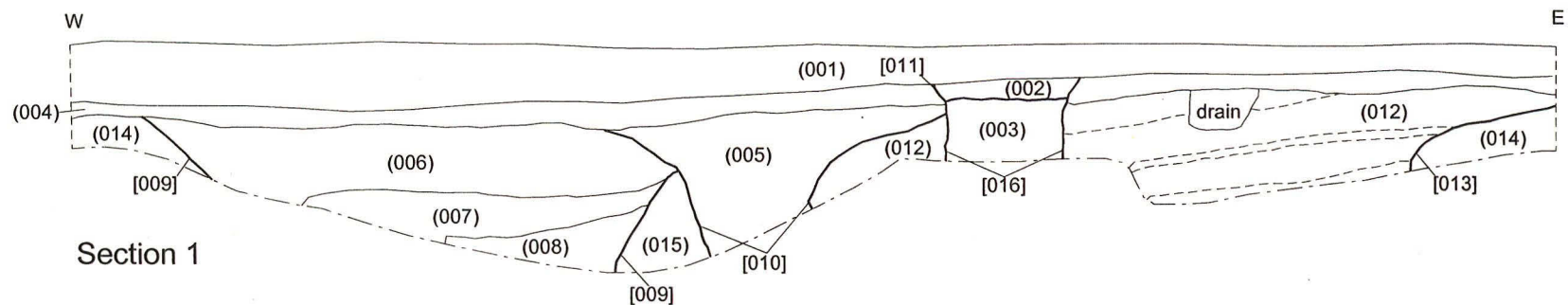
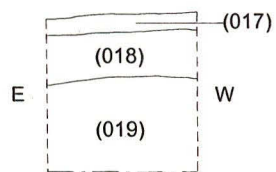
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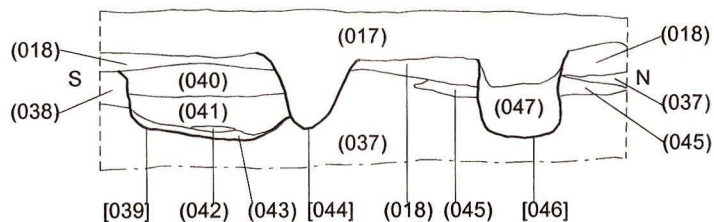
Figure 3: Detailed site location plan



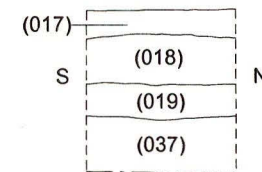
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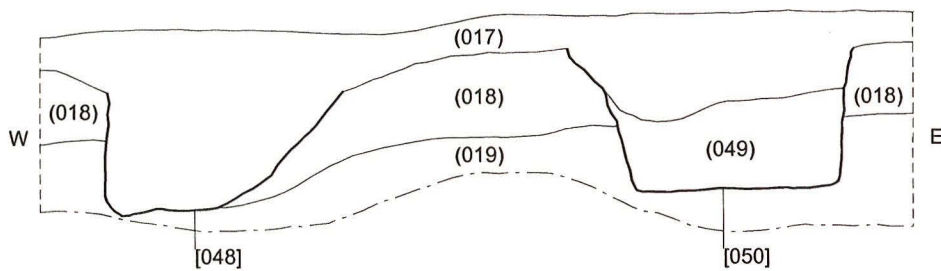
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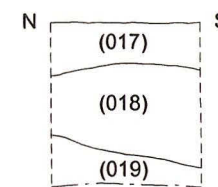
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Section 5



Section 6



Section 7




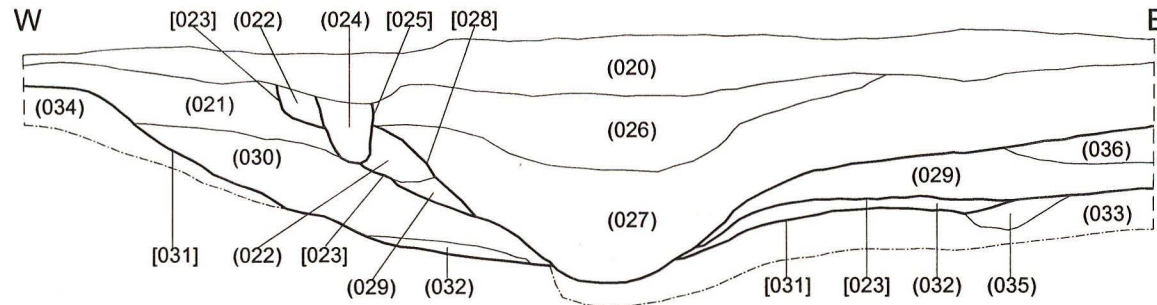
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Figure 4: Sections 1, 2, 4, 5, 6 and 7




 Archaeological Project Services		
Project Name: Kirton Boston Road		
Scale: 1:100	Drawn by: AC	Report No: 90/04

Figure 5: Section 3



Plate 1 General view
of first footings,
looking East



Plate 2 Section 1,
through ditches [009]
and [010], looking
North



Plate 3 Section 1,
through ditches [010]
and [011], looking
North



Plate 4 Section 1,
through ditches [013]
and [011], looking
North



Plate 5 Section 4,
Southern end, looking
West



Plate 6 Section 4,
Northern end, looking
West



Plate 7 Section 6,
through feature [050],
looking North



Plate 8 Exposed
well (003), plot 12,
looking East



Plate 9 General view
of concreted
footings, looking
West

**LAND OFF
BOSTON ROAD, KIRTON
LINCOLNSHIRE**

**SPECIFICATION FOR
INTENSIVE ARCHAEOLOGICAL
WATCHING BRIEF**

**PREPARED FOR
RK WILSON**

**BY
ARCHAEOLOGICAL PROJECT SERVICES
Institute of Field Archaeologists'
Registered Organisation No. 21**

SEPTEMBER 2003

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1	SUMMARY	1
2	INTRODUCTION.....	1
3	SITE LOCATION.....	1
4	PLANNING BACKGROUND	1
5	SOILS AND TOPOGRAPHY	2
7	AIMS AND OBJECTIVES	3
8	SITE OPERATIONS	3
9	POST EXCAVATION.....	5
10	REPORT DEPOSITION.....	6
11	ARCHIVE.....	6
12	PUBLICATION	6
13	CURATORIAL RESPONSIBILITY	6
14	PROGRAMME OF WORKS AND STAFFING LEVELS	7
15	VARIATION AND CONTINGENCIES.....	7
16	SPECIALISTS TO BE USED DURING THE PROJECT	7
17	INSURANCES.....	8
18	COPYRIGHT	8
19	BIBLIOGRAPHY	10

1 SUMMARY

- 1.1 *A watching brief is required during housing development on land off Boston Road, Kirton, Lincolnshire.*
- 1.2 *Boston Borough Council require that an archaeological watching brief is undertaken at the site as there is a possibility that remains of Saxon and medieval date may be disturbed during the development.*
- 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 watching brief. 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 housing development on land off Boston Road, Kirton, 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 Kirton is located 4km southwest of Boston in the fens of south Lincolnshire. The proposed development site lies just north of the present centre of Kirton village, as defined by the church of St Peter and St Paul. The site is roughly square shape and is currently used as a builders yard, at National Grid Reference TF 3070 3860

4 PLANNING BACKGROUND

- 4.1 A reserved matters application, B/03/0395/RESM, has been submitted to Boston Borough Council for the construction of 12 houses. An outline planning application, B/02/0283/OUTL, has previously been submitted and an archaeological scheme of works in the form of watching briefs was requested at that time. The comments and the brief submitted at that time still apply on this site.

5 SOILS AND TOPOGRAPHY

- 5.1 The site and surrounding area is on a gentle slope down to the west at *c.* 4m OD. Soils at the site are typical alluvial gleys of the Tanvats Association developed on marine alluvium (Hodge *et al.* 1984, 319). Beneath this alluvium is glacial drift that was deposited in a geological basin between the Lincolnshire Wolds and the East Anglian Heights.

6 ARCHAEOLOGICAL OVERVIEW

- 6.1 There is little evidence for archaeological remains of prehistoric date in the area and deposits from the earlier part of this period are likely to be deeply buried beneath silts and peats deposited during alternating phases of freshwater and marine flooding in the fen basin.
- 6.2 The earliest evidence for occupation in the area dates to the Roman period and is represented by artefacts of this date recovered along Willoughton road on the northwest edge of the village)
- 6.3 Kirton village was the administrative centre of the Kirton Wapentake at the time of the Domesday survey in 1086 (Morris, 1986), indicating that the settlement was established by at least the Late Saxon period. The survey records the name as *Chirchetune*, derived from Old English and meaning the 'tun' (village) with a church 'cirice' (church). At some point between 1096 and 1155-56 'cirice' was replaced by the Old Norse 'kirkja' (Cameron 1998).
- 6.4 The site lies very close to the medieval village core. It is likely that the church was the focus of settlement in the Late Saxon period and investigations immediately east of the church revealed evidence of occupation of the period, perhaps representing the remains of a farmyard. Medieval settlement and evidence of craft working was subsequently established in the area (Cope-Faulkner, 1996).
- 6.5 Evaluation of a nearby site on Station Road during 2001 by Archaeological Project Services identified a cluster of post holes and a number of ditches containing pottery predominantly of Saxo-Norman date. The character of the pottery, animal bone and shell recovered from the post holes indicates domestic activity somewhere in the vicinity (Snee, 2001a).
- 6.6 Excavations on Station Road during July 2002, identified ditches, pits and post holes from which late Saxon pottery dating to between 900 and 940 AD was recovered. Animal bone and abundant mussel shell was also retrieved and processing of environmental samples taken from the fills of various features recovered evidence of domestic occupation suggesting that the archaeological remains on the site represent a short lived farmstead probably engaged in mixed farming but exploiting coastal resources (Hall, 2002). Also recorded during the

excavation were four penannular circular or sub-circular gullies of unknown function but which may represent animal enclosures or hay rick drainage. The limited life span of the settlement indicates some fluidity in the settlement pattern in the Kirton area

- 6.7 Other investigations, on Station Road, also revealed early medieval occupation remains dating to the 13th-14th century (Archaeological Project Services 1994). Settlement here appears to have been interrupted by flooding which laid down silts over the Late Saxon and medieval archaeological remains. Saxon or medieval remains beneath a thick silt layer were also revealed just west of the church on Willington Road (Hambly, 2000). Later medieval and post-medieval occupation was subsequently established on the surface of the flood silts at both sites.
- 6.8 Further to the south adjacent to King Street and London Road, two recent archaeological evaluations have recorded evidence for moderately intensive activity during the Saxo-Norman period. In addition to material indicating domestic activity, evidence for iron smithing was also identified. In terms of the development of Kirton, it may be significant that few medieval deposits were recorded at either of these two evaluations, suggesting major topographical changes between the late Saxon and medieval periods (Thomson, 2001 Snee, 2001b)

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. Houses on either the London Road or Green Lane frontages will be subject to an intensive watching brief, as will any services. House plots not on the road frontages will initially be subject to an intermittent watching brief. In areas where an intensive watching brief is required provision will be made to allow pauses in groundworks to record and investigate the archaeology encountered. The level of watching brief on all areas will be subject to revision should circumstances require it.
- 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:
- 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
- 8.2.5 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 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:
- 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.
- Archive list

10 REPORT DEPOSITION

- 10.1 Copies of the report will be sent to the Client, The Boston Borough Community Archaeologist based at Heritage Lincolnshire, Boston District Council Planning Department, the Lincolnshire County Council Archaeology Section 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 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 Boston Borough Community Archaeologist based at Heritage Lincolnshire. They will be given seven days notice in writing before the commencement of the project.

14 PROGRAMME OF WORKS AND STAFFING LEVELS

- 14.1 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.
- 14.2 An archaeological supervisor with experience of watching briefs will undertake the work.
- 14.3 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.

15 VARIATION AND CONTINGENCIES

- 15.1 Variations to the proposed scheme of works will only be made following written confirmation of acceptance from the archaeological curator.
- 15.2 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).
- 15.3 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
- 15.4 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.

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, 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.

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Thomson, S., *Archaeological Evaluation at the Old School Site, King Street, Kirton, Lincolnshire (KKS01)*. Unpublished Archaeological Project Services Report No. 54/01

Specification: Version 1, 2/09/2003

Appendix 2

Context Summary

Cxt	Type	Description	Tk	Interpretation
001	Deposit	Firm, reddish brown silty sand with cbm inclusions	0.50m	Demolition layer
002	Deposit	Firm light yellowish brown sandy silt	0.25m	Fill of well [011]
003	Structure	Partially excavated circular red brick structure	0.55m	Well
004	Deposit	Firm dark yellowish brown sandy silt with occ. Conc. Rubble inclusions	0.30m	Buried topsoil
005	Deposit	Firm dark greyish brown sandy silt with occ. Conc. and cc inclusions	1.10m	Fill of [010]
006	Deposit	Firm mid yellowish brown sandy silt	0.52m	Fill of [009]
007	Deposit	Firm dark yellowish brown sandy silt	0.40m	Fill of [009]
008	Deposit	Firm light yellowish brown sandy silt	0.60m	Fill of [009]
009	Cut	Feature, 4.75m East-West, not fully visible. 0.75m North-South seen. 1.25m deep		Possible ditch or pit
010	Cut	Linear Feature, 2.90m East – West with steeply sloped sides. Bottom not seen. Excavated to 1.10m deep		Possible ditch or pit
011	Cut	Feature of unknown shape, Sharply cut at surface, steep sided to a sharp break of slope into flat base. 0.25m deep		Cut containing well cap (002)
012	Deposit	Light grey and yellowish – brown silty sand	1.00m	Fill of [013]
013	Cut	Linear feature, c.4.50m wide, sharply cut at top with gradually sloping sides becoming steeper into feature. 1.00m deep		Possible ditch or pit
014	Deposit	Firm light brownish yellow silty sand	0.40m	Silt layer
015	Deposit	Firm light grey sand	0.90m	Natural silt layer
016	Cut	Circular, vertical sided cut, c. 1.00m dia, not bottomed. Excavated to 0.55m deep		Construction cut for brick built well (003)
017	Deposit	Loose/friable mid greyish brown silt, with freq. small irregular gravel and mod. medium and large modern cbm inclusions	0.20m	Modern demolition deposit
018	Deposit	Moderately firm mid brown silt, with mod. flecks and fragments of modern cbm inclusions	0.45m – 0.50m	Demolition deposit
019	Deposit	Moderately firm light yellowish-brown sandy silt, with mod. lenses of soft sand	0.60m	Occupation horizon,
020	Deposit	Loose/friable mid greyish-brown silt, with freq. small irregular gravel and mod. medium and large modern cbm inclusions	0.30m – 0.50m	Modern demolition deposit, same as (017)
021	Deposit	Moderately firm mid brown silt, with mod. flecks and fragments of modern cbm inclusions	0.30m – 0.60m	Fill and spread from ditch [031], appears same as (018)
022	Deposit	Moderately firm, friable light yellow sandy silt with occ. cbm fragments, 1.60m East - West	0.40m	Fill of ditch [023]

Cxt	Type	Description	Tk	Interpretation
023	Cut	Linear feature, 1.30m deep 1.90m East – West still surviving, Cut sharply at the top, with mod. sloped sides to a gradual break into a concave base. Feature aligned Northwest – Southeast, and is truncated by cut [028]. Feature filled by (029) and (022)		Ditch. Possible re-cut of ditch [031]
024	Deposit	Firm dark grey silt 0.60m East - West	0.70m	Fill of Pit / Posthole [025]
025	Cut	Feature of uncertain shape, 0.60m East – West and 0.70m deep, cut sharply at top, with steeply sloped sides to a gradual break into a concave base. Filled by context (024)		Pit / Posthole
026	Deposit	Firm mid brown silt, with occ. small stones, gravel and cbm inclusions. 5.40m East – West seen.	0.80m	Upper fill of ditch [028]
027	Deposit	Loose mid greyish-brown silt with mod. cbm and gravel inclusions, 8.30m East – West seen, continuing to the East as a spread/layer	1.20m – 0.80m	Fill of ditch [028]
028	Cut	Linear feature, 4.30m East – West and 2.00m deep, cut gradually at top, with moderately sloped sides and a gradual break into a concave base. Feature is aligned Northwest-Southeast and is truncated by cut [025]		Re-cut of ditch containing fills (027) and (026)
029	Deposit	Moderately firm light grey silt with occ. small stone inclusions, 8.00m East – West, continues as spread to East	0.50m	Silting/fill of ditch [031]
030	Deposit	Loose mid brown silt with mod. cbm inclusions, 4.40m East – West	0.80m	Fill of ditch cut [031]
031	Cut	Linear feature, 8.00m East – West by 2.20m deep, cut sharply at top with moderately slopes sides to a gradual break into a concave base. Feature is aligned Northwest-Southeast, truncated by cuts [023], [028] and [025], and is filled by contexts (032), (030) and (021)		Ditch
032	Deposit	Moderately firm dark grey silt, 4.40m East – West	0.20m	Fill of ditch [031]
033	Deposit	Moderately firm light grey silt, 6.40m East – West	0.40m	Natural silt
034	Deposit	Moderately firm light yellow-brown silt with mod. sand lenses. 2.80m East – West seen	1.30m	Occupation horizon same as (014) and (019)
035	Deposit	Loose/friable light grey gravel. 1.00m East – West seen	0.30m	Natural gravel deposit
036	Deposit	Firm mid brown silt with occ. small stone inclusions. 1.60m East – West seen, though appears to continue East as spread layer	0.40m	Layer/fill of [031]
037	Deposit	Firm mid brown silt containing lenses (038) and (045)	0.35m – 0.70m	Natural silt
038	Deposit	Loose light yellow sandy silt. 6.00m North – South	0.25m	Lens within natural same as (045)
039	Cut	Linear feature 1.10m North – South, 0.50m deep, cut sharply at top, with steep sides to a gradual break into a flat base. Feature is aligned East – West, truncated by cut [044] and filled with contexts (043), (042), (041) and (040)		Drainage channel
040	Deposit	Firm mid yellowish-brown silt with mod. gravel inclusions, 1.00m North – South	0.25m	Fill of drainage ditch [039]
041	Deposit	Firm mid brown silt with mod. gravel inclusions, 1.10m North – South	0.30m	Fill of drainage ditch [039]
042	Deposit	Loose light grey ash and silt with mod. cc inclusions, 0.30m North – South	0.10m	Fill of drainage ditch [039]

Cxt	Type	Description	Tk	Interpretation
043	Deposit	Loose light yellow sandy silt, 1.10m North – South	0.10m	Primary silting of cut [039]
044	Cut	Linear feature 0.50m North – South by 0.50m deep, with a gradual cut at the top, near vertical sides and a gradual break into a concave base. Feature is aligned East – West and filled by overlying layer (017)		Drain cut
045	Deposit	Loose light yellow sandy silt, 1.40m East – West	0.10m	Lens within natural silt same as (038)
046	Cut	Linear feature 0.50m North – South by 0.60m deep, Sharply cut at top, with vertical sides to a gradual break into a flat base. Feature is aligned East-West and filled by context (047)		Modern Drain cut
047	Deposit	Moderately firm dark grey silt with mod. cbm and gravel inclusions, 0.50m North – South	0.40m	Fill of drain cut [046]
048	Cut	Linear feature, 1.50m East – West by 1.10m deep, with a gradual cut at top. East side of feature steeply sloped, West side vertical, break gradual into flat base. Feature is aligned North-South and filled by overlying layer (017)		Modern drain cut
049	Deposit	Loose dark grey silt with mod. cbm and occ. glass inclusions, 1.50m East – West	0.60m	Fill of ditch [050]
050	Cut	Linear feature, 1.80m East – West by 1.00m deep, cut sharply at top, with steeply sloped sides to a sharp break into a flat base. Feature is aligned North-South and is filled by contexts (049) and (017)		Modern ditch
051		Unstratified finds		

Cxt	-	Context number	Tk	-	Thickness in metres	occ.	-	Occasional
freq.	-	Frequent	mod.	-	Moderate	cc	-	Charcoal
dia.	-	Diameter	cbm	-	ceramic building material			

Appendix 3

THE FINDS

by Paul Cope-Faulkner, Hilary Healey and 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 24 fragments of pottery weighing 675g and representing 19 individual vessels were recovered from 8 separate contexts. In addition to the pottery, a small quantity of other, mixed, artefacts comprising 7 items weighing a total of 235g, was retrieved. Faunal remains were also recovered.

The excavated animal bone assemblage comprises 1 unstratified bone fragment weighing 8g. The animal bone was identified by reference to published catalogues. No attempt is made to sex or age animals represented within the assemblage, although where this is readily apparent is noted in the comments column.

Provenance

The material was recovered from channel fills (005), (006), (022), (027) and (030). In addition finds were retrieved from the fill of a drainage channel, (042), and from an occupation horizon (019). Finally finds were identified from the overlying demolition layer (017).

The earliest pottery was made in moderate proximity to Kirton, at Toynton All Saints, 26km to the north. Most of the later ceramics were probably manufactured in Staffordshire.

Range

The range of material is detailed in the tables.

Table 1: Pottery

Context	Fabric Code	Description	No.	Wt (g)	Context Date
006	STMO	Staffordshire Mottled ware	1	1	Early 18 th century
005	BL	Red painted black glazed earthenware	1	36	17 th -18 th century
012	LERTH	Late earthenware, brown glazed, pancheon, burnt	1	128	17 th -18 th century
017	TOY	Toynton All Saints ware, incl jug handle	2	64	13 th -15 th century
019	TOY/TOYII	Toynton All Saints ware, burnt	2(link)	51	13 th -16 th century
022	LERTH	Late slipped earthenware, 19 th century	1	48	19 th century
	CRMWARE	Creamware, dish, early 19 th century	2(link)	59	
	TPW	Blue and white transfer printed tableware, 19 th century	1	8	
	WHITE	White glazed tableware, 19 th century	1	7	
030	CRMWARE	Creamware, late 18 th -early 19 th century	4	90	19 th century
	WHITE	White glazed tableware, early 19 th century	2(link)	2	
	BL	Red painted black glazed earthenware, 18 th century	1	36	
027	CRMWARE	Creamware, 2 separate vessels, late 18 th -early 19 th century	4(2 link)	133	late 18 th -early 19 th century
	BL	Red painted black glazed earthenware, 18 th century	1	12	

There is a small amount of medieval material, only 4 fragments, of which two link. Post-medieval pottery, mostly of 18th-19th century date, provides the remainder and bulk of the assemblage.

Table 2: Other Artefacts

Context	Material	Description	No.	Wt (g)	Context Date
005	Slag	Iron smelting slag	1	91	Roman-medieval
017	CBM	Pantile, post-medieval	1	75	20 th century
	CBM	White glazed earthenware, Sink?, 19 th -20 th century	1	27	
	Glass	Colourless window glass, 20 th century	2	28	
	Iron	Nail	1	10	
042	Clay pipe	Stem, bore 7/64"	1	4	17 th century

Note: CBM = Ceramic Building Material

Table 3: The Faunal Remains

Context	Species	Bone	No.	Wt (g)	Comments
051	Cattle	Skull Fragment	1	8	Unstratified find

Condition

All the material is in good condition and presents no long-term storage problems. Archive storage of the collection is by material class.

Documentation

There have been previous archaeological investigations at Kirton, including in close proximity to the current site, that are the subjects of reports. Details of archaeological sites and discoveries in the area are maintained in the files of the Boston Planning Archaeologist and the Lincolnshire County Council Sites and Monuments Record.

Potential

As few pieces of medieval material were recovered, this aspect of the assemblage is of limited local potential and significance. All of the medieval artefacts could have entered the area in manuring scatter, which would, in turn, suggest the area was arable land at that time.

Late post-medieval material is abundant and is likely to reflect habitation of 18th-19th century date at the site or in the immediate proximity. However, the artefacts of this period are of limited local potential.

The lack of any material earlier than the 13th 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. Similarly, the dearth of artefacts dating from the early post-medieval period, the 16th-17th century, would tend to suggest that the site was abandoned at that time.

References

Slowikowski, A., Nenk, 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

Alluvium	Deposits laid down by water. Marine alluvium is deposited by the sea, and fresh water alluvium is laid down by rivers and in lakes.
Anglo-Saxon	Pertaining to the period when Britain was occupied by peoples from northern Germany, Denmark and adjacent areas. The period dates from approximately AD 450-1066.
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 interpretation 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.
Domesday Survey	A survey of property ownership in England compiled on the instruction of William I for taxation purposes in 1086 AD.
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) that become contained by the 'cut' are referred to as its fill(s).
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 used 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
Post hole	The hole cut to take a timber post, usually in an upright position. The hole may have been dug larger than the post and contain soil or stones to support the post. Alternatively, the posthole may have been formed through the process of driving the post into the ground.
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 1st 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:

51	Context records
7	Scale drawing
2	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

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