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**ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF
AT THE PRIMARY SCHOOL,
MANOR CLOSE,
LANGTOFT,
LINCOLNSHIRE
(LTPS 04)**



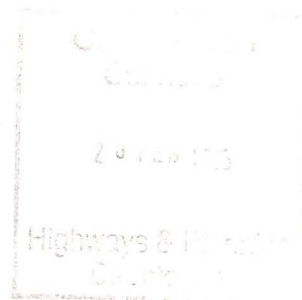
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**ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF
AT THE PRIMARY SCHOOL,
MANOR CLOSE,
LANGTOFT,
LINCOLNSHIRE
(LTPS 04)**

**Work Undertaken For
Langwith Builders Ltd**

November 2004

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

National Grid Reference: TF ^{1207 1248} ~~123~~128
City and County Museum Accession No: 2004.121
Planning Application No: S03/1230/50

ARCHAEOLOGICAL PROJECT SERVICES



APS Report No. 94/04

Quality Control
Primary School, Manor Close
Langtoft
LTPS 04

Project Coordinator	Gary Taylor
Supervisor	Aaron Clements
Illustration	Paul Cope-Faulkner
Photographic Reproduction	Sue Unsworth
Post-excavation Analyst	Paul Cope-Faulkner

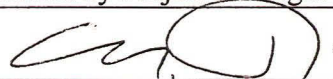
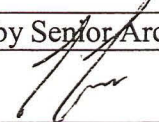
Checked by Project Manager	Approved by Senior Archaeologist
 Gary Taylor	 Tom Lane
Date: 15/11/04	Date: 15.11.04

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1. SUMMARY

A watching brief was undertaken during groundworks at the Primary School, Manor Close, Langtoft, Lincolnshire. The watching brief monitored the excavation of foundation trenches for extensions to existing classrooms.

A Bronze Age (2200-800 BC) ring ditch has been identified to the south 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 with numerous finds of pottery and coins from around the village. The site lies to the west 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 and undated deposits. Undated features include two short lengths of gully and a thick subsoil. No finds were observed or recorded during the watching brief.

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 Langwith Builders Ltd to undertake an archaeological watching brief during groundworks associated with extensions to existing school buildings at

the Primary School, Manor Close, Langtoft, Lincolnshire. Approval for the development was sought through the submission of planning application S03/1230/50. The watching brief was carried out on the 14th June 2004 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

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

The primary school is located 300m west of the village centre as defined by the parish church of St. Michael at National Grid Reference TF 123 128 (Fig. 2). The site lies at a height of c. 6m on land that slopes gently down to the east, towards the fens.

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. Cropmarks of ring ditches, perhaps Bronze Age barrows, have been identified east and west of the site.

Excavations undertaken close to the centre of the village 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, determine their date, function and origin.

4. METHODS

Prior to the excavation of foundation trenches topsoil was stripped from the site. Foundation trenches were then excavated by machine to depths required by the development. Following excavation the sides of the trenches were cleaned and rendered vertical. The brief (Appendix 1, Section 8.2.2) stated that, should archaeological remains be encountered within the foundation trenches, the entire footprint of the building was to be stripped of overburden. In the event only two

narrow undated gullies were present and the footprint not stripped. Each deposit was allocated a unique reference 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 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 two phases were identified;

Phase 1	Natural deposits
Phase 2	Undated deposits

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

Phase 1 Natural deposits

The earliest deposit encountered in the foundation trenches was a layer of dark yellow sand and gravel (006). This was in excess of 0.15m thick and was identified as the underlying drift geology.

Phase 2 Undated deposits

Two north-south aligned gullies were identified cut into natural deposits. The first (003) measured over 0.6m long and was 0.6m wide and deeper than 100mm (Fig. 4, Section 1). A fill of greyish brown sandy silt (002) was recorded.

The second gully (005) lay 1.3m to the east of the first. This was also over 0.6m in length and was 0.7m wide and deeper than

0.15m (Fig. 4, Section 1). This gully was filled with greyish brown sandy silt (004).

Sealing both gullies was a 0.5m thick subsoil of greyish brown sandy silt (001). Surface deposits had been removed prior to the archaeological monitoring.

6. DISCUSSION

Natural layers comprise sand and gravel of the 1st River Terrace deposits, which were probably deposited between 40,000 and 28,000 years ago (Horton 1989, 21).

Two parallel undated gullies were identified beneath a thick subsoil deposit. Both gullies appear to be short in length as no northward extension was identified within the foundation trenches. However, their arrangement is reminiscent of gullies flanking a hedgerow. Though undated, the thick subsoil development may suggest these features are ancient.

No finds were recorded or retrieved during the investigation.

7. CONCLUSION

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken at the Primary School, Manor Close, Langtoft, as the site lay within a rich archaeological landscape dating from the Bronze Age.

However, only two gullies and a subsoil were revealed during the watching brief which both remain undated due to a lack of artefactual material.

8. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeological Project Services wish to acknowledge the assistance of Mr C. Penney of Langwith Builders Limited for commissioning the fieldwork and post-excavation analysis. The work was

coordinated by Gary Taylor who edited this report along with Tom Lane. Jenny Young, the South Kesteven Planning Archaeologist, kindly permitted access to the parish files maintained by Heritage Lincolnshire.

9. PERSONNEL

Project Coordinator: Gary Taylor
 Site Supervisor: Aaron Clements
 Photographic reproduction: Sue Unsworth
 Illustration: Paul Cope-Faulkner
 Post-excavation analysis: Paul Cope-Faulkner

10. BIBLIOGRAPHY

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11. ABBREVIATIONS

APS Archaeological Project Services

BGS British Geological Survey

IFA Institute of Field Archaeologists

JSAC John Samuels Archaeological
Consultants

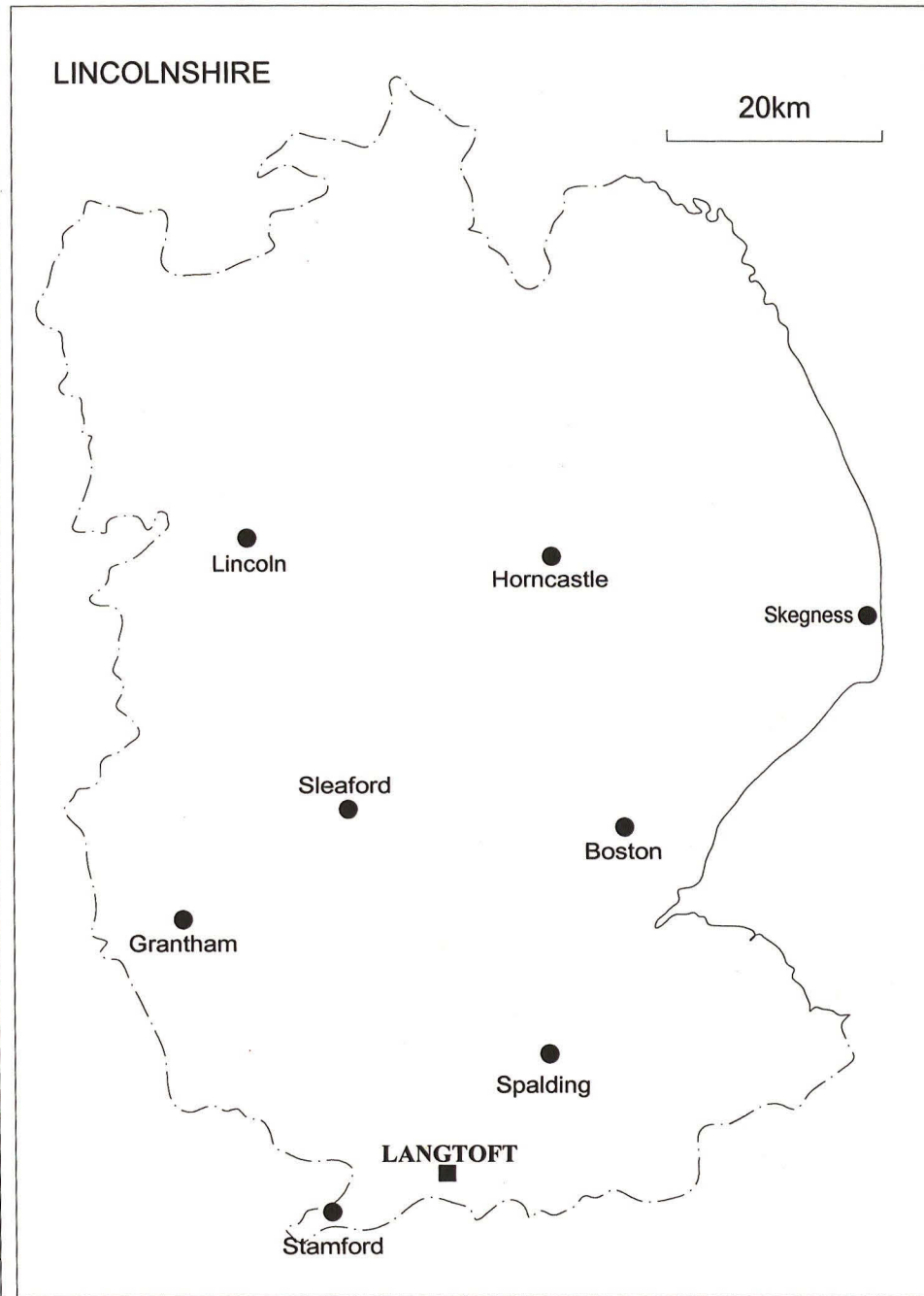
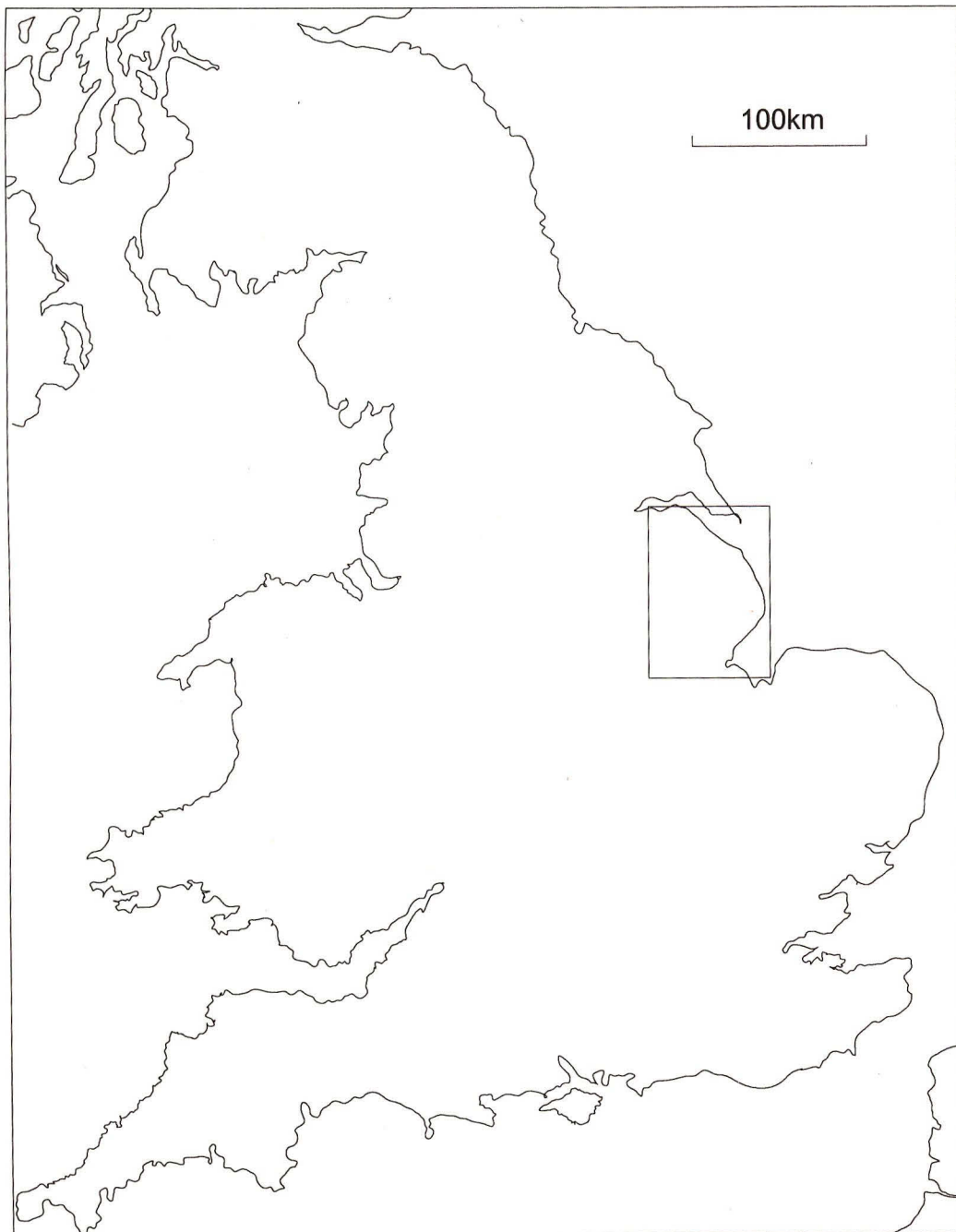
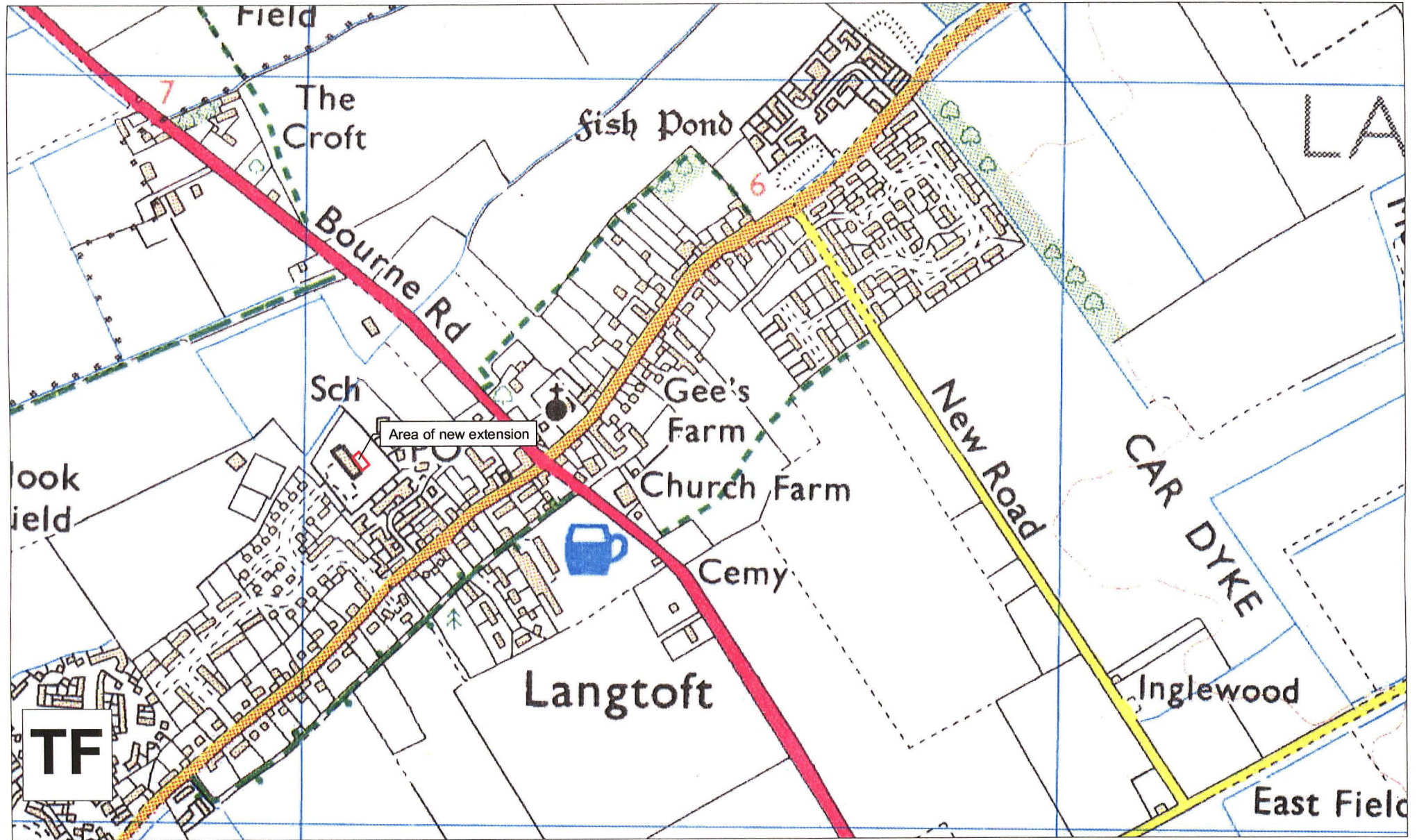


Figure 1 - General Location Plan



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Figure 2 - Site location plan

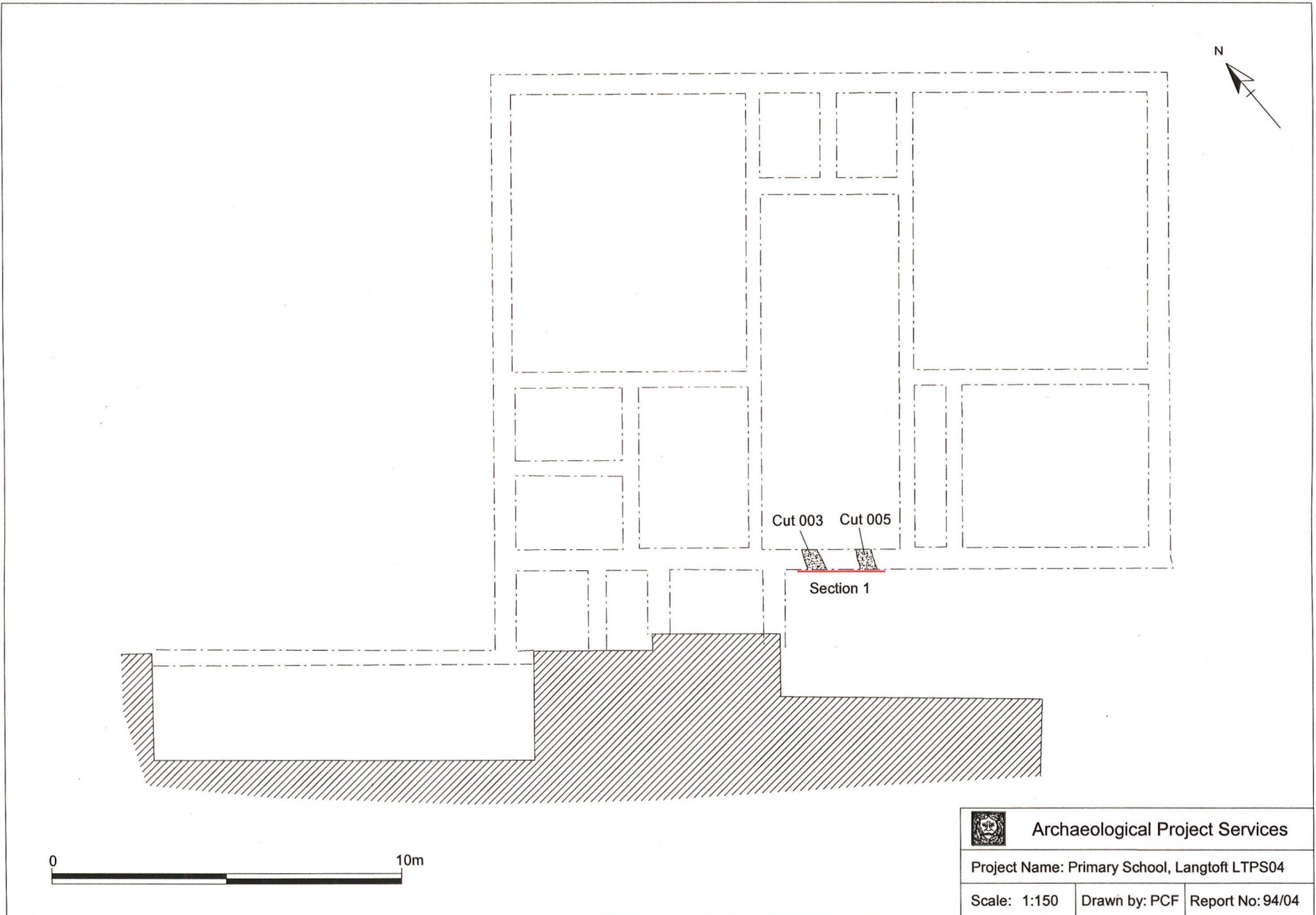

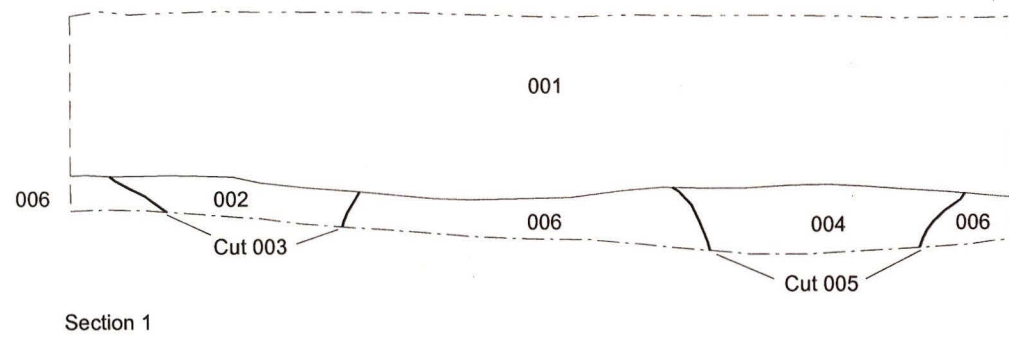


Figure 3 - Plan of the development showing section location

 Archaeological Project Services		
Project Name: Primary School, Langtoft LTPS04		
Scale: 1:150	Drawn by: PCF	Report No: 94/04



Archaeological Project Services

Project Name: Primary School, Langtoft LTPS04

Scale: 1:20

Drawn by: PCF

Report No: 94/04

Figure 4 - Section 1



Plate 1 - General view across the development area, looking west



Plate 2 - Section 1 showing the two undated gullies, looking southwest

Appendix 1

LAND AT LANGTOFT PRIMARY SCHOOL, MANOR CLOSE, LANGTOFT, LINCOLNSHIRE - SPECIFICATION FOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

1 SUMMARY

- 1.1 *A watching brief is required during development at the Primary School, Langtoft, Lincolnshire.*
- 1.2 *The site is archaeologically sensitive, lying in an area where cropmarks of probable Bronze Age burials and late prehistoric-Roman enclosures are known.*
- 1.3 *The watching brief will be undertaken during groundworks associated with the development. Should archaeological remains be revealed it will be necessary to strip the full footprint of the building and investigate and record the remains revealed. The archaeological features exposed will be recorded in writing, graphically and photographically. Contingencies may be required for environmental sampling should waterlogged deposits be revealed.*
- 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 development at Langtoft Primary School, Manor Close, Langtoft, 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 Langtoft is located 2km north of Market Deeping on the Lincolnshire fen edge in the South Kesteven District of the county. The Primary School lies on the northern side of the village at the northeastern end of Manor Close, with the development on the east side of the school, centred on National Grid Reference TF 123 128.

4 PLANNING BACKGROUND

- 4.1 A planning application (S03/1230/50) was submitted to Lincolnshire County Council for the proposed construction of extensions to Langtoft Primary School. 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 at c. 5m 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. Circular cropmarks of Bronze Age burials are known to east and west of the development site, perhaps forming a linear cemetery that is crossed by the school. Just to the north is a cropmark complex of sub-rectangular enclosures of a form characteristic Iron Age/Romano-British settlement sites.

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 If archaeological remains are revealed in the trench footings it will be necessary to fully strip the footprint of the building and investigate and record all archaeological remains exposed.
- 8.2.3 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.
- 8.2.4 Any finds recovered will be bagged and labelled for later analysis.
- 8.2.5 Should waterlogged or other environmentally-rich deposits be revealed contingency requirements will be required for sampling and specialist processing and assessment of the deposits.
- 8.2.6 Throughout the watching brief a photographic record will be compiled. The photographic record will consist of:
 - 8.2.6.1 the site during work to show specific stages, and the layout of the archaeology within the trench.
 - 8.2.6.2 groups of features where their relationship is important

- 8.2.7 Should human remains be located they will be left *in situ* and only excavated if absolutely necessary. Should removal be required the appropriate Home Office licence will be obtained before the exhumation of the remains. In addition, the Local Environmental Health Department, coroner and the police will be informed, where appropriate.

9 POST-EXCAVATION

9.1 Stage 1

9.1.1 On completion of site operations, the records and schedules produced during the watching brief will be checked and ordered to ensure that they form a uniform sequence forming a level II archive. A stratigraphic matrix of the archaeological deposits and features present on the site will be prepared. All photographic material will be catalogued and labelled, the labelling referring to schedules identifying the subject/s photographed.

9.1.2 All finds recovered during the fieldwork will be washed, marked and packaged according to the deposit from which they were recovered. Any finds requiring specialist treatment and conservation will be sent to the Conservation Laboratory at the City and County Museum, Lincoln.

9.2 Stage 2

9.2.1 Detailed examination of the stratigraphic matrix to enable the determination of the various phases of activity on the site.

9.2.2 Finds will be sent to specialists for identification and dating.

9.3 Stage 3

9.3.1 On completion of stage 2, a report detailing the findings of the watching brief will be prepared.

9.3.2 This will consist of:

9.3.2.1 A non-technical summary of the results of the investigation.

9.3.2.2 A description of the archaeological setting of the watching brief.

9.3.2.3 Description of the topography of the site.

9.3.2.4 Description of the methodologies used during the watching brief.

9.3.2.5 A text describing the findings of the watching brief.

9.3.2.6 A consideration of the local, regional and national context of the watching brief findings.

9.3.2.7 Plans of the archaeological features exposed. If a sequence of archaeological deposits is encountered, separate plans for each phase will be produced.

9.3.2.8 Sections of the trenches and archaeological features.

9.3.2.9 Interpretation of the archaeological features exposed, and their chronology and setting within the surrounding landscape.

9.3.2.10 Specialist reports on the finds from the site.

9.3.2.11 Appropriate photographs of the site and specific archaeological features.

10 REPORT DEPOSITION

10.1 Copies of the report will be sent to the client; the County Council Archaeological Sites and Monuments

Record; and to the South Kesteven Community Archaeologist.

11 **ARCHIVE**

- 11.1 The documentation and records generated during the watching brief will be sorted and ordered into the format acceptable to the City and County Museum, Lincoln. This will be undertaken following the requirements of the document titled *Conditions for the Acceptance of Project Archives* for long-term storage and curation.

12 **PUBLICATION**

- 12.1 A report of the findings of the watching brief will be presented to the editor of the journal *Lincolnshire History and Archaeology*. If appropriate, notes on the findings will be submitted to the appropriate national journals: *Britannia* for discoveries of Roman date, and *Medieval Archaeology* and the *Journal of the Medieval Settlement Research Group* for findings of medieval or later date.

13 **CURATORIAL RESPONSIBILITY**

- 13.1 Curatorial responsibility for the archaeological work undertaken on the site lies with Lincolnshire County Archaeology Section. They will be given written notice of the commencement of the project.

14 **VARIATIONS AND CONTINGENCIES**

- 14.1 Variations to the proposed scheme of works will only be made following written confirmation of acceptance from the archaeological curator.
- 14.2 Should waterlogged or other environmentally-rich deposits be revealed it will be necessary to sample them and have them processed and assessed by a specialist. Such sampling and specialist assessment will be under contingency requirements. In the first instance, this contingency is for environmental examination of such deposits only; it does not include scientific dating, which may be required by the archaeological curator if artefacts do not indicate the dates of the deposits.
- 14.3 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).
- 14.4 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.
- 14.5 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 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

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

Appendix 2

CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

No.	Description	Interpretation
001	Loose mid greyish brown sandy silt, 0.5m thick	Subsoil
002	Firm mid greyish brown sandy silt	Fill of (003)
003	Linear feature, aligned north-south, >0.6m long by 0.6m wide by >100mm deep, gradual sides, not fully excavated	Gully
004	Firm mid greyish brown sandy silt	Fill of (005)
005	Linear feature, aligned north-south, >0.6m long by 0.7m wide by >0.15m deep, steep sides, not fully excavated	Gully
006	Friable dark yellow sand and gravel, >0.15m thick	Natural deposit

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.
Cut	A cut refers to the physical action of digging a posthole, pit, ditch, foundation trench, <i>etc.</i> Once the fills of these features are removed during an archaeological investigation the original 'cut' is therefore exposed and subsequently recorded.
Fill	Once a feature has been dug it begins to silt up (either slowly or rapidly) or it can be back-filled manually. The soil(s) which become contained by the 'cut' are referred to as its fill(s).
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.
Messuage	A dwelling and the land surrounding it.
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:

6	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: 2004.121

Archaeological Project Services Site Code: LTPS 04

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.