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**ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF
AT HARDS LANE,
FROGNALL,
DEEPING ST. JAMES,
LINCOLNSHIRE
(FHL 04)**



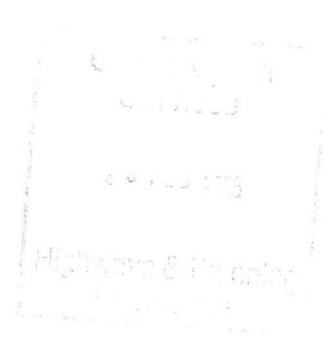
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ARCHAEOLOGICAL
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SERVICES

EVENT: L15723

INTERVENTION: L19867

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EXCAVATION: L19868



**ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF
AT HARDS LANE,
FROGNALL,
DEEPING ST. JAMES,
LINCOLNSHIRE
(FHL 04)**

**Work Undertaken For
Baxter and King Ltd**

December 2004

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

Planning Application No: S03/0569/25
National Grid Reference: TF 1693 1044
City and County Museum Accession No: 2004.220

ARCHAEOLOGICAL PROJECT SERVICES



APS Report No. 174/04

Quality Control
Hards Lane, Frognall,
Deeping St. James
FHL 04

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Supervisor	Aaron Clements
Illustration	Paul Cope-Faulkner
Photographic Reproduction	Sue Unsworth
Post-excavation Analyst	Paul Cope-Faulkner


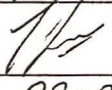
Checked by Project Manager	Approved by Senior Archaeologist
 Gary Taylor	 Tom Lane
Date: 22/12/04	Date: 22.12.04

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1. SUMMARY

A watching brief was undertaken during development at Hards Lane, Frognall, Deeping St. James, Lincolnshire. The watching brief monitored the excavation of stanchion pits for a new industrial unit.

The development lies in an area of prehistoric and Romano-British (AD42-410) remains. Bronze Age (2250-800 BC) and Iron Age (800 BC-AD 42) settlements have been identified in the vicinity and Romano-British coin hoards and settlement are known in close proximity to the site.

The watching brief identified only a recent ditch, service trench, a former topsoil and aggregate surface. No finds were retrieved 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 Baxter and King Ltd to undertake an archaeological watching brief during groundworks associated with new commercial development at Hards Lane, Frognall, Deeping St. James, Lincolnshire. Approval for the development was sought through the submission of planning application S03/0569/25. The watching brief was carried out on the 16th and 17th November 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

Frognall is located 14km east of Stamford and 14km southwest of Spalding in the civil parish of Deeping St. James, South Kesteven District, Lincolnshire (Fig. 1).

The development site is situated at the eastern edge of Frognall on the south side of Hards Lane at TF 1693 1044 (Fig. 2). The site and the surrounding area are relatively flat, lying at approximately 4m OD.

Local soils are of the Fladbury 1 Association typically deep clayey pelo-alluvial soils (Hodge *et al.* 1984, 194). These soils overlie a drift geology of Older Marine alluvium and sand and gravel of the 1st river terrace beneath which is the solid geology of Jurassic Oxford Clay (BGS 1984).

2.4 Archaeological Setting

Hards Lane is located in an area of archaeological interest dating from the Neolithic to the present day. Neolithic flint and stone tools are known from the southwest of the site. Bronze Age settlement has been identified to the north and northeast of the site during extensive fieldwalking by the Fenland Survey (Hayes and Lane 1992, 185).

Iron Age settlement has also been identified in the vicinity, including earlier pottery from the Bronze Age and suggesting continued or frequent occupation of the area. Other Iron Age material has been found to the east and northeast of the development area.

Romano-British settlement is well represented with a settlement of the 2nd to 4th century AD situated to the southeast

(*ibid.* 190). Furthermore, two coin hoards are known from Frognall.

Frognall is first mentioned in *c.* 1139 and derives its name from the Old English and means 'the nook (*halh*) where frogs are found' (Cameron 1998, 47). No medieval remains are known from the vicinity and the area is generally believed to have been open meadowland (Hayes and Lane 1992, 190).

A watching brief undertaken to the east of the site identified a Romano-British enclosure within which were pits, postholes and drainage gullies. Pottery of mid 2nd to early 3rd century date was retrieved from the enclosure (APS 1994). A watching brief undertaken immediately west of the site identified a possible Romano-British ditch, although no artefacts were retrieved (Cope-Faulkner 2003, 1).

3. AIMS

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

4. METHODS

Prior to the excavation of stanchion pits, overburden was removed from the site and limestone aggregate was laid. Stanchion pits for the new industrial unit were then excavated by machine to depths required by the development. Where possible, the sides of the trenches were 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 and 1:20. 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	Recent deposits

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

Phase 1 Natural deposits

The earliest deposit encountered in the base of the stanchion pits was a layer of yellowish brown sand and gravel (004). This measured in excess of 1.3m thick and was identified as the underlying drift geology.

Phase 2 Recent deposits

Cut into natural sand and gravel in Stanchion Pit 1 was a north-south aligned ditch (003). This was over 1.4m long, over 2m wide and 1.25m deep (Fig. 4, Section 1). A single fill of grey clayey silt (002) with plastic sheeting was recorded.

Overlying natural in Stanchion Pit 16 was a remnant topsoil comprising a 0.2m thick layer of greyish brown silty clay with gravel (005).

Cutting natural in Stanchion Pit 30 was a north-south service trench (009). This was over 2.3m long by 0.9m wide with a single

fill of brownish yellow gravel and a ceramic drain (008).

The service trench had been sealed beneath yellow sand and limestone aggregate (007), which was identified as a make-up deposit for a former surface of mixed gravel and granite (006).

Evident throughout all the stanchion pits was a recent clearance/ strip cut (010) of 0.2m depth. This had been backfilled with limestone aggregate (001).

6. DISCUSSION

Natural deposits (Phase 1) comprise sands and gravels of the underlying 1st River Terrace deposits.

Recent deposits (Phase 2) comprise a recently infilled boundary ditch, a service trench, a remnant topsoil and surfaces. No artefacts were retrieved or recorded during the investigation.

7. CONCLUSION

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken at Hards Lane, Frognall, as the site lay in close proximity to prehistoric and Romano-British settlement.

However, only recent deposits or features were encountered and include a ditch, service trench, a former topsoil and aggregate surfaces. No finds were encountered during the investigation.

8. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeological Project Services wish to acknowledge the assistance of Mr T.M. King of Baxter and King Ltd for commissioning the fieldwork and post-excavation analysis. The work was coordinated by Gary Taylor who edited this report with Tom Lane. Jenny Young,

the South Kesteven Planning Archaeologist, kindly permitted access to the parish files and library 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

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11. ABBREVIATIONS

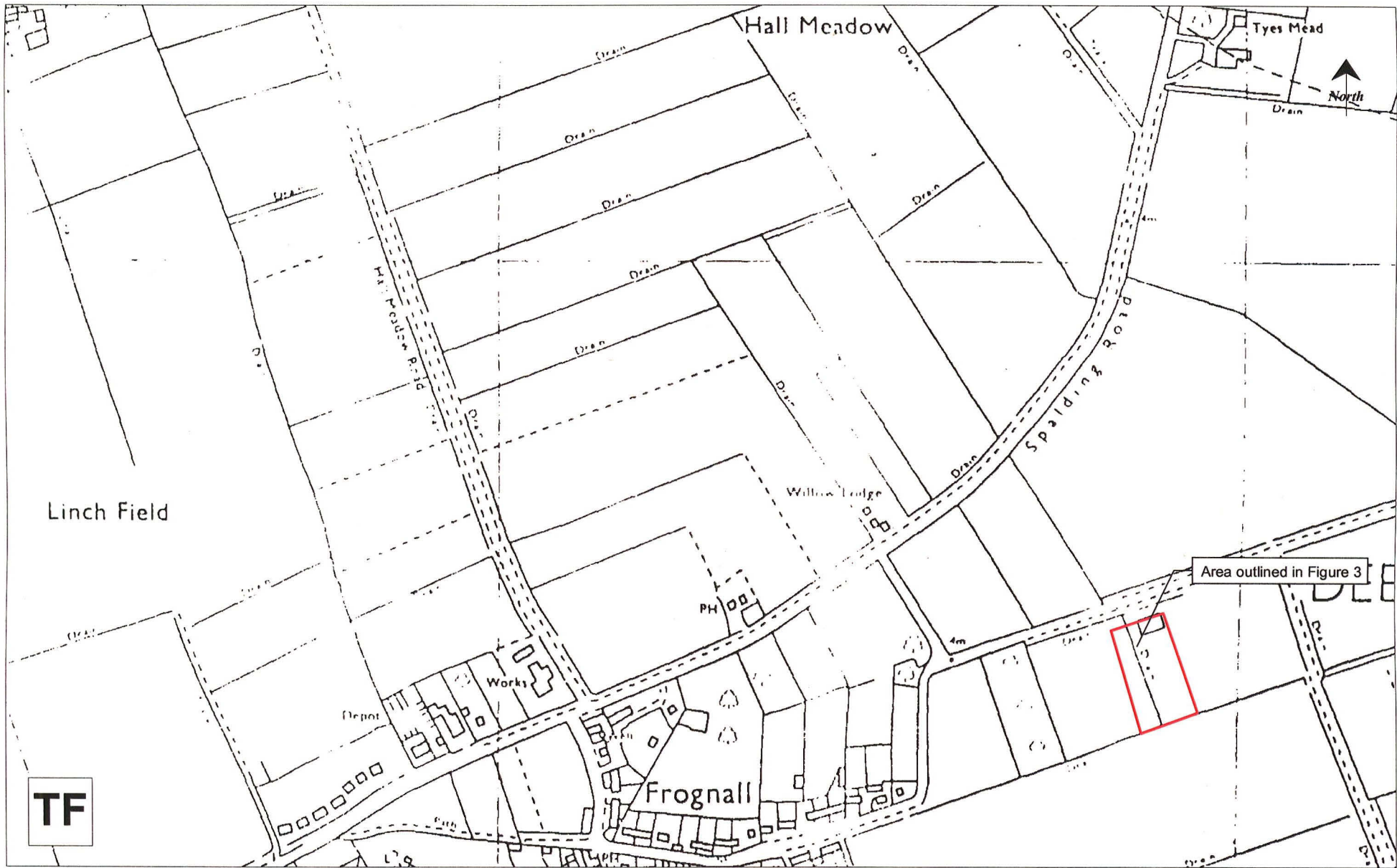
APS Archaeological Project Services

BGS British Geological Survey

IFA Institute of Field Archaeologists



Figure 1 - General Location Plan



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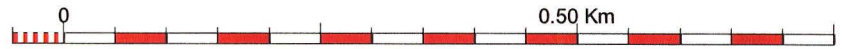


Figure 2 - Site location plan

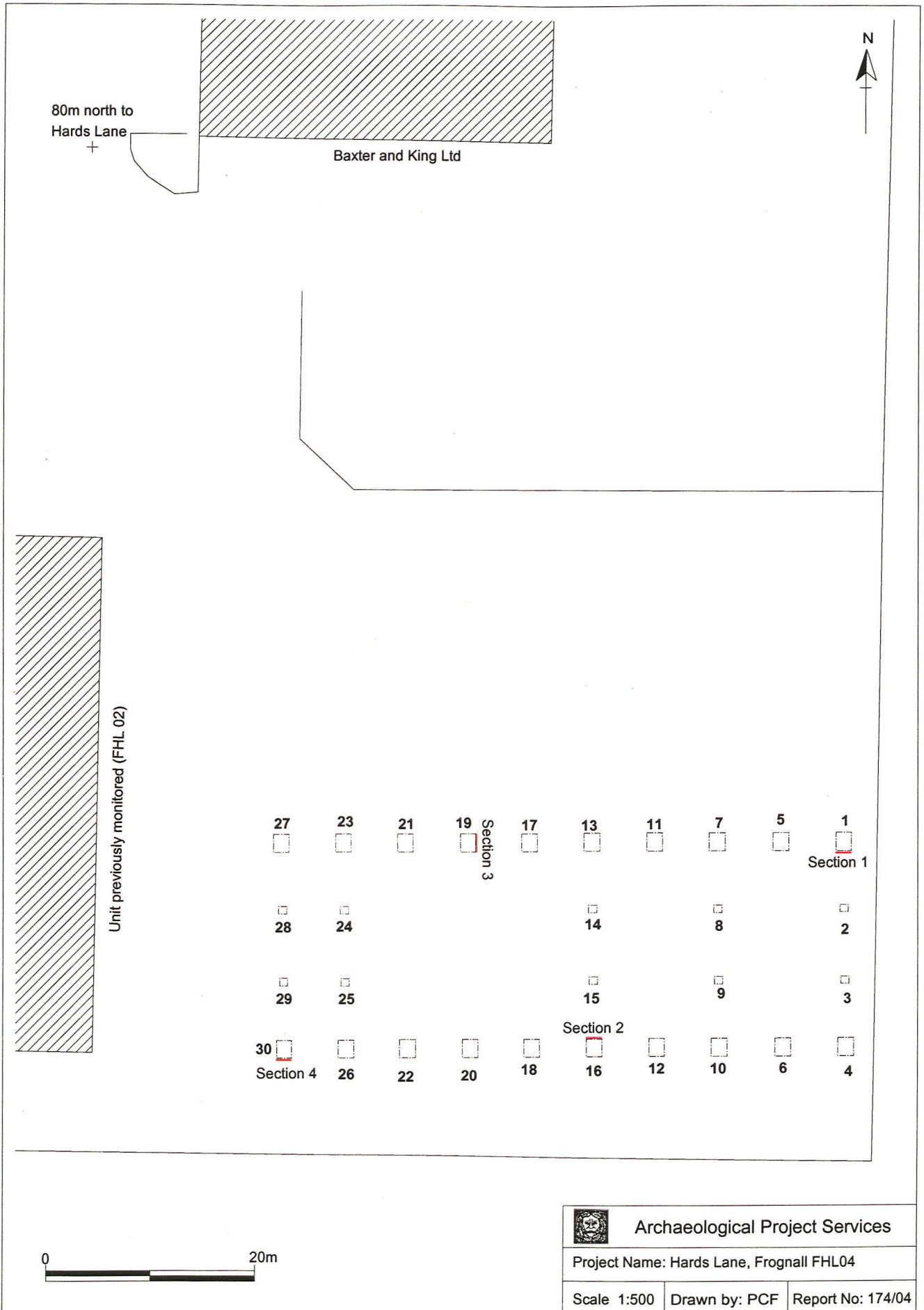
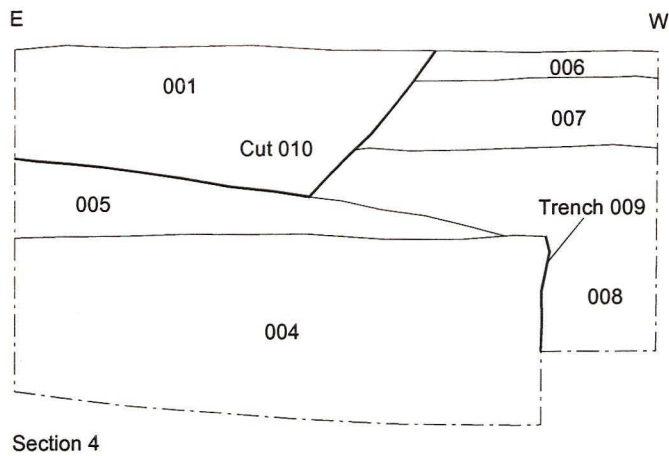
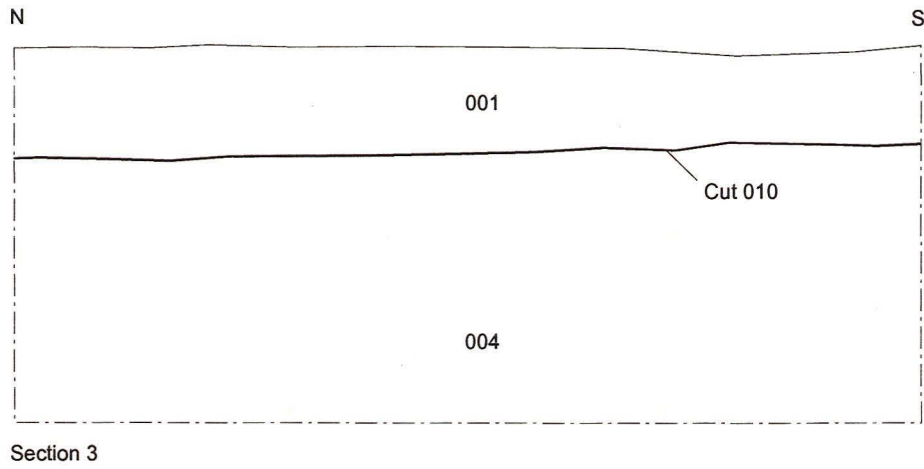
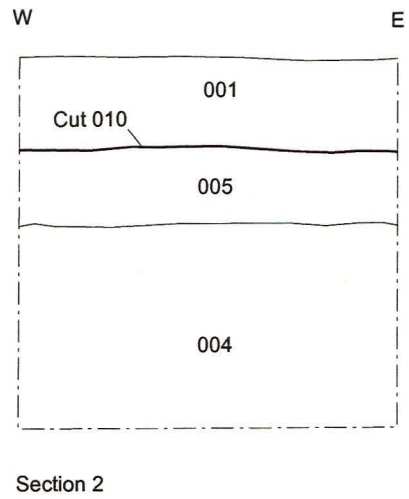
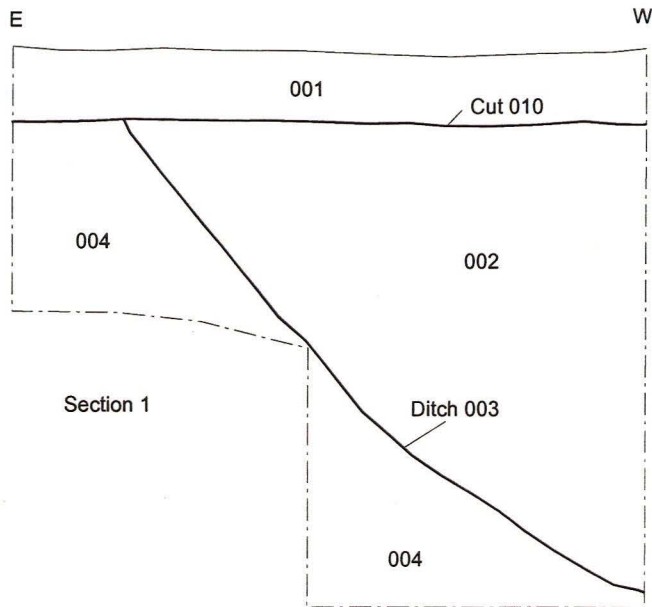


Figure 3 - Plan of the development showing section locations




 Archaeological Project Services		
Project Name: Hards Lane, Frognall FHL04		
Scale 1:20	Drawn by: PCF	Report No: 174/04

Figure 4 - Sections 1 to 4



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



Plate 2 - Section 1, showing ditch (003), looking south



Plate 3 - Section 4 showing service trench (009) and clearance cut (010), looking south

Appendix 1

LAND AT HARDS LANE, FROGNALL, LINCOLNSHIRE - SPECIFICATION FOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

1 SUMMARY

- 1.1 *A watching brief is required during construction of industrial units at Hards Lane, Frognall, Lincolnshire.*
- 1.2 *The site lies in an area of known archaeological significance. A Romano-British enclosure containing refuse pits and timber structures has been identified in close proximity to the site. Additionally, evidence of Iron Age and Roman settlement has been identified elsewhere in the vicinity.*
- 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 construction of industrial units on land at Hards Lane, Frognall, 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 Frognall is located 3km east of Market Deeping in the civil parish of Deeping St James, South Kesteven district, Lincolnshire. The development site is at the eastern edge of Frognall on the south side of Hards Lane at National Grid Reference TF 170 104.

4 PLANNING BACKGROUND

- 4.1 A planning application (S03/0569/25) was submitted to South Kesteven District Council for the erection of industrial units. 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 is on low-lying flat land at approximately 4m OD. Local soils are the Fladbury 1 Association stoneless clayey pelo-alluvial soils developed on marine alluvium (Hodge *et al.* 1984, 194).

6 ARCHAEOLOGICAL OVERVIEW

- 6.1 The development lies in an area densely settled in the Iron Age and Roman periods. Extensive cropmarks have been recorded in the vicinity and include a major settlement to the north of the development area which has yielded evidence of occupation during the late Iron Age and Roman periods. Surface scatters of prehistoric and Roman pottery have been recorded to the north and west. Further evidence of Roman activity in the form of a rectangular ditched enclosure containing refuse pits and timber structures was identified at a watching brief nearby (Archaeological Project Services 1994). Another watching brief in close proximity revealed an undated but possibly Roman ditch, and a recent ditch (Archaeological Project Services 2003).

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.
- 7.1.2 The objectives of the watching brief will be 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, and
 - Establish the sequence of the archaeological remains present on the site.
 -

8 SITE OPERATIONS

8.1 General considerations

- 8.1.1 All work will be undertaken following statutory Health and Safety requirements in operation at the time of the watching brief.
- 8.1.2 The work will be undertaken according to the relevant codes of practise issued by the Institute of Field Archaeologists (IFA), under the management of a Member of the institute (MIFA). Archaeological Project Services is IFA registered organisation no. 21.
- 8.1.3 Any and all artefacts found during the investigation and thought to be 'treasure', as defined by the Treasure Act 1996, will be removed from site to a secure store and promptly reported to the appropriate coroner's office.

8.2 Methodology

- 8.2.1 The watching brief will be undertaken during the ground works phase of development, and includes the archaeological monitoring of all phases of soil movement.
- 8.2.2 Stripped areas and trench sections will be observed regularly to identify and record archaeological features that are exposed and to record changes in the geological conditions. The section drawings of the trenches will be recorded at a scale of 1:10. Should features be recorded in plan these will be drawn at a scale of 1:20. Written descriptions detailing the nature of the deposits, features and fills encountered will be compiled on Archaeological Project Services pro-forma record sheets.
- 8.2.3 Any finds recovered will be bagged and labelled for later analysis.
- 8.2.4 Throughout the watching brief a photographic record will be compiled. The

photographic record will consist of:

- the site during work to show specific stages, and the layout of the archaeology within the trenches.
- 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 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 trenches and 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 report will be sent to the Client; the South Kesteven Planning Archaeologist; South Kesteven District Council Planning Department; and to the County Council Archaeological Sites and Monuments Record.

11 ARCHIVE

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

12 PUBLICATION

- 12.1 A report of the findings of the watching brief will be presented 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 Planning Archaeologist. They will be given written notice of the commencement of the project.

14 VARIATIONS AND CONTINGENCIES

- 14.1 Variations to the proposed scheme of works will only be made following written confirmation of acceptance from the archaeological curator.
- 14.2 In the event of the discovery of any unexpected remains of archaeological importance, or of any changed circumstances, it is the responsibility of the archaeological contractor to inform the archaeological curator (*Lincolnshire Archaeological Handbook* 1998, Sections 5.7 and 18).
- 14.3 Where important archaeological remains are discovered and deemed to merit further investigation additional resources may be required to provide an appropriate level of investigation, recording and analysis.
- 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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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 light grey and yellow limestone fragments, 0.2m thick	Recent aggregate layer
002	Firm dark grey clayey silt	Fill of (003)
003	Linear feature, aligned north-south, >1.4m long by >2m wide by 1.25m deep, steep sides and concave base	Ditch
004	Friable to firm mid yellowish brown sand and gravel, >1.3m thick	Natural deposit
005	Friable to firm dark greyish brown silty clay with gravel, 0.2m thick	Former topsoil
006	Loose mid grey gravel and granite fragments, 80mm thick	Aggregate surface
007	Loose mid yellow sand and limestone fragments, 0.18m thick	Make-up for (006)
008	Loose mid brownish yellow gravel with ceramic drain	Fill of (009)
009	Linear feature, aligned north-south, <2.3m long by 0.9m wide by >0.54m deep, vertical sides, not fully excavated	Service trench
010	Rectangular clearance cut for development, 0.2m deep	Clearance strip

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).
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.
Natural	Undisturbed deposit(s) of soil or rock which have accumulated without the influence of human activity.
Neolithic	The 'New Stone Age' period, part of the prehistoric era, dating from approximately 4500-2250 BC.
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:

10	Context records
1	Photographic record sheet
3	Drawing sheets
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: 2004.220

Archaeological Project Services Site Code: FHL 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.