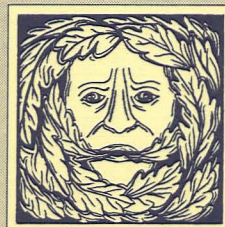


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**ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF
OF TEST PITS AT
BAIRDS MILL,
ANCASTER,
LINCOLNSHIRE
(ABM 05)**



A P S
ARCHAEOLOGICAL
PROJECT
SERVICES

Event: LI 5972 Intervention: LI 10044
Excavation: LI 10045

Quality PRN 36581 Post-Medieval.
Bairds Mill, Ancaster
ABM 05

Project Coordinator	Denise Dray
Supervisor	Denise Dray
Grada Processing	Denise Buckley
Illustration	Paul Cope-Faulkner, Michael Wood
Photographic Reproduction	See Unsworth
Post-excavation Analysis	Paul Cope-Faulkner

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF
OF TEST PITS AT
BAIRDS MILL,
ANCASTER,
LINCOLNSHIRE
(ABM 05)**

Checked by Project Manager	Approved by Senior Archaeologist
Gay Taylor	Tom Lane
Date: 2/2/05	Date: 23/05

**Work Undertaken For
Eastwood and Partners
Consulting Engineers**

March 2005

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

National Grid Reference: SK 9865 4432
City and County Museum Accession No: 2005.31

ARCHAEOLOGICAL PROJECT SERVICES



APS Report No. 36/05



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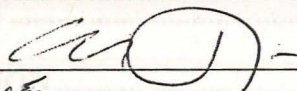
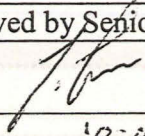
Quality Control
Bairds Mill, Ancaster
ABM 05

1. SUMMARY

2. INTRODUCTION

Project Coordinator	Denise Drury
Supervisor	Michael Wood
Finds Processing	Denise Buckley
Illustration	Paul Cope-Faulkner, Michael Wood
Photographic Reproduction	Sue Unsworth
Post-excavation Analyst	Paul Cope-Faulkner

3. METHODS

Checked by Project Manager	Approved by Senior Archaeologist
Gary Taylor 	 Tom Lane
Date: 4/3/05	Date: 10-03-05

7. CONCLUSION

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2.2 Planning Background

Archaeological Project Services was commissioned by Eastwood and Partners Consulting Engineers to undertake an archaeological watching brief during test pitting at Bards Mill, Emme Street, Ancaster, Lincolnshire. The watching brief was carried out on the 2nd February 2005.

2.3 Topography and Geology

Ancaster is situated 10km west of Skefford and 10km northeast of Grantham in the administrative district of South Kesteven, Lincolnshire (Fig. 1).

Bards Mill is located at National Grid coordinates SK 400 240 on a moderate slope down to the southeast, towards the parish church of St. Martin (Fig. 2). The site has an area of approximately 2400 square metres.

The site is situated on the Blackwood Association, typically deep peaty sandy and coarse loamy soils with Blackwood Association glacial till immediately southeast of the site (OS grid ref. SK 400 240). These soils derive a soil profile of Older River (OS grid ref. SK 400 240), which is now with a soil profile of Older River (OS grid ref. SK 400 240).

2.4 Archaeological Setting

Previous Bronze Age and medieval remains have been recorded in the vicinity of Ancaster. Neolithic stone tools and extensive settlement of the Iron Age have been recorded in the vicinity of the site.

Ancaster was the site of an early Roman fort located 500m west of the site perimeter.

1. SUMMARY

A watching brief was undertaken during groundworks at Bairds Mill, Ermine Street, Ancaster, Lincolnshire. The watching brief monitored the excavation of 11 geotechnical test pits.

The site lies to the north of the Romano-British (AD 43-410) walled town, which may have developed from an extensive Iron Age (800BC-AD43) settlement. The site sits alongside the Roman thoroughfare, Ermine Street. A Romano-British pottery kiln, along with finds of the period and several skeletons, were found at the site during construction of the mill in the mid 19th century. Medieval (AD 1066-1540) remains are restricted to the core of Ancaster village. Finds of Neolithic (4000-2200 BC) are also known from the vicinity.

The watching brief revealed a sequence of natural, subsoil and topsoil deposits across most of the site. A 19th century mill or malthouse was partly exposed and layers associated with its eventual demolition were also recorded. Finds retrieved during the investigation comprise brick, tile and slag of 19th - 20th century date.

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 Eastwood and Partners Consulting Engineers to undertake an archaeological watching brief during test pitting at Bairds Mill, Ermine Street, Ancaster, Lincolnshire. The watching brief was carried out on the 2nd February 2005.

2.3 Topography and Geology

Ancaster is situated 10km west of Sleaford and 10km northeast of Grantham in the administrative district of South Kesteven, Lincolnshire (Fig. 1).

Bairds Mill is located at National Grid Reference SK 9865 4432 on the east side of Ermine Street, immediately south of the railtrack and 840m northeast of the centre of Ancaster as defined by the parish church of St. Martin (Fig. 2). The site lies at a height of c. 40m OD on a moderate slope down to the southeast, towards the Beck, a minor watercourse. The site encompasses some 2449 square metres.

Local soils are of the Blackwood Association, typically deep permeable sandy and coarse loamy soils, with Ruskington Association, gleyic brown earths immediately southeast of the site (Hodge *et al.* 1984, 127, 304). These soils overlie a drift geology of Older River sands and gravels, with younger marine alluvium in the valley of the Beck, which in turn seals a solid geology of Jurassic Lincolnshire Limestone (GSGB 1972).

2.4 Archaeological Setting

Prehistoric, Romano-British and medieval remains have been recorded in the vicinity of Ancaster. Neolithic stone tools and extensive settlement of Iron Age date represent prehistoric activity in close proximity to the site.

Ancaster was the site of an early Roman fort located 500m west of the site perhaps

by the IX legion Hispania, on their march to Lincoln in AD 43. The site is bounded to the west by Ermine Street, a Roman thoroughfare that once connected London with Lincoln and beyond to the Humber estuary (Margary 1975, 228). The modern village of Ancaster encompasses a Roman walled town. Archaeological excavations in and around Ancaster have uncovered evidence of the town's earthen rampart and walled defences along with stone buildings with fragments of tessellated pavements (Todd 1981). Of direct relevance to the site is a Roman pottery kiln discovered in the immediate vicinity in 1865 during construction of the mill. Pitchers and vases were possibly produced at the site and other finds included a number of coins and a group of six or seven skeletons (Trollope 1872, 481).

No mention of Ancaster is made in the Domesday Survey of c. 1086. However, the Domesday Survey records two churches in the adjacent village of West Willoughby, one of which may be located at Ancaster (Foster and Longley 1976). Ancaster is first mentioned in a charter of Henry II (1154-1189). Recorded as *Anecastre*, the name is derived from the Old English and means the '(Roman) fort belonging to *Ana*' (Cameron 1998, 3).

Physical evidence of medieval remains is scarce, though the church of St. Martin contains 12th century elements (Pevsner and Harris 1989, 100) and the chapel of St. Mary once stood in the field opposite the church. There is also a medieval cross in the village centre.

3. AIMS

The aim of the archaeological investigation was to ensure that any archaeological features exposed during the groundworks should be recorded and, if present, to determine their date, function and origin.

4. METHODS

Eleven test pits were excavated by machine under archaeological supervision. Due to the depth of some trenches and the risk of collapse, observations were taken from the sides of the test pits. One test pit, No. 10, collapsed before any recording was undertaken. Each deposit identified within the test pits was allocated a unique reference number (context number) with an individual written description. A list of all contexts and their descriptions appears as Appendix 1. A photographic record was compiled and sections were drawn at a scale of 1:10. Recording was undertaken according to standard Archaeological Project Services' practice.

Following excavation finds were examined and a period date assigned where possible (Appendix 2). The records were also checked and a stratigraphic matrix produced. Phasing was assigned based on the nature of the deposits and recognisable relationships between them and supplemented by artefact dating.

5. RESULTS

Following post-excavation analysis three phases were identified;

Phase 1	Natural deposits
Phase 2	Mid 20 th century deposits
Phase 3	Recent deposits

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

Phase 1 Natural deposits

The earliest deposit encountered in the base of all the test pits was a layer of light brown sand (003) identified as the underlying drift geology. This was in excess of 0.6m thick.

In Test Pit 4, the natural sand was overlain by a layer of greyish brown silty sand (006) that was 0.3m thick (Fig. 4, Section 4). This had then been sealed by dark grey peat (005) which was overlain by greyish brown silty clay (004). The peat was 0.6m thick and the silty clay measured 0.6m thick.

Developed upon the natural was a subsoil comprising brownish grey silty sand (002). This measured up to 1.05m thick.

Phase 2 Mid 20th century deposits

Deposits of 19th century date were restricted to Test Pits 6 and 9. In Test Pit 9 a short length of north-south aligned brick wall (014) was exposed. This was 0.14m wide by 0.6m high (Fig. 5, Section 9). The brick was of 20th century date.

Bonded to the wall to both sides was a light brown concrete surface (016) that was 60mm thick. Overlying the concrete to the west of the wall was a dumped deposit of coal/coke (013).

Located within Test Pit 6 was a deposit of light brown limestone fragments (009). This was 0.15m thick and identified as a former surface.

Phase 3 Recent deposits

Located within Test Pit 6 was a demolition deposit comprising reddish brown silt with brick rubble (008) that was 0.25m thick. This demolition deposit appears to have extended into Test Pit 7 (Fig. 5, Section 7), 12m to the west, where it was recorded as being 0.64m thick (007). Amongst finds retrieved from the demolition layers were 19th century brick and tile, including a malting kiln tile, as well as slag and stone.

A further demolition deposit was exposed in Test Pit 9, located east of the 19th century wall. This comprised reddish brown brick fragments (015).

Sealing all archaeological deposits in the Test Pits, with the exception of Test Pit 9, was topsoil (001) that comprised greyish brown silty sand that measured up to 0.2m thick.

In Test Pit 9, overlying the demolition deposits was a make-up layer of gravel and silt (012) for gravel hardstanding (011).

6. DISCUSSION

Natural deposits (Phase 1) comprise largely sands of the underlying older river sands and gravels. Alluvial and peat deposits were encountered in Test Pit 4, which is located on the lowest part of the site and nearest to the Beck watercourse. The peat would suggest a low lying marshy area and with an organic component may provide important environmental evidence.

Subsoil, perhaps indicating prolonged agricultural use had developed upon the natural deposits. No artefacts were found associated with this layer.

Mid 20th century deposits (Phase 2) would appear to be associated with the former mill or malthouse that formerly stood at the site. This was constructed in 1856 and maps show its existence into the 1960s when it was demolished apart from a short length of wall still standing (Plate 2). The wall located in Test Pit 9 appears to be later than the mill, dating to the 20th century, and is probably an internal division. The construction of the mill or malthouse appears to have impacted into the subsoil deposits, perhaps removing all trace of the Romano-British remains known to have existed at the site.

Artefacts are restricted to brick, tile, slag and stone. A malting kiln tile found in a demolition deposit supports the known use of the site during the 19th century.

7. CONCLUSION

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken at Bairds Mill, Ancaster, as the site lay in an area of known remains of prehistoric to medieval date, notably a Romano-British kiln.

However, no remains associated with the known Romano-British presence were identified and only an internal wall of a 19th century mill or malthouse were exposed. This had been demolished in the late 20th century.

Finds retrieved during the investigation comprised brick and tile from the former mill or malthouse, including a malting kiln tile, and slag and stone.

8. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeological Project Services wish to acknowledge the assistance of Mr J. Howell of Eastwood and Partners Consulting Engineers for commissioning the fieldwork and post-excavation analysis. The work was coordinated by Denise Drury and this report edited by Gary Taylor and 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: Denise Drury
 Site Supervisor: Michael Wood
 Finds processing: Denise Buckley
 Photographic reproduction: Sue Unsworth
 Illustration: Paul Cope-Faulkner, Michael Wood
 Post-excavation analysis: Paul Cope-Faulkner

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11. ABBREVIATIONS

- APS Archaeological Project Services
 GSGB Geological Survey of Great Britain
 IFA Institute of Field Archaeologists

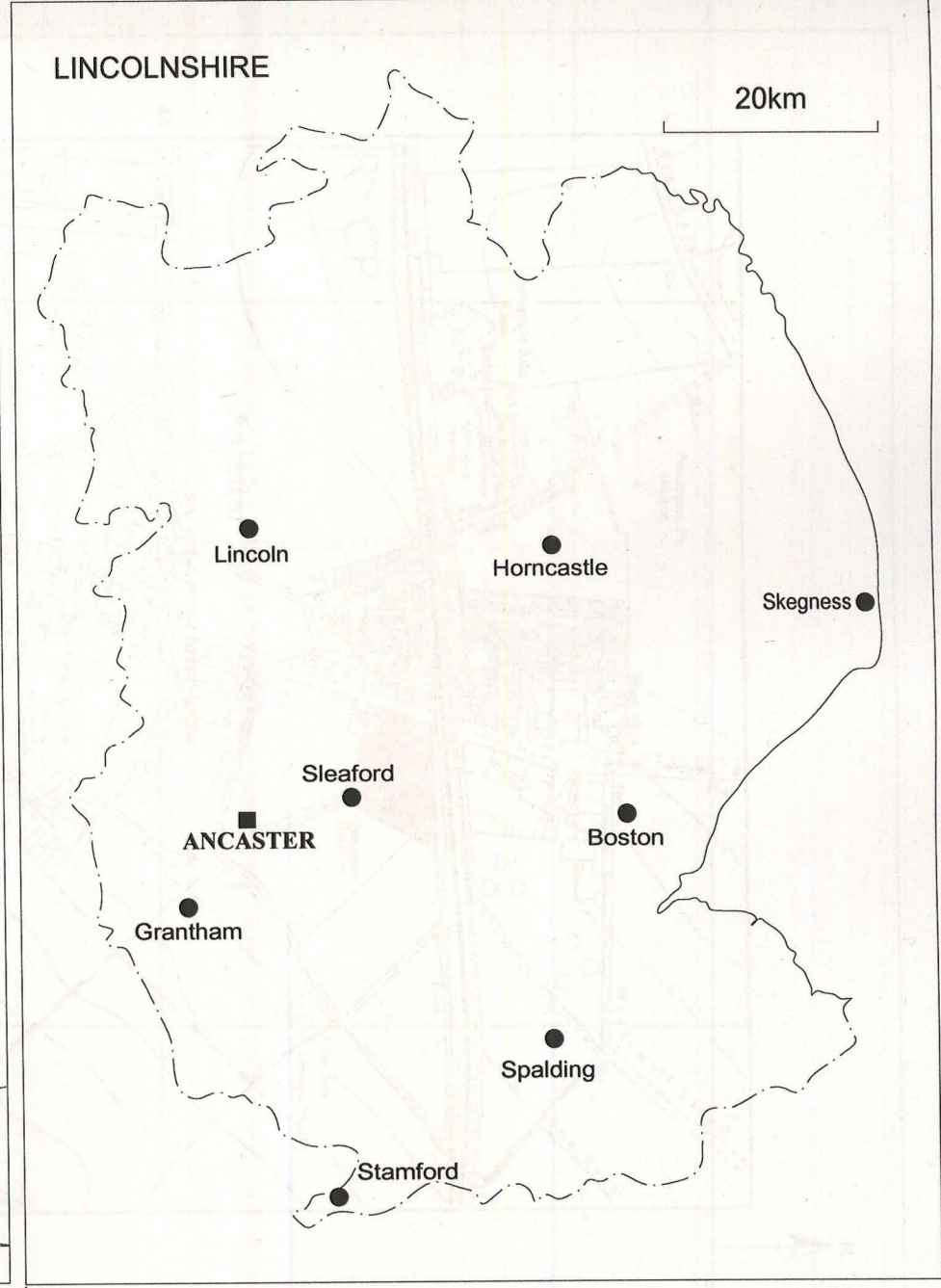
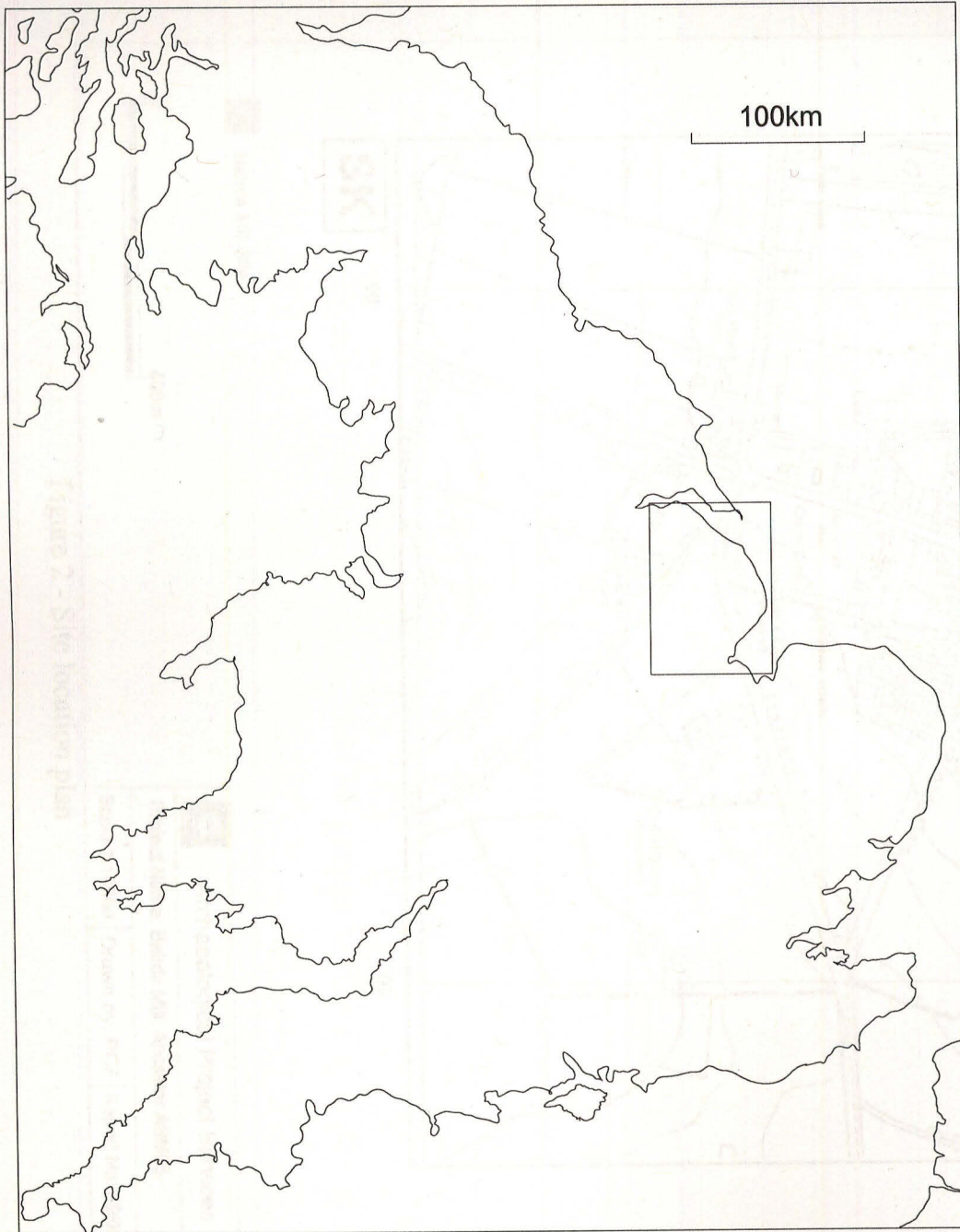
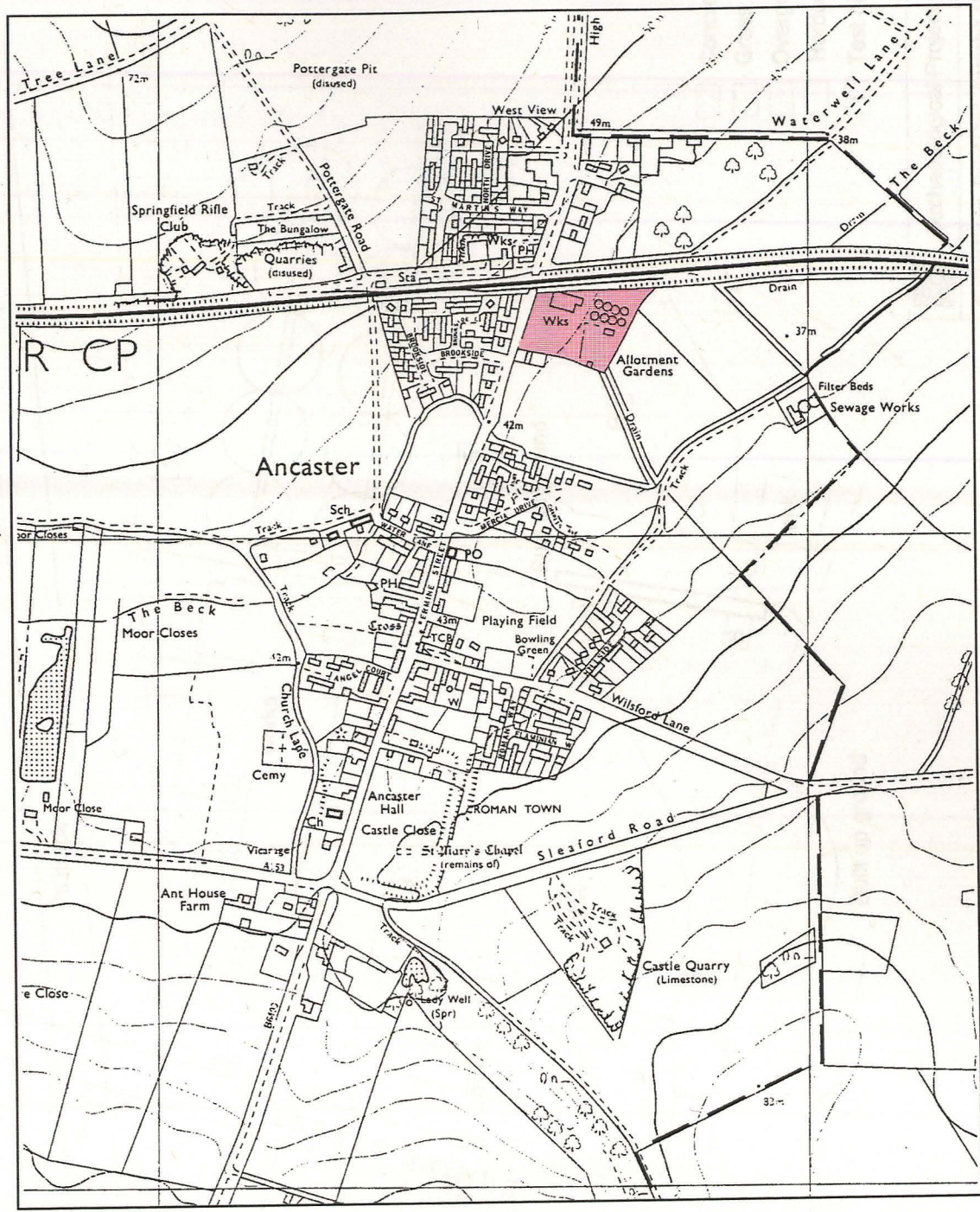


Figure 1 - General Location Plan



SK

98

99

 Bairds Mill Site



Archaeological Project Services

Project Name: Bairds Mill, Ancaster ABM05

Scale 1:10000 Drawn by: PCF Report No: 36/05

Figure 2 - Site location plan

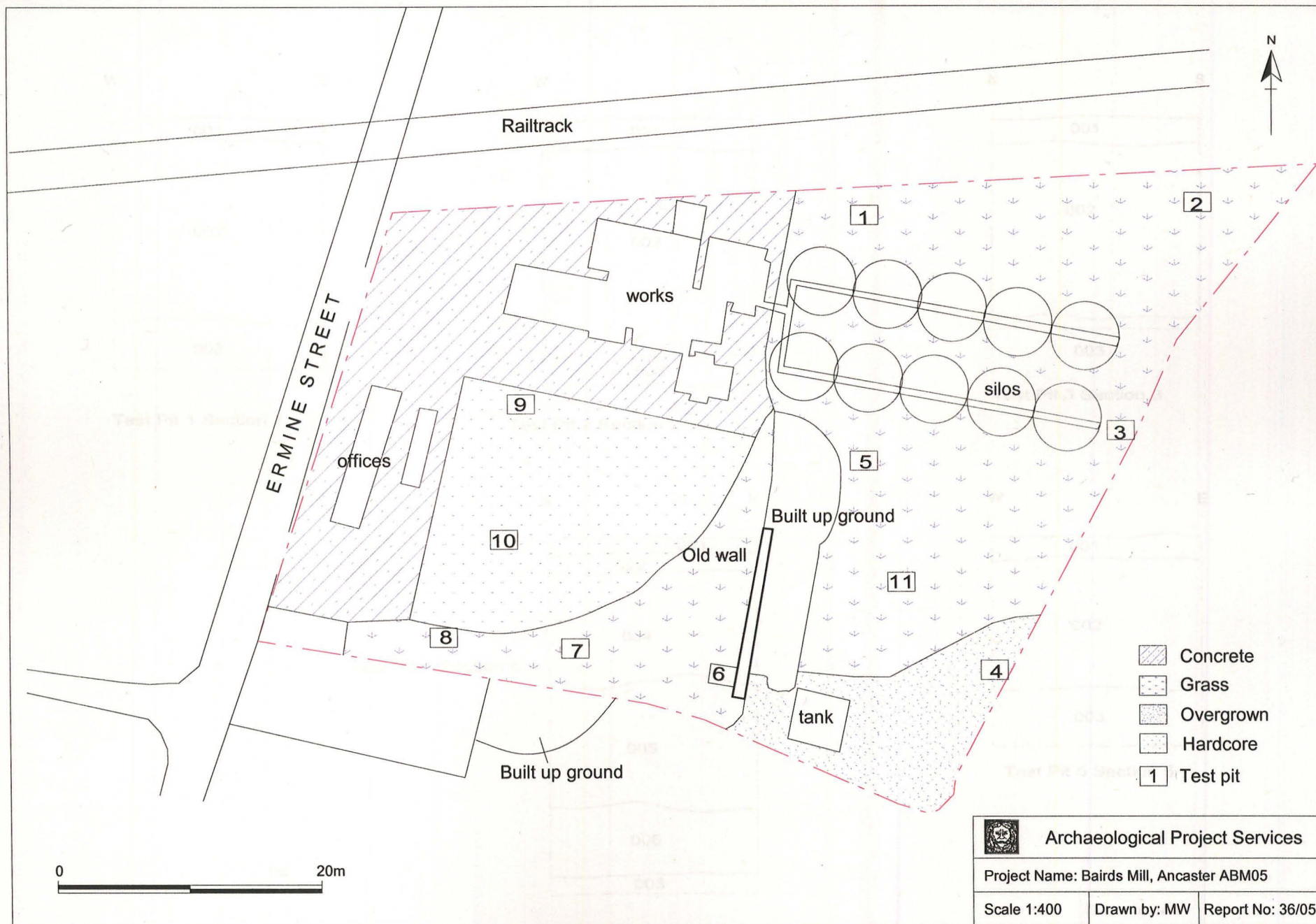
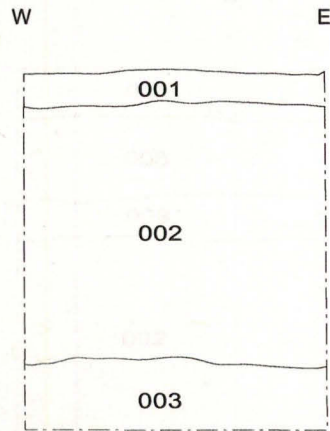
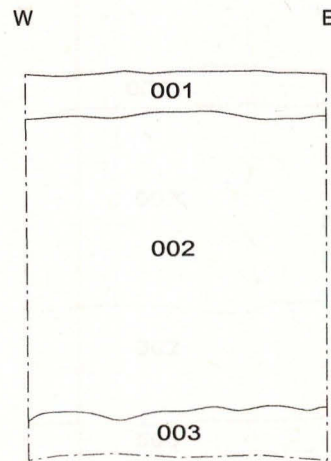


Figure 3 - Test pit locations

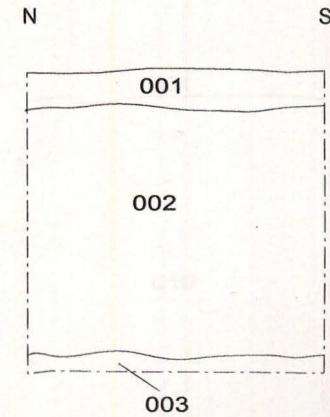
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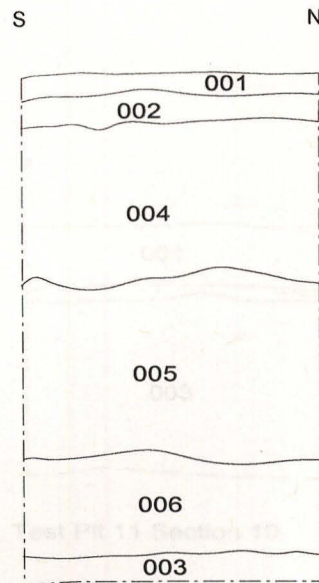
Test Pit 1 Section 1



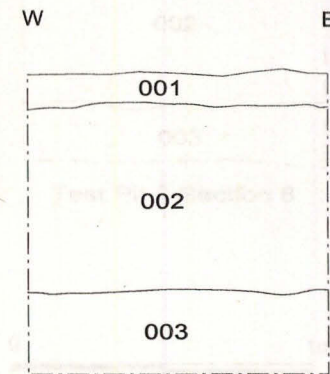
Test Pit 2 Section 2



Test Pit 3 Section 3



Test Pit 4 Section 4



Test Pit 5 Section 5




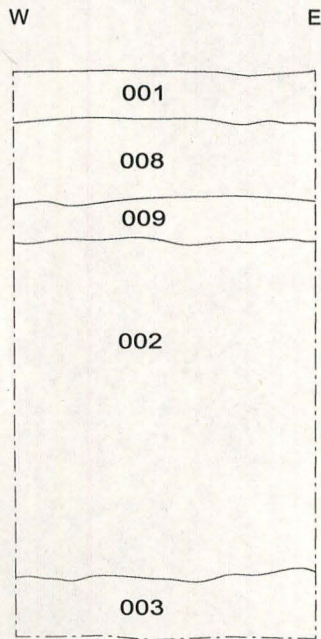
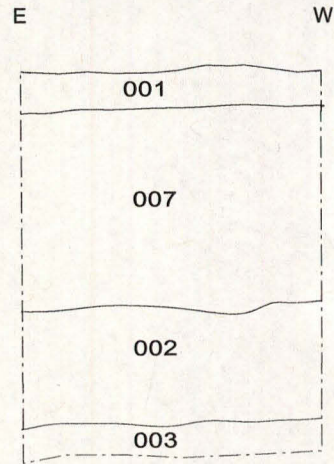
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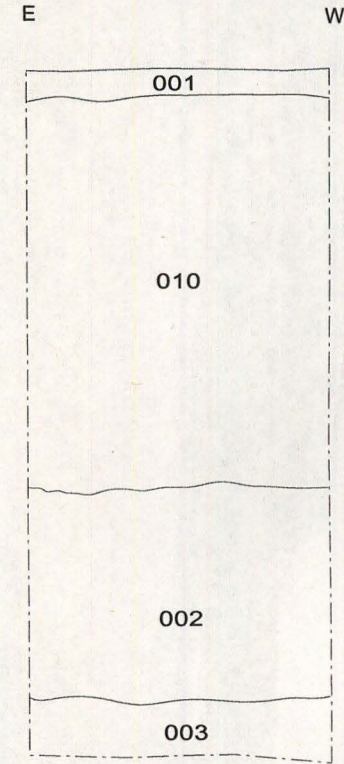
Figure 4 - Sections 1 to 5



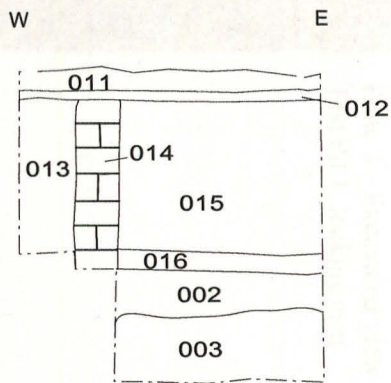
Test Pit 6 Section 6



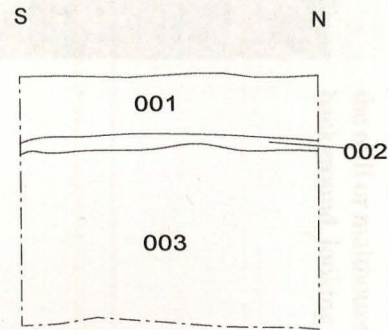
Test Pit 7 Section 7



Test Pit 8 Section 8



Test Pit 9 Section 9



Test Pit 11 Section 10



Archaeological Project Services

Project Name: Bairds Mill, Ancaster ABM05

Scale 1:25

Drawn by: MW

Report No: 36/05

Figure 5 - Sections 6 to 10



Plate 1 - General view across the site, looking northeast

towards the base, looking west



Plate 2 - Excavation of Test Pit 6 with 19th century wall to the mill or malthouse in the background, looking northeast



Plate 3 - Excavated view of Test Pit 1, looking east

malthouse, looking north



Plate 4 - Test Pit 4 with the peat deposit just visible towards the base, looking west

- 010 Friable mid-greyish brown silty sand, 1.5m thick
- 011 Fine mid reddish brown gravel, 50mm thick

Interpretation
Topsoil
Subsoil
Natural deposit
Natural deposit
Natural deposit
Natural deposit
Demolition deposit
Demolition deposit
Surface
Demolition deposit



Plate 5 - Test Pit 7 showing the recent demolition deposit, looking north

Interpretation
Surface



Plate 6 - Test Pit 9 showing the mid 20th century wall associated with the mill/malthouse, looking north

Appendix 1

CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

No.	Description	Interpretation
001	Friable mid greyish brown silty sand, 0.2m thick	Topsoil
002	Friable mid brownish grey silty sand, 1.05m thick	Subsoil
003	Friable light brown sand, >0.6m thick	Natural deposit
004	Friable mid greyish brown silty clay, 0.64m thick	Natural deposit
005	Firm dark grey peat, 0.6m thick	Natural deposit
006	Friable light greyish brown silty sand, 0.3m thick	Natural deposit
007	Friable mid reddish brown silt and brick rubble, 0.64m thick	Demolition deposit
008	Firm mid reddish brown silt and brick rubble, 0.25m thick	Demolition deposit
009	Firm light brown limestone fragments, 0.15m thick	Surface
010	Friable mid greyish brown silty sand, 1.3m thick	Dumped/landscaping deposit
011	Firm mid reddish brown gravel, 60mm thick	Hardstanding
012	Firm mid greyish brown gravel and silt, 60mm thick	Make-up for (011)
013	Loose grey coal/coke fragments, 0.5m thick	Dumped deposit
014	Brick (200mm x 140mm x 70mm) structure, aligned north-south, 0.14m wide by 0.6m high	Wall
015	Firm mid reddish brown brick fragments, 0.5m thick	Demolition deposit
016	Firm light brown concrete, 60mm thick	Surface

Appendix 2

THE FINDS by Gary Taylor

A quantity of artefacts, mostly brick/tile but also including slag and stone, comprising 9 items weighing a total of 5226g, was retrieved from 3 separate contexts. No other artefacts or faunal remains were recovered.

Provenance

The material was recovered from demolition deposits (007 and 008) and a wall (014).

Range

The range of material is detailed in the table.

Table 1: Artefacts

Context	Material	Description	No.	Wt (g)	Context Date
007	CBM	Very late handmade or early machine-made brick, frogged, 78mm thick, mortar adhering, late 19 th century	1	304	Late 19 th -20 th century
	CBM	Machine-made floor tile, 27mm thick, mortar adhering, late 19 th -20 th century	1	512	
	CBM	Handmade brick, 75mm thick, late post-medieval	1	467	
	CBM	Brick/tile	1	10	
	Slag	Iron smithing slag, late post-medieval	1	160	
008	CBM	Very late handmade or early machine-made brick, frogged, 76mm thick, mortar adhering, late 19 th -early 20 th century	1	766	Late 19 th -20 th century
	CBM	Malting kiln tile, olive green glazed, circular vents, holes in rings, late 19 th -20 th century	1	326	
	Stone	Roughly squared block of building stone	1	922	
014	CBM	Machine made brick, frogged, impressed letters 'ST[]', mortar adhering	1	1759	20 th century

Note: CBM = Ceramic Building Material

Almost all of the recovered artefacts are building materials and reflect the presence of 19th-20th century buildings at the site. One of the pieces, from (008), is a malting kiln tile and indicates that barley was malted at the site.

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 Ancaster that are the subjects of reports. Details of archaeological sites and discoveries in the area are maintained in the files of the South Kesteven Planning Archaeologist and the Lincolnshire County Council Sites and Monuments Record.

Potential

The collection of artefacts reflects the presence of 19th-20th century buildings at the site but is of limited local potential and significance. The malting kiln tile is noteworthy as an indicator of functional activities at the site in the 19th-20th centuries.

The lack of any material earlier than the 19th 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.

Appendix 3

GLOSSARY

Alluvium	A deposit (usually clay, silts or sands) laid down in water. Marine alluvium is deposited by the sea and freshwater alluvium by streams, rivers or within lakes.
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).
Dumped deposits	These are deposits, often laid down intentionally, that raise a land surface. They may be the result of casual waste disposal or may be deliberate attempts to raise the ground surface.
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.
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 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:

16	Context records
1	Photographic record sheet
4	Sheets of Scale Drawings
1	Stratigraphic matrix
1	Box of finds

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

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: 2005.31

Archaeological Project Services Site Code: ABM 05

The discussion and comments provided in this report are based on the archaeology revealed during the site investigations. Other archaeological finds and features may exist on the development site but away from the areas exposed during the course of this fieldwork. *Archaeological Project Services* cannot confirm that those areas unexposed are free from archaeology nor that any archaeology present there is of a similar character to that revealed during the current investigation.

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