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**ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF
OF DEVELOPMENT AT
HIGH STREET,
BICKER,
LINCOLNSHIRE
(BIHS 03)**



A P S
ARCHAEOLOGICAL
PROJECT
SERVICES

EVENT: LI 5975

INTERVENTION: LI 10050

EXCAVATION: LI 10051

PRNS. 13814 Undated

13599 Medieval

13815 Post-medieval

Quality Centre
High Street, Bicker
BIHS 03

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF
OF DEVELOPMENT AT
HIGH STREET,
BICKER,
LINCOLNSHIRE
(BIHS 03)**

**Work Undertaken For
Dalesk Ltd**

March 2005

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

Planning Application No: B/01/0313
National Grid Reference: TF 2248 3768
City and County Museum Accession No: 2003.100

ARCHAEOLOGICAL PROJECT SERVICES



APS Report No. 29/05



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Quality Control

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BIHS 03

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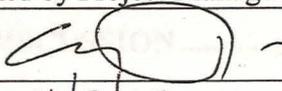
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1. SUMMARY

A watching brief was undertaken during groundworks at High Street, Bicker, Lincolnshire. The watching brief monitored the excavation of foundation trenches for five new dwellings and the stripping of an access road.

Bicker is located in an area of archaeological interest with settlement remains dating back to the Romano-British period (AD 43-410). The village was established by the Late Saxon period (AD 850-1066) and is attested to by carved stones within the church and findspots of pottery. By the medieval period (AD 1066-1540) Bicker was an established industrial area producing salt from the now infilled Bicker Haven. Standing remains are limited to the church of St. Swithin which dates from the 11th and 12th centuries.

A previous evaluation of the site identified deposits containing charcoal and baked silt, suggestive of salt-making activities in the vicinity, as well as post-medieval refuse disposal.

The watching brief revealed a sequence of undated, medieval and post-medieval deposits. Undated deposits include pits, ditches, postholes, a slot and dumped deposits. Medieval remains consisting of a ditch and two pits were only encountered in Plot 1 and perhaps represent backyard activity to settlement lying to the east. Post-medieval deposits comprise a gully, pits and brick built soakaways as well as an extensive subsoil.

Medieval pottery was the largest category of finds retrieved and post-medieval pottery was absent. An assemblage of fired clay, perhaps from salt-making activities or a hearth or oven was retrieved from a probable medieval pit. Other finds include brick, worked bone, slag, clay pipe, glass, coal metalwork and a small quantity of animal bone.

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 Dalesk Ltd to undertake an archaeological watching brief during groundworks associated with residential development at High Street, Bicker, Lincolnshire. Approval for the development was sought through the submission of planning application B/01/0313. The watching brief was carried out between the 1st May 2003 and 27th September 2004 in accordance with a specification prepared by Archaeological Project Services (Appendix 1) and approved by the Boston Planning Archaeologist.

2.3 Topography and Geology

Bicker is located 12km southwest of Boston and 17km southeast of Sleaford in Boston Borough, Lincolnshire (Fig. 1).

The site lies 170m south of the village centre as defined by the parish church of St. Swithin at National Grid Reference TF 2248 3768 (Fig. 2). Situated at a height of c. 3.6m OD, the site lies on land to the west of High Street. The local topography describes generally level ground in the vicinity.

Local soils are of the Romney Series, typically coarse silty gleyic brown calcareous alluvial soils (Robson 1990,

26). These soils are developed upon a drift geology of younger marine alluvium which in turn seals a solid geology of Jurassic Ampthill Clays (BGS 1995).

2.4 Archaeological Setting

Bicker lies in an area of known archaeological remains dating from the Romano-British period to the present day. Pottery of Romano-British date has been found north of the church and cropmarks indicative of settlement of this period are known from northwest of the village.

Pottery of Late Saxon date has also been collected from around the village and within the church are carved stones, a cross shaft and head as well as a possible grave cover, of this period (Everson and Stocker 1999, 107-9).

Bicker is first mentioned in the Domesday Survey of c. 1086. Referred to as '*Bichere*' the name is derived from the Old Scandinavian *kjarr* and the Old English *bi* and means 'the village by the marsh' (Cameron 1998, 14). The Domesday Survey records that the land was held by the Archbishop of York, Count Alan, Countess Judith and Guy of Craon and contained a church and 23 salt-pans (Foster and Longley 1976).

The only extant remains of the medieval period is the 11th and 12th century church of St. Swithin (Pevsner and Harris 1989, 142). To the south and southeast of the village are a number of large mounds, composed of silts and ash, which represent the waste material from medieval salt extraction, an important industry along Bicker Haven, a now infilled arm of The Wash.

An evaluation undertaken at the site found possible evidence for 11th century or earlier salt making as well as post-medieval pits (Field 2002, 1). Further possible evidence for salt-making was found during a watching brief and

evaluation 250m to the southeast where a sea-bank was also identified (Thomson 2002, 1).

3. AIMS

The aim of the watching brief, as detailed in the specification (Appendix 1), 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

Initially, the access road was stripped of topsoil by machine. Following this, the footprint of each building was stripped of topsoil before foundation trenches were excavated by machine to depths required by the development. Where these exceeded the safe working depth of 1.2m, observations were taken from the side of the trench. Selected deposits were then 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 and plans at 1:20. Recording was undertaken according to standard Archaeological Project Services' practice.

Following excavation finds were examined and a period date assigned where possible (Appendix 3). 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 five phases were identified;

Phase 1	Natural deposits
Phase 2	Undated deposits
Phase 3	Medieval deposits
Phase 4	Post-medieval deposits
Phase 5	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

Natural deposits along the course of the access road comprised yellow silt (003 and 017). This measured in excess of 0.3m thick. Cutting through these natural deposits was a north-south aligned natural channel (005). This was over 4m long and wider than 1.5m and was filled with yellow silt (004).

In Plot 1, natural was identified as a brown silt (026) and in Plot 2 as a brown sandy silt (048). In Plots 3 to 5, natural comprised yellow silt (056) that measured over 0.4m thick.

Phase 2 Undated deposits

Access Road (Fig. 4)

Cutting natural (017) on the north side of the access road was a sub-rectangular feature (022), probably a pit. This was over 0.5m long, wider than 0.15m and deeper than 0.38m (Fig. 9, Section 1). Filling the pit was a deposit of yellow silt (021).

Overlying the pit was a layer of re-deposited natural (020) comprising yellow silt that was 0.3m thick. This was recorded as continuing to the east (019). The reason for this re-deposition is unclear.

Lying parallel to the natural channel (005)

was a linear ditch (009) which terminated within the access road. This had a visible length of 3.1m, continuing south beyond the stripped area, and was 1.6m wide and over 0.32m deep (Fig. 9, Section 2). A single fill of brown silt (008) was identified.

Lying between the ditch and natural channel was an oval pit (007). This was 0.9m long by 0.5m wide and was not excavated. A fill of brown silt (006) was observed.

Cut into the re-deposited natural (020), to the west, was a large rectangular feature (015). This measured over 3m long, over 2.1m wide and exceeded 0.57m in depth (Fig. 9, Section 1). Although not fully excavated, two fills were observed, a lower of brown silt (014) sealed by the uppermost fill of yellow silt (016).

Also cutting re-deposited natural (020) and (019) was a north-south aligned ditch (011). This was longer than 4.4m and was 1.4m wide and deeper than 0.5m (Fig. 9, Section 1). Two fills were recorded, one of dark grey silt with charcoal (018) and a principal fill of brown silt (010). This ditch was not fully excavated.

Sealing the undated deposits and features within the access road area was a 0.25m thick subsoil comprising brown silt (002).

Plot 1 (Fig. 5)

Lying above natural deposits in the southeast corner of this plot was a dumped deposit (027). This comprised greyish brown silt with charcoal and was 100mm thick (Fig. 9, Section 3; Fig. 10, Section 4).

Located 3m to the west of the dumped deposit was a sub-rectangular pit (037). This was 1.6m long by over 100mm wide and deeper than 0.2m (Fig. 11, Section 7). This was not fully excavated and a fill of greyish brown silt (036) was recorded.

Situated in the north corner of the foundation trenches was another sub-rectangular pit (031). This was 1.3m wide and over 0.3m deep (Fig. 10, Section 6) and contained a single fill of greyish brown silt (030).

Plot 2 (Fig. 6)

Located within the westernmost foundation trench in this plot was a sub-circular pit (044). Measuring 1.2m wide and 0.2m deep (Fig. 12, Section 9) the pit was filled with grey silt (045).

Plot 3 (Fig. 7)

Cut into natural deposits was a feature (055) identified as a pit. This was over 2m long, over 0.43m wide and greater than 0.4m deep (Fig. 12, Section 10). The pit was filled with grey silt with yellow baked clay (054).

Sealing this pit was a subsoil comprising a 0.4m thick layer of brown silt (053) which extended into the adjacent plots 4 and 5.

Plots 4 and 5 (Fig. 8)

Located towards the centre of this plot were a number of features that were exposed after the foundation trench had been deepened beyond the safe working depth (Fig. 8). Observations were thus made from the side of the foundation trench and none of the features excavated.

Cutting natural (056) was a sub-circular posthole (066) which was 0.17m long by 0.15m wide and filled with yellowish red baked silt (059). This had been cut by a second posthole (065) that was 0.25m long by 0.17m wide. A single fill of grey silty clay (058) was recorded.

To the east of the postholes was a linear feature (067). This was 0.3m long by 50mm wide and was filled with greyish yellow silty sand (060). Further east was a north-south aligned slot (068) that was 50mm wide and contained grey sandy silt (061).

Sealing these features was a possible flood deposit of yellowish green silty sand (062). Cut into this flood deposit was a north-south aligned gully (064). This was over 0.65m long by 0.3m wide and subsequently sealed by subsoil (053).

Cut into the subsoil in Plot 5 was a probable circular pond (069). This was 8.57m long and over 4.58m wide and contained a single fill of dark grey silt with waterlogged twigs and branches (063).

Phase 3 Medieval deposits

Access Road

No deposits or features were assigned to this phase within the access road area.

Plot 1 (Fig. 5)

Cutting natural in the easternmost foundation trench, southeast of the undated pit (031), was a north-south aligned linear feature (029), perhaps the termination of a ditch. This was over 4.5m long and wider than 0.8m and over 0.3m deep (Fig. 10, Section 5). Filling this possible ditch was yellowish brown silt (028) from which pottery of 12th – 14th century date, a nail and a fragment of bone were retrieved.

Located 7.5m to the west of this ditch was a pit (040) measuring 1.2m long, over 0.8m wide and deeper than 100mm (Fig. 11, Section 8). A lower fill of mixed yellowish red and brownish grey silt with charcoal (032) was recorded which was succeeded by greyish brown silt (041). A single medieval pottery sherd was retrieved from the upper fill.

Situated 6m south of pit (040) and immediately north of the undated pit (037) was a further pit (035). This was sub-rectangular in shape measuring over 1.5m long by 1.6m wide and deeper than 0.22m (Fig. 11, Section 7). Two fills were recorded, a lower of red baked or fired silt (034) sealed by greyish brown silt (033). Pottery of 12th – 13th century date was retrieved from the upper fill.

Plot 2

No medieval deposits or features were identified within this plot.

Plot 3

No medieval deposits or features were identified within this plot.

Plots 4 and 5

No medieval deposits or features were identified within this plot.

Phase 4 Post-medieval deposits

Access Road

Cutting through the undated subsoil were two brick wells or soakaways (Fig. 4). The first (012) was 1.6m in diameter. The second (013) appeared on the edge of the stripped area and may have been a well.

Plot 1

Sealing all medieval and undated deposits and features within this plot was a subsoil of brown silt (025) that measured up to 0.48m thick. No dating evidence was retrieved from this layer.

Cut into the subsoil were two pits. The first (038) was 1.37m wide by 0.39m deep and the second (039) was 1.26m wide by 0.45m deep. Both contained fills of mid brown silt, (070) and (071) respectively.

Plot 2

Located south of the undated pit (044) was an east-west aligned gully (042). This was longer than the width of the foundation trench and was 0.3m wide and 80mm deep (Fig. 12, Section 9). This was filled with grey silt (043) from which medieval pottery was collected along with a 17th century clay-pipe fragment, glass and iron smithing slag.

Overlying the gully (042) was a subsoil comprising a 0.4m thick deposit of greyish brown silt (047).

Plot 3

No post-medieval deposits or features

were identified within this plot.

Plots 4 and 5

No post-medieval deposits or features were identified within this plot.

Phase 5 Recent deposits

Within Plot 2 an archaeological trial trench (050) and its backfill (049) were recognised.

Sealing all archaeological deposits and features was the current topsoil. This comprised mainly greyish brown silt (001, 024 and 052) although brown silt (046) was recorded in the vicinity of Plot 2. This was generally 0.3m thick.

6. DISCUSSION

Natural deposits (Phase 1) comprise silts and sandy silts of the underlying marine alluvium. A channel, parallel to the river, was also identified which may reflect a former course of the Old Eau.

Undated deposits (Phase 2) comprise a number of features identified throughout the development area. These comprise pits, ditches, dumped deposits, postholes, a slot, re-deposited natural and subsoil and remain undated due to a lack of artefactual material. However, the subsoil in Plot 1 seals medieval features and in Plot 2 seals post-medieval features. It is therefore possible that where features elsewhere on the site are also sealed by a subsoil that they may date to the post-medieval period or earlier.

Deposits of medieval date (Phase 3) were only encountered in Plot 1 and comprise a ditch and two pits. One pit was dated by its stratigraphic association and this contained fired silt, perhaps from salt-making activities. Both pits probably served a refuse function finally, although this may not have been their primary function. Although terminating within the plot, the

ditch perhaps marked a boundary, possibly to settlement lying to the east. Pottery from these features dates to the 12th – 14th century, although unstratified pottery of 15th century date was also recovered.

Post-medieval deposits (Phase 4) include a gully of 17th century date as well as pits and two brick built wells or soakaways of perhaps 19th century date. Subsoil has also been assigned a medieval or post-medieval date and perhaps indicates that the area was under an agricultural regime to allow this to develop.

Pottery of medieval date was the largest category of artefact retrieved during the investigation. The pottery principally comes from local sources such as Bourne, Toynton, Stamford and other Lincolnshire centres although pottery from Ely (Cams.), Grimston (Norfolk) and perhaps Nottingham suggest a wider trade network. No post-medieval pottery was retrieved.

A small quantity of fired silt/clay was also recovered and was also noted in features elsewhere on site. This may represent salt-manufacturing in the vicinity although may also derive from a hearth or oven. Salt-making has previously been identified at the site.

Other finds include brick, worked bone, slag, clay pipe, bottle glass, coal and an iron hinge. Animal bone, including sheep/goat, cattle and horse was also collected.

7. CONCLUSION

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken at High Street, Bicker, as the site lay within the core of the medieval village and where possible salt-making evidence had previously been found.

Medieval remains were restricted to a single plot and perhaps indicate activity associated with settlement located further

east. Post-medieval remains, including a gully, pits, and two brick soakaways, were also restricted to the east side of the site, although an extensive subsoil probably belongs to this phase. A number of undated features, comprising pits, ditches, dumped deposits and a slot, were also located and recorded.

Finds include a range of medieval pottery, brick, worked bone, slag, clay pipe, glass and metalwork were retrieved. A small quantity of fired clay perhaps suggest salt-making at the site, although may derive from an oven or hearth. Animal bone was also collected.

8. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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9. PERSONNEL

Project Coordinator: Gary Taylor
 Site Supervisors: Michael Bamforth,
 Aaron Clements, Chris Moulis, Mary
 Nugent
 Finds processing: Denise Buckley
 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
LAS Lindsey Archaeological Services

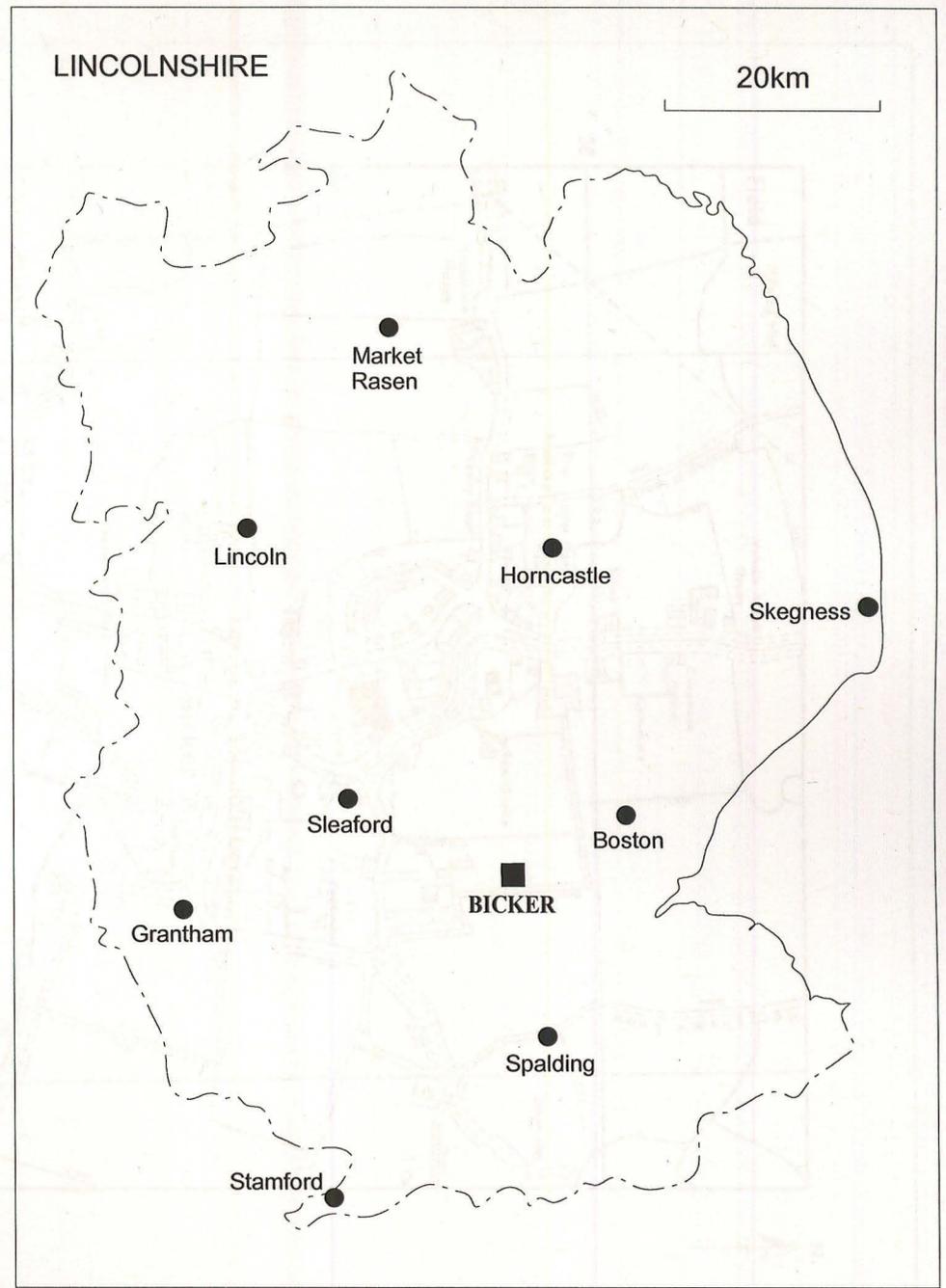
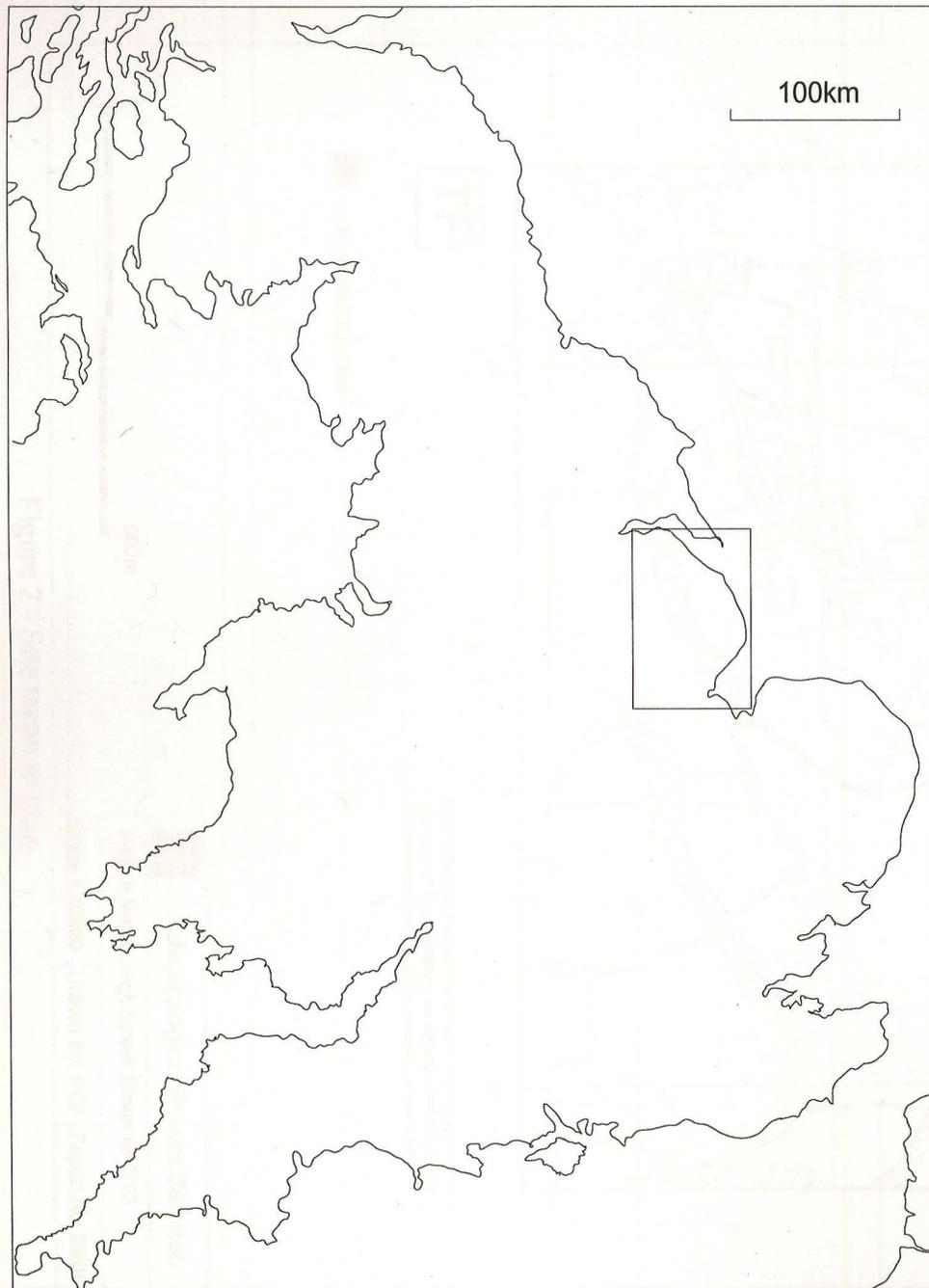
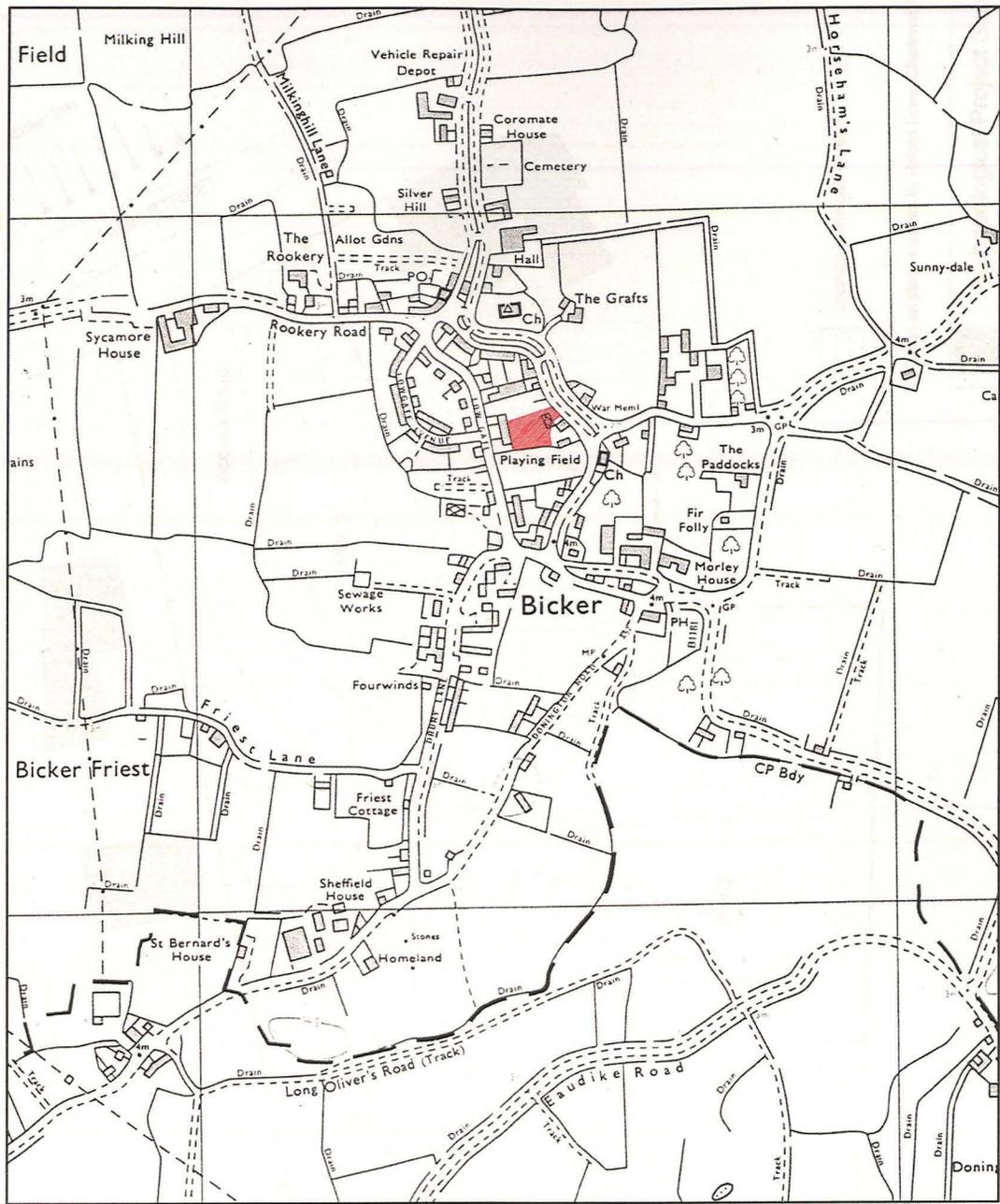


Figure 1 - General Location Plan



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 Area of development



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Scale 1:10000 Drawn by: PCF Report No: 29/05

Figure 2 - Site location plan

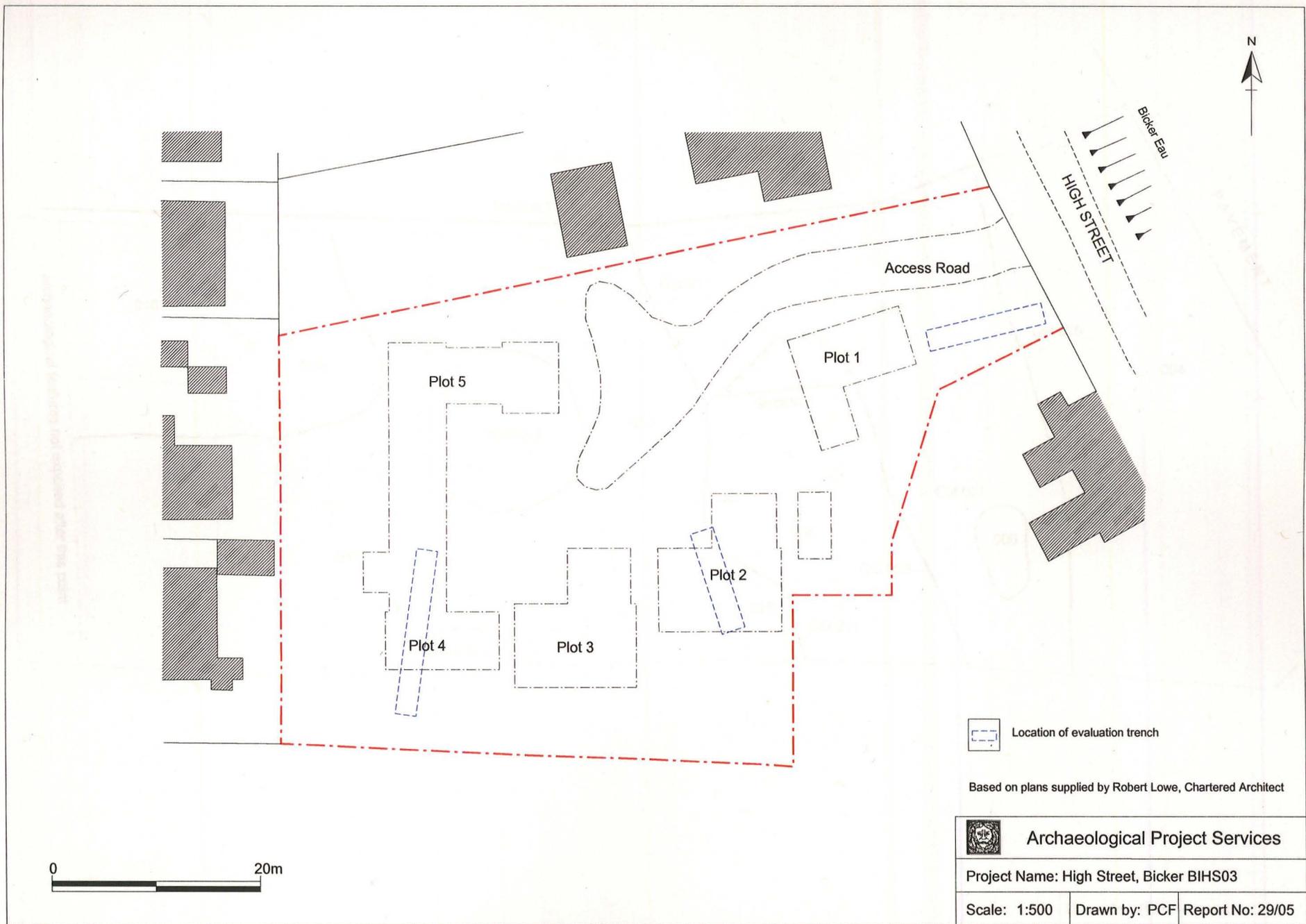


Figure 3 - Plan of the development showing investigated areas

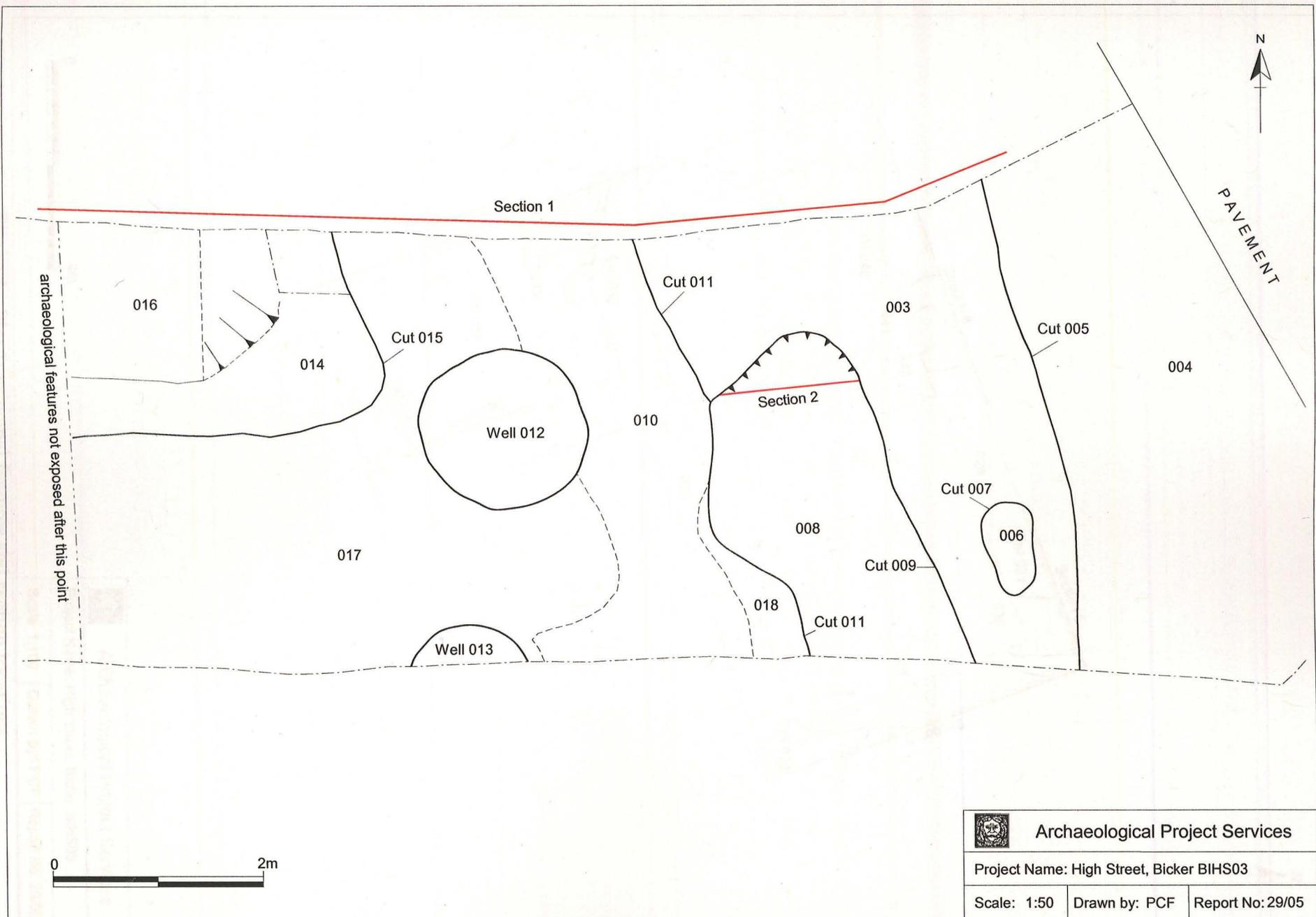
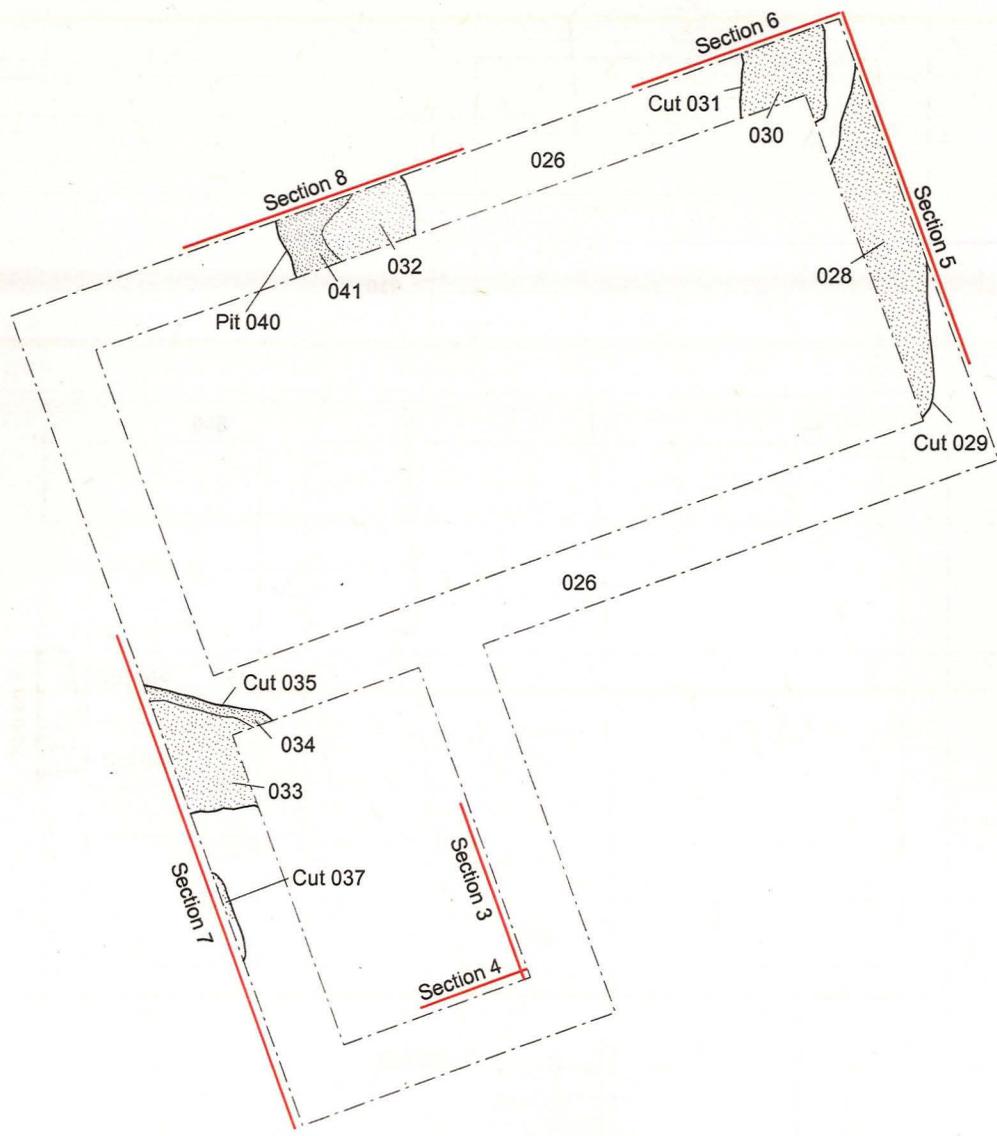
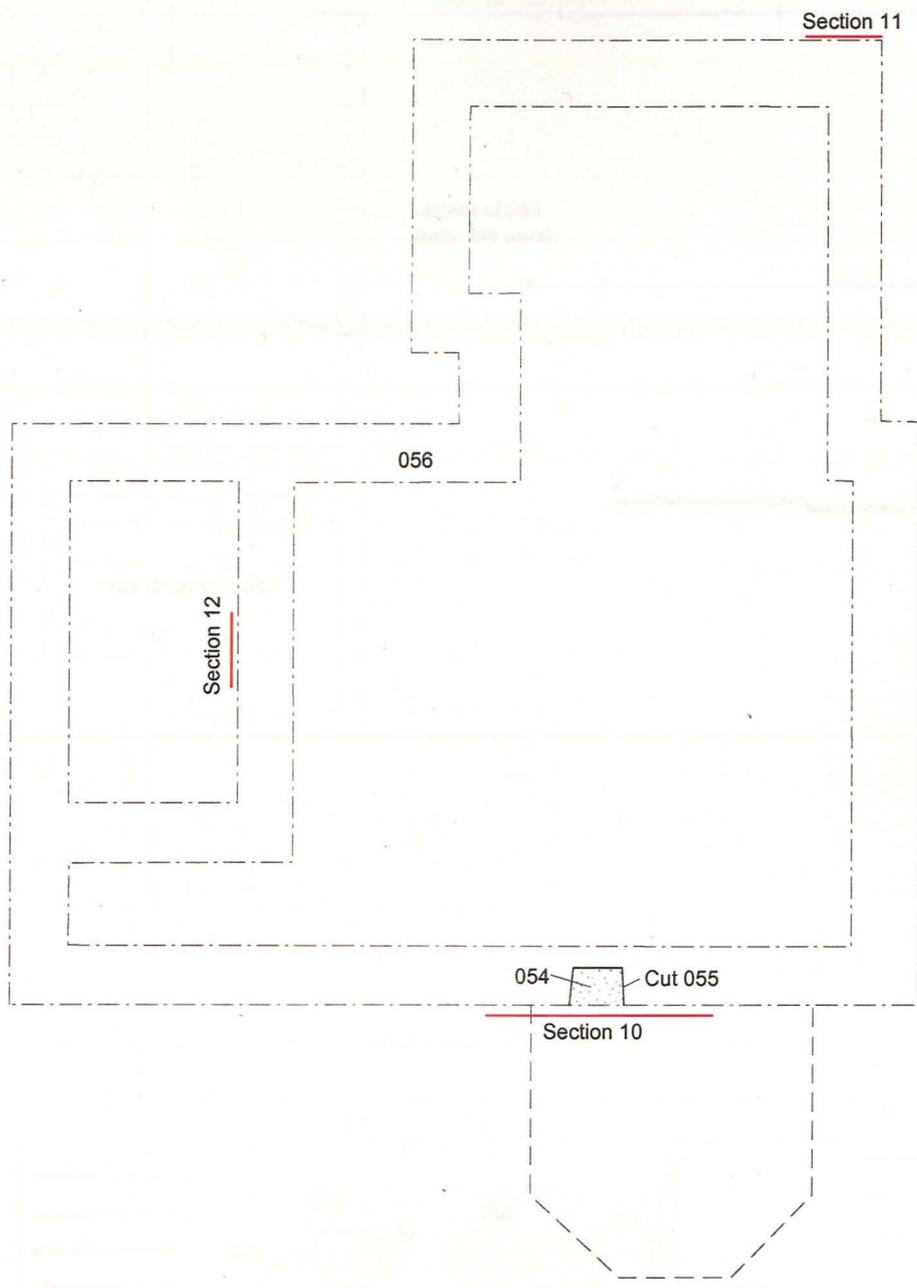


Figure 4 - Plan showing features exposed along the access road



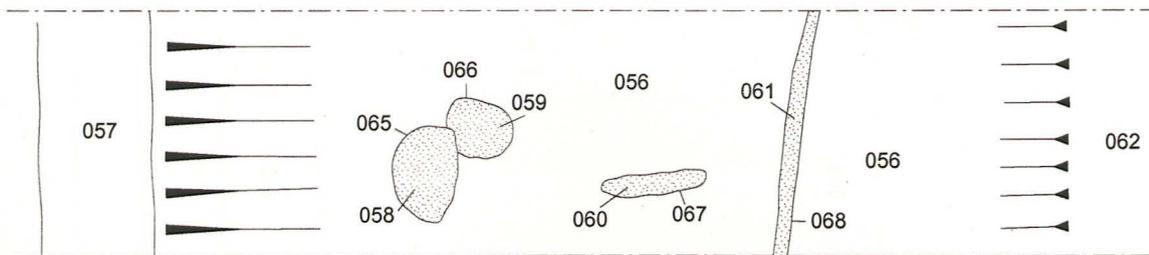
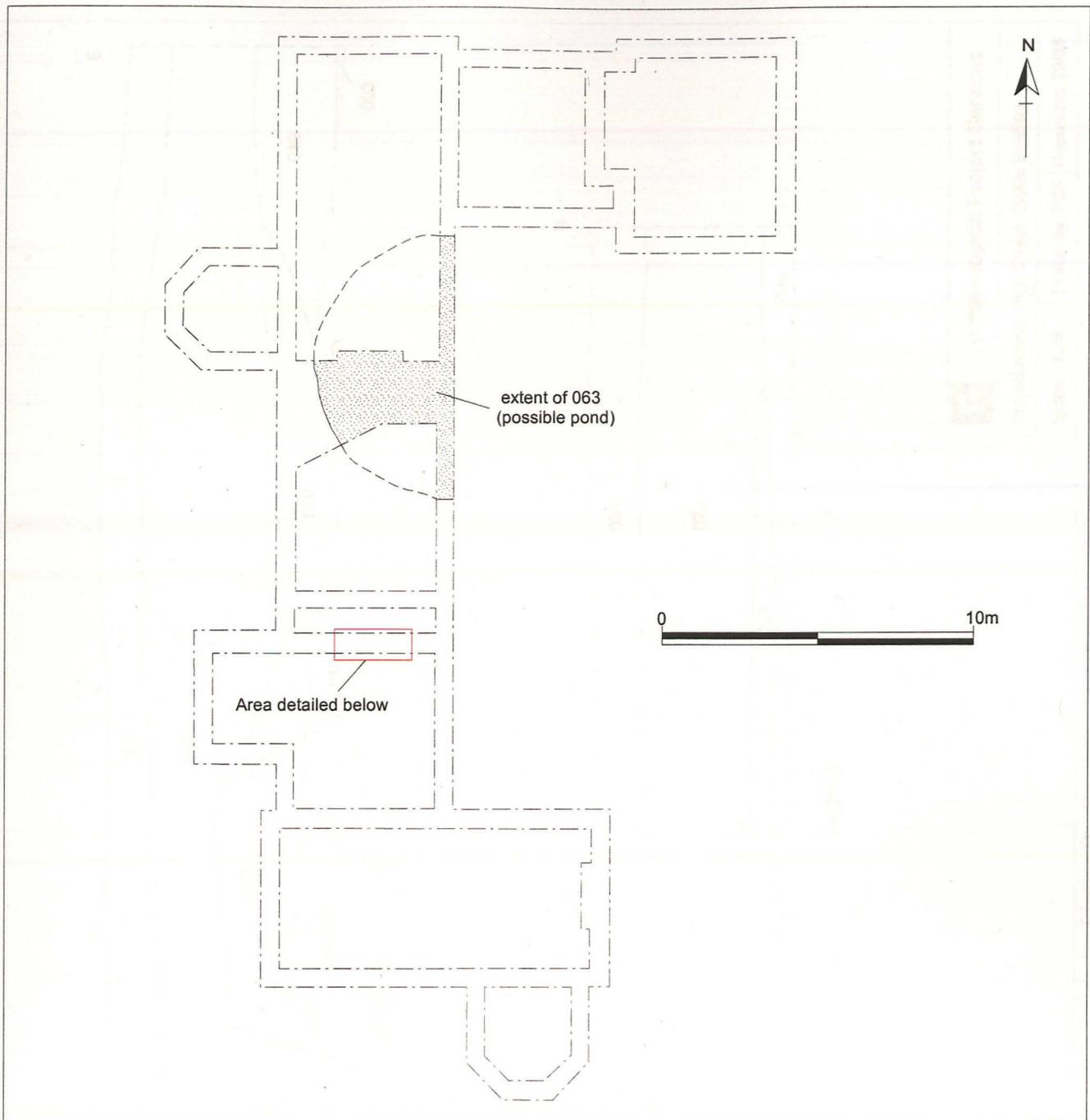
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Figure 5 - Plot 1: principal features and section locations



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Figure 7 - Plot 3: Principal features and section locations



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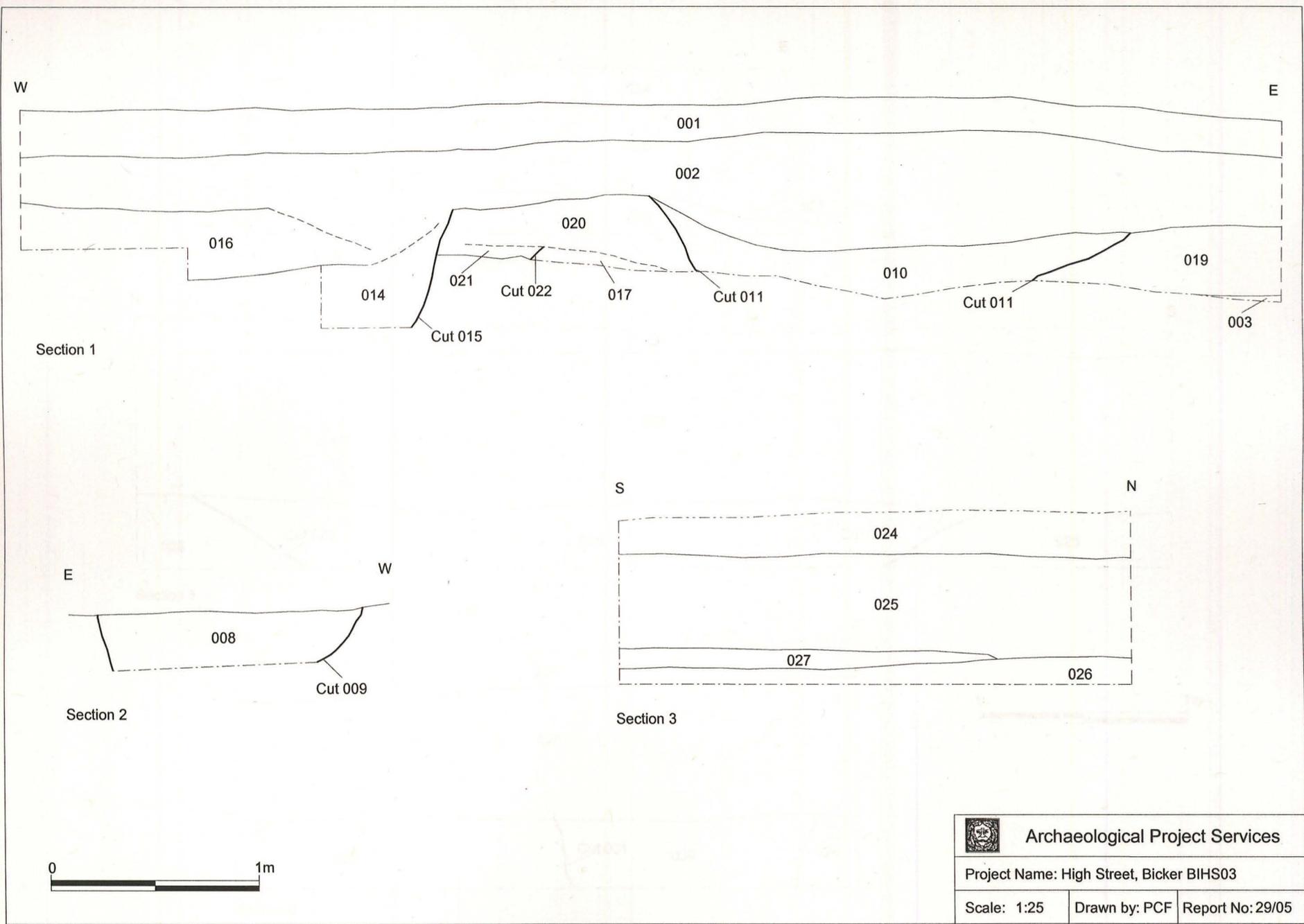
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Figure 8 - Plots 4 and 5: Principal features



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Figure 9 - Sections 1 to 3

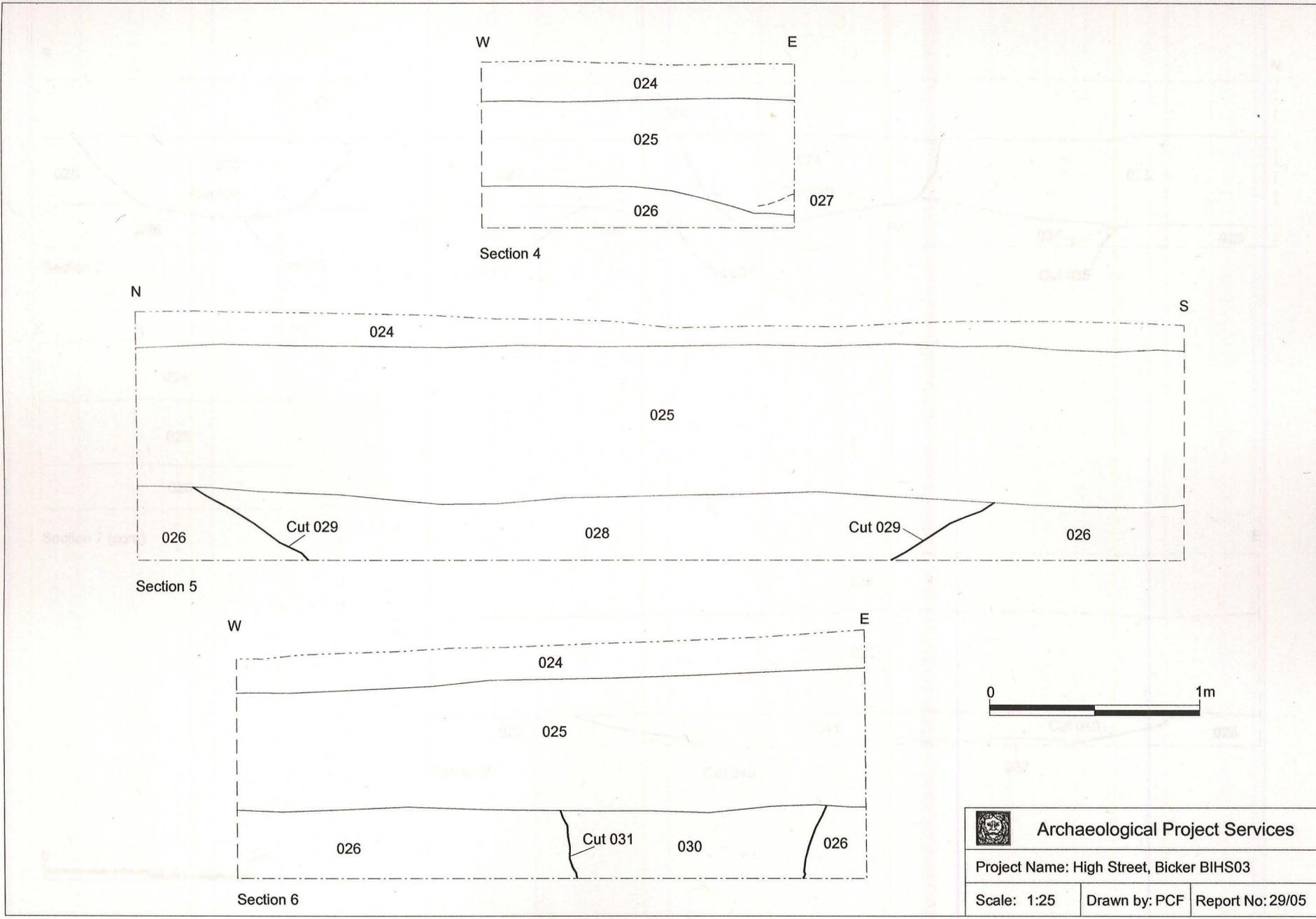


Figure 10 - Sections 4 to 6

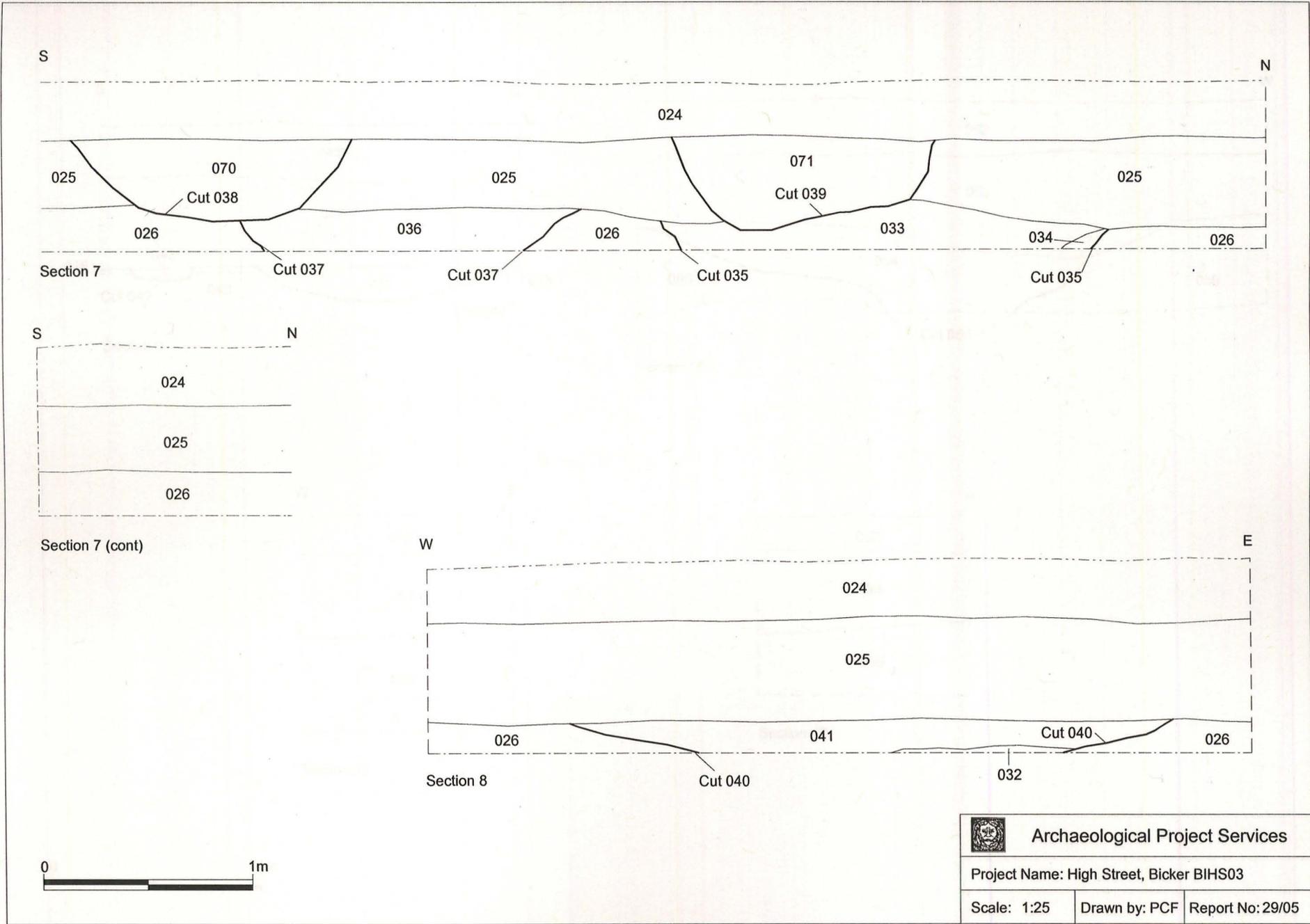
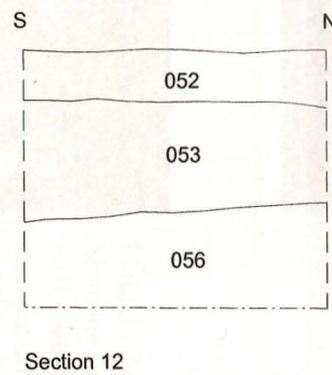
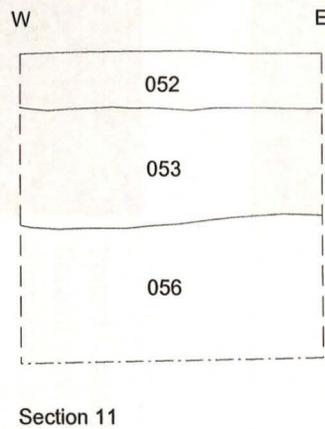
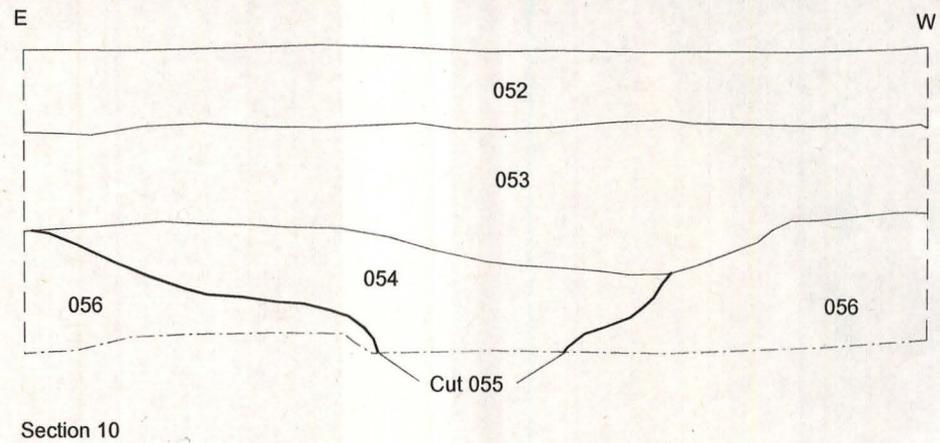
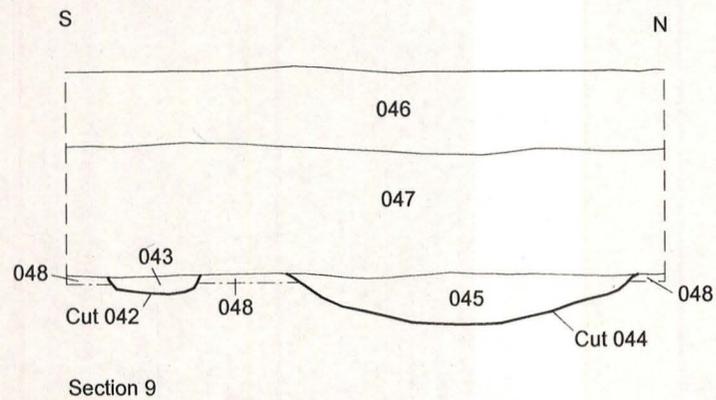


Figure 11 - Sections 7 and 8



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Figure 12 - Sections 9 to 12



Plate 1 - View showing the stripped Access Road, looking west



Plate 2 - Access Road:
Showing the post-medieval well/soakaway (012), the undated ditches (011) and (009), Looking north



Plate 3 - Access Road:
Second view of the undated ditch (009), looking south



Plate 4 - Plot 1: View showing the medieval ditch (029), looking north



Plate 5 - Plot 1: View showing the medieval pit (035), looking north

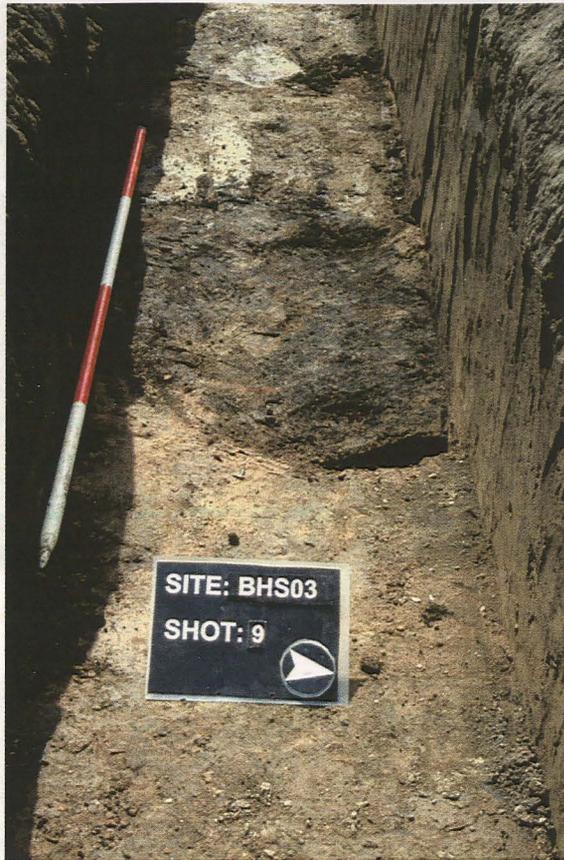


Plate 6 - Plot 1: View showing the medieval pit (040), looking west



Plate 7 - Plot 2: Excavation of foundation trenches, looking east



Plate 8 - Plot 3: Undated pit (055), looking south



Plate 9 - Section 12 showing the general sequence of deposits, looking west



Plate 10 - Plots 4/5: Showing excavation of foundation trenches, looking south

Appendix 1

LAND AT HIGH STREET, BICKER, LINCOLNSHIRE - SPECIFICATION FOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

1 SUMMARY

- 1.1 *A watching brief is required during residential development at High Street, Bicker, Lincolnshire.*
- 1.2 *Bicker was a Domesday settlement and Late Saxon pottery has been found in the area. It was a notable trading community in the early medieval period and was also important for its production of salt. Previous work on the site revealed a 15th-16th century refuse pit and flood silts containing probable salt-making evidence and 11th century pottery.*
- 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 findings of the work. 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 residential development on land at High Street, Bicker, near Boston.
- 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 Boston is situated in the south Lincolnshire Fens, approximately 45km southeast of Lincoln and 7km from the coast of the Wash. The village of Bicker is located approximately 10km to the southwest of Boston and lies within the administrative district of Boston. The site is in the village centre, on the west side of High Street at national grid reference TF 225 377.

4 PLANNING BACKGROUND

- 4.1 Planning permission (application number B/01/0313) for the construction of five dwellings and an access road has been granted by Boston Borough Council, subject to a condition for an archaeological watching brief to be undertaken during the development.

5 SOILS AND TOPOGRAPHY

- 5.1 The local topography is relatively flat and the site lies at approximately 4m OD. Soils in the area are predominantly of the Romney series, coarse silty gleyic brown calcareous alluvial soils over calcareous or sandy silt loams. These deposits overlie Jurassic clays.

6 THE ARCHAEOLOGY

6.1 Bicker was a Domesday settlement and has produced late Saxon pottery. During the early medieval period Bicker was an important trading centre due to its position on the Bicker Haven which silted up in the late medieval period. Bicker was also important for its production of salt and the shores of the haven are lined with salt making sites.

6.2 Various rubbish pits and boundary or drainage ditches of 13th century date have been revealed during archaeological investigations just to the south of the proposed development. Other investigations have found building material and slag suggesting that there may be a salt processing site nearby (Archaeological Project Services 1994; 1997).

6.3 An archaeological evaluation of the site revealed undated and 15th-16th century pits, and flood silts containing charcoal and burnt clay, probably briquetage, indicating salt-making in the vicinity. Associated with these deposits was pottery of 11th century date (Lindsey Archaeological Services 2002).

7 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

7.1 The aims of the watching brief will be:

7.1.1 To record the archaeological features exposed during the excavation of the access road, 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). Archaeological Project Services is an IFA Registered Organisation (No. 21) under the management of a member of the institute (MIFA)

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 groundworks phase of development, and includes the archaeological monitoring of all phases of soil movement.

8.2.2 The section of the trench 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. A metal detector may be used to assist artefact recovery.
- 8.2.4 Throughout the watching brief a photographic record will be compiled and will consist of:
 - 8.2.4.1 The site during work to show specific stages, and the layout of the archaeology within the area.
 - 8.2.4.2 groups of features where their relationship is important
- 8.2.5 Should human remains be located they will be left *in situ* and only excavated if absolutely necessary. The appropriate Home Office licence will be obtained before their removal. In addition, the Local Environmental Health Department, coroner and the police will be informed, as 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 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 Community Archaeologist, Boston Borough Council and to the County Sites and Monuments Record.

11 ARCHIVE

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

12 PUBLICATION

12.1 A report of the findings of the watching brief will be presented 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 Community Archaeologist, Boston Borough Council. They will be given notice in writing of the commencement of the project.

14 VARIATIONS

14.1 Variations to the proposed scheme of works will only be made following written confirmation of acceptance from the Community Archaeologist, Boston Borough Council.

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 man-day) will require a post-excavation day (equal to one-and-a-half man-days) for completion of the analysis and report. If the fieldwork lasts longer than about six days then there will be an economy of scale with the post-excavation analysis.

16 SPECIALISTS TO BE USED DURING THE PROJECT

16 BIBLIOGRAPHY

- 16.1 The following organisations/persons will, in principal 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: Dr D Knight, Trent and Peak Archaeological Trust Roman: B Precious, independent specialist Anglo-Saxon: J Young, independent specialist Medieval and later: H Healey, independent archaeologist; or G Taylor, APS
Other Artefacts	J Cowgill, independent specialist; or G Taylor, APS.
Human Remains Analysis	R Gowland, independent specialist.
Animal Remains Analysis	Environmental Archaeology Consultancy
Environmental Analysis	Environmental Archaeology Consultancy

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.

Archaeological Project Services, 1994 *Archaeological Watching Brief of a Development at Red Lion Street, Bicker, Lincolnshire*, unpublished report

Archaeological Project Services, 1997 *Archaeological Watching Brief of Development of land at Red Lion Street, Bicker, Lincolnshire (BRL97)*, unpublished APS report 36/97

Lindsey Archaeological Services, 2002 *Land to Side and Rear of High House, High Street, Bicker, Lincs, Archaeological Evaluation*, unpublished LAS report 565

Specification: Version 1, 7th April 2003

Appendix 2

CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

NB. AR refers to the access road

No.	Plot	Description	Interpretation
001	AR	Soft dark greyish brown silt, 0.3m thick	Topsoil
002	AR	Soft mid brown silt, 0.25m thick	Subsoil
003	AR	Soft light yellow silt, >0.3m thick	Natural deposit
004	AR	Soft light yellow silt	Natural fill of (005)
005	AR	Linear feature, aligned north-south, 4m long by >1.5m wide, not excavated	Former channel
006	AR	Soft mid brown silt	Fill of (007)
007	AR	Oval feature, 0.9m long by 0.5m wide, not excavated	Pit
008	AR	Soft mid brown silt	Fill of (009)
009	AR	Linear feature, aligned north-south, 3.1m long by 1.6m wide by >0.32m deep, vertical sides, not fully excavated	Ditch
010	AR	Soft mid brown silt	Fill of (011)
011	AR	Linear feature, aligned northwest-southeast, >4.4m long by 1.4m wide by >0.5m deep, steep sides, not fully excavated	Ditch
012	AR	Brick structure, 1.6m diameter, not excavated	Disused soakaway/well
013	AR	Brick structure, not excavated	Disused soakaway/well
014	AR	Soft mid brown silt	Fill of (015)
015	AR	Sub-rectangular feature, >3m long by >2.1m wide by >0.57m deep, near vertical sides, not fully excavated	Pit
016	AR	Soft light yellow silt	Fill of (015)
017	AR	Soft light yellow silt, >0.3m thick	Natural deposit
018	AR	Soft mid to dark grey silt with charcoal	Fill of (011)
019	AR	Soft light yellow silt, 0.3m thick	Disturbed natural
020	AR	Soft light yellow silt, 0.3m thick	Disturbed natural
021	AR	Soft light yellow silt	Fill of (022)
022	AR	Sub-rectangular feature, >0.5m long by >0.15m wide by >0.38m deep, vertical sides, not excavated	Pit
023	AR	Unstratified finds retrieval	
024	1	Soft dark greyish brown silt, 0.3m thick	Topsoil
025	1	Soft dark brown silt, 0.48m thick	Subsoil
026	1	Soft light brown silt	Natural deposit
027	1	Soft dark greyish brown silt with charcoal, 100mm thick	Dumped deposit
028	1	Soft light yellowish brown silt	Fill of (029)
029	1	Linear feature, aligned north-south, >4.5m long by >0.8m wide by >0.3m deep, gradual sides, not fully excavated	Ditch
030	1	Soft mid greyish brown silt	Fill of (031)
031	1	Sub-rectangular feature, >1.1m long by 1.3m wide by >0.3m deep, steep sides, not fully excavated	Pit
032	1	Soft mixed light yellowish red and dark brownish grey silt with charcoal	Fill of (040)
033	1	Soft mid greyish brown silt	Fill of (035)
034	1	Hard but friable mid to light red baked silt	Fill of (035)
035	1	Sub-rectangular feature, 1.6m long by 1.5m wide by >0.22m deep, gradually steeper sides	Pit

No.	Plot	Description	Interpretation
036	1	Soft mid greyish brown silt	Fill of (037)
037	1	Sub-rectangular feature, 1.6m long by >100mm wide by 0.2m deep, steep sides, not fully excavated	Pit
038	1	Feature, 1.37m wide by 0.39m deep, steep sides and rounded base	Pit
039	1	Feature, 1.26m wide by 0.45m deep, steep sides and rounded base	Pit
040	1	Irregular feature, 1.2m long by 0.8m wide by >100mm deep, steep sides	Pit
041	1	Soft light greyish brown silt	Fill of (040)
042	2	Linear feature, aligned east-west, >0.8m long by 0.3m wide by 80mm deep, gradual sides and rounded base	Gully
043	2	Loose mid grey silt	Fill of (042)
044	2	Sub-circular feature, >0.7m long by 1.2m wide by 0.2m deep, gradual sides and rounded base	Pit
045	2	Soft mid grey silt	Fill of (044)
046	2	Loose mid brown silt	Topsoil
047	2	Soft light greyish brown silt, 0.4m thick	Subsoil
048	2	Soft light brown sandy silt	Natural deposit
049	2	Soft mid brown silt	Fill of (050)
050	2	Linear feature, aligned north-south, >16m long by 2.5m wide	Evaluation trench
051	Cancelled context		
052	3	Firm mid greyish brown silt, 0.3m thick	Topsoil
053	3	Firm mid brown silt, 0.4m thick	Subsoil
054	3	Firm mixed dark grey silt and reddish yellow baked clay	Fill of (055)
055	3	Feature, >2m long by >0.43m wide by 0.4m deep, gentle slope to west, steep to east, rounded base	Pit
056	3	Firm mid yellow silt, >0.4m thick	Natural deposit
057	4	Soft light greyish brown sandy silt with marine shell	Fill of (064)
058	4	Soft light grey silty clay	Fill of (065)
059	4	Hard mid yellowish red baked silt	Fill of (066)
060	5	Soft dark greyish yellow silty sand	Fill of (067)
061	4	Firm light grey sandy silt	Fill of (068)
062	4	Soft mid yellowish green silty sand	Possible flood deposit
063	4/5	Soft dark grey silt with frequent branches	Fill of (069)
064	4	Linear feature, aligned north-south, >0.65m long by 0.3m wide, not excavated	Gully
065	4	Oval feature, 0.25m long by 0.17m wide, not excavated	Possible posthole
066	4	Sub-circular feature, 0.17m long by 0.15m wide, not excavated	Possible posthole
067	4	Linear feature, aligned east-west, 0.3m long by 50mm wide, not excavated	Indeterminate feature
068	4	Linear feature, aligned north-south, >0.65m long by 50mm wide, not excavated	Slot
069	4/5	?Circular feature, 8.57m long by >4.58m wide, excavated by machine	Pond
070	1	Soft mid brown silt	Fill of (038)
071	1	Soft mid brown silt	Fill of (039)

Appendix 3

THE FINDS

by Paul Cope-Faulkner, Rachael Hall, Tom Lane,
Gary Taylor and Jane Young

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 36 fragments of pottery weighing 1225g was recovered from 6 separate contexts. In addition to the pottery, a quantity of other, mixed, artefacts weighing a total of 3913g, was retrieved.

The excavated animal bone assemblage comprises 7 stratified fragments and 2 of unstratified bone weighing a total of 516g. 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 a ditch fill (028), pit fills (034, 035 and 041), the fill of a gully (043), the backfill of an archaeological evaluation trench (050) and as unstratified material (023).

Most of the pottery was probably made in moderate proximity to Bicker, at Bourne 20km to the southwest, and in the area of Toynton All Saints/Old Bolingbroke, 30km to the northeast.

Range

The range of material is detailed in the tables.

Table 1: Pottery

Context	Fabric Code	Description	No.	Wt (g)	Context Date
023	BOU	Bourne D ware, sub-fabric 10, or Toynton-Bolingbroke ware (TB), jug, 15 th -16 th century	1	4	15 th -16 th century
	TOY	Toynton All Saints ware, or Toynton-Bolingbroke ware (TB), jug/jar, 13 th -16 th century	2	32	
	BOUA	Bourne A/B ware, uncertain id, 12 th -14 th century	1	6	
	BOUA	Bourne A/B ware jar, sooted externally, uncertain id, 12 th -14 th century	1	7	
	BOU	Bourne D ware, sub-fabric 9, large jug/jar base, internal deposit, 15 th -16 th century	1	5	
	BOU	Bourne D ware, sub-fabric 9, jug/jar base, thick internal deposit, distorted, 15 th -16 th century	1	23	
	BOU	Bourne D ware, sub-fabric 2, jar rim, 15 th -16 th century	1	8	
	BOU	Bourne D ware, sub-fabric 2, jar? slip contains abundant calcareous frags., 15 th -16 th century	1	55	
	BOU	Bourne D ware, sub-fabric 2, jug? 15 th -16 th century	1	3	
	BOU	Bourne D ware, sub-fabric 1, jug base, wire removal marks on base; trimmed basal angle, 15 th -16 th century	1	88	

Context	Fabric Code	Description	No.	Wt (g)	Context Date
023 (cont)	TOY	Toynton All Saints or Toynton-Bolingbroke (TB) ware jug, 13 th -16 th century	1	33	
	BOU	Bourne D ware, sub-fabric 10, jug/jar, 15 th -16 th century	1	5	
028	ELY	Ely ware?? jug, reduced glaze, late 12 th -mid 14 th century	1	29	mid/late 13 th -14 th century
	TOY	Toynton All Saints ware jug, white internal deposit, 13 th -14 th century	1	28	
	EMHM	Early medieval handmade ware jar, heavily sooted externally and part internally, 12 th -13 th century	1	15	
	EMHM	Early medieval handmade ware small jar rim, heavily sooted externally, 12 th -13 th century	1	9	
	EMHM	Early medieval handmade ware small jar, heavily sooted externally, 12 th -13 th century	1	23	
	BOUA	Bourne A ware large jar/bowl, oxidised over break, 12 th -14 th century	1	27	
033	EMHM	Early medieval handmade ware, possibly Bourne, globular jar, sooted, 12 th -13 th century	1	7	Late 12 th -13 th century
	SLST	South Lincs. shell-tempered ware base, mid 12 th -mid 13 th century	1	35	
041	MEDX	Non-local medieval fabric, light OX/R/OX, medium sandy, hard; jug, combed wavy lines, poss. Nottingham glazed ware (NOTGE), abundant mixed sub-rounded quartz	1	20	13 th century
043	NOTGL	Nottingham glazed ware jug, mid 13 th -14 th century	1	4	14 th century
	TOY	Toynton All Saints ware jug/jar base, sooted, uncertain id, 13 th -14 th century	1	17	
	BOUA	Bourne A ware jar base, soot on underside, 12 th -14 th century	1	17	
	BOUA	Bourne A/B ware jar, soot externally, 12 th -14 th century	1	16	
	ST	Stamford ware, sub-fabric B, glazed jar/pitcher, 11 th -13 th century	1	6	
	TOY	Toynton All Saints ware bowl flared rim, 13 th -14 th century	1	38	
	ELY	Ely ware jar, incised horizontal lines, sooted internally and externally, uncertain id, late 12 th -14 th century	1	8	
050	BOUA	Bourne A/B/C ware, bowl, glazed internally, sloping rim, 12 th -13 th century	1	351	mid 13 th century
	BOUA	Bourne B ware, jar? sooted, uncertain id, 12 th -13 th century	1	7	
	BOUA	Bourne A/C ware, curfew (bowl type) base and handle, soot internally and over break, circular vent holes, 12 th -13 th century	2	275	

Context	Fabric Code	Description	No.	Wt (g)	Context Date
	GRIM	Grimston ware jug, applied iron strip, uncertain id, 13 th century	1	6	
	BOUA	Bourne A ware jug, applied iron strip, 12 th -13 th century	1	3	
	BOUA	Bourne A/B ware jar/bowl rim, internal glaze, uncertain id, 12 th -13 th century	1	15	

All the pottery is of the medieval to early post-medieval periods, dating from the 12th to 16th centuries.

Table 2: Other Artefacts

Context	Material	Description	No.	Wt (g)	Context Date
023	CBM	Handmade brick/fired clay	1	63	
	Bone	Worked bone, end trimmed and flattened, drilled	1	224	
028	Iron	Nail	1	11	
034	Fired clay	Slightly sandy silty clay matrix. Irregular shaped 'interior' pieces.	7	98	
	Fired clay	Slightly sandy silty clay matrix. One piece has grog inclusions of same fabric. One piece has one shell fragment included. All buff/light brown colour throughout, although slightly greyer on exterior surface. All pieces have one carefully smoothed surface	16	550	
043	Slag	Iron smithing slag, wood impression	1	40	17 th century
	Clay pipe	Stem, bore 6/64", 17 th century	1	3	
	Glass	Dark green bottle, heavy iridescence, post-medieval	1	42	
050	Coal	Coal	1	3	
051	Iron	Strap hinge with pivot hole, post-medieval	1	403	Post-medieval
	Stone	Granite cobble, water-worn, burnt	1	2461	

All the pieces of fired clay were found in one undated pit and appear to be from a single structure, possibly a hearth or oven. It is not possible to determine the precise use of the structure that the pieces derived from, although, given the location and previous evidence of salt making on the site, a medieval salt making origin seems likely.

Table 3: The Faunal Remains

Context	Species	Bone	No.	Wt (g)	Comments
023	cattle sized	radius	1	224	worked (see above), probably horse 2 beasts juvenile rodent gnawing
	cattle sized	metacarpal	2	140	
	cattle sized	?scapula	1	28	
	cattle	molar	1	30	
	cattle	calcaneus	1	43	
	sheep/goat	metacarpal	1	20	
028	cattle sized	?humerus	1	20	
043	sheep/goat	molar	1	11	

Cattle are dominant within this small assemblage with sheep and a probable horse also represented. Much of the material would suggest butchery/diet waste. The potential of the assemblage is limited as most of the bone is derived from unstratified contexts and only the sheep/goat molar can be assigned to a period.

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 Bicker, including at 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

The collection of medieval and early post-medieval pottery fragments is of moderate-high local potential and significance. Some of the medieval pieces are quite large and none of them exhibit marked abrasion. As such, they are likely to reflect habitation of medieval date at the site or in the immediate proximity. Similarly, some of the early post-medieval material also occurs as large, unworn pieces and these, too reflect, occupation of 15th-16th century date on the site or in the close vicinity.

The lack of any material earlier than the 11th 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 later than the 16th century would tend to suggest that the site was abandoned at that time.

References

Slowikowski, A., Nenck, 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 was deposited in seawater and freshwater alluvium by rivers, streams or within lakes.
Briquetage	A term given to fragments of ceramic equipment and hearth/oven remains from the processing of salt.
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.
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.
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).
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.
Post-medieval	The period following the Middle Ages, dating from approximately AD 1500-1800.
Romano-British	Pertaining to the period dating from AD 43-410 when the Romans occupied Britain.
Saltern	Salt producing site typified by ash, derived from fuel needed to evaporate sea water, and briquetage.
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:

71	Context records
18	Sheets of scale drawing
1	Photographic record sheet
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 Museum Accession Number: 2003.100

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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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