ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF
ON WATERMAIN
REHABILITATION SCHEME
TRENT ROAD
GRANTHAM
LINCOLNSHIRE
GWR05



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ARCHAEOLOGICAL
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ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF **ON WATERMAIN REHABILITATION SCHEME** TRENT ROAD **GRANTHAM** LINCOLNSHIRE GWR05

> Work Undertaken For **Anglian Water**

> > April 2005

Report Compiled by N C Parker BA (Hons) MA

ARCHAEOLOGICAL PROJECT SERVICES



APS Report No 62/05

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- 9 MAY 2005

Highways & Planning Directorate

Quality Control Watermain Rehabilitation Scheme Trent Road Grantham GWR05

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1. SUMMARY

An archaeological Watching Brief was undertaken during works associated with a water main rehabilitation scheme in Grantham, Lincolnshire.

The watching brief condition was imposed because the site lies within an area of archaeological potential with prehistoric artefacts and remains previously found within close proximity to the site.

The watching brief found only modern levelling and re-deposited layers.

2. INTRODUCTION

2.1 Definition of a Watching Brief

An archaeological Watching Brief is defined as:

"...a formal program of observation and investigation conducted during any operation carried out for non-archaeological reasons. This will be within a specified area or site on land, inter-tidal zone or underwater, where there is a possibility that archaeological deposits maybe disturbed or destroyed." (IFA 1999).

2.2 Planning Background

The archaeological implications of a proposed water main relining scheme were considered by the Senior Built Environment Officer at the Lincolnshire County Council archaeology section. For the majority of the route the impact was deemed likely to be minimal, however Archaeological Project Services (APS) was commissioned by Anglian Water Services Ltd to undertake the Watching Brief that was recommended at the north end of the scheme.

2.3 Topography and Geology

Grantham is located 35km south of Lincoln in the South Kesteven district of Lincolnshire. The site is on the western fringe of Grantham, on the north side of the sports stadium to the east of Trent Road at National Grid Reference SK 898 352.

The area of interest lies on fairly level ground on the north side of the valley of the Mow Beck. Natural soils in the vicinity are likely to be well-drained brashy fine to coarse loamy soils of the Banbury Association developed on Jurassic ironstone (Hodge *et al.* 1984, 103).

2.4 Archaeological Setting

Grantham was well developed by the Late Saxon period and flourished as a Medieval market town. The town was first mentioned in the Domesday Survey of 1086 where it was referred to variously as *Grantham*, *Granham* and *Grandham* (Ekwall 1974, 202-3).

It's name is believed to be derived from 'Granta's ' Ham, meaning settlement of Granta, although it is possible that it in fact comes from 'grand' which meant gravel in Old English, (Pevsner and Harris 1989, 316).

Sites and finds of prehistoric, Roman and later dates are widespread on the western outskirts of Grantham. Worked flint scatters of Mesolithic, Neolithic and Bronze Age date have been recorded. Iron Age and Roman sites are also known, both artefact scatters and photographic evidence. Cropmarks of field systems of possible prehistoric or Roman date, enclosures of probable earlier prehistoric periods and numerous ring ditches likely to be Bronze Age burials are also recorded on lower ground to the southwest. Burials of this date have also been recorded in the immediate vicinity.

3. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

The main aim of the Watching Brief was to record and interpret the archaeological features exposed during the excavation of test pits and trenches undertaken as part of the relining scheme.

The objectives of the Watching Brief were to determine the form and function of the archaeological features encountered; recover dating evidence from them and establish the sequence of the archaeological remains present on the site.

4. METHODS

Nine trenches along the pipeline route, and one test pit to locate the existing pipeline, were excavated by machine using a 0.4m toothed bucket. Where features were observed the sections were cleaned and made vertical. The depth and thickness of each deposit was measured from the surface. ground Each archaeological deposit or feature revealed within the trench was allocated a unique reference number (context number) with individual written description. photographic record was compiled and sections were drawn at scales of 1:10. Recording of deposits encountered was according undertaken to standard Archaeological Project Services practice.

Records of the deposits and features recognised during the watching brief were then examined. A list of all contexts and interpretations appears as Appendix 2.

5. RESULTS.

Following post-excavation analysis one phase was identified.

5.1 Modern Deposits

In Trenches 6 and 7 was a layer of firm, friable pale yellow sand and limestone that

was 0.25m thick (005). This formed a levelling layer over the previously backfilled trench (Fig 4, Plate 1).

In the areas of Trenches 8 and 9 a reasonably loose mid greyish brown sandy silt with occasional small stones (004) was observed. It had a thickness of 1m. This formed a recently laid topsoil layer (Fig 4 Plate 3).

Overlying this and also present in the other trenches was moderately firm, mid reddish brown sandy, clayey silt (003) which was not fully uncovered but showed a visible thickness of 0.9m. This deposit formed the backfill of the previous trench (Fig 4 Plate 2).

Beneath the topsoil in the area of Trench 4 there was a loose, pale yellow silty sand with limestone (002). This had a thickness of 0.25m and formed a levelling layer over the previously backfilled trench (Fig 4 plate 2).

A loose mid grey sandy silt (001) with moderate gravel inclusions formed a topsoil layer 0.05m thick (Fig 4, Plate 2).

6. DISCUSSION

All deposits uncovered during the investigation were modern.

Two different topsoils were recorded; (001), which formed a thin layer, and to the southwest a very thick layer of what appears to be recently deposited topsoil (004).

In rural areas this depth of soil often represents a long period of pastoral use but in this case, within a built up area, the explanation of modern deposition is more likely.

The layer (002) appears to have been placed over the backfill of the original trench to level the ground. Due to the

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF DURING WATER MAIN REHABILITATION AT TRENT ROAD, GRANTHAM, LINCOLNSHIRE

similarity of the materials and their position this would also seem to be the case with (005) to the southwest although this is much more fragmented in form.

The deposit (003) used to backfill the original trench for the water main would originally have formed the subsoil in the area.

Trench 3 showed only deposits associated with the construction of the roadway (Plate 1).

Test pit 10 showed the continuation of the pattern of deposits in Trenches 8 and 9. (Plate 4).

7. CONCLUSIONS

An archaeological Watching Brief was carried out during works associated with the rehabilitation of an existing water main on land at Trent Road, Grantham, Lincolnshire. Although in an area of archaeological significance, with prehistoric artefacts having been found previously in the vicinity of the site, no evidence was uncovered of any archaeological activity on the site earlier than the modern era.

The investigation recorded only soils that had been previously disturbed by the excavation of the trench for the original water main. The nature of the rehabilitation work did not call for the full excavation of the original trench and as a result natural layers were not exposed.

It is possible that there was archaeological activity within the area, which may have been disturbed by the original trench. Evidence may also exist nearby but remained undisturbed by the excavations.

The site may have been unused until the modern era or only used for pastoral or agricultural activities which would leave no visible evidence.

8. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeological Project Services would like to acknowledge the assistance Mr Colin Lindsey. The work was co-ordinated by Steve Malone and this report was edited by Steve Malone and Tom Lane.

9. PERSONNEL

Project Coordinator: Steve Malone Site Supervisor: Aaron Clements. Photographic reproduction: Neil Parker.

Digitising: Neil Parker.

CAD Illustration: Neil Parker.

Post-excavation analysis: Neil Parker.

10. BIBLIOGRAPHY

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Hodge, C.A.H., Burton R.G.O., Corbett, W.M., Evans, R. and Seale, R.S., 1984 *Soils and their Use in Eastern England*, Soil Survey of England and Wales 13

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Pevsner, N. and Harris, J. 1989, *Lincolnshire*, The Buildings of England (2nd ed, revised Antram, N)

11. ABBREVIATIONS

APS Archaeological Project Services

IFA Institute of Field Archaeologists

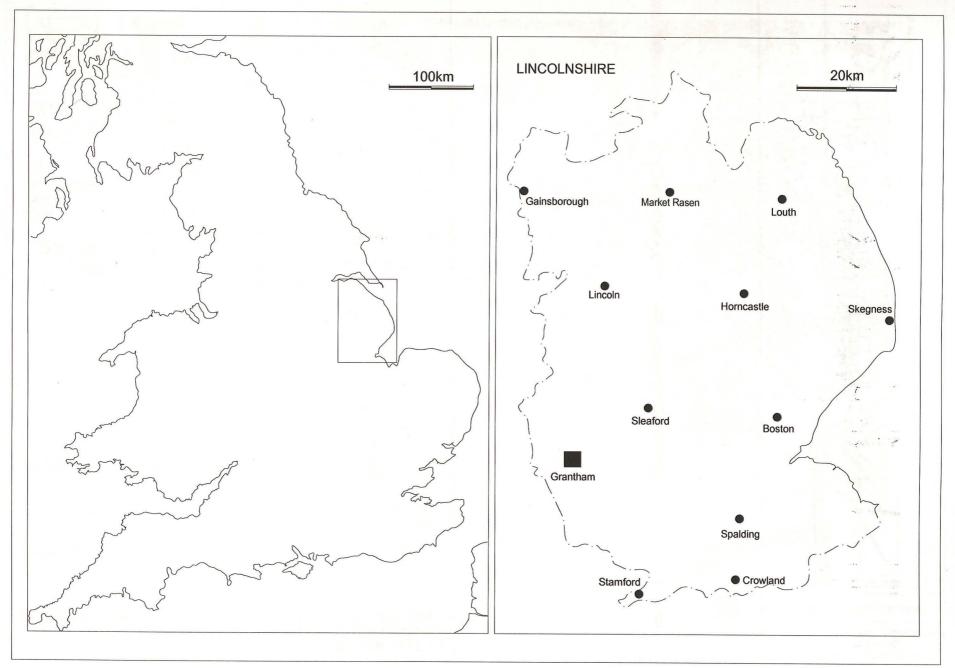


Figure 1: General Location Plan

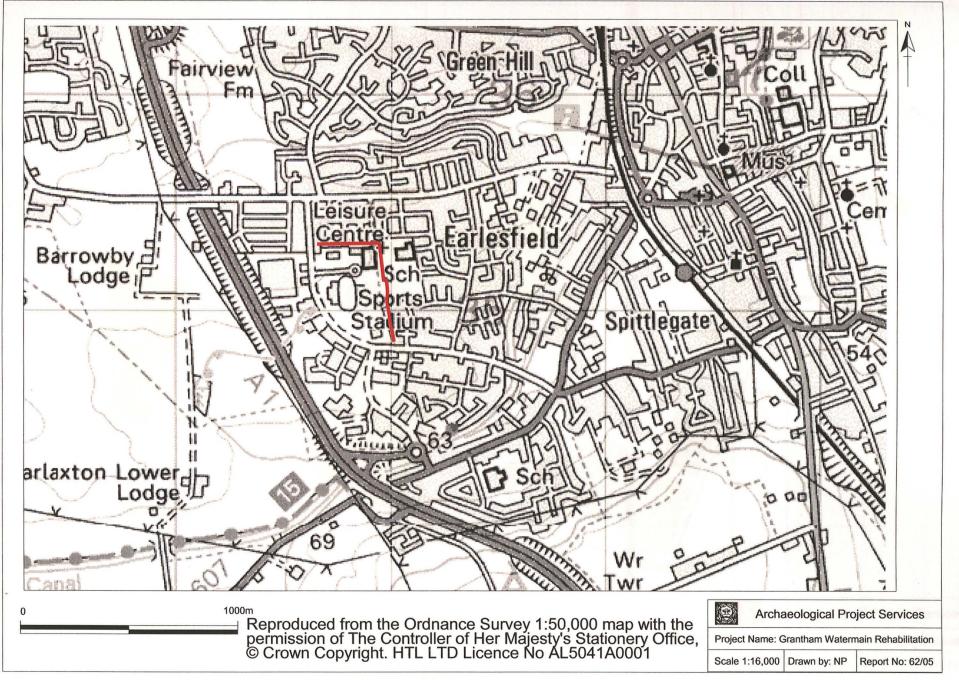


Figure 2. Watermain Location

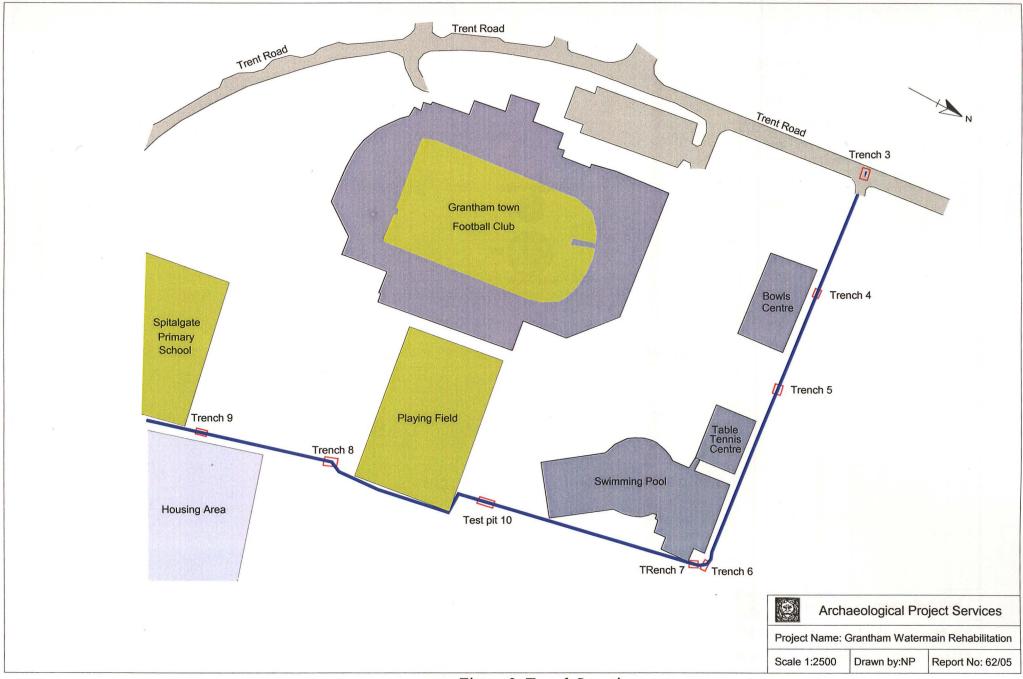


Figure 3. Trench Locations

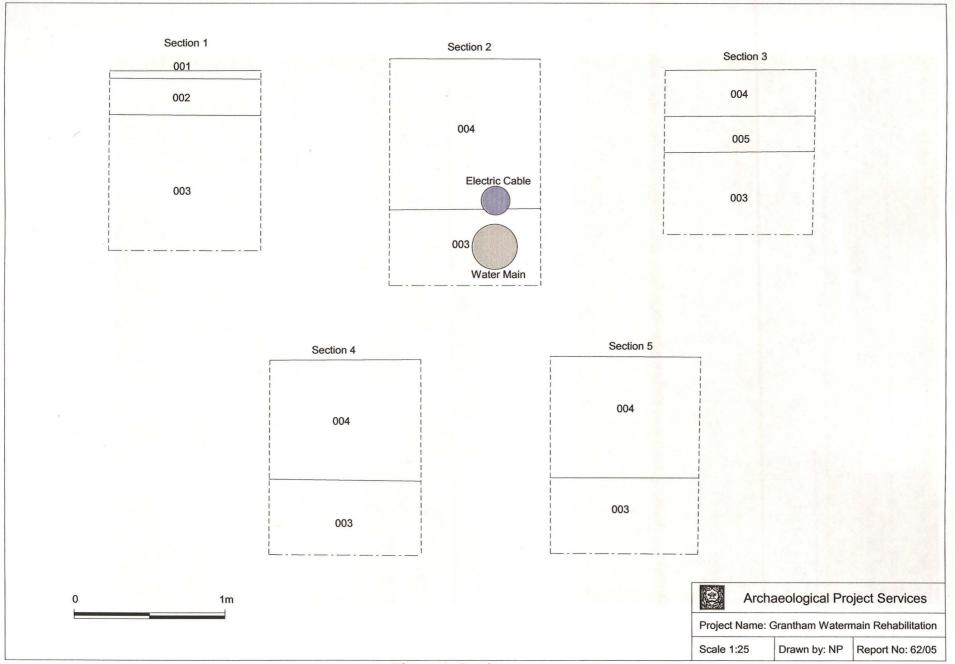


Figure 4. Sections



Plate 1. Trench 7 looking east



Plate 2. Trench 4 looking east



Plate 3. Trench 8 looking north



Plate 4. Test Pit 10, looking south east

Appendix 1 Specification

1 SUMMARY

- 1.1 A watching brief is required during works associated with a water main rehabilitation scheme in Grantham, Lincolnshire.
- 1.2 The pipeline runs along the north side of the sports complex east of Trent Road in an area where burials have previously been found. Watching-brief is required in this area.
- 1.3 The watching brief will be undertaken during groundworks associated with the rehabilitation scheme. Archaeological features exposed will be recorded in writing, graphically and photographically.
- 1.4 On completion of the fieldwork a report will be prepared detailing the results of the investigation. The report will consist of a narrative supported by illustrations and photographs.

2 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 This document comprises a specification for an archaeological watching brief during groundworks connected with a water main rehabilitation scheme on the west side of Grantham, 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 Grantham is located 35km south of Lincoln in the South Kesteven district of Lincolnshire. The works are to take place on the western fringe of Grantham. The area of particular interest lies on the north side of the sports stadium to the east of Trent Road at National Grid Reference SK 898 352.

4 PLANNING BACKGROUND

4.1 The possible archaeological implications of the scheme have been considered by the Senior Built Environment Officer at the Lincolnshire County Council archaeology section. For the majority of the route the impact is deemed likely to be minimal but watching brief has been recommended at the north end of the scheme.

5 SOILS AND TOPOGRAPHY

5.1 The are of interest lies on fairly level ground on the north side of the valley of the Mow Beck. Soils at the site are likely to be well-drained brashy fine to coarse loamy soils of the Banbury Association developed on Jurassic ironstone (Hodge *et al.* 1984, 103).

6 ARCHAEOLOGICAL OVERVIEW

6.1 Sites and finds of prehistoric, Roman and later dates are widespread on the western outskirts of Grantham. Worked flint scatters of Mesolithic, Neolithic and Bronze Age date have been recorded. Iron Age and Roman sites are also known, both from artefact scatters and aerial photographic evidence. Cropmarks of field systems of possible prehistoric or Roman date, enclosures of probable earlier prehistoric periods and numerous ring ditches likely to be Bronze Age burials are also recorded on lower ground to the southwest. Burials of date have also been recorded in the immediate vicinity.

7 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- 7.1 The aims of the watching brief will be:
 - 7.1.1 To record and interpret the archaeological features exposed during the excavation of the foundation trenches and other areas of ground disturbance.
- 7.2 The objectives of the watching brief will be to:
 - 7.2.1 Determine the form and function of the archaeological features encountered;
 - 7.2.2 Determine the spatial arrangement of the archaeological features encountered;
 - 7.2.3 As far as practicable, recover dating evidence from the archaeological features, and
 - 7.2.4 Establish the sequence of the archaeological remains present on the site.

8 SITE OPERATIONS

8.1 General considerations

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

8.2 Methodology

- 8.2.1 The watching brief will be undertaken during the ground works phase of development, and includes the archaeological monitoring of all phases of soil movement. The scheme for the most part entails relining of existing mains and ground disturbance will largely be limited to intermittent access points. New pipe is to be laid to divert around an existing football field and on the bend at the northeast corner of the sports centre. Open trenching will be required in these areas.
- 8.2.2 Stripped areas and trench sections will be observed regularly to identify and record archaeological features that are exposed and to record changes in the geological conditions. The section drawings of the trenches will be recorded at a scale of 1:10. Should features be recorded in plan these will be drawn at a scale of 1:20. Written descriptions detailing the nature of the deposits, features and fills encountered will be compiled on Archaeological Project Services pro-forma record sheets.
- 8.2.3 Any finds recovered will be bagged and labelled for later analysis.

- 8.2.4 Throughout the watching brief a photographic record will be compiled. The photographic record will consist of:
 - the site during work to show specific stages, and the layout of the archaeology within the trench.
 - groups of features where their relationship is important.
- 8.2.5 Should human remains be located they will be left *in situ* and only excavated if absolutely necessary. Should removal be required the appropriate Home Office licence will be obtained before the exhumation of the remains. In addition, the Local Environmental Health Department, coroner and the police will be informed, where appropriate.

9 POST-EXCAVATION

9.1 <u>Stage 1</u>

- 9.1.1 On completion of site operations, the records and schedules produced during the watching brief will be checked and ordered to ensure that they form a uniform sequence forming a level II archive. A stratigraphic matrix of the archaeological deposits and features present on the site will be prepared. All photographic material will be catalogued and labelled, the labelling referring to schedules identifying the subject/s photographed.
- 9.1.2 All finds recovered during the fieldwork will be washed, marked and packaged according to the deposit from which they were recovered. Any finds requiring specialist treatment and conservation will be sent to the Conservation Laboratory at the City and County Museum, Lincoln.

9.2 Stage 2

- 9.2.1 Detailed examination of the stratigraphic matrix to enable the determination of the various phases of activity on the site.
- 9.2.2 Finds will be sent to specialists for identification and dating.

9.3 Stage 3

- 9.3.1 On completion of stage 2, a report detailing the findings of the watching brief will be prepared.
- 9.3.2 This will consist of:
 - A non-technical summary of the results of the investigation.
 - A description of the archaeological setting of the watching brief.
 - Description of the topography of the site.
 - Description of the methodologies used during the watching brief.
 - A text describing the findings of the watching brief.

- A consideration of the local, regional and national context of the watching brief findings.
- Plans of the archaeological features exposed. If a sequence of archaeological deposits is encountered, separate plans for each phase will be produced.
- Sections of the 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 Lincolnshire County Council Archaeology Office; 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 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 Lincolnshire County Council Archaeology Office. 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).
- 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.
- 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.

Task Body to be undertaking the work

Conservation Conservation Laboratory, City and County Museum,

Lincoln

Pottery Analysis Prehistoric - Trent & Peak Archaeological Trust

Roman - B Precious, Independent Specialist

Anglo-Saxon - J Young, Independent Specialist

Medieval and later - G Taylor in consultation with H

Healey, Independent Archaeologist

Non-pottery Artefacts J Cowgill, Independent Specialist, or G Taylor, APS

Animal Bones M Holmes, Independent Specialist, or P Cope-Faulkner, APS

Environmental Analysis V Fryer, 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.
- In the case of non-satisfactory settlement of account then copyright will remain fully and exclusively with Archaeological Project Services. In these circumstances it will be an infringement under the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988 for the client to pass any report, partial report, or copy of same, to any third party. Reports submitted in good faith by Archaeological Project Services to any Planning Authority or archaeological curator will be removed from said planning Authority and/or archaeological curator. The Planning Authority and/or archaeological curator will be notified by Archaeological Project Services that the use of any such information previously supplied constitutes an infringement under the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988 and may result in legal action.
- 18.4 The author of any report or specialist contribution to a report shall retain intellectual copyright of their work and may make use of their work for educational or research purposes or for further publication.

19 **BIBLIOGRAPHY**

Hodge, CAH, Burton, RGO, Corbett, WM, Evans, R, and Seale, RS, 1984 Soils and their use in Eastern England, Soil Survey of England and Wales 13

Specification: Version 1, 10 February 2005

Appendix 2

CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

No.	Description	Interpretation	Date
001	Loose, mid grey sandy silt, moderate gravel inclusions. 0.05m thick.	Topsoil	Modern
002	Loose, pale yellow silty sand with limestone. 0.25m thick.	Levelling layer	Modern
003	Fairly firm, mid reddish brown sandy, clayey silt. Observed thickness 0.9m.	Backfilled layer	Modern.
004	Medium, mid greyish brown sandy silt with occasional small stones. 1m thick.	Newly laid topsoil	Modern
005	Firm, friable pale yellow limestone and sand. 0.25m thick.	Fragmented levelling layer.	Modern.

Appendix 3

GLOSSARY

Anglo-Saxon Pertaining to the period when Britain was occupied by peoples from northern Germany, Denmark and adjacent areas. The period dates from approximately AD 450-1066.

Context

Domesday Survey

Fill

Iron Age

Layer

Medieval

Mesolithic

Natural

Neolithic

Bronze Age A period characterised by the introduction of bronze into the country for tools, between 2250 and 800 BC.

An archaeological context represents a distinct archaeological event or process. For example, the action of digging a pit creates a context (the cut) as does the process of its subsequent backfill (the fill). Each context encountered during an archaeological investigation is allocated a unique number by the archaeologist and a record sheet detailing the description and interpretation of the context (the context sheet) is created and placed in the site archive. Context numbers are identified within the report text by brackets, e.g. [004].

Cropmark A mark that is produced by the effect of underlying archaeological or geological features influencing the growth of a particular crop.

Dissolution The closing and seizure of abbeys, priories and other monastic houses by the crown. This occurred in the period 1536-40.

A survey of property ownership in England compiled on the instruction of William I for taxation purposes in 1086 AD.

Once a feature has been dug it begins to silt up (either slowly or rapidly) or it can be back-filled manually. The soil(s) that become contained by the 'cut' are referred to as its fill(s).

A period characterised by the introduction of Iron into the country for tools, between 800 BC and AD 50.

A layer is an accumulation of soil or other material that is not contained within a cut

The Middle Ages, dating from approximately AD 1066-1500.

The 'Middle Stone Age' period, part of the prehistoric era, dating from approximately 11000 - 4500 BC.

Undisturbed deposit(s) of soil or rock which have accumulated without the influence of human activity

The 'New Stone Age' period, part of the prehistoric era, dating from approximately 4500 - 2250 BC.

Old English

The language used by the Saxon (q.v.) occupants of Britain.

Prehistoric

The period of human history prior to the introduction of writing. In Britain the prehistoric period lasts from the first evidence of human occupation about 500,000 BC, until the Roman invasion in the middle of the 1st century AD.

Romano-British

Pertaining to the period dating from AD 43-410 when the Romans occupied Britain.

Appendix 4

THE ARCHIVE

The archive consists of:

- 5 Context records
- 1 Scale drawing sheet
- 1 Photographic record sheet
- 1 Section record sheet

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: Archaeological Project Services Site Code: LCNCC: 2004:238 GWR05

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.