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**ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF  
AT THE OLD RECTORY,  
AUNSBY,  
LINCOLNSHIRE  
(AOR 05)**



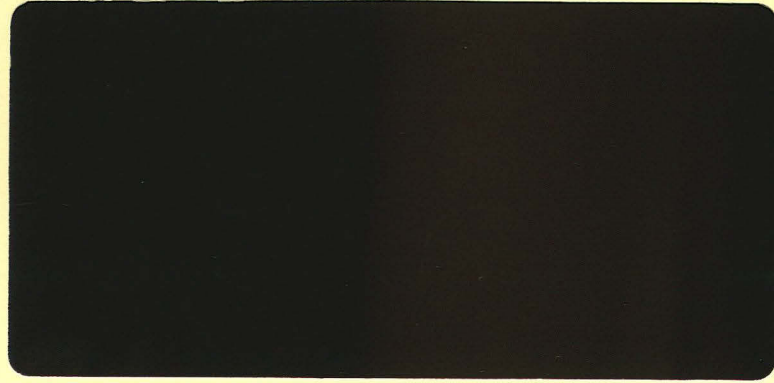
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PRN 63963 UNYATED

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF  
AT THE OLD RECTORY,  
AUNSBY,  
LINCOLNSHIRE  
(AOR 05)**

**Work Undertaken For  
Manthorpe Construction Limited**

June 2005

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

Planning Application No: N/06/0239/05  
National Grid Reference: TF 0450 3881  
City and County Museum Accession No: 2005.121

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL PROJECT SERVICES**



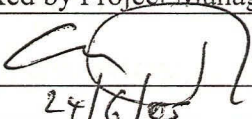
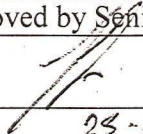
APS Report No. 103/05

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## Quality Control

The Old Rectory,  
Aunsby  
AOR 05

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Supervisor	Robert Evans
Illustration	Paul Cope-Faulkner
Photographic Reproduction	Sue Unsworth
Post-excavation Analyst	Paul Cope-Faulkner

Checked by Project Manager	Approved by Senior Archaeologist
 Gary Taylor	 Tom Lane
Date: 24/6/05	Date: 23-06-05

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## 1. SUMMARY

*A watching brief was undertaken during groundworks at the Old Rectory, Aunsby, Lincolnshire. The watching brief monitored the excavation of foundation trenches for a new detached dwelling with garage.*

*The church is of the medieval period (AD 1066-1540) with the earliest portion dating to the early-mid 12<sup>th</sup> century and a mid 12<sup>th</sup> century cross shaft was found adjacent to the site. Romano-British (AD 43-410) pottery has been found in the north of the village.*

*The watching brief revealed a sequence of undated and recent deposits. A pit, ditch and a subsoil remain undated due to a lack of artefactual material. A recent ditch and field drain were also recorded. No finds were observed or retrieved from the investigation.*

## 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 Manthorpe Construction Limited to undertake an archaeological watching brief during groundworks associated with new residential development at The Old Rectory, Aunsby, Lincolnshire. Approval for the development was sought through the

submission of planning application N06/0239/05. The watching brief was carried out on the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> May 2005 in accordance with a specification prepared by Archaeological Project Services (Appendix 1) and approved by the North Kesteven Planning Archaeologist.

### 2.3 Topography and Geology

Aunsby is situated within the parish of Aunsby and Dembleby, 10km south of Sleaford and 13km east of Grantham in the administrative district of North Kesteven, Lincolnshire (Fig. 1).

The site is located close to the centre of the village and approximately 30m southeast of the parish church of St. Thomas a Becket at National Grid Reference TF 0450 3881 (Fig. 2). The site lies at a height of c. 48m OD on land that slopes down to the east.

Local soils are of the Curdrige Association, typically argillic gley soils (Hodge *et al.* 1984, 153). These soils are developed upon a solid geology of Jurassic Oxford Clay (GSGB 1972).

### 2.4 Archaeological Setting

Aunsby is located 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 at two locations in the north of the village.

Aunsby is first mentioned in the Domesday Book of c. 1086. Referred to as *Ounesbi*, the name is derived from the Old Scandinavian personal name ‘*Outhen*’ and thus means ‘the farm or village (by) belonging to *Outhen*’ (Cameron 1998, 7). At the time of the Domesday Survey the land was held by Guy de Reinbuedcurt and contained 70 acres of meadow and 6 acres of underwood (Foster and Longley 1976).

The only extant remains of the medieval period is the church of St. Thomas a Becket which dates from the early to mid 12<sup>th</sup> century (Pevsner and Harris 2002, 110). Part of a cross-shaft was found at Cherry Tree Farm to the east of the site, that probably derived from the church, which, although Saxon in style, dates from the mid 12<sup>th</sup> century (Everson and Stocker 1999, 319).

### 3. AIMS

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

### 4. METHODS

Prior to the excavation of foundation trenches topsoil was stripped from the site. Foundation trenches were then excavated by hand to depths required by the development. The sides of the trenches were rendered vertical. Selected deposits were excavated further to retrieve artefactual material and to determine their function. Each deposit was allocated a unique reference number (context number) with an individual written description. A list of all contexts and their descriptions appears as Appendix 2. A photographic record was compiled and sections were drawn at a scale of 1:10. Recording was undertaken according to standard Archaeological Project Services' practice.

Following excavation the records were checked and a stratigraphic matrix produced. Phasing was assigned based on the nature of the deposits and recognisable relationships between them.

### 5. RESULTS

Following post-excavation analysis three

phases were identified;

Phase 1	Natural deposits
Phase 2	Undated 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 at the base of the foundation trenches was a layer of dark yellowish brown sandy clay (003). This was identified as the upper weathered surface of the underlying geology.

#### Phase 2 Undated deposits

Overlying natural deposits in the southern part of the site was a subsoil comprising yellowish grey, mottled with dark yellow, silty clay (002). This measured between 0.15m and 0.6m thick.

Aligned east-west through the southern foundation trenches was a ditch (004). This measured at least 6.24m long by 1.3m wide and over 0.5m deep (Fig. 4, Section 2). A single fill of reddish brown silty clay (005) was observed.

Situated 2m north of this ditch was a large pit (007). This was over 3.1m long, wider than 1.9m and deeper than 0.5m (Fig. 4, Section 3). A single fill of greyish brown silty clay (008) was recorded.

#### Phase 3 Recent deposits

Located along the western foundation trench was a ditch (009). This was aligned northeast-southwest and was 0.8m wide and 0.6m deep. A single fill of greyish brown silty clay with frequent roots (010) was recorded.

Cutting the undated subsoil was a north-south aligned field drain (006). This was 0.2m deep.



Sealing all archaeological deposits and filling the cut for the field drain was a 0.2m thick topsoil comprising greyish brown sandy silt (001).

## 6. DISCUSSION

Natural deposits (Phase 1) comprise sandy clays representing the upper weathered surface of the underlying solid geology.

Undated deposits (Phase 2) consist of a pit, subsoil and a ditch. The pit may have served a refuse function, though lacks clear evidence of discarded rubbish. Alternatively, it may have been a quarry pit for the extraction of clay. The subsoil probably indicates that the site had been under an agricultural regime with the ditch representing a former boundary. Recent deposits (Phase 3) include a field drain and ditch associated with more recent agricultural activities at the site.

No finds were retrieved or recorded during this investigation.

## 7. CONCLUSION

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken at the Old Rectory, Aunsby, as the site lay within the core of the medieval settlement and close to findspots of Romano-British date.

However, only undated and recent deposits were identified comprising a pit, former boundary ditches, field drains and a subsoil. The range and nature of these layers indicates agricultural activity at the site.

No finds were recorded from the investigation.

## 8. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeological Project Services wish to

acknowledge the assistance of Mr D. Balderson of Manthorpe Construction Limited for commissioning the fieldwork and post-excavation analysis. The work was coordinated by Mark Williams and this report was edited by Gary Taylor and Tom Lane. Jo Hambly, the North Kesteven Planning Archaeologist, kindly allowed access to the parish files and library maintained by Heritage Lincolnshire.

## 9. PERSONNEL

Project Coordinator: Mark Williams  
 Site Supervisor: Robert Evans  
 Photographic reproduction: Sue Unsworth  
 Illustration: Paul Cope-Faulkner  
 Post-excavation analysis: Paul Cope-Faulkner

## 10. BIBLIOGRAPHY

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## 11. ABBREVIATIONS

APS Archaeological Project Services

GSGB Geological Survey of Great Britain

IFA Institute of Field Archaeologists

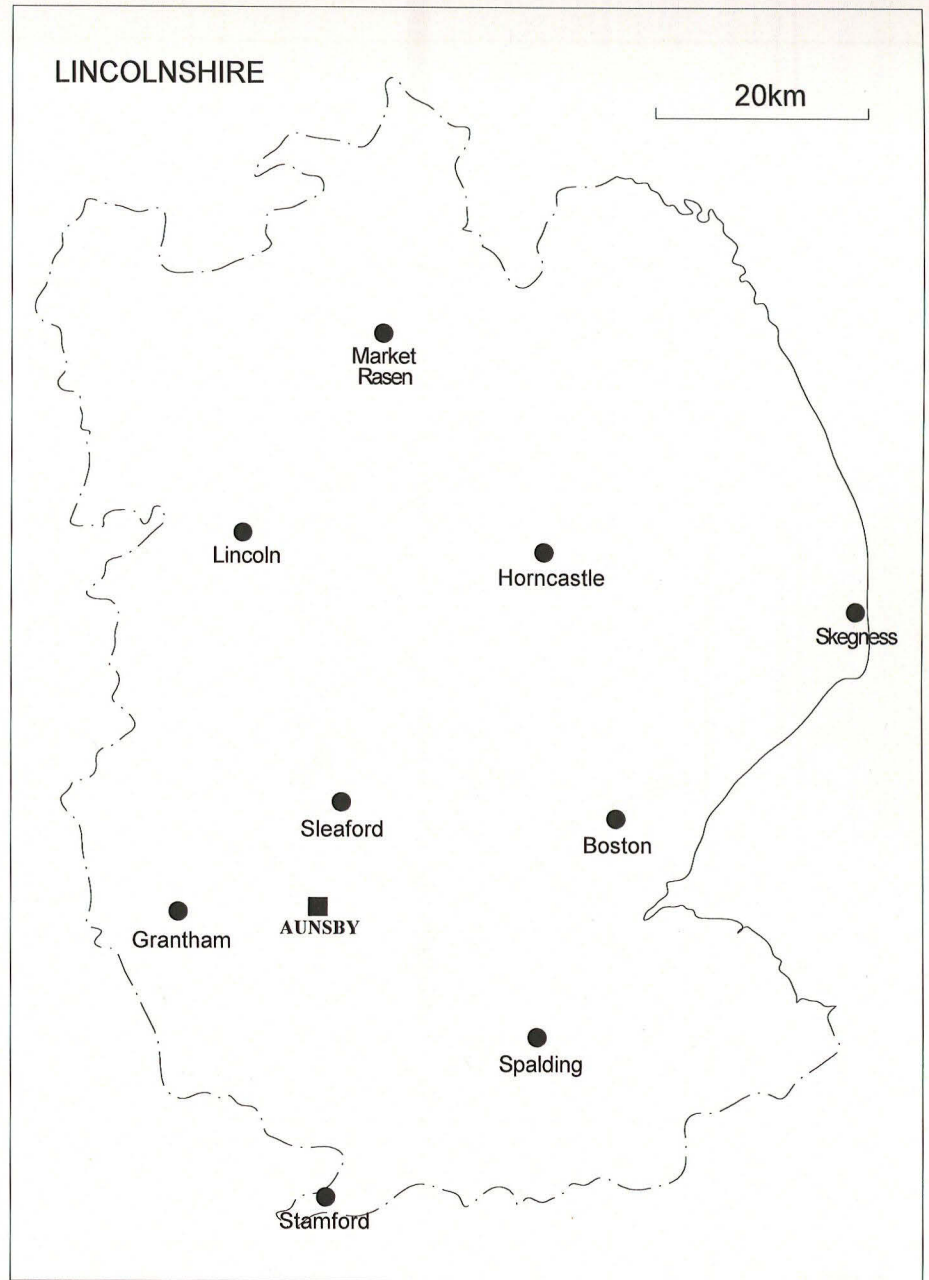
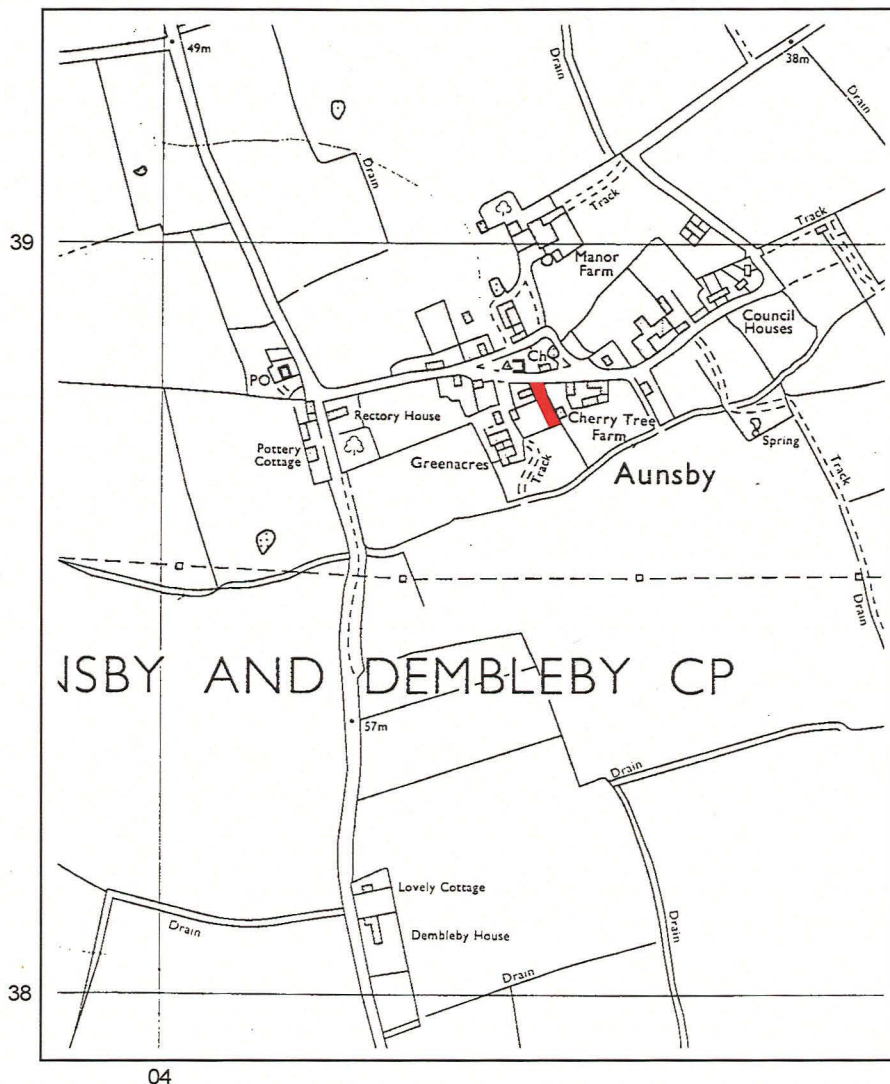



Figure 1 - General Location Plan



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 Area of development




	Archaeological Project Services	
Project Name: The Old Rectory, Aunsby AOR05		
Scale 1:10000	Drawn by: PCF	Report No: 103/05

Figure 2 - Site location plan

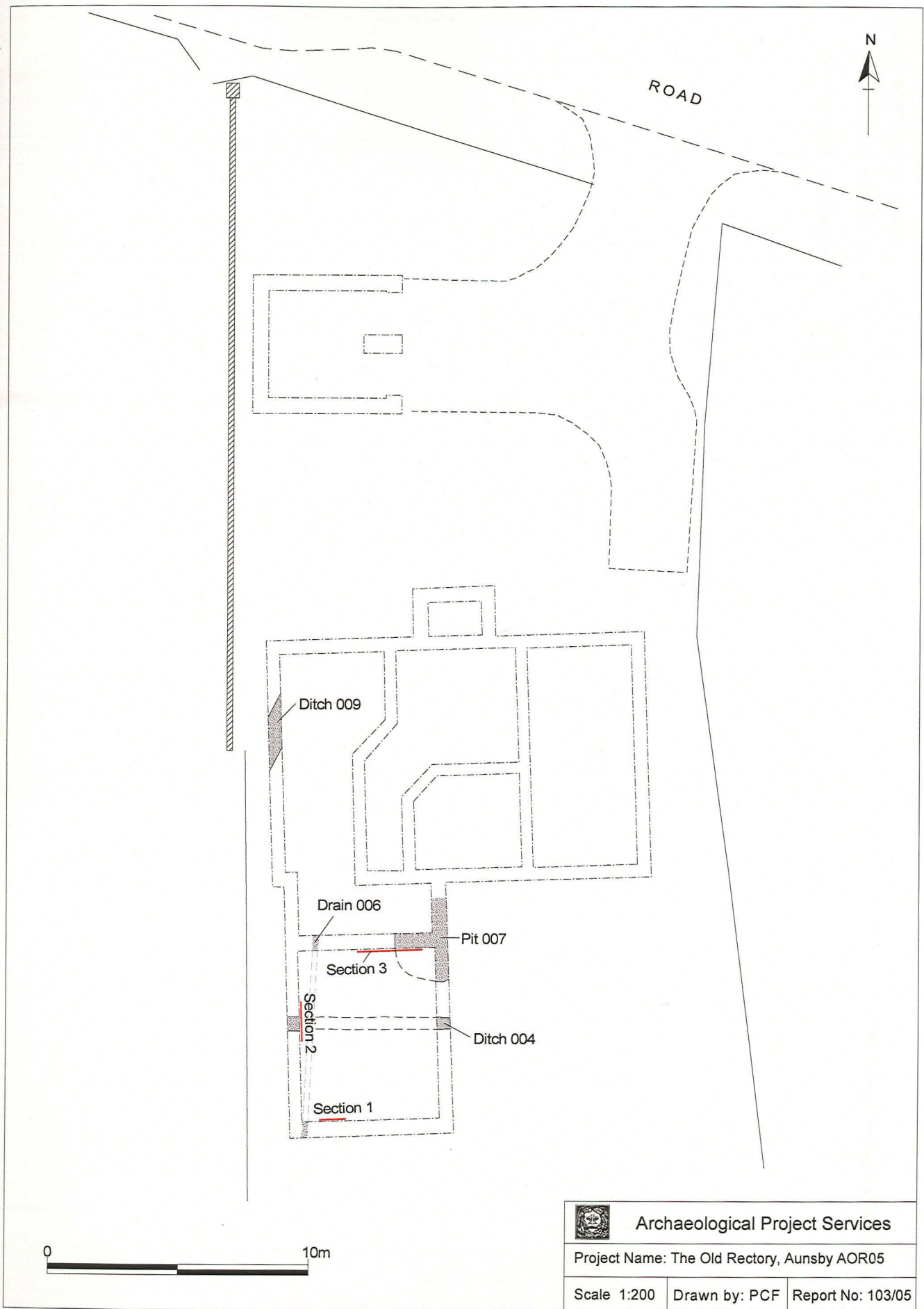
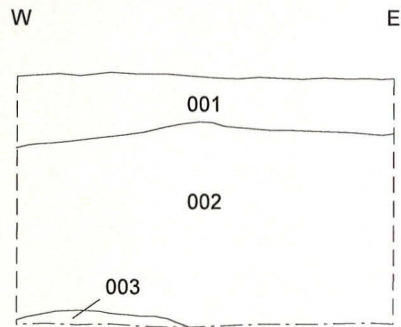
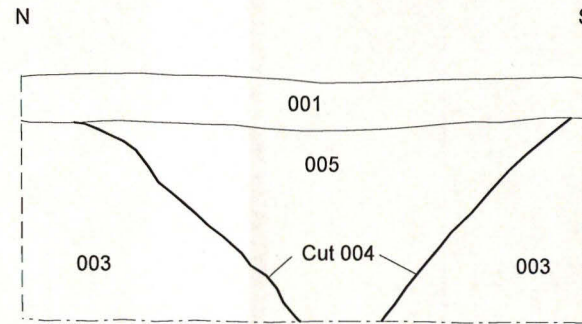


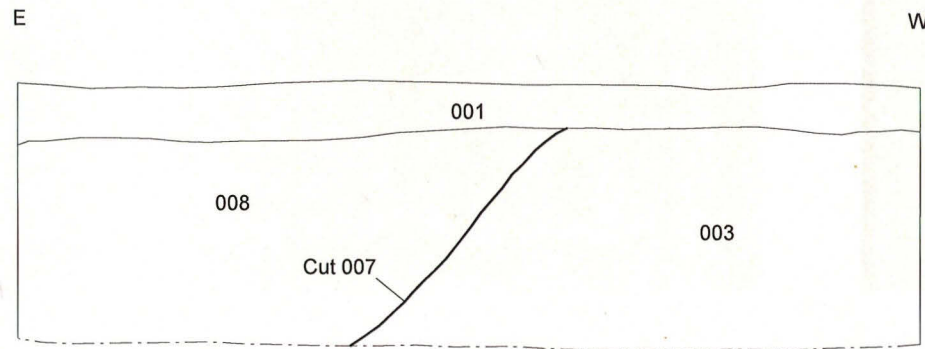
Figure 3 - Plan of the development showing principal features and section locations



Section 1



Section 2



Section 3



Archaeological Project Services

Project Name: The Old Rectory, Aunsby AOR05

Scale 1:20

Drawn by: PCF

Report No: 103/05

Figure 4 - Sections 1 to 3



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



Plate 2 - Section 1 showing the general sequence of deposits, looking north



Plate 3 - Section 2 showing the undated ditch (004), looking east



Plate 4 - Section 3 showing the undated pit (007), looking south



## Appendix 1

### LAND ADJACENT TO THE OLD RECTORY, AUNSBY, LINCOLNSHIRE - SPECIFICATION FOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

#### 1 SUMMARY

- 1.1 *A watching brief is required during residential development on land at Land Adjacent to the Old Rectory, Aunsby, Lincolnshire.*
- 1.2 *The proposed development lies in the opposite the church in the historic core of the village of Aunsby. Roman pottery has been found elsewhere in Aunsby.*
- 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 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 residential development at The Old Rectory, Aunsby, 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 Aunsby is located approximately 10km South of Sleaford and 13km East of Grantham. in the administrative district of North Kesteven. The site is located on the south side of the main street southeast of the Parish Church.

#### 4 PLANNING BACKGROUND

- 4.1 A planning application (N/06/0239/05) was submitted to North Kesteven District Council for the construction of a single dwelling and associated garage.

#### 5 SOILS AND TOPOGRAPHY

- 5.1 The site lies on a slight slope down to the south at approximately 18m OD. Local soils are the Hanslope series, Slowly permeable calcareous clayey soils (Hodge *et al.* 1984, 117).

#### 6 ARCHAEOLOGICAL OVERVIEW

- 6.1 The proposed development is located in the heart of the (once much larger) medieval settlement of Aunsby, and within 30m of the grade II\* church of St Thomas a Beckett. The church has a Norman foundation and still retains architectural elements of the period. A substantial fragment of an Anglo-Saxon cross was recovered in the adjacent property to the east just a few metres from the proposed development area. Roman pottery was recovered from foundation trenches of house footings in the north of the hamlet in the early 1960's.

#### 7 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- 7.1 The aims of the watching brief will be:

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

## 8 **SITE OPERATIONS**

### 8.1 General considerations

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

### 8.2 Methodology

- 8.2.1 The watching brief will be undertaken during the ground works phase of development, and includes the archaeological monitoring of all phases of soil movement.
- 8.2.2 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:
  - 8.2.4.1 the site during work to show specific stages, and the layout of the archaeology within the trench.
  - 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. Should removal be required the appropriate Home Office licence will be obtained before the exhumation of the remains. In addition, the Local Environmental Health Department, coroner and the police will be informed, where appropriate.

## 9 **POST-EXCAVATION**

### 9.1 Stage 1

- 9.1.1 On completion of site operations, the records and schedules produced during the watching brief will be checked and ordered to ensure that they form a uniform sequence forming a level II archive. A

stratigraphic matrix of the archaeological deposits and features present on the site will be prepared. All photographic material will be catalogued and labelled, the labelling referring to schedules identifying the subject/s photographed.

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

## 9.2 Stage 2

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

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

## 9.3 Stage 3

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

- 9.3.2 This will consist of:

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

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

- 9.3.2.3 Description of the topography of the site.

- 9.3.2.4 Description of the methodologies used during the watching brief.

- 9.3.2.5 A text describing the findings of the watching brief.

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

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

- 9.3.2.8 Sections of the trenches and archaeological features.

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

- 9.3.2.10 Specialist reports on the finds from the site.

- 9.3.2.11 Appropriate photographs of the site and specific archaeological features.

## 10 **REPORT DEPOSITION**

- 10.1 Copies of the report will be sent to the Client; the North Kesteven Heritage Officer; North Kesteven District Council Planning Department; and to the County Council Archaeological Sites and Monuments Record.

## 11 **ARCHIVE**

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

## 12 **PUBLICATION**

- 12.1 A report of the findings of the watching brief will be presented 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 North Kesteven Heritage Officer. They will be given written notice of the commencement of the project.

### 14 VARIATIONS AND CONTINGENCIES

14.1 Variations to the proposed scheme of works will only be made following written confirmation of acceptance from the archaeological curator.

14.2 In the event of the discovery of any unexpected remains of archaeological importance, or of any changed circumstances, it is the responsibility of the archaeological contractor to inform the archaeological curator (*Lincolnshire Archaeological Handbook* 1998, Sections 5.7 and 18).

14.3 Where important archaeological remains are discovered and deemed to merit further investigation additional resources may be required to provide an appropriate level of investigation, recording and analysis.

14.4 Any contingency requirement for additional fieldwork or post-excavation analysis outside the scope of the proposed scheme of works will only be activated following full consultation with the archaeological curator and the client.

### 15 PROGRAMME OF WORKS AND STAFFING LEVELS

15.1 The watching brief will be integrated with the programme of construction and is dependent on the developers' work programme. It is therefore not possible to specify the person-hours for the archaeological site work.

15.2 An archaeological supervisor with experience of watching briefs will undertake the work.

15.3 Post-excavation analysis and report production will be undertaken by the archaeological supervisor, or a post-excavation analyst as appropriate, with assistance from a finds supervisor, illustrator and external specialists. It is expected that each fieldwork day (equal to one person-day) will require a post-excavation day (equal to one-and-a-half person-days) for completion of the analysis and report. If the fieldwork lasts longer than about four days then there will be an economy of scale with the post-excavation analysis.

### 16 SPECIALISTS TO BE USED DURING THE PROJECT

16.1 The following organisations/persons will, in principle and if necessary, be used as subcontractors to provide the relevant specialist work and reports in respect of any objects or material recovered during the investigation that require their expert knowledge and input. Engagement of any particular specialist subcontractor is also dependent on their availability and ability to meet programming requirements.

<u>Task</u>	<u>Body to be undertaking the work</u>
Conservation	Conservation Laboratory, City and County Museum, Lincoln
Pottery Analysis	Prehistoric - Trent & Peak Archaeological Trust Roman - B Precious, Independent Specialist Anglo-Saxon - J Young, Independent Specialist Medieval and later - H Healey, Independent Archaeologist, or G Taylor, APS
Non-pottery Artefacts	J Cowgill, Independent Specialist, or G Taylor, APS
Animal Bones	Environmental Archaeology Consultancy
Environmental Analysis	Environmental Archaeology Consultancy
Human Remains Analysis	Dr R Gowland, Independent Specialist

## 17 INSURANCES

- 17.1 Archaeological Project Services, as part of the Heritage Trust of Lincolnshire, maintains Employers Liability Insurance of £10,000,000, together with Public and Products Liability insurances, each with indemnity of £5,000,000. Copies of insurance documentation can be supplied on request.

## 18 COPYRIGHT

- 18.1 Archaeological Project Services shall retain full copyright of any commissioned reports under the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988 with all rights reserved; excepting that it hereby provides an exclusive licence to the client for the use of such documents by the client in all matters directly relating to the project as described in the Project Specification.
- 18.2 Licence will also be given to the archaeological curators to use the documentary archive for educational, public and research purposes.
- 18.3 In the case of non-satisfactory settlement of account then copyright will remain fully and exclusively with Archaeological Project Services. In these circumstances it will be an infringement under the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988 for the client to pass any report, partial report, or copy of same, to any third party. Reports submitted in good faith by Archaeological Project Services to any Planning Authority or archaeological curator will be removed from said planning Authority and/or archaeological curator. The Planning Authority and/or archaeological curator will be notified by Archaeological Project Services that the use of any such information previously supplied constitutes an infringement under the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988 and may result in legal action.
- 18.4 The author of any report or specialist contribution to a report shall retain intellectual copyright of their work and may make use of their work for educational or research purposes or for further publication.

## 19 BIBLIOGRAPHY

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

Specification: Version 1, 07-05-04

## Appendix 2

### CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

No.	Description	Interpretation
001	Loose mid greyish brown sandy silt, 0.2m thick	Topsoil
002	Plastic light yellowish grey with dark yellow mottles silty clay, between 0.15m and 0.6m thick	Subsoil
003	Plastic dark yellowish brown sandy clay, >0.59m thick	Natural deposit
004	Linear feature, aligned east-west, >6.24m long by 1.3m wide by >0.5m deep, steep sides, not fully excavated	
005	Loose mid reddish brown silty clay	Fill of (004)
006	Linear feature, aligned north-south, 7.75m long by 0.2m wide by 0.2m deep, vertical sides and flat base	Field drain
007	Sub-rectangular feature, >3.1m long by >1.9m wide by >0.5m deep, steep sides, not fully excavated	Pit
008	Loose mid greyish brown silty clay	Fill of (008)
009	Linear feature, aligned northeast-southwest, >2.3m long by 0.8m wide by 0.6m deep, steep sides, rounded base	Ditch
010	Loose dark greyish brown silty clay with frequent roots	Fill of (009)

## Appendix 3

### GLOSSARY

<b>Context</b>	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).
<b>Cut</b>	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.
<b>Fill</b>	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).
<b>Layer</b>	A layer is a term to describe an accumulation of soil or other material that is not contained within a cut.
<b>Medieval</b>	The Middle Ages, dating from approximately AD 1066-1500.
<b>Natural</b>	Undisturbed deposit(s) of soil or rock which have accumulated without the influence of human activity.
<b>Romano-British</b>	Pertaining to the period dating from AD 43-410 when the Romans occupied Britain.
<b>Saxon</b>	Pertaining to the period dating from AD 410-1066 when England was largely settled by tribes from northern Germany.

## Appendix 4

### THE ARCHIVE

The archive consists of:

10	Context records
3	Sheets of scale drawings
1	Photographic record sheet
1	Stratigraphic matrix

All primary records are currently kept at:

Archaeological Project Services  
The Old School  
Cameron Street  
Heckington  
Sleaford  
Lincolnshire  
NG34 9RW

The ultimate destination of the project archive is:

Lincolnshire City and County Museum  
12 Friars Lane  
Lincoln  
LN2 1HQ

The archive will be deposited in accordance with the document titled *Conditions for the Acceptance of Project Archives*, produced by the Lincolnshire City and County Museum.

Lincolnshire City and County Council Museum Accession Number: 2005.121

Archaeological Project Services Site Code: AOR 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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