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**ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF
AT PLOT 2,
SUTTERTON DROVE,
AMBER HILL,
LINCOLNSHIRE
(SDB2 05)**



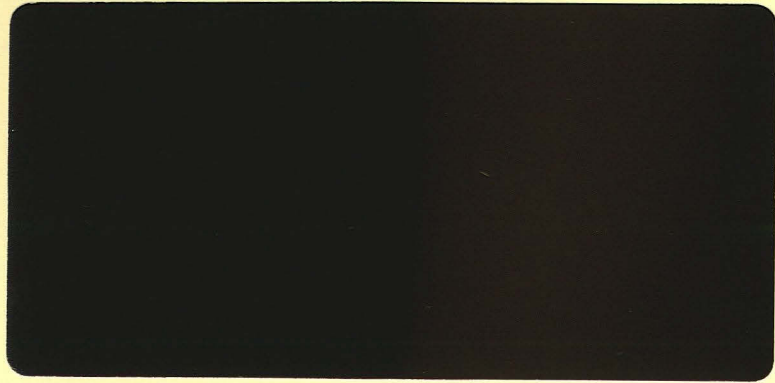
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ARCHAEOLOGICAL
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Conservation
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31 OCT 2005

Highways & Planning
Directorate

ack 31/10/05



Event: ELI 6408

INTERVENTIONS : SLI 10373

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PRN 13826 undated.

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF
AT PLOT 2,
SUTTERTON DROVE,
AMBER HILL,
LINCOLNSHIRE
(SDB2 05)**

**Work Undertaken For
Mr and Mrs Pearce**

October 2005

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

Planning Application No: B05/0282/RESM *
National Grid Reference: TF 2306 4709
City and County Museum Accession No: 2005.160

ARCHAEOLOGICAL PROJECT SERVICES



APS Report No. 133/05

Quality Control
Plot 2, Sutterton Drove,
Amber Hill
SDB 05

Project Coordinator	Dale Trimble
Supervisor	Aaron Clements
Illustration	Paul Cope-Faulkner
Photographic Reproduction	Sue Unsworth
Post-excavation Analyst	Paul Cope-Faulkner


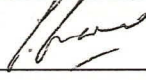
Checked by Project Manager	Approved by Senior Archaeologist
 Gary Taylor	 Tom Lane
Date: 4/10/05	Date: 10-10-05

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1. SUMMARY

A watching brief was undertaken during groundworks at Plot 2 Sutterton Drove, Amber Hill, Lincolnshire. The watching brief monitored the excavation of foundation trenches for new residential development.

Amber Hill lies to the north of a number of findspots of the Romano-British period (AD 42-410) and as a slightly raised area of land may have provided a focal point for early settlement. During the medieval period (AD 1066-1540) the area lay within extensive marsh that had been drained by the end of the 13th century. However, this soon reverted to marsh until the 18th century.

The watching brief revealed natural gravels into which a ditch had been cut. The ditch remains undated but probably served both a drainage and boundary function. No artefacts were recorded during the watching brief.

2. INTRODUCTION

2.1 Definition of a Watching Brief

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

2.2 Planning Background

Archaeological Project Services was commissioned by Mr and Mrs Pearce to undertake an archaeological watching brief during groundworks associated with new residential development at Plot 2, Sutterton Drove, Amber Hill, Lincolnshire.

Approval for the development was sought through the submission of planning application B05/0282/RESM. The watching brief was carried out on the 24th August 2005 in accordance with a specification prepared by Archaeological Project Services (Appendix 1) and approved by the Boston Planning Archaeologist.

2.3 Topography and Geology

Amber Hill is located 9km northwest of Boston and 16km east of Sleaford, in the Boston District, Lincolnshire (Fig. 1).

The site lies in the hamlet of Old Amber Hill, approximately 1km northwest of Amber Hill at National Grid Reference TF 2306 4709 (Fig. 2). The site lies to the north of Sutterton Drove at a height of c. 3m OD on a slight eminence over generally level ground.

Local soils are of the Alderby/Beccles Series, typically stagnogley to loamy over clayey stagnogley soils (Robson 1990, 9). These soils overlie a drift geology of older marine alluvium that seals glacial tills above a solid geology of Jurassic Amphill Clay (BGS 1995).

2.4 Archaeological Setting

To the south of the site, fieldwalking has recovered quantities of Romano-British pottery, although no finds of this date are known from the immediate vicinity of the development area. However, the slightly higher ground around Amber Hill may have provided a focus for settlement during this and later periods.

During the medieval period, Amber Hill lay within Haute Hundre Fen, which was not successfully reclaimed until the 18th century. In 1241, the sheriff of Lincoln was required to divide this fen between the various townships (Sutterton, Bicker and Kirton) and by the end of the 13th century all was under cultivation, pasture or

meadow, although by the 14th century this had reverted back to marsh (Hallam 1965, 69).

Amber Hill is first mentioned in the Records of the Commissioners of Sewers in 1575. Referred to as *Amber Hyll*, the name may have derived from the Old English bird name *amer*, 'a bunting' (Cameron 1998, 3). It is first mentioned in reference for a need for the Gill Syke, north of Old Amber Hill, to be dyked (Owen 1977, 27).

A watching brief undertaken to the east of the site identified only natural and topsoil deposits (Cope-Faulkner 2005, 1).

3. AIMS

The requirements of the watching brief, as detailed in the specification (Appendix 1), were to locate and record archaeological features 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 machine to depths required by the development. The sides of the trenches were then cleaned and rendered vertical. Selected deposits were excavated further to retrieve artefactual material and to determine their function. Each deposit was allocated a unique reference number (context number) with an individual written description. A list of all contexts and their descriptions appears as Appendix 2. A photographic record was compiled and sections were drawn at a scale of 1:10. 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

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

The earliest deposit encountered during the watching brief was a natural layer of brownish yellow and light grey gravel (005). This measured in excess of 0.6m thick.

Cut into the natural deposits was a ditch (004) that was aligned east-west and turning to the north within the plot (Fig. 3). This was 3.3m wide by over 0.35m deep (Fig. 4, Section 1) and contained a single fill of grey silty clay (003). Sealing the ditch was a 100mm thick layer of brown organic silt (002), perhaps used to level the ditch.

Above the ditch was a topsoil of grey clayey silt (001) that was 0.35m thick.

6. DISCUSSION

Natural gravel relates to the underlying drift geology of marine alluvium.

A ditch was revealed which remains undated due to a lack of artefactual material. However, it is not recorded on maps dating from 1891 and is therefore likely to be earlier than this. The ditch is likely to have served both a boundary and drainage function and following its disuse was levelled.

No artefacts were identified or retrieved from the investigation.

7. CONCLUSION

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken at Amber Hill as the site lay close to known settlements of Romano-British date.

However, only an undated boundary and drainage ditch was revealed cut into natural layers that had subsequently been levelled. No artefacts were retrieved during this investigation.

8. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeological Project Services wish to acknowledge the assistance of Mr and Mrs Pearce for commissioning the fieldwork and post-excavation analysis. The work was coordinated by Dale Trimble and this report was edited by Gary Taylor and Tom Lane. Jenny Young, the Boston Planning Archaeologist, kindly allowed access to the parish files and library maintained by Heritage Lincolnshire

9. PERSONNEL

Project Coordinator: Dale Trimble
 Site Supervisor: Aaron Clements
 Photographic reproduction: Sue Unsworth
 Illustration: Paul Cope-Faulkner
 Post-excavation analysis: Paul Cope-Faulkner

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11. ABBREVIATIONS

APS Archaeological Project Services

BGS British Geological Survey

IFA Institute of Field Archaeologists

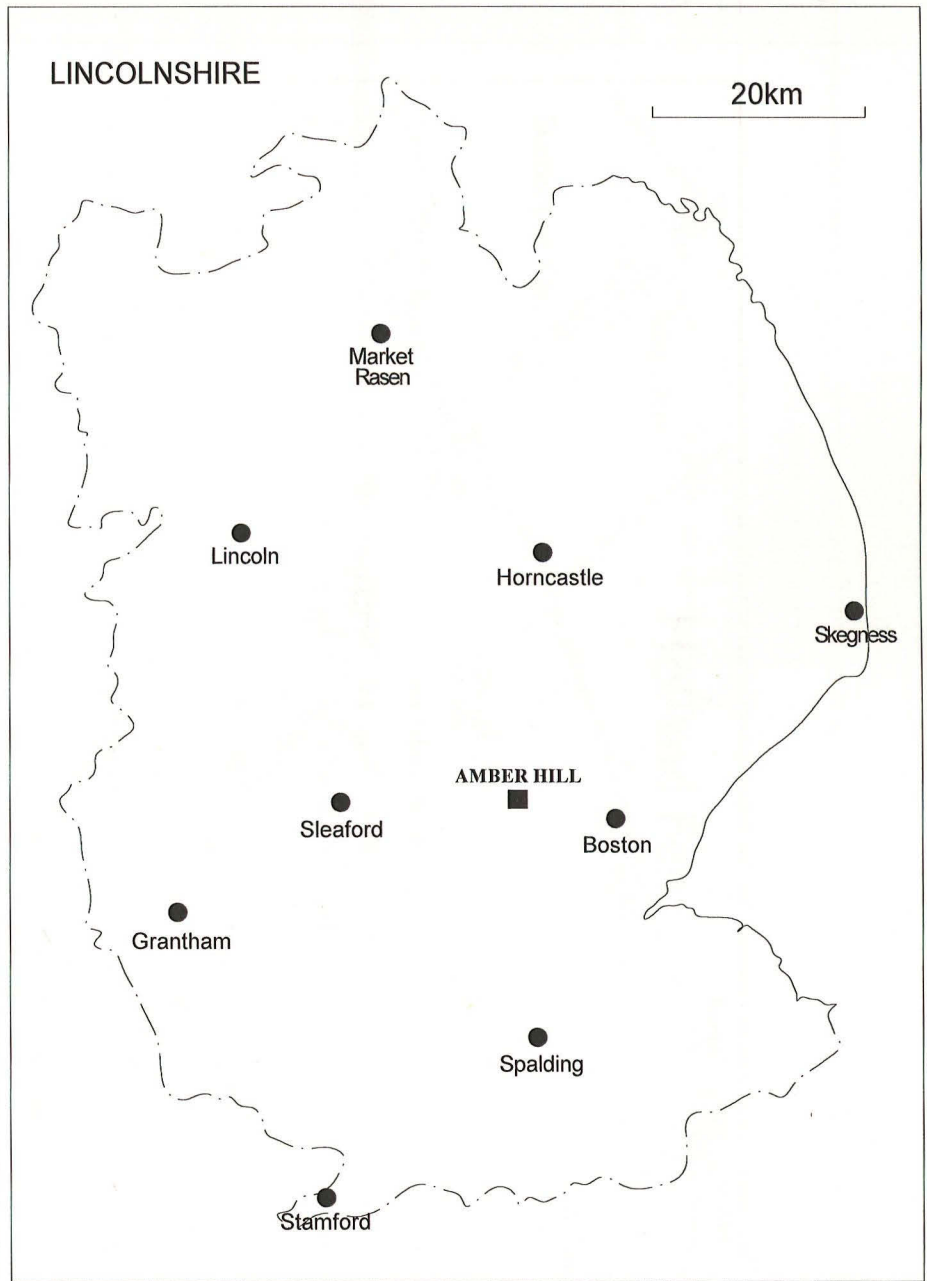
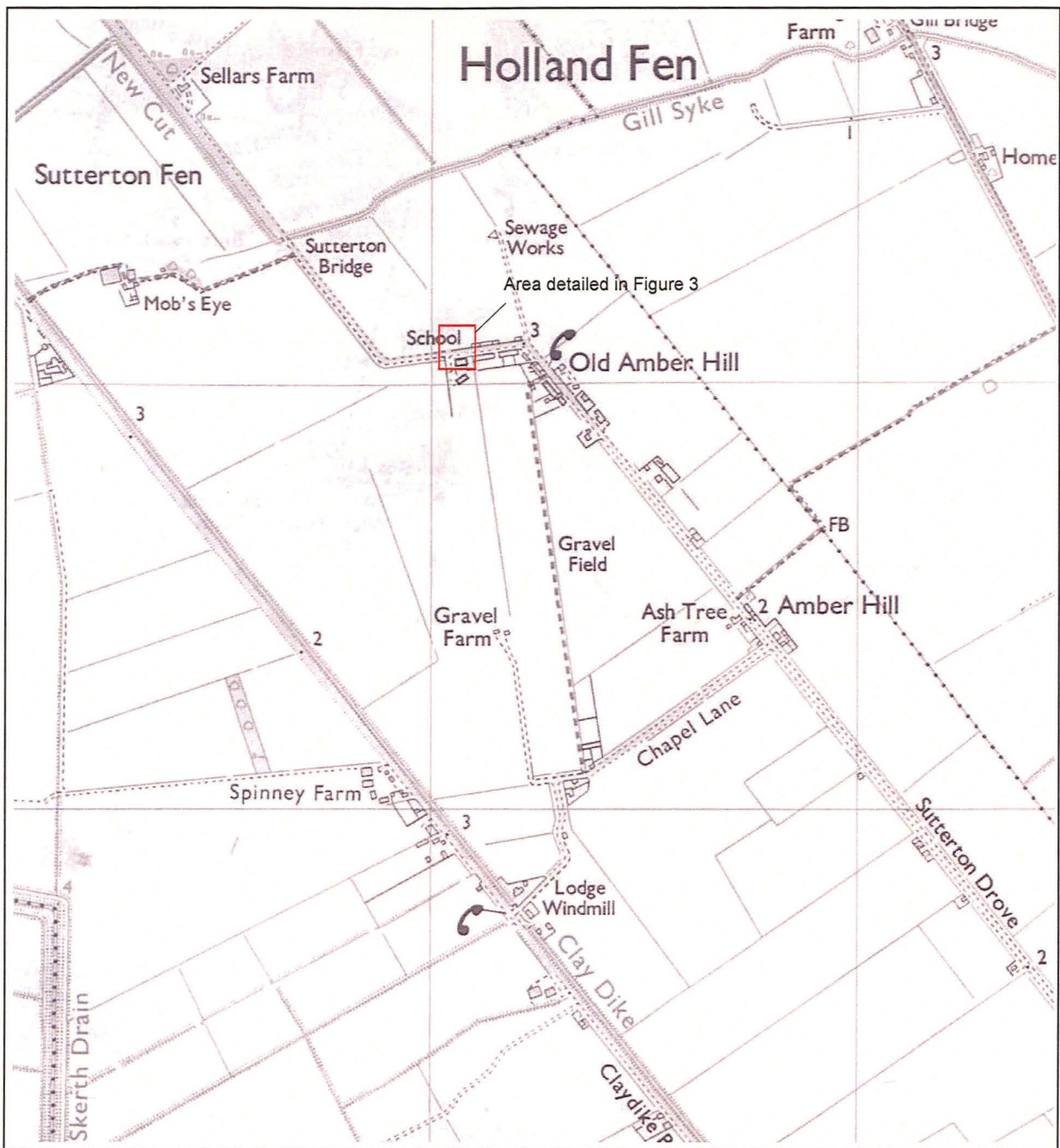


Figure 1 - General Location Plan



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 Archaeological Project Services		
Project Name: Sutterton Drove, Amber Hill SDB205		
Scale 1:15000	Drawn by: PCF	Report No: 133/05

Figure 2 - Site location plan

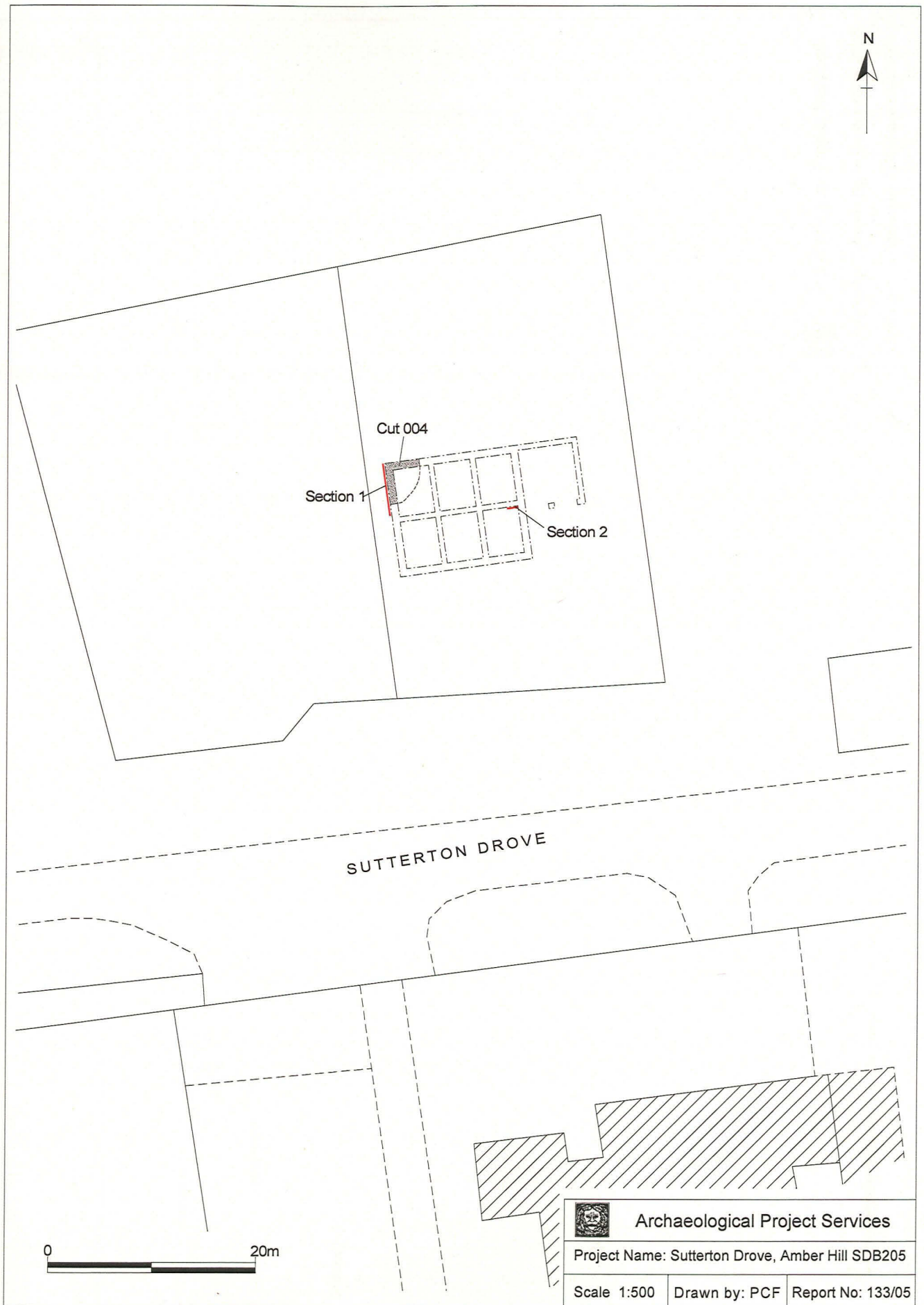
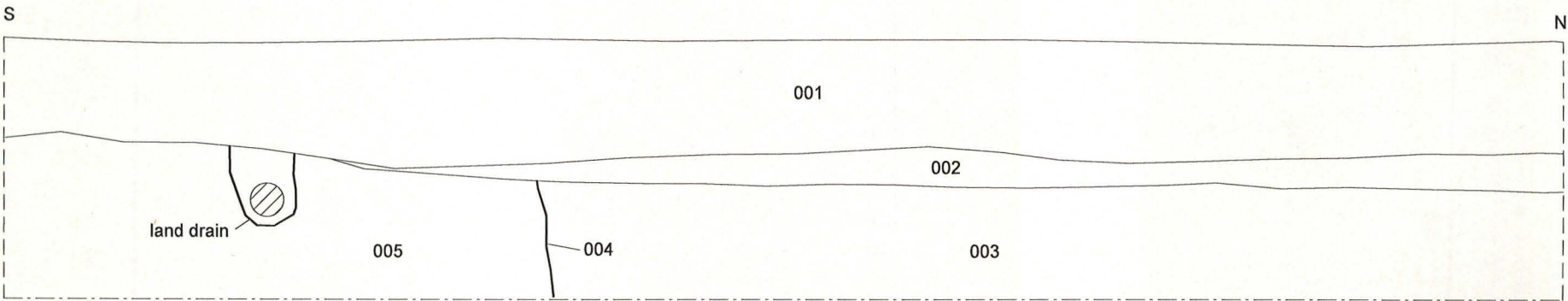
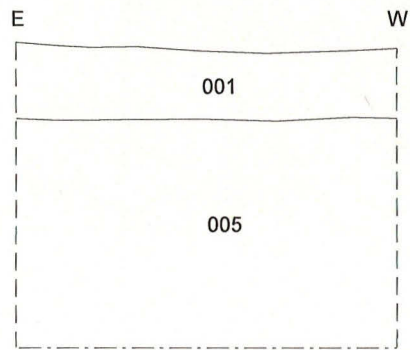


Figure 3 - Plan of the development showing section locations



Section 1



Section 2




 Archaeological Project Services		
Project Name: Sutterton Drove, Amber Hill SDB205		
Scale 1:20	Drawn by: PCF	Report No: 133/05

Figure 4 - Sections 1 and 2



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



Plate 2 - Section 1, looking northwest

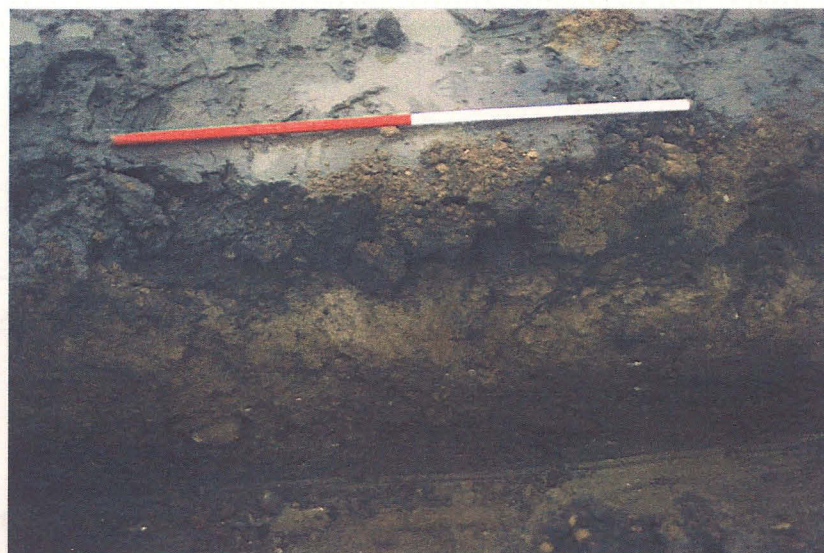


Plate 3 - Section 2, looking south

Appendix 1

LAND AT PLOT 2, SUTTERON DROVE, AMBER HILL, BOSTON, LINCOLNSHIRE - SPECIFICATION FOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

1 SUMMARY

- 1.1 *A watching brief is required during the construction of a house and garage at Plot 2, Sutterton Drove, Amber Hill, Boston, Lincolnshire.*
- 1.2 *The site lies in an area of archaeological interest/importance. Although the development site is situated in an area where little is known archaeologically, to the south of the site occurs a field noted on O.S. map sources as "Gravel Field". Gravel deposits are known to be located on higher standing areas in the fens, which were more conducive to earlier settlement. Consequently there may be archaeological potential within the area of the development site.*
- 1.3 *The archaeological work will consist of a watching brief during development works on the site.*
- 1.4 *On completion of the fieldwork a report will be prepared detailing the results of the watching brief. The report will consist of a narrative supported by illustrations and photographs.*

2 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 This document comprises a specification for an archaeological watching brief to be conducted during the construction of a new house on land at Plot 2, Sutterton Drove, Amber Hill, Boston, Lincolnshire. The site is located at National Grid Reference TF 2306 4709.
- 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 The development site is situated within the hamlet of Old Amber Hill, which is located approximately 8km to the north west of the town of Boston and in the administrative district of Boston. Plot 2 is located on the northern frontage of Sutterton Drove and is centred on National Grid Reference TF 23064709.

4 PLANNING BACKGROUND

- 4.1 A reserved matters planning application (B05/0282) has been submitted to Boston Borough Council for the construction of a detached house. Permission is subject to a condition requiring the undertaking of a watching-brief during groundworks associated with the development.

5 SOILS AND TOPOGRAPHY

- 5.1 Old Amber Hill lies to the north west of Amber Hill at approximately 2m OD. Local soils are of the Beccles 1 Association; typically fine loamy topsoils over slowly permeable clay subsoils (Hodge *et al.* 1984, 119). The soils overlie a drift geology of glaciofluvial deposits (BGS 1995).

6 ARCHAEOLOGICAL OVERVIEW

- 6.1 It is considered that there is likelihood that archaeological potential relating to the early settlement

history of Amber Hill may be affected by development at the site. It is also considered that the site is situated in an area of archaeological interest and significance based on previous archaeological works in close proximity to the site. Although little is known of the archaeology of the immediate vicinity of the site, O.S. maps of the area denote a field to the south of the development site as "Gravel Field". Such gravel areas usually occur at higher and upstanding levels of the fens, and as such were more conducive to early settlement activity.

7 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

7.1 The aims of the watching brief will be:

7.1.1 To record and interpret the archaeological features exposed during the excavation of the foundation trenches and other areas of ground disturbance.

7.1.2 The objectives of the watching brief will be to:

- Determine the form and function of the archaeological features encountered;
- Determine the spatial arrangement of the archaeological features encountered;
- As far as practicable, recover dating evidence from the archaeological features, and
- Establish the sequence of the archaeological remains present on the site.

8 SITE OPERATIONS

8.1 General considerations

8.1.1 All work will be undertaken following statutory Health and Safety requirements in operation at the time of the watching brief.

8.1.2 The work will be undertaken according to the relevant codes of practise issued by the Institute of Field Archaeologists (IFA), under the management of a Member of the institute (MIFA). Archaeological Project Services is IFA registered organisation no. 21.

8.1.3 Any and all artefacts found during the investigation and thought to be 'treasure', as defined by the Treasure Act 1996, will be removed from site to a secure store and promptly reported to the appropriate coroner's office.

8.2 Methodology

8.2.1 The watching brief will be undertaken during the groundworks 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.

- 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

- 8.2.4 Should human remains be located the appropriate Home Office licence will be obtained before their removal. In addition, the Local Environmental Health Department and the police will be informed.

9 POST-EXCAVATION

9.1 Stage 1

- 9.1.1 On completion of site operations, the records and schedules produced during the watching brief will be checked and ordered to ensure that they form a uniform sequence forming a level II archive. A stratigraphic matrix of the archaeological deposits and features present on the site will be prepared. All photographic material will be catalogued and labelled, the labelling referring to schedules identifying the subject/s photographed.
- 9.1.2 All finds recovered during the 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 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 Boston Borough Council Community Archaeologist; Boston Borough Council Planning Department; and to the County Council Archaeological Sites and Monuments Record.

11 ARCHIVE

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

12 PUBLICATION

- 12.1 A report of the findings of the watching brief will be presented as a condensed article to the editor of the journal *Lincolnshire History and Archaeology*. If appropriate, notes on the findings will be submitted to the appropriate national journals: *Britannia* for discoveries of Roman date, and *Medieval Archaeology* and the *Journal of the Medieval Settlement Research Group* for findings of medieval or later date.

13 CURATORIAL RESPONSIBILITY

- 13.1 Curatorial responsibility for the archaeological work undertaken on the site lies with the Boston Borough Council Community Archaeologist. They will be given seven days notice in writing before the commencement of the project.

14 VARIATIONS AND CONTINGENCIES

- 14.1 Variations to the proposed scheme of works will only be made following written confirmation of acceptance from the archaeological curator.
- 14.2 In the event of the discovery of any unexpected remains of archaeological importance, or of any changed circumstances, it is the responsibility of the archaeological contractor to inform the archaeological curator (*Lincolnshire Archaeological Handbook* 1998, Sections 5.7 and 18).
- 14.3 Where important archaeological remains are discovered and deemed to merit further investigation additional resources may be required to provide an appropriate level of investigation, recording and analysis.
- 14.4 Any contingency requirement for additional fieldwork or post-excavation analysis outside the scope of the proposed scheme of works will only be activated following full consultation with the archaeological curator and the client.

15 PROGRAMME OF WORKS AND STAFFING LEVELS

- 15.1 The watching brief will be integrated with the programme of construction and is dependent on the developers' work programme. It is therefore not possible to specify the person-hours for the archaeological site work.
- 15.2 An archaeological supervisor with experience of watching briefs will undertake the work.
- 15.3 Post-excavation analysis and report production will be undertaken by the archaeological supervisor, or a post-excavation analyst as appropriate, with assistance from a finds supervisor, illustrator and external specialists. It is expected that each fieldwork day (equal to one person-day) will require a post-excavation day (equal to one-and-a-half person-days) for completion of the analysis and report. If the fieldwork lasts longer than about four days then there will be an economy of scale with the post-excavation analysis.

16 SPECIALISTS TO BE USED DURING THE PROJECT

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

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

17 INSURANCES

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

18 COPYRIGHT

18.1 Archaeological Project Services shall retain full copyright of any commissioned reports under the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988 with all rights reserved; excepting that it hereby provides an exclusive licence to the client for the use of such documents by the client in all matters directly relating to the project as described in the Project Specification.

18.2 Licence will also be given to the archaeological curators to use the documentary archive for educational, public and research purposes.

18.3 In the case of non-satisfactory settlement of account then copyright will remain fully and exclusively with Archaeological Project Services. In these circumstances it will be an infringement under the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988 for the client to pass any report, partial report, or copy of same, to any third party. Reports submitted in good faith by Archaeological Project Services to any Planning Authority or archaeological curator will be removed from said planning Authority and/or archaeological curator. The Planning Authority and/or archaeological curator will be notified by Archaeological Project Services that the use of any such information previously supplied constitutes an infringement under the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988 and may result in legal action.

18.4 The author of any report or specialist contribution to a report shall retain intellectual copyright of their work and may make use of their work for educational or research purposes or for further publication.

19 **BIBLIOGRAPHY**

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**

BGS, 1995, *Boston, Solid and Drift Geology*, 1:50,000 scale map sheet **128**

Specification: Version 1, 18-05-05

Appendix 2

CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

No.	Description	Interpretation
001	Soft dark grey clayey silt, 0.35m thick	Topsoil
002	Soft dark brown organic silt, 100mm thick	Levelling deposit
003	Firm mid grey silty clay	Fill of (004)
004	Linear feature, east-west aligned turning north to north-south, 3.3m wide by >0.35m deep, steep sides, not fully excavated	Ditch
005	Loose mid brownish yellow and light grey gravel, >0.6m thick	Natural deposit

Appendix 3

GLOSSARY

Alluvium	A deposit (usually clay, silts or sands) laid down in water. Marine alluvium is deposited by the sea and freshwater alluvium by streams, rivers or within lakes.
Context	An archaeological context represents a distinct archaeological event or process. For example, the action of digging a pit creates a context (the cut) as does the process of its subsequent backfill (the fill). Each context encountered during an archaeological investigation is allocated a unique number by the archaeologist and a record sheet detailing the description and interpretations of the context (the context sheet) is created and placed in the site archive. Context numbers are identified within the report text by brackets, <i>e.g.</i> (004).
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.
Till	A deposit formed after the retreat of a glacier. Also known as boulder clay, this material is generally unsorted and can comprise of rock flour to boulders to rocks of quite substantial size.

Appendix 4

THE ARCHIVE

The archive consists of:

5	Context records
2	Sheets of scale drawings
2	Daily record sheets
1	Photographic record sheet

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.

City and County Council Museum Accession Number: 2005.160

Archaeological Project Services Site Code: SDB2 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.

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.