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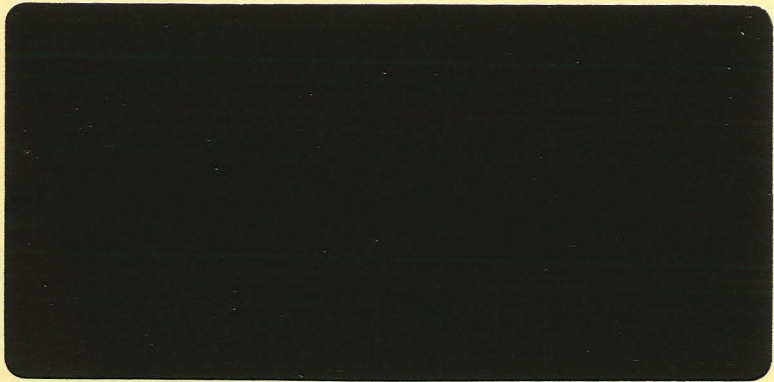
26 JAN 2006

Highways & Planning
Directorate

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF
AT STONEGATE,
COWBIT,
LINCOLNSHIRE
(CSG 04)**



A P S
ARCHAEOLOGICAL
PROJECT
SERVICES



acknowledgment sent 25/11/06
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CL1 10086

EVENT EL1 6523

SOURCE SL1 10489
SL1 10490

NEGATIVE

Quality Control
Stonegate,
Cowbit
CSG 04

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF
AT STONEGATE,
COWBIT,
LINCOLNSHIRE
(CSG 04)**

Project Name	Stonegate, Cowbit, Lincolnshire
Supervisor	Steve Williams
Excavation	Paul Cope-Faulkner
Field Graphic Report drawn by	Paul Cope-Faulkner
Post-excavation Analyst	Paul Cope-Faulkner
Checked by Project Manager	Approved by Senior Archaeologist
Date: 11/10/05	

**Work Undertaken For
Mr D. Swallow**

September 2005

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

Planning Application No: H01/0652/04
National Grid Reference: TF 2645 1807
City and County Museum Accession No: 2004.178

ARCHAEOLOGICAL PROJECT SERVICES



APS Report No. 127/05

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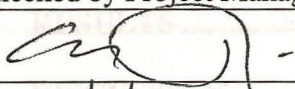
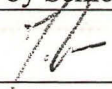
Quality Control
Stonegate,
Cowbit
CSG 04

1. SUMMARY

2. INTRODUCTION

Project Coordinator	Steve Malone
Supervisor	Steve Williams
Illustration	Paul Cope-Faulkner
Photographic Reproduction	Sue Unsworth
Post-excavation Analyst	Paul Cope-Faulkner

3. METHODS

Checked by Project Manager	Approved by Senior Archaeologist
 Gary Taylor	 Tom Lane
Date: 19/05	Date: 20-07-05

4. CONCLUSION

5. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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2 INTRODUCTION

2.1 Definition of a Watching Brief

All archaeological remains found or assumed to be located on premises to be developed are protected by a watching brief. This is an archaeological licence, the aim of which is to ensure that any archaeological remains found on the site are recorded and protected. The licence is granted by the local authority and is valid for a period of 12 months from the date of issue.

2.2 Project Background

Archaeological remains were known to be located on the site of the proposed development. The site is located on the east side of the A10 road, between the junction with the A10 and the junction with the A101. The site is currently occupied by a car park. The proposed development is a residential development of 10 dwellings. The watching brief was issued on the 25th July 2001 in accordance with a specification prepared

by Archaeological Project Services (Appendix D) and approved by the South Lincolnshire District Council Environment Officer, Lincolnshire County Council.

2.3 Topography and Geology

Cobbit is located 1.5 km south of Sleaford in the parish of Sleaford in the administrative district of South Holland and within the bounds of the county of Lincolnshire (Fig. 1).

The site is located 475m east of the centre of Cobbit as defined by the parish church of St Mary of the Field and Rufford St. The site is a gently sloping, level field of 0.5 ha.

The site is a gently sloping, level field of 0.5 ha. The site is a gently sloping, level field of 0.5 ha. The site is a gently sloping, level field of 0.5 ha. The site is a gently sloping, level field of 0.5 ha.

2.4 Archaeological Setting

There are no known archaeological remains on the site. The site is a gently sloping, level field of 0.5 ha. The site is a gently sloping, level field of 0.5 ha. The site is a gently sloping, level field of 0.5 ha.

Archaeological remains were known to be located on the site of the proposed development. The site is located on the east side of the A10 road, between the junction with the A10 and the junction with the A101. The site is currently occupied by a car park. The proposed development is a residential development of 10 dwellings. The watching brief was issued on the 25th July 2001 in accordance with a specification prepared

1. SUMMARY

A watching brief was undertaken during groundworks at Stonegate, Cowbit, Lincolnshire. The watching brief monitored the excavation of drainage trenches for a new detached dwelling.

The site lies in an area where Iron Age (800 BC-AD 42) and Romano-British (AD 42-410) salt-making was undertaken, the latter associated with settlement. During the medieval period (AD 1066-1540), Cowbit was a small hamlet of Spalding centred on the 15th century church.

The watching brief revealed only natural and recent topsoil deposits with no archaeological remains visible. No artefacts were retrieved during this 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 Mr D. Swallow to undertake an archaeological watching brief during groundworks associated with new residential development at Stonegate, Cowbit, Lincolnshire. Approval for the development was sought through the submission of planning application H01/0652/04. The watching brief was carried out on the 26th July 2005 in accordance with a specification prepared

by Archaeological Project Services (Appendix 1) and approved by the Built Environment Officer, Lincolnshire County Council.

2.3 Topography and Geology

Cowbit is located 5km south of Spalding and 12km southeast of Bourne in the administrative district of South Holland, and within the Fenland of south Lincolnshire (Fig. 1).

The site is located 475m east of the centre of Cowbit as defined by the parish church of St. Mary at National Grid Reference TF 2645 1807 (Fig. 2). The site lies at a height of c. 3m OD on the generally level land of the fens.

Local soils are calcareous alluvial gley soils of the Agney and Stockwith Series (Robson 1990, 9; 28). These soils are developed on a sequence of freshwater and marine alluvium and peat (Shennan and Alderton 1994, 268). These in turn overlie a drift geology of Jurassic Oxford Clay (BGS 1992).

2.4 Archaeological Setting

There is little evidence for earlier prehistoric remains in the Cowbit area as the land surface is now buried by later alluvium (peats, silts, clays etc.). By the time of the Middle Iron Age, salterns (salt producing sites) appear to have been established on the levees of the Welland principally to the north and northwest of the site (Hayes and Lane 1992, 177).

Salt-making continued into the Romano-British period, although more to the east and north due to peat encroachment from the southwest. Associated with these salterns were extensive areas of settlement. An excavation undertaken to the south of the site revealed a Romano-British settlement or farmstead, found along with briquetage production for use on a saltern (Rayner 2003, 1).

Cowbit appears to have been established as a hamlet of Spalding in either the late 12th century or early 13th century and derives its name from 'where the cows could bite', indicating there was pasture in the locality (Hallam 1965, 24). The village sits astride New Fendyke, constructed to reclaim the low-lying fen and in existence by 1186-9 (*ibid.*).

The only extant remains of the medieval period is the church of St. Mary of which most dates from c. 1400, apart from the tower which is late 15th century (Pevsner and Harris 2002, 235).

3. AIMS

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

4. METHODS

Owing to the low-lying nature of the plot, the site was built up and the ground-beams did not penetrate below the former topsoil. Drainage connections required deeper excavation. These trenches were excavated by machine to the depths required. 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 was a layer of brownish grey silty clay (002). Identified as alluvium, this was in excess of 0.35m thick.

Sealing the alluvium was a 1m thick topsoil of brown silty sand (001).

6. DISCUSSION

Natural alluvium and an unusually thick topsoil were encountered during the watching brief. Such a thickness may imply that the soil developed under an agricultural regime. Alternatively, the site may have previously been stripped and the topsoil dumped. The very sharp horizon between the natural and topsoil (Plate 2) perhaps supports this suggestion.

No archaeological features were exposed during the works and no artefacts were retrieved.

7. CONCLUSION

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken at Stonegate, Cowbit, as the site lay close to known Romano-British settlement and salt-producing sites.

However, only a sequence of natural alluvium overlain by the current topsoil was encountered during the watching brief. No archaeological features were revealed and no artefacts were retrieved.

8. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeological Project Services wish to acknowledge the assistance of Mr D. Swallow for commissioning the fieldwork and post-excavation analysis. The work was coordinated by Steve Malone and this report was edited by Gary Taylor and Tom Lane. Dave Start kindly allowed access to the library and parish files maintained by Heritage Lincolnshire.

9. PERSONNEL

Project Coordinator: Steve Malone
 Site Supervisor: Steve Williams
 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

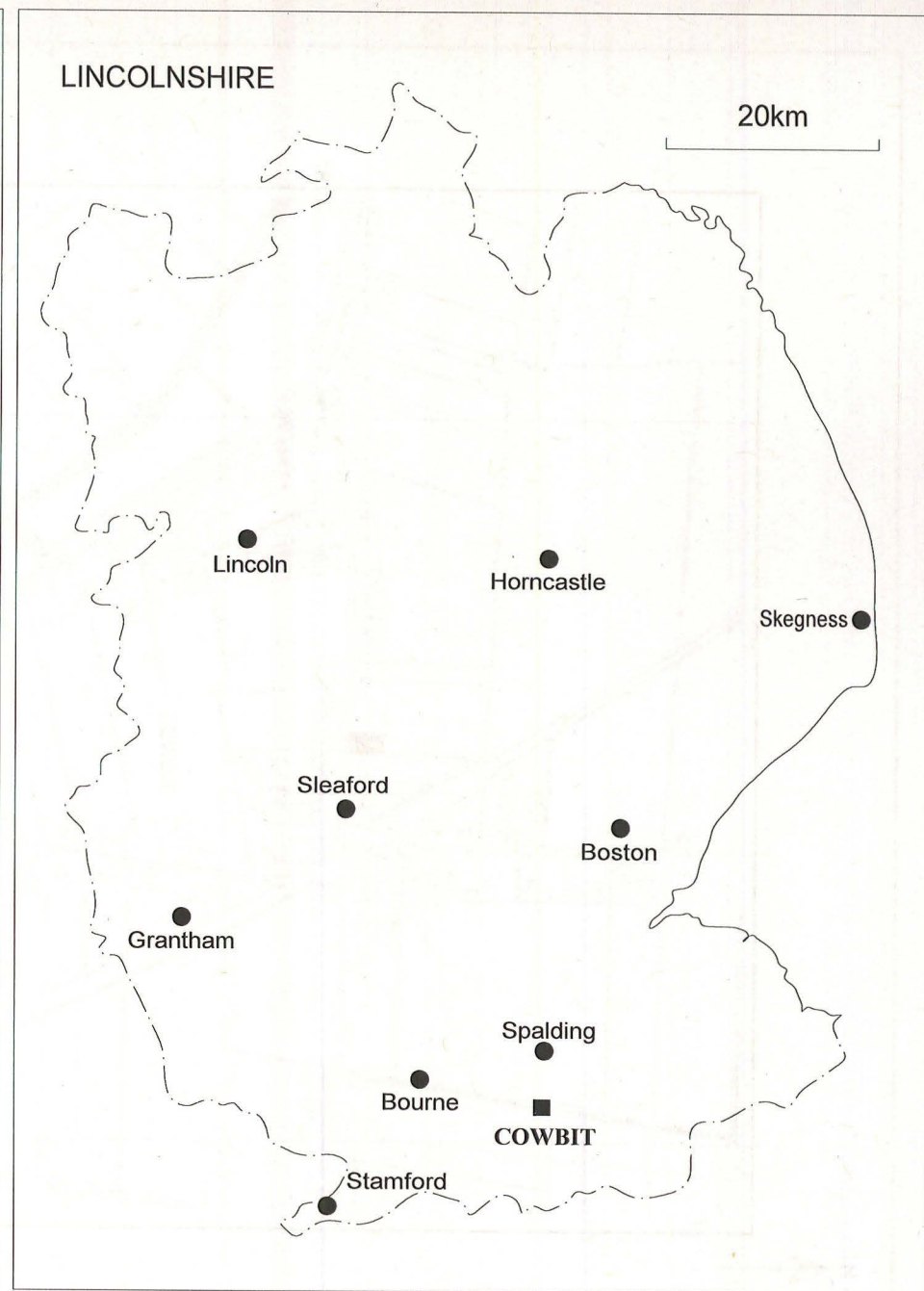
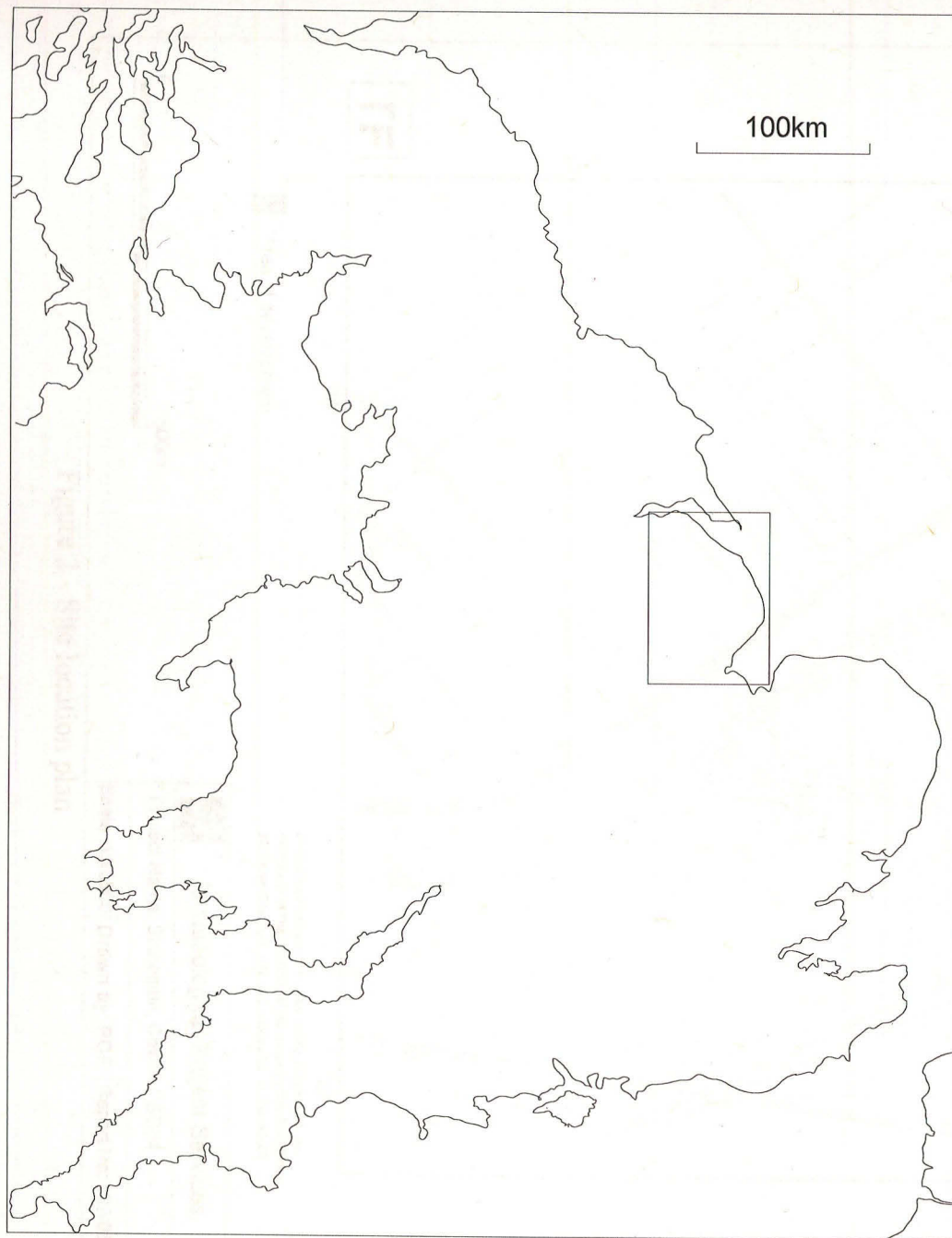



Figure 1 - General Location Plan



TF

 Area of development



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	Archaeological Project Services	
Project Name: Stonegate, Cowbit CSG04		
Scale 1:10000	Drawn by: PCF	Report No: 127/05

Figure 2 - Site location plan

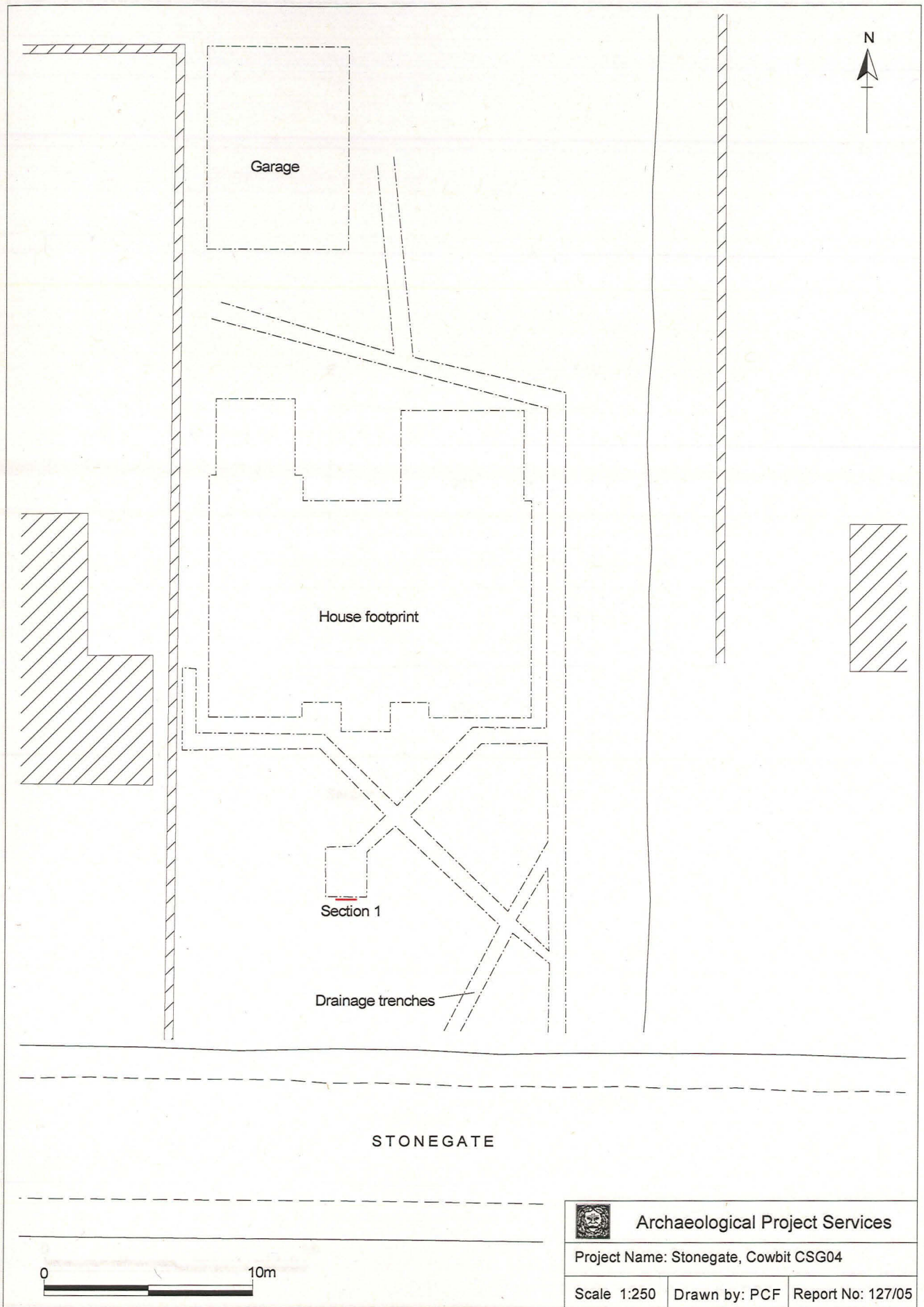


Figure 3 - Plan of the development showing location of drawn section

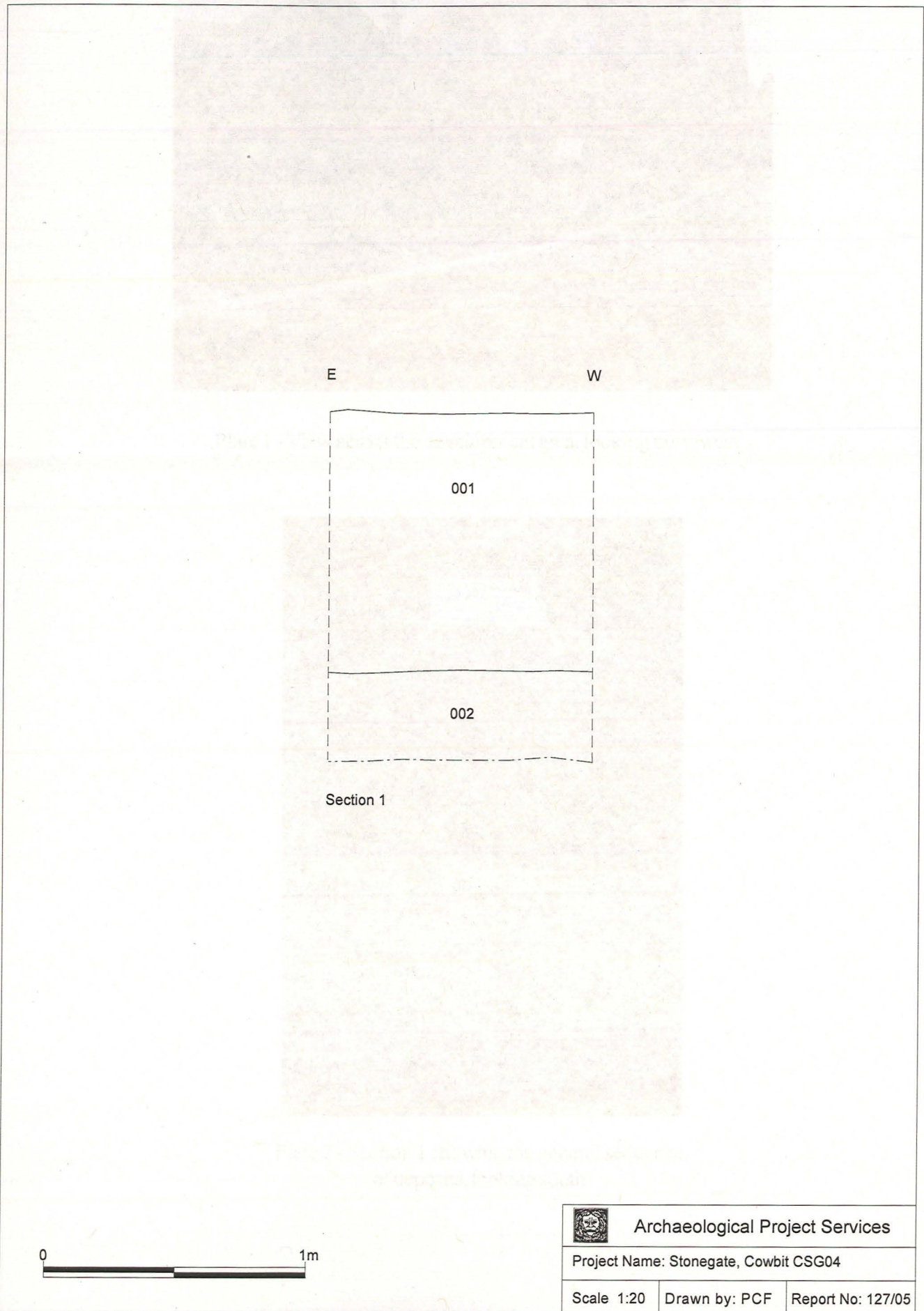


Figure 4 - Section 1



Plate 1 - View across the development area, looking northwest



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

Appendix 1

LAND AT STONEGATE, COWBIT, LINCOLNSHIRE - SPECIFICATION FOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

1 SUMMARY

- 1.1 *A watching brief is required during construction of a dwelling on land at Stonegate, Cowbit, Lincolnshire.*
- 1.2 *The area is archaeologically sensitive, lying in the centre of the medieval village immediately adjacent to the church. An Iron Age saltern is known to the west of the site. Roman settlements and salterns have been located previously both to the north and southeast.*
- 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 archaeological watching brief during construction of a dwelling on land at Stonegate, Cowbit, Lincolnshire. The site is located at National Grid Reference TF 2645 1807.
- 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 Cowbit is located 5km south of Spalding in the South Holland district of Lincolnshire. The site lies on the north side of Stonegate on the northern edge of the village, at National Grid Reference TF 2645 1807.

4 PLANNING BACKGROUND

- 4.1 A planning application (H01/0652/04) was submitted to South Holland District Council for the construction of bungalow and garage on the site. 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 The site lies in the south Lincolnshire fenland at c. 3m O.D. Local soils are of the Stockwith and Agney Series, silty over clayey calcareous alluvial gley soils (Robson 1990, 28).

6 ARCHAEOLOGICAL OVERVIEW

- 6.1 Cowbit lies in an area of dense Roman and Iron Age settlement and industry. Saltmaking was common in the area. An Iron Age saltern has been excavated to the west, in Cowbit Wash. This provided a radiocarbon date of 185-95 BC for the *second* phase of activity on the site (Lane 2001a). Roman salterns and settlement sites are known to the north and to the southeast

- 6.2 Cowbit Village developed from about 1300 along the New Fendyke, now Stone Gate. The site lies on the north side of this thoroughfare some 400m east of the church of St Mary which dates from c. 1400.

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 excavations for foundation trenches or other areas of ground disturbance such as drainage or sewerage connections.

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 ground works phase of development, and includes the archaeological monitoring of all phases of soil movement. Finished ground levels are to be raised to match the carriageway and the foundation raft is to be formed from existing levels. Ground disturbance is therefore likely to be confined to deep excavations for drains and sewerage connections.
- 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 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 field work 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 Lincolnshire County Council Archaeology Section; South Holland 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 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 Lincolnshire County Council Archaeology Section. 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

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Specification: Version 1, 31 December 2004

Appendix 2

CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

No.	Description	Interpretation
001	Firm mid brown silty sand, 1m thick	Topsoil
002	Firm mid brownish grey silty clay, >0.35m 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.
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).
Iron Age	A period characterised by the introduction of Iron into the country for tools, between 800 BC and AD 50.
Layer	A layer is a term to describe an accumulation of soil or other material that is not contained within a cut.
Medieval	The Middle Ages, dating from approximately AD 1066-1500.
Natural	Undisturbed deposit(s) of soil or rock which have accumulated without the influence of human activity.
Prehistoric	The period of human history prior to the introduction of writing. In Britain the prehistoric period lasts from the first evidence of human occupation about 500,000 BC, until the Roman invasion in the middle of the 1 st century AD.
Romano-British	Pertaining to the period dating from AD 43-410 when the Romans occupied Britain.
Saltern	Salt producing site typified by ash, derived from fuel needed to evaporate sea water, and briquetage.

Appendix 4

THE ARCHIVE

The archive consists of:

2	Context records
2	Scale drawings
1	Photographic record sheet
1	Stratigraphic matrix

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: 2004.178

Archaeological Project Services Site Code: CSG 04

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.