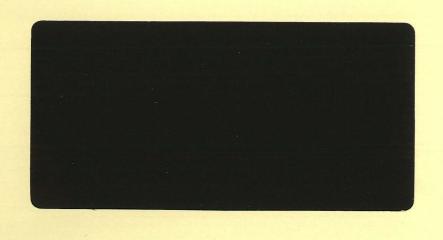
ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF
AT IRONBAR DROVE
CUCKOO BRIDGE,
SPALDING,
LINCOLNSHIRE
(CBS 04)



A P S
ARCHAEOLOGICAL
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SERVICES



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ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF
AT IRONBAR DROVE
CUCKOO BRIDGE,
SPALDING,
LINCOLNSHIRE
(CBS 04)

Work Undertaken For John M. Allen Transport Ltd

October 2005

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

Planning Application No: H14/0923/02 National Grid Reference: TF 2041 2039 City and County Museum Accession No: 2004.219

# ARCHAEOLOGICAL PROJECT SERVICES



APS Report No. 151/05

# **Quality Control**

Ironbar Drove, Cuckoo Bridge, Spalding CBS 04

Project Coordinator	Denise Drury	
Supervisors	Aaron Clements, Robert Evans	
Illustration	Paul Cope-Faulkner	
Photographic Reproduction	Sue Unsworth	
Post-excavation Analyst	Paul Cope-Faulkner	

Checked by Project Manager	**************************************	Approv	ed by Senior Archaec	ologist
Druns	Denise Drury		the	Tom Lane
Date: 13/10/05		Date:	17-10-05	L. L. LAT

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#### . SUMMARY

A watching brief was undertaken during groundworks at Ironbar Drove, Cuckoo Bridge, Spalding, Lincolnshire. The watching brief monitored the excavation of service trenches and tank locations associated with a new dwelling.

The site lies in an area of Romano-British (AD 42-410) cropmarks indicative of extensive settlement. Additionally, the Roman Road, the Baston Outgang, runs close to the site.

The watching brief revealed a sequence of natural, undated and recent deposits. Undated layers include an extensive subsoil which seals a ditch, also undated. No finds were recorded from 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 John M. Allen Transport Ltd to undertake an archaeological watching brief during groundworks associated with a new dwelling at Ironbar Drove, Cuckoo Bridge, Spalding, Lincolnshire. Approval for the development was sought through the submission of planning application H14/0923/02. Footings for the dwelling were dug without archaeological

monitoring. The remainder of the groundworks were the subject of the archaeological watching brief in accordance with a specification prepared by Archaeological Project Services (Appendix 1) and approved by the Senior Built Environment Officer, Lincolnshire County Council The watching brief was carried out between the 14<sup>th</sup> October 2004 and the 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2005.

# 2.3 Topography and Geology

Spalding is situated 23km southwest of Boston and 30km southeast of Sleaford, in the South Holland district of Lincolnshire (Fig.1).

The site lies some 4.8km southwest of Spalding town centre at National Grid Reference TF 2041 2039 (Fig. 2). The site lies adjacent to Cuckoo Bridge Farm on the south side of Ironbar Drove at a height of c. 3m OD in the generally level fens of south Lincolnshire.

Local soils are of the Wisbech Series, typically coarse silty calcareous soils (Robson 1990, 36). These soils are developed on young marine alluvium, usually salt marsh, tidal creek and river deposits, that overlie a solid geology of Jurassic Oxford Clay (BGS 1992).

### 2.4 Archaeological Setting

Spalding is in an area of known archaeological remains dating from the Romano-British period to the present day. The site lies some 600m away from the Baston Outgang, a thoroughfare that once connected Spalding to the fen-edge to the west (Margary 1973, 235). Cropmarks indicate that extensive settlement grew up alongside this road. Immediately east of Cuckoo Bridge is one such settlement where field ditches, watercourses and evidence of possible salt-making are recorded (Phillips 1970, 288).

At present, no Saxon remains have been

identified in Spalding, despite the name deriving from the *Spaldas*, a Saxon tribal name first recorded in the Tribal Hideage, an early taxation document of the 7<sup>th</sup> century (Cameron 1998, 114). Known medieval activity is largely restricted to the centre of Spalding.

A watching brief undertaken 1.6km to the northwest revealed only natural and recent deposits (Cope-Faulkner 1997, 1).

#### 3. AIMS

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

# 4. METHODS

Foundation trenches were excavated without archaeological supervision. Groundworks were monitored on three occasions and comprise the excavations for a test pit, a service trench, a trench for a tank and a Klargester. Following excavation 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 and 1:20. 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 deposits encountered were found within the Klargester pit and comprise a layer of greyish brown silt (009) that was over 0.8m thick. This was sealed beneath a deposit of mottled grey and reddish brown silty clay (008).

Natural deposits exposed adjacent to the house consisted of brownish yellow sandy silt (003).

# Phase 2 Undated deposits

Cut into natural deposits south of the house was a north-south aligned ditch (005). This was 0.95m wide and 0.85m deep (Fig. 4, Section 1) and contained a single fill of grey clayey silt (004).

A subsoil was evident within the excavated areas and sealed the ditch. This comprised a brown clayey silt (002) and a yellow clayey silt (007).

# Phase 3 Recent deposits

Sealing all archaeological deposits was a topsoil of brown clayey silt (001 and 006) that was between 0.13m and 0.4m thick.

# 6. DISCUSSION

Natural deposits (Phase 1) comprise sandy silts, silty clays and silts of the underlying

identified in Spalding, despite the name deriving from the *Spaldas*, a Saxon tribal name first recorded in the Tribal Hideage, an early taxation document of the 7<sup>th</sup> century (Cameron 1998, 114). Known medieval activity is largely restricted to the centre of Spalding.

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### 6. DISCUSSION

Natural deposits (Phase 1) comprise sandy silts, silty clays and silts of the underlying

marine alluvium.

A ditch and an extensive subsoil (Phase 2) remain undated due to a lack of artefacts. However, the ditch is sealed beneath subsoil deposits and may imply some antiquity for this feature. The subsoil would indicate that the site has been under an agricultural regime.

No artefacts were retrieved during the investigation.

#### 7. CONCLUSION

A watching brief was undertaken at Cuckoo Bridge, Spalding, as the site lay in an area of known Romano-British settlement.

However, only natural, undated and recent deposits were encountered. An undated ditch may be ancient, sealed as it is beneath subsoil layers. No artefacts were retrieved during the investigation.

#### 8. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeological Project Services wish to acknowledge the assistance of Heather Clarke of John M. Allen Transport Ltd for commissioning the fieldwork and post-excavation analysis. The work was coordinated by Denise Drury who edited this report along with Tom Lane. Dave Start kindly allowed access to the parish files and library maintained by Heritage Lincolnshire.

#### 9. PERSONNEL

Project Coordinator: Denise Drury

Site Supervisors: Aaron Clements, Robert

Evans

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

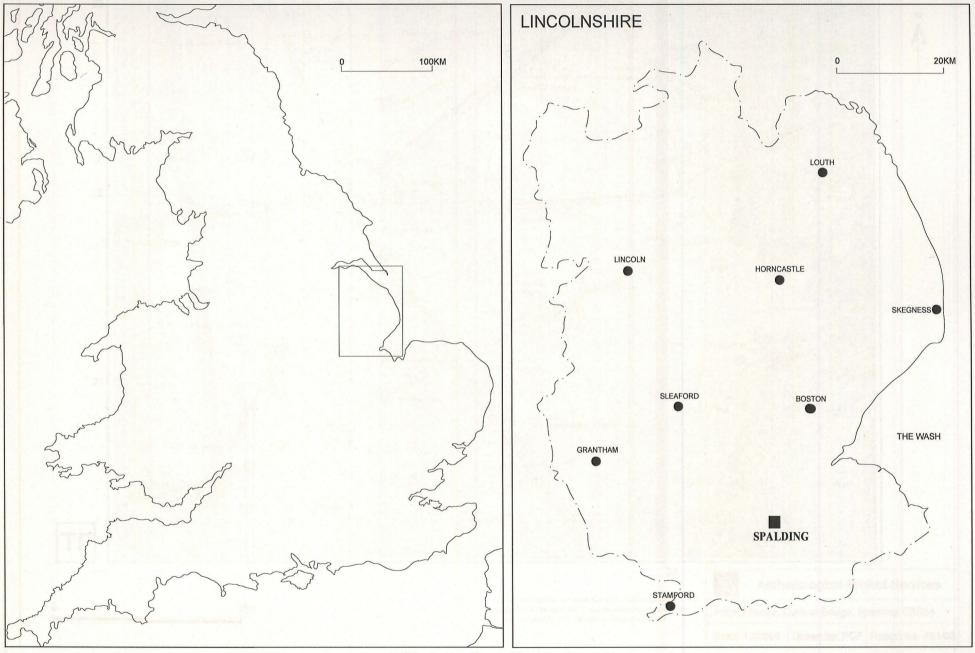


Figure 1 - General location map

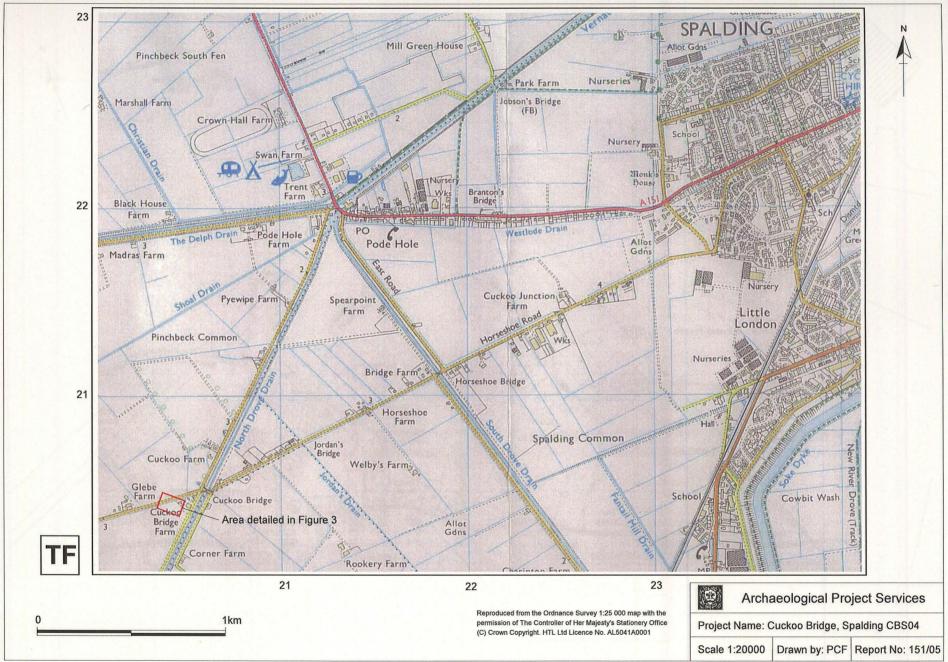


Figure 2 - Site location plan

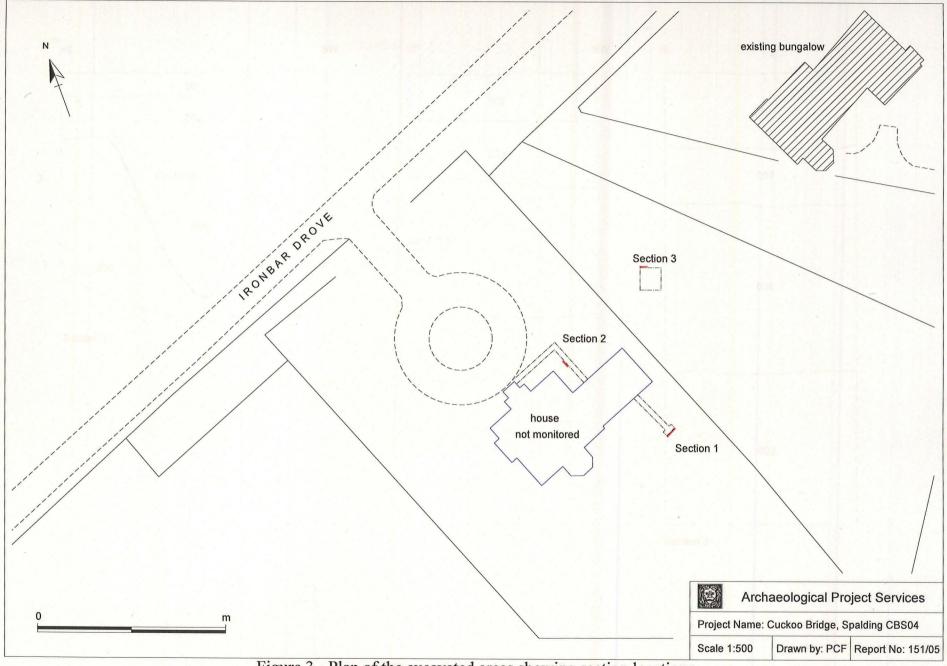


Figure 3 - Plan of the excavated areas showing section locations

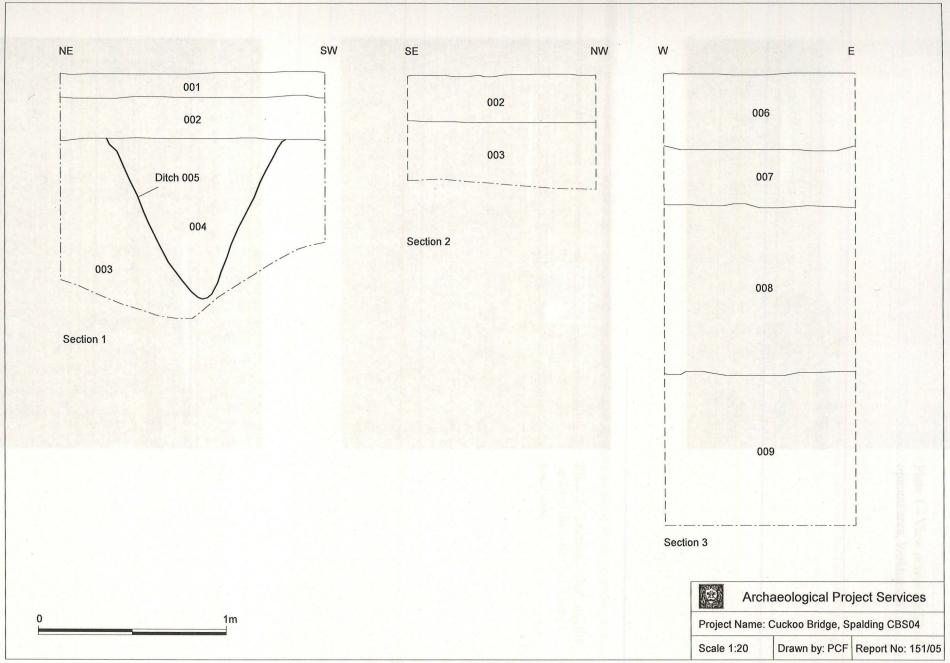


Figure 4 - Sections 1 to 4



Plate 1 - View across the development area, looking east



Plate 2 - Section 1 showing the undated ditch (005), looking southeast

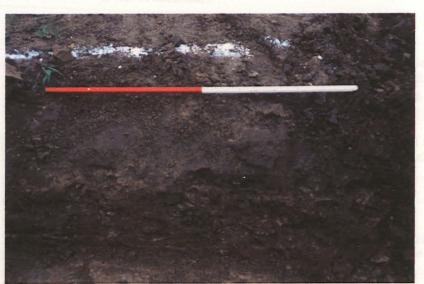


Plate 3 - Section 2, looking southwest

# LAND AT CUCKOO BRIDGE FARM, SPALDING, LINCOLNSHIRE - SPECIFICATION FOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

#### 1 SUMMARY

- 1.1 A watching brief is required during residential development on land at Cuckoo Bridge Farm, Spalding, Lincolnshire.
- 1.2 The site lies in the fenland in an area of cropmarks dating from the Romano-British period.
- 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 residential development on land at Cuckoo Bridge Farm, Spalding, Lincolnshire. The site is located at National Grid Reference TF 204 204.
- 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 Cuckoo Bridge is located 1.7km southwest of Pode Hole and 5km southwest of Spalding in the South Holland District of Lincolnshire. The proposed development site lies adjacent to Cuckoo Bridge Farm, on the south side of Ironbar Drove close to its intersection with North Drove (Cuckoo Bridge). The site is centred on National Grid Reference TF 204 204 (Figure 1 - at rear of document).

#### 4 PLANNING BACKGROUND

- 4.1 A planning application (H14/0923/02) was submitted to South Holland District Council for the construction of a dwelling. Permission is subject to a condition requiring the implementation of an archaeological watching brief during groundworks associated with the development.
- 4.2 Footings for the dwelling were dug without archaeological monitoring. The remainder of the groundworks (service trenches and excavations for tanks etc) will be subject to the archaeological watching brief.

#### 5 SOILS AND TOPOGRAPHY

5.1 Cuckoo Bridge is located in the fenland at a height of approximately 3m OD. Local soils are the Wisbech Association, deep stoneless calcareous coarse silty soils, developed on marine alluvium (Hodge *et al.* 1984, 361).

#### 6 ARCHAEOLOGICAL OVERVIEW

- 6.1 Numerous cropmarks (visible on aerial photographs) of Romano-British field systems and enclosures are recorded in the area around Cuckoo Bridge, particularly to the east and south of the site.
- A small settlement with an extensive network of field ditches, groups of smaller enclosures and watercourse channels (Phillips 1970, 288) lie to the east of North Drove (another small settlement has been identified further to the east (at Rookery Farm)). Further field systems and enclosures are visible to the south with a few linear cropmarks recorded to the northwest of the site.
- 6.3 Groundworks during development may reveal archaeological remains associated with Romano-British occupation of the area.

#### 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 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.
  - 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 South Holland District Planning Department; Lincolnshire County Council Archaeology Section; 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 as much notice as possible, ideally seven days, before the commencement of the project.

#### 14 VARIATION 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.
- 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> 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, 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 No. 13

Phillips, CW, (ed) 1970 The Fenland in Roman times, Royal Geographical Society Research Series 5

Specification: Version 1, 06/10/2004

# CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

No.	Description	Interpretation
001	Firm dark brown clayey silt, 0.13m thick	Topsoil
002	Firm mid brown clayey silt, 0.25m thick	Subsoil
003	Firm mid brownish yellow sandy silt, >0.95m thick	Natural deposit
004	Firm dark grey clayey silt	Fill of (005)
005	Linear feature, aligned north-south, >0.6m long by 0.95m wide and 0.85m deep, steep sides and rounded base	Ditch
006	Firm dark brown clayey silt, 0.4m thick	Topsoil
007	Hard mid yellow clayey silt, 0.3m thick	Subsoil
008	Firm mottled mid grey and reddish brown silty clay, 0.9m thick	Natural deposit
009	Soft light greyish brown silt, >0.8m thick	Natural deposit

#### **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, *e.g.*(004).

Cropmark

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

Cut

A cut refers to the physical action of digging a posthole, pit, ditch, foundation trench, *etc*. Once the fills of these features are removed during an archaeological investigation the original 'cut' is therefore exposed and subsequently recorded.

Fill

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

Layer

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

Medieval

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

Natural

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

Romano-British

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

Saxon

Pertaining to the period dating from AD 410-1066 when England was largely settled by tribes from northern Germany.

#### THE ARCHIVE

The archive consists of:

- 9 Context records
- 4 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 Museum Accession Number:

2004.219

Archaeological Project Services Site Code:

**CBS 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.