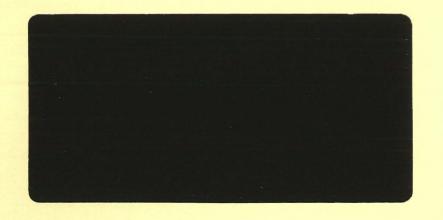
ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF
AT RED HOUSE FARM,
GEDNEY MARSH,
HOLBEACH
LINCOLNSHIRE
(HRH05)



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ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF AT RED HOUSE FARM, GEDNEY MARSH, HOLBEACH LINCOLNSHIRE (HRH05)

Work Undertaken For

Wind Prospect Ltd

February 2006

Report Compiled by Mark Peachey BA

National Grid Reference: TF 414 283

Planning Reference: H06/0035/03 TONEY

Museum Accession No: 2003.367

ARCHAEOLOGICAL PROJECT SERVICES



APS Report No.22/06

Conservation Services

1 5 MAR 2006

Highways & Planning Directorate

Red House Farm Gedney Marsh Holbeach Lincolnshire (HRH05) Quality Control

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Supervisors Aaron Clements, Steve Williams		
CAD Illustration	Mark Peachey	
Photographic Reproduction	Sue Unsworth	
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Date: 17 February 2006	Date: 17 February 2006		

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1. SUMMARY

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken during groundworks associated with the construction of wind turbines on land at Red House Farm, Gedney Marsh, Holbeach, Lincolnshire. The watching brief monitored the excavation of the turbine foundation trenches and drainage trenches.

The watching brief was required as the site lay in an archaeologically sensitive area of Late Saxon and medieval saltmaking remains.

No artefacts or deposits of archaeological origin were recorded or retrieved from the site.

2. INTRODUCTION

2.1 Definition of a Watching Brief

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

2.2 Planning Background

Archaeological Project Services was commissioned by Wind Prospect Ltd. to undertake an archaeological watching brief during the excavation of foundation and drainage trenches on land at Red House Farm, Gedney Marsh. The excavations were undertaken in advance of construction of a wind farm. Approval for the development was sought through the submission of planning application H06/0035/03. The watching brief was carried out intermittently between 13th

June and 1st November 2005, in accordance with a specification prepared by Archaeological Project Services (Appendix 1) and approved by the Senior Built Environment Officer, Lincolnshire County Council.

2.3 Topography and Geology

Holbeach is located approximately 11km southwest of Spalding, in the administrative district of South Holland, Lincolnshire (Fig. 1)

The site is located in Gedney Marsh at Red House Farm, approximately 1km west of the farm buildings and centred at National Grid Reference TF 414 283 (Fig. 2). The site lies on fairly flat and level land at approximately 4m OD, on the east bank of the Fleet Haven, a partially canalised drain that marks a former watercourse.

Local soils comprise Wisbech Association silty calcareous soils developed on marine alluvium (Hodge *et al.* 1984, 361).

2.4 Archaeological and Historical Setting

Numerous saltern mounds of probable Late Saxon-medieval date are located around Gedney Dyke, about 1.5km south of the investigation site. Some of these saltern mounds extend along Marsh Road, towards Red House Farm, and another saltern mound is located at Manor Farm, about 1km west of the development area.

Eight trial pits at the site had been monitored during 2003 revealing natural flood and organic deposits beneath postmedieval ploughsoil (Peachey 2004).

3. AIMS

The requirements of the watching brief, as detailed in the specification (Appendix 1), were to locate and record archaeological

features, if present, and to determine their form, date, nature and function.

4. METHODS

Three 1m square test pits and five drainage trenches across the access road (all measuring 9m long by 0.5m wide and ranging from 0.3m to 0.7m deep) were excavated by machine. Test pit depths ranged from 1.6 to 0.6m. The depth and thickness of each deposit was measured from the ground surface. Each archaeological deposit or feature revealed 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, sections were drawn at a scale of 1:10 and 1:20. Recording of deposits encountered during the watching brief was undertaken according to standard Archaeological Project Services practice. The test pits were recorded at a distance of several metres from the edge due to the danger of section collapse.

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

5. RESULTS

5.1 Natural Deposits

Test Pit 1 (Fig. 4, Section 1)

In Test Pit 1, on the site of Turbine 6, a layer of mid grey silty sand (002) was recorded measuring at least 0.5m thick. This was overlain by 1.1m of light brownish grey silty sand (001).

Test Pit 2 (Fig. 4, Section 2)

Test Pit 2, on the site of Turbine 4, contained a layer of light to mid grey

sandy silt (005) 0.5m thick. Above this was a 0.1m thick band of light brown silty sand (004).

Test Pit 3 (Fig. 4, Section 3)

This test pit, located on the site of Turbine 1, contained only one layer, a mid brown sandy silt (006) measuring at least 0.6m in depth.

Drainage Trench 1 (Fig. 4, Section 4)
The natural deposit in this trench was a light brown clayey sandy silt (008) measuring at least 0.1m thick.

Drainage Trench 2 (Fig. 4, Section 5)
The natural was light brown silty sandy clay (010) at least 0.27m thick.

Drainage Trench 3 (Fig. 4, Section 6)
Light brown silty sandy clay (012)
measuring at least 0.15m thick formed the
natural in this trench.

Drainage Trench 4 (Fig. 4, Section 7)
The natural (014) was identical to that in Drainage Trenches 2 and 3 and measured at least 0.15m in depth.

Drainage Trench 5 (Fig. 4, Section 8)
Light brown silty sandy clay (016) also formed the natural in this trench and was at least 0.1m thick.

5.2 Undated Deposits

Test Pit 2 (Fig. 4, Section 2)
Layer (004) was overlain by 0.15m of mid brown silty sand topsoil (003).

Drainage Trench 1 (Fig. 4, Section 4)
A mid brown sandy silt topsoil (007)
measuring 0.4m thick overlay the natural
in this trench.

Drainage Trench 2 (Fig. 4, Section 5)
Topsoil layer (009) was of the same description and measurements to layer (007).

Drainage Trench 3 (Fig. 4, Section 6)
In this trench topsoil layer (011) was also mid brown sandy silt but was at least 0.55m thick.

Drainage Trench 4 (Fig. 4, Section 7) Topsoil layer (013) was also of the same description and thickness as (007) and (009).

Drainage Trench 5 (Fig. 4, Section 8) In this trench topsoil (015) was also mid brown sandy silt and measured at least 0.2m in depth.

6. DISCUSSION

Natural deposits of fine silty sands were encountered in Test Pits 1 and 2. These are likely to represent marine alluvium. Only the top layer of silts was noted in Test Pit 3 and the drainage trenches.

7. CONCLUSION

Archaeological investigations were undertaken at Red House Farm, Gedney Marsh, Holbeach because the site lay within an area of Late Saxon and medieval salt making remains.

Only alluvial silty sands and silts were recorded during the watching brief.

No archaeological deposits or features were encountered and no artefacts were retrieved during the investigation.

8. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeological Project Services would like to acknowledge the assistance of Wind Prospect Ltd. who commissioned the fieldwork and post-excavation analysis. Steve Malone coordinated the work and along with Tom Lane edited this report.

9. PERSONNEL

Project Coordinator: Steve Malone

Site Supervisors: Aaron Clements, Steve

Williams

Illustration: Mark Peachey

Photographic reproduction: Sue Unsworth Post-excavation analysis: Mark Peachey

10. BIBLIOGRAPHY

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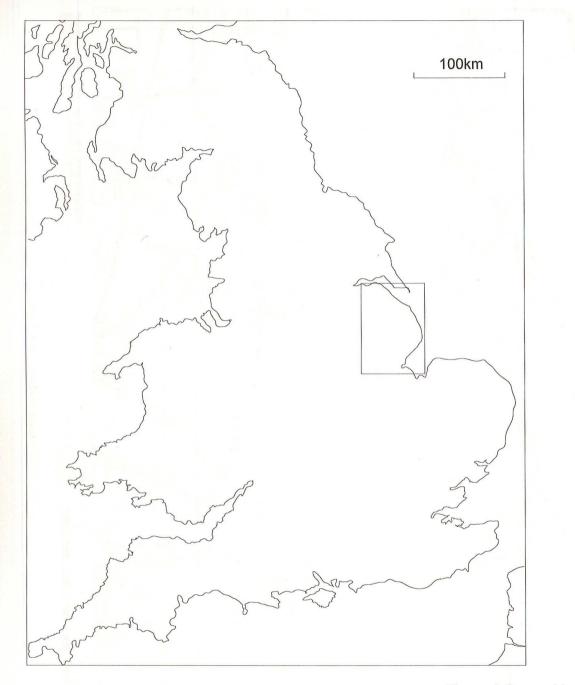
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11. ABBREVIATIONS

APS Archaeological Project Services

IFA Institute of Field Archaeologists

SMR Sites and Monuments Record



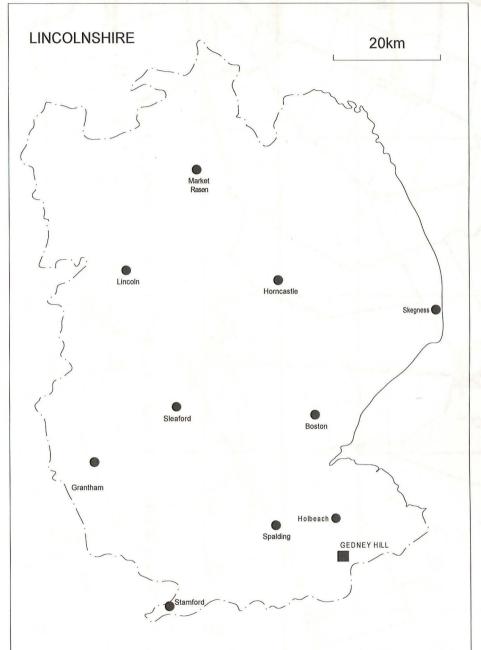


Figure 1 General Location Plan

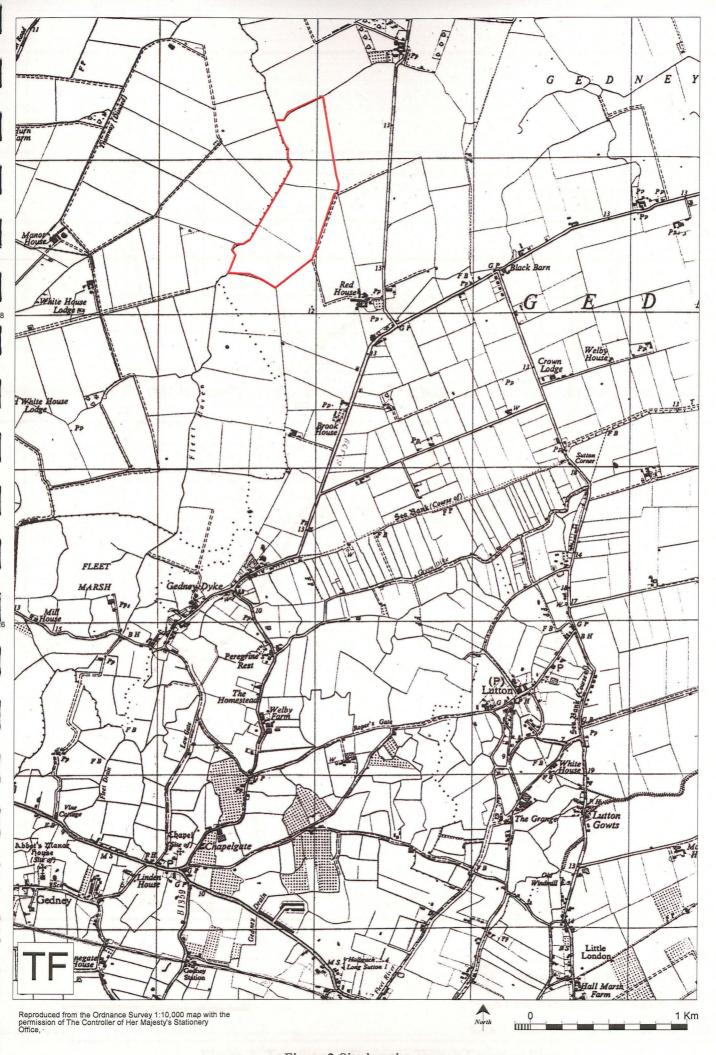


Figure 2 Site location map

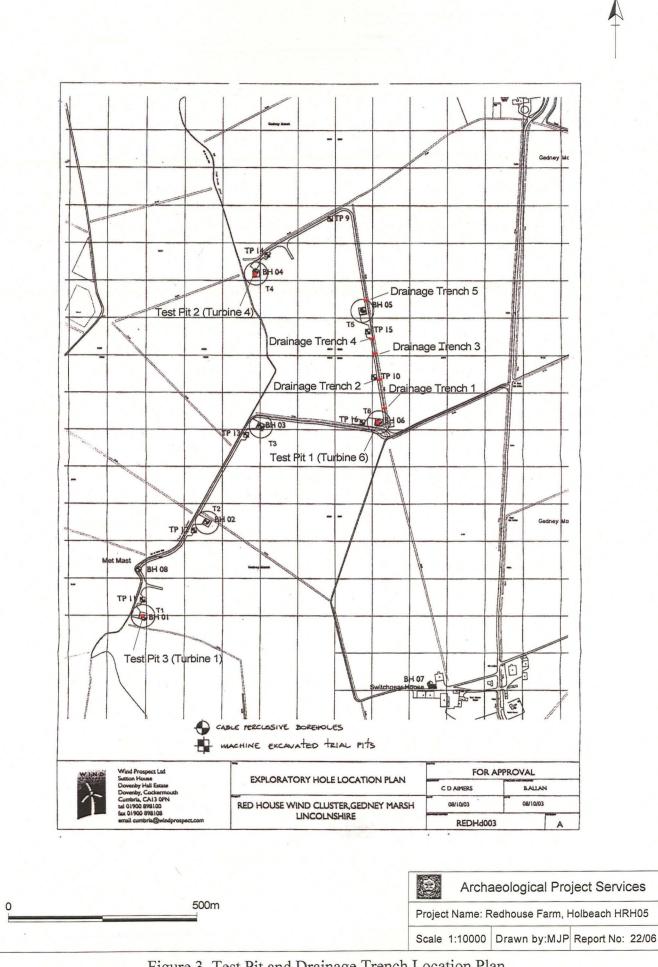


Figure 3. Test Pit and Drainage Trench Location Plan

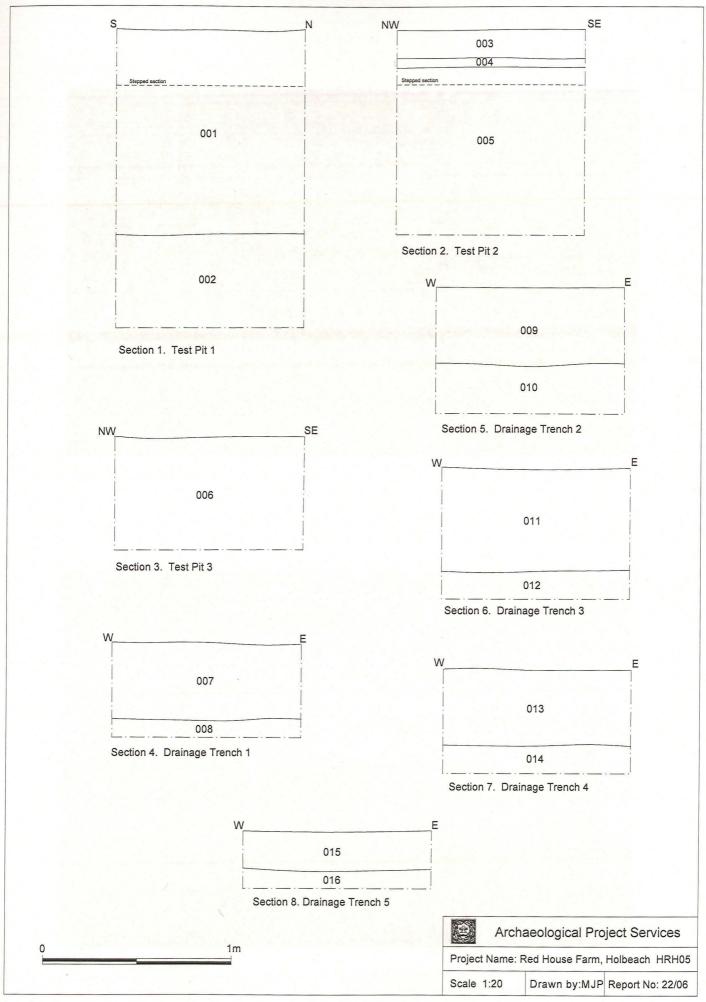


Figure 4. Sections



Plate 1: Test Pit 1, Section 1



Plate 2: Test Pit 2, Section 2



Plate 3: Test Pit 3, Section 3



Plate 4: Drainage Trench 2, Section 5

Appendix 1:

LAND AT RED HOUSE FARM, GEDNEY MARSH, HOLBEACH, LINCOLNSHIRE

SPECIFICATION FOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

PREPARED FOR WIND PROSPECT LTD

BY ARCHAEOLOGICAL PROJECT SERVICES Institute of Field Archaeologists' Registered Organisation No. 21

APRIL 2005

1 SUMMARY

- 1.1 A watching brief is required during construction of wind turbines on land at Red House Farm, Gedney Marsh, Lincolnshire.
- 1.2 The area is archaeologically sensitive, lying in an area where remains of Late Saxon and medieval salt-making remains.
- 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 the construction of wind turbines at Red House Farm, Gedney Marsh, Holbeach, 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 Holbeach is located 11km southwest of Spalding in the South Holland district of Lincolnshire. The works are to take place in Gedney Marsh at Red House Farm, approximately 1km west of the farm buildings at National Grid Reference TF 414 283.

4 PLANNING BACKGROUND

4.1 A planning application (H06/0035/03) was submitted to South Holland District Council for the proposed construction of six wind turbines with associated access tracks, underground cables, switchgear building and anemometer mast. Permission is subject to a condition requiring the implementation of an archaeological watching brief during groundworks.

5 SOILS AND TOPOGRAPHY

5.1 The site is on flat land at 4m OD, and lies on the east bank of the Fleet Haven, a partially canalised drain

that marks a former watercourse. Soils at the site are Wisbech Association silty calcareous soils developed on marine alluvium (Hodge *et al.* 1984, 361).

6 ARCHAEOLOGICAL OVERVIEW

Numerous saltern mounds of probable Late Saxon-medieval date are located around Gedney Dyke, about 1.5km south of the investigation site. Some of these saltern mounds extend along Marsh Road, toward Red House Farm, and another saltern mound is located at Manor Farm, about 1km west of the development 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.
- 7.2 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 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:
 - 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; 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 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 County Archaeology Section. 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.
- In the event of the discovery of any unexpected remains of archaeological importance, or of any changed circumstances, it is the responsibility of the archaeological contractor to inform the archaeological curator (*Lincolnshire Archaeological Handbook* 1998, Sections 5.7 and 18).
- Where important archaeological remains are discovered and deemed to merit further investigation additional resources may be required to provide an appropriate level of investigation, recording and analysis.
- 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.
- 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

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 Laboratory, City and County Museum, Lincoln

Pottery Analysis Prehistoric - Trent & Peak Archaeological Trust

Roman - B Precious, Independent Specialist

Anglo-Saxon - J Young, Independent Specialist

Medieval and later - G Taylor in consultation with H Healey, Independent Archaeologist

Non-pottery Artefacts J Cowgill, Independent Specialist

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.
- 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

Appendix 2

CONTEXT SUMMARY

Context	Area	Description	Interpretation	Date
001	TP1	Light brownish grey silty sand 1.1m thick	Natural	
002	TP1	Mid grey silty sand 0.5m+ thick	Natural	
003	TP2	Mid brown silty sand 0.15m thick	Topsoil	
004	TP2	Light brown silty sand 0.1m thick	Natural	
005	TP2	Light/mid grey sandy silt 0.8m+ thick	Natural	
006	TP3	Mid brown sandy silt 0.6m+ thick	Natural	
007	DT1	Mid brown sandy silt 0.4m thick	Topsoil	
800	DT1	Light brown clayey sandy silt 0.1m+ thick	Natural	
009	DT2	Mid brown sandy silt 0.4m thick	Topsoil	
010	DT2	Light brown silty sandy clay 0.27m+ thick	Natural	
011	DT3	Mid brown sandy silt 0.55m thick	Topsoil	
012	DT3	Light brown silty sandy clay 0.15m+ thick	Natural	
013	DT4	Mid brown sandy silt 0.4m thick	Topsoil	
014	DT4	Light brown silty sandy clay 0.15m+ thick	Natural	
015	DT5	Mid brown sandy silt 0.2m thick	Topsoil	
016	DT5	Light brown silty sandy clay 0.1m+ thick	Natural	

TP= Test pit DT= Drainage trench

Appendix 3

GLOSSARY

Alluvium Deposits laid down by water. Marine alluvium is deposited by the sea, and fresh water alluvium is laid down by rivers and in 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).

Layer A layer is 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.

Prehistoric The period of human history prior to the introduction of writing. In Britain the prehistoric period

lasts from the first evidence of human occupation about 500,000 BC, until the Roman invasion in

the middle of the 1st century AD.

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

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

from northern Germany. The period is split into three phases: the Early Saxon dating from 410-

650; the Middle Saxon from 650-850; and the Late Saxon from 850-1066.

Appendix 4

THE ARCHIVE

The archive consists of:

Context records
Context record sheet
Section record sheet
Photographic record sheet
Stratigraphic matrix
Daily record sheets

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:

2003.367

Archaeological Project Services Site Code:

HRH05

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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