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**Report on an Archaeological Watching Brief:
Boston Road, Spilsby, Lincolnshire**

NGR TF 4006 6602

Planning Application No: S/165/02303/04

Produced by

John Samuels Archaeological Consultants

on behalf of

AMK Land

Property Development and Investment

Glenfield House

Landmere Lane

Ruddington

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JSAC 1309/06/02
March 2006

Site Code: BRSP06
Accession No.: 2006.52



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Summary

AMK Land has received planning permission (Application No. S/165/02303/04) to develop the site for the erection of a supermarket with access and car parking. The site covers an area of approximately 0.5 ha, and is located on land to the south of the George Hotel, Boston Road, Spilsby Lincolnshire (NGR TF 4006 6602). An earlier desk-based assessment concluded that the northern half of the site has moderate to high potential to contain unidentified remains of Saxon, medieval and post-medieval date. Consequently a condition was attached to the planning permission requiring an archaeological watching brief to be maintained during groundwork.

A specification for an archaeological watching brief was prepared by John Samuels Archaeological Consultants and agreed with the Archaeological Officer for Lincolnshire County Council prior to groundwork commencing.

The watching brief was carried out in February 2006. No features or finds of archaeological interest were uncovered in the course of the watching brief.

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 AMK Land have been granted planning permission (Application No S/165/02303/04) for the erection of a supermarket with access and car parking on land at Boston Road, Spilsby, Lincolnshire centered on NGR TF 4006 6602 (Fig 1).
- 1.2 The planning application was approved by East Lindsey District Council subject to various conditions, condition 16 of which stated that;

The applicant shall arrange for an archaeologist, approved in writing by the District Planning Authority to carry out an archaeological watching brief during all stages of the development involving ground disturbance in accordance with a scheme to be submitted to, and approved by the authority before development is commenced. Such arrangements shall include provision for the observation, recording and recovery of artefactual evidence and post-excavation analysis. Fourteen days notice shall be given to the District Planning Authority prior to the commencement of works. A report of the archaeologists findings shall be submitted to the District Planning Authority within 2 months of the last day of the watching brief, or such longer period as may be agreed by the authority, and shall include arrangements for the conservation of artefacts removed from the site.

- 1.3 This document forms the report on the watching brief undertaken on behalf of AMK Land by John Samuels Archaeological Consultants in February 2006. It has been written by Paul Gajos BA (hons), AIFA in consultation with J Forbes Marsden BA, MA Cert. Arch, MIFA. It conforms to the requirements of *Planning Policy Guidance Notes 16: Archaeology and Planning* (DoE, 1990). It is in accordance with current best archaeological practice and the appropriate national and regional standards and guidelines, including:

Code of Conduct (Institute of Field Archaeologists, 2000);

Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs (Institute of Field Archaeologists, 2001);

Management of Archaeological projects (English Heritage, 1991);

Model Briefs and Specifications for Archaeological Assessments and Field Evaluations (Association of County Archaeological Officers, 1994)

2.0 Topography and geology

- 2.1 The site is located close to the centre of the town of Spilsby in the district of East Lindsey, Lincolnshire and comprises an area of approximately 0.5ha. It lies on ground sloping from 46mAOD in the north to 42m AOD in the south. The site is bounded to the west by Boston Road, by the yard of the George Hotel to the north and by existing property boundaries to the east and south

(Fig 2). Prior to development the site contained outbuildings, a WWII pillbox and areas of scrub.

- 2.2 The drift geology of the area is of the Cuckney 2 association comprising cretaceous sand and sandstone (SSEW 1983).

3.0 Archaeological and Historical Background

- 3.1 A full archaeological and historical background is presented in the archaeological desk-based assessment of the site undertaken in 2000 (APS Report No. 094/00). It is not intended to reproduce those results here, although the following summarises the main findings.

- 3.2 The desk based assessment has shown that the site lies close to the parish church in the southwest corner of the planned medieval market town and that the northern area of the site seems to have been part of a series of strip plots extending south from the Market Place. These strip plots reach a natural boundary along a break of slope, south of which appears to have been part of the enclosures and fields around the town. The desk-based assessment concluded that, in view of its location, the northern half of the site has a moderate to high potential of containing unidentified archaeological remains of Saxon, medieval and post-medieval date.

4.0 Objectives

- 4.1 An archaeological watching brief has been defined as *a programme of observation and investigation conducted during any operation carried out for non-archaeological reasons within a specified area or site...where there is the possibility that archaeological deposits may be disturbed or destroyed. The programme will result in the preparation of a report and ordered archive* (IFA, 2001).
- 4.2 The specific objective of the watching brief was to establish whether any archaeological remains survived on the development site, and if so, to record and determine their nature, condition, extent and significance.

5.0 Methodology

- 5.1 The watching brief was maintained on a comprehensive basis by a suitably qualified archaeologist during all topsoil stripping associated with the new development. The Built Environment Officer for Lincolnshire had recommended that the watching brief be targeted on the northern portion of the site, above the break of slope, however, as the entire site had been stripped of topsoil both the area above, and that below, the break of slope were examined for archaeological remains.
- 5.2 A site diary was maintained and descriptions were written of the natural deposits exposed. A photographic record was maintained in colour print and digital format. The contractor provided a plan showing the actual positions of the excavations.

- 5.3 An ordered site archive will be deposited with an appropriate local museum. This will follow the guidelines contained in "Guidelines for the preparation of Excavation Archives for long term storage" (UKIC 1990) and "Standards in the Museum Care of Archaeological Collections" (Museums and Galleries Commission 1992).
- 5.4 Copies of this report will be sent to the client, the Lincolnshire SMR and to the County Archaeological Officer.
- 5.5 All work was undertaken with respect to health and safety provision.

6.0 Results of the Watching Brief

- 6.1 The entire site was stripped of topsoil and modern overburden to the level of the underlying natural, which comprised orange brown sandy silt. Late post-medieval and modern pottery and glass bottles were frequently encountered in the topsoil. Two small pits, each approximately 0.7m in diameter and containing large quantities of modern (19th-20th century) glass bottles were seen, but not excavated due to their obvious modern date. The north-eastern corner of the site had been heavily disturbed by modern activity, probably associated with the construction of the outbuildings, which are known to have existed in this area of the site.
- 6.2 No features or finds of archaeological interest were encountered in the course of the watching brief.

7.0 Discussion

- 7.1 Being on the edge of the planned medieval settlement, it had been postulated in the desk based assessment that the site had a moderate to high potential to contain remains dating to the Saxon, medieval and post medieval periods. Map regression has indicated that medieval strip plots survived, to an extent, to the east of the site until at least the 19th century. It had been expected that some indication of previous strip plots may have survived on the site, however, it would seem that, had the site ever been divided in this way, the boundaries between the plots were not substantial enough to leave any identifiable traces. No other features to indicate the use of the site prior to the post-medieval period were encountered.

8.0 Bibliography

A.P.S. Report No. 094/00, 2000, *Desk-Based Assessment of Land East of Boston Road, Spilsby, Lincolnshire*

JSAC 1309/05/01, 2005, *A Specification for an Archaeological Watching Brief: Boston Road, Spilsby, Lincolnshire*

The Soil Survey of England and Wales, 1983, 1:250 000 Sheet 4

9.0 Figures

Figure 1: Site location

Figure 2: Detailed site plan

Plate 1: North end of site following topsoil strip

Plate 2: South end of site following topsoil strip



Note: Map based on Ordnance Survey with the sanction of H.M. Stationary Office, Crown Copyright Reserved. Licence No. AL 100020447

Figure 1: Site location

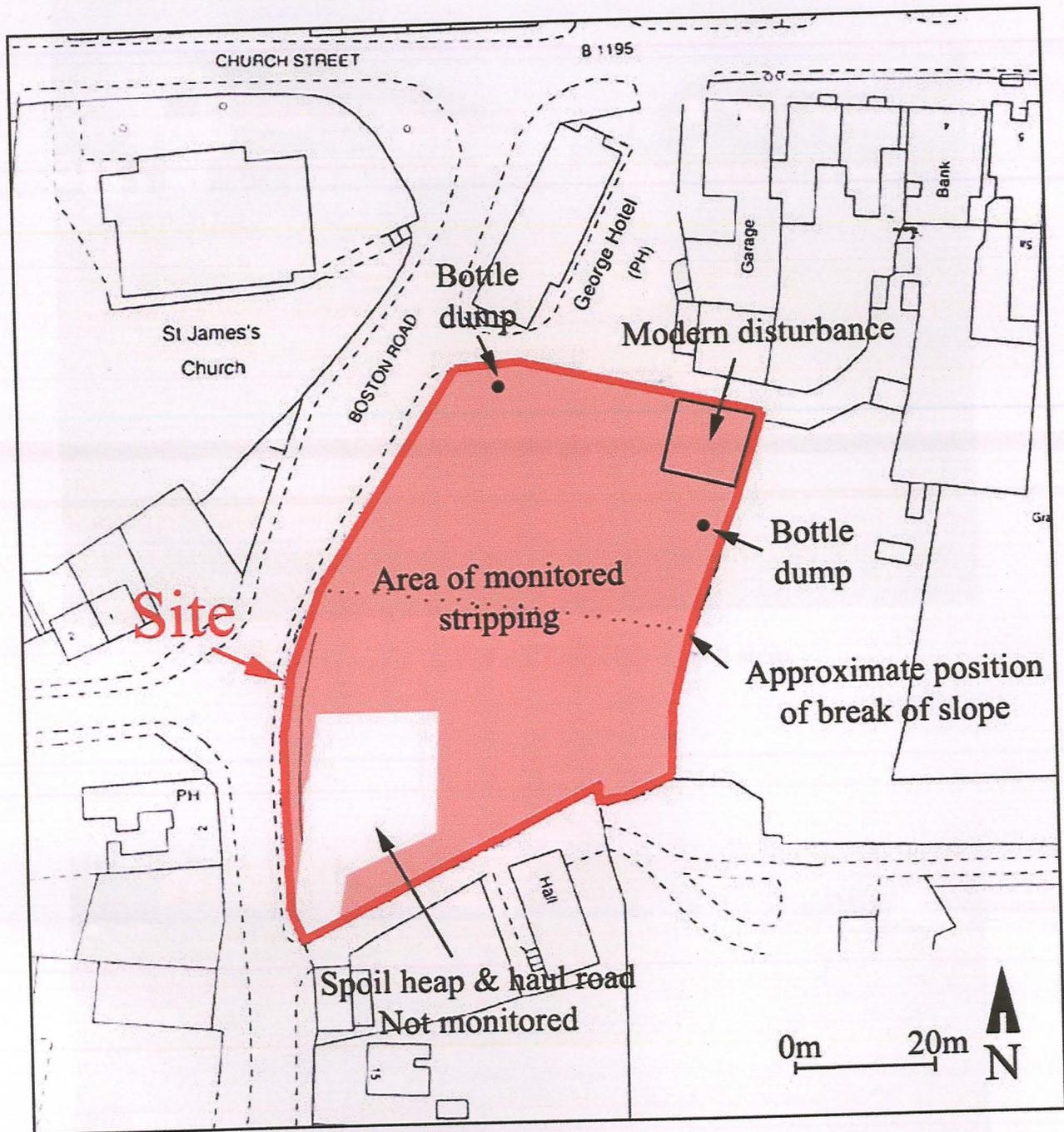


Figure 2: Detailed site plan

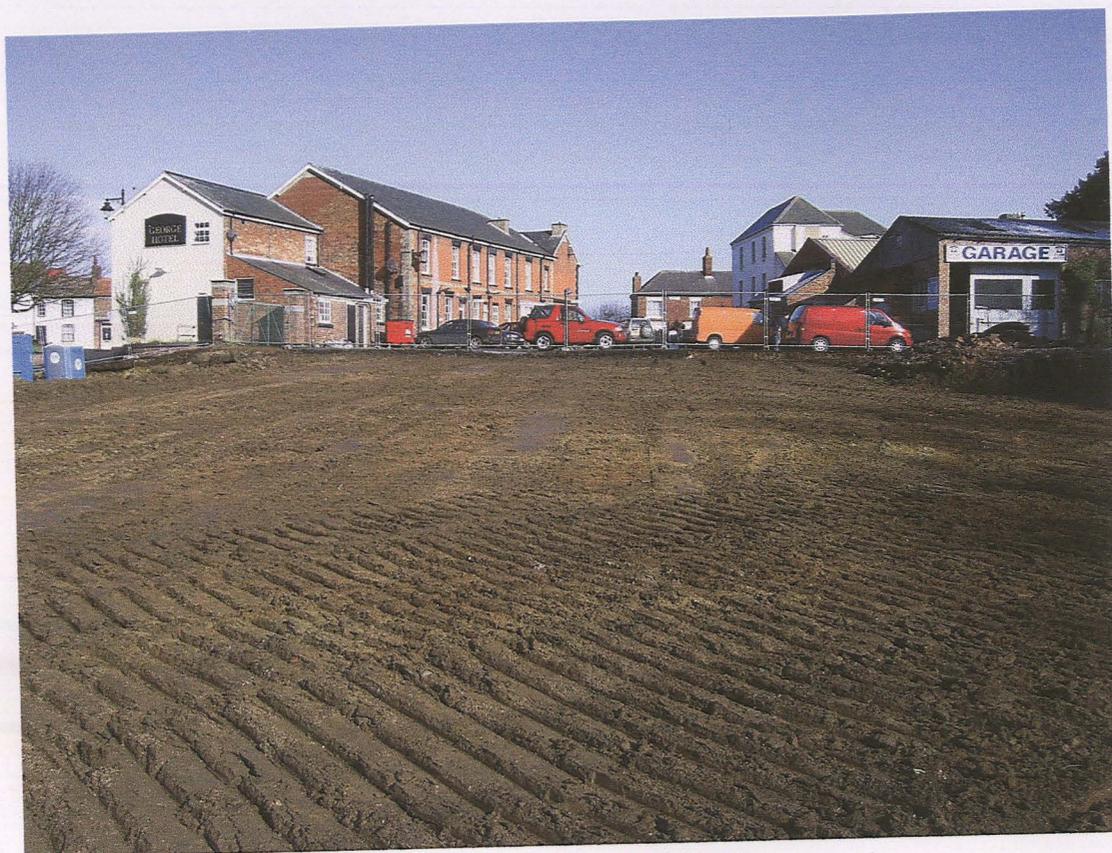


Plate 1: North end of site following topsoil strip



Plate 2: South end of site following topsoil strip