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**ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF
AT 1 WEST STREET,
CROWLAND,
LINCOLNSHIRE
(CWS06)**



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ARCHAEOLOGICAL
PROJECT
SERVICES

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**ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF
AT 1 WEST STREET,
CROWLAND,
LINCOLNSHIRE
(CWS06)**

**Work Undertaken For
Broadgate Homes Ltd**

March 2006

Report Compiled by
Mary Nugent HND BA (Hons).

National Grid Reference: TF 2386 1027
Planning Reference: H02/1199/00
Museum Accession No: 2006.41

ARCHAEOLOGICAL PROJECT SERVICES



APS Report No.68/06



**Quality Control
Archaeological Watching Brief
Crowland, 1 West Street
Lincolnshire
(CWS 06)**

Project Coordinator	Gary Taylor
Supervisor	Mary Nugent
Illustration	Mary Nugent
Photographic Reproduction	Sue Unsworth
Post-excavation Analyst	Mary Nugent


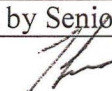
Checked by Project Manager	Approved by Senior Archaeologist
Gary Taylor 	 Tom Lane
Date: 27/4/06	Date: 02-05-06

Table of Contents

List of Figures

List of Plates

1.	SUMMARY	2
2.	INTRODUCTION.....	2
2.1	DEFINITION OF A WATCHING BRIEF.....	2
2.2	PLANNING BACKGROUND.....	2
2.3	TOPOGRAPHY AND GEOLOGY	2
2.4	ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL SETTING	2
3.	AIMS	3
4.	METHODS	3
5.	RESULTS	3
5.1	NATURAL DEPOSITS	3
5.2	UNDATED DEPOSITS	3
5.3	POST-MEDIEVAL DEPOSITS	4
6.	DISCUSSION	4
7.	CONCLUSIONS	4
8.	ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	4
9.	PERSONNEL	4
10.	BIBLIOGRAPHY	4
11.	ABBREVIATIONS.....	5

Appendices

1. Specification for Archaeological Watching Brief
2. Context Descriptions
3. Glossary
4. The Archive

List of Figures

- Figure 1 General location map
- Figure 2 Site location plan - MISSING
- Figure 3 Plan of the development showing section location
- Figure 4 Foundation Trench Location Plan
- Figure 5 Section 1

List of Plates

- Plate 1 General view of site looking north
- Plate 2 Site in progress looking east
- Plate 3 Section 1

1. SUMMARY

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken during residential development at 1 West Street, Crowland, Lincolnshire because the site lay within the medieval core of the village and near to known prehistoric remains. The watching brief monitored the excavation of foundation trenches for 4 new dwellings.

The watching brief revealed that above the natural silts was an organic deposit, probably formed at the edge of a river channel that formerly flowed down West Street until at least the end of the 17th century. This deposit was overlain by undated, possible dumped or alluvial deposits.

No artefacts were recovered from the site.

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 may be disturbed or destroyed." (IFA 1999).

2.2 Planning Background

Archaeological Project Services was commissioned by Broadgate Homes Ltd. to undertake an archaeological watching brief during ground reduction and the excavation of foundation trenches on land at 1, West Street, Crowland. The excavations were undertaken as part of the residential development. Approval for the development was sought through the submission of planning application H02/1199/00. The watching brief was

carried out intermittently between 7th March and 14th March 2006, 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

Crowland is located approximately 12km south of Spalding and just west of the River Welland, in the administrative district of South Holland, Lincolnshire (Fig. 1)

The site is located in the historic core of Crowland, on the north side of West Street 50m southeast of Trinity Bridge, at National Grid Reference TF 2386 1027 (Fig. 2). The site and surrounding area is flat and lies at approximately 4m OD.

Local soils comprise Ireton Association loamy over sandy soils formed in glaciofluvial deposits (Hodge *et al.* 1984, 229).

2.4 Archaeological and Historical Setting

The earliest evidence for occupation in the Crowland area is during the Neolithic period and represented by a stone axe found a short distance to the southeast of the site (Hayes and Lane 1992).

Crowland lies on a gravel ridge which was the focus for a sizeable Early Bronze Age barrow cemetery. This was part of a system of such cemeteries extending from Borough Fen to the south, to Deeping St. Nicholas west of Crowland and continuing to the north (Lane 1994, 6). Most of the barrows are only known from their destruction in the last two centuries and the nearest to the site is located less than 300m to the south (Hayes and Lane 1992, 197). Little contemporary settlement associated with the barrows has yet been identified in Crowland. However, pottery

sherds of the period are known from the vicinity of the abbey. Roman pottery has also been found in the area, although there is no clear evidence for a Romano-British period settlement.

Crowland is first mentioned in the mid 8th century by Felix, the biographer of St. Guthlac. Referred to as *Crugland*, *Cruuulond* and *Cruwland*, the name is derived from the Old English *crūw* or *crūg* meaning bend and referring to a curve in the River Welland (Cameron 1998, 35). Felix was writing about the life of St. Guthlac who founded a cell here in c.700 AD (Page 1988, 105).

Crowland came to prominence during the early medieval period. Medieval remains are clustered just to the southeast, around the 14th century Trinity Bridge, which replaced a wooden version first recorded in AD 943, and Crowland Abbey which was founded by the late 10th century and became a focus of settlement during the later medieval period. The present village of Crowland probably largely superimposes the medieval settlement (Cope-Faulkner 1998).

A Benedectine monastery dedicated to St. Guthlac was in existence at Crowland by 1051 and was subject to Peterborough Abbey. It is not known when the monastery was built, although it is believed to be in the mid-late 10th century, as an early documentary reference noting an earlier foundation is now believed to be a forgery (Hayes and Lane 1992, 202). The present standing remains of the abbey date to 1156 (Pevsner and Harris 1989, 238).

Crowland is not specifically referred to in the Domesday Survey of c. 1086, although details of the Abbey's holdings at Holbeach, Whaplode, Spalding, Langtoft, Baston, Dowdyke, Drayton, Algarkirk, Burtoft and Bucknall are listed (Foster and Longley 1976).

Adjacent to the site, a watching brief at 10 North Street revealed a possible undated palaeochannel and pond but no Saxon or medieval remains (Peachey 2005).

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

Foundation trenches were excavated by machine. Each deposit 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 and a section drawn at a scale of 1:10. Recording was undertaken according to standard Archaeological Project Services' practice.

Following excavation, the records of the deposits and features were examined and a stratigraphic matrix produced

5. RESULTS

5.1 Natural Deposits

Natural deposits on the site were mid to light yellowish brown silt, sand and clay (005) (Fig 5, Sections 1) and mid brown organic silt (004). This latter layer was up to 0.45m thick (Fig 4, Section 1).

5.2 Undated Deposits

Above the natural deposits was a layer of dark grey clay silt (003) which had an odour of fuel clearly caused by the seepage of hydrocarbons. This was up to 0.3m

thick. Above this was a mid grey clay silt deposit (002), up to 0.45m thick containing shell fragments. This is alluvial in origin but could possibly have been brought onto the site as a levelling deposit.

5.3 Post-medieval Deposits

The latest deposit found on the site was a layer of mid brownish grey sandy silt and crushed brick, up to 0.25m thick constituting the old yard surface.

6. DISCUSSION

Natural deposits comprises yellow clayey silt. This may be a glacial deposit or possibly a fluvial layer associated with the river that formerly flowed down West Street.

Above this clayey silt was an organic silt deposit, formed gradually in stagnant water conditions. It is likely that this deposit was formed at the edge of the river channel that formerly flowed down West Street. It is probable that when this deposit was formed the river edge conditions would not have been suitable for human habitation. Comparable organic river edge silts have previously been identified directly opposite the current investigation on the south side of West Street (Cope-Faulkner 2005). This watercourse was open until at least the 17th century as shown on the earliest depiction of Crowland 'A map of Alderlands in the Parish of Croyland and in the Countye of Lincoln' dating to 1676.

The date of deposition of this riverine material is unknown. It was overlain by undated possible dumped or alluvial deposits. A yard composed of crushed brick provided the present ground surface.

7. CONCLUSIONS

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken at 1 West Street, Crowland because the site lay within an archaeologically sensitive area at the heart of the medieval settlement and near to previous discoveries of prehistoric remains. However, no prehistoric or medieval remains were revealed.

A layer of organic silt was identified above the natural silts overlain by possible dumped or alluvial deposits. No artefacts were recovered from the site.

8. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeological Project Services would like to acknowledge the assistance of Broadgate Homes Ltd. who commissioned the fieldwork and post-excavation analysis. Gary Taylor coordinated the work and Tom Lane edited this report.

9. PERSONNEL

Project Coordinator: Gary Taylor
Site Supervisors: Mary Nugent
Illustration: Mary Nugent
Photographic reproduction: Sue Unsworth
Post-excavation analysis: Mary Nugent

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11. ABBREVIATIONS

APS Archaeological Project Services

IFA Institute of Field Archaeologists

SMR Sites and Monuments Record

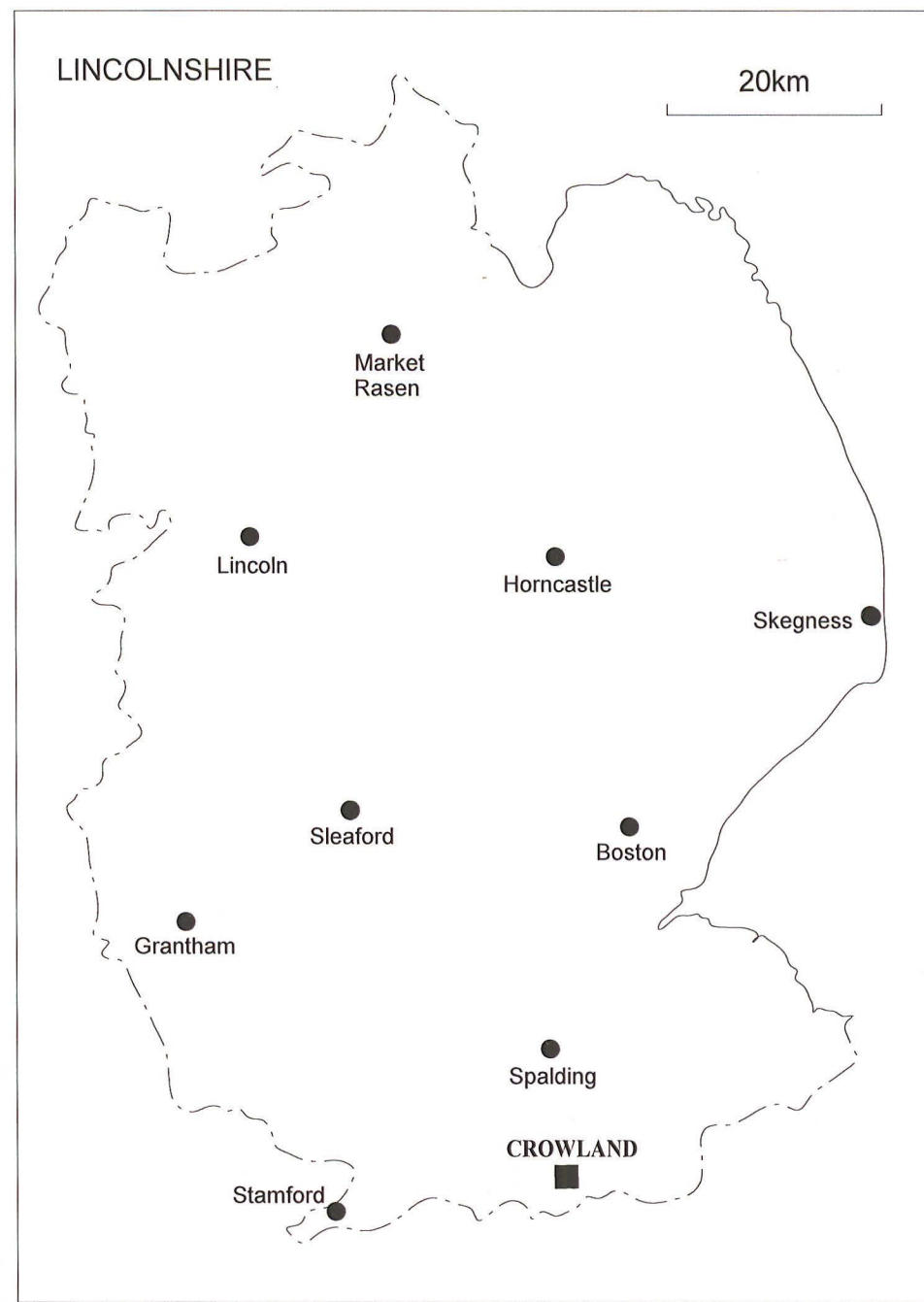
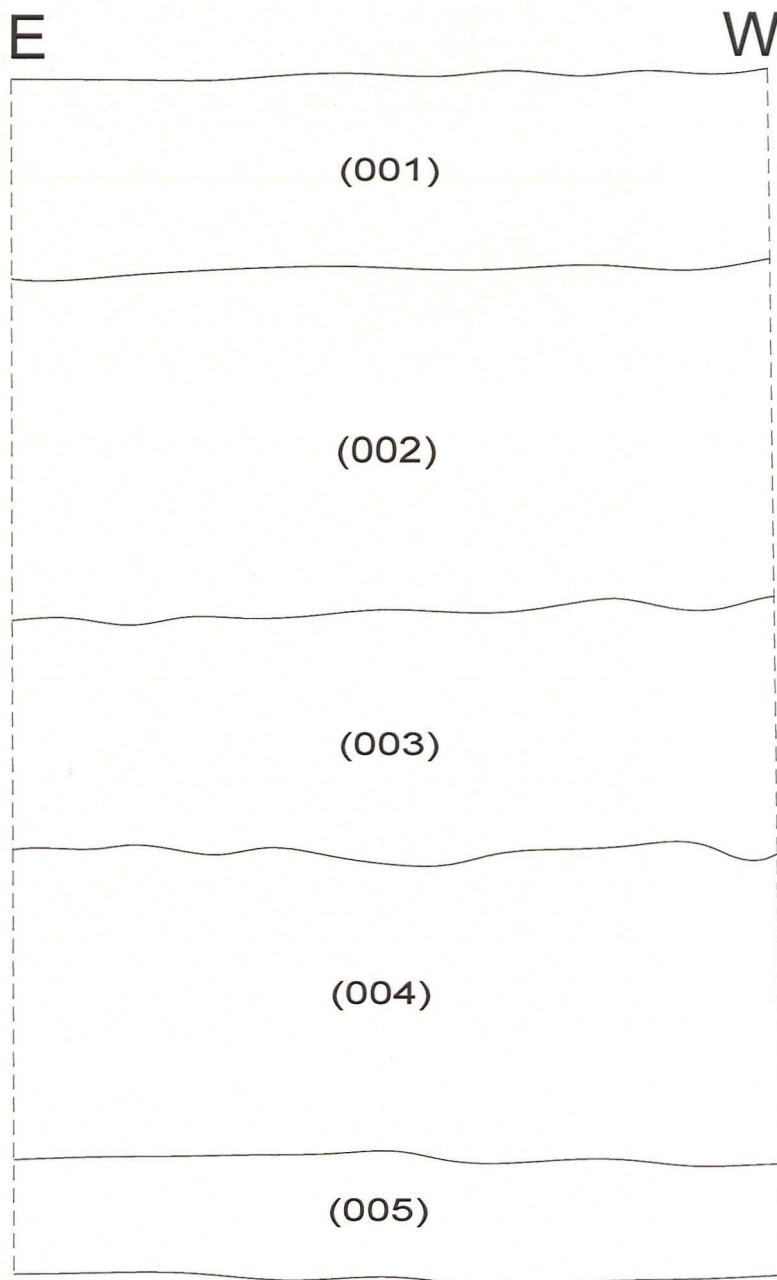


Figure 1 - General Location Plan



Figure 3 - Plan of the development showing section location



0 0.5 m



Archaeological Project Services

Project Name: Crowland, 1 West Street, CWS06

Scale 1:10

Drawn by: MN

Report No: 68/06

Figure 4 Section 1



Plate 1 General shot of site looking north



Plate 2 Site in progress looking east



Plate 3 Section 1

APPENDIX 1
SPECIFICATION

LAND AT
1 WEST STREET
CROWLAND
LINCOLNSHIRE

SPECIFICATION FOR
ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

PREPARED FOR

BROADGATE HOMES LTD

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

AUGUST 2005

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1	SUMMARY.....	1
2	INTRODUCTION.....	2
3	SITE LOCATION.....	2
4	PLANNING BACKGROUND.....	2
5	SOILS AND TOPOGRAPHY.....	2
6	ARCHAEOLOGICAL OVERVIEW.....	2
7	AIMS AND OBJECTIVES.....	3
8	SITE OPERATIONS.....	3
9	POST-EXCAVATION.....	4
10	REPORT DEPOSITION.....	5
11	ARCHIVE.....	5
12	PUBLICATION.....	5
13	CURATORIAL RESPONSIBILITY.....	5
14	VARIATIONS AND CONTINGENCIES.....	5
15	PROGRAMME OF WORKS AND STAFFING LEVELS.....	6
16	SPECIALISTS TO BE USED DURING THE PROJECT.....	6
17	INSURANCES.....	7
18	COPYRIGHT.....	7
19	BIBLIOGRAPHY.....	7

1 SUMMARY

- 1.1 *A watching brief is required during residential development at 1 West Street, Crowland.*
-

- 1.2 *The written scheme of investigation sets out in detail a specification of works for an archaeological watching brief, which will monitor all groundworks undertaken as part of development at the site.*
- 1.3 *Prehistoric burial mounds occur in the area and Roman pottery has been found in the vicinity. Additionally, an abbey, founded before the Norman conquest, brought the town to prominence and attracted settlement in the medieval period. The present town probably largely overlies the medieval village*
- 1.4 *On completion of the fieldwork a report will be prepared detailing the results of the investigations. 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 development at 1 West Street, Crowland, 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 Crowland is located approximately 12km south of Spalding in the administrative district of South Holland, Lincolnshire. The site is on the north side of West Street, on the west side of the village centre, at TF 2386 1027.

4 PLANNING BACKGROUND

- 4.1 A planning application (H02/1199/00) was submitted to South Holland District Council for construction of four dwellings at 1 West Street, Crowland, Lincolnshire. On the advice of the Senior Built Environment Officer at Lincolnshire County Council, South Holland District Council have requested the submission of a written scheme of archaeological investigation prior to construction. This document forms that scheme of investigation and comprises a specification of works for an archaeological watching brief to be undertaken during groundworks and all phases of soil movement carried out during the proposed development.

5 SOILS AND TOPOGRAPHY

- 5.1 Crowland is situated in the fens of south Lincolnshire. The site and surrounding area lies at approximately 5m OD. Soils at the site are Ireton Association loamy over sandy soils formed in glaciofluvial deposits (Hodge *et al.* 1984, 229).

6 ARCHAEOLOGICAL OVERVIEW

- 6.1 Crowland lies on a gravel ridge jutting west to east through the surrounding fen and has been the focus for human activity for at least the past four millennia. During extended periods of freshwater

and marine flooding, the elevated position of the gravel ridge has provided a favourable location for habitation.

- 6.1 Crowland came to prominence during the early medieval period. An abbey was founded there by the late 10th century and became a focus of settlement during the later medieval period. The present village of Crowland probably largely superimposes the medieval settlement. An archaeological watching brief undertaken on land adjacent to West Street revealed deposits of late medieval and post-medieval date (Archaeological Project Services 1998).
- 6.2 Neolithic flint axes and scatters of worked prehistoric flint have been recovered at several locations in Crowland, mainly within the northwest part of the town. However, two burial mounds presumed to be of Bronze Age date are known to exist within 600m southwest of the site at 70 West Street. Iron Age pottery has been recovered at two sites approximately 150m southwest of the site (Cope-Faulkner, 1998).
- 6.3 Pottery and other artefacts have been recovered at several locations within and around Crowland, including two sites 150m southwest and southeast of the proposed development.

7 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- 7.1 The aims of the investigations 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 Any finds recovered will be bagged and labelled for later analysis.

8.2.3 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; 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. An accession number will be obtained from the City and County Museum, Lincoln for deposition of the archive. All site records will be referenced with APS site code **WSC05**.

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 LCC Archaeology Section. They will be given written notice of the commencement of the project to enable them to make monitoring arrangements.

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.
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- 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

Archaeological Project Services, 1998 Archaeological watching brief on development of land off West Street, Crowland, Lincolnshire (CWS98), APS unpublished Report No 77/98

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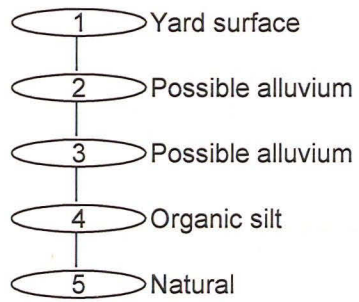
Specification: Version 1, 15th August 2005

Appendix 2

CONTEXT SUMMARY

Context	Description	Interpretation	Date
001	Loose mid brown grey sandy silt and red crushed brick 0.25m thick	Yard surface	Modern
002	Very firm mid grey clay silt with occasional shell 0.45m thick	Alluvium / Dump	Undated
003	Firm dark grey clay silt 0.3m thick	Alluvium / Dump	Undated
004	Soft mid brown organic silt 0.4m thick	Alluvium / Dump	Undated
005	Firm light yellow brown silt clay 0.15m	Natural	

Site Matrix



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.
Anglo-Saxon	Pertaining to the period when Britain was occupied by peoples from northern Germany, Denmark and adjacent areas. The period dates from approximately AD 450-1066.
Bronze Age	A period characterised by the introduction of bronze into the country for tools, between 2250 and 800 BC.
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 interpretation 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].
Domesday Survey	A survey of property ownership in England compiled on the instruction of William I for taxation purposes in 1086 AD.
Layer	A layer is a term used 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
Neolithic	The 'New Stone Age' period, part of the prehistoric era, dating from approximately 4500 - 2250 BC.
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.
Saxon	Pertaining to the period dating from AD 410-1066 when England was largely settled by tribes from northern Germany

Appendix 4

THE ARCHIVE

The archive consists of:

5	Context records
1	Context record sheets
1	Section record sheet
1	Plan record sheet
2	Sheets containing scale drawings (plans and sections)
1	Photographic record sheet

All primary records are currently kept at:

Archaeological Project Services
The Old School
Cameron Street
Heckington
Sleaford
Lincolnshire
NG34 9RW

The ultimate destination of the project archive is:

Lincolnshire City and County Museum
The Collection
Danes Terrace
Lincoln
LN2 1LP

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: 2006.41

Archaeological Project Services Site Code: CWS 06

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.