ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF
AT 369 BURTON ROAD,
LINCOLN,
LINCOLNSHIRE
(LIBR 06)

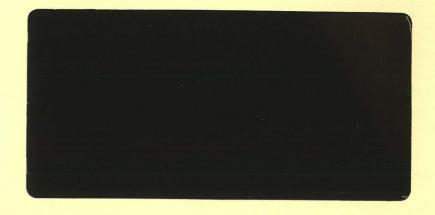


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Conservation Services

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Highways & Planning Directorate



## ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF AT 369 BURTON ROAD, LINCOLN, LINCOLNSHIRE (LIBR 06)

Work Undertaken For **Riva Construction Limited** 

October 2006

Report Compiled by Michael Wood BA (Hons) Mlitt AIFA

National Grid Reference: SK 9657 7373 City and County Museum Accession No: 2005.29 Planning Application No: 2003/0301/O, 2002/0633/RM

## ARCHAEOLOGICAL PROJECT SERVICES



APS Report No. 169/06

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#### 1. SUMMARY

A watching brief was undertaken during groundworks at 369 Burton Road, Lincoln, Lincolnshire. The watching brief monitored the excavation of foundation trenches for a detached dwelling and associated garages.

The site lies close to previous discoveries of Late Iron Age date (150 BC-AD 43) identified during the construction of the Lincoln bypass and on the periphery of the city.

This investigation revealed undated ditches probably representing remnants of field boundaries. No artefacts were retrieved.

#### 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 R.B. & S. Hayward (Architectural Technicians) on behalf of Riva Construction Limited to undertake an archaeological watching brief during groundworks associated with new residential development at 369 Burton Road, Lincoln, Lincolnshire. Approval for the development was sought through the submission of planning applications 2003/0301/O and 2002/0633/RM. This is the second watching brief undertaken on this site and encompassed Plot 3 and two

detached garage blocks. Groundworks on building Plot 4 were previously monitored by APS in February 2006 (Cope-Faulkner 2006).

This watching brief was carried out on the 26<sup>th</sup> July 2006 in accordance with a specification prepared by Archaeological Project Services (Appendix 1) and approved by the City Archaeologist, City of Lincoln Council.

## 2.3 Topography and Geology

The site lies approximately 2km northwest of the centre of Lincoln at the northern end of Burton Road, at National Grid Reference SK 9657 7373 (Fig. 2). The development site lies directly east of Burton Road, adjacent to arable farmland at a height of c. 67m OD overlooking the Burton Cliff.

As the site lies in an urban area, local soils have not been mapped. However, they are likely to be of the Elmton 1 Association, typically calcareous fine loamy soils (Hodge *et al.* 1984, 179). These soils are developed upon a solid geology of Jurassic Lincolnshire Limestone (BGS 1999).

#### 2.4 Archaeological Setting

The city of Lincoln contains significant archaeological remains from the Iron Age to the present day. Lincoln is first mentioned by Ptolomey c.150 AD as Lindon derived from the Primitive Welsh Linn or pool, referring to Brayford Pool (Cameron 1998).

During the Domesday survey over 970 residences were accounted for in the city (Morris 1986). Lincoln cathedral was founded at the end of the 11<sup>th</sup> century (Pevsner 1989) and lies approximately 2km southeast of the development site.

Burton Road itself is located near known archaeological remains dating from the Iron Age. During construction of the

Lincoln Bypass in 1984 a number of Late Iron Age pits were revealed along with pottery of the period (Field 1985, 72). The site also lies alongside the possible prehistoric routeway known as the Jurassic Way (Stocker 2003, 19).

During the medieval period the site lay within the common fields of the city (*ibid*. 298).

#### 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

Prior to the excavation of foundation trenches, topsoil was stripped from the footprint of the proposed new building. Foundation trenches were then excavated by machine to depths required by the development. The sides of the trenches were then cleaned and rendered vertical. Selected deposits were excavated further to retrieve artefactual material and to determine their function. Each deposit was allocated a unique reference number (context number) with an individual written description.

A list of all contexts and their descriptions appears as Appendix 2. A photographic record was compiled and sections were drawn at a scale of 1:10. Recording was undertaken according to standard Archaeological Project Services practice.

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

#### 5. RESULTS

Following post-excavation analysis three phases were identified:

Phase 1 Natural Phase 2 Undated Phase 3 Modern

Archaeological contexts are listed below and described. The numbers in brackets are the context numbers assigned in the field.

## 5.1 Phase 1 Natural Deposits

The earliest deposit present at the development site was light yellow fractured limestone (002) consistent with known local geology (Plates 2 & 5). This deposit measured at least 0.35m thick and was truncated by undated ditches [004=006=008=010] and [012=014=016] (Fig. 4, Plates 3 & 4).

## 5.2 Phase 2 Undated Deposits

Two undated ditches were present at the development site (Fig. 3). Due to the nature of this investigation, neither ditch was excavated beyond the limits of the residential footings.

Ditch [004=006=008=010] was aligned approximately northwest southeast (Figs. 3 & 4, Plate 3) within Plot 3. This ditch measured 1.1m wide by 0.58m deep at its maximum extent and was filled with dark grey brown clay silt (003=005=007=009). Ditch fill (003=005=007=009) measured 0.58m at maximum depth and was sealed by topsoil (001).

Ditch [012=014=016] was aligned approximately southwest northeast within Plot 3 and Garage 1 (Figs. 3 & 4, Plate 4). This ditch measured at least 1m wide by 0.2m deep. This ditch was filled with grey brown clay silt (011=013=015), which measured at least 0.2m thick. Ditch fill (011=013=015) was sealed below topsoil

(001).

## 5.3 Phase 3 Modern Deposits

The latest deposit present at the development site was dark grey brown clay silt topsoil (001). This deposit measured at least 0.26m thick and sealed all other deposits (Fig. 4, Plates 2, 3, 4 & 5).

#### 6. DISCUSSION

Two undated ditches were revealed at Burton Road cut into Lincolnshire Jurassic Limestone. No artefacts were retrieved from either linear, and the ditch fills strongly resembled washed in ploughsoil. These ditches probably represent arable field boundaries. The 1889 Ordnance Survey map of Lincoln depicts this area as being part of one large field, suggesting these ditches predate the Victorian period. Burton Road lay within Lincoln's common fields during the Middle Ages and these ditches may relate to this time.

The lack of subsoil within the development site suggests this area may have been levelled prior to this investigation. This will likely have truncated any preserved archaeological remains and may account for the absence of material revealed in previous work (Cope-Faulkner 2006).

#### 7. CONCLUSION

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken at Burton Road, Lincoln, as the site lay in close proximity to known remains of Late Iron Age date. This is the second watching brief undertaken at this site and follows on from a previous project undertaken in February 2006.

Two undated ditches were revealed during this investigation, probably representing disused field systems. Both ditches were cut into known geology of Lincolnshire Jurassic limestone. No artefacts were recovered during the project.

#### 8. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeological Project Services wish to acknowledge the assistance of Mr R.B. Hayward for commissioning the fieldwork and post-excavation analysis on behalf of Riva Construction Limited. Steve Malone coordinated the work and edited this report along with Tom Lane.

#### 9. PERSONNEL

Project Coordinator: Steve Malone Site Supervisor: Michael Wood Photographic reproduction: Sue Unsworth CAD Illustration: Michael Wood Post-excavation analysis: Michael Wood

#### 10. BIBLIOGRAPHY

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#### 11. ABBREVIATIONS

APS Archaeological Project Services

BGS British Geological Survey

IFA Institute of Field Archaeologists

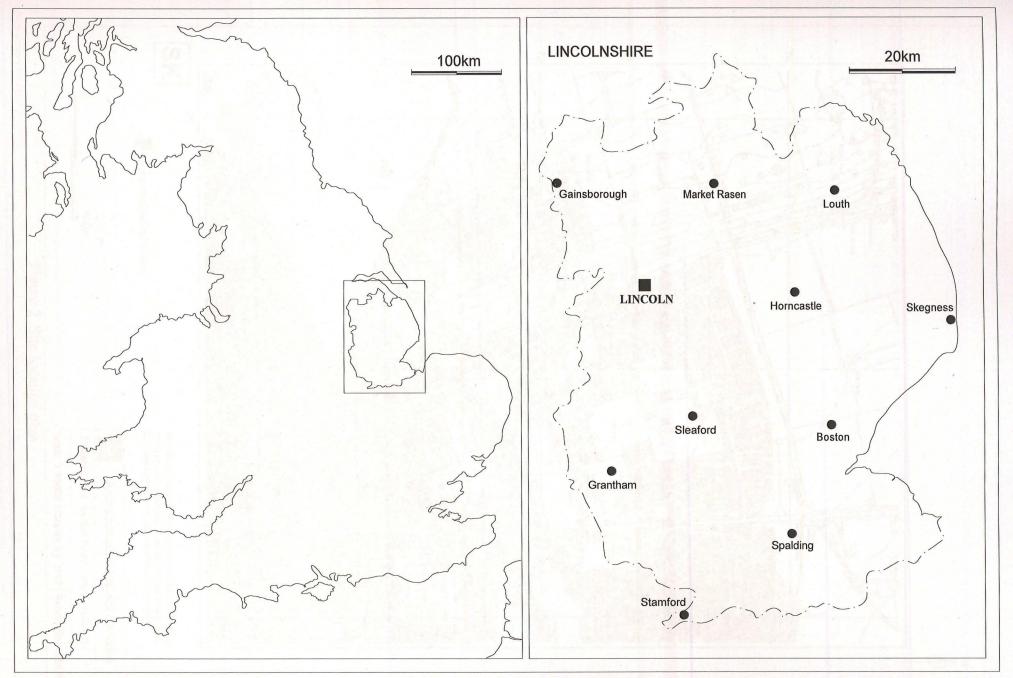


Figure 1 - General Location Plan

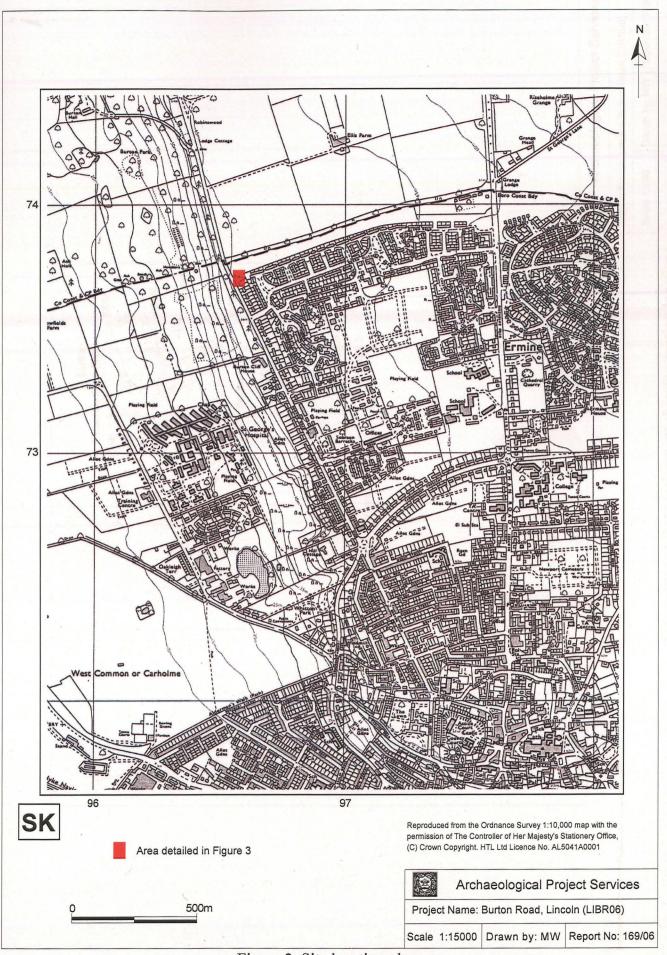


Figure 2 Site location plan

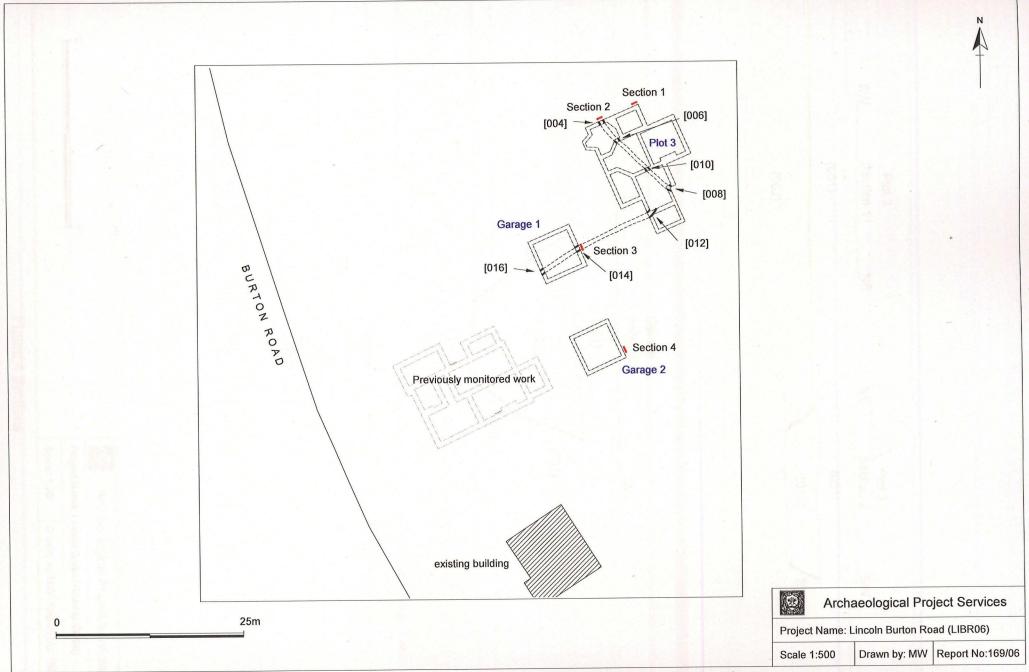


Figure Plan of the development showing section locations

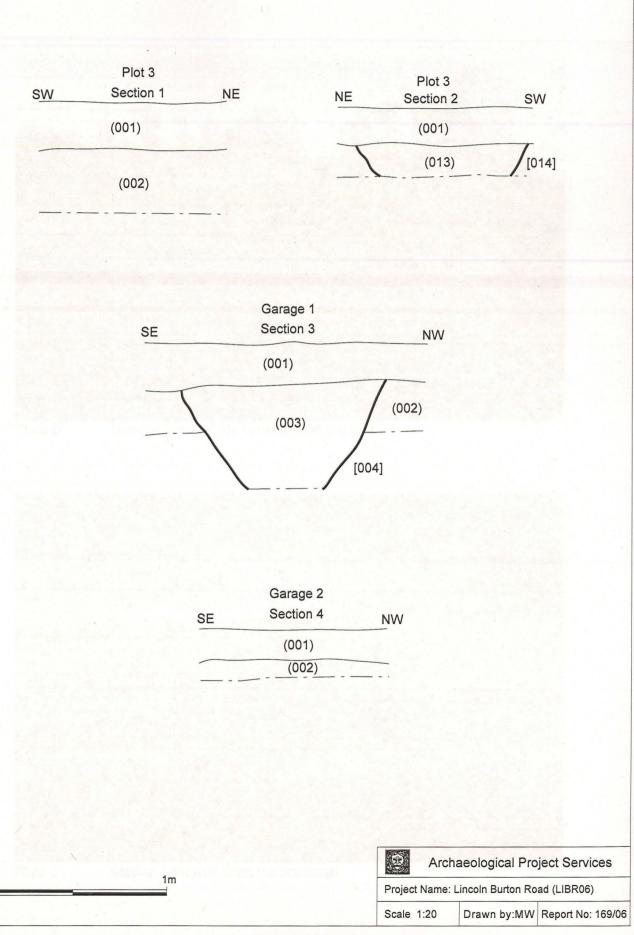


Figure 4 Sections



Plate 1 General view of site viewed from the east



Plate 2 Section 1 viewed from the southeast



Plate 3 Section 2, Ditch [004] viewed from the southeast



Plate 4 Section 3, Ditch [014] viewed from the northeast in plan



Plate 5 Section 4 viewed from the northeast

#### LAND AT BURTON ROAD, LINCOLN - SPECIFICATION FOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

#### 1 SUMMARY

- 1.1 A watching brief is required during residential development on land at 369 Burton Road, Lincoln.
- 1.2 The site lies in an area of archaeological interest and potential close to an area of possible Iron Age settlement on the cliff top.
- 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 watching brief. 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 on land at 369 Burton Road, Lincoln.
- 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 The site is located on the northern edge of the city, some 2km northwest of the city centre. It lies on the east side of Burton Road close to its crossing of the A46 at National Grid Reference SK 96578 73733.

#### 4 PLANNING BACKGROUND

4.1 Planning permission has been granted by Lincoln City Council (Application No. 2003/0301/O, 2002/0633/RM) for the erection of four dwellings on the site. Planning permission is subject to a condition requiring an archaeological watching brief during all groundworks associated with the development.

#### 5 SOILS AND TOPOGRAPHY

5.1 The site lies at c. 65m O.D. on the west-facing escarpment of the Lincoln edge. Local soils have not been mapped as the area is urban, but are likely to be calcareous fine loamy soils of the Elmton 1 Association developed on the Jurassic limestone (Hodge *et al.* 1984, 179).

#### 6 ARCHAEOLOGICAL OVERVIEW

6.1 The cliff-top northwest of the city centre has been identified as having potential to address a number of research agendas relating to exploitation of the land around the city in the prehistoric, Roman and later periods. 6.2 In particular, several pits containing late Iron Age pottery were identified just to the north during construction of the cutting for the A46 Lincoln relief road and indicate some settlement of that period in the vicinity.

#### 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:
  - the site during work to show specific stages, and the layout of the archaeology within the trench.
  - groups of features where their relationship is important

8.2.5 Should human remains be located they will be left in situ and only excavated if absolutely necessary. If exhumation is required, the appropriate Home Office licences will be obtained before the excavation of such remains. In addition, the Local Environmental Health Department, coroner 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 City of Lincoln Archaeologist; 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: *Proceedings of the Prehistoric Society* for findings of prehistoric date; *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 City of Lincoln Archaeologist.

#### 14 PROGRAMME OF WORKS AND STAFFING LEVELS

- 14.1 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.
- 14.2 An archaeological supervisor with experience of watching briefs will undertake the work.
- 14.3 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.

#### 15 VARIATION AND CONTINGENCIES

- 15.1 Variations to the proposed scheme of works will only be made following written confirmation of acceptance from the archaeological curator.
- 15.2 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).
- 15.3 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
- 15.4 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.

#### 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.

Task 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-later - J Young, Independent Specialist

Non-pottery Artefacts
Animal Bones
Environmental Analysis

J Cowgill, Independent Specialist
Environmental Archaeology Consultancy
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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- 18.3 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.
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#### 19 BIBLIOGRAPHY

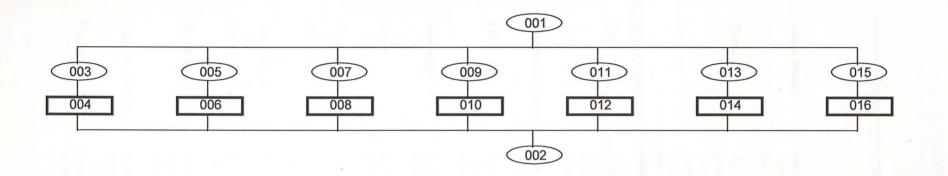
Hodge, CAH, Burton, RGO, Corbett, WM, Evans, R, and Seale, RS, 1984 Soils and their use in Eastern England, Soil Survey of England and Wales 13

Specification: Version 1, 19 January 2005

# CONTEXT SUMMARY

Context	Description	Thickness	Interpretation	Phase
001	Dark grey brown clay silt	0.26m	Topsoil	Modern
002	Light yellow fractured limestone	0.35m	Natural	Natural
003	Dark grey brown clay silt	0.58m	Fill of [004]	Undated
004	Linear aligned north-south with fairly steep sides	1.08m wide by 0.58m deep	Ditch same as [006], [008] & [010]	Undated
005	Dark grey brown clay silt	0.4m	Fill of [006]	Undated
006	Linear aligned northwest southeast with fairly steep sides	1m wide by 0.4m deep	Ditch same as [004], [008] & [010]	Undated
007	Dark grey brown clay silt	0.2m	Fill of [008]	Undated
008	Linear aligned northwest southeast with fairly steep sides	1m wide by 0.2m deep	Ditch same as [004], [006] & [010]	Undated
009	Brown grey clay silt	0.3m	Fill of [010]	Undated
010	Linear aligned northwest southeast with fairly steep sides	1.1m wide by 0.3m deep	Ditch same as [004], [006] & [008]	Undated
011	Grey brown clay silt	0.2m	Fill of [012]	Undated
012	Linear aligned east-west with fairly steep sides	1m wide by 0.2m deep	Ditch same as [014] & [016]	Undated
013	Grey brown clay silt	0.17m	Fill of [014]	Undated
014	Linear aligned east-west with fairly steep sides	0.92m wide by 0.17m deep	Ditch same as [012] & [016]	Undated
015	Grey brown clay silt	0.2m	Fill of [016]	Undated
016	Linear aligned east-west with fairly steep sides	1m wide by 0.2m deep	Ditch same as [012] & [014]	Undated

## LIBR06 MATRIX



#### **GLOSSARY**

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.

**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].

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.

**Domesday Survey** A survey of property ownership in England compiled on the instruction of

William I for taxation purposes in 1086 AD.

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) that become contained by the 'cut' are

referred to as its fill(s).

**Iron Age** A period characterised by the introduction of Iron into the country for tools,

between 800 BC and AD 50.

Layer A layer is a term 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

**Old English** The language used by the Saxon (q.v.) occupants of Britain.

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 ARCHIVE

The archive consists of:

16 Context records

1 Photographic record sheets

1 Section record sheet

1 Daily record sheets

5 Sheets of scale drawings

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:

The Collection
Art and Archaeology in Lincolnshire
Danes Terrace
Lincoln
LN2 1LP

Accession Number:

2005.29

Archaeological Project Services Site Code:

LIBR06

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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