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**ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF
AT CROSS ROAD,
LANGTOFT,
LINCOLNSHIRE.
(LFC05)**



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**ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF
AT CROSS ROAD,
LANGTOFT,
LINCOLNSHIRE.
(LFC05)**

**Work Undertaken For
Carolyne Lister**

January 2006

Report Compiled by
Steve Williams BA (Hons) PIFA

National Grid Reference: TF 1428 1416
City and County Museum Accession No: 2005.122
Planning Application No: S05/0212/50

ARCHAEOLOGICAL PROJECT SERVICES



APS Report No. 148/05

Quality Control
Langtoft Fen Cross Road,
Langtoft, Lincolnshire
(LFC 05)

Project Coordinator	Mark Williams
Supervisor	Barry Martin
Illustration	Steve Williams
Photographic Reproduction	Sue Unsworth
Post-excavation Analyst	Steve Williams


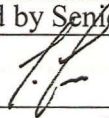
Checked by Project Manager	Approved by Senior Archaeologist
 Mark Williams	 Tom Lane
Date: 18/1/06	Date: 19-01-06

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1. SUMMARY

A watching brief was undertaken during groundworks at Langtoft Fen, Cross Road, Langtoft, Lincolnshire. The watching brief monitored the excavation of foundation trenches for a livery yard, outdoor riding school and associated soakaway pit, as well as ground reduction of the access road.

Away from the site and towards the south a Bronze Age (2200-800BC) ring ditch and evidence of Iron Age (800 BC-AD 42) settlement activity in the form of several roundhouses and associated enclosures has been identified. Romano-British (AD 42-410) activity is also evident in the form of occasional stray pottery sherds and coins. The site lies to the west of the Medieval (AD 1066-1540) village which is centred on the 12th-13th century church of St Michael.

The watching brief revealed only natural deposits. No archaeological features were identified and no finds were recovered during this watching brief.

2. INTRODUCTION

2.1 Definition of a Watching Brief

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

2.2 Planning Background

Archaeological Project Services was commissioned by Carolyne Lister to undertake an archaeological watching brief during groundworks associated with the

construction of a livery yard and outdoor riding school at Cross Road, Langtoft, Lincolnshire. Approval for the development was sought through the submission of planning application S05/0212/50. The watching brief was carried out on the 31st May 2005 in accordance with a specification prepared by Archaeological Project Services (Appendix 1) and approved by the South Kesteven Planning Archaeologist.

2.3 Topography and Geology

Langtoft is situated 11km northeast of Stamford and 16km southwest of Spalding in the administrative district of South Kesteven, Lincolnshire (fig.1).

The site lies 2.5km northeast of the village centre at National Grid Reference TF 1428 1416 (Fig.2). Located on the northeast side of Cross Road, the site lies at a height of c. 4m OD on the generally level ground of the fens.

Local soils are of the Badsey 2 Association, typically calcareous fine loamy soils (Hodges *et al.* 1984, 101). These soils are developed upon a drift geology of 1st Terrace sand and gravel deposits which in turn seal a solid geology of Jurassic Oxford Clay (BGS 1984).

2.4 Archaeological Setting

Langtoft lies within an area of known archaeological remains dating from the Bronze Age through to the present day. Cropmarks associated with the above period have been identified to the east and west of the village and are thought to represent ring ditches and barrow monuments.

Previous excavations undertaken within the village have shown evidence of Iron Age settlement consisting of two roundhouse structures, a granary building and associated enclosures (JSAC 2000, 28). Romano-British agricultural practices

possibly representing vine beds were also evident within the excavation and has been supplemented by occasional stray finds of pottery and coinage of the same period found throughout the village.

Langtoft first appears in the Domesday Survey of c. 1086. Known as *Langetoft*, the name derived from the Old Norse *langr* and the Old Danish *toft* and means 'the long message' (Cameron 1998, 77). During the 11th century the land was held by Crowland Abbey and consisted of 100 acres of meadow, marsh and woodland (Foster and Longley 1976).

The church located towards the centre of the village was constructed between the late 12th and early 13th century and also contains later building additions (Pevsner and Harris 1989, 424). Evidence of ridge and furrow earthworks have been interpreted on aerial photographs taken of the village and its environs during the last century.

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 area. Trenches were then excavated by machine to depths required by the development (0.7m-0.9m). The sides of the trenches were then cleaned and rendered vertical. Selected deposits were then excavated further to determine their nature and to retrieve artefactual material. 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.

5. RESULTS

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

The earliest deposit encountered throughout the development area was a layer of yellow/brown sand and gravel (002 and 004). This measured in excess of 0.6m thick.

6. DISCUSSION

Natural layers comprised sands and gravels of the underlying drift geology of 1st River Terrace deposits. Topsoil was recorded above this. No archaeological features were identified and no artefacts recorded or retrieved.

The lack of a subsoil may indicate that the site had previously been stripped in the past. If this is the case, archaeological deposits may also have been removed.

7. CONCLUSION

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken at Cross Road, Langtoft, as the site lay within a landscape known to contain archaeology dating from the Bronze Age, Iron Age and Romano-British periods.

However, only natural sands and gravels and topsoil were recorded. No

archaeological features were identified and no finds retrieved.

8. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeological Project Services wish to acknowledge the assistance of Carolyn Lister for commissioning the fieldwork and post-excavation analysis. The work was coordinated by Mark Williams who edited this report along with Tom Lane. Jenny Young, the South Kesteven Planning Archaeologist, kindly allowed access to the parish files and library maintained by Heritage Lincolnshire.

9. PERSONNEL

Project Coordinator: Mark Williams
 Site Supervisor: Barry Martin
 Photographic reproduction: Sue Unsworth
 Illustration: Steve Williams
 Post-excavation analysis: Steve Williams

10. BIBLIOGRAPHY

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11. ABBREVIATIONS

APS Archaeological Project Services
 BGS British Geological Survey
 IFA Institute of Field Archaeologists
 JSAC John Samuels Archaeological Consultants

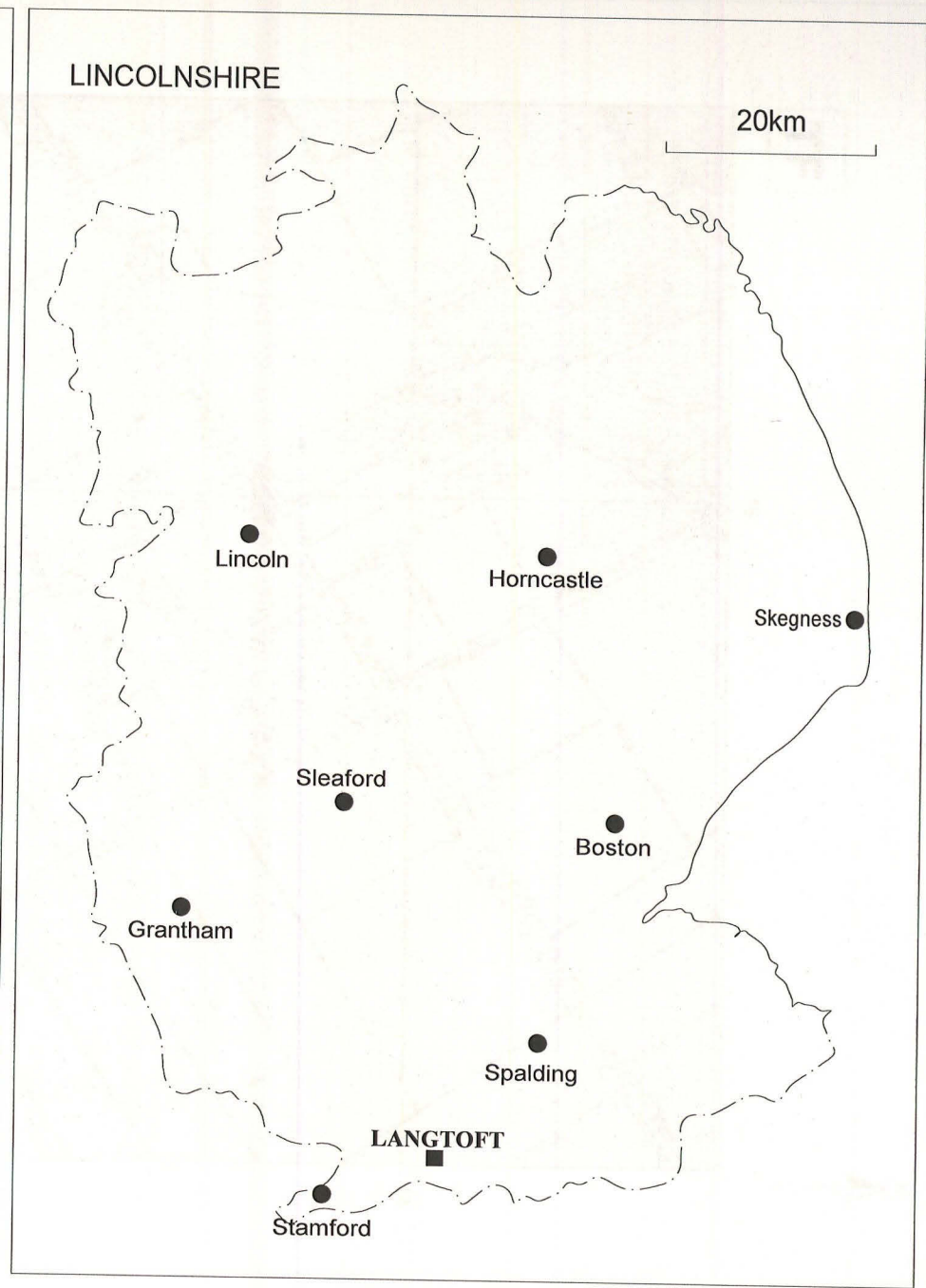
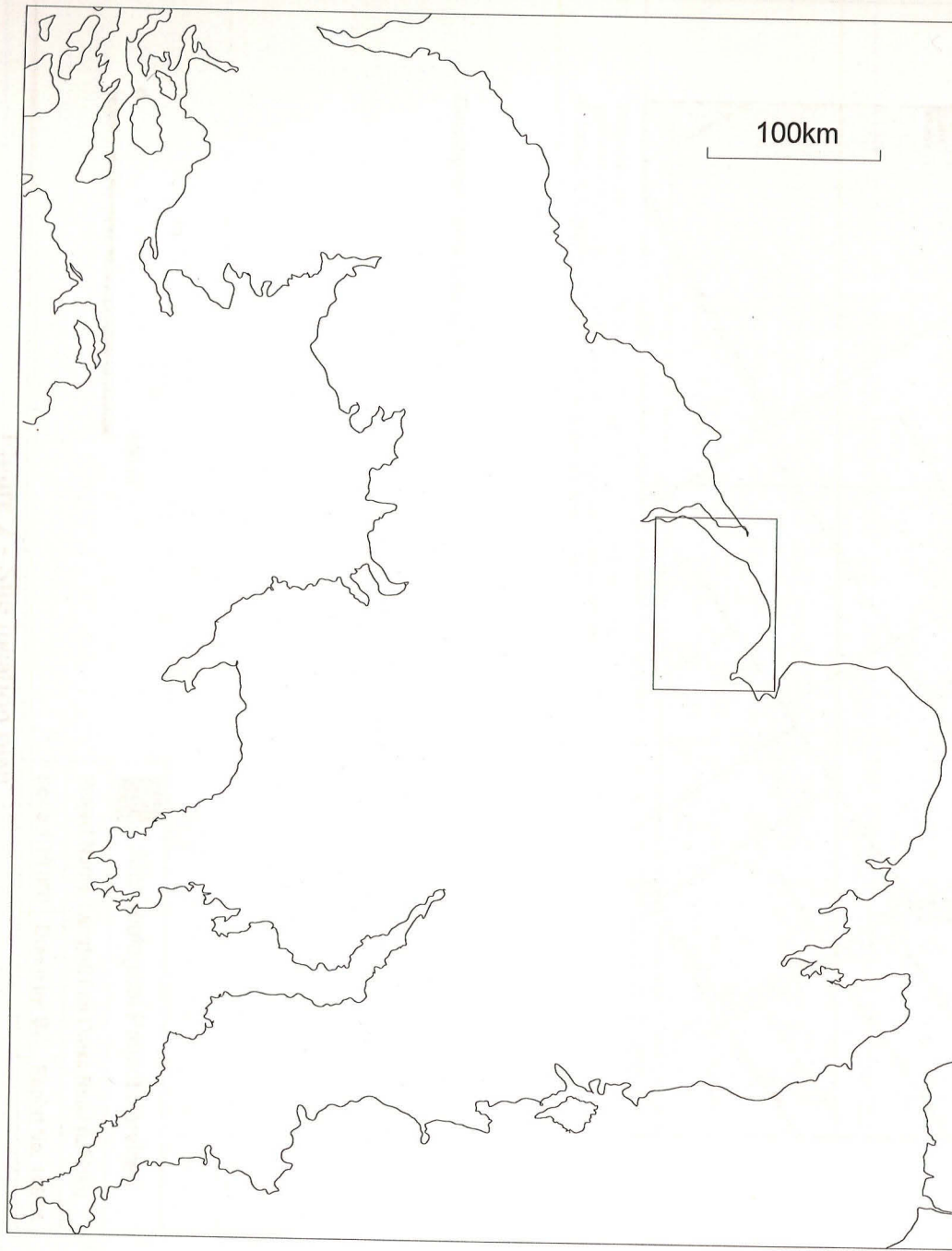
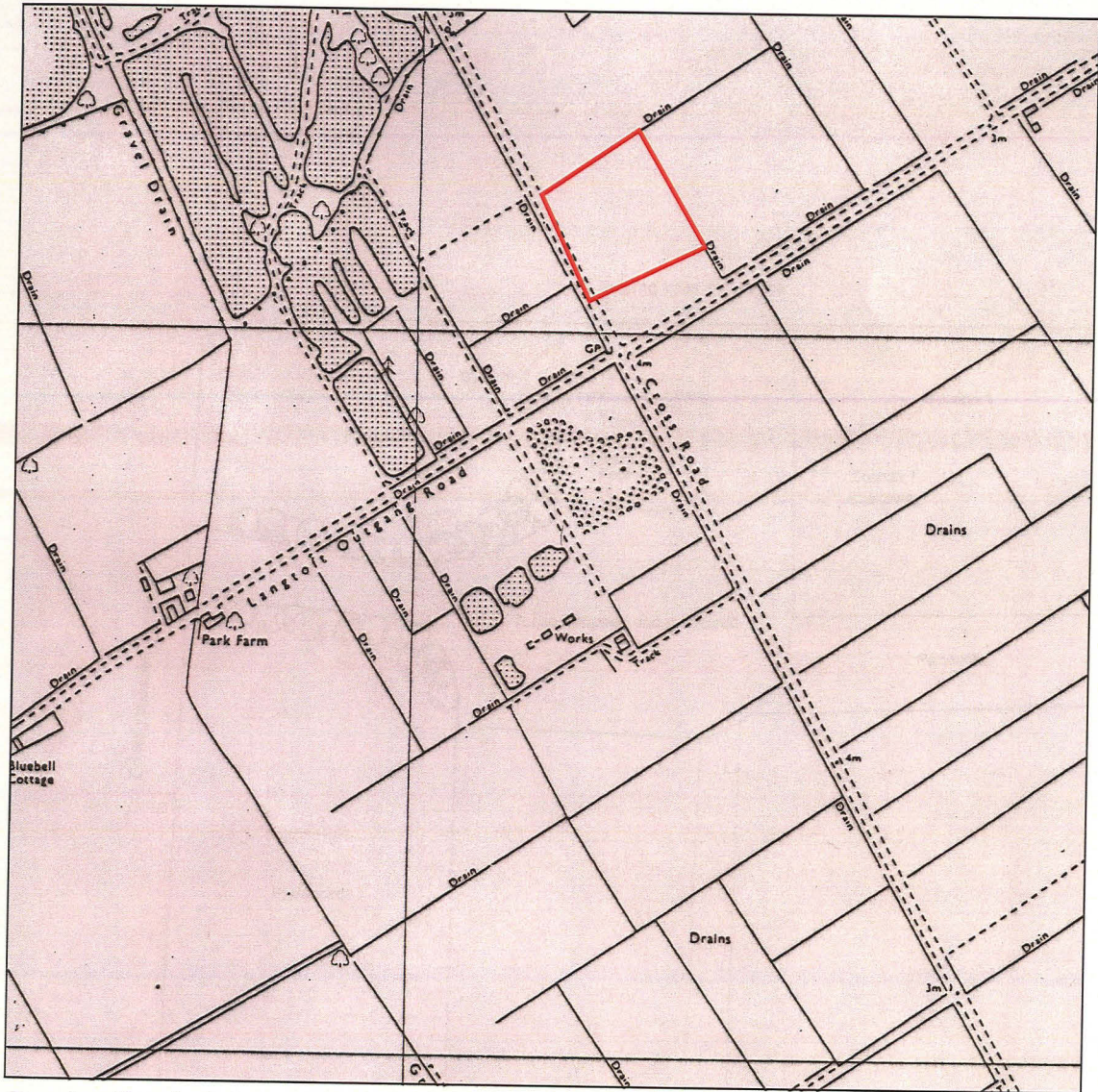


Figure 1 - General Location Plan

TF



15



14

Reproduced from the Ordnance Survey 1:10,000 map with the permission of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office, © Crown Copyright. HTL LTD Licence No AL5041A0001

Development area outlined in red




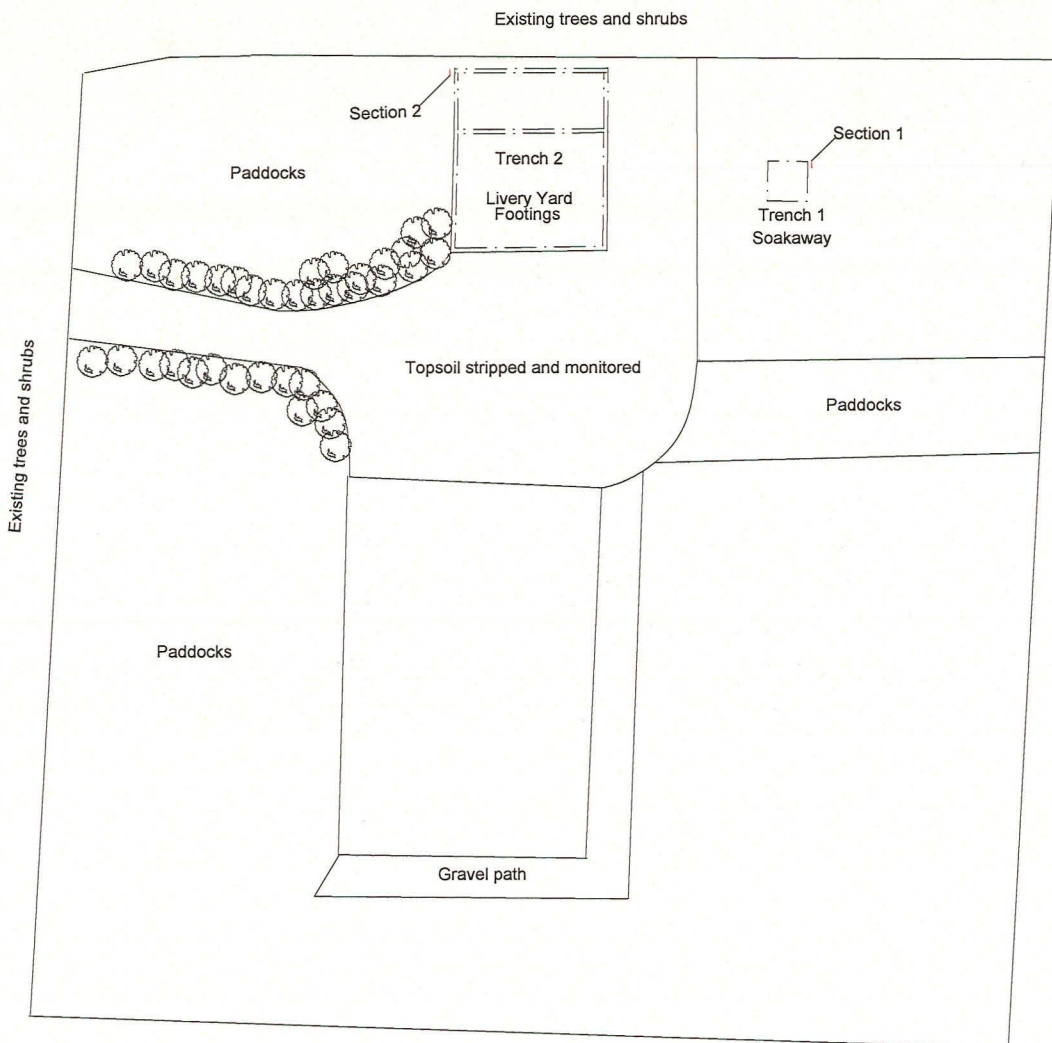
	Archaeological Project Services	
Project Name: Langtoft Fen Cross Road (LFC05)		
Scale 1:10 000	Drawn by: SW	Report No: 148/05

Figure 2 - Site location plan



Existing trees and shrubs

Existing trees and shrubs

Section 2

Paddocks

Trench 2
Livery Yard
Footings

Section 1

Trench 1
Soakaway

Topsoil stripped and monitored

Paddocks

Paddocks

Gravel path

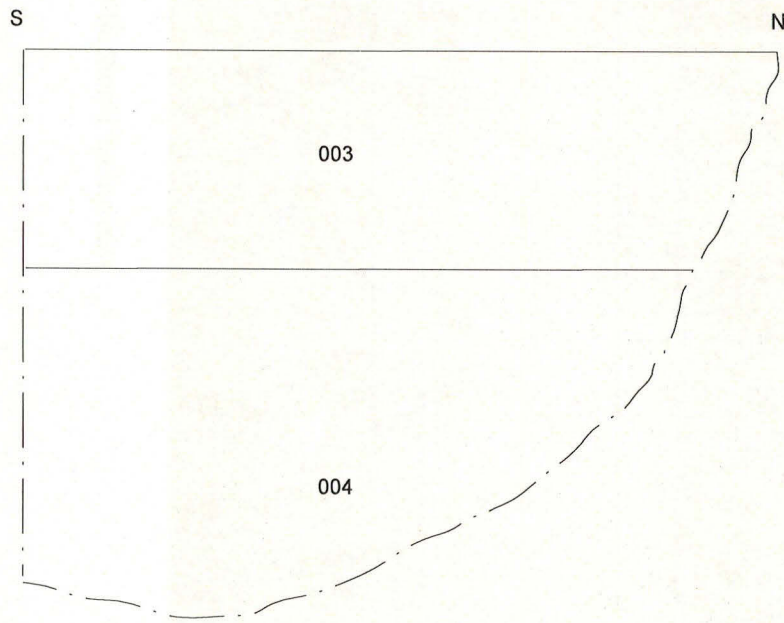


Archaeological Project Services

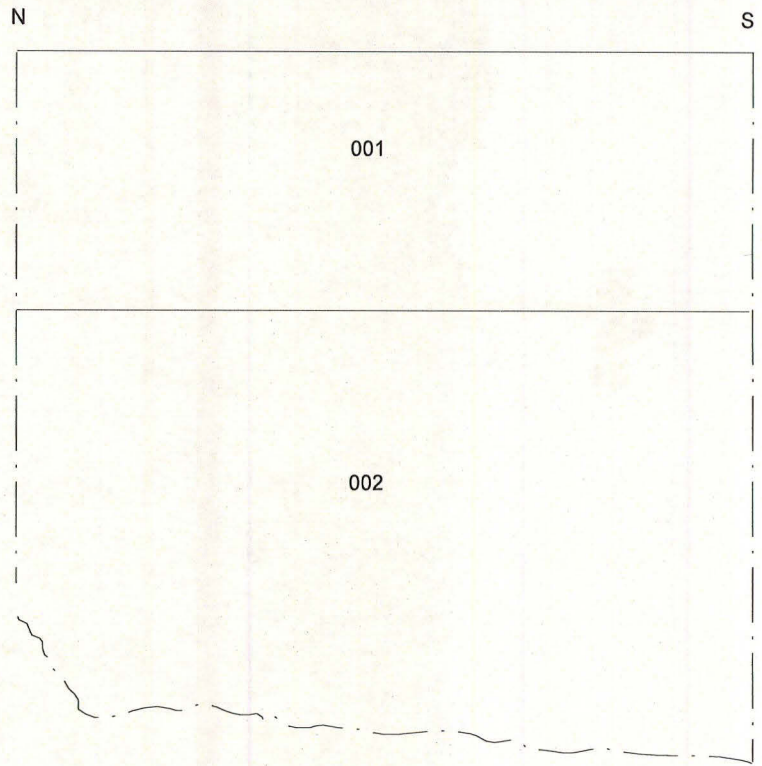
Project Name: Langtoft Fen Cross Road (LFC 05)

Scale 1:1250 | Drawn by: SW | Report No: 148/05

Figure 3 - Plan of the development area showing section locations



Section 1, Trench 1



Section 2, Trench 2




 Archaeological Project Services		
Project Name: Langtoft Fen Cross Road (LFC05)		
Scale 1:10	Drawn by: SW	Report No: 148/05

Figure 4 - Sections 1 and 2



Plate 1 Overall site view looking north-west



Plate 2 Section 1 facing east



Plate 3 Section 2 facing west

Appendix 1

LAND AT CROSS ROAD, LANGTOFT FEN, LANGTOFT, LINCOLNSHIRE SPECIFICATION FOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

1 SUMMARY

- 1.1 *A watching brief is required during the construction of a Livery yard and outdoor riding school, Cross Road, Langtoft Fen.*
- 1.2 *The site lies in an area of archaeological potential, Langtoft appears to have been continuously occupied from 200AD. To the west of the site a watching brief revealed features dating from the Iron Age to the Roman period.*
- 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 a Livery Yard and outdoor riding school, Cross Road, Langtoft Fen NGR 514280 314167.
- 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 proposed development site lies in the east of Langtoft and Boston, in the district of South Kesteven, west of Cross Drain at NGR 514280 314167.

4 PLANNING BACKGROUND

- 4.1 An application has been made for a livery stable and outdoor riding school and associated services and access road (Application No. S05/0212/50).

5 SOILS AND TOPOGRAPHY

- 5.1 The site lies at c. 5m OD. Local soils are calcareous fine loamy soils of the Badsey 2 Association developed on limestone gravel (Hodge *et al.* 1984, 101).

6 ARCHAEOLOGICAL OVERVIEW

- 6.1 The site lies in an area of potential archaeological importance. Langtoft has rich archaeological activity; it is believed to have been continuously inhabited since AD 200.
- 6.2 On the opposite side of Cross road, to the west of the application site, a watching brief has recorded two four post structures of Iron Age date, also ditches gullies and post holes of Roman date were identified.

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.

POST-EXCAVATION9.1 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:

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.

REPORT DEPOSITION

10.1 Copies of the report will be sent to the client; the South Kesteven Planning Archaeologist; South Kesteven 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 South Kesteven Planning Archaeologist. 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.
- 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 in consultation with H Healey, Independent Archaeologist
Non-pottery Artefacts	J Cowgill, Independent Specialist, or G Taylor, APS
Animal Bones	M Holmes, Independent Specialist, or P Cope-Faulkner, APS
Environmental Analysis	V Fryer, Independent Specialist
Human Remains Analysis	R Gowland, Independent Specialist

17 INSURANCES

17.1 Archaeological Project Services, as part of the Heritage Trust of Lincolnshire, maintains Employers Liability Insurance of £10,000,000, together with Public and Products Liability insurances, each with indemnity of £5,000,000. Copies of insurance documentation can be supplied on request.

18 COPYRIGHT

18.1 Archaeological Project Services shall retain full copyright of any commissioned reports under the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988 with all rights reserved; excepting that it hereby provides an exclusive licence to the client for the use of such documents by the client in all matters directly relating to the project as described in the Project Specification.

18.2 Licence will also be given to the archaeological curators to use the documentary archive for educational, public and research purposes.

18.3 In the case of non-satisfactory settlement of account then copyright will remain fully and exclusively with Archaeological Project Services. In these circumstances it will be an infringement under the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988 for the client to pass any report, partial report, or copy of same, to any third party. Reports submitted in good faith by Archaeological Project Services to any Planning Authority or archaeological curator will be removed from said planning Authority and/or archaeological curator. The Planning Authority and/or archaeological curator will be notified by Archaeological Project Services that the use of any such information previously supplied constitutes an infringement under the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988 and may result in legal action.

18.4 The author of any report or specialist contribution to a report shall retain intellectual copyright of their work and may make use of their work for educational or research purposes or for further publication.

19 BIBLIOGRAPHY

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

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Specification: Version 1, 16-05-05

Appendix 2

CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

Context No	Section No	Description	Interpretation
001	1-2	Firm, mid yellow/brown clayey silt with occasional gravel, and 0.34m in thickness.	Topsoil
002	1-2	Firm, light yellow/brown coarse sand and gravel with occasional lenses of light yellow/brown clay, in excess of 0.60m in thickness.	Natural layer
003	1-2	Firm, mid yellow/brown clayey silt with occasional gravel, and 0.29m in thickness.	Topsoil
004	1-2	Firm, light yellow/brown coarse sand and gravel with occasional lenses of light yellow/brown clay, in excess of 0.45m in thickness	Natural layer

Appendix 3

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.
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].
Cropmark	A mark that is produced by the effect of underlying archaeological or geological features influencing the growth of a particular crop.
Domesday Survey	A survey of property ownership in England compiled on the instruction of William I for taxation purposes in 1086 AD.
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.
Mesolithic	The 'Middle Stone Age' period, part of the prehistoric era, dating from approximately 11000 - 4500 BC.
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.
Ridge and Furrow	The remains of arable cultivation consisting of raised rounded strips separated by furrows. It is characteristic of open field agriculture.
Romano-British	Pertaining to the period dating from AD 43-410 when the Romans occupied Britain.
Toft	The site of a house or former house.

Appendix 4

THE ARCHIVE

The archive consists of:

4	Context records
1	Photographic record sheet
1	Section sheet
1	Stratigraphic matrix

All primary records are currently kept at:

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

The ultimate destination of the project archive is:

Lincolnshire City and County Museum
12 Friars Lane
Lincoln
LN2 1HQ

Lincolnshire City and County Museum Accession Number:

2005.122

Archaeological Project Services Site Code:

LFC05

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.