

ELI 6845

SLI 5130 PRN 13399 13427 13428

Archaeological Watching Brief
at
Church Road, Freiston, Lincolnshire
by
Heritage Lincolnshire
on behalf of
Longhurst Housing Association Ltd.

Report compiled by M. Dymond

SUMMARY

Between the 30 June and 7 July, an archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Heritage Lincolnshire at Church Road, Freiston, Lincolnshire (TF 37584388 - see Fig. 1 and 2), on behalf of Longhurst Housing Association Ltd. The aim of the work being to record any archaeological deposits exposed during the excavation of foundation trenches for four residential units. Prior to commencement of these works the land was under pasture.

The results of the watching brief are as follows:

1. Four phases of human activity were observed overlying the natural clay subsoil.
2. Archaeological remains dated to the 14th-17th centuries were recorded. These remains (ditches, pits and a pond) are probably the results of agricultural activities associated with Frieston village.
3. Earlier, undated, features were observed in Unit 1. The presence of late Saxon pottery on the site prompts the suggestion that these earlier features may be late Saxon in date.

<u>CONTENTS</u>	<u>PAGE</u>
Introduction	1.
Archaeological Setting	1.
Methodology	1.
Figure 1 General Location Plan	2.
Figure 2 Site Location Plan	3.
Watching Brief Results	4.
Interpretation	5.
Figure 3 Plan of Principle Archaeological Features	6.
Conclusion	7.
Acknowledgements	7.
Appendix 1 Pottery Data	8.
Appendix 2 Summary of Contexts	9.
Appendix 3 Glossary	10.

INTRODUCTION

Between the 30 June and 7 July 1992 an archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Heritage Lincolnshire at Church Road, Freiston, Lincolnshire (TF 37584388 - see Fig. 1 and 2), on behalf of Longhurst Housing Association Ltd. The aim of the work was to record any archaeological deposits exposed during the excavation of foundation trenches for four residential units. Prior to commencement of these works the land was under pasture.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SETTING

Evidence of Roman settlement has been found close to the site of the watching brief. The name of Freiston derives from Fristune - the place of the Frisians, a name of Saxon origin. The site lay within the limits of the medieval settlement, therefore, the watching brief was undertaken to locate evidence of medieval occupation, as well as that from other periods.

METHODOLOGY

The foundation trenches for the new houses were excavated by machine and each was examined for the presence of archaeological deposits.

Each archaeological context was allocated a unique number (a "context" number) with a written description. Drawings of the trench sections were made at scale 1:40. and a photographic record compiled where appropriate.

Each residential unit is referred to in the text as unit 1, unit 2 etc. Unit 1 is located at the southern end of the site and unit 4 is located at the northern end of the site.

FIG. 1 LOCATION

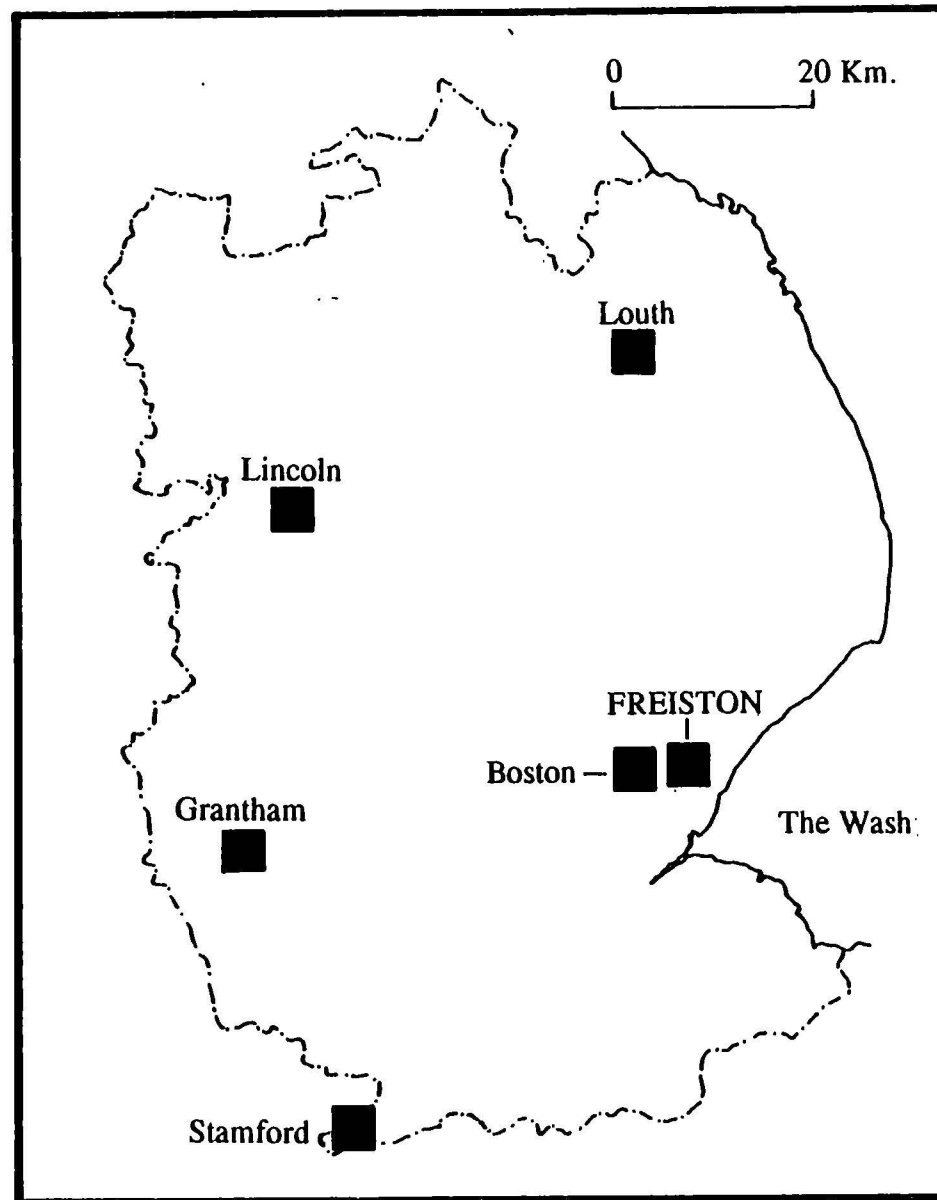
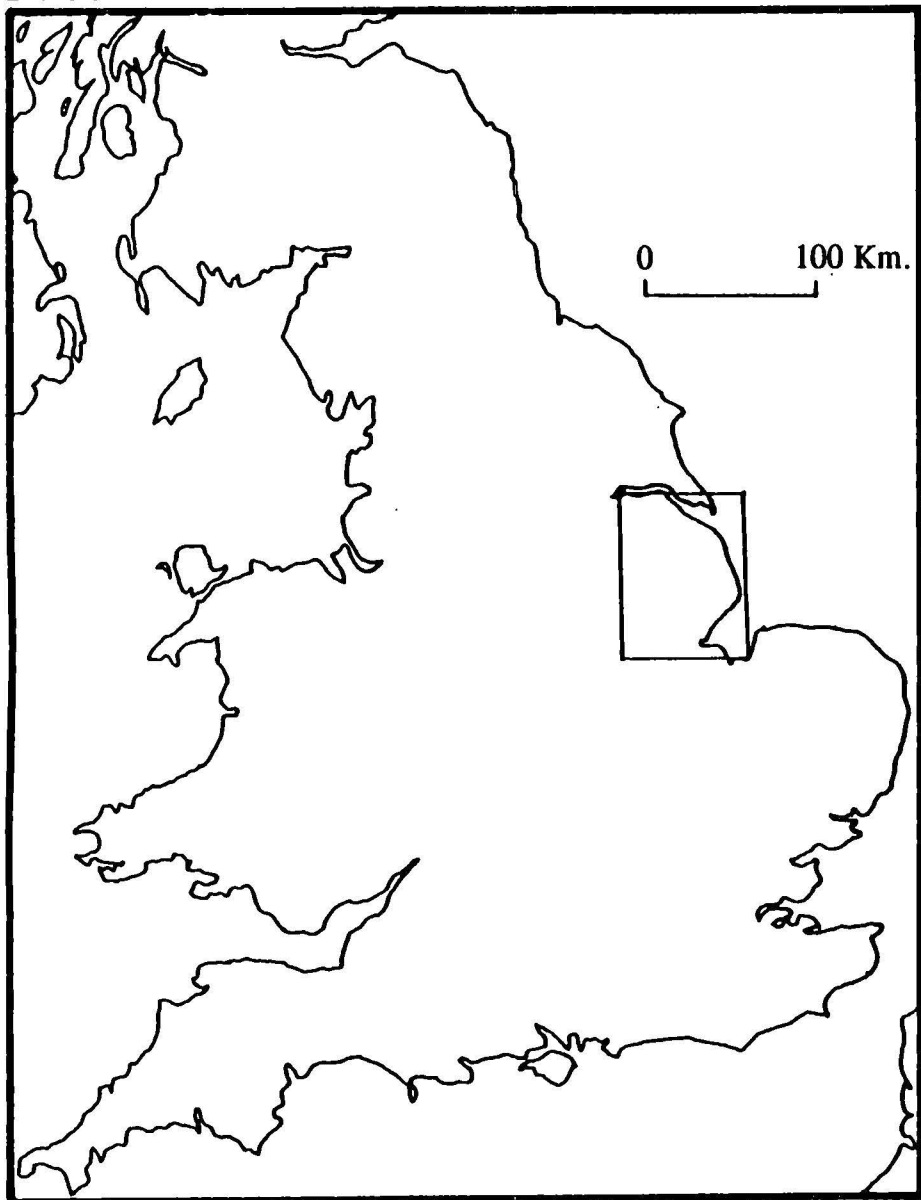
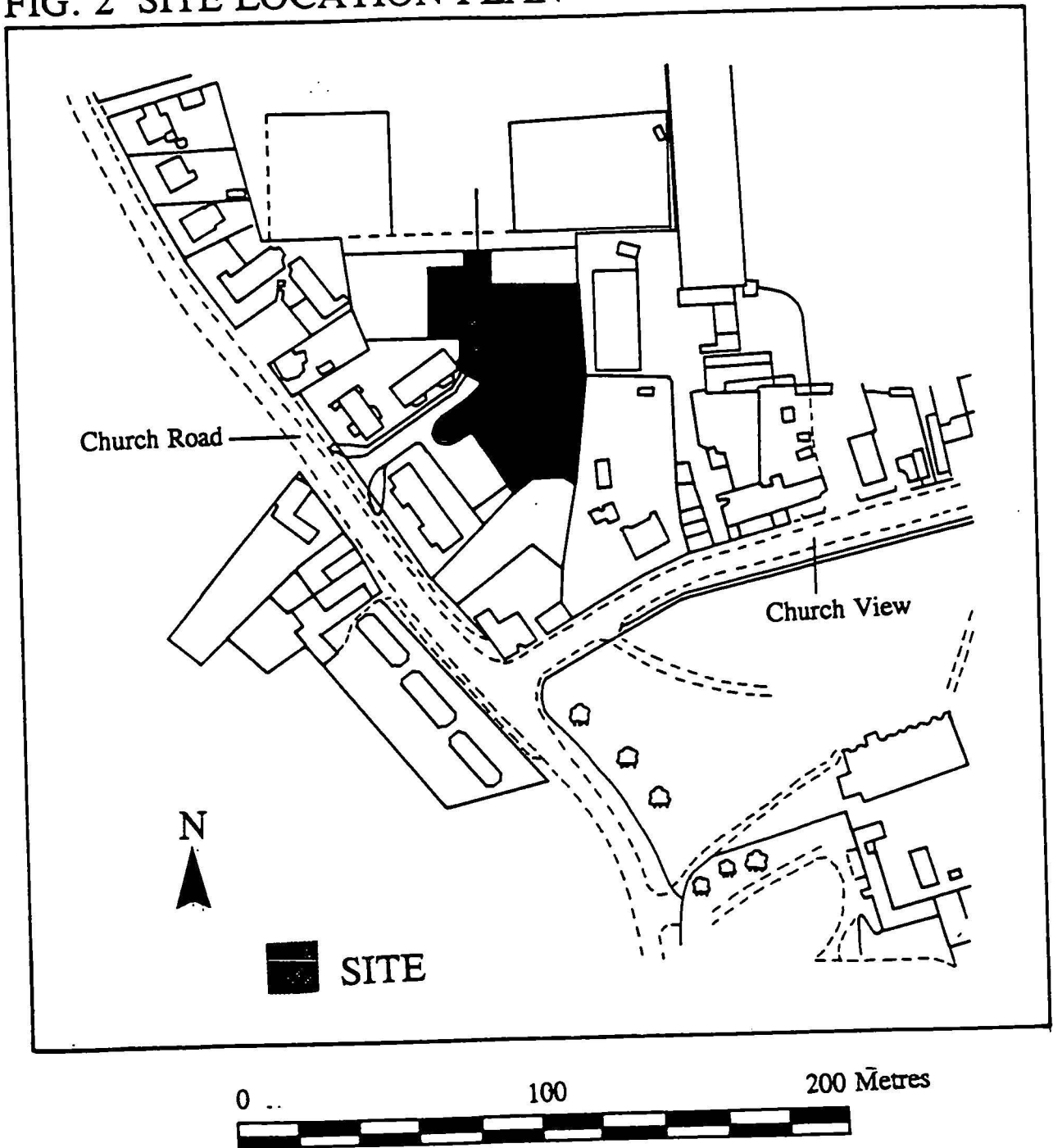


FIG. 2 SITE LOCATION PLAN



WATCHING BRIEF RESULTS

Unit 1

The earliest deposit exposed in Unit 1 was a natural layer of clayey silt [010]. This was overlain by a layer of grey clay [009] which was itself overlain by a layer of red-brown clay [008]. These contexts were identified in all four foundation trenches.

Cutting [010], to the north, were two features, [039] and [040], whose function is unclear. [008] was cut by a ditch [007], aligned east-west. A layer of subsoil [002] sealed ditch [007] and the two cut features [039] and [040]. [002] was present in all four sets of foundations. Cut into the subsoil [002] was a ditch [005] aligned E-W, a post-hole [014] and a pit [023]. Also cut into [002] and truncating the top of [039] and [040] was a large straight sided feature [015], the fills of which contained frequent flecks of charcoal, shell, and fragments of limestone, suggesting a domestic function. All the features were overlain by top-soil [001].

Unit 2

The earliest deposits exposed in Unit 2, also noted in Unit 1, [010], [009] and [008], were all covered by the subsoil [002]. Cut into [002] was a feature [026] of unknown function, which had been truncated by a later ditch [027], aligned north-south. Also cutting into [002] was a pit [029] and another ditch [031] also aligned north-south. Features [027], [029] and [031] were overlain by top-soil [001].

Unit 3

The same stratigraphic sequence as in units 1 and 2 was exposed in unit 3 - [010], [009], [008] and [002]. Cut into [002] was an in-filled pond [034] overlain by top-soil [001].

Unit 4

Unit 4 contained a sequence of natural deposits. No archaeological features were visible.

INTERPRETATION (See fig. 3)

The archaeological and natural contexts exposed in the foundation trenches can be divided into five phases of activity as follows:

Phase 1

Phase 1 represents the earliest deposits exposed which comprise natural clays - [008], [009], [010], [032] and [033], the last two being visible in unit 4 only.

Phase 2

Phase 2 represents the earliest archaeological activity observed in the foundation trenches. This activity is represented by ditch [007], the alignment of which cannot be ascertained because it was visible in one section only, and by contexts [039] and [040].

Phase 3

Phase 3 represents the accumulation of the subsoil [002].

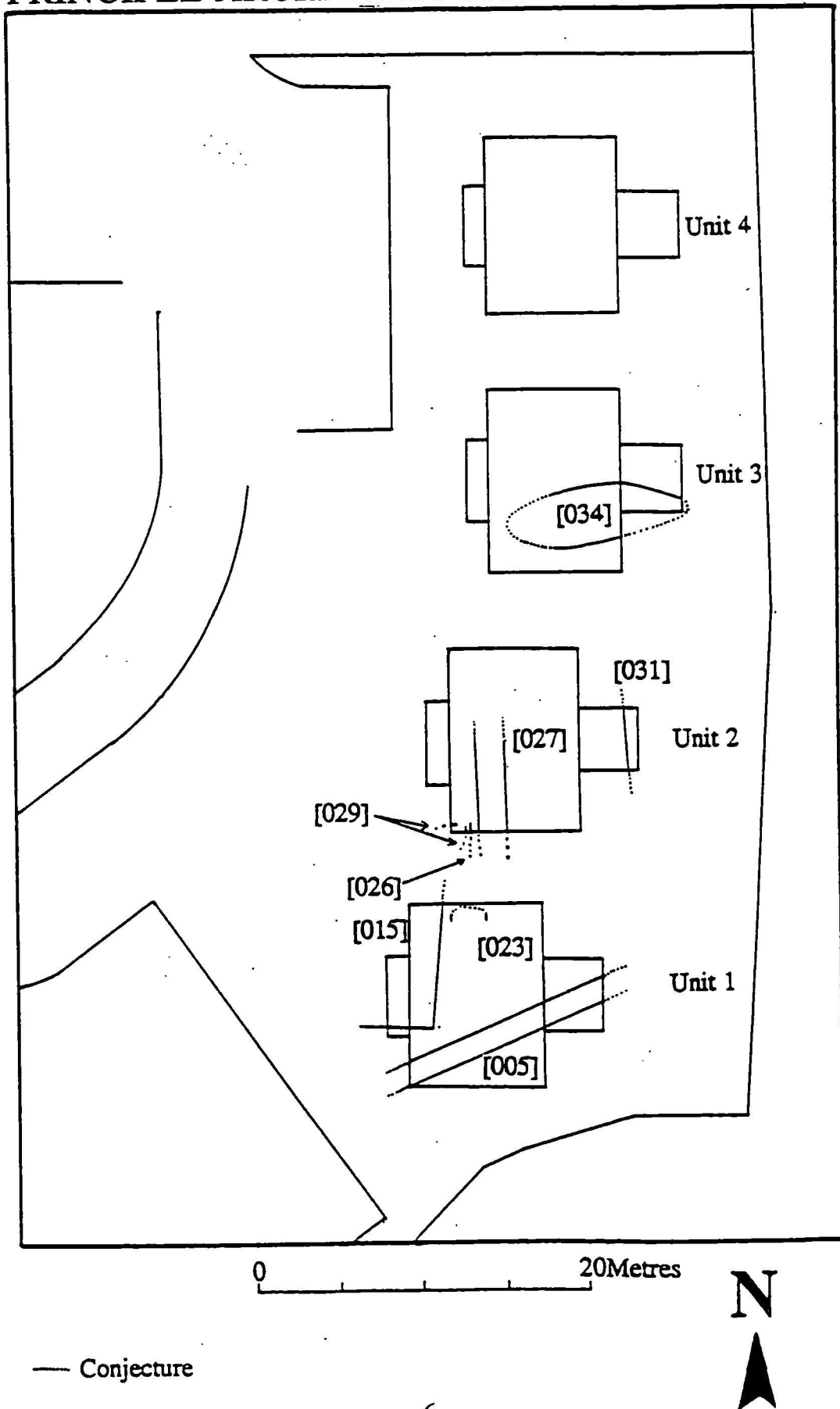
Phase 4

Phase 4 represents the archaeological activity which occurred after the subsoil [002] had been deposited and comprises the ditches [005], [031] and [027]; pits [023] and [029]; the pond [034]; the post-hole [014] and the two features [015] and [026], whose functions are unknown. All the artefactual dating evidence was retrieved from contexts belonging to this phase of activity and has been dated to the later medieval and post medieval period (14th-17th centuries) - see appendix 1.

Phase 5

Phase 5 represents the accumulation of top-soil [001] after the features in phase 4 went out of use.

FIG. 3
PRINCIPLE ARCHAEOLOGICAL FEATURES



CONCLUSION

The contexts exposed by the foundation trenches represent small-scale archaeological activity dating to the 14th-17th centuries and earlier. The ditches and pond suggest that this activity was agricultural in nature, probably associated with occupation in the village.

No dating evidence was present in the phase 2 contexts - [007], [039] and [040]. A sherd of late Saxon pottery was retrieved from the topsoil and it is tempting to speculate that the earlier features may relate to the 10th/11th century occupation in the village.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Heritage Lincolnshire wish to thank Longhurst Housing Association Ltd. for funding the watching brief and the site team who undertook the work.

APPENDIX 1

Pottery data.

<u>CONTEXT</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>	<u>DATE</u>
001	Bourne ware Late Saxon	16-17th Centuries 10-11th Centuries
016	Bourne ware	16th Century
017	Toynton type pottery	17th Century
018	Toynton type pottery	14th Century
030	Toynton type pottery Nottingham type pottery	14th Century 14th Century
036	Toynton type pottery (pancheon) Imported stoneware (handle)	16th Century 16th Century

APPENDIX 2 SUMMARY OF CONTEXTS

Number	Area	Description
001	1-4	Topsoil
002	1-4	Subsoil
003	1	Fill of ditch 012
004	1	Fill of ditch 012
005	1	Cut feature - Ditch
006	1	Fill of 007
007	1	Cut - Ditch/Pit
008	1	Layer of red/brown clay
009	1	Layer of grey clay
010	1	Natural deposit of silt
011	1	Fill of ditch 005
012	1	Fill of ditch 005
013	1	Fill of post-hole 014
014	1	Post hole
015	1	Cut, possibly pit
016	1	Fill of 015
017	1	Fill of 015
018	1	Fill of 015
019	1	Fill of 040
020	1	Fill of 023
021	1	Fill of 023
022	1	Fill of 023
023	1	Cut, probably a pit
024	2	Fill of 027
025	2	Fill of 026
026	2	Cut - unknown function
027	2	Cut - Ditch
028	2	Fill of 029
029	2	Cut - Pit
030	2	Fill of 031
031	2	Cut - Ditch
032	4	Natural Deposit
033	4	Natural Deposit
034	3	Cut - ? Pond
035	3	Fill of 034
036	3	Fill of 034
037	3	Fill of 034
038	1	Fill of 039
039	1	Cut - unknown function
040	1	Cut - Unknown function

APPENDIX 3

GLOSSARY

- 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 excavation or evaluation is allocated a unique context 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 square brackets e.g. [001].
- Cut** A cut refers the physical action of digging a post-hole, pit, ditch etc. Once the fills of these features are removed during an excavation the original 'cut' is therefore exposed and subsequently recorded
- Fill** Once a feature has been dug, it immediately begins to silt-up (either slowly or rapidly) or it can be back-filled manually. The soil(s) which become contained by the 'cut' are referred to as its fill(s).
- Layer** A layer is a term used to describe an accumulation of soil which is not contained within a cut.
- Natural** Deposit(s) of soil which have accumulated without the influence of human activity.