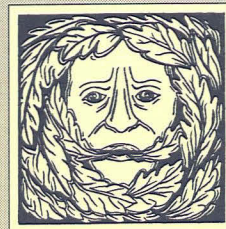


96/4

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**ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF AT
NORTHFIELD ROAD, QUARRINGTON,
LINCOLNSHIRE
(QNR 96)**



A P S
ARCHAEOLOGICAL
PROJECT
SERVICES



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K. J. ...
Section
Council

ELI 8418

SLI 5261 1677

PRN 60595

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF AT
NORTHFIELD ROAD, QUARRINGTON,
LINCOLNSHIRE
(QNR 96)**

Work Undertaken For
Mr and Mrs P. Bryan

Report Compiled
by
Neil Herbert

April 1996

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1. SUMMARY

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken during the construction of a single dwelling and garage adjacent to Northfield Road, Quarrington. The watching brief monitored the excavation of the foundations.

There have been several finds of prehistoric and Roman material in the immediate vicinity and remains from these periods are common in the surrounding landscape. Near to the village there is evidence for a villa dated to the Romano-British period (c. A.D. 50-400).

Archaeological remains from the Saxon period (c. A.D. 400-1066) have been recovered from the village and surrounding area. A major Saxon settlement was recently excavated at New Quarrington and large cemeteries from this period have been recorded near to the development.

The church of St. Botolph, dated to the 13th century, provides the only tangible evidence of occupation during the Medieval period (c. A.D. 1066-1500).

Excavation of the foundation trenches revealed a sequence of natural clay, cornbrash and sandy silts overlain by subsoil and modern topsoil deposits. Finds recovered during the watching brief included a fragment of 19th century ceramic tile and a prehistoric flint tool.

2. INTRODUCTION

2.1 Background

On the 13th and 14th March 1996, an archaeological watching brief was undertaken during the construction of a single dwelling and garage at Northfield Road, Quarrington, National Grid

Reference TF 05260 44640. Approval for the development was sought through the submission of planning application N57/0847/95. Permission was granted subject to a standard negative condition for archaeological recording. The archaeological work was commissioned by Mr and Mrs P Bryan, and was carried out by Archaeological Project Services in accordance with a brief set by the North Kesteven Heritage Officer (Appendix 1).

2.2 Topography and Geology

Quarrington is located 17km northeast of Grantham and 2km southwest of Sleaford, North Kesteven District, Lincolnshire (Fig.1). Situated in the civil parish of Sleaford, the area of investigation lies immediately north and west of the present day village (Fig.2).

The site lies on the gentle southeast slope of a small hill, bounded by the Slea valley to the north. Ground surface is at c. 26m O.D. Centred on National Grid Reference TF 05260 44640, the development site covers a total area of c. 40m x 40m (Fig.3).

Local soils are the Aswarby Association fine loamy gleyic calcareous earths, developed over cornbrash and great oolite limestones (Hodge *et al.*, 1984, 99).

2.3 Archaeological Setting

Quarrington is located within an area of archaeological activity dating from prehistory to the medieval period. The majority of the archaeological evidence lies within the boundary of Sleaford, and has been recovered during the continued expansion of the town.

Prehistoric activity is represented by occasional finds from surface deposits. A flint axehead was discovered 200m to the east of the site (NK57.22) and a pebble

hammer with a hour-glass perforation was found 400m to the south (NK57.46). To the northeast, in the southern suburbs of Sleaford, an unlooped palstave axe, 2 stone neolithic axes and a flint hammer were found, although the precise location is not known (NK57.4). Recent excavations at New Quarrington (NK57.60) recovered a neolithic pot and a fragment of a polished stone axe of similar date.

Romano-British occupation of the area is recorded *c.* 1.5km to the northwest. A possible villa site with associated field systems has been identified from cropmarks and is now a scheduled monument (NK57.28, NK57.29). Roman activity has also been found in Sleaford at the point where the Roman road, Mareham Lane, crosses the River Sleas. Known as 'Old Place', excavations here have revealed a Roman settlement overlying an earlier Iron Age site.

Occasional finds constitute the remaining evidence for Roman occupation. A coin of Constantine II (*c.* 164AD) was found 1km to the east (NK57.30) and a coin of Hadrian was located a further 200m to the north (NK57.2). Roman coins, pottery and ceramic tile have been recovered *c.* 400m to the east of the present development at New Quarrington. Situated 1.2km to the northwest at Boilingwells Farm, near the site of the supposed Roman villa, Roman pottery and a coin of Constantine have been found (NK59.12, NK59.21).

Archaeological remains from the Saxon period have been excavated at New Quarrington (NK57.60), *c.* 400m east of the development. Property boundaries and the remains of various dwellings, dating from the early to middle Saxon period, were recorded. Contemporary ritual activity is represented by two cemetery sites. The nearest is situated 1.8km to the northeast (NK57.14) and produced around 250

inhumations and 6 cremations. A second cemetery (NK57.19), *c.* 1.5km to the west, may have had its origins in the Roman period but was certainly still in use during the Anglo-Saxon period.

Quarrington is mentioned in the Domesday Survey of 1086. Referred to as both *Corninctune* and *Corninctone*, the village was said to have two churches and a mill. The presence of a mill is suggested by the place-name Quarrington, a derivation of the Old English word *cweorn* meaning 'mill' and *tun* meaning homestead and probably means the millers' homestead (Ekwall 1974).

Medieval archaeology is scarce, and is represented by the standing monument of St. Botolph church, dating to the 13th century.

3. AIMS

The aims of the watching brief were to locate and record archaeological deposits, if present, and to determine their date, function and origin.

4. METHODS

Trenches were opened to a depth of *c.* 0.9m using a mechanical excavator (Fig.4). The sides of the trenches were then cleaned and examined to identify any archaeological features. Each archaeological deposit or feature revealed within the trench was allocated a unique reference number with an individual written description (Appendix 2). Natural geological deposits were also recorded where exposed. A photographic record was compiled, and sketch sections and plans were noted where appropriate.

5. RESULTS

Records of the deposits and features

identified during the watching brief were examined. Phasing was assigned based on the nature of the deposits and recognisable relationships between them. Two phases were identified:

- Phase 1 Natural deposits
- Phase 2 Modern deposits

Phase 1 Natural deposits

Exposed in section at the northernmost point of the development was a layer of greenish-grey clay (009). This context was not excavated to its lowest extent, but formed a deposit that was at least 0.8m thick to the limit of excavation (Fig. 5).

Overlying 009 was a brownish-yellow silt with moderate limestone fragments (008), forming a thin layer *c.* 0.18m thick. Sealing 009 to the west was a light brownish-yellow silt with moderate limestone fragments (003). This layer (003) was exposed across the entire area of the development to a depth of *c.* 0.8m. Light mid brownish-yellow silts (007) overlay 008 to a thickness of *c.* 0.8m (Fig. 5).

Cutting 007 in the northernmost section was small irregular cut *c.* 0.9m wide and *c.* 0.5m deep that has been interpreted as a natural feature (010). A mixed deposit of yellow-brown and dark brown sandy silt (006) formed the primary fill at the base of 010 (Plate 2). Mid yellowish-brown silt containing occasional limestone fragments (005) overlay 006 to a thickness of *c.* 0.3m. Above 005 and forming the uppermost deposit within 010 was a blackish-brown sandy silt containing moderate limestone fragments (004).

Observed across the extent of the development (sealing this sequence) was a light yellowish-brown sandy silt (002). This formed a subsoil with a uniform thickness of *c.* 0.2m (Fig. 5).

Phase 2 Modern Deposits

A layer of dark brown sandy silt (001) formed the latest deposit within the area of development. This contained a single fragment of ceramic tile of probable 19th century date, and a Bronze Age flint scraper (Fig. 6).

6. DISCUSSION

Natural deposits (phase 1) of clay (009) superceded by a limestone brash (003) were identified across the area. These materials are of the Middle Jurassic geological era (Wilson 1958).

Within the northernmost foundation trench a natural anomaly was recorded, suggesting a different depositional environment to the rest of the site. The alternate silts and limestone brash had been cut by a possible glacial feature (010). This had been filled by darker brown silts (006, 005) and sealed by a layer of limestone brash (004).

Subsoil (002) had sealed this earlier sequence across the whole extent of the site. This deposit was of identical composition to material observed on archaeological excavations 400m to the east (NK57.60). This great extent covered by the deposit indicates that it was naturally formed.

Covering the area and forming the present land surface (phase 2) was a layer of topsoil (001) that contained a fragment of modern ceramic tile and a prehistoric flint artefact.

7. CONCLUSIONS

Archaeological investigations at Northfield Road, Quarrington have revealed a sequence of natural and modern deposits.

The series of contexts examined and

recorded within the foundation trenches revealed a sequence of natural geological layers that had been cut by a localised feature (phase 1). This feature has been interpreted as natural, perhaps caused by glacial action.

A uniform natural subsoil overlay the earlier sequence, forming a deposit of identical composition to that observed on a nearby archaeological excavation (NK57.60).

The present land surface consists of a dark brown topsoil (phase 2), from which a single tile fragment (dated to the 19th century) and a Bronze Age flint tool have been recovered.

Information recovered during the watching brief assessment has provided useful evidence as to the location and extent of archaeological remains within Quarrington.

8. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeological Project Services wish to thank Mr and Mrs P. Bryan who commissioned the fieldwork and post-excavation analysis. Gary Taylor coordinated the work and examined the finds and David Start edited this report. Background information was provided by Kate Orr the North Kesteven Heritage Officer who kindly allowed access to the parish files maintained by Heritage Lincolnshire.

9. PERSONNEL

Project Coordinator: Gary Taylor
Site Supervisors: Fiona Walker, Neil Herbert
Illustration: Denise Buckley
Post-Excavation analyst: Neil Herbert

10. BIBLIOGRAPHY

Ekwall, E., 1974 *The Concise Oxford Dictionary of English Place-Names*

Hodge, C.A.H., Burton, R.G.O., Corbett, W.M., Evans, R. and Seale, R.S., 1984 *Soils and their Use in Eastern England*, Soil Survey of England and Wales Bulletin No. 13 (Harpenden)

Wilson, V., 1958 *British Regional Geology, East Yorkshire and Lincolnshire* (HMSO)

11. ABBREVIATIONS

Numbers prefixed 'N' are the reference codes used by the North Kesteven Heritage Officer for identifying archaeological sites and finds.

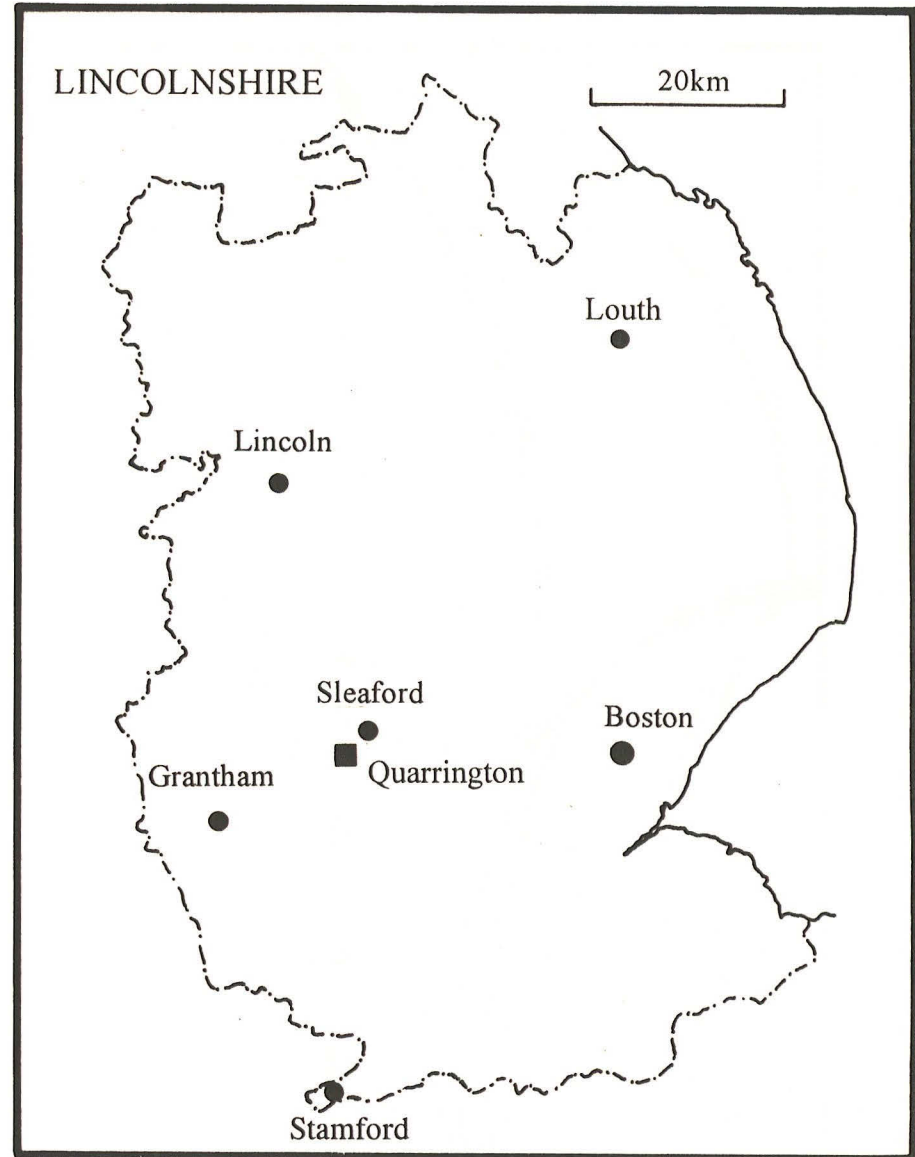
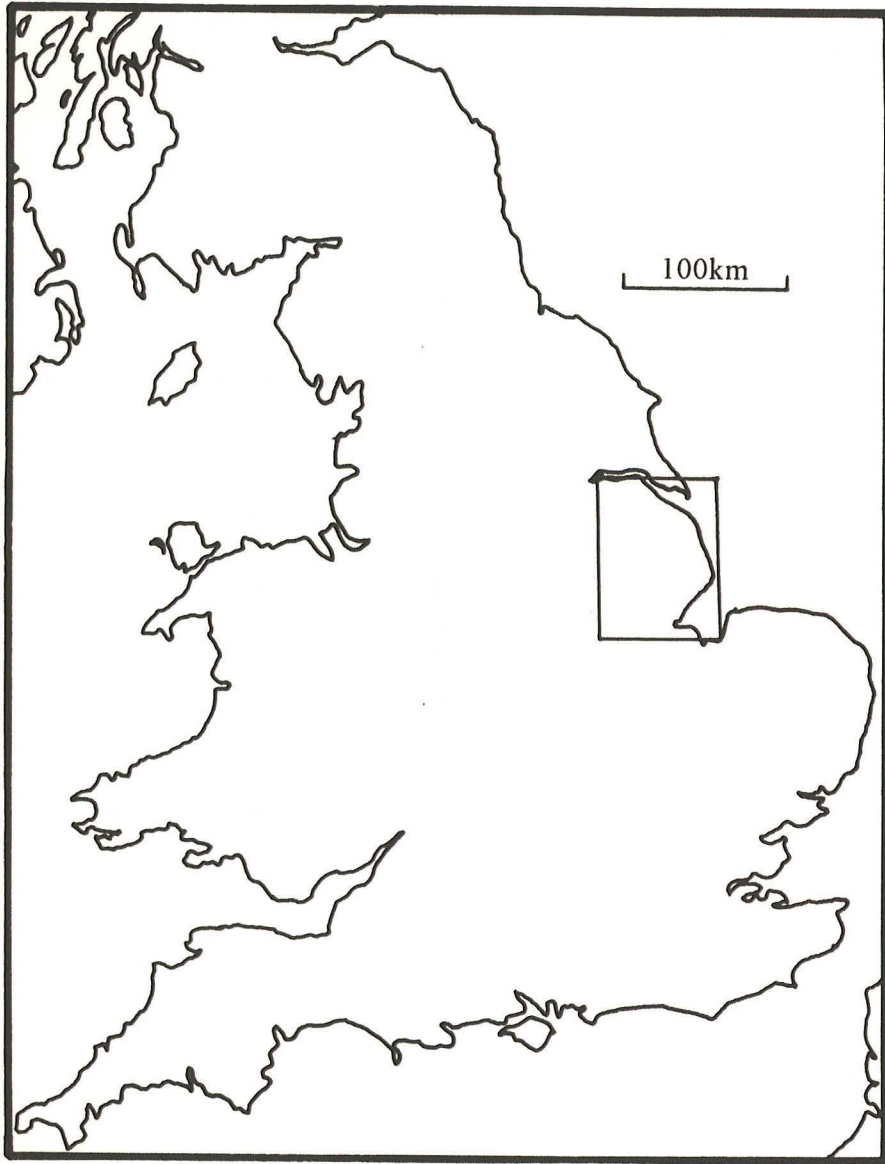
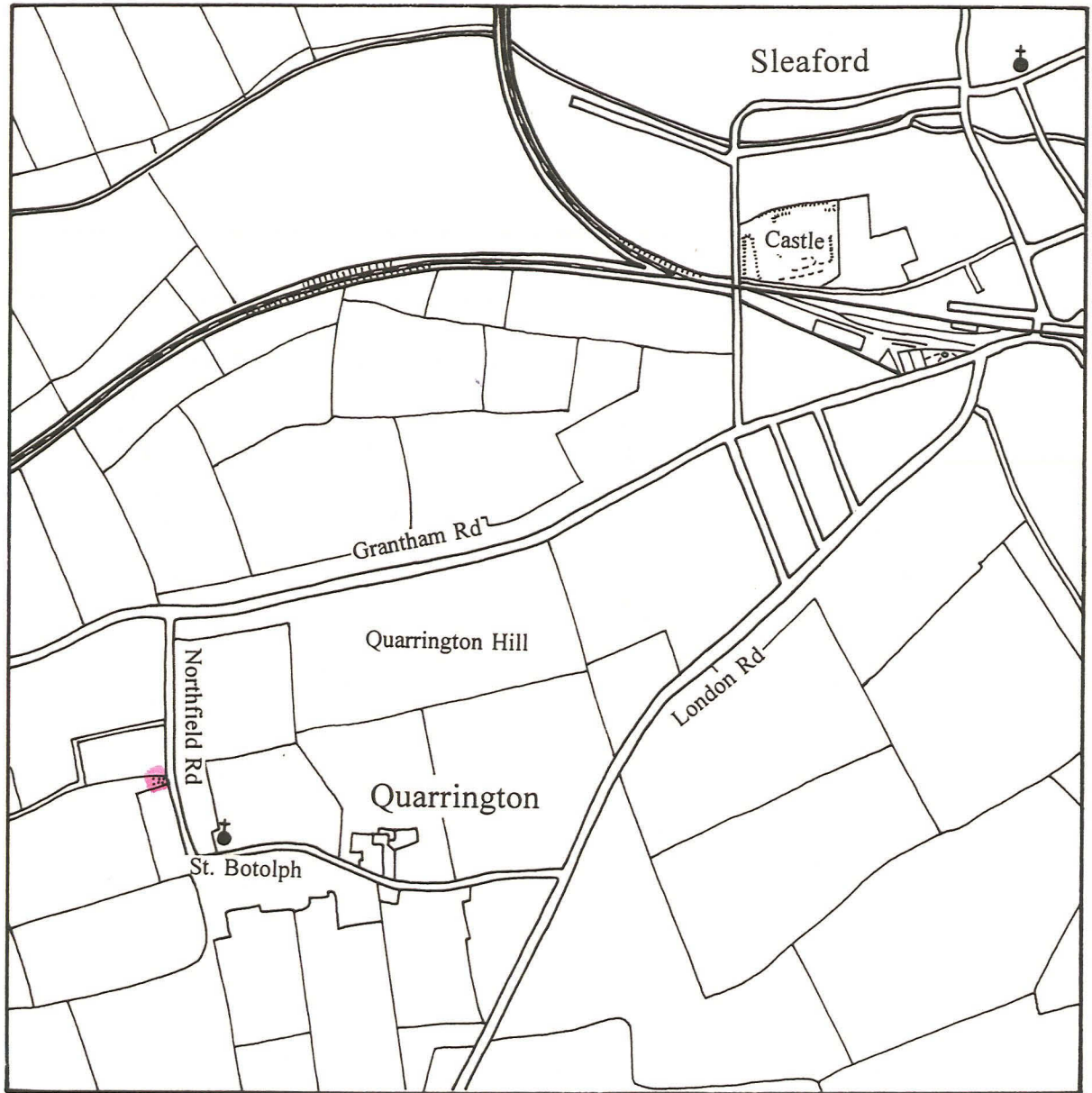


Fig. 1 General Location Plan

Figure 2: Site Location Plan



Area of Development

Figure 3: Area of Development

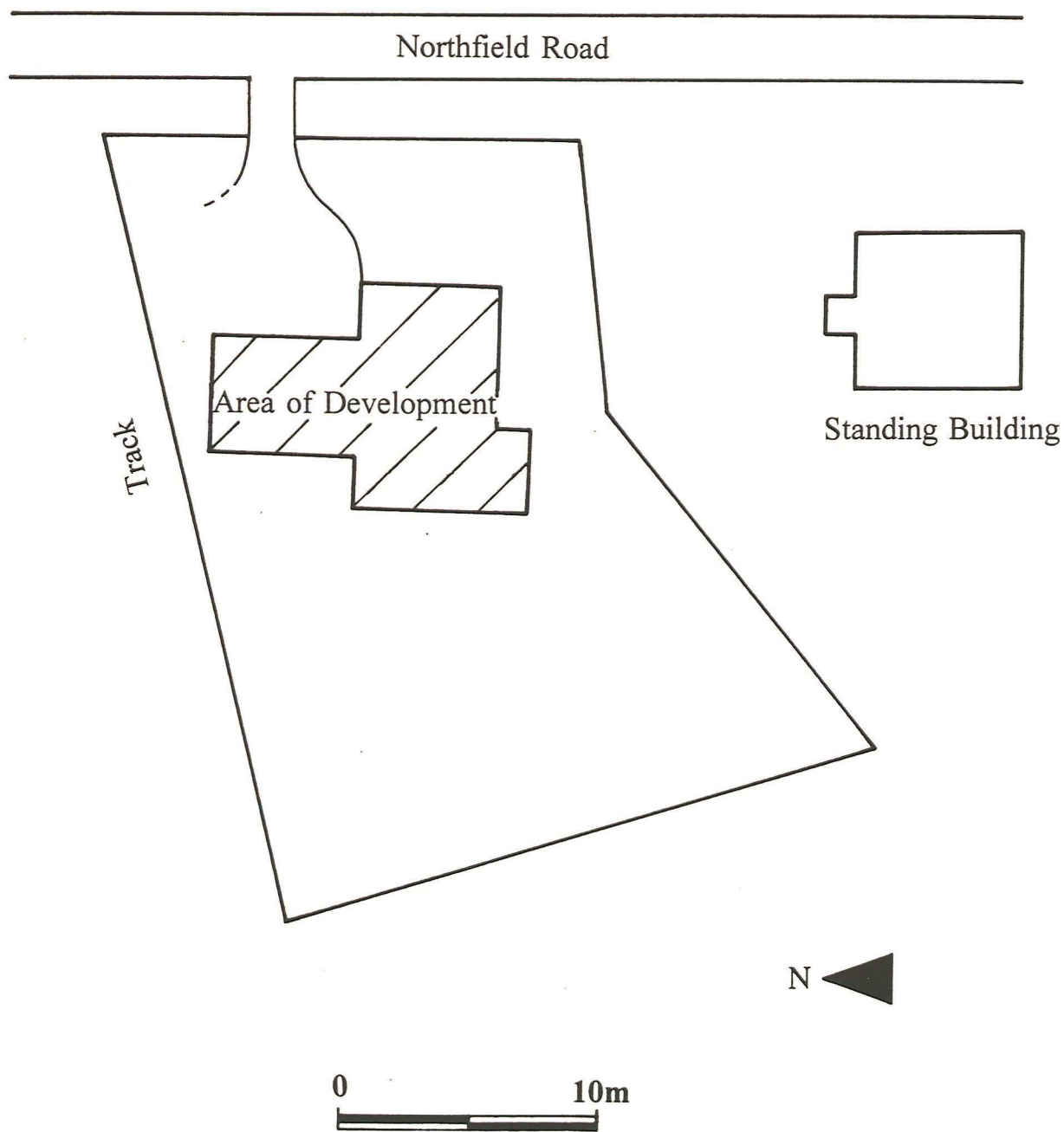


Figure 4: Area of Development, showing locations of sections

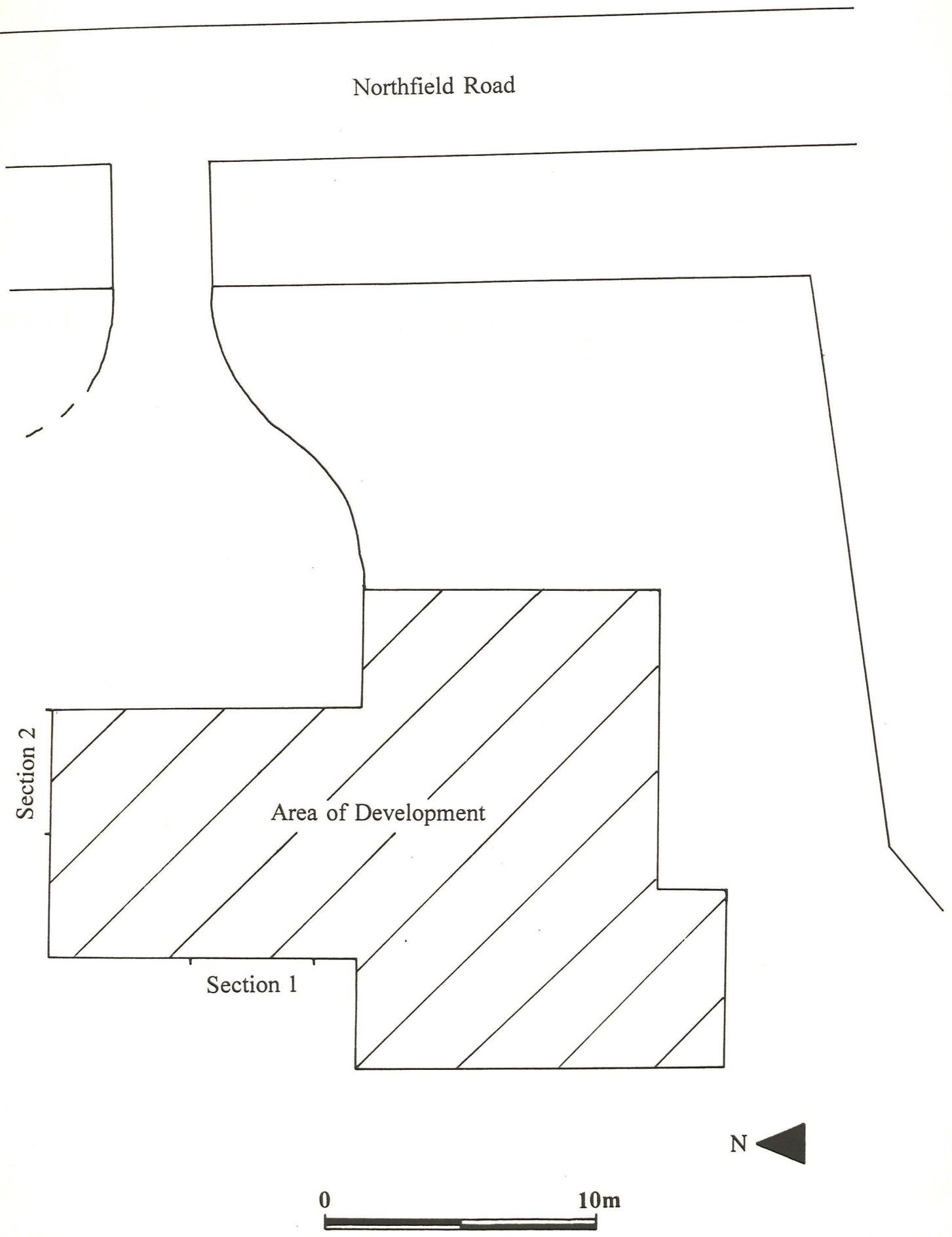
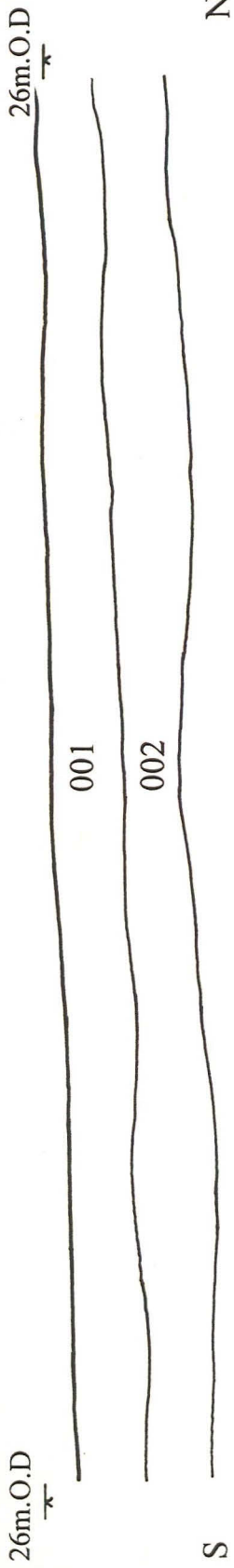


Figure 5: Sections 1 - 2

SECTION 1



SECTION 2

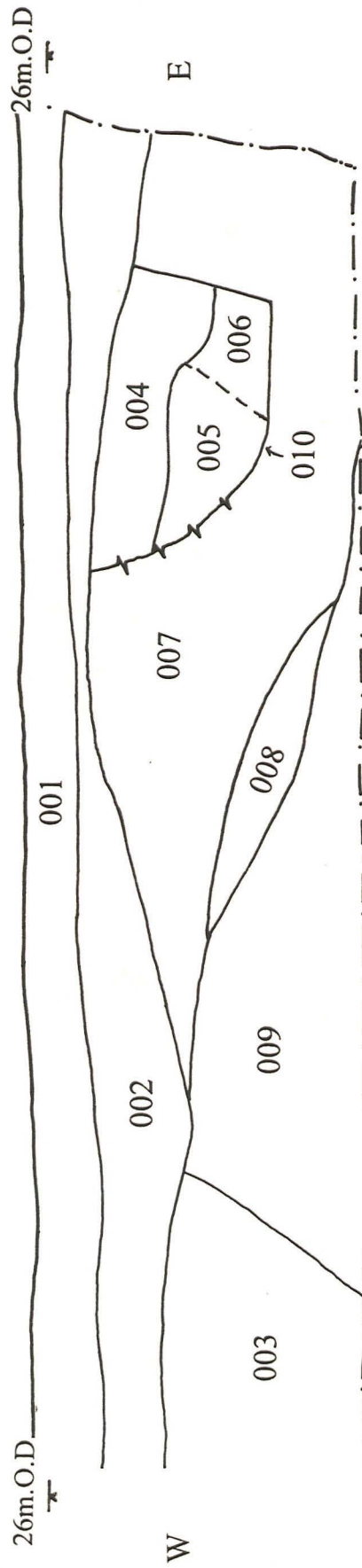
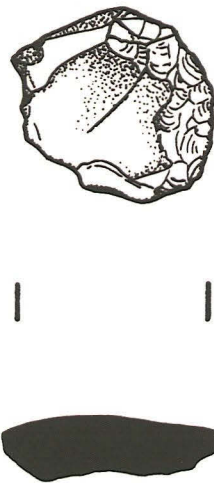


Figure 6: Flint Artefact

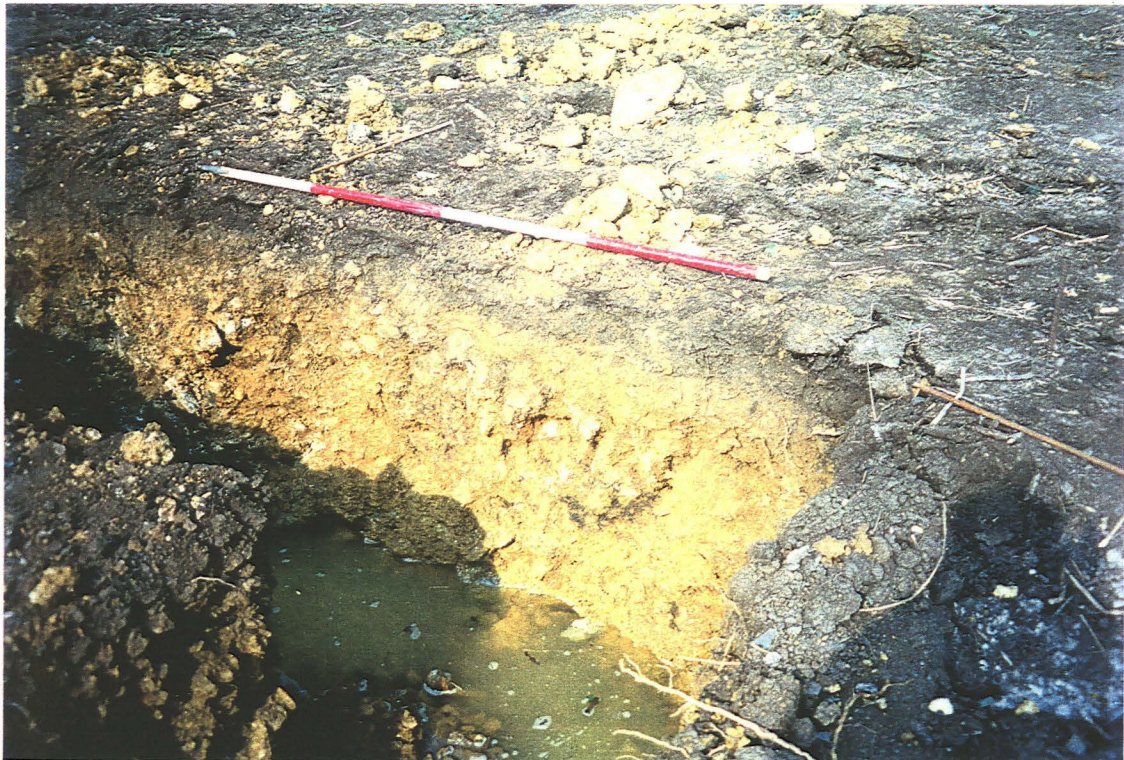


Bronze Age Flint Scraper ; Scale 1:1; Context 001

Plate 1 General View of Site, Looking West



Plate 2 Northern Section, Showing Natural Feature 010



APPENDIX 1

**Brief for Archaeological Observation and Recording at
Northfield Road, Quarrington, Sleaford, Lincolnshire**

set by the
North Kesteven Heritage Officer

BRIEF FOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL OBSERVATION AND RECORDING AT NORTHFIELD ROAD, QUARRINGTON, SLEAFORD, LINCOLNSHIRE

Grid Reference: TF 505260 344640

Planning Application Number: N 57/0847/95

Applicant: Mr and Mrs P Bryan	Agent: Stewart Graphics and Design
Charnwood	8 Mareham Lane
Church Lane	Sleaford
Kirkby La Thorpe	
Sleaford	

1. Summary

1.1 This brief should be used by archaeological contractors as the basis for the preparation of a detailed archaeological project specification. In response to this brief contractors will include the anticipated working methods, timescales and staffing levels.

1.2 The detailed specification will be submitted for approval by the North Kesteven Heritage Officer. The client will be free to choose between those specifications which are considered to adequately satisfy the brief.

2. Site Location and Description

2.1 Plot OS 2603. Quarrington is a village on the outskirts of the town of Sleaford, Lincolnshire. The site of the proposed development is situated in the north end of the village and is centred at NGR TF 505260 344640.

3. Planning Background

3.1 Full planning permission has been given to erect a chalet bungalow and drive. Outline planning permission was given earlier this year (N/ 57/0046/95).

4. Archaeological Background

4.1 Recent excavations at Town Road have uncovered Neolithic remains including a pot. An early - mid Anglo Saxon settlement site and large late Medieval stone building have also been uncovered. An axehead has been found very close to the site.

5. Requirements for Work

5.1 The objective of the watching brief should be to ensure that any archaeological features exposed by the groundworks are recorded and interpreted.

5.2 Any adjustments to the brief for the watching brief project should only be made after consultation with the Heritage Officer for North Kesteven District Council.

5.3 The following details should be given in the contractor's specification:

5.3.1 A projected timetable must be agreed for the various stages of work.

5.3.2 The staff structure and numbers must be detailed. This should include lists of specialists and their role in the project.

5.3.3 It is expected that all on-site work will be carried out in a way that complies with the relevant Health and Safety legislation and that due consideration will be given to site security.

5.3.4 The recovery and recording strategies to be used must be described in full.

5.3.5 An estimate of time and resources allocated for the post-excavation work and report production.

5.3.6 A list of names of specialists to be used.

6. Methods

6.1 The project should be carried out by a recognised archaeological body in accordance with the code of conduct of the The Institute of Field Archaeologists.

6.2 The watching brief should involve:

6.2.1 archaeological supervision of soil stripping;

6.2.2 inspection of subsoil for archaeological features;

6.2.3 recording of archaeological features in plan;

6.2.4 rapid excavation of features if necessary;

6.2.5 archaeological supervision of subsoil stripping

6.2.6 inspection of natural for archaeological features and recording them.

6.2.7 any human remains encountered must be left in situ and only removed if absolutely necessary. The contractor must comply with all statutory consents and licences regarding the exhumation and interment of human remains. It will also be necessary to comply with all reasonable requests of interested parties as to the remains or associated items. Attempt must be made at all times not to cause offence to any interested parties.

7. Monitoring Arrangements

7.1 The Heritage Officer for North Kesteven District Council will be responsible for

monitoring progress and standards throughout the project and will require at least seven days notice prior to the commencement of the work.

8. Reporting Requirements

8.1 A full report should be produced and deposited with the North Kesteven District Council Heritage Officer,, and the County sites and Monuments Record. The report should include:

8.1.1 location plan of the trenches;

8.1.2 section and plan drawing, with ground level, Ordnance Datum, vertical and horizontal scales as appropriate;

8.1.3 specialist descriptions of artefacts and ecofacts;

8.1.4 an indication of potential archaeological deposits not disturbed by the present development;

8.2 After agreement with the landowner, arrangements are to be made for long term storage of all artefacts and paper archive in an appropriate museum.

8.3 If the receiving museum is to be the City and County Museum, Lincoln then the archive should be produced in the form outlined in the museum's document 'Conditions for the Acceptance of Project Archives', see address below.

9. Publication and Dissemination

9.1 The deposition of a copy of the report with the Lincolnshire Sites and Monuments Record will be deemed to put all information into the public domain, unless a special request is made for confidentiality. If material is to be held in confidence a timescale must be agreed with the North Kesteven Heritage Officer but is expected this will not exceed six months. Consideration must be given to a summary of the results being published in Lincolnshire History and Archaeology in due course.

10. Additional Information

10.1 This document attempts to define the best practice expected of an archaeological watching brief but cannot fully anticipate the conditions that will be encountered as work progresses. However, changes to the programme are only to be made with the prior written approval of the Heritage Officer.

10.2 Further contact addresses

Kate Orr
North Kesteven Heritage Officer
The Old School
Cameron Street
Heckington
Lincolnshire
NG34 9RW

Mr S. Catney
Archaeological Officer
Lincolnshire County Council
12 Friars Lane
Lincoln
LN2 5AL

Mr T. Page
City and County Museum
12 Friars Lane
Lincoln
LN2 5AL

Brief set by Heritage Officer, North Kesteven 8/12/1995

APPENDIX 2

Context Summary

Context	Description	Interpretation
001	Dark brown sandy silt	Topsoil
002	Mid yellow-brown sandy silt	Subsoil
003	Light brownish-yellow cornbrash	Natural deposit
004	Dark brown sandy silt with moderate limestone fragments	Fill of 010
005	Mid yellowish-brown silt	Fill of 010
006	Mid yellowish-brown silt with moderate limestone fragments	Fill of 010
007	Mid brownish-yellow silt	Natural deposit
008	Mid brownish-yellow silt	Natural deposit
009	Mid greenish-grey clay	Natural deposit
010	Cut for geological anomaly, c. 0.9m wide and 0.5m deep.	Natural cut feature

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 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 generally 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.
- Dumped deposits** These are deposits, often laid down intentionally, that raise a land surface. They may be the result of casual waste disposal or may be deliberate attempts to raise the ground surface.
- 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) 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 or other material that is not contained within a cut.
- Natural** Undisturbed deposit(s) of soil or rock which have accumulated without the influence of human activity.

APPENDIX 4

The Archive

The archive consists of:

- 10 . . Context Records
- 10 . . Photographs
- 2 . . . Scale Drawings
- 1 . . . Stratigraphic Matrix
- 1 . . . Bag of finds

All primary records are currently kept at:

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

City and County Museum Accession number	40.96
Archaeological Project Services project code	QNR96