ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION OF LAND ADJACENT TO 17 HIGH STREET, KIRTON, LINCOLNSHIRE (KHS96)



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Work Undertaken For R.J. Lowe on behalf of Kirton Youth Challenge

Report compiled by Paul Cope-Faulkner

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CONTENTS

List of Figures

1.	Summary 1
2.	Introduction12.1Planning Background12.2Topography and Geology22.3Archaeological Setting2
3.	Aims
4.	Methods
5.	Results 35.1Auger Survey Results5.2Evaluation Results3
6.	Discussion
7.	Assessment of Significance
8.	Effectiveness of Techniques 10
9.	Conclusions
10.	Acknowledgements
11.	Personnel 1
12.	Bibliography
13.	Abbreviations

Appendices

- 1 Archaeological Field Evaluation Project Brief
- 2 Context Summary
- 3 Context Group Summary
- 4 The Finds *Hilary Healey*
- 5 Environmental Archaeology Assessment James Rackham
- 6 The Animal Bone Paul Cope-Faulkner
- 7 Extract form Criteria for the scheduling of ancient monuments
- 8 The Archive
- 9 Glossary

List of Figures

- Figure 1 General Location Plan
- Figure 2 Site Location Plan
- Figure 3 Development Area showing position of Auger holes
- Figure 4 Results of Auger Survey
- Figure 5 Development Area showing Trench locations
- Figure 6 Plan, Trench A
- Figure 7 Plan, Trench B
- Figure 8 Sections 17 (Trench A),10 and 11 (Trench B)
- Figure 9 Sections, Trench A
- Figure 10 Sections, Trench B
- Plate 1 Cleaning of Trench A
- Plate 2 Mortar mixing pit, Group 2030
- Plate 3 Clay lined storage pit, Group 2064

1. SUMMARY

An evaluation was undertaken on land at 17 High Street, Kirton, Lincolnshire. This was in response to a proposal, by Kirton Youth Challenge, to construct a youth centre on the site. Several archaeological sites and findspots are located in the vicinity of the proposed development. Prehistoric activity in the parish is represented by a find of a polished stone axe and a possible burial mound. Romano-British settlement has been identified c. 1km northwest of the site.

Remains of medieval date (between AD 1066 and 1500) are more evident. Kirton, mentioned in the Domesday survey of 1086 AD, was an important medieval town. Just west of the proposed development site is the 12th century parish church. Three large halls or manor houses were all located outside the town. Close to the development site is the early 16th century Old King's Head Inn. Tokens of similar date have been found in the centre of the town.

It was anticipated that, by virtue of these sites and findspots, the area could fall within a zone of medieval settlement. The development could affect related deposits and, in consequence, two trenches were excavated to test for the presence and survival of archaeological remains.

Natural silts, perhaps deposited in a creek or a pond, were the lowest levels encountered. Upon these natural deposits, Late Saxon and medieval activity occurred. A large pit filled with animal manure and charred crop processing residues suggest that the investigation area was in or close to a farmyard. It is possible that a natural creek or pond was still open at the western part of the site during the Late Saxon and early medieval period, but was being gradually filled by a mixture of dumped debris and natural silting. Later medieval and post-medieval activity, consisting of pits and a hearth, developed over the earlier remains. One of the pits contained refuse from horn working. Silt deposits indicated that, during this period, the area was subject to flooding which may have restricted the use of the area, as suggested by the marked decrease in activity at this time.

Renewed activity occurred in the 19th century when a number of dwellings were constructed along the High Street frontage. The garden walls and external yards were located during this evaluation. To the rear of these properties were a number of refuse pits, a storage pit and a number of postholes representing former land boundaries.

Finds retrieved from this investigation included an assemblage of pottery dating from the Late Saxon period, including some hitherto unknown types, to the early 20th century. Other finds include a lava quern, imported from the continent during the Late Saxon period.

2. INTRODUCTION

2.1 Planning Background

Archaeological Project Services was commissioned by Robert Lowe (Architect) on behalf of Kirton Youth Challenge, to undertake an archaeological evaluation of 17 High Street, Kirton, Boston District, Lincolnshire in order to determine the archaeological implications of proposed development at the site, in advance of application for planning permission. The archaeological evaluation was carried out in accordance with a brief set by the Community Archaeologist for Boston Borough Council (Appendix 1).

2.2 Topography and Geology

Kirton is situated 6km southwest of Boston and approximately 16km north of Spalding, in Boston District, Lincolnshire (Fig. 1).

The proposed development site at 17 High Street is located at a height of c. 4m OD, and lies 50m northeast of the parish church of SS Peter and Paul. Centred on National Grid Reference TF 3054 3859, the proposed development site covers approximately 0.4 hectares (Fig. 2).

Local soils are the Tanvats Association typical alluvial gley soils (Hodge *et al.* 1984, 319) developed in marine alluvium. Beneath this marine alluvium is glacial drift that was deposited in a geological basin between the Lincolnshire Wolds and the East Anglian Heights (Harden 1978, 5). These glacial deposits in turn overlie a solid geology of Jurassic clays, probably the West Walton formation (B.G.S. 1995).

2.3 Archaeological Setting

A neolithic stone axe, possibly an import into the fens and a tumulus, though this may be a medieval salt-mound, provide the only evidence for a prehistoric presence in the parish. Similarly, evidence for Roman activity is scarce, but is represented by Romano-British finds from along Willoughton Road c. 1km to the northwest. This spread of artefacts may represent the location of a settlement site.

Significantly greater evidence is available for use of the area in the medieval period. Kirton is referred to in the Domesday Book of 1086 AD and was an important medieval town, though it has since declined in favour of Boston. The investigation site lies just northeast of the 12th century parish church of SS Peter and Paul which dominates the town centre. Located outside of the town were three sizeable houses of medieval date, Bozon Hall, Littlebury Hall and Orme Hall, all now demolished. Medieval and later pottery has been recovered at the northwestern edge of the town.

French and German tokens of 15th and 16th century date have been found in the centre of the town. Close to the proposed development site is the Old King's Head Inn of early 16th century date (A.P.S. 1994a).

Early photographs of the proposed development site show a large building fronting the High Street and a row of small cottages adjoining this to the rear (Beecham *et al.* 1990). An undated aerial photograph in the files of the Boston Community Archaeologist shows the proposed development area as largely open ground with what appears to be dumps of soil and other debris to the rear of the property.

An archaeological evaluation was carried out along Station Road in 1994 and uncovered medieval activity fronting the road. Dating to the 13th and 14th century, this occupation was interrupted by an episode of flooding. A second phase of archaeological remains comprised a number of ditches and pits followed by Victorian ground raising deposits (A.P.S. 1994b).

3. AIMS

The aims of the evaluation, as detailed in the brief (Appendix 1), were to establish the presence or absence of archaeological deposits and determine, if present, their extent, state of preservation, date, type, vulnerability, documentation, quality of setting and amenity value. The purpose of this identification and assessment of deposits was to establish their significance, in order to facilitate recommendations for an appropriate mitigation strategy that could be integrated with any proposed development programme.

4. METHODS

A brief auger survey was carried out to establish the presence or absence of cellars and other feature that may affect the location of trial trenches. A gouge auger was used to a maximum depth of 1.66m. A total of 14 auger bores were made.

Following the Auger survey, two trenches were opened (Fig. 3) and selected deposits partially or fully excavated by hand to determine their nature and to retrieve artefactual material. The trenches were located to provide sample coverage of the entire development site in order to evaluate the potential survival of archaeological deposits and features across the area. The two trenches each measured 10 metres by 3 metres wide to facilitate the possibility of deepening the trench beyond 1.2m, the maximum safe depth of unshored trenches as recommended by the Health and Safety executive.

Both trenches were opened by machine to the surface of undisturbed archaeological layers, which were then cleaned and excavated by hand. Once the trenches were excavated they were cleaned and examined by hand. Each archaeological deposit or feature revealed within the trench was allocated a unique reference number (context number) with an individual written description. A photographic record was compiled and sections were drawn at a scale of 1:10 and plans at a scale of 1:20. Recording of deposits encountered during the evaluation was undertaken according to standard Archaeological Project Services practice.

A stratigraphic matrix of all identified

deposits was produced. Thereafter, to assist analysis, a context group matrix was created and phased.

5. **RESULTS**

5.1 Auger Survey Results

A total of 14 hand auger holes were made across the proposed development site (Fig. 3). The positioning of the auger holes was made to avoid areas of hardstanding and other obstacles. The results are summarised in Figure 4.

The first six auger holes penetrated no further than 0.16m due to the presence of bricks and mortar at depths of between 70mm and 0.16m below ground level. Auger 7 was stopped by brick at a depth of 0.67m after passing through 0.62m of topsoil. Augers 8 to 11 went through varying thicknesses of topsoil before entering compact brown silts.

Auger 12 reached a depth of 1.66m, the deepest reading obtained in the survey, passing through a layer of ash and through c. 1m of yellow silt. Augers 13 and 14 both stopped at brick at 0.7m and 0.27m respectively.

5.2 Evaluation Results

Finds recovered from those deposits excavated were examined and a period date assigned where possible. Records of the deposits and features recognised during the evaluation were also examined. A list of all contexts and interpretations appears as Appendix 2. Phasing was assigned based on artefact dating and the nature of the deposits and recognisable relationships between them. Three phases were identified.

Phase 1 - Natural deposits

Phase 2 - Late Saxon-Early medieval deposits
Phase 3 - Late Medieval deposits
Phase 4 - Post-medieval deposits
Phase 5 - 19th century deposits
Phase 6 - Modern deposits

Four-figure context group numbers are used in the text, but primary context numbers are depicted on the figures. See Appendix 3 for concordance of group and context numbers.

Phase 1 Natural deposits

Deposit (2044). Base of Trench A. Light yellow silts laminated with reddish yellow lenses. No depth ascertained. Natural alluvium.

Phase 2 Late Saxon - Early medieval deposits

Feature (2035). Cut into natural (2044). Unknown shape and extent (Fig. 9, Sections 9, 13 and 14). 1.1m deep. Possible large pit cut.

Feature (2040). Cut into side of pit (2035). Circular cut. 0.18m diameter. 0.15m deep. Fill of mid yellow clayey silt. Possible posthole.

Feature (2041). Cut into side of pit (2035). Circular cut. 0.15m diameter. 100mm deep. Fill of mid brown clayey silt. Possible posthole.

Feature (2042). Cut into side of pit (2035). Rectangular cut. 0.35m by 0.18m. 0.15m deep. Fill of mid yellow and brown silt. Possible posthole.

Feature (2043). Cut into base of pit (2035). Sub-rectangular cut. 0.44m by 0.22m exposed. 0.24m deep. Fill of reddish yellow and grey sandy silt with frequent charred plant material. Possible small pit. Fill (2039). Contained within pit (2035). Lower fill of reddish yellow clayey silt, middle fill of green-yellow and black sandy silt (manure deposit, see Appendix 5) and upper fill of brownish grey clayey silt. Secondary fill of pit (2035).

Deposit (2026). Base of Section 4 (Fig. 9). Mixed green, yellow, blue-grey and brown silt with charcoal. Indeterminate layer.

Feature (2025). Cut into layer (2026). Subcircular cut. 0.4m by 0.47m exposed. 0.22m deep. Primary fill of grey black clayey silt with frequent charcoal and ash (crop processing residue, see Appendix 5). Small hearth.

Fill (2024). Contained within (2025). Light reddish yellow silt. Backfill of hearth (2025).

Deposit (2027). Partly overlying layer (2026). Brownish grey and reddish yellow silt and clayey silt. Contains 13th century pottery. Indeterminate layer.

Feature (2023). Rectangular cut. 1.26m by 0.85m as exposed. 0.16m deep. Possible shallow rectangular pit.

Fill (2022). Contained by cut (2023). Light yellow and mid brown silt. Contains residual Late Saxon and 12th century pottery.

Feature (2084). Trench B (Fig. 10. Sections 7 and 8). Unknown dimensions and surmised from the nature of associated fills. Pond or small creek.

Fills (2083). Contained within (2084). Comprises alternating bands of dark greyish brown and light brown silt. Augering revealed another 1 metres depth of deposit including a thin peaty layer. Two fills contain late Saxon pottery of 10th century date and a single sherd of 12th century date was recovered. Secondary fill, deposited in a still water environment.

Feature (2077). Cut into fill (2083). Linear cut aligned northeast to southwest (Sections 7 and 8). 0.15m wide by 100mm deep with a single fill of light brown fine sand. Small slot or gully.

Deposit (2085). Reddish brown clayey silt 110mm thick. Heat altered deposit.

Deposit (2056). Overlying gully (2077) and deposit (2085). Mid brown silty sand. Between 0.18m and 0.3m thick. Contains late Saxon pottery and possible early medieval pottery of 12th century date. Former topsoil.

Phase 3 Late Medieval deposits

Deposit (2038). Sealing pit (2035) in Trench A (Fig. 9, Sections 9 and 14). Brown and brownish yellow silt. Between 0.17m and 0.25m thick. Contained pottery of possible 15th century date. Miscellaneous layer.

Deposit (2037). Overlying layer (2038). Mid yellowish brown silt and clayey silt. 0.13m thick. Contains residual pottery of 13th to 14th century date. Miscellaneous layer of possible alluvial origin.

Feature (2033). Cut into layer (2037). Bowl shaped cut. 0.4m wide by 0.2m deep. Fill of greyish black silty clay and red sandy silt. Possible small hearth.

Deposit (2036). Partly overlying layer (2037). Black organic silt layer and brown silt layer. Possible turf line.

Feature (2034). Cut into layer (2036). Circular cut. 0.55m wide by 0.25m deep. Small pit. Deposit (2032). Sealing hearth (2033) and filling pit (2034). Mid yellowish brown clayey silt. Between 0.15m and 0.24m thick. Miscellaneous layer of possible alluvial origin.

Deposit (2031). Overlying layer (2032). Yellowish brown clayey silt and reddish yellow silt. Miscellaneous layer.

Feature (2028). Cut into fill (2022). Subrectangular cut. Fill of yellow and brown silt and greyish brown clayey silt. Small pit.

Feature (2029). Truncating pit (2028). Subrectangular cut. 0.9m by 0.9m visible. 0.15m deep. Fill of light greenish brown silt. Contains 14th and 15th century pottery as well as a number of sheep and cattle horncores. Possible refuse pit.

Phase 4 Post-medieval deposits

Deposit (2021). Partly overlying fill (2022) in Trench A (Fig. 9, Section 4). Brown, yellow and grey silt. 100mm thick. Contains pottery of residual 16th to 17th century date. Alluvial deposit.

Deposit (2055). Overlying former topsoil (2056) in Trench B (Fig. 8, Sections 10 and 11). Dark greyish brown sandy silt with occasional deposits of white mortar. Between 0.3 and 0.4m thick. Former topsoil.

Phase 5 19th century deposits

Deposit (2020). Sealing layer (2021) in Trench A (Fig. 6). Yellow-brown silt and brown clayey silt. Between 0.22m and 0.35m thick. Contains 19th century pottery and residual medieval and late Saxon pottery. Possible former topsoil layer. Feature (2018). Cutting layer (2020). Linear cut. Aligned north to south, curving to the west. 1.2m wide by c. 5m long. 0.4m deep. Fill of dark brown clayey silt with brick fragments. Contains residual 16th to 17th century pottery. Possible drainage gully.

Feature (2019). Cutting layer (2020). Linear cut. 1m by 0.35m exposed. Fill of light yellow windblown silt. Possible gully.

Feature (2030). Cutting layer (2020). Circular cut (Fig. 9, Section 15). 1.06m diameter. Fill of alternating brown silts and white mortar. Contains residual 16th and 17th century pottery. Mortar mixing pit.

Deposit (2011). Sealing features (2018, 2019 and 2030). Brown and yellow-brown clayey silt. Between 0.27m and 0.41m thick. Former topsoil.

Deposit (2010). Partly overlying layer (2011). Mid brown silt and silty clay. 0.2m thick. Possible former topsoil.

Feature (2008). Cutting layer (2010). 0.5m wide by 0.28m deep. Fill of yellow silt and brown clayey silt. Indeterminate cut.

Deposit (2013). Partly overlying layer (2011). Light brown and grey silt. 0.19m thick. Former topsoil.

Feature (2016). Cut into former topsoil (2011). Flat bottomed cut. 0.98m extent by 0.14m deep. Fill of dark to mid brown clayey silt. Possible pit.

Construction (2002). Cut into layer (2010). Rectangular cut with brick cistern (Fig. 8 Section 17). Cut backfilled with green clayey silt. Brick cess pit.

Construction (2004). Built on layer (2010). Linear cut aligned northeast to southwest. Containing wall foundation. 0.5m wide by 0.21m high. Garden wall.

Feature (2006). Cutting layer (2010). 0.28m wide by 0.17m deep. Fill of white to grey mortar. Indeterminate cut.

Construction (2005). Overlying cut (2006). Brick foundation. 0.55m wide by 0.26m high. Garden wall.

Feature (2009). Truncating cut (2008) and cutting layer (2013). 1.07m wide by 0.19m deep. Fills of black silt and ash, light brown clay and burnt clay and mid brown silt. Former hearth or bonfire.

Surface (2012). Overlying hearth or bonfire (2009). Greyish brown silt and yellow mortar make-up. Brick floor. 1m extent by 40mm high. External floor.

Surface (2015). Overlying cut (2016). Brownish yellow silt make-up. Brick tiles. Extent 2.35m by 3m exposed. External floor.

Surface (2014). Overlying floor (2015). Light brown sandy silt make-up. Brick floor. Extent as (2015). External floor.

Feature (2054). Cut into former topsoil (2055) in Trench B (Fig. 10, Section 1). Sub-rectangular cut, 3.7m long and at least 0.95m wide. Not excavated to its full depth. Fills of grey and brown sand and sandy silt. Contains pottery of 19th century date. Refuse pit.

Deposit (2061). Overlying former topsoil (2055). Mixed cinders and coal, mortar and silt. Dump and demolition layer.

Deposit (2069). Overlying dumped layer (2061). Dark grey sandy silt and greyish brown silt. 0.18m thick. Dumped layer.

Feature (2053). Cut into refuse pit (2054). Rectangular cut. 1.02m long with exposed width of 0.32m. 0.58m deep. Contains a single fill of dark grey sandy silt. Refuse pit.

Deposit (2051). Overlying pit (2053). Dark grey sandy silt with cinders. 0.18m thick. Dumped layer.

Deposit (2050). Overlying layer (2051). Brown and greyish brown sandy silt with frequent brick. Dumped demolition layer.

Deposit (2049). Overlying layer (2050). Dark grey sandy silt with brick and tile fragments. 0.25m thick. Soil and demolition layer.

Feature (2048). Cut into layer (2049). Cut 0.25m wide by 0.46m deep. Fill of brown and greyish brown sandy silt. Possible posthole.

Feature (2047). Truncating posthole (2048). Cut 0.7m wide. Fill of dark grey sandy silt. Posthole.

Feature (2057). Cut into pit (2055). Rectangular cut 1.25m by 0.5m, 0.68m deep. Fill of dark brown silty sand with cattle bones and 19th century pottery. Refuse pit.

Feature (2068). Cut into dumped layer (2069). Sub-rectangular cut. 0.7m by 0.6m. Fill of dark brownish grey silt. Void present with a diameter of 0.3m. Posthole.

Deposit (2060). Overlying posthole (2068). Brownish grey sandy silt. 0.15m thick. Former soil deposit.

Feature (2059). Cutting layer (2060). Cut 0.35m wide by 0.43m deep. Fill of mid greyish brown sandy silt. Posthole.

Feature (2067). Cutting layer (2060). Cut 1.4m wide by 0.3m deep. Fill of greyish brown sandy silt. Indeterminate feature. Feature (2066). Cutting layer (2060). Circular cut 0.7m diameter by 0.32m deep. Fill of mid brownish grey clayey silt. Void diameter 0.31m. Posthole.

Feature (2064). Truncating posthole (2066). Circular cut with clay lining. 1.48m diameter. Nails radiating from clay lining suggest the former presence of a barrel. Clay lined storage pit.

Fill (2063). Contained within pit (2064). mid brown sandy silt and greyish brown sandy silt with frequent cockles. Pottery of 19th century date. Secondary fill of (2064).

Feature (2062). Cutting fill (2063). Rectangular cut 1.53m long by 0.6m deep. Fill of dark grey brown sandy silt with coal and brick fragments. Contained pottery of 19th century date. Refuse pit.

Feature (2065). Cutting dumped layer (2069). Rectangular cut 0.98m by 0.88m, minimum depth 0.85m. Fill of mid brownish grey clayey silt. Posthole.

Feature (2076). Truncating posthole (2065). Sub-circular cut. 0.65m by 0.7m. Fill of mid greyish brown clayey silt. Posthole.

Feature (2070). Sub-circular cut (Fig. 10, Section 5). 0.36m long by 0.3m wide. 0.11m deep. Fill of dark grey clayey silt. Posthole.

Feature (2071). Circular cut (Fig. 10, Section 6). 0.59m diameter by 0.32m minimum depth. Fill of mid brown silt containing 19th century pottery. Posthole.

Feature (2072). Sub-circular cut. 0.35m by 0.4m. Fill of mid greyish brown silty sand. Posthole.

Feature (2073). Sub-circular cut. 0.35m by 0.2m. Fill of dark brownish grey silty sand.

Posthole.

Feature (2074). Sub-circular cut. 0.4m by 0.3m. Fill of dark brownish grey silty sand. Posthole.

Feature (2075). Irregular shaped cut. 0.86m long by 0.58m wide. 0.7m visible depth. Fill of light brownish grey clayey silt. Posthole.

Feature (2078). Circular cut. 0.3m diameter. Fill of light greyish brown clayey silt. Posthole.

Feature (2079). Rectangular cut. 0.56m long by 0.52m wide. Fill of mid grey clayey silt. Posthole.

Feature (2080). Circular cut. 0.4m diameter. Fill of mid grey clayey silt. Void diameter 0.18m. Posthole.

Feature (2081). Square cut. 0.29m by 0.26m Fill of mid brownish grey clayey silt. Posthole.

Feature (2086). Oval cut. 0.64m by 0.54m. Fill of mid grey clayey silt. Posthole.

Feature (2082). Rectangular cut. 1m extent exposed. Fill of mid greyish brown sandy silt. Possible refuse pit.

Phase 6 Modern deposits

Fill (2001). Filling cesspit (2002) in Trench A. Dark grey to black sandy silt with frequent coal. Contains 20th century pottery and glass. Backfill of cesspit after disuse.

Deposit (2003). Overlying garden wall (2004). Mid brown silty clay and greenish yellow silt with frequent brick fragments. 60mm thick. Demolition deposit.

Deposit (2007). Overlying cut (2008) and layer (2013). Dark grey mortar and clayey silt. 100mm thick. Demolition deposit.

Feature (2017). Cut through floor (2014). Rectangular cut. 2m by 0.54m. 1.3m deep. Fill of dark brown clayey silt. Trial pit.

Deposit (2000). Sealing all deposits in Trench A. Dark grey clayey silt with occasional tarmac and other debris. 0.38m thick. Modern topsoil incorporating some demolition material.

Deposit (2046). Overlying layer (2049) in Trench B. Mixed dark grey sandy silt and mortar with bricks. 50mm thick. Demolition layer.

Feature (2052). Cutting pit (2054). Rectangular cut (Fig. 10, Section 1). 1.04m by 0.9m. Fill of dark brown silty sand containing 20th century pottery. Refuse pit.

Deposit (2058). Widespread across the extent of Trench B. Dark grey and brownish grey sandy silt. Between 0.17m and 0.35m thick. Recent dump layer.

Deposit (2045). Sealing all deposits in Trench B. Dark grey silt with frequent tile and brick fragments, stones and cinders. 80mm thick. Topsoil.

6. **DISCUSSION**

Natural deposits (phase 1) of alluvial silt were encountered in the base of Trench A. These are thought to have been deposited within a creek system.

Phase 2 deposits were found in both trenches. A large pit had been excavated in Trench A in the Late Saxon period. Associated with this pit were a number of postholes of unknown function. The fills of this feature revealed important environmental data in the form of charred plant material, and suggests that a farmyard was located in the vicinity. To the west of this pit were a number of layers, a small hearth and a shallow rectangular pit containing early medieval pottery. In Trench B, Late Saxon and early medieval pottery was recovered from deposits suggestive of having been laid in a still water environment such as a sluggish creek or a pond.

Late medieval deposits (Phase 3) were only recorded in Trench A. Two pits were recorded and a small hearth was identified. One of the pits contained a large number of sheep and cattle horn cores, possibly representing activity associated with horn working (Appendix 6). Various layers were also observed, some of which had an alluvial origin, suggesting localised flooding. Alluvial deposits found during the evaluation along Station Road were dated to the 13th and 14th century and provide a useful comparison (A.P.S. 1994b).

Post-medieval deposits (Phase 4) are typified by a layer in each trench. An alluvial deposit in Trench A suggests that the area was still prone to occasional flooding, whilst in Trench B a topsoil developed above the former creek or pond.

Intense archaeological activity occurred in the 19th century (Phase 5). Following topsoil development in both trenches, dwellings were built towards the front of the development area. A photograph in the Boston Borough Community Archaeologist parish files and early Ordnance Survey maps indicates a large building fronting the High Street. Behind this was a row of three small thatched cottages. The cottages themselves were not identified in this evaluation but garden walls, external floors and a brick built cesspit were all identified as associated structures. In Trench B, 19th century deposits are typically postholes of which 18 were identified. Although no structure could be ascertained from these postholes, it is conceivable that they relate to former fence lines as indicated on early Ordnance Survey maps. A number of refuse pits were also identified in Trench B as well as a single clay lined storage pit, presumably for cockles, the shells of which were found in great numbers in the secondary fill.

Phase 6 deposits relate to the demolition of the cottages formerly along the front of the development area. Though undated, this demolition phase occurred within memory of some local people. In Trench B, a dumped layer attests to this part of the site being a dumping ground for a local builders firm.

7. ASSESSMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

For assessment of significance the *Secretary of State's criteria for scheduling ancient monuments* has been used (DoE 1990, Annex 4; see appendix 7).

Period:

Deposits of Late Saxon date to the present were encountered during the evaluation. The Late Saxon deposits are of local and regional importance, providing the first archaeological evidence for Saxon occupation at Kirton. The importance is further enhanced by a continuing sequence of deposits and finds up to the 20th century.

The features and deposits encountered during the evaluation include waste disposal, drainage, storage and structural elements. These are all characteristic of the various periods represented.

Rarity:

Late Saxon features, as typified by possible

farmyard deposits are not in themselves rare. It is unusual to find such deposits existing in urban centres where subsequent development often impacts upon the underlying archaeology. However, remains of this date have not been found in Kirton before and are considered to be of local and regional importance.

Documentation:

Records of archaeological sites and finds made in the Kirton area are kept in the Lincolnshire County Sites and Monuments Record and in the relevant parish file of the Boston District Community Archaeologist. A site-specific summary and subsequent archaeological report was prepared for the evaluation undertaken along Station Road.

A synthesis of the history of Kirton has previously been produced.

Group value:

High group value for the Late Saxon and early medieval remains is ascertained by the continued occupation of the site and its relation to other medieval remains, such as the nearby church.

Survival/Condition:

Deposits of Late Saxon to medieval date were encountered, but have been extensively damaged by later 19th century intrusion into the proposed development area. Environmental indicators were found, usually in the form of charred plant remains although a waterlogged deposit was noticed during augering in Trench B.

Fragility/Vulnerability:

Late Saxon and medieval deposits were encountered at depths of 1m in Trench A and 1.3m in Trench B. The proposed development is towards the rear of the development area and is not expected to exceed 1.2m depth, except for four soakaways that are expected to intrude to depths of 1.5m. Therefore, archaeological deposits are under threat, but by utilising an existing 19th century water cistern, damage to archaeological deposits can be kept to a minimum.

Diversity:

Both functional and period diversity are moderately high. A sequence of Late Saxon to modern day deposits were encountered. Functional diversity is attested to the farm environment in the Late Saxon period to a typical urban environment within the last 200 years. Evidence for farming, boneworking, storage, drainage and refuse disposal were all noted as was a phase of construction.

Potential:

Potential is high that further Late Saxon and medieval remains, associated with the features already identified, survive at depths over 1m. Further potential exists for 19th century and earlier deposits surviving at depths not exceeding 1m and attested to by photographs of a row of cottages that formerly stood on the site.

8. EFFECTIVENESS OF TECHNIQUES

Augering was used initially to test for the presence of cellars and other features that may affect the trial trench locations. No features were found that would have had an adverse affect on trench location. Thus augering was considered successful.

The strategy of using trial trenches to locate and evaluate archaeological deposits was, on the whole, effective. Excavation established that Late Saxon remains exist at depth over the development area. Furthermore, medieval and later remains were also recorded across the evaluation area.

9. CONCLUSIONS

Archaeological investigations on land adjacent to High Street, Kirton were carried out to assist determination of a planning application required because of the location of the site near the medieval core of the village. Investigations revealed a sequence of deposits from the Late Saxon period to the modern day. In the Late Saxon and early medieval periods the site would appear to have formed part of a farmyard with an area of open water in the away from the High Street frontage. No earlier features were identified, other than a deposit of natural silt that was probably deposited in a former creek system.

During the later medieval and postmedieval period, topsoils developed over existing features. A few pits, one containing refuse from possible horn working, and a hearth represent the localised activity during this time. Alluvial deposits were also recorded and suggest some flooding of the area.

The 19th century saw renewed development on the site with dwellings built fronting the High Street and various pits, for storage and refuse disposal, at land to the rear of these properties. Land boundaries were also evident from a high number of postholes recorded on the site.

Finds recovered include an assemblage of pottery dating from the Late Saxon period to the present century. Within this group were a number of unusual pottery types. The assemblage as a whole provides important comparisons with other collections from Kirton and Lincolnshire.

Environmental assessment of the site has shown that the survival of charred plant matter is good and provides important data regarding the type of crop husbandry carried out in Kirton. A waterlogged layer containing preserved plant material was also noted at a great depth and has potential for further examination of the local environment.

It is recognised that further potential remains of undisturbed Late Saxon and medieval deposits surviving in the development area exists. However, these are considered to survive at depths exceeding 1.2m. There is greater potential for post-medieval remains occurring across the site within 1m of the present ground surface.

10. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeological Project Services would like to acknowledge the assistance of Robert Lowe (Architect) and Councillor Steve Graves who commissioned the fieldwork and analysis on behalf of Kirton Youth Challenge. The work was coordinated by Gary Taylor and this report was edited by Tom Lane. Jim Bonnor, the Community Archaeologist for Boston Borough Council permitted examination of the relevant files. Rackham James provided the environmental assessment of the site and Hilary Healey examined the pottery and other finds.

11. PERSONNEL

Project Coordinator: Gary Taylor Supervisor: Paul Cope-Faulkner Site Assistants: Neil Herbert, Chris Moulis Finds Processing: Denise Buckley Illustration: Paul Cope-Faulkner Post-excavation Analyst: Paul Cope-Faulkner

12. **BIBLIOGRAPHY**

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13. ABBREVIATIONS

A.P.S. Archaeological Project Services

B.G.S. British Geological Survey

DoE Department of the Environment





Figure 1 - General Location Plan





Area of Development

Figure 2 - Site Location Plan



Figure 3 - Development Area showing position of Auger holes



Figure 4 - Results of Auger Survey



Figure 5 - Development Area showing Trench locations







0 2m N

(v) Voids







Figure 8 - Sections 17 (Trench A), 10 and 11 (Trench B)



SW

SE

NW

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Section 15













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Figure 10 - Sections, Trench B

Plates

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Plate 1 - Cleaning of Trench A



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Plate 2 - Mortar mixing pit, Group 2030



Plate 3 - Clay lined storage pit, Group 2064

ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELD EVALUATION PROJECT BRIEF 17 High Street, Kirton. Boston, Lincs.

1. Summary

- 1.1 This document is the brief for the archaeological evaluation to be carried out at land at 17 High Street, Kirton, Boston in Lincolnshire on behalf of Kirton Youth Challenge.
- 1.2 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 be expected to provide details of the proposed scheme of work, to include the anticipated working methods, timescales and staffing levels.
- 1.3 All detailed specifications will be submitted by the developer for approval by the Community Archaeologist of Boston Borough Council. The client will be free to choose between those specifications which are considered to adequately satisfy this brief.

2. Site Location and Description

- 2.1 Boston is situated 45km southeast of Lincoln and approximately 7km from the northwest coast of the Wash among the Fens of South Lincolnshire. Kirton is located 6km southwest of Boston and approximately 16km north of Spalding.
- 2.2 The site is located at plot 17 in the High Street, directly northeast of the churchyard at National Grid Reference TF30543859. The area is irregular in plan and roughly 0.4 hectares in size, located at 4.3m O.D.
- 2.3 The site is at present vacant ground used as carparking for local businesses.

3. Planning Background

3.1 This brief has been prepared at the request of Kirton Youth challenge prior to an application for planning permission being made. The land is owned by Mountains Builders.

4. Archaeological Background

- 4.1 Evidence for prehistoric activity in the parish of Kirton is extremely rare and there have been no finds of prehistoric material from the village centre. Evidence for Romano-British activity is also scarce from the village itself but there is relatively dense settlement evidence along Willington Road, 1km to the northwest.
- 4.2 Saxon occupation has not been recognised in the area but Kirton does appear in the Domesday records and a church is mentioned in the 11th century offering earlier evidence than the present building which dates to the 12th century. Kirton is described as a wapentake indicating its regional importance.
- 4.3 Kirton was certainly an important medieval settlement, being host to a Goose Fair and Sessions Court. Several manors including Bozon and Orme Hall are located on the outskirts of the village and the Kings Head Inn in the village centre dates to the early 16th century. Finds from the area include possible millstones at 48 Willington Road, French and German jettons of the 15th and 16th century and remains of a 14th century cross.
- 4.4 Cartographic evidence of 1905 shows that the front of the site was occupied by buildings at this date (APS

Oct 94).

- 4.5 An archaeological evaluation was carried out for land at 16-18 Station Road by Archaeological Project Services in advance of the construction of the Co-op Food Store. The investigation identified deposits of medieval and modern date. Medieval occupation deposits in the form of drainage ditches and pits were revealed and flooding deposits of the 14th century. The trial trenches showed that the frontage was cleared and raised with imported soil subsequent to the flooding. Preservation of archaeological features and organic material was very poor (Aps Nov 94).
- 4.6 The potential of this site is to produce evidence of medieval settlement and possibly the Saxon origins of Kirton. Little is known of the state of preservation in this area of the village but previous buildings on the site could have damaged deposits close to the street frontage.

5. Requirement for Work

- 5.1 The purpose of the archaeological evaluation should be to gather sufficient information to establish the presence/absence, extent, condition, character, quality and date of any archaeological deposits.
- 5.2 The field evaluation will consist of an augur survey and trial trenching.
- 5.3 While a preliminary desk-top assessment is not required in this case this site should not be treated in isolation and reference should be made to relevant historical sources and previous archaeological work in the area when interpreting the results.

6. Stages of Work and Techniques

- 6.1 The field evaluation will consist of two stages. The first will be an augur survey to establish the presence/absence of cellars and other features which may affect the location of trial trenches. The results of the survey will be presented to the Community Archaeologist in a brief interim report and any necessary changes to the trial trenching strategy will be discussed and implemented.
- 6.2 The second stage will consist of the excavation of trial trenches in the locations shown on the attached plan or in locations agreed and confirmed in writing following the results of the augur survey. It is not expected that the area of trenches will be increased in the light of the first stage.
- 6.3 Trench 1 will be situated at the front of the property, orientated northwest-southeast and measure 3m x 10m. Trench 2 will be situated towards the rear of the property, orientated north-south and measure 3m x 10m.
- 6.4 When preparing the specification account should be taken of the local geology, topography and land-use as it affects the feasibility of the various techniques and a visit should be made to verify site conditions.
- 6.5 The evaluation should also take into account environmental evidence and provide an assessment of the viability of such information should further archaeological work be carried out.

7. Methods

- 7.1 In consideration of methodology the following details should be given in the contractor's specification:
 - 7.1.1 A projected timetable must be agreed for the various stages of work;
 - 7.1.2 The staff structure and numbers must be detailed. This should include lists of specialists and their

role in the project;

- 7.1.3 It is expected that all on site work will be carried out in a way that complies with the relevant Health and Safety legislation. Details should be given of the methods to be employed if deepening of the trenches beyond 1.2m is required. Details of measures taken to ensure site security will also be expected;
- 7.1.4 The techniques applied in field survey, if undertaken, must be described in full. These should include the conventions applied in earthwork survey presentation, the spacing of transects and presentation of statistical data from field-walking and the plotting of aerial photographs.
- 7.2 Excavation is a potentially destructive technique and the following factors should be borne in mind:
 - 7.2.1 1the use of an appropriate machine with a wide toothless ditching blade;
 - 7.2.2 the supervision of all machine work by an archaeologist;
 - 7.2.3 the machine should be used to remove topsoil down to the first archaeological horizon;
 - 7.2.4 the most recent archaeological deposits are not necessarily the least important and this should be considered when determining the level to which machining will be carried out;
 - 7.2.5 when archaeological features are revealed by machine these will be cleaned by hand;
 - 7.2.6 a representative sample of every archaeological feature must be excavated by hand (although the depth of surviving deposits must be determined, it is not expected that every trench will be excavated to natural);
 - 7.2.7 all excavation must be carried out with a view to avoiding features which may be worthy of preservation in situ;
 - 7.2.8 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 method of removal, reinterment or disposal of the remains or associated items. Attempts must be made at all times not to cause offence to any interested parties.
 - 7.2.9 it is expected that an approved recording system will be used for all on-site and post fieldwork procedures.

8. Monitoring Arrangements

8.1 The Community Archaeologist for Boston Borough Council will monitor the work to ensure that fieldwork meets the specification. To facilitate this he should be contacted at least one week prior to the commencement of fieldwork.

9. Reporting Requirements

- 9.1 The final report must be produced in two stages. There must be a brief interim report of the augur survey. This report must:
 - 9.1.1 summarise the results of the survey including descriptions of deposits encountered and absolute depths;

- 9.1.2 interpret the results of the survey
- 9.1.3 identify or predict any features which may affect the trial trenching
- 9.1.4 suggest alternative strategies
- 9.2 The second stage shall be an evaluation report which should be a straight-forward account of the fieldwork carried out and should be produced within two months of the completion of the fieldwork phase. If this is not possible then the Boston Community Archaeologist must be consulted at the earliest possible opportunity. The report should include:
 - 9.2.1 plans of the trench layout and features therein;
 - 9.2.2 tables summarising features and artefacts together with a full description and brief interpretation;
 - 9.2.3 plans of actual and potential deposits;
 - 9.2.4 a consideration of the evidence within the wider landscape setting;
 - 9.2.5 a consideration of the importance of the findings on a local, regional and national basis;
 - 9.2.6 a critical review of the effectiveness of the methodology;
 - 9.2.7 a consideration of the impact of the proposed development upon any archaeological remains.
- 9.3 A copy of the final report incorporating the augur survey report must be deposited with Lincolnshire Sites and Monuments Record, the Boston Community Archaeologist and The Chairman of the Kirton Youth Challenge.

10. Archive Deposition

10.1 Arrangements must be made with the landowner(s) and/or developers and an appropriate museum for the deposition of the object and paper archive. If the receiving museum is to be the City and County Museum, Lincoln then the archive should be produced in the form outlined in that museum's document 'Conditions for the Acceptance of Project Archives', see address below.

11. Publication and Dissemination

11.1 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 Boston Community Archaeologist 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.

12. Additional Information

12.1 This document attempts to define the best practice expected of an archaeological evaluation but cannot fully anticipate the conditions that will be encountered as work progresses. However, changes to the approved programme of evaluation work are only to be made with the prior written approval of the Boston Community Archaeologist.

13. Bibliography

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Desk-top Assessment of the Archaeological implications of proposed construction at Station Road, Kirton, Lincolnshire

Archaeological Project Services, Nov 1994 -

Archaeological Evaluation on land at The Depot 16-18 Station Road, Kirton, Lincolnshire.

Brief set by Community Archaeologist, Boston Borough Council, 5/1/96

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Context	Trench	Description	Interpretation	Plan	Section	Group
1	Α	Dark grey to black sandy silt	Fill of 150			2001
2	A	Dark brown clayey silt	Fill of 148	3	4	2018
3	A	Mid brown to light yellow silt	Layer	3	4	2021
4	A	Mid yellowish brown silt	Layer	3	4, 16	2020
5	A	Light yellowish brown silt	Fill of 110		4,16	2022
6	A	Mottled yellow and brown silt	Fill of 141		16	2028
7	A	Brick surface	External floor		17	2014
8	A	Light brown sandy silt	Make up deposit		17	2014
9	A	Ceramic tile surface	External floor		17	2015
10	A	Mottled brown and yellow silt	Fill of 018		15	2030
11	A	Mid reddish brown silt	Fill of 018		15	2030
12	A	White mortar	Fill of 018		15	2030
13	A	Yellow silt	Natural			2044
14	A	Dark grevish brown clayey silt	Fill of 141		16	2011
15	A	Mid vellowish brown silt	Fill of 018		15	2020
16	Δ	White mortar	Fill of 018		15	2030
17	Δ	Dark brown silt	Fill of 018		15	2030
19	AA	Circular out 1.06m diameter	Morter mixing nit	2	15	2030
10	A	Mid brown clavery silt	Duried soil	2	15	2030
20	A	Mid vollowich brown cilt		5		2020
20	A	Creatish block silts alay	Fill of 100			2037
21	A	Greyish black silty clay	Fill of 095			2033
22	A	Mid yellowish brown clayey slit	Fill of 096			2032
23	A	Same as 087	Misc. deposit			2038
24	A	Mottled red, yellow and grey sandy silt	Fill of 100			2043
25	A	Brownish yellow silt	Make-up for 008			2015
26	A	Linear cut, 2m by 0.54m wide, 1.3m deep	Modern trial pit	3		2017
27	A	Linear cut, partly exposed	Indeterminate cut	3		2019
28	В	Mid brown sand	Fill of 029	1	2	2063
29	В	Circular cut	Cut for barrel	1	2,11	2064
30	В	Mid brown clayey silt	Clay lining to 029	2	11	2064
31	В	Dark greyish brown sandy silt	Fill of 029		2	2063
32	В	Brown silty sand	Fill of 033	1,2		2057
33	В	Rectangular cut, 1.25m by 0.5m, 0.68m deep	Refuse pit	1,2		2057
34	В	Brown silty sand	Fill of 035		1	2052
35	В	Rectangular cut, 1.04m by 0.9m, 0.34m deep	Refuse pit	1,2	1	2052
36	В	Dark greyish brown sandy silt	Fill of 037		1	2054
37	В	Sub-rectangular cut, 3.70m exposed	Pit	1,2	11	2054
38	В	Dark grey sandy silt	Fill of 037		1	2054
39	В	Mid brown silty sand	Fill of 037		1	2054
40	В	Dark grey and light brown silty sand	Fill of 037		1	2054
41	В	Dark grey clayey silt	Fill of 042	1	5	2070
42	В	Sub-circular cut, 0.36m by 0.3m, 0.11m deep	Posthole	1	5	2070
43	В	Mid brown silt	Fill of 044	1	6	2071
44	В	Circular cut, 0.59m diameter, 0.32m deep	Posthole	1	6	2071
45	В	Wood remnants and nails	Barrel assoc with 030		2	2064
46	В	Dark greyish brown sandy silt	Fill of 047		11	2062
47	В	Rectangular cut, 1.53m by 0.35m, 0.6m deep	Pit	1,2	11	2062
48	В	Brown sand	Fill of 049	2	7	2077
49	В	Linear cut, 0.15m wide	Possible gully	2	7	2077
50	В	Dark brown silty sand	Former topsoil			2056
51	В	Dark greyish brown sandy silt	Fill of 056		7	2083
52	В	Dark greyish brown silty sand	Fill of 056		7	2083
53	B	Dark brownish grey silty sand	Fill of 056		7	2083
54	B	Dark brownish grey silty sand	Fill of 056		7	2083
55	B	Mid grey sandy silt	Fill of 056		7	2083
56	R	Presumed cut	Pond/nalaeochannel		7	2084
57	R	Mid grevish brown silty sand	Fill of 058	1	7	2072
58	R	Sub-circular cut 0.4m by 0.35m 0.14m deen	Posthole	1	7	2072
50	P	Dark brownish grey silty sand	Fill of 060	1	7	2072
39	D	Dark brownish grey siny sailu	1 11 01 000	1	1	2013

60	В	Sub-circular cut, 0.35m by 0.2m, 0.16m deep	Posthole	1	7	2073
61	В	Dark brownish grey silty sand	Fill of 062	1	7	2074
62	В	Sub-circular cut, 0.4m by 0.3m, 0.3m deep	Posthole	1	7	2074
63	В	Mid brown silty sand	Layer	1	7	2056
64	В	Mid brown silty sand	Layer		7	2056
65	В	Brown silty sand	Fill of 056		7	2083
66	В	Light brown silty sand	Fill of 056		7	2083
67	В	Light brown silty sand	Fill of 056		7	2083
68	В	Light brown sand	Fill of 056			2084
69	В	Light brownish grey clayey silt	Fill of 070	1		2075
70	В	Irregular shaped cut, 0.86m by 0.58m, 0.7m deep	Posthole	1		2075
71	В	Mid greyish brown clayey silt	Fill of 072	1		2076
72	В	Sub-circular cut, 0.65m by 0.7m	Posthole	1		2076
73	В	Mid brownish grey clayey silt	Fill of 074	1		2065
74	В	Rectangular cut, 0.98m by 0.88m, 0.85m deep	Posthole	1		2065
75	В	Light greyish brown clayey silt	Fill of 076	1		2078
76	В	Circular cut, 0.3m diameter, 100mm deep	Posthole	1		2078
77	В	Dark grey silt	Demolition layer			2045
78	В	Dark grey sandy silt with cinders	Misc. layer			2046
79	В	Brownish white sandy mortar	Demolition layer			2046
80	В	Dark grev sandy silt	Fill of 082	1		2047
81	В	Darker grev sandy silt	Fill of 082	1		2047
82	B	Circular? cut, 0.7m wide	Posthole	1		2047
83	B	Mid brown sandy silt	Fill of 112	1		2048
84	A	Mid vellowish brown clayey silt	Fill of 101	4		2032
85	A	Light yellow silt	Fill of 027	3		2019
86	A	Light yellowish brown clayey silt	Misc. deposit			2031
87	A	Mid brown silt	Misc. deposit	3		2038
88	A	Mid red sandy silt	Fill of 101			2033
89	A	Dark Brown clayey silt	Fill of 026			2017
90	A	Mid vellowish brown clayey silt	Fill of 100			2037
91	A	Brownish vellow silt	Fill of 100			2038
92	A	Light brownish grey silt	Fill of 100			2039
93	A	Mottled green, yellow and black sandy silt	Fill of 100		-	2039
94	A	Light reddish vellow clavey silt	Fill of 100			2039
95	A	Light reddish yellow silt	Misc deposit			2031
96	A	Circular cut. 0.55m diameter. 0.25m deep	Possible small nit	3		2034
97	A	Black organic silt	Misc. deposit			2036
98	A	Brown silt	Misc. deposit			2036
99	A	Sub-rectangular cut. 0.24m deep	Posthole?	3		2043
100	A	Cut 1 10m deen	Pit	3		2035
101	A	Cut 0 2m deep	Small nit			2033
102	A	Light greenish brown silt	Fill of 140		3.16	2029
103	A	Mottled vellow red black and light brown silt	Fill of 140		4 16	2029
104	A	Light vellow and mid brown silt	Fill of 110		1, 10	2022
105	A	Mid brownish grev clavev silt	Misc denosit		4	2022
106	Δ	Grevish black clavev silt	Heart denosit		4	2025
107	A	Light reddish vellow silt	Fill of 111		4 16	2023
107	Δ	Mottled green vellow brown and grey silt	Misc denosit		4,10	2021
109	A	Light reddish vellow silt	Misc. deposit		4	2027
110	Δ	Rectangular cut 1.26m hy 0.85m 0.16m deen	Possible pit		4	2023
111	Δ	Sub-circular cut, 0.4m by 0.47m, 0.22m deep	Hearth		-	2025
112	R	Cut 0.25m wide by 0.46m deen	Posthole	1	10.11	2023
112	B	Brown sandy silt with bricks	Demolition laver	1	10,11	2040
114	P	Dark grev sandy silt	Demolition layer		10,11	2050
115	D D	Grevish brown candy silt	Demontion rayer		10,11	2050
116	B	Mid brown sandy silt	Buried soil		10	2033
117	B	Brown and grevish brown candy cilt	Demolition deposit		10	2050
118	P	Dark grey sandy silt with sindars	Demolition deposit		10	2030
110	B	Same as 115	Demontion deposit		10	2030
119	D	Same as 115	Burleu soll		10	2033

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120	В	Dark grey sandy silt	Demolition deposit		10	2049
121	В	White sandy mortar	Demolition layer		10	2055
122	B	Dark grev sandy silt	Dumped layer		10	2058
123	B	Dark grey sandy silt	Fill of 124	1	10	2053
123	B	Rectangular cut 1 02m long by 0.58m deep	Refuse pit	1	10	2053
125	B	Dark brownish grey sandy silt	Fill of 037	1	10	2054
125	B	Brown and greyish brown sandy silt	Fill of 037	-	10	2054
120	d a	Some og 110	Buried soil/demolition		10	2054
127	D	Same as 116	Buried soil		10	2055
128	B	Dark and the site	Lavar		10	2030
129	B	Dark grey sandy site		1	10	2049
130	B	Dark brownish grey silt	Pill 01 151	1	11	2008
131	В	Sub-rectangular cut 0.7m by 0.6m, 0.7m deep	Postnole	1	11	2068
132	В	Mid grey clayey silt	Fill of 133	1	11	2079
133	В	Sub-rectangular cut, 0.56m by 0.52m, 0.16m deep	Possible posthole	1	11	2079
134	В	Reddish brown clayey silt	Burnt layer	1	11	2085
135	В	Mid grey clayey silt	Fill of 136	1		2086
136	В	Oval cut, 0.64m by 0.54m	Posthole	1		2086
137	В	Mid brownish grey clayey silt	Fill of 138	1		2066
138	В	Circular cut, 0.7m diameter, 0.32m deep	Posthole	1		2066
139	В	Same as 122	Dumped layer			2058
140	A	Sub-rectangular cut, 0.9m by 0.9m, 0.15m deep	Possible refuse pit	3	3, 16	2029
141	A	Sub-rectangular cut, 0.59m by 0.28m, 0.15m deep	Possible pit	3	16	2028
142	Α	Mixed brown and yellow brown silt	Fill of 143			2042
143	A	Rectangular cut, 0.35m by 0.18m, 0.15m deep	Posthole	3		2042
144	A	Mid brown clayey silt	Fill of 145			2040
145	A	Circular cut, 0.18m diameter, 0.15m deep	Posthole	3	-	2040
146	Δ	Mid brown clavey silt	Fill of 147			2041
140	A	Circular out 0.15m diameter 100mm deen	Posthole		-	2041
147	A	Linear out a 5m long by 1 2m wide 0.4m deep	Gully	2	1	2041
140	A	Dark and aleger site	Tangail	5	4	2018
149	A	Dark grey clayey sht	Topson		17	2000
150	A	Brick structure	Cesspit		17	2002
151	A	Mid green clayey silt	Fill of 152		1/	2002
152	A	Rectangular cut, 0.77m deep	Construction trench for 150		17	2002
153	A	Mid brown silt	Misc. deposit		17	2010
154	A	Brick foundation	Former garden wall		17	2004
155	A	Greenish yellow silt	Backfill after demo of 154		17	2003
156	A	Linear cut, 0.66m wide, 0.35m deep	Trench for 154		17	2004
157	Α	Mid brown silty clay	Demolition layer		17	2003
158	Α	Mid brown silty clay	Misc. deposit		17	2010
159	А	Mid brown clayey silt	Misc. deposit		17	2011
160	A	Mid yellowish brown clayey silt	Misc. deposit		17	2011
161	А	Brick foundation	Former garden wall		17	2005
162	А	Dark grey clayey silt with mortar	Remnants of garden surface		17	2007
163	А	Brick surface	External floor		17	2012
164	A	White to grey mortar	Fill of 165		17	2006
165	A	Cut. 0.28m wide, 0.17m deen	Indeterminate cut		17	2006
166	Δ	Brown clayev silt	Fill of 191		17	2008
167	P	Mid grevish brown condu silt	Fill of 169	1	17	2050
169	d q	Cut 0.35m wide 0.42m deen	Posthole	1		2059
100	B	Doub brownich grow and the silt	Pussion coll	1		2039
109	В	Dark brownish grey sandy silt				2000
170	B	Dark grey cinders and coal	Demoittion deposit			2001
171	В	Dark brownish grey sandy silt	Buried soil			2060
172	В	Same as 170	Demolition deposit			2061
173	В	Brown and greyish brown sandy silt	Fill of 129			2049
174	В	Mid grey clayey silt	Fill of 175	1	1	2080
175	В	Circular cut, 0.4m diameter, 120mm deep	Posthole	1		2080
176	В	Mid brownish grey clayey silt	Fill of 177	1		2081
177	В	Square cut, 0.29m by 0.26m	Posthole	1		2081
178	В	Mid greyish brown sandy silt	Fill of 179	1		2082
170	B	Rectangular? cut. 1m extent	Probable pit	1		2082

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180	В	Same as 115	Buried soil	11	2055
181	В	Same as 050	Buried soil	11	2056
182	В	Same as 077	Demolition deposit	11	2045
183	В	Same as 077	Demolition deposit	11	2045
184	В	Dark greyish brown sandy silt	Misc. deposit	11	2067
185	В	Dark greyish brown silt	Misc. deposit	11	2069
186	В	Greyish white mortar	Demolition layer	11	2061
187	В	Same as 115	Buried soil	11	2055
188	В	Same as 050	Buried soil	11	2056
189	В	Dark brownish grey sandy silt	Dumped layer	11	2058
190	В	Mid grey silt	Demolition deposit	11	2061
191	A	Cut, 0.5m wide, 0.28m deep	Indeterminate cut	17	2008
192	Α	Yellow silt	Fill of 191	17	2008
193	А	Mid greyish brown silt	Make-up layer	17	2012
194	A	Mid brown silt	Fill of 197	17	2009
195	A	Light brown silt	Fill of 197	17	2009
196	А	Black silt and ash	Fill of 197	17	2009
197	А	Cut, 1.07m wide, 0.19m deep	Hearth	17	2009
198	А	Yellow mortar	Make-up layer	17	2018
199	А	Mid to light brown silt	Buried soil	17	2013
200	А	Mid grey silt	Misc. deposit	17	2013
201	А	Mid to light brown silt	Buried soil	17	2013
202	А	Dark grey silt	Misc. deposit	17	2021
203		Cancelled context		17	
204	А	Dark to mid brown clayey silt	Fill of 205	17	2016
205	Α	Cut, 0.98m wide, 0.14m deep	Indeterminate cut	17	2016

Appendix 3 CONTEXT GROUP SUMMARY

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Group	Contexts	Interpretation	Phase
2000	149	Topsoil	6
2001	1	Backfill of 2002	6
2002	150, 151, 152	Brick cesspit	5
2003	155, 157	Demolition deposit	6
2004	154, 156	Garden wall	5
2005	161	Garden wall	5
2006	164, 165	Indeterminate cut	5
2007	162	Demolition deposit	6
2008	166, 192, 191	Indeterminate cut	5
2009	194, 195, 196, 197	Bonfire/hearth feature	5
2010	153 158	Former soil	5
2011	159,160	Former soil	5
2012	163 193 198	Brick floor and make-up	5
2012	199 200 201	Former soil	5
2013	007 008	Tile floor and make-up	5
2014	000,008	Tile floor and make-up	5
2013	204 205	Indeterminate out	5
2010	204, 203	Triel nit and fill	5
2017	026, 089		0
2018	002, 148	Drainage gully	5
2019	027,085	Cully ?	5
2020	004, 019	Deposit	5
2021	003, 005, 202	Flood deposit	4
2022	104	Backfill of 2023	2
2023	110	Pit?	2
2024	107	Backfill of 2025	2
2025	106, 111	Hearth	2
2026	108	Deposit	2
2027	105, 109	Deposit	2
2028	006, 014, 141	Small pit	3
2029	102, 103, 140	Refuse pit	3
2030	010, 011, 012, 015, 016, 017, 018	Mortar mixing pit	5
2031	086, 095	Silt deposits	3
2032	084, 022	Silt deposits	3
2033	021, 088, 101	Hearth	3
2034	96	Hollow or small pit	3
2035	100	Large pit cut	2
2036	097, 098	Misc. deposit	3
2037	020, 090	Poss upper fill of 2035	3
2038	023, 087, 091	Misc. deposit	3
2039	092, 093, 094	Secondary fill of 2035	2
2040	144, 145	Poss posthole	2
2041	146, 147	Poss posthole	2
2042	142, 143	Poss posthole	2
2043	024,099	Poss posthole	2
2044	13	Natural	1
2045	077 182 183	Tonsoil	6
2045	078 070	Demolition denosit	6
2040		Demontion deposit	5
2047	000, 001, 002	Desthele	5
2048	120 120 172	Possible Domalities devestit	5
2049	120, 129, 175		5
2050	113, 117	Demolition deposit	5
2051	118	Demolition deposit	5
2052	034, 035	Refuse pit	6
2053	123, 124	Refuse pit	5
2054	036, 037, 038, 039, 040, 125, 126	Refuse pit	5
2055	115, 119, 121, 127, 180, 187	Former soil	4
2056	050, 063, 064, 116, 128, 181, 188	Former soil	2
2057	032, 033	Refuse pit	5
2058	122, 139, 189	Dumped layer	6

Appendix 3 CONTEXT GROUP SUMMARY

2059	167, 168	Posthole	5
2060	169, 171	Former soil	5
2061	170, 172, 186, 190	Demolition deposit	5
2062	046, 047	Refuse pit	5
2063	028, 031	Secondary fill pf 2064	5
2064	029, 030, 045	Clay lined barrel pit	5
2065	073, 074	Posthole	5
2066	137, 138	Posthole	5
2067	184	Misc. deposit	5
2068	130, 131	Posthole	5
2069	114, 185	Dumped deposit	5
2070	041, 042	Posthole	5
2071	043, 044	Posthole	5
2072	057, 058	Posthole	5
2073	059, 060	Posthole	5
2074	061, 062	Posthole	5
2075	069, 070	Posthole	5
2076	071, 072	Posthole	5
2077	048, 049	Small slot or gully	2
2078	075, 076	Posthole	5
2079	132, 133	Posthole	5
2080	174, 175	Posthole	5
2081	176, 177	Posthole	5
2082	178, 179	Refuse pit	5
2083	051, 052, 053, 054, 055, 065, 066, 067	Fill of 2084	2
2084	056, 068	Surmised pond or creek cut	2
2085	134	Heat altered layer	2
2086	135, 136	Posthole	5

THE FINDS Hilary Healey

This collection dates from the first half of the present century back to approximately the period just before the Norman Conquest. Fragments of brick and tile are present in several groups and one piece of clay pipe.

The latest stratified context (001) contains stoneware and glass bottles of types which were in use in the first half of the present century, including bottles for Camp Coffee and Eiffel Tower Lemonade. The containers for these products had changed by the end of World War II, but a more precise dating of these items has not been investigated. Other contexts where early twentieth century material is the latest present are (019), (031) and (046); the floor bricks from (007) are probably of a similar date. Nineteenth century pottery gives the latest date in contexts (032), (036) and (043), the latter also containing part of a bottle of *Daffy's Elixir*, a popular patent laudanum based medicine of the early 1820s.

There is no evidence of much 18th century activity; the few sherds in the aforementioned contexts that date from about the 1770s may have been kept a long time by their owners. From the sixteenth century and no later than the mid seventeenth century three contexts (002), (005) and (012) contain Bourne D ware which is of this period, having a long life. Toynton pottery of undatable form is present in (004), (023) and (103), this is dated anywhere between the late thirteenth and the fifteenth century; it can be as late as the fifteenth or sixteenth century, but its association with other medieval and earlier sherds makes this less likely. Two decorated Toynton jug fragments in (109) are more securely dated to either side of c.AD 1300 and a thirteenth or fourteenth century date can be assigned to the Bourne medieval wares in (004) and (020)

The earliest sherds on the site are in five distinct fabrics. A dark grey gritty ware, well-known in the area, is thought to belong to the Early Medieval period, of twelfth or early thirteenth century date. It is present in (051), (104) and (116) and is the reason that these groups, which otherwise contain only Late Saxon pottery, are suggested as slightly later than (050), (053) and (054). These last comprise typical Late Saxon collections dateable to either side of the Norman Conquest. There are dark grey Thetford wares of a fabric type dateable to the tenth century, fine white Stamford ware and two different shell-tempered wares, one tending to be reddish in colour and the other, in (021), an unfamiliar dark grey fabric with fine, sparse shell inclusions. But both of these appear from the rim and base forms to be close to the Late Saxon pieces in date.

An unusual find in context (102) is five fragments of fired clay. This material, which may be clay or silt, is unrefined and contains small natural stones and is more like local silty mud (from a 'mud and stud' traditional building than fired clay from a hearth or kiln. Some of the pieces have one flattened surface which is blackened although not particularly sooted. A possibility is that this has been part of the fireproof mud and stud chimney hood which is known from a small number of buildings of this type.

Context	Details	Latest Date
+	1 Raeren mug, 1 Lincoln medieval	16th century
A+	2 porcelain, 1 medieval	19th/20th century
B+	9 assorted 18th/19th	mid 19th century
001	1 stoneware, 2 earthenware, 7 glass bottles including Camp coffee and Eiffel Tower lemonade	mid 20th century
002	3 brick fragments, 1 tile, 5 Bourne D, 3 late Toynton, 2 Toynton medieval, 1 Lincoln jug	16th/17th century

Table 1: Finds Summary

003	1 brick fragment	Unknown
004	1 Bourne medieval, 3 Toynton, 1 Thetford (Late Saxon)	13th/14th century
005	1 Bourne D, 1 Bourne A medieval, 1 Toynton medieval	16th/17th century
006	1 brick fragment, 1 fired clay fragment, 1 Toynton medieval	medieval ?
007	2 complete floor bricks	19th century
012	1 flat roof tile, 1 Bourne D	16th/17th century
014	1 tiny brick fragment	Unknown
015	1 tiny fired clay fragment	Unknown
019	1 brick fragment, 1 black glazed	19th century
020	3 Bourne medieval, 2 Lincoln medieval, 1 Stamford ware, 2 shelly Late Saxon	13th/14th century
021	3 Late Saxon or early medieval dark grey fabric, slightly shelly	12th/13th century
023	2 Late Toynton, 1 shelly medieval, 1 Bourne medieval	14th/15th century
031	38 assorted 19th century wares including Davenport, Nott ^m Stoneware, almost complete Willow pattern dish, 1 Toynton, 1 clay pipe	19th/20th century
032	1 flat tile, 6 assorted 19th century wares	19th century
034	3 handmade flowerpots, 1 porcelain lid	19th/20th century
036	1 creamware, 1 bichrome 17th century, 2 Toynton late medieval strainer	mid 19th century
043	5 brick fragments, 1 glass bottle Daffy's Elixir	mid 19th century
046	1 blue and white china	19th/20th century
050	1 Thetford, 1 Stamford	10th/11th century
051	1 gritty, 3 Thetford, 1 Stamford	11th/12th century
053	3 Thetford, 1 shelly	10th/11th century
054	6 Thetford (including storage jar), 1 Stamford	10th/11th century
102	5 fired clay. Kiln? hearth, mud and stud chimney hood	Unknown
103	10 Toynton medieval or later	14th/15th century
104	5 gritty, 3 shelly (2 fabrics), Late Saxon or Early medieval.	12th/13th century
109	2 Toynton decorated jugs	<i>c</i> . 1300
116	1 gritty, 1 Stamford (both jar rims)	11th/12th century

A quantity of slag was produced from two contexts, both late medieval deposits, during the evaluation. Context (103) produced 425g of slag and context (014) produced 10g. This quantity is too small for detailed analysis but may indicate metalworking in the vicinity of the proposed development area.

ENVIRONMENTAL ARCHAEOLOGY ASSESSMENT James Rackham The Environmental Archaeology Consultancy

The evaluation exposed a large pit of late Saxon to early medieval date including a variety of fills of which the basal fill, (024), and a higher fill, (093), were considered to warrant sampling for the evaluation.

The samples from these two fills were processed in the following manner:

Sample weight and volume was measured prior to processing. The samples were soaked in water and subsequently washed in a bowl from which floating material was washed over onto a 0.25mm mesh. The residues were rinsed on a 0.25mm mesh. Both residues and flot were dried, and the weight of the residue and the volume of the flot recorded.

The residues of both samples were sieved through a 1mm mesh. The coarser residue was sorted by eye, while the fine residue was briefly scanned under the microscope, and environmental and archaeological finds picked out, noted on the assessment sheet and bagged independently. The residues were then bagged. The flots were studied under a low power binocular microscope. The presence of environmental finds (ie snails, charcoal, carbonised seeds, bones etc) were noted and their abundance and species diversity recorded on the assessment sheet. The sorted residue, float and finds constitute the material archive of the sample.

Results

Context (024)

The basal fill of the feature was a black charcoal rich silt. Upon processing it was found to contain small quantities of fired (burnt?) reddened silt with some vitrified fuel ash slag and large quantities of carbonised and fired botanical material. Most of the residue indicated burning and the few environmental finds such as eggshell, fish and amphibian bone, and aquatic snails were calcined as a result of this.

The flot is extremely rich, particularly in straw, and shows both carbonised and 'calcined' plant material. The latter being extremely brittle white or grey fragments. A few small pieces of roundwood charcoal were present but the majority of the carbonised material was straw or other plant stems. Cereal grains and chaff were very common, along with carbonised weed seeds, with mainy of the cereal grains still in their glumes. A variety of cereals are present, including free threshing types, and pulses also occur.

Context (093)

This fill had an olive tint in section and was sampled to establish whether it had contained cess or manure. The residue was entirely composed of concretions of material with many vacuoles caused by the breakdown of plant material and some included fragments of charcoal and carbonised seeds or grains. No bone or shell was present. The flot, although much smaller than that from 24 was also composed largely of burnt straw, cereals, chaff, some pulses and weeds seeds.

Interpretation

The primary fill of the feature may represent a fire *in situ* at the base of the pit or disposal from elsewhere. Apart from a few small bones and wood this appears to have been exclusively for the disposal of straw and chaff with some associated cereal grains and may have been the waste from threshing or the first winnowing (Hillman 1981).

Layer (093) was clearly a deposit of organic rich dung. While it is not possible to be conclusive without further work the nature of the concretions and the high level of destroyed plant material within them suggests herbivore

material rather than human cess and this may have been a dump of cattle or pig manure. The presence of small quantities of carbonised straw, chaff and cereals within this layer suggest that crop processing was still taking place within the vicinity of the pit when this dump was made.

These two samples clearly suggest an agricultural processing area or farmyard and it seems likely that other features associated with this period of activity will occur in the immediate vicinity.

Hillman, G. 1981 Reconstructing Crop Husbandry Practices from Charred Remains of Crops. In R.Mercer (ed.) *Farming Practice in British Prehistory*, 123-162, Edinburgh Univ. Press.

Table 1 (sieve size for residue and flot was 0.25mm)

Cont	Sample vol. litres	Sample wt. kg	Resid. wt. g.	Flot vol. ml	Carb. seed *	Carb. grain *	Carb. chaff *	Carb. Straw *	Carb. pulses	Egg- shell	Fish bone
(024)	1.5	0.83	69	210	2	3	5	5	1	2	1
(093)	1.3	1.15	226	15	2	2	2	2	1		

(*- scales for these categories are: 1=1-10 items, 2=11-100, 3=101-250, 4=251-500, 5=>500)

THE ANIMAL BONE Paul Cope-Faulkner

A total of 124 fragments or complete animal bones were retrieved from 22 contexts during evaluation of land adjacent to High Street, Kirton. The bones were in generally good condition although a few were in a poor state that did not allow identification.

Sheep and cattle were the most prominent species identified, with some pig, horse and chicken also present. Deposits of Late Saxon and early medieval date provided the greatest diversity in species with sheep and cattle in greater numbers than pig, chicken and an unidentified small bird. Both cattle and pig are thought to be responsible for the manure context (073).

Deposits of the late medieval period contain a greater number of cattle than sheep and no other species. Of some interest are the animal bones from contexts (102) and (103) which between them have six sheep and two cattle horncores and may indicate that the pit (Group 2029) contains refuse from hornworking.

Post-medieval and later deposits show near equal numbers of cattle and sheep, with only a chicken bone from a 19th century context also present.

Butchery marks were apparent on only a few of the animal bones, and a single cattle rib fragment showed signs of being sawn at both ends as if in the process of being worked. Some of the large cattle bones, such as vertebrae, showed signs of being sawn in half, although this is considered to be part of the butchery process.

Though the species represented reflect the nature of the economy of the site, the size of the assemblage from each period is considered to be too small for detailed analysis regarding animal husbandry. Potential for further animal bones from the site remains high and subsequent analysis would be important.

SECRETARY OF STATE'S CRITERIA FOR SCHEDULING ANCIENT MONUMENTS Extract from *Archaeology and Planning* DoE Planning Policy Guidance note 16, November 1990

The following criteria (which are not in any order of ranking), are used for assessing the national importance of an ancient monument and considering whether scheduling is appropriate. The criteria should not however be regarded as definitive; rather they are indicators which contribute to a wider judgement based on the individual circumstances of a case.

1 Period:	all types of monuments that characterise a category or period should be considered for preservation.
ii <i>Rarity</i> :	there are some monument categories which in certain periods are so scarce that all surviving examples which retain some archaeological potential should be preserved. In general, however, a selection must be made which portrays the typical and commonplace as well as the rare. This process should take account of all aspects of the distribution of a particular class of monument, both in a national and regional context.
iii Documentation:	the significance of a monument may be enhanced by the existence of records of previous investigation or, in the case of more recent monuments, by the supporting evidence of contemporary written records.
iv Group value:	the value of a single monument (such as a field system) may be greatly enhanced by its association with related contemporary monuments (such as a settlement or cemetery) or with monuments of different periods. In some cases, it is preferable to protect the complete group of monuments, including associated and adjacent land, rather than to protect isolated monuments within the group.
v Survival/Condition:	the survival of a monument's archaeological potential both above and below ground is a particularly important consideration and should be assessed in relation to its present condition and surviving features.
vi Fragility/Vulnerability:	highly important archaeological evidence from some field monuments can be destroyed by a single ploughing or unsympathetic treatment; vulnerable monuments of this nature would particularly benefit from the statutory protection that scheduling confers. There are also existing standing structures of particular form or complexity whose value can again be severely reduced by neglect or careless treatment and which are similarly well suited by scheduled monument protection, even if these structures are already listed buildings.
vii <i>Diversity</i> :	some monuments may be selected for scheduling because they possess a combination of high quality features, others because of a single important attribute.
viii Potential:	on occasion, the nature of the evidence cannot be specified precisely but it may still be possible to document reasons anticipating its existence and importance and so to demonstrate the justification for scheduling. This is usually confined to sites rather than upstanding monuments.

THE ARCHIVE

The archive consists of:

- 205 Context records
- 87 Context Group records
- 1 Photographic record sheet
- 15 Scale drawings
- 2 Boxes of finds
- 1 Box of sieved samples
- 4 Stratigraphic matrices

All primary records and finds are currently kept at:

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

City and County Museum, Lincoln, Accession Number: 123.96 Archaeological Project Services Site Code: KHS96

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 identified within the report text by brackets, <i>e.g.</i> (4).
Cut	A cut refers to the physical action of digging a posthole, pit, ditch, foundation trench, <i>etc</i> . 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	Deposit(s) of soil or rock which have accumulated without the influence of human activity.