

97/10

**AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF
OF LAND ADJACENT TO 17 HIGH STREET,
KIRTON,
LINCOLNSHIRE
(KHS97)**



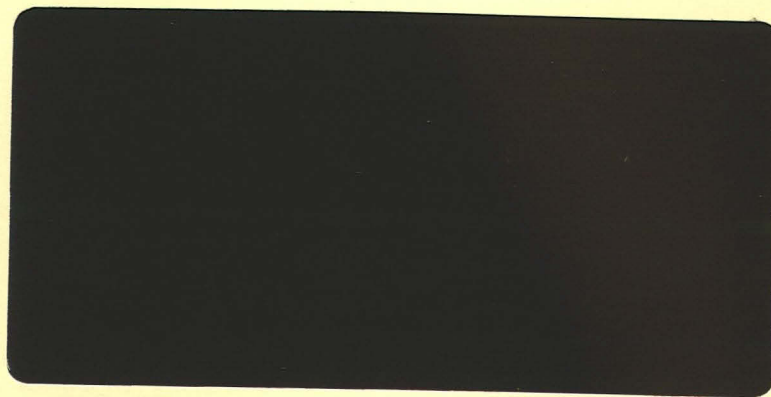
A P S
ARCHAEOLOGICAL
PROJECT
SERVICES

Lincolnshire County Council
Archaeology Section

28 JUL 97

12 Friars Lane
LINCOLN LN2 5JF

Tel: 01522 575292 Fax: 01522 575294



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Source L11572

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**AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF
OF LAND ADJACENT TO 17 HIGH STREET,
KIRTON,
LINCOLNSHIRE
(KHS97)**

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

Report compiled by
Paul Cope-Faulkner

July 1997

A.P.S. Report No: 24/97

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1. SUMMARY

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken during the construction of a youth centre on land adjacent to 17 High Street, Kirton, Lincolnshire. The watching brief monitored the excavation of foundation and drainage trenches.

A previous investigation had revealed evidence for activity from the Late Saxon period to the present day. Late Saxon activity was represented by a pit filled with animal manure and charred crop processing waste and indicated the possibility of a farmyard within the vicinity. Later medieval and post-medieval activity, consisting of pits and a hearth, developed over the earlier remains. A pit contained refuse from horn working. Silt deposits indicated that, during this period, the area was subject to flooding. Renewed activity occurred in the 19th century when dwellings were constructed along the High Street frontage. It was anticipated that, by virtue of these sites and findspots, the area could fall within a zone of Saxon and medieval settlement.

The watching brief identified the edge of a pond that had previously been surmised from the evaluation. Three other features were recognised as pits, two of which were associated with demolition during this century.

Finds retrieved from this investigation included an assemblage of pottery dating from the medieval period through to the 19th and 20th centuries as well as clay pipes and three animal bones that showed evidence for butchery.

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 watching brief of development at 17 High Street, Kirton, Boston District, Lincolnshire. Approval for the development was sought through the submission of planning application B14/0530/96. Permission was granted subject to a standard negative condition for archaeological recording. The watching brief 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 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, an import into the

fens and a tumulus, though this may be a medieval salt-mound, provide the only indication of 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 (Cope-Faulkner 1994).

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.

A previous investigation was carried out on the proposed development site (Cope-Faulkner 1996). This 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 have formed a component of a farmyard with an area of open water away from the High Street. During the later medieval and post medieval periods, topsoils had developed over existing features. A few pits, one containing refuse from horn working and a hearth represent activity of this period. Flood deposits were also recorded. Pottery from the evaluation comprises 18th and 19th century wares, medieval pottery and a collection of Late Saxon types, some hitherto unknown types.

3. AIMS

The requirements of the watching brief, as set by the brief (Appendix 1), were to locate and record archaeological deposits, if present, and to determine their date, function and origin.

4. METHODS

Trenches were opened by machine to depths required by the development (Fig. 3) and selected deposits partially or fully excavated by hand to determine their nature and to retrieve artefactual material. 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 or 1:20. Recording of deposits encountered during the watching brief was undertaken according to standard Archaeological Project Services practice.

5. 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 watching brief 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 - Medieval/post-medieval deposits

Phase 3 - 19th/20th century deposits

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

Phase 1 Natural deposits

Deposits of yellow fine sand (004) and firm yellow silt (008) were the earliest deposits encountered. Present across the entirety of the site these deposits were located at 3.7m OD.

Phase 2 Medieval/post medieval deposits

The edge of a wide shallow feature (013) was encountered in Section 2 (Fig. 4). This feature, interpreted as a pond was a minimum 5m wide and 0.9m deep and contained yellowish brown silt backfill (011) and a brownish black clayey silt (012) with charcoal and red silt patches. A further greenish grey silt deposit (014) appeared to be a localised and more organic version of (011).

A pit (010), recorded in Section 1 (Fig. 4), was 1.3m wide and 0.5m deep. Containing a fill of brown clayey silt (009) this was interpreted as a backfilled pit.

A single deposit of greyish black silt with charcoal (005) was found along the westernmost drainage trench. A single

sherd of Toynton All Saints ware was retrieved of probable medieval date. Seemingly within natural deposit (004), it is likely that this was a remnant of a pit fill not recognised during the investigation.

Across the western drainage trenches, and sealing (005), was a widespread deposit of light brown clayey silt (003) Containing lenses of yellow silt and a moderate amount of mussel shells this deposit may represent a flooding episode. A deposit encountered in the remaining trenches of brown clayey silt (007) may also represent a similar flooding episode (Fig. 4). Context (007) contained a sherd of Old Bolingbroke ware of 15th to 16th century date.

Phase 3 19th/20th century deposits

Cutting into the deposits (003) and (007) were two demolition pits (Fig. 4, Section 3). The first (016) was 2m wide and 1.3m deep and contained brown silty sand (015) with frequent amounts of building and other debris. The second (018) was much larger, being in the region of 17m long by 4.5m wide and 1m deep (Fig. 3). This also contained frequent building debris in a matrix of brown silt (017). Both these features contained an abundance of 19th century pottery.

The most recent deposits of topsoil had largely been removed from the site prior to the watching brief. Topsoil was recorded towards the west of the site and was a brownish grey sandy silt (001), 0.3m thick. Towards the east, the topsoil that had been removed contained dumped material but was essentially the same deposit (006).

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 the creek system previously identified in an evaluation of the site.

Phase 2 deposits (medieval/post-medieval) comprise the edge of a pond and a pit. A pond had been surmised from the nature of deposits previously recorded in the evaluation phase. This pond had contained pottery of Late Saxon and early medieval periods although no similar evidence had been obtained during this watching brief. The pit from this phase is a backfilled pit of indeterminate function.

Deposits of 19th and 20th century date (Phase 3) are typified by two demolition pits. These pits were filled with a high quantity of brick and general debris from demolition. It has previously been noted that this site was once used as a builders dumping ground (Cope-Faulkner 1996, 2) and these pits may relate to this former use. Alternatively, the demolition of buildings fronting the street may provide the cause for these pits.

No evidence was forthcoming for Late Saxon and intensive medieval activity of this part of the site. This may be due to Saxon deposits lying at depths not reached by the development (Saxon deposits nearby were up to 0.2m lower) or that occupation of both these periods was restricted to the modern street frontage.

Finds recovered include an assemblage of pottery dating from the medieval period to the present century as well as bone, clay pipes and fragments of glassware.

7. CONCLUSIONS

Archaeological investigations on land adjacent to High Street, Kirton were undertaken because the site fell within an

area of known archaeological activity, notably Late Saxon and medieval occupation identified from a previous examination of the development site. Although Late Saxon deposits occurred at depths beyond the requirements of the development, the likelihood later remained of archaeological remains being disturbed.

During the medieval and post-medieval periods, the site was possibly dominated by a large pond that had been open during the later Saxon period. Adjacent to the pond, pits were being dug and contained possible evidence for bone working, a feature identified in the previous investigation. The previous investigation determined that a topsoil had developed during this time, although the 'cleaner' silts identified in the watching brief suggest alluvial flooding.

None of the activity identified during the watching brief can relate directly to the 19th century. Large demolition pits were being excavated for the burial of building material which invariably contained quantities of 19th and 20th century pot.

Previous environmental assessment of the site has shown that the survival of charred and waterlogged plant material is good and has potential for further examination of the local environment.

Potential still remains for undisturbed Late Saxon through to 19th and 20th century archaeological remains surviving within the investigation area and possibly extending beyond the boundaries of this site.

8. 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. Access to the construction site was granted by R. Harvey Builders Ltd. The work was coordinated by Gary Taylor and this report was edited by Tom Lane. Hilary Healey examined the pottery and other finds.

9. PERSONNEL

Project Coordinator: Gary Taylor
Supervisor: Paul Cope-Faulkner
Finds Processing: Denise Buckley
Illustration: Paul Cope-Faulkner
Post-excavation Analyst: Paul Cope-Faulkner

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11. ABBREVIATIONS

A.P.S. Archaeological Project Services

B.G.S. British Geological Survey

DoE Department of the Environment

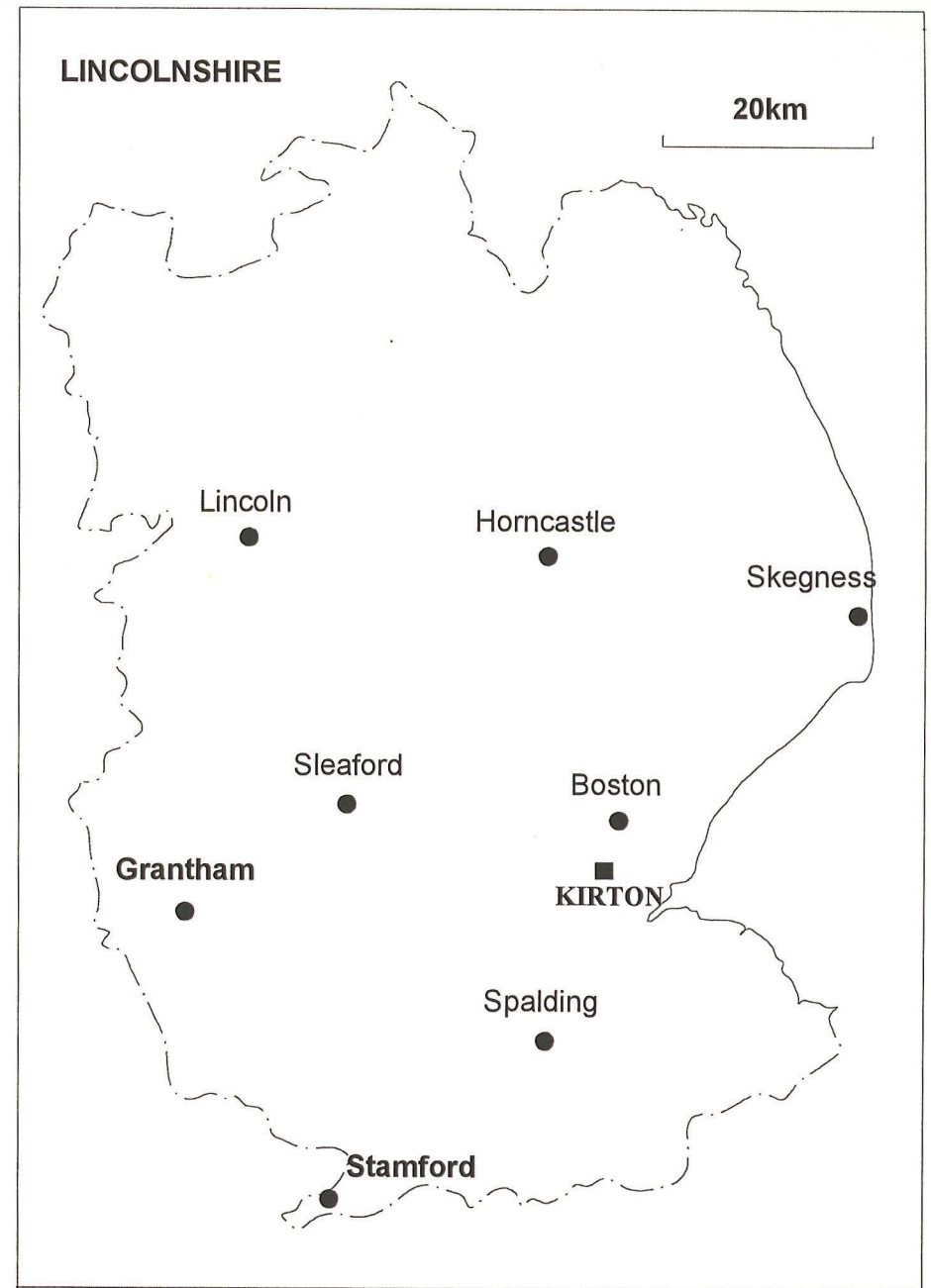
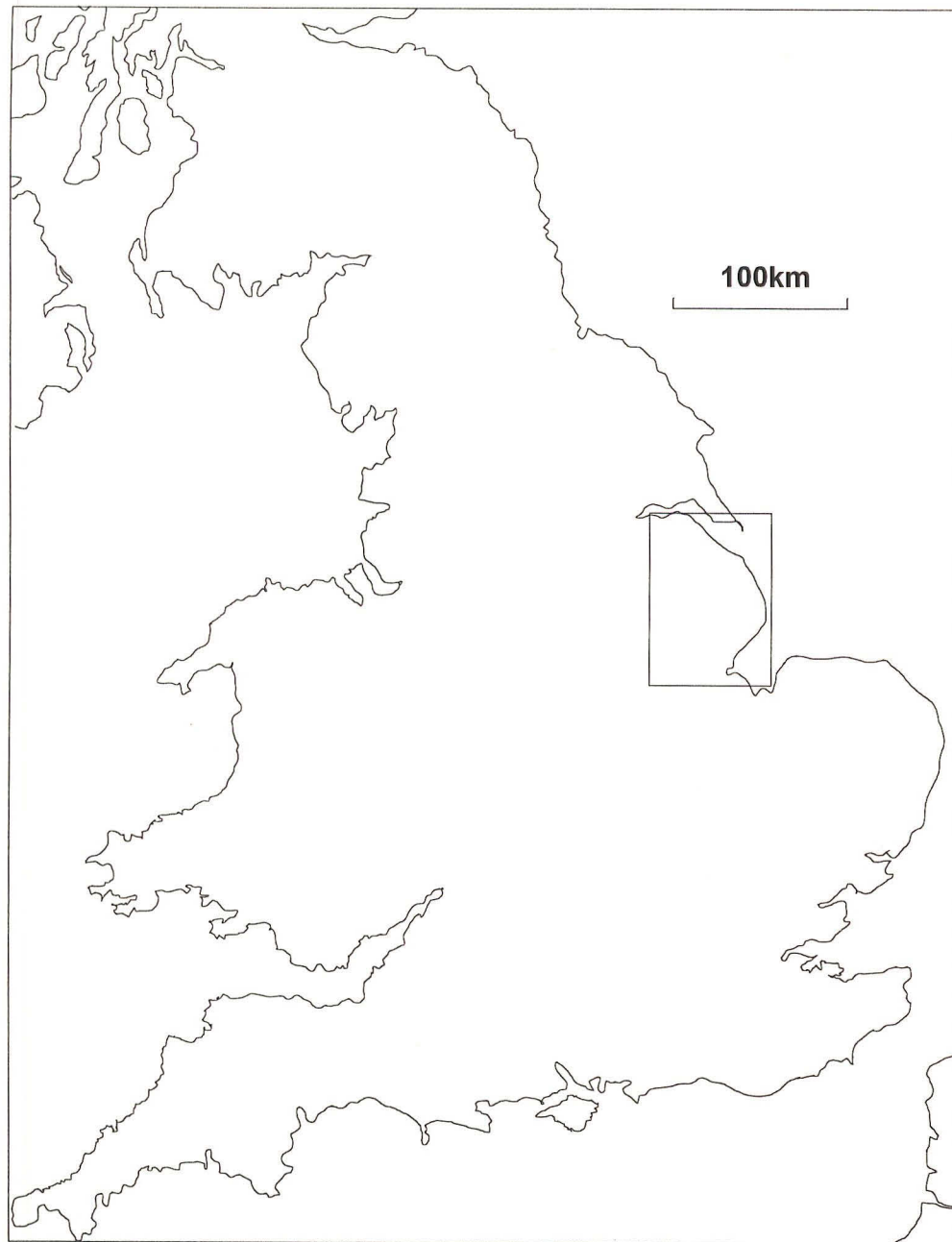
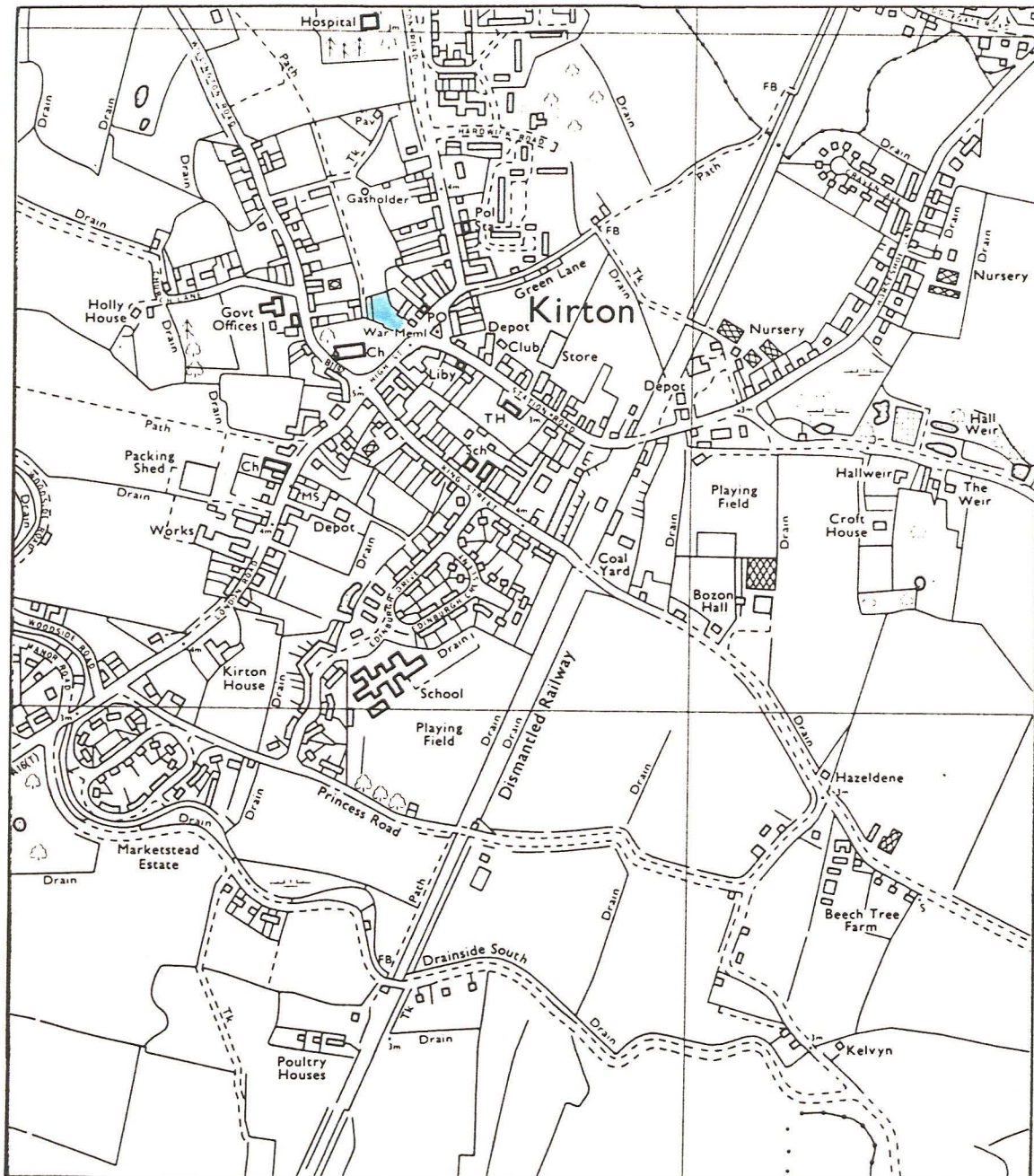


Figure 1 - General Location Plan



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1km

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Area of Development

Figure 2 - Site Location Plan

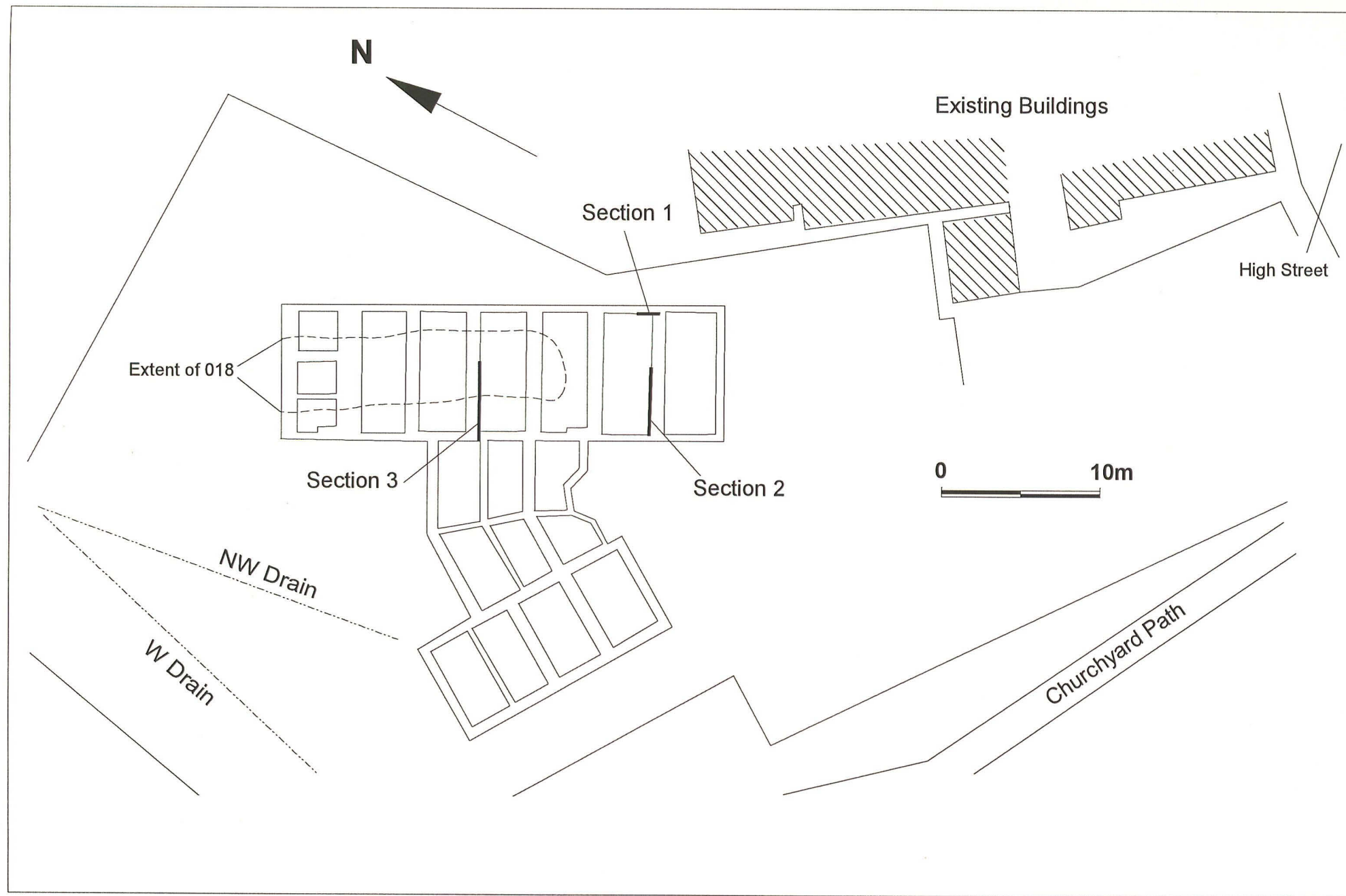


Figure 3 - Foundation Plan, showing Section locations

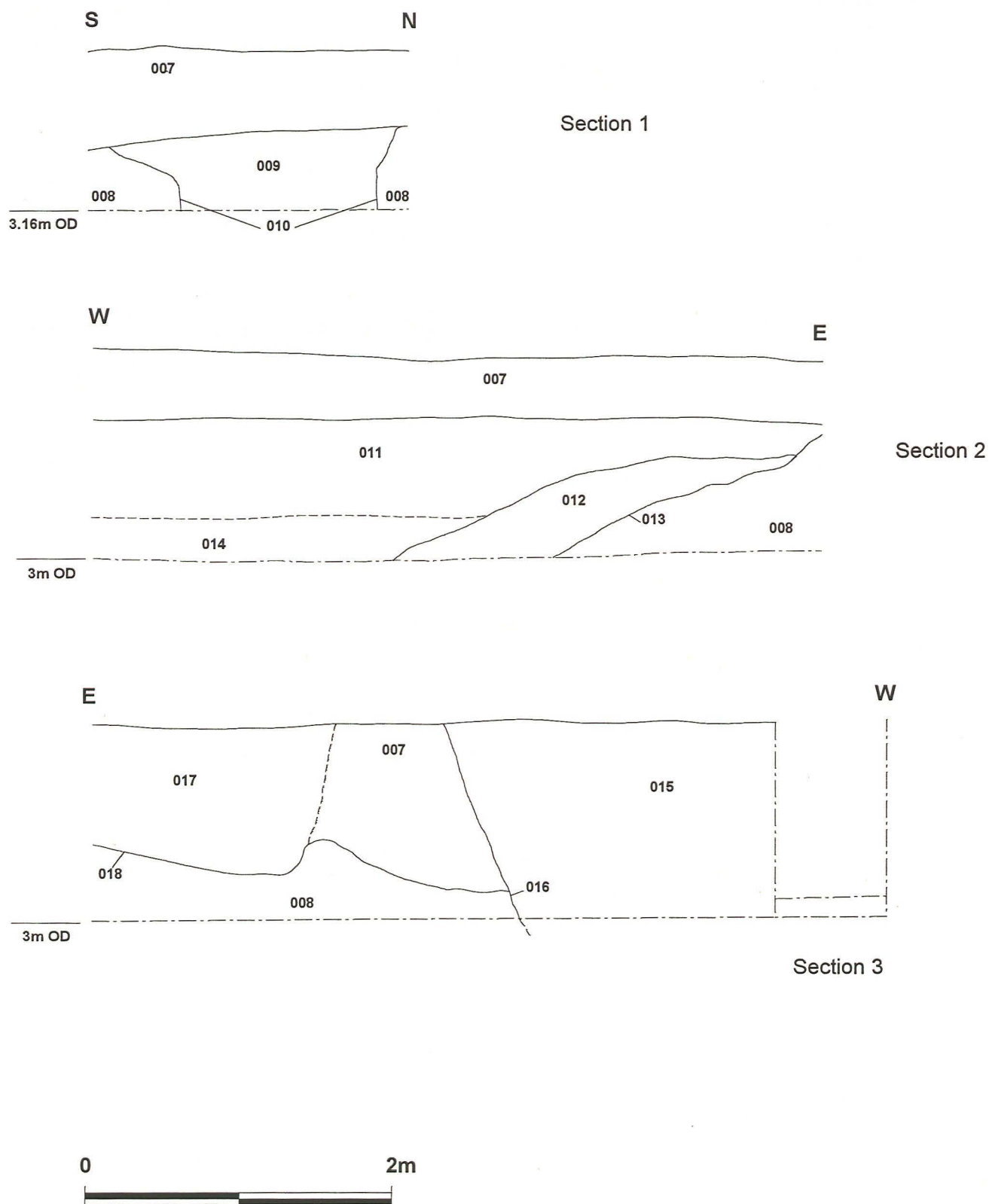


Figure 4 - Sections 1, 2 and 3



Plate 1 - General view of the Proposed development area, looking west



Plate 2 - Partial view of Section 2, showing general sequence of deposits, looking east

Appendix 1

BRIEF FOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL OBSERVATION AND RECORDING at Proposed Youth Centre, High Street, Kirton, Boston

1. Summary

- 1.1 This document is the brief for archaeological observation and recording work to be carried out during the construction of the proposed Youth Centre at High Street, Kirton, Boston 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 include the anticipated working methods, timescales and staffing levels.
- 1.3 The detailed specification will be submitted for approval by the Boston Community Archaeologist. 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 Boston is situated in the south Lincolnshire Fens, approximately 45km southeast of Lincoln and 7km from the northwest coast of the Wash. 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 OD.
- 2.3 The site is at present vacant ground used as car parking for local businesses.

3. Planning Background

- 3.1 An application (B14/0530/96) was submitted to Boston Borough Council for the construction of a youth centre by Robert Lowe Chartered Architect on behalf of Kirton Youth Challenge. Permission was granted subject to a condition that excavation for ground beams must not exceed 1.4m below current ground level and that provision must be made for an archaeological watching brief while excavations for foundations, service trenches or groundworks were in progress.
- 3.2 The building foundations will consist of ground beams and strip foundations. There will also be service trenches, and groundworks associated with the provision of car parking areas.

4. Archaeological Background

- 4.1 Evidence of prehistoric activity is rare within the parish with no finds from this period recovered from the village centre. Romano-British evidence is also scarce from the village although there is relatively high possibility that a Romano-British settlement lies 1km to the northwest
- 4.2 Although Saxon occupation has not been recognised in the area, the Domesday Book of 1086 establishes that Kirton was a settlement prior to the Norman Conquest. Domesday refers to a church, suggesting a precursor to the present building which is of 12th century date.

- 4.3 During the medieval period Kirton was an important market town with a goose fair and sessions Court. The parish comprised several manors and the manor houses of these, including Bozon and Orme Hall, are located on the outskirts of the village. Remains of a 14th century cross and the early 16th century King's Head Inn are both located within the village. French and German jettons (tokens) of the 15th and 16th century and possible millstones have been found close by.
- 4.4 Investigations at Station Road in 1994, approximately 100m to the east, revealed medieval drainage ditches and pits and flood deposits of the 14th century. Subsequent to the flooding the street frontage was cleared and raised with imported soil.
- 4.5 Ordnance Survey maps of 1905 show that the front of the proposed development site was occupied by buildings at that date.
- 4.6 An archaeological evaluation of the site was carried out in November 1996. A summary of the results of the evaluation follows:
- 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.

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 Community Archaeologist for Boston Borough Council.
- 5.3 It should be expected that evidence associated with Late Saxon and medieval activity and later medieval and post medieval activity will be observed.
- 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. Specialists should be considered for pottery of the Late

Saxon/Medieval periods and for the analysis of environmental deposits.

- 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.

6. Methods

- 6.1 The project should be carried out by a recognised archaeological body in accordance with the code of conduct of 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 Community Archaeologist of Boston Borough 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 Boston Borough Council Community Archaeologist, Robert Lowe Architects 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 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'.

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 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.

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 Community Archaeologist.

Brief set by Steven Membrey Community Archaeologist for Borough of Boston January 1997

Appendix 2

CONTEXT DESCRIPTION

No.	Section	Description	Interpretation
001		Brownish grey sandy silt, 0.3m thick	Topsoil, West end of site
002		Light to mid brown fine sandy silt, 0.44m thick	Make-up layer
003		Light brown clayey silt	Natural silting
004		Yellow fine sand	Natural deposit
005		Greyish black silt, with charcoal, 0.24m thick	Indeterminate deposit
006		Light greyish brown sandy silt, 0.4m thick	Dumped deposit/topsoil
007	1, 2, 3	Mid brown clayey silt, 0.9m thick	Make-up deposit
008	1, 2, 3	Firm yellow silt	Natural deposit
009	1	Mid brown clayey silt, 0.5m thick	Fill of 010
010	1	Cut, 1.3m extent	Pit
011	2	Yellowish brown silt	Fill of 013
012	2	Brownish black clayey silt	Fill of 013
013	2	Cut, 5m extent	Possible pond
014	2	Greenish grey silt	Fill of 013
015	3	Mid brown silty sand	Backfill of 016
016	3	?Rectangular cut, 2m wide x 1.3m deep	Demolition pit
017	3	Mid brown silt	Fill of 018
018	3	Rectangular cut,	Demolition pit

Appendix 3

POTTERY SUMMARY

Hilary Healey

Context	Description	Latest Date
+	1 WP, 1BD jug handle	19th/20th
005	1 med. glazed, probably TAS	13th-16th
006	1 ginger beer bottle (poss Lee and Green, Spalding and Sleaford) 2 Nottm. saltglaze, 1 blue transfer, 2 yellow kitchenware, 1 Sankey flower pot, 1 CP part bowl (18th), 1 glass ink bottle, sheared top	Nil earlier than late 19th century, all could be 20th
007	Rim jug or jar TAS/Old B type, prob. two-handled type with thumbled strip neck and 'garland' on body	Late 15th/ early 16th
015	1 brown ware, 3 yellow kitchenware, 2 black glaze, 5 WP, all 20th cent. 2 blue edge dishes, 1 pearlware, 2 blue sponge-printed bowl, all early 19th cent. 1 CP stem and 1 CP spur 19th cent and rim unknown	20th century
017	1 creamware, 1 MP, 1 TGE (blue painted), 1 pearl and blue transfer, 1 Staffs slipware, all early 19th plus, 1 TAS med. 2 CP stems (17th and c. 18th cent)	Latest first half 19th century

KEY:

TAS = Toynton All Saints, BD = Bourne D ware, Old B = Old Bolingbroke, MP = Midlands Purple, TGE = Tin glazed earthenware, WP = willow pattern, Nottm = Nottingham, Staffs = Staffordshire, CP = Clay pipe

Appendix 4

THE ANIMAL BONE

Paul Cope-Faulkner

Only three fragments of animal bone were retrieved from the watching brief of land adjacent to 17 High Street, Kirton. This compares to 124 fragments recovered from the evaluation phase. The bones were in generally good condition and identification was possible for all three. The results are summarised in the table below;

Context	Species, Bone type	Notes
+	Pig (juvenile) humerus	Fragmentary condition
005	Cattle rib	sawn both ends
007	Cattle radius	sawn both ends

Evidence for butchery was apparent on both cattle bones. This ties closely with the butchered bones revealed in the evaluation phase where a cattle rib was also worked in a similar fashion.

Although complementing the results of the evaluation phase no new practises or hints to animal husbandry could be ascertained from the small collection of bones recovered from this latest investigation.

Appendix 5

THE ARCHIVE

The archive consists of:

- | | |
|----|---------------------------|
| 18 | Context records |
| 1 | Photographic record sheet |
| 3 | Scale drawings |
| 2 | Bags of finds |
| 1 | Stratigraphic matrix |

This site archive (KHS97) complements the archive for the evaluation phase of archaeological investigation (KHS96).

All primary records and finds are currently kept at:

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

Lincolnshire City and County Council Museum Accession Number:	123.96
Archaeological Project Services Site Code:	KHS97

Appendix 6

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.
Medieval	The Middle Ages, dating from approximately AD 1066-1500.
Natural	Undisturbed deposit(s) of soil or rock which have accumulated without the influence of human activity.
Post-medieval	The period following the Middle Ages, dating from approximately AD 1500-1800.
Prehistoric	The period of human history prior to the introduction of writing. In Britain the prehistoric period lasts from the first evidence of human occupation about 500,000 BC, until the Roman invasion in the middle of the 1st century AD.
Saxon	Pertaining to the period dating from AD 410-1066 when England was largely settled by tribes from northern Germany