

97/16

**AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF  
AT PLOT 2,  
MAIN ROAD,  
LITTLE CARLTON,  
LINCOLNSHIRE  
(MLC97)**



**A P S**  
ARCHAEOLOGICAL  
PROJECT  
SERVICES

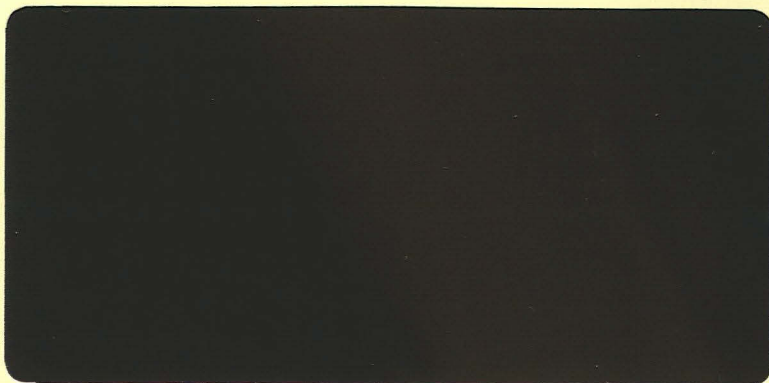
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**AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF  
AT PLOT 2,  
MAIN ROAD,  
LITTLE CARLTON,  
LINCOLNSHIRE  
(MLC97)**

Work Undertaken For  
Mr M.L. Patch

Report compiled by  
Paul Cope-Faulkner

December 1997

Planning Application No: N/101/1348/97  
National Grid Reference: TF 3998556  
City and County Museum Accession No:254.97

A.P.S. Report No: 71/97

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## 1. SUMMARY

*An archaeological watching brief undertaken by Archaeological Project Services on land at Plot 2, Main Road, Little Carlton, Lincolnshire monitored the excavation of the foundation trenches.*

*The watching brief was undertaken as the site lay within the medieval core of the village. Previous investigations in the village have also identified a Late Saxon presence.*

*The investigation identified two undated ditches, both possible land boundaries, one of which may have been replaced by a limestone wall, as indicated by a rubble spread. Artefacts retrieved from unstratified layers and a subsoil are typical of a manuring scatter.*

## 2. INTRODUCTION

### 2.1 Planning Background

Archaeological Project Services was commissioned Mr and Mrs M. Patch to undertake an archaeological watching brief during development at land adjacent to Main Road, Little Carlton, East Lindsey District, Lincolnshire. Approval for the development was sought through the submission of planning application N/101/1348/97. Permission was granted subject to a standard condition for archaeological recording. The watching brief was carried out in accordance with a specification designed by Archaeological Project Services and agreed by the Assistant County Archaeological Officer (Appendix 1).

An archaeological watching brief is defined as 'a formal programme of observation and investigation conducted during any operation carried out for non-

*archaeological purposes within a specified area, where there is a possibility that archaeological deposits may be disturbed or destroyed.'* (IFA 1994, 1).

### 2.2 Topography and Geology

Little Carlton is situated 8km east of Louth and 21km northeast of Horncastle, in the civil parish of Little Carlton, East Lindsey District (Fig. 1).

The development site is located at a height of c. 8m OD. It lies 150m north of the centre of the village as defined by the war memorial and is centred on National Grid Reference TF 399 856 (Fig. 2). The village is situated on the coastal plain of east Lincolnshire. The site and the surrounding area is on a slight slope eastward down to the Long Eau.

Local soils are of the Holderness Association, loamy typical stagnogley soils on chalky till and glaciofluvial drift (Hodge *et al*, 1984, 196), with soils of the Fladbury 2 Association in the stream valley, typically pelo-alluvial gley soils that are developed in river alluvium (*ibid.* 103). The soils lie above a drift geology of boulder clay that overlies a solid geology of Cretaceous chalk (BGS 1980).

### 2.3 Archaeological Setting

Little Carlton is situated in an area of known archaeological remains dating from the Late Saxon period (AD 850-1066). During demolition of the parish church, part of a limestone grave cover was recovered from the rubble infill of the church wall (SMR 43417). Such grave covers are typical of the Lindsey region and have been dated to the later 10th century.

Little Carlton is first mentioned in the Domesday Survey of 1086. Referred to as

'Carltone', the name is derived from the Old Scandinavian *Karla tūn* or *Karli's tūn* and may mean the homestead of free men or 'Karli's' homestead or village (Ekwall 1974, 87). The Domesday Survey records that Little Carlton was held by William de Perci and is listed with North Reston as containing a church, 2 mills, 30 acres of meadow and 100 acres of wood for pannage (Foster and Longley 1976). In the subsequent Lindsey Survey of c.1115, the land is held by Alan de Perci, presumably the heir to William (*ibid*).

The medieval period (AD 1066-1500) is represented by two moated sites in the vicinity of the parish. To the east of the parish is the Manor House which was once moated as evidenced by a watching brief (SMR 43533). West of the village centre lies Uphall Farm, which still retains its moats, and is first mentioned in a document of 1570, although the present building within the moat is Georgian (SMR 42634).

The parish church of St Edith was demolished in 1993. The church was dated to the early 19th century (White 1856, 226). However, a watching brief carried out during its demolition uncovered many medieval features including doorways and surviving chalk clad soil walls (Field and George 1994, 48; SMR 43082).

A number of Post-medieval (AD 1500-1900) remains are also known from Little Carlton and include a complex water mill site (SMR 42803) that also contained a windmill (SMR 42804).

An archaeological investigation was carried out on the adjacent plot (Cope-Faulkner 1997). This investigation revealed an undated ditch and a possible furrow.

### 3. AIMS

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

### 4. METHODS

The proposed development required the excavation of foundation trenches for new walls to a depth of c. 1.15m. Following excavation by mechanical excavator, the sides of all trenches were cleaned and rendered vertical. Selected deposits were partially or fully excavated by hand to determine their nature and to retrieve artefactual material. The depth of each deposit was measured from the present ground surface. 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. Finds recovered from excavated deposits 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.

### 5. RESULTS

Three phases were identified:

- Phase 1 - Natural deposits
- Phase 2 - Undated deposits
- Phase 3 - Recent 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 yellowish brown clay (006) containing chalk flecks were revealed at the base of all foundation trenches. These deposits are likely to represent the underlying boulder clay.

### Phase 2 Undated deposits

Situated at the northern end of the foundation trenches (Fig. 3) is a northeast-southwest aligned linear feature (008). Measuring 1.5m wide (Fig. 4, Section 4), this ditch had a minimum depth of 0.23m and contained a single fill of yellowish brown clay and silt (007). Visible in two trenches, the ditch has a minimum length of 5m.

A second ditch (005), is located in the southern portion of the site and is aligned northwest to southeast (Fig. 4, Section 1). This was 0.8m-1m wide, at least 0.32m deep and contained light brown clay (004).

Overlying ditch (005) was a linear spread of limestone rubble (003) visible for a length of c. 8.5m (Fig. 3). Comprising various sized limestone fragments, this spread was never more than 2.3m wide. It is possible that this spread represents the remnants of a collapsed wall.

### Phase 3 Recent deposits

Above all deposits is a deposit of yellowish brown clayey silt (002). Identified as a subsoil, the deposit measured 0.2m thick.

This was in turn overlain by a topsoil of mid brown silt (001) 0.2m thick.

## 6. DISCUSSION

Natural deposits (Phase 1) of clay with chalk fragments relate to the underlying drift geology. Boulder clay is formed after the retreat of a glacier.

Phase 2 deposits, comprise two ditches and a spread of limestone rubble. The ditches probably represent land parcelling or drainage. The spread of limestone rubble may indicate a collapsed wall, either over or to one side of ditch (005), to emphasise the boundary. It is also possible that the rubble was used to level the ground above the ditch. The north-south aligned ditch may be a continuation of the ditch identified in the adjacent plot into the investigation area (Fig. 5). However, the width of the ditch recorded to the north was 0.83m.

Artefacts include residual or unstratified pottery of Toynton All Saints type ware dating from the 14th to 16th centuries. Other finds include bone, modern tile, fired clay and an iron door hinge. Such a collection may indicate no more than discarded rubbish incorporated into midden heaps and later spread on the land to improve fertility of the soil.

## 7. CONCLUSIONS

Archaeological investigations on land adjacent to Main Road, Little Carlton were undertaken because the site fell within the medieval core of the village.

A group of undated features comprising two ditches and remnants of a wall were the only features exposed during the investigation. However, as one of the first archaeological



interventions in the village this investigation can provide useful data regarding depths of archaeological deposits and their state of preservation.

Artefacts recovered from recent deposits during the investigation include pottery, tile and bone and may indicate a typical manuring scatter. The nature of the local site conditions would suggest that few environmental indicators (seeds, wood, shells *etc*) would survive, other than through charring.

## 8. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeological Project Services would like to acknowledge the assistance of Mr and Mrs M. Patch. Plans of the site were kindly given by the architect, John Stainton. The work was coordinated by Gary Taylor and this report was edited by Tom Lane. Access to the County Sites and Monuments Record was kindly given by Mark Bennett of the Archaeology Section, Lincolnshire County Council. Hilary Healey examined the pottery and other finds.

## 9. PERSONNEL

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

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## 11. ABBREVIATIONS

BGS British Geological Survey  
IFA Institute of Field Archaeologists  
SMR Sites and Monuments Record

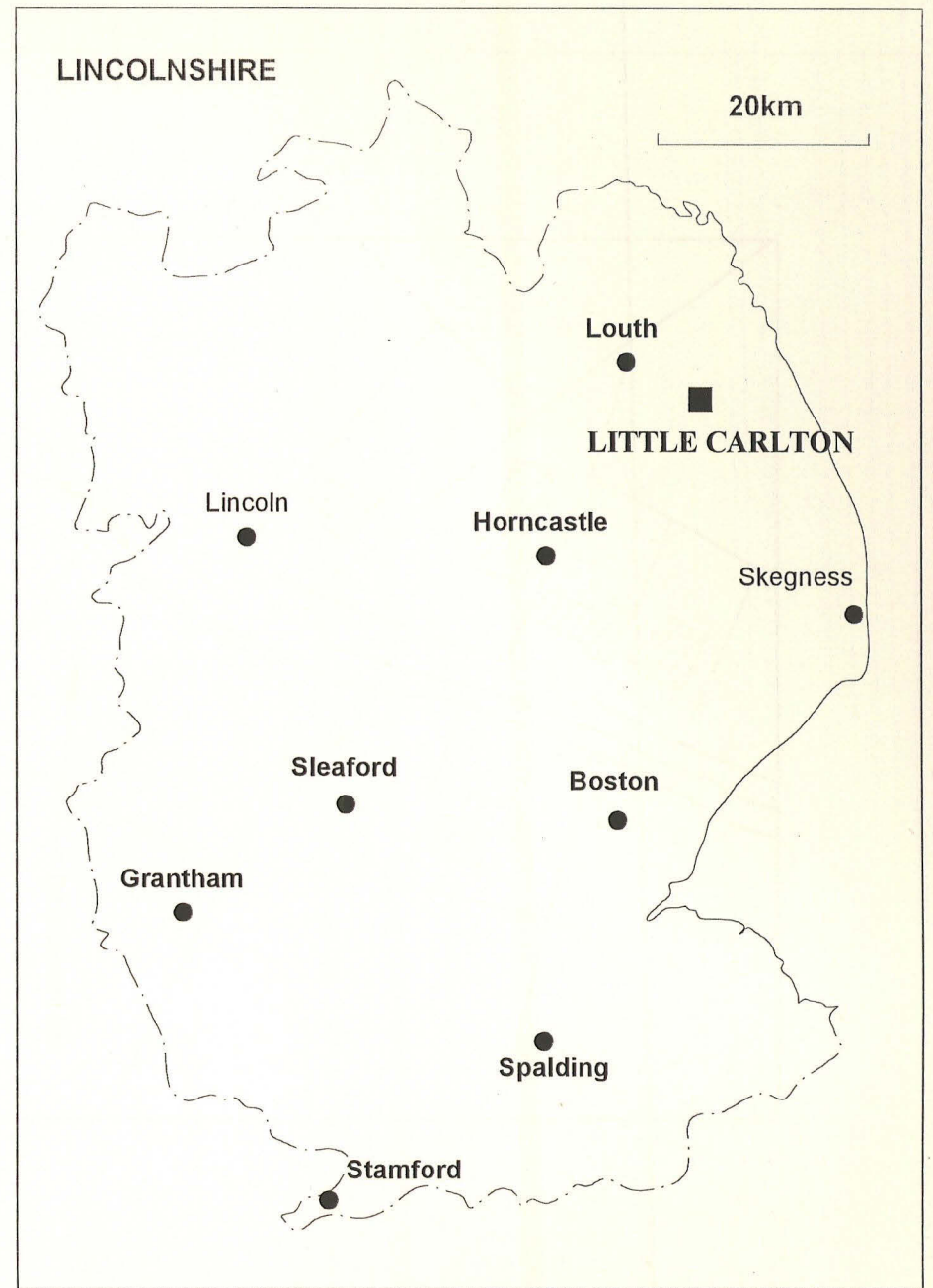
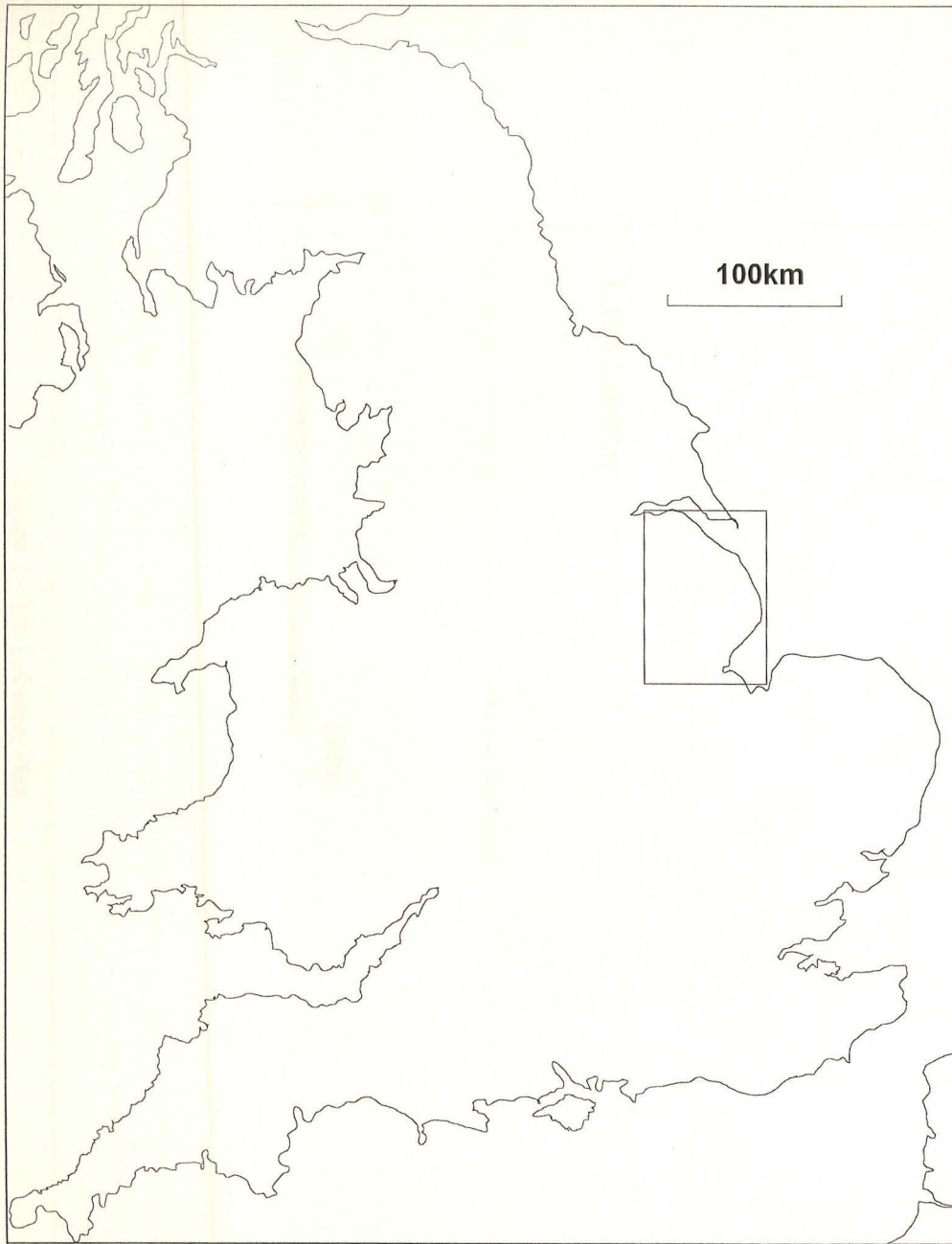


Figure 1 - General Location Plan



Figure 2 - Site Location Plan

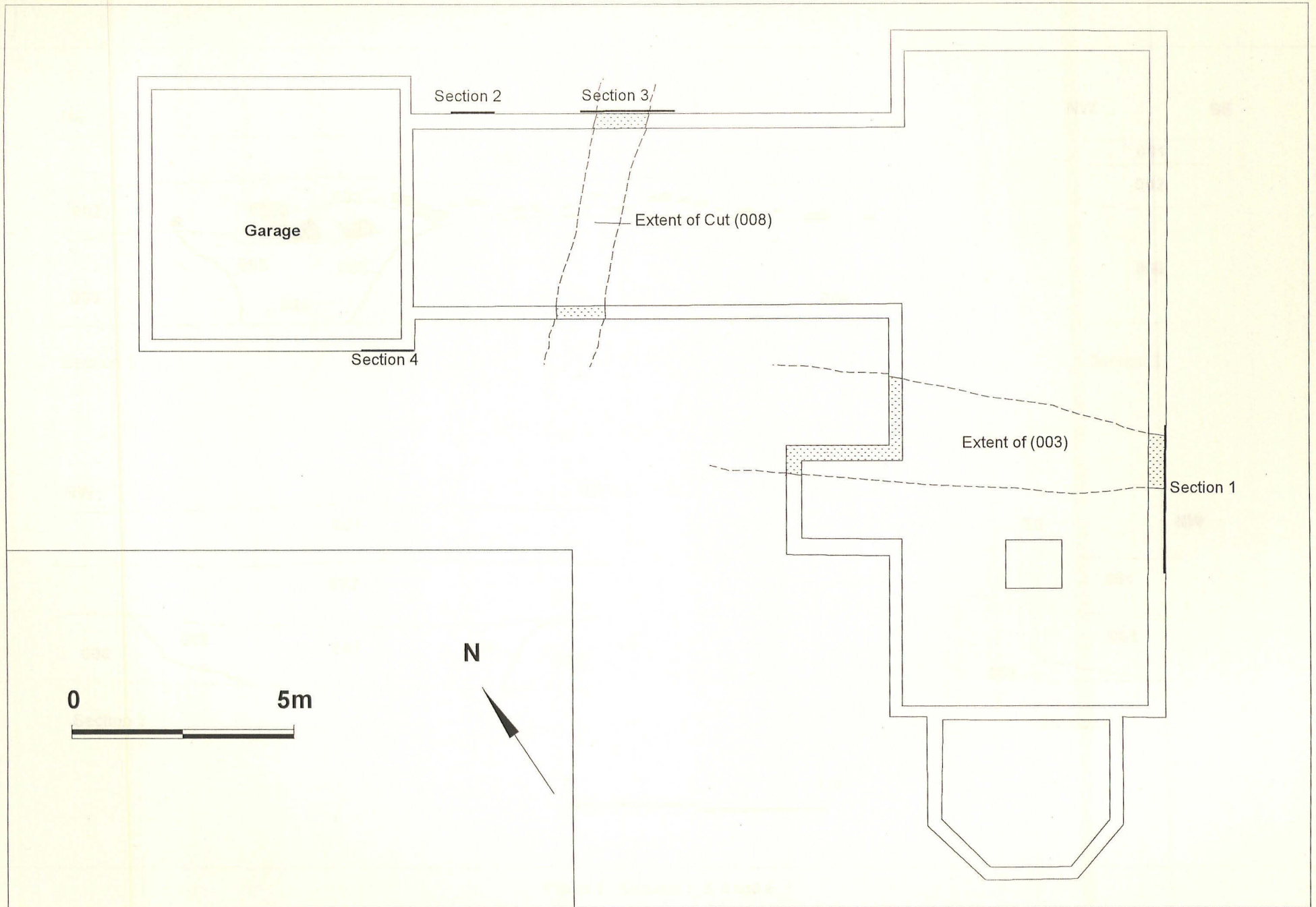
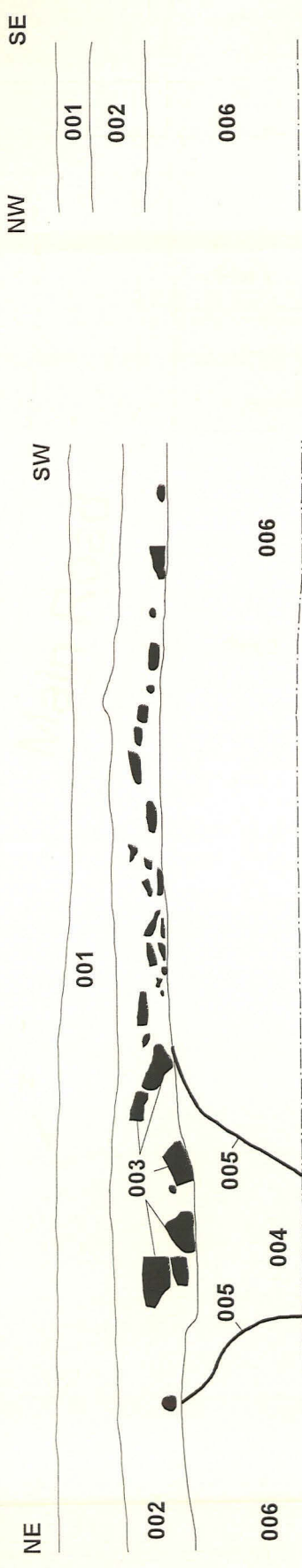
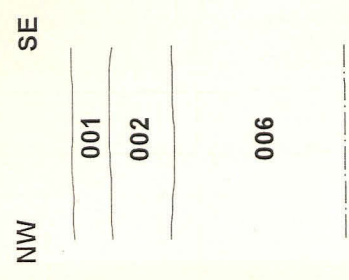


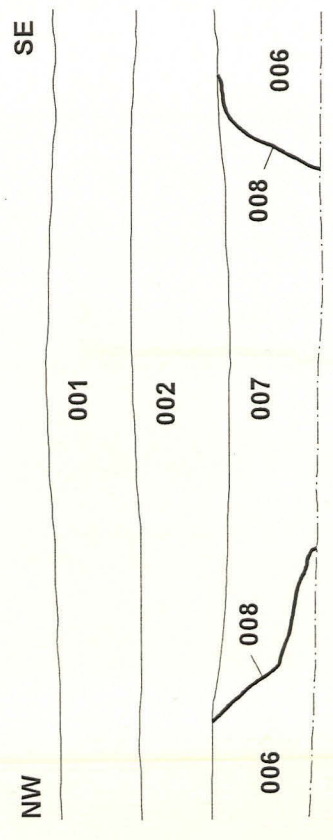
Figure 3 - Plan of Development, showing location of drawn Sections



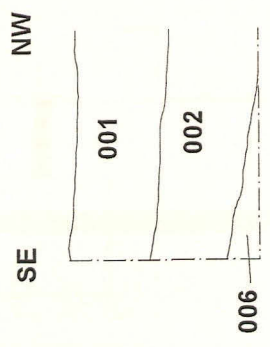
Section 1



Section 2



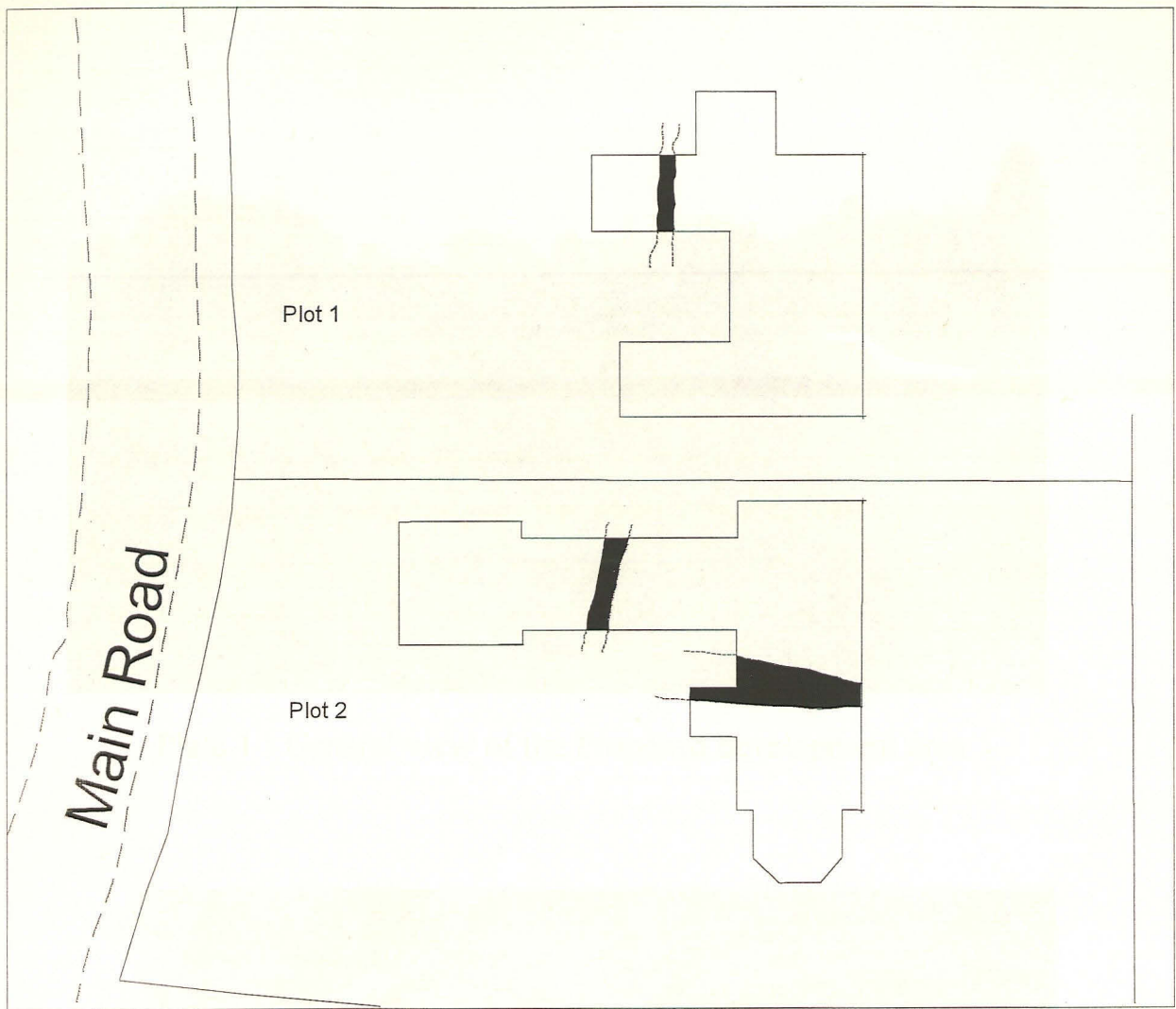
Section 3



Section 4



Figure 4 - Sections 1, 2, 3 and 4



Plot 2 : View of Section 1, showing general location of deposits being cut

Figure 5 - Results of Archaeological investigation at Plots 1 and 2



Plate 1 : General view of the Proposed development area



Plate 2 : View of Section 1, showing general sequence of deposits,  
looking east

## Appendix 1

### LAND AT PLOT 2, MAIN ROAD, LITTLE CARLTON, LINCOLNSHIRE SPECIFICATION FOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

#### 1 SUMMARY

- 1.1 *A watching brief is required during the development of land at Plot 2, Main Road, Little Carlton, Lincolnshire.*
- 1.2 *The village is of medieval origin, though references in the Domesday Book of 1086 and the discovery of a Late Saxon grave slab imply a pre-conquest presence. A medieval moated site is located in the vicinity and the present dispersed settlement pattern would suggest that the village was larger in the medieval period than today.*
- 1.3 *The watching brief will be undertaken during groundworks associated with the development. The archaeological features exposed will be recorded in writing, graphically and photographically.*
- 1.4 *On completion of the fieldwork a report will be prepared detailing the findings of the work. The report will consist of a narrative supported by illustrations.*

#### 2 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 This document comprises a specification for an archaeological watching brief during the construction of a detached house and garage at Plot 2, Main Road, Little Carlton, national grid reference TF399855.
- 2.2 This document contains the following parts:
  - 2.2.1 Overview.
  - 2.2.2 Stages of work and methodologies.
  - 2.2.3 List of specialists.
  - 2.2.4 Programme of works and staffing structure of the project.

#### 3 SITE LOCATION

- 3.1 Little Carlton is located approximately 6km east of Louth and 1km south of Manby in the administrative district of East Lindsey. The site is situated on the west side of the village, on the east side of Main Road, at TF399855.

#### 4 PLANNING BACKGROUND

- 4.1 Full planning permission (application number N/101/1279/96) for the construction of a detached house and garage has been granted by East Lindsey District Council, subject to a condition requiring the implementation of an archaeological watching brief.

#### 5 SOILS AND TOPOGRAPHY

- 5.1 Little Carlton is situated beyond the Wolds on the coastal plain of east Lincolnshire. The site and surrounding area is on a slight slope eastward down to the Long Eau/The Beck, and lies at approximately 8m OD. The site is at the boundary of two soil regimes. On the west are soils of the Holderness Association, loamy typical stagnogley soils on chalky till and glaciofluvial drift, while to the east, in the stream valley, are Fladbury 2 Association peelo-alluvial gley soils developed in river alluvium (Hodge *et al.* 1984, 103, 196).



## 6 THE ARCHAEOLOGY

- 6.1 Little Carlton is village of probable medieval origin. It was referred to in the Domesday Book of 1086 when it formed a joint manor with North Reston and within which there was a church and two mills. A Late Saxon grave cover has been found at the church. Approximately 500m to the northwest of the site is a large medieval moated site at Upphall Farm. Present occupation in the village is largely dispersed, suggesting that the settlement has shrunk, or experienced general de-population, since medieval times.

## 7 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- 7.1 The aims of the watching brief will be:
- 7.1.1 To record the archaeological features exposed during the excavation of the foundation trenches and other areas of ground disturbance.
- 7.2 The objectives of the watching brief will be to:
- 7.2.1 Determine the form and function of the archaeological features encountered;
  - 7.2.2 Determine the spatial arrangement of the archaeological features encountered;
  - 7.2.3 As far as practicable, recover dating evidence from the archaeological features, and
  - 7.2.4 Establish the sequence of the archaeological remains present on the site.

## 8 SITE OPERATIONS

### 8.1 General considerations

- 8.1.1 All work will be undertaken following statutory Health and Safety requirements in operation at the time of the watching brief.
- 8.1.2 The work will be undertaken according to the relevant codes of practise issued by the Institute of Field Archaeologists.

### 8.2 Methodology

- 8.2.1 The watching brief will be undertaken during the ground works phase of development, and includes the archaeological monitoring of all phases of soil movement.
- 8.2.2 The sections of the trenches will be observed regularly to identify and record archaeological features that are exposed and to record changes in the geological conditions. The plans of the trench and features will be drawn at a scale of 1:20. Section drawings of the trenches and features will be recorded at a scale of 1:10. Written descriptions detailing the nature of the deposits, features and fills encountered will be compiled on Archaeological Project Services pro-forma record sheets.
- 8.2.3 Any finds recovered will be bagged and labelled for later analysis.
- 8.2.4 Throughout the watching brief a photographic record consisting of colour prints will be compiled. The photographic record will consist of:
  - 8.2.4.1 The site during work to show specific stages, and the layout of the archaeology within the trench.
  - 8.2.4.2 groups of features where their relationship is important
- 8.2.5 Should human remains be located the appropriate Home Office licence will be obtained

before their removal. In addition, the Local Environmental Health Department and the police will be informed.

## 9 POST-EXCAVATION

### 9.1 Stage 1

9.1.1 On completion of site operations, the records and schedules produced during the watching brief will be checked and ordered to ensure that they form a uniform sequence forming a level II archive. A stratigraphic matrix of the archaeological deposits and features present on the site will be prepared. All photographic material will be catalogued: the colour prints will be labelled, the labelling referring to schedules identifying the subject/s photographed.

9.1.2 All finds recovered during the field work will be washed, marked and packaged according to the deposit from which they were recovered. Any finds requiring specialist treatment and conservation will be sent to the Conservation Laboratory at the City and County Museum, Lincoln.

### 9.2 Stage 2

9.2.1 Detailed examination of the stratigraphic matrix to enable the determination of the various phases of activity on the site.

9.2.2 Finds will be sent to specialists for identification and dating.

### 9.3 Stage 3

9.3.1 On completion of stage 2, a report detailing the findings of the watching brief will be prepared.

9.3.2 This will consist of:

9.3.2.1 A description of the archaeological setting of the watching brief.

9.3.2.2 Description of the topography of the site.

9.3.2.3 Description of the methodologies used during the watching brief.

9.3.2.4 A text describing the findings of the watching brief.

9.3.2.5 A consideration of the local, regional and national context of the watching brief findings.

9.3.2.6 Plans of the archaeological features exposed. If a sequence of archaeological deposits is encountered, separate plans for each phase will be produced.

9.3.2.7 Sections of the archaeological features.

9.3.2.8 Interpretation of the archaeological features exposed, and their chronology and setting within the surrounding landscape.

9.3.2.9 Specialist reports on the finds from the site.

9.3.2.10 Appropriate photographs of specific archaeological features.

## 10 REPORT DEPOSITION

10.1 Copies of the report will be sent to the client; the County Council Archaeological Sites and Monuments Record; and to East Lindsey District Council Planning Department.

11 **ARCHIVE**

11.1 The documentation and records generated during the watching brief will be sorted and ordered into the format acceptable to the City and County Museum, Lincoln. This will be undertaken following the requirements of the document titled *Conditions for the Acceptance of Project Archives* for long term storage and curation.

12 **PUBLICATION**

12.1 A report of the findings of the watching brief will be published in Heritage Lincolnshire's Annual Report and a note presented to the editor of the journal of the Society for Lincolnshire History and Archaeology. If appropriate, notes on the findings will be submitted to the appropriate national journals: *Britannia* for discoveries of Roman date, and *Medieval Archaeology* and the journal of the *Medieval Settlement Research Group* for findings of medieval or later date.

13 **CURATORIAL RESPONSIBILITY**

13.1 Curatorial responsibility for the archaeological work undertaken on the site lies with the Archaeology Officer, Lincolnshire County Council. They will be given seven days notice in writing before the commencement of the project.

14 **VARIATIONS**

14.1 Variations to the proposed scheme of works will only be made following written confirmation of acceptance from the Archaeology Officer, Lincolnshire County Council.

15 **PROGRAMME OF WORKS AND STAFFING LEVELS**

- 15.1 The watching brief will be integrated with the programme of construction.
- 15.2 An archaeological supervisor with experience of watching briefs will undertake the work.

16 **SPECIALISTS TO BE USED DURING THE PROJECT**

<u>Task</u>	<u>Body to be undertaking the work</u>
Conservation	Conservation Laboratory, City and County Museum, Lincoln
Pottery Analysis	Prehistoric - Trent & Peak Archaeological Trust Roman - B Precious, independent specialist Saxon - City of Lincoln Archaeology Unit Medieval and later - H Healey, independent archaeologist
Non-pottery Artefacts	J Cowgill, independent specialist
Animal Bones	Environmental Archaeology Consultancy
Human Remains Analysis	R Gowland, independent specialist

17 **BIBLIOGRAPHY**

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## Appendix 2

### CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

Context	Description	Interpretation
001	Mid brown silt, <i>c.</i> 0.2m thick	Topsoil
002	Yellowish brown clayey silt, 0.2m thick	Subsoil
003	Limestone rubble spread, 0.16m thick, > 8m long	Collapsed wall remnant
004	Light brown clay	Fill of 005
005	Linear cut, 0.8m-1m wide by 0.32m deep, aligned NW-SE	Ditch
006	Yellowish brown clay with chalk flecks	Boulder clay (Natural)
007	Yellowish brown clay and silt	Fill of 008
008	Linear cut, 1.5m wide by 0.23m deep, aligned NE-SW	Ditch

### Appendix 3

#### THE FINDS

Hilary Healey and Paul Cope-Faulkner

Context	Description	Latest Date
+	5 sherds of Toynton All Saints type pottery, including a pancheon rim. 14th-16th century	
	3 modern flat tile fragments	
	2 fired clay fragments	
	2 natural flints	
	1 clinker fragment	
	2 cattle sized limb bones	
	1 iron fragment, possible door hinge	
	Modern	
002	2 Toynton All Saints type sherds	14th-16th century

The symbol '+' refers to finds that are unstratified.

## Appendix 4

### THE ARCHIVE

The archive consists of:

8	Context records
1	Photographic record sheet
5	Scale drawings
1	Bag of finds
1	Stratigraphic matrix

All primary records and finds are currently kept at:

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

The ultimate destination of the project archive is:

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

The archive will be deposited in accordance with the document titled *Conditions for the Acceptance of Project Archives*, produced by the Lincolnshire City and County Museum.

Lincolnshire City and County Council Museum Accession Number:	254.97
Archaeological Project Services Site Code:	MLC97

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## Appendix 5

### GLOSSARY

Anglo-Saxon	Pertaining to the early part of the Saxon period and dating from approximately AD 450-650.
Boulder Clay	A deposit formed after the retreat of a glacier. Also known as till, this material is generally unsorted and can comprise of rock flour to boulders to rocks of quite substantial size.
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.
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.