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**ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF
ON LAND ADJACENT TO MAIN STREET,
BISHOP NORTON,
LINCOLNSHIRE
(BNM98)**

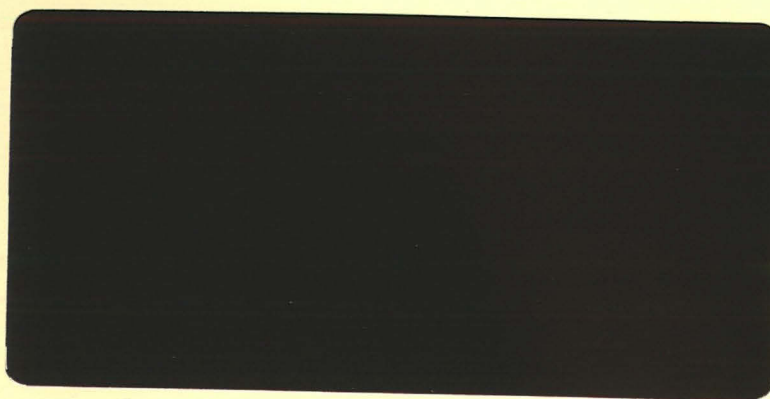


A P S
ARCHAEOLOGICAL
PROJECT
SERVICES

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Archaeology Section

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SL 5213 1616

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54266 - J. d. d. d.
54268 - Prehistoric.

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF
ON LAND ADJACENT TO MAIN STREET,
BISHOP NORTON,
LINCOLNSHIRE
(BNM98)**

Work Undertaken For
Mr A J Barr

Report compiled by
Edward Lewis BA MA

April 1998

Planning Application No: 96/P/0954
National Grid Reference: SK 984 927
City and County Museum Accession No:60.98

A.P.S. Report No. 13/98

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1. SUMMARY

A watching brief was undertaken on land situated at Main Street, Bishop Norton, Lincolnshire. The watching brief monitored the excavation of the foundation trenches. The site lies in the core of the medieval village just south of the church. Additionally, there is evidence of Romano-British settlement outside the present village.

The investigation revealed pits and a ditch. These were generally undated, though one of the pits may be medieval. A fragment of human bone was recovered, perhaps indicating funerary activity in the vicinity of the site. Additionally, a prehistoric flint artefact was retrieved.

2. INTRODUCTION

2.1 Planning Background

Archaeological Project Services was commissioned by Mr A.J. Barr to undertake an archaeological watching brief during development at land adjacent to Main Street, Bishop Norton, Lincolnshire. Approval for the development was sought through the submission of planning application (96/P/0954). Permission was granted by West Lindsey District Council, subject to a standard condition for archaeological recording. The watching brief was carried out on the 5th February 1998 in accordance with a specification designed by Archaeological Project Services and approved 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

Bishop Norton is situated 23km north of Lincoln and 35km northwest of Horncastle in West Lindsey District, Lincolnshire (Fig. 1).

The village is situated on the dip slope of the Jurassic limestone ridge, which declines to the east. Just north of the village is Atterby Beck.

Located at a height of *c.* 22m OD, the development site lies *c.* 150m south of the parish church of St. Peter and is centred on National Grid Reference SK 984 927 (Fig. 2).

Local soils are the Aswarby association, fine loamy gleyic brown calcareous earths with fine loamy brown redzinas. These soils occur on Cornbrash and Great Oolite limestones which are often only 2m thick in Lincolnshire and are underlain by slowly permeable clay or clay-shale (Hodge *et al.* 1984, 99).

2.3 Archaeological Setting

Bishop Norton is situated in an area of known archaeological remains dating from the Romano-British period and later. To the south of the village lies an area of cropmarks that depict ditched enclosures and smaller irregular enclosures that might represent buildings (SMR 50858). It is possible that this is the site of a small planned settlement or part of a villa complex. The major Roman thoroughfare, Ermine Street, passes close to Bishop Norton, forming the west boundary

of the parish (Margary 1973, 237).

Bishop Norton is first mentioned in the Domesday Survey of 1086. Referred to as 'Nortune', the name is derived from north *Tūn* meaning homestead or village (Ekwall 1974, 344). Domesday records that Bishop Norton was owned by the Bishop of Lincoln and was inland and sokeland of Stow and contained a mill and 430 acres of meadow (Foster and Longley 1976).

At the time of the Domesday Survey the parish of Bishop Norton was composed of three townships, Bishop Norton, Atterby and Crossholme (Everson *et al.* 1991, 9). Bishop Norton is an example of a medieval planned village which is still evident in the grid system of streets and it has been suggested that this development may have been caused by the village becoming a manorial holding (*ibid*, 16).

Located only 150m north of the development site is the parish church of St. Peter. Although the present building dates from the 18th century, it incorporates architectural fragments dating to the 12th century (Pevsner and Harris 1989, 147).

Further evidence for medieval (AD 1066-1500) activity is represented by the earthworks of ridge and furrow located along the Atterby Beck just north of the village (SMR 53912).

3. AIMS

The requirements of the watching brief, as detailed 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 removal of topsoil followed by excavation of foundation trenches to a depth of *c.* 1.2m. Following excavation, the sides of the 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 and thickness of each deposit was measured from the 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.

5. RESULTS

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

- Group 1 Natural deposits
- Group 2 Undated deposits
- Group 3 Modern deposits

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

Group 1 Natural deposits

The earliest deposits encountered during the investigation were natural subsoils of orange-yellow sandy silt (010) and a brownish yellow sandy silt and stone (003).

Group 2 Undated deposits

Overlying these natural deposits is a light to mid yellow brown silt (002) only encountered in Section 2. This has been interpreted as an ancient topsoil though may, alternatively, be a further natural subsoil.

Cutting through this ancient topsoil/subsoil was a north-south aligned linear feature, over 3m long (005). Approximately 0.9m wide and 0.5m deep, this is interpreted as a gully or, possibly, a foundation trench. It was filled with brown silt (005) from which a fragment of Late Saxon or early medieval pottery was recovered.

Adjacent to this gully was an elongated pit (009), approximately 1.2m long, *c.* 0.2m wide and over 0.6m deep. The lower part of this pit contained greyish brown sandy silt (008) which was built up against the east side of the feature (Fig. 4, Section 1). Above this deposit was a thin, *c.* 50mm deep, layer of brownish and black organic silt (007), possibly a turf line. Overlying this, and filling the remainder of the feature, was a deposit of brown silt (006).

On the south side of the site a further cut feature (012), 1.3m wide, over 0.8m deep and in excess of 0.7m long, was identified. Interpreted as a pit, or possibly a ditch, this was filled with brown silt (011) that contained a moderate quantity of mixed animal bone. A flint artefact of prehistoric date was also retrieved from this pit fill, but is considered residual

Group 3 Modern Deposits

Sealing the undated archaeological remains and forming the present ground surface across the site was a brown humic silt topsoil. This was up to 0.8m thick and contained pottery dating to the late 19th century-early 20th century and brick fragments. A fragment of human skull was recovered as an unstratified find from the trench footings.

6. DISCUSSION

The natural deposits encountered on site are, primarily, consistent with the Aswarby Association soil type, as defined by Hodge *et al.* (1984, 99). Slight variations in consistency and constituents may be due to localised differences in soil formation processes.

Undated remains (Phase 2) include a north-south gully. This feature is of uncertain function but perhaps served as a boundary or, possibly, a foundation trench. The gully broadly parallels the Main Street and, therefore, it may be part of the medieval planned grid system. Although the gully is undated it contained a fragment of Late Saxon-early medieval pottery and therefore, is dated to this period or later.

Two pits were also identified. One of these (012) contained a mixed assemblage of animal bone and may, in consequence, be for refuse disposal. A prehistoric flint artefact was also recovered from the pit but is thought to be redeposited. However, it may indicate prehistoric activity in the area. The second pit (009) was of uncertain function but did not contain any occupation debris and, therefore, is unlikely to have been for refuse. However, the pit displayed evidence of gradual filling. The lower fill

was banked against one side of the pit, indicating deliberate infilling, rather than natural silting. After being partially backfilled the pit was left as a depression, allowing vegetation to develop in the hollow. Subsequently, however, the pit was completely backfilled.

Sealing the archaeological remains was modern topsoil (Phase 3). This deposit was up to 0.8m thick, possibly due to the incorporation of dumped materials, or perhaps through gardening or agriculture.

A fragment of human skull was recovered as an unstratified object during the investigation. This may have been imported to the site or might indicate that funerary activity, though of unknown date, occurs in the vicinity.

7. CONCLUSIONS

Archaeological investigations on land adjacent to Main Street, Bishop Norton were undertaken because the site fell within the medieval village core, and the likelihood existed of archaeological remains being disturbed.

A small number of archaeological remains, pits and a gully, were revealed. These were all undated, though the gully may be medieval. The archaeological remains were well-preserved, in part due to burial by a thick layer of topsoil. Few artefacts were recovered, though they were all in good condition. Bone was well preserved and, although there was no evidence of waterlogging, organic matter also survived. A fragment of human bone recovered during the investigation may imply that otherwise unknown funerary activity is located in proximity to the site.

8. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeological Project Services would like to acknowledge the assistance of Mr A.J. Barr who commissioned the fieldwork and post-excavation analysis. 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 provided by Mark Bennet and Sarah Grundy of the Archaeology Section, Lincolnshire County Council. Thanks are also due to Hilary Healey who kindly examined the pottery.

9. PERSONNEL

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

10. BIBLIOGRAPHY

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11. ABBREVIATIONS

IFA Institute of Field Archaeologists

RCHME Royal Commission on the Historical Monuments of England

SMR Sites and Monuments Record

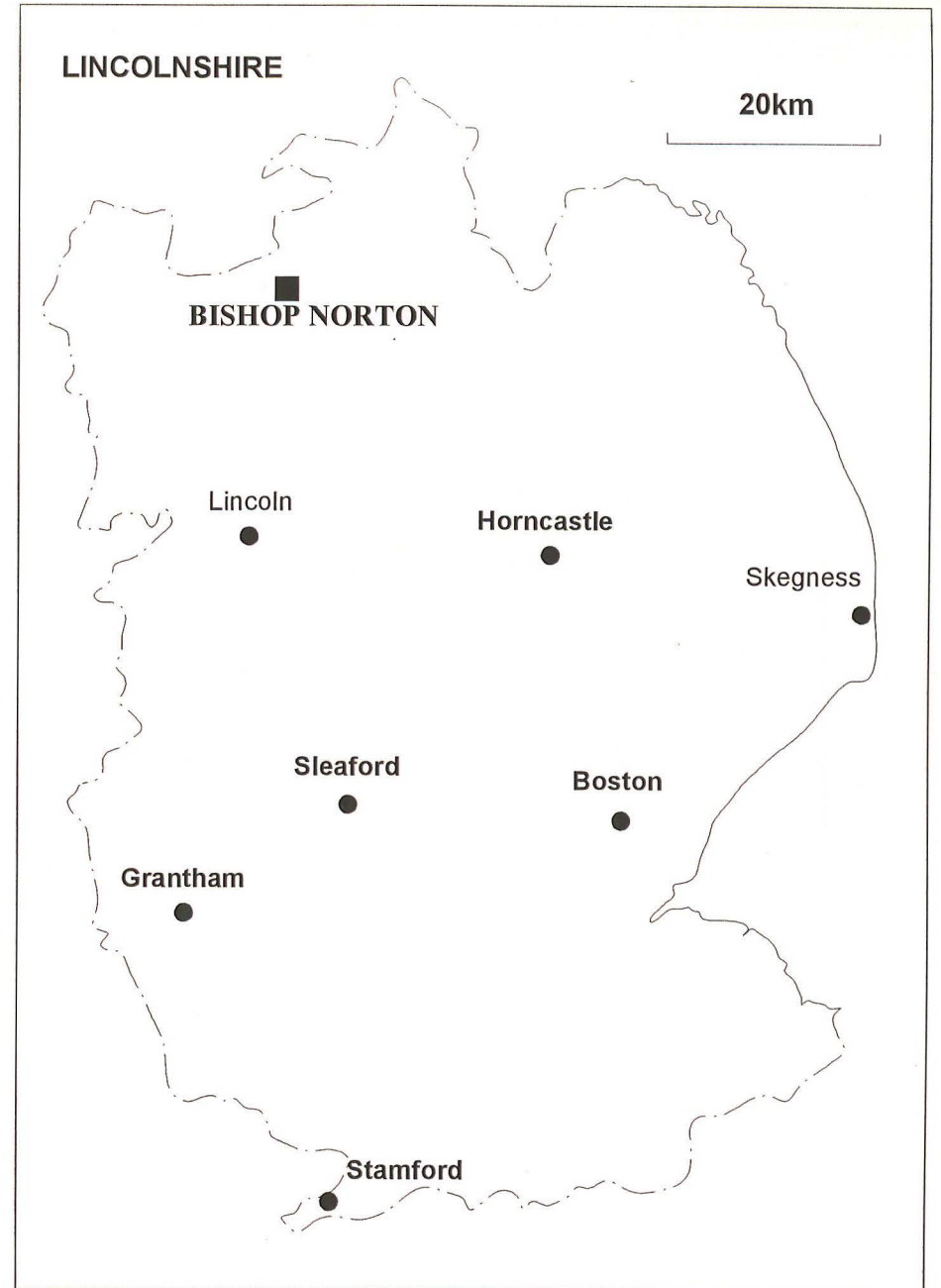
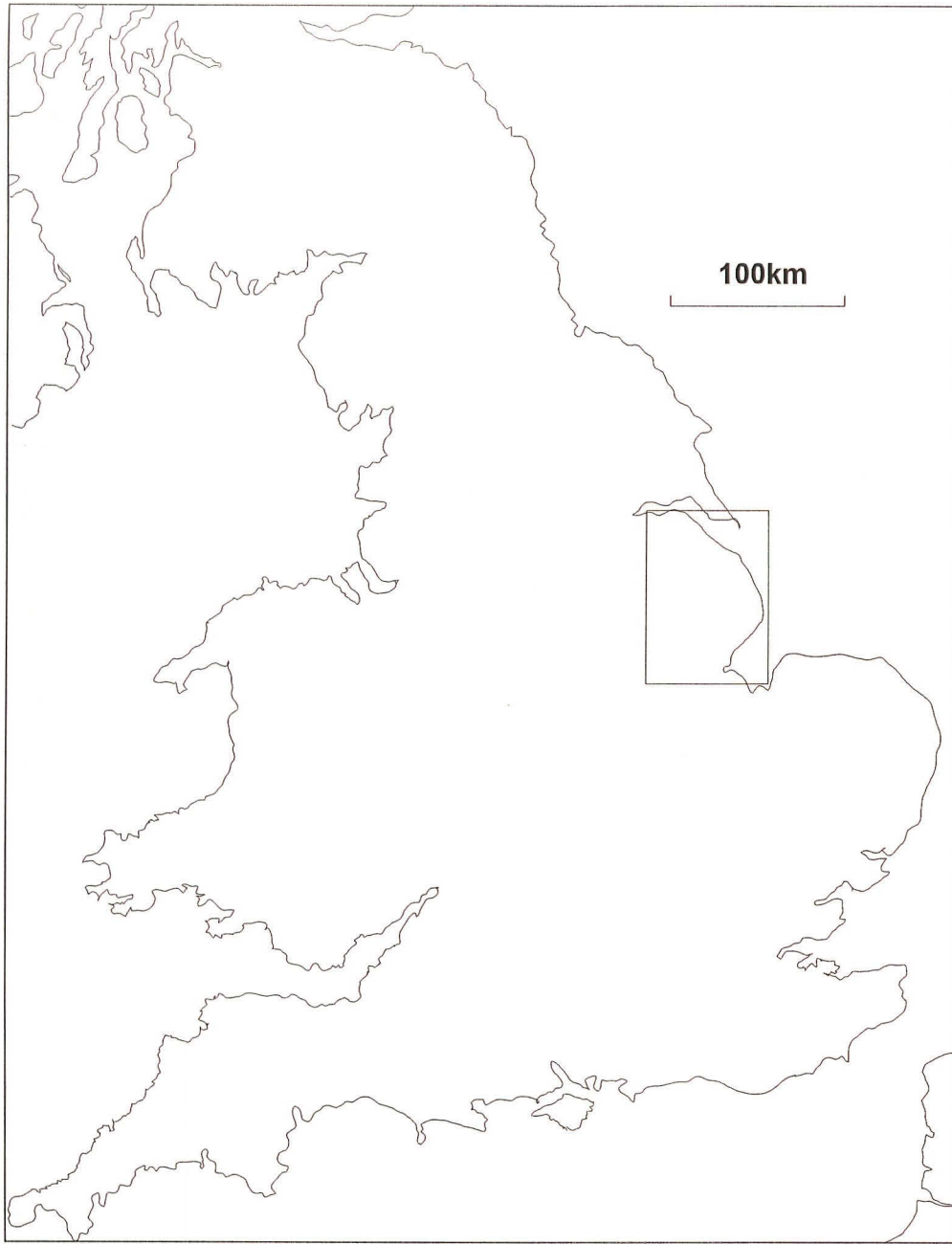


Figure 1 - General Location Plan

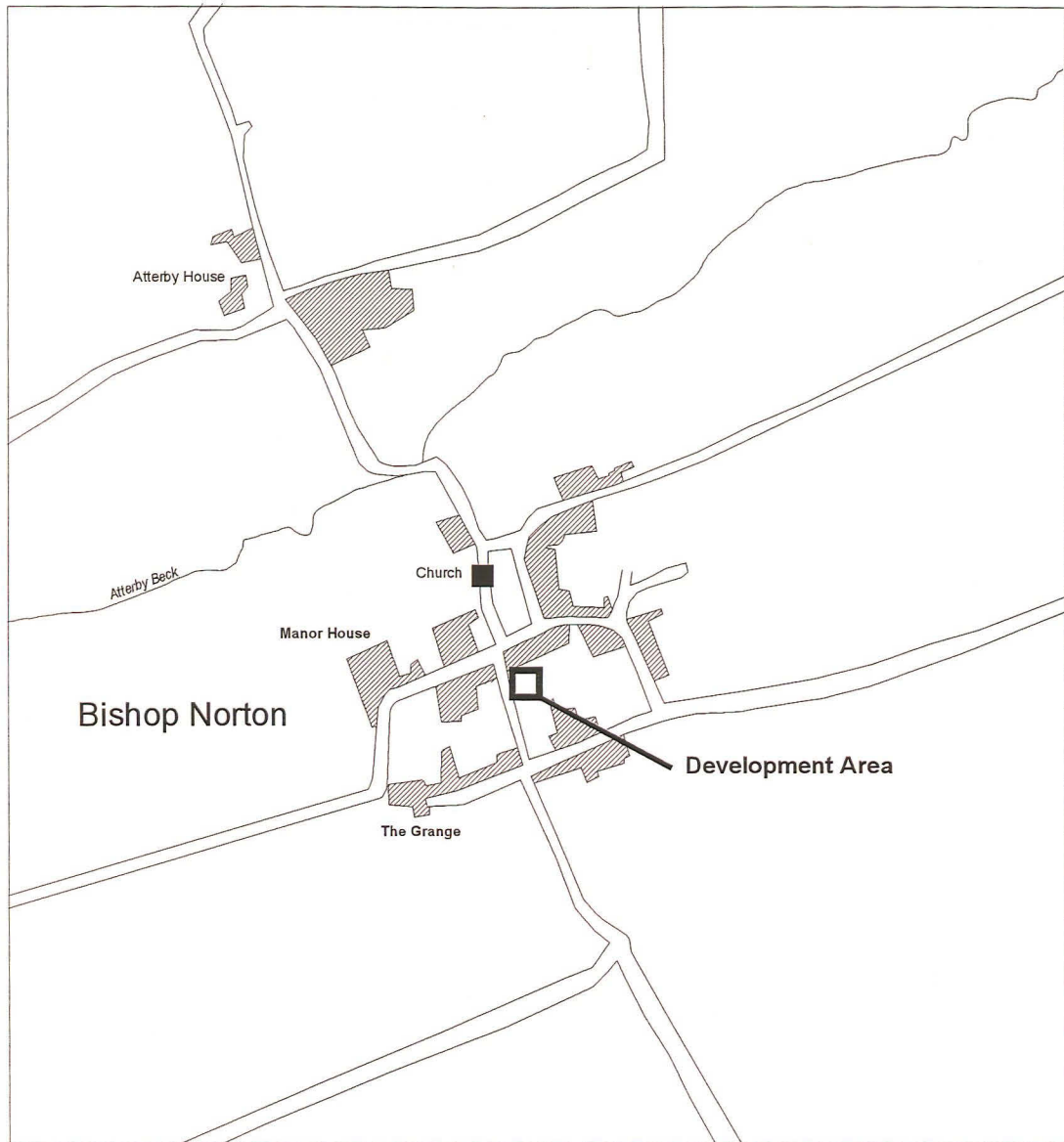


Figure 2 - Site Location Plan

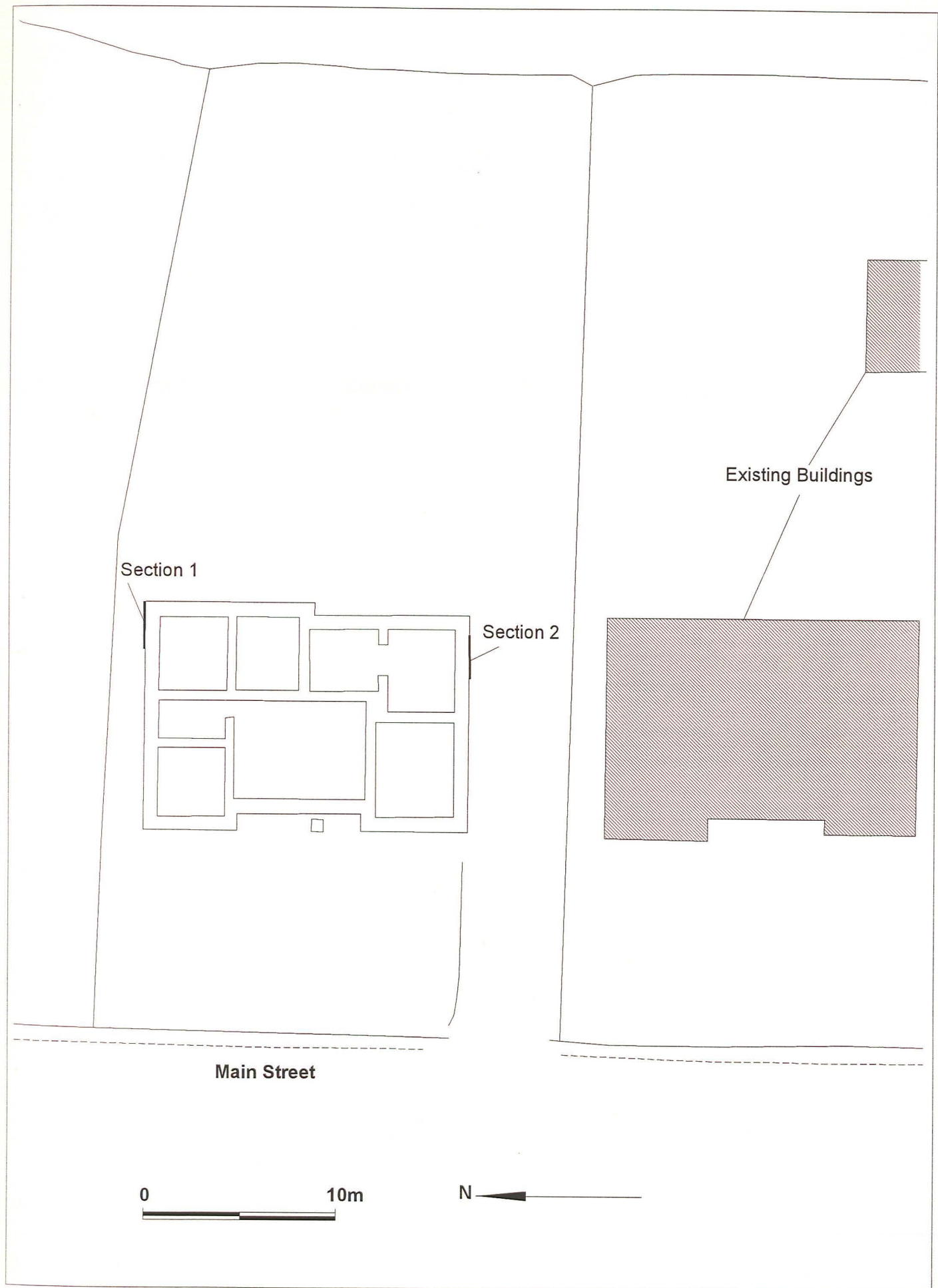
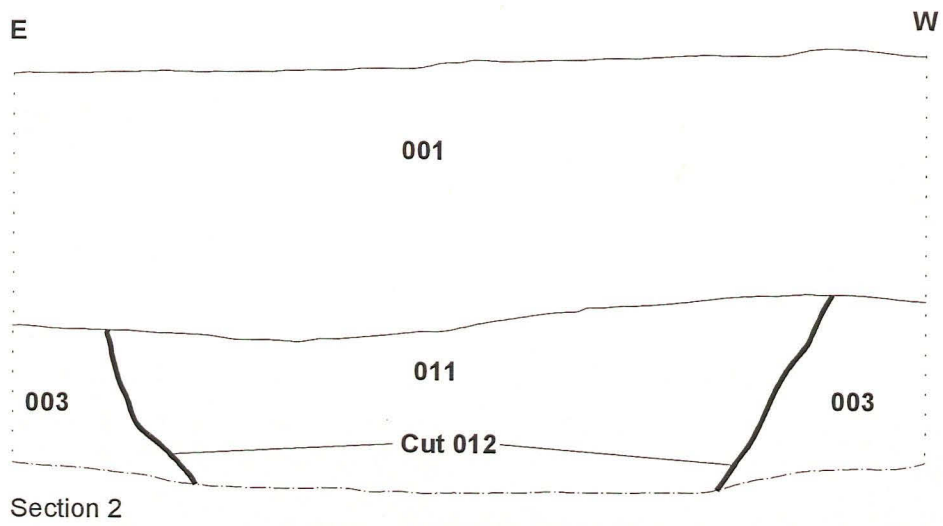
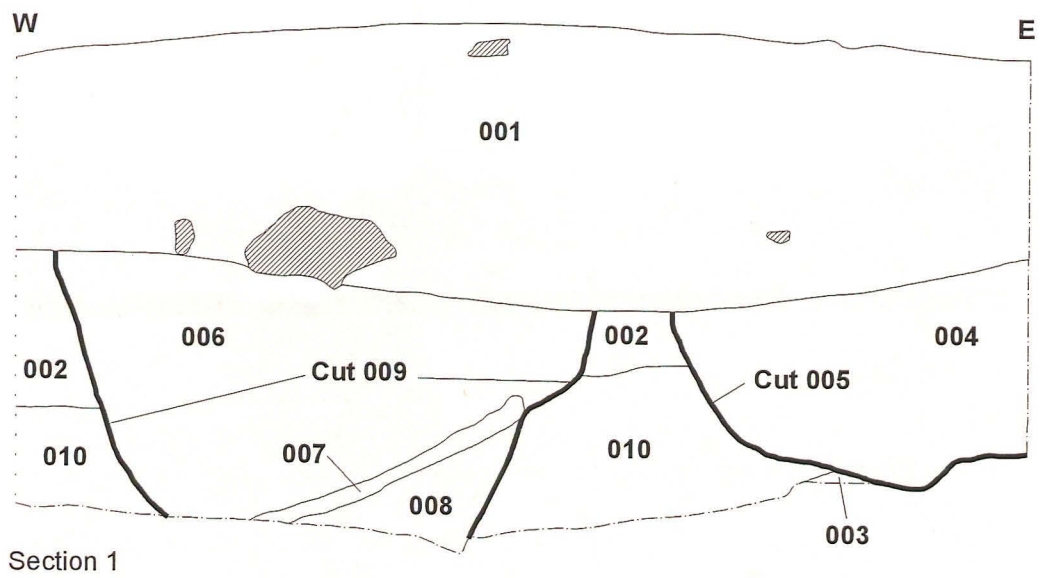


Figure 3 - Plan of Development, showing location of drawn Sections



Crushed brick

Figure 4 - Sections 1 and 2



Plate 1 : General view of the development area looking north



Plate 2 : Section 2, looking east

Appendix 1

LAND AT MAIN STREET, BISHOP NORTON, LINCOLNSHIRE SPECIFICATION FOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

1. SUMMARY

A watching brief is required during the development of land at Main Street, Bishop Norton, Lincolnshire.

A single Roman road and a possible Roman settlement are located in the vicinity. Few extant remains of the medieval period are known, although ridge and furrow survives as earthworks around the village and a single fragment of Norman stonework survives in the 18th century church of St. Peter.

The watching brief will be undertaken during groundworks associated with the development. The archaeological features exposed will be recorded in writing, graphically and photographically.

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 # Main Street, Bishop Norton.

2.1 This document contains the following parts:

1. Overview.
2. Stages of work and methodologies.
3. List of specialists.
4. Programme of works and staffing structure of the project.

3. SITE LOCATION

3.1 Bishop Norton is located approximately 23km north of Lincoln in the administrative district of West Lindsey. The site is situated towards the centre of the village at National Grid Reference SK 984 927.

4. PLANNING BACKGROUND

4.1 Full planning permission (application number 96/P/0954) for the construction of a detached house and garage has been granted by West Lindsey District Council, subject to a condition requiring the implementation of an archaeological watching brief.

5. SOILS AND TOPOGRAPHY

5.1 Bishop Norton is situated on the dip slope of the limestone uplands of Lincolnshire. The site and surrounding area is on a slight slope eastward and lies at approximately 24m OD. Soils at the site are Aswarby Association fine loamy gleyic brown calcareous earths (Hodge *et al.* 1984, 99).

6. THE ARCHAEOLOGY

6.1 The Ermine Street Roman road marks the western boundary of the parish and cropmarks of possible Roman date are known from the south of the village and may indicate a small planned settlement or villa.

- 6.2 The medieval settlement of Bishop Norton was established prior to the Domesday Survey of 1086. There are few extant remains of medieval activity in Bishop Norton and comprise largely of ridge and furrow. A single piece of Norman stonework is evident in St. Peter's Church, the church dating to 1737.

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:

8.2.5 The site during work to show specific stages, and the layout of the archaeology within the trench.

8.2.6 groups of features where their relationship is important

8.2.7 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:

1. A description of the archaeological setting of the watching brief.
2. Description of the topography of the site.
3. Description of the methodologies used during the watching brief.
4. A text describing the findings of the watching brief.
5. A consideration of the local, regional and national context of the watching brief findings.
6. Plans of the archaeological features exposed. If a sequence of archaeological deposits is encountered, separate plans for each phase will be produced.
7. Sections of the archaeological features.
8. Interpretation of the archaeological features exposed, and their chronology and setting within the surrounding landscape.
9. Specialist reports on the finds from the site.
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 West 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.

1. 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 Pottery - Trent & Peak Archaeological Trust Roman and Saxon - City of Lincoln Archaeology Unit Medieval and later - H Healey, independent archaeologist
Non-pottery Artefacts	City of Lincoln Archaeology Unit
Animal Bones	Environmental Archaeology Consultancy
Human Remains Analysis	To be appointed if necessary and dependent on availability.

17. **BIBLIOGRAPHY**

Hodge, CAH, Burton, RGO, Corbett, WM, Evans, R, and Seale, RS, 1984 *Soils and their use in Eastern England*, Soil Survey of England and Wales 13

Appendix 2

CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

Context	Trench	Description	Interpretation
001	1 and 2	Mid brown humic silt	Topsoil
002	1	Light to mid yellow-brown silt	Subsoil
003	1	Light to mid brownish yellow sandy silt and stone	Natural
004	1 and 2	Light to mid brown silt	Fill of [005]
005	1	Cut, >0.9m wide by >3m long by <i>c.</i> 0.52m deep	Linear feature? Possible foundation trench or gully
006	1	Light to mid brown silt	Fill of [009]
007	1	Dark brownish black organic silt	Fill of [009]
008	1	Light to mid greyish brown sandy silt	Fill of [009]
009	1	Cut, 1.35m long by >0.2m wide by >0.6m deep	Possible pit
010	1	Light to mid orange-yellow sandy silt	Natural
011	2	Mid to dark brown silt	Fill of [012]
012	2	Cut, 1.8m wide by >0.77m long by >0.5m deep	Possible linear or pit

Appendix 3

THE FINDS

by Hilary Healey, Gary Taylor and Paul Cope-Faulkner

Provenance

The material is derived from only three stratified contexts, with a single unstratified find also recovered. All the animal bone was retrieved from a single context, (011), the fill of a pit or ditch. Most of the artefacts were of modern date and were recovered from the topsoil.

Range

The range of material is detailed in the table.

Context	Trench	Description	Date
+	Trench Footings	Human skull Fragment, parietal with parts of both lambdoid and sagittal sutures	
001	1 and 2	1 slipware dish or pancheon, 17 th or 18 th century 1 Notts saltglazed stoneware, 18 th or early 19 th century 1 yellow glazed slipware, 19 th or 20 th century 1 white glazed tableware, 19 th century	19 th - 20 th century
004	1	1 Late Saxon/early medieval shelly ware	Early Medieval (possibly Saxon)
011	2	1 sheep sized horn core fragment 1 sheep sized radius fragment 2 unidentified bone fragments 1 bird legbone, possibly chicken a worked flint implement (non-diagnostic)	

'+' = Unstratified find

Condition

All the material is in good condition and presents no long term storage problems. The assemblage should be archived by material class.

Documentation

Artefact assemblages from throughout the county have previously been examined and reported.

Potential

As a very small collection, the assemblage has limited potential. The early pottery fragment signifies activity of Late Saxon or medieval date in the area, something already indicated by documentary evidence. The worked flint, although possibly residual or redeposited, may indicate some otherwise unknown prehistoric activity in the area. The significance of this may be enhanced by any future discovery of similar material in the area.

Of some interest is the human skull fragment. Only a single fragment was recovered, which may imply that the piece was imported to the site. However, the fragment potentially indicates that human burial, though of unknown date took place in the proximity.

Appendix 4

THE ARCHIVE

The archive consists of:

12	Context records
1	Photographic record sheet
3	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: 60.98
Archaeological Project Services Site Code: BNM98

The discussion and comments provided in this report are based on the archaeology revealed during the site investigations. Other archaeological finds and features may exist on the development site but away from the areas exposed during the course of this fieldwork. Archaeological Project Services cannot confirm that those areas unexposed are free from archaeology nor that any archaeology present there is of a similar character to that revealed during the current investigation.

Archaeological Project Services shall retain full copyright of any commissioned reports under the *Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988* with all rights reserved; excepting that it hereby provides an exclusive licence to the client for the use of such documents by the client in all matters directly relating to the project as described in the Project Specification.

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.
Bronze Age	Part of the prehistoric era characterised by the introduction and use of bronze for tools and weapons. In Britain this period dates from approximately 2000-700 BC.
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.
Enclosure	Area bounded by a ditch along the majority of its perimeter.
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).
Iron Age	Part of the prehistoric era characterised by the introduction and use of iron for tools and weapons. In Britain this period dates from approximately 700 BC - AD 50.
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.
Neolithic	The 'New Stone Age' period, part of the prehistoric era, dating from approximately 4000-2000 BC.
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.
Romano-British	Pertaining to the period dating from AD 43-410 when the Romans occupied Britain.