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**AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF
AT LAND NEXT TO MANOR COURT,
MAIN ROAD,
NOCTON,
LINCOLNSHIRE
(NMC97)**



A P S
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PROJECT
SERVICES

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Source LI6972
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**AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF
AT LAND NEXT TO MANOR COURT,
MAIN ROAD,
NOCTON,
LINCOLNSHIRE
(NMC97)**

Work Undertaken For
Mr N Laing, Riva Construction

Report compiled by
Paul Cope-Faulkner and Fiona Walker

April 1998

Planning Application No: N/42/506/97
National Grid Reference: TF 0585 6455
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Archaeology Section

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1. SUMMARY

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken during the construction of six dwellings on land next to Manor Court, Main Road, Nocton, Lincolnshire. The development was located close to the focus of the medieval village, near Manor House which may be the site of an earlier, possibly medieval manor, with a likelihood of medieval remains surviving in the vicinity.

The watching brief identified a series of natural deposits overlain by evidence of modern activity, including the remains of a former piggery. No evidence of medieval remains were discovered within the confines of the development site.

Finds retrieved during the archaeological investigation were of post-medieval date, including pottery, glass, and tile dating from the 18th to 19th century through to the 20th century.

2. INTRODUCTION

2.1 Planning Background

Archaeological Project Services was commissioned by Mr N Laing of Riva Construction to undertake an archaeological watching brief during development on land adjacent to Manor Court, Nocton, Lincolnshire. Approval for the development was sought through the submission of planning application N/42/506/97. The watching brief was carried out in accordance with a brief set by the Community Archaeologist for North Kesteven District Council (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

Nocton is situated approximately 12km southeast of Lincoln, on the fen edge (Fig 1). The development is situated on the north side of the village to the east of Manor Farm.

The site lies on a gentle east-facing slope at approximately 12m OD, to the north side of Main Road, on land to the south of Manor Court. The development is centred on National Grid Reference TF 05850 64550 (Fig 2).

Local soils are on the boundary of the Aswarby Series fine loamy gleyic brown calcareous earths, over interbedded Jurassic limestone and clays with the Beccles series clayey stagnogley soils with chalk inclusions, over chalky till (Hodge *et al* 1994, 99 and 117).

2.3 Archaeological Setting

The proposed development site lies in an area of known archaeological activity, near the core of the medieval village, in close proximity to the manor house.

Nocton appears in the Domesday record as *Nochetune*, of which the first element may be Old English *hnoc* 'wether sheep' (Ekwall 343). In the Domesday records Norman De Arci owned the land which supported a church and a priest (Foster 32/32).

In addition to medieval material other finds within the village include a Neolithic axe (NK42.10) c350m southeast of the site and c650m south Iron Age pottery (NK42.7).

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

The proposed development required the excavation of trenches to accommodate the footings for the new buildings (Fig 3). Two of the footing trenches were monitored during excavation, the rest were inspected following excavation. The footings were excavated by machine (fitted with a narrow toothed bucket) to a depth of c0.9m. In addition three trial pits (measuring 1.2m x 0.8m and between 0.8m and 1.2m in depth), excavated in the southern portion of the site (Fig 3), were inspected to assess the archaeological potential of the rest of the site. Following excavation selected sections were cleaned by hand. The depth and thickness of each deposit was measured from the present ground surface. Each deposit or feature revealed within an opened area was allocated a unique reference number (context number) with an individual written description. Natural geological deposits were also recorded where exposed. Sections were drawn at a scale of 1:10. A photographic record was also compiled. Recording of the deposits encountered during the watching brief was undertaken according to standard Archaeological Project Services practice.

5. RESULTS

Finds recovered from the excavated deposits were examined and a period or date assigned where possible (Appendix 3). Records of the deposits and features identified during the watching brief were also examined. 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. Two phases were identified:

Phase 1: Natural Deposits

Phase 2: Modern Deposits

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

Phase 1: Natural deposits

At the base of the trench footings and trial pits natural deposits were exposed which varied between a light to mid whitish grey clayey silt (005) and orange silts and sands (009) or sandy clay (024) to orange brown sand. This was overlain by further naturally deposited silts and sands comprising light brown and grey silts (004, 008) and a light mid-whitish yellow sand (019). In places these deposits were overlain by a subsoil of light to mid-brown or greyish brown silt to sandy silt (007, 014, 018) including lenses of sand and occasional flecks of charcoal. This latter group of deposits probably represents the remains of a naturally developed subsoil which ranged in depth from 0.07m to 0.32m (Fig 4, Sections 1-4; Fig 5, Sections 5-7).

Phase 2: Modern deposits

A wall and a series of surfaces were recorded relating to the more recent use of the site. These modern features and deposits either overlay or had been cut into the subsoil or natural deposits.

Toward the western edge of the development, in trial pit 2 (Fig 3), a mortared stone and brick wall (011) was observed on a north - south alignment. The remains of the wall measured 0.45m in width by 0.23m high. A thin layer of mortar, on the western side of the wall was probably associated with the construction together with a small area of mid-yellow brown gritty silt (013) on the eastern side of the wall (Fig 5, Section 6).

On the western side of house plot 1 (Fig 3) there were a series dumps or levelling deposits of mid-grey gritty clayish silt (023) and a light yellow/cream compacted chalk (022) which formed a solid base for a brick surface (021) (Fig 4, Sections 3 and 4). This yard or floor, possibly associated with the piggery that formerly occupied the site, covered an area of at least 10m (north - south) by 3m.

A dark black-brown organic silt with ash (025) was recorded, lying over the natural subsoil, within the area of house plot 2 (Fig 4, Sections 3 and 4). This deposit contained bricks in rough, unconsolidated patches, probably resulting from demolition and utilised as part of the site levelling.

Most of the remaining deposits appeared to be the result of demolition or levelling activities. These deposits included mid- to dark blackish or greyish brown silts (006, 010, 016, 017) and a yellow to light grey sandy silt (003) ranging between 0.1 and 0.4m in depth.

Final levelling deposits of yellow sand (020) and mid-brownish yellow silt (026) covered part of the site overlain by a black organic silt/peat (002) beneath a mid-brown sandy silt topsoil (001). Finds were recovered from both house plots and from trial pit 2. These finds were largely unstratified, retrieved from disturbed upper deposits, or from demolition and levelling layers and topsoil.

6. DISCUSSION

Natural deposits (Phase 1) of sands and silts were revealed across the site, overlain by silty subsoil, representing natural soil formation.

Modern archaeological remains (Phase 2) comprised a wall and surface which were most probably part of structures associated with the piggery which formerly occupied the site. The remaining modern deposits reflect the more recent use of the site, including the demolition of the piggery and the temporary landscaping of the undeveloped land on the south side of the Manor Court development. The finds material (dating from the 18th - 20th century) reflects the post-medieval and more recent use of the site.

7. CONCLUSIONS

Archaeological investigations on land adjacent to Manor Court, Main Road, Nocton were undertaken because the site lay within an area of known archaeological activity. In particular its proximity to the medieval manor suggested a likelihood of archaeological remains being disturbed.

The watching brief did not reveal any archaeological remains surviving below the 0.5m thick deposits associated with the demolition of the modern piggery and levelling of the site.

8. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeological Project Services wish to thank Mr N Laing, of Riva Construction, for commissioning the fieldwork and post-excavation analysis. Gary Taylor coordinated the work and edited this report. Background information was kindly provided by Kate Orr, the Heritage Officer for North Kesteven District Council. Hilary Healey and Gary Taylor examined the finds.

9. PERSONNEL

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

10. BIBLIOGRAPHY

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Foster, C.W. and Longley, T. (Eds), 1976 *The Lincolnshire Domesday and the Lindsey Survey*, The Lincoln Record Society 19

Hodge, C.A.H, Burton, R.G.O., Corbett, W.M., Evans, R., and Seale, R.S., 1984 *Soils and their uses in Eastern England*, Soil Survey of England and Wales 13

11. ABBREVIATIONS

Numbers prefixed by 'NK' are the reference codes used by the Heritage Officer for North Kesteven District Council.

I.F.A., Institute of Field Archaeologists.

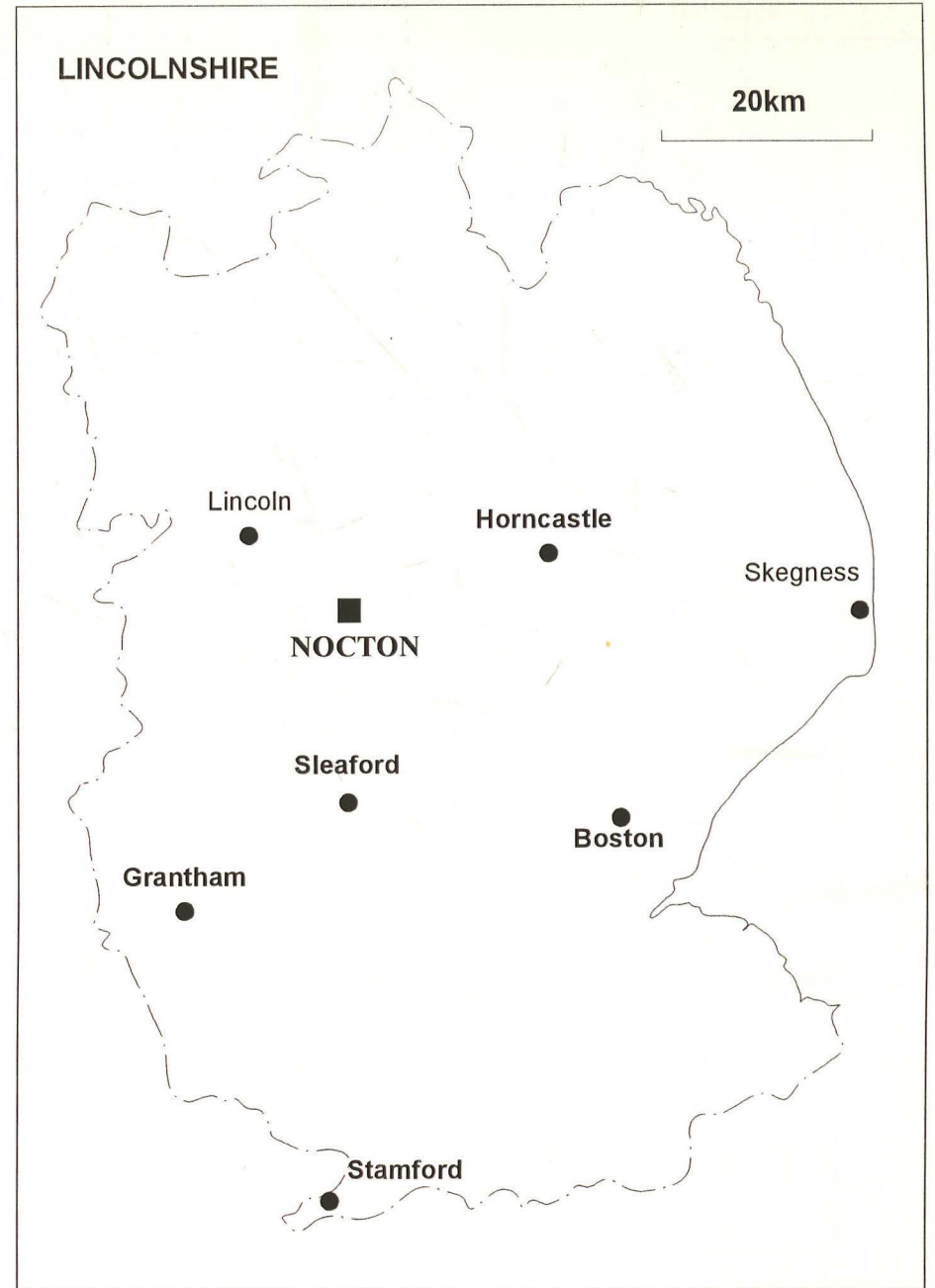
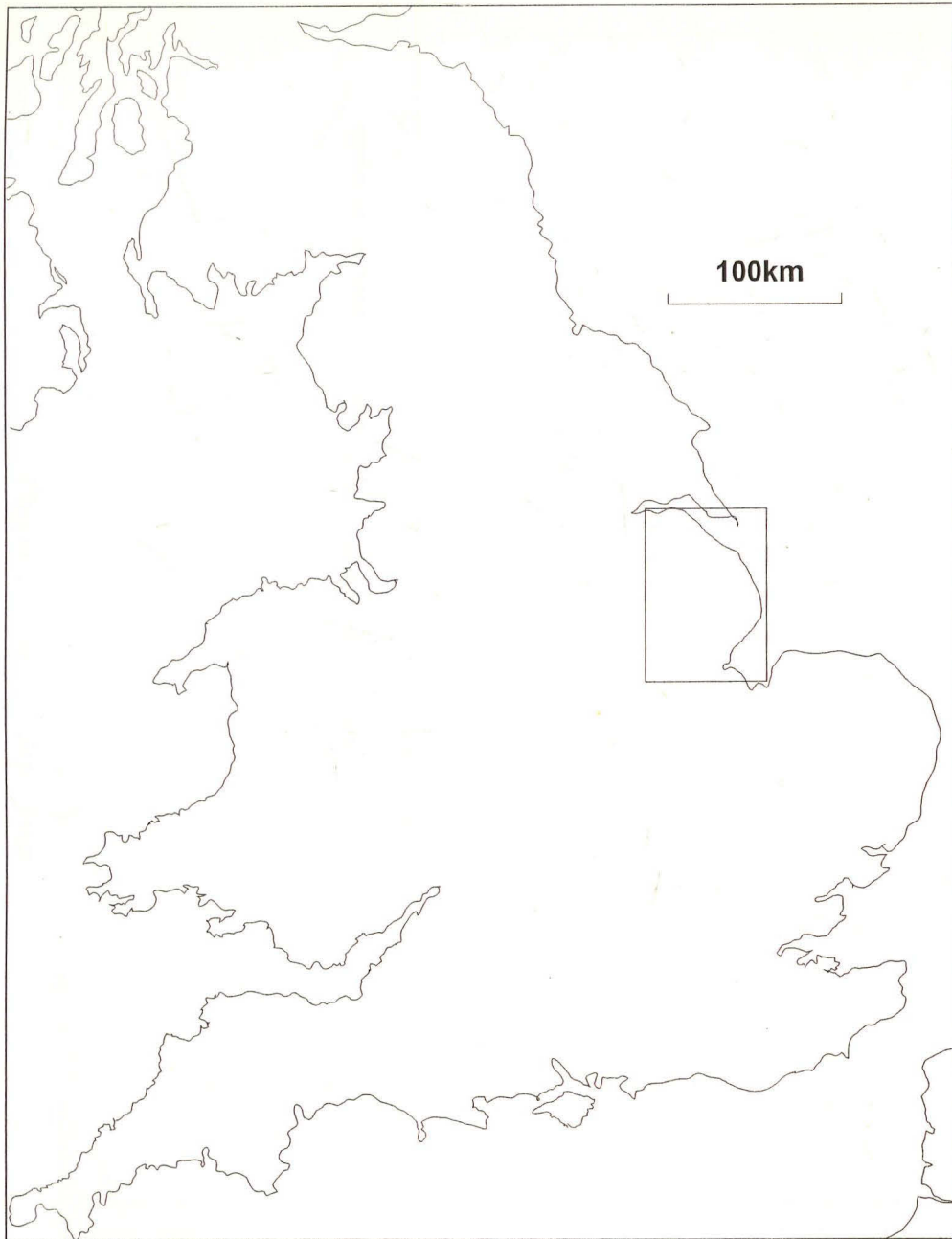
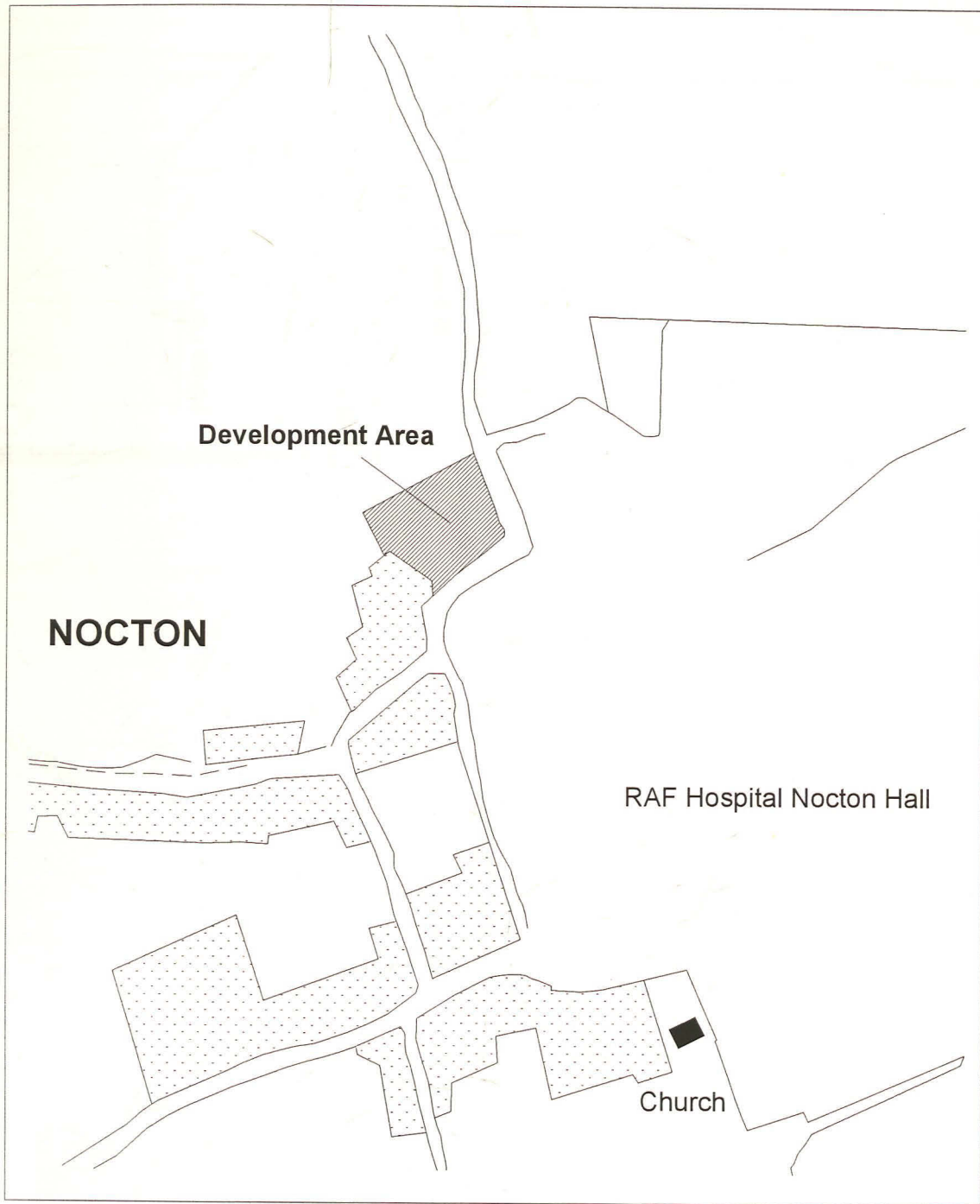


Figure 1 - General Location Plan



0

500m

N



Figure 2 - Site Location Plan

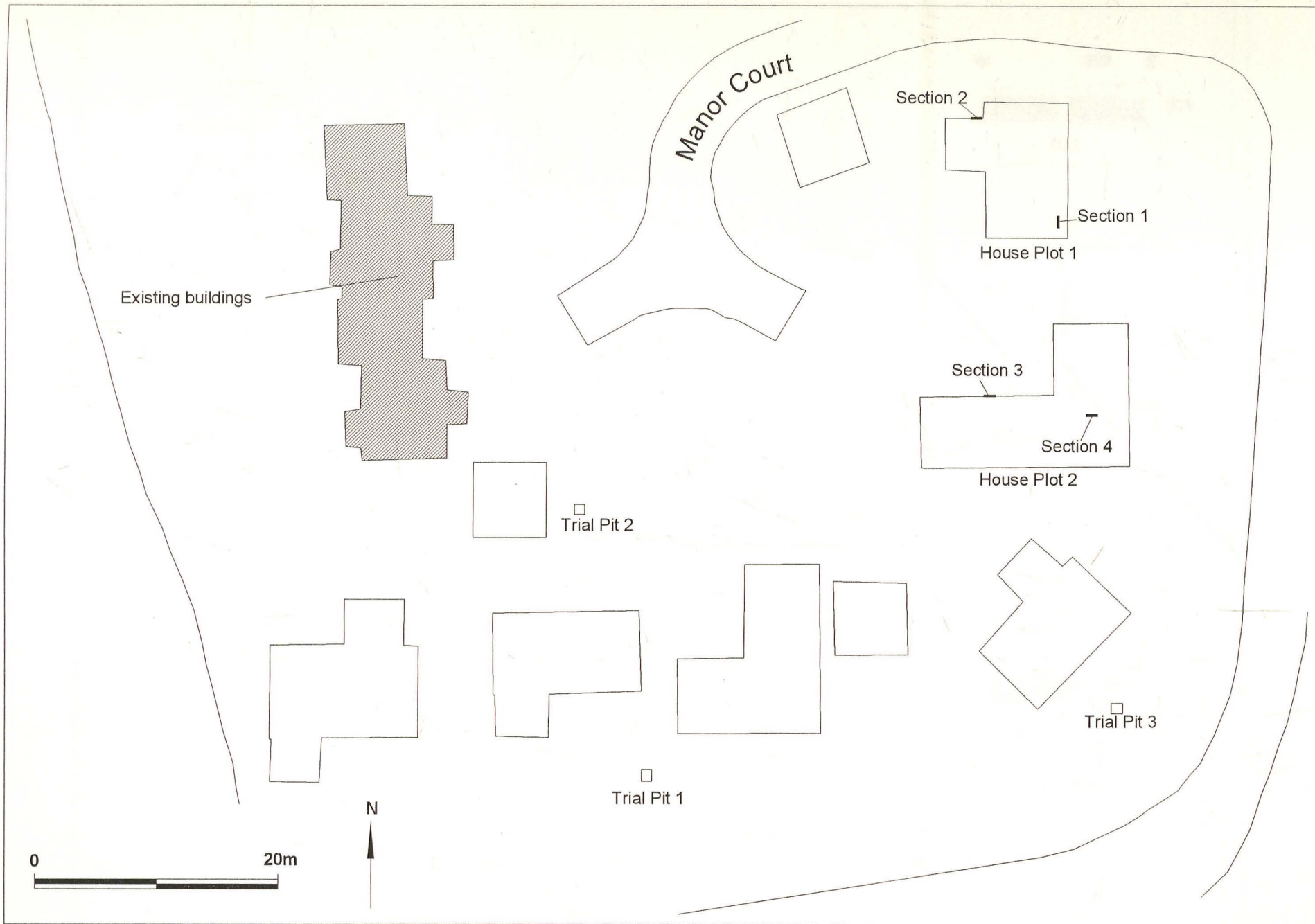


Figure 3 - Plan of Development, showing Section locations

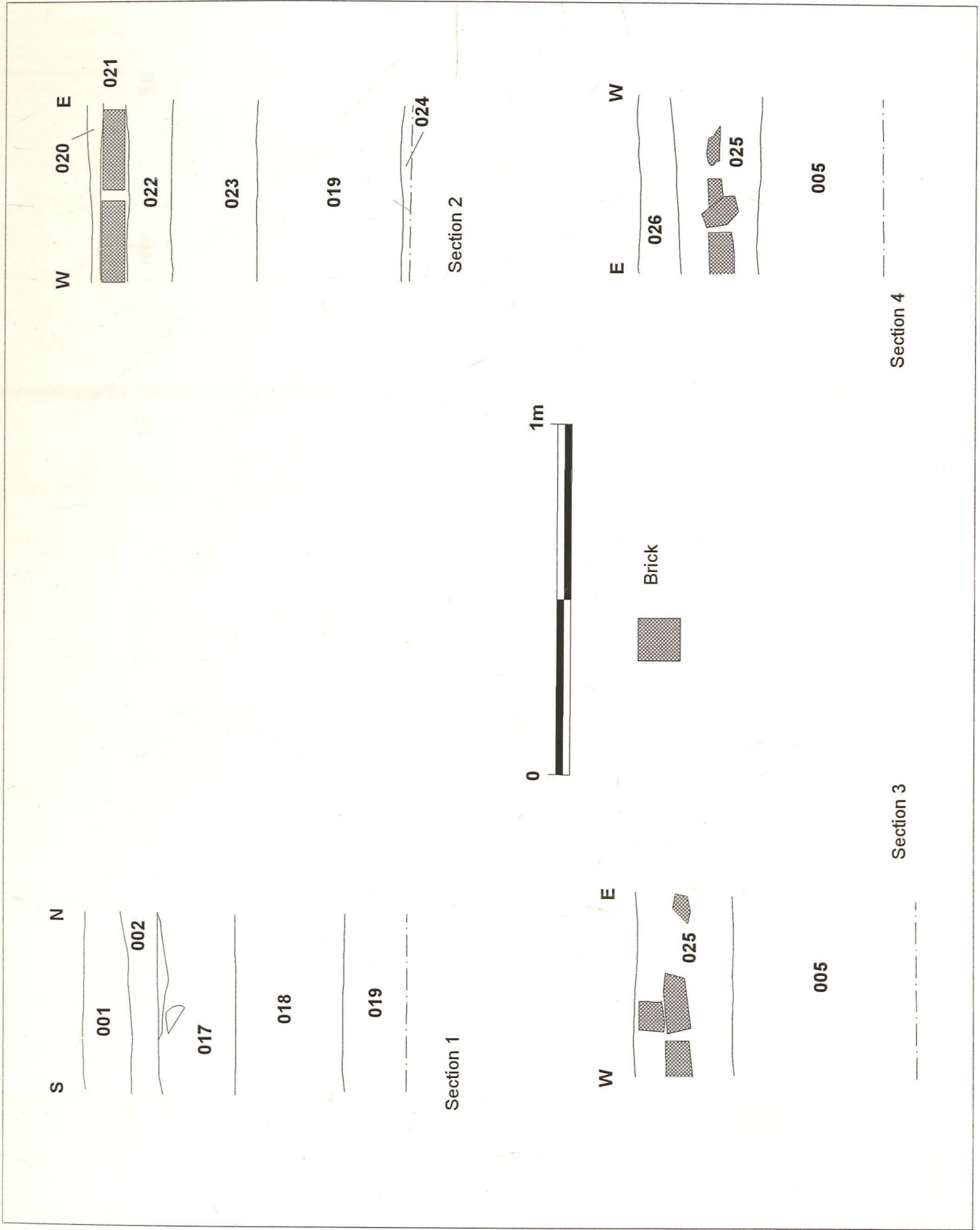
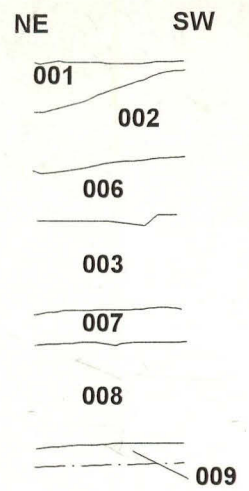
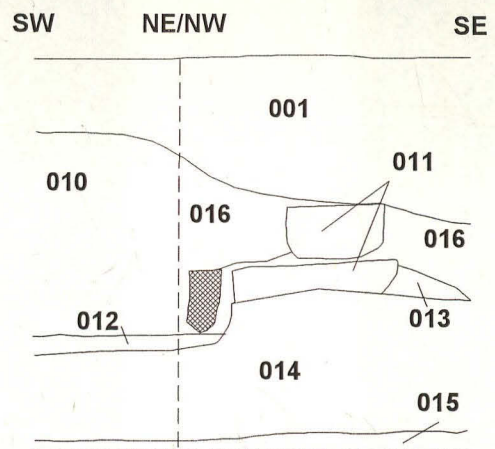


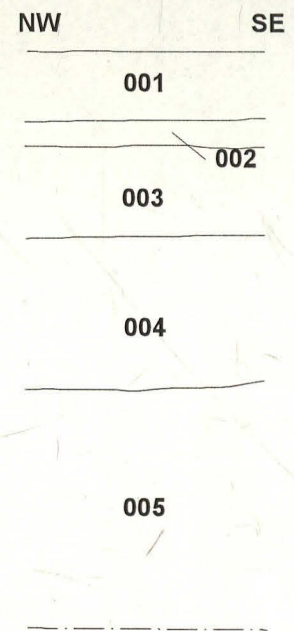
Figure 4 - Sections 1, 2, 3 and 4



Section 5
Section, Trial Pit 1



Section 6
Section, Trial Pit 2



Section 7
Section, Trial Pit 3



Figure 5 - Sections 5, 6 and 7



Plate 1 : General view of site, looking west



Plate 2 : View of Section 4, contexts (005), (025) and (026)

Appendix 1

BRIEF FOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL OBSERVATION AND RECORDING (WATCHING BRIEF) MANOR COURT, NOCTON, LINCS

Planning Application Number:N/42/506/97

NGR 505850 364550

Applicant: RR Rontree

Agent: Riva Construction.

1. Summary

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

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

2. Site Location and Description

2.1 Nocton is a fen edge village situated approximately 12km south east of Lincoln. The development area is located in the northern part of the village just off the main road. The site is grassed over and is adjacent to the three modern houses already built at Manor Court.

3. Planning Background

3.1 Planning permission has been given to erect a further 6 dwellings at land off Manor Court.. The three houses already built did not receive a watching brief condition because they were built pre- PPG16- new planning guidance on archaeology.

4. Archaeological Background

4.1 Nocton is a medieval village. Settlement at this time usually focused around the Church and Manor. The development site is near the Manor which may be on the site of an earlier, possibly medieval manor. Therefore there is a likelihood of medieval remains being disturbed at this site.

5. Requirements for Work

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

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

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

5.3.1 A projected timetable for the various stages of work.

5.3.2 The staff structure and numbers must be detailed including 'person' hours for on-site work.

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 A full description of the recovery and recording strategies to be used.

5.3.5 An estimate of time and resources allocated for the post-excavation work and report production in the form of 'person' hours. This should include lists of specialists and their role in the project. *It is expected that medieval finds will be encountered and therefore adequate provision should be made for specialists in this area.*

5.3.6 A contingency for unexpected costs e.g. due to more artefacts or ecofacts recovered than expected. *This should only be activated after discussion with the Heritage Officer.*

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 topsoil stripping;

6.2.2 inspection of subsoil for archaeological features;

6.2.3 recording of archaeological features in plan;

6.2.4 rapid excavation of features if necessary;

6.2.5 archaeological supervision of subsoil stripping

6.2.6 inspection of natural for archaeological features and recording them.

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

7. **Monitoring Arrangements**

7.1 The Heritage Officer for North Kesteven will be responsible for monitoring progress and standards throughout the project and will require preferably fourteen days notice but at least five working days prior to the commencement of the work. She should be kept informed by the archaeological contractor of any developments and should be allowed access at all times to the site.

8. **Reporting Requirements**

8.1 A full report should be produced and deposited with the planning department of North Kesteven District Council, the Heritage Officer, the client 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 drawings, with ground level, Ordnance Datum, vertical and horizontal scales as appropriate;

8.1.3 specialist descriptions of artefacts and ecofacts;

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

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

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

9. **Publication and Dissemination**

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

10. **Additional Information**

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

Brief set by Heritage Officer, North Kesteven 15/7/1997

Appendix 2

CONTEXT SUMMARY

Number	Description	Interpretation
001	Mid-brown sandy silt	Topsoil.
002	Black organic silt/peat with ash and pieces of brick	Build up of topsoil or levelling
003	Yellow to light creamy grey sandy silt with moderate to large building stones	Demolition / levelling layer
004	Light - mid-brown grey silt	Natural
005	Light - mid-creamy grey clayey silt with sand and decayed chalk	Natural
006	Mid-blackish brown sandy silt with stone, brick / tile rubble	Demolition layer
007	Light - mid-greyish brown clayey sandy silt	Subsoil (buried?)
008	Mix of light brown and grey silt	Natural
009	Orange silts and sands	Natural
010	Mid-dark-greyish brown gritty silt	Demolition / levelling deposit
011	Faced stone (0.2 x 0.2 x 0.1m and 0.25 x ? X 0.08m) and brick (0.08 x ? x 0.05) aligned north - south. Structure 0.45m wide, 0.23m high, observed over a 0.8m length	Wall ?
012	Yellow mortar	remains of ?wall 011
013	Mid-yellowish brown gritty silt	?Subsoil
014	Light - mid-brown silt	?Natural subsoil
015	Light orangey brown (beige) sand	Natural
016	Dark greyish brown gritty silt	Demolition / buried soil
017	Mid-blackish grey silt	Demolition levelling
018	Light - mid-greyish fawn lenses of sand and silt	Subsoil
019	Light - mid-creamy yellow sand	Natural
020	Yellow sand	Levelling for topsoil / demolition material
021	Red brick and mid - dark black grey silt and ash	?Surface of yard / buildings associated with piggery
022	Light yellow / cream compacted chalk	Levelling deposit for 021?
023	Mid-grey gritty clayey silt	Demolition / levelling / dump
024	Orange sand and clay	Natural
025	Dark black - brown organic silt with ash, bricks and pieces of building stone	Demolition / levelling
026	Mid-brownish yellow silt	?Base of topsoil / levelling for topsoil

Appendix 3

THE FINDS

Hilary Healey and Gary Taylor

Provenance

All of the material was recovered from unstratified, disturbed deposits, demolition and levelling layers, or topsoil and was random in distribution.

All of the assemblage is relatively modern, of 18th-20th century date and the majority of the ceramic material is likely to derive from sources/production sites in the Midlands, particularly Staffordshire.

Range

The range of material is detailed in the table.

The earliest artefacts are fragments of pottery and glass which may be as early as the 18th century. However, the majority of the assemblage is 19th-20th century in date and includes pottery, ceramic tile, glass, metal and plastic. Pantile is not earlier than the 17th century, though the piece found on House 2 is well made and will be later than this earliest date. The unstratified copper alloy handle may be a pulley handle for a signalling bell and would therefore derive from a higher status house or other establishment. No animal remains were recovered.

CONTEXT	LOCATION	DESCRIPTION	DATE
unstratified	House 1	1x blue & white transfer printed pot	19th-early 20th century
		2x green & white transfer printed pot	late 19th-early 20th century
		1x white glazed tableware	19th-early 20th century
		1x brown glazed tableware	19th-early 20th century
		1x white china	19th-early 20th century
		1x black glazed earthenware	late 18th-early 20th century
		2x linked fragments white ceramic floor or wall tile	19th-20th century
		1x fragment pale yellow ceramic floor or wall tile	19th-20th century
		2x linked fragments bottle green ceramic floor or wall tile	19th-20th century
		1x bottle glass, mouldmade	18th-19th century
		2x field drain	19th-20th century
		1x cast copper alloy handle with porcelain knob	19th-early 20th century
unstratified	House 2	1x blue painted pot	19th-20th century
		1x plastic	20th century

		2x ceramic pantile	19th-20th century
001	Trial pit 2	3x plant pot	20th century
002	House 1	1x small glass bottle	19th-early 20th century
016	Trial pit 2	1x field drain	18th-20th century

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 of such late post-medieval date are generally only reported in a cursory way. Although numerous archaeological remains have been found in the parish, there are no reported archaeological investigations from Nocton.

Potential

The assemblage has low potential, though may assist in defining the status and nature of the occupation of the site over the last two centuries.

Appendix 4

The Archive

The archive consists of:

26	Context records
7	Scale drawings
1	Photographic record sheet
1	Stratigraphic matrix
1	Box of finds

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 entitled *Conditions for the Acceptance of Project Archives*, produced by the Lincolnshire City and County Museum.

Archaeological Project Services project code: NMC97
City and County Museum, Lincoln Accession Number: 251.97

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 proposed development site but away from those 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 document 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 period following the Roman era when Britain was invaded, settled and ruled by Angles, Saxons and other peoples from mainland Europe. The period dates from approximately AD 450-1066.
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, e.g. (004).
Cut	A cut refers to the physical action of digging a posthole, pit, ditch, foundation trench, etc. Once the fills of these features are removed during an archaeological investigation the original 'cut' is therefore exposed and subsequently recorded.
Dumped deposits	These are deposits, often laid down intentionally, that raise a land surface. They may be the result of casual waste disposal or may be deliberate attempts to raise the ground surface.
Fill	Once a feature has been dug it begins to silt up (either slowly or rapidly) or it can be back-filled manually. The soil(s) which become contained by the 'cut' are referred to as its fill(s).
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	Deposit(s) of soil or rock which have accumulated without the influence of human activity.
Post-medieval	Following the Middle Ages, dating from approximately AD 1500-1800.
Romano-British	Pertaining to the period when Britain formed part of the Roman empire, dating from AD 43-410.