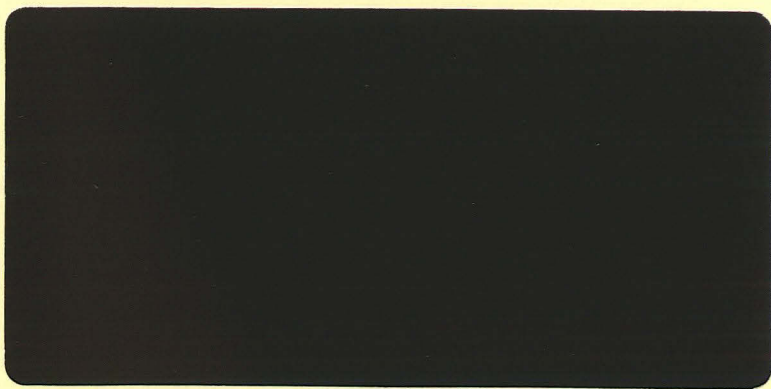


98/16

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF
OF DEVELOPMENT AT THE FORMER
BUILDER'S YARD, CHAPEL STREET,
BILLINGBOROUGH,
LINCOLNSHIRE
(BCS 97)**



A P S
ARCHAEOLOGICAL
PROJECT
SERVICES



Lincolnshire County Council
Archaeology Section
04 SEPT 98
10/9/98
acceptance 23/09/98

EVENT L13700
SOURCES L18358 L18359
35837 L183571 Undated

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF
OF DEVELOPMENT AT THE FORMER
BUILDER'S YARD, CHAPEL STREET,
BILLINGBOROUGH,
LINCOLNSHIRE
(BCS 97)**

Work Undertaken For
Mr B. Inman

July 1998

Report Compiled by
Paul Cope-Faulkner

Planning Application No: SK97/938/09/38
National Grid Reference: TF 1176 3416
City and County Museum Accession No: 297.97

A.P.S. Report No. **58/98**

*Archaeological Project Services is an IFA Registered Archaeological
Organisation (Number 21)*

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1. SUMMARY

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken during the construction of a new dwelling at Chapel Street, Billingborough, Lincolnshire.

The development lies within an area of some archaeological significance dating from the Iron Age (800 BC - AD 50). Southeast of the development is the presumed site of a Romano-British (AD 50 - 410) villa, identified from surface finds. Billingborough is thought to be the Early Saxon centre of the Billingas tribe, first recorded in the 7th century AD.

The investigation revealed a sequence of natural and recent deposits. Two undated features, a pit and a soakaway were revealed, and a possible second pit was identified. Finds from topsoil and unstratified layers included a number of 19th - 20th century pottery sherds, tile and animal bone.

2. INTRODUCTION

2.1 Definition of a Watching brief

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 Planning Background

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken on the 10th December 1997 during excavation of foundation trenches for a new building on land adjacent to Chapel Street, Billingborough, as detailed in

Planning Application No. SK97/938/09/38. The archaeological work was commissioned by Mr B. Inman in accordance with a brief set by the South Kesteven District Community Archaeologist (Appendix 1).

2.3 Topography and Geology

Billingborough is located 12km southeast of Sleaford and 20km east of Grantham in South Kesteven District, Lincolnshire (Fig. 1) on the fen margin of south Lincolnshire.

The proposed development is located at a height of c. 8.3m OD and is situated 100m south of the village centre as defined by St. Andrew's parish church (Fig. 2). The site is located at National Grid Reference TF 1176 3416.

Local soils are of the Badsey 2 Association, typically loamy soils over calcareous gravels (Hodge *et al.* 1984, 101). Beneath these soils is a drift geology of Fen gravels that overlie Jurassic Cornbrash (GSGB 1964).

2.4 Archaeological Setting

The development lies within an area of known archaeological remains dating from the prehistoric period and later. Within 500m northeast of the development are cropmarks of ditched enclosures of a form which are typically Iron Age in date (SMR 32972).

Romano-British archaeology is represented by extensive finds from Toft Hills, 400m to the southeast of Chapel Lane. Surface finds from this site include pottery, tiles, coins, tessera and building stone. Such an accumulation of material suggests that there was a Roman villa on the site (SMR 32858 and 32859).

Located south of the village, a spread of Early Saxon pottery suggests the presence of a small settlement of this period (Hayes and Lane 1992, Gazetteer). Although the first

documented reference to the village is in the Domesday Survey of 1086, the name is almost identical to a *Billingabyrig* mentioned in the Cartularium Saxonicum of the early 8th century.

The Domesday Survey refers to the village as *Billingeburgh* and *Bellingeburg* and the name means the 'burgh' or fortified place of the *Billingas*, a Saxon tribe (Ekwall 1974, 43). It has been suggested that the *Billingas* are synonymous with a tribe referred to as the *Bilmigas* in a 7th century Tribal Hideage (Hayes and Lane 1992, 24). The Domesday Survey records that the village belonged to the Archbishop of York, Count Alan, Gilbert de Gand, Colsuain and Alfred of Lincoln and contained 63 acres of meadow, 26 acres of underwood, 2 mills and half of a church (Foster and Longley 1976).

The parish church of St. Andrew's is the only extant remain of the medieval period in Billingborough and dates to the late 13th or early 14th century (Pevsner and Harris 1989, 144). Medieval pottery has also been found within the village (SK09.22) and a silver coin of Alexander III of Scotland (1250-1280) came from the south of the village.

3. AIMS

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

4. METHODS

The development required the excavation of foundation trenches to a depth of *c.* 1m. The sides of the trenches were then cleaned and rendered vertical. The depth and thickness of each deposit was measured from the ground

surface. Each deposit revealed within an opened area was allocated a unique reference number (Context number) with an individual written description. Sections were drawn at a scale of 1:10. A photographic record was also compiled. Recording of deposits encountered during the evaluation was undertaken according to standard Archaeological Project Services practice. Records of the deposits and features identified during the watching brief were 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 1.

5. RESULTS

Following post-excavation analysis a total of two periods of activity were recognised:

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

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

Group 1 Natural deposits

Natural deposits were encountered at the base of all recorded trenches. The underlying drift geology comprised yellowish brown sand (012) or sand and gravel (003 and 020). In Section 2, along the northern boundary of the site (Fig. 4), a more mixed natural was encountered and varied between brown sand (005 and 006), grey sand (008, 009 and 011) and yellowish brown sand (007 and 010). This area of mixed natural deposits may indicate the route of a former watercourse.

Group 2 Undated deposits

Cut through the natural deposits in Section 3 (Fig. 4) was a feature, probably a pit, 0.7m wide by 0.32m deep (022). Two fills were contained within the pit, a lower fill of grey stones with sand and silt (021) and an upper fill of grey sand with ash and charcoal (013). The function of the pit was not determined, although the upper fill suggests it was used for disposal once its primary function had ceased.

Also exposed in Section 4 (Fig. 4) was a larger feature that measured 0.6m deep and extended 4m to the north (029). The southern limit was indicated by wood lining, although this did not survive at the northern end. Several dumped fills were apparent and comprised predominantly brown sandy silt (023), sand and gravel (024 and 026), sand (027) as well as yellowish red sand (025). This feature has been tentatively interpreted as a soakaway or other drainage feature.

A further feature may be represented by deposit (018) which appears within the natural deposits yet is composed of dark grey sand with ash and charcoal. It is probable that the foundation trench 'clipped' the edge of an unidentified feature (030), that may have partially been backfilled with natural deposits.

Group 3 Modern deposits

Sealing all deposits were layers of subsoil varying between brown sands along the west of the site (002 and 004) to brownish silty sand and sandy silt (015 and 028) with grey clayey silt (016) at the eastern part of the site. Above the subsoil deposits was a dark black sandy silt topsoil (001) containing 19th - 20th century pottery.

6. DISCUSSION

Natural deposits (Group 1) comprising the underlying drift geology were found at the base of all trenches and were probably formed by marine deposition (Booth 1983, 8). An area of mixed natural deposits probably marks the position of a former watercourse across the site, perhaps a former course of Cowgate Drain.

Group 2 deposits comprise a pit, a soakaway and a possible second pit. As no artefacts were found from these features it is impossible to ascertain their date or archaeological importance. However, the fact that the wood lining of the soakaway survives above the water table does not suggest any great antiquity for the feature.

A limited number of finds were retrieved, mainly from the topsoil. All the pottery was of common 19th - 20th century glazed stonewares and associated tile strongly suggest a 20th century date.

7. CONCLUSIONS

Archaeological investigations at Chapel Street, Billingborough revealed three undated features of which a date and function have not been determined.

A few artefacts, mainly pottery with some wall tiles, animal bone and glass were recovered and represent a typical, if small, collection common in Lincolnshire. All of the material was modern. The nature of the local site conditions would suggest that few environmental indicators would survive, other than through charring. However, features excavated below the water table may preserve waterlogged material if present.

8. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeological Project Services wish to acknowledge the assistance of Mr B. Inman for commissioning the fieldwork and post-excavation analysis. Gary Taylor coordinated the work and Tom Lane edited this report. Jenny Stevens, the Community Archaeologist for South Kesteven District Council, permitted examination of the relevant parish files maintained by the Heritage Trust of Lincolnshire. Mark Bennet kindly provided data held by the Lincolnshire Sites and Monuments Record.

9. PERSONNEL

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

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11. ABBREVIATIONS

APS Archaeological Project Services

GSGB Geological Survey of Great Britain

IFA Institute of Field Archaeologists

SK These letters refer to the primary code used by the South Kesteven Community Archaeologist.

SMR These letters refer to the primary code used by the Sites and Monuments Record maintained by Lincolnshire County Council

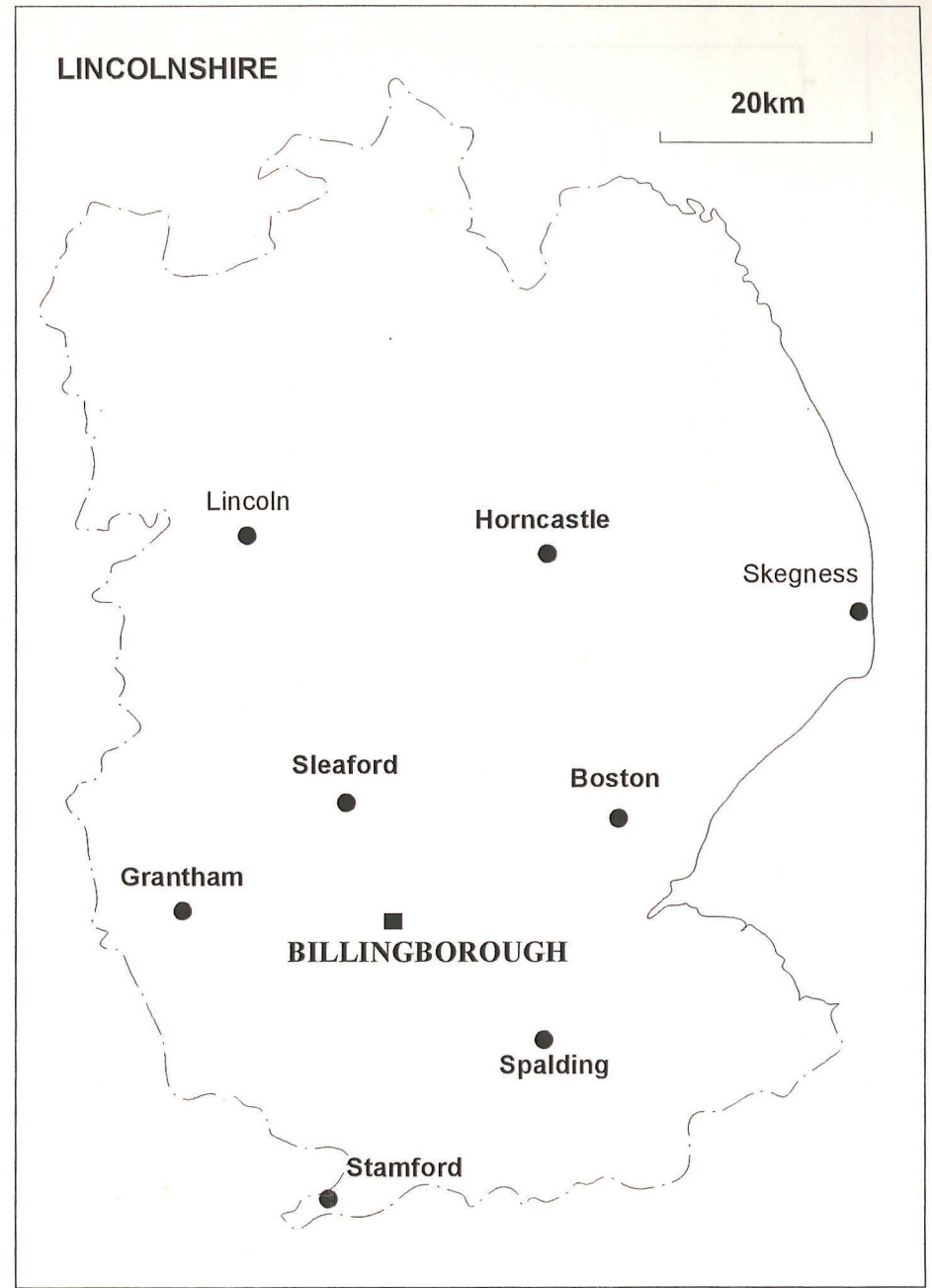
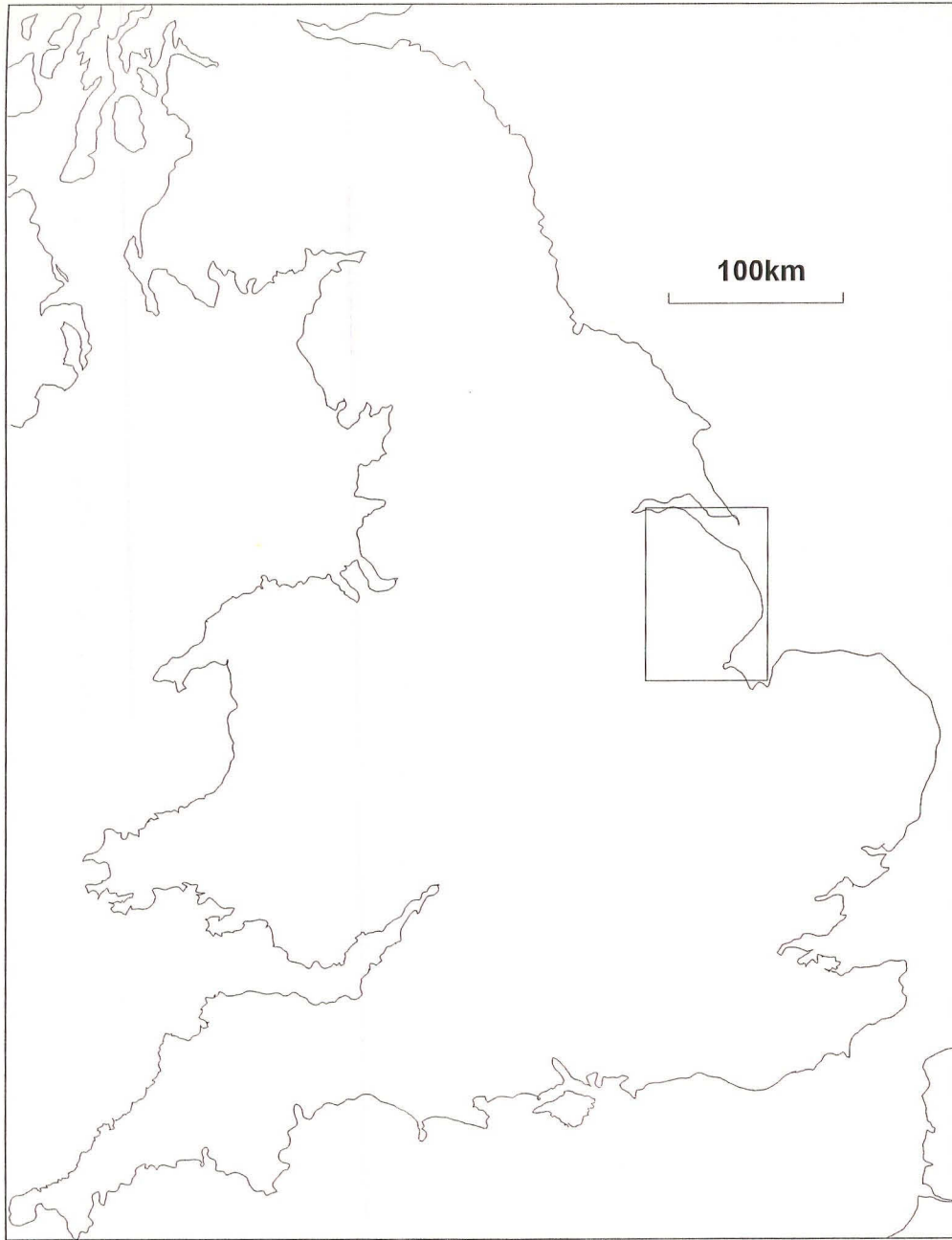
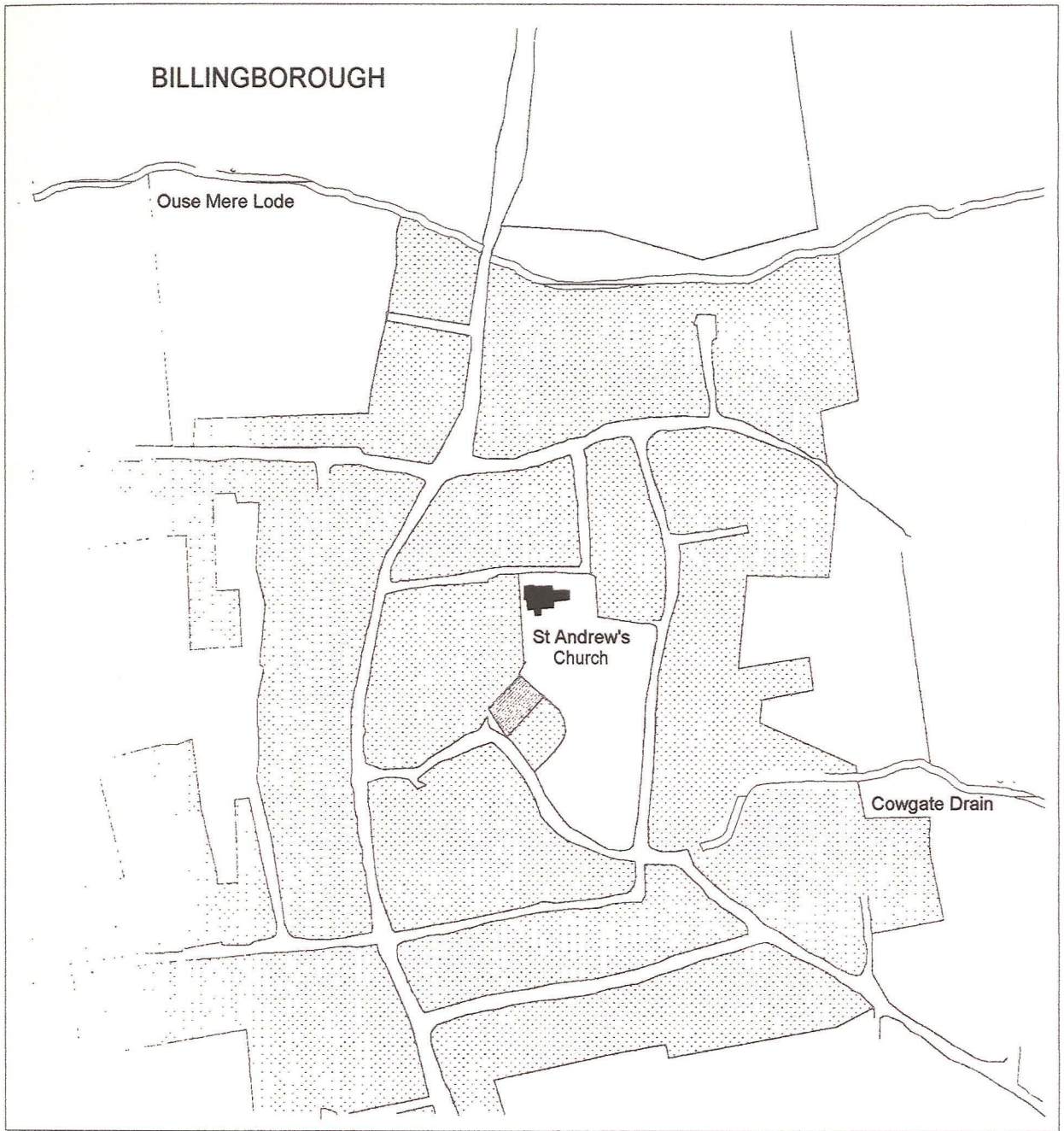


Figure 1 - General Location Plan



Development Area



Built Up Area

0 200m



Figure 2 - Site Location Plan

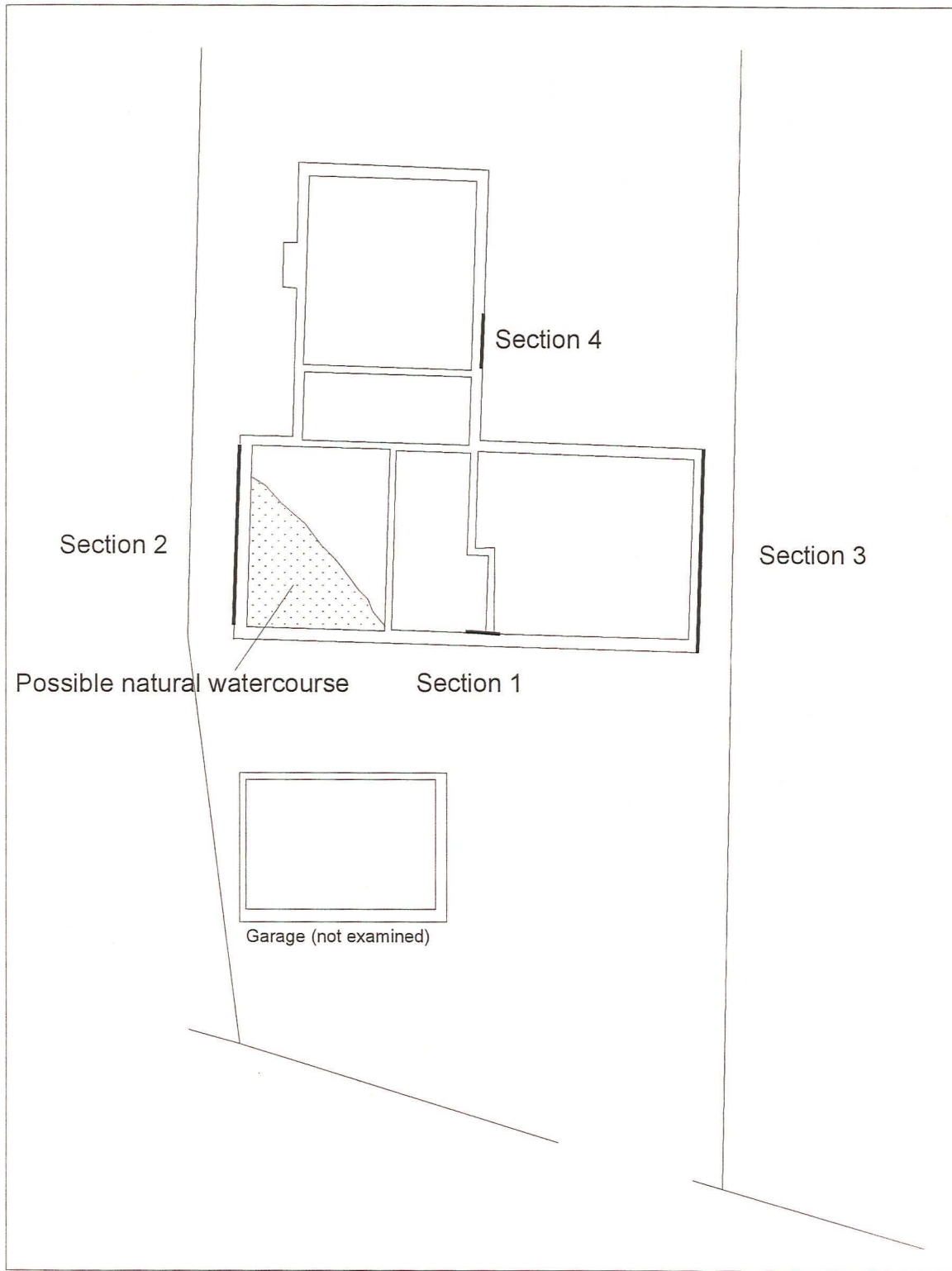


Figure 3 - Detailed Plan of Development showing Section locations

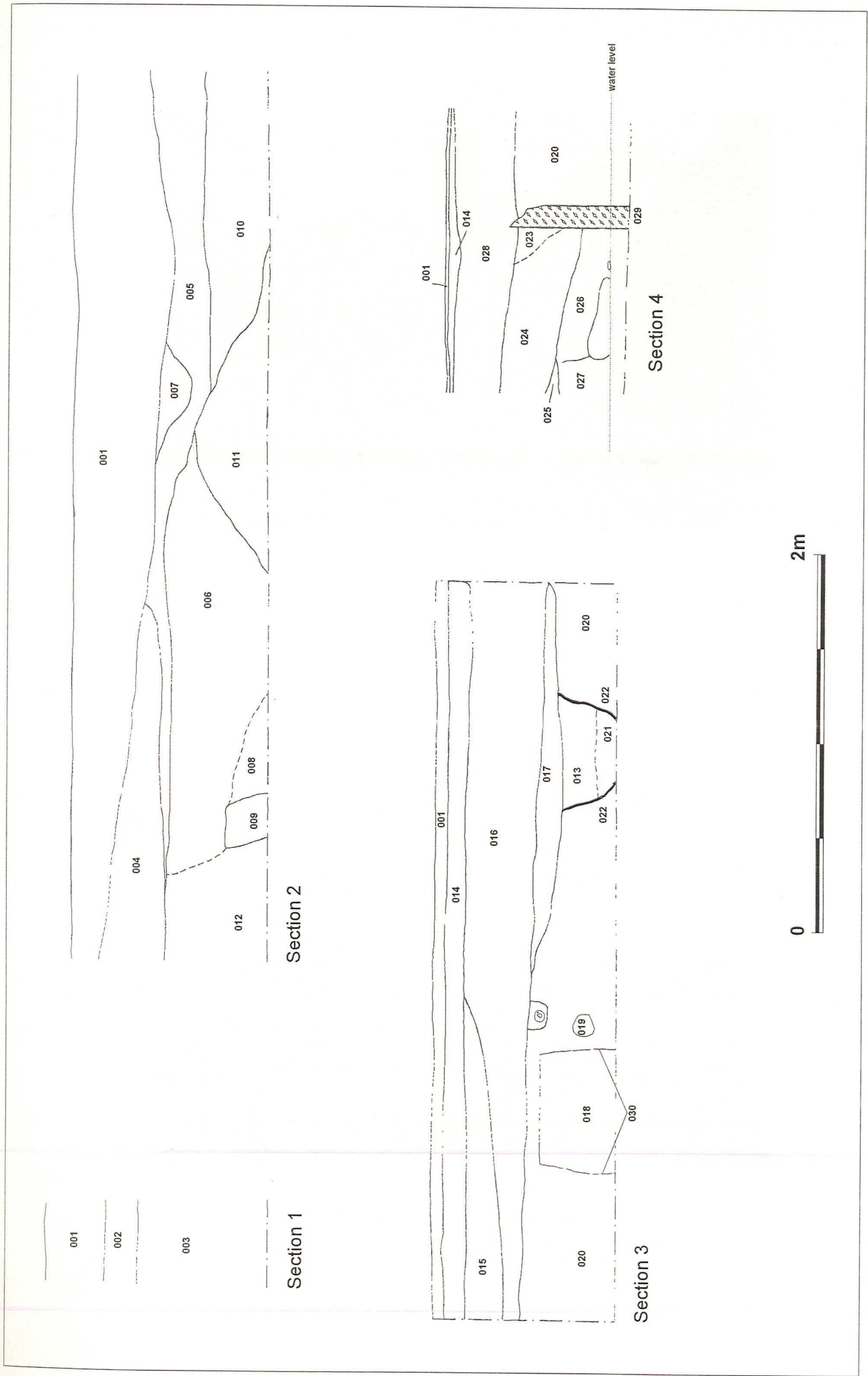


Figure 4 - Sections 1, 2, 3 and 4



Plate 1 - General view of the development site,
looking north to St. Andrew's Church



Plate 2 - View of Section 4,
showing the timber lining to feature (029)

Appendix 1

ARCHAEOLOGICAL PROJECT BRIEF. WATCHING BRIEF AT BUILDERS YARD, CHAPEL STREET, BILLINGBOROUGH

1. SUMMARY

- 1.1 This document is the brief for an archaeological watching brief to be carried out during the development of land at Chapel Street, Billingborough.
- 1.2 This brief should be used by archaeological contractors as the basis for the preparation of a detailed archaeological project specification. In response to this brief contractors will be expected to provide details of the proposed scheme of work, to include the anticipated working methods, timescales and staffing levels.
- 1.3 The chosen detailed specification will be submitted for approval to the Community Archaeologist of South Kesteven District Council. The client will be free to choose between those specifications which are considered to adequately satisfy this brief.

2. SITE LOCATION AND DESCRIPTION.

- 2.1 The village of Billingborough lies in the district of South Kesteven Lincolnshire, approximately 14km north of the town of Bourne. The proposed development site lies in the centre of the village at NGR TF1176 3416. The application is for residential development in an area which was previously used as a builders yard.

3. PLANNING BACKGROUND.

- 3.1 The proposed development is Planning No. SK97/938/09/38. A standard condition requiring an archaeological watching brief is attached to the planning permission.

4. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND.

- 4.1 The proposed development lies in the centre of the town of Billingborough which is mentioned in the Domesday book of 1086. The proximity of St. Andrew's church (the exact date of which is unclear but it does at least have an early 14th century aisle, and possibly some 13th century elements) also indicates that the proposed site lies in the heart of the historic core of the settlement. Multi period archaeological deposits and artefacts have been recorded from around the parish, ranging from evidence for Bronze Age salt production to possible Roman Villas and as yet undated cropmarks noted on aerial photographs. It has been suggested that the current village may itself date to the 6th century AD, the name suggesting that it formed a centre for a tribe referred to as the Bilingas or Bilmigas. (Hayes & Lane 1992).
- 4.2 The current development may therefore disturb archaeological remains dating from the Late Saxon/ Medieval Periods and possibly earlier.

5. REQUIREMENT 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 and that any remains disturbed are recovered.
- 5.2 Any adjustments to the brief for the Watching Brief project should only be made after discussion with the Community Archaeologist of South Kesteven District Council.
- 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.**
- 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. **It is expected that an approved single context recording system will be used for all on- site and post fieldwork procedures;**
- 5.3.5 **An estimate of time and resources allocated for the post-excavation and report production in the form of 'person hours.' This should include lists of specialists and their role in the project.**

6. METHODS

- 6.1 The investigation 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 of 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 under the Disused Burial Grounds (Amendment) Act, 1981 or other Burial Acts regarding the exhumation and interment of human remains. It will also be necessary to comply with all reasonable requests of interested parties as to the method of removal, reinterment or disposal of the remains or associated items. Attempt must be made at all times not to cause offence to any interested parties;

7. MONITORING ARRANGEMENTS

- 7.1 The Community Archaeologist of South Kesteven District 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. The Community Archaeologist should be kept informed of any unexpected discoveries and regularly updated on the project's progress. They should be allowed access to the site at their convenience and will comply with any health and safety requirements associated with the site.

8. REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

- 8.1 A full report should be produced and deposited with the South Kesteven Community Archaeologist, South Kesteven District Council Planning Department, the Developer 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 should be made for long term storage of all artefacts in the City and County Museum, Lincoln, as outlined in that Museum's document 'Conditions for the acceptance of Project Archives'. The City and County Museum should be contacted at the earliest possible opportunity so that the full cost implications of the archive deposition can be taken into account.
- 8.3 A site archive should be produced and deposited with the artefacts as detailed in 8.2.

9. **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION.**

- 9.1 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 approved programme of excavation are only to be made with the prior written approval of the Community Archaeologist.

Brief set by Community Archaeologist, South Kesteven District Council. October 1997

Appendix 2

CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

No.	Section	Description	Interpretation
001	1-4	Dark blackish brown sandy silt	Topsoil
002	1	Light brownish yellow sand, 0.25m thick	Subsoil
003	1	Loose yellowish brown sand and gravel	Natural deposit
004	2	Greyish white/reddish brown sand	Subsoil
005	2	Brownish red sand	Natural deposit
006	2	Brown sand and gravel	Natural deposit
007	2	Greyish yellow gravel and sand	Natural deposit
008	2	Grey sand	Natural deposit
009	2	Grey sand	Natural deposit
010	2	Light yellowish brown sand	Natural deposit
011	2	Grey sand	Natural deposit
012	2	Light yellowish brown sand	Natural deposit
013	3	Blackish grey sand, with ash/charcoal	Fill of 022
014	3, 4	Yellow/red stone and building material	Levelling deposit
015	3	Mid brownish grey silty sand, 0.2m thick	Subsoil
016	3	Dark grey clayey silt	Subsoil
017	3	Mid grey silt with gravel	Indeterminate layer
018	3	Blackish grey sand, with ash/charcoal and gravel	Possible pit fill
019	3	Mixed grey sand, gravel and ash	?Animal disturbance
020	3	Loose yellowish brown sand and gravel	Natural deposit
021	3	Grey stones with sand and silt	Fill of 022
022	3	Cut, 0.7m wide by 0.32m deep	Possible pit
023	4	Mid grey brown sandy silt, 0.27m thick	Fill of 029
024	4	Yellowish brown sand and gravel	Fill of 029
025	4	Yellowish red sand	Fill of 029
026	4	Light brown sand and stone	Fill of 029
027	4	Brown sand, 0.36m thick	Fill of 029
028	4	Greyish brown sandy silt, 0.32m thick	Possible subsoil
029	4	Cut, 0.6m deep	Possible soakaway tank
030	3	?Cut, visible measurements 0.7m wide by 0.4m deep	Indeterminate feature

Appendix 3

THE FINDS by Paul Cope-Faulkner

Provenance

All artefacts are from either unstratified or topsoil contexts with the exception of two burnt flints from a pit.

All of the pottery is likely to have been produced in Britain, most probably in Staffordshire.

Range

The range of material is detailed in the table.

The earliest dateable artefacts are the blue and white glazed earthenware pottery, which has a broad range from the 19th to the 20th century.

CONTEXT	DESCRIPTION	LATEST DATE
Unstratified	Decorated wall tile	19 th - 20 th century
001	2 sherds blue and white glazed earthenware 5 sherds white glazed earthenware 1 decorated wall tile 1 fragment light blue glass 1 iron nail 1 horse metatarsus	20 th century
013	2 fragments of burnt flint	Undiagnostic

Condition

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

Documentation

19th and 20th century material from Lincolnshire, as found at Billingborough, have previously been found and reported on.

Potential

The small amount of modern material has little potential for further study.

Appendix 4

THE ARCHIVE

The archive consists of:

29	Context records
1	Photographic record sheet
2	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: 297.97

Archaeological Project Services Site Code: BCS97

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.

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Appendix 5

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).
Cropmark	A mark that is produced by the effect of underlying archaeological features influencing the growth of a particular crop.
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.
Iron Age	A period characterised by the introduction of Iron to the British Isles, dating from 800 BC to 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.
Romano-British	Pertaining to the period dating from AD 43-410 when the Romans occupied Britain.