ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING AND RECORDING AT BOSTON ROAD RECREATION GROUND, SLEAFORD (SLBR11)

Work Undertaken For
Smith Construction Limited.

July 2011

Report Compiled by
Katie Murphy BA (Hons) MA

Planning Application No: N/57/0884/09
National Grid Reference: TF 0750 4556
The Collection Accession No: LCNCC: 2011.56
OASIS Record No: archaeol1-104635

APS Report No. 77/**11**

ARCHAEOLOGICAL PROJECT SERVICES

Quality Control

Boston Road Recreation Ground
Sleaford, Lincolnshire

(SLBR11)

Project Coordinator	Dale Trimble
Supervisor	Bob Garlant, Mark Peachey
Illustration	Katie Murphy
Photographic Reproduction	Katie Murphy
Post-excavation Analyst	Katie Murphy

Checked by Project Manager	Approved by Senior Archaeologist
Dale Trimble 	Tom Lane 
Date: 05th July 2011	Date: 05th July 2011

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1. SUMMARY

A programme of archaeological monitoring and recording was undertaken during development groundworks at Sleaford Recreation Ground, Boston Road, Sleaford. The proposed development lies in an archaeologically sensitive area, close to the site of a middle Iron Age enclosure, a late Iron Age settlement and associated mint, and an extensive Romano-British settlement.

A watching brief monitoring all groundworks associated with the development was carried out.

Topsoil, subsoil and natural sand and gravel layers were identified. No archaeological deposits were uncovered during the course of the development.

2. INTRODUCTION

2.1 Planning Background

Planning permission (application no: N/57/0884/09) for the construction of four tennis courts, the erection of nine 10m high floodlights, and 3m high fencing has been granted by North Kesteven District Council, with conditions for a scheme of archaeological work comprising archaeological monitoring and recording during groundworks.

The watching brief was carried out, intermittently, between the 25th March and 7th April 2011.

2.2 Topography and Geology

Sleaford is located 27km south of Lincoln in the administrative district of North Kesteven, Lincolnshire (Fig. 1).

The area of proposed development area lies on the southeast side of the town, on the south side of Boston Road and within the bounds of the Sleaford Recreation Ground, centred on TF 0750 4556 (Fig. 2).

The site lies at c. 12m OD, to the south of the Old River Slea. As an urban fringe, local soils have not been mapped by the Soil Survey, but two soil regimes occur in the vicinity. To the north are St. Lawrence Series stagnogleyic brown calcareous earths, over calcareous loamy drift geology (George and Robson 1978, 84). In the south are New Sleaford Series gleyic brown calcareous sand on calcareous Fen sand and gravel (*ibid*., 86-87).

2.3 Archaeological Setting

The proposed development lies approximately 350m southwest of Old Place, where a major settlement of the later Iron Age (700 BC- AD 50) has been identified. This settlement, located at the crossing of the River Slea, was apparently one of the principal centres of the Corieltavi, the Iron Age tribe that occupied this part of the East Midlands. The settlement possibly had a major involvement in coin production and has yielded the largest known collection of coin-pellet moulds of the period in Europe. The Iron Age settlement was eventually succeeded by a Romano-British (AD 50-400) occupation site, the prehistoric track to the river crossing becoming a Roman road (Elsdon, 1997), (Taylor, 2010).

The line of this north to south aligned Roman road lies approximately 300m to the east of the site. A palisaded middle Iron Age enclosure was discovered in advance of the construction of a housing estate, north of the west to east railway line, approximately 450 southeast of the proposed development. A ditched enclosure of the same period was identified approximately 200m to the southeast during an excavation undertaken in 2002 (Thompson 2002).

A geophysical survey undertaken over the field approximately 250m south of the proposed development has identified a number of anomalies which may be of archaeological origin. Ridge and furrow earthworks characteristic of medieval

agriculture were also identified during the survey, suggesting a history of arable land use of the area (EAS 1997).

3. AIMS

The requirements of the monitoring and recording process, as described in the specification, were to record and interpret archaeological deposits, if present, and to determine their date, sequence, function and origin.

4. METHODS

The watching brief was undertaken during the groundworks phase of development and included all phases of soil movement. This was carried out in two main stages. The first was a general topsoil strip of the area for the intended tennis courts (Plates 1 and 2). The second was the excavation of drainage trenches within the tennis court area, in which to insert plastic drain pipes. These trenches were placed at ten metre intervals, aligned roughly east-west, and around the perimeter of the area (Plates 3 and 4).

Following excavation, each deposit was allocated a unique reference number (context number) with an individual written description. A list of all contexts and their descriptions appears as Appendix 1. A photographic record was compiled and sections were drawn at a scale of 1:10 and 1:20. Recording was undertaken according to standard Archaeological Project Services practice.

Following excavation, finds were examined and a period date assigned where possible (Appendix 2). Phasing was assigned based on the nature of the deposits and recognisable relationships between them.

5. RESULTS

Following excavation, all records were checked and ordered to ensure that they constituted a complete Level II archive. A list of all contexts and interpretations appears as Appendix 1. Context numbers are identified in the text by brackets. An equals sign between context numbers indicates that the contexts once formed a single layer or feature. Phasing was based on the nature of the deposits and recognisable relationships between them.

Two main phases of deposit formation were identified. These were

Phase 1: Natural
Phase 2: Post-Medieval/Modern

Phase 1: Natural
The earliest deposit encountered during the course of the groundworks was (004)=(006), a mid yellow brown gravel and sand deposit. This was identified as the natural horizon in the area and was only exposed during the excavation of the drainage trenches (Fig 4, Fig. 5, Sections 1-4).

Phase 2: Post-Medieval/Modern
A subsoil deposit, (003)=(005), was identified during the course of the excavation of drainage trenches. This sealed the natural horizon (004)=(006) and comprised friable yellow brown sandy silt with frequent gravel inclusions, up to 0.25m thick. Pottery with a date range of 18th-20th century (Appendix 2) was recovered from this deposit.

Sealing subsoil (003)=(005) was topsoil deposit (001)=(007), a loose, mid grey brown sandy silt with frequent gravel inclusions, up to 0.2m thick. This was the latest deposit identified during the course of the groundworks. Pottery recovered from this deposit dated mainly to the 18-20th centuries. Glass, dated to the 19th century, was also was recovered from this deposit (Appendix 2).

6. DISCUSSION

The natural horizon, uncovered at the base of the trenches, was the earliest deposit encountered during the course of the groundworks. This may have formed part of the Fen sands and gravels identified as forming one of the geological regimes in the area.

A sandy silt subsoil sealed the natural horizon. Pottery recovered from this deposit indicated that it was probably of modern formation, with the latest recovered pottery dating from the 20th century. The absence of earlier pottery within this deposit, particularly of Iron Age or Romano-British date, may indicate that activity during these periods was focussed away from this area. Alternatively, these earlier deposits may not have been disturbed by later activities.

It is also likely that modern landscaping, associated with the recreation ground itself, had truncated deposits in this area.

Topsoil (001)=(007) sealed the area. This was a modern development, although finds recovered dated from as early as the fifteenth century, possibly indicating activity during this period in the area. This may relate to the agricultural features potentially identified during geophysical survey, which probably date to the medieval and post-medieval periods. Also, a mid nineteenth century map of Old Place Farm shows that this area of the site falls within the grounds of Charles Sharpes' nursery (Pawley; 1996, 76) and many of the later artefacts are probably associated with this business.

7. CONCLUSION

A programme of archaeological monitoring and recording was undertaken during development works at Sleaford Recreation Ground, Boston Road, Sleaford. The site is located in an archaeologically sensitive area, lying in close proximity to significant Iron Age and Romano-British remains.

No evidence of archaeological activity was identified during the course of the groundworks.

8. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeological Project Services wishes to acknowledge the assistance of Smith Construction Limited for commissioning the fieldwork and post-excavation analysis. The work was coordinated by Dale Trimble, who edited this report along with Tom Lane.

9. PERSONNEL

Project Coordinator: Dale Trimble
Site Supervisors: Bob Garlant, Mark Peachey
Finds processing: Denise Buckley
Photographic reproduction: Katie Murphy
Illustration: Katie Murphy
Post-excavation analysis: Katie Murphy

10. BIBLIOGRAPHY

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Taylor, G., in eds., Malone., S and Williams, M., *Rumours of Roman Finds, Recent work on Roman Lincolnshire* Heritage Trust of Lincolnshire 2010

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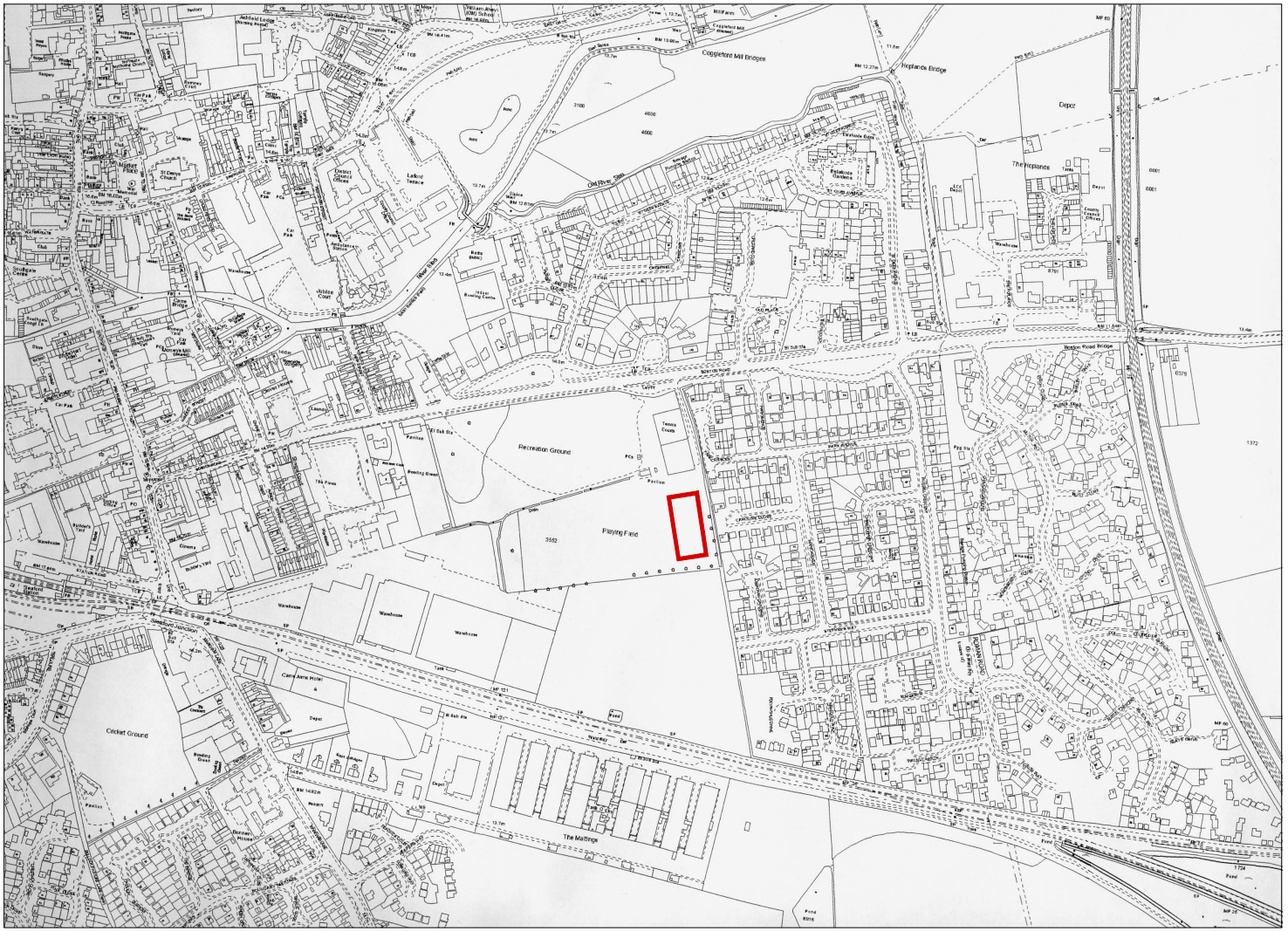
11. ABBREVIATIONS

APS Archaeological Project Services

Figure 1: General location plan



N

Site Location

0 300m

Archaeological Project Services

Project Name:
Sleaford, Boston Road Recreation Gournd (SLBR11)

Scale 1:7500	Drawn by: KM	Report No: 77/11

Figure 2. Site location

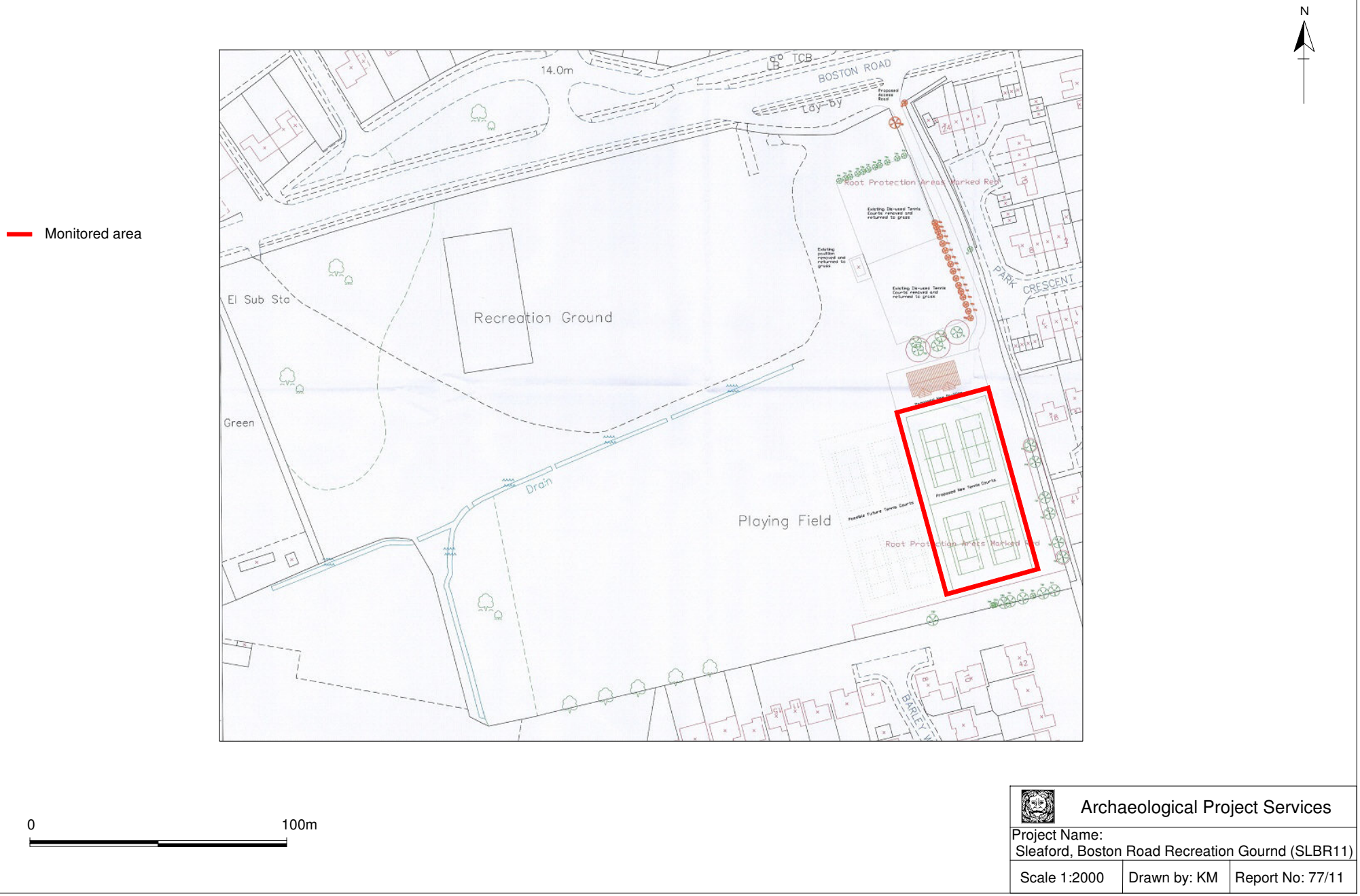


Figure 3 Site plan

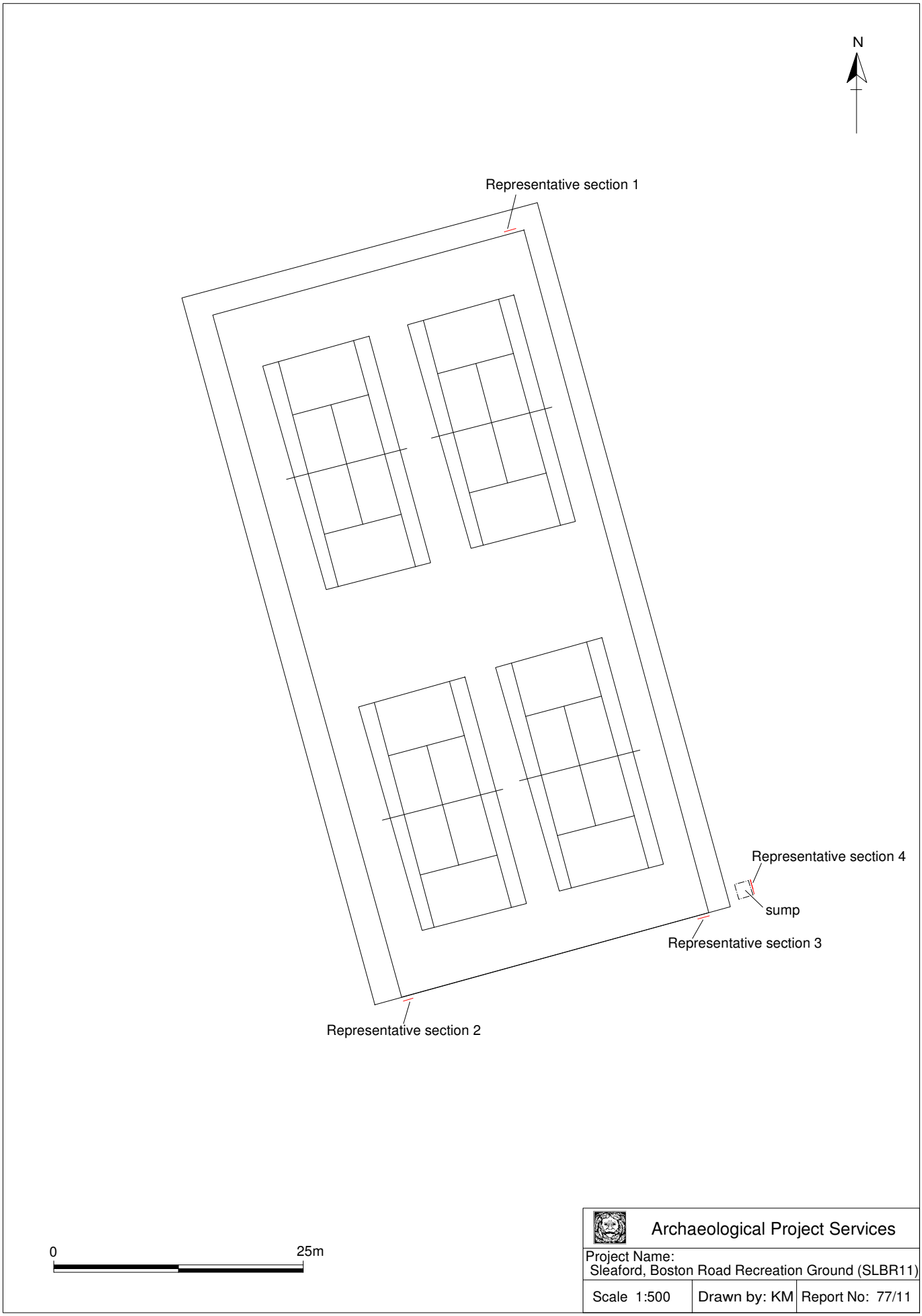


Figure 4 Plan showing representative section locations

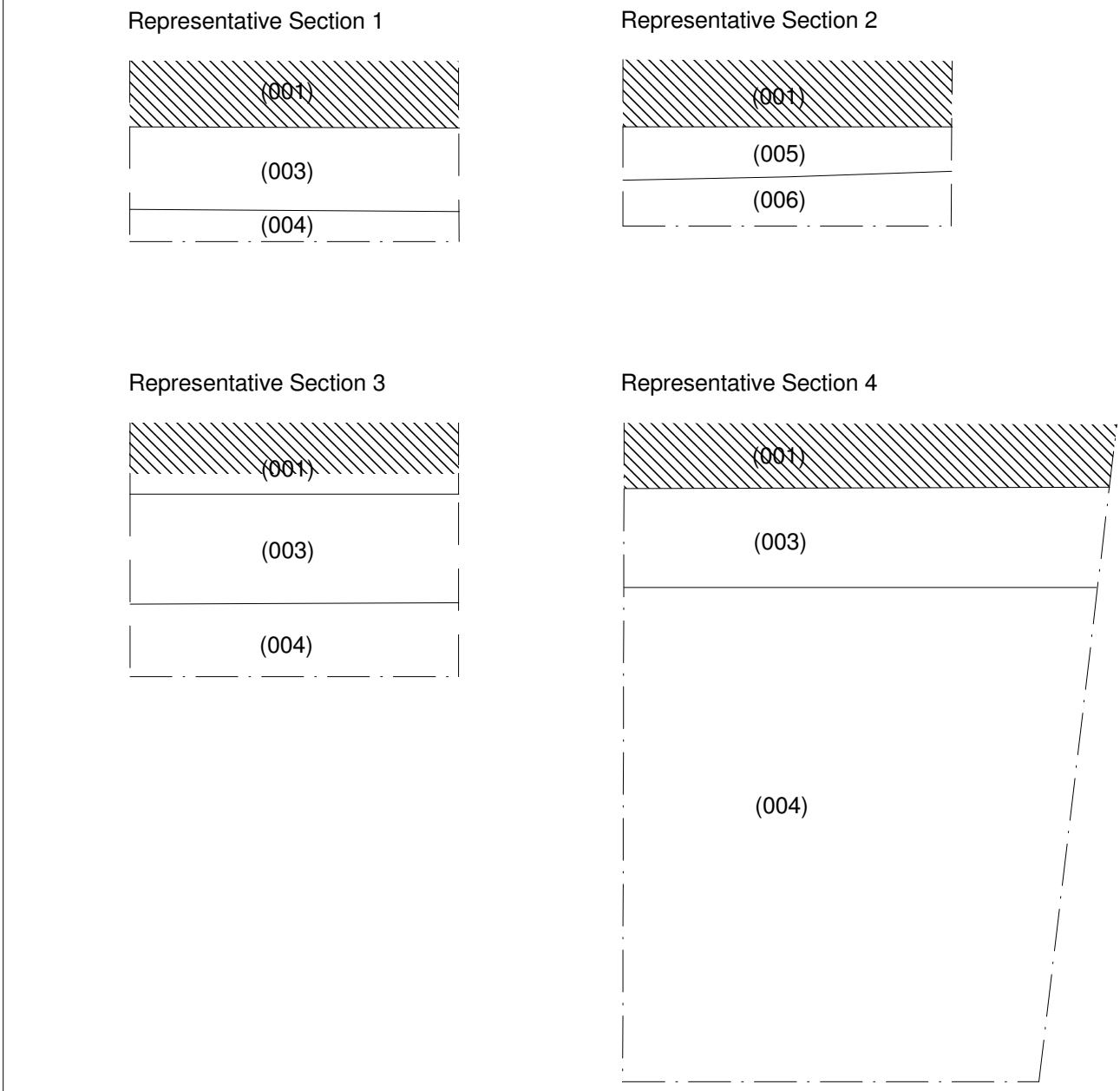


Figure 5 Representative Sections

Plate 1 General view of site during topsoil strip, looking west

Plate 2 General view of site during topsoil strip, looking north

Plate 3 Drainage ditch, representative section 1, looking west

Plate 4 Perimeter drainage ditch, looking south

Appendix 1
Context Summary

Context	Stage	Description	Interpretation
001	Topsoil strip	Loose, mid grey brown sandy silt with frequent small to medium stones. Excavated to 0.2m	Turf/topsoil – full extent not revealed
002	Topsoil strip	Unstratified finds	Unstratified finds
003	Drain cuts	Friable yellow brown sandy silt with moderate to frequent gravel inclusions, 0.25m thick	Subsoil
004	Drain cuts	Friable yellow brown gravel and sand, excavated to depth of 0.1m	Natural gravel and sand
005	Drain cuts	Friable yellow brown slightly silty sand with frequent gravel, excavated to 0.18m	Subsoil
006	Drain cuts	Friable, firm yellow brown gravel and sand, excavated to 0.18m	Natural gravel and sand
007	Drain cuts	Loose, mid grey brown sandy silt with moderate small to medium gravel inclusions	Topsoil

Appendix [2]

THE FINDS

POST ROMAN POTTERY

By Anne Boyle

Introduction

All the material was recorded at archive level in accordance with the guidelines laid out in Slowikowski *et al.* (2001) and to conform to Lincolnshire County Council's *Archaeology Handbook.* The pottery codenames (Cname) are in accordance with the Post Roman pottery type series for Lincolnshire, as published in Young *et al.* (2005). A total of 28 sherds from 28 vessels, weighing 421 grams was recovered from the site.

Methodology

The material was laid out and viewed in context order. Sherds were counted and weighed by individual vessel within each context. The pottery was examined visually and using x20 magnification. This information was then added to an Access database. An archive list of the pottery is included in Archive Catalogue 1, with a summary presented in Table 1. The pottery ranges in date from the medieval to the early modern period.

Condition

The sherds show expected levels of abrasion and are typical of redeposited material.

Results

Table 1, Post Roman Pottery Archive

Cname	Full name	Earliest date	Latest date	NoS	NoV	W (g)
BL	Black-glazed wares	1550	1750	2	2	42
BOU	Bourne D ware	1350	1650	2	2	46
ENGS	Unspecified English Stoneware	1690	1900	2	2	70
ENPO	English Porcelain	1750	1900	1	1	2
GRE	Glazed Red Earthenware	1500	1650	2	2	95
LERTH	Late Earthenwares	1750	1900	2	2	7
NCBW	19th-century Buff ware	1800	1900	2	2	61
NOTGL	Nottingham Light Bodied Glazed ware	1220	1320	1	1	44
PEARL	Pearlware	1770	1900	3	3	5
STMO	Staffordshire/Bristol mottled-glazed	1670	1800	2	2	10
SWSG	Staffordshire White Saltglazed stoneware	1700	1770	1	1	13
WHITE	Modern whiteware	1850	1900	8	8	26
			TOTAL	**28**	**28**	**421**

Provenance

All the pottery was retrieved from either topsoil or subsoil.

Range

All the wares present are typical of assemblages from this area.

Potential

All of the pottery is stable and poses no problems for long-term storage. No further work is required on the assemblage.

Summary

A small collection of pottery, most of which dates from the 18th to 20th centuries, was recovered from the site.

CERAMIC BUILDING MATERIAL

By Anne Boyle

Introduction
All the material was recorded at archive level in accordance with the guidelines laid out by the ACBMG (2001) and to conform to Lincolnshire County Council's *Archaeology Handbook*. A total of 24 fragments of ceramic building material, weighing 1613 grams was recovered from the site.

Methodology
The material was laid out and viewed in context order. Fragments were counted and weighed within each context. The ceramic building material was examined visually and using x20 magnification. This information was then added to an Access database. An archive list of the ceramic building material is included in Archive Catalogue 2, with a summary in Table 2.

Condition
The brick and tile is in mixed condition and all appears to be redeposited.

Results
Table 2, Ceramic Building Material Archive

Cname	Full name	NoF	W (g)
BRK	Brick	6	214
MODDRAIN	Modern land drain	1	121
MODTIL	Modern tile	2	70
PANT	Pantile	2	189
PNR	Peg, nib or ridge tile	13	1019
	TOTAL	**24**	**1613**

Provenance
All the ceramic building material was retrieved from either topsoil or subsoil.

Range
Both roofing tile and brick are present in the assemblage.

Potential
No further work is required on the assemblage.

Summary
A small collection of post-medieval and early modern brick and tile was recovered from the site.

FAUNAL REMAINS
By Paul Cope-Faulkner

Introduction
A total of 11 (383g) fragments of animal bone were recovered from stratified contexts.

Provenance
The animal bone was recovered from the topsoil (001) and as unstratified material (002).

Condition
The overall condition of the remains was good to moderate.

Results
Table3 , Fragments Identified to Taxa

Cxt	Taxon	Element	Number	W (g)	Comments
001	large mammal	long bone	1	35	
	large mammal	mandible	2	8	join
	medium mammal	rib	2	12	one sawn

	sheep/goat	radius	1	19	
002	cattle	humerus	1	262	sawn
	large mammal	unidentified	1	9	
	large mammal	rib	1	13	
	sheep/goat	vertebra	1	9	sawn
	sheep/goat	humerus	1	16	

Summary
As a small collection the assemblage is of limited potential. Some bone has been sawn which is more typical of post-medieval and modern butchery practices. As the material is unstratified or from topsoil layers it is suitable for discard but is otherwise archive stable.

GLASS
By Gary Taylor

Introduction
Six pieces of glass weighing 135g were recovered.

Condition
Although naturally fragile the glass is in good condition.

Results

Table 4 Glass Archive

Cxt	Description	NoF	W (g)	Date
001	Dark olive green bottle, early 20th century	2(link)	75	Early 20th century
	Dark green bottle, early 20th century	1	10	
	Pale green bottle, late 19th century	1	19	
002	Brown bottle, 20th century	1	23	20th century
	Colourless window glass, 20th century	1	8	

Provenance
The glass was recovered from topsoil (001) and as unstratified material.

Range
All of the glass was early modern, being no earlier than the late 19th century. Bottles dominated the assemblage, though there was also a piece of window glass.

Potential
Other than providing some dating evidence the glass is of very limited potential.

CLAY PIPE
By Gary Taylor

Introduction
Analysis of the clay pipes followed the guidance published by Davey (1981) and the material is detailed in the accompanying table.

Condition
All of the clay pipe is in good condition, though one piece is worn.

Results

Table 5, Clay Pipes

Context no.	Bore diameter /64"					NoF	W(g)	Comments	Date
	8	7	6	5	4				
001		1	1	1		3	13	Stems only, one with attached 17th century heel; mixed	18th century

Provenance
The clay pipes were recovered from topsoil (001). They are probably local Sleaford products.

Range
Only stems were found and they were mixed in date, ranging from the 17th to 18th centuries.

Potential
Other than providing dating evidence the clay pipe is of limited potential.

OTHER FINDS
By Gary Taylor

Introduction
Five other finds weighing a total of 185g were recovered.

Condition
All of the other finds are in good condition, though the metals are corroded.

Results

Table 6, Other Materials

Cxt	Material	Description	NoF	W (g)	Date
001	Copper alloy	Coin, 1d Edward VII, 1906	1	8	1906+
	Copper alloy	Shotgun cartridge cap, 20th century	1	3	
002	Iron	Wire,twisted, post-medieval	1	3	20th century
	slag	Iron smithing slag, late post-medieval	2	170	

Provenance
The other finds were recovered from topsoil deposits (001) and as unstratified material (002).

Range
Metals occurred most frequently, though were still few in number. The items are mixed but include a coin. Slag was also recovered. The pieces look too large to have been imported to the site as hard core.

Potential
The other finds are generally of limited potential, other than providing dating evidence. However, the slag occurs in quite large pieces and it seems that it would have been too big to be imported for use as hardcore. Consequently, the slag may indicate a blacksmith or farrier was working nearby.

SPOT DATING
The dating in Table [7] is based on the evidence provided by the finds detailed above.

Table 7, Spot dates

Cxt	Date	Comments
001	20th	

002	19th to 20th	
003	18th to 20th	Date on single sherd
005	16th to 18th	Date on single fragment of CBM
007	18th to 19th	Date on single sherd

ABBREVIATIONS

ACBMG Archaeological Ceramic Building Materials Group
BS Body sherd
CBM Ceramic Building Material
CXT Context
NoF Number of Fragments
NoS Number of sherds
NoV Number of vessels
W (g) Weight (grams)

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ARCHIVE CATALOGUES

Archive catalogue 1, Post Roman Pottery

Cxt	Cname	Fabric	Form	NoS	NoV	W (g)	Part	Decoration	Description	Date
001	BL		?	1	1	7	BS			17th to 18th
001	BOU	Smooth + ca	Jug/ jar	1	1	5	BS		Leached	15th to 16th
001	BOU	Slightly sandy	Jug/ jar	1	1	41	BS			15th to 16th
001	ENGS		Jar	1	1	31	BS			19th to 20th
001	GRE		Bowl	1	1	38	Rim			17th to 18th
001	GRE		Jug	1	1	57	Handle		Oval with central hollow	17th to 18th
001	LERTH		Garden pot	1	1	4	Rim			18th to 20th
001	NCBW		?	1	1	7	Base			19th
001	NOTGL		Jug	1	1	44	Base		Stacking scar	Early 13th to early 14th
001	PEARL		Hollow	3	3	5	BS		Abraded	Late 18th to late 19th
001	STMO		Hollow	2	2	10	BS		?ID one	18th to early 19th
001	SWSG		?	1	1	13	Base			18th
001	WHITE		Various	3	3	11	Rims	Some blue handpaint and transfer print	One burnt	19th to 20th
002	ENGS		Straigh	1	1	39	BS			19th to 20th

			sided jar							
002	ENPO		Egg cup?	1	1	2	Rim			19th to 20th
002	NCBW		Bowl	1	1	54	Rim			19th
002	WHITE		Various	5	5	15	BS	Includes blue transfer print	Abraded	19th to 20th
003	LERTH		?	1	1	3	BS		Abraded	18th to 20th
007	BL		Bowl	1	1	35	Rim		Rounded rim; spalled glaze; ?ID	18th to 19th

Archive catalogue 2, Ceramic Building Material

Cxt	Cname	Fabric	NoF	W (g)	Description	Date
001	BRK		2	26	Abraded	18th to 20th
001	MODDRAIN		1	121		19th to 20th
001	MODTIL		1	48		19th to 20th
001	PANT		1	60		19th to 20th
001	PNR		2	544	Flat rooder	16th to 18th
001	PNR	Various	9	452	Flat roofers	16th to 18th
001	PNR	Oxidised medium sandy	1	12	Flake; Flat roofers	16th to 18th
002	BRK		4	188	Slop moulded; some soot	19th
002	MODTIL	WHITE	1	22		19th to 20th
002	PANT		1	129		19th to 20th
005	PNR	OX/R; medium sandy	1	11	Flake; Flat roofers	16th to 18th

Appendix 3

GLOSSARY

Alluvium	Deposits laid down by water. Marine alluvium is deposited by the sea, and fresh water alluvium is laid down by rivers and in lakes.
Age	A period characterised by the introduction of bronze into the country for tools, between 2250 and 800 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, 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.
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) that become contained by the 'cut' are referred to as its fill(s).
Geophysical Survey	Essentially non-invasive methods of examining below the ground surface by measuring deviations in the physical properties and characteristics of the earth. Techniques include magnetometry and resistivity survey.
Iron Age	A period characterised by the introduction of Iron into the country for tools, between 800 BC and 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
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.
Ridge and Furrow	The remains of arable cultivation consisting of raised rounded strips separated by furrows. It is characteristic of open field agriculture.
Romano-British	Pertaining to the period dating from AD 43-410 when the Romans occupied Britain.

Appendix 4

THE ARCHIVE

The archive consists of:

7	Context records
1	Photographic record sheet
1	Section record sheet
1	Plan record sheet
4	Daily record sheet
3	Sheets of scale drawings

All primary records 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:

The Collection
Art and Archaeology in Lincolnshire
Danes Terrace
Lincoln
LN2 1LP

Accession Number	LCNCC:2011.56
Archaeological Project Services Site Code:	SLBR11

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.