
**ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING AND
RECORDING AT TEAL PARK,
NORTH HYKEHAM,
LINCOLNSHIRE
(NHTP11)**

**Work Undertaken For
Mouchel
On behalf of
Lincolnshire County Council**

January 2012

Report Compiled by
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Planning Application No: 09/0633/OUT
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APS Report No: **116/11**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL
PROJECT
SERVICES**



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1. SUMMARY

A programme of archaeological monitoring and recording was undertaken during groundworks associated with the construction of Teal Park Development, North Hykeham, Lincolnshire. The investigations monitored road strips, vegetation clearance and drainage works. Three trenches were also excavated over the site of features previously identified from cropmarks.

The site lies in an area where Palaeolithic (500,000-8000 BC) tools have been found and close to Romano-British (AD 43-410) settlement and pottery kilns. The site formerly lay within the parishes of Skellingthorpe and Whisby which had been established by the medieval period (AD 1066-1540). A possible post-medieval (AD 1540-1900) farm, identified from a series of cropmarks, lies within the development area.

The investigation revealed a sequence of natural, undated and recent deposits. Undated remains include two ditches that share a common alignment with 19th century field boundaries and may, therefore, be of a similar age. Two modern quarry pits and a recent ditch were also encountered. No other archaeological features were identified and no artefacts were retrieved during the investigation.

2. INTRODUCTION

2.1 Planning Background

Archaeological Project Services was commissioned by Mouchel on behalf of Lincolnshire County Council to undertake a programme of archaeological monitoring and recording during groundworks associated with a new business and retail development at Teal Park, Whisby Road, North Hykeham, Lincolnshire. Approval for the development was sought through the submission of planning application

09/0633/OUT. The watching brief was carried out between the 15th February and 14th September 2011 in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation prepared by Mouchel and approved by the Senior Historic Environment Officer, North Kesteven District Council.

2.2 Topography and Geology

North Hykeham is located 6.5km southwest of Lincoln in the administrative district of North Kesteven, Lincolnshire (Fig. 1).

Teal Park lies 2.5km northwest of the centre of North Hykeham at National Grid Reference SK 9253 6774 (Fig. 2). The site lies largely to the south of Whisby Road and along the east side of the A46 at a height of c. 15m OD on a gentle slope down to the south.

Local soils are of the Blackwood Association, typically deep permeable sandy and coarse loamy soils (Hodge *et al.* 1984, 127). These soils are developed over a drift geology of glaciofluvial older sands and gravels which in turn seal a solid geology of Jurassic Lower Lias clays and shales (GSGB 1973).

2.3 Archaeological Setting

The site lies in an area of known archaeological remains dating from the Palaeolithic period to the present day. Two Palaeolithic hand axes have been found to the east of the area during gravel quarrying.

During the Romano-British period, the area was low-lying moorland and areas of scrubby woodland which were exploited for fuel for a pottery industry. Pottery of the period, including kiln wasters, are known from the east and a pottery kiln has been excavated to the south (Gajos 2008).

The site formerly lay in the parish of Skellingthorpe which is first mentioned in

the 11th century. Referred to as *Sceldinhopa*, the name is derived from the Old English *hop* meaning ‘enclosure in the marsh’ and possibly *scelding* that may mean ‘the shield shaped hill’ (Cameron 1998, 110). The western fringes of the site lie in the parish of Whisby, which is of Old Danish derivation and means ‘the farmstead, village (*bý*) belonging to *Hvit*’ (*ibid.* 138).

Both Whisby and Skellingthorpe are mentioned in the Domesday Survey of c. 1086 where both villages were held by Baldwin the Fleming as sokeland of Doddington (Foster and Longley 1976). There are no extant remains of the medieval period in the vicinity and it is probable that the area was common moor used for grazing. The area is referred to as ‘Common Moor’ on a plan of 1830 (LAO TLE 38/23).

A series of cropmarks indicate the possible presence of a post-medieval farm within the site boundary. This must date to before the late 18th century when the area became part of an expansive woodland plantation.

Prior to this work, a geophysical survey was undertaken at the site. However, no features of archaeological interest were identified, even over the site of the possible post-medieval farm (Roseveare and Roseveare 2008, 5). A record was also made of a hedgerow, which lies along the parish boundary, prior to its removal as part of this development (Cope-Faulkner 2011).

3. AIMS

The aim of the archaeological investigation was to ensure that any archaeological features exposed during the groundworks should be recorded and, if present, to determine their date, function and origin.

4. METHODS

The investigations monitored several aspects of the Teal Park development. Initial monitoring was undertaken during the removal of vegetation and the widening and creation of ditches. Topsoil stripping was also observed alongside the A46, the Whisby Road and for new roads into the Teal Park area. A number of previously identified features (Sites 8, 9, 10 and 11; Fig. 3) were also trenched to identify their origin, although Site 8 was not excavated due to a current ditch occupying the area. Further monitoring was undertaken during the excavation of drainage ditches. In each case, the removal of overburden was undertaken by machine to depths required for the development. All exposed areas were examined for archaeological deposits. Trenches for new drains and ditches were also examined with the sides of the trenches cleaned and rendered vertical where possible. Selected deposits were excavated further to retrieve artefactual material and to determine their function. 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 the records were checked and a stratigraphic matrix produced. Phasing was assigned based on the nature of the deposits and recognisable relationships between them.

5. RESULTS

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

The earliest layers encountered during the initial road strip comprised natural deposits relating to the underlying drift geology. These varied from reddish brown sand and gravel (005), mixed orange and grey silt (006), yellowish brown and bluish grey silty sand (008), orange sand (010), yellowish brown and orange mottled sand (013) to yellowish brown sand and gravel (015 and 017).

Within the cutting for a new ditch along the eastern boundary of the site (Fig. 4; Sections 2 and 3), natural deposits included mottled grey and yellow clay (019), bluish grey clay (020 and 022) and brownish yellow sand and gravel (021).

A second new drainage ditch, in the south central part of the site (Fig. 4, Section 4; Fig. 5, Section 6), revealed natural deposits of orange sandy gravel (025) and yellowish brown clayey sand (031).

At the road junction (JNT 4) and along a new service trench, natural deposits ranged from brown and orange sand and gravel (028), orange and grey clayey sand with gravel (029) and bluish grey clay and sandy clay (030), brownish yellow sand and gravel (032), the same with grey clay lenses (033), yellowish brown to grey clay (034), brown sand with grey clay lenses (035), grey clay (036) and yellowish brown sand and grey clay (041).

Two northwest-southeast aligned ditches were located to the southwest of Pear Tree Farm. The first (003) was 1.9m wide by 1.1m deep and the second (004) measured 2.45m wide and 0.5m deep (Fig. 4, Section 1). Both were filled with greyish brown sandy clay (002) which made it impossible to determine their stratigraphic relation to each other.

A quarry pit (012) was partially exposed in the southern part of the development area (Site 9). This measured over 4.5m long and was wider than 3m. It contained a fill of brownish black silty sand (011) with

modern debris including asbestos and was not excavated.

A second quarry pit (027) was located to the south of the site (Fig. 3) and was over 20m long. It contained a fill of grey sand that also contained modern rubbish (026).

Developed upon the natural (025) in the central new ditch was a discrete area of subsoil that comprised a 0.2m thick (Fig. 4, Section 4) layer of greyish brown and brown sand with gravel (024).

Sealing all deposits was the current topsoil comprising orange brown silty sand with frequent gravel (001), reddish brown sandy silt with gravel (007), blackish brown sandy silt with gravel (009), greyish brown silt (014), greyish brown silt with gravel (016) and greyish brown silty sand with gravel (023). This measured up to 0.4m thick.

A former field boundary (040) that had recently been infilled was also recorded adjacent to the road junction in the southeast part of the site. This was aligned north-south and was over 2.15m wide by 0.9m deep. Three fills were recorded, a lower of grey clay (039), followed by brown sandy silt (038) and then yellowish grey sand and gravel (037).

6. DISCUSSION

Natural deposits comprise silts, silty sands, sands with gravel. These relate to the underlying drift deposits of glaciofluvial sand and gravel.

Two ditches remain undated though share the same alignment as other field boundaries in the locality. As such, they probably date to the 19th century.

Two quarry pits were revealed towards the southern part of the site and indicate recent gravel workings. Both had been infilled with modern rubbish. Also of recent origin

was a north-south ditch.

No other archaeological features were identified and no artefacts were retrieved during the investigation.

7. CONCLUSION

Archaeological investigations were carried out at Teal Park, North Hykeham, as the site lay in an area of known remains of Palaeolithic and Romano-British date.

However, no prehistoric or Romano-British material was recorded during the investigation. Instead, two undated ditches, two modern quarry pits and a modern ditch were revealed. No finds were retrieved from the investigation.

8. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeological Project Services wishes to acknowledge the assistance of Sally Randall of Mouchel for commissioning the fieldwork and post-excavation analysis on behalf of Lincolnshire County Council. Thanks are also due to Jon Tovell of May Gurney for assistance on site. The work was coordinated by Gary Taylor who edited this report along with Tom Lane. Jenny Young, the Senior Historic Environment Officer, North Kesteven District Council, kindly allowed access to the parish files and library maintained by Heritage Lincolnshire.

9. PERSONNEL

Project Coordinator: Gary Taylor
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 Photographic reproduction: Sue Unsworth
 Illustration: Paul Cope-Faulkner, Liz Murray
 Post-excavation analysis: Paul Cope-Faulkner

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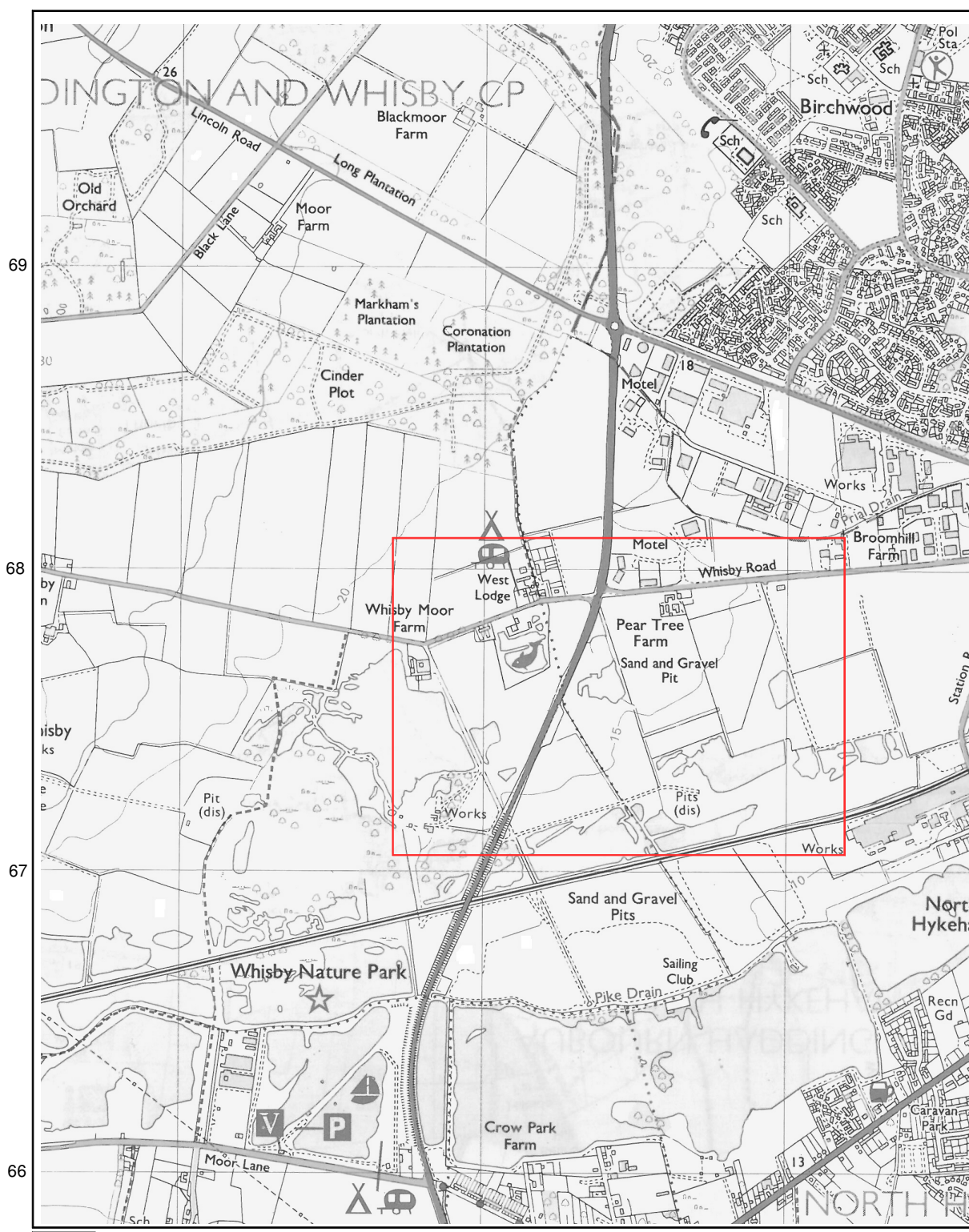
Roseveare, A and Roseveare, M, 2008 *Teal Park, Lincolnshire: Geophysical Survey Report*, unpublished ArchaeoPhysica report

11. ABBREVIATIONS

APS Archaeological Project Services
 GSGB Geological Survey of Great Britain
 LAO Lincolnshire Archive Office



Figure 1 - General location plan



SK

91

92

93



Area detailed in Figure 3

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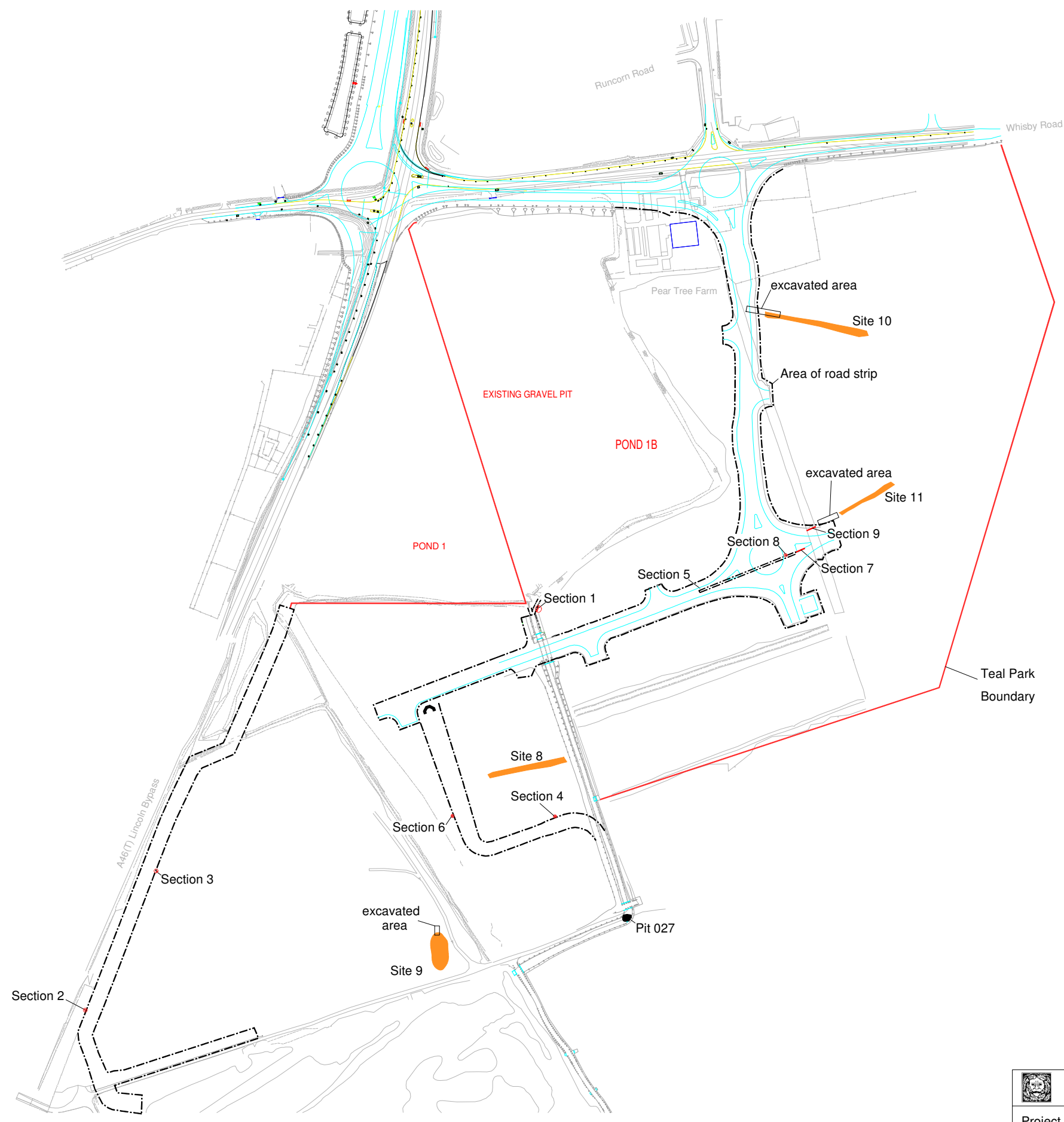


Archaeological Project Services

Project Name: Teal Park, North Hykeham NHTP11

Scale 1:20000 Drawn by: PCF Report No: 116/11

Figure 2 - Site location plan



0 200m
Based on plans supplied by the client


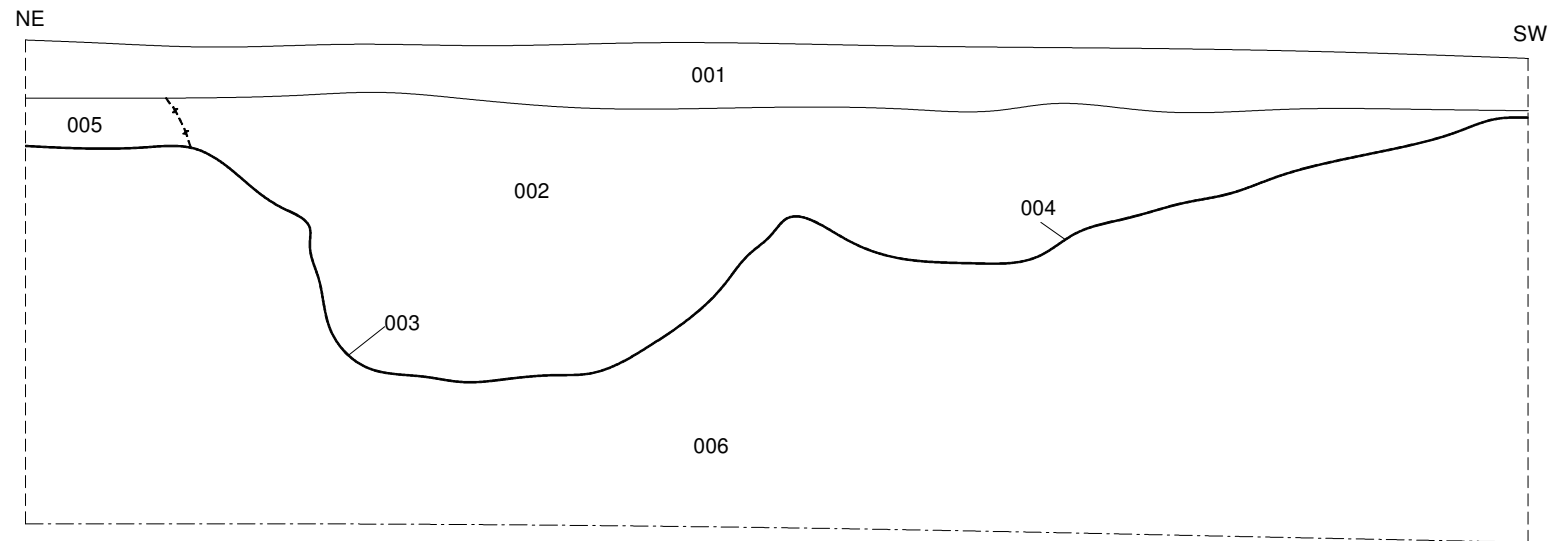
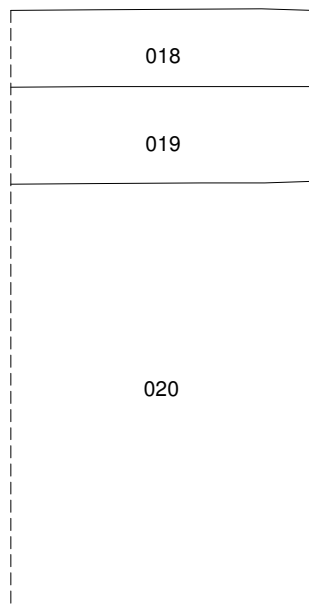
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Scale: 1:4000	Drawn by: PCF	Report No: 116/11

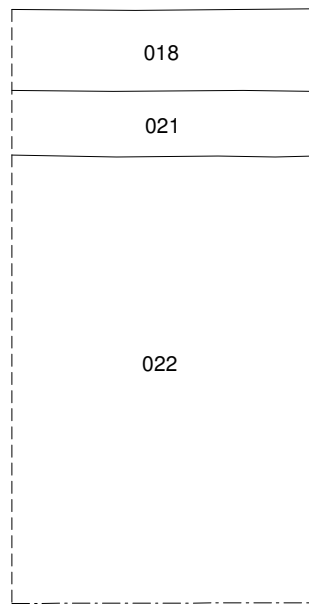
Figure 3 - Plan of the development area showing section locations



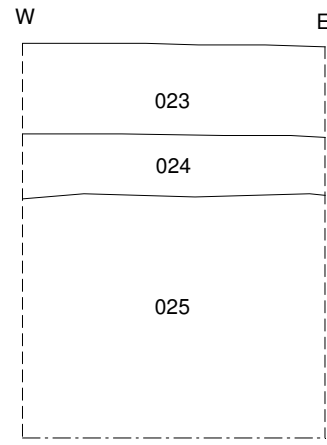
Section 1



Section 2



Section 3



Section 4




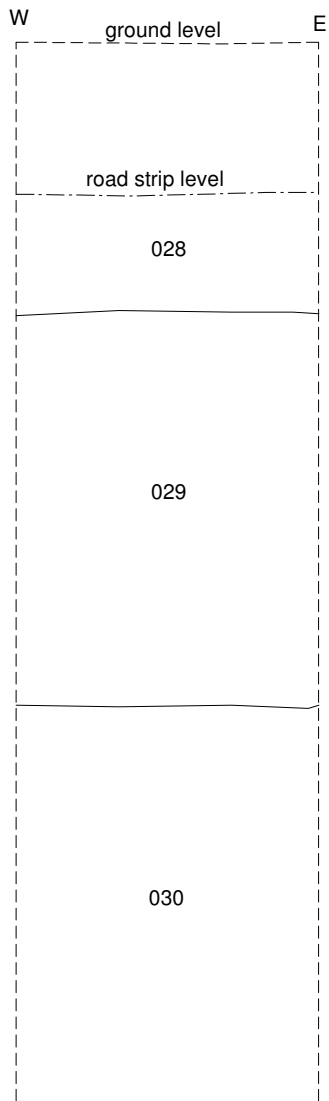
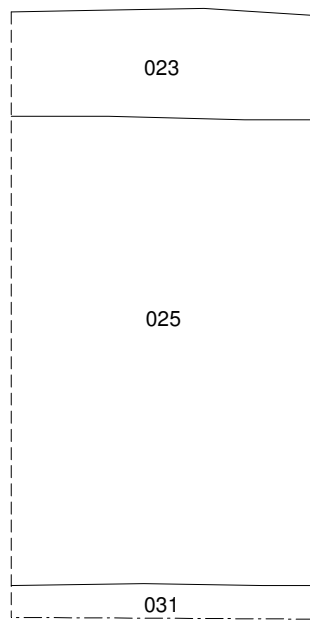
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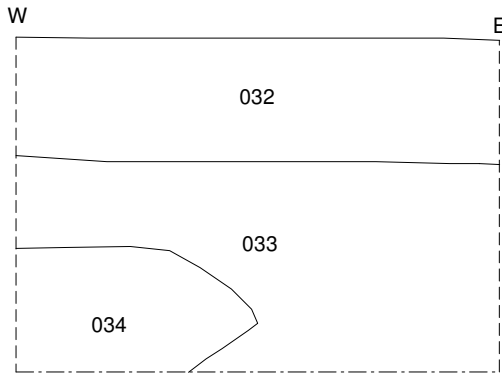
Figure 4 - Sections 1 to 4



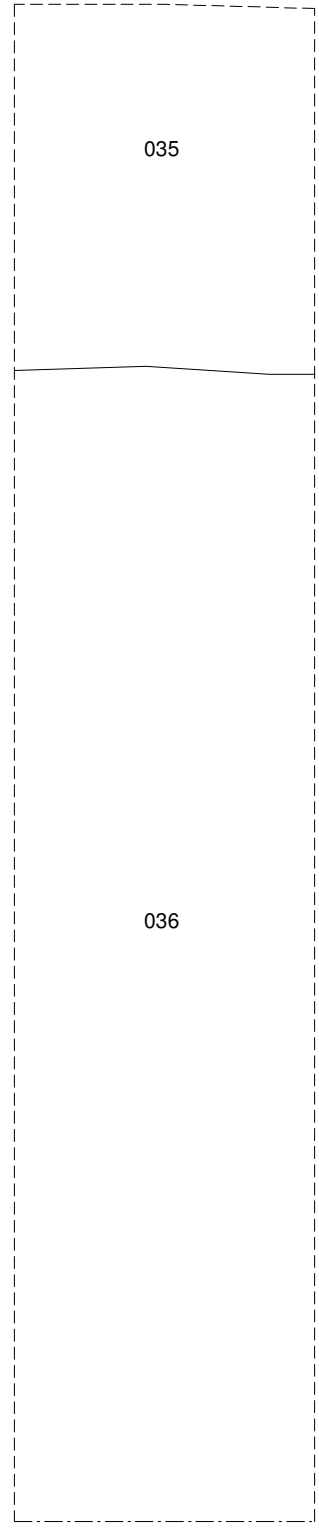
Section 5



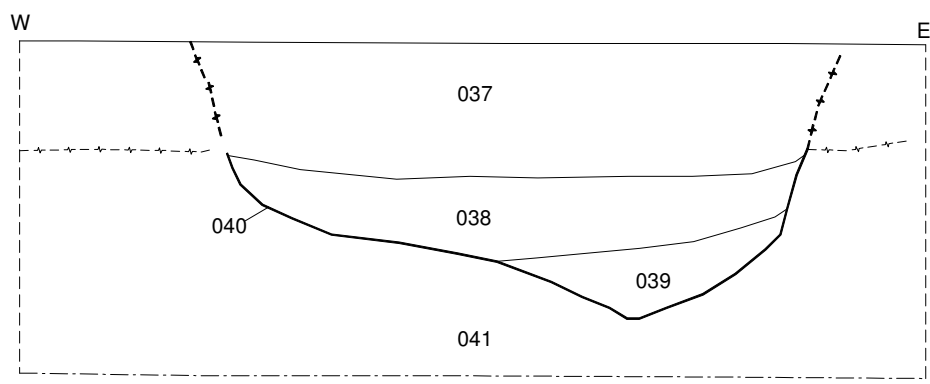
Section 6



Section 7



Section 8



Section 9




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Scale 1:25	Drawn by: PCF	Report No: 116/11

Figure 5 - Sections 5 to 9



Plate 1 – View towards the south of the site

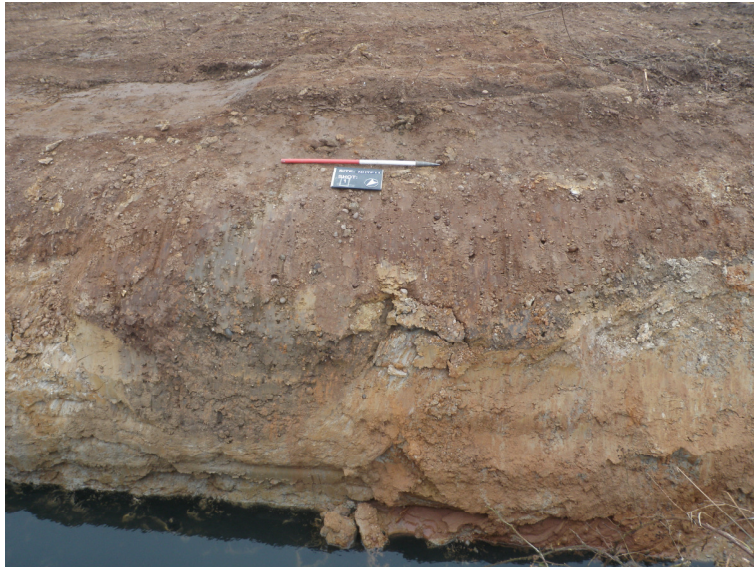


Plate 2 – Section 1 showing ditches (003) and (004), looking southeast



Plate 3 – View of Site 9 showing quarry pit (012), looking northeast



Plate 4 – View along the road strip area from Whisby Road, looking south



Plate 5 – View showing the new ditch excavation along the southwest boundary of the site, looking northeast



Plate 6 – Section 2, looking northwest



Plate 7 – Section 3,
looking east



Plate 8 – Section 5
showing the sequence of
natural deposits in the
drainage trench, looking
northwest



Plate 9 – Section 7,
looking north

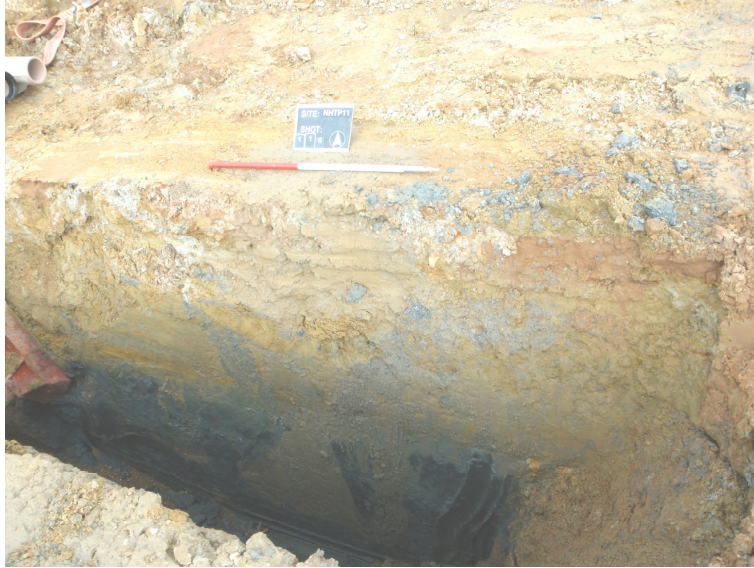


Plate 10 – Section 8,
looking north



Plate 11 – Section 9
showing ditch (040),
looking north

Appendix 1

CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

No.	Area	Description	Interpretation
001		Firm mid orange brown silty sand, with frequent gravel, <i>c.</i> 0.2m thick	Topsoil
002		Moderately firm mid greyish brown sandy clay	Fill of (003) and (004)
003		Linear feature, aligned northwest-southeast, 1.9m wide by 1.1m deep, irregular sides and a broad rounded base	Ditch
004		Linear feature, aligned northwest-southeast, 2.45m wide by 0.5m deep, gradually sloping sides and rounded base	Ditch
005		Loose to moderately compact mid reddish brown sand and gravel, 0.15m thick	Natural deposit
006		Moderately compact, orange and light grey silt with patches of firm light yellowish brown clay, >1.4m thick	Natural deposit
007		Soft dark blackish/reddish brown sandy silt, 0.4m thick	Topsoil
008		Soft light yellowish brown and light bluish grey mottled silty sand, moderate gravel, >0.5m thick	Natural deposit
009	Site 10/11	Soft dark blackish brown sandy silt, 0.4m thick	Topsoil
010	Site 10/11	Loose, orange grey mottled sand	Natural deposit
011	Site 9	Heavily compacted, dark brownish black silty sand with plastic, modern brick, asbestos, sand, tarmac, and concrete	Fill of quarry pit [012]
012	Site 9	Cut, only northern edge seen within trench, not sectioned due to presence of asbestos within fill	Quarry pit
013	Site 9	Compact mid yellow brown and orange mottled sand	Natural deposit
014	Road strip	Soft dark greyish brown silt	Topsoil
015	Road strip	Loose light to mid yellowish brown sand and rounded pebbles, not fully exposed	Natural deposit
016	Road strip	Soft mid greyish brown silt with frequent rounded pebbles, 0.4m thick	Topsoil
017	Road strip	Soft to loose light to mid yellowish brown sand and rounded pebbles	Natural deposit
018	New Ditch	Friable mid to light greyish brown sandy silt, 0.3m thick	Topsoil
019	New Ditch	Firm mottled light grey and yellow clay, 0.3m thick	Natural deposit
020	New Ditch	Firm mid bluish grey clay, >1.4m thick	Natural deposit
021	New Ditch	Friable light brownish yellow sand and gravel, 0.2m thick	Natural deposit
022	New Ditch	Firm mid bluish grey clay, >1.4m thick	Natural deposit
023	New Ditch	Soft and friable dark greyish brown silty sand with frequent gravel, 0.3m thick	Topsoil
024	New Ditch	Soft and friable mixed dark greyish brown and light brown sand with gravel, 0.2m thick	Subsoil
025	New Ditch	Firm mid orange sandy gravel, >1m thick	Natural deposit
026	New Ditch	Soft dark grey sand with modern rubbish	Fill of (027)
027	New Ditch	?Linear feature, aligned east-west, >20m long, gradual sides, not fully excavated	Quarry pit

No.	Area	Description	Interpretation
028	New Ditch	Firm light brown and mid orange sand and gravel, 0.7m thick	Natural deposit
029	New Ditch	Firm mid to dark orange and light grey clayey sand with frequent gravel, 1.3m thick	Natural deposit
030	New Ditch	Firm to stiff dark bluish grey clay and sandy clay, >1.3m thick	Natural deposit
031	New Ditch	Firm light yellowish brown clayey sand, >0.4m thick	Natural deposit
032	JNT 4	Friable light brownish yellow sand and gravel, 0.4m thick	Natural deposit
033	JNT 4	Friable mid yellowish brown sand and gravel with light grey clay lenses, 0.7m thick	Natural deposit
034	JNT 4	Stiff to plastic light yellowish brown to light grey clay, >0.4m thick	Natural deposit
035	JNT 4	Friable mid brown sand with light grey clay lenses, 0.6m thick	Natural deposit
036	JNT 4	Plastic grey clay, >3.8m thick	Natural deposit
037	JNT 4	Loose light yellowish grey sand and gravel	Fill of (040)
038	JNT 4	Friable dark brown sandy silt	Fill of (040)
039	JNT 4	Firm to plastic mid grey clay	Fill of (040)
040	JNT 4	Linear feature, aligned north-south, >2.15m wide by 0.9m deep, steep sides and V-shaped base	Ditch
041	JNT 4	Firm mid yellowish brown sand and light grey clay, >0.7m thick	Natural deposit

Appendix 2

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 interpretations 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> (004).
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.
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).
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.
Layer	A layer is a term 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.
Palaeolithic	The earliest part of the 'Stone Age' dating from the first period of human occupation to the end of the last ice age (approximately 10,000 years ago). It is usually sub-divided into lower, middle and upper, each characterised by differing stone tools and sub-species of humans.
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 1 st century AD.
Romano-British	Pertaining to the period dating from AD 43-410 when the Romans occupied Britain.

Appendix 3

THE ARCHIVE

The archive consists of:

41	Context records
6	Photographic record sheets
7	Sheets of scale drawings
24	Daily record sheets

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: 2011.22

Archaeological Project Services Site Code: NHTP 11

OASIS Record No: archaeo11-112174

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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