

### ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF ON LAND AT FAULKNER FARM, WEST DROVE NORTH, WALTON HIGHWAY NORFOLK (ENF 128616)

Work Undertaken For Mr. Peter Bunning

March 2012

Report Compiled by Mark Peachey BA (Hons)

Planning Application No: 10/01285/F National Grid Reference: TF 4995 1385 OASIS Record No: archaeol1-120372

APS Report No. 18/12

ARCHAEOLOGICAL PROJECT SERVICES





# Quality Control Archaeological Watching Brief on land at Faulkner Farm, West Drove North, Walton Highway Norfolk (ENF 128616)

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Date: 5 M	ch 2012 Date: // 5 March 201

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#### 1. SUMMARY

A watching brief was undertaken during groundworks at Faulkner Farm, West Drove North, Walton Highway, Norfolk as the site lay within an area of archaeological interest, close to a moat of probable medieval date.

The watching brief revealed a sequence of alluvial and topsoil deposits. No archaeological features, either associated with the nearby moat or otherwise, were revealed.

No finds were retrieved.

#### 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 reasons. This will be within a specified area or site on land, inter-tidal zone or underwater, where there is a possibility that archaeological deposits may be disturbed or destroyed." (IfA 2008).

#### 2.2 Planning Background

planning application (application number 10/01285/F) was submitted to King's Lynn and West Norfolk Borough Council for the construction of an extension to an existing agricultural shed. Norfolk Historic Environment Service specified archaeological that an investigation involving a scheme of monitoring recording during and development groundwork is required. Archaeological Project Services was commissioned to undertake this work which was carried out on 1<sup>st</sup> March 2012 accordance with a specification prepared by APS (Appendix 1) and approved by the Planning Archaeologist for Norfolk County Council.

#### 2.3 Topography and Geology

Highway Walton is located 15km southwest of King's Lynn in the administrative district of King's Lynn and West Norfolk (Fig 1). The site is about 1km to the northeast of the centre of Walton Highway, on the south side of March Lane, a track that branches from West Drove North which is immediately to the west, at National Grid Reference TF 4995 1385 (Fig 2).

Soils of the area are Blacktoft Association gleyic brown calcareous alluvial soils developed on marine alluvium (Hodge *et al.* 1984, 124). The site is on flat land at about 2m OD.

#### 2.4 Archaeological Setting

The site is in an area of archaeological interest. The proposed development area is adjacent to, or possibly on, the site of a moat of probable medieval date, with a wide ditch or pond apparently representing the south side of the moat. Earthworks on the moat island are indistinct but thought to represent possible building platforms. Immediately to the west and northwest are possible saltern mounds of medieval date. with clusters of medieval and later artefacts. There are earthworks of another moat a short distance to the north. Nearby Faulkner House is a Grade II Listed Building of early 18th century date with a 19th century rear wing. Artefacts of medieval and later date were identified during fieldwalking along the route of a pipeline 400m west of the proposed development site (Cope-Faulkner 2006).

#### 3. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

The aim of the investigation was to record and interpret the deposits and any archaeological features exposed during the development groundwork. The objectives of the investigation were to determine the form, function and spatial arrangement of the archaeological features encountered; and as far as practicable, recover dating evidence from them, and establish the sequence of the archaeological remains present on the site.

#### 4. METHODS

Seven stanchion pits measuring 1.25m to 1.3m square were excavated by machine to depths required by the development, turf having been previously removed from the area. 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 2. A photographic record was compiled and sections were drawn at a scale of 1:10. Recording was undertaken according to standard Archaeological Project Services practice.

Following excavation, the records were checked and a stratigraphic matrix produced.

#### **5. RESULTS** (Figs 3, 4)

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

The seven stanchion pits were all machined onto soft light grey silty clay (005) at a depth of around 1.4m below the current surface. In the southernmost Stanchion Pits (1-4), this was overlain by a thin layer of very dark brown peat (004) (Fig 4, Sections 1-4, Plate 2) which was beginning to peter out in Stanchion Pit 4 (Fig 4, Section 4). The peat was sealed by an up to 0.92m thick layer of mottled orange/mid grey silty clay (003) which was present in all the trenches. Above this was up to 0.38m thick topsoil (002) which was overlain by turf (001). This had been

removed from the area of the building being recorded in the south side of Stanchion Pits 1 and 2 only (Fig 4, Sections 1, 2, Plate 2).

No archaeological features were observed in the stanchion pits.

#### 6. DISCUSSION

The light grey clay in the foot of the trenches was probably marine alluvium. A layer of freshwater peat was present in the southernmost four trenches. This had been sealed by a thick layer of alluvial silty clay.

#### 7. CONCLUSION

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken during groundworks at Faulkner Farm, West Drove North, Walton Highway, Norfolk as the site lay within an area of archaeological interest, close to a moat of probable medieval date.

The watching brief revealed a sequence of alluvial and topsoil deposits. No archaeological features, either associated with the nearby moat or otherwise, were revealed.

No finds were retrieved.

#### 8. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeological Project Services wishes to acknowledge the assistance of Peter Bunning for commissioning the fieldwork and post-excavation analysis. The work was coordinated by Gary Taylor who edited this report along with Tom Lane.

#### 9. PERSONNEL

Project Coordinator: Gary Taylor Site Supervisor: Mark Peachey

#### ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF, FAULKNER FARM, WEST DROVE NORTH, WALTON HIGHWAY, NORFOLK

Photographic reproduction: Mark Peachey

CAD Illustration: Mark Peachey

Post-excavation analysis: Mark Peachey

#### 10. BIBLIOGRAPHY

Cope-Faulkner, P, 2006 Archaeological Fieldwalking of land between King's Lynn and near Wisbech, Norfolk (43961KLY), Unpublished APS Report **58/06** 

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

If A, 2008, Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs

#### 11. ABBREVIATIONS

APS Archaeological Project Services

If A Institute for Archaeologists

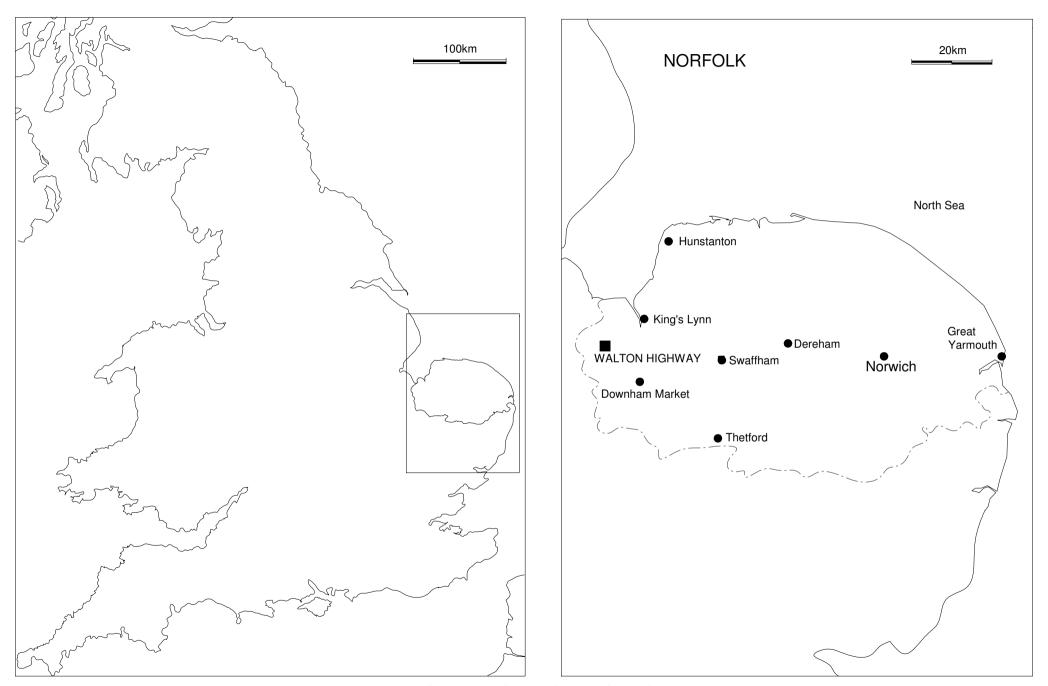


Figure 1 - General Location Plan

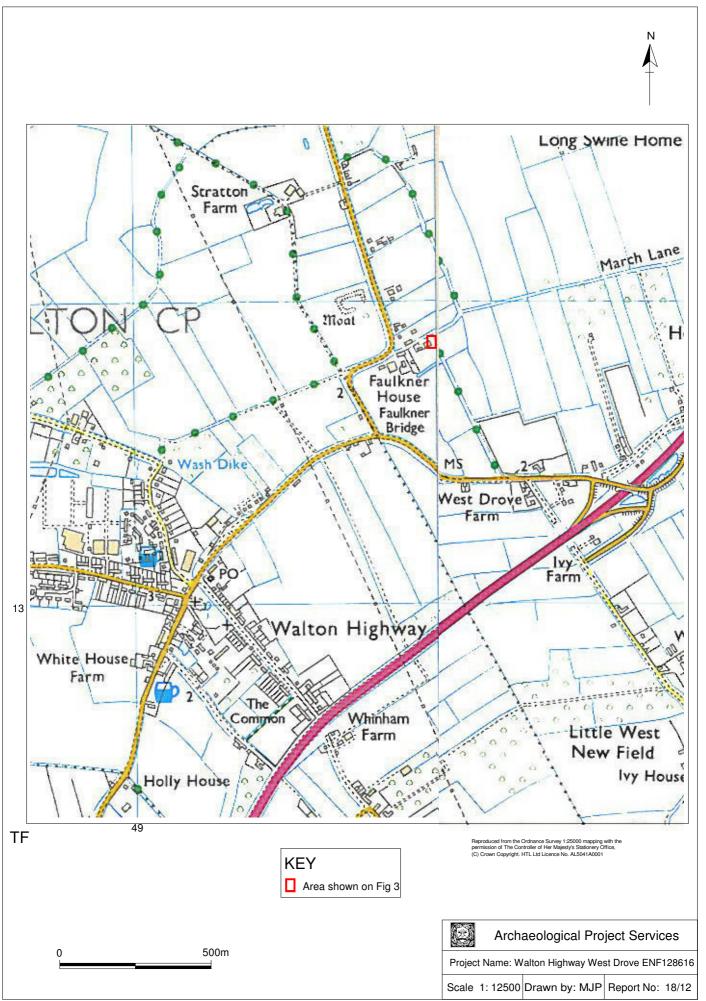


Figure 2. Site Location Plan

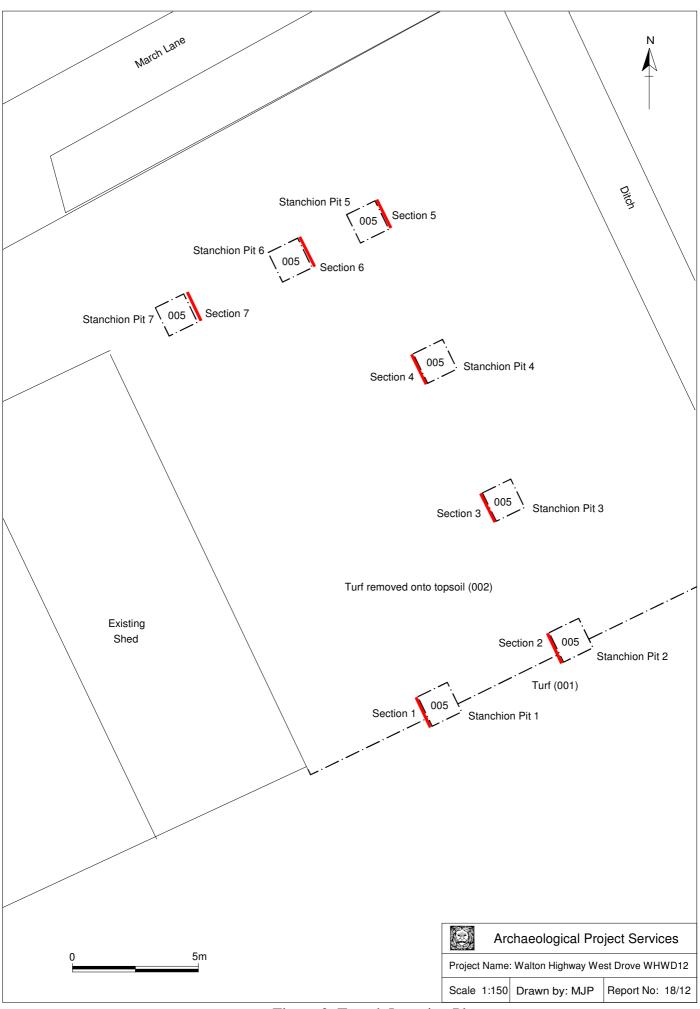


Figure 3. Trench Location Plan

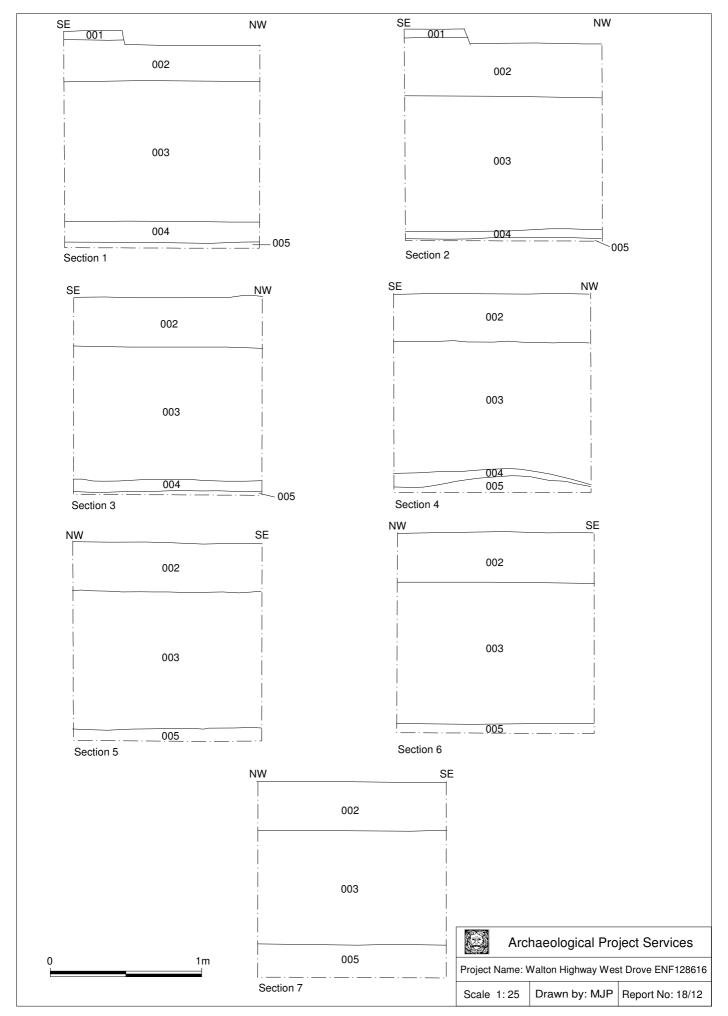


Figure 4. Sections



Plate 1. Machining Stanchion Pit 5 looking north



Plate 2. Stanchion Pit 1, Section 1 looking southwest



Plate 3. Stanchion Pit 7, Section 7 looking northeast



Plate 4. General view looking northwest following completion of stanchion pits

# Appendix 1: SPECIFICATION FOR SCHEME OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL WORK (MONITORING & RECORDING) AT FAULKNER FARM, WEST DROVE NORTH, WALTON HIGHWAY, NORFOLK

#### PREPARED FOR PETER BUNNING

# BY ARCHAEOLOGICAL PROJECT SERVICES Institute for Archaeologists' Registered Organisation No. 21

#### **DECEMBER 2011**

#### 1 SUMMARY

- 1.1 This document comprises a specification for archaeological monitoring and recording during development of land at Faulkner Farm, West Drove North, Walton Highway, Norfolk.
- 1.2 The site lies within an area of archaeological interest, close to a moat of probable medieval date. Possible saltern mounds associated with medieval pottery have been identified just to the west. Earthworks of another moat lie a little to the north and adjacent Faulkner House is of early 18<sup>th</sup> century date.
- 1.3 A programme of archaeological monitoring and recording during the development groundwork is required.
- 1.4 On completion of the fieldwork a report will be prepared detailing the results of the investigation. The report will consist of a text describing and interpreting the archaeological deposits located during the trenching. The text will be supported by illustrations and photographs.

#### 2 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 This document comprises a specification for archaeological monitoring and recording during development on land at Faulkner Farm, West Drove North, Walton Highway, Norfolk.
- 2.2 This document contains the following parts:
  - 2.2.1 Overview.
  - 2.2.2 Stages of work and methodologies.
  - 2.2.3 List of specialists.
  - 2.2.4 Programme of works and staffing structure of the project.

#### 3 SITE LOCATION

3.1 Walton Highway is located 3km northeast of Wisbech and 15km southwest of King's Lynn in the administrative district of King's Lynn and West Norfolk. The site is about 1km to the northeast of the centre of Walton Highway, on the south side of March Lane, a track that branches from West Drove North which is immediately to the west, at National Grid Reference TF 4995 1385.

#### 4 PLANNING BACKGROUND

4.1 A planning application (application number 10/01285/F) was submitted to King's Lynn and West Norfolk Borough Council for the construction of an extension to an existing agricultural shed. Norfolk Historic Environment Service specified that an archaeological investigation involving a scheme of monitoring and recording during development groundwork is required.

#### 5 SOILS AND TOPOGRAPHY

5.1 Soils of the area are Blacktoft Association gleyic brown calcareous alluvial soils developed on marine alluvium (Hodge *et al.* 1984, 124). The site is on flat land at about 2m OD.

#### 6 ARCHAEOLOGICAL OVERVIEW

6.1 The site is in an area of archaeological interest. The proposed development area is adjacent to, or possibly on, the site of a moat of probable medieval date, with a wide ditch or pond apparently representing the south side of the moat. Earthworks on the moat island are indistinct but thought to represent possible building platforms. Immediately to the west and northwest are possible saltern mounds of medieval date, with clusters of medieval and later artefacts. There are earthworks of another moat a short distance to the north. Nearby Faulkner House is a Grade II Listed Building of early 18<sup>th</sup> century date with a 19<sup>th</sup> century rear wing. Artefacts of medieval and later date were identified during fieldwalking near the proposed development site (Archaeological Project Services 2006).

#### 7 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- 7.1 The aim of the investigation will be to record and interpret the deposits and any archaeological features exposed during the development groundwork.
- 7.2 The objectives of the investigation will be to:
  - Determine the form and function of the archaeological features encountered;
  - Determine the spatial arrangement of the archaeological features encountered;
  - As far as practicable, recover dating evidence from the archaeological features, and
  - Establish the sequence of the archaeological remains present on the site.

#### 8 SITE OPERATIONS

#### 8.1 <u>General considerations</u>

- 8.1.1All work will be undertaken following statutory Health and Safety requirements in operation at the time of the investigation.
- 8.1.2The work will be undertaken according to the relevant codes of practice issued by the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA). Archaeological Project Services is an IfA registered archaeological organisation (no. 21) managed by a member (MIfA) of the institute.
- 8.1.3All work will be carried out in accordance with the *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England* (Gurney 2003) and any revisions of such received up to the acceptance of this specification. Additionally, the work will be undertaken in consideration of, and with reference to, the regional research agenda (Glazebrook 1997; Brown and Glazebrook 2000).
- 8.1.4Any artefacts found during the investigation and thought to be 'treasure', as defined by the Treasure Act 1996, will be removed from site to a secure store and the discovery promptly reported to the appropriate coroner's office.
- 8.1.5A metal-detector will be used to assist artefact recovery.
- 8.1.6Prior to commencement of site operations, Archaeological Project Services will liaise with the Norfolk HER to ensure that the Site Code and Context Numbering system is compatible with the Norfolk HER.

#### 8.2 <u>Methodology</u>

- 8.2.1The investigation will be undertaken during the groundwork phase of development, and includes the archaeological monitoring of all phases of soil movement.
- 8.2.2Stripped areas and trench sections will be observed to identify and record archaeological features that are

exposed and to record changes in the geological conditions. The section drawings of the trenches will be recorded at a scale of 1:10. Should features be recorded in plan these will be drawn at a scale of 1:20. Written descriptions detailing the nature of the deposits, features and fills encountered will be compiled on Archaeological Project Services pro-forma record sheets.

- 8.2.3Where appropriate, topsoil, stripped areas and spoil will be scanned by metal detector to assist artefact recovery.
- 8.2.4Any finds recovered will be bagged and labelled for later analysis.
- 8.2.5Throughout the investigation a photographic record will be compiled and will consist of:
  - the site during the investigation to show specific stages of work, and the layout of the archaeology within the area.
  - individual features and, where appropriate, their sections.
  - groups of features where their relationship is important.
- 8.2.6 Should human remains be located they will be left *in situ* and only excavated if absolutely necessary. Should removal be required the appropriate Ministry of Justice licence will be obtained before the exhumation of the remains. In addition, the Local Environmental Health Department, coroner and the police will be informed, where appropriate.

#### 9 **POST-EXCAVATION**

#### 9.1 Stage 1

- 9.1.1 On completion of site operations, the records and schedules produced during the investigation will be checked and ordered to ensure that they form a uniform sequence forming a level II archive. A stratigraphic matrix of the archaeological deposits and features present on the site will be prepared. All photographic material will be catalogued and labelled, the labelling referring to schedules identifying the subject/s photographed.
- 9.1.2 All finds recovered during the fieldwork will be washed, marked and packaged according to the deposit from which they were recovered, ready for later washing and analysis. All finds work will be carried out to accepted professional standards and the Institute for Archaeologists' *Guidelines for Finds Work* (1992). Any finds requiring specialist treatment and conservation will be sent to the Conservation Laboratory at Lincoln.

#### 9.2 <u>Stage 2</u>

- 9.2.1 Detailed examination of the stratigraphic matrix to enable the determination of the various phases of activity on the site.
- 9.2.2 Finds will be sent to specialists for identification and dating.

#### 9.3 <u>Stage 3</u>

- 9.3.1 On completion of stage 2, a report detailing the findings of the investigation will be prepared.
- 9.3.2 This will consist of:
  - 9.3.2.1 A non-technical summary of the results of the investigation.
  - 9.3.2.2 A description of the archaeological setting of the investigation.
  - 9.3.2.3 Description of the topography of the site.
  - 9.3.2.4 Description of the methodologies used during the investigation.
  - 9.3.2.5 A text describing the findings of the investigation.
  - 9.3.2.6 A consideration of the local, regional and national context of the investigation findings.
  - 9.3.2.7 Plans of the archaeological features exposed. If a sequence of archaeological deposits

is encountered, separate plans for each phase will be produced.

- 9.3.2.8 Sections of the trenches and archaeological features.
- 9.3.2.9 Interpretation of the archaeological features exposed, and their chronology and setting within the surrounding landscape.
- 9.3.2.10 Specialist reports on the finds from the site.
- 9.3.2.11 Appropriate photographs of the site and specific archaeological features.

#### 10 REPORT DEPOSITION

10.1 Copies of the evaluation report will be sent to: the client and Norfolk Historic Environment Record (3 copies; two copies for Norfolk County Historic Environment Record and one for the local planning authority).

#### 11 ARCHIVE

- 11.1 The documentation, finds, photographs and other records and materials generated during the investigation will be sorted and ordered in accordance with the procedures in the Society of Museum Archaeologists' document *Transfer of Archaeological Archives to Museums* (1994), and any additional local requirements, for long term storage and curation. This work will be undertaken by the Finds Supervisor, an Archaeological Assistant and the Conservator (if relevant). The archive will be deposited with the receiving museum as soon as possible after completion of the project, and within 12 months of that completion date.
- Prior to the project commencing, Norfolk Museums Service will be contacted to obtain their agreement to receipt of the project archive and to establish their requirements with regards to labelling, ordering, storage, conservation and organisation of the archive.
- 11.3 Upon completion and submission of the evaluation report, the landowner will be contacted to arrange legal transfer of title to the archaeological objects retained during the investigation from themselves to the receiving museum. The transfer of title will be effected by a standard letter supplied to the landowner for signature.

#### 12 **PUBLICATION**

- 12.1 Details of the investigation will be input to the Online Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations (OASIS).
- 12.2 A report of the findings of the investigation will be submitted for inclusion in the journal *Norfolk Archaeology*. Notes or articles describing the results of the investigation will also be submitted for publication in the appropriate national journals: *Post-medieval Archaeology* and *Medieval Archaeology* for medieval and later remains, and *Britannia* for discoveries of Roman date.

#### 13 CURATORIAL RESPONSIBILITY

13.1 Curatorial responsibility for the project lies with Norfolk Landscape Archaeology. As much notice as possible, ideally fourteen days, will be given in writing to the curator prior to the commencement of the project to enable them to make appropriate monitoring arrangements. However, the curator will be contacted at the earliest opportunity to seek reduction, or waiving, of this notification period.

#### 14 VARIATIONS AND CONTINGENCIES

- 14.1 Variations to the proposed scheme of works will only be made following written confirmation of acceptance from the archaeological curator.
- 14.2 In the event of the discovery of any unexpected remains of archaeological importance, or of any changed circumstances, it is the responsibility of the archaeological contractor to inform the archaeological curator.
- Where important archaeological remains are discovered and deemed to merit further investigation additional resources may be required to provide an appropriate level of investigation, recording and analysis.
- 14.4 Any contingency requirement for additional fieldwork or post-excavation analysis outside the scope of the proposed scheme of works will only be activated following full consultation with the archaeological

curator and the client.

#### 15 PROGRAMME OF WORKS AND STAFFING LEVELS

- 1.1 The investigation will be integrated with the programme of construction and is dependent on the developers' work programme, and also on the quantity and complexity of archaeological remains encountered. It is therefore not possible to specify the person-hours for the archaeological site. Post-excavation work is likewise dependent on the quantity and complexity of archaeological remains encountered.
- 15.2 An archaeological supervisor with experience of investigations of this type will undertake the work.
- 15.3 Post-excavation analysis and report production will be undertaken by the archaeological supervisor, or a post-excavation analyst as appropriate, with assistance from a finds supervisor, illustrator and external specialists.

#### 16 SPECIALISTS TO BE USED DURING THE PROJECT

The following organisations/persons will, in principle and if necessary, be used as subcontractors to provide the relevant specialist work and reports in respect of any objects or material recovered during the investigation that require their expert knowledge and input. Engagement of any particular specialist subcontractor is also dependent on their availability and ability to meet programming requirements.

Task Body to be undertaking the work

Conservation Conservation Laboratory, City and County Museum, Lincoln Pottery Analysis Prehistoric – D Trimble, APS/ Trent & Peak Archaeological

Trus

Roman – A Beeby, APS/B Precious, Independent Specialist Post-Roman - A Beeby, APS/A Irving, independent specialist

Non-pottery Artefacts J Cowgill, Independent Specialist/G Taylor, APS

Animal Bones P Cope-Faulkner, APS

Environmental Analysis J Rackham, Independent Specialist

Human Remains Analysis Dr R Gowland, Independent Specialist

#### 17 INSURANCES

Archaeological Project Services, as part of the Heritage Trust of Lincolnshire, maintains Employers Liability Insurance of £10,000,000, together with Public and Products Liability insurances, each with indemnity of £5,000,000. Copies of insurance documentation can be supplied on request.

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- 18.4 The author of any report or specialist contribution to a report shall retain intellectual copyright of their work and may make use of their work for educational or research purposes or for further publication.

#### 19 **BIBLIOGRAPHY**

Archaeological Project Services, 2006 Archaeological Fieldwalking of land between King's Lynn and near Wisbech, Norfolk (43961KLY), APS Report 58/06

Brown, N. and Glazebrook, J. (eds), 2000 Research and Archaeology: A Framework for the Eastern Counties, 2. Research agenda and strategy, East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 8

Glazebrook, J (ed), 1997 Research and Archaeology: A Framework for the Eastern Counties, 1. resource assessment, East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 3

Gurney, D, 2003 Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England, ALGAOEE

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

Specification: Version 1, 09-12-11

# APPENDIX 2

# **Context Summary**

Context	Pit	Description	Interpretation	Date
001	1,2	Loose dark brown turf, 0.06m thick	Turf	
002	1-7	Friable dark greyish brown clayey silt with occasional small rounded stones, up to 0.38m thick	Topsoil	
003	1-7	Soft mottled orange/mid grey silty clay, up to 0.92m thick	Alluvial clay	
004	1-4	Soft very dark brown peat, up to 0.13m thick	Peat layer	
005	1-7	Soft light grey, with occasional orange mottling, silty clay, at least 0.1m thick	Marine clay	

#### 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.

**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).

**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.

#### Appendix 4

#### THE ARCHIVE

#### The archive consists of:

- 1 Context register sheet
- 5 Context record sheets
- 1 Photographic record sheet
- 1 Section record sheet
- 1 Plan record sheet
- 1 Daily record sheet
- 8 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:

Norfolk Museums Service Union House Gressenhall Dereham Norfolk NR20 4DR

Archaeological Project Services Site Code: WHWD 12

Norfolk Environment Service Site Code: ENF128616

Oasis Record No: archaeol1-120372

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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