
**ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING AND
RECORDING ON LAND AT
WATTS CLOSE,
COGENHOE,
NORTHAMPTONSHIRE
(COWC 12)**

**Work Undertaken For
Francis Jackson Homes**

November 2012

Report Compiled by
Paul Cope-Faulkner BA (Hons)

National Grid Reference: SP 827 607
Planning Application No: S/2012/0387/FUL
OASIS Record No: archaeo11-137454

APS Report No. **95/12**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL
PROJECT
SERVICES**



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1. SUMMARY

A programme of archaeological monitoring and recording was undertaken at Watts Close, Cogenhoe, Northamptonshire. The investigations monitored the excavation of foundation trenches for a residential development.

The site lies close to an area of Romano-British (AD 43-410) settlement, the excavations of which have revealed funerary activity and a corn drying kiln of 3rd – 4th century date. Iron Age (800 BC-AD 43) and Saxon (AD 410-1066) remains are also known from the general area. During the medieval period (AD 1066-1540) the site lay at some distance from the centre of the village which is best represented by St Peter's church.

The investigations revealed a sequence of natural and subsoil deposits, the topsoil having been stripped previously. No archaeological features were identified and no artefacts were retrieved.

2. INTRODUCTION

2.1 Planning Background

Archaeological Project Services was commissioned by Susan Rust, Julie Passey, Janet Quennell, Brian Neil Foley, Valerie Foley, Andrew Charles Passey and Julie May Passey to undertake a programme of archaeological monitoring and recording during groundworks associated with new residential development at Watts Close, Cogenhoe, Northamptonshire. Approval for the development was sought through the submission of planning application S/2012/0387/FUL. The investigations were carried out on the 23rd October 2012 in accordance with a specification prepared by Archaeological Project Services (Appendix 1) and approved by

the Planning Archaeologist, Northamptonshire County Council.

2.2 Topography and Geology

Cogenhoe is situated 4km to the east of Northampton, in the administrative district of South Northamptonshire in the County of Northamptonshire (Fig. 1).

The site is 410m southwest of the centre of the village as defined by St Peter's parish church at National Grid Reference SP 827 607 (Fig. 2). Located north of Station Road and south of St Peter's Way, the development area lies at a height of c. 88m OD on land that slopes down to the north, towards the floodplain of the River Nene.

Local soils are of the Wickham 2 Association, typically fine loamy over clayey stagnogley soils (Hodge *et al.* 1984, 351). These soils have developed upon a drift geology of glacially derived tills and glacio-lacustrine sands and gravels which in turn seal a solid geology of Jurassic Stamford Member over Northampton Sand (BGS 2007).

2.3 Archaeological Setting

The proposed development site is located within an area of known remains of Iron Age to recent date. An Iron Age ditch with pottery is recorded to the southwest of the site (RCHME 1979, 19).

Immediately south of the site Roman pottery, coins and other material indicative of domestic settlement have been recorded along with a number of Roman burials. A corn drying kiln of 3rd to 4th century date was excavated in 1962 (*ibid.*). On land to the northeast, a sparse scatter of undated gullies and post holes were recorded during an archaeological evaluation undertaken during 1996 (Northamptonshire Archaeology 1996).

Saxon pottery has also been recovered from an area northeast of the site (RCHME 1979, 19).

Cogenhoe is first mentioned in the Domesday Survey of c. 1086. Referred to as *Cugenho* the name derives from the Old English and means 'Cugga's spur of land (*hōh*), (Ekwall 1989, 115). The Domesday Survey records that the land was held by Guy de Raimbeaucourt and the Countess Judith and contained a mill, 20 acres of meadow and woodland half league in length by a furlong wide (Williams and Martin 1992, 614, 622).

Extant remains of the medieval period include the parish church of St Peter which incorporates fabric dating from the 12th and 13th centuries (Pevsner 2002, 152). Earthworks indicating the extent of the medieval village are located in the vicinity of the church and there are traces of ridge and furrow of the medieval field system south of the River Nene (RCHME 1979, 21-2).

An evaluation undertaken immediately east of the site, revealed only a sequence of natural and topsoil layers with a possible post-medieval demolition deposit (Peachey and Murphy 2006, 1).

A prior evaluation of the current site revealed two undated ditches beneath a layer of subsoil. No artefacts were retrieved during this investigation (Peachey 2012a, 1). A subsequent watching brief undertaken during topsoil stripping revealed no archaeological features but did retrieve late post-medieval pottery and faunal remains (Peachey 2012b, 1).

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

Following the removal of the topsoil in a previous exercise, foundation trenches were excavated by machine to a depth of 1.15m below the stripped level. Following excavation, the sides of the trenches were cleaned and rendered vertical. 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 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. 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 context numbers follow on from those assigned during previous phases of work at the site.

The earliest deposit encountered at the base of the foundation trenches was a layer of ironstone (404). This measured in excess of 0.3m thick (Fig. 4, Section 6) and had been sealed by a yellow to light brown/white layer of sand with lenses of shale (403).

Sealing all deposits was a subsoil,

comprising a 0.3m thick layer of yellowish brown silt (402).

6. DISCUSSION

Natural deposits comprise ironstone and sand with shale lenses. As such, they relate to the underlying solid geology of Stamford Member deposits and Northampton Sand.

Developed upon the natural geology was a subsoil layer. The presence of subsoil would suggest that the site had been under an agricultural regime in the past. No archaeological deposits were encountered and no artefacts were retrieved during the investigation.

7. CONCLUSION

Archaeological investigations were undertaken at Watts Close, Cogenhoe, as the site lay close to known Romano-British remains and in an area of previous archaeological discoveries.

However, no archaeological remains were encountered and only a sequence of natural and subsoil deposits recorded. No artefacts were observed or retrieved during this investigation.

8. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeological Project Services wishes to acknowledge the assistance of Francis Jackson Homes for commissioning the fieldwork and post-excavation analysis. The work was coordinated by Dale Trimble. Gary Taylor and Tom Lane edited this report. Dave Start kindly allowed access to the library maintained by Heritage Lincolnshire.

9. PERSONNEL

Project Coordinator: Dale Trimble
Site Supervisor: Liz Murray
Photographic reproduction: Sue Unsworth
Illustration: Paul Cope-Faulkner
Post-excavation analysis: Paul Cope-Faulkner

10. BIBLIOGRAPHY

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RCHME, 1979 *An Inventory of the Historical Monuments in the County of Northampton. Volume II. Archaeological Sites in Central Northamptonshire*

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11. ABBREVIATIONS

APS Archaeological Project Services

BGS British Geological Survey

RCHME Royal Commission on Historical Monuments England



Figure 1 - General Location Plan

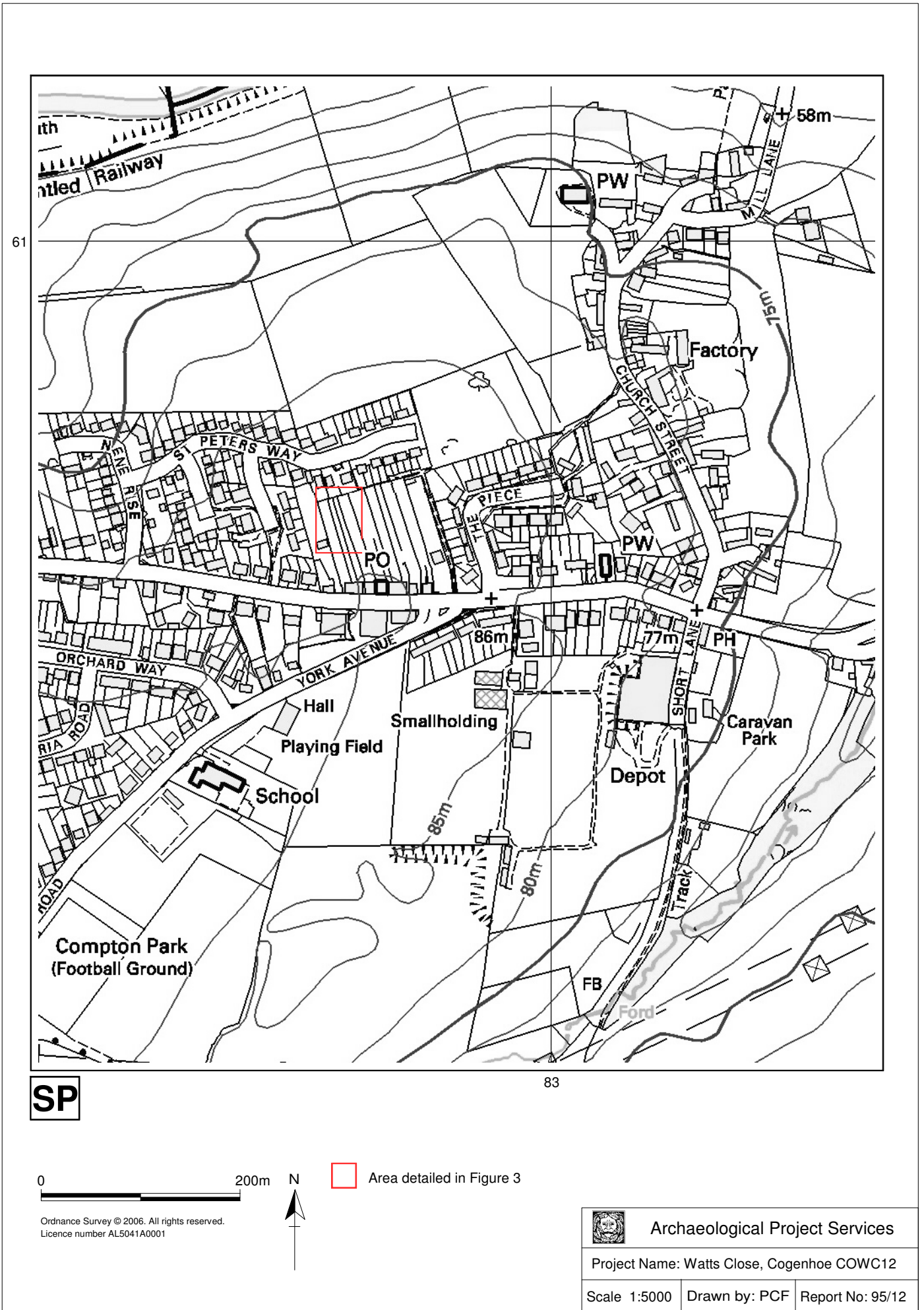


Figure 2 - Site location plan

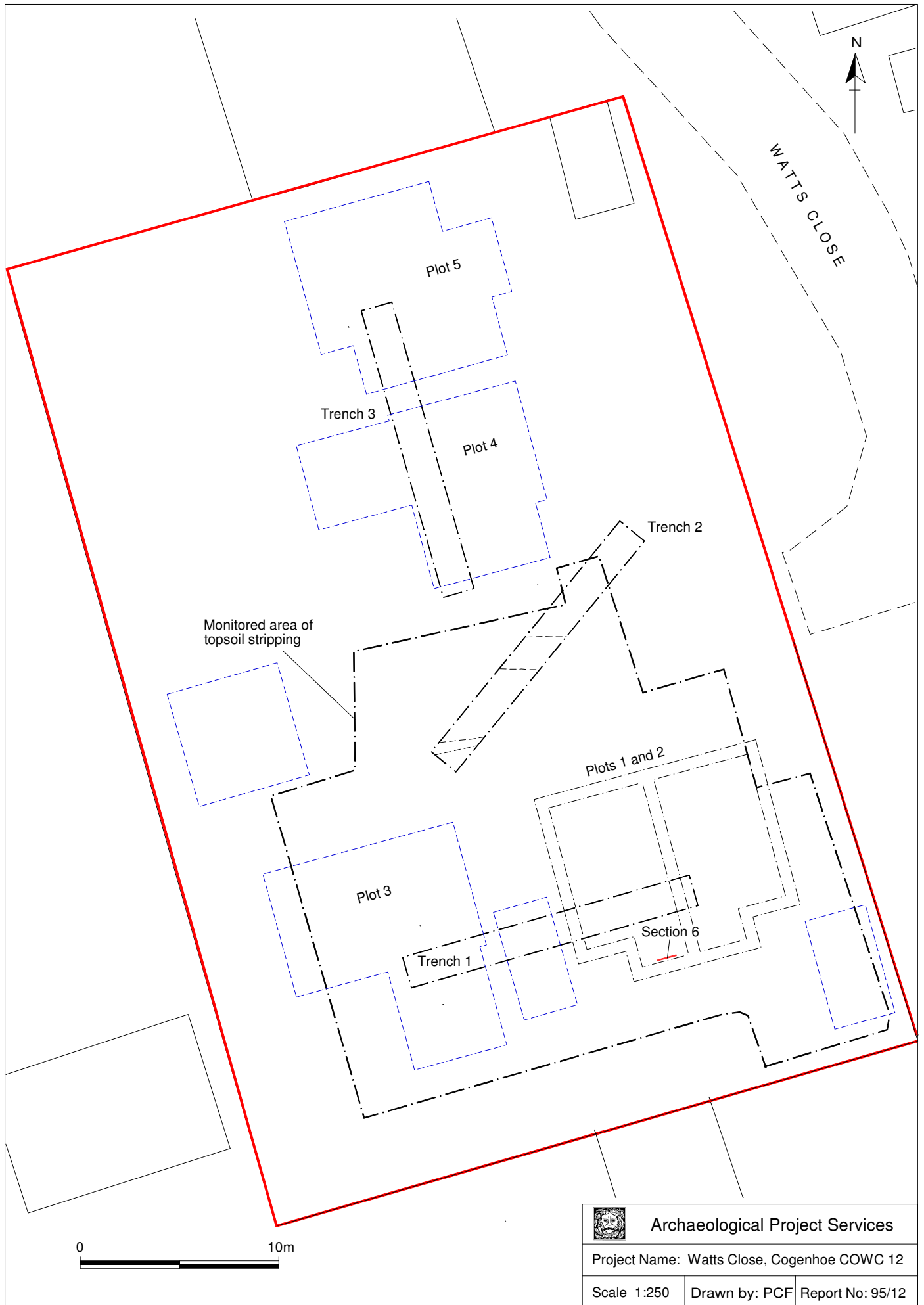
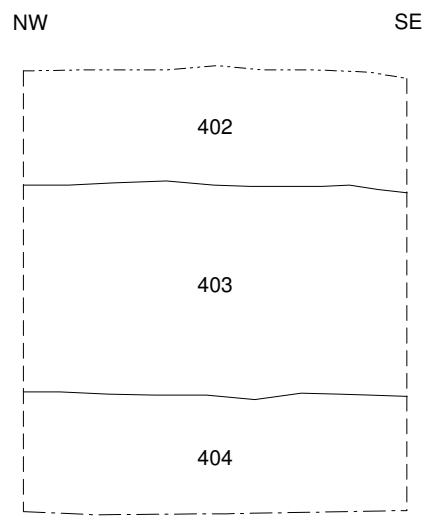


Figure 3 - Plan showing the development and location of drawn section



Section 6




	Archaeological Project Services	
Project Name: Watts Close, Cogenhoe COWC12		
Scale 1:20	Drawn by: PCF	Report No: 95/12

Figure 4 - Section 6



Plate 1 – General view across the area of Plots 1 and 2, looking south



Plate 2 – View showing the general sequence of deposits encountered during the investigation, looking north

Appendix 1

WRITTEN SCHEME OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATION FOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL OBSERVATION, INVESTIGATION, RECORDING, ANALYSIS AND PUBLICATION OF WORKS ON LAND OFF WATTS CLOSE, COGENHOE, NORTHANTS.

1 SUMMARY

- 1.1 *A scheme of archaeological works is required during groundworks associated with residential development at Watt's Close, Cogenhoe, Northamptonshire.*
- 1.2 *The Northamptonshire Historic Environment Record contains records of the discovery of inhumation burials of Late Iron Age to Roman date at the site. Also, evidence of Iron Age and Romano-British activity has been identified from previous archaeological investigations in the area. An evaluation undertaken at the site was largely negative apart from the identification of an undated boundary or drainage ditch*
- 1.4 *The investigation will involve monitoring of groundworks and investigation and recording of archaeological remains. Features exposed will be recorded in writing, graphically and photographically.*
- 1.5 *On completion of the fieldwork a report will be prepared detailing the results of the investigation. The report will consist of a narrative supported by illustrations and photographs.*

2 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 This document comprises a Written Scheme of Archaeological Investigation for archaeological Observation, Investigation, Recording, Analysis and Publication during groundworks associated with residential development on land off Watts Close, Cogenhoe, Northants.
- 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 Cogenhoe is situated 4km to the east of Northampton, in the administrative district of South Northamptonshire in the County of Northamptonshire. The proposed development area is situated on land immediately to the west of Watts Close, Cogenhoe at National Grid Reference SP 827607. The application area comprised a rectangular parcel of land measuring approximately 50m x 30m.

4 PLANNING BACKGROUND

- 4.1 A planning application (S/2012/0387/FUL) for residential development of the site has been submitted to and approved by South Northamptonshire District Council, subject to a planning condition requiring a programme of archaeological works.
- 4.2 This document forms the Written Scheme of Archaeological Investigation as required by the terms of the planning permission

5 SOILS AND TOPOGRAPHY

5.1 The development site is situated on flat ground on top of a north facing river bluff that overlooks the valley and flood plain of the River Nene to the north, at approximately 85m OD. The site is located to the west of the village centre, to the north of Station Road and south of St Peters Way. The local soils are of the Wickham 2 Association, typically fine loam over clayey soils that have developed on deposits of glacial drift that overlie Jurassic and Cretaceous clays or mudstones.

6 ARCHAEOLOGICAL OVERVIEW

6.1 Cogenhoe is referred to as Cugenho in the Domesday Survey and means Cugga's HÖH or spur of land (Ekwall 1960).

6.2 The site lies to the west of the core of the medieval and post-medieval settlement of Cogenhoe. The parish church of St Peter incorporates fabric dating from the 12th and 13th centuries (Pevsner 1961).

6.3 The proposed development site is located within an area in which significant Iron Age and Romano-British activity has been identified from previous archaeological investigations.

6.4 Immediate southwest of the site Roman pottery, coins and other material indicative of domestic settlement have been recorded. The Historic Environment Record contains records of the discovery of a number of Roman burials and associated remains at the site (SMR ref 2126). In advance of development of land adjoining the site to the northeast, a number of undated archaeological features were recorded during an archaeological evaluation undertaken during 1996 (SMR ref 6965) (Fig 2). Approximately 120m to the west of the site on Corn Kiln Close a Roman corn drying kiln was excavated during the 1950's and also in 1972.

6.5 Recent evaluation of the site via a programme of trial trenching proved largely negative apart from the identification of an undated boundary or drainage ditch (Peachey, 2012)

7 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

7.1 The aim of the work 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 General considerations

8.1.1 All work will be undertaken following statutory Health and Safety requirements in operation at the time of the investigation.

8.1.2 The work will be undertaken according to the relevant codes of practise issued by the Institute of Field Archaeologists (IFA), under the management of a Member of the institute (MIFA). Archaeological Project Services is IFA registered organisation no. 21.

- 8.1.3 Any and all 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 promptly reported to the appropriate coroner's office.

8.2 Methodology

- 8.2.1 The investigation will be undertaken during the ground works phase of development, and includes the archaeological monitoring of all phases of soil movement.
- 8.2.2 Stripped and excavated areas will be examined 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.
- 8.2.3 Finds recovered will be bagged and labelled for later analysis.
- 8.2.4 Throughout the investigation a photographic record will be compiled. The photographic record will consist of B&W prints supported by digital images showing:
- 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.
- 8.2.5 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. Any finds requiring specialist treatment and conservation will be sent to the Conservation Laboratory at the City and County Museum, Lincoln.

9.2 Stage 2

- 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 Stage 3

- 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 report will be sent to: the client and to the Northamptonshire County Council Historic Environment Record.

11 **ARCHIVE**

- 11.1 The documentation, finds, photographs and other records and materials generated during the evaluation 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 within an approved store as soon as possible after completion of the post-excavation and analysis.
- 11.2 Upon completion and submission of the site 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 If appropriate, notes on the findings will be submitted to the appropriate national journals: *Britannia* for discoveries of Roman date, and *Medieval Archaeology* and the *Journal of the Medieval Settlement Research Group* for findings of medieval or later date.

13 **CURATORIAL RESPONSIBILITY**

- 13.1 Curatorial responsibility for the archaeological work undertaken on the site lies with the Planning Archaeologist of Northamptonshire County Council. They will be given written notice of the commencement of the project.

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.
- 14.3 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

- 15.1 The investigation will precede the programme of construction. The duration of the site works is difficult to determine as it is to a large extent reliant on the speed of stripping and spoil removal, and also depending on the quantity and complexity of archaeological remains encountered. 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

- 16.1 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.

<u>Task</u>	<u>Body to be undertaking the work</u>
Conservation	Conservation Laboratory, Lincoln
Pottery Analysis	Prehistoric – D Trimble, APS mentored by David Knight of Trent & Peak Archaeological Trust Roman – Alex Beeby (IFA Bursary year completed mentored by Barbara Precious). Post-Roman – Dr. Anne Irving, Independent Specialist
Non-pottery Artefacts	J Cowgill, Independent Specialist
Animal Bones	Matilda Holmes, Independent Specialist
Environmental Analysis	J Rackham, Independent Specialist
Human Remains Analysis	Dr R Gowland, Independent Specialist

17 **INSURANCES**

17.1 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.

18 **COPYRIGHT**

18.1 Archaeological Project Services shall retain full copyright of any commissioned reports under the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988 with all rights reserved; excepting that it hereby provides an exclusive licence to the client for the use of such documents by the client in all matters directly relating to the project as described in the Project Specification.

18.2 Licence will also be given to the archaeological curators to use the documentary archive for educational, public and research purposes.

18.3 In the case of non-satisfactory settlement of account then copyright will remain fully and exclusively with Archaeological Project Services. In these circumstances it will be an infringement under the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988 for the client to pass any report, partial report, or copy of same, to any third party. Reports submitted in good faith by Archaeological Project Services to any Planning Authority or archaeological curator will be removed from said planning Authority and/or archaeological curator. The Planning Authority and/or archaeological curator will be notified by Archaeological Project Services that the use of any such information previously supplied constitutes an infringement under the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988 and may result in legal action.

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**

Institute of Field Archaeologists, 1997 *Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Field Excavation*.

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**

Peachey, M., 2012 *Archaeological Evaluation on Land at Watts Close, Cogenhoe, Northamptonshire (COWC 12)*

Appendix 2

CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

No.	Description	Interpretation
402	Soft mid yellowish brown silt, 0.3m thick	Subsoil
403	Firm mid yellow to light brown/white sand with interbedded shale, 0.5m thick	Natural deposit
404	Ironstone, >0.3m thick	Natural deposit

Appendix 3

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).
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 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.
Romano-British	Pertaining to the period dating from AD 43-410 when the Romans occupied Britain.
Saxon	Pertaining to the period dating from AD 410-1066 when England was largely settled by tribes from northern Germany.
Till	A deposit formed after the retreat of a glacier. Also known as boulder clay, this material is generally unsorted and can comprise of rock flour to boulders to rocks of quite substantial size.

Appendix 4

THE ARCHIVE

The archive consists of:

1	Context register sheet
3	Context record sheets
1	Photographic record sheet
1	Plan record sheet
1	Section record sheet
1	Daily record sheet
2	Sheets of scale drawings

All primary records are currently kept at:

Archaeological Project Services
The Old School
Cameron Street
Heckington
Sleaford
Lincolnshire
NG34 9RW

There is currently no archive repository for the area of the investigation. The archive will be held at the offices of Archaeological Project Services until permanent deposition of the archive in an appropriate store can be arranged.

Archaeological Project Services Site Code:

COWC 12

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.

Archaeological Project Services shall retain full copyright of any commissioned reports under the *Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988* with all rights reserved; excepting that it hereby provides an exclusive licence to the client for the use of such documents by the client in all matters directly relating to the project as described in the Project Specification.