



**ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATIONS AT
BOSTON HAVEN COTTAGE RESPITE CENTRE,
CHURCH ROAD,
SKIRBECK,
BOSTON,
LINCOLNSHIRE
(BOCR 13)**

**Work Undertaken For
Mouchel**

July 2013

Report Compiled by
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Planning Application No: PL/0164/12
National Grid Reference: TF 3369 4356
The Collection Accession No: LCNCC:2013.15
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APS Report No: **87/13**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL
PROJECT
SERVICES**



Quality Control
 Haven Cottage Respite Centre
 Church Road, Skirbeck
 Boston
 BOCR 13

Project Coordinator	Steve Malone
Supervisors	Bob Garland, Chris Moulis
Finds Processing	Denise Buckley
Illustration	Paul Cope-Faulkner
Photographic Reproduction	Sue Unsworth
Post-excavation Analyst	Paul Cope-Faulkner



Checked by Project Manager	Approved by Senior Archaeologist
 Steve Malone	 Tom Lane
Date: 23-7-13	Date: 23-7-13

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1. SUMMARY

Archaeological investigations were carried out at Haven Cottage Respite Centre, Church Road, Skirbeck, Boston, Lincolnshire. The investigations monitored and recorded ground lowering work in advance of the construction of a new playground.

The site lies close to known remains of Romano-British (AD 42-410) date and Middle Saxon (AD 650-850) structural remains have previously been recorded at the site itself. During the medieval period (AD 1066-1540) the site lay outside of the core of the village of Skirbeck, probably within the open fields of the settlement.

The investigations identified subsoil and topsoil deposits. Previous investigations indicate that the level of archaeological remains may be significantly lower than the level reached during these groundworks. The subsoil produced two fragments of 19th century pottery.

2. INTRODUCTION

2.1 Planning Background

Archaeological Project Services was commissioned by Mouchel to undertake an archaeological investigation in advance of playground construction at Boston Haven Cottage Respite Centre, Church Road, Skirbeck, Boston, Lincolnshire. Approval for the development was sought through the submission of planning application PL/0164/12. The investigations were carried out between the 2nd and 5th July 2013 in accordance with a specification prepared by Archaeological Project Services and approved by the Planning Archaeologist, Lincolnshire County Council.

2.2 Topography and Geology

Boston is located 45km southeast of Lincoln and 7km from the coast of The Wash in Boston Borough, Lincolnshire (Fig. 1). Skirbeck forms part of the southeastern suburb of Boston and lies 1km southeast of the town centre.

The site is located 476m north of the centre of Skirbeck as defined by the St Nicholas' church at National Grid Reference TF 3369 4356 (Fig. 2). The site lies east of Church Road and north of Kitwood Close at a height of c. 3m OD on generally level ground.

As an urban area, local soils have not been mapped but are likely to be of the Butterwick Series, typically gleyic brown alluvial soils (Robson 1990, 12). These are developed over a drift geology of older marine alluvium which in turn seals a solid geology of Jurassic Amphthill Clays (BGS 1995).

2.3 Archaeological Setting

Skirbeck is located in an area of known archaeological remains dating from the Romano-British period to the present day. Romano-British pottery, some associated with ditches was retrieved from an area east and southeast of the site.

A small Middle Saxon settlement was excavated at the site in 1995. Two sunken floored buildings were revealed that contained pottery of 8th century date. In addition, 5 ditches were also revealed, though these were undated (Palmer-Brown 1996).

Skirbeck is first mentioned in the Domesday Survey of c. 1086. Referred to as *Scirebec*, the name is derived from the Old Norse and means 'the clear stream' (Cameron 1998, 111). At the time of Domesday, Skirbeck was held by Count Alan and Eudo son of Spirewic and

contained two churches with resident priests, 2 fisheries and 40 acres of meadow (Foster and Longley 1976).

The only extant remnant of the medieval period in Skirbeck is the 13th century church of St Nicholas (Pevsner and Harris 1989, 649).

A watching brief undertaken to the west of the site revealed natural alluvium overlain by a buried topsoil which had then been sealed beneath various dumped and make-up layers (Cope-Faulkner 1995, 2). Undated gullies and ditches, some sealed by marine alluvium were identified during an evaluation undertaken immediately to the east of the site (Dymond 1996, 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

The area of the new play ground was stripped by machine to depths required for the development. Once stripped, the surface was scanned for archaeological remains and the sides of the stripped area were also 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 1. A photographic record was compiled and a section was 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 and supplemented by artefact dating.

5. RESULTS

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

The earliest deposit encountered during the works was a layer of yellowish brown silt (002). Identified as a probable subsoil, this measured in excess of 70mm thick (Fig. 4, Section 2) and contained two pottery sherds of 19th century date.

Sealing this was the current topsoil, comprising a 0.23m thick layer of brownish grey sandy silt (001).

6. DISCUSSION

Only topsoil and subsoil was revealed during the course of the works. Previous investigations at the site established that the subsoil was 0.45m thick, indicating that there may be 0.38m of this deposit remaining before archaeological levels are encountered. Finds retrieved from the subsoil were dated to the later post-medieval period.

7. CONCLUSION

Archaeological investigations were undertaken at Church Road, Skirbeck, Boston, as Middle Saxon sunken floored buildings had previously been identified at the site.

However, the groundworks did not reach the depth at which these discoveries were

made and only subsoil and topsoil deposits were recorded. Two sherds of 19th century date were recovered from the investigation.

8. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeological Project Services wishes to acknowledge the assistance of Mr D Grieves of Mouchel for commissioning the fieldwork and post-excavation analysis. The work was coordinated by Steve Malone who edited this report along with Tom Lane. Elizabeth Bates kindly allowed access to the parish files and library maintained by Heritage Lincolnshire.

9. PERSONNEL

Project Coordinator: Steve Malone
Site Supervisors: Bob Garland, Chris Moulis
Finds processing: Denise Buckley
Photographic reproduction: Sue Unsworth
Illustration: Paul Cope-Faulkner
Post-excavation analysis: Paul Cope-Faulkner

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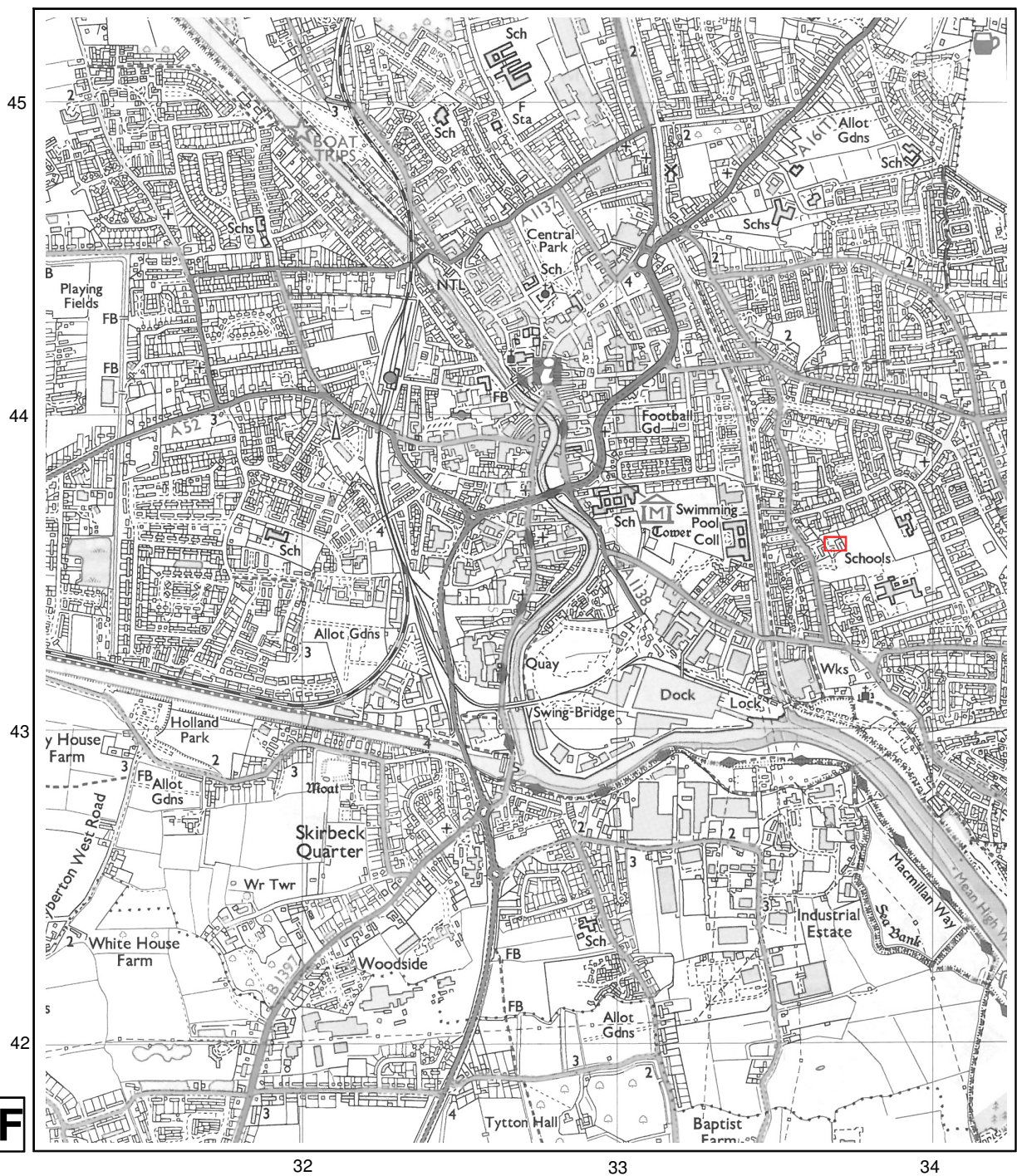
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11. ABBREVIATIONS


APS Archaeological Project Services
BGS British Geological Survey



Figure 1 - General location plan



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 Area detailed in Figure 3




	Archaeological Project Services	
Project Name: Church Road, Boston BOCR13		
Scale 1:20000	Drawn by: PCF	Report No: 87/13

Figure 2 - Site location plan

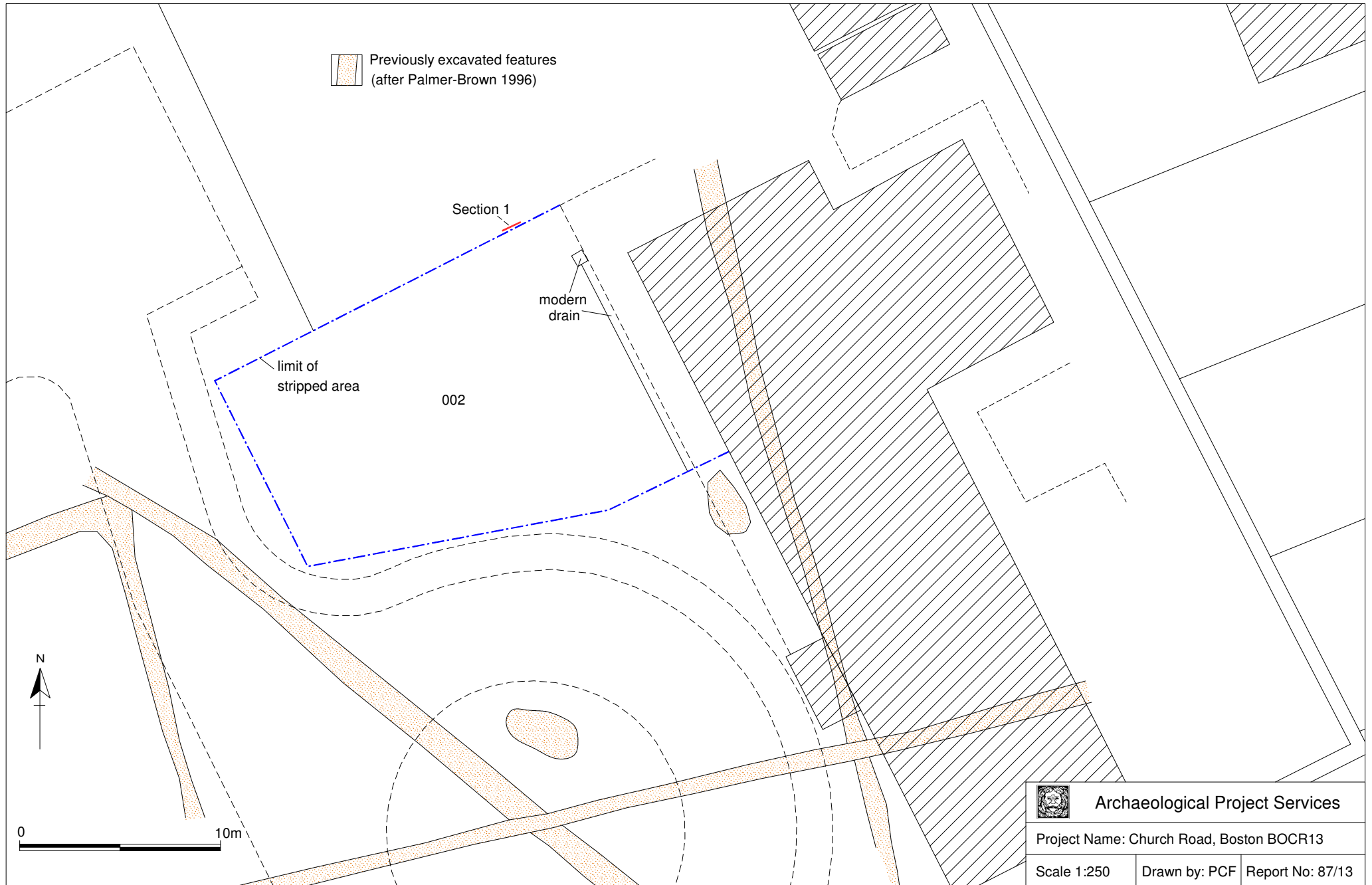
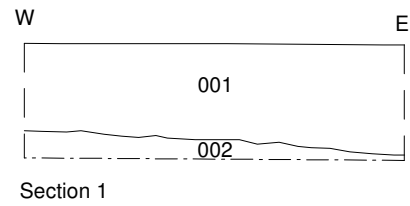


Figure 3 - Plan of the development showing location of drawn section




	Archaeological Project Services	
Project Name: Church Road, Boston BOCR13		
Scale 1:20	Drawn by: PCF	Report No: 87/13

Figure 4 - Section 1



Plate 1 – General view over the new playground area, looking east



Plate 2 – The stripped area, looking south



Plate 3 – Section 1, looking northwest

Appendix 1

CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

No.	Description	Interpretation
001	Friable mid brownish grey sandy silt, 0.23m thick	Topsoil
002	Friable to firm mid yellowish brown silt, 70mm thick	

Appendix 2

THE FINDS

POST ROMAN POTTERY

By Alex Beeby

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 two sherds from two vessels, weighing eight grams was recovered from the site.

Methodology

The material was laid out before being counted and weighed. The pottery was examined visually and this information was then added to an Access database. An archive list of the pottery is included in Table 1 below. The pottery is all 19th century in date.

Condition

The material is fresh but fragmentary. A single piece has an area of Iron staining.

Results

Table 1, Post Roman Pottery Archive

Cxt	Cname	Full Name	Form	NoS	NoV	W(g)	Decoration	Part	Description	Date
002	PORC	Porcelain	?	1	1	1		BS		18th-20th
002	PEARL	Pearlware	Flat	1	1	7	Blue and white transfer printed; 'Willow pattern'	BS	Fe staining	19 th

Provenance

The material all came from a subsoil layer, (002).

Range

There is a single sherd of porcelain (PORC) and a single sherd of Pearlware (PEARL). These are common early modern domestic types.

Potential

There is no potential for further work. The pottery is suitable for discard. Should the material be retained it is stable and will pose no problems for long term storage.

Summary

Two sherds of pottery of early modern date were recovered during the watching brief. Both pieces came from subsoil layer (002).

SPOT DATING

The dating in Table 2 is based on the evidence provided by the finds detailed above.

Table 2, Spot dates

Cxt	Date	Comments
002	19 th century	

ABBREVIATIONS

BS	Body sherd
CXT	Context
NoF	Number of Fragments

NoS Number of sherds
NoV Number of vessels
W (g) Weight (grams)

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[http://www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/residents/environment-and-planning/conservation/archaeology/
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- Young, J, Vince, AG and Nailor, V, 2005 *A Corpus of Saxon and Medieval Pottery from Lincoln* (Oxford)

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].
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.
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

Appendix 4

THE ARCHIVE

The archive consists of:

2	Context records
1	Photographic record sheet
1	Section record sheet
1	Plan record sheet
3	Daily record sheets
2	Sheets of scale drawings
1	Bag of finds

All primary records and finds are currently kept at:

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

The ultimate destination of the project archive is:

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

Accession Number LCNCC:2013.15

Archaeological Project Services Site Code: BOCR 13

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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