
**ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF
AT NORTH END.
HALLATON,
LEICESTERSHIRE
(HTNE 06)**

Planning Application No: 06/00661/FUL

Work Undertaken For
Mr and Mrs Bluck

March 2007

Report Compiled by
Paul Cope-Faulkner BA (Hons) AIFA

National Grid Reference: SP 7888 9679
Museum Accession No: X.A102.2006
OASIS Record No: archaeo11-24071

APS Report No. **19/07**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL
PROJECT
SERVICES**



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1. SUMMARY

A watching brief was undertaken during groundworks at North End, Hallaton, Leicestershire. The watching brief monitored the excavation of foundation trenches for a new detached dwelling.

The site lies to the north of the medieval (AD 1066-1540) village which is best represented by the 12th century church of St Michael and All Angels and the earthwork remains of Hallaton Castle. An Iron Age (800 BC-AD 43) coin and Romano-British (AD 43-410) pottery are also known from the parish as is an Anglo-Saxon (AD 410-1066) grave cover.

The watching brief revealed a sequence of natural, subsoil and topsoil deposits. The subsoil was only evident towards the southern end of the site and may imply that the site had previously been cleared. No archaeological features were encountered and no artefacts 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 1999).

2.2 Planning Background

Archaeological Project Services was commissioned by Mr and Mrs Bluck to undertake an archaeological watching brief during groundworks associated with new residential development at North End, Hallaton, Leicestershire. Approval for the development was sought through the

submission of planning application 06/00661/FUL. The watching brief was carried out between the 12th and 14th February 2007 in accordance with a specification prepared by Archaeological Project Services (Appendix 1) and approved by the Senior Planning Archaeologist, Leicestershire County Council.

2.3 Topography and Geology

Hallaton is located 10km northeast of Market Harborough and 14km southwest of Oakham, in the administrative district of Harborough, Leicestershire (Fig. 1).

The site is situated 350m northeast of the centre of Hallaton as defined by the parish church of St Michael and All Angels at National Grid Reference SP 7888 9679 (Fig. 2). The site lies on the northern side of North End at a height of c. 115m OD on land that slopes steeply down to the southwest, towards the valley of a minor watercourse.

Local soils are of the Hanslope Association, typically clayey soils (Hodge *et al.* 1984, 293). These soils are developed upon a drift geology of glacial till with glacial sand and gravel immediately southeast of the site. These in turn seal a solid geology of Jurassic Upper Lias Clay (GSGB 1975).

2.4 Archaeological Setting

Hallaton is located in an area of known archaeological remains dating from the Iron Age to the present day. An Iron Age coin was found to the west of the site in 1848 and suspected Romano-British pottery has been found southeast of the village.

Located within the church is a complete Anglo-Saxon grave cover, which may suggest the presence of a pre-conquest church of some significance (Parsons 1996, 32).

Hallaton is first mentioned in the Domesday Survey of c. 1086. Referred to as *Alctone*, the name is derived from the Old English and means ‘the settlement (*tūn*) within a *halh*’, a derivative of nook and meaning in this case a narrow valley (Ekwall 1989, 212). Domesday records that the land was held by Geoffrey Alselin and contained extensive woodland (Morgan 1979).

Extant remains of the medieval church include the church of St Michael and All Angels which is largely of 12th – 14th century date with 15th century additions (Pevsner 1992, 171).

To the west of the village are the earthwork remains of Hallaton Castle, perhaps built as the centre for Geoffrey of Alselin’s estates or during the anarchy of the mid 12th century (Cantor 2003, 33). Earthworks of ridge and furrow of the medieval field system also survive around the village, including to the immediate north of the site.

3. AIMS

The requirements of the watching brief, as detailed in the specification (Appendix 1), were to locate and record archaeological deposits and, if present, to determine their date, function and origin.

4. METHODS

Prior to the excavation of foundation trenches, topsoil was partially stripped from the site. Foundation trenches were then excavated by machine to depths required by the development. The sides of the trenches were then 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 earliest deposits encountered at the base of the foundation trenches were natural layers of greyish brown clayey silt with limestone fragments (003) or yellowish brown silty clay with limestone fragments (006). This was overlain by fragmented reddish brown limestone (002).

Above the natural towards the southern end of the site was a subsoil comprising greyish brown clayey silt (005). This measured 0.4m thick (Fig. 4, Section 2).

Sealing all deposits was a 0.2m thick topsoil of greyish brown clayey silt (001 and 004) which incorporated some rubble.

6. DISCUSSION

Natural deposits of clayey silt, silty clay and limestone relate to the underlying drift geology of glacial till.

A subsoil was identified at the southern end of the site and may indicate the northern part had previously been cleared. The presence of a subsoil would indicate

agricultural activities occurring at the site.

No archaeological features or artefacts were identified during the investigation.

7. CONCLUSION

A watching brief was undertaken at North End, Hallaton, as the site lay close to the medieval core of the village.

However, only a sequence of natural deposits and topsoil were identified with a partial subsoil also encountered. No archaeological deposits were present. No artefacts were retrieved during the investigation.

8. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeological Project Services wishes to acknowledge the assistance of Mr and Mrs Bluck for commissioning the fieldwork and post-excavation analysis. The work was coordinated by Steve Malone who edited this report along with Tom Lane. Dave Start kindly allowed access to the library maintained by Heritage Lincolnshire.

9. PERSONNEL

Project Coordinator: Steve Malone
 Site Supervisors: Mark Peachey, Fiona Walker
 Photographic reproduction: Sue Unsworth
 Illustration: Paul Cope-Faulkner
 Post-excavation analysis: Paul Cope-Faulkner

10. BIBLIOGRAPHY

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11. ABBREVIATIONS

APS Archaeological Project Services
 GSGB Geological Survey of Great Britain
 IFA Institute of Field Archaeologists

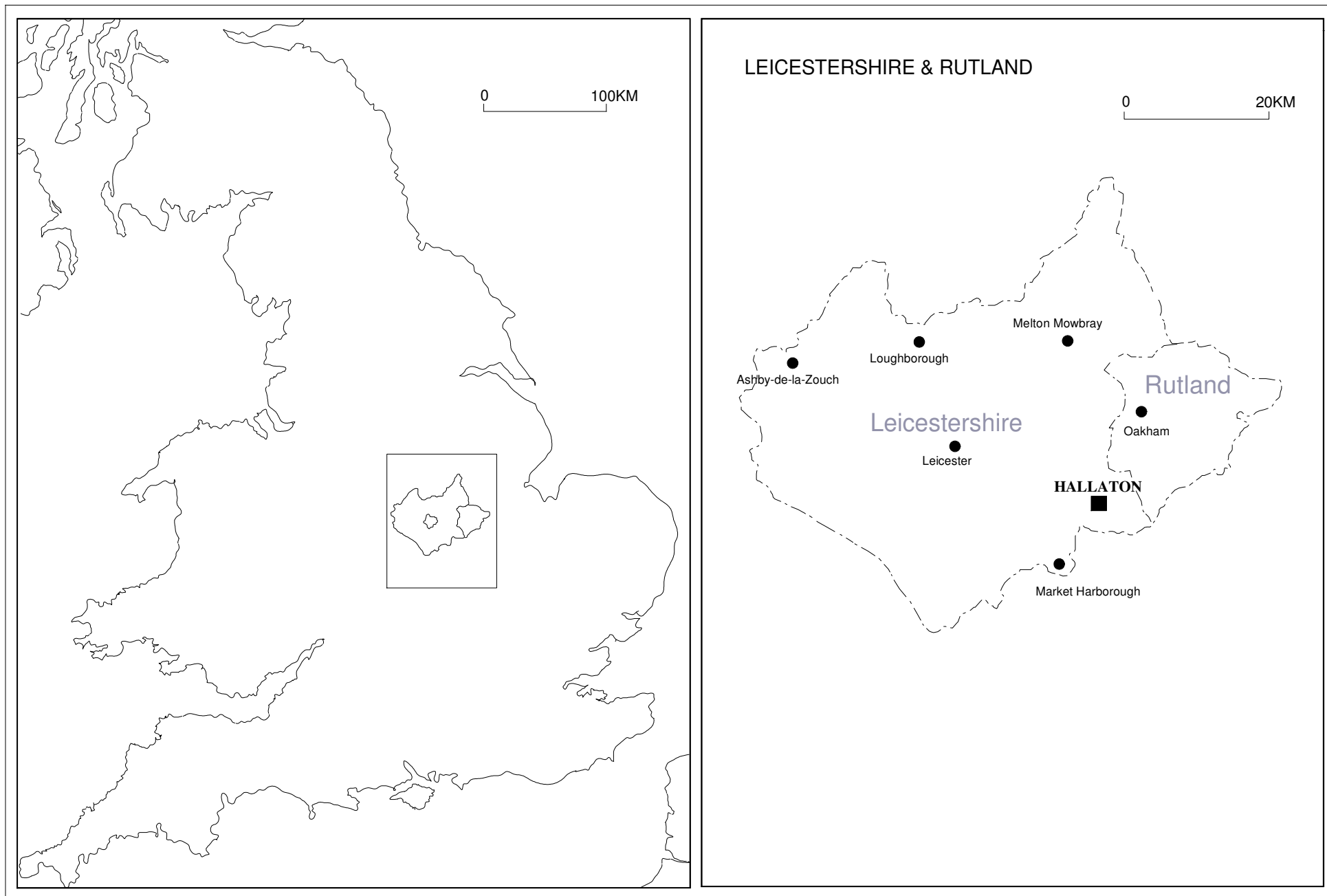
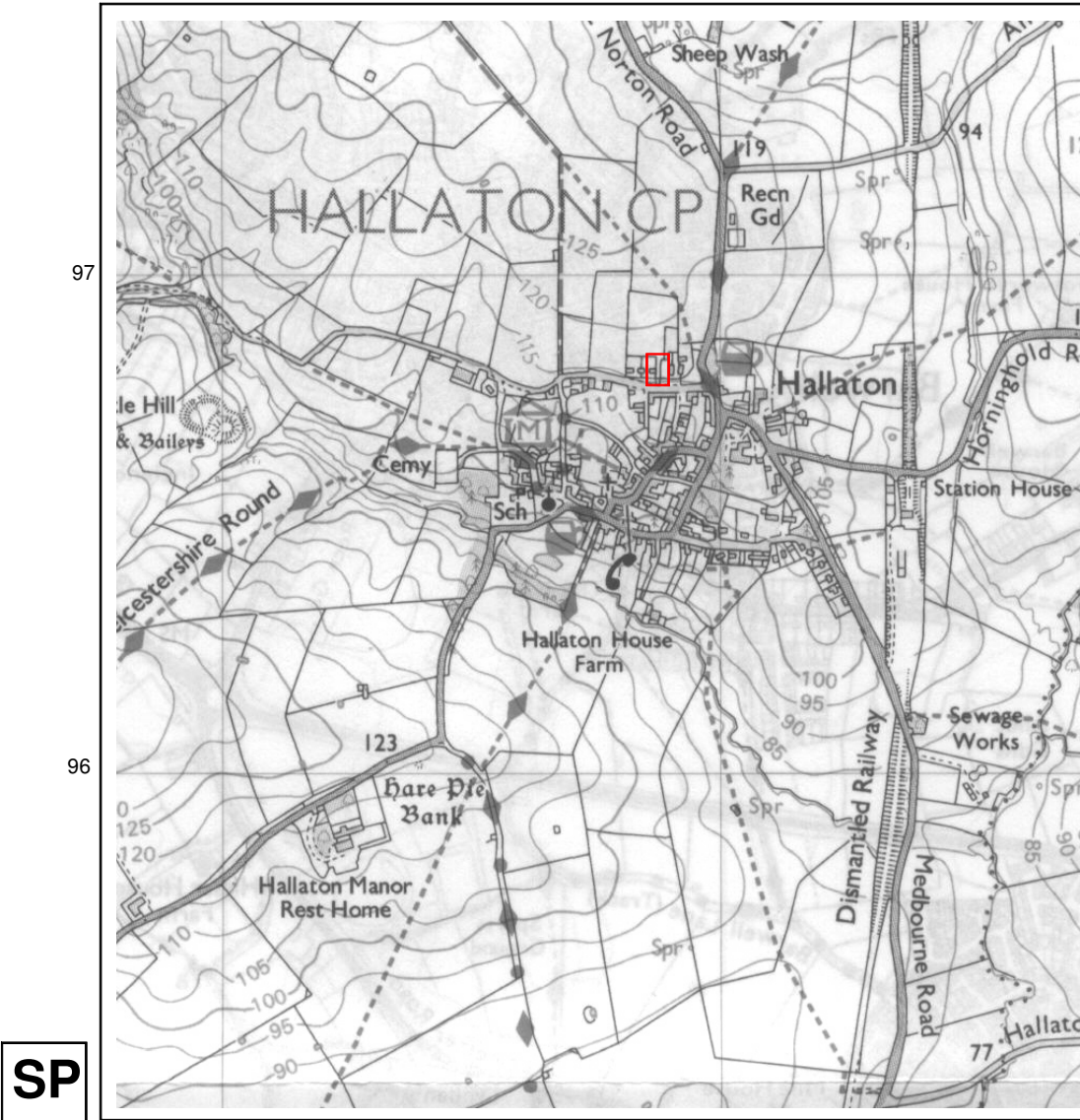



Figure 1 - General location map



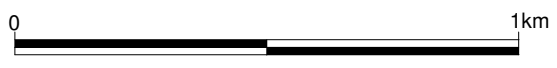
SP

78

79

 Area detailed in Figure 3

Reproduced from the Ordnance Survey 1:25,000 map with the permission of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office (C) Crown Copyright. HTL Ltd Licence No. AL5041A0001

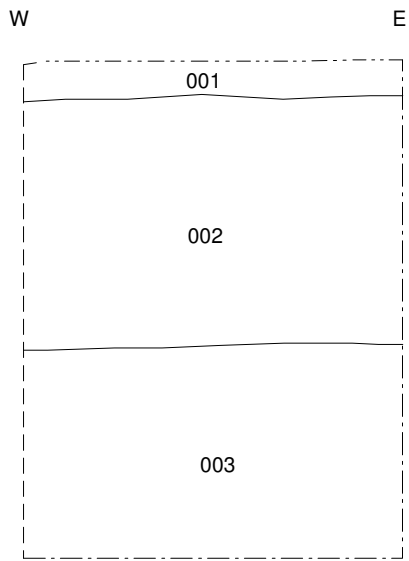


Archaeological Project Services		
Project Name: North End, Hallaton HTNE06		
Scale 1:15000	Drawn by: PCF	Report No: 19/07

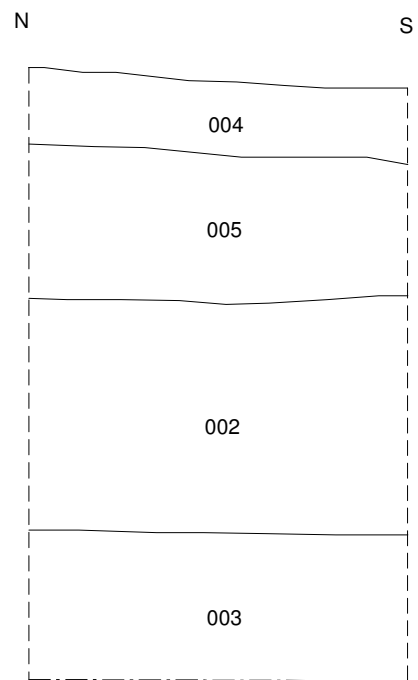
Figure 2 - Site location plan



Figure 3 - Plan of the development showing section locations



Section 1



Section 2



Archaeological Project Services		
Project Name: North End, Hallaton HTNE06		
Scale 1:20	Drawn by: PCF	Report No: 19/07

Figure 4 - Sections 1 and 2



Plate 1 - General view of the development area, looking southeast



Plate 2 - Section 1, looking north



Plate 3 - Section 2, looking east

Appendix 1

LAND AT NORTH END, HALLATON, LEICESTERSHIRE - SPECIFICATION FOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

1 SUMMARY

1.1 *Watching brief is required during construction of a dwelling on land adjacent to 48 North End, Hallaton, Leicestershire.*

1.2 *The site lies in an area of potential archaeological interest on the edge of the historic settlement core but close to the possible route of a Roman road.*

1.3 *The archaeological work will consist of a watching brief during development works on the site. Archaeological features will be recorded in writing, graphically and photographically.*

1.4 *On completion of the fieldwork a report will be prepared detailing the results of the watching brief. The report will consist of a narrative supported by illustrations and photographs.*

2 INTRODUCTION

2.1 This document comprises a specification for archaeological watching brief during construction of a dwelling on land adjacent to 48 North End, Hallaton, Leicestershire. The site is located at National Grid Reference SP 78885 96791.

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 Hallaton is located approximately 10km northeast of Market Harborough in the Harborough administrative district of Leicestershire. The site lies on the northern edge of the village, on the north side of North End. It is centred on National Grid Reference SP 78885 96791.

4 PLANNING BACKGROUND

4.1 Planning permission (06/00661/FUL) has been granted by Harborough District Council for construction of a dwelling. Permission is subject to a condition requiring the undertaking of a watching-brief during groundworks associated with the development.

5 SOILS AND TOPOGRAPHY

5.1 Hallaton lies at approximately 100m OD looking southward over the valley of a small tributary of the River Welland. Soils of the area are clayey soils of the Hanslope Association developed on chalky till (Hodge *et al.* 1984, 293).

6 ARCHAEOLOGICAL OVERVIEW

6.1 A settlement at Hallaton is recorded in the Domesday survey of 1086 indicating an origin for the village in at least the late Saxon period. The church of St Michael dates from c. 13th century with later additions and

restorations. In the Middle Ages Hallaton was one of the busiest towns of Leicestershire, with no fewer than four annual fairs as well as its market. After the rise of Market Harborough, some miles away, its importance declined.

6.2 The proposed site lies on the fringes of the medieval core of the village but close to the possible route of a Roman road. The groundworks may reveal or disturb archaeological remains associated with this or with earlier occupation.

7 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

7.1 The aims of the watching brief will be:

7.1.1 To record and interpret the archaeological features exposed during the excavation of the foundation trenches and other areas of ground disturbance.

7.2 The objectives of the watching brief will be to:

7.2.1 Determine the form and function of the archaeological features encountered;

7.2.2 Determine the spatial arrangement of the archaeological features encountered;

7.2.3 As far as practicable, recover dating evidence from the archaeological features, and

7.2.4 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 watching brief.

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 watching brief 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 areas and trench sections will be observed regularly 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 Any finds recovered will be bagged and labelled for later analysis.

8.2.4 Throughout the watching brief a photographic record will be compiled. The photographic record will consist of:

- the site during work to show specific stages, and the layout of the archaeology within the trench.

- groups of features where their relationship is important

8.2.5 Should human remains be located the appropriate Home Office licence will be obtained before their removal. In addition, the Local Environmental Health Department and the police will be informed.

9 POST-EXCAVATION

9.1 Stage 1

9.1.1 On completion of site operations, the records and schedules produced during the watching brief 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 field work 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 watching brief will be prepared.

9.3.2 This will consist of:

- A non-technical summary of the results of the investigation.
- A description of the archaeological setting of the watching brief.
- Description of the topography of the site.
- Description of the methodologies used during the watching brief.
- A text describing the findings of the watching brief.
- A consideration of the local, regional and national context of the watching brief findings.
- Plans of the archaeological features exposed. If a sequence of archaeological deposits is encountered, separate plans for each phase will be produced.
- Sections of the archaeological features.
- Interpretation of the archaeological features exposed, and their chronology and setting within the surrounding landscape.
- Specialist reports on the finds from the site.
- Appropriate photographs of the site and specific archaeological features.

10 REPORT DEPOSITION

10.1 Copies of the report will be sent to the Client; the Senior Planning Archaeologist, Leicestershire County Council; Harborough District Council Planning Department; and to the County Council Archaeological Sites and Monuments Record.

11 ARCHIVE

11.1 The documentation and records generated during the watching brief will be sorted and ordered into the format acceptable to the Leicestershire Museums Service. This sorting will be undertaken according to the document titled *The Transfer of Archaeological Archives to Leicestershire Museums, Arts and Records Service* for long term storage and curation.

12 PUBLICATION

12.1 Details of the project will be entered into the OASIS database. A report of the findings of the evaluation will be submitted to the editor of the *Transactions of the Leicestershire Archaeological and Historical Society*. If appropriate notes or articles describing the results of the investigation will also be submitted for publication in the appropriate national journals: *Medieval Archaeology* and *Journal of the Medieval Settlement Research Group* for medieval and later remains, and *Britannia* for discoveries of Roman date.

13 CURATORIAL RESPONSIBILITY

13.1 Curatorial responsibility for the archaeological work undertaken on the site lies with the Senior Planning Archaeologist, Leicestershire County Council. They will be given seven days notice in writing before 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 watching brief will be integrated with the programme of construction and is dependent on the developers' work programme. It is therefore not possible to specify the person-hours for the archaeological site work.

15.2 An archaeological supervisor with experience of watching briefs 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. It is expected that each fieldwork day (equal to one person-day) will require a post-excavation day (equal to one-and-a-half person-days) for completion of the analysis and report. If the fieldwork lasts longer than about four days then there will be an economy of scale with the post-excavation analysis.

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, City and County Museum, Lincoln
Pottery Analysis	Prehistoric - Trent & Peak Archaeological Trust Roman - B Precious, Independent Specialist Anglo-Saxon - J Young, Independent Specialist Medieval and later - G Taylor, APS in consultation with H Healey, Independent Archaeologist
Non-pottery Artefacts	J Cowgill, Independent Specialist
Animal Bones	J Kitch, APS
Environmental Analysis	J Rackham, Independent Specialist
Human Remains Analysis	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 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.

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

19 BIBLIOGRAPHY

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**

Appendix 2

CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

No.	Description	Interpretation
001	Friable dark greyish brown clayey silt with rubble, 0.1m thick	Topsoil remnant
002	Loose mid reddish brown limestone, 0.65m thick	Natural deposit
003	Loose light greyish brown clayey silt with limestone fragments, >0.55m thick	Natural deposit
004	Friable dark greyish brown clayey silt, 0.2m thick	Topsoil
005	Friable mid greyish brown clayey silt, 0.4m thick	Subsoil
006	Firm to plastic light to mid yellowish brown silty clay with limestone fragments, >1.24m 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.
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:

5	Context records
1	Photographic record sheets
1	Drawing sheets
1	Stratigraphic matrix

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:

Leicestershire County Council Heritage Services
Room 500
County Hall
Leicester Road
Glenfield
Leicester
LE3 8TE

Accession Number: X.A102.2006

Archaeological Project Services Site Code: HTNE 06

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.