

Quality Control
Mareham Lane,
Spanby
SBML 07

Project Coordinator	Gary Taylor
Supervisor	Mary Nugent
Illustration	Paul Cope-Faulkner
Photographic Reproduction	Sue Unsworth
Post-excavation Analyst	Paul Cope-Faulkner

Checked by Project Manager	Approved by Senior Archaeologist
Gary Taylor	Tom Lane
Date:	Date:

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF
AT MAREHAM LANE,
SPANBY,
THREEKINGHAM,
LINCOLNSHIRE
(SBML 07)**

**Work Undertaken For
Lowfields Leisure Limited**

April 2007

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

Planning Application No: N/65/0244/06
National Grid Reference: TF 095 373
City and County Museum Accession No: 2007.57
OASIS Record No: archaeo11-25591

ARCHAEOLOGICAL PROJECT SERVICES



APS Report No. **35/07**

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1. SUMMARY

A watching brief was undertaken during groundworks at Spanby Farm, Mareham Lane, Spanby, Lincolnshire. The watching brief monitored the excavation of three new fishing lakes.

The development site has produced prehistoric flints and is located south of an extensive Late Iron Age (100 BC-AD 43) settlement. Romano-British (AD 43-410) thoroughfares, Mareham Lane and the Salter's Way lie close to the site. Medieval (AD 1066-1540) remains include the deserted village of Spanby of which only the 14th century church remains.

The watching brief revealed only a topsoil layer and the surface of the natural. No archaeological deposits 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 Lowfields Leisure Limited to undertake an archaeological watching brief during groundworks associated with new fishing ponds at Spanby Farm, Mareham Lane, Threckingham, Lincolnshire. Approval for the development was sought through the submission of planning application N/65/0244/06. The watching brief was

carried out on the 21st March 2007 in accordance with a specification prepared by Archaeological Project Services (Appendix 1) and approved by the North Kesteven Heritage Officer.

2.3 Topography and Geology

Spanby is located 8km south of Sleaford and 24km west of Boston in the civil parish of Threckingham in the administrative district of North Kesteven, Lincolnshire (Fig. 1).

The development site is located 1km southwest of the centre of Spanby as defined by the former church of St. Nicholas, at National Grid Reference TF 095 373 (Fig. 2). The site lies to the east of Mareham Lane at a height of c. 15m OD on land that slopes gently down to the east.

Local soils are of the Denchworth Association, typically pelo-stagnogley soils (Hodge *et al.* 1984, 155). These soils are developed upon a solid geology of Jurassic Oxford Clay with glacially derived boulder clay to the immediate east of the site (GSGB 1972).

2.4 Archaeological Setting

Spanby is located in an area of known archaeological remains dating from the prehistoric period to the present day. Prehistoric flint tools have previously been found at the site. Late Iron Age pottery has been found on either side of Mareham Lane to the north of the site and cropmarks indicating settlement are also known from this vicinity.

During the Romano-British period, the site lay close to the junction of two Roman thoroughfares. South of the site is the A52 Salter's Way which once connected Donington to Saltersford, near Grantham, and beyond to Six Hills in Leicestershire (Margary 1973, 223). Mareham Lane, immediately west of the site, once connected Bourne to Sleaford and possibly

beyond to Lincoln (*ibid.* 234). Romano-British pottery has also been retrieved from the Iron Age settlement to the north of the site suggesting continuity.

Spanby is first mentioned in the Domesday Survey of *c.* 1086. Referred to as *Spanesbi* the name is derived from the Old Norse and means ‘the farmstead or village (*bý*) where shingle (*spànn*) for tiling is obtained’ (Cameron 1999, 114). At the time of Domesday the land was held by Colsuain and Oger the Breton and contained 38 acres of meadow (Foster and Longley 1976).

Spanby was a village in its own right during the medieval period. Earthworks of this village were visible until extensive ploughing in the 1980s destroyed these remains. Also destroyed was a square moat, the former site of the manor and a number of fishponds (Roffe and Healey forthcoming). Ridge and furrow of the medieval field system was also once apparent in the surrounding area.

The only extant remains of the medieval period is the church of St. Nicholas which contains 14th century elements, although these were extensively altered in the late 19th century (DoE 1990, 67). The church is now redundant.

Prior to the watching brief, a geophysical survey of the site was undertaken which identified magnetic anomalies considered to be ditches, including a pair that may define a trackway, and a curvilinear feature of uncertain nature (Sabin and Donaldson 2006, 8).

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

The area of the lakes were stripped by machine to depths required by the development. The stripped area was scanned for archaeological features and finds and the deposits encountered were recorded. 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 1:20. Recording was undertaken according to standard Archaeological Project Services’ practice.

Following excavation the records were checked and a stratigraphic matrix produced. Phasing was assigned based on the nature of the deposits and recognisable relationships between.

5. RESULTS

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

The depth of the new fishing lakes did not exceed 0.3m deep for Lake 1 and 0.4m for Lake 2. Natural deposits comprised a mid yellowish brown clay (001) and (002). Overlying the natural was a topsoil of greyish brown silty clay (003).

6. DISCUSSION

Only topsoil and the surface of the underlying natural was encountered during the watching brief. No archaeological deposits were revealed. No artefacts were retrieved.

7. CONCLUSION

An archaeological watching brief was

undertaken at Mareham Lane, Spanby, as the site lay close to remains of Iron Age and Romano-British date.

Although the depth of the groundworks exposed the surface of the underlying natural deposits below the topsoil, no archaeological deposits were encountered. No artefacts were recorded or recovered during the investigation.

8. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeological Project Services wishes to acknowledge the assistance of Mr C. Ashley of Lowfields Leisure Limited for commissioning the fieldwork and post-excavation analysis. The work was coordinated by Gary Taylor who edited this report along with Tom Lane. Jo Hambly, the North Kesteven Heritage Officer, kindly allowed access to the parish files and library maintained by Heritage Lincolnshire.

9. PERSONNEL

Project Coordinator: Gary Taylor
 Site Supervisor: Mary Nugent
 Photographic reproduction: Sue Unsworth
 Illustration: Paul Cope-Faulkner
 Post-excavation analysis: Paul Cope-Faulkner

10. BIBLIOGRAPHY

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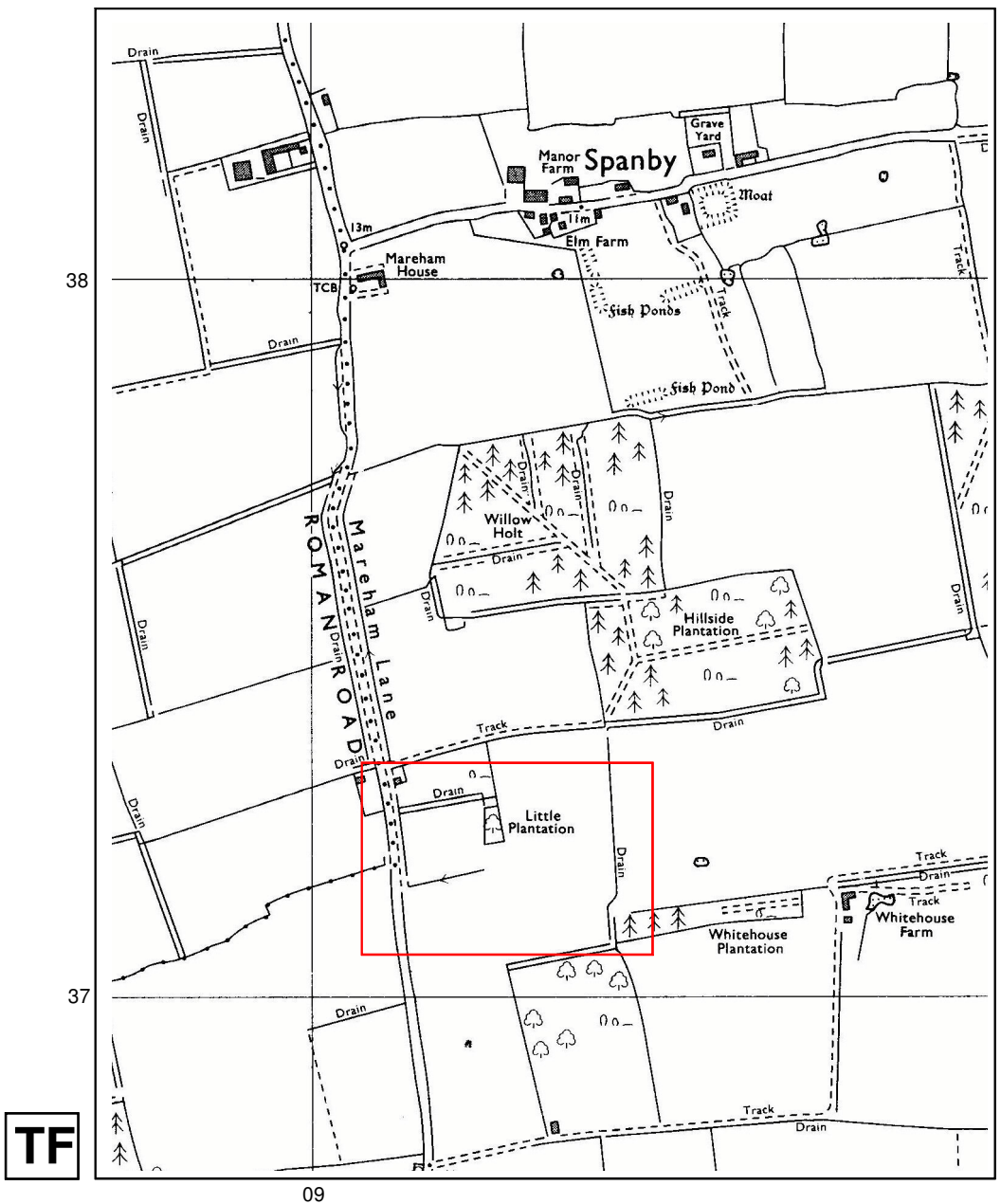
Sabin, D, and Donaldson, K, 2006 *Spanby, Lincolnshire: Magnetometer Survey*, unpublished AS report

11. ABBREVIATIONS

APS Archaeological Project Services
 AS Archaeological Surveys
 DoE Department of the Environment
 GSGB Geological Survey of Great Britain
 IFA Institute of Field Archaeologists




Figure 1 - General location plan



TF

Reproduced from the Ordnance Survey 1:10,000 map with the permission of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office (C) Crown Copyright. HTL Ltd Licence No. AL5041A0001

 Area detailed in Figure 3




	Archaeological Project Services	
Project Name: Mareham Lane, Spanby SBML07		
Scale 1:10000	Drawn by: PCF	Report No: 35/07

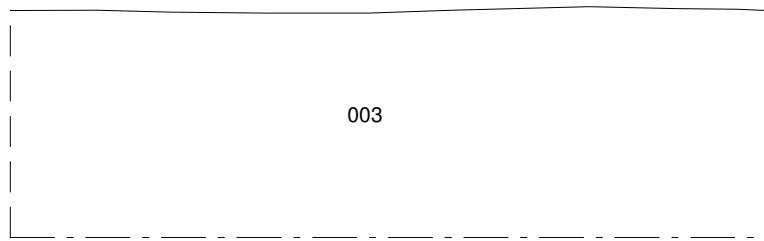
Figure 2 - Site location plan



Figure 3 - Plan of the development showing section locations

SE

NW



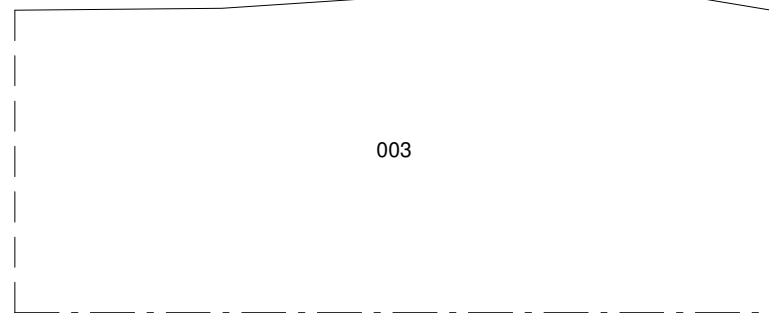
Section 1

003

001

S

N



Section 2

003

002



Archaeological Project Services

Project Name: Mareham Lane, Spanby SBML07

Scale 1:10

Drawn by: PCF

Report No: 35/07

Figure 4 - Sections 1 and 2



Plate 1 - View over Lake 1, looking southeast



Plate 2 - Section 1, looking south



Plate 3 - View looking over Lake 2, looking north



Plate 4 - Section 2, looking west

Appendix 1

LAND AT SPANBY FARM, MAREHAM LANE, SPANBY, LINCOLNSHIRE - SPECIFICATION FOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

1 SUMMARY

- 1.1 *A watching brief is required during groundwork to create fishing lakes at Spanby Farm, Mareham Lane, Lincolnshire.*
- 1.2 *Prehistoric flints have previously been found at the site. Additionally, the site lies alongside one Roman road, close to its junction with another. Iron Age and Roman pottery has been found nearby and there is an extensive cropmark complex of late prehistoric or Roman settlements and field systems a short distance away. Previous geophysical survey of the site recorded magnetic anomalies of ditches, including a possible trackway and a curvilinear feature of uncertain nature.*
- 1.3 *The archaeological work will consist of a watching brief during development works on the site.*
- 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 fishing lakes at Spanby Farm, Mareham Lane, Spanby, Lincolnshire.
- 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 Spanby is located 2km southwest of Sleaford in the administrative district of North Kesteven. The site is about 800m south of the hamlet, at Spanby Farm, on the eastern side of Mareham Lane at nation grid reference TF 095 373.

4 PLANNING BACKGROUND

- 4.1 A planning application (N/65/0244/06) was submitted to North Kesteven District Council for the change of use from agricultural land to create a country fishing retreat incorporating log cabin and static caravan development with creation of lakes and nature reserve. 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 The site is on a rise to the south, lying at about 20m OD. Soils at the site are pelo-stagnogleys of the Denchworth Association developed on Jurassic and Cretaceous clays (Hodge *et al.* 1984, 155).

6 ARCHAEOLOGICAL OVERVIEW

- 6.1 The site lies close to the junction of two Roman roads, Mareham Lane and the A52 Salter's Way,

lying partially alongside Mareham Lane. Prehistoric flints have previously been found on the site itself.

- 6.2 Scatters of Iron Age and Roman pottery have been found a short distance to the north, on either side of Mareham Lane. Cropmarks have also been identified in this same area. Slightly further to the northwest is an extensive complex of cropmarks of settlement remains and field systems of probable late prehistoric and Roman date. This cropmark complex extends north-south for over 2km but fades out to the south where geological conditions are not conducive to cropmark formation. Consequently, it is possible that the archaeological remains responsible for the cropmarks are more extensive than currently known.
- 6.3 Geophysical survey of the site identified magnetic anomalies considered to represent ditches, including a pair that might define a trackway, and a curvilinear feature of uncertain nature (Archaeological Surveys 2006).

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 fishing lakes and other areas of ground disturbance.
- 7.1.2 The objectives of the watching brief 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 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 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 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 trenches and 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 North Kesteven Heritage Officer; 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 Collection, Lincoln. This will be undertaken following the requirements of the document titled Conditions for the Acceptance of Project Archives for long-term storage and curation.

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 North Kesteven Heritage Officer. 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 (*Lincolnshire Archaeological Handbook* 1998, Sections 5.7 and 18).
- 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 Post-Roman - J Young, Independent Specialist/A Boyle, APS
Non-pottery Artefacts	J Cowgill, Independent Specialist, or G Taylor, APS
Animal Bones	J Kitch, APS
Environmental Analysis	J Rackham, Independent Specialist
Human Remains Analysis	J Kitch, APS

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

Archaeological Surveys, 2006 *Spanby, Lincolnshire, Magnetometer Survey*, unpublished report **142**

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, 11-12-06

Appendix 2

CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

No.	Lake	Description	Interpretation
001	1	Firm mid yellowish brown clay	Natural deposits
002	2	Firm mid yellowish brown clay	Natural deposits
003	1, 2	Firm mid greyish brown silty clay, 0.3m thick	Topsoil

Appendix 3

GLOSSARY

Boulder Clay	A deposit formed after the retreat of a glacier. Also known as till, this material is generally unsorted and can comprise of rock flour to boulders to rocks of quite substantial size.
Context	An archaeological context represents a distinct archaeological event or process. For example, the action of digging a pit creates a context (the cut) as does the process of its subsequent backfill (the fill). Each context encountered during an archaeological investigation is allocated a unique number by the archaeologist and a record sheet detailing the description and interpretations of the context (the context sheet) is created and placed in the site archive. Context numbers are identified within the report text by brackets, <i>e.g.</i> (004).
Cropmark	A mark that is produced by the effect of underlying archaeological features influencing the growth of a particular crop.
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.
Prehistoric	The period of human history prior to the introduction of writing. In Britain the prehistoric period lasts from the first evidence of human occupation about 500,000 BC, until the Roman invasion in the middle of the 1 st century AD.
Romano-British	Pertaining to the period dating from AD 43-410 when the Romans occupied Britain.

Appendix 4

THE ARCHIVE

The archive consists of:

3	Context records
1	Photographic record sheet
1	Sheet of scale drawings
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:

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

Accession Number: 2007.57

Archaeological Project Services Site Code: SBML 07

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.