

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF  
ON LAND AT BERTIE LANE  
UFFINGTON,  
LINCOLNSHIRE,  
(UFBL06)**

**Work Undertaken For  
Stamford Developers Ltd.**

July 2006

Report Compiled by  
Mary Nugent HND BA (Hons)

National Grid Reference: TF 0646 0764

Planning Reference: S04/1409/78



APS Report No. **73/06**

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## 1. SUMMARY

*An archaeological watching brief was undertaken during the construction of a detached dwelling at Uffington, Lincolnshire. The site lay in an archaeologically sensitive area near to known archaeological remains.*

*Cropmarks of prehistoric date have been identified in the area north of Uffington and artefacts of this period are also known. Roman coins have been found within the village. Medieval activity is highlighted by St. Michael's church and the remains of Casewick village under Casewick Hall. Later activity is represented by a brick kiln site and a hoard of George III coins.*

*The watching brief revealed natural alluvial deposits sealed by a recent topsoil deposit. No archaeological features were uncovered and no artefacts were recovered from the site.*

## 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 Stamford Developers Ltd. to undertake an archaeological watching brief during the excavation of

foundation trenches on land at Bertie Lane, Uffington, Lincolnshire. The excavations were undertaken as part of the residential development. Approval for the development was sought through the submission of planning application S04/1409/78. The watching brief was carried out on the 26<sup>th</sup> April 2006, in accordance with a specification prepared by Archaeological Project Services (Appendix 1) and approved by the Senior Built Environment Officer, Lincolnshire County Council.

### 2.3 Topography and Geology

Uffington is situated approximately 3km east of Stamford and 13km southwest of Bourne. River terraces of the Welland provide the focus for the village, east of which these terraces fan out to merge with the fens to the east of Market Deeping, at approximately 3m O.D.

Local soils are the Sherborne association, clayey brown rendzinas around Uffington, changing to Denchworth, stoneless pelostagnogly to the north (Hodge *et al.* 1984, 310, 155).

### 2.4 Archaeological and Historical Setting

The site lies in an area of archaeological importance dating from the prehistoric to the medieval period including a possible Bronze Age barrow. Prehistoric activity in the area is represented by a roughly shaped flint axe and a calcite gritted pot found in a gravel pit (SMR 335421/2). A number of cropmarks have been identified from aerial photographs, including a large ditched enclosure with associated linear cropmarks (SMR 32892, 32893 and 33629), a circular cropmark (SMR 33536) and a linear cropmark (SMR 335351).

Romano-British activity is restricted to an antiquarian account of coins of this date having been found in the village and a cropmark rectangular enclosure.

Medieval activity is represented by the church of St. Michael which is of 13th century date (Pevsner and Harris, 1989). Also, Casewick Hall is built on the presumed site of Casewick medieval village, of which some earthworks survive (SMR 33551). Associated with the village are a number of fields with ridge and furrow (SMR 34245, 34246 and 34247) all to the east of the site. A post-medieval brickyard is known from Casewick Lane (SMR 33527) and a hoard of 1 gold and 48 silver coins of George III (1760-1820) was reported (SMR 335).

### **3. AIMS**

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

### **4. METHODS**

Foundation trenches, measuring approximately 0.6m wide and 1.1m deep, were excavated by machine. Each deposit revealed 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 a section drawn at a scale of 1:10. Recording was undertaken according to standard Archaeological Project Services' practice.

Following excavation, the records of the deposits and features were examined and a stratigraphic matrix produced.

## **5. RESULTS**

### **5.1 Natural Deposits**

The earliest natural deposit on the site was mid yellowish brown silty sand (003).

Above this was a light grey sandy silt with yellowish brown mottles up to 0.45m thick (002), these deposits are probably alluvial in origin deriving from seasonal flooding of the River Welland.

### **5.2 Recent Deposits**

The latest deposit found on the site was (001), a mid brown silty clay topsoil, up to 0.35m thick. (Fig 4, Plate 1).

## **6. DISCUSSION**

Natural layers of silty sand sealed by a silty clay topsoil deposit were present across all the foundation trenches. The silty sand deposits are likely derived from seasonal flooding of the River Welland.

## **7. CONCLUSIONS**

Archaeological monitoring of the excavation of foundation trenches for a detached dwelling on land at Bertie Lane, Uffington, Lincolnshire was required as the site lay within an archaeologically sensitive area. The investigation established that natural deposits consisting of yellowish brown silty sand and grey and brown sandy silt overlain by a mid brown silty clay topsoil layer were present on the site but no archaeological features were seen. No artefacts were recovered from the site.

## **8. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

Archaeological Project Services wish to thank Stamford Developers Ltd for funding the fieldwork and post-excavation analysis. Mark Williams coordinated the work and Tom Lane edited this report.

Record, Archaeology Section,  
Lincolnshire County Council.

## 9. PERSONNEL

Project Coordinator: Mark Williams  
Site Supervisor: Mary Nugent  
Illustrations: Mary Nugent  
Post-excavation analyst: Mary Nugent

## 10. BIBLIOGRAPHY

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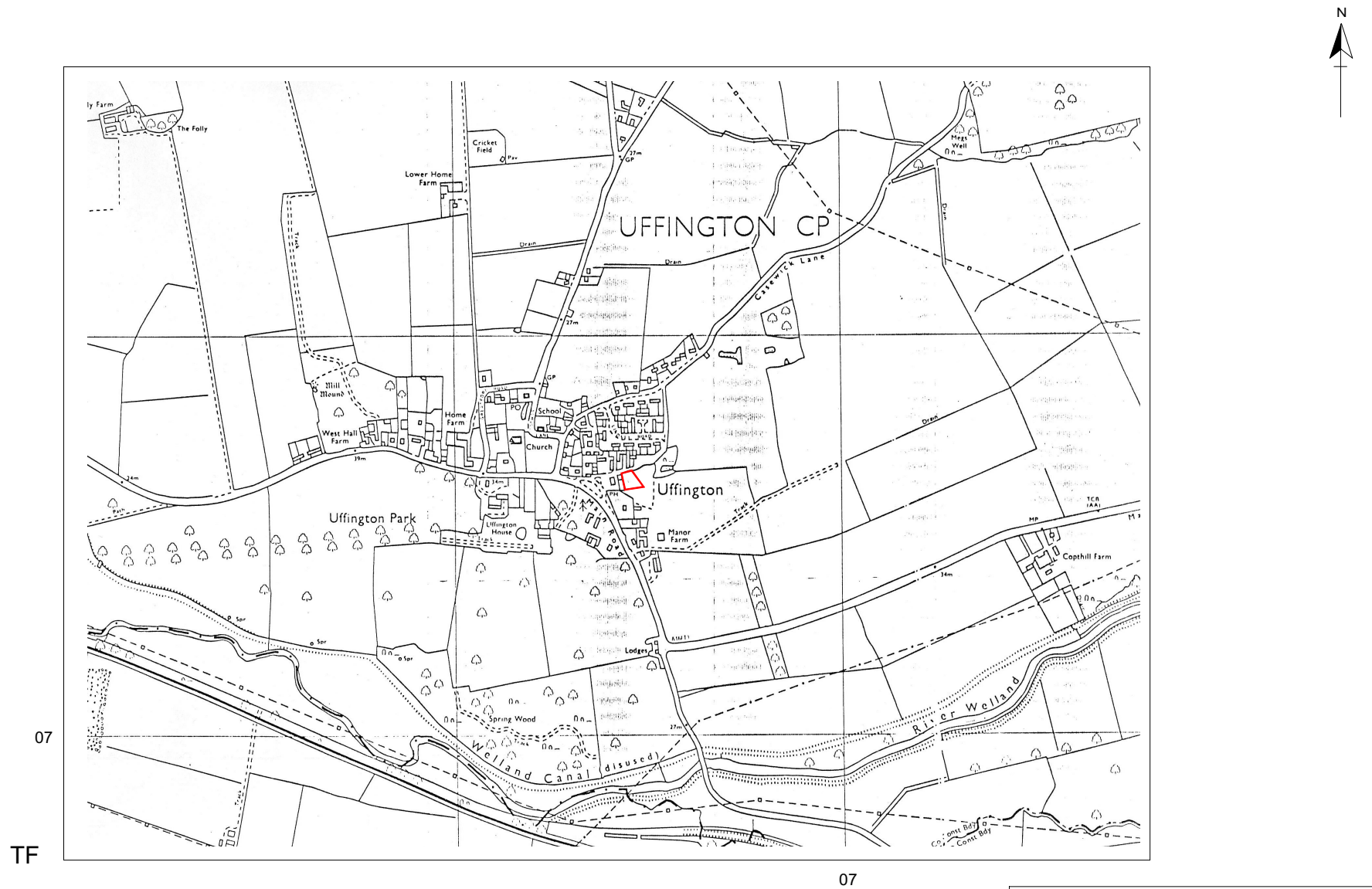
Wilson, V., 1958 *East Yorkshire and Lincolnshire*, British Regional Geology

## 11. ABBREVIATIONS

Numbers prefixed with 'SMR' are the primary reference numbers used by the Lincolnshire Sites and Monuments



Figure 1: General location plan



Archaeological Project Services		
Project Name: Uffington Bertie Lane, UFBL06		
Scale 1:15000	Drawn by: MN	Report No:73 /06

Figure 2 - Site location plan



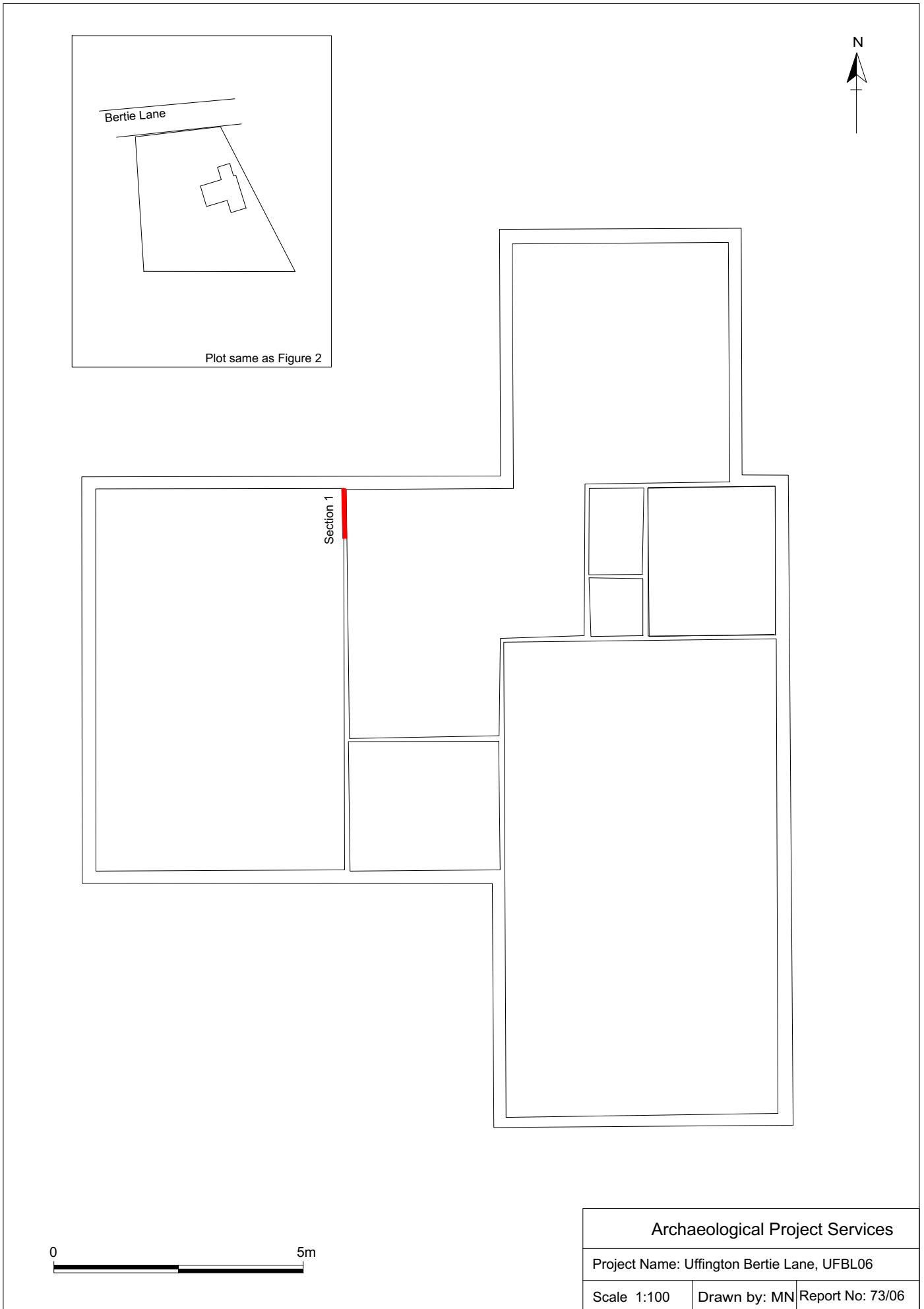


Figure 3 - Plan of the development showing section location



Plate 1 - View of development looking south



Plate 2 - Work in progress



Plate 3 - Section 1



# **Appendix 1**

**LAND AT  
BERTIE LANE  
UFFINGTON  
LINCOLNSHIRE**

**SPECIFICATION FOR  
ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF**

**PREPARED FOR  
STAMFORD DEVELOPERS LTD**

**BY  
ARCHAEOLOGICAL PROJECT SERVICES**  
*Institute of Field Archaeologists'*  
*Registered Organisation No. 21*

**APRIL 2006**

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## 1 SUMMARY

- 1.1 *This document represents a specification an archaeological watching brief, which is required during residential development on land at Bertie Lane, Uffington, Lincolnshire.*
- 1.2 *The proposed development site lies within an archaeologically sensitive area, and with archaeological remains dating from the prehistoric to the post medieval period identified in the vicinity.*
- 1.4 *The watching brief will be undertaken during groundworks associated with the development. The archaeological features exposed will be recorded in writing, graphically and photographically.*
- 1.5 *On the 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 specification for an archaeological watching brief to take place during groundworks associated with the construction of a new residential development at Bertie Lane, Uffington, 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 The site is located to the south side of Bertie Lane on the southern side of Uffington, Lincolnshire.

## 4 PLANNING BACKGROUND

- 4.1 A planning application has been submitted to and granted consent by South Kesteven District Council (Planning reference S04/1409/78) for the erection of detached dwelling at the above site.

## 5 SOILS AND TOPOGRAPHY

- 5.1 The site lies at 34m O.D, it has not been surveyed due to its urban nature but it is surrounded by Dentchworth series, seasonally waterlogged clayey soils (Hodges et al 1984).

## 6 THE ARCHAEOLOGY

- 6.1 The site lies within an area of archaeological importance. Features and finds dating from the prehistoric to the medieval period have been identified on the site. These include a possible Bronze Age Barrow, Romano British rectangular enclosure, a hoard of coins of George III and find spots of medieval and post mediaeval pottery

- 6.2 It is possible that the watching brief may material associated with these previously identified remains further enhancing our understanding of the development of Uffington.

## 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 groundworks phase of development, and includes the archaeological monitoring of all phases of soil movement. This will include the excavations for new access roads, foundations and services.
- 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. A metal detector may be used to assist artefact recovery.
- 8.2.4 Throughout the watching brief a photographic record consisting of colour prints 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: the colour prints will be 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 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 South Kesteven Community Archaeologist; South Kesteven 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 City and County Museum, 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 A report of the findings of the watching brief will be presented to the editor of the journal *Lincolnshire History and Archaeology*. 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 South Kesteven District Council. They will be given as much notice as possible, ideally seven days, before the commencement of the project.

## 14 VARIATIONS

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 principal 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 – A Boyle or G Taylor, Archaeological Project Services
Non-pottery Artefacts	J Cowgill, Independent Specialist; or G Taylor, Archaeological Project Services
Animal Bones	J. Kitch, Archaeological Project Services
Environmental Analysis	J Rackham, Independent Specialist; or P Cope-Faulkner, Archaeological Project Services
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.

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19 **BIBLIOGRAPHY**

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Pevsner, N., and Harris, J., 1989 *The Buildings of England, Lincolnshire*. Penguin

Specification: Version 1, 19/1/06

## Appendix 2

### CONTEXT SUMMARY

<b>No.</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Interpretation</b>
001	Firm mid brown silty clay with occasional sub rounded stones and moderate brick fragments, 0.35m thick	Topsoil
002	Soft light grey sandy silt with yellowish brown mottle, 0.45m thick	Possible alluvium
003	Soft mid yellowish brown silty sand, 0.30m thick to limit of excavation	Possible alluvium

## Appendix 3

### GLOSSARY

<b>Alluvium</b>	Deposits laid down by water. Marine alluvium is deposited by the sea, and fresh water alluvium is laid down by rivers and in lakes.
<b>Anglo-Saxon</b>	Pertaining to the period when Britain was occupied by peoples from northern Germany, Denmark and adjacent areas. The period dates from approximately AD 450-1066.
<b>Bronze Age</b>	A period characterised by the introduction of bronze into the country for tools, between 2250 and 800 BC.
<b>Context</b>	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].
<b>Cropmark</b>	A mark that is produced by the effect of underlying archaeological or geological features influencing the growth of a particular crop.
<b>Layer</b>	A layer is a term used to describe an accumulation of soil or other material that is not contained within a cut.
<b>Medieval</b>	The Middle Ages, dating from approximately AD 1066-1500.
<b>Natural</b>	Undisturbed deposit(s) of soil or rock which have accumulated without the influence of human activity
<b>Post-medieval</b>	The period following the Middle Ages, dating from approximately AD 1500-1800.
<b>Prehistoric</b>	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 1st century AD.
<b>Ridge and Furrow</b>	The remains of arable cultivation consisting of raised rounded strips separated by furrows. It is characteristic of open field agriculture.
<b>Romano-British</b>	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	Context record sheets
1	Section record sheet
1	Plan record sheet
2	Sheets containing scale drawings (plans and sections)
1	Photographic record sheet

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:

Lincolnshire City and County Museum  
The Collection  
Danes Terrace  
Lincoln  
LN2 1LP

The archive will be deposited in accordance with the document titled *Conditions for the Acceptance of Project Archives*, produced by the Lincolnshire City and County Museum.

Lincolnshire City and County Museum Accession Number: 2006.92

Archaeological Project Services Site Code: UFBL 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.

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