

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF
AT MILL LANE,
MARTIN,
LINCOLNSHIRE
(MAML 07)**

**Work Undertaken For
Ryland Design Services Limited**

July 2007

Report Compiled by
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Planning Application No: N/38/0838/02
National Grid Reference: TF 1230 5995
City and County Museum Accession No: 2007.56
OASIS Record No: archaeo11-28506

ARCHAEOLOGICAL PROJECT SERVICES



APS Report No. **93/07**

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1. SUMMARY

A watching brief was undertaken during groundworks on land at Mill Lane, Martin, Lincolnshire. The watching brief monitored the excavation of a new access road and drainage trenches in advance of residential development.

The site lies close to the core of a medieval (AD 1066-1540) hamlet that was once part of Timberland and is first referenced in the 12th century. To the northeast of the works is the Romano-British (AD 43-410) watercourse, the Car Dyke, which once connected Lincoln to Peterborough.

The watching brief revealed a sequence of natural overlain by subsoil and topsoil deposits along the route of the drainage works. Within the access road area, make-up deposits associated with the former farm yard were encountered.

Finds retrieved during the investigation include a single medieval sherd with a quantity of post-medieval and later pottery. Possible medieval tile was also recovered. Other finds include slag and a single animal bone.

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 Ryland Design Services

Limited to undertake an archaeological watching brief during groundworks associated with new residential development at Mill Lane, Martin, Lincolnshire. Approval for the development was sought through the submission of planning application N/38/0838/02. The watching brief was carried out between the 15th March and 13th April 2007.

2.3 Topography and Geology

Martin is located 18km southeast of Lincoln and 15km northeast of Sleaford in the administrative district of North Kesteven, Lincolnshire (Fig. 1).

The site lies 150m east of the centre of the village as defined by the parish church of Holy Trinity at National Grid Reference TF 1230 5995 (Fig. 2). The site lies east of Mill Lane on a northeast facing slope at heights of between 15.5m OD and 5m OD.

Local soils are of the Aldeby Series, typically surface water gley soils (Robson *et al.* 1974, 31). These soils are developed on a drift geology of Older river sands and gravels with boulder clay outcropping at the base of the slope (BGS 1973).

2.4 Archaeological Setting

Martin is located in an area of known archaeological remains dating from the Romano-British period to the present day. Skirting the village to the east is the Car Dyke, a linear watercourse that once connected Lincoln to Peterborough, and believed to be Roman in date. The function of the Car Dyke has yet to be proven but suggested possibilities are as a canal, a catchwater drain and as an Imperial estate boundary (Simmons and Cope-Faulkner 2004, 163).

Martin was a hamlet within Timberland until 1882. It is first mentioned in the 12th century where it was referred to as *Martuna*, the name deriving from the Old

English and meaning ‘the village (*tūn*) by the *mære*’, meaning a pool (Cameron 1998, 87). The Domesday Survey records that there were four manors in Timberland held by Earl Hugh, Walter de Aincurt, Norman de Arci and Heppo the Arblaster (Foster and Longley 1976) and it is probable that one of these manors evolved into Martin.

No extant remains of the medieval period survive in the vicinity, although finds of the period have been retrieved from the north and south of the village.

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

Initial monitoring was of an access road leading from Mill Lane. This was excavated by machine to a depth of 0.7m below present ground level. This was followed by the excavation of a drainage trench across the site to a maximum depth of 2m. Where possible, 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 1. 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 finds were examined and a period date assigned where possible

(Appendix 2). The records were also 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

Following post-excavation analysis three phases were identified;

Phase 1	Natural deposits
Phase 2	Undated deposits
Phase 3	Recent deposits

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

Phase 1 Natural deposits

Towards the northeast, natural comprised reddish yellow sandy clay with frequent chalk fragments (009). This was over 0.7m thick.

At the southeast end of the drainage trench, natural was recorded as a yellow sand (015) that was over 0.93m thick, or as a yellow sand with brown mottling (007), which was over 0.24m thick.

Phase 2 Undated deposits

Developed upon the natural deposits was a subsoil, recorded only within the drainage trench. This comprised greyish brown sand (010) and greyish brown sandy silt with gravel (014). These varied between 0.41m thick and 0.81m thick (Fig. 4, Sections 2 to 5).

Phase 3 Recent deposits

Overlying the subsoil was a topsoil. This varied from a brown silty sand (006), to a greyish brown humic sand (011) and a grey sandy silt (013) towards the northeast.

Depths of between 0.11m and 0.23m were recorded.

Above topsoil (006) was a sequence of dumped and levelling deposits associated with the former farm. These comprised brown sand (005), black silty ash (004), brick and gravel (003) and purplish brown sand and ash with gravel (002). Above this was a layer of hardstanding, consisting of limestone fragments (001).

6. DISCUSSION

Natural deposits (Phase 1) comprise sand and sandy clays of the underlying drift geology. The sandy clay equates well with the recorded boulder clay or till and the sand with that of the Older river sands and gravels.

An extensive subsoil remains undated (Phase 2) due to a lack of artefactual material. The presence of a subsoil implies that the area had been under an agricultural regime.

Pottery of medieval and later date was retrieved during the investigation along with smithing slag and an animal bone.

7. CONCLUSION

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken at Mill Lane, Martin, as the site lay close to the medieval core of the village.

However, only a sequence of natural, subsoil and topsoil deposits were encountered with farm yard make-up deposits recorded within the access road area. No archaeological features were identified. Finds retrieved from the investigation comprise a single sherd of medieval pottery, along with later examples. Slag and animal bone were also recovered.

8. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeological Project Services wishes to acknowledge the assistance of Mr AR Allison of Ryland Design Services Limited for commissioning the fieldwork and post-excavation analysis. Site plans were provided by Daniel Charles Construction Limited. The work was coordinated by Mark Williams 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: Mark Williams
 Site Supervisors: Tom Bradley-Lovekin, Bob Garland, Mark Peachey
 Finds processing: Denise Buckley
 Photographic reproduction: Sue Unsworth
 Illustration: Paul Cope-Faulkner
 Post-excavation analysis: Paul Cope-Faulkner

10. BIBLIOGRAPHY

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*The Car Dyke; Past work, current state
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Archaeology and Heritage Reports Series
No. 8

11. ABBREVIATIONS

APS Archaeological Project Services

BGS British Geological Survey

IFA Institute of Field Archaeologists



Figure 1 - General location plan

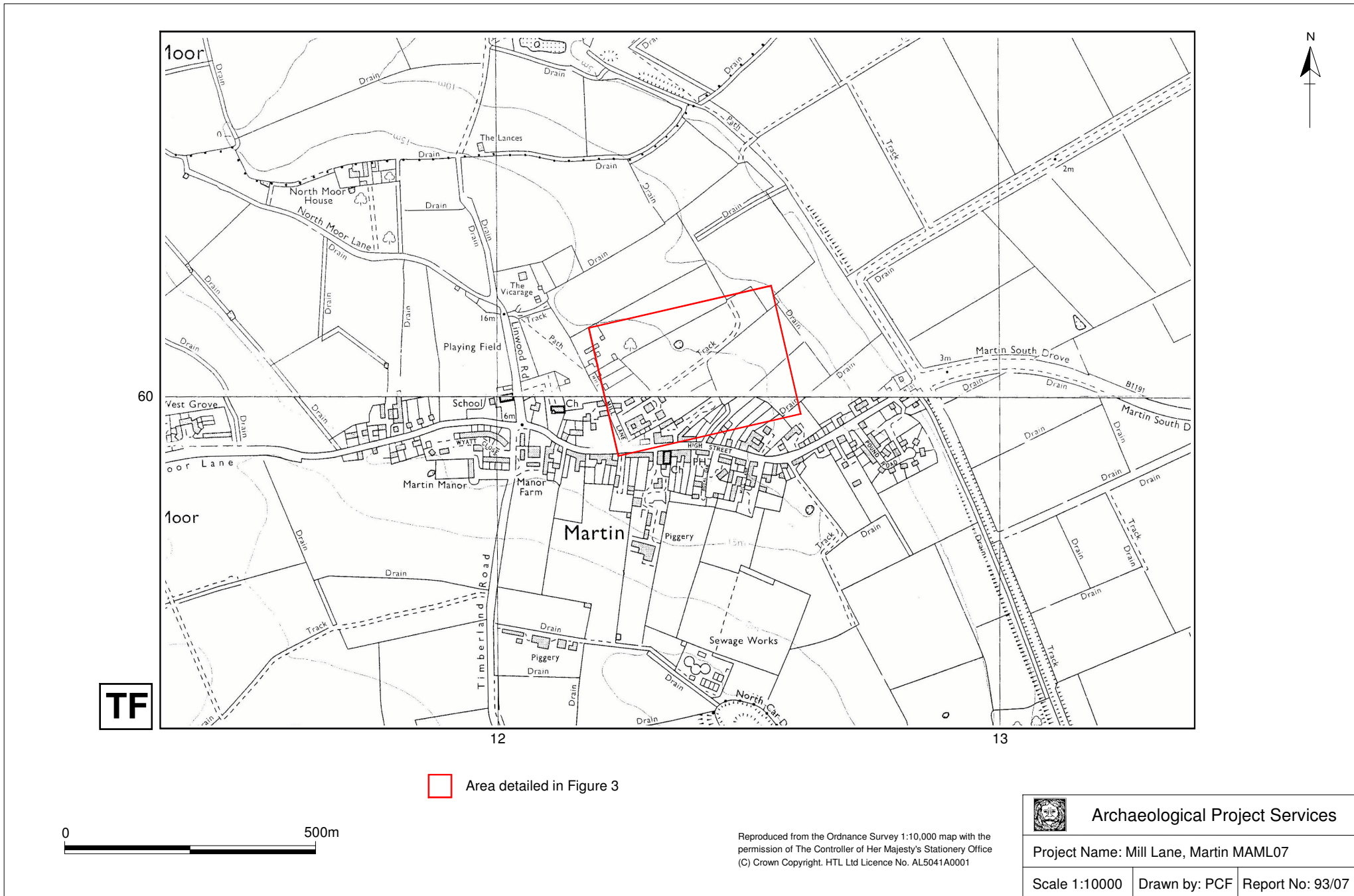


Figure 2 - Site location plan

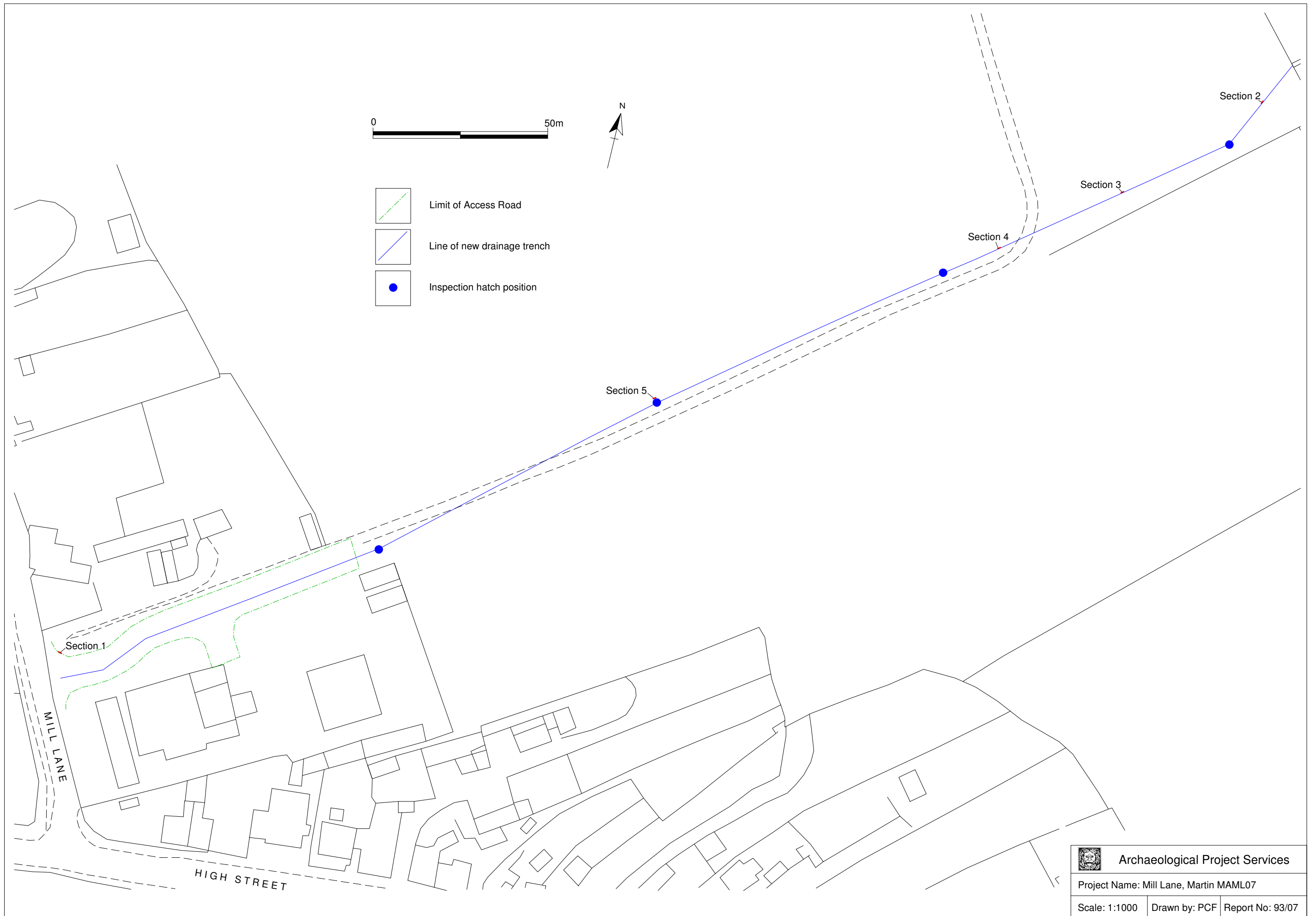
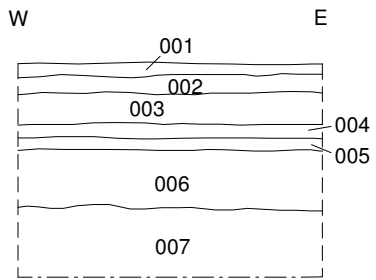
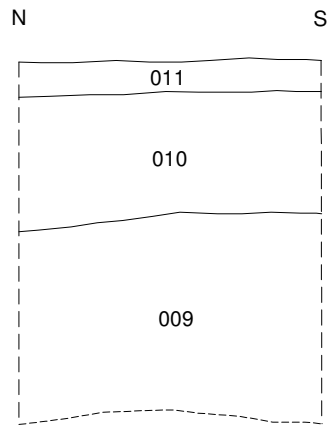


Figure 3 - Plan showing the extent of the access road and drainage works

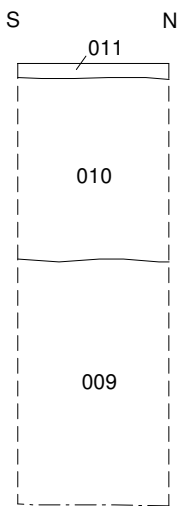


Section 1

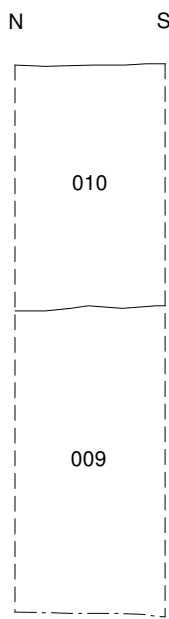


Section 2

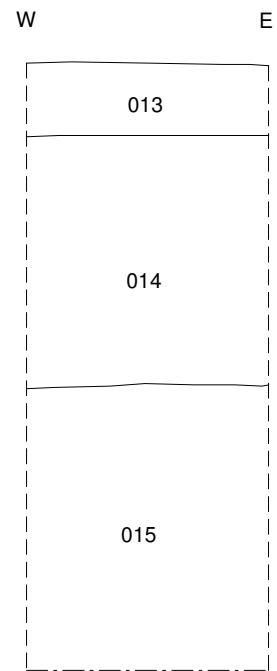
Trench backfilled to this level



Section 3



Section 4



Section 5



Archaeological Project Services

Project Name: Mill Lane, Martin MAML07

Scale 1:25

Drawn by: PCF

Report No: 93/07

Figure 4 - Sections 1 to 5



Plate 1 – General view of the Access Road area, looking southwest



Plate 2 – Section 1, looking north



Plate 3 – View looking along the route of the drainage trench, looking southwest



Plate 4 – Section 2, looking southeast



Plate 5 – Section 4, looking southeast



Plate 6 – Section 5, looking northwest

Appendix 1

CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

No.	Description	Interpretation
001	Firm to friable light brown limestone fragments, 50mm thick	Hardstanding
002	Friable mid purplish brown sand and ash with frequent gravel, 50mm thick	Levelling deposit
003	Friable mid brown brick fragments and gravel, 0.1m thick	Levelling deposit
004	Friable black silty ash, 50mm thick	Dumped deposit
005	Friable light brown sand, 40mm thick	Levelling deposit
006	Friable mid to dark brown silty sand, 0.22m thick	Former topsoil
007	Hard dark yellow, with brown mottling, sand, >0.24m thick	Natural deposit
008	Unstratified finds retrieval	
009	Plastic light reddish yellow sandy clay with frequent chalk fragments, >0.7m thick	Natural deposit
010	Loose dark greyish brown sand, 0.41m thick	Subsoil
011	Loose dark greyish brown humic sand, 0.11m thick	Topsoil
012	Unstratified finds retrieval	
013	Friable mid grey sandy silt with frequent gravel, 0.23m thick	Topsoil
014	Friable mid greyish brown sandy silt with frequent gravel, 0.81m thick	Subsoil
015	Friable dark yellow sand, >0.93m thick	Natural deposit
016	Unstratified finds retrieval	

Appendix 2 - The Pottery

ANNE BOYLE

context	cname	full name	form type	sherds	vessels	weight	decoration	part	description	date
004	BS	Brown stoneware	hollow	1	1	6		base		
004	CREA	Creamware	bowl / dish	1	1	2		rim	flake; patchy soot	
004	NCBW	19th-century Buff ware	bowl / dish	1	1	7		base	abraded; patchy soot	
004	NOTS	Nottingham stoneware	hollow	1	1	1	incised horizontal lines	BS	patchy soot	
004	PEARL	Pearlware	plate / bowl	1	1	1	blue transfer print	BS		
004	PEARL	Pearlware	plate / dish	1	1	4	blue transfer print chinoiserie	base		
004	PEARL	Pearlware	dish / bowl	1	1	3	blue sponge design	base		
004	PEARL	Pearlware	dish / bowl	1	1	3	blue transfer print	base		
004	PEARL	Pearlware	plate / dish	1	1	2		base		
004	PEARL	Pearlware	plate / dish	2	1	8	blue transfer print chinoiserie	base	flakes; fe concretion; patchy soot	
004	PEARL	Pearlware	bowl / dish	1	1	6	blue transfer print	rim	fe concretion; patchy soot	
004	PEARL	Pearlware	bowl / dish	1	1	1	blue transfer print	rim		
004	PEARL	Pearlware	plate / bowl	1	1	1	blue transfer print	BS	patchy soot	
004	PEARL	Pearlware	bowl / dish	1	1	4	blue transfer print	base	abraded; patchy soot	
004	PEARL	Pearlware	dish / bowl	1	1	10	blue transfer print	base		
004	PEARL	Pearlware	?	1	1	1	blue transfer print	BS		
004	WHITE	Modern whiteware	flat	1	1	4	blue transfer print	BS	flake	

context	cname	full name	form type	sherds	vessels	weight	decoration	part	description	date
004	WHITE	Modern whiteware	cup	2	1	6	moulded and black transfer print and red paint; yellow banded rim	BS	external soot	
004	WHITE	Modern whiteware	bowl / dish	1	1	1	blue transfer print	rim		
004	WHITE	Modern whiteware	bowl / dish	1	1	3	blue transfer print	BS		
004	WHITE	Modern whiteware	plate / dish	3	1	7	blue transfer print	base	flakes	
004	WHITE	Modern whiteware	?	1	1	1	blue transfer print	base	blue transfer print	
004	WHITE	Modern whiteware	flat	1	1	8		base	abraded; patchy soot	
004	WHITE	Modern whiteware	dish / bowl	2	1	4	blue transfer print	rim		
004	WHITE	Modern whiteware	dish / bowl	5	1	13		BS	patchy soot; ? same vessel	
004	WHITE	Modern whiteware	plate	1	1	6	blue transfer print	rim	flake; patchy soot	
008	ENGS	Unspecified English Stoneware	hollow	1	1	4	internal yellow Bristol glaze	BS		19th to 20th
008	LSW2	13th to 14th century Lincoln Glazed Ware	jug	1	1	5		BS		13th to 14th
016	BL	Black-glazed wares	bowl	1	1	69		rim		late 18th to 19th

Appendix 2 - The Ceramic Building Material

ANNE BOYLE

context	cname	full name	frags	weight	description	date
016	CBM	Ceramic building material	7	19	very abraded	medieval to modern
016	MODTIL	Modern tile	1	2	abraded	late 19th to 20th

MAML07 DATING ARCHIVE

ANNE BOYLE

context	date
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004	19th to 20th
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008	unstratified
-----	--------------

016	unstratified
-----	--------------

Appendix 3

THE OTHER FINDS

by Jennifer Kitch and Gary Taylor

A small quantity of other artefacts, comprising 2 pieces of industrial residue weighing a total of 6g, was retrieved. Faunal remains were also recovered.

The excavated animal bone assemblage comprises of 1 stratified fragment of bone weighing 33g. The animal bone was identified by reference to published catalogues. No attempt is made to sex or age animals represented within the assemblage, although where this is readily apparent is noted in the comments column.

Provenance

The material was recovered as unstratified material (016).

Range

The range of material is detailed in the tables.

Table 1: Artefacts

Context	Material	Description	No.	Wt (g)	Context Date
016	Industrial residue	Iron smithing slag	2	6	Post-medieval

Table 2: The Faunal Remains

Context	Species	Bone	No.	Wt (g)	Comments
012	Sheep/Goat	Femur	1	33	Large, post-medieval/modern?

Condition

All the material is in good condition and presents no long-term storage problems. Archive storage of the collection is by material class.

Documentation

There have been few previous archaeological investigations at Martin. Details of archaeological sites and discoveries in the area are maintained in the Lincolnshire County Council Sites and Monuments Record.

Potential

The small collection of industrial residue is of limited local potential and significance. It does not necessarily indicated iron smithing in the area, as such slag was used as hardcore for tracks, *etc.*

Appendix 4

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).
Dumped deposits	These are deposits, often laid down intentionally, that raise a land surface. They may be the result of casual waste disposal or may be deliberate attempts to raise the ground surface.
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.

Appendix 5

THE ARCHIVE

The archive consists of:

16	Context records
1	Photographic record sheet
3	Sheets 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: 2007.56

Archaeological Project Services Site Code: MAML 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.

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