

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF  
AT STATION ROAD,  
METHERINGHAM,  
LINCOLNSHIRE  
(MSRF 07)**

**Work Undertaken For  
Anglian Water Services Limited**

September 2007

Report Compiled by  
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**ARCHAEOLOGICAL PROJECT SERVICES**



APS Report No. **110/07**



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## 1. SUMMARY

*A watching brief was undertaken during groundworks at Station Road, Metheringham, Lincolnshire. The watching brief monitored the excavation of service trenches associated with new flood alleviation works.*

*The site lies close to an area from which coins and pottery of the Romano-British period (AD 43-410) have been recovered. Located to the west of the site is the medieval (AD 1066-1540) core of the village, represented by the 12<sup>th</sup> century church of St Wilfrid and a 14<sup>th</sup> century cross.*

*The watching brief revealed a sequence of natural solid and drift geology sealed by topsoil. A stone-lined well of possible post-medieval date was also recorded. No other features were observed and no artefacts recorded.*

## 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 Anglian Water Services Limited to undertake an archaeological watching brief during groundworks associated with new flood alleviation works at Station Road, Metheringham, Lincolnshire. The watching brief was carried out between the 9<sup>th</sup> July and 3<sup>rd</sup>

August 2007 in accordance with a specification prepared by Archaeological Project Services (Appendix 1) and approved by the Historic Environment Team Leader, Lincolnshire County Council.

### 2.3 Topography and Geology

Metheringham is located 14km southeast of Lincoln and 15km north of Sleaford in the administrative district of North Kesteven, Lincolnshire (Fig. 1).

The flood alleviation works are being undertaken 400m east of the centre of the village as defined by the parish church of St Wilfrid at National Grid Reference TF 0742 6132 (Fig. 2). The works are located on the north side of Station Road close to the junction with Caroline Road. The site lies at a height of 11m OD on land that slopes gently down to the east, towards the Witham valley.

Local soils are of the Isleham 2 Association, typically deep permeable sandy soils (Hodge *et al.* 1984, 277). These soils are developed on a drift geology of sand and gravel which overlies a solid geology of Jurassic Great Oolite Limestone (BGS 1973).

### 2.4 Archaeological Setting

Metheringham is located in an area of known archaeological remains dating from the Romano-British period to the present day. Romano-British coins and pottery have been found at several locations around the village.

Metheringham is first mentioned in the Domesday Survey of c. 1086. Referred to as *Medricesham*, the name is derived from the Old English and means either ‘Mēdrīc’s homestead’ or ‘the homestead of Mēdrīc’s people’ (Cameron 1998, 88). The Domesday Survey records that the land was held by Earl Hugh, Walter de Aincurt, Robert of Stafford and Sortebrand and

contained three mills and a church as well as 470 acres of meadow and 191 acres of underwood (Foster and Longley 1976).

Extant remains of the medieval period are restricted to the church and a cross. St Wilfrid's church dates to the 12<sup>th</sup> century, presumably replacing the church mentioned in Domesday, although was heavily restored following a fire in 1599 (DoE 1985, 10). The cross, a Scheduled Ancient Monument, dates to the 14<sup>th</sup> century and was moved here from its original position (Pevsner and Harris 1989, 562).

Located 150m to the west lies the site of a former moated enclosure, now levelled and built over. Referred to as Hall Garth, this possibly represents the site of one of the former manors of Metheringham.

A watching brief undertaken opposite the church identified an undated pit and posthole sealed by a post-medieval subsoil (Cope-Faulkner 2000, 1).

### 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 service trenches topsoil was partially stripped from the vicinity of the groundworks. Trenches were then excavated by machine to depths of up to 2.3m below the present ground level. Due to the depths of the trenches, recording and observations were made from the side of the trench. 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.

At the eastern end of the groundworks, the earliest deposit encountered comprised grey silty clay with small gravel (003). This measured in excess of 1.1m thick.

Towards the western extent, the earliest deposit was bluish grey stone (005) which measured over 0.86m thick.

Sealing these deposits were layers of mottled yellow and yellowish brown sand and gravel (002) and yellowish brown sand (004).

Located on the north side of the works (Fig. 3) was a circular cut (006) measuring 1.05m in diameter. Within the cut was a limestone lining (007) forming a well. This had been capped by a limestone slab (008).

Sealing all deposits was a topsoil of greyish brown clayey silt (001) that measured up to 0.6m thick.

## 6. DISCUSSION

Natural deposits comprised bedrock, along with a possible outcrop of glacially derived till. Both had been sealed by sand and gravel layers, perhaps also derived

from glacial activity.

A well was also located though is undated. However, the site falls within a small plot of land containing a building and garden on 19<sup>th</sup> century maps and it is possible that the well was associated with this.

No other archaeological features were identified and no artefacts were retrieved from the investigation.

## 7. CONCLUSION

A watching brief was undertaken at Station Road, Metheringham, as the site lay close to the core of the medieval village and in an area where Romano-British finds have previously been made.

However, only a sequence of natural deposits, a probable post-medieval well and topsoil deposits were encountered during the watching brief.

No artefacts were retrieved during the investigation.

## 8. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeological Project Services wishes to acknowledge the assistance of Mr P Mosome of Anglian Water Services Limited for commissioning the fieldwork and post-excavation analysis. Thanks are also due to Mr B Charlton of Barhale Construction for providing access to the site. Steve Malone coordinated the work and edited this report along with Tom Lane. Jo Hambly, the North Kesteven Heritage Officer, allowed access to the parish files and library maintained by Heritage Lincolnshire.

## 9. PERSONNEL

Project Coordinator: Steve Malone  
Site Supervisors: Tom Bradley-Lovekin,

Mark Peachey, Jim Robertson  
Photographic reproduction: Sue Unsworth  
Illustration: Paul Cope-Faulkner  
Post-excavation analysis: Paul Cope-Faulkner

## 10. BIBLIOGRAPHY

BGS, 1973 *Lincoln: Solid and drift Geology*, 1:50 000 map sheet **114**

Cameron, K, 1998 *A Dictionary of Lincolnshire Place-Names*, English Place-Name Society Popular Series Vol. **1**

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DoE, 1985 *List of Buildings of Special Architectural or Historic Interest: District of North Kesteven*

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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**

IFA, 1999 *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs*

Pevsner, N and Harris, J, 1989 *Lincolnshire*, The Buildings of England (2<sup>nd</sup> edition, revised Antram, N)

## 11. ABBREVIATIONS

APS Archaeological Project Services  
BGS British Geological Survey  
DoE Department of the Environment

IFA Institute of Field Archaeologists





Figure 1 - General location plan



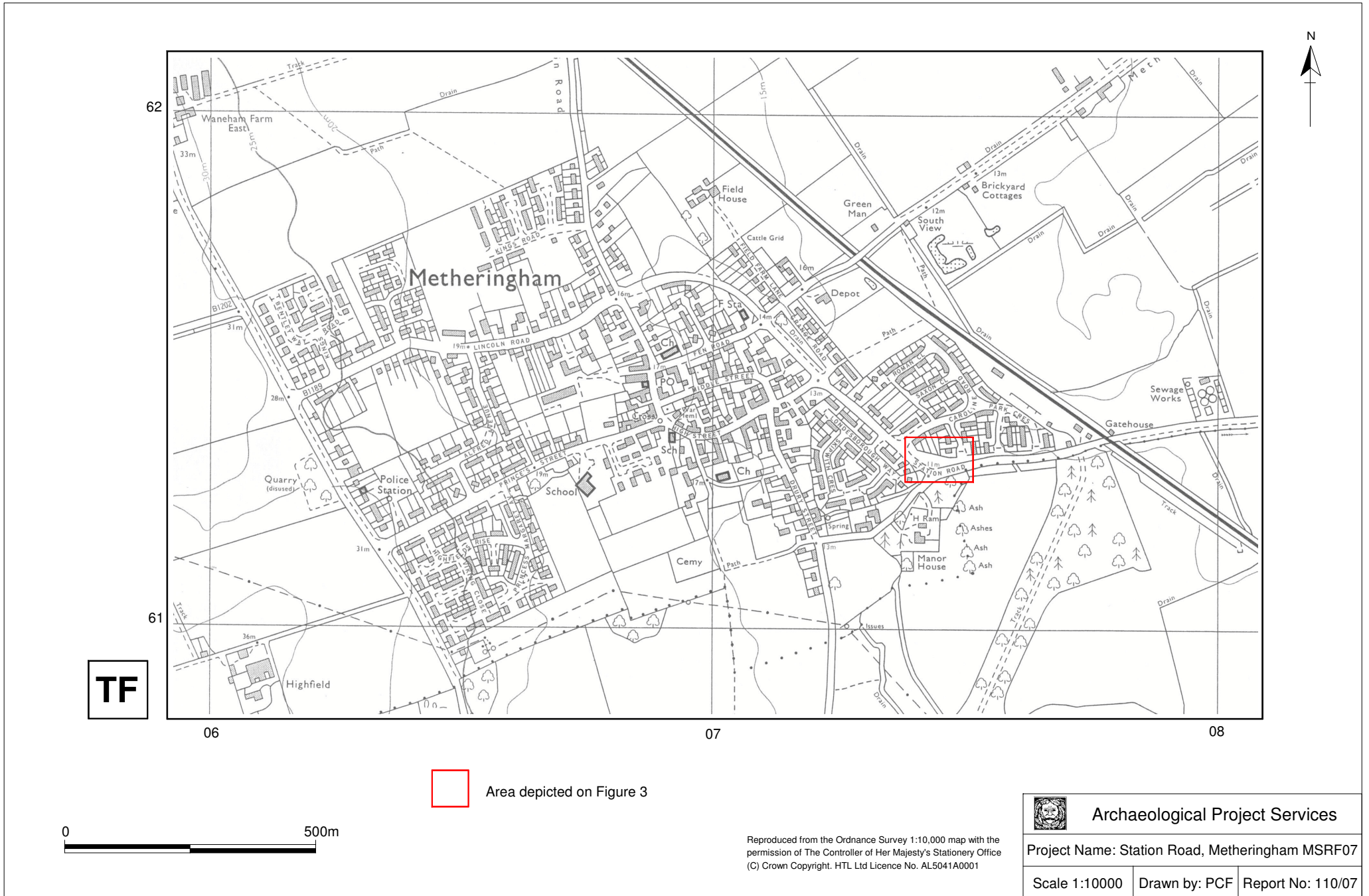


Figure 2 - Site location plan



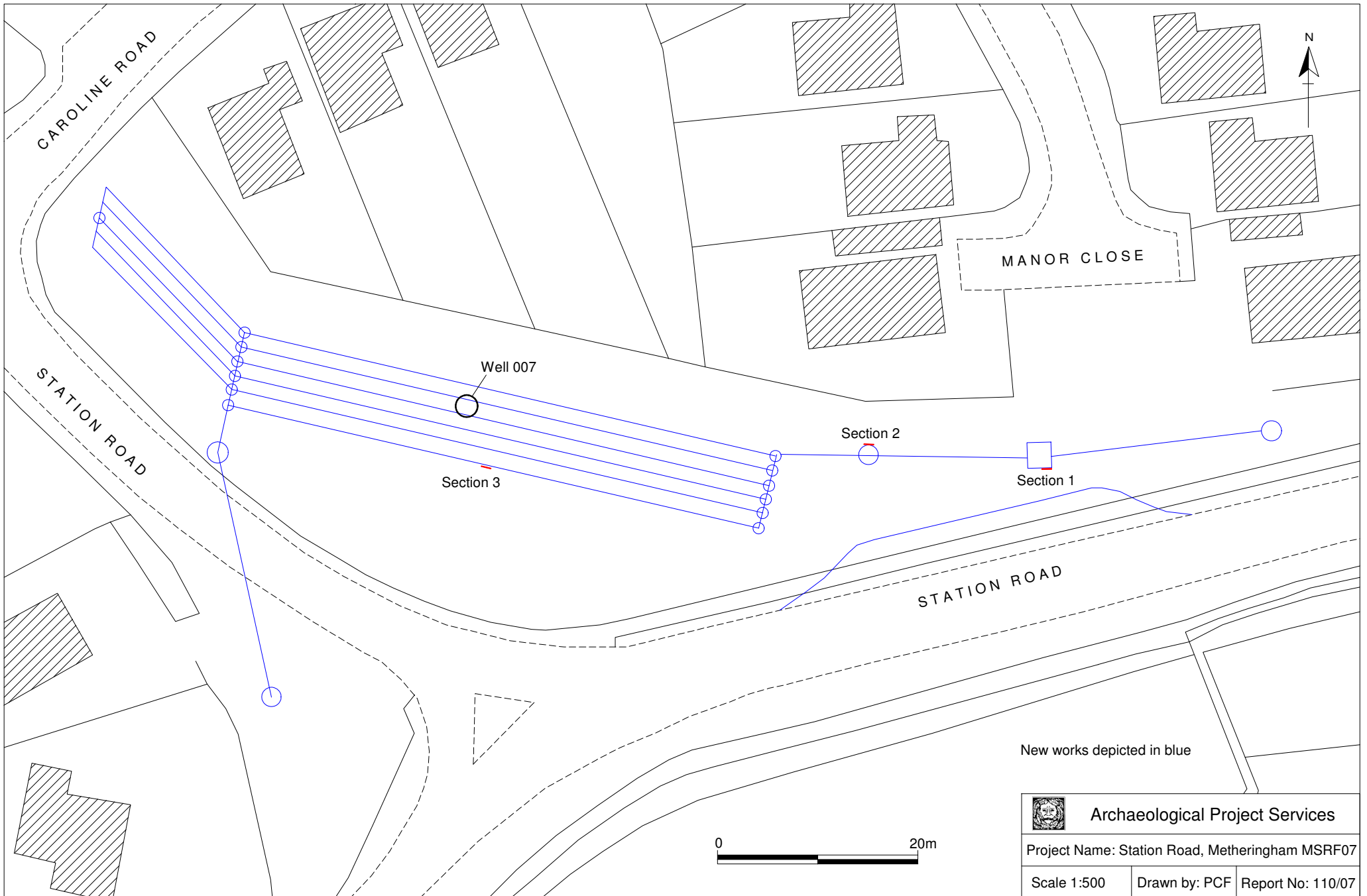
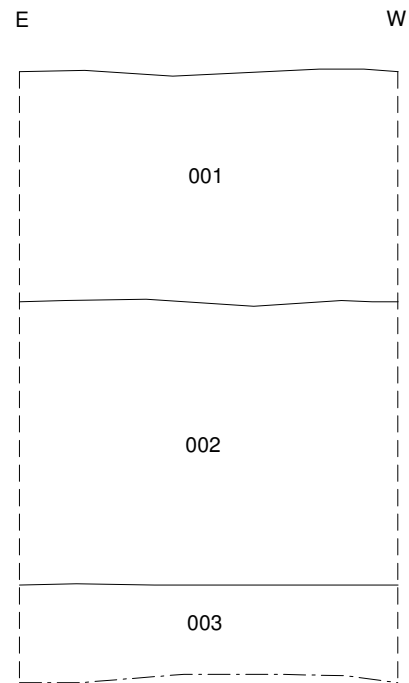
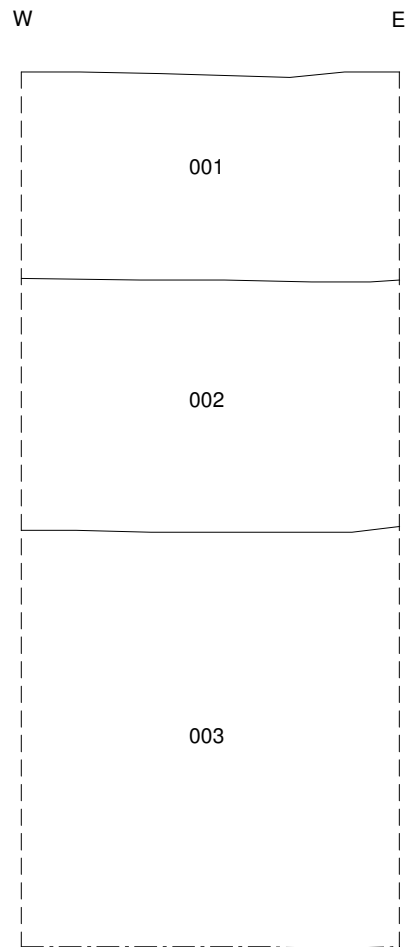


Figure 3 - Plan showing the extent of groundworks and location of drawn sections

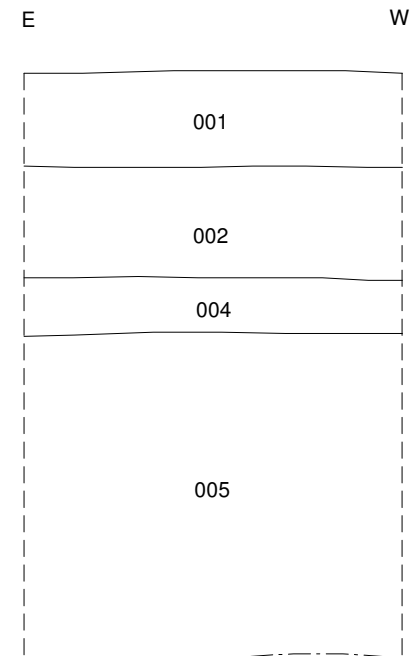




Section 1



Section 2



Section 3




 <b>Archaeological Project Services</b>		
Project Name: Station Road, Metheringham MSRF07		
Scale 1:20	Drawn by: PCF	Report No: 110/07

Figure 4 - Sections 1 to 3







Plate 1 – General view of the development area, looking east



Plate 2 – Section 1, looking south



Plate 3 – Section 2, looking north

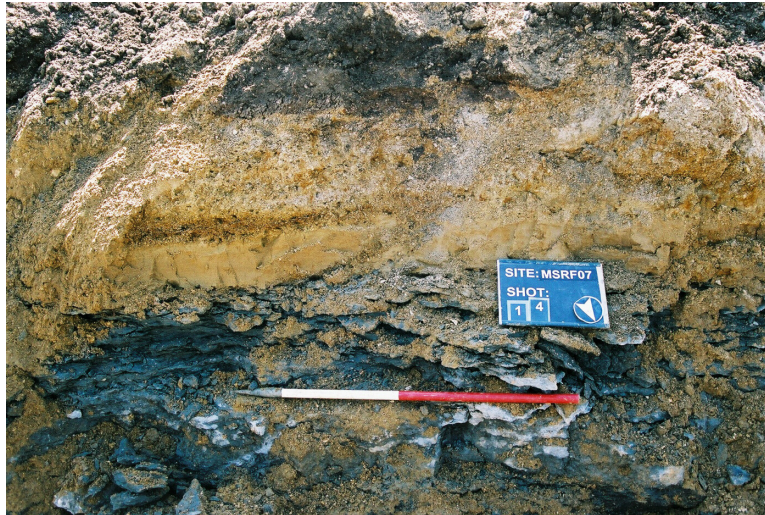


Plate 4 – Section 3, looking southwest



Plate 5 – Post-medieval well (007), looking south

## **Appendix 1**

### **FLOOD ALLEVIATION WORKS, STATION ROAD, METHERINGHAM, LINCOLNSHIRE - SPECIFICATION FOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF**

#### **1 SUMMARY**

- 1.1 *A watching brief is required flood alleviation works at Station Road, Metheringham, Lincolnshire.*
- 1.2 *The site lies in an area of archaeological potential close the Manor House and former moated site at Hall Garth.*
- 1.3 *The archaeological work will consist of a watching brief during 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 flood alleviation works at Station Road, Metheringham, Lincolnshire. The site is located at National Grid Reference TF 0742 6132.
- 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 Metheringham is located approximately 12km southeast of Lincoln, in the administrative district of North Kesteven. The site lies on the east side of the village at the junction of Station Road and Caroline Road. It is centred on National Grid Reference TF 0742 6132.

#### **4 BACKGROUND**

- 4.1 Anglian Water propose to construct a flood alleviation scheme comprising a water retention system of 6 bays @1050mm with pumping station and associated linking sewers and manholes. Lincolnshire County Council Archaeology Section has recommended that a watching-brief be undertaken during groundworks associated with the scheme.

#### **5 SOILS AND TOPOGRAPHY**

- 5.1 The site lies on the southeast side of Metheringham village at approximately 11m OD. Local soils are deep permeable sandy soils of the Isleham 2 Association, developed on glaciofluvial drift (Hodge *et al.* 1984, 277).

#### **6 ARCHAEOLOGICAL OVERVIEW**

- 6.1 The site lies on the edge of the historic core of Metheringham village, some 340m east of St Wilfred's Church close to the Manor House and just east of the former moated site at Hall Garth. There is potential for remains to survive related to the early development of the village.

## **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 excavations for the water retention system 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 the scheme, 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 Lincolnshire County Council Archaeology Section; North Kesteven District Council Planning Archaeologist; and to the County Council Archaeological Sites and Monuments Record. Details of the project will be entered onto the OASIS online database.

## **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 as a condensed article 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 Lincolnshire County Council Archaeology Section. 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 (*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 – M Darling, Independent Specialist Anglo-Saxon – A Boyle APS with J Young, Independent Specialist Medieval and later – A Boyle and G Taylor, APS
Non-pottery Artefacts	G Taylor, APS or J Cowgill, Independent Specialist
Animal Bones	J Kitch, APS
Environmental Analysis	V Fryer, 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 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**

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	Loose dark greyish brown clayey silt, 0.6m thick	Topsoil
002	Loose mottled light yellow and mid yellowish brown sand and gravel, 0.75m thick	Natural deposit
003	Soft mid grey silty clay with frequent small gravel, >1.1m thick	Natural deposit
004	Soft mid yellowish brown sand, 0.15m thick	Natural deposit
005	Indurated dark bluish grey stone, >0.86m thick	Natural deposit
006	Circular feature, 1.05m diameter by >1m deep, vertical sides, not fully excavated	Cut for (007)
007	Limestone (av. 220mm x 120mm x 60mm) structure), unbonded, roughly hewn in regular coursing	Well
008	Limestone (1.15m x 1.15m) slab	Capping for (007)



## Appendix 3

### GLOSSARY

<b>Boulder Clay</b>	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.
<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 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).
<b>Cut</b>	A cut refers to the physical action of digging a posthole, pit, ditch, foundation trench, <i>etc.</i> Once the fills of these features are removed during an archaeological investigation the original 'cut' is therefore exposed and subsequently recorded.
<b>Layer</b>	A layer is a term 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>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:

8	Context records
1	Photographic record sheet
4	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: 2007.146

Archaeological Project Services Site Code: MSRF 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.