

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF
OF GROUNDWORKS FOR
OVERHEAD CABLES,
HOLME TO MESSINGHAM,
NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE
(HMOL 07)**

**Work Undertaken For
Yorkshire Electricity Distribution
Services Limited**

December 2007

Report Compiled by
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National Grid Reference: SE 905 069 – SE 918 043
North Lincolnshire Site Code: HOAN
OASIS Record No: archaeo11-33100

ARCHAEOLOGICAL PROJECT SERVICES



APS Report No. **135/07**

Table of Contents

List of Figures

List of Plates

1.	SUMMARY	1
2.	INTRODUCTION.....	1
2.1	DEFINITION OF A WATCHING BRIEF.....	1
2.2	PLANNING BACKGROUND.....	1
2.3	TOPOGRAPHY AND GEOLOGY.....	1
2.4	ARCHAEOLOGICAL SETTING	1
3.	AIMS	2
4.	METHODS	2
5.	RESULTS	2
6.	DISCUSSION	2
7.	CONCLUSION	2
8.	ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	3
9.	PERSONNEL	3
10.	BIBLIOGRAPHY	3
11.	ABBREVIATIONS	3

Appendices

1. Specification for archaeological watching brief
2. Context descriptions
3. Glossary
4. The Archive

List of Figures

- Figure 1 General location map
- Figure 2 Site location plan
- Figure 3 Plan showing the location of recorded holes
- Figure 4 Section 1

List of Plates

- Plate 1 View showing the nature of the groundworks
- Plate 2 Hole No. 49 showing the sequence of deposits encountered

1. SUMMARY

A watching brief was undertaken during groundworks at Holme, North Lincolnshire. The watching brief monitored the excavation of holes for new poles during overhead cable replacement.

The groundworks occur in an area of cropmarks which are possibly Iron Age (800 BC-AD 43) or Romano-British (AD 43-410) in date. Groundworks also occur near to findspots of earlier prehistoric tools and Saxon (AD 410-1066) pottery. A medieval (AD 1066-1540) deserted village and the site of the grange also occur in the vicinity.

The watching brief revealed a sequence of natural blown sand and glacial till sealed by modern topsoil. No archaeological features or artefacts were retrieved during the investigation.

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 Yorkshire Electricity Distribution Services Limited to undertake an archaeological watching brief during groundworks associated with the replacement of overhead cables between Holme and Messingham, North Lincolnshire. The watching brief was carried out between the 17th and 22nd May

2007 in accordance with a specification prepared by Archaeological Project Services (Appendix 1) and approved by the North Lincolnshire Sites and Monuments Officer.

Due to the restricted nature of the groundworks, the visibility of, and disturbance to, potential archaeological deposits was very limited. This was communicated to the North Lincolnshire Sites and Monuments Officer, who agreed to early termination of the monitoring requirement.

2.3 Topography and Geology

Holme is located 2km southwest of Scunthorpe, North Lincolnshire (Fig. 1).

The monitored groundworks occur from near Holme Hall at National Grid Reference SE 905 069, crossing the motorway southward to Slate House at SE 908 057 and via Twigmoor Hall at SE 930 062 to Belle Vue Farm at SE 918 043 (Fig. 2). The works occur on gently undulating ground at heights of between c. 15-30m OD.

Local soils are of the Newport 1 Association and Blackwood Association, both typically sandy and coarse loamy soils (Hodge *et al.* 1984). These soils are developed on intermittent drift deposits of blown sand which in turn seals a solid geology of Jurassic Lower Lias Scunthorpe Mudstones (GSGB 1972).

2.4 Archaeological Setting

The works occur in an area of known archaeological remains dating from the prehistoric period to the present day. A Later Upper Palaeolithic scraper was found in the vicinity of Belle Vue Farm and other flint tools of Mesolithic to Bronze Age date are known from the vicinity.

The site lies in an area of extensive

cropmarks, including settlement enclosures of Iron Age or Roman date near Holme Farm, field systems near Belle Vue Farm, and enclosures containing hut circles near Slate House Farm.

Saxon pottery was retrieved from an area east of Belle Vue Farm.

Holme is first mentioned in the mid 11th century and again in the Domesday Survey of c. 1086. Referred to as both *Holme* and *Holm*, the name is derived from the Old Norse *holmr*, meaning an island, usually an area of higher ground in low lying land (Cameron 1998, 65). At the time of the Domesday Survey the land was held by Peterborough Abbey and contained a mill and 12 acres of underwood (Foster and Longley 1976).

Peterborough Abbey's holding was consolidated into a grange, located at Twigmoor Grange which was held by the abbey until 1216 when it was conveyed to Louth Park Abbey (Owen 1981, 61).

Holme was formerly located to the west of the present settlement, in the region of Holme Hall. Raventhorpe and Twigmoor also represent the sites of deserted villages in the vicinity.

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

Postholes were excavated for an overhead power line using a wheeled JCB with a boring attachment (Plate 1). 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 a section was 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.

Of the monitored new boreholes, the same sequences were identified in each. These comprised natural layers of grey clay (003) overlain by a 1.4m thick deposit of brown silty sand (002). Sealing these deposits was the current topsoil of brown silty sand (001) that was 0.2m thick (Fig. 4, Section 1).

6. DISCUSSION

The watching brief identified only natural deposits and topsoil. Natural deposits may comprise decayed mudstone overlain by blown sand. No archaeological deposits were identified, due largely to the limited size of the groundworks, and no artefacts were retrieved during the investigation.

7. CONCLUSION

A watching brief was undertaken during groundworks in Holme and part of Messingham as they lay within areas of cropmarks.

However, only natural and topsoil deposits were identified with no archaeology

revealed. No artefacts were observed or recovered from the watching brief.

8. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeological Project Services wishes to acknowledge the assistance of Mr S Gray of Yorkshire Electricity Distribution Services Limited for commissioning the fieldwork and post-excavation analysis. The work was coordinated by Gary Taylor who edited this report along with Tom Lane. Dave Start kindly allowed access to the library maintained by Heritage Lincolnshire.

9. PERSONNEL

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

10. BIBLIOGRAPHY

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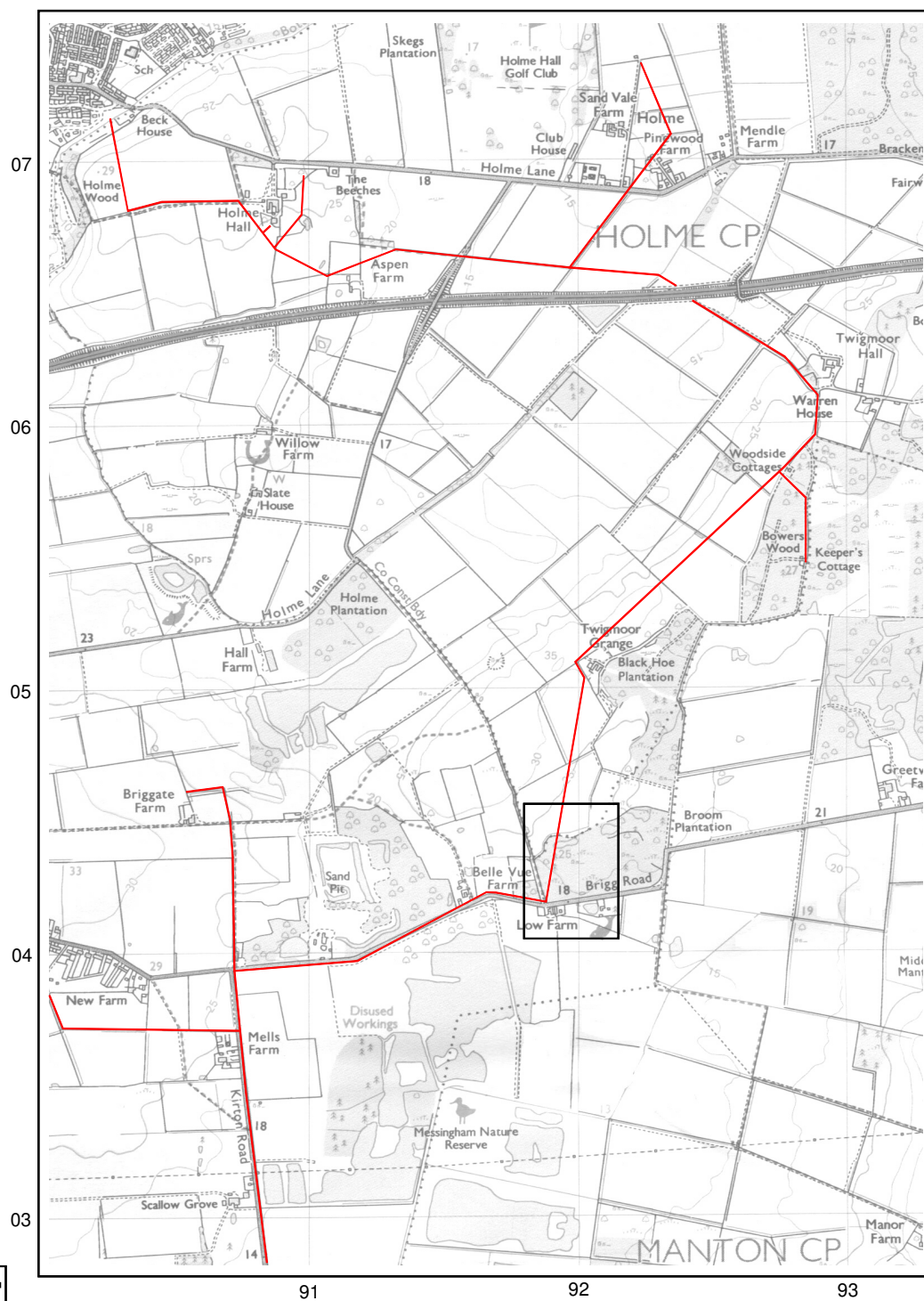
Owen, DM, 1981 *Church and Society in Medieval Lincolnshire*, History of Lincolnshire Vol. **V**

11. ABBREVIATIONS



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



Figure 1 - General Location Plan



SE

-  Overhead line rebuild
-  Area detailed in Figure 3



Reproduced from the Ordnance Survey 1:25,000 map with the permission of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office
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 Archaeological Project Services		
Project Name: Holme/Messingham HMOL07		
Scale 1:25000	Drawn by: PCF	Report No: 135/07

Figure 2 - Site location plan

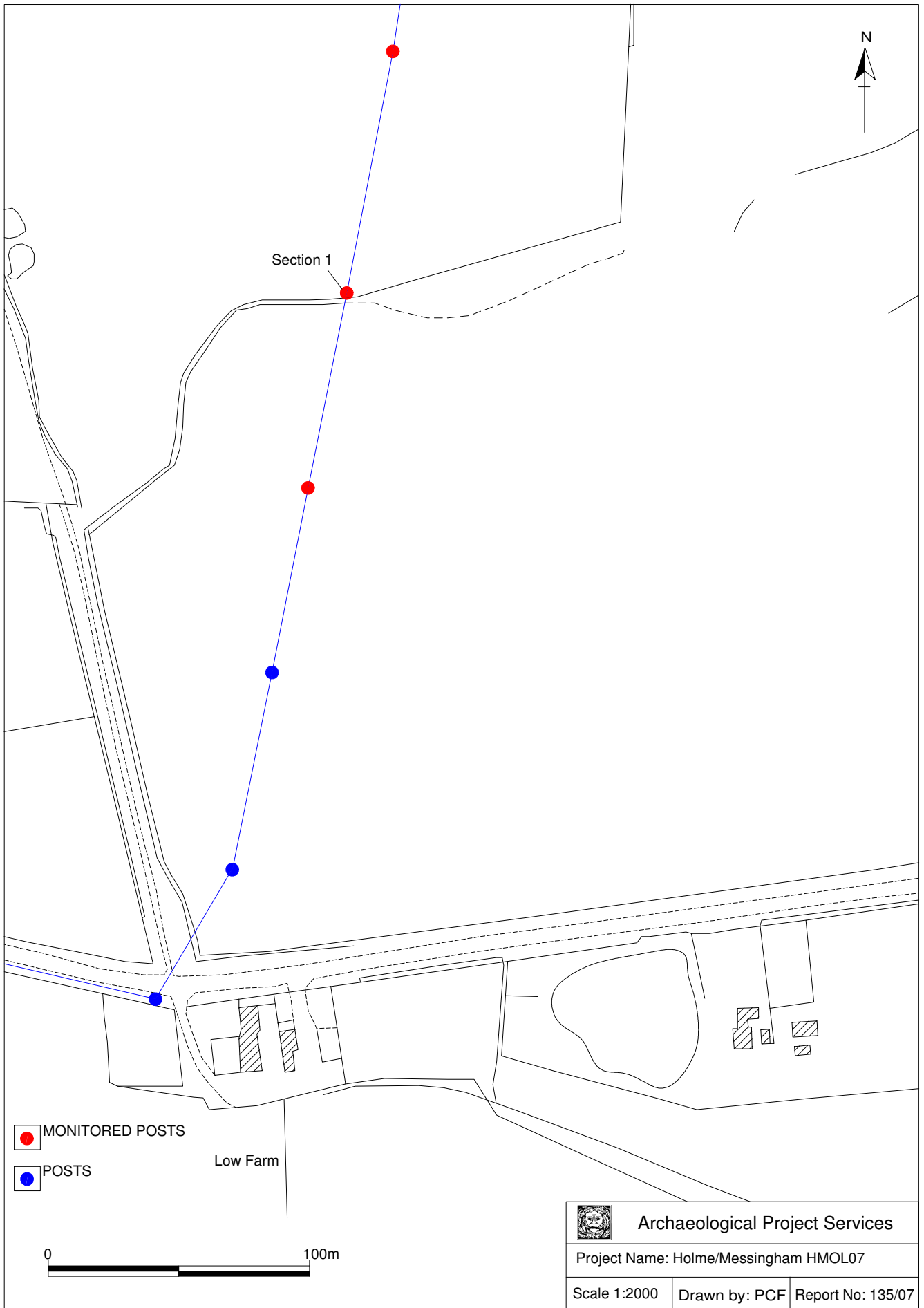
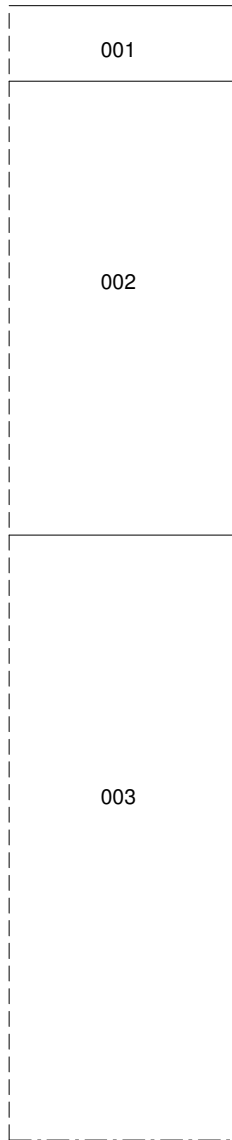


Figure 3 - Plan showing the location of recorded holes



Section 1



Archaeological Project Services

Project Name: Holme/Messingham HMOL07

Scale 1:20

Drawn by: PCF

Report No: 135/07

Figure 4 - Section 1



Plate 1 – View showing the nature of the groundworks



Plate 2 – Hole No. 49 showing the sequence of deposits encountered

Appendix 1

HOLME-MESSINGHAM OVERHEAD LINE REPLACEMENT, NR. SCUNTHORPE, NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE - SPECIFICATION FOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

1 SUMMARY

- 1.1 *A watching brief is required during work on an electricity line on land between Holme and Messingham, near Scunthorpe, North Lincolnshire.*
- 1.2 *The site lies in an area of known archaeological significance. Parts of the route cross areas containing cropmarks of probable Iron Age and Roman settlement, evident as enclosures and ring ditches. Prehistoric and Saxon artefacts have also been found in the area and there is a deserted medieval settlement site at Holme.*
- 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 works on an electricity line on land between Holme and Messingham, North 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 overhead line is located about 2km northeast of Messingham in Holme parish. Loops of the route run from near Holme Hall, on the north side of the M180 at National Grid Reference SE 905 069, crossing the motorway southward to Slate House at SE 908 057 and via Twigmoor Hall at SE 930 062 to Belle Vue Farm at SE 918 043.

4 PLANNING BACKGROUND

- 4.1 Yorkshire Electricity need to carry out necessary works on electricity lines. Parts of the route cross areas of archaeological remains. North Lincolnshire Council have advised that a watching brief be undertaken during groundworks.

5 SOILS AND TOPOGRAPHY

- 5.1 The route lies on gently undulating land between about 20-30m OD. The route crosses soils of the Newport 1 and Blackwood Associations, both sandy and coarse loamy soils developed on glaciofluvial drift (Hodge *et al.* 1984).

6 ARCHAEOLOGICAL OVERVIEW

- 6.1 The powerline route crosses, or comes close, to a variety of archaeological remains. Near Holme Farm are cropmarks of settlement enclosures of perhaps Iron Age-Roman date, and the site of

Holme deserted medieval settlement. Near Twigmoor Hall are further settlement cropmarks. In the vicinity of Belle Vue Farm are findspots of Saxon and prehistoric artefacts, as well as cropmarks of possible field systems. By Slate House is an extensive cropmark complex with enclosures containing hut circles, perhaps of Iron Age date.

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 excavations.

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 and to North Lincolnshire 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 North Lincolnshire Museum, Scunthorpe. This sorting will be undertaken according to the *Guidelines for deposition of Archaeological Archives with North Lincolnshire Museum*.

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 North Lincolnshire Site and Monuments Record. 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

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	Soft mid brown silty sand, 0.2m thick	Topsoil
002	Firm mid brown silty sand, 1.4m deep	Natural
003	Firm mid grey clay, >1.6m thick	Natural deposit

Appendix 3

GLOSSARY

Bronze Age	A period characterised by the introduction of bronze into the country for tools, between 2250 and 800 BC.
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 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, <i>e.g.</i> [004].
Cropmark	A mark that is produced by the effect of underlying archaeological or geological features influencing the growth of a particular crop.
Domesday Survey	A survey of property ownership in England compiled on the instruction of William I for taxation purposes in 1086 AD.
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 an accumulation of soil or other material that is not contained within a cut
Medieval	The Middle Ages, dating from approximately AD 1066-1500.
Mesolithic	The 'Middle Stone Age' period, part of the prehistoric era, dating from approximately 11000 - 4500 BC.
Natural	Undisturbed deposit(s) of soil or rock which have accumulated without the influence of human activity
Neolithic	The 'New Stone Age' period, part of the prehistoric era, dating from approximately 4500 - 2250 BC.
Palaeolithic	The 'Old Stone Age' period, part of the prehistoric era, dating from approximately 500000 - 11000 BC in Britain.
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 1st century AD.
Romano-British	Pertaining to the period dating from AD 43-410 when the Romans occupied Britain.
Saxon	Pertaining to the period dating from AD 410-1066 when England was largely settled by tribes from northern Germany.
Till	A deposit formed after the retreat of a glacier. Also known as boulder clay, this material is generally unsorted and can comprise of rock flour to boulders to rocks of quite substantial size.

Appendix 4

THE ARCHIVE

The archive consists of:

3	Context records
1	Photographic record sheet
1	Scale drawing sheet
1	Watching Brief report

All primary records and finds 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:

North Lincolnshire Museum
Oswald Road
Scunthorpe

The archive will be deposited in format acceptable to North Lincolnshire Museums Service.

Archaeological Project Services Site Code: HMOL07

North Lincolnshire Museums Accession No.: HOAN

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 necessarily 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.