

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF  
AT WEST LANE,  
REVESBY,  
LINCOLNSHIRE  
(REWL 07)**

**Work Undertaken For  
Jackson Civil Engineering Limited**

January 2008

Report Compiled by  
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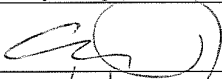
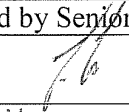
**ARCHAEOLOGICAL PROJECT SERVICES**



APS Report No. **6/08**

**Quality Control**  
 West Lane Bridge,  
 Revesby  
 REWL 07

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Date: 15/1/08	Date: 16-1-08

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## 1. SUMMARY

*A watching brief was undertaken during groundworks at West Lane Bridge, Revesby, Lincolnshire. The watching brief monitored the excavation of two trenches for the piers of a new bridge.*

*The site lies south of the medieval (AD 1066-1540) Revesby Abbey which was founded in 1142 for a community of Cistercian monks. The abbey was relatively wealthy in the 13<sup>th</sup> century and was eventually dissolved in 1538. Bronze Age (2250-800 BC) stone tools and several barrows are known from the vicinity and Romano-British (AD42-410) pottery has also been identified in the parish.*

*The watching brief identified only natural deposits of glaciofluvial or alluvial origin which were sealed beneath a modern farm track and sections of the present bridge. No finds 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 Jackson Civil Engineering Limited to undertake an archaeological watching brief during groundworks associated with the construction of a new bridge at West Lane, Revesby, Lincolnshire. Approval for the

works was submitted through planning application S/140/02776/06. The watching brief was carried out between the 21<sup>st</sup> February and 1<sup>st</sup> March 2007.

### 2.3 Topography and Geology

Revesby is located 9km southeast of Horncastle and 18km north of Boston in the administrative district of East Lindsey, Lincolnshire (Fig. 1).

West Lane Bridge is located 1km south of the centre of Revesby as defined by the parish church of St Lawrence at National Grid Reference TF 2956 6046 (Fig. 2). The site lies at a height of c. 2m OD close to the northern fen-edge.

Local soils are of the Blackwood Association, typically sandy gley soils (Hodge *et al.* 1984). These are developed upon a drift geology of glaciofluvial sands and gravels which in turn seal a solid geology of Jurassic Ancholme Group deposits (BGS 1995).

### 2.4 Archaeological Setting

Revesby is located in an area of known remains dating from the prehistoric period to the present day. Various stone tools of Bronze Age date are known from the parish and two barrows, formerly three, east of Revesby are believed to be Bronze Age also.

Pottery of the Romano-British period was retrieved from an area northwest of the village centre.

Revesby is first mentioned in the Domesday Survey of c. 1086. Referred to as *Resvebi*, the name is derived from the Old Scandinavian and means ‘the village or farmstead (*bý*) belonging to *Refr*’ (Cameron 1998, 101). Domesday records that the land was held by Ivo Taillebois and was assessed along with East Kirkby and that 2 churches and 180 acres of

meadow were recorded for both (Foster and Longley 1976, 14/82).

There are no extant remains of the medieval period. To the north of the site are the earthwork remains of Revesby Abbey. This was a Cistercian abbey founded in 1142 by William de Romara, lord of Bolingbroke, who became a monk at the abbey and was eventually buried there (Page 1906, 141). Excavations undertaken in the 19<sup>th</sup> century revealed part of the cloister, nave and the south transept of the church (Barker 1869). The abbey was relatively wealthy during the 13<sup>th</sup> century and was eventually dissolved in 1538 and the land passed to Charles Brandon, Duke of Suffolk (Stanhope 1889, 36).

A chapel associated with the abbey was located where the present church of St. Lawrence now stands. When the church was built in 1891, a ceramic reliquary of 14<sup>th</sup> century date was found (Pevsner and Harris 1989, 610). The church also contains 12<sup>th</sup> century and later stonework from the abbey (*ibid.*).

A bridge is recorded on maps at this location from at least the late 18<sup>th</sup> century.

### 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

Two trenches were excavated by machine on either side of the catchwater drain to accommodate the new piers for the new bridge. The trenches were excavated to depths of 4m, beyond the safe working limit, and all observations were undertaken

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 1. A photographic record was compiled and a section was drawn at a scale of 1:20. Recording was undertaken according to standard Archaeological Project Services' practice.

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

### 5. RESULTS

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

The earliest deposit encountered in the base of the trench was a layer of grey clayey silt (003). This measured in excess of 2m thick. This was sealed by a layer of greenish grey sand and clay (002) that was up to 1.8m thick.

Sealing all deposits was a 0.8m to 1m thick layer of brownish grey silty clay containing modern brick and concrete fragments (001) of the track. Though not recorded, the brick foundations of the current bridge were identified in the northern pier pit.

### 6. DISCUSSION

Natural deposits of clayey silt, sand and clay relate to the underlying drift geology of glaciofluvial deposits, though may also be associated with more recent alluvial activity. This was sealed by hardstanding of the modern farm track. Other than parts of the existing bridge, no archaeological

deposits were encountered and no finds retrieved from the investigation.

## 7. CONCLUSION

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken at West Lane Bridge, Revesby, as the site lay close to a medieval abbey and in an area where prehistoric and Romano-British remains have previously been recorded.

However, no archaeological features were identified and only natural and recent deposits were encountered. No artefacts were retrieved from the investigation.

## 8. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeological Project Services wishes to acknowledge the assistance of Mr R Hunt of Jackson Civil Engineering Limited for commissioning the fieldwork and post-excavation analysis. The work was coordinated by Mark Williams. Gary Taylor edited this report along with Tom Lane. Dave Start kindly allowed access to the parish files and library maintained by Heritage Lincolnshire.

## 9. PERSONNEL

Project Coordinator: Mark Williams  
 Site Supervisors: Ray Holt, Mark Peachey  
 Photographic reproduction: Sue Unsworth  
 Illustration: Paul Cope-Faulkner  
 Post-excavation analysis: Paul Cope-Faulkner

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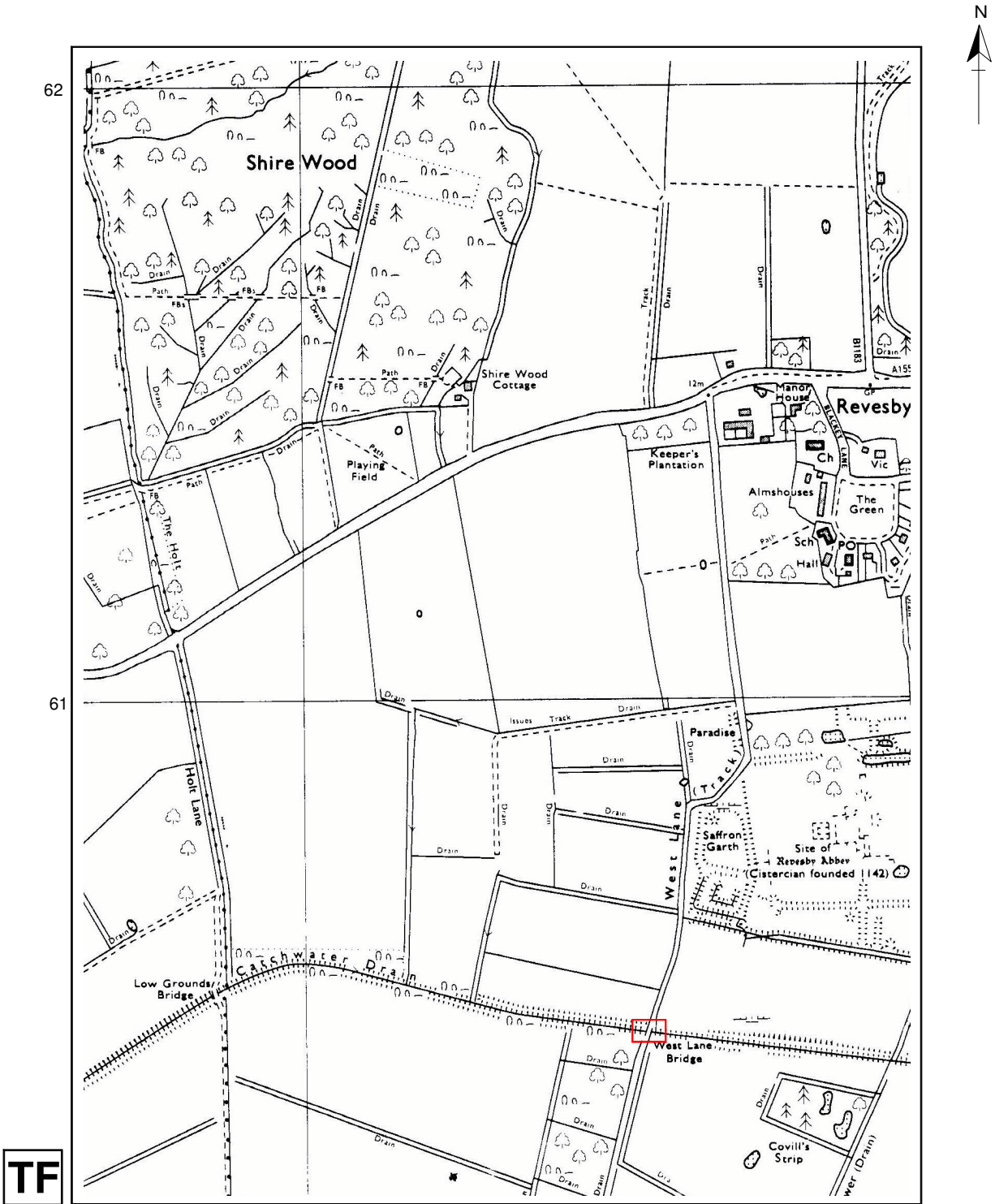
## 11. ABBREVIATIONS

APS Archaeological Project Services  
 BGS British Geological Survey  
 IFA Institute of Field Archaeologists



Figure 1 - General location plan





TF

29

Area detailed in Figure 3

Reproduced from the Ordnance Survey 1:10,000 map with the permission of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office  
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Scale 1:10000	Drawn by: PCF	Report No: 6/08

Figure 2 - Site location plan

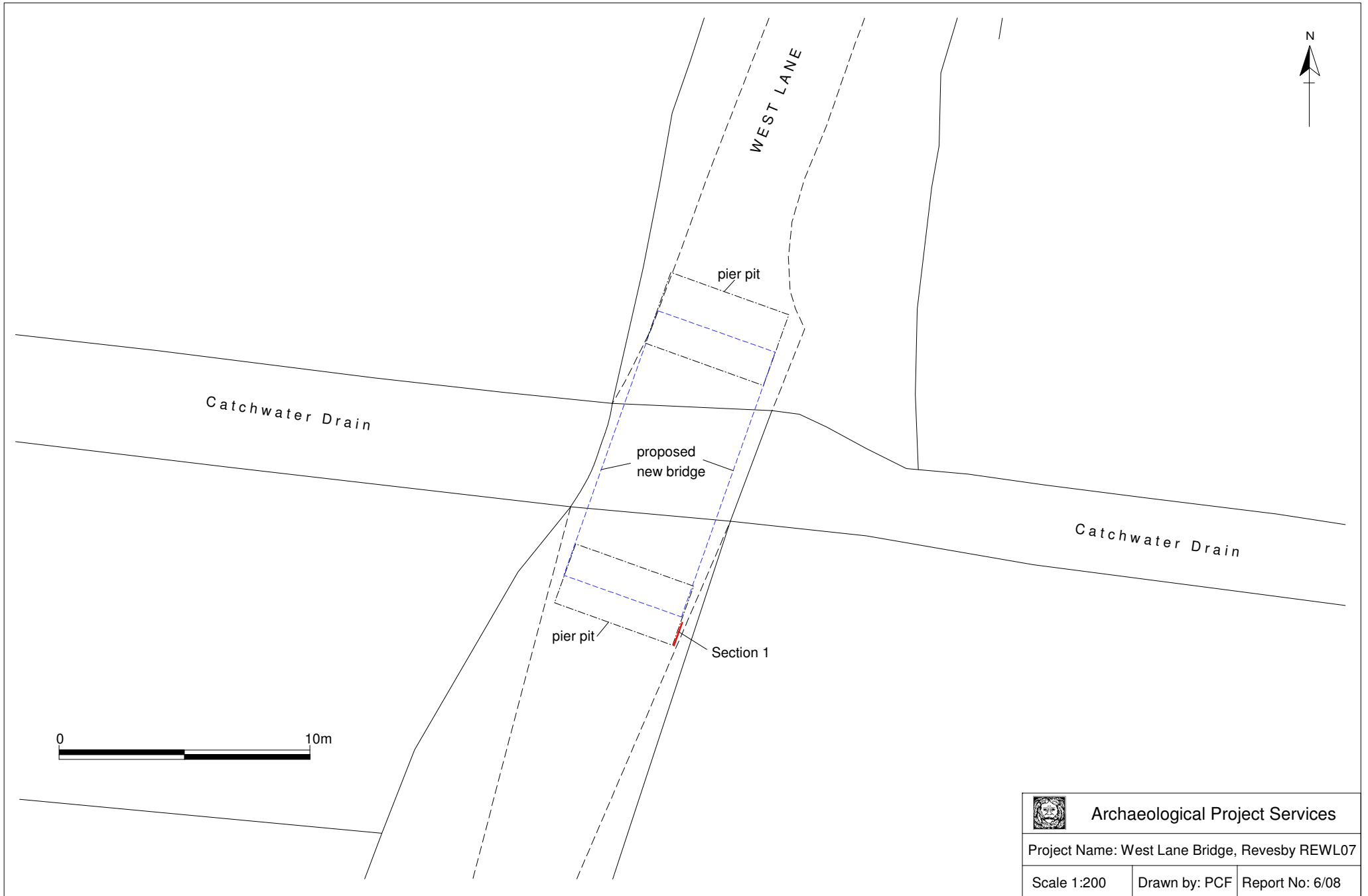

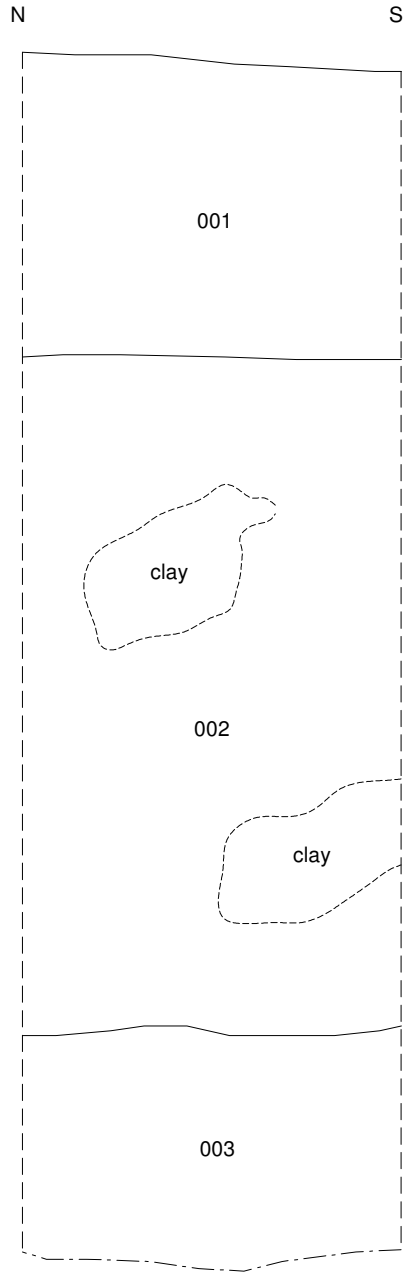


Figure 3 - Plan of the development showing location of bridge pier pits and drawn section

 <b>Archaeological Project Services</b>		
Project Name: West Lane Bridge, Revesby REWL07		
Scale 1:200	Drawn by: PCF	Report No: 6/08



Section 1




 <b>Archaeological Project Services</b>		
Project Name: West Lane Bridge, Revesby REWL07		
Scale 1:20	Drawn by: PCF	Report No: 6/08

Figure 4 - Section 1



Plate 1 – General view showing West Lane Bridge, looking north



Plate 2 – Southern bridge pier pit section, looking southeast



Plate 3 – Northern bridge pier pit with bricks of former bridge, looking southwest

## Appendix 1

### CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

<b>No.</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Interpretation</b>
001	Firm dark brownish grey silty clay with modern brick and concrete fragments, 0.8m to 1m thick	Hardstanding for track
002	Soft dark yellowish grey sand and clay, 1.8m thick	Natural deposit
003	Friable dark grey clayey silt, >2m thick	Natural deposit

## Appendix 2

### GLOSSARY

<b>Alluvium</b>	A deposit (usually clay, silts or sands) laid down in water. Marine alluvium is deposited by the sea and freshwater alluvium by streams, rivers or within lakes.
<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 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>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>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 1 <sup>st</sup> century AD.
<b>Romano-British</b>	Pertaining to the period dating from AD 43-410 when the Romans occupied Britain.

## Appendix 3

### THE ARCHIVE

The archive consists of:

3	Context records
1	Photographic record sheet
1	Sheet of scale drawings
1	Stratigraphic matrix

All primary records are currently kept at:

Archaeological Project Services  
The Old School  
Cameron Street  
Heckington  
Sleaford  
Lincolnshire  
NG34 9RW

The ultimate destination of the project archive is:

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

Accession Number: 2007.47

Archaeological Project Services Site Code: REWL 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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