

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF
FIELD STREET,
BOSTON,
LINCOLNSHIRE
(BOFS 07)**

**Work Undertaken For
Nick Overton
on behalf of
L&F Developments**

November 2007

Report Compiled by
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Planning Application No: B/07/0539
National Grid Reference: TF 33216 44184
City and County Museum Accession No: 2007.221
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ARCHAEOLOGICAL PROJECT SERVICES



APS Report No. **148/07**

**Quality Control
Field Street,
Boston, Lincolnshire
(BOFS07)**

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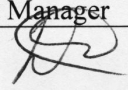

Checked by Project Manager	Approved by Senior Archaeologist
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1. SUMMARY

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken during groundworks on land adjacent to 91 Field Street, Boston, Lincolnshire. The watching brief monitored the excavation of foundation trenches for the construction of a dwelling.

The site lies in an area of archaeological importance on the east side of Boston close to the site of a Dominican Friary.

The watching brief identified the remains of a post medieval red brick dwelling including a lime plastered well or soakaway that formerly occupied the site.

No finds were retrieved 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 Nick Overton on behalf of L&F Developments to undertake an archaeological watching brief during groundworks associated with new residential development on land adjacent to 91 Field Street, Boston, Lincolnshire. Approval for the development was sought through the submission of planning application B/07/0539. The watching brief was carried out on the 14th November

2007 and in accordance with a specification prepared by Archaeological Project Services (Appendix 1) and approved by the Boston Planning Archaeologist.

2.3 Topography and Geology

Boston is located 45km southeast of Lincoln and approximately 7km northwest of the coast of The Wash, Lincolnshire (Fig. 1).

The site is located to the east of the town as defined by the parish church of St. Botolph at National Grid Reference TF 33216 44184 (Fig. 2). The site lies to the north of The Haven and at a height of c. 3m OD on level ground.

As an urban area, local soils have not been mapped but are likely to belong to the Wisbech Association, typically stoneless calcareous soils (Hodge *et al.* 1984, 361). These soils overlie a drift geology of marine alluvium which in turn seals a solid geology of Jurassic Amphill clay (BGS 1995).

2.4 Archaeological Setting

Boston is situated in the Lincolnshire Fens and located in an area of known archaeological remains dating from the Romano-British period to the present day. There is little evidence of prehistoric habitation within Boston apart from a few scattered find spots.

Roman sites are rarely revealed within the Boston environs, probably being sealed beneath marine silt. However a recent evaluation recorded 2nd and 3rd century ditches and pits on London Road including evidence for possible cereal production and light industry approximately 1.5km to the southwest (Peachey 2006).

There is little evidence for Saxon settlement within Boston probably because of rising sea levels. Boston is not

mentioned in the Domesday survey of c. 1086. However, the survey recorded two churches and two fisheries in Skirbeck, southeast of the current town (Foster and Longley 1976). One of these churches was granted by Count Alan of Brittany to St. Mary's Abbey, York, in 1089. In 1130, Boston received its first mention when it was referred to as *Botulvestan* (Dover 1972, 1).

During the medieval period Boston became an important trade and export centre for wool and prospered into the fourth wealthiest provincial town in the country. Franciscan, Dominican, Carmelite and Augustinian friary's were all established in the town but only parts of the Dominican friary now remain (Wright 1994).

Field Street is located approximately 300m east of the line of the Barditch, the channel which formed the boundary of the medieval town. Medieval deposits including mortar floors have been recorded approximately 250m west of the site. Human burials associated with the burial ground of Blackfriars, the Dominican Friary, were encountered during construction work at the football ground 120m to the west. Remains relating to the friary have been recorded 270m to the west include brick walls, brick ovens and floor layers. Other medieval remains in the area include a stone coffin 230m to the west of the site and the remnant of a tile kiln 150m to the southeast.

During the later medieval period the failing wool trade and silting up of the River Witham saw Boston decline in fortune, with the last ship being built around 1650 (Wright 1986). In addition the 1630's saw the emigration of around ten percent of the largely Puritan population to found a new colony in Boston, Massachusetts, America.

A new sluice was started by Langley Edwards in 1764 to deepen the Witham

(Pevsner & Harris 1989). War in Europe triggered rising corn prices during the early 19th century, rejuvenating Boston's trading status and wealth.

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

The watching brief monitored the excavation of foundations trenches for a dwelling with a mechanical digger. The trenches measured 0.7m wide and up to 0.75m deep. The sides of the trenches were cleaned, rendered vertical and examined for archaeological deposits. 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.

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 was a 0.2m thick mid to dark grey brown clay subsoil deposit (002).

On the southwest edge of the foundation

trench was a soft red brick wall footing (001). The bricks measured 112mm by 70mm by 230mm. Six courses were recorded to a height of 0.5m and were bonded by a hard lime mortar.

Wall footing (003), constructed from soft red bricks measuring 120mm by 70mm by 224mm was recorded on the western foundation trench. Six courses were recorded at a height of 0.49m bonded by a hard lime mortar similar to (001) and probably part of the same phase of construction.

Towards the centre of the foundation trenches was a red brick lime plastered well or soakaway (004) capped with a brick arch.

6. DISCUSSION

An undated subsoil was the earliest deposit recorded. Post medieval wall footings and a lime plastered well or soakaway with a decorative arch relating to former buildings on the site were encountered.

No finds were recorded or retrieved during the investigation.

7. CONCLUSION

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken at Field Street, Boston, as the site lay in an area of archaeological importance close to the site of a Dominican Friary and known medieval remains.

However no medieval remains were identified and no artefacts retrieved during the investigation.

The earliest deposit encountered was an undated subsoil deposit.

8. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeological Project Services wish to acknowledge the assistance of Mr N Overton on behalf of L&F Developments for commissioning the fieldwork and post-excavation analysis. The work was coordinated by Dale Trimble who edited this report along with Tom Lane. Jenny Young, the Boston Planning Archaeologist, kindly permitted access to the parish files and library maintained by Heritage Lincolnshire.

9. PERSONNEL

Project Coordinator: Dale Trimble
 Site Supervisor: Simon Birnie
 Photographic reproduction: Sue Unsworth
 Illustration: Sue Unsworth
 Post-excavation analysis: Mary Nugent

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11. ABBREVIATIONS

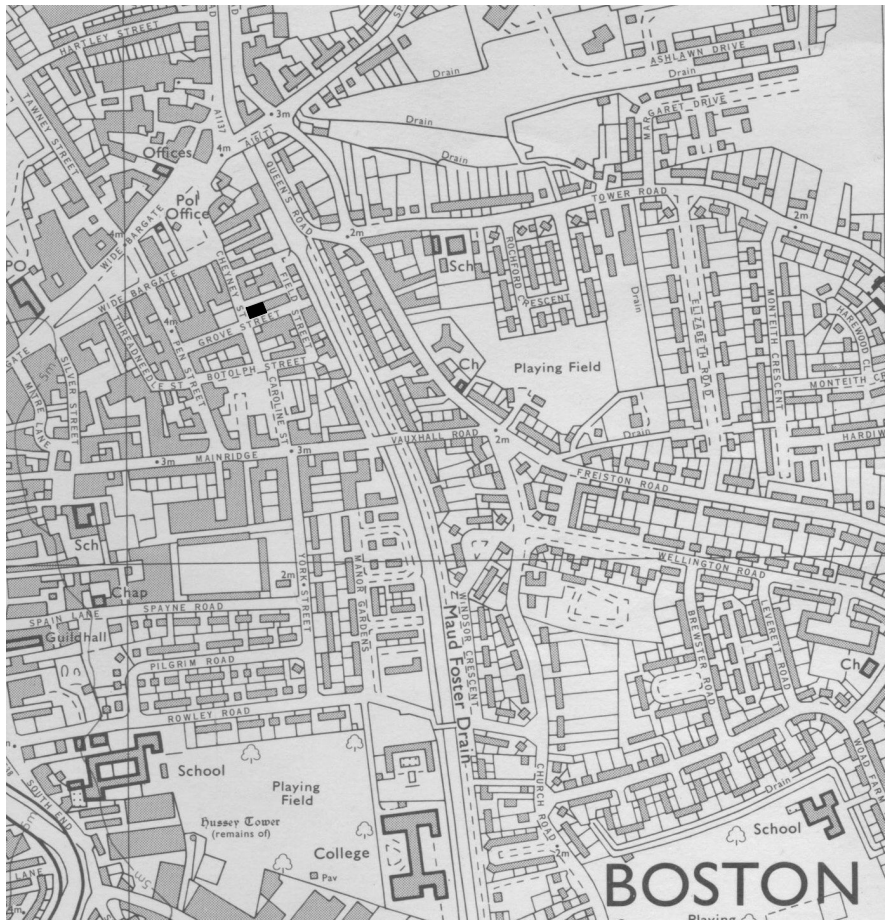
APS Archaeological Project Services

BGS British Geological Survey

IFA Institute of Field Archaeologists



Figure 1: General Location Plan



■ site




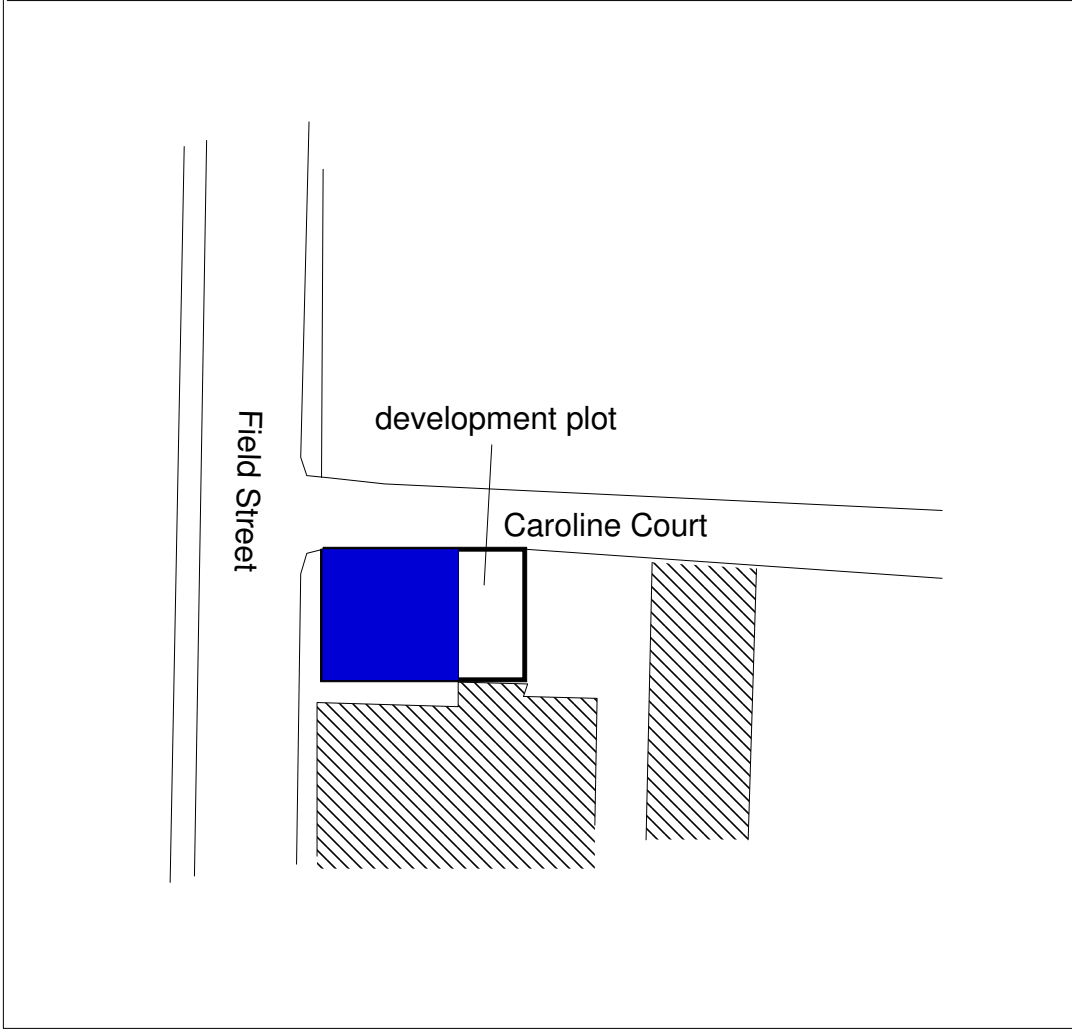
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Project Name: Boston Field Street BOFS07		
Scale 1:1000	Drawn by:SU	Report No: 148/07

Figure 2 Site location plan



Key

 building footprint




	Archaeological Project Services	
Project Name: Boston Field Street BOFS07		
Scale 1:500	Drawn by:MN	Report No: 148/07

Figure 3 Plot Location

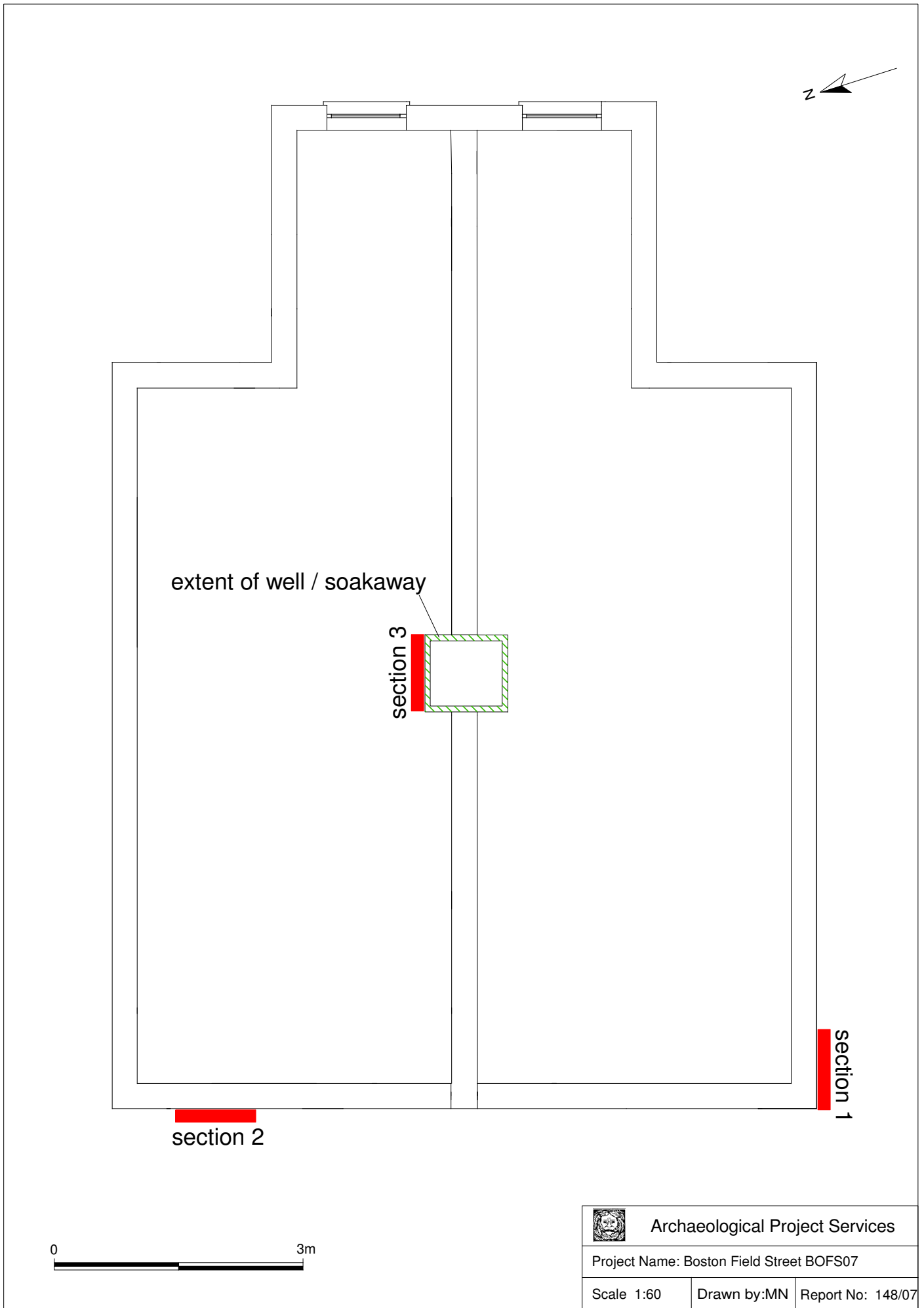


Figure 4 plan of footings showing section location



Plate 1 Section 1,
showing wall footing
(001), looking SSE



Plate 2 Section 2,
showing wall footing
(003), looking WSW



Plate 3 Section 3,
showing well/soakaway,
looking ENE

Appendix 1

LAND ADJACENT TO
91 FIELD STREET, BOSTON
BOSTON
LINCOLNSHIRE

SPECIFICATION FOR
ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

PREPARED FOR

NICK OVERTON
ON BEHALF
OF
L&F DEVELOPMENTS

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

Archaeological Project Services
The Old School
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NG34 9RW

NOVEMBER 2007

1 SUMMARY

- 1.1 A watching brief is required during construction of dwellings on land adjacent to 91 Field Street, Boston, Lincolnshire.
- 1.2 The site lies in an area of archaeological potential close to the site of a Dominican Friary and a variety of medieval deposits identified through excavation.
- 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 construction of dwellings on land adjacent to 91 Field Street, Boston, Lincolnshire. Lincolnshire. The site is located at National Grid Reference 533216 344184.
- 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 lies on the east side of Boston, adjacent to 91 Field Street approximately 300m east of the line of the Barditch, the channel which formed the boundary of the medieval town. The proposed area of development forms a rectangular plot in the angle of Field Street and Caroline Court.

4 PLANNING BACKGROUND

- 4.1 Planning permission (Application No. B/07/0539) has been granted by Boston Borough Council for residential development at the site. Permission is subject to a condition requiring the undertaking of a watching-brief during groundworks associated with the development.

5 SOILS AND TOPOGRAPHY

- 5.1 The site and surrounding area lie on level ground at c. 3m OD. Soils at the site are deep stoneless calcareous coarse silty soils of the Wisbech Association developed on marine alluvium (Hodge et al. 1984, 319).

6 ARCHAEOLOGICAL OVERVIEW

- 6.1 Medieval deposits including mortar floors have been recorded at a site located approximately
-

250m west of the proposed development. At the football ground approximately 120m to the west of Field Street human burials thought to be associated with the burial ground of the Dominican Friary were uncovered during construction work. There is some evidence to suggest that the precincts of the friary extended east of the Barditch as far as York Street which adjoins Field Street to the south. Remains of the friary including walls, brick ovens and floor layers were recorded during excavations undertaken approximately 270 metres west of the proposed development. A stone coffin unearthed around 230 metres to the west is also likely to related to the friary.

- 6.2 Approximately 230 metres northwest of the proposed development sherds of medieval pottery have been recovered and around 150m to the southeast the remains of a well preserved medieval tile kiln has been recorded during an archaeological investigation.

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 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 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 Boston Planning Archaeologist; Boston Borough 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 Details of the project will be entered onto the OASIS online database. 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 Boston Planning Archaeologist. They will be given 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.

Task	Body to be undertaking the work
Conservation	Conservation Laboratory, City and County Museum, Lincoln
Pottery Analysis	Prehistoric - Trent & Peak Archaeological Trust Roman – M Darling, Independent Specialist Anglo-Saxon – A Boyle in consultation with J Young, Independent Specialist Medieval and later – A Boyle and G Taylor, APS
Non-pottery Artefacts	J Cowgill, Independent Specialist or G Taylor, APS
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

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Specification: Version 1, 13th November 2007

Appendix 2
Contexts

Context	Description	Interpretation
001	6 courses of red bricks 112mm x 70mm x 230mm hard lime mortar bonding, 0.5m in height, 5.3m in length	Wall footing
002	Compacted mid to dark grey brown clay with occasional charcoal smears	Subsoil
003	6 courses of red bricks 120mm x 70mm x 224mm Hard lime mortar bonding 0.49m in height, 7.14m visible length	Wall footing
004	Red brick structure with lime plaster and decorative arch	Well / Soakaway

Appendix 3

GLOSSARY

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
Domesday Survey	A survey of property ownership in England compiled on the instruction of William I for taxation purposes in 1086 AD.
Layer	A layer is a term used 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.
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 4

THE ARCHIVE

The archive consists of:

3	Context records
1	Photographic record sheets
3	Sheets of scale drawings
1	Stratigraphic matrix

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:

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

Accession Number: 2007.221

Archaeological Project Services Site Code: BOFS07

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.