
**ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF
AT BOURNE GRAMMAR SCHOOL,
SOUTH ROAD,
BOURNE,
LINCOLNSHIRE
(BNGS 08)**

**Work Undertaken For
Lincolnshire County Council**

July 2008

Report Compiled by
Paul Cope-Faulkner BA (Hons) AIFA

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APS Report No. **78/08**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL
PROJECT
SERVICES**



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	3
6.	DISCUSSION	3
7.	CONCLUSION	3
8.	ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	3
9.	PERSONNEL	3
10.	BIBLIOGRAPHY	3
11.	ABBREVIATIONS	4

Appendices

1. Specification for archaeological investigation and recording
2. Context descriptions
3. Glossary
4. The Archive

List of Figures

- Figure 1 General location plan
- Figure 2 Site location plan
- Figure 3 Plan of the development showing location of drawn section
- Figure 4 Section 1

List of Plates

- Plate 1 General view of the development area
- Plate 2 Section 1

1. SUMMARY

A watching brief was undertaken during groundworks at Bourne Grammar School, South Road, Bourne, Lincolnshire. The watching brief monitored the excavation of foundation trenches for a new extension to existing buildings.

The site lies within an area of Romano-British (AD 42-410) activity, including a pottery kiln found in the southwest corner of the school grounds. During the medieval period (AD 1066-1540) the site lay within the open fields of Bourne.

The watching brief revealed modern layers overlying natural clays, indicating that the site had previously been truncated. No archaeological features were observed and no artefacts retrieved.

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 Lincolnshire County Council to undertake an archaeological watching brief during groundworks associated with new development at Bourne Grammar School, South Road, Bourne, Lincolnshire. Approval for the development was sought through the submission of planning application S07/1618. The watching brief was carried out on the 25th June 2008 in accordance

with a specification prepared by Archaeological Project Services (Appendix 1).

2.3 Topography and Geology

Bourne is located 24km southeast of Grantham and 15km northeast of Stamford in the administrative district of South Kesteven, Lincolnshire (Fig. 1).

The Grammar School is situated 430m south of the centre of Bourne as defined by the parish church of SS. Peter and Paul at National Grid Reference TF 0988 1953 (Fig. 2). Situated on the western side of South Road, the site lies at a height of c. 10m OD on land that slopes gently down to the north, towards the Bourne Eau, and to the east and the Fens of south Lincolnshire.

Soils at the site are of the Aswarby Association, typically gleyic brown calcareous earths (Hodge *et al.* 1984, 99). Argillic gley soils of the Curdrige Association occur immediately south of the site (*ibid.* 153). These soils overlie a solid geology of Jurassic Kellaways Sands with Kellaways Clays to the north and south, although undifferentiated glacial drift deposits occur to the east (Booth 1983, 43).

2.4 Archaeological Setting

Bourne lies along the Roman thoroughfare King Street which ran parallel to Ermine Street to Bourne before dividing into two routes, one to Ancaster and another to Sleaford, north of the town. King Street is believed to be Claudian (AD 43-54) in date (Simmons n.d, 4). A 1st century date is certain as quarry pits for excavating ballast were recorded at Sapperton Roman town (Oetgen 1986, 10).

King Street can be traced in Lincolnshire from West Deeping, continuing north to Baston (where it joins the modern A15) just south of Kate’s Bridge. King Street

diverges from the modern road for just over 1km, rejoining it at Thurlby and following the modern road where once again it diverges (at TF 1007 1824) and all visible traces are lost. However, excavation to the south of Bourne (200m southwest of the site) revealed the metalled surface and roadside ditches of King Street (JSAC 1997, 7) and it has previously been suggested that Church Lane, the principal early medieval thoroughfare, may fossilise its route. This would then place King Street approximately 100m to the west of the site.

King Street is plausibly a military construction and reference to a single ditched square entrenchment to the south of Bourne (Trollope 1872, 36) may indicate a former marching camp.

With an established connection to Roman towns to the north and south, it is possible that a *mutatio* (changing station) or *mansio* (rest-house) was established at Bourne (Birkbeck 1970, 3). This perhaps developed into a more important centre especially considering the convergence of both the Bourne Eau, Car Dyke and Bourne-Morton canal a little to the east of the town (Simmons and Cope-Faulkner 2004, 90).

With limited excavation having taken place in Bourne, it is difficult to assess the extent and nature of the Romano-British settlement. Excavation at South Fields, northwest of the site, revealed Romano-British occupation that was entirely urban in character and perhaps sited on the edge of the settlement (McDaid 1999, 19).

By the late third century AD, Bourne was the centre of local pottery production. Only a single kiln has been excavated, with evidence for a further 2 kilns noted (Swan 1984, microfiche 3.436). The kilns were located at Bourne Grammar School, southeast of the current development works. More recent work at the Grammar

School has failed to identify further kilns, although ditches, pits and gullies were identified with evidence for industrial activities occurring nearby (Dymond 1995, 1; Snee 2002, 1; Thomson 2003, 1).

During the medieval period, the site lay within the open fields of Bourne. The field is referred to as South Field and ridge and furrow of the field system has been recorded by Hayes and Lane (1992, Fig. 83). The medieval town centre underwent remodelling, probably during the 12th century when the castle and market were established, causing the King Street thoroughfare to lose importance. South Road is a post-medieval thoroughfare and is recorded as cutting through the ridge and furrow (*ibid.* 140).

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

Foundation trenches were excavated by machine to depths required by the development (*c.* 1m below the current ground surface). Following excavation, the sides of the trenches were cleaned and rendered vertical. Selected deposits were excavated further to retrieve artefactual material and to determine their function. Each deposit was allocated a unique reference number (context number) with an individual written description. A list of all contexts and their descriptions appears as Appendix 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.

The earliest deposit encountered at the base of the foundation trench was a natural layer of greenish grey clay (007) which measured in excess of 0.35m thick. This was overlain by grey clayey silt (006).

Above these natural layers was a levelling deposit of reddish pink rubble (005) which was sealed by a make-up deposit of yellowish brown concrete (004) for paving of which only the bedding mortar (003) survived. This was in turn overlain by pinkish grey rubble (002) forming a make-up deposit for the recent tarmac surface (001).

Though not formally recorded, a concrete raft was exposed which related to the southern building.

6. DISCUSSION

Natural deposits comprise clay and clayey silts of the underlying geology of Jurassic clays. Sealing the natural layers were recent deposits associated with former and present surfaces relating to the school. As these directly overlie natural, it is probable that previous work has truncated any archaeological remains.

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

7. CONCLUSION

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken at Bourne Grammar School, Bourne, as the site lay in an area of known remains of Romano-British date.

However, no remains were encountered that were associated with known Romano-British remains and the site is likely to have previously been truncated during development works at the school. No artefacts were collected during the watching brief.

8. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeological Project Services wishes to acknowledge the assistance of Mr J Turner of Mouchel Business Services for commissioning the fieldwork and post-excavation analysis on behalf of Lincolnshire County Council. The work was coordinated by Gary Taylor who edited this report along with Tom Lane. Jenny Young, the South Kesteven Planning Archaeologist, kindly allowed access to the parish files and library maintained by Heritage Lincolnshire.

9. PERSONNEL

Project Coordinator: Gary Taylor
 Site Supervisor: Bob Garland
 Photographic reproduction: Sue Unsworth
 Illustration: Paul Cope-Faulkner
 Post-excavation analysis: Paul Cope-Faulkner

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11. ABBREVIATIONS

APS Archaeological Project Services

HTL Heritage Trust of Lincolnshire

IFA Institute of Field Archaeologists

IFA, 1999 *Standard and Guidance for archaeological watching briefs*

JSAC John Samuels Archaeological Consultants

JSAC, 1997 *An Archaeological Excavation of Land off South Road, Bourne, Lincolnshire*, unpublished report **169/97/001**

LAS Lindsey Archaeological Services

McDaid, M, 1999 *South Road, Bourne, Lincs. Land off South Fields. Archaeological Evaluation and Watching Brief*, unpublished LAS report **352**

RCHM Royal Commission on Historical Monuments (England)

Oetgen, JM, 1986 'Sapperton Roman Town', *Archaeology in Lincolnshire 1985-1986*, Second Annual Report of the Trust for Lincolnshire Archaeology

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Figure 1 - General location plan



TF

Area detailed in Figure 3



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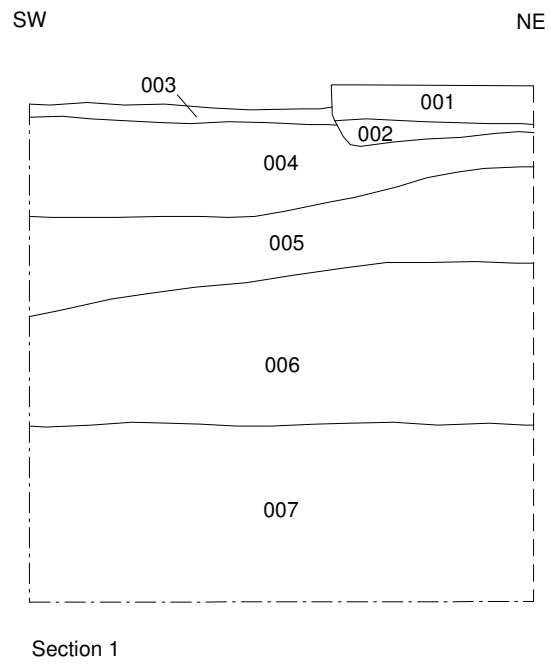
 Archaeological Project Services		
Project Name: Grammar School Bourne BNGS08		
Scale 1:10000	Drawn by: PCF	Report No: 78/08

Figure 2 - Site location plan



Figure 3 - Plan of the development showing location of drawn section



Archaeological Project Services

Project Name: Bourne Grammar School BNGS08

Scale 1:15

Drawn by: PCF

Report No: 78/08

Figure 4 - Section 1



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



Plate 2 – Section 1, looking northwest

Appendix 1

LAND AT THE GRAMMAR SCHOOL, BOURNE, LINCOLNSHIRE - SPECIFICATION FOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

1 SUMMARY

- 1.1 *A watching brief is required during the construction of a fitness suite at the Grammar School, Bourne, Lincolnshire.*
- 1.2 *The development site is archaeologically sensitive. Previous investigations at the Grammar School have found Roman settlement evidence, pottery kilns and burials. The Roman remains were beneath medieval ridge and furrow.*
- 1.3 *The watching brief will be undertaken during the groundwork for the development. The archaeological features exposed will be recorded in writing, graphically and photographically.*
- 1.4 *On completion of the fieldwork a report will be prepared detailing the results of the investigation. The report will consist of a narrative supported by illustrations and photographs.*

2 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 This document comprises a specification for an archaeological watching brief during development at the Grammar School, Bourne, 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 Bourne is 24km southeast of Grantham in the South Kesteven district of Lincolnshire. The Grammar School is in the southern part of the town, on the west side of South Road, at National Grid Reference TF 0988 1953. The fitness suite is located near the northwest corner of the school complex.

4 PLANNING BACKGROUND

- 4.1 Mouchel Business Services proposes to construct a fitness suite at the Grammar School, Bourne, Lincolnshire. Permission has been granted subject to a watching brief being undertaken during development groundwork.

5 SOILS AND TOPOGRAPHY

- 5.1 The site is on fairly level ground at about 10m OD. Soils at the site are Aswarby Association gleyic brown calcareous earths developed on clay (Hodge *et al.* 1984, 99).

6 ARCHAEOLOGICAL OVERVIEW

- 6.1 Bourne Grammar School straddles the route of the King Street Roman road. Previous investigations at the school have found evidence for Romano-British settlement with associated burials. Additionally, Roman pottery kilns and associated clay extraction pits of the same period have been found at the school and immediately to the northwest. Much of these Roman remains have been overlain by a subsoil and ridge and furrow of medieval date (Archaeological Project Services 2002).

7 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- 7.1 The aims of the watching brief will be:
 - 7.1.1 To record and interpret the deposits and any archaeological features exposed during the development groundwork.
- 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:
 - 8.2.4.1 the site during work to show specific stages, and the layout of the archaeology within the test pits.
 - 8.2.4.2 groups of features where their relationship is important
- 8.2.5 Should human remains be located they will be left *in situ* and only excavated if absolutely necessary. Should removal be required the appropriate Home Office licence will be obtained before the exhumation of the remains. In addition, the Local Environmental Health Department, coroner and the police will be informed, where appropriate.

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:

9.3.2.1 A non-technical summary of the results of the investigation.

9.3.2.2 A description of the archaeological setting of the watching brief.

9.3.2.3 Description of the topography of the site.

9.3.2.4 Description of the methodologies used during the watching brief.

9.3.2.5 A text describing the findings of the watching brief.

9.3.2.6 A consideration of the local, regional and national context of the watching brief findings.

9.3.2.7 Plans of the archaeological features exposed. If a sequence of archaeological deposits is encountered, separate plans for each phase will be produced.

9.3.2.8 Sections of the trenches and archaeological features.

9.3.2.9 Interpretation of the archaeological features exposed, and their chronology and setting within the surrounding landscape.

9.3.2.10 Specialist reports on the finds from the site.

9.3.2.11 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 County Council Archaeological Sites and Monuments Record; and the South Kesteven Planning Archaeologist.

11 ARCHIVE

11.1 The documentation and records generated during the watching brief will be sorted and ordered into the format acceptable to The Collection, 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 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 the Senior Built Environment Officer, Lincolnshire County Council. 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 – A Boyle, APS/B Precious, Independent Specialist Post-Roman - A Boyle, APS/J Young, Independent Specialist

Non-pottery Artefacts	J Cowgill, Independent Specialist/G Taylor APS
Animal Bones	P Cope-Faulkner APS/J Kitch, independent specialist
Environmental Analysis	J Rackham, Independent Specialist
Human Remains Analysis	Dr 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, 21-05-08

Appendix 2

CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

No.	Description	Interpretation
001	Firm dark grey tarmac, 70mm thick	Surface
002	Loose mid pinkish grey rubble, 50mm thick	Make-up for (001)
003	Firm light brown mortar, 30mm thick	Bedding layer
004	Firm mid yellowish brown concrete, 0.2m thick	Make-up deposit for paving
005	Loose mid reddish pink rubble, 0.19m thick	Levelling deposit
006	Soft dark grey clayey silt, 0.32m thick	Natural deposit
007	Soft/plastic mid greenish grey clay, >0.35m thick	Natural deposit

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 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).
Layer	A layer is a term to describe an accumulation of soil or other material that is not contained within a cut.
Medieval	The Middle Ages, dating from approximately AD 1066-1500.
Natural	Undisturbed deposit(s) of soil or rock which have accumulated without the influence of human activity.
Romano-British	Pertaining to the period dating from AD 43-410 when the Romans occupied Britain.

Appendix 4

THE ARCHIVE

The archive consists of:

7	Context records
1	Photographic record sheet
1	Sheet of scale drawings

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: 2008. 120

Archaeological Project Services Site Code: BNGS 08

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.