
**ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF
AT THE RECREATION GROUND,
FEN ROAD,
WASHINGBOROUGH,
LINCOLNSHIRE
(WBFR 08)**

**Work Undertaken For
Chanception Homes**

December 2008

Report Compiled by
Kevin Trott BA (Hons)

National Grid Reference: TF 0260 7089
Acc. No.: LCNCC: 2008.170
OASIS Record No: archaeo11-53313

APS Report No. **138/08**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL
PROJECT
SERVICES**



Quality Control
Recreation ground, Fen Road, Washingborough, Lincolnshire
(WBFR 08)

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Supervisor	Kevin Trott, Jim Snee
Illustration	Kevin Trott
Photographic Reproduction	Sue Unsworth, Kevin Trott
Post-excavation Analyst	Kevin Trott

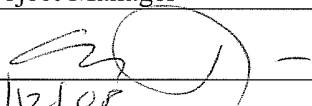
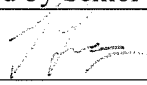
Checked by Project Manager	Approved by Senior Archaeologist
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Date: 23/12/08	Date: 30-12-08

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1. SUMMARY

A watching brief was undertaken during the demolition of an existing pavilion and the erection of a new sports pavilion at Recreation Ground, Fen Road, Washingborough, Lincolnshire. The watching brief monitored the excavation of the foundation trenches within the footprint of the new development (N/71/0516/08).

The site lies in an area that has topographic potential as it lies on a spur of higher ground in the floodplain of the River Witham. Previous investigations within the environs of the site have recovered prehistoric flint work. Similar-dated flint work has also been recovered elsewhere in Washingborough, on the Main Road, to the west of the present site.

The watching brief revealed a sequence of modern topsoil, re-deposited natural (levelling layer), buried topsoil and natural sands. No artefacts were found on the development 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 (APS) was commissioned by Chanceoption Homes to undertake an archaeological watching brief during groundworks

associated with the removal of a former pavilion and the erection of a new sports pavilion at Recreation Ground, Fen Road, Washingborough, Lincolnshire (Fig. 1). A Planning Application (N/71/0516/08) for the development had been submitted to North Kesteven District Council. Approval for the development was granted with the conditions for an archaeological watching brief.

The watching brief was carried out between the 15th and the 17th December 2008 in accordance with a specification produced by APS and approved by the North Kesteven Heritage Officer (Appendix 1).

2.3 Topography and Geology

Washingborough is located 5km east of Lincoln in the North Kesteven district of Lincolnshire (Fig. 1). The Recreation Ground is in the northeast side of the village, to the north of Fen Road (Fig. 2). The Pavilion is 150m north of Fen Road, at National Grid Reference TF 0260 7089.

The site lies at c. 4m OD on ground sloping down north to the River Witham and also to the east (Plate 1). Local soils are peat soils of the Adventurers’ 2 Association developed on fen peat that overlies glaciofluvial sands (Hodge *et al.* 1984, 85-6).

2.4 Archaeological Setting

The site has topographic potential, being located on a spur of higher ground in the floodplain of the River Witham. Archaeological remains of prehistoric and later date have previously been identified in proximity to the investigation area and within the environs of Washingborough. A group of three leaf-shaped swords of probable prehistoric date was found a short distance to the northeast of the site (Davey 1973, 98).

Roman activity found within the area of

Washingbrough includes the line of the Car Dyke, a major man-made waterway of apparent Roman date. Other Roman activity is represented by several 3rd century coins found in the village area.

Washingbrough is first referred to in the Domesday Book of 1086, and this indicates the settlement was in existence in the Late Saxon period. The place-name means 'the fortified place of the Wassingas' and is derived from the Old English group-name *Wassingas*, meaning family/dependents of Wassa, and Old English *burh*, a fortified place (Cameron 1998, 135). Washingbrough itself is not recorded in the Domesday survey, though its inland and sokeland in Coleby is noted (Foster and Longley 1976, 16).

The medieval core of Washingbrough is about 200m southwest of the investigation site. The church of St John Evangelist in the village centre is late 12th-13th century but contains a Norman (11th-12th century) font (Pevsner and Harris 1989, 782-3). A medieval cross, protected as a Scheduled Ancient Monument, is located near to the church on the High Street (English Heritage 1996, 16).

3. AIMS

The requirements of the archaeological monitoring, as detailed in the specification (Appendix 1) were to locate and record archaeological deposits and, if present, features to determine their date, function and origin.

4. METHODS

A foundation trench for the new sports pavilion was excavated using a CASE 590 (4-wheel drive) Super R series 2 multi-purpose excavator (Plate 2). The trench was 0.70m wide and excavated to a depth of 0.90m below current ground level.

The sides of the excavated trenches were cleaned using hand tools. Selected deposits were excavated further to retrieve any 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 representative sections were drawn at a scale of 1:10 and plans at 1:20/1:100. Recording was undertaken according to standard Archaeological Project Services practice (Fig. 3).

Following the completion of the 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

(Fig. 4, Plates 3 & 4)

Following post-excavation analysis two phases were identified;

Phase 1	Natural deposits
Phase 2	Recent deposits

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

Phase 1 Natural deposits

The earliest deposits encountered within the excavated trenches comprised firm yellow-brown slightly silty sand (004/008), was greater than 0.12m and was exposed at the base of the foundation trenches.

Phase 2 Recent deposits

Within the foundation trench above the

natural sand (004/008) was soft black slightly clayey silty sand (003/007) with frequent modern roots and smaller rootlets. This deposit probably represented buried topsoil rather than a degraded peat layer. This was sealed by friable mixed pale yellow-brown grey-brown slightly silty sand (002) 0.30m thick. This layer was a re-deposited natural that was utilised for the levelling of the site.

A dark grey-brown silty sand (001/006) with frequent rootlets and pebbles 0.20m thick was the topsoil layer.

This was partially overlain (following the destruction of the former pavilion) by grey sand and modern crushed rubble (005) 0.09m thick.

6. DISCUSSION

Natural deposits comprise sands and gravels from the glaciofluvial sands (Hodge *et al.* 1984, 85-6).

A buried topsoil with frequent rooting was recorded but remains undated due to lack of artefactual evidence. It was considered if this deposit represented a degraded peat. However, due to the frequent roots and rootlets encountered within this deposit it was interpreted by the excavator (Jim Snee) as a more recent buried topsoil.

Recent deposits comprise a re-deposited natural associated with the original landscaping of the recreation ground. This deposit overlay the buried topsoil. When the possibility of the buried topsoil representing a degraded peat arose, it was also considered that this re-deposited material might be natural alluvium. Subsequent further site archive analysis and comparison with the excavations at the nearby site of 81 Main Road, Washingborough (Archaeological Project Services 2003) supported the original conclusion that this deposit was recently re-deposited during the ground works

associated with the construction of the playing fields.

7. CONCLUSION

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken at the Recreation Ground, Fen Road, Washingborough, Lincolnshire as the site lay within the close proximity of the River Witham floodplain and its prehistoric occupation.

However, no prehistoric or Roman deposits were encountered. Only natural and recent deposits were recorded.

No finds were retrieved during the investigation.

8. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeological Project Services wishes to acknowledge the assistance of Chanceoption Homes for commissioning the fieldwork and post-excavation analysis. The work was coordinated by Gary Taylor who edited this report along with Tom Lane.

9. PERSONNEL

Project Coordinator: Gary Taylor
Site Supervisors: Kevin Trott & Jim Snee
Photographic reproduction: Sue Unsworth
Illustration: Kevin Trott
Post-excavation analyst: Kevin Trott

10. BIBLIOGRAPHY

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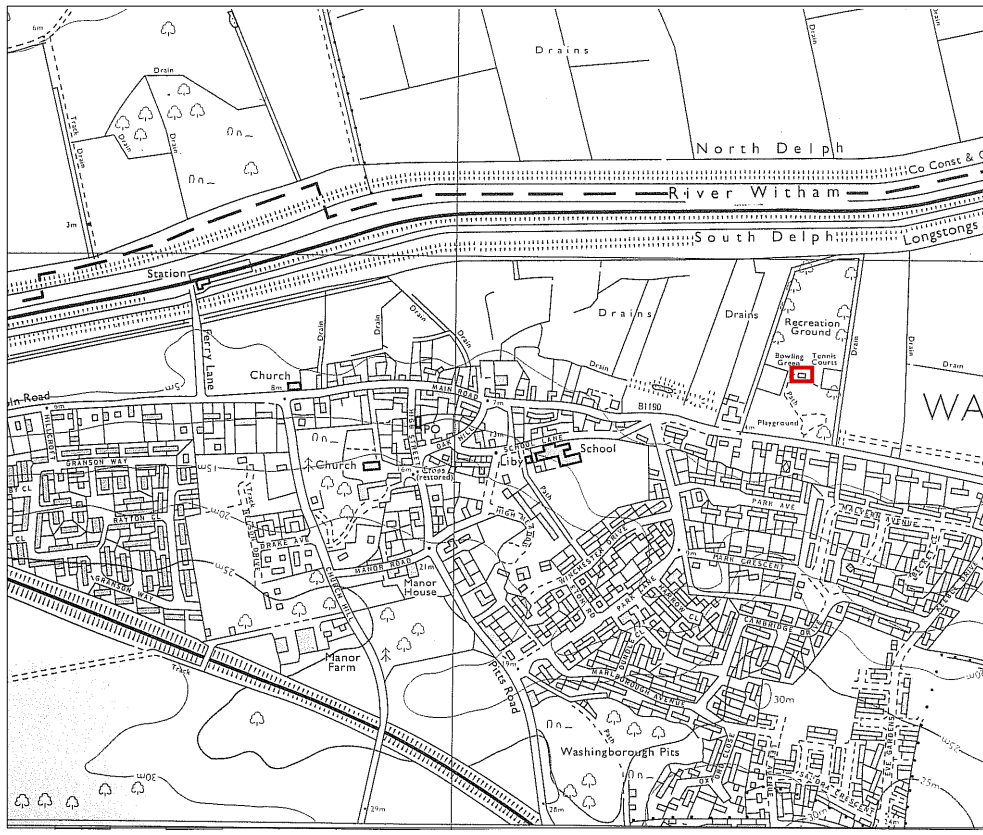
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11. ABBREVIATIONS

APS	Archaeological Project Services
IFA	Institute of Field Archaeologists
OS	Ordnance Survey



Figure 1 General Location Plan



71

TF

02

■ SITE LOCATION

Reproduced from the Ordnance Survey 1:10,000 map with the
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 Archaeological Project Services		
Project Name: Fen Road, Washingborough WBFR08		
Scale 1:1250	Drawn by:KT	Report No:138/08

Figure 2 Area of Investigation

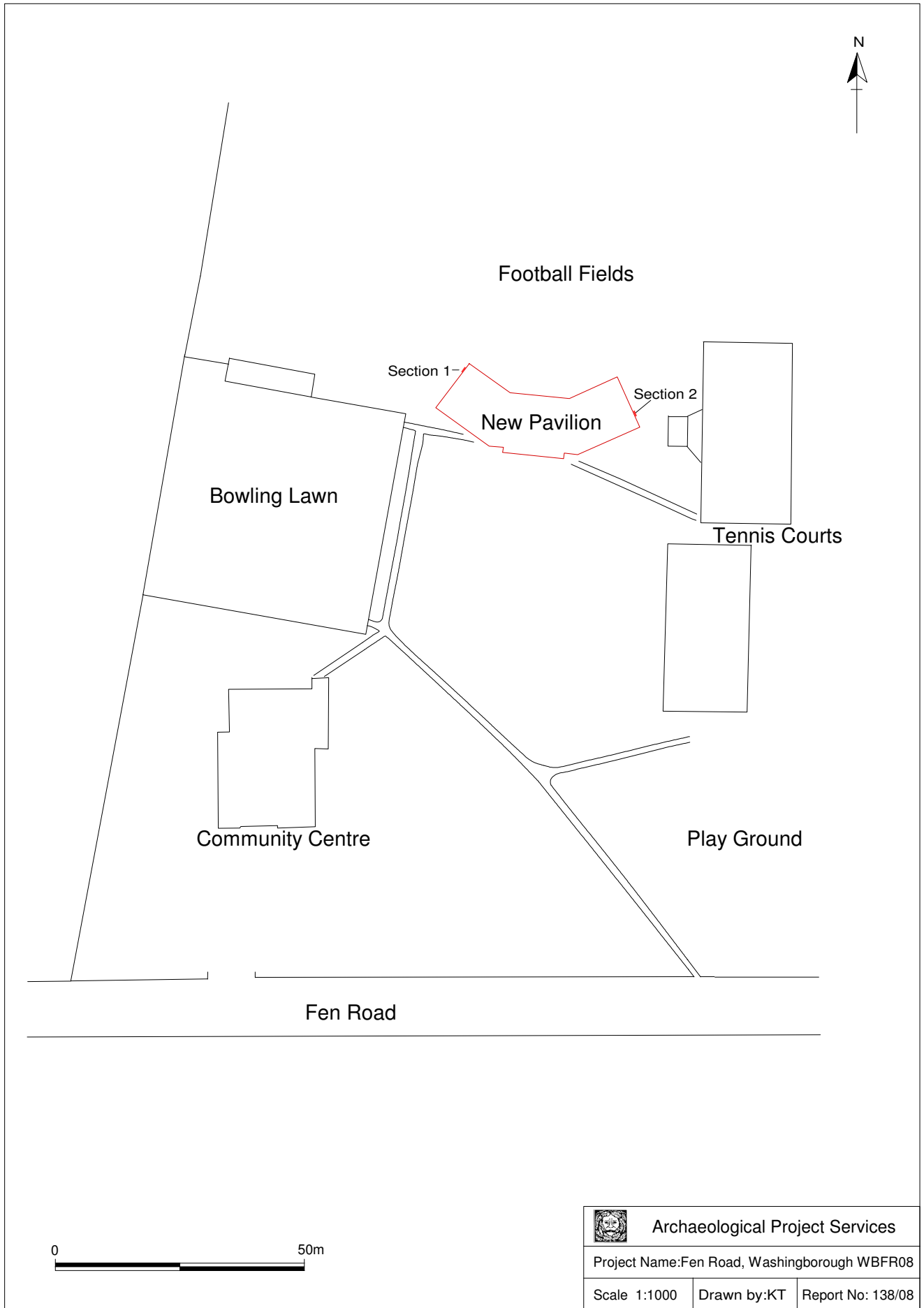
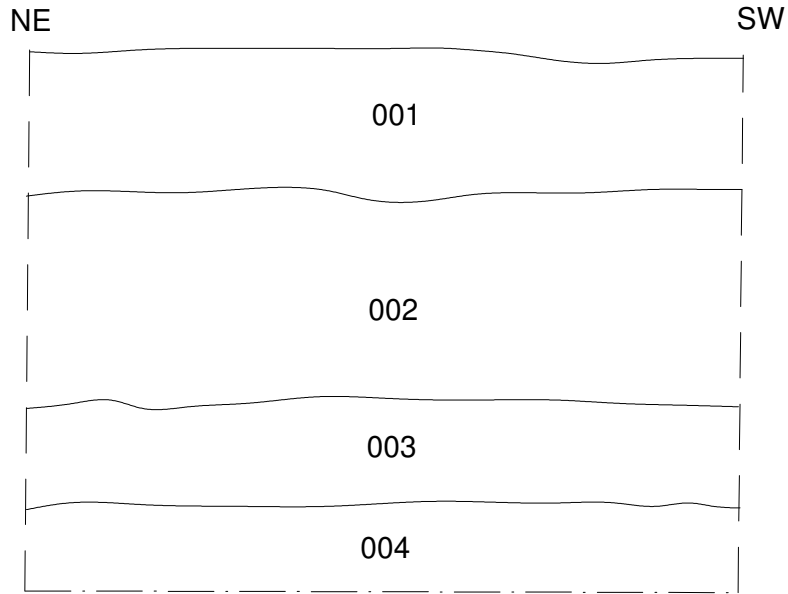
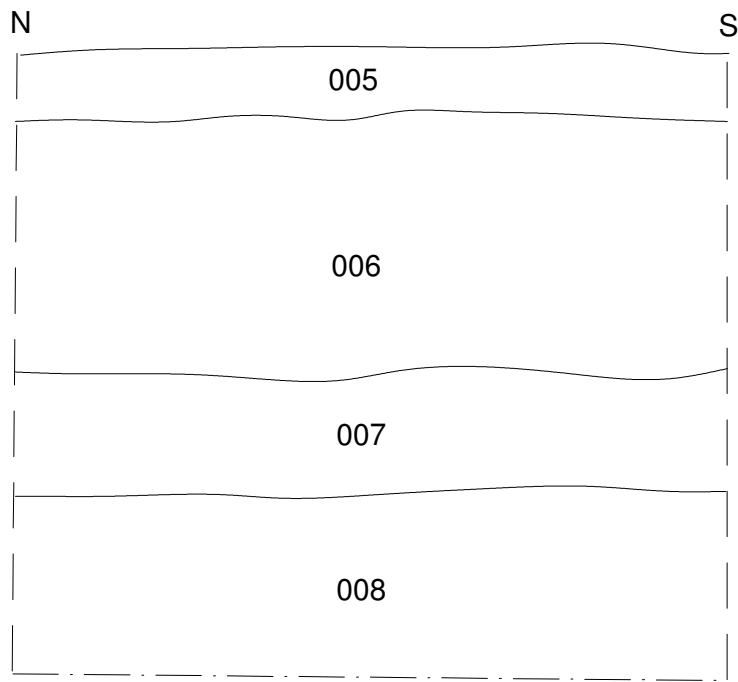


Figure 3 New pavilion location plan



Section 1



Section 2



Archaeological Project Services

Project Name: Fen Road Washingborough WBF08

Scale 1:10

Drawn by: KT

Report No: 138/08

Figure 4 Sections 1 and 2



Plate 1: General site view looking south



Plate 2: Foundation excavations looking north



Plate 3: Section 1 looking southeast



Plate 4: Section 2 looking east



A P S
ARCHAEOLOGICAL
P R O J E C T
S E R V I C E S

Project Designs

Desk-top Assessments

Evaluations

Excavations

Watching Briefs

Project Management

Building Surveys

Presentation

Interpretation

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Appendix 1

SPECIFICATION FOR
ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF
AT THE
RECREATION GROUND
FEN ROAD
WASHINGBOROUGH
LINCOLNSHIRE

PREPARED FOR
CHANCEOPTION HOMES

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

OCTOBER 2008

1 SUMMARY

- 1.1 *An archaeological watching brief is required during development at the Recreation Ground, Fen Road, Washingborough, Lincolnshire.*
- 1.2 *The site is archaeologically sensitive, located in an area where prehistoric artefacts have been found. Additionally, the Car Dyke Roman waterway is located nearby.*
- 1.3 *The investigation will involve monitoring of development groundwork and investigation and recording of archaeological remains. 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 Recreation Ground, Fen Road, Washingborough, 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 Washingborough is located 5km east of Lincoln in the North Kesteven district of Lincolnshire. The Recreation Ground is in the northeast side of the village, to the north of Fen Road. The pavilion is 150m north of Fen Road, at national grid reference TF 0260 7089.

4 PLANNING BACKGROUND

- 4.1 Planning permission (N/71/0516/08) to demolish the existing pavilion and erect a new sports pavilion has been granted by North Kesteven District Council with conditions for an archaeological watching brief.

5 SOILS AND TOPOGRAPHY

- 5.1 The site lies at c. 4m OD on ground sloping down north to the Witham and also to the east. Local soils are peat soils of the Adventurers' 2 Association developed on fen peat that overlies glaciofluvial sands (Hodge *et al.* 1984, 85-6).

6 ARCHAEOLOGICAL OVERVIEW

- 6.1 The site has topographic potential, being located on a spur of higher ground in the floodplain of the river Witham. Previous investigations adjacent to the site have recovered flintwork of late Mesolithic-neolithic date. Similarly-dated flintwork has been found elsewhere in Washingborough, on Main Road, to the west of the present site. Additionally, a peat deposit dated top c1000BC was encountered and from this was recovered a Late Bronze Age

spearhead (APS 2003). The Car Dyke Roman waterway also runs through the southern part of the playing field.

7 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

7.1 The aim of the work will be to record and interpret the deposits and any archaeological features exposed during the development groundwork.

7.2 The objectives of the investigation 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 investigation.

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 Finds recovered will be bagged and labelled for later analysis.

8.2.4 Throughout the investigation a photographic record will be compiled. The photographic record will consist of:

- the site during the investigation to show specific stages of work, and the layout

of the archaeology within the area.

- individual features and, where appropriate, their sections.
- 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 investigation 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 investigation 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 investigation.

9.3.2.3 Description of the topography of the site.

9.3.2.4 Description of the methodologies used during the investigation.

9.3.2.5 A text describing the findings of the investigation.

9.3.2.6 A consideration of the local, regional and national context of the investigation 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 North Kesteven Heritage Officer; and to Lincolnshire County Council Archaeological Sites and Monuments Record.

11 ARCHIVE

11.1 The documentation, finds, photographs and other records and materials generated during the investigation will be sorted and ordered into the format acceptable to the City and County Museum, Lincoln. This sorting will be undertaken according to 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 North Kesteven Heritage Officer. 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.

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 investigation will precede the programme of construction. The duration of the site works is difficult to determine as it is to a large extent reliant on the speed of stripping and spoil removal, and also depending on the quantity and complexity of archaeological remains encountered. Post-excavation work is likewise dependent on the quantity and complexity of archaeological remains encountered
- 15.2 An archaeological supervisor with experience of investigations of this type 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.

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 – D Trimble, APS/ Trent & Peak Archaeological Trust Roman – A Boyle, APS/B Precious, Independent Specialist Post-Roman -A Boyle, APS
Flints	B Bishop, independent specialist
Non-pottery Artefacts	J Cowgill, Independent Specialist/G Taylor, APS
Animal Bones	P Cope-Faulkner, APS
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**

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19 **BIBLIOGRAPHY**

Archaeological Project Services, 2003 Archaeological Evaluation on land at 81 Main Road, Washingborough, Lincolnshire (MRW03), APS Report 9/04
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

Specification: Version 1, 17-10-08

Appendix 2

CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

No.	Description	Interpretation
001	Very dark grey-brown silty sand, 0.2m thick	Topsoil
002	Mixed yellow-brown and grey-brown silty sand, 0.3m thick	Levelling deposit?
003	Black clayey silty sand with frequent roots, 0.12m thick	Buried topsoil?
004	Yellow-brown silty sand, >0.12m thick	Natural
005	Loose grey sand and rubble, 0.09m thick	Demolition debris
006	Very dark grey-brown silty sand, 0.36m thick	Topsoil
007	Dark reddish brown silty sand, humic/slightly peaty, 0.17m thick	Buried topsoil?
008	Orange-brown sand, >0.26m thick	Natural

Appendix 3

GLOSSARY

Alluvium	Deposits laid down by water. Marine alluvium is deposited by the sea, and fresh water alluvium is laid down by rivers and in lakes.
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).
Domesday Survey	A survey of property ownership in England compiled on the instruction of William I for taxation purposes in 1086 AD.
Glaciofluvial Drift	Materials (eg, clays, silts, gravels, <i>etc.</i>) deposited by the combined action of rivers and glaciers, or from streams from glacial ice.
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.
Old English	The language used by the Saxon (<i>q.v.</i>) occupants of 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.

Appendix 4

THE ARCHIVE

The archive consists of:

8	Context records
3	Daily record sheets
1	Photographic record sheet
1	Sheet of scale drawings
1	Annotated development plan
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: 2008.170

Archaeological Project Services Site Code: WBFR 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.

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