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**ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF  
AT 2 GREATFORD ROAD,  
BASTON,  
LINCOLNSHIRE  
(BAGR 07)**

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**Work Undertaken For  
M Parker and Sons Limited**

February 2009

Report Compiled by  
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Planning Application No: S05/1641/07  
National Grid Reference: TF 1103 1391  
City and County Museum Accession No: 2007.196  
OASIS Record No: archaeo11-55669

APS Report No. **14/09**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL  
PROJECT  
SERVICES**



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## 1. SUMMARY

*A watching brief was undertaken during groundworks at 2 Greatford Road, Baston, Lincolnshire. The watching brief monitored the excavation of foundation trenches for residential development.*

*The site lies to the west of Baston village north of an area where Iron Age (800 BC-AD 50) and Romano-British (AD 50-410) enclosures have partially been excavated. Greatford Road is believed to lie on the course of the Baston Outgang, a Roman thoroughfare that connected King Street, to the west of the village, with Spalding. Further southwest is the site of an Anglo-Saxon (AD 450-650) cemetery containing both cremations and inhumation burials.*

*The watching brief revealed a sequence of natural and topsoil with no archaeological features identified. No artefacts were observed or retrieved from 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 M Parker and Sons Limited to undertake an archaeological watching brief during groundworks associated with new residential development at 2 Greatford Road, Baston, Lincolnshire. Approval for the

development was sought through the submission of planning application S05/1641/07. The watching brief was carried out between the 1<sup>st</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> October 2007 in accordance with a specification prepared by Archaeological Project Services (Appendix 1) and approved by the South Kesteven Planning Archaeologist.

### 2.3 Topography and Geology

Baston is located 6km south of Bourne and 11km northeast of Stamford, in the administrative district of South Kesteven, Lincolnshire (Fig. 1).

The site lies 350m west of the centre of the village as defined by the parish church of St John the Baptist at National Grid Reference TF 1103 1391 (Fig. 2). Located north of Greatford Road and east of the Bourne to Deeping Road, the site lies at a height of *c.* 7m OD on land that slopes gently down to the east.

Local soils are of the Badsey 2 Association, typically fine loamy soils (Hodge *et al.* 1984, 101). These soils are developed upon a drift geology of terrace gravel which in turn seals a solid geology of Jurassic Oxford Clay (BGS 1978).

### 2.4 Archaeological Setting

Baston is located in an area of known archaeological remains dating from the prehistoric period to the present day. Evidence of earlier prehistoric activity is limited, though a number of Neolithic stone axes have been found in the parish.

Located southwest of the site are a number of Iron Age enclosures which were partially excavated in 1994 (JSAC 1996, 13). These date from the earlier Iron Age onwards, continuing perhaps into the Romano-British period. Evidence for iron-working was also found.

Romano-British activity is further

evidenced by the proximity of King Street, 350m to the west, and the Baston Outgang which is believed to be fossilised in the route of Greatford Road. As might be expected from this confluence of roads, there is further evidence of occupation of this period. Cropmarks are evident on either side of King Street and a number of artefacts have been found throughout the parish.

Located approximately 250m southwest of the development is the site of an Anglo-Saxon cemetery of mid 5<sup>th</sup> to late 6<sup>th</sup> century date. Although dominated by cremations, the cemetery is mixed and included a small number of inhumations (Mayes and Dean 1976, 6).

Baston is first reliably mentioned in the Domesday Survey of c. 1086. Referred to as *Bacstune* and *Bastune*, the name is derived from the Old Norse personal name *Bak* and the Old English *tūn* meaning farm or village (Cameron 1998, 11) the Domesday Survey records that Baston was held jointly by Gilbert de Gand and Crowland Abbey and contained a church, a half share of a mill, 85 acres of meadow and marsh (Foster and Longley 1976).

The only extant remains of the medieval period is the parish church of St John the Baptist which dates to the 13<sup>th</sup> century (Pevsner and Harris 1989, 129).

Excavations to the southwest of the site also identified medieval remains, predominantly in the form of ditches, though a stone lined water trough and quarry pits were also encountered (JSAC 1996, 15). It was also thought that pottery production was occurring in the vicinity, though no kiln was revealed. Documentary sources indicate potters in Baston during the 13<sup>th</sup> century (Taylor 1997, 3).

### 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 using a 0.6m wide toothless bucket to depths of 1m. Following excavation, the sides of the foundation 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 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. 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 trenches was a layer of yellow sand and gravel (002). This measured in excess of 0.7m thick (Fig. 4, Section 1).

This was sealed by a topsoil comprising a 0.3m thick layer of brownish grey sand (001) with occasional limestone fragments, perhaps derived from the construction of the adjacent barn.

## 6. DISCUSSION

Natural deposits comprise sand and gravel of the underlying River Terrace deposits and formed as outwash from the River Glen. A topsoil had developed upon the natural. No artefacts were retrieved during the investigation.

## 7. CONCLUSION

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken at Greatford Road, Baston, as the site lay in an area of known remains dating from the Iron Age to the medieval periods.

However, only a sequence of natural geology overlain by topsoil was encountered. No finds were recovered during the watching brief.

## 8. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeological Project Services wishes to acknowledge the assistance of Mr H Baxter of M Parker and Sons Limited for commissioning the fieldwork and post-excavation analysis. The work was coordinated by Dale Trimble and Mark Williams. Dale Trimble 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 Coordinators: Dale Trimble, Mark Williams  
 Site Supervisors: Jim Robertson, Mark Williams  
 Photographic reproduction: Sue Unsworth  
 Illustration: Paul Cope-Faulkner  
 Post-excavation analysis: Paul Cope-Faulkner

## 10. BIBLIOGRAPHY

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## 11. ABBREVIATIONS


APS Archaeological Project Services  
 BGS British Geological Survey  
 IFA Institute of Field Archaeologists  
 JSAC John Samuels Archaeological Consultants



Figure 1 - General location plan



**TF**

 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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	<b>Archaeological Project Services</b>	
Project Name: Greatford Road, Baston BAGR07		
Scale 1:10000	Drawn by: PCF	Report No: 14/09

Figure 2 - Site location plan



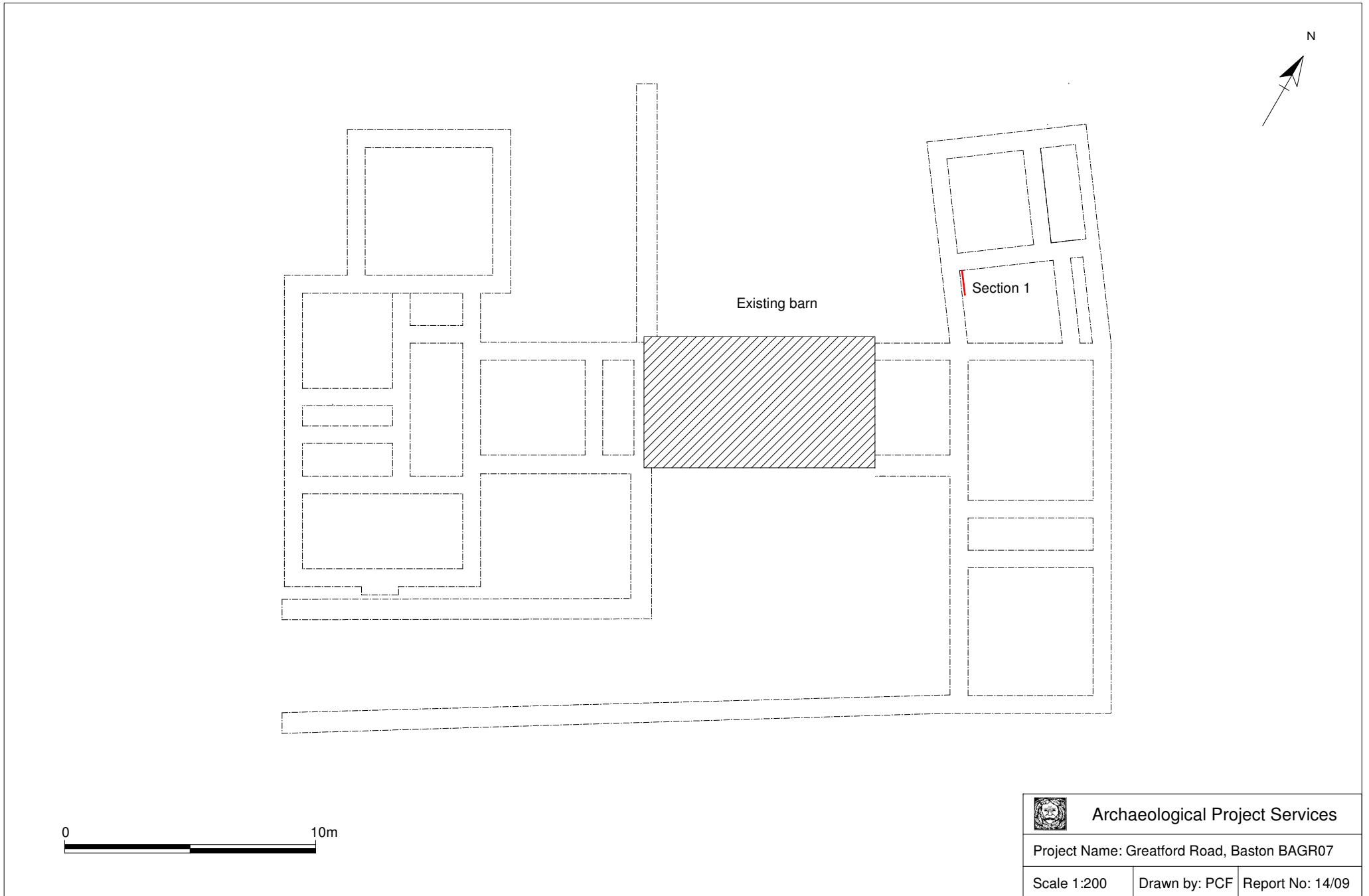
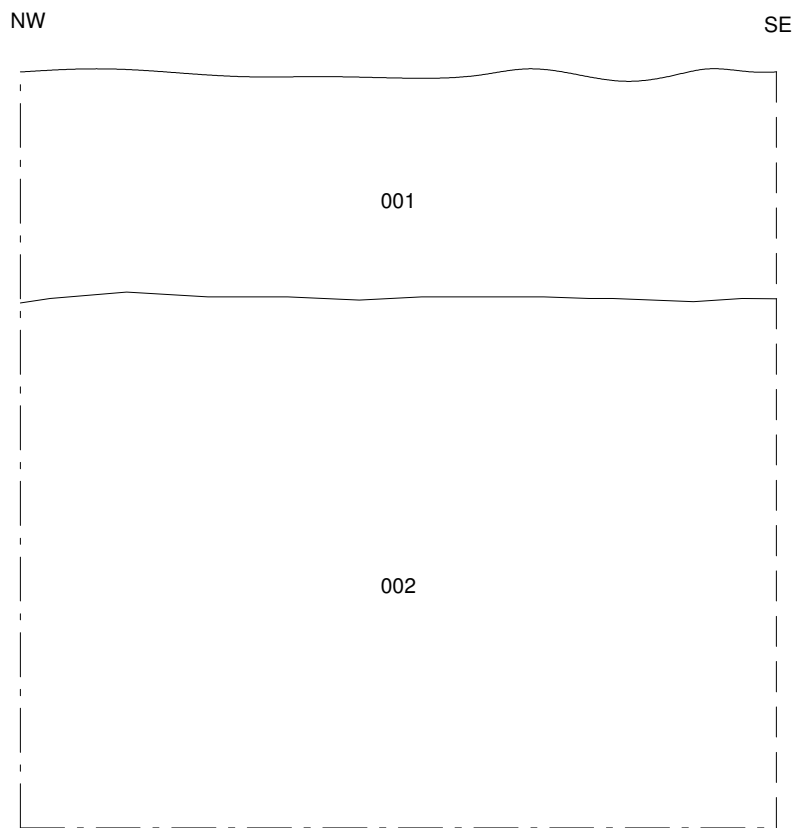


Figure 3 - Plan of the development showing location of drawn section



Section 1




	Archaeological Project Services	
Project Name: Greatford Road, Baston BAGR07		
Scale 1:10	Drawn by: PCF	Report No: 14/09

Figure 4 - Section 1



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



Plate 2 – Section 1, looking east

## **Appendix 1**

### **LAND AT 2 GREATFORD ROAD, BASTON, LINCOLNSHIRE - SPECIFICATION FOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF**

#### **1 SUMMARY**

- 1.1 *A watching brief is required during groundworks associated with the extension of a barn to create two dwellings at Greatford Road, Baston, Lincolnshire.*
- 1.2 *The site lies in an area of known archaeological potential. Iron Age enclosures are located just to the south. Cropmarks of Roman settlement are known nearby and a Roman road lies a little to the west. An Anglo-Saxon cemetery of national significance is also known in the area.*
- 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 extension to a barn to create 2 dwellings at 2 Greatford Road, Baston, Lincolnshire.
- 2.2 This document contains the following parts:
  - 2.2.1 Overview.
  - 2.2.2 Stages of work and methodologies.
  - 2.2.3 List of specialists.
  - 2.2.4 Programme of works and staffing structure of the project

#### **3 SITE LOCATION**

- 3.1 The site is located adjacent to the A15 and to the north of Greatford Road, Lincolnshire at NGR 511028 313922.

#### **4 PLANNING BACKGROUND**

- 4.1 A planning application (S05/1641/07) was submitted to South Kesteven District Council for the construction of dwellings at the above site.

#### **5 SOILS AND TOPOGRAPHY**

- 5.1 The site lies at approximately 7m OD on a gentle slope down to the east. Local soils are the Badsey 2 Association fine loamy soils developed on river terrace gravel (Hodge *et al.* 1984, 101).

#### **6 ARCHAEOLOGICAL OVERVIEW**

- 6.1 The site is of archaeological interest with a nationally important Anglo Saxon cemetery located in the area of the site.

#### **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.

7.1.2 The objectives of the watching brief will be to:

- Determine the form and function of the archaeological features encountered;
- Determine the spatial arrangement of the archaeological features encountered;
- As far as practicable, recover dating evidence from the archaeological features, and
- Establish the sequence of the archaeological remains present on the site.

## **8 SITE OPERATIONS**

### **8.1 General considerations**

8.1.1 All work will be undertaken following statutory Health and Safety requirements in operation at the time of the watching brief.

8.1.2 The work will be undertaken according to the relevant codes of practise issued by the Institute of Field Archaeologists (IFA), under the management of a Member of the institute (MIFA). Archaeological Project Services is IFA registered organisation no. 21.

8.1.3 Any and all artefacts found during the investigation and thought to be 'treasure', as defined by the Treasure Act 1996, will be removed from site to a secure store and promptly reported to the appropriate coroner's office.

### **8.2 Methodology**

8.2.1 The watching brief will be undertaken during the ground works phase of development, and includes the archaeological monitoring of all phases of soil movement.

8.2.2 Stripped areas and trench sections will be observed regularly to identify and record archaeological features that are exposed and to record changes in the geological conditions. The section drawings of the trenches will be recorded at a scale of 1:10. Should features be recorded in plan these will be drawn at a scale of 1:20. Written descriptions detailing the nature of the deposits, features and fills encountered will be compiled on Archaeological Project Services pro-forma record sheets.

8.2.3 Any finds recovered will be bagged and labelled for later analysis.

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

- the site during work to show specific stages, and the layout of the archaeology within the trench.
- groups of features where their relationship is important

8.2.5 Should human remains be located the appropriate Home Office licence will be obtained before their removal. In addition, the Local Environmental Health Department and the police will be informed.

## **9 POST-EXCAVATION**

### **9.1 Stage 1**

9.1.1 On completion of site operations, the records and schedules produced during the watching brief will be checked and ordered to ensure that they form a uniform sequence forming a level II archive. A stratigraphic matrix of the archaeological deposits and

features present on the site will be prepared. All photographic material will be catalogued and labelled, the labelling referring to schedules identifying the subject/s photographed.

- 9.1.2 All finds recovered during the fieldwork will be washed, marked and packaged according to the deposit from which they were recovered. Any finds requiring specialist treatment and conservation will be sent to the Conservation Laboratory at the City and County Museum, Lincoln.

## 9.2 Stage 2

- 9.2.1 Detailed examination of the stratigraphic matrix to enable the determination of the various phases of activity on the site.

- 9.2.2 Finds will be sent to specialists for identification and dating.

## 9.3 Stage 3

- 9.3.1 On completion of stage 2, a report detailing the findings of the watching brief will be prepared.

- 9.3.2 This will consist of:

- A non-technical summary of the results of the investigation.
- A description of the archaeological setting of the watching brief.
- Description of the topography of the site.
- Description of the methodologies used during the watching brief.
- A text describing the findings of the watching brief.
- A consideration of the local, regional and national context of the watching brief findings.
- Plans of the archaeological features exposed. If a sequence of archaeological deposits is encountered, separate plans for each phase will be produced.
- Sections of the trenches and archaeological features.
- Interpretation of the archaeological features exposed, and their chronology and setting within the surrounding landscape.
- Specialist reports on the finds from the site.
- Appropriate photographs of the site and specific archaeological features.

## **10 REPORT DEPOSITION**

- 10.1 Copies of the report will be sent to the Client; the South Kesteven Planning Archaeologist; South Kesteven District 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 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 South Kesteven Planning Archaeologist. 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.
- 15.4

## **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 - B Precious, Independent Specialist Anglo-Saxon - J Young, Independent Specialist Medieval and later – A Boyle/G Taylor, APS
Non-pottery Artefacts	J Cowgill, Independent Specialist, or G Taylor, APS
Animal Bones	J Kitch, APS
Environmental Analysis	J Rackham, Independent Specialist
Human Remains Analysis	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**

Archaeological Project Services, 2001 *Archaeological watching brief of development on land adjacent to Greatford Road, Baston, Lincolnshire (GRBA00)*, unpublished APS report **110/01**

Hodge, CAH, Burton, RGO, Corbett, WM, Evans, R, and Seale, RS, 1984 *Soils and their use in Eastern England*, Soil Survey of England and Wales **13**



## Appendix 2

### CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

<b>No.</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Interpretation</b>
001	Friable mid brownish grey sand with occasional limestone fragments, 0.3m thick	Topsoil
002	Hard dark yellow sand and gravel, increasing sand with depth, >0.7m thick	Natural deposit

## Appendix 3

### GLOSSARY

<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>Cropmark</b>	A mark that is produced by the effect of underlying archaeological features influencing the growth of a particular crop.
<b>Iron Age</b>	A period characterised by the introduction of Iron into the country for tools, between 800 BC and AD 50.
<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>Neolithic</b>	The 'New Stone Age' period, part of the prehistoric era, dating from approximately 4500-2250 BC.
<b>Post-medieval</b>	The period following the Middle Ages, dating from approximately AD 1500-1800.
<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.
<b>Saxon</b>	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:

2	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: LCNCC: 2007.196

Archaeological Project Services Site Code: BAGR 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.

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.