
**ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF
AT GODFREENA,
LITTLE CASTERTON,
RUTLAND
(LICG 09)**

**Work Undertaken For
Mrs P Tyers**

April 2009

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

Planning Application No: FUL/2008/1088
National Grid Reference: TF 0189 0985
Museum Accession No: OAKRM: 2009.6
OASIS Record No: archaeo11-58441

APS Report No. **31/09**

**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	2
6.	DISCUSSION	2
7.	CONCLUSION	2
8.	ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	3
9.	PERSONNEL	3
10.	BIBLIOGRAPHY	3
11.	ABBREVIATIONS	3

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 section locations
- Figure 4 Sections 1 to 5

List of Plates

- Plate 1 View across the development area
- Plate 2 Section 1
- Plate 3 Section 2

1. SUMMARY

A watching brief was undertaken during groundworks at Godfreena, Little Casterton, Rutland. The watching brief monitored the excavation of a trench for a new swimming pool.

The site lies within the core of the medieval (AD 1066-1540) village close to the 13th century All Saints church. Prehistoric features have also been recorded in the vicinity as cropmarks.

The watching brief revealed a sequence of natural, topsoil and modern garden deposits. An undated pit was also encountered and is thought to be of probable post-medieval date. No artefacts were 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 Mrs P Tyers to undertake an archaeological watching brief during groundworks associated with a new swimming pool at Godfreena, Little Casterton, Rutland. Approval for the development was sought through the submission of planning application FUL/2008/1088. The watching brief was carried out on the 15th April 2009 in accordance with a specification prepared by Archaeological Project Services

(Appendix 1) and approved by the Planning Archaeologist, Leicestershire County Council.

2.3 Topography and Geology

Little Casterton is located 15km east of Oakham and 27km southeast of Melton Mowbray, in Rutland (Fig. 1).

The site lies 90m southeast of the parish church of All Saints at National Grid Reference TF 0189 0985 (Fig. 2). The site lies on the north side of the principal thoroughfare through the village at a height of *c.* 40m OD on land that slopes down to the northwest, towards the River Gwash.

Local soils are of the Elmtun 3 Association, typically shallow well drained brashy calcareous fine loamy soils (Hodge *et al.* 1984, 103). These soils are developed upon a solid geology of Upper and Lower Lincolnshire Limestone with head deposits immediately north of the site (GSGB 1978).

2.4 Archaeological Setting

Little Casterton is located in an area of known archaeological remains dating from the prehistoric period to the present day. A possible Bronze Age barrow has been identified on aerial photographs to the north of the village and possible enclosures of prehistoric or Romano-British origin recorded to the southwest. A pit alignment and linear ditch system has also been identified to the north.

Little Casterton is first mentioned in the Domesday Survey of *c.* 1086. Referred to as *Castretone*, the name is derived from the Old English and means ‘the settlement (*tūn*) by a Roman fort’ (Ekwall 1989, 89). The Domesday Survey indicates that the entry was grouped with Great Casterton and was held by the King and his tenant, David, and contained a priest, two mills, 21 acres of meadow and woodland 3

furlongs by 2 furlongs extent (Thorn 1980).

The only extant remains of the period is the parish church of All Saints which largely dates from the 13th century, though does contain Norman masonry (Pevsner 1992, 480).

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 foundation for the new swimming pool was excavated by machine to depths required by the development. Following excavation, the sides of the trench was 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 also 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 stripped area was a natural layer of light yellowish brown limestone fragments (003). This measured in excess of 0.3m thick.

Cut into the limestone was a large pit (005) that was over 3.8m by 3.45m in extent and deeper than 0.3m (Fig. 4, Section 2). A single fill of greyish brown clayey silt (004) was recorded in which brick fragments were observed.

Sealing the pit was a former topsoil layer of greyish brown clayey silt (002) that was 0.33m thick which was in turn sealed by a make-up deposit comprising mottled brown and grey sand and clayey silt (001). A topsoil sealed this but had been removed prior to the excavation of the trench.

6. DISCUSSION

Natural deposits comprise limestone of the underlying solid geology. A large pit remains undated but is probably post-medieval in origin and may relate to buildings that are recorded at the site on early maps of the vicinity. Topsoil and recent garden deposits completed the sequence. No finds were retrieved from this investigation.

7. CONCLUSION

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken at Godfreena, Little Casterton, as the site lay close to the core of the medieval village.

However, no medieval remains were encountered. An undated, probably post-medieval, pit was recorded along with topsoil and garden deposits. No other archaeological features were recorded and no artefacts were retrieved.

8. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

IFA Institute of Field Archaeologists

Archaeological Project Services wishes to acknowledge the assistance of Mrs P Tyers for commissioning the fieldwork and post-excavation analysis. The work was coordinated by Dale Trimble who edited this report along with Tom Lane. Dave Start kindly allowed access to the library maintained by Heritage Lincolnshire.

9. PERSONNEL

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

10. BIBLIOGRAPHY

Ekwall, E, 1989 *The Concise Oxford Dictionary of English Place-names* (4th edition)

GSGB, 1978, *Stamford, Solid and Drift geology*, 1:50 000 map sheet **157**

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**

IFA, 1999, *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs*

Pevsner, N, 1992 *Leicestershire and Rutland*, The Buildings of England (2nd edition, revised E Williamson)

Thorn, F, 1980 *Domesday Book: Rutland*

11. ABBREVIATIONS

APS Archaeological Project Services

GSGB Geological Survey of Great Britain

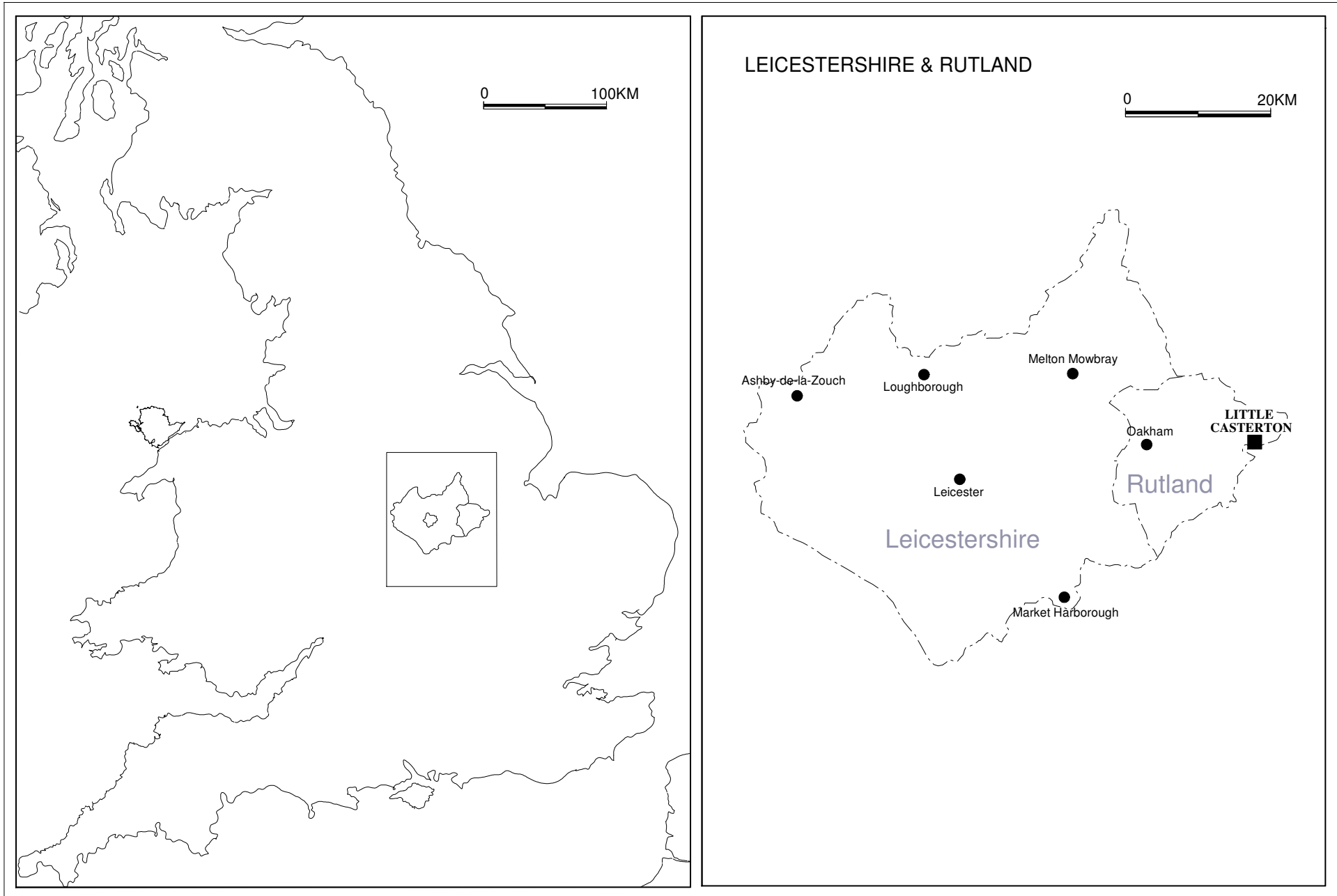


Figure 1 - General location map

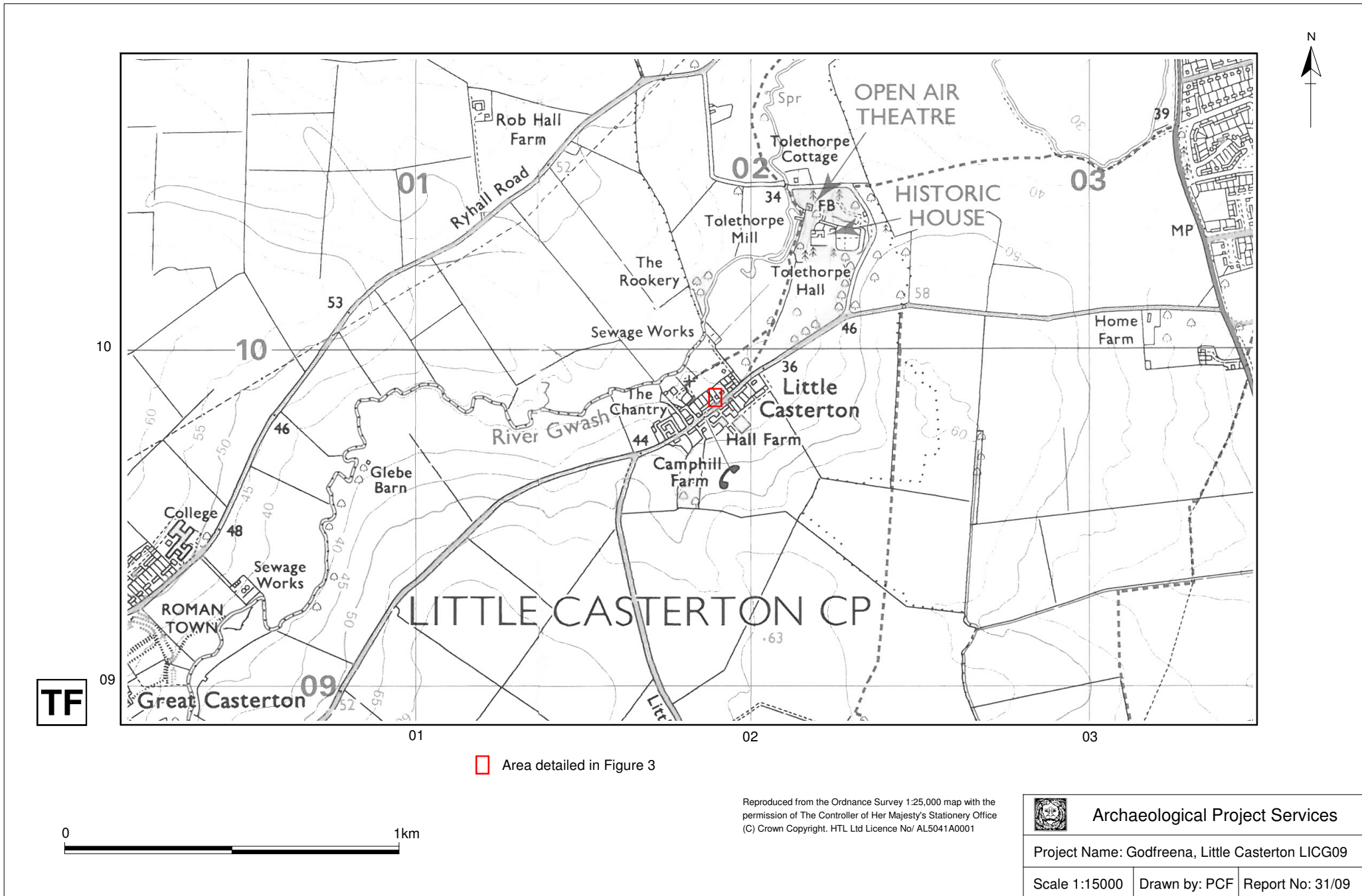
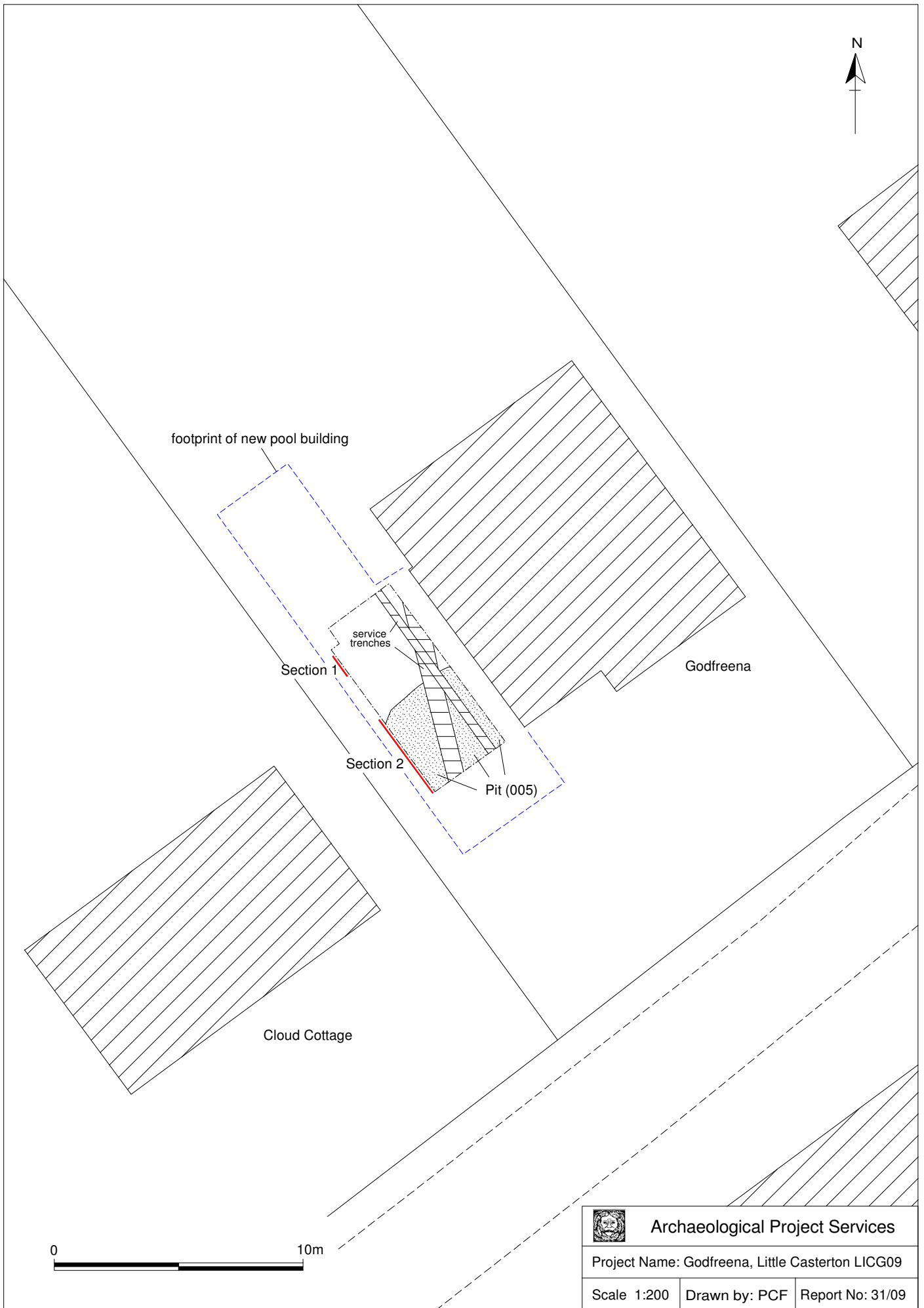


Figure 2 - Site location plan




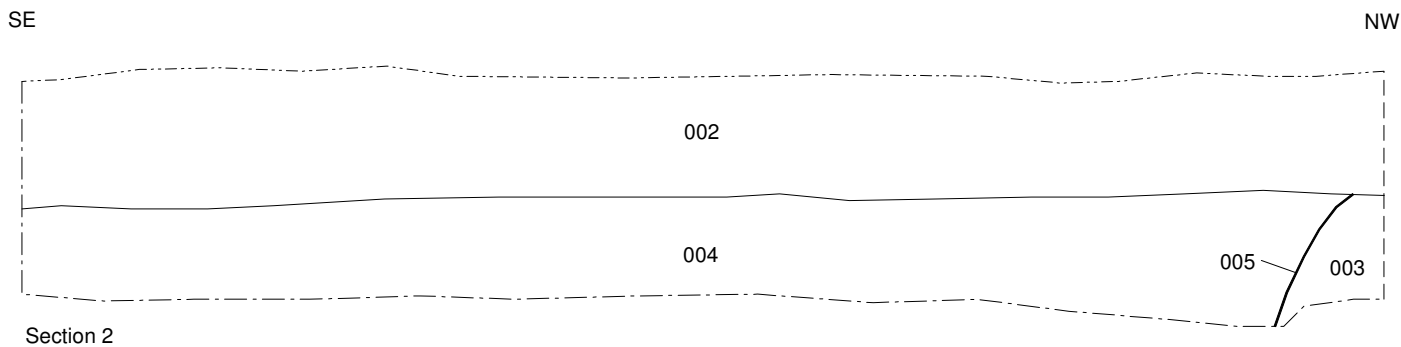
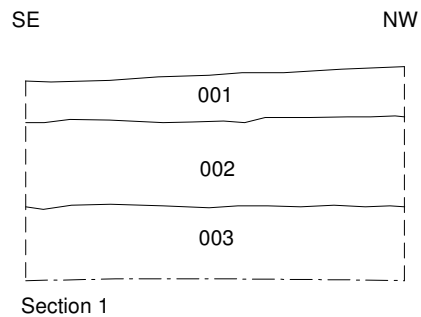
 Archaeological Project Services		
Project Name: Godfreena, Little Casterton LICG09		
Scale 1:200	Drawn by: PCF	Report No: 31/09

Figure 3 - Plan of the development showing principal features and section locations




	Archaeological Project Services	
Project Name: Godfreena, Little Casterton LICG09		
Scale 1:20	Drawn by: PCF	Report No: 31/09

Figure 4 - Sections 1 and 2



Plate 1 – General view across the development area, looking northwest



Plate 2 – Section 1, looking southwest



Plate 3 – Section 2, looking southwest

Appendix 1

LITTLE CASTERTON, RUTLAND - SPECIFICATION FOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

1 SUMMARY

- 1.1 *Archaeological monitoring and recording is required during development on land at Godfreena, Little Casterton, Rutland.*
- 1.2 *The site lies in the historic core of the village and medieval and post medieval archaeological remains may be disturbed by the development.*
- 1.3 *The archaeological work will comprise an enhanced watching brief during all phases of groundworks 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 development on land at Godfreena, Little Casterton, Rutland, located at National Grid Reference TF 018 098.
- 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 Little Casterton is located 2.5km northeast of Stamford in the county of Rutland. The proposed development site is located at the centre of the village on the north side of the main street, approximately 100m southeast of the medieval church.

4 PLANNING BACKGROUND

- 4.1 Planning permission (Application No. FUL/2008/1088) for residential development is subject to a condition requiring the implementation of a scheme of archaeological works, in this instance comprising an intensive archaeological watching brief during all groundworks. The development comprised construction of a swimming pool and extensions to the extant building

5 SOILS AND TOPOGRAPHY

- 5.1 Local soils are of the Elmton 3 Association, typically shallow well drained brashy calcareous fine loamy soils over limestone. (Hodge *et al.* 1984, 103) The site lies at around 35m AOD with the local topography sloping downwards to the River Gwash which lies approximately 150m to the north.

6 ARCHAEOLOGICAL OVERVIEW

- 6.1 The proposed area of development lies within the historic medieval and post-medieval settlement core of Little

Casterton, approximately 100m southeast of the medieval church of All Saints (HER Ref. No. MLE8465). Although much of the church is of 13th century build some internal masonry is of Norman date and indicates an early origin for the village (Pevsner, 1992).

- 6.2 Based upon historic map evidence, there is a potential for both medieval and post-medieval remains on site – specifically, a structure/building is shown on site depicted on the late 19th century 1st edition Ordnance Survey (OS) map and the c.1814 OS Survey.

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 archaeological monitoring will be undertaken during the ground works phase of development, and will comprise an intensive watching brief of all groundworks.

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 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 Senior Planning Archaeologist, Leicestershire County Council; Rutland County 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 Leicestershire Museums Service. This sorting will be undertaken according to the document titled *The Transfer of Archaeological Archives to Leicestershire Museums, Arts and Records Service* for long term storage and curation.

12 PUBLICATION

- 12.1 Details of the project will be entered into the OASIS database. A report of the findings of the evaluation will be submitted to the editor of the *Transactions of the Leicestershire Archaeological and Historical Society*. If appropriate notes or articles describing the results of the investigation will also be submitted for publication in the appropriate national journals: *Medieval Archaeology* and *Journal of the Medieval Settlement Research Group* for medieval and later remains, and *Britannia* for discoveries of Roman date.

13 CURATORIAL RESPONSIBILITY

- 13.1 Curatorial responsibility for the archaeological work undertaken on the site lies with the Senior Planning Archaeologist, Leicestershire County Council. They will be given seven days 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.
- 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 monitoring 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 - B Precious, Independent Specialist Anglo-Saxon - J Young, Independent Specialist Medieval and later - G Taylor, APS in consultation with H Healey, Independent Archaeologist
Non-pottery Artefacts	J Cowgill, Independent Specialist
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 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.
- 18.3 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. Licence will also be given to the archaeological curators to use the documentary archive for educational, public and research purposes.

19 BIBLIOGRAPHY

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**

Pevsner, N.,1992. *The Buildings of England. Leicestershire and Rutland*. Penguin

Specification: Version 1, 09th April 2009

Appendix 2

CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

No.	Description	Interpretation
001	Friable mottled brown and grey sand and clayey silt, 0.1m thick	Make-up deposit
002	Friable dark greyish brown clayey silt, 0.33m thick	Former topsoil
003	Loose light yellowish brown limestone fragments, >0.2m thick	Natural deposit
004	Friable mid greyish brown clayey silt	Fill of (005)
005	Feature, >3.8m long by >3.45m wide by >0.3m deep, steep sides, not fully excavated	Pit

Appendix 3

GLOSSARY

Bronze Age	A period characterised by the introduction of bronze into the country for tools, between 2250 and 800 BC.
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).
Cropmark	A mark that is produced by the effect of underlying archaeological features influencing the growth of a particular crop.
Cut	A cut refers to the physical action of digging a posthole, pit, ditch, foundation trench, <i>etc.</i> Once the fills of these features are removed during an archaeological investigation the original 'cut' is therefore exposed and subsequently recorded.
Fill	Once a feature has been dug it begins to silt up (either slowly or rapidly) or it can be back-filled manually. The soil(s) which become contained by the 'cut' are referred to as its fill(s).
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.
Post-medieval	The period following the Middle Ages, dating from approximately AD 1500-1800.
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 1 st century AD.
Romano-British	Pertaining to the period dating from AD 43-410 when the Romans occupied Britain.
Toft	Elongated and parallel plots of land containing a dwelling.
Wapentake	An administrative division of a shire in the former Danelaw counties.

Appendix 4

THE ARCHIVE

The archive consists of:

5	Context records
1	Photographic record sheet
1	Section record sheet
1	Daily record sheet
2	Sheets 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:

Rutland County Museum
Catmose Street
Oakham
Rutland
LE15 6HW

Accession Number:

OAKRM: 2009.6

Archaeological Project Services Site Code:

LICG 09

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.