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**ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF  
AT MANOR FARM,  
QUARRINGTON,  
SLEAFORD,  
LINCOLNSHIRE  
(QTRA 10)**

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**Work Undertaken For  
Trent Valley Construction**

June 2010

Report Compiled by  
Paul Cope-Faulkner BA (Hons)

Planning Application No: N/57/1046/08  
National Grid Reference: TF 0568 4441  
The Collection Accession No: LCNCC: 2010.57  
OASIS Record No: archaeo11-76819

APS Report No. **39/10**

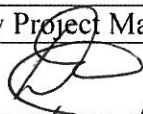
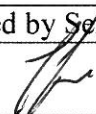
**ARCHAEOLOGICAL  
PROJECT  
SERVICES**





**Quality Control**  
 Manor Farm, Town Road  
 Quarrington  
 QTRA 10

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Supervisors	Lavinia Green, Mark Peachey
Finds Processing	Denise Buckley
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Date: 14/06/2010	Date: 14-06-10

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## 1. SUMMARY

*A watching brief was undertaken during groundworks at Manor Farm, Quarrington, Sleaford, Lincolnshire. The watching brief monitored the excavation of service trenches and the stripping of an area for a new access road.*

*The site lies close to previous discoveries of an extensive Early to Middle Saxon (AD 410-750) settlement which undertook metalworking. Manor Farm also lies close to the core of the medieval (AD 1066-1540) village best represented by the 13<sup>th</sup> century church. A Neolithic (4200-2250 BC) cremation is also known from the area along with other finds of the period. Iron Age (800 BC-AD 43) and Romano-British (AD 43-410) material is also known from the vicinity.*

*The watching brief revealed a sequence of natural, undated and recent deposits. Undated features comprise a single ditch and a subsoil suggests agricultural activity at the site during the post-medieval period. Modern deposits relate to the use of the site as a farm yard.*

*Finds retrieved during the investigation include pottery and glass of post-medieval and later date and a small collection of animal bone.*

## 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 Trent Valley Construction to undertake an archaeological watching brief during groundworks associated with new road and drainage works at Manor Farm, Quarrington, Sleaford, Lincolnshire. Approval for the development was sought through the submission of planning application N/57/1046/08. The watching brief was carried out between the 9<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> April 2010 in accordance with a specification prepared by Archaeological Project Services and approved by the Historic Environment Team, Heritage Lincolnshire.

### 2.3 Topography and Geology

Quarrington is located 16.5km northeast of Grantham and 2km southwest of Sleaford in the administrative district of North Kesteven, Lincolnshire (Fig. 1).

The site lies 200m east of the centre of Quarrington as defined by the church of St Botolph at National Grid Reference TF 0568 4441 (Fig. 2). The site lies to the north of Town Road at a height of c. 21m OD on a slight slope down to the south towards a minor watercourse, the Moor Drain.

Local soils are of the Aswarby Series, typically fine loamy brown calcareous earths (George and Robson 1978, 44). These soils are developed upon a solid geology of Jurassic Cornbrash (BGS 1996).

### 2.4 Archaeological Setting

Quarrington is located in an area of known archaeological remains dating from the Neolithic to the present day. A pit containing an inverted Neolithic bowl with a possible cremation and a number of flint artefacts including a polished stone axe fragment were found in excavations to the

northeast of the site (Taylor 2003, 235).

The same excavations uncovered a large extensive Early to Middle Saxon settlement. Several buildings were encountered and rare metalworking evidence was also recorded (*ibid.* 274-5). The settlement may have been associated with an inhumation cemetery that lay to the northwest.

Quarrington is first mentioned in a charter of 1051. Referred to as *Querenton* and later in the Domesday Survey of c. 1086 as *Corninctone*, *Corninctune* and *Cornintone* the name is derived from the Old English and means the ‘farmstead of the place with a quern’ (Cameron 1998, 99). The charter details the granting of land at Quarrington, Cranwell and Sleaford to Ramsey Abbey (Hart 1966, 242). At the time of Domesday, the land was held by the King, the Bishop of Lincoln and Ramsey Abbey and contained 2 churches, a mill and at least 74 acres of meadow (Foster and Longley 1976).

The only extant remains of the medieval period is St Botolph’s church which has elements dating to the 13<sup>th</sup> century (Pevsner and Harris 1989, 605).

Archaeological investigations undertaken adjacent to the site revealed Late Saxon pits and medieval ditches. Iron Age, Romano-British and Early to Middle Saxon pottery was also retrieved, largely as residual material (Mellor 2009, 1).

### 3. AIMS

The aim of the archaeological investigation was to ensure that any archaeological features exposed during the groundworks should be recorded and, if present, to determine their date, function and origin.

## 4. METHODS

Trenches for the new drainage works were excavated by machine to depths of 1.91m below the present ground level. The depth of these trenches precluded examination from within the trench and observations were taken from the surface. The area of the new road was then stripped to a depth of 0.7m. The surface of the stripped area was then examined for archaeological features and 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 1. 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 and supplemented by artefact dating.

## 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 during the watching brief was a layer of brownish yellow clayey silt and limestone (002 and 007). This measured in excess of 1.4m thick. Above (007) towards the west of the site was a natural layer of reddish brown clayey silt (006) that was 0.65m thick (Fig. 4, Section 2). A natural layer of brownish orange sandy silt (017) was also recorded along the western edge of the site (Fig. 5, Section 8).

Developed upon the natural deposits was an intermittent subsoil. This comprised brown sandy silt (005, 016 and 019) and yellowish brown sandy silt (013). This measured up to 0.5m thick. Post-medieval to recent pottery and glass was retrieved from the subsoil.

Cut into the natural deposits, to the east of Plot 2, was a north-south aligned ditch (008). This was over 2m long by 1.3m wide and 0.4m deep (Fig. 4, Section 4; Fig. 5, Section 6). A single fill of brown sandy silt with limestone fragments (009) was recorded.

A former topsoil was recorded along the western part of the site. Consisting of greyish brown silt (004), sandy silt (015) and brown sandy silt (010), this layer also measured up to 0.5m thick. Modern topsoil overlay this deposit in Sections 2, 8 and 9 and comprised brown sandy silt (003 and 014) and greyish brown sandy silt (018).

Overlying the subsoil close to Manor Farm was a make-up layer of yellow to brown sand and silt with brick tile fragments (012) for a concrete surface (011). Make-up (012) contained 18<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup> century pottery and glass.

To the south of the farm buildings, the topsoil had been replaced or sealed by mixed tarmac and rubble hardstanding (001) for the farm yard.

## 6. DISCUSSION

Natural deposits were identified as the underlying solid geology of Jurassic Cornbrash.

An intermittent subsoil was recorded across the site and suggests the site was under an agricultural regime in the past. Furthermore, the varying thicknesses of this deposit may suggest some vestigial trace of ridge and furrow.

A ditch remains undated due to a lack of artefactual material. However, two boundaries sharing a similar alignment appear on the 1903 Ordnance Survey plan of the area.

Recent deposits comprise topsoil, hardstanding and concrete surfaces which can be associated with Manor Farm.

Finds retrieved from the investigation comprise late post-medieval pottery, post-medieval and later glass and a small quantity of animal bone.

## 7. CONCLUSION

A watching brief was undertaken at Manor Farm, Quarrington as the site lay close to discoveries of Neolithic, Iron Age and Romano-British date and in an area of Saxon and medieval settlement.

However, no features were identified that could be securely dated to the Saxon or medieval periods. A single undated ditch and extensive, though intermittent subsoil of post-medieval origin, were recorded at the site. Recent deposits were associated with Manor Farm.

Finds comprise 18<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup> century pottery, 19<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup> century glass and animal bone.

## 8. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeological Project Services wishes to acknowledge the assistance of Mr M Thornhill of Trent Valley Construction for commissioning the fieldwork and post-excavation analysis. The work was coordinated by Dale Trimble who edited this report along with Tom Lane. Jenny Young of the Historic Environment Team, kindly allowed access to the parish files and library maintained by Heritage Lincolnshire.



## 9. PERSONNEL

Project Coordinator: Dale Trimble  
 Site Supervisors: Lavinia Green, Mark Peachey  
 Finds processing: Denise Buckley  
 Photographic reproduction: Sue Unsworth  
 Illustration: Paul Cope-Faulkner  
 Post-excavation analysis: Paul Cope-Faulkner

## 11. ABBREVIATIONS

APS Archaeological Project Services  
 BGS British Geological Survey  
 IFA Institute of Field Archaeologists

## 10. BIBLIOGRAPHY

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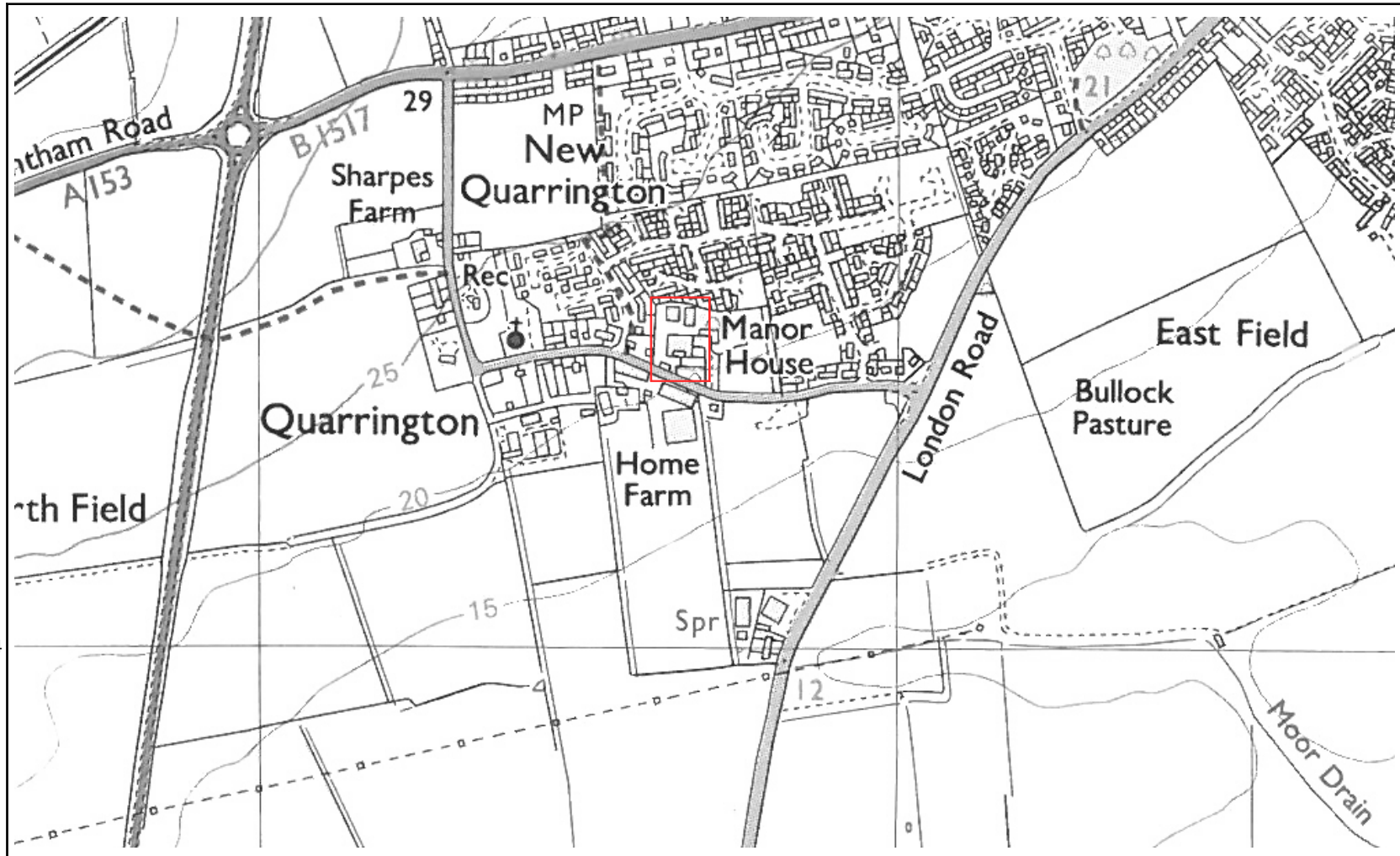
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Figure 1 - General location plan



**TF**

Reproduced from the Ordnance Survey 1:25,000 map with the permission of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office © Crown Copyright. HTL Ltd Licence No. AL5041A0001

Area detailed in Figure 3




 <b>Archaeological Project Services</b>		
Project Name: Manor Farm, Quarrington QTRA10		
Scale 1:10000	Drawn by: PCF	Report No: 39/10

Figure 2 - Site location plan

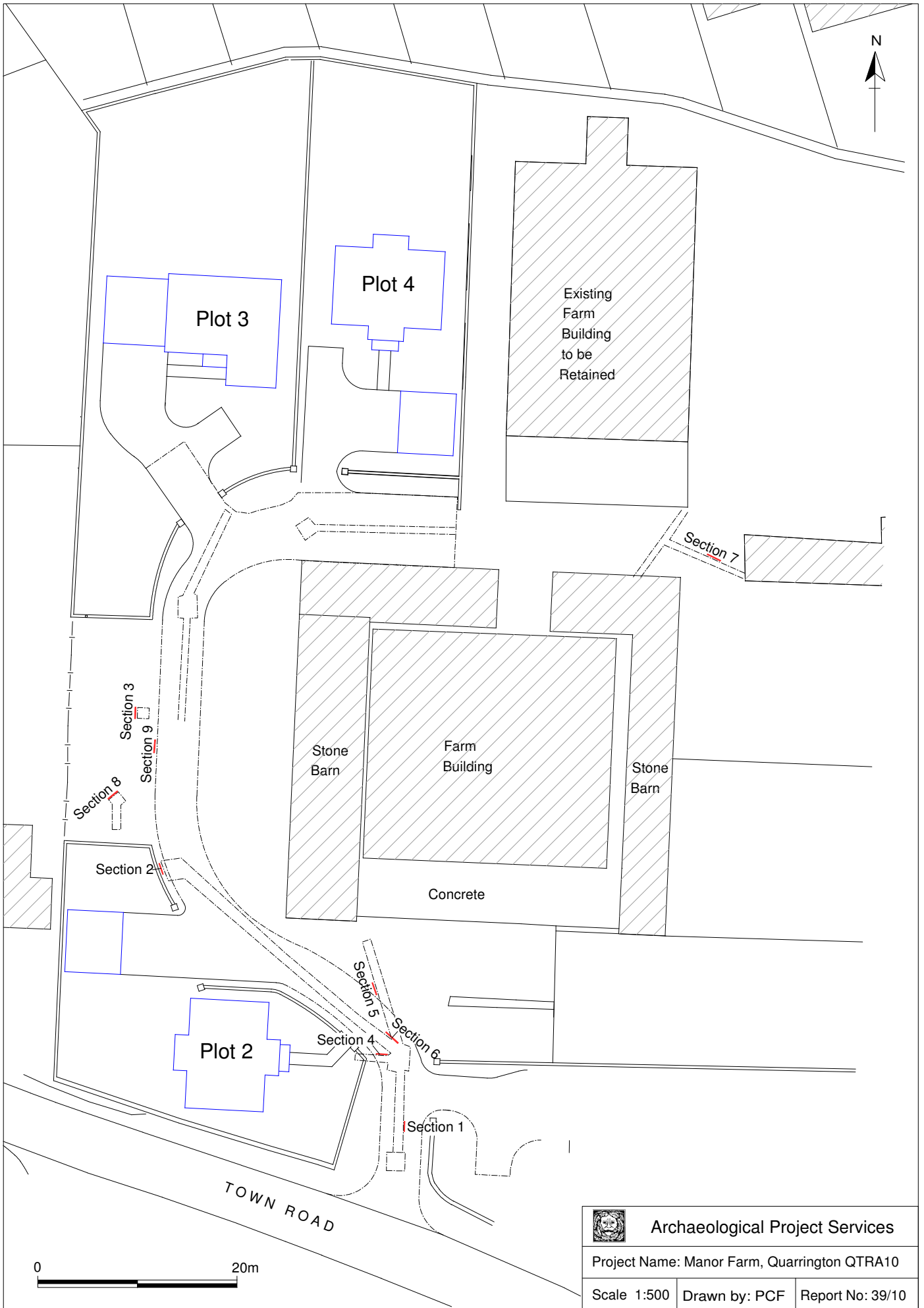
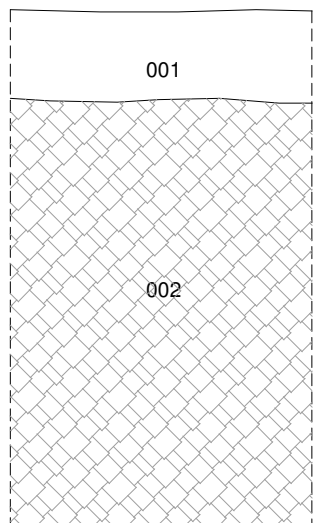


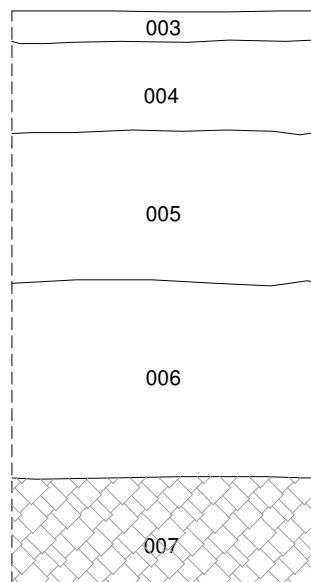
Figure 3 - Plan of the development showing section locations

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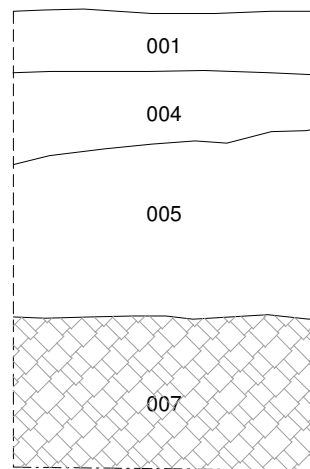
Section 1

S N



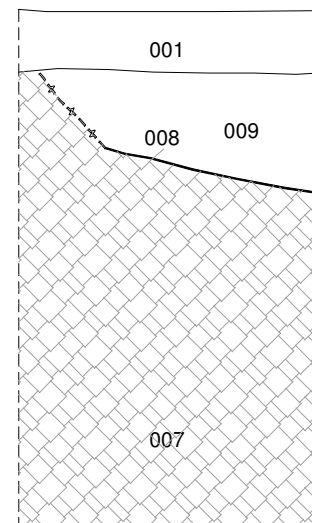
Section 2

S N



Section 3

W E



Section 4

 Natural



Archaeological Project Services

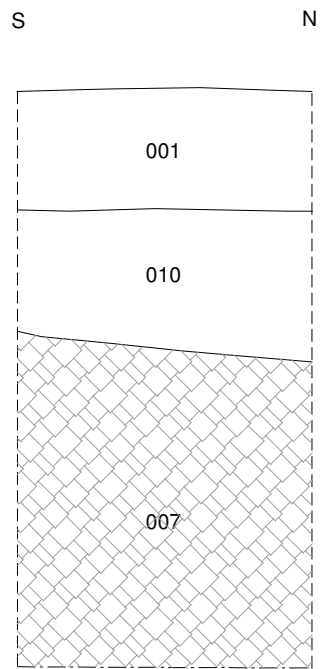
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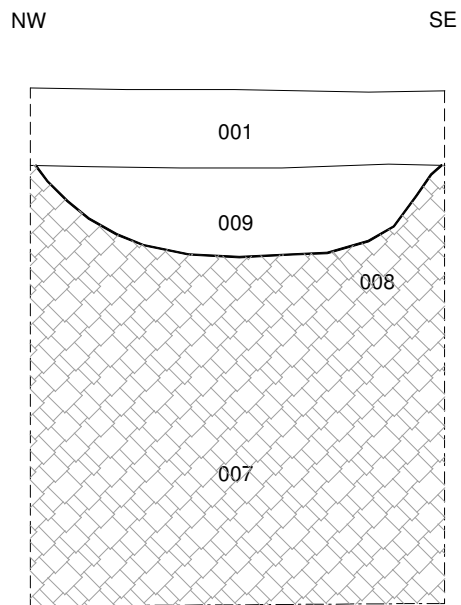
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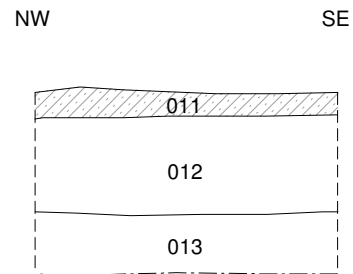
Figure 4 - Sections 1 to 4



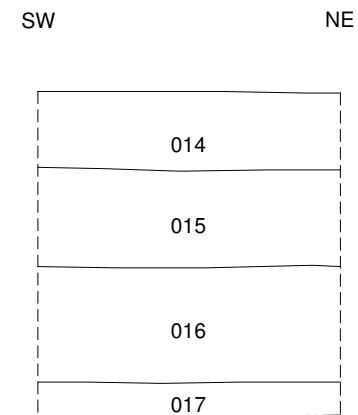
Section 5



Section 6

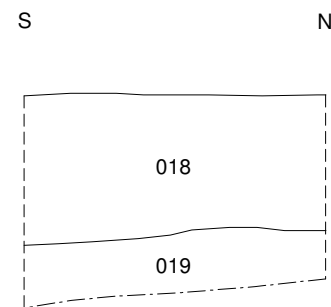


Section 7



Section 8

 Natural



Section 9




 Archaeological Project Services		
Project Name: Manor Farm, Quarrington QTRA10		
Scale 1:25	Drawn by: PCF	Report No: 39/10

Figure 5 - Sections 5 to 9



Plate 1 – View showing the area of works adjacent to Manor Farm, looking northeast



Plate 2 – Section 2, looking west



Plate 3 – Section 3, looking west



Plate 4 – Section 4 showing ditch (008), looking north

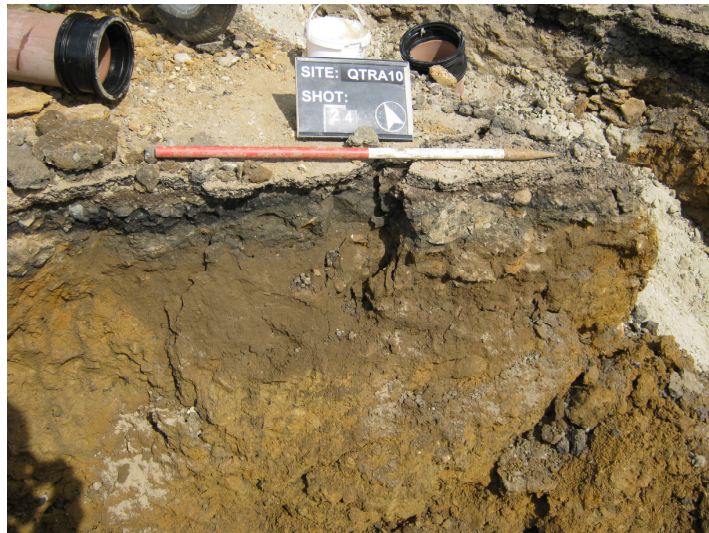


Plate 5 – Section 6 showing ditch (008), looking northeast



Plate 6 – Section 8, looking northwest



## Appendix 1

### CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

No.	Description	Interpretation
001	Mixed tarmac and rubble, 0.3m thick	Hardstanding
002	Soft to compact mid brownish yellow clayey silt and limestone, >1.4m thick	Natural deposit
003	Loose dark brown sandy silt, 0.1m thick	Topsoil
004	Loose dark greyish brown silt, 0.3m thick	Former topsoil
005	Loose mid brown sandy silt, 0.5m thick	Subsoil
006	Loose mid reddish brown clayey silt, 0.65m thick	Natural deposit
007	Soft to compact mid brownish yellow clayey silt and limestone, >0.35m thick	Natural deposit
008	Linear feature, aligned north-south, >2m long by 1.3m wide by 0.4m deep, gradual sides and rounded base	Ditch
009	Soft mid brown sandy silt with frequent limestone fragments	Fill of (008)
010	Loose mid brown sandy silt, 0.5m thick	Former topsoil
011	Concrete	Surface
012	Firm mixed yellow to brown sand and silt with frequent brick/tile and stone fragments, 0.32m thick	Make-up for (011)
013	Soft mid yellowish brown sandy silt, >0.2m thick	Subsoil
014	Loose dark brown sandy silt, 0.25m thick	Topsoil
015	Loose mid greyish brown sandy silt, 0.32m thick	Former topsoil
016	Loose mid brown sandy silt, 0.38m thick	Subsoil
017	Soft to loose mid brownish orange sandy silt, >0.12m thick	Natural deposit
018	Loose mid greyish brown sandy silt, 0.5m thick	Topsoil
019	Loose mid brown sandy silt, >0.2m thick	Subsoil

## Appendix 2

### THE FINDS

#### POST ROMAN POTTERY

By Anne Boyle

##### Introduction

All the material was recorded at archive level in accordance with the guidelines laid out in Slowikowski *et al.* (2001) and to conform to Lincolnshire County Council's *Archaeology Handbook*. The pottery codenames (Cname) are in accordance with the Post Roman pottery type series for Lincolnshire, as published in Young *et al.* (2005). A total of nine sherds from four vessels, weighing 366 grams was recovered from the site.

##### Methodology

The material was laid out and viewed in context order. Sherds were counted and weighed by individual vessel within each context. The pottery was examined visually and using x20 magnification. This information was then added to an Access database. An archive list of the pottery is included in Table 1. The pottery dates to the early modern period.

##### Condition

The sherds display varying degrees of abrasion.

##### Results

Table 1, Post Roman Pottery Archive

Cxt	Cname	Full name	Fabric	Form	NoS	NoV	W (g)	Part	Description	Date
012	BL	Black ware	Oxidised; fine sandy	Bowl	3	1	159	Rim + BS	Rounded rim; internal glaze; abraded	18th to 19th
012	NCBW	19th Century Buff ware		Bowl	4	1	142	Rim + BS + base	Rounded rim	19th
016	CREA	Creamware		Hollow	1	1	48	Base	Moulded; pink wash	Mid 18th to early/mid 19th
016	WHITE	Modern Whiteware		?	1	1	17	Base	Marked	19th
<b>TOTAL:</b>					<b>9</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>366</b>			

##### Provenance

Sherds were retrieved from two contexts: make-up layer (012) and subsoil layer (016).

##### Potential

All the pottery is stable and poses no problems for long-term storage.

##### Summary

A small assemblage of 18th to 19th century pottery was recovered from the site.

#### FAUNAL REMAINS

By Paul Cope-Faulkner

##### Introduction

A total of 13 (211g) fragments of animal bone were recovered from stratified contexts.

##### Provenance

The bone was retrieved from a subsoil deposit (016).

##### Condition

The overall condition of the remains was good to moderate, averaging at grades 2-3 on the Lyman Criteria (1996).

**Results**

Table 2, Fragments Identified to Taxa

Cxt	Taxon	Element	Number	W (g)	Comments
016	cattle	mandible	5	134	both join both join
	large mammal	humerus	2	27	
	large mammal	metacarpal	2	22	
	dog	skull	2	10	
	unknown	unidentified	2	8	

**Summary**

As a small assemblage, the animal bone has limited potential. It should be retained as part of the site archive.

**GLASS**

By Gary Taylor

**Introduction**

A moderate quantity of glass, 13 pieces weighing a total of 1610g, was recovered.

**Condition**

Although naturally fragile all the glass is in good condition.

**Results**

Table 3, Glass Archive

Cxt	Description	NoF	W (g)	Date
012	Very dark olive green bottles, steep kick up, 19 <sup>th</sup> century	4	591	19 <sup>th</sup> century
	Olive green bottle, 19 <sup>th</sup> century	3	45	
016	Very pale green Codd's bottles, embossed with makers' and trade marks, late 19 <sup>th</sup> -early 20 <sup>th</sup> century	3	711	20 <sup>th</sup> century
	Dark green bottle, embossed 'IND COO['], 20 <sup>th</sup> century	1	113	
	Pale blue green square bottle with faceted corners, embossed 'JER ~& C <sup>o</sup> LIMITED', late 19 <sup>th</sup> -early 20 <sup>th</sup> century	1	104	
	Very dark olive green-brown bottle top, 20 <sup>th</sup> century	1	46	

**Provenance**

The glass was recovered from make-up deposit (012) and subsoil (016).

Two of the Codd's bottles from (016) are marked as the products of Kilner Bros. Ltd of Conisborough (Yorkshire). All three are embossed with the name of the brewers Lee and Green Ltd of Sleaford and Spalding. Founded in Sleaford in 1881, Lee and Green's mineral water manufacturers expanded to Spalding in 1886.

**Range**

Only bottles were found and all are 19<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup> century in date.

**Potential**

Although a large collection, all the glass is early modern. Therefore, although indicating dumping and providing dating evidence, the glass is of limited potential.

**OTHER FINDS**

By Gary Taylor

**Introduction**

A single other find weighing 18g was recovered.

**Condition**

The other find is in good condition.

**Results**

Table 4, Other Materials

Cxt	Material	Description	NoF	W (g)	Date
016	plastic	Screw bottle stopper, embossed: BOURNE BREWERY CO, BOURNE	1	18	20 <sup>th</sup> century

**Provenance**

The other find was recovered from the subsoil. It is trademarked as a relatively local product of nearby Bourne. The Bourne Brewery closed in the 1930s.

**Range**

A single bottle stopper was found.

**Potential**

As a single item of early modern date the other find is of limited potential.

**SPOT DATING**

The dating in Table 5 is based on the evidence provided by the finds detailed above.

Table 5, Spot dates

Cxt	Date	Comments
012	19th	
016	20th	

**ABBREVIATIONS**

BS	Body sherd
CXT	Context
NoS	Number of sherds
NoV	Number of vessels
W (g)	Weight (grams)

**REFERENCES**

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## 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>Cut</b>	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.
<b>Fill</b>	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).
<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:

19	Context records
3	Photographic record sheets
8	Daily Record Sheets
8	Sheets of scale drawings
1	Stratigraphic matrix
1	Bag of finds

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: LCNCC: 2010.57

Archaeological Project Services Site Code: QTRA 10

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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