

---

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF  
AT CROSS STREET,  
POTTERHANWORTH,  
LINCOLNSHIRE  
(POCS 10)**

---

**Work Undertaken For  
Riva Construction Limited**

June 2010

Report Compiled by  
Paul Cope-Faulkner BA (Hons)

Planning Application No: N/09/0857/FUL  
National Grid Reference: TF 0540 6622  
The Collection Accession No: LCNCC: 2010.74  
OASIS Record No: archaeo11-78005

APS Report No. **51/10**

**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 .....                    | 3 |
| 7.  | CONCLUSION .....                    | 3 |
| 8.  | ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS .....              | 3 |
| 9.  | PERSONNEL .....                     | 3 |
| 10. | BIBLIOGRAPHY .....                  | 3 |
| 11. | ABBREVIATIONS .....                 | 4 |

### Appendices

1. Context descriptions
2. Glossary
3. The Archive

### **List of Figures**

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

### **List of Plates**

- Plate 1      General view across the development area
- Plate 2      Detail of foundation trenches showing the general sequence of deposits

## 1. SUMMARY

*A watching brief was undertaken during groundworks at Cross Street, Potterhanworth, Lincolnshire. The watching brief monitored the excavation of foundation trenches for a new detached dwelling.*

*The site lies within the core of the medieval (AD 1066-1540) village which is best represented by the 13<sup>th</sup> century tower of St Andrew's church. A thriving medieval pottery industry was established in the village and kiln sites lie to the east of the site. Prehistoric material and Romano-British (AD 42-410) artefacts are also known from the parish.*

*The watching brief revealed natural, subsoil and topsoil deposits, with no archaeological features apparent. No artefacts were recorded during 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 maybe disturbed or destroyed.” (IfA 1999).

### 2.2 Planning Background

Archaeological Project Services was commissioned by Riva Construction Limited to undertake an archaeological watching brief during groundworks associated with new residential development at Cross Street, Potterhanworth, Lincolnshire. Approval for the development was sought through

the submission of planning application N/09/0857/FUL. The watching brief was carried out on the 19<sup>th</sup> May 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

Potterhanworth is situated 9km southeast of Lincoln and 21km north of Sleaford, in the administrative district of North Kesteven, Lincolnshire (Fig. 1).

The site lies 170m north of the centre of the village as defined by the parish church of St Andrew at National Grid Reference TF 0540 6622 (Fig. 2). The site lies to the north of Cross Street at a height of c. 18m OD on land that slopes gently down to the south.

Local soils are of the Beccles 1 Association, typically stagnogley soils (Hodge *et al.* 1984, 117). These are developed on a drift geology of older sand and gravel, which overlies glacially derived till and seals a solid geology of Jurassic Oxford Clay (BGS 1973).

### 2.4 Archaeological Setting

Although no evidence of prehistoric activity has been discovered within the village of Potterhanworth itself, occasional finds of Neolithic and Bronze Age artefacts from elsewhere in the parish, and the presence of prehistoric barrows southeast of the village, suggest that prehistoric populations were present in the area.

Finds of Romano-British pottery and coins have been made in and around the village, and the Car Dyke, a Roman waterway, is located approximately 1km to the east. However no direct evidence of Roman settlement has yet been found in the area.

Potterhanworth is first mentioned in the

Domesday Survey of *c.* 1086. Referred to as *Haneworde*, the name is derived from the Old English and means ‘the enclosed settlement (*worth*) belonging to *Hana*’ (Cameron 1998, 59). The prefix Potter was added later (first recorded in 1327) and is probably a reference to pottery production in the village. At the time of Domesday, Potterhanworth was held by Walter de Aincourt and contained a church with resident priest, 150 acres of meadow and woodland for pannage (Foster and Longley 1976).

The only extant remains of the medieval period is the church of St Andrew whose tower is of 13<sup>th</sup> century date, the remainder being 18<sup>th</sup> century (Pevsner and Harris 1989, 604). Earthworks, believed to be remains of medieval structures, have been identified in fields on the southeast edge of the modern village.

During the medieval period Potterhanworth emerged as the centre of a sizeable pottery industry. Quantities of medieval pottery have been recovered from the village and suggest that the kilns may have been located along Barff Road (Healey 1974; 1988). The fabric of these pots is usually shell-gritted with grey, buff or light brown surface. Known forms include cooking pots, bowls, pancheons, pipkins, jugs and storage jars that were probably produced between 1200 and 1450 (Healey 1974).

A watching brief on land adjacent to the site recovered small amounts of residual medieval material (Rayner 2005, 1; Nugent 2008, 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

Prior to the excavation of foundation trenches, topsoil was stripped from the area. Foundation trenches were then excavated by machine to depths required by the development. Following excavation, the sides of the trenches were then 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 1. A photographic record was compiled and a section was drawn at a scale of 1:10. Recording was undertaken according to standard Archaeological Project Services practice.

Following excavation the records were checked and a stratigraphic matrix produced. Phasing was assigned based on the nature of the deposits and recognisable relationships between them.

### 5. RESULTS

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

The earliest deposit encountered at the base of the foundation trenches comprised natural orange brown clayey sand with frequent pebbles (103).

Above this was a subsoil layer of brownish grey silty clay with gravel (102). This measured up to 0.6m thick (Fig. 4, Section 1). This deposit incorporated modern dumped material comprising brick, tile, concrete etc.

Sealing the subsoil was the current topsoil of greyish brown silty clay (101). This was 0.2m thick.

## 6. DISCUSSION

Natural deposits of clayey sand with gravel were recorded and relate to the underlying drift geology of older river sands and gravels.

Developed upon this was a subsoil which may indicate the site was under an agricultural regime in the past. This was disturbed as evidenced by the inclusion of modern dumped material.

No archaeological features were recorded and no artefacts were retrieved during the investigation.

## 7. CONCLUSION

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken at Cross Street, Potterhanworth, as the site lay within the core of the medieval village.

However, no deposits could be assigned a medieval date. Instead, a sequence of natural, subsoil and topsoil was recorded with no archaeological features apparent.

## 8. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeological Project Services wishes to acknowledge the assistance of Mr N Laing of Riva Construction Limited for commissioning the fieldwork and post-excavation analysis. The work was coordinated by Steve Malone who edited this report along with Tom Lane. Jenny Young, of the Historic Environment Team, Heritage Lincolnshire, kindly allowed access to the parish files and library.

## 9. PERSONNEL

Project Coordinator: Steve Malone  
 Site Supervisor: Bob Hamilton  
 Finds processing: Denise Buckley  
 Photographic reproduction: Sue Unsworth

Illustration: Paul Cope-Faulkner  
 Post-excavation analysis: Paul Cope-Faulkner

## 10. BIBLIOGRAPHY

BGS, 1973 *Lincoln: Solid and Drift Edition*, 1:50 000 map sheet **114**

Cameron, K, 1998 *A Dictionary of Lincolnshire Place-Names*, The English Place-Name Society Popular Series No. **1**

Foster, CW and Longley, T (eds), 1976 *The Lincolnshire Domesday and the Lindsey Survey*, The Lincoln Record Society **19**

Healey, RH, 1974 Pottery from Potterhanworth, *Lincolnshire History and Archaeology* **9**

Healey, RH, 1988 Specialist Potters at Potterhanworth?, *Lincolnshire History and Archaeology* **23**

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 *Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs*.

Nugent, M, 2008 *Archaeological watching brief on land at Cross Street, Potterhanworth, Lincolnshire (POCS 08)*, unpublished APS report **99/08**

Pevsner, N and Harris, J, 1989 *Lincolnshire, The Buildings of England* (2<sup>nd</sup> edition, revised N, Antram)

Rayner, T, 2005 *Archaeological watching brief at Red House Farm, Main Road, Potterhanworth, Lincolnshire (PRH 04)*, unpublished APS report **166/05**

## **11. ABBREVIATIONS**

APS Archaeological Project Services

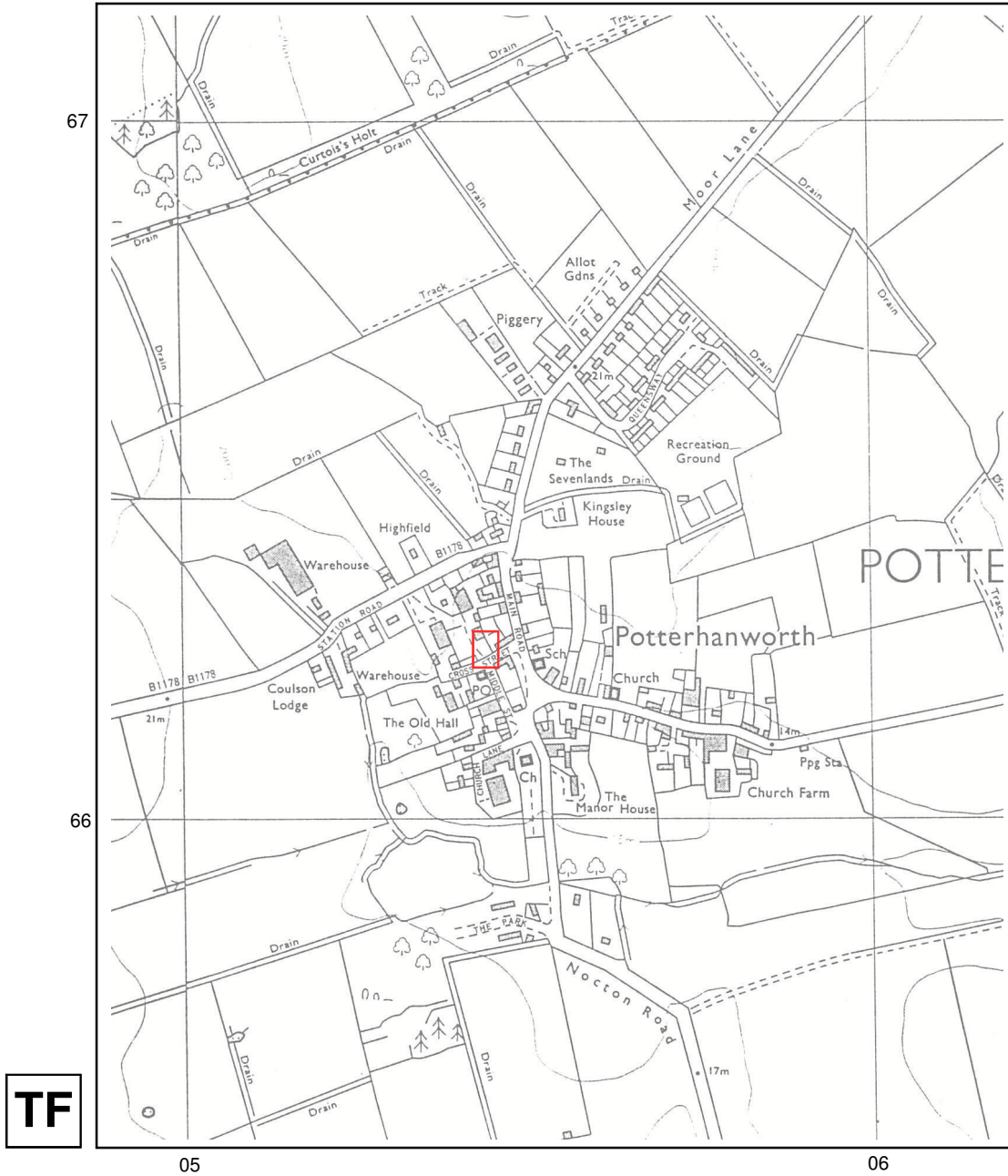
BGS British Geological Survey

IfA Institute of Field Archaeologists






Figure 1 - General location plan



Reproduced from the Ordnance Survey 1:10,000 map with the permission of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office (C) Crown Copyright. HTL Ltd Licence No. AL5041A0001

 Area detailed in Figure 3




|  |               |                  |
|--|---------------|------------------|
|  Archaeological Project Services |               |                  |
| Project Name: Cross Street, Potterhanworth POCSS10   |               |                  |
| Scale 1:10000  | Drawn by: PCF | Report No: 51/10 |

Figure 2 - Site location plan

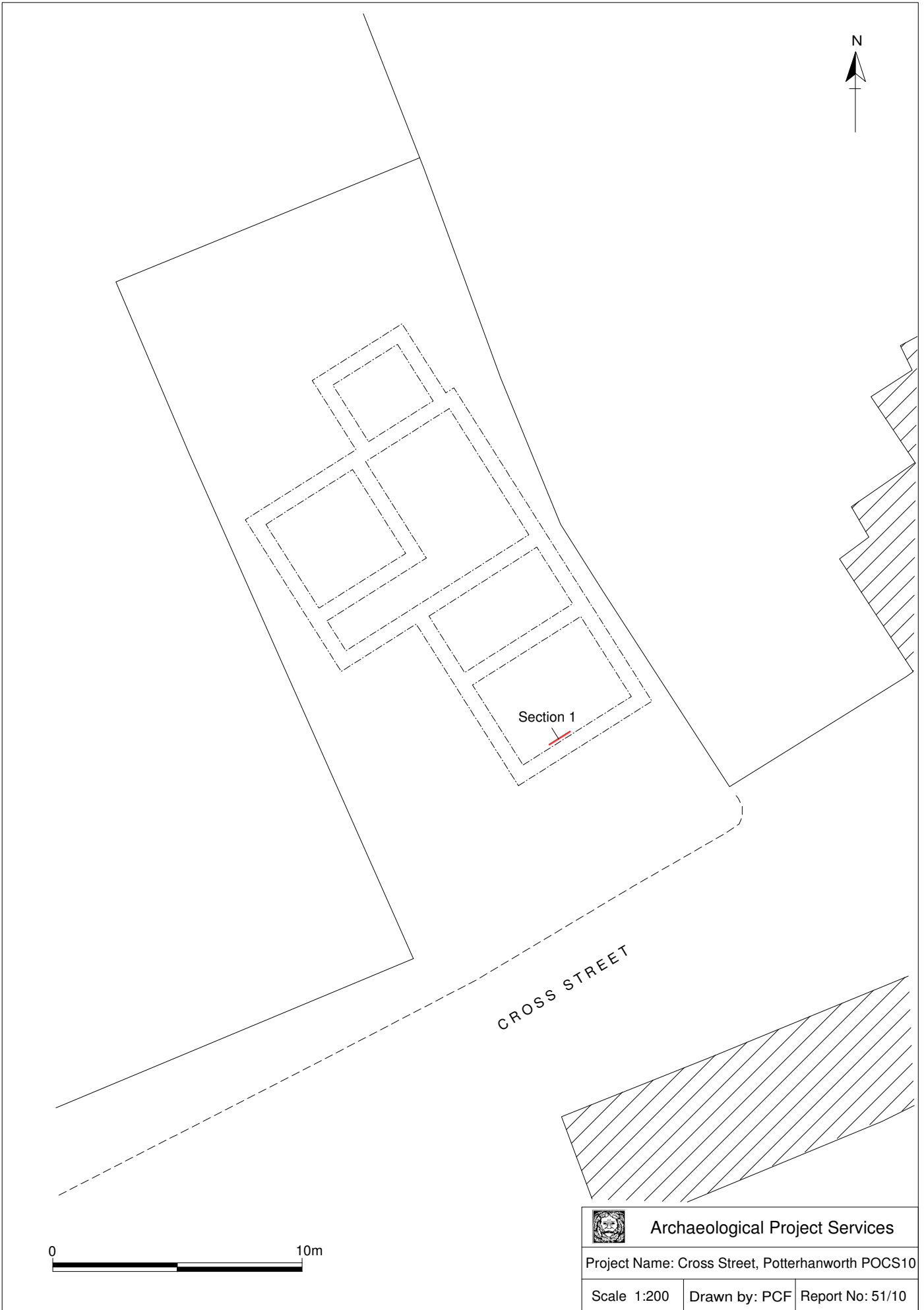
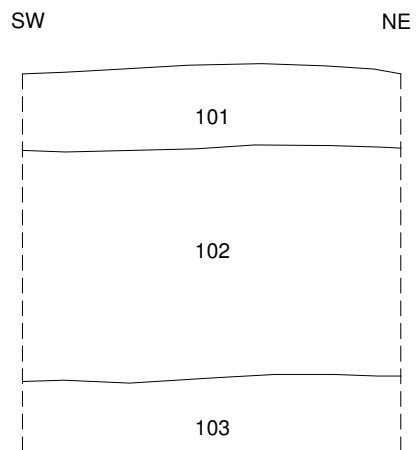


Figure 3 - Plan of the development showing location of drawn section



Section 1




|  |                                 |                 |
|--|---------------------------------|-----------------|
|  | Archaeological Project Services |                 |
| Project Name: Cross Street, Potterhanworth POCS10                                    |                                 |                 |
| Scale 1:20   | Drawn by: PCF                   | Report No:51/10 |

Figure 4 - Section 1



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



Plate 2 – Detail of foundation trenches showing the general sequence of deposits, looking east

## Appendix 1

### CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

| No. | Description  | Interpretation  |
|-----|--|-----------------|
| 101 | Loose dark greyish brown silty clay, 0.2m thick                      | Topsoil         |
| 102 | Loose dark brownish grey silty clay with frequent gravel, 0.6m thick | Subsoil         |
| 103 | Friable mid orange brown clayey sand with frequent gravel            | Natural deposit |

## Appendix 2

### GLOSSARY

|                       |   |
|-----------------------|---|
| <b>Bronze Age</b>     | A period characterised by the introduction of bronze into the country for tools, between 2250 and 800 BC.   |
| <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>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>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.  |

## Appendix 3

### THE ARCHIVE

The archive consists of:

|   |                           |
|---|---------------------------|
| 3 | Context records           |
| 1 | Photographic record sheet |
| 1 | Sheet of scale drawings   |
| 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: LCNCC: 2010.74

Archaeological Project Services Site Code: POCS 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.

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.