
**ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF
AT PHILIPS FARM,
UPPINGHAM ROAD,
STOCKERSTON,
LEICESTERSHIRE
(STUR 10)**

**Work Undertaken For
Mr P Bromwich**

December 2010

Report Compiled by
Paul Cope-Faulkner BA (Hons)

Planning Application No: 10/01155/FUL
National Grid Reference: SP 837 977
Museum Accession No: X.A188.2010
OASIS Record No: archaeol1-88294

APS Report No. **111/10**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL
PROJECT
SERVICES**



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1. SUMMARY

A watching brief was undertaken during groundworks at Philips Farm, Uppingham Road, Stockerston, Leicestershire. The watching brief monitored the excavation of stanchion pits for a new agricultural shed.

The site is located northeast of the medieval (AD 1066-1540) core of the village as represented by the 13th century church of St. Peter. However, earthworks show the village to have been much larger. Late Iron Age (100 BC-AD 43) to Romano-British (AD 43-410) settlement is also known from the parish.

The watching brief revealed a sequence of natural, subsoil, topsoil and recent deposits associated with the adjacent farmyard. The subsoil indicates agricultural activities and varying thicknesses may relate to ridge and furrow. Additionally, the site appears to have been stripped previously. This action may have removed any archaeological deposits. No finds were retrieved 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 2008).

2.2 Planning Background

Archaeological Project Services was commissioned by Martyn Jones and Associates Architects on behalf of Mr P Bromwich to undertake an archaeological

watching brief during groundworks associated with a new agricultural building at Philips Farm, Uppingham Road, Stockerston, Leicestershire. Approval for the development was sought through the submission of planning application 10/01155/FUL. The watching brief was carried out on the 1st November 2010 in accordance with a specification prepared by Archaeological Project Services (Appendix 1) and approved by the Senior Planning Archaeologist, Leicestershire County Council.

2.3 Topography and Geology

Stockerston is located 11km southwest of Oakham and 14km northeast of Market Harborough in the administrative district of Harborough, Leicestershire (Fig. 1).

The site is located 380m northeast of the village centre as defined by the parish church of St. Peter (Fig. 2) immediately west of Uppingham Road at National Grid Reference SP 837 977. The development site lies on the east facing slope of the Eye Brook valley at a height of c. 78m OD.

Local soils are of the Hanslope Association, typically calcareous pelosols (Hodge *et al.* 1984, 209). These soils overlie a solid geology of Jurassic Middle Lias clays (BGS 1978).

2.4 Archaeological Setting

Stockerston is located in an area of known archaeological remains dating from the Late Iron Age to the present day. A Romano-British site, with its origins in the Late Iron Age is known from south of the village, overlooking the Eyebrook Reservoir (Pollard 2000, 253).

Stockerston is first mentioned in the Domesday Survey of c. 1086. Referred to as *Stoctone* the name is derived from the Old English *stocc-fæsten* meaning a stronghold built of tree trunks (Ekwall 1989, 444). At the time of the Domesday

Survey the land was held by Hugh of Grandmesnil and Robert de Bucy held from the Countess Judith and contained a mill, 68 acres of meadow and woodland measuring 5 furlongs in length by 2 wide (Morgan 1979, 13/15, 40/21).

The most extant remains of the medieval period is the church of St Peter which dates from the 13th century (Pevsner 1992, 394). Adjacent to the development site are earthworks representing the former extent of the village and also ridge and furrow to the immediate north of the site.

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken to the south of the site in 2001 which revealed medieval occupation amongst further earthworks of the former medieval village (Browning 2002, 121). A watching brief undertaken to the northeast of the site identified natural, subsoil and topsoil layers along with dumped deposits associated with the excavation of a nearby pond (Cope-Faulkner 2004, 1).

3. AIMS

The requirements of the archaeological investigation, as detailed in the specification (Appendix 1), were 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

Stanchion pits for the new agricultural shed were excavated by machine to depths of *c.* 1m below the current ground level. Following excavation, the sides of each pit 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 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 stanchion pits 1 and 7 to 12 was a layer of grey clay (004) that measured in excess of 0.25m thick. This was overlain by a natural layer of orange brown clay and sandy clay (003) in which was an intermittent band of grey clay and silty clay (006) recorded in pit 7 (Fig. 4, Section 7). Overlying this was a layer of dark grey silty clay (005) recorded in pits 7 and 8.

Sealing the natural deposits in stanchion pits 1 to 4 was a subsoil comprising orange brown silty clay (002) varying between 0.2m and 0.45m thick (Fig. 4, Sections 1 to 3). This was in turn sealed by the current topsoil of brown clayey silt (001).

Towards the southeastern part of the site, the topsoil and subsoil had been truncated and levelled from the area of pits 1 to 8. Overlying natural in this area was yellow rubble hardstanding (007) or concrete (008) with its make-up deposit of brick rubble (009).

6. DISCUSSION

Natural deposits of clays, silty clays and sandy clays probably represent the upper weathered surface of the underlying solid geology.

Developed upon the natural deposits was a subsoil layer. The presence of subsoil may indicate that the site was previously under an agricultural regime. Furthermore, the varying thicknesses of the subsoil may relate to ridge and furrow of the medieval field system which can be identified immediately north of the site. The subsoil only survived in the northwest part of the site and elsewhere had been stripped off.

Recent deposits relate to surfaces and hardstanding relating to the adjacent farmyard. In the southeastern part of the site these directly overlay the natural. This further indicates that much of the site had been lowered previously. This site reduction may have removed any evidence of archaeological remains in the area.

No finds were observed or retrieved during the investigation.

7. CONCLUSION

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken on land at Uppingham Road, Stockerston, as the site lay in close proximity to earthworks of the medieval village and field system.

However, no remains were encountered that relate to the medieval village. A subsoil was encountered which, due to its varying thickness, may relate to earthworks of ridge and furrow identified to the north of the site. There was evidence that much of the site had been lowered previously and this may have removed any archaeological remains in the area. No finds were retrieved during the investigation.

8. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeological Project Services wishes to acknowledge the assistance of Mr M Jones of Martyn Jones and Associates Architects for commissioning the fieldwork and post-excavation analysis on behalf of Mr P Bromwich. The work was coordinated by Gary Taylor 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: Bryn Leadbetter
 Photographic reproduction: Sue Unsworth
 Illustration: Paul Cope-Faulkner
 Post-excavation analysis: Paul Cope-Faulkner

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11. ABBREVIATIONS

APS Archaeological Project Services

BGS British Geological Survey

IfA Institute for Archaeologists

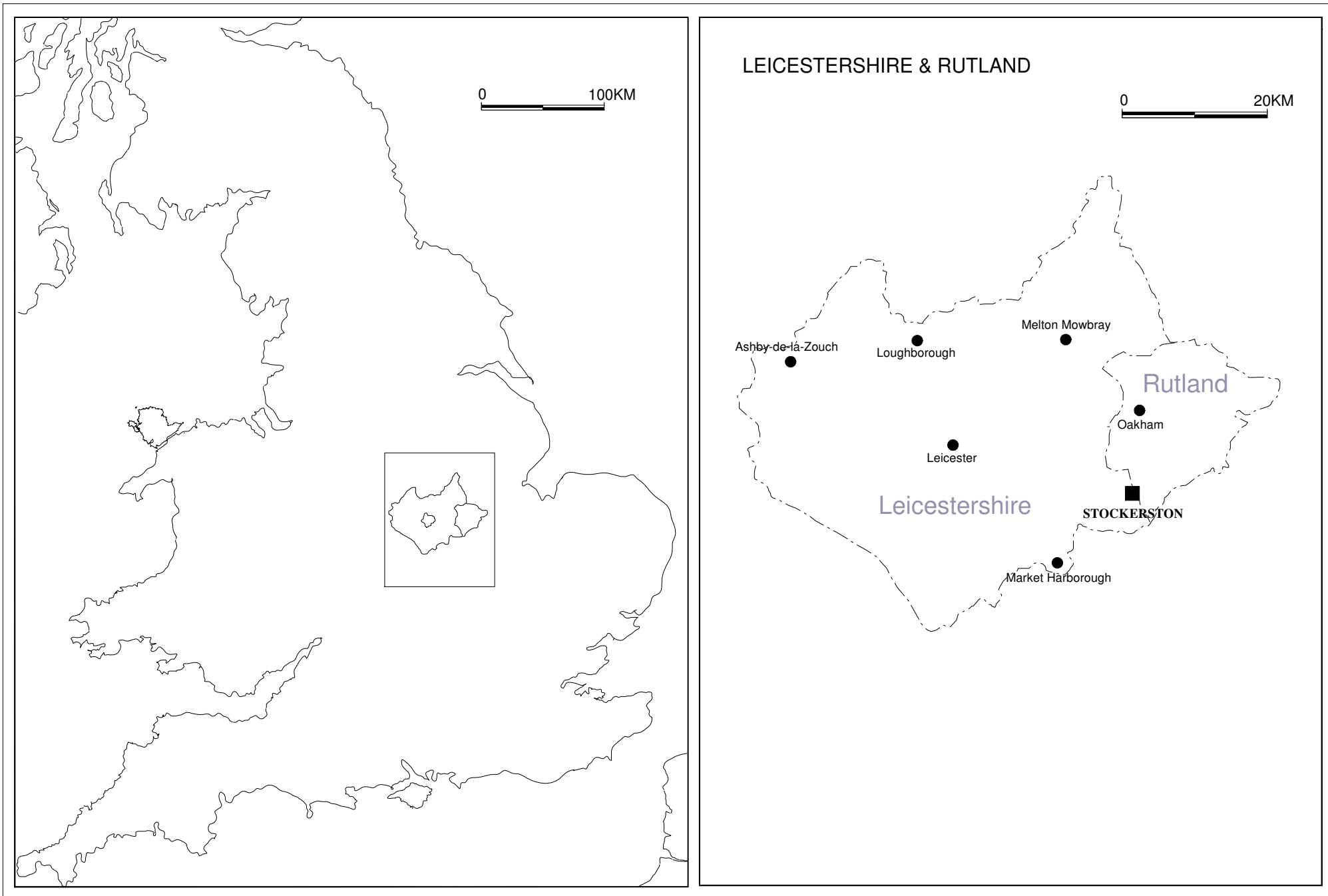
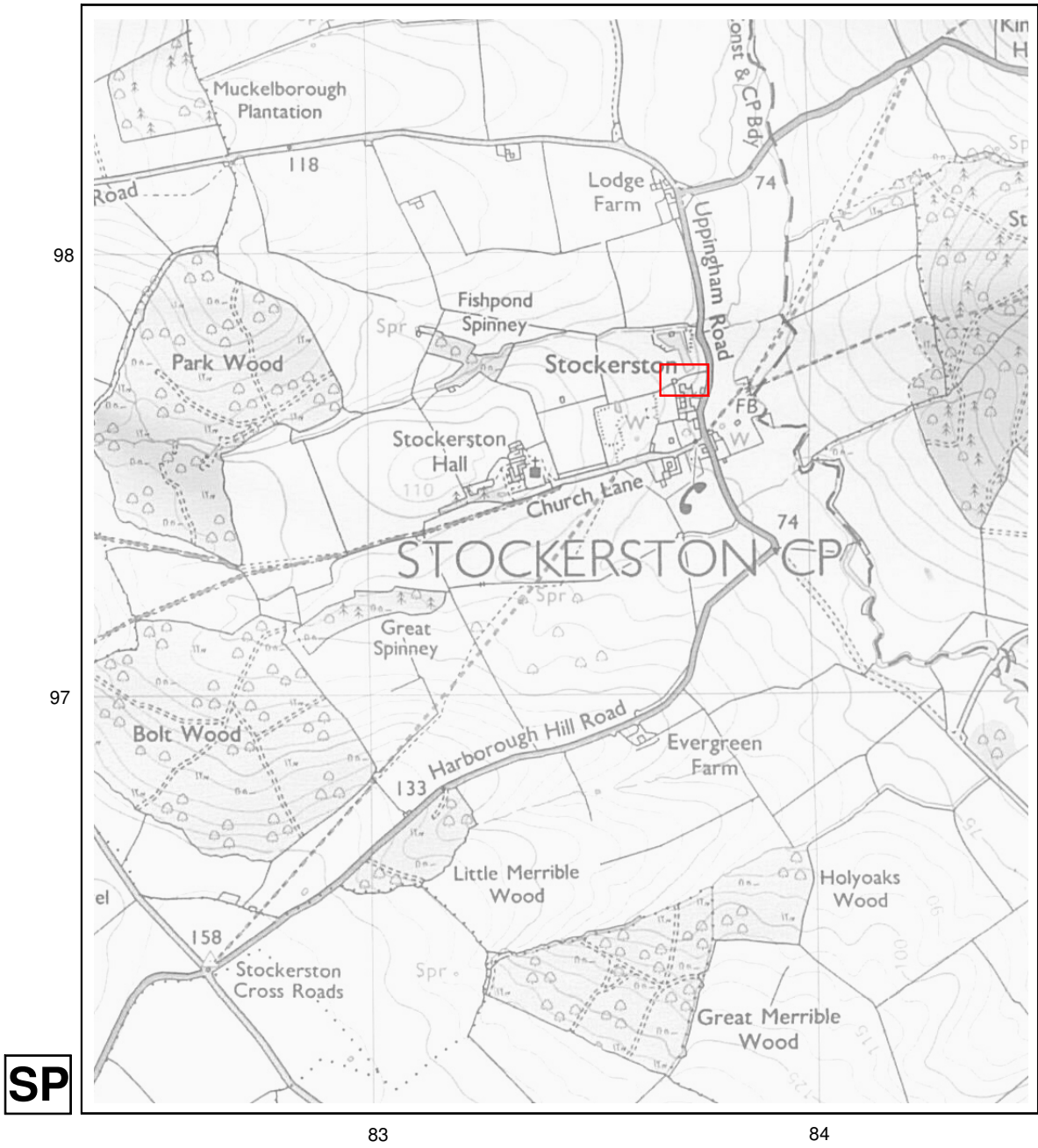



Figure 1 - General location map



SP

 Area detailed in Figure 3

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




	Archaeological Project Services	
Project Name: Uppingham Road, Stockerston		
Scale 1:15000	Drawn by: PCF	Report No: 111/10

Figure 2 - Site location plan

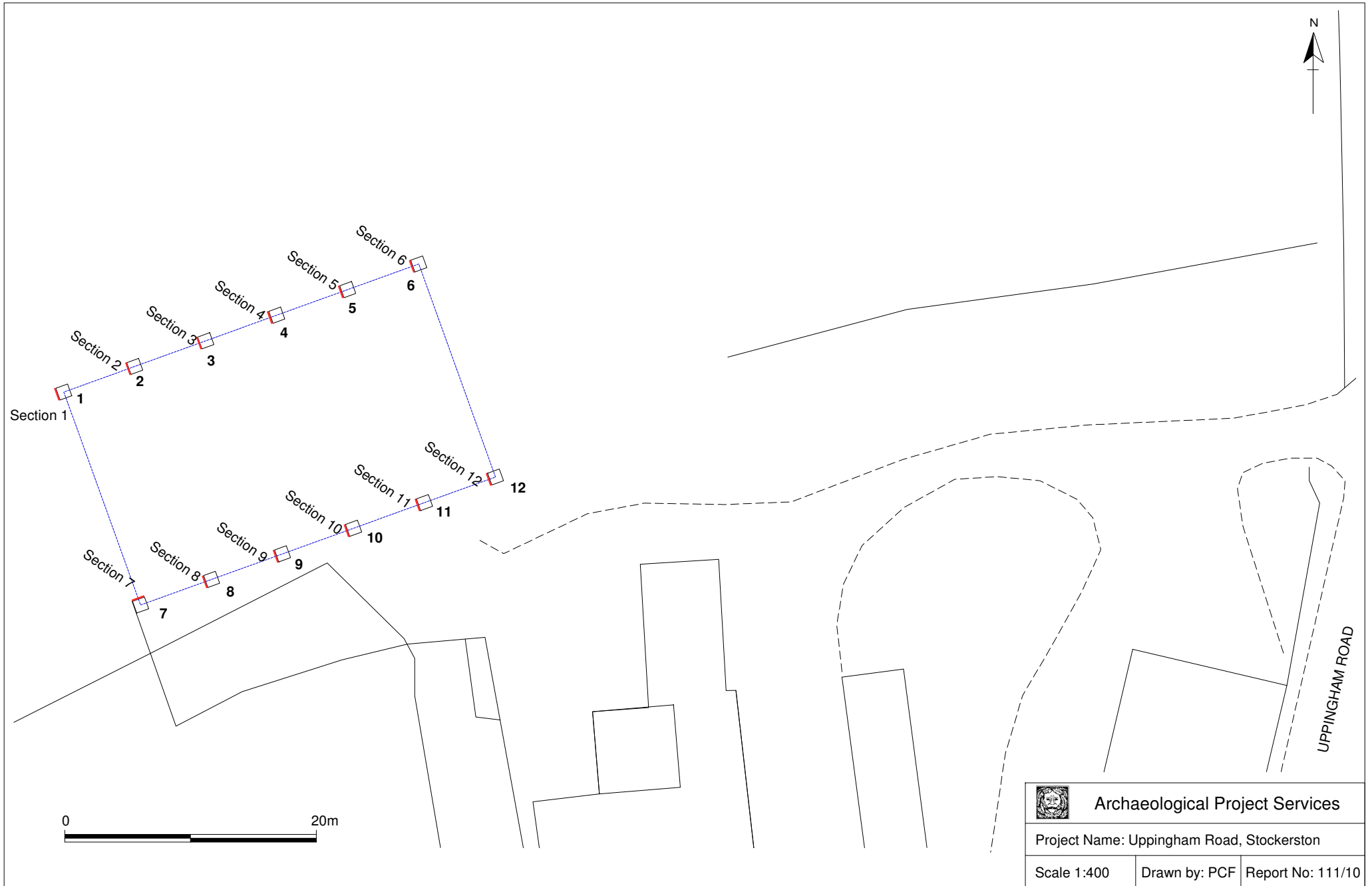


Figure 3 - Plan showing stanchion pits and section locations

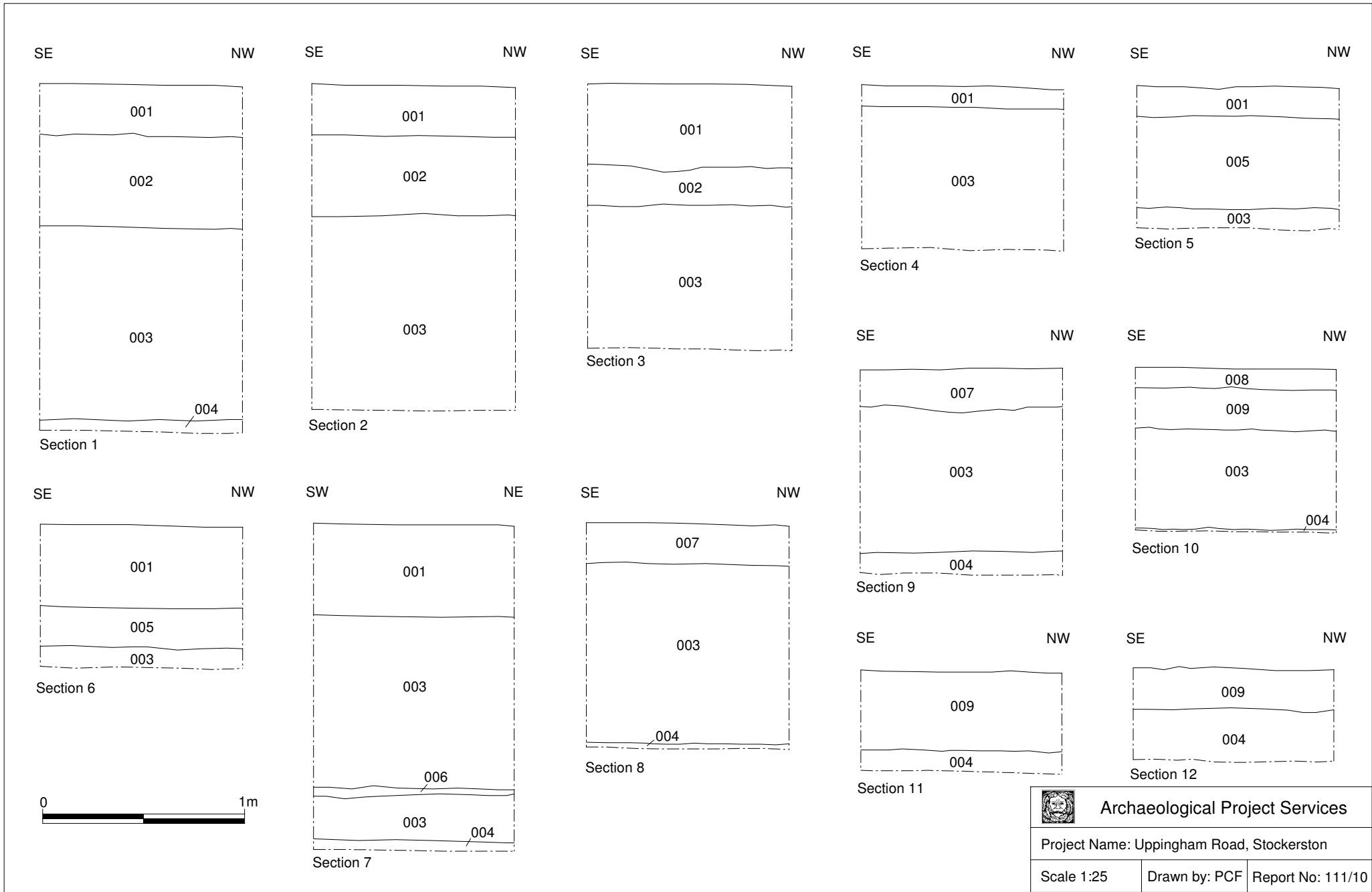


Figure 4 - Sections 1 to 12



Plate 1 – General view over the site, looking east



Plate 2 – Section 12, looking southwest



Plate 3 – Section 4, looking southwest



Plate 4 – Section 6, looking northwest



Plate 5 – Section 2, looking southwest

Appendix 1

LAND AT PHILIPS FARM, UPPINGHAM ROAD, STOCKERSTON, LEICESTERSHIRE - SPECIFICATION FOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

1 SUMMARY

1.1 *A watching brief is required during development on land adjacent to 48 North End, Stockerston, Leicestershire.*

1.2 *The site lies in an area of potential archaeological interest immediately adjacent to earthworks of the shrunken medieval settlement. Iron Age and Roman remains have also been found close by.*

1.3 *The archaeological work will consist of a watching brief during development works on the site. Archaeological features will be recorded in writing, graphically and photographically.*

1.4 *On completion of the fieldwork a report will be prepared detailing the results of the 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 construction of an agricultural building at Philips Farm, Uppingham Road, Stockerston, Leicestershire.

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 Stockerston is located approximately 11km southwest of Oakham and 14km northeast of Market Harborough in the Harborough administrative district of Leicestershire. The site, at Philips Farm, lies on the northern edge of the village, on the west side of Uppingham Road. It is centred on National Grid Reference SP 837 977.

4 PLANNING BACKGROUND

4.1 Planning permission (10/001155/FUL) has been granted by Harborough District Council for construction of an agricultural building. Permission is subject to a condition requiring the undertaking of a watching-brief during groundworks associated with the development.

5 SOILS AND TOPOGRAPHY

5.1 Stockerston is on undulating land on the west side of the Eye Brook, with the site at approximately 78m OD on this slope down to the east. The site is at the boundary of soils of Oxpasture Association, fine loamy over clayey soils, to the east and, to the west, Hanslope calcareous pelosols. These soils are developed on a solid geology of Jurassic Middle Lias clays (Hodge *et al.* 1984).

6 ARCHAEOLOGICAL OVERVIEW

6.1 Occupation has been recorded at Stockerston since late prehistory. A Late Iron Age and Romano-British settlement is known south of the village, overlooking Eye Brook reservoir. The place-name is of Old English derivation and means a stronghold built of tree trunks. Stockerston is recorded

in the Domesday survey of 1086 indicating an origin for the village in at least the late Saxon period. The church of St Peter dates from c. 13th century.

6.2 Earthworks representing the former extent of the village occur immediately to the west. Evidence of medieval occupation has been identified in previous investigations close by.

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 for 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 Ministry of Justice 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 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 Senior Planning Archaeologist, Leicestershire County Council; and to the Leicestershire & Rutland Historic Environment 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* 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 written notice of the commencement of the project.

14 VARIATIONS AND CONTINGENCIES

14.1 Variations to the proposed scheme of works will only be made following written confirmation of acceptance from the archaeological curator.

14.2 In the event of the discovery of any unexpected remains of archaeological importance, or of any changed circumstances, it is the responsibility of the archaeological contractor to inform the archaeological curator.

14.3 Where important archaeological remains are discovered and deemed to merit further investigation additional resources may be required to provide an appropriate level of investigation, recording and analysis.

14.4 Any contingency requirement for additional fieldwork or post-excavation analysis outside the scope of the proposed scheme of works will only be activated following full consultation with the archaeological curator and the client.

15 PROGRAMME OF WORKS AND STAFFING LEVELS

15.1 The 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.

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 – A Beeby, APS/B Precious, Independent Specialist Anglo-Saxon-later - A Boyle, APS
Non-pottery Artefacts	J Cowgill, Independent Specialist/G Taylor, APS
Animal Bones	P Cope-Faulkner, APS
Environmental Analysis	J Rackham, Independent Specialist
Human Remains Analysis	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

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Appendix 2

CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

No.	Description	Interpretation
001	Friable dark brown clayey silt, 0.25m thick	Topsoil
002	Firm mid orange brown silty clay, 0.35m thick	Subsoil
003	Firm mid orange brown clay and sandy clay, 0.6m thick	Natural deposit
004	Firm mid grey clay, >0.25m thick	Natural deposit
005	Firm dark grey silty clay, 0.45m thick	Natural deposit
006	Firm mid grey clay and silty clay, 50mm thick	Natural deposit
007	Loose light yellow rubble, 0.2m thick	Hardstanding
008	Indurated light grey concrete, 0.1m thick	Surface
009	Compacted crushed brick, 0.4m thick	Make-up for (008)

Appendix 3

GLOSSARY

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).
Iron Age	A period characterised by the introduction of Iron into the country for tools, between 800 BC and AD 50.
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.
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.

Appendix 4

THE ARCHIVE

The archive consists of:

9	Context records
1	Photographic record sheet
1	Daily Record Sheet
4	Drawing sheets
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:

Leicestershire County Council Environment and Heritage Services
Room 500
County Hall
Leicester Road
Glenfield
Leicester
LE3 8TE

Accession Number: X.A188.2010

Archaeological Project Services Site Code: STUR 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.