

**Earthwork Survey on Land
East of East Street,
Alford,
Lincolnshire
(ALES 11)**

**Work Undertaken For
Sarah Fairburn**

March 2011

Report Compiled by
Andrew Failes BA (Hons) MA

National Grid Reference: TF 4571 7700
City and County Museum Accession No: LCNCC: 2011.34
Planning Application No: N/003/2276/10
OASIS ID No: archaeol1-98875

Report No: **38/11**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL
PROJECT
SERVICES**



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Alford, Lincolnshire
(ALES 11)

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Date: 12-24-11	Date: 12-24-11

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1. SUMMARY

Earthwork survey was undertaken in advance of development on land off East Street, Alford, Lincolnshire.

The investigation was carried out due to evidence from aerial photographs which showed remnants of upstanding medieval ridge and furrow cultivation to the north of the town.

Some undulations in the ground surface and possible ridges were identified during the survey, but appeared to be spaced too far apart to represent ridge and furrow agriculture. This suggests that ridge and furrow remains in this field have been subject to ploughing and are no longer detectable on the surface.

2. INTRODUCTION

2.1 Background

Archaeological Project Services was commissioned by Sarah Fairburn to undertake an archaeological survey in advance of the excavation of a fish pond on land off of East Street, Alford Lincolnshire. This was undertaken in accordance with the recommendations of the East Lindsey District Council in order to provide a drawn and photographic record of any earthworks at risk from the proposed development. Approval for the development was sought through the submission of planning application N/003/2276/10. The survey was carried on the 22nd of March 2011.

2.2 Topography and Geology

Alford is located 20km northeast of Horncastle and 11km southwest of Mablethorpe in the administrative district of East Lindsey, Lincolnshire (Fig 1). The proposed area of development lies within a pasture field approximately 1km north of the town, immediately to the south of

Windmill Lake, off East Street (Fig 2) and centred on Grid Reference TF 4571 7700.

Alford is located close to the junction of the coastal marsh and the Wolds. The site lies at approximately 9m AOD on soils of the Holderness Association, fine loamy soils developed upon chalky till.

2.3 Archaeological Setting

Alford is a market town that lies between the marshes and the wolds. It dates back to at least the Saxon period, as indicated by references in the Domesday survey of 1086.

The place name is probably Old English in origin, a conjunction of 'ald' and 'forde' (Cameron 1998) meaning 'the old ford'

Alford thrived after the Norman Conquest and was granted a market charter in 1283. By the 1700s there were 100 families living there. A century later the town boasted four windmills.

The site lies to the north of the town where medieval ridge and furrow earthworks have been observed on aerial photographs as part of the national mapping program. These represent a surviving fragment of the fields system which would have surrounded and supported the town

3. AIMS

The aim of the survey was to provide a record of any earthwork features potentially at risk from the proposed development at the site.

4. METHODS

Survey was undertaken using a Thales Z-Max survey grade differential GPS. Survey points were recorded along the crests of ridges and at the top and bottom of other significant breaks of slope.

5. RESULTS

The survey results are presented in Figure 3 and supplemented by Plates 1-4. Figure 3 shows possible earthwork remains and the surveyed area in relation to field boundaries.

The majority of the field was flat and level (Plates 1-3) showing no trace of any earthworks. Undulations in the ground surface were only observed at the northern boundary of the field. However, whether these represent the remains of medieval ridge and furrow cultivation is unclear.

In the central northern area of the site three possible ridges were identified (Fig 3) (Plate 4). However, the distance between these ridges was measured at 23m and 28m, which seems far too large to represent medieval ridge and furrow cultivation.

At the northwestern edge of the field two ridges were identified. In this area the space between the ridges measured *c.* 17m. Although the ridges are closer here than those further to the east, they are probably still too far away from each other to represent the remains of medieval ridge and furrow cultivation.

6. CONCLUSION

Earthwork survey was undertaken in a pasture field off of East Street, Alford Lincolnshire, in advance of proposed development at the site.

Aerial photographs had indicated that remains of medieval ridge and furrow agriculture survived to the north of the town. However, the survey revealed that any possible remains had probably been ploughed out. Some undulations and possible ridges were identified, but these

appear to be spaced too far apart to represent ridge and furrow.

7. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeological Project Services wishes to acknowledge the assistance of Sarah Fairburn who commissioned the work and arranged access. The project was coordinated by Steve Malone who edited the report along with Tom Lane.

8. PERSONNEL

Project Coordinator: Steve Malone
 Surveyor: Andrew Failes
 Photographic reproduction: Sue Unsworth
 Illustration: Andrew Failes
 Post-excavation analysis: Andrew Failes

9. BIBLIOGRAPHY

Cameron, K., 1998, *A Dictionary of Lincolnshire Place-Names*, English Place-Name Society Popular Series Vol. 1

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

10. ABBREVIATIONS

APS Archaeological Project Services
 GSGB Geological Survey of Great Britain

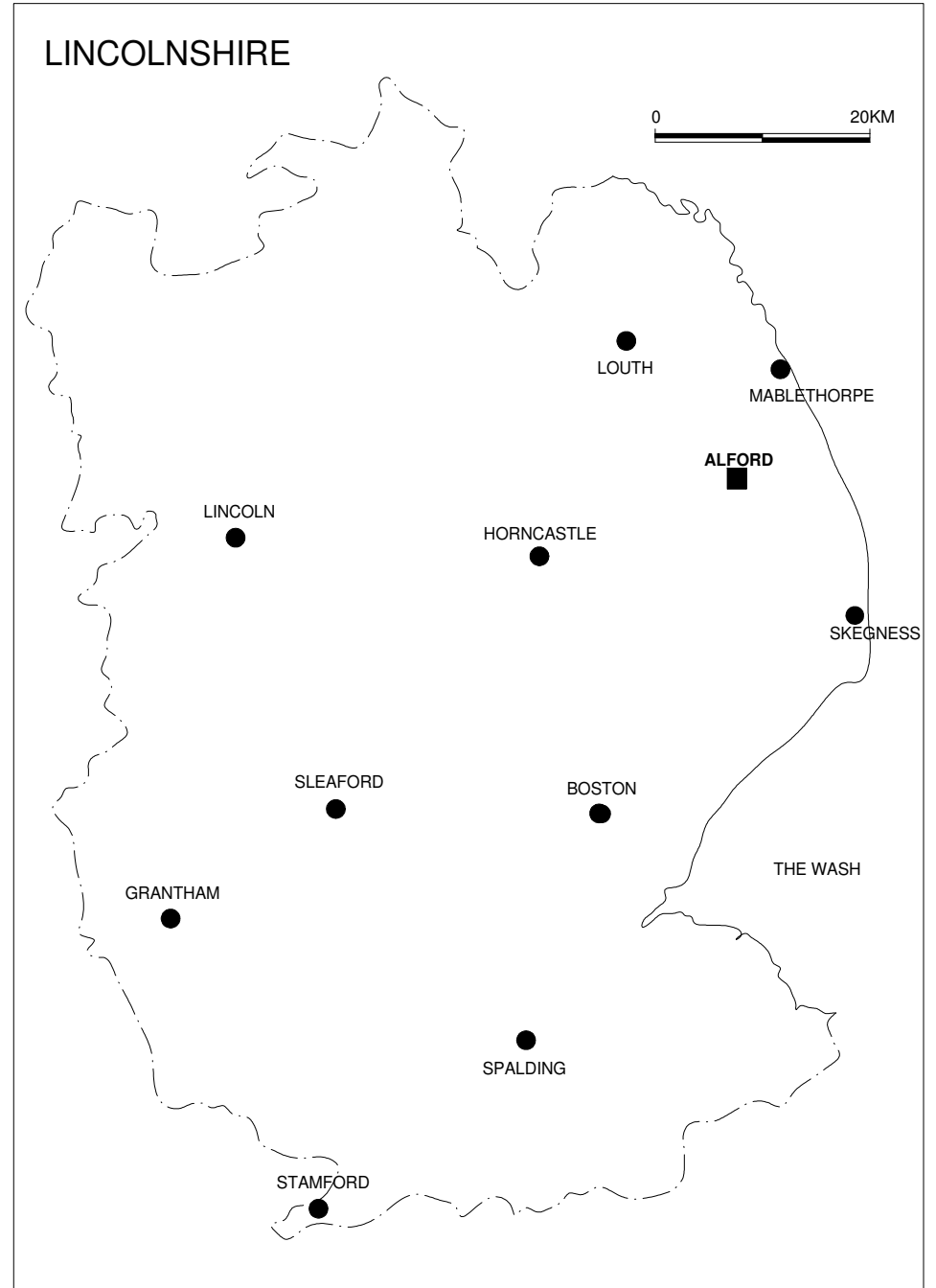
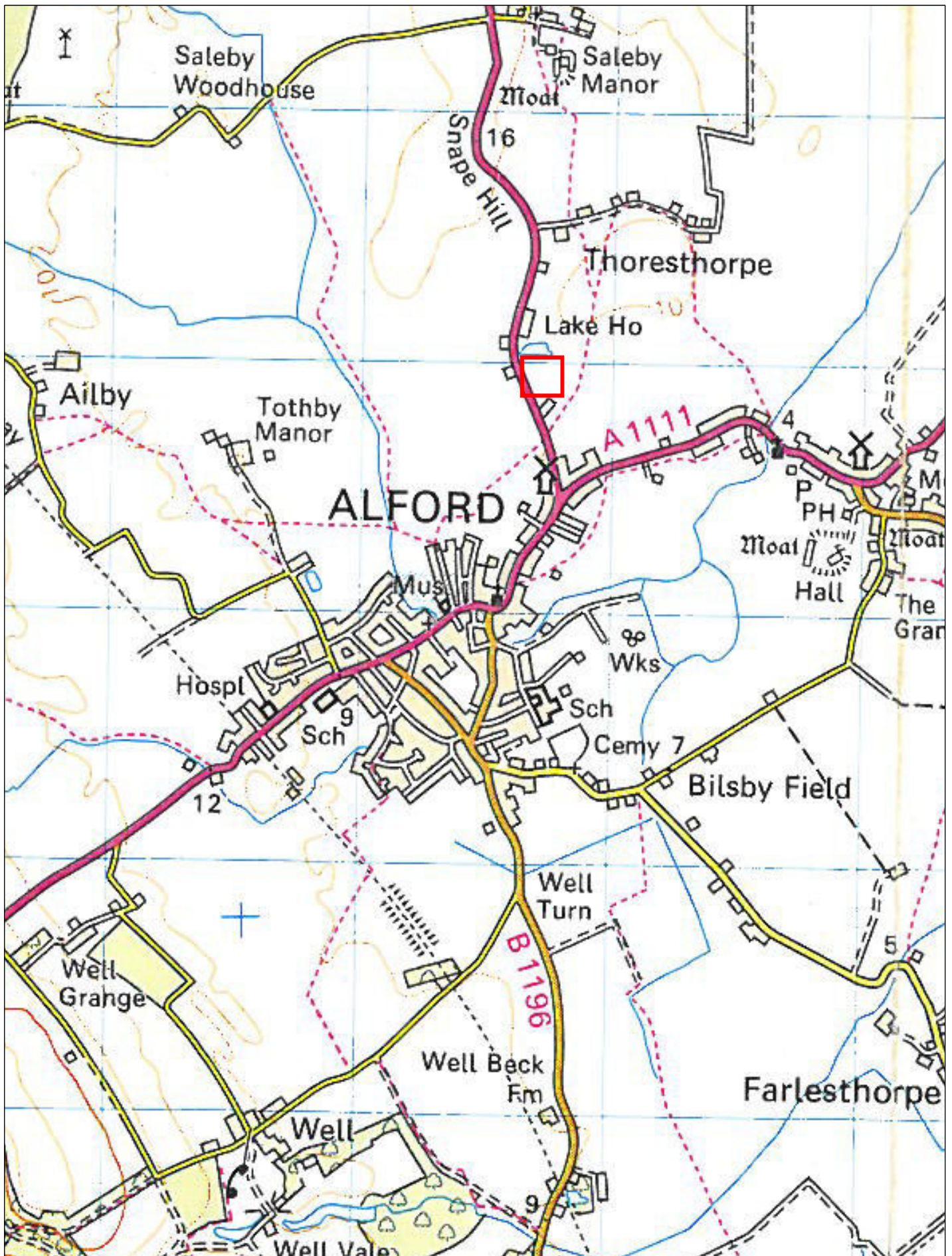


Figure 1 - General location plan



0 1km

- Site location



Archaeological Project Services

Project Name: Alford East Street (ALES11)

Scale 1:20,000 Drawn by:AF Report No: 38/11

Figure 2 - Site location plan



Figure 3 - Site Survey



Plate 1 – View from northeast corner of the field, looking southwest



Plate 2 – View from northwest corner of the field, looking east



Plate 3 – View from western edge of the field, near the entrance, looking northeast



Plate 4 – Undulations in the ground surface along the northern edge of the field

APPENDIX 1

**LAND OFF EAST STREET
ALFORD, LINCOLNSHIRE**

**SPECIFICATION FOR
EARTHWORK SURVEY**

**PREPARED FOR
SARA FAIRBURN**

MARCH 2011

**Museum Accession No. LCNCC: 2011.34
Planning Application Ref N/003/02276/10
Site Code: ALES11**

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1 SUMMARY

- 1.1 *An archaeological earthwork survey is required in advance of development on land off East Street, Alford, Lincolnshire.*
- 1.2 *The area is archaeologically sensitive, containing earthwork remains of medieval ridge and furrow agriculture.*
- 1.3 *As a condition of planning a programme of recording of earthworks surviving at the site is required.*
- 1.4 *On completion of the fieldwork a report will be prepared detailing the results of the investigation. The report will consist of a narrative supported by illustrations and photographs.*

2 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 This document comprises a specification for a programme of archaeological earthwork recording on land off East Street, Alford, Lincolnshire located at National Grid Reference TF 4571 7700.
- 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 Alford is located 20km northeast of Horncastle and 11km southwest of Mablethorpe in the East Lindsey Administrative District of Lincolnshire. The proposed area of development lies approximately 1km north of the town, immediately to the south of Windmill Lake, off East Street and centred on Grid Reference TF 4571 7700.

4 PLANNING BACKGROUND

- 4.1 Condition 2 of the planning permission approved by East Lindsey District Council requires that, *'No development or works must be carried out relating to this Planning Permission whatsoever until an Archaeological Scheme of Earthwork Investigation and Recording has been carried out in accordance with a Programme and Specifications that have first been submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority. Before the fishing lake is first brought into use the Archaeological Scheme must have been carried out as approved and a copy of the Record of Findings submitted to the Local Planning Authority.'*

Reason: The development is proposed within a field of surviving medieval ridge and furrow which needs to be investigated and recorded in accordance with the principles of Planning Policy Statement 5 - Planning for the Historic Environment, 2010.'

- 4.2 This document comprised the specification of archaeological works as required for approval by the Local Planning Authority in advance of any groundworks undertaken at the site.

5 TOPOGRAPHY & GEOLOGY

- 5.1 Alford is located close to the junction of the coastal marsh and the Wolds. The site is located at around 9m above OD on soils of the Holderness Association, fine loamy soils developed on Chalky Till.

6 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

- 6.1 Alford dates back to at least the late Saxon period, as indicated by references to the town in the Domesday survey of 1086. The place-name is probably Old English in origin, a conjunction of OE 'ald' and 'forde' (Cameron, 1998).
- 6.2 Upstanding ridge and furrow derived from medieval ridge and furrow agriculture survives at the site and represents a surviving fragment of the fields system which would have surrounded and supported the town.

7 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- 7.1 The aims of the survey will be:
- 7.1.1 record the surviving earthwork remains to be impacted upon by the development
 - 7.1.2 Interpret the archaeology of the site within its local, regional and national context; and

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 investigations.
- 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 methodologies used to record and report on the earthworks will follow the guidelines in the English Heritage publication '*Understanding the Archaeology*

of Landscapes, a guide to good practice.

- 8.2.1 Recording of extant ridge and furrow at the site will be undertaken using a survey grade differential GPS system which plots to centimetre accuracy onto the Ordnance Survey Grid.
- 8.2.2 Points will be recorded on the long axis of the earthworks at the top of the ridges and at the base of all slopes at a minimum of five metre intervals. This will enable plotting of the alignment, extent and scale of the earthworks.
- 8.2.3 Heights will be recorded across the line of the ridge and furrow at a minimum of 1m intervals in lines 25m apart to obtain profiles of the earthworks.
- 8.2.4 A photographic record will be compiled consisting of:
 - 8.2.4.1 views from various points including low angles to demonstrate the height of the surviving earthworks and general views showing the extent of the earthworks

9 POST-EXCAVATION

9.1 Stage 1

- 9.1.1 On completion of site operations, the records and schedules produced during the investigations will be checked and ordered to ensure that they form a uniform sequence forming a level II archive. All photographic material will be catalogued and labelled, the labelling referring to schedules identifying the subject/s photographed.
- 9.1.2 N4ce survey software will be used to process the results of the survey. Files of DXF format will be exported for use in Design CAD, from which hachured plans of the earthworks will be compiled. If appropriate the plans can be manipulated in three dimensions to produce profiles of the ridge and furrow earthworks.

9.2 Stage 2

- 9.2.1 Detailed examination of the survey results.

9.3 Stage 3

- 9.3.1 On completion of stage 2, a report detailing the findings of the investigations 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 investigations.
 - Description of the topography of the site.
 - Description of the methodologies used during the investigations.

- A text describing the findings of the investigations.
- A consideration of the local, regional and national context of the findings of the investigations.
- 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 Lincolnshire County Council Archaeology Section and to the Lincolnshire County Council Archaeological Sites and Monuments Record.

11 ARCHIVE

11.1 The documentation and records generated during the survey will be sorted and ordered into the format acceptable to The Collection, City and County Museum, Lincoln and accessioned under number LCNCC: 2011.34. It is expected that the archive will be deposited at the museum by October 2011. This will be undertaken following the requirements of the document titled Conditions for the Acceptance of Project Archives for long term storage and curation. The designated site code will be ALES11.

11.2 The results of the investigation will be entered onto the *Online Index of Archaeological Investigations (OASIS)* database maintained by ADS, the Archaeological Data Service.

12 PUBLICATION

12.1 If appropriate, notes on the findings will be submitted to the appropriate national journals: *Medieval Archaeology* and the *Journal of the Medieval Settlement Research Group* for findings of medieval or later date.

13 CURATORIAL RESPONSIBILITY

13.1 Curatorial responsibility for the archaeological work undertaken on the site lies with the Lincolnshire County Council Historic Environment Section. They will be given ten days notice before the commencement of the project.

14 PROGRAMME OF WORKS AND STAFFING LEVELS

14.1 The investigations are scheduled to take 1 day in the field.

14.2 An archaeological supervisor with experience of such investigations will undertake the work.

14.3 Post-excavation analysis and report production will be undertaken by the archaeological supervisor, or a post-excavation analyst as appropriate and to take a person day to complete. It is anticipated that the report will be completed within two weeks of the completion of the fieldwork.

15 VARIATION AND CONTINGENCIES

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

16 SPECIALISTS TO BE USED DURING THE PROJECT

- 16.1 No external specialists are required.

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

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- 18.4 The author of any report or specialist contribution to a report shall retain intellectual copyright of their work and may make use of their work for educational or research purposes or for further publication.

19 BIBLIOGRAPHY

Cameron, K., 1998 'A Dictionary of Lincolnshire Place Names' The English Place-Name Society

Specification: Version 2 15^h March 2011

Appendix 2

GLOSSARY

Domesday Survey	A survey of property ownership in England compiled on the instruction of William I for taxation purposes in 1086 AD.
Medieval	The Middle Ages, dating from approximately AD 1066-1500.
Old English	The language used by the Saxon (q.v.) occupants of Britain.
Ridge and Furrow	The remains of arable cultivation consisting of raised rounded strips separated by furrows. It is characteristic of open field agriculture.
Saxon	Pertaining to the period dating from AD 410-1066 when England was largely settled by tribes from northern Germany

Appendix 3

THE ARCHIVE

The archive consists of:

- 1 Photographic record sheet
- 1 Daily record sheet
- 1 Digital archaeological survey

All primary records are currently kept at:

Archaeological Project Services
The Old School
Cameron Street
Heckington
Sleaford
Lincolnshire
NG34 9RW

The ultimate destination of the project archive is:

The Collection
Art and Archaeology in Lincolnshire
Danes Terrace
Lincoln
LN2 1LP

Accession Number: LCNCC: 2011.34

Archaeological Project Services Site Code: ALES11

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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