

**9 Sudbrooke Lane, Nettleham,
Lincolnshire**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL
WATCHING BRIEF**

Network Archaeology Ltd

For

**LKR Design Group
(on behalf of Mr R. Brown)**

Event L12856

Source L17535
L17536

Mon. L182674
547386

M2/5

L16930

9 Sudbrooke Lane, Nettleham Lincolnshire

Archaeological watching brief
during groundworks for a house extension
and erection of a detached garage

NGR: TF 0127 7525

Site Code: SLN 01

Planning Application No: M01/P/0769

Accession No: 2001.401

Network Archaeology Ltd

For

**LKR Design Group
(on behalf of Mr. R Brown)**

Report No. 172

January 2002



Contents

| | | |
|---|-------------------------------|---|
| 1.0 | Summary | 1 |
| 2.0 | Introduction | 1 |
| 3.0 | The Site | 1 |
| 4.0 | Archaeological Background | 1 |
| 5.0 | The Watching Brief | 2 |
| 5.1 | <i>Topsoil</i> | 2 |
| 5.2 | <i>Rear Extension Trench</i> | 2 |
| 5.3 | <i>Front Extension Trench</i> | 2 |
| 5.4 | <i>Garage Trench</i> | 2 |
| 5.5 | <i>Results</i> | 2 |
| 5.5.1 | <i>Rear Extension Trench</i> | 2 |
| 5.5.2 | <i>Front Extension Trench</i> | 3 |
| 5.5.3 | <i>Garage Trench</i> | 3 |
| 6.0 | Interpretation | 3 |
| 7.0 | Conclusion | 4 |
| 8.0 | Acknowledgements | 4 |
| 9.0 | References | 4 |
| 10.0 | Archive Summary | 5 |
| 11.0 | Statement of Indemnity | 5 |
| Appendix 1 - Context Summary | | 6 |
| Appendix 2 - Specialist Pottery Report by Maggi Darling | | 7 |

List of Figures

Figure 1 - Location of Nettleham village

Figure 2 - Location of the site

Figure 3 - Site plan showing archaeology

Figure 4 - (a) Section through ditches [0001], [0003] and [0005]

Figure 4 - (b) Section through ditch [0007]

List of Plates

Plate 1 - Ditch [0001] under house footings: SW facing section

Plate 2 - Ditch [0007] visible in garage trench: NW facing section

1.0 Summary

An archaeological watching brief was carried out at 9 Sudbrooke Lane, Nettleham, Lincolnshire, during groundworks for house extensions and the erection of a detached garage. Substantial Roman remains in the form of buildings and a possible temple are recorded around 70m to the north-west of the site. The watching brief revealed a series of linear features running roughly north-south across the site, which contained a small pottery and tile assemblage ranging in date from the mid-late Iron Age to the post-Medieval period. These were previously unknown and are interpreted as being re-established/realigned field boundaries or drainage ditches.

2.0 Introduction

Network Archaeology Ltd (NAL) was commissioned in November 2001 by LKR Design Group, on behalf of Mr. R. Brown, to conduct an archaeological watching brief during groundworks for a housing extension and the erection of a detached garage at 9 Sudbrooke Lane, Nettleham. The watching brief was required by West Lindsey District Council to fulfil a condition of planning permission for the development (Application No. M01/P/0769). The work was carried out in accordance with local and national standards (Lincolnshire County Council, 1998; IFA, 1997).

3.0 The Site

The site is located towards the eastern edge of the village of Nettleham, which lies approximately 4.5km to the east of Lincoln city centre, at around 30m above sea level (Figure 1). The underlying solid geology is composed primarily of shelly Lincolnshire Limestone, forming part of the local limestone dip slope. The groundworks were conducted on land that formed a garden to the dwelling (Figures 2 and 3).

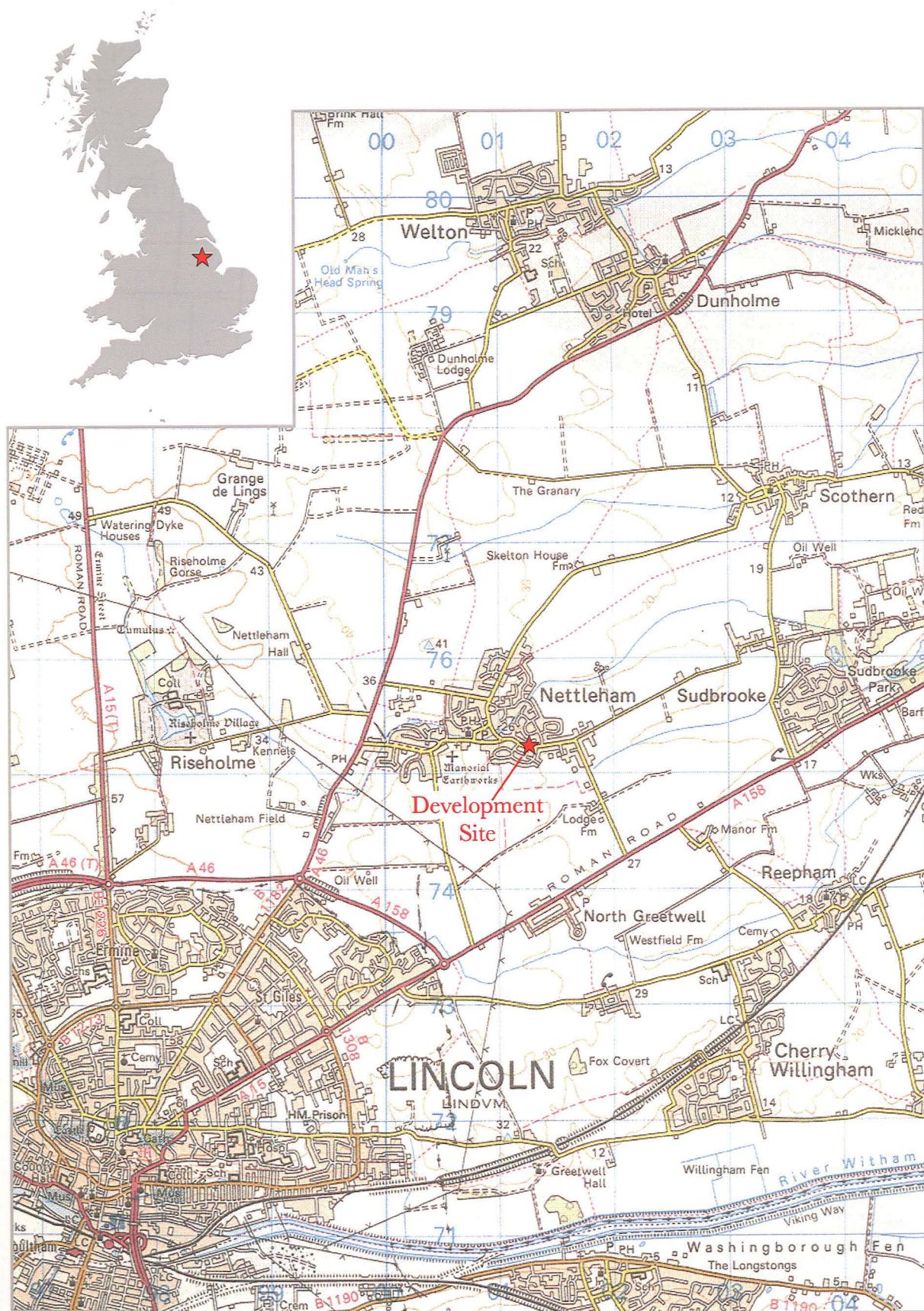
4.0 Archaeological Background

The village of Nettleham and the surrounding area have produced archaeological remains of various periods.

Bronze Age activity is represented by a bronze hoard, found in 1860. This consisted of four looped palstaves, a number a spearheads and two socketed axe-heads.

Substantial Roman remains in the form of buildings and a possible temple are recorded around 70m to the north-west of the site (TF 012 753) (Lincs. SMR Ref. 50639). An inscribed tablet dedicated to *Mars Rigonometos*, occupation debris, pottery and a coin of Constantine I have been found on the site.

Additional evidence of Romano-British (and Iron Age) activity in Nettleham is represented by isolated pottery sherds and the cropmark remains of a triple linear ditch, which runs roughly north-south around 1km west of the village. Pottery of Romano-British (and Iron Age) date was recovered from these ditches during excavations undertaken in 1979 and from fieldwalking.



Ordnance Survey Landranger 121 (SK97 & TF07) reproduced at 1:50 000 scale by permission of the Controller Her Majesty's Stationery Office. © Crown Copyright reserved. Licence number AL 100021059

Figure 1: Location of the site



Figure 2 Location of development (1:1250 scale)

Nettleham was an important centre in the Medieval period, serving as a manorial holding and an administrative and residential base where visiting dignitaries stayed. One of the palaces of the Medieval Bishops of Lincoln is located in Nettleham, surviving as an extensive area of earthworks on the south side of the High Street. Part of this complex has been identified as a mid-fourteenth century garden, the only known example in England.

5.0 The Watching Brief

The groundworks were monitored on the 28th and 29th November 2001. Excavation of the garage trench was easily undertaken due to its location on the grassed front lawn of the house. The excavation of the house extension trenches, however, necessitated the removal of patio paving slabs with an underlying layer of hardcore at the rear, and a layer of tarmac with underlying hardcore to the front. Once these capping layers were removed, the buried topsoil was revealed and machined away under archaeological supervision.

5.1 Topsoil

The topsoil (0012-0014) was up to 0.34m in depth, being deepest at the front of the house, exposed by the garage trench. It was a dark greyish brown clayey silt, with a friable consistency. At the rear of the house, under the hardcore, it was a maximum of 0.18m in depth. Only one find was made in the topsoil, an undatable, abraded pottery sherd.

5.2 Rear Extension Trench

The trench for the conservatory extension was excavated using the back-acter arm of a JCB fitted with a ditching bucket. Due to the clayey nature of the natural matrix, the trench was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.90m below the hardcore layer and was 0.70m in width.

5.3 Front Extension Trench

The trench for the dining extension was excavated using the back-acter arm of a JCB fitted with a ditching bucket. It was excavated to a depth of 0.65m below the hardcore layer and was 0.65m in width.

5.4 Garage Trench

The trench for the garage was again excavated using the back-acter arm of a JCB fitted with a ditching bucket. The trench was excavated to a maximum depth of 1.15m and was 0.70m in width.

5.5 Results

5.5.1 Rear Extension Trench

The excavation revealed three ditches (contexts 0001-0006). Seen in plan when excavated by machine, these were recorded in section (Figure 4a). Ditch [0001] was not fully visible in section as it ran under the concrete house footings (Plate 1). It was orientated north-south and had a single fill (0002), which contained two probable Iron Age pottery fragments, two Roman tile fragments and one undatable pot/tile fragment.

Figure 3: Site plan of 9 Sudbrooke Lane, Nettleham, showing trench locations

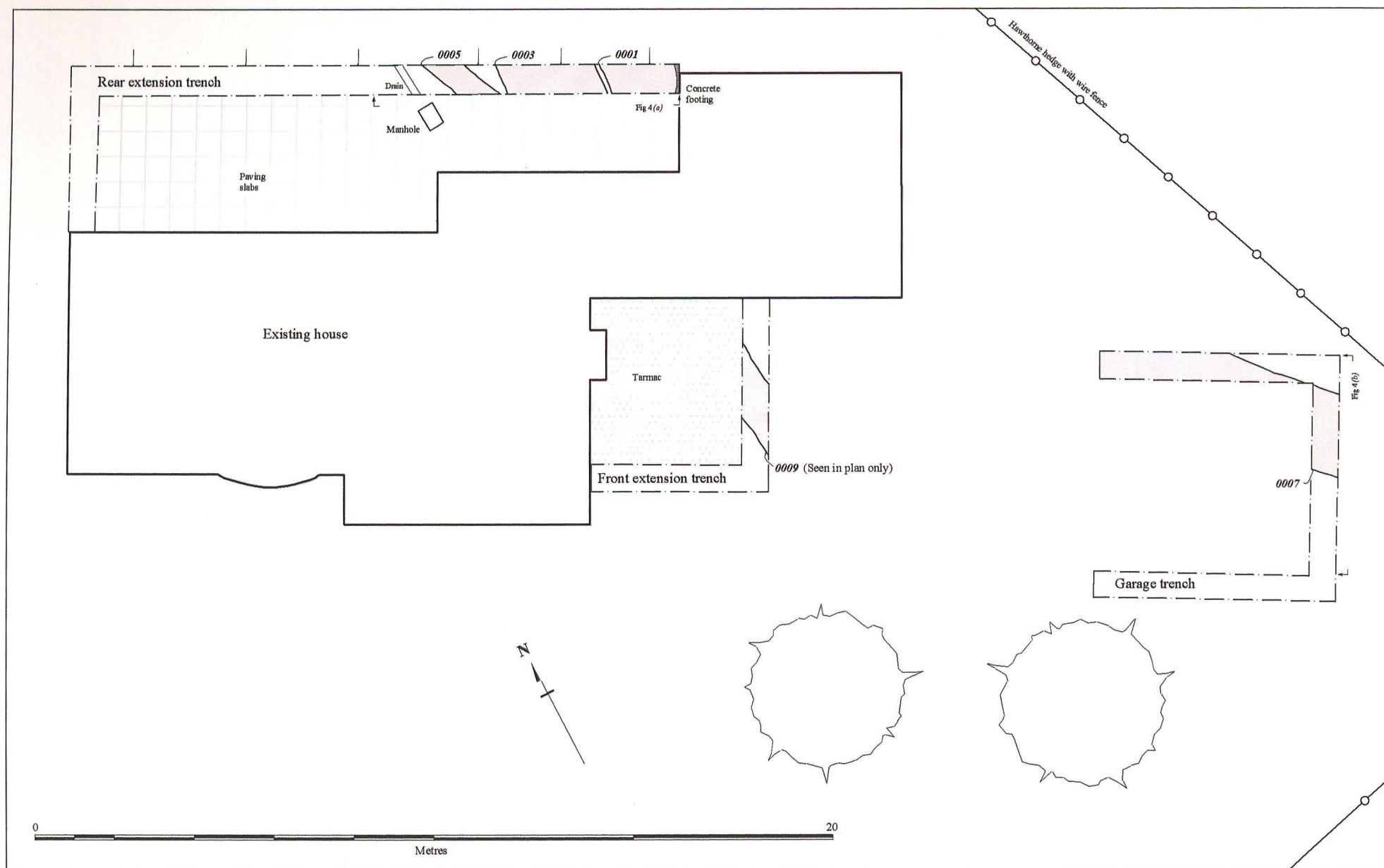


Fig 4(a): Ditch sections 0001, 0003 and 0005 seen in rear extension trench

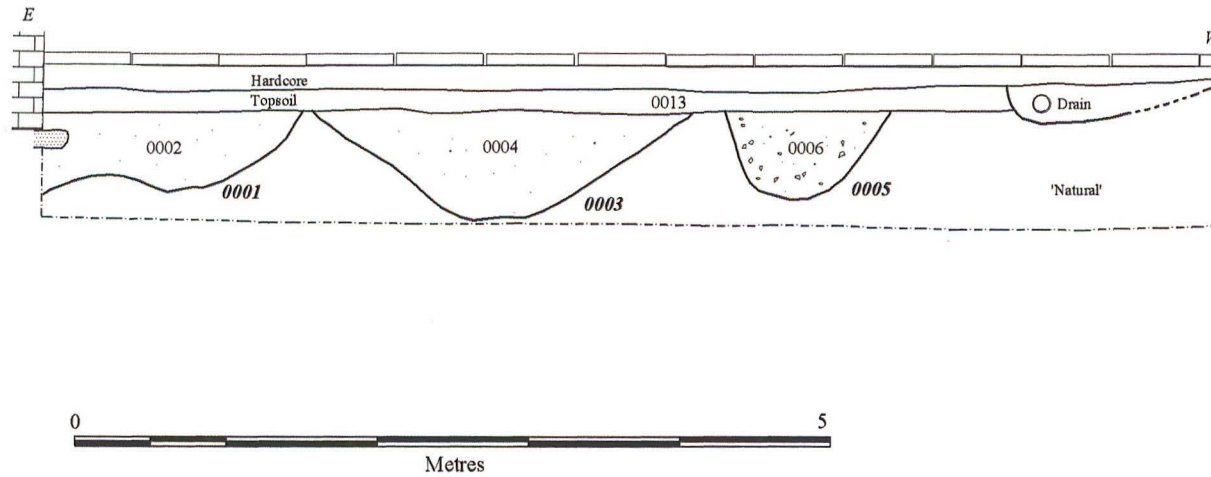
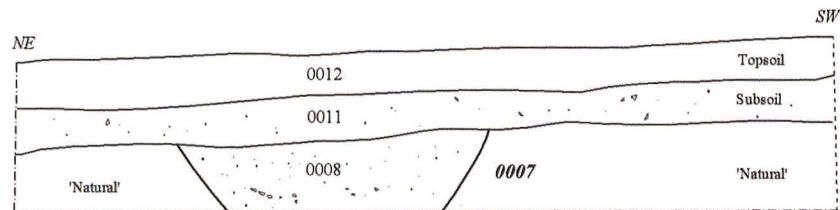


Fig 4(b): Ditch section 0007 seen in garage extension trench



Ditch [0003] also ran in a north-south direction and had a single fill (0004), which produced no finds. Ditch [0005] was narrower and shallower in profile and ran NW-SE across the trench. It had a single fill (0006) which produced no finds. There was no indication of any stratigraphical relationship between the ditches.

5.5.2 *Front Extension Trench*

The excavation revealed one ditch, [0009], which had a north-south orientation. It was seen in plan only at the base of the trench (Figure 3) and its top fill was (0010). A limited amount of the fill was excavated by hand, but due to time constraints this was taken no more than 0.20m deep. No finds were recovered.

5.5.3 *Garage Trench*

The excavation revealed one ditch, [0007], which ran in a north-south direction (Plate 2). This was observed in plan whilst the machine was excavating, then recorded in section in the trench side (Figure 4b). It was not bottomed, and hence the lower fill was seen in plan on the trench floor. It had a single fill, (0008), which contained five probable Iron Age pottery fragments, two Roman pottery fragments, one fragment of Roman roofing tile, one Post-Medieval glazed pottery fragment and one adult cow phalanx.

6.0 **Interpretation**

Although the rear extension trench contained three ditches, and a prehistoric triple linear boundary monument exists in the environs of Nettleham, it is not believed that these ditches form part of this monument. This is for two reasons.

Firstly, the recorded course of the monument runs approximately 1km to the west of the site and there are no major route variations in the monument which would bring it close to the development site.

Secondly, the morphology of the trench ditches does not match that typical of prehistoric boundary monuments in Lincolnshire. Within the county, the majority of triple linear boundaries are 8.6m to 18m in overall width, with distances between ditches being 1.1m to 10m (Boutwood, 1998, 29). Although ditch [0001] could not be seen in its entirety, it is not unreasonable to suggest that the overall width of these features probably does not extend to this width. Also, the gaps between ditches were less than 0.20m.

It seems more likely that the ditches observed in all three trenches form part of a previously unknown complex of features, perhaps dating to the mid to late Iron Age (c. 3rd century BC – early 1st century AD). The re-establishment/realignment of a field boundary or drainage ditch could explain the arrangement of the features in the rear extension trench.

Feature locations on Figure 3 suggest that ditch [0009] may be the same feature as [0005], and that ditch [0007] may be the same as feature [0001] or [0003].



Plate 1. Ditch 0001 under house footings. *SW* facing section.



Plate 2. Ditch 0007 visible in garage trench. *NW* facing section.

The infilling of the ditches seems to have taken place in the mid to late Iron Age, and continued into the Roman period. The appearance of a Post-Medieval glazed pottery sherd in the upper section of fill (0008) could be due to bioturbation or other intrusive activity.

It is perhaps not coincidental that Roman remains were found in Iron Age features, as the re-occupation of Iron Age sites in the Roman period (c. AD43 – 410) is a familiar occurrence in Lincolnshire (Whitwell, 1993, 14). The Roman pottery found may well relate to the previously noted site to the north-west.

7.0 Conclusion

The area surrounding 9 Sudbrooke Lane, Nettleham, contains Iron Age, Roman and Post-Medieval remains. A series of previously unknown ditches, originally dating to the mid to late Iron Age, was observed running north-south across the site, two of which contained pottery and tile. The range of dates provided by the finds suggests a period of infilling which perhaps took place between the 3rd century BC and the early 5th century AD. Intrusive Post-Medieval activity is evidenced by a single pot sherd. The ditches perhaps represent a re-established/realigned field boundary or drainage ditch complex.

8.0 Acknowledgements

NAL is grateful for the help and co-operation of Mr. R Brown, and of the workforce at the development site.

Specialist identification of finds was by Maggi Darling. For NAL, fieldwork was carried out by Mike Morrell, who also collated and produced the report. It was edited by Chris Taylor, who also managed the project. Geraint Franklin and Richard Moore prepared the illustrations.

9.0 References

- Boutwood, Y. 1998 Prehistoric Linear Boundaries in Lincolnshire and its Fringes. In R. H. Bewley (ed.) *Lincolnshire's Archaeology from the Air*. The Society for Lincolnshire History and Archaeology, Vol. 11, pp. 29-46.
- IFA, 1997. *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs*. Institute of Field Archaeologists.
- Lincolnshire County Council Archaeology Section, 1998. *A Manual of Archaeological Practice*. Lincolnshire County Council.
- Whitwell, B. 1993 Roman Lincolnshire. In S. Bennett and N. Bennett (eds.) *An Historical Atlas of Lincolnshire*. Hull, The University of Hull Press, pp. 14-15.

10.0 Archive Summary

The site archive will be held by NAL, pending suitable museum facilities becoming available. In addition to a copy of this report, it consists of:

- Site records, including 15 x Context Sheets.
- Copies of developer's site plans.
- 2 x A2 site plans, 1 x A3 site plan, at 1:20 and 1:50 scale.
- Photographic record: 2 photographic index sheets, 11 mono negatives with contact print, 13 mounted colour transparencies.
- Correspondence relating to the project.
- Archaeological finds: pottery and tile.

11.0 Statement of Indemnity

All statements and opinions presented in this report are offered in good faith and compiled according to professional standards. No responsibility can be accepted by the authors of the report for any error of fact or opinion resulting from data supplied by any third party, or for any loss or other consequences arising from decisions or actions made upon the basis of facts or opinions expressed in the report, howsoever such facts and opinions may have been derived.

© Network Archaeology Ltd 2002

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system or transmitted in any form or by any means – electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording or otherwise – unless the permission of the publisher has been given beforehand.

Appendix 1 – Context Summary

SLN 01 Context Summary

| Context | Context Type | Description | Interpretation | Contains | Fill of | Finds |
|---------|--------------|---|----------------|----------|---------|-------|
| 0001 | Cut | Linear. N-S orientation. Not seen in entirety. Gently Sloping sides (45°). W = >2.00m, D = >0.80m. Good COE. | Ditch Cut | 0002 | | |
| 0002 | Fill | Dark-Mid slightly orangey brown slightly sandy silty clay, with a moderate consistency. Moderate limestone frags (rnd-ang, <0.05m), occ. grit, occ. flint pebbles (rnd, sml). Good COH. | Ditch Fill | | 0001 | Yes |
| 0003 | Cut | Linear. N-S orientation. Seen in both sides of trench. Straight sided, 'V' shape, concave base. W = 2.00m, D = 0.75m. Good COE. | Ditch Cut | 0004 | | |
| 0004 | Fill | Dark-Mid very slightly orange-brown, slightly sandy silty clay. V. occ. charcoal, occ. limestone frags (rnd-ang, <0.05m), v. occ. flint pebbles. Clear COH. | Ditch Fill | | 0003 | |
| 0005 | Cut | Linear. NW-SE orientation. Seen in both trench walls. 'U' shape in profile, concave base. W = 1.30m, D = 0.55m. Good COE. | Ditch Cut | 0006 | | |
| 0006 | Fill | Mid slightly greyish orange-brown silty clay. Moderate limestone frags (ang/sub-ang, <0.08m), v. occ. charcoal flecks, v. occ. flint pebbles (sml/rnd). Clear COE. | Ditch Fill | | 0005 | |
| 0007 | Cut | Linear. N-S orientation. 'U' shape in profile (not bottomed). W = 2.02m, D = 0.44m. Clear COE. | Ditch Cut | 0008 | | |
| 0008 | Fill | Dark-mid slightly greyish orange-brown silty clay. Moderate consistency with friable patches. Occ. limestone frags (sub-ang <0.05m), occ. charcoal flecks. Good COH. | Ditch Fill | | 0007 | Yes |
| 0009 | Cut | Linear. N-S orientation. Seen in plan only. W = 1.00m, unknown depth. Clear COE. | Ditch Cut | 0010 | | |
| 0010 | Fill | Mid orange-brown silty clay. Moderate consistency. Moderate limestone frags (sub-ang/rnd). V. occ charcoal flecks. Clear COH. | Ditch Fill | | 0009 | |
| 0011 | Layer | Dark-mid orange-brown silty clay. Moderate limestone frags, occ. flint pebbles. Clear COH. | Subsoil | | | |
| 0012 | Layer | Dark-mid grey-brown clayey silt. Friable consistency. | Topsoil | | | Yes |
| 0013 | Layer | As 0012 | Topsoil | | | |
| 0014 | Layer | As 0012 | Topsoil | | | |
| 0015 | Layer | As 0011 | Subsoil | | | |

COH = Clarity of Horizon

COE = Clarity of Edge

Appendix 2 – Specialist Pottery Report

REPORT 93 ON POTTERY FROM 9 SUDBROOKE LANE, NETTLEHAM, LINCS., SLN01

for NETWORK ARCHAEOLOGY

by Margaret J. Darling, M.Phil., F.S.A., M.I.F.A.

10 January 2002

QUANTITY AND CONDITION

The pottery came from two contexts and unstratified, and amounted to 15 sherds weighing 0.376 kg, including three tile fragments. The sherds include very abraded fragments. No problems are anticipated for long term storage. The pottery has been archived using count and weight as measures according to the guidelines laid down for the minimum archive by *The Study Group for Roman Pottery*.

A copy of the archive database is attached (and can be supplied on disk), and will be curated for future study.

Context 0002 a body sherd and crumb in a fairly coarse fabric from a closed form, probably a cooking pot, with an oxidized exterior and burnt deposit on the interior surface. This type of deposit is often found on Iron Age vessels in this area. The other fragment is a very abraded lump of oxidized fabric, which could be pottery or from a tile. There are also two fragments of probable tile, one in a finer fabric and probably a roofer, the other an unidentifiable sandy lump with no surviving surfaces. The tile indicates a Roman deposition date.

Context 0008 produced 5 fragments of shell-gritted fabric, two being formless lumps. The better preserved sherds are likely to be from hand-made vessels, the fabric being dark grey with moderate sized common shell and oxidized surfaces. These are more reminiscent of Iron Age fabrics than Roman. There are also two grey body sherds of Roman date which cannot be closely dated. The date of the context is, however, provided by a post-Medieval glazed fragment. This also produced a fragment of a *tegula* roofing tile.

A single find was unstratified from topsoil, and is a very abraded lump with oxidized surfaces, and is probably pot rather than tile. It is, however, undatable.

SUMMARY

The ceramic evidence from the site therefore suggests activity probably starting in the Iron Age, broadly mid to late Iron Age, with two sherds of indeterminate date representing the Roman period, and closing with a post-Medieval sherd.

© M.J. Darling, 2002

| Cxt | Fabric | Form | Manuf+ | Ves | D? | DNo | Details | Link | Shs | Wt |
|------|--------|------|--------|-----|----|-----|--|------|-----|-----|
| US | OX? | - | - | - | - | - | LUMP;RB SURFS;LIGHTER FAB;POT? | - | 1 | 17 |
| 0002 | OX | CLSD | - | - | - | - | BS/CRUMB;RB EXT;DKGRY INT;BURNT DEPOSIT INT;COARSE'ISH FAB | - | 2 | 5 |
| 0002 | OX | - | - | - | - | - | LUMP;VABR;POT OR TILE? | - | 1 | 1 |
| 0002 | ZDATE | - | - | - | - | - | IA/ROM? | - | - | - |
| 0008 | SHCM | JB | HM? | 1 | - | - | BSS J;DKGRY FB;RB SURFS;?HM | - | 2 | 22 |
| 0008 | SHCM | - | HM? | - | - | - | BS;DKGRY;RB SURF;?LOST EXT SURF | - | 1 | 6 |
| 0008 | GREY | JB | - | - | - | - | BS;GROOVED BOWL OR JAR | - | 1 | 18 |
| 0008 | GREY | - | - | - | - | - | BS VABR | - | 1 | 8 |
| 0008 | SHCM | - | - | - | - | - | LUMP | - | 1 | 1 |
| 0008 | SHCM? | - | - | - | - | - | LUMP;OF FIRED CLAY W SHELL? | - | 1 | 2 |
| 0008 | PRO | - | - | - | - | - | OX BS W GLAZE | - | 1 | 1 |
| 0008 | ZDATE | - | - | - | - | - | POST MED | - | - | - |
| 0008 | ZZZ | - | - | - | - | - | INCLS POSS IA & ROM BSS | - | - | - |
| 0008 | TILE | TEG | - | - | - | - | ABR FRAG;SANDY FAB | - | 1 | 256 |
| 0002 | TILE | ROOF | - | - | - | - | FRAG;FINER FAB | - | 1 | 35 |
| 0002 | TILE | - | - | - | - | - | LUMP;SANDY;NO SURFS | - | 1 | 4 |
| | | | | | | | | | 15 | 376 |