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ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELD EVALUATION REPORT

LAND OFF BRAND END ROAD,
BUTTERWICK

LINCOLNSHIRE



PRE-CONSTRUCT ARCHAEOLOGY

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1.0 Non-Technical Summary

Ashwood Homes Ltd. propose to develop approximately four hectares of land on the west side of Butterwick village, south of Brand End Road and west of Broughtons' Lane (Fig. 1). A condition set by Boston Borough Council determined that archaeological investigations should be undertaken on the site as a prerequisite to development.

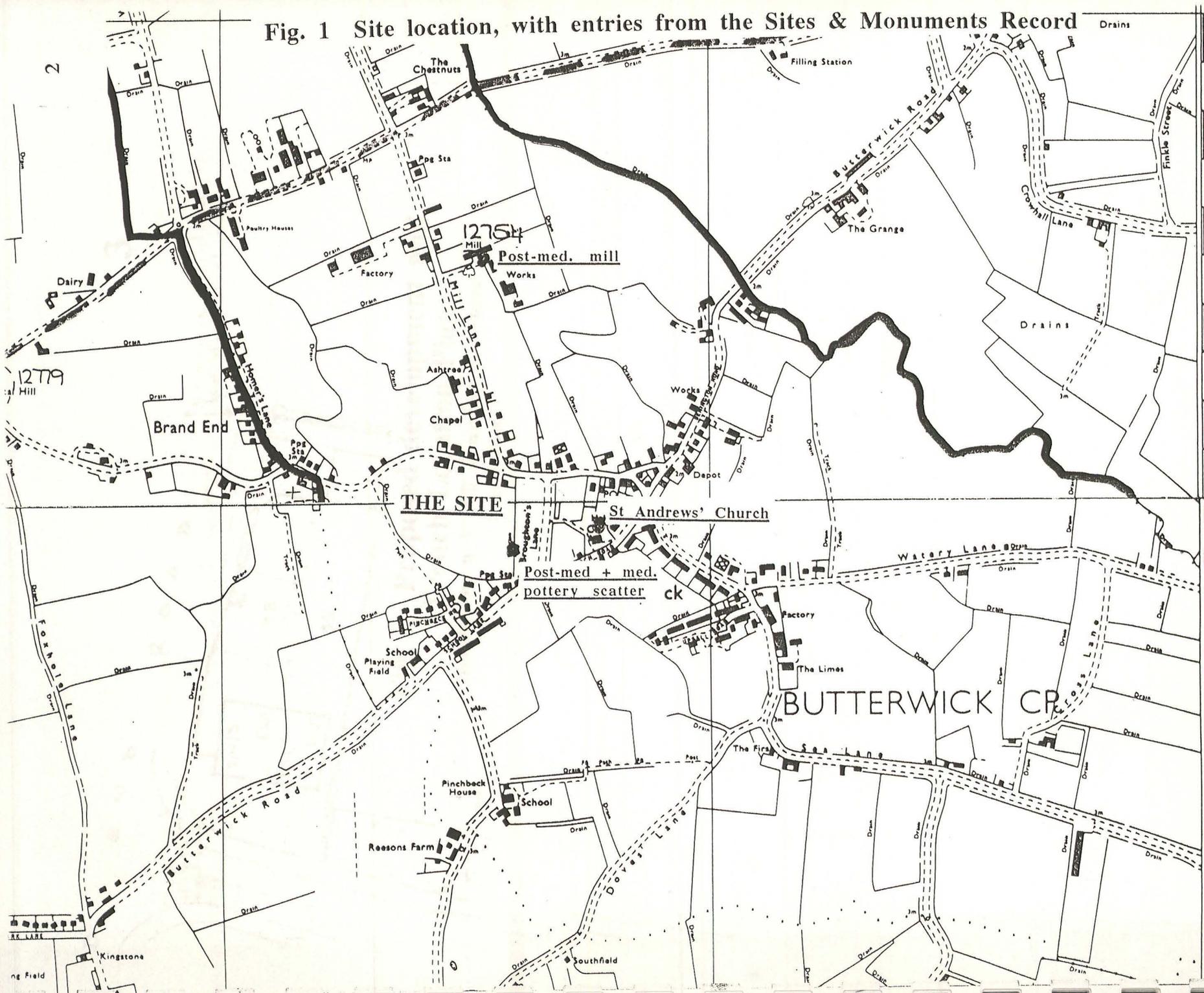
A five day, 'blind', intrusive field evaluation has demonstrated that the archaeological potential of this site is low. Although a limited range of 'earth-cut' archaeological features were identified and excavated, almost all would appear to date to within the post-medieval or modern periods. One feature containing medieval pottery was investigated which may relate to a structure, or structures, sited on the Brand End Road frontage.

On balance, the evidence derived during field evaluation is of limited significance and is unlikely, therefore, to enhance the present state of local and regional knowledge, though it does confirm that occupation was taking place during the medieval period close to the proposed development site.

In its present form, the proposed development would incur few impacts to archaeological resources during construction procedures.

The central National Grid Reference is TF 385 450

Fig. 1 Site location, with entries from the Sites & Monuments Record



46
STON CP
BOSTON RD

345000m
LAT 52° 59'

(a) BENNINGTON CP

LINE

2

1279 Hill

Brand End

THE SITE

St Andrews' Church

Post-med + med.
pottery scatter ck

BUTTERWICK CP

ng Field

Kingstone

Reasons Farm

School

Pinchback House

School

Playing Field

Pinchback

The Limes

The Fir

Southfield

Factory

Works

Works

Works

Chapel

Ashtree

Factory

Post-med. mill

12754 Mill

Pge Sta

Poultry Houses

The Chestnuts

Filling Station

The Grange

BUTTERWICK ROAD

Drains

Crowhill Lane

Finkle Street

Waters Lane

2.0 Introduction

An intrusive phase of archaeological field evaluation took place between Tuesday, June 28th and Monday, July 4th, 1994, on the site of a proposed housing development (Fig. 2). These works were commissioned by the Client and followed a desk-based assessment of information contained within the Sites & Monuments Record and other sources (Palmer-Brown 1994), and a programme of gridded field walking (Appendix 12.4).

Based on existing data, the desk top report concluded that the archaeological potential of the site was moderate, though conclusions were difficult to substantiate as field walking data referred to in the Sites & Monuments Record could not be traced and quantified. It was agreed between interested parties, therefore, that the position be further clarified by additional field walking.

The entire site was systematically walked, with collection every 10.0m. A random scatter of surface material was recorded in all areas, with slight concentrations on the north side of the proposal site (closer to the Brand End Road frontage). Most of the finds comprised sherds of post-medieval and modern pottery, though a limited quantity of early medieval sherds were present, as were two grey sherds which could be Roman.

As a means of further clarifying the archaeological status of the site, the Community Archaeologist for Boston requested a programme of archaeological field trenching.

3.0 Planning background

Following an application to Boston Borough Council for the layout of roads and construction of ninety six dwellings (BO8/0766/91), planning permission was granted in January 1994, subject to a condition requiring archaeological investigation.

On behalf of Ashwood Homes, Status Design (Architects and Planning Consultants) requested that the Community Archaeologist for Boston issue an archaeological project brief, outlining the scope and scale of works. This was set in April, 1994, and has formed the basis of all subsequent archaeological assessment and evaluation.

4.0 Geology and topography

The infilling of the Fen basin since the retreat of the last ice sheets, approximately 10,000 years ago, has been sporadic, fluctuatory and subject to the influences of a complex set of palaeogeographic, riverine and marine variables (Lane, 1993). The Pre-Flandrian land surface lies, in many instances, beneath thick beds of marine silt and alluvium, with intermittent peat horizons, indicative of drier phases. There have been successive phases of marine transgression and regression following an initial rise in sea level after the last glaciation, and each of these phases has left its own mark in the geological record. However, the timing of individual events, and the extent to which these events were physically expressed is a matter of some debate and one which falls beyond the scope of this report.

It is well known that the Fen basin of today bears little resemblance to that of yesteryear. Attempts to drain land within the Fens have taken place since at least the Roman and medieval periods, though the major efforts came during the 17th and 18th centuries (Robinson, 1993). Not until the early 19th century, however, were the Lincolnshire Fens completely drained.

Like much of the surrounding terrain, the Butterwick site lies within a flat, topographically uninspiring, environment, where the height above sea level is just 3.0m.

5.0 Archaeological and historical background

The archaeological and historical significance attached to the proposed scheme, within a local and regional framework, was established in a preceding desk top assessment, though a summary of these findings is relevant to the present study. There have been no previous archaeological excavations at Butterwick.

No prehistoric sites or artefacts are recorded close to the proposed development, though there is a clear group of Iron Age sites located on the western edge of the Fens which appear to reflect the course of the later (Roman) Car Dyke. Other groupings of the same cultural period have been recorded deep inside the Fens; principally in Wrangle, Whaplode and Cowbit (Simmons, 1993). Clearly, settlement during this period was restricted to discreet topographical and geographical zones, possibly relating to the exploitation of salt (*ibid*).

There have been no previously recorded archaeological finds dating to within the Roman period in the area of proposed development, though two sherds of pottery which were picked up during recent field walking may be Roman (Appendix 12.4). Some claims have been made that the Fens were more populous in the Roman period than at any other time, possibly because, during the Iron Age, much of the area was almost permanently flooded. By approximately AD 100, there may have been more dry land available than at any other time since before the Iron Age (Simmons, 1993). Archaeological evidence derived from field walking and excavation within the Fen margins suggests that the main thrust of Roman influence occurred during the earlier part of the 2nd century AD. This was at a time when the Emperor Hadrian (AD 117 - 138) was encouraging the settlement of inhospitable areas, with the promise of rent-free land for five years (Whitwell, 1992).

Domesday Book records that there were two churches and two priests in the parish in 1086, though only one church survives today (the site of the other is unknown). The estate was owned at this time by Guy de Craon, who established the seat of his barony at Freiston and, around AD 1114, founded a Benedictine priory in that parish (Platts, 1989). As a result, Butterwick declined in importance. The manor was held by the descendants of Guy de Craon until 1262, when it passed to Henry de Longchamp and, in 1337, to the Pedwardine family. Here it remained until the 15th

century. It would appear that, by the later medieval period, Butterwick was a relatively insignificant village, as compared with its earlier history.

The (local) economy of the medieval period was driven mainly by agriculture, though, no doubt, fishing, fowling and salt making was also important. In the same way as other Fen villages (and as the name suggests), Butterwick probably maintained ample grazing land and shared rights of pasture in the West Fen (ibid).

The surviving church, St Andrews, lies approximately 150m east of the proposed development area. Its nave arcades and the font are of 13th century design, though much of the surviving fabric has been altered and added to during the post-medieval period. West of the church tower are a number of very low earthworks. These are unclear when viewed from all angles and their purpose is uncertain.

By the early 18th century, much of the fenland had been drained, especially in the south. New channels and dykes had been added to the existing pattern of streams and slow-moving rivers.

6.0 Aims

The principal aims of the field evaluation at Butterwick were to establish the presence/absence of archaeological deposits dating from the prehistoric to post-medieval periods; to assess their significance at local, regional and national level, and to assess potential impacts to archaeological resources which may take place during development. A project Specification, based around these objectives, was jointly agreed between Pre-Construct Archaeology, the Community Archaeologist for Boston and the Client.

7.0 Methodology

7.1 Evaluation Trenches

Fourteen evaluation trenches, each measuring approximately 15.0m x 1.5m, were sited within the general areas of intended housing, as defined in a 1:500 plan provided by the Client (Fig. 2). Foundation footprints were, on this occasion, avoided as the excavation of deep holes would have incurred (potentially unnecessary) expense, involving alterations to the original foundation design (strip method).

A team of three experienced field archaeologists, aided by an intermittent fourth member, excavated and recorded features and deposits revealed within the evaluation trenches. All deposits were recorded on standard pro-forma context sheets and contexts were drawn and, where necessary, photographed. All finds were washed and processed and were selectively presented to specialists for appraisal (Appendix 12.3).

A mechanical excavator, fitted with a straight ditching bucket, was used to strip regular, level spits no deeper than 200mm. The process was repeated until the first archaeologically significant or natural horizons were exposed.

8.0 Results

8.1 Trench 1 (Fig 3)

This trench, as well as Trenches 2 and 3, was positioned on the extreme east side of the proposed development site. As there are visible earthworks on the east side of Broughton's Lane, west of St Andrews Church, and as an apparently discreet scatter of pottery was recorded here in 1979, it was considered appropriate that a thorough assessment of potential be undertaken.

Mechanical stripping took place to a depth approximately 1.0m below the top of the ploughsoil. The lowest and earliest natural stratum (which was not bottomed) comprised pale yellow sand, mixed with laminations of grey sand. Above this was approximately 50cm of thin alternating laminations

Fig. 3 Trench 1: Section + Plan, east end of area

comprising sandy silt and clay. These units were a common feature over much of the site and represent seasonal flood/wash deposits which continued to accumulate to the point at which the Fens were drained in the post-medieval period.

Two, inter-cutting, archaeological features were examined on the extreme east side of the trench. The latest of these, [5], was a north-south ditch which was largely machine-excavated as its upper fill was extremely difficult to distinguish from natural strata through which it had been cut. Its form was basically U-shaped, measuring approximately 1.5m in width. Its fill contained sherds of 19th/early 20th century pottery. As the ditch lay less than 2.0m west of a modern drainage ditch, it is likely that the two were functionally similar (ie that the buried ditch was a precursor).

The east edge of the above ditch had cut through the west side of a deep pit, [6]. The sides of the pit were very irregular and its form was difficult to clarify. It was filled with lenses of silty sand and sandy silt to a depth greater than 1.0m and the lower fill contained fragments of brick and, possibly, daub. No pottery was recovered.



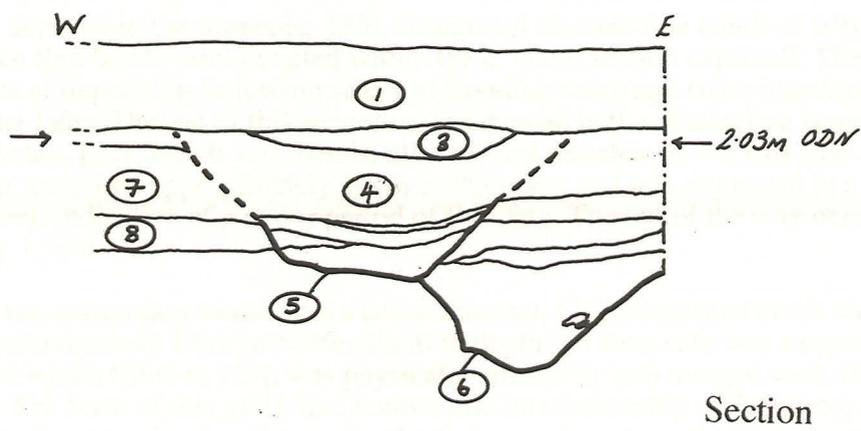
Scale 1:10
0.5m = 1.0m

Fig. 3 Trench 1: Section + Plan, east end of area

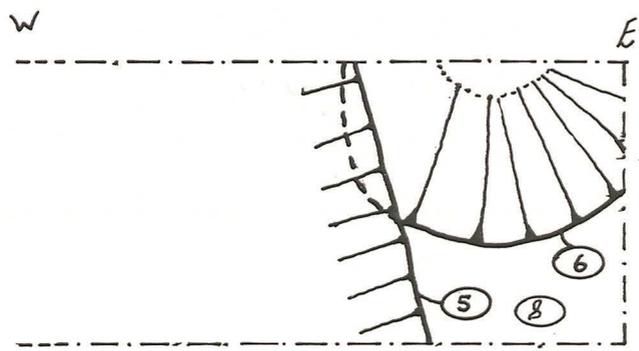
8.2 Trench 2 (Fig. 4)

A second trench was excavated approximately 50m south of the first trench, which was approximately east-west. For the first part of the trench, the ground surface was relatively level, but towards the top of the plan the ground surface was linearly elevated to the west.

The various sections of the trench were numbered 1 to 8. The trench was approximately 2.03m wide and 1.0m deep. The trench was excavated in a series of steps, with the ground surface being levelled at each step. The trench was filled with soil and the various sections were numbered 1 to 8. The trench was approximately 2.03m wide and 1.0m deep. The trench was excavated in a series of steps, with the ground surface being levelled at each step. The trench was filled with soil and the various sections were numbered 1 to 8.



Section



Plan

Scale = 1:40
(2.5cm = 1.0m)

Fig. 4 Trench 2: Section + Plan, west end of area

8.2 Trench 2 (Fig. 4)

A second trench was opened approximately 57m south of the first cutting, which was also orientated east-west. For the most part, natural stratification was machine-excavated to a depth of 1.3m below the top of the ploughsoil though, on the west side, this was restricted to c. 80cm when the top of a linear channel was identified in plan.

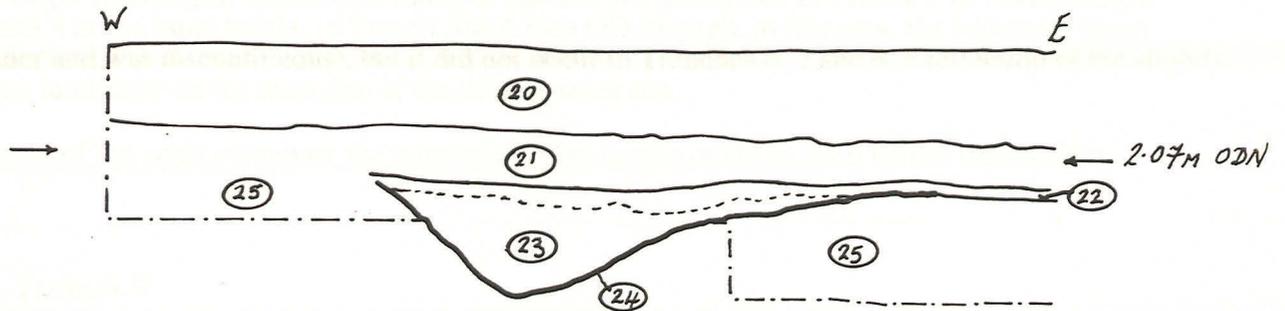
The earliest natural deposits in the sequence, [25], comprised discreet thin bands of silty sand and clay (at least nineteen thin bands were counted within the c. 60cm section exposed). These alternating layers reflect periods of deposition following seasonal flooding/wash and were deposited prior to the major drainage of the Fens. The top of this sequence was capped with a distinctive layer of dense blue/grey (reduced) clay, [22], which was identified in several trenches on the east side of the development area. It measured approximately 10cm in thickness and was deposited in a low-energy, very wet, environment, indicative of a major period of flooding. The top of the clay occurred at a point approximately 1.93m OD.

On the west side of the excavation trench was a linear channel, [24], orientated north-west to south-east. It measured approximately 1.8m in width, 60cm in depth. Its west side was steeper than its east side and the material which filled it, [23], was physically similar to, and merged with, the extensive flood horizon, [22]. The form of this gully-like feature and its relationship with the major flood horizon is indicative of a natural rather than cultural origin: a palaeochannel which, presumably, formed as a result of surface run-off and erosion induced by a major flood event.

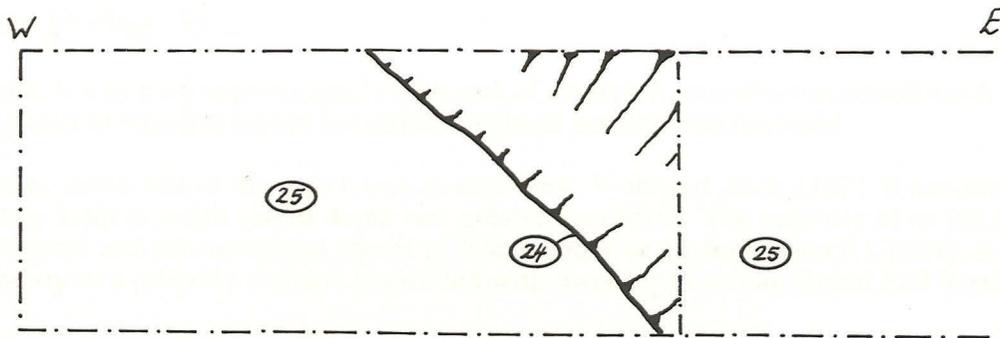
No other features were present in this trench.

Scale = 1:40
(2.5m = 1.0m)

Fig. 4 Trench 2: Section + Plan, west end of area



Section



Plan

Scale = 1:40
(2.5cm = 1.0m)

8.3 Trenches 3 - 8

All six trenches were sited on the south-east, south and north-west periphery of the proposed development area, close to proposed impact zones (Fig. 2). None of the areas produced evidence of cultural activity, though each was cleaned and photographed, and a record made of the natural strata exposed, details of which are contained in the site archive. Each trench was mechanically stripped to approximately 1.5m below the existing ground surface (c. 50cm deeper than the foundation trenches which will be dug during construction procedures).

The major flood layer, common to much of the site, was examined in Trench 3 at 1.88m OD, in Trench 4 at the same height, in Trench 5 at 2.14m OD (though, in this area, the layer was much thinner and was discontinuous), but it did not occur in Trenches 6, 7 and 8, a reflection of the slightly higher landscape on the west side of the development site.

In some of the areas examined, the courses of relict creeks could be seen within trench sides.

8.4 Trench 9

This trench, as well as Trenches 1, 8 and 10, was sited on the northern periphery of the proposed development site, to the rear of properties fronting Brand End Road, and was orientated north-south (Fig. 2). The north side of the trench was machine-excavated to depths exceeding 1.5m but, on the south side, machining was suspended just below the topsoil as this area was clearly disturbed.

The disturbance on the south side of the trench was a massive pit, [163], of unknown dimensions. Its upper fill, [161], comprised clean, loose yellow silty soil containing lumps of brown clay, clearly of natural origin. When a section of this fill was removed, a much dirtier horizon of humic silty sand was exposed, [162]. Excavation was suspended when some of the contents of this pit were recovered; bottles with plastic caps, acid batteries, jars with paper labels etc. An elderly member of the community recalled digging a large rubbish pit in this area during the 1930's.

A record was made of the natural stratification on the north side of the area.

8.5 Trench 10 (Fig. 5)

This area, which was sited approximately 60m east of Trench 9, was also orientated north-south. It was the only area in which evidence for earlier medieval activity was recorded.

On the extreme north side of the trench was an east-west, V-shaped ditch, [182]. It measured approximately 2.4m in width and its depth was greater than 85cm. The majority of its fill, [181], resembled topsoil, and this contained sherds of 19th century or modern pottery. Clearly, it was either a field boundary or a property division associated with dwellings fronting Brand End Road.

Approximately 1.6m south of the above was a parallel-sided east-west feature which contained large quantities of domestic debris dating to the earlier medieval period, [187]. Its sides were vertically cut to depths exceeding 40cm and, on the east side, there was a discreet depression in the base of the cut. The whole feature was filled with alternating bands of dark, burnt-looking, material, sandwiched between clean, redeposited, natural sandy silt, [186]. It contained fragments of 12th century domestic pottery, animal bones and large quantities of mussel shells.

The south-east side of the above had been truncated when a later feature, [185] was excavated. No finds were recovered from its fill.

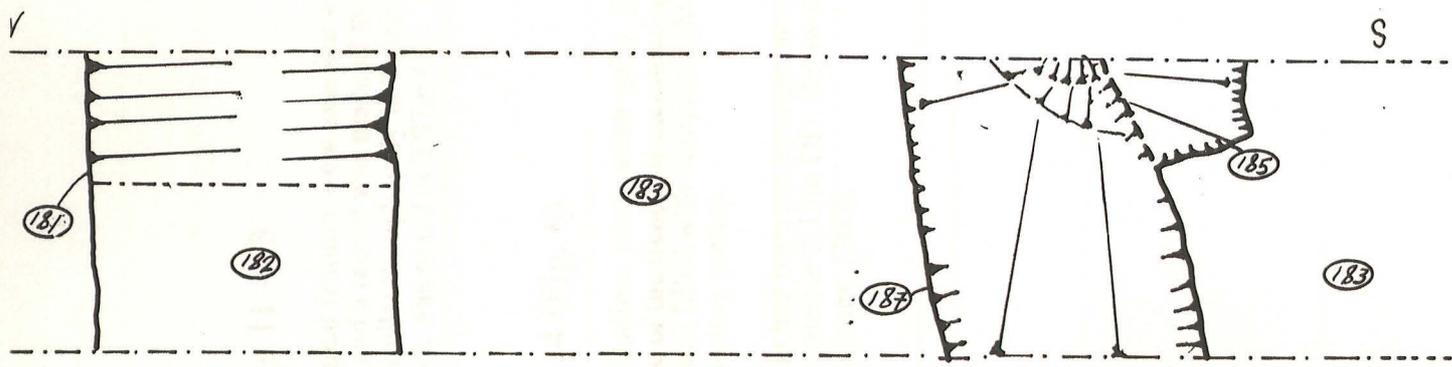
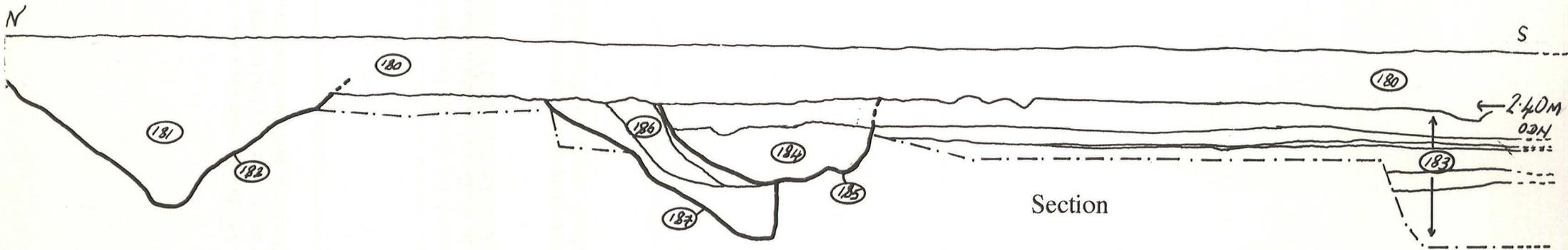
On the south side of the area, where no archaeology was apparent, a 'sondage' was excavated to a depth c. 1.5m below the top of the ploughsoil, revealing a complex of natural/seasonal flood horizons, expressed as alternating bands of silty sand and clay. The major (clay) flood horizon was not seen.

Scale 1:40
(2.5cm = 1.0m)

1.5m



Fig. 5 Trench 10: Section + Plan, north end of area



Scale = 1:40
(2.5cm = 1.0m)

8.6 Trenches 11 - 13

No archaeological features were exposed within Trenches 11 - 13, though each area was cleaned, photographed and a record was made of the basic stratigraphic units. The exposed sequences were conceptually similar though, only in Trench 13 was the characteristic major flood horizon apparent, the top of which was noted at 2.07m OD.

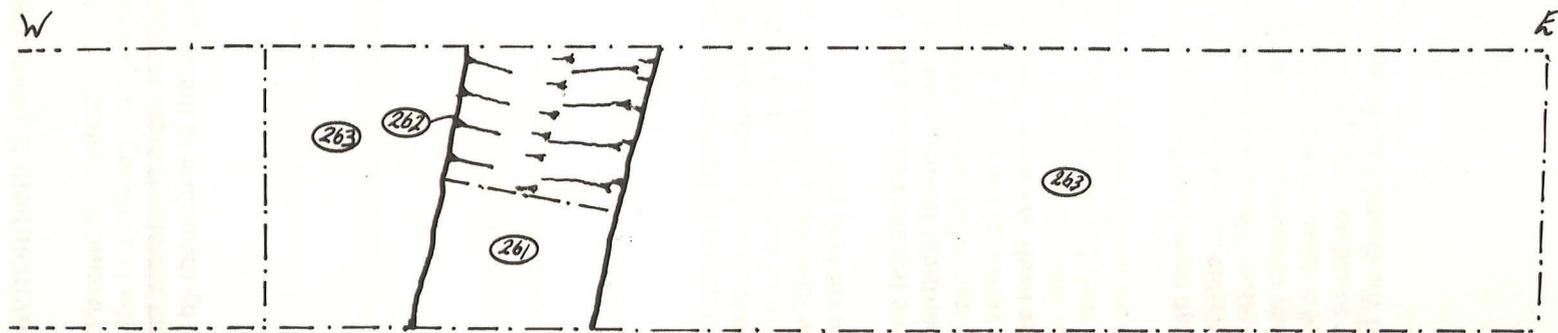
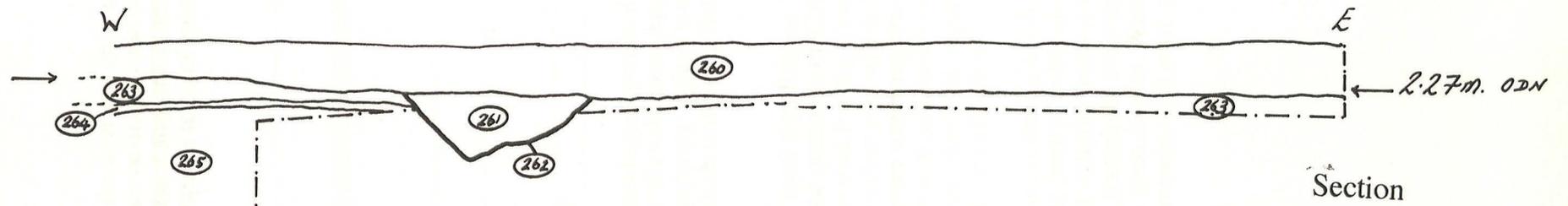
8.7 Trench 14 (Fig. 6)

In this area, a shallow, north-south gully, [262], was exposed which lay directly beneath the topsoil on the east side of the trench. It measured approximately 1.1m in width and its depth was no greater than 40cm. It was filled with compact light grey/brown silty sand which contained two large sherds of 17th/18th century pottery.

The above gully had been cut through the extensive flood horizon (here coded [264]), the top of which was recorded at 2.13m OD. Below this was a familiar, dense, sequence of seasonal flood/wash horizons, [265].

Scale = 1:40
(2.5cm = 1.0m)

Fig. 6 Trench 14: Section + Plan, east end of area



Scale = 1:40
(2.5cm = 1.0m)

Plan

10.0 Acknowledgements

8.8 Environmental potential

The environmental potential of the Fen basin is high. Since the area was only successfully drained during the last century, the potential for sites which will preserve organic and other informative sediment remains is high. However, in the context of the present site, environmental potential is limited by the nature of the archaeology which itself would appear to be of ephemeral value.

9.0 Conclusions

The evaluation at Butterwick has demonstrated that the archaeological potential of the site is low, a less substantiated conclusion reached during an earlier stage of evaluation (Appendix 12.4). Although a number of archaeological features were recorded within randomly-sighted test trenches, the majority of these have been dated to the post-medieval or modern periods (including field boundaries and modern rubbish pits).

Only one feature was recorded which is considered to be of local significance. This was the steep-sided earth-cut feature recorded in Trench 10 which contained quantities of 12th century domestic pottery and other debris. However, its presence, south of the road frontage, merely reaffirms the earlier view that the most significant deposits and structures in this area will be located closer to the frontage itself. As a pre-Conquest settlement, it is not altogether surprising that there are outlying features some 35m south of the present course of the road, where structural evidence may be anticipated. For the most part, the site of proposed housing development appears always to have been used as an area of pasture or, since the draining of the Fens, for cultivation.

Although there may be some impacts to archaeological resources during development, it is questionable as to whether the value of such resources would justify further archaeological intervention. There is a possibility, for example, that further outlying features will lie on the north periphery of the site, close to the Brand End Road frontage, though the evidence derived during this phase of evaluation would imply that these will not occur in great density. What the evaluation has done is to enhance the possibility that significant structural remains will exist, possibly flanking both sides of the Brand End Road frontage.

10.0 Acknowledgements

On behalf of Pre-Construct Archaeology, sincere thanks are expressed to the Commissioning Client, Mr Ashley King (Ashwood Homes). Thanks go also to Jim Bonnor, the Community Archaeologist for Boston, for providing guidance throughout this evaluation. Most of the fieldwork was undertaken by Rob Schofield, Malcolm Otter and Kenyon Pluver and sincere thanks are expressed also to them. Thanks are due to Jane Young and Judy Wilkinson of the City of Lincoln Archaeology Unit for finds assessment.

11.0 References

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12.0 Appendices

12.1 List of contexts (classification only)

Trench 1

Context Classification

12.1 List of contexts

[2] Fine to medium texture, red-brown soil, top of trench, level of 11.15m, depth 0.15m.

12.2 Colour photographs

[1] Soil profile in trench below [1], light brown soil, level of 11.15m, depth 0.15m.

12.3 Pottery Assessment

[1] Large, thin, irregular, light brown, level of 11.15m, depth 0.15m.

12.4 Field Walking Report

12.5 Site Archive

Trench 2

Context Classification

[20] Topsoil

[21] Fine to medium texture, light brown soil, level of 11.15m, depth 0.15m.

[22] Fine to medium texture, light brown soil, level of 11.15m, depth 0.15m.

[23] Fine to medium texture, light brown soil, level of 11.15m, depth 0.15m.

[24] Fine to medium texture, light brown soil, level of 11.15m, depth 0.15m.

[25] Fine to medium texture, light brown soil, level of 11.15m, depth 0.15m.

12.1 List of contexts (classification only)

Trench 1

Context	Classification
[1]	Topsoil/ploughsoil. Firm dark brown/grey silty sand
[2]	Fill of pit-like feature, east end of trench (contained by [6]). Mottled, light grey silty sand. Cut by [5].
[3]	Dark grey/black, charcoal-filled soil in top of N-S ditch, east side of trench. ?Modern
[4]	Bulk fill of N-S ditch (below [3]). Light brown silty sand, orange mottles. Interleaving bands of sand and silt indicative of gradual silting/wash, containing daub/brick fragments.
[5]	N-S ditch containing [3] and [4]. U-shaped profile, truncated by ploughing. Probably a predecessor to existing N-S field boundary.
[6]	Large, deep, irregular pit-like feature, east end of trench, truncated by [5].
[7]	Series of thin laminated deposits, up to 55cm in thickness sealed beneath topsoil. Represents annual/seasonal wash/flood deposits which formed prior to the draining of the Fens.
[8]	Soft, fine silty sand greater than 40cm in depth, sealed beneath [7]. Natural deposit, formed in a high energy environment (water-born).

Trench 2

Context	Classification
[20]	Topsoil/ploughsoil
[21]	Thick layer of soft yellow/grey silty sand, extending over entire trench (some internal banding). ?Seasonal wash deposits within moderately low-energy environment. Below topsoil, over [22].
[22]	Compact layer of blue/grey clay (reduced), extending over most of trench. Indicative of low-energy (standing water) environment: major flood event.
[23]	Compact dark grey/mottled clay filling N-S channel, [24, W. side of area. Deposited as part of same event as [22] - fill of natural palaeochannel.
[24]	U-shaped linear cut, orientated N-W - S-E. Steep on W. side, gradual slope on E. side. Channel probable formed natural drainage 'creek' during major flood, filled with material conceptually the same as [22] (ie sediment).
[25]	Extensive layers comprising discreet bands of silty sand and clay (at least 19 counted). Seasonal flood/wash events pre-dating major drainage of Fens.

- [26] Soft silty sand below [25]. Natural deposit indicative of high-energy environment (water-born).

Trenches 11 - 13. General record only. Context numbers not used as no archaeological features present.

Trenches 3 - 8. General record only. Context numbers not used as no archaeological features present.

Trench 9

- [160] Topsoil/ploughsoil
- [161] Clean, loose, yellow silty sand containing lumps of brown clay, filling top of large pit-like feature, occupying almost half of trench area. Redeposited natural.
- [162] Dirty dark grey/brown, humic, silty sand below [161]. Containing white, patterned, china, bottles with plastic lids, decomposing batteries, tin cans etc. Fill of large, modern rubbish pit. Abandoned after identification.
- [163] Very large cut of modern rubbish pit. Dimensions not determined.

Trench 10

- [180] Modern ploughsoil/topsoil.
- [181] Fill of post-medieval/modern E-W drainage ditch/property boundary. Dark grey/brown silty sand.
- [182] Cut for the above.
- [183] Cumulative layers of sandy silt/silt to depth exceeding 1.0m. Reflects deposition during moderate - low energy water transportation (flood deposits pre-dating major Fen drainage).
- [184] Compact silty clay filling irregular ?modern feature in N-central part of trench.
- [185] Cut for the above. South edges = vertical, north side less pronounced. Dug through fill of earlier feature, [186].
- [186] Alternating layers of dark, very burnt material and clean-looking natural sandy silt, filling regular-sided earth-cut feature, [187]. Fills slope from north-south. Contained 12th century pottery, burnt + unburnt bone + high % of mussel shells.
- [187] Cut for the above. Linear E-W cut, extending into both sections. Sides cut vertically, flat base, except adjacent to E. section where a noticeable depression filled with the same material. ?Medieval 'feast pit'.

Trenches 11 - 13. General record only. Context numbers not used as no archaeological features present.

12.2 Colour photographs

Trench 14

- [260] Topsoil/ploughsoil
- [261] Fill of shallow N-S, V-shaped, gully. Contained sherds of post-medieval pottery, 17th/18th century.
- [262] Cut for the above - immediately beneath topsoil
- [263] Layer beneath topsoil: c. 10cm of light brown/grey silty sand. ?Siltation derived via seasonal wash.
- [264] Extensive layer comprising compact blue/grey (reduced) clay, identical to layer seen in other trenches. Major flood layer, indicative of standing water/settling of small particles.
- [265] Thick accumulation(s) of alternating thin bands of clay and silty sand. Sequence machine-excavated to c. 80cm (not bottomed). Pre-dates archaeology and represents seasonal flooding/wash: developing sequence which pre-dates major Fen drainage schemes.

12.2 Colour photographs

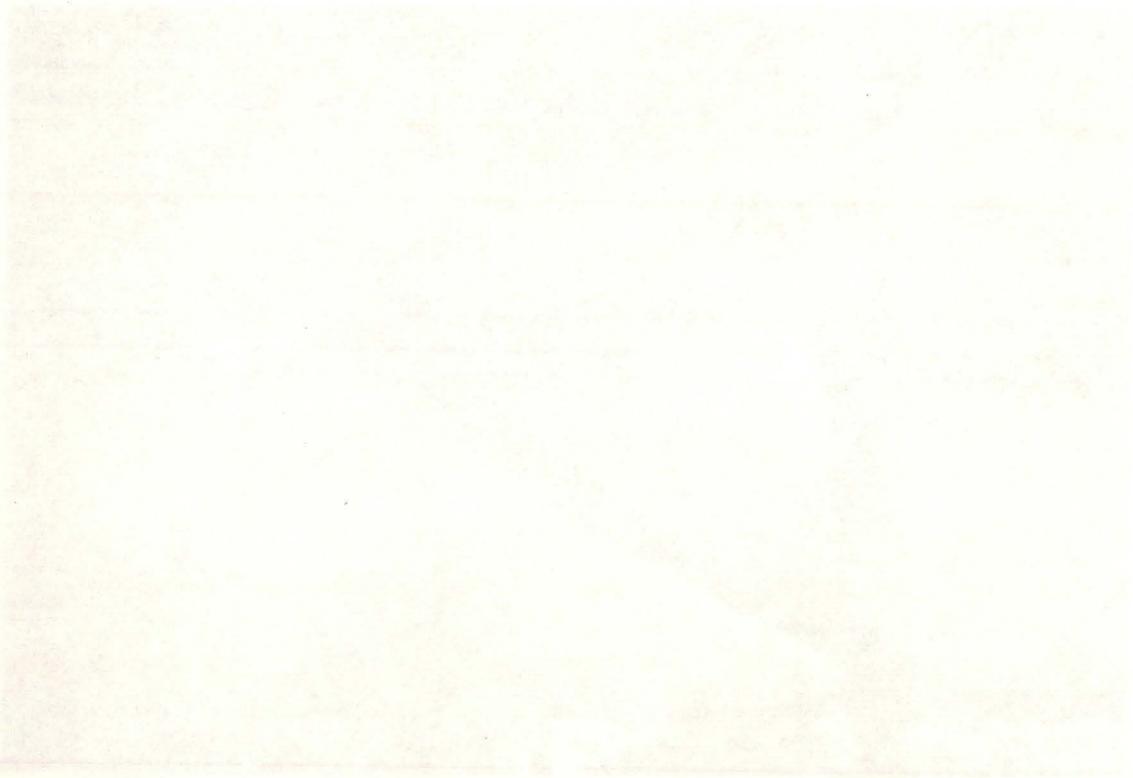
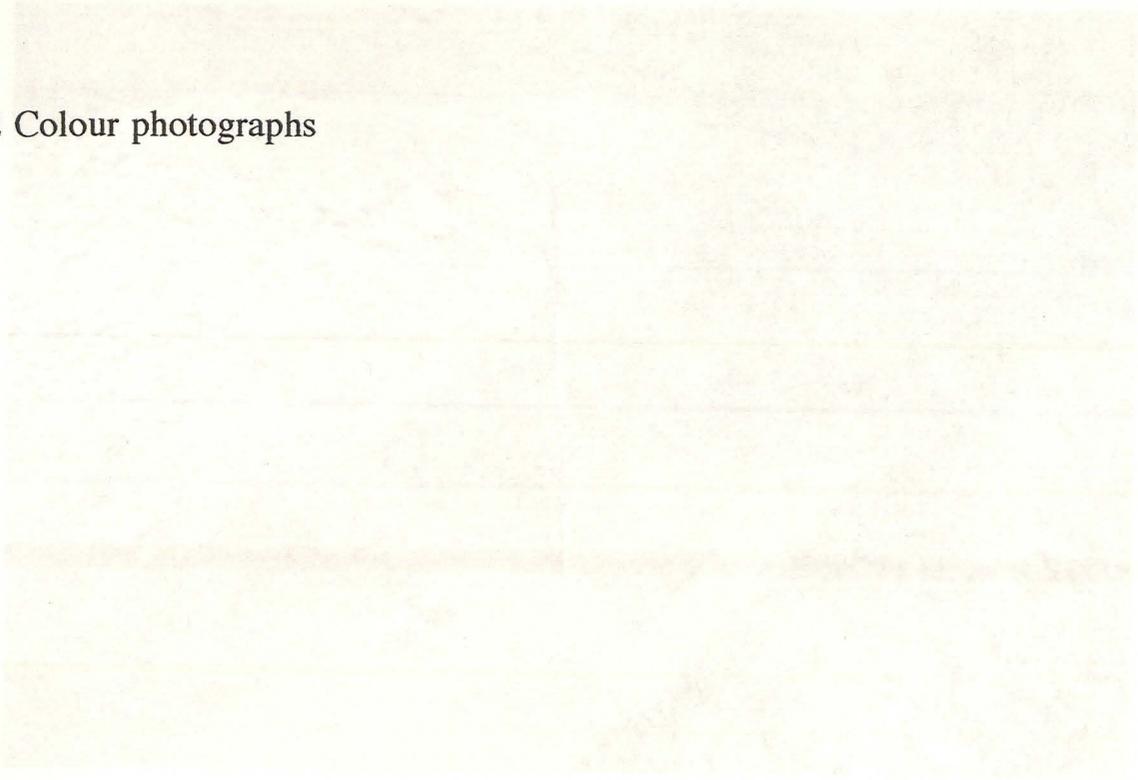


Figure 2. [Faded text, likely a caption for the images above]



Photo. 1 East side of Trench 1. Base off irregular pit-like feature [6], with C19th ditch in section, looking north-east



Photo. 2 Natural channel/gully seen in Trench 2, looking north (note direct stratigraphic relationship of fill with major (blue/grey) flood horizon in section)

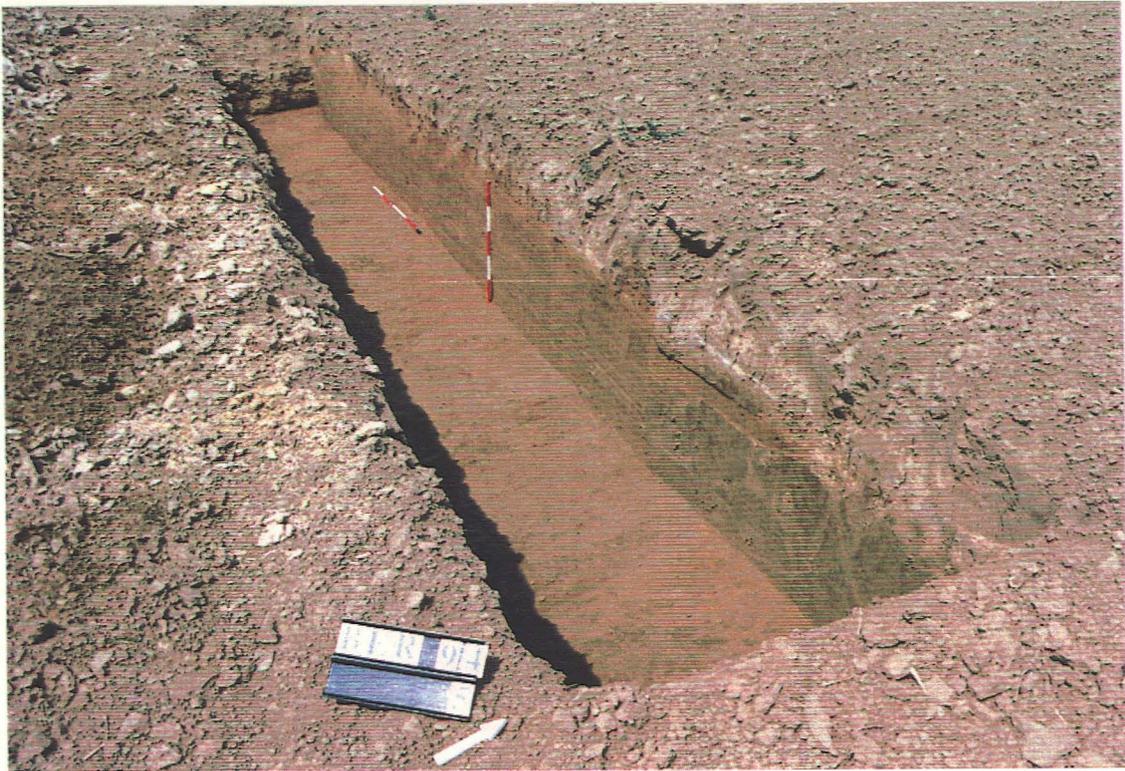


Photo. 3 Natural sediment sequence exposed in Trench 5, looking west. A familiar stratigraphic sequence was observed in most areas



Photo. 4 Second fill within large pit sampled in Trench 9, looking east (note the protruding white china, tin cans and modern bottles)



Photo. 5 Post-medieval/modern ditch examined in Trench 10, [182], looking north-east



Photo. 6 Sectioned east-west linear feature in Trench 10, [187], looking south-east. Burnt tip layers contained C12th pottery



Photo. 7 General view of natural stratification in Trench 14, looking north-east.

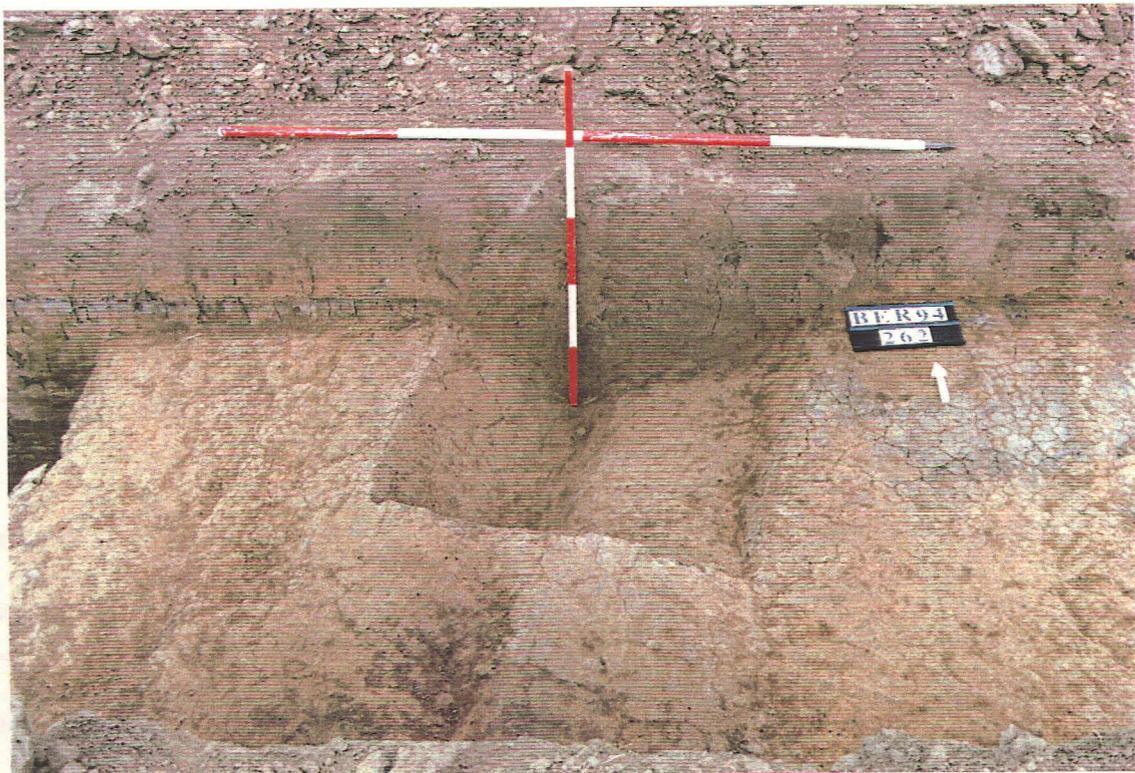


Photo. 8 Shallow post-medieval gully [262], east side of Trench 14, looking north

12.3 Pottery Assessment

The majority of sherds from the evaluation date to within the post-medieval and modern periods and, as such, were processed in-house. However, earlier, or potentially more interesting, sherds were presented to J. Young and J. Wilkinson (City of Lincoln Archaeology Unit) for archive classification. The information has now been entered on the large database used by that organisation.

Presented below is a basic sherd count, listed by trench and context, with comments, where appropriate.

Trench 1

Context	No. of sherds	Date	Comments
[4]	4	C19th	Willow-pattern white china

Trench 9

Context	No. of sherds	Date	Comments
[162]	10	?C20th	Blue/white china, mostly from one vessel

Trench 10

Context	No. of sherds	Date	Comments
[181]	40	E. C20th	Occasional residual med./post-med, majority = E. C20th
[186]	13	C12th	Mostly same vessel, globular cooking pot (CLAU)

Trench 14

Context	No. of sherds	Date	Comments
[261]	2	C17/18	Same vessel, Side handled jar

LAND OFF BRAND END ROAD

BUTTERWICK LINCOLNSHIRE

SUMMARY REPORT ON ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELD WALKING

JUNE, 1994

**Land off Brand End Road
Butterwick
Lincolnshire**

**Report on Archaeological Field Walking,
Undertaken on Behalf of**

Kings Quality Homes

by

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June 1994**

Introduction

In May, 1994, an archaeological desk top assessment was prepared by Pre-Construct Archaeology, on behalf of Kings Quality Homes, in advance of possible housing development on an area of land immediately south of Brand End Road, Butterwick (Fig. 1). The study was undertaken as part of an archaeological requirement issued by the Community Archaeologist for Boston.

In the desk-based study, it was variously concluded that the existing historical and archaeological record was an inadequate basis upon which to formulate (potentially expensive) field evaluation strategies. Much of the sensitivity surrounding the site rested on records held within the Sites & Monuments Record (SMR): medieval and post-medieval pottery, as well as building materials, were picked up in the late 1970's, though the original records are now lost. Aside from these findings, no other site-specific resources were identified at desk top stage, though it is acknowledged, there are historical, geographical and topographical reasons for monitoring development proposals in this area of Butterwick.

As a means of clarifying the weight which should be attached to surface scatters which were previously observed within the proposal site, it was agreed between Pre-Construct Archaeology, the commissioning Client, and the Community Archaeologist, that the whole site should, again, be field walked. Some fifteen years have now elapsed since the initial discoveries were made - more than enough time for the plough to have revealed fresh scatters.

Methodology

Between June 6th and June 10th, 1994, data was gathered from the site, processed and assessed as a means of providing a reliable guide to the date, density, distribution and significance of surface material from within the proposed development area. A team of two archaeologists prepared a system of 10.0m x 10.0m grid squares over the site and systematically walked the area in 5.0m transects. Pottery sherds and other material were placed in re-sealable polythene bags, left in their place of origin, and then plotted (Fig. 2). Finds were then removed from the site, washed, marked and presented for specialist assessment and dating (Appendix 1, based on an assessment by H. Healey).

Results

It is immediately apparent that there are no great clusters of finds on the site, though there is a slightly increased density of surface material on the north side, close to the rears of properties fronting Brand End Road.

Much of the pottery and other finds examined may be firmly placed within the post-medieval and modern periods, though there is a representative range of medieval wares present, including at least one very early sherd (No. 48). Two of the sherds (both within the central part of the proposal site; No.'s 21 and 55) may be Romano-British.

Interpretation

For the most part, sherd counts within individual grid squares were low, the higher counts usually being restricted to the zone closest to Brand End Road. In this area, most of the pottery has been dated to the post-medieval and modern periods, and it is suggested that the association is with properties on the street frontage, rather than with buried structural remains within the proposed development site. In fact, it is further suggested that the nature and relatively low density of finds associated with all of the major periods represented in the sample may reflect a continuous, largely agrarian tradition.

The fact that widely-dispersed pottery sherds of medieval and earlier date are present in small numbers is clearly of archaeological interest. However, their presence does not necessarily mirror the presence of buried archaeological features within the proposed development site, though it would certainly suggest that there was occupation taking place within the general environment (for the most

part, this is not altogether surprising). Many of the pottery sherds in the sample were highly abraded, as if present within the topsoil for considerable periods of time, and it is suggested that some may have been accidentally imported to the site, perhaps within farmyard manure.

Conclusions

The evidence thus far presented, in the form of desk-based assessment and preliminary field investigation, would, taken on balance, imply that the archaeological potential of this site is moderate to low. The Community Archaeologist for Boston and the Client will wish to discuss the overall implications of archaeological work undertaken to date and the position as regards any future archaeological management of the site.

Appendix 1

Acknowledgements

Pre-Construct Archaeology remain grateful to the Client, Kings Quality Homes, for commissioning both the present study and a preceding desk top assessment. Thanks are also expressed to Jim Bonnor, the Community Archaeologist for Boston, for guidance and advice during the course of work.

Fig. No. No. of Identification Details

1	1	P. 17th century glass
2	1	P. 17th century
3	1	P. 17th century
4	1	P. 17th century
5	1	P. 17th century
6	1	P. 17th century
7	1	P. 17th century
8	1	P. 17th century
9	1	P. 17th century
10	2	P. 17th century
11	2	P. 17th century

Appendix 1

Details of pottery and other finds collected during field walking
to be used in conjunction with Fig. 1
(information supplied with the aid of H. Healey)

P = Pottery
T = Tile
B = brick
S = slag
O = Other

Bag No.	No. of finds	Identification/Details
1	1	P. 17th century, glazed
2	1	P. 17th century
3	1	P. Medieval; not diagnostic
4	1	B. Modern
5	1	P. Medieval vessel handle
6	1	T. Modern
7	2	T. Pan tile fragment; P. 16th century
8	1	P. Medieval, not diagnostic
9	1	P. Flake, not diagnostic
10	2	B. + P. Latter = medieval, not diagnostic
11	?	

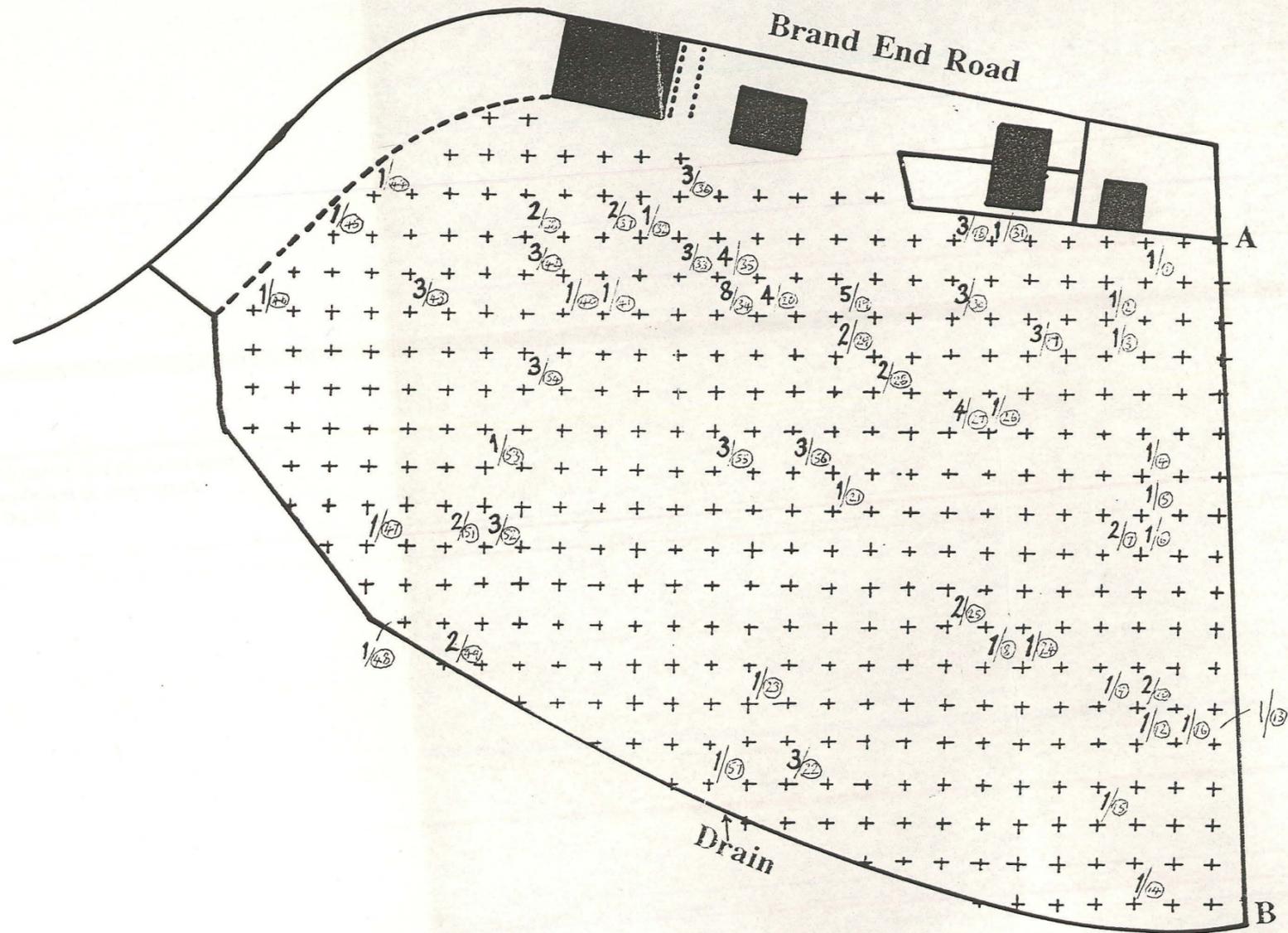
12	1	P. Early medieval (12th/13th century)
13	1	P. Medieval, not diagnostic
14	1	P. Early medieval, not diagnostic
15	1	P. Medieval, not diagnostic
16	1	P. ?17th century
17	3	T. x1 fragment; B. x2 fragments
18	3	P. x1 ?candlestick fragment, poss. 17th century; x2 late medieval undiagnostic sherds
19	5	B. x1 fragment; P. x1 modern sherd; x2 medieval; x1 = ?17th century
20	4	B. x1 fragment; P. x1 black glazed/modern; x1 19th century; x1 ?17th century
21	1	P. ?Roman (very abraded)
22	3	P. Black glazed/modern
23	1	P. Medieval, Toynton type
24	1	P. ?17th century

- 25 2 O. x1 19th century clay pipe stem; x1 modern button
P. x2 post-medieval (?17th/18th century)
- 26 1 P. Medieval, possibly reshaped and reused as counter
- 27 4 B. x2 flakes; P. x2 ?17th/18th century.
- 28 2 P. 17th century or later (?Boston kiln)
- 29 2 P. x1 17th century; x1 19th/20th century
- 30 3 P. x1 19th/20th black glazed; x1 medieval; x1 local post-medieval
- 31 1 P. Jug handle, ?15th century (Toynton kiln type)
- 32 1 P. X1 medieval, Toynton kiln type
- 33 3 P. x2 ?17th century; x1 modern
- 34 8 B. x1 fragment; P. x3 modern; x3 17th century; x1 17th/18th slip ware
- 35 4 T. x1 possible roofing slate fragment; P. x1 modern black glazed; x2 ?17th century
- 36 3 P. x1 modern black glazed; x1 undiagnostic medieval; x1 17th century
- 37 2 T. x1 fragment, ?modern; P. x1 17th century (?Boston type)

34	2	P. x1 modern; x1 17th century
38	2	P. x2 post-medieval (?16th/17th century)
39	?	
40	1	P. x1 17th/18th century (?Boston type)
41	1	P. x1 19th/20th century
42	3	B. x1 fragment + x1 undiagnostic brick/tile fragment; P. x1 17th century
43	3	T. x1 fragment; P. x1 medieval; x1 modern
44	1	P. x1 undiagnostic medieval
45	1	P. x1 undiagnostic medieval
46	1	O. x1 clinker/slag fragment
47	1	P. x1 misc. medieval (??14th century)
48	1	P. x1 9th/10th century sherd, Stamford Ware handle/ spout
49	2	P. x1 Toynton; x1 Bourne-type (?14th century)
50	?	

- 51 2 P. x1 modern; x1 17th century
- 52 3 B. x1 fragment; P. x1 ??medieval; x1 17th century
- 53 1 P. x1 medieval jug base
- 54 3 P. x1 modern; x1 19th century Staffordshire ware;
x1 medieval
- 55 3 P. x1 possible Roman sherd; B. x2 fragments
- 56 3 P. x1 medieval; x1 18th century Staffordshire Ware;
B. x1 fragment
- 57 1 P. x1 undiagnostic medieval base sherd.

Fig. 2 10.0m grids in survey area, with location of finds (bags)
to be used in conjunction with Appendix 1



KEY

/() = No. of finds in grid square(bold)/Finds code (in circle)

12.5 Site Archives

The basic site archive comprises the following:

33 context record sheets

x2 colour print films, x2 colour slide films

8 scale drawings (plans and sections)

1 box of finds

Misc. notes

Primary records are currently with Pre-Construct Archaeology, though the paper and physical archive will be deposited with the City and County Museum within 1 year of completion of this report, together with a more detailed archive list. The site Accession Number is 94.94.