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M & M ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES

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**RESULTS OF AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF:
ON LAND AT 10 FAIRFIELD AVENUE, CHAPEL ST LEONARDS, SKEGNESS
LINCOLNSHIRE PE24 5SB**

PLANNING APPLICATION REFERENCE: S/002/00496/02

SITE CODE: FFA 03

ACCESSION NO.: LCNCC 2003.52



NGR: TF 557 722

March 2003

COMMISSIONED BY:

**MR & MRS SMITH
MILL COTTAGE
MILL LANE
ADDLETHORPE
LINCOLNSHIRE**

PREPARED BY

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**Conservation
Services**

U 2 MAY 2003

**Highways & Planning
Directorate**

EU 7043

SLI 10899 10900

NEGATIVE

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*Results of an Archaeological Watching Brief:
on Land at 10 Fairfield Avenue, Chapel St Leonards, Skegness, Lincolnshire PE24 5SB*

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SUMMARY

- 1.1 *East Lindsey District Council (ELDC) granted planning permission for the construction of a dormer bungalow and garage with driveway at Fairfield Avenue, Chapel St Leonards, Skegness, Lincolnshire (Planning Application S/002/00496/02).*
- 1.2 *As a condition of the planning permission, an archaeological watching brief was required during ground works. A specification for the fieldwork was prepared and agreed with Conservation Services Department acting as Archaeological Advisor to ELDC prior to fieldwork commencing. The fieldwork was undertaken according to this agreed document and within nationally recognised archaeological guidelines.*
- 1.3 *The watching brief recorded activity on the site dating from the 20th century. A series of irregular earthworks are clearly visible on waste land east of the site. A caravan park has occupied the development site until recent times. There were no signs of earth-works in the area of the build.*

2.0 SITE LOCATION AND DESCRIPTION

- 2.1 Chapel St Leonards is located 4km to the north of Ingoldmells and 11km to the north of Skegness in the administrative district of East Lindsey. The site is located at 10 Fairfield Avenue on the western side of Chapel St Leonards see Figure 1). The development area is centred on NGR TF 557 722 and lies at an approximate altitude of 2m AOD.

3.0 PLANNING BACKGROUND

- 3.1 East Lindsey District Council granted planning permission for the construction of a dormer bungalow with garage and driveway at 10 Fairfield Avenue, Chapel St Leonards, Skegness, Lincolnshire (Planning Application N/031/01149/02).
- 3.2 A condition of the Planning Permission required an archaeological watching brief to be maintained during ground works associated with the new build. A specification detailing the methodology to be maintained during the watching brief was prepared and agreed prior to fieldwork commencing. The fieldwork was undertaken in accordance with current best archaeological practices and the appropriate national standards and guidance including:

Management of Archaeological Projects (English Heritage 1991);
Code of Conduct (Institute of Field Archaeologists 1999);
Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs (Institute of Field Archaeologists 1999).
Lincolnshire Archaeological Handbook (LCC 1998).

- 3.3 The fieldwork was undertaken between on 13/14th March 2003 by Martin Griffiths BA(Hons), AIFA.

4.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 4.1 A series of crop marks seen on aerial photographs are situated to the south, west and east of the development site. Much of these have since been covered by recent development. In an open wasteland area to the east of the site, the land does appear to contain a raised bank and undulations on the ground. Local knowledge suggests that some modern dumping of soil has taken place and was generated by development of the housing estate.
- 4.2 Earthworks of medieval date are recorded on this open land (SMR41618) recorded approximately 50m east of the development. A collection of medieval pottery and calcined bone is recorded approximately 500m to the north east of the site. A mound and possible causeway might be associated with these finds (SMR41610).
- 4.3 To the north of the church are the remains of a shrunken medieval village with a possible street. This area was known as Mumby Chapel around the 16th century. Thirteenth century drainage or demarcation ditches are recorded at Sea Road and a watching brief at St. Leonards Drive recorded two sherds of green glaze pottery. Ridge and furrow has been recorded to the southeast of the site (SMR 41619)
- 4.4 To the south west of the site, earthworks of post medieval date are recorded (SMR 44509). These features may have been built on by the development of domestic dwellings surrounding the new development.

5.0 AIMS

The aims of the watching brief were to:

- a) to monitor ground disturbance during the course of development
- b) to ensure the recording of the extent, condition, character, quality and date of any archaeological deposits and features where they may not be left in-situ;
- c) to report on the results of the watching brief and place them within their Local, Regional or National context

6.0 METHODOLOGY & RESULTS

- 6.1 The archaeological watching brief was maintained during ground works. Strip foundations were excavated for the new build. The archaeological monitoring was undertaken on a comprehensive basis. All ground works were undertaken using a JCB mechanical excavator fitted with a flat bladed ditching bucket (750mm wide). Footings were excavated to a depth of 1m below the present ground surface.
- 6.2 The development site in recent years was used as a caravan site with residential properties to the north and south of the development. There is an open area of uneven scrubland (see plate 2) to the east which is surrounded by residential dwellings.

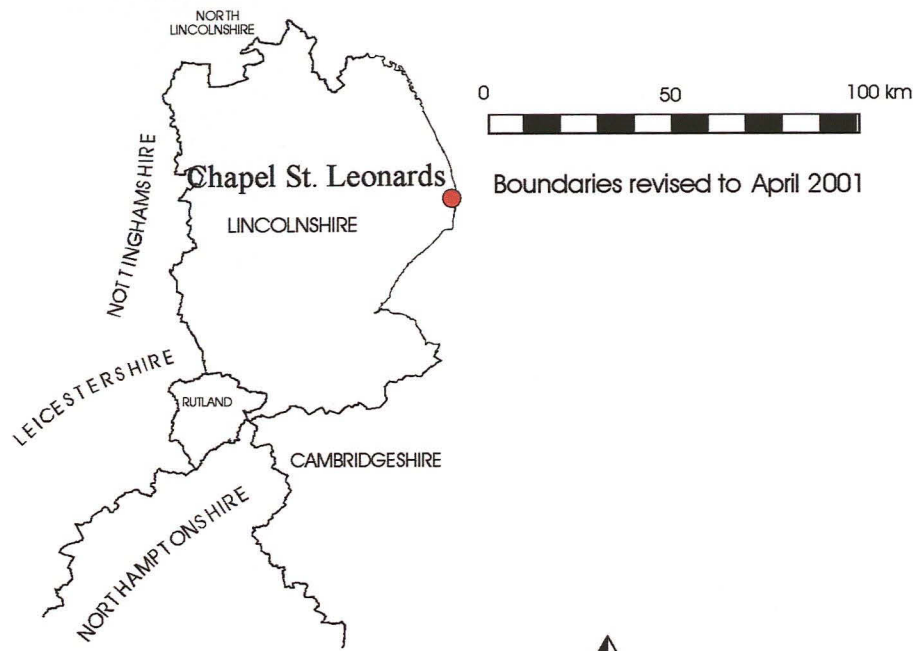
- 6.3 The earliest deposit encountered comprised the natural geology of a brown grey blue clay (103). Above this and over most of the site, lay a 0.7m deep yellow brown clayey silt subsoil containing occasional oyster and mussel shell (102). This layer is sealed by a 0.3m thick layer of dark brown silty clay loam topsoil containing occasional modern pottery and tile.
- 6.4 A large bonfire was evident in the topsoil where modern refuse material had been burnt recently.
- 7.0 DISCUSSION
- 7.1 The archaeological watching brief maintained during ground works associated with development on land next to 10 Fairfield Avenue, Chapel St Leonards did not record any deposits, features or artefacts of any archaeological significance.
- 7.2 The site had been identified as being within an area of known activity dating from the medieval period and later. However, the only disturbance on site which was encountered had occurred in the 20th century. The site appears to have been levelled for use as a caravan site. A shallow pit containing modern burnt refuse material was seen but not recorded.
- 7.3 The subsoil showed no signs of disturbance apart from modern soak-aways (see plate 4) from an adjacent bungalow. It is considered unlikely that anything other than agricultural activity had occurred on the development site, and as a result, no archaeological material has been impacted upon by the development.

8.0 FIGURES

Figure 1. Site location.

Figure 2. Excavation plan.

Figure 3. Representative section of footings



Map based on Ordnance Survey with the sanction of the
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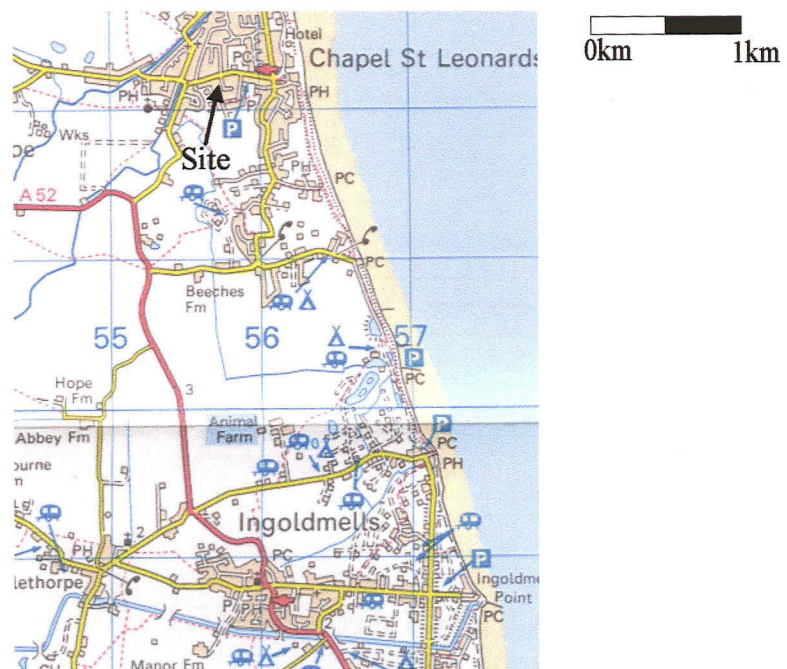


Figure 1. Site location

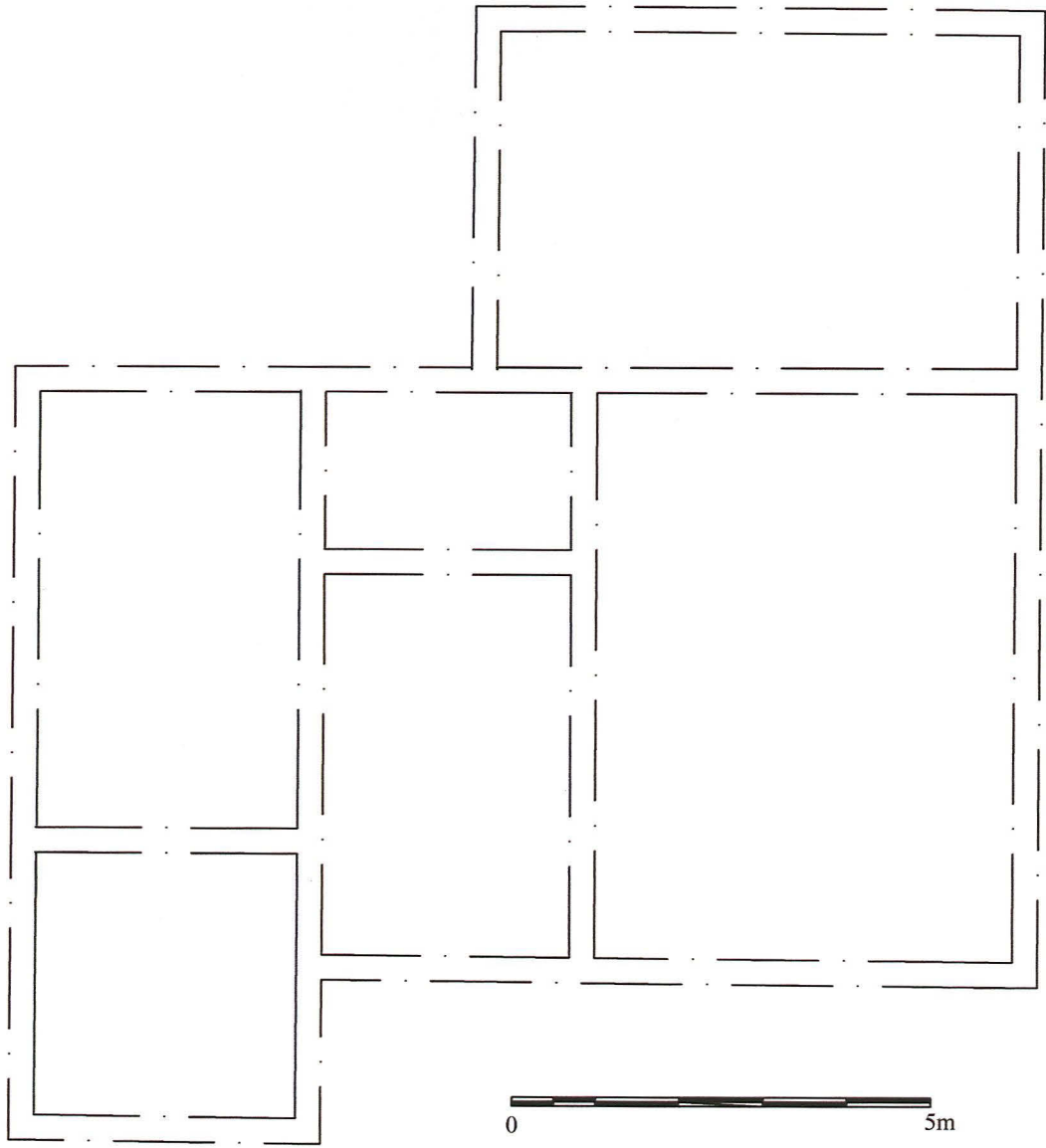
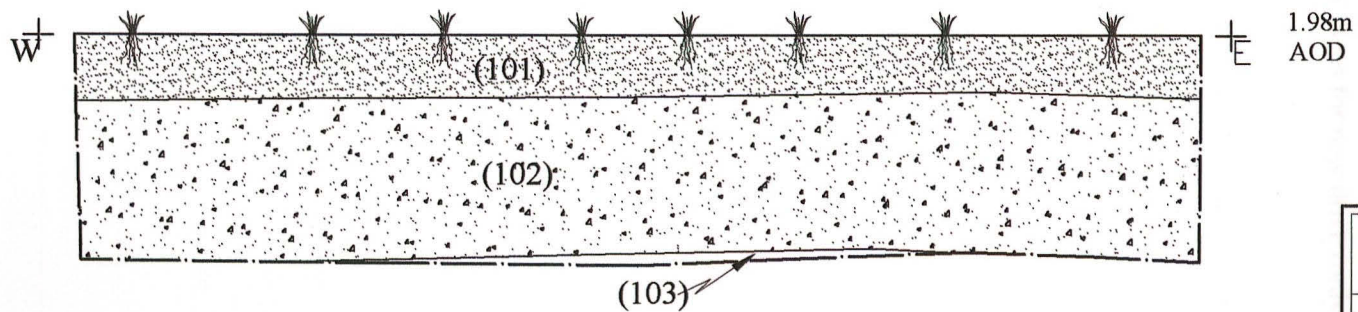


Figure 2. Foundation Plan



M & M Archaeological Services	
Job	10 Fairfield Avenue, Chapel St Leonards, Lincolnshire.
Title	Section 1
Scale	As Drawn
NGR	TF 557 722
Drawn	mg
Date	March 2003
Dwg	Figure 3
Site Code	FFA 03

9.0 PLATES

Plate 1. Site prior to excavation.

Plate 2. Looking east showing earth-works.

Plate 3. Showing general shot of footings looking north.

Plate 4. Soakaway seen during top-soiling for drive.

Plate 5. Showing increased depth of footings to south side of site and water table.

Plate 6. Area for new drive (only 300mm top-soil to be removed).



Plate 1. Site prior to excavation.



Plate 2. Looking east showing earthworks.



Plate 3. Showing general shot of footings looking north.



Plate 4. Soakaway seen during top-soiling for drive.



Plate 5. Showing increased depth of footings to south side of site and water table.



Plate 6. Area for new drive (only 300mm top-soil to be removed).

Appendix A

CONTEXT SUMMARY

Context No.	Location	Description	Type	Interpretation
101	All	Dark brown silty clay loam	Layer	Topsoil
102	All	Brown silty clay	Layer	Subsoil
103	All	Brown grey blue clay	Layer	Natural