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A REPORT TO
PAUL MAPLETHORPE
BUILDING SERVICES LIMITED

JUNE 2008

1 MELLOWS CLOSE
REEPHAM
LINCOLNSHIRE

ARCHAEOLOGICAL
~~WATCHING BRIEF~~

Scheme of Works

PREPARED BY
MIKE JARVIS ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES

MJAS REPORT No.: 554

**1 MELLOWS CLOSE
REEPHAM
LINCOLNSHIRE****ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF**Lincolnshire
County Council

31 JUL 2008

Planning &
Conservation

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**1 MELLOWS CLOSE
REEPHAM
LINCOLNSHIRE**

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

NON-TECHNICAL SUMMARY

- *On the 12 May 2008, Mike Jarvis Archaeological Services undertook the excavation of an archaeological trench during groundwork associated with the construction of a single residential property on land on the corner of High Street and Mellows Close, Reepham (hereafter the site). The investigation was carried out on behalf of Paul Maplethorpe Building Services Ltd in response to a condition placed on the granting of planning permission (Application No.: M06/P/0464 8 May 2006).*
- *The investigations failed to reveal archaeological deposits predating the 20th century. Overlying natural was a topsoil subsequently sealed by a dump of modern building rubble levelling & consolidating the site prior to the casting of a concrete slab to form a parking area.*
- *Although the results of this watching brief have proved negative, an overall enhancement of knowledge of the area has been achieved with regard to the survival and extent of archaeological deposits. This information will be of value in future decision making in the management of the archaeological resource in the vicinity to the site.*

1 MELLOWS CLOSE REEPHAM LINCOLNSHIRE

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

1.0 INTRODUCTION

On the 12 May 2008, Mike Jarvis Archaeological Services (MJAS) undertook the excavation of an archaeological trench during groundwork associated with the construction of a single residential property on land on the corner of High Street and Mellows Close, Reepham (hereafter *the site*). The investigation was carried out on behalf of Paul Maplethorpe Building Services Ltd in response to a condition placed on the granting of planning permission (Application No.: M06/P/0464 8 May 2006).

2.0 SITE LOCATION AND BACKGROUND (Fig. 1)

The village of Reepham lies in the administrative District of west Lindsey, c. 4km east of Lincoln on the lower dip-slope of the Jurassic limestone escarpment (National Grid Reference: TF-~~03878~~ 73794).

03885 73762

The site lies close to the centre of the village generally on the 16m contour, on Pelo-Stagnogley soils of the Ragdale Association, which overlie a drift geology comprising Chalky Tills (Wragby Till) and a solid geology of Oxford Clay (Hodge et al, 1984).

Previous work in the vicinity includes an Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment (Wragg 2003) that identified evidence for prehistoric, Romano-British, medieval and Post-medieval activity in the surrounding area and although none of the evidence related directly to the site itself, the density of archaeological activity suggested the possibility of encountering archaeological remains within the development area. A watching brief undertaken on the north side of High Street east of Chapel Close (50m to the north-west of the site) revealed several undated pit features (Jarvis 2005).

3.0 AIMS AND METHODOLOGY

The aims of the watching brief were:

- To produce an archive record of deposits and remains generally within the constraints of the groundwork contractors' programme and working methods with due regard to current health and safety legislation.
- To produce a report on the archaeological importance of the discoveries.
- To produce a project archive from which the potential for further study and academic research could be assessed.
- To provide information for accession to the County Historic Environment Record (HER).

In order to satisfy the requirements of the Archaeological Advisor to West Lindsey District Council a single investigation trench measuring approximately 2m x 4m was dug immediately adjacent to the east wall of the partially built dwelling (see Fig. 2). The trench was mechanically excavated under archaeological supervision and the record secured by means of trench-side notes and scale drawings. A photographic record was also compiled.

4.0 RESULTS AND ANALYSIS (Fig. 2)

RESULTS

Natural clay ([003]) was revealed 600mm below ground level (17.54m OD). Sealing natural was [004] a 250mm thick dark brown clay/silt topsoil with occasional small angular limestone and infrequent brick rubble inclusions (18.11m OD). Lying above [004] was [002] a dump of dark brown clay soil containing frequent modern building rubble and occasional small angular limestone. This was sealed by a concrete surface ([001]) that constituted existing ground level (18.14m OD).

No further deposits were recorded during the course of the investigations.



Plate 1: General view of the investigation trench looking north showing the underlying natural (scale is 1m).

ANALYSIS

The investigations failed to reveal archaeological deposits predating the 20th century. Overlying natural was a topsoil sealed by a modern dump of building rubble levelling & consolidating the site prior to the casting of a concrete slab to form a parking area.

Although the results of this watching brief have proved negative, an overall enhancement of knowledge of the area has been achieved with regard to the survival and extent of archaeological deposits. This information will be of value in future decision making in the management of the archaeological resource in the vicinity to the site.

5.0 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Mike Jarvis Archaeological Services would like to thank Paul Maplethorpe Building Services Ltd for funding the site investigations and to Karen Dennis (Archaeological Advisor to West Lindsey District Council) for her guidance and assistance.

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6.0 BIBLIOGRAPHY

Hodge, C A H, Burton R G D, Corbett, W M, Evans, R & Seale, R S 1984 *Soils and their use in Eastern England*, 13, Soil survey of England and Wales, Harpenden

Jarvis, M 2005 *Land North of High Street and North-east of Chapel Close, Reepham*, Archaeological Watching brief, MJAS Report No. 526

Pevsner, N, Harris, J & Antram, N (eds) 1989 *Lincolnshire*, The Buildings of England, Penguin Books, London

Wragg, K 2003 *Land North of the High Street and North-east of Chapel Close, Reepham, Lincolnshire*, Archaeological Desk-based Assessment and Walkover survey, CLAU Report No 514

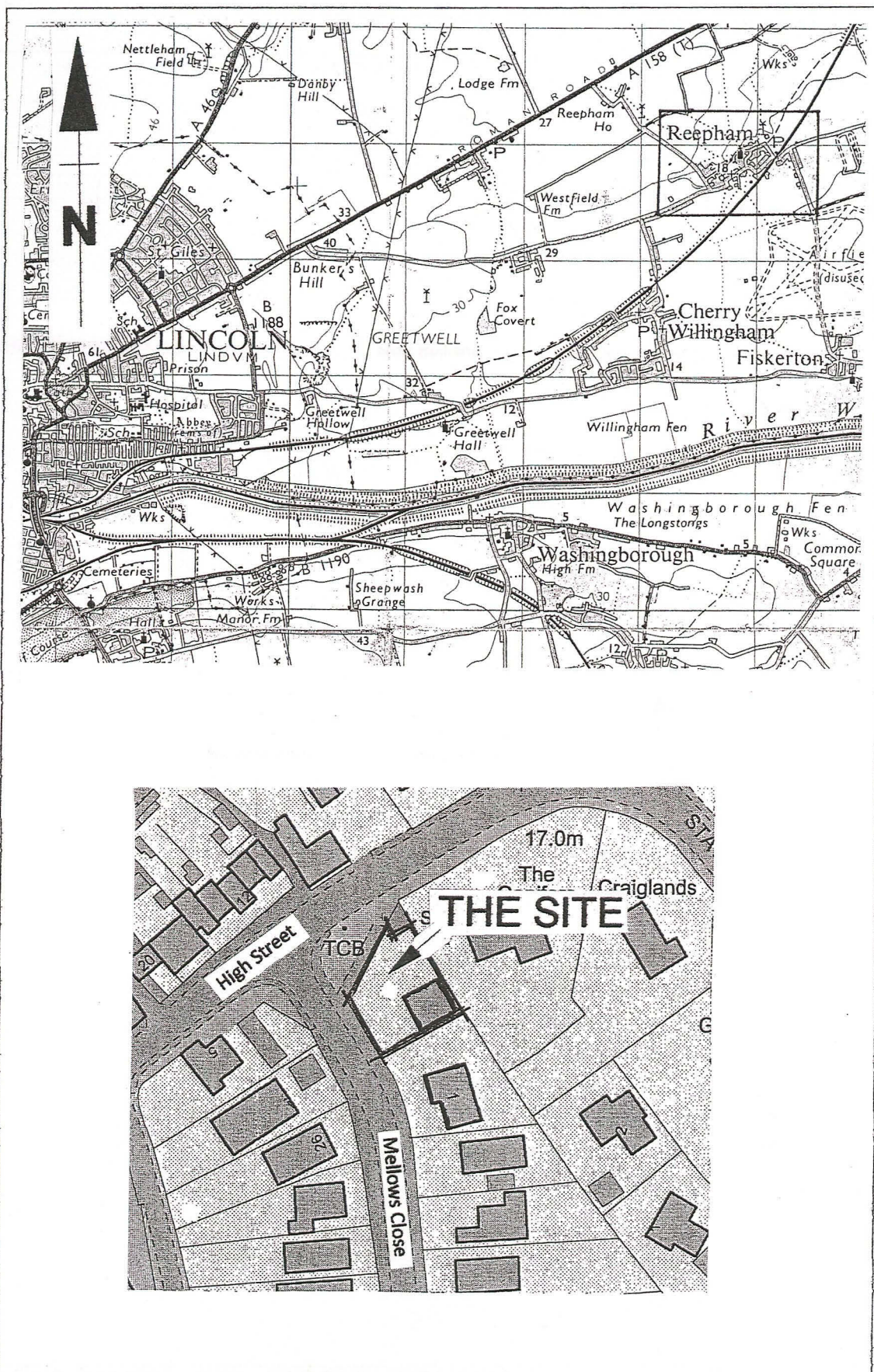


Fig. 1: Site location maps (scales 1:50,000 & 1:1250).

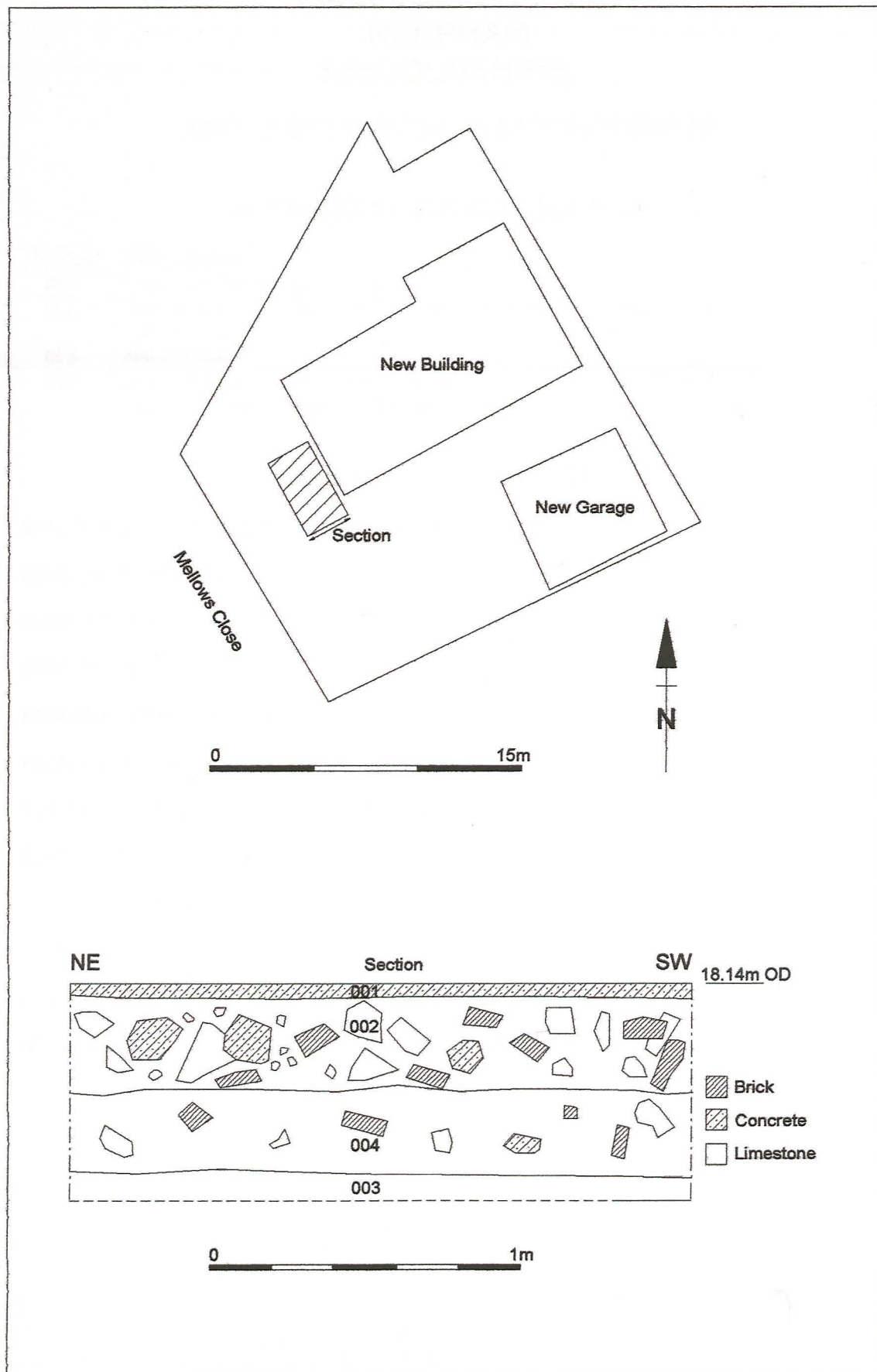


Fig. 2: House plot location plan & Section (not to scale).

**1 MELLOWS CLOSE
REEPHAM
LINCOLNSHIRE,
ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF**

APPENDIX 1 – CONTEXT SUMMARY

Context	Description
001	Concrete slab (ground level)
002	Dark brown clay/silt with frequent limestone fragments, brick & concrete rubble
003	Natural clay
004	Dark brown clay/silt with occasional small angular limestone fragments and infrequent brick rubble – buried topsoil

APPENDIX 2 – ARCHIVE DETAILS

SITE NAME: 1 Mellows Close, Reepham, Lincolnshire

SITE CODE: REEPA08

MJAS REPORT No: 554

NGR: TF 03878 73794

PROJECT TYPE: Watching Brief

PROJECT DATE: 12 May 2008

PLANNING APPLICATION No.: M06/P/0464 8 May 2006

SMR No.: N/A

CIVIL PARISH: Reepham

MUSEUM ACCESSION No.: 2008.

ARCHIVE PRESENT LOCATION: MJAS, 1 Torrington Road, Lincoln, LN2 2DP

ARCHIVE FINAL LOCATION: The City and County Museum, Friars Lane, Lincoln