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negative
evidence

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**ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF ON LAND
AT WATER LANE , BASSINGHAM, LINCOLNSHIRE.**

prepared on behalf of

**GASCAN UK
Woolpit Business Park, Woolpit
Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk**

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ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF AT LAND AT WATER LANE , BASSINGHAM, LINCOLNSHIRE

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SUMMARY

Gascan UK were given planning permission to instal two LPG tanks on land at Water Lane Bassingham, Lincolnshire subject to archaeological conditions. There is evidence within the site area of Romano-British occupation, Anglo Saxon finds and a medieval moated hall and dovecote. There are now no visible remains.

John Samuels Archaeological Consultants were commissioned to undertake an archaeological watching brief. The watching brief was conducted during the excavation for the two LPG tanks. No evidence of any archaeological features or artifacts were discovered.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 This report has been prepared by *John Samuels Archaeological Consultants* for Gascan UK. It presents the results of an archaeological watching brief carried out in the course of the installation of two LPG tanks at Water Lane, Bassingham.
- 1.2 Gascan UK submitted a planning application, N/07/0905/95 for the installation of two LPG tanks on land at Water Lane, Bassingham, located at NGR SK ~~3909~~ 3601. (see fig 1) GR error
MBT!
- 1.3 The Local Planning Authority (LPA), North Kesteven District Council, approved the application subject to conditions which included a scheme of archaeological investigation. On the advice of the North Kesteven Community Archaeologist, it was agreed that an archaeological watching brief would be undertaken during excavation for the installation of the LPG tanks.
- 1.4 Gascan UK (the developer) retained *John Samuels Archaeological Consultants* (JSAC) to ensure fulfilment of the archaeological planning condition.
- 1.5 A *Specification for an Archaeological Watching Brief* (JSAC 123/96/1, January 1996) was submitted, and subsequently approved by the Community Archaeologist and the developer.
- 1.6 The watching brief was undertaken by Forbes Marsden BA who also wrote this report with assistance from Dr John Samuels BA, PhD, FSA, MIFA.

2.0 SCOPE

- 2.1 The watching brief was requested by the Community Archaeologist because the application area lies within an area of archaeological interest, where previous excavations had been undertaken in 1995 by Archaeological Project Services. The findings are contained in their report "*Archaeological Investigations at Hall Field, Water Lane, Bassingham, Lincolnshire. (BWL95)*", August 1995. In summary, there is evidence within the site area of Romano-British occupation, Anglo Saxon finds and a medieval moated hall and dovecote. There are now no visible remains.
- 2.2 The present development comprises the excavation of a pit for the installation of two LPG tanks. (See fig 2)
- 2.3 The watching brief was under taken with the specific objectives of establishing whether any archaeological remains exist within the area of the proposed LPG tank installation, and if so, identifying and recording them and determining their significance.
- 2.4 The archaeological work proposed conforms to the requirements of: *Planning Policy Guidance Note 16: Archaeology and Planning* (DoE 1990); *Management of Archaeological Projects* (English Heritage 1991); *Code of Conduct* (Institute of Field Archaeologists 1985); and *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluations* (Institute of Field Archaeologists 1993).

3.0 SITE VISIT

- 3.1 This section records the observations made during excavation.
- 3.2 Liaison with the developer was maintained to ensure that an archaeological watching brief was carried out during the earthmoving work, resulting in a visit to site on 26 February 1996.
- 3.3 The area sloped east to west downwards towards the river and the ground surface was very disturbed, particularly by the dumping of topsoil.
- 3.4 Excavation was undertaken with a CAT excavator, with a 0.90m bucket on the backactor.
- 3.5 Topsoil comprised a dark brown sandy silt to a depth of 0.45m, where the soil matrix remained the same as upper layer but contained increasing amounts of well rounded pebbles with depth. At 0.65m from ground level, natural sand and gravel was encountered. This natural comprised orange-red sand and gravel with lenses of clean orange sand which at the base of the excavation became more frequent. The overall depth of the excavation was 1.80m below ground level and the area of excavation was 6m x 5m.
- 3.6 No features or artifacts of archaeological interest were observed during the excavation.

4.0 CONSULTATION

- 4.1 Consultation with the Community Archaeologist for North Kesteven was maintained before, during and after the watching brief. She was informed of when the excavation works would take place and invited to visit the site.
- 4.2 The watching brief was implemented with the full co-operation of Gascan UK.

5.0 CONCLUSIONS

- 5.1 The watching brief showed that in this area of the development site no ground disturbance has taken place.
- 5.2 Nothing of archaeological significance was seen.
- 5.3 It was inferred that the excavation has had no archaeological impact.
- 5.4 The Community Archaeologist for North Kesteven has verbally accepted this conclusion.

6.0 FIGURES

Figure 1 : Site Location Plan (after APS 95)

Figure 2 : Proposed Location of Excavation

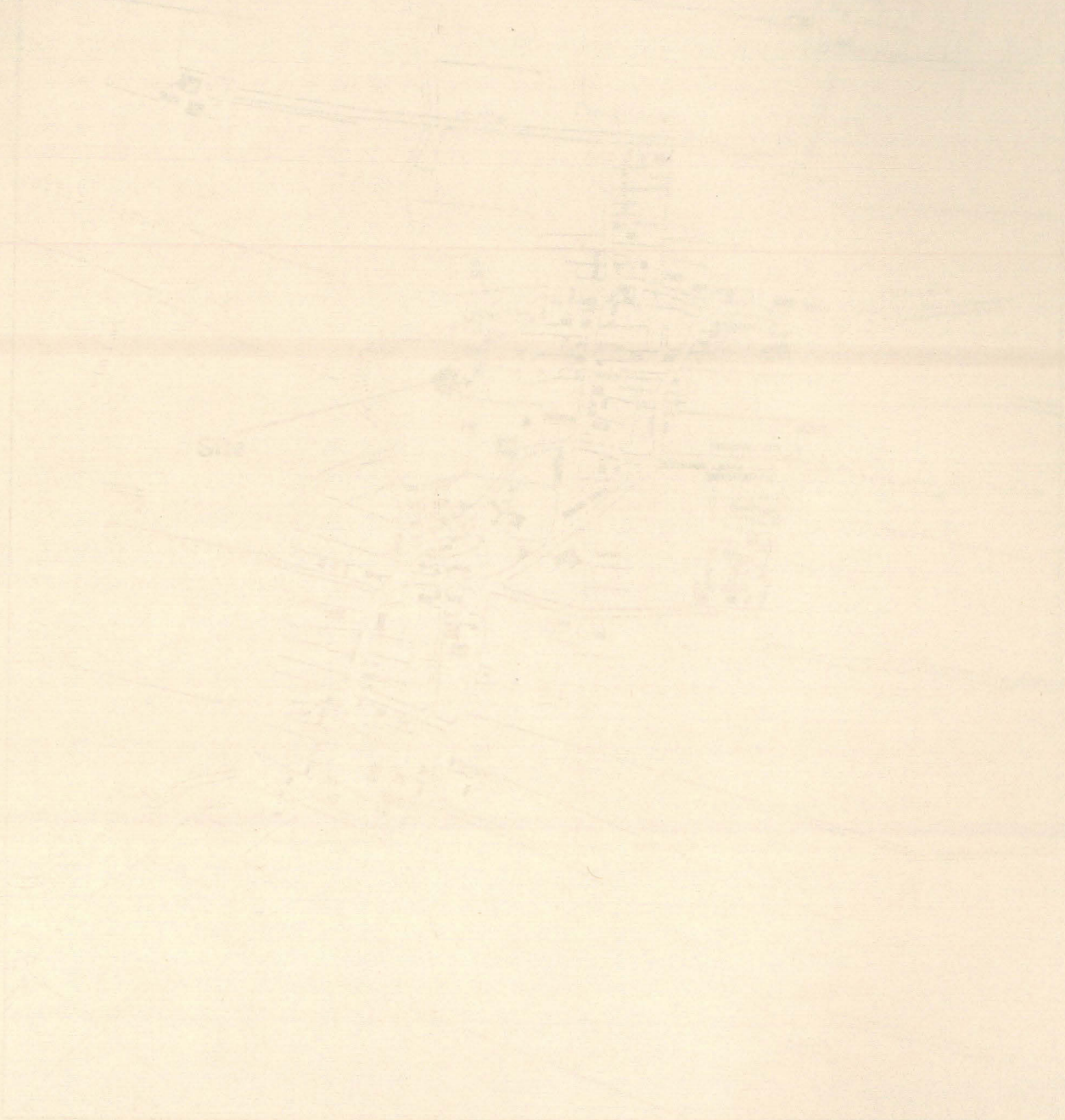


Figure 1 : Site Location Plan - (After APS 1995)

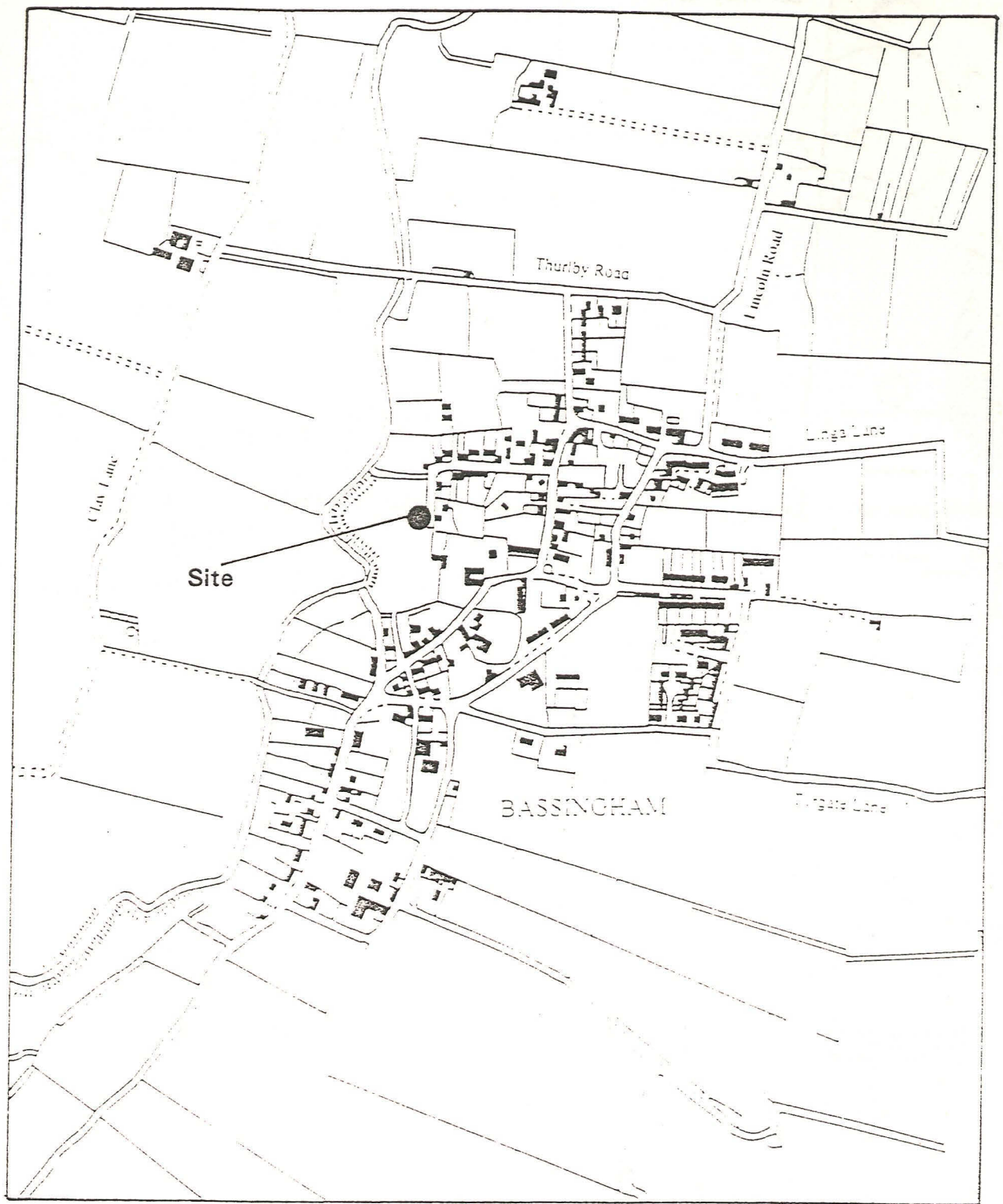


Figure 1 : Site Location Plan - (After APS 1995)

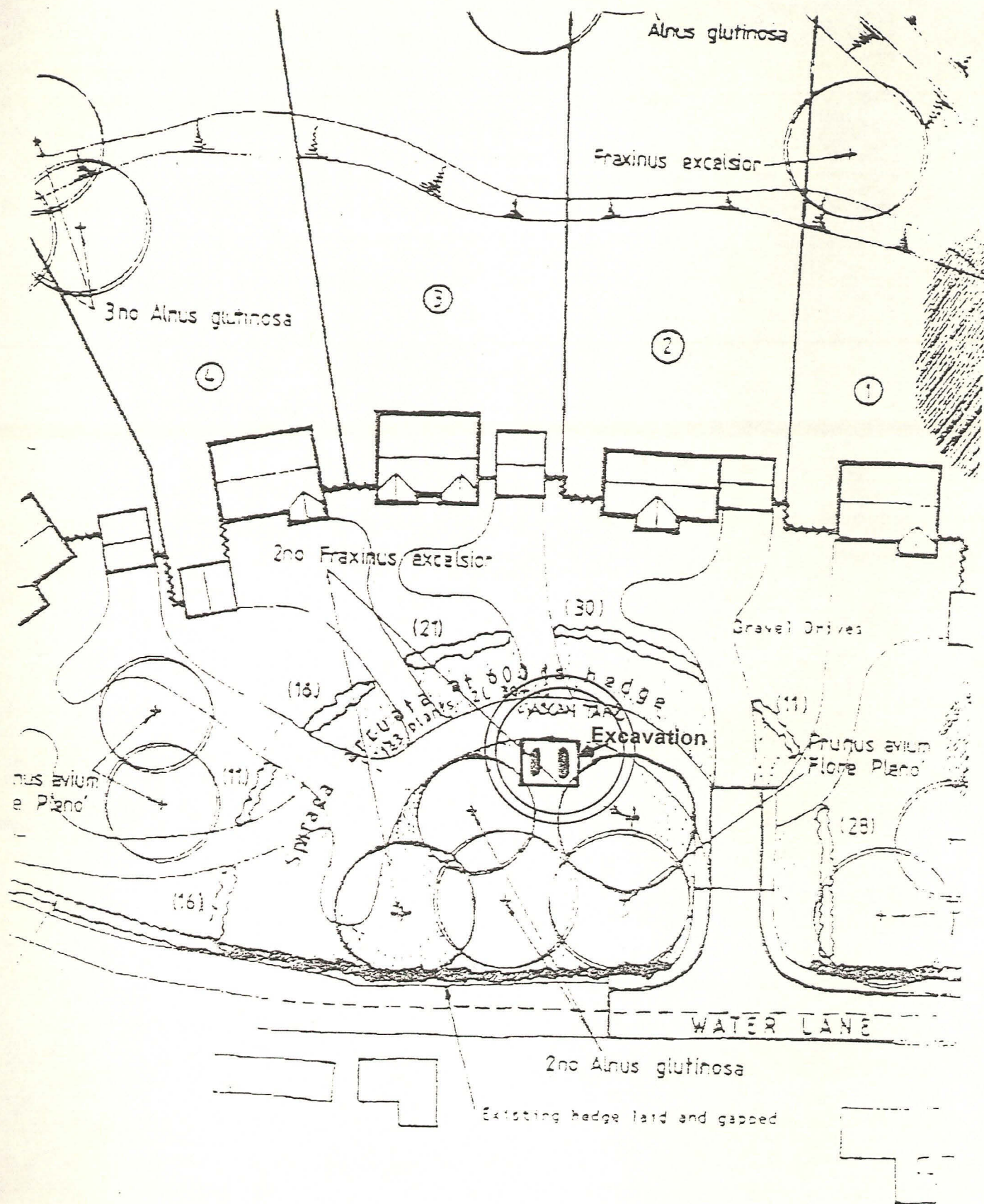


Figure 2 : Proposed Location of Excavation