ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF REPORT
THE PADDOCK, LINCOLN ROAD, EAST BARKWITH

Site Code : PEB98
LCNCC Acc No. :   220.98
NGR : TF

appe. N/044/1990/97
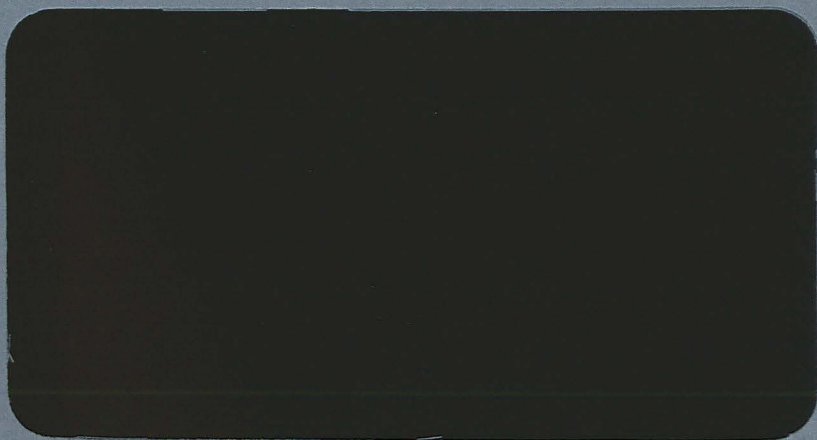
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Report Prepared for Mr M. Leader
by James Snee BSc.
October 1998

Contents

List of illustrations

Summery

*   A watching Brief was carried out during groundworks for services on a self-build house at The Paddock, Lincoln Road, East Barkwith.

*   A number of modern features were identified, but no significant archaeological remains were exposed.

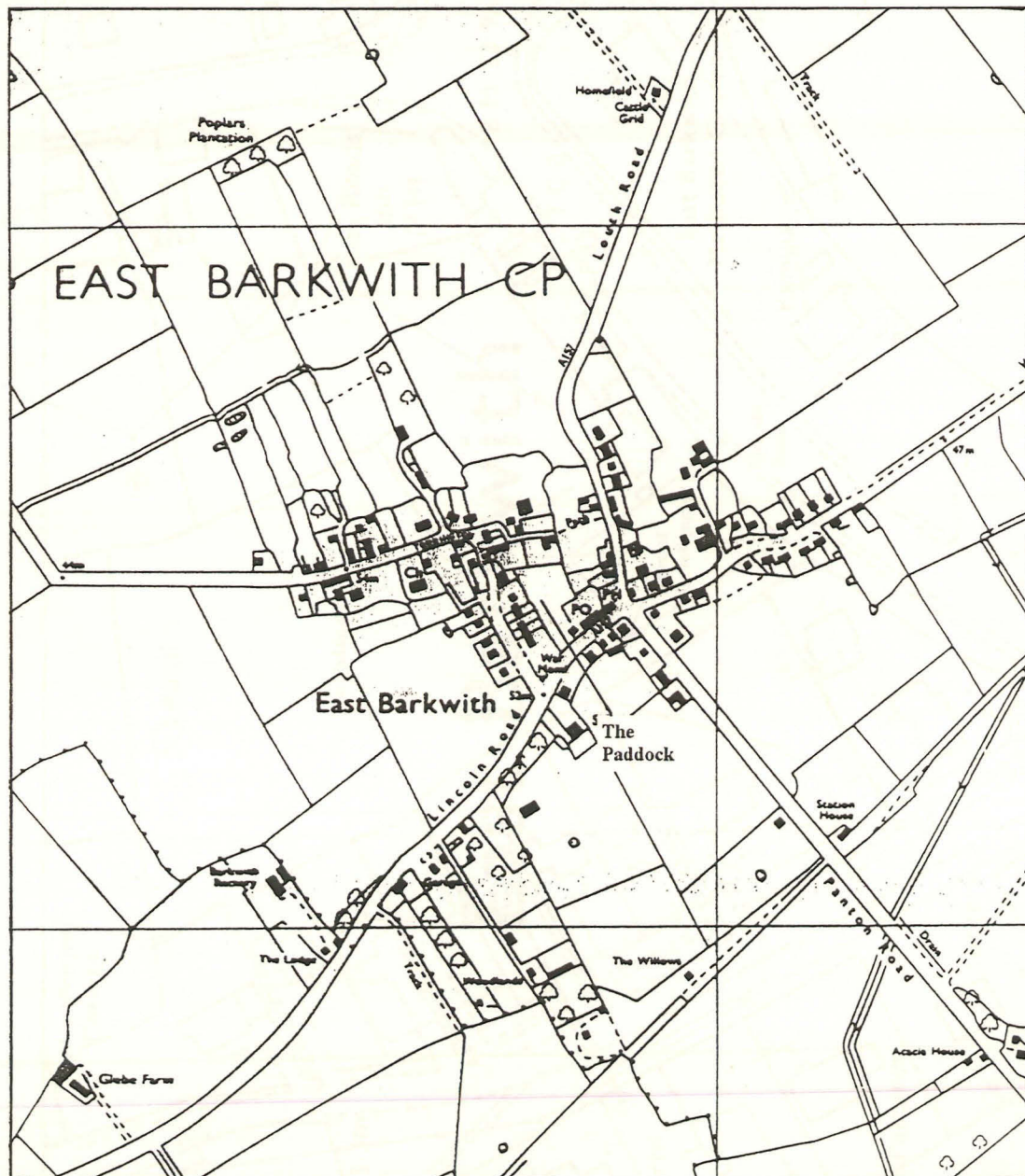*   No artefacts were recovered during the groundworks.

Fig. 1 Map of East Barkwith showing location of The Paddock. Scale 1:10,000.

Fig. 2 Map of the centre of East Barkwith showing the area of development. Scale 1:1250.

1.0   Introduction

An archaeological watching brief was commissioned by Mr M. Leader to fulfil a planning requirement associated with a self-build project. The brief was carried out in accordance with the guidelines set out in the Lincolnshire County Council Archaeology Section publication *Standard Brief for Archaeological Projects in Lincolnshire.*

2.0   Planning background

Planning permission was granted for the erection of a house and a detached single garage (Planning Reference N/044/1990/97). The planning permission was granted to conditions, one of which was that: "The applicant shall arrange for an archaeologist recognised by the district planning authority to carry out an archaeological watching brief during all stages of the development involving ground disturbance..." Mark Leader failed to make suitable arrangements for the footing of the house, and this ground disturbance was not monitored. However arrangements for monitoring were in place for the excavation of the drainage trench which was located around three sides of the house and for excavations for the garage.

3.0   Archaeological and historical background

The site lies within the Shrunken Medieval Village, close to a number of suspected medieval remains.

A search through the Sites and Monuments Record for Lincolnshire (SMR) produced four records relating to the village of East Barkwith:-

1.   The church of St Mary (PRN: 40330) to the north-west of the site. The church is predominantly perpendicular in style, dating it to between the mid fourteenth century and the early sixteenth century. It was renovated in the late nineteenth century.

2.   Barkwith House (PRN: 40331) which has one wing dated to the sixteenth century although the structure has been rebuilt and altered in later centuries.

3.   An Antoninianus of Allectus (293 to 296 AD) was recovered from a garden (PRN: 40332).

4.   A Copper As of Hadrian or Antoninus Pius (second century AD) was recovered from a Garden (PRN: 40333).

An examination of a Royal Commission plot showing the location of features identified on aerial photographs (also in the SMR) shows a number of areas of medieval ridge and furrow around the village. It also shows a fragment of an enclosure ditch at the north of the village and a number of possible medieval crofts, one of which is in The Paddock, immediately north-west of the site.

The name Barkwith possibly means 'the enclosure of a man called Barki' and is recorded in the Domesday Book as *Barcuurde*. There are six entries in this document

referring to Barkwith, with the Archbishop of York, the Bishop of Bayeux, Roger of Poitou, Erneis of Buron and Rainer of Brimeux listed as land owners. There is also a reference to a church, and in an entry for Barkwith and Southrey it records a fishery (although it is not clear which place it is part of).

The 1379 poll tax returns indicate that the largest number of inhabitants in the village were labourers; that is landless agricultural workers and their families. This is consistent with East Barkwith being a typical medieval village with an essentially agricultural economy.

The evidence suggests that East Barkwith was primarily a settlement of medieval origin, although the finds of Roman coins could indicate an earlier phase of settlement.

4.0   Methodology

The watching brief was undertaken by the writer on the 3rd October 1998. He was present to monitor the groundworks for the drains, a soakaway and a garage foundation.

The fieldwork element consisted of archaeological observation during all excavations and a thorough inspection of all plan and section surfaces exposed as a result of the groundworks. A record was made of all the soil horizons observed and of any features that disturbed these horizons. That record included scale drawing (in plan and section), colour photography, and written descriptions of contexts (on standard record sheets). Intrusive features were subjected to limited rapid excavation to confirm their modern origin.

5.0   Results

The excavation of trenches for the drains, soakaway and garage exposed natural stratigraphy and modern disturbances (see Fig. 3).

In places were remaining patches of topsoil. This was a very dark red-brown sandy clay-silt layer approximately 20cm deep. On the north-east side it contained large amounts of building debris, probably relating to the construction of a row of modern houses to the north-east of the site. Below the topsoil was an uneven layer of mid red-brown sandy clay-silt subsoil; varying between 10cm and 25cm deep. Beneath this subsoil was natural yellow-brown sandy silt-clay containing flint gravel.

The natural stratigraphy was disturbed by a number of modern features.

In the west corner of the drainage trench was a field drain. In the south corner was a modern pit or pond [103] filled with dark grey-brown clay-silt which contained large amounts of modern rubbish, including glass and plastic. In the east corner was the remains of a crudely metalled trackway [104].

6.0   Conclusions

The Paddock

Land Drain

Garage

Dwelling

Pit/Pond [103]

Trackway [104]
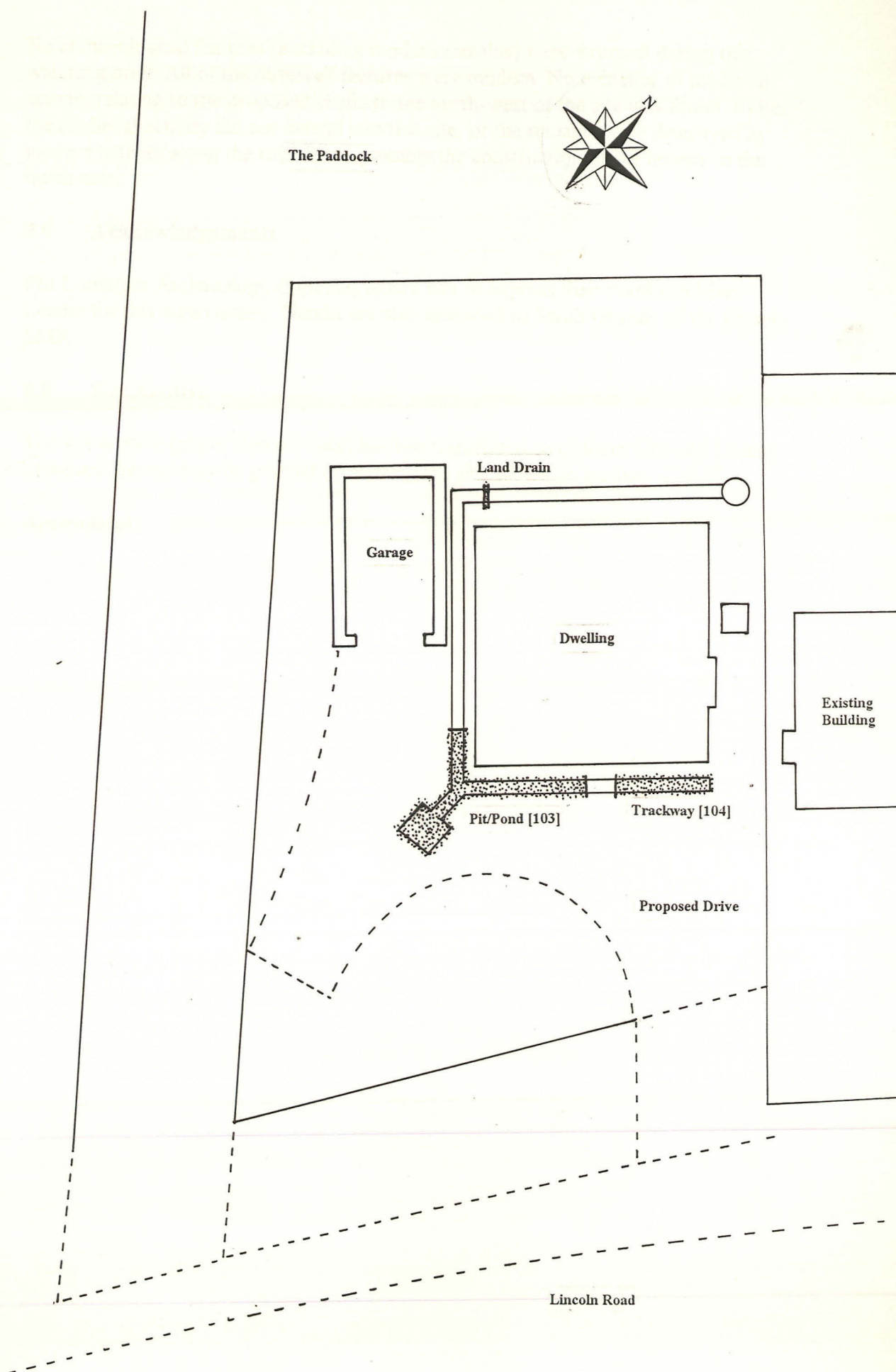
Existing
Building

Proposed Drive

Lincoln Road

Fig. 3 General site plan. Scale 1:200.

No archaeological features (excluding modern remains) were exposed during this watching brief. All of the observed features were modern. No evidence of medieval activity relating to the proposed crofts to the north-west of the site was found. Either the medieval activity did not extend into this site, or the remains were destroyed by modern activity along the road front, possibly the construction of the houses to the north-east.

7.0 Acknowledgements

Pre-Construct Archaeology (Lincoln) would like to express their thanks to Mark Leader for this commission. Thanks are also extended to Sarah Grundy of the County SMR.

8.0 Site Archive

The site archive (paper element only) has bee transferred to Lincoln City and County Museum. Access may be granted by quoting the site accession number, 220.98.

Appendices

Appendix 1

P. 1   General shot of groundworks, looking south-west.

P. 2   Modern disturbance [103], looking south-east.

Appendix 2 References

Mills, A.D.   1993   English Place-Names

Morris, J. (gen. ed.)   1986   'Lincolnshire' *Domesday Book.*

Pevsner, N., Harris, J. 1995   The Buildings of England : Lincolnshire.
& Antram, N.

Platts, G.   1985   Land and People in Medieval Lincolnshire.

Appendix 3 List of archaeological contexts

[100]   Very dark red-brown sandy clay-silt topsoil

[101]   Mid red-brown sandy clay-silt subsoil

[102]   Pale yellow-brown sandy silt-clay natural

[103]   Modern pit or pond

[104]   Modern trackway