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**ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF
OF DEVELOPMENT AT PLOT 2,
MAIN ROAD,
MALTBY-LE-MARSH,
LINCOLNSHIRE
(MLM 98)**



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**ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF
OF DEVELOPMENT AT PLOT 2,
MAIN ROAD,
MALTBY-LE-MARSH,
LINCOLNSHIRE
(MLM 98)**

Work Undertaken For
Mr. M. Bloss

Report Compiled by
P. Cope-Faulkner

November 1998

Planning Application No: N/112/1275
National Grid Reference: TF 4683 8187
City and County Museum Accession No: 213.98

A.P.S. Report No: **80/98**

*Archaeological Project Services is an IFA Registered Archaeological
Organisation (No. 21)*

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1. SUMMARY

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken during the construction of a house at Main Road, Maltby-le-Marsh, Lincolnshire. The watching brief monitored the excavation of the groundworks associated with the development.

Nothing earlier than the medieval period (AD 1066-1500) is known from the village and remains include the church, a moated enclosure and cropmarks of medieval field systems.

The investigations revealed an undated, possibly medieval, gully and two 17th century pits. Finds retrieved from the investigation include post-medieval pottery, including a sherd of Bourne D ware from south Lincolnshire, the most northerly example of this type found to date.

2. INTRODUCTION

2.1 Definition of a Watching Brief

An archaeological watching brief is defined as 'a formal programme of observation and investigation conducted during any operation carried out for non-archaeological reasons within a specified area, where there is a possibility that archaeological deposits may be disturbed or destroyed.' (IFA 1997).

2.2 Planning Background

Archaeological Project Services was commissioned by Mr. M. Bloss to undertake an archaeological watching brief during construction of a new house at Plot 2, Main Road, Maltby-le-Marsh, East Lindsey District, Lincolnshire. Approval for the development was sought through the submission of planning application N/

112/1275. The watching brief was carried out in accordance with a specification designed by Archaeological Project Services (Appendix 1).

2.3 Topography and Geology

Maltby-Le-Marsh is located 15km southeast of Louth and 21km north of Skegness in the administrative district of East Lindsey, Lincolnshire (Fig. 1).

The site is located 790m to the northwest of the village centre as defined by the parish church of All Saints (Fig. 2). The development site is situated at a height of c. 6.7m OD and is centred on National Grid Reference TF 4683 8187. Maltby-le-Marsh is situated along a slight ridge of higher ground extending northeast from the edge of the Wolds into the former Lindsey Marsh.

Local soils are of the Holderness Association, typically permeable fine loamy and coarse loamy soils (Hodge *et al.* 1984, 214). These soils are developed on a drift geology of boulder clay, formed during the last ice age. Beneath drift deposits is a solid geology of Cretaceous chalk (BGS 1996).

2.4 Archaeological Setting

Maltby-le-Marsh is first mentioned in the Domesday Survey of 1086. Referred to as *Maltebi*, the name is derived from the Old Scandinavian *by*, meaning village or homestead with an Old Danish personal name as the first element (Ekwall 1974, 312). At the time of Domesday the land was owned by Count Alan, Gilbert de Gand, Hugh and Gocelin and contained c. 90 acres of meadow and 5 acres of underwood (Foster and Longley 1976). It may also have contained a church, although the reference is unclear about whether the church was situated in Maltby or Beesby-in-the-Marsh.

The only extant remains of the medieval period is All Saints' church, which dates from around 1300 AD (Pevsner and Harris 1989, 549), and the remains of a moated enclosure, associated with the present Manor House. Aerial photographs of the vicinity indicate medieval field systems extended alongside the main road and comprised ridge and furrow and field boundaries. Part of the medieval field system was evident within the proposed development site.

Post-medieval remains are restricted to the former Baptist Church, dating to 1690 and fishponds associated with All Saints' Church. Other remains of the period include a windmill, built in 1841, and the Manor House dating from the 18th century.

3. AIMS

The requirements of the watching brief, as described in the specification (Appendix 1), were to record and interpret archaeological deposits, if present, and to determine their date, sequence, function and origin.

4. METHODS

Trenches were opened by a mechanical excavator to a depth of 1.1m as required by the development. Following excavation, the sides of the trenches were cleaned and rendered vertical. Selected deposits were partially or fully excavated by hand to determine their nature and to retrieve artefactual material. The depth and thickness of each deposit were measured from the ground surface. Each archaeological deposit or feature revealed was allocated a unique reference number (context number) with an individual written description. A list of all contexts and interpretations appears as Appendix 2. A photographic record was compiled and sections were drawn at a scale

of 1:10. Recording of deposits encountered during the watching brief was undertaken according to standard Archaeological Project Services practice.

Finds recovered from excavated deposits were examined and a period date assigned where possible (Appendix 3). Records of the deposits and features recognised during the watching brief were examined. Phasing was assigned based on artefact dating and the nature of the deposits and recognisable relationships between them.

5. RESULTS

Following specialist descriptions, four phases of activity were identified:

Phase 1	Natural deposits
Phase 2	Undated deposits
Phase 3	17 th century deposits
Phase 4	Modern deposits

Archaeological contexts are listed below and described. The numbers in brackets are the context numbers assigned in the field.

Phase 1 Natural deposits

Located at the base of all foundation trenches was a deposit of firm mid reddish brown silty clay (005). This deposit was identified as the underlying boulder clay.

Developed upon the boulder clay was a subsoil of brownish grey silty clay (004). Visible throughout the foundation trenches, this deposit measured 0.37m thick.

Phase 2 Undated deposits

Overlying the subsoil was a thin deposit of dark grey silty clay (010) that contained frequent charcoal flecks. Measuring 70mm thick, 2m in extent and it was interpreted as

a dumped deposit.

Cutting through the subsoil, was a gully aligned east to west (009). This was 0.9m wide with a V-shaped profile to a depth of 0.4m. A single fill (003) of brown clayey silt was recorded within the cut but extended beyond its limits to the northeast (008) to form a second subsoil layer.

Phase 3 17th Century deposits

Cut through subsoil deposit (003 and 008) was a steep sided feature with a flat base (007). Identified as a pit, this feature was 1.52m wide and 0.56m deep containing a single fill of brown silt with frequent ash and tile (006). Pottery recovered from this feature comprised two sherds of tin glazed earthenware.

A second feature (012), also identified as a pit, was located 4.5m to the north of pit (007). Again this feature had steep sides and a flattish base, although was 2m wide and 0.5m deep. The fill (011) was of greyish brown silt with ash and brick.

Phase 4 Modern deposits

Sealing all archaeological deposits was a layer of loose whitish grey limestone (002) identified as either a demolition deposit or an area of hardstanding. This was in turn sealed by a 30mm thick topsoil turf layer of brown silt (001).

6. DISCUSSION

Deposits of natural silty clay (Phase 1), was the earliest deposit encountered during the watching brief. Identified as the underlying boulder clay, this deposit formed during the last glaciation (*c.* 10,000 years ago).

A dumped deposit and gully (Phase 2)

represent the earliest archaeological features identified on the site. The absence of pottery or artefacts leaves these features undated, although dated features of Phase 3 lies above these features in the stratigraphic sequence. However, it is possible that the gully formed part of the medieval field system known to have existed in the vicinity prior to the development.

Two similar pits are assigned to the 17th century (Phase 3). Both contained comparable refuse material (e.g. ash, tile and brick), although only one produced dateable artefacts.

Few finds were recorded from the site and comprise post-medieval and 19th century pottery fragments. Of some interest is a jug handle of Bourne D type, the first of this type to be found this far north of the production site in south Lincolnshire. The jug handle is also relatively unworn and indicates that this is not representative of a manuring scatter or midden heap.

7. CONCLUSIONS

Archaeological investigations on land at Maltby-le-Marsh were carried out because the site lies within an area of settlement and field systems dating from the medieval period.

A small number of post-medieval and undated, but possibly medieval, pits and gullies were identified at the site. The limited amount of occupation debris found during the investigation would suggest that the site was on the periphery of settlement. No waterlogged features were found which indicates that few environmental indicators (snails, seeds, pollen *etc.*) will survive other than through charring.

This represents the first archaeological

intervention in Maltby-le-Marsh and indicates that there is potential for survival of archaeological features.

8. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeological Project Services would like to acknowledge the assistance of Mr M. Bloss who commissioned the fieldwork and post-excavation analysis. The work was coordinated by David Fell and this report was edited by Tom Lane. Mark Bennet kindly allowed access to the County Sites and Monuments Record maintained by the Archaeology Section, Lincolnshire County Council.

9. PERSONNEL

Project Coordinator: David Fell
Supervisor: Fiona Walker
Finds Processing: Denise Buckley
Illustration: Paul Cope-Faulkner
Post-excavation Analyst: Paul Cope-Faulkner

10. BIBLIOGRAPHY

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edition revised Antram, N.)

11. ABBREVIATIONS

BGS British Geological Survey

IFA Institute of Field Archaeologists

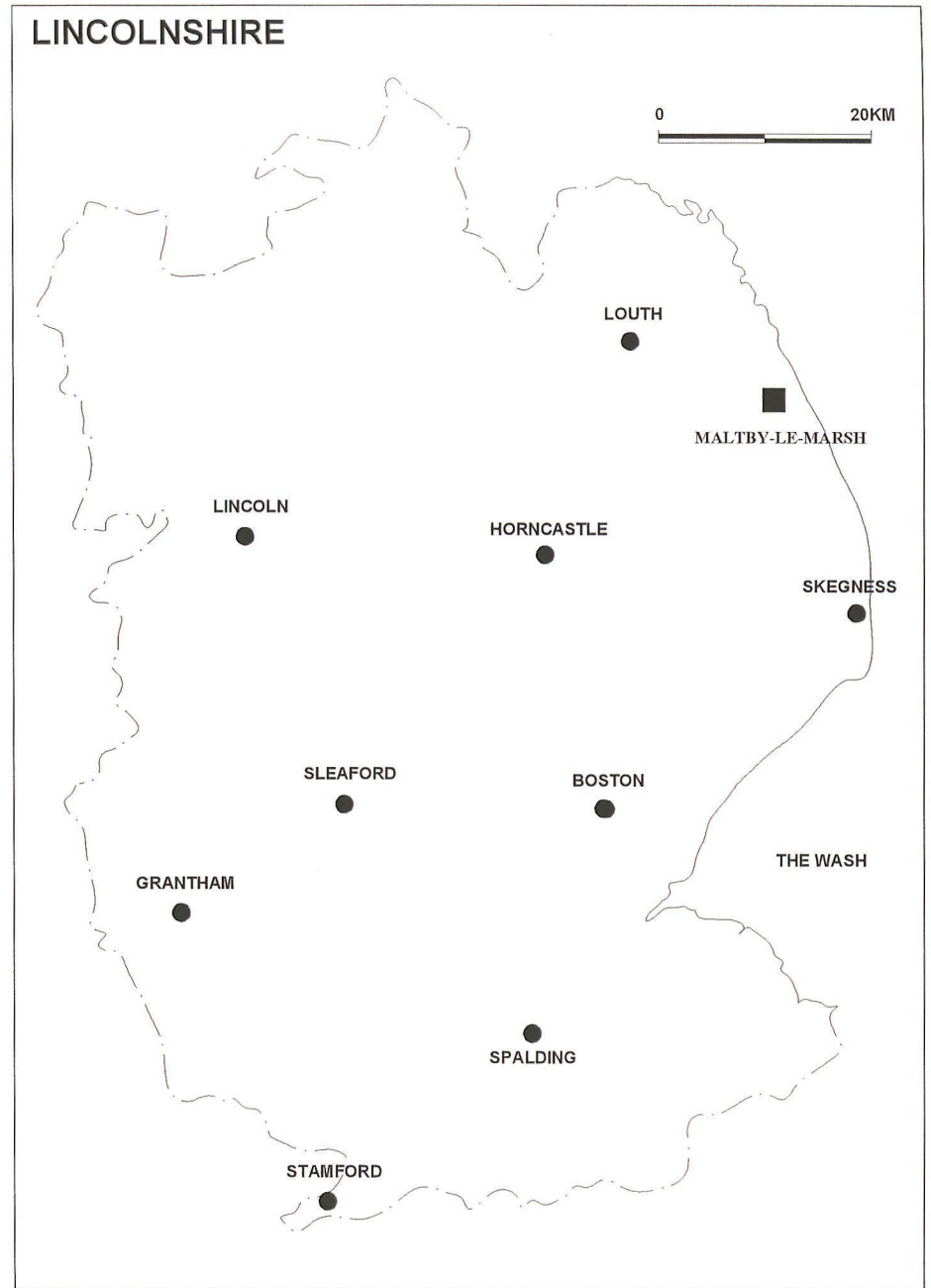
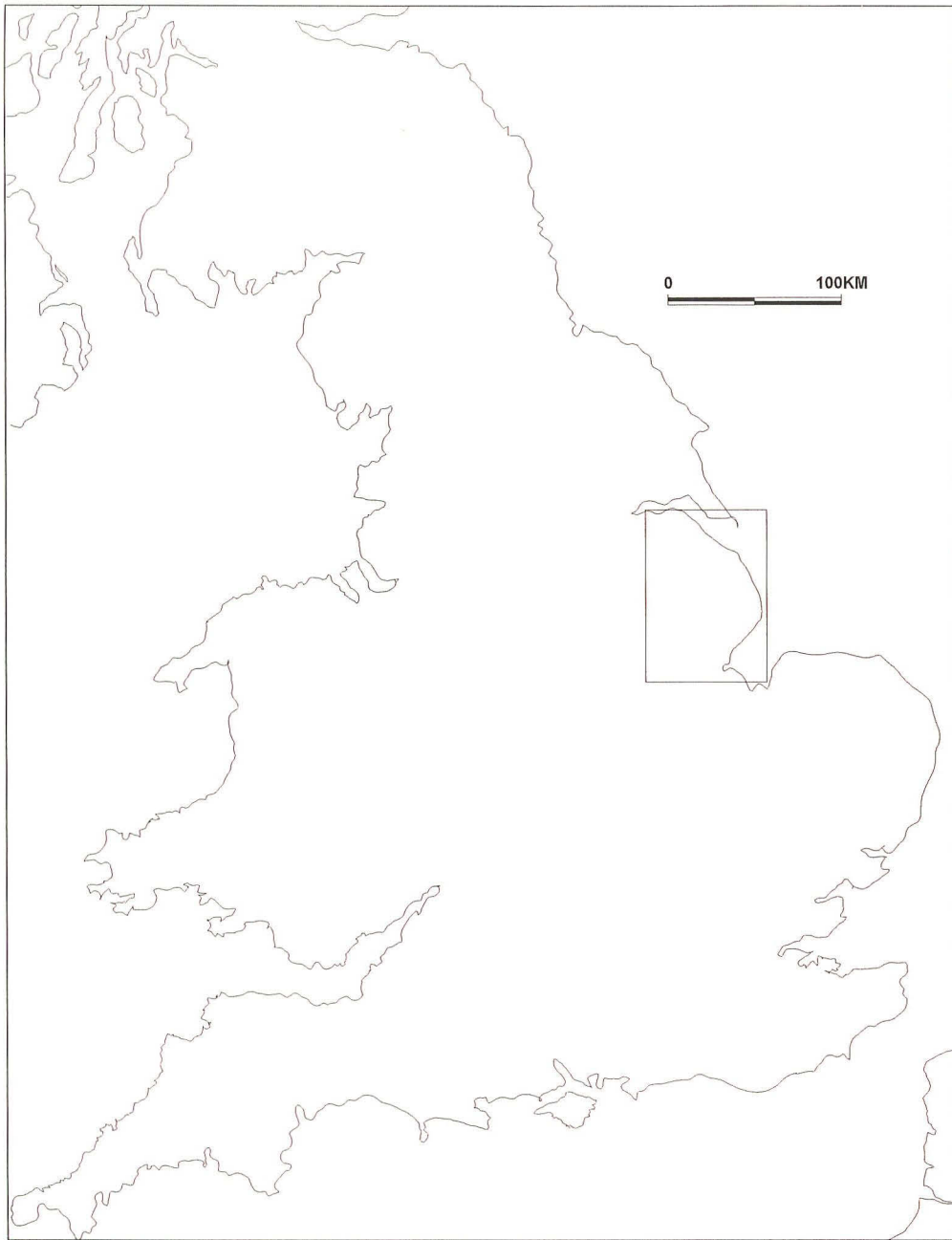
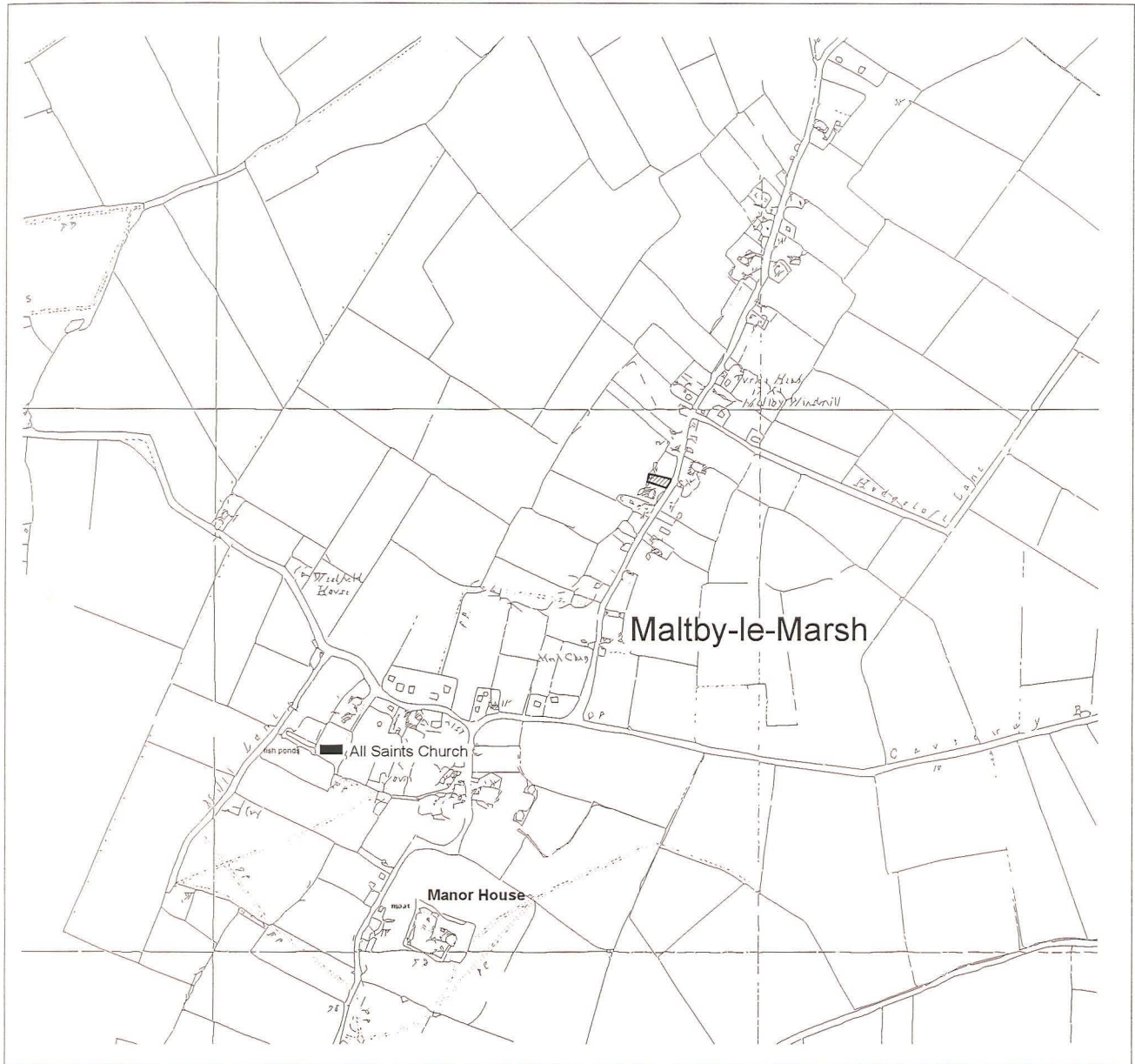


Figure 1 - General location map



 Development Area

Figure 2 - Site Location Plan

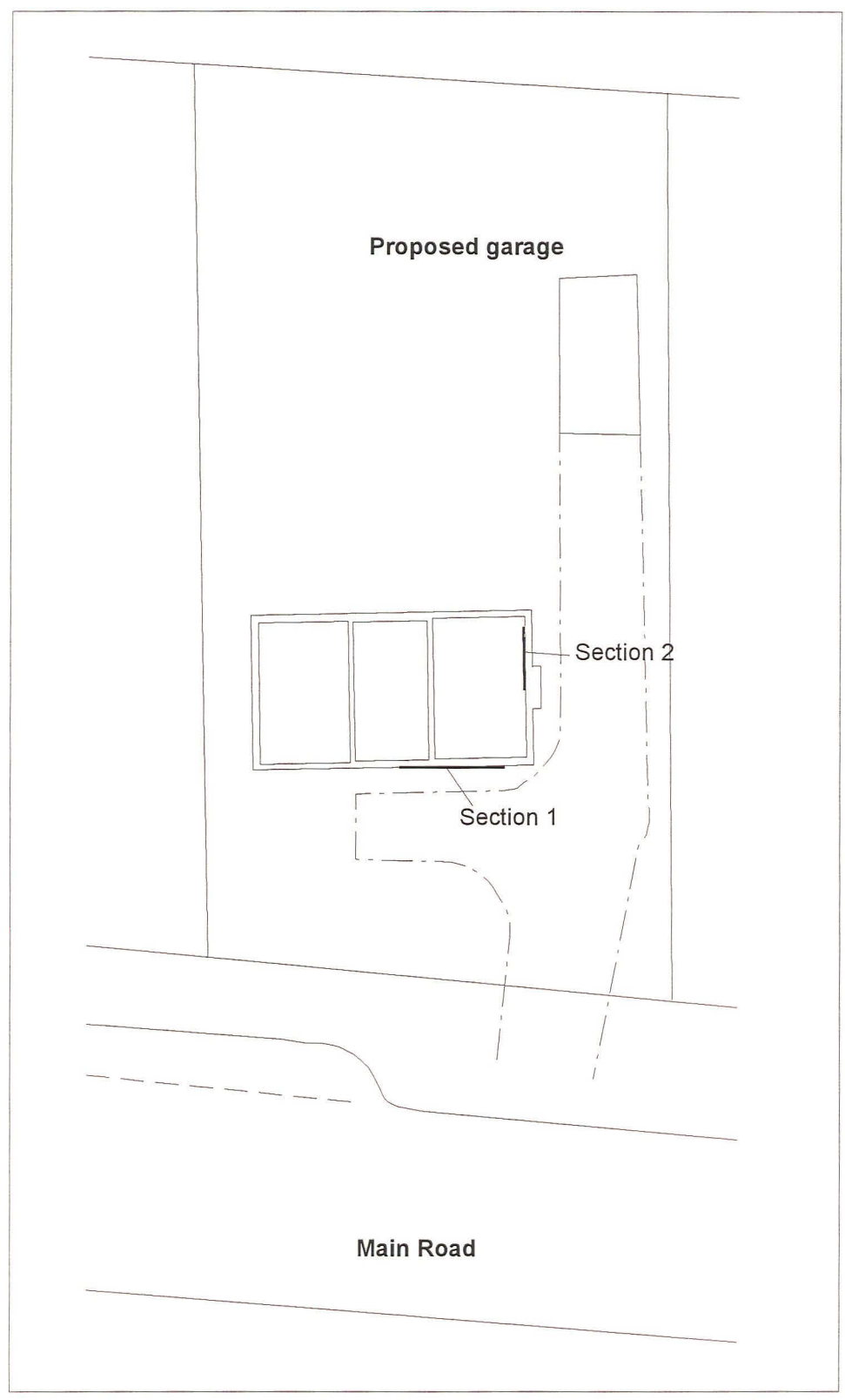
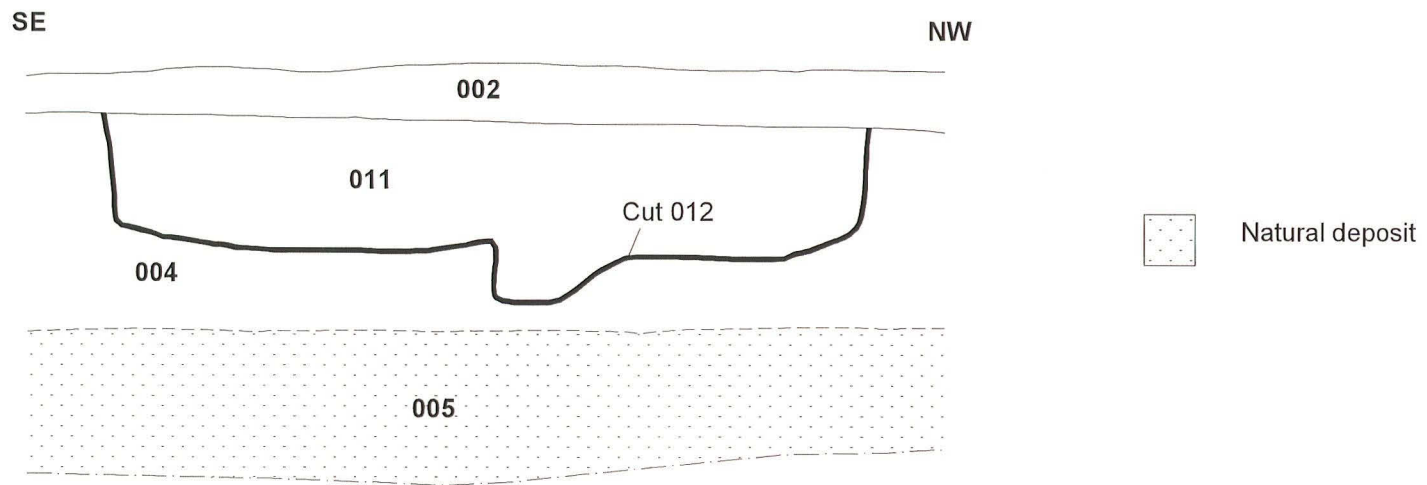


Figure 3 - Plan of Development, showing location of drawn Sections



Section 1



Section 2

 Natural deposit



Figure 4 - Sections 1 and 2



Plate 1 - General View of the
Development Area, looking northwest



Plate 2 - Partial View of Section 1, showing Pit (007)

Appendix 1

SPECIFICATION FOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

1. SUMMARY

1. A watching brief is required during construction works at Plot 2, Main Road, Maltby-le-Marsh, Lincolnshire.
- 1.2 The application area lies within the medieval village of Maltby-le-Marsh, adjacent to the post office.
- 1.3 The watching brief will be undertaken during groundworks associated with the development. The archaeological features exposed will be recorded in writing, graphically and photographically.
- 1.4 On completion of the fieldwork a report will be prepared detailing the findings of the work. The report will consist of a narrative supported by illustrations and photographs.

2. INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 This document comprises a specification for an archaeological watching brief during development at Plot 2, Main Road, Maltby-le-Marsh, Lincolnshire.
- 2.2 This document contains the following parts:
 1. Overview.
 2. Stages of work and methodologies.
 3. List of specialists.
 4. Programme of works and staffing structure of the project.

3. SITE LOCATION

- 3.1 Maltby-le-Marsh lies 6km southwest of Mablethorpe and 17km southeast of Louth, in eastern Lincolnshire. The site is situated off Main Street, in the centre of Maltby-le-Marsh, at national grid reference TF 4681 at an elevation of c. 3m OD.

4. PLANNING BACKGROUND

- 4.1 Planning permission (application number N/122/1275) for the development of a house has been granted by East Lindsey District Council, subject to a condition that the applicant should commission an archaeological watching brief, to record any archaeological remains present on the site.

5. SOILS AND TOPOGRAPHY

- 5.1 Maltby-le-Marsh is situated on low lying land in east Lincolnshire. The site contains soils of the Holderness Association, comprising fine loamy and permeable soils, formed on chalky till and glaciofluvial drift (Hodge *et al* 1984, 214).

6. ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

- 6.1 The development site lies within an area of considerable archaeological interest.
- 6.2 Most of east and south Lincolnshire comprised salt marsh or was submerged during the prehistoric period. Many salt-making sites, dating to the Iron Age and later periods are known in the low lying areas of East Lincolnshire.

6.3 Maltby-le-Marsh is recorded in the Domesday Book (1086), where it is recorded as *Maltebi*. The parish church of All Saints is medieval in date, the earliest elements dating from the early fourteenth century.

6.4 The area was of considerable importance during the later medieval period. The earthworks of Markby Priory are located southeast of Maltby-le-Marsh. Further abbey earthworks, at Hagnaby, are located to the east of the village.

7. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

7.1 The aims of the watching brief will be:

1. To record the archaeological features exposed during the excavation of the foundation trenches and other areas of ground disturbance.

7.2 The objectives of the watching brief will be to:

1. Determine the form and function of the archaeological features encountered;
2. Determine the spatial arrangement of the archaeological features encountered;
3. As far as practicable, recover dating evidence from the archaeological features, and
4. Establish the sequence of the archaeological remains present on the site.

8. SITE OPERATIONS

8.1 General considerations

1. All work will be undertaken following statutory Health and Safety requirements in operation at the time of the watching brief.
2. The work will be undertaken according to the relevant codes of practise issued by the Institute of Field Archaeologists (IFA). Archaeological Project Services is an IFA registered organisation (number 21).
3. Any and all artefacts found during the investigation and thought to be 'treasure', as defined by the Treasure Act 1997, will be removed from site to a secure store and promptly reported to the appropriate coroner's office.

8.2 Methodology

1. The watching brief will be undertaken during the ground works phase of development, and includes the archaeological monitoring of all phases of soil movement.
2. The section of the trench will be observed regularly to identify and record archaeological features that are exposed and to record changes in the geological conditions. The section drawings of the trenches will be recorded at a scale of 1:10. Should features be recorded in plan these will be drawn at a scale of 1:20. Written descriptions detailing the nature of the deposits, features and fills encountered will be compiled on Archaeological Project Services pro-forma record sheets.
3. Any finds recovered will be bagged and labelled for later analysis.
4. Throughout the watching brief a photographic record consisting of colour prints will be compiled. The photographic record will consist of:
5. The site during work to show specific stages, and the layout of the archaeology within the trench.
6. groups of features where their relationship is important

- 7 Should human remains be located the appropriate Home Office licence will be obtained before their removal. In addition, the Local Environmental Health Department and the police will be informed.

9. **POST-EXCAVATION**

9.1 Stage 1

1. On completion of site operations, the records and schedules produced during the watching brief will be checked and ordered to ensure that they form a uniform sequence forming a level II archive. A stratigraphic matrix of the archaeological deposits and features present on the site will be prepared. All photographic material will be catalogued: the colour prints will be labelled, the labelling referring to schedules identifying the subject/s photographed.
2. All finds recovered during the field work will be washed, marked and packaged according to the deposit from which they were recovered. Any finds requiring specialist treatment and conservation will be sent to the Conservation Laboratory at the City and County Museum, Lincoln.

9.2 Stage 2

1. Detailed examination of the stratigraphic matrix to enable the determination of the various phases of activity on the site.
2. Finds will be sent to specialists for identification and dating.

9.3 Stage 3

1. On completion of stage 2, a report detailing the findings of the watching brief will be prepared.
2. This will consist of:
 - a A non-technical summary of the results of the investigation.
 - b A description of the archaeological setting of the watching brief.
 - c Description of the topography of the site.
 - d Description of the methodologies used during the watching brief.
 - e A text describing the findings of the watching brief.
 - f A consideration of the local, regional and national context of the watching brief findings.
 - g Plans of the archaeological features exposed. If a sequence of archaeological deposits is encountered, separate plans for each phase will be produced.
 - h Sections of the archaeological features.
 - i Interpretation of the archaeological features exposed, and their chronology and setting within the surrounding landscape.
 - j Specialist reports on the finds from the site.
 - k Appropriate photographs of the site and specific archaeological features.

10. REPORT DEPOSITION

- 10.1 Copies of the report will be sent to the client, East Lindsey District Council and to the Lincolnshire County Sites and Monuments Record.

11. ARCHIVE

- 11.1 The documentation and records generated during the watching brief will be sorted and ordered into the format acceptable to the Lincolnshire County Council Museums, Arts and Records Service. This will be undertaken following the requirements of the document titled *Conditions for the Acceptance of Project Archives* for long term storage and curation.

12. PUBLICATION

- 12.1 A report of the findings of the watching brief will be published in Heritage Lincolnshire's Annual Report and a note presented to the editor of the Transactions of the Lincolnshire Archaeological and Historical Society. If appropriate, notes on the findings will be submitted to the appropriate national journals: *Britannia* for discoveries of Roman date, and *Medieval Archaeology* and the journal of the *Medieval Settlement Research Group* for findings of medieval or later date.

13. CURATORIAL RESPONSIBILITY

- 13.1 Curatorial responsibility for the archaeological work undertaken on the site lies with the Archaeological Officer of Lincolnshire County Council. The Archaeology Officer will be given seven days notice in writing before the commencement of the project.

14. VARIATIONS

- 14.1 Variations to the proposed scheme of works will only be made following written confirmation of acceptance from the North Kesteven Heritage Officer.

15. PROGRAMME OF WORKS AND STAFFING LEVELS

- 15.1 The watching brief will be integrated with the programme of construction and is dependent on the developers' work programme. It is therefore not possible to specify the person-hours for the archaeological site work.
- 15.2 An archaeological supervisor with experience of watching briefs will undertake the work.
- 15.3 Post-excavation analysis and report production will be undertaken by the archaeological supervisor, or a post-excavation analyst as appropriate, with assistance from a finds supervisor, illustrator and external specialists. It is expected that each fieldwork day (equal to one man-day) will require a post-excavation day (equal to one-and-a-half man-days) for completion of the analysis and report. If the fieldwork lasts longer than about six days then there will be an economy of scale with the post-excavation analysis.

16. SPECIALISTS TO BE USED DURING THE PROJECT

- 16.1 The following organisations/persons will, in principal and if necessary, be used as subcontractors to provide the relevant specialist work and reports in respect of any objects or material recovered during the investigation that require their expert knowledge and input. Engagement of any particular specialist subcontractor is also dependent on their availability and ability to meet programming requirements.

Task

Body to be undertaking the work

Conservation

Conservation Laboratory, City and County Museum, Lincoln

Pottery Analysis	Prehistoric Pottery - Trent & Peak Archaeological Trust Roman - B Precious, independent specialist, as appropriate. Saxon - City of Lincoln Archaeology Unit Medieval and later - Hilary Healey, independent archaeologist
Non-pottery Artefacts	J Cowgill, independent specialist
Animal Bones	Environmental Archaeology Consultancy
Human Remains Analysis	R Gowland, independent specialist

17. **BIBLIOGRAPHY**

Hodge, CAH, Burton, RGO, Corbett, WM, Evans, R, and Seale, RS, 1984 *Soils and their use in Eastern England*, Soil Survey of England and Wales 13

Appendix 2

CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

No.	Description	Interpretation
001	Firm mid brown silt, 30mm thick	Turf
002	Loose whitish grey limestone, 0.11m thick	Demolition material
003	Firm mid to dark brown clayey silt, generally 0.1m thick, increased thickness where it fills 009	Subsoil and fill of 009
004	Firm light to mid brownish grey silty clay, 0.37m thick	Subsoil
005	Firm mid reddish brown silty clay	Natural deposit
006	Firm mid to dark brown silt, frequent ash and charcoal with brick and tile	Fill of 007
007	Cut, visible in section only, 1.52m wide by 0.56m deep, steep sides flat base	Probable pit
008	Continuation of deposit 003	Buried topsoil
009	Possible linear cut, aligned east-west, 0.9m wide by 0.4m deep, moderate sides with concave base	Gully
010	Firm dark grey silty clay, frequent charcoal, 70mm thick	Dumped deposit
011	Firm mid to dark greyish brown silt, frequent ash and brick	Fill of 012
012	Cut, visible in section only, 2m wide by 0.5m deep, near vertical sides, uneven base	Pit

Appendix 3

THE FINDS *Hilary Healey*

Provenance

Pottery fragments were recovered from the topsoil (001) and a pit fill (006).

The individual artefacts are from separate manufacturing sources. One, the jug handle from context (001), is a product of kilns at Bourne, in south Lincolnshire. The fragment of porcelain from the same context was probably made in the Midlands, most likely Staffordshire. The tin glazed earthenware from context (006) is of uncertain source as it was produced in several locations, including the English Midlands and southeast, and the northern and central parts (Holland, Germany) of mainland Europe, and elsewhere.

Range

The range of material is detailed in the table.

The earliest artefact is a fragment of pottery of 16th-17th century date. Pottery constitutes all of the small assemblage. No animal remains or other artefacts were recovered during the investigation.

Table 1: The Artefacts

Context	Description	Latest date
001	1 Bourne D ware jug handle, 16 th - 17 th century 1 Porcelain sherd, 19 th century	19 th century
006	2 linked Sherds of tin glazed earthenware (Delft type)	17 th century

Condition

Although the tin glazed sherds from context (006) are abraded, all of the material is in good condition and presents no long-term storage problems. The Bourne ware jug handle/rim fragment is a large, unworn piece. The assemblage should be archived by material class.

Documentation

Bourne ware pottery, both as occupation site assemblages and production evidence, has been studied moderately extensively and is the subject of numerous reports (eg, Healey 1969; Kerr nd). Additionally, a distribution plan for Bourne D ware has previously been published, with indications that it was marketed as far afield as Lincoln and Tattershall (Healey 1986, 15). This plan indicated a maximum northern extent up the east coast as far as Wainfleet, some 23km south of Maltby-le-Marsh. Inland, the pottery type extends as far northwards as Bullington, near Lincoln (*ibid.*).

There have been no previous archaeological investigations in Maltby-le-Marsh, though records of archaeological sites and finds in the parish are maintained in the Lincolnshire Sites and Monuments Record.

Potential

The assemblage has limited potential, though the presence of broadly contemporary 16th -17th century pottery fragments may imply activity of that period on, or in the vicinity of, the site. Additionally, the discovery of the Bourne D ware sherd extends the range of this material, which is significant for the ware itself, but also makes a small contribution to the study of trade and transport of post-medieval pottery in Lincolnshire,

References

Healey, R H, 1969 'Bourne Ware', in J B Whitwell and C M Wilson, Archaeological Notes for 1968, *Lincolnshire History and Archaeology* 4

Healey, H., 1986, Lincolnshire Medieval Pottery Research Group, *Archaeology in Lincolnshire 1985-1986*, Second Annual Report of the Trust for Lincolnshire Archaeology

Kerr, N. A., nd, *A Medieval and post-medieval Pottery Industry: Excavations at Bourne, Lincolnshire*, unpublished report

Appendix 4

THE ARCHIVE

The archive consists of:

12	Context records
2	Scale drawings
1	Photographic record sheet
1	Bag of finds
1	Stratigraphic matrix

All primary records and finds are currently kept at:

Archaeological Project Services
The Old School
Cameron Street
Heckington
Sleaford
Lincolnshire
NG34 9RW

The ultimate destination of the project archive is:

Lincolnshire City and County Museum
12 Friars Lane
Lincoln
LN2 1HQ

The archive will be deposited in accordance with the document titled *Conditions for the Acceptance of Project Archives*, produced by the Lincolnshire City and County Museum.

Lincolnshire City and County Council Museum Accession Number: 213.98

Archaeological Project Services Site Code: MLM98

The discussion and comments provided in this report are based on the archaeology revealed during the site investigations. Other archaeological finds and features may exist on the development site but away from the areas exposed during the course of this fieldwork. *Archaeological Project Services* cannot confirm that those areas unexposed are free from archaeology nor that any archaeology present there is of a similar character to that revealed during the current investigation.

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Appendix 5

GLOSSARY

Boulder Clay	A deposit formed after the retreat of a glacier. Also known as till, this material is generally unsorted and can comprise of rock flour to boulders to rocks of quite substantial size.
Bronze Age	Part of the prehistoric era characterised by the introduction and use of bronze for tools and weapons. In Britain this period dates from approximately 2000-700 BC.
Context	An archaeological context represents a distinct archaeological event or process. For example, the action of digging a pit creates a context (the cut) as does the process of its subsequent backfill (the fill). Each context encountered during an archaeological investigation is allocated a unique number by the archaeologist and a record sheet detailing the description and interpretation of the context (the context sheet) is created and placed in the site archive. Context numbers are identified within the report text by brackets, <i>e.g.</i> (004).
Cropmark	A mark that is produced by the effect of underlying archaeological features influencing the growth of a particular crop.
Layer	A layer is a term used to describe an accumulation of soil or other material that is not contained within a cut.
Medieval	The Middle Ages, dating from approximately AD 1066-1500.
Mesolithic	The 'Middle Stone Age' period, part of the prehistoric era, dating from approximately 10,000-4000 BC.
Natural	Undisturbed deposit(s) of soil or rock which have accumulated without the influence of human activity.
Neolithic	The 'New Stone Age' period, part of the prehistoric era, dating from approximately 4000-2000 BC.
Post-medieval	The period following the Middle Ages, dating from approximately AD 1500-1800.
Romano-British	Pertaining to the period from AD 43-410 when Britain formed part of the Roman Empire.