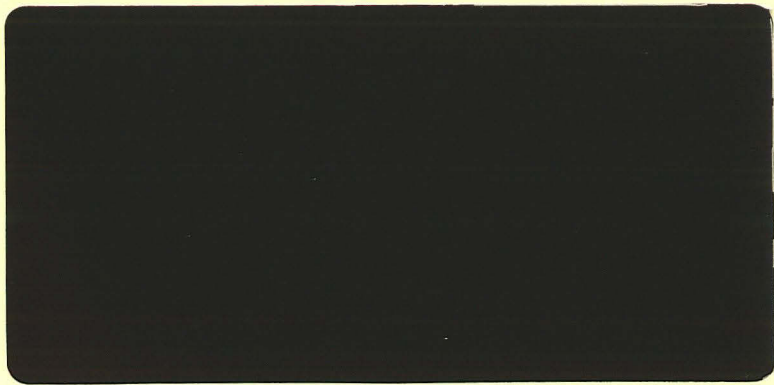


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**ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF
OF DEVELOPMENT ON LAND AT
ABBEY FARM,
BARDNEY,
LINCOLNSHIRE
(BAF97)**



A P S
ARCHAEOLOGICAL
PROJECT
SERVICES



Lincolnshire County Council
Archaeology Section
18. FEB 99
ack 18/2/99

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF
OF DEVELOPMENT ON LAND AT
ABBAY FARM,
BARDNEY,
LINCOLNSHIRE
(BAF97)**

Work Undertaken For
Mr D Armstrong

July 1997

Report Compiled by
Paul Cope-Faulkner

Planning Application No: 96/P/0199
National Grid Reference: TF 1145 7043
City and County Museum Accession No: 84.96

A.P.S. Report No. 21/97

*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 excavation of foundation trenches for a new garage at Abbey Farm, Bardney, Lincolnshire.

Bardney Abbey was founded in the 7th century and was the earliest of several abbey complexes along the Witham Valley. It became a centre for monks of the Benedictine order. Following the dissolution of the monasteries, six monks of the abbey were implicated in the Lincolnshire Rising and were subsequently hung. The land was acquired by Sir Robert Tyrwhitt who converted it to a private residence.

The archaeological investigations, carried out because of the proximity of the abbey, revealed a sequence of former subsoil and topsoil deposits overlain with make-up and surface layers. A small quantity of fragmented building material was recovered.

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 or site..., where there is a possibility that archaeological deposits may be disturbed or destroyed.' (IFA 1997)

2.2 Background

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken at land adjacent to Bardney Abbey, Bardney, Lincolnshire (National Grid Reference TF 1145 7043). The work was commissioned by Mr Armstrong and

was carried out by Archaeological Project Services on the 29th April 1997. Approval for the development was sought through the submission of planning application 96/P/0199. Permission was granted subject to a standard condition for archaeological recording.

2.3 Topography and Geology

The site is located 18km east of Lincoln and 11km west of Horncastle, Lincolnshire (Fig. 1) and lies c. 1.2km north of Bardney village centre (Fig. 2)

Local soil type is of the Beccles 2 Association, typically stagnogley soils of fine loamy over slowly permeable clayey subsoils with chalk stones (Hodge et al. 1984, 119-21). This overlies a solid geology of Corallian limestones of the Upper Jurassic (Wilson 1958).

Bardney Abbey occupies a slight rise above the floodplain of the River Witham that lies to the west. The site lies at approximately 7m OD.

2.4 Archaeological Setting

Of Anglo-Saxon derivation, the place-name means 'Bearda's island', the area having been a slight island in marshy ground alongside the Witham (Ekwall 1974, 25).

Endowed by King Ethelred of Mercia, the monastery at Bardney became an important place of pilgrimage and a prosperous religious centre following the enshrinement of the remains of St. Oswald, whose bones were brought to Bardney in 675 by Ethelred and his wife, Osthryd. After Queen Osthryd was murdered in 697, Ethelred renounced the world and became a monk at Bardney, later to become Abbot. After his death he was canonised (Page 1988, 97-104).

Viking raiders destroyed the Abbey in 870 and in 909 the bones of St. Oswald were removed to Gloucester.

A priory consecrated to Saints Peter, Paul and Oswald was founded in 1087 by Gilbert de Gant for Benedictine monks. Gilbert, the new Norman owner of Bardney and the surrounding lands also endowed the house with land from his estates at Bardney, Southrey and elsewhere. In 1116, Gilbert's son, Walter, raised the status of Bardney to an Abbey.

The Benedictines were one of the oldest orders, starting soon after the death of St. Benedict in 543. This order may have arrived in Britain during the Saxon period. After the Norman conquest many new Benedictine Abbeys were built and include the cathedrals of Durham, Canterbury, Peterborough and Ely (Midmer 1979, 4).

Previous excavations have established the traditional arrangement of Bardney Abbey, with the Abbey church to the north and the chapter house, dorter, refectory and kitchens ranged around the cloister. West of the church lay the Abbot's lodgings and gatehouse, and to the east was the infirmary. The parish church is thought to have stood alongside the monastery. This church fell into ruin in 1434 and because the parishioners annoyed the monks by coming into the Abbey precinct, the abbot agreed to build a new church which is located in the present village centre.

In October 1536, the Lincolnshire Rising, a local rebellion against the impending dissolution of the monasteries, broke out. Six monks from Bardney were implicated in this rebellion and were hung drawn and quartered at Lincoln in March 1537. Subsequently, the Abbey surrendered to the King and was dissolved in 1538.

Following the dissolution, the land was acquired by Sir Robert Tyrwhitt, who demolished the church, using the stone to transform the other monastic buildings into a private residence. He occupied the abbot's lodging and converted the cloister into a walled garden, leaving the remainder of the abbey structures to fall into ruin. By 1718, when Browne Willis surveyed the site, all the buildings, including Tyrwhitt's house, had gone and only a fragment of the gatehouse remained standing. The site had become pasture by 1753 when it was visited by William Stukeley, who also observed that the area of the Abbey buildings was being quarried for stone.

3. AIMS

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

4. METHODS

The proposed development required the excavation of foundation trenches for new walls. Trenches were opened to a depth of c. 0.8m using a mechanical excavator (Fig. 4). The sides of the trench were then cleaned and examined to identify any archaeological features. Each archaeological deposit or feature revealed within the trench was allocated a unique reference number with an individual reference number with an individual written description. Natural geological deposits were also recorded where exposed. A photographic record was compiled and sections were drawn at a scale of 1:10.

Records of the deposits and features identified during the watching brief were

examined. A stratigraphic matrix of all recorded contexts was created and phased. Phasing was assigned based on the nature of the deposits and recognisable relationships between them. A list of all contexts with interpretations appears as Appendix 2.

5. RESULTS

Two groups of activity were recognised;

Group 1 Undated deposits
Group 2 Recent deposits

The numbers in brackets relate to the context numbers assigned in the field.

Group 1 Undated deposits

The earliest deposit encountered was a layer of dark blackish brown silt and sand (006). Containing fragments of tile and brick, this layer was interpreted as a former subsoil.

The subsoil was in turn overlain by a former topsoil deposit (005). Comprising blackish brown sandy silt, the thickness of this deposit varied greatly.

Group 2 Recent deposits

Overlying the former topsoil were deposits of make-up layers. The lowest was a light greyish brown silty clay (004) up to 0.58m thick. Overlying this, in Section 1, were further make-up layers (002, 003) for a tarmac surface (001).

In Section 2, layers (001, 002 and 003) are replaced by a modern topsoil of mid brown sandy silt (007).

6. DISCUSSION

Natural soil accumulation (Group 1) has led to a developed subsoil and topsoil. The varying thickness of the topsoil may suggest the presence of former ridge and furrow.

Group 2 deposits are typified by make-up layers for a tarmac surface and modern topsoil. These make-up layers are also thought to be associated with the relatively recent building adjacent to this development.

7. CONCLUSIONS

Archaeological investigations at Abbey Farm, Bardney were undertaken because the site fell within an area of known archaeological activity, notably its location adjacent to Bardney Abbey, and the likelihood existed of archaeological remains being disturbed.

The watching brief revealed a sequence of former soils overlain by recent make-up layers, tarmac surface and modern topsoil.

No pottery was recovered, although some undiagnostic building material was found during this investigation. None of these deposits are thought to be of significant archaeological interest and as such, these deposits may be regarded as of local interest only.

8. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeological Project Services wish to thank Mr David Armstrong for commissioning the fieldwork and post-excavation analysis. Gary Taylor coordinated the work and Tom Lane edited this report.

9. PERSONNEL

Project Manager: Gary Taylor
Site Supervisor: Fiona Walker
Illustration: Paul Cope-Faulkner
Post-excavation Analyst: Paul Cope-Faulkner

10. BIBLIOGRAPHY

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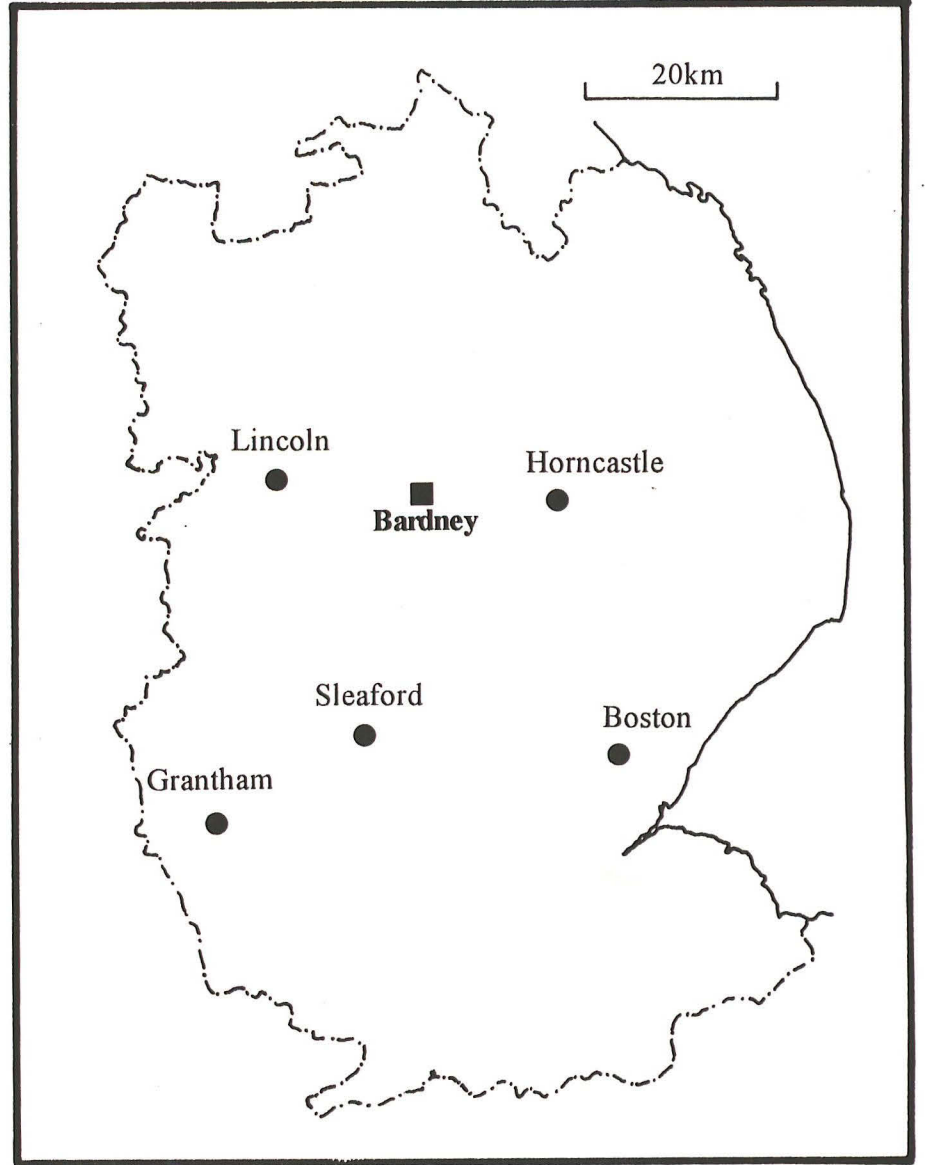
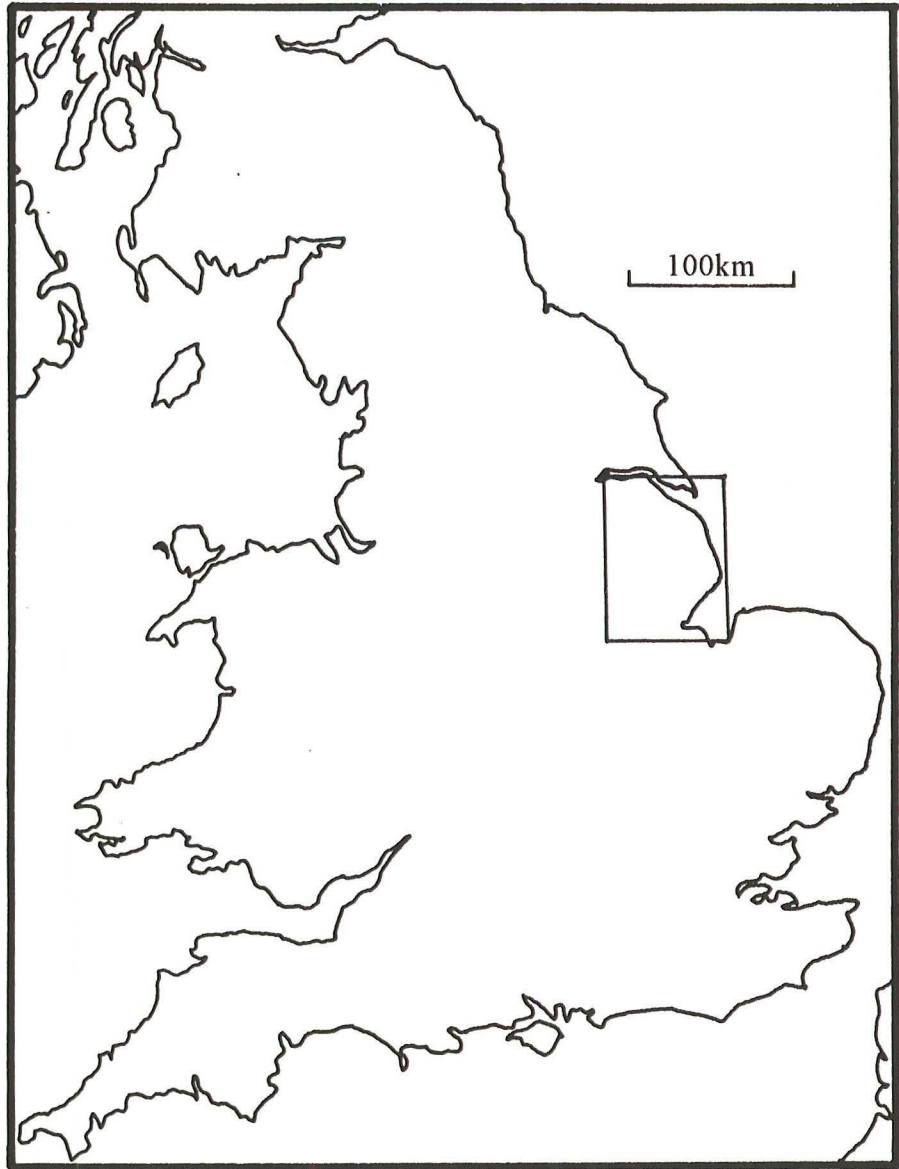
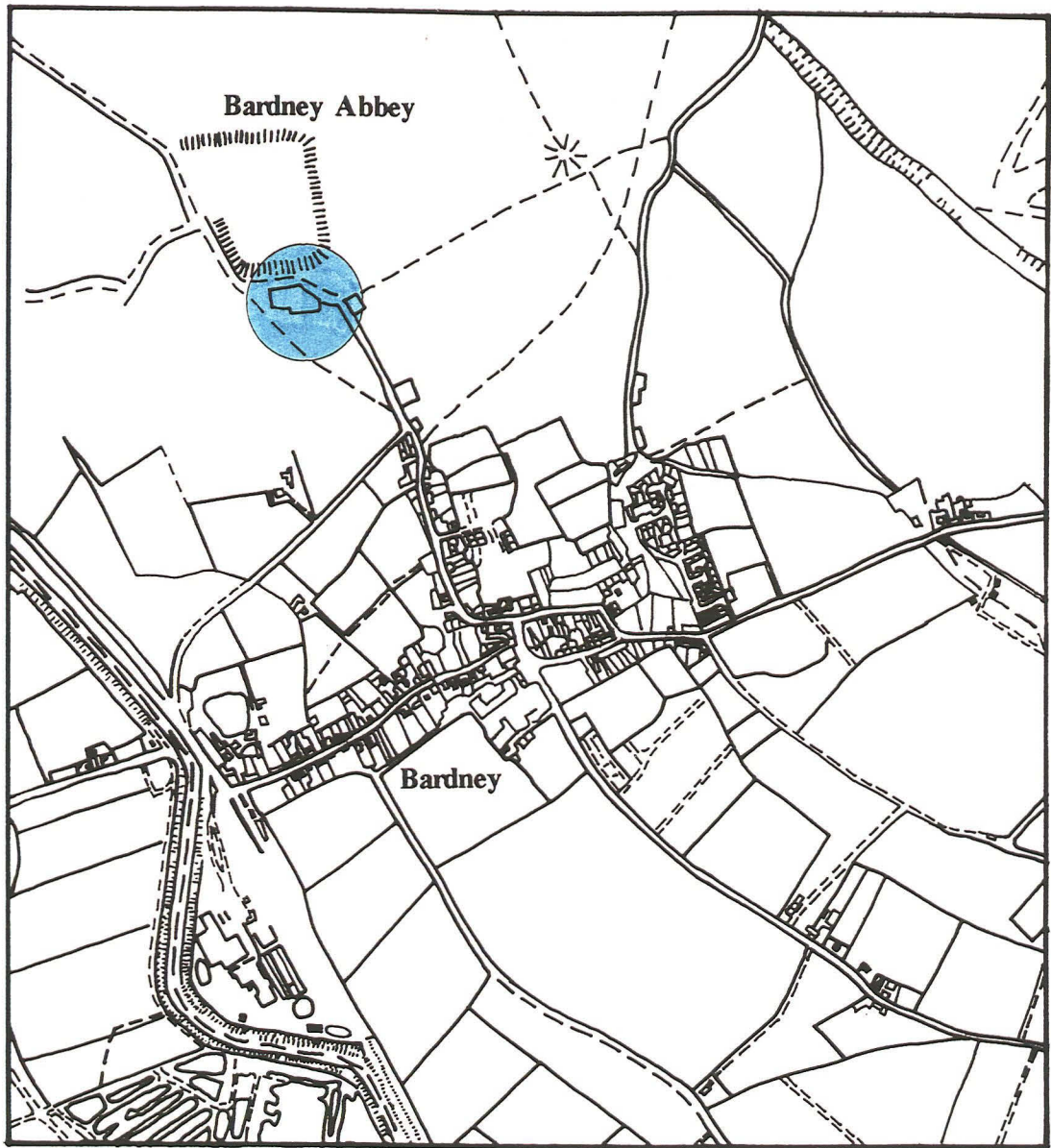


Figure 1 - General Location Plan



0m 1km



Figure 2 - Site Location Plan

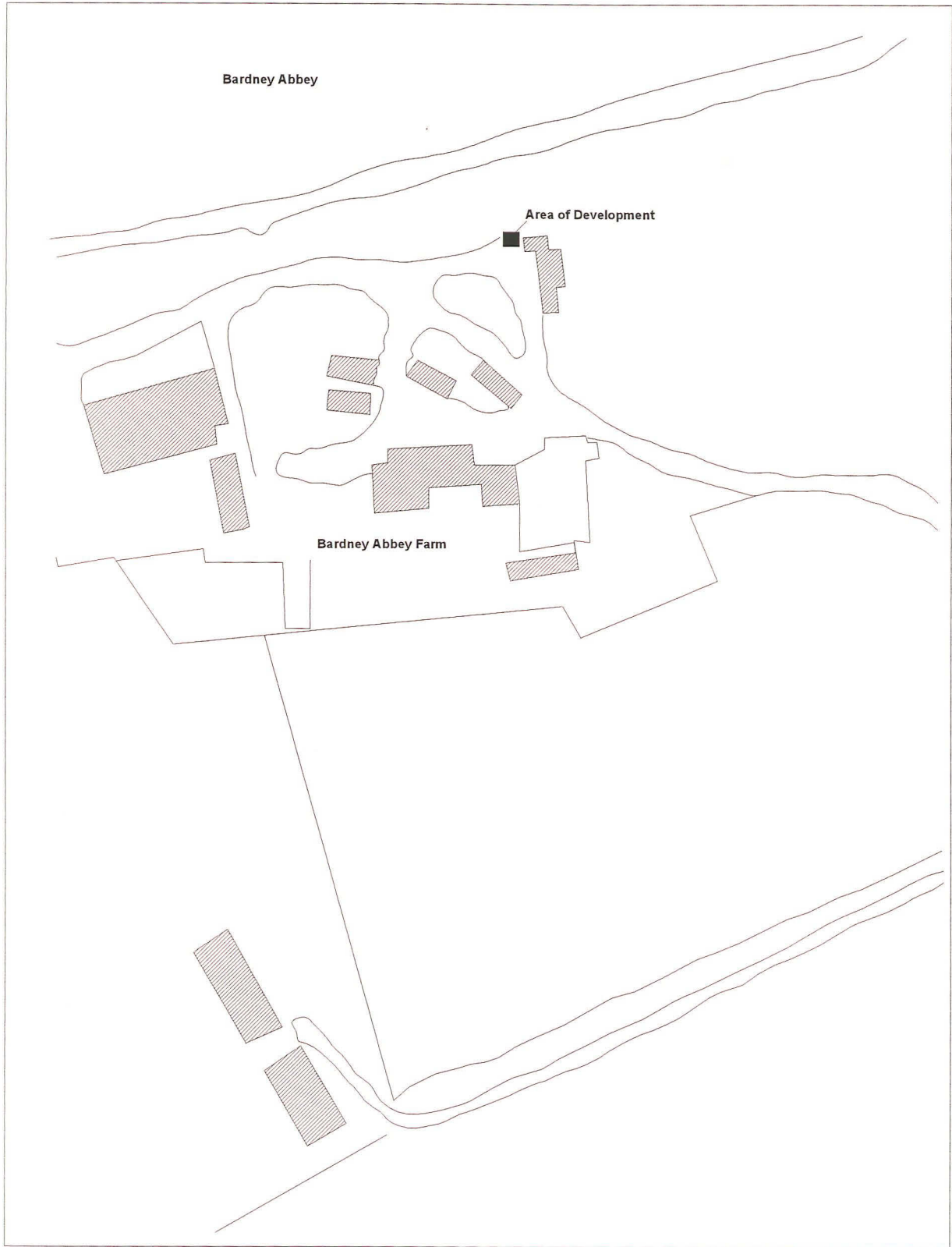


Figure 3 - Bardney Abbey Farm, showing development location

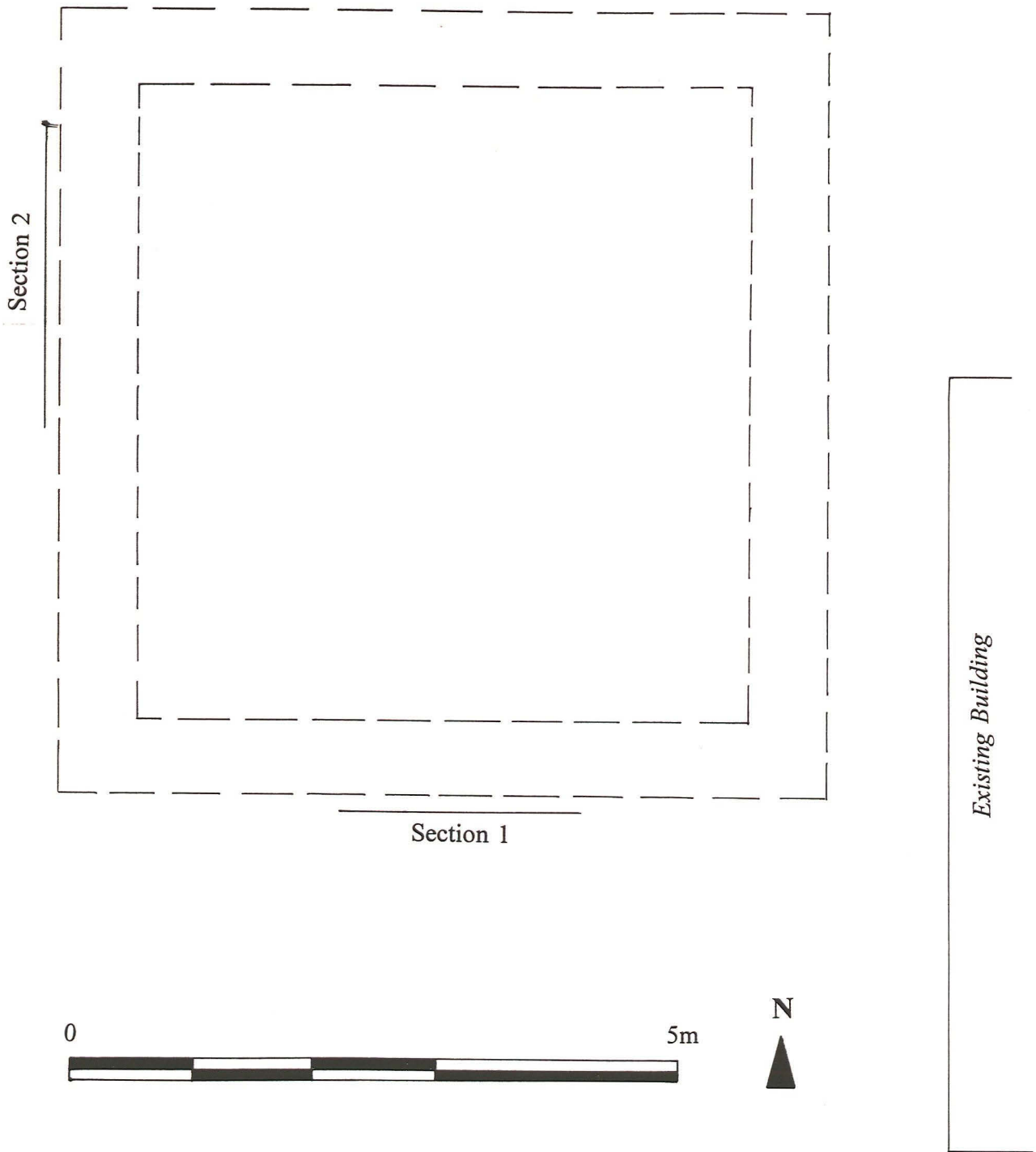


Figure 4 - Plan of Development, showing location of sections

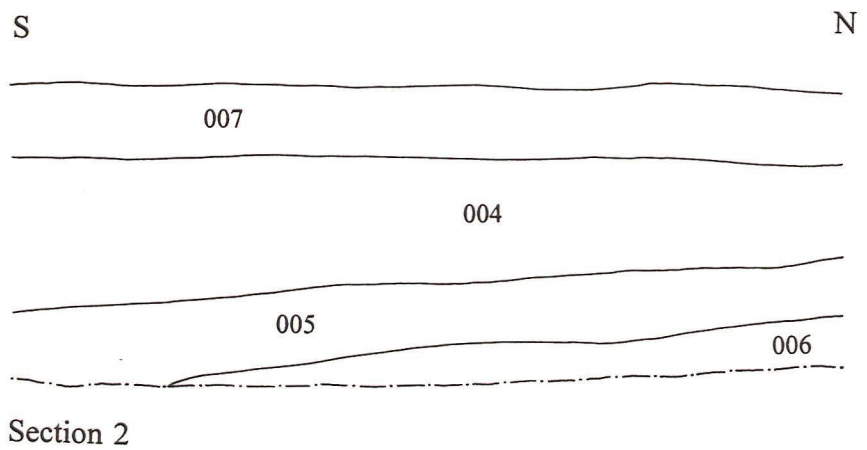
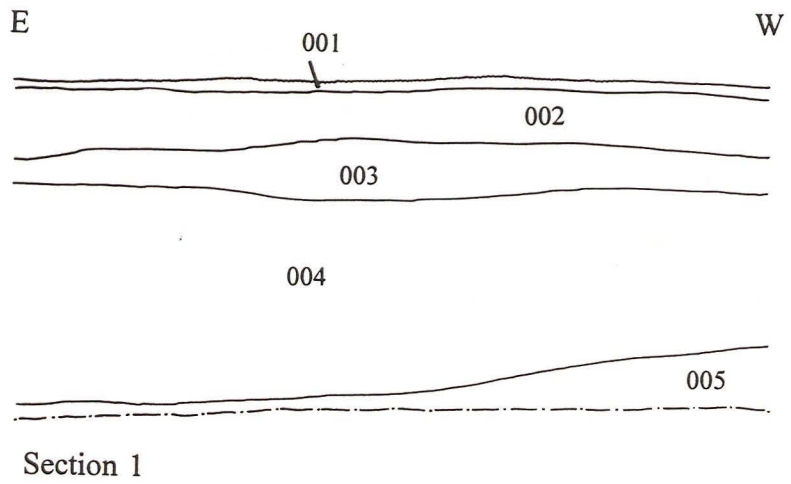


Figure 5 - Sections 1 and 2

Appendix 1

LAND AT ABBEY FARM ABBEY ROAD, BARDNEY, LINCOLNSHIRE SPECIFICATION FOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

1. SUMMARY

- a. *A watching brief is required during the construction of a detached double garage on land at Abbey Farm, Abbey Road, Bardney, Lincolnshire.*
- b. *The remains of medieval Bardney Abbey, a nationally important scheduled ancient monument (county monument no. 14) is located adjacent to the development site. Remains of the medieval fishponds, believed associated with the adjacent abbey, are recorded as being located on the development area.*
- c. *The watching brief will be undertaken during groundworks associated with the development. The archaeological features exposed will be recorded in writing, graphically and photographically.*
- d. *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 line drawings and photographs.*

2. INTRODUCTION

- a. This document comprises a specification for an archaeological watching brief during the construction of a detached double garage at Abbey Farm, Abbey Road, Bardney. The site is located at national grid reference TF114704, and is shown on Figures 1 and 2.
- b. This document contains the following parts:
 - i. Overview.
 - ii. Stages of work and methodologies.
 - iii. List of specialists.
 - iv. Programme of works and staffing structure of the project.

3. SITE LOCATION

- a. Bardney is located approximately 13km east of Lincoln on the east bank of the River Witham, in the administrative district of West Lindsey. The site is situated at Abbey Farm, Abbey Road, approximately 1km to the north of the village.

4. PLANNING BACKGROUND

- a. Full planning permission (application number 96/P/0199) for the construction of a detached double garage has been granted by West Lindsey District Council, subject to a condition requiring the implementation of an archaeological scheme of works.

5. SOILS AND TOPOGRAPHY

- a. Bardney is situated on the east bank of the River Witham. The site and surrounding area is on gently undulating land and lies at approximately 7m OD. Soils at the site are Beccles 2 Association typical stagnogleys developed on chalky till with patches of gravel (Hodge *et al.* 1984, 119).

6. THE ARCHAEOLOGY

- a. Bardney Abbey was endowed by King Ethelred of Mercia and became an important place of pilgrimage when the bones of St. Oswald were enshrined there in AD 675. Viking raiders destroyed the abbey in 870, though a new priory was founded in 1087. In 1116 the status of Bardney was raised to an abbey and followed the Benedictine order. The parish church of Bardney, thought to have stood alongside the abbey, fell into ruin in 1434 and was rebuilt in the village centre. The abbey was dissolved in 1538 and subsequently became a private residence. However, by 1718, all the buildings, including the post-dissolution residence, had gone and in 1753 it was recorded that the area of the abbey was being quarried for building stone (Heritage Lincolnshire 1993, 1-2).
- b. The Lincolnshire County Council archaeological Sites and Monuments Record indicates that medieval fishponds, believed to be contemporary with the adjacent abbey, are located on the plot of the proposed garages.

7. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- a. The aims of the watching brief will be:
 - i. To record the archaeological features exposed during the excavation of the foundation trenches and other areas of ground disturbance.
- b. The objectives of the watching brief will be to:
 - i. Determine the form and function of the archaeological features encountered;
 - ii. Determine the spatial arrangement of the archaeological features encountered;
 - iii. As far as practicable, recover dating evidence from the archaeological features, and
 - iv. Establish the sequence of the archaeological remains present on the site.

8. SITE OPERATIONS

- a. General considerations
 - i. All work will be undertaken following statutory Health and Safety requirements in operation at the time of the watching brief.
 - ii. The work will be undertaken according to the relevant codes of practise issued by the Institute of Field Archaeologists.
- b. Methodology
 - i. The watching brief will be undertaken during the ground works phase of development, and includes the archaeological monitoring of all phases of soil movement.
 - ii. The sections of the trenches will be observed regularly to identify and record archaeological features that are exposed and to record changes in the geological conditions. The plans of the trench and features will be drawn at a scale of 1:20. Section drawings of the trenches and features will be recorded at a scale of 1:10. Written descriptions detailing the nature of the deposits, features and fills encountered will be compiled on Archaeological Project Services pro-forma record sheets.
 - iii. Any finds recovered will be bagged and labelled for later analysis.
 - iv. Throughout the watching brief a photographic record consisting of colour prints will be

compiled. The photographic record will consist of:

- (1) The site during work to show specific stages, and the layout of the archaeology within the trench.
 - (2) groups of features where their relationship is important
- v. 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**

a. Stage 1

- i. 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.
- ii. 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.

b. Stage 2

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

c. Stage 3

- i. On completion of stage 2, a report detailing the findings of the watching brief will be prepared.
- ii. This will consist of:
 - (1) A description of the archaeological setting of the watching brief.
 - (2) Description of the topography of the site.
 - (3) Description of the methodologies used during the watching brief.
 - (4) A text describing the findings of the watching brief.
 - (5) A consideration of the local, regional and national context of the watching brief findings.
 - (6) Plans of the archaeological features exposed. If a sequence of archaeological deposits is encountered, separate plans for each phase will be produced.
 - (7) Sections of the archaeological features.
 - (8) Interpretation of the archaeological features exposed, and their chronology and

setting within the surrounding landscape.

(9) Specialist reports on the finds from the site.

(10) Appropriate photographs of specific archaeological features.

10. **REPORT DEPOSITION**

a. Copies of the report will be sent to the client; the County Council Archaeological Sites and Monuments Record; and to West Lindsey District Council Planning Department.

11. **ARCHIVE**

a. The documentation and records generated during the watching brief will be sorted and ordered into the format acceptable to the City and County Museum, Lincoln. 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**

a. 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 journal of the Society for Lincolnshire History and Archaeology. 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**

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

14. **VARIATIONS**

a. Variations to the proposed scheme of works will only be made following written confirmation of acceptance from the Archaeology Officer, Lincolnshire County Council.

15. **PROGRAMME OF WORKS AND STAFFING LEVELS**

a. The watching brief will be integrated with the programme of construction.

b. An archaeological supervisor with experience of watching briefs will undertake the work.

16. **SPECIALISTS TO BE USED DURING THE PROJECT**

<u>Task</u>	<u>Body to be undertaking the work</u>
Conservation	Conservation Laboratory, City and County Museum, Lincoln
Pottery Analysis	Prehistoric Pottery - Trent & Peak Archaeological Trust Roman and Saxon - City of Lincoln Archaeology Unit Medieval and later - Hilary Healey, independent archaeologist
Non-pottery Artefacts	City of Lincoln Archaeology Unit
Animal Bones	Environmental Archaeology Consultancy

Human Remains Analysis

To be appointed if necessary and dependent on availability.

17.

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Heritage Lincolnshire, 1993 *Excavation for the Installation of Interpretive Panels at Bardney Abbey, Bardney, Lincolnshire*, unpublished report

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 SUMMARY

Context	Section	Description	Interpretation
001	1	Firm black tarmac, 30mm thick	Drive surface
002	1	Off white stone with old tarmac, 0.15m thick	Levelling/build-up for (001)
003	1	Mid grey silt, 0.1m - 0.15m thick	Make-up layer
004	1, 2	Greyish brown silt and silty clay, 0.58m thick	Make-up layer
005	1, 2	Dark blackish brown sandy silt	Former topsoil
006	2	Dark blackish brown silt and sand with frequent small stones	Former subsoil
007	2	Mid brown sandy silt	Present topsoil

Appendix 3

The Archive

The archive consists of:

7	Context records
3	Scale drawings
1	Photographic record sheet
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: 84.96

Archaeological Project Services Site Code: BAF97

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 4

GLOSSARY

- 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, *e.g.* (4).
- Cut** A cut refers to the physical action of digging a posthole, pit, ditch, foundation trench, *etc.* Once the fills of these features are removed during an archaeological investigation the original 'cut' is therefore exposed and subsequently recorded.
- Dumped deposits** These are deposits, often laid down intentionally, that raise a land surface. They may be the result of casual waste disposal or may be deliberate attempts to raise the ground surface.
- Fill** Once a feature has been dug it begins to silt up (either slowly or rapidly) or it can be back-filled manually. The soil(s) which become contained by the 'cut' are referred to as its fill(s).
- 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
- Natural** Deposit(s) of soil or rock which have accumulated without the influence of human activity.