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**ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF REPORT
LAND ADJACENT TO THREWAYS, HASTHORPE ROAD, SLOOTHBY,
LINCOLNSHIRE**

Site Code: HRS99
LCNCC 4.99
NGR TF49605 70774
Planning Ref. S/208/1457/98

Report prepared for Mr and Mrs V Smith
by James Albone, BSc, PIFA

PRE-CONSTRUCT ARCHAEOLOGY (LINCOLN)
February 1999

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Summary

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Fig. 1. Site location incorporating principal sites from the County Sites & Monuments Record (© 1998).
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Summary

- * *An archaeological watching brief was undertaken during the construction of a detached dwelling on land adjacent to Threeways, Hasthorpe Road, Sloothby, Lincolnshire (Fig. 1).*
- * *Two field boundary ditches containing a small quantity of late medieval to post-medieval pottery and a possible natural pool feature were recorded.*
- * *In view of the nature of the archaeological remains exposed, the watching brief was terminated early, following consultation with the Assistant County Archaeologist for Lincolnshire.*

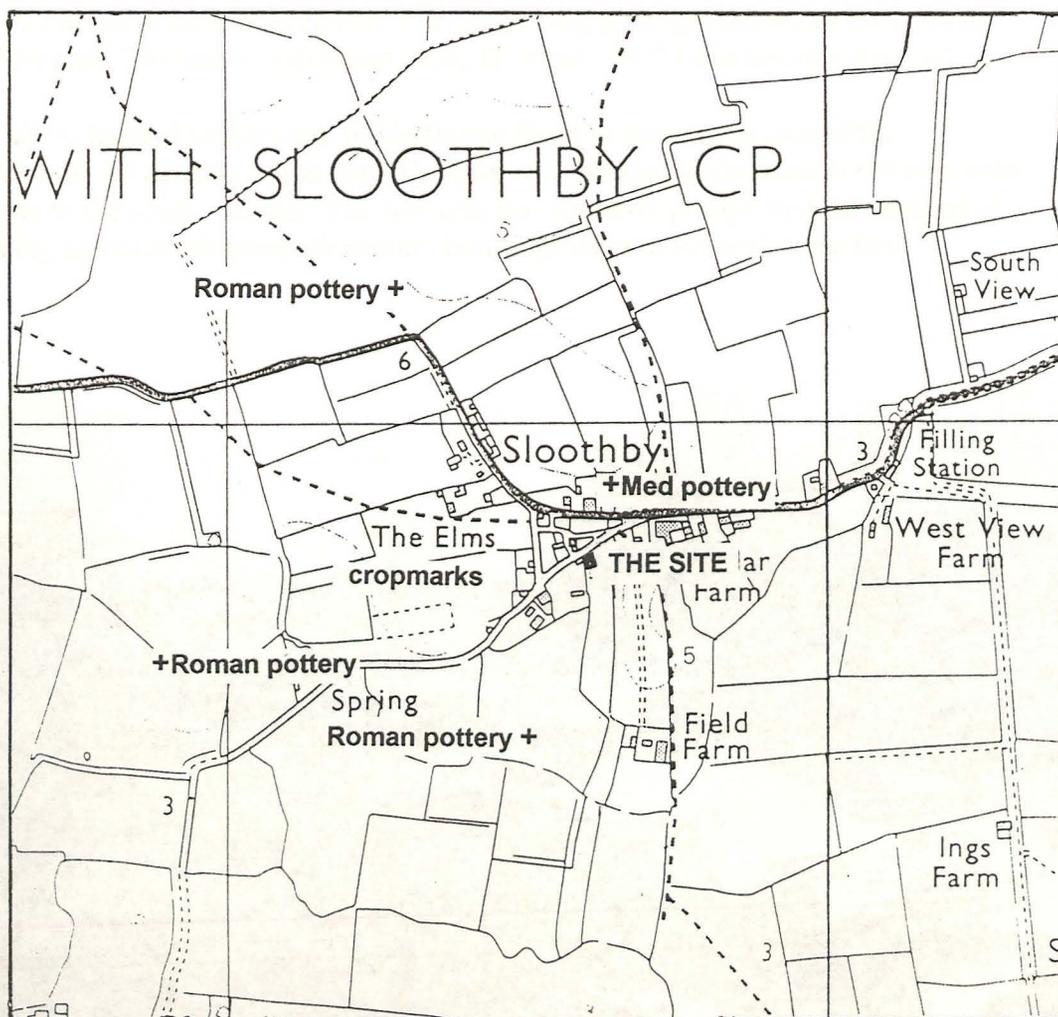


Fig. 1: Site location incorporating principal entries from the County Sites & Monuments Record (1:12,500)
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1.0 Introduction

An archaeological watching brief was carried out on a site to the east of Threeways on Hasthorpe Road, Sloothby, Lincolnshire (Fig. 1) during the construction of a single detached dwelling. The work was commissioned by Mr Smith in accordance with a condition of the planning permission for the development (ref. S/208/1457/98).

A copy of this report will be deposited at the County SMR, and a short text will be submitted to the editor of the county journal, *Lincolnshire History and Archaeology*; effectively placing the information in the public domain. Reports will be deposited at the City and County Museum, Lincoln, accompanied with an ordered project archive.

2.0 Location and Description

The hamlet of Sloothby is situated in Willoughby with Sloothby parish within the administrative district of East Lindsey. It is approximately 7 km. south east of Alford and 10 km north west of Skegness. The underlying geology consists of post glacial boulder clay. The site is centred on NGR TF 49605 70774 and lies at c.4 m OD.

The site is located to the south of Hasthorpe Road in the central area of the settlement. An existing bungalow (Threeways) is located to the west of the site, with pasture to the south and east. The site area was formerly pasture and the remains of possibly agricultural twentieth century buildings were noted within the field.



Pl. 1: General view of the site before excavation work commenced, looking south.

3.0 Archaeological and Historical Background

The earliest archaeological evidence from the vicinity of Sloothby are an important group of Bronze Age barrows called the Butterbumps which lie c.1.5 km to the north of the settlement. Excavations at this site in the early 1970s, found pottery, worked flints and a bronze dagger. Evidence of Roman activity has been found around Sloothby. Pottery scatters, has been found at two sites to the south and west of the settlement one of which has produced second and third century coins. A Roman bronze brooch has also been found to the north of Mill Lane.

The place-name Sloothby is of Scandinavian origin meaning 'Slothi's farmstead or village' (Cameron 1998, 112). At the time of the Domesday survey in 1086, land at *Slodebi* was held by the Bishop of Durham, Ivo Tallboys, Gilbert of Ghent and Hugh son of Baldric (Morris 1986).

Evidence of the medieval settlement of Sloothby is relatively sparse. A parochial chapel was in existence by the twelfth century and a gild chapel was established during the thirteenth century (Owen 1990, 10). Medieval pottery and stone rubble have been found in a field on the north side of the settlement. A large number of cropmarks relating to late medieval and post-medieval tofts, crofts and field boundaries have been plotted around the settlement.

4.0 Methodology

Some of the possible medieval or post-medieval boundary ditch cropmarks referred to above lie to the east of the development site and associated features may lie within the development area. Consequently there was a potential for the disturbance of such remains during the course of the development.

The Assistant County Archaeologist for Lincolnshire issued a brief requiring that an archaeological watching brief be carried out during the groundworks for the development.

Excavation of the foundation trenches was carried out using a mechanical excavator fitted with a 0.6m wide toothless bucket. The topsoil had been stripped prior to the development and the trenches were excavated to a depth of c.1.0m below this level.

Recording was undertaken using standard watching brief record sheets (incorporating physical descriptions, interpretations, and stratigraphic relationships). Features were planned and drawn to scale in section, and photographic recording was undertaken (unfortunately due to technical problems with the camera equipment only one print is of suitable quality for reproduction in this report). The drawings, and the rest of the paper record, will form the basis for a long-term project archive. A small quantity of pottery was recovered and a specialist reports is included as appendix below.

Due to the limited evidence exposed during the excavation of the house foundations the Assistant County Archaeologist was consulted and it was agreed that further monitoring during excavations for the garage and the service trenches would not be

reference. The validated plan was carried out by the writer on the 13th of January 1998.

3.0 Results

The site plan, showing the location of the proposed dwelling, is shown in Figure 2. The location of the archaeological features is also shown in the plan.

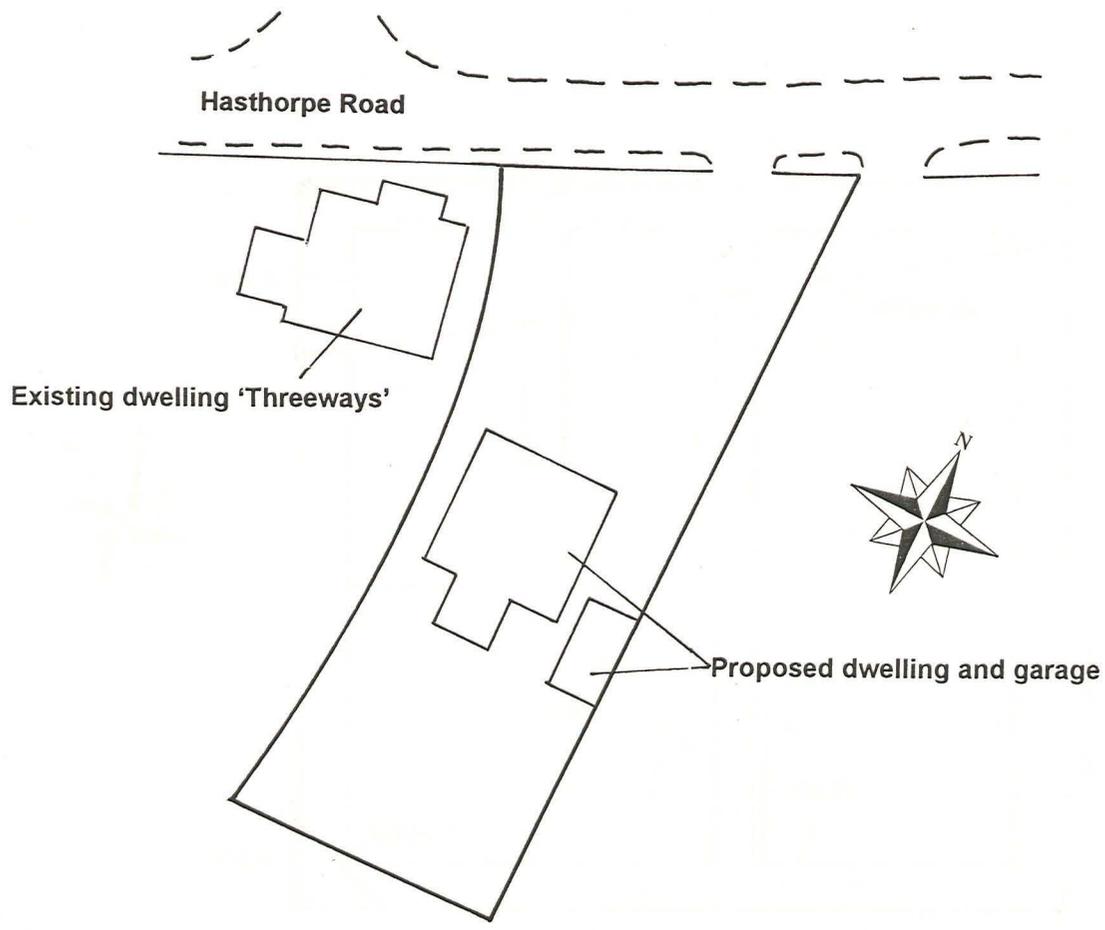


Fig. 2: Plan of the site showing the location of the proposed dwelling.

Fig. 2: Site plan showing the location of the proposed dwelling (1:500)

The site plan shows the location of the proposed dwelling, which is situated to the south of the existing dwelling. The plan also shows the location of the archaeological features, which are situated to the north of the proposed dwelling. A single shard of unglazed, possibly late medieval or post-medieval pottery was recovered. It is likely that this was a late medieval or post-medieval pottery fragment.

necessary. The watching brief was carried out by the writer on the 13th of January 1999.

5.0 Results

Only three archaeological features were observed during the excavation of the foundation trenches for the house. The locations of the archaeological features is shown in Figure 3. and section drawings are shown in Figures 4., 5. and 6.

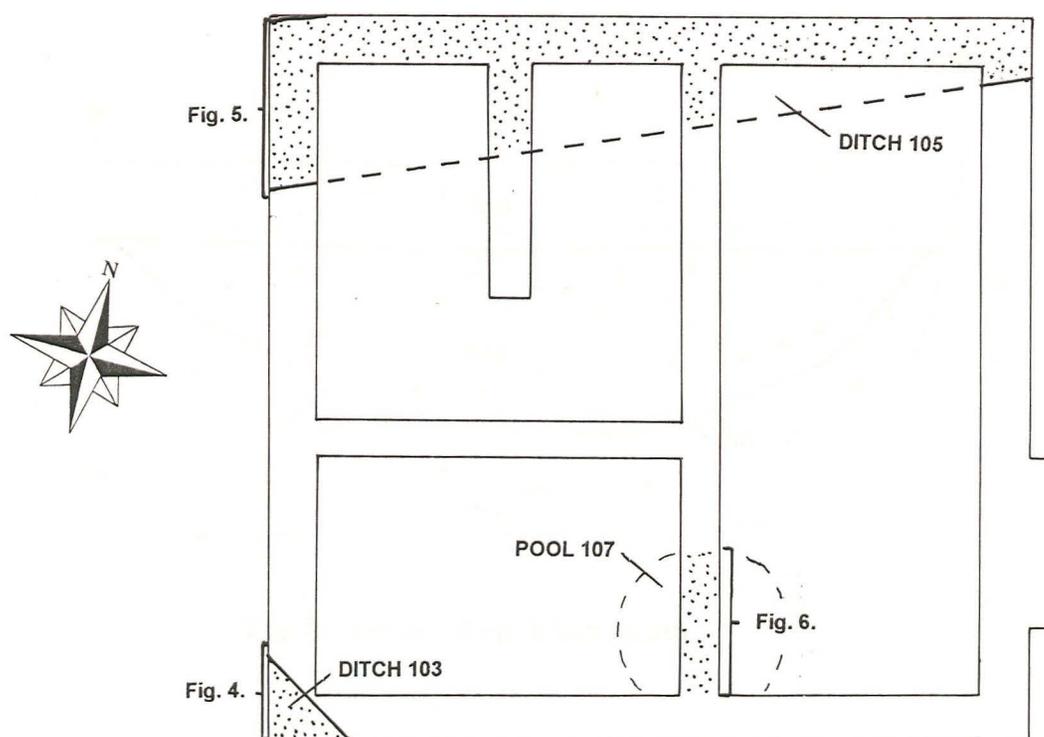


Fig. 3: Plan of foundation trenches showing the location of the archaeological features (1:100).

Ditch 103

This ditch cut across the south west corner of the house foundations on a north west to south east alignment. Its north east side had a stepped profile but the full width was not exposed. It contained medium brownish grey slightly silty clay (102) from which a single sherd of unglazed, possibly late medieval, pottery was recovered. It is likely that this was a late medieval or post-medieval field boundary ditch.

Fig. 4. Section through pool feature 107 (1:20).

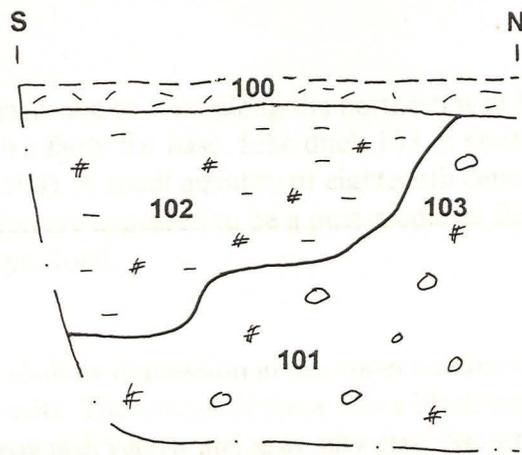


Fig. 4: Section of ditch 103 (1:20).

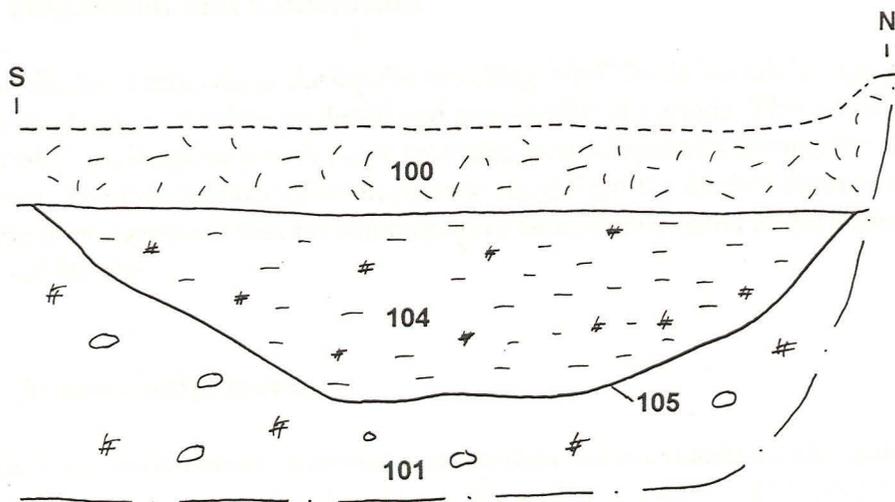


Fig. 5: Section of ditch 105 (1:20).

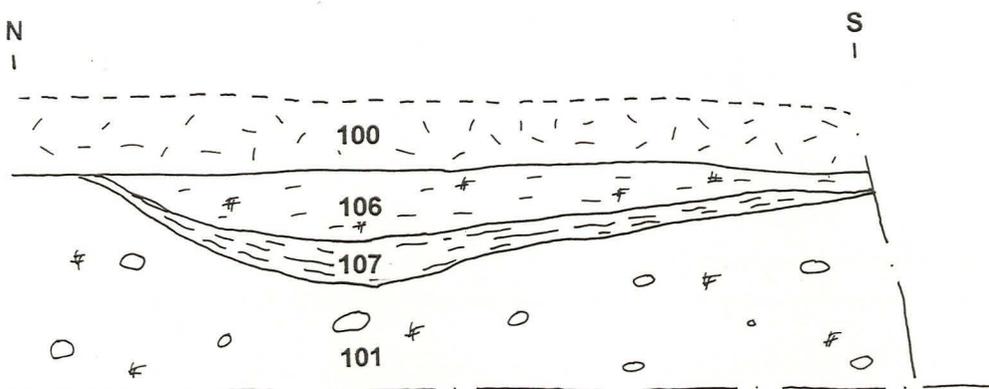


Fig. 6: Section through pool feature 107 (1:20).

Ditch 105

This ditch was aligned east to west along the northern wall foundation trench. It had a broad profile with a fairly flat base. Like ditch 103 it contained a medium brownish grey silty clay fill (104). A small quantity of eighteenth century pottery was recovered from the fill. This feature appeared to be a post-medieval field boundary ditch aligned parallel to Hasthorpe Road.

Feature 107

This feature was a shallow depression in the upper surface of the boulder clay which contained two deposits. The lowest of these was a black organic silt (107) which lay beneath mottled brownish yellow and grey silty clay. No artefacts were recovered from either deposit in this feature. It is likely that this feature a small natural pool, the age of which remains uncertain.

6.0 Discussion and Conclusion

The two ditches encountered during the watching brief almost certainly represent field boundaries dating to the late medieval and post-medieval periods. These two features are probably contemporary with those recorded from cropmarks around the settlement. The low quantity of artefacts recovered from the ditches during the watching brief suggested that no contemporary settlement existed in the immediate vicinity of the site.

7.0 Acknowledgements

Pre-Construct Archaeology (Lincoln) express their sincere thanks to Mr. and Mrs. Smith for this commission, Neil Dowlman (the architect) and Mr. P. Gunson (the builder). Thanks are also extended to Sarah Grundy of the County Council SMR.

8.0 Appendices:

8.1 References

- | | | |
|-------------|------|---|
| Cameron, K. | 1998 | <i>A Dictionary of Lincolnshire Place-Names.</i> |
| Morris, J. | 1986 | <i>'Lincolnshire' Domesday Book.</i> |
| Owen, D.M. | 1990 | <i>Church and Society in Medieval Lincolnshire.</i> |

8.2 Site Archive

Primary records are currently with PCA (Lincoln). An ordered archive of the paper element is in preparation and will be deposited at the City and County Museum, Lincoln, within six months.

The site archive consists of :

Paper Element:

- x 1 Project Specification
- x 3 Watching Brief Record Sheets
- x 1 Sheet of site drawings
- x 1 Development plan showing foundation layout
- x 2 Colour print films

Object Element:

- x 1 Bag of medieval / post-medieval pottery

8.3 List of Contexts

- | | |
|-----|--|
| 100 | Dark Brown silty clay topsoil (partly removed). |
| 101 | Pinkish orange natural boulder clay. |
| 102 | Medium brownish grey slightly silty clay fill of 103 (14-16C). |
| 103 | NW - SE aligned field boundary ditch. |
| 104 | Medium brownish grey slightly silty clay fill of 105 (18C). |
| 105 | E - W aligned field boundary ditch. |
| 106 | Mottled brownish yellow and grey upper deposit in 107. |
| 107 | Possible natural pool feature. |
| 108 | Black organic silt, primary deposit in 107. |

8.4 Post-Roman Pottery Analysis and Archive by Jane Young

pottery archive hrs99

<i>context</i>	<i>cname</i>	<i>form</i>	<i>nosh</i>	<i>nov</i>	<i>dec</i>	<i>part</i>	<i>description</i>
<i>100</i>							
	POTT	cookpot	1	1		BS	
	TB	jug/jar	1	1		base	
	GRE	jar	1	1		BS	16th?
	BERTH	bowl?	1	1		BS	fine fabric sim to CIST
	GRE	bowl?	1	1		base	
	CIST	cup	1	1		base	
<i>102</i>							
	TB	jug/jar	1	1		BS	no glze;poss med
<i>104</i>							
	TB	jug/jar	1	1		base	
	BERTH	bowl	1	1			18th
	STSL	jar/chamberpo	1	1	feather	BS	
<i>U/S</i>							
	TB	?	1	1		BS	int & ext glze;? ID;16/17th
	BERTH	?	1	1		base	glaze over part break;17/18t
	BERTH	bowl	1	1		BS	17/18th
	PGE	bowl	1	1			17/18th

pottery dates hrs99

<i>context</i>	<i>date range</i>
<i>100</i>	early 17th to late 17th century
<i>102</i>	14th to 16th century
<i>104</i>	18th century