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**ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF REPORT
PLOT 3, CHURCH LANE, GRAYINGHAM, LINCOLNSHIRE**

Site Code: CLG99
LCNCC Acc No. 23.99
NGR SK 9356 9621
Reference 97/P/0591

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Report prepared for Mr D Goodhand
by CPH Palmer-Brown
March 1999

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Fig. 1 General site location

Fig. 2 Details of plot and location of foundation trenches

Summary

- * *An archaeological watching brief took place during the groundworks for a detached dwelling and workshop on land north of Church Lane, Grayingham, Lincolnshire*

- * *Although a substantial deposit was recorded across wide areas, no significant archaeological features were exposed; only C19th/C20th rubbish deposits, presumed to be associated with a pigery that preceded the present development*

- * *Given that results on the footing trenches were entirely negative, and that these trenches were cut through a significant area within the overall site, service trenches were not monitored*

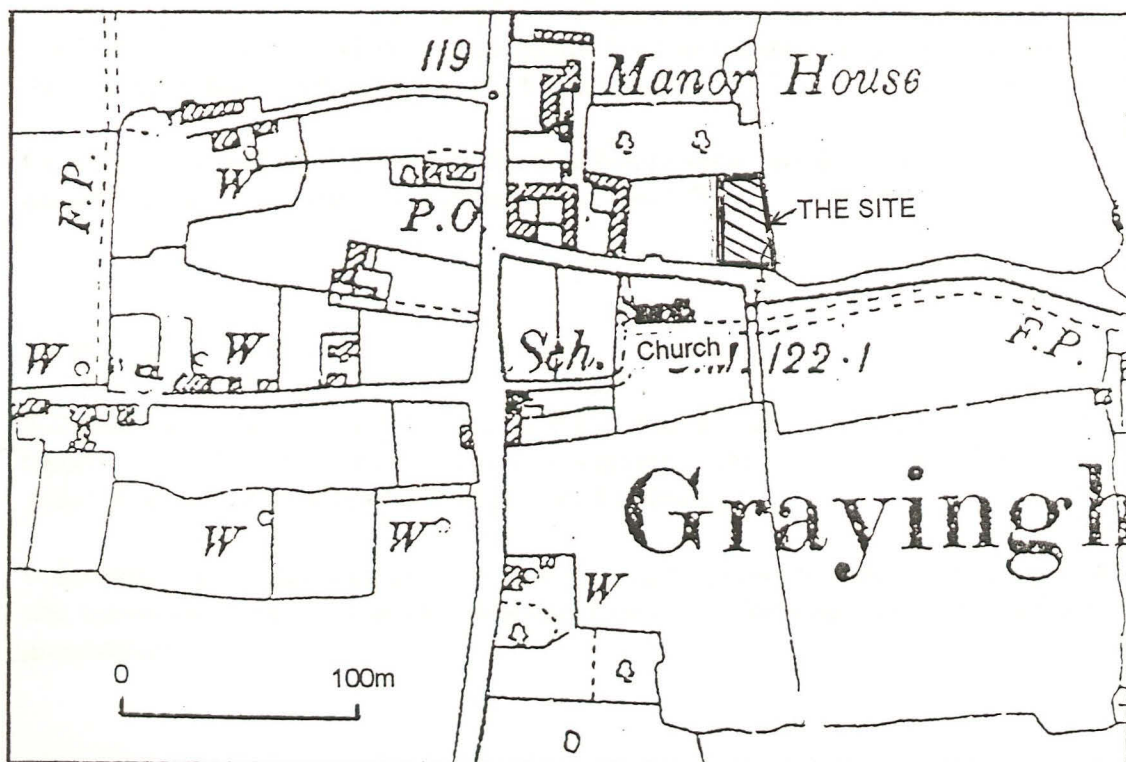


Fig. 1 1:10000 site location
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1.0 Introduction

An archaeological watching brief was carried out during the groundworks for a detached dwelling and workshop on land north of Church Lane, Grayingham (Fig. 1). The works were commissioned by Mr D Goodhand to fulfil a planning requirement, and centred on NGR SK9356 9621. This text documents the results of the fieldwork and post-fieldwork analysis. Copies of the report have been forwarded to the client, the District Planning Authority, the County Sites and Monuments Record, and the City and County Museum, Lincoln.

The project was carried out in accordance with an archaeological project specification dated January 18, 1999.

Work at the site commenced February 1 and was concluded the following day.

2.0 Location and description

Grayingham is approximately 12km north-east of Gainsborough, 1.5km south of Kirton in Lindsey. The settlement lies at the junction of the B1205 and the Grayingham Low Road in the administrative district of West Lindsey.

The development is on the east side of the village, north of Church Lane (almost directly opposite the church of St Radegund). Prior to the start of the groundworks, the site supported weed vegetation and building debris. Its former use was as a pigery.

Parent and drift geology common to the area comprises a complex of brown calcareous soils over Oolitic limestone (Straw 1969, 5 - 9).

3.0 Planning background

Full planning consent was granted for the erection of a single dwelling and outbuilding (application 97/P/0591). The permission was granted subject to the undertaking of an archaeological watching brief during ground disturbance.

A detailed archaeological project specification was prepared on January 18, 1999, and was submitted to the client and the Assistant County Archaeologist in advance of the groundworks.

4.0 Archaeological and historical background

As the site is less than 30m north-east of the parish church and fronts a medieval lane, there was a possibility that structural and other remains would be disturbed as a result

groundworks associated with the present development - the parish church was often a central focal point within early medieval nucleated villages.

The church itself, which is dedicated to St Radegund, contains elements dating to the C13th, including its broad west tower (Pevsner and Harris 1989, 327).

The manor house (to which it is assumed the site belonged in the medieval period) is approximately 90m north-west of the development. The present structure is a mid-C17th build, although the south wing is dated 1726 (*ibid*).

Earlier settlement evidence within the parish is abundant. Mesolithic (Middle Stone Age) artefact scatters have been recovered at SK 9525 9635. North-east of these finds at SK 9552 9611, quantities of Bronze Age pottery sherds have been recovered, which may relate to a known cemetery of this date. Of the same period, or possibly a little later, are a series of linear ditches; most notably approximately 2km east of the village. These features are known from aerial photographs and are revolutionising our understanding of early land use on the limestone dip slope (Everson 1991, 7).

The Roman road Ermine Street is approximately 2.5km east of the medieval village, and a Romano-British villa complex has been identified just to the north of Grayingham Grange. This complex may have followed a native (ie Iron Age) precursor.

With regard to the current site, its potential was perceived largely on the basis of its location within the medieval village core.

5.0 Requirement and objectives

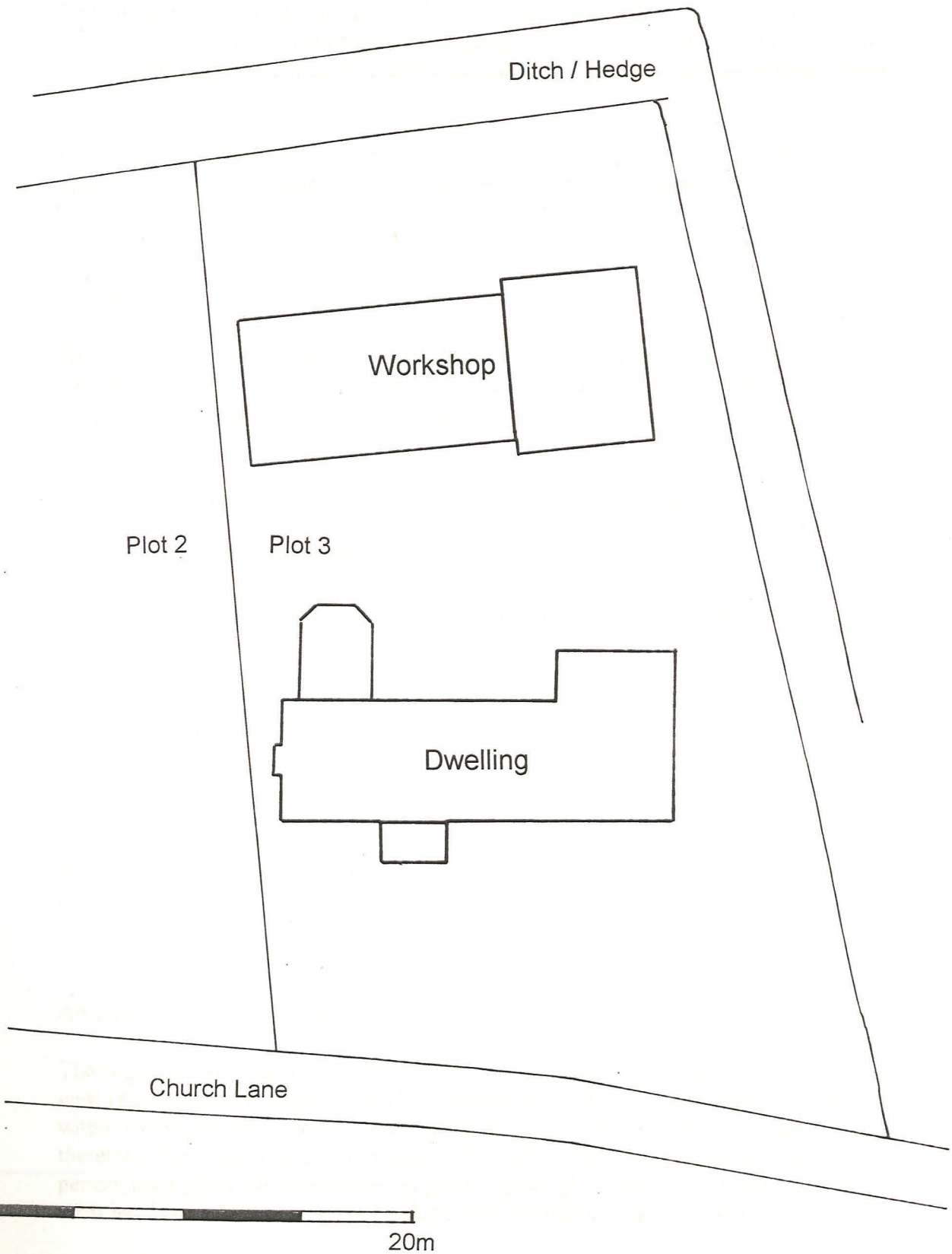
The purpose of the recording brief, in essence, was to identify and record archaeological remains exposed or disturbed as a result of the development; effectively, to preserve 'by record'; to create a comprehensive site archive (of both the object and paper elements), and to produce a report, both for the purpose of the client and the local planning authority. An archaeological watching brief is:-

“a programme of observation and investigation conducted during the destruction of archaeological deposits, resulting in the preparation of a report and ordered archive” (Institute of Field Archaeologists, *Standard Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs*, 1994).

6.0 Methodology

Foundation trenches for the dwelling and the workshop were excavated by JCB. The site of the new dwelling is approximately 8m north of the frontage, with the workshop lying to the rear of the plot (Fig. 2). Part of this area had been occupied by a pigery.

Fig. 2 Details of plot and location of foundation trenches



Foundation trenches were generally excavated to a depth approximately 1.0m below modern ground surface.

All earth removal was carefully monitored, and section and plan surfaces were intermittently cleaned by trowel to look for archaeological activity.

Recording was undertaken using pro-forma Watching Brief Record Sheets, and a photographic record was maintained throughout. On this occasion, no detailed section drawings were produced, as the only features of any vague archaeological significance were modern.

Following the completion of fieldwork, a site archive was prepared. This may be accessed at Lincoln City and County Museum by quoting the Global Accession Number 23.99.

7.0 Results

As noted above, much of the area was characterised by overlying rubble and relatively modern intrusive features (pits) filled with black soil and brick fragments. In addition, there was a substantial amount of ground water present, making the work difficult and messy.

For the most part, the general stratigraphy may be summarised as follows:-

- i. modern ground surface
/
- ii. 30 - 50cm of modern topsoil/overburden (incorporating brick rubble, mortar and stone)
/
- iii. 25 - 30cm of light brown sandy clay containing occasional small stones and occasional flecks of charcoal
/
- iv. natural stiff yellow clay

No significant archaeological features were exposed within any of the foundation trenches.

8.0 Conclusions and discussion

The negative results at both this site and an earlier development a short distance to the west (Palmer-Brown 1995) is surprising, given the location of both developments within what must have been the heart of the medieval settlement. It is possible, therefore, that much of the land to the north of Church Lane was, in the medieval period, used solely for agricultural purposes. Although the earlier brief was centred in what had been a C19th crew yard (which incorporated a great deal of later

post-medieval disturbance), the stratigraphy at the present site appeared to be largely intact. One interesting feature was the substantial soil build-up above the natural stratum that was seen in almost all areas. This layer was up to 30cm thick and, whilst generally clean, it incorporated sparse fragments of charcoal throughout. It may have been purposefully deposited.

9.0 References

Everson, P 1991 *Change and Continuity: Rural Settlement in North-West Lincolnshire*

Morris, J (general editor) 1986 *Domesday Book: Lincolnshire*

Palmer-Brown, C 1995 *Archaeological Watching Brief Report, Church Lane, Grayingham* (unpublished)

Pevsner, N and Harris, J 1989 *The Buildings of England: Lincolnshire*

Straw, A 1969 *Lincolnshire Soils*

Appendix 1.



P.1 General view of the foundation trenching in progress, looking south.



P.2 General view of house foundation trenches looking west, showing rubble from demolished agricultural buildings.