

John Samuels Archaeological Consultants

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An Archaeological Watching Brief

at Plots 1-5, Land adjacent to 21 Roman Bank, Moulton Seas End, Lincolnshire

NGR TF 325 276

undertaken by

John Samuels Archaeological Consultants

on behalf of

Ashwood Homes
Holbeach Manor
Fleet Road
Holbeach
Lincolnshire
PE12 7AX

JSAC 337/98/03
April 1998

Site Code : RBM 97
Accession No : 300.97

Also at : Witham Park House, Waterside South, Lincoln LN5 7JP Telephone 01522 880050

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Summary

John Samuels Archaeological Consultants was commissioned by Ashwood Homes to undertake an archaeological watching brief during groundworks in connection with residential development on land north of Roman Bank, Moulton Seas End, Lincolnshire.

Observation during foundation trenching for four plots, and the excavations of five septic tanks, did not identify any archaeological features or significant artefacts.

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 Ashwood Homes was granted planning permission in November 1997 for the erection of five detached bungalows on land off Roman Bank, Moulton Seas End, Lincolnshire. Approval was subject to conditions: condition 4 required the undertaking of an archaeological watching (recording) brief to be maintained during development to an agreed scheme of works. A specification (*JSAC 337/97/02*) detailing the methodology for undertaking the brief was approved by the Local Planning Authority prior to the commencement of fieldwork in March 1997.
- 1.2 Moulton Seas End is situated within the administrative district of South Holland approximately 4.5km north-west of Holbeach and 3.5km north of Moulton. The site lies on the east side of the village immediately north of the course of 'Roman Bank', centred at NGR TF 325 276.
- 1.3 The area is generally flat with only slight topographic variation at an altitude of approximately 5m OD. The geology is comprised of marine alluvium giving rise to deep stoneless calcareous loose silty soils (SSEW 1983, sheet 4).
- 1.4 This document forms the report on the watching brief undertaken on behalf of Ashwood Homes in March 1997, and has been written by Simon Johnson BA in conjunction with John Samuels BA Ph.D FSA MIFA. It conforms to 'Archaeology and Planning' *Planning Policy Guidance Note 16*, is in accordance with current best archaeological practice, and the appropriate national and regional standards and guidelines, including:

Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs (Institute of Field Archaeologists, 1994)

Management of Archaeological Projects(English Heritage, 1991)

Standard Brief for Archaeological Projects in Lincolnshire (Lincolnshire County Council, 1997)

2.0 Archaeological and historic background

- 2.1 Moulton lies within the southern Lincolnshire Fens between Spalding and Holbeach. The area is rich in archaeological sites of all periods with particular emphasis on salt processing although little excavation has taken place.
- 2.2 Many of the sites in the Moulton area have been discovered through aerial photography with the fertile soil, derived from marine alluvium being suitable for the creation of cropmarks. Sites are known in Moulton East and West Fens, Plover Hall, Woodgate Farm, Moulton Chapel and others which testify to the intensive use of the fens at an early date.
- 2.3 The site is situated in Moulton Seas End, approximately 3.5km north of Moulton village. Further cropmark sites have been identified in the area, but of particular significance to the watching brief is the course of the 'Roman Bank' lying immediately to the south of the site. Despite its name, this is thought to be of late Saxon or early medieval date and was an early form of sea defence.

3.0 Methodology

- 3.1 Archaeological monitoring comprised observation during groundworks followed by recording of the natural deposits exposed. The section faces of all foundation trenches were scanned for morphological changes and intermittently cleaned to expose the stratigraphic succession.
- 3.2 Recording was undertaken using a system based on the Museum of London's *Archaeological Site Manual* with each stratigraphic unit being allocated a unique catalogue (context) number. The deposits were photographed, drawn to scale, and described on pro-forma context sheets.

4.0 Results

4.1 The foundation trenches of Plots 1 and 3-5 were monitored , together with the excavations for all five septic tanks. No archaeological features or significant deposits were exposed. The natural weathering profile may be summarised as:

Context	Depth	Description
100	0.30m	Undifferentiated dark brown silt with rare sub-rounded pebbles. Topsoil.
101	1.90m	Homogenous yellow-brown coarse silt with occasional sub-rounded pebble inclusions. Natural flood accumulation.
102	Undetermined	Dark grey reduced coarse silt. Natural flood deposit.

4.2 The foundation trenches were excavated to a depth of 0.70m with a width of 0.65m. The septic tank excavations measured approximately 2.00 x 2.00m with a depth of between 2.20m and 2.50m below reduced ground level. It was not determined whether the grey silt (102) was reduced by waterlogging or represented a single major flood event.

4.3 A single find of fired silt was recovered from a secondary context. This had a mass of less than 1g, showed no structural form, and has been discarded.

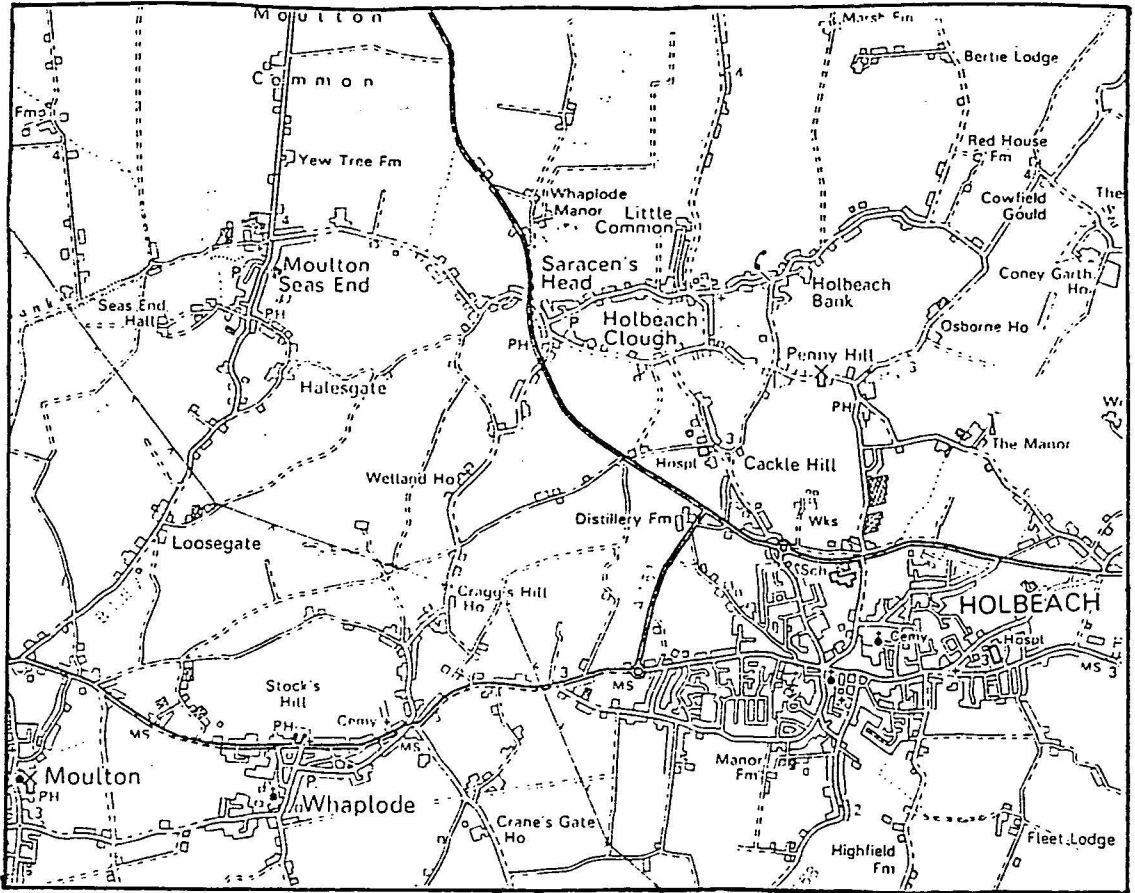
5.0 Conclusions

- 5.1 Monitoring of groundworks for residential development on land off Roman Bank, Moulton Seas End, did not identify any archaeological features or deposits.
- 5.2 Prior to the wholesale drainage and reclamation of the Fens from the seventeenth century onwards, the Fens formed a marginal environment. Settlement was constantly threatened by a succession of marine transgression and regression resulting in sometimes seasonal land use which has been rarely identified. Each event left (sometimes extensive) deposits of sand and silt, such as those exposed on the site, which has been responsible for preserving archaeological remains.
- 5.3 These sites are often situated on the slightly higher ground of extinct river channels and creeks, known as roddons, giving a diffused settlement pattern. Negative information, such as the current project, is still of value in mapping the extent of occupation within the Fens where settlement foci are difficult to predict.

6.0 Figures

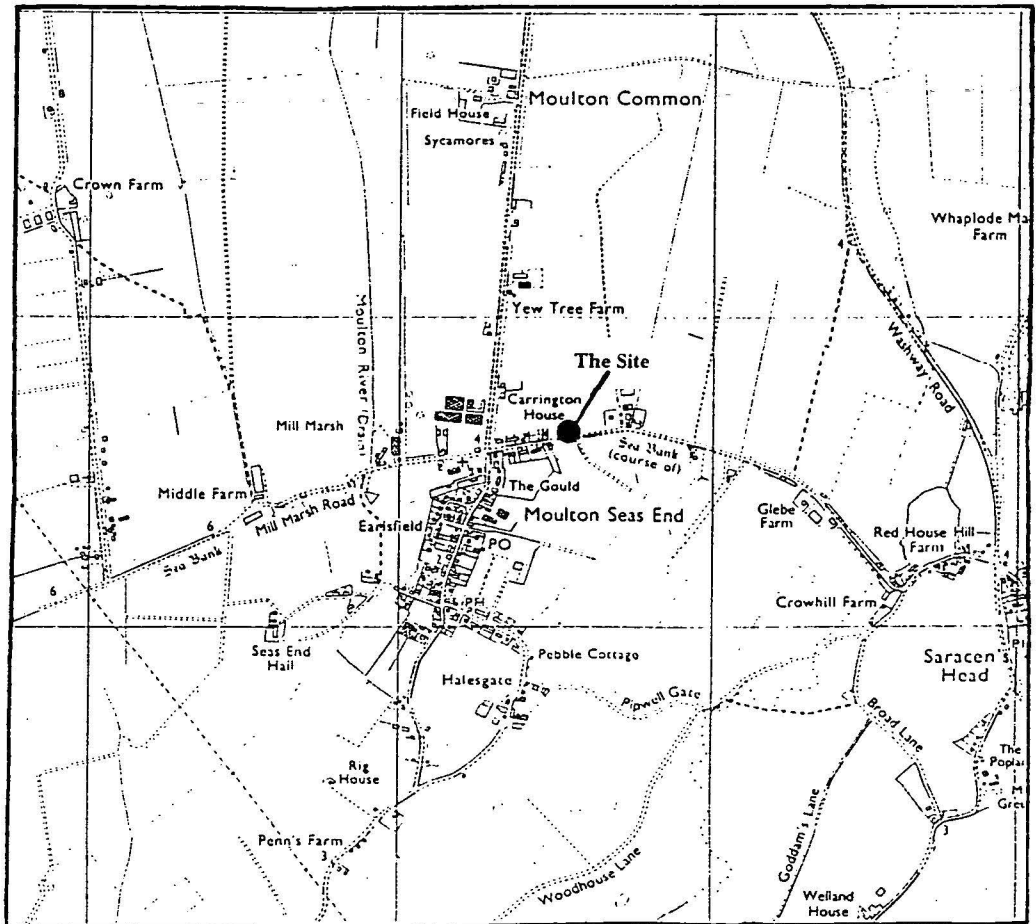
Figure 1 : Site Location

Figure 2 : Site general arrangement, 1:500



Note : Map based upon Ordnance Survey with the sanction of the Controller of H.M. Stationery Office, Crown Copyright Reserved. Licence No. AL 52216A0001

1:50,000



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Fig. 1: Site Location

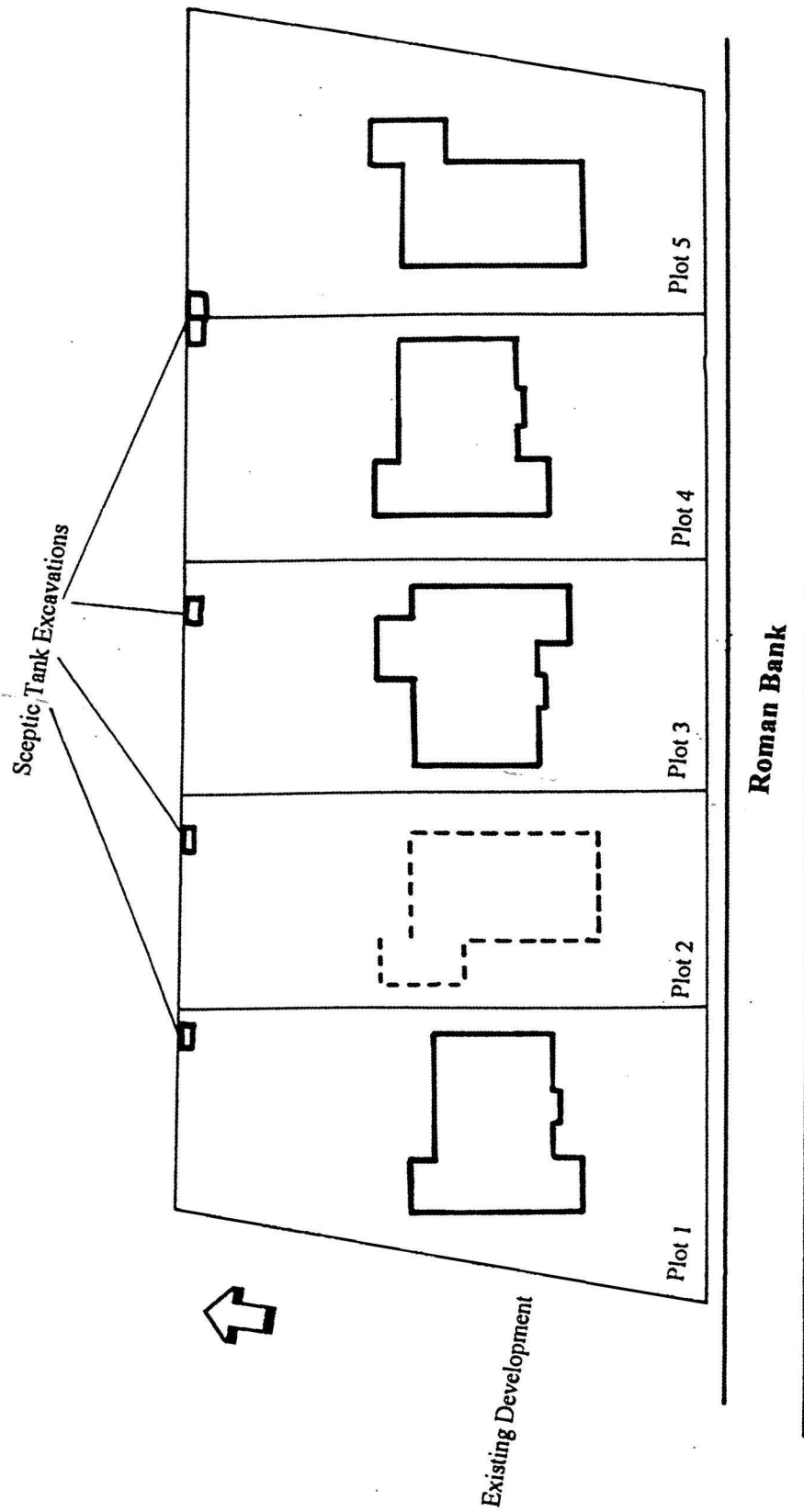


Fig. 2: Site General Arrangement, 1:500

7.0 Photographs

Plate 1 : Working shot showing foundation trenching, Plot 5, looking north-west

Plate 2 : Sceptic Tank excavation. The reduced grey alluvium (102) can be seen at the base of the cutting. Plot 5, looking east

Plate 3 : Representative section showing natural weathering profile. Plot 1, looking north



Plate 1



Plate 3



Plate 2

Plate 1: Working shot showing foundation trenching, Plot 5, looking north-west.

Plate 2: Sceptic Tank excavation. The reduced grey alluvium (102) can be seen at the base of the cutting. Plot 5, looking east.

Plate 3: Representative section showing natural weathering profile. Plot 1, looking north.

Appendix A : Specification for an Archaeological Watching Brief

John Samuels Archaeological Consultants

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Telephone 01636 821727 Fax 01636 822080



Specification for an Archaeological Watching Brief

at

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NGR TF 325 276

Produced by

John Samuels Archaeological Consultants

on behalf of

**Ashwood Homes
Holbeach Manor
Fleet Road
Holbeach
Lincolnshire
PE12 7AX**

Site Code: RBM 97

Acc. No: LCNCC 300.97

JSAC 337/97/02

December 1997

Also at : Witham Park House, Waterside South, Lincoln LN5 7JP Telephone 01522 880050

Specification for an Archaeological Watching Brief

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Non-technical summary

This specification has been prepared by *John Samuels Archaeological Consultants* for Ashwood Homes Ltd. It describes the objectives and methodology for an archaeological watching brief which is to be maintained during groundworks in connection with residential development on land adjacent to 21 Roman Bank, Moulton Seas End, Spalding, Lincolnshire.

1.0 Site location and description

- 1.1 Moulton Seas End is situated within the administrative district of South Holland approximately 4.5km north-west of Holbeach and 3.5km north of Moulton. The site lies on the east side of the village immediately north of the course of 'Roman Bank', centred at NGR TF 325 276.
- 1.2 The area is generally flat with only slight topographic variation at an altitude of approximately 5m OD. The geology is comprised of marine alluvium giving rise to deep stoneless calcareous loose silty soils (SSEW).

2.0 Planning background

- 2.1 A planning application has been submitted for residential development on the site which is centred on NGR TF 325 276 at an altitude of approximately 5.0m OD (figure 1).
- 2.2 The Local Planning Authority (LPA), South Holland District Council, approved the application in November 1997 subject to conditions (Appendix A). Condition 4 required that an archaeological watching (recording) brief be maintained during all stages of development involving ground disturbance in accordance with a written scheme of works approved, in advance by the LPA.
- 2.3 Ashwood Homes Ltd has commissioned *John Samuels Archaeological Consultants* to prepare a watching brief specification and, an approval by the LPA, to undertake the watching brief.
- 2.4 This document forms the specification for undertaking the watching brief and conforms to the requirements of *Planning Policy Guidance Note 16 : Archaeology and Planning* (DoE, 1990). It is in accordance with current best archaeological practice and the appropriate national standards and guidelines, including :

Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs (Institute of Field Archaeologist, 1994);

Management of Archaeological Projects (English Heritage, 1991);

Standard Brief for Archaeological Projects in Lincolnshire (Lincs. c.c 1997)

3.0 Archaeological background

- 3.1 Moulton lies within the southern Lincolnshire Fens between Spalding and Holbeach. The area is rich in archaeological sites of all periods with particular emphasis on salt processing although little excavation has taken place.
- 3.2 Many of the sites in the Moulton area have been discovered through aerial photography with the fertile soil, derived from marine alluvium being suitable for the creation of cropmarks. Sites are known in Moulton East and West Fens, Plover Hall, Woodgate Farm, Moulton Chapel and others which testify to the intensive use of the fens at an early date.
- 3.3 The site is situated in Moulton Seas End, approximately 3.5km north of Moulton village. Further cropmark sites have been identified in the area, but of particular significance to the current project is the course of the 'Roman Bank' lying immediately to the south of the site. Despite its name, this is thought to be of late Saxon or early medieval date and was an early form of sea defence.
- 3.4 Although it is unlikely that any deposits associated with the construction of the 'Roman Bank' will be encountered there is the possibility that remains from at least the Romano-British period onwards may be discovered. Given the extent of cropmarks in the form of enclosure systems known within the broader area, there is the possibility that field systems and even light industrial deposits may be found.

4.0 Objectives

- 4.1 The overall objective of the recording brief will be to monitor all ground disturbance during the course of the development in order to establish whether any significant deposits survive within the site where remains are identified it will be necessary to ensure their preservation by record where they may not be left *in situ*. This may require limited excavation in order to define the date, extent and importance of any such remains.

5.0 Methodology

5.1 Fieldwork

- 5.1.1 The watching brief will take the form of supervision by suitably qualified professional archaeologists to monitor all groundworks as they commence and proceed on a comprehensive basis. In practice, this will involve:
- a Supervision of topsoil removal
 - c Inspection of subsoil for archaeological features
 - d Recording of archaeological features in plan
 - e Rapid excavation of features to determine date/significance
 - f Supervision of subsoil stripping
 - g Inspection of natural for archaeological features
 - h Recording/excavation of features
 - i Recording of section faces
- 5.1.2 Adequate facilities shall be provided by the developer for archaeological staff to observe earth moving operations in progress and to facilitate the recording of features as detailed in 6.1.1 above.
- 5.1.3 Recording will be done on pro-forma context sheets based on the Museum of London recording system and supplemented with photography and scale drawings with heights OD where appropriate.
- 5.1.4 Any artefacts of antiquity shall, after analysis and recording, form the object element of the site archive. This excludes items of gold and silver which by law must be reported to Her Majesty's Coroner. A comprehensive documentary archive will be prepared following project completion and deposited with the City and County Museum, Lincoln.
- 5.1.5 If human remains are encountered they will be left *in situ* and the discovery reported to the Coroners Office. If the remains need to be removed then this will be done under the provisions of the Burial Act 1857 and in compliance with an exhumation licence from the Home Office.
- 5.1.6 Every effort will be made to implement the watching brief without affecting the construction timetable.

- 5.1.7 Should surviving archaeological remains which are potentially of regional or national significance be identified, it will be necessary to liaise with the County Archaeological Officer to formulate a strategy designed to establish their character, distribution, extent, condition, dating and further treatment.
- 5.1.8 Where groundworks are suitably advanced without having produced any significant remains, a request will be made to the County Archaeological Officer for an early termination of the brief.

5.2 Post-excavation

- 5.2.1 Following completion of fieldwork a report will be produced within months describing the location, extent and significance of any remains or significant environmental deposits recorded during the brief. The report will also include specialist descriptions of artefacts and ecofacts (where applicable) together with an assessment of the importance of the findings.
- 5.2.2 Copies of the report will be deposited with the County Sites and Monuments Record, the Local Planning Authority, the County Archaeological Officer and the client.

5.3 Personnel

- 5.3.1 It is expected that the fieldwork will be undertaken by one experienced field archaeologist under the direction of Dr J Samuels FSA, MIFA. Further qualified staff will be made available as necessary. Specialist assistance, where required, will be provided by the following:

Jane Cowgill	-Small Finds/metalworking slag and fired Clay
Robert White	-Conservation
John Samuels	-Roman pottery
James Rackham	-Environmental sampling

Should other remains not covered by the above specialisations be encountered then a suitable specialist will be appointed following discussions with the County Archaeological Officer.

6.0 Monitoring

- 6.1 The aims of monitoring are to ensure that the archaeological works are undertaken within the limits set by the specification and to the satisfaction of the Local Planning Authority.
- 6.2 Internal supervision of the archaeologist charged with undertaking the brief will be maintained by Dr J Samuels FSA MIFA or a senior member of *JSAC* staff.
- 6.3 The County Archaeological Officer will be given sufficient notice of when work is to commence. He will be welcome to visit the site as he wishes and will be kept informed of progress. Should any unexpected significant discoveries be made he will be notified and his advice sought.

7.0 Archive

- 7.1 Following the completion of fieldwork and acceptance of the report by the Local Planning Authority, an ordered archive of both object and paper elements will be prepared. This will conform to 'Site Archive' level as defined in *Management of Archaeological Projects* (English Heritage 1991) and will be deposited with the City and County Museum, Lincoln.

- 7.2 Should significant remains be discovered during the course of the brief, and post-excavation assessment identifies the need for fuller publication, then a secondary research archive will also be prepared.

8.0 Reporting procedures

8.1 Interim report

8.1.1 Following completion of fieldwork a report detailing the project will be produced within one month. The reports final format will depend upon the nature and significance of any archaeology recorded within the site. As a minimum, however, it will contain:

- a Non-technical summary
- b Introduction
- c Planning background
- d Archaeological and historic background
- e Methodology
- f Results
- g Discussion/conclusion
- h Artefactual, contextual and environmental descriptions/assessments
- i Colour photographs and scale drawings as appropriate

The report shall also contain a suitable list of contents and a cover page detailing:

- a Site Address
- b Site Code and Accession No.
- c Nation Grid Reference
- d Author/originating body

8.2 Publication and dissemination

8.2.1 Deposition of the interim report with the County Sites and Monuments Record will be taken as placing the information within the public domain.

8.2.2 A short note detailing the results of the brief will submitted to the editor of the county journal *Lincolnshire History and Archaeology* for inclusion in a future edition.

8.3 Report Forms

8.3.1 Following completion of fieldwork a *Lincolnshire Environmental Archaeology Report Form* will be completed.

8.3.2 Following project completion an *Archaeological Fieldwork Record Form* (SCAUM, 1997) will be completed and sent to the County Sites and Monuments Record and the National Monuments Record.

8.4 Copyright

8.4.1 In accordance with the provisions of the *Copyright Design and Patents Act 1988*, the archaeological contractors shall retain intellectual property rights on all reports and recordings resulting from the project. Ashwood Homes and any other authorised archaeological body shall be permitted free access to all materials and records, and shall be provided with copies of records on request.

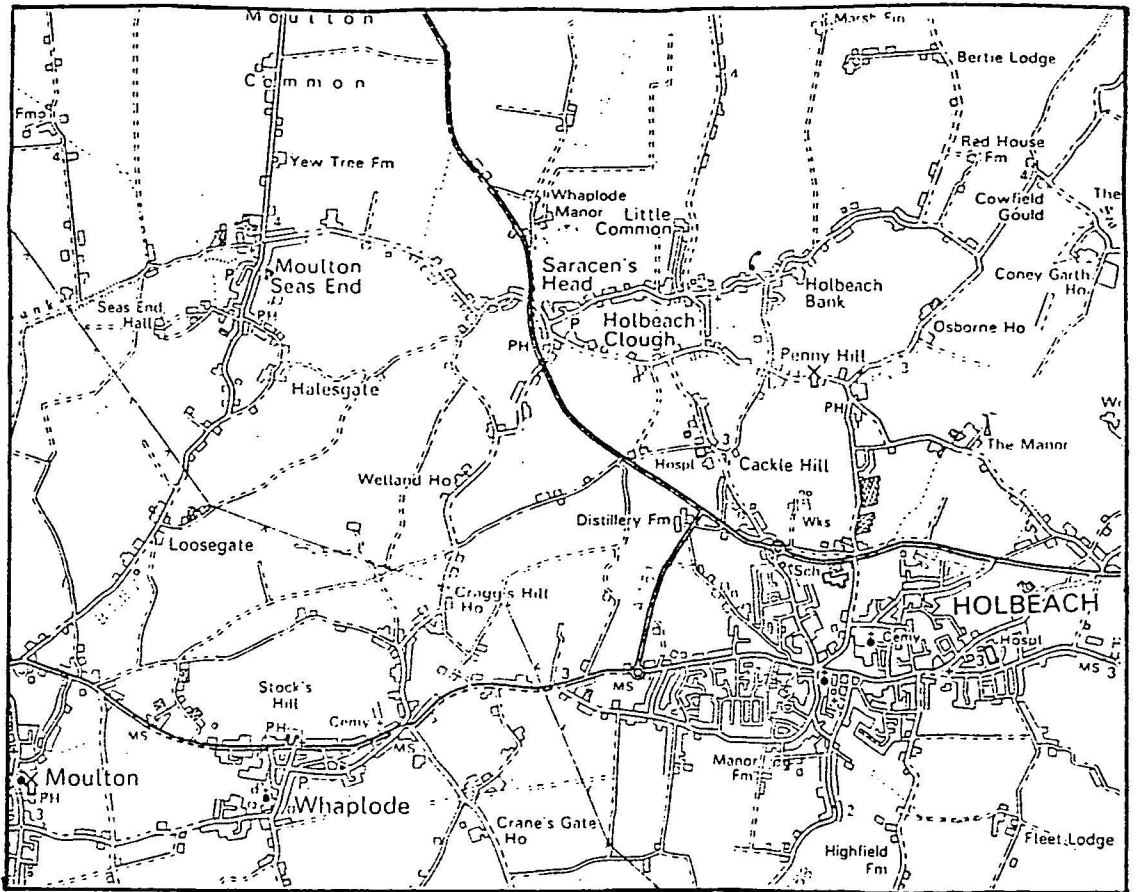
9.0 Health and safety

- 9.1 It is the policy of John Samuels Archaeological Consultants ('the Employer') to conform fully with the requirements of the Health & Safety at Work Etc. Act (1974).
- 9.2 It is accepted that it is the duty of the Employer to ensure, so far as is reasonably practical, the health and safety of all his employees at work.
- 9.3 The employer also has a duty to ensure that his employees are aware of their responsibility for their own health and safety, and for the health and safety of others, including the general public, who might be affected by their work.
- 9.4 Where employees are temporarily engaged at other workplaces, they are to respect relevant local regulations, both statutory and as imposed by other employers within the Health and Safety at Work etc. Act (1974).
- 9.5 In furtherance of the duty of care imposed by the Health & Safety at Work etc. Act (1974), the Employer shall make available to his employees whatever reasonable facilities are required by particular circumstances, e.g appropriate protective clothing, safety equipment, rest breaks for specialised tasks, etc.
- 9.6 Attention is paid to the requirements of more recent legislation including the provision and use of *Work Equipment Regulations 1992*, the *Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1992* and the *Construction (Design and Management) Regulations 1994*. A risk assessment is undertaken, a safety officer appointed and all aspects of health and safety-nominated during work.

10.0 Insurance

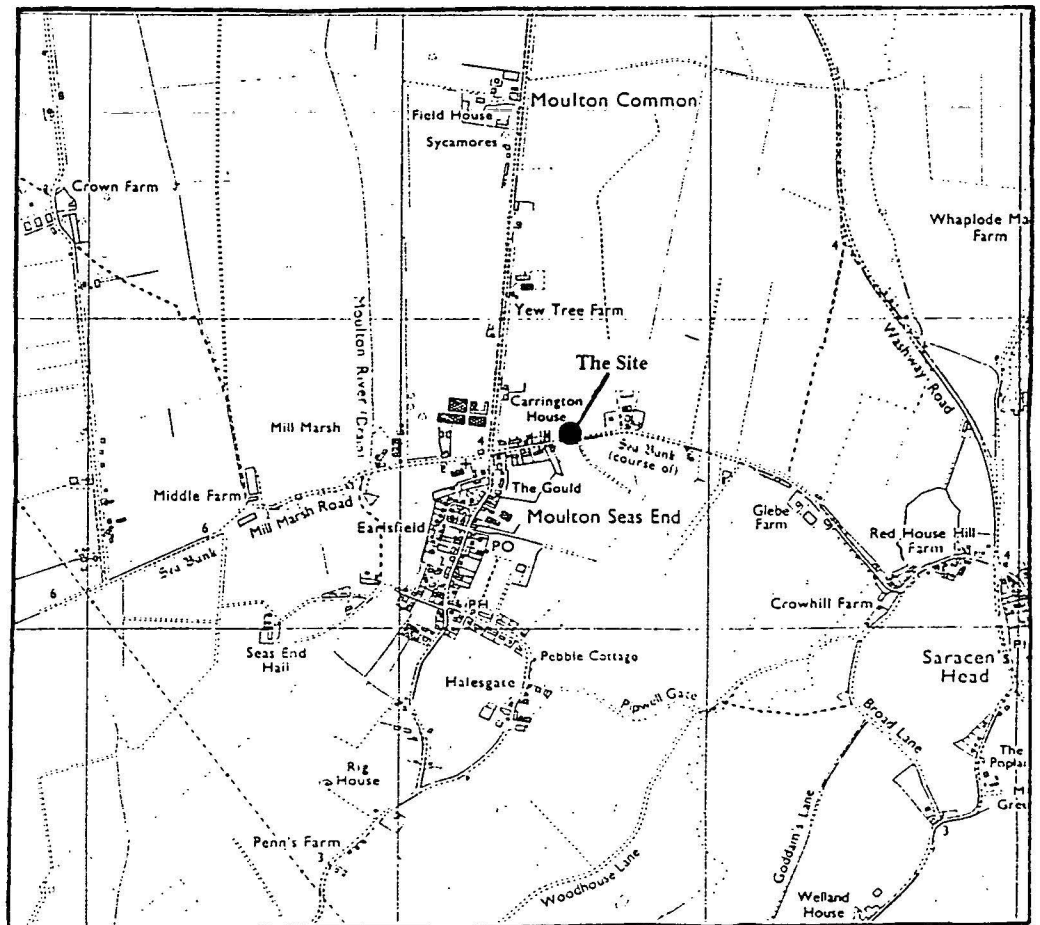
- 10.1 The archaeological contractor will produce evidence of Public Liability Insurance to the minimum value of £2m and Personal Indemnity Insurance to the minimum of £2m.

11.0 Figure



Note : Map based upon Ordnance Survey with the sanction of the Controller of H.M. Stationery Office, Crown Copyright Reserved. Licence No. AL 52216A0001

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Fig. 1: Site Location

Appendix A : Archaeological Planning Condition

Town and Country Planning Act 1990

Planning Permission

Reference: H13/0903/97

Received: 14-AUG-97 Type: FULL

Name: Kings Quality Homes
Holbeach Manor
Fleet Road
Holbeach, Spalding
Lincolnshire. PE12 7AX

Agent: Moulton Design
63 East Cobgate
Moulton
Spalding
Lincs PE12 6QJ

Description: Residential development - detached bungalows plots 1 - 5

Location : Land adj. no. 21 Roman Bank Moulton Seas End
Spalding Lincs

South Holland District Council hereby give notice that PERMISSION HAS BEEN GRANTED for the development in accordance with the application and plans submitted, subject to any condition(s) set out below:

- 1 The development must be begun not later than the expiration of five years beginning with the date of this permission.

Reason: As required by Section 91 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990.

- 2 The approved scheme of landscaping and/or screening shall be carried out in its entirety within a period of two years beginning with the date on which development of the land is commenced. The trees, shrubs or bushes shall be adequately maintained by the owner(s) of the land on which they are situated for a period of five years beginning with the date of completion of the scheme, and all losses shall be made good during that period.

Reason: In the interests of visual amenity and to ensure that the approved scheme is implemented satisfactorily.

- 3 Before the occupation of any dwelling, the timber fencing relating to the boundaries of that property as shown on the approved plan, shall be erected to the reasonable satisfaction of the Local Planning Authority.

Reason: In the interests of residential amenity.

- 4 Arrangements shall be made for an archaeologist recognised by the Local Planning Authority to monitor all stages of the development involving ground disturbance in accordance with a scheme to be submitted to and approved in writing by that Authority before development is commenced. A report of the archaeologist's findings shall be submitted to the Local Planning Authority within one month of the last day of the watching brief, and shall include arrangements for the conservation of artefacts removed from the site.

Reason: The site is of archaeological interest.

This permission is granted in accordance with the application submitted as revised by the amended plan (drawing no. 970707/001(a)) received by the Local Planning Authority on 28 August 1997.



Director of Housing and Planning Services
03-NOV-97 H13/0903/97

This decision refers only to that required for the purposes of the Town and Country Planning Act and not for Building Regulations or any other legislation. See enclosed notes relating to rights of appeal.