

99/19
**ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF REPORT
WARDENTREE PARK, PINCHBECK, SPALDING,
LINCOLNSHIRE.**

Site Code: WPP99
LCNCC Acc. No: 185.99
NGR: TF ~~2550 2530~~

TF 2530 2514



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Report prepared for Guttridge Services Ltd.
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Summary

- * *An archaeological watching brief took place on behalf of Guttridge Services Ltd. during the initial groundworks for a new industrial unit at Wardentree Park, Pinchbeck, Spalding.*

- * *Monitoring was limited to two lines of open cut pits, excavated to expose existing concrete piles, that effected two perpendicular transects of the site. After these had been monitored it was agreed with the Archaeology Officer that the watching brief should be terminated.*

- * *Of twenty pits monitored, only one traversed archaeological remains. This was a ditch, identical to a series of drainage ditches recorded in the immediate vicinity during an earlier watching brief.*

1.0 Introduction

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An archaeological watching brief was commissioned by Guttridge Services Ltd. during the groundworks for an industrial unit at Wardentree Park, Pinchbeck, Spalding (NGR TF ~~2550-2530~~). The brief was carried out in accordance with the guidelines set out in the Lincolnshire County Council Archaeology Section publication '*Lincolnshire Archaeological Handbook: A Manual of Archaeological Practice*' 1998 and in accordance with a specification prepared by Pre-Construct Archaeology.

2.0 Planning background

Planning permission was granted for the construction of a new industrial unit. It was a condition of this permission that a selective archaeological watching brief be undertaken during the course of the associated groundworks.

3.0 Location and description

Pinchbeck is in the administrative district of South Holland, approximately 3km north of Spalding. The site is located to the south-east of the village, north of Wardentree lane. It has recently been used for agricultural purposes and falls within a larger unit known as Wardentree Park.

The site lies within a flat zone characterised by alluvial silts (marine Upper Fen silts overlying Upper Fen peats, with intermittent lenses of estuarine Buttery Clay and peat). Mean elevation is approximately 3.0m OD.

4.0 Archaeological and historical background

An archaeological overview of the area has, to some extent, been established by the Fenland Survey (Hall and Coles 1994). Within Pinchbeck parish, the survey was restricted to the fen areas in the west of the parish (Hayes and Lane 1992, 110-118; 143-151). The survey has produced extensive evidence from the prehistoric to Romano-British periods.

During the later Saxon and medieval periods, the area in the west of the parish was inundated with water and became freshwater fen (ibid.).

An undated cropmark complex, apparently showing regular enclosures and droveways, has been recorded where it extends beneath the railway line and enters the south-west corner of the present site. The main area of this, to the west of the railway

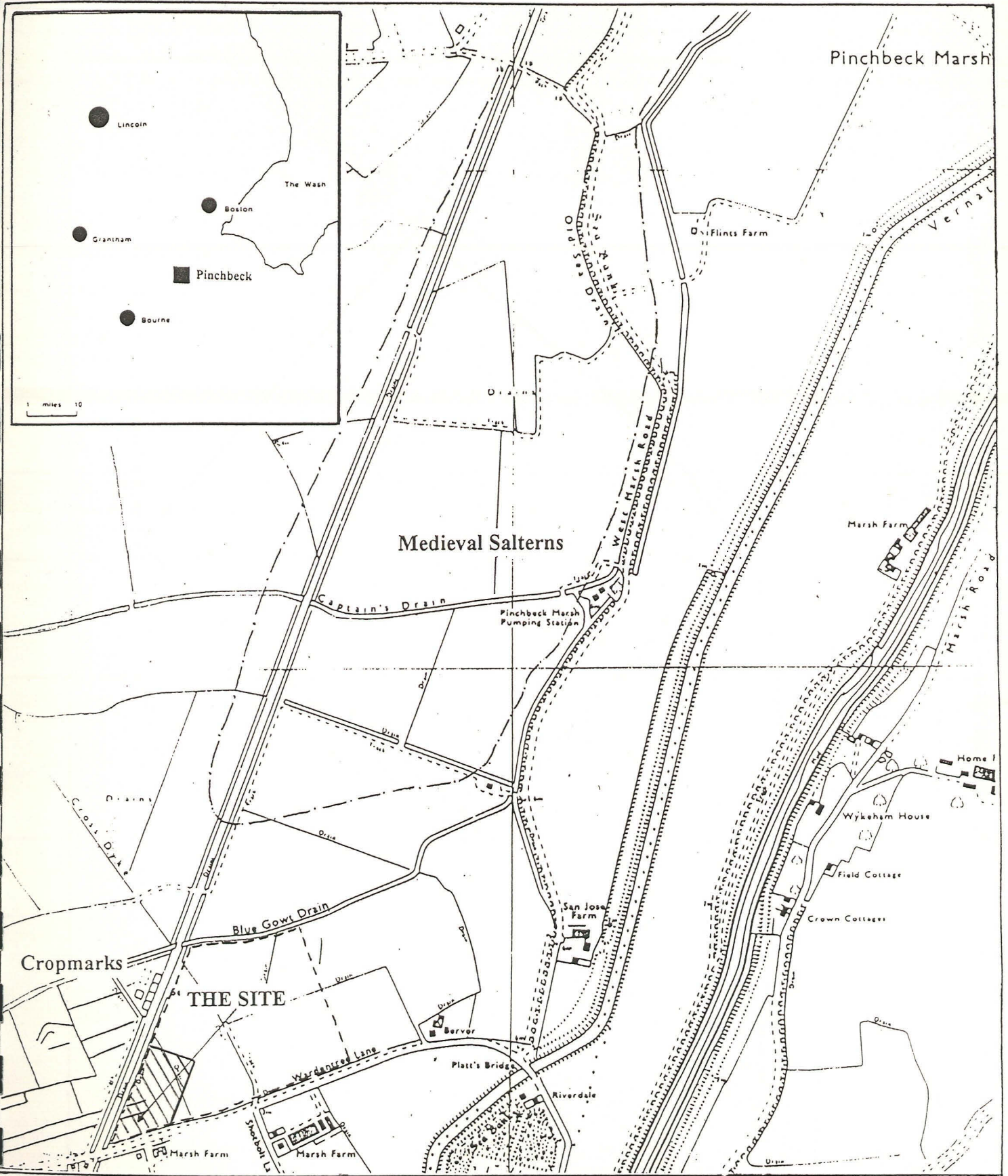


Fig. 1: Site location incorporating principal entries from the County Sites & Monuments Record (1:10,000) (OS Copyright Licence No: AL 515 21 A0001)

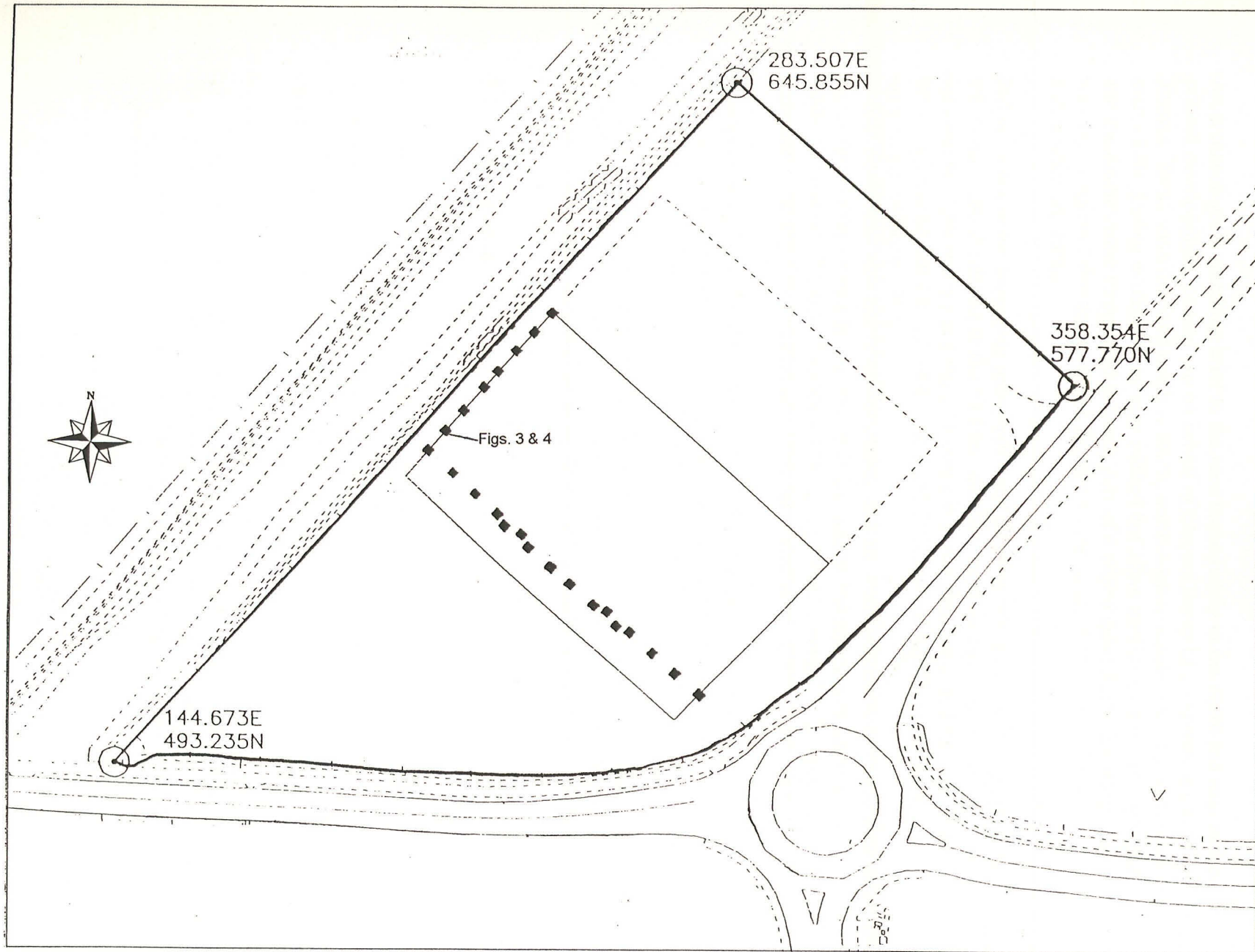


Fig. 2 Plan of the development area showing the location of the monitored pits. Scale 1:1250.

■ - open cut pit.

line, was built on approximately 10 years ago, without archaeological recording taking place.

An archaeological watching brief in the area immediately to the north and east of the present development, carried out on behalf of Elsoms Seeds Ltd, exposed a pattern of ditches. These were oriented north to south, north-west to south-east, and north-east to south-west. Dating evidence was very limited but a late medieval date was suggested and the ditches were interpreted as being part of a mixed agricultural landscape. It was also suggested that these related directly to the undated cropmark (Ridsdale and Palmer-Brown, 1998).

Further work in the area using geophysics and targeted trial excavation expanded on this picture and the dating of the ditches was fixed more firmly into the period between the 12th century and the 17th century. It has been proposed that the ditches form a combined pattern of land division and drainage and that they are purely agricultural (Albone 1999).

At the time of the Domesday Survey of 1086, land at Pinchbeck was held by Ivo Tallboys and Guy of Caron. In addition to the land that he held, Ivo Tallboys is recorded as having four fisheries and 1500 eels (Morris ed. 1986, 14.99; 57.52).

A large zone to the north of the site is recorded on the SMR as containing remains associated with medieval salt-making. This industry was extremely important on the Lincolnshire Coast and its origins can be traced as far back as the late Bronze Age.

The meaning of the place-name Pinchbeck (*Pinchbeck* in 1086) is uncertain. The second element clearly refers to a stream. The first element could derive from the Old English *Pinca*, meaning a finch or *pink*, meaning a minnow (Ekwall 1989, 367).

5.0 Methodology

The watching brief was undertaken by the writer on the 18th August 1999. Monitoring was limited to two lines of open cut pits, excavated to expose existing concrete piles, that effected two perpendicular transects of the site area (See Fig. 2). After these had been monitored it was agreed with the Archaeology Officer that the watching brief should be terminated.

The fieldwork consisted of archaeological observation during the excavation of the pits and a thorough inspection of all plan and section surfaces exposed as a result of the groundworks. A record was made of all soil horizons and archaeological features exposed. That record included scale drawings, colour photography, and written descriptions.

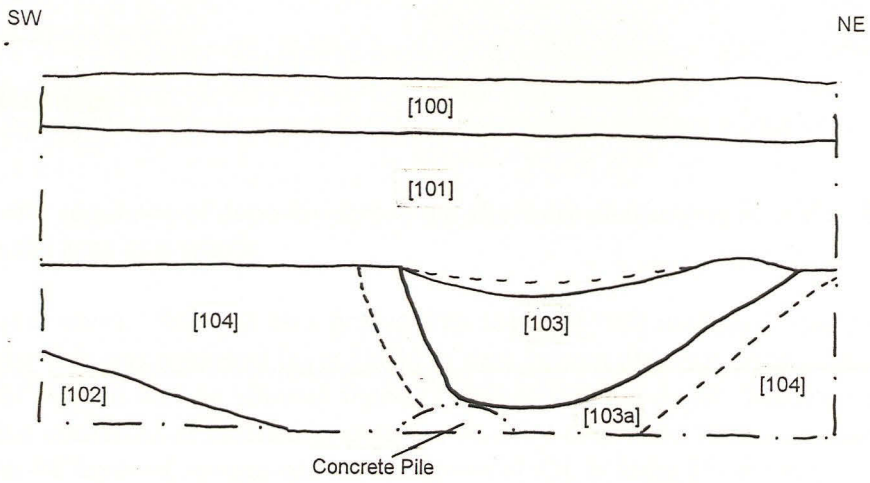


Fig. 3 Section showing ditch [103] and the natural stratigraphy, looking north-west.
Scale 1:20.

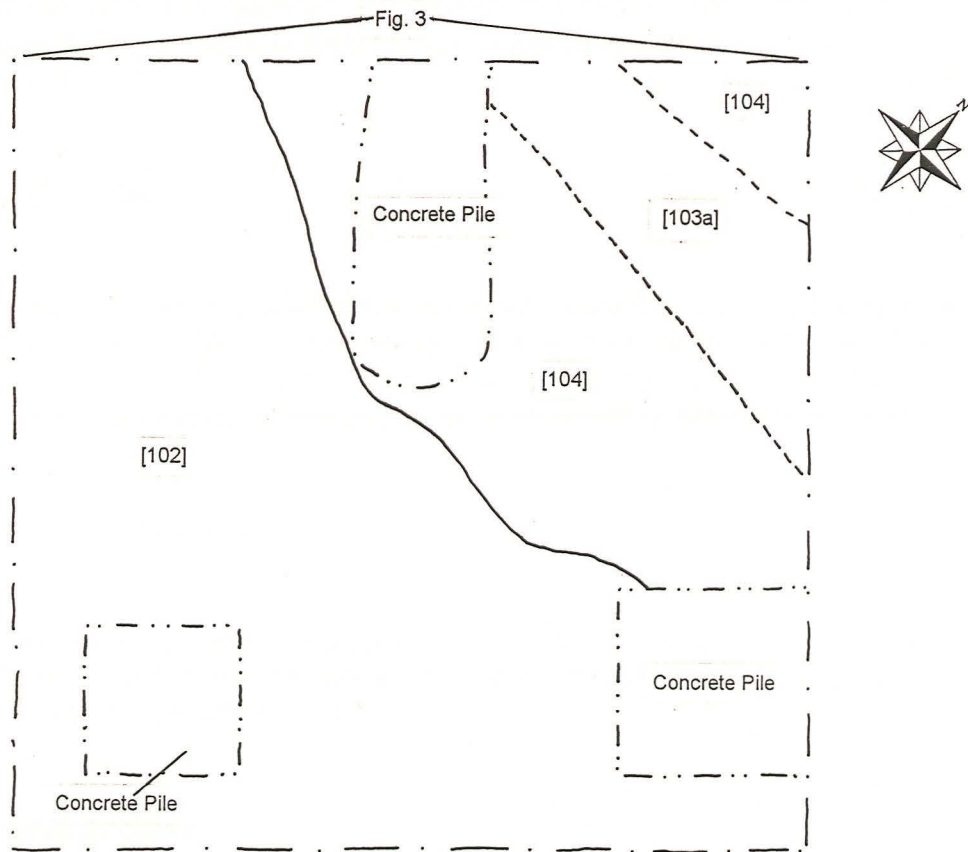


Fig. 4 Plan of pit cutting ditch [103], orientation of [103] is visible by the presence of deposit [103a]. Scale 1:20.

6.0 Results

The general sequence of deposits across the site were characteristic of the alluvial silts found in the area as a whole.

A thin layer (circa 15cm) of dark brown silty topsoil [100] remained over most of the site. Under this was a subsoil layer [101] of dark brown clay-silt circa 35cm deep. Below the subsoil was an alluvial deposit [104] of varying depth (between 24cm and 44cm) that consisted of mottled orange-brown silty-clay. The lowest deposit exposed was a natural layer of orange-brown sandy-silt [102], at least 15cm deep.

The only archaeological feature exposed was a shallow (38cm) ditch [103]. It was recorded obliquely in section and its orientation was established in plan. It had a U-shaped profile with asymmetrical sloping sides and a slightly irregular rounded base. The ditch cut through alluvial deposit [104] and it was clear that subsoil [101] had formed later than the ditch. Around the cut of the ditch was an ephemeral zone of blue-grey silty-clay [103a] which was probably modified by contact with water in the ditch. No artefacts were recovered from the ditch or from any deposit and therefore no firm date can be assigned to the feature or the stratigraphy. However, based on the results of earlier work, it is suggested that this feature was associated with a wider pattern of land drainage, probably dating to the later medieval and early post-medieval periods.

7.0 Conclusions

The groundworks that were monitored for this development had a minimal impact on archaeological remains. The ditch exposed in one of the pits was probably part of a system of drains identified during previous archaeological work in the immediate vicinity, and it is highly unlikely that further monitoring would have justified costs.

8.0 Acknowledgements

PCA would like to thank Guttridge Services Ltd., for commissioning this watching brief. Thanks are also due to Mark Bennet and Sarah Grundy for their assistance at the County Sites and Monuments Record.

9.0 Project archive

Primary records are currently with PCA; a project archive of all the paper element (including photographs) is in preparation. This will be deposited at the City and County Museum, Lincoln within six months following project completion. The

project archive may then be accessed at the Museum by quoting the global accession number: 185.99.

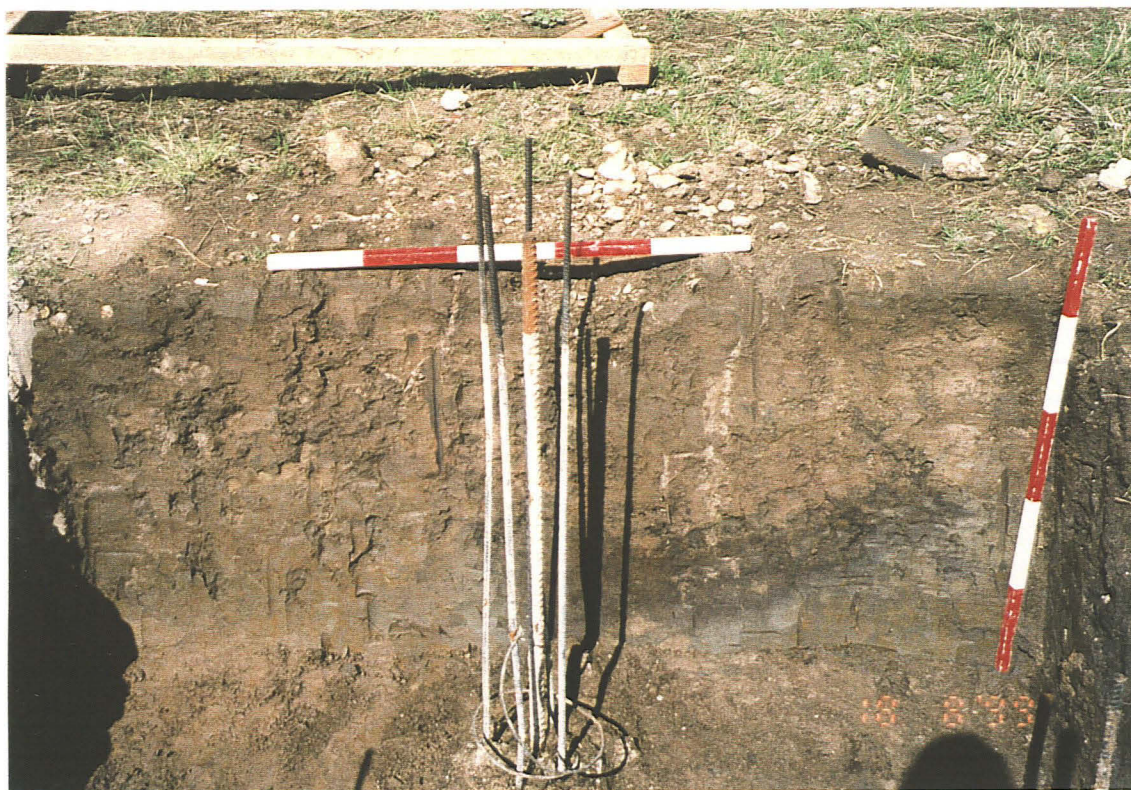
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Appendix 1.



P.1 General view of north-west to south-east line open cut pits, looking north-west.



P.2 North-west side of open cut pit showing section through ditch [103], looking north-west.



P.3 Working shot of open cut pits on north-east to south-west axis, looking north-east.



P.4 Working shot of open cut pits on north-east to south-west axis, looking south-west.