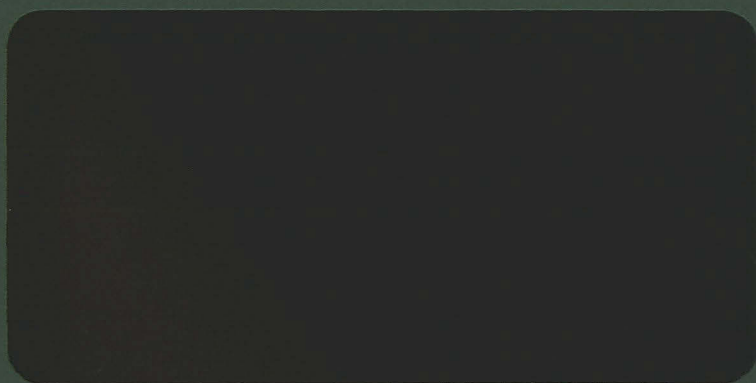


ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF REPORT  
BOSTON ROAD, WAINFLEET ST MARY,  
LINCOLNSHIRE

99/20

Site Code : WSM 99  
LCNCC Acc No. 245.99  
NGR : TF 549820 357589  
Planning Ref. : S/195/1139/99



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Report prepared for Truckmasters Handling Ltd  
by A.M. Hardwick  
October 1999-10-20

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### Summary

- \* *An archaeological watching brief was carried out during ground works for a single storey extension to a depot building situated in the angle of St Michaels Lane, Wainfleet St Mary, and the A52 Boston Road.*
- \* *Foundation trenches were carefully monitored and no significant archaeological features were detected. Modern pipe disturbance and dumped materials were observed, below which there appeared to be sterile alluvial material.*
- \* *It was concluded that no detectable archaeological features were disturbed by the foundation trenching and any significant archaeology may be sealed below the level of excavation.*

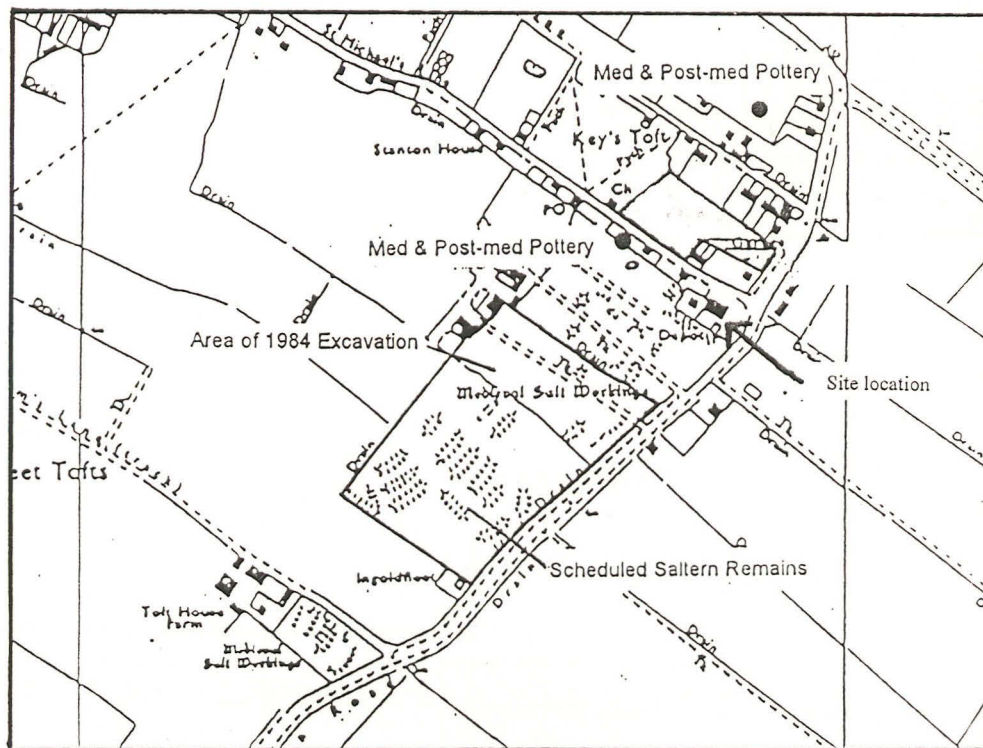


Fig. 1: Site location incorporating principal entries from the County Sites & Monuments Record (1:10000)  
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## 1.0 Introduction

An archaeological watching brief was commissioned by Truckmasters Handling Ltd. to fulfil a planning requirement issued by East Lindsey District Council. This related to ground works during extension of a structure situated in the angle of St Michaels Lane and Boston Road, Wainfleet St Mary, Lincolnshire. The brief was carried out in accordance with the guidelines set out in the Lincolnshire County Council Archaeology Section document 'Lincolnshire Archaeological Handbook: A Manual of Archaeological Practice' This report documents the results of the fieldwork, carried out on 19 October 1999.

## 2.0 Location and description

Wainfleet St Mary is in the administrative district of East Lindsey, approximately 7km south-west of Skegness and 22 km north east of Boston. It lies immediately south of Wainfleet All Saints, the two being separated by the River Steeping.

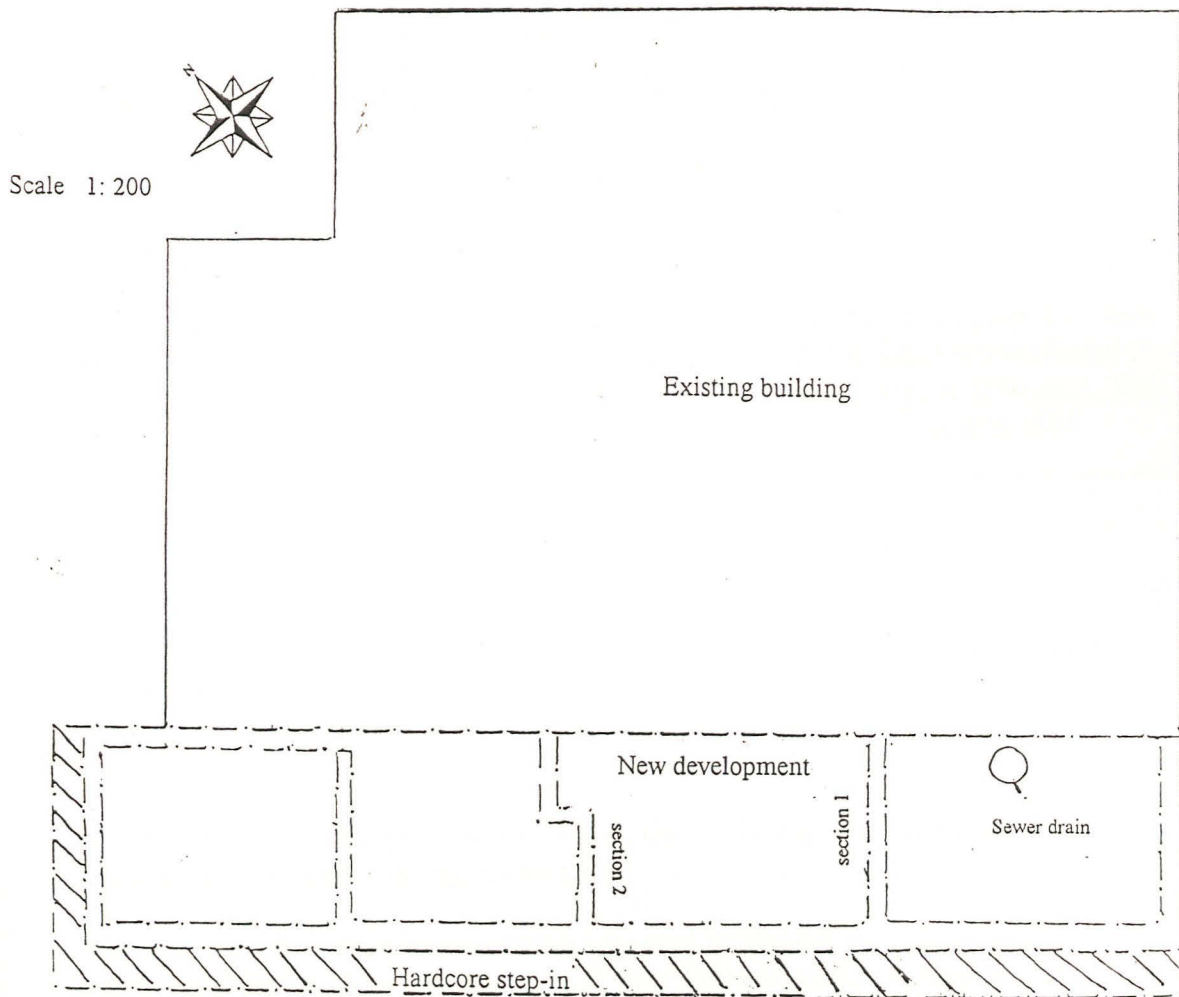


Fig. 2 Plan of area of excavation

----- • = boundaries of foundation trenches monitored

### **3.0 Planning background**

Full planning consent was granted for the construction of a single storey extension to a building belonging to Truckmasters Handling Ltd. The permission was granted subject to the undertaking of an archaeological watching brief during ground disturbance.

### **4.0 Archaeological and historical background**

Evidence suggested that the site may have been used for marine salt production in the late medieval / early post-medieval periods. An excavation by the Central Excavation Unit of English Heritage in 1984 revealed a number of features associated with the salt-making process. These included filtration units, clay-lined pits and the remains of waste mounds, the latter still visible as earthworks in areas adjacent to the present development.

Exceptionally well preserved lower deposits on the site included large quantities of contemporary leather footwear.

A site on the opposite side of St Michaels Lane was evaluated and subsequently excavated by Pre-Construct Archaeology (Lincoln) in 1998. This lies north-west of the development site. A series of filtration units related to salt making were discovered, and additionally evidence that there may have been a progressive shift of the industry from west to east. An evaluation off Goose Lane produced further evidence of medieval salt production, which suggests that the industry was widespread.

Salt production at Wainfleet and other centres along the Lindsey coast appears to have declined and ultimately ceased during the sixteenth century. This has been attributed to cheaper salt being imported from the Firth of Forth through the port of Boston. The imported salt was more competitively priced due to the removal of taxes in 1601.

### **5.0 Methodology**

Watching brief undertaken by the writer 19.10.99.

Foundation trenches for the building extension were excavated by machine using a 0.5m toothed bucket over a period of one day. Trenches were approximately 0.5m wide and 0.8m deep. Concrete surfacing had already been removed in the previous week.

All exposed section and plan surfaces were thoroughly inspected by trowel for archaeological evidence during excavation.

A written record of deposition horizons was kept on standard watching brief record sheets, and scale section drawings at 1:20 were made detailing the sequence of deposits on site. A 1:200 plan of the excavated areas, which deviated slightly from the original development plan, was drawn.

A colour photographic record was kept throughout.

## 6.0 Results

The site was approximately 0.6m x 30m, orientated NW – SE. Rubble hardcore overlay the excavation area. The site was heavily contaminated by modern substances and slightly waterlogged at its northern end. A circular sewer drain was visible at pre-excavation level below concrete in the south-east corner, suggesting management of excessive groundwater. Several sewer pipe cuts disturbed the area.

Below modern hardcore and the pipe cuts several similar relatively sterile deposits were observed. No archaeological features or artefacts were identified.

A compact yellowish brown layer approximately 0.6m deep overlay most of the area and at least one drain cut. This may be modern levelling material derived from local alluvial silt.

Two localised deposits, one heavily mottled with calcareous material, another containing a concentration of charcoal were observed in the south-east part of site. The limited excavations and pipe truncation severely restricted assessment of these deposits and their stratigraphy. They might well be contemporary with the layer mentioned above, and dumps of levelling material.

Predominantly a soft silty deposit was observed across most of the area, much thicker in section to the north and apparently sloping down to the south. The deposit was at least 0.6m deep and may be primary alluvial material overlain by levelling deposits and hardcore.



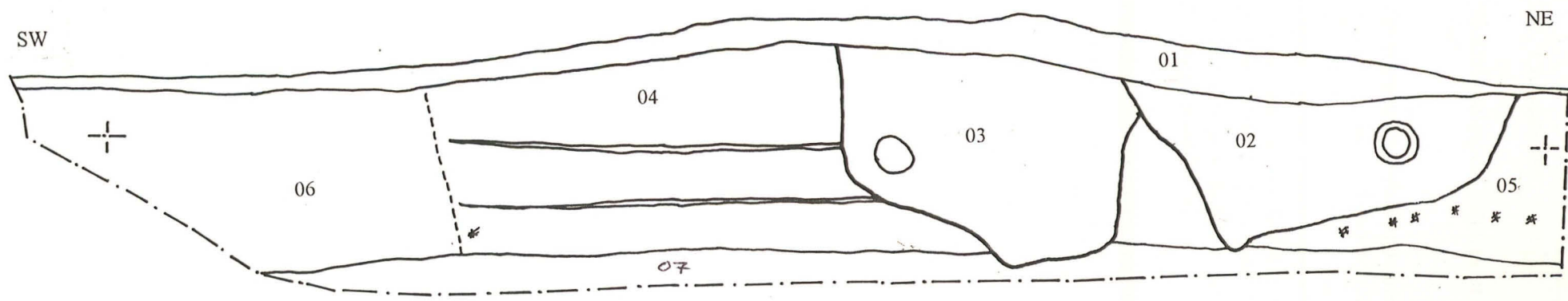
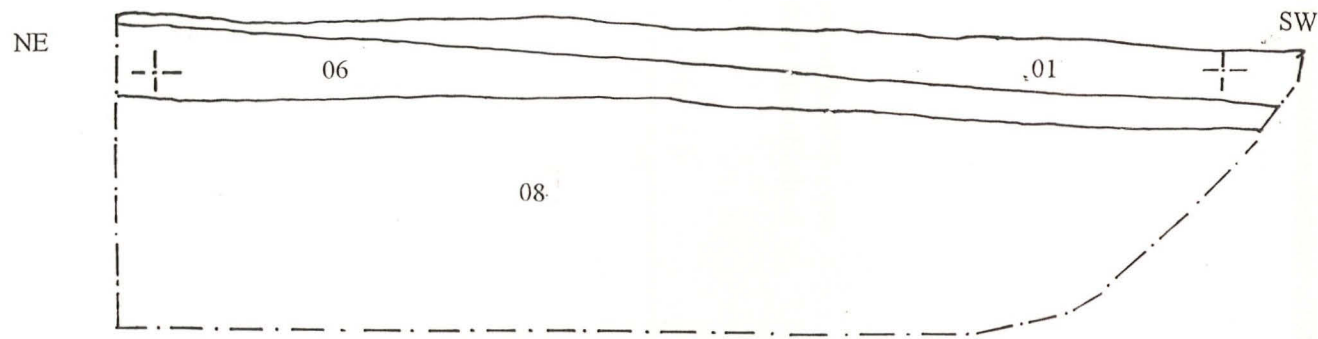


Fig.3 Section 1, located on fig.2 Scale 1:20

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-  = limit of excavation
-  = charcoal
-  = calcareous mottling

Fig.4 Section 2, located on fig.2 Scale 1:20

## 7.0 Conclusions

No archaeological features or artefacts were identified as a result of the watching brief.

The presence of what appeared to be thick alluvial silt in section suggests that modern disturbance has had limited impact on earlier deposits, particularly in the northern half of the area.

The restrictions noted above with regard to limited exposed surface area, and the problems detecting potential archaeological features related to salt making even, as previously documented, in open area excavation made identification of potential features very difficult.

Based on the restricted evidence available, the area of excavation to foundation depth appears to be archaeologically sterile, and any archaeology that might potentially be located there may be sealed below the level of development.

## 8.0 Bibliography

- |            |      |   |
|------------|------|---|
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| McDaid, M. | 1999 | Archaeological field evaluation, land north of Goose Lane, Wainfleet St. Mary, Lincolnshire (unpublished report, PCA)   |
| Albone, J. | 1998 | Archaeological field evaluation, land north of St. Michaels Lane, Wainfleet St. Mary, Lincolnshire. (unpublished report, PCA)                                   |

Appendix I



P1. General shot of excavation area during excavation, looking S.E.



P2. General shot of second foundation trench opened, looking N.E.



P3. Detail showing general site deposits as drawn in section 2, looking S.E.



P.4. Detail of waterlogging and contamination in trench at N.W. end of site, looking N.