

99/22

Gen LI 968

John Samuels Archaeological Consultants

The Manor, South Street, Normanton on Trent, Newark, Nottinghamshire NG23 6RQ
Telephone 01636 821727 Fax 01636 822080 e-mail jsac@btconnect.com



**A Report on an archaeological watching brief undertaken
at Stukely Hall Drive, Holbeach, Lincolnshire.**

NGR TF 3560 2489

produced by

John Samuels Archaeological Consultants

for

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

JSAC /574/99/02

**Site Code: SHH99
Accession No. 247.99**

October 1999

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

Lancashire County Council
Archaeology Section
1 2 NOV 99
ack 12/11/99

**A Report on an archaeological watching brief undertaken
at Stukely Hall Drive, Holbeach, Lincolnshire.**

Contents

Summary	3
1.0 Introduction	4
2.0 Archaeological and historical background	5
3.0 Methodology	6
4.0 Results	7
5.0 Discussion and conclusions	8
6.0 Figures	9
7.0 Plates	14
8.0 References and sources	15
Appendix A: Specification for a Watching Brief at Stukely Hall Drive, Holbeach, Lincolnshire.	16
Appendix B. Context Summary	17

Summary

An archaeological watching brief was maintained during ground works associated with the construction of a single domestic dwelling on Stukely Hall Drive, Holbeach, Lincolnshire. The watching brief was carried out on behalf of Ashwood Homes, as requested by the Archaeological Officer (Lincolnshire County Council).

No archaeological features of any significance were revealed during the excavation of ground works for the single storey dwelling. A brick built drain system was recorded lying east - west across the site at a depth of approximately 1 metre.

The site appears to have been extensively landscaped, probably in the 19th century as much building material and pottery of 18th - 19th century date was present to a depth of 1.10m. Excavation of footings ceased when natural geology was reached.

1

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 Ashwood Homes commissioned *John Samuels Archaeological Consultants* to undertake an archaeological watching brief on groundworks associated with the construction of a single domestic dwelling on land at Stukely Hall Lane, Holbeach, Lincolnshire. A specification for the watching brief attached to these works was produced and approved by the County Archaeological Officer (JSAC /574/99/01).
- 1.2 The area of the site has been vacant since the demolition of a small cottage in the 1950's. The site is centred on NGR TF 3560 2489 at an approximate height of 4.2 - 4.3m AOD.
- 1.3 This document forms a report on the watching brief undertaken on behalf of Ashwood Homes Ltd. It has been written by Martin Griffiths B.A. in consultation with Nansi Rosenberg BA, PIFA. It conforms to 'Archaeology and Planning' *Planning Policy Guidance Note 16*, and is in accordance with current best archaeological practice, and the appropriate national standards and guidelines, including:

Management of Archaeological Projects (English Heritage 1991);

Code of Conduct (Institute of Field Archaeologists 1997);

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

Archaeological Handbook (Lincolnshire County Council, 1998)

2.0 Archaeological and historical background

- 2.1 Holbeach lies within the southern Lincolnshire Fens between Spalding and The Wash. The area has produced finds from the Roman period onwards. Evidence would suggest that flooding has occurred on several occasions since the Roman occupation. Mention is made of Samian pottery being recovered from a depth of 3 feet in tidal silts (Hallam 1970). Fluctuations in sea levels, and major land reclamation schemes inaugurated by the Romans have considerably altered the landscape around Holbeach. Evidence shows that at the start of the Roman occupation, Holbeach was in a coastal location with extensive marsh land.
- 2.2 The area around Holbeach was reclaimed from the marsh in the Roman period by the construction of a series of banks and dykes known as the Roman Bank to the north and the Raven Bank to the south. Evidence suggests occupation continued through the Saxon period (Wheeler 1868). It is now considered that the Roman Bank was in fact constructed in the Saxon or early Medieval period (Phillips 1970).
- 2.3 Holbeach is mentioned in the Domesday Survey of 1086, the village being referred to as '*Holobec* or *Holebech*' deriving from the old English words, '*hol*' meaning hollow and the word '*baec*' meaning a back. Holbeach has a raised site and a meaning "the concave ridge" is topographically appropriate (Cameron 1998). The Domesday Survey places Holbeach within the Wapentake of Elloe in the district of Holland. The King, Saint Guthlac, Count Allen and Guy of Craon are listed as landowners owning arable land (Foster and Longley 1976).
- 2.4 The site is adjacent to Stukeley Hall, built in 1922 by W.E. Norman Webster. This house was built on the site of the Artisan Mannerist family home of William Stukely, the antiquarian (Pevsner 1964).

3.0 Methodology

- 3.1 The watching brief was undertaken with the specific objective of establishing whether any archaeological remains were present within the site, and if so, to identify, record and determine their significance.
- 3.2 Site visits were made by qualified archaeological staff to monitor the removal of earth during the excavation of the footings for the proposed dwelling. In practice, this involved the observation of soil removal by a JCB using a flat bladed ditching bucket.
- 3.3 As work progressed on the site, a photographic record was made showing the depth and general layout of the footings. A record was kept of soil types and depth on standard context recording sheets. Sketches were made of any relevant features revealed and a general sketch to show one section as an example of the whole site was prepared. Had archaeological features been present, they would have been photographed, sampled, excavated and drawn to scale.
- 3.4 Due to the instability of the soil, and the excessive depth (2.7m), it was not possible to examine the sections closely. It was clear, however, that no archaeological features were present in the sections. It was not possible to obtain samples of the organic residues seen in the bottom of the trenches due to the safety aspects stated above.
- 3.5 Immediately the trenches were excavated, a concrete mix was poured to prevent collapse of the sides, as much as possible.

4.0 Results

- 4.1 A layer of dark brown silty soil under grass overlay the site to a depth of 0.15m (001). This material contained occasional modern pottery and building rubble.
- 4.2 Beneath this surface, a up layer of medium brown silty clay soil (002) containing frequent fragments of rubble, concrete and wood was encountered. This make up layer 0.95m in thickness, extended to a depth of 1.10m below the present ground surface. The material was heavily disturbed and contained a large amount of pottery of 18th 19th and 20th century origin. Fragments of modern glass bottles were also recovered. In the bottom of (002) a relatively modern brick built drain,(probably 19th century) was seen lying east - west across the trench. This was probably contemporary with the cottage which had been removed from the site. No cut was visible in section and it is likely that the drain was built prior to soil being brought in for landscaping and development.
- 4.3 A layer of light yellow brown silty clay (003), 1.10m deep lay beneath (002). This contained tree roots and branches but no archaeological finds.
- 4.4 Beneath (003), a 0.5m thick layer of dark grey black peaty silty clay (004) was identified. This also contained tree root and branch material. This layer began at approximately 2.3m below the ground surface and extended to a depth of 2.7m, the maximum depth excavated.
- 4.5 Excavation ceased at 2.7m depth where a light grey silty clay (005) was revealed. This layer was assumed to be natural, but due to the depth and instability of the soil it was impossible to carry out a proper examination, due to the safety concerns.

5.0 Discussion and conclusions

- 5.1 Monitoring of groundworks for the footings of the proposed building did not result in the disturbance of any archaeological remains apart from a 19th century brick built drain.
- 5.2 The site had obviously been landscaped at some time in the recent past. The soil was heavily disturbed and contained a large amount of modern pottery and building rubble. The drain revealed in section, as well as the disturbed soil is likely to be associated with the cottage which had been present on the site until around the 1950's when it was demolished. Verbal evidence of a local inhabitant suggests that the site was occupied by an octagonal white cottage. This may represent a gate house or porters' cottage relating to Stukely Hall, as the cottage was located at the entrance to the driveway which leads to the Hall. No references have been found relating to this cottage
- 5.3 Despite the abundance of known archaeological remains in the vicinity, and the historical nature of the town, the archaeological watching brief found no evidence to suggest that archaeological activity had occurred on this site. The presence of deep silty organic deposits would suggest that the land was waterlogged for considerable periods, and was therefore probably uninhabitable. The heavily disturbed deposit (002), has been interpreted as a make up layer associated with landscaping.
- 5.4 If any archaeological features existed in this area, then it is likely that they would have been preserved in situ by the make up layer (002). The clay layer (005) recorded at the bottom of the trenches has been referred to as natural in the context records register.

6.0 Figures

Figure 1 : Site Location

Figure 2 : Site Plan

Figure 3 : Plan of Footings

Figure 4 : Section of Trenches (General)

7.0 Plates

Plate 1 : Showing a general shot of Trenches for building construction at Stukely Hall Drive, Holbeach, Lincolnshire.

Plate 2 : Photograph showing the depth of trenches at Stukely Hall Drive, Holbeach, Lincolnshire.



Figure 1. Site Location Plan

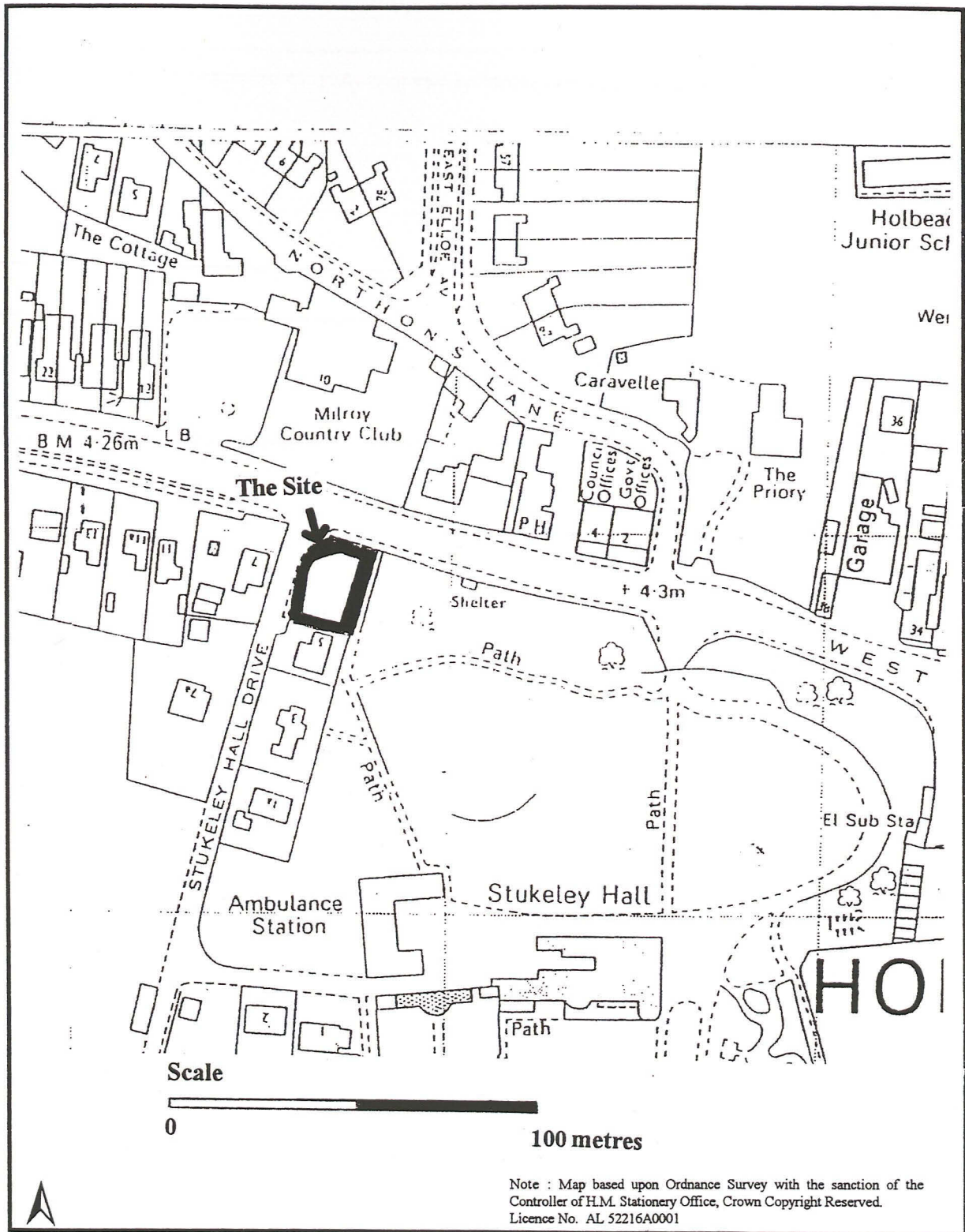


Figure 2 : Site Plan

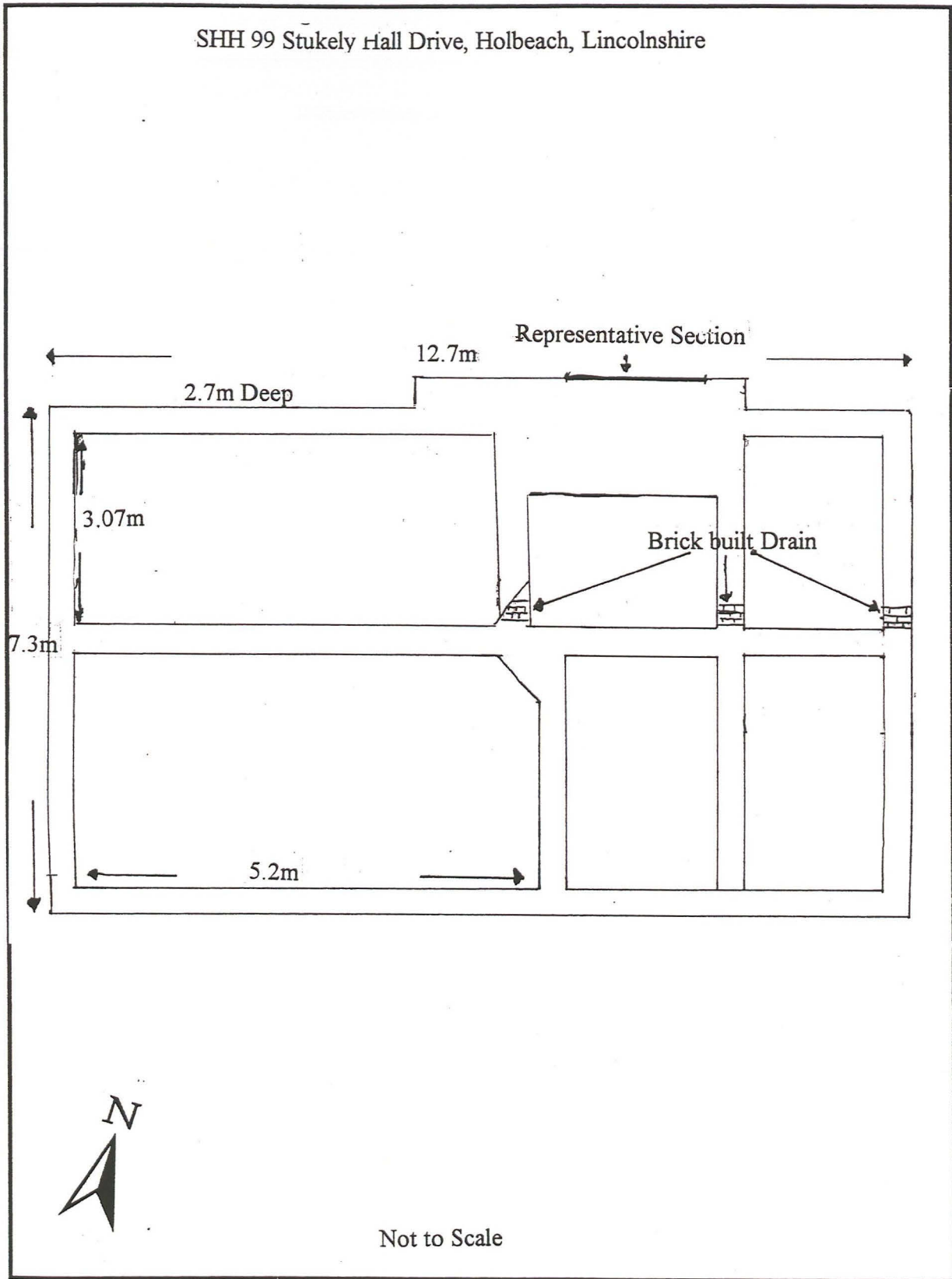


Figure 3 : Plan of Footings

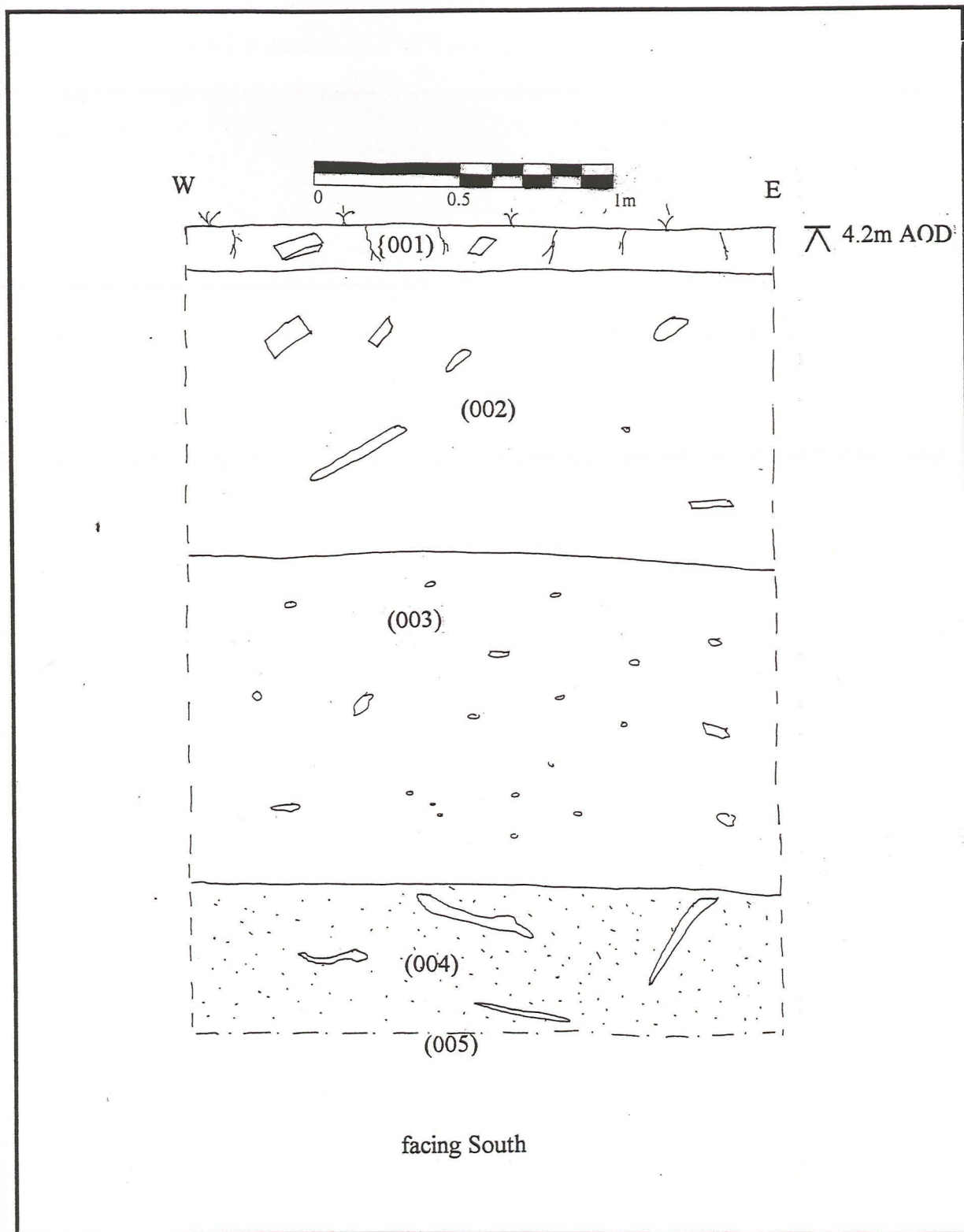


Figure 4 : Section of Trenches (General)

Plate 01: Showing a general shot of Trenches for building construction at Stukely Hall Drive, Holbeach, Lincolnshire.



Plate 02: Photograph showing the depth of trenches at Stukely Hall Drive, Holbeach,



8.0 References and sources

Pevsner N & Harris J. (1964) *The Buildings of England (Lincolnshire)*

Phillips, C.W. (Eds) (1970) *The Fenland in Roman Times*. R.G.S Research Series: No.5.
(Mrs S.J.Hallam .)

Wheeler W.H. (1868) *A History of the Fens of South Lincolnshire*.

**Appendix A: Specification for a Watching Brief at Stukely Hall Drive, Holbeach,
Lincolnshire.**

John Samuels Archaeological Consultants

*The Manor, South Street, Normanton on Trent, Newark, Nottinghamshire NG23 6RQ
Telephone 01636 821727 Fax 01636 822080*



**Specification for an Archaeological Watching Brief
at
Stukeley Hall Drive, Holbeach, Lincolnshire**

NGR TF 3560 2489

Produced by

John Samuels Archaeological Consultants

on behalf of

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

JSAC 574/99/01

August 1999

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

Specification for an Archaeological Watching Brief
at
Stukeley Hall Drive, Holbeach, Lincolnshire

Contents

Summary	3
1.0 Introduction	4
1.1 <i>Site Location and Description</i>	4
1.2 <i>Planning and Project Background</i>	4
2.0 Objectives	6
3.0 Archaeological background	7
4.0 Methodology	8
4.1 <i>Fieldwork</i>	8
4.2 <i>Post-excavation</i>	9
4.3 <i>Personnel</i>	9
5.0 Monitoring	10
6.0 Archive	11
7.0 Reporting procedures	12
7.1 <i>Developer report</i>	12
7.2 <i>Publication and dissemination</i>	13
8.0 Health and safety	14
9.0 Insurance	15
10.0 References	16
11.0 Figures	17
Appendix A: Extract from the Planning Condition South Holland District Council	20

*Specification for an Archaeological Watching Brief at
Stukeley Hall Drive, Holbeach, Lincolnshire*

Summary

This specification has been prepared by John Samuels Archaeological Consultants for Ashwood Homes. It describes the objectives and methodology for an archaeological watching brief which is to be maintained during ground works in connection with residential development on land at Stukeley Hall Drive, Holbeach, Lincolnshire.

1.0 Introduction

1.1 Site Location and Description

1.1.1 Stukeley Hall Drive is situated 400m from the centre of Holbeach which is within the administrative district of South Holland approximately 11km to the east of Spalding. The site lies on the west side of the town, centred at NGR TF 3560 2489

1.1.2 The site comprises approximately 0.04 ha of land. The area is generally flat with only slight topographic variation at an altitude of approximately 3.5m OD. Geology at the site are Wisbech Association comprising marine alluvium which gives rise to deep stoneless calcareous loose silty soils (SSEW 1983).

1.2 Planning and Project Background

1.2.1 Ashwood Homes submitted a planning application to South Holland District Council to develop land off Stukeley Hall Drive, Holbeach, Lincolnshire (Planning Application: Ho9/0767/98). The residential development comprises the erection of one dwelling.

1.2.2 The Local Planning Authority, South Holland District Council, approved the planning application subject to certain conditions (Appendix A). Condition 5 requested that an archaeological watching brief be maintained during all stages of development involving ground disturbance in accordance with a written scheme of works approved, in advance by the Local Planning Authority.

1.2.3 Ashwood Homes has commissioned *John Samuels Archaeological Consultants* to prepare a specification of works for the proposed development.

1.2.4 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 and regional standards and guidelines, including :

Code of Conduct (Institute of Field Archaeologists, 1994)

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

Management of Archaeological Projects (English Heritage, 1991);

Model Briefs and Specifications for Archaeological Assessments and Field Evaluations (Association of County Archaeological Officers, 1994)

Archaeological Handbook (Lincolnshire County Council, 1998)

*Specification for an Archaeological Watching Brief at
Stukeley Hall Drive, Holbeach, Lincolnshire*

1.2.5 This specification was written by Jenny Young BA in consultation with J. F. Marsden BA, MA, Cert. Arch., AIFA.

2.0 Objectives

- 2.1 The presence of archaeological material, recorded near to the application area, promoted the County Archaeology Officer to recommend that a watching brief be undertaken during groundworks on the site.
- 2.2 The overall objective of the watching brief will be to monitor all soil stripping and trenching within the specified area in order to identify the existence and extent of archaeological remains within the application area.

3.0 Archaeological background

- 3.1 Holbeach lies within the southern Lincolnshire Fens between Spalding and The Wash. The area is rich in archaeological sites of all periods with particular emphasis on salt processing although little excavation has taken place.
- 3.2 The site is situated approximately 0.4km west of the centre of the town of Holbeach, bounded to the west by Stukeley Hall Drive, to the north by West End, to the east by a school and to the south by residential development.
- 3.3 The Domesday Survey of 1086 mentions Holbeach. The village is referred to as '*Holobec or Holebech*' deriving from the old English words, '*hol*' meaning hollow and the word '*baec*' meaning a back. Holbeach has a raised site and a meaning "the concave ridge" is topographically appropriate (Cameron 1998). The Domesday Survey places Holbeach within the Wapentake of Elloe in the district of Holland. The King, Saint Guthlac, Count Allen and Guy of Craon are listed as landowners owning arable land (Foster & Longley 1976).
- 3.4 Archaeological remains dating from the Romano British period have been recorded from Holbeach. These comprise an area of salt-making which was once a widespread industry in this area (May, 1976).
- 3.5 It is concluded that there is the possibility that remains dating from at least the Romano-British period onwards may be encountered. It is also considered, given the sites close proximity to the town centre, the survival of medieval house plots may occur.

4.0 Methodology

4.1 Fieldwork

4.1.1 The watching brief will take the form of supervision by suitably qualified professional archaeologists to monitor all groundworks within the specified areas as they commence and proceed on a comprehensive basis. It includes the provision for the pausing of ground works in order to allow for full investigation of any significant archaeological remains. In practice, this will involve:

- a Supervision of recent overburden removal
- c Inspection of subsoil for archaeological features
- d Recording of archaeological features in plan/section
- 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

4.1.2 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 above.

4.1.3 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 AOD where appropriate.

4.1.4 Any artefacts of antiquity shall, after analysis and recording, form the object element of the site archive. This excludes items covered by the Treasure Act 1996 which by law must be reported to Her Majesty's Coroner. A comprehensive documentary archive will be prepared following project completion and deposited in accordance with Lincolnshire County Council's *Archaeological Handbook* (Chapter 16, 'The Archive')

4.1.5 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.

*Specification for an Archaeological Watching Brief at
Stukeley Hall Drive, Holbeach, Lincolnshire*

4.1.6 Every effort will be made to implement the watching brief without affecting the development timetable.

4.2 *Post-excavation*

4.2.1 Following completion of fieldwork a report will be produced within three 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.

4.2.2 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.

4.3 *Personnel*

4.3.1 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. The time scale and man hours on site will be determined by the soil stripping timetable and the quantity of remains exposed. 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
Jane Young	-Saxon to Post-Medieval Pottery

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.

5.0 Monitoring

- 5.1 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.
- 5.2 Internal supervision of the archaeologist(s) charged with undertaking the brief will be maintained by Dr J Samuels FSA MIFA or a senior member of JSAC staff.
- 5.3 The County Archaeological Officer will be given at least one weeks notice of when work is to commence, and he will be welcome to visit the site by appointment with the Principal Contractor. He must comply with the Principal Contractor's Health & Safety procedures. The County Archaeological Officer will be kept informed of progress, and should any unexpected significant discoveries be made will be notified and his advice sought.

1

6.0 Archive

- 6.1 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).
- 6.2 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.
- 6.3 Following project completion, an ordered archive will be prepared and deposited at the City and County Museum, Lincoln in accordance with its standard terms of acceptance.

7.0 Reporting procedures

7.1 Developer report

7.1.1 Following completion of fieldwork a report detailing the project will be produced within three months, and will contain sufficient information to enable the discharge of archaeological conditions. 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 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
- j Confidence assessment

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

- a Project Title/Site Address
- b Site Code/Accession No
- c National Grid Reference
- d Author/originating body
- e Report Date

7.2 *Publication and dissemination*

- 7.2.1 Deposition of the Developer report with the County Sites and Monuments Record and the submission of a short note to *Lincolnshire History and Archaeology* will be taken as placing the information within the public domain. Should the results merit fuller publication then a paper will be submitted to an appropriate regional/national journal.

8.0 Health and safety

- 8.1 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).
- 8.2 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.
- 8.3 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.
- 8.4 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).
- 8.5 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, eg. appropriate protective clothing, safety equipment, rest breaks for specialised tasks, etc.
- 8.6 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.

9.0 Insurance

- 9.1 The archaeological contractor will produce evidence of Public Liability Insurance to the minimum value of £5m and Professional Indemnity Insurance to the minimum of £2m.

10.0 References

Allen's History of the County of Lincolnshire: Volume I. (1833).

Cameron, K. (1998). *A Dictionary of Lincolnshire Place-names*. EPNS.

Foster, C.W. & Longley, T. (1976). *The Lincolnshire Domesday and the Lindsey Survey*. The Lincoln Record Society. Vol. 19.

May, J (1976) *Prehistoric Lincolnshire*. History of Lincolnshire - Volume I.

Phillips, C.W. (Eds). (1970). *The Fenland in Roman Times*. R.G.S Research Series: No. 5.

Platts, G. (1985). *Land and People in Medieval Lincolnshire*. History of Lincolnshire - Volume IV.

SSEW. (1983). *Soils of England and Wales. Sheet 4. Eastern England. Soil Survey of England and Wales*.

11.0 Figures

Figure 1. Site Location Map. Scale 1: 25000.

Figure 2. Plan of Site (Kings Quality Homes). Scale 1: 2500.

Specification for an Archaeological Watching Brief at
Stukeley Hall Drive, Holbeach, Lincolnshire

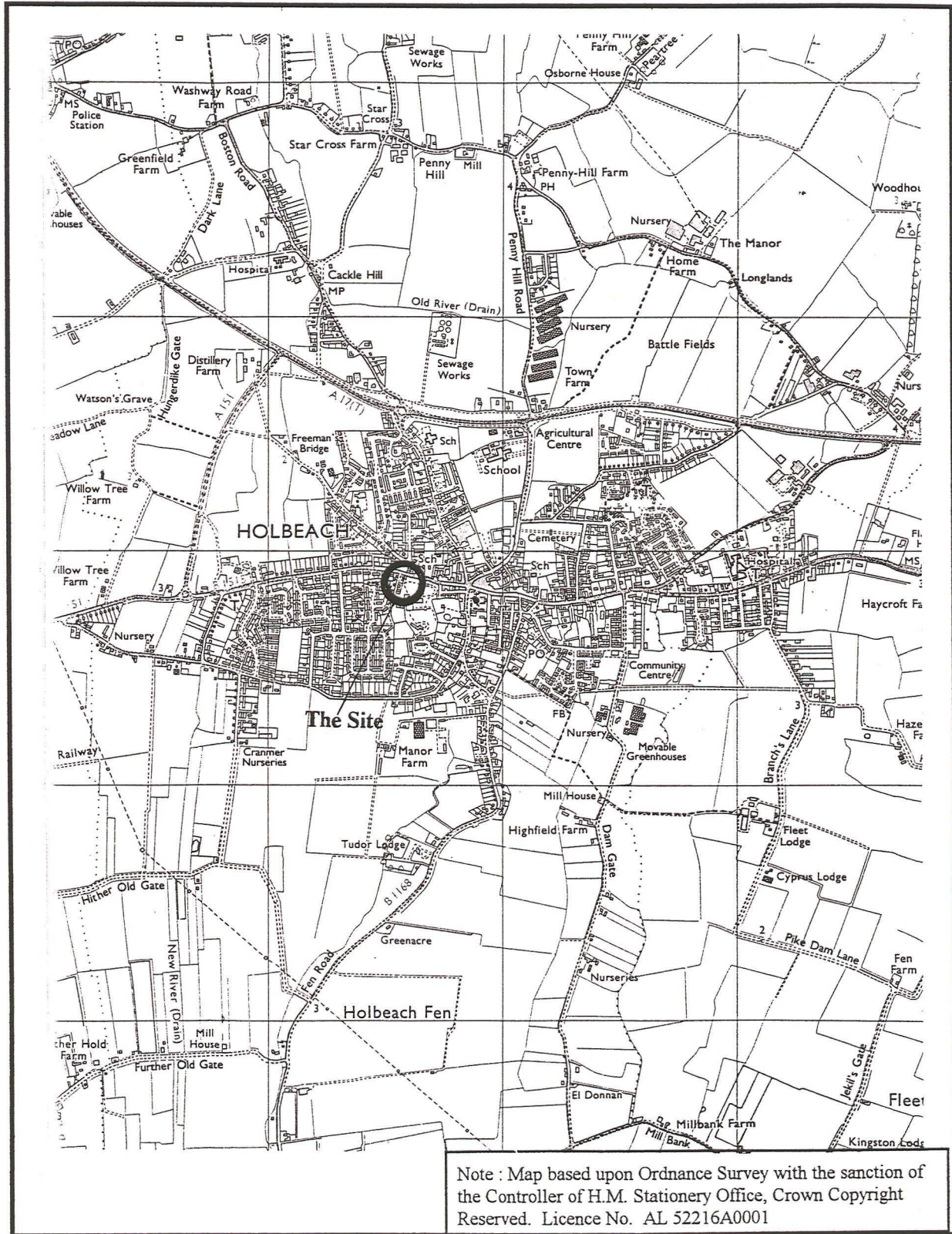


Figure 1. Site Location Map. Scale 1 : 25000.

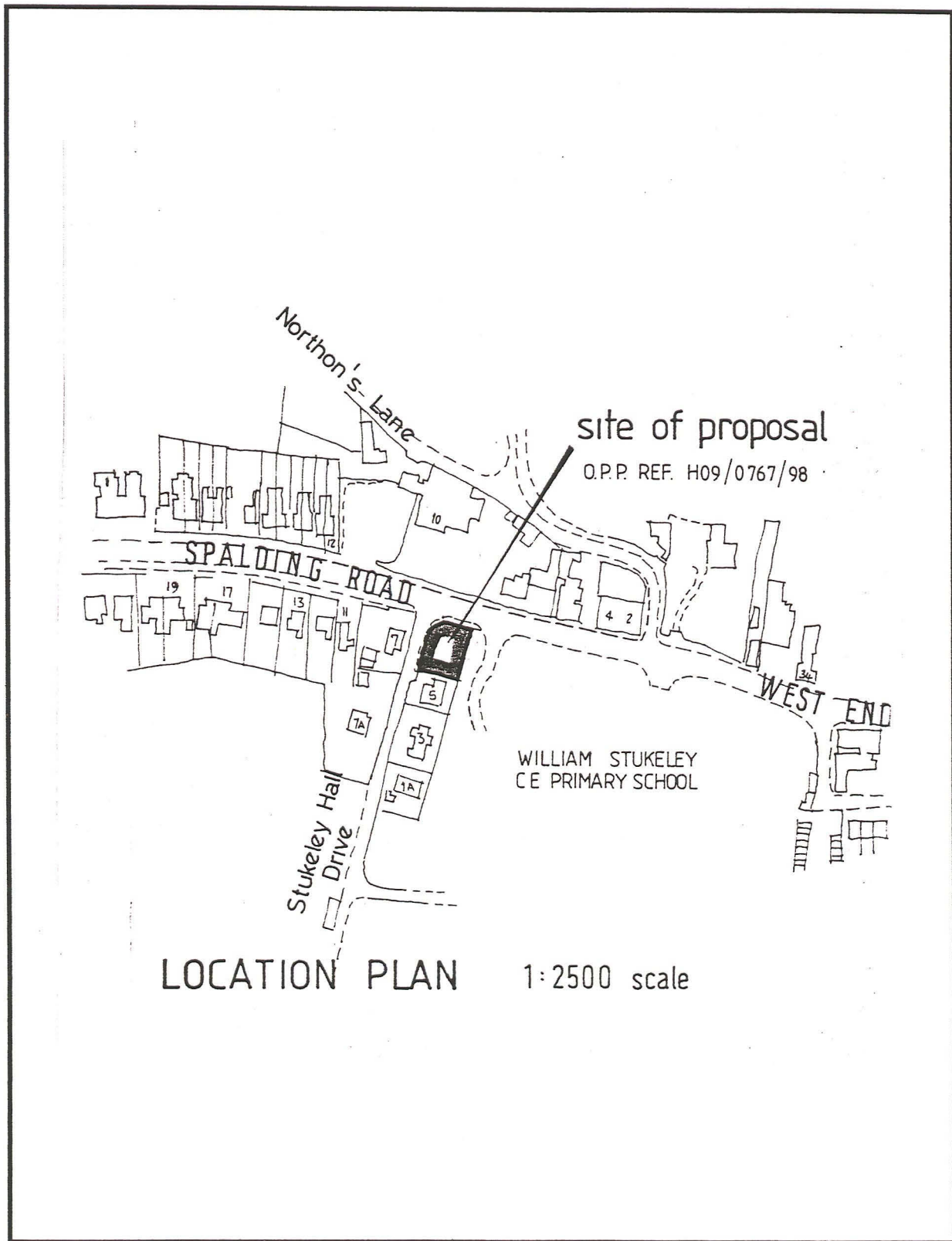


Figure 2. Plan of Site (Ashwood Homes). Scale 1 : 2500.

*Specification for an Archaeological Watching Brief at
Stukeley Hall Drive, Holbeach, Lincolnshire*

Appendix A : Extract from the Planning Condition South Holland District Council

- 4 There shall be no vehicular access directly onto Spalding Road.

Reason: In the interests of highway safety, given the proximity to the Spalding Road/Stukeley Hall Drive junction and also a school access.

- 5 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 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.

The site adjoins Holbeach Conservation Area. The appearance/design of the dwelling should therefore preserve or enhance the character or appearance of the aforementioned Conservation Area.

The applicants are advised that trees close to the eastern boundary within the school grounds are the subject of Holbeach Tree Preservation Order No 10, 1986.



Director of Housing and Planning Services
26-OCT-98 H09/0767/98

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.

Appendix B. Context Summary

1

Context No.	Description	Interpretation
001	Dark Brown silty clay soil	Topsoil
002	Medium Brown silty clay	Make up layer
003	Light Yellow Brown silty clay	Alluvial Deposit
004	Dark Grey Black organic silty peaty clay	Organic Deposit
005	Light Grey silty clay	Natural?