ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF ON LAND AT PLOT 1 MAIN ROAD MALTBY-LE-MARSH LINCOLNSHIRE (MLM99)



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Lincolnshire County Council Archaeology Section

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF ON LAND AT PLOT 1 MAIN ROAD MALTBY-LE-MARSH LINCOLNSHIRE (MLM99)

Report Prepared for Mrs B Smith

May 1999

Report Compiled by David Fell MA

Planning Application No: VR/112/0966/97FP National Gird Reference: TF 468 818 City and County Museum Accession No: 16.99

A.P.S. Report No. 45/99



Archaeological Project Services is an IFA Registered Archaeological Organisation (Number 21)

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1. SUMMARY

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken during development at Plot 1, Main Road, Maltby-le-Marsh, Lincolnshire.

The application area lies at the centre of the medieval village of Maltby-le-Marsh, north of the parish church and near a 19th century windmill.

The watching brief took place during the groundworks phase of the construction project. The trenches were c.750mm in depth and revealed a sequence of topsoil, subsoil and natural strata. A probable modern ditch had been cut into the subsoil. The only archaeological remains found was a small quantity of medieval pottery, from the topsoil.

2. INTRODUCTION

2.1 Definition of a Watching Brief

An archaeological watching brief is defined as 'a formal programme of observation and investigation, conducted during any operation carried out for non-archaeological reasons within a specified area, where there is a possibility that archaeological deposits may be disturbed or destroyed' (IFA 1997).

2.2 Planning Background

Mrs B Smith applied to East Lindsey District Council (planning application number VR/112/0966/97FP) for permission to construct a new dwelling house at Plot 1, Main Road, Maltby-le-Marsh, Lincolnshire. Planning Permission was granted, subject to a condition that the developer should commission an archaeological watching brief, during the construction phase of the project. *Archaeological Project Services* were commissioned to undertake the watching brief and produced a specification for the work (Appendix 5). This document presents the results of the work.

2.3 Topography and Geology

Maltby-le-Marsh is situated 6km southwest of Mablethorpe and 17km southeast of Louth, in the administrative district of East Lindsey, Lincolnshire (Figure 1).

The application area is located in the centre of the village, adjacent to the post office on the west side of Main Road, at NGR TF 468 818 (Figures 2 and 3)

The application area is on level ground, at an elevation of c.3m OD. The soils of the area comprise the Holderness Association, typically fine loamy and permeable soils, formed on chalky till and glaciofluvial drift (Hodge *et al.* 1984, 214).

2.4 Archaeological and Historical Background

The application area lies within an area of considerable archaeological and historical interest.

PREHISTORIC

Application Area (site)

No finds of the prehistoric period have been recorded from the application area.

Surrounding Area

During the prehistoric period, much of south and east Lincolnshire was submerged, or comprised salt marsh. Salt-production was in important industry in this area during the Iron Age and later periods and many salt production sites are known in the low lying areas of East Lincolnshire.

ROMAN

Application Area (site)

No finds of the Roman period have been recorded from the application area.

Surrounding Area

No Roman period remains are located in the area surrounding Maltby-le-Marsh. The area

was largely comprised of low lying or marshland during the Roman period and only a small number of Roman sites are located in eastern Lincolnshire. A Roman road, leading from *Lindum Colonia* (Lincoln) to the coast, near modern Skegness, passed 10km southwest of Maltby-le-Marsh.

SAXON

Application Area (site)

No finds from the Saxon period have been found within the application area

Surrounding Area

There is no evidence for Saxon period activity in the area surrounding Maltby-le-Marsh, although it is likely that the village originated during this period.

MEDIEVAL

Application Area (site)

The remains of medieval ridge and furrow cultivation are located within the application area.

Surrounding Area

Maltby-le-Marsh village developed during the medieval period. The village is mentioned in the Domesday Book (1086), where it is referred to as *Maltebi*. The name is derived from the Old Scandinavian *by*, meaning village or homestead with an Old Danish personal name as the first element (Ekwall 1974, 312). At the time of the Domesday Book, the land was held by Gilbert of Ghent, Hugh son of Baldric, Jocelyn son of Lambert and Count Alan and comprised *c*. 90 acres of meadow and 5 acres of underwood (Foster and Longley 1976).

The earliest building in the village is the parish church of All Saints. The earliest fabric in the church dates to the early fourteenth century (Pevsner and Harris 1989, 549).

The remains of a medieval moated enclosure, associated with the present

Manor House are located c.700m south of the application area.

An watching brief, by Archaeological Project Services (Cope-Faulkner 1998), on a neighbouring plot, revealed a number of possible medieval and Post-Medieval pits and occupation debris, indicating that this area of the village may have been on the periphery of the medieval settlement.

Aerial photographs show that the medieval ridge and furrow landscape extended up to the edge of Main Street and was present within the application area.

The area was of considerable importance during the later medieval period. Markby Priory was located 3km southeast of the village. Parts of the priory are still visible as earthworks, southeast of the village. A second abbey, at Hagnaby, was located 2km east of the village.

POST-MEDIEVAL & MODERN

Application Area (site)

During the Post-Medieval period the application area comprised open land. At the time of the development, the site comprised rough grassland.

Surrounding Area

The majority of the buildings in Maltby-le-Marsh are post-medieval or modern in date.

The modern layout of the village comprises sparse ribbon development along Main Road, with a cluster to the south, adjacent to the Manor House.

Notable modern buildings include a brick tower windmill, built in 1841, by Saunderson of Louth (Pevsner and Harris 1989, 549). The present Manor House dates to the late eighteenth century (*ibid.*).

3. AIMS

The aims of the watching brief, as detailed in the specification (Appendix 1), were to locate and record archaeological deposits, if present, and to determine their date, function and origin.

4. METHODS

All excavation was carried out by a mechanical excavator. The overlying soil was stripped and footings excavated to a depth of $c.750 \, \text{mm}$ (Plate 1).

The depths and thickness of each deposit in the foundation trench were measured from the ground surface. Each deposit was allocated a unique reference number (context number) with an individual written description (Appendix 2). A photographic record was complied and a section was drawn at a scale of 1: 10. The deposits were recorded on *Archaeological Project Services* pro-forma context sheets.

Records of the deposits were examined and a stratigraphic matrix compiled. A phasing sequence was then compiled, based on the nature of the deposits and the relationship between them.

5. RESULTS

Four phases of activity were identified.

Phase 1 Natural Deposits

Phase 2 Subsoil

Phase 3 Post-Medieval/Modern

Deposits

Phase 4 Topsoil

Phase 1 Natural Deposits

Natural geological deposits (003) were recorded at the base of the foundations trench. The top of the deposit was located at a depth of 600-900mm and comprised firm yellowish brown clayey silt mixed with fragments of limestone.

Phase 2 Subsoil

The natural geological deposits were overlain by a subsoil of yellow brown silty clay (002). The top of the subsoil was located *c*.300mm below the modern ground surface.

Phase 3 Post-Medieval/Modern Deposits

A ditch [006] was located on the eastern side of the application area, adjacent to Main Road (Figure 2). The ditch was sealed by modern topsoil and was seen to cut into subsoil (002).

The ditch was 850mm wide and 250mm deep, with a north to south orientation. The ditch contained two separate fills. The lower fill comprised a deposit of black charcoal (005), covering the base of the ditch. This was overlain by an upper deposit of mottled orangy grey clayey silt (Plate 2).

It is possible that Ditch [006] may be the remains of a medieval furrow, but is more likely to be a modern feature.

Phase 4 Topsoil

Topsoil within the application area was 200 to 400mm thick and comprised a dark grey silty loam (section 2.3.). Medieval pottery was recorded from this deposit (Appendix 1)

6. DISCUSSION

A sequence of natural deposits, subsoil and topsoil layers were encountered during the watching brief. A single ditch was present. No dating evidence for this feature was found and while it may be the base of a medieval furrow, it is more likely to be modern in date.

No archaeological deposits were found during the watching brief. These results support the results of earlier archaeological work in this area of Maltby-le Marsh (CopeFaulkner 1998), that the application area is probably located beyond the medieval settlement, on the periphery of surrounding medieval field system.

Pevsner, N. & Harris, J., 1989, *Lincolnshire*, (The Buildings of England (2nd edition, revised Antram, N).

The presence of charcoal in the ditch indicates the potential for environmental indicators to survive through charring.

7. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeological Project Services wish to thank Mrs. B. Smith for commissioning the watching brief. The work was co-ordinated by Gary Taylor and the fieldwork undertaken by Denise Buckley. This report was prepared by David Fell.

8. ABBREVIATIONS

APS Archaeological Project Services

IFA Institute of Field Archaeologists

9. BIBLIOGRAPHY

Cope-Faulkner, 1998, Archaeological Watching Brief of Development at Plot 2, Main Road, Maltby-le-Marsh, Lincolnshire (MLM 98). Archaeological Project Services report no. 80/98.

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

Hodge, C.A.H., Burton, R.G.O., Corbett, W.M., Evans, R., & Seale, R.S., 1984, *Soils and their use in Eastern England*. Soil Survey of England and Wales. No. 13.

IFA, 1997, Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs.



Figure 1: General location plan

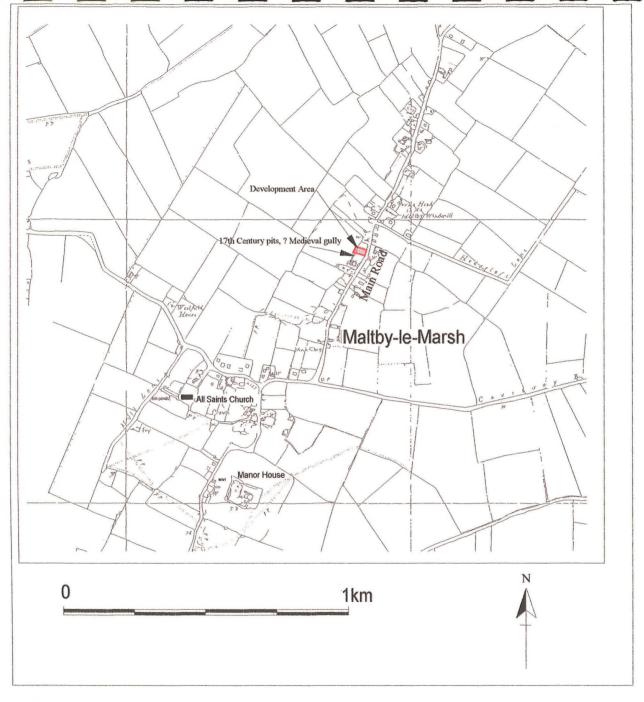


Figure 2 - Site Location Plan

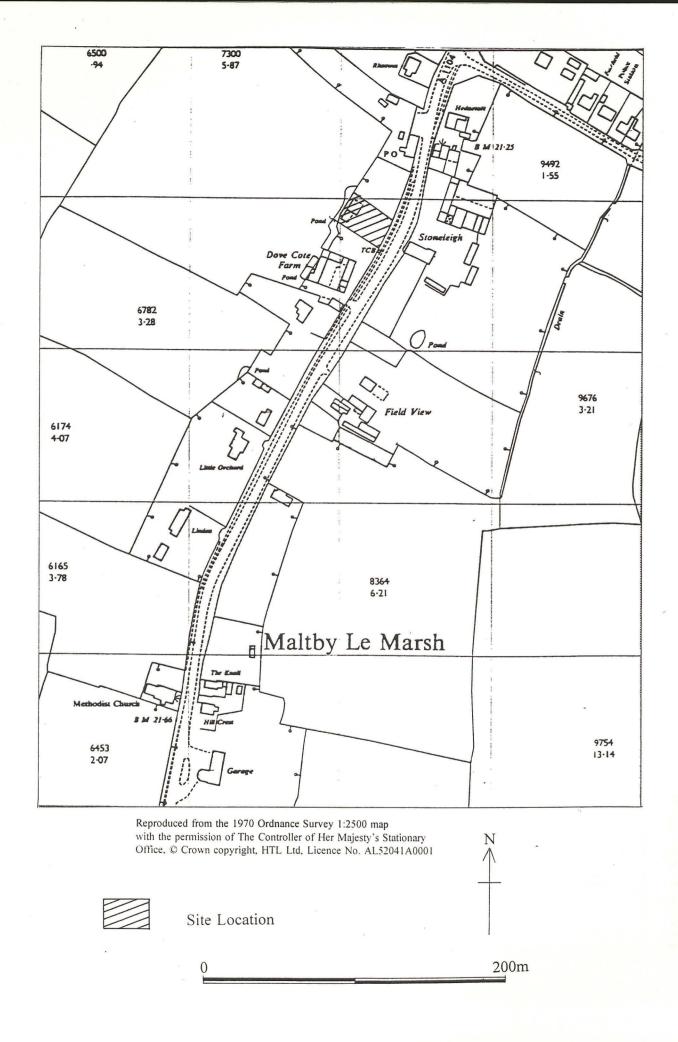


Figure 3 Detailed Site Location Map

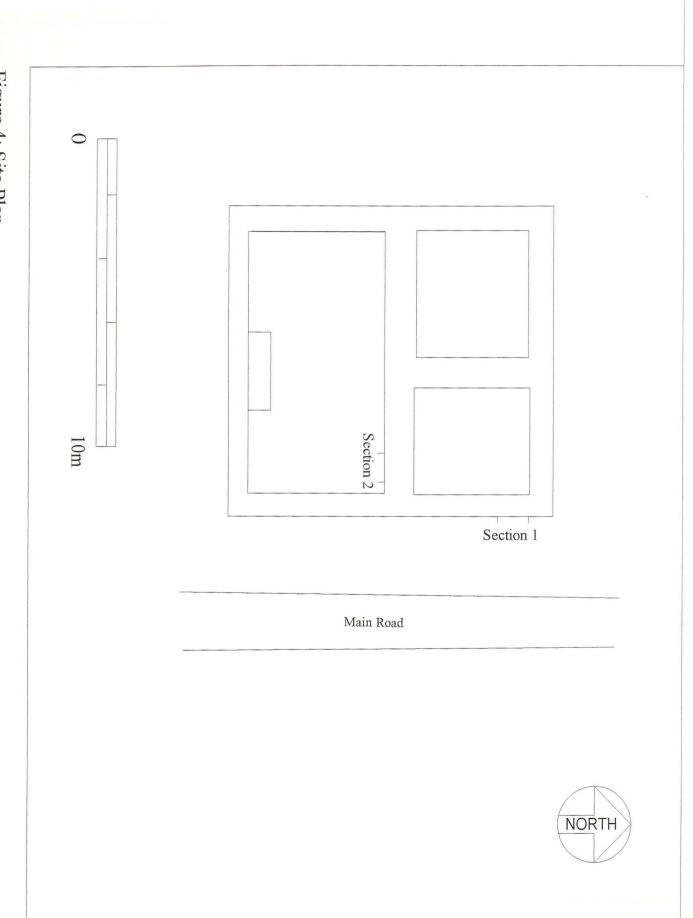


Figure 4: Site Plan

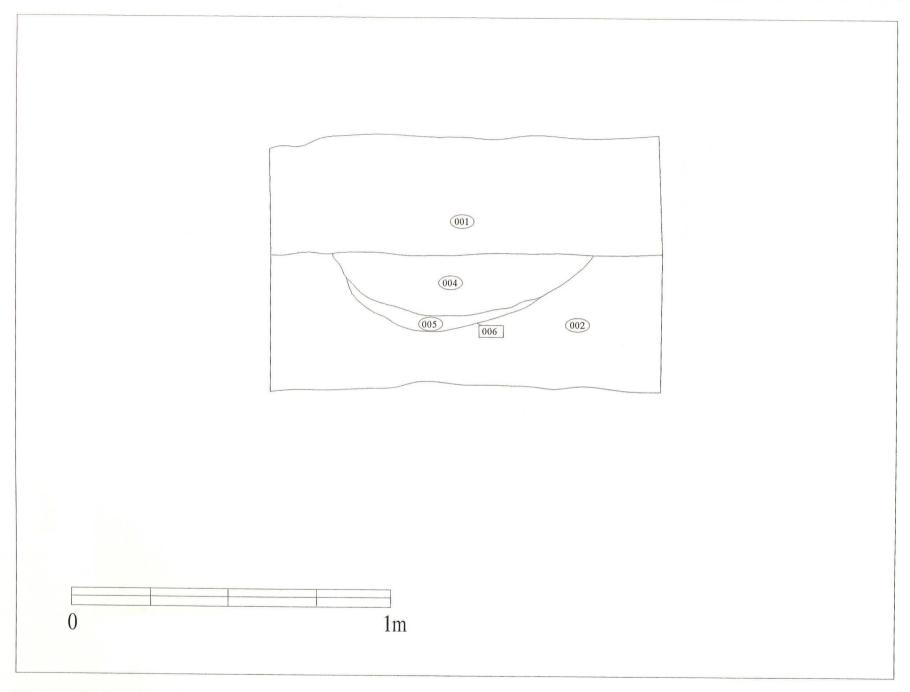


Figure 5: Section 2



Plate 1 General View of the Site



Plate 2 Trench Section showing ditch [006]

FINDS SUMMARY By Hilary Healey

A single sherd of pottery, the only artefact retrieved, was collected from the topsoil (001). It is probably a Lincoln ware of the 13th-14th century though it is possible that it might be an overfired Toynton All Saints type ware, which would date to the 14th-15th century.

The pottery fragment is in good condition and unabraded and, therefore, unlikely to be a component of manuring scatter. It presents no long-term storage problems.

Other archaeological investigations in Maltby-le-Marsh have previously been undertaken and reported (Cope-Faulkner 1998). As an isolated find, the pottery sherd has limited potential. However, a similar lack of medieval material was recorded on an adjacent archaeological examination and, cumulatively, the evidence of the two investigations would suggest that this part of the village was not occupied in the medieval period.

Reference

Cope-Faulkner, P., 1998 Archaeological Watching Brief of Development at Plot 2, Main Road, Maltby-le-Marsh, Lincolnshire (MLM98), unpublished APS Report No. 80/98

CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

Contexts are presented in stratigraphic order, as appropriate. Fill deposits are grouped within their constituent cuts. Context numbers in **bold** type denote cut features.

BGL

Below ground level

NE

Not Excavated

Context	Type	Description	Width	Depth	Depth
			(mm)	(mm)	(BGL)mm
001	Layer	Dark grey silt. Topsoil.	-	c.400	-
004	Fill	Mottled orangy grey clayey silt. Ditch fill.	850	180	300
005	Fill	Black charcoal. Ditch fill	650	200	500
006	Cut	'U' shaped cut. Ditch	850	250	400
002	Layer	Mid yellowish brown silty clay. Subsoil.	-	200	400
003	Layer	Mid yellowish brown clayey silt with	-	N/E	c.800
		occasional gravel. Natural geological deposits.			

THE ARCHIVE

The archive consists of:

- 6 Context records
- 2 Scale drawings
- 1 Photographic record sheet
- 1 Section record sheet
- 1 Bag of finds

All primary records and finds are currently kept at:

Archaeological project Services

The Old School

Cameron Street

Heckington

Sleaford

Lincolnshire

NG34 9RW

The ultimate destination of the project archive is:

Lincolnshire City and County Museum

12 Friars Lane

Lincoln

LN2 1HQ

The archive will be deposited in accordance with the document titled *Conditions for the Acceptance of Project Archives*, produced by ther Lincolnshire City and County Museum.

Lincolnshire City and County Museum Accession Number: 16.99

Archaeological Project Services Site Code: MLM99

The discussion and comments provided in this report are based on the archaeology revealed during the site investigations. Other archaeological finds and features may exist on the development site, but away from the areas exposed during the course of this fieldwork. *Archaeological Project Services* cannot confirm that those areas unexposed are free from archaeology, nor that any archaeology present there is of a similar character to that revealed during the current investigation.

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GLOSSARY OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL TERMS

Con	tex	1
CUL		L

An archaeological context represents a distinct archaeological event or process. For example, the action of digging a pit creates a context (the cut), as does the process of its subsequent backfill (the fill). Each context encountered during an archaeological investigation is allocated a unique number by the archaeologist and a record sheet detailing the description and interpretation of the context (the context sheet) is created and placed in the site archive. Context numbers are identified within the report by brackets, e.g. (004)

Cut

A cut refers to the physical action of digging a posthole, ditch, pit, foundation trench, *etc*. Once the fills of these features are removed during an archaeological investigation, the original 'cut' is therefore exposed and subsequently recorded.

Fill

Once a fill has been dug, it begins to silt up (either slowly or rapidly) or it can be back-filled manually. The soils (s) which become contained by the cut' are referred to as its fill (s).

Layer

A layer is a term used to describe an accumulation of soil or other material that is not contained within a cut.

Medieval

Pertaining to the period following the Saxon period, to the post-medieval period and dating from ASD 1066-1485.

Modern

The period following the post-medieval period, dating from c. AD1800 to the present day.

Post-medieval

The period following the medieval period, dating from AD1485-c.1800

Prehistoric

The period of human history prior to the introduction of writing. In Britain the prehistoric period lasted from the first evidence of human occupation about 500,000BC, until the Roman invasion in the middle of the 1st century AD.

Roman

Pertaining to the period from AD43 to c.AD450, when Britain was gradually occupied as part of the Roman Empire.

Saxon

The period following the end of the Roman period, until the Norman conquest of England, dating to c. AD450 to 1066.

PLOT 1 MAIN ROAD MALTBY-LE-MARSH

SPECIFICATION FOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

Planning Application Number: VR/1112/0966/97FP

PREPARED FOR

MRS B SMITH

BY ARCHAEOLOGICAL PROJECT SERVICES

NOVEMBER 1998

ARCHAEOLOGICAL PROJECT SERVICES IS AN IFA REGISTERED ORGANISATION (NO. 21)

1 SUMMARY

- 1.1 A watching brief is required during construction works at Plot 1, Main Road, Maltby-le-Marsh, Lincolnshire.
- 1.2 The application area lies within the medieval village of Maltby-le-Marsh, adjacent to the post office.
- 1.3 The watching brief will be undertaken during groundworks associated with the development. The archaeological features exposed will be recorded in writing, graphically and photographically.
- 1.4 On completion of the fieldwork a report will be prepared detailing the findings of the work. The report will consist of a narrative supported by illustrations and photographs.

2 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 This document comprises a specification for an archaeological watching brief during development at Plot 1, Main Road, Maltby-le-Marsh, Lincolnshire.
- 2.2 This document contains the following parts:
 - 2.2.1 Overview.
 - 2.2.2 Stages of work and methodologies.
 - 2.2.3 List of specialists.
 - 2.2.4 Programme of works and staffing structure of the project.

3 SITE LOCATION

3.1 Maltby-le-Marsh lies 6km southwest of Mablethorpe and 17km southeast of Louth, in eastern Lincolnshire. The site is situated off Main Street, in the centre of Maltby-le-Marsh, at national grid reference TF 4681 at an elevation of c. 3m OD.

4 PLANNING BACKGROUND

4.1 Planning permission (application number VR/112/0966/97FP) for the development of a house has been granted by East Lindsey District Council, subject to a condition that the applicant should commission an archaeological watching brief, to record any archaeological remains present on the site.

5 SOILS AND TOPOGRAPHY

5.1 Maltby-le-Marsh is situated on low lying land in east Lincolnshire. The site contains soils of the Holderness Association, comprising fine loamy and permeable soils, formed on chalky till and glaciofluvial drift (Hodge *et al* 1984, 214).

6 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

- 6.1 The development site lies within an area of considerable archaeological interest.
- 6.2 Most of east and south Lincolnshire comprised salt marsh or was submerged during the prehistoric period. Many salt-making sites, dating to the Iron Age and later periods are known in the low lying areas of East Lincolnshire.
- 6.3 Maltby-le-Marsh is recorded in the Domesday Book (1086), where it is recorded as *Maltebi*. The parish church of All Saints is medieval in date, the earliest elements dating from the early fourteenth century.
- 6.4 The area was of considerable importance during the later medieval period. The earthworks of Markby Priory are located southeast of Maltby-le-Marsh. Further abbey earthworks, at Hagnaby, are located to the east of the village.

7 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- 7.1 The aims of the watching brief will be:
 - 7.1.1 To record the archaeological features exposed during the excavation of the foundation trenches and other areas of ground disturbance.
- 7.2 The objectives of the watching brief will be to:
 - 7.2.1 Determine the form and function of the archaeological features encountered;
 - 7.2.2 Determine the spatial arrangement of the archaeological features encountered:
 - 7.2.3 As far as practicable, recover dating evidence from the archaeological features, and
 - 7.2.4 Establish the sequence of the archaeological remains present on the site.

8 SITE OPERATIONS

8.1 General considerations

- 8.1.1 All work will be undertaken following statutory Health and Safety requirements in operation at the time of the watching brief.
- 8.1.2 The work will be undertaken according to the relevant codes of practise issued by the Institute of Field Archaeologists (IFA). Archaeological Project Services is an IFA registered organisation (number 21).
- 8.1.3 Any and all artefacts found during the investigation and thought to be 'treasure', as defined by the Treasure Act 1997, will be removed from site to a secure store and promptly reported to the appropriate coroner's office.

8.2 Methodology

- 8.2.1 The watching brief will be undertaken during the ground works phase of development, and includes the archaeological monitoring of all phases of soil movement.
- 8.2.2 The section of the trench will be observed regularly to identify and record archaeological features that are exposed and to record changes in the geological conditions. The section drawings of the trenches will be recorded at a scale of 1:10. Should features be recorded in plan these will be drawn at a scale of 1:20. Written descriptions detailing the nature of the deposits, features and fills encountered will be compiled on Archaeological Project Services pro-forma record sheets.
- 8.2.3 Any finds recovered will be bagged and labelled for later analysis.
- 8.2.4 Throughout the watching brief a photographic record consisting of colour prints will be compiled. The photographic record will consist of:
 - 8.2.4.1 The site during work to show specific stages, and the layout of the archaeology within the trench.
 - 8.2.4.2 groups of features where their relationship is important
- 8.2.5 Should human remains be located the appropriate Home Office licence will be obtained before their removal. In addition, the Local Environmental Health Department and the police will be informed.

9 POST-EXCAVATION

9.1 Stage 1

- 9.1.1 On completion of site operations, the records and schedules produced during the watching brief will be checked and ordered to ensure that they form a uniform sequence forming a level II archive. A stratigraphic matrix of the archaeological deposits and features present on the site will be prepared. All photographic material will be catalogued: the colour prints will be labelled, the labelling referring to schedules identifying the subject/s photographed.
- 9.1.2 All finds recovered during the field work will be washed, marked and packaged according to the deposit from which they were recovered. Any finds requiring specialist treatment and conservation will be sent to the Conservation Laboratory at the City and County Museum, Lincoln.

9.2 Stage 2

- 9.2.1 Detailed examination of the stratigraphic matrix to enable the determination of the various phases of activity on the site.
- 9.2.2 Finds will be sent to specialists for identification and dating.

9.3 Stage 3

- 9.3.1 On completion of stage 2, a report detailing the findings of the watching brief will be prepared.
- 9.3.2 This will consist of:
 - 9.3.2.1 A non-technical summary of the results of the investigation.
 - 9.3.2.2 A description of the archaeological setting of the watching brief.
 - 9.3.2.3 Description of the topography of the site.
 - 9.3.2.4 Description of the methodologies used during the watching brief.
 - 9.3.2.5 A text describing the findings of the watching brief.
 - 9.3.2.6 A consideration of the local, regional and national context of the watching brief findings.
 - 9.3.2.7 Plans of the archaeological features exposed. If a

	sequence of archaeological deposits is encountered, separate plans for each phase will be produced.	
9.3.2.8	Sections of the archaeological features.	
9.3.2.9	Interpretation of the archaeological features exposed, and their chronology and setting within the surrounding landscape.	
9.3.2.10	Specialist reports on the finds from the site.	
9.3.2.11	Appropriate photographs of the site and specific archaeological features.	

10 **REPORT DEPOSITION**

10.1 Copies of the report will be sent to the client, East Lindsey District Council and to the Lincolnshire County Sites and Monuments Record.

11 ARCHIVE

11.1 The documentation and records generated during the watching brief will be sorted and ordered into the format acceptable to the Lincolnshire County Council Museums, Arts and Records Service. This will be undertaken following the requirements of the document titled *Conditions for the Acceptance of Project Archives* for long term storage and curation.

12 **PUBLICATION**

12.1 A report of the findings of the watching brief will be published in Heritage Lincolnshire's Annual Report and a note presented to the editor of the Transactions of the Lincolnshire Archaeological and Historical Society. If appropriate, notes on the findings will be submitted to the appropriate national journals: *Britannia* for discoveries of Roman date, and *Medieval Archaeology* and the journal of the *Medieval Settlement Research Group* for findings of medieval or later date.

13 CURATORIAL RESPONSIBILITY

13.1 Curatorial responsibility for the archaeological work undertaken on the site lies with the Archaeological Officer of Lincolnshire County Council. The Archaeology Officer will be given seven days notice in writing before the commencement of the project.

14 VARIATIONS

14.1 Variations to the proposed scheme of works will only be made following written confirmation of acceptance from the Archaeology Officer, Lincolnshire County Council.

15 PROGRAMME OF WORKS AND STAFFING LEVELS

- 15.1 The watching brief will be integrated with the programme of construction and is dependent on the developers' work programme. It is therefore not possible to specify the person-hours for the archaeological site work.
- 15.2 An archaeological supervisor with experience of watching briefs will undertake the work.
- 15.3 Post-excavation analysis and report production will be undertaken by the archaeological supervisor, or a post-excavation analyst as appropriate, with assistance from a finds supervisor, illustrator and external specialists. It is expected that each fieldwork day (equal to one man-day) will require a post-excavation day (equal to one-and-a-half man-days) for completion of the analysis and report. If the fieldwork lasts longer than about six days then there will be an economy of scale with the post-excavation analysis.

16 SPECIALISTS TO BE USED DURING THE PROJECT

16.1 The following organisations/persons will, in principal and if necessary, be used as subcontractors to provide the relevant specialist work and reports in respect of any objects or material recovered during the investigation that require their expert knowledge and input. Engagement of any particular specialist subcontractor is also dependent on their availability and ability to meet programming requirements.

Task	Body to be undertaking the work
Conservation	Conservation Laboratory, City and County Museum, Lincoln
Pottery Analysis	Prehistoric Pottery - Trent & Peak Archaeological Trust Roman - B Precious, independent specialist, as appropriate. Saxon - City of Lincoln Archaeology Unit Medieval and later - Hilary Healey, independent archaeologist

Non-pottery Artefacts J Cowgill, independent specialist

Animal Bones Environmental Archaeology Consultancy

Human Remains Analysis R Gowland, independent specialist

17 **BIBLIOGRAPHY**

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