



LINDSEY ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES

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**Western End, Gail Grove,
Heighington, Lincs**

NGR: 502400 370000

Planning Application: N/32/164/98

Site Code : HGG 99

LCNCC Accn. No : 253.99

Archaeological Watching Brief

Report for

Greenvalley Homes Ltd

LAS Report No. 376

November 1999

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CONTENTS

List of figures

Summary	1
Introduction	1
Site Location	1
Geology and Topography	1
Archaeological Background and Previous Work	2
Method	2
Results	2
Discussion	2
Conclusion	3
The Figures	

Figure 1. Location of site (based on Ordnance Survey 1:10 000 map © Crown Copyright, reproduced with the permission of the controller of HMSO. LAS Licence No. AL50424A

Figure 2. Plan of remains of brick structure, Scale 1:200. Base map supplied by Greenvalley Homes Ltd.

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Summary

An archaeological watching brief of the development site was undertaken while groundworks were carried out. A nineteenth century map indicated that the remains of a mill dating back to at least the seventeenth century may be located in the development area.

The removal of the topsoil revealed the remains and extensive demolition debris of a twentieth century building at the western end of the development area. These remains would have destroyed any evidence of earlier activity in the area.

Introduction

Lindsey Archaeological Services was commissioned by Greenvalley Homes Ltd, to undertake an archaeological watching brief of a small development site in Heighington. The development is for the construction of bungalow and garage.

The watching brief was carried out in accordance with the requirements of the North Kesteven Heritage Officer.

The purpose of the watching brief was to :

- establish whether this area had once been the site of a mill;
- establish the presence or absence, quality and extent of any archaeological remains;
- record and interpret any archaeological features.

Site Location

The development site is located at the end of Gail Grove, to the west of the village of Heighington, approximately 5km east of Lincoln.

The site covers an area of land approximately 45m in length, and 30m in width, narrowing to 10m at the western end. This was covered in rough grass with trees along the outer limits of the development area.

Geology and Topography

The site is located on a relatively flat area of land. The solid geology here is Blisworth Clay, deposited during the Middle Jurassic.

Archaeological Background and Previous Work

Nineteenth century maps show a mill in the vicinity of the development area. There is only one other reference to this mill, dating to the seventeenth century, but it is not known whether the mill existed prior to this period.

No previous work has been carried out in this area.

Method

All groundworks were carried out under archaeological supervision. The topsoil was stripped using a back-acting machine, revealing the subsoil. The subsoil was inspected for any archaeological features. The subsoil was then stripped using a back-acting machine, and the natural inspected for archaeological features.

Archaeological features were assigned context numbers by LAS for recording purposes. These context numbers are referred to in the following report.

Results

The remains of a modern brick building were exposed at the western end of the development site. This was apparently built 30 to 40 years ago, and was demolished 12 years ago, when it fell into disrepair.

The topsoil (100) was a grey-brown silty clay loam, containing occasional natural stones and a large quantity of modern red brick. The topsoil varied in depth between 0.20m and 0.30m. This was removed by a back-acting machine to reveal a yellow-grey sandy clay subsoil (101). Blue-grey natural clay (102) lay below this.

The only archaeological feature exposed in the development area was the remains of a brick structure (103). These remains were intermittent, with demolition debris, consisting of broken brick, concrete and asbestos, covering a relatively large area below and within the topsoil. The structure would have extended for a length of 11m, with a width of 6m.

Discussion

The remains of a mill were not exposed during the groundworks at Gail Grove, indicating that the mill was either located away from the development area, or had been destroyed by the construction and subsequent demolition of the twentieth century brick structure.

Local residents say that this brick building was built for use as an equipment store when the bungalows surrounding the development site were constructed. Following its disuse, it fell into disrepair and was demolished between ten and fifteen years ago.

Conclusion

The only remains exposed during the groundworks were modern in date and require no further work. It was decided, in agreement with the North Kesteven Heritage Officer that the foundation trenches for the bungalow and garage need not be monitored due to the absence of significant archaeological remains.

Claire Angus
November 1999

Acknowledgements

LAS are grateful to the developer, Greenvally Homes Ltd, especially Mr T.S. Crowe.

Jane Frost collated and produced the report.

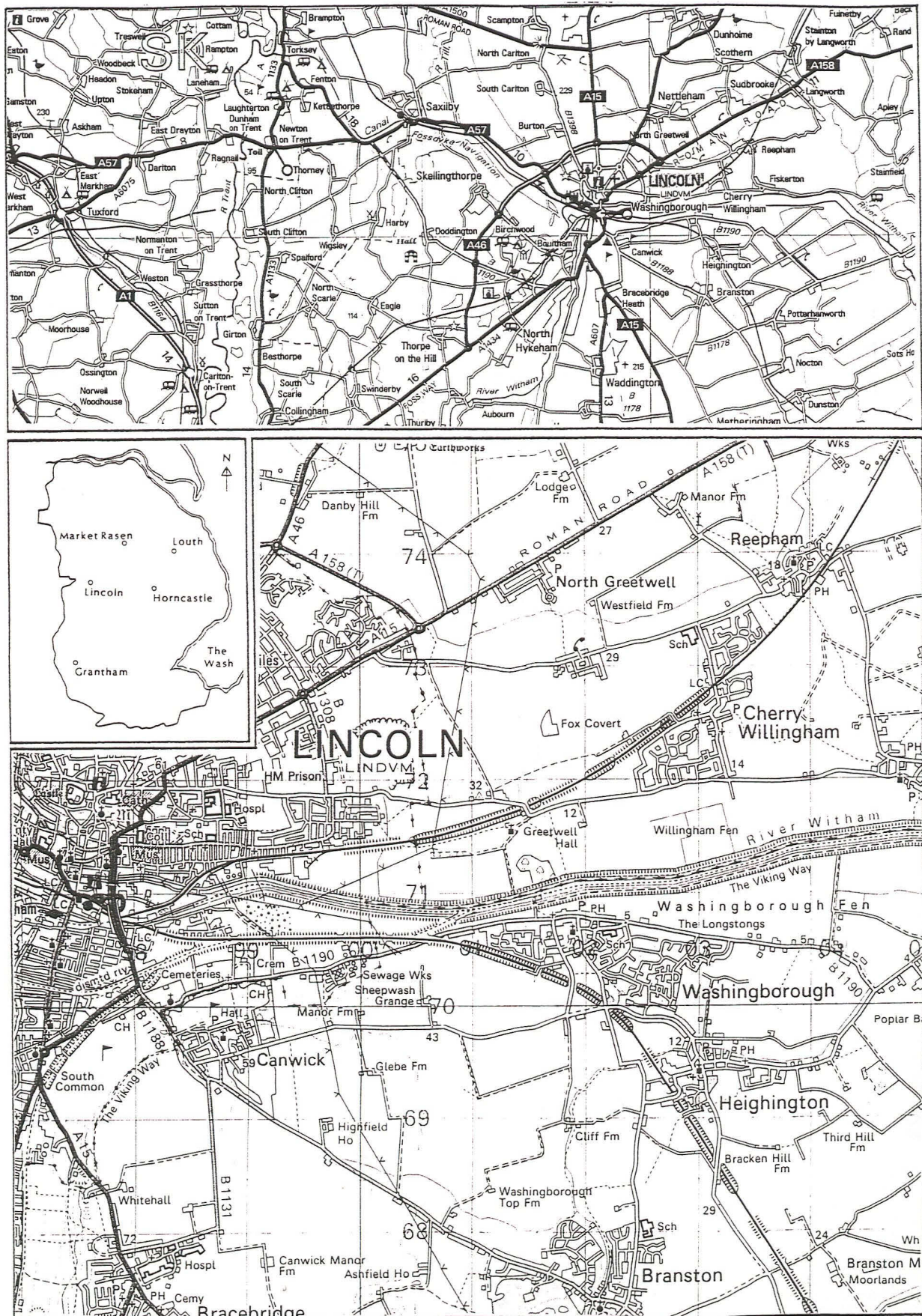


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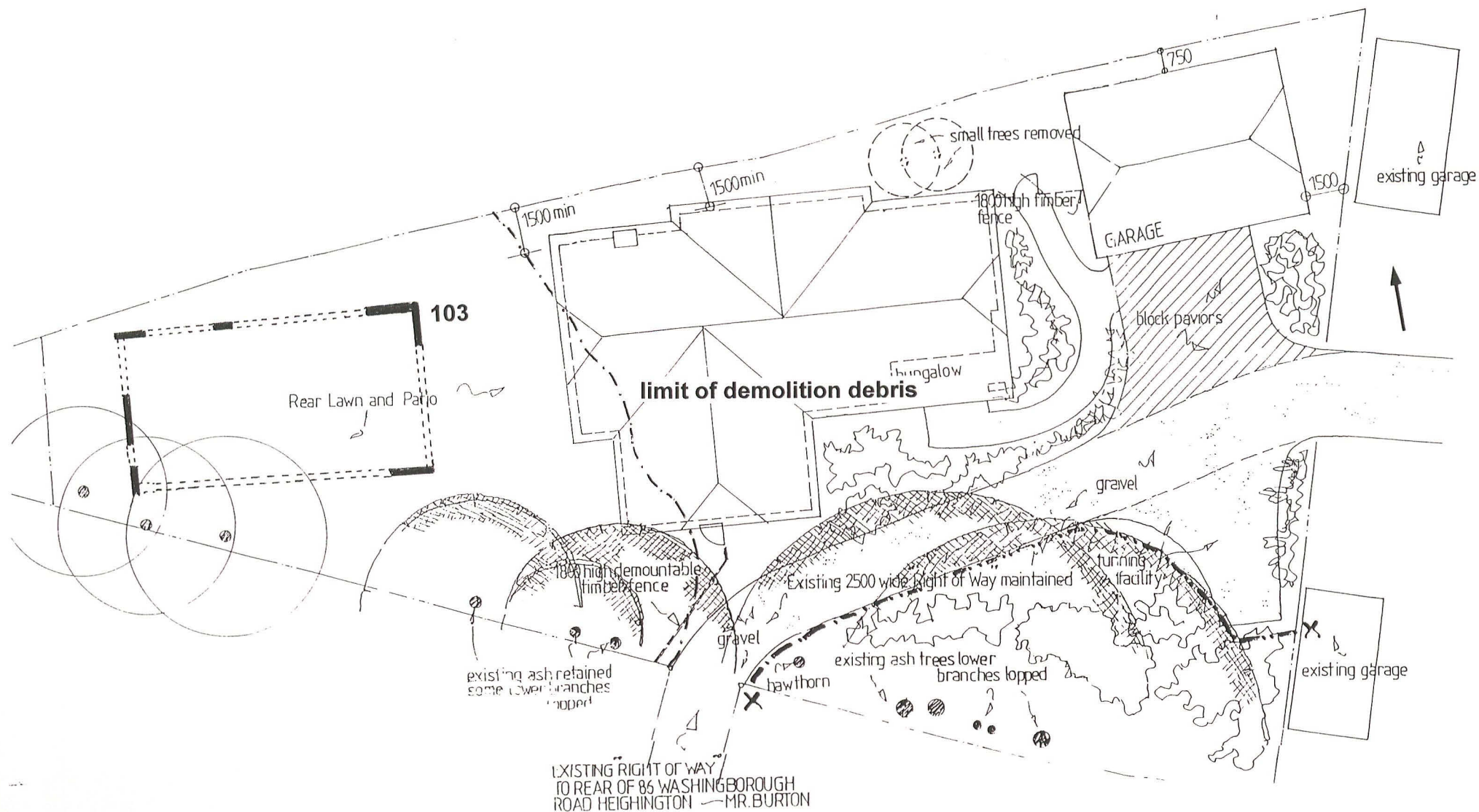


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