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**ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF
ON LAND ADJACENT TO MONK'S HOUSE,
BOURNE ROAD,
SPALDING,
LINCOLNSHIRE
(SMH99)**



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**ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF
ON LAND ADJACENT TO MONK'S HOUSE,
BOURNE ROAD,
SPALDING,
LINCOLNSHIRE
(SMH99)**

Work Undertaken For
Mr A. Lowther

October 1999

Report Compiled by
Mark Dymond HND

Planning Application No.: H16/0847/97
National Grid Reference: TF 2317 2210
City and County Museum Accession No: 17.99

A.P.S. Report No. 9/99



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1. SUMMARY

An archaeological watching brief was completed during the excavation of two service trenches close to Monk's House, Bourne Road, Spalding, Lincolnshire.

Spalding priory had established a grange at Monk's House by the 13th century. The grange was moated and part of the earthworks are still visible.

Topsoil, subsoil and recent dumped deposits were identified. No archaeological remains were recognised and no artefacts were retrieved during the investigation.

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

On the 7th January 1999, an archaeological watching brief was undertaken during excavation of two service trenches on land east of Monk's House Lane, adjacent to Monk's House, Spalding, Lincolnshire.

Archaeological Project Services was commissioned by Mr A. Lowther to undertake the watching brief. The trenches were excavated under planning application H16/0847/97.

2.3 Topography, Geology and Soils

Spalding is situated 23km southwest of Boston and 16km east of Bourne, in the District of South Holland, Lincolnshire (Fig. 1)

The investigation area is located *c.* 2km west of the town centre, north of the Bourne Road at National Grid Reference TF 2317 2210 Fig. 2). The site lies at a height of *c.* 4m OD on fairly flat and level land.

Local soils are of the Wisbech Association coarse silty calcareous alluvial gley soils (Robson 1990, 36-37). These soils are developed on young marine alluvium or former estuarine deposits and overlie a solid geology of Oxford Clay (BGS 1992)

2.4 Archaeological Background

Spalding is first referred to in a Tribal Hidage of the 7th century where a tribe known as the *Spaldas* are recorded. Domesday refers to Spalding as '*Spallinge*' and in the Lindsey Survey of 1115 it is called '*Spaldingis*'. The name probably derives from the Old English '*Spaldingas*' meaning 'descendants of the Spaldas' or 'members of the tribe of Spaldas' (Ekwall 1974, 432). Domesday also records that Spalding had a market, 6 fisheries, and salt pans (Foster and Longley 1976, 89).

Immediately west of the development lies Monk's House, a former grange of the Priory of Spalding, and a particularly important Grade II listed building (DoE 1975, 5). The grange had been built by at least the 13th century (Hallam 1965, 177), and was moated. The moat still survives as an earthwork, though some of it has been adapted for landscape gardening or incorporated into the local drainage system. The building that occupies the site today is

of 16th/17th century construction (Cope-Faulkner 1997, 6).

Approximately 200m south of the study area remains of a late Iron Age to early Roman industrial settlement has been identified (Herbert 1997).

On the west side of Monk's House Lane, 400m from the site, are cropmarks of possible Roman date representing enclosures and track ways (Phillips 1970, 288). These are probably associated with the Baston Outgang, a Roman gravel road which is believed to pass close to the development site (Fig. 2).

3. AIMS

The aim of the watching brief was to record and interpret the archaeological features exposed during ground disturbance. The objectives were to determine the form, function, spatial arrangement, date and sequence of any archaeological remains.

4. METHODS

Two sets of drains, *c.* 40-50m and 10m long by 0.55m deep were machine excavated to the east and south of a newly constructed bungalow. This bungalow was built on a concrete raft which did not extend to the depth of the drains. Following excavation by machine, selected sections of the sides of all trenches were cleaned and rendered vertical. Selected deposits were partially or fully excavated by hand to determine their nature and to retrieve artefactual material. The depth and thickness of each deposit was measured from the ground surface. Each archaeological deposit or feature revealed within the trench was allocated a unique reference number (context number) with an individual written description. Sections were drawn at a scale of

1:10 and a photographic record compiled, depicting the setting of the site and the deposits exposed by development.

Records of deposits exposed by groundworks were examined. A summary list of all contexts and interpretations appears as Appendix 1. Phasing was assigned based on the nature of the deposits and recognisable relationships between them. A stratigraphic matrix of all identified deposits was produced.

5. RESULTS

Two phases were identified:

Phase 1: Natural deposits

Phase 2: Recent deposits

Archaeological contexts are described below. The numbers in brackets are the context numbers assigned in the field.

Phase 1: Natural deposits

The earliest recorded deposit within the trenches comprised light grey-brown silt (003). This was exposed at a depth of 0.42m below the present ground surface, and continued beyond the limit of excavation.

Phase 2: Recent deposits

Overlying the natural silt was a 0.14m thick layer of brown silt and fine sand (002 and 007) identified as the subsoil.

Sealing the subsoil near to the new bungalow was a dumped layer of crushed brick, tile and silt (006). This may be associated with the construction of the bungalow.

Overlying (006) and (002) were two layers

of dark brown silt topsoil (001) and (005), the latter probably redeposited. This was overlaid by a layer of redeposited dark brown silt and building materials (004).

6. DISCUSSION

Archaeological investigations on land east of Monk's House Lane, Spalding, Lincolnshire, have recorded a sequence of natural and recent deposits.

The earliest recorded deposit comprised light grey brown silt (003). This layer represents natural undisturbed ground and may be the upper surface of alluvial drift deposits. This was overlain by a layer of naturally formed brown silt and fine sand subsoil.

Overlying the subsoil in one of the trenches was a dumped deposit of crushed ceramic material and soil, that represents raising or levelling a ground surface and is possibly associated with the construction of the new bungalow.

Sealing the subsoil was a layer of topsoil. A layer of identical topsoil sealed the layer of crushed ceramic material and soil, and is, therefore, likely to have been dumped at the time the bungalow was constructed.

No artefacts were retrieved or observed during this investigation with the exception of recent building rubble. This may be considered unusual considering the position of the site to known medieval remains. It is possible that severe truncation of the site had occurred which would effectively remove any trace of the buried archaeology.

7. CONCLUSIONS

An archaeological watching brief was

undertaken on land east of Monk's House Lane, Spalding, because the groundworks were likely to disturb archaeological remains, particularly those associated with the former medieval grange.

However, no archaeological remains were encountered during the investigation. No artefactual material was identified. The nature of the local site conditions would suggest that few environmental indicators (seeds, wood, snails *etc.*) would survive, other than through charring.

8. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeological Project Services would like to acknowledge the assistance of Mr A. Lowther who commissioned the fieldwork and post-excavation analysis. The work was coordinated by Gary Taylor and this report was edited by Tom Lane. Background information was obtained from the parish files and library maintained by Heritage Lincolnshire.

9. PERSONNEL

Project Coordinator: Gary Taylor
Site Supervisor: Fiona Walker
Illustration: Mark Dymond
Post-Excavation Analysis: Mark Dymond

10. BIBLIOGRAPHY

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11. ABBREVIATIONS

APS Archaeological Project Services

BGS British Geological Survey

DoE Department of the Environment

IFA Institute of Field Archaeologists

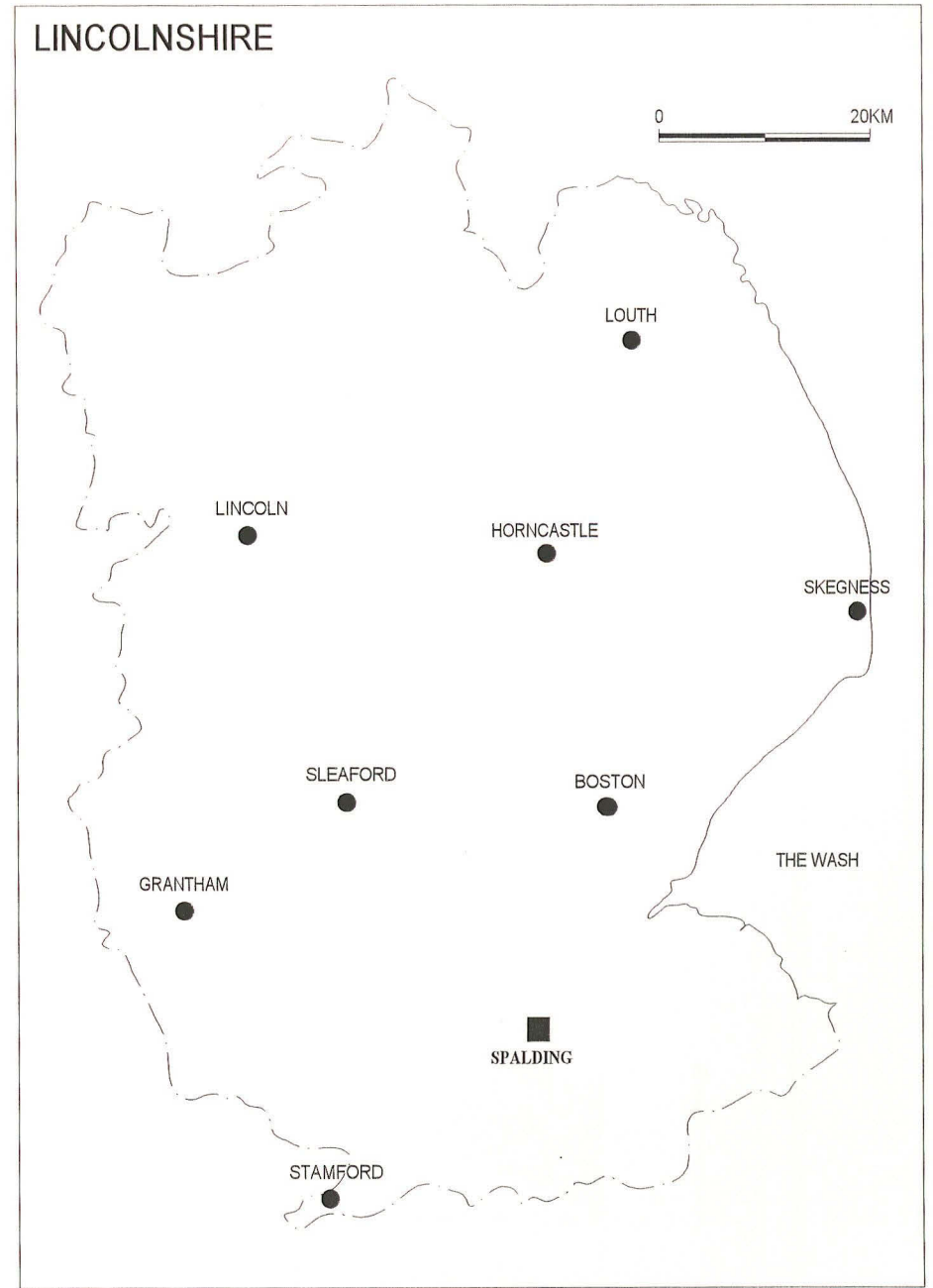


Figure 1 - General location map

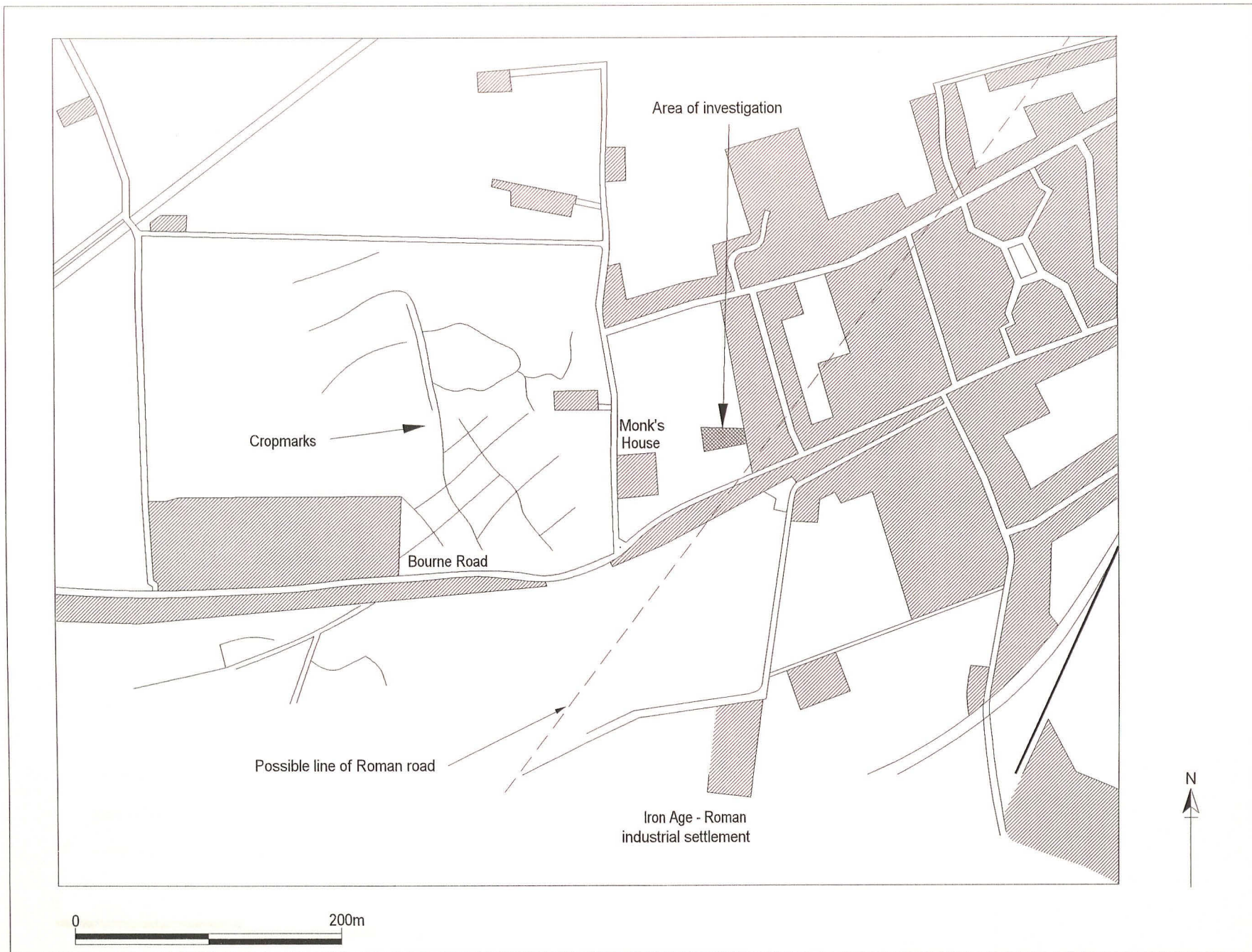


Figure 2 - Site Location Plan



Figure 3 - Plan showing location of drawn sections

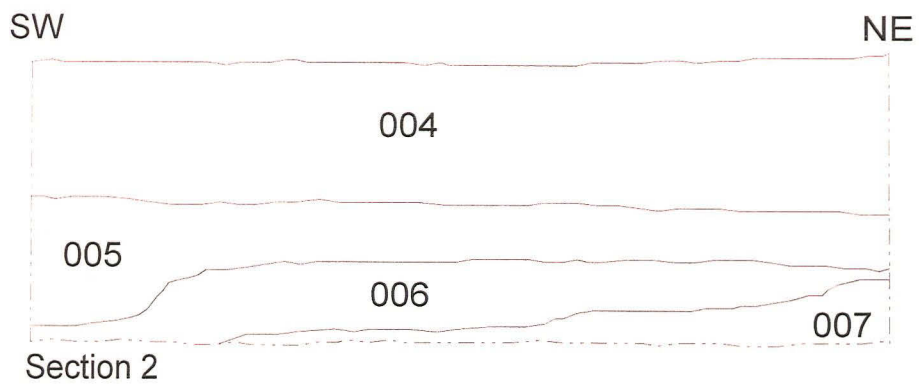
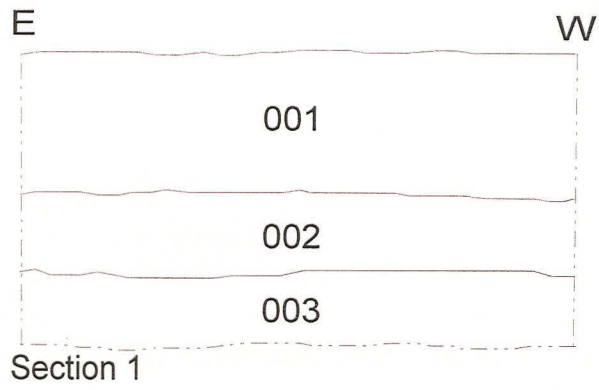


Figure 4 - Sections 1 and 2



Plate 1 : General View, looking south



Plate 2 : Section 1, looking south

Appendix 1

CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

No	Description	Interpretation
001	Dark blackish brown organic silt, 0.28m thick	Topsoil
002	Greyish brown silt, 0.14m thick	Subsoil
003	Light yellowish grey brown silt, 0.13m thick	Natural
004	Dark blackish brown organic silt with fragments of building material, 0.25m thick	Dumped deposit
005	Dark blackish brown organic silt	Dumped deposit
006	Crushed brick, tile and silt, 0.12m thick	Dumped deposit
007	Light yellowish brown silt and fine sand, 0.11m thick	Subsoil

Appendix 2

THE ARCHIVE

The archive consists of:

7	Context records
1	Photographic record sheet
1	Sketch drawings
1	Stratigraphic matrix
1	Scale drawing

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 the Lincolnshire City and County Museum.

Lincolnshire City and County Council Museum Accession Number: 17.99

Archaeological Project Services Site Code: SMH99

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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Appendix 3

GLOSSARY

Context	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 interpretations of the context (the context sheet) is created and placed in the site archive. Context numbers are identified within the report text by brackets, <i>e.g.</i> (004).
Cropmark	A mark that is produced by the effect of underlying archaeological features influencing the growth of a particular crop.
Cut	A cut refers to the physical action of digging a posthole, pit, ditch, foundation trench, <i>etc.</i> Once the fills of these features are removed during an archaeological investigation the original 'cut' is therefore exposed and subsequently recorded.
Fill	Once a feature has been dug it begins to silt up (either slowly or rapidly) or it can be back-filled manually. The soil(s) which become contained by the 'cut' are referred to as its fill(s).
Iron Age	A period characterised by the introduction of Iron into the country for tools, between 800 BC and AD 50.
Layer	A layer is a term to describe an accumulation of soil or other material that is not contained within a cut.
Medieval	The Middle Ages, dating from approximately AD 1066-1500.
Natural	Undisturbed deposit(s) of soil or rock which have accumulated without the influence of human activity.
Romano-British	Pertaining to the period dating from AD 43-410 when the Romans occupied Britain.
Saxon	Pertaining to the period dating from AD 410-1066 when England was largely settled by tribes from northern Germany