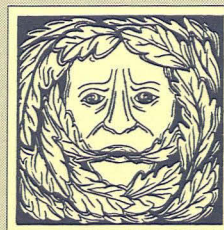
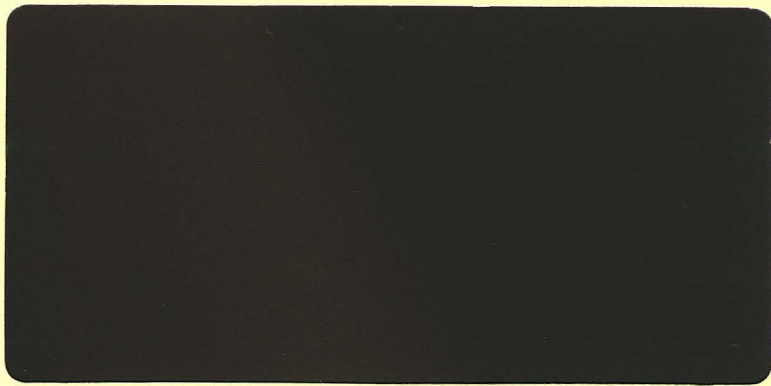


99/26

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF  
AT  
HARRINGTON ROAD,  
BRINKHILL,  
LINCOLNSHIRE  
(BHR99)**



**A P S**  
ARCHAEOLOGICAL  
PROJECT  
SERVICES



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ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF  
AT  
HARRINGTON ROAD,  
BRINKHILL,  
LINCOLNSHIRE  
(BHR99)

Work Undertaken For  
Mr C. Grainger

November 1999

Report compiled by  
Paul Cope-Faulkner BA (Hons) AIFA  
and  
Gary Taylor BA, MA

National Grid Reference: TF <sup>3715 7355</sup> 372 736  
City and County Museum Accession No: 120.99  
5/021/0485/99.

APS Report No: 92/99



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## 1. SUMMARY

*An archaeological watching brief was undertaken during excavations for a new garden wall and house at Harrington Road, Brinkhill, Lincolnshire.*

*The site is in the core of the village, within 100m to the west of a moat of medieval date (AD 1066-1500). Earthworks of two other moats occur in the vicinity and all three are nationally important Scheduled Ancient Monuments.*

*The investigations revealed a sequence of undated and recent deposits, including a possible ditch, dumped deposits and a recent refuse pit. A quantity of pottery was also recovered, mainly of 19<sup>th</sup> - 20<sup>th</sup> century date, although earlier pottery was also retrieved.*

## 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

Archaeological Project Services was commissioned by Mr C. Grainger to undertake an archaeological watching brief during development groundwork for a new house and boundary wall at Harrington Road, Brinkhill, Lincolnshire. The watching brief was carried out in accordance with the guidelines detailed in the Lincolnshire Archaeological Handbook (Lincolnshire County Council 1998). The investigation

took place on the 18<sup>th</sup> of April and the 28<sup>th</sup> of July 1999.

### 2.3 Topography and Geology

Brinkhill is located 14.5km south of Louth in the administrative district of East Lindsey, Lincolnshire (Fig. 1).

The development site is in the core of the village, about 200m south of the parish church of St. Philip. Located on the east side of Harrington Road, the site is at National Grid Reference TF 372 736 (Fig. 2). Brinkhill village lies in a small northeast-southwest valley through which a partially canalised stream flows northeastward, subsequently becoming Calceby Beck. Lying at a height of c. 42m OD, the site is on the northwest side of the valley on land sloping gently down to the southeast.

Local soils are the Wickham 2 Association fine loamy over clayey typical stagnogleys. Immediately to the east are Banbury Association soils, typically loamy ferritic brown earths (Hodge *et al.* 1984, 351; 103). The soils overlie a drift geology of glacial sands and gravel which rests on Lower Cretaceous limestones and clays (IGS 1980).

### 2.4 Archaeological Setting

Brinkhill lies in an area of known archaeological remains dating from the prehistoric period to the present. Four neolithic stone and flint axes are recorded from the parish. One of the axes was found 200m north of the present investigation site, though the others were found on the higher ground to the north and south of the village.

Romano-British remains are restricted to the course of the Roman road between Lincoln and Burgh-le-Marsh (Margary 1973, 239). Although the actual course of the thoroughfare is unclear through Brinkhill, its

route to Tetford and continuation at Ulceby indicate that the road may have passed through the northern end of the village.

Brinkhill is first mentioned in the Domesday Survey of 1086. Referred to as *Brinckle*, the name is derived from the Old English *brinc(e)* meaning the brink of a hill or steep slope (Ekwall 1974, 65). At the time of Domesday the land was owned by Earl Hugh and, together with several other villages, was sokeland of the manor of Greetham (Foster and Longley 1976).

Remains of the medieval period are represented by earthworks of three moated enclosures in the village. Each is a Scheduled Ancient Monument (English Heritage 1996) and one of the moats is less than 100m east of the present investigation site. A 14<sup>th</sup> century cross, with a modern addition, survives in the churchyard of St. Philip's church (DoE 1987, 5). This church, although dated to the mid 19<sup>th</sup> century, contains a 13<sup>th</sup> century font that may suggest the present structure is built on the site of an earlier church.

Previous archaeological investigations just 100m southwest of the present site revealed two undated boundary ditches that paralleled existing property divisions in the area. Additionally, Roman, medieval and later artefacts were recovered (Cope-Faulkner 1998).

### 3. AIMS

The aims of the watching brief were to record and interpret archaeological deposits, if present, and to determine their date, sequence, function and origin.

### 4. METHODS

Trenches for the new boundary wall and the house foundations were opened by a mechanical excavator up to a depth of c. 0.8m as required for the development. Following excavation, selected parts of the sides of the 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 were measured from the ground surface. Each archaeological deposit or feature revealed was allocated a unique reference number (context number) with an individual written description. A list of all contexts and interpretations appears as Appendix 2. A photographic record was compiled and sections were drawn at a scale of 1:10. Recording of deposits encountered during the watching brief was undertaken according to standard Archaeological Project Services practice.

Artefacts recovered during the investigations were examined and a period date assigned where possible. Records of the deposits and features recognised during the watching brief were also examined. Phasing was assigned based on the nature of the deposits and recognisable relationships between them, supplemented by artefact dating.

### 5. RESULTS

Two phases of activity were identified:

Phase 1	Natural deposits
Phase 2	Undated deposits
Phase 3	Recent deposits

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

### **Phase 1      Natural deposits**

The earliest deposits encountered during the investigation comprised brownish yellow clayey silt (003) and yellowish brown silty sand (013) corresponding to the underlying drift geology.

Lying above the natural was a subsoil layer of brownish yellow clayey silt (012) visible in the footings for the house. This deposit measured 0.28m thick.

### **Phase 2      Undated deposits**

Cut into the natural deposits in the trench for the boundary wall was a 5m long feature (007). The depth of this feature exceeded 0.25m and no alignment could be determined (Fig. 4, Section 2). Interpreted as a possible ditch, it contained a single fill of brownish grey sandy silt (006).

A dumped deposit (010) in the house foundations had extensively disturbed subsoil (012). Comprising yellowish brown sandy silt with chalk fragments, this deposit measured 0.24m thick and had a visible extent of 15m (Fig. 3).

An area of 5m in extent of natural had been disturbed and mixed to form a greyish brown silty sand deposit (008) along the northern boundary of the site.

A subsoil of yellowish brown sandy silt (002) sealed the possible ditch (007) and disturbed natural (008) and a similar deposit (011) overlay the dumped deposit (010). Both measured 0.3m thick.

### **Phase 3      Recent deposits**

Cut into subsoil (002) was a 2m wide feature (004). Although the cut was not clear, a depth of 0.3m was established. A single fill of mid yellowish brown silt (005) contained

late 19<sup>th</sup> - early 20<sup>th</sup> century pottery.

Sealing all deposits on the site was a topsoil of brown silt (001) and greyish brown sandy silt (009), measuring between 0.2m and 0.38m thick.

## **6.      DISCUSSION**

Deposits of natural clayey silt and silty sand (Phase 1) were the earliest deposits encountered during the watching brief. Identified as the underlying drift geology, these were formed as a result of the last glaciation.

Phase 2 deposits comprise a possible ditch and dumped deposits. Discrete areas of disturbed natural and subsoil were also recorded. No artefacts were retrieved from any of these deposits, so they must remain undated. Similarly, the cause and nature of disturbance was not established.

Recent deposits (Phase 3) comprise a possible refuse pit and the present topsoil.

Pottery was recovered from topsoil and the refuse pit. The earliest pottery are two fragments of Toynton type pottery dating to between the 14<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> centuries. However, most of the pottery is 18<sup>th</sup> - 19<sup>th</sup> century in date. No other types of artefacts were recovered. The finds derived from the topsoil may indicate no more than discarded rubbish that had been incorporated into midden heaps and later spread on the land to improve fertility of the soil.

## **7.      CONCLUSIONS**

Archaeological investigations were carried out on land at Brinkhill because the site lies in the medieval core of the village and in close proximity to moated sites of the



period.

However, an undated ditch and dumped deposit along with a recent refuse pit were the only archaeological features revealed during the investigation.

A quantity of pottery was also recovered and is largely 19<sup>th</sup> - 20<sup>th</sup> century in date. However, two late medieval or early post-medieval fragments were also found. The nature of the local site conditions would suggest that few environmental indicators (snails, seeds, pollen, *etc.*) will survive other than through charring.

## 8. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeological Project Services would like to acknowledge the assistance of Mr C. Grainger who commissioned the fieldwork and post-excavation analysis. The work was coordinated by Dale Trimble and this report was edited by Tom Lane. Dave Start permitted access to the library and parish files maintained by the Heritage Trust of Lincolnshire.

## 9. PERSONNEL

Project Coordinator: Dale Trimble  
Supervisor: Fiona Walker  
Finds Processing: Denise Buckley  
Illustration: Paul Cope-Faulkner, Rachael Hall and Phil Mills  
Post-excavation Analyst: Paul Cope-Faulkner, Gary Taylor

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## 11. ABBREVIATIONS

APS Archaeological Project Services  
DoE Department of the Environment  
IFA Institute of Field Archaeologists  
IGS Institute of Geological Sciences

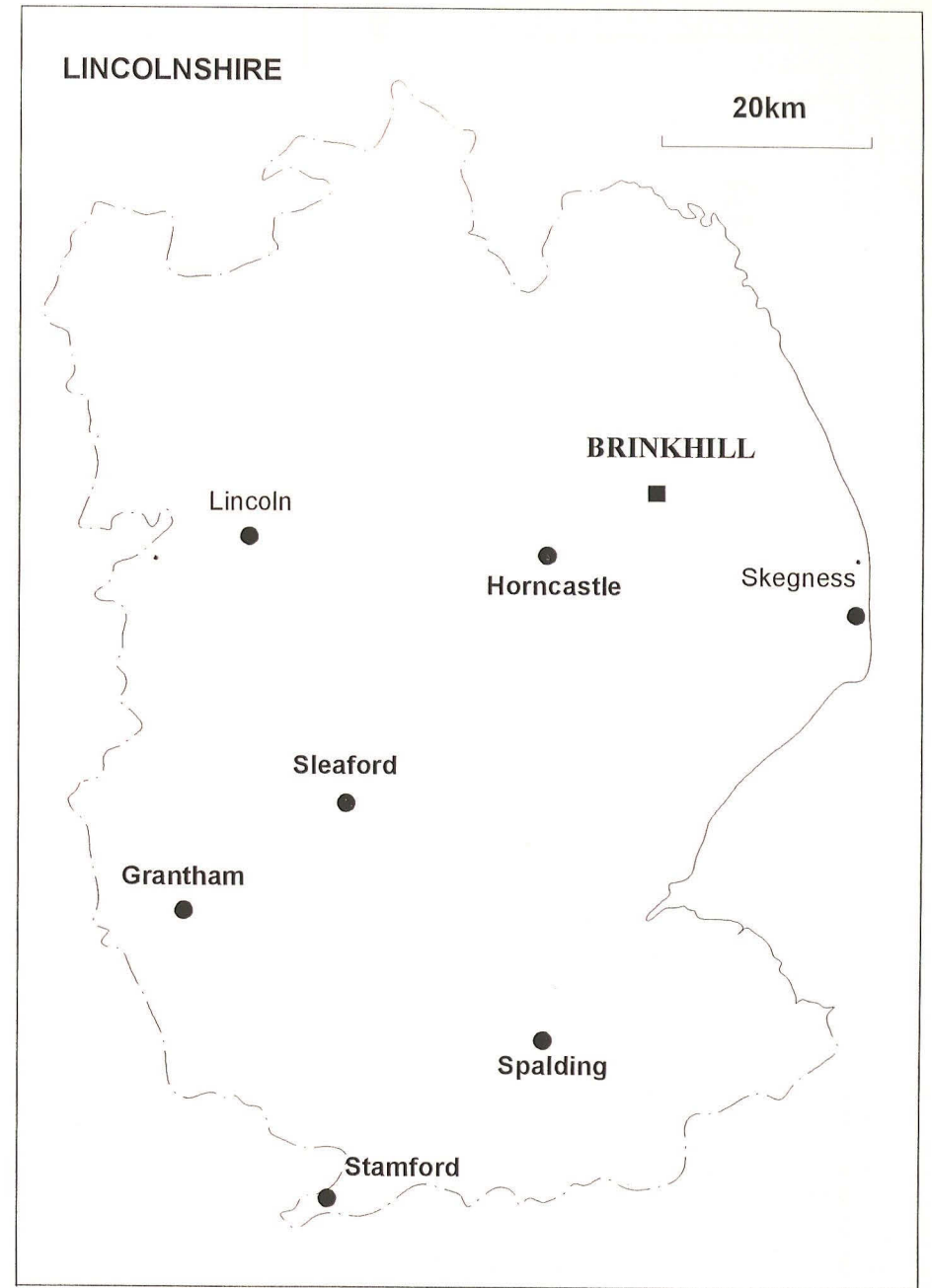
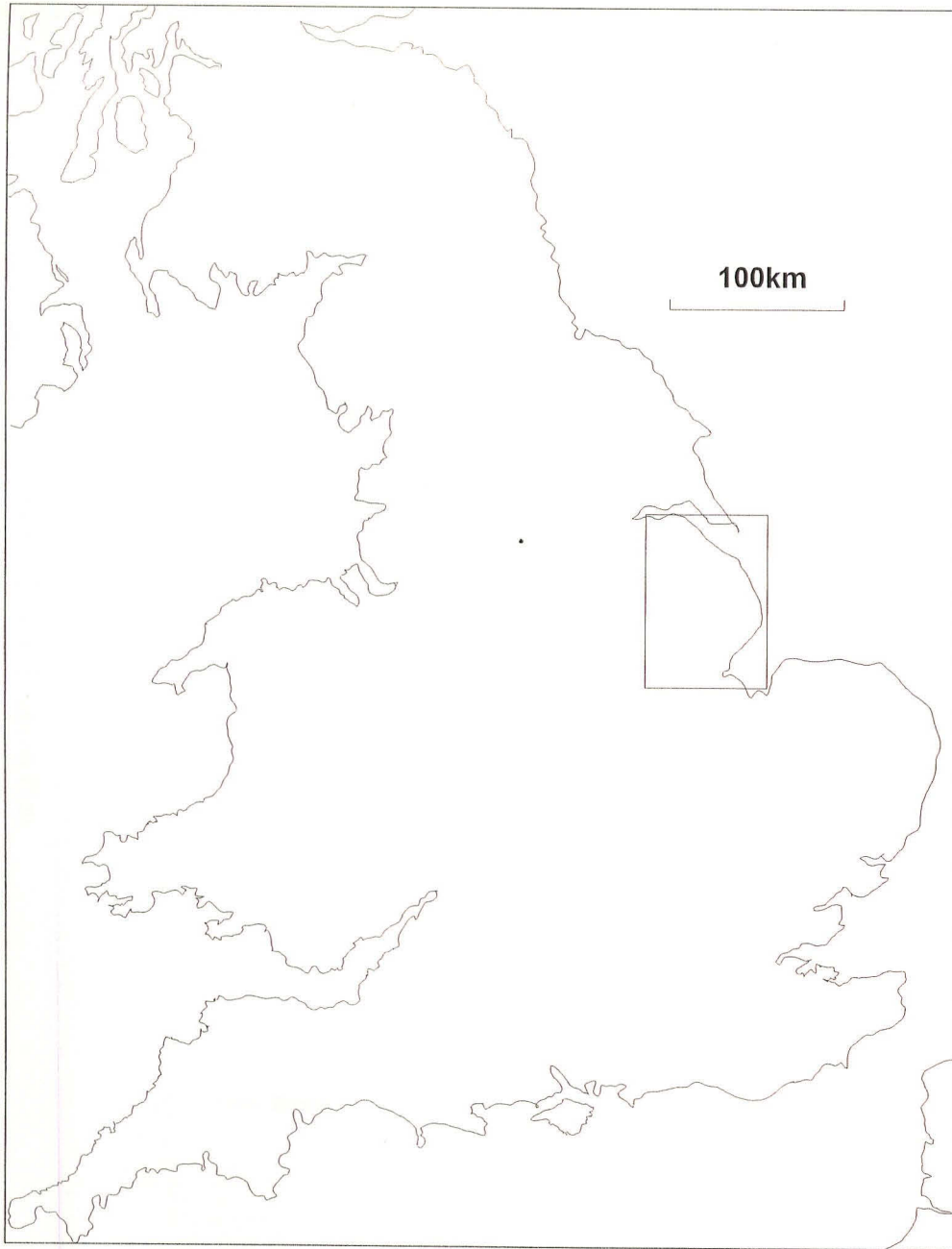
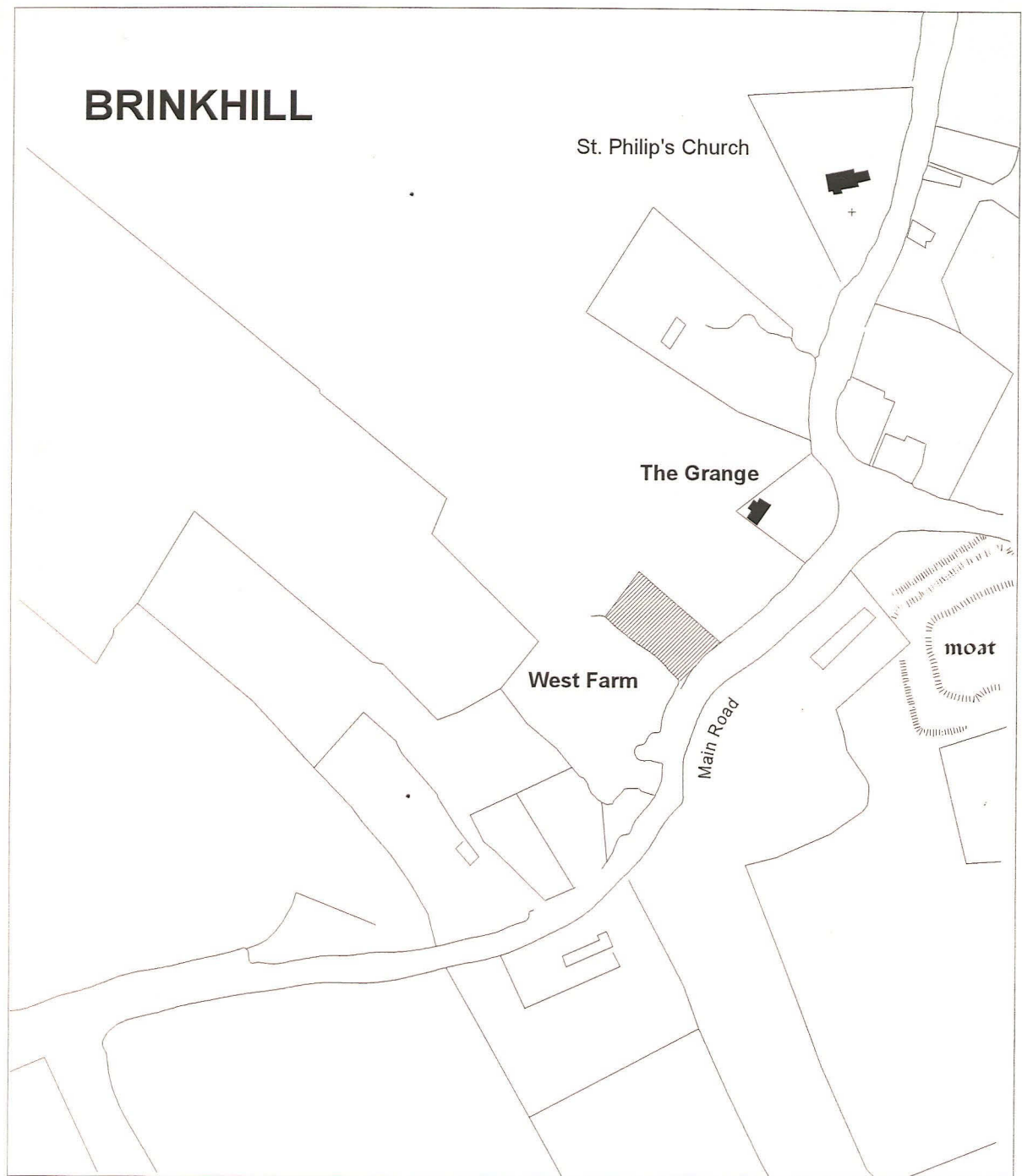


Figure 1 - General Location Plan

# BRINKHILL



 Proposed development site



Figure 2 - Site Location Plan

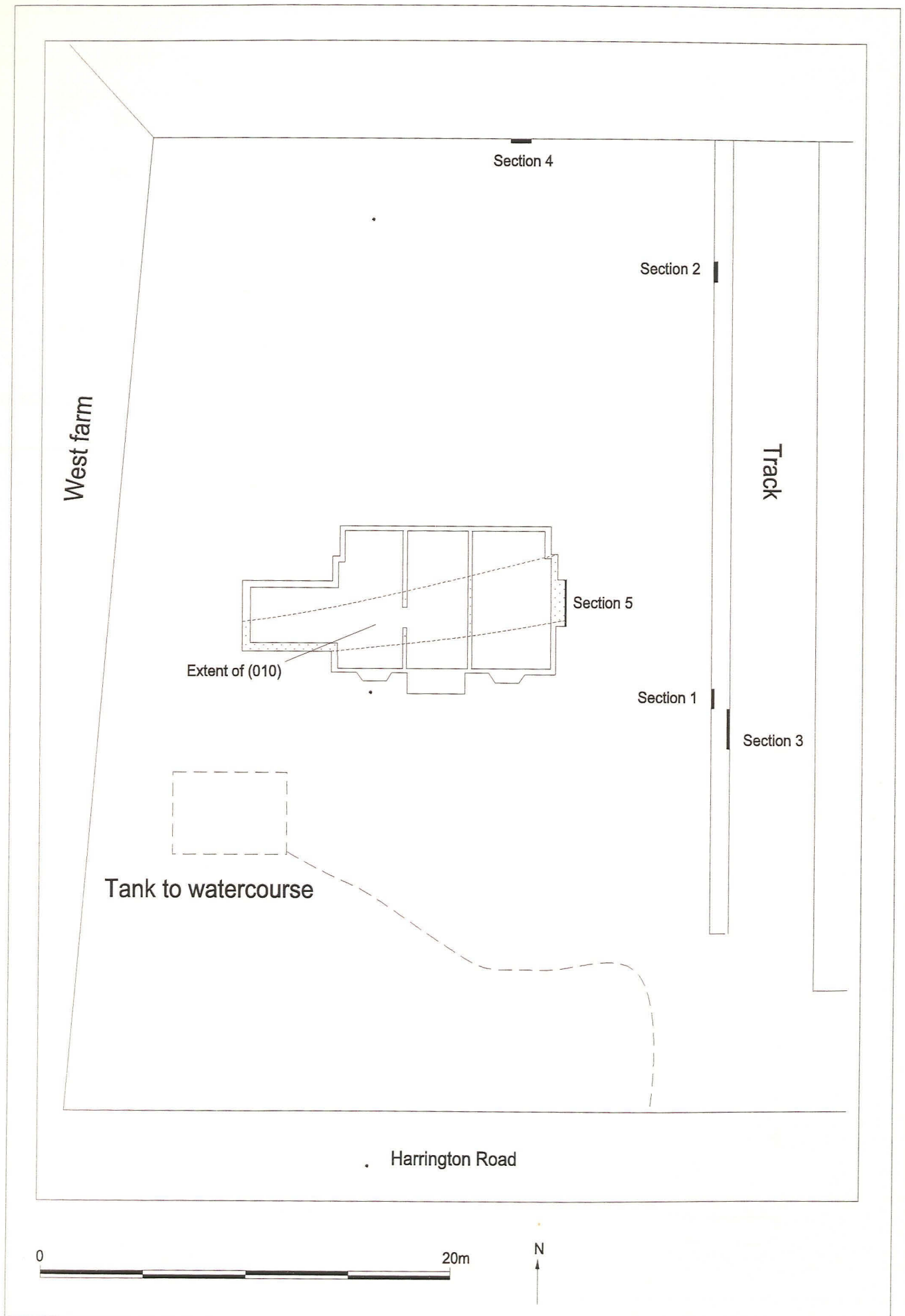


Figure 3 - Development Plan showing section locations

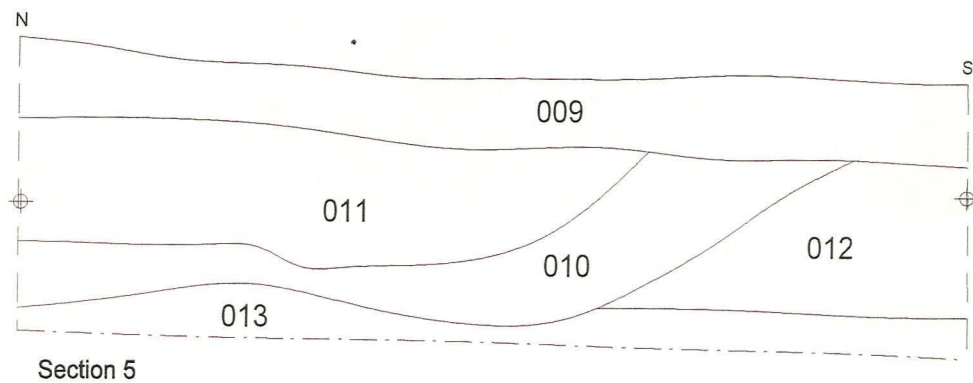
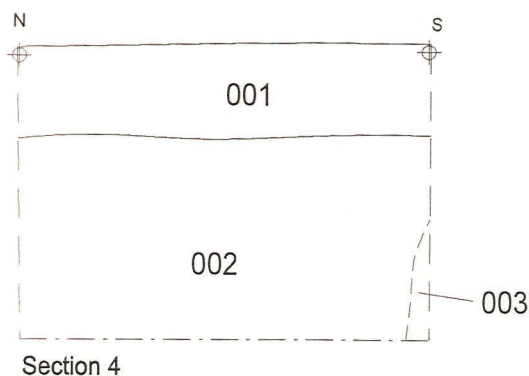
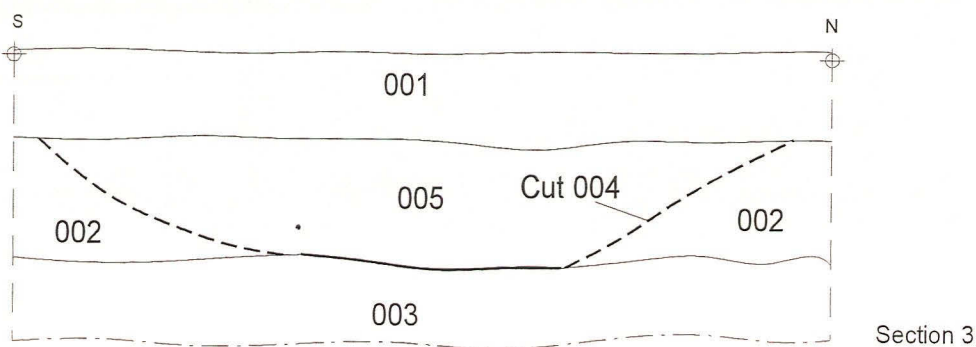
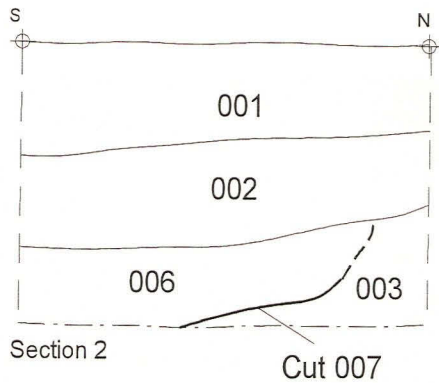
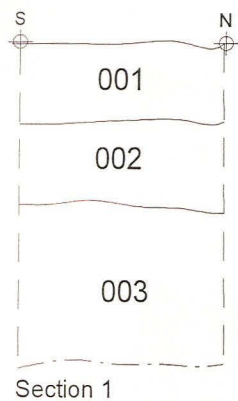


Figure 4 - Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5



Plate 1 - General view of the development area,  
looking northwest



Plate 2 - Section 2, looking west, the dark fill  
of the possible ditch (007) can be seen in the base of the trench

## Appendix 1

### CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

No.	Description	Interpretation
001	Firm mid brown silt with some clay, 0.38m thick	Topsoil
002	Firm mid yellowish brown sandy silt with some clay, 0.3m thick	Subsoil
003	Firm mid brownish yellow clayey silt and sand, >0.3m thick	Natural deposit
004	Feature, 2m wide by 0.3m deep, no clear cut visible	Refuse pit?
005	Firm mid yellowish brown silt	Fill of 004
006	Firm mid brownish grey sandy silt, humic	Fill of 007
007	Feature, 5m extent by >0.25m deep, no alignment visible	Possible ditch
008	Firm mid greyish brown silty sand, 5m extent	Disturbed natural
009	Firm dark greyish brown sandy silt, 0.2m thick	Topsoil
010	Friable yellowish brown sandy silt with chalk fragments, 0.24m thick	Dumped deposit
011	Firm mid yellowish brown sandy silt, 0.34m thick	Subsoil
012	Firm brownish yellow clayey silt, 0.28m thick	Subsoil
013	Firm yellowish brown silty sand, >0.62m thick	Natural deposit

## Appendix 2

### THE FINDS

*Hilary Healey MPhil and Gary Taylor MA*

#### Provenance

The material is derived from an apparent refuse deposit (005) and the topsoil (009).

#### Range

The range of material is detailed in the table. Pottery was the only material recovered though metal mesh and glass was also observed in deposit (005).

Context	Description	Latest Date
005	1x saltglazed stoneware, late 18 <sup>th</sup> -19 <sup>th</sup> century 2x lead-glazed stoneware, flagon. Sherds not linked but almost certainly same vessel. Late 19 <sup>th</sup> -early 20 <sup>th</sup> century 1x white tableware, underglaze handpainted in green. ?Cup. Late 19 <sup>th</sup> -early 20 <sup>th</sup> century	Late 19 <sup>th</sup> - early 20 <sup>th</sup> century
009	1x moulded, transfer-printed tableware, late 19 <sup>th</sup> -20 <sup>th</sup> century 1x green and white transfer printed tableware, mid-late 19 <sup>th</sup> century 1x creamware, late 18 <sup>th</sup> -19 <sup>th</sup> century 1x red painted earthenware, brown glazed, 18 <sup>th</sup> century 1x Toynton All Saints-type ware, 14 <sup>th</sup> -15 <sup>th</sup> century 1x Toynton/Bolingbroke-type ware, overfired, 14 <sup>th</sup> -16 <sup>th</sup> century 1x plant pot, late 19 <sup>th</sup> -20 <sup>th</sup> century	Late 19 <sup>th</sup> - 20 <sup>th</sup> century

#### Condition

All the material is in good condition and presents no long-term storage problems. The assemblage is archived by material class.

#### Documentation

Similar, generally late post-medieval assemblages of artefacts have previously been recovered in Brinkhill and reported on (Healey 1998). Archaeological investigations in the proximity have also been undertaken and reported (Cope-Faulkner 1998). Records of archaeological sites and finds in the area are maintained in the Lincolnshire Sites and Monuments Record.

#### Potential

The assemblage has limited potential. The late medieval sherds indicate activity of the period in the vicinity, to be expected in the medieval village core, though could have entered the area as manuring scatter. However, this small amount of medieval material is residual, occurring with later artefacts.

#### Bibliography

Cope-Faulkner, P., 1998 *An Archaeological Watching Brief of land adjacent to Main Road, Brinkhill, Lincolnshire (BMR97)*, unpublished Archaeological Project Services report 6/98

Healey, H., 1998 'The Finds', in P. Cope-Faulkner, *An Archaeological Watching Brief of land adjacent to Main Road, Brinkhill, Lincolnshire (BMR97)*, unpublished Archaeological Project Services report 6/98



## Appendix 3

### GLOSSARY

<b>Context</b>	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).
<b>Cropmark</b>	A mark that is produced by the effect of underlying archaeological features influencing the growth of a particular crop.
<b>Cut</b>	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.
<b>Layer</b>	A layer is a term to describe an accumulation of soil or other material that is not contained within a cut.
<b>Medieval</b>	The Middle Ages, dating from approximately AD 1066-1500.
<b>Natural</b>	Undisturbed deposit(s) of soil or rock which have accumulated without the influence of human activity.
<b>Post-medieval</b>	The period following the Middle Ages, dating from approximately AD 1500-1800.
<b>Toft</b>	An area of land or holding comprising a homestead and accompanying paddock.

## Appendix 4

### THE ARCHIVE

The archive consists of:

13	Context records
5	Scale drawings on 2 plan sheets
2	Photographic record sheet
1	Bag of finds
1	Stratigraphic matrix

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: 120.99

Archaeological Project Services Site Code: BHR99

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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