



LINDSEY ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES

**Land East of Barkham Arms Public House,
Wainfleet St Mary, Lincs**

NGR: TF 4685 5905

Site Code: WBA99

LCNCC Accn No.: 254.99

Archaeological Watching Brief

Report prepared for

Mr M. Stacey

LAS Report No. 407

March 2000

Lincolnshire County Council
Archaeology Section
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Contents

List of Figures
List of Plates

Summary	1
Introduction	1
Site Location	1
Archaeological Background	1
Method	2
Results	2
Discussion	3
Acknowledgements	3
Appendix 1: Context summary	
Figures	
Plates	

Figures

Fig. 1: Site location (based on the Ordnance Survey 1:10 000 map. Crown Copyright, reproduced with the permission of the controller of HMSO. LAS Licence No. AL50424A)

Fig. 2: Plan of stripped area showing evaluation trenches

Plates

Pl. 1: Development area before excavation, looking east

Pl. 2: Stripped area, looking north

5/195/1919/99

Barkham Arms, Wainfleet St Marys, Lincs

Archaeological Watching Brief

NGR: TF 4685 5905

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Summary

A watching brief carried out at land to the east of the Barkham Arms public house, Wainfleet St Marys, identified a ditch/hollow way that had been previously recorded during the excavation of three evaluation trenches.

Introduction

Following the results of an archaeological evaluation of the proposed development site in October 1999, it was agreed that an archaeological watching brief should be carried out when the area was stripped during construction of a fishing lake.

Lindsey Archaeological Services were commissioned by Mr Stacey to undertake a watching brief.

The main objectives of the watching brief were to:

- establish the presence or absence, quality and extent of any archaeological remains;
- gather sufficient information to assess the potential and significance of any archaeological remains present.

The work was carried out in accordance with the general requirements set out in the *Lincolnshire Archaeological Handbook* published by the Archaeology Section, Lincolnshire County Council (1998).

Site Location

The site of the fishing lake is located to the south-east of the Barkham Arms public house at Wainfleet Bank, approximately 2km west of Wainfleet All Saints (Figure 1).

Archaeological Background

The development site is located within an area of earthworks that probably relate to the medieval settlement of Wainfleet St Mary. These earthworks extended into the development area, and were visible until relatively recently when the land was levelled.

An archaeological evaluation of the proposed development site was carried out by Lindsey Archaeological Services in October 1999 (LAS Report No. 375). The evaluation consisted of the excavation of three trenches across the proposed site of the fishing lake. This work concluded that

there was a medieval ditch/hollow way orientated east-west across the site and a probable man-made pond also dating to the medieval period (located at the southern end of Trench 3). A layer found in Trenches 1 and 2 was probably a buried topsoil, the result of the levelling of the land.

Method

The topsoil and lower deposits were machine-excavated under archaeological supervision. Archaeological features and deposits were assigned context numbers by LAS for recording purposes. These numbers are referred to in the following report and illustrations. All archaeological features and deposits were recorded using colour photographs and scale plans were made.

Results

The context numbers referred to here were assigned during the watching brief. The numbers assigned to corresponding features and deposits recorded in the evaluation trenches are cross-referenced in Appendix 1.

The topsoil (**100**) consisted of a light grey-brown silty clay, varying in depth between 0.05m and 0.20m across the development area.

The removal of the topsoil across the north of the site revealed a mixed layer (**101**) of orange and grey silty clay, up to 0.50m in depth. This material was identified in Trenches 1 and 2 during the evaluation and is thought to be a modern levelling layer created when the field was landscaped.

Below layer **101**, and immediately below the topsoil at the southern end of the site a marine silt subsoil layer (**102**) was recorded. The subsoil is a mixed deposit of a slightly silty blue/grey and orange clay.

Traces of a ditch/hollow way that had been recorded during the evaluation were identified (**103**). The ditch was orientated east-west and measured 3m in width. Traces of the ditch could be identified across the width of the stripped surface, although in places it was difficult to establish due to the similarity of the surrounding material.

Cut **103** had gradually sloping sides and a flat base. The upper 0.50m of this ditch was filled with layer **101**, the modern levelling deposit. Below this, two distinguishable fills were recorded, **104** and **105**. Fill **104** consisted of dark grey clayey silt, measuring 0.20m in depth. Below this was fill **105**, a dark grey peaty deposit with a depth of 0.15m.

During the evaluation, a man-made pond was identified at the southern end of Trench 3 (recorded as cut **301**). This was avoided by moving the location of the new fishing lake to minimise the damage to the archaeological remains.

Discussion

The recent levelling of the field has caused extensive damage to the upstanding earthworks, which can no longer be identified. The landscaping of the earthworks created layer **101**, which extends across the northern part of the site.

A single feature, **103**, was identified during the watching brief. The uppermost fill of the ditch is layer **101**, indicating that prior to the levelling of this field, **103** must have been visible as a pronounced linear hollow. Fills **104** and **105** both appear to represent natural silting of the ditch. Fill **105** is quite peaty, suggesting that there may have been standing water in the base of the ditch when the deposit formed. No dating evidence was recovered during the watching brief.

Claire D Angus
Lindsey Archaeological Services
March 2000

Acknowledgements

Lindsey Archaeological Services would like to thank Mr and Mrs Stacey for their help and hospitality on site. The watching brief was carried out by the author. The illustrations were prepared by Mark Allen and Claire Angus. The project was co-ordinated by Naomi Field. The report was collated and produced by Jane Frost.

Appendix 1: List of contexts and corresponding evaluation context numbers

Context Number	Context Type	Interpretation	Description	Relationship	Evaluation Context Number
100	Layer	Topsoil	Light grey-brown silty clay 0.05-0.20m	Seals all	100, 200, 300
101	Layer	Modern leveling layer	Mix of orange and grey silty clay up to 0.50m deep	Below 100; above 102 and 104	101, 205
102	Layer	Marine silt subsoil	Mix of silty blue/grey clay and orange clay	Below 101; cut by 103	103, 201, 301
103	Cut	Cut of ditch/holloway	Gradual sloping sides, flat base	Below 101; cuts 103; contains 104 and 105	203
104	Fill	Fill of ditch 103	Dark grey clayey silt	Above 105; within 103; below 101	204
105	Fill	Fill of ditch 103	Dark grey/black humic peat	Within 103; below 104	102
106	Layer	Natural	Blue-grey boulder clay	Limit of excavation	-

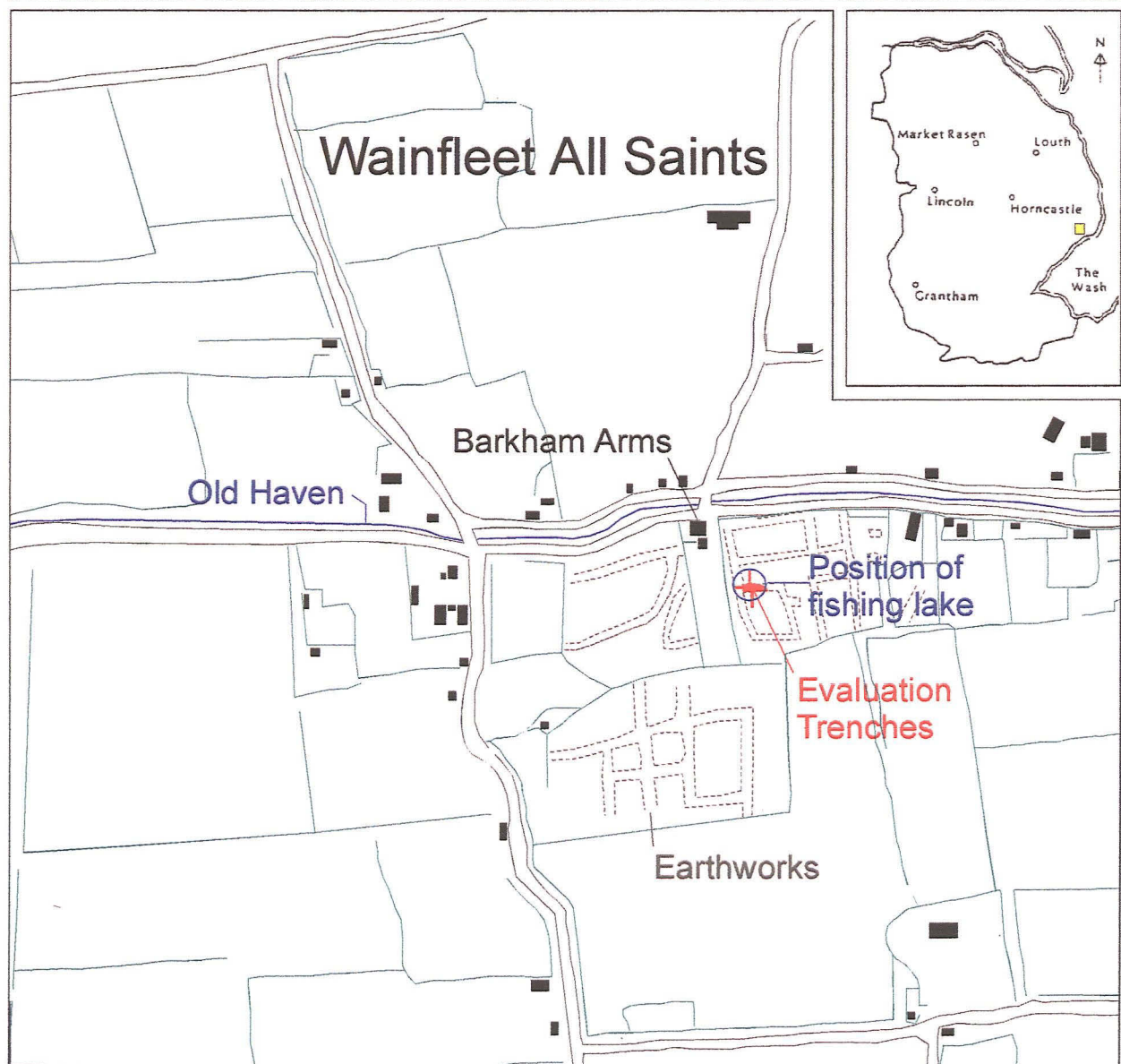
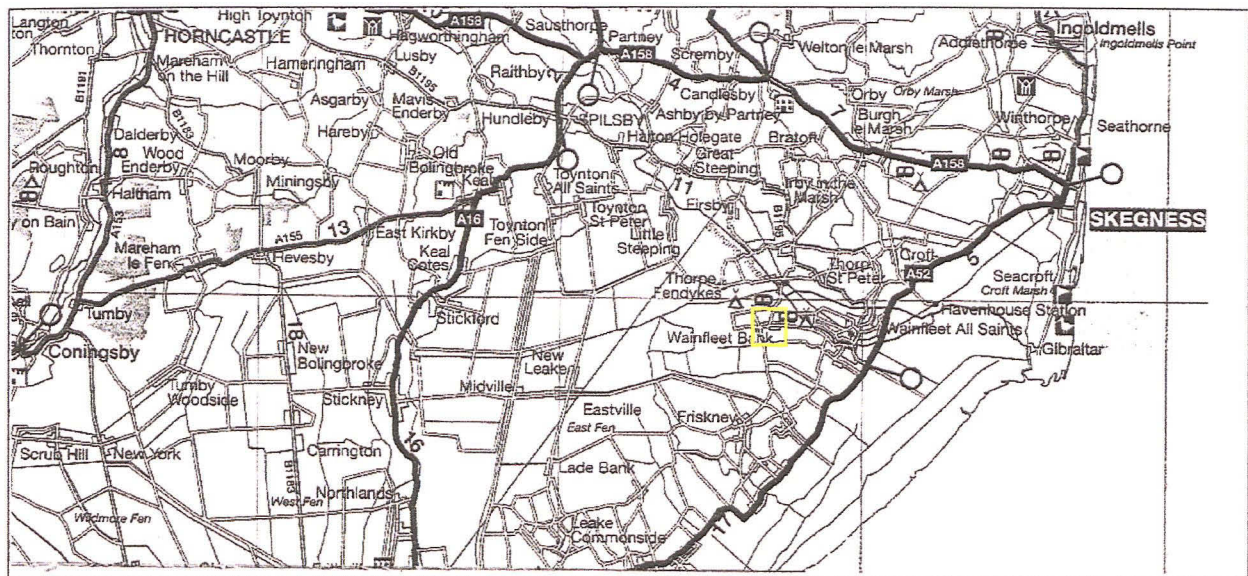


Figure 1. Site location (based on the Ordnance Survey 1:10 000 map
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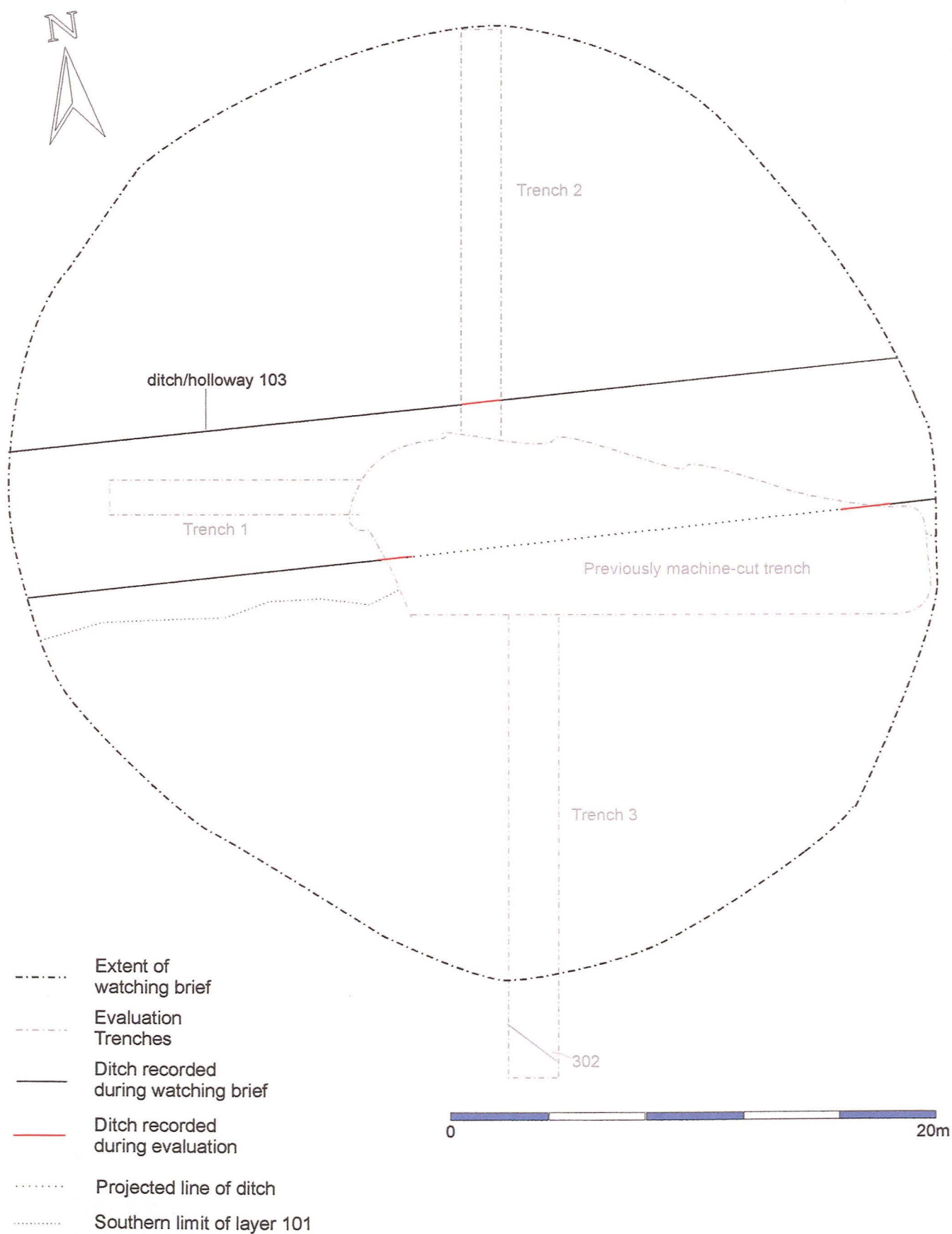


Figure 2: Plan showing evaluation trenches and watching brief area



Pl. 1: Development area before excavation, looking east

Pl. 2: Stripped area, looking north

