



LINDSEY ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES

**Linden Lea, Church Lane,
Manby, Lincs.**

NGR: TF3988 8669

Planning Application: N/113/1774/98

Site Code: MLL00

LCNCC Accn. No.: 2000.35

Archaeological Watching Brief

Report for

Mr P. Foxon

LAS Report No. 406

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Lincolnshire County Council
Archaeology Section

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Contents

List of Figures

List of Plates

Summary 1

Introduction 1

The Site 1

Geology and Topography 1

Archaeological Background 1

Method 2

Results 2

Conclusion 2

Acknowledgements 2

The Figures

The Plates

The Figures

Figure 1: Linden Lea, Church Lane, Manby. Location of Site (Reproduced from an OS map with the permission of the controller of HMSO Crown copyright. LAS Licence No. AL 50424A).

Figure 2: 1:200 Plan of the development site showing the location of the foundation trenches.

The Plates

Plate 1: Development site, looking east

Plate 2: Stripping the development site

Plate 3: Section in foundation trench, showing deposits **100**, **101**, **102** and **103**

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Summary

An archaeological watching brief of the development site was undertaken while groundworks were carried out. No archaeological features were visible either in the subsoil or the foundation trenches.

Introduction

Lindsey Archaeological Services were commissioned by Mr P. Foxon to undertake an archaeological watching brief during groundworks at Linden Lea, Church Lane, Manby (Figure 1). The development is for a single bungalow and garage.

The aims of the watching brief were to

- establish the presence or absence, quality and extent of any archaeological remains;
- record and interpret any archaeological features.

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

The Site

The development site is located in the village of Manby, approximately 4 miles east of Louth. The plot is located in the garden of Linden Lea, adjacent to Glebelands, at the corner of Carlton Road and Church Lane. The parish church lies to the south of the site and the East Lindsey District Council Offices to the west (Fig. 1).

The plot measures approximately 45m by 35m and was previously part of the garden of Linden Lea (Pl. 1). Trees and hedges form three of the boundaries around the site.

Geology and Topography

The underlying geology is boulder clay containing chalk inclusions. The land is relatively flat although it does slope very slightly towards the west.

Archaeological Background

The site is located opposite the church in the presumed centre of the medieval village. The origins of Manby lie in the Saxon period, and it is recorded in the Domesday Survey of 1086 when it was part of the royal manor of Gayton le Wold.

Previous archaeological work carried out in the vicinity has revealed evidence of human activity dating back to the Iron Age.

Method

The topsoil was removed from the house plot using a back-acting machine with a 1.8m toothless ditching bucket under archaeological supervision (Pl. 2). The foundation trenches were also machine-excavated under archaeological supervision using a 0.8m toothed ditching bucket to depths of 1m and 1.2m. Sections within the foundation trenches were cleaned and recorded. The location of the foundation trenches was planned (Fig. 2) and a series of record photographs taken. The deposits recorded in the foundation trenches were assigned context numbers by L.A.S. for recording purposes. These context numbers are referred to in the following report.

Results

The topsoil (100) was a grey-brown clayey silty loam, containing occasional flint and chalk fragments. The topsoil varied in depth from 0.26m to 0.30m. The removal of the topsoil revealed a yellow-brown silty clay subsoil (101), measuring approximately 0.50m in depth (Pl. 3).

Below this was a darker yellow-brown silty clay layer (102). This contained occasional fragments of natural flint and chalk, but no artefactual evidence. The material appears to have built up gradually as it is a clean deposit and does not appear to have been disturbed by human activity. This is thought to be a fluvial-glacial deposit or possibly weathered boulder clay, laid down on top of the boulder clay (103). Layer 102 varies in depth between 0.50 and 0.65m.

Conclusion

The absence of archaeological remains here is strange due to the close proximity of the church in what is considered to be the heart of the medieval village. The lack of archaeological remains here suggests that the focus of the settlement lay either to the south or east of the church.

Acknowledgements

LAS are grateful to Mr Foxon and the Assistant County Archaeologist for East Lindsey District. The watching brief was carried out by the author. Illustrations were prepared by Mark Williams and the author. Naomi Field co-ordinated the project and edited the report. Jane Frost collated and produced the report.

Claire D Angus
Lindsey Archaeological Services
February 2000

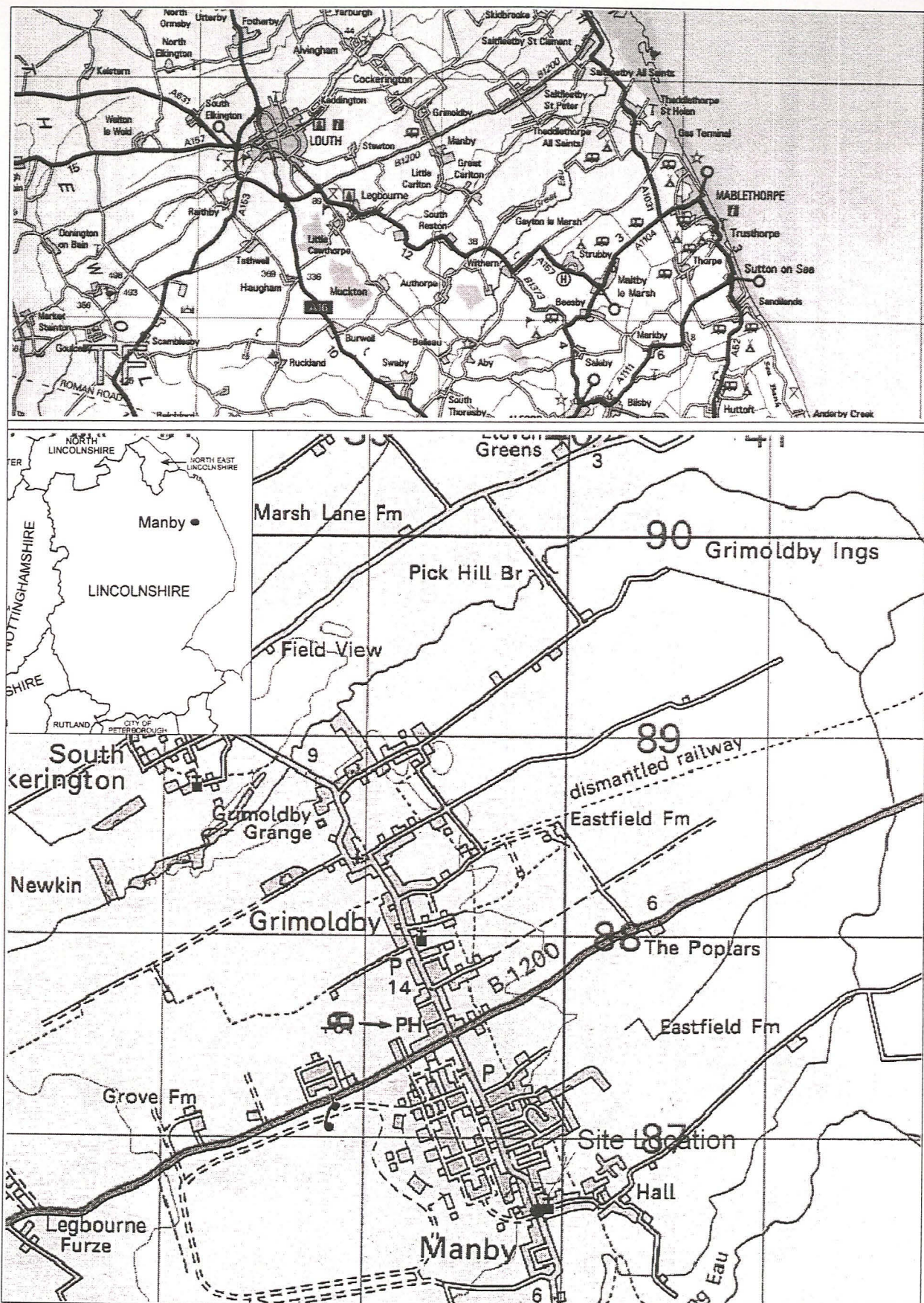


Figure 1: Linden Lea, Church Lane, Manby, Location of site (Reproduced from an OS map with the permission of the controller of HMSO Crown copyright. LAS Licence No. AL 50424A.)

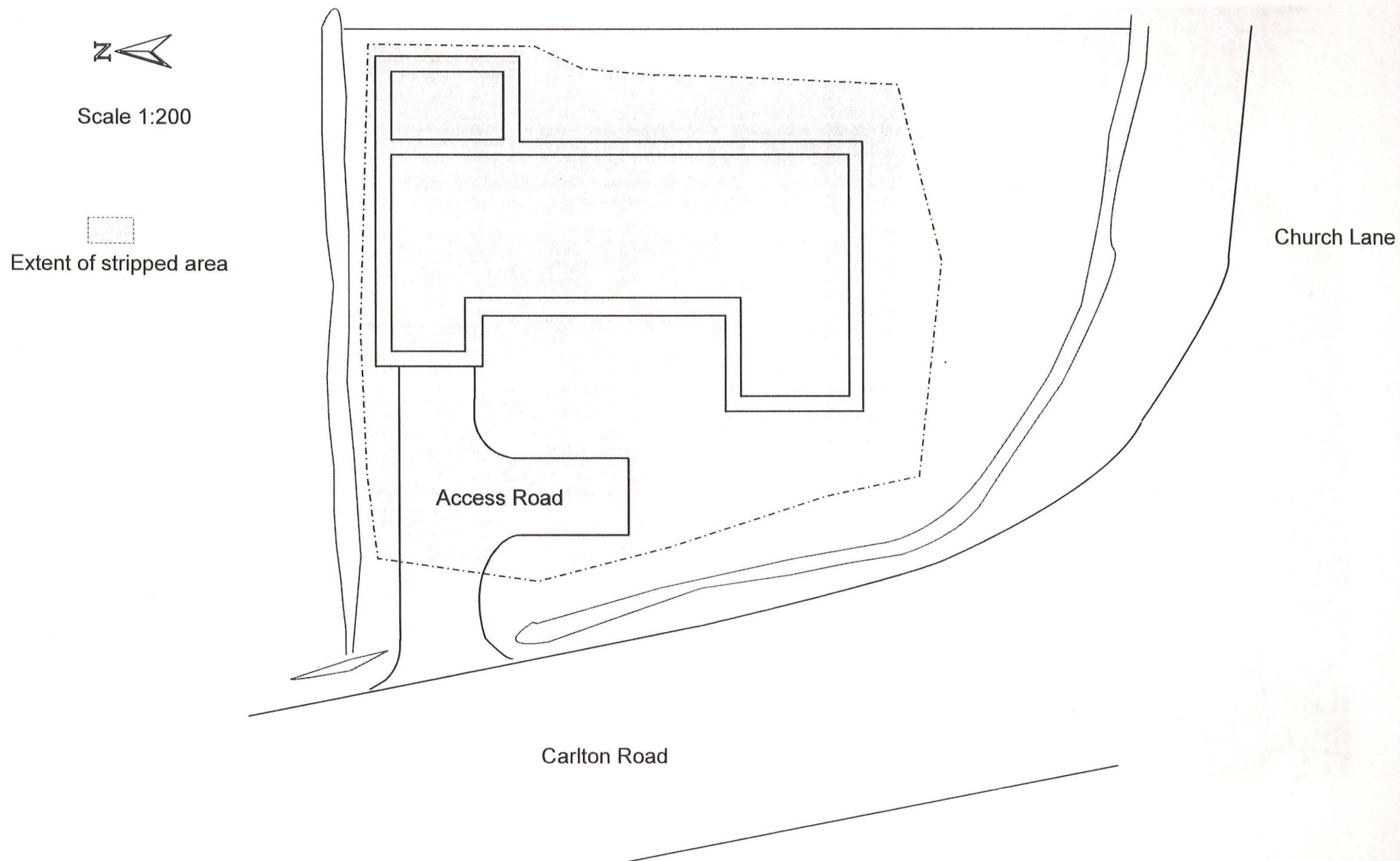


Figure 2: 1:200 Plan of the development site showing the location of the foundation trenches



Plate 1: Development site, looking east

Plate 2: Stripping the development site





Plate 3: Section in foundation trench, showing deposits 100, 101, 102 and 103