

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF
AT 2, FIR TREES COTTAGES, MAIN ROAD,
TOYNTON ALL SAINTS
LINCOLNSHIRE
(TMR99)**



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**ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF
AT 2, FIR TREES COTTAGES, MAIN ROAD,
TOYNTON ALL SAINTS
LINCOLNSHIRE
(TMR99)**

Work Undertaken For
Mr. and Mrs I. Steltner

April 2000

Report compiled by
Rachael Hall BA (Hons)

S/185/1919/97
National Grid Reference: TF 3928 6372
City and County Museum Accession No: 167.99

A.P.S. Report No: 38/00



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1. SUMMARY

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken during extension development at 2, Fir Tree Cottages, Main Road, Toynton All Saints.

Toynton All Saints is known to have been an important centre for pottery production and kilns of both medieval (AD 1066-1500) and post-medieval (after 1500) dates are known from close proximity to the development.

A modern ditch, gully and a pit were identified during the investigation. No earlier archaeological features were evident. Pottery was retrieved and included examples of the locally made Toynton wares dating to the 14th - 15th centuries.

2. INTRODUCTION

2.1 Planning Background

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 or site..., where there is a possibility that archaeological deposits may be disturbed or destroyed' (IFA 1997).

2.2 Definition of a watching brief

On the 9th July 1999 an archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Archaeological Project Services during the excavation of foundation trenches for the proposed extension of 2, Fir Tree Cottages, Main Road, Toynton All Saints. The archaeological work was commissioned by Mr. I. Steltner and undertaken in accordance with a specification designed by Archaeological Project Services (Appendix 1).

2.2 Topography and Geology

Toynton All Saints is located 15km southeast of Horncastle and 17km west of Skegness in the administrative district of East Lindsey, Lincolnshire (Fig. 1).

The site is situated in the village centre, at the junction of Main Road and Watermill Lane (National Grid Reference TF3928 6372). To the east, on the opposite side of the Main Road, is the parish church, which dominates the higher ground at the centre of the village. The ground level at the development site is c. 44m OD with the ground surface declining to the south and also westward to a stream.

Local soils are Blackwood Association deep permeable sandy and coarse loamy soils in glaciofluvial drift (Hodge *et al.* 1984, 127). These overlie a solid geology of Cretaceous Spilsby Sandstone (BGS 1995).

2.3 Archaeological Setting

The development site is located in an area of known Romano-British and later archaeological remains. A possible Romano-British settlement has been recorded southwest of the modern village (Lane 1993). Pottery, including greyware, colour-coated and amphorae fragments were retrieved from the surface of this site.

Place-name evidence suggests that the settlement may have originated during the Anglo-Saxon period (AD 410-1066). Historical reference first occurs in the Domesday Book of 1086 which mentions *Totingtuna or Totintona*. In combination with the suffix 'tun', meaning settlement or village, the name transliterates as 'the settlement of Tota's people' (Ekwall 1974, 479). The 13th century Valuation of Norwich refers to *Thoynton Omnium Sanctorum* from which the modern place-name derives (*ibid.*).

Domesday Book records that land within Toynton All Saints was held by various owners including Ivo Taillebois and the Bishop of Durham (Foster and Longley 1976, 33 and 86). All Saints' parish church, located 10m east of the site, was probably constructed during the 11th century and the north and south arcade of this building are still intact (Pevsner and Harris 1989, 769).

Sometime after 1200 potters began working in Toynton All Saints, though there are few documentary references to this industry. However, much of the parish contains archaeological remains representative of pottery production.

Only 25m southwest of the development site is a spread of waste pottery fragments which signifies the immediate proximity of a kiln. Approximately 350m southeast of the development site is a 13th - 14th century kiln that was used to produce decorated jugs (Healey 1984, 73). Recent investigations at that same site have indicated bowls and pancheons were also produced there later in the 15th - 16th century (Cope-Faulkner *et al.* 1999).

The Toynton potteries seem to have expired during the 17th century (Pevsner and Harris 1989, 769), though this has not been demonstrated by excavation. All Saints church was subject to renovation and rebuilding during the Georgian period and much of the original medieval structure is enveloped by later brickwork (*ibid.*).

3. AIMS

The aims of the archaeological watching brief, as detailed in the specification (Appendix 1), were to locate and record archaeological deposits, if present, and to determine their date, function and origin.

4. METHODS

Topsoil was stripped from the site, followed by excavation of foundation trenches for an extension. The foundation trenches were opened by a mechanical excavator to a maximum depth of 0.95m. The section were then hand cleaned to enable identification of remains. Deposits or features recorded during the investigation were allocated a unique reference number (Context Number) with an individual written description. Sections were drawn at a scale of 1:10, and a plan at 1:50. A photographic record was compiled.

Finds recovered during the watching brief were examined and a period date assigned where possible. Records of deposits were also examined. A summary list of all contexts appears as Appendix 2. Phasing was assigned on artefact dating and the nature of deposits and recognisable relationships between them. A stratigraphic matrix was produced.

5. RESULTS

Following post-excavation analysis, two phases were identified:

- Phase 1 Natural deposits
- Phase 2 Modern deposits

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

Phase 1 Natural Deposits

At the base of the foundation trenches was a yellowish brown sand (002). At least 0.37m thick, this deposit extended beyond the limit of excavation and is interpreted as natural subsoil.

Phase 2 Modern Deposits

Cut into the subsoil at the western limit of the site was an oval pit (004), measuring 1.7m wide and 0.3m deep. This was filled with greyish brown sand (003) and is thought to be a possible soakaway associated with the present house.

Also cutting into the Phase 1 subsoil in the northern part of the site were two northeast-southwest aligned linear features. The most northerly was 1.1m wide, 0.35m deep and at least 6m long (006), interpreted as a ditch. It was filled with brown sand (005) that contained fragments of 19th - early 20th century pottery together with a redeposited piece of locally made medieval pottery which is probably a waster (Appendix 3).

Parallel to and 1.5m south of ditch (006) was a 0.5m wide by 0.37m deep gully (008), at least 6m long. It was filled by a mid brown sand (007) that contained 19th -20th century pot and tile.

Overlying these features was a modern topsoil of dark brown sand (001), from which 19th - 20th century pottery and redeposited locally made medieval ceramics were recovered.

6. DISCUSSION

Natural deposits (Phase 1) are associated with glaciofluvial drift and were formed during the last ice age.

The modern deposits (Phase 2) comprise a gully, ditch and a pit. The gully is probably associated with the existing house. Pot, brick/tile and metal, all dating to the 19th - 20th century, was retrieved from its fill.

A linear ditch has also been dated to the 19th -20th century. Pottery and tile was retrieved,

as well as some material which is possibly waster material from nearby pottery production. Similar material has been retrieved from c.25m southwest from the development site. The ditch has been interpreted as a possible soakaway for the house. The irregular oval pit provided no dating evidence.

7. CONCLUSION

Archaeological investigations at 2, Fir Trees, Main street, Toynton All Saints, were undertaken because the site lies in the medieval village core, with evidence of pottery production of the period in the immediate vicinity

Three features, a pit, ditch and a gully, were identified during the investigation, all of which date to the 19th -20th century. No earlier features were identified.

The finds include pottery and tile dating to the 19th and 20th centuries with some earlier pottery dating to the 14th and 15th centuries. This medieval pottery includes wasters from nearby pottery production, which is well documented. The nature of the local site conditions suggests that few environmental indicators (seeds, wood, shells, *etc.*) would survive, other than through charring.

8. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeological Project Services wish to acknowledge the assistance of Mr. and Mrs. I. Steltner who commissioned the fieldwork and post-excavation analysis. Gary Taylor coordinated the work and Tom Lane edited this report. Background information was obtained from the library maintained by Heritage Lincolnshire.

9. PERSONNEL

Project Coordinator: Gary Taylor
Site Supervisor: Tobin Rayner
Finds Processing: Denise Buckley
Illustration: Paul Cope-Faulkner, Rachael Hall
Photographic Reproduction: Sue Unsworth
Post-excavation Analyst: Rachael Hall

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11. ABBREVIATIONS

APS Archaeological Project Services

BGS British Geological Survey

IFA Institute of Field Archaeologists

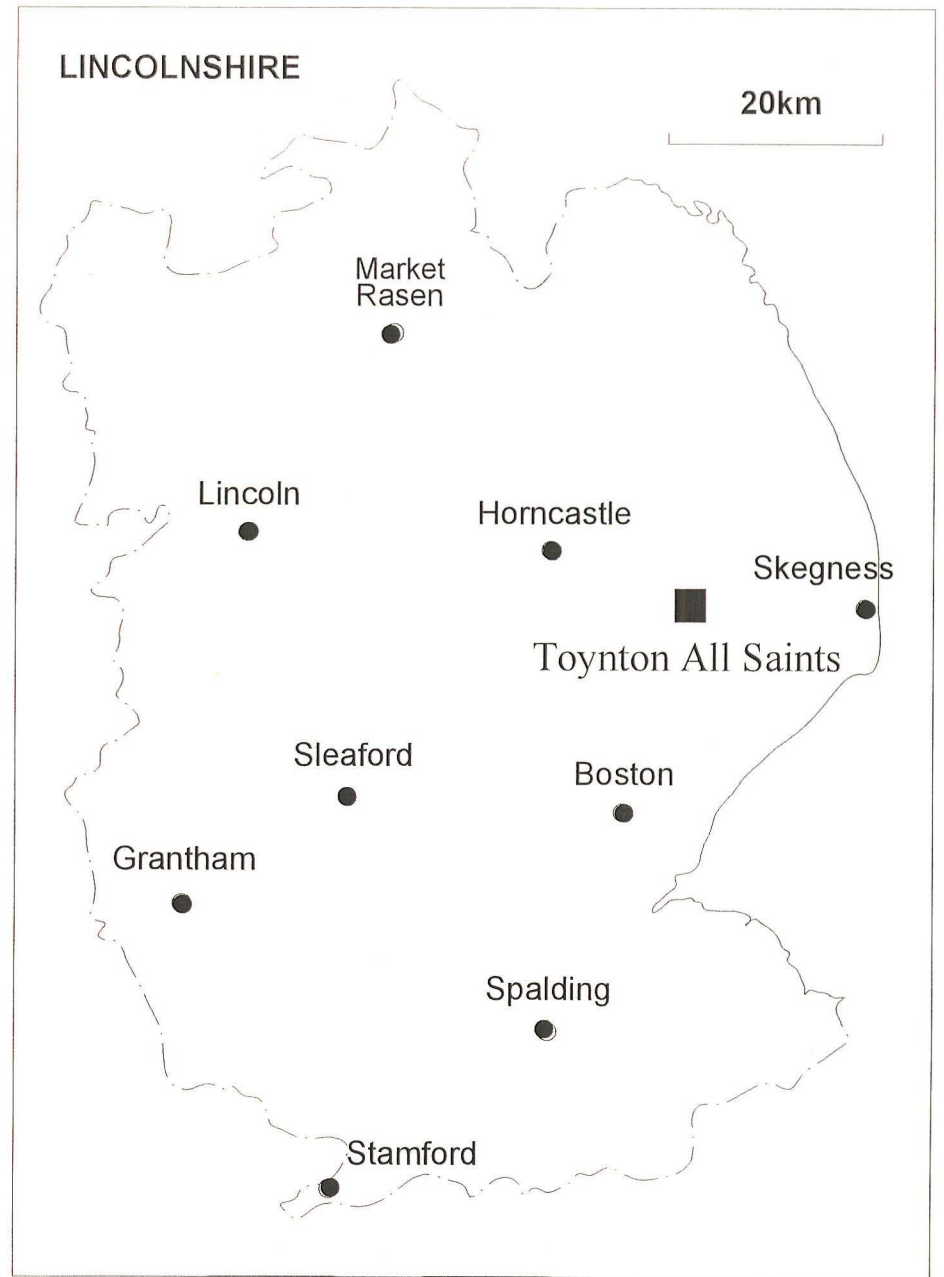


Figure 1 - General Location Plan

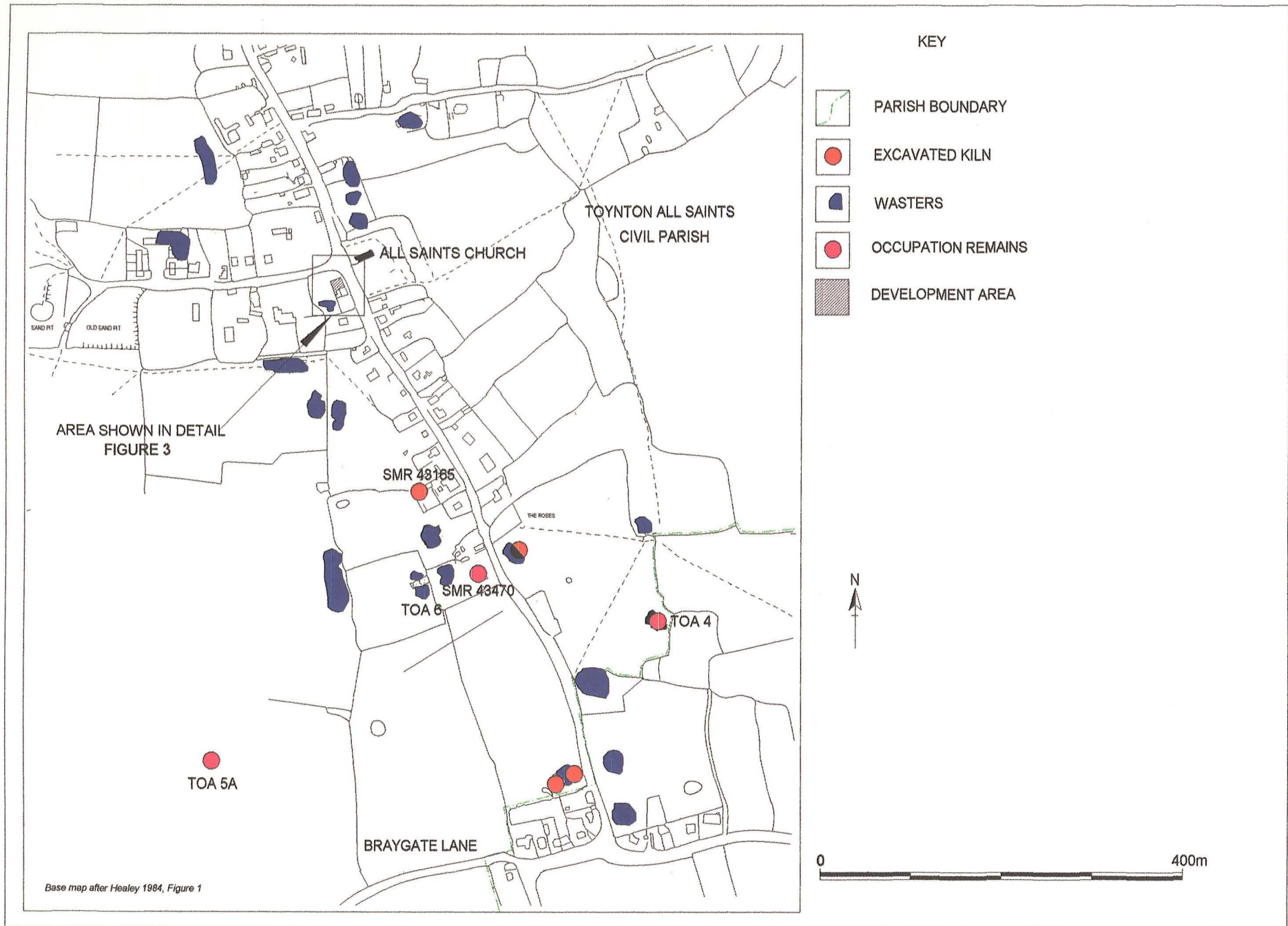


Figure 2 - Plan of Toynton All Saints within its topographical and archaeological setting

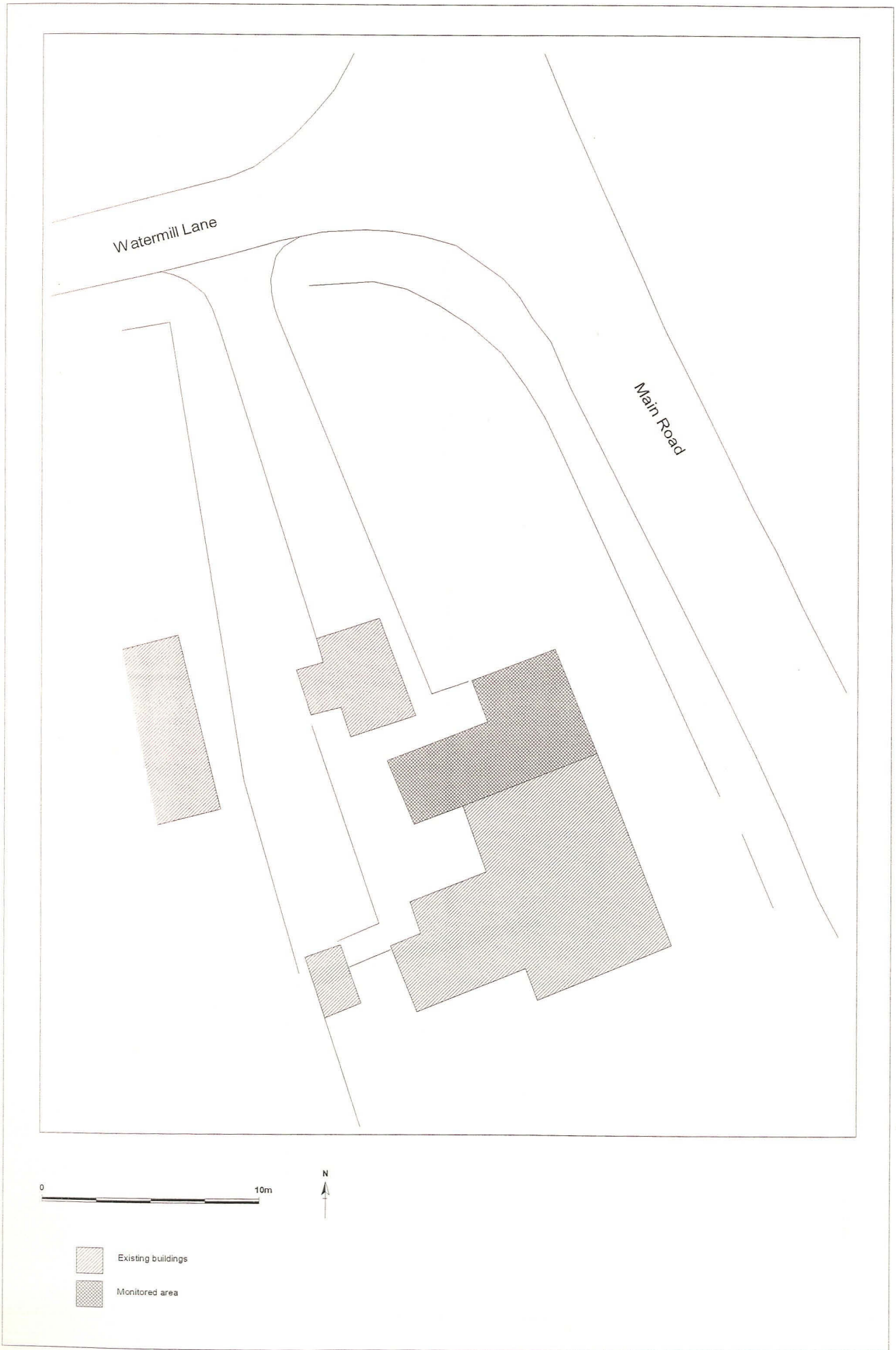


Figure 3 - Development Location Plan

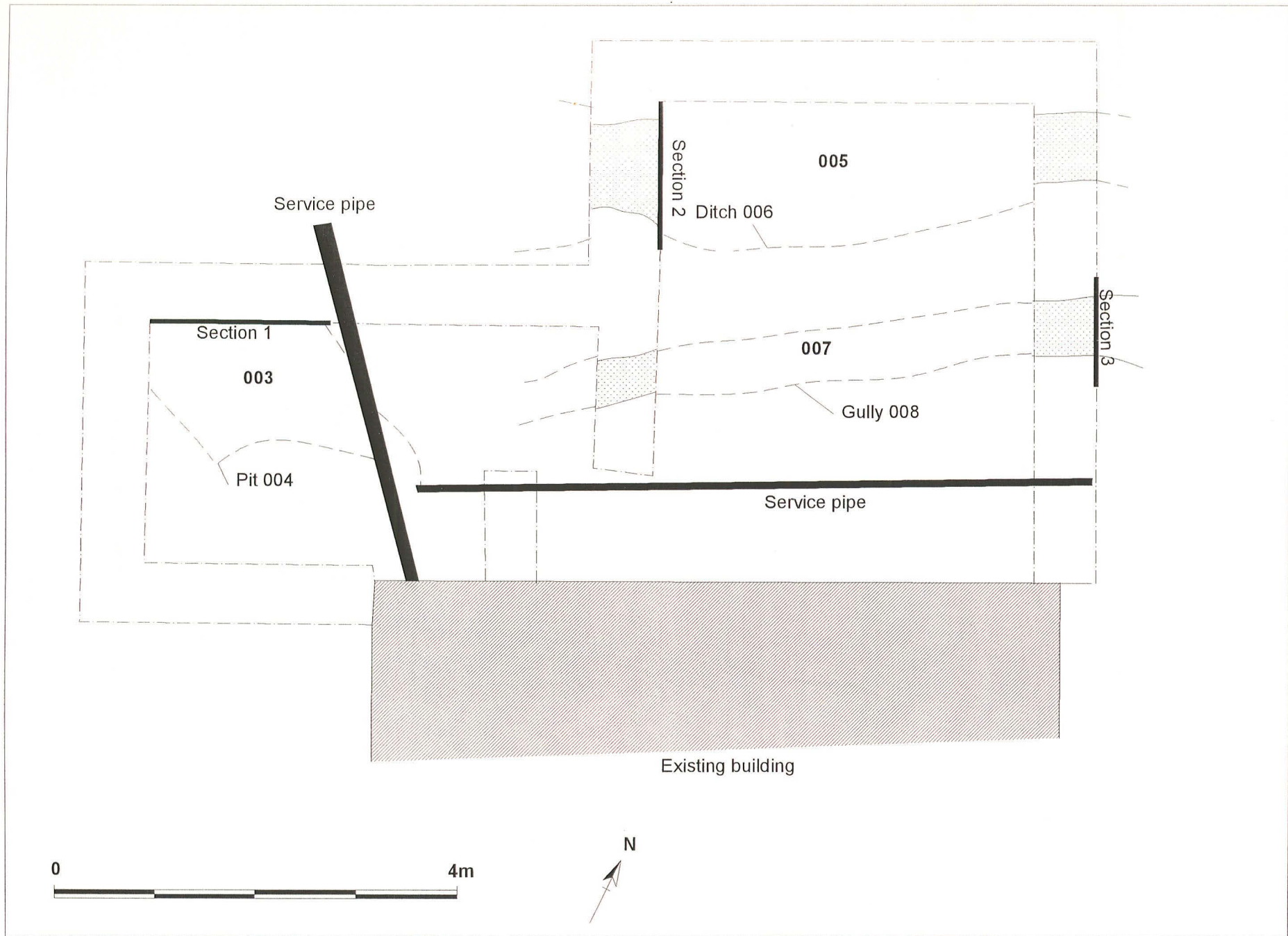
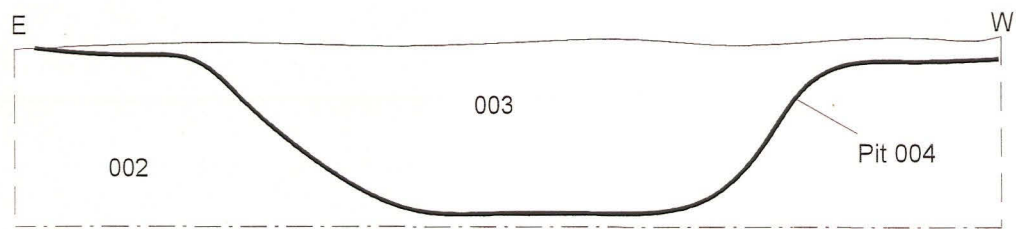
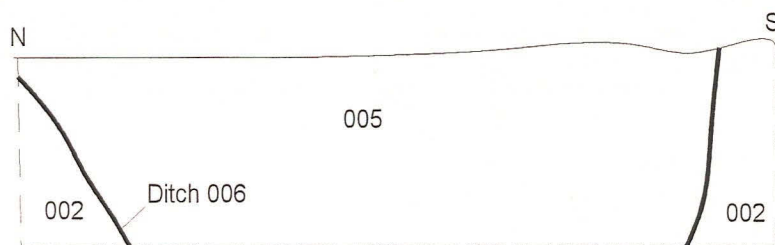


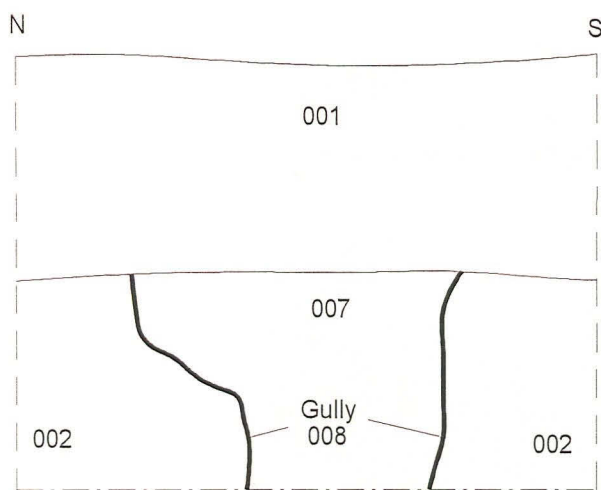
Figure 4 - Foundation plan showing Section locations



Section 1



Section 2



Section 3



Figure 5 - Sections 1, 2 and 3



◀ Plate 1 - General view of the site with All Saints church in the background, looking east

Plate 2 - Ditch 006, ▶
looking east

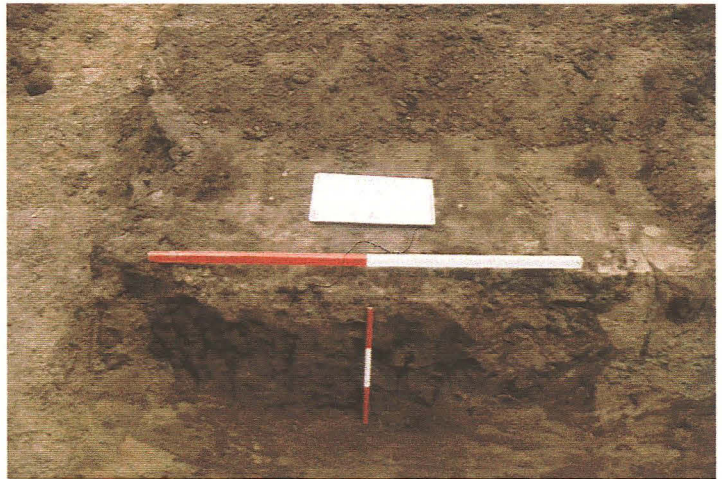


Plate 3 - Gully 008, ▶
looking east



Appendix 1

LAND AT 2 FIR TREE COTTAGES, MAIN ROAD, TOYNTON ALL SAINTS, LINCOLNSHIRE - SPECIFICATION FOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

1. SUMMARY

- a. *A watching brief is required during the a programme of residential development at 2 Fir Tree Cottages, Main Road, Toynton All Saints, Lincolnshire.*
- b. *Toynton All Saints was an important centre of pottery production in the medieval and post-medieval periods and kilns of both dates have been found in proximity to the development site.*
- c. *The watching brief will be undertaken during groundworks associated with the development. The archaeological features exposed will be recorded in writing, graphically and photographically.*
- d. *On completion of the fieldwork a report will be prepared detailing the results of the investigation. The report will consist of a narrative supported by illustrations and photographs.*

2. INTRODUCTION

- a. This document comprises a specification for an archaeological watching brief during a programme of residential development at 2 Fir Tree Cottages, Main Road, Toynton All Saints.
- b. This document contains the following parts:
 - i. Overview.
 - ii. Stages of work and methodologies.
 - iii. List of specialists.
 - iv. Programme of works and staffing structure of the project.

3. SITE LOCATION

- a. Toynton All Saints is located approximately 21km northeast of Boston and 2km south of Spilsby in the administrative district of East Lindsey. The site, at 2 Fir Tree Cottages, Main Road, is located in the centre of the village, opposite the church, at national grid reference TF393637.

4. PLANNING BACKGROUND

- a. Planning permission for residential development has been granted by East Lindsey District Council, subject to a condition requiring the implementation of an archaeological watching brief.

5. SOILS AND TOPOGRAPHY

- a. Toynton All Saints is situated at the southern edge of the Lincolnshire Wolds. The site and surrounding area is on a slope down to the south and lies at approximately 40m OD. Soils at the site are Cuckney 2 Association brown sands on Cretaceous sandstone (Hodge *et al.* 1984, 152).

6. THE ARCHAEOLOGY

- a. Toynton All Saints was an important centre of pottery production in the medieval and post-medieval periods. Kilns of both periods have been found in close proximity, immediately to the north and also to the southeast and southwest of the site. Additionally, the site in the medieval centre of the village, opposite All Saints' parish church which is of

7. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- a. The aims of the watching brief will be:
 - i. To record and interpret the archaeological features exposed during ground disturbance.
- b. The objectives of the watching brief will be to:
 - i. Determine the form and function of the archaeological features encountered;
 - ii. Determine the spatial arrangement of the archaeological features encountered;
 - iii. As far as practicable, recover dating evidence from the archaeological features, and
 - iv. Establish the sequence of the archaeological remains present on the site.

8. SITE OPERATIONS

- a. General considerations
 - i. The work will be undertaken according to the relevant codes of practise issued by the Institute of Field Archaeologists (IFA), under the management of a Member of the institute (MIFA). *Archaeological Project Services* is IFA registered organisation no. 21.
 - ii. Any and all artefacts found during the investigation and thought to be 'treasure', as defined by the Treasure Act 1996, will be removed from site to a secure store and promptly reported to the appropriate coroner's office.
- b. Methodology
 - i. The watching brief will be undertaken during the ground works phase of development, and includes the archaeological monitoring of all phases of soil movement.
 - ii. The sections of the trenches will be observed regularly to identify and record archaeological features that are exposed and to record changes in the geological conditions. The plans of the trench and features will be drawn at a scale of 1:20. Section drawings of the trenches and features will be recorded at a scale of 1:10. Written descriptions detailing the nature of the deposits, features and fills encountered will be compiled on Archaeological Project Services pro-forma record sheets.
 - iii. Any finds recovered will be bagged and labelled for later analysis.
 - iv. Throughout the watching brief a photographic record consisting of colour prints will be compiled. The photographic record will consist of:
 - (1) The site during work to show specific stages, and the layout of the archaeology within the trench.
 - (2) groups of features where their relationship is important
 - v. Should human remains be located the appropriate Home Office licence will be obtained before their removal. In addition, the Local Environmental Health Department and the police will be informed.

9. POST-EXCAVATION

- a. Stage 1
 - i. On completion of site operations, the records and schedules produced during the watching brief

will be checked and ordered to ensure that they form a uniform sequence forming a level II archive. A stratigraphic matrix of the archaeological deposits and features present on the site will be prepared. All photographic material will be catalogued: the colour prints will be labelled, the labelling referring to schedules identifying the subject/s photographed.

- ii. All finds recovered during the field work will be washed, marked and packaged according to the deposit from which they were recovered. Any finds requiring specialist treatment and conservation will be sent to the Conservation Laboratory at the City and County Museum, Lincoln.

b. Stage 2

- i. Detailed examination of the stratigraphic matrix to enable the determination of the various phases of activity on the site.
- ii. Finds will be sent to specialists for identification and dating.

c. Stage 3

- i. On completion of stage 2, a report detailing the findings of the watching brief will be prepared.
- ii. This will consist of:
 - (1) A non-technical summary of the results of the investigation.
 - (2) A description of the archaeological setting of the investigation.
 - (3) Description of the topography of the site.
 - (4) Description of the methodologies used during the investigation.
 - (5) A text describing the findings of the investigation.
 - (6) A consideration of the local, regional and national context of the investigation findings.
 - (7) Plans of the archaeological features exposed. If a sequence of archaeological deposits is encountered, separate plans for each phase will be produced.
 - (8) Sections of the archaeological features.
 - (9) Interpretation of the archaeological features exposed, and their chronology and setting within the surrounding landscape.
 - (10) Specialist reports on the finds from the site.
 - (11) Appropriate photographs of the site and specific archaeological features.

10. REPORT DEPOSITION

- a. Copies of the report will be sent to the client; the County Council Archaeological Sites and Monuments Record; and to East Lindsey District Council Planning Department.

11. ARCHIVE

- a. The documentation and records generated during the watching brief will be sorted and ordered into the format acceptable to the City and County Museum, Lincoln. This will be undertaken following the requirements of the document titled *Conditions for the Acceptance of Project Archives* for long term storage and curation.

12. PUBLICATION

- a. A report of the findings of the watching brief will be published in Heritage Lincolnshire's Annual Report and a note presented to the editor of the journal of the Society for Lincolnshire History and Archaeology. If appropriate, notes on the findings will be submitted to the appropriate national journals: *Britannia* for discoveries of Roman date, and *Medieval Archaeology* and the journal of the *Medieval Settlement Research Group* for findings of medieval or later date.

13. CURATORIAL RESPONSIBILITY

- a. Curatorial responsibility for the archaeological work undertaken on the site lies with the Archaeology Officer, Lincolnshire County Council. They will be given as much written notice as possible, ideally seven days, before the commencement of the project.

14. VARIATIONS

- a. Variations to the proposed scheme of works will only be made following written confirmation of acceptance from the archaeological curator.

15. PROGRAMME OF WORKS AND STAFFING LEVELS

- a. The watching brief will be integrated with the programme of construction.
- b. An archaeological supervisor with experience of watching briefs will undertake the work.
- c. Post-excavation analysis and report production will be undertaken by the archaeological supervisor, or a post-excavation analyst as appropriate, with assistance from a finds supervisor, illustrator and external specialists. It is expected that each fieldwork day (equal to one man-day) will require a post-excavation day (equal to one-and-a-half man-days) for completion of the analysis and report, unless particularly dense and complicated remains are revealed. If the fieldwork exceeds 5 days then there is likely to be an economy of scale with the analysis and reporting, unless particularly dense and complicated archaeological remains are revealed.

16. SPECIALISTS TO BE USED DURING THE PROJECT

- a. The following organisations/persons will, in principal and if necessary, be used as subcontractors to provide the relevant specialist work and reports in respect of any objects or material recovered during the investigation that require their expert knowledge and input. Engagement of any particular specialist subcontractor is also dependent on their availability and ability to meet programming requirements.

<u>Task</u>	<u>Body to be undertaking the work</u>
Conservation	Conservation Laboratory, City and County Museum, Lincoln
Pottery Analysis	Prehistoric - Trent & Peak Archaeological Trust Roman - B Precious, independent specialist Saxon - City of Lincoln Archaeology Unit Medieval and later - H Healey, independent archaeologist
Non-pottery Artefacts	J Cowgill, independent specialist
Animal Bones	Environmental Archaeology Consultancy
Human Remains Analysis	R Gowland, independent specialist

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Appendix 2

CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

Context	Description	Interpretation
001	Dark brown sand, thickness 0.38m	Topsoil
002	Yellowish brown sand, thickness 0.35m to LOE	Subsoil
003	Mid greyish brown sand, thickness 0.3m	Back fill of 004
004	Irregular oval cut, width 1.7m, depth 0.3m, extent unknown	Pit or short gully
005	Mid brown sand, thickness 0.34m to LOE	Fill of 006
006	Linear cut length seen 6m, width 1.1m, depth 0.35m	Ditch
007	Mid brown sand, thickness 0.37m	Fill of 008
008	Linear cut, length seen 6m, width 0.5m, depth 0.37m	Gully

LOE Limit of excavation

Appendix 3

THE POTTERY

Hilary Healey MPhil and Gary Taylor MA

Provenance

Most of the material was recovered from modern deposits, including a ditch fill, gully fill and the present topsoil. All the earlier, medieval material is of local manufacture, produced in Toynton All Saints itself. The recent ceramics are likely to have come from production centres in the Midlands, particularly Staffordshire.

Range

The range of material is detailed in the table. Pottery, brick/tile, metal objects and coal were recovered during the investigation and no bones or other organic remains were retrieved.

Table 1

Context	Description	Date
001	4x Toynton All Saints ware 2x white glazed tablewares 1x creamware 1x brick/tile 1x coal 1x triangular sectioned iron rod	14 th -15 th century 19 th -20 th century 18 th -19 th century
005	1x Toynton All Saints ware, reduced, bubbled glaze 1x red painted earthenware, black glazed 1x blue and white transfer printed tableware 1x blue glazed porcelain 1x tile	14 th -15 th century 18 th -19 th century 19 th - early 20 th century 19 th - early 20 th century late 19 th -20 th century
007	1x blue and white transfer printed tableware 1x tile 1x burnt clay/brick 1x iron nail	19 th - early 20 th century late 19 th -20 th century

All the deposits date to the 19th-20th century but contain redeposited medieval material. In addition, there are a few pieces of residual or redeposited ceramics of 18th-19th century date, though these could have been in use with the later material.

Condition

All the material is in good condition and presents no long term storage problems. Archive storage of the material is by material class. None of the iron objects were X-rayed.

Documentation

Archaeological investigations have previously been undertaken in Toynton All Saints and are the subjects of reports (eg. Archaeological Project services 1998; 1999). Toynton All Saints pottery has also been studied and reported, both as kiln evidence and site assemblages (Healey 1984).

Potential

The medieval aspect of the assemblage has limited-moderate potential but does indicate activity of that date on the site or its vicinity. Moreover, one of the medieval pieces, the Toynton sherd from context (005), may be a waster and relate to pottery kilns and waster spreads in the proximity.

The later material has little potential but does indicate that there has been some relatively recent disturbance to earlier archaeological deposits at the site.

Bibliography

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Archaeological Project Services, 1999 *Archaeological Watching Brief at Plot 1, Hillside Lodge, Main Road, Toynton All Saints, Lincolnshire (THL98)*, unpublished report no. **48/98**

Healey, R. H., 1984 'Toynton All Saints: Decorated Jugs from the Roses Kiln', in N. Field and A. White (eds), *A Prospect of Lincolnshire*

Appendix 4

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 interpretation 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).
Cut	A cut refers to the physical action of digging a posthole, pit, ditch, foundation trench, etc. 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 manually backfilled. The soil(s) which become contained by the 'cut' are referred to as its fill(s).
Layer	A layer is 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.
Waster	Spread/ dump of waste material produced pottery production

Appendix 5

THE ARCHIVE

The archive consists of:

- 8 Context records
- 4 Scale drawings
- 1 Photographic record sheet
- 1 Stratigraphic matrix
- 3 Bags of finds

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: 167.99

Archaeological Project Services Site Code: TMR99

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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