

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF
REPORT
MANOR ROAD, HAGWORTHINGHAM,
LINCOLNSHIRE

00/19

Site Code: MHG 00
Acc. No: 2000.128
NGR: TF 3442 6916

Lincolnshire County Council
Archaeology Section

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Report prepared for George Smith (Alford) Ltd
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July 2000

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Summary

- An archaeological watching brief took place on land situated c. 75m to the south-east of Holy Trinity parish church, on Manor Road, Hagworthingham, Lincolnshire
- This revealed the presence of a small number of in-situ, sub-surface, archaeological features, along the eastern edge of the building footprint. There were few diagnostic artefacts associated with these, but they appear to be of late medieval or post-medieval date

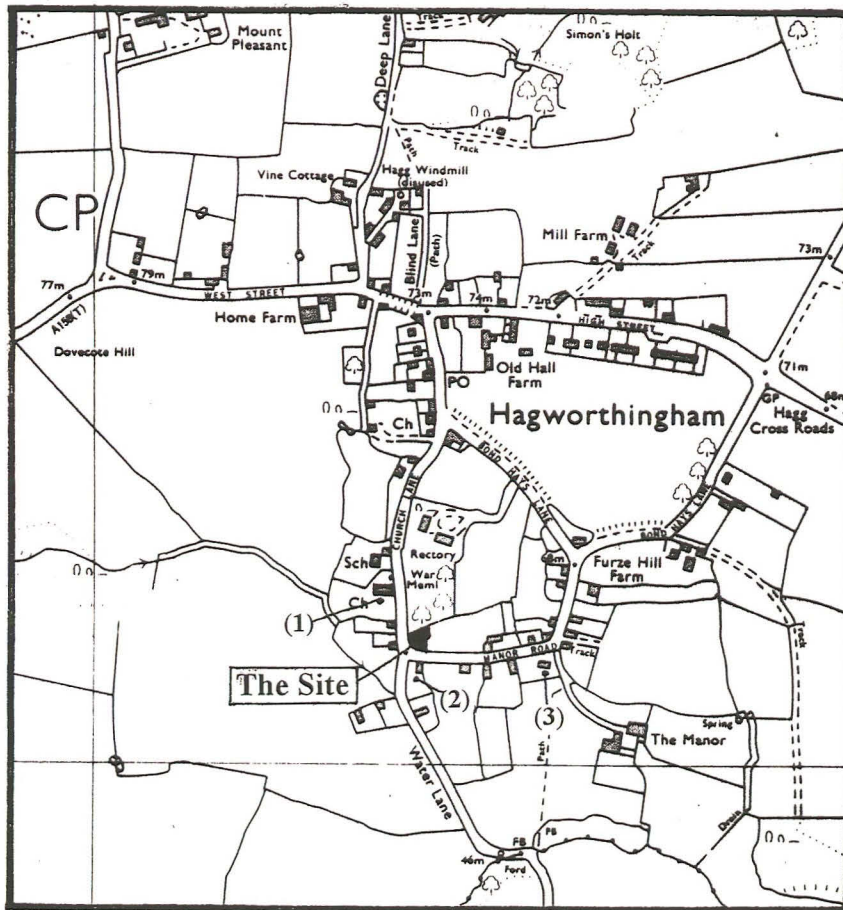


Figure 1: Site location at a scale of 1: 10,000
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1.0 Introduction

George Smith (Alford) Ltd., on behalf of Mr D Mawby, commissioned Pre-Construct Archaeology (Lincoln) to undertake an archaeological watching brief, to fulfil a planning requirement associated with the construction of a house and garage on land off Manor Road, Hagworthingham, Lincolnshire.

The fieldwork was conducted in accordance with the procedures set out in the Lincolnshire County Council publication *Lincolnshire Archaeological Handbook: A Manual of Archaeological Practice* (LCC, 1998); national guidelines produced by the Institute of Field Archaeologists were also adhered to (IFA, 1994). Additionally, both documents were central to the structuring and content of this report.

The archive for this report will be held at the Lincoln City and County Museum.

2.0 Location and description

Hagworthingham lies within the administrative district of East Lindsey, toward the southern edge of the Lincolnshire Wolds. It is located approximately 8 km east of Horncastle and 6 km north-west of Spilsby. The development site is situated some 450m to the south of the A158, immediately east of Church Lane, and to the north of Manor Road (fig. 1). It comprises an irregularly shaped unit of land, covering approximately 1200m² (fig. 2).

Prior to development, the site was utilised as a grassed area, with a number of small trees and shrubs growing near the south-western boundary. The ground-surface slopes from c. 60m OD along the eastern edge, down to c. 56m OD at the western edge, where it abuts Church Lane; this is a relatively pronounced slope, equating to a declination of 1 in 12.5m. The northern boundary was defined by a ditch, which was followed on its outer edge by a hedge and a number of mature trees. To the east, a low earthen bank topped by a fence defined the perimeter of the site, while to the south and west, a hedge separated the plot from Church Lane and Manor Road respectively.

The south-western edge of the site marks the junction of two geological formations (BGS, sheet 115). The site itself is situated on the very edge of the Spilsby Sandstone Formation, a pale grey-brown weathering pebbly sandstone deposited at the very end of the Jurassic period. A small stream, a tributary of the River Lymn, has truncated this deposit exposing the underlying Kimmeridge Clay Formation from Manor Road southwards. The erosion of the solid geology is also mirrored in the removal of much of the mantle of drift deposits; these are clay rich tills, often containing comminuted chalk. Soils are largely derived from these drift deposits.

Central National Grid Reference: TF 3442 6916.

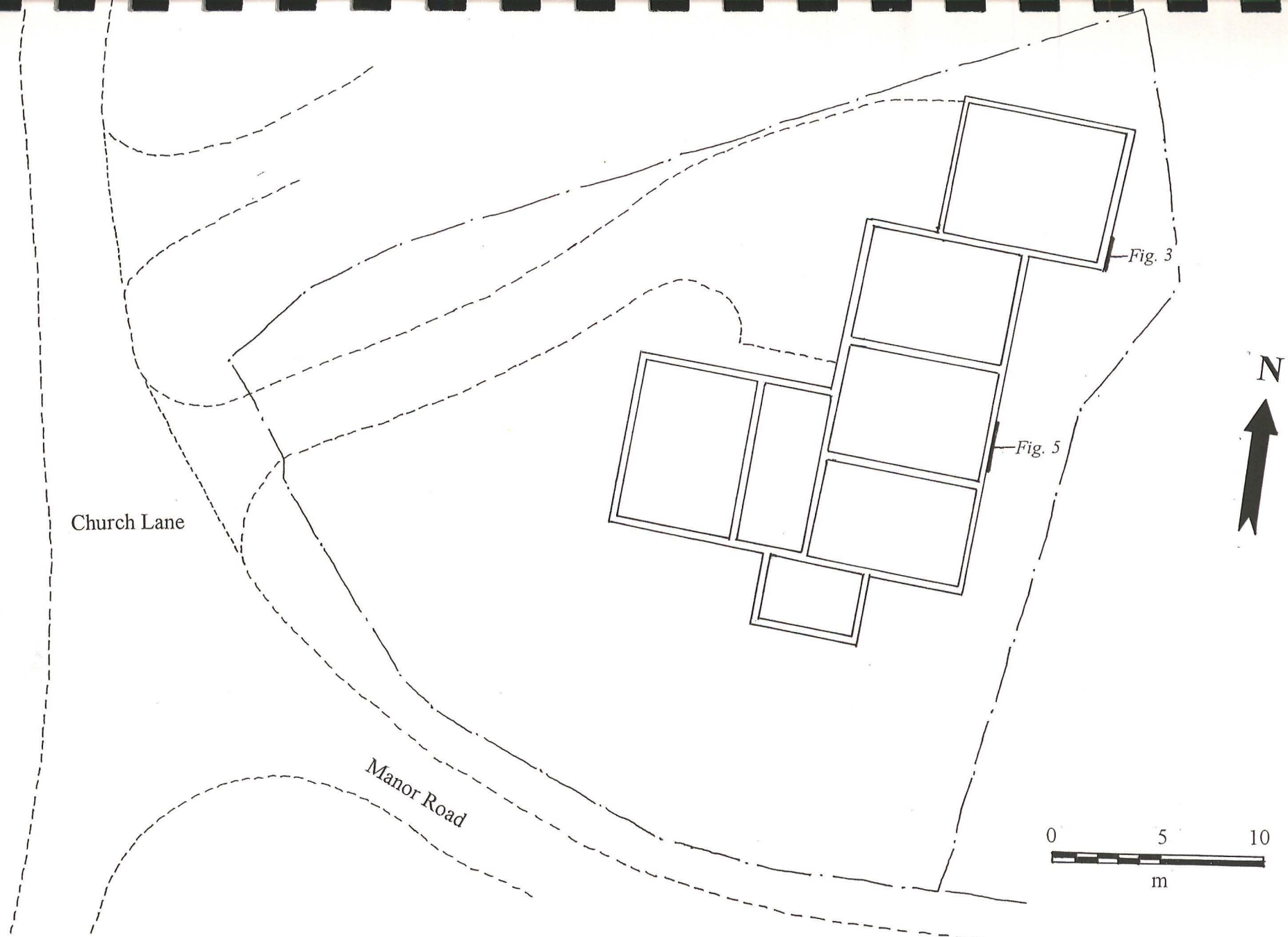


Figure 2: The location of the building footprint and driveway, with respect to the site boundaries (the latter defined by a broken line).

3.0 Planning background

East Lindsey District Council granted planning permission for the construction of one detached dwelling and an associated garage (Planning Ref. S/070/0908/99), subject to the undertaking of an archaeological watching brief during the programme of ground-works.

The dwelling was to be erected upon sloping ground. This involved the removal of relatively large quantities of soil to create a number of horizontal terraces, prior to the insertion of stepped, strip and pad foundations.

4.0 Archaeological and historical background

A Neolithic polished greenstone axe (SMR no. 42306) was recovered from the churchyard at Hagworthingham, which is situated c. 75m north-west of the development site (1) (see fig. 1). This would have been a prestigious item of material culture at the time of its manufacture, and indicates that there was activity in the immediate vicinity of the site at some point during the later 4th or 3rd millennia BC.

A Roman coin of Pertinax (AD 193) has been recovered from the opposite corner of Church Lane and Manor Road (2) (SMR no. 42314). Further Roman material, mostly pottery of the 2nd century AD, has been recovered from an area some 200m to the east (3).

The genesis of the modern settlement probably lies in the later Anglo-Saxon period. This is suggested by the etymology of the place-name, which appears as *Hacberdingeham* in the Domesday Book; the components of the name are Old English and the suggested meaning is 'the homestead of the people from the hawthorn enclosure' (Mills, 1993).

The Domesday Book itself indicates that the village was relatively large in 1086, with a complex distribution of tenurial holdings and feudal authorities (Morgan & Thorn, 1986). Count Alan owned several parcels of land, but also had jurisdiction over seven manors in the parish, these belonging to Ormketill, Sigfrothr, Aelfric, Sveinn, Svafi, Holmeketill and Eudo - 'the count's man'. These names are Scandinavian, Saxon and Norman, implying that the community had a high degree of ethnic diversity. Earl Hugh also owned land in the parish, as did Gilbert of Ghent, but both administered their holdings from outside. Additionally, Gilbert had jurisdiction over some of the holdings of Jocelyn, son of Lambert, which included the church. Both Jocelyn and Gilbert had independent control of a mill in the parish. Drogo of la Beuvriere also held a mill in the village and, similarly to Count Alan, had jurisdiction over two manors, which belonged to Aethelstan and Robert ('Drogo's man'). It was also noted that:

"In this village Drogo has a hall with full jurisdiction" (ibid: 30.33)

It was from here that he controlled his other estates, including lands in Coningsby.

The church of Jocelyn was probably a forerunner of Holy Trinity parish church. Elements of the north wall of the nave are of Norman date, and are probably components of Jocelyn's structure or its immediate successor (Pevsner & Harris,

1989). However, the piscina may even predate this structure; it is a reused column, which probably represents the remains of a late Anglo-Saxon cross shaft.

There is further, circumstantial, evidence to indicate that the church has pre-Norman or Norman origins. At the end of the 13th century the parishioners were compelled by ecclesiastical authorities to rebuild the belfry, because it had fallen into a poor condition (Owen, 1971). This is only likely to have happened on a structure that had stood for some time, which implies construction in the 11th or 12th centuries. It is difficult to find physical evidence to corroborate such assertions, for while the southern side of the nave arcade is of Early English date, much of the rest of the building results from a sweeping restoration undertaken in 1859.

The medieval church-masters, responsible for the maintenance of the fabric, had some independent income from the rental of the 'guildhall' or 'common-house', which stood in the village. Additionally, they received contributions from

"the Young men called the Wessell" (ibid: 116).

This was an autonomous parish guild, possibly a ploughman's league, which facilitated 'self-help' schemes for members and organised entertainment. Membership of the Wessell involved annual dances and a procession to the church at Epiphany.

Pevsner & Harris (1989) record the survival of a number of late medieval or early post-medieval mud-and-stud cottages in the village, but indicate that the majority of the structures over one hundred years old are brick built. Of the latter, the older elements date to the 18th century, including the Old Hall, the New Hall and the Manor House. Also of this date is Stockwith Mill, now a restaurant, which was referred to by Tennyson in his poem *The Brook*.

It was also in the 18th century that two meetings were called to discuss the expediency of the enclosure of the lands held in common. The first was held in the George Inn, Hagworthingham, in November 1794, with the later assembly being called at the Bull Inn, Horncastle, in February 1795 (Russell & Russell, 1985). As a consequence of these deliberations, the Act of Enclosure for the parish was passed by parliament later in 1795, and the alienation and division of the landscape was completed by 1798.

The location of the present site suggests that it is situated within the core of the medieval settlement, but it has not been possible to locate historical or archaeological data relating specifically to this piece of land.

5.0 Methodology

One experienced field archaeologist undertook the watching brief over a period of two days, on 10th and 11th May 2000.

The fieldwork entailed observation during the all ground-works associated with the development. This equated to the cleaning by hand of all exposed surfaces, followed by a thorough inspection; all archaeological features identified by this process were subjected to limited excavation, in order to assess their nature, dimensions and to attempt to recover datable materials. These investigations resulted in the production of written descriptions of all deposits and features on standard watching brief context

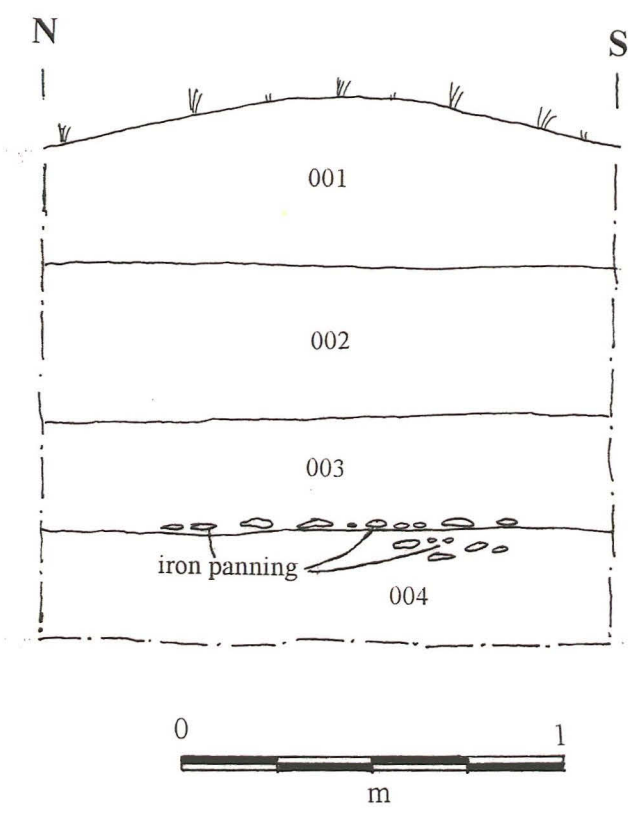


Figure 3: Section exposed in the foundation trench at the south-east corner of the garage.

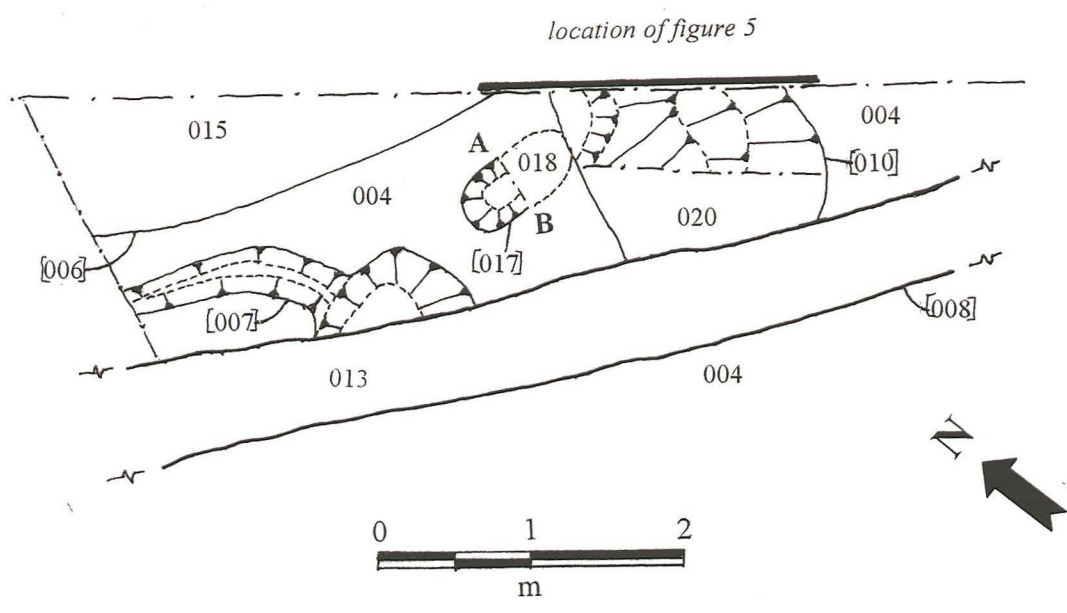


Figure 4: Archaeological features exposed in the foundation trench at the eastern edge of the bungalow footprint.

recording sheets. Colour photographs and scale drawings, in both plan and section, compliment these accounts.

A mini-digger equipped with a 0.6m wide toothed bucket conducted the mechanical excavation. The eastern edge of each of the terraces produced extended c. 1.3m below ground level, this gradually tapering off to the existing ground surface at the equivalent front (western) edge. The trenches for the strip foundations were generally between c. 0.6 and c. 0.76m wide, but rarely extended more than c. 0.35m beneath the level of the corresponding terrace; the associated foundations were c. 0.5m deep.

Artefactual remains recovered from the site were washed and processed prior to their submission to researchers specialising in the examination of archaeological materials. The results of these investigations have been included as independent appendices to this report, and the general conclusions of such accounts have been integrated into the main text.

6.0 Results

A small number of archaeological features were detected, these having a spatially discrete distribution. All of these entities were situated at or near the eastern limit of the excavations for the building foundations. In this area, the topsoil was sealed by a layer of redeposited sandy-clayey silt, (001), c. 0.3m thick (fig. 3). Although of relatively recent date, a turf had formed upon it and tree roots penetrated it. The buried topsoil, (002), beneath this was heavily truncated in places, but survived to a depth of c. 0.40m in the north-east corner of the site. It contained a number of ceramic artefacts and a stone spindlewhorl. This assemblage was a palimpsest, with elements being produced between the 9th and 19th centuries.

The following archaeological features were identified:

[005] The edge of a feature, exposed in plan near the eastern section; too little was seen to determine its morphology or to recover material to establish a date, but it did appear to cut [006]. A dark-brown clayey silt, (016), filled it.

[006] A linear feature aligned north-west to south-east, partially exposed against the eastern section (fig. 4). This contained a dark-grey clayey silt, (015). This feature was seen to cut through the fills, (019) and (020), of pit [010].

[007] This is an irregular feature, which, toward its northern end, appears to be a gully, c. 0.45m wide and c. 0.20m deep. However, it becomes progressively deeper as it moves southward, widening into a sub-circular depression, which has been truncated by [008] (fig. 4). The fill was a brownish-grey sandy clayey silt, (014), which contained one body sherd of late medieval pottery produced in a local fabric. This find provides a tentative date for the creation of this feature, probably in the 15th or 16th centuries.

[008] A linear feature c. 0.50m wide, which was aligned north-west to south-east (fig. 4). Excavation exposed a blue plastic pipe, indicating that this was a modern land drain orientated down the slope toward the ditch forming the northern boundary of the

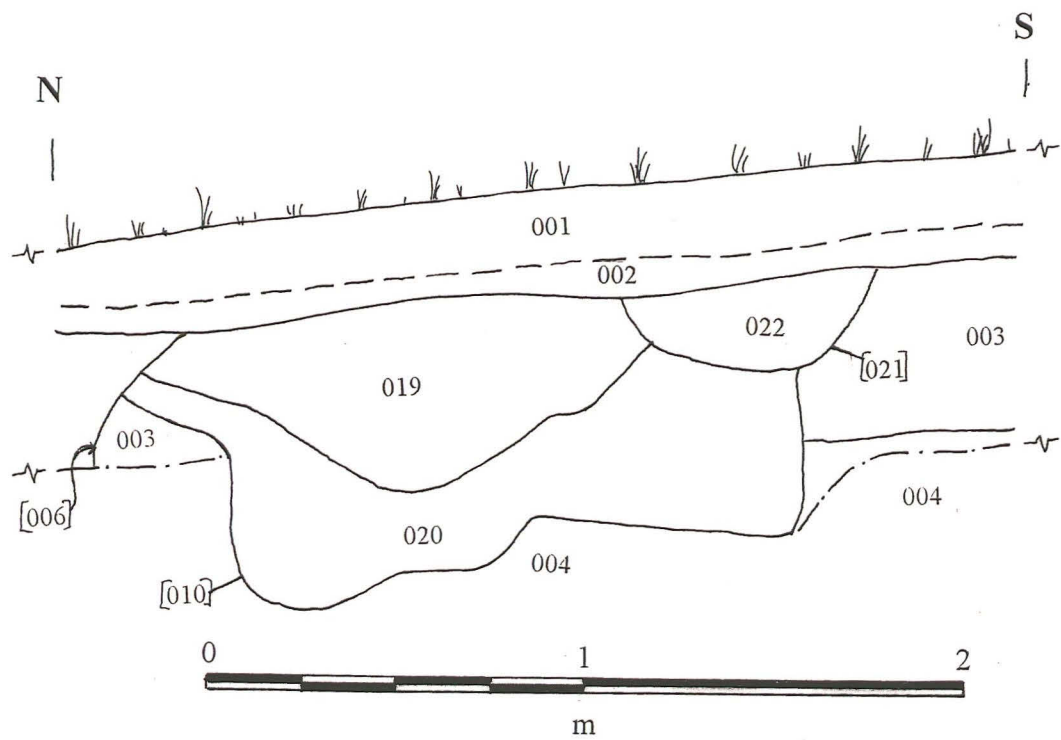


Figure 5: Section through the complex of features exposed at the eastern edge of the bungalow footprint.

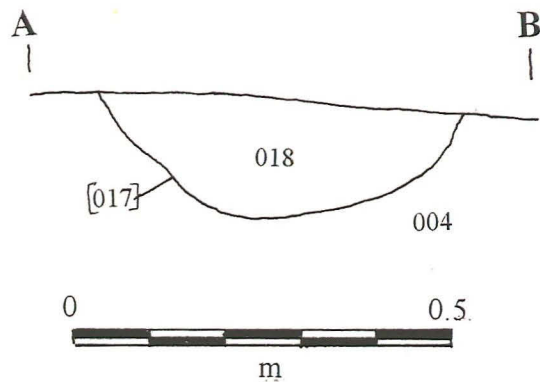


Figure 6: The profile of the small, sub-oval pit [017].

site. Three sherds of 18th to 19th century pottery were recovered from the fill of this feature, but the plastic pipe indicates that these artefacts have been redeposited and were retrieved from a secondary context.

[009] This was a modern pit, c. 0.58m wide, which cut through the edge of (013), the fill of [008].

[010] This feature was a pit, c. 0.76m deep, with near vertical sides toward the base, but which widened out toward the top of the feature (fig. 4). Excavation demonstrated that it contained two fills. The lower deposit, (020), was a brownish-grey clayey silt, while the upper fill, (019), was a dark-brown material of similar consistency (fig. 5).

[017] This was a small, sub-oval pit adjacent to the northern edge of [010] (fig. 4). This contained mid- to dark-grey clayey silt, (018) (fig. 6).

[021] This linear feature, c. 0.60m wide, was aligned east to west, and cut through the fills of pit [010] (fig. 5). It was filled by a dark-brown clayey silt, (022), and was sealed by the topsoil, (002).

All of these features, excepting [021], were cut into a light-grey fine-grained sandy silt natural, (004). The upper surface of this layer was characterised by the presence of a mottled, discontinuous iron pan horizon (fig. 3).

7.0 Discussion and conclusions

The majority of the artefactual material recovered during the programme of groundworks was contained within the buried topsoil layer, (002). An analysis of the sixteen sherds of pottery found within this deposit indicates that it incorporates material produced over approximately 1000 years (appendix 12.2). The oldest material retrieved was a sherd of Saxo-Norman pottery, potentially produced at around the time of the Domesday Survey (see 4.0, above), along with one sherd of high medieval pottery (manufactured between 1150 and 1450). It is significant that both of these fragments are highly abraded. This is probably indicative of these sherds having been introduced to the site in midden material, which would have been spread to improve the fertility of the land; the abrasion would have resulted from the effects of ploughing over decades or centuries. Thus, it is suggested that at least until the later medieval period, the site was part of a field utilised for arable production.

Much of the other pottery in (002) was made between the 14th and 17th centuries. Predominantly these are local fabrics of the Toynton/Bolingbroke tradition, some of which are also abraded, potentially hinting at continued arable exploitation. A fragment of this material, discovered in the fill of gully [007], might provide a date for the complex of features located at the eastern edge of the groundworks. However, [007] did resemble an animal burrow and consequently, it is possible that the pottery is intrusive and the feature is much later in date.

A stone spindlewhorl recovered from (002) can also be broadly dated to the medieval to early post-medieval periods (appendix 12.3). While it may also have been introduced to the site by manuring, it is not damaged to the point that it could not have

continued to be utilised. Therefore, it is questionable as to whether it was deliberately discarded. The spatial arrangement of features {005}, [006], [009], [010], [017] and [021] indicates that there are further archaeological deposits immediately to the east of the area now occupied by the bungalow. The density of these features suggests that this represents some form of settlement focus. Consequently, it is possible that the spindlewhorl was lost during routine domestic activity. The nature of the proposed settlement, and even its date of construction and occupation, remains entirely conjectural.

In addition to the archaeological deposits noted above, it is possible that there are sub-surface features in the area of the site immediately adjacent to Church Lane and Manor Road. Potentially, both of these thoroughfares have medieval origins and hence, could have been foci of roadside development. Any such remains would not have been detected during the watching brief, due to the absence of groundworks in this sector of the site.

The failure to recover 20th century pottery, even from the buried topsoil, suggests that the site has been under grass for much or all of the last hundred years.

8.0 Effectiveness of methodology

Although relatively few features were identified during the watching brief, it is considered that this programme of monitoring adequately served to determine the spatial distribution, density, nature and date of archaeological deposits located in the development area.

9.0 Acknowledgements

Pre-Construct Archaeology (Lincoln) would like to thank George Smith (Alford) Ltd and Mr D Mawby for this commission. Thanks are also extended to Mark Bennet at the County SMR, for his assistance during the compilation of this report.

10.0 References

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11.0 Site archive

The site archive (documentary and physical) for this project is in preparation and will be deposited at the Lincoln City and County Museum and the Lincolnshire Archives Office (documentary) within six months. Access to the archive may be granted by quoting the global accession number 2000.128.

Appendix 12.1: Colour photographs



Plate 1: General view of the site, showing the fence running along a low bank forming the eastern boundary and the hedge in the north-eastern corner of the site, looking east.



Plate 2: The complex of features exposed along the eastern edge of the building footprint, looking north.



Plate 3: Section through pit [010], looking east (compare with figure 5).



Plate 4: Pit [017] following excavation, with pit [010] in the background, looking south-east.

Archive Report on the Pottery from a Watching Brief at Hagworthingham, Lincolnshire (MHG00)

Jane Young

Lindsey Archaeological Services

1. Introduction

A total of 21 sherds of pottery and a fragment of fired clay were recovered from the site. The material ranges in date from the Saxo-Norman to the early modern period. The pottery was examined both visually and using a x20 magnification, then recorded using locally and nationally agreed codenames.

2. Condition

The material is in a variable condition with most sherds having some degree of abrasion. The earliest two sherds to occur on the site were very abraded.

3. Overall Chronology and Source

A range of 13 different, identifiable post-Roman pottery types were found on the site, the type and general date range for these fabrics are shown in Table 1. Identifiable vessel forms are mainly bowls, but jars and a dripping pan are also present.

Table 1: Post-Roman pottery codenames and total quantities by sherd count and vessel count where appropriate

codename	full name	earliest date	latest date	sherds	vessels
BERTH	Brown glazed earthenware	1550	1800	2	2
BL	Black-glazed wares	1550	1750	1	1
BS	Brown stoneware	1680	1850	1	1
GRE	Glazed Red Earthenware	1500	1650	4	4
LERTH	Late earthenwares	1750	1900	1	1
LMLOC	Late Medieval local fabrics	1350	1550	4	4
MEDLOC	Medieval local fabrics	1150	1450	1	1
MISC	Unidentified wares	400	1900	2	2
RGRE	Reduced glazed red earthenware	1600	1850	1	1
SLIP	Unidentified slipware	1650	1750	1	1
SNLOC	Local Saxo-Norman fabrics	870	1150	1	1
TB	Toynton/Bolingbroke wares	1450	1750	2	2
WS	White stoneware	1700	1770	1	1

Most of the material dates to between the 17th and 18th centuries, with a smaller element dating to the late medieval period. A suggested date for the deposition of each context is shown in Table 2.

Table 2: Suggested deposition date of pottery groups from contexts

context	date
02	Early to mid 18th
13	18 to 19th
14	15 to 16th

4. Summary and Recommendations

The material recovered is a small, but potentially important collection as it includes previously unrecorded Saxo-Norman and Late Medieval fabrics. No further work is needed on the assemblage, however it should be retained to be included in any survey of pottery in the area.

pottery archive mhg00

context	cname	form type	sherds	vessels	part	description	date
002	BERTH	?	1	1	base		17 to 18th
002	BERTH	?	1	1	base		17 to 18th
002	BS	?	1	1	base		
002	GRE	bowl	1	1	rim		
002	GRE	bowl	1	1	BS		17 to 18th
002	GRE	large jar	1	1	rim		17 to 18th
002	GRE	?	1	1	BS	coarse fabric	
002	LMLOC	?	1	1	BS	abraded;interior splashed glaze	
002	LMLOC	dripping dish	1	1	rim	abraded;TB type	
002	LMLOC	jar	1	1	rim	prob a TB type	
002	MEDLOC	jug?	1	1	BS	very abraded	
002	MISC		2	2	BS	fired clay;? Handmade Tudor brick	
002	RGRE	jar/drinking vessel	1	1	base	soot;thick int & ext green glaze	16 to 18th
002	SLIP	bowl	1	1	BS		
002	SNLOC	?	1	1	BS	coarse quartz fabric	
002	TB	?	1	1	BS		15 to 17th
002	TB	?	1	1	BS		15 to 17th
013	BL	?	1	1	BS		18 to 19th
013	LERTH		1	1	BS	garden pot or tile	18 to 20th
013	WS	bowl	1	1	rim		
014	LMLOC	?	1	1	BS	int & ext glaze;int white slip;coarse orange fabric	

Stone spindlewhorl

Alan Vince, 25 West Parade, Lincoln, LN1 1NW

MHG00 (002) A stone spindlewhorl, weight 30gm. Maximum diameter 30mm, height 22mm. Central hole diameter 8mm. The whorl is symmetrical around its girth with a flattened spherical cross-section. The object appears to have been fashioned without the aid of a lathe and has numerous facets produced by the use of a knife or similar implement. The central hole also appears to have been formed by hand rather than by using a drill although it has an almost cylindrical shape with only slight flaring on one side. It is undecorated and unpolished.

Spindlewhorls, being functional objects, have a limited variation in their form and size and for this reason it is difficult to date them closely. It has been observed at Lincoln that those spindlewhorls found in Anglo-Scandinavian contexts often have a biconical profile whereas those of post-conquest date are more similar to the Hagworthingham example. However, a series of stoneware spindlewhorls made at Raeren, in the Meuse valley, in the late 15th and early 16th centuries have a similar shape. Therefore the date range for the Hagworthingham spindle whorl is late 11th to 16th century.

The whorl is made from a grey to light brown calcite mudstone with rare voids formed by bivalve shells. A single ammonite is visible. The most likely source of this rock is the Lower Lias, which outcrops extensively from the Humber estuary down to Dorset. Similar whorls are known from other parts of the country (for example Hereford) and whereas opportunistic use of local materials cannot be ruled out for a whorl found at Hagworthingham the wide distribution of these artefacts suggests they may have been produced as a sideline to building stone in larger medieval quarries and traded via hawkers. The semi-commercial production and distribution of spindle whorls has been noted in several parts of the British Isles but the Jurassic calcite mudstone appears to be the favoured material. This stone in Lincolnshire is used mainly for rough walling with oolitic limestone being used for details. In parts of Somerset, however, Liassic limestone is more extensively used. This may be either because the beds are thicker in the southwest or because the oolitic limestone is less easy to come by (the outcrop runs along the Somerset-Wiltshire border).

12.4 List of archaeological contexts

<i>Context No.</i>	<i>Category</i>	<i>Description</i>
001	Deposit	Over-burden forming a bank
002	Layer	Topsoil
003	Layer	Subsoil
004	Layer	Natural - sandy silt
005	Cut	Pit/ditch? Only southern edge of feature exposed. Therefore, morphology uncertain
006	Cut	Ditch orientated NW-SE
007	Cut	Possible gully - irregular in plan suggesting that it is an animal burrow
008	Cut	Contains modern plastic land-drain.
009	Cut	Pit - modern as cuts (008)
010	Cut	Pit - sealed by topsoil (002)
011	-	CONTEXT ABANDONED
012	Fill	Fill of [009]
013	Fill	Fill of [008]
014	Fill	Fill of [007]
015	Fill	Fill of [006]
016	Fill	Fill of [005]
017	Cut	Small pit on NW edge of [010]
018	Fill	Fill of [017]
019	Fill	Secondary fill of [010]
020	Fill	Primary fill of [010]
021	Cut	Gully aligned E-W, cutting (019)
022	Fill	Fill of [021]