



LINDSEY ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES

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Event LI1969

**Whitehouse Farm, Delph Road,
Branston Booths, Lincolnshire**

NGR: TF 0620 6910

Site Code: BBWF00

LCNCC. Accn. No.: 2000.175

Planning Application No.: N/13/271/98

heritage



Archaeological Watching Brief

**Report for
Mr P. Gregory**

**LAS Report No. 453
August 2000**

Lancashire County Council
Archaeology Section

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1931-1935
COOPER

EVENT L11969
SOURCES L16686 L16687
NEGATIVE

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Pl. 3 Section through the deposits, with 1m scale

Pl. 4 Disturbed ground and waste pipe in the foundation trenches in front of the existing farmhouse

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Summary

An archaeological watching brief undertaken during groundworks at Whitehouse Farm, Delph Road, Branston Booths, did not reveal any features of archaeological significance. Modern disturbance associated with the existing extension and recent waste pipes was noted.

Introduction

Lindsey Archaeological Services (LAS) was commissioned by Mr. P. Gregory to undertake an archaeological watching brief during groundworks at Whitehouse Farm, Delph Road, Branston Booths (Fig. 1).

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

Scope of Work

The archaeological watching brief was required as part of the requirements of planning permission, planning application no.: N/13/271/98. The development consists of a two-storey extension to the side of the present farmhouse, and a one-storey porch at the front of the building (Fig. 2).

Aims and Objectives

The aims of the watching brief were to

- establish the presence or absence, quality and extent of any archaeological remains;
- record any archaeological deposits disturbed during groundworks.

Site Location and Description

Branston Booths lies on the fen edge 7km east of Lincoln. Whitehouse Farm is located on the corner of Bardney Road and Delph Road (Fig. 1). The existing building is being extended onto the lawn at the east (Pl. 1), and onto the patio at the front of the building (Pl. 2; Fig. 2).

Archaeological Background

The site is close to the Car Dyke; the patio lies approximately 13m away from the edge of the channel and the extension area at the side of the house approximately 18m away. The Car Dyke is a Roman

watercourse, built either for drainage, as a canal or as an Imperial Boundary. It runs along the fen edge from Washingborough or Lincoln to Peterborough. In some places it is preserved as a V-shaped ditch, whereas in other areas it survives as a buried soil below the surface. Here it survives as a north-south drainage channel to the west of Whitehouse Farm (Fig 1).

Method

The turf was stripped from the area at the side of the house using a 1.2m toothless ditching bucket. The paving slabs had been removed from the patio area in front of the house. The foundation trenches were excavated using a 0.60m-toothed ditching bucket, under archaeological supervision. The trenches at the side of the house were dug to depths between 1m and 1.2m; the trenches in front of the house were 0.90m in depth.

A full written (single context) and photographic record was made. The trenches were recorded on a plan provided by the client and a sketch section of the trenches was made. All deposits were assigned contexts numbers by LAS for recording purposes, and these are referred to in the following report and illustrations (Appendix 1).

Results

At the side of the house, the removal of the turf revealed a dark grey/black silty loam topsoil (**100**) containing fragments of broken brick and tiles, presumably from one of the other farm buildings. Immediately below this, a subsoil of grey/brown sandy silt (**101**) approximately 0.25m was revealed. This was visible in the trenches both next to and in front of the existing building. A possible buried soil (**102**) measuring 0.10 to 0.15m in depth was visible below this. This was a dark grey/brown sandy silt, no artefacts were recovered from this layer, so its date remains unknown. Layer **102** overlay a mixed light grey/brown sandy deposit measuring 0.15 to 0.20m in depth. Immediately below this lay the natural orange sand (**104**) (Pl. 3).

In the corner of the trench adjacent to the house, extending for a length of approximately 1m, was a mixed deposit associated with the backfill of the foundation trench of the existing building (**105**). This consisted of a layer of concrete approximately 0.15m deep below the house, surrounded by a mixed deposit of sand, gravel, stone and brick, measuring 0.30m in depth (**105**).

In front of the house a modern make-up layer was recorded, varying between 0.20m and 0.40m in depth. This was a combination of grey/black silty loam with a large percentage of gravel, brick and stone fragments (**106**). Above this was a layer of builders' sand used as bedding for the patio. The most westerly trench in front of the house had been dug previously for the insertion of a waste pipe (Pl. 4).

Conclusion

Despite the close proximity of the foundation trenches to the Car Dyke, no archaeological features or artefacts were recovered during the watching brief. The area immediately adjacent to the house had been disturbed during the building of the existing walls. The upper layers of material in front of the house had been disturbed by the construction of the patio, and also by the insertion of a series of waste and drainage pipes.

Acknowledgements

LAS are grateful to Mr and Mrs Gregory for their hospitality, and to the contractor, Nigel Hobby. LAS would like to thank the Heritage Officer of North Kesteven District Council. The watching brief was carried out by the author. All illustrations were prepared by Claire Angus. Naomi Field co-ordinated the project. The report was produced and collated by Jane Frost.

Claire D Angus
Lindsey Archaeological Services
August 2000

Appendix 1

Context Summary : Whitehouse Farm, Branston Booths, Lincs (BBWF00)

Context Number	Context Type	Relationship	Description	Interpretation
100	Layer	Above 101	Dark grey/black silty loam	Topsoil
101	Layer	Below 100 and 105, above 102	Grey/brown sandy silt	Subsoil
102	Layer	Below 101, above 103	Dark grey/brown sandy silt	?buried soil
103	Layer	Below 102, above 103	mid-light grey silty sand	?windblown sand
104	Layer	Below 103, LOE	Orange sand	Natural sand
105	Layer	Above 101	Mixed sand, gravel, stone and brick	Backfill material around existing foundations
106	Layer	Below patio, above 101	Mixed dark/grey black silty loam with brick, stone and gravel	Modern make-up layer

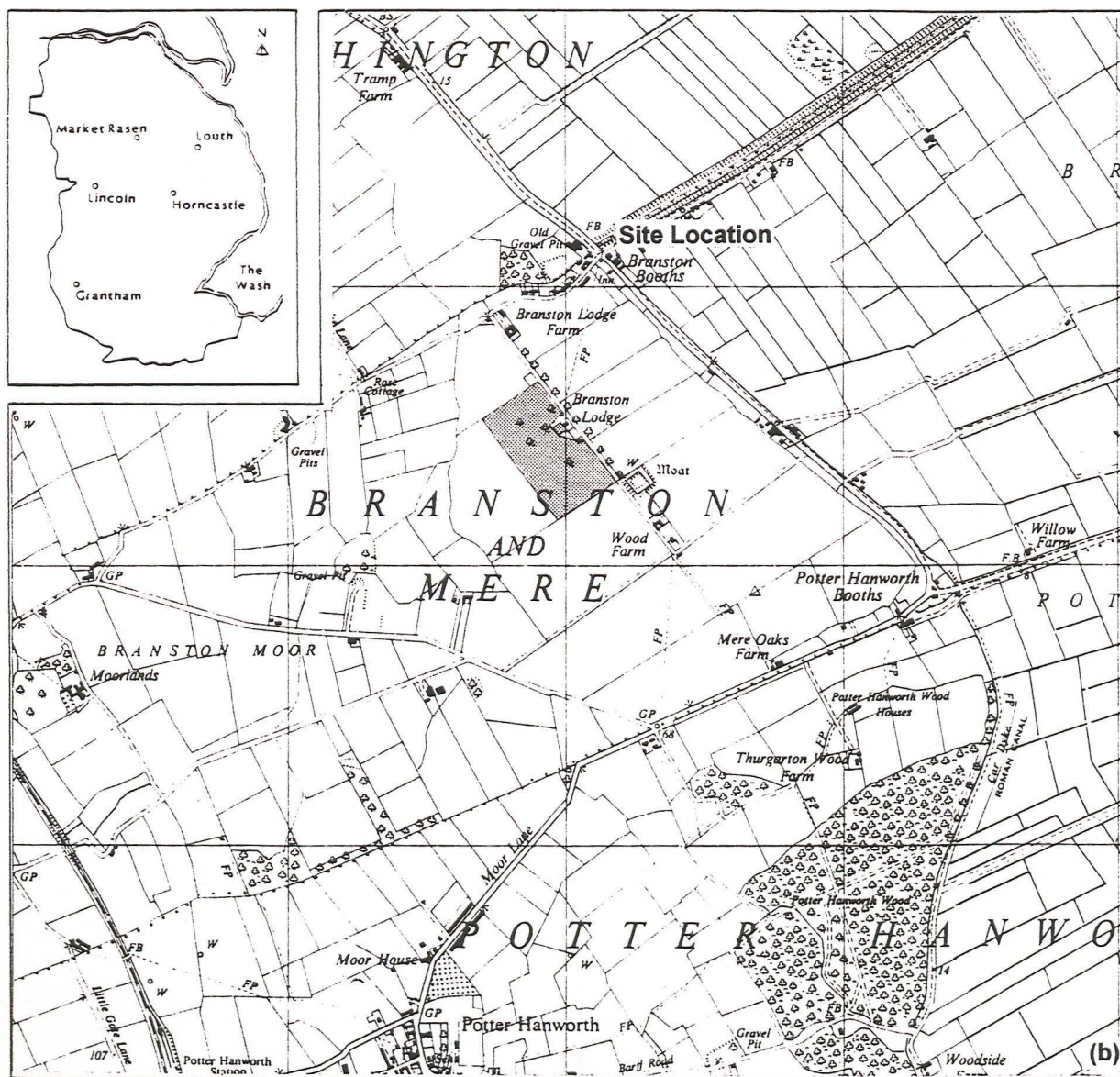
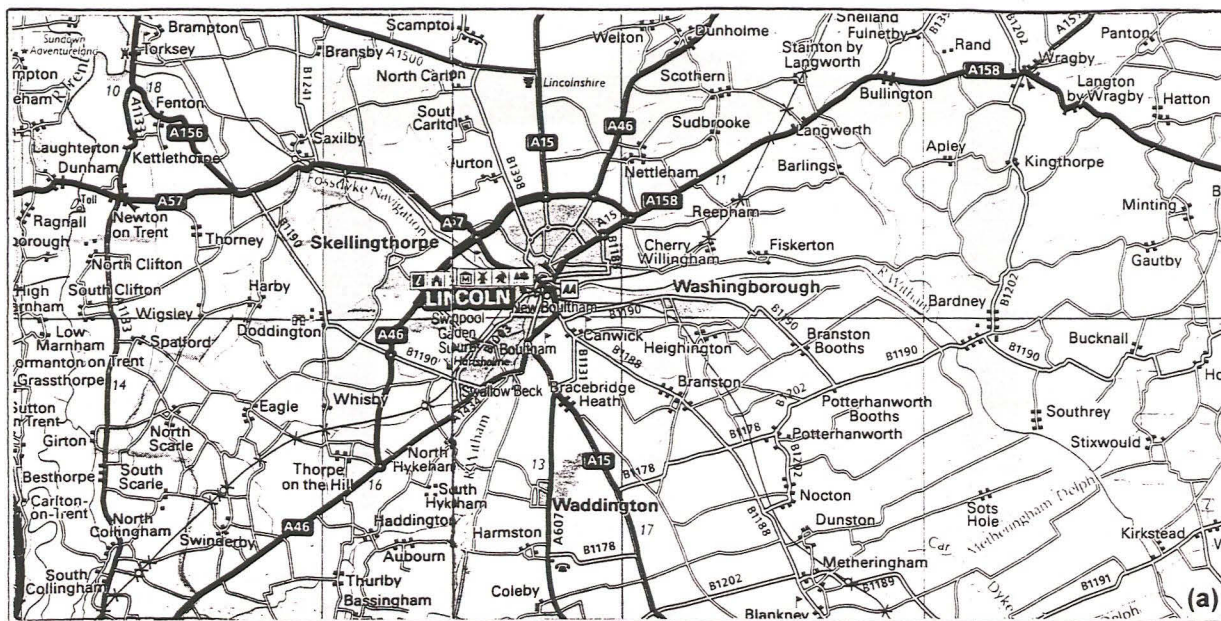


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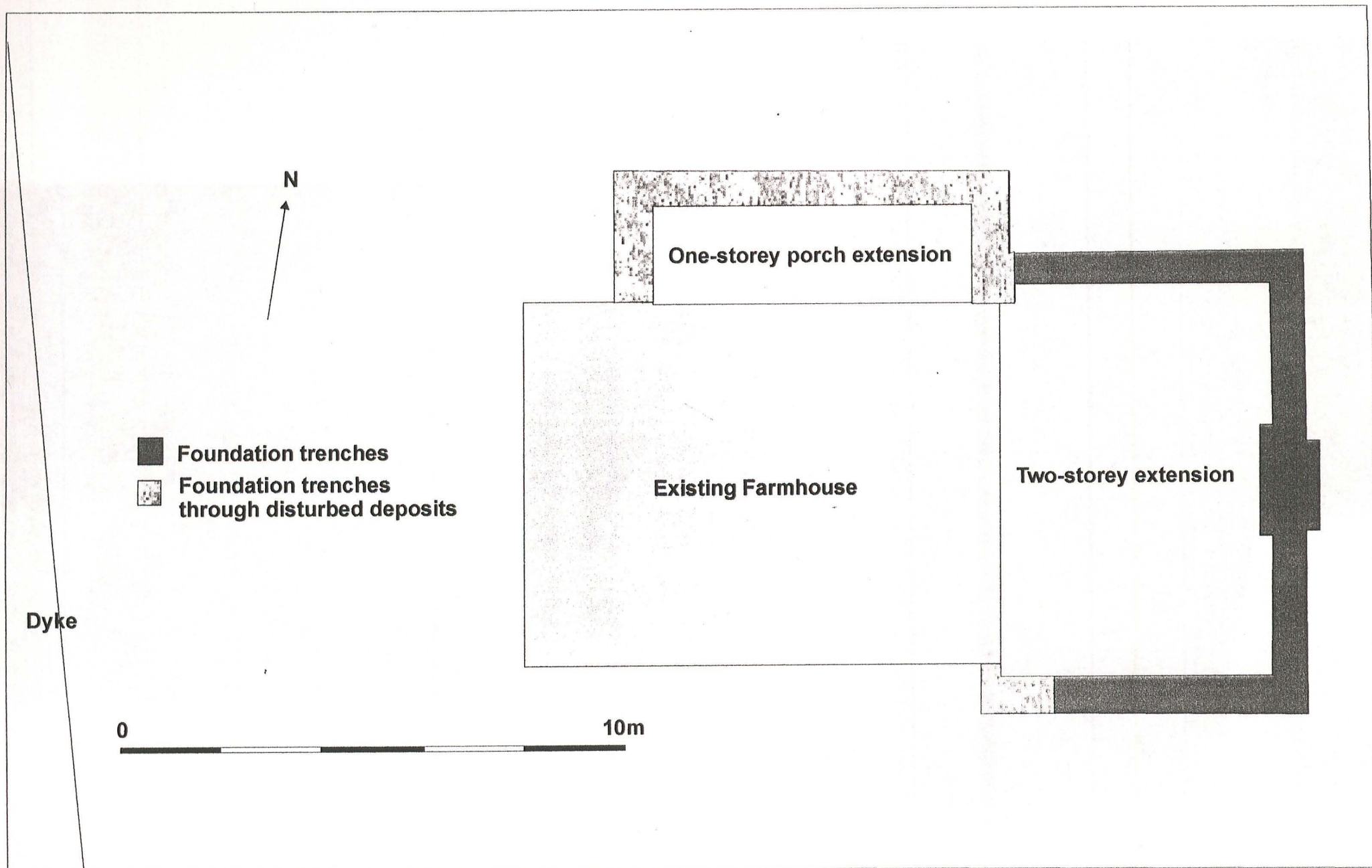


Fig. 2 Plan of foundation trenches, based on a plan provided by the client



Pl. 1 Foundation trenches for the two-storey extension adjacent to the existing farmhouse, looking south

Pl. 2 Location of the one-storey porch extension in front of the farmhouse, looking south





Pl. 3 Section through the deposits, with 1m scale

Pl. 4 Disturbed ground and waste pipe in the foundation trenches in front of the existing farmhouse

