



LINDSEY ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES

Sarir, Legsby Road, Market Rasen, Lincs.

Residential Development Access Road

NGR: TF 1144 8850

Site Code: MRA 00

LCNCC Accn No.: 2000. 260

Planning Application: ~~N~~00/P/0445

L14681.

Archaeological Watching Brief

For

Mr and Mrs B Smith

LAS Report No. 480

November 2000

1845
1846

Lincoln County Council
Archaeology Section
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PRI 54534 L181041

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Summary

An archaeological watching brief carried out during the construction of an access road at the above site revealed a ditch and a large pit. No finds were recovered so it was impossible to determine date and function of these features.

Introduction

Lindsey Archaeological Services was commissioned to carry out an archaeological watching brief at the above site on behalf of Mr and Mrs B Smith. The work was carried out in accordance with the general requirements set out in the *Lincolnshire Archaeological Handbook* (Lincolnshire County Council Archaeology Section, 1998).

Site Location

The development lies to the south of Legsby Road, 1km SE of Market Rasen town centre. The access road is situated between existing properties (Fig. 1, Pl. 1), and leads to land that has previously been farmland. There are small ponds in adjacent fields.

Planning Details

Planning permission has been granted by West Lindsey District Council for a residential development, comprising four building plots serviced by a private access road, subject to a condition requiring an archaeological watching brief being carried out during the groundworks phase of construction. This report deals with the watching brief on the access road only.

Archaeological Background

An archaeological condition was attached to planning permission for this development because of the presence of Romano-British pottery kilns over a wide area in the vicinity. There has been no previous archaeological work close to the development site, and the extent of the Roman industrial activity is not known.

Objectives

The purpose of the Watching Brief was to record any archaeological deposits disturbed during

groundworks at the above site.

Method

All groundworks were carried out under the supervision of an experienced archaeologist. This comprised topsoil stripping and excavation of service trenches.

Archaeological features were hand excavated, and drawn. Finds, which are located in archaeological features, will be identified accordingly and a context numbering system for archaeological remains was in operation. LAS operates a standard context recording system, developed by its staff over the past 20 years based on MOLAS and CAS models.

A full photographic record was made during the progress of the groundworks, to cover each feature together with general views of the site.

Results

Topsoil was stripped with a 1.8m toothless ditching bucket (Pl. 2). Service trenching was carried out with a 0.6m dyking bucket. The topsoil stripping resulted in some areas being left under a thin smear of topsoil making it difficult to determine features from the surface.

The topsoil on the site was variable with a thick (0.50m) deposit of very dark brown sandy silt at the north eastern part of the access road decreasing to a less than 0.10m in the west. The natural ground was a sand deposit of varying colour, heavily disturbed by tree roots, in places. The western part of the turning circle had been previously disturbed, with a thin layer of gravel immediately below the topsoil. The topsoil stripping did not extend below this deposit (Pl. 3).

An area of modern debris was found which seemed to be within the topsoil and was therefore interpreted as a modern pit 108. Its fill contained brick rubble and a few sherds of modern pottery. A ditch (104) was identified running approximately north south across the access road (Pl. 4, Fig. 2). This was approximately 0.44m deep and 2.10m wide and contained two fills, a dark grey sandy silt with infrequent stones (105) which overlay a thin layer of brownish grey sandy silt (106) again with infrequent stones. The ditch was difficult to follow on the surface but had a distinct profile with a wide flat base and concave sides.

The drains were dug with a 0.6m wide toothed bucket and ranged from less than 1m deep to over 1.4m deep. Within this soft sand it made close inspection of features very difficult (Pl.5).

The modern pit on the access road turned out to lie within an area of extensive tree root disturbance (Pl. 6) which seems to have led to more pronounced subsoil development, with an iron pan visible at about 0.50m deep. Closer to the front of the property there was little evidence of subsoil but also less evidence of tree disturbance.

At approximately the mid-point of the access road the single pipe trench spit into two. The iron pan continued into the orchard area and a large pit (110) was identified in the southern trench. This pit was 1.4m deep and approximately 8m wide, containing a dark brown sandy silt (111) overlying a grey sandy silt (112). No finds were identified from this feature.

Conclusion

The watching brief on the access road identified two archaeological features but with no artefacts it was impossible to determine the date or function of these features. There was certainly no pottery of Roman date on the area which is characteristic of pottery production areas in Market Rasen.

Acknowledgements

LAS would like to thank Mr and Mrs B Smith for their co-operation on site.

Mark Williams
Lindsey Archaeological Services
November 2000

Appendix 1: MRA OO, Context Summary,

| Context | Type | Description |
|----------------|-------------|--|
| 101 | Above all | Dark brown/Black sandy silt |
| 102 | Natural | Various light sandy silt |
| 103 | Gravel | Gravel layer below topsoil in southern part of the access road |
| 104 | Ditch | |
| 105 | Fill of 104 | Dark grey sand silty clay |
| 106 | Fill of 104 | Brown sandy silt clay |
| 107 | Subsoil | Mixed orange sandy silt |
| 108 | Pit | |
| 109 | Fill of 108 | Dark brown sandy silt |
| 110 | Fill of 108 | Grey brown silty clay |
| 110 | Pit | |
| 111 | Fill of 110 | Dark brown sandy silt |
| 112 | Fill of 110 | Grey sandy silt |

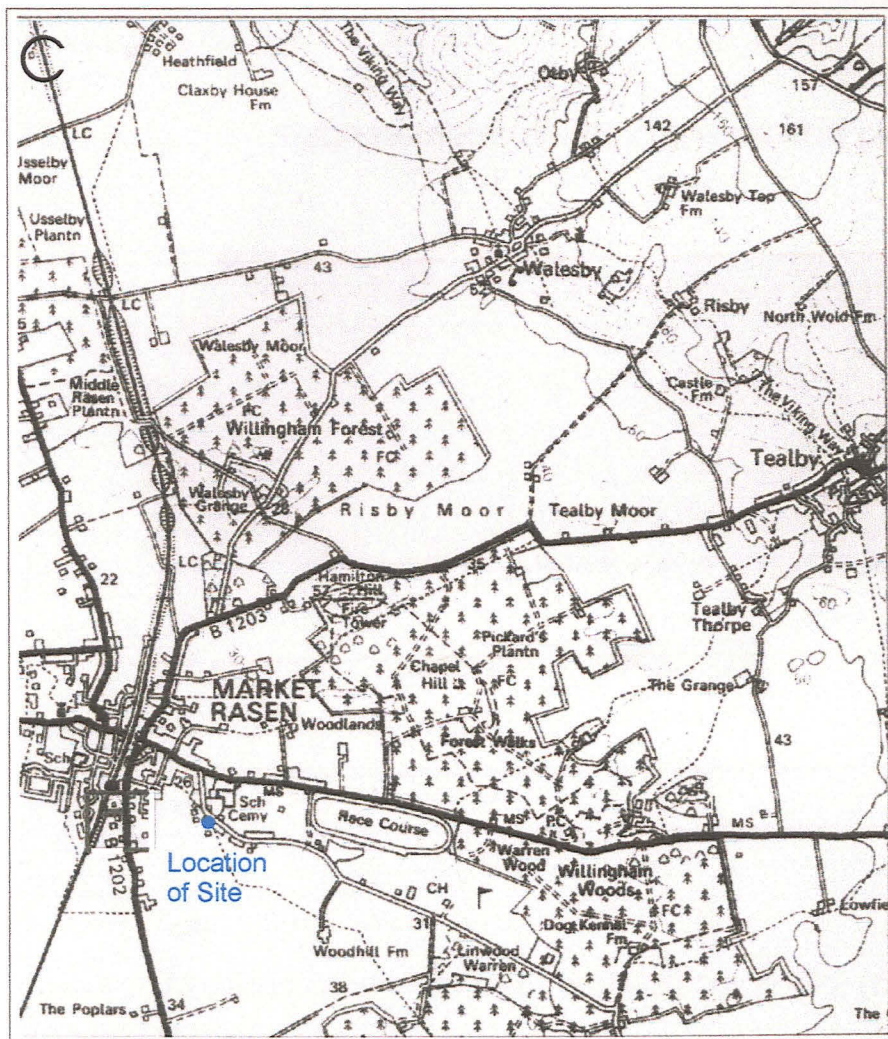
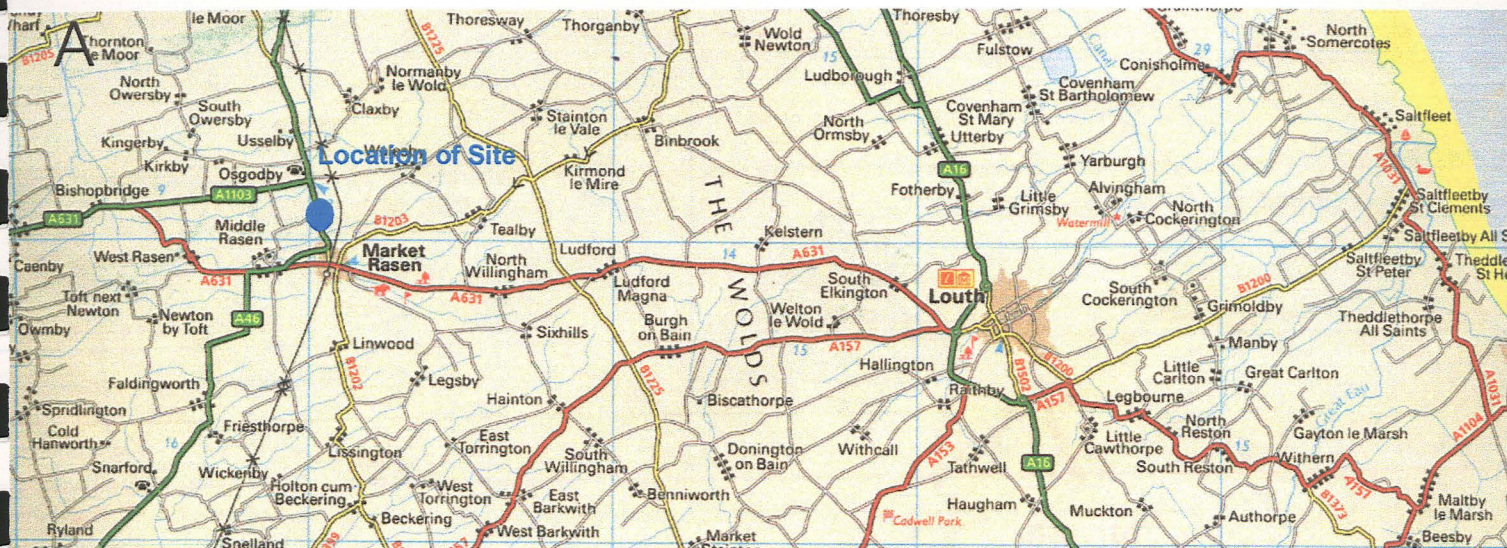
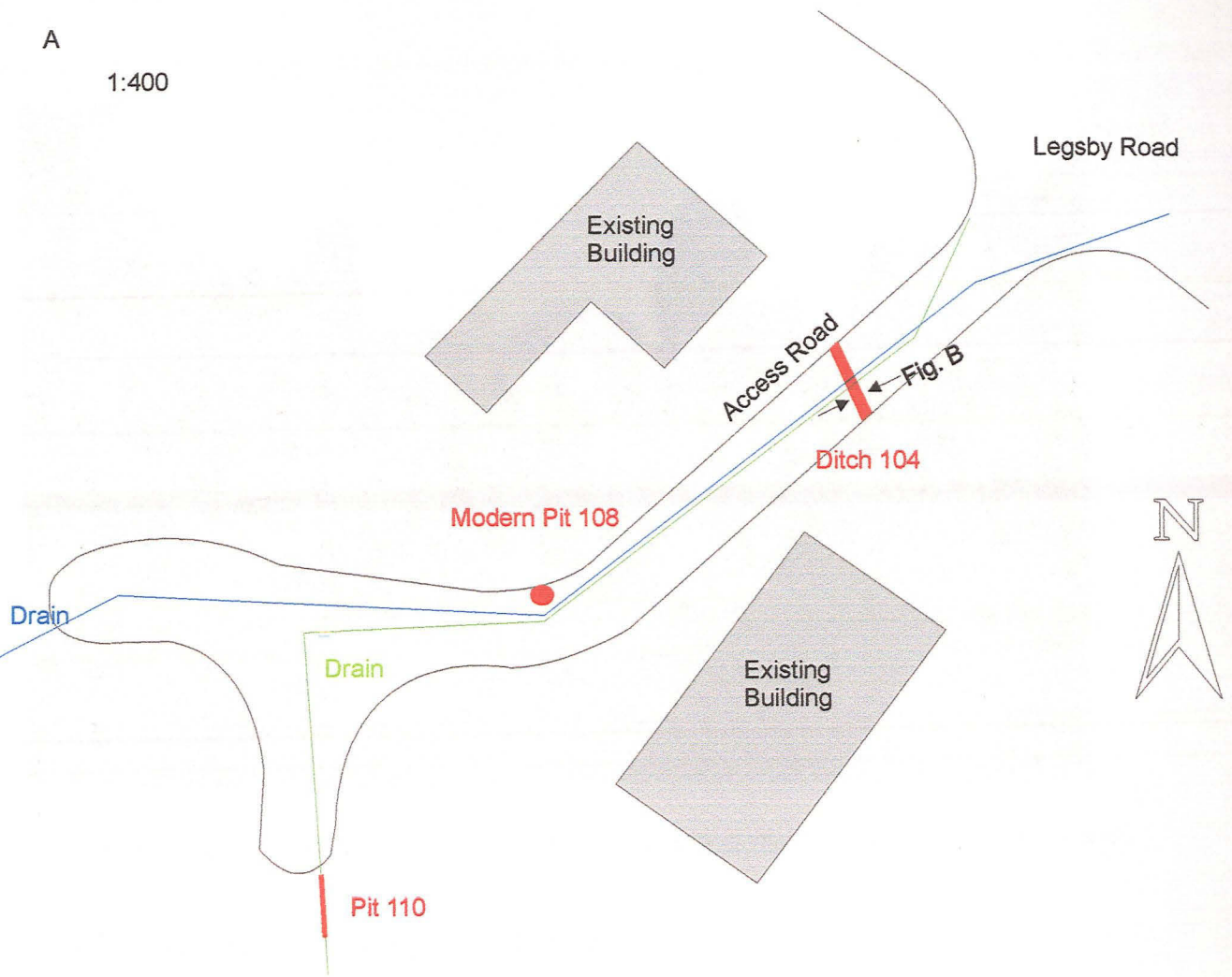


Figure 1: Location of Market Rasen Lincolnshire. Inset C reproduced from the 1956 O.S. 1:25000 sheet Crown Copyright, reproduced with the permission of the controller of HMSO. LAS Licence number AL 50424A

A

1:400



B

SW

NE

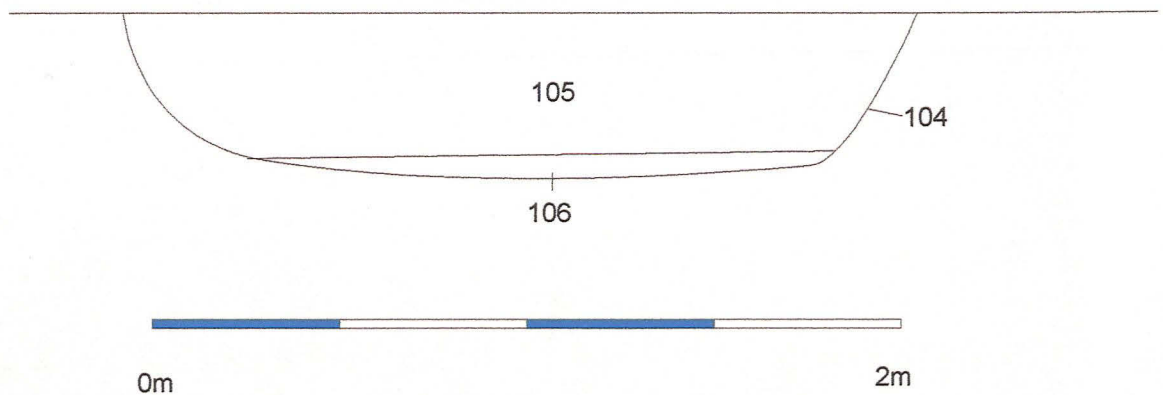


Figure 2 A: Plan of development area (based on plan provided by Mr and Mrs B Smith)
B: Section of ditch 104



PI. 1 Existing drive in the early stages of the groundwork, looking south-west.

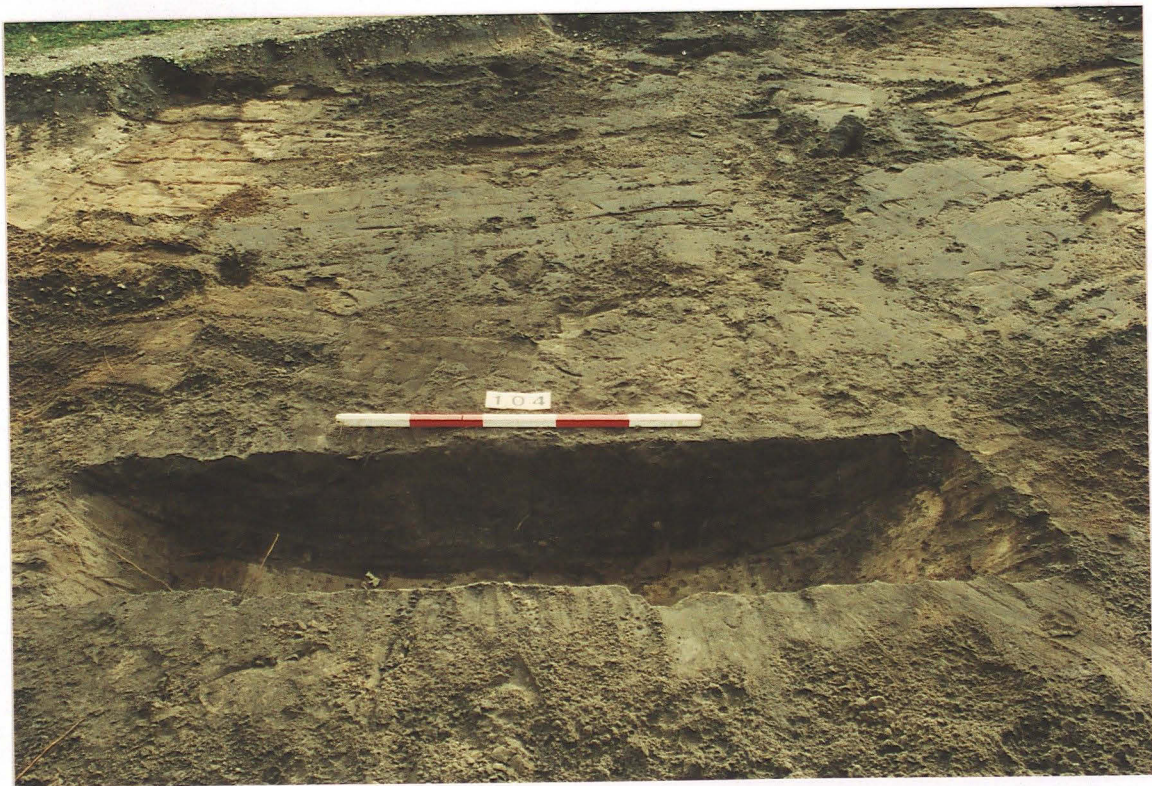
PI. 2 Access road following topsoil stripping.





PI. 3 Western part of the access road, top centre of the picture shows gravel area, looking west.

PI. 4 Ditch 104 looking south-east.





PI. 5 Drain in the eastern part of the access road looking north west (same area as PI. 2 but opposite direction).

PI. 6 Eastern part of access road looking north east, note tree disturbance in the lower left of the picture.





PI. 7 Central part of the access road showing area showing two drainage trenches.

PI. 8 Drain on the southern part of the site showing modern pit 110.

