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LINDSEY ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES

**Church Farmhouse, Church End
North Somercotes, Lincs.**

NGR: TF 4230 9560

Site Code: NSCF 00

LCNCC Museum Accn No.: 2000.308

Planning ref. N/132/01870/99

Archaeological Watching Brief

Report for

Mr and Mrs Drewett

by

N. Field and G. Tann

LAS Report No. 488

December 2000

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The Figures

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Fig. 2 Plan and elevation of extension from architect's drawing (J.S.Grant) supplied by the client. Scale 1: 100.

Fig. 3 Sequence of deposits found in foundation trench adjacent to the road. Scale 1:20 (M. McDaid, after Field)

The Plates

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Church Farmhouse, North Somercotes

Archaeological Watching Brief

NGR: TF 4230 9560

Site Code: NSCF 00

LCNCC Museum Accn. No.: 2000.306

Planning ref. N/132/01870/99

Summary

The foundation trenches of a new kitchen extension cut through a mixed deposit containing brick rubble and mortar overlying natural boulder clay. No archaeological features were identified that pre-dated the outbuildings which had formerly occupied the site. Part of a mud and stud building was discovered in a surviving wall of a former cattleshed to the east of the new extension.

Introduction

Lindsey Archaeological Services (LAS) was commissioned by Mr and Mrs Drewett in April 2000 to undertake an archaeological watching brief during groundworks for the construction of a kitchen extension adjacent to an existing cottage known as Church Farmhouse, North Somercotes.

The watching brief was required to satisfy a condition of the planning permission granted by East Lindsey District Council for the kitchen extension. The work was conducted in accordance with general requirements set out in the *Lincolnshire Archaeological Handbook* published by the Archaeology Section, Lincolnshire County Council (1998).

The watching brief, by Naomi Field, took place on 24th April 2000.

Site Location and Description

North Somercotes is situated on the Lincolnshire Outer Marsh, 13km south of Grimsby and 10km east of Louth. Church Farmhouse is in Church End, south of the modern village centre, opposite the parish church (Fig. 1).

Planning Background

Planning permission was granted for the construction of a kitchen extension east of the existing building subject to an archaeological watching brief being carried out during the groundworks phase of construction. Further building works comprising a living room and bedroom to the rear of the kitchen were envisaged to take place at a later date. To the east of the new kitchen, farm buildings were converted for use as a studio, garden store and garage (Fig. 2).

Archaeological Background

Somercotes is mentioned in the Domesday Survey of 1086, but no distinction is made between the present settlements of North and South Somercotes. The land in these villages belonged to manors (estates) centred in other villages, but the settlements seem to have had their origins in the Anglo-Saxon period. Church Farmhouse lies opposite the church and is probably close to the medieval core of the village (Pl. 1). There was potential for medieval occupation along the street frontage; medieval pottery has been found in the vicinity of Church Farmhouse and cropmarks have been recorded to the south of the site, from air photographs.

Church Farmhouse appears to have originally been a single storey brick building, with a central chimney stack and front entrance which was subsequently extended eastwards (Pls. 2 and 3). The building has a modern pantile roof and looks as if it has been raised by half a storey. An air photograph of the early 1960s (possibly 1962) in the possession of Mr and Mrs Drewett shows that much of this work has been carried out since then. The chimney has also been rebuilt.

To the east of the extended cottage was a range of outbuildings, some of which had been removed prior to the watching brief. The new building occupies the ground where these stood, linking the house with a section of boundary wall along the frontage as far as a former cattle shed, which is to be converted to a studio, with a garage and storage area (Fig. 2).

It is difficult to determine a date for the construction of the house which has always been a modest building. Brick dimensions of the original part of the building (230 x 110 x 70mm) are larger than those of 'Pantiles' a heavily restored brick building c.100m to the west with a decorative string course. (232 x 50 x 110mm). 'Pantiles' is a higher status building and may be late 17th century, or later, in date. An associated outbuilding with a tumbled brick gable has brick dimensions (225 x 109 x 60mm) closer to those of Church Farmhouse and is probably 18th century in date. Church Farmhouse might be as early as 18th century or early 19th century.

The Watching Brief

Context numbers were assigned by LAS for recording purposes; the numbers are used in bold in the report, on the illustrations, and are described in Appendix 1.

The front of the demolished outbuilding was set back from the cottage by 0.25m, and aligned with a gatepost that stood beside the cottage east wall. Bricks from its foundations were the same size as those of Church Farmhouse. The foundations ended 2m west of the new kitchen extension.

Within the 5m x 7.5m footprint of the new extension, the ground was lowered by 0.2m. The foundation trenches were excavated to a depth of 1m, through disturbed ground exposing boulder clay 0.8m below present ground levels (Pls 4 and 5).

The foundation trench next to the road was cut through a backfilled service trench containing an alkathene water pipe (Pl. 6), and through the foundations of the demolished outbuilding running north-south. The 0.3m thick topsoil layer sealed a 0.5m thick layer of dark brown clay loam, which contained brick rubble, mortar, and infrequent rounded pebbles. The layer may represent a construction or demolition layer. Beneath it was a 0.1m thick band of clay containing numerous small rounded pebbles, which could be the remnants of a yard surface or possibly road metalling along the frontage. At the trench base was light brown clay (Fig. 3; Pl. 7).

At the western end of the new extension, the base of the brick foundations for the cottage were exposed 0.4m below the modern surface (Pl. 4).

The Cattle Shed

The watching brief provided an opportunity to inspect the former cattle shed. This was being converted to provide a studio, garden store and garage (Pl. 8). A timber brace and cross frame, together with three wattles, from a mud and stud building was exposed in the external face of the western wall (Pls. 9 and 10).

The brace spanned a point 1.165m across and 1.05m high. The corner post was at least 0.2m square in cross – section, the brace being 0.14m across. Just visible through holes in the mud was a horizontal rail 0.15m above the bottom of the brace (at the top of the solid red 10cm zone on the scale in Pl. 10). The opposite face of the wall was obscured by brickwork and rendering so the rail and other features could not be seen. The wattles had diameters of about 500mm, and one contained a visible nail. The surrounding mud fabric was rich in straw content and had been repaired with brick and tile fragments. There was no evidence that any other part of the mud and stud building remained, although there is some suggestion in the brickwork that a central post had been replaced with bricks (Pl. 9).

The presence of the rail on the east face of the wall indicates that this was an internal elevation and that the building continued eastwards. Whether the visible west facing elevation was the end of the building or an internal cross wall is unclear.

Access

Topsoil removal of the garage access to the east of the existing cattle shed failed to identify any archaeological remains (Pl. 11).

Conclusion

No archaeological features were observed during the groundworks for the kitchen extension although several fragments of post-medieval pottery were found in the topsoil (see Appendix 1). This is surprising given the proximity of the site to the medieval church. The identification of part of the frame of a mud and stud building represents an addition to the known distribution of structures of this type in Lincolnshire and is the second such building to be identified in North Somercotes.

Naomi Field and Geoff Tann
Lindsey Archaeological Services
December 20th 2000

Acknowledgements

LAS is grateful to Mr and Mrs Drewett for their hospitality and interest during the watching brief. Groundworks were by Jim Fairburn Ltd. Help from Mr J. Sardeson (East Lindsey District Council) and Dr. Beryl Lott (Lincolnshire County Council, Built Environment Team) was also appreciated.

Illustrations were prepared by Mick McDaid, and the report was collated and produced by Jane Frost.

Archive Summary

colour photographs, LAS film no. 00/83/1-18

correspondence

Architect's plan and elevations (Scale 1:100)

field notes

field section

field sketch plans

Pottery Archive NSCF00

Jane Young *Lindsey Archaeological Services*

context	cname	full name	form type	sherds	vessels	decoration	part	description	date
U/S	SLIP	Unidentified slipware	press mould dish	2	1	trailed & feathered	BS	poss Staffs	18th
U/S	BERTH	Brown glazed earthenware	?	1	1		BS		mid 17 to 18th

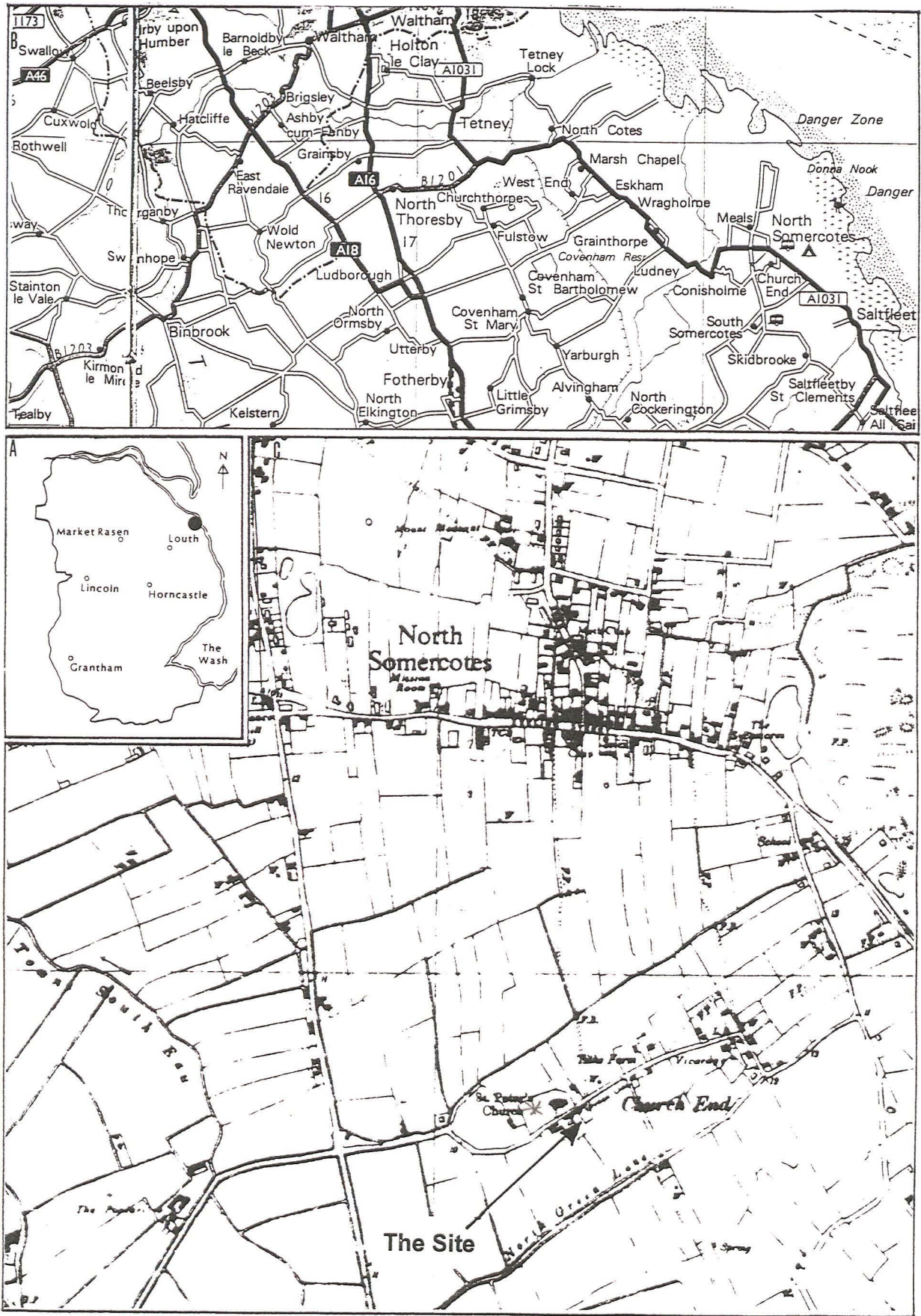
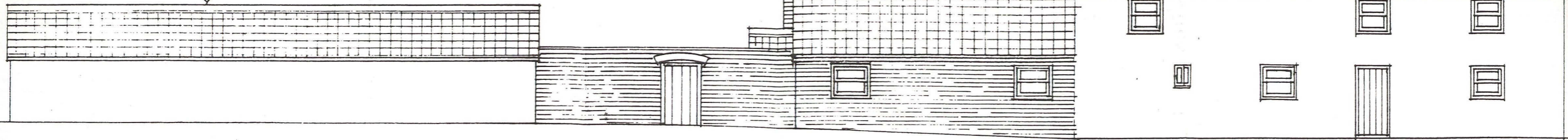


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* church road called St. Mary's.

Remove existing roof covering and clear.
Repair or replace roof timbers to leave
in sound condition. Provide new
RW goods on timber fascia.

Provide new red clay pantiles on
kannalised timber battens on 1 layer
of reinforced roofing felt.
200 Fg insulation to roof space over studio



FRONT ELEVATION

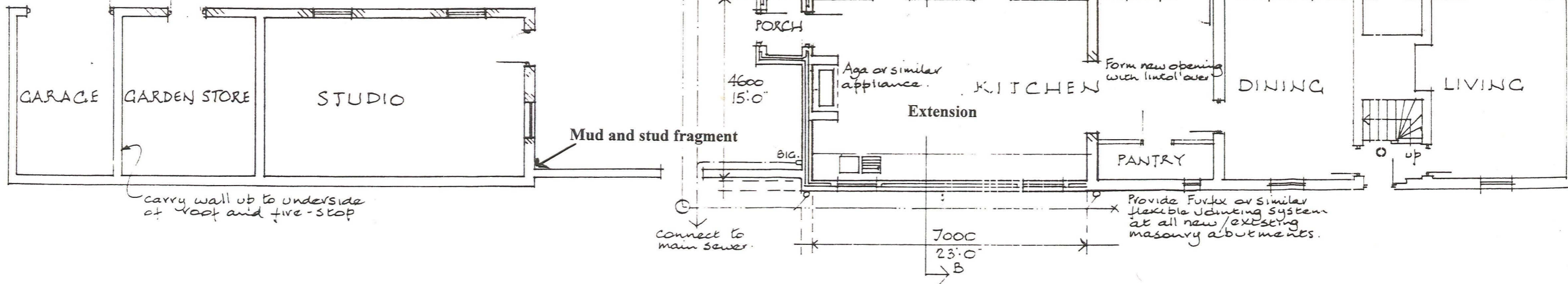
Connect to 2 cu.m. soakaway
sited 5m. from dwelling

All drainage to be
100 pvc laid on 150mm
pea-gravel bed.
Drains under floor to
have 150 pea-gravel
surround
Gradient 1:80

As new bedroom is an inner room
provide window with clear
opening of 850mm x 500mm as
secondary means of escape.

Hearths and appliances
to comply with current
Building Regulations
Flues to be 225mm
int. diam. SGW liners
laid socket up.

Provide lintols over all new
openings.



GROUND PLAN

CHURCH END

Fig. 2 Plan and elevation of extension from architect's drawing (J.S.Grant) supplied by the client. Scale 1: 100.

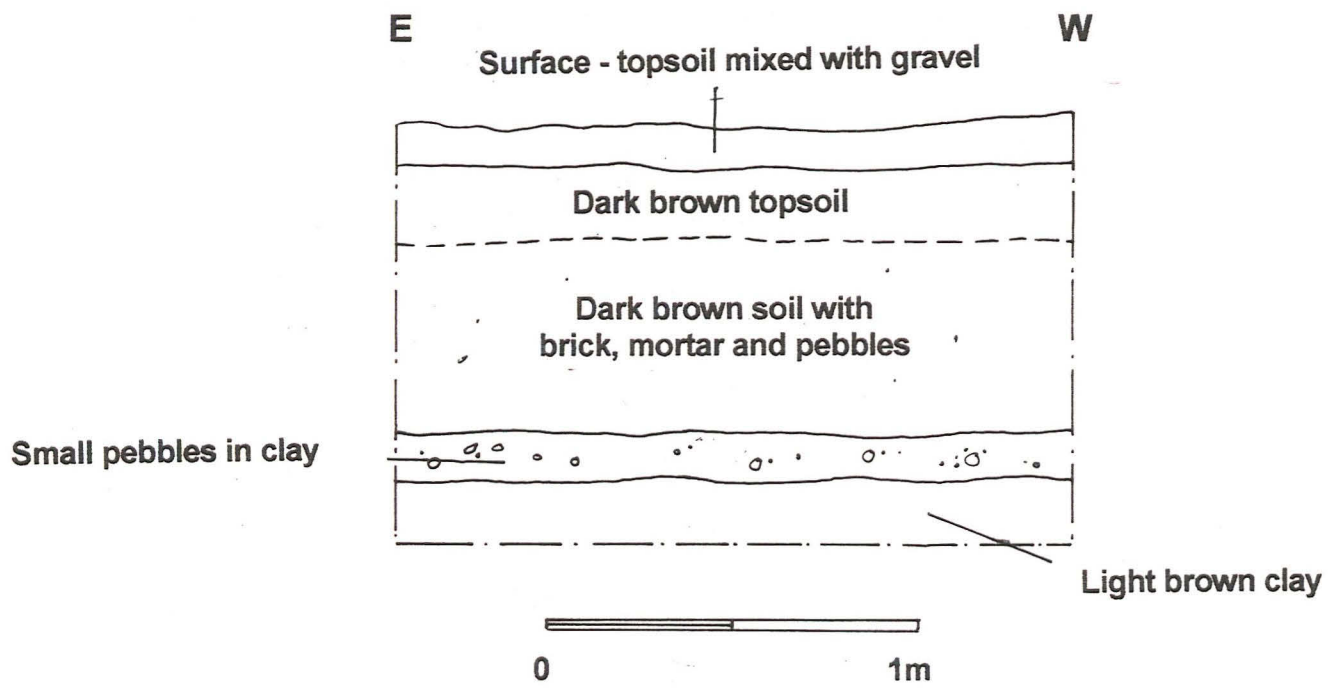


Fig. 3 Sequence of deposits found in foundation trench adjacent to the road. Scale 1:20 (M. McDaid, after Field)



Pl. 1 Church Farmhouse North Somercotes, general view looking north-west towards the parish church

Pl. 2 Church Farmhouse North Somercotes, front elevation looking south-east





Pl. 3 Church Farmhouse North Somercotes, rear elevation looking north

Pl. 4 Topsoil clearance in progress, looking west





Pl. 5 Excavation of foundations looking east

Pl. 6 Foundation trench with water pipe along road frontage, looking east





Pl. 7 General sequence of deposits in foundation trench along road frontage

Pl. 8 The cattle shed east of the extension





Pl. 9 Cross wall at west end of cattle shed showing remains of mud and stud wall

Pl. 10 Close up of brace and cross frame fragment belonging to a mud and stud building





Pl. 11 Clearance of access to east of cattle shed