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LINDSEY ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES

**New Wildlife Pond, West End Farm Cottage  
Gayton-le-Marsh**

**NGR: TF 4170 8425  
Site Code: GWP 01  
LCNCC Museum Accn No.: 2001.87**

**Archaeological Watching Brief**

**Report for  
Mrs O'Hanlon**

**by Geoff Tann**

**LAS Report No. 529**

**May 2001**

25 WEST PARADE · LINCOLN · LN1 1NW  
TELEPHONE 01522 544554 · FACSIMILE 01522 522211 · EMAIL [las@lasarchaeology.demon.co.uk](mailto:las@lasarchaeology.demon.co.uk)

F.N.FIELD B.A.(Hons), MIFA

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EVENT L12002

SOURCES L16718 L16719

PRN 43974 L181676

43975 L181677

43976 L181678



# **New Wildlife Lake, West End Farm Cottage, Gayton-le-Marsh**

## **Archaeological Watching Brief**

NGR: TF 4170 8425  
Site Code: GWP 01  
LCNCC Museum Accn No.: 2001.87  
N1058/0187/01 L16150

### **Introduction**

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken for Mrs O'Hanlon on 12th April 2001, during groundworks for the creation of a new lake beside West End Farm Cottage, Great Carlton (Figs. 1 and 2). The site lies within the parish of Gayton le Marsh. This brief report is intended to satisfy the specific requirements of Dr. Beryl Lott (as advised by telephone 11/4/2001).

### **Site Location and Description**

Planning permission was granted by East Lindsey District Council for the excavation of a lake for creation of a wildlife habitat, subject to an archaeological watching/recording brief being carried out after topsoil stripping of the site. The 0.5ha site lies 0.6km west of Gayton le Marsh village, 50m NW of West End Farm Cottage, and immediately west of an existing fishing pond.

### **Archaeological Background**

The Lincolnshire Sites and Monuments Record holds an entry reporting finds of ecclesiastical decorated stonework found during dredging of an existing pond in the same field in the mid 1990s. Documentary research has not indicated the presence of a known medieval building on or adjacent to the site, and the derivation of the stonework is not known. The watching brief was to check that no building remains or other archaeological material would be affected by excavation of the new lake.

### **The Watching Brief**

G. Tann attended the site after topsoil stripping had been completed. An inspection of the surface of the underlying grey/brown silt produced one sherd of medieval pottery and three sherds of post-medieval pottery. Slight colour variations were observed across the site, and these were interpreted as evidence of NW-SE aligned ridge and furrow from medieval ploughing of the site, parallel with the existing northern boundary. The furrows were about 4.5m wide, and separated by ridges between 5m and 7m wide; there may have been a headland against the eastern boundary. Ridge and furrow has been noted in an adjacent field to the north.

Close to the SE corner of the stripped area, a spread of chalk and post-medieval roof tile fragments probably marked the position of a demolished small farm outbuilding.

The machine operator then excavated a 2m wide trench across the centre of the pond area, 18m west of an existing field boundary close to the existing lake. This showed the grey/brown silt layer

(a subsoil) to be 0.15m thick, with a 0.2m thick yellow/brown clay layer below. That layer may represent a medieval subsoil. Underneath was a 0.35m thick layer of yellow chalky clay, weathered from the red/brown glacial boulder-clay below. Apart from slight traces of plough furrows, no archaeological features were visible in the trench sides.

Mrs O'Hanlon produced a fragment of blue glass in lead cames which had been found beside West End Farm Cottage, but this was identified as probably modern in date, possibly representing an artistic attempt by a previous owner. There was no further evidence of any ecclesiastical building on the site.

The project archive from this site, including the photographic record, will be archived at City and County Museum, Lincoln, in the usual way. The co-operation of everyone involved was appreciated. Illustrations have been prepared by Mick McDaid.

Geoff Tann  
Lindsey Archaeological Services  
3rd May 2001



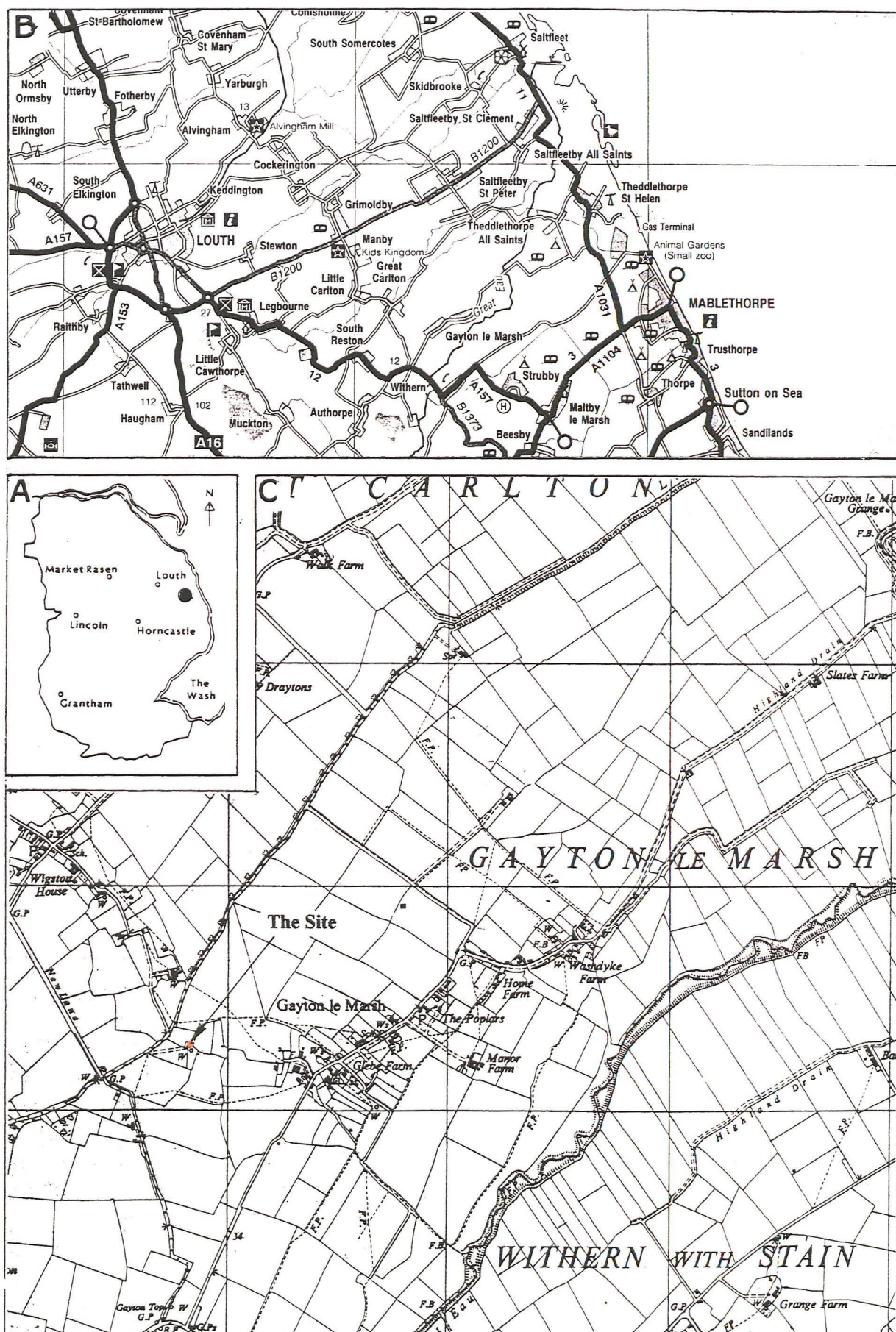


Fig. 1 Location of Gayton le Marsh (C based on the 1955 1:25,000 Ordnance Survey map, Sheet TF 48. © Crown Copyright, reproduced with the permission of the Controller of HMSO. LAS Licence No. AL 100002165)..

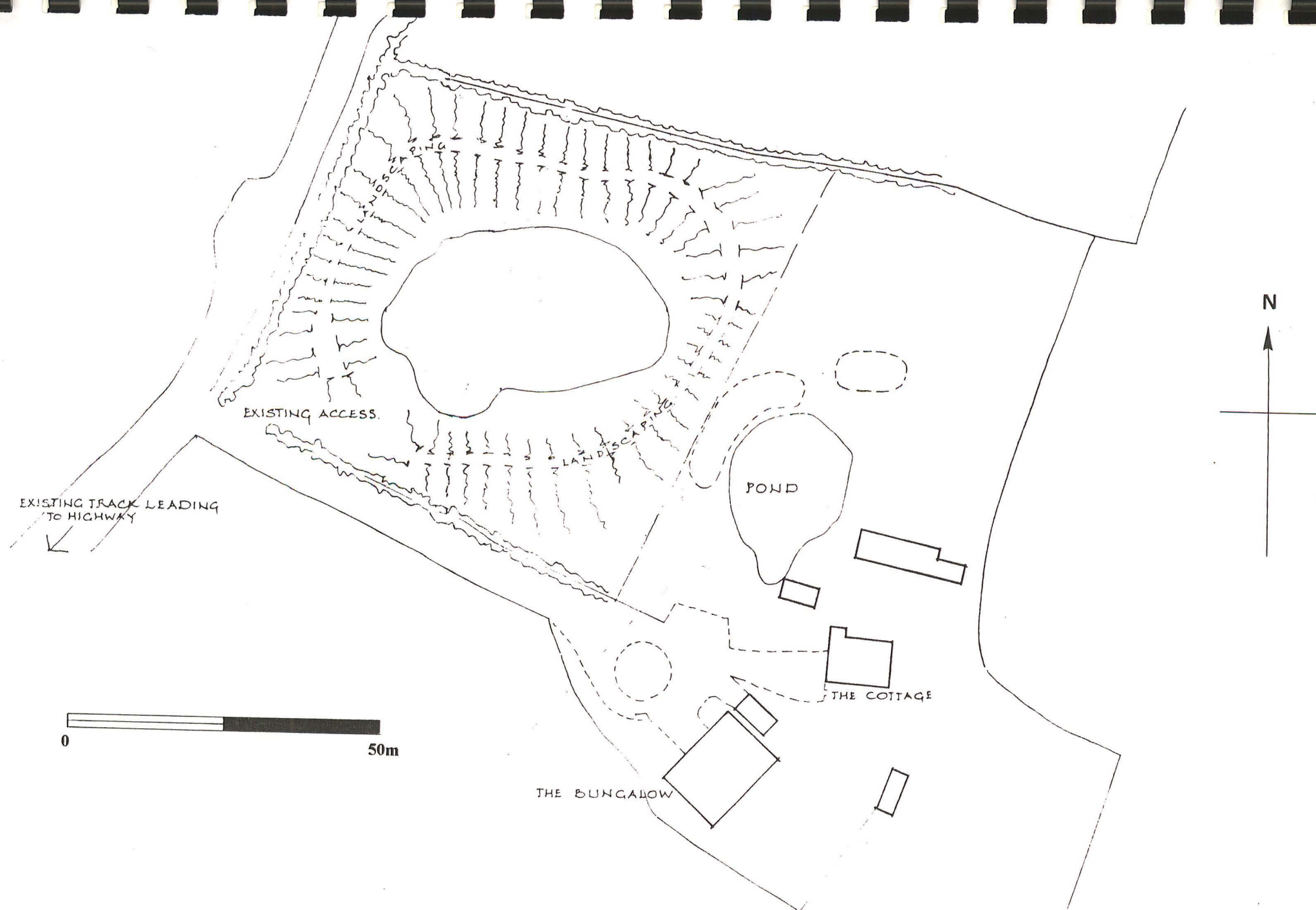


Fig. 2 Location of the monitored site (based on a reduced scale copy of a plan supplied by the contractor, dwg. no. D.2.2001.1).