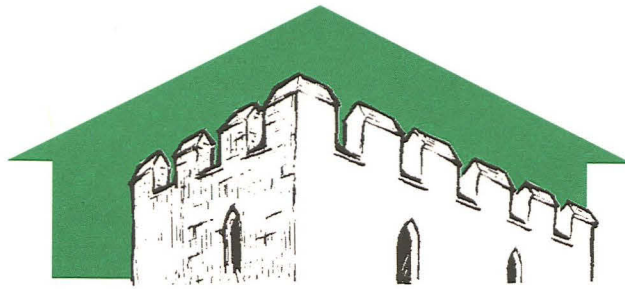


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11 JUN 2001

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PRE-CONSTRUCT ARCHAEOLOGY L I N C O L N

**EARTHWORK SURVEY
AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL
WATCHING BRIEF REPORT;
STATION ROAD, LEGBOURNE,
LOUTH, LINCOLNSHIRE**

NGR: TF 3648 8449
SITE CODE: S RLL01
LCNCC ACC. NO: 2001.49
Planning ref.: N/100/00984/00





10 NOV 1981

10 NOV 1981
10 NOV 1981

EVENTS 42083 42084
SOURCES 46804 46805
PRA 44018 481812

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Report prepared for
Chartdale Homes Ltd.
by Chris Clay
June 2001

Pre-Construct Archaeology (Lincoln)
61 High Street
Newton on Trent
Lincoln
LN1 2JP
Tel. & Fax. 01777 228155

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Summary

- *An earthwork survey and archaeological watching brief was undertaken in advance of, and during, a residential development on land off Station Road, Legbourne, Lincolnshire.*
- *The site had surviving medieval ridge and furrow, and it lies in the area of the shrunken medieval village of Legbourne, to the east of the Cistercian priory which also survives as earthworks.*
- *No settlement features or deposits were exposed, and the watching brief was curtailed when it was established that, excluding the ridge and furrow, the effects of development would be minimal.*

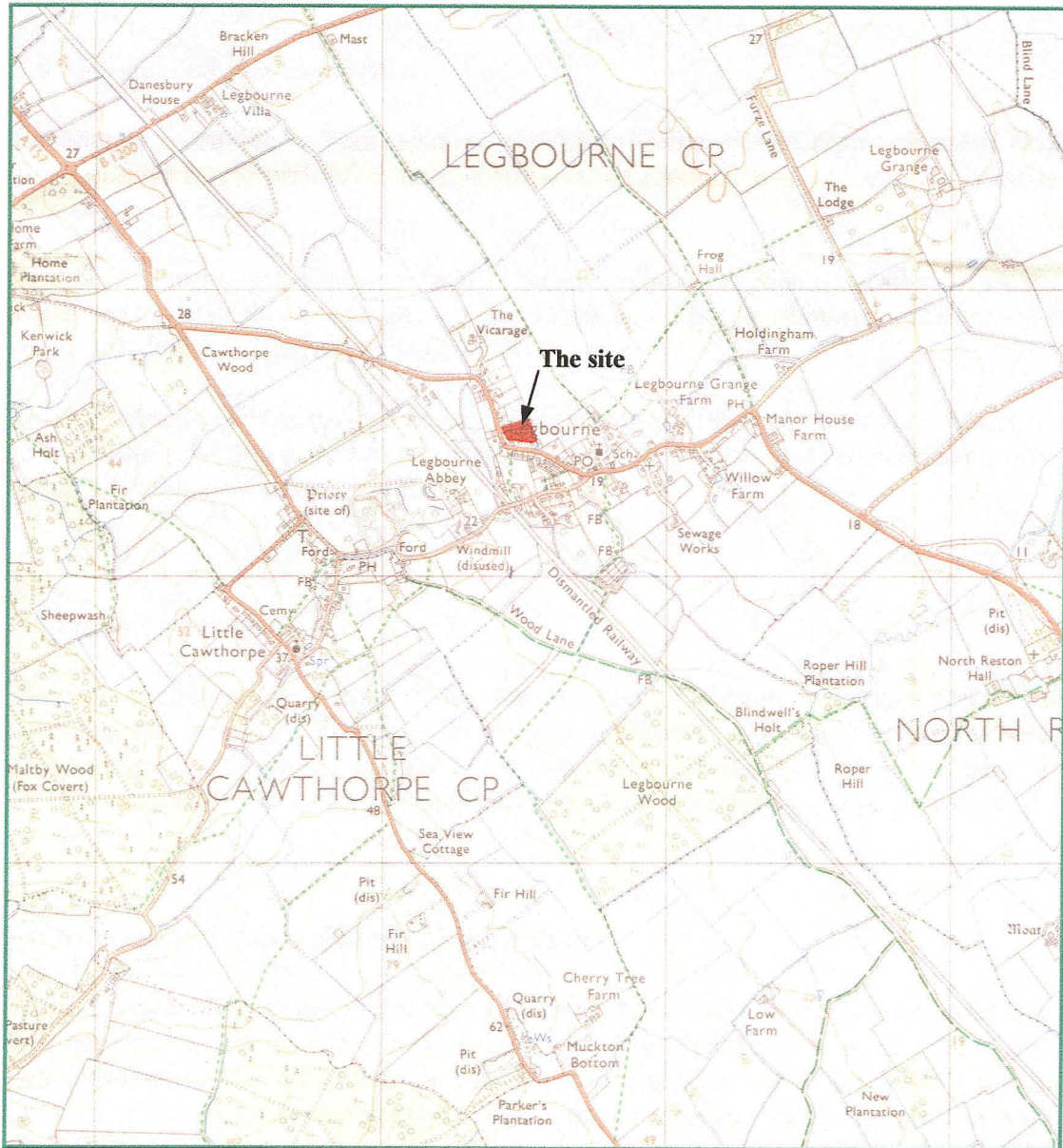


Fig.1: Site location (scale 1:25,000)
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1.0 Introduction

Pre-Construct Archaeology (Lincoln) were commissioned by Chartdale Homes Ltd. to undertake an earthwork survey and archaeological watching brief on land off Station Road, Legbourne, Lincolnshire (fig.1).

This report details the results of the fieldwork. It is written to conform to national and local guidelines as set out in the Lincolnshire County Council document *Lincolnshire Archaeological Handbook: A Manual of Archaeological Practice* (LCC, 1998).

2.0 Site location and description

Legbourne is on the eastern edge of the Lincolnshire Wolds, approximately 4km south-east of Louth and 40km north-north-east of Lincoln. It is in the administrative district of East Lindsey.

The development site comprises a 0.7 hectare sub-rectangular unit of land on the north-west side of the village. Station Road runs along the western and southern edge of the site, which is centred on NGR TF 3648 8449.

Geologically, the site is divided between glacial Marsh Till on the southern side, with glaciofluvial sand and gravel to the north. This overlies Carstone Formation sandstone (British Geological Survey, 1999).

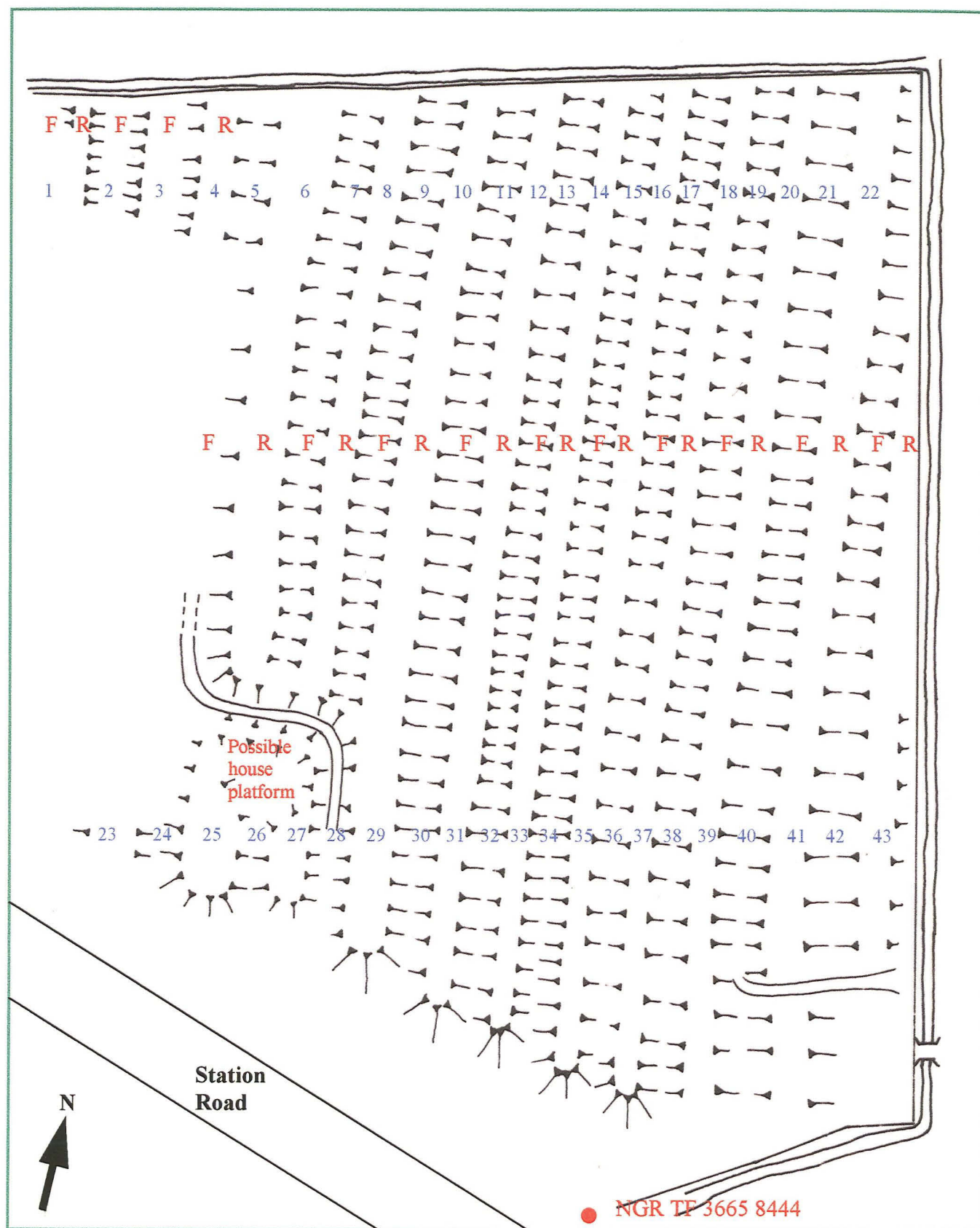
3.0 Planning background

Planning permission was granted for the erection of sixteen residential properties (planning ref. N/100/00984/00), with associated garages, access roads and services. The permission was granted subject to the undertaking of an earthwork survey prior to development, followed by an archaeological watching brief during the groundworks.

4.0 Archaeological and historical background

The Sites and Monuments Record for Lincolnshire lists several prehistoric stone and flint implements discovered around Legbourne. A polished flint axe was found less than 200m north-west of the site as well as a stone axe found at TF 3650 8450, within the area of the proposed development. These implements are widely dispersed and do not necessarily reflect any sustained prehistoric settlement activity in the area.

Small amounts of Romano-British greyware pottery were found less than a kilometre to the east of the village, although no other settlement evidence is known for this period.



TBM: OD+9.80m
BS: 0.86m

1.	8.73	23.	10.06
2.	9.07	24.	9.72
3.	8.76	25.	10.06
4.	8.89	26.	9.66
5.	8.70	27.	9.78
6.	8.97	28.	9.30
7.	8.73	29.	9.68
8.	8.92	30.	9.39
9.	8.77	31.	9.60
10.	9.08	32.	9.39
11.	8.85	33.	9.60
12.	9.04	34.	9.32
13.	8.84	35.	9.51
14.	9.08	36.	9.28
15.	8.93	37.	9.48
16.	9.10	38.	9.22
17.	8.94	39.	9.39
18.	9.15	40.	9.16
19.	9.00	41.	9.43
20.	9.15	42.	9.06
21.	9.02	43.	9.23
22.	9.31		

R = ridge
F = furrow
43 = levels

Fig.2: Interpretive plan of earthwork survey (scale 1:500)

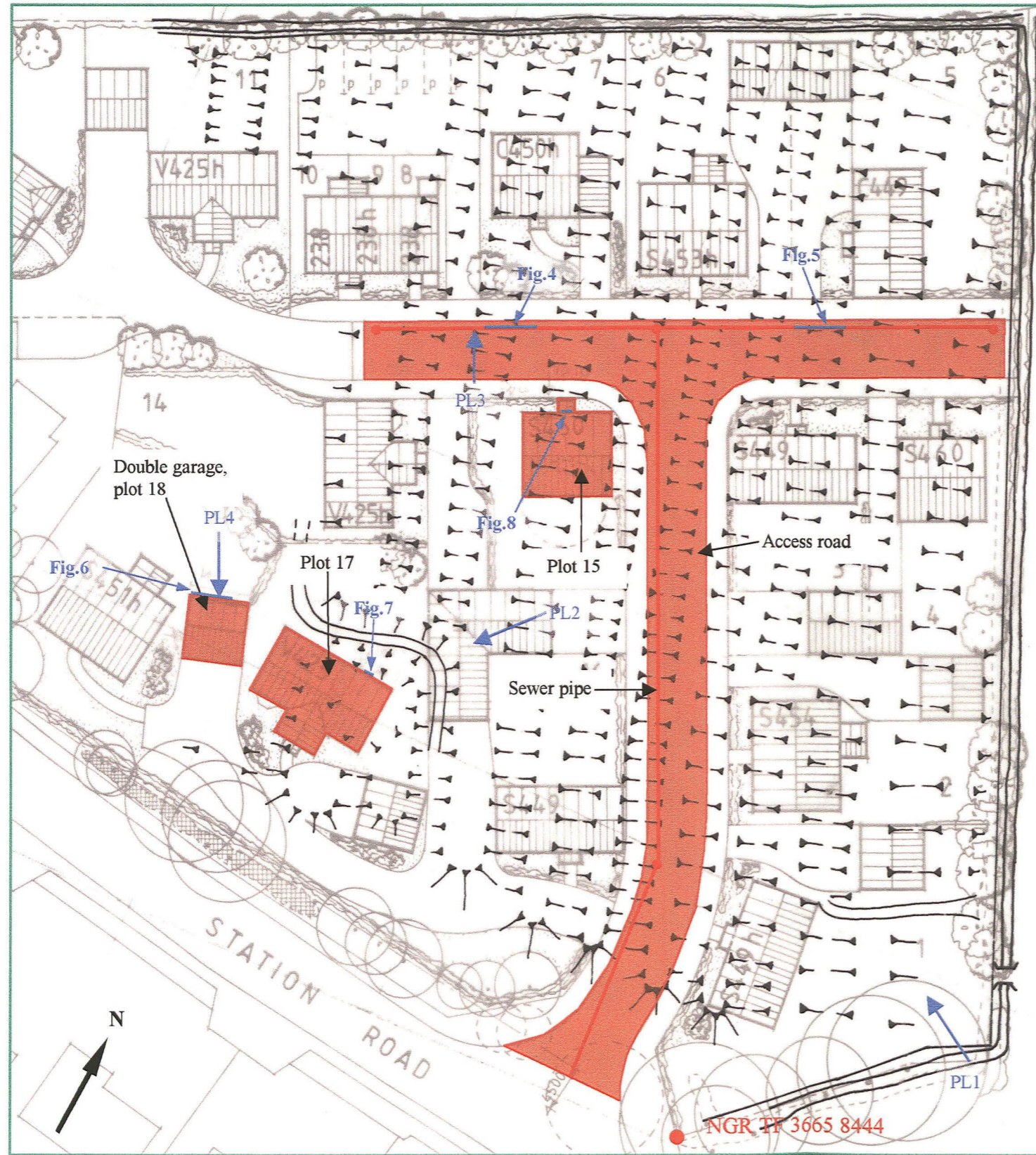


Fig.3: Development ground plan, with earthwork survey superimposed (scale 1:500)

- = areas monitored
- = drawn sections
- = location of photographs

Despite the fact that Louth was a community of moderate size and importance in the Anglo-Saxon period, with a monastery and annual market by the eighth century, and a pre-Conquest mint (Sawyer, 1998), there is no archaeological evidence pointing to settlement activity in Legbourne at this time. Legbourne does feature in the Domesday Book, when it was populated by 39 freemen, 18 villagers and 30 smallholders; the land was divided between Earl Hugh and Roger of Poitou (Morgan & Thorne, 1986). The place name is of Old English origin, derived from *Lecheburne*, meaning, 'the trickling stream' (Cameron, 1998).

There is an abundance of evidence relating to settlement of the area during the medieval period. The Cistercian nunnery of Legbourne Priory, established in the second half of the twelfth century, stood less than 0.5km west-south-west of the site. It was disestablished in 1536, although earthworks of the inner and outer precinct are still visible (Scheduled Ancient Monument no.22617). Earthworks on both sides of Mill Lane, indicate settlement shrinkage.

There is good survival of medieval field systems (as both earthworks and cropmarks), in and around the village, some of which is the ridge and furrow on the proposed development.

5.0 Methodology

The first phase of archaeological work was the earthwork survey of the medieval field system. A baseline was established along the eastern edge of the site, and the field was divided by three east-west transects. Offsets could then be measured and plotted at a scale of 1:500. The work was completed on February 26th by Mark Allen and Wayne Livesey, and the results are displayed in fig.2.

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken during the subsequent groundworks. This involved the monitoring of topsoil and subsoil stripping for the access road, excavation of a trench for the main sewer, and excavation of footings for a double garage and two house plots (fig.3). This phase of work was undertaken by Simon Savage and Chris Clay between March 8th and May 25th 2001.

6.0 Results

The areas monitored are highlighted on fig.3. Prior to excavation of footings for the house plots, the main access road and sewer were excavated. A section of trench 25m long, 4m wide and 0.5m deep was monitored running east to west along the north edge of Station Road, and traversing the new site access. The north facing section of the trench exposed a tarmac surface and underlying make up deposits relating to Station Road, with a very mixed topsoil/subsoil deposit visible in the south facing section.

The access road was stripped to a depth of approximately 0.5m, and infilled with rubble hardcore over a Terram lining. The stratigraphy observed consisted of a dark

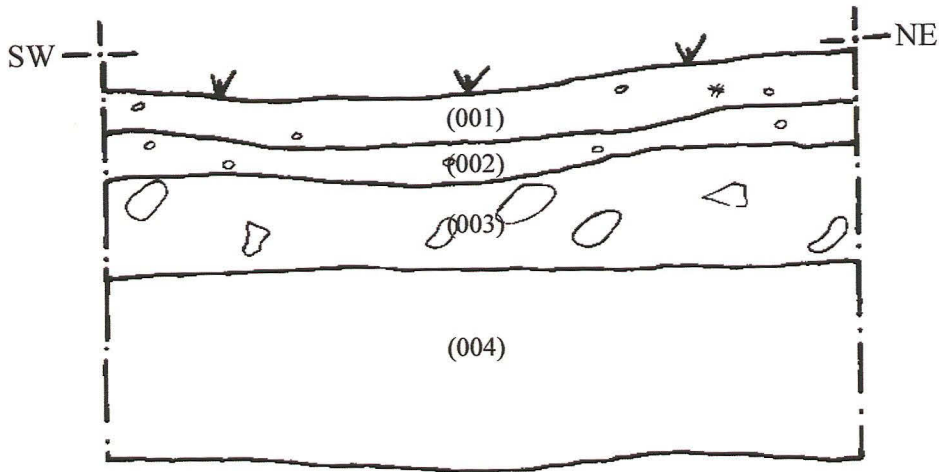


Fig.4: Representative section of sewer trench, facing south-east (scale 1:20)

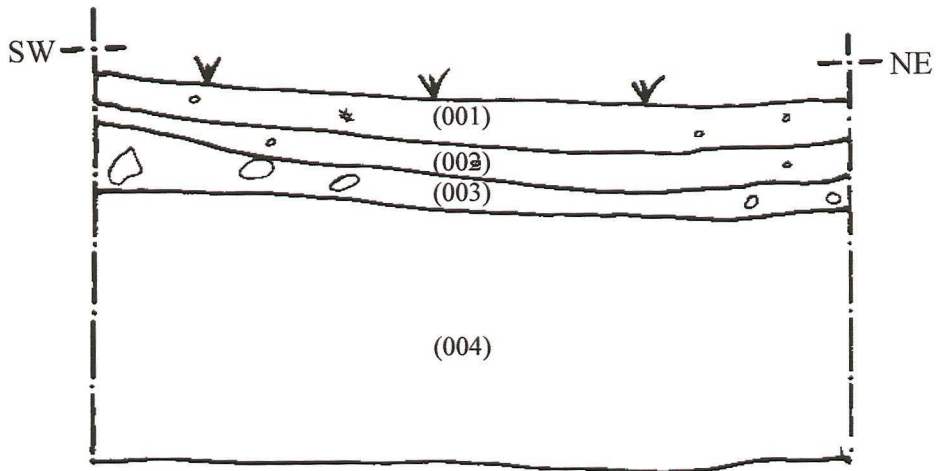


Fig.5: Representative section of sewer trench, facing south-east (scale 1:20)

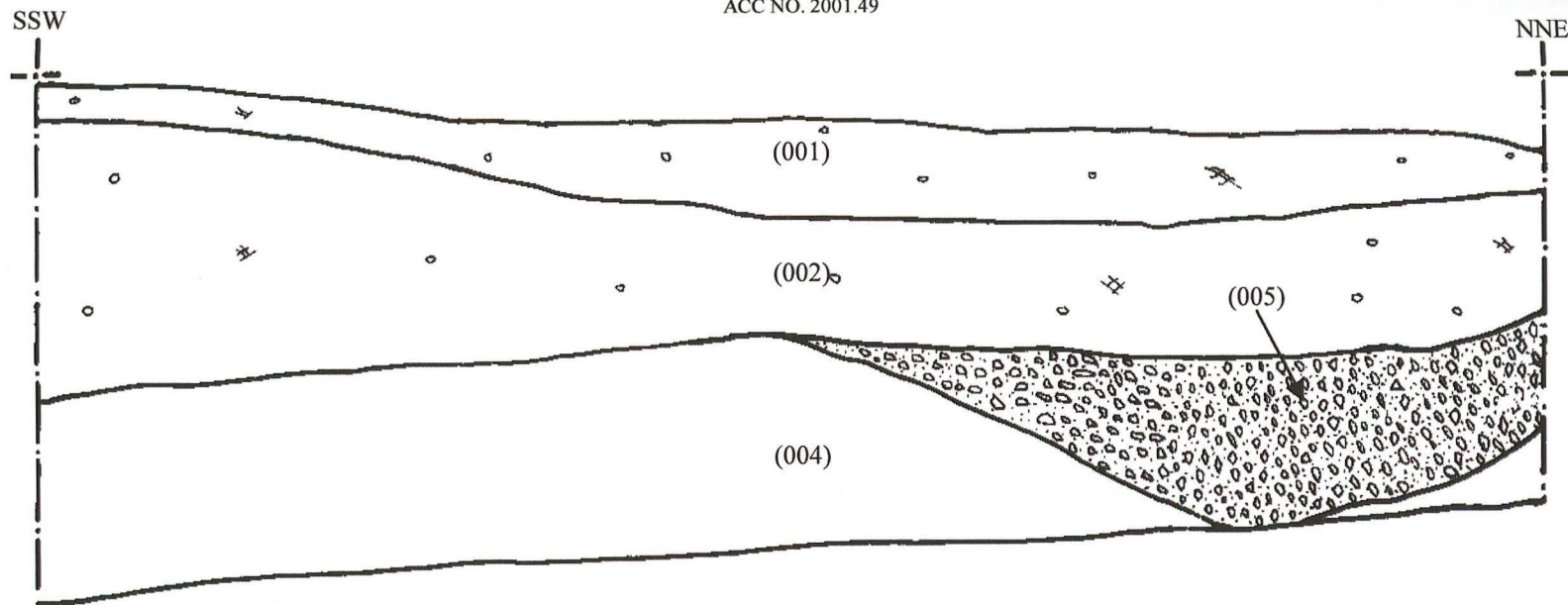


Fig.6: Representative section of plot 18 garage, facing south-south-east (scale 1:20)

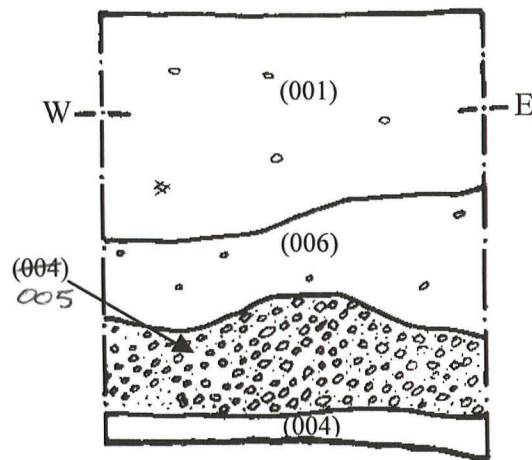


Fig.7: Representative section of plot 17, facing south (scale 1:20)

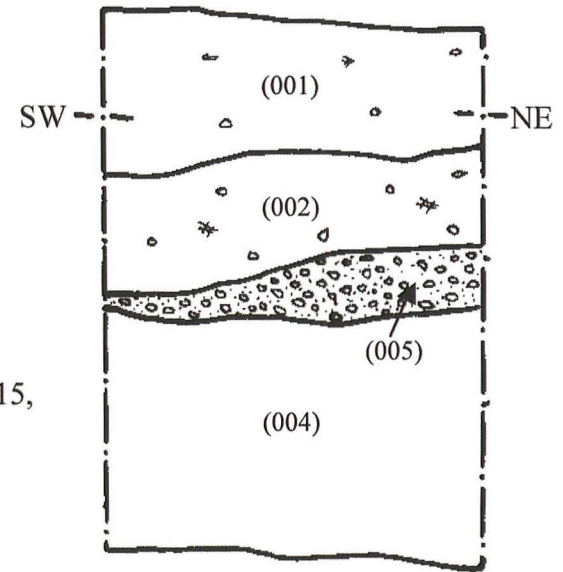


Fig.8: Representative section of plot 15, facing south-east (scale 1:20)

greyish brown topsoil, (001), between 0.2 and 0.25m in depth, overlying a mid brown silty clay subsoil, (002). This deposit became deeper towards the south, as the ground dropped away towards the roadside ditch. The subsoil sealed a natural deposit of orange/brown boulder clay containing occasional sub-rounded sandstone boulders, which extended to the limit of excavation.

The foul drain, which ran along the western side of the access road, was excavated to a depth of 2.3m. In this trench, (003) had a maximum depth of approximately 0.6m and sealed a very compact blue-veined dark brown clay, (004) extending to the limit of excavation (figs.4,5).

After the surface vegetation and a portion of the topsoil was stripped from the site, the footings of a double garage on plot 18, and the footings of house plots 15 and 17 were monitored. The foundations of the double garage on plot 18 were 0.6m wide, with a maximum depth of 1.6m. Approximately 0.1-0.25m of topsoil remained, overlying subsoil (002), which varied considerably in depth from 0.3-1.2m. Beneath this was an intermittent, light brown, sandy deposit, (005). This contained abundant inclusions of sub-rounded chalk gravel, and may be a glaciofluvial deposit. This overlay the natural clay, (004) with a depth exceeding 0.6m (fig.6).

The footings of plot 17 varied in depth between 0.75 and 1.7m below the modern ground surface. The external foundation trenches were excavated using a 0.8m toothed bucket, while the internal dividing walls were 0.6m wide. This plot was positioned in the area a possible house platform identified by the earthwork survey (fig.3). However, no archaeological features or artefacts were encountered to indicate any form of structural activity. The uppermost deposit was the topsoil, (001), varying between 0.4 and 0.6m. This overlay a subsoil, (006), which was a sandy and lighter brown deposit, containing occasional small pebbles. It had a maximum depth of 0.4m, and sealed (005), which was apparent throughout the plot. Approximately 0.1m of natural clay, (004), was visible at the base of the trench (fig.7).

The footings for plot 15 were excavated to a maximum depth of 1.5m, and were between 0.8 and 0.6m wide. The stratigraphy was uniform throughout the plot, consisting of topsoil, subsoil (002), deposit (005), and natural clay (004) (fig.8).

7.0 Effectiveness of methodology

The methodology chosen was appropriate to the development. The earthwork survey has resulted in a paper replication of the extant earthworks that were present on the site prior to development, and the subsequent watching brief produced a complete absence of features or artefacts, indicating that there was no other surviving archaeological evidence beneath the ridge and furrow.

8.0 Acknowledgements

Pre-Construct Archaeology (Lincoln) would like to thank Chartdale Homes Ltd. for this commission and for their co-operation during the fieldwork,

9.0 References

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- Sawyer P., 1998, *Anglo-Saxon Lincolnshire*, History of Lincolnshire III, History of Lincolnshire Committee, Lincoln

10.0 Site archive

The documentary archive for the site is currently in the possession of Pre-Construct Archaeology. This will be deposited at Lincoln City and County Museum within six months. Access to the archive may be gained by quoting the global accession number 2001.49.

11.0 Appendices

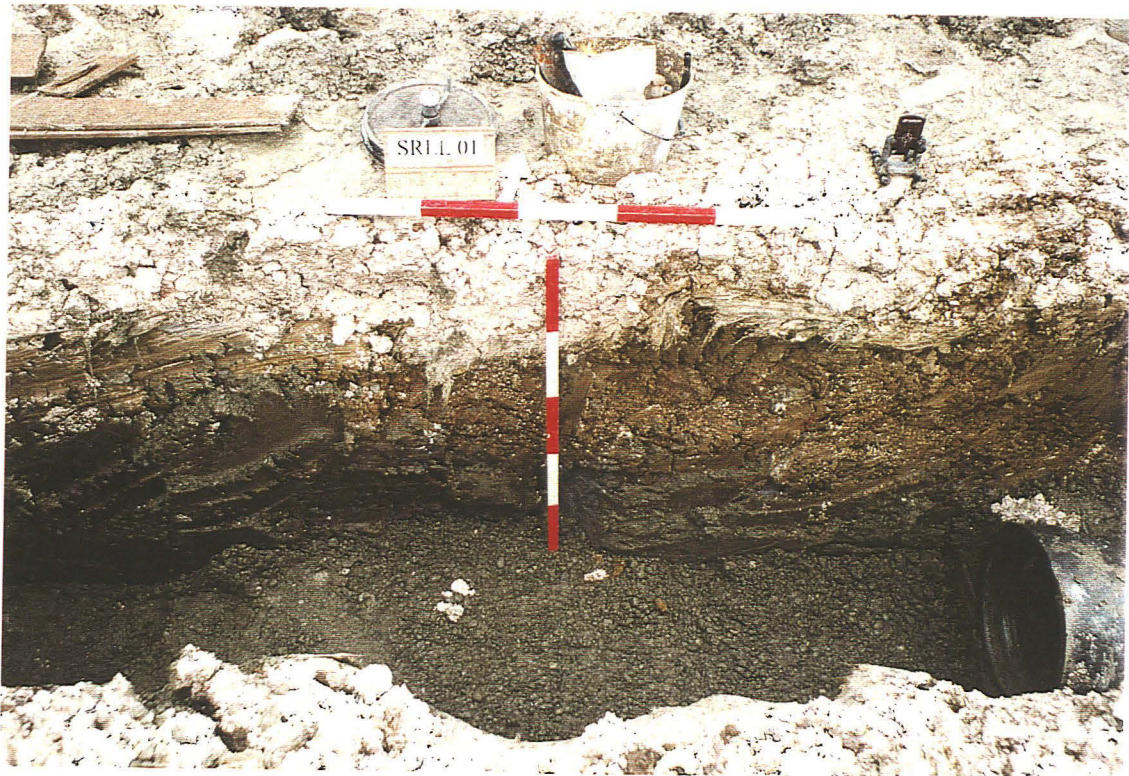
11.1 Colour plates



PL1: General view of the development prior to any groundworks, looking west-north-west from the eastern corner of the site



PL2: Possible house platform in south corner of site, looking south-west



PL3: Main sewer trench, looking north-north-west



PL4: Foundation trench, garage plot 18, looking south-south-east

11.2 List of archaeological contexts

Context	Description
001	Topsoil
002	Subsoil
003	Natural clay
004	Natural clay
005	Glaciofluvial deposit?
006	Subsoil