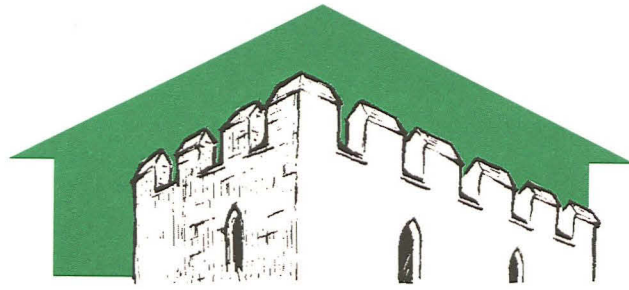


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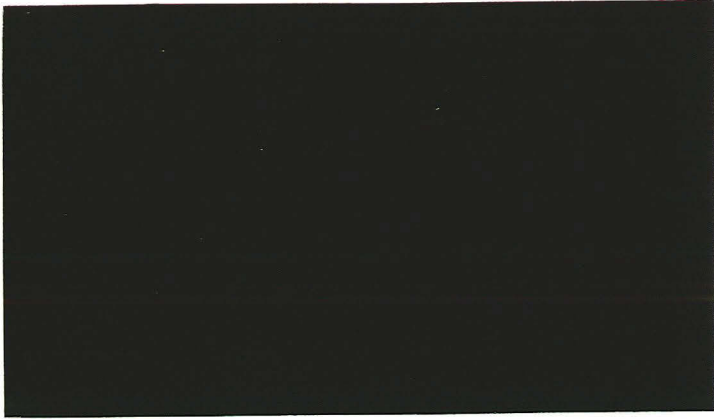
# PRE-CONSTRUCT ARCHAEOLOGY

L I N C O L N

## ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF REPORT: NEWTON FARM COTTAGES, NEWTON, LINCOLNSHIRE

|               |               |
|---------------|---------------|
| Site Code:    | NFC01         |
| NGR:          | 504581 336121 |
| Planning Ref. | N41/0386/00   |
| Accession No. | 2001.102      |





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**Fig. 3:** Representative section drawing through service trench (location shown on fig. 2)

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### Summary

- An archaeological watching brief took place at Newton Farm Cottage, Newton, Lincolnshire, during the groundworks associated with the extension of an existing dwelling.
- Newton Farm Cottage is a Grade II Listed Building, and remains of 10<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup> century date were found to the immediate north-west of the site during a previous watching brief.
- The groundworks that were monitored truncated a single post-medieval dumped deposit that may have been associated with terracing.

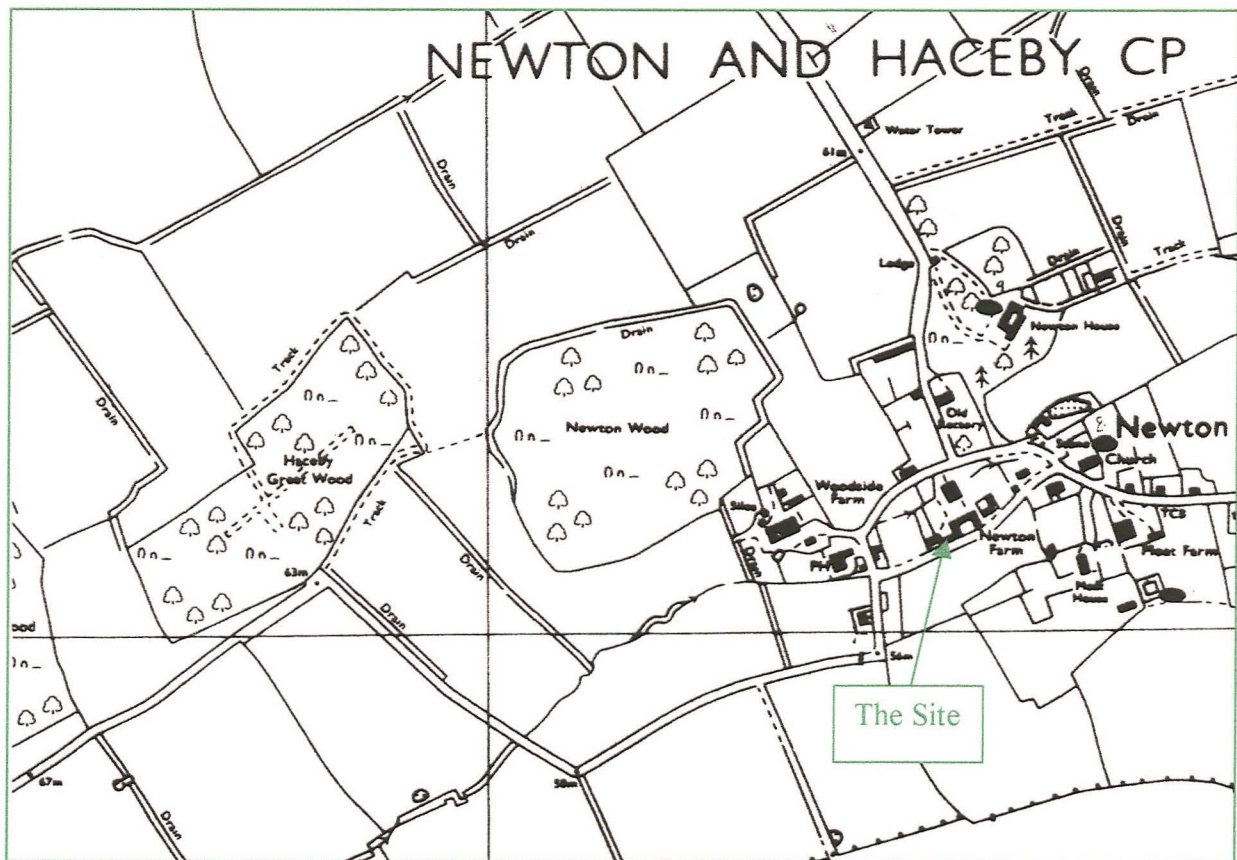


Figure 1: Area of investigation at 1: 10,000  
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## **1.0 Introduction**

An archaeological watching brief was carried out for Ray Williams Developments at Newton Farm Cottage, Newton, Lincolnshire (fig. 1). The work was commissioned to fulfil a planning requirement associated with the extension of the cottage and construction of a garage and vehicular access (fig. 2).

The fieldwork was conducted in accordance with the procedures set out in the Lincolnshire County Council publication *Lincolnshire Archaeological Handbook: A Manual of Archaeological Practice* (LCC, 1998): national guidelines produced by the Institute of Field Archaeologists were also adhered to (IFA, 1994). Both documents were central to the structure and content of this report.

The archive for this report will be held at the Lincoln City and County Museum.

## **2.0 Location and description**

Newton lies within the shallow valley of the Small Beck, situated approximately 8.5km south of Sleaford and 10.5km east of Grantham.

The development site is situated at the south end of the small village, less than 200m west of St. Botolph Parish Church.

Prior to development, the site incorporated the Grade II Listed Farm Cottage and a small outside toilet to the rear, within an extensive garden plot. The ground surface lies at approximately 150m OD, and is relatively level to the front of the cottage, but drops by over 1m to the north at the rear of the cottage.

The geology of the area comprises Upper Jurassic upper estuarine ironstone, great oolitic limestone and Blisworth clay deposits. The development is situated on the great oolitic limestone (B.G.S., 1992).

Central National Grid Reference: 504581 336121.

## **3.0 Planning background**

North Kesteven District Council granted full planning consent, subject to the undertaking of an archaeological watching brief on all works involving ground disturbance (Ref. N41/0386/00). An extension, with a garage and vehicular access included, was to be added to the rear of the listed building.

The watching brief was required due to the possibility that the development would expose settlement remains of late Saxon and/or medieval date.

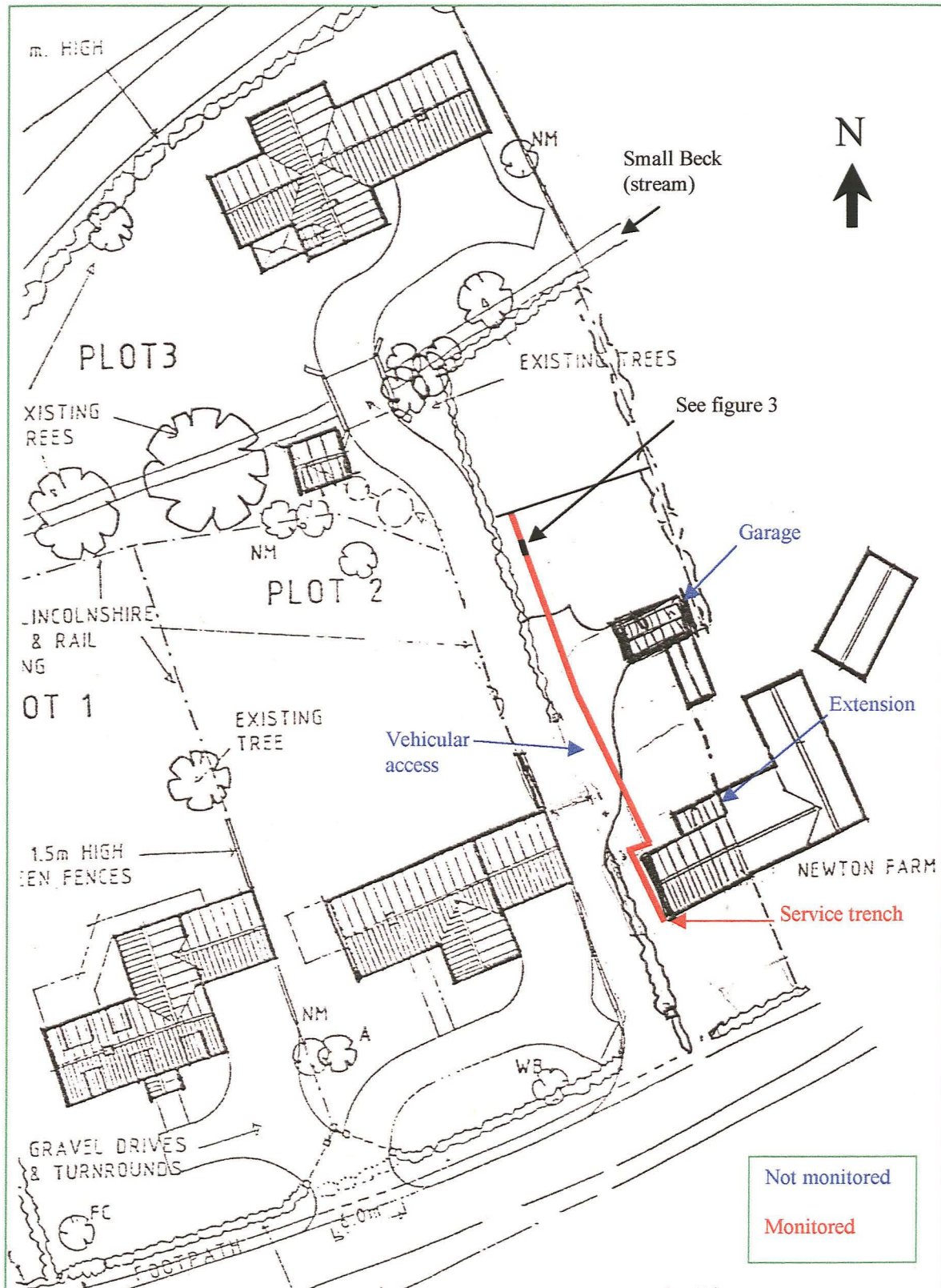


Figure 2: Development plan showing areas monitored during the watching brief  
Scale 1:500

#### 4.0 Archaeological and historical background

Evidence of use of the area in prehistoric times is poorly understood, although a suspected Bronze Age bowl barrow has been recorded close to the south-west side of the village.

Romano-British occupation is reflected by the discovery in 1818 of a bathhouse and mosaic approximately 2km to the west of the village (Whitwell 1992, 80-81). Later re-excavation suggested the bathhouse was probably part of a much larger villa complex. The site is now a Scheduled Ancient Monument. Scatters of Romano-British material are known from the vicinity of the village.

The present settlement probably emerged in the late Saxon period. Newton is listed in the Domesday Book of 1086 as *Neutone*, from the Old English meaning 'the new farmstead village' (Cameron 1998). The two principal landowners were recorded: the Bishop of Durham and a man called Wulfgeat (Morgan and Thorn 1986).

The parish church (dedicated to St Botolph) includes a late 13<sup>th</sup> century chapel, although much of the church saw major restoration in the 19<sup>th</sup> century (Pevsner and Harris 1989).

A previous watching brief by Pre-Construct Archaeology (Lincoln) on a development less than 50m to the west exposed the remains of a stone wall and posthole/pit complex. These settlement remains were dated to the 10<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup> century (Johnson 1997). A second watching brief approximately 150m to the south-west proved negative, with no significant archaeological deposits exposed (Palmer-Brown 1995).

#### 5.0 Methodology

One experienced field archaeologist was present to monitor the groundworks on 21<sup>st</sup> February 2001. The service trench was excavated in spits not exceeding 0.2m in depth, by a JCB using a back-actor fitted with a 0.4m wide toothed bucket. The removal of these deposits was monitored constantly to ensure that any archaeological features exposed by this process were identified.

The archaeological fieldwork entailed the cleaning by hand of all exposed soil surfaces, followed by a detailed inspection. All archaeological deposits identified by this process were subjected to limited excavation to assess nature, dimensions and date. These investigations resulted in the production of written descriptions on standard watching brief context record sheets. Colour photographs and scale drawings (in both plan and section) compliment these accounts, and will form the basis of a long term project archive.



## 6.0 Results (see figs. 2 and 3; plates 1 and 2)

All deposits were monitored during the excavation of service trenches, as indicated on fig. 2. However, foundation trenches for the house extension and garage plot had been completed before the watching brief commenced. This was due to a genuine misunderstanding on the part of the client regarding his planning consent.

The service trench groundworks involved the excavation of a 0.4m wide trench alongside the existing house, extending northwards through the back garden, towards the Low Beck. The trench was excavated to a depth of approximately 0.3m in the vicinity of the house, dropping to c. 0.5m deep to the north (in the garden).

Most of the topsoil had been removed across the site prior to the service trench excavations. The remaining 0.05m of this layer comprised dark grey silty sandy loam (001).

The topsoil sealed a brown clay-sand mixed with numerous limestone pieces and occasional brick fragments, (002). This seemed to be an artificial terrace deposit of post-medieval date. Fragments of limestone and brick within the soil make-up may be from earlier structures, although this could not be clarified.

The deeper excavations at the north end of the garden exposed natural limestone brash (003) at approximately 0.4m beneath the modern ground surface. No further archaeological deposits were exposed.

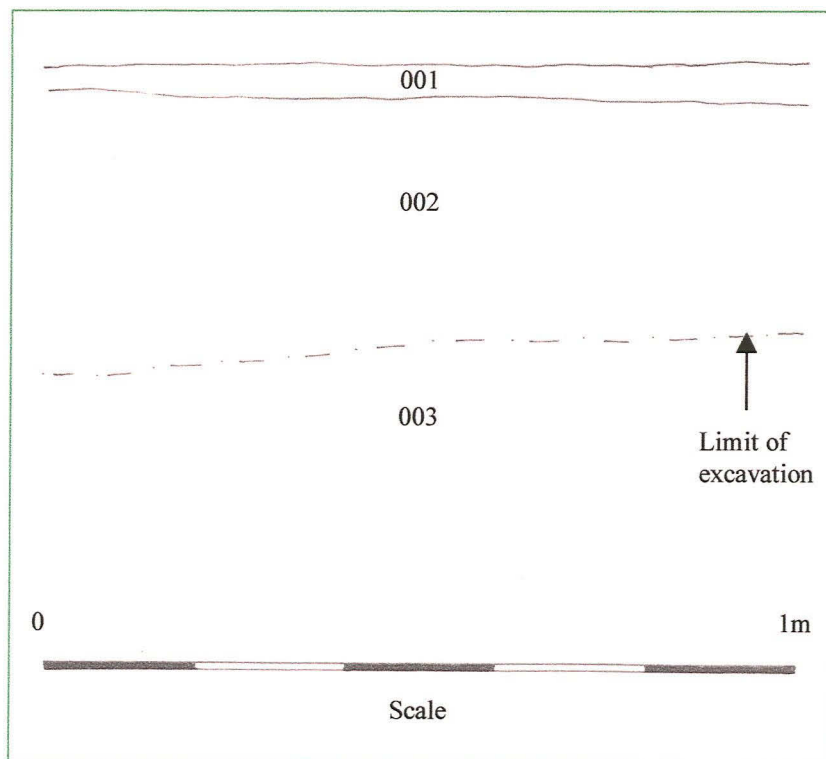


Figure 3: Representative section of service trench excavations  
Location shown on fig. 2

## 7.0 Discussion and conclusions

The watching brief was largely negative, with only a single deposit of archaeological significance exposed within the service trench excavations. This layer, (002), appeared to represent a terrace deposit, probably of post-medieval date.

## 8.0 Effectiveness of methodology

Although only part of the watching brief was completed, the deposits encountered suggest that few archaeological deposits were disturbed by this development. It is concluded that the methodology was appropriate to the development, but that it was also incomplete. Areas of groundworks were not monitored due to completion in advance of the brief. It is added, however, that this omission resulted from a clear misunderstanding on the part of the commissioning client, who has funded several previous watching brief projects without such complications.

## 9.0 Acknowledgements

Pre-Construct Archaeology (Lincoln) would like to thank Ray Williams Developments for this commission.

## 10.0 References

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## **11.0 Site archive**

The site archive (documentary and physical) for this project is in preparation and will be deposited at the Lincoln City and County Museum and the Lincolnshire Archives Office (documentary) within six months. Access to the archive may be granted by quoting the global accession number 2001.102.

Appendix 12.1: Colour photographs



Pl. 1. Location of watching brief service trench, with Farm Cottage in background. Looking SE.



Pl. 2. Detail of service trench excavations, looking NW.