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**ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF  
OF DEVELOPMENT AT  
THE LODGE,  
HARRINGTON ROAD,  
ASWARDBY,  
LINCOLNSHIRE  
(AHR 01)**



**A P S**  
ARCHAEOLOGICAL  
PROJECT  
SERVICES

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SOURCE L16958 L16959  
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**ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF  
OF DEVELOPMENT AT  
THE LODGE,  
HARRINGTON ROAD,  
ASWARDBY,  
LINCOLNSHIRE  
(AHR 01)**

Work Undertaken For  
Mr R.J. Thornalley

Report Compiled by  
P. Cope-Faulkner BA (Hons) AIFA

May 2001

National Grid Reference: TF 376 704  
City and County Museum Accession No: 2001.92

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## 1. SUMMARY

*An archaeological watching brief was undertaken during the construction of a new garage extension to The Lodge, Aswardby, Lincolnshire. The watching brief monitored the excavation of foundation trenches.*

*The site lies within an area of extensive Romano-British (AD 50-410) settlement identified from aerial photographs and comprising tracks, enclosures and a temple enclosure. South of the site lies the 18<sup>th</sup> century church of St. Helen and the 17<sup>th</sup> century Aswardby Hall.*

*The investigations revealed natural sand, subsoil and topsoil. No artefacts were retrieved.*

## 2. INTRODUCTION

### 2.1 Definition of a Watching Brief

An archaeological watching brief is defined as 'a formal programme of observation and investigation conducted during any operation carried out for non-archaeological reasons within a specified area, where there is a possibility that archaeological deposits may be disturbed or destroyed.' (IFA 1997).

### 2.2 Planning Background

Archaeological Project Services was commissioned by Mr R.J. Thornalley to undertake an archaeological watching brief during construction of a new double garage to existing buildings at The Lodge, Harrington Road, Aswardby, Lincolnshire. Planning permission was granted subject to a standard condition for archaeological recording. The watching brief was carried out in accordance with a specification designed by Archaeological Project Services

and approved by the County Archaeological Officer (Appendix 1).

### 2.3 Topography and Geology

Aswardby is located 13km east of Horncastle and 17km southeast of Louth, in the administrative district of East Lindsey, Lincolnshire (Fig. 1).

The development site is located 250m northwest of the village centre as defined by the parish church of St. Helen at National Grid Reference TF 376 704 (Fig. 2). The village is situated on a gentle slope down to the west at a height of approximately 43m OD and overlooking a stream that is a tributary of the River Lymn.

Local soils are of the Cuckney 2 Association, typically brown sands, ferritic brown earths and argillic gley soils (Hodge *et al.* 1984, 152). These soils are developed on a solid geology of Cretaceous Spilsby Sandstone (BGS 1995).

### 2.4 Archaeological Setting

Aswardby lies within an area of known archaeological remains dating from the Romano-British period to the present day. Extensive cropmarks of enclosures, trackways and a possible temple enclosure occur around the village and are believed to indicate the position of Romano-British village (Jones 1998, 69). The centre of this cropmark complex lies in a field north of the development site and from where pottery of the period was recovered (*ibid.* 71).

Aswardby is first mentioned in the mid 12<sup>th</sup> century and is referred as *Asewrdeby* (Fellows-Jensen 1978, 80). The name is derived from the Old Danish personal name *Áswarth* or *Ásvarðr* and the Danish *bý*, meaning a farmstead (Cameron 1998, 5). No mention is made of Aswardby in the



Domesday Survey of c. 1086 and its land may have been included with the extensive sokeland of Greetham that included Langton, Hagworthingham, Brinkhill and Winceby which belonged to Earl Hugh (Foster and Longley 1976, 13/9).

St. Helen's church dates from 1747 and was extensively rebuilt and restored in the mid 19<sup>th</sup> century (DoE 1987, 1). Aswardby Hall is a mid 17<sup>th</sup> century house which was remodelled in 1910 (Pevsner and Harris 1989, 109).

### 3. AIMS

The requirements of the watching brief, as described in the specification (Appendix 1), were to record and interpret archaeological deposits, if present, and to determine their date, sequence, function and origin.

### 4. METHODS

Trenches were opened by a mechanical excavator to depths of between 0.6m and 0.7m as required by the development. Following excavation, the sides of the trenches were cleaned and rendered vertical. Selected deposits were partially or fully excavated by hand to determine their nature and to retrieve artefactual material. The depth and thickness of each deposit were measured from the ground surface. Each archaeological deposit or feature revealed was allocated a unique reference number (context number) with an individual written description. A list of all contexts and interpretations appears as Appendix 2. A photographic record was compiled and sections were drawn at a scale of 1:10. Recording of deposits encountered during the watching brief was undertaken according to standard Archaeological Project Services practice.

Records of the deposits and features recognised during the watching brief were the examined and phasing was assigned based on the nature of the deposits and recognisable relationships between them.

### 5. RESULTS

A deposit of light yellowish brown sand (003) was encountered at the base of the foundation trench in the westernmost corner of the site. Exceeding 50mm thick this deposit was identified as the underlying natural.

Overlying the natural sand was a layer of light reddish brown silty sand (002) subsoil. This measured up to 0.55m thick. This was sealed by a 0.2m thick topsoil comprising mid reddish brown silty sand (001).

### 6. DISCUSSION

Deposits of natural sand were the earliest deposits encountered during the watching brief. These may represent the weathered surface of the underlying Spilsby Sandstone. A layer of subsoil and the present topsoil were also recorded.

No archaeological features were exposed that may relate to the extensive Romano-British cropmark complex to the north. Also, no artefactual material was retrieved.

### 7. CONCLUSIONS

Archaeological investigations were carried out on land at The Lodge, Harrington Road, Aswardby, because the site lay adjacent to an area of extensive Romano-British settlement.

However, no definite archaeological remains



were revealed and only natural sand, subsoil and topsoil deposits were encountered.

No artefacts were retrieved and the nature of the local site conditions suggests that few environmental indicators (snails, seeds, pollen *etc.*) will survive other than through charring.

## 8. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeological Project Services would like to acknowledge the assistance of Mr R.J. Thornalley who commissioned the fieldwork and post excavation analysis. The work was coordinated by Gary Taylor and this report was edited by Tom Lane. Dave Start kindly permitted access to the parish files and library maintained by Heritage Lincolnshire.

## 9. PERSONNEL

Project Coordinator: Gary Taylor  
Supervisor: Barry Martin  
Illustration: Paul Cope-Faulkner  
Photographic Reproduction: Sue Unsworth  
Post-excavation Analyst: Paul Cope-Faulkner

## 10. BIBLIOGRAPHY

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## 11. ABBREVIATIONS

APS Archaeological Project Services  
BGS British Geological Survey  
DoE Department of the Environment  
IFA Institute of Field Archaeologists

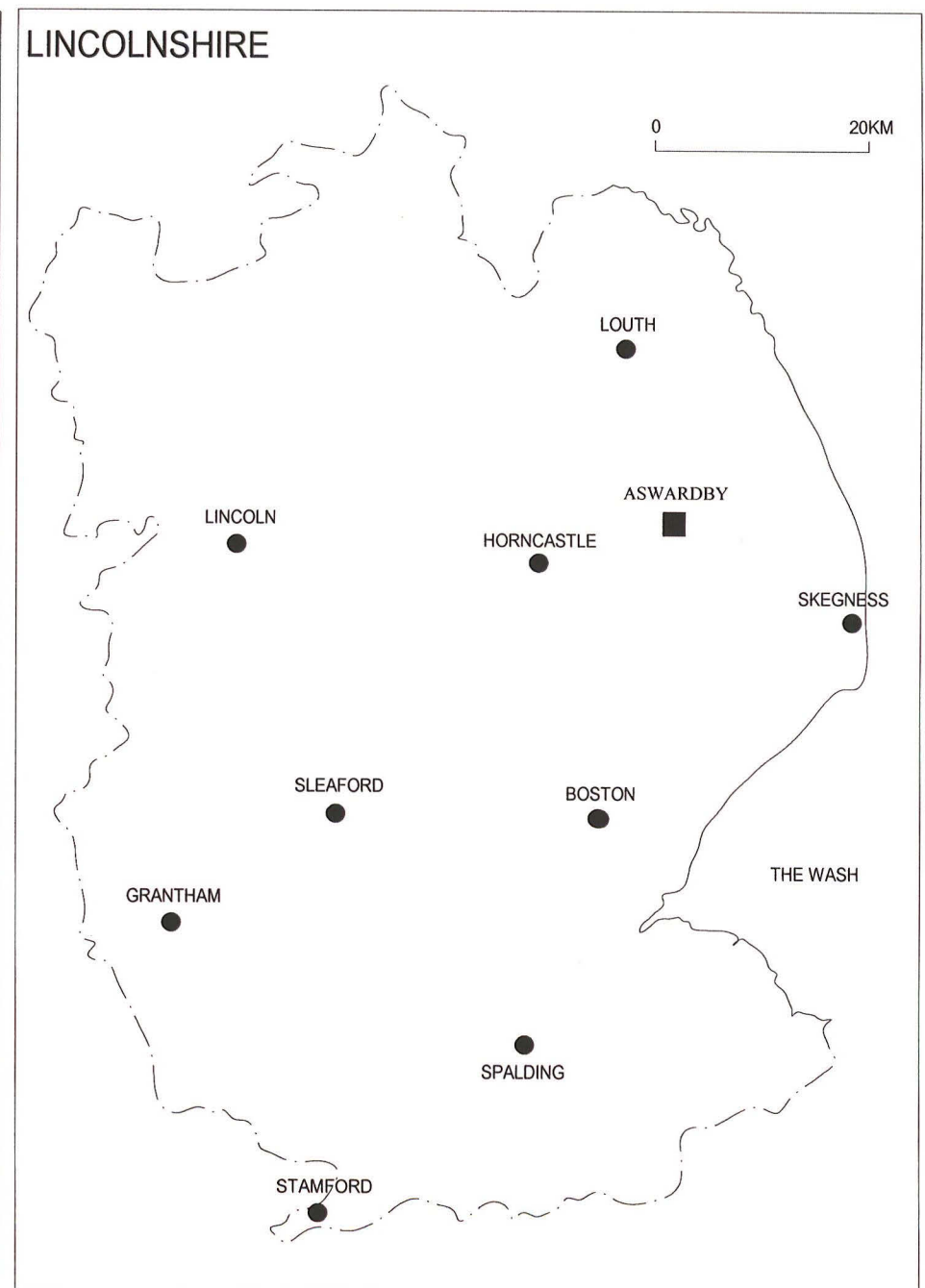
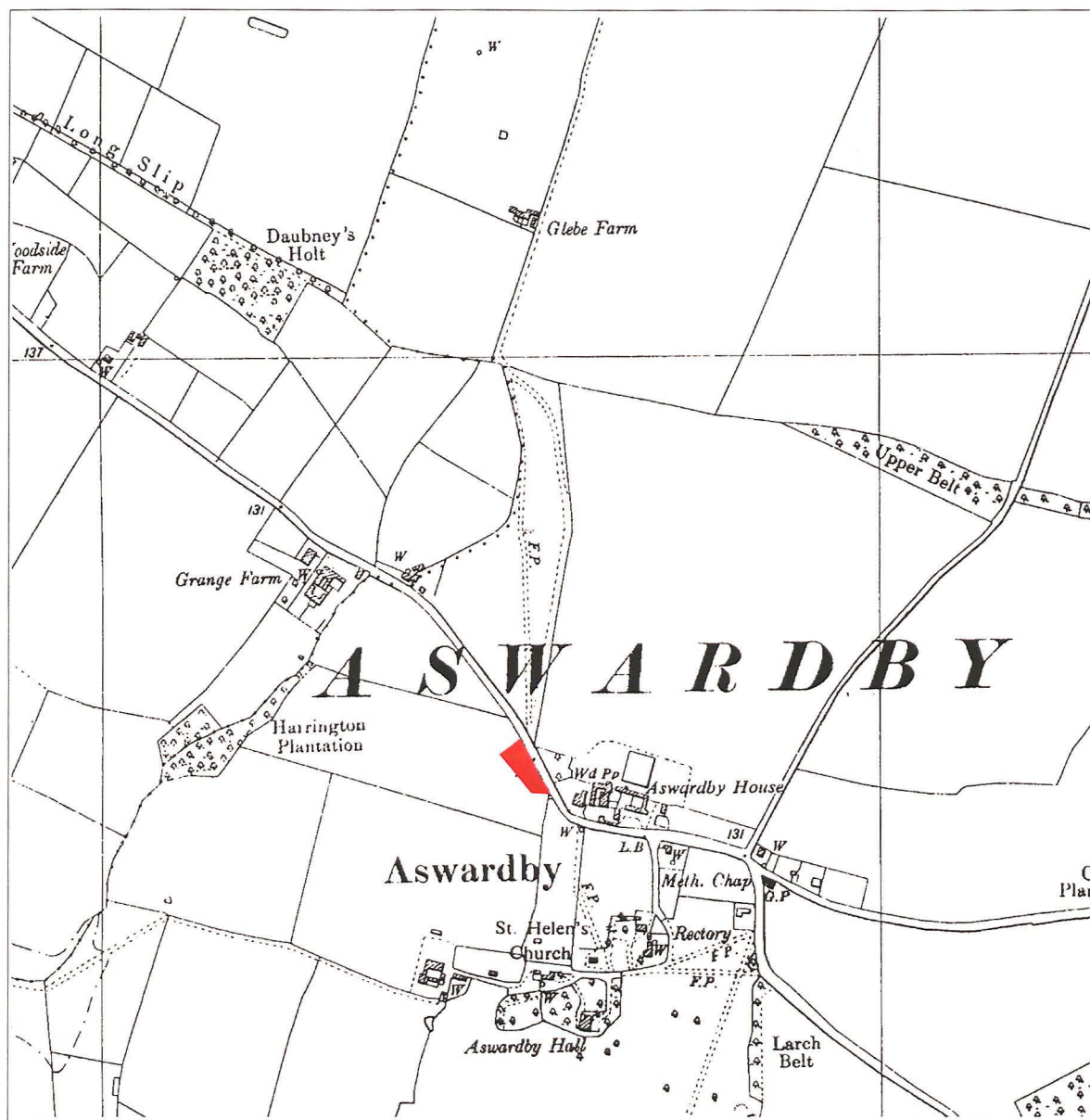


Figure 1 - General location plan



 Area of Development

Figure 2 - Site location plan



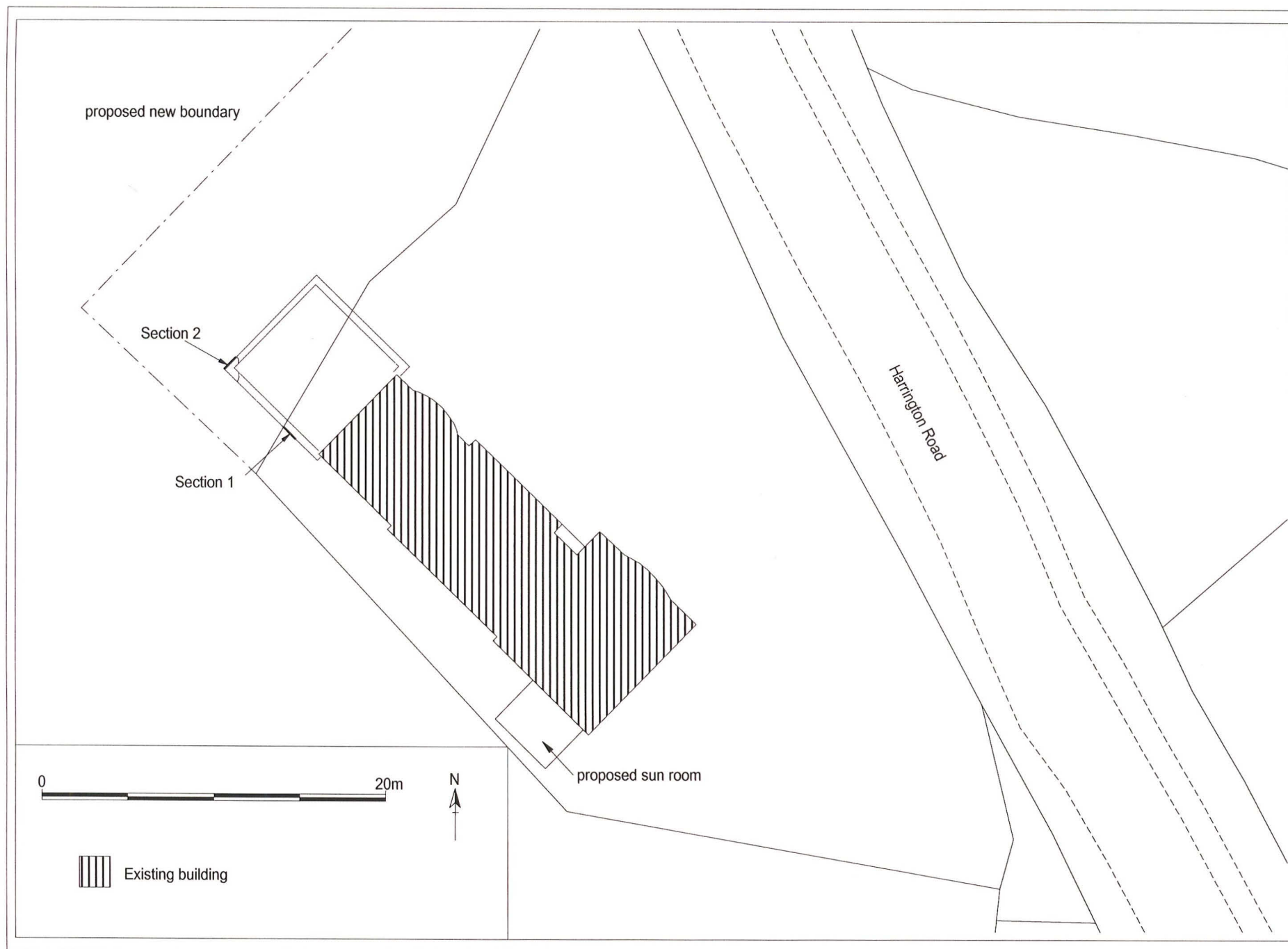


Figure 3 - Plan of the development showing section locations

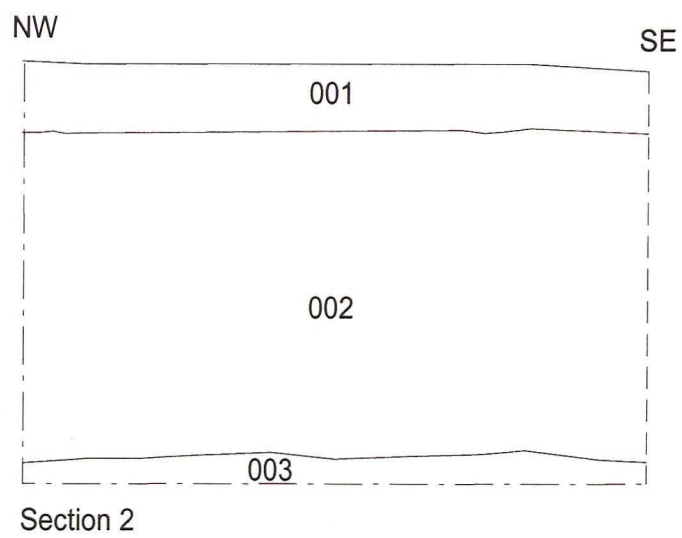
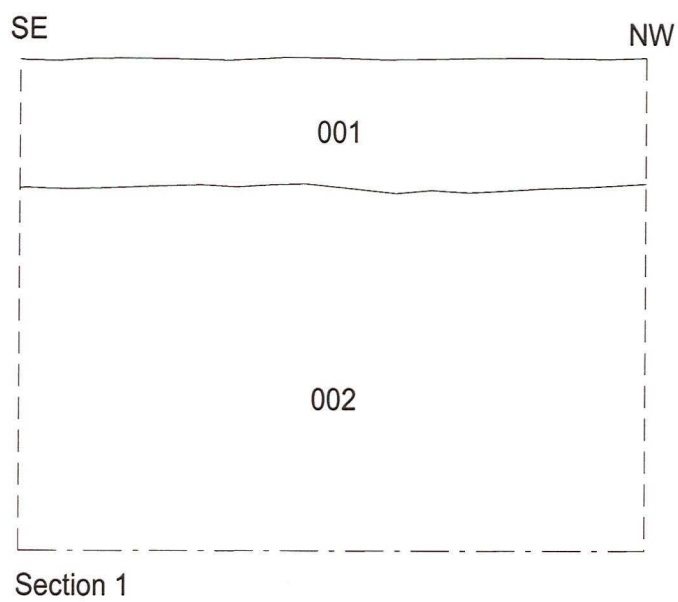


Figure 4 - Sections 1 and 2



Plate 1 - General view of the development, looking southeast



Plate 2 - Section 1, looking northeast



## Appendix 1

### LAND AT HARRINGTON ROAD, ASWARDY, LINCOLNSHIRE - SPECIFICATION FOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

#### 1 SUMMARY

- 1.1 *A watching brief is required during the construction of a double garage on land off Harrington Road, Aswardby, Lincolnshire.*
- 1.2 *The area is archaeologically sensitive, lying in an extensive area of crop and soil marks of former settlement. One of these is of native form, probably dating to the Iron Age or Roman periods. The development is also within the shrunken medieval village, close to the 18<sup>th</sup> century church and 17<sup>th</sup> century Aswardby Hall.*
- 1.3 *The watching brief will be undertaken during groundworks associated with the development. The archaeological features exposed will be recorded in writing, graphically and photographically.*
- 1.4 *On completion of the fieldwork a report will be prepared detailing the results of the investigation. The report will consist of a narrative supported by illustrations and photographs.*

#### 2 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 This document comprises a specification for an archaeological watching brief during groundworks connected with construction of a garage at Aswardby, near Spilsby, Lincolnshire, National Grid Reference TF 376 704.
- 2.2 This document contains the following parts:
  - 2.2.1 Overview.
  - 2.2.2 Stages of work and methodologies.
  - 2.2.3 List of specialists.
  - 2.2.4 Programme of works and staffing structure of the project

#### 3 SITE LOCATION

- 3.1 Aswardby is located 4km northwest of Spilsby in the East Lindsey district of Lincolnshire. The works are to take place on the western edge of the village, on the south side of Harrington Road at National Grid Reference TF 376 704.

#### 4 PLANNING BACKGROUND

- 4.1 A planning application was submitted to East Lindsey District Council for the proposed garage construction. Permission is subject to a condition requiring the implementation of an archaeological watching brief during groundworks.

#### 5 SOILS AND TOPOGRAPHY

- 5.1 The site is on a gentle slope down to the west at approximately 43m OD, this slope overlooking a stream that is a tributary to the River Lymn, about 1km to the west. Local soils are the Cuckney 2 Association typical brown sands lying on or adjacent to Cretaceous sandstone (Hodge *et al.* 1984, 152).

## 6 ARCHAEOLOGICAL OVERVIEW

- 6.1 Extensive crop and soil marks of enclosures, trackways and field systems occur around Aswardby village. Amongst these is a settlement of Iron Age or Romano-British form, located a little northeast of the village. These crop and soils marks occur all around the village, and to both north and south of the development site.
- 6.2 Although Aswardby has a place-name of Scandinavian derivation, it is first recorded in the late 12<sup>th</sup> century. The church, just to the south of the site, is of mid 18<sup>th</sup> century date. Aswardby Hall, immediately south of the church, is 17<sup>th</sup> century in origin.

## 7 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- 7.1 The aims of the watching brief will be:
  - 7.1.1 To record and interpret the archaeological features exposed during the excavation of the foundation trenches and other areas of ground disturbance.
- 7.2 The objectives of the watching brief will be to:
  - 7.2.1 Determine the form and function of the archaeological features encountered;
  - 7.2.2 Determine the spatial arrangement of the archaeological features encountered;
  - 7.2.3 As far as practicable, recover dating evidence from the archaeological features, and
  - 7.2.4 Establish the sequence of the archaeological remains present on the site.

## 8 SITE OPERATIONS

### 8.1 General considerations

- 8.1.1 All work will be undertaken following statutory Health and Safety requirements in operation at the time of the watching brief.
- 8.1.2 The work will be undertaken according to the relevant codes of practice issued by the Institute of Field Archaeologists (IFA), under the management of a Member of the institute (MIFA). Archaeological Project Services is IFA registered organisation no. 21.
- 8.1.3 Any and all artefacts found during the investigation and thought to be 'treasure', as defined by the Treasure Act 1996, will be removed from site to a secure store and promptly reported to the appropriate coroner's office.

### 8.2 Methodology

- 8.2.1 The watching brief will be undertaken during the ground works phase of development, and includes the archaeological monitoring of all phases of soil movement.
- 8.2.2 Stripped areas and trench sections will be observed regularly to identify and record archaeological features that are exposed and to record changes in the geological conditions. The section drawings of the trenches will be recorded at a scale of 1:10. Should features be recorded in plan these will be drawn at a scale of 1:20. Written descriptions detailing the nature of the deposits, features and fills encountered will be compiled on Archaeological Project Services pro-forma record sheets.
- 8.2.3 Any finds recovered will be bagged and labelled for later analysis.
- 8.2.4 Throughout the watching brief a photographic record will be compiled. The photographic record will consist of:
  - 8.2.4.1 the site during work to show specific stages, and the layout of the archaeology



within the trench.

8.2.4.2 groups of features where their relationship is important

8.2.5 Should human remains be located they will be left *in situ* and only excavated if absolutely necessary. Should removal be required the appropriate Home Office licence will be obtained before the exhumation of the remains. In addition, the Local Environmental Health Department, coroner and the police will be informed, where appropriate.

## 9 POST-EXCAVATION

### 9.1 Stage 1

9.1.1 On completion of site operations, the records and schedules produced during the watching brief will be checked and ordered to ensure that they form a uniform sequence forming a level II archive. A stratigraphic matrix of the archaeological deposits and features present on the site will be prepared. All photographic material will be catalogued and labelled, the labelling referring to schedules identifying the subject/s photographed.

9.1.2 All finds recovered during the field work will be washed, marked and packaged according to the deposit from which they were recovered. Any finds requiring specialist treatment and conservation will be sent to the Conservation Laboratory at the City and County Museum, Lincoln.

### 9.2 Stage 2

9.2.1 Detailed examination of the stratigraphic matrix to enable the determination of the various phases of activity on the site.

9.2.2 Finds will be sent to specialists for identification and dating.

### 9.3 Stage 3

9.3.1 On completion of stage 2, a report detailing the findings of the watching brief will be prepared.

9.3.2 This will consist of:

9.3.2.1 A non-technical summary of the results of the investigation.

9.3.2.2 A description of the archaeological setting of the watching brief.

9.3.2.3 Description of the topography of the site.

9.3.2.4 Description of the methodologies used during the watching brief.

9.3.2.5 A text describing the findings of the watching brief.

9.3.2.6 A consideration of the local, regional and national context of the watching brief findings.

9.3.2.7 Plans of the archaeological features exposed. If a sequence of archaeological deposits is encountered, separate plans for each phase will be produced.

9.3.2.8 Sections of the trenches and archaeological features.

9.3.2.9 Interpretation of the archaeological features exposed, and their chronology and setting within the surrounding landscape.

9.3.2.10 Specialist reports on the finds from the site.



9.3.2.11 Appropriate photographs of the site and specific archaeological features.

## 10 REPORT DEPOSITION

- 10.1 Copies of the report will be sent to the client; East Lindsey District Council Planning Department; and to the County Council Archaeological Sites and Monuments Record.

## 11 ARCHIVE

- 11.1 The documentation and records generated during the watching brief will be sorted and ordered into the format acceptable to the City and County Museum, Lincoln. This will be undertaken following the requirements of the document titled *Conditions for the Acceptance of Project Archives* for long term storage and curation.

## 12 PUBLICATION

- 12.1 A report of the findings of the watching brief will be presented to the editor of the journal *Lincolnshire History and Archaeology*. If appropriate, notes on the findings will be submitted to the appropriate national journals: *Britannia* for discoveries of Roman date, and *Medieval Archaeology* and the *Journal of the Medieval Settlement Research Group* for findings of medieval or later date.

## 13 CURATORIAL RESPONSIBILITY

- 13.1 Curatorial responsibility for the archaeological work undertaken on the site lies with the Lincolnshire County Council Archaeology Section. They will be given written notice of the commencement of the project.

## 14 VARIATIONS AND CONTINGENCIES

- 14.1 Variations to the proposed scheme of works will only be made following written confirmation of acceptance from the archaeological curator.
- 14.2 In the event of the discovery of any unexpected remains of archaeological importance, or of any changed circumstances, it is the responsibility of the archaeological contractor to inform the archaeological curator (*Lincolnshire Archaeological Handbook* 1998, Sections 5.7 and 18).
- 14.3 Where important archaeological remains are discovered and deemed to merit further investigation additional resources may be required to provide an appropriate level of investigation, recording and analysis.
- 14.4 Any contingency requirement for additional fieldwork or post-excavation analysis outside the scope of the proposed scheme of works will only be activated following full consultation with the archaeological curator and the client.

## 15 PROGRAMME OF WORKS AND STAFFING LEVELS

- 15.1 The watching brief will be integrated with the programme of construction and is dependent on the developers' work programme. It is therefore not possible to specify the person-hours for the archaeological site work.
- 15.2 An archaeological supervisor with experience of watching briefs will undertake the work.
- 15.3 Post-excavation analysis and report production will be undertaken by the archaeological supervisor, or a post-excavation analyst as appropriate, with assistance from a finds supervisor, illustrator and external specialists. It is expected that each fieldwork day (equal to one person-day) will require a post-excavation day (equal to one-and-a-half person-days) for completion of the analysis and report. If the fieldwork lasts longer than about four days then there will be an economy of scale with the post-excavation analysis.

## 16 SPECIALISTS TO BE USED DURING THE PROJECT

- 16.1 The following organisations/persons will, in principle and if necessary, be used as subcontractors to provide the relevant specialist work and reports in respect of any objects or material recovered during the investigation that require their expert knowledge and input. Engagement of any particular specialist subcontractor is also dependent on their availability and ability to meet programming requirements.

<u>Task</u>	<u>Body to be undertaking the work</u>
Conservation	Conservation Laboratory, City and County Museum, Lincoln
Pottery Analysis	Prehistoric - Trent & Peak Archaeological Trust
	Roman - B Precious, Independent Specialist
	Anglo-Saxon - J Young, Independent Specialist
	Medieval and later - H Healey, Independent Archaeologist
Non-pottery Artefacts	J Cowgill, Independent Specialist
Animal Bones	Environmental Archaeology Consultancy
Environmental Analysis	J Rackham, Independent Specialist
Human Remains Analysis	R Gowland, Independent Specialist

## 17 INSURANCES

- 17.1 Archaeological Project Services, as part of the Heritage Trust of Lincolnshire, maintains Employers Liability Insurance of £10,000,000, together with Public and Products Liability insurances, each with indemnity of £5,000,000. Copies of insurance documentation can be supplied on request.

## 18 COPYRIGHT

- 18.1 Archaeological Project Services shall retain full copyright of any commissioned reports under the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988 with all rights reserved; excepting that it hereby provides an exclusive licence to the client for the use of such documents by the client in all matters directly relating to the project as described in the Project Specification.
- 18.2 Licence will also be given to the archaeological curators to use the documentary archive for educational, public and research purposes.
- 18.3 In the case of non-satisfactory settlement of account then copyright will remain fully and exclusively with Archaeological Project Services. In these circumstances it will be an infringement under the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988 for the client to pass any report, partial report, or copy of same, to any third party. Reports submitted in good faith by Archaeological Project Services to any Planning Authority or archaeological curator will be removed from said planning Authority and/or archaeological curator. The Planning Authority and/or archaeological curator will be notified by Archaeological Project Services that the use of any such information previously supplied constitutes an infringement under the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988 and may result in legal action.
- 18.4 The author of any report or specialist contribution to a report shall retain intellectual copyright of their work and may make use of their work for educational or research purposes or for further publication.

## 19 BIBLIOGRAPHY

Hodge, CAH, Burton, RGO, Corbett, WM, Evans, R, and Seale, RS, 1984 *Soils and their use in Eastern England*, Soil Survey of England and Wales 13

## Appendix 2

### CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

No.	Description	Interpretation
001	Firm mid reddish brown silty sand, 0.2m thick	Topsoil
002	Firm light reddish brown silty sand, 0.55m thick	Subsoil
003	Loose light yellowish brown sand, >50mm thick	Natural deposit



## Appendix 3

### GLOSSARY

<b>Context</b>	An archaeological context represents a distinct archaeological event or process. For example, the action of digging a pit creates a context (the cut) as does the process of its subsequent backfill (the fill). Each context encountered during an archaeological investigation is allocated a unique number by the archaeologist and a record sheet detailing the description and interpretations of the context (the context sheet) is created and placed in the site archive. Context numbers are identified within the report text by brackets, <i>e.g.</i> (004).
<b>Cropmark</b>	A mark that is produced by the effect of underlying archaeological features influencing the growth of a particular crop.
<b>Layer</b>	A layer is a term to describe an accumulation of soil or other material that is not contained within a cut.
<b>Medieval</b>	The Middle Ages, dating from approximately AD 1066-1500.
<b>Natural</b>	Undisturbed deposit(s) of soil or rock which have accumulated without the influence of human activity.
<b>Romano-British</b>	Pertaining to the period dating from AD 43-410 when the Romans occupied Britain.

## Appendix 4

### THE ARCHIVE

The archive consists of:

- |   |                           |
|---|---------------------------|
| 3 | Context records           |
| 2 | Scale drawings            |
| 1 | Photographic record sheet |
| 1 | Stratigraphic matrix      |

All primary records and finds are currently kept at:

Archaeological Project Services  
The Old School  
Cameron Street  
Heckington  
Sleaford  
Lincolnshire  
NG34 9RW

The ultimate destination of the project archive is:

Lincolnshire City and County Museum  
12 Friars Lane  
Lincoln  
LN2 1HQ

The archive will be deposited in accordance with the document titled *Conditions for the Acceptance of Project Archives*, produced by the Lincolnshire City and County Museum.

Lincolnshire City and County Council Museum Accession Number: 2001.92

Archaeological Project Services Site Code: AHR 01

The discussion and comments provided in this report are based on the archaeology revealed during the site investigations. Other archaeological finds and features may exist on the development site but away from the areas exposed during the course of this fieldwork. *Archaeological Project Services* cannot confirm that those areas unexposed are free from archaeology nor that any archaeology present there is of a similar character to that revealed during the current investigation.

Archaeological Project Services shall retain full copyright of any commissioned reports under the *Copyright, Designs and Patents Act* 1988 with all rights reserved; excepting that it hereby provides an exclusive licence to the client for the use of such documents by the client in all matters directly relating to the project as described in the Project Specification.