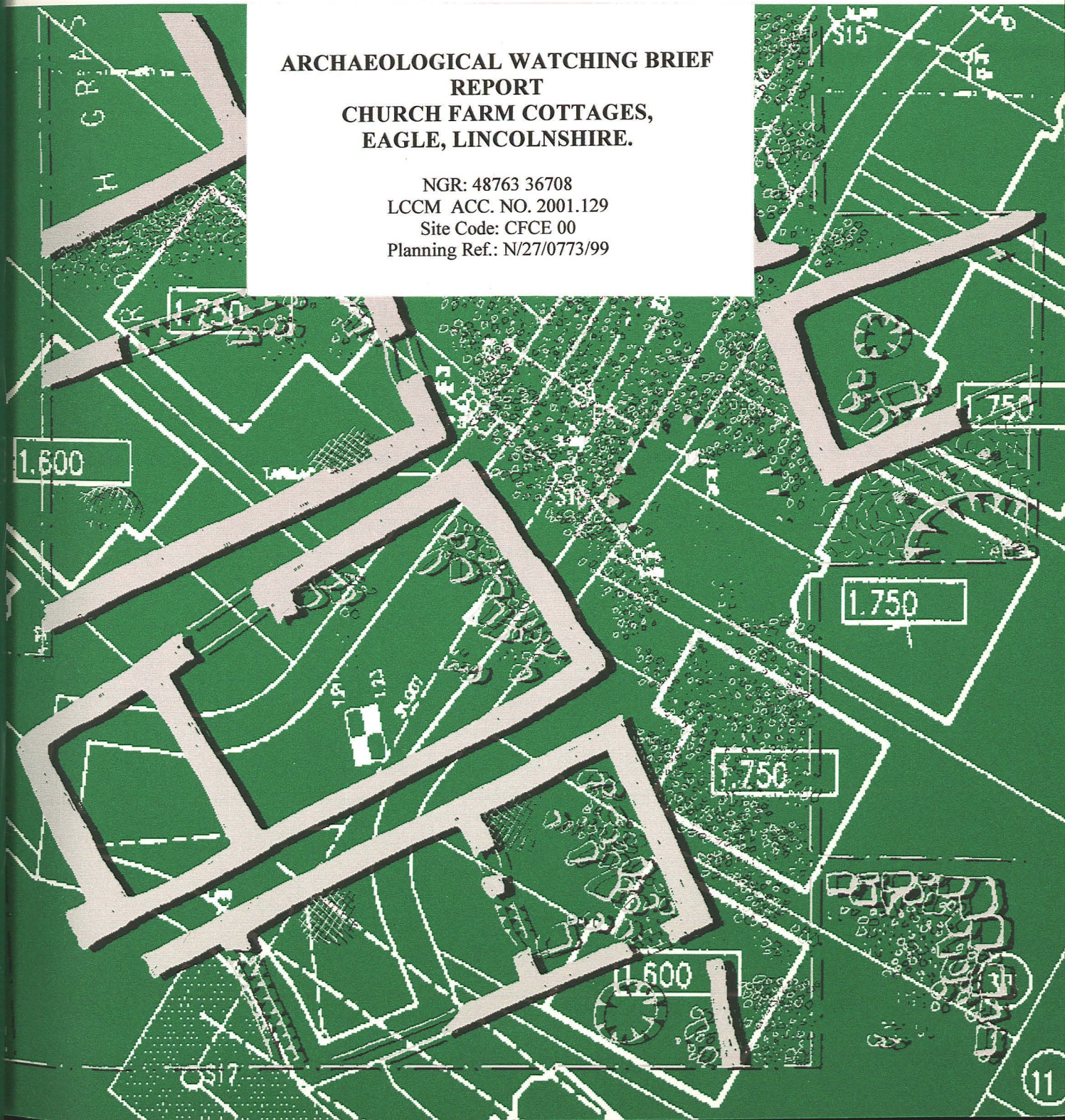


# PRE-CONSTRUCT ARCHAEOLOGY L I N C O L N

## ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF REPORT CHURCH FARM COTTAGES, EAGLE, LINCOLNSHIRE.

NGR: 48763 36708  
LCCM ACC. NO. 2001.129  
Site Code: CFCE 00  
Planning Ref.: N/27/0773/99



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Report Prepared for  
Mr and Mrs P Jessop  
by Mark Allen BSc AIFA

July 2001

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

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### Summary

- *An archaeological watching brief took place at Church Farm Cottages, Eagle, Lincolnshire, during the groundworks for a new garage and kitchen complex.*
- *Monitoring at the site was required due to the fact that the cottages lie at the presumed heart of the traditional medieval settlement*
- *Excavation of the garage footings revealed a large soakaway or former pond.*
- *The groundworks associated with the kitchen block exposed a uniform post-medieval/modern garden soil.*

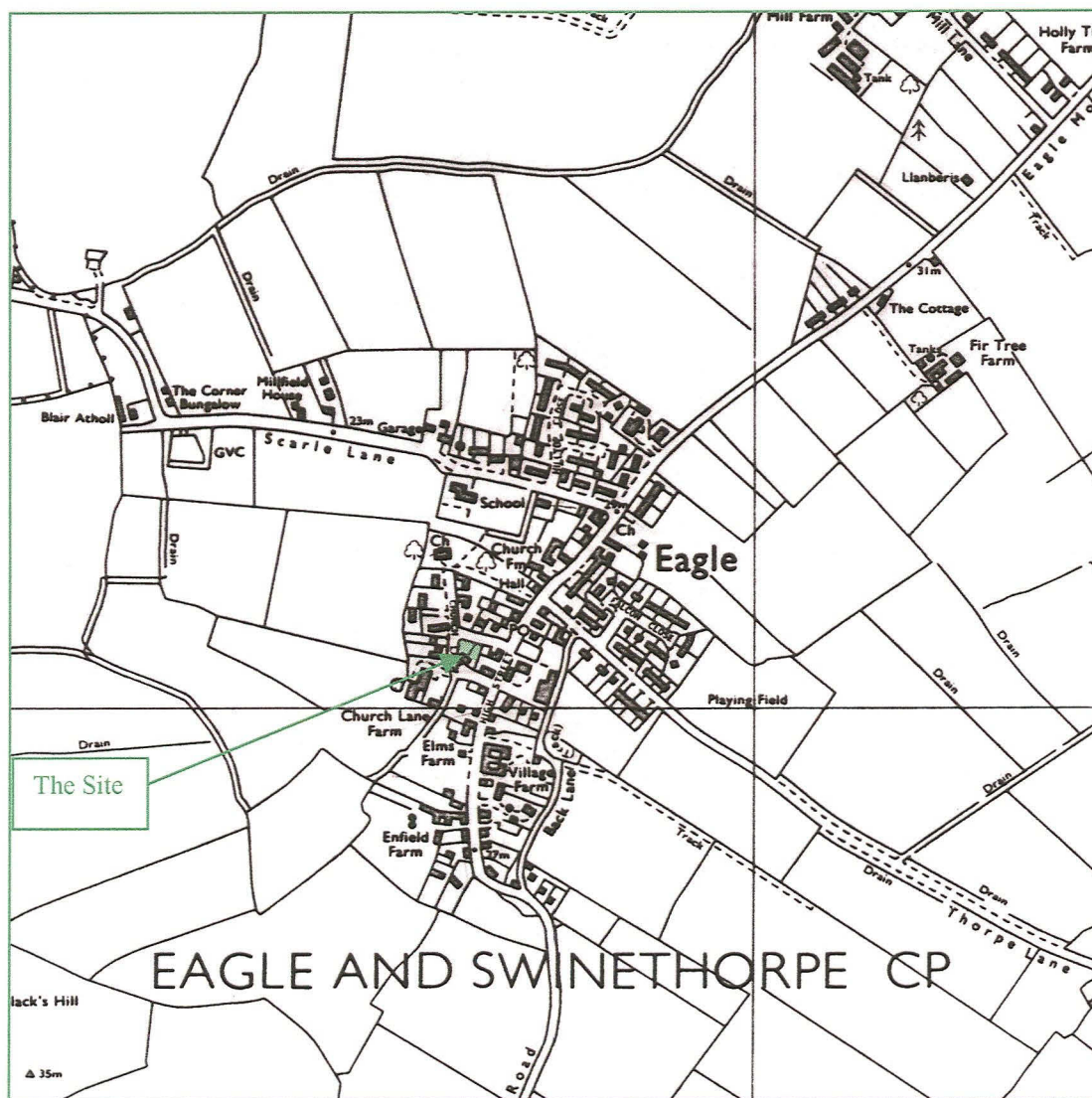


Figure 1: Area of investigation at 1: 10,000  
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## 1.0 Introduction

An archaeological watching brief was carried out for Mr and Mrs P Jessop at Church Farm Cottages, Eagle, Lincolnshire (fig. 1; plate 1). The work was commissioned to fulfil a planning requirement associated with the construction of a garage and kitchen (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 also central to the structuring 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

Eagle lies at the edge of an area of relatively high ground between the A46 Fosse Way and the River Trent, approximately 5.5km south-west of Lincoln.

The development site is situated at the 'centre' of the village, less than 250m west of All Saints Church.

Prior to development, the site comprised extensive gardens to the rear of the cottages. The ground surface lies at approximately 27m OD, and is relatively level throughout the garden, sloping downwards gently to the east. Boundaries to the site comprise the cottages to the south and hedges to the west, north and east.

Eagle is situated at the south edge of a drift deposit comprising glacial sand and gravel. This mantles Middle Jurassic Lower Lias clay, shale and rare limestone (B.G.S., 1973).

Central National Grid Reference: 48763 36708.

## 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. N/27/0773/99).

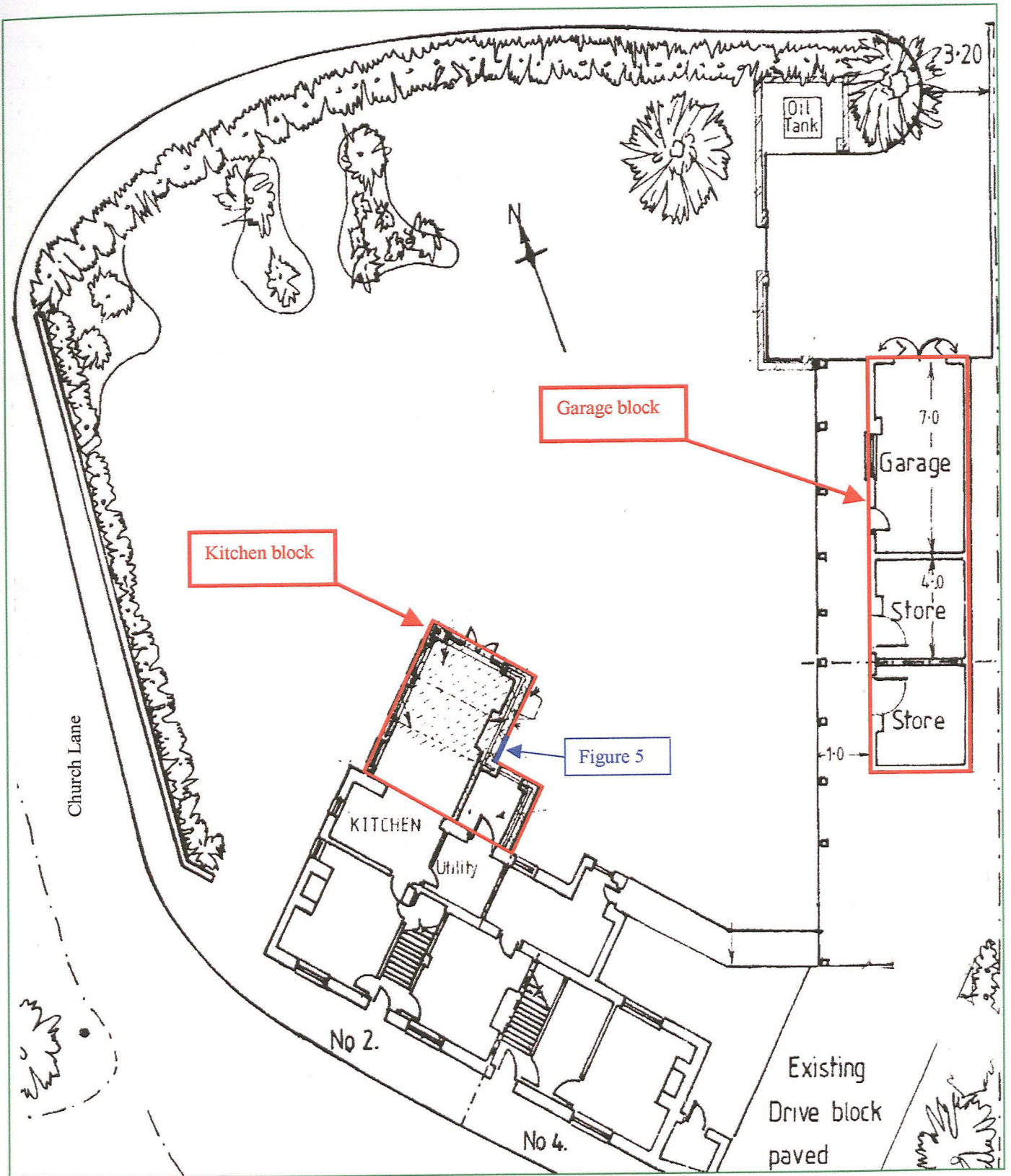


Figure 2: Watching brief areas at scale 1:200

#### 4.0 Archaeological and historical background

Little is known regarding prehistoric activities in the area. Three scatters of worked flints have been found in the fields outside of Eagle during the monitoring of a water pipeline in 1997 (LAS 1997). Two of these appear to date exclusively to the Neolithic period (4000 – 2200 BC); the third from the Neolithic through to the late Bronze Age (4000 – 800 BC). The same watching brief produced two scatters of Iron Age pottery, and Romano-British artefact scatters were also recorded.

The village itself probably emerged in the late Saxon period. Eagle is listed in the Domesday Book of 1086 as *Acley*, from the Old English meaning ‘the oak wood or glade’ (Cameron 1998). The four principal landowners were Roger of Poitou, Durand Malet, Odo the crossbowman and Countess Judith (Morgan and Thorn 1986).

The parish church (dedicated to All Saints) has seen much restoration and alteration from the 18<sup>th</sup> century onwards. Two fragments of a late 10<sup>th</sup> or 11<sup>th</sup> century cross shaft within the north aisle wall suggest the possibility of a Saxon precursor (Pevsner and Harris 1989). The church tower is the only surviving element of a structure that was once associated with the Knights Hospitallers (soldier-monks associated with the crusades), who founded a chapel at Eagle in 1407 (Owen 1971).

Church Farm Cottages were built in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century (SMR No. 61046).

#### 5.0 Methodology

One experienced field archaeologist was present when the groundworks took place; this occurred over three days on 9<sup>th</sup> – 10<sup>th</sup> May 2000 and 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2001.

Foundation trenches were excavated in spits not exceeding 0.65m in depth, by a mini excavator fitted with a 0.6m wide toothed bucket. The removal of these deposits was monitored to ensure that any archaeological features exposed by this process were identified and recorded.

The archaeological fieldwork entailed the cleaning by hand of all exposed surfaces, followed by a thorough inspection. All archaeological deposits identified by this process were subjected to limited excavation, in order to assess their nature, dimensions and to attempt to recover datable materials. These investigations resulted in the production of written descriptions of each layer on standard watching brief context recording sheets. Colour photographs and scale drawings, in both plan and section, compliment these accounts.



## 6.0 Results

### 6.1 Garage block (see figs. 2, 3 and 4; plates 2 and 3)

The garage plot groundworks involved the removal of 0.2m of surface litter and topsoil and the excavation of a 0.6m wide trench. The trench was excavated to a depth of approximately 0.5m.

The topsoil comprised black silty sandy loam (100). This sealed grey, slightly silty, sand with frequent small and medium sized pebbles (102). This alluvial deposit was found throughout the footings, save for the south-west corner, where the topsoil lay immediately over glacial sands and gravels (101).

A large, possibly circular pit, [130], was exposed within the footings. The feature, which appeared to cut the subsoil (102), was approximately 5m wide with steep, concave sides. Its fill comprised black slightly silty sand (104), devoid of finds. The pit seemed to correspond with an area of very wet ground, suggesting it was a soakaway or former pond.

No further archaeological deposits were exposed in this area.

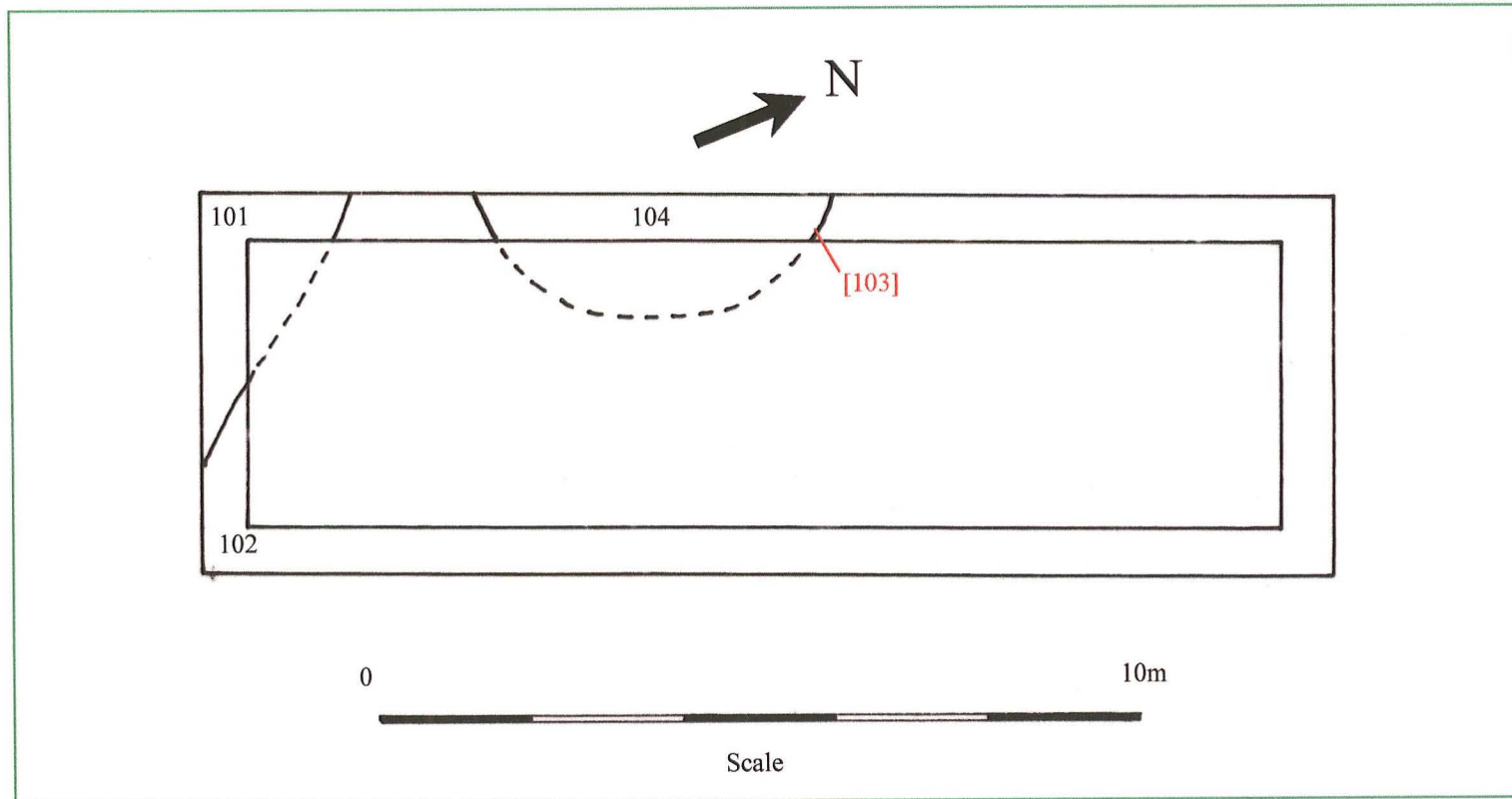


Figure 3: Garage plot foundations plan at scale 1:100

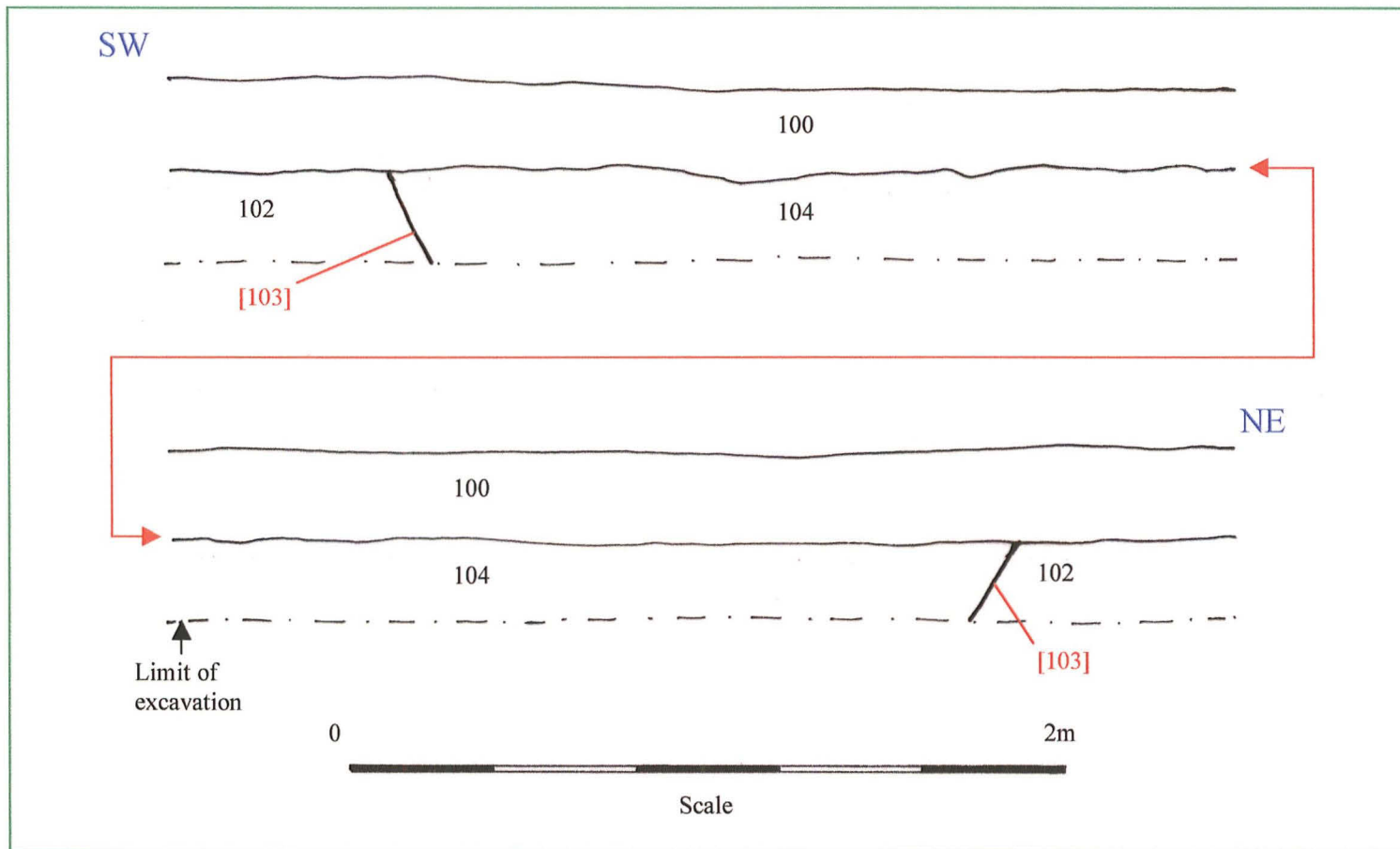


Figure 4: South-east facing section through [103] at scale 1:20

## 6.2 Kitchen block (see figs. 2 and 5; plate 4)

The Kitchen block groundworks involved the excavation of a 0.6m wide trench, approximately 0.65m deep. The topsoil comprised brown silty sand with frequent modern brick rubble (105). Several pieces of modern pottery were identified, but were not retained.

The topsoil sealed dark grey silty sand with some small and medium sized pebbles and occasional brick rubble (106). This 'garden soil' contained brick fragments of similar thickness to those within the cottage construction. Church Farm Cottages were built in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century, suggesting the garden soil was added/imported at the same time.

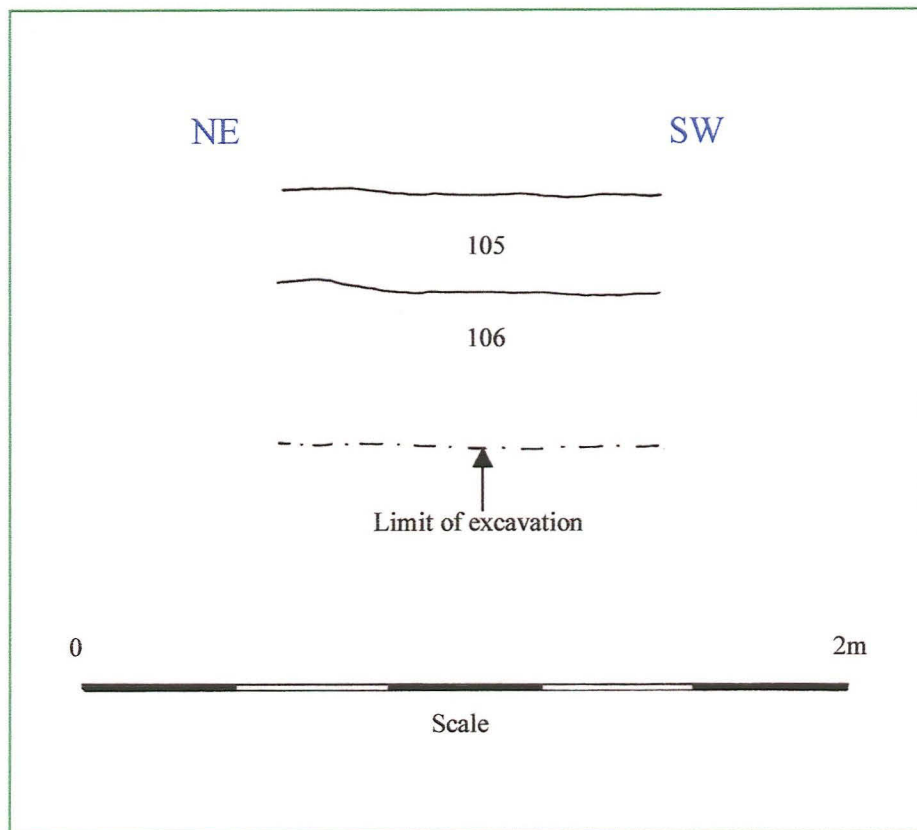


Figure 5: North-west representative section at scale 1:20

## 7.0 Discussion and conclusions

The watching brief was largely negative, with only a single archaeological feature exposed within the garage excavations, [103]. This feature seems to represent a former pond or soakaway, probably of post-medieval or modern origin.

A garden soil, (106), was exposed within the footings for the kitchen block. This was possibly created when Church Farm cottages were built in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century.

No other archaeological deposits were exposed as a result of the groundworks.

## 8.0 Effectiveness of methodology

The deposits encountered suggest that little or no archaeological deposits of significance were disturbed. Consequently, it is concluded that the programme of monitoring was adequate.

## 9.0 Acknowledgements

Pre-Construct Archaeology (Lincoln) would like to thank Mr and Mrs P Jessop for this commission.

## 10.0 References

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Owen, D. 1971 *Church and Society in Medieval Lincolnshire*. Lincoln, History of Lincolnshire Committee, History of Lincolnshire Vol. V.

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## 11.0 Site archive

The site archive (documentary) 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 may be granted by quoting the global accession number 2000.129.



PI 1. Garage block excavations within rear garden of No. 4 Church Cottages, looking SW.



PI 2. SE-facing section through former pond/soakaway.[103], looking NNW.



PI 3. Kitchen block excavations to the rear of No. 2 Church Cottages, looking S.



PI 4. NW-facing section through garden soil (106), looking E.



## Appendix 12.2: List of Archaeological Contexts

<i>Context No.</i>	<i>Category</i>	<i>Description</i>
100	layer	topsoil
101	layer	sand and gravel natural
102	layer	alluvium
103	cut	modern soakaway
104	fill	fill of [103]
105	layer	topsoil
106	layer	p-med/modern garden soil