



LINDSEY ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES

**Reeds Yard, Crowland, Lincs  
Residential Development  
Archaeological Evaluation**

NGR: TF <sup>238 102</sup>~~337 114~~

Site code: CNSR 02

LCNCC Museum Accn. No.: 2002.94

South Holland District Planning Application No.: HO 2/1363/00

**for  
Trevor Clay  
Chartered Architect**

**on behalf of  
Mr M J Alcock**

**LAS Report No. 575  
March 2002**

Conservation  
Services

15 MAR 2002  
LB

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

Event 112928

negative

Source 17621

17622

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Fig.1 Location of Crowland (inset C based on the Ordnance Survey 1:10 000 map TF 21 SW. Crown Copyright, reproduced with the permission of the Controller of HMSO. LAS Licence no. AL 100002165

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**Reeds Yard (Rear of 10 North Street), Crowland, Lincs  
Archaeological Evaluation**

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South Holland District Planning Application No. HO 2/1363/00

**Summary**

*Archaeological evaluation at the above site revealed up to 2.50m of overburden overlying a grey blue clay. The overburden contained large amounts of modern and post medieval building debris. A single piece of 13<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup> century pottery was found within the modern deposits.*

**Introduction**

Lindsey Archaeological Services was commissioned by Trevor Clay, Chartered Architect, to undertake an archaeological evaluation at the above site. The work was carried out in accordance with general requirements set out in the *Lincolnshire Archaeological Handbook* published by the Archaeology Section, Lincolnshire County Council (1998) and the requirements of Senior Built Environment officer set out in his letters dated December 5<sup>th</sup> 2000 and May 31<sup>st</sup> 2001.

**Site Description**

Crowland is situated 10km north of Peterborough, in the South Holland district of Lincolnshire. The application site is located in the settlement core and 250m west of the Abbey. The c. 0.05ha west-east aligned plot lies behind the North Street frontage, and is irregular in shape. The land is currently an open yard which has been cleared of outbuildings in the recent past.

**Planning Background**

An application has been made for Outline Planning Approval for four dwellings and two separate double garages. The houses are to occupy the western and southern sides of the site, with one garage alongside the Speechley's Yard boundary to the north, and the other west of the existing fish and chip shop at No. 10 North Street. The properties will share a common access from North Street beside No. 10.

**Archaeological Background**

Crowland is situated on a gravel peninsula which extends into the peat and silt fens at a level between 3-5m OD. Alluvial deposits surround the peninsula. The modern settlement developed around the medieval abbey but there is evidence for prehistoric activity in the area which has potential for waterlogged remains. A more extensive discussion of the archaeological background can be found in Tann (2002).

### **Scope of Work**

A staged programme of archaeological evaluation was carried out to establish the extent of archaeological remains. Stage 1, a desk based assessment has already been carried out (Tann 2002). Excavation of two trial trenches comprises Stage 2 of the evaluation.

The results of these investigations will determine whether further excavation is required and, should this prove necessary, will be the subject of a separate scheme of works.

### **Aims and Objectives**

In general terms the purpose of the evaluation was to

- establish the presence or absence, quality and extent of archaeological remains and their location within the development area
- gather sufficient information to enable an assessment of the potential significance of any archaeological remains to be made and the impact which development will have upon them
- enable an informed decision to be made regarding the future treatment of any archaeological remains and consider any appropriate mitigatory measures either in advance of and/or during development

More specifically the evaluation strategy was designed to:

- establish the date and extent of any habitation on the site.
- obtain environmental samples which will provide information on the conditions prevailing in the past.

### **Method**

Two 10m x 2m trenches were excavated on the proposed development site. Both trenches were machine excavated, using a JCB with a toothless dyking bucket, to the top of the first recognisable archaeological horizon. All machine excavation was supervised by an archaeologist.

Context numbers were assigned to all deposits for recording purposes; these are used in the report and are listed in Appendix 1.

### **Results**

The trenches were excavated according to the plan on Fig. 2. Due to the constraints of the development the trenches were placed 9m from the boundary walls. The trenches were excavated to a depth of 1.40m, through a dark brown sandy loam topsoil **001** onto a darker material which contained abundant building rubble and recent pottery, **002**. Large quantities



of 19<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup> century pottery was found in this layer of which a small sample was retained for identification, and subsequently discarded on the advice of the specialist. A single piece of probably 13 – 14<sup>th</sup> century pottery was also found within **002** but this must be residual. The piece is from an, as yet, unidentified fabric and has been kept for future reference (J. Young pers. comm.).

### **Trench 1**

Trench 1 was 10m x 1.8m in area. Features were recorded in section only. At the south end of the site was a wall **006**, two courses thick and ten courses high, which was the remains of a recently dismantled garden wall. Its foundations were dug through the layer **002**. Immediately to the south of **006** at the end of the trench was a second wall **007**. It was a single course of bricks wide and ten courses high and butted by a concrete slab floor **008** overlain by a soil, similar to **001** (**009**). This structure may be part of the greenhouse which previously occupied this part of the site. Part of another wall **010** was found near the north end of the trench which was two bricks wide and only one course high. It extended only a short distance into the trench. It is possible that this wall was a boundary relating to cottages which ran up this side of the site but with only this part remaining it is difficult to determine.

### **Trench 2**

Trench 2 was excavated at 90° to Trench 1. It was also 10m x 1.8m in area and excavated to a depth of 1.4m. A deeper slot was excavated at the eastern end of the site in order to establish the depth of natural deposits and to determine whether any deposits survived that were not contaminated by modern disturbance. **002** extended here to a depth of 2.50m where it overlay a blue grey clay **003**. Water was encountered at the base of this slot in Trench 2 at a depth of approximately 2.50m below modern ground level.

A single pit **004** was found at the southern side of the trench, which contained 19<sup>th</sup> century pottery (D Marshall pers. comm.).

### **Conclusion**

Despite being close to the medieval core of the settlement no evidence was found of occupation. The material incorporated into the deposit **002** was predominantly 19<sup>th</sup> century rubbish, suggesting that the ground has been deliberately raised, with natural deposits being encountered only at a depth of 2.50m (1.50m O.D.). At the time of the evaluation ground water was only encountered at the base of Trench 2, although the owner commented that he had encountered water on this site only 1m below ground level on another occasion.

Foundation design for the new houses has yet to be finalised but if strip foundations are acceptable they will usually only penetrate about 1m below the modern ground surface. There would be no disturbance to archaeological deposits on the site. The option to construct pile

foundations is also being considered but given that there was no evidence of archaeological horizons surviving above the natural clays it is considered that the potential impact on archaeological remains would be minimal.

### **Acknowledgements**

The evaluation was carried out by the author together with Adam Thompson. LAS would like to thank Jim Bonner from Lincolnshire County Council for his advice.

### **Reference**

Tann, G. 2002 *Reeds Yard (Rear of 10 North Street) Crowland Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment*. Lindsey Archaeological Services Report, November 2001

Mark Williams  
Lindsey Archaeological Services  
12<sup>th</sup> March 2002

## APPENDIX 1

## Context Summary: Reeds Yard Crowland (CNSR 02)

Context No	Type	Description
001	Topsoil	Dark brown sandy loam contains brick rubble and modern pottery
002	Layer	Dark brown sandy loam, frequent inclusions of building debris and some post medieval pottery
003	Natural	Blue grey clay
004	Cut	Pit
005	Fill of 004	Dark brown sandy loam, contains some small stones and pot medieval pottery
006	Structure	Modern garden wall
007	Structure	Wall (possibly green house)
008	Floor	Stone slab floor associated with 007
009	Layer	mid brown black sandy loam
010	Structure	Wall recently demolished
011	Layer	Light brown hard sandy silt

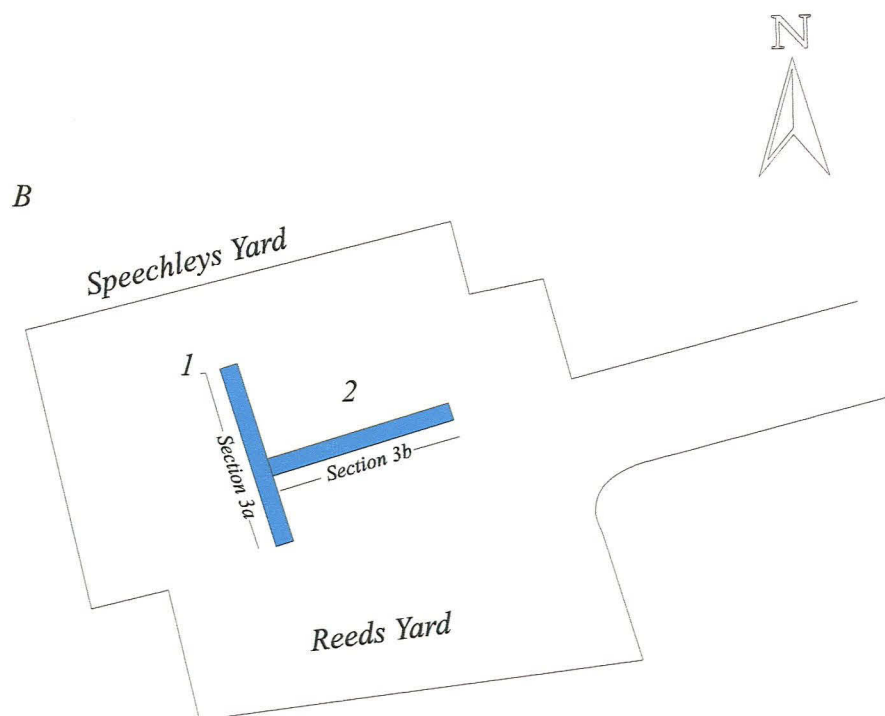


## THE FIGURES AND PLATES









*Fig. 2 Reeds Yard, Crowland, A) Site location. B) Trench location*



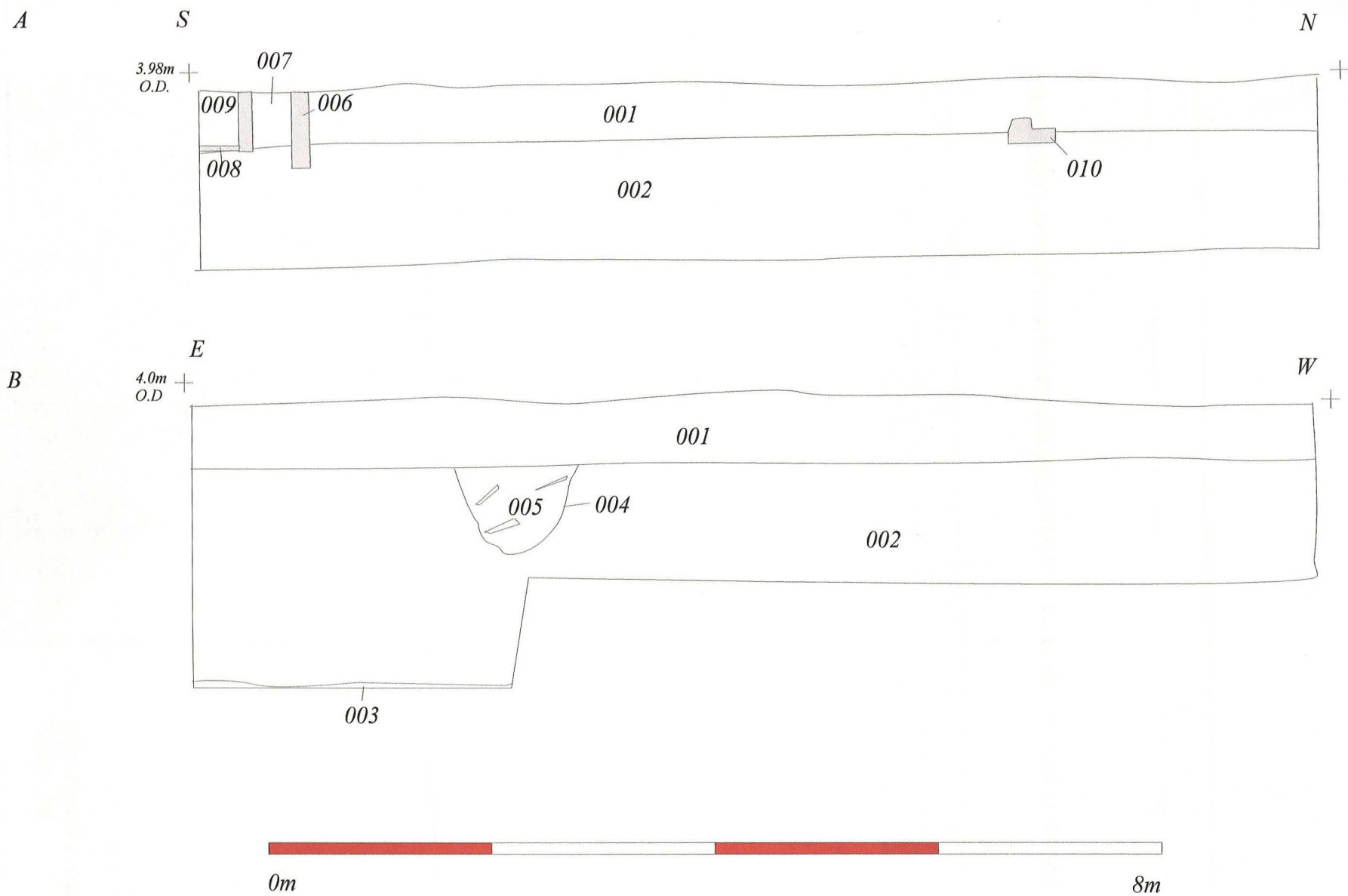


Fig. 3 Trench sections



*Pl. 1. (above) General view of site,  
looking east*



*Pl. 2 (left) Trench 1, looking north.  
Scales 1m*





*Pl. 3 (above) Trench 1, looking  
north-west. Scales 1m*



*Pl. 4 (left) Trench 2, looking east.  
Scales 1m*





*Pl. 5 (above) Section of Trench 2,  
looking west. Scales 1m*



*Pl. 6 (left) Trench 2, showing  
deep section*