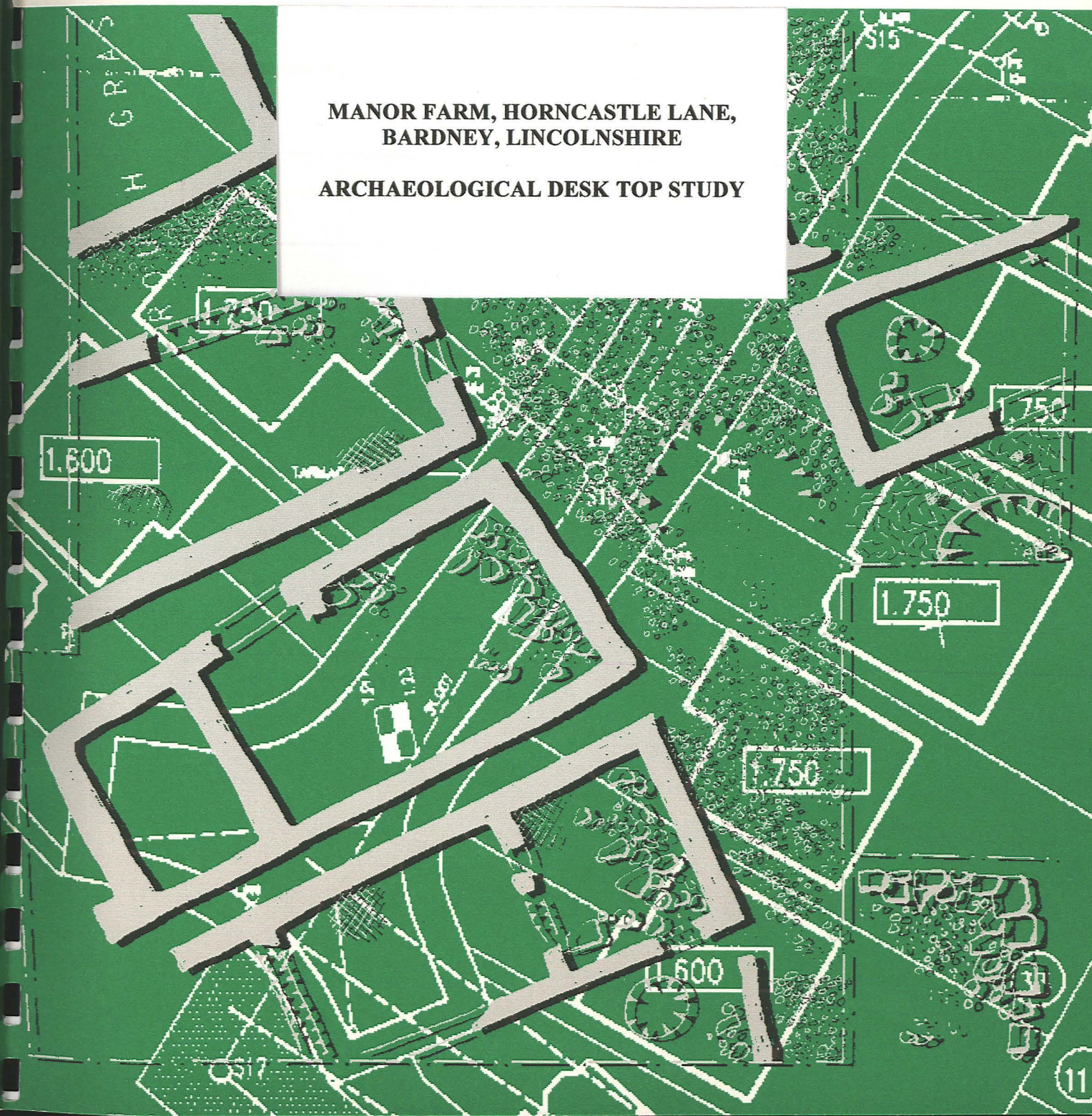


PRE-CONSTRUCT ARCHAEOLOGY

L I N C O L N

MANOR FARM, HORNCastle LANE,
BARDNEY, LINCOLNSHIRE

ARCHAEOLOGICAL DESK TOP STUDY



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Report Prepared for
J.H.G. Planning Consultancy
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Summary

- *This archaeological assessment has been prepared for the J.H.G. Planning Consultancy in respect of a proposed residential development on a field and former farmyard off Horncastle Road, Bardney, Lincolnshire.*
- *It has been prepared to fulfil a planning requirement of West Lindsey District Council, and it will inform a decision making process that will seek to address the needs of the developer, whilst ensuring that archaeological resources are not needlessly destroyed as a result of developing the site.*
- *The results of this report suggests that the archaeological potential of the site is **moderate**, and that the greatest potential is for the site to contain remains of Romano-British date. The area appears to have been peripheral to the medieval settlement focus, and there is no information currently available which indicates settlement of the area during the prehistoric era.*
- *It is proposed in this report that a non-intrusive method of archaeological investigation, such as geophysical survey, may be appropriate within the agricultural component of the site.*



Figure 1: Site location showing SMR Records and cropmarks at scale 1:10,000

1.0 Introduction

This desk-based study was commissioned by the J.H.G. Planning Consultancy on behalf of their client. Its purpose is to assess the overall archaeological potential of a proposed development site, without the use of intrusive fieldwork, and to assess the potential impacts which may be posed by development of land off Horncastle Road, Bardney. The report will assist West Lindsey District Council with its decision-making in relation to archaeological matters, and will likewise inform the client of any archaeological constraints which may be of relevance to the application.

Research 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).

The report was researched and prepared by Mark Allen of Pre-Construct Archaeology (Lincoln) (hereafter PCA) in February/March 2002.

2.0 Location and description

Bardney is in the administrative district of West Lindsey, approximately 14km east-south-east from the centre of Lincoln, 9km north-west of Woodhall Spa.

The site that is the subject of this report comprises an arable field with a collection of farm outbuildings at the south edge of the village (fig. 1). It fronts Horncastle Road, and the central national grid reference is TF 1207 6921. It is an irregular unit of approximately 21450m² (fig. 2). To its north-west lie a series of listed buildings, comprising the 'Manor House' and associated outbuildings (some of which are included within the proposed application zone), with the parish church of St. Lawrence lying beyond. To the north-east of the site (beyond Horncastle Road) is a playground, bowling green and burial ground. To the west and south are arable fields.

A young winter cereal crop covers the majority of the ground surface, although the north-west corner of the site includes a house with outbuildings and modern agricultural buildings, plus an area of metalling (plate 1).

3.0 Geology and topography

The drift geology of the area comprises older river sand and gravel, with boulder clay to the immediate south-west of the application area. The underlying solid geology is Jurassic Amphil Clay (BGS 1973). A recent survey, less than 500m to the east, indicates that the older sand and gravel has been re-defined as Glaciofluvial Sheet Deposits and clay-rich Till (BGS 1995).

Bardney is situated upon an island measuring approximately 5km by 1.5km, connected to the mainland by a short spit of higher ground at the north-east corner. The site lies towards the south-west edge of this island, adjacent to the Witham floodplain at approximately 10m OD.



Figure 2: Detailed site location (in red) showing buildings and a boundary wall in green as depicted on the 2nd edition Ordnance Survey map of 1906. Area in blue was allotments in 1906. At scale 1:1500.

4.0 Planning background

Outline planning consent is sought from West Lindsey District Council for the modification/destruction of existing structures and construction of a residential development (Ref. M01/P/0853). Prior to the determination of this application, West Lindsey District Council, acting on the advice of the Lincolnshire County Council Built Environment Team, has requested the undertaking of a detailed archaeological assessment to determine the overall archaeological potential of the site, without the use of intrusive techniques. This approach is consistent with the advice set out in *Archaeology and Planning: Planning Policy Guidance Note 16*, 1990.

5.0 Objectives and methods

The purpose of this report is to identify and assess archaeological remains that may be sensitive to construction works associated with the proposed development and, if necessary, to suggest further methods by which the site may be evaluated in advance of works.

Data for this report was, for the most part, obtained for a 1km radius, centred on the application area. This was drawn from the following sources:

- Records held by the County Sites and Monuments Record for Lincolnshire (SMR)
- Records held at the Lincolnshire Archives Office (LAO)
- Records held at the Lincolnshire Local Studies Library (LSL)
- Aerial photographs held by the National Monuments Record, Swindon (NMR)
- Published and unpublished sources
- Information supplied by the client
- A detailed inspection of the site (undertaken by the author on 13th February 2002)

6.0 Archaeological and historical background

The north-east edge Witham floodplain, a rich prehistoric landscape, lies at the south-western edge of the study area. Prior to drainage and canalisation of the main river channel in the 18th/19th centuries, the floodplain was predominantly marshy: an ideal environment for hunting and gathering communities. Settlements were located further upslope, on dryer ground. A noteworthy, and relatively common, find from the Witham valley is the prehistoric dugout log boat. One such vessel was found in 1931, approximately 800m south-west of the site, close to Bardney Sugar Factory. The only other prehistoric find recorded within the study area is a flint scraper; from a village garden, east of Abbey Road.

The island of Bardney was possibly a focal point for votive activities from the Bronze Age onwards (Stocker and Everson forthcoming), although recorded prestige items have been poorly provenanced; the closest to the site being an Iron Age sword and two early 11th century axeheads, recovered from the Witham; close to Bardney and at Bardney itself respectively.

An early causeway, extending from Branston, across the fens to the island of Bardney, is respected by the alignment of the modern B1190 (Station Road). The eastern limit of this causeway was approximately 250m north-west of the application area, at the site of the Chapel of St. Andrew. Although the latter dates from the Anglo-Saxon period, the causeway may have had a much earlier (ie prehistoric) origins (*ibid*).

There are no existing records pertaining to Romano-British activities in the environs of the site.

Historical sources suggest that Bardney emerged as an ecclesiastical centre, perhaps in the 7th century AD. The Anglo-Saxon Chronicles provides the first reference in 641 AD, stating "*Oswald, King of Northumbria, was slain by Penda the Mercian at Maserfeld on 5th August, and his body was buried at Bardney. His holiness and miracles were afterwards abundantly made manifest throughout this island, and his hands are at Bamburgh uncorrupted*" (Garmonsway 1972; 27).

Bede references a monastic site in 731 stating: '*monasterium nobile in prouincia Lindissi nomine Beardaneu*', meaning 'noble monastery in Lindsey province named Bardney'.

Initially it was thought that Æthelred and Osthryth, the King and Queen of Mercia, founded the monastic cell in the last quarter of the 7th century (Stocker 1993). This is disputed, however, as it is unlikely that Bede would have left such a fact out of his writings (Sawyer 1998). The burial of King Oswald's remains at Bardney suggests that an ecclesiastical centre of some importance already existed around 641 AD. Whatever the case, the abbey presumably become a royal house after the Mercians recovered Lindsey in 679 AD. Oswald's Queen was murdered, and Æthelred retired to rule the monastery as Abbot, where he later died in 716. The remains of the sainted king Oswald of Northumbria were later removed and sent to Gloucester (in c. 909 AD).

The monastery was refounded by Gilbert of Ghent (c. 1087), after its earlier destruction, possibly by the Danes. The new ecclesiastical centre began as a major Benedictine priory, later becoming an abbey. Although this site was excavated in the earlier part of the 20th century by the Revered C E Laing, among others, its character is still relatively unknown (Stocker 1993).

The siting of the later abbey is curious, as it lies at distance from the medieval road system (still in existence), at a low elevation, almost on the marshy peatlands. There is a long held belief that the earlier abbey is not within the confines of the later monument, but 1km further north, in the vicinity of Bardney Dairies. Stocker (1993), however, argues that the whole of Bardney Island should be recognised as the original monastery. The focus for activity within this proposed medieval enclosure includes at

least three churches: the parish church of St Peter and Paul, adjacent to the abbey, and the chapels dedicated to St Andrew and St Leonard.

The place-name derives from the Old English meaning B(e)arda's island of land' (Cameron 1998). The Domesday Survey lists one principal landowner Gilbert of Ghent, who owned 1 plough. There were 16 villagers, 5 smallholdings and 6 Freemen with 2 ploughs. A mill, 5 fisheries, 20 acres of meadow and 500 acres of woodland are also recorded. Pre-Conquest, 2 carucates of land were held by Ulfr (Morgan and Thorn 1986).

The present parish church, St. Lawrence, was built in 1434, replacing St Peter and Paul, which was demolished. The majority of the church is ashlar-faced, although the chancel was built using bricks brought up the River Witham from Boston (Platts 1985). Within the church are several pieces of worked masonry that are clearly from the old abbey.

With such a profusion of ecclesiastical activity, documented from the 7th century onwards, it is not surprising that there is ample physical evidence to reflect this. Medieval pottery has been found in fields 500m south-west of the current site, and several coins are known to the north. More substantially, stone building remains have been noted throughout the modern settlement (Everson, *et al* 1991), mainly in gardens fronting the modern road (a further indication that the road system has deviated little from its original pattern).

Approximately 400m to the south-east of the site (in the adjacent field) is the documented site of a post-medieval windmill. Although the County records for this structure suggest that it was destroyed in 1842, the Parish Tithe Map (1842) shows it in existence in that year (fig. 3).

The manor house that is part of the application area comprises a long Georgian front, although the majority of the structure is Victorian. The garden contains a pair of stone gatepiers with brick ball finials (Pevsner & Harris 1990).

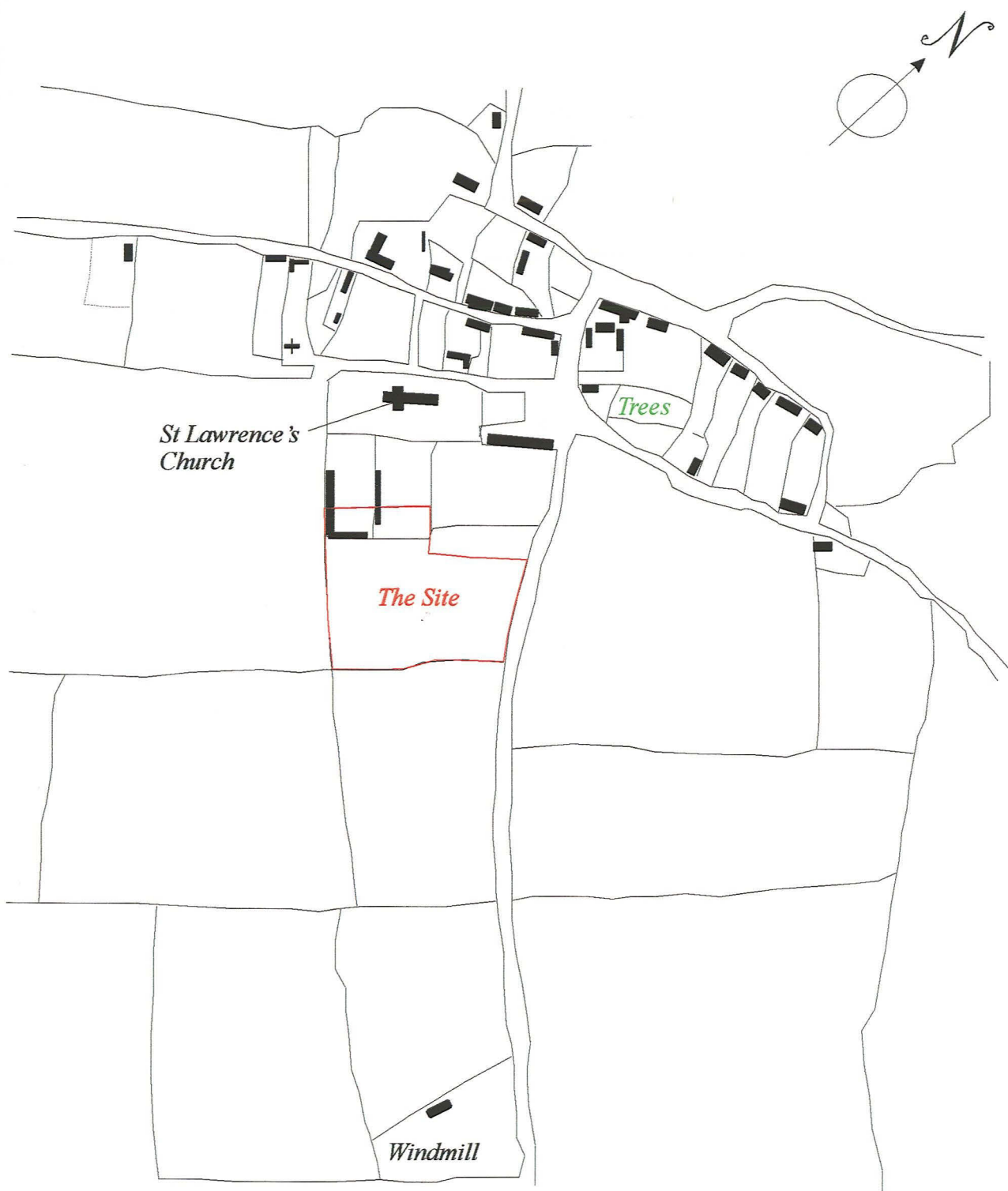


Figure 3: Extract from 1842 Tithe map of the parish of Bardney

7.0 Archaeological potential

The information presented below has been collated from a variety of sources. Data from published and unpublished sources has been synthesised, with information obtained from aerial photographs, as well as an inspection of the site itself. The sub-sections describe the information obtained from each source, and are followed by a brief summary. Finally, an assessment of archaeological potential is considered.

7.1 Cartographic information held at the Lincolnshire Archives Office (LAO)

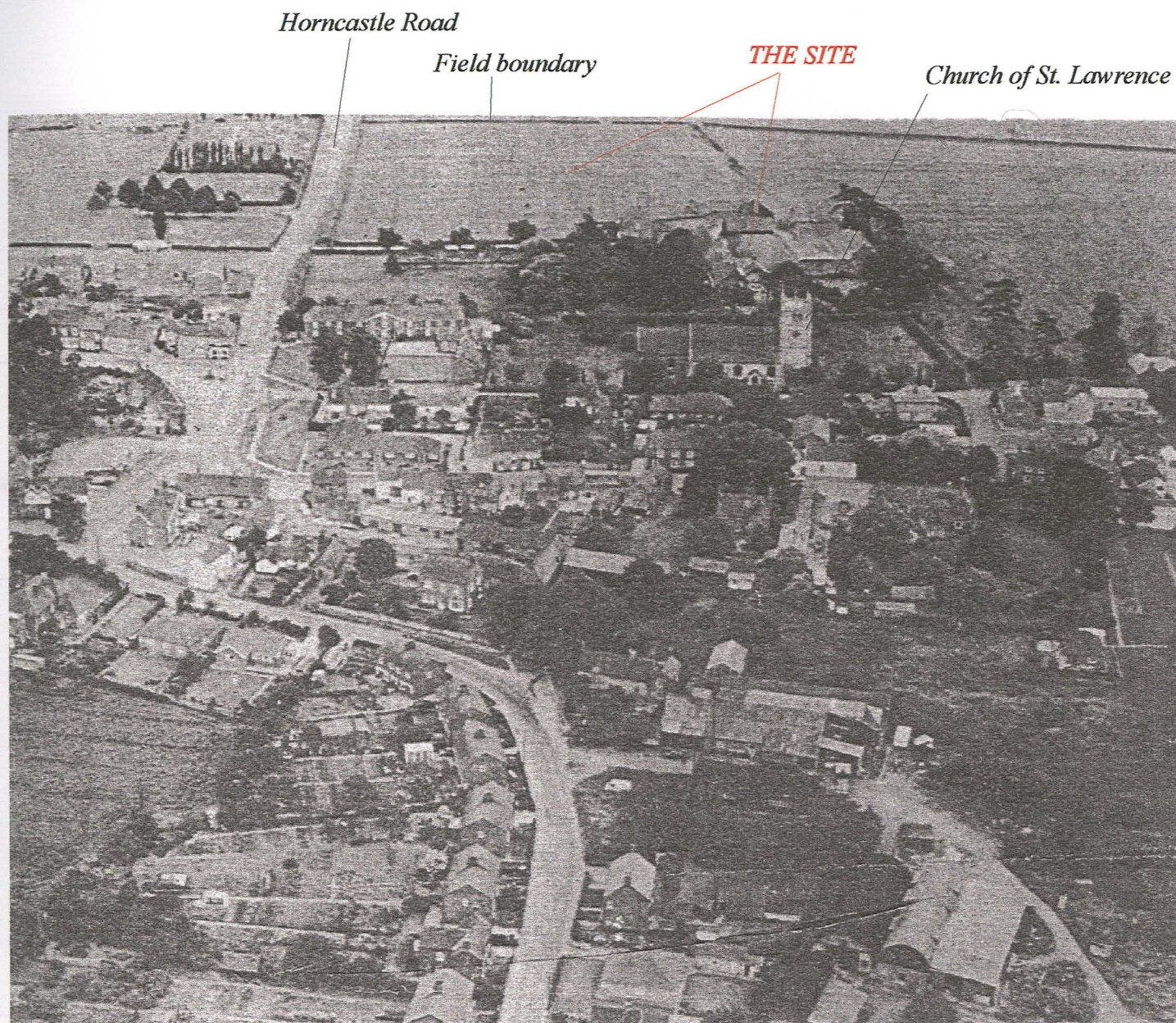
There are surprisingly few maps for Bardney. The earliest held at the LAO is the 1842 Tithe Map (fig. 3). As today, the village was concentrated to the north and north-west of the Parish Church, with the road system identical to the modern layout. The field that is the subject of this report was known as 'Hall Paddock' and was used as pasture. The Earl of Harrowby was the owner, and Gamble Richard Erois (who also rented the Manor House and surrounding fields from the Earl) occupied it. The Manor comprised an L-shaped range facing a long rectangular building, and although the L-shaped structure bears little resemblance to the modern buildings (now a modern farm shed), the rectangular range does not appear to have been greatly modified.

By 1906, when the 2nd edition Ordnance Survey map was drawn up, a further range had been added to the Manor House, forming an 'n-shaped' structure with an almost enclosed courtyard (fig. 4). A cart shed that can be seen today was in existence by this time. Enclosing the grounds of the Manor House was a brick boundary wall that can also still be seen today. Access to the parish church from the manor was through a simple gate (Plate 4). North-east of the site, on the east side of Horncastle Road, the land was predominantly used as allotment gardens and an open field.

7.2 The County Sites and Monuments Record

Nineteen records of direct or indirect relevance to the proposed scheme are incorporated as part of the SMR (locations indicated on fig. 1). Some of these references have been variously described:

SMR Ref.	NGR	Description
LI50267	TF 12036939	Hancock's Hosital, built in 1712 and partially demolished by the 20 th century
LI50680	TF 13306790	An area of semi-natural and plantation woodland of at least post-medieval date
LI51153	TF 119696	16 th /17 th century pottery from an excavation in 1955
LI51154	TF 11626854	Dugout boat, thought to be of Bronze Age date
LI51155	TF 12216968	Medieval building remains, thought to be associated with Bardney Abbey



*Figure 4: Bardney from the air, from the Lincolnshire Chronicle dated 18/8/77.
Looking broadly south-east*

- LI51159 TF 11946968 Early Neolithic to Late Bronze Age flint scraper
- LI51164 TF 11946936 St. Lawrence's Church, built after 1434
- LI51167 TF 11826963 An official 14th century French jetton found in the garden of 27 Abbey Road
- LI51168 TF 118697 A silver continental sterling of 13th century type found at Abbey Road
- LI51170 TF 12136957 Medieval building foundation incorporating re-used stonework, believed to have originated within Bardney Abbey
- LI51172 TF 11476910 Medieval pottery sherds including Lincoln Ware, Cistercian Ware and a stamp-decorated 15th century old Bolingbroke sherd. A lead weight also found
- LI51176 TF 11976965 Medieval settlement earthworks, subsequently levelled in 1977. House platforms were visible with associated pottery including Stamford Ware, late 15th century Lincoln Ware, early 15th century South-East Lincolnshire Ware and Bolingbroke Ware
- LI51177 TF 11976965 Post-medieval settlement remains associated with Midlands Yellow and Black wares (16th and 17th century), possible Boston Ware and Glentworth-type fabrics. Suggested properties fronting south onto Abbey Road, adjacent to Medieval remains (See LI51176)
- LI51178 TF 11826936 Former road in Bardney appears in maps in 1757, but now obliterated
- LI51180 TF 11916940 Site of the medieval Chapel of St. Andrew
- LI51184 TF 112693 Post-medieval brickyard shown on tithe map of 1842
- LI51185 TF 12356887 A post mill is shown on 18th century maps. By the late 19th there was a mill house adjacent, both now gone
- LI51186 TF 11946957 A windmill on the 1824 OS map, possibly destroyed by 1842 and later replaced in the early-mid 20th century?

7.3 Site visit

The author visited the site on 13th February 2002. It consists of two elements; an arable field of approximately 1.8ha, and an area of farm buildings to the north-west. The field contains a young cereal crop, rendering ground visibility poor (approximately 30% in places). The presence of the crop enforced the author to not conduct a rapid walkover survey. Despite this, a few surface finds were noted around the periphery of the field, notably a small scatter of Romano-British greyware pottery sherds towards the north-west end (MJ Darling, pers. Com.) (fig. 2). This pottery was in various states of abrasion, suggesting that some sherds have lain within the ploughsoil, whilst others were more recently brought to the surface. Their location, in close proximity to the new Doctor's Surgery, may be an indication that Romano-British remains were disturbed during its construction. Two fragments of possible building stone were also noted, along with a small nodule of burnt flint.

The field incorporates some slight topographical variation, the most notable being a general trend downwards towards the Witham floodplain. A slight ridge running perpendicular to Horncastle Road may be the ploughed out remnants of a former field boundary that was in existence in 1977 (Fig. 4). Further south, and running parallel to the ridge (north-east – south-west), is a wide, but shallow, hollow. Further north, within the application area, a shallow discrete hollow is apparent against the south-west field boundary. Beyond the south-west boundary, the ground level shelves downwards towards the floodplain more steeply.

The north-west corner of the site contains a series of farm buildings surrounding an area of limestone and fragmented brick metalling (fig. 2; plates 2 and 3). Buildings that will be affected by the proposed development comprise a series of 19th century sheds and modern farm buildings.

7.4 General considerations

In the light of information that has been variously described, it is possible to present a generalised historical context for the site of proposed development, before consideration is made of the impacts that have taken place in recent times, and which may have affected the quality and survival of any archaeological resources, if present.

For the prehistoric periods, there is no site-specific information. The site was presumably dry, at the edge of a wetland environment (the Witham floodplain).

Although there are no records to indicate that the site was occupied in the Romano-British period, the presence of pottery of this date in the field itself may indicate otherwise. The fresh appearance of two out of three sherds suggests that there is a possibility at least that earth-cut archaeological features could lie at the base of the plough zone, possibly within a restricted area.

The site is on the fringes of what became the medieval settlement of Bardney. Although traditionally the parish church (approximately 100m north-west of the proposed development) was located at the core of the settlement, at Bardney this is not the case. The original parish church was at Bardney Abbey; this was demolished

and rebuilt at its new location in the 15th century, presumably because the monks required greater privacy from the villagers. To maximise this, it was relocated to the opposite side of the village to the Abbey, leaving the church at the edge of the settlement. As the site is further away from the core, it seems likely the medieval settlement did not extend this far south. The area of proposed development probably lies within a traditional agricultural zone that surrounded the village. This is compounded by the recorded cropmark remains of ridge and furrow in fields to the south-west (see fig. 5).

8.0 Impacts to archaeological resources

If the site does contain archaeological remains, then these are likely to be better-preserved within the arable field than the north-west corner of the site, which has seen several phases of development during late post-medieval and modern times. Arable areas will have been impacted to approximately 25 – 30cm by repeated ploughing.

9.0 Conclusions

It is variously concluded that the archaeological potential of the site is **moderate**. The greatest potential is based on the possibility that *in situ* Romano-British archaeological features occur within the site environs, as suggested by the recovery of abraded and unabraded pottery sherds within a restricted area.

For the medieval period, the site appears to have been peripheral to the main settlement focus, and is more likely to have lain within an outlying agricultural zone. If so, then remnants of ridge and furrow may survive, although this is considered to be of minor interest.

10.0 Mitigation

The recovery of Romano-British pottery, from a restricted area only, suggests the possibility that remains of this period could be more widespread. While fieldwalking may clarify this further, it is suggested that geophysical survey of the area by gradiometry, in conjunction with a rapid walkover survey, would be more useful for planning purposes, and less costly to the developer. A gridded field walk is not recommended, due to the bias that would be introduced as a result of existing and spreading ground cover.

Romano-British (or any other) pottery will usually find its way into fields by one of two mechanisms:-

- as a result of manuring (residual context); in which case, sherd counts will generally be low, and individual fragments will tend to be abraded.
- it can be brought to the surface from *in situ* features as a result of ploughing; in particular, modern ploughing, which will expose unabraded sherds that will then remain within the plough zone.



Figure 5: Aerial photograph of Bardney showing the site and cropmarks of ridge and furrow and enclosures (Reference 3G/TWD/UK/197, Frame Number 5472, dated 10th May 1946)

In the opinion of the author, the primary objective of any subsequent phase of work must be to establish whether or not there are in-situ sub-surface Romano-British (or other) remains surviving beneath the plough zone, and to determine the extent of such remains by the least expensive method. For this site, therefore, it is suggested that a fluxgate gradiometer survey may be appropriate.

The use of gradiometry should help to establish, not only the presence/absence, but also the extent of any major features such as boundary ditches: in which case, it should then be possible to propose a programme of target trial excavation. Alternatively, should a geophysical survey prove to be negative, backed up with low levels of surface artefacts, then further archaeological intervention may not be appropriate. Any further evaluation at the site must be based on the recommendations of the planning authority, and it is anticipated that such an evaluation will be undertaken at the request of a future developer.

11.0 Acknowledgements

Sincere thanks are expressed to the commissioning body J.H.G. Planning Consultancy. Thanks are also expressed to the staff at the Lincolnshire Sites and Monuments Record, the Lincolnshire Archives Office and the Local Studies Library at Lincoln Library.

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Pl. 1 General view of the site taken from south-east corner of the field, looking north-west. Note farm buildings that are part of the application area are to the left of the newly built Doctor's Surgery



Pl. 2 The cart shed looking north-west



Pl. 3 Detail of rectangular structure depicted on 1842 Tithe map



Pl. 4 The Manor House boundary wall with gate leading to St. Lawrence's Church