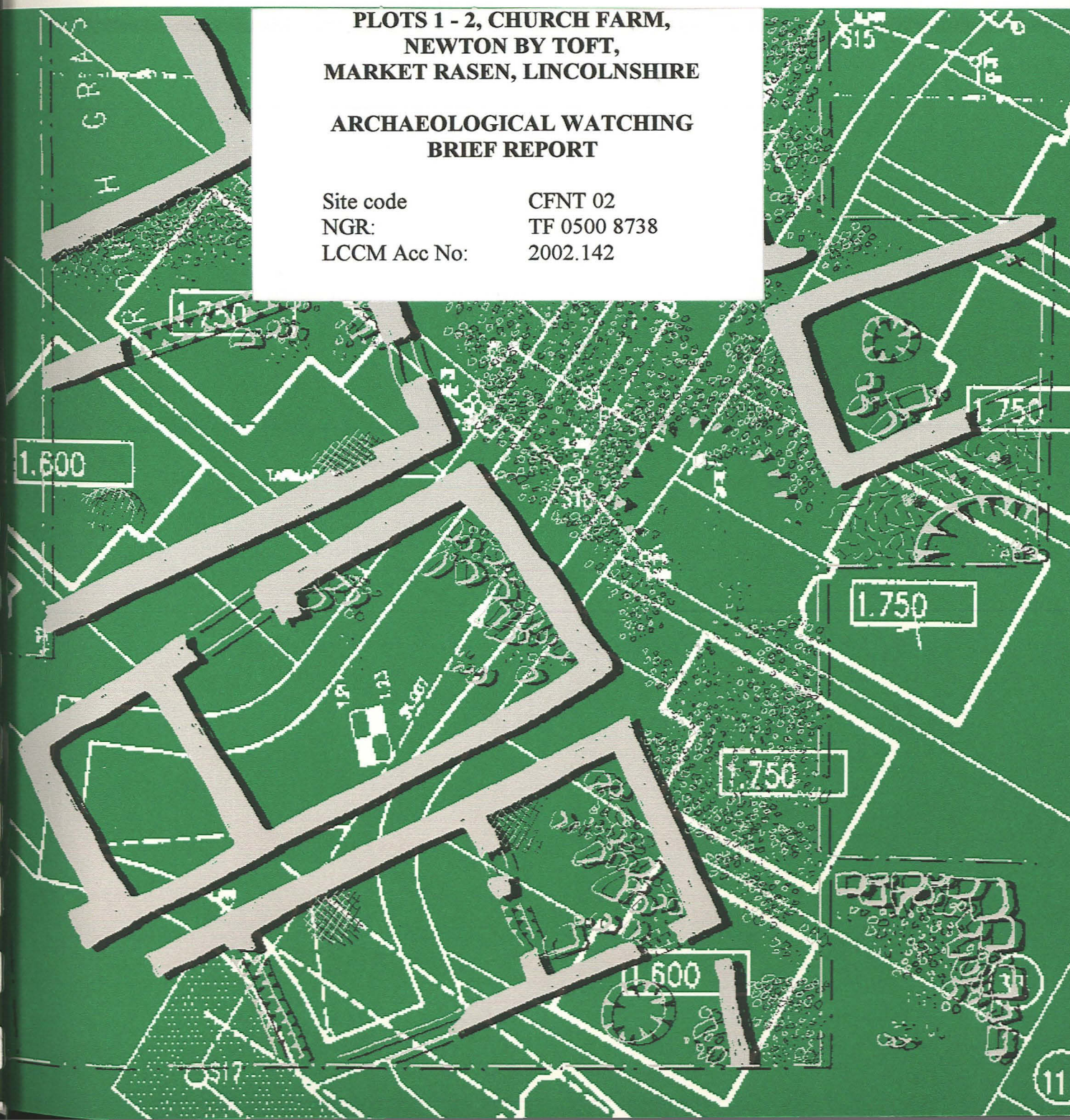




ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF REPORT

Site code CFNT 02
NGR: TF 0500 8738
LCCM Acc No: 2002.142



Conservation
Services

23 APR 2002

Highways & Planning
Directorate



Event L12999

Source L17139
L17740

M2/12
negative

L16934

**PLOTS 1 - 2, CHURCH FARM,
NEWTON BY TOFT,
MARKET RASEN, LINCOLNSHIRE**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING
BRIEF REPORT**

Site code	CFNT 02
NGR:	TF 0500 8738
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Report prepared for Mr M Brown
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Summary

- *An archaeological watching brief took place during the groundworks for a residential development on land at Church Farm, Newton by Toft, Market Rasen.*
- *The watching brief identified only archaeological features of a post-medieval or modern date.*

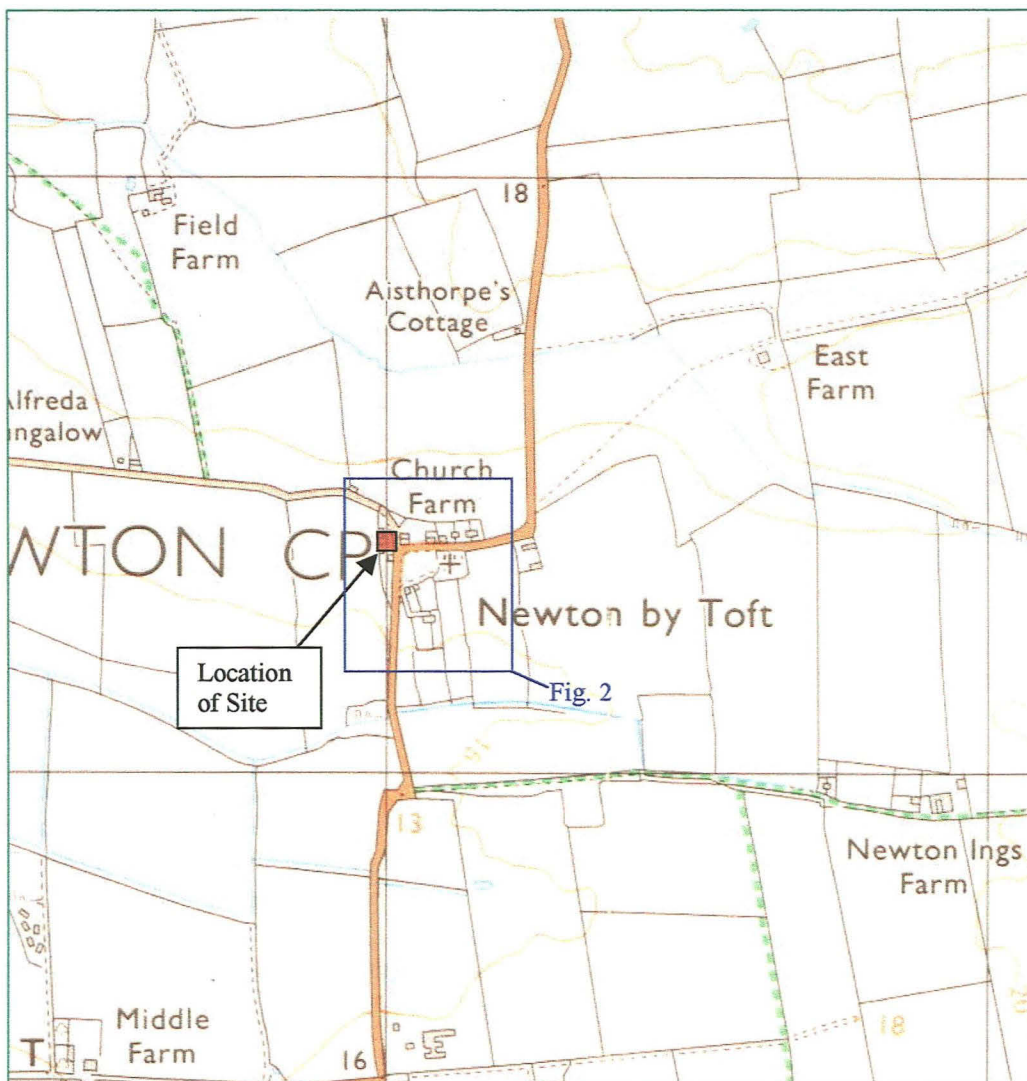


Fig. 1: Location plan, the site is shown in red, the area illustrated in fig. 2 is outlined in blue. Scale 1:25000. (OS copyright license no AL 515 021 A0001)

1.0 Introduction

An archaeological watching brief took place during the excavation of foundation trenches for a housing development, comprising a single dwelling, with associated garage, on Plots 1 - 2, Church Farm, Newton by Toft, Market Rasen (National Grid Reference TF0500 8738). The work was commissioned by Mr M Brown, to fulfil a condition attached to a planning permission (Ref. M01/P/0778).

This report documents the results of the archaeological observation and recording undertaken on 26.3.2002. It has been prepared to meet the requirements of current local guidelines (*Lincolnshire Archaeological Handbook: A Manual of Archaeological Practice, 1998*); and a formal project specification prepared by this company.

Copies of this report will be deposited with the commissioning client, the Assistant Built Environment Officer for Lincolnshire County Council / the County SMR. A short text will be submitted to the editor of the county journal, *Lincolnshire History and Archaeology*; and this will feature as a short note in due course. Reports will also be deposited at the City and County Museum, Lincoln, accompanied with an ordered project archive.

2.0 Location and Description

Market Rasen is in the administrative district of West Lindsey, approximately 18km northeast of Lincoln. Newton by Toft is located approximately 5.5km southwest of Market Rasen and lies in the Clay Vale, between the Lincolnshire Wolds and the Lincoln Edge.

The site of development lies on the west side of the village, on land formerly belonging to Church Farm (fig.1), at National Grid Reference TF 0500 8738. It comprises a sub-rectangular unit of approximately 850m².

The site lies at an altitude approximately 19m above modern sea level and the upper geology of the area is characterised as Till (Wragby Till): clayey diamicton, commonly chalky. (BGS 1999).

Prior to this development, the site was part of the garden and outbuilding range of Church Farm, and the former farmhouse stands to the immediate south of the property (fig. 2). The plot itself is defined by a post and wire fence along the former hedgeline to the west, a post and panel fence and the neighbouring property to the north. It is presently open to the neighbouring property to the south and to Clay Lane to the east. The ground slopes very slightly downwards from the southwest to the northeast corner of the property, a matter of 0.2m or so.

When the watching brief was undertaken, the area of the site had been stripped to reveal the underlying demolition rubble, and no ground cover remained.

Planning permission was granted for a single dwelling, with associated garage (fig. 3), subject to an archaeological watching brief being undertaken on all groundworks.

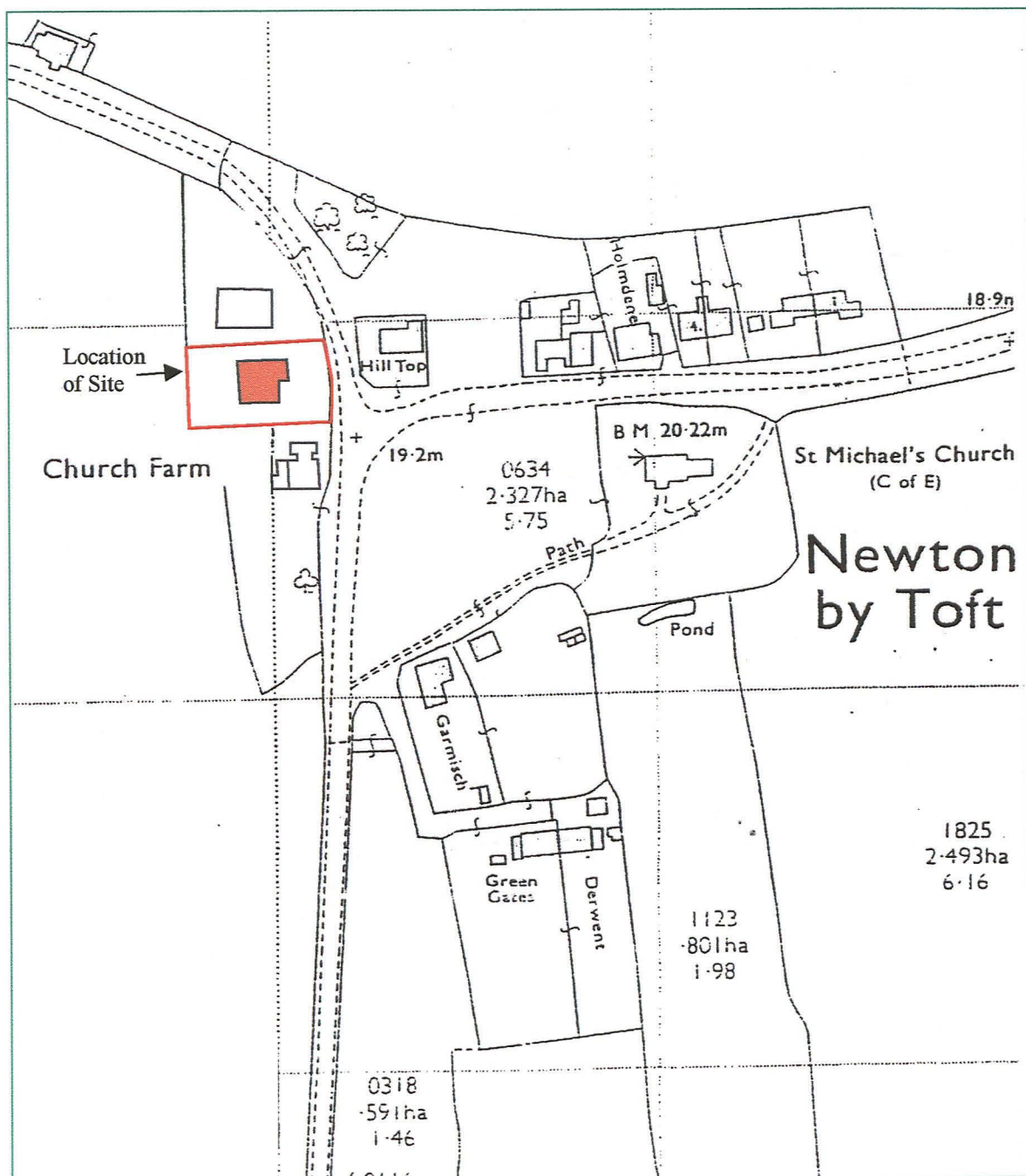


Fig. 2: Plan showing centre of village, the proposed development is shown in red.
Scale 1:2500

3.0 Archaeological and Historical Background

The possible line of a Roman road running along the parish boundary between Toft Newton and Faldingworth (and now named 'Gibbets Lane') is recorded by the Lincolnshire Sites and Monuments Record (SMR ref 51456). Pre-medieval evidence of settlement is otherwise limited to a Romano-British pot scatter at TF 037 878, and greyware found after the bulldozing and ploughing of Newton village earthworks in 1964-5 (SMR ref 53421). Some pre-conquest shelly ware sherds were also recovered from the same area (SMR ref 53421).

Newton by Toft was one of the settlements listed in the Domesday Survey of 1086 (*Neutone*), when it was a jurisdiction of Firsby (Morgan & Thorne 1986).

Toft (next Newton) and Newton (by Toft) have always been closely related and were normally returned as one for medieval taxation; they probably formed a single fiscal unit with West Rasen in the 11th and 12th centuries. However, Toft and Newton both had parish churches and their own field systems from at least the late 12th century. The documentary evidence is so intertwined through the Middle Ages that it is difficult to distinguish between the two settlements, but in the 16th century, Newton was a small but viable settlement. Some decline in the 17th century may be associated with enclosure (Everson, P, 1991, SMR Archive notes).

The existing parish church, St Michael's has been heavily restored in the Victorian period, but has an early Norman Chancel arch and contains two late 13th century monuments: a civilian and a lady dedicated respectively to William and Helaine. (Pevsner, 1989)

The SMR records the site of the monastic grange at Newton, which may be indicated by the name 'Grange Close', with adjacent or nearby fields named 'Grange Plots' and 'Grange Meadow' in 1813 (SMR ref 53425).

The RCHME National Mapping Programme has identified extensive cropmarks and earthworks on the south and west sides of the present village and these have been variously interpreted as crofts, platforms, ponds and a stack-stand along with clear ridge and furrow on the east side of the village. Church Farm is located in an area identified as the earthwork remains of crofts.

The present development site is located within what would have been the traditional medieval core of the village, less than 100m WNW of St Michael's church, opposite the village green.

On aerial photographs taken in 1955, Church Farm can clearly be seen: the area of the present development site was in use as a crewyard, with a barn occupying the SW corner.

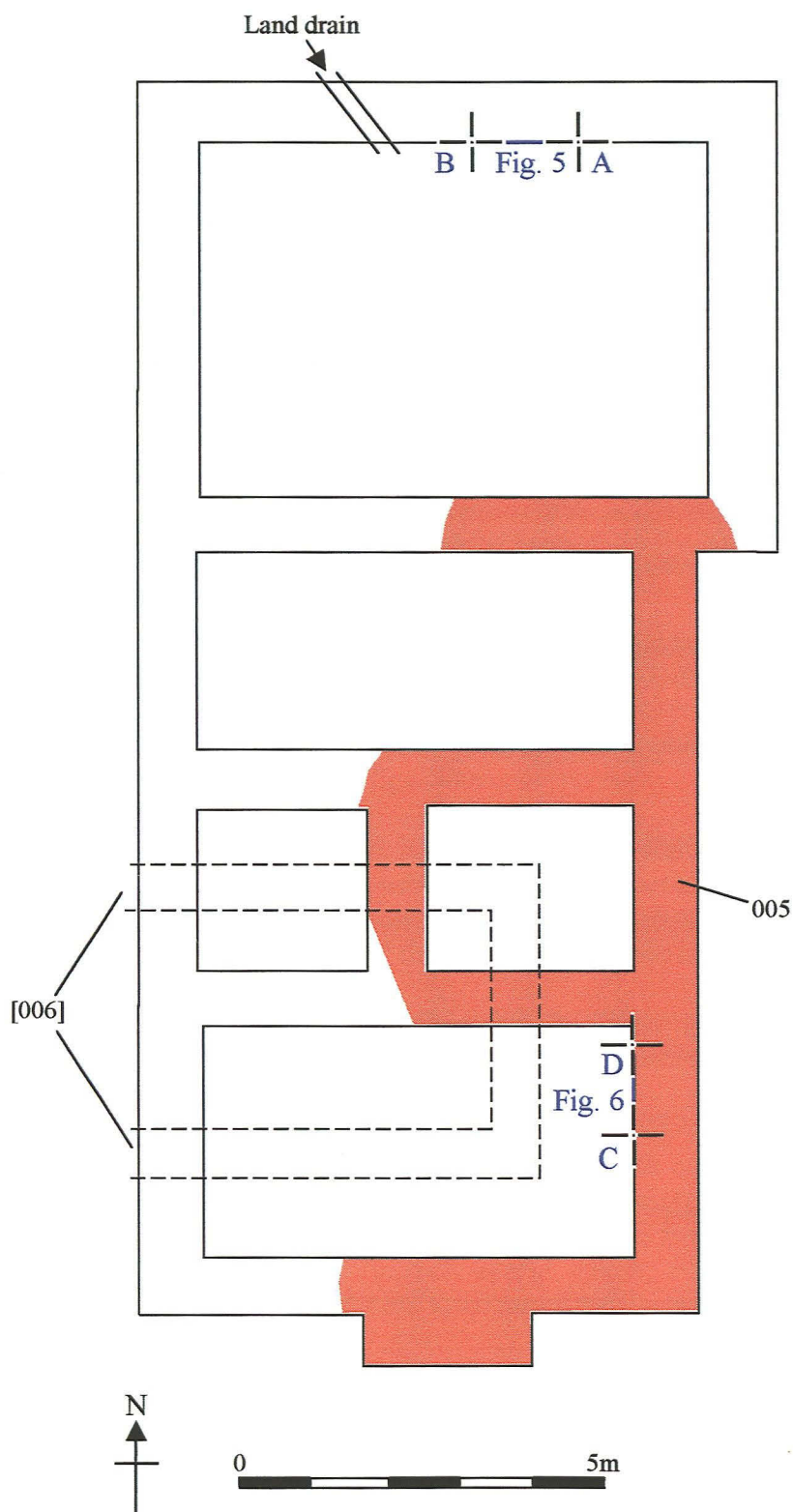


Fig. 4: Plan of the foundation trenches, showing the location of recorded sections (figs. 5 & 6). The area of 005 is shown in red, along with the location of the barn foundations [006]. Scale 1:100

4.0 Methodology

The site was visited on 26.3.2002, when the foundation trenches were cut for the house and garage (fig. 4). This work was undertaken with a JCB excavator employing a 0.6m wide flat-bladed bucket. The foundation trenches were generally 0.75m wide and a minimum of 1m deep. This work was monitored continuously to ensure that any archaeological features exposed were identified and recorded.

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

5.0 Results

The uppermost layer, context 001, was 0.20-0.30m deep, and consisted of a dark grey sandy loam, containing occasional small rounded flint and chalk pebbles, frequent brick, tile and asphalt fragments and some modern pottery. In several locations, towards the base of this material, layers of concrete and cobbles representing former farmyard surfaces were observed (see figs. 5&6).

Below 001, lay a dark grey sandy clay layer (002), which contained occasional small and medium limestone fragments and pebbles, along with occasional brick fragments. This layer represents a buried topsoil on which the later farmyard surfaces have built up. This material extended over most of the plot to a thickness of 0.24-0.30m.

Below 002, lay a dark greyish brown sandy clay layer (003). This contained occasional rounded flint and limestone pebbles and occasional yellow coarse sand lenses. This layer represents a buried subsoil below 002.

In the middle of the site, below 001, lay a very dark greenish brown sandy clay (005), which oxidised to a very dark greyish brown after c20 minutes exposure to the air. 005 was very irregular in plan and the boundary between it and 003/004 was also irregular. This material was, in all respects except colour, similar to 003 and was interpreted as material which had become discoloured by the leaching of effluent from the farmyard above (see fig.6).

Over the majority of the area, 003/005 stripped off onto the natural geology, which was a clean, mid yellowish brown silty clay (004). This material varied across the site, being slightly greyer to the east and, in the SW part of the site, it was chalk-flecked.

In the SW part of the site, the foundations of the former barn were seen (006), these were built of handmade bricks (230mm x 115mm x 80mm in size), the lower two courses of which (foundation) were laid in two rows on end as headers, with a double row of stretchers above representing the lowest course of the walls. The brickwork was laid in a straight-sided, flat-bottomed trench, 0.48m wide and 0.3m deep (see fig. 4).

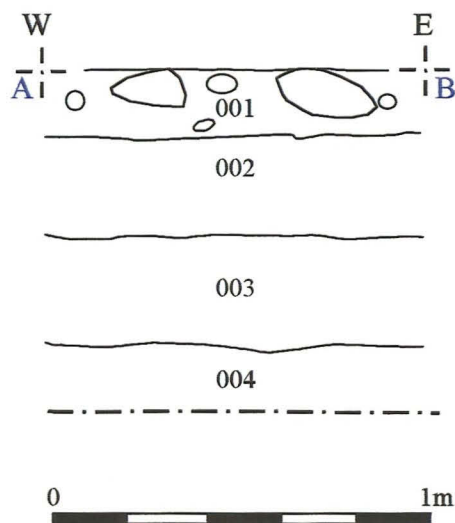


Fig. 5: North facing section, showing the sequence at the north end of the houseplot.
Scale 1:20

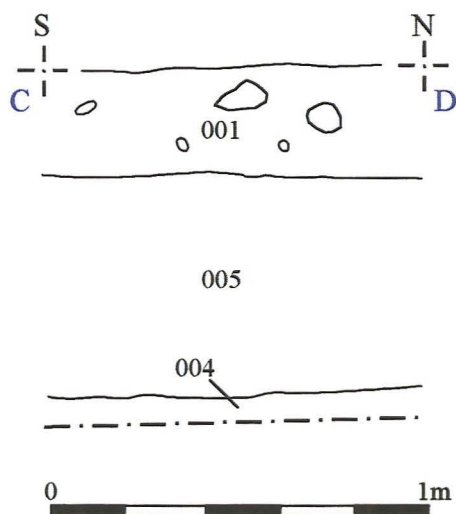


Fig. 6: East facing section, showing the sequence at the south end of the houseplot.
Scale 1:20

6.0 Discussion and Conclusions

The watching brief at Church Farm, Newton by Toft encountered features of little archaeological significance. Although the new development is located within an area of medieval cropmark remains, no features of this date were encountered. The position of the new house footprint (set back from the frontage) has meant that any potentially interesting street-front remains were not encountered in the watching brief, although the lack of any features in the area may preclude the possibility that a property ever stood on the street front here.

7.0 Bibliography

British Geological Survey, 1999, Market Rasen, England and Wales Sheet 102, Solid and Drift Geology, 1:50 000 Provisional Series. (Keyworth, Nottingham: British Geological Survey).

Knowles, D & Hadcock, R N, 1971, *Medieval Religious Houses of England and Wales*

Morgan, P & Thorn, C (eds), 1986, *Domesday Book: Lincolnshire*

Pevsner, N. & Harris, J. 1989 *The Buildings of England: Lincolnshire* (2nd Edition revised by N. Antram). London, Penguin.

8.0 Appendix 1: Colour Plates



Plate 1: General view of the site during machining, looking SE. The parish church can be seen amongst the trees in the background.



Plate 2: North facing section showing the typical sequence of layers (see fig. 5).



Plate 3: East facing section showing layer 005 (see fig. 6).



Plate 4: General view of the foundation trenches, looking north. The barn foundations [006] can be seen in the middle distance.