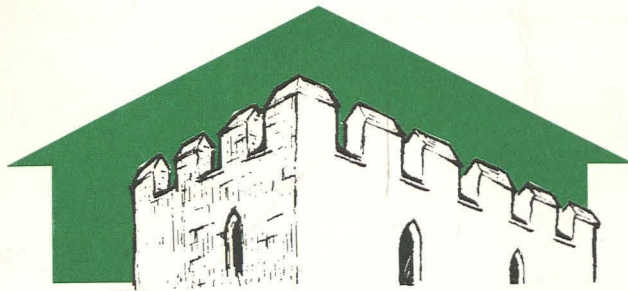


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PRE-CONSTRUCT ARCHAEOLOGY L I N C O L N

**PLOT 3, MAIN ROAD, BURWELL,
LOUTH, LINCOLNSHIRE**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING
BRIEF REPORT**

Site code	MRBL 03
NGR:	TF 3545 3796 7964
LCCM Acc No:	2003.59



L18264

EVENT LI4164

SOURCE LI 8664

LI 8665

negative

Conservation
Services

03 APR 2003

Highways & Planning
Directorate

**PLOT 3, MAIN ROAD, BURWELL,
LOUTH, LINCOLNSHIRE**

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Site code MRBL 03
NGR: TF 3545 ~~3796~~ 7964
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Report prepared for Mr & Mrs Norbron
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Fig. 5: West facing section of drainage trench, showing wall foundation [006]. Scale 1:20.

Summary

- An archaeological watching brief took place during the groundworks for a residential development on land on the west side of Main Road, Burwell, Louth.
- The recording brief identified no features of archaeological significance.

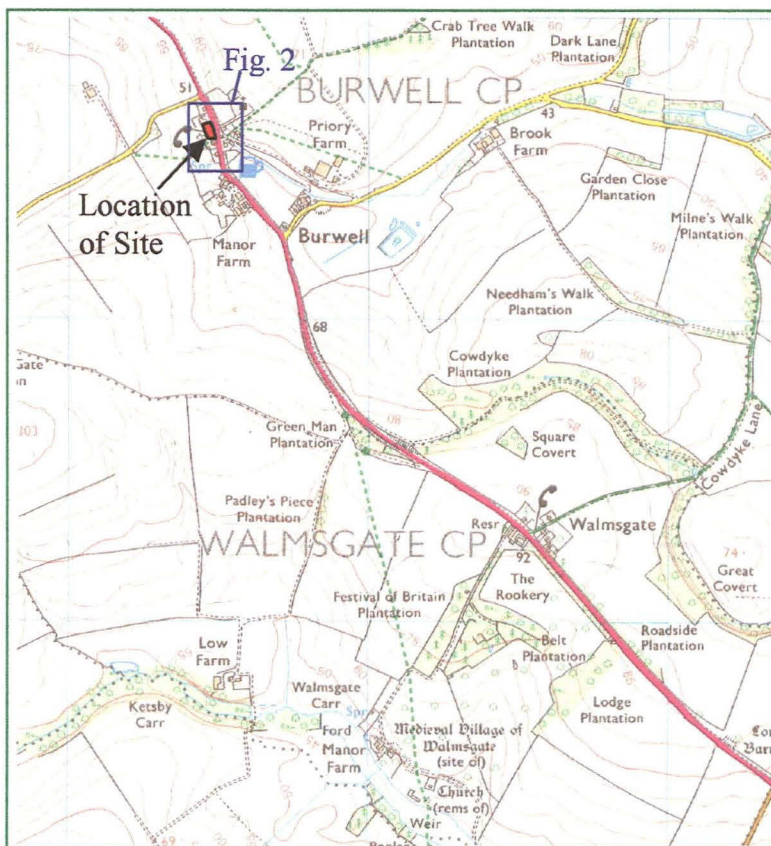


Fig. 1: Site location, area highlighted in red is the development plot, the blue square is that seen in fig. 2. (Scale 1:25000; OS copyright ref AL 515 21 A0001)

1.0 Introduction

An archaeological watching brief took place during the excavation of footing trenches for a single dwelling with associated detached garage on Plot 3, Main Road, Burwell, Louth (National Grid Reference TF53545 3796). The work was commissioned by Mr & Mrs Norbron to fulfil a condition attached to a planning permission (Ref. N/025/1475/02).

This report documents the results of the archaeological observation and recording undertaken on 27.2.2003. 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. This approach complies with the recommendations of *Archaeology & Planning: Planning Policy Guidance Note 16*, (Department of the Environment, 1990), *Management of Archaeological Projects* (English Heritage, 1991), and *Standards and guidance for archaeological watching briefs*, (IFA, 1994).

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

Louth is in the administrative district of East Lindsey at the eastern edge of the Lincolnshire Wolds. Burwell is located approximately 7km south east of the town.

The site of development lies on the north side of the village, on the west side of Main Road (fig.1), at National Grid Reference TF 53545 3796. It comprises an irregular (L-shaped) unit of approximately 0.07 hectares.

The geology of the area is characterised as boulder clay, which lies above a weathered secondary chalk. (BGS 1998). Prior to development, the site was part of a forecourt and former filling station (fig. 2). The plot itself is defined by a steep slope and concrete access road on the west side, a post and panel fence and existing property to the south, and is presently open to Main Road to the east. The ground slopes slightly downwards to the southeast and Main Road.

When the watching brief took place, almost all of the area had been stripped, following removal of the concrete floor and forecourt apron of the former filling station. In the eastern half of the detached garage, however, the ground was undisturbed and comprised the roadside verge of Main Road.

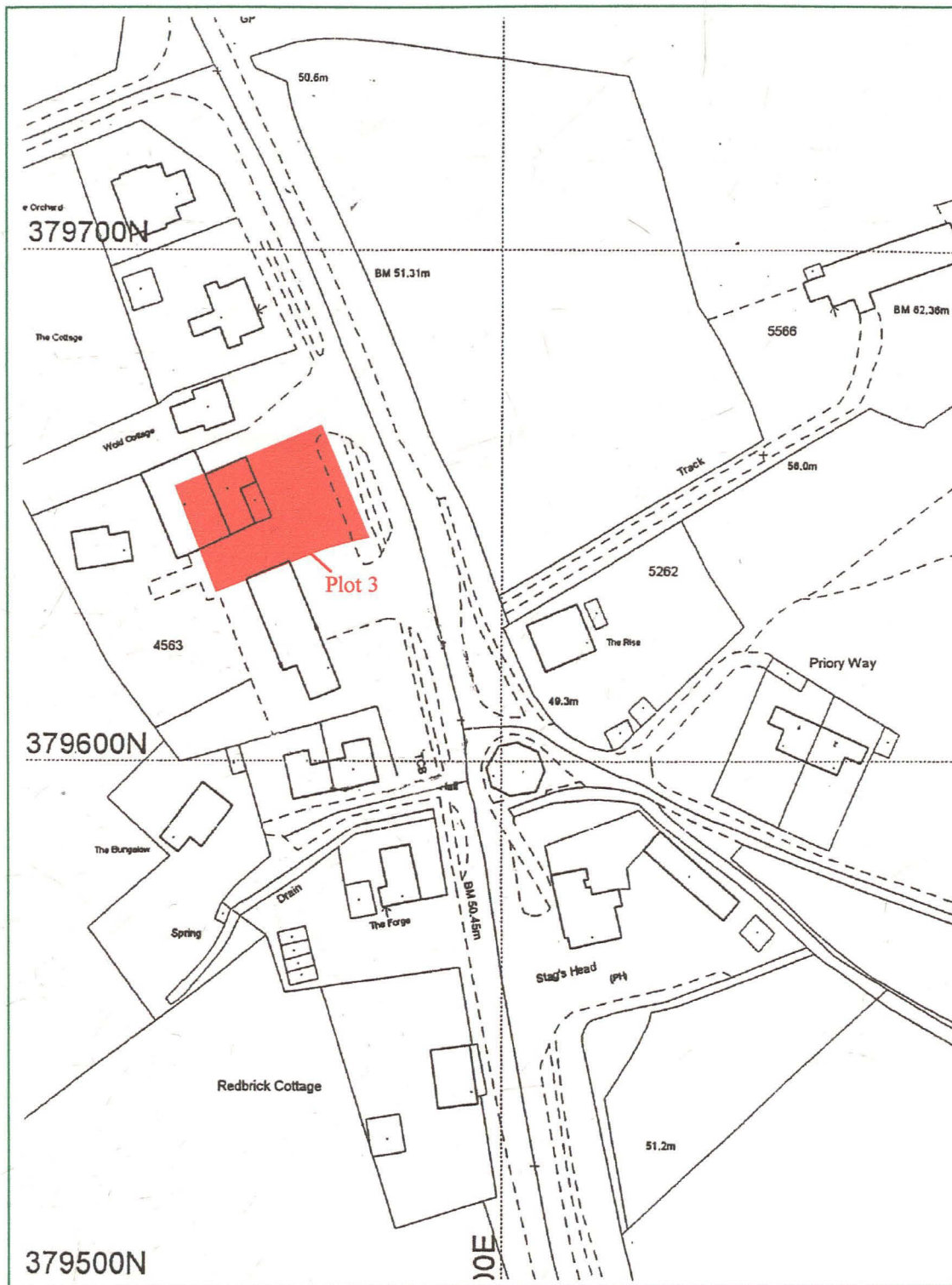


Fig. 2 Plan of the centre of Burwell village, with the area of Plot 3 highlighted. (Scale 1:1250)

3.0 Planning Background

Planning permission was granted for residential development, comprising a single dwelling with a detached garage (fig. 3). The permission was granted subject to the undertaking of an archaeological watching brief on all groundworks, resulting in the production of a written report and deposition of an ordered project archive with an appropriate receiving body (in this instance, the City & County Museum, Lincoln).

4.0 Archaeological and Historical Background

The origins of Louth can be traced back as far as the Anglo-Saxon period: indeed, the Anglo-Saxon Chronicle records that, in the year 790AD, Abbot Aethelheard of a monastery at Louth was elected Archbishop of Canterbury.

Burwell was one of the settlements listed in the Domesday Survey of 1086 (*Buruelle*), when it was in the lordship of Asgautr (Morgan & Thorne 1986). At this time (i.e. late Saxon period), the settlement had its own church, one mill, and 3s of woodland pasture. The existing church, St Michael's, contains some 12th century fabric and is surrounded by the earthwork remains of the alien Benedictine priory.

The SMR records finds of Romano-British pottery in the field to the west of the site (PRN 42364). A possible kiln site (PRN 42370) producing light grey wares of mostly 3rd/4th century date is located close to the moated site on the south side of the village - evidence of burning here has since been ploughed out.

A previous archaeological watching brief, undertaken on Plot 1 in July 2001, exposed a limited range of archaeological features. These were mostly of a post-medieval or modern date, although several features did not yield datable materials. They were interpreted as the remains of a roadside dwelling and features typical of 'back-garden' activity. (Savage, 2001)

It appears that the workshop of the former filling station was converted from the village school, as a dedication stone dated 1825 was recovered from one of the walls during the demolition process. (S Norbron, *pers comm.*)

5.0 Methodology

The site was visited on 27.2.2003, when the foundation trenches were cut for the house and garage. This work was undertaken with a JCB excavator employing a 0.65m wide flat bucket. The foundation trenches were generally 0.7m wide and a maximum of 1m deep.

Initially the foundation trenches for the Plot 2/3 shared garage were excavated, but this was abandoned after several fuel tanks were discovered in the west wall foundation trench, and work then began on the foundation trenches for the house. This work was monitored continuously to ensure that any archaeological features exposed were identified and recorded.

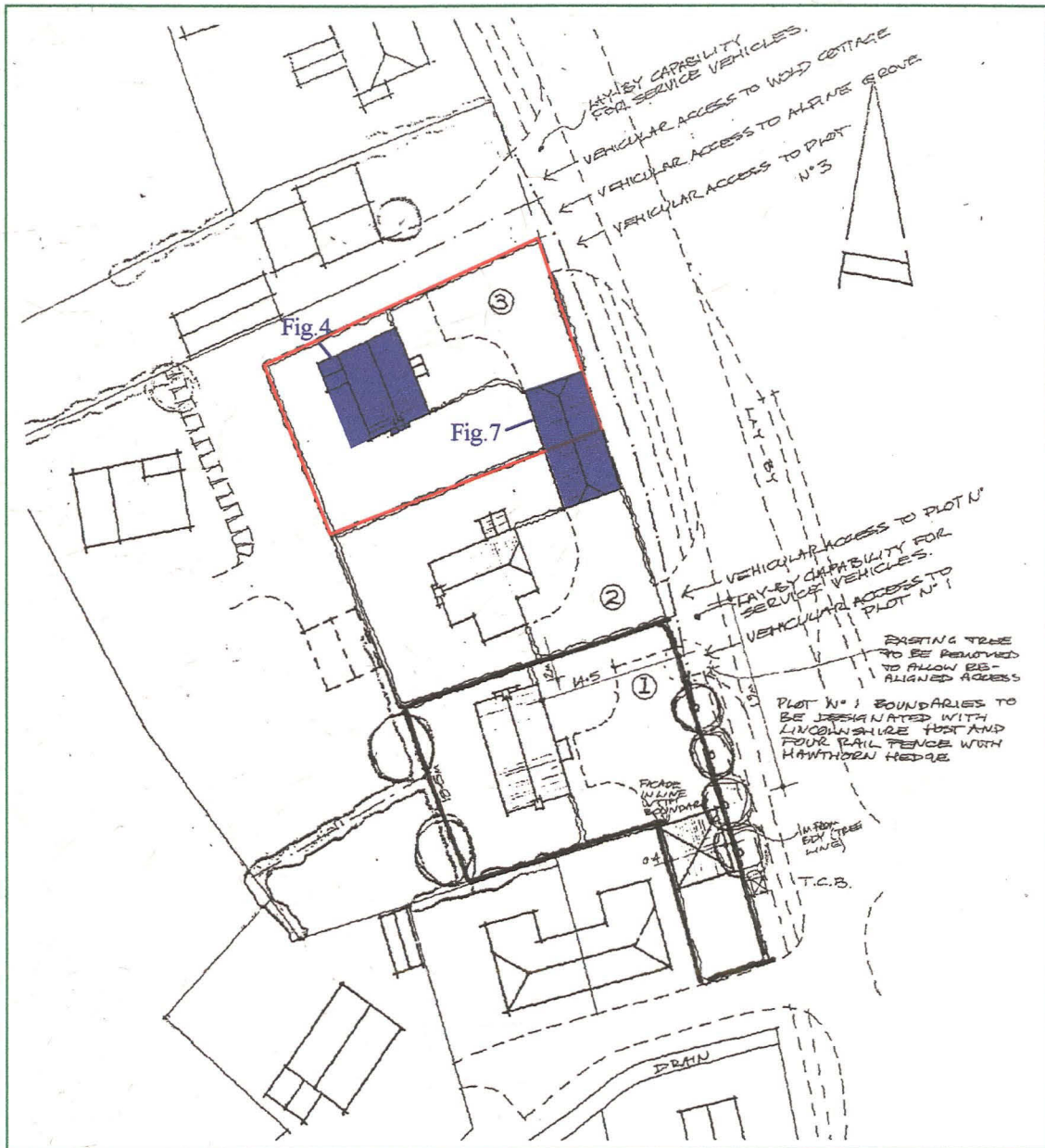


Fig . 3: Plan of the development, showing Plot 3 (red outline) with the house (fig.4) and shared garage (fig.7) highlighted in blue.

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 materials. These investigations resulted in the production of written descriptions on standard watching brief context recording sheets. Colour photographs and scale drawings compliment these accounts.

6.0 Results

6.1 The House Plot (fig. 4, 5,6)

The topsoil, context 001, was 0.25-0.30m deep, and consisted of dark grey sandy clay loam, containing occasional small sub-angular flints and chalk flecks. This overlay a dark orange-brown clay which contained occasional chalk flecks, 002. This subsoil deposit was up to 0.36m in depth. Beneath the subsoil was a natural geological stratum of weathered granular chalk, context 003.

6.2 The Garage (fig. 7,8)

The topsoil, context 004, was 0.22-0.32m deep, and consisted of dark greyish brown sandy clay loam, containing occasional small rounded chalk and flint pebbles, and occasional charcoal flecks.

Below the topsoil was context 005, a dark, orange-brown clay containing occasional small and medium flint nodules. This material represents naturally deposited glacial boulder clay at the base of the valley.

Beneath 005, was the natural solid geology, consisting of weathered granular chalk - 006.

7.0 Discussion and Conclusions

Despite previous finds of Romano-British pottery in the field to the west of the site, no finds of this date were recovered during the watching brief.

The archaeological features exposed by the watching brief on Plot 1 in 2001 do not appear to continue into the area of Plot 3. It appears likely that this area had remained undeveloped in 1825, when the village school was constructed.

8.0 Effectiveness of Methodology

The methodology employed was appropriate, and would have allowed the presence/absence, depth and dating of archaeological features to be ascertained, had such features been present.

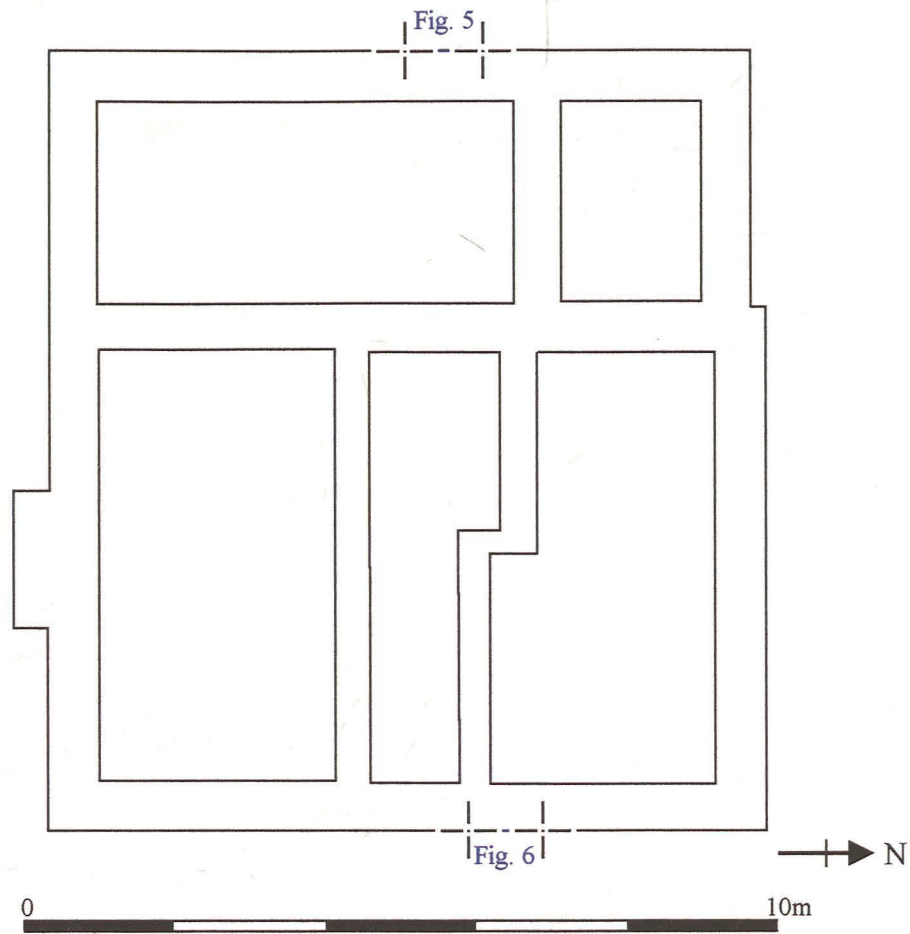


Fig. 4: Plan of the house showing the position of the sample sections shown below. Scale 1:100

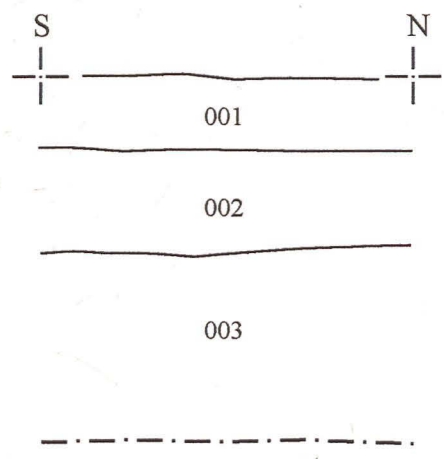


Fig. 5: Sample section at west side of house. Scale 1:20

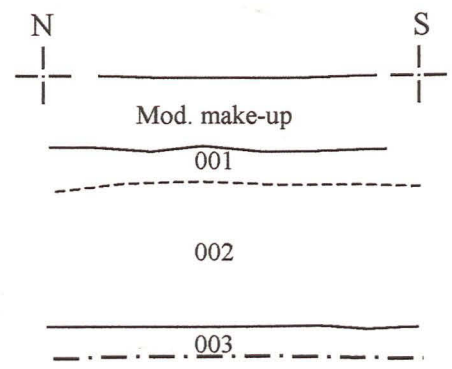


Fig. 6: Sample section at east side of house. Scale 1:20

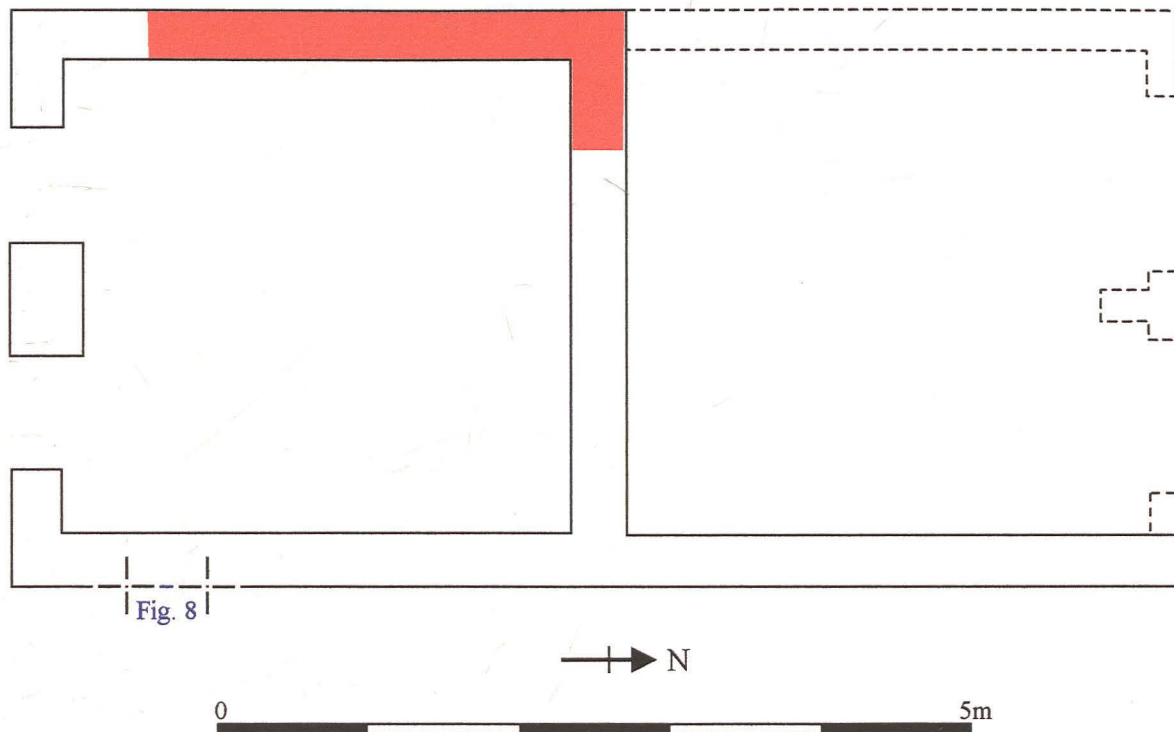


Fig. 7: Plan showing the plot 2/3 shared garage. The solid line denotes the foundation trenches excavated before fuel tanks were discovered in the red highlighted area. The dotted outline shows the full extent of the garages (not excavated). Scale 1:100

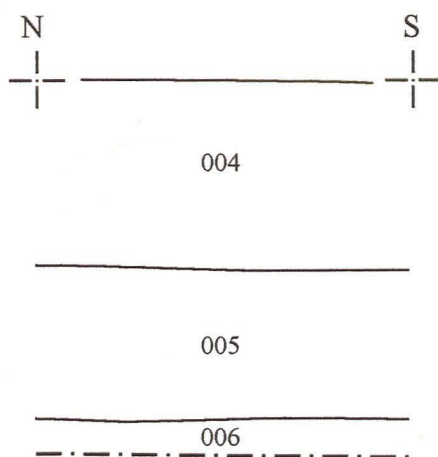


Fig. 8: Sample section at west side of shared garage. Scale 1:20

9.0 Acknowledgements

Pre-Construct Archaeology (Lincoln) would like to thank Mr & Mrs Norbron for the commission and their assistance during the watching brief.

10.0 Bibliography

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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.

Savage, S A, 2001, *Plot 1, Main Road, Burwell, Louth, Lincolnshire, Archaeological Watching Brief Report*. Pre-Construct Archaeology (Lincoln) Developer Report.

Appendix 1: Colour Plates



Plate 1 (left): General view of the development site, looking ESE, with St. Michael's church in the background.



Plate 2 (right): General view of the houseplot during excavation, looking SSW.



Plate 3 (left): General view of the garage plot, looking SE, with the Buttercross in the background. Two slurry-filled inspection pits for fuel tanks can be seen in the foreground.

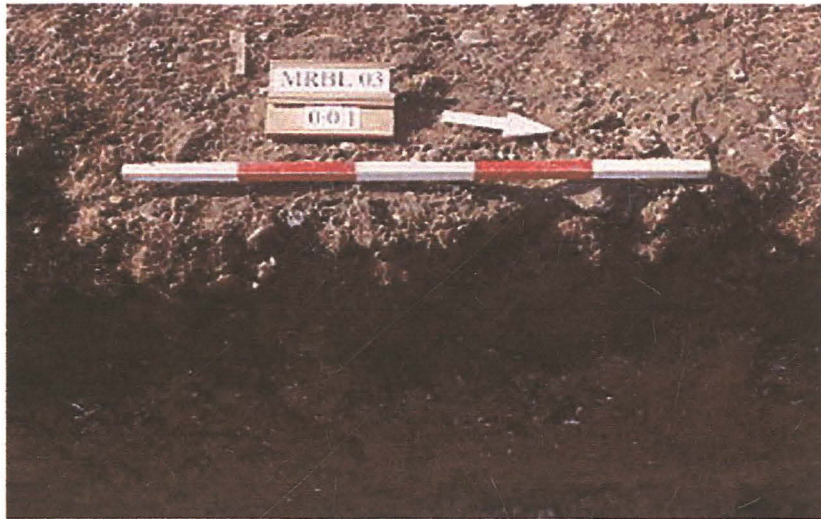


Plate 4 (left): Sample section of the foundation trench for the west wall of the house, looking west.

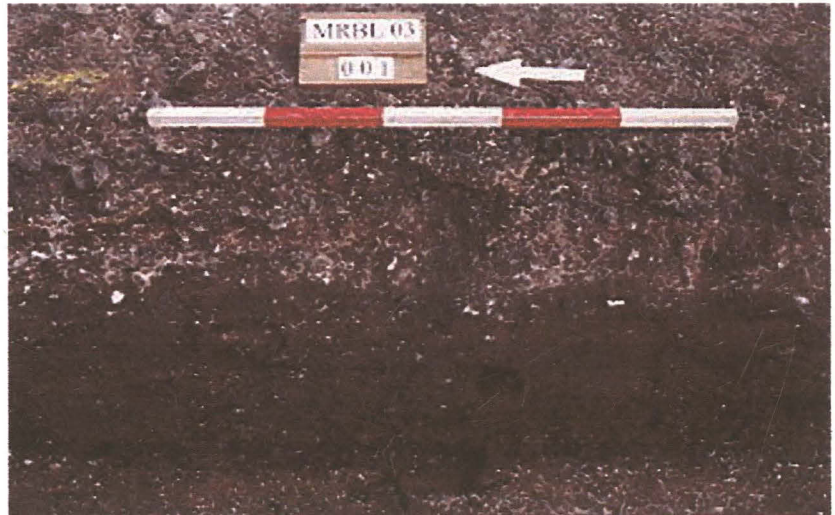


Plate 5 (right): Sample section of the foundation trench for the east wall of the house, looking east.



Plate 6 (left): Sample section of the foundation trench for the east wall of the garage, looking east.

Appendix 2: Context summary.

Context	Description
001	Topsoil in Houseplot
002	Subsoil below 001
003	Natural weathered chalk below 002
004	Topsoil in garage plot
005	Subsoil below 004
006	Natural weathered chalk below 005