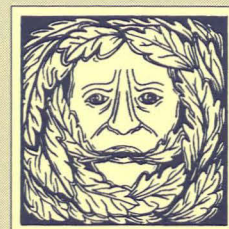


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**ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF  
ON LAND AT  
PLOT 2  
CHURCH LANE  
MABLETHORPE  
LINCOLNSHIRE  
(MCL202)**



**A P S**  
ARCHAEOLOGICAL  
PROJECT  
SERVICES

Conservation  
Services

05 SEP 2002

Highways & Planning  
Directorate





44567 - settlement

LI 4060 - Event

Source: LI 8630  
LI 8631

L16740  
L16774

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF  
ON LAND AT  
PLOT 2  
CHURCH LANE  
MABLETHORPE  
LINCOLNSHIRE  
(MCL202)**

**Work Undertaken For**  
Mr & Mrs Bibby

August 2002

Report Compiled by  
Steve Thomson BSc (Hons)

Planning Application Number: N/110/01085/01  
National Grid Reference: TF 4950 8460  
City And County Museums Accession Number: 2002.148

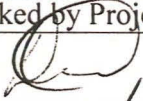
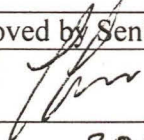
**ARCHAEOLOGICAL PROJECT SERVICES**



APS Report No. 125/02

**Quality Control**  
**Mablethorpe Church Lane**  
**Plot 2**  
**MCL202**

Project Coordinator	Dale Trimble
Supervisors	Jim Snee, Steve Thomson & Fiona Walker
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 Dale Trimble	 Tom Lane
Date: 30/05/02	Date: 30-08-02



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## 1. SUMMARY

*An archaeological watching brief was undertaken on land at Plot 2, Church Lane, Mablethorpe, Lincolnshire, as the site is archaeologically sensitive, lying close to the medieval church of St. Mary and in an area of medieval settlement.*

*During the course of the watching brief an early medieval ditch and pit and later medieval pit were identified. Post-medieval remains were also recorded in the form of two refuse pits.*

*Pottery dating from the 11<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> centuries, animal bone, fired clay, glass, mollusca, metal objects and clay pipe fragments were recovered from the fills of features.*

## 2. INTRODUCTION

### 2.1 Definition of a Watching Brief

An archaeological watching brief is defined as:

*"... a formal program of observation and investigation conducted during any operation carried out for non-archaeological reasons. This will be within a specified area or site on land, inter-tidal zone or underwater, where there is a possibility that archaeological deposits maybe disturbed or destroyed."* (IFA 1999).

### 2.2 Planning Background

Archaeological Project Services (APS) was commissioned by GD Architectural, on behalf of Mr & Mrs Bibby, to undertake an archaeological watching brief during groundworks associated with residential development at Plot 2, Church Lane, Mablethorpe, Lincolnshire.

Approval for the development was sought through the submission of planning

application number N/110/01085/01 and was granted subject to the implementation of archaeological monitoring during groundworks. The watching brief was carried out between the 8<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> April 2002, in accordance with a specification designed by APS (Appendix 1) and approved by the Built Environment Officer, Lincolnshire County Council.

### 2.3 Topography and Geology

Mablethorpe is located in the East Lindsey District of Lincolnshire, on the coast approximately 55km east of Lincoln, 18km east of Louth and 22km north of Skegness (Fig.1). The works were undertaken at Plot 2, Church Lane, Mablethorpe, Lincolnshire, located towards the west side of the town and centred on National Grid Reference TF 4950 8460. The proposed area of development forms an irregular plot of currently open land of approximately 0.3 hectares.

The town is situated on the Lincolnshire coast in an area known as The Marsh, a low lying plain lying between the sea to the east and the upland Wolds to the west. The Marsh itself is a product of episodic deposition of sediments during periods of marine regression, transgression and freshwater flooding, often sealing or exposing archaeological remains. Local soils are of the Wallasea 2 Association, mainly pelo-alluvial gley soils developed on marine alluvium (Hodge et al. 1984, 338). The terrain is generally flat but there are slight sinuous ridges marking out the courses of ancient creeks.

### 2.4 Archaeological Setting

Little is known of prehistoric settlement in the area as levels containing sites of this period are likely to be deeply sealed beneath later sediments.

A bronze pennanular brooch is believed to have been found within the parish, though



the exact provenance is unknown (HTL parish records).

Iron Age salterns, however, are buried close to the surface under similar deposits at Ingoldmells, some 10km to the south (Lane and Morris, 2001). Also, 'handbricks', possibly of Iron Age date, have been found at Trusthorpe just 5km to the south. There are reports of Roman remains being exposed on the shore at Mablethorpe at very low tide (Owen, 1952)

The Ordnance Survey records the site of a minor Romano-British settlement at Mablethorpe and several are known along the coast line (Whitwell 1970, 75).

Mablethorpe is first mentioned in the Domesday Survey of c. 1086 as *Maltetorp* or *Malbertorp*. The name is believed to derive from the continental Germanic personal name *Malbert* and the Old Danish thorp, meaning 'Malbert's secondary settlement' (Cameron 1998, 85). Domesday records that the land was owned by Earl Hugh, Gilbert de Gand and Rainer de Brimou and the presence of salt-pans is noted (Foster and Longley 1976).

Mablethorpe existed as two small villages; Mablethorpe St. Mary and Mablethorpe St. Peter. St. Peter's church was lost to the sea during the 1540's. St. Mary's church remains extant and is located approximately 100m to the east of the development area. The church was constructed during the 1300's though was extensively rebuilt in 1976-9 (Pevsner 1989, 548).

A survey of aerial photographs undertaken by the Royal Commission on Historical Monuments of England indicates that the development lies within an area of medieval toft type settlement (B. Lott, *pers comm*). A moated site is also depicted approximately 500m west of the proposed development on the 1:25000 Ordnance Survey Pathfinder map

### 3. AIMS

The aim of the watching brief, as detailed in the specification (Appendix 1), was to record and interpret archaeological features exposed during the ground disturbance. The objectives were to determine the form, function, spatial arrangement, date and sequence of any archaeological remains.

### 4. METHODS

Following topsoil stripping, foundation trenches for a single dwelling were excavated using a 360°, tracked, mechanical excavator, fitted with a toothed, 800mm wide bucket, to a depth of 1.2m.

The exposed sections of the trenches were inspected and hand cleaned at close intervals to identify archaeological remains. Spoil heaps were monitored and searched by trowel to recover artefactual material which may have assisted with the interpretation of the site. A metal detector survey of the spoil and foundations was also undertaken.

The depth and thickness of each deposit was measured from the ground surface. Each deposit or feature revealed was allocated a unique reference number (context number) with an individual written description. A photographic record was compiled depicting the setting of the site and the recorded section drawings. Sections were drawn at scales of 1:10 and 1:20. A 1:100 scale plan was produced recording the location of the section drawings and recorded features.

Recording of the deposits encountered during the watching brief was undertaken according to standard APS' practice.

Records of the deposits and features identified during the watching brief were examined. Phasing was assigned based on



the nature of the deposits and recognisable relationships between them supplemented by artefact dating where appropriate (Appendix 3).

A summary of all contexts, with interpretations, appears as Appendix 2.

Contexts are described below with the numbers assigned in the field shown in bold and brackets.

## 5. RESULTS

Following post-excavation analysis, five phases of deposits were recognised;

- Phase 1- Alluvial deposits
- Phase 2- Early medieval
- Phase 3- Later medieval deposits
- Phase 4- Post-medieval deposits
- Phase 5- Modern deposits

### 5.1 Phase 1 - Alluvial Deposits

The earliest identified deposit comprised a light grey clay (**022**) greater than 0.2m thick, though this was not fully excavated. Sealing (**022**) was a light brown clay (**010**) up to 0.59m thick. Both deposits represented alluvial deposition.

### 5.2 Phase 2 - Early medieval deposits (11<sup>th</sup> – 13<sup>th</sup> centuries)

Located towards the western edge of the foundation trenches (Fig. 4, Plate 3) was a linear cut (**020**) measuring greater than 14m long, 0.99m wide and 0.38m deep. The cut was oriented north-south and was interpreted as a ditch. The ditch was filled with a light grey silty clay (**019**) (Fig.6 Sections 4 & 6), from which, pottery of 11<sup>th</sup> – 13<sup>th</sup> century date and animal bone was recovered from (**019**). A single sherd of 16<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup> century pottery was also recovered from the fill but this was regarded as intrusive.

Located in the southeast corner of the foundations was the partially exposed edge of a cut (**015**) measuring 3.6m north-south (Fig.5 – Section 3, Plate 2). The cut was interpreted as a pit and appeared to be lined with a firm bluish grey clay (**017**) approximately 120mm thick. Overlying (**017**), the second fill of the pit, was a brownish grey clayey silt (**016**) containing frequent burnt clay and charcoal flecks. Pottery of 11<sup>th</sup> – 13<sup>th</sup> century date, a stone counter and animal bone was recovered from (**016**). A light reddish brown silty clay (**018**) formed the final fill of the pit.

### 5.3 Later medieval deposits (13<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup> centuries)

Truncating (**015**) was a cut of unknown shape (**026**) (Figs. 5 & 6-Sections 3 & 5), measuring 3.28m north-south by 2m east-west, with a maximum depth of 1.10m. The cut was identified as a pit and contained a primary fill of mid-brownish grey clayey silt (**025**). A single sherd of pottery of 11<sup>th</sup> – 13<sup>th</sup> century date was recovered from (**025**). This is likely to have been residual. Overlying (**025**) was a light yellowish brown layer of redeposited fine sands silt and clay (**024**). The final fill of the pit comprised a mid-brownish grey clayey silt containing occasional charcoal and shell fragments (**023**). Pottery of the 13<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup> centuries, ceramic building material fragments and animal bone was recovered from (**023**).

### 5.4 Post-medieval deposits

Sealing Phase 1 to 3 deposits was a reddish brown clayey silt subsoil (**003**). Pottery of 18<sup>th</sup> century date was recovered from (**003**).

Toward the northeast corner of the foundation trenches, and cut through the subsoil, was a linear feature (**009**) identified as a pit, which measured 8m north-south and greater than 2m wide and 1.2m deep (Fig.5 – section 1, Plate 4). The pit was filled with a series of dumped



deposits (002, 004, 005, 006, 007, 008). Pottery of 17<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup> century date, animal bone and clay pipe was recovered from (002), and pottery dating to the 17<sup>th</sup> centuries, together with glass, clay pipe and ceramic material building material was recovered from (006).

In the northeast corner of the foundations, partially exposed and measuring 3.25m wide and 1.18m deep (Fig 5 – section 2) was a refuse pit (013). The pit contained a primary fill of mid-greyish brown sandy clay (014) which was sealed by a layer of redeposited, natural light brown clay (027). The final fill of the pit comprised a mottled black and grey silty clay (012). Pottery of 18<sup>th</sup> century date, animal bone, oyster shell and clay pipe was recovered from (012).

### 5.5 Modern Deposits

The most recent, and final deposit, identified, comprised a dark brown silt (001) which formed the present topsoil. Pottery of the 17<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup> centuries, clay pipe and fired clay was recovered from (001).

Metal detector finds dating to the post-medieval period, including a lead pistol shot were recovered as unstratified material (021).

## 6. DISCUSSION

Phase 1 natural deposits, were represented by clays. These are likely to represent marine events. Notably, no further flooding episodes were evidenced above these deposits.

Phase 2, dating to the 11<sup>th</sup> – 13<sup>th</sup> centuries, was represented by a ditch and a pit cut. The ditch is likely to have served as a field boundary and also as a drainage ditch, in an area which is likely to have been prone to flooding.

The pit was filled with dumped domestic debris, suggesting occupation within the vicinity. However, the clay lining of the cut suggests that the primary function of the pit was not for the disposal of domestic refuse. One possibility may be the creation of a drinking 'trough' for livestock. Taken in conjunction with a field boundary to the west, it is possible to suggest the land was enclosed for livestock, and may have lain to the periphery of the early medieval settlement.

Phase 3, 13<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup> century deposits, comprised a refuse pit, which contained three distinctly separate fills, suggesting that the pit was open for time and not a single action of waste disposal. The feature was cut from considerably higher and also truncated the Phase 2 pit, indicating that the location of the earlier pit may have been lost to memory and a change in land use had occurred between the early and later medieval periods. The nature of the fills is indicative of the disposal of domestic waste. Whilst similar activity was carried out during the earlier medieval period, it is possible that settlement was gradually encroaching, following a period of abandonment, on land previously used for agricultural purposes as the settlement expanded.

Investigations at Plot 1, adjacent to the current development (Fig.3) revealed evidence of medieval agricultural activity and suggested that the land was relatively marginal, prone to flooding and likely to be at the periphery of settlement (Thomson 2002). This investigation would appear to concur with those results, with domestic settlement encroaching into the development area in the later medieval period. Following this, the site appears to be abandoned in the 15<sup>th</sup> century prior to post-medieval occupation in the 17<sup>th</sup> century.

It is also notable that no flood deposits, of medieval date were identified and another cause for the abandonment of the site,



during the medieval period, might be sought. However, nearby floods may cause a high ground water table making the land unsuitable for settlement.

Post-medieval (Phase 4) activity was represented by two refuse pits, which are related to the disposal of domestic waste. This would indicate habitation in close proximity, though no structural evidence was encountered. The site may have been abandoned after the 18<sup>th</sup> century as no material later than this date was recovered.

Modern (Phase 5) deposits were represented by the current topsoil, and it is likely that the land has been left as pasture or open ground until this time.

## 7. CONCLUSION

Archaeological investigations were undertaken on land at Plot 2, Church Lane, Mablethorpe as the site lies in proximity to St. Mary's Church and an area of medieval settlement.

Early medieval (11<sup>th</sup> -13<sup>th</sup> centuries) agricultural use of the land was attested in the form of a field boundary and possible 'drinking trough' for livestock, with domestic refuse dumping occurring in the area prior to abandonment of the site. Possible expansion of settlement into the area, following early medieval abandonment, is indicated during the later medieval period (13<sup>th</sup> - 15<sup>th</sup> centuries) by the disposal of domestic waste.

The site then appears to be abandoned once more. Reoccupation occurred during the early post-medieval period, with a further abandonment of the site around the 18<sup>th</sup> century.

## 8. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeological Project Services would like to acknowledge the assistance of Bella

Swift of GD Architectural, and Mr & Mrs Bibby, who commissioned the fieldwork and post-excavation analysis. The work was co-ordinated by Dale Trimble who jointly edited this report with Tom Lane. Access to the Lincolnshire Sites and Monuments Record was kindly Provided by Mark Bennet.

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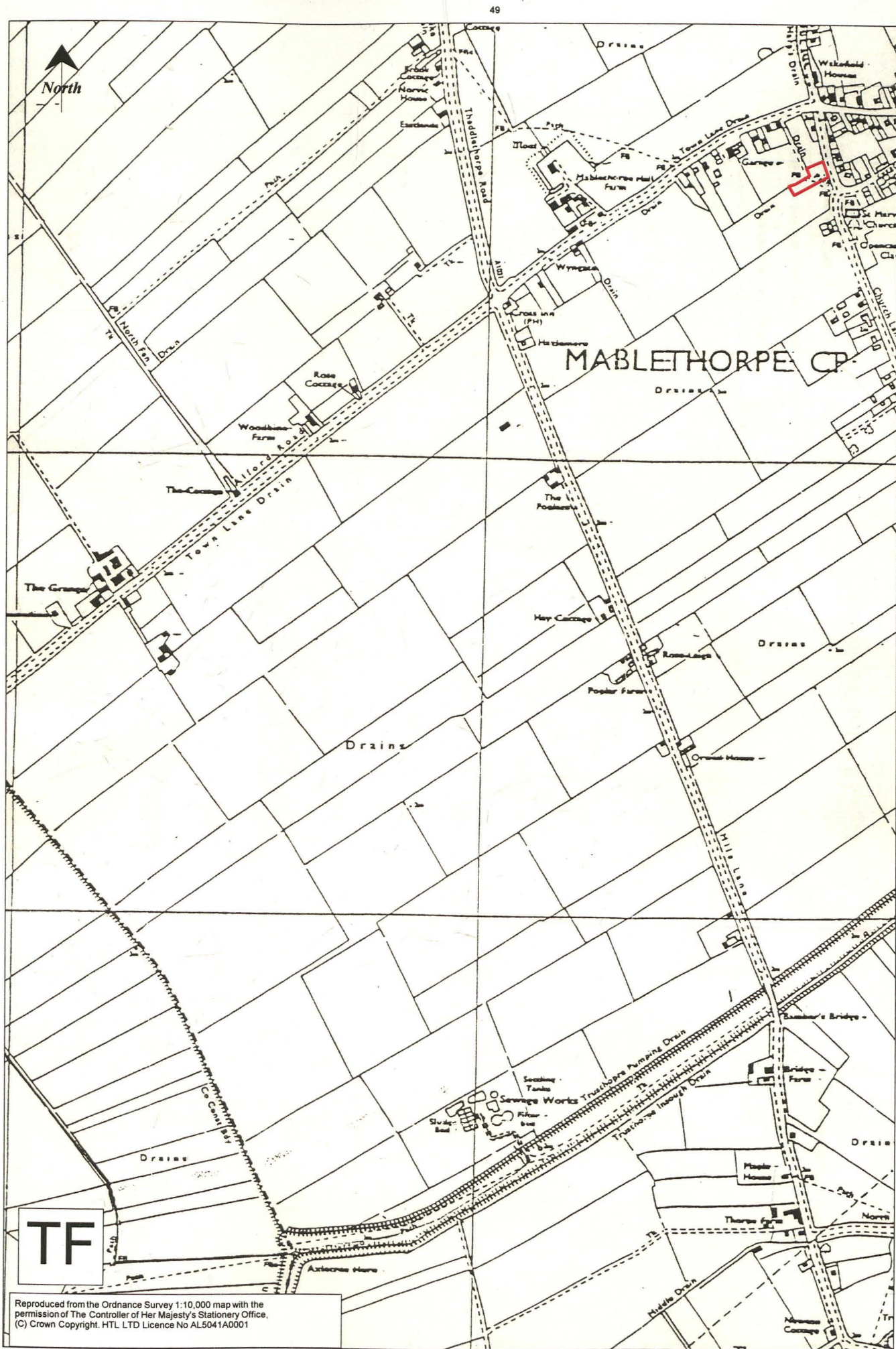
**10. ABBREVIATIONS**

APS Archaeological Projects Services  
HTL Heritage Trust of Lincolnshire  
IFA Institute of Field Archaeologists



Figure 1: General Location Plan





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Figure 2 Site location plan




	Archaeological Project Services	
Project Name: Mablethorpe Church Lane Plot 1 MCL102		
Scale: 1:750	Drawn by: SGT	Report No: 159/02

Figure 3 - Detailed site plan



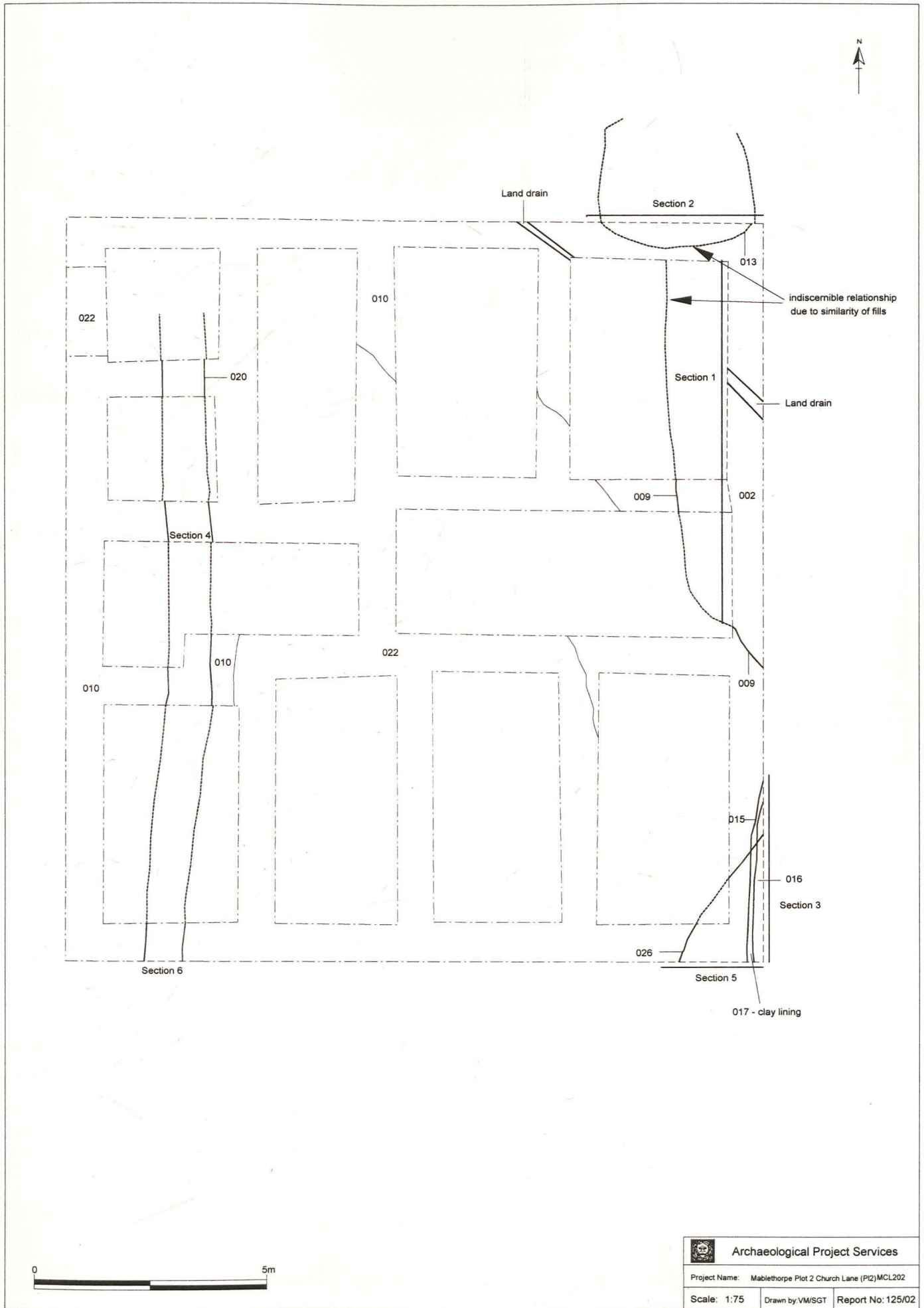
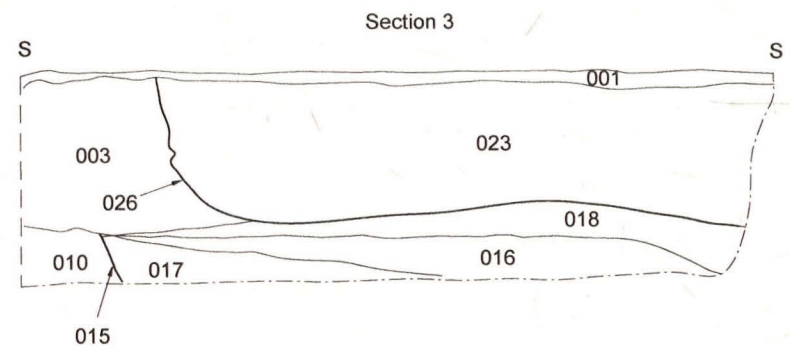
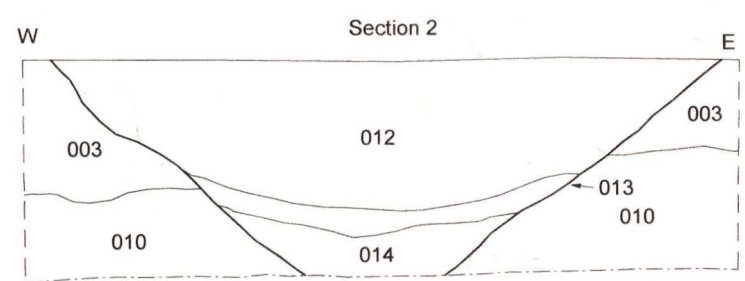
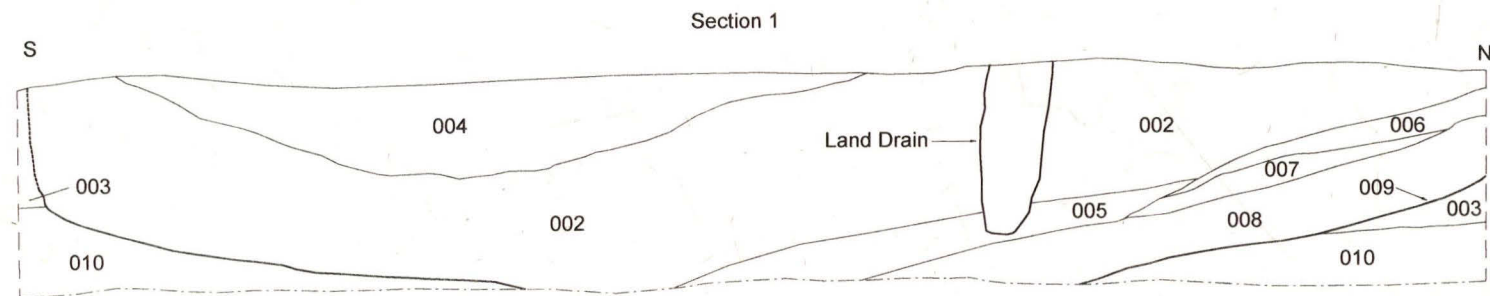


Figure 4 - Foundation plan showing archaeological features and section locations






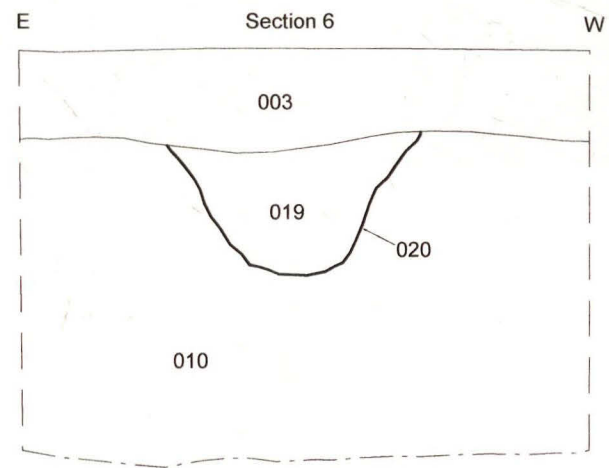
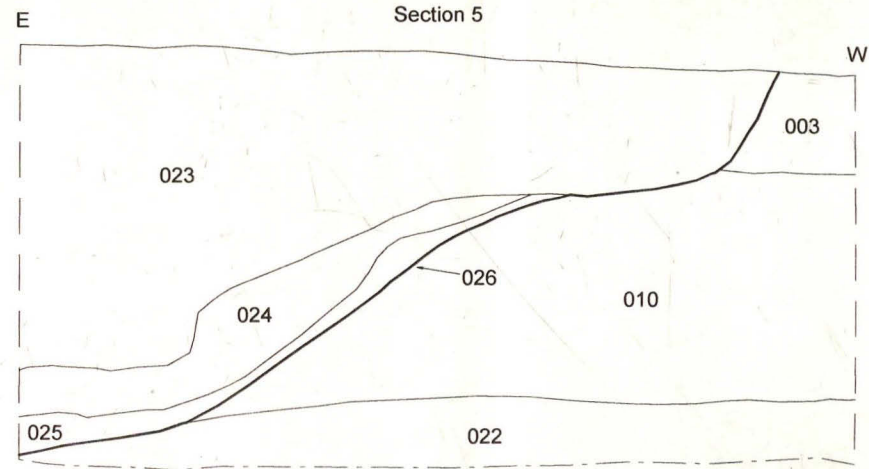
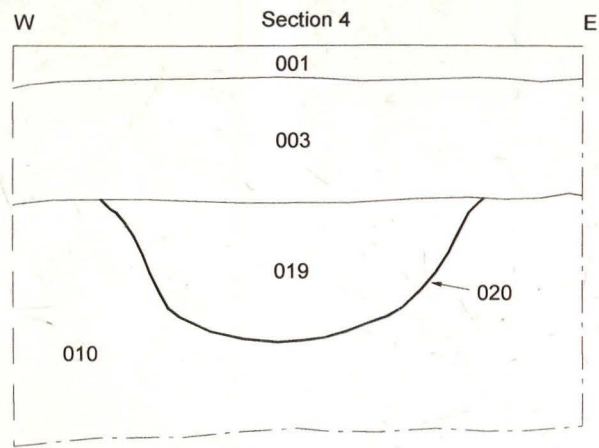
 <b>Archaeological Project Services</b>		
Project Name: Mablethorpe Plot 2 Church Lane MCL202		
Scale: 1:40	Drawn by: VM/SGT	Report No: 125/02

Figure 5 - Section drawings 1-3




 <b>Archaeological Project Services</b>		
Project Name: Mablethorpe, PLOT 2 Church Land MCL202		
Scale: 1:20	Drawn by: VM/SGT	Report No: 125/02

Figure 6 - Section drawings 4-6





Plate 1 General view of site  
on commencement of  
excavation looking  
southeast



Plate 2 Section 3, pit (015)  
looking south



Plate 3 Section 4, ditch (020),  
looking south



Plate 4 View of deposits within  
pit cut (009) looking southwest



SUMMARY

**Appendix 1**

**LAND AT PLOT 2  
CHURCH LANE, MABLETHORPE  
LINCOLNSHIRE**

**SPECIFICATION FOR  
ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF**

**PREPARED FOR  
MR & MRS B BIBBY**

**BY  
ARCHAEOLOGICAL PROJECT SERVICES  
Institute of Field Archaeologists'  
Registered Organisation No. 21**

**MARCH 2002**

## 1 SUMMARY

- 1.1 *A watching brief is required during construction of a dwelling at Church Lane, Mablethorpe, Lincolnshire*
- 1.2 *The area is archaeologically sensitive, lying within an area of medieval settlement and close to the medieval church of St. Mary.*
- 1.3 *The watching brief will be undertaken during groundworks associated with the development. The archaeological features exposed will be recorded in writing, graphically and photographically.*
- 1.4 *On completion of the fieldwork a report will be prepared detailing the results of the watching brief. The report will consist of a narrative supported by illustrations and photographs.*

## 2 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 This document comprises a specification for an archaeological watching brief during construction of a dwelling at Church Lane, Mablethorpe, Lincolnshire.
- 2.2 This document contains the following parts:
  - 2.2.1 Overview.
  - 2.2.2 Stages of work and methodologies.
  - 2.2.3 List of specialists.
  - 2.2.4 Programme of works and staffing structure of the project

## 3 SITE LOCATION

- 3.1 Mablethorpe is located in the East Lindsey District of Lincolnshire, on the coast approximately 55km east of Lincoln, 18km east of Louth and 22km north of Skegness. The works are to take place at Plot 2 Church lane, Mablethorpe, Lincolnshire towards the west side of the town centred on National Grid Reference TF 495846 (Figs 1 and 2). The proposed area of development forms an irregular plot of currently open land of approximately 0.3 hectares.

## 4 PLANNING BACKGROUND

- 4.1 A planning application (N/110/01085/01) was submitted to East Lindsey District District Council for the construction of a detached house with integral double garage on Church Lane, Mablethorpe, Lincolnshire. Full planning permission has been granted subject to a condition requiring the undertaking of an archaeological watching brief during groundworks associated with the development.

## 5 SOILS AND TOPOGRAPHY

- 5.1 Mablethorpe is located on the Lincolnshire coast in an area known as The Marsh, a low lying plain lying between the sea to the east and the upland Wolds to the west. The Marsh itself is a product of episodic deposition of sediments during periods of marine regression, transgression and freshwater flooding, often sealing or exposing archaeological remains. Local soils are of the Wallasea 2 Association, mainly pelo-alluvial gley soils developed on marine alluvium (Hodge et al. 1984, 338). The terrain is generally flat but there are slight sinuous ridges marking out the courses of ancient creeks.

## 6 ARCHAEOLOGICAL OVERVIEW

- 6.1 In the Domesday survey of 1086 twenty salt houses are listed in Mablethorpe, which is referred to as *Maltetorp*, thought to mean 'Malbert's secondary settlement' from the Continental Germanic personal name *Malbert* and the Old Danish thorp (Cameron, 1998).
- 6.2 Little is known of prehistoric settlement in the area as levels containing sites of this period are likely to be deeply sealed beneath later sediments. Iron Age salterns, however, are buried close to the surface under similar deposits at Ingoldmells, some 25km to the south (Lane and Morris, 2001). Also, 'handbricks', possibly of Iron Age date, have been found at Trusthorpe just 5km to the south. There are reports of Roman remains being exposed on the shore at Mablethorpe at very low tide (Owen, 1952).
- 6.3 The site lies immediately west of St. Mary's church, which contains fabric of the medieval period, probably of 14<sup>th</sup> date (Pevsner and Harris, 1989). The church of St. Peter, thought to have been located some 1.5km to the northeast has been lost to the sea, illustrating dramatically the extent of coastal erosion in the area.
- 6.4 A survey of aerial photographs undertaken by the Royal Commission on Historical Monuments of England indicates that the development lies within an area of medieval toft type settlement (B. Lott, *pers comm*). A moated site is also depicted approximately 500m west of the proposed development on the 1:25000 Ordnance Survey Pathfinder map.

## 7 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- 7.1 The aims of the watching brief will be:
  - 7.1.1 To record and interpret the archaeological features exposed during the excavation of the foundation trenches and other areas of ground disturbance.
- 7.2 The objectives of the watching brief will be to:
  - 7.2.1 Determine the form and function of the archaeological features encountered;
  - 7.2.2 Determine the spatial arrangement of the archaeological features encountered;
  - 7.2.3 As far as practicable, recover dating evidence from the archaeological features, and
  - 7.2.4 Establish the sequence of the archaeological remains present on the site.

## 8 SITE OPERATIONS

- 8.1 General considerations
  - 8.1.1 All work will be undertaken following statutory Health and Safety requirements in operation at the time of the watching brief.
  - 8.1.2 The work will be undertaken according to the relevant codes of practise issued by the Institute of Field Archaeologists (IFA), under the management of a Member of the institute (MIFA). Archaeological Project Services is IFA registered organisation no. 21.



- 8.1.3 Any and all artefacts found during the investigation and thought to be 'treasure', as defined by the Treasure Act 1996, will be removed from site to a secure store and promptly reported to the appropriate coroner's office.

## 8.2 Methodology

- 8.2.1 The watching brief will be undertaken during the ground works phase of development, and includes the archaeological monitoring of all phases of soil movement.
- 8.2.2 Stripped areas and trench sections will be observed regularly to identify and record archaeological features that are exposed and to record changes in the geological conditions. The section drawings of the trenches will be recorded at a scale of 1:10. Should features be recorded in plan these will be drawn at a scale of 1:20. Written descriptions detailing the nature of the deposits, features and fills encountered will be compiled on Archaeological Project Services pro-forma record sheets.
- 8.2.3 Any finds recovered will be bagged and labelled for later analysis.
- 8.2.4 Throughout the watching brief a photographic record will be compiled. The photographic record will consist of:
- the site during work to show specific stages, and the layout of the archaeology within the trench.
  - groups of features where their relationship is important
- 8.2.5 Should human remains be located the appropriate Home Office licence will be obtained before their removal. In addition, the Local Environmental Health Department and the police will be informed.

## 9 POST EXCAVATION

### 9.1 Stage 1

- 9.1.1 On completion of site operations, the records and schedules produced during the watching brief will be checked and ordered to ensure that they form a uniform sequence forming a level II archive. A stratigraphic matrix of the archaeological deposits and features present on the site will be prepared. All photographic material will be catalogued and labelled, the labelling referring to schedules identifying the subject/s photographed.
- 9.1.2 All finds recovered during the field work will be washed, marked and packaged according to the deposit from which they were recovered. Any finds requiring specialist treatment and conservation will be sent to the Conservation Laboratory at the City and County Museum, Lincoln.

### 9.2 Stage 2

- 9.2.1 Detailed examination of the stratigraphic matrix to enable the determination of the various phases of activity on the site.
- 9.2.2 Finds will be sent to specialists for identification and dating.

### 9.3 Stage 3

9.3.1 On completion of stage 2, a report detailing the findings of the watching brief will be prepared.

9.3.2 This will consist of:

- A non technical summary of the results of the investigation.
- A description of the archaeological setting of the watching brief.
- Description of the topography of the site.
- Description of the methodologies used during the watching brief.
- A text describing the findings of the watching brief.
- A consideration of the local, regional and national context of the watching brief findings.
- Plans of the archaeological features exposed. If a sequence of archaeological deposits is encountered, separate plans for each phase will be produced.
- Sections of the archaeological features.
- Interpretation of the archaeological features exposed, and their chronology and setting within the surrounding landscape.
- Specialist reports on the finds from the site.
- Appropriate photographs of the site and specific archaeological features.

## 10 REPORT DEPOSITION

10.1 Copies of the report will be sent to the Client, East Lindsey District Council Planning Department, the Lincolnshire County Council Archaeology Section and to the County Council Archaeological Sites and Monuments Record.

## 11 ARCHIVE

11.1 The documentation and records generated during the watching brief will be sorted and ordered into the format acceptable to the City and County Museum, Lincoln. This will be undertaken following the requirements of the document titled Conditions for the Acceptance of Project Archives for long term storage and curation.

## 12 PUBLICATION

12.1 A report of the findings of the watching brief will be presented as a condensed article to the editor of the journal Lincolnshire History and Archaeology. If appropriate, notes on the findings will be submitted to the appropriate national journals: Britannia for discoveries of Roman date, and Medieval Archaeology and the Journal of the Medieval Settlement Research Group for findings of medieval or later date.

## 13 CURATORIAL RESPONSIBILITY

13.1 Curatorial responsibility for the archaeological work undertaken on the site lies with the



Lincolnshire County Council Archaeological Officer. They will be given seven days notice in writing before the commencement of the project.

#### 14 PROGRAMME OF WORKS AND STAFFING LEVELS

- 14.1 The watching brief will be integrated with the programme of construction and is dependent on the developers' work programme. It is therefore not possible to specify the person-hours for the archaeological site work.
- 14.2 An archaeological supervisor with experience of watching briefs will undertake the work.
- 14.3 Post-excavation analysis and report production will be undertaken by the archaeological supervisor, or a post-excavation analyst as appropriate, with assistance from a finds supervisor, illustrator and external specialists. It is expected that each fieldwork day (equal to one person-day) will require a post-excavation day (equal to one-and-a-half-person-days) for completion of the analysis and report. If the fieldwork lasts longer than about four days then there will be an economy of scale with the post-excavation analysis.

#### 15 VARIATION AND CONTINGENCIES

- 15.1 Variations to the proposed scheme of works will only be made following written confirmation of acceptance from the archaeological curator.
- 15.2 In the event of the discovery of any unexpected remains of archaeological importance, or of any changed circumstances, it is the responsibility of the archaeological contractor to inform the archaeological curator (Lincolnshire Archaeological Handbook 1998, Sections 5.7 and 18).
- 15.3 Where important archaeological remains are discovered and deemed to merit further investigation additional resources may be required to provide an appropriate level of investigation, recording and analysis
- 15.4 Any contingency requirement for additional fieldwork or post-excavation analysis outside the scope of the proposed scheme of works will only be activated following full consultation with the archaeological curator and the client.

#### 16 SPECIALISTS TO BE USED DURING THE PROJECT

- 16.1 The following organisations/persons will, in principle and if necessary, be used as subcontractors to provide the relevant specialist work and reports in respect of any objects or material recovered during the investigation that require their expert knowledge and input. Engagement of any particular specialist subcontractor is also dependent on their availability and ability to meet programming requirements.

<u>Task</u>	<u>Body to be undertaking the work</u>
Conservation	Conservation Laboratory, City and County Museum, Lincoln
Pottery Analysis	Prehistoric - Trent & Peak Archaeological Trust
Roman	B Precious, Independent Specialist
Anglo-Saxon	J Young, Independent Specialist



Medieval and later	G Taylor, APS in consultation with H Healey, Independent Archaeologist
Non-pottery Artefacts	J Cowgill, Independent Specialist
Animal Bones	Environmental Archaeology Consultancy
Environmental Analysis	J Rackham, Independent Specialist
Human Remains Analysis	R Gowland, Independent Specialist

## 17 INSURANCES

- 17.1 Archaeological Project Services, as part of the Heritage Trust of Lincolnshire, maintains Employers Liability Insurance of £10,000,000, together with Public and Products Liability insurances, each with indemnity of £5,000,000. Copies of insurance documentation can be supplied on request.

## 18 COPYRIGHT

- 18.1 Archaeological Project Services shall retain full copyright of any commissioned reports under the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988 with all rights reserved; excepting that it hereby provides an exclusive licence to the client for the use of such documents by the client in all matters directly relating to the project as described in the Project Specification.
- 18.2 Licence will also be given to the archaeological curators to use the documentary archive for educational, public and research purposes.
- 18.3 In the case of non-satisfactory settlement of account then copyright will remain fully and exclusively with Archaeological Project Services. In these circumstances it will be an infringement under the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988 for the client to pass any report, partial report, or copy of same, to any third party. Reports submitted in good faith by Archaeological Project Services to any Planning Authority or archaeological curator will be removed from said planning Authority and/or archaeological curator. The Planning Authority and/or archaeological curator will be notified by Archaeological Project Services that the use of any such information previously supplied constitutes an infringement under the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988 and may result in legal action.
- 18.4 The author of any report or specialist contribution to a report shall retain intellectual copyright of their work and may make use of their work for educational or research purposes or for further publication.

## 19 BIBLIOGRAPHY

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Specification: Version 1, 18/03/02



**Appendix 2**  
Context Summary

Context No.	Section	Description	Interpretation
001	3,4	Firm, dark brown silt containing occasional pebbles 0.34m thick	Topsoil
002	1	Firm, dark brown with black mottling silt containing ash, coal, charcoal, slag and brick and tile, c.0.4m thick	Fill of 009
003	1,2,3,4	Firm, reddish brown clayey silt 0.3-0.8m thick	Subsoil
004	1	Firm, reddish brown clayey silt 0.3-0.8m thick	Subsoil
005	1	Loose, blackish grey silty clay containing frequent coal ash and ceramic building material fragments 0.1m thick x 0.3m N-S	Fill of 009
006	1	Loose, light grayish brown sandy clay containing frequent ash, occasional coal and ceramic building material fragments	Fill of 009
007	1	Loose, mottled light greyish red clayey sand containing frequent mortar and tiny ceramic building material fragments	Fill of 009
008	1	Compact, light brown clay	Fill of 009
009	1	Linear cut C. 8m N-S x >2m E-W x Min. 1.2m deep. Probable N-S orientation	Refuse pit
010	1	Compact, light brown clay	Natural geological deposit
011	-	Unstratified finds	-
012	2	Loose, mottled black and grey gritty silty clay containing frequent coal, cinders, shell and ceramic building material fragments	Fill of 013
013	2	Probable circular cut, 3.25m wide x >1.18m deep	Refuse pit cut
014	2	Firm, mid-greyish brown sandy clay containing moderate coal, bone and ceramic building material fragments and frequent cinders and shell	Fill of 013
015	3	Linear cut, 3.6m north-south, full extent unknown	Pit
016	3	Soft, brownish grey clayey silt containing frequent burnt clay and charcoal flecks	Fill of 015
017	3	Firm, bluish grey clay 120mm thick	Lining of 015
018	3	Firm light reddish brown silty clay	Fill of 015
019	4,6	Firm, light grey silty clay containing occasional charcoal and shell fragments	Fill of 020
020	4,6	Linear cut, >14m long x 0.99m wide x 0.38m deep, north-south orientation	Ditch

021	-	Metal detector finds – unstratified	-
022	-	Firm, light grey clay	Natural geological deposit
023	5	Firm, mid-brownish grey clayey silt containing occasional snail and charcoal fragments	Fill of 026
024	5	Compact light brownish yellow fine sand silt and clay	Fill of 026
025	5	Loose, mid-brownish grey clayey silt containing occasional charcoal fragments	Fill of 026
026	3,5	Linear, possibly rectangular cut, 3.28m N-S x c. 2m E-W x max.1.1m deep	Refuse pit
027	2	Firm, light brown clay	Fill of 013



## Appendix 3

### THE FINDS

*by Paul Cope-Faulkner, Rachael Hall, Hilary Healey,  
Tom Lane, Gary Taylor and Jane Young*

Recording of the pottery was undertaken with reference to guidelines prepared by the Medieval Pottery Research Group (Slowikowski *et al.* 2001) and the pottery was quantified using the chronology and coding system of the Lincolnshire ceramic type series. A total of 86 fragments of pottery weighing 2956g was recovered from 11 separate contexts. In addition to the pottery, a moderate quantity of other artefacts, clay pipe, glass, brick, fired clay and stone, comprising 57+ items weighing a total of 1318g, was retrieved. Faunal remains were also recovered.

#### Provenance

The material was recovered from topsoil (001), subsoil (003, 004), pit fills (002, 006), unstratified finds (011) pit fill (013), (016), ditch fill (019), and pit fills (023, 025).

Most of the pottery was made in moderate proximity to Mablethorpe, in the area of Toynton All Saints and Old Bolingbroke, about 25km to the southwest, and elsewhere on the east side of the Lincolnshire Wolds. There are a few regional imports, from London, Staffordshire and possibly South Yorkshire and Humberside. There is also a foreign import, from Germany.

#### Range

The range of material is detailed in the tables.

*Table 1: Pottery*

Context	Fabric Code	Description	No.	Wt (g)	Context Date
001	TOY	Toynton All Saints ware, incl jug, 13 <sup>th</sup> -15 <sup>th</sup> century	2	70	17 <sup>th</sup> -18 <sup>th</sup> century
	GRE	Glazed red earthenware, 17 <sup>th</sup> -18 <sup>th</sup> century	1	3	
002	TB	Toynton/Bolingbroke ware pancheon, 17 <sup>th</sup> century	7(5 & 2 link)	535	17 <sup>th</sup> -18 <sup>th</sup> century
	TB	Toynton/Bolingbroke ware enclosed vessel, 16 <sup>th</sup> -17 <sup>th</sup> century	1	135	
	TOY	Toynton All Saints ware, incl jug, 13 <sup>th</sup> -15 <sup>th</sup> century	2	38	
	GRE	Glazed red earthenware, 17 <sup>th</sup> -18 <sup>th</sup> century	6	303	
003	TGW	Tin glazed earthenware, 1 vessel, mid 17 <sup>th</sup> -18 <sup>th</sup> century	6 (3 & 2 link)	51	mid 17 <sup>th</sup> -18 <sup>th</sup> century
	GRE	Glazed red earthenware, 17 <sup>th</sup> century	1	3	
	TOY	Toynton All Saints ware, 13 <sup>th</sup> -15 <sup>th</sup> century	1	2	
	GSS	Greensand and shell tempered ware, sooted externally, 11 <sup>th</sup> -13 <sup>th</sup> century	2(link)	6	
	WEMS D	Wheelthrown early medieval shell tempered ware, sub-fabric D, sooted externally, 11 <sup>th</sup> -13 <sup>th</sup> century	1	2	
004	TOY	Toynton All Saints ware jug, 13 <sup>th</sup> -15 <sup>th</sup> century	3(link)	20	17 <sup>th</sup> century

Context	Fabric Code	Description	No.	Wt (g)	Context Date
	TB	Toynton/Bolingbroke ware, incl jug, 14 <sup>th</sup> -17 <sup>th</sup> century	3	250	
	GRE	Glazed red earthenware, 17 <sup>th</sup> century	5	119	
011	TB	Toynton/Bolingbroke-type ware pancheon, overfired, sub-standard, abraded, 16 <sup>th</sup> -17 <sup>th</sup> century	6 (5 link)	766	17 <sup>th</sup> century
	TB	Toynton/Bolingbroke ware pancheon, 16 <sup>th</sup> -17 <sup>th</sup> century	2	155	
	TB	Toynton/Bolingbroke-type ware jug handle, overfired, substandard, 16 <sup>th</sup> -17 <sup>th</sup> century	1	78	
	GRE	Glazed red earthenware, 17 <sup>th</sup> century	1	12	
	MY	Midlands Yellow ware, 17 <sup>th</sup> century	1	5	
	LONS	London stoneware, jugs/bottles, incl 2 medallion jugs, 17 <sup>th</sup> century	3	84	
	FREC	Frechen saltglazed stoneware, 17 <sup>th</sup> century	1	14	
	WEMS F?	Wheelthrown early medieval shelly ware, sub-fabric F?, sooted externally, 11 <sup>th</sup> -13 <sup>th</sup> century	1	26	
	GSS?	Greensand and shell tempered ware? 11 <sup>th</sup> -13 <sup>th</sup> century	1	11	
012	TGE	Tin glazed earthenware, cups, 2 separate vessels, mid 17 <sup>th</sup> -18 <sup>th</sup> century	3 (2 link)	32	17 <sup>th</sup> -18 <sup>th</sup> century
	GRE	Glazed red earthenware, sooted externally, 17 <sup>th</sup> -18 <sup>th</sup> century	2(link)	14	
016	WEMS B	Wheelthrown early medieval shelly ware, sub-fabric B, 11 <sup>th</sup> -13 <sup>th</sup> century	3	32	11 <sup>th</sup> -13 <sup>th</sup> century
	WEMS F	Wheelthrown early medieval shelly ware, sub-fabric F, 11 <sup>th</sup> -13 <sup>th</sup> century	1	2	
	GSS/WEMS D	Greensand and shell tempered ware/Wheelthrown early medieval shelly ware, sub-fabric D?, 11 <sup>th</sup> -13 <sup>th</sup> century	5	14	
019	GSS	Greensand and shell tempered ware, 1 sooted externally	2	8	11 <sup>th</sup> -13 <sup>th</sup> century
021	LHUMB?	Late Humber ware?, 16 <sup>th</sup> -18 <sup>th</sup> century	1	5	16 <sup>th</sup> -18 <sup>th</sup> century
	GSS	Greensand and shell tempered ware, abraded, 11 <sup>th</sup> -13 <sup>th</sup> century	1	5	
023	TOY	Toynton All Saints ware, incl jug, 13 <sup>th</sup> -15 <sup>th</sup> century	4	51	13 <sup>th</sup> -15 <sup>th</sup> century
	GSS	Greensand and shell tempered ware, 11 <sup>th</sup> -13 <sup>th</sup> century	1	3	



Context	Fabric Code	Description	No.	Wt (g)	Context Date
		Rawmarsh ware?, 13 <sup>th</sup> -15 <sup>th</sup> century	1	22	
	GSS/WEMS D	Greensand and shell tempered ware/Wheelthrown early medieval shelly ware, sub-fabric D?, 11 <sup>th</sup> -13 <sup>th</sup> century	1	13	
025	GSS??	Greensand and shell tempered ware? no link but same vessel, sooted externally	3	67	11 <sup>th</sup> -13 <sup>th</sup> century

Two distinct phases are evident from the pottery assemblage, the earlier of the 11<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup> century, 13<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup> century and the latter of the 17<sup>th</sup> century. Pottery tempered with greensand and/or shell characterises the earlier phase and these types date from *c.* 1050 to *c.* 1250. Several contexts contain artefacts solely of this date and the quantity of material involved probably indicates occupation on or in close proximity to the site.

The latter phase of deposits contains pottery that spans the period 16<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup> century. However, all of the pottery of this phase was in use in the 17<sup>th</sup> century, and the moderately large clay pipe assemblage (see below) is solely of this 17<sup>th</sup> century date. In consequence, it is considered highly likely that this phase of activity is restricted to the 17<sup>th</sup> century. Pottery of this period is very abundant, providing about 60% of the total assemblage, and many of the pieces are large and clearly deriving from primary refuse disposal. As such, this reflects occupation on site at that date.

There is also a small amount, 13 fragments, of high medieval pottery, of the period 13<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup> century, though some of this occurs as redeposited artefacts with later material in pit fills, subsoil and topsoil deposits. However, there is one context, (023), that can be assigned to this period.

Table 2: Clay pipe

Context	Part	Description	No.	Wt (g)	Context Date
001	Bowl	Lincoln type B, bore 7/64"	1	14	1660-90
002	Bowl	Lincoln type B, bore 7/64", 1660-90	1	18	1660-90
	Bowl	Fragment, 17 <sup>th</sup> century	1	7	
	Bowl/stem	Fragments, bore 7/64", 17 <sup>th</sup> century	2	19	
	Stem	Bore 7/64", 17 <sup>th</sup> century	4	21	
	Stem	Bore 8/64", 17 <sup>th</sup> century	5	26	
004	Stem	Bore 7/64", 17 <sup>th</sup> century	2	10	17 <sup>th</sup> century
	Stem	Bore 8/64", 17 <sup>th</sup> century	2	5	
006	Stem	Bore 7/64"	1	3	17 <sup>th</sup> century
011	Bowl	Lincoln type B, bore 8/64"	1	10	1650-80
012	Bowl	Lincoln type B, bore 8/64", 1650-80	1	19	1660-90
	Bowl	Lincoln type B, bore 7/64", 1660-90	1	13	
	Bowl/stem	Bore 8/64", 17 <sup>th</sup> century	1	12	
	Bowl/stem	Bore 7/64", 17 <sup>th</sup> century	1	12	
	Stem	Bore 7/64", 17 <sup>th</sup> century	3	14	
	Stem	Bore 8/64", 17 <sup>th</sup> century	3	10	

The entire clay pipe assemblage is later 17<sup>th</sup> century in date and is likely to have been made fairly locally. Two bowl types are evident, both of Lincoln type B form (Mann 1977, 17-18). The earlier, dating from 1650-80, has fairly parallel sides and is comparable to Mann's form 56, while the later type, dating to 1660-90, is slightly overhung and resembles Mann's form 81 (*ibid*).

Table 3: Other Artefacts

Context	Material	Description	No.	Wt (g)	Context Date
001	CBM	Brick/tile/fired clay	2	6	
002	CBM	Handmade brick, post-medieval	1	190	Post-medieval
	Clinker	Clinker	7	35	
003	Flint	Pot lid fracture, natural	1	10	
004	Glass	Window glass, shaped along one edge, undated	1	10	
	Iron	Nail, rectangular section, 110mm long (complete)	2(link)	25	
006	CBM	Burnt clay	1	12	
	Glass	Window glass, heavy iridescence, undated	2	4	
011	Glass	Window glass, heavy iridescence	1	4	Post-medieval
	Pewter	Tankard handle, post-medieval	1	103	
	Bone and iron	Handle of knife or fork, post-medieval	1	25	
014	CBM	Handmade brick, 60mm thick	1	596	Post-medieval
016	CBM	Burnt clay		40	
	Stone	Counter? circular disc, 25mm dia, 9mm thick	1	9	
019	CBM		1	1	
	Iron	Clench bolt	1	16	
021	Lead	Ball, 8mm dia, pistol shot?	1	4	
	Lead	Amorphous strip	1	15	
023	CBM		1	10	

Note: CBM = Ceramic building material

A small quantity of building materials, brick and window glass was recovered. These items are not closely datable, other than to the post-medieval period. However, it seems probable that they are associated with the 17<sup>th</sup> century pottery and clay pipes and relate to buildings of this date on site, or in the proximity.

*Fired clay*

001 1 piece 5gms fragment of probable land drain  
 1 piece 2gms fired clay; sandy silty fabric with some organic (vegetation) temper

006 1 piece 10gms fired clay; hard fired; buffoon flattened (external) surface, purple in interior; silty fabric with voids from burnt out vegetation temper.

016 13 pieces 37gms total fired clay; includes 3 pieces with a total weight of 4gms that have the appearance of heavily burnt silt but with many voids from burnt out vegetation and occasional grog. The remainder are silty clay fabric, some with occasional voids. Most have pink and purple 'salt' colours, though this salt content may be from the mineral within the marine clays which constitute the parent material rather than being in deliberate contact with salt water.

019 1 piece <1gm small fragment of fired clay.

023 1 piece 8gms fired clay; 36mm x 36mm x 5mm; one smoothed (external) surface; interior split laterally, therefore original thickness unknown; some voids of finely chopped vegetation within



fabric, along with sparse grog and moderate ?charcoal.

Despite the salt colours none of the material can be associated with salt making. Such is the fragmentary nature that, apart from one fragment of land drain, no function can be determined for the pieces.

Table 4: Faunal Remains

Context	Species	Description	No.	Wt (g)	Comments
002	cattle sized	rib	1	55	sawn
	cattle sized	skull fragment	1	20	
	sheep sized	rib	1	4	
	oyster	shell fragments	2	2	
004	cattle sized	rib	1	20	sawn
	sheep sized	rib	1	8	
006	cattle	metacarpus	1	44	Juvenile, iron concretion
	sheep	mandible	1	9	
	oyster	shell	1	2	
012	goose	unidentified	2	10	
	whelk	shell	1	13	
016	sheep sized	skull/maxilla	4	48	Fragmentary
019	cattle sized	metacarpus?	1	14	
	sheep sized	tibia	1	10	
	unknown	unidentified	5	15	
023	sheep sized	mandible	1	8	
	unknown	unidentified	1	1	

All the shell is food waste.

#### Condition

All the material is in good condition and present no long-term storage problems. Archive storage of the collection is by material class.

#### Documentation

There have been few previous archaeological investigations at Mablethorpe, though examination of an adjacent site yielded an assemblage that was very similar in composition, though smaller in size (Cope-Faulkner *et al.*, 2002.). Details of archaeological sites and discoveries in the area are maintained in the Lincolnshire County Council Sites and Monuments Record.

#### Potential

Differing degrees of potential and significance can be ascribed to the various aspects of the assemblage. The earlier phase of pottery, of the 11<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup> century, probably indicates occupation of this date on or in close proximity to the site. This is of moderate-high local potential and significance. Similarly, the large collection of post-medieval, specifically 17<sup>th</sup> century, artefacts points to habitation of the site at that time. This, too, is of moderate-high local potential and significance. Moreover, this aspect of the assemblage seems to be of a fairly restricted date range in the second half of the 17<sup>th</sup> century. In consequence, there is perhaps the opportunity to refine the dating of some of the ceramic forms of this period and this is of moderate regional significance and potential.

The medieval aspect of the site assemblage is not large and does not clearly point to settlement of the site at that period. In consequence, this component of the site collection is of limited local potential and significance.

The composition of the assemblage as a whole is informative and suggests that the site was initially occupied during the 11<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup> centuries but subsequently deserted, and then re-occupied in the 17<sup>th</sup> century and thereafter abandoned again.

## References

Cope-Faulkner, P., Healey, H. and Taylor, G., 2002 'The Finds' in S. Thomson, *Archaeological Watching Brief at Plot 1, Church Lane, Mablethorpe, Lincolnshire (MCL102)*, unpublished Archaeological Project Services report no. 159/02

Mann, J. E., 1977 *Clay Tobacco Pipes from Excavations in Lincoln 1970-74*, The Archaeology of Lincoln XV-1, Lincoln Archaeological Trust and CBA

Slowikowski, A., Nenck, B. and Pearce, J., 2001 *Minimum Standards for the Processing, Recording, Analysis and Publication of Post-Roman Ceramics*, Medieval Pottery Research Group Occasional Paper 2



## Appendix 4

### GLOSSARY

<b>Context</b>	An archaeological context represents a distinct archaeological event or process. For example, the action of digging a pit creates a context (the cut) as does the process of its subsequent backfill (the fill). Each context encountered during an archaeological investigation is allocated a unique number by the archaeologist and a record sheet detailing the description and interpretations of the context (the context sheet) is created and placed in the site archive. Context numbers are identified within the report text by brackets, <i>e.g.</i> (004).
<b>Cut</b>	A cut refers to the physical action of digging a posthole, pit, ditch, foundation trench, <i>etc.</i> Once the fills of these features are removed during an archaeological investigation the original cut is therefore exposed and subsequently recorded.
<b>Fill</b>	Once a feature has been dug it begins to silt up (either slowly or rapidly) or it can be back-filled manually. The soil(s) which become contained by the 'cut' are referred to as its fill(s).
<b>Iron Age</b>	A period characterised by the introduction of iron into the country for tools, between 800 BC and AD 50.
<b>Layer</b>	A layer is a term to describe an accumulation of soil or other material that is not contained within a cut.
<b>Medieval</b>	The Middle Ages, dating from approximately AD 1066-1500.
<b>Natural</b>	Undisturbed deposit(s) of soil or rock which have accumulated without the influence of human activity.
<b>Post-medieval</b>	The period following the Middle Ages, dating from approximately AD 1500-1800.
<b>Prehistoric</b>	The period of human history prior to the introduction of writing. In Britain the prehistoric period lasts from the first evidence of human occupation about 500,000 BC, until the Roman invasion in the middle of the 1st century AD.
<b>Romano-British</b>	Pertaining to the period dating from AD 43-410 when the Romans occupied Britain.

## Appendix 5

### THE ARCHIVE

The archive consists of:

- 27 Context records
- 4 Sheets of scale drawings
- 1 Photographic record sheet
- 1 Stratigraphic matrix
- 1 Box of finds

All primary records and finds are currently kept at:

Archaeological Project Services  
The Old School  
Cameron Street  
Heckington  
Sleaford  
Lincolnshire  
NG34 9RW

The ultimate destination of the project archive is:

Lincolnshire City and County Museum  
12 Friars Lane  
Lincoln  
LN2 1HQ

The archive will be deposited in accordance with the document titled *Conditions for the Acceptance of Project Archives*, produced by the Lincolnshire City and County Museum.

Lincolnshire City and County Museum Accession Number: LCNCC : 2002.148

Archaeological Project Services Site Code: MCL202

The discussion and comments provided in this report are based on the archaeology revealed during the site investigations. Other archaeological finds and features may exist on the development site but away from the areas exposed during the course of this fieldwork. *Archaeological Project Services* cannot confirm that those areas unexposed are free from archaeology nor that any archaeology present there is of a similar character to that revealed during the current investigation.

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