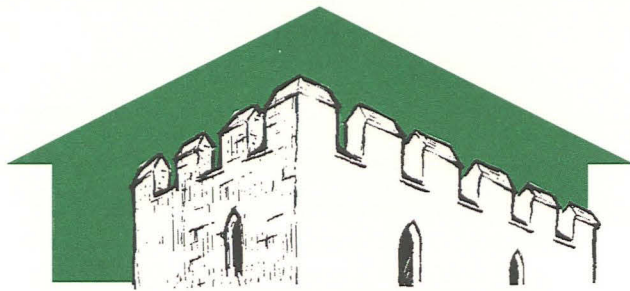


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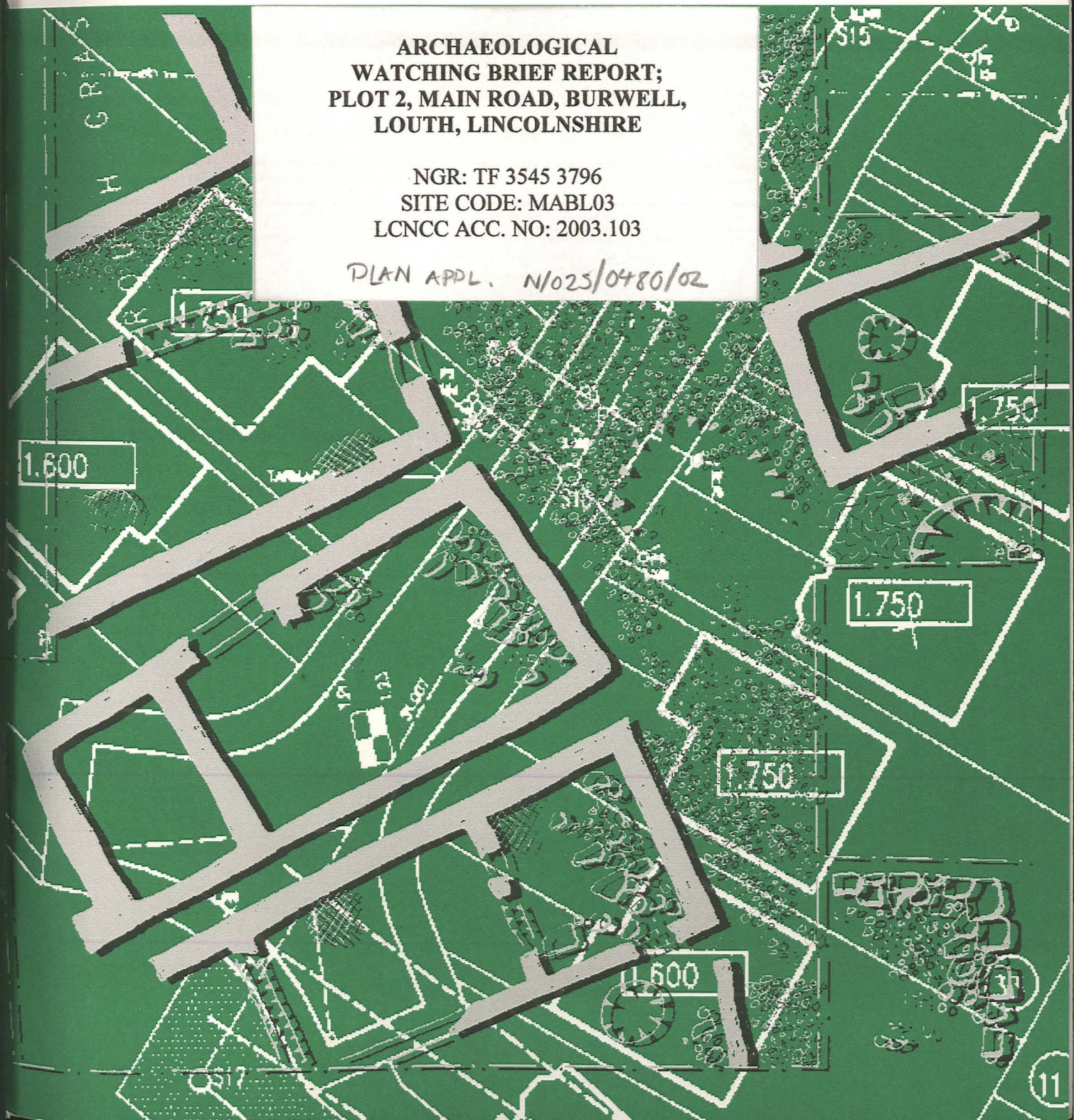
PRE-CONSTRUCT ARCHAEOLOGY

L I N C O L N

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL
WATCHING BRIEF REPORT;
PLOT 2, MAIN ROAD, BURWELL,
LOUTH, LINCOLNSHIRE**

NGR: TF 3545 3796
SITE CODE: MABL03
LCNCC ACC. NO: 2003.103

PLAN APPL. N/025/0480/02



EVENT L14263 SOURCES L18806 L18807 L17755

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Conservation
Services

06 JUN 2003

Highways & Planning
Directorate

Report prepared for
Mr. & Mrs. Norbron
by Chris Clay
June 2003

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Pl. 2: Sample section (fig.3a), looking west-south-west

Summary

- An archaeological watching brief was undertaken during the groundworks for the residential development of Plot 2, Main Road, Burwell, Louth, Lincolnshire.
- Romano-British pottery scatters and a possible kiln site have been identified within the village, and Burwell is listed in the Domesday Book, suggesting an origin in the late Saxon period; possibly developing as a Saxon fortified settlement. A previous watching brief on an adjacent plot exposed a number of post-medieval features.
- No archaeologically significant deposits were observed during this watching brief.



Fig. 1: General site location (scale 1:25,000)
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Fig. 2: Site location, showing Plot 2 outlined in blue (scale 1:500)

1.0 Introduction

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken during the groundworks for Plot 2, Main Road, Burwell, Louth, Lincolnshire. These works were undertaken to fulfil the objectives of a project specification prepared by Pre-Construct Archaeology (Lincoln). This approach is consistent with the recommendations of Archaeology & Planning: Planning Policy Guidance Note 16 (Department of the Environment, 1990), Management of Archaeological Projects (English Heritage, 1991), Standards and guidance for archaeological watching briefs (IFA, 1994), and the Lincolnshire County Council document, Lincolnshire Archaeological Handbook: a manual of archaeological practice (LCC, 1998).

Copies of this report have been deposited with the commissioning body and the County Sites and Monuments Record for Lincolnshire. Reports will also be deposited at the City and County Museum, Lincoln, along with an ordered project archive for long-term storage and curation.

2.0 Site location and description

Burwell is situated in the administrative district of East Lindsey, approximately 7km south of Louth. The proposed development area lies on the north side of the village, to the west of Main Road.

The site lies on a thin band of alluvium running along the line of Skirbeck, the stream running through Burwell, following Main Road. This overlies Cretaceous deposits of Ferriby Chalk (British Geological Survey, 1998).

The site slopes gently up from Main Road, which defines the east side of the site. A hedge defines the west side of the site, with residential properties beyond. To the south is the recently constructed Plot 1, with the garage of Plot 3 to the north-east. The Plot 3 house is still under construction directly north of Plot 2.

Central National Grid Reference TF 3545 3796.

3.0 Planning background

Full planning consent was granted for the erection of a single residential property (planning ref. N/025/0480/02). This permission was granted subject to the undertaking of an archaeological watching brief on all groundworks associated with the development.

4.0 Archaeological and historical background

There is little evidence of prehistoric activity in Burwell, although a Neolithic long barrow has been identified at Walmsgate, less than 2km to the south-east (May, 1976). This is one of approximately sixty such funerary monuments that are clustered along the southern-central portion of the Lincolnshire Wolds, marking the liminal zone between the uplands of the Wolds and the low lying Lincolnshire Marsh.

Small amounts of Romano-British pottery have been found in the field to the west of the site (SMR ref.42364), and a possible grey ware kiln site has been located on the south side of the village (SMR ref.42370).

An Anglo-Saxon origin is suggested for Burwell. The name derives from the Old English components, *burh* and *wella*, meaning 'the spring by the fortified place' (Cameron, 1998). The name has been taken to indicate one of a number of fortified settlements established in the 7th century to defend the kingdom of Lindsey during conflict between Mercia and Northumbria, although it has also been suggested that they represent later establishments, to protect against Viking raids, or fortified manors of wealthy Saxon landowners (Sawyer, 1998).

The Saxon settlement continued to be occupied into the early medieval period; it appears in the Domesday Book as *Buruelle*, when the land was owned by Asgautr. At this time, the village possessed a church and a mill (Morgan & Thorn, 1986). In the early 12th century, Asgautr, or Angsot of Burwell, endowed the Benedictine abbey of La Sauve Majeur with land in the village to establish a priory, the earthworks of which survive in the field to the east of the site, rising steeply from Main Road (Owen, 1971). The church of St. Michael lies at the top of this rise amid the earthworks. The church has a number of early 12th century components and may have formed part of the early priory. It is no longer in use, having become redundant in 1981 (Pevsner & Harris, 1989).

In 2001, an archaeological watching brief was undertaken on Plot 1, immediately south of the site. This revealed a series of small pits, possibly post-medieval rubbish pits relating to properties fronting onto Main Road (Savage, 2001). A watching brief on Plot 3 to the north of the site exposed no archaeological deposits (Savage, 2003).

5.0 Methodology

The groundworks were carried out using a JCB fitted with a toothed bucket. Foundation trenches for the external walls were excavated to 0.6m wide, and 0.45m wide for the internal walls. The foundations of the dwelling were excavated to a maximum depth of approximately 1m.

All plan and section surfaces were examined and intermittently cleaned, to examine the stratigraphic sequence. Where necessary, limited excavation by hand was carried out to establish the profile, orientation, date and function of exposed archaeological features. Any features were accurately plotted on a site plan and section drawings were made at a scale of 1:20. Context information was recorded on standard watching

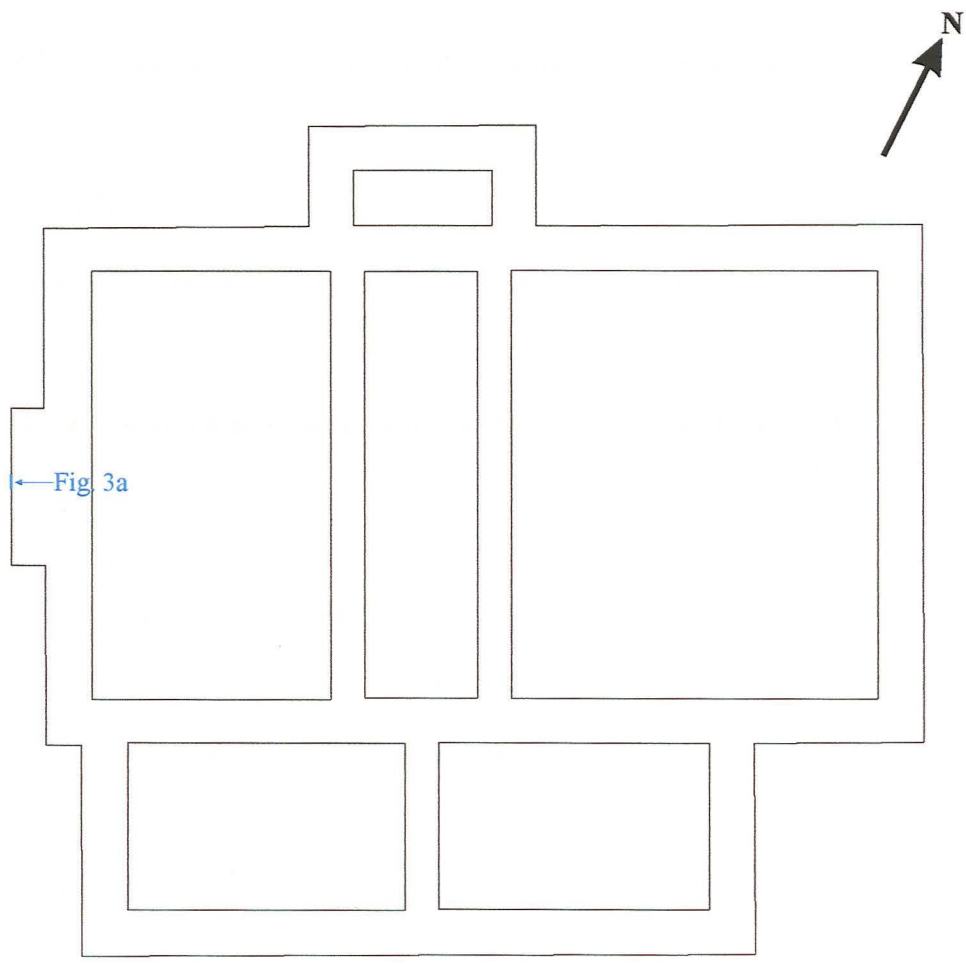


Fig. 3: Layout of Plot 2 foundation trenches, showing location of sample section (fig. 3a) (scale 1:100)

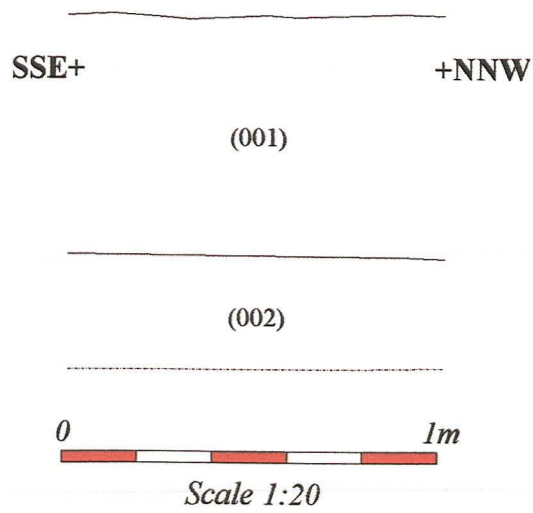


Fig. 3a: Sample section (scale 1:20)

brief record sheets. A colour photographic record was maintained, selected prints from which have been reproduced in this report.

The fieldwork was carried out on Tuesday April 22nd 2003 and was monitored by the author.

6.0 Results

The uppermost deposit across the house plot was a very dark greyish brown loam, which contained inclusions of modern brick and other building material, and chalk rubble, (001). This deposit varied between 0.5 and 0.6m deep.

Beneath (001) was a natural deposit of mid brown loose sandy silt with large amounts of poorly sorted chalk rubble, (002). This was approximately 0.4m deep within the foundation trenches, but extended beyond the limit of excavation (fig. 4).

7.0 Discussion and conclusion

No archaeological deposits were encountered during the watching brief, suggesting that this plot is situated within an area that was traditionally an agricultural zone that was beyond any building activity fronting onto Main Road. A similar result occurred during the Plot 1 watching brief.

8.0 Effectiveness of methodology

The methodology chosen was appropriate to the development. It allowed a rapid assessment of the archaeological potential of the site, and a more detailed level of archaeological intervention was not necessary.

9.0 Acknowledgements

Pre-Construct Archaeology would like to thank Mr. & Mrs. Norbron for this commission, and for their cooperation during the watching brief.

10.0 References

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11.0 Site archive

The documentary archive for the site is currently in the possession of Pre-Construct Archaeology. This will be deposited at Lincoln City and County Museum within six months. Access to the archive may be gained by quoting the global accession number 2003.103.

APPENDIX 1: Colour Plates



Pl. 1: General view of the site, looking south-east



Pl. 2: Sample section (fig.3a), looking west-south-west

APPENDIX 2: List of archaeological contexts

<i>Context</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Description</i>
001	Layer	Dark greyish brown loam – topsoil, 0.5-0.6m deep
002	Layer	Mid brown sand, with abundant chalk gravel – natural geology, extends beyond limit of excavation