

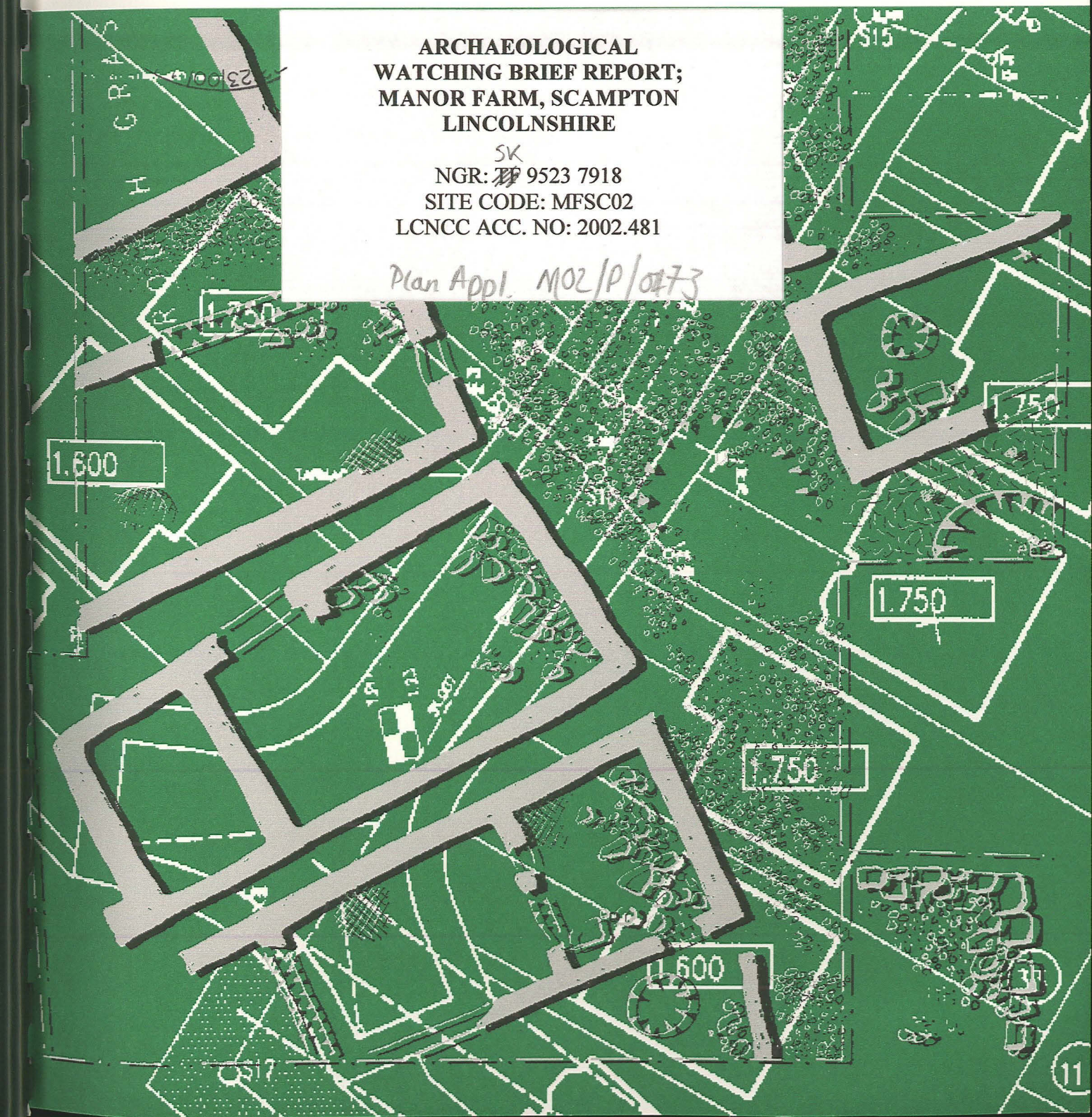
PRE-CONSTRUCT ARCHAEOLOGY

L I N C O L N

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF REPORT; MANOR FARM, SCAMPTON LINCOLNSHIRE

SK
NGR: ~~TF~~ 9523 7918
SITE CODE: MFSC02
LCNCC ACC. NO: 2002.481

Plan Appl. M02/P/0473



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Report prepared for
Elm Construction
by Chris Clay
June 2003

Pre-Construct Archaeology (Lincoln)
Unit G
William Street Business Park
Saxilby, Lincoln
Tel. & Fax. 01522 703800

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Summary

- *An archaeological watching brief was undertaken during the groundworks for a residential development on land at Manor Farm, Scampton, Lincolnshire.*
- *The site lies close to a prehistoric routeway, Roman road, and a Roman villa. It is also in the traditional core of the medieval village.*
- *Four house plots were monitored, resulting in the exposure of no archaeologically significant deposits.*

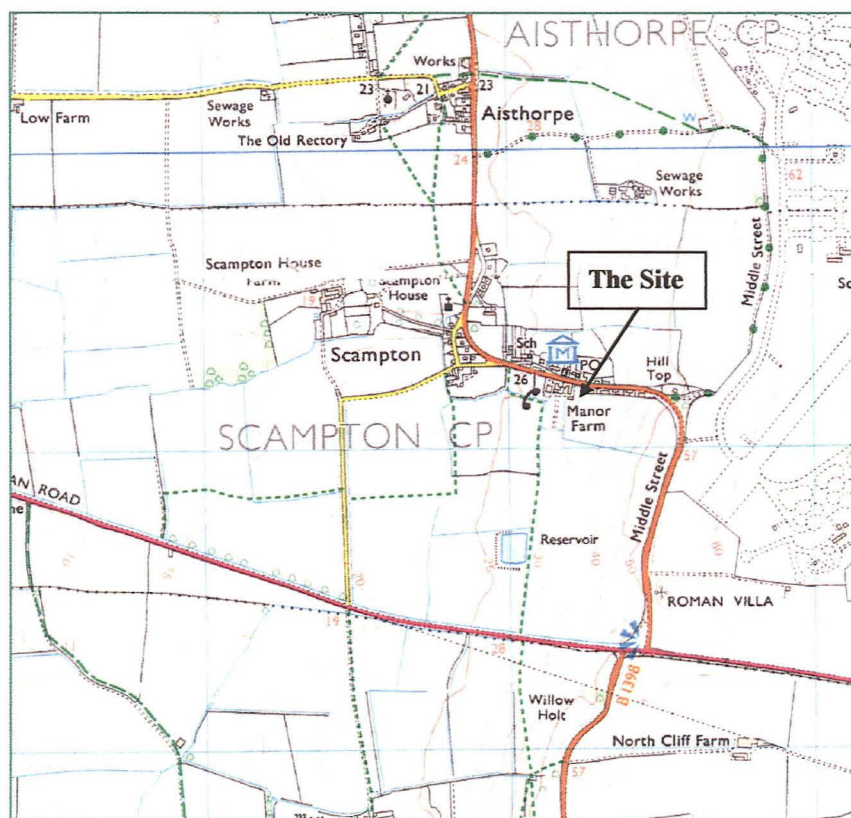


Fig. 1: General site location (scale 1:25,000)
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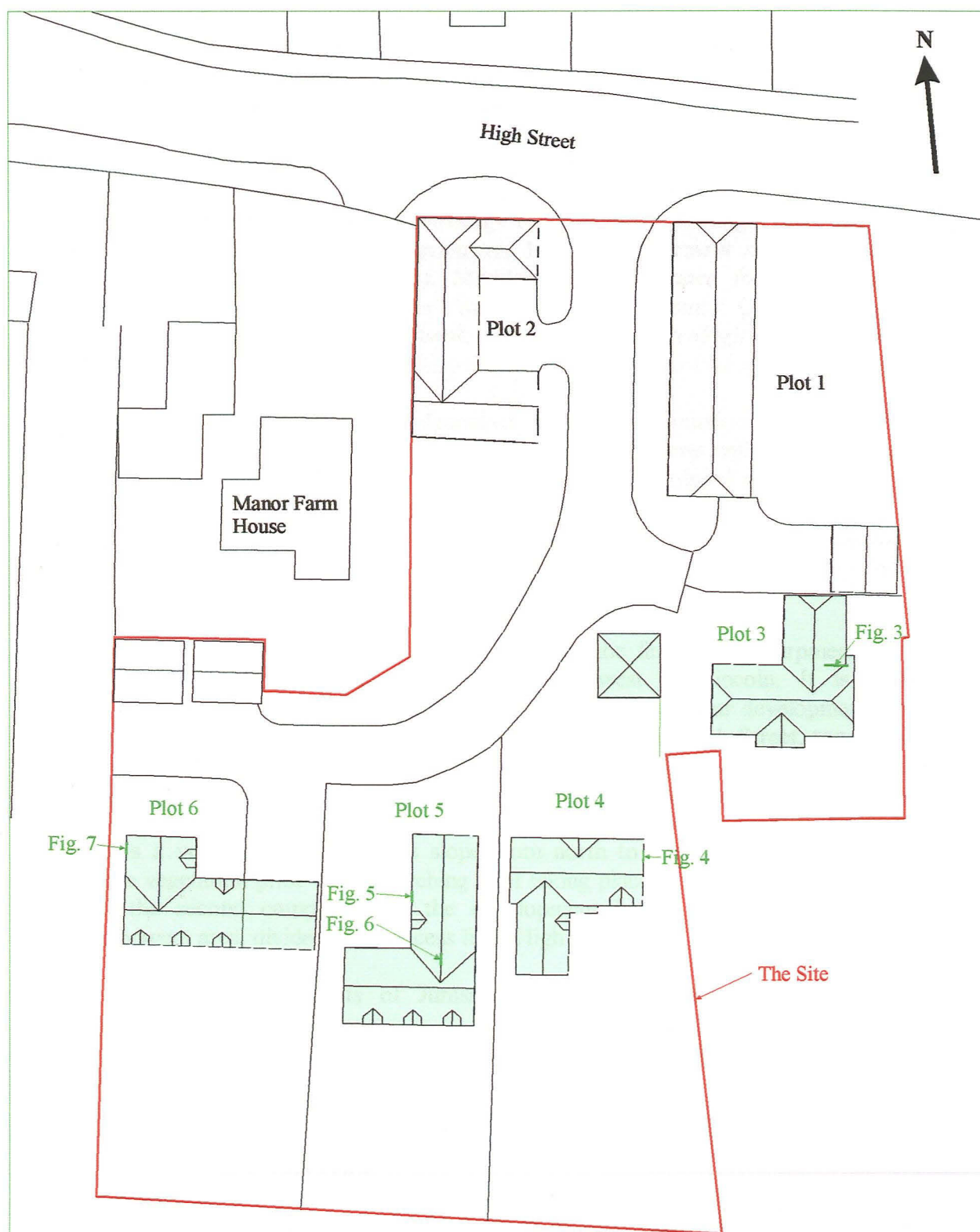


Fig. 2: Development plan, showing the site boundary outlined in red. Monitored house plots and drawn sections are shown in green (scale 1:500)

1.0 Introduction

Pre-Construct Archaeology (Lincoln) was commissioned by Elm Construction to undertake an archaeological watching brief during the groundworks for a residential development on land at Manor Farm, Scampton, Lincolnshire.

These works were undertaken to fulfil the objectives of a project specification prepared by Pre-Construct Archaeology (Lincoln). The approach adopted 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, 1999), 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

Scampton is situated immediately to the west of the limestone escarpment of the Lincoln Edge, approximately 8.5km north-north-west of Lincoln. It is in the administrative district of West Lindsey. The village forms a linear development along High Street (B1398). The site itself lies to the south of the High Street, towards the east end of the village. It comprises a broadly sub-rectangular block of land, bounded by the High Street to the north, with open fields to the south, an existing residential property to the east, and the farmhouse and outbuildings of Manor Farm to the west. It exhibits a very gentle downwards slope from north to south, and was stripped of surface vegetation prior to the watching brief taking place. Two barn conversions that form the second component of the development lie on the north side of the development area, divided by an access from High Street.

The local geology consists of Jurassic deposits of Whitby Mudstone (British Geological Survey, 1999).

The site centres on NGR ^{SK}TF 9523 7918

3.0 Planning background

An outline planning application was submitted in 2000 (planning ref. M/00/P/0574). This was superseded in 2002 by a full application and permission for two barn conversions and the erection of four new properties (planning ref. M/02/P/0473). This permission was granted subject to the undertaking of an archaeological watching brief on all associated groundworks likely to disturb archaeological deposits.

4.0 Archaeological and historical background

There is no evidence of prehistoric activity in Scampton. However, the village lies broadly on the line of the Jurassic Way, a prehistoric trackway that meandered along the spring line following the Lincoln Edge; no doubt connecting settlements along its length. The route northwards from Lincoln was later formalised by the construction of Ermine Street, an initially military road that ran in a straight line northwards from Lincoln (on the line of the modern A15), and this lies approximately 2km to the east of the current site (Whitwell, 1992).

In the 19th century, a substantial villa site was investigated, approximately 750m south-east of Scampton. A range of buildings were exposed, arranged around two courtyards, including a bathhouse and an intricate corridor mosaic. The building appears to have been destroyed by fire in the later 4th century, and several burials of probable early medieval date overlay the west wall of the complex. These are believed to be related to the later chapel of St. Pancras, which was established on the same site (*ibid.*).

The chapel of St. Pancras, on the cliff overlooking the village, represents a well chapel established at least by the later 11th century. Such chapels, based on wells and springs, are often taken as evidence of a much earlier religious centre, adopted by the emergent Christian faith in Britain, suggesting that the establishment at Scampton may have a pre-Conquest origin (Owen, 1971). The proximity of the villa to the chapel is also significant, if only for the presence of readily available building stone.

Late Anglo-Saxon activity is represented in Scampton by its entry in the Domesday Book, under the ownership of Gilbert of Ghent. The estate included a church with a priest, and a mill, and this estate also had jurisdiction over estates in Brattleby, Thorpe-le-Fallows, Aisthorpe, Nettleham and Stow St. Mary (Morgan & Thorne, 1986).

5.0 Methodology

The watching brief methodology required monitoring the excavations of footing trenches for the four house plots. All plan and section surfaces were examined, and these were intermittently cleaned to examine the soil profiles/stratigraphic sequence. Where necessary, limited excavation by hand was carried out to establish the profile, orientation, date and function of exposed archaeological features. These features were accurately plotted on a site plan, and section drawings were prepared at an appropriate scale (1:20 or 1:50). Context information was recorded on standard watching brief record sheets. A colour photographic record was maintained, selected prints from which have been reproduced in this report.

The fieldwork was carried out by the author and Mr S Savage. A total of six visits were made, on 18th and 19th November 2002, 12th, 13th and 18th March, and 10th June 2003.

6.0 Results

6.1 Plot 3

At the very west edge of the plot, a thin layer of topsoil, (300) was exposed, visible only in the east facing section. This had been stripped from the remainder of the plot. The uppermost deposit across the rest of the plot was a dark greyish brown sandy loam, (304), which contained large amounts of rounded limestone pebbles, and may represent the remains of a yard surface. The underlying deposit was a 0.3m deep orange brown clay/sand, representing a colluvium, (301). Beneath this was (302), a compact orange/grey clay, extending to the base of excavation. A 0.3m deep layer of granite chippings, (303), ran south-west to north-east across the plot, indicating a former access road.

6.2 Plot 4

A topsoil deposit, (400), survived to a depth of 0.2m. Over much of this house plot, the topsoil sealed a dark greyish brown sandy loam, containing large quantities of modern building rubble. This deposit extended to the limit of excavation and evidenced considerable recent ground disturbance.

At the south and east extremities of the plot, the topsoil sealed a 0.5m deep layer of yellow/brown slightly clayey sand, (401), probably representing a colluvial deposit; washed down from the adjacent scarp. Beneath (401) was a brownish grey compact clay, 0.3m deep, (402), that extended to the base of excavation, and appeared to represent a natural accumulation.

The footings for a garage and boundary wall associated with this plot were also monitored. Considerable modern disturbance was evident in the foundation trench of the boundary wall; the west side of the trench abutted a manhole constructed as part of the current development. The garage plot showed the same stratigraphy as Plot 4, consisting of topsoil (400) overlying the colluvial deposit (401) and natural deposit (402).

The north end of the boundary wall footing, and the south-east corner of the garage plot exposed a 0.2-0.3m deep layer of granite chippings. This was the same as deposit (303) exposed in Plot 3, representing a bedding layer for a former access road.

6.3 Plot 5

The uppermost deposit was a brownish grey topsoil, (500), incorporating modern building rubble. This had been partially stripped prior to the monitoring of the groundworks and survived to a depth of 0.2m. It sealed an orange brown sandy clay, (501), that was up to 0.7m deep, and represented the same colluvial subsoil deposit observed in Plots 3 and 4. Appearing intermittently throughout the foundation trenches was a grey brown clay, (502), representing a natural deposit. This sealed a further natural accumulation of yellowish brown sandy clay, (503), which extended beyond the base of excavation.

A single small pit-like feature, [504] was observed extending across two foundation trenches towards the centre of the plot. This had been cut through the topsoil, (500), suggesting a recent origin. Its fill, (505) was a dark grey sandy loam, very similar to the topsoil. It contained the disarticulated remains of an adult sheep, suggesting the disposal of an aged or diseased animal associated with Manor Farm.

6.4 Plot 6

A topsoil deposit, (600), survived to 0.25m, having been partially truncated prior to excavation of the foundation trenches. This sealed three possible colluvial subsoil layers, (601), (602), (603). These consisted of: a grey/brown sandy clay 0.2m deep, an orange brown sandy clay 0.45m deep, and a slightly sandier orange/brown sandy clay, that was 0.2m deep. Beneath these deposits was a natural yellowish brown clay/sand, (604), with occasional lenses of grey sand. This deposit was only exposed on the south side of the plot.

7.0 Discussion and conclusion

The monitored groundworks identified a very limited archaeological potential for the site. The exposed remains reflect relatively modern activities related to Manor Farm (ie areas of building rubble, the former road in Plot 3, and the modern sheep burial in Plot 5).

Each of the foundation trenches exposed evidence of considerable accumulations of colluvial material; these deposits being washed downslope from the Lincoln Edge. A date for these events was not established.

8.0 Effectiveness of methodology

The watching brief methodology was appropriate to this development. It allowed a rapid assessment of the archaeological potential of the site (minimal), without significantly affecting the requirements of the development programme.

9.0 Acknowledgements

Pre-Construct Archaeology (Lincoln) would like to thank Elm Construction for this commission and for their cooperation during the undertaking of the fieldwork.

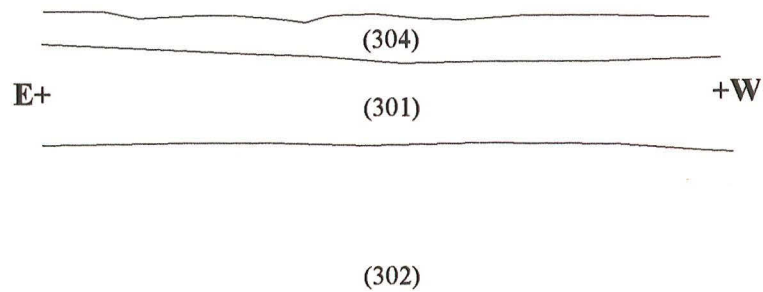


Fig. 3: Plot 3 sample section (scale 1:20)

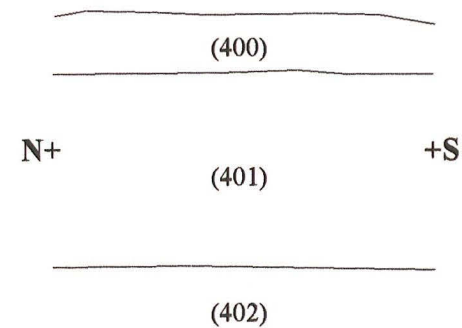


Fig. 4: Plot 4 sample section (scale 1:20)

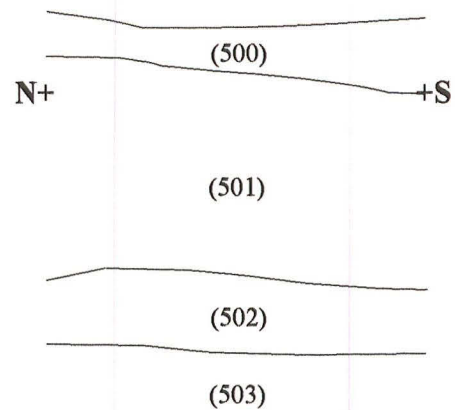
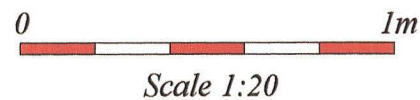


Fig. 5: Plot 5 sample section (scale 1:20)

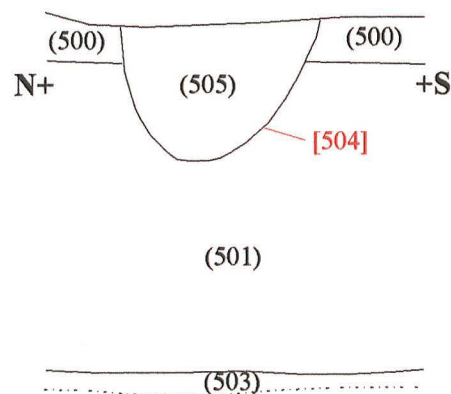


Fig. 6: Pit [504], Plot 5 (scale 1:20)

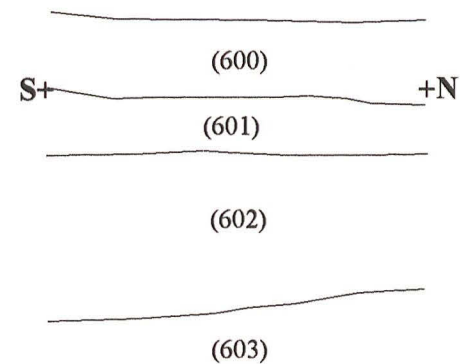


Fig. 7: Plot 6 sample section (scale 1:20)

10.0 References

British Geological Survey, 1999. *Market Rasen. England and Wales Sheet 102. Solid and Drift Geology. 1:50000 Provisional Series*. Keyworth, Nottingham: British Geological Survey.

Morgan P., & Thorn C., (eds.), 1986, *Domesday Book: vol.31: Lincolnshire*, Phillimore & Co. Ltd, Chichester

Owen D.M., 1971, *Church and Society in Medieval Lincolnshire*, History of Lincolnshire volume V, History of Lincolnshire Committee, Lincoln

Whitwell J.B., 1992, *Roman Lincolnshire*, History of Lincolnshire Committee, Lincoln

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 2002.481.

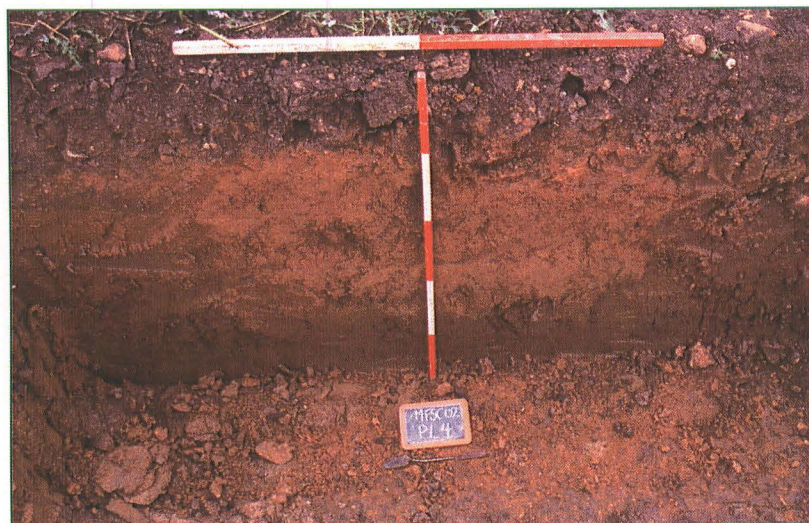
APPENDIX 1: Colour plates



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



Pl. 2: Working shot, during excavation of Plot 5. Plot 6 is visible in the background. Looking north-west



Pl. 3: Plot 4 representative section, looking east



Pl. 4: Pit [504], modern sheep burial, Plot 5, Looking east

APPENDIX 2: List of archaeological contexts

<i>Context</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Description</i>
300	Layer	Locally surviving topsoil, not present across whole of Plot 3
301	Layer	Subsoil/colluvium
302	Layer	Clay layer, possible natural deposit
303	Layer	Granite chippings - bedding layer of former access road
304	Layer	Possibly make up layer for former yard
400	Layer	Topsoil, partially stripped
401	Layer	Subsoil/colluvium
402	Layer	Possible natural clay layer
403	Layer	Modern disturbance
404	Layer	Granite chippings – bedding layer of former access road
500	Layer	Topsoil, partially stripped
501	Layer	Subsoil/colluvium
502	Layer	Possible natural clay layer
503	Layer	Natural deposit
504	Cut	Pit cut for modern sheep burial, contains (505)
505	Fill	Fill of pit [504]
600	Layer	Topsoil, partially stripped
601	Layer	Subsoil/colluvium
602	Layer	Colluvium
603	Layer	Colluvium
604	Layer	Natural deposit