

**LAND SOUTH OF 'INGLENOOK',
FISKERTON, LINCOLNSHIRE**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING
BRIEF REPORT**

Site code	LSIF 03
NGR:	TF 0500 7187
LCCM Acc No:	2003.308

Report prepared for Mr & Mrs Howard

by

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Summary

- An enhanced archaeological recording brief took place during the groundworks for a single house on land situated to the south of 'Inglenook' in Fiskerton, Lincolnshire
- The recording brief involved the investigation several features of archaeological significance; these primarily being aspects of the documented medieval manor house of Fiskerton
- Some of the features that were exposed appeared to pre-date the stone-built medieval structures

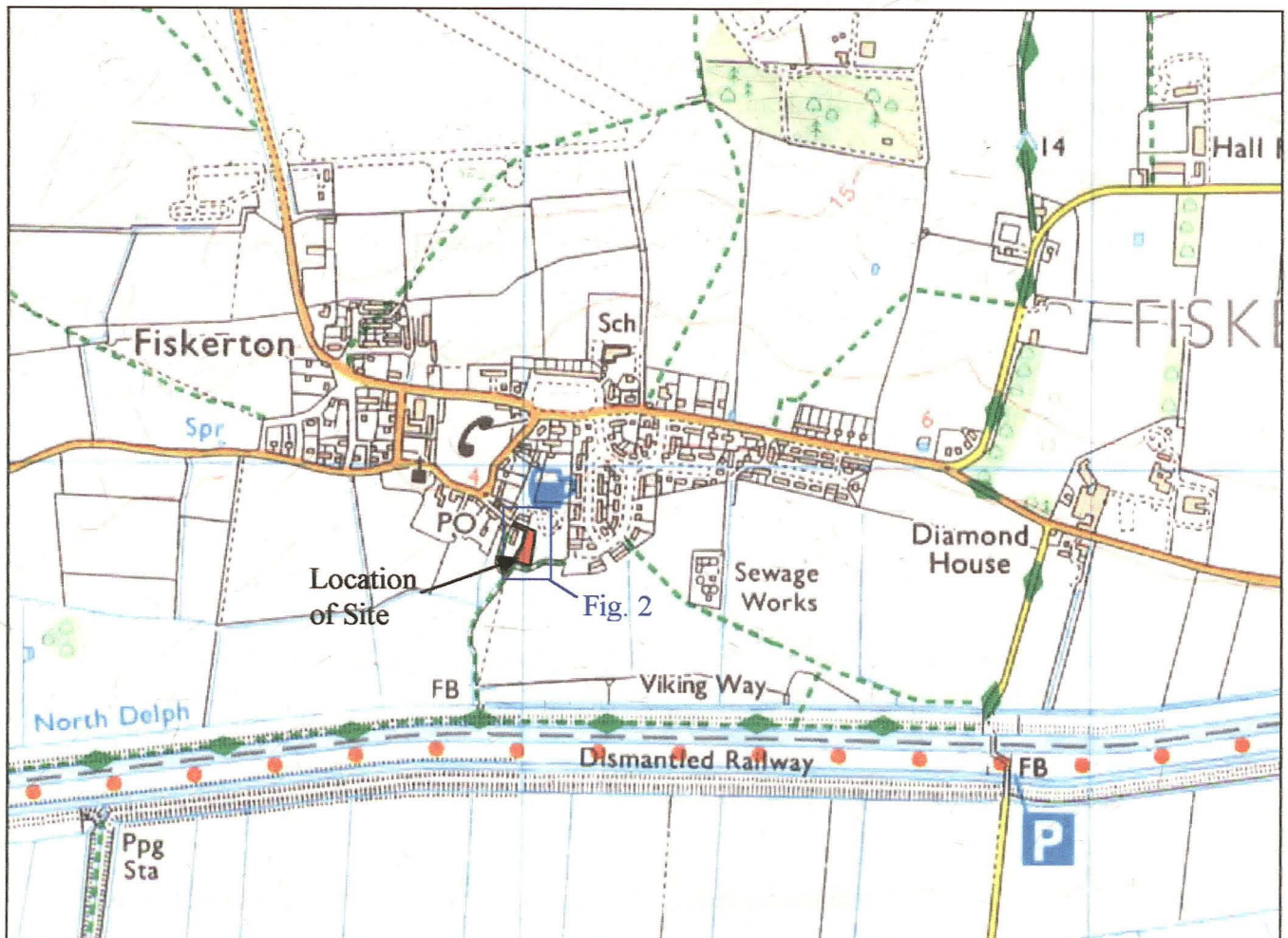


Fig. 1: Site location. The area highlighted in red is the development plot, the blue square is that seen in fig. 2. (Scale 1:12500; OS copyright ref AL 515 21 A0001)

1.0 Introduction

An enhanced archaeological recording brief took place during the groundworks for a single house on land situated to the south of 'Inglenook' in Fiskerton, Lincolnshire (National Grid Reference TF 0500 7187). The owners, Mr & Mrs Howard, commissioned the work to fulfil a condition attached to a planning permission (Ref. M/03/P/0323).

This report documents the results of an archaeological investigation that was undertaken between July 8th – 10th, 2003. It has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of current local guidelines (*Lincolnshire Archaeological Handbook: A Manual of Archaeological Practice, 1998*); and a formal specification prepared by this company. The 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, 1999).

Copies of this report will be deposited with the commissioning body, the Senior Built Environment Officer of Lincolnshire County Council, the County Sites and Monuments Record, and West Lindsey District Council. 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 (Figs. 1 & 2)

Fiskerton lies approximately 7.5km east of Lincoln, and the proposed development site is a former garden area belonging to a property known as 'Inglenook'.

The site is situated in the floodplain of the River Witham, at approximately 5m OD. The geology of the area is characterised by chalk-rich glacial till, masked in places by deposits of freshwater alluvium. The underlying solid geological formation is Oxford clay (BGS 1973). It is bounded on its east and west sides by a wooden panel fence and neighbouring properties, and on its south side by a wooden fence and paddock. At the time of the investigation, the site was open to the garden of 'Inglenook' on its north side.

Prior to development, the ground cover consisted of tall grasses, nettles and small bushes.

The National Grid reference for the centre of the development area is TF 0500 7187.

3.0 Planning Background

Planning consent is being sought from West Lindsey District Council for a residential development comprising a single dwelling with garage. In consideration of this

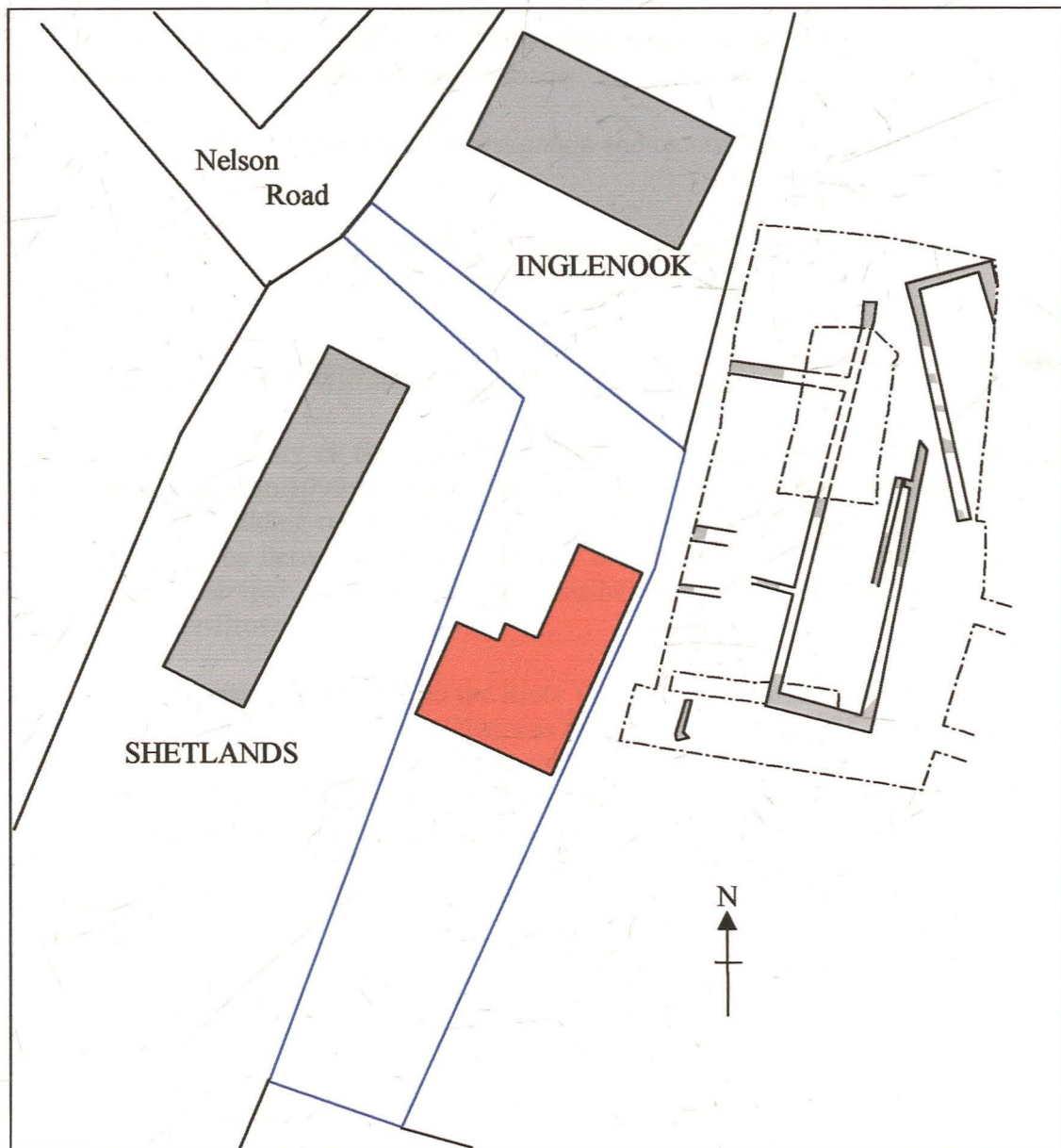


Fig. 2: Plan of the development area, showing the position of the house footprint (in red). Also shown is the area of the 1999 excavation, showing the layout of the manorial buildings seen. Scale 1:500

application, the Built Environment Officer of Lincolnshire County Council recommended the undertaking of an archaeological scheme of works comprising:

1. The stripping of topsoil/subsoil in the footprint area to assess the presence/absence of archaeological remains
2. A programme of archaeological investigation and recording in advance of development
3. A programme of archaeological post-excavation and analysis, resulting in the production of a fully illustrated report and long-term project archive.

4.0 Archaeological and Historical Background

The site lies in the vicinity of the medieval moated manorial complex of Fiskerton, which was investigated in 1999 by Pre-Construct Archaeology (Lincoln). At least two phases of extensive building remains were discovered, and these appeared to relate to occupation of the area between the late 12th and at least the mid 16th century. The excavations demonstrated that the building remains extended westwards into the current site (Palmer-Brown, 2000).

To the south of the manor site, closer to the River Witham, is the internationally important early Iron Age causeway/jetty that was first investigated in 1981, and subsequently in 2001. It is believed that the structure was a significant focus for ritual deposition, as numerous high status objects (including swords, spearheads, axes, hammers and files), as well as more utilitarian objects (for example pottery and small stones) were deliberately discarded within the wet ground on either side of the structure. This focal point for ritual activity appears to have originated from at least the Bronze Age, and it appears to have survived well beyond the post-Roman era. The line of the Iron Age causeway projects directly towards the site of the medieval manor, and there is increasing evidence to suggest a strong association between medieval monasticism in the Witham valley and causeways of pre-Roman date.

Pre-Construct Archaeology undertook an archaeological evaluation on land to the north of 'Inglenook' in 2002; however, no features of archaeological significance were encountered in the two trenches that were investigated (Brett, 2002).

5.0 Methodology

The site was first inspected on July 8th, 2003, when the footprint of the new development was stripped using a JCB excavator employing a flat-bladed ditching bucket. This work was monitored continuously to ensure that any archaeological features exposed were identified and recorded. An irregular unit was stripped, comprising the entire area of the garage, with a 1.8m wide strip extending to the full extent of the house to the south (this part of the site encompassed a large area of modern disturbance, which Mr P Canner (the former landowner) assured us extended across the entire plot). It was not deemed necessary to strip the entire house footprint. The northern part of the house footprint was stripped, although this could not extend

to the full width of the proposed dwelling, as access for plant had to be left on the west side.

Over the following two days, the 9th and 10th of July, initial machining was followed by the cleaning by hand of the exposed surfaces, which included a thorough inspection. The archaeological deposits identified were then subjected to limited excavation to assess their nature/dimensions and to attempt to recover datable materials. As part of this, two small sub-trenches were excavated across wall remains to determine the sequence, nature and depth of the archaeological deposits. The investigations resulted in the production of written descriptions, colour photographs and scale drawings.

6.0 Results (Figs. 3, 4, 5 & 6)

As noted above, the footprint of the house was only partially stripped. Over the majority of the area, the topsoil, 001, overlay a compact slightly greenish grey silty sand - 012. In the north-east part of the site, in a strip approximately 2.5m wide along the east side of the site, the topsoil stripped immediately onto rubble 002. This consisted of dark brown clayey sand containing approximately 40-50% loose limestone rubble and occasional rounded cobbles.

Pottery from context 001 dates between the 13th to 16th century and tile fragments between the 12th to 19th/20th century. Pottery from 002 is 13th to 15th century. A copper alloy ring and a slate pencil (Registered Finds 1 and 2), both post-medieval in date, were retrieved from layer 002.

To the south of the area, a trench was extended to the full length of the footprint, but this was found to contain a large modern pit, excavated when this area was in use as part of a scrapyard (P. Canner, *pers. comm.*). The trench was also extended to the west; however, the whole footprint was not excavated in this direction in order to allow access for plant.

Following thorough cleaning (fig. 3), the rubble (002) resolved as the remains of two truncated wall foundations, [003] and [004], along with some spread rubble to either side: 005 to the east and 006/008 to the west of wall [003]. Wall [004] was only partially revealed at the northern edge of the excavated area; it was aligned WNW – ESE and projected 1.85m into the area before turning southwards, where it was numbered [003]. Pottery fragments from wall [004] has been dated 13th to 15th century.

Following correlation of the plans with those featured in the 2000 report, wall [004] appears to tie in with wall [1023], seen in the 1999 excavation. Wall [003] ran perpendicular to wall [004] and was traceable for a distance of 8.2m, where it appeared to terminate.

Two small sub-trenches were excavated across wall [003] to determine the nature and depth of the surrounding deposits (fig. 4). The northern trench (trench 1), was located directly adjacent to wall [004], and in this trench, the true nature of both walls was determined. They comprised loose limestone rubble set in a compact dark greenish

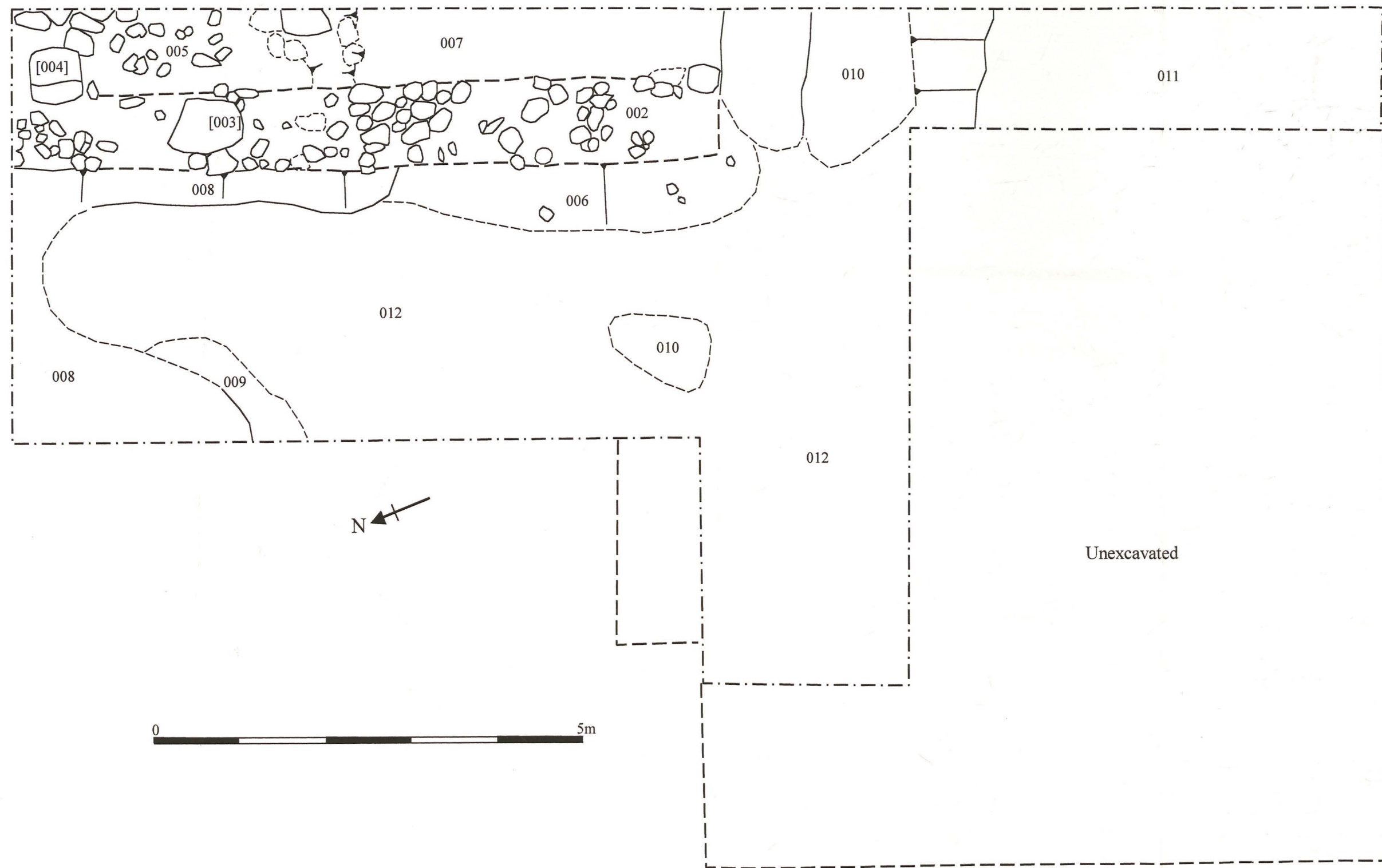


Fig. 3: Pre-excavation plan showing the entire house footprint and the excavated area immediately after initial cleaning had taken place. Scale 1:50

brown clayey sand matrix. Although clearly defined in section, and 0.95m wide, the foundations themselves had been extensively robbed, leaving only occasional large stones *in situ*. The pottery recovered from [003] gives some indication of the level of disturbance: two sherds dating between the 16th-18th century. The cut seen here, context [015], represents a robber trench, with any evidence of a construction trench having been obliterated. However, a fragment of handle from a Toynton ware jug, dated late 13th to 14th century, was recovered from a clean greenish orange clay deposit, 022, which was encountered beneath a single fragment of limestone that appeared not to have been disturbed by the stone robbing process.

The rubble spread (005), on the east side of wall [003], was a chalk-flecked dark greenish grey clayey sand, containing frequent limestone chunks and cobbles. It appeared to be cut by the robber trench, which may suggest that this structure suffered a period of dereliction before it was robbed. A fragment from a medieval quernstone (Registered Find 3) was retrieved from this deposit. Immediately below (005) was a thin layer of very dark mottled grey/green sand, which contained occasional patches of brown clay; context (020). It seems likely that this layer represents a trampled surface, perhaps laid down during construction; the clay patches being mortar dropped from this activity. Only one fragment of pottery was recovered from this material; a sherd of a Stanion/Lyveden ware jug, dating to the 13th century.

Directly below [003], two cut features that appear to predate the structure were exposed. The uppermost of these was a shallow gully, 0.45m wide and aligned northeast-southwest – [017], which was filled by a compact, charcoal-flecked dark olive brown silty sand – 016. Below and cut by this gully was a small (0.6m diameter) pit – [019]. This was 0.36m deep and it was filled by 018, a compact dark greenish brown silty sand which contained occasional medium limestone chunks. It appears likely that this feature may represent a posthole from an earlier timber structure. Unfortunately, no datable material was recovered from the fills of these features.

Approximately 4m to the south of trench 1, a second sub-trench (trench 2) was excavated across [003]. A similar scenario was observed, where wall [003] consisted largely of loose rubble. On the east side of [003], a layer of rubble 005 gave out 3m to the south of wall [004]. Beyond this, a layer of compact fine light yellowish grey silty sand containing occasional charcoal flecks and rare limestone fragments was observed – 007. To the west of wall [003], layer 006 sealed layer 008, but was cut by a pit of more recent origin – [014]. This pit was not visible in plan but was filled by 013, a very dark grey silty sand which was mottled with patches of redeposited natural sand. The pit yielded a fragment of a late 18th to 19th century creamware dish and a tile fragment dated to the mid 12th to mid 13th century. No features pre-dating the wall were seen in this trench.

Outside the area of the stone structure, several localised layers were uncovered. At the southern end of wall [003], a layer of dark greyish brown silty sand containing occasional limestone fragments and cobbles (006) was exposed. Two sherds of pottery were found in this layer, dating to the 13th/14th century. Immediately to the north was a chalk-flecked mid-yellowish brown silty clay containing occasional small limestone fragments and charcoal flecks (008). This yielded pottery of 13th to 16th century date and tile of 12th to 15th century date. The majority of the animal bone was recovered from this layer, although it appears to be a mixture of undiagnostic cattle

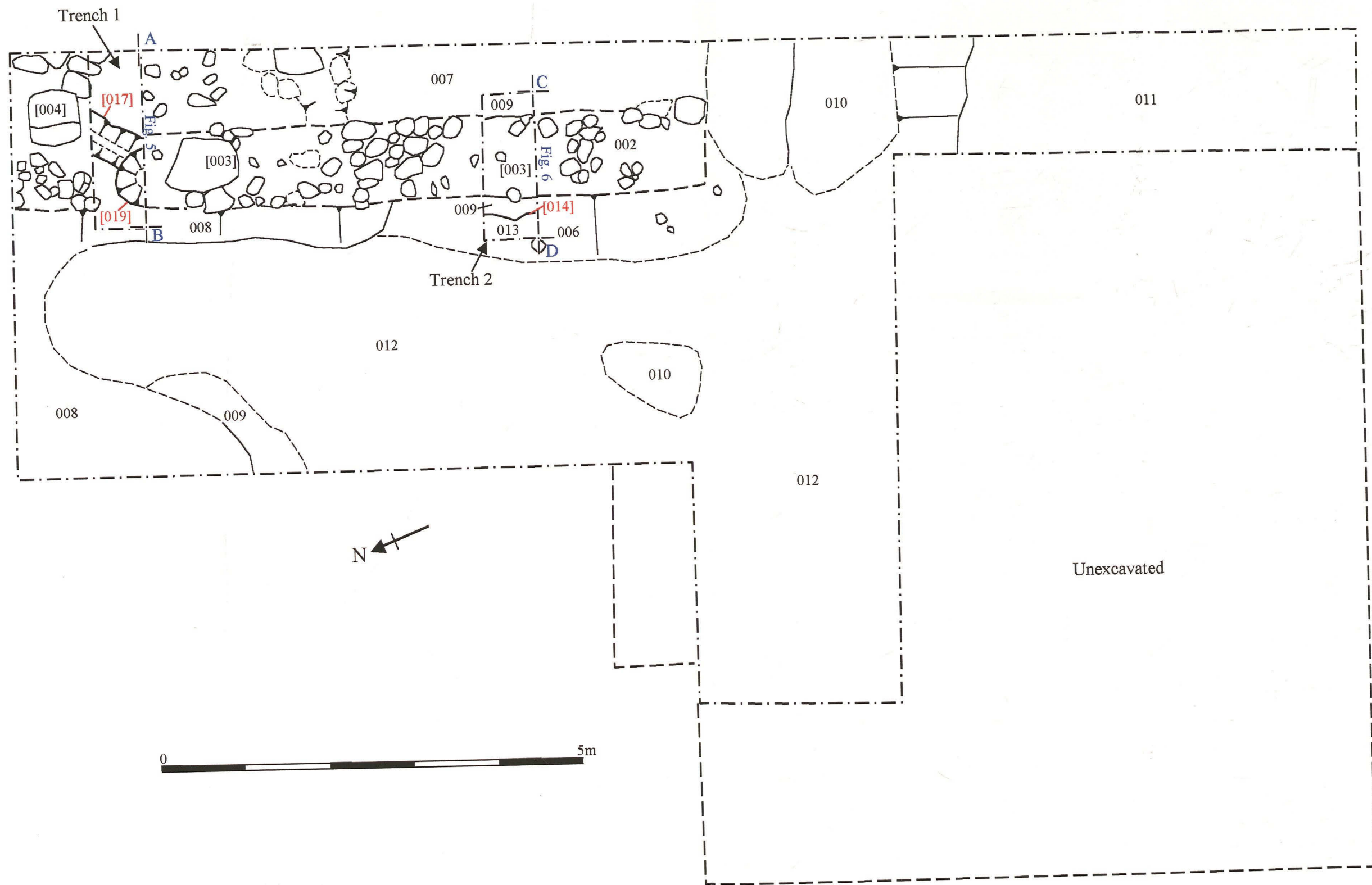


Fig. 4: Post-excavation plan showing the house footprint and the excavated area, along with the location of the two small investigative trenches. Scale 1:50

and horse fragments. Layer 008 extended into the north-eastern corner of the excavated area, where on its southern edge the natural mottled grey and white friable sand (009) was exposed. Both of these layers appear to be associated with the dereliction or demolition of the structure. Another layer, 010, consisting of chalk-flecked mid orange-grey sandy clay containing occasional small rounded pebbles/gravel, was exposed to the south of [003]; this was deemed to be of natural origin.

7.0 Discussion and conclusions

The walls exposed on the eastern side of the site appear to represent a continuation of the building remains seen in the 1999 excavations of the manorial complex. As observed in 1999, these remains are poorly preserved, and have been substantially robbed in antiquity. The stone foundations exposed at the current site appear to be represented more by concentrations of rubble thrown back into robber trenches after removal of the majority of the facing stones, rather than *in situ* masonry. Wall [004] appears to represent a continuation of wall [1023] of the 1999 excavation (fig. 2). As observed in 1999, no occupation horizons appear to have survived, and most of the deposits appear to result from demolition of the structure or, as in the case of 005 and 006, a phase of dereliction immediately prior to demolition. Only one layer, 020, can be tentatively interpreted as part of the construction process, and the sherd of pottery recovered from this layer accompanied by another from below what appeared to be an undisturbed piece of masonry, point to a construction date in the 13th/14th century.

The two cut features seen at the base of the northern trench (trench 1) appear to pre-date the walls, and one, posthole [019], may represent a preceding phase of timber construction. However, as no datable material was recovered from these features, an adequate interpretation is not possible.

Archaeological deposits to the south of this area were found to be modern in nature, the result of recent excavations during the life of the scrapyards that occupied the site until 1998.

8.0 Effectiveness of Methodology

The methodology employed allowed the presence/absence, the depth and, to a large extent, the dating of the archaeological remains to be determined. It would appear that the eastern extent of the manorial complex has been established.

9.0 Acknowledgements

Pre-Construct Archaeology (Lincoln) would like to thank Mr & Mrs Howard for this commission, and for the assistance provided by himself and his groundworkers during the course of the recording brief. Thanks are also due to Jane Young for the pottery and tile archive, to James Rackham for the animal bone report, and to Jane Cowgill for the small finds analysis.

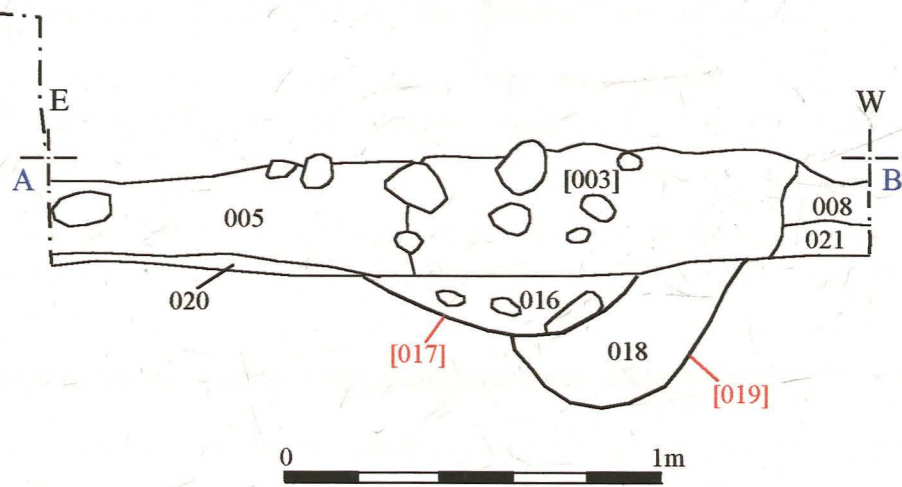


Fig. 5: North facing section through trench 1. Scale 1:20

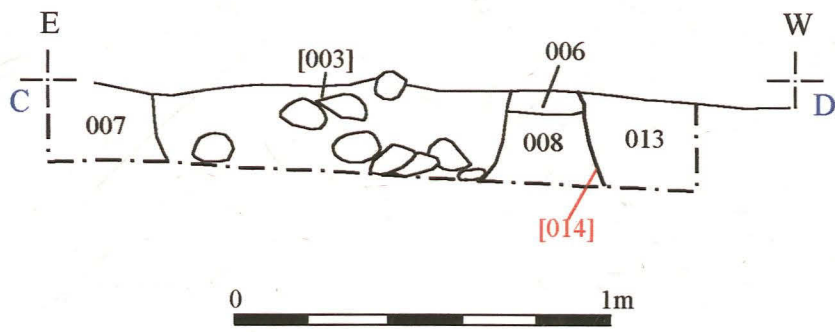


Fig. 6: North facing section through trench 2. Scale 1:20

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Appendix 1: Colour Plates



Plate 1: General shot of site with JCB at work, looking SW.



Plate 2 (left): General view of wall remains, looking south along the line of wall [003].



Plate 3 (right): General view of wall remains, looking north-east along the line of wall [003].

Plate 4 (right): Post-excavation view of the site, looking south. Trench 1 is in the foreground, trench 2 in the background.



Plate 5 (left): Trench 1, showing cross-section through wall [003], looking south. Gully [017] and posthole [019] can be seen in the base of the trench.

Plate 6 (right): Trench 2, showing cross-section through wall [003], looking south. Modern pit [014] is clearly visible on the right.



Plate 7 (left): NW-SE oriented wall [004], looking NE.

Appendix 2

Pottery Archive LSIF03

Jane Young

context	cname	sub fabric	full name	form type	sherds	vessels	weight	decoration	part	description	date
001	LSW3		14th to 15th century Lincoln Glazed Ware	large jug	3	1	179		handle & UH	large grooved rod;deep eyelet thumbing	14th
001	RGRE		Reduced glazed red earthenware	bowl ?	1	1	11		BS	int glaze	16th
001	POTTG	A	Potterhanworth Glazed ware	jug	1	1	12		BS	cu mottled glaze;interior deposit;? ID	13th to 14th
001	STANLY	glazed oolitic	Stanion/Lyveden ware	jug	1	1	18		BS	burnt;glaze;? Same vessel as 001	13th
001	PMLOC	A	Post-medieval Local fabrics	jug	1	1	77		handle	grooved oval	16th
002	TOY	D	Toynton Medieval Ware	jug	1	1	20		BS		late 13th to 15th
002	MEDLOC	oxidised;fine-med sandy;hard	Medieval local fabrics	?	1	1	3		BS	abundant fine-med subround quartz	13th to 15th
003	RGRE		Reduced glazed red earthenware	jar/bowl	1	1	14		BS	cu bichrome	late 16th to early 17th
003	BL		Black-glazed wares	large bowl	1	1	93		rim		18th
004	POTT		Potterhanworth-type Ware	dripping pan	1	1	99	pressed inner rim edge	rim	soot	13th to 15th
004	TOY	D	Toynton Medieval Ware	jug	1	1	6		BS	? ID	13th to 15th
006	LSWA		Lincoln Glazed ware Fabric A	jug	1	1	25		BS	cu glaze	13th to 14th
006	LSW2		13th to 14th century Lincoln Glazed Ware	jug	1	1	30	applied wide spaced horizontal scales btwn horiz grooves	BS	pocked glaze	early to mid 13th

context cname	sub fabric	full name	form type	sherds	vessels	weight	decoration	part	description	date
008	POTTG	late A	Potterhanworth Glazed ware	drinking jug	1	1	5	BS	? ID or LLSW	late 14th to 15th
008	POTT		Potterhanworth-type Ware	jar ?	1	1	51	BS	thick ext soot with sharp demarkation line; patchy int soot	13th to 15th
008	HUM		Humberware	jug	1	1	70	BS	interior white deposit	14th to 16th
008	STANLY	glazed oolitic	Stanion/Lyveden ware	jug	1	1	7	BS	? Same vessel as context 001	13th
008	LEMS		Lincolnshire Early Medieval Shelly	jar/bowl	1	1	33	rim	soot; abraded & leached surfaces; square rim	12th
008	POTTG	A	Potterhanworth Glazed ware	jug	1	1	10	BS	cu glaze; ? ID	13th to 14th
008	POTTG	late A	Potterhanworth Glazed ware	bowl	1	1	12	BS	int brown glaze; ? ID or LLSW	late 14th to 15th
012	TOY	E	Toynton Medieval Ware	small jug/jar	1	1	5	BS	burnt exterior	late 13th to 14th
013	CREA		Creamware	dish	1	1	6	base		late 18th to 19th
020	STANLY	glazed oolitic	Stanion/Lyveden ware	jug	1	1	26	BS	dark reduced glaze with ? Cu	13th
022	TOY	D	Toynton Medieval Ware	large jug	1	1	172	handle with 1	grooved oval handle	late 13th to 14th

Appendix 3

Tile Archive LSIF03

Jane Young

context	cname	full name	fabric	sub type	frags	weight	description	date
001	GPNR	Glazed peg, nib or ridge	7		1	205	flat roofer; mortar; reduced/amber glaze; 20mm thick	mid/late 12th to early/mid 13th
001	PNR	Peg, nib or ridge tile	1		1	84	flat roofer	13th to 15th
001	PANT	Pantile			1	94		19th to 20th
004	PNR	Peg, nib or ridge tile	1		1	3	flake	12th to 16th
008	NIB	nibbed tile	1	4D/E	1	126		mid 13th to 14th
008	NIB	nibbed tile	1	4A	1	43	left corner	late 13th to 14th
008	PNR	Peg, nib or ridge tile	1		1	21	flat roofer; poor fabric	late 12th to 15th
008	PNR	Peg, nib or ridge tile	1		1	36	flat roofer; poor fabric	late 12th to 15th
008	PNR	Peg, nib or ridge tile	7		1	13	flat roofer; abraded	mid 12th to early/mid 13th
008	PNR	Peg, nib or ridge tile	7		1	43	flat roofer	mid 12th to early/mid 13th
013	PNR	Peg, nib or ridge tile	1/7		1	14	flat roofer; abraded	mid 12th to mid 13th

Appendix 4

Archive catalogue of animal bone from Land south of Inglebrook, Fiskerton – LSIF03

site	context	species	bone	no.	side	fusion	zone	butchery	gnawing	toothwear	measurement	pathological	comment	preservation
LSIF03	003	CSZ	RIB	1	F								SHAFT FRAGMENT	4
LSIF03	008	EQU	HUM	1	L		690		DG				DISTAL HALF OF SHAFT WITH EPIPHYSIS CHEWED OFF-SMALL-MED SIZED HORSE	4
LSIF03	008	CSZ	TRV	1	F								BASE OF SPINE	4
LSIF03	008	BOS	MAN	1	R					117			HORI RAMUS FRAG WITH ANT PART TOOTH ROW-ONLY M1 INTACT	4
LSIF03	008	BOS	MAN	1	R								POST VENTRAL PART OF HORIZONTAL RAMUS	4
LSIF03	008	OYS	VALVE	1	U								UPPER VALVE	4
LSIF03	008	EQU	TIB	1	L								DISTAL HALF OF SHAFT-SOME SLIGHT SURFACE EROSION-LARGE HORSE	4

Report on the registered finds from the evaluation south of Inglebrook, Fiskerton, Lincolnshire (LSIF 03).

Catalogue.

Context 002, RF 1, Copper-alloy Ring, Post medieval.

Poorly cast irregular ring that has not been trimmed post casting. It could have served a range of functions but shows little signs of wear. Probably not a buckle. External diameter 22-23mm; internal diameter 17-18mm; 1.5mm thick.

Context 002, RF 2, Slate pencil, Post medieval.

Complete with six-sided shaft (two broader than the others) tapering to a blunted point. Length 32mm; 6 x 5mm thick.

Context 005, RF 3, Stone Quern, Medieval.

Niedermendig lavastone quern-edge fragment. Part of a basal stone with the upper surface deeply pecked while the back is fairly even; little sign of wear. Maximum surviving dimensions 108 x 108 x 28mm thick.

Discussion.

The copper-alloy ring and slate pencil are both probably relatively modern finds (19th to early 20th century) while the date of the well-preserved fragment of quern is more uncertain. None of these finds reflect the status of the manor house finds encountered during the previous excavations on the neighbouring plot excavated in 1999.

Jane Cowgill©
September 2003.

Appendix 6: Context summary.

Context	Description
001	Topsoil
002	Rubble over [003] and [004]
003	North-south wall
004	East-west wall
005	Rubble spread east of [003]
006	Rubble spread west of [003]
007	Sandy material east of [003]
008	Yellow clay west of [003]
009	Natural sand
010	Yellow clay south of 007
011	Modern disturbance at southern end of site
012	Greenish grey silty sand generally deposited to west of building
013	Fill of modern pit [014]
014	Modern pit west of [003] in trench 2
015	Construction/robber trench
016	Fill of gully [017]
017	Gully below [003] in trench 1
018	Fill of posthole [018]
019	Posthole below [003] in trench 1
020	Layer below 005
021	Layer below 008
022	Localised deposit below [003]