

**BUILDING PLOT, MAIN STREET,  
CAENBY, LINCOLNSHIRE**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF  
REPORT**

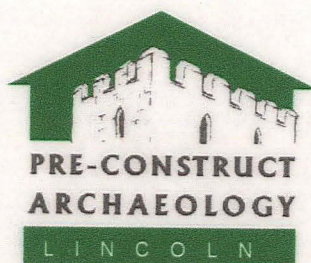
Site code	MLCA 04
NGR:	TF 00111 89594
LCCM Acc No:	2004.17
Planning ref.	M/01/P/0624

Report prepared for Mr. P. Roberts

by

R. D. Gardner

January 2004



Pre-Construct Archaeology (Lincoln)  
Unit G  
William Street Business Park  
Saxilby  
Lincoln  
LN1 2LP  
Tel. & Fax. 01522 703800  
e-mail colin.pca@virgin.net  
©Pre-Construct Archaeology (Lincoln)



## Contents

	Summary	1
1.0	Introduction	2
2.0	Location and description	2
3.0	Planning background	2
4.0	Archaeological and historical background	3
5.0	Methodology	3
6.0	Results	4
7.0	Discussion and Conclusions	5
8.0	Effectiveness of Methodology	6
9.0	Acknowledgements	6
10.0	References	6
11.0	Site archive	7

## Illustrations

- Fig. 1: Location of site, scale 1:25 000  
Fig. 2: Location plan within Caenby village, scale 1:2500  
Fig. 3: Overall site plan, scale 1:200  
Fig. 4: Site section drawings, scale 1:20  
Fig. 5: Extract from 1<sup>st</sup> edition Ordnance Survey map, scale 1 inch to 1 mile

## Appendices

- Appendix 1 Colour Plates  
Appendix 2 List of contexts

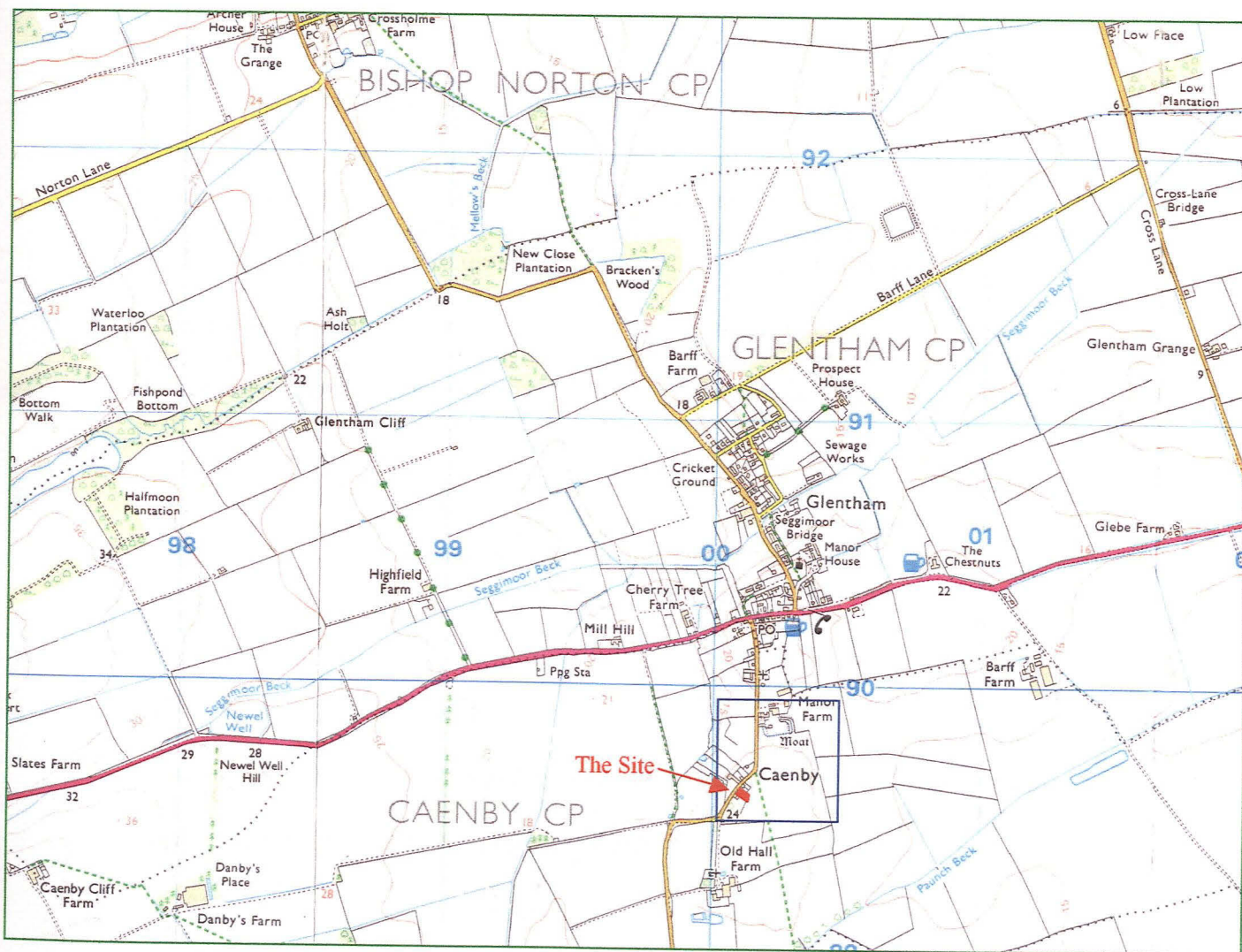
Conservation  
Services

06 FEB 2004

Highways & Planning  
Directorate

### Summary

- An archaeological watching brief was undertaken during the groundworks for a detached house on a vacant building plot on Main Street, Caenby, Lincolnshire
- The site lies to the south of a medieval moated manor site, now occupied by Manor Farm, and other medieval earthworks are visible on the opposite side of Main Street to the north-west
- The watching brief revealed two undated features and possible traces of further earthworks that are no longer visible on the surface



**Fig. 1:** Location map. The development site is shown in red and the area of Fig. 2 outlined in blue. Scale 1:25 000. O.S. Copyright licence No. AL 515 21 A0001



## 1.0 Introduction

Pre-Construct Archaeology (Lincoln) was commissioned by Mr. P. Roberts to undertake an archaeological watching brief during the groundworks for a detached house off Main Street, Caenby, Lincolnshire.

These works were undertaken to fulfil the objectives of a formal project brief issued by the Built Environment Officer for Lincolnshire County Council, and 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) and *Standards and guidance for archaeological watching briefs* (IFA, 1999).

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

## 2.0 Site location and description (figs. 1 & 2)

The village of Caenby is within the administrative district of West Lindsey, near the base of the east side of the Lincoln Edge, approximately 18km north of Lincoln and 18km east of Gainsborough. It is a dispersed linear settlement, spreading out along a single main road, directly to the south of the larger village of Glentham.

The development site lies on the SE side of Main Street, and comprises a single house plot, fronting on to the street with currently occupied house plots (buildings of late 20<sup>th</sup> century date) on either side; the NW edge of the site forms a terrace above the level of the road. To the rear of the property is open arable land.

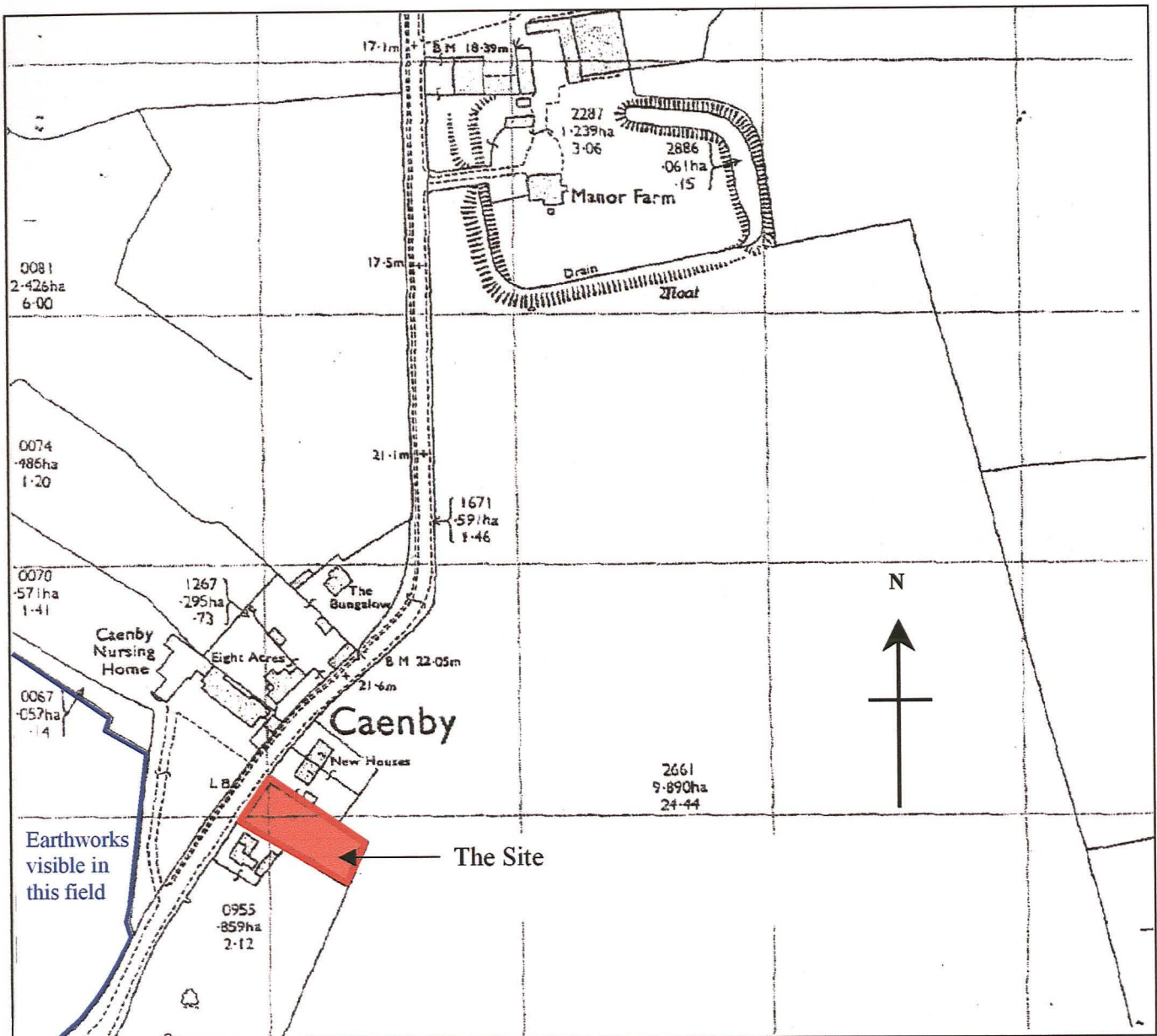
The local geology consists of fine-grained Kellaways Formation Sandstone, directly east of and below a band of Oxford Clay Formation Mudstone (British Geological Survey, 1999). Caenby village is situated approximately 21m above sea level.

Central National Grid Reference: TF 00111 89594.

## 3.0 Planning background

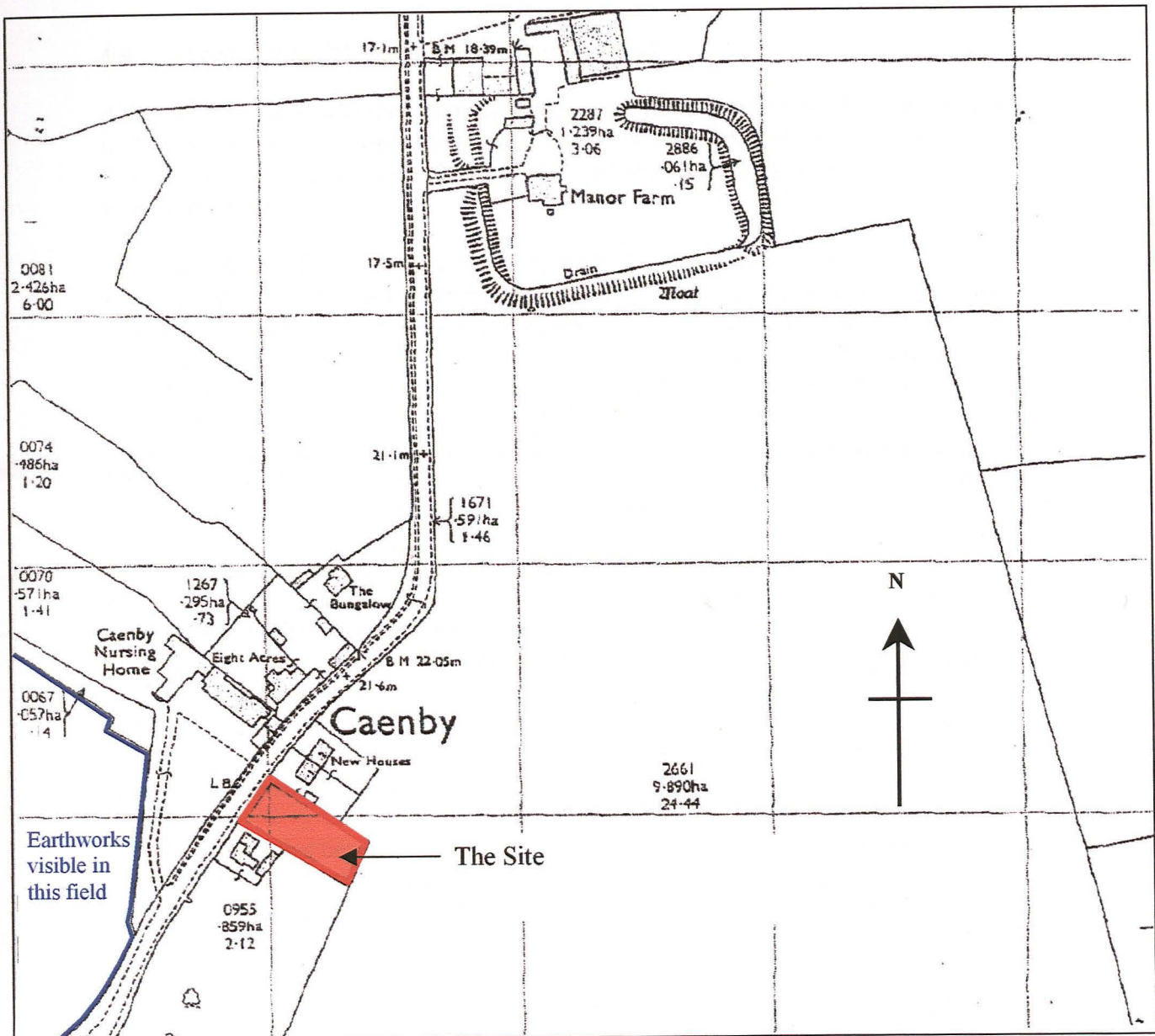
Planning permission was granted for the construction of a new dwelling off Main Street (planning ref. M01/P/0624). This permission was granted subject to the undertaking of a watching brief on all groundworks.





**Fig. 2:** Location plan, showing the development site in red. The medieval earthworks surrounding Manor Farm are shown to the north; further earthworks are visible in the field to the west (outlined in blue). Scale 1:2500.





**Fig. 2:** Location plan, showing the development site in red. The medieval earthworks surrounding Manor Farm are shown to the north: further earthworks are visible in the field to the west (outlined in blue). Scale 1:2500.



#### 4.0 Archaeological and historical background

Although Caenby is less than 4km from the major Roman highway of Ermine Street, no Roman activity is recorded in the vicinity of the development area: the only Roman site known to the Lincolnshire Sites and Monuments Record lies to the north-west of the village.

A massive Anglo-Saxon burial mound, some 100m in diameter and up to 2.5m high, was excavated near Caenby in 1850. Unfortunately, archaeological techniques were in their infancy at this period, but the body appeared to have been in a sitting position, and fragments of wood decorated with gilt-bronze plaques inlaid with pearls indicate that the person might have been buried seated on a throne-like chair, indicating their extremely high status (Sawyer, 1998). The burial dates from the first half of the 7<sup>th</sup> century AD, and may well pre-date the settlement: the place-name 'Caenby' is of Viking origin, 'the farmstead or village (-by) of a Norseman named *Kafni*', suggesting a late or post-Saxon date for Caenby village (Cameron, 1998).

The Domesday Survey of 1086 lists *Counebi* among the lands of the Bishop of Lincoln. The recorded population at the time was 35 – relatively large for a rural settlement – and land use was a mixture of arable and pasture. No taxable value is quoted for the farmland, but the village mill paid a respectable 4 shillings per annum in tax (Morgan and Thorn, 1986). A church is listed in Domesday Book, but very little of that building now remains: the present church of St. Nicholas, now redundant, dates chiefly to 1869, although salvaged medieval masonry was utilised in the rebuilding (Pevsner, 1989).

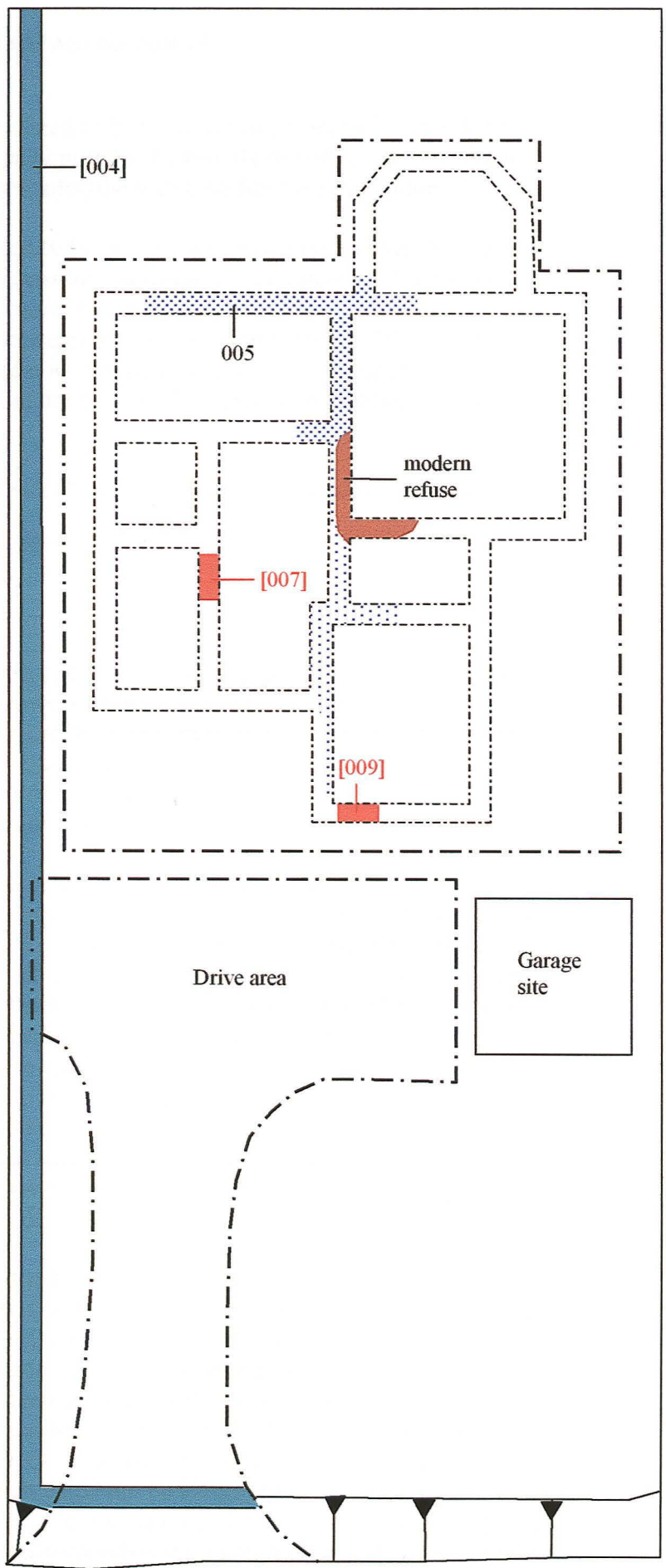
Caenby village lies between two medieval manorial sites, now represented by Manor Farm and Old Hall Farm (Everson *et al.*, 1991). Although the buildings of Manor Farm are Georgian, the earthworks of the medieval moat are still visible around it, and further earthworks, representing the layout of an earlier and more extensive phase of the village, can be seen in fields directly north-west of the development site. Old Hall Farm, occupying the site of the manorial seat, was extensively rebuilt in 1744 on the medieval foundations (Pevsner, 1989).

#### 5.0 Methodology

Prior to commencement of the watching brief, vegetation and some topsoil had been removed from the site. The house footprint and the drive area were topsoiled to a depth of 0.20m-0.30m, using a small 360° tracked excavator with a 1.6m ditching bucket; spoil was removed by a bulldozer/lifter. The topsoil strip did not expose underlying layers, except on the NW side of the site, where the cut for the drive dropped to c. 0.60m to meet the road, cutting into subsoil 002 and natural 003.

Due to the arrival of several lorry-loads of hardcore for the drive, excavation of the foundation trenches did not begin until mid-afternoon. The trenches were dug to a level, typically 0.50m-0.65m deep, using a 0.60m toothed bucket, and beginning in the S corner of the site. Less than half the foundations had been completed when the light grew too poor to continue, causing the watching-brief to be extended to the following day. On completion of the house foundation trenches in the early afternoon





**Key:**

- - - Extent of topsoil strip
- - - - Foundation trench excavations
- █ Wall [004]
- █ Cut feature
- █ Modern rubbish pit
- ▒ Layer 005 visible in base of trench
- ▒ Layer 005 visible in section

**Fig. 3:** Plan of the development site, showing the location of recorded features. Scale 1:200.



of the next day, the garage area remained to be topsoiled and trenched: since this was a small area in a part of the site already noted to be heavily disturbed, and the main excavations had produced minimal results, the watching brief was concluded.

All the foundation trenches could safely be entered for close examination. Where the presence of features of potential archaeological interest was suggested, the trench sections and base were cleaned by hand. Any features seen were recorded on standard watching brief recording sheets, accompanied by scale drawings at 1:20; sample sections were recorded in areas where no features were seen. A colour photographic record of the groundworks was maintained: a selection of colour plates is reproduced in Appendix 1.

The fieldwork was carried out on the 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2004, and was monitored throughout by the author.

## 6.0 Results (figs. 3 and 4)


The site was sealed by dark brownish-grey sandy/silty topsoil 001, which contained occasional slabs and fragments of unworked limestone, probably associated with wall [004], and quantities of 19<sup>th</sup> century and modern refuse. 001 overlay a thin layer of subsoil, mid brownish-grey silty fine sand 002, which over most of the site was no more than 0.15m deep, and natural 003, a relatively loose mid-brown silty fine sand containing occasional limestone fragments.

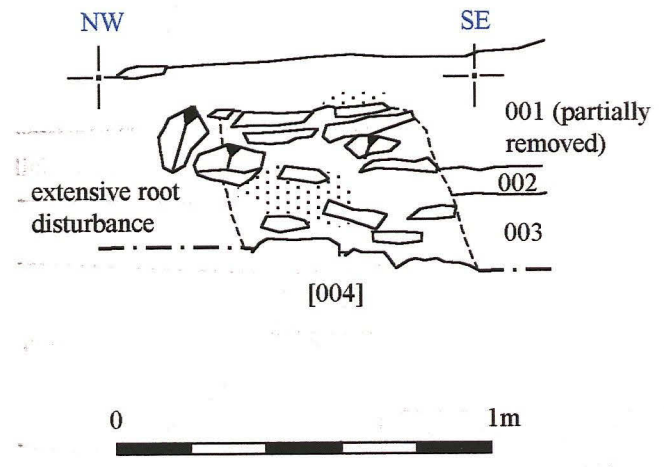
Running NW-SE through the centre of the site was feature [010], a depression in natural sand 003, approximately 16.5m long and 9.0m wide at its SE end, but tapering to possibly no more than 3.0m to NW, which at its deepest exceeded the depth of the foundation trenches (0.65m+). The fill in this depression was indistinguishable from subsoil 002, although it was given the number 005 for clarity of recording. Extremely poor light and weather conditions throughout the watching brief made the edges of [010] difficult to ascertain; where the edge could be seen most clearly, it was steep and slightly concave, but appeared to be shallow in other areas of the site (fig. 4, section drawings 2 and 3). Both subsoil 002 and fill 005 contained fragments of animal bone, much of which was not kept due to its poor condition. Several teeth of domestic pig, including two tusks, were retrieved from 005, with a single fragment of flat roof tile: these finds were discarded after washing.

Two cut features were observed in the foundation trenches: both appeared when first exposed to be sections of ditches, but neither could be seen in other trenches crossing their apparent alignments. Feature [007] lay within the northern quadrant of the house footprint (fig. 3), and extended outside the trench to NE and SW; it was 1.60m wide and 0.50m deep, with moderately steep sides and a flat base. Its fill, mid-brownish grey silty fine sand 006, differed from subsoil 002 only in the presence of fragments of limestone and occasional large flecks of charcoal, and like 002 contained very damaged animal bone, most of which could not be identified and was not kept. Part of the jawbone of a sheep was retrieved, but was discarded after washing. Feature [009] was exposed in the most north-westerly foundation trench (fig. 3): it was a shallow V-shape in profile, with a concave base, extending outside the trench to NW and SE, and was 1.42m wide and 0.50m deep. Fill 008 could not be distinguished from topsoil

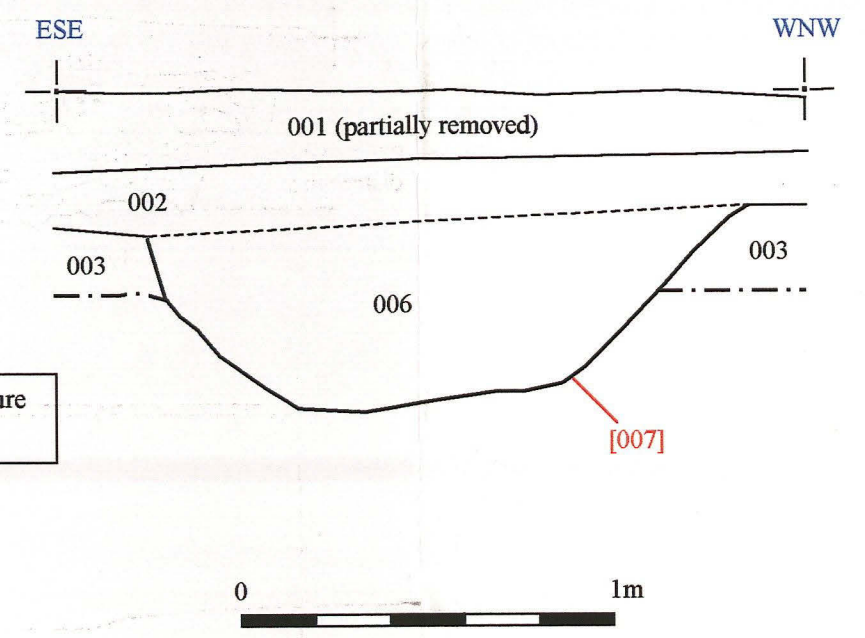


**Section 1: wall [004] in the drive area strip.**

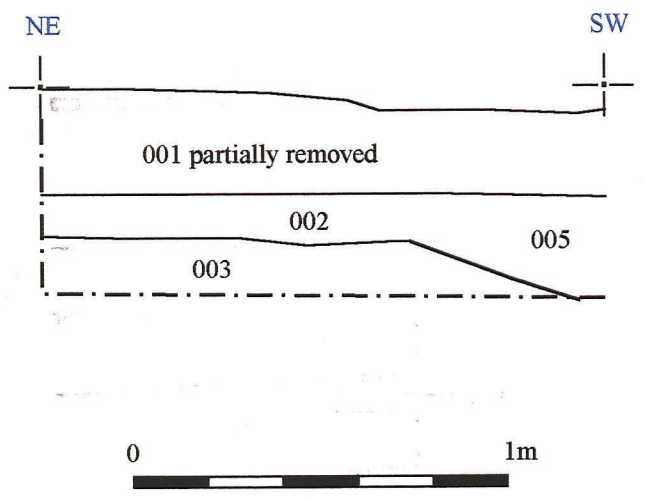
 area of lime mortar



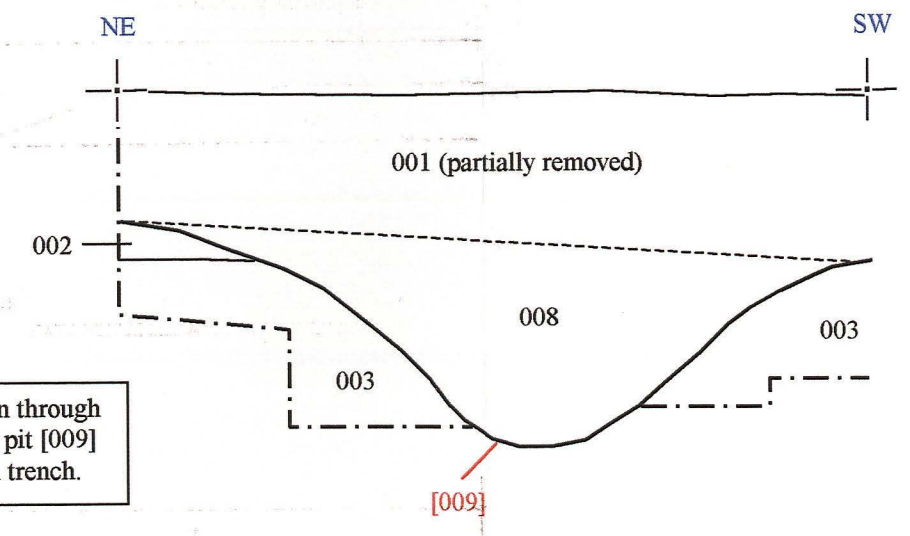
**Section 4: section through feature [007] in the foundation trench.**



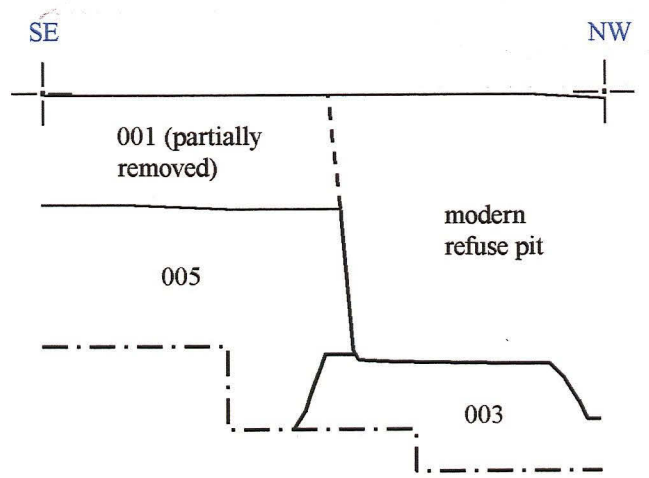
**Section 2: sample section in foundation trench, showing change in depth from 002 to 005.**



**Section 5: section through probable modern pit [009] in the foundation trench.**



**Section 3: sample section in foundation trench, showing 005 at maximum depth, truncated by a modern refuse pit.**



**Fig. 4:** Section of wall [004] in the drive area strip (top left) and section drawings in the house plot foundation trenches. Scale 1:20.



001, and the feature appeared to cut subsoil 002: since the topsoil in the W corner of the foundation trench area increased in depth to almost the full depth of the trench, and 002 was no longer visible on the SW side of feature [009], it seems most likely that this feature, which produced no dating evidence, is part of a more extensive area of recent disturbance.

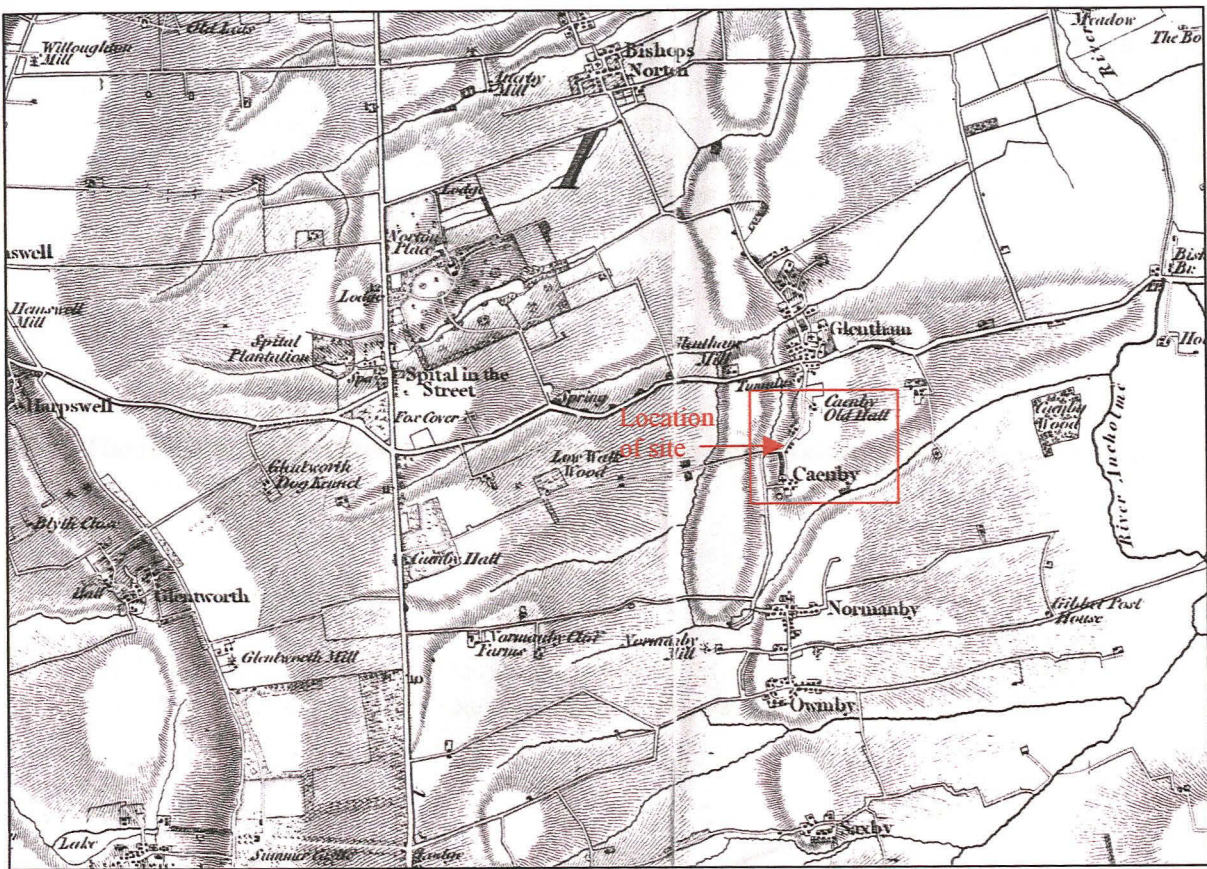
The topsoil strip over most of the site was not deep enough to expose possible features, but at its deepest point, adjacent to the road, it cut through a partially buried stone wall, structure [004], which consisted of irregular, unworked limestone slabs, uncoursed and principally dry-laid, but incorporating occasional deposits of lime mortar. The wall was visible on the surface along the NE side of the development plot, although it was heavily disturbed and stood only one or two courses above ground level. In section in the NE side of the driveway cut, it exceeded the full depth (0.55m) of the cut, and was exposed in plan across its width. It ceased to be visible on the SW side of the drive strip, but a ridge at the top of the bank down to Main Street indicated its continuation, while loose limestone slabs under the hedge of the neighbouring property indicate that it also continues to NE outside the development site boundary. At the rear of the development site, a shallow bank indicates that this wall also borders the property to SE: the bank continues behind the neighbouring property to SW, here containing visible limestone fragments, and the wall itself stands to a maximum height of 0.9m further to SW again. Two fragments of industrial-period pottery – a sherd of blue-glazed pottery and part of a stoneware ink pot – were retrieved from among the stone slabs in the driveway cut, but were not kept.

## 7.0 Discussion and conclusion

With the exception of feature [009], which was cut from, or incorporated, the topsoil and is likely to be recent, the layers and fills seen during the watching brief were remarkably homogenous, with no appreciable difference being observed between subsoil layer 002, deposit 005 and fill 006, and it seems most likely that they were all deposited as a single event. It is possible that the large, relatively shallow depression [010] is not a natural feature, but the remnant of a medieval earthwork corresponding to those on the other side of Main Street, and that the land was levelled to accommodate previous buildings; while feature [007] seems rather narrow to be an aspect of an earthwork landscape, its apparent alignment does take it into the centre of [010], and it cannot be ruled out that it is an outlying spur of this feature, such as the base of a track leading to it. There was no definite dating evidence from any of these layers and fills, but the fragment of tile from 006 appeared to be post-medieval, and the pig tusks also indicated a late deposition, as they were of the small size associated with the relatively modern breeds of domestic pig – medieval pigs were not very dissimilar from wild boar, and had much larger tusks.

This area of Caenby was certainly built up before the construction of the present (late 20<sup>th</sup> century) houses to either side of the development site, as individual buildings are shown here on the 1<sup>st</sup> edition Ordnance Survey map of 1824 (fig. 5). Unlike the modern houses, these buildings are not set back within their house plots, but front directly on to the road. It seems likely, therefore, that an earlier house occupied what is now the drive and garage area, and that the edge of the groundworks associated with it were seen as feature [009] and the topsoil disturbances in the SW corner of the





**Fig. 5:** Extract from the 1824 1<sup>st</sup> edition Ordnance Survey map, scale 1 inch to 1 mile. Caenby is outlined in red: the buildings on and adjacent to the development area can be clearly seen. (O.S. copyright licence no. AL 515 21 A0001)



trench, while the current foundation trenches were cut into the previous back yard or garden area, where the banks and hollows associated with a yet earlier phase of the village had been levelled out and filled in.

Wall [004] presumably formed the boundary wall of the property seen on the 1824 map. Traces of a wall on a similar alignment can be seen extending along Main Street in both directions, and a standing wall of similar material and construction, considerably older in appearance than the buildings now occupying the plot, borders the Caenby Nursing Home on the opposite side of the road. The implication is that this part of the village was previously composed of estate cottages, planned and built as a single unit.

## 8.0 Effectiveness of methodology

The methodology employed was adequate to the low level of archaeological remains encountered.

## 9.0 Acknowledgements

Pre-Construct Archaeology (Lincoln) would like to thank Mr. Roberts for this commission and for his co-operation during the watching brief.

## 10.0 References

British Geological Survey, 1999, *Market Rasen. England and Wales Sheet 102. Solid and Drift Geology. 1:50 000 Provisional Series*. Keyworth, Nottingham.

Cameron, K., 1998, *A Dictionary of Lincolnshire Place-Names*. The English Place-Name Society, Nottingham.

Everson, P.L., Taylor, C.C. and Dunn, C.J., 1991, *Change and Continuity: Rural Settlement in North-West Lincolnshire*. HMSO, London.

IFA, 1999, *Standard Guidance for Archaeological Excavations*. Birmingham, Institute of Field Archaeologists.

LCC, 1998, *Lincolnshire Archaeological Handbook: A Manual of Archaeological Practice*. Lincoln, Built Environment Section, Lincolnshire County Council.

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

Ordnance Survey, 1824, *Lincoln, Sheet 29*. Reproduction published 1970 by David and Charles, Newton Abbot.

Pevsner N., & Harris J., 1989, *The Buildings of England: Lincolnshire, second edition*, Penguin, London.



Sawyer P., 1998, *Anglo-Saxon Lincolnshire, History of Lincolnshire III*. 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 with Lincoln City & County Museum within six months from the completion of the project.



**Appendix 1: Colour Plates**



**Plate 1 (left):** general view of the site during topsoil stripping, looking NW towards Main Street.

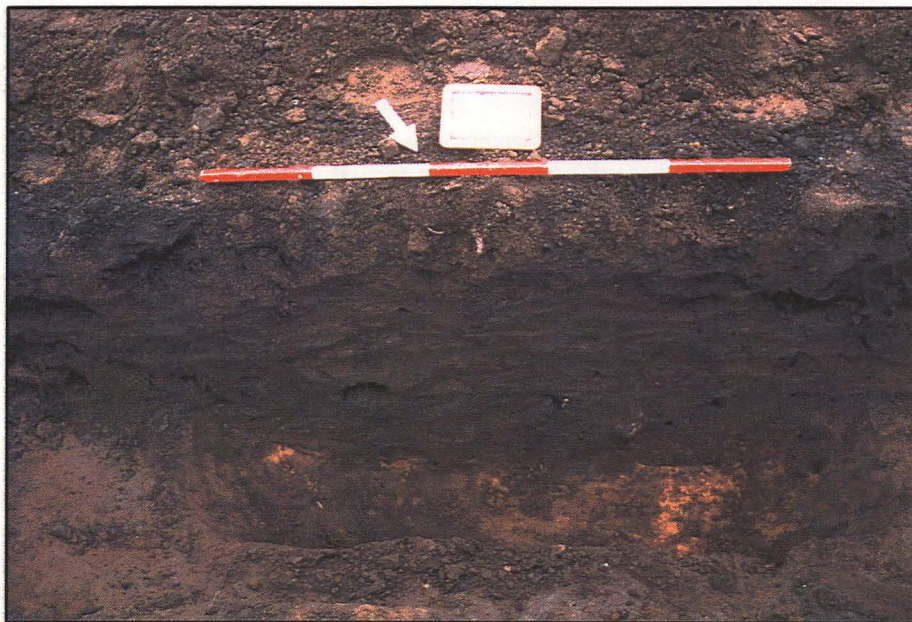


**Plate 2 (right):** wall [104] exposed in the driveway strip, looking NE (the north point is incorrectly positioned).



**Plate 3 (left):** general shot of the site during the excavation of the house foundation trenches, looking SW.





**Plate 4 (left):** feature [007] in the side of the foundation trench, looking SSW.



**Plate 5 (right):** feature [009] in the side of the foundation trench, looking SE.



**Plate 6 (left):** the completed house plot foundation trenches, looking S.



## Appendix 2: List of contexts

- 001 Dark brownish-grey friable fine/medium-sandy silty loam topsoil
- 002 Mid brownish-grey friable silty fine sand subsoil
- 003 Natural: friable to loose mid-brown silty fine sand
- 004 Wall: unworked limestone slabs; boundary of property
- 005 Fill in depression [010]
- 006 Fill in feature [007]: mid brownish-grey friable silty fine sand
- 007 Pit or short stretch of ditch
- 008 Fill in feature [009]; indistinguishable from topsoil
- 009 Pit or ditch, probably modern
- 010 Shallow depression covering central area of house plot