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M & M ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES

The Old Coach House, Church End, Donington, Lincolnshire PE11 4SQ

Tel: 01775 822759 Fax: 01775 822025 email: magriff@talk21.com

**RESULTS OF AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF:
PHASE 2, (INCLUDES PLOT 12) HOME FARM, BIGBY, LINCOLNSHIRE**



**RENEWAL OF PLANNING APPLICATION REFERENCE: M02/P/0692
NGR: TA 05890 07291**

**Site Code: HFB 02
Accession No.: LCNCC 2003.459**

COMMISSIONED BY:

**BUILDING LINK DESIGN
15 THORNE ROAD
DONCASTER
DN1 2HG**

**UNDERTAKEN BY
M & M ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES**

Conservation
Services

16 FEB 2004

Highways & Planning
Directorate

EVENT: L15907

INTERVENTION: L19986

EXCAVATION: L19987

negative

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SUMMARY

- 1.1 *West Lindsey District Council granted planning permission for the construction of six residential dwellings with associated garages and services on land at Home Farm, Main Street, Bigby, Lincolnshire (Planning Application M02/P/0692). This report also incorporates an additional application for Plot 12 on the same site (Planning App No M02/P/0886).*
- 1.2 *As a condition of the planning permission, an archaeological watching brief was required. A specification was prepared for this fieldwork and the monitoring and subsequent reporting on the results have been undertaken according to this document and within nationally recognised archaeological guidelines.*
- 1.3 *The watching brief recorded the absence of archaeological material on the site. Deposits recorded at the site included the natural geology, overlain by subsoil and topsoil. An area in the west of the site contained an old sheep dip which was removed to natural. This was recorded by photograph only. No archaeological material was found.*

2.0 SITE LOCATION AND DESCRIPTION

- 2.1 Bigby is located 8km east of Brigg and 9km northwest of Caistor in the administrative district of West Lindsey. The site is located on the west side of Main Street, Bigby and is centred on NGR TA 05890 07291. The site was previously occupied by farm buildings.

3.0 PLANNING BACKGROUND

- 3.1 West Lindsey District Council granted planning permission for the construction of six residential dwellings with garages and associated services on the site (Planning Application M02/P/0692).
- 3.2 Condition 2 of the Planning Permission required an archaeological watching brief to be maintained during groundworks. A specification detailing the methodology to be maintained during the watching brief was prepared and the fieldwork was undertaken in accordance with this document and current best archaeological practices and the appropriate national standards and guidance including:

Management of Archaeological Projects (English Heritage 1991);
Code of Conduct (Institute of Field Archaeologists 1999);
Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs (Institute of Field Archaeologists 1999).
Lincolnshire Archaeological Handbook (LCC 1998).

- 3.3 The monitoring was maintained between October 2002 and August 2003 by Martin Griffiths BA (Hons), AIFA and Mark Chambers FRICS.

4.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 4.1 The earliest remains recorded close to the site are tentatively dated to the prehistoric period. To the south of the site, possible crop-marks representing a ring ditch and enclosure have been recorded (SMR 53676).
- 4.2 Medieval remains are represented by All Saints Church which has an early English chancel and a late 13th century tower (SMR 53670). Documentary evidence suggests that Bigby village declined in size in the late 14th century (SMR 53674) with the village extending further south and eastwards. By the 16th century the fortunes of the village appear to have changed and the village grows in size until the 18th century (SMR 53675). The village at this time reflects those properties present today, with early properties being abandoned and replaced by larger properties.
- 4.3 Remains of late medieval ridge and furrow have been recorded to the south (SMR 53684) and north (SMR 53684).

5.0 AIMS

The aim of the watching brief was to:

- a) to monitor ground disturbance during the course of development
- b) to ensure the recording of the extent, condition, character, quality and date of any archaeological deposits and features where they may not be left in-situ;
- c) to report on the results of the watching brief and place them within their Local, Regional or National context

6.0 METHODOLOGY & RESULTS

- 6.1 An archaeological watching brief was undertaken during ground works associated with the development. Ground works included the stripping of topsoil/subsoil to a depth of 0.8m-1m and the monitoring of strip foundation excavation for the new dwellings. The strip foundations were excavated to a maximum depth of 1m and width of 0.7m (see Plates 1-2 for general shots).

Plot 25 (Plate 3)

- 6.2 After the removal of 0.8m of modern overburden and topsoil in the area of Plot 25, excavation of the footings commenced. Excavation of the strip foundations for Plot 25 revealed a 0.3m thick layer of mid brown silty clay subsoil (102) which petered out as the footings proceeded eastwards. Occasional modern rubble filled holes representing possible sumps/soakaways were encountered cutting through the subsoil. The subsoil overlay a layer of orange yellow sandy silt natural (103).

Plot 24 (Plate 4)

- 6.3 The ground within the footing layout of Plot 24 (see Figure 2 for location) was found to be 1m above the finished floor level required. Therefore the plot was stripped of soil before excavation of the strip foundations. The upper layer of soil removed comprised 0.25m limestone chippings and brick rubble (100) which had derived from the new road construction and demolished farm buildings. Below

this was a 0.40m-0.45m thick layer of soft dark brown silty clay loam (101) which was the modern topsoil present across the site.

6.4 Below the topsoil, the soil strip exposed a linear ditch feature, filled with limestone fragments and rubble. Close inspection showed asbestos sheet fragments and 75mm diameter flexible plastic pipe. The feature was further inspected and there was no trace of any sedimentation or evidence of re-working. It was concluded that the feature was a surface water drainage channel of modern construction.

6.5 Excavation of the strip foundations revealed the topsoil sealed a 0.7m thick layer of mid brown silty clay sub-soil (102) which overlay a 0.2 - 0.3m thick layer of yellow grey sandy silt (103) which represents natural geology.

Plots 10 & 11 (Plates 5 & 6)

6.6 Excavation of Plots 10 & 11 (see Figure 2 for location) revealed similar deposits. The depth of footings varied between 0.6-0.8m. These comprised of 0.35m dark brown loamy top-soil (101) and 0.55m of mid-brown silty clay sub-soil (102) in the foundation trenches. The subsoil overlay the natural yellow orange sand (103) These deposits were disturbed by occasional intrusions of tree roots from the existing orchard area. No finds or features were encountered.

Plot 12 (Plate 7)

6.7 Due to the sloping nature of the land it was necessary to create a level plot during excavation of Plot 12. Approximately 0.7m of material comprising of 0.4m of dark loamy topsoil (101) and 0.3m of mid-brown silty clay sub-soil was removed on the eastern side of the plot and none on the west. The natural geology comprising a yellow brown sandy clay (103) was reached at a depth of approximately 0.7m. The stratigraphy recorded followed the natural slope of the land and the western end of the plot ceased at the natural grey orange yellow sand which became yellow orange in colour with depth.

Plots 9 & 23

6.8 Due to the negative result of the majority of the watching brief, Plots 9 & 23 were not monitored after talking to the Archaeological Advisor for West Lindsey District Council.

6.9 An area to the south of plot 12 contained an old site of a sheep dip. This was removed by machine and a photograph taken. There were no archaeological finds recovered from this feature.

7.0 DISCUSSION & CONCLUSIONS

7.1 The watching brief recorded the underlying natural geology comprising sands and sandy silts. This was sealed by a mid brown silty clay subsoil and topsoil. The sloping nature of the site meant that a substantial amount of levelling was required during ground works which allowed good visual inspection of subsoil and natural.

The area around Plots 9 and 23 had been disturbed previously during construction of the road and drainage. These plots were therefore not monitored.

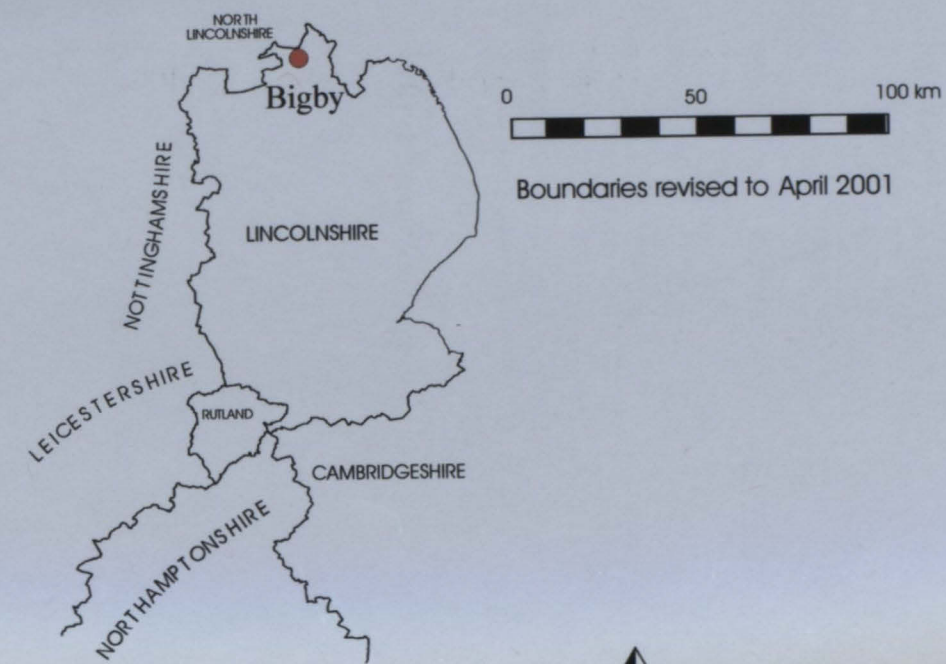
- 7.2 No archaeological finds or features were encountered during the watching brief. It is therefore concluded that the site is unlikely to have been occupied prior to the post-medieval period and the construction of Home Farm.
- 7.3 The archaeological potential of the site had suggested that medieval remains may have been present. However, the absence of any remains of this date may be attributed to the location of the site, with the site being located to the rear of any properties which may have fronted onto the main road.

8.0 FIGURES

Figure 1. Site location

Figure 2. Development site.

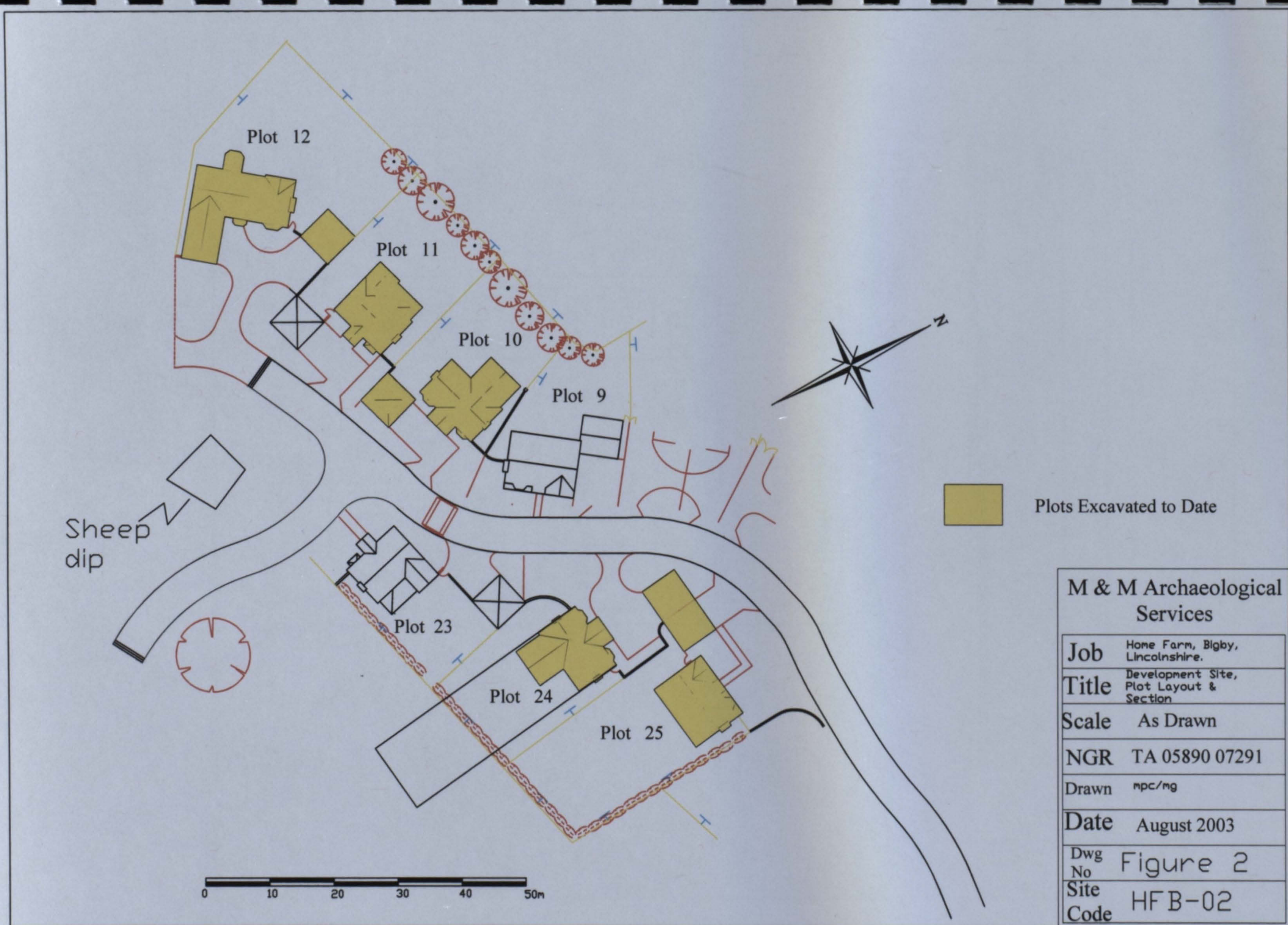
Figure 3. General section found in all plots.

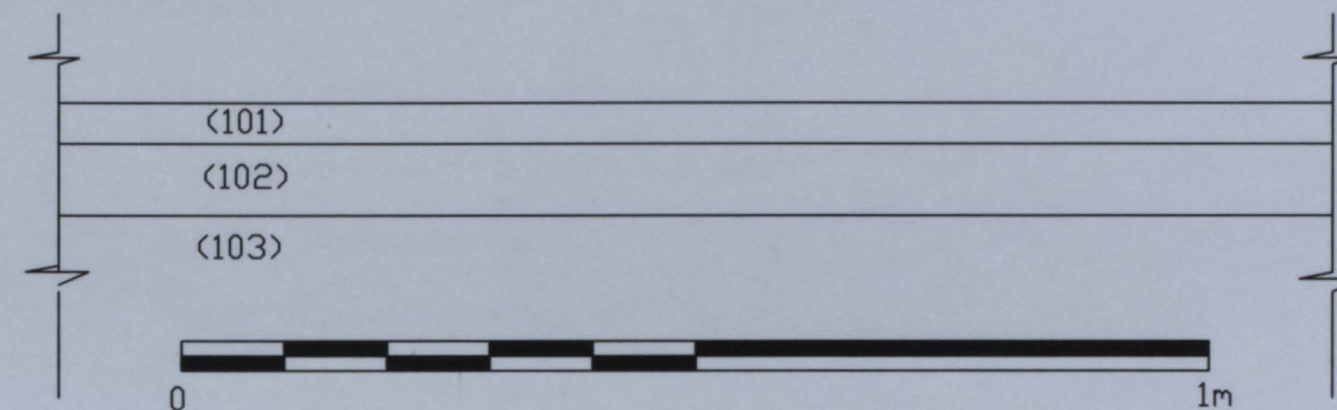


Map based on Ordnance Survey with the sanction of the
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Figure 1. Site location





Typical Section showing stratigraphy

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Job	Home Farm, Bigby, Lincolnshire.
Title	Development Site, Plot Layout & Section
Scale	As Drawn
NGR	TA 05890 07291
Drawn	mpc/mg
Date	August 2003
Dwg No	Figure 3
Site Code	HFB-02

9.0 PLATES

Plate 1. General shot of site looking west.

Plate 2. General shot of site looking south west.

Plate 3. Footings shot in Plot 25.

Plate 4. General shot of footings in Plot 24.

Plate 5. Footings shot of Plot 10.

Plate 6. Footings shot of Plot 11 looking south west.

Plate 7. Footings shot of Plot 12.

Plate 8. Showing area of old sheep dip.



Plate 1. General shot of site looking west.



Plate 2. General shot of site looking south west.



Plate 3. Footings shot in Plot 25.



Plate 4. General shot of footings in Plot 24.



Plate 5. Footings shot of Plot 10.



Plate 6. Footings shot of Plot 11 looking south west.



Plate 7. Footings shot of Plot 12.



Plate 8. Showing area of old sheep dip.

APPENDIX A: CONTEXT SUMMARY

Context	Location	Description	Interpretation
101	O/A	Dark brown k silty clay loam	Top-soil
102	O/A	Mid brown silty clay	Sub-soil
103	O/A	Yellow Orange sandy clay silt	Natural geology