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LINDSEY ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES

**Plots 1 and 2, Chestnut Ave, Bucknall, Lincs.  
Archaeological Watching Brief**

**Site Code: BUCA 04  
NGR: TF 1700 6920  
LCNCC Accn N°. :2004.47  
Planning Application: S/022/00985/03**

**Report**

**for**

**Mr Giles Dawson**

**by**

**Ian Rowlandson MA**

**LAS Report No. 749**

**April 2004**

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**Plots 1 and 2, Chestnut Ave, Bucknall, Lincs.  
Archaeological Watching Brief**

NGR: TF 1700 6920 1692 6902

Site Code: BUCA 04

LCNCC Accn No.: 2004.47

Planning Application: S/022/00985/03

**Summary**

*An archaeological watching brief was undertaken during the machine excavation of foundation trenches on an area of land to the east of Chestnut Avenue. The groundworks for the construction of the building and associated garage on plot 2 produced evidence of the previous late post-medieval to early modern farm buildings on the site and an associated slurry pit. No earlier archaeological features or finds were encountered.*

**Introduction**

In November 2003 Lindsey Archaeological Services were commissioned by Mr Giles Dawson to undertake an archaeological watching brief in accordance with the general requirements set out in the Standard Brief for Archaeological Projects in Lincolnshire (Lincolnshire County Council Archaeology Section, August 1998).

**Site Location and Description**

The Parish of Bucknall lies 24km east of Lincoln and 10km west of Horncastle (**Fig. 1**). The development site is situated at the north end of the village and comprised an area of scrubland on the site of a former farmyard.

**Planning Background**

Planning permission has been granted to construct two new dwellings with garages and associated access and landscaping, subject to the monitoring of the groundworks phase of construction.

**Archaeological Background**

Bucknall is mentioned in the Domesday Survey of 1086 and the settlement is clearly of Saxon or earlier origin. The proposed development lies north of the core of the village where earthwork remains still survive and lies adjacent to a series of cropmarks which represent further ploughed out village remains.

**Aims and Objectives**

The aims of the watching brief were to identify, characterise and record any archaeological remains that may have been disturbed by the groundworks phase of the development.

**Method**

Excavation of the foundation trenches for plot 2 was started on the 12<sup>th</sup> November 2003. A JCB excavator using a toothed bucket opened the footings to an overall depth of 0.8m from the present

ground surface and 0.6m in width. Groundworks were monitored by the author. A full photographic record was maintained during the work.

## Results

A limited amount of turf and topsoil strip had been undertaken removing approximately 0.1- 0.15m of dark brown silty clay from the area around the site, **101**. The topsoil difference in height was estimated based on surviving areas. Below **101** a clearing elements of the demolished farmstead were evident in plan. Over Plot 2 **102**, a dark brown silty clay containing modern bricks charcoal, modern nylon rope and plastic piping, covered the area varying from 0.15- 0.30m in depth. The material found in **102** suggests that is the modern demolition debris.

The excavation of the foundation for the building disturbed the remains of a building along a similar axis as the new structure (**Fig. 2**). Underlying **102** were the remains of the walls of the farm buildings. The surviving remains of the farmstead consisted of a shallow foundation, **104**, of 0.30- 0.40m deep containing **105**, a wall foundation consisting of four to five courses of red bricks bonded by a grey cream mortar. The foundations, **104**, were cut into the natural **103** a blue green clay, with bands of an orange sandy gravel (**PI. 3-5**). Recognition of the full extent of the former farmstead was impeded by **102** still covering the remains although walls were traceable in the area of the new development (**Fig. 2; PI. 1-2 & 7**).

A brick vaulted cellar associated with the structure was encountered next to the boundary wall. The structure had been excavated and back filled with concrete prior to the arrival of the author on site. The developers attested that the cellar had been bottomed at a depth of 1m below the level for their ground beams (total depth of 1.8m below existing ground level) and backfilled with concrete to the required foundation depth to provide a stable footing. The cellar comprised a foundation cut, **106**, into the natural, **103**, to a depth of 1.8m which was excavated for the new house.

The cellar was vaulted by an arch visible to the south of the excavated area beneath, **108**, a layer of rich organic silty material was visible in section beneath exposed to a depth of 0.30m (**Fig. 2; PI. 6-7**). Although an area of 4m by 3.25m of the pit was exposed only the eastern and northern edges of the structure could be confirmed due to the limit of excavation.

A wing of the building running parallel to the existing southern boundary wall of the site to the west edge of the property at the same width as the 'study area' of the new building with two partition walls visible in the area cleared for material storage (**PI. 7**). Another wing was evident to the north west of plot 2 (**PI. 1**)

## Discussion

The structure encountered is undoubtedly the farmstead visible on the 1951 Ordinance Survey. The scale of the maps available prevented a more accurate plan of the farm but the brickwork represents the previous farm with two wings forming a courtyard onto the road.



A neighbour had told the developers that the cellar structure had been used to store slurry from the barns until the accumulated waste was pumped out for manuring. Fill **107** is the result of the final load of manure being left in situ when the farm was demolished. The high organic content of **107** would support this theory.

It is likely that any remnants of earlier settlement in the development area have been removed by ploughing or during the demolition of the farmstead some time between 1951 and the production of the 1999 Ordnance Survey Explorer 273 map where the farmstead is no longer evident.

Remnants of the pond which appears on the 1951 map may be encountered during the excavation of garage foundations for plot 1. The excavation of foundations for the house on plot 1 will encounter further farmhouse remains (**Fig. 2; Pl. 2**).

### **Conclusion**

The archaeological watching brief revealed no evidence for any human activity pre-dating the 19<sup>th</sup> century in the monitored area of the site. No earlier archaeological features or finds were encountered.

### **Acknowledgments**

The author wishes to acknowledge the assistance of Giles Dawson and his team on a very rainy day. Illustrations were produced by the author. The report was edited, collated and produced by Naomi Field.

Ian Rowlandson MA  
Lindsey Archaeological Services  
April 29<sup>th</sup> 2003

### **Archive Summary**

Correspondence

Developer's plans

Field plans and notes

Photographs including those used in the report LAS films- 03/144 negatives 30-36  
03/156 negatives 01-10



**APPENDIX 1**



**APPENDIX 1**

**Context Summary: Plots 1 and 2, Chestnut Ave, Bucknall, Lincs.**

<b>Context</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Description</b>
<b>101</b>	Layer	Dark brown silt clay.
<b>102</b>	Layer	Dark brown silt clay.
<b>103</b>	Layer	Natural clays and gravels.
<b>104</b>	Cut	Foundation cut for construction of the farmstead.
<b>105</b>	Wall	Red brick wall.
<b>106</b>	Cut	Cut for cellar.
<b>107</b>	Fill	Fill of cellar, Black highly organic composted manure, silt.
<b>108</b>	Wall	Vaulting over cellar (red brick).



**THE FIGURES**



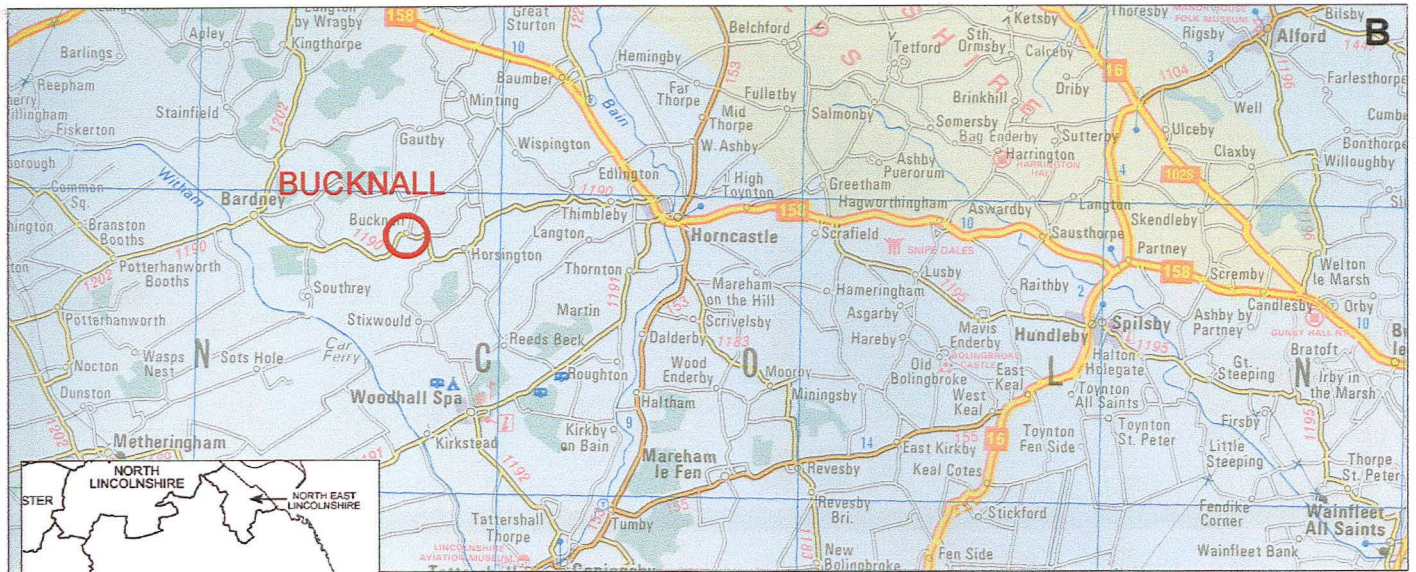


Fig. 1 Location of the development site within Bucknall (C based on the Ordnance Survey 1957 1:10,560 sheet; © Crown copyright, reproduced with the permission of the Controller of HMSO. LAS Licence No. AL 100002165).



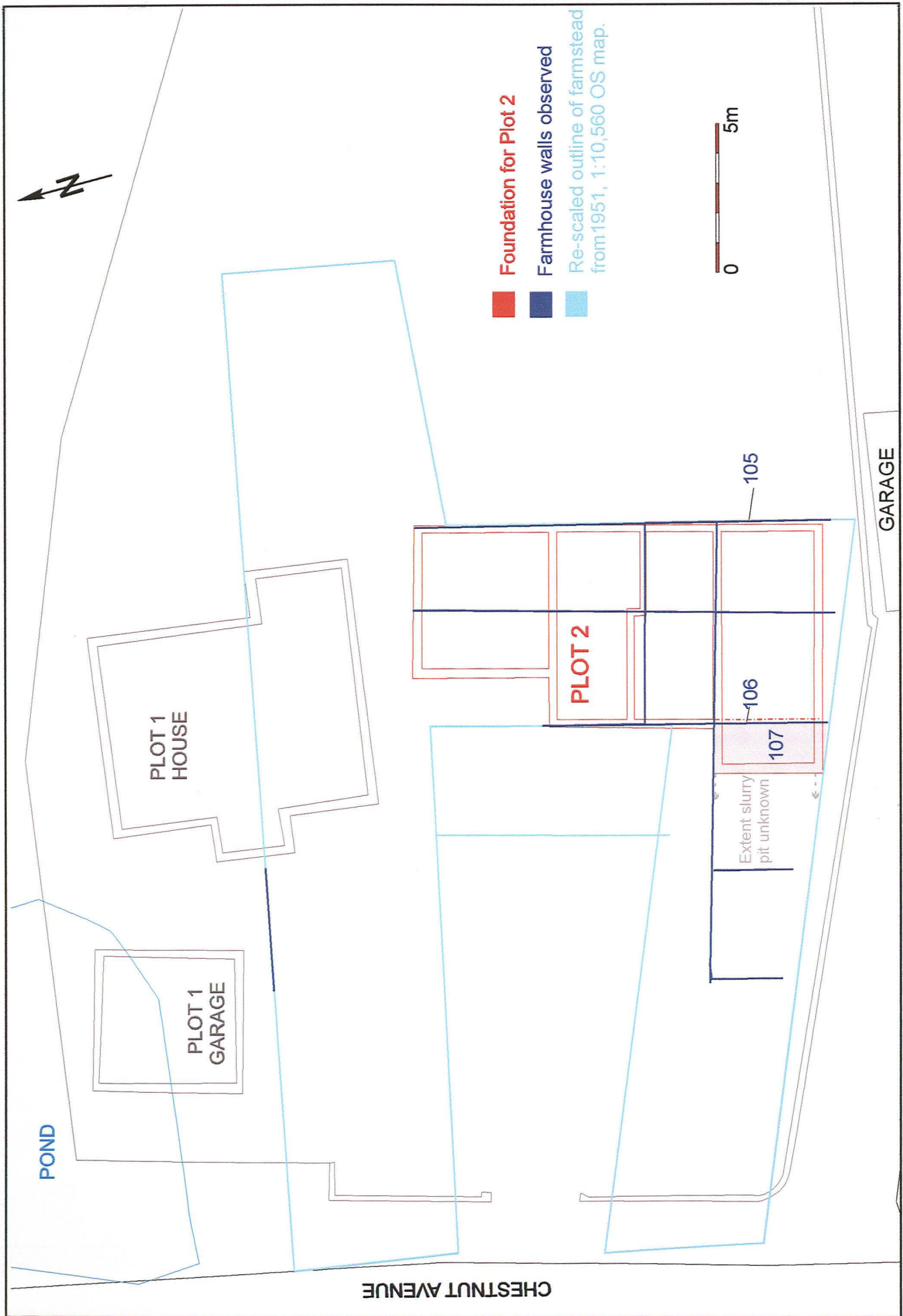


Fig 2 Plan of monitored development overlaid with the previous farmstead, after client plan and 1957 OS 1:10,560 map.



**THE PLATES**





Pl. 1 Plot 2 looking south towards St. Margaret's Church showing the boundary wall.



Pl. 2 Plot 2 during excavations with remnants of the brick farm buildings, 105, in the foreground, looking SW.





Pl. 3 Central internal foundation trench, showing 105, looking east. Red and white scales 0.5m increments.



Pl. 4 Plot 2 northern external foundation trench, looking east. Red and white scales 0.5m increments.





PI. 5 Wall 105 shown in section in the centre of the southern external foundation of plot 2, looking north. Small scale 0.3m red and white scale 0.5m increments



PI. 6 Vaulted cellaring, 107, looking south. Red and white scale increments 0.5m.





Pl. 7 Area of cellaring exposed during the excavation showing slurry fill 107 in section between brick vaulting 108 and concrete laid for the foundations of plot 2. The continuation of the foundations of the farmhouse are visible beyond the slurry pit, looking west. Scales 2m and 0.3m.