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LINDSEY ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES

**Land North of Brook Cottage, Watery Lane
Little Cawthorpe, Lincs.**

NGR: TF 3580 8388
Site Code: LCBC 04
LCNCC Accn N°. : 2004.95
Planning Application: N/102/02084/03

Archaeological Watching Brief

Report

for

Mr D. Clare

by

Richard Pullen MA PIFA

Highways & Planning
Directorate
06 AUG 2004
Planning &
Conservation

LINCOLNSHIRE
COUNTY COUNCIL
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HIGHWAYS AND
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DIRECTORATE

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Summary

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken during the topsoil stripping and machine excavation of foundation trenches for a single dwelling off Watery Lane, Little Cawthorpe. The stratigraphic make-up of the site consisted of topsoil overlying a mid red/brown heavy boulder clay. No archaeological features were observed and the only finds recovered from the site were five fragments of late 19th century earthenware pottery.

Introduction

In April 2004 Lindsey Archaeological Services (LAS) was commissioned by Mr D. Clare to undertake an archaeological watching brief during groundworks for a new residential development to the north of Brook Cottage in Little Cawthorpe, 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 Little Cawthorpe lies 5km south-east of Louth in the Lincolnshire Wolds (Fig. 1). The development site is at c.30.00m O.D. and consists of a parcel of land c.120m square, situated in the centre of the village (Pl. 1). The site is bounded to the east by Watery Lane, and Brook Cottage to the south. The site drops sharply away to the west where a stream runs directly adjacent to the boundary of the study area (Pl. 2).

Planning Background

Planning permission N/102/02084/03 was granted for the construction of a new detached dwelling with double garage and associated access. A condition of the planning permission was that a recognised archaeologist should monitor all below ground works during the development.

Archaeological Background

Little Cawthorpe is the smallest parish in Lincolnshire. It is not mentioned in the *Domesday Survey* of 1086, and the earliest surviving documentary reference dates to 1150.

The development site lies to the south of the parish church of St. Helens, near to the centre of the village. Therefore, there was potential for the presence of medieval remains.

Aims and Objectives

The aims of the watching brief were to identify, characterise and record any archaeological material disturbed by the groundworks phase of the development.

Method

Topsoil stripping of the site was undertaken on the 19th May 2004 in order to level the ground in preparation for construction of the dwelling (Pl. 3). Excavation of the foundation trenches began on the 26th May 2004. A JCB type machine using a 500mm wide, toothed bucket opened the footings to an overall depth of 1.20m from the present ground surface with an overall width of 0.50m (Pl. 4). The spoil removed from the footings was relocated and compacted along the western edge of the site in order to increase the area of usable ground before the drop off towards the stream (Pl. 5). All machining was monitored by a fully qualified and experienced archaeologist. A full photographic record was maintained during the work.

Results

The dark grey/brown clay silt topsoil **100** had a depth of 0.20m from the present ground surface and directly sealed a mid red/brown heavy clay **101**. The clay represents the natural geology of the site and continued to a depth in excess of the development's final formation level of 1.20m below ground level. No archaeological features had been cut into **101** and with the exception of five sherds of 19th century earthenware pottery no archaeological material was recovered from within **100**.

Conclusion

The archaeological watching brief revealed no evidence for any human activity pre-dating the 19th century in the excavated portion of the site. The entire trenched area can be simply characterised as topsoil overlying undisturbed natural boulder clay.

Acknowledgements

LAS is grateful to Mr D. Clare, Simon Nicholson, and the groundwork contractor for their co-operation. The pottery was identified by Jane Young. Illustrations were produced by Doug Young and the author.

Richard Pullen M.A. PIFA
Lindsey Archaeological Services
July 20th 2004

Contents of Site Archive

Correspondence

Developer's site plan

Photographs: colour prints, LAS film nos. 04/47/0a-9a; 16a-25a

Archaeological finds: 19thC pottery

APPENDIX 1

APPENDIX 1

**Land North of Brook Cottage, Watery Lane,
Little Cawthorpe, Lincolnshire (LCB 04)**

Context and Finds Summary

Context	Type	Description	Finds
100	Topsoil	Dark grey/brown clay silt	19 th century transfer printed ware, 19 th century yellow-glazed early modern ware
101	Natural	Mid red/brown heavy boulder clay	none

THE FIGURES



Fig.1 Location of Little Cawthorpe (c based on the Ordnance Survey 1:25,000 Explorer map Sheet 283. Crown copyright, reproduced with the permission of the Controller of HMSO. LAS Licence N°. AL 100002165).

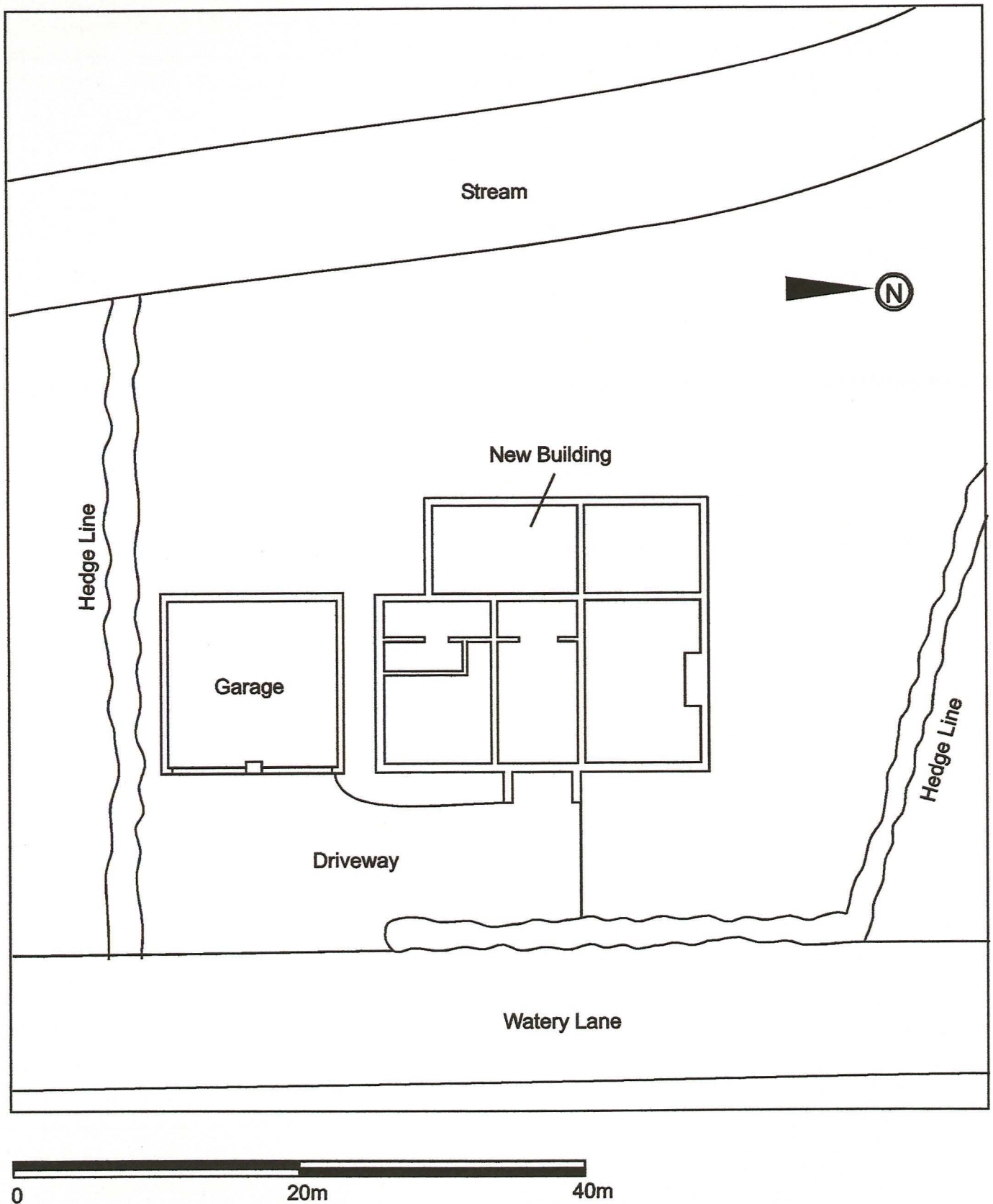


Fig.2 Site Plan, showing foundations (information taken from a plan supplied by Simon Nicholson Design Ltd. Drawing Number 4266.01)

THE PLATES



Pl. 1 View looking south across partially stripped area.



Pl. 2 View of site showing site falling away towards the stream to the west.



Pl. 3 Material excavated from the foundation trenches being used to level the ground, looking north-west.



Pl. 4 A typical trench section showing topsoil 100 overlying natural red/brown boulder clay 101.



Pl. 5 Looking north-west across the site after topsoil stripping.



Pl. 6 Fully stripped and excavated garage plot looking south-east.