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M5/11

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

THE FOUR WYNDYS, THE GREEN, MINTING, LINCOLNSHIRE

(MINT 05)
NGR: 518612 373539



Report prepared for
Mrs Spottiswood
by Mark Allen BSc (Hons) AIFA

June 2005

allen archaeological associates
221 Wragby Road
Lincoln
LN2 4PY
Tel/Fax 01522 800140
Email mark.allen1@ntlworld.com

LCNCC : 2005 - 120

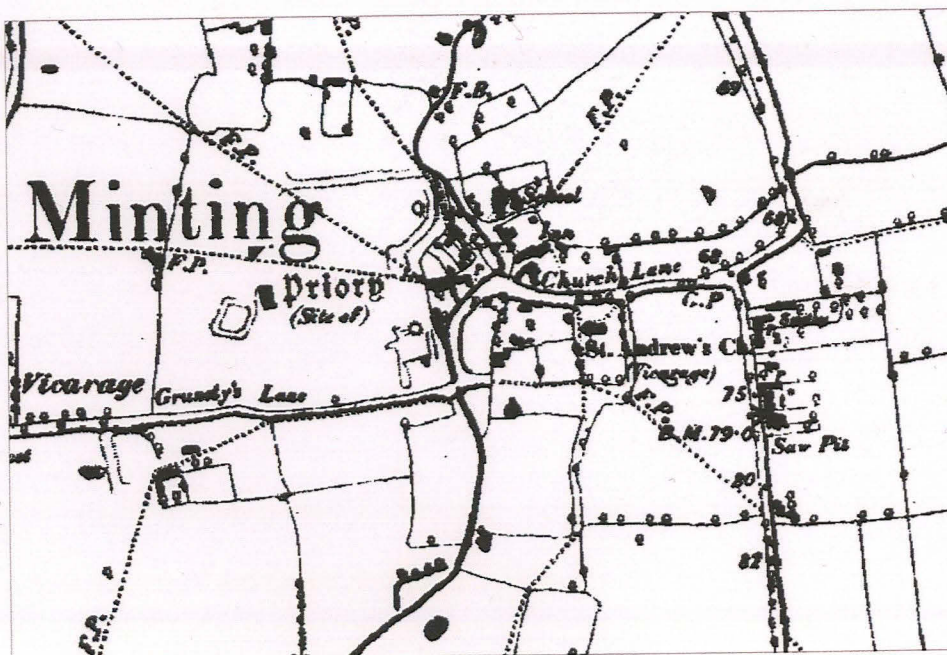


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Summary

- A watching brief was undertaken for Mrs Spottiswood, during the groundworks for an extension at Four Wynds, The Green, Minting, in Lincolnshire.
- The site lies immediately to the east of the Scheduled Ancient Monument The Benedictine Priory of Minting (SAM 293). Previous archaeological investigations within the village have provided mixed results; to the east of the site a watching brief recovered only 19th and 20th century material, whilst work to the southeast exposed demolished building remains of 13th – 14th century date.
- The watching brief did not expose any archaeological deposits of any note. A small collection of 16th – 18th century pottery was recovered from a former topsoil that was probably forming up until the construction of the Four Wynds bungalow, approximately 30 years ago.

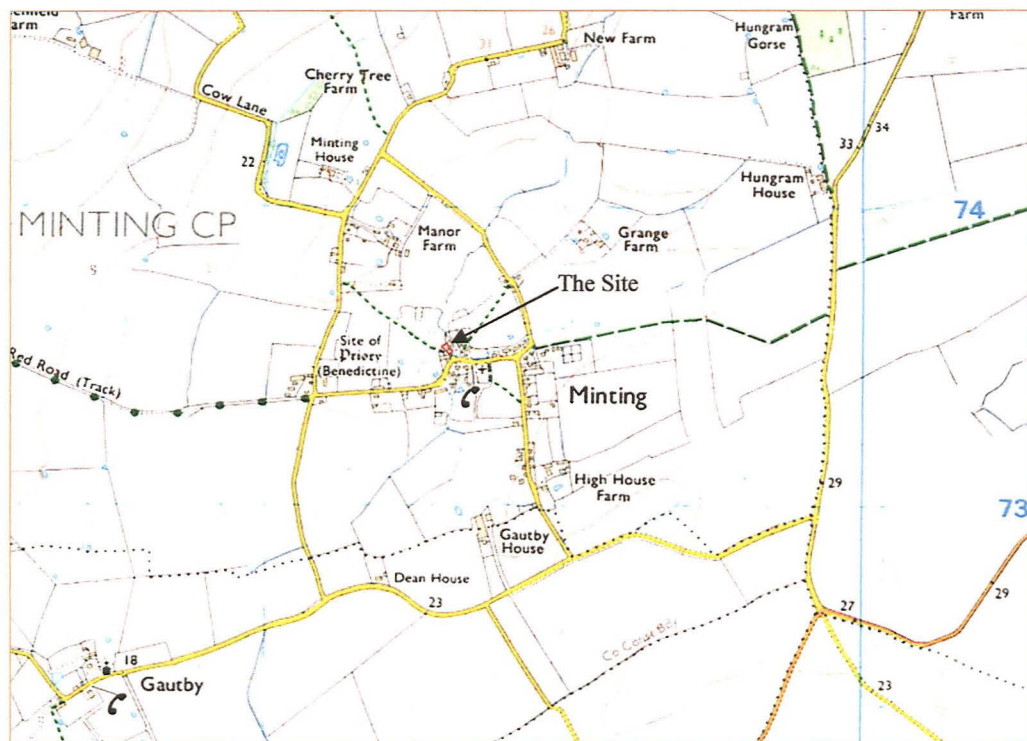


Figure 1: Site location (outlined in red) at scale 1:25,000

1.0 Introduction

Allen Archaeological Associates was commissioned by Mrs Spottiswood to carry out an archaeological watching brief within the garden of Four Wynds bungalow, The Green, Minting in Lincolnshire (figure 1). The work was commissioned to fulfil a planning requirement associated with the construction of an extension to the property (figure 2).

The programme of works was conducted in accordance with procedures that are set out in the Lincolnshire County Council publication *Lincolnshire Archaeological Handbook: A Manual of Archaeological Practice* (LCC 1998); national guidelines produced by the Institute of Field Archaeologists were also observed (IFA 2001), and a specification for the works was prepared by Allen Archaeological Associates.

The archive for this report will be held at the Lincoln City and County Museum.

2.0 Site location and description

Minting lies in the administrative district of East Lindsey, approximately 8km northwest of Horncastle and some 21kms east of Lincoln, at a height of approximately 18m OD. The site is located to the north of the village core, approximately 110 metres northwest of the parish church of St Andrew, adjacent to the Scheduled Ancient Monument the Benedictine Priory of Minting (SAM 293). The site is bounded by the SAM to the north and west, a large dyke to the east, and a road to the south.

The site lies on the solid Upper Jurassic Ancholme Clay, overlain by a drift geology of glacial Till (British Geological Survey, 1980).

Central National Grid Reference: 518612 373539

3.0 Planning background

The client was granted planning permission in 2005 (planning permission ref. S/122/00086/05) by East Lindsey District Council to construct an extension to the existing Four Wynds bungalow at The Green, Minting, in Lincolnshire. One of the conditions of the planning permission was for an archaeological watching brief to be carried out during the groundworks. Allen Archaeological Associates was commissioned by the client to undertake these archaeological works.

4.0 Archaeological and historical setting

Little is known of prehistoric activity in the parish beyond the chance discovery of a number of objects, mainly during the construction of several gas pipelines to the west and southwest of the site. These include a Neolithic stone axe over 1km to the southwest of the study area, and a small scatter of late Neolithic to early Bronze Age worked flints

The Roman period is better represented, with the possible remains of a substantial building, perhaps with a tiled roof, discovered during a watching brief nearly 2km to the northwest of the site. Remains exposed included both internal and external enclosure ditches, pits and a well; with the finds assemblage indicative of stock control. The pottery was exclusively dated to the mid 3rd century AD onwards. A further large scatter of Romano-British pottery was recovered during the excavations for a large gas pipeline in 1971, approximately 1km to the south-south-west.

The place name is originally recorded within the Domesday Book of 1086 as *Mentighes* or *Mentinges*, from an Old English group-name meaning 'the family, the people of *Mynta*',

suggesting a pre-Domesday origin to the settlement (Cameron 1998). The group-name denotes a body of people bound by kinship or lordship.

At the time of the survey in 1086 the major landowner was Ivo Tallboys, with William the priest (on behalf of Countess Judith) also owning land (Morgan & Thorn 1986).

By 1129, Ranulf, the Earl of Chester, founded a Benedictine Priory (now a Scheduled Ancient Monument, SAM 293). The site comprised stock compounds, yards, ponds and Grange buildings set within a small moat. The house was never particularly wealthy and was suppressed by 1403 (when it was leased to a farmer). The site was subsequently granted to the Carthusian priory of Mount Grace in 1421 (information from Parish file records). A broad Holloway connects the moated area to the village to the east. The eastern boundary of the scheduled area forms the western boundary of the application area.

The parish church of St Andrews dates back to the 13th-14th century, although it was almost completely rebuilt in 1864 (Pevsner & Harris 1989). Within the church stands a very rare cross shaft of Anglo-Saxon type, although it dates to the 1200's. It has been suggested the cross may have come from the Benedictine Priory to the west.

There have been several archaeological investigations within the village, both as a result of developer-led schemes.

An archaeological watching brief less than 50m to the east of the site in 2004 by Archaeological Project Services proved negative, with only a small scatter of 19th century material recovered (Cope-Faulkner 2004).

In 2000 the Environment Agency undertook some flood alleviation works to the south and east of the parish church. These works were monitored by the former City of Lincoln Archaeology Unit (Wragg and Trimble 2000). The report states that demolition material for a substantial early brick structure of 13th-14th century date was exposed and that this may have been imported from the demolished priory site to the west.

5.0 Methods

The foundation trenches were excavated by a JCB using a back-actor fitted with a 0.6m wide toothless bucket, in spits not exceeding 0.2m in depth. These works were undertaken on the 18th May 2005 and were monitored constantly by one experienced field archaeologist (the author) to ensure that any archaeological features exposed by the excavations were identified.

The trenches were excavated to a depth of 2.0 metres, below reasonable health and safety limits for working in trenches. Therefore it was not possible to hand clean all exposed surfaces during the works. All archaeological deposits identified during the groundworks were allocated a unique reference number (context number) with an individual written description on standard watching brief context record sheets. Sections were drawn at scale 1:20 and located on the site plan. These records will form the basis of a long-term project archive.

6.0 Results (figures 3 and 4)

The foundation trenches for the extension were excavated to a depth of approximately 2.0m. It was deemed that this was below a safe level for working in the trench, so only limited archaeological investigations were able to take place.

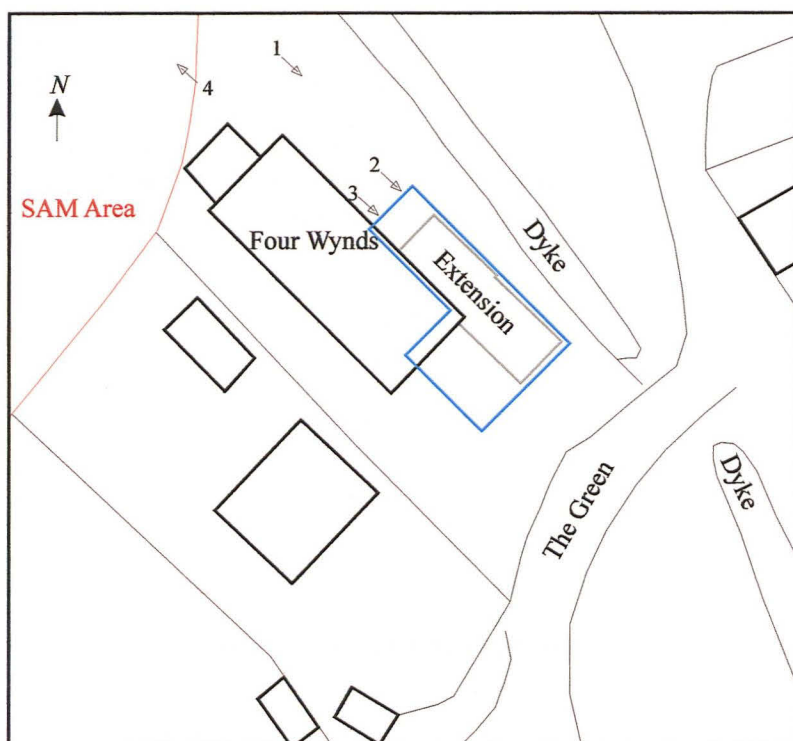


Figure 2: Location of extension at scale 1:500 (extension shown in grey). Location of Figure 3 shown in blue and Scheduled Ancient Monument boundary shown in red. Numbers relate to Colour Plates used (see Appendix 1) and arrows direction photograph taken.

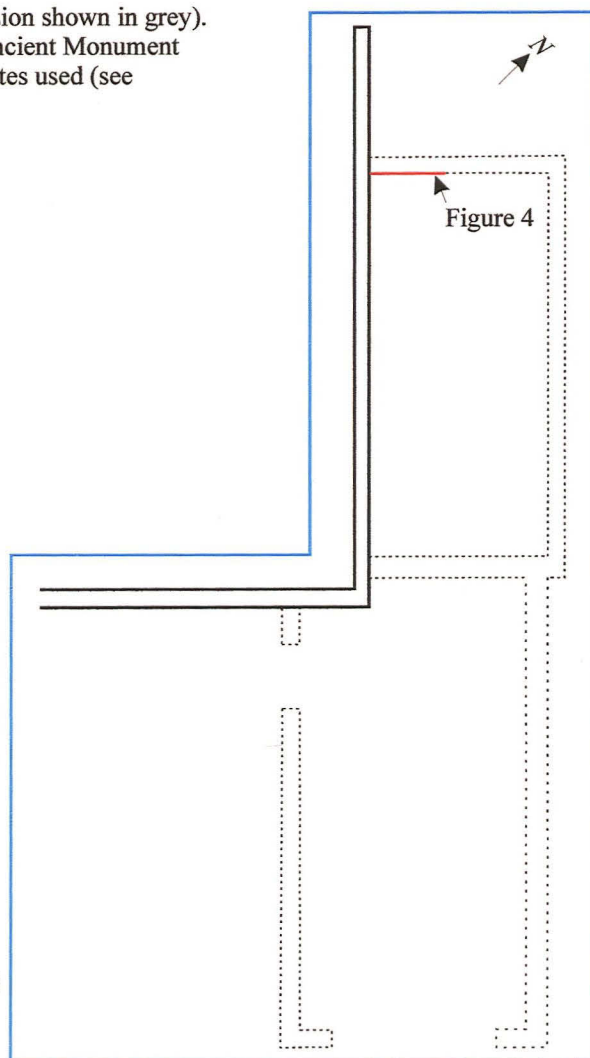


Figure 3: Plan of extension foundations (dashed lines) at scale 1: 100. Figure 4 is located as a red line with existing foundations shown as solid black lines

Uniform deposits were exposed throughout the foundation trench excavations. The uppermost layer was a black silty loam topsoil (01) that sealed a further former topsoil (02), a grey clayey silt with some small gravels and some charcoal flecking. Six sherds from glazed red earthenware pottery vessels dating to the mid 16th – 18th century were recovered from (02) (See Appendix 2).

Below this was (03), an orange clayey silty sand with abundant small medium and large rounded stones that contained no artefactual material or charcoal flecking.

(03) sealed (04), a very compacted blue-grey clay with no inclusions beyond the occasional fragment of ammonite fossil. Interestingly, several large sand and gravel filled hollows cut through the clay (see plate 2). These are likely to be pre-glacial/glacial in origin.

No further archaeological or natural deposits were exposed.

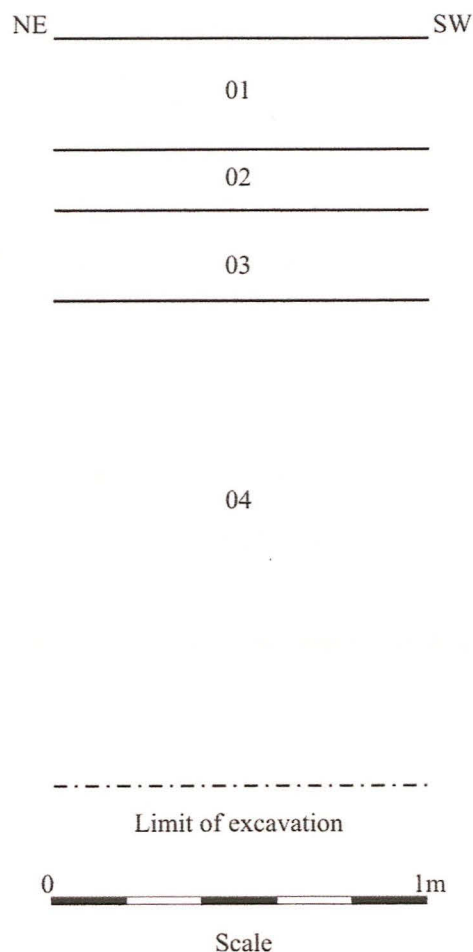


Figure 4: Northwest facing sample section at scale 1:20 (See figure 3 for location)

7.0 Discussion and conclusions

The earliest deposit encountered, (04), was identified as the Upper Jurassic solid geology Ancholme Clay. This was sealed by a drift geology of glacial Till (03). Sealed beneath the Till (03) were several sand-filled hollows (see Appendix 1: plate 2) that cut through the Jurassic Clay (04). These were of geological rather than archaeological origin.

Over this was a former topsoil (02) that appears to have been forming from at least the mid 16th – 18th century (based on pottery evidence), up until it was sealed by (01). Layer (01) is a modern topsoil that is likely to have formed during the construction of the bungalow, approximately 30 years earlier.

The site itself, although outside the scheduled area, probably lay within the grounds of the Benedictine Priory during its lifetime. The eastern boundary of the priory was probably the dyke that also forms the eastern boundary to the site.

8.0 Effectiveness of methodology

The sequence that was exposed indicates that no archaeological deposits of interest were disturbed by this development. It is therefore concluded that the methodology was appropriate to the development.

9.0 Acknowledgements

Allen Archaeological Associates would like to thank Mrs Spottiswood for this commission. Thanks are also expressed towards Mr John Fackrell and colleague for providing the site plan and for their help throughout the works.

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Appendix 1: Colour Plates

(For location of photographs see figure 2)



Plate 1: Location of groundworks, taken from the northwest corner of the garden, looking southeast



Plate 2: Footings excavations taken looking southeast. Note sand-filled hollows of geological origin



Plate 3: Northeast facing sample section showing stratigraphical sequence, looking southwest



Plate 4: Example of SAM earthworks to northwest of site, looking northwest

Appendix 2: Pottery Archive MINT05

Jane Young

context	cname	full name	sub fabric	form type	sherds	weight	part	description	date
01	GRE	Glazed Red Earthenware		large bowl	1	19	BS	internal glaze	mid 17th to 18th
02	GRE	Glazed Red Earthenware		small jar/bowl	1	5	rim	soot	mid 16th to mid 17th
02	GRE	Glazed Red Earthenware		handled jar/jug	1	21	BS	very abraded;thick internal glaze	mid 16th to mid 17th
02	GRE	Glazed Red Earthenware		large bowl	1	27	BS	abraded;internal glaze	mid 17th to mid 18th
02	GRE	Glazed Red Earthenware	calcareous	small jar/bowl	1	49	base	soot underneath base;int glaze;local ?	late 16th to 18th
02	GRE	Glazed Red Earthenware	calcareous	bowl	1	10	BS	internal glaze;local ?	late 16th to 18th
02	GRE	Glazed Red Earthenware		jar ?	1	7	BS	cu bichrome	mid 16th to mid 17th

Appendix 3: Tile Archive MINT05

Jane Young

context	cname	full name	fabric	frags	weight	description	date
02	PNR	Peg, nib or ridge tile	reduced sandy fabric with oxid	1	23	fabric incl clean clay streaks & comm rounded ca;hard fired;flat roofer	13th to 17th

Appendix 4: Context Summary List

Context No.	Type	Description
01	L	Black silty loam – modern topsoil
02	L	Grey clayey silt with some small gravels and some charcoal flecking
03	L	Orange clayey silty sand with abundant small, medium and large gravels/rounded stones
04	L	Very compact blue/grey clay with no inclusions