



LINDSEY ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES

**Plot 2, Church Farm, South St, N. Kelsey, Lincs.
Archaeological Watching Brief**

NGR: TA 0420 0008
Site Code: NKFC 06
Accession Number: 2006.58
Planning Application: M04/P10765

0376

Highways & Planning
Directorate

10 APR 2006

Planning &
Conservation

Archaeological Watching Brief

Report for

Peterson's Homes Ltd.

by

I.M. Rowlandson

LINCOLNSHIRE
COUNTY COUNCIL

- 7 APR 2006

HIGHWAYS AND PLANNING
DIRECTORATE

LAS Report No: 911

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10th April 2000

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Plot 2, Church Farm, South St, N. Kelsey, Lincs. Archaeological Watching Brief

NGR: TA 0420 0008

Site Code: NKFC 06

Accession No.: 2006.58

Planning Application: M04/P/0765 0376

Summary

In March 2006 a watching brief was conducted by Lindsey Archaeological Services on groundworks for the construction of a single dwelling by Peterson's Homes Ltd on Plot 2 Church Farm, North Kelsey. Modern disturbance associated with the levelling of the ground and the construction and demolition of at least two separate phases of 18th-20th century farm buildings was encountered in foundations to the north of the plot. To the south a thin layer of soil and a farmyard surface lay above the clay. No earlier finds or features were encountered.

Introduction

Lindsey Archaeological Services was commissioned by Peterson's Homes Ltd in 23/9/05 to undertake an archaeological watching brief at Plot 2, Church Farm, South St, North Kelsey, Lincolnshire (**Fig. 1**). The work was carried out in accordance with the general requirements set out in the *Lincolnshire Archaeological Handbook* published by the Archaeology Section, Lincolnshire County Council (1998). Work commenced 15/3/06 and was completed 21/3/06. The site was monitored by the author. Five visits were made to the site.

Site Location and Description (Fig. 1 & 2)

North Kelsey is situated in the Ancholme valley c.8km west of Caistor. The development site was located south west of the parish church in the centre of the village. It comprised a rectangular plot of land situated on the north side of South Street to the east of Rivendell. The Plot 2 was the third of three plots on the Church Farm site to be developed. Plot 1 consisted of the redevelopment of the remaining north and east wings of the Church Farm. Plot 3 was another house under construction at the time of the visit.

Planning Background

Planning permission has been granted for the construction of a single dwelling, subject to an archaeological watching brief being carried out during any groundworks for the development.

Archaeological Background (Fig. 3 & 4)

North Kelsey was mentioned in the Domesday survey of 1086 and is clearly a settlement of Saxon origin. The development is close to the centre of the medieval settlement and there was potential for medieval and earlier remains being uncovered during the groundworks phase of construction.

The site has been subjected to a number of phases of redevelopment which can be demonstrated on

Ordnance Survey maps. Plot 2 was the third plot to be developed on the site.

The redeveloped Church Farm buildings have similarities to purpose-built model farms constructed from 1780-1880 (eg. Kermond-le-Mire, Lincolnshire Wolds). Model farms were designed for intensive industrial-style farming (Wade-Martins 1995). On the 1962 1:25,000 Ordnance Survey map a closed courtyard is present on the site of Church Farm which would be in keeping with the layout of a purpose built model farm type structure (**Fig. 3**). The southern wing of the courtyard would have been situated to the north of the monitored plot.

The 2005 1:1250 Ordnance Survey map supplied by the client shows that much of the land around the farm has been developed and the south and west wings of the farm were replaced by a large building which was probably a barn and the rest of the plot was surfaced (**Fig. 4**). This building was demolished prior to the redevelopment of the site.

Aims and Objectives

The purpose of the Watching Brief was to record any archaeological deposits disturbed during groundworks at the above site.

Method

Archaeological features were excavated, and drawn where appropriate, depending upon safe access. A full photographic record was made of the works on site.

The Watching Brief (Fig. 5; Pl. 1 & 2)

Excavations for the footings were preceded by the excavation of a trial hole 3m to the south of the southern most footing to demonstrate the underlying drift geology. This was excavated to a total depth of 3.5m. The profile consisted of 0.25m of dark brown silt clay topsoil with fragments of brick and pebble sized stones (1), 0.25m- 1.25m of yellow brown clay with chalk fragments (5), 1.25m- 2.45m of dark brown clay (2) and 2.45m- to the base of the trench was a light yellow brown very fine silt (3). Measurements were made from the bank as the trial hole was not safely accessible.

The majority of foundation trenches were excavated to a depth of 1m below the existing surface with the exception of the south-western trenches which were stepped down to a maximum depth of 2.5m to avoid disturbance from the roots of an adjacent hedge (**Pl. 3**). Excavations for the footings exposed the same profile of natural clays as were found in the trial hole.

The southern footings exposed a thin layer of stone and crushed brick which appeared to be the remnant of a 0.05m thick yard surface (4) beneath topsoil 1 and above clay 5. Layer 4 produced two sherds of modern pottery (**Appendix 1**). To the north of the plot the ground had been disturbed by demolition and consisted of approximately 0.45m of mixed dark grey silt clay with large fragments of chalk and brick, coal, charcoal and some asphalt (13) (**Pl. 2 & 5**).

Scant surviving remains of the previous buildings could be discerned beneath layer **13**. The remnant of a stepped red brick footing for a column (**12**) survived near the centre of the plot (**Pl. 4**). It is possible that this is a remnant of an early open barn associated with the Church Farm complex in a similar style to the extant north wing of the farm (**Pl. 1**). Two post holes (**8** and **10**) were evident beneath **13** which were filled with decaying wood posts (**9** and **11** respectively).

Beneath yard surface **4** and cutting clay **5** was a 1m wide, 0.45m deep pit (**6**) and contained a dark grey silt clay with fragments of crushed brick, stone and charcoal (**7**).

Discussion

Remnants of the 18th-20th century farm buildings were encountered to the north of house footing and the remnants of a rough yard surface to the south (possibly evident on the 2005 survey prior to the clearance of the site). It is likely that the ground has been truncated either during the construction of the 18th-19th century farm buildings or for the construction of what was probably a large barn which replaced them. The deposits encountered to the north of the site are likely to have been the result of levelling the plot prior to the recent redevelopment on the plot. Although the watching brief produced no evidence for archaeological deposits it is likely that the site was settled during the medieval period as it was in such close proximity to the parish church which has a surviving 13th century tower (Pevsner 2002). Any remnants of earlier activity have been removed by the landscaping of the slope.

Conclusion

No archaeological finds or features were encountered. The site had been subjected to a number of phases of truncation, construction and demolition due to landscaping associated with the 18th-20th century farm buildings. The redevelopment of the site before the watching brief on Plot 2 including the demolition of a large barn over the north end of the plot, a surviving farm building on the south wing of the farm on Plot 1, the construction of boundary walls and the erection of the new dwelling on Plot 3. The groundworks monitored by this watching brief had no archaeological impact.

Ian Rowlandson MA
Lindsey Archaeological Services
March 2006

Acknowledgements

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Reference

Pevsner, N. 2002, *The Buildings of England: Lincolnshire*, revised N. Antram, Yale University Press, London

Wade- Martins, S. 1995, Slowly came the farming revolution, *British Archaeology*, no 9, November 1995, accessed 24/3/06, <http://www.britarch.ac.uk/ba/ba9/ba9feat.html>

Site Archive

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Photo register- 1

Plan and section sheet 1

Correspondence

Photographs: LAS film nos. 06/22/1-34

APPENDIX 1

Pottery Archive NKFC06

Jane Young

context	cname	full name	sub fabric	form type	sherds	weight	part	description	date
04	NOTS	Nottingham stoneware		jar/bowl	1	16	BS	internal Bristol glaze;discarded	mid 19th to 20th
04	BL	Black-glazed wares	light firing	large bowl	1	54	rim	discarded	late 18th 19th

THE FIGURES

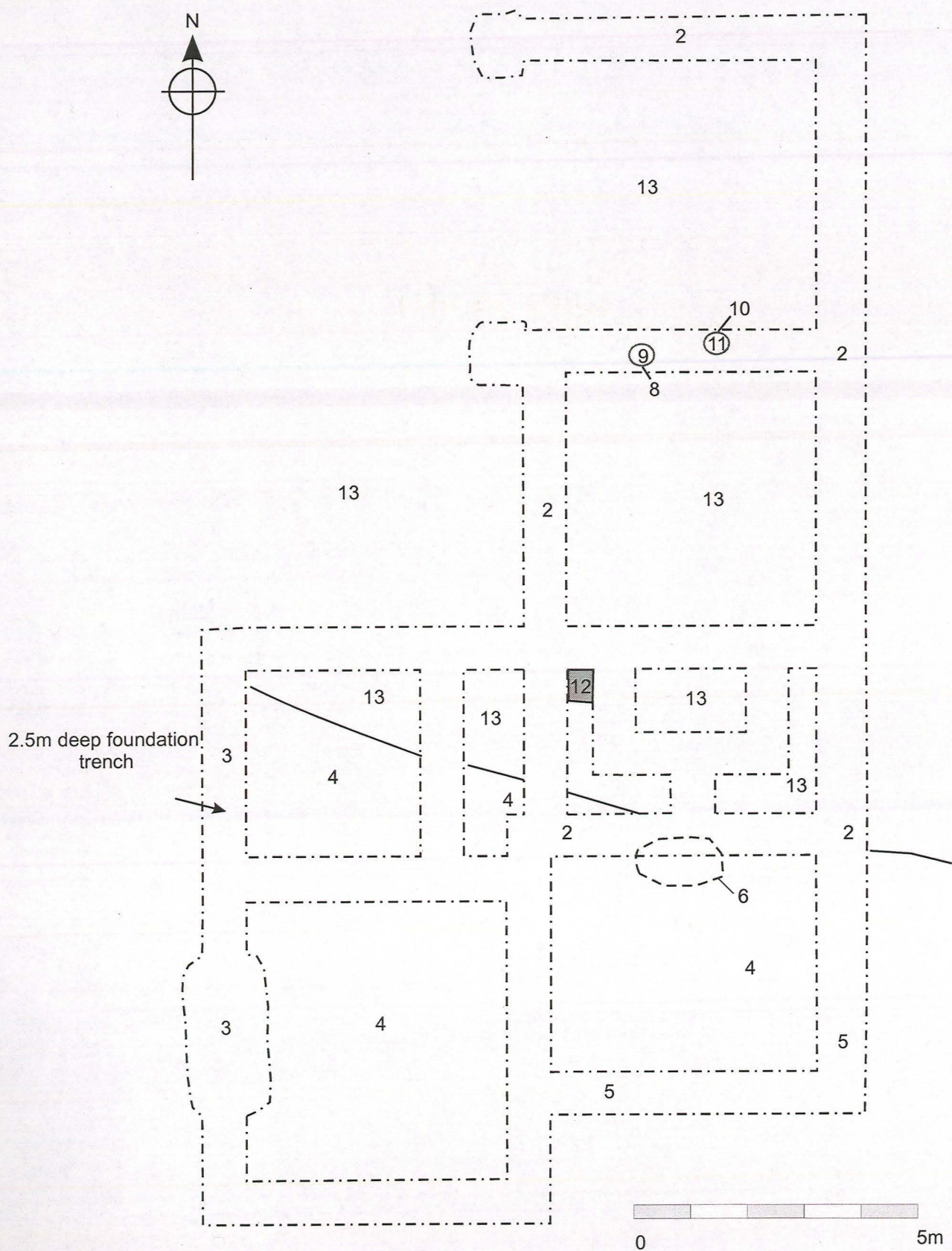


Fig. 5 Plan of Plot 2 foundations after plan supplied by the client (Martin Tucker Ltd Architects)

THE PLATES



Pl. 1 View of Plot 2 site looking north.



Pl. 2 Looking south during topsoil stripping with layers 4 and 13 exposed.



Pl. 3 (left) Looking southeast at the southwest foundation trench. Depth of trench 2.5m.



Pl. 4 Looking southeast at surviving brickwork foundation 12.



Pl. 5 Looking northwest at layer 13 exposed in section.