

**A REPORT TO
Persimmon Homes (East Yorkshire) Ltd**

August 2006

**AREAS RC1 & A1
BUNKERS HILL
LINCOLN**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL
WATCHING BRIEF**

**PREPARED BY
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MJAS REPORT No.: 525

copy 1 of 2

Conservation
Services

21 AUG 2006

Highways & Planning
Directorate

*acknowledged receipt of report
21/8/06
Joe Neill*

**AREA RC1 & A1
BUNKERS HILL
LINCOLN****ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF**

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ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

NON-TECHNICAL SUMMARY

- *Between the 6 September 2004 & 30 May 2006, Mike Jarvis Archaeological Services undertook an archaeological watching brief on behalf of Persimmon Homes (East Yorkshire) Ltd during groundwork associated with the construction of 62 residential properties on land to the south of hawthorn road.*
- *The watching brief revealed few archaeological features and no evidence for occupation or land-use predating the medieval period was forthcoming.*
- *Several east-west furrows of medieval date were recorded crossing the site.*
- *Groundwork in the southern part of the development revealed a partially brick-lined well together with stone-built land drains of probable 19th century construction.*
- *Although the results of this watching brief provide only limited information regarding the date and nature of archaeology encountered, an overall enhancement of knowledge of the area has been achieved with regard to the survival and extent of archaeological deposits. This information will be of value in future decision making in the management of the archaeological resource in the vicinity to the site.*

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ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

1.0 INTRODUCTION

Between the 6 September 2004 & 30 May 2006, Mike Jarvis Archaeological Services (MJAS) undertook an archaeological watching brief on behalf of Persimmon Homes (East Yorkshire) Ltd during groundwork associated with the construction of 62 residential properties on land to the south of Hawthorn Road (hereafter *the site*). The watching brief was commissioned in response to a condition placed on the granting of planning permission (Application No.: W42/191/89 – 9 February 1989).

2.0 SITE LOCATION AND BACKGROUND (Fig. 1)

The site lies in the administrative District of west Lindsey in the parish of Greetwell immediately to the east of the boundary between the City of Lincoln and west Lindsey approximately 3km east of Lincoln city centre and (National Grid Reference: TF 5678 7289).

Situated on the south-east slope of the Jurassic scarp known as the Lincoln Edge between the 30m and 35m Contour, the sites underlying geological deposits comprise; Great Oolite Limestone with thin clays; Upper Estuarine Beds/clays with thin limestone in upper parts; Lincolnshire limestone; Lower Estuarine Beds and Northampton Sand and Ironstone.

The area surrounding the site has seen much previous archaeological work that has yielded evidence of occupation and land-use spanning the Bronze-Age to medieval periods. The most notable feature in proximity to the site is a prehistoric triple-ditch boundary, extending discontinuously for 5.7km between Greetwell to the south and Grange De Lings to the north. Excavations carried out to the south of the site by Lindsey Archaeological Services (Field N & Armour-Chelu R 2001) revealed pottery of middle-late Iron-Age/Romano-British date from within the fills of the ditches. Similarly, work undertaken by the City of Lincoln Archaeology Unit, immediately to the west of the site, revealed the ditches to contain late Bronze-Age or early Iron-Age pot. These investigations also revealed a break in the ditch system together with associated pits & posthole activity indicative of settlement the full extent of which is unclear. A Bronze-Age round barrow was recorded during the LAS excavations to the south of the site along with evidence of later Roman domestic buildings, pits, ditches, corn dries and a cemetery (the main focus of the Roman occupation was believed to lie further to the south of the excavated area). Medieval ridge and furrow was also recorded.

Up until the latter part of the 20th century, a farm (Greetwell North Farm - now demolished) occupied the southern part of the site.

3.0 AIMS AND METHODOLOGY

The aims of the watching brief were:

- To produce an archive record of deposits and remains generally within the constraints of the groundwork contractors' programme and working methods with due regard to current health and safety legislation.
- To produce a report on the archaeological importance of the discoveries.

- To produce a project archive from which the potential for further study and academic research could be assessed.
- To provide information for accession to the County Historic Environment Record (HER).

The watching brief required the monitoring of all groundwork associated with the development and included the construction of a site compound immediately adjacent to the site. All areas underwent a topsoil strip prior to the commencement of groundwork, assisting in the identification of the few archaeological features recorded.

The archaeological record was secured by means of trench-side notes and scale drawings. A photographic record was also compiled.



Plate 1: general view looking east showing the indistinct remnants of one of the several medieval furrows present on the site (scales are 1m).

4.0 RESULTS AND CONCLUSIONS (Fig. 2)

RESULTS

The watching brief revealed archaeological evidence associated with two periods of occupation/land use - medieval & modern.

Topsoil stripping in advance of construction revealed an undated subsoil ([002]) sealing deposits of natural limestone brash and clay. Above [002] lay the remnants of several shallow (c. 200mm deep) east-west aligned furrows associated with medieval ridge and furrow pattern arable cultivation ([004] – [018] – see Pl. 1). The furrows lay approximately 10m - 14m apart (between centres) and were c. 4m wide. Although generally undated, two sherds of pot (13th century) and a small assemblage of tile (13th to 16th century) was recovered from one of the furrows ([004]).

Three short lengths of crudely built east-west limestone land drain ([019] – [021]) cut in to subsoil [002]. Two [019] and [020] lay above earlier medieval furrows and although undated these land drains were believed to date to around the 19th century. Topsoil stripping in the area of Plot 30 revealed a well ([003]) cutting through [002] and extending into the underlying natural. The well was circular in plan and measured approximately 5.50m deep and 2m wide at its base. The upper 1.75m of the well was brick-lined and sloped inwards gradually reduced the head of the well to c 1.00m (see Fig. 2).

Sealing all of the above was topsoil [001] (ground level).

After discussions with the archaeological advisor to West Lindsey District Council it was agreed that due to the limited value of the archaeological features recorded the watching brief could be terminated before all of the remaining house plots were built.

CONCLUSIONS

Natural

The watching brief revealed natural limestone and clays at various depths across all areas of the site.

Prehistoric & Roman

The watching brief failed to reveal evidence for occupation or land-use predating the medieval period although its presence in close proximity to the site is recorded.

Medieval

Evidence of medieval land use was represented by ridge and furrow pattern arable cultivation – only the furrows survived as modern arable farming techniques had completely removed any trace for associated ridges. The small assemblage of material recovered from the furrows suggests that they date to between the 13th to 16th centuries.

Modern

Groundwork in the southern part of the site revealed a substantial brick-lined well immediately adjacent to Plot 30 and it is believed that the well was associated with Greetwell North Farm that occupied this part of the site up until its demolition in the late 20th century. The undated limestone land drains are also believed to be associated with the farm.

In conclusion, although the results of this watching brief provide only limited information regarding the date and nature of archaeology encountered, an overall enhancement of knowledge of the area has been achieved with regard to the survival and extent of archaeological deposits. This information will be of value in future decision making in the management of the archaeological resource in the vicinity to the site.

5.0 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Mike Jarvis Archaeological Services would like to thank Persimmon Homes (East Yorkshire) Ltd, for their full cooperation throughout the duration of the watching brief (especially to Mr Bradley Davidson – Technical Director, Persimmon Homes) and to Dr Beryl Lott (Archaeological Advisor to West Lindsey District Council) for her guidance and assistance. Access to the Lincolnshire HER was permitted by Mr Mark Bennet.

Project Team

Mike Jarvis	Field Officer (MJAS)
Karen Adams	Finds Processing (freelance)
Anne Boyle & Jane Young	Tile (freelance)

Anne Boyle & Jane Young Post-Roman Pottery (freelance)

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6.0 BIBLIOGRAPHY

1973 Geological Survey Map of Great Britain (England & Wales), Solid & Drift, Sheet 114

Field, N & Armour-Chelu, R, 2001 *Greetwell Quarry Extension Phase I*, LAS Report 540

Wragg, K 2004 *Residential Development (Area RC3) Bunkers Hill, Lincoln* CLAU Report 529

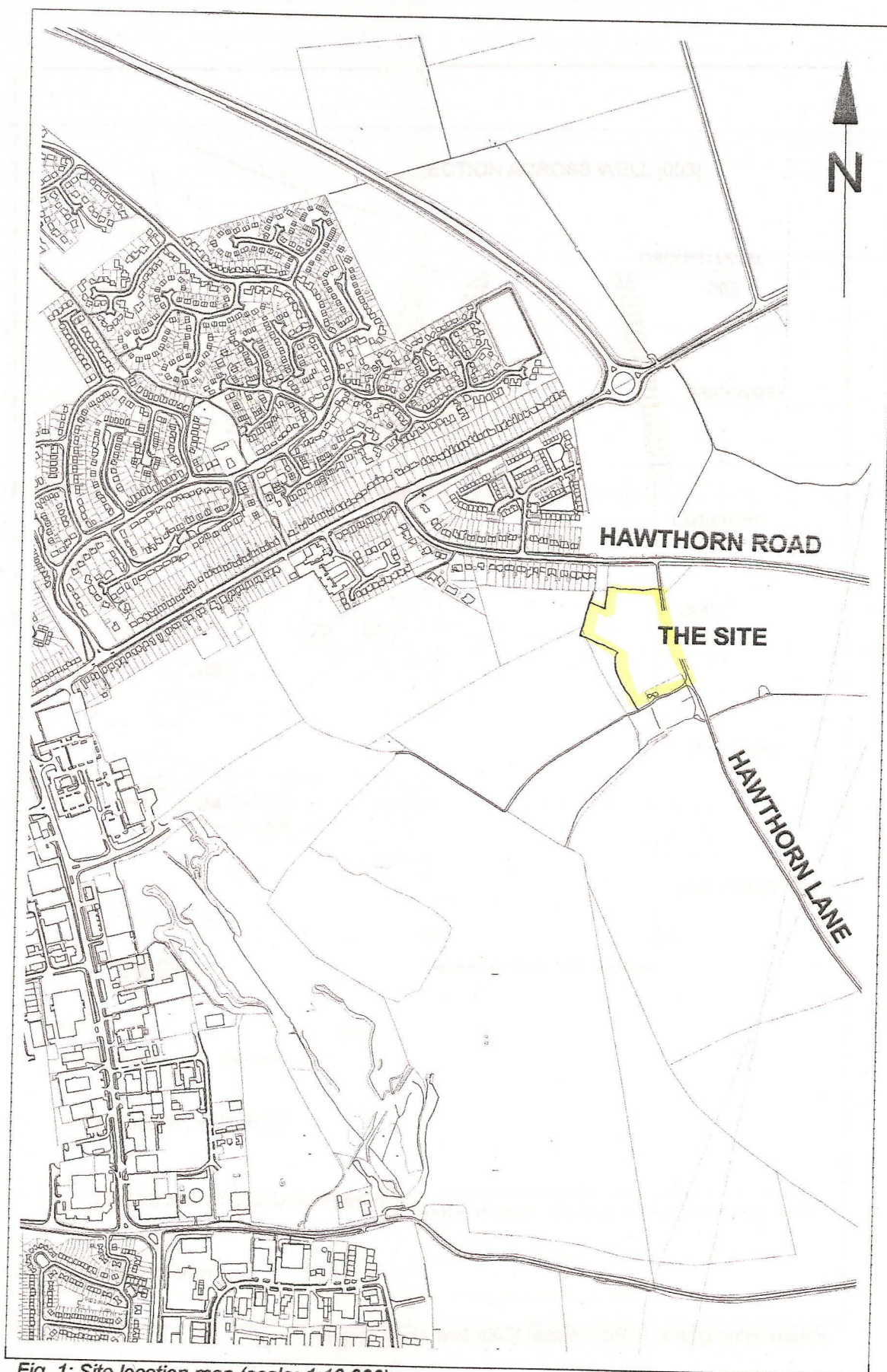


Fig. 1: Site location map (scale: 1:10,000).

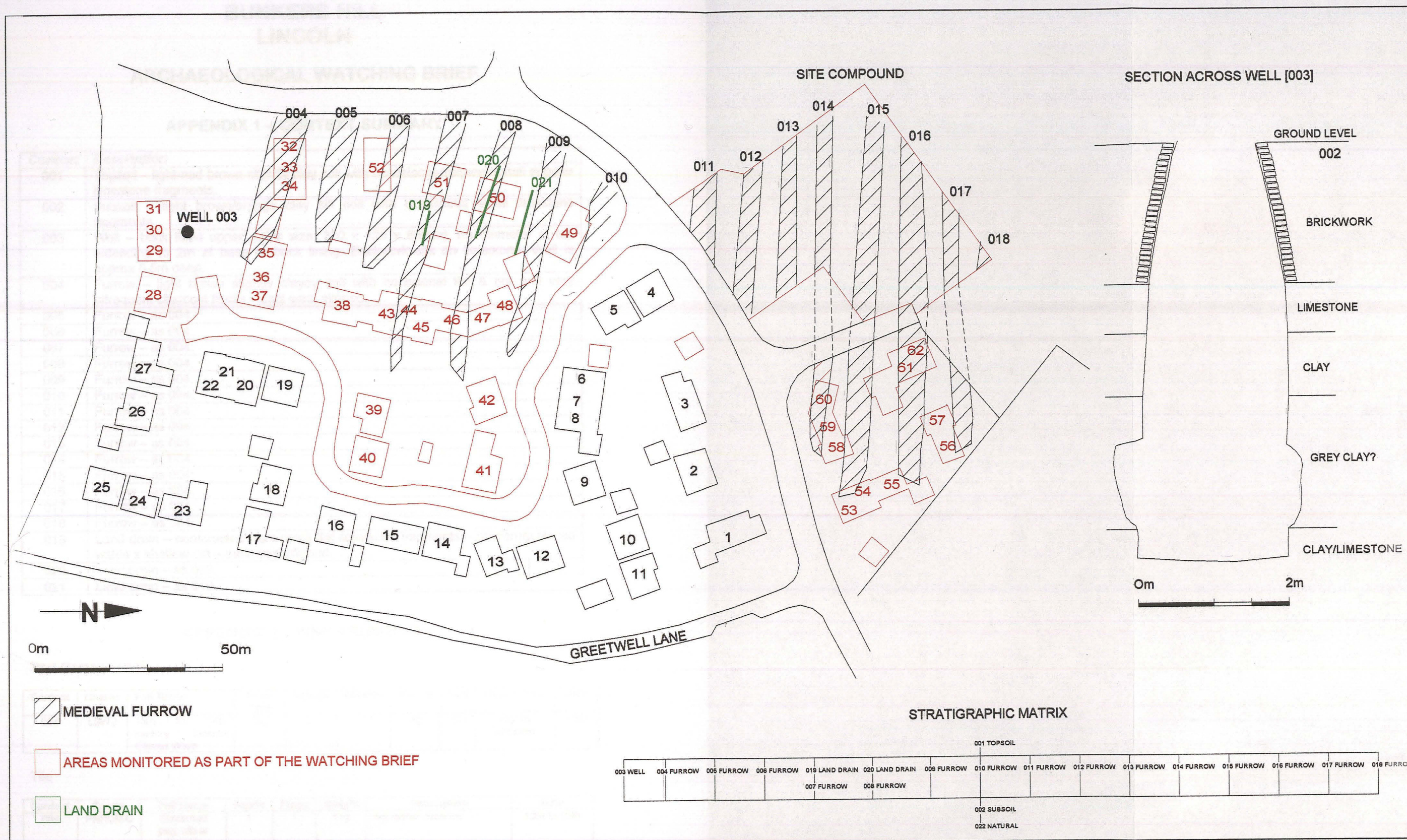


Fig. 2: Site plan showing location of house plots, roadways and site compound together with the location of primary features (scale 1:1000) and section across well [003] (scale 1:50) & stratigraphic matrix.

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APPENDIX 1 – CONTEXT SUMMARY

Context	Description
001	Topsoil – light-mid brown slightly clay soil with occasional-frequent small angular limestone fragments.
002	Subsoil – light brown/orange clay silt soil with occasional small limestone fragments.
003	Well – brick lined upper (brick size: 230 x 120 x 86mm) 1m diameter at top extending to 2m at base of brick lining. Brickwork sits on limestone. Well is approx 5.5m deep.
004	Furrow – light brown slightly clayey soil with occasional tile & pot and very infrequent charcoal flecks – east-west aligned.
005	Furrow – as 004.
006	Furrow – as 004.
007	Furrow – as 004.
008	Furrow – as 004.
009	Furrow – as 004.
010	Furrow – as 004.
011	Furrow – as 004.
012	Furrow – as 004.
013	Furrow – as 004.
014	Furrow – as 004.
015	Furrow – as 004.
016	Furrow – as 004.
017	Furrow – as 004.
018	Furrow – as 004.
019	Land drain – constructed from small flat limestone fragments – randomly placed within a shallow cut – east-west aligned.
020	Land drain – as 019.
021	Land drain – as 019.

APPENDIX 2 – FINDS SUMMARY

Post-Roman Pottery

Context	Cname	Full Name	Form Type	Sherds	Vessels	Weight	Part	Description	Date
004	LSW2	13th to 14th century Lincoln Glazed Ware	jug	2	1	4g	BS	slightly abraded	13th

Tile

Context	Cname	Full Name	Fabric	Frgs	Weight	Description	Date
004	PNRDISC	Discarded peg, nib or ridge tile	1	1	11g	flat roofer; abraded	13th to 15th
004	RTILDISC	discarded Roman tile		2	20g		roman
004	PNR	Peg, nib or ridge tile	1	1	20g	flat roofer; mortar	13th to 15th

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004	RTIL	Roman tile		1	27g	probably tegula	roman
004	PNR	Peg, nib or ridge tile	1	1	57g	flat roofer; abraded; late medieval ?	15th to 16th

APPENDIX 3 – LHA NOTE & ARCHIVE DETAILS

SITE NAME: Area RC1 & A1 Bunkers Hill, Lincoln

SITE CODE: BHA04

MJAS REPORT No: 525

NGR: TF 5678 7289 (approximate centre)

PROJECT TYPE: Watching Brief

PROJECT DATE: 6 September 2004 & 30 May 2006

PLANNING APPLICATION No.: W42/191/89 – 9 February 1989

SMR No.: N/A

CIVIL PARISH: Greetwell

MUSEUM ACCESSION No.: 2004.199

ARCHIVE PRESENT LOCATION: MJAS, 1 Torrington Road, Lincoln, LN2 2DP

ARCHIVE FINAL LOCATION: The City and County Museum, Friars Lane, Lincoln