

ARCHAEOLOGICAL  
SERVICES  
WYAS

**Laughton Road  
Scotton  
Lincolnshire**

*Archaeological Watching Brief*

*Report No. 1414*

*February 2007*

CLIENT

**Ben Bailey Homes**



*receipt acknowledged*  
*14/2/07*  
*J. Mitchell*

Conservation  
Services

14 FEB 2007

Highways & Planning  
Directorate

**Laughton Road**

**Scotton**

**Lincolnshire**

**Archaeological Watching Brief**

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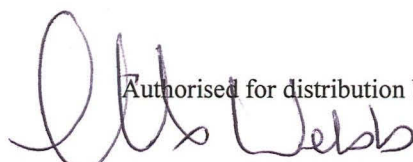
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*Summary*

*An archaeological watching brief on land adjacent to Laughton Road, Scotton, Lincolnshire was undertaken in response to a proposal for a building development (M04/P/0438). No evidence of archaeological remains was encountered and this confirmed the conclusions of an earlier archaeological evaluation.*

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*1. Introduction*

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## **1. Introduction**

- 1.1 Archaeological Services WYAS (ASWYAS) was commissioned by Ben Bailey Homes to undertake an archaeological watching brief during the excavation of trenches for storm and foul drains and housing plots on the site by P. Hughes Ltd. The proposed development area is centred at NGR SK 8870 9885 (Fig. 1).
- 1.2 The site is located on the south-western edge of the village of Scotton, halfway between the villages of Scotter and Northorpe, and approximately 10km to the south of Scunthorpe in the district of West Lindsey, Lincolnshire. The site is immediately bounded by Laughton Road to the south (and from which an estate access road is to be constructed), by a hawthorn hedge to the west and north and by a timber post and wire fence to the east that forms the boundary of Nos. 40-46 Westgate (Fig. 2). A pond is situated on the western boundary of the development site, fed by a drain to the south and outflowing via a drain to the north. The southern interior of the site is bounded by a c.2m high bund. The site slopes from a height of approximately 21m AOD along the southern edge to c.17m AOD in the north.
- 1.3 The soils that cover the majority of the site are slowly permeable seasonally waterlogged reddish brown fine loamy over clayey, fine loamy and clayey soils of the Salop Association. To the north-west and possibly falling within the site are well-drained very acidic sandy soils of the Crannymoor Association. These soils overlay reddish till and glaciofluvial drift and clays of the Lower Jurassic Lower Lias (Soil Survey of England and Wales 1983; British Geological Survey 1978).
- 1.4 The archaeological watching brief was undertaken on a number of dates during 2005. An archaeologist was present on site from 20th to 23rd of June 2005. Further monitoring occurred from 27th to 30th June 2005, on 1st, 6th, 7th, 8th and 11th July 2005, and again from 5th to 7th October 2005. The final phase of monitoring was undertaken on 29th and 30th November and 1st December 2005.

## **2. Archaeological Background**

- 2.1 The development site contains two earthworks that were identified from an assessment of air photographs undertaken by the Royal Commission on the Historical Monuments of England. A desk-based assessment, undertaken by the City of Lincoln Archaeology Unit, collated further archaeological data from the County Sites and Monuments Record and referenced the previous RCHM(E) work. This detailed a number of sites of archaeological interest around Scotton and within the proximity of the proposed development area (Trimble 1998). No further archaeological sites other than the earthwork remains were identified within the limit of the proposed development area. An earthwork survey was also undertaken and the results presented in the CLAU report (Trimble 1998). The surveyed features were interpreted as the possible remnants of medieval settlement activity in the form of raised platforms with surrounding ditches, upon which may have been placed structures such as houses and outbuildings. The pond on the western edge of the site was thought



to be of possible medieval date, perhaps a fishpond associated with a manorial site known to have existed to the south-east.

- 2.2 As a result of the first stage of archaeological investigation, a second stage was proposed and completed by Pre-Construct Archaeology in 1999. This comprised an archaeological evaluation of the development area via trial trenching, targeting elements of the previously identified earthwork features. A reassessment of the historic mapping concluded that the 'platforms' were in fact the remnants of earlier fields and the raised elements were created as a result of differing agricultural regimes on either side of the field boundaries. This was borne out in the evaluation and no archaeological features were found to exist, other than the ditches defining the previous field divisions (Albone 1999). No evidence of settlement activity dating to the medieval period was recovered except for a small quantity of 14th to 15th-century pottery from a subsoil layer in the southernmost trench. Although not investigated, the 'fishpond' was reassessed in light of a review of the mapping information and was assigned a modern date. Its proposed function as a clay pit remains questionable however and it was more likely a component part of an agricultural water drainage system.
- 2.3 On the basis of the results of the evaluation it was decided that no further archaeological mitigation work should take place prior to construction, but that an archaeological watching brief be maintained during all stages of below ground disturbances associated with the housing development.

### **3. Method**

- 3.1 ASWYAS provided a Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Watching Brief (Wheelhouse 2004; Appendix II) and the investigation was carried out in accordance with the above document.
- 3.2 The aim of the watching brief was to monitor and record any hitherto unknown archaeological features disturbed or destroyed during the construction of the new spinal estate road and all associated housing development works, including foundations and service trenches. A record of any archaeological features and deposits encountered by the works was made.
- 3.3 Mechanical excavation was carried out using a 360° machine excavator fitted with a 0.6m wide toothed and toothless bucket.
- 3.4 The site archive contains all the information gathered during the investigations, which is indexed in Appendix I. The paper archive resulting from the investigation is currently stored by ASWYAS and will be deposited with the relevant body, within a timescale agreed between ASWYAS and the recipient museum.

### **4. Results**

- 4.1 The drainage trench commenced in the north-west part of the site and was excavated to a depth of approximately 0.4m and 0.6m wide. Aligned in a north-easterly direction, the trench extended for approximately 24m before being widened to accommodate a manhole (2.8m in plan). The stratigraphy revealed in this section of the site consisted of a dark loamy topsoil (0.2m in depth) with occasional small rounded pebbles overlying a subsoil of similar



material but with light brown/orange flecks. As the trench proceeded in a south-easterly direction across the site, measurements were periodically taken to record the nature of the excavated ground. This showed a gradual change in make up. The central part of the site (beginning approximately 20m from the northern site boundary and extending for a distance of 100m) appeared to be very disturbed. Under the topsoil, at a maximum depth of 0.3m, a layer of orange sand and grey clay was revealed (1.3m in depth). This deposit lay above a layer of dark loamy soil that possibly represents buried topsoil (0.2m to 0.3m in depth). Since the natural on this site is made up of yellow sand above grey clay, it is highly likely that a large portion of the site has been levelled by re-depositing excavated natural above the original topsoil. Below the buried topsoil, a deposit of yellow sand and weathered stone fragments, 0.2m in depth, covered grey clay.

- 4.2 Excavations of the foundations for the housing plot in the far north-eastern corner of the development area (Fig. 2; Plot 7) revealed a mid brown coloured silty clay subsoil, varying in depth from 0.10m to 0.30m, overlying greenish grey clay natural containing pockets of orangey yellow sand. The topsoil had already been stripped from this area of the site prior to monitoring. The foundations were excavated to a maximum depth of 2m and a maximum width of 0.95m. In the southern half of the area covered by the foundations of Plot 7 a layer of solid rock sits at a depth of 1.5m.
- 4.3 Excavations of the foundations for the housing plots in the south-western corner of the site (Fig. 2; Plots 2 and 3) were also monitored. No archaeology was recorded within the confines of the foundation trenches.
- 4.4 The foundations for the houses and garages north of the pond on the western side of the site (Fig. 2; Plots 5 and 6) were excavated through made ground. The excavation of these foundation trenches was carried out without archaeological supervision, but during the monitoring of the foundation trenches for Plot 7, the foundation trenches for Plots 5 and 6 were observed cutting through made ground.
- 4.5 ASWYAS was not afforded the opportunity to monitor all house plots (Fig 2). Nevertheless based on the evidence gathered from the areas that were monitored and their widespread distribution across the site, it was very unlikely that any archaeological deposits survived.

## 5. ***Discussion and Conclusion***

- 5.1 No archaeological features or deposits were encountered during the excavation of the drainage trenches or selected house foundations. A small number of unstratified early modern glazeware pottery sherds were noted during the excavation of the drainage trenches but were not retained. These are likely to have been deposited on the site during manuring of the former fields, and do not represent evidence of occupation on the site.
- 5.2 Evidence of field boundary ditches revealed during the earlier site evaluation (Albone 1999), was not recovered, although the drainage trench was located within a single field and did not cross any earlier field boundaries. In addition, no earlier field boundaries were disturbed by the house foundations.

## Acknowledgements

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- Wheelhouse, P., 2004, 'Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Watching Brief', ASWYAS unpubl.



## **Acknowledgements**

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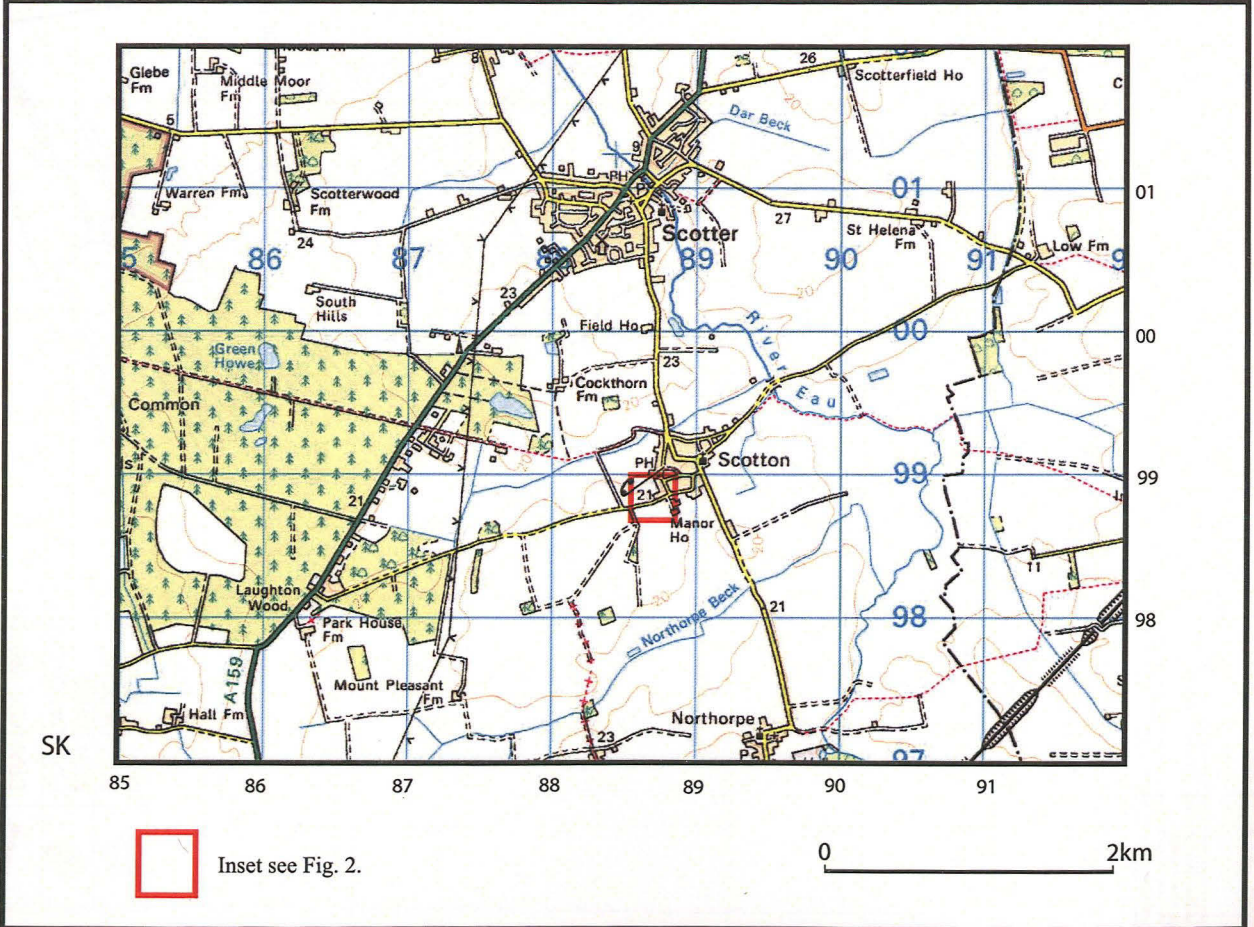
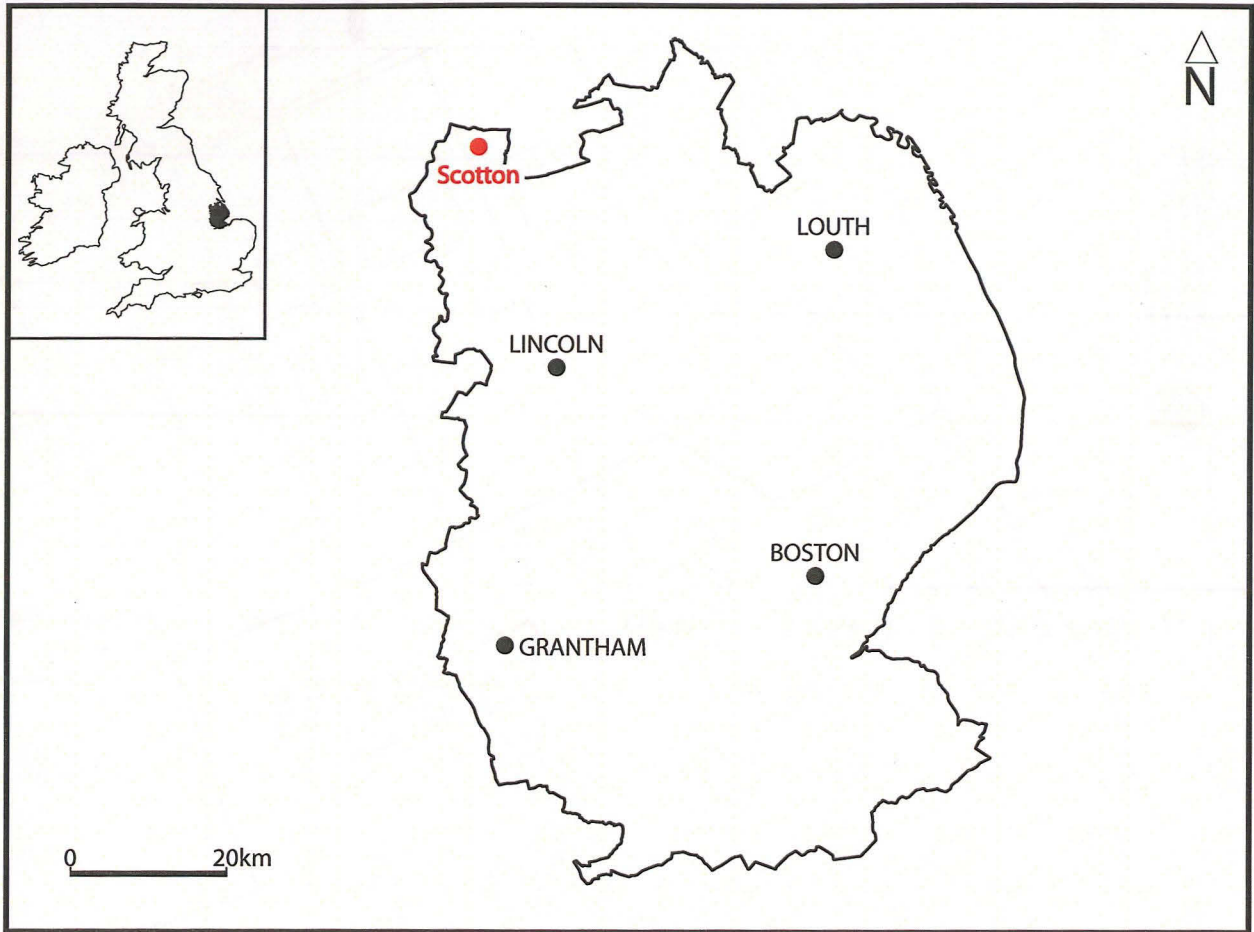


Fig. 1. Site location

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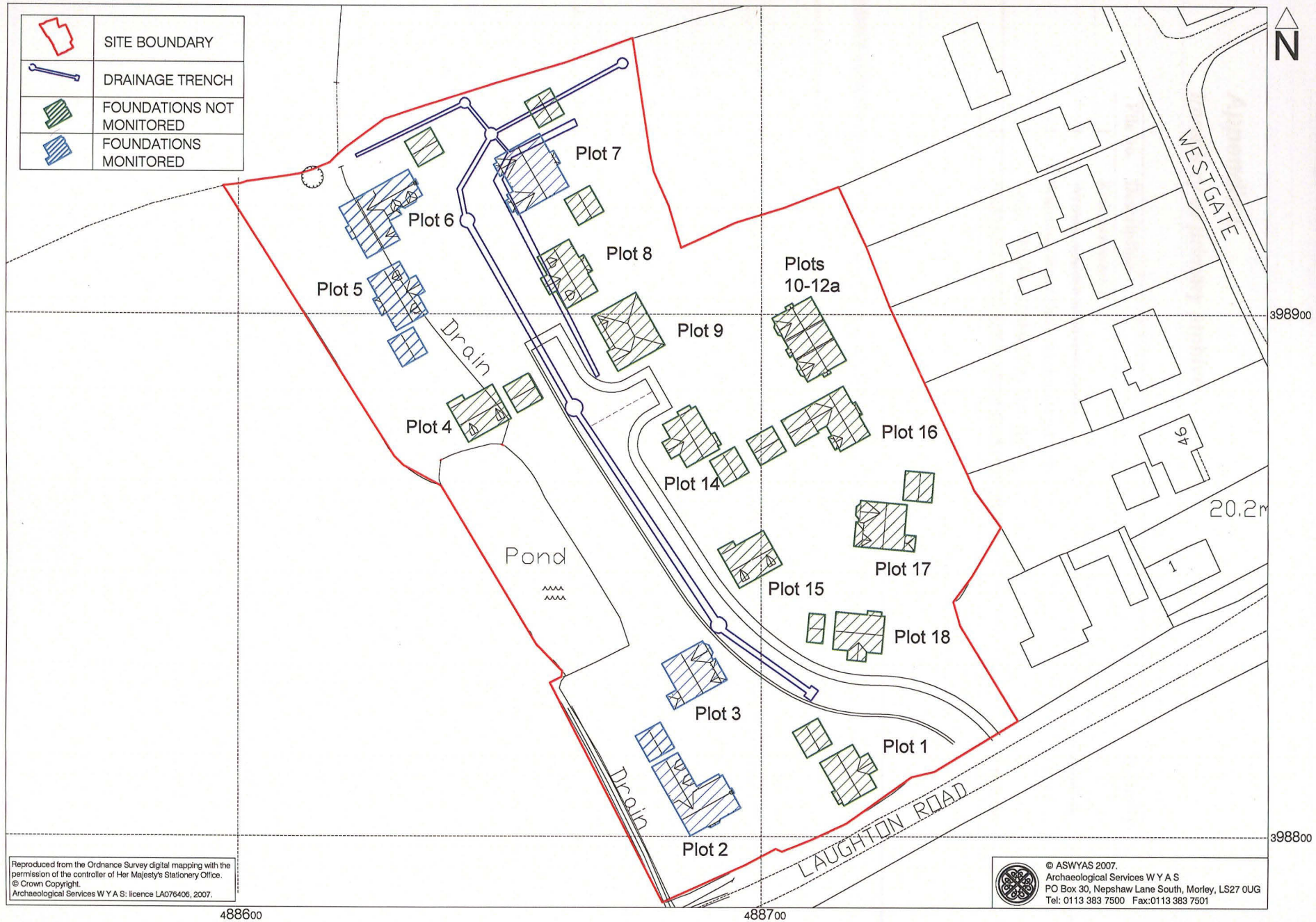
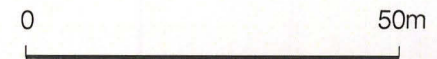


Fig. 2. Location of the drainage trenches and house foundations monitored during the watching brief



**Appendix I****Inventory of primary archive**

<b>File no.</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Quantity</b>
1	Risk assessment	2 copies
1	Written scheme of investigation	2 copies
1	Watching Brief Daily Monitoring Form	18 sheets
1	Large site plan produced by Ben Bailey	8
1	Background information about field evaluation	2 reports



## **Appendix II**

### **Written scheme of investigation for an archaeological watching brief**

#### *Written Scheme of Investigation*

#### *1. Introduction*

The proposed development is a new house at Laughton Road, Scotton, Lincolnshire. The site is situated on a plot of land bounded by Laughton Road to the north, the railway line to the east, and the railway line to the south. The site is currently occupied by a pond and a small outbuilding. The proposed development is a new house with a total floor area of approximately 1,500 sq. m. The house will be constructed in brick and will have a pitched roof. The house will be situated on a plot of land which is currently occupied by a pond and a small outbuilding. The pond is situated on the south side of the plot and is approximately 10m x 10m in size. The outbuilding is situated on the north side of the plot and is approximately 5m x 5m in size. The proposed development is a new house with a total floor area of approximately 1,500 sq. m. The house will be constructed in brick and will have a pitched roof. The house will be situated on a plot of land which is currently occupied by a pond and a small outbuilding. The pond is situated on the south side of the plot and is approximately 10m x 10m in size. The outbuilding is situated on the north side of the plot and is approximately 5m x 5m in size.

## **Land off Laughton Road, Scotton, Lincolnshire**

### *Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Watching Brief*

#### **1. Introduction**

- 1.1 A proposal for a new housing development at land off Laughton Road, Scotton, Lincolnshire (original application no. 97/P/0804 and no. M04/P/0438 which is the most recent reserved matters application) has received outline planning condition from West Lindsey District Council. The development site covers an area of c.1.3 ha of pasture land previously used as a paddock (see Fig. 1). This document has been prepared to fulfil the planning condition relating to archaeology, which states:

*“The applicant shall arrange for an archaeologist recognised by the district planning authority to carry out an archaeological watching brief during all stages of the development involving ground disturbance in accordance with a scheme to be submitted to, and approved by that authority before development is commenced. Such arrangements shall include provision for the observation, recording and recovery of artefactual evidence and post-excavation analysis. Fourteen days notice shall be given to the district planning authority prior to the commencement of works. A report of the archaeologist’s findings shall be submitted to the district planning authority within two months of the last day of the watching brief, or such longer period as may be agreed by the authority, and shall include arrangements for the conservation and long-term storage of artefacts removed from the site.”*

- 1.2 Archaeological Services WYAS have been commissioned by Ben Bailey Homes Limited (the developer) to prepare the necessary written scheme of investigation for an archaeological watching brief (this document) and to carry out the archaeological works as detailed below. The written scheme of investigation has been reviewed and approved by Beryl Lott of Lincolnshire County Council’s Archaeology Section.
- 1.3 The housing development site lies on the south-western edge of the village of Scotton at NGR SK 8870 9885 (please note the site centred grid reference quoted in Trimble 1998 and Albone 1999 is incorrect), located halfway between the villages of Scotter and Northorpe, and approximately 10km to the south of Scunthorpe in the district of West Lindsey, Lincolnshire. The site is immediately bounded by Laughton Road to the south (and from which an estate access road is to be constructed), by a hawthorn hedge to the west and north and by a timber post and wire fence to the east that forms the boundary of Nos 40-46 Westgate. A pond is situated on the western



boundary of the development site, fed by a drain to the south and outflowing via a drain to the north. The southern interior half of the site is bounded by a c.2m high bund and the natural high point is located along the southern edge at approximately 21m AOD sloping down to the north to c.17m AOD.

- 1.4 The soils that cover the majority of the site are slowly permeable seasonally waterlogged reddish brown fine loamy over clayey, fine loamy and clayey soils of the Salop Association. To the north-west and possibly falling within the site are well-drained very acid sandy soils of the Crannymoor Association. These soils overlay reddish till and glaciofluvial drift and clays of the Lower Jurassic Lower Lias (Soil Survey of England and Wales 1983; British Geological Survey 1978).

## **2. Archaeological Background**

- 2.1 The development site contains two earthworks that were identified from an assessment of air photographs undertaken by the Royal Commission on the Historical Monuments of England. A desk-based assessment, undertaken by the City of Lincoln Archaeology Unit, collated further archaeological data from the County Sites and Monuments Record and referenced the previous RCHM(E) work. This detailed a number of sites of archaeological interest around Scotton and within proximity to the proposed development area (Trimble 1998). No further archaeological sites other than the earthwork remains were identified as falling within the bounds of the development area. An earthwork survey was undertaken and the results presented in the 1998 CLAU report. The surveyed features were interpreted as the possible remnants of medieval settlement activity in the form of raised platforms with surrounding ditches, upon which may have been placed structures such as houses and outbuildings. The ditch linking the pond on the western edge of the site was thought to be of possible medieval date, interpreting the pond as a possible fishpond associated with a manorial site known to have existed to the south-east.
- 2.2 As a result of the first stage of archaeological investigation a second stage was proposed and completed by Pre-Construct Archaeology in 1999. This comprised an archaeological evaluation of the development area via trial trenching, targeting elements of the previously identified earthwork features. A reassessment of the historic mapping concluded that the 'platforms' were in fact more simply the remnants of earlier fields and the raised elements were created as a result of differing agricultural regimes on either side of the field boundaries. This was borne out in the evaluation and no archaeological features were found to exist other than the ditches defining the previous field divisions (Albone 1999). No evidence of settlement activity dating to the medieval period was recovered except for a small quantity of 14<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup> century pottery from a subsoil layer in the southernmost trench. Although not investigated the 'fishpond' was reassessed in light of a review of the mapping information and was assigned a modern date, although its suggested function as a clay pit remains questionable and was more than likely a component part of an agricultural water drainage system.



- 2.3 On the basis of the results of the evaluation it was decided that no further pre-construction archaeological mitigation work should take place, but that an archaeological watching brief be maintained during all stages of below-ground disturbances associated with the housing development.

### **3. Aims and Objectives**

- 3.1 The aim of the watching brief is to identify sample and record any hitherto unknown archaeological features to be disturbed or destroyed by the construction of the new spinal estate road and all associated housing development works, including foundations and service trenches.
- 3.2 Given the present state of knowledge, specific objectives will be to obtain dating evidence from any discovered archaeological features. Moreover, the work will aim to establish the function of any identified remains through the sample excavation investigation where the opportunity arises. Where possible, opportunity will be taken to establish stratigraphic relationships between features in order to establish a phased and chronological interpretation of the site. The work will adopt a strategy that allows for the retrieval of artefactual and environmental evidence that will help ascertain the economy of the site at different periods, where possible.
- 3.3 A general objective will be to record and investigate all archaeological features and deposits exposed during groundworks for the construction of the road and housing estate across the whole site.

### **4. Methodology**

- 4.1 An archaeologist will be in attendance during all groundworks associated with the development, including foundation trenches, services and road construction, as well as any preliminary topsoil stripping. All work will be undertaken in accordance with Archaeological Services WYAS standard method as set out in the recording manual (2004).
- 4.2 An adequate written record will be maintained of archaeological features and finds encountered. Measured plans will be at scales of either 1:20 or 1:50 as appropriate. Measured feature sections will be drawn at scales of either 1:10 or 1:20 as appropriate.
- 4.3 The location of all archaeological features and finds will be indicated on a measured plan of the site at an appropriate scale. Where appropriate, measured drawings will be made of archaeological features encountered.
- 4.4 An adequate photographic record of the watching brief will be prepared. This will include black and white prints with colour transparencies illustrating in both detail and general context the principal features and finds discovered. The photographic record will also include working shots to illustrate more generally the nature of the works.



- 4.5 Soil sampling will be undertaken where there is clear potential for environmental analysis. Where appropriate and practicable soil samples of up to 30 litres will be taken from excavated contexts, and larger samples will be taken of any rich carbonised deposits. Particular attention will be paid to the sampling of primary ditch fills, large discrete features (e.g. refuse pits), structural and occupational evidence, skeletal remains and any surviving buried soils. At an early stage of the work an Environmental Archaeologist will be required to visit the site to advise on a soil sampling strategy, should it be judged necessary. The collection and processing of environmental samples will be undertaken in accordance with guidelines set out in the Association for Environmental Archaeology's (1995) Working Paper No. 2, "*Environmental Archaeology and Archaeological Evaluations - Recommendations concerning the environmental archaeology component of archaeological evaluations in England*" and English Heritage's (2002), "*Environmental Archaeology. A Guide to the Theory and Practice of Methods, from Sampling and Recovery to Post-excavation*".
- 4.6 All finds of gold and silver and associated objects shall be reported to HM Coroner according to the procedures relating to the Treasure Act 1996.
- 4.7 The discovery of human remains will be reported to the Home Office, from which office a licence for their exhumation shall be obtained.

## **5. Reporting and Archiving**

- 5.1 The watching brief will result in an archive of written records, drawings, photographs, artefacts and samples. These, together with a copy of the report will eventually be deposited with The City and County Museum, Lincoln, subject to the transfer of ownership being agreed with the landowner(s).
- 5.2 All artefacts recovered will be recorded and removed from the site for appropriate storage in controlled environments. All artefacts recovered will be retained, cleaned, labelled and stored as detailed in the guidelines laid out in the IFA Guidelines for Finds Work. Conservation, if required, will be undertaken by approved conservators. UKIC (1990) guidelines will also apply.
- 5.3 The site archive will contain all the data collected during the excavation, including records, finds and environmental samples. It will be quantified, ordered, indexed and internally consistent. Adequate resources will be provided during fieldwork to ensure that all records are checked and internally consistent. Archive consolidation will be undertaken immediately following the conclusion of fieldwork:
- the site record will be checked, cross-referenced and indexed as necessary;
  - all retained finds will be cleaned, conserved, marked and packaged in accordance with the requirements of North Lincolnshire Museum;
  - all retained finds will be assessed and recorded using pro forma recording sheets, by suitably qualified and experienced staff;



- all retained environmental samples will be processed by suitably experienced and qualified staff and recorded using pro forma recording sheets.
- 5.4 The archive will be assembled in accordance with the specification set out in English Heritage's *Management of Archaeological Projects* (English Heritage 1991; Appendix 3). In addition to the site records, artefacts, ecofacts and other sample residues, the archive shall contain:
- site matrices where appropriate;
  - a summary report synthesising the context record;
  - a summary of the artefact record;
  - a summary of the environment record.
- 5.5 Provision will be made for the deposition of the archive, artefacts and environmental material, subject to the permission of the relevant landowner (and if no further archaeological work is to be initiated), in the appropriate recipient museum, in this instance The City and County Museum, Lincoln. The museum curator will be advised of the timetable of the proposed investigation prior to work commencing and Archaeological Services WYAS will adhere to any reasonable requirements the museum may have regarding conservation and storage of the excavated material and the resulting archive. The archive will be prepared in accordance with the guidelines published in "*Guidelines for the preparation of Excavation Archives for long-term storage*" (United Kingdom Institute for Conservation, 1990) and "*Standards in the Museum care of archaeological collections*" (Museums and Galleries Commission, 1994). Provision will be made for the stable storage of paper records and their long-term storage.
- 5.6 The final report shall be submitted to Ben Bailey Homes Limited, West Lindsey District Council and the Lincolnshire County SMR office no later than two months after the completion of the on-site works. The final report will include:
- Site code/project no./accession no. as agreed with the museum at the commencement of work;
  - Planning application reference no.;
  - Grid reference
  - Date and duration of the project;
  - A written description of the methods employed and the nature of the archaeology encountered;
  - A location plan at 1:2500
  - A scale plan showing areas of investigation with respect to the digital O.S. map data;
  - Plans and section drawings as appropriate detailing the archaeological findings, with datum and horizontal scales;
  - Photographs as appropriate;
  - Specialist reports on the artefacts and environmental assemblage;
  - Proposals for the deposition and long-term curation of the archive.



- 5.7 A short summary report shall also be prepared for inclusion in the local county archaeological journal, *Lincolnshire History and Archaeology*, if it is judged of sufficient interest for inclusion.

## **6. Monitoring**

- 6.1 The archaeological work will be monitored by an archaeologist from Lincolnshire County Council's Archaeology Section, who will be consulted before the commencement of any site works and afforded the opportunity to inspect the site and the records during any stage of the work.

- 6.2 There is presently no timetable for the work. Construction is expected to commence in the summer/autumn of 2004.

## **7. Insurance**

- 7.1 Archaeological Services WYAS has effected appropriate insurance cover with Zurich Municipal Insurance, Park House, 57-59 Well Street, Bradford, via Wakefield Metropolitan District Council. Any further enquiries should be directed to The Chief Financial Officer, Insurance Section, Wakefield MDC, PO Box 55, Newton Bar, Wakefield, WF1 2TT.

Prepared by Paul Wheelhouse BA MIFA of  
Archaeological Services WYAS, acting on  
behalf of Ben Bailey Homes Limited

Date: 17<sup>th</sup> June 2004

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