

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF REPORT

NORTH GRANGE FARM, UTTERBY,

LINCOLNSHIRE

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**NORTH GRANGE FARM, UTTERBY,
LINCOLNSHIRE**

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF REPORT

FOR

AJ WALLER BUILDING CONTRACTOR (LOUTH)

By

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Contents

1.0 Abstract

2.0 Introduction

3.0 Location and description

4.0 Purpose and methods

5.0 Results

6.0 Conclusions

7.0 Acknowledgements

8.0 Appendices

8.1 Site archive

8.2 References

1.0 Abstract

An archaeological watching brief took place on July 17th, 1995 during construction trenching for a new dwelling at North Grange Farm, Utterby, Lincolnshire (Fig. 1). No archaeological remains of any period were exposed during the ground works.

The site central national grid reference is TF 3102 9405.

2.0 Introduction

AJ Waller was granted full planning permission in June 1995 to erect a new detached house at North Grange Farm, Utterby and, at the same time, demolish a pair of near-derelect cottages. The site lies within a potentially sensitive medieval settlement zone and a condition requiring an archaeological watching brief was attached to the permission.

To fulfil the planning requirement, the Client commissioned Pre-Construct Archaeology (Lincoln) to undertake a low-level watching brief so that archaeological deposits, if disturbed during development, would be recorded and interpreted to standards set by the County Archaeological Officer for Lincolnshire.

A copy of this report will be deposited with the County Sites and Monuments Record, effectively placing the information in the public domain. Further copies have been/will be distributed to the Client and the Lincolnshire Archives Office.

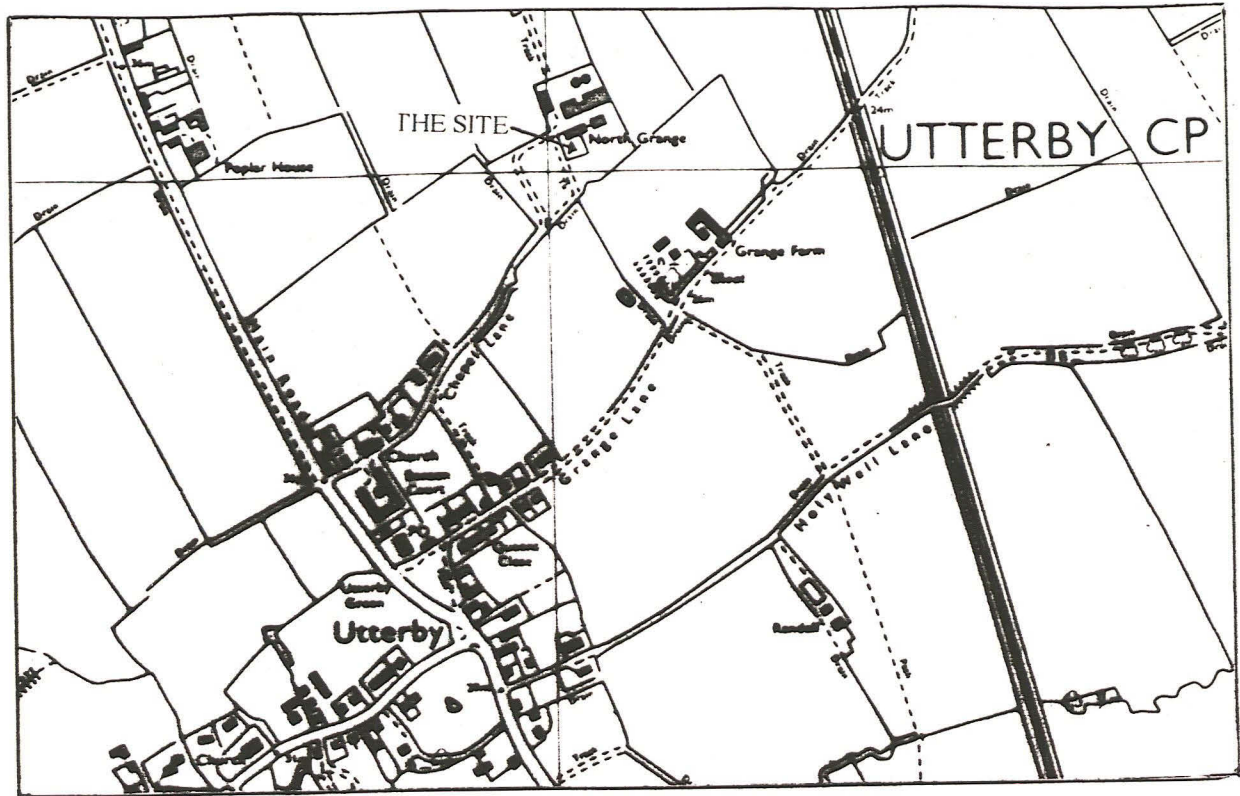
3.0 Location and description

Utterby is situated in the district of East Lindsey in north Lincolnshire, approximately 35km north-east of Lincoln, 3km north of Louth. It is set on the eastern edge of the chalk high ground (the Wolds), which extends north-west to south-east from the Humber to a point approximately 10km north-west of Gibraltar Point. The drift geology comprises chalky boulder clay/till.

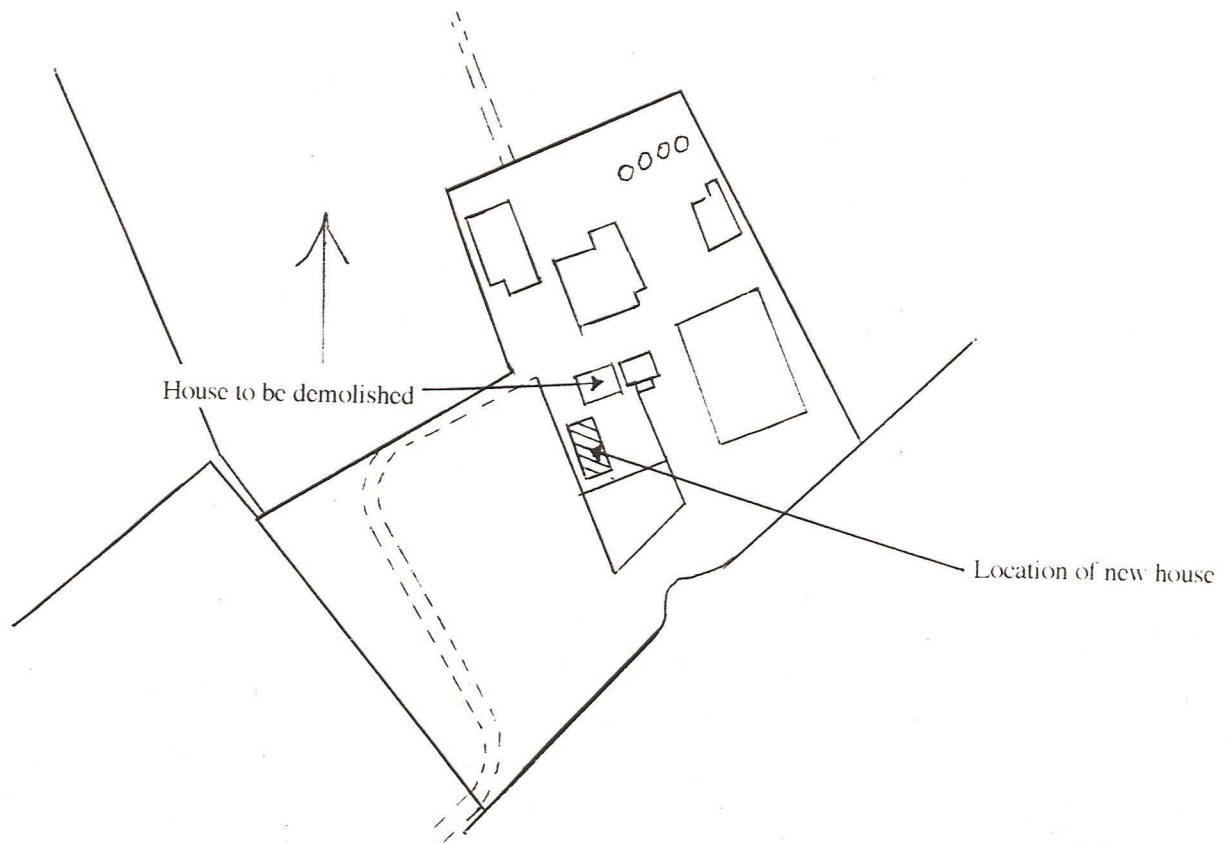
The development site lies north-east of the village, off Chapel Lane. It is set within a farm complex surrounded by fields at a point approximately 26m above modern sea level.

The new dwelling will be of brick construction and will occupy a rectangular parcel measuring approximately 17.4m x 9.0m. A house which occupies the area c. 12.0m north of the new structure will be demolished as part of the current planning permission.

Fig. 1 Site location



1:10,000



1:2500

4.0 Purpose and methods

The archaeological database for Utterby is extremely slim; a situation indicated by the four entries on the County Sites and Monuments Record (SMR):

NGR	Ref.	Description
1) TF 3060093250	41350	Utterby Manor; C17th
2) TF 31759374	41915	Site of holy well
3) TF 31159385	41352	Homestead Moat; undated earthworks
4) TF 306932	00029	Packhorse bridge; ?C14th - fine example (Scheduled Ancient Monument No. 29).

Extant aspects of the medieval moated site (No. 3 above) lie approximately 150m south-east of the present development. The proximity of the latter to a site of unknown extent meant there was a possibility that outlying or ephemeral buried remains associated with the settlement would be disturbed during ground clearance and trenching at North Grange Farm.

Of significance, the medieval name for Utterby was *Uttrebi*, translating 'outer or more remote farmstead' (Mills 1993, 340).

(1996 - Cameron - could also be OE part name + 'se' 'ay')

In recognising the potential archaeological significance of the development site, the District Council issued an archaeological requirement as a condition of planning. The level of recording deemed to be appropriate was an archaeological watching brief. This may be defined thus:

'An archaeological watching brief is defined as a programme of observation and investigation conducted during the destruction of archaeological deposits, resulting in the preparation of a report and ordered archive' (Institute of Field Archaeologists draft on Standard Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs, 1993)

In advance of the recording brief, the client was given permission to remove a grass and weed vegetation layer and upper topsoil horizon. Thereafter, an archaeological presence was maintained.

A project brief, outlining the scope of the works, was issued by the County Archaeological Officer in July 1995 and a specification of works was prepared by the writer shortly afterwards.

Recording was achieved using standard watching brief daily log sheets. Detailed context sheets were not used on this occasion as no significant archaeological features were exposed. The site was photographed from all angles and a written account was prepared on the soils present.

5.0 Results

When the site was first inspected, foundation trench alignments had been marked-out with chalk: trenching commenced immediately. Two standard JCB's were employed to, simultaneously, excavate trenches approximately 80cm in depth. The sides and bases of these were intermittently cleaned and inspected for archaeological deposits, though the only intrusive features encountered were associated with modern services carrying live cables to the existing dwelling. The (predominantly natural) stratigraphic sequence may be summarised as follows:

- (1) c. 25cm topsoil: dry, crumbly, dark brown silty clay containing occasional small stone inclusions
- (2) c. 40cm subsoil: clean yellowish-brown clay; iron-pan mottling/leaching
- (3) Chalky boulder clay/till: light brown clay, blue/grey mottles; frequent small chalk inclusions + occasional flint lumps. Natural glacial/drift deposit.

6.0 Conclusions

The watching brief at North Grange Farm did not identify any archaeological remains, other than those which may be dated within the later C20th. In view of this, it is hoped the Client will experience few difficulties, should he decide to construct out-buildings a short distance south of the present scheme.

7.0 Acknowledgements

Sincere thanks are expressed to the client, Mr AJ Waller, for commissioning Pre-Construct Archaeology (Lincoln) to undertake this watching brief. Thanks are also expressed to the City and County Museum, Lincoln, for allowing access to the Sites and Monuments Record.

8.0 Appendices:

8.1 Site archive

8.2 References

Appendix 8.1 Site Archive

The site archive comprises:

x1 watching brief record sheet

1 colour print film

x1 architect plan (Drawing D/2/95/2)

x1 site report

Misc. correspondence

Primary records are currently with Pre-Construct Archaeology (Lincoln), but a complete ordered archive will be deposited at the City and County Museum, Lincoln within 1 year of completion of this report.

Appendix 8.2 References

Mills, AD 1993 *English Place-Names* (Oxford)

Pevsner, N and Harris, J 1989 *The Buildings of England: Lincolnshire*