

**M & M ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES**

*The Old Coach House, Church End, Donington, Lincolnshire PE11 4SQ  
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**RESULTS OF AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF:  
LAND OFF ALBERT STREET, HOLBEACH, SPALDING, LINCOLNSHIRE**



**PLANNING APPLICATION REFERENCE: HO9/0524/05/FULL**

**NGR: TF 257 237**

**Site Code: ASH 07**

**Accession No.: LCNCC 2007.229**

**OASIS ID: mmarchae1-34073**

**COMMISSIONED BY:**

**MR D.G.MOUNTAIN**

Silver Hill,  
Lutton Gowts,  
Spalding  
Lincolnshire  
PE12 9LQY

**UNDERTAKEN BY**

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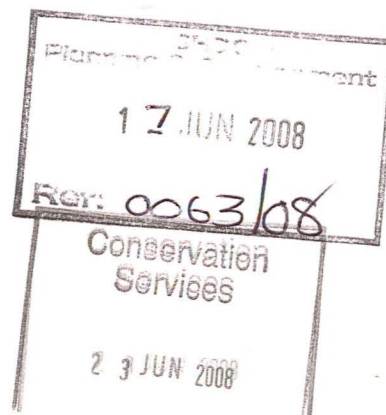
NGR: TF <sup>360 246</sup><sub>257 237</sub>

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## SUMMARY

- 1.1 *Planning permission was granted for the erection of a pair of semi-detached properties for residential use with associated services on land off Albert Street, Holbeach, Spalding, Lincolnshire (Planning Application H09/0524/05/FULL).*
- 1.2 *As a condition of the Planning Permission, an archaeological watching brief was requested to be maintained during ground-works for the development. This report is based on the results of the monitoring.*
- 1.3 *The earliest material found during the watching brief was the natural geology found during the footings excavations for the new build and services. The site showed heavy disturbance to the top-soil and sub-soil during clearance of the development area. No archaeological features or deposits were seen during the excavation of the footings. Pottery of 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century was noted from the topsoil.*

## 2.0 SITE LOCATION AND DESCRIPTION

- 2.1 Albert Street is located to the east of the centre of Holbeach in the administrative district of South Holland. It is rectangular shaped in plan and centred on NGR TF 359 247 at a height of 3m AOD. The underlying drift geology is alluvium (BGS Sheet 144 – Spalding 1:50,000 Series 1992).

## 3.0 PLANNING BACKGROUND

- 3.1 Planning permission was granted for the construction of 2 semi-detached residential dwellings with associated services on land off Albert Street, Holbeach, Spalding, Lincolnshire (Planning application (H09/0524/05/FULL).
- 3.2 A condition of the Planning Permission required an archaeological watching brief to be maintained during ground works. A specification detailing the methodology to be maintained during the fieldwork was prepared and the monitoring was undertaken in accordance with current best archaeological practices and the appropriate national standards and guidance including:

Management of Archaeological Projects (English Heritage 1991);  
Code of Conduct (Institute of Field Archaeologists 1999);  
Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs (Institute of Field Archaeologists 1999).  
Lincolnshire Archaeological Handbook (LCC 1998).

- 3.3 The watching brief was maintained by Martin Griffiths BA(Hons), PGDip in October 2007.

## 4.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 4.1 The archaeological potential of the site was considered to be high. This consideration is based on the location of the site, being close to the historic core of the village as defined by the river and the church as well as the topography of the site.

- 4.2 During the Roman period Holbeach was reclaimed from the marsh by the construction of banks and dykes. Roman pottery has been recovered at a depth of approximately 1m below the present ground surface within tidal silts (Hallam 1970) which suggests the area was subject to periods of marine incursion.
- 4.3 The Saxon coastline is considered to have been present to the immediate north of the site with land reclamation occurring to the north by the 1300s with the construction of the Roman Bank around Moulton Seas End, Saracens Head and Holbeach Clough (BGS 1995). The Anglo-Saxon coastline is thought to run along the line of the High Street and West End. A watching brief undertaken recently close to the site has recorded layers of burning associated with slag of Anglo-Saxon date
- 4.4 Holbeach is mentioned in the Domesday Survey of 1086AD as *Holobec* or *Holebech*. The name is thought to derive from the old English words 'hol' meaning hollow and 'baec' meaning a back, giving a description of 'the concave ridge'. Holbeach is situated on a raised area and therefore the meaning is topographically appropriate (Cameron 1998, Ekwall 1991).
- 4.5 At the time of the Domesday Survey the King, St. Guthlac, Count Allen and Guy de Craon are land holders owning arable land (Foster & Longley 1976).
- 4.6 Earthworks recorded within gardens nearby have been interpreted as tunnels of WWII date or relating to an ornamental garden.

## 5.0 AIMS

The aims of the watching brief were to:

- a) To monitor ground disturbance during the course of development
- b) to ensure the recording of the extent, condition, character, quality and date of any archaeological deposits and features where they may not be left in-situ;
- c) to report on the results of the watching brief and place them within their Local, Regional or National context

## 6.0 METHODOLOGY AND RESULTS

- 6.1 The development site was formerly gardens from a private dwelling until cleared for development. A mechanical excavator with a toothless bucket was used to excavate a 0.7m wide trench for footings for the new properties. The earliest deposits found was yellow brown silty sand (103) which was seen as natural geology and at a depth of 0.61m below the present ground surface. This was sealed by a brown silty sub-soil (102) which was 0.2m in depth.
- 6.2 The sub-soil was sealed by dark brown silty soil (101) which varied from 0.3m – 0.4m over the site. This was a disturbed top-soil through gardening activity in recent times. Occasional pieces of pottery of 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century were present in the top layers but not in a distinguishable original context. No archaeological features were seen in any of the footings.

## 7.0 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

- 7.1 The archaeological watching brief was required because the site is located in an area of archaeological interest. Medieval and Roman remains were recorded from sites in the area. There was nothing to suggest any other archaeological activity on the site apart from gardening activity.
- 7.2 The watching brief recorded the silts recorded as natural geology which was the earliest deposit. Holbeach has a history of flooding and the geological level reached during the excavations of the footings may not be deep enough to reveal archaeological features or material.
- 7.3 In conclusion, the watching brief has added little to our knowledge of the district but it is considered possible that there may be an archaeological presence at deeper levels, if so, it would be preserved in situ and it is unlikely that any damage would be caused by this development.

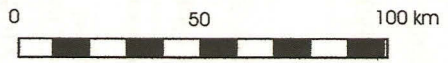
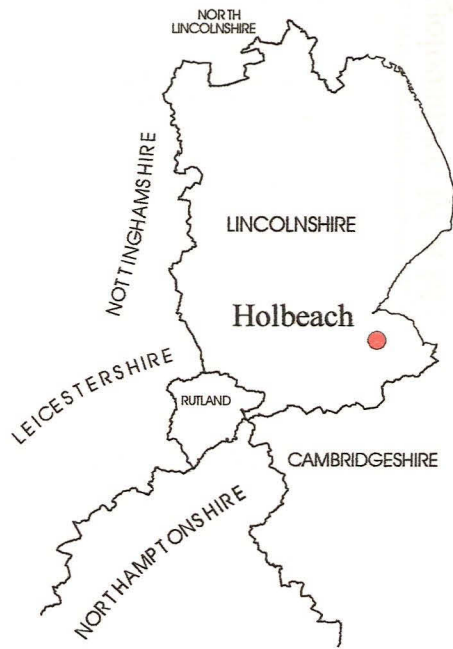
## 8.0 FIGURES

Figure 1. Site location

Figure 2. Site location in detail.

Figure 3. Trench Plan.

Figure 4. Representative section of footings.



Boundaries revised to April 2001



Map based on Ordnance Survey with the sanction of the Controller of H.M. Stationery Office, Crown Copyright Reserved. Licence Number AL 100035919

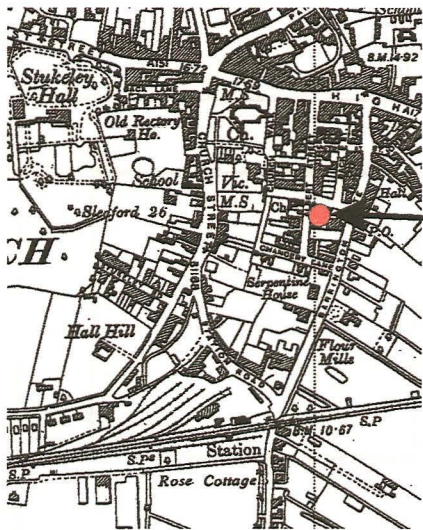


Figure 1. Site location



Figure 2. Site location in more detail



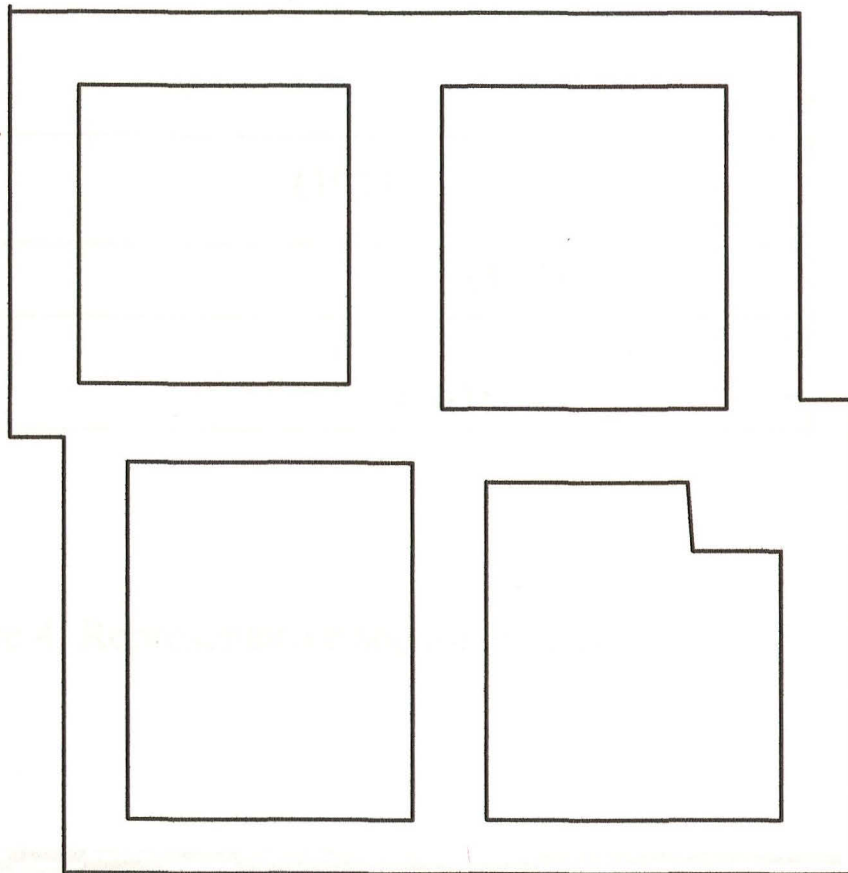


Figure 3 Not  
to Scale

M & M Archaeological Services	
Job	Albert Street, Holbeach Watching Brief
Title	Trench Location Plan
Scale	As Drawn
NGR	TF 257 237
Drawn	mg
Date	Oct 2007
Dwg No	Figure 3
Site Code	ASH 07

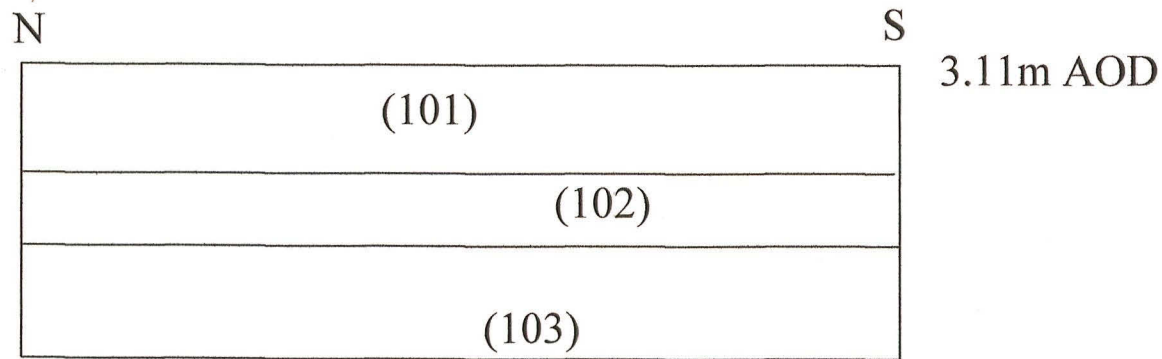
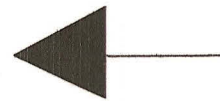


Figure 4. Representative section of footings



<b>M &amp; M Archaeological Services</b>	
Job	Albert StHolbeach
Title	W Brief
Scale	As drawn
NGR	TF 257 237
Drawn	MG
Date	October 2007
Dwg	Figure 4
Site Code	ASH 07



9.0 PLATES

Plate 1. Site looking east.

Plate 2. Showing demolished wall fronting Albert Street.

Plate 3. General shot of footings.

Plate 4. General shot of footings showing maximum depth reached.



Plate 1. Site looking east.



Plate 2. Showing demolished wall fronting Albert Street.



Plate 3. General shot of footings.



Plate 4. General shot of footings showing maximum depth reached.

10.0 CONTEXT SUMMARY

<b>Context No.</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Interpretation</b>
101	O/A	Dark Brown silty soil with occasional pottery.	Layer	Top-soil
102	O/A	Brown silty sand	Layer	Sub-soil
103	O/A	Yellow brown silty sand	Layer	Natural geology

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Land off Albert Street, Holbeach, Spalding, Lincolnshire*

**11.0 OASIS FORM**

**OASIS ID: mmarchae1-34073**

Project name	ALBERT STREET, HOLBEACH
Short description of the project	ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF AT ALBERT STREET, HOLBEACH
Project dates	Start: 29-10-2007 End: 30-10-2007
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	None
Investigation type	'Watching Brief'
Prompt	Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPG16
Country	England
Site location	LINCOLNSHIRE SOUTH HOLLAND HOLBEACH ALBERT STREET
Study area	0 Hectares
Site coordinates	TF 25700 23700 52.7958533031 -0.135478618775 52 47 45 N 000 08 07 W Point
Height OD	Min: 3.00m Max: 3.00m
Name of Organisation	M and M
Project brief originator	Contractor (design and execute)
Project design originator	M and M Archaeological Services
Project director/manager	Project Manager
Project supervisor	Martin Griffiths
Type of sponsor/funding body	Developer
Physical Archive Exists?	No
Digital Archive Exists?	No
Digital Archive recipient	THE COLLECTION
Paper Archive recipient	THE COLLECTION
Paper Archive ID	LCNCC
Paper Contents	'none'
Paper Media available	'Photograph','Plan','Report','Section','Unpublished Text' Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Publication type	
Title	RESULTS OF AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF:
Author(s)/Editor(s)	GRIFFITHS, M
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