

M & M ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES

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**RESULTS OF AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF:
GAUNTLET ROAD, BICKER, BOSTON, LINCOLNSHIRE**



PLANNING APPLICATION REFERENCE: B/04/0890/FULL

NGR: TF 22367 38085

**Site Code: GBI 05
Accession No.: LCNCC 2005.47**

COMMISSIONED BY:

**GSW BUILDING CONTRACTORS LTD.
EAST ROYALTY FARM
EASTVILLE
BOSTON
LINCOLNSHIRE
PE22 8LQ**

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Lincolnshire
County Council

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Planning &
Conservation

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SUMMARY

- 1.1 *Boston Borough Council granted planning permission for the construction of one dwelling and garage on land off Gauntlet Road, Bicker, Boston, Lincolnshire (Planning Application B/04/0890/FULL).*
- 1.2 *As a condition of the Planning Permission, an archaeological watching brief is required. A specification was prepared for the fieldwork which was undertaken according to this document and within nationally recognised archaeological guidelines.*
- 1.3 *The earliest deposit encountered was yellow brown silty clay which was considered to be the natural geology. No archaeological features were present on the development site. The only sign of human activity was a new gas pipe trench along the northern edge of the site leading to the adjacent bungalow. A modern possible post hole or pit was seen in part of the footings which contained modern pottery and cinders. This pit was clearly seen in the top-soil prior to stripping the area.*

2.0 SITE LOCATION AND DESCRIPTION

- 2.1 Bicker is located approximately 16km southwest of Boston in the administrative Borough of Boston. The site is located on the western side of Gauntlet Road, opposite the cemetery. Residential development exists to the north, east and south (see Figure 1).
- 2.2 The development area is centred on NGR TF 22367 38085 at an altitude of 4m OD. The underlying drift geology is Terrington Beds typified by younger marine deposits (Romano-British to present day), salt marsh, tidal creek and river deposits (sandy silt, sand and clay) (BGS 1995 – Sheet 128: Boston 1: 50,000).

3.0 PLANNING BACKGROUND

- 3.1 Boston Borough Council granted full planning permission for the construction of a bungalow and garage (Planning Application B/04/0890/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 watching brief was prepared and the monitoring was undertaken in accordance with that document and 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 archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Martin Griffiths BA(Hons), PGDip, AIFA on 18th March 2005.

4.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 4.1 The proposed development is located in an area of known Roman, Saxon and medieval activity. Immediately east of the cemetery, late Saxon pottery has been recorded. Less than 100 metres southeast of the development Roman and medieval pottery has been recorded. A watching brief on Church Road found medieval deposits that may have accumulated from adjacent salt manufacture. The application site is situated close to the village centre, less than 200m from the parish church of St Swithin, which has a medieval origin. Post medieval remains have been recorded on the opposite side of the road where finds indicate the close proximity of a brick kiln.

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 & RESULTS

- 6.1 An archaeological watching brief was undertaken during ground works associated with the construction of the new build. The watching brief was undertaken on a comprehensive/intensive basis. The preferred method of construction was strip foundations. These were excavated to a width of 0.8m and depth of 0.7m.
- 6.2 The area of the development was stripped of topsoil to a depth of 0.3m prior to setting out the footings (see Plate 2). The top-soil comprised of dark brown silty loam under grass (101). Below the topsoil, the excavation revealed a homogenous brown silty sand (102) at a depth of 0.4m below the ground surface. This layer continued to the maximum depth of the footings which ceased at 0.7m below the present ground surface.
- 6.3 There was no evidence to suggest any archaeological activity on the development area other than a modern gas pipe trench to the adjacent property, and a modern post hole or pit containing cinders (Plate 4) and pottery of 20th century origin. This pottery was noted but not collected.

7.0 DISCUSSION & CONCLUSIONS

- 7.1 The archaeological watching brief was required because the site lay in an area of archaeological interest. Remains dating from the Roman period and later had been recorded close to the site.

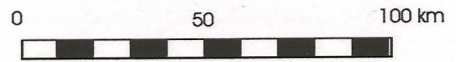
- 7.2 The watching brief encountered the silts which represent the natural underlying flood deposits of the area. These deposits were sealed by topsoil. In parts of Bicker, the natural flood deposits can seal archaeological deposits at a greater depth. The shallow depth of the footings was suggested by the Building Control officer for the structural stability of the new build. As a result of this decision it was not possible to observe whether such remains existed.
- 7.3 The absence of archaeological remains may also be due to past land use. The site may only have been used as agricultural land and lay outside the area of settlement.
- 7.4 It is considered unlikely that any archaeological presence which may exist at a lower depth would be damaged by the development, and would be protected in situ.

8.0 FIGURES

Figure 1. Site location.

Figure 2. Development plan.

Figure 3. Representative section.



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

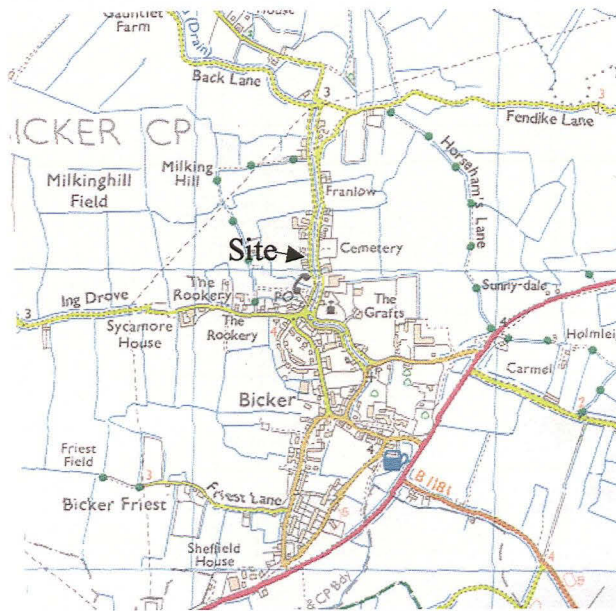


Figure 1. Site location

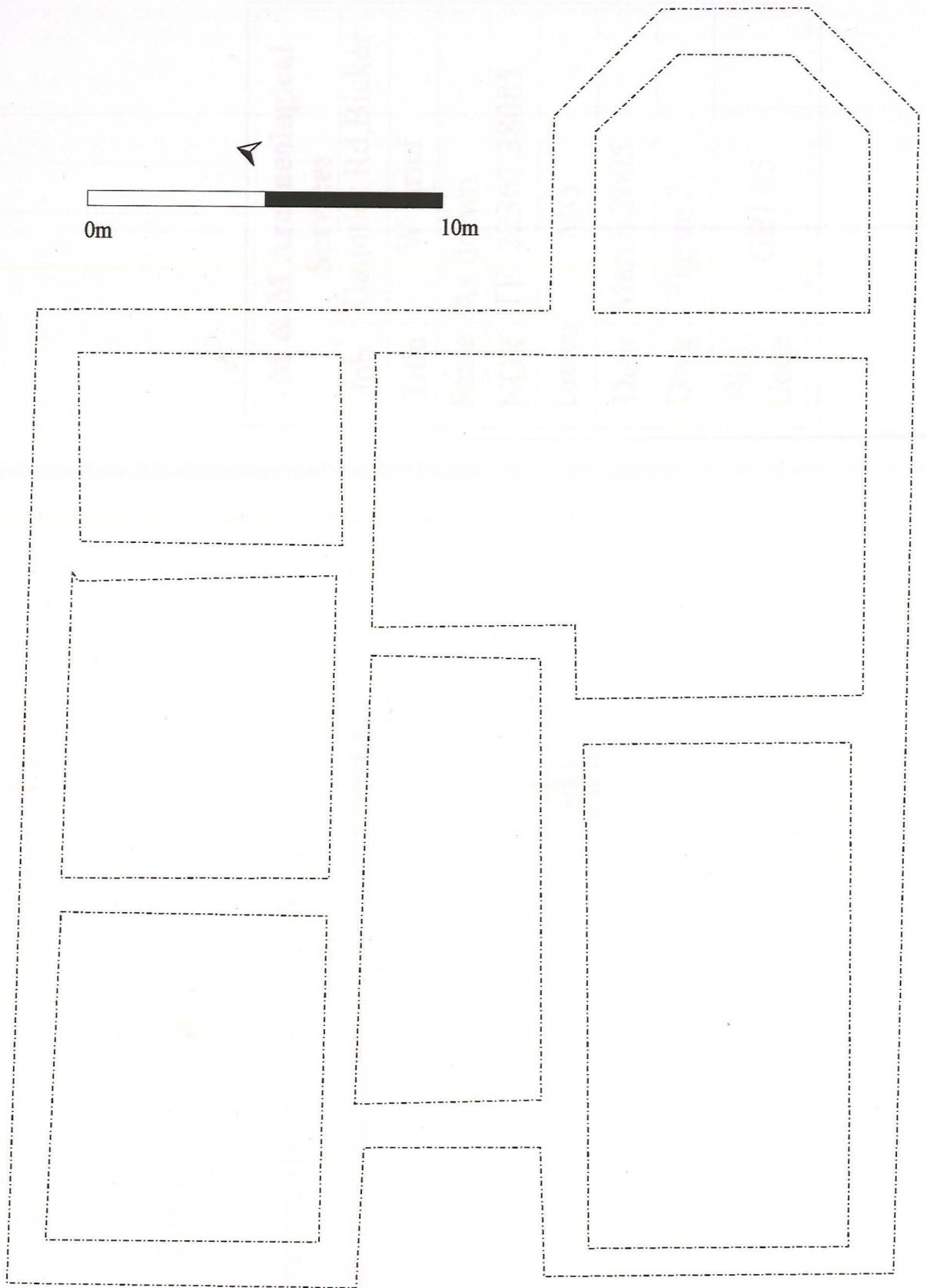


Figure 2. Footings plan showing location of Figure 3.

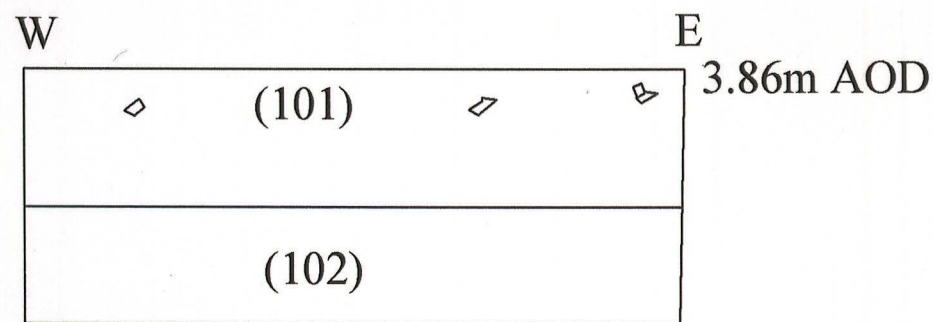


Figure 3. Representative section of footings



M & M Archaeological Services	
Job	Gauntlet Rd, Bicker
Title	W Brief
Scale	As drawn
NGR	TF 22367 38085
Drawn	MG
Date	March 2005
Dwg	Figure 3
Site Code	GBI 05

9.0 PLATES

Plate 1. Site looking west.

Plate 2. Site after top-soiling.

Plate 3. General shot of footings looking south east.

Plate 4. Shot of modern post hole or pit.



Plate 1. Site looking west.



Plate 2. Site after top-soiling.



Plate 3. General shot of footings looking south east.



Plate 4. Shot of modern post hole or pit.

APPENDIX A: CONTEXT SUMMARY

Context No.	Description	Interpretation
101	Dark brown silty loam	Top-soil
102	Yellow brown silty sand	Natural Geology