

A REPORT TO  
Mr R WILSON  
December 2010<sup>09</sup>

**BACK LANE  
SCOTHERN  
LINCOLNSHIRE**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL  
WATCHING BRIEF**

Site Code: BLS09  
Museum Accession No.: 2009.57  
NGR: TF 0370 7738  
Planning Application No.: WLDC 123241 16 January 2009

**PREPARED BY  
MIKE JARVIS ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES**

**MJAS REPORT No.: 560**



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# BACK LANE SCOTHERN LINCOLNSHIRE

## ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

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Site Code: BLS09  
Accession No.: 2009.57

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## BACK LANE SCOTHERN LINCOLNSHIRE

### ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

#### NON-TECHNICAL SUMMARY

- On the 8 April 2009, Mike Jarvis Archaeological Services undertook an archaeological watching brief during groundwork associated with the construction of a single residential property on land at Back Lane, Scothern, Lincolnshire.
- The investigation was undertaken on behalf of Mr R Wilson in response to a condition placed on the granting of planning permission (Application No.: 123241 Date: 16 January 2009).
- North-sloping deposits of natural sand lay in all of the trenches monitored during the watching brief.
- An undated north-east to south-west aligned pit or similar feature was present in the north part of the house plot and appeared to be the earliest feature recorded on the site.
- The groundwork exposed part of an infilled pond towards the north-east end of the site. Discussions with the present occupiers of No. 2 Back Lane confirmed the presence of the pond when the site once formed part of a farm (mid-20<sup>th</sup> century).
- Two crudely constructed north-south aligned metalised surfaces lay beneath the present alignment of Back Lane and probably represented earlier phases.
- A series of undated layers sealing natural were recorded, these extended across most of the site and suggested that the area may have previously formed farmland as they were generally free draining and contained little in the way of stone or building debris.
- Two small cuts/depressions in-filled with topsoil were recorded in the north-west corner of the house plot and probably represent tree bowls/casts associated with a small orchard present on the site prior to its development.
- A small stone filled pit recorded in the area of the combined services trench may have been a soak-away.
- In conclusion, the watching brief revealed few archaeological deposits/features and those that were recorded were undated. Therefore, the results of this watching brief have proved largely negative, although 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.



## BACK LANE SCOTHERN LINCOLNSHIRE

### ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

#### 1.0 INTRODUCTION

On the 8 April 2009, Mike Jarvis Archaeological Services (MJAS) undertook an archaeological watching brief during groundwork associated with the construction of a single residential property on land Back Lane, Scothern, Lincolnshire (hereafter *the site*). The investigation was undertaken on behalf of Mr R Wilson in response to a condition placed on the granting of planning permission (Application No.: 123241 Date: 16 January 2009).

#### 2.0 SITE LOCATION AND BACKGROUND (Figs. 1 & 2)

The village of Scothern is located in the administrative district of West Lindsey in the parish of Scothern and lies approximately 5km to the north-east of Lincoln and 1km north of the village of Sudbrooke. Back Lane lies towards the eastern end of the village leading off of Claypole Lane and the area under investigation (hereafter *the site*) is located on land adjacent to No. 4 Back Lane (NGR: TF 0370 7738).

Geological deposits in the Scothern area comprise solid Jurassic Limestone with drift deposits of Curdridge 841a, Aswarby 512a and Beccles 711r soils (seasonally waterlogged clayey soils). The site lies on the 12m contour and covers an area of approximately 0.3 acres (1247m<sup>2</sup>), and at the time of the watching brief comprised a flat, grassed area previously used as an orchard.

Evidence supporting prehistoric and Romano-British activity in the area has previously been recorded in the village (primarily to the west of Back Lane). Finds include a polished stone axe, column fragments together with pottery and coins. Evidence suggests that a settlement existed at Scothern pre-1086.

#### 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).

MJAS was present on site to observe all enabling groundwork (e.g. removal of topsoil or other overburden and/or any general lowering of ground levels) and all subsequent excavation for foundations, buried services and landscaping, etc.

The archaeological record was secured by means of trench-side notes, measured drawings and photography.



## 4.0 RESULTS AND ANALYSIS (Figs. 3 & 4)

### RESULTS

#### Drainage Trench

The drainage trench extended from the northwest corner of the new house plot, northeast to Back Lane, terminating just short of the lanes east side. It was 38m long and between 400mm and 900mm deep.

Natural mottled yellow sand ([005]) lay approximately 400mm below existing ground level (12.10m OD). Sealing natural was layer [010/008] (brown clayey silt soil with small angular limestone inclusions – c. 12.30m OD). A 2.70m wide U-shaped pit, [007], was cut into [008/010] and its fill [006]; dark brown sandy silt was undated (top – c. 12.37m OD).



Plate I: General view of drainage trench looking south-west.

To the east of [010] was cut [017], this cut represented a pond, the full extent of which was not revealed during the investigations. The fill of the pond ([002]) comprised laminated bands of mid-grey/brown clay silt with infrequent small angular limestone inclusions (top – c. 12.31m OD). Sealing the now infilled pond at its eastern end and lying beneath the present-day surface of Back Lane was evidence of two earlier metalled surfaces ([012] and [013]). The earliest [013] comprised a thin (160mm) compacted layer of small close-set angular limestone fragments (11.80m OD). Surface [012] (12.00m OD) comprised a 120mm thick deposit of small rounded pebbles and gravel in a dark brown sandy soil.

Sealing layer [008] at the far western end of the drainage trench was an undated deposit [009] (friable, mid-brown silt with occasional small angular limestone inclusions (top 12.38m OD).

A modern north-south pipe trench and associated pipe encased in brick ([003] & [004] - leading north from 4 Back Lane) cut into layer [010] and pond fill [002] approximately 12m



from the east end of the drainage trench. A combined services trench (cut [016] fill [014]) running along the line of Back Lane cut through metalling [012].

Sealing the above was topsoil [001] (east – 12.24m OD & west – 12.63m OD). At the east end of the trench was the present-day tarmac surface that is Back Lane ([011] – 12.12m OD).



Plate II: General view of foundation trenches looking south.

#### **Foundation Trench**

The house plot lay in the approximate centre of the site on a north-west to south-east alignment. External foundation trenches were 600mm wide and internal foundations 450mm wide respectively. Trench depth varied between 800mm to 1.15m deep. Prior to the machine excavation of the foundations, tree stumps and topsoil was removed over the footprint of the plot.

Natural [005] lay approximately 650mm below ground level (c. 12.20m OD). A probably linear cut ([019]) of indeterminate form or function was recorded cut into the natural in the northeast corner of the plot. The cut measured approximately 2m wide and was at least 5.5m long and 400mm deep with a U-shaped profile (base of cut 11.87m OD). Filling the cut was layer [015], which also extended across the entire footprint of the house plot (top c. 12.64m OD).

Two small circular U-shaped cuts or depressions ([020] & [021]) were recorded above layer [015] towards the northwest corner of the house plot (base of features: [020] 12.24m OD & [021] 12.00m OD). It was unclear as to their function but as the area was previously used as an orchard, it was believed that these features might represent tree bowls/casts. Filling the above and extending over the whole footprint was north-sloping topsoil [001] (ground level – south 12.94m OD & north 12.67m OD).

#### **Garage Foundation Trench**

The garage was located against the west side of the site towards its north-west corner. The foundations measured approximately 5.50m long 500mm wide and averaged 550mm deep.



Natural ([005]) lay 430mm below ground level (12.25m OD) and was sealed by layer [018] (12.37m OD). Sealing [018] was topsoil [001] (12.50m OD).

No further deposits were found during the course of the investigations.

### ANALYSIS

The watching brief revealed few archaeological deposits and those that were found were undated, therefore no conclusions could be drawn as to the date and nature of the features recorded.

North-sloping deposits of natural sand were recorded in all of the trenches monitored during the watching brief.

The undated north-east to south-west aligned pit or similar feature present in the north part of the house plot appeared to be the earliest feature recorded on the site and predated the subsoil deposits although without dateable material no conclusion as to its likely date is possible.

Similarly, the full extent and date of the now in-filled pond present at north-east end of the site was not discovered although discussions with the present occupiers of No. 2 Back Lane confirmed the presence of the pond when the site once formed part of a farm in the mid-20<sup>th</sup> century. The two crudely constructed metalised surfaces (approximately north-south aligned) partially sealing the pond probably represents earlier phases of Back Lane and lay directly beneath the present-day alignment.

The series of undated layers sealing natural and extending across most of the site suggest that it may have previously formed farmland as they were generally free draining and did not contain much in the way of stone or building debris. The two cuts/depressions in-filled with topsoil that lay in the north-west corner of the house plot probably represent tree bowls/casts associated with the small orchard present on the site prior to its development. The small stone filled pit recorded in the area of the combined services trench may have been a soak-away.

In conclusion, the watching brief revealed few archaeological deposits/features and those that were recorded were undated. Although the results of this watching brief have proved largely negative, 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 Mr R Wilson funding the site investigations and to Karen Dennis (Archaeological Advisor to West Lindsey District Council) for her guidance and assistance. Access to the Lincolnshire HER was permitted by Mr M Bennet.

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### 6.0 BIBLIOGRAPHY

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Whitwell, J B 1992 *Roman Lincolnshire* History of Lincolnshire committee, Lincoln



Fig. 1: Site location map (scale 1:50,000)





Fig. 1: Site location map (scale 1:50,000).



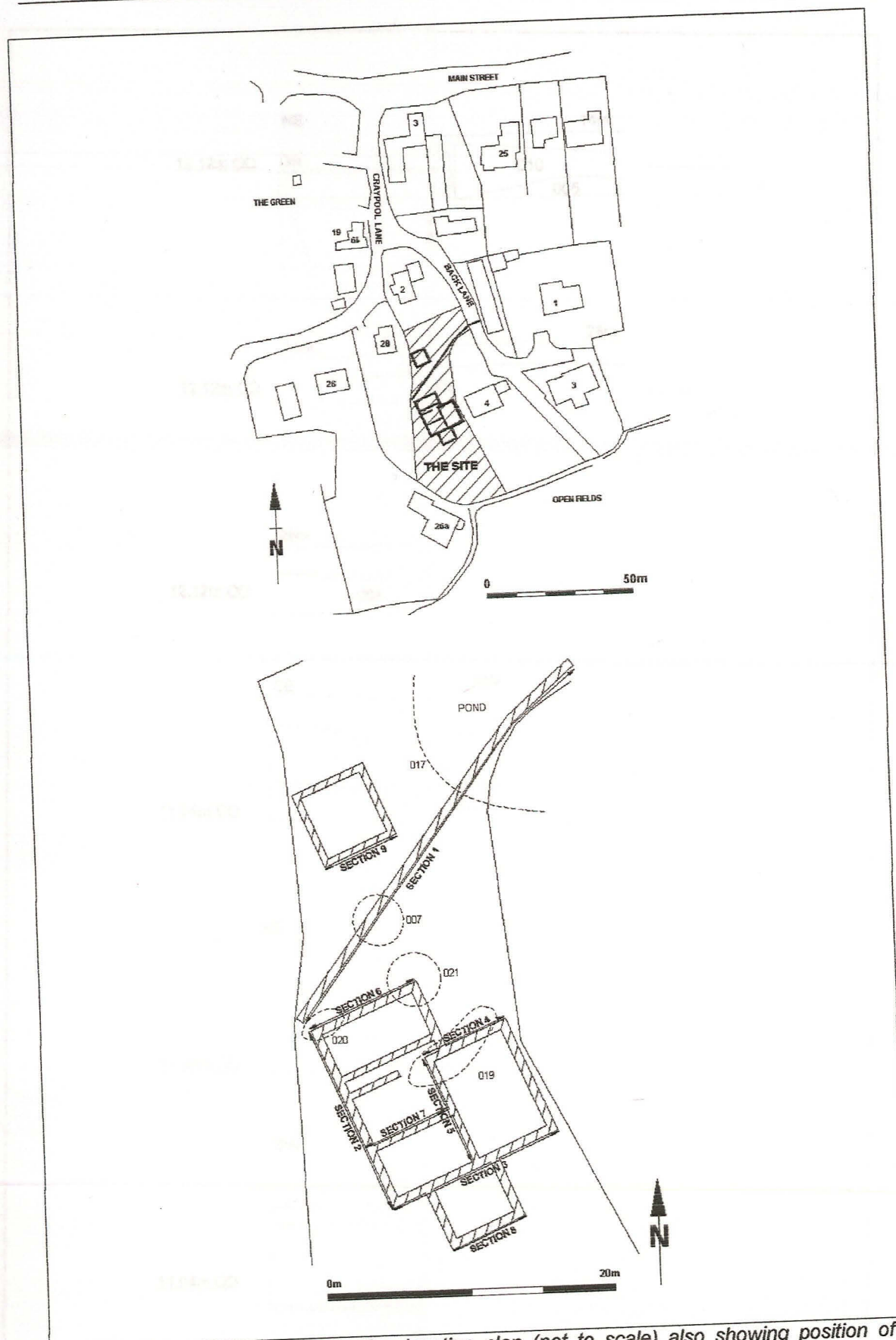


Fig. 2: Site location plan & Section location plan (not to scale) also showing position of features described in the report.



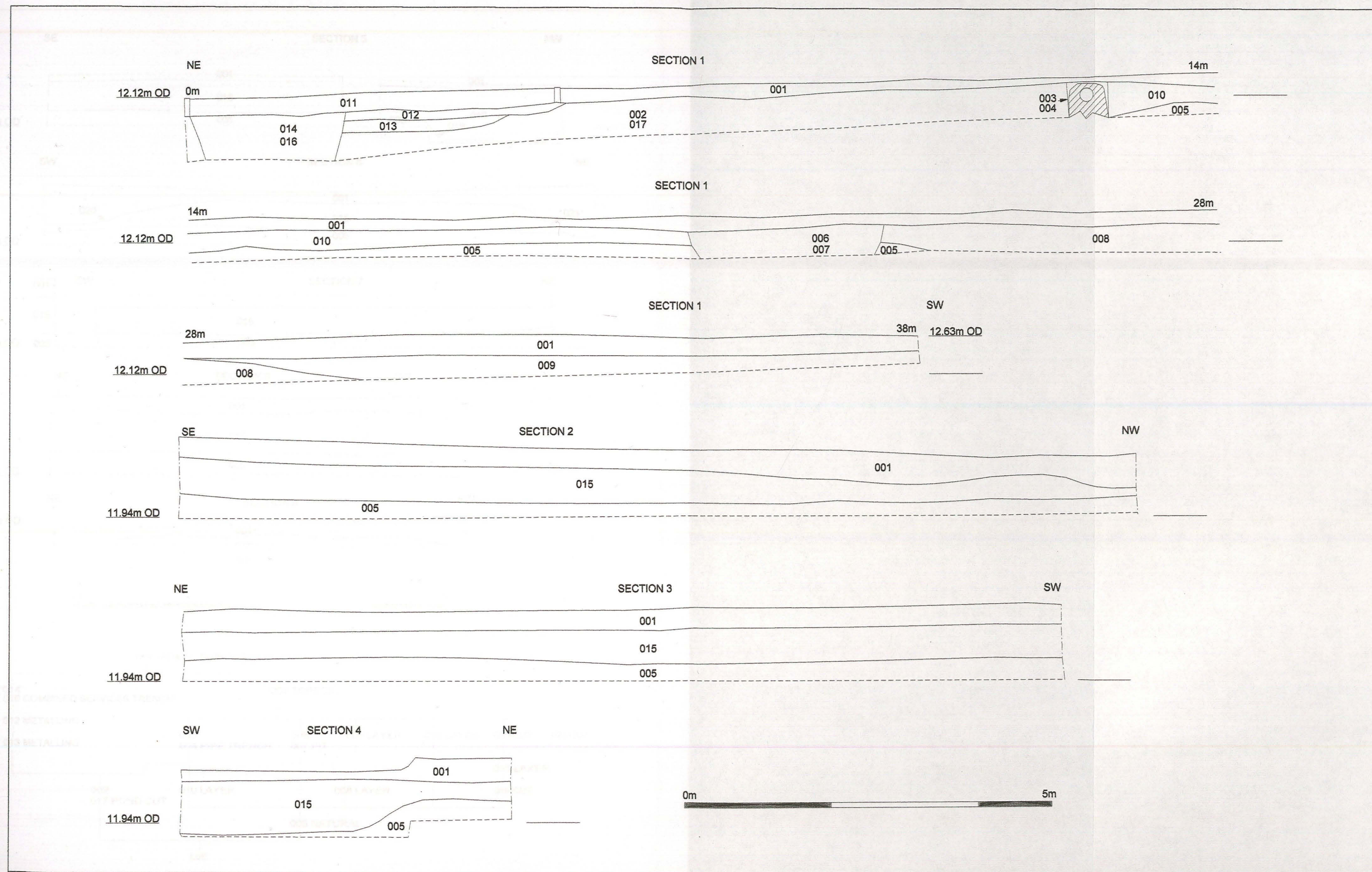
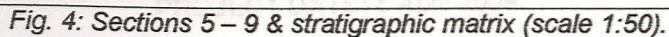


Fig. 3: Sections 1 - 4 (scale 1:50).







**BACK LANE  
SCOTHERN  
LINCOLNSHIRE**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF**

**APPENDIX 1 – CONTEXT SUMMARY**

Context	Description
001	Topsoil – friable, dark brown sandy silt with frequent small angular limestone fragments
002	Pond fill - laminated, mid-grey/brown clay silt with infrequent small angular limestone fragments – cut [017]
003	Ceramic drain encased in brickwork – associated with No. 4 Back Lane
004	Cut for [003]
005	Natural - mottled pale yellow sand
006	Fill of pit [007] - dark brown sand silt with frequent small angular limestone fragments
007	Pit cut – fill [006]
008	Layer – pale-mid grey/brown clay silt with occasional small angular limestone inclusions – same as [010]
009	Layer - very friable, mid-brown silt sand with occasional-frequent small angular limestone inclusions and roots from trees in former orchard – same as [015]?
010	Layer - pale-mid brown clay silt soil with frequent occasional small angular limestone inclusions – some mixing with context [005] – same as [008]
011	Tarmac surface – current surface of Back Lane
012	Metalling comprising small rounded pebbles and gravel in a dark brown sandy soil – earlier surface forming Back Lane
013	Metalling comprising close set small angular limestone fragments – earliest visible surface forming Back Lane
014	Fill of modern combined services trench running along Back Lane – cut [016]
015	Layer – pale yellow/brown clay silt with occasional small angular limestone fragments & rootlets – same as [009] & [018]
016	Cut for combined services trench in Back Lane
017	Pond cut – fill [002]
018	Layer - pale yellow/brown clay silt with frequent small angular limestone fragments & rootlets – same as [009] & [015]
019	Cut – seen in section only appears linear – filled with subsoil [015]
020	Cut – seen in section only – possible tree bowl/cast – filled by topsoil [001]
021	Cut – seen in section only – possible tree bowl/cast – filled by topsoil [001]

**APPENDIX 2 – ARCHIVE DETAILS**

**SITE NAME:** Land Adjacent to 4 Back Lane, Scothern, Lincolnshire

**SITE CODE:** BLS09

**MJAS REPORT No:** 560

**NGR:** TF 0370 7738

**PROJECT TYPE:** Watching Brief

**PROJECT DATE:** 8 April 2009



**PLANNING APPLICATION No.:** WLDC 123241 **Date:** 16 January 2009

**SMR No.:** N/A

**CIVIL PARISH:** Scothern

**MUSEUM ACCESSION No.:** 2009.57

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

**ARCHIVE FINAL LOCATION:** The Collection, Danes Terrace, Lincoln LN2 1LP



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## Project details

Project name	Back Lane, Scothern, Lincolnshire
Short description of the project	Archaeological watching brief in during groundwork associated with construction of single dwelling. North-sloping deposits of natural sand lay in all of the trenches monitored during the watching brief. An undated north-east to south-west aligned pit or similar feature was present in the north part of the house plot and appeared to be the earliest feature recorded on the site. The groundwork exposed part of an infilled pond towards the north-east end of the site. Two crudely constructed north-south aligned metalised surfaces lay beneath the present alignment of Back Lane and probably represented earlier phases. A series of undated layers sealing natural were recorded, these extended across most of the site and suggested that the area may have previously formed farmland as they were generally free draining and contained little in the way of stone or building debris. Two small cuts/depressions in-filled with topsoil were recorded in the north-west corner of the house plot and probably represent tree bowls/casts associated with a small orchard present on the site prior to its development.
Project dates	Start: 08-04-2009 End: 08-04-2009
Previous/future work	Not known / Not known
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	None
Current Land use	Other 10 - Orchard
Current Land use	Other 5 - Garden
Monument type	PIT Uncertain
Monument type	POND Uncertain
Significant Finds	NONE None
Investigation type	'Watching Brief'
Prompt	Planning condition

## Project location

Country	England
Site location	LINCOLNSHIRE WEST LINDSEY SCOTHERN Back Lane, Scothern, lincolnshire
Study area	1247.00 Square metres
Site coordinates	TF 0370 7738 53.2829539558 -0.444391746548 53 16 58 N 000 26 39 W Point

## Project creators

Name of Organisation	Mike Jarvis Archaeological Services
Project brief originator	Mike Jarvis



Project design originator Mike Jarvis  
Project director/manager Mike Jarvis  
Project supervisor Mike Jarvis  
Type of sponsor/funding body Developer

**Project archives**

Physical Archive Exists? No  
Digital Archive recipient The Collection, Danes Terrace, Lincoln  
Digital Contents 'none'  
Digital Media available 'Images raster / digital photography','Text'  
Paper Archive recipient The Collection, Danes Terrace, Lincoln  
Paper Archive ID 2009.57  
Paper Contents 'none'  
Paper Media available 'Drawing','Notebook - Excavation',' Research',' General Notes','Photograph','Plan','Report','Section'

**Project bibliography 1**

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