

95/13

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF REPORT

negative evidence

LAND OFF HACEBY LANE, NEWTON
LINCOLNSHIRE



PRE-CONSTRUCT ARCHAEOLOGY

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Negative

LAND OFF HACEBY LANE, NEWTON

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF REPORT

FOR

ROGER HOCKLEY INDIVIDUAL HOME CONSTRUCTION

BY

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1.0 Non-Technical Summary

A planning application was submitted to North Kesteven District Council to construct a single detached dwelling on land west of Haceby Lane, Newton, Lincolnshire (Fig. 1). Permission was granted, subject to a condition requiring archaeological observation and recording to take place during development.

No significant archaeological features were exposed during the excavation of building construction trenches and, following consultations with the Heritage Officer for North Kesteven, the recording brief was terminated prematurely.

2.0 Introduction

An archaeological watching brief took place on December 11th, 1995 during construction trenching for a single dwelling with detached garage (Fig.'s 1 and 2). The works were commissioned by Roger Hockley Individual Home Construction, and were centred on a project brief which was issued by the (then) Community Archaeologist in October 1995.

The archaeological database (the County Sites and Monuments record) contains entries which suggest that important deposits may be located within/around the area of development; the site lies on the periphery of the medieval settlement.

The central national grid reference is SK 504600 336050. *TF 04500 36000*

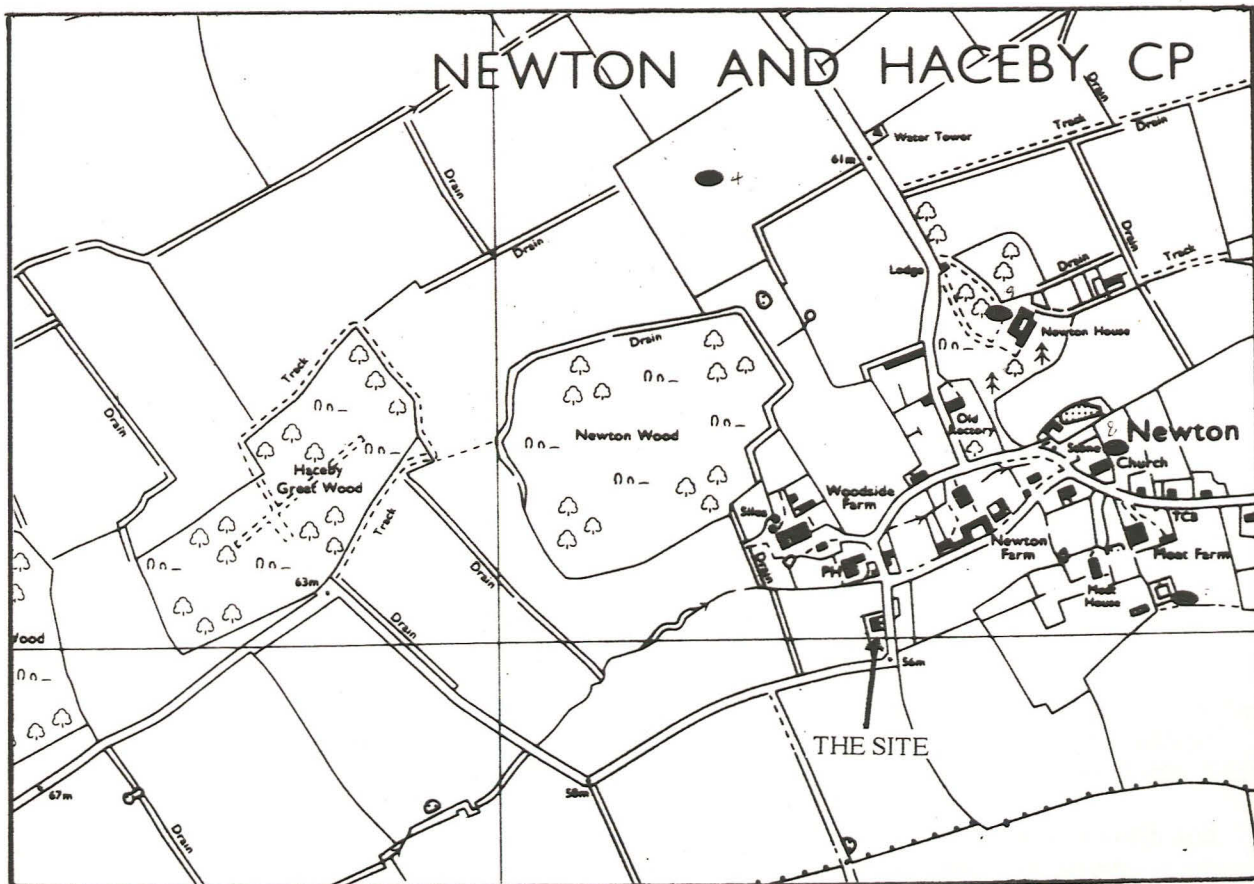


Fig. 1 1:1000 site location

3.0 Planning background

An application was submitted for residential development (Application N 41/0774/95). Planning permission was granted, on a condition that arrangements should be made for an archaeological watching brief to take place during preliminary construction.

A written project brief was issued by the (acting) Community Archaeologist on 5/10/95, and a project specification was prepared by Pre-Construct Archaeology on 17th/10/1995.

Prior to development, the site was occupied by two stone dwellings, which had been condemned and demolished in advance of the recording brief. These dwellings lay on the eastern edge of a large open field (pasture).

4.0 Geology and topography

Newton is a small village, which lies approximately 8.5km south of Sleaford, 10.5km east of Grantham. It is served by the A52, which links Grantham with Boston, and, to the east, by the A15 Sleaford to Bourne road.

The site of development lies immediately west of Hacey Lane and is centred on National Grid Reference ~~SK 504600 336050~~ ^{TF 045 336}. The land lies at a point approximately 50m OD, where the underlying geology is primarily composed of upper, middle and lower undivided Lincolnshire limestone: on the south side of the settlement (within the area of development) lies a narrow strip of Blisworth clay (British Geological survey Sheet 127: Grantham).

The north side of the field in which the site lies is defined by the South Beck. The land to either side of its east-west alignment rises quite steeply. To the south and east of the development site are areas of slight surface undulation, some of which could be archaeological.

5.0 Archaeological and historical background

Very little is known regarding the prehistoric settlement of the immediate area. A suspected Bowl Barrow (burial mound) close to the south-west side of the medieval/modern village would suggest that some form of settlement took place during the Bronze Age, though the nature of this has not been established.

The bath-house of a large Roman house was excavated on a site which lies approximately 2.0km north-west of Newton village (Whitwell 1992, 49). The site is part of a much larger villa-type complex and is now a Scheduled Ancient Monument. Sporadic Romano-British artefacts have been reported closer to the village itself.

The present settlement site is likely to have emerged at some time during the Saxon period, as there are entries for Newton in the Domesday of 1086 (Morris 1986).

The church of St Botolph lies approximately 300m north-east of the development site, in the heart of the village. Its earliest architectural features date from Norman times, though the structure was heavily restored by Kirk & Parry's in 1865-6 (Pevsner and Harris 1988, 575).

The site of development is located on the southern periphery of Newton. To its north and west are slight topographical undulations, which could be archaeological in origin.

6.0 Aims

The principal aims of the watching brief were to ensure that any archaeological features or artefactual remains exposed or retrieved during groundworks were recorded and interpreted to standards approved by the North Kesteven Heritage Officer. On this occasion, a requirement of the project brief was that an inspection be made of stone work deriving from the condemned buildings which had occupied the site.

7.0 Methodology

A continuous watching brief was maintained over a period of one day. At that time, the stone structures had been demolished and the re-usable stone fabric was assembled in two discreet piles; to the west and south of the new foundation. These heaps were partially obscured by snow, and the inspection of the stone work is considered (at best) to have been superficial. It was not possible to inspect any of the stone within the heaps themselves.

The foundation footprint was marked-out with chalk in advance of trenching, and mechanical excavation was undertaken using a JCB with back actor, fitted with a 0.6m wide toothed bucket. All of the construction trenches were excavated to a depth c. 1.0m beneath the top of a truncated topsoil.

A written record was prepared using standard watching brief record sheets; on which was entered deposit descriptions, dimensions and stratigraphic relationships. A plan of the excavated trenches was prepared at scale 1:50, though further scale drawing was considered unnecessary on this occasion. A suitable photographic archive was built-up during the course of the brief.

Site recording was undertaken by Mr C. Palmer-Brown.

Following the completion of field work, an ordered site archive was prepared, which will be deposited at Lincoln City and County Museum for long-term storage within six months. Research associated with the production of this report has included an inspection of the County Sites and Monuments Record, an inspection of maps held at the Lincolnshire Archives Office and an assessment of published sources.

8.0 Results

Much of the snow which shrouded the north and east sides of the stone piles was removed prior to a general inspection for worked architectural fragments. The specific objective was to look for unusual, interesting or re-used fragments, though none were noted. Linear tooling and chamfering was evident on many of the pieces, though these features alone were not considered to be worthy of detailed recording. That there may have been more interesting fragments within the piles is a possibility.

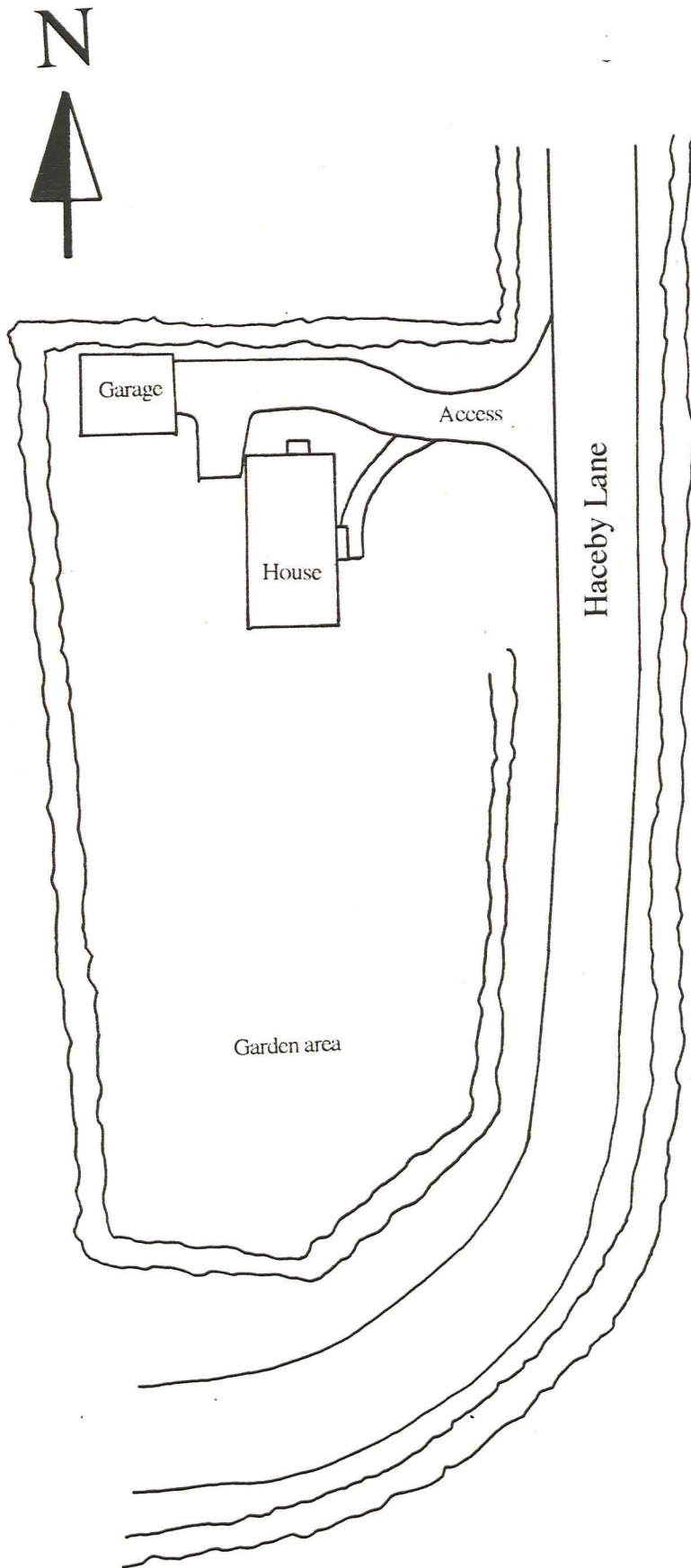
For the most part, the archaeological trenching proved equally negative. Two units of stratigraphy dominated:

[01] Topsoil comprising c. 15.0 cm of dark brown humic clay-sand containing small stones, occasional mortar and stone fragments (in some areas, the topsoil had become intermingled with debris associated with the demolished structure, the site of which lay north of the present development)

[02] 85 cm+ of firm, virtually stone-free light grey/fawn clay. Present in all construction trenches; occasionally incorporating lenses of yellow/orange clay. Natural geological horizon - Blisworth clay.

Limit of excavation

Fig. 2 1:500 development location plan
(based on a drawing supplied by Roger Hockley Individual Home Construction)



No significant archaeological features were exposed during the brief. In one small area, in the centre of the development, sherds of late C19th/early C20th pottery were recovered from an area of burnt soil and ash, which seemed to be within the topsoil horizon. No doubt, the deposit was associated with a phase of occupation relating to the use of the earlier buildings.

9.0 Conclusions

The watching brief at Hacey Lane, Newton did not identify any features of archaeological significance. Following consultations with the Heritage Officer for North Kesteven, the project was terminated in advance of service trenching.

10.0 Acknowledgements

On behalf of Pre-Construct Archaeology (Lincoln), sincere thanks are expressed to the commissioning client, Mr R Hockley of Roger Hockley Individual Home Construction. Thanks also to staff at the City and County Museum, Lincoln, for allowing access to the County Sites and Monuments Record.

11.0 Appendices

11.1 Colour photographs

11.2 Site Archive

11.3 Information derived from the County Sites and Monuments Record

11.4 References

11.1 Colour photographs



Photo. 1 General view of house plot excavations, looking north

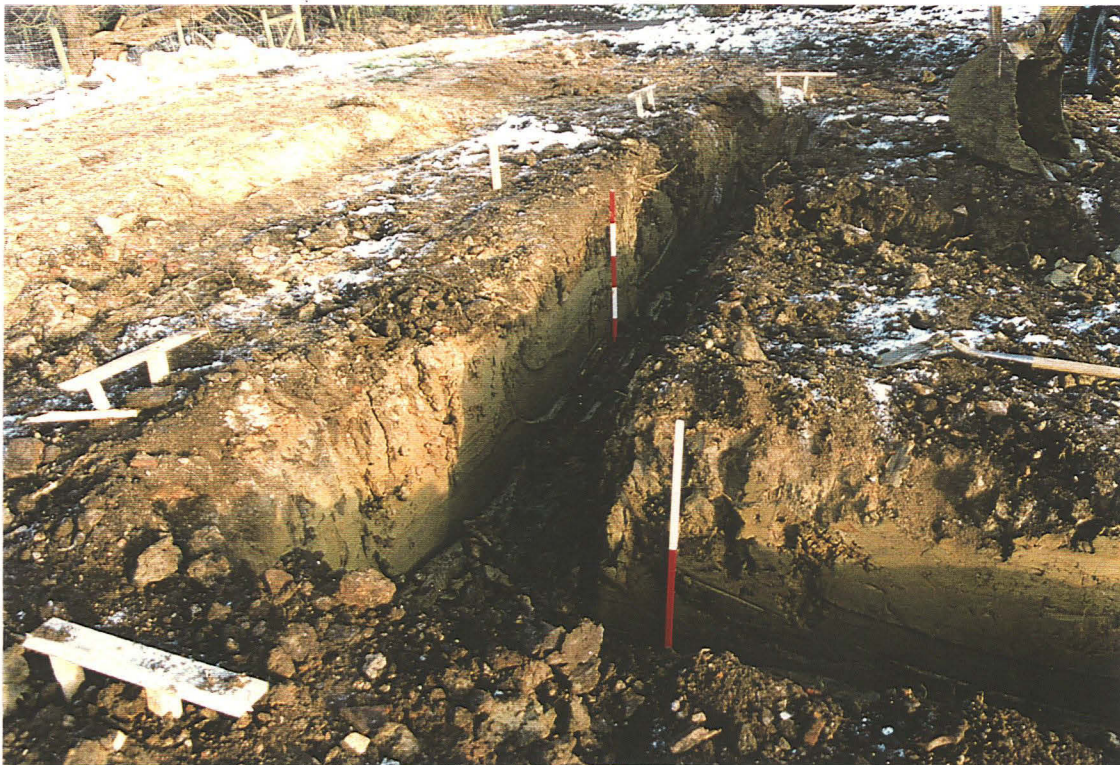


Photo. 2 Close-up of section faces in north-west corner of building plot, looking east

11.2 Site Archive

The basic site archive comprises the following:

- x1 watching brief record sheet
- x1 colour print film
- x1 1:500 location drawing
- x1 1:50 scale drawing (plan of foundation trenches)
- x1 1:50 architect drawing

Misc. notes and correspondence

Primary records are currently with Pre-Construct Archaeology (Lincoln), though the paper archive will be deposited with the City and County Museum within 6 months of completion of this report, together with a more detailed archive list.

11.3 Information derived from the County Sites and Monuments record (SMR)

Ref. No.	NGR	Type	Description
60283	TF 0488 3605	Medieval	Moated site (Moat Farm)
00051	TF 0196 3695	R-B	Scheduled Monument: Haceby villa
00287	TF 0504 3581	B/Age	Probable Bowl Barrow mound
?	TF 043 366	R-B	C1st/C2nd bronze bowl; found off Grantham Road
?	TF 0275 3615	R-B	C4th domestic pottery + colour coated sherds; 1 coin of <i>Constantine I</i> , other pottery sherds
?	TF 032 368	Norman	St Margaret's Church. Early Norman - Perp.
?	TF 0314 3598	Medieval	Haceby Moated Site (Scheduled Monument 240)
?	TF 0479 3621	Medieval	St Botolph's Church. Norman - Dec.
?	TF 0468 3640	Post-med.	Newton Hs. 1839 - 41. Built for Sir GE Welby; Gregory additions of 1870.

11.4 References

- Morris, J (Ed) 1986 *Domesday Book: Lincolnshire* (Phillimore)
- Whitwell, JB 1992, Roman Lincolnshire (revised edition): *Hist. of Lincs. Vol. II*
- Pevsner, N and Harris, J 1989 *The Buildings of England: Lincolnshire*