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**ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF
OF A DEVELOPMENT AT
10 NORTH LANE,
NAVENBY,
LINCOLNSHIRE
(NNL96)**



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LI1431

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF
OF A DEVELOPMENT AT
10 NORTH LANE,
NAVENBY,
LINCOLNSHIRE
(NNL96)**

May 1996

Work Undertaken For
Mr I Metcalf

Report Compiled
by
Paul Cope-Faulkner

A.P.S Report No. 17/96

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1. SUMMARY

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken during the construction of house extension and a garage at 10 North Lane, Navenby, Lincolnshire. The watching brief monitored the excavation of the foundations trenches.

Navenby was a settlement during the Romano-British period (c. AD 50-400) and burials of this date have been found about 150m either side of the site. This settlement was located astride the Roman road, Ermine Street, which is about 0.5km east of the development area.

Saxon features have recently been found to the south of the site and date from the 9th to 10th centuries.

The site lies in the centre of the medieval (1066-1500) settlement and about 100m to the north of the parish church, St. Peter, which incorporates elements of late 12th to early 13th century dated architecture.

Excavation of the foundation trenches revealed a natural weathered bedrock. A single pit was cut into this and was overlain by a subsoil. A small building was then constructed of which a portion of a limestone wall survived. Two fragments of Romano-British pottery and a single fragment of medieval pottery were recovered from the topsoil during the investigation

2. INTRODUCTION

2.1 Background

On the 7th May 1996, an archaeological watching brief was undertaken during the construction of a garage and house extension at 10 North Lane, Navenby (Centred on National Grid Reference SK

9870 5797). Approval for the development was sought through the submission of planning application N/40/0143/96. Permission was granted subject to a standard negative condition for archaeological recording. The archaeological work was commissioned by Mr I. Metcalf and was carried out by Archaeological Project Services in accordance with a brief set by the North Kesteven Heritage Officer (Appendix 1).

2.2 Topography and Geology

Navenby is located c. 12km to the south of Lincoln and about 13km northwest of Sleaford in the administrative district of North Kesteven (Fig. 1). The site is in the north of the village to the west of the High Street (Fig. 2). Situated on the north side of North Lane (Fig. 3), the development area is approximately 24 square metres in extent.

Navenby lies near the edge of the Jurassic scarp slope, known locally as the Lincoln cliff, to the east of the Rivers Brant and Witham. The site and surrounding area is on a gentle slope down to the west and the cliff edge and lies at approximately 66m OD.

Soils at the site are Elmton 1 Association shallow brown rendzinas. Immediately to the west, at the cliff edge, there is soil boundary with Wickham 2 typical stagnogley soils present on the cliff face. These two soils are developed on Jurassic limestone and clay shales respectively (Hodge *et al.* 1984, 179; 351).

2.3 Archaeological Setting

Navenby village is located in an area of numerous archaeological remains and discoveries of Roman, Saxon and medieval date. The modern village core is located 500m west of the Ermine Street Roman

thoroughfare (Margery 1973, 228). Fieldwalking undertaken during the 1960's revealed a dense scatter of Romano-British finds suggesting a sizeable settlement on either side of Ermine street (May 1965, 17-18). A coin of Constantine II (A.D. 333-350) was retrieved 300m to the south (NK40.5). Roman burials have been found about 150m to both east and west of the present development site (NK40.4, 40.23).

Archaeological investigations 100m to the south of the development revealed Middle and Late Saxon remains (Palmer-Brown 1995; NK40.29). Further indications of settlement of the area prior to the Norman conquest is provided by the place-name which derives from the Old Norse *Nafni's byr*, meaning the village or homestead of *Nafni* (Ekwall 1974, 336).

The site lies close to the centre of the medieval village of Navenby, about 100m west of the High Street. The manor of Navenby is mentioned in the Domesday survey of 1086. Just over 100m to the south of the site is the parish church of St. Peter, a medieval building with Early English (c. 1190-1250) features (Pevsner and Harris 1989, 571; NK40.24). Pottery of this date has also been retrieved 300m to the south of the site (NK40.3).

3. AIMS

The requirements of the watching brief, as detailed in the brief set by the Heritage Officer (Appendix 1), were to locate and record archaeological deposits, if present, and to determine their date, function and origin.

4. METHODS

The foundation trenches of the extension to the west of the present building were

opened to a depth of c. 0.9m and were 0.5m wide. The area to the north was excavated to a depth of 0.5m and an extent of 3.2m by 7.4m. A mechanical excavator was used for both areas (Fig. 4). The sides of the trenches were cleaned by hand and examined to identify any archaeological features. Each archaeological deposit or feature revealed within the trench was allocated a unique reference number (context number) with an individual written description. Natural geological deposits were also recorded where exposed. Vertical sections across features were drawn at a scale of 1:10 and plans at a scale of 1:50. A photographic record was also compiled.

5. RESULTS

Records of the deposits and features identified during the watching brief were examined. Phasing was assigned based on the nature of the deposits and recognisable relationships between them. A list of all contexts with interpretations appears as Appendix 2. Three phases were identified:

- Phase 1 Natural deposits
- Phase 2 Undated Archaeological deposits
- Phase 3 Modern deposits

Archaeological contexts are listed below and described. The numbers in brackets are the context numbers assigned in the field.

Phase 1 Natural deposits

Natural (6; Fig. 5, Section 1). Consists of sub-angular limestone fragments in a mid brown clayey sand matrix. Minimum 0.3m thick. Weathered limestone.

Phase 2 Undated Archaeological deposits

Feature (1; Fig. 5, Section 1). 0.8m wide, minimum 0.3m deep. Single fill (5) of mid to dark brown silty sand. Possible small pit.

Layer (4, 12 and 13; Fig. 5). Sealing natural and Feature 1. Maximum 0.3m thick. Dark to mid brown clayey silty sand. Subsoil.

Trench (11; Fig. 5, Section 2). Linear, L-shaped cut. Exposed length of 7.5m by 0.82m wide. Contains wall (2; Fig. 4) of limestone blocks in random courses set in sandy clay matrix. Foundation trench and exterior wall of a small structure.

Cut (10; Fig. 5, Section 2). Truncating wall (2). Linear cut, directly following wall (2). Contains a single backfill (9) of mid brown silty sand. Represents demolition or robbing of limestone wall.

Phase 3 Modern Deposits

Layer (3 and 8; Fig. 5). 0.2m to 0.3m thick. Dark brown silty sand with limestone fragments. Contained two fragments of Romano-British pottery and one of medieval date. Topsoil.

Trench (15). Linear cut for brick wall (14)(Fig. 4). Remnants of recently demolished garage.

Layer (7). Concrete 60mm thick. Floor to former garage.

6. DISCUSSION

Natural deposits (Phase 1) were exposed at a depth of 0.6m, to the west of the present building. This is of geological origin and represents the weathered bedrock of the Jurassic limestone ridge.

Phase 2 deposits include a subsoil overlying a small pit and the remnants of a limestone wall. The pit, the use of which was not determined, is not considered to be for refuse disposal, due to the lack of

finds. The subsoil deposit probably represents natural soil formation in this particular area. The undated limestone wall indicates the presence of a structure on the development area. No indication is given to the use of this building but it is considered to date from before the mid 19th century as mortar was not used to bond the stones together. Furthermore, Ordnance Survey maps dating to the early years of this century (1905) do not record a building on the site. By implication, therefore, the structure represented by the wall had already been demolished by that time.

Modern deposits consist of a topsoil that was overlain to the north by the remains of a garage wall and associated concrete floor.

7. CONCLUSIONS

Archaeological investigations at 10 North Lane, Navenby were undertaken because the site fell within an area of known archaeological activity and the likelihood existed of archaeological remains being disturbed.

A limited number of archaeological remains were encountered, although precise dating and function of these was not clear. As dating evidence was not secured, the features may be regarded as being of local significance only. Those features encountered were relatively intact, with only partial robbing of the limestone wall to indicate damage. As such, the degree of preservation observed is probably typical of that of any other archaeological feature in the immediate vicinity. Site conditions prevail against the survival of environmental indicators, other than through charring.

Finds retrieved from topsoil deposits during the investigation indicates that activity of Romano-British to medieval date impinges on the development area. Previous to this

investigation, very little Romano-British material had been recovered this far west in Navenby.

8. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeological Project Services wish to thank Mr I. Metcalf who commissioned the fieldwork and post-excavation analysis. Gary Taylor coordinated the work and Tom Lane edited this report. Examination of the relevant parish files was kindly permitted by Kate Orr, the North Kesteven Heritage Officer.

9. PERSONNEL

Project Coordinator: Gary Taylor
Research: Fiona Walker
Site Supervisor: Chris Moulis
Illustration: Paul Cope-Faulkner
Post-excavation Analyst: Paul Cope-Faulkner

10. BIBLIOGRAPHY

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May, J., 1965 *Navenby* East Midlands Archaeological Bulletin 8

Palmer-Brown, C., 1995 *Land North of Church Lane, Navenby* Unpublished Pre-

Construct Archaeology, watching brief report

Pevsner, N. and Harris, J., 1989 *Lincolnshire, The Buildings of England*, (2nd ed, revised Antram, N)

11. ABBREVIATIONS

NK Numbers prefixed by these letters are the reference codes used by the North Kesteven Heritage Officer for the identification of archaeological sites and finds.

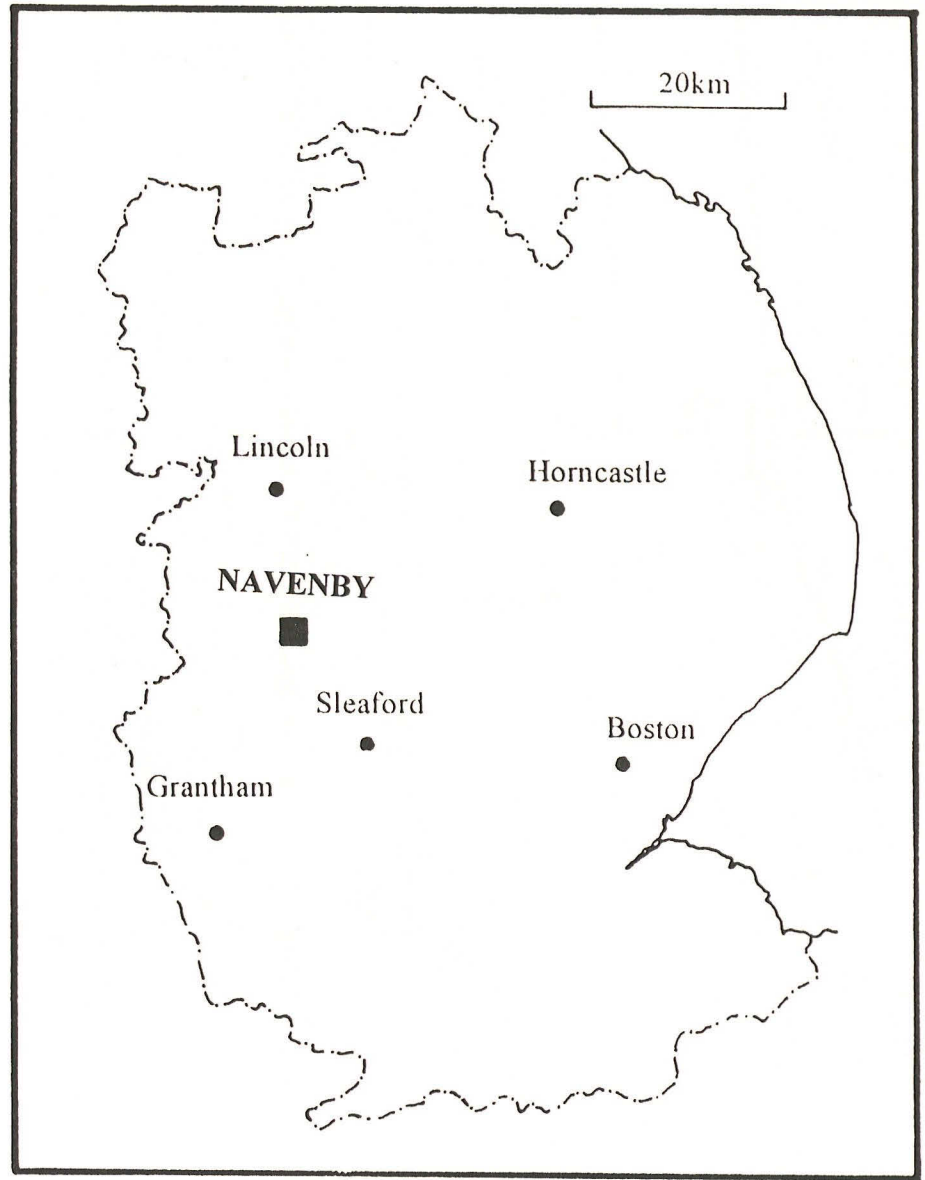
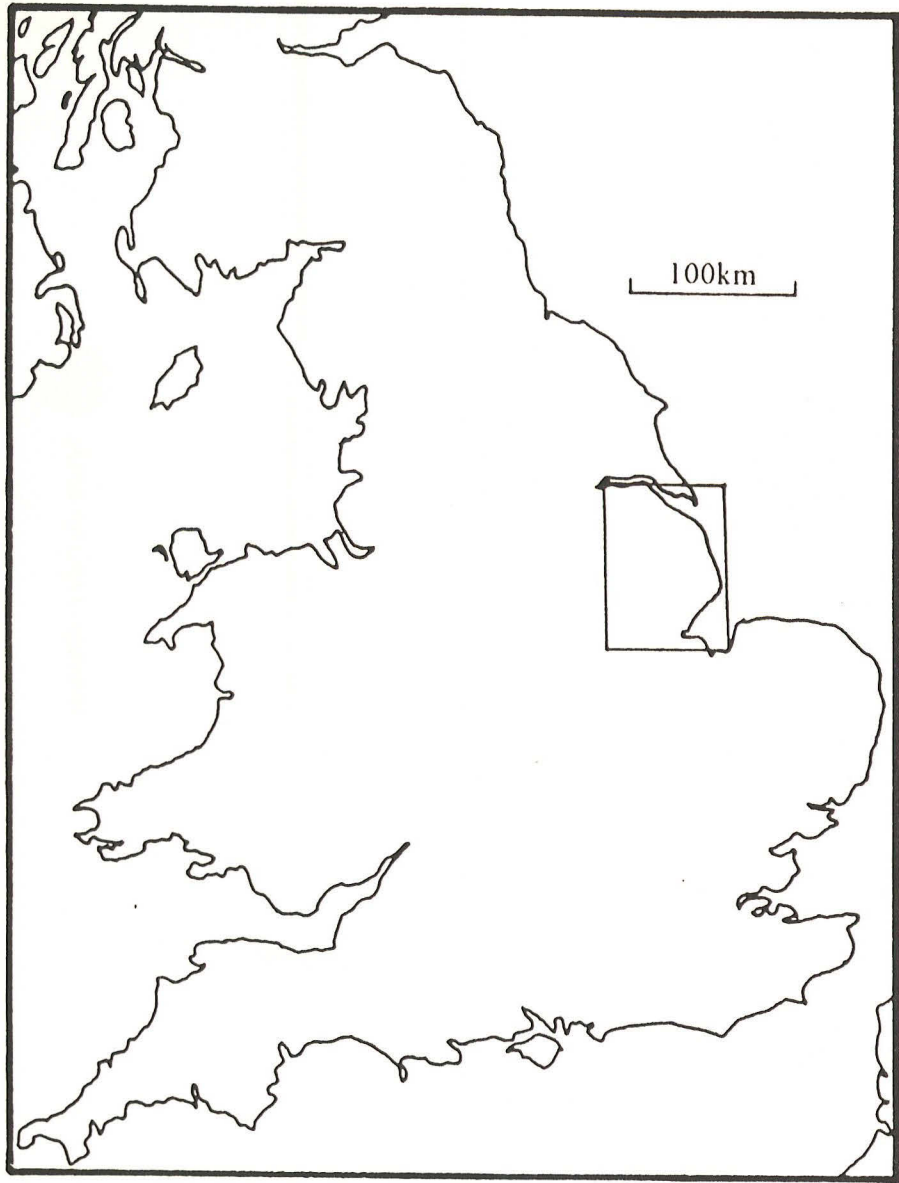
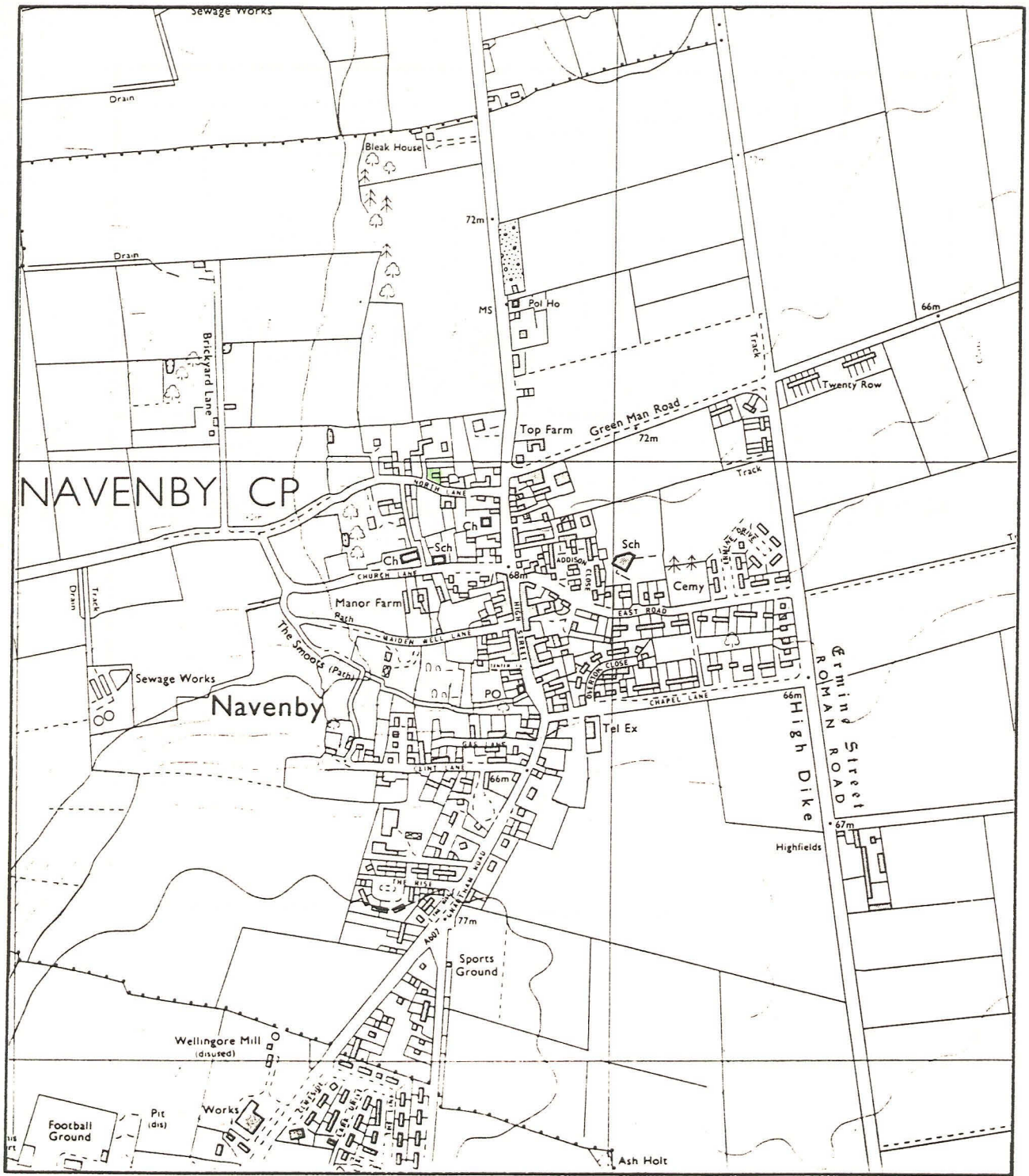


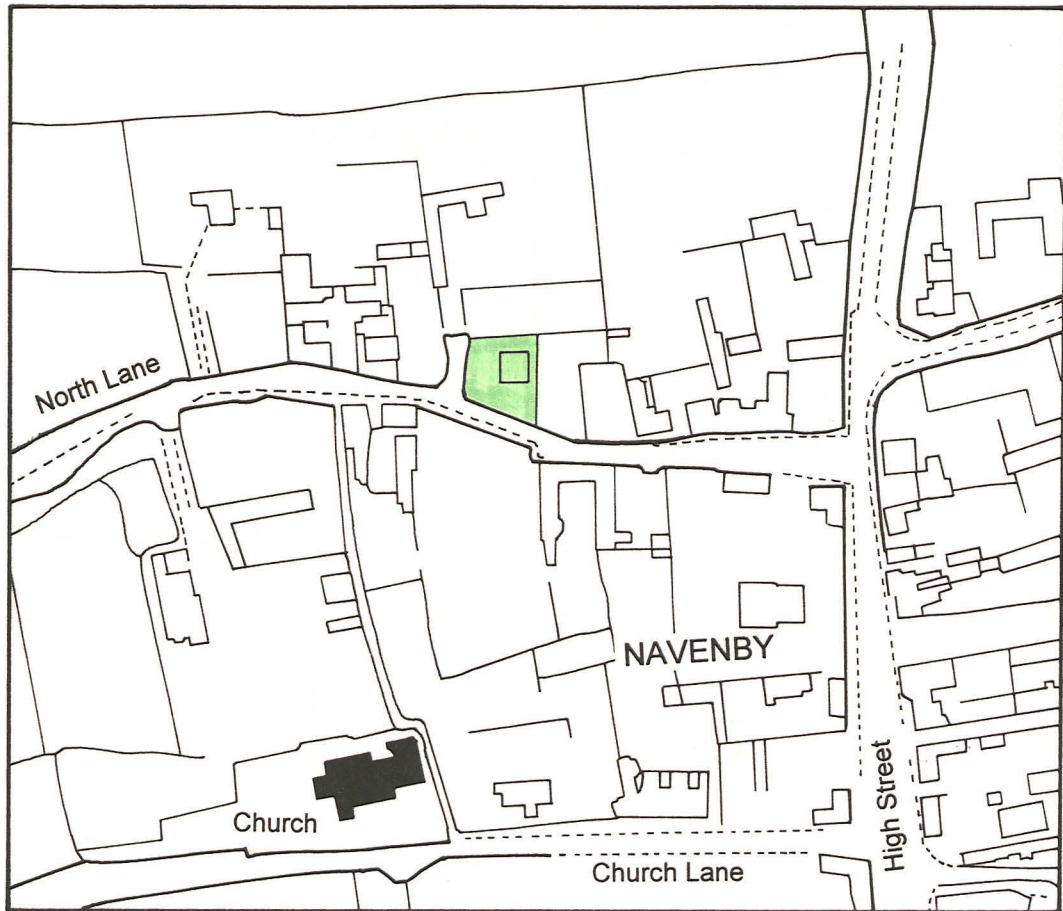
Fig. 1 General Location Plan

Fig. 2 Site Location Plan



 Area of Development

Fig. 3 Development Location Plan




 Area of Development

Fig. 4 Development Plan

Boundary Wall

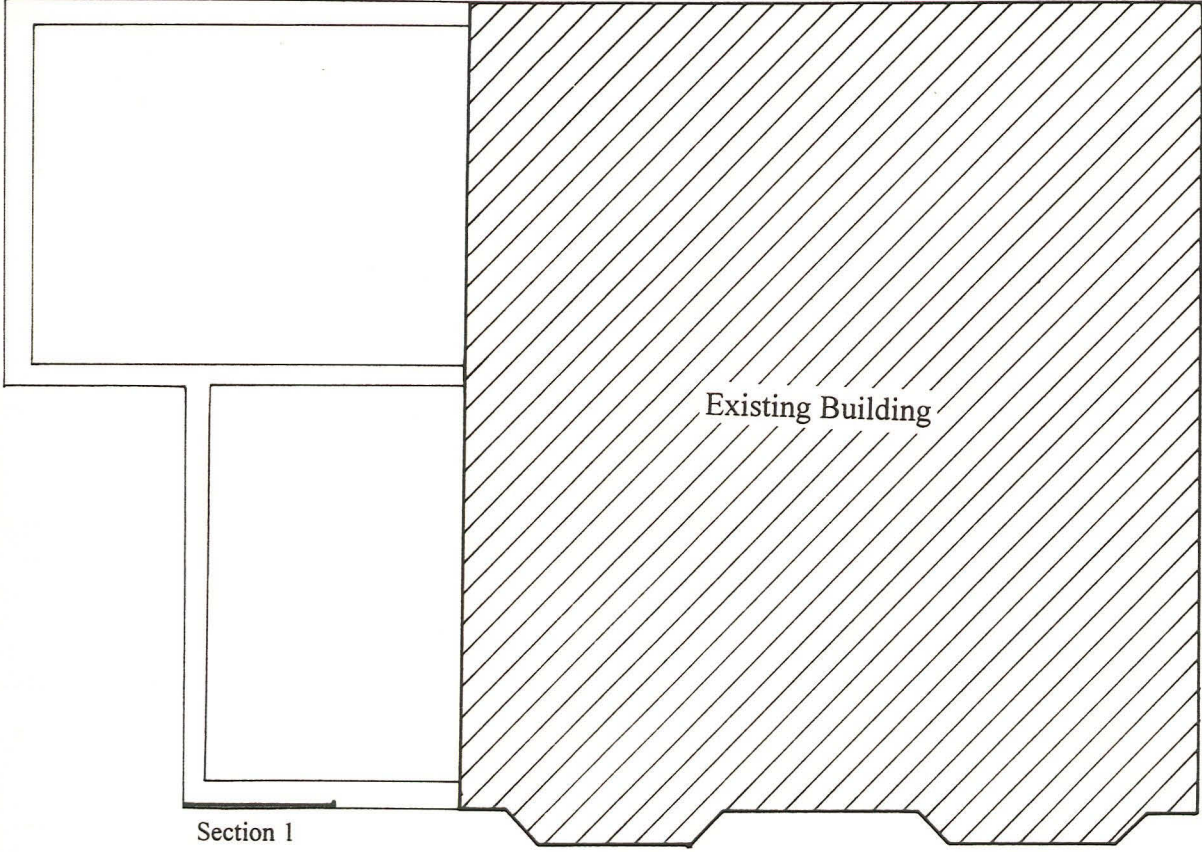
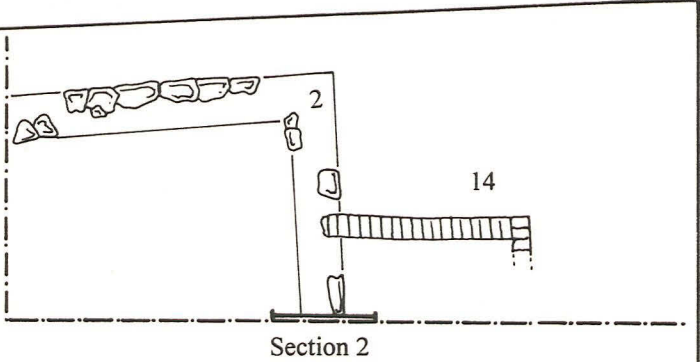


Fig. 5 Sections 1 and 2

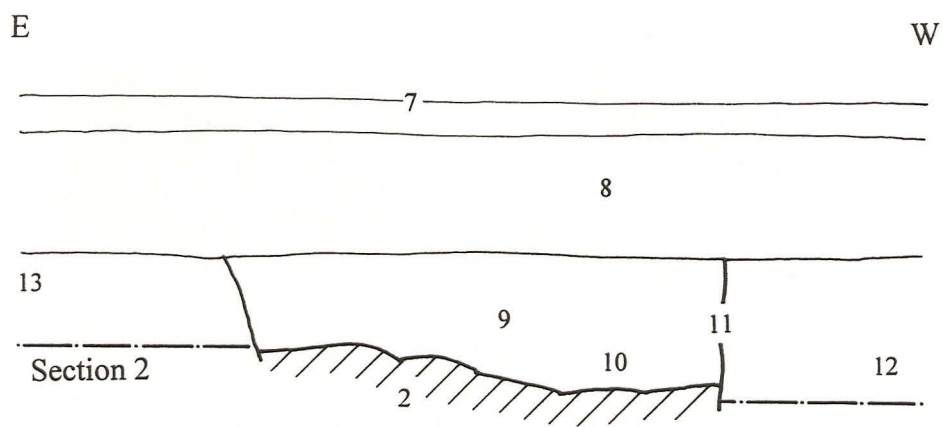
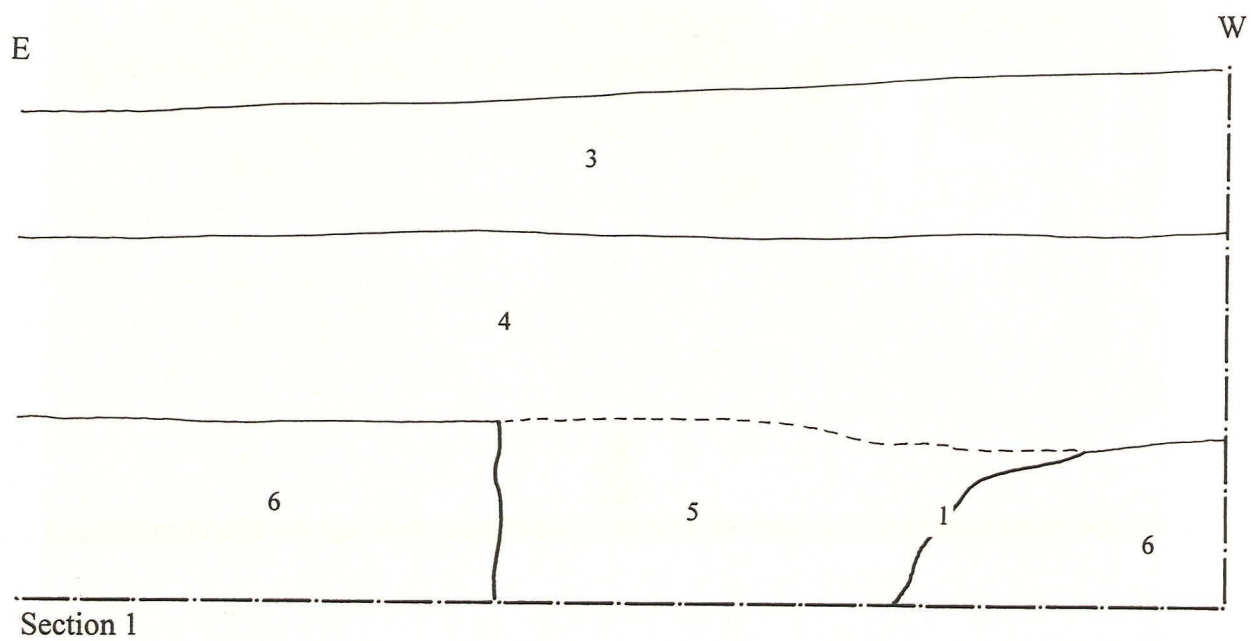




Plate. 1 General view of the foundation trenches for the extension, looking north.



Plate 2. Wall 2, looking west

Appendix 1

BRIEF FOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL OBSERVATION AND RECORDING
(WATCHING BRIEF)
10 NORTH LANE NAVENBY, LINCS.

Planning Application Number: N/ 40/ 0143/ 96 **NGR:** 498700 357970

Applicant: Mr and Mrs Metcalf **Agent:** JS Bostock

1. Summary

- 1.1 This brief should be used by archaeological contractors as the basis for the preparation of a detailed archaeological project specification. In response to this brief contractors will include the anticipated working methods, timescales and staffing levels.
- 1.2 These detailed specifications will be submitted by the client for approval by the North Kesteven Heritage Officer. The client will be free to choose between those specifications which are considered to adequately satisfy the brief

2. Site Location and Description

- 2.1 Navenby is a large village about 13km north west of Sleaford, Lincs. The site is in the north of the village to the west of the High Street.

3. Planning Background

- 3.1 Full planning permission has been given to extend a dwelling and erect a garage. Plot dimensions for the extension are 6.1m x 10m and for the garage 3.2 x 7.4m.

4. Archaeological Background

- 4.1 The development site is in the village core, about 150m north of the medieval church. It is over 1/2km west of the Roman road Ermine Street but two Roman burials have been found about 150m west and east of the site (one is not definitely Roman). Very near by a Watching Brief uncovered middle and late Saxon features. The development could potentially damage Roman, Anglo-Saxon and Medieval remains.

5. Requirements for Work

- 5.1 The objective of the watching brief should be to ensure that any archaeological features exposed by the groundworks are recorded and interpreted.
- 5.2 Any adjustments to the brief for the watching brief project should only be made after consultation with the Heritage Officer for North Kesteven.
- 5.3 The following details should be given in the contractor's specification:
 - 5.3.1 A projected timetable must be agreed for the various stages of work.

- 5.3.2 The staff structure and numbers must be detailed. This should include lists of specialists and their role in the project.
- 5.3.3 It is expected that all on-site work will be carried out in a way that complies with the relevant Health and Safety legislation and that due consideration will be given to site security.
- 5.3.4 The recovery and recording strategies to be used must be described in full.
- 5.3.5 An estimate of time and resources allocated for the post-excavation work and report production.

6. Methods

- 6.1 The project should be carried out by a recognised archaeological body in accordance with the code of conduct of The Institute of Field Archaeologists.
- 6.2 The watching brief should involve:
 - 6.2.1 archaeological supervision of topsoil stripping;
 - 6.2.2 inspection of subsoil for archaeological features;
 - 6.2.3 recording of archaeological features in plan;
 - 6.2.4 rapid excavation of features if necessary;
 - 6.2.5 archaeological supervision of subsoil stripping
 - 6.2.6 inspection of natural for archaeological features and recording them.
 - 6.2.7 any human remains encountered must be left in situ and only removed if absolutely necessary. The contractor must comply with all statutory consents and licences regarding the exhumation and interment of human remains. It will also be necessary to comply with all reasonable requests of interested parties as to the remains or associated items. Attempt must be made at all times not to cause offence to any interested parties.

7. Monitoring Arrangements

- 7.1 The Heritage Officer for North Kesteven will be responsible for monitoring progress and standards throughout the project and will require at least fourteen days notice prior to the commencement of the work.

8. Reporting Requirements

- 8.1 A full report should be produced and deposited with the planning department of North Kesteven District Council, the Heritage Officer, the client and the County Sites and Monuments Record. The report should include:
 - 8.1.1 location plan of the trenches;
 - 8.1.2 section and plan drawings, with ground level, Ordnance Datum, vertical and horizontal scales as appropriate;

- 8.1.3 specialist descriptions of artefacts and ecofacts;
- 8.1.4 an indication of potential archaeological deposits not disturbed by the present development;
- 8.2 After agreement with the landowner, arrangements are to be made for long term storage of all artefacts and paper archive in an appropriate museum.
- 8.3 If the receiving museum is to be the City and County Museum, Lincoln then the archive should be produced in the form outlined in the museum's document 'Conditions for the Acceptance of Project Archives', see address below.

9. Publication and Dissemination

- 9.1 The deposition of a copy of the report with the Lincolnshire Sites and Monuments Record will be deemed to put all information into the public domain, unless a special request is made for confidentiality. If material is to be held in confidence a timescale must be agreed with the North Kesteven Heritage Officer but is expected this will not exceed six months. Consideration must be given to a summary of the results being published in 'Lincolnshire History and Archaeology' in due course.

10. Additional Information

- 10.1 This document attempts to define the best practice expected of an archaeological watching brief but cannot fully anticipate the conditions that will be encountered as work progresses. However, changes to the programme are only to be made with the prior written approval of the Heritage Officer.

Brief set by Heritage Officer, North Kesteven 2/3/1996

Appendix 2

CONTEXT SUMMARY

Context	Description	Interpretation
1	Cut, 0.8m wide by 0.3m deep	Small pit
2	Limestone blocks bonded with yellow sandy clay	Limestone wall
3	Dark brown silty sand	Topsoil
4	Dark to mid brown silty sand	Subsoil
5	Mid to dark brown silty sand	Fill of 1
6	Limestone within sandy matrix	Natural bedrock
7	Concrete	Recent floor
8	Dark brown silty sand	Topsoil
9	Mid brown silty sand	Fill of 10
10	Linear cut	Demolition of wall 2
11	Linear cut	Foundation trench of wall 2
12	Mid brown silty sand	Subsoil
13	Mid brown silty sand	Subsoil
14	Brick wall	Remnants of former garage
15	Linear cut	Foundation trench of wall 14

Appendix 3

THE ARCHIVE

The archive consists of:

- 15 . Context Records
- 1 . . Photographic records
- 4 . . Scale Drawings
- 1 . . Stratigraphic Matrix
- 1 . . Bag of finds

All primary records are currently kept at:

Archaeological Project Services
The Old School
Cameron Street
Heckington
Lincolnshire
NG34 9RW

City and County Museum Accession number
Archaeological Project Services project code

71.96
NNL96

Appendix 4

GLOSSARY

- Context** An archaeological context represents a distinct archaeological event or process. For example, the action of digging a pit creates a context (the cut) as does the process of its subsequent backfill (the fill). Each context encountered during an archaeological investigation is allocated a unique number by the archaeologist and a record sheet detailing the description and interpretation of the context (the context sheet) is created and placed in the site archive. Context numbers are generally identified within the report text by brackets, *e.g.* (004).
- Cut** A cut refers to the physical action of digging a posthole, pit, ditch, foundation trench, *etc.* Once the fills of these features are removed during an archaeological investigation the original 'cut' is therefore exposed and subsequently recorded.
- Fill** Once a feature has been dug it begins to silt up (either slowly or rapidly) or it can be back-filled manually. The sediment(s) and soil(s) which become contained by the 'cut' are referred to as its fill(s).
- Layer** A layer is a term used to describe an accumulation of soil or other material that is not contained within a cut.
- Natural** Undisturbed deposit(s) of soil or rock which have accumulated without the influence of human activity.