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ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF REPORT

Boundary Paddock, Pottergate Road, Navenby, Lincolnshire

Site Code: PN 97

LCNCC Acc. No. 5.97

Lincolnshire County Council
Archaeology Section

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Report prepared for Ploughsound Limited by Simon Johnson
March 1997

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Summary

- * *Ploughsound Limited commissioned Pre-Construct Archaeology (Lincoln) (PCA) to undertake an archaeological watching brief during groundworks associated with the development of land known as Boundary Paddocks, Navenby, Lincolnshire.*
- * *Monitoring of construction trenches for two bungalows, a road cutting and foul water service trenches, resulted in the exposure of no significant archaeological, artefactual or ecofactual remains.*
- * *The North Kesteven District Council Heritage Officer agreed that the project brief should be terminated prior to the completion of all groundworks.*

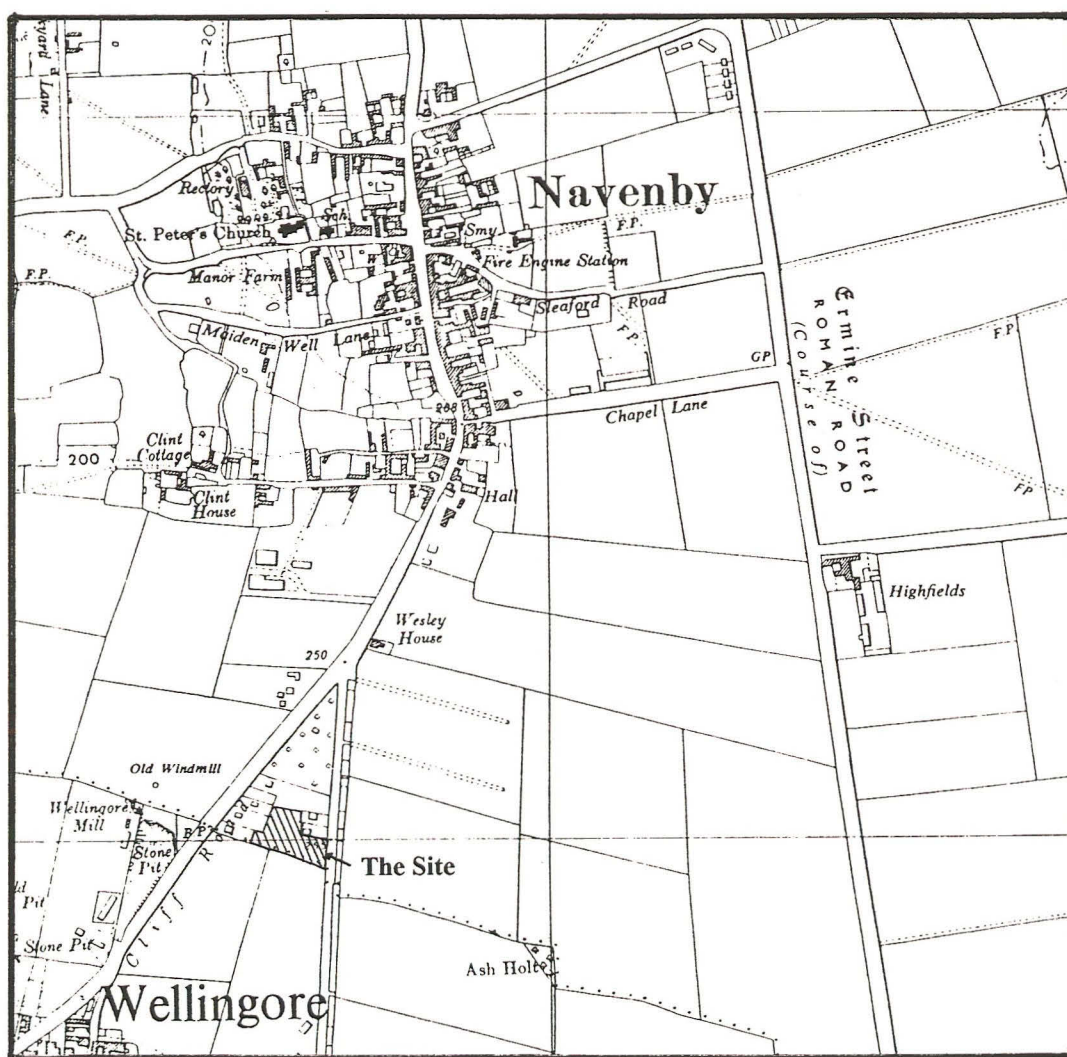


Fig. 1: Site location, 1:10,000 (OS Copyright Licence No. AL 51521 A0001)

1.0 Introduction

Planning permission was approved by North Kesteven District Council for the erection of eight detached bungalows within a parcel of land fronting Pottergate Lane, Navenby, Lincolnshire. Approval was subject to a number of conditions, one of which required the undertaking of an archaeological scheme of works during all groundworks.

This report details the archaeological work undertaken by PCA. Copies will be deposited with the County Sites and Monuments Record, the Heritage Officer for North Kesteven, and at the City and County Museum, Lincoln. A summary will be submitted to the editor of the county journal, *Lincolnshire History and Archaeology*, for inclusion in a future edition.

An ordered archive of both paper and object elements is in preparation and shall be deposited at the City and County Museum, Lincoln, within six months of project completion: thereby satisfying all the requirements detailed in the project brief.

The watching brief was undertaken by the R Mouraille, C Palmer-Brown, and the writer.

2.0 Purpose and methods

The Department of the Environment's introduction of Planning Policy Guidance Note 16, *Archaeology and Planning*, in 1990, made archaeology a 'material consideration' in the planning process for the first time. The principal elements of *PPG16* have been incorporated within the Deposit Plan for North Kesteven District Council (September 1992): Policy C6 states the following:-

"DEVELOPMENT PROPOSALS WHICH ARE LIKELY TO ADVERSELY AFFECT A SITE OF POTENTIAL ARCHAEOLOGICAL INTEREST WILL NORMALLY BE SUBJECT TO A CONDITION OF PLANNING PERMISSION ALLOWING A WATCHING BRIEF TO BE MAINTAINED DURING DEVELOPMENT"

The Heritage Officer of North Kesteven District Council issued a project brief requiring that an archaeological scheme of works should be maintained during this development.

Archaeological monitoring comprised the following elements:

- (i) Observation of topsoil stripping and inspection of subsoil for archaeological features.
- (ii) Collection of surface artefacts.
- (iii) Observation during foundation trenching, followed by inspection of section and plan surfaces for archaeological features.

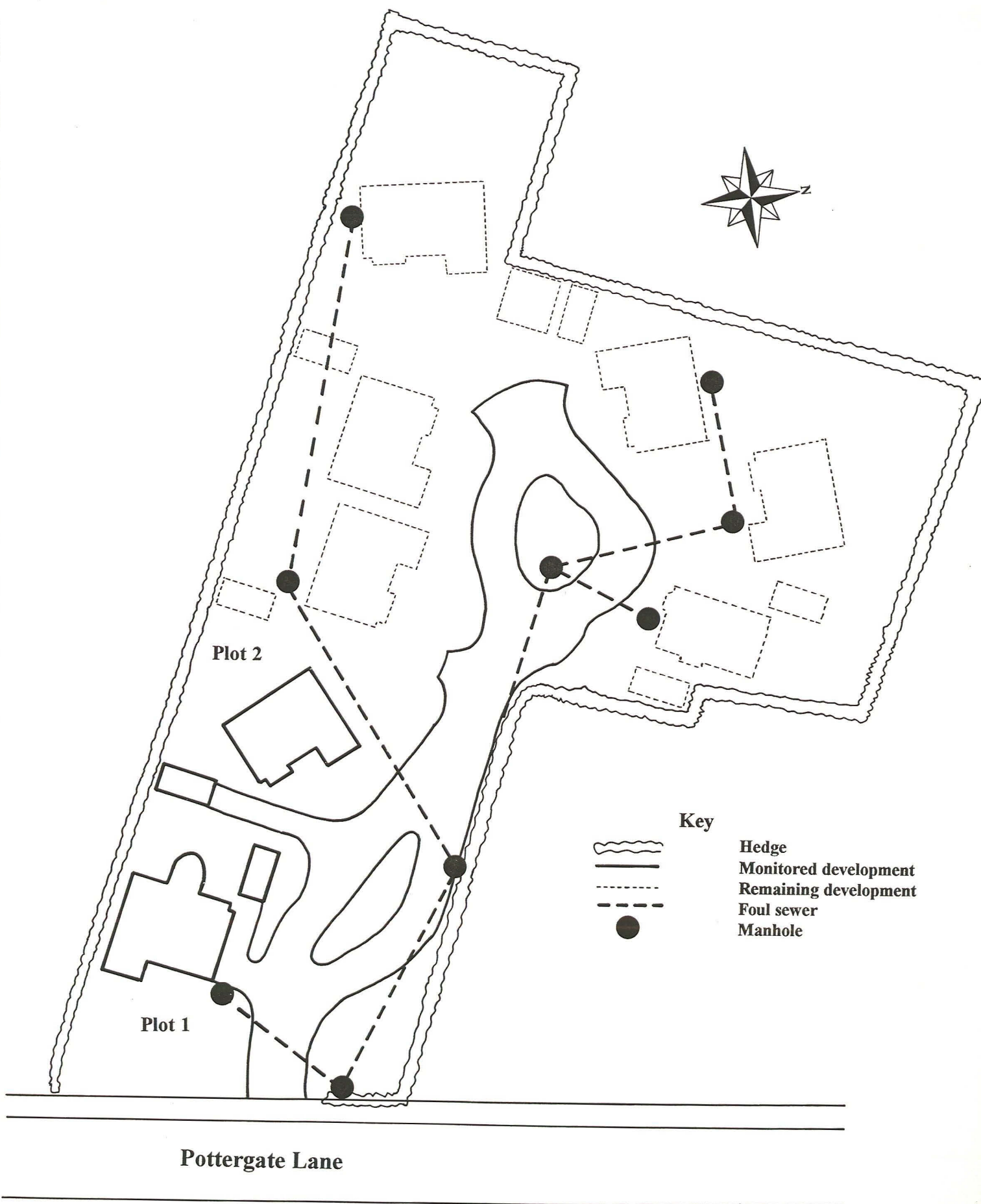


Fig. 2: Site layout plan showing areas monitored prior to termination of the brief (1:500)

- (iv) Recording of the natural deposits.

Recording was undertaken using standard watching brief record sheets, supplemented with a site diary, scale drawings, and colour photography. Observation points were plotted on 1: 500 and 1:50 development plans supplied by the clients.

3.0 Location and description

Navenby lies in the administrative district of North Kesteven, approximately 9 km. north-west of Sleaford, 12 km. south of Lincoln. The development is set within an irregular shaped unit of land on the southern edge of the parish boundary. Known locally as Boundary Paddocks, the site lies adjacent to the neighbouring parish of Wellingore east of the Lincoln Edge at c. 75 m. OD. The eastern site boundary is marked by Pottergate Lane, with hedges and existing development to the north, west and south.

The solid geology of the lower escarpment slope comprises Upper Liasic clays and shale overlain by Lower estuarine beds and Northampton Sand. This is capped by oolitic limestone and clays which form the site specific parent geology.

The site central National Grid reference is SK 9865 5700

4.0 Archaeological and historic background

The parish of Navenby contains remains of almost every cultural period. Prehistoric settlement is reflected by numerous chance finds of worked flint and more systematic collections recovered by fieldwalking programmes, together with an unlocated Late Bronze Age socketed spear head. Archaeological monitoring adjacent to Chapel Lane has resulted in the recovery of Bronze Age cremations and associated flints.

There is now strong evidence for a substantial Iron Age and Romano-British site at Navenby. An evaluation undertaken in 1994 sampled a series of anomalies revealed by magnetometry, including the eves-drip gully of a native house containing mid-late Iron Age (c. C3rd BC -early C1st AD) pottery. The evaluation also resulted in the discovery of a Romano-British 'ribbon' development fronting Ermine Street. (Palmer-Brown 1995, 5)

Earlier finds of Roman material were made by staff and pupils of the local primary school in 1965. Subsequent discoveries of military type metalwork and the location of Navenby midway between the important centres of Lincoln and Ancaster, have been cited to suggest the presence of a Roman fortlet (Jones 1980, 287)

The surface collections show that occupation continued throughout the Roman period but are of little help in assessing the transition from a native Iron Age to Romano-

British cultural identity: Was this a peaceful passage or was the native population uprooted as evidence from Ancastor could imply ? (May 1976, 176)

The Saxon/medieval settlement appears to have developed closer to the Lincoln Cliff within the confines of the present village.

There are few finds of Saxon date, though two zoomorphic buckles have been taken as evidence of Germanic presence (Leahy 1993, 42). A recent watching brief undertaken north of the parish church resulted in the plotting of Late Saxon and possibly middle Saxon settlement features (Palmer-Brown 1995, 2).

Navenby is listed in the Domesday survey of 1086 as *Navenebi* which has a Danish root translating as 'farmstead or village of a man called Nafni' (Mills 1993, 24). During the medieval period the village was a prosperous market town but the only remaining landmark from this period is the parish church: dedicated to St. Peter, the earliest surviving aspects are dated to the C13th (Pevsner and Harris 1989, 571).

5.0 Results

Monitoring consisted of observation during foundation trenching for plots 1 and 2, excavation of the road cutting, and the foul water service trench. No archaeological features or significant deposits were recorded following cleaning of section faces or examination of cutting bases in plan.

All mechanical excavation was undertaken with 180° plant fitted with a 0.65 m. wide bucket for the foundations and sewer trench, or a 1.5 m. wide toothless ditching blade for soil stripping of the road cutting.

The site was covered by a thin topsoil horizon (c. 0.25-0.28 m.) which suggested the site had not been ploughed in recent times. This may be supported by the dearth of even modern cultural inclusions; the only finds recovered comprised a claypipe stem fragment, a sheep/goat tooth (incisor), and a single sherd of C19+ transfer printed earthenware. All were stray finds from the topsoil.

The natural stratigraphy exposed may be summarised as follows:

Context	Depth	Description
[100]	0.22-0.28 m.	Homogenous mid-dark brown sandy fine silt. Weakly bonded and humic with occasional limestone inclusions. Un-differentiated dark-earth topsoil.
[101]	up to 0.40 m.	Natural underlying subsoil comprised of a reddish mid brown sandy clay-silt derived from underlying limestone brash.

[102] >0.60 m. Natural limestone brash comprised of moderate sized limestones within a dark reddish brown silty clay matrix.

6.0 Conclusions

The recording brief did not result in the exposure of any significant archaeological deposits or artefacts. Permission was thus sought (and granted) for an early termination to the brief.

7.0 Acknowledgements

Thanks are expressed to Mr. D Herkes and Mr R Overton, Ploughsound Limited, for commissioning Pre-Construct Archaeology (Lincoln) to undertake the watching brief. Thanks also to the staff of the County SMR for allowing access to the parish records.

8.0 References

- Dept. of the Environment 1990 'Archaeology and Planning' *Planning Policy Guidance Note 16* (PPG 16)
- Jones M 1980 'The Early Military Occupation of the Lincoln Area' in Hanson and Keppie (eds) *Roman Frontier Studies BAR International Series 71*
- Leahy K 1993 'The Anglo-Saxon Settlement of Lindsey' in Vince (ed) *Pre-Viking Lindsey*
- Morris J (general ed.) 1986 'Lincolnshire' *Domesday Book 31*
- May J 1976 *Prehistoric Lincolnshire*
- Mill, A D 1993 *English Place-Names*
- Palmer-Brown 1995 'Land Off Grantham Road Navenby, Lincolnshire' *Archaeological Desk Top Assessment and Phase 1 Field Evaluation* (unpublished)
- ibid.* 1995 'Land North of Church Lane, Navenby, Lincolnshire' *Archaeological Watching Brief Report* (unpublished)
- Pevsner, N & Harris, J 1989 *The Buildings of England: Lincolnshire*

9.0 Appendices

9.1 Information derived from the County Sites & Monuments Record

NGR	PRN/Code	Period	Description
SK 9930 5750	60537	I-A & R-B	Extensive Iron Age and Romano-British occupation evaluated in 1994.
SK 9838 5679	0093	Medieval	Wellingore village cross. SAM 22660

9.2 Site Archive

The site archive contains:

Paper Element

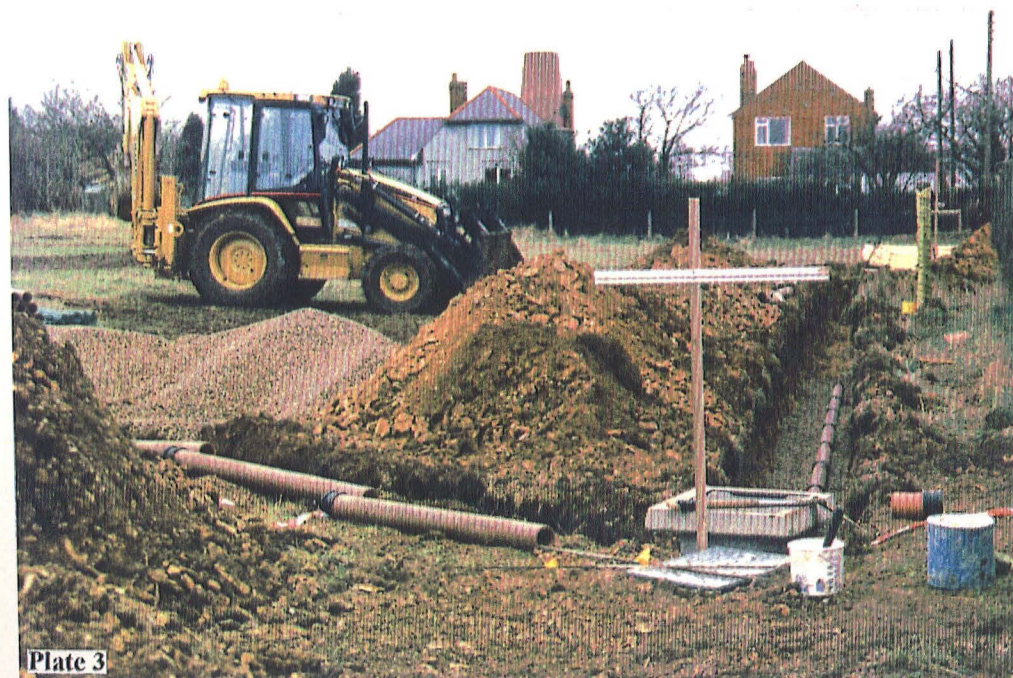
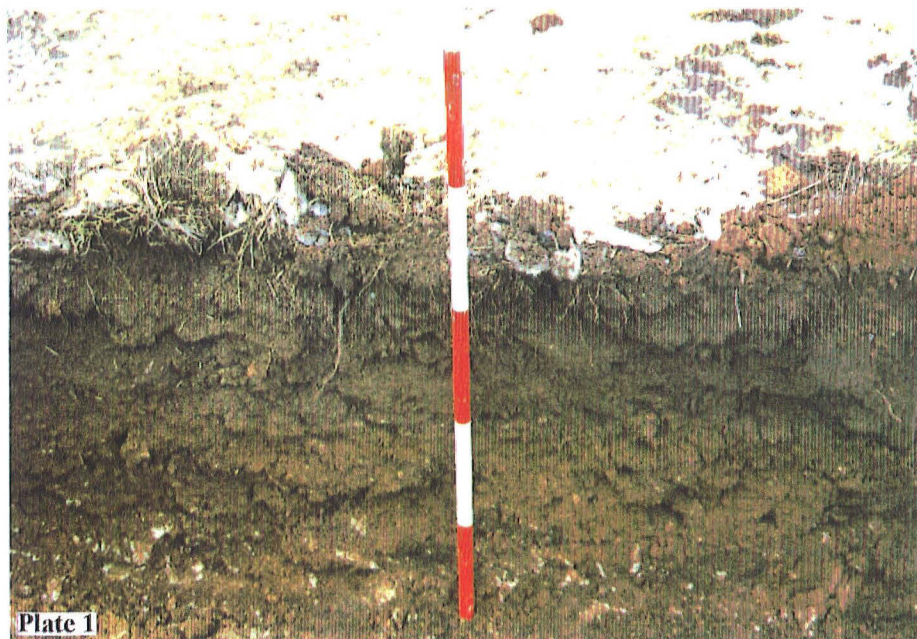
- x1 Copy of Project Brief
- x1 Copy of Project Specification
- x3 PCA General Account Sheet
- x5 PCA Record Sheets
- x1 Site Location and development Plan @ 1:500
- x1 Foul Sewer arrangement plan @ 1:500
- x2 Foundation plans @1:50
- x2 Items of correspondence
- x2 Films of Colour prints

Object Element

- x1 Sheep/goat incisor
- x1 Clay-pipe stem fragment
- x1 C19+ Transfer printed pottery sherd

-the object element has been discarded.

Primary records are currently held by PCA. An ordered project archive will be deposited at the City and County Museum, Lincoln, within six months of the date of this report. The archive may be accessed by quoting the global accession number LCNCC 5.97.



9.3 Colour Plates

Plate 1: Representative section showing natural stratigraphy, Plot 1 foundation, facing east

Plate 2: General shot showing garage footings, plot 1, facing south-west

Plate 3: General shot, facing west, of Foul Sewer Trench