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## South View Farm, South Cockerington:

### An Archaeological Watching Brief

NGR: TF 37978892

Site Code: SCS 97

LCNCC Museum Accn. No. 191.97

ELDC Planning Application No. N/158/0188/95

on behalf of

J. Cawkwell

August 1997

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**South Cockerington:  
Watching Brief During Groundworks at South View Farm**

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**Summary**

*An archaeological watching brief was carried out during the excavation of house footings at South Cockerington, Lincolnshire. The area was heavily disturbed by modern activity. No features of archaeological significance were encountered.*

**Introduction**

Lindsey Archaeological Services was commissioned by Mr J Cawkwell. to undertake an archaeological watching brief during the mechanical excavation of house footings at South View Farm, South View Lane, South Cockerington (fig 1).

Outline planning condition for the development was granted by East Lindsey District Council (Application Number N/158/0188/95), with a condition that an archaeological watching brief be carried out.

**Site Location**

The parish of South Cockerington lies 5km east of Louth on the dipslope of the Lincolnshire Wolds. This was an area of dense settlement and the parishes are characteristically elongated in order to exploit a range of environments from the high ground on the Wolds to the low lying areas in the east.

The site lies to the north of St Leonard's Church where one may have expected to find the focus of settlement. The dispersed nature of the settlement and the presence of a large numbers of earthworks in the region of north and south Cockerington does indicate settlement mobility and/or shrinkage.

The development site consisted of rough ground scattered with building debris.

**Archaeological Background**

There is very little evidence of prehistoric activity in the area although a watching brief immediately to the north east produced partially worked flint of possibly Bronze Age date (Healey 1994).

This watching brief also produced a single sherd of middle Saxon pottery of 7th century date. This was from a possible plough soil below extensive



modern make up deposits. Also found were sherds of abraded medieval pottery dated to the 10-14th centuries

Cockerington is mentioned in the Domesday survey of 1086, but there is no distinction between North and South Cockerington. There are six entries which record six Saxon manors held by four Saxon lords in 1066 and four Norman Lords in 1086. This complex series of holdings is reflected in the earthworks which are located around both North and South Cockerington (Field 1996).

The parish originally had two open fields east and west and the relatively early enclosure of the village (the enclosure award of 1766 recorded that only 1 quarter of the village remained unenclosed) may explain the large amounts of ridge and furrow which exist as earthworks in the area (Healey 1994).

### **The Watching Brief**

The foundation trenches were excavated on 8th of August 1997 in the presence of the author. The trenches were approximately 0.60m wide and excavated to a maximum depth of 1.50m.

### *Stratigraphy*

The stratigraphy of the site consisted of a layer of mixed building debris and make up deposits which included brick and soil. This deposit was up to 1.20m deep at the north western end. It decreased in depth to the east where it was approximately 0.80m deep and overlay a dark brown silty clay which extended to approximately 1.10m depth. Below this deposit, over the whole area, was a mid brown 'clean' clay which appeared to be the natural.

### *Features*

A plastic water pipe was revealed running east-west through the site along the southern baulk of the central trench.

Two concrete pads were removed during the excavation. One of these was located within the southern trench and the other in the eastern trench. These are likely to have been footings for a building possibly a barn.

A section of wall was uncovered against the northernmost section just south of the concrete pad this was 2m long and 3 courses deep. There was no stratigraphical relationship between the wall and the concrete pad but they may have been associated.

### *Artefacts*

The only material recovered from the excavation were 3 sherds of post-medieval pottery from the disturbed horizons.

### **Discussion and Conclusion**

The disturbed deposits are likely to represent a deliberate attempt to consolidate the ground for building, possibly the building indicated by the

concrete pads. There was no evidence of earlier use of the site located during the watching brief.

### **Acknowledgements**

LAS would like to thank G.P.Vickers building contractors for their co-operation during this project.

Also LAS would like to thank Lincolnshire Archaeological Section especially Mark Bennet (SMR Officer) and Sarah Grundy (assistant SMR Officer) for their help during the preparation of this report.

Mark Williams  
Lindsey Archaeological Services  
15th August 1997

### **References**

Field, N (1996) North Cockerington Earthwork Remains, Fieldwalking and Earthwork Survey. (unpublished archive report)

Healey H, (1994) *An Archaeological Watching Brief at South Cockerington Lincolnshire*. (unpublished archive report)



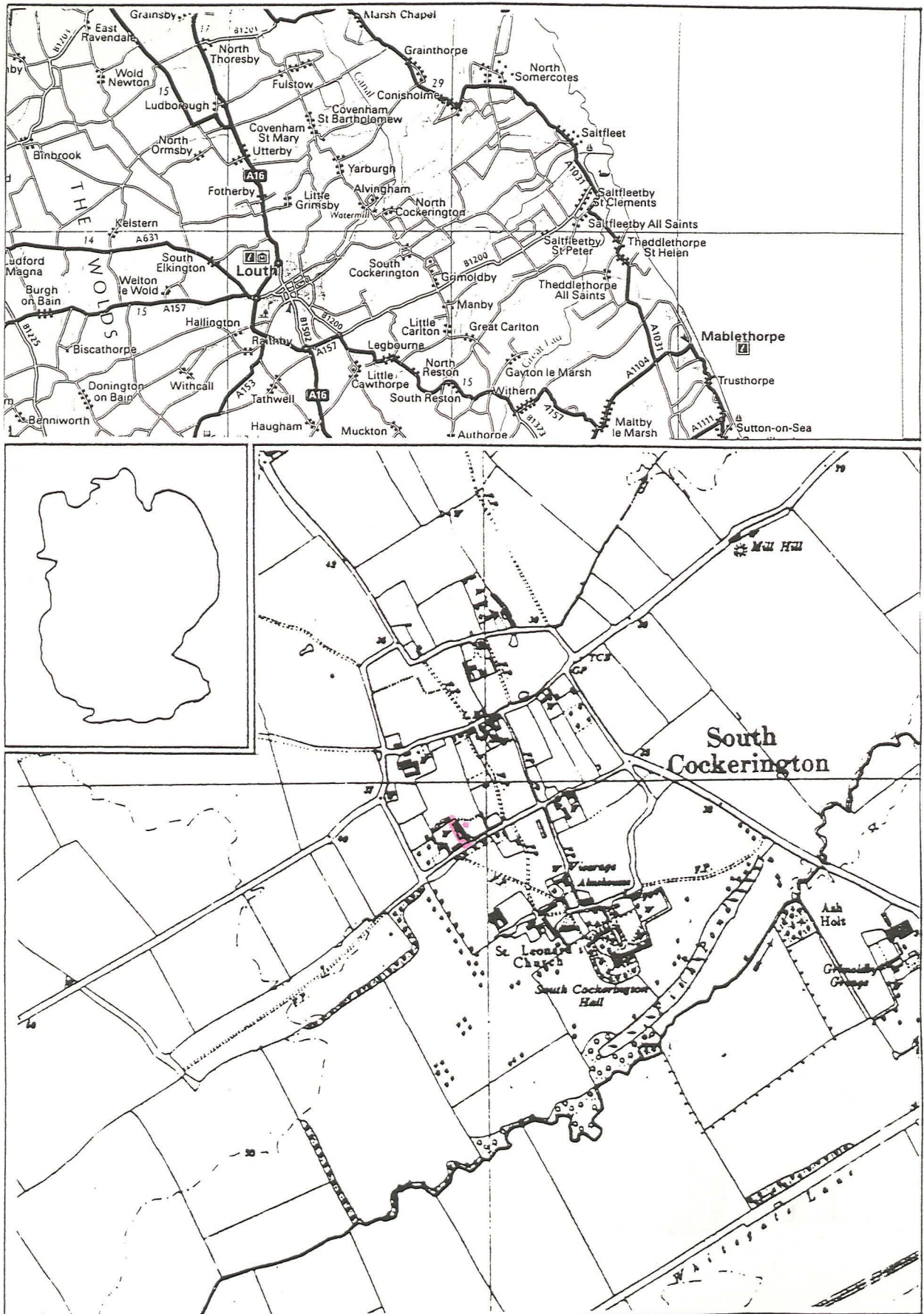


Fig 1: South View Farm, location of development



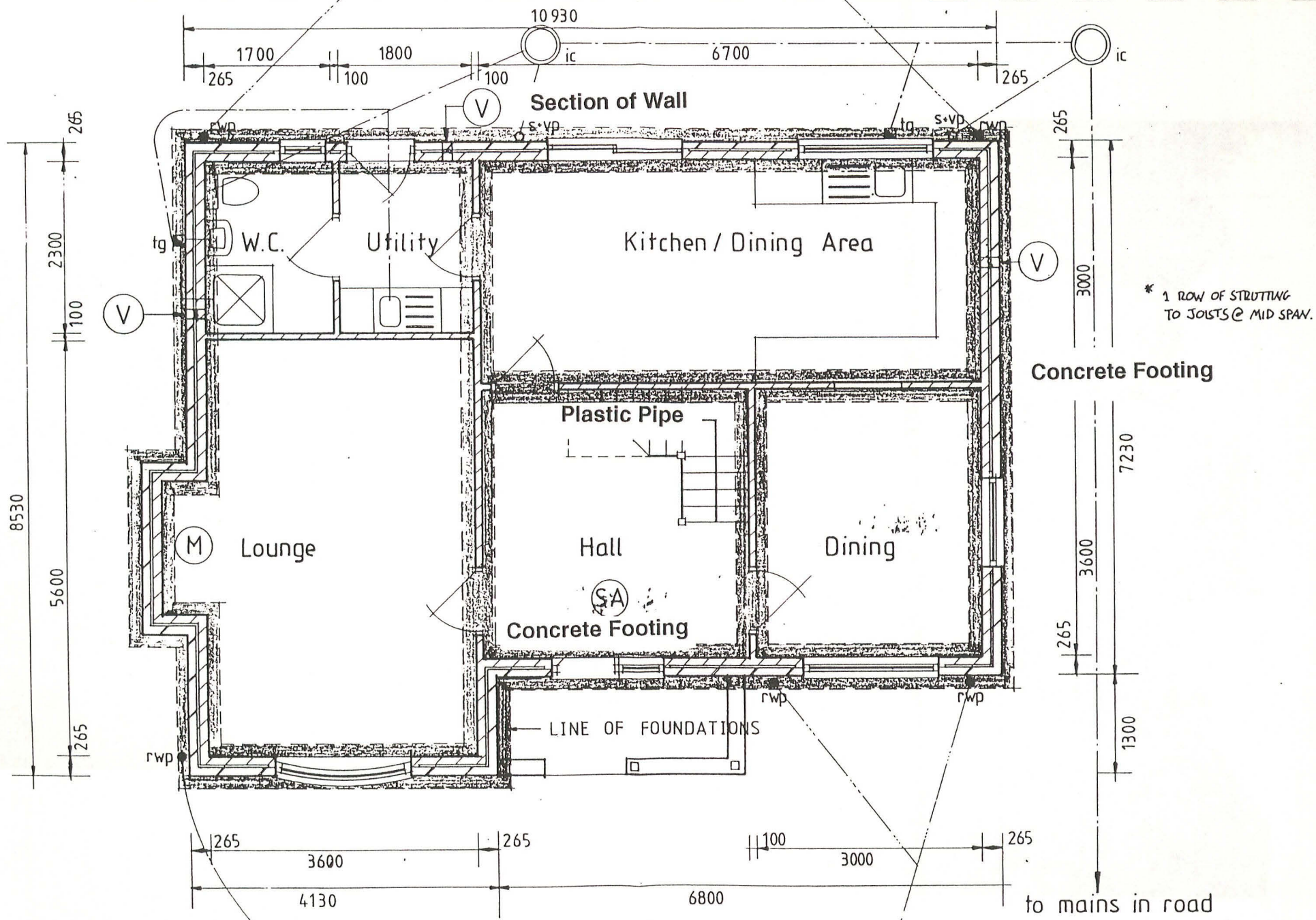


Fig 2: Ground plan of development showing archaeological features.





Plate 1: General Shot of site looking south

Plate 2: Stratigraphic sequence in northern-most trench, looking west







Plate 3: Section of Wall and disused pipes

Plate 4: Disturbance caused by field drain.

