

97/10

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF REPORT

Plot 4, Halton Road, Ashby by Partney

Site Code: ABP97
LCNCC Acc No. 170.97



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Site Code: ABP97
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Report prepared for Mr D Smith by SC Johnson

August 1997

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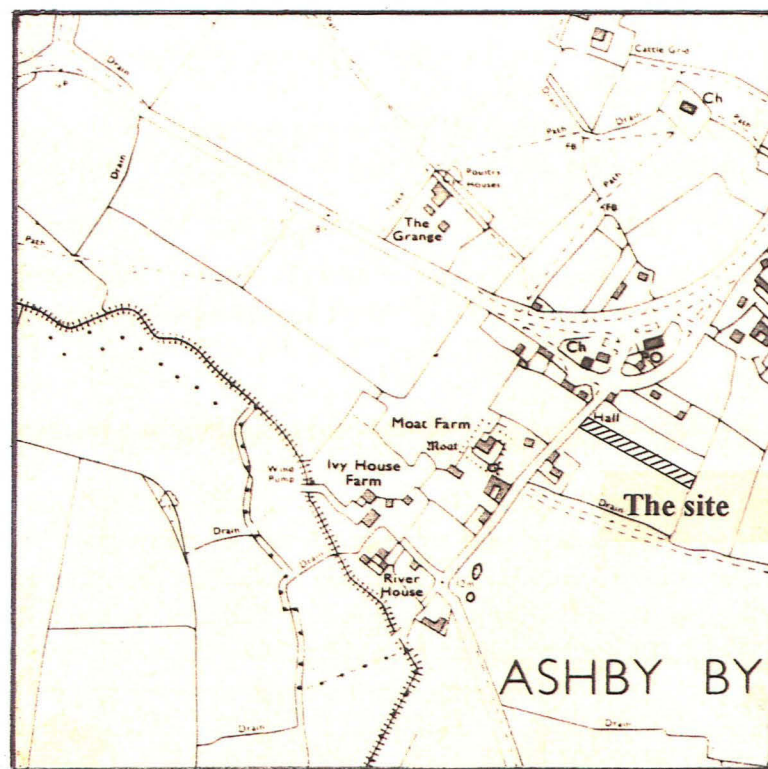
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Summary

- * *A standard archaeological watching brief was carried out during groundworks for a single dwelling on land east of Halton Road, Ashby by Partney*

- * *A range of post-medieval features were exposed and recorded, with only one feature being dated to the medieval period*

- * *Work on the present site complements the results of other small-scale investigations, but has added little to the knowledge gained as a result of those investigations*



*Fig. 1 General site location at scale 1:10,000
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1.0 Introduction

An archaeological watching brief was carried out on behalf of Mr D Smith during groundworks for a detached bungalow on Plot 4, Halton Road, Ashby by Partney, Lincolnshire (Fig. 1). The brief was commissioned to fulfil a planning requirement issued by East Lindsey District Council and followed similar investigations on sites to the east and west of the present development.

The site central national grid reference is ~~SK~~^{TF} 4281 6640.

2.0 Planning background

Full planning consent was granted to construct a large detached dwelling, subject to the undertaking of an archaeological watching brief during foundation and service trenching. A project brief detailing what work should be carried out to comply with the condition was not issued on this occasion, though the Assistant Archaeological Officer for Lincolnshire and the client were provided with a written specification.

3.0 Location and description

Ashby by Partney is in the administrative district of East Lindsey approximately 12km west of Skegness, 2km east of Spilsby. It lies on the dip slope of the Lincolnshire Wolds at an altitude approximately 15.0m OD.

The base geology is chalk, though this is overlain with drift deposits of chalky boulder clay; deposited during a former glacial phase, producing brown calcareous soils (Straw 1969).

The development is set within a relatively flat area, with only slight topographical variation on the south side of Halton Road.

4.0 Archaeological and historical background

Recent watching brief projects carried out to the south side of Halton Road constitute the only formal archaeological investigations to have been carried out at Ashby by Partney. The work on Plots 1 and 2 identified phases of occupation falling within the medieval period (possibly as early as the 11th century). On both sites, a series of linear ditches were exposed which were interpreted as property boundaries. A quantity of pits and inter-cutting gullies suggested dense settlement, possibly with an industrial association (Palmer-Brown 1996, 8, 12), though a lack of direct structural evidence could be due to the fact that there has been no deep excavation on the immediate road frontage; or that this evidence has been removed as a result of ploughing.

The RCHM Mapping Programme has recorded cropmarks and earthworks to the south of the present development, and there is evidence of ridge and furrow cultivation to the north, south and west. There are two moated sites in the parish: one of these sites (Manor Farm) is only 50m from the present development, on the west side of Halton Road; the other is c.0.5km to the north. The occurrence of a moated site so far north of the existing settlement has been cited as evidence of village shrinkage.

A date for the foundation of the settlement is not known, though entries in the Domesday survey of 1086 would imply a Saxon origin.

5.0 Purpose and methods

In 1990, the Department of the Environment issued Planning Policy Guidance Note 16 *Archaeology and Planning* (PPG 16). For the first time, this document made the effects of developments on the archaeological resource a 'material consideration' within the planning process. PPG 16 emphasises the importance of preservation *in situ* but, where this is not possible, requires archaeological deposits to be preserved *by record* (ie by excavating in advance of development, or by recording the resource during disturbance/destruction).

Archaeological monitoring comprised the following elements:

- (i) Observation of topsoil stripping and inspection of subsoil for archaeological features.
- (ii) Collection of stratified and unstratified artefacts.
- (iii) Observation during foundation and service trenching followed by inspection of sections and natural for archaeological features.
- (iv) Recording of archaeological features and limited excavation to determine, where possible, the date and nature of deposits.

Recording was undertaken using standard Watching Brief General Account, Context and Record Sheets, supplemented with scale drawings (1:20) and photography. Observation points were plotted on 1:50 location plans and overlays which were provided by the client.

Following the completion of the fieldwork, artefactual remains were washed and/or processed and were then submitted for specialist appraisal. A detailed site archive is in preparation, and this will be submitted to the City and County Museum, Lincoln (it should be noted that the client has requested retention of the object element).

Information extracted from this report will be entered on the County database (ie the SMR).

6.0 Results

The brief took place over two days, during which time the foundations for the bungalow; a soakaway; a bio-tank pit, and a combined service trench were monitored and recorded. Trenches associated with the surface water soakaways were not monitored, as the shallow fall of the drains resulted in excavations being restricted to the recent plough soil horizon.

In all areas, the general weathering profile exposed comprised the following elements:

- (100) Undifferentiated dark humic loam with well sorted limestone/chalk gravel inclusions. Depth 0.30m
- (101) Mid-grey-brown sandy clay with frequent, well sorted, small limestone/chalk inclusions. Depth 0.25-0.34m
- (102) Yellow-brown clay, depth 0.4m (north foundation trench), thinning to 0.28m (south foundation trench)
- (107) Red-brown clay with *c.* 25% chalk inclusions. Reduced striations below 9.92m OD (water table). Formed footing base.

The basal layer, (107), was a natural glacial Till (boulder clay) deposited during an earlier cold phase. The yellow-brown clay (102) was a naturally formed subsoil derived from the breakdown and modification of the Till. Between this horizon, and an overlying recent ploughsoil (100), a band of mid-grey-brown sandy clay (101) contained a relatively large assemblage of post-medieval pottery, the latest of which has been dated to the C18th.

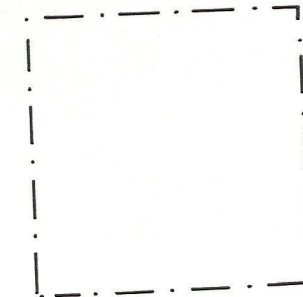
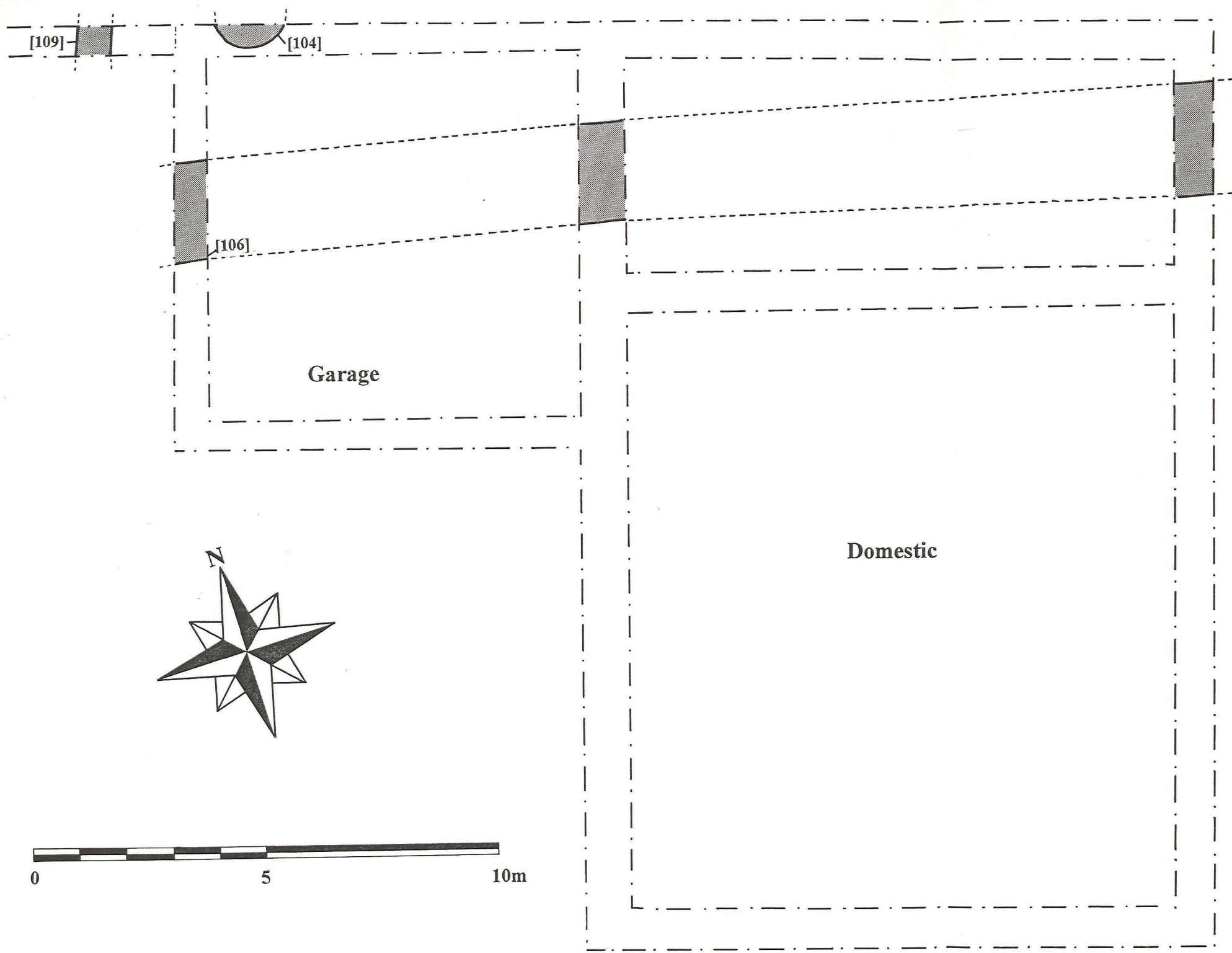
6.1 Foundation trenches

The foundation trenches (Fig. 2) were excavated by 180° Plant to a depth of 0.84 - 0.97m and to a width of 0.80m (bungalow) and 0.6m (garage).

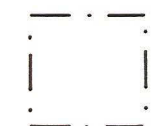
Two intrusive archaeological features were exposed within the foundation footprint: a north-south ditch [106] and part of a pit or ditch terminal, [104]. Both features contained uniform fills comprising mid grey-brown sandy clay; indistinguishable from the overlying horizon, (101).

Ditch [106] entered the foundation footprint through the west foundation trench and was traced through the plot, exiting through the east wall foundation. Its width was approximately 1.90m (Fig. 3), but its depth was not determined, as excavation ceased at 1.2m. The ditch contained a pottery group dating between the middle/late C16th and the C17th.

Combined service Trench



Bio-tank pit



Soakaway

Key



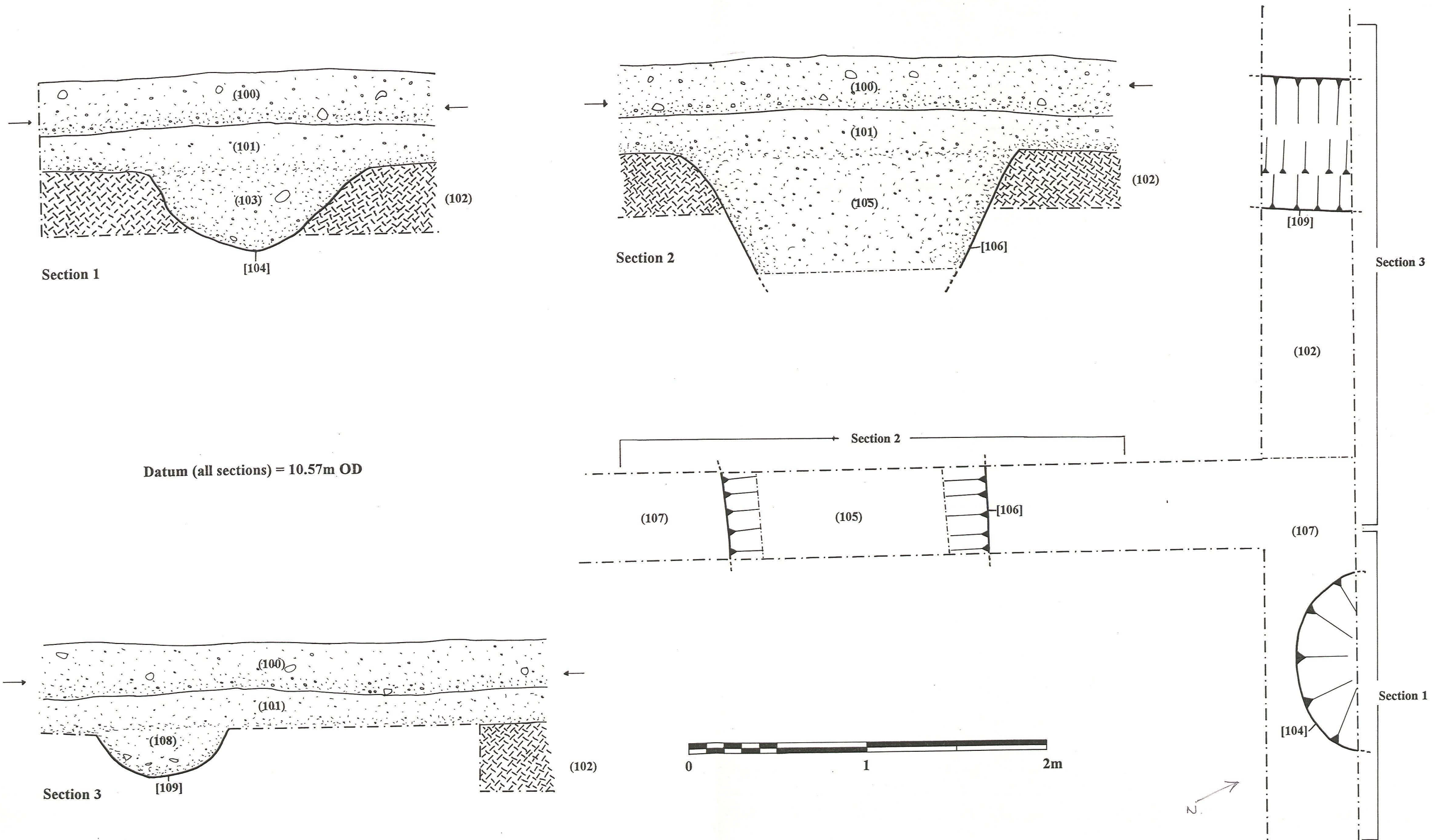
Archaeological feature (see Fig. 3)



Projected alignment/continuation

Fig. 2: Foundation Trench Plot, 1:100

Fig. 3: Composite plan and sections of features recorded in the foundation and combined service trench, Plot 3, Halton Road, Ashby by Partney



Feature [104] (Fig. 2) was only partially exposed and it was not possible to establish whether it was the terminal of a small ditch/gully or part of a large pit. Its fill was almost sterile, producing the only sherd of medieval pottery which dates between the mid/late C12th and the C14th.

6.2 Soakaway and bio-tank pit

No archaeological features were exposed within either cutting. Each pit was excavated to a depth of *c.* 2.0m

6.3 Combined service trench (Fig. 3)

A single service trench, approximately 0.5m deep, was excavated from the north wall of the integral garage to Halton Road. This constituted the first deep excavation towards the frontage to be monitored during any of the recent archaeological investigations. A single archaeological feature [109] was exposed approximately 1.40m north of the garage wall. It was an east-west linear gully. Again, its fill, (108), was identical to the overlying ?cultivation soil (101). It produced a range of pottery sherds dating to the C18th.

7.0 Summary and conclusions

The watching brief has resulted in the exposure and recording of a number of archaeological features; indicating occupation during the post-medieval period (C16th - C18th). Only one feature, [104], has been dated to the medieval period.

The linear ditch [106], it is assumed, was a property and/or field boundary which may have related to a drainage ditch which extended along the edge of Halton Road, and was only recently backfilled (D Smith, *pers. comm.*).

Similar archaeological features have been observed in earlier watching briefs, where the occurrence of medieval pits and other (possibly industrial) features were taken to imply direct occupation on the site possibly towards the frontage (Palmer-Brown 1996). Service trenching during the present project has failed to confirm this suggestion.

8.0 Acknowledgements

Sincere thanks are expressed to the client, Mr D Smith, for commissioning PCA to undertake the brief. Thanks are also due to Jane Young (City of Lincoln Archaeology Unit) for producing the pottery archive.

9.0 Appendices

9.1 Site archive

The site archive, which will be deposited at the City and County Museum, Lincoln, comprises the following elements:

- x 1 project specification
- x 5 record sheets
- x 1 colour print films
- x 5 site drawings
- x 1 box of artefacts (to be retained by the land owner)
- x 1 copy of this report

An ordered archive of the paper element is in preparation and will be deposited with the City and County Museum, Lincoln, within six months of the date of this report. It may be accessed by quoting Global Accession No: LCNCC 170.97.

9.2 Relevant entries from the County Sites and Monuments Record

Ref.	Description	NGR
T	Roman pottery scatter	SK 428652
U	Medieval pottery scatter; found in field adjacent to church in 1963	SK 426668
AF	Moat House, Sir Christopher Wray (1524 - 92); possessed a castellation mansion surrounded by a moat. Present house = early 19th century farmhouse	SK 42616642
AG	Homestead moat + other earthworks seen on aerial photographs; earthworks probably constitute village shrinkage	SK 42756705

9.3 References

- | | | |
|--------------------------|------|--|
| Dept. of the Environment | 1990 | 'Archaeology and Planning' <i>Planning Policy Guidance Note 16</i> |
| IFA | 1994 | <i>Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs</i> |
| Morris J (gen. ed.) | 1986 | <i>Domesday Book: Lincolnshire</i> |
| Pevsner N and Harris J | 1989 | <i>The Buildings of England: Lincolnshire</i> |

- Palmer-Brown CPH 1996 *Land off Halton Road, Ashby by Partney (Plot 1)*
(unpublished)
- Palmer-Brown, CPH 1995 *Land off Halton Road, Ashby by Partney (Plot 2)*
(unpublished)
- Straw A 1969 *Lincolnshire Soils*

Plate 1



Plate 2



Plate 3



Plate 1: General view, looking north, during foundation trenching

Plate 2: Feature [104] looking south-east

Plate 3: Ditch [106] looking north

9.5 Post-Roman pottery archive by J Young

POST-ROMAN POTTERY AND TILE ARCHIVE: ABP97 WARE TYPES BY CONTEXT

Context	Ware	Sherds	Form	Comments
100	BERTH	1	HOLLOW	BASE;? 18TH BOLINGBROKE
100	LPM	1	-	BLUE BAND
100	MEDLOC	1	JAR/JUG	BS;GLZE
100	MEDLOC	1	JAR/JUG	BS;NO GLZE
100	MEDLOC	1	JAR/JUG	BS;NO GLZE
100	MEDLOC	3	JAR	BS 7 BASE;UNGLZE;SOOT
100	PGE	1	HOLLOW	BS;BLACK EXT SURF;? 18TH BOLINGBROKE
100	PMLOC	1	BOWL	BS
100	RGRE	1	HOLLOW	BS;BLACK EXT SURF;? 18TH BOLINGBROKE
100	TB	1	BOWL	BASE
100	TB	1	BOWL	BS
100	TB	1	BOWL	RIM
100	TB	1	BOWL	RIM
100	TB	1	BOWL	RIM
100	TB	1	BOWL	RIM;BLACK EXT SURF;? 18TH BOLINGBROKE
100	TB	1	JAR/JUG	BS
100	TGE	1	HOLLOW	PEDESTAL BASE;BL/W DEC
100	WS	1	HOLLOW	-
101	BERTH	1	JAR;STORAGE	RIM;16-18TH
101	MEDLOC	1	JAR	BS;SOOT;NO GLZE
101	MEDX	1	JAR	RIM;NO GLZE;FABRIC INCLUDES ABUNDANT QUARTZ & FE + COMM CHALK
101	PGE	1	BOWL	RIM;ODD PRE FIRE CUTS ON RIM FLANGE; ? 18TH BOLINGBROKE
101	PMLOC	1	CLOSED	BS;SPL GLZE
101	RGRE	1	BOWL	BASE;? 18TH BOLINGBROKE
101	RGRE	1	JAR?	RIM
101	TB	1	?	BASE;NO GLZE
101	TB	1	?	BASE;NO GLZE
101	TB	1	?	BASE;NO GLZE
101	TB	1	BOWL	BASE
101	TB	1	BOWL	BASE
101	TB	1	BOWL	BS
101	TB	1	BOWL	BS
101	TB	1	BOWL	BS
101	TB	1	BOWL	BS
101	TB	1	JUG/CISTERN	BS;OVAL GRID STAMPED STRIP;16TH
101	TB	1	JUG/JAR	BS
101	TB	1	JUG/JAR	BS
101	TB	1	JUG/JAR	BS
101	TOY	1	JUG	BS;? ID;NO GLZE
103	MEDX	1	BOWL	RIM;SHELL FABRIC + QUARTZ; SOOT INT & EXT
105	BERTH	1	BOWL	RIM;16TH?
105	MEDLOC	1	JAR/JUG	BS;NO GLZE
105	MEDLOC	1	JAR/JUG	BS;NO GLZE
105	MEDLOC	1	JAR/JUG	BS;NO GLZE;SOOT
105	MEDLOC	1	JAR/JUG	BS;NO GLZE;SOOT
105	MEDLOC	1	JAR/JUG	BS;NO GLZE;SOOT

105	MEDLOC	1	JUG	BS;GLZE;
105	MEDX	1	JAR	BS;NO GLZE;THIN RIDGED WALLS; FABRIC INCL. CHALK
105	TB	1	?	BASE;INT DEP;SOOT;? OR TOY
105	TB	1	BOWL	BS
105	TB	1	JAR/JUG	BS
105	TB	1	JAR/JUG	BS
105	TB	1	JAR/JUG	BS
105	TB	1	JUG	LHJ; OR TOY
105	TB	1	JUG/CIST	BS
105	UNGS	1	JAR	SOOT;FABRIC INCL. CA
105	UNGS	1	BOWL	RIM;DR2;? DATE;SOOT
108	BERTH	1	BOWL	RIM;OR GRE;? 18TH BOLINGBROKE
108	BERTH	1	BOWL	RIM;OR GRE;? 18TH BOLINGBROKE
108	MISC	1	JAR	SOOT;LOCAL;? DATE;NO GLZE
108	MISC	1	JAR	SOOT;NON LOCAL;FABRIC INCLUDES MICA; ? DATE;NO GLZE
108	PGE	1	BOWL	RIM;? 18TH BOLINGBROKE
108	PGE	1	BOWL	RIM;DR1;? 18TH BOLINGBROKE
108	PMLOC	1	BOWL	BASE;INT GLZE
108	PMLOC	1	CLOSED	BS;NO GLZE
108	RGRE	1	BOWL	BASE;WORN UNDER BASE EDGE;
108	RGRE	1	BOWL	BS;? 18TH BOLINGBROKE
108	RGRE	1	BOWL	BS;? 18TH BOLINGBROKE
108	RGRE	1	CLOSED	BS;? 18TH BOLINGBROKE
108	RGRE	2	CLOSED	BASE;? 18TH BOLINGBROKE
108	STMO	1	CLOSED	BASE;? STAFFS
108	TB	1	BOWL	BS
108	TB	1	BOWL	BS
108	TB	1	BOWL	BS
108	TB	1	BOWL	RIM
108	TB	1	BOWL	RIM
108	TOYII	1	JUG	OR TB;LMED OR EARLY PMED;RIM
108	TOYII	1	JUG	RIM;OR TB;LMED OR EARLY PMED;UJJ
108	PANT	1		

POST-ROMAN POTTERY ARCHIVE: ABP97 HORIZON DATING

Context	Earliest horizon	Latest horizon	Probable horizon	Date range
100	EMH OR PMH9	EMH OR PMH9	-	modern or 18th
101	PMH8		PMH9	-
103	MH3		MH7	-
105	PMH3		PMH6	-
108	PMH8		PMH9	-