

97/11

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL  
WATCHING BRIEF REPORT**

**Main Street, Walcot, Lincolnshire**

Site Code: ASW 97  
LCNCC Acc No. 218.97  
NGR: TF ~~06200~~ 35150  
Planning Ref. N/69/0086/97

Lincolnshire County Council  
Archaeology Section

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Report prepared for Mr D Anderson by SC Johnson  
November 1997

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Fig. 1 1: 10,000 site location map section

Fig. 2 1: 1250 site outline plan

Fig. 3 1: 50 plan of house foundation (incorporating location of archaeological section drawings)

Fig. 4 Archaeological section drawings at 1:20

*Summary*

- \* *A standard archaeological watching brief was carried out during groundworks for a detached house and garage on land off Main Street, Walcot, Lincolnshire.*
- \* *Monitoring of the groundworks resulted in the collection of a small assemblage of pottery sherds dated between the fifteenth and twentieth centuries, and the recording of two stone walls; interpreted as property/field boundaries*



**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 Anderson during groundworks for a detached house and garage on land fronting Main Street, Walcot, Lincolnshire (Fig.'s 1 and 2). The brief was commissioned to fulfil a planning requirement issued by North Kesteven District Council.

## 2.0 Location and description

Walcot is in the administrative district of North Kesteven approximately 10km south of Sleaford, 11 km east of Grantham. It is served by the A52 which links Grantham with Boston and the A15 Sleaford to Bourne road.

The site is centred at TF ~~506200~~ ~~35150~~ opposite Laurel Farm on the eastern edge of the village. The solid geology is primarily comprised of Upper Esturine Beds and undivided Lincolnshire Limestone (BGS Sheet 127: Grantham) with brown calcareous soils (Straw 1969, 7). The site showed little topographical variation prior to the development; it lies at an altitude approximately 47 m. OD.

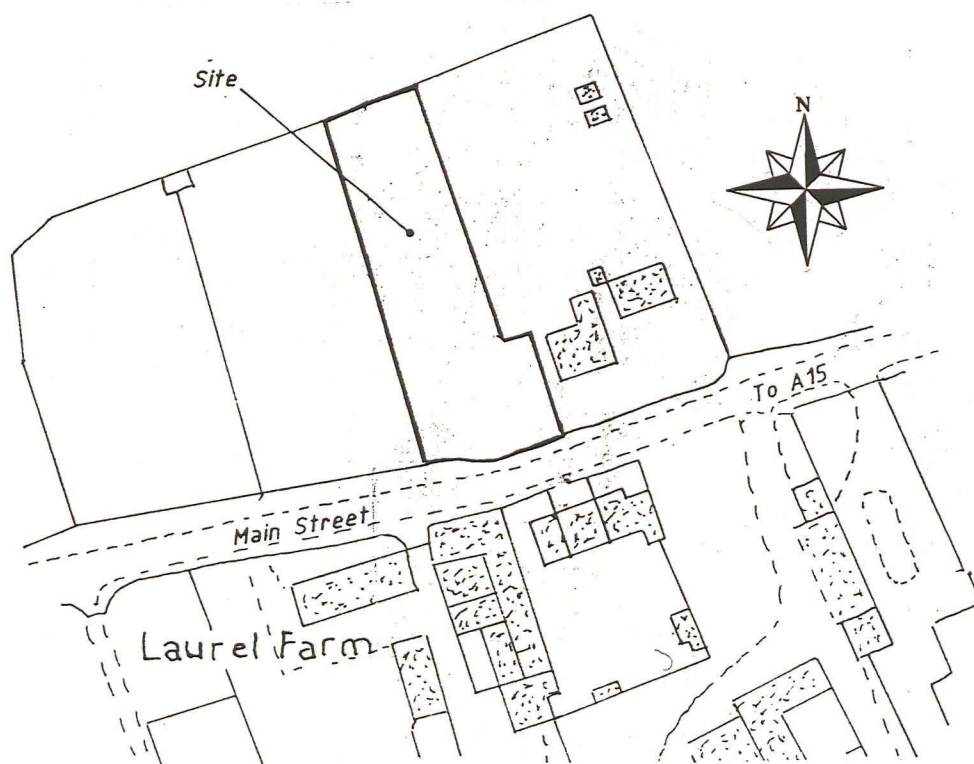


Fig. 2: Site outline plan at scale 1: 1250 (supplied by the client)

### 3.0 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 development 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 effectively preserved *by record*.

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"

An archaeological condition was attached to an outline application (1001/92), requiring the undertaking of a watching brief during the course of the development. The Heritage Officer of North Kesteven subsequently issued a project brief detailing the level and scope of the archaeological intervention to be maintained on all groundworks.

A watching brief may be defined as follows:

*'An archaeological watching brief is defined as a programme of observation and investigation conducted during the destruction of archaeological deposits, resulting in the preparation of a report and ordered archive'* (IFA, 1994, 1)

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 (at scale 1:20) and photography. The development impact was plotted at 1:50 and 1:500 with locations of representative sections.

Following the completion of the fieldwork, artefactual remains were washed and processed in house prior to submission for specialist appraisal/archive. A detailed site

archive is in preparation, and this will be submitted to the City and County Museum, Lincoln within six months following project completion.

This report will form a subsequent entry within the County Sites and Monuments Record (SMR), and the parish file held by the Heritage Officer for North Kesteven, thus adding to the information available for future resource management within the district.

The watching brief was undertaken by the writer.

#### **4.0 Archaeological and historical background**

The origins and development of Walcot are largely unknown owing to a lack of academic interest and systematic fieldwork. Like so many small villages, however, there is information in the County SMR indicating that the settlement lies close to an area that has been settled since prehistoric times.

Parish records at the SMR relate exclusively to the medieval period. The Royal Commission has plotted a number of earthwork features from aerial photographs which suggest that the village has undergone a degree of shrinkage. The present settlement is surrounded by large areas of ridge and furrow produced by medieval cultivation practices. In the north part of the village is the site of Walcot Manor which was of moated form with an associated fishpond.

The origins of the settlement are not known but there is an entry in the Domesday Survey of 1086 under the name of *Walecote* which is Old English for 'cottage(s) of the Britons' (Mills, 1993, 343). The only extant medieval structure in the village is the parish church, dedicated to St Nicholas, which retains some Romanesque decoration and the remains of the village cross (Pevsner and Harris 1989, 780).

No references have been found to finds which may signify earlier settlement, but the remains of a Bronze Age round barrow and Romano-British villa are known in the neighbouring parish of Newton and Haceby.

#### **5.0 Results**

The foundations for the house and garage consisted of standard strip footings excavated by 180° plant fitted with a 600mm toothed bucket. The foundation trenches were dug to the underlying natural limestone, approximately 1.20m below reduced ground level.

##### **5.1 House**

Trenching for the main house resulted in the collection of a small pottery assemblage dated to between fifteenth and the present century. The typical weathering profile exposed (Fig.3 and 4B) comprised:



Context	Depth	Description
(100)	>300mm	Humic, undifferentiated dark earth (clay-loam)
(101)	420mm	Mid grey-brown clay-loam with well sorted limestone inclusions and charcoal flecks
(102)	500mm	Red-brown sandy clay with occasional limestone grit/pea gravel inclusions
(103)	>400mm	Natural undivided Lincolnshire Limestone

Context (100) represents the recent topsoil horizon sealing the site which was stripped of rough vegetation prior to foundation trenching. The underlying deposit, (101), appeared to be an accumulated cultivation horizon and produced a small assemblage of pottery dating between the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries. The underlying subsoil (102) and Limestone (103) were natural geological divisions.

The western and northern foundation trenches truncated the foundations of two walls of dry stone construction (Fig. 3 and 4A, C and D).

The first wall exposed, (104), extended throughout the west section of the west foundation and was sectioned by the foundation for the chimney. The second wall, (105), was exposed in the north foundation trench. This entered the impact area through the east section and ended abruptly with a stop-end within the back porch area.

Both walls were trench-built and were made from thin field stones up to 200mm long. They were bonded with yellow sandy clay (104)a/(105)a, but this was interpreted as disturbed natural; modified by leaching and oxidation rather than a cementing compound *per se*. Wall (105) remained undated, but (104) was associated with sherds dating between the fifteenth and seventeenth centuries. No associated floor or occupation deposits were observed and the walls are interpreted as property and/or field boundaries, possibly associated with an extinct croft.

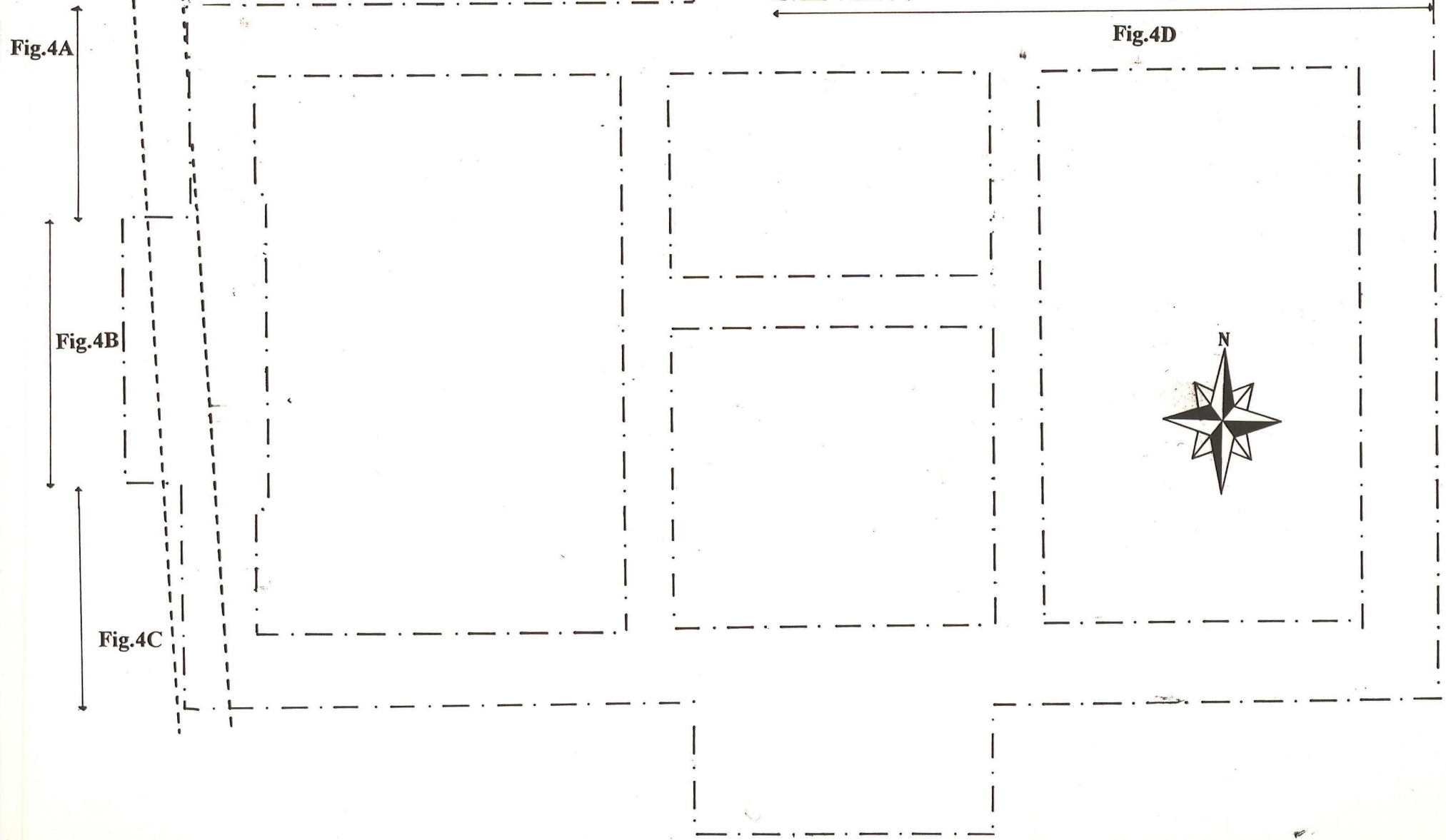
## 5.2 Garage and service trench

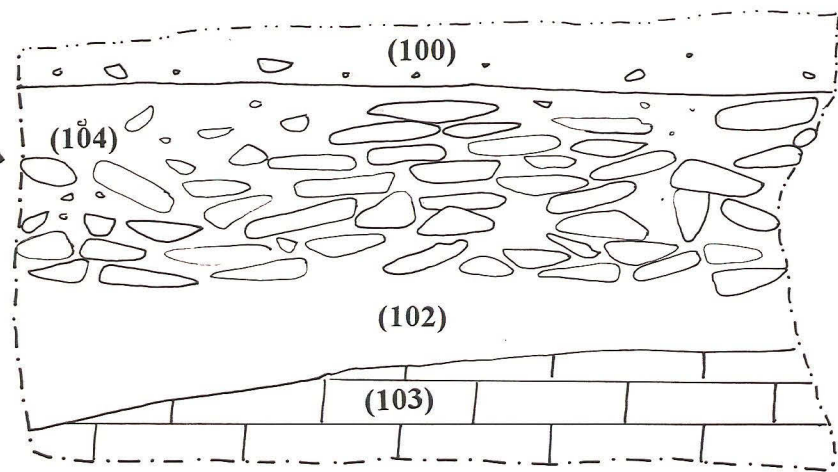
The detached garage was positioned south-east of the main building, and was also built using standard strip foundations.

A single service trench, extending from the front porch area of the main house to the road, was excavated with a 450mm bucket to a depth approximately 650mm beneath the modern ground surface.

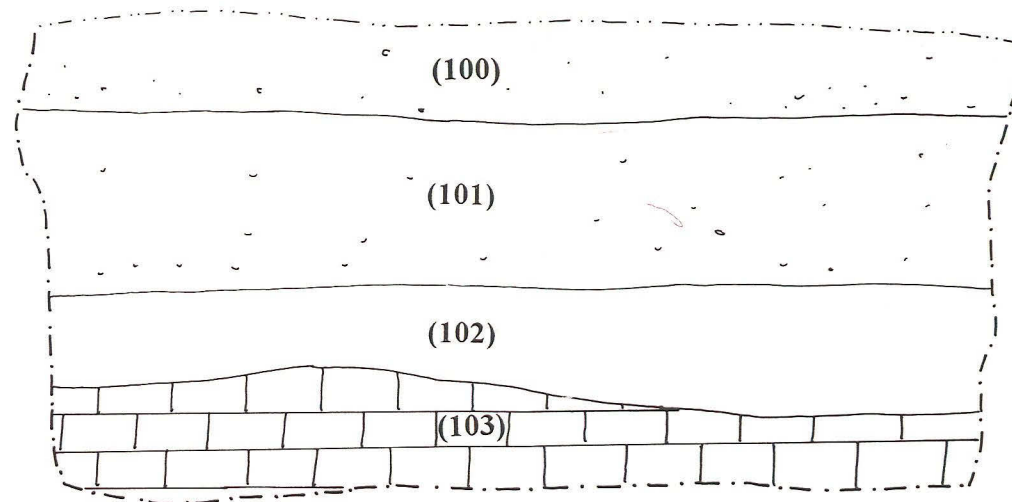
No archaeological features were exposed within these groundworks.

**Fig.3: Plan of Foundation Trenches of house with locations of representative sections, scale 1:50**

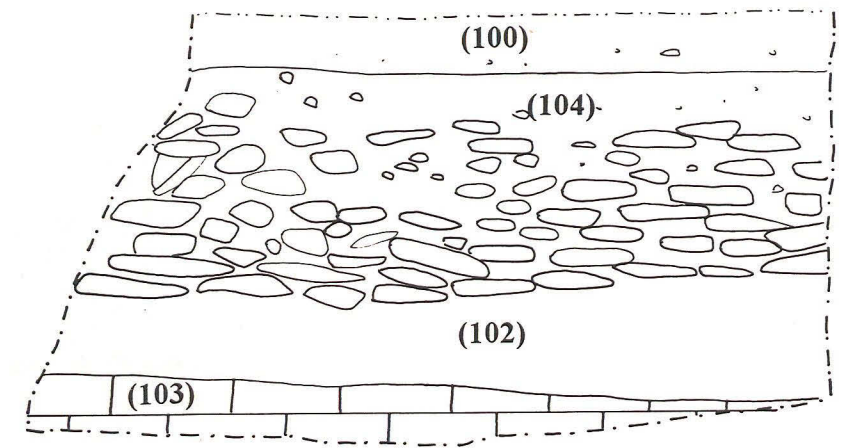




A

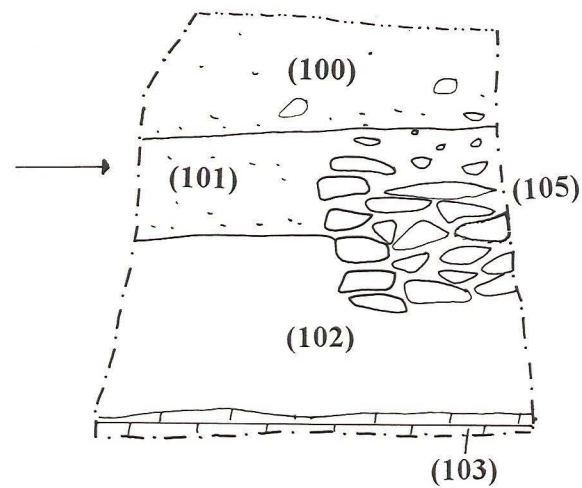


B

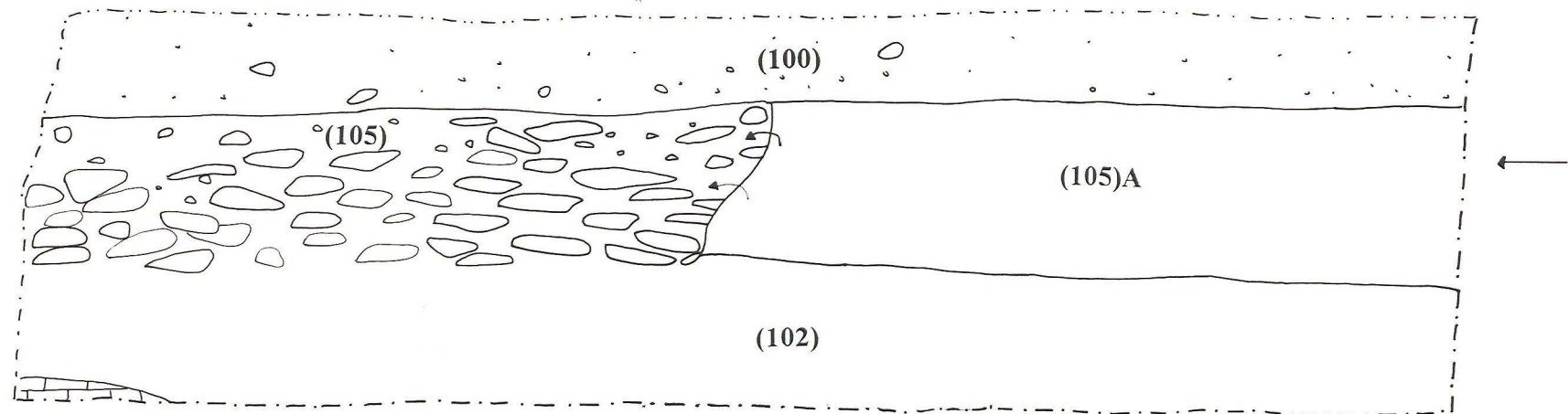


C

Fig.4: Representative Sections, scale 1:20 (see Fig.3 for locations)



D



## **6.0 Summary and conclusions**

The development has resulted in only a minor impact to buried archaeological resources. Two post-medieval stone walls, exposed during foundation trenching, indicate the proximity of other structures of this date; possibly buildings.

## **7.0 Acknowledgements**

Sincere thanks are expressed to the client, Mr D Anderson, for commissioning PCA to undertake the brief. Thanks are also due to Jane Young who produced the pottery archive.

**8.0 Appendices**

## 8.1 Post-Roman pottery archive by J Young

Context	Ware	Sherds	Form	Comments
100	LPM	1	-	BLK/W DEC
100	LSTON	1	STORAGE JAR/BOTTLE	19TH
100	BS	1	?	19TH
100	BS	1	JUG	HANDLE;18/19TH
100	BL	1	LID;TEAPOT	19/20TH
100	LERTH	1	BOWL	RIM;PROB BL;18/19TH
100	TB	1	?	BASE
100	TB	1	?	BASE
100	BL	1	JAR;STORAGE	18/19TH
100	BL	1	BOWL	18TH
100	PMLOC	1	?	BS
101	BL	1	BOWL	INT GLZE;17/18TH
101	BL	1	BOWL	INT GLZE;17/18TH
101	TB	1	BOWL	BS
101	TB	1	JAR	RIM;? TOYII
104	BOU	1	JUG/JAR	BS
104	BOUA	1	BOWL	BS;INT GLZE
104	BOUA	1	?	? ID;BURNT

### POST-ROMAN POTTERY ARCHIVE: AWS97 HORIZON DATING

Context	Earliest horizon	Latest horizon	Probable horizon	Date range
100	EMH	EMH	-	19th-20th
101	PMH5	PMH8	-	17th to 18th
104	MH10	PMH5	-	15th to 17th

## 8.2 Site archive

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

### paper element:

- x 1 project specification
- x 1 project brief
- x 3 record sheets
- x 1 general account sheet
- x 1 colour print film
- x 1 composite sheet of site drawings
- x 1 copy of this report

### object element:

- x3 Bags misc. pottery sherds

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 218.97.

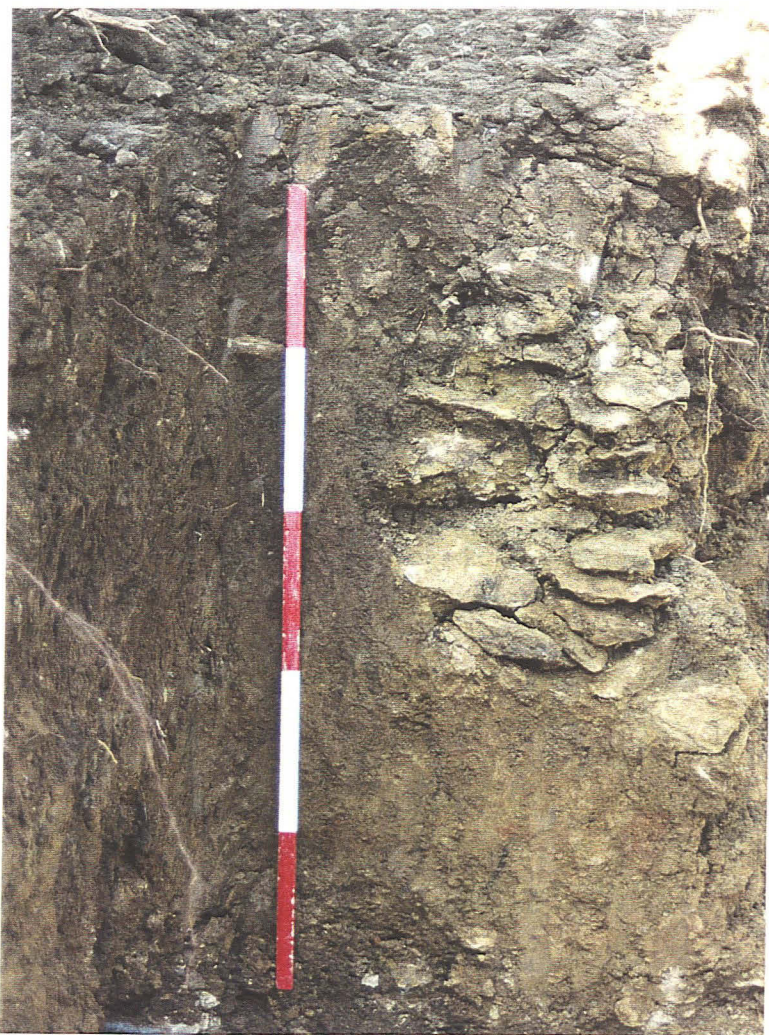
## 8.3 References

- |                          |      |  |
|--------------------------|------|--|
| 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>                                 |
| Mills AD                 | 1993 | <i>English Place Names</i>   |
| Pevsner N & Harris J     | 1989 | 'Lincolnshire' <i>The Buildings of England</i>                     |
| Straw A                  | 1969 | <i>Lincolnshire Soils</i>  |

#### 8.4 Colour photographs



P1. General view following upper topsoil clearance and during initial trenching, looking north



P2. Wall [105] sectioned in north foundation trench, looking east