



LINDSEY ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES

89 VAL 3

neg. 98/1

**Land Off Orby Road, Burgh le Marsh, Lincolnshire**

**Archaeological Watching Brief**

**NGR TF: 5001 6507**

**Site Code: BOR 97**

**LCNCC Museum Accn. No. 277.97**

**Planning No. S/023/0837/97**

**Report prepared for**

**Mr and Mrs P. A. Price**

**January 1998**

**Report No 274**

25 WEST PARADE · LINCOLN · LN1 1NW

TELEPHONE 01522 544554 · FACSIMILE 01522 522211 · EMAIL [las@lasarchaeology.demon.co.uk](mailto:las@lasarchaeology.demon.co.uk)

PARTNERS: F.N.FIELD B.A.(Hons), MIFA · M.V.CLARK

Lincolnshire County Council  
Archaeology Section

2 3. JAN 98

12 Friars Lane  
LINCOLN LN2 5AL

01522 575292 Fax: 01522 530724



## **Contents**

|                                      |   |
|--------------------------------------|---|
| <i>Summary</i>                       | 1 |
| Introduction                         | 1 |
| Site Description                     | 1 |
| Archaeological Background            | 1 |
| Watching Brief                       | 1 |
| Discussion and Conclusion            | 3 |
| Acknowledgements                     | 3 |
| Reference                            |   |
| Appendix 1: Contents of Site Archive |   |

## Figures

Fig 1: a) Location of Burgh-le-Marsh (reproduced from the Ordnance Survey 1:250 000 map). b) The development site (reproduced from the Ordnance Survey 1:10,000 map sheet no. 56 NW). O.S. crown copyright reproduced with the permission of the controller of HMSO. LAS Licence No. AL50424A.

Fig 2: The proposed development reproduced from a plan supplied by the developer (Dwg. No 97/5/731).

Fig 3: Location of footing (reproduced from a plan supplied by the developer Dwg. No 97/5/731)

## Plates

Pl. 1 Development area prior to vegetation stripping looking SW.

Pl. 2 Development area after vegetation stripping looking S.

Pl. 3 Section of cutting for access road looking SW.

Pl. 4 Topsoil stripping in area of dwelling

Pl. 5 Eastern corner of the footings looking SE

Pl. 6 Northern corner of the footings looking N.

Pl. 7 Chalk deposit at the base of the southern most trench

Pl. 8 Completed foundation trenches looking southwest.

## **Land Off Orby Road, Burgh le Marsh, Lincolnshire Archaeological Watching Brief**

TF: 5001 6507

Site Code: BOR 97

Planning No, S/023/0837/97

### **Summary**

*A watching brief was carried out during the excavation of footings for a single house and an access road at Burgh le Marsh, Lincolnshire. This recovered one unstratified sherd of medieval pottery from a hedge line and two unstratified sherds of Roman pottery. No archaeological features were located during the watching brief.*

### **Introduction**

Lindsey Archaeological Services was commissioned by Mr and Mrs P.A. Price to undertake an archaeological watching brief at land off Orby Road, Burgh le Marsh. The proposed development consisted of the construction of a single dwelling and an access road.

The archaeological work was undertaken in response to a condition placed on the planning application reference S/023/0837/97, dated 30/06/97. The watching brief was carried out on the 15th, 17th, 20th and 21st October 1997 by the author.

### **Site Description**

Burgh le Marsh lies on the edge of the Upper and Lower Cretaceous chalk deposits of the Lincolnshire Wolds. In this vicinity it is covered by boulder clay containing redeposited chalk.

The application area lies on the north-western edge of the modern settlement of Burgh le Marsh. The site was heavily overgrown (Pl.1) and is bounded on three sides by hedges which separated the site from Orby road to the north and from residential development to the south and west. A small fence forms the eastern boundary, separating this site from further residential development. The development site lies on higher ground than plots to the east and west and to the north there is a 1.5m drop to the road. A small electricity substation lies beyond the northern limit of the site.

### **Archaeological Background**

Numerous finds dating to the Romano-British period have been made in Burgh-le-Marsh and the surrounding area. A tentative reconstruction of the coast line by Simmons (1993) suggests that Burgh was a coastal settlement in the Roman period. The application area lies to the south-east of Orby Road, a possible Roman road.



The medieval settlement was probably focused to the south-east, around the church and market square. No medieval finds have been located in the area of the development.

### **Watching Brief**

Vegetation was stripped from the area of the proposed development using a JCB with a toothless dyking bucket (Pl.2). The area was inspected during this operation but nothing of archaeological significance were found.

An access ramp was cut at the north eastern side of the site through the hedge line. This ramp was graded from the ground surface down to the road. 0.30m of topsoil overlay a light brown silty sand containing redeposited chalk (Pl.3). The top 0.40m was heavily disturbed by the roots of the hedge which formed the southern boundary. A single piece of medieval pottery was recovered from the heavily disturbed upper deposit. No features were observed during this operation.

The area of the dwelling was stripped of topsoil. The topsoil contained large amounts of modern rubbish, including bricks and other building debris. The watching brief produced no evidence of a previous building on the site and it is probable that the area was used as a dumping ground.

During topsoil stripping, features associated with the modern garden were uncovered. A concrete path, approximately 50mm thick lying immediately below the vegetation and surrounding the site was found. A small water pipe with a ceramic cover was also identified immediately below the vegetation. This had previously run from the house beyond the eastern boundary of the development to serve a garden.

The footings for the house were excavated to a depth between 1m and 1.50m (Pl. 5 and 6). The greater depths were excavated in order counter the effects of trees in close proximity to the proposed building.

The stratigraphy in the building footings consisted of topsoil sealing a varying depth of mid brown slightly sandy silty clay. To the south this clay was approximately 0.20m (Pl. 4) thick increasing north and westward to 1.50m thick (Pl. 5). This may have been a levelling deposit. The deposit overlay an orange-brown silty-clay with redeposited chalk fragments. At the interface between these two deposits (at a depth of approximately 1.10m) in the SW of the foundation trenches, two sherds of Roman pottery were retrieved. Indicating the overlying deposit was post-Roman build up.

Running through the southern footing was a deposit of chalk (Pl. 8), approximately 2m wide, below the orange-brown silty clay, There was no evidence to suggest that it was deliberately laid, although it may have





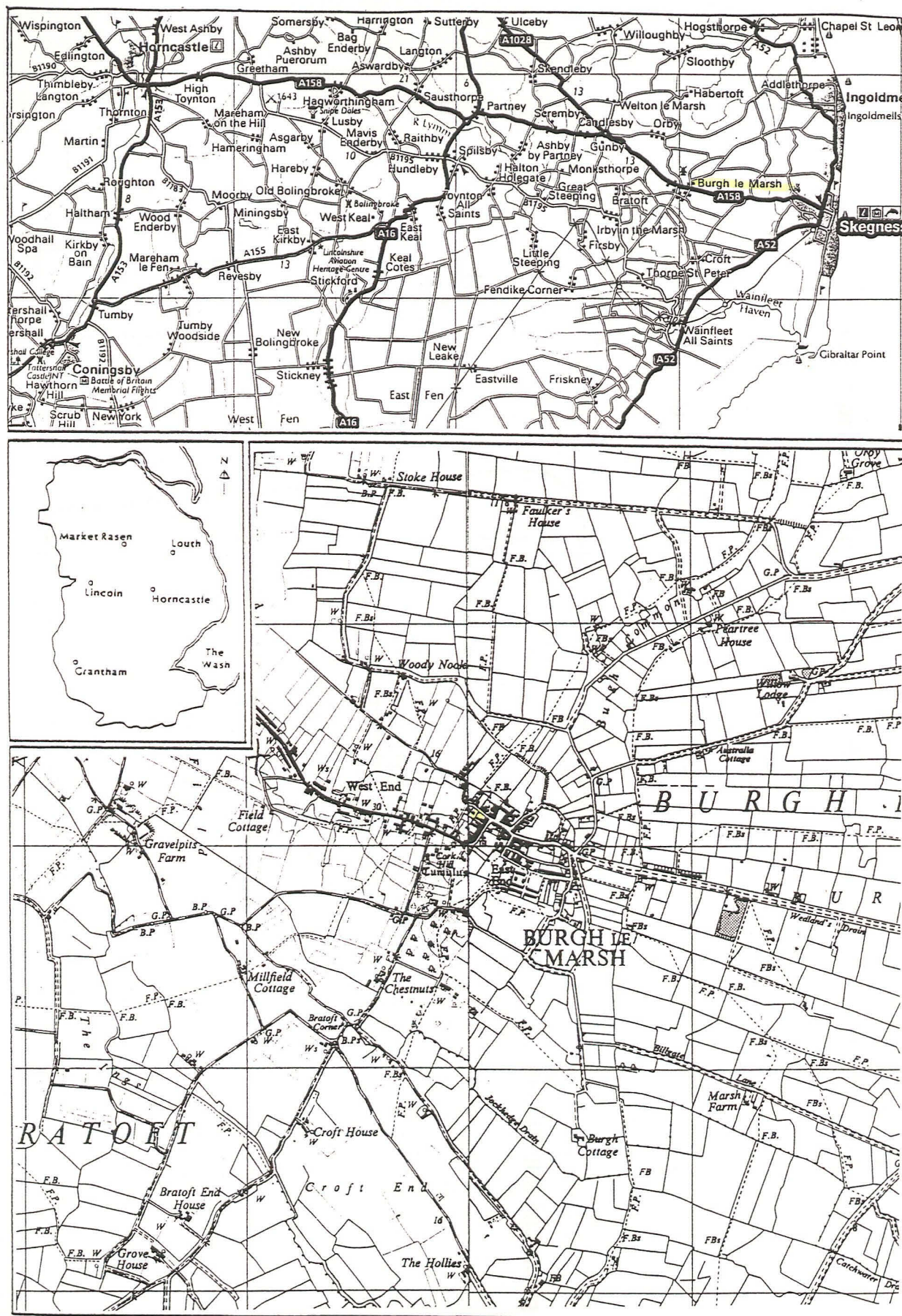


Fig 1: a) Location of Burgh-le-Marsh (reproduced from the Ordnance Survey 1:250 000 map). b) The development site (reproduced from the Ordnance Survey 1:10,000 map sheet no. 56 NW). O.S. crown copyright reproduced with the permission of the controller of HMSO. LAS Licence No. AL50424A.



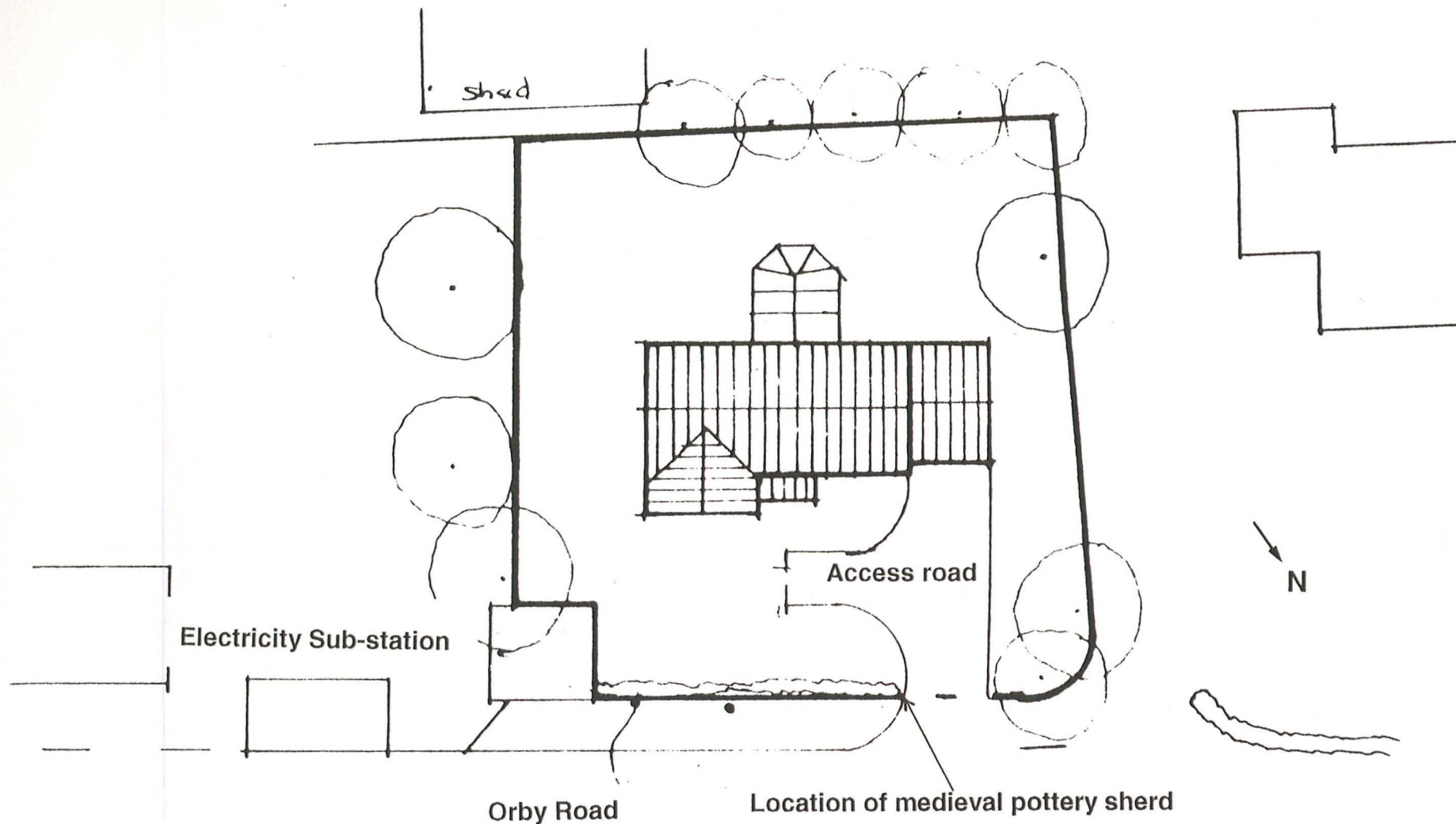


Fig 2: The proposed development reproduced from a plan supplied by the developer (Dwg. No 97/5/731).







Pl. 1 Development area prior to vegetation stripping looking SW.

Pl. 2 Development area after vegetation stripping looking S.







Pl. 3 Section of cutting for access road looking SW.

Pl. 4 Topsoil stripping in area of dwelling







Pl. 5 Eastern corner of the footings looking SE

Pl. 6 Northern corner of the footings looking N.







Pl. 7 Chalk deposit at the base of the southern most trench

Pl. 8 Completed foundation trenches looking southwest.

