

SMR

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**ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF REPORT  
GRANGE FARM, GRAYINGHAM**

Site Code: GYG 97  
LCNCC Acc No. 238.97  
NGR SK 9565 9558  
Planning Ref. 97/P/0733

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Report prepared for Ermine Farms Ltd. by  
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January 1998

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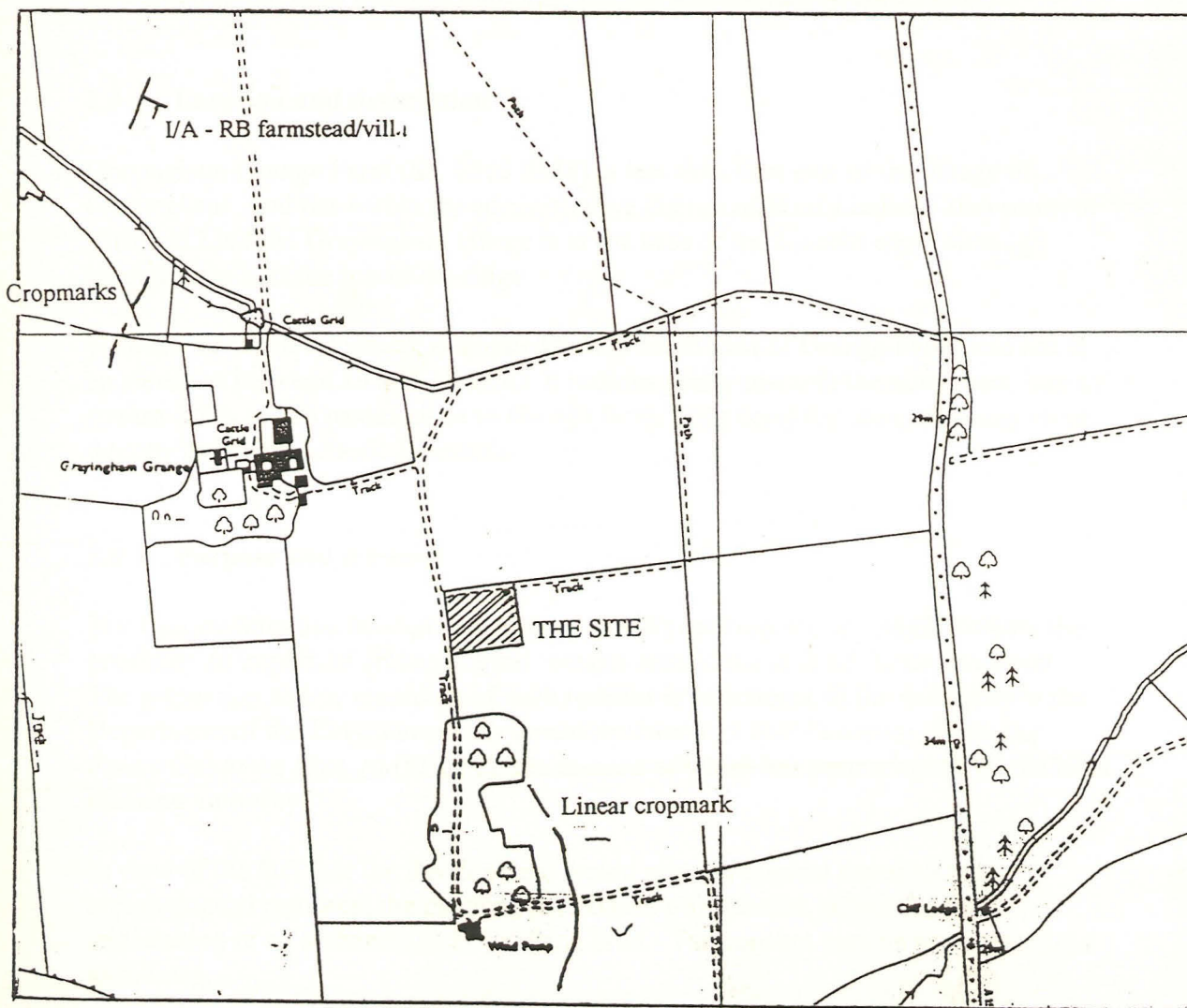
## Illustrations

Fig. 1 1: 10,000 site location, incorporating entries from SMR

Fig. 2 Developments plan showing phases of stripping and location of magnetic anomaly

*Summary*

- \* *An archaeological recording brief took place during the groundworks for seven agricultural steel framed pig sheds at Grayingham Grange Farm, Grayingham, Lincolnshire (Fig. 1)*
- \* *There sherds of Romano-British pottery and two possible struck flints were recovered as surface/unstratified finds, although no archaeological features were exposed.*
- \* *An early termination of the brief was sought and approved after a magnetic anomaly (recorded during an earlier geophysical survey) was proved to be of geological and not archaeological origin.*



**Fig. 1: Site location at 1:10,000**

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## 1.0 Introduction

Pre-Construct Archaeology (Lincoln) undertook a standard archaeological watching brief for Ermine Farms Ltd during the groundworks for seven steel-framed sheds for the rearing of pigs at Grayingham Grange Farm, Grayingham, Lincolnshire. These works followed an earlier field evaluation of the site, which identified a possible magnetic anomaly which appeared to be on the same alignment as a known cropmark (a prehistoric linear boundary).

This report represents the final phase of an investigation comprising **a)** a field evaluation (geophysical survey and gridded field walking, and **b)** a follow-on watching brief. A copy of the report will be deposited at the County Sites and Monuments Record (SMR), and a short summary account will be submitted to the editor of the county archaeological journal, *Lincolnshire History and Archaeology*, effectively placing the information in the public domain. Copies of the developer report will be forwarded to the local planning authority and the Lincolnshire Archives Office.

## 2.0 Location and description

Grayingham Grange Farm (SK 9565 9558) is less than 1km east of the village of Grayingham, and lies within the administrative district of West Lindsey, 2km south of Kirton in Lindsey. Grayingham village is at the base of the Lincoln edge, although Grange farm is at the top of the ridge.

The site of the development is situated 0.5km south-east of Grange Farm, and lies at an elevation between 39 and 42m OD: it inclines gently towards the north-east, into a stream valley which passes close to Grange farm. Soils comprise stony thin silty clays, directly overlying Jurassic limestone.

## 3.0 Purpose and methods

The County Sites and Monuments Record (SMR) contains entries which indicate the proximity of important archaeological remains around the area of the development. The protection and/or recording of such remains is paramount to the principles in the Department of the Environment document *Archaeology and Planning: Planning Policy Guidance Note 16* (PPG16), the essence of which has been adopted by the local planning authority.

In view of the fact that the development would pose a potential threat to the archaeological resource, the planning permission was granted, subject to the undertaking of an archaeological watching brief. The concept may be broadly 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'* (Institute of Field Archaeologists draft on Standard Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs, 1993.)

Monitoring consisted of observation and recording during soil stripping and during the excavation of an effluent tank, followed by inspection and cleaning of section faces. These works were carried out by J. Albone and the writer.

Basic archaeological recording was undertaken using standard proforma Context Record Sheets (incorporating physical descriptions, interpretations and stratigraphic relationships). Photographic recording was also undertaken, with some prints being reproduced in this report.

Observation points were plotted on 1:500 development plans (supplied by the client) and these, as well as the remainder of the paper element, will form the long-term project archive (to be submitted at the City and County Museum, Lincoln, within 6 months of project completion).

A limited range of unstratified artefacts (abraded Romano-British pottery and flint) were recovered.

#### **4.0 Archaeological and Historic Background**

During the prehistoric periods (the so-called Stone, Bronze, and Iron Ages) the area surrounding Grayingham appears to have been intensively occupied or used by human communities, although these early phases are poorly understood. Late Neolithic and Bronze age activity is indicated by surface finds such as stone axes (these were used extensively in the Neolithic period (c. 4000BC - 2500BC) to clear areas of forest as well as manage woodland in stock-rearing areas). Cropmarks of ploughed-out round barrows the burial monuments of the succeeding Bronze Age (c. 2500BC - 800BC) are common in this area.

Of note just to the south east of the site are cropmarks of a prehistoric boundary, which it was thought may have extended into the site itself.

The Roman road Ermine Street is approximately 1km east of the development, and coins and pottery of this date found in the area indicate a definite Romano-British presence (there may, for example, be farmsteads located close by); a villa site lies just to the north of the site (SK 9520 9630).

#### **5.0 Results**

The site measured approximately 97.5m east-west, 80m north-south. This area was stripped of its topsoil in two phases. Between October 27 - 28, the northern half was cleared, producing no archaeological results: between December 4 - 5, a large void

was excavated in the centre of the site - the basis for a collection tank for excess water. On January 15, 1998, the southern area of the site was stripped.

Soil stripping of the northern area involved ploughsoil removal, followed by gentle terracing (cut and fill) to compensate for the easterly slope of the land towards Ermine Street. One abraded sherd of Romano-British grey ware pottery was recovered. The ploughsoil comprised approximately 0.3m of light brown silty clay containing fragments of limestone; overlying weathered Jurassic limestone.

The excess water trench measured approximately 10m north/south, 5m east/west, and 2m in depth. Its purpose was to contain a tank that would collect excess fluid from the sheds. Again this produced a negative result, although further unstratified and abraded Romano-British pottery fragments were recovered, as were two (potentially struck) flints.

Stripping of the southern half of the site proved entirely negative. Close inspection during this phase of work suggested that the geophysical anomaly that was identified during the initial site evaluation may have been attributable to natural geological variation, even though a discrete natural feature could not be located.

The recording brief was terminated as soon as the area within which the geophysical anomaly occurred had been cleared of its topsoil down to the underlying natural geology.

The phases of monitoring are indicated on Figure. 2



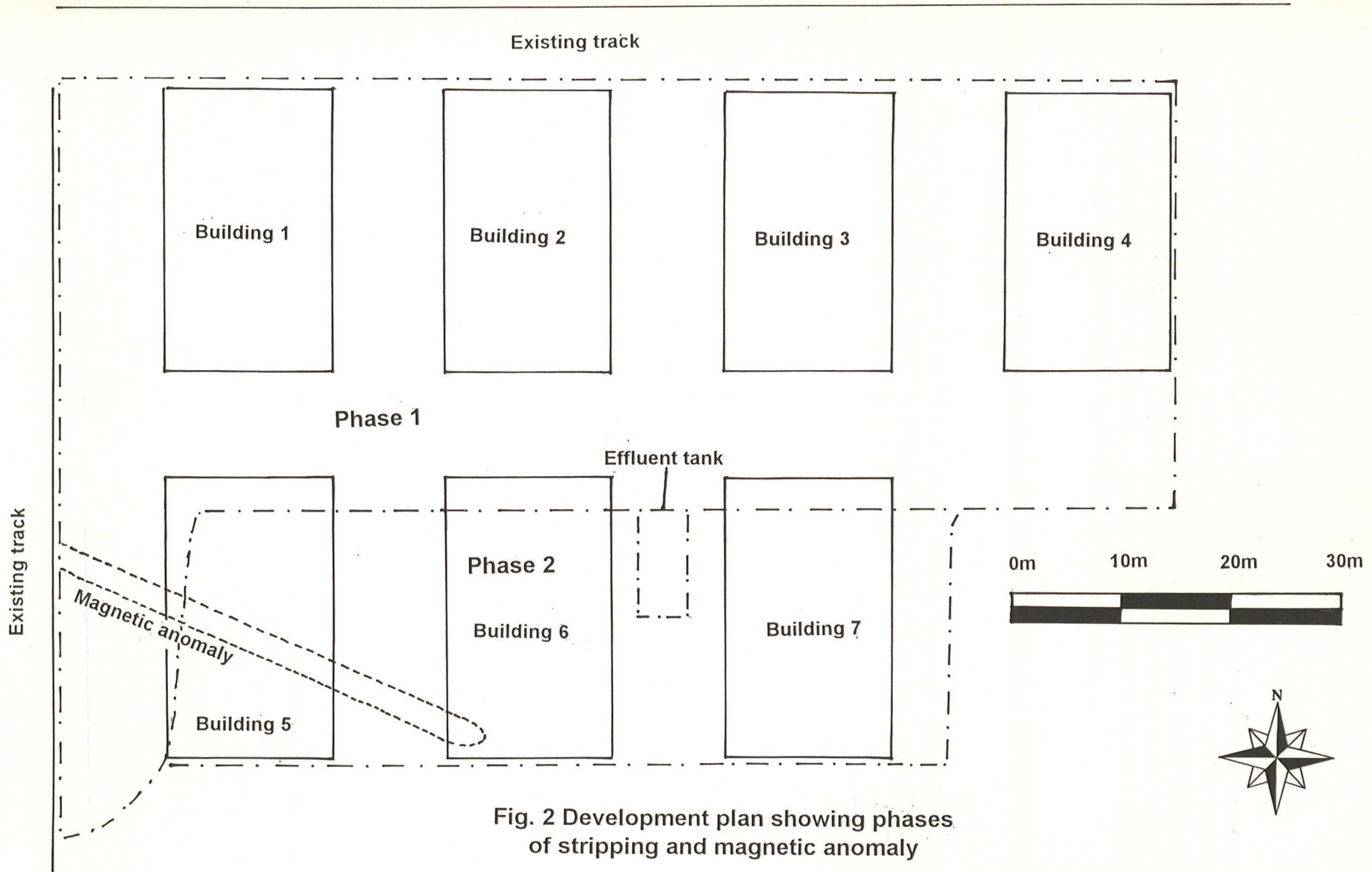


Fig. 2 Development plan showing phases of stripping and magnetic anomaly

## 6.0 Conclusions

The watching brief did not identify any significant archaeological deposits.

Retrospectively, it is suggested that the faint magnetic anomaly recorded at evaluation stage could perhaps have been investigated in a more cost affective way, as suggested in the Field Evaluation Report (Palmer-Brown 1997). That said, it is also noteworthy that the County SMR contains a series of significant entries relating to the vicinity of the site. There always was a possibility, therefore, that widespread excavations in this area would disturb important Romano-British or earlier remains.

## 6.1 Acknowledgements

The writer would like to thank Mrs M.Ward of Ermine Farms Ltd for this commission, and also Mr S. Catney (County Archaeologist) and the staff at the County Sites and Monuments Record for their help and assistance.

**7.0 Appendices:**

**7.1 Site archive**

**7.2 Information derived from the County Sites and Monuments Record**

**7.3 References**

**7.4 Colour photographs**

## 7.1 Site Archive

The site archive consists of :

Paper Element:

- 1 Project Brief
- 1 Project Specification
- 1 Drawing record sheet
- 2 General account sheet
- 2 Context record sheet
- 1 Development plan
- 1 Colour print films

Object Element:

- 3 Sheds Roman pottery
- 2 Struck flints

Primary records are currently with PCA (Lincoln). An ordered archive is in preparation and will be deposited at the City and County Museum, Lincoln, within six months.

## 7.2 Information derived from the County SMR

NGR	Description
SK95859513	Linear cropmark: trackway/ boundary, probably prehistoric
SK95259635	Mesolithic flints
SK95529661	Bronze Age pottery
SK95209630	Iron Age farmstead/Romano-British villa site
SK961958	Worked flint + Romano-British pottery
SK95409595	Romano-British pottery
SK95109610	Cropmarks

## 7.3 References

Palmer-Brown, CPH	1997	<i>Grange Farm, Grayingham: Archaeological Field Evaluation Report</i> (unpublished)
May, J	1976	<i>Prehistoric Lincolnshire</i>

Appendix 7.4 Colour photographs



P1 General view of site looking north-east: Shed No. 3 in background, start of waste tank in foreground



P2 Excavations of waste tank in progress, looking south-east