

97/18

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF
OF DEVELOPMENT ON LAND AT
CHURCH LANE,
BRANT BROUGHTON,
LINCOLNSHIRE
(BCH97)**



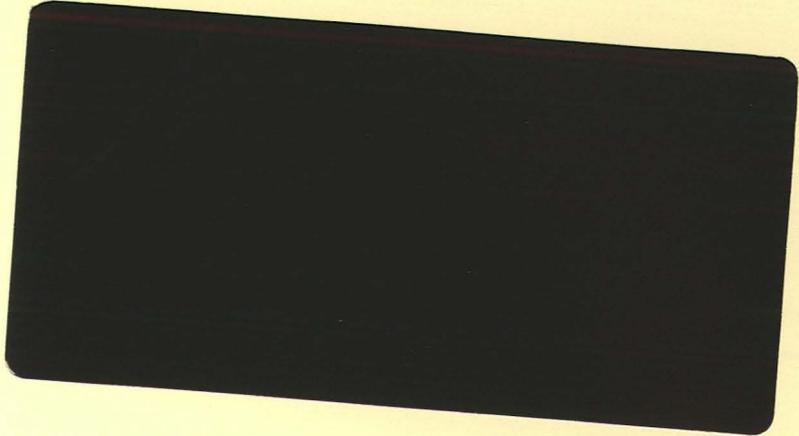
A P S
ARCHAEOLOGICAL
PROJECT
SERVICES

Lincolnshire County Council
Archaeology Section

1 2. DEC 97

12 Friars Lane
LINCOLN LN2 5AL

Tel: 01522 575292 Fax: 01522 530724



Event LI 4633
60781 med.

CONTENTS

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF
OF DEVELOPMENT ON LAND AT
CHURCH LANE,
BRANT BROUGHTON,
LINCOLNSHIRE
(BCH97)**

Work Undertaken For
Mr J Mayfield

December 1997

Report Compiled by
Paul Cope-Faulkner

Planning Application No: N/14/0320/96
National Grid Reference: ~~SK 9159 5402~~
City and County Museum Accession No: 234.97

SK 9152 5414

A.P.S. Report No. 50/97

CONTENTS

List of Figures

1.	Summary	1
2.	Introduction	1
	2.1 Background	1
	2.2 Topography and Geology	1
	2.3 Archaeological Setting	1
3.	Aims	2
4.	Methods	2
5.	Description of the Trenches	2
6.	Discussion	3
7.	Conclusions	4
8.	Acknowledgements	4
9.	Personnel	4
10.	Bibliography	4
11.	Abbreviations	4

Appendices

1	Brief for an Archaeological observation and recording
2	Context Descriptions
3	The Finds <i>Hilary Healey</i>
4	The Archive
5	Glossary

LIST OF FIGURES

List of Figures

Figure 1 . . . General Location Plan

Figure 2 . . . Site Location Plan

Figure 3 . . . Development Plan, showing location of drawn Sections

Figure 4 . . . Sections 1, 2, 3 and 4

1. SUMMARY

An archaeological watching brief undertaken by Archaeological Project Services monitored the excavation of foundation trenches during the construction of a single dwelling on land adjacent to Church Lane, Brant Broughton.

The watching brief was undertaken as the site lay within the medieval (AD 1066-1500) core of the village. Romano-British (AD 50-410) artefacts are also known from the area.

A number of undated features, comprising pits, ditches and a posthole, were recorded during the investigation. Finds retrieved during the watching brief included a range of pottery from the medieval period to the present day.

2. INTRODUCTION

2.1 Background

On the 15th September 1997, an archaeological watching brief was undertaken during the construction of a new house on land adjacent to Church Lane, Brant Broughton, Lincolnshire (National Grid Reference SK 9159 5402). Approval for the development was sought through the submission of Planning Application N/14/0320/96. The work was commissioned by Mr J. Mayfield and carried out by Archaeological Project Services in accordance with a brief set by the North Kesteven Heritage Officer (Appendix 1).

An archaeological watching brief is defined as a 'formal programme of observation and investigation conducted during any operation carried out for non-archaeological purposes within a specified area, where there is a possibility that

archaeological deposits may be disturbed or destroyed.' (IFA 1994, 1).

2.2 Topography and Geology

Brant Broughton is located 19km southwest of Lincoln, and 17km northwest of Sleaford, in the civil parish of Brant Broughton and Stragglethorpe, Lincolnshire (Fig. 1). Church Lane is situated c. 250m north of the village centre, as defined by the parish church of St. Helen.

The site and the immediate surroundings are relatively flat, lying at c. 11m O.D. Local soils are the Blackwood Association, typically deep permeable sandy and coarse loamy soils in glaciofluvial drift (Hodge *et al.* 1984, 127). Southeast of the village, soils are likely to be of the Wickham 2 Association, typically fine loamy over clayey stagnogley soils (*ibid.* 351). The soils are above glaciofluvial sand and gravel that overlie a solid geology of Lower Lias clay (GSGB 1972).

2.3 Archaeological Setting

Brant Broughton is located in an area of known archaeological activity dating mainly from the Romano-British to medieval periods. The Romano-British period is represented by finds of pottery from the High Street (NK 14/3), and coins recovered c. 50m and c. 200m to the north of the site (NK 14/5 and 14/6).

Brant Broughton is first mentioned in the Domesday Survey of 1086. Referred to as 'Burtune' the name is derived from the Old English *Burh-tûn* meaning fortified manor, the Brant element is derived from the name of the nearby river (Ekwall 1974, 70). The Domesday Survey records a church, priest, a mill and 200 acres of meadow with the manor held by Count Alan (Foster and Longley 1976).

Medieval activity at Brant Broughton is evidenced by the 13th century church of St. Helen (Pevsner and Harris 1989, 181) and a series of medieval coins (NK 14/7) have been recovered c. 250m to the north. Extensive earthworks are recorded to the northeast of the village, suggesting evidence for a fishpond complex of similar date (H. Healey *pers comm*).

A dovecote dating from the seventeenth century lies within 250m of the development (Pevsner and Harris, 1989, 183), though the majority of surrounding buildings date from the eighteenth century and later.

3. AIMS

The requirements of the watching brief, as set by the brief (Appendix 1), were to locate and record archaeological deposits, if present, and to determine their date, function and origin.

4. METHODS

The proposed development required the excavation of foundation trenches for new walls to a maximum depth of 1.2m. Prior to excavation of the trenches, topsoil was removed. Following excavation by a mechanical excavator, the sides of all trenches were cleaned and rendered vertical. Selected deposits were partially or fully excavated by hand to determine their nature and to retrieve artefactual material. The depth of each deposit was measured from the present ground surface. Each archaeological deposit or feature revealed within the trench was allocated a unique reference number (context number) with an individual written description. A photographic record was compiled and sections were drawn at a scale of 1:10 or 1:20. Recording of deposits encountered

during the watching brief was undertaken according to standard Archaeological Project Services practice.

5. DESCRIPTION OF THE EXCAVATIONS

Finds recovered from excavated deposits were examined and a period date assigned where possible. Records of the deposits and features recognised during the watching brief were also examined. A list of all contexts and interpretations appears as Appendix 2. Phasing was based on artefact dating and the nature of the deposits and recognisable relationships between them. Three groups of activity were identified:

- Group 1 Natural deposits
- Group 2 Undated deposits
- Group 3 Modern deposits

Archaeological contexts are listed below and described. The numbers in brackets are the context numbers assigned in the field.

Group 1 Natural deposits

A layer of grey clay (008) was identified in the base of all foundation trenches. Located at the northern end of the development was a deposit of red sand and silt (025). Both deposits are associated with the drift geology of glaciofluvial sand.

Cutting through the alluvial deposits was a linear feature (024) filled with reddish brown sand and silt (023). This is interpreted as an ice-wedge, a feature formed by the contraction of ice within the surrounding deposits.

Above these alluvial deposits was a layer of light yellowish brown silt and yellow silt (013 and 018), 0.3m thick. This layer

may represent soil development within the investigation area.

Group 2 Undated deposits

A large pit (007) was revealed at the southeastern corner of the foundation trenches (Fig. 4, Sections 1 and 2). This pit had a minimum length of 2.2m, was greater than 0.5m wide and had a depth of 0.45m. The pit contained three fills, the upper (009) of light yellow and brown silt and sand, then a fill of red sand (005) and a lowest fill of reddish white clayey sand (006).

Pit (007) had been cut by a second feature (010), possibly a recut, containing fills of yellow silt and sand (003) and reddish brown sand with silt (004).

Located at the northeast corner of the development, a linear feature (019 and 022) appeared in opposing sections of the foundation trench (Fig. 4, Section 4). This feature was over 2m long, between 0.5 and 0.7m wide and contained a fill of reddish white clayey sand (017 and 021). During the investigation it was not possible to determine whether this feature was a pit or ditch.

Recorded in section on the eastern foundation trench was a second ditch (015) 1.2m wide by 0.6m deep (Fig. 4, Section 3). Containing a primary fill of bluish grey sandy silt (016) and a fill of reddish white clayey sand (014), the ditch had been cut by a single posthole (012). This posthole was 0.4m wide by 0.35m deep and contained a single fill of yellow and brown silt and sand (011).

Localised towards the northern limit of the development (Fig. 3) was a subsoil of mid greyish brown sandy silt (020). Several sherds of medieval pottery were recovered from this layer. However, recent

disturbance prevented a secure date to be assigned to this layer.

Group 3 Modern deposits

Sealing all of the features was a subsoil of brown sandy silt (002) present across the entire development area. Sherds of medieval Stamford ware were also recovered from this layer as were fragments of burnt stone.

Above the subsoil (002) was a blackish brown silt, identified as the present topsoil (001).

6. DISCUSSION

Clay, sand and silt deposits (Group 1) across the site formed as the result of glaciofluvial activity possibly associated with former courses of the River Brant. A single natural feature (024) was also recorded and may indicate an ice-wedge. Above these layers, soil formation had created a natural subsoil.

Group 3 (Undated remains) comprise pits, ditches and a single posthole. The function of the pits cannot be determined, but, due to the absence of finds from within the fills it would seem unlikely they were used for refuse disposal. A ditch along the eastern trench may indicate land division or drainage, but not enough was exposed or excavated to determine a function. Towards the north of the site was a subsoil that contained medieval pottery. Its relationship with the pits and ditches described above is uncertain.

Modern subsoil and topsoil (Group 3) forms the latest deposit of this sequence.

7. CONCLUSIONS

Archaeological investigations at Church Lane, Brant Broughton, were undertaken as the site is located in an area of known archaeological activity and the possibility existed of remains being disturbed by the development.

A group of undated features comprising pits, ditches and a posthole was exposed during the investigation. Artefacts were not recovered from these features, so a secure date was not obtained.

Finds recovered from the subsoil deposits included a number of medieval sherds as well as 18th-20th century pottery. The retrieval of medieval pottery attests to activity of this period occurring in the vicinity of the development and expected considering the foundation of the village prior to the Domesday Survey of 1086.

No features revealed by this investigation were securely dated. The nature of local site conditions would suggest that few environmental indicators (seeds, wood, shells *etc*) would survive in features, other than through charring.

8. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeological Project Services would like to acknowledge the assistance of Mr J. Mayfield who commissioned the fieldwork and post-excavation analysis. The work was coordinated by Dale Trimble and this report was edited by Tom Lane. Kate Orr, the Heritage Officer for North Kesteven District Council, permitted examination of the relevant files maintained by the Heritage Trust of Lincolnshire. Hilary Healey kindly examined the pottery and other finds.

9. PERSONNEL

Project Coordinator: Dale Trimble
Site Supervisor: Fiona Walker
Finds Processing: Denise Buckley
Illustration: Paul Cope-Faulkner
Post-excavation Analyst: Paul Cope-Faulkner

10. BIBLIOGRAPHY

Ekwall, E., 1974, *The Concise Oxford Dictionary of English Place-Names* (4th edition)

Foster, C.W. and Longley, T. (eds), 1976, *The Lincolnshire Domesday and the Lindsey Survey*, The Lincoln Record Society 19

GSGB, 1972, *Grantham, Solid and Drift Geology*, 1:50,000 map sheet 127

Hodge, C.A.H., Burton, R.G.O., Corbett, W.M., Evans, R. and Seale, R.S., 1984 *Soils and their Use in Eastern England, Soil Survey of England and Wales Bulletin No. 13* (Harpenden)

IFA, 1994, *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs*

Pevsner, N. and Harris, J., 1989, *Lincolnshire, The Buildings of England* (2nd edition, revised Antram, N.)

11. ABBREVIATIONS

GSGB Geological Survey of Great Britain
IFA Institute of Field Archaeologists
NK Numbers prefixed with these letters are the primary reference numbers used by the North Kesteven Heritage Officer

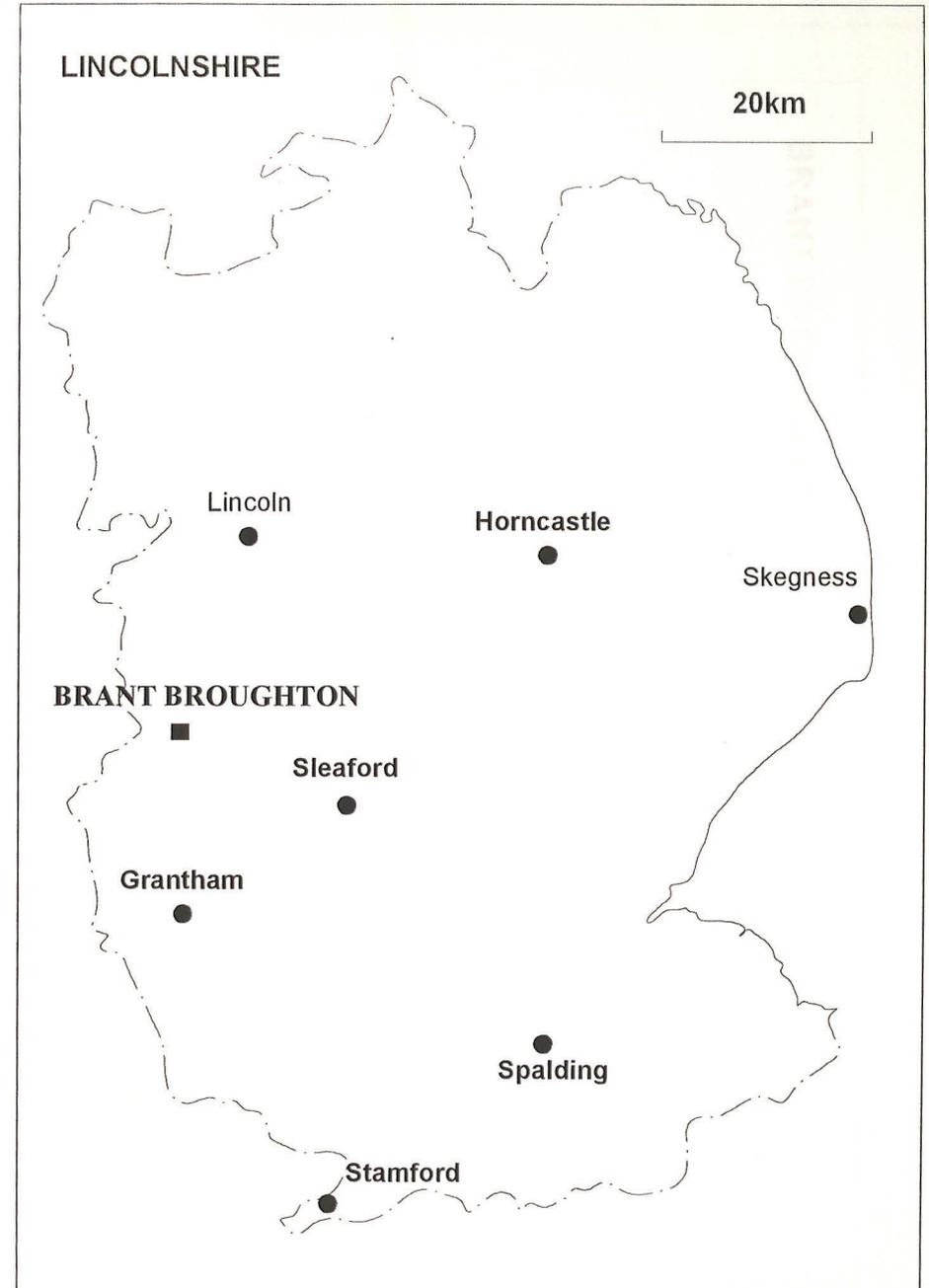
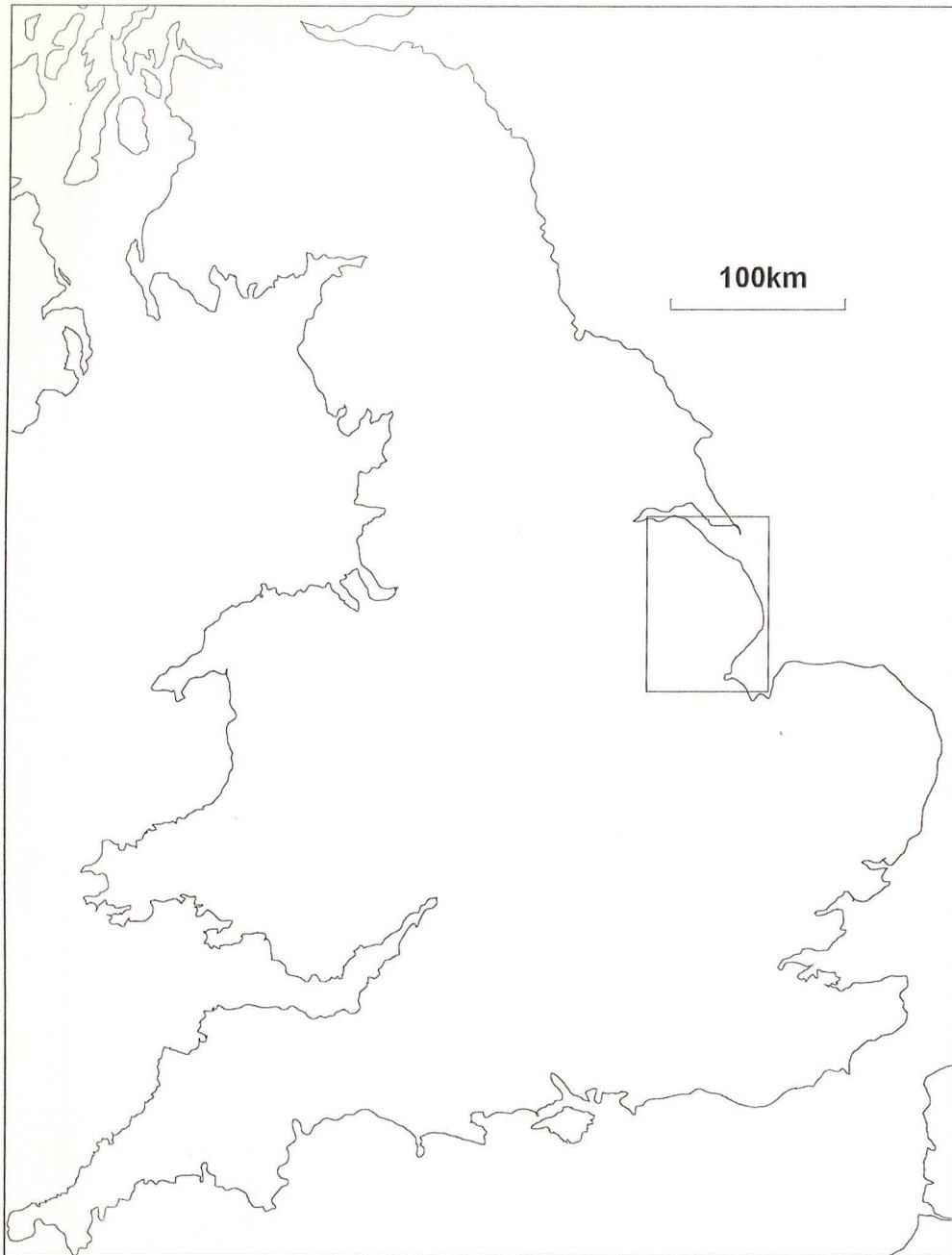


Figure 1 - General Location Plan

BRANT BROUGHTON

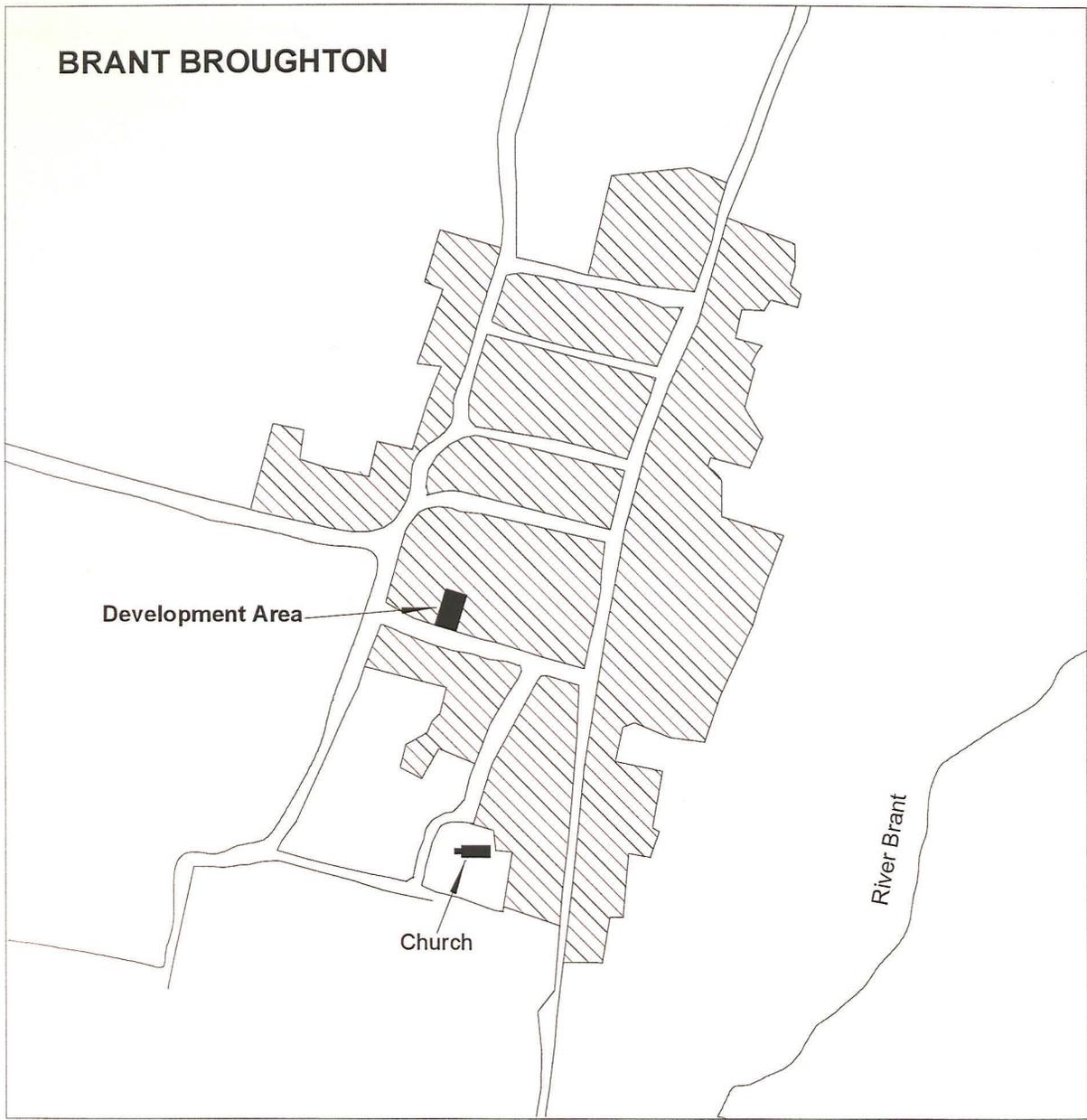


Figure 2 - Site Location Plan

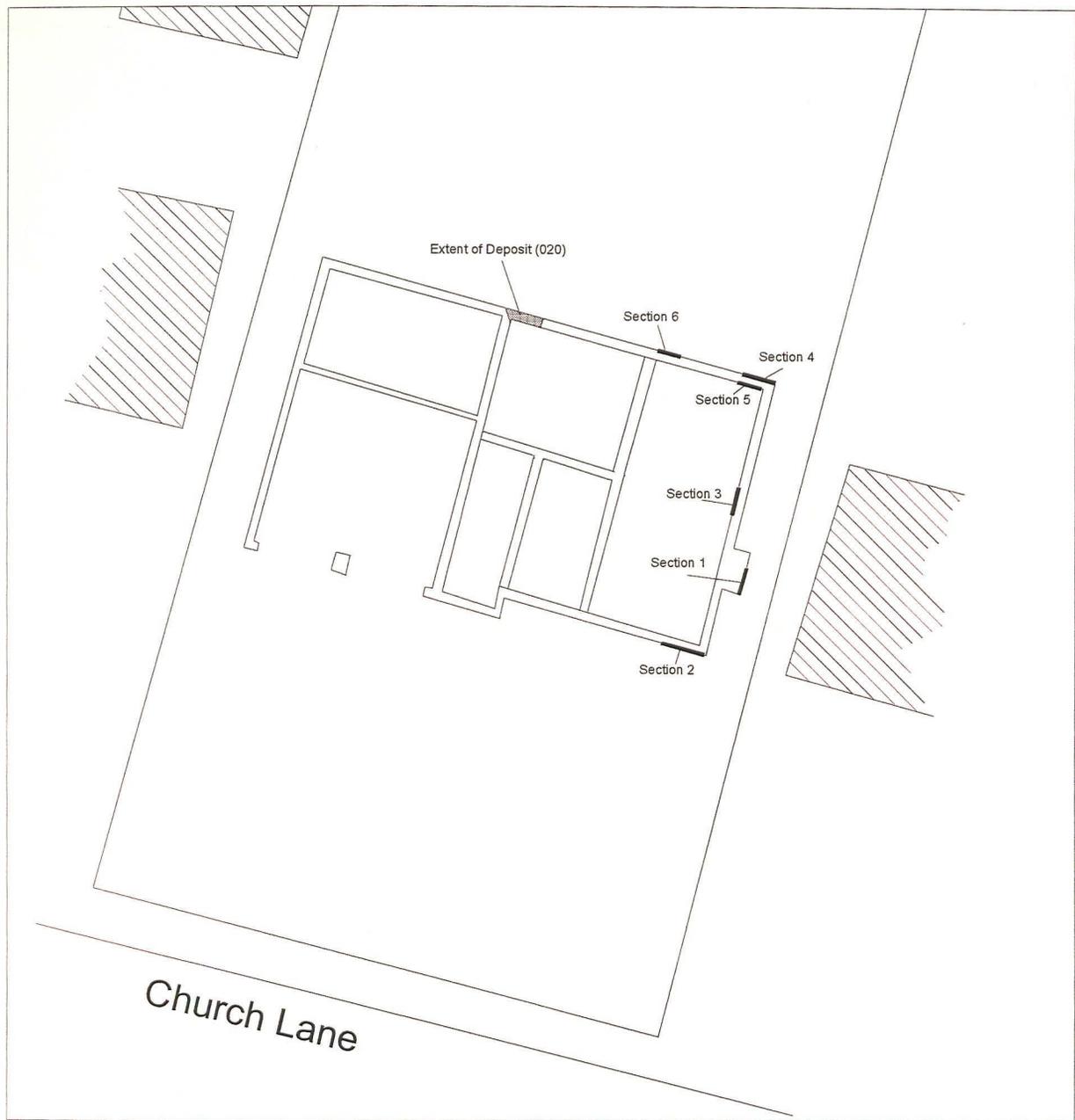
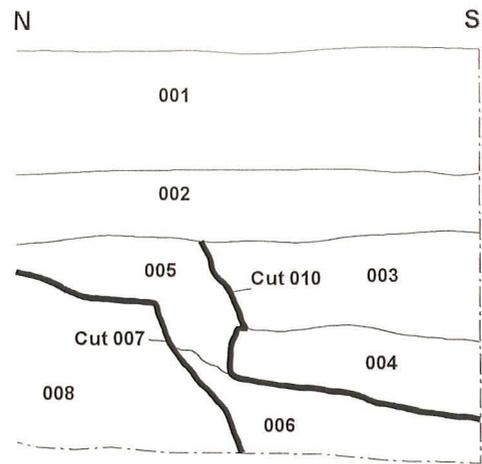
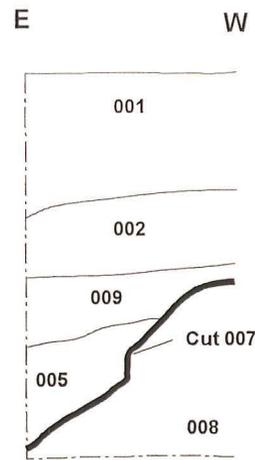


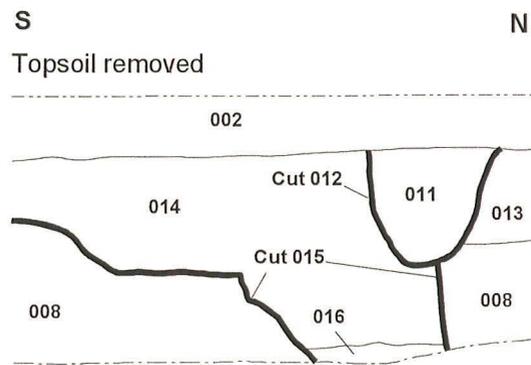
Figure 3 - Development Plan, showing location of drawn Sections



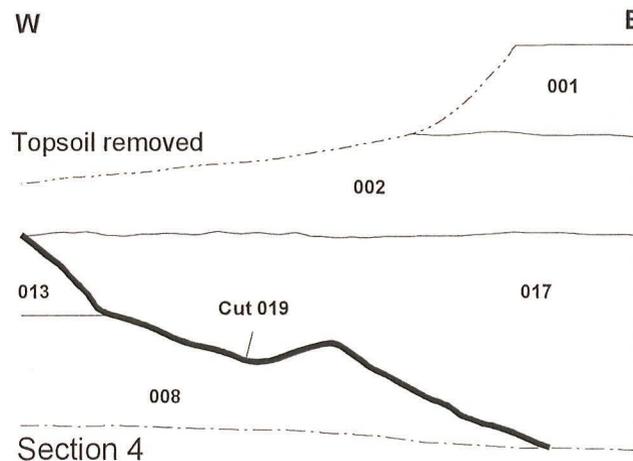
Section 1



Section 2



Section 3



Section 4



Sections 5 and 6 are not reproduced as they contain information available in the above sections

Figure 4 - Sections 1, 2, 3 and 4

Appendix 1

BRIEF FOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL OBSERVATION AND RECORDING (WATCHING BRIEF)

18 Church Lane, Brant Broughton, Lincs.

Planning Application Number: N/14/0320/96 NGR: 491520 354140

Applicant: Verlaine Homes Ltd
 18 Inholmes Gardens
 Flintham
 Newark NG23 5LG
 01636 525006

1. **Summary**

- 1.1 This brief should be used by archaeological contractors as the basis for the preparation of a detailed archaeological project specification. In response to this brief contractors will include the anticipated working methods, timescales and staffing levels.
- 1.2 These detailed specifications will be submitted by the client for approval by the North Kesteven Heritage Officer. The client will be free to choose between those specifications which are considered to adequately satisfy the brief

2. **Site Location and Description**

- 2.1 Brant Broughton is a small village approx 16km south of Lincoln and the same distance north west of Sleaford, Lincolnshire. The site is situated in the centre of the village, off Church Lane.

3. **Planning Background**

- 3.1 The development is to construct one house at 18 Church Lane, Brant Broughton. Outline planning permission was given in 1995 N/14/0310/94. Full planning permission has now been given.

4. **Archaeological Background**

- 4.1 The site lies in the core of what was once the medieval village of Brant Broughton being in close proximity to the medieval church (approx 250m). A 17th century dovecote is situated approx 200m north of the site. It is likely that archaeological remains of these periods will be damaged by the development and therefore should be recorded.

5. **Requirements for Work**

- 5.1 The objective of the watching brief should be to ensure that any archaeological features exposed by the groundworks are recorded and interpreted.
- 5.2 Any adjustments to the brief for the watching brief project should only be made after consultation with the Heritage Officer for North Kesteven.
- 5.3 The following details should be given in the contractor's specification:
 - 5.3.1 A projected timetable must be agreed for the various stages of work.

- 5.3.2 The staff structure and numbers must be detailed. This should include lists of specialists and their role in the project.
- 5.3.3 It is expected that all on-site work will be carried out in a way that complies with the relevant Health and Safety legislation and that due consideration will be given to site security.
- 5.3.4 The recovery and recording strategies to be used must be described in full.
- 5.3.5 An estimate of time and resources allocated for the post-excavation work and report production.

6. **Methods**

- 6.1 The project should be carried out by a recognised archaeological body in accordance with the code of conduct of The Institute of Field Archaeologists.
- 6.2 The watching brief should involve:
 - 6.2.1 archaeological supervision of topsoil stripping;
 - 6.2.2 inspection of subsoil for archaeological features;
 - 6.2.3 recording of archaeological features in plan;
 - 6.2.4 rapid excavation of features if necessary;
 - 6.2.5 archaeological supervision of subsoil stripping
 - 6.2.6 inspection of natural for archaeological features and recording them.
 - 6.2.7 any human remains encountered must be left in situ and only removed if absolutely necessary. The contractor must comply with all statutory consents and licences regarding the exhumation and interment of human remains. It will also be necessary to comply with all reasonable requests of interested parties as to the remains or associated items. Attempt must be made at all times not to cause offence to any interested parties.

7. **Monitoring Arrangements**

- 7.1 The Heritage Officer for North Kesteven will be responsible for monitoring progress and standards throughout the project and will require preferably fourteen days notice but at least five working days prior to the commencement of the work.

8. **Reporting Requirements**

- 8.1 A full report should be produced and deposited with the planning department of North Kesteven District Council, the Heritage Officer, the client and the County Sites and Monuments Record. The report should include:
 - 8.1.1 location plan of the trenches;
 - 8.1.2 section and plan drawings, with ground level, Ordnance Datum, vertical and horizontal scales as appropriate;
 - 8.1.3 specialist descriptions of artefacts and ecofacts;
 - 8.1.4 an indication of potential archaeological deposits not disturbed by the present development;

8.2 After agreement with the landowner, arrangements are to be made for long term storage of all artefacts and paper archive in an appropriate museum.

8.3 If the receiving museum is to be the City and County Museum, Lincoln then the archive should be produced in the form outlined in the museum's document 'Conditions for the Acceptance of Project Archives'.

9. **Publication and Dissemination**

9.1 The deposition of a copy of the report with the Lincolnshire Sites and Monuments Record will be deemed to put all information into the public domain, unless a special request is made for confidentiality. If material is to be held in confidence a timescale must be agreed with the North Kesteven Heritage Officer but is expected this will not exceed six months. Consideration must be given to a summary of the results being published in 'Lincolnshire History and Archaeology' in due course.

10. **Additional Information**

10.1 This document attempts to define the best practice expected of an archaeological watching brief but cannot fully anticipate the conditions that will be encountered as work progresses. However, changes to the programme are only to be made with the prior written approval of the Heritage Officer.

Brief for N/14/0310/94 set by the Heritage Officer, North Kesteven 3/8/1995 and then amended by Heritage Officer, 24/4/1996

Appendix 2

CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

Context	Description	Interpretation
001	Dark blackish brown silt, <i>c.</i> 0.4m thick	Topsoil
002	Mid to dark brown sandy silt, <i>c.</i> 0.2m thick	Subsoil
003	Mid yellow silt and sand	Fill of 010
004	Reddish brown sand with silt, some grey clay	Fill of 010
005	Light - mid red sand	Fill of 007
006	Light reddish white clayey sand	Fill of 007
007	Cut, >2.2m long by >0.5m wide, 0.45m deep	Possible pit
008	Mid grey clay	Natural deposit
009	Light yellow and brown silt and sand	Fill of 007
010	Cut, >0.9m wide, 0.6m deep	Possible re-cut of 007
011	Light yellow and brown silt and sand	Fill of 012
012	Cut, 0.4m wide by 0.35m deep	Possible posthole
013	Light yellowish brown silt, 0.3m thick	Natural subsoil
014	Light reddish white clayey sand	Fill of 015
015	?Linear cut, 1.2m wide by 0.6m deep	Ditch
016	Blueish grey sandy silt	Fill of 015
017	Light reddish white clayey sand	Fill of 019
018	Light yellow silt, 0.2m thick	Natural subsoil
019	Cut, >2m long by >0.5m wide, 0.68m deep	Possible ditch or pit/ Same as 022
020	Greyish brown sandy silt	Subsoil
021	Light reddish white clayey sand	Fill of 022
022	?Linear cut, 0.7m wide by 0.25m deep	Possible ditch or pit/ Same as 019
023	Reddish brown sand and silt	Fill of 024
024	Linear feature, 0.7m wide by 0.4m deep, aligned N-S	Ice-wedge
025	Mid brownish red sand and silt	Natural deposit

Appendix 3

THE FINDS
Hilary Healey

Context	Description	Latest Date
+	1 Nottingham type medieval ware sherd	20th century
	1 Cream glaze, 18th century	
	1 modern tile	
	1 19th/20th century tile	
	1 fragment fired clay	
	1 modern glass fragment	
	1 Clay pipe	
002	2 sherds of Stamford ware	10th-13th century
	5 fragments of burnt stone	
020	1 sherd Stamford ware	13th-15th century
	6 sherds of Lincoln or Nottingham medieval ware	

+ = Unstratified finds

Appendix 4

THE ARCHIVE

The archive consists of:

25	Context records
1	Photographic record sheet
6	Scale drawings
1	Bag of finds
1	Stratigraphic matrix

All primary records and finds are currently kept at:

Archaeological Project Services
The Old School
Cameron Street
Heckington
Sleaford
Lincolnshire
NG34 9RW

The ultimate destination of the project archive is:

Lincolnshire City and County Museum
12 Friars Lane
Lincoln
LN2 1HQ

The archive will be deposited in accordance with the document titled *Conditions for the Acceptance of Project Archives*, produced by the Lincolnshire City and County Museum.

Lincolnshire City and County Council Museum Accession Number:	234.97
Archaeological Project Services Site Code:	BCH97

Archaeological Project Services shall retain full copyright of any commissioned reports under the *Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988* with all rights reserved; excepting that it hereby provides an exclusive licence to the client for the use of such documents by the client in all matters directly relating to the project as described in the Project Specification.

Appendix 5

GLOSSARY

Context	An archaeological context represents a distinct archaeological event or process. For example, the action of digging a pit creates a context (the cut) as does the process of its subsequent backfill (the fill). Each context encountered during an archaeological investigation is allocated a unique number by the archaeologist and a record sheet detailing the description and interpretation of the context (the context sheet) is created and placed in the site archive. Context numbers are identified within the report text by brackets, <i>e.g.</i> (4).
Cut	A cut refers to the physical action of digging a posthole, pit, ditch, foundation trench, <i>etc.</i> Once the fills of these features are removed during an archaeological investigation the original 'cut' is therefore exposed and subsequently recorded.
Fill	Once a feature has been dug it begins to silt up (either slowly or rapidly) or it can be back-filled manually. The soil(s) which become contained by the 'cut' are referred to as its fill(s).
Layer	A layer is a term used to describe an accumulation of soil or other material that is not contained within a cut.
Medieval	The Middle Ages, dating from approximately AD 1066-1500.
Natural	Undisturbed deposit(s) of soil or rock which have accumulated without the influence of human activity.
Romano-British	Pertaining to the period dating from AD 43-410 when the Romans occupied Britain.