

98/2

43713 - Med  
43714 - Undated  
43715 - Roman

**AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF  
OF LAND ADJACENT TO MAIN ROAD,  
BRINKHILL,  
LINCOLNSHIRE  
(BMR97)**

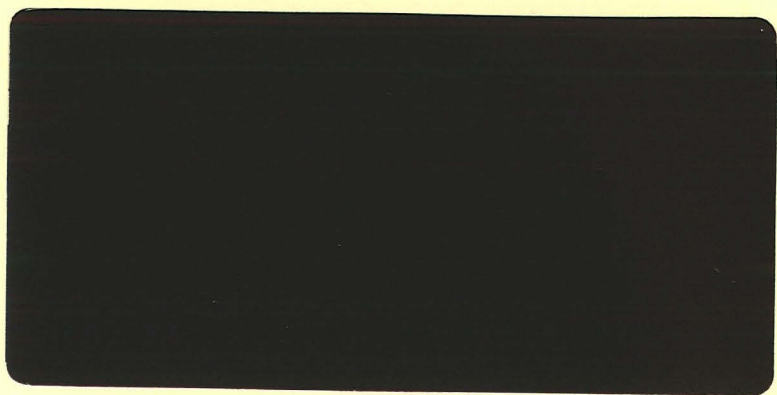


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**AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF  
OF LAND ADJACENT TO MAIN ROAD,  
BRINKHILL,  
LINCOLNSHIRE  
(BMR97)**

Work Undertaken For  
Ms. S. Rawlings and Mr. T. Peacock

Report compiled by  
Paul Cope-Faulkner

January 1998

Planning Application No: S/021/0113/96  
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## 1. SUMMARY

*An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Archaeological Project Services at Main Road, Brinkhill, Lincolnshire to monitor topsoil stripping and the excavation of foundation trenches.*

*The watching brief condition was imposed because the site lay within the core of the medieval village as evidenced by earthworks of three moated enclosures.*

*The investigation identified two former, undated, boundary ditches on the same alignment. A quantity of finds was retrieved, including Romano-British and medieval pottery, bone, brick and tile from topsoil and cultivated deposits only.*

## 2. INTRODUCTION

### 2.1 Planning Background

Archaeological Project Services was commissioned by Ms S. Rawlings and Mr T. Peacock to undertake an archaeological watching brief during development at land adjacent to Main Road, Brinkhill, East Lindsey District, Lincolnshire. Approval for the development was sought through the submission of planning application S/021/0113/96. Permission was granted subject to a standard condition for archaeological recording.

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

Brinkhill is situated 12km northeast of Horncastle and 22km northwest of Skegness, in the civil parish of Brinkhill, East Lindsey District (Fig. 1).

The development site is located at a height of c. 44m OD, and lies 300m south of the parish church of St Philip and is centred on National Grid Reference TF 3800 7343 (Fig. 2). The village is located in a small southwest to northeast valley on a slight slope facing southwest.

Local soils are the Banbury Association, typically loamy ferritic brown earths (Hodge *et al*, 1984, 103). On higher ground to the west are soils of the Wickham 2 Association, loamy clay stagnogley soils, while Andover 1 Association, flinty and chalky fine silty brown rendzinas, are present on lower ground to the northeast (*ibid.* 93, 351). These soils overlies a drift geology of glacial sand and gravel which rests on Carboniferous limestones and clays of the Tealby Formation (BGS 1980).

### 2.3 Archaeological Setting

Brinkhill is situated in an area of known archaeological presence dating from the Neolithic period. Four stone axes are recorded from the parish on the higher ground above the village (SMR 42676, 42677, 42678, 42679). At least one of these axes was transported from the Lake District.

Romano-British remains are restricted to the course of the Roman thoroughfare between Lincoln and Burgh-le-Marsh (Margary 1973, 239). The actual course of the road is unclear through Brinkhill, but its route to Tetford and continuation at Ulceby indicate that the road may have passed at the

northern end of the village.

Brinkhill is first mentioned in the Domesday Survey of 1086. Referred to as 'Brinckle', the name is derived from the Old English *brinc(e)* meaning the brink of a hill or steep slope (Ekwall 1974, 65). The Domesday Survey records that Brinkhill was owned by Earl Hugh (Foster and Longley 1976). It is recorded with several other villages as being sokeland of the manor of Greetham.

Evidence for the medieval period (AD 1066-1500) is represented by the earthworks of three moated enclosures in the village (SMR 00194). Each is a Scheduled Ancient Monument and the nearest lies within 150m of the proposed development. A 14th century cross survives in St. Philip's churchyard, with a modern addition (SMR 42452; DoE 1987, 5). The parish church, although dated to the mid 19th century, contains a 13th century octagonal font and may suggest that the present structure was built on the site of an earlier church.

### 3. AIMS

The requirements of the watching brief were to locate and record archaeological deposits, if present, and to determine their date, function and origin.

### 4. METHODS

Prior to the trench excavation, topsoil was stripped to a depth of 0.4m in the immediate vicinity of the site of the proposed building, located 22m northwest of the road. Trenches were then excavated to a depth of 0.7m. Following excavation by 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 and thickness of each deposit was measured from the 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. Recording of deposits encountered during the watching brief was undertaken according to standard Archaeological Project Services practice.

Finds recovered from excavated deposits were examined and a period date assigned where possible (Appendix 2). Records of the deposits and features recognised during the watching brief were also examined. A list of all contexts and interpretations appears as Appendix 1. Phasing was assigned based on artefact dating and the nature of the deposits and recognisable relationships between them.

### 5. RESULTS

Three phases were identified:

- Phase 1 - Natural deposits
- Phase 2 - Undated deposits
- Phase 3 - Recent deposits

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

#### Phase 1 Natural deposits

Deposits of blackish brown silt and sand (007), brown sand with gravel (009, 010 and 012) and brownish yellow sand and clay (011) represent natural layers found at the base of all trenches. These deposits are

likely to be related to the underlying glacial sand and gravel drift geology.

### **Phase 2 Undated deposits**

Located at the southwest corner of the development was a feature (014), wider than 0.74m and 0.25m deep (Fig. 4, Section 1). A single fill of black to grey clayey silt (008) was recorded and may indicate the primary fill of a north to south aligned ditch.

The ditch was then sealed by two layers, the lower of grey clayey sand (006) and the upper of yellowish brown silt and sand (005). The upper deposit dips into ditch (014) and may represent a levelling deposit or natural soil formation over the feature.

After deposition of (005) occurred, a second ditch (013) was then cut on a similar alignment to and slightly west of ditch (014), which measured at least 1.3m wide by 0.48m deep (Fig. 4, Section 1). Two fills were recorded, a primary fill of blackish grey clayey silt (004) overlain by brown clayey silt (003).

### **Phase 3 - Recent deposits**

All features are sealed by a subsoil of mid brown silt (002) that is 0.3m thick. This was in turn sealed by a dark brown organic silt topsoil (001).

## **6. DISCUSSION**

Natural deposits (Phase 1) predominantly of sand and gravel are probably of glacial origin. The degree of variation and colour may indicate the presence of natural features such as ice-wedges or glacial outwash channels.

Phase 2 deposits (undated deposits)

comprise two ditches, visible in Section 1 and separated by a period of natural soil formation. These ditches probably represent former field boundaries and are aligned perpendicular to the road and parallel to the western boundary of the site.

Artefacts recovered from the investigation include pottery dating largely to the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century with two sherds of medieval ware and a possible Romano-British jug handle. Other finds include glass, bone, tile and a clay pipe. Such finds, derived mainly from the topsoil, may indicate no more than discarded rubbish incorporated into midden heaps and later spread on the land to improve fertility of the soil.

## **7. CONCLUSIONS**

Archaeological investigations on land adjacent to Main Road, Brinkhill were undertaken because the site fell within the core of the medieval village and in the vicinity of a moated site.

Two ditches on the same alignment represent the only archaeological features observed during the investigation. No artefactual material was recovered from the ditch deposits thus no date can be ascribed.

Several sherds of pottery were recovered, mostly from the topsoil. The collection is largely of 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century wares and the collection is typical of this part of Lincolnshire. Animal bone was also retrieved during the investigation, although in such small numbers to prevent comment upon animal husbandry or economic value. The nature of the local site conditions would suggest that few environmental indicators (seeds, wood, shells *etc.*) would survive, other than through charring.



## 8. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeological Project Services would like to acknowledge the assistance of Ms S. Rawlings and Mr T. Peacock who commissioned the fieldwork and post-excavation analysis. The work was coordinated by Gary Taylor and this report was edited by Tom Lane. Access to the County Sites and Monuments Record was kindly supplied by Mark Bennet of the Archaeology Section, Lincolnshire County Council. Hilary Healey examined the pottery and other finds.

## 9. PERSONNEL

Project Coordinator: Gary Taylor  
Supervisor: Fiona Walker  
Finds Processing: Denise Buckley  
Illustration: Paul Cope-Faulkner  
Post-excavation Analyst: Paul Cope-Faulkner

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## 11. ABBREVIATIONS

- BGS British Geological Survey
- DoE Department of the Environment
- IFA Institute of Field Archaeologists
- SMR Sites and Monuments Record

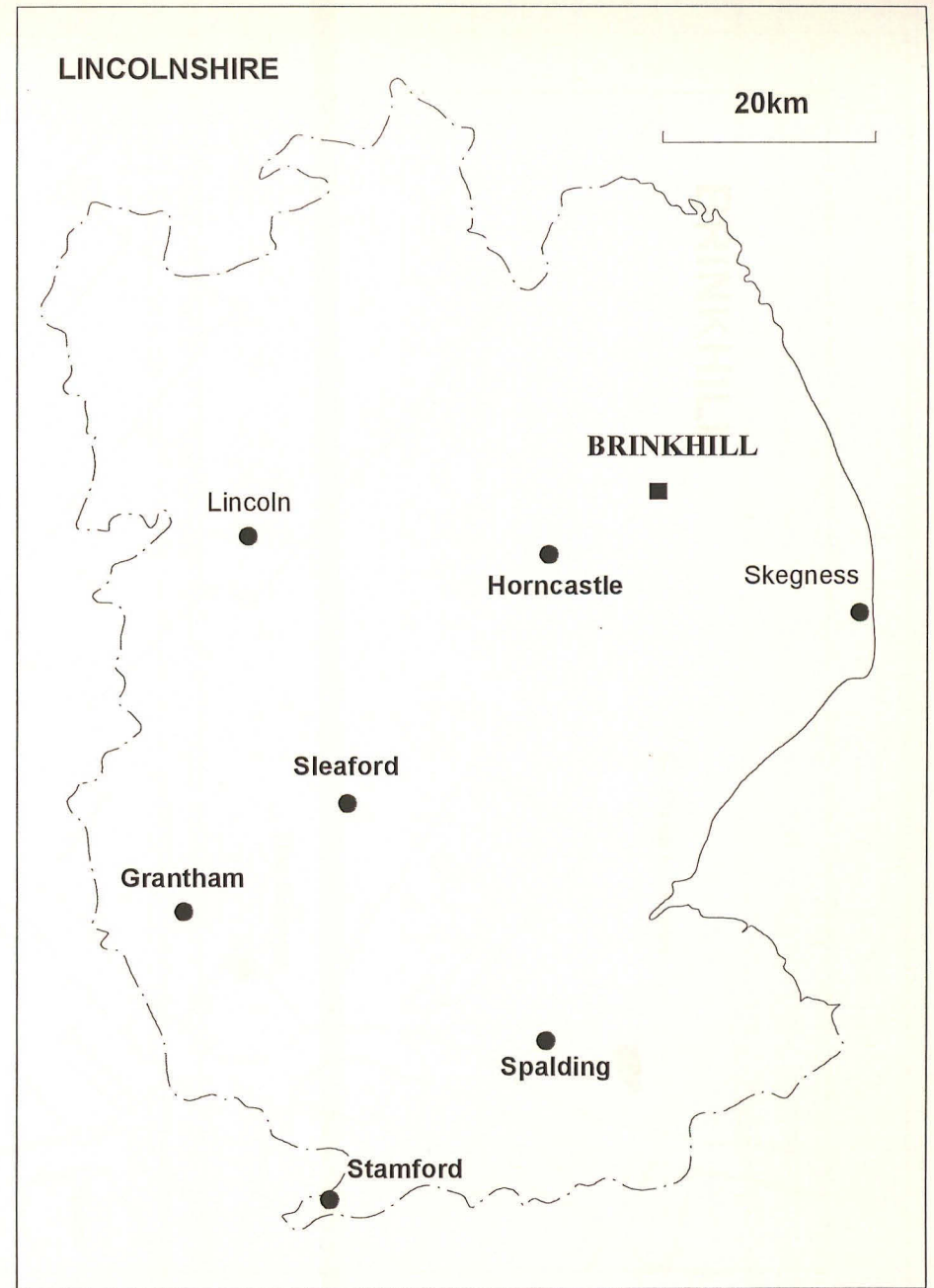
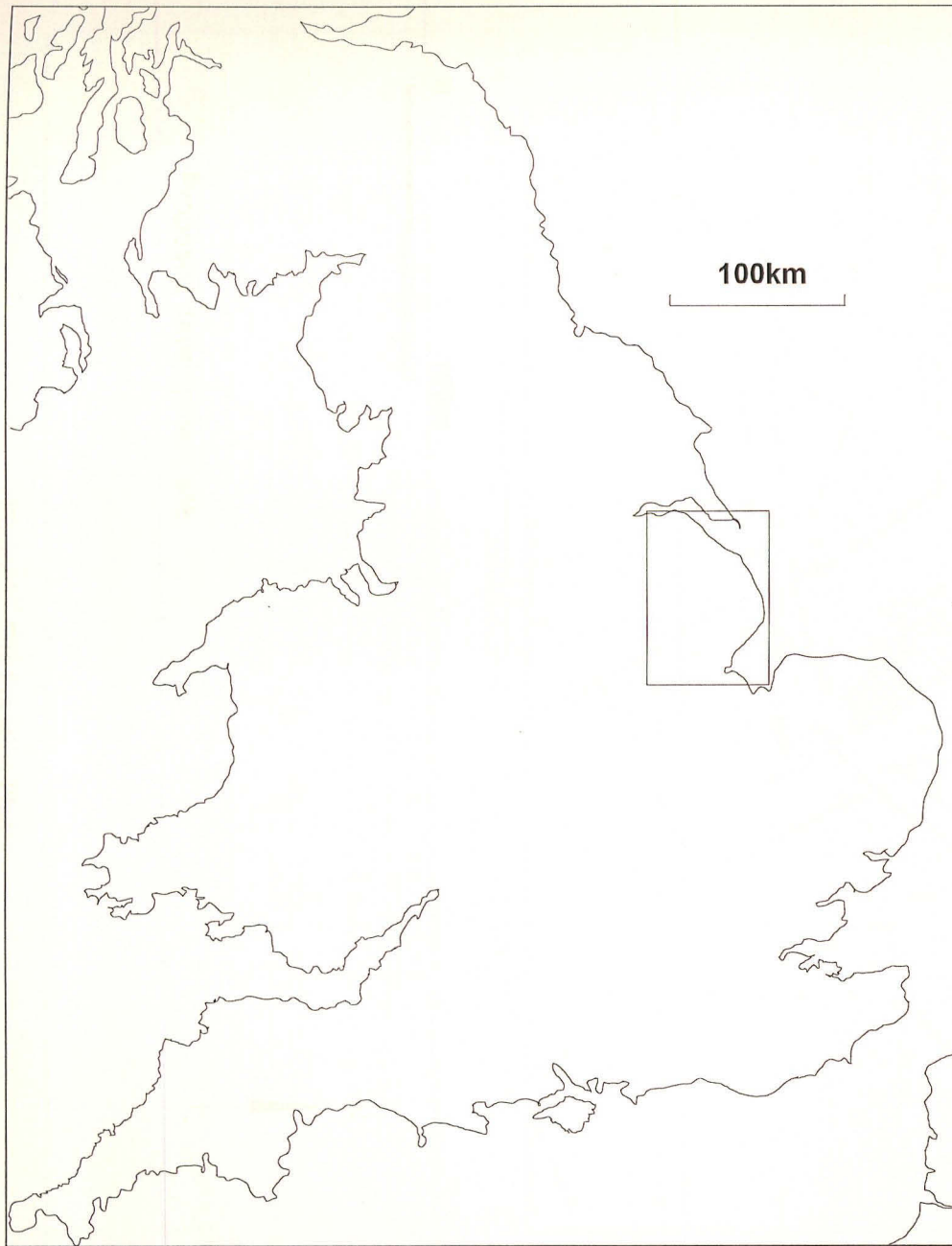
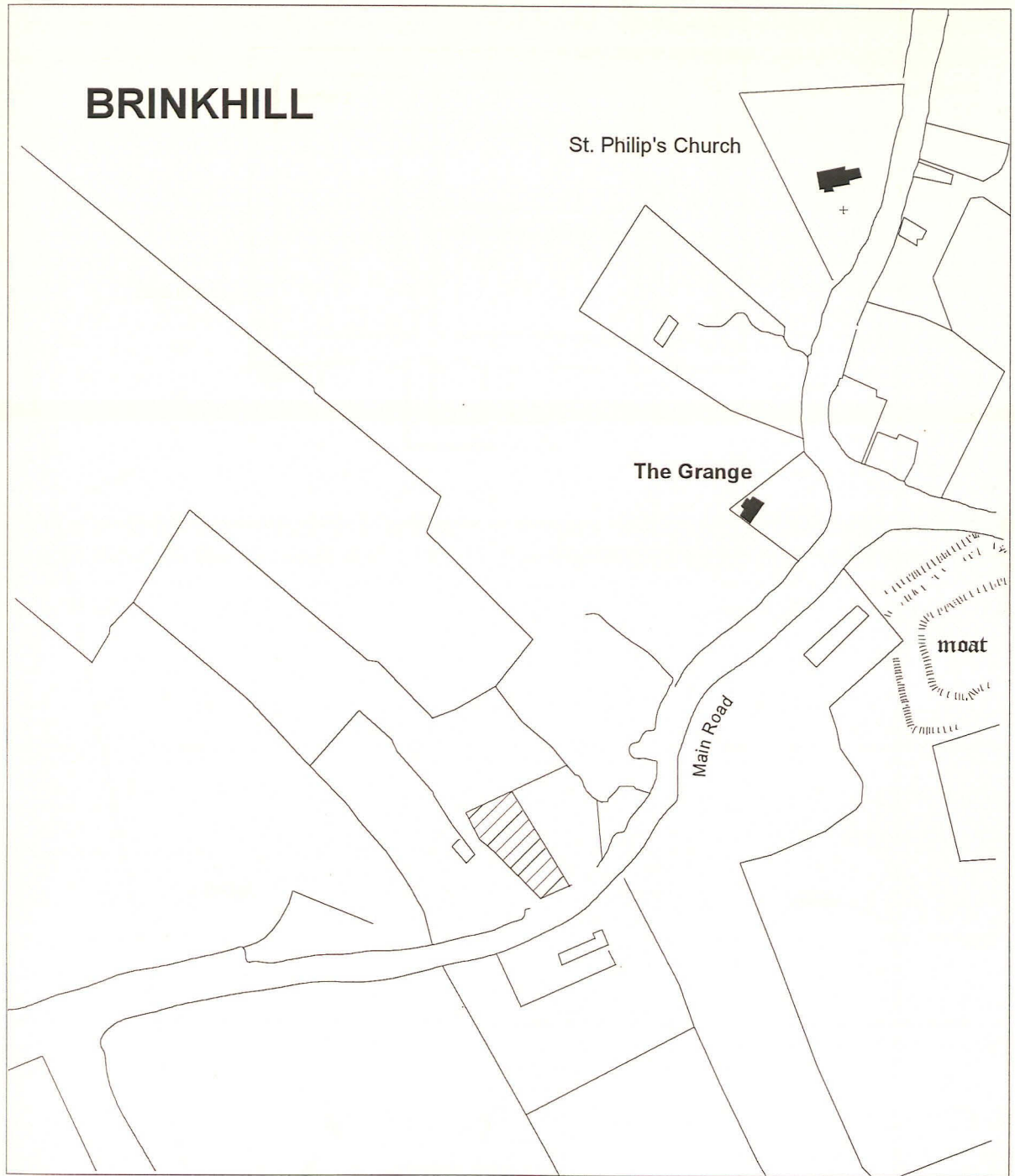


Figure 1 - General Location Plan

# BRINKHILL



Proposed development site

Figure 2 - Site Location Plan

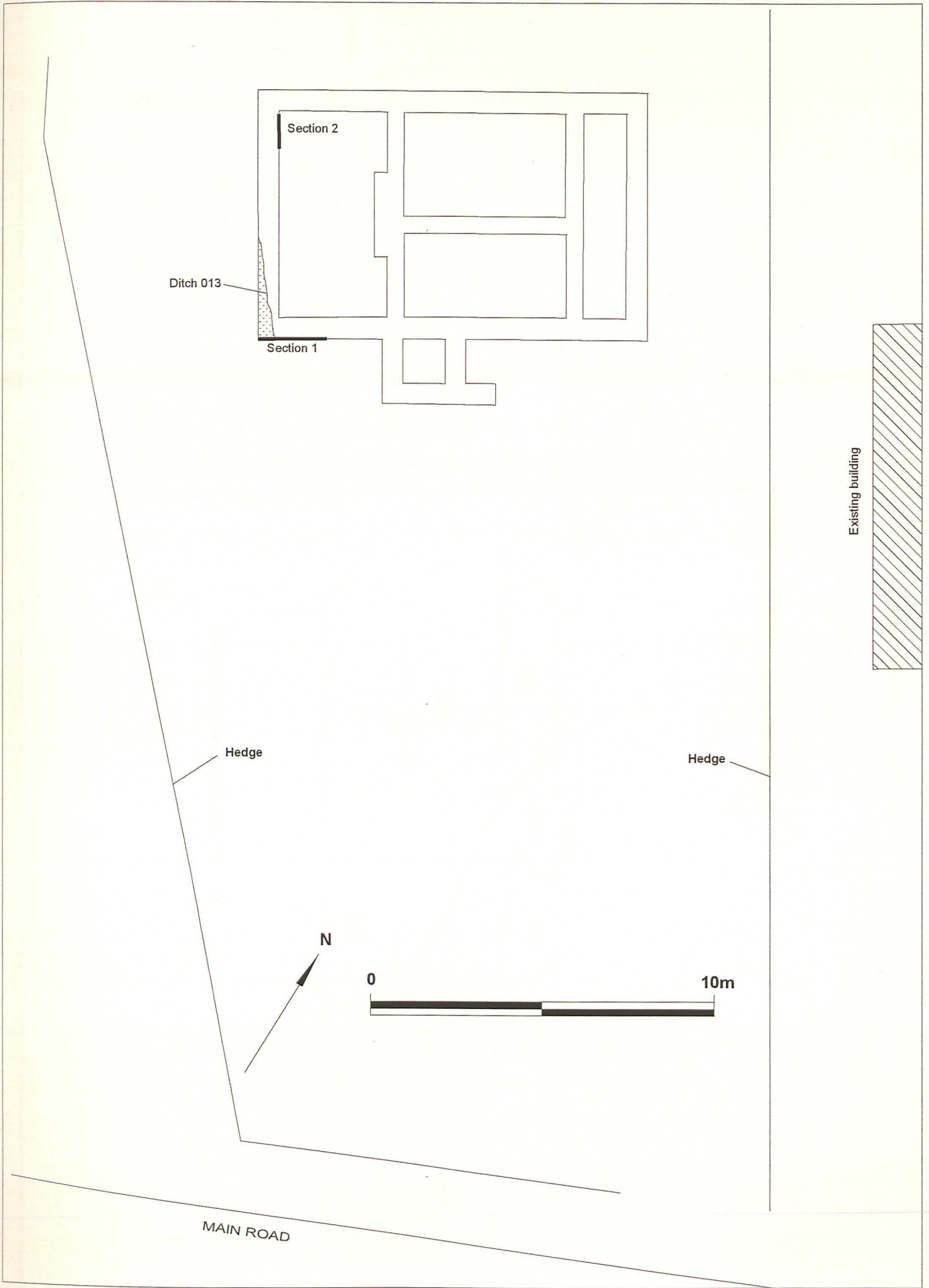


Figure 3 - Foundation Plan, showing Section locations

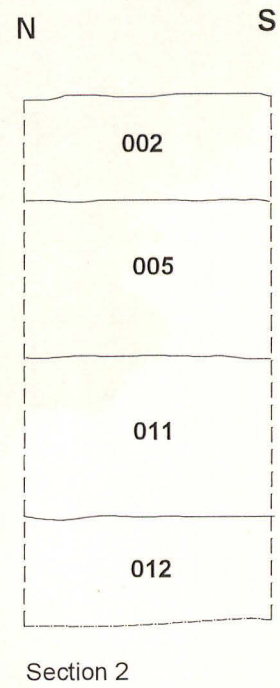
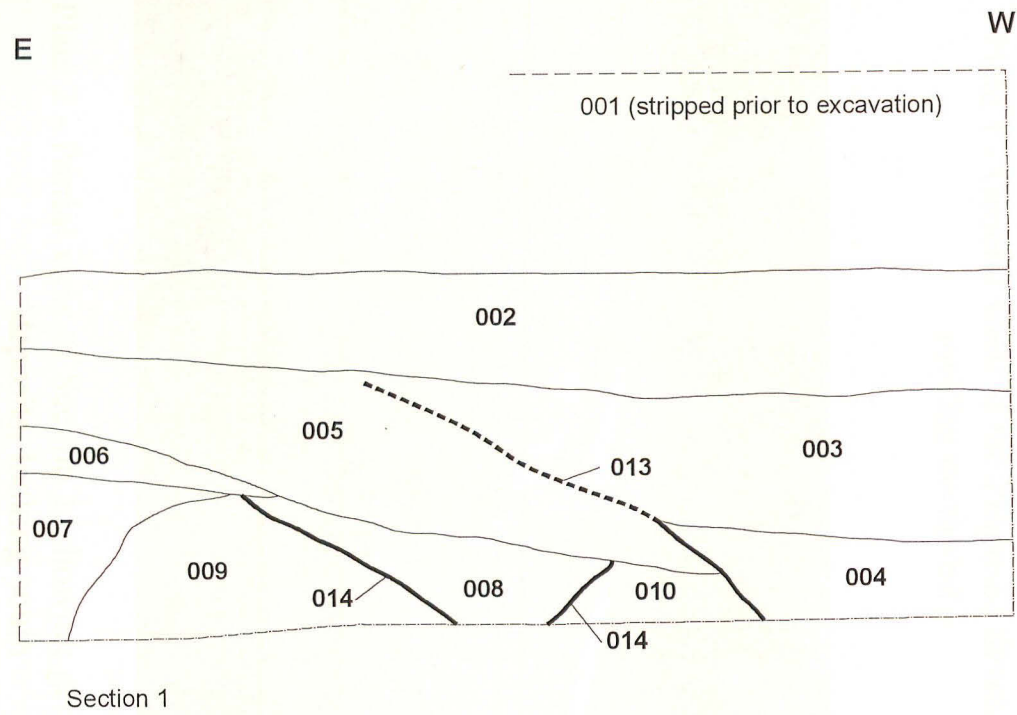


Figure 3 - Sections 1 and 2



Plate 1 - General view of the Proposed development area,  
looking northwest



Plate 2 - Partial view of Section 1, showing general sequence of  
deposits, looking south

## Appendix 1

### CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

Context	Description	Interpretation
001	Dark brown organic silt, 0.45m thick	Topsoil
002	Mid brown silt, 0.3m thick	Subsoil
003	Brown clayey silt	Fill of 013
004	Blackish grey clayey silt	Fill of 013
005	Mid yellowish brown silt and sand	Levelling deposit
006	Grey clayey sand	Levelling deposit
007	Blackish brown sand with stones	Natural deposit
008	Blackish grey clayey silt	Fill of 014
009	Light-mid brown sand	Natural deposit
010	Mid brown sand with gravel	Natural deposit
011	Mid brownish yellow sand and clay	Subsoil?
012	Mid yellowish brown sand	Natural deposit
013	Linear? cut, >1.3m wide by 0.48m deep	Ditch
014	Cut, >0.74m wide by 0.25m deep	Ditch

## Appendix 2

### THE FINDS Hilary Healey

#### Provenance

The material was evenly distributed in the topsoil across the site. Additionally, unstratified material was recovered but was also random in distribution.

The assemblage, as a whole, is probably 19<sup>th</sup> century in date, though contains residual/redeposited material of the Romano-British and medieval periods.

#### Range

The range of material is detailed in the table.

The earliest artefact is the possible Romano-British sherd. Two fragments of medieval pottery were also retrieved. However, the majority of the assemblage is 19<sup>th</sup> century in date and includes pottery, clay pipe, tile and glass. A piece of coal and an animal bone were also collected.

Context	Description	Latest Date
+	1 handle of possible Romano-British sherd	19 <sup>th</sup> /20 <sup>th</sup> century
	3 sherds 19th century blue and white porcelain	
	1 sherd Toynton All Saints type 14th-16th century	
	1 fragment bottle glass	
	1 cattle sized bone, possibly rib	
001	2 sherds 19th century blue and white pottery	19 <sup>th</sup> century
	1 sherd, hand painted porcelain 19th century	
	1 sherd, medieval shelly ware	
	1 tile fragment	
	1 clay pipe stem, 19th century	
	1 fragment coal	

'+' = Unstratified finds

#### Condition

All the material is in good condition and presents no long-term storage problems. The assemblage should be archived by material class.

#### Documentation

Roman and medieval artefact assemblages from throughout the county have previously been examined and reported.

#### Potential

The assemblage has little potential. Sherds of medieval and possible Romano-British date suggest activity of these periods in the vicinity, though all such material recovered in this investigation is residual.



## Appendix 3

### THE ARCHIVE

The archive consists of:

14	Context records
1	Photographic record sheet
2	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: 223.97  
Archaeological Project Services Site Code: BMR97

The discussion and comments provided in this report are based on the archaeology revealed during the site investigations. Other archaeological finds and features may exist on the development site but away from the areas exposed during the course of this fieldwork. *Archaeological Project Services* cannot confirm that those areas unexposed are free from archaeology nor that any archaeology present there is of a similar character to that revealed during the current investigation.

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## Appendix 4

### 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, *e.g.* (4).
- Cut** A cut refers to the physical action of digging a posthole, pit, ditch, foundation trench, *etc.* 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.
- Neolithic** The 'New Stone Age' period, part of the prehistoric era, dating from approximately 4000-2000 BC.
- Post-medieval** The period following the Middle Ages, dating from approximately AD 1500-1800.
- Prehistoric** The period of human history prior to the introduction of writing. In Britain the prehistoric period lasts from the first evidence of human occupation about 500,000 BC, until the Roman invasion in the middle of the 1st century AD.
- Romano-British** Pertaining to the period dating from AD 43-410 when the Romans occupied Britain.