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**ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF REPORT
LAND SOUTH OF WILLOUGHBY ROAD,
CUMBERWORTH, LINCOLNSHIRE**

Site Code: WRC98
LCNCC Acc No. 42.98
NGR TF 550640 733480
Planning Ref. N/040/1318/97

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1631

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February 1998

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Contents

Summary	1
1.0 Introduction	2
2.0 Location and description	2
3.0 Archaeological and historical background	2
4.0 Results	3
5.0 Conclusions	6
6.0 Acknowledgements	6
7.0 Appendices	6
7.1 References	
7.2 Site archive	
7.3 Colour photographs	

Illustrations

- Fig. 1 1: 2500 site location
- Fig. 2 Development footprint at scale 1:200
- Fig. 3 Plan of archaeological features exposed in garage foundation
- Fig. 4 Section through ditch [103] (location on Fig. 3)
- Fig. 5 Section through pit [105] (location on Fig. 3)

Summary

- * An archaeological watching brief took place on February 6, 1998 during the groundworks for a detached house and garage on land south of Willoughby Road, Cumberworth, Lincolnshire (Fig. 1).
- * Two undated archaeological features were exposed within garage foundation trenches.
- * The site central national grid reference is TF 550640 733480

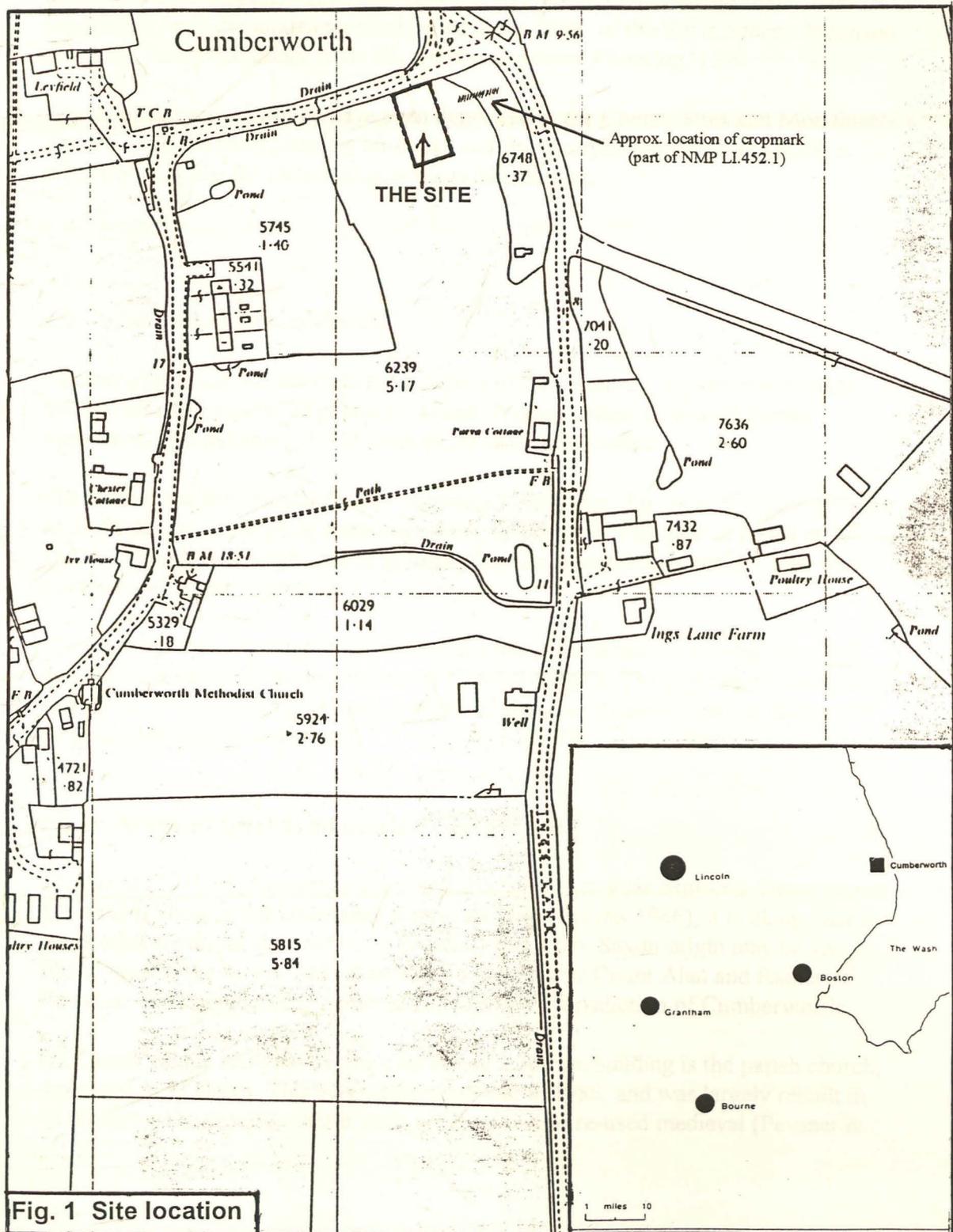


Fig. 1 Site location

1.0 Introduction

Mr A Carr was granted full planning permission to construct a single detached dwelling, garage and associated infrastructure on land south of Willoughby Road, Cumberworth. The development lies within the medieval historic core of the village. A condition requiring an archaeological watching brief to take place during development was therefore attached to the planning permission.

To fulfil the planning requirement, the client commissioned Pre-Construct Archaeology (Lincoln) to undertake a watching brief so that archaeological deposits exposed as a result of the development could be recorded and interpreted. This approach is in accordance with the guidelines established in the Dept. of the Environment document *Planning Policy Guidance Note 16: Archaeology and Planning*, 1990.

Copies of this report will be/have been deposited at the County Sites and Monuments Record, with the local planning authority and the Lincolnshire Archives Office, effectively placing the information in the public domain.

2.0 Location and description

Cumberworth is in the administrative district of East Lindsey, approximately 9km north-west of Skegness, 5km east of Alford. It is set within an area of former marshland, approximately 10km west of the modern coastline.

The overall site area measures approximately 20m x 16m. To the east of the site is an area of trees on the edge of a drainage ditch; to the west is an area of raised meadow, and to the south is a large area of pasture. Prior to development, the site area was covered with grass vegetation.

The planning permission granted allowed for the construction of a single detached dwelling and garage (planning reference N/040/13 18/97). The permission was granted subject to the undertaking of a programme of observation and recording during soil stripping and ground reduction.

3.0 Archaeological and historical background

The origins of the settlement at Cumberworth have been little explored. Being one of the villages listed in the Domesday Survey of 1086 (Morris 1986), it is likely (like so many other medieval settlements in England) that a late Saxon origin may be sought. At the time of the survey, land was in the ownership of Count Alan and Rainer of Brimeux. The neighbouring parish of Huttoft was a jurisdiction of Cumberworth.

Like many village settlements, the only extant medieval building is the parish church, dedicated to St Helen. This was made redundant in 1986, and was largely rebuilt in 1838. However, the greenstone walls are medieval or re-used medieval (Pevsner &

Harris 1989, 245-6). The priest's doorway is dated c. 1200 and, significantly, a late 10th or 11th century fragment from a grave cover can be seen in the north wall of the vestry.

Aerial photographic records held as part of the County Sites and Monuments Record for Lincolnshire show that there are earthwork remains within the village which may reflect former medieval settlement. One feature appears to cross the development site.

4.0 Results

Prior to foundation trenching, vegetation was stripped from the site using a JCB excavator fitted with 1.47m smooth bucket.

The foundation trenches were excavated using a 0.6m wide bucket to an average depth of 1.0m.

Natural deposits (101) comprising stiff brown clay intermingled with tiny chalk fragments were exposed immediately beneath a firm topsoil of dark brown humic clay, (100).

No archaeological deposits were exposed within the house foundation footprint.

Two earth-cut features were exposed in the sides and base of the garage foundation: a ditch orientated east-west, and a pit-like feature in the south-east corner (Fig.'s 3, 4 and 5)

Ditch [103]

The ditch, which extended east-west through the north side of the garage footprint measured approximately 2.0m in width (maximum) and was up to 60cm in depth. It had a wide U-shaped profile and was filled with dark grey silty clay, free of coarse inclusions and domestic waste (attempts were made to recover datable artefacts but to no avail).

Pit [105]

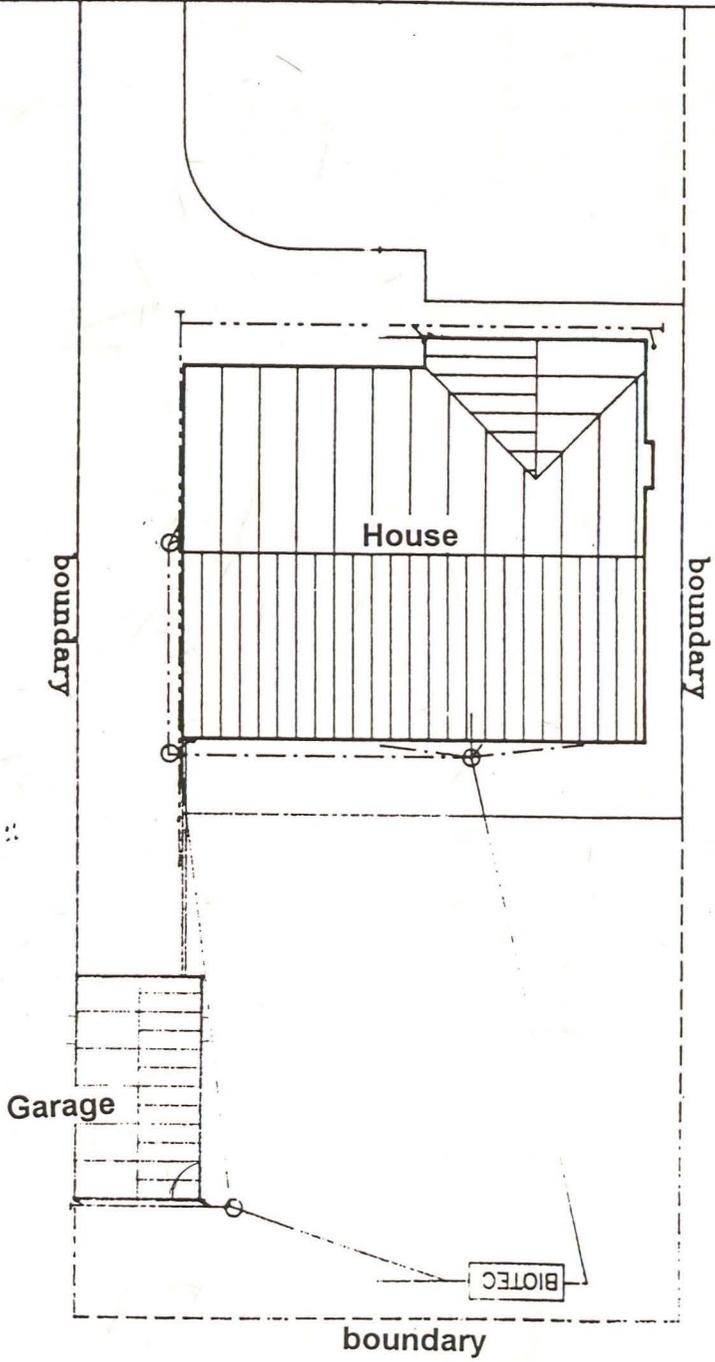
In the south-east corner of the garage foundation, a pit-like feature was exposed. This was difficult to examine due to standing water in this location, although it was possible to define its limits in plan and draw one profile where it appeared in the sides of the east foundation trench (Fig. 5).

The depth of the pit exceeded 0.7m, and it was filled with dark grey silty clay containing fragments of charcoal. Again, no datable artefacts were recovered.

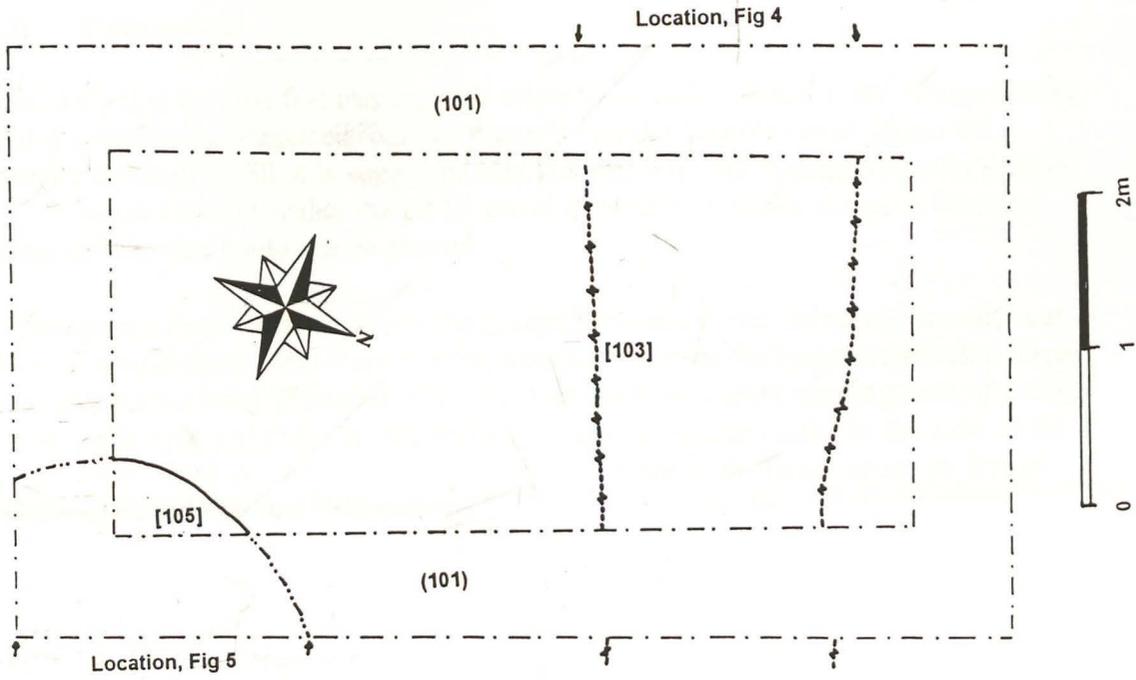
No other archaeological remains or features were exposed.

Fig. 2 Development footprint at 1:200

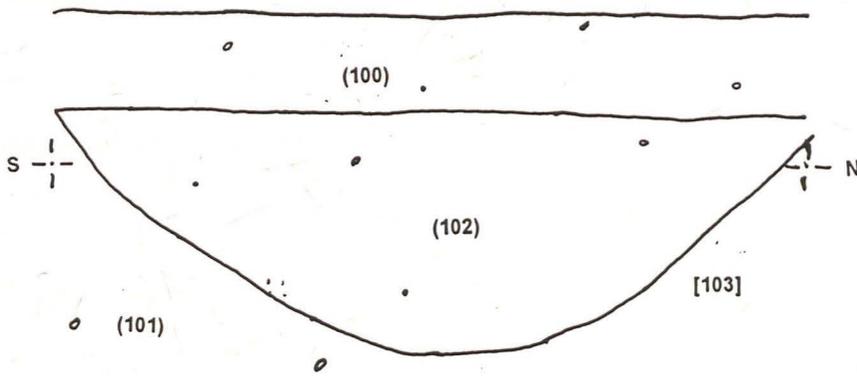
Willoughby Road



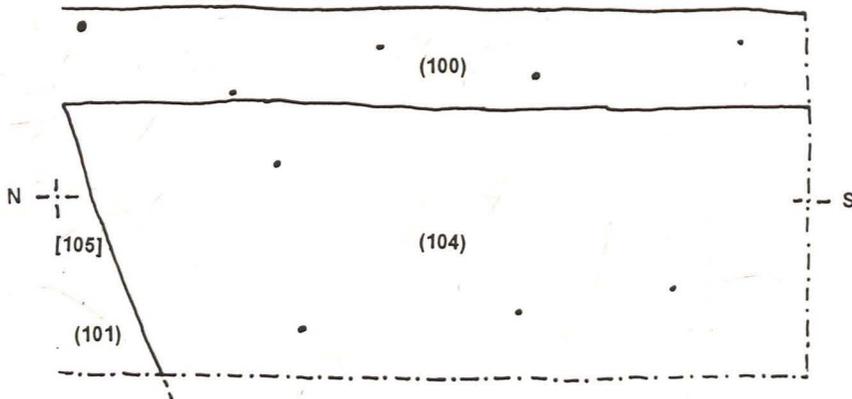
Fig;3 Plan of Garage Area



Fig;4 Section of cut [103]
Scale 1:20



Fig;5 Section of pit cut [105]
Scale 1:20



5.0 Conclusions

It is likely that the two features exposed relate to an earlier phase of the village history, and it is tenuously suggested (but not proved) that they are medieval. Given the sterility of the ditch fill, it is suggested that this was a former drainage/boundary ditch. The charcoal element within the pit fill could indicate a primarily domestic function, although this also could not be proved.

Although the ditch exposed within the garage foundation was orientated broadly east-west, it would appear that it lay too far south to represent the linear cropmark referred to in the project brief. However, the cropmark itself represents one fragment of a much wider landscape, and there are significant numbers of similar marks to the west of the present site (NMP ref. LI.452.1). It is likely that these, collectively, relate to former medieval boundaries and field systems.

6.0 Acknowledgements

Sincere thanks are expressed to the commissioning client, Mr A Carr, for commissioning Pre-Construct Archaeology (Lincoln).

7.0 Appendices:

7.1 References

7.2 Site archive

7.3 Colour photographs

7.1 References

Morris, J (ed) 1986 *Domesday Book: Lincolnshire*

Pevsner, N and Harris, J, 1989 *The Buildings of England: Lincolnshire*

7.2 Site Archive

The basic site archive comprises:

x3 watching brief record sheets

x1 watching brief general account sheet

x13 colour prints/negatives

x1 composite plan/sections of archaeological deposits exposed

x1 architects drawing, scale 1:50

Primary records are currently with Pre-Construct Archaeology (Lincoln), though a complete and ordered archive will be deposited at the City and County Museum, Lincoln within 6 months of completion of this report.

Appendix 7.3 Colour photographs



P1. Section through pit [105], looking east



P2. Section through ditch [103], looking west