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**AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF
OF DEVELOPMENT AT HALTON ROAD,
ASHBY BY PARTNEY,
ASHBY WITH SCREMBY,
LINCOLNSHIRE
(AHR97)**



A P S
ARCHAEOLOGICAL
PROJECT
SERVICES

**AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF
OF DEVELOPMENT AT HALTON ROAD,
ASHBY BY PARTNEY,
ASHBY WITH SCREMBY,
LINCOLNSHIRE
(AHR97)**

Work Undertaken For
Mr and Mrs D. Thomas

Report compiled by
Paul Cope-Faulkner

March 1998

Planning Application No: S/006/1229/97
National Grid Reference: TF 4255 6630
City and County Museum Accession No: 263.97

A.P.S. Report No: 24/98

CONTENTS

List of Figures

List of Plates

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.	Results	2
6.	Discussion	3
7.	Conclusions	3
8.	Acknowledgements	3
9.	Personnel	3
10.	Bibliography	3
11.	Abbreviations	4

Appendices

1	Specification for Archaeological observation and recording
2	Context Descriptions
3	The Archive
4	Glossary

List of Figures

Figure 1 General Location Plan

Figure 2 Site Location Plan

Figure 3 Foundation Plan, showing Section locations

Figure 4 Sections 1, 2, and 3

List of Plates

Plate 1 General view across the development area, looking west

Plate 2 Partial view of Section 1, showing the make-up layer (003)

1. SUMMARY

An archaeological watching brief, by Archaeological Project Services, monitored the construction of a dwelling on land adjacent to Halton Road, Ashby-by-Partney, Lincolnshire.

The watching brief was undertaken as the site lay within the medieval core of the village and near to a moated enclosure, possibly the site of a manor. Previous investigation in the village had identified 12th and 13th century ditches.

No archaeological features were revealed during the investigation. Finds, comprising modern pottery, were recorded but were not retrieved.

2. INTRODUCTION

2.1 Planning Background

Archaeological Project Services was commissioned by Mr and Mrs D. Thomas to undertake an archaeological watching brief during development at land adjacent to Halton Road, Ashby-by-Partney, East Lindsey District, Lincolnshire. Approval for the development was sought through the submission of planning application S/006/1229/97. Permission was granted subject to a standard condition for archaeological recording. The watching brief was carried out in accordance with a specification designed by Archaeological Project Services and agreed by the Assistant County Archaeological 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

Ashby-by-Partney is situated 14km west of Skegness and 17km east of Horncastle, in the civil parish of Ashby-with-Scrembly, East Lindsey District (Fig. 1).

The development site is located at a height of c. 12m OD, and lies 170m southwest of the centre of the village as defined by the parish church of St. Helen and is centred on National Grid Reference TF 4255 6630 (Fig. 2). The village is situated at the southern tip of the Wolds of east Lincolnshire. The site and the surrounding area is on a slight slope westward down to the River Lymn.

Local soils are of the Salop Association, typically stagnogley soils with slowly permeable subsoils (Hodge *et al*, 1984, 305). These soils are developed on glacial till (sand and gravel) which overlies a solid geology of Jurassic mudstones of the Kimmeridge Clay Formation (BGS 1996).

2.3 Archaeological Setting

Ashby-by-Partney is situated in an area of known archaeological activity dating from the medieval period (AD 1066-1500).

Ashby-by-Partney is first mentioned in the Domesday Survey of 1086. Referred to as *Aschebi*, the name derives from the Old Scandinavian and means 'homestead where ash trees grow' (Ekwall 1974, 14). The Domesday Survey records that the village was held by the Bishop of Durham and Earl Hugh and was sokeland of Scrembly and Greetham (Foster and Longley 1976). The

village contained several acres of meadow and may have had a church, and Ivo Taillebois lay claim to a mill and land in Ashby-by-Partney. In the subsequent Lindsey Survey of c. 1115, the land was principally owned by Earl Richard.

The most extant remains of the medieval period are associated with Moat Farm, 140m northwest of the proposed development. Earthworks of the moat still survive and may indicate the position of a medieval manor. The present building is of 16th century date (DoE 1987, 3). The remains of a brick tower, possibly a gatehouse, were removed in 1826 (White 1856, 517). Earthworks of the medieval village have been identified from aerial photographs along Halton Road, as has evidence for medieval agricultural activity in the form of ridge and furrow, north of the development site.

A watching brief was carried out during development to the east of the site during 1995. A series of ditches and other features dating to the 12th and 13th century were revealed (Field and George 1996, 49).

The parish church of St Helen was constructed in 1841 and replaced an earlier church on the site (Pevsner and Harris 1989, 104). However, the church contains a 14th century font and a tomb dated to 1580 (DoE 1987, 2).

3. AIMS

The requirements of the watching brief, as set by the specification (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 and service trenches and a pit for a septic tank to various depths required by the development. 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. Three sections were recorded, two of the house plot and one of the garage foundations. 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.

Records of the deposits and features recognised during the watching brief were examined. A list of all contexts and interpretations appears as Appendix 2.

5. RESULTS

Only three contexts were revealed during the investigation, all of the same, recent, phase. Archaeological contexts are listed below and described. The numbers in brackets are the context numbers assigned in the field.

Revealed at the base of all trenches was a deposit of light brown clayey silt (003) identified as a subsoil. The full depth of this deposit, above the underlying natural deposits, could not be determined. Pottery

was recorded as coming from this layer.

Towards the western extent of the house plot (Fig. 3) was a layer of loose white limestone rubble (003). Measuring 0.25m thick, this layer was interpreted as a make-up deposit or a dump of building material.

Sealing the above deposits was a topsoil of brownish black peaty soil (001).

6. DISCUSSION

Only a single phase of activity was identified during the development. This comprised a subsoil and topsoil with a localised area of limestone rubble make-up. Finds of isolated modern pottery sherds were recorded from the investigation but not retrieved. Such finds, derived from topsoil and subsoil layers, 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 Halton Road, Ashby-by-Partney, Kelby were undertaken because the site fell within an area of known archaeological interest, notably the medieval core of the village.

No archaeological deposits were recorded during site investigations. Although modern pottery sherds are recorded from each of the deposits encountered during the investigation, none were retrieved. The nature of the local site conditions would suggest that few environmental indicators would survive, other than through charring.

8. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeological Project Services would like to acknowledge Mr and Mrs D. Thomas who commissioned the fieldwork and post-excavation analysis. The work was coordinated by Gary Taylor and this report was edited by Tom Lane.

9. PERSONNEL

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

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11. ABBREVIATIONS

IFA Institute of Field Archaeologists

SMR Sites and Monuments Record

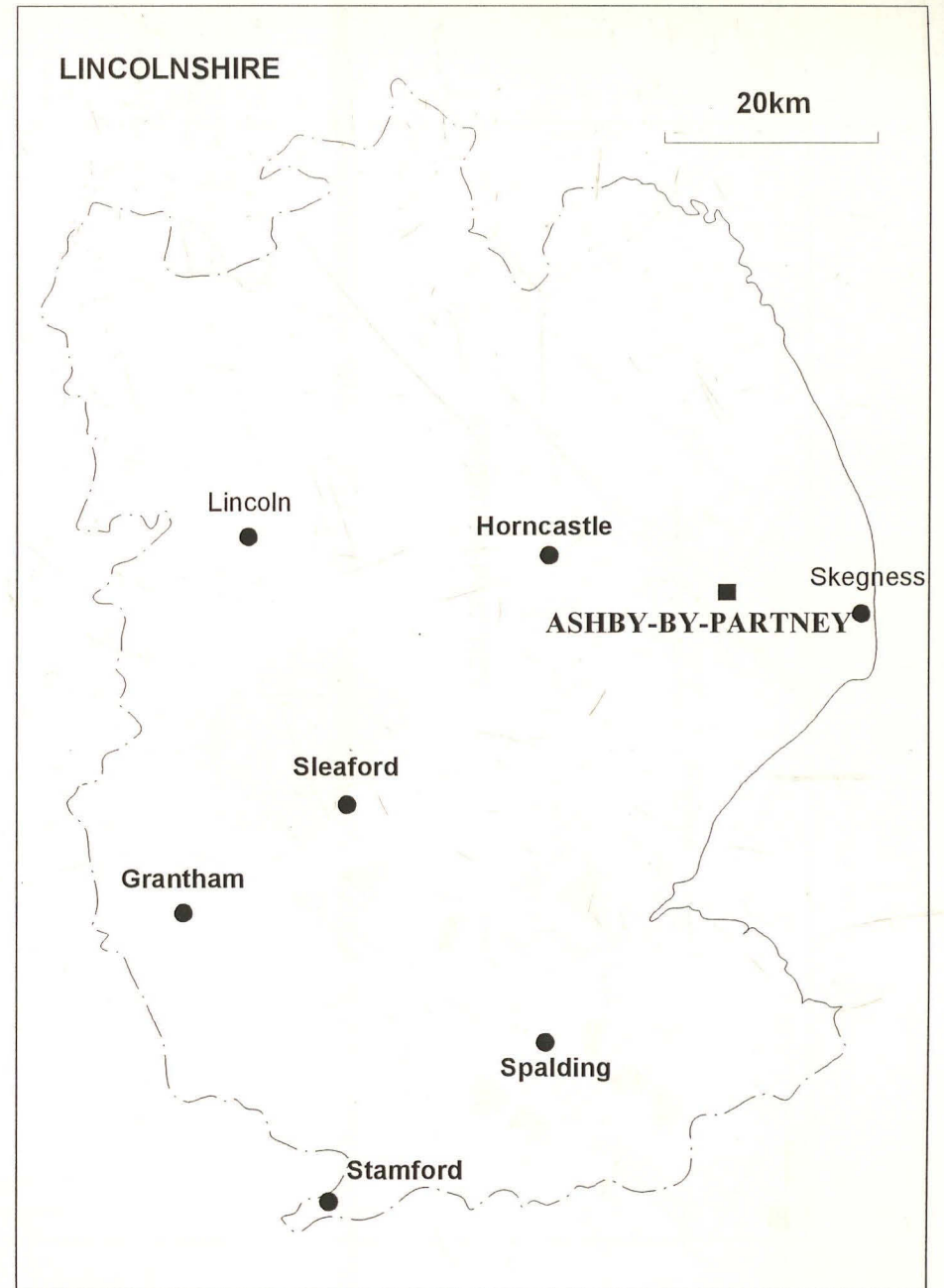
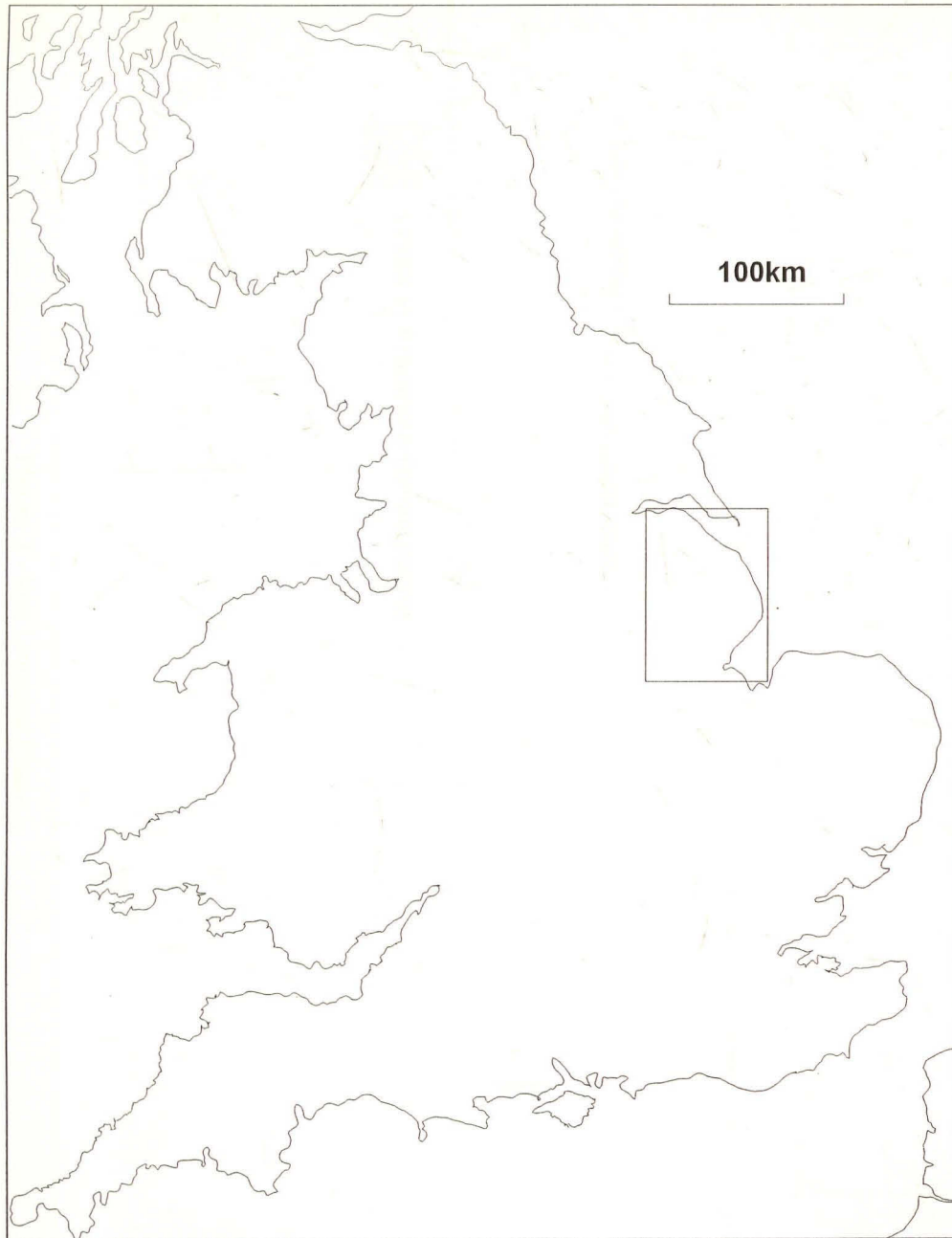
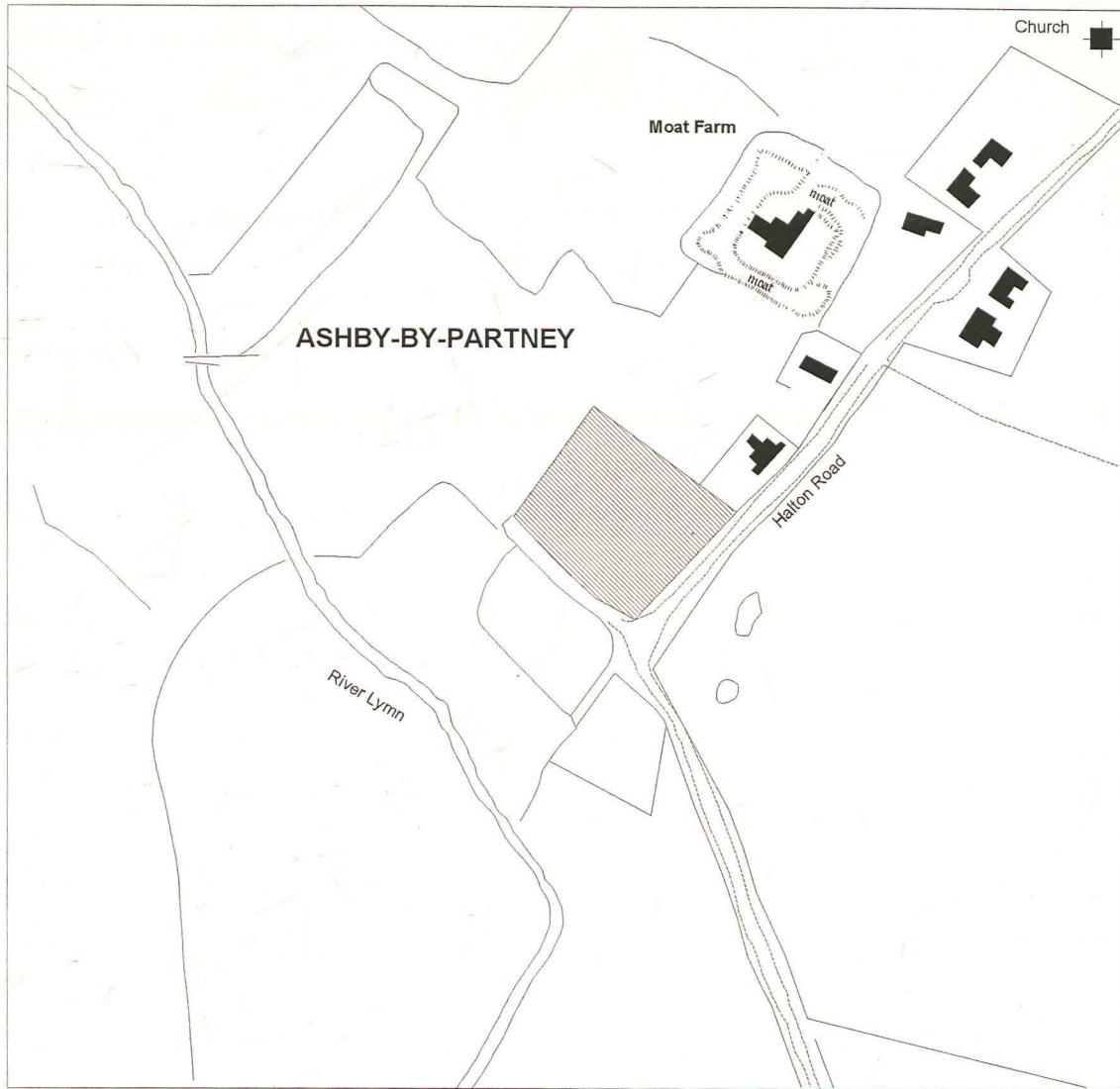


Figure 1 - General Location Plan



 Area of Proposed Development

Figure 2 - Site Location Plan

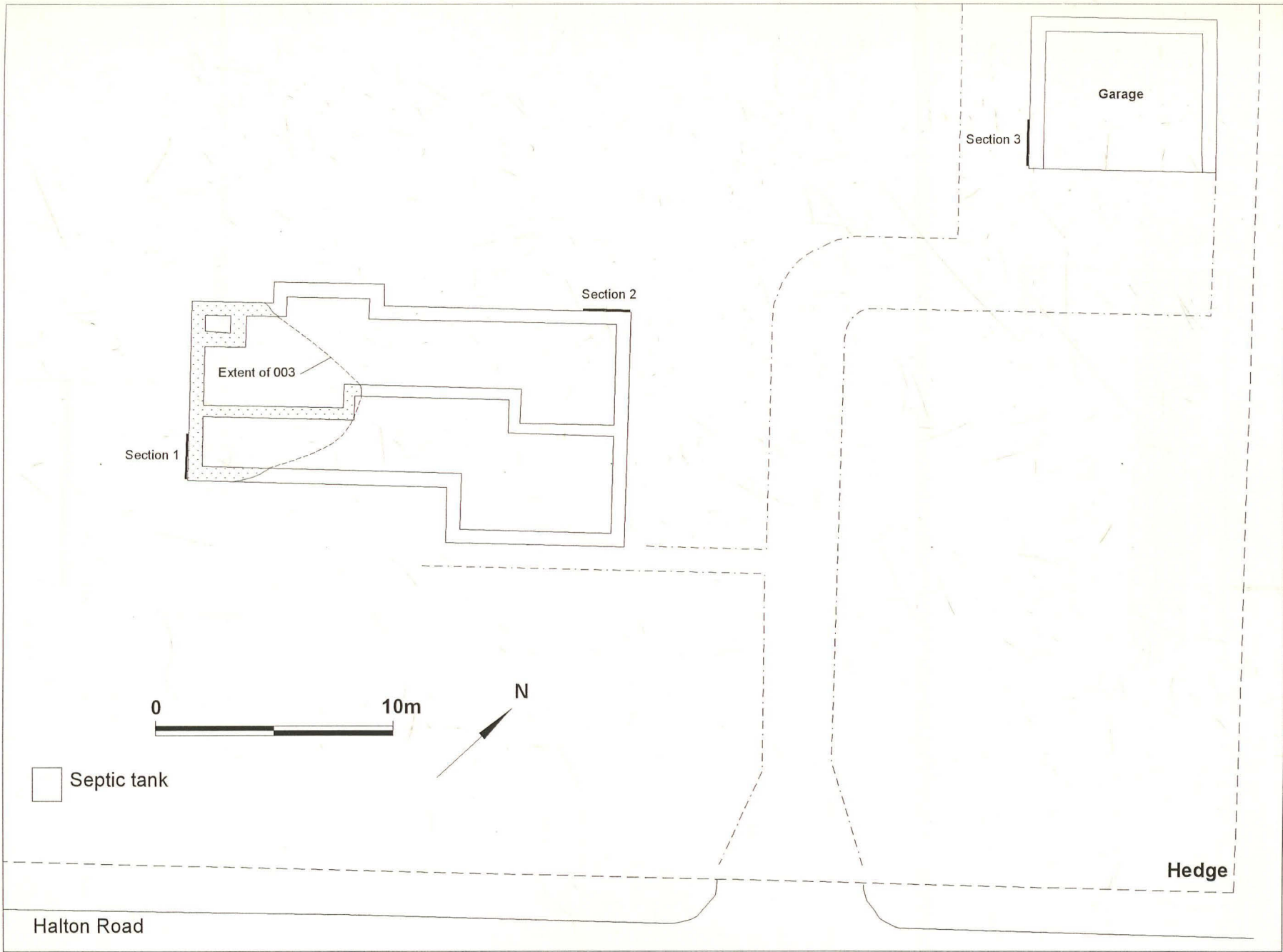


Figure 3 - Foundation Plan, showing Section locations

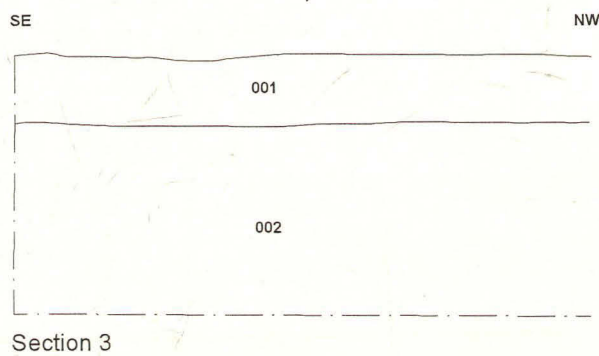
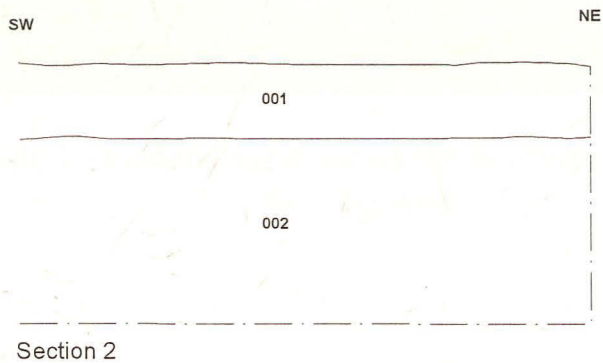
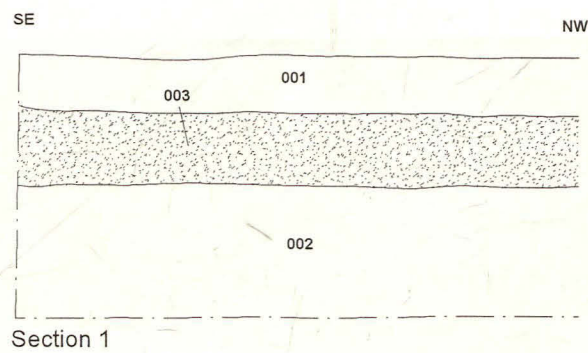


Figure 4 - Sections 1, 2 and 3



Plate 1 - General view across the development area,
looking west



Plate 2 - Partial view of Section 1,
showing the make-up layer (003)

Appendix 1

LAND OFF HALTON ROAD, ASHBY BY PARTNEY, SPILSBY, LINCOLNSHIRE - SPECIFICATION FOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

1. SUMMARY

A watching brief is required during construction work at land off Halton Road, Ashby by Partney, Spiisbury, Lincolnshire.

The site lies within an area of archaeological potential. There is evidence which suggests the remains of medieval settlement along Halton Road. The nearby Moat Farm earthworks provide further evidence for the archaeological potential of this area.

The watching brief will be undertaken during groundworks associated with the development. The archaeological features exposed will be recorded in writing, graphically and photographically.

On completion of the fieldwork a report will be prepared detailing the findings of the work. The report will consist of a narrative supported by illustrations and photographs.

2. INTRODUCTION

2.1 This document comprises a specification for an archaeological watching brief during the groundworks at the site off Halton Road at Ashby by Partney. The site is located at national grid reference TF 425663.

2.2 This document contains the following parts:

2.2.1 Overview.

2.2.2 Stages of work and methodologies.

2.2.3 List of specialists.

2.2.4 Programme of works and staffing structure of the project.

3. SITE LOCATION

3.1 Ashby by Partney is located approximately 2.5km east of Spilsby in the administrative district of East Lindsey. The site is situated approximately 400m south of the village centre and on the north side of Halton Road at TF 425663.

4. PLANNING BACKGROUND

4.1 Planning permission (reference number S/006/1229/97) for the construction of a bungalow, detached garage, and vehicular access is sought for land off Halton Road, Ashby by Partney, and is being considered by East Lindsey District Council. The application is subject to a condition requiring the implementation of an archaeological watching brief.

5. SOILS AND TOPOGRAPHY

5.1 Ashby by Partney is situated at the southern edge of the Lincolnshire Wolds. The site and surrounding area is gently undulating and lies between 10 and 15m OD. Soils at the site are Salop Association which consists mainly of stagnogley soils with slowly permeable subsoils in reddish drift mostly derived from Permo-Triassic rocks (Hodge *et al.* 1984, 305).

6. THE ARCHAEOLOGY

- 6.1 The site lies within an area of archaeological potential. Aerial photographic evidence has shown cropmark evidence of the remains of a medieval settlement along Halton Road and recent archaeological work has confirmed a 13th to 15th century date for occupation of the area. The nearby Moat Farm earthworks (c. 100m to the northwest of the site) provide further evidence for the archaeological potential of this area.

7. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- 7.1 The aims of the watching brief will be:

7.1.1 To record and interpret the archaeological features exposed during ground disturbance.

- 7.2 The objectives of the watching brief will be to:

7.2.1 Determine the form and function of the archaeological features encountered;

7.2.2 Determine the spatial arrangement of the archaeological features encountered;

7.2.3 As far as practicable, recover dating evidence from the archaeological features, and

7.2.4 Establish the sequence of the archaeological remains present on the site.

8. SITE OPERATIONS

8.1 General considerations

8.1.1 All work will be undertaken following statutory Health and Safety requirements in operation at the time of the watching brief.

8.1.2 The work will be undertaken according to the relevant codes of practise issued by the Institute of Field Archaeologists.

8.2 Methodology

8.2.1 The watching brief will be undertaken during the ground works phase of development, and includes the archaeological monitoring of all phases of soil movement.

8.2.2 The sections of the trenches will be observed regularly to identify and record archaeological features that are exposed and to record changes in the geological conditions. The plans of the trench and features will be drawn at a scale of 1:20. Section drawings of the trenches and features will be recorded at a scale of 1:10. Written descriptions detailing the nature of the deposits, features and fills encountered will be compiled on Archaeological Project Services pro-forma record sheets.

8.2.3 Any finds recovered will be bagged and labelled for later analysis.

8.2.4 Throughout the watching brief a photographic record consisting of colour prints will be compiled. The photographic record will consist of:

- I. The site during work to show specific stages, and the layout of the archaeology within the trench.

I. groups of features where their relationship is important

8.2.5 Should human remains be located the appropriate Home Office licence will be obtained before their removal. In addition, the Local Environmental Health Department and the police will be

informed.

9. POST-EXCAVATION

9.1 Stage 1

9.1.1 On completion of site operations, the records and schedules produced during the watching brief will be checked and ordered to ensure that they form a uniform sequence forming a level II archive. A stratigraphic matrix of the archaeological deposits and features present on the site will be prepared. All photographic material will be catalogued: the colour prints will be labelled, the labelling referring to schedules identifying the subject/s photographed.

9.1.2 All finds recovered during the field work will be washed, marked and packaged according to the deposit from which they were recovered. Any finds requiring specialist treatment and conservation will be sent to the Conservation Laboratory at the City and County Museum, Lincoln.

9.2 Stage 2

9.2.1 Detailed examination of the stratigraphic matrix to enable the determination of the various phases of activity on the site.

9.2.2 Finds will be sent to specialists for identification and dating.

9.3 Stage 3

9.3.1 On completion of stage 2, a report detailing the findings of the watching brief will be prepared.

9.3.2 This will consist of:

- a. A description of the archaeological setting of the watching brief.
- b. Description of the topography of the site.
- c. Description of the methodologies used during the watching brief.
- d. A text describing the findings of the watching brief.
- e. A consideration of the local, regional and national context of the watching brief findings.
- f. Plans of the archaeological features exposed. If a sequence of archaeological deposits is encountered, separate plans for each phase will be produced.
- g. Sections of the archaeological features.
- h. Interpretation of the archaeological features exposed, and their chronology and setting within the surrounding landscape.
- i. Specialist reports on the finds from the site.
- j. Appropriate photographs of specific archaeological features.

10. REPORT DEPOSITION

10.1 Copies of the report will be sent to the client; the County Council Archaeological Sites and Monuments Record; and to East Lindsey District Council Planning Department.

11. ARCHIVE

- 11.1 The documentation and records generated during the watching brief will be sorted and ordered into the format acceptable to the City and County Museum, Lincoln. This will be undertaken following the requirements of the document titled *Conditions for the Acceptance of Project Archives* for long term storage and curation.

12. PUBLICATION

- 12.1 A report of the findings of the watching brief will be published in Heritage Lincolnshire's Annual Report and a note presented to the editor of the journal of the Society for Lincolnshire History and Archaeology. If appropriate, notes on the findings will be submitted to the appropriate national journals: *Britannia* for discoveries of Roman date, and *Medieval Archaeology* and the journal of the *Medieval Settlement Research Group* for findings of medieval or later date.

13. CURATORIAL RESPONSIBILITY

- 13.1 Curatorial responsibility for the archaeological work undertaken on the site lies with the Archaeology Officer, Lincolnshire County Council. They will be given seven days notice in writing before the commencement of the project.

14. VARIATIONS

- 14.1 Variations to the proposed scheme of works will only be made following written confirmation of acceptance from the Archaeology Officer, Lincolnshire County Council.

15. PROGRAMME OF WORKS AND STAFFING LEVELS

- 15.1 The watching brief will be integrated with the programme of construction.
15.2 An archaeological supervisor with experience of watching briefs will undertake the work.

16. SPECIALISTS TO BE USED DURING THE PROJECT

- 16.1 The following organisations/persons will, in principal and if necessary, be used as subcontractors to provide the relevant specialist work and reports in respect of any objects or material recovered during the investigation that require their expert knowledge and input. Engagement of any particular specialist subcontractor is also dependent on their availability and ability to meet programming requirements.

<u>Task</u>	<u>Body to be undertaking the work</u>
Conservation	Conservation Laboratory, City and County Museum, Lincoln
Pottery Analysis	Prehistoric - Trent & Peak Archaeological Trust Roman - B Precious, independent specialist Saxon - City of Lincoln Archaeology Unit Medieval and later - H Healey, independent archaeologist
Non-pottery Artefacts	J Cowgill, independent specialist
Animal Bones	Environmental Archaeology Consultancy
Human Remains Analysis	R Gowland, independent specialist

17. BIBLIOGRAPHY

Hodge, CAH, Burton, RGO, Corbett, WM, Evans, R, and Seale, RS, 1984 *Soils and their use in Eastern England*, Soil Survey of England and Wales 13

Appendix 2

CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

Context	Description	Interpretation
001	Loose dark brownish black, humic peaty soil, 0.2-0.25m thick	Topsoil
002	Firm light brown clayey silt, unknown thickness	Subsoil
003	Loose white limestone rubble, 0.25m thick	Make-up deposit

Appendix 3

THE ARCHIVE

The archive consists of:

3	Context records
1	Photographic record sheet
5	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: 263.97
Archaeological Project Services Site Code: AHR97

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

Boulder Clay

A deposit formed after the retreat of a glacier. Also known as till, this material is generally unsorted and can comprise of rock flour to boulders to rocks of quite substantial size.

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.