

Baston, Land off Car Dyke Drive

(rear of The Appletrees)

Archaeological Monitoring

NGR: *TF 1168 1408*Site Code: *BAP 97*LCNCC Museum Accn. No. 207.97
SKDC Planning Application No. *SK. 96/0271/07/12*

Report prepared for:

G. R. Merchant (on behalf of Market Deeping Building Company Ltd.)

LAS Report No. 311

September 1998

PARTNERS: F.N. FIELD B.A. (Hons), MIFA · M. V. CLARK

Lincolnshire County Council
Archaeology Section

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Summary

A watching brief during the concluding construction phases of this development identified a multi-period ditch boundary, of medieval and post-medieval date. Parts of other ditches, post-holes and pits were identified but these could not be dated.

Introduction

Lindsey Archaeological Services (LAS) was commissioned by G. R. Merchant (on behalf of Market Deeping Building Company Ltd.) in May 1997 to conduct a watching brief during construction of four house plots, associated garages, service trenches and an access road on land off Cardyke Drive, Baston (Figs. 1 and 2). The site occupies land to the rear of 'Appletrees', 48 Main Street and previous reports have used that title. Archaeological monitoring had been required by South Kesteven District Council as a condition placed on planning permission for this development.

A previous report has described archaeological remains found during groundworks for house plots 1-3 (Moore 1997). This report describes the archaeological features identified and recorded during groundworks for house plot 4, garages beside House Plots 1, 2 and 3, excavation of drains to the rear of Plots 1 and 2, and excavation of a service trench along the northern side of the development access road (Fig. 3). The South Kesteven Community Archaeologist decided on 1st September 1998 that monitoring of footings for the garage east of Plot 4 was no longer necessary, and the present report completes this project.

Fieldwork described in this report was conducted by Richard Moore on five occasions in October 1997 and April 1998.

Archaeological Background

The village of Baston lies on the Fen edge and archaeological remains from the prehistoric period onwards have been found in the near vicinity. The origins of the village lie in the Anglo-Saxon period, and evidence of this has been found at Hall Farm. Iron Age and Roman remains were also found at Hall Farm and the Roman Car Dyke lies just east of Appletrees. The archaeological context of this site has previously been described in detail (Taylor 1997).

An archaeological evaluation of the development site was carried out in April 1996 by LAS; it comprised ten small test pits, all of which produced modest quantities of Roman, medieval and post-medieval pottery. Part of a human

burial was revealed and the fragment of a skull was found. Archaeological evaluation of the site consisted of the digging and recording of 10 one-metre-square test holes, and identified the potential for archaeological remains across the site. Features were identified in seven of these squares, including a probable 2nd or 3rd century grave, containing a fragmented skull, together with hip and arm bone fragments, near the north-west corner of the site. Other features included a pit containing a human cranium fragment with thirteenth/fourteenth century pottery, an early medieval gully, and a large late medieval or post-medieval feature which could have been a section of an east-west aligned ditch. All of the five most northerly test-pits contained archaeological features, while three of the five most southerly were blank (Taylor, 1996).

As a result of the archaeological evaluation the foundation design was modified in order to minimise damage to archaeological remains. The accepted design involved the construction of narrow strip foundations with suspended floors; the service trenches and access road were dug as normal.

The Watching Brief Method

Context numbers were assigned to identified features for recording purposes. These were allocated within blocks in order to readily identify the location of the context: 100s for features from Plot 1 garage, 200s for features from Plot 2 garage, 400s for features from house plot 4. Features identified within the access road area were allocated 500s. Numbers previously assigned were not re-used, but where a feature can be reliably identified in two separate areas the other context numbers are referred to.

Garage for House Plot 1 (Figs. 3 and 4)

Trenches for this garage were excavated by machine with a toothed bucket up to a depth of 0.95m. The average width was 0.45m. Topsoil was 0.3m thick, covering a light brown sandy loam subsoil **161**, 0.35m thick. Sand was encountered at the southern end of the foundation 0.75m below the surface, but lay beneath the trench base towards the front of the garage.

The trenches revealed two, approximately parallel, ditches aligned NW-SE and about 4m apart. Ditch **151**, closest to an existing house on Cardyke Drive, survived to a depth of 0.65m directly below modern topsoil. Its width was not determined but was at least 1.5m and probably over 2.25m (Pls. 1 and 2). Two fill layers were identified. The thicker uppermost layer **150** was a light brown sandy loam, covering the primary fill **152** which contained a high gravel component.

Ditch 151 was interpreted as being part of a field or property boundary ditch which survives between pasture fields to the SE of this development (Pl. 3). It would appear to be of medieval date; the pot sherds recovered from 150 were mostly of thirteenth century date, but with one more recent (probably intrusive) sherd.

The other ditch **157** lay to the west and was found to be about 1.5m wide and 0.5m deep (Pls. 4 and 5). This feature had probably been dug through the subsoil layer but as its fill **158** was almost identical, confirmation of this was not found. This ditch may be of Romano-British date; two sherds (including a samian sherd dated AD 120-160) were recovered.

Butt ends at the southern extent of these ditches have been conjectured from observations within a service trench dug along the northern edge of the access road.

In addition to the two ditches, two other features thought to be small pits or large post-holes were recorded. The northern end of an ovoid feature **159**, 0.9m wide and 0.3m deep below subsoil **161**, was revealed at the rear of the garage (Pl. 6). Another apparently ovoid feature **154** was seen in the centre of the garage, aligned NE-SW (Pl. 7). During subsequent trenching for a soakaway close to the fence (to the south of the garage) **159** and **157** were seen in the trench face, indicating that both extend beyond the development.

Garage for House Plot 2 (Figs. 3 and 5a)

The 0.5m wide trenches for this garage were excavated to a depth of between 0.55m and 0.75m. The topsoil overlay a thin layer of brown sandy loam above the sandy gravel which was encountered 0.5m below the surface.

At the SE corner of the garage footings, part of the NW corner of a rectangular pit **263** were seen. This was at least 1.4m NE-SW and over 0.8m NW-SE. It was tentatively identified as associated with **206** recorded in House Plot 2. Within the garage footing the feature was filled with **262**, a dark brown sand loam.

The eastern end of another pit **254**, 2.4m wide, was exposed in the western footing trench for this garage. Its fill **255** was a dark brown sandy loam. No dating material was found.

At the NW corner of the garage, the southern edge of a rubbish pit or hollow for hearth **264** was identified. This feature contained a grey/brown silt loam fill **265** with numerous charcoal flecks, ash and fragments of burnt clay (Pl. 8). A single glazed sherd of twelfth/thirteenth century pottery was found.

Towards the centre and rear of the garage, five possible stakeholes or postholes were recorded. Post-hole **250** was 0.25m diameter, with its base deeper than 0.7m below modern ground level. It was filled by **251**, which contained a single piece of pitched thin limestone apparently used as packing.

To the NW, post-hole **252** was 0.35m diameter and 0.35m deep (sealed by 0.4m topsoil). Its fill **253** contained several pitched pieces of limestone packing.

Within the central footing trench, post-hole **256** was 0.4m diameter, with post-holes **258** and **260** both 0.3m diameter and very closely spaced.

All of these extended beyond the trenches and could have been corners of larger features, but the presence of pitched post-packing stones within **251** and **252** appeared to confirm the interpretation. The concentration suggested that they had formed part of a structure but its shape and nature could not be established from the limited information visible.

Garage for House Plot 3 (Fig. 3)

The trenches for this garage were briefly inspected after excavation. No archaeological features were seen.

House Plot 4 (Fig. 5b; Pl. 9)

The last house plot to be built lay in the NE of the development area. Trenches for this plot were between 0.45m deep and 1.5m deep where ground had been previously disturbed. Deep modern features were found close to the SE and NE corners of the plot. Three undated features were recorded.

To the SW of the plot footings the southern side of a sub-rectangular or sub-circular feature **408**, possibly a substantial post-hole, was revealed (Pl. 10). This survived to a maximum width of 0.75m, with its base 0.9m below the modern surface and overlain by 0.45m of topsoil. Its fill **407** was a grey silty gravel with tip lines and lenses, described as unlike the fill of adjacent modern features.

The NW side of the garage footings was crossed by a broad ditch **414** over 0.55m deep (Pl. 11). Only part of one edge of this ditch was exposed, with a visible fill of grey/brown silty and sandy gravel **413**, slightly darker than the undisturbed natural. The edge suggested a west-east alignment but was not visible in adjacent trenches. At the northern corner of the plot this feature was apparently cut by a pit **404** filled with three distinct deposits. The upper fill **401** was 0.1m thick and contained pieces of local building stone, possibly indicating a spread of demolition or construction debris for levelling and consolidation. Beneath this rubble was **402**, 0.5m of silty material probably derived from natural silting of an open feature. The lowest exposed fill, apparently on the base of the pit, was a grey silty gravel with charcoal flecks. This may have derived from refuse disposal within an open pit.

Access Road and Service Trenches (Fig. 3)

A shallow scrape of the ground surface was made by machine in preparation for the NE-SW access road spur from Cardyke Drive. No features were exposed by this topsoil strip.

Along the centre of the road a trench was excavated by machine to a width of between 0.5m and 0.6m for a sewer pipe. The trench extended the line of sewer from Cardyke Drive.

Two ditches were seen in the trench faces and assigned context numbers 501 - 504. Both features had been cut into the natural gravel and had been truncated by the modern topsoil layer. The deeper ditch 502 was 3.2m west of the end of Cardyke Drive and was 3.6m wide with steeply sloping sides. Its base was below the service trench but its surviving depth was probably about 0.85m. Its fill 501 was a dark brown silt loam with tree roots evident at the top. This feature appeared to be a continuation of ditch 160 which crossed the eastern side of the garage for Plot 1. This ditch represents a land boundary which survived until the late post-medieval period until replaced by the existing hedge and property boundary 3m to the east.

A second ditch **504** crossed the trench 1.7m further west, apparently at the same alignment. This ditch was 2.4m wide and about 0.85m deep, with a grey to grey/brown loose gravelly silt fill **503**. The much less organic appearance of this fill may indicate it to be earlier than **502**, although its parallel alignment (continuing **157** seen in the Plot 1 garage trenches) implies that it was either contemporary or a precursor to **502** with the same function. The gap in between is too narrow for the ditches to be flanking a track or path.

At the northern edge of the road a narrower trench was excavated by machine to hold the ducts containing services for the development (Pl. 12). The trench extended the line of a water main and other services which existed in Cardyke Drive. Ditches **502** and **504** were again revealed although here they were narrower. Ditch **502** was 2.7m wide and visible to at least 0.55m below the surface; **504**, 2.8m further west, was 0.9m wide. Neither of these features were seen either in a service trench leading to House Plot 4 or in that plot's footings, and this suggests that the reduced width represents the butt end or northern terminal of each ditch.

Further to the west along this smaller service trench, areas of disturbance were noted 4.6m west of **504** (2.4m wide, probably recent) and in two other positions. These produced no finds and could not be either dated or explained.

Small trenches were excavated around the sides of the houses on Plots 1 and 2 in order to take runoff from roof gutters to soakaways. These were observed at the front, west side and rear of Plot 1 and the rear of Plot 2. At the rear of Plot 1 the trenches and soakaway revealed more of the deep feature identified as 113 during the archaeological evaluation, probably extending beyond the development boundary. At the west side of Plot 2 much of the trench cut through disturbed ground, and although definition was not possible, part of features 205 and 206 were probably encountered.

Conclusion

The watching brief failed to identify sufficient information to allow a greater understanding of Romano-British and medieval activity on the site, other than to produce the earliest dateable sherd yet found here. This was partly the result of attempting to recognise archaeological remains within trenches of a variety of widths within different parts of the site. For the most part, it reflects

the success of the building techniques in reducing damage to archaeological remains and only directly affecting small parts of features. Theoretically, the remainder of these features remain undisturbed below the new structures.

The series of boundary ditches west of the present site boundary with Car Dyke Drive probably represent medieval and post-medieval versions of the existing property boundary, although continuity of the feature from the Romano-British period has not been disproved.

An archive list of further finds from the previous phase of monitoring (omitted from the 1997 report) is included (App. 4). The Post-Roman pottery list includes all finds from the watching brief (App. 2).

Acknowledgements

LAS were grateful for continued co-operation from The Market Deeping Building Company Ltd and from the NKDC Heritage Officer Kate Orr.

The report was produced and collated by Jane Frost, with illustrations prepared by Mick McDaid.

Geoff Tann and R. Moore Lindsey Archaeological Services 15th September 1998

References

Taylor, C. 1996 *Appletrees, 48 Main Street, Baston*, Archaeological Evaluation Report by LAS for Connell Estate Agents.

Moore, R. 1997 Baston, Car Dyke Drive (property at rear of 'Appletrees', 48 Main Street, Baston): Archaeological Watching Brief. Report by LAS for Market Deeping Building Company Ltd, September 1997.

Archive Summary

Developer's site plans and house/garage type plans field sketch sections and plans field scale sections photographs: colour prints LAS film nos. 97/75/2-6, 8-9, 11 14-16 97/76/16, 22, 12-17, 20, 22-24

specialists' reports and archive lists correspondence context sheets inked plans and sections

Context Summary

Garage for House Plot 1

- 150 Upper fill of Ditch 151. Light brown sandy loam. Below 100 (topsoil), above 152.
- 151 Ditch, filled by 150 and 151. Over 1m wide, 0.3m deep. Cuts 153. May have removed 162.
- 152 Lower fill of ditch 151. Below 150. Light brown loam with high gravel content.
- 153 Sandy gravel natural.
- 154 Pit, 0.5m long, 0.12m deep; filled by 155. Cuts 153.
- 155 Fill of pit 154. Sealed by 162. Red-brown loam.
- 156 Dirty sand, below 162, cut by 154. Same as 153.
- 157 Ditch, 3.5m wide, 0.25m deep; filled by 158. Parallel to 151.
- 158 Fill of ditch 157. Light brown sandy loam. Below 161.
- 159 Pit, 0.8m wide, 0.13m deep; filled by 160. Cuts 153.
- 160 Fill of pit 159. Light brown loam, sealed by 161.
- Layer of light brown sandy loam up to 0.17m thick, possibly subsoil. Below topsoil **100**, possibly removed by ditch **151**; seals **158**, **160**, **155**.
- Layer of brown sandy loam, below **100**, above **155**. Subsoil, perhaps same as **161**.

Garage for House Plot 2

- 250 0.25m diameter posthole, base deeper than 0.7m below ground level. Filled by 251.
- 251 Fill of posthole 250. Contained single piece of pitched thin limestone packing.
- Posthole, 0.35m diameter, 0.35m deep (sealed by 0.4m topsoil). Contained several pitched pieces of limestone packing. Filled by 253.
- 253 Fill of 252.

- 254 Rectangular pit filled by 255. 2.4m wide.
- 255 Dark brown sand loam fill of 254.
- 256 Posthole, 0.4m diameter. Filled by 257.
- 257 Fill of 256.
- 258 Posthole, 0.3m diameter. Filled by 259; very close to 260.
- 259 Fill of 258.
- 260 Small posthole 0.3m diameter. Filled by 261.
- 261 Fill of 260
- 262 Dark brown sand loam fill of 263; may represent 207 recorded in House Plot 2.
- 263 Corner of pit, possibly part of 206 recorded in Plot 2. Filled by 262.
- 264 Rubbish pit or hollow for hearth. Filled by 265.
- Fill of **264**. One sherd medieval pottery. Mid brown silt loam with abundant burnt and fired clay fragments, ash and charcoal flecks.

Access Road and Service Trenches

- 501 Fill of 502. Dark brown silt loam with tree roots evident at the top.
- 502 Ditch, 3.6m wide with steeply sloping sides, surviving depth probably about 0.85m. Filled by 501. Probably a continuation of ditch 160 which crossed the eastern side of the garage for Plot 1.
- Fill of **502**. Grey to grey/brown loose gravelly silt, much less organic than **502**.
- Ditch on the same alignment as **502**. 2.4m wide and about 0.85m deep, filled by **503**.

Post Roman Pottery Archive List (Jane Young)

POST-ROMAN POTTERY ARCHIVE: BAP97 WARE TYPES BY CONTEXT

 Context	Ware	Sherds	Form	Comments
100	BL	1	BOWL	18TH
100	BOUA	1	?	UNGLZE
100	BS	1	JAR/CHAMBER	RIM
100	LPM	1	DISH	BL/W
100	LPM	2	DISH	BL/W
100	R	1	BOWL	RIM;?ID
101	MEDLOC	1	?	UNDERFIRED GLZE;??BOUA
101	MISC	1	JAR	ROMAN GW OR SNLOC
101	ST	1	JAR	UNGLZE;11-12TH
150	LERTH	1	FLOWERPOT?	-
150	ST	1	JAR/PITCHER	GLZE;L11-M12TH
150	BOUA	5	JAR	BASE;UNGLZE;SOOT
150	BOUA	1	JAR	BASE;UNGLZE;SOOT
158	R	2	-	,,,,
200	BL	1	CLOSED	17/18TH
200	BL	1	CLOSED	17/18TH;MP TYPE
200	BOUA	1	BOWL	BS
200	BOUA	1	BOWL	DEC RIM AS 300;
				?OVER FIRED;NOT SV?
200	BOUA	1	JAR	UNGLZE;SOOT
200	BOUA	1	JUG	BS;APP & INC DEC
200	BOUA	3	JUG;LARGE	LHJ
200	BS	1	BOWL	BASE
200	BS	1	BOWL	MACHINE DEC
200	DST	1	JUG	BS
200	LERTH	1	FLOWERPOT	-
200	R	1	MORTARIA	-
200	ST	1	JUG/PIT	GLZE;L11/12TH
200	STSL	1	DISH;PRESS MOULD	WHITE FABRIC;
				TRAILED DEC
201	SNLOC	1	JAR	UNGLZE;QUARTZ FABRIC;
				? ID COULD BE R?
201	ST	1	JAR	UNGLZE;10-12TH
201	ST	1	JUG/PIT	BASE;SOOT;GLZE;L11/12TH
201	ST	5	PITCHER	BS & HANDLE;GLZE;L11/12TH
202	BOU	1	JUG/JAR	-
202	BOU	1	JUG/JAR	_ "
265	BOUA	1	BOWL?	INT GLZE
300	BL	1	JAR	RIM;17/18TH
300	BOU	1	JUG/JAR	-
300	BOUA	1	BOWL	RIM; INCISED AND SLASHED DEC
				INT & RIM FLANGE;LOW FIRED
300	BS	1	HOLLOW	-
303	BOUA	1	JUG/JAR	BASE;SOOT
305	BERTH	1	JAR	18TH
305°	LPM	1	-	BL/W

305	LPM	1	JUG	COLOUR GLZE
305	LSTON	1	JAM JAR	-

POST-ROMAN POTTERY ARCHIVE: BAP97 HORIZON DATING

Con	text Earliest horizon	Latest horizon	Probable horizon	Date range
100	EMH	EMH		19-20th
101	MH3	MH10	-	12th-15th
150	MH3 OR PMH8	MH6 OR EMH	-	13th or 18/19th
158	R	R	:=:	Roman
200	PMH8	PMH10	-	18th
201	ASH14	MH3	-	11th-12th
202	MH3	MH8	-	12th-14th
265	MH3	MH6	-	12-13th
300	PMH8	EMH	-	18/19th
303	MH3	MH8	=	12th-14th
305	EMH	EMH		19-20th

Glossary of Fabric Codes

BI Boua Bs Lpm R Medloc Misc St Dst Lerth	Blackware: mid 16th - modern Bourne fabrics A-C: mid 12th - late 14th centuries Brown stoneware: late 17th century - modern early modern: late 18th/20th centuries Roman medieval, local origin: early 13th/late 15th centuries undated wares Stamford ware: late 9th - early 13th centuries developed Stamford ware: early 12th - mid 13th centuries late earthenwares: mid 18th/20th centuries
Stsl	Staffordshire slipware: mid 17th - mid 18th centuries
Snloc Bou Lston	Saxo-Norman local fabrics: late 9th - early 13th centuries Bourne Fabric D: mid 15th - mid 17th centuries late stonewares: late 18th/20th centuries
Date Codes	Domon

Date Codes	
R	Roman
ASH 14	Saxo-Norman; late 11th - early/mid 12th century
MH 3	early medieval; mid-late 12th - early 13th century
MH 6	medieval; late 13th-mid 14th century
MH 8	medieval: late 14th century - early 15th century
MH 10	late medieval; mid-late 15th century
PMH 8	late post-medieval; early 18th - mid 18th century
PMH 10	late post-medieval; late 18th - early 19th centuries
EMH	late 18th - 20th centuries

Roman Pottery Archive List (Maggi Darling)

14 September 1998

Two sherds from context 158 submitted for identification and comment:

A rim from a Central Gaulish samian Dr 37 bowl, with fragment of ovolo. This is in an unusually light coloured fabric, with a high calcareous content; the surfaces are also unusual in being relatively matt. Unfortunately the ovolo is insufficient to identify the potter or group of potters. This type of fabric has been noted on a closed form 64 from Lincoln, and this bowl may have a similar date range, broadly Hadrianic-Antonine, c AD120-150/160.

A fragment from the base of a grey closed form, probably a jar. Red-brown fabric with pale grey core and grey exterior surface.

The samian sherd appears to give the earliest definite date for pottery from Baston so far examined.

Registered Finds Archive List

(Jen Mann)

REGISTERED FINDS LIST: BASTON APPLETREES (BAP97)

Registered Finds

Context	Finds No	Material	Object	Comments
100	1	GLAS	_	HDIST
104	2	IRON	_	X2 (= 1) BLADE
300	3	LEAD	WAST	MELT

Context 100, Find No. 1 Single fragment of heat-distorted glass. Greenish, colourless.

Context 104, Find No. 2

Two joining fragments of iron knife, forming the tip of the blade.

Context 300, Find No. 3

Fragment of lead waste, molten and resolidified. One face is flat, the other with an angled profile near one long edge and a slight curved lip near the opposing edge. This shape has perhaps been formed by the lead resolidifying within the lower body and base of a pottery fragment or vessel. Two circular impressions and numerous small pits, possibly from air bubbles. The circular impressions may be from something else adhering to the inside face of the vessel. The pottery vessel would have been very large.

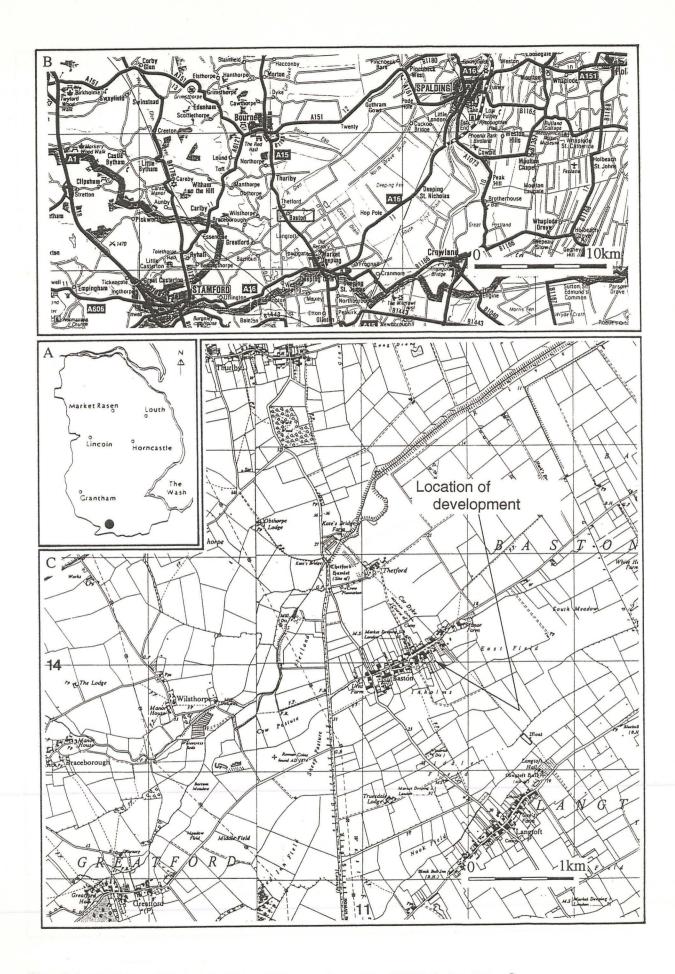


Fig. 1 Location of Baston. Inset C based on the 1955 Ordnance Survey 1: 25,000 map Sheets TF 01 and TF 11. Crown Copyright, reproduced at reduced scale with the permission of the Controller of HMSO. LAS Licence No. AL 50424A.

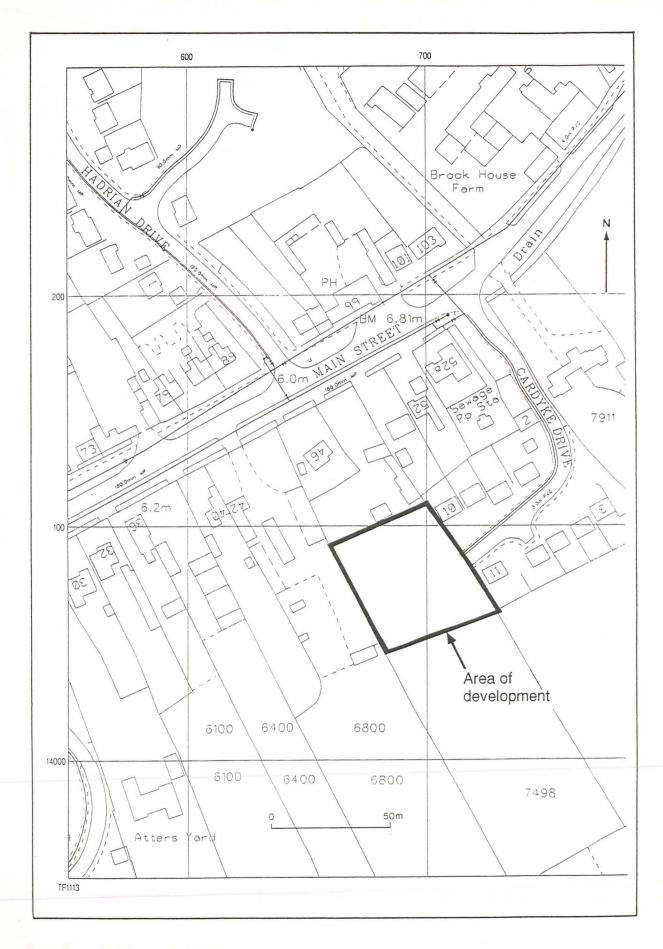


Fig. 2 Location of the monitored development off Cardyke Drive,
Baston. Based on an Ordnance Survey 1:1,250 map; Crown
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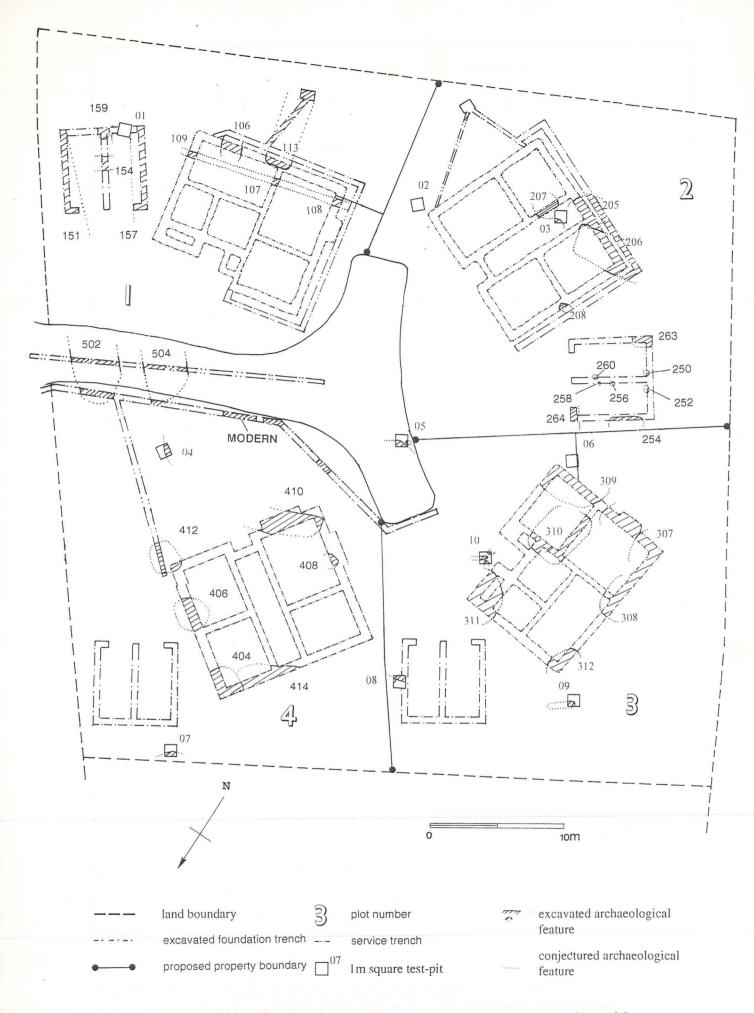


Fig. 3 Plan of the development, showing monitored areas and position of archaeological features noted during the evaluation and subsequent watching briefs (McDaid and Moore).

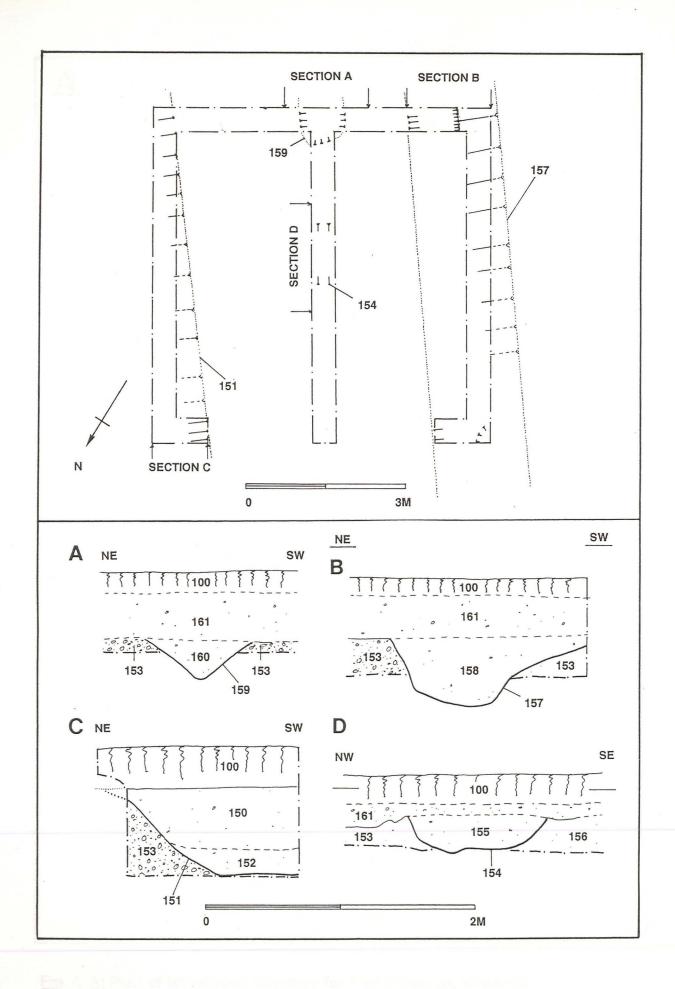


Fig. 4 Plan and sections of archaeological features revealed in foundation trenches for the Plot 1 Garage (McDaid after Tann).

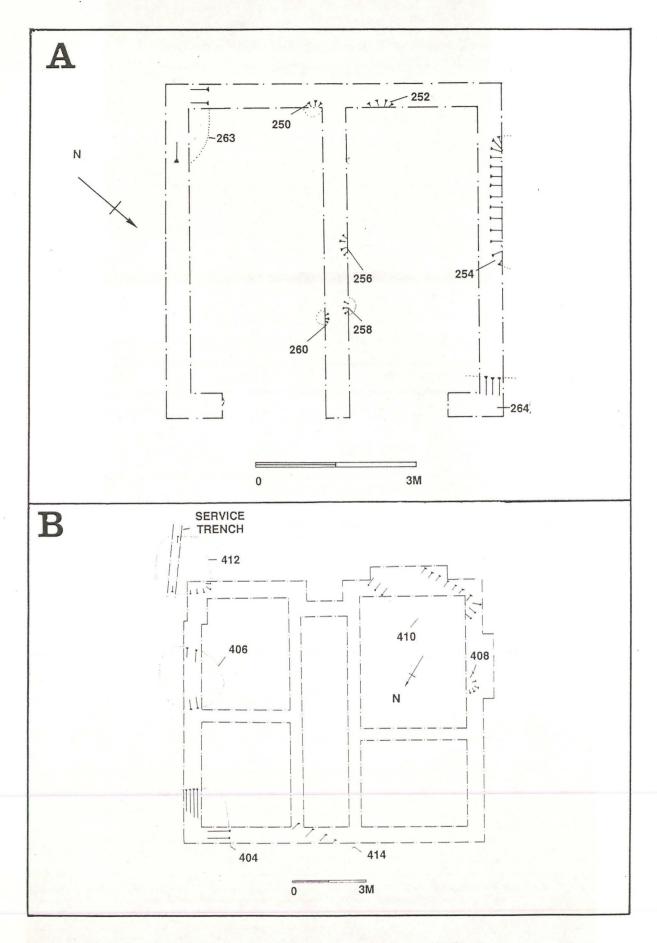
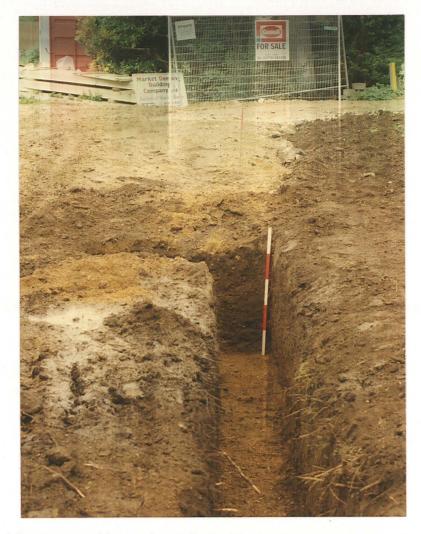


Fig. 5 A) Plan of foundation trenches for Plot 2 Garage, showing archaeological features (McDaid after Tann and Moore).

B) Plan of foundation trenches for House Plot 4, showing archaeological features (McDaid after Moore).



- PI. 1 Alignment of boundary ditch 151 looking north along foundation trench, House Plot 1. The yellow hydrant marks the end of Car Dyke Drive. Scale divisions 0.2m.
- PI. 2 Western edge of ditch 151 revealed at base of house foundation trench. Looking north, scale divisions 0.2m.





- PI. 3 Existing hedge boundary extending the alignment of ditch 151 to the south of the garage foundation trench. The present plot boundary is at the left of the photograph.
- PI. 4 Brown fill of ditch 157 visible at southern corner of garage foundation, cut into the natural sandy gravel. Looking south scale divisions 0.2m.





- PI. 5 Fill of ditch 157 visible in the southern face of the garage foundation. Looking south, scale divisions 0.2m.
- Pl. 6 Centre of pit 159 cut into gravel, with brown fill, as seen in the centre rear of the garage foundation. Looking south, scale divisions 0.2m.





PI. 7 Pit or post-hole 154 showing as deeper brown loam in centre of the garage foundation. Looking NE, scale divisions 0.2m.







Pl. 9 Foundation trenches for House Plot 4, looking south towards completed House Plot 2. Pit 404 is in the foreground.







Pl. 11 Dark fill of pit 404 in corner of House Plot 4 foundation trenches. Looking NW.

Pl. 12 Trench excavated for services along northern edge of the access road. Looking SW from Car Dyke Drive.

