

98/17



LINDSEY ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES

**Bassingham, 38 Water Lane**

**Archaeological Monitoring of groundworks for  
New Access Road**

NGR: SK 9093 6020  
Site Code: BWL 98  
LCNCC Museum Accn. No. 197.98  
NKDC Planning Application No. N/7/548/97

Report prepared for Mr. B. Lanes

**LAS Report No. 317**

**September 1998**

Lincolnshire County Council  
Archaeology Section

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EVNT 43974  
SOURCE 48569 48570  
62660 484015 Early Saxon  
60611 settlement individual  
individual

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# **Bassingham, 38 Water Lane**

## **Archaeological Monitoring**

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### **Summary**

*A watching brief during machine excavation of an access road and service trench produced an unstratified Early Saxon sherd of Charnwood Forest type pottery. The sherd contained chaff temper, previously only noted at Flixborough. No features of significance were found.*

### **Introduction**

Lindsey Archaeological Services (LAS) was commissioned by Mr. B. Lanes in August 1998 to conduct a watching brief during excavation of an access road and footings for a house and garage NW of Water Lane, Bassingham (Fig. 1). The archaeological monitoring had been requested by the North Kesteven District Council Heritage Officer in her Brief dated November 1997.

The watching brief by the author took place on 19th August 1998, when groundworks for the access road were completed. Groundworks for two dwellings close to the new access road will take place at a later date.

### **Archaeological Background**

The application site is bounded to the south by a former hollow lane, the continuation of Water Lane to the edge of the River Witham. Archaeological investigations immediately south of the lane located a Romano-British enclosure and cemetery, overlying an earlier Romano-British field system together with a twelfth - thirteenth century manorial complex. It has been suggested that further Romano-British settlement remains may be present on this site.

### **The Site**

The site comprises the west part of the garden of 'Briar Patch', 38 Water Lane, Bassingham. It covers an area of c. 0.3ha and is the subject of an outline planning application for the construction of 2 dwellings. The land is currently under grass, bounded by hedges on three sides and the existing house (no. 38) to the east. The new access road enters the plot across the site of the garage between No. 38 and allotments within the disused Water Lane, then is aligned behind the existing house into a second garden area. A geophysical survey by Oxford Archaeotechnics in September 1997 concluded that the numerous magnetic anomalies present were probably of relatively recent origin and were related to agricultural and commercial activity on the site. The potential for survival of archaeological deposits here was predicted as minimal (Johnson 1997).

## **The Watching Brief**

### **Method**

The area of the access road was stripped by machine to a depth of about 0.2m - 0.25m below the modern ground surface. Material from this topsoil layer was assigned the context no. 1 for recording purposes.

A 0.5m wide trench was then excavated centrally within the stripped access road area to a depth of 0.75m. This provided an opportunity to investigate lower deposits across the higher end of the garden behind No. 38.

### **Results**

A spread of broken window glass within the turning area was readily explained as the remains of former glasshouses, and modern refuse close to the house marked backfilled pits. An 8m long (north - south) and 0.45m deep disturbance 2 was visible in the trench straddling the position of the hedgeline between the two gardens. This feature contained nineteenth century crockery fragments.

An extensive and deep feature behind the former pond site contained eighteenth century brick rubble 3. This pit was the earliest recognised feature but need not have been as old as the bricks.

One sherd of Early Saxon pottery was found in the topsoil 1 and has been identified as similar to products from the Charnwood Forest pottery production area. The sherd contains traces of chaff incorporated into the clay as temper, a feature previously only known from the Saxon site at Flixborough. Close examination of the adjacent trench did not result in the identification of any feature containing further fragments. The sherd may have been introduced during ancient manuring of the riverside field, or have spread from nearby deposits not yet identified.

Other dated finds from the same layer included a single sherd from a thirteenth-fifteenth century jug, various seventeenth century sherds and part of a clay tobacco pipe stem (early eighteenth - late nineteenth century).

### **Conclusion**

No significant archaeological features were exposed during the excavations for the access road and service trench. The single sherd of Early Saxon pottery is important both as an indicator of occupation in the vicinity and as a rare example of a pottery manufacture technique possibly reflecting trading routes.

### **Acknowledgements**

LAS are grateful to Mr Lanes and the machine operator for their co-operation during the watching brief. Further assistance was given by Kate Orr (NKDC Heritage Officer).

The finds were identified by Jen Mann and Jane Young (City of Lincoln Archaeology Unit).

### References

Johnson, A.E. 1997 *Land at 38 Water Lane, Bassingham, Lincolnshire.*  
Gradiometer Survey, September 1997.

Geoff Tann  
Lindsey Archaeological Services  
29th September 1998

### Archive Summary

Archaeological finds: pottery  
Specialists' archive lists: Post-Roman pottery, Bulk finds  
Photographs: colour prints, LAS Film No. 98/112/34-36  
Field sketch plan  
Developer's site plans  
Correspondence

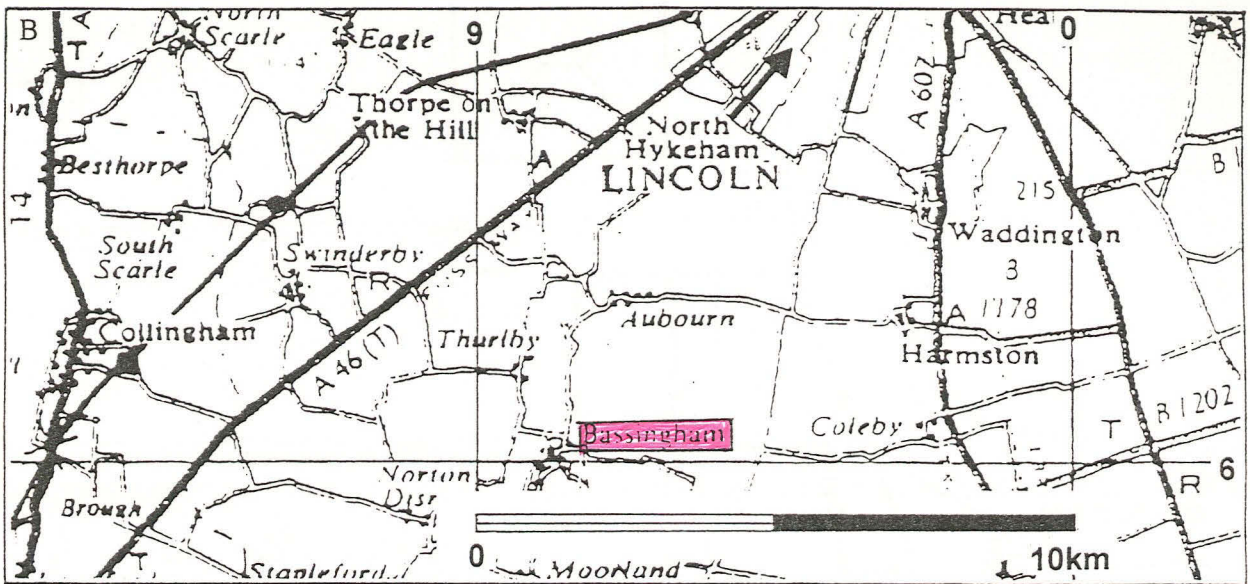


Fig. 1 Location of Bassingham and the application site (inset C based on the Ordnance Survey 1:10,000 map. Crown Copyright, reproduced at enlarged scale with the permission of the Controller of HMSO. LAS Licence No. AL 50424A).



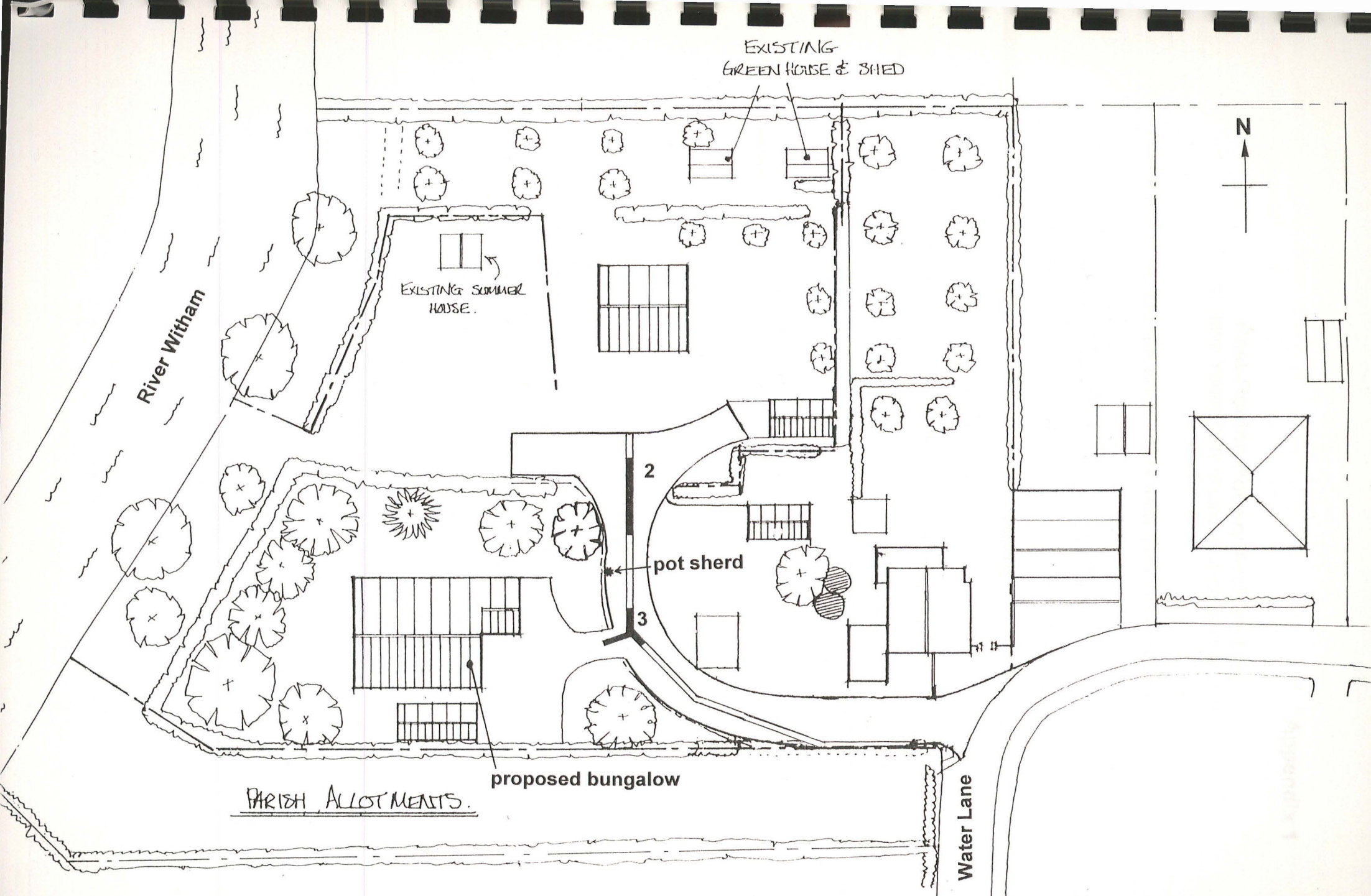


Fig. 2 Location of the monitored access road and service trenches (based on a plan supplied by the client).

**Post-Roman Pottery Archive List**  
by Jane Young (City of Lincoln Archaeology Unit)

**POST-ROMAN POTTERY ARCHIVE: BWL98 WARE TYPES BY CONTEXT**

Context	Ware	Sherds	Form	Comments
1	BERTH	1	BOWL?	FINE FABRIC;? LHUM;17TH
1	BL	1	?	17/18TH
1	BL	1	BUTTERPOT?	17/18TH
1	MARTIII	1	COSTREL?	??ID;OR LERTH;17th
1	MEDLOC	1	JUG	QUARTZ FABRIC;NO GLZE;13-15th
1	CHARN	1	-	FABRIC INCLUDES COMMON CHAFF AS AT FLIXBOROUGH

The Charnwood type Anglo-Saxon sherd is uncommon and has only previously been noted at the Flixborough site.

**Glossary of Fabric Codes**

Berth	Brown earthenwares: mid 16th/early 19th centuries
Bl	Blackware: mid 16th - modern
Lerth	late earthenwares: mid 18th/20th centuries
Lhum	late Humberware: mid 16th - 20th centuries
Martii	Martincamp ware type 2: early 16th- early 17th centuries
Medloc	medieval, local origin: early 13th/late 15th centuries
Charn	Charnwood Forest Type fabrics; 5th - early 8th centuries



Pl. 1 The access road turning point (looking SW). The Early Saxon pot sherd was found to the left of the photograph.



PI. 2 Dark fill of modern disturbance 2 (left foreground) and the new trench for services.

PI. 3 Excavation of the side spur from the service trench (looking west from the demolished garage).

