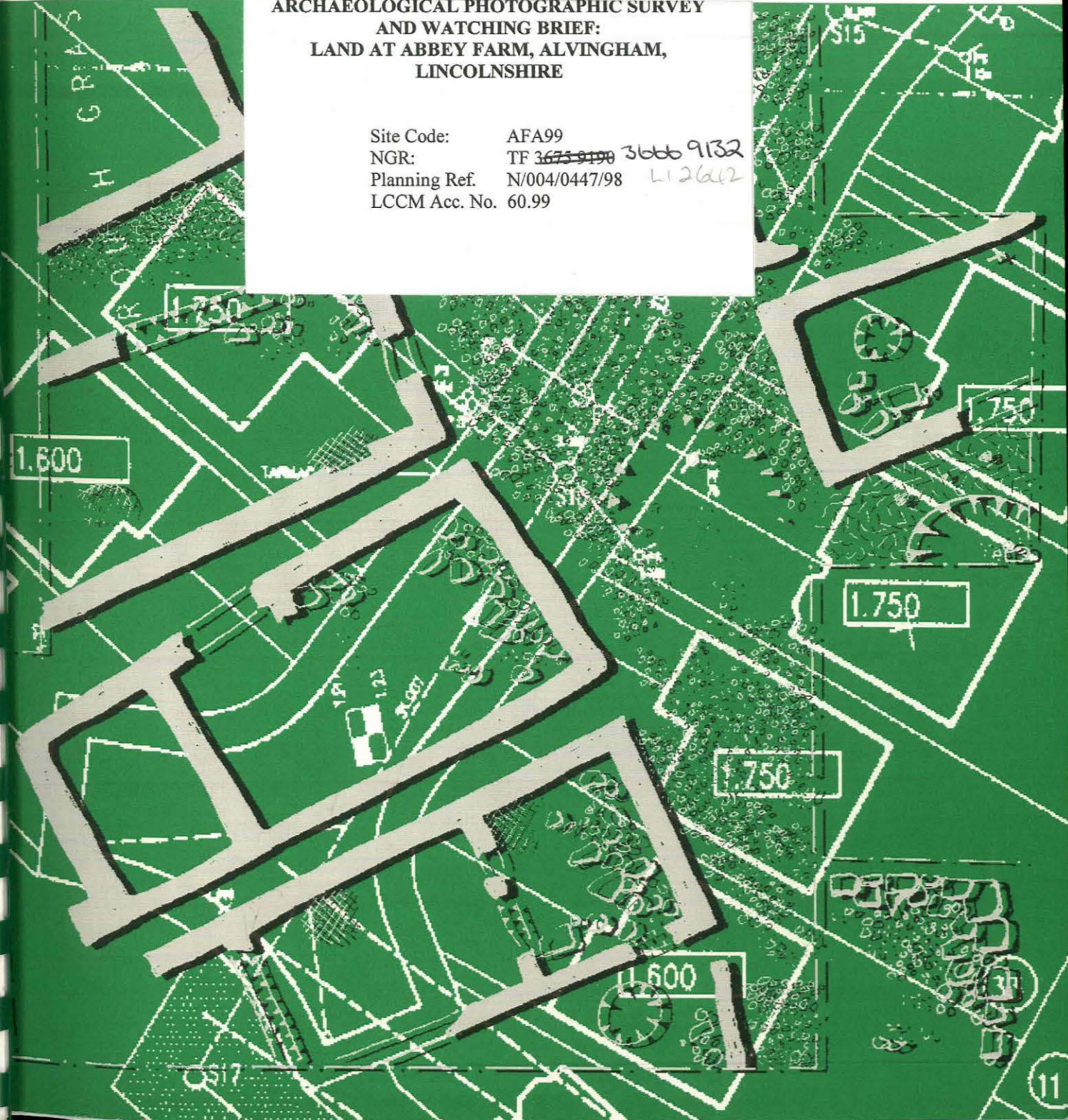


PRE-CONSTRUCT ARCHAEOLOGY

L I N C O L N

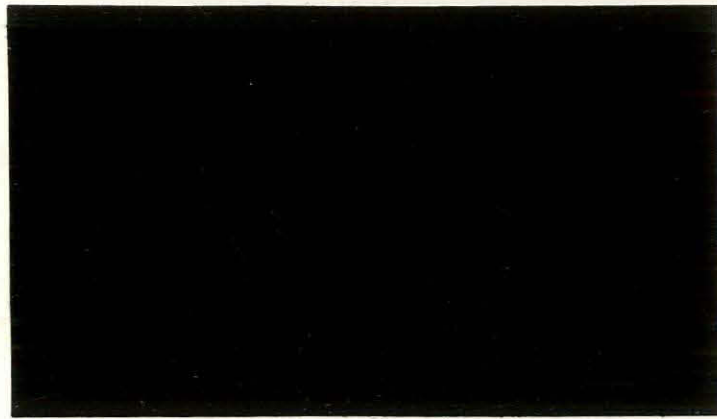
ARCHAEOLOGICAL PHOTOGRAPHIC SURVEY
AND WATCHING BRIEF:
LAND AT ABBEY FARM, ALVINGHAM,
LINCOLNSHIRE

Site Code:	AFA99
NGR:	TF 3675 9190 3666 9132
Planning Ref.	N/004/0447/98 L12662
LCCM Acc. No.	60.99



Washington County Council
Archaeology Section

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EMTS 42279 L12281
SOURCES L16960 L16961
41255

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL PHOTOGRAPHIC SURVEY
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Report prepared for Mr A E Graves
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Summary

- An archaeological photographic survey and watching brief took place during the dismantling and reconstruction of a domestic garage and utility at Abbey Farm, Alvingham, Lincolnshire.
- Abbey Farm occupies land that formerly belonged to the Gilbertine priory of St. Mary.
- The groundworks associated with the reconstruction exposed two substantial stone walls. These walls were almost certainly associated with the former medieval priory.
- Pottery evidence suggests the building may have been demolished in the late 15th – mid 16th century.

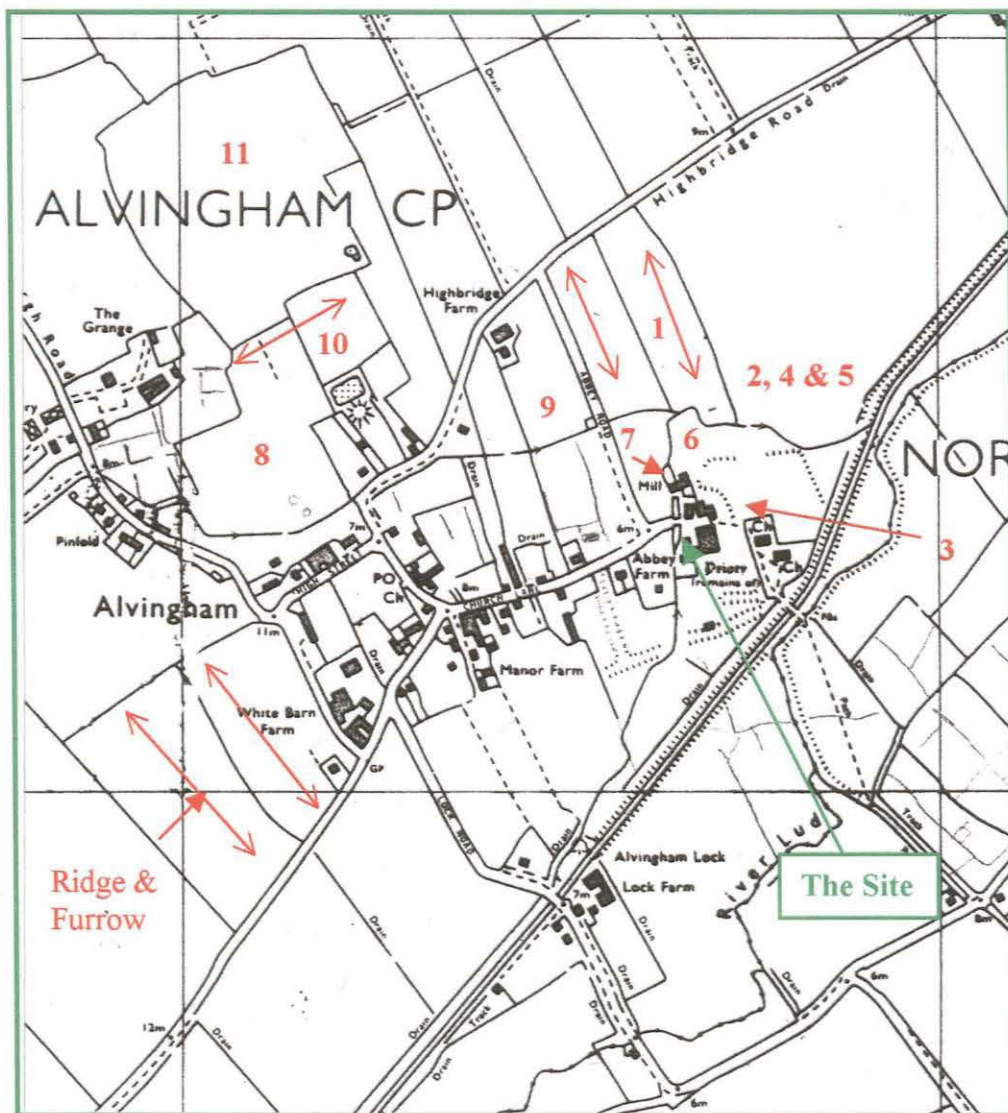


Figure 1: Site location showing recorded archaeological sites and find spots (Scale 1:10000)

1.0 Introduction

Pre-Construct Archaeology (Lincoln) were instructed by Mr. AE Graves to undertake a photographic survey prior to dismantling of a domestic garage and utility at Abbey Farm, Alvingham, Lincolnshire. A subsequent archaeological watching brief took place in July 2000 during the groundworks associated with rebuilding of the structures. These works were commissioned to fulfill a planning requirement issued by East Lindsey District Council.

2.0 Site location and description

Alvingham is in the administrative district of East Lindsey, approximately 36km north-east of Lincoln, 2km north-east of Louth. It lies at the interface of the high ground known as the chalk Wolds and the lower boulder clay edge of the Lindsey Marsh. The settlement lies at an altitude approximately 6.0m OD.

Abbey Farm occupies land that formerly belonged to the Gilbertine priory of St. Mary. There are no upstanding elements of this monument complex, with most of the remains being sub-surface.

Two structures belonging to the farm, a domestic garage and utility, were in need of urgent attention, requiring dismantling and reconstruction. These elements form the focus of this study (figure 1A).

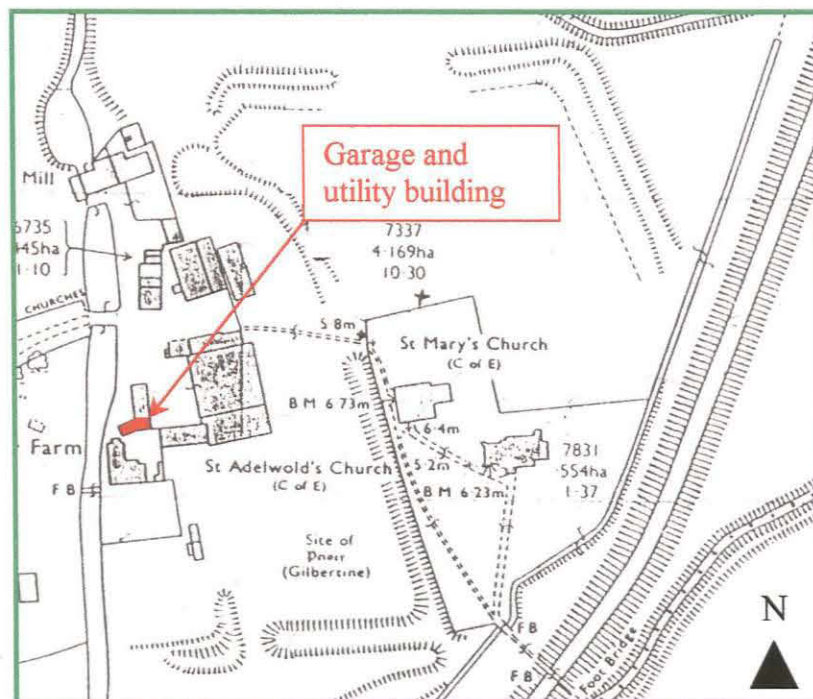


Figure 1A: Site location at scale 1:2500

3.0 Planning background

Full planning consent was granted for the dismantling and reconstruction of the two buildings. The planning permission was granted subject to the undertaking of a pre-demolition photographic survey and an archaeological watching brief on all sensitive groundworks associated with the reconstruction. Such recommendations are consistent with the advice set out in *Archaeology and Planning: Planning Policy Guidance Note 16* (1990).

4.0 Archaeological and historical background

The Gilbertine Priory at Alvingham was founded c. 1150 AD. The religious order tended to establish its houses in remote situations: unreclaimed lands on the tops of wolds, in undrained fenland and in river valleys (Owen 1971).

Although considerable earthworks associated with this monument survive to the north and west of the present churchyard, all physical remains are now sub-surface, save for occasional fragments of worked stone. A watching brief undertaken in 1995 during the construction of a barn demonstrated the excellent survival of the archaeological remains: consisting of walls, floors and demolition horizons (Johnson & Palmer-Brown, 1995).

Following a search at the County Sites and Monuments Record for Lincolnshire, a series of records were found to be of relevance to the site and its surrounding area. These are summarised below (Table 1) and are located on figure 1.

Record No.	PRN	Date	Description	Grid Reference
1	41253	Ro-med	Pottery scatter	TF36609160
2	41644	Saxon	Site of Saxon church	TF36789131
3	43680	Early med	Pottery from watching brief	TF36739141
4	41257	Med	St. Adelwold's church	TF36789131
5	41256	Med	St. Mary's church	TF36769132
6	41255	Med	Gilbertine priory	TF36789131
7	41259	Med	Water mill	TF36659142
8	42792	Med	Village earthworks	TF36129138
9	41254	Med	Village earthworks	TF36509150
10	42793	Med	Ridge and furrow	TF36139150
11	42794	Med	Ridge and furrow	TF36059180

PRN = Primary Record Number (SMR number)

Table 1 – SMR entries relating to Alvingham

The settlement of Alvingham existed from at least Anglo-Saxon times. This is known from documentary sources and recent archaeological investigations. The village was recorded in the Domesday Survey of 1086 as '*Aluingeham*' (Mills 1996), meaning

'Homestead of the family or followers of a man called Ælf', from the Old English (personal name + *-inga-* + *hām*).

A late Saxon church was built to the east of the present village, probably in the second half of the tenth century (Record No. 2). This was dedicated to St. Adelwold and it was destroyed in the eleventh century, thus receiving no mention in the Domesday survey. The church was rebuilt in the medieval period, and it retains a rare 13th century tower and shares its churchyard with the church of St. Mary. This arrangement is unusual, as the two churches serve separate parishes; St. Adelwold's covers Alvingham, and St. Mary's North Cockerington (Sawyer 1999, 166). St. Mary's predates the Gilbertine priory, which is located immediately to its west.

The priory of St. Mary's was founded between the years 1148 – 1154 by William de Friston, following establishment of the order by Gilbert of Semperingham.

A watching brief carried out in 1995 by Pre-Construct Archaeology (Johnson & Palmer-Brown 1995) within the priory grounds recovered unglazed Saxo-Norman and early medieval pottery (late 10th – early 13th century). This same brief also exposed stone foundations, floors, occupation deposits and destruction horizons, indicating that the priory remains are relatively well preserved (Johnson & Palmer-Brown 1995).

Remains of a water mill are visible to the north of the priory. William de Frieston gave this mill to the priory in 1155, with charges levied on grain milled providing a source of income for the priory.

Extensive earthworks surrounding Alvingham indicate that the village was significantly more extensive during the medieval period than it is today. These remains include a number of possible house plots, hollow ways, tofts, crofts and strip fields: ridge and furrow earthworks can also be observed at various locations around the village.

5.0 Methodology

The photographic survey was carried out by Jeremy Mordue in 1999. This comprised a fairly rudimentary photographic record of the two buildings that were to be dismantled and reconstructed. Several prints are reproduced at the end of this report.

The watching brief was carried out by the writer on the 10th July 2000. The work involved observation and recording during all excavations, and recording was undertaken using standard watching brief record sheets. A photographic record was maintained, and several prints are reproduced in this report.

Excavation of the foundation trenches was carried using a tractor, fitted with a back actor and a 1m wide toothless bucket. The depth of these trenches was approximately 0.8 – 1.0m for external walls and 0.5m for a single internal wall.

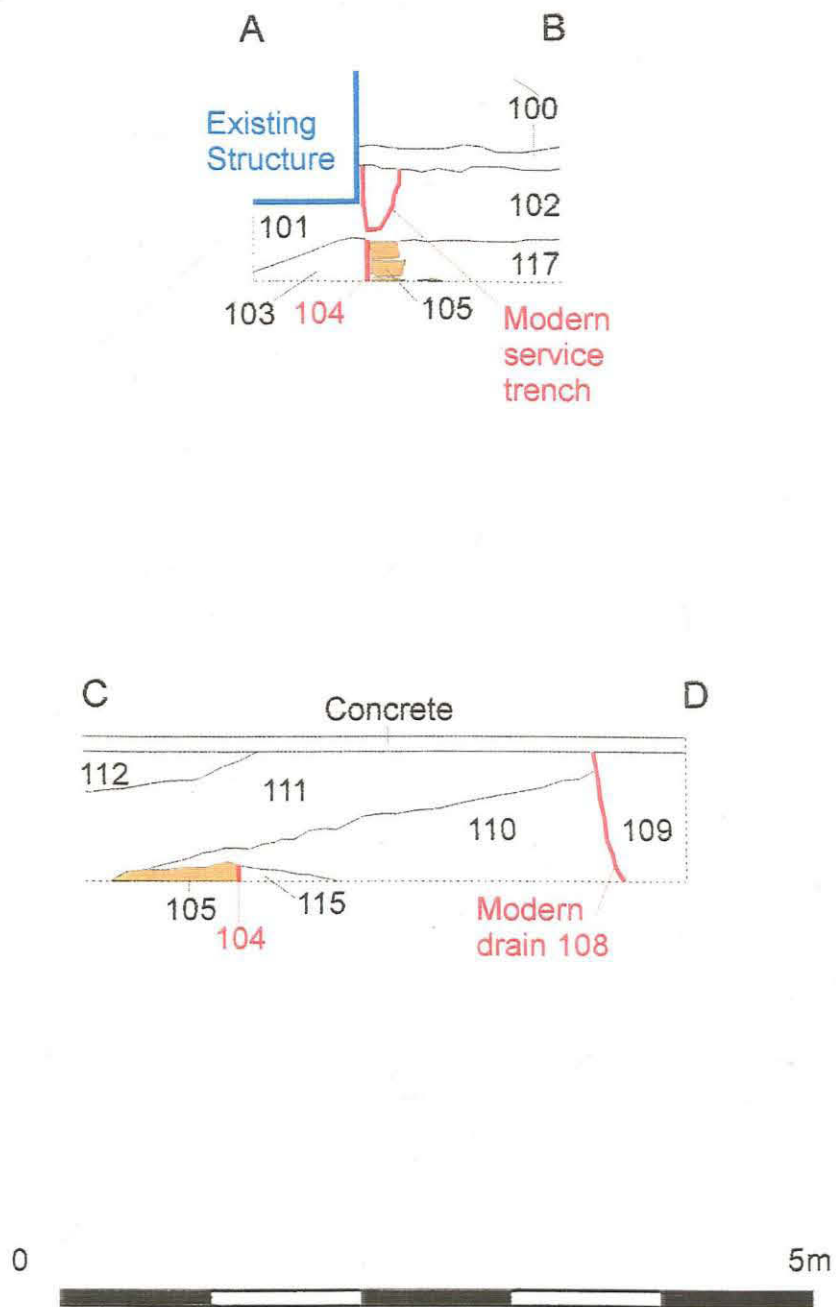
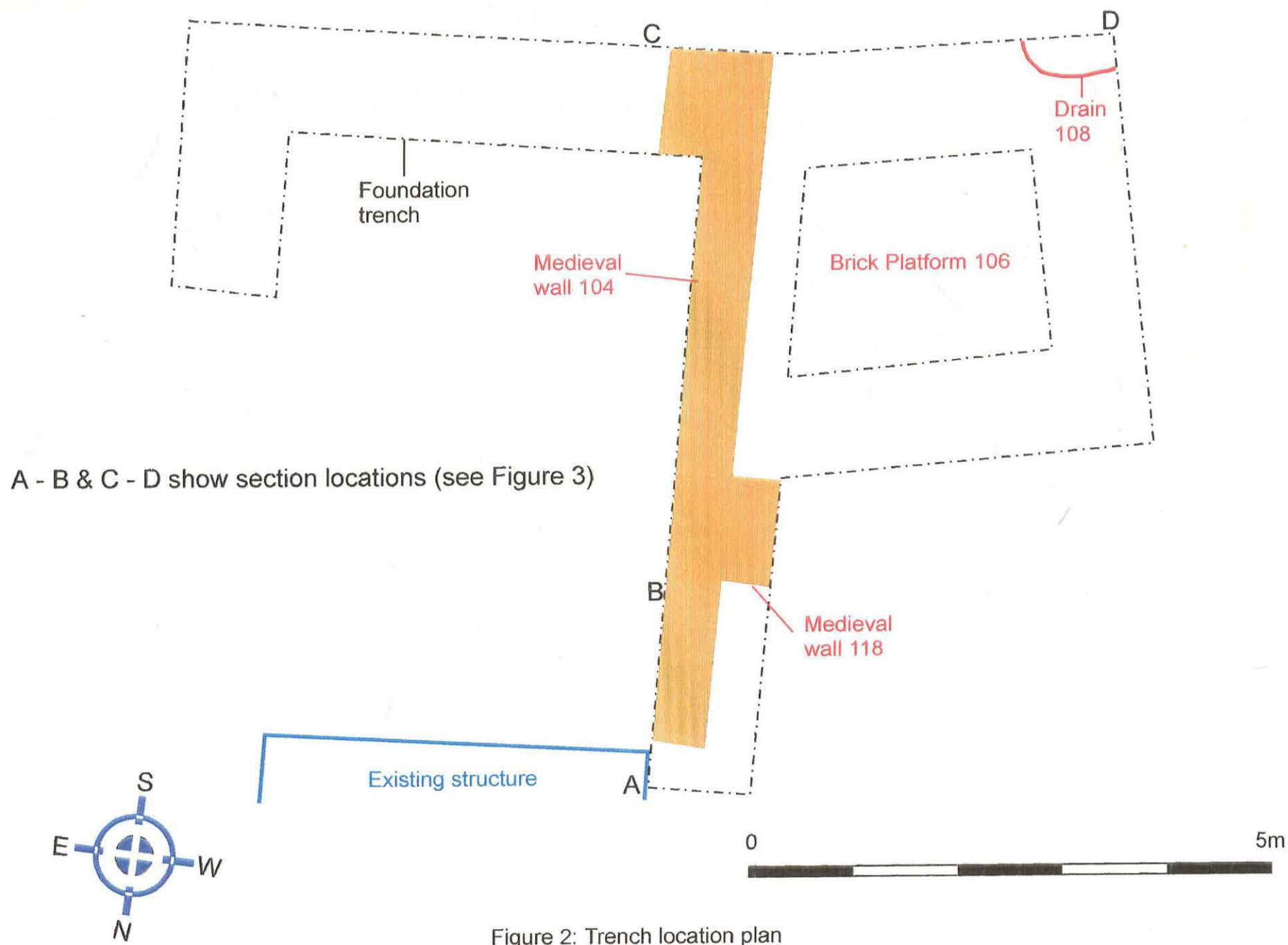


Figure 3: Sections from foundation trench



A - B & C - D show section locations (see Figure 3)

Figure 2: Trench location plan

6.0 Photographic survey

The garage was built of narrow bricks and this structure had a gabled roof (plate 1). Internally, a partition wall was made of large limestone blocks and occasional roof tile (plate 2). The walls were not finished with plaster, and the roof structure consisted of substantial wooden beams that supported ceramic pan tiles (plate 3). Externally, it was possible to judge that garage was built prior to the utility (plate 4).

The utility was made of stone and brick. The northern (rear) and western sides were made of large limestone blocks (plate 5). The front of the building consisted of several courses of limestone (up to 0.7m high), overlain by bricks (plate 6). The limestone courses had been covered with a thin skim of mortar. The bricks were slightly thicker (?later) than those within the garage. Internally, the walls were plastered and the roof was lower, and at a lesser angle to the garage.

The stone used in these structures may have been derived from the remains of the Gilbertine priory.

6.1 Watching brief

The excavation of the foundation trenches exposed a series of archaeological deposits, including stone walls and demolition layers (plate 7).

The topsoil 100, a dark grey clay-silt, was shallow (0.2m) and it sealed several demolition deposits (101 and 102). These layers were mainly brown silty clays with varying amounts of small and medium-sized sub-angular limestone pieces. Pottery from 102 was dated to the late 15th to mid 16th century, probably reflecting the date for the destruction of the priory.

Wall 104, orientated north – south, was approximately 0.95m wide. Its internal and external faces were made of large dressed limestone blocks, with the core comprising medium and large limestone fragments (figures 2 and 3; plate 8). The bonding consisted of light yellow sandy mortar. The wall turned westwards at the southern end of the trench, forming the southeast corner of a possible structure. It seems likely this structure was associated with the Gilbertine priory.

Wall 118 (figure 2; plate 8) was located 1m north of the southeast corner of, and ran perpendicular to, wall **104**. It was orientated east-west, and it was also approximately 0.95m wide. The wall appeared to be of the same construction phase as **104**, forming another element of this structure.

A modern brick drain (**108**) was located at the southwestern corner of the foundation trench (figures 2 & 3).

7.0 Discussion

The limestone wall foundations followed a similar alignment to the succeeding outbuildings, perhaps suggesting that the medieval walls were extant when the

outbuildings were constructed. Therefore, these foundations were probably utilised to build the utility building (plates 2 & 5). The foundations were wide (0.95m), indicating that the medieval structure was considerably more substantial than the later farm buildings. Two sherds of pottery from a demolition deposit (102) may date the destruction of the building to the late 15th to mid 16th century.

8.0 Effectiveness of methodology

The specifications for the photographic survey and archaeological watching brief proved to be effective; fulfilling the needs of the archaeology and the commissioning client.

9.0 Acknowledgements

Pre-Construct Archaeology (Lincoln) would like to express sincere thanks to Mr A E Graves for this commission.

10.0 References

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Sawyer, P., 1999, *Anglo-Saxon Lincolnshire*. History of Lincolnshire committee for the Society for Lincolnshire History and Archaeology.



P.1 South wall of garage outbuilding, looking N.



P.2 E-W limestone wall within garage, looking NE.



P. 3 Garage roof, looking N.



P. 4 Close-up of relationship between garage and utility, looking N.



P. 5 Rear of utility, showing location of farmhouse, looking SE.



P. 6 Construction of utility, looking N.



P. 7 Trench location showing stream to west, looking north.



P. 8 Medieval walls 104 & 118, looking south.

Appendix 2

Context Summary Index

Context No.	Type	Relationship	Description
100	Layer	Seals all	Topsoil
101	Layer	Below 100	?p-med/modern demolition deposit
102	Layer	Below 100	?modern demolition of medieval wall 104
103	Layer	Below 101	Flood deposit
104	Cut	Cuts 103	Medieval wall (running N – S)
105	Stone	In 104	Fill of 104
106	Surface	Seals all	p-med/modern Brick surface
107	Layer	Below 106	Levelling layer for 106 above
108	Cut	Cuts all	Modern drain cut
109	Fill	In 108	Backfill of 108
110	Layer	Below 111	Mix of Demolition and flooding
111	Layer	Below 107	Demolition deposit
112	Layer	Below 107	Demolition deposit
113	Layer	Seals 104	Demolition of medieval wall 104
114	Layer	Cut by 104	?Levelling deposit for wall 104
115	Layer	Over 116	?Levelling deposit for wall 104
116	Layer	Below all	Mid purple boulder clay (natural)
117	Layer	Over 105	Localised robbing of 104
118	Cut	Cuts 103	Medieval wall (running E – W)
119	Stone	In 118	Fill of 118

Pottery archive AFA99

context	cname	form type	sherds	part	description	date
102	HUM	jug/jar	1	BS	purple int & ext glaze	late 15th to mid 16th
102	TOYII	jug	1	BS		late 15th to mid 16th
112	BL	large bowl	2	rim & BS		18/19th

Tile archive AFA99

context	cname	sub type	frags	description
109	NIB	7	1	corner;vitrified fabric;small central nib;bedded on ? Chalk sand
111	NIB	??	1	sandy fabric
110	NIB	7	8	small central nib;hard fabric;bedded ? Chalk sand

Ceramic Codename Glossary AFA99

cname	full name	earliest date	latest date
HUM	Humberware	1250	1550
TOYII	Toynton Late Medieval ware	1450	1550
BL	Black-glazed wares	1550	1750

Jane Young Lindsey Archaeological Services

