

**NEVILLE HALL MIFA
FREELANCE ARCHAEOLOGIST & CONSULTANT**

ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING
AT 43, BACKGATE,
COWBIT, LINCOLNSHIRE.

National Grid Reference: TF 2656 1763
Site Code: BGCO13
Accession No: LCNCC: 2013.28
Planning Reference: H01-0598-12

PREPARED FOR MR. DARREN WILSON

By

Neville Hall MIFA
with a contribution by Jane Young

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Summary

The archaeological monitoring of the groundworks pertaining to the construction of a new detached bungalow on land at 43, Backgate, Cowbit, Lincolnshire was carried out by Neville Hall MIFA on the 11th-12th of March, and the 15th of April 2014 and on the 14th of August 2015.

All of the groundworks pertaining to this development comprising an initial phase of ground reduction, the mechanical excavation of the foundations for the new detached bungalow along with two new soakaways and a new service trench to connect to existing services were the subject of continual archaeological monitoring and recording.

The initial phase of ground reduction and the mechanical excavation of the foundations for the new build identified a deposit sequence which consisted of a topsoil horizon, an undated ploughsoil or buried soil horizon, a natural horizon and in places where the excavations went deepest, an underlying natural horizon of humic peat. This deposit sequence was recorded within four representative sections. One sherd of 13th-14th century pottery and three brick fragments of 14th-15th century date were recovered from the basal peat deposit. It is thus considered that this peat deposit was the product of a period of waterlogging from the medieval period. The overlying natural horizon also included within its make-up small pockets of peat. This natural deposit is interpreted as a possible flood deposit of alluvial silts, representing the product of a past episode of flooding from the nearby River Welland, a deposition interspersed with small areas of temporary waterlogging.

The mechanical excavation of the two new soakaways and the new service trench also identified the same deposit sequence of the topsoil horizon, an undated ploughsoil or buried soil horizon and the natural horizon, which was recorded within a further four representative sections.

1. Introduction

- 1.1 Neville Hall MIFA was commissioned by Mr. Darren Wilson to undertake the archaeological monitoring of the groundworks pertaining to the construction of a new detached bungalow on land at 43, Backgate, Cowbit, Lincolnshire, centred at National Grid Reference TF 2656 1763. The archaeological monitoring was carried out at the development site on the 11th-12th of March and the 15th of April 2014 and on the 14th of August 2015.
- 1.2 The work was carried out according to the requirements of various archaeological conditions, which were attached to the granting of planning consent for this development by South Holland District Council, the Local Planning Authority, and acting on the advice of Ms Louise Jennings of the Lincolnshire County Council Historic Environment Team, in her capacity as archaeological advisor on planning issues to the District Council. This is in accordance with the principles established in *NPPF: Planning for the Historic Environment: Historic Environment Planning Practice Guide* (Department of Culture, Media and Sport, 2010), *Standard and guidance for archaeological watching briefs* (IFA, 2008).
- 1.3 Copies of the final report will be deposited with the client, Ms Louise Jennings, the Planning Department of South Holland District Council, the Lincolnshire Heritage Environment Record (HER) and The Collection, Lincoln, along with an ordered project archive for long term storage and curation.

2. Site Location and Description

- 2.1 The development site is situated within the historic core of the settlement of Cowbit and on land at 43, Backgate. The development site is located at National Grid Reference TF 2656 1763 and at a height of approximately 6mAOD. The village of Cowbit is located approximately 5km to the south of Spalding and some 10km to the north-east of the town of Market Deeping. The village of Cowbit is within the modern civil parish of the same name, and in the administrative district of South Holland, county of Lincolnshire [**Figures 1 and 2**].
- 2.2 The development site is located in a flat and low-lying area within the Lincolnshire Fens. The development site is situated on deep calcareous clayey and silty soils of the Wallasea 2 Series, which have developed on marine alluvial deposits known as Terrington Beds. These deposits in turn overlie the solid geology, which comprises Oxford Clays and Kellaway Beds of the Upper Jurassic [Soil Survey, 1983; BGS, 1992].

3. Planning Background

- 3.1 A planning application for the proposed erection of a new detached bungalow on land at 43, Backgate, Cowbit, Lincolnshire (Planning Reference: H01-0598-12) has been submitted to and granted consent by South Holland District Council, the Local Planning Authority [**Figure 3**]. However, as the proposed development was situated within a perceived archaeologically sensitive area, various archaeological conditions (Nos. 4-6) were attached to this consent. Following the receipt of an Archaeological Brief for this planning consent by Ms Louise Jennings of the Lincolnshire County Council Historic Environment Team, it was established that the requirement for the fulfilment of these conditions would be the archaeological monitoring of all groundworks during the construction stage of development at the site.

- 3.2 A specification or a written scheme of works for the archaeological monitoring was subsequently submitted to and approved by Ms Louise Jennings of the Lincolnshire County Council Historic Environment Team (on behalf of the LPA) prior to the commencement of the on-site works as required by Condition No. 4 of this planning consent.



Figure 1: Site location at scale 1:25,000. The site is shown in red. (O.S. copyright licence number 100048723)

- 3.3 Following the approval of this specification by Ms Louise Jennings of the Lincolnshire County Council Historic Environment Team (on behalf of the LPA), a notification period of fourteen days of the start of the groundworks programme was given to same as required by Condition 5 of this planning consent.
- 3.4 This report documents the results of this programme of site archaeological monitoring and recording and will be submitted in due course to Ms Louise Jennings of the Lincolnshire County Council Historic Environment Team and to the Local Planning Authority as required by Condition 6 of this planning consent.

4. Aims and Objectives of the Archaeological Monitoring

- 4.1 The aims of the project were the continual archaeological monitoring of all site groundworks during the construction stage of development, which comprised the mechanical excavation of foundations and services for the new detached bungalow.

- 4.2 The objectives of the project were:

To establish the presence/absence of archaeological remains within the area of the development site.

To determine the extent, condition, nature, character, quality and date of any archaeological remains encountered.

To allow the preservation by record of archaeological deposits.



Figure 2: Site location at an original scale of 1:1,000, (not to scale), (extract from Architects plan). The site is shown outlined in red.

- 4.3 The development site is situated within an archaeologically sensitive area, an area of high archaeological potential, and within the historic core of the medieval settlement of Cowbit. This site lies in close proximity to Iron Age settlement activity, including saltern sites, to Roman settlement activity comprising agricultural activity with several farmsteads, industrial activity and salterns, and to medieval settlement activity comprising finds of pottery, pits and ditches. It was considered likely that archaeological features, deposits, structures and finds associated with this multi-period settlement activity may be encountered on this site. The specific objectives of this archaeological monitoring were to record any archaeological features, deposits, structures or finds associated with this known multi-period settlement activity.

5. Archaeological and Historical Background

- 5.1 Background research sources were consulted at the Lincolnshire Archives, the Lincoln Local Studies Library and the Lincolnshire County Council Historic Environment Record (HER). A search of the Lincolnshire HER was conducted within a 1km radius that was centred on the development site.
- 5.2 Throughout early prehistory, the area around Cowbit probably consisted of coastal reed swamps and a salt marsh environment through which flowed creeks and the prehistoric River Welland, and was probably uninhabited. There is thus little evidence for earlier prehistoric activity in the Cowbit area, as that former contemporary land surface is now buried beneath substantial and deep later alluvial deposits [Hayes & Lane, 1992].
- 5.3 By the Iron Age, the local environment with ready access to both fresh and salt water with readily available local peat resources for fuel was conducive to the manufacture of salt.

Salterns thus flourished on the wide levees of the contemporary River Welland and on other major creeks or roddons [*ibid*].

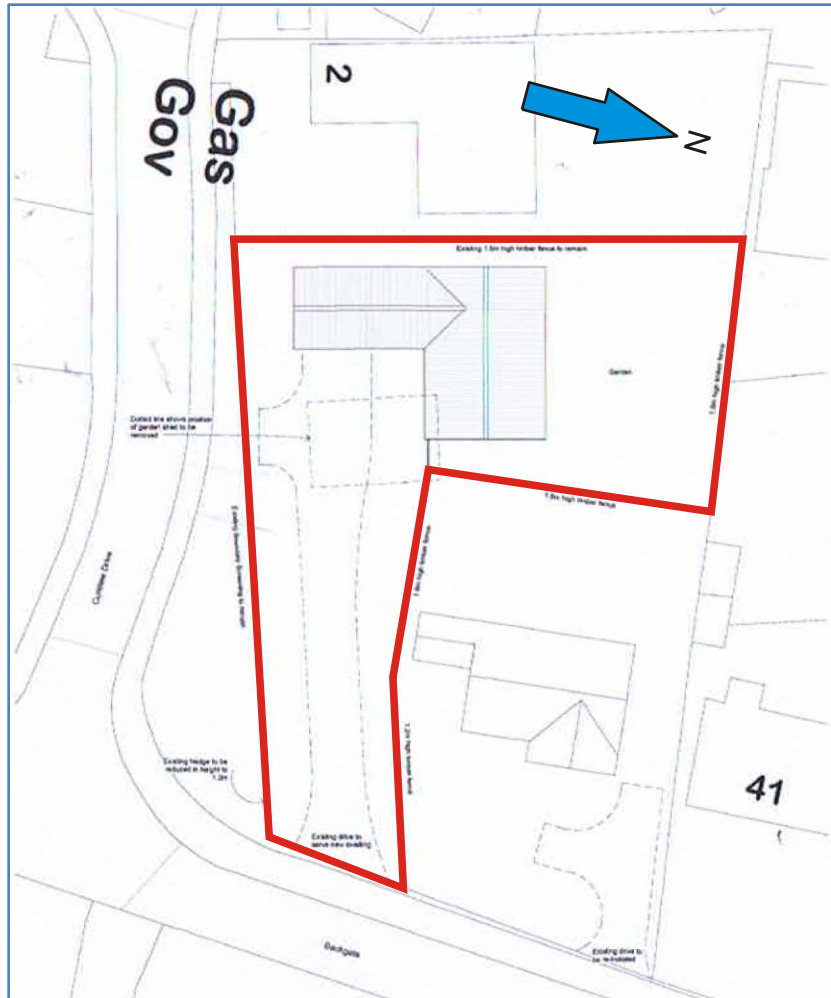


Figure 3: Block Plan Showing the Layout of the Proposed Development at an original scale of 1:200, (not to scale), (extract from Architects plan). The site is shown outlined in red.

- 5.4 Other Iron Age settlement activity is also suggested by other scatters of contemporary pottery and briquetage and dark or black soilmarks or areas of burning and are sometimes located in close proximity to roddons. This might suggest further saltern sites, with which such settlement activity was usually associated [Hayes & Lane, 1992]. There are a number of known Iron Age settlement sites including salterns or salt making sites within the search area. These occur to the north of the village (HER 23105) and to the south (HER 23116); to the south west of the village at Cowbit Wash (HER 23131); to the immediate west of the development site (HER 23133), indicated by a small quantity of briquetage; to the north-east of the development site (HER 23134), indicated by finds of pottery and animal bone on a dark soilmark and to the south-east of the development site (HER 23135), indicated on the ground by a scatter of pottery within an area of dark soil.
- 5.5 Other such Iron Age settlement and/or saltern sites are to be found to the immediate south-east of Cowbit, (HER 23138 and 23144); to the immediate south of Cowbit, (HER 23142) (Roman pottery has also been found on this site, implying that its usage was

- transitional), (HER 23143) and to the south-west of Cowbit within Cowbit Wash, (HER 23146).
- 5.6 A single sherd of Iron Age pottery has been found to the south of Cowbit (HER 20319) and a further five such sherds from a field scatter found to the north-east of the development site (HER 20320).
 - 5.7 During the Roman period, salt production tended to drift eastwards due to encroachment of peat from the south west. Roman salterns were established on the wide levees on former courses of the River Welland utilising the same resources as noted earlier. Roman settlement also tended to congregate around these saltern sites. These sites are similarly denoted by close proximity to roddons, and to areas of dark soilmarks, pottery and briquetage scatters and of saltern hearths typified by areas of intense burning activity and red soil stains and areas of darker soil [Hayes & Lane, 1992]. The cropmarks of possible Roman settlement and salt working remains are located to the west of Cowbit (HER 20325).
 - 5.8 A further possible Roman saltern site is located to the north-east of the development site and denoted by an area of cropmarks in an open field to the south-east of the development site (HER 20314). Other contemporary saltern sites are to be found to the north-east of Cowbit (HER 23100). To the south-west of Cowbit are the cropmarks of a loose group of enclosures and fields laid out on a grid system. There are also multiple parallel ditches at this location, which may be Romano-British linear features such as ditches or drove roads (HER 22081). A further Roman settlement site is located in Cowbit Fen to the south of the village (HER 23092). This site is denoted on the ground by an area of dark soil staining and finds of pottery, animal bone and a quern stone fragment. Other potential settlement sites occur to the north of Cowbit (HER 23101 and HER 23103) and to the immediate south east of Cowbit (HER 23145).
 - 5.9 Other contemporary saltern and settlement sites are to be found the south of the village at Cowbit Wash (HER 23117) and to the south-east of the development site (HER 23137), indicated by scatters of briquetage, pottery etc. on an area of dark soil. Potential Roman activity is suggested by the cropmarks of parts of possible enclosures and other linear features to the south-west of the village of Cowbit (HER 20313).
 - 5.10 Miscellaneous Roman artefacts including animal bone and pottery have been found to the east of Cowbit (HER 22098), to the west within Cowbit Wash (HER 22099) and to the immediate south-east of Cowbit (HER 23140).
 - 5.11 In the Roman period, the Welland maintained a similar course to that in the Iron Age, but during the late Saxon period, the River Welland was probably realigned and canalised by the monks of Crowland Abbey to pass through the gravel island on which sits the settlement of Crowland. This connected the Welland with the River Nene by means of a channel to the south east, and thus created a network of fenland waterways [Hayes & Lane, 1992].
 - 5.12 There is very little evidence for or trace of Anglo-Saxon/early medieval settlement in the area around Cowbit. This is testified by the fact that only one sherd of early Saxon pottery has been found to the north of Cowbit (HER 23102).
 - 5.13 The settlement of Cowbit itself was founded in the late 13th century as an outlying hamlet of Spalding along Stone Gate and the New Fen Dyke (HER 23106). Cowbit at that time was a remote part of the parish of Spalding. The earliest documentary reference to Cowbit or *Conbith*, *Conbiht* dates from AD1267. Later medieval documentary references variously detail: *Kinbuth* (c.AD1331), *Conbyth* (AD1332) and *Conbight* (AD1361). Cowbit is derived from *cor* from the Old English 'cow' and *byht* – a bight or bend. Thus it would

appear that the place name has a topographical derivation denoting a bend in the River Welland with nearby pasture for cows [Cameron, 1998; Mills, 1991; Ekwall, 1991]. Settlements like Cowbit remained small and clustered around higher embanked ground. The lands to the north of the New Fen Dyke were largely arable in the medieval period. This has been evidenced by widespread finds of contemporary pottery as the result of associated manuring activity [Hayes & Lane, 1992].

- 5.14 The reclamation of the local low-lying fenland probably began in the late 12th century with the construction of the New Fen Dyke around AD1186-9. By AD1205, a second fen dyke – the Goldyke had been constructed to the south. A further early fen dyke was Stone Gate. The Wheat Mere Drain was also constructed as part of this process, and was first documented in the mid 13th century, when it was referred to as *Wykemere Drain*. These features protected the surrounding low lying and reclaimed lands from periodic winter flooding [Hayes & Lane, 1992].
- 5.15 An embankment was also constructed at this time – the Marsh Bank – to the east of the Welland. This was a forerunner of the present Barrier Bank and afforded Cowbit some protection against the waters of the Deeping Fen. The Welland at this time was a sluggish tidal creek prone to silting up and hence periodic flooding [Hayes & Lane, 1992]. Spalding Priory established a grange in this vicinity soon after AD1294 – Goll Grange or *Grange of Golewilw* (HER 22093). Its location is probably to the east of the Wheat Mere Drain and is marked by two large mounds, which probably represent the main buildings of the grange. Finds of medieval pottery, building material, stone, brick and tile have been found at this location.
- 5.16 The Grade I listed church in Cowbit, dedicated to St. Mary (HER 22168) is reputed to have been built around AD1380 soon after the founding of the medieval settlement itself as a chapel in the parish of Spalding. The chancel and tower were added in AD1487, and the nave extended in AD1480-6. The church was restored in 1882.
- 5.17 The remains of medieval dyings or of field systems survive in a small field close to the railway crossing at Stone Gate (HER 20323).
- 5.18 The River Welland was repositioned in the mid 17th century. This formed the Cowbit Wash, an area of washland in the western part of the parish. This was created to contain the overflow of the River Welland during periods of flooding. Cowbit Wash is up to 1km wide and lies between the eastern and former medieval course of the Welland and its present course. The Cowbit Wash remained unploughed until the 1950s, but is now under arable cultivation. Initially these lands provided both summer grazing and a hay crop but in winter was still liable to flooding. During the past 30 years this area of the Lincolnshire fens has been the subject of intensive arable farming, which has in turn desiccated the peat and has led to a general lowering of ground levels [Hayes & Lane, 1992].
- 5.19 On Backgate is a Grade II listed tower windmill (HER 20328), erected in 1798. It was working until the mid 1930s until final closure in 1969. An extraction site comprising pits of post-medieval date relating to the construction of the adjacent Barrier Bank is located to the west of the village (HER 20326). The cropmark of an undated former watercourse is situated to the south-east of Cowbit (HER 20338). The cropmarks of former watercourses occurring as linear features are located to the east of Cowbit (HER 20339).
- 5.20 Cowbit Railway Station (HER 23554) was built in 1867 by the Great Northern Railway to a standard design. The station was closed to passengers in 1961 and to goods traffic in 1964. The railway line itself was closed in 1982 and the rails removed. The site consists of platforms, station house and offices and a signal box along with a level crossing and a crossing keeper's cottage. The signal box was constructed in about 1880.

- 5.21 There are also several undated cropmark sites within the search area. The cropmarks of possible linear features and enclosures are located to the south of Cowbit (HER 20315). The cropmarks of two parallel curvilinear ditches, subdivided by straight ditches with a double ditched feature at its southern end are located to the north of Cowbit (HER 20316). The cropmarks of an undated enclosure and a linear feature are located to the south-east of Cowbit (HER 20337). To the south-west of the village is the cropmark of an undated rectangular shaped enclosure (HER 24051).
- 5.22 A number of previous archaeological investigations have taken place within the search area. To the north-west of the development site, a geophysical survey and an evaluation took place in 2001-2 on land at Curlew Drive (HER 23686-7, Site Code: CCB02) in advance of a residential development. The identified geophysical anomalies that turned out to be post-medieval drainage ditches. Although a small quantity of Roman and medieval pottery were recovered along with larger quantities of post-medieval pottery, no contemporary archaeological features of any of these periods were found. Quantities of post-medieval pottery and brick wasters suggesting the site of a possible nearby brick clamp were also located.
- 5.23 An archaeological watching brief took place during the construction of a new classroom extension at St. Mary's Primary School in 2002 (HER 23817, Site code: CSM02). This did not locate any archaeological features or deposits, but did yield a single sherd of 16th–17th century pottery.
- 5.24 To the south-west of the development site, a geophysical survey, an excavation and a watching brief took place in advance of and during a new residential development on land off Backgate (HER 23867-70, Site code: CBG 00/01). These investigations identified a possible Roman farmstead site with enclosures and structures along with evidence of associated briquetage production and thus implied salt manufacture. A quantity of early post-medieval pottery was also found, the nature of which suggested a nearby inn. Medieval features including boundary/drainage ditches and pits dating to the 12th–14th centuries and post-medieval pits and ditches were also found along with modern features such as dykes and refuse pits.
- 5.25 An archaeological evaluation took place to the north and north-east of the village and to the west of Paradise Cottage along the line of the then proposed A1073 relief road in 2003. This identified six undated ditches, an undated ditch terminal (HER 23897, 23899) and a modern ditch (HER 23898).
- 5.26 The largest fieldwork project in the vicinity of the development site was a geophysical survey which took place in 2002 along the line of the proposed A1073 road improvement scheme to the north-east and east of the development site. In two fields in this area, the results were inconclusive, revealing several aligned anomalies, which were possibly archaeological in origin. This was followed by trial trenching at various points along the line of this proposal in 2004 (Site code: LNEYSD 03). To the east of Cowbit, this included finds of a number of undated ditches (HER 23900, 23904, 23907); a post-medieval dyke, two post-medieval ditches and a post-medieval pond (HER 23901, 23905-6); two Saxo-Norman ditches and a pit (HER 23902) and a medieval ditch (HER 23903).
- 5.27 An archaeological excavation along the route of the then proposed A1073 relief road to the north-east of the development site in 2011 identified a stock enclosure of medieval date. The enclosure ditch yielded pottery from the 12th to the 14th centuries. A 14th - 15th century ditch was also found to the north of this enclosure (HER 25741, Site code: SPEY08). A second excavation also along the line of this proposed route and to the south-east of Cowbit identified a large assemblage of brick fragments of 15th - 16th century date, suggesting that a centre of brick production was located nearby (HER

- 25742, Site code SPEY08). A further archaeological excavation also along the line of this proposed route to the north-east of the development site in 2011 identified a Roman settlement site (HER 23134). This comprised two sides of a probable early Roman domestic building, which lay within a rectangular ditched enclosure from which Roman pottery was recovered. To the south of this building and adjacent to a palaeochannel, a concentration of 2nd - 3rd century AD archaeological features were also found consisting of a series of ditches and pits. These features produced pottery from the 1st to the early 3rd centuries AD. The site was interpreted as a small farmstead beside the palaeochannel. There were also several timber built structures along with a kiln or oven used for salt making. A watching brief following the excavation located quantities of briquetage.
- 5.29 During fieldwalking to the west of the development site in 2001, a scatter of 11th-15th century pottery was found (HER 23106, Site code BGC01).
- 5.30 An archaeological watching brief near 18, Stonegate in 2011 identified an undated pit and two ditches, one of which was a former field boundary (HER 23106, Site code: COST11). Medieval and post-medieval pottery were also recovered from the topsoil here.
- 5.31 An archaeological evaluation to the south of the development site at 78, Backgate took place in 2008 (Site code: BGC08). This comprised the excavation of a single trench adjacent to a new extension. This identified an undated drainage ditch with a modern backfill [Rowe, 2008]. On the northern outskirts of the village, a watching brief took place at Stonegate in 2004 during the excavation of drainage trenches for a new dwelling (Site code: CCSG 04). This similarly yielded negative results.
- 5.32 To the north of the development site, a watching brief took place in 2006 during the construction of two new extensions to an existing dwelling at 66, Backgate (Site code: COBG 06). This did not identify any archaeological features, deposits or finds [M & M Archaeological Services, 2006].
- 5.33 An archaeological watching brief on land adjacent to Highgate House, Backgate to the south-east of the development site in 2009 during the construction of two houses and a garage identified a sequence of naturally deposited silts associated with a roddon with small quantities of charcoal within the upper layers of these silts, which indicted nearby activity during this deposition. There was also evidence for domestic, agricultural and industrial activity in the immediate vicinity dating to the 1st-2nd centuries AD. Along with this pottery, other finds included iron working slag, burnt clay providing evidence of this industrial activity. Several undated floors and pits were also found which were probably contemporary with this Roman settlement activity. Several undated periods of flooding were also identified along with archaeological features dating to the 16th - 18th centuries (Site code: CBHH09) [Mellor, 2009].
- 5.34 In 2002, an archaeological evaluation took place on the reputed site of Goll Grange (HER 22093, Site code: CGG02). Two mounds, which were thought to be the site of the Grange, turned out to be natural landscape features probably formed from upcast generated from the scouring out of the nearby Wheat Mere Drain. The mounds were in turn truncated by post-medieval pits and a posthole and undated ditches. The Fenland Survey suggested that the probable site of Goll Grange was possibly to the east in the adjacent parish of Weston. An archaeological watching brief here in 2000 located occasional brick fragments thought to come from the site of Goll Grange (Site code SER 00). An archaeological excavation on the line of the proposed route of the A1073 by-pass in 2011 concentrated on the two aforementioned mounds, the largest of which sealed a 14th century ditch. This was interpreted as being part of a field system associated with Goll Grange. Other features found included a late medieval pit (HER 22093, Site code SPEY08).

- 5.35 A map regression exercise was undertaken using both manuscript maps and published Ordnance Survey (O.S.) maps from the Lincolnshire Archives and the local studies collections of Lincoln Central Library. The earliest map consulted comprised an extract from the enclosure award map for the parish of Cowbit of 1819 (Archive ref: Holland Award 10). The area of the development site lies within a south west-north east orientated long linear open field which bounds onto the western frontage of Backgate.
- 5.36 The extract from the First Edition Ordnance Survey (O.S.) six inch to one mile scale map of 1891 shows the same layout to the area of the development site and of its immediate vicinity. This is repeated on the extract from the Second Edition Ordnance Survey (O.S.) six inch to one mile scale map of 1906 and on the extract from the 1:10,560 scale Ordnance Survey (O.S.) map of 1956. The extract from the 1:10,000 scale Ordnance Survey (O.S.) map of 1979 shows a house within a small enclosure fronting onto the western side of Backgate.

6. Methodology

- 6.1 The archaeological monitoring was undertaken by Neville Hall MIFA at the development site on the 11th-12th of March and the 15th of April 2014 and on the 14th of August 2015. This comprised the continual archaeological monitoring and recording of the groundworks at the development site which comprised the mechanical ground reduction of an area which was slightly larger than the new build footprint. the mechanical excavation of the foundation trenches for the new build, the mechanical excavation of two soakaways close to the new build area and the mechanical excavation of a new service trench from the new build area to the Backgate street frontage. The mechanical excavations were undertaken using a 7-ton 360° mechanical excavator fitted with a 0.80m wide toothless bucket, a 3-ton 360° mechanical excavator fitted with a 0.80m wide toothed bucket and a 1.5-ton 360° mechanical excavator fitted with a 0.30m wide toothless bucket.
- 6.2 Where necessary, surfaces were hand cleaned for examination and recording, and the deposits observed were recorded on standard *pro-forma* context recording sheets. A plan at a scale of 1:50 was compiled on site of the monitored bungalow foundations and associated soakaway excavations. This is reproduced at the reduced scale of 1:100 in this report on **Figure 4**. This plan was also used to plot the location of the six sections of the recorded deposit sequence here [designated as **Representative Sections 1-6**]. The approximate line of the new service trench from the new build to the Backgate street frontage is shown on **Figure 5**. **Figure 5** also shows the locations of **Representative Sections 7-8**. All of the aforementioned eight sections or **Representative Sections 1-8** were also compiled on site at a scale of 1:20 and are similarly reproduced at this same scale on **Figure 6**. A digital colour photographic record was also maintained, which is reproduced in **Appendix 1**. A list of contexts recorded is reproduced in **Appendix 2**.
- 6.3 All work was carried out according to the approved Specification as required by the archaeological planning condition and to the Institute of Field Archaeologists (IFA) standards and guidance for archaeological watching briefs.

7. Results [Figures 4-6; Appendix 1; Plates 1-41]

- 7.1 All of the groundworks pertaining to this development were the subject of continual archaeological monitoring and recording. The first and initial phase of the groundworks programme consisted of the mechanical ground reduction of an area of the site which was slightly larger than the new build footprint. The extent of this ground reduction is shown on **Figure 4** [**Plates 1-2**]. This ground reduction extended to depths of between

0.20m-0.35m below ground levels and was confined to within a topsoil horizon (001). All newly exposed surfaces were walked over and were rapidly scanned for any surface finds, of which none were found.

- 7.2 This was followed by the mechanical excavation under archaeological supervision of the foundation trenches for the new build. The foundation trenches were excavated to varying lengths, to a width of 0.80m and to depths of 0.90m-1.10m below the reduced levels [Plates 3-5, 7, 9-10, 12-13 and 15-27]. These excavations extended through the remainder of the topsoil horizon (001), through an undated ploughsoil or buried soil horizon (002) and an underlying natural horizon (003), which extended to the base of the trench excavations. This deposit sequence was recorded within **Representative Sections 2-4 [Plates 8, 11 and 14]**. However, where the foundation trenches extended to greater depths such as the foundation trench which was parallel to and to the immediate east of the western site boundary, an horizon of humic black peat (004), indicative of water logging was identified at the base of the excavations here. This peat deposit was identified below the natural horizon (003) and was recorded within **Representative Section 1 [Plate 6]**. One sherd of 13th-14th century pottery and three brick fragments of 14th-15th century date were recovered from the deposit (004). The natural horizon (003) was also observed to contain several lenses of black peat within its make-up including occurring within several shallow synclines.
- 7.3 This was followed by the mechanical excavation under archaeological supervision of two new soakaways. The first soakaway was excavated to the south-east of the new build area and in close proximity to the southern site boundary. This excavation measured 2.20m in length, 2.10m in width and was excavated to a depth of 1.0m below ground levels [Plate 28]. This excavation extended through a modern made ground deposit (005) in places, the topsoil horizon (001), the undated ploughsoil or buried soil horizon (002) and the underlying natural horizon (003), which extended to the base of this excavation. Excluding the made ground deposit (005), the deposit sequence was recorded within **Representative Section 5 [Plate 29]**. A section of service trench connected this soakaway to the new build area. This trench measured 4.1m in length, 0.30m in width and 0.60m in depth. This excavation extended through the topsoil horizon (001) and the undated ploughsoil or buried soil horizon (002), which extended to the base of this excavation.
- 7.4 The second soakaway was excavated under archaeological supervision to the immediate north of the new build area and to the east of the western site boundary. This excavation measured 2.40m in length, 2.10m in width and was excavated to a depth of 1.30m below ground levels [Plate 30]. This excavation extended through the topsoil horizon (001), the undated ploughsoil or buried soil horizon (002) and the underlying natural horizon (003), which extended to the base of this excavation. This deposit sequence was recorded within **Representative Section 6 [Plate 31]**. A section of service trench connected this soakaway to the new build area. This trench measured 8.80m in length, 0.30m in width and 0.60m in depth. This excavation extended through the topsoil horizon (001) and the undated ploughsoil or buried soil horizon (002), which extended to the base of this excavation.
- 7.5 The final stage of the groundworks programme comprised the mechanical excavation under archaeological supervision of a new service trench which extended from the new build area eastwards to the Backgate street frontage to connect to existing services [Plates 32-33]. This trench was excavated to a length of 16.20m, to a width of 0.30m and to depths of between 0.60m-0.80m below ground levels, which decreased in depth eastwards towards the street frontage [Plates 34 and 36-40]. These excavations extended through the topsoil horizon (001), the undated ploughsoil or buried soil horizon (002) and the underlying natural horizon (003), which extended to the base of this

excavation. This deposit sequence was recorded within **Representative Sections 7 and 8 [Plates 35 and 41]**.

8. Discussion and Conclusions

- 8.1 All of the groundworks pertaining to this development comprising an initial phase of ground reduction, the mechanical excavation of the foundations for the new detached bungalow along with two new soakaways and a new service trench to connect to existing services were the subject of continual archaeological monitoring and recording.
- 8.2 The initial phase of ground reduction and the mechanical excavation of the foundations for the new build identified a deposit sequence which consisted of a topsoil horizon, an undated ploughsoil or buried soil horizon, a natural horizon and in places where the excavations went deepest, an underlying natural horizon of humic peat. This deposit sequence was recorded within four representative sections. One sherd of 13th-14th century pottery and three brick fragments of 14th-15th century date were recovered from the basal peat deposit. It is thus considered that this peat deposit was the product of a period of waterlogging from the medieval period. The overlying natural horizon also included within its make-up small pockets of peat. This natural deposit is interpreted as a possible flood deposit of alluvial silts, representing the product of a past episode of flooding from the nearby River Welland, a deposition interspersed with small areas of temporary waterlogging.
- 8.3 The mechanical excavation of the two new soakaways and the new service trench also identified the same deposit sequence of the topsoil horizon, an undated ploughsoil or buried soil horizon and the natural horizon, which was recorded within a further four representative sections.

9. Effectiveness of Methodology and Confidence Rating

- 9.1 The methodology chosen clearly demonstrated the absence of archaeological activity and the nature of the finds from this site; while providing sufficient time to record the deposit sequences observed. A more detailed level of archaeological assessment and investigation clearly would not have been necessary. It is considered that the implemented methodology was sufficient to confirm the absence of archaeological activity and the nature of the finds present and to record the deposit sequences present within the area of the development site with a high degree of confidence.

10. Acknowledgements

- 10.1 Thanks are gratefully extended to Mr. Darren Wilson for commissioning this work. Thanks are also extended to Ms Louise Jennings of the Lincolnshire County Council Historic Environment Team, and to the staff of the Lincolnshire Heritage Environment Record, the Lincoln Local Studies Library and the Lincolnshire Archives for their kind assistance.

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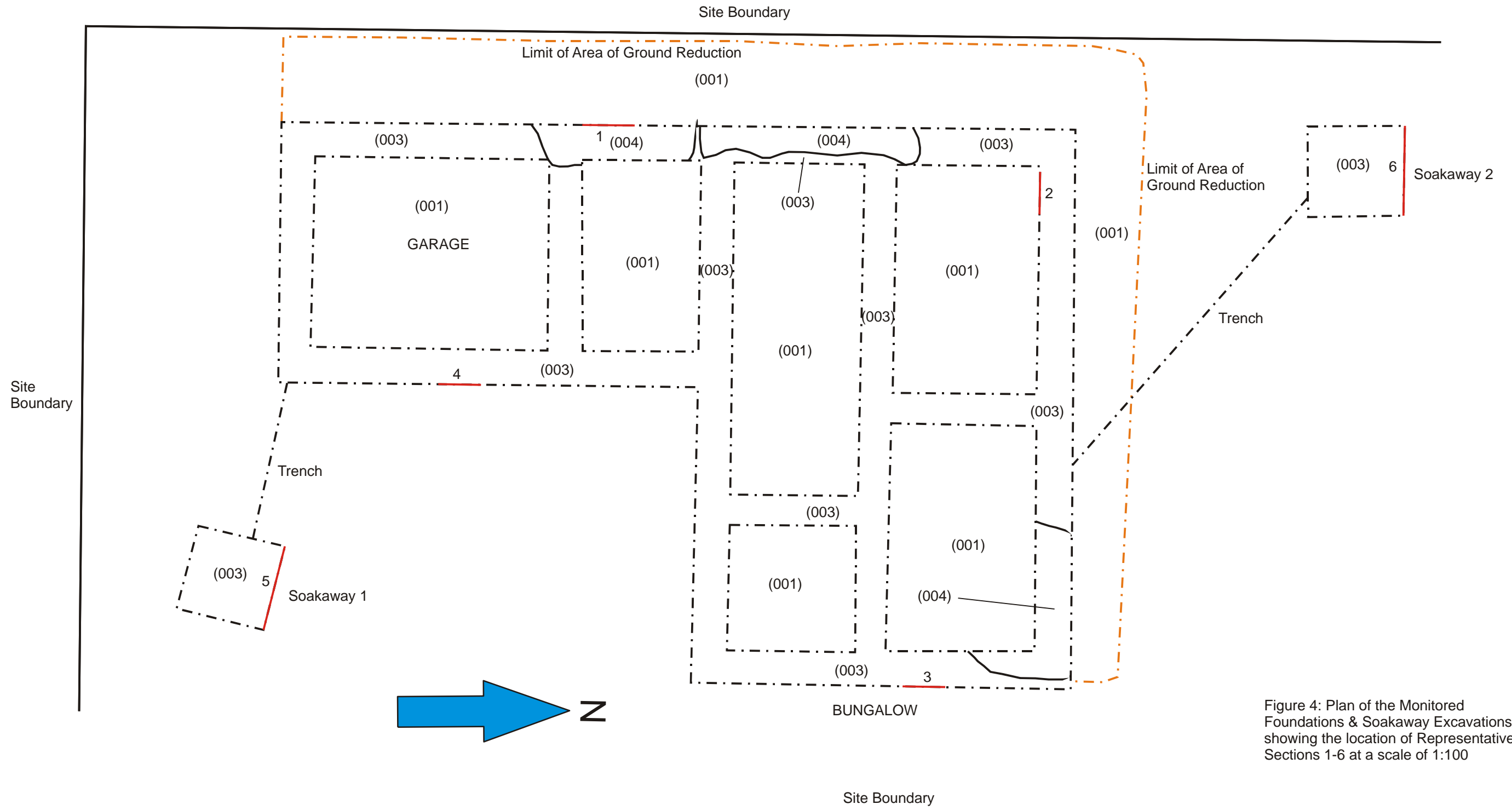


Figure 4: Plan of the Monitored Foundations & Soakaway Excavations showing the location of Representative Sections 1-6 at a scale of 1:100

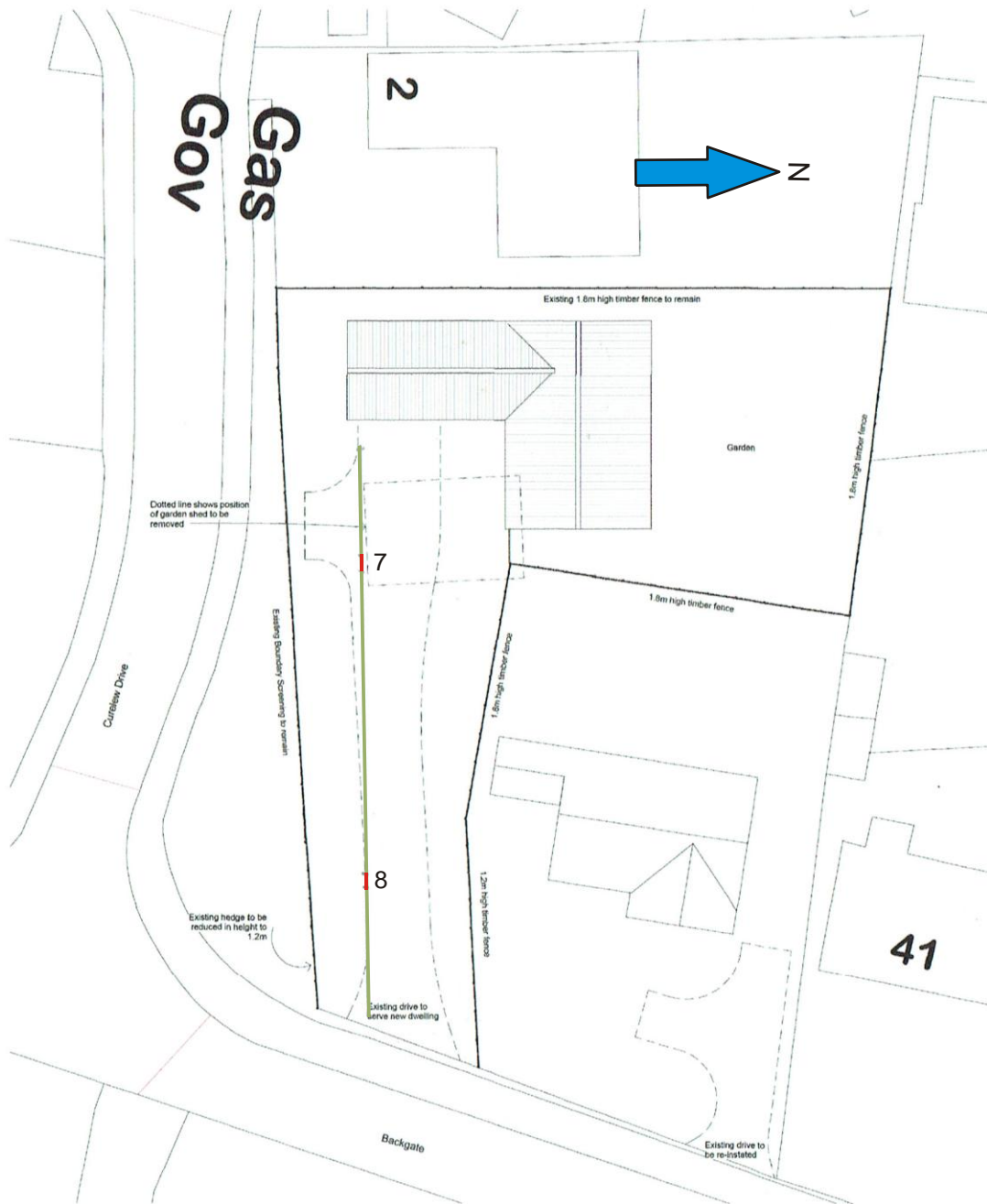
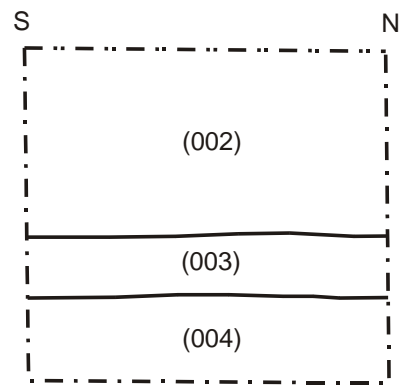
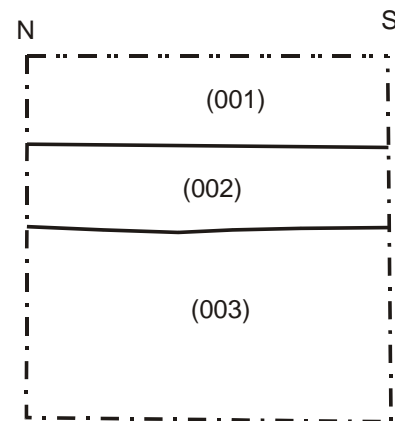


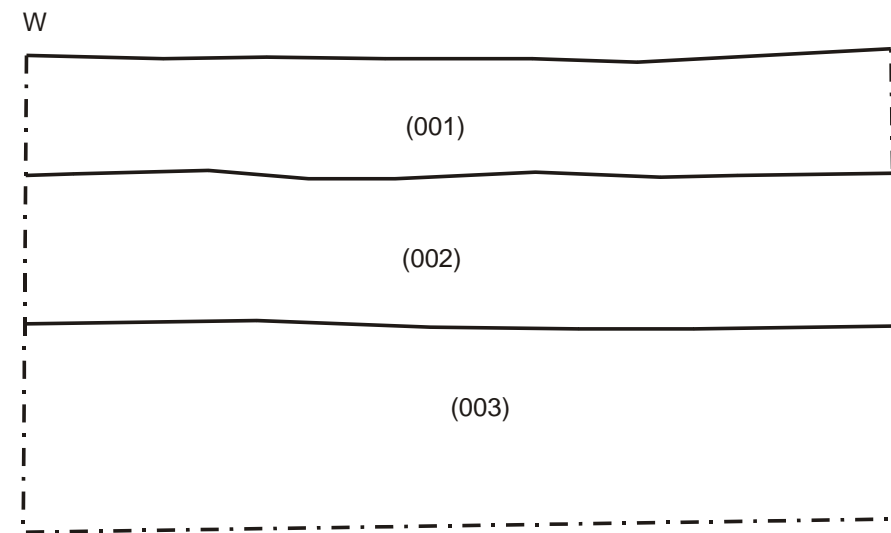
Figure 4: Plan of the Monitored Service Trench showing the location of **Representative Sections 7-8** at a scale of 1:200, (extract from Architects plan).



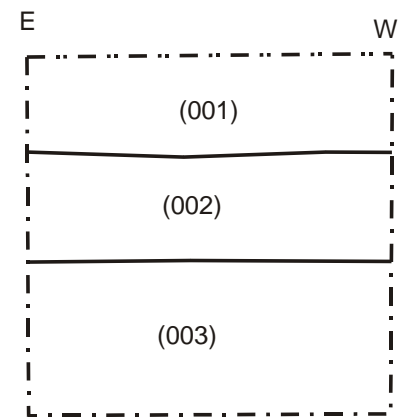
Representative Section 1, East Facing Section, scale 1:20



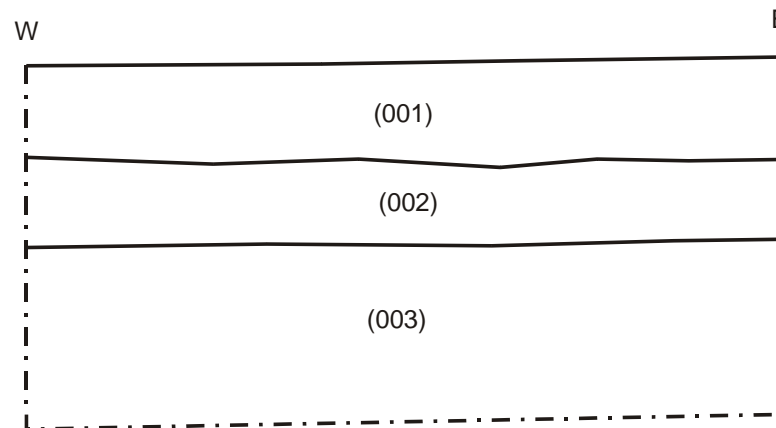
Representative Section 4, West Facing Section, scale 1:20



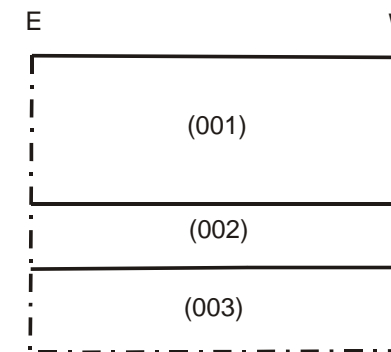
Representative Section 6, South Facing Section, scale 1:20



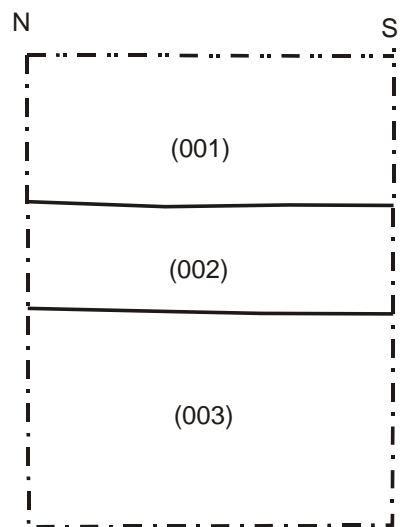
Representative Section 2, North Facing Section, scale 1:20



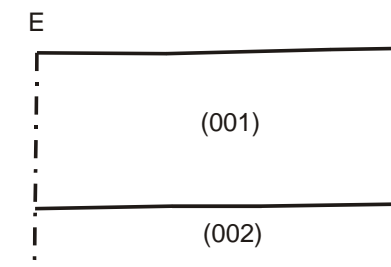
Representative Section 5, South Facing Section, scale 1:20



Representative Section 7, North Facing Section, scale 1:20



Representative Section 3
West Facing Section,
scale 1:20



Representative Section 8, North Facing Section, scale 1:20

Figure 6: Representative Sections 1-8 at a scale of 1:20

Appendix 1: Plates



Plate 1: Initial ground reduction, from the north



Plate 2: Initial ground reduction, from the east



Plate 3: Excavation of the foundations, from the south-east



Plate 4: Excavation of the foundations, from the east



Plate 5: Excavation of the foundations, from the east



Plate 6: Representative Section 1, from the east



Plate 7: Excavation of the foundations, from the north



Plate 10: Excavation of the foundations, from the south



Plate 8: Representative Section 2, from the north



Plate 11: Representative Section 3, from the west



Plate 9: Excavation of the foundations, from the north



Plate 12: Excavation of the foundations, from the north



Plate 13: Excavation of the foundations, from the north



Plate 16: Excavation of the foundations, from the north



Plate 14: Representative Section 4, from the west



Plate 17: Excavation of the foundations, from the north



Plate 15: Excavation of the foundations, from the south-west



Plate 18: Excavation of the foundations, from the south



Plate 19: Excavation of the foundations, from the north



Plate 22: Excavation of the foundations, from the north



Plate 20: Excavation of the foundations, from the south



Plate 23: Excavation of the foundations, from the south



Plate 21: Excavation of the foundations, from the north



Plate 24: Excavation of the foundations, from the north



Plate 25: Excavation of the foundations, from the north



Plate 28: Excavation of the first soakaway, from the east



Plate 26: Excavation of the foundations, from the north



Plate 29: Representative Section 5, from the south



Plate 27: Excavation of the foundations, from the north



Plate 30: Excavation of the second soakaway, from the north



Plate 31: Representative Section 6,
from the south



Plate 33: Service trench, pre-excitation,
from the east



Plate 32: Service trench, pre-excitation,
from the west



Plate 34: Service trench excavation,
from the west



Plate 35: Representative Section 7,
from the north



Plate 37: Service trench excavation,
from the west



Plate 36: Service trench excavation,
from the west



Plate 38: Service trench excavation,
from the east



Plate 39: Service trench excavation, from the east



Plate 41: Representative Section 8, from the north



Plate 40: Service trench excavation, from the east

Appendix 2: List of Contexts

- 001** Topsoil horizon. Soft, dark grey brown/dark orange brown clayey silt. Below **(005)** & above **(002)**. Recorded within **Representative Sections 2-8**. Depth - 0.42m.
- 002** Undated ploughsoil or buried soil horizon. Soft, mid/dark grey brown clayey silt. Below **(001)** & above **(003)**. Recorded within **Representative Sections 1-8**. Depth - 0.38m.
- 003** Natural horizon. Soft, light grey brown silt with light/mid orange brown mottling with occasional lenses of black peat & spreads of light blue grey gleying. Below **(002)** & above **(004)**. Recorded within **Representative Sections 1-8**. Depth - >0.48m.
- 004** Deposit of humic black peat within a matrix of a soft, dark grey brown silt underlying the natural horizon **(003)**. Recorded within **Representative Section 1**. One sherd of 13th-14th century pottery and three brick fragments of 14th-15th century date were recovered from this deposit. Depth - >0.21m.
- 005** Modern made ground deposit within a matrix of a soft, mid grey brown clayey silt with frequent small-medium modern brick fragments, small angular stones, small charcoal fragments & flecking, small-medium mortar fragments & flecking & spreads of redeposited topsoil. Above **(001)**.

Appendix 3: The Archive

The archive consists of:

Five context records

One site plan at a scale of 1:100 of the monitored bungalow foundations and soakaway excavations

Eight section drawings at a scale of 1:20

One context register

One photographic register

One bag of finds

All records are currently held at:

38 Finningley Road

Lincoln

LN6 0UP

And will be deposited in due course at:

The Collection

Danes Terrace

Lincoln

LN2 1LP

Under the accession number **LCNCC: 2013.28** and site code **BGCO13**

site code	context	cname	full name	sub fabric	form type	sherds	vessels	weight	part	action	description	date
bgco 13	004	BOUA	Bourne-type Fabrics A, B and C	Fabric B	jar/bowl	1	1	9	BS	retain	ext soot	13th to 14th

site code	context	cname	full name	fabric	frags	weight	action	description	date
bgco 13	004	BRK	Brick	fine orange silty	3	22	retain	handmade;abundant vegetal voids in fabric;salt-surfacing;flakes	14th to 15th

Appendix 4: The Finds by Jane Young

Appendix 5: Photographic Register

PHOTOGRAPHIC RECORD SHEET

Camera No.	Date Loaded	Time Loaded	Comments		B&W Col. Digi.
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	Identification Shot	N/A	N/A		
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2	Initial ground reduction	E		At 11/3/14	BGCO13
3	Excavation of the Foundations	SE		At 11/3/14	BGCO13
4	Excavation of the Foundations	E		At 11/3/14	BGCO13
5	Excavation of the Foundations	E		At 11/3/14	BGCO13
6	Representative Section 1	E		At 11/3/14	BGCO13
7	Excavation of the Foundations	N		At 11/3/14	BGCO13
8	Representative Section 2	N		At 11/3/14	BGCO13
9	Excavation of the Foundations	N		At 11/3/14	BGCO13
10	Excavation of the Foundations	S		At 11/3/14	BGCO13
11	Representative Section 3	W		At 11/3/14	BGCO13
12	Excavation of the Foundations	N		At 11/3/14	BGCO13
13	Excavation of the Foundations	N		At 11/3/14	BGCO13
14	Representative Section 4	W		At 11/3/14	BGCO13
15	Excavation of the Foundations	SW		At 11/3/14	BGCO13
16	Excavation of the Foundations	N		At 11/3/14	BGCO13
17	Excavation of the Foundations	N		At 11/3/14	BGCO13

PHOTOGRAPHIC RECORD SHEET

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Frame	Comments	View	Scale	Init & Date	Site
	Identification Shot	N/A	N/A		
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19	Excavation of the Foundations	N		12/3/14	BGCO13
20	Excavation of the Foundations	S		12/3/14	BGCO13
21	Excavation of the Foundations	N		12/3/14	BGCO13
22	Excavation of the Foundations	N		12/3/14	BGCO13
23	Excavation of the Foundations	S		12/3/14	BGCO13
24	Excavation of the Foundations	N		12/3/14	BGCO13
25	Excavation of the Foundations	N		12/3/14	BGCO13
26	Excavation of the Foundations	N		12/3/14	BGCO13
27	Excavation of the Foundations	N		12/3/14	BGCO13
28	Excavation of the first soakaway	E		15/4/14	BGCO13
29	Representative section 5	S		15/4/14	BGCO13
30	Excavation of the second soakaway	N		15/4/14	BGCO13
31	Representative section 6	S		15/4/14	BGCO13
32	Service trench pre-excavation	W		14/5/15	BGCO13
33	Service trench pre-excavation	E		14/5/15	BGCO13

Appendix 6: OASIS Summary Sheet

OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM: England

[List of Projects](#) | [Manage Projects](#) | [Search Projects](#) | [New project](#) | [Change your details](#) | [HER coverage](#) | [Change country](#) | [Log out](#)

43, Backgate, Cowbit, Lincolnshire - Neville Hall MIFA

OASIS ID - nevilleh1-226283

Versions

View	Version	Completed by	Email	Date
View 1	1	Neville Hall	nevillehallmifa@gmail.com	13 October 2015

Completed sections in current version

Details	Location	Creators	Archive	Publications
Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	1/1

Validated sections in current version

Details	Location	Creators	Archive	Publications
No	No	No	No	0/1

File submission and form progress

Grey literature report submitted?	Yes	Grey literature report filename/s	Sent by other means
Boundary file submitted?	No	Boundary filename	
HER signed off?		NMR signed off?	

Email Lincolnshire HER about this OASIS record

OASIS:

Please e-mail Historic England for OASIS help and advice

© ADS 1996-2015 Created by Jo Gilham and Jen Mitcham, email Last modified Thursday 13 August 2015

Cite only: <http://www.oasis.ac.uk/form/formctl.cfm?oid=nevilleh1-226283> for this page

Appendix 7: Specification for Archaeological Monitoring

**Specification for Archaeological Monitoring
at 43, Backgate,
Cowbit,
Lincolnshire.**

Prepared for Mr. Jason Wilson of Remway Design Ltd.

**National Grid Reference: TF 2656 1763
Site Code: BGCO13
Accession No: LCNCC: 2013.28
Planning reference: H01-0598-12**

**Prepared by Neville Hall MIFA, Freelance Field
Archaeologist & Consultant**

March 2013

Non-technical summary

A scheme of works comprising archaeological monitoring is required during the groundworks pertaining to the construction of a new detached bungalow on land at 43, Backgate, Cowbit, Lincolnshire.

The development site is situated within an archaeologically sensitive area, an area of high archaeological potential, and within the historic core of the medieval settlement of Cowbit. This site lies in close proximity to Iron Age settlement activity, including saltern sites, to Roman settlement activity comprising agricultural activity with several farmsteads, industrial activity and salterns, and to medieval settlement activity comprising finds of pottery, pits and ditches. It is considered likely that archaeological features, deposits, structures and finds associated with this multi-period settlement activity may be encountered on this site.

The archaeological monitoring will be undertaken during the groundworks stage of development, which will comprise the mechanical excavation of foundations and services for the new detached bungalow. Any archaeological features, structures and/or deposits will be recorded in writing, graphically and photographically.

On the completion of the monitoring, a report will be produced detailing the results of the archaeological investigation. The report will consist of a narrative supported by illustrations and photographs.

Site location and description [Figures 1 and 2]

The development site is situated within the historic core of the settlement of Cowbit and on land at 43, Backgate. The development site is located at National Grid Reference TF 2656 1763 and at a height of approximately 6mAOD. The village of Cowbit is located approximately 5km to the south of Spalding and some 10km to the north east of the town of Market Deeping. The village of Cowbit is within the modern civil parish of the same name, and in the administrative district of South Holland, county of Lincolnshire.

The development site is located in a flat and low-lying area within the Lincolnshire Fens. The development site is situated on deep calcareous clayey and silty soils of the Wallasea 2 Series, which have developed on marine alluvial deposits known as Terrington Beds. These deposits in turn overlie the solid geology, which comprises Oxford Clays and Kellaway Beds of the Upper Jurassic.

Planning background [Figure 3]

This document comprises a Specification or a written scheme of works for archaeological monitoring and recording which is to be maintained during the groundworks pertaining to the construction of a new detached bungalow at 43, Backgate, Cowbit, Lincolnshire (Planning reference: H01-0598-12).

Historical and Archaeological Background

Background research sources were consulted at the Lincolnshire Archives, the Lincoln Local Studies Library and the Lincolnshire County Council Historic Environment Record (HER). A search of the Lincolnshire HER was conducted within a 1km radius that was centred on the development site.

Throughout early prehistory, the area around Cowbit probably consisted of coastal reed swamps and a salt marsh environment through which flowed creeks and the prehistoric River Welland, and was probably uninhabited. There is thus little evidence for earlier prehistoric activity in the Cowbit area, as that former contemporary land surface is now buried beneath substantial and deep later alluvial deposits.

By the Iron Age, the local environment with ready access to both fresh and salt water with readily available local peat resources for fuel was conducive to the manufacture of salt. Saltens thus flourished on the wide levees of the contemporary River Welland and on other major creeks or roddons.



Figure 1: Site location at scale 1:12,500. The site is shown in red. (O.S. copyright licence number 100048723)



Figure 2: Site location at an original scale of scale 1:1,000, (not to scale), (extract from Architects plan). The site is shown in red.

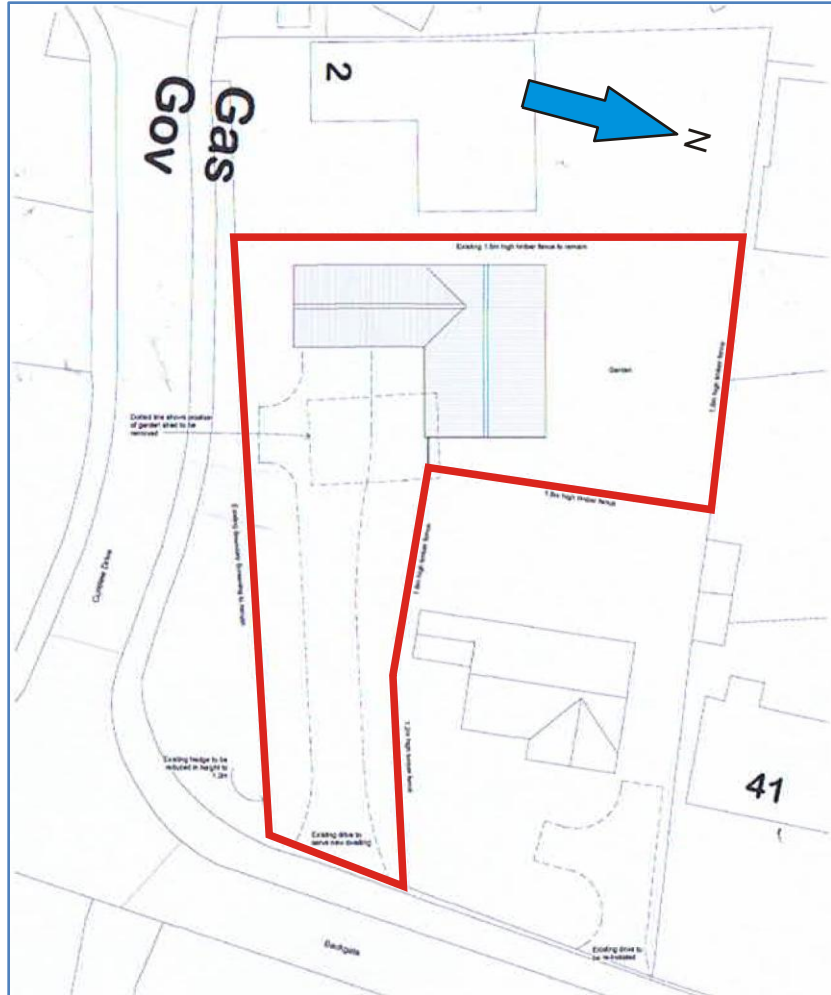


Figure 3: Block Plan Showing the Layout of the Proposed Development at an original scale of scale 1:200, (not to scale), (extract from Architects plan). The site is shown outlined in red.

Other Iron Age settlement activity is also suggested by other scatters of contemporary pottery and briquetage and dark or black soilmarks or areas of burning and are sometimes located in close proximity to roddons. This might suggest further saltern sites, with which such settlement activity was usually associated. There are a number of known Iron Age settlement sites including salterns or salt making sites within the search area. These occur to the north of the village (HER 23105) and to the south (HER 23116); to the south west of the village at Cowbit Wash (HER 23131); to the immediate west of the development site (HER 23133), indicated by a small quantity of briquetage; to the north-east of the development site (HER 23134), indicated by finds of pottery and animal bone on a dark soilmark and to the south-east of the development site (HER 23135), indicated on the ground by a scatter of pottery within an area of dark soil;

Other such Iron Age settlement and/or saltern sites are to be found to the immediate south-east of Cowbit, (HER 23138 and 23144); to the immediate south of Cowbit, (HER 23142) (Roman pottery has also been found on this site, implying that its usage was transitional, (HER 23143)) and to the south-west of Cowbit within Cowbit Wash, (HER 23146).

A single sherd of Iron Age pottery has been found to the south of Cowbit (HER 20319) and a further five such sherds from a field scatter found to the north-east of the development site (HER 20320).

During the Roman period, salt production tended to drift eastwards due to encroachment of peat from the south west. Roman salterns were established on the wide levees on former courses of the River Welland utilising the same resources as noted earlier. Roman settlement also tended to congregate around these saltern sites. These sites are similarly denoted by close proximity to roddons, and to areas of dark soilmarks, pottery and briquetage scatters and of saltern hearths typified by areas of intense burning activity and red soil stains and areas of darker soil. The cropmarks of possible Roman settlement and salt working remains are located to the west of Cowbit (HER 20325).

A further possible Roman saltern site is located to the north-east of the development site and denoted by an area of cropmarks in an open field to the south-east of the development site (HER 20314). Other contemporary saltern sites are to be found to the north-east of Cowbit (HER 23100). To the south-west of Cowbit are the cropmarks of a loose group of enclosures and fields laid out on a grid system. There are also multiple parallel ditches at this location, which may be Romano-British linear features such as ditches or drove roads (HER 22081). A further Roman settlement site is located in Cowbit Fen to the south of the village (HER 23092). This site is denoted on the ground by an area of dark soil staining and finds of pottery, animal bone and a quern stone fragment. Other potential settlement sites occur to the north of Cowbit (HER 23101 and HER 23103) and to the immediate south east of Cowbit (HER 23145).

Other contemporary saltern and settlement sites are to be found the south of the village at Cowbit Wash (HER 23117) and to the south-east of the development site (HER 23137), indicated by scatters of briquetage, pottery etc. on an area of dark soil. Potential Roman activity is suggested by the cropmarks of parts of possible enclosures and other linear features to the south-west of the village of Cowbit (HER 20313).

Miscellaneous Roman artefacts including animal bone and pottery have been found to the east of Cowbit (HER 22098), to the west within Cowbit Wash (HER 22099) and to the immediate south-east of Cowbit (HER 23140).

In the Roman period, the Welland maintained a similar course to that in the Iron Age, but during the late Saxon period, the River Welland was probably realigned and canalised by the monks of Crowland Abbey to pass through the gravel island on which sits the settlement of Crowland. This connected the Welland with the River Nene by means of a channel to the south east, and thus created a network of fenland waterways.

There is very little evidence for or trace of Anglo-Saxon/early medieval settlement in the area around Cowbit. This is testified by the fact that only one sherd of early Saxon pottery has been found to the north of Cowbit (HER 23102).

The settlement of Cowbit itself was founded in the late 13th century as an outlying hamlet of Spalding along Stone Gate and the New Fen Dyke (HER 23106). Cowbit at that time was a remote part of the parish of Spalding. The earliest documentary reference to Cowbit or *Conbith*, *Conbiht* dates from AD1267. Later medieval documentary references variously detail: *Kinbuth* (c.AD1331), *Conbyth* (AD1332) and *Conbight* (AD1361). Cowbit is derived from *cor* from the Old English 'cow' and *byht* – a bight or bend. Thus it would appear that the place name has a topographical derivation denoting a bend in the River Welland with nearby pasture for cows. Settlements like Cowbit remained small and clustered around higher embanked ground. The lands to the north of the New Fen Dyke were largely arable in the medieval period. This has been evidenced by widespread finds of contemporary pottery as the result of associated manuring activity.

The reclamation of the local low-lying fenland probably began in the late 12th century with the construction of the New Fen Dyke around AD1186-9. By AD1205, a second fen dyke – the Goldyke had been constructed to the south. A further early fen dyke was Stone Gate. The Wheat Mere Drain was also constructed as part of this process, and was first documented in the mid 13th century, when it was referred to as *Wykemere Drain*. These features protected the surrounding low lying and reclaimed lands from periodic winter flooding.

An embankment was also constructed at this time – the Marsh Bank – to the east of the Welland. This was a forerunner of the present Barrier Bank and afforded Cowbit some protection against the waters of the Deeping Fen. The Welland at this time was a sluggish tidal creek prone to silting up and hence periodic flooding. Spalding Priory established a grange in this vicinity soon after AD1294 – Goll Grange or *Grange of Golewilw* (HER 22093). Its location is probably to the east of the Wheat Mere Drain and is marked by two large mounds, which probably represent the main buildings of the grange. Finds of medieval pottery, building material, stone, brick and tile have been found at this location.

The Grade I listed church in Cowbit, dedicated to St. Mary (HER 22168) is reputed to have been built around AD1380 soon after the founding of the medieval settlement itself as a chapel in the parish of Spalding. The chancel and tower were added in AD1487, and the nave extended in AD1480-6. The church was restored in 1882.

The remains of medieval dyings or of field systems survive in a small field close to the railway crossing at Stone Gate (HER 20323).

The River Welland was repositioned in the mid 17th century. This formed the Cowbit Wash, an area of washland in the western part of the parish. This was created to contain the overflow of the River Welland during periods of flooding. Cowbit Wash is up to 1km wide and lies between the eastern and former medieval course of the Welland and its present course. The Cowbit Wash remained unploughed until the 1950s, but is now under arable cultivation. Initially these lands provided both summer grazing and a hay crop but in winter was still liable to flooding. During the past 30 years this area of the Lincolnshire fens has been the subject of intensive arable farming, which has in turn desiccated the peat and has led to a general lowering of ground levels.

On Backgate is a Grade II listed tower windmill (HER 20328), erected in 1798. It was working until the mid 1930s until final closure in 1969. An extraction site comprising pits of post-medieval date relating to the construction of the adjacent Barrier Bank is located to the west of the village (HER 20326). The cropmark of an undated former watercourse is situated to the south-east of Cowbit (HER 20338). The cropmarks of former watercourses occurring as linear features are located to the east of Cowbit (HER 20339).

Cowbit Railway Station (HER 23554) was built in 1867 by the Great Northern Railway to a standard design. The station was closed to passengers in 1961 and to goods traffic in 1964. The railway line itself was closed in 1982 and the rails removed. The site consists of platforms, station house and offices and a signal box along with a level crossing and a crossing keeper's cottage. The signal box was constructed in about 1880.

There are also several undated cropmark sites within the search area. The cropmarks of possible linear features and enclosures are located to the south of Cowbit (HER 20315). The cropmarks of two parallel curvilinear ditches, subdivided by straight ditches with a double ditched feature at its southern end are located to the north of Cowbit (HER 20316). The cropmarks of an undated enclosure and a linear feature are located to the south-east of Cowbit (HER 20337). To the south west of the village is the cropmark of an undated rectangular shaped enclosure (HER 24051).

A number of previous archaeological investigations have taken place within the search area. To the north-west of the development site, a geophysical survey and an evaluation took place in 2001-2 on land at Curlew Drive (HER 23686-7, Site Code: CCB02) in advance of a residential

development. The identified geophysical anomalies that turned out to be post-medieval drainage ditches. Although a small quantity of Roman and medieval pottery were recovered along with larger quantities of post-medieval pottery, no contemporary archaeological features of any of these periods were found. Quantities of post-medieval pottery and brick wasters suggesting the site of a possible nearby brick clamp were also located.

An archaeological watching brief took place during the construction of a new classroom extension at St. Mary's Primary School in 2002 (HER 23817, Site code: CSM02). This did not locate any archaeological features or deposits, but did yield a single sherd of 16th-17th century pottery.

To the south-west of the development site, a geophysical survey, an excavation and a watching brief took place in advance of and during a new residential development on land off Backgate (HER 23867-70, Site code: CBG 00/01). These investigations identified a possible Roman farmstead site with enclosures and structures along with evidence of associated briquetage production and thus implied salt manufacture. A quantity of early post-medieval pottery was also found, the nature of which suggested a nearby inn. Medieval features including boundary/drainage ditches and pits dating to the 12th-14th century and post-medieval pits and ditches were also found along with modern features such as dykes and refuse pits.

An archaeological evaluation took place to the north and north east of the village and to the west of Paradise Cottage along the line of the then proposed A1073 relief road in 2003. This identified six undated ditches, an undated ditch terminal (HER 23897, 23899) and a modern ditch (HER 23898).

The largest fieldwork project in the vicinity of the development site was a geophysical survey which took place in 2002 along the line of the proposed A1073 road improvement scheme to the north-east and east of the development site. In two fields in this area, the results were inconclusive, revealing several aligned anomalies, which were possibly archaeological in origin. This was followed by trial trenching at various points along the line of this proposal in 2004 (Site code: LNEYSD 03). To the east of Cowbit, this included finds of a number of undated ditches (HER 23900, 23904, 23907); a post-medieval dyke, two post-medieval ditches and a post-medieval pond (HER 23901, 23905-6); two Saxo-Norman ditches and a pit (HER 23902 and a medieval ditch (HER 23903).

An archaeological excavation along the route of the then proposed A1073 relief road to the north-east of the development site in 2011 identified a stock enclosure of medieval date. The enclosure ditch yielded pottery from the 12th to the 14th centuries. A 14th - 15th century ditch was also found to the north of this enclosure (HER 25741, Site code: SPEY08). A second excavation also along the line of this proposed route and to the south-east of Cowbit identified a large assemblage of brick fragments of 15th - 16th century date, suggesting that a centre of brick production was located nearby (HER 25742, Site code SPEY08). A further archaeological excavation also along the line of this proposed route to the north-east of the development site in 2011 identified a Roman settlement site (HER 23134). This comprised two sides of a probable early Roman domestic building, which lay within a rectangular ditched enclosure from which Roman pottery was recovered. To the south of this building and adjacent to a palaeochannel, a concentration of 2nd - 3rd century archaeological features were also found consisting of a series of ditches and pits. These features produced pottery from the 1st to the early 3rd centuries. The site was interpreted as a small farmstead beside the palaeochannel. There were also several timber built structures along with a kiln or oven used for salt making. A watching brief following the excavation located quantities of briquetage.

During fieldwalking to the west of the development site in 2001, a scatter of 11th-15th century pottery were found (HER 23106, Site code BGC01).

An archaeological watching brief near 18, Stonegate in 2011 identified an undated pit and two ditches, one of which was a former field boundary (HER 23106, Site code: COST11). Medieval and post-medieval pottery were also recovered from the topsoil here.

An archaeological evaluation to the south of the development site at 78 Backgate took place in 2008 (Site code: BGC08). This comprised the excavation of a single trench adjacent to a new extension. This identified an undated drainage ditch with a modern backfill. On the northern outskirts of the village, a watching brief took place at Stonegate in 2004 during the excavation of drainage trenches for a new dwelling (Site code: CCSG 04). This similarly yielded negative results.

To the north of the development site, a watching brief took place in 2006 during the construction of two new extensions to an existing dwelling at 66 Backgate (Site code: COBG 06). This did not identify any archaeological features, deposits or finds.

An archaeological watching brief on land adjacent to Highgate House, Backgate to the south-east of the development site in 2009 during the construction of two houses and a garage identified a sequence of naturally deposited silts associated with a roddon with small quantities of charcoal within the upper layers of these silts, which indicated nearby activity during this deposition. There was also evidence for domestic, agricultural and industrial activity in the immediate vicinity dating to the 1st-2nd centuries. Along with this pottery, other finds included iron working slag, burnt clay providing evidence of this industrial activity. Several undated floors and pits were also found which were probably contemporary with this Roman settlement activity. Several undated periods of flooding were also identified along with archaeological features dating to the 16th - 18th centuries (Site code: CBHH09).

In 2002, an archaeological evaluation took place on the reputed site of Goll Grange (ER 22093, Site code: CGG 02). Two mounds, which were thought to be the site of the Grange, turned out to be natural landscape features probably formed from upcast generated from the scouring out of the nearby Wheat Mere Drain. The mounds were in turn truncated by post-medieval pits and a posthole and undated ditches. The Fenland Survey suggested that the probable site of Goll Grange was possibly to the east in the adjacent parish of Weston. An archaeological watching brief here in 2000 located occasional brick fragments thought to come from the site of Goll Grange (Site code SER 00). An archaeological excavation on the line of the proposed route of the A1073 by-pass in 2011 concentrated on the two aforementioned mounds, the largest of which sealed a 14th century ditch. This was interpreted as being part of a field system associated with Goll Grange. Other features found included a late medieval pit (HER 22093, Site code SPEY08).

A map regression exercise was undertaken using both manuscript maps and published Ordnance Survey (O.S.) maps from the Lincolnshire Archives and the local studies collections of Lincoln Central Library. The earliest map consulted comprised an extract from the enclosure award map for the parish of Cowbit of 1819 (Archive ref: Holland Award 10). The area of the development site lies within a south west-north east orientated long linear open field which bounds onto the western frontage of Backgate.

The extract from the First Edition Ordnance Survey (O.S.) six inch to one mile scale map of 1891 shows the same layout to the area of the development site and of its immediate vicinity. This is repeated on the extract from the Second Edition Ordnance Survey (O.S.) six inch to one mile scale map of 1906 and on the extract from the 1:10,560 scale Ordnance Survey (O.S.) map of 1956. The extract from the 1:10,000 scale Ordnance Survey (O.S.) map of 1979 shows a house within a small enclosure fronting onto the western side of Backgate.

Aims and objectives of the project

The aims of the project are the continual archaeological monitoring of all site groundworks during the construction stage of development, which will comprise the mechanical excavation of foundations and services for the new detached bungalow.

The objectives of the project are:

To establish the presence/absence of archaeological remains within the area of the development site.

To determine the extent, condition, nature, character, quality and date of any archaeological remains encountered.

To allow the preservation by record of archaeological deposits.

The development site is situated within an archaeologically sensitive area, an area of high archaeological potential, and within the historic core of the medieval settlement of Cowbit. This site lies in close proximity to Iron Age settlement activity, including saltern sites, to Roman settlement activity comprising agricultural activity with several farmsteads, industrial activity and salterns, and to medieval settlement activity comprising finds of pottery, pits and ditches. It is considered likely that archaeological features, deposits, structures and finds associated with this multi-period settlement activity may be encountered on this site. The specific objectives of this archaeological will be to record any archaeological features, deposits, structures or finds associated with this known multi-period settlement activity.

Methodology

The archaeological monitoring will be undertaken during the groundworks phase of development, and will include the **continual monitoring** of any topsoil stripping, of the excavations of foundations and service trenches, and of any other ground disturbances.

All work will be carried out according to the Institute of Field Archaeologists (IFA) standards, and will be under the management of a Member of the IFA (MIFA).

All work will be undertaken following all statutory Health and Safety requirements and legislation in operation at the time of the monitoring.

A Risk Assessment will be prepared for the site.

Stripped areas and trench sections will be continually observed to identify any archaeological features and/or deposits which may be exposed.

Section drawings at a scale of 1:10 will be made of any archaeological features identified in the course of the groundworks, including representative sections of trenches at appropriate intervals. These will be related to a site plan drawing at a scale of 1:50, which may also record archaeological features and/or deposits identified. Any significant archaeological features in plan will also be recorded at a scale of 1:20.

Written descriptions detailing the nature of archaeological features and/or deposits encountered will be compiled on pro-forma context record sheets.

Any finds recovered will be bagged and labelled for further analysis. All relevant finds will be ordered into an archive. Most modern material will not be retained, although notes will be made of

the appropriate context. An appropriate sample of materials such as ceramic building materials will be made.

Any and all artefacts found during the monitoring and thought to come under the provisions of the *Treasure Act* (1996), will be removed from the site to a secure location, and will be promptly reported to the appropriate coroner's office.

Throughout the monitoring a digital photographic record will be compiled, and will comprise an overview of the site prior to work starting, and during as well as after completion of the work, and will include any excavated features, sections and other relevant details that aid interpretation.

Should human remains be encountered, they will be left *in situ*, and only excavated if absolutely necessary. Proper respect will be accorded to these remains, which will be cleaned to allow positive identification. Should removal be required, the appropriate Ministry of Justice Licence will be obtained prior to the removal of the remains. In addition, any remains will be reported to the local Environmental Health Department, coroner and the police will be informed, where appropriate.

The fieldwork will be undertaken by Neville Hall MIFA. Additional personnel may be appointed if required.

Post-fieldwork methodology

On the completion of the fieldwork, all of the written, drawn and photographic records produced by the archaeological monitoring will be checked, ordered, labelled (where appropriate) and catalogued to compile a distinctive site archive.

All finds recovered during the fieldwork will be washed, marked and packaged according to the deposit from which there were recovered. They will also be ordered into (and form part of) the site archive.

An assessment of significant finds will be made in light of general site information.

Any finds requiring specialist treatment and/or conservation will be sent to the Conservation Laboratory at The Collection, Lincoln, and in consultation with the relevant curator.

The site archive will be examined to enable the determination of various phases of activity on the site (if appropriate).

Relevant finds will be sent to specialists for identification and dating.

Monitoring arrangements

Provision will be made for the Lincolnshire County Council Historic Environment Team on behalf of South Holland District Council, (the Local Planning Authority) to monitor the works during the fieldwork stage and any other aspect of the archaeological project as required including the post fieldwork analysis and report preparation stages of the project.

A minimum notification period of not less than fourteen days of the start date of works on the site will be given to the Lincolnshire County Council Historic Environment Team.

All aspects of the archaeological programme will be undertaken in accordance with this project specification.

Any variation to the project programme in terms of works or recording on or off site will be fully discussed and agreed with the Lincolnshire County Council Historic Environment Team.

Arrangements will be made for the representative of the Lincolnshire County Council Historic Environment Team for access to the site to undertake monitoring visits, and such visits will be accounted for in the final report preparation.

The Lincolnshire County Council Historic Environment Team shall be kept fully informed of any unexpected or unforeseen discoveries made during the course of the archaeological monitoring and recording programme.

Archive preparation and deposition

The documentation and records generated by the archaeological monitoring will be sorted and ordered in the format acceptable to The Collection, Lincoln, and to the standards and requirements as laid out in their Guide Book.

A unique accession number will be obtained from The Collection for the site archive.

The archive will be deposited at The Collection, Lincoln by April 2014.

Reporting procedures

A report detailing the findings of the archaeological monitoring will be completed within two months after the finalisation of the fieldwork. Any delays will be related to the relevant authorities.

The report will consist of:

A title page, with project name and location, national grid reference, planning reference, site code, accession number, client name, author and date;

A contents page listing report sections, illustrations and appendices;

A non-technical summary of the results of the monitoring;

An introduction, site description and location;

Planning background to the project;

A section on the archaeological and historical background to the project;

A description of the methodology used in the project;

A section describing the results of the monitoring;

A section on the discussion and results of the project including a consideration of the findings of the project in a local and regional context;

A consideration of the effectiveness of the project methodology and a confidence rating of the results;

Illustrations including plans showing monitored areas, all archaeological features and sections thereof (including trench sections); and

Appendices comprising appropriate photographs of the site and of specific and significant archaeological features and representative sections, a list of contexts, any specialist reports on finds from the site, a list of the site archive, a photographic register and a copy of this document.

An electronic copy of the report will be deposited with the OASIS project (On-line Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations) <http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/oasis/index.cfm>.

Publication and dissemination

Copies of the final report will be deposited with the clients, the local curator (on behalf of the local planning authority), South Holland District Council and with the Lincolnshire Heritage Environment Record (including a digital copy in a .pdf format).

A note will be placed in 'Lincolnshire History and Archaeology' describing the results.

The deposition of the site archive will be in accordance with guidelines outlined in the Lincolnshire Archaeological Handbook (LCC, 2012).

Should the results of the archaeological investigation merit it, a note will also be placed in appropriate national journals e.g. *Medieval Archaeology*.

Other factors (including contingency)

In the event of the discovery of any unexpected remains of archaeological importance, or of any changed circumstances, it is the responsibility of the archaeological contractor to inform the Lincolnshire County Council Historic Environment Team.

Where important archaeological remains are discovered and deemed to merit further investigation, additional financial resources may be required to provide an appropriate level of investigation, recording and analysis.

Any additional financial contingency requirement for additional fieldwork or post-excavation analysis outside the scope of the proposed scheme of works will only be activated following full consultation with the Lincolnshire County Council Historic Environment Team and the client.

Variations to the proposed scheme

Variations to the proposed scheme will only be made following written confirmation with the archaeological curator.

Resources

The monitoring will be undertaken by Neville Hall using standard archaeological field techniques.

Post-excavation analysis will be undertaken by Neville Hall and where available specialist analysis from:-

Jane Young	Medieval and Post-medieval Ceramics
Ian Rowlandson	Iron Age and Roman Ceramics
James Rackham	Environmental
Carol Allen	Neolithic and Bronze Age
Laura Keal	Osteoarchaeology
Jane Cowgill	Metallurgy

Small finds requiring conservation will be conserved by the City and County Museum Laboratory.

Recognised specialists will be sought in the event that other data are retrieved in the course of the monitoring.

Insurance statement

Public indemnity of £2,000,000 with Towergate Insurance.

Copyright

Copyright will remain that of the author. Licence will be given to the client to present any reports, copyright of the author, to the planning authority in good faith of satisfactory settlement of account.

Ownership

It will be asked of the client, at the outset, that the ownership of any portable objects discovered in the course of the monitoring be donated along with the archive.