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**ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING AND  
RECORDING AT 16 ABBEY WALK  
CROWLAND,  
LINCOLNSHIRE  
(CRAW 12)**

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**Work Undertaken For  
Mr VK Ismail**

October 2014

Report Compiled by  
Jonathon Smith BA (Hons), MA

**National Grid Reference:** TF 2413 1018  
**Planning Application No:** H02/0045/12  
**The Collection Accession No:** LCNCC: 2012.13  
**OASIS Record No:** archaeol1-194997

APS Report No. **120/14**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL  
PROJECT  
SERVICES**



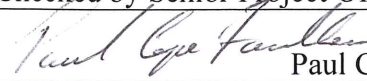
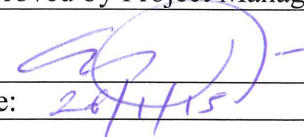


## Quality Control

### ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING AND RECORDING AT 16 ABBEY WALK CROWLAND, LINCOLNSHIRE

CRAW12

Project Coordinator	Gary Taylor
Site Staff	Neil Parker
Survey processing and report	Jonathon Smith

Checked by Senior Project Officer	Approved by Project Manager
 Paul Cope-Faulkner	 Gary Taylor
Date: 19.1.15.	Date: 26/1/15



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## 1. SUMMARY

*A programme of archaeological monitoring and recording was undertaken on land adjacent to 16 Abbey Walk, Crowland, Lincolnshire. The investigations monitored the excavation of service trenches for a new detached dwelling. The dwelling had previously been constructed on piles and deposits imported to raise the ground level and was not subject to archaeological monitoring.*

*Burial mounds of Bronze Age date (2500-800BC) are located in the Crowland area. Some of these were possibly reused later as windmill mounds and one such mill site is located immediately north of the investigation area. Iron Age (800BC-AD43) and Romano-British (AD43-410) artefacts have also been found close to the site. Crowland Abbey, founded in the Late Saxon period (AD850-1066) and a nationally important Scheduled Monument, is located just to the north of the investigation area. Artefacts of Late Saxon and medieval (AD1066-1500) date have previously been found in close proximity to the site. The abbey was suppressed in 1539 and a royalist garrison established a fort around the church in the Civil War (1642-6). A previous investigation at the site had revealed a medieval ditch and later pits.*

*The watching brief did not record any archaeological deposits. Although natural deposits were observed at the base of the trench at the northwestern corner of the site, most of the area had a sequence of modern made ground and recent buried soils. No artefacts were retrieved during the investigation.*

## 2. INTRODUCTION

### 2.1 Planning Background

Archaeological Project Services was commissioned by Mr VK Ismail to undertake a programme of archaeological monitoring and recording during groundworks associated with new residential development at Abbey Walk, Crowland, Lincolnshire. Approval for the development was sought through the submission of planning application H02/0045/12. The watching brief was carried out on the 30<sup>th</sup> October 2014 in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation prepared by Archaeological Project Services and approved by Lincolnshire County Council Historic Environment Service.

### 2.2 Topography and Geology

Crowland is situated 12km south of Spalding and 22km east of Stamford in the civil parish of Crowland, South Holland District, Lincolnshire (Fig. 1).

Abbey Walk lies 150m south of the centre of Crowland as defined by the parish church of Our Lady, St Bartholomew and St Guthlac at National Grid Reference TF 24136 10185 (Fig. 2). The site is located immediately east of Abbey Walk on generally level ground at c. 4m OD.

The village is located on soils of the Swanwick Series, coarse loamy argillic gley soils (Robson 1990, 29). North, south and east of the village are various alluvial gley soils of the Clayhithe, Downholland, Midelney and Wallsea Series (*ibid.* 14, 15, 20 and 34). Beneath these soils is a drift geology of marine or estuarine sand and gravels, commonly referred to as the Abbey Gravels (Horton 1989, 21). These in turn overlie a diffuse deposit of Boulder Clay. Beneath drift deposits is a solid geology of the Jurassic Oxford Clay (BGS 1984).

### 2.3 Archaeological Setting

The development site lies in an area of known archaeological remains dating from the prehistoric period onwards. The earliest evidence of occupation is during the Neolithic period and stone axes have been found in the vicinity of the site (Hayes and Lane 1992, 197).

During the Early Bronze Age, the gravel ridge occupied by Crowland was the focus for a sizeable barrow cemetery. This was part of a system of such cemeteries extending from Borough Fen to the south, to Deeping St. Nicholas west of Crowland and continuing to the north (Lane 1994, 6). Some of the barrows may have been subsequently used as mill mounds and one such mill was located immediately north of the present investigation site (Cope-Faulkner 1998b, fig. 18). Most of the barrows are only known from their destruction in the last two centuries and the nearest to the site are located 700m to the southwest and northeast (*ibid.*, fig. 12). Although settlement contemporary with these burial sites has yet to be identified in Crowland, pottery fragments of the period are known from the vicinity of the church (Hayes and Lane 1992, 197).

Later Bronze Age remains are unknown from the Crowland peninsula though an Iron Age site, possibly a saltern (salt producing site), has been identified to the north of the town (*ibid.*, 198) and an Iron Age pin was found just north of the present investigation area (Cope-Faulkner 1998b, fig. 12). Evidence for Romano-British remains is also scarce, though a substantial stone building, perhaps of Roman origin but used in later periods, is known at Anchor Field at the northeast corner of the village. Additionally, a Roman *intaglio* (gemstone) has been found immediately north of the site (*ibid.*, fig. 13).

Crowland is first mentioned in the mid 8<sup>th</sup> century by Felix, the biographer of St.

Guthlac. Referred to as *Crugland* and *Crowlond*, the name is derived from the Old English *criūw* meaning 'bend' and denotes its location at a bend in the River Welland (Cameron 1998, 35). Felix was writing about the life of St. Guthlac who founded a cell here with two followers in c. 700 AD (Page 1988, 105). It has been suggested that St Guthlac's hermitage made use of the probable Romano-British building at the northeast edge of Crowland (Cope-Faulkner 1998b, 10).

A Benedictine monastery dedicated to St Guthlac was in existence in Crowland by 1051 and was subject to Peterborough Abbey. It is not known when the monastery was first built, although it is believed to be in the mid-late 10<sup>th</sup> century. A documentary reference noting an earlier foundation is now believed to be a forgery (Hayes and Lane 1992, 202). The present standing remains of the abbey date to 1156 (Pevsner and Harris 1989, 238). The abbey precinct lies just north of the present investigation area and is a Scheduled Monument.

Medieval pottery has previously been found immediately north of the investigation site (Cope-Faulkner 1998b, fig. 14). Additionally, Late Saxon pottery, medieval glazed roof tile and layers of limestone rubble thought to be associated with Crowland Abbey, have been identified about 100m to the northwest, on the opposite side of Abbey Walk (Cope-Faulkner 1998a, 4).

Following the dissolution in 1539, the abbey buildings gradually fell into decay, a process that was accelerated during the English Civil War (1642-46) when a Royalist garrison constructed a fort surrounding the church (Pevsner and Harris 1989, 240).

A previous evaluation at the site identified medieval remains, consisting of a ditch and limestone rubble surface which was well preserved, although evidence of



truncation by modern features and 19<sup>th</sup> century refuse pits was evident. Artefacts from the medieval ditch suggest the proximity of higher status occupation or other activity, perhaps associated with the adjacent abbey (Taylor 2001, 7).

### 3. AIMS

The aim of the archaeological investigation was to ensure that any archaeological features exposed during the groundworks should be recorded and, if present, to determine their date, function and origin.

### 4. METHODS

Prior to construction of the new dwelling, the ground was made up to raise the area. The dwelling was then constructed on piles and ground beams placed on top of the made ground surface. Therefore, no archaeological deposits would be revealed by the foundation excavations and in consequence, and with the agreement with Lincolnshire County Council Historic Environment Service, these were not monitored.

Trenches for the new services were excavated by machine. Trenches were then hand cleaned and rendered vertical. Each deposit was allocated a unique reference number (context number) with an individual written description. A list of all contexts and their descriptions appears as Appendix 1. A photographic record was compiled and sections were drawn at a scale of 1:10. Recording was undertaken according to standard Archaeological Project Services' practice.

The records were checked and a stratigraphic matrix produced. Phasing was assigned based on the nature of the deposits and recognisable relationships between them.

### 5. RESULTS

The lowest deposit identified was a loose light yellowish brown gravel (006) identified as natural. This was only encountered towards the west of the site (Fig 4, Section 4 and Plate 6). Overlying this was a layer of soft dark greyish brown organic rich silt with occasional ceramic building material (CBM), ash and bone fragments, 0.80m thick (004). This was interpreted as a modern buried soil.

At the corner of the driveway, (004) was replaced by a mixed soft and hard, black grey and light yellow layer containing silt, cinder, clay and limestone (005) (Fig 4, Section 3 and Plate 5). This deposit was 0.80m thick and was thought to represent modern made ground. However, to the south the deposit sequence reverted to that west of the site, with an 0.80m thick layer of modern buried soil (004) revealed (Fig 4, Section 2 and Plate 6). Layers (004) and (005) were covered by the modern drive surface, a hard light yellow hardcore and gravel, 0.10m thick (003).

Near the house a different sequence of deposits was observed. The lowest layer was a soft dark greyish brown organic rich silt (002). This was thought to be a modern buried soil and might be the same as (004). Overlying this was a layer of hard light yellowish grey limestone, 0.50m thick. This was a layer of modern hardcore (Fig 4, Section 1 and Plate 3).

A rubble filled soak away (007), 2.5m in diameter, was also revealed during the excavation.

### 6. DISCUSSION

No archaeological deposits and no artefacts were detected during the excavation. The natural gravel (002) was encountered at 0.85m below the surface, but only at the northwestern extremity of the site. Throughout most of the site a

buried soil with fragments of modern CBM (004) was the lowest deposit encountered, in places replaced by a layer of made ground (005). This was topped by the modern driveway surface (003), or near the house, a thick layer of hardcore (001).

The natural gravel observed is consistent with the natural revealed in the 2001 evaluation. However, the current work adds little additional information to that gained in the previous evaluation: No additional medieval remains were encountered.

## 7. CONCLUSION

Archaeological monitoring and recording was undertaken on land adjacent to 16 Abbey Walk, Crowland, as the site lay within an area of known archaeological remains of prehistoric to post-medieval date, in close proximity to medieval Crowland Abbey. However, parts of the area had been raised with modern imported deposits. As a result, no archaeological remains were encountered.

## 8. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeological Project Services wishes to acknowledge the assistance of Mr VK Ismail for commissioning the fieldwork and post-excavation analysis. The work was coordinated by Gary Taylor who edited this report along with Paul Cope-Faulkner.

## 9. PERSONNEL

Project Coordinator: Gary Taylor  
 Site Supervisor: Neil Parker  
 Photographic reproduction: Sue Unsworth  
 Illustration: Jonathon Smith  
 Post-excavation analysis: Jonathon Smith

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## **11. ABBREVIATIONS**

APS Archaeological Project Services

BGS British Geological Survey





Figure 1 - General location plan

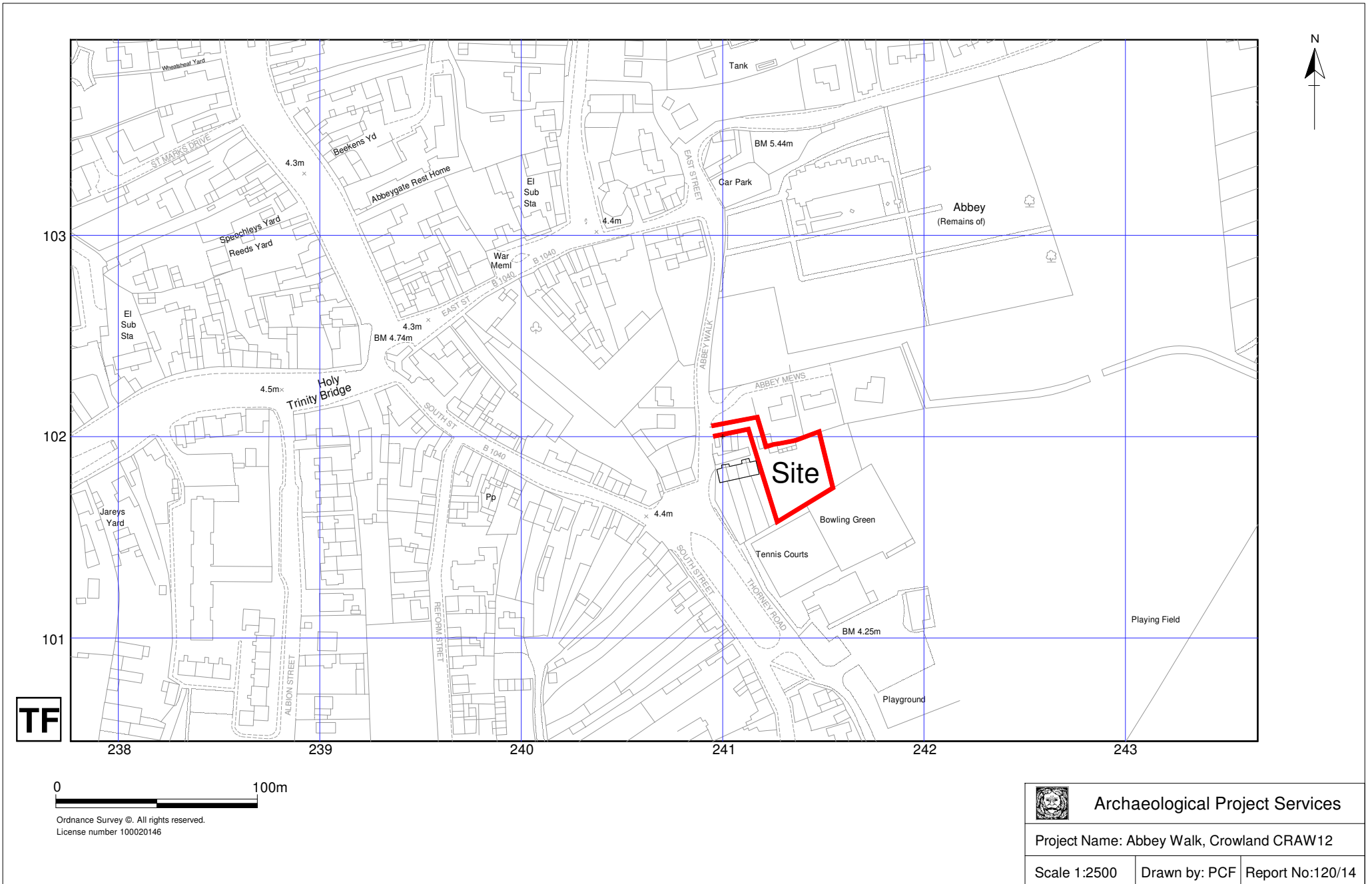


Figure 2 - Site location plan

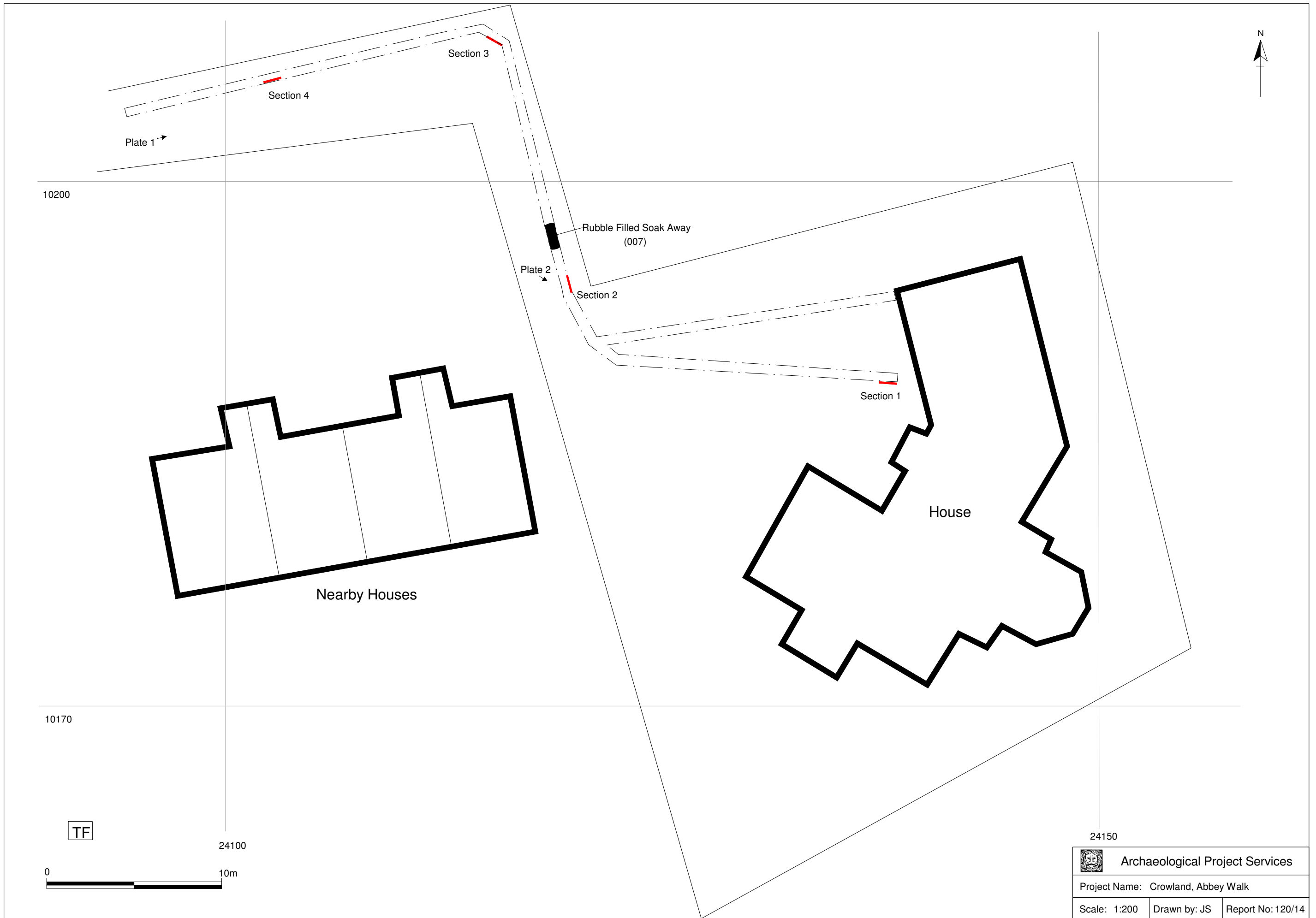
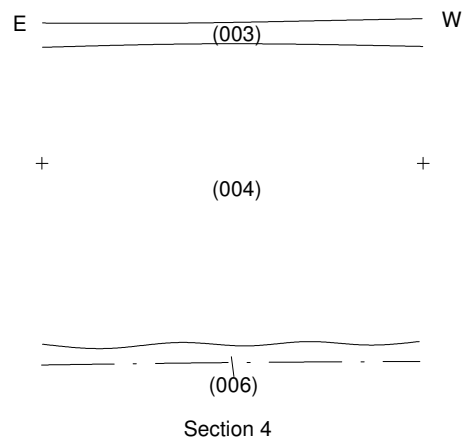
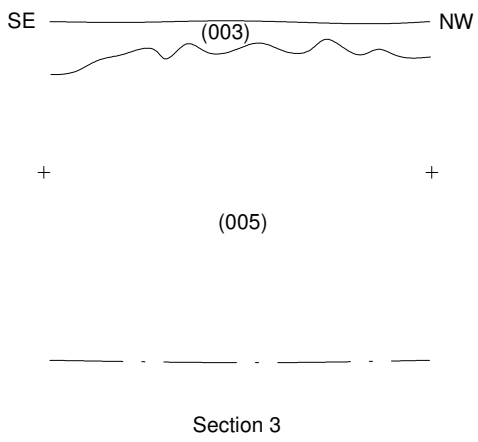
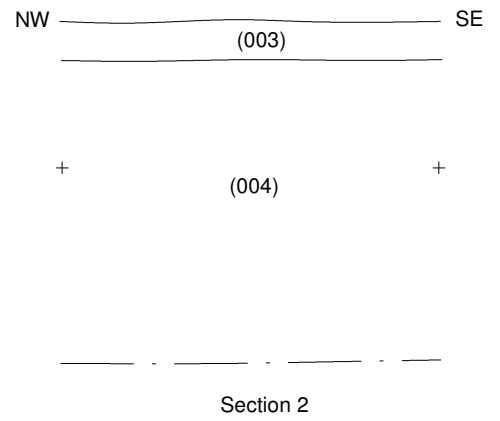
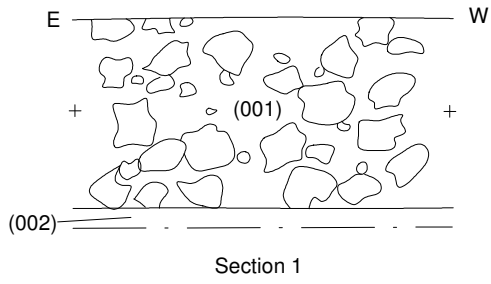


Figure 3 - Site Plan




 <b>Archaeological Project Services</b>		
Project Name: Crowland, Abbey Walk		
Scale 1:20	Drawn by: JS	Report No: 120/14

Figure 4 - Sections







Plate 1: Site entrance,  
looking east.



Plate 2: General shot,  
facing towards house,  
looking southeast.



Plate 3: Section 1,  
looking south.



Plate 4: Section 2,  
looking northeast.



Plate 5: Section 3,  
looking southwest.



Plate 6: Section 4,  
looking south.

### Appendix 1 – Context Descriptions

<b>Context</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Interpretation</b>	<b>Date</b>
(001)	Hard light yellowish grey limestone hardcore. 0.50m thick.	Hardcore layer	Modern
(002)	Soft dark greyish brown organic rich silt.	Buried topsoil	Modern
(003)	Hard light yellow hardcore and gravel. 0.10m thick.	Gravel driveway surface	Modern
(004)	Soft dark greyish brown organic rich silt with occasional CBM, ash and bone fragments. 0.80m thick.	Buried soils	Modern
(005)	Mixed soft and hard, black grey and pale yellow layer containing silt, cinder, clay and limestone. 0.80m thick.	Made ground	Modern
(006)	Loose light yellow brown gravel.	Natural gravel	Natural
(007)	A rubble filled soak-away, 2.5m in diameter.	Soak-away	Modern

## Appendix 2

### GLOSSARY

<b>Anglo-Saxon</b>	Pertaining to the period when Britain was occupied by peoples from northern Germany, Denmark and adjacent areas. The period dates from approximately AD 450-1066.
<b>Bronze Age</b>	A period characterised by the introduction of bronze into the country for tools, between 2500 and 800 BC.
<b>CBM</b>	Ceramic building material, such as tile and brick.
<b>Context</b>	An archaeological context represents a distinct archaeological event or process. For example, the action of digging a pit creates a context (the cut) as does the process of its subsequent backfill (the fill). Each context encountered during an archaeological investigation is allocated a unique number by the archaeologist and a record sheet detailing the description and interpretation of the context (the context sheet) is created and placed in the site archive. Context numbers are identified within the report text by brackets, e.g. [004].
<b>Domesday Survey</b>	A survey of property ownership in England compiled on the instruction of William I for taxation purposes in 1086 AD.
<b>Iron Age</b>	A period characterised by the introduction of Iron into the country for tools, between 800 BC and AD 50.
<b>Layer</b>	A layer is a term used to describe an accumulation of soil or other material that is not contained within a cut.
<b>Medieval</b>	The Middle Ages, dating from approximately AD 1066-1500.
<b>Natural</b>	Undisturbed deposit(s) of soil or rock which have accumulated without the influence of human activity.
<b>Neolithic</b>	The 'New Stone Age' period, part of the prehistoric era, dating from approximately 4500 - 2500 BC.
<b>Post-medieval</b>	The period following the Middle Ages, dating from approximately AD 1500-1800.
<b>Prehistoric</b>	The period of human history prior to the introduction of writing. In Britain the prehistoric period lasts from the first evidence of human occupation about 500,000 BC, until the Roman invasion in the middle of the 1st century AD.
<b>Romano-British</b>	Pertaining to the period dating from AD 43-410 when the Romans occupied Britain.

## Appendix 3

### THE ARCHIVE

The excavation archive consists of:

1	Context register sheet
7	Context record sheets
1	Photographic record sheet
1	Plan record sheet
1	Section record sheet
1	Daily record sheet
2	Sheets of scale drawings

All primary records are currently kept at:

Archaeological Project Services  
The Old School  
Cameron Street  
Heckington  
Sleaford  
Lincolnshire  
NG34 9RW

The ultimate destination of the project archive is:

The Collection  
Art and Archaeology in Lincolnshire  
Danes Terrace  
Lincoln  
LN2 1LP

Accession Number: LCNCC: 2014.21

Archaeological Project Services Site Code: CRAW12

OASIS Record No: archaeo11-194997

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**OASIS ID: archaeol1-194997**

### Project details

Project name	Abbey Walk, Crowland
Short description of the project	A 1 day watching brief on a service trench near Crowland Abbey. No archaeological features were recorded
Project dates	Start: 30-10-2014 End: 30-10-2014
Previous/future work	No / No
Any associated project reference codes	CRAW12 - Sitecode
Any associated project reference codes	LCNCC:2012.13 - Museum accession ID
Any associated project reference codes	H02/0045/12 - Planning Application No.
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	None
Current Land use	Residential 1 - General Residential
Monument type	NONE None
Significant Finds	NONE None
Investigation type	"Watching Brief"
Prompt	Planning condition

### Project location

Country	England
Site location	LINCOLNSHIRE SOUTH HOLLAND CROWLAND Abbey Walk, Crowland
Postcode	PE6 0EP
Study area	0 Hectares
Site coordinates	TF 241300 101800 52.6747271911 -0.163867049733 52 40 29 N 000 09 49 W Point

**Project creators**

Name of Organisation	Archaeological Project Services
Project brief originator	Archaeological Project Services
Project design originator	Gary Taylor
Project director/manager	Gary Taylor
Project supervisor	Neil Parker
Type of sponsor/funding body	Developer

**Project archives**

Physical Archive Exists?	No
Digital Archive recipient	The Collection
Digital Archive ID	LCNCC:2012.13
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography", "Images vector", "Text"
Paper Archive recipient	The Collection
Paper Archive ID	LCNCC:2012.13
Paper Media available	"Context sheet", "Correspondence", "Diary", "Drawing", "Map", "Photograph", "Plan", "Report", "Section"

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