
**ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATION
AT ABBEY FARM,
BARDNEY,
LINCOLNSHIRE
(BAAF 09)**

**Work Undertaken For
Mr and Mrs D Armstrong**

February 2009

Report Compiled by
Paul Cope-Faulkner BA (Hons) AIFA

Planning Application No: M06/P/0740
National Grid Reference: TF 1145 7042
City and County Museum Accession No: 2009.18
OASIS Record No: archaeol1-54972

APS Report No. **5/09**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL
PROJECT
SERVICES**



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1. SUMMARY

An archaeological investigation was undertaken during groundworks at Abbey Farm, Bardney, Lincolnshire. The investigation monitored the excavation of foundation trenches for a new extension to an existing building.

Abbey Farm lies immediately south of Bardney Abbey which was founded in the 7th century and was the earliest of several abbey complexes along the Witham valley. It became a centre for monks of the Benedictine order. The abbey surrendered in 1538 and the land was acquired by Sir Robert Tyrwhitt who converted the abbey buildings into a private residence.

The investigation revealed a dumped deposit, which could be infilling a large feature with the material derived from the sugar beet factory, a service trench and surface associated with the current house. No finds were retrieved from the investigation.

2. INTRODUCTION

2.1 Planning Background

Archaeological Project Services was commissioned by Mr and Mrs D Armstrong to undertake an archaeological investigation during groundworks associated with a new extension to an existing building at Abbey Farm, Bardney, Lincolnshire. Approval for the development was sought through the submission of planning application M06/P/0740. The investigation was carried out on the 3rd February 2009 in accordance with a specification prepared by Archaeological Project Services (Appendix 1) and approved by the Archaeology Section, Lincolnshire County Council.

2.2 Topography and Geology

Bardney is located 18km east of Lincoln and 11km west of Horncastle in the administrative district of West Lindsey, Lincolnshire (Fig. 1).

The site is located at Abbey Farm, approximately 1km north of Bardney village centre at National Grid Reference TF 1145 7042 (Fig. 2). Located on a gentle slope down to the northwest, Abbey Farm occupies a slight rise above the floodplain of the River Witham at approximately 7m OD.

Local soils are of the Beccles 2 Association, typically stagnogleys (Hodge *et al.* 1984, 119). The soils overlie a drift geology of Older River sands and gravels with outcrops of glacial till adjacent to the abbey. These seal a solid geology of Jurassic Oxford Clay (BGS 1973).

2.3 Archaeological Setting

The derivation of the place-name Bardney is Anglo-Saxon, the name meaning '*Bearda's Island*', the area having been a slight island in marshy ground alongside the Witham (Cameron 1998, 9).

The monastery at Bardney was endowed by King Ethelred of Mercia and became an important site of pilgrimage following the enshrinement of the remains of St Oswald, brought to Bardney in 675 by King Ethelred and his wife, Queen Osthryd. Ethelred renounced the world after the murder of his wife in 697 and became a monk at Bardney, ultimately becoming Abbot and later canonised following his death (Page 1988, 97). Viking raiders destroyed the abbey in 870 and in 909 St Oswald's remains were transferred to Gloucester.

Bardney is also mentioned in the Domesday Survey of c. 1086 and was held by Gilbert de Gand and is recorded as containing a mill, five fisheries, twenty

acres of meadow and 500 acres of woodland for pannage (Foster and Longley 1976).

De Gand founded a Benedictine Priory consecrated to Saints Peter, Paul and Oswald in 1087 and endowed the priory with land from his estates. In 1116, Gilbert's son, Walter, raised the status of Bardney to an Abbey.

Excavations from 1909 to 1915, by the then vicar of the local church, the Reverend Charles Laing, established the layout of the abbey, with the chapter house, dorter, refectory and kitchens arranged around the cloister with the abbey church to the north (Brakespear 1922). The parish church is thought to have stood alongside the monastery and fell into ruin in 1434. A new parish church was subsequently built in the centre of the village.

A complex of fishponds has been identified from aerial photographs to the south of the abbey. The fishponds are no longer visible on the ground and their association with the abbey comes from documentary sources (Everson *et al.* 1991, vi).

In 1536, a rebellion, known as the Lincolnshire Rising broke out, against the impending dissolution of the monasteries. Six monks from Bardney were implicated and were hung drawn and quartered in 1537 for their part in the rising. The abbey subsequently surrendered to the King and was dissolved in 1538 (Heritage Lincolnshire 1995).

The abbey lands were then acquired by Sir Robert Tyrwhitt, who demolished the church and used the stone to adapt the other buildings for his private residence (*ibid.*). The cloister became a walled garden and he occupied the abbot's lodgings, allowing the rest of the buildings to fall into disrepair.

A watching brief undertaken immediately

northwest of the site identified a sequence of former topsoils, subsoils and surfaces (Cope-Faulkner 1997, 1). Watching briefs were also undertaken to the west which identified a fishpond that had been backfilled with dumped material in the 16th – 17th centuries (Thomson 2001, 4; Cope-Faulkner 2004, 3).

3. AIMS

The requirements of the investigation, as detailed in the specification (Appendix 1), were to locate and record archaeological deposits and, if present, to determine their date, function and origin.

4. METHODS

Prior to the excavation of foundation trenches, overburden was stripped from the footprint of the proposed new build. Foundation trenches, measuring 0.5m wide were then excavated to depths of 0.9m below the current ground level. Following excavation, the sides of the foundation trenches were cleaned and rendered vertical. Selected deposits were excavated further to retrieve artefactual material and to determine their function. 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 2. 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.

Following excavation 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

Archaeological contexts are listed below and described. The numbers in brackets are the context numbers assigned in the field.

The earliest deposit encountered at the base of the foundation trenches was a dumped layer of brown silt (103). This measured in excess of 0.68m thick.

Cutting this dumped layer was a northeast-southwest aligned linear trench (106). This was over 3m long, approximately 3.7m wide and over 0.65m deep (Fig. 4, Section 2). This contained a single fill of greyish brown silt (105) and is possibly a service trench.

Capping the possible service trench was a 0.1m thick deposit of black tarmac (104) of a former surface. This was sealed by sand and limestone (102) which provided a make-up layer for the current tarmac surface (101).

6. DISCUSSION

The earliest deposit comprised a thick dumped layer. The origin of this material is unclear, though a suggestion that it derived from washing sugar beet at the nearby factory has been made. It may also infill a large feature such as a fishpond, using the same source material. A similar deposit was encountered in the nearby watching brief in 1997, where it contained fragments of brick and tile, though no date was ascertained for these finds.

A linear trench may be a service trench associated with the existing building at the site. It aligns with the kitchen and may be for waste water. Current and former surfaces complete the sequence.

No finds were retrieved from this investigation.

7. CONCLUSION

An archaeological investigation was undertaken at Abbey Farm, Bardney, as the site lay adjacent to the earthwork remains of Bardney Abbey.

However, no remains were encountered that were associated with the medieval monastic precinct. Instead a dumped deposit, perhaps derived from cleaning sugar beet and maybe infilling a large feature, was identified. Modern surfaces and a service trench were also encountered. No finds were collected during the watching brief.

8. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeological Project Services wishes to acknowledge the assistance of Mr and Mrs D Armstrong for commissioning the fieldwork and post-excavation analysis. The work was coordinated by Gary Taylor who edited this report along with Tom Lane. Dave Start kindly allowed access to the parish files and library maintained by Heritage Lincolnshire.

9. PERSONNEL

Project Coordinator: Gary Taylor
 Site Supervisor: Jim Robertson
 Photographic reproduction: Sue Unsworth
 Illustration: Paul Cope-Faulkner
 Post-excavation analysis: Paul Cope-Faulkner

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11. ABBREVIATIONS

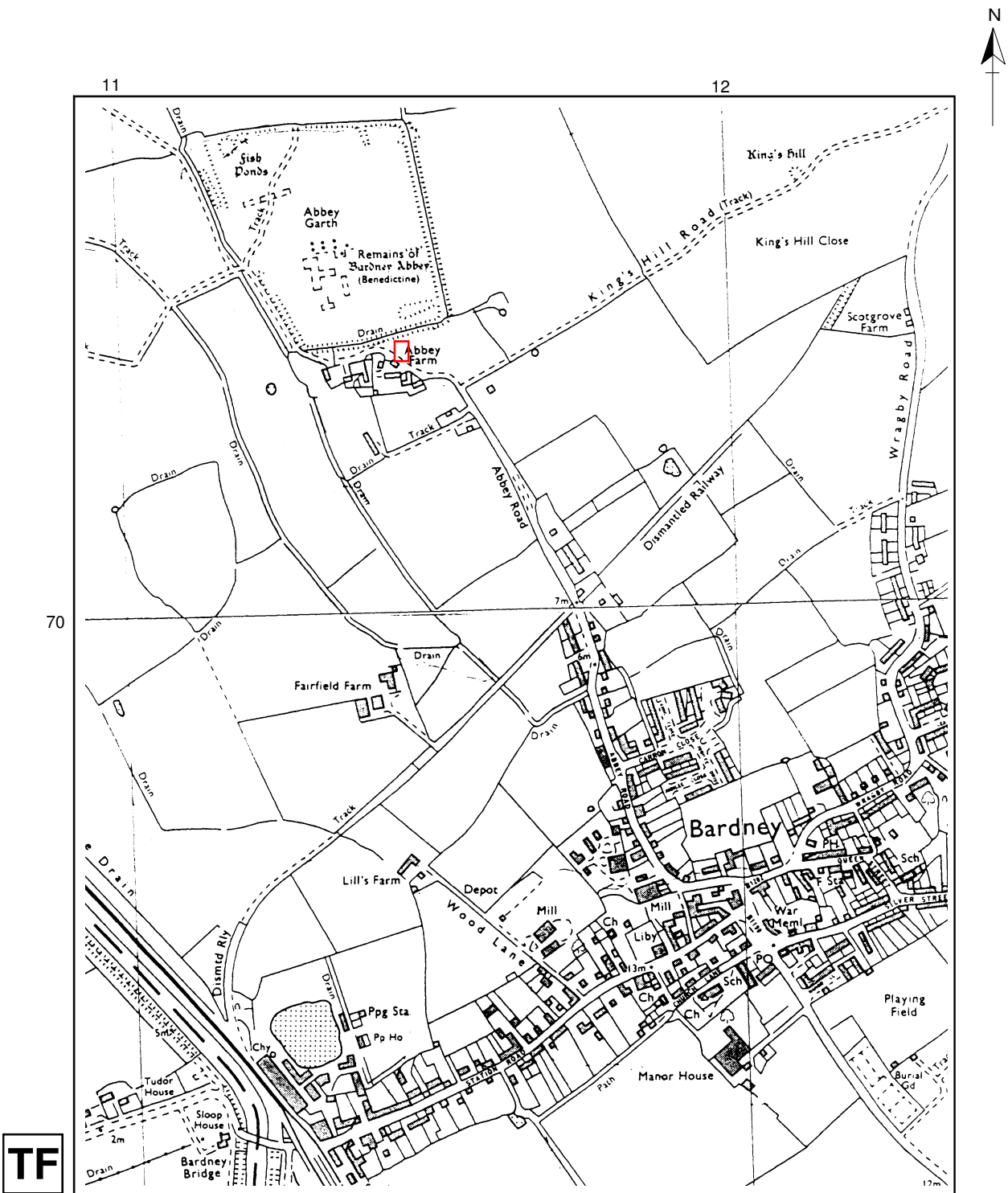
APS Archaeological Project Services

BGS British Geological Survey

IFA Institute of Field Archaeologists



Figure 1 - General location plan



Area detailed in Figure 3

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 Archaeological Project Services		
Project Name: Abbey Farm, Bardney BAAF09		
Scale 1:10000	Drawn by: PCF	Report No: 5/09

Figure 2 - Site location plan

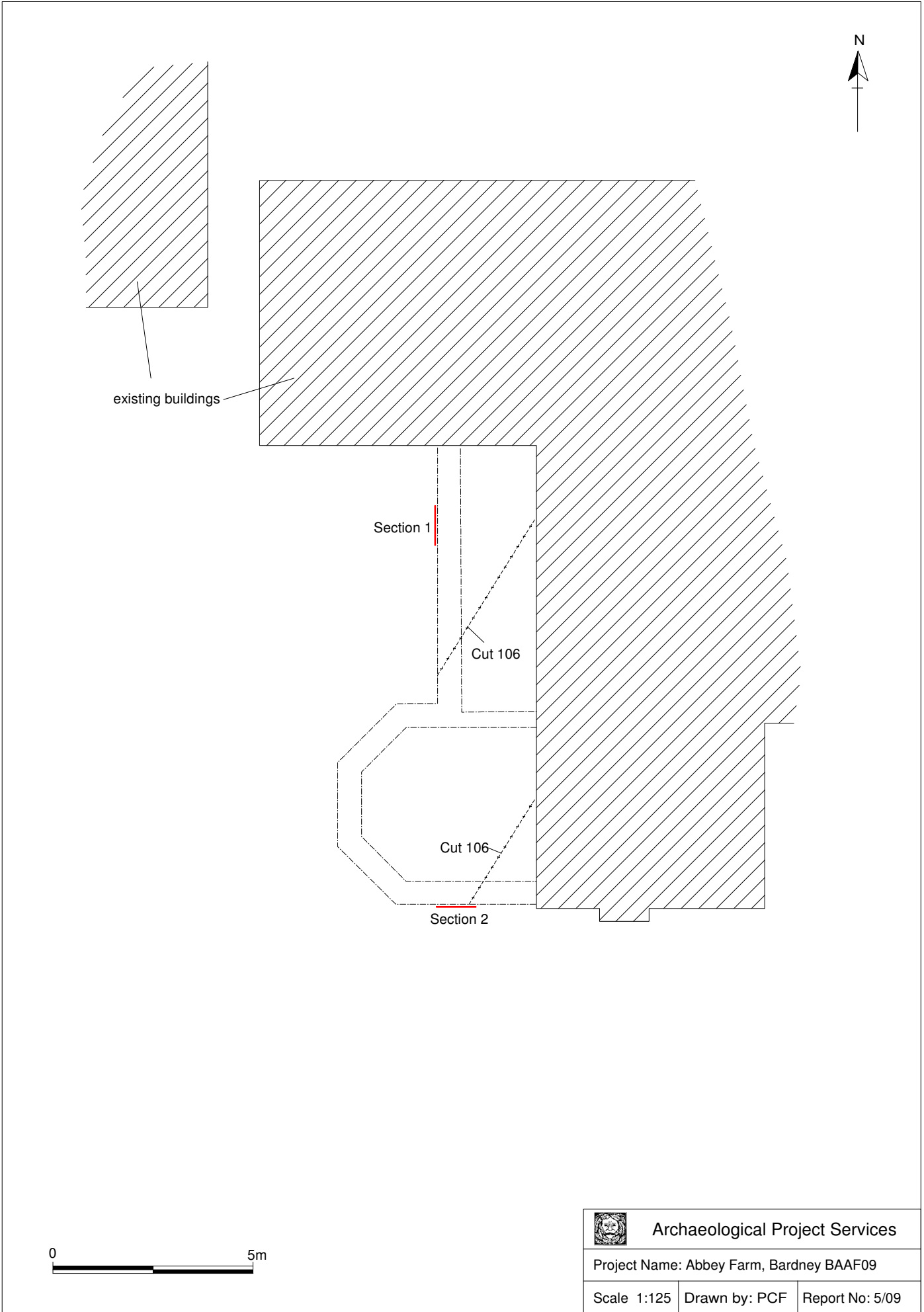
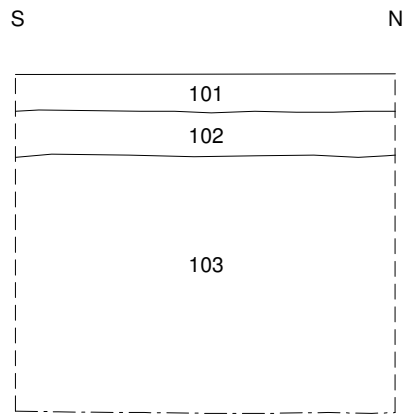
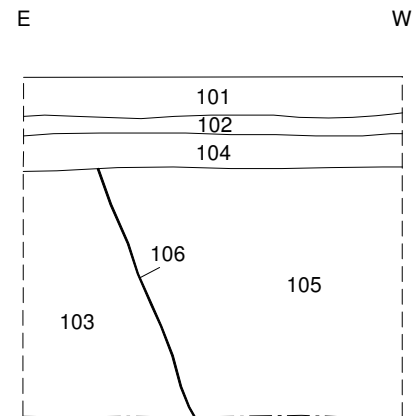


Figure 3 - Plan of the development showing section locations



Section 1



Section 2



Archaeological Project Services

Project Name: Abbey Farm, Bardney BAAF09

Scale 1:20

Drawn by: PCF

Report No: 5/09

Figure 4 - Sections 1 and 2



Plate 1 – View showing the stripped area prior to the excavation of foundation trenches, looking north



Plate 2 – Section 1, looking west



Plate 3 – Section 2, looking south

Appendix 1

SCHEME OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL WORK AT ABBEY FARM, BARDNEY, LINCOLNSHIRE

1 SUMMARY

- 1.1 *A scheme of archaeological work brief is required during development at Abbey Farm, Bardney, Lincolnshire.*
- 1.2 *The site is archaeologically sensitive, located immediately south of medieval Bardney Abbey. Previous archaeological investigations in the farm area have revealed a probable medieval fishpond infilled in the 16th-17th centuries.*
- 1.3 *The investigation will involve monitoring of development groundwork and investigation and recording of archaeological remains. Features exposed will be recorded in writing, graphically and photographically.*
- 1.4 *On completion of the fieldwork a report will be prepared detailing the results of the investigation. The report will consist of a narrative supported by illustrations and photographs.*

2 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 This document comprises a scheme of archaeological investigation during development at the Abbey Farm, Bardney, Lincolnshire.
- 2.2 This document contains the following parts:
 - 2.2.1 Overview.
 - 2.2.2 Stages of work and methodologies.
 - 2.2.3 List of specialists.
 - 2.2.4 Programme of works and staffing structure of the project

3 SITE LOCATION

- 3.1 Bardney is located approximately 18km east of Lincoln on the north bank of the River Witham. The development is north of the core of the village and directly south of the abbey remains at Abbey Farm, national grid reference TF 1130 7040.

4 PLANNING BACKGROUND

- 4.1 A planning application (M06/P/0740) has been submitted to West Lindsey District Council for an extension to form a sun room and enlarged kitchen. Permission is subject to a condition requiring the implementation of a scheme of archaeological work during groundworks associated with the development.

5 SOILS AND TOPOGRAPHY

- 5.1 Bardney Abbey occupies a slight rise above the floodplain of the River Witham which lies to the west. The site lies approximately 12m south of the visible abbey remains. Local soils are of the Beccles 2 Association, stagnogley soils of fine loamy over permeable clayey subsoils, which overlie Corallian Limestones of the Upper Jurassic (Hodge *et al.* 1984).

6 ARCHAEOLOGICAL OVERVIEW

- 6.1 The place-name Bardney is of Anglo Saxon derivation meaning Bearda's island, the area having been a slight island in marshy ground alongside the Witham. A monastery at Bardney was endowed by King Ethelred of Mercia in the late 7th century AD. The monastery was

destroyed in 870 AD. The current development site lies adjacent to the important site of Bardney Abbey, founded in 1087 by Gilbert de Gant for Benedictine monks. Previous investigations in the farm area revealed a probable fishpond associated with the abbey. This pond had been infilled in the 16th-17th century (APS 2004).

7 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

7.1 The aim of the work will be to record and interpret the deposits and any archaeological features exposed during the development groundwork.

7.2 The objectives of the investigation will be to:

- Determine the form and function of the archaeological features encountered;
- Determine the spatial arrangement of the archaeological features encountered;
- As far as practicable, recover dating evidence from the archaeological features, and
- Establish the sequence of the archaeological remains present on the site.

8 SITE OPERATIONS

8.1 General considerations

8.1.1 All work will be undertaken following statutory Health and Safety requirements in operation at the time of the investigation.

8.1.2 The work will be undertaken according to the relevant codes of practise issued by the Institute of Field Archaeologists (IFA), under the management of a Member of the institute (MIFA). Archaeological Project Services is IFA registered organisation no. 21.

8.1.3 Any and all artefacts found during the investigation and thought to be 'treasure', as defined by the Treasure Act 1996, will be removed from site to a secure store and promptly reported to the appropriate coroner's office.

8.2 Methodology

8.2.1 The investigation will be undertaken during the ground works phase of development, and includes the archaeological monitoring of all phases of soil movement.

8.2.2 Stripped areas and trench sections will be examined to identify and record archaeological features that are exposed and to record changes in the geological conditions. The section drawings of the trenches will be recorded at a scale of 1:10. Should features be recorded in plan these will be drawn at a scale of 1:20. Written descriptions detailing the nature of the deposits, features and fills encountered will be compiled on Archaeological Project Services pro-forma record sheets.

8.2.3 Finds recovered will be bagged and labelled for later analysis.

8.2.4 Throughout the investigation a photographic record will be compiled. The photographic record will consist of:

- the site during the investigation to show specific stages of work, and the layout of the archaeology within the area.
- individual features and, where appropriate, their sections.
- groups of features where their relationship is important.

- 8.2.5 Should human remains be located they will be left *in situ* and only excavated if absolutely necessary. Should removal be required the appropriate Home Office licence will be obtained before the exhumation of the remains. In addition, the Local Environmental Health Department, coroner and the police will be informed, where appropriate.

9 POST-EXCAVATION

9.1 Stage 1

9.1.1 On completion of site operations, the records and schedules produced during the investigation will be checked and ordered to ensure that they form a uniform sequence forming a level II archive. A stratigraphic matrix of the archaeological deposits and features present on the site will be prepared. All photographic material will be catalogued and labelled, the labelling referring to schedules identifying the subject/s photographed.

9.1.2 All finds recovered during the fieldwork will be washed, marked and packaged according to the deposit from which they were recovered. Any finds requiring specialist treatment and conservation will be sent to the Conservation Laboratory at the City and County Museum, Lincoln.

9.2 Stage 2

9.2.1 Detailed examination of the stratigraphic matrix to enable the determination of the various phases of activity on the site.

9.2.2 Finds will be sent to specialists for identification and dating.

9.3 Stage 3

9.3.1 On completion of stage 2, a report detailing the findings of the investigation will be prepared.

9.3.2 This will consist of:

9.3.2.1 A non-technical summary of the results of the investigation.

9.3.2.2 A description of the archaeological setting of the investigation.

9.3.2.3 Description of the topography of the site.

9.3.2.4 Description of the methodologies used during the investigation.

9.3.2.5 A text describing the findings of the investigation.

9.3.2.6 A consideration of the local, regional and national context of the investigation findings.

9.3.2.7 Plans of the archaeological features exposed. If a sequence of archaeological deposits is encountered, separate plans for each phase will be produced.

9.3.2.8 Sections of the trenches and archaeological features.

9.3.2.9 Interpretation of the archaeological features exposed, and their chronology and setting within the surrounding landscape.

9.3.2.10 Specialist reports on the finds from the site.

9.3.2.11 Appropriate photographs of the site and specific archaeological features.

10 **REPORT DEPOSITION**

- 10.1 Copies of the report will be sent to: the client and to Lincolnshire County Council Historic Environment Record.

11 **ARCHIVE**

- 11.1 The documentation and records generated during the investigation will be sorted and ordered into the format acceptable to The Collection, Lincoln. This will be undertaken following the requirements of the document titled *Conditions for the Acceptance of Project Archives* for long-term storage and curation.

12 **PUBLICATION**

- 12.1 Details of the investigation will be input to the Online Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations (OASIS).
- 12.2 If appropriate, notes on the findings will be submitted to the appropriate national journals: *Britannia* for discoveries of Roman date, and *Medieval Archaeology* and the *Journal of the Medieval Settlement Research Group* for findings of medieval or later date.

13 **CURATORIAL RESPONSIBILITY**

- 13.1 Curatorial responsibility for the archaeological work undertaken on the site lies with Lincolnshire County Council Historic Environment Team. They will be given written notice of the commencement of the project.

14 **VARIATIONS AND CONTINGENCIES**

- 14.1 Variations to the proposed scheme of works will only be made following written confirmation of acceptance from the archaeological curator.
- 14.2 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 archaeological curator.
- 14.3 Where important archaeological remains are discovered and deemed to merit further investigation additional resources may be required to provide an appropriate level of investigation, recording and analysis.
- 14.4 Any 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 archaeological curator and the client.

15 **PROGRAMME OF WORKS AND STAFFING LEVELS**

- 15.1 The investigation will precede the programme of construction. The duration of the site works is difficult to determine as it is to a large extent reliant on the speed of stripping and spoil removal, and also depending on the quantity and complexity of archaeological remains encountered. Post-excavation work is likewise dependent on the quantity and complexity of archaeological remains encountered
- 15.2 An archaeological supervisor with experience of investigations of this type will undertake the work.
- 15.3 Post-excavation analysis and report production will be undertaken by the archaeological supervisor, or a post-excavation analyst as appropriate, with assistance from a finds supervisor, illustrator and external specialists.

16 **SPECIALISTS TO BE USED DURING THE PROJECT**

- 16.1 The following organisations/persons will, in principle and if necessary, be used as subcontractors to provide the relevant specialist work and reports in respect of any objects or

material recovered during the investigation that require their expert knowledge and input. Engagement of any particular specialist subcontractor is also dependent on their availability and ability to meet programming requirements.

<u>Task</u>	<u>Body to be undertaking the work</u>
Conservation Pottery Analysis	Conservation Laboratory, City and County Museum, Lincoln Prehistoric – D Trimble, APS/ Trent & Peak Archaeological Trust Roman – A Boyle, APS/B Precious, Independent Specialist Post-Roman -A Boyle, APS
Non-pottery Artefacts Animal Bones Environmental Analysis	J Cowgill, Independent Specialist/G Taylor, APS P Cope-Faulkner, APS J Rackham, Independent Specialist
Human Remains Analysis	Dr R Gowland, Independent Specialist

17 **INSURANCES**

17.1 Archaeological Project Services, as part of the Heritage Trust of Lincolnshire, maintains Employers Liability Insurance of £10,000,000, together with Public and Products Liability insurances, each with indemnity of £5,000,000. Copies of insurance documentation can be supplied on request.

18 **COPYRIGHT**

18.1 Archaeological Project Services shall retain full copyright of any commissioned reports under the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988 with all rights reserved; excepting that it hereby provides an exclusive licence to the client for the use of such documents by the client in all matters directly relating to the project as described in the Project Specification.

18.2 Licence will also be given to the archaeological curators to use the documentary archive for educational, public and research purposes.

18.3 In the case of non-satisfactory settlement of account then copyright will remain fully and exclusively with Archaeological Project Services. In these circumstances it will be an infringement under the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988 for the client to pass any report, partial report, or copy of same, to any third party. Reports submitted in good faith by Archaeological Project Services to any Planning Authority or archaeological curator will be removed from said planning Authority and/or archaeological curator. The Planning Authority and/or archaeological curator will be notified by Archaeological Project Services that the use of any such information previously supplied constitutes an infringement under the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988 and may result in legal action.

18.4 The author of any report or specialist contribution to a report shall retain intellectual copyright of their work and may make use of their work for educational or research purposes or for further publication.

19 **BIBLIOGRAPHY**

Archaeological Project Services, 2004 *Archaeological Watching Brief, Abbey Farm, Abbey Road, Bardney, Lincolnshire (BAF04)*, APS Report **63/04**

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Specification: Version 1, 07-01-09

Appendix 2

CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

No.	Description	Interpretation
101	Hard dark grey/black concrete and tarmac, 0.1m thick	Hardstanding
102	Loose light yellowish brown sand and limestone, 0.12m thick	Make-up for (101)
103	Soft mid to dark brown silt, >0.68m thick	Dumped deposit
104	Hard black tarmac, 0.1m thick	Former hardstanding
105	Soft dark greyish brown silt	Fill of (106)
106	?linear feature, aligned northeast-southwest, >3m long by 3.7m wide and >0.65m deep, steep sides, not fully excavated	Service trench

Appendix 3

GLOSSARY

Context	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 interpretations of the context (the context sheet) is created and placed in the site archive. Context numbers are identified within the report text by brackets, <i>e.g.</i> (004).
Cut	A cut refers to the physical action of digging a posthole, pit, ditch, foundation trench, <i>etc.</i> Once the fills of these features are removed during an archaeological investigation the original 'cut' is therefore exposed and subsequently recorded.
Dumped deposits	These are deposits, often laid down intentionally, that raise a land surface. They may be the result of casual waste disposal or may be deliberate attempts to raise the ground surface.
Fill	Once a feature has been dug it begins to silt up (either slowly or rapidly) or it can be back-filled manually. The soil(s) which become contained by the 'cut' are referred to as its fill(s).
Layer	A layer is a term to describe an accumulation of soil or other material that is not contained within a cut.
Medieval	The Middle Ages, dating from approximately AD 1066-1500.
Pannage	Right given to the owners of pigs to go into a wood and to allow the pigs to eat the acorns or beech mast which <i>fall to the ground</i> .
Post-medieval	The period following the Middle Ages, dating from approximately AD 1500-1800.
Saxon	Pertaining to the period dating from AD 410-1066 when England was largely settled by tribes from northern Germany.
Till	A deposit formed after the retreat of a glacier. Also known as boulder clay, this material is generally unsorted and can comprise of rock flour to boulders to rocks of quite substantial size.

Appendix 4

THE ARCHIVE

The archive consists of:

6	Context records
1	Photographic record sheet
2	Sheets of scale drawings
1	Stratigraphic matrix

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: 2009.18

Archaeological Project Services Site Code: BAAF 09

The discussion and comments provided in this report are based on the archaeology revealed during the site investigations. Other archaeological finds and features may exist on the development site but away from the areas exposed during the course of this fieldwork. *Archaeological Project Services* cannot confirm that those areas unexposed are free from archaeology nor that any archaeology present there is of a similar character to that revealed during the current investigation.

Archaeological Project Services shall retain full copyright of any commissioned reports under the *Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988* with all rights reserved; excepting that it hereby provides an exclusive licence to the client for the use of such documents by the client in all matters directly relating to the project as described in the Project Specification.